

**Fredericton Recreational Shooters Association
Annual General Meeting
December 1, 2008**

Odell Park Lodge, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Fifty-three club members including board members President Greg Gilbert, Vice-president Dan Chisholm, Treasurer Tim Kairns, Secretary Jake Vancuran, Chief Range Officer Steven Stewart and Directors-at-large Laurence Gilby, John Harper and Bob Kierstead.

Membership Renewal: Greg Gilbert reminded those present that due to the existing association by-laws, only those members who were paid up for 2009 would be eligible to vote at this annual meeting. The evening began with members renewing their membership, paying their fees and receiving their cards.

Agenda: Meeting called to order approximately 7:10 p.m. Greg Gilbert went over the tentative agenda which included:

- (i) President's report and other Club reports
- (ii) A proposal for changes to the Association Constitution and By-laws
- (iii) Membership Fees
- (iv) 2009 Budget
- (v) Range upgrades and changes
- (vi) Shoot Schedule
- (vii) Next annual meeting
- (viii) Election of Officers

It was moved by Jerry Conroy and seconded by Bert Devink that the agenda be adopted. The motion was carried.

President's Report: Greg Gilbert presented a report summarizing club activities for the past year including the formal discontinuation of the Fredericton Fish & Game Gun Club and the creation of the new club, the Fredericton Recreational Shooters Association with shooters drawn primarily from the former Fish & Game Club, the Marysville Club and the Odell Club.

Greg noted there had been 35 events at the range over the past year including inter-club and Royal New Brunswick Rifle Association (RNBRA) shoots, two open houses (May 31 and Sept. 21) and a hunter sight-in. He thanked the club members who organized and participated in these events and said the association was also represented at two sports shows in Harvey and Fredericton. He also noted the hard work by Treasurer Tim Kairns to keep membership lists up-to-date resulting in a total 179 paid members.

Greg reported the board had made significant strides to stabilize the range operations with planning and analysis. Some changes include:

- New gate (thanks to Don Goodine)

- Clean up of growth on all ranges except the 1,000
- Building of new target stands and repairs to some existing stands
- Repairs to the range building; although more work is required
- Widening and grading of the road

Planned by the board and to come over the next few months is work to be conducted by a contractor to enhance the backstops at the 25 and 50 meter ranges and to build a platform in back of the 100 meter backstop at an estimated cost of \$5,000. Greg said this is an example of where the association money goes, as well as for addressing the range debt.

Membership Report: Tim Cairns reported 179 paid members, a higher total than the 150-members the association had hoped to attract in its first year. He will file the new memberships paid for 2009 within days and expects members to receive their ATT's before the end of December. He noted that most members have e-mail (only 13 or 14 members do not) so he is using it extensively as a tool for keeping the membership informed.

Financial Reports: Tim Cairns presented a Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2008, a Profit and Loss sheet for January through December 2008 and a proposed Profit and Loss Budget Overview for 2009. (attached) He cautioned the members that some of the revenue over the past year was from on-time sources; including funds from the former Fish and Game Gun Club and from the Odell Club Fund-Raising Dinner. He noted some of the facility expenses including for target stands, toilet servicing, snow plowing, maintenance and insurance. Tim said the club is working to pay down the range debt with \$2,970 paid by membership fees this year plus \$1,500 from the Odell dinner plus proceeds to come from the raffle. The club is operating in the black and the board meets monthly to keep on top of the finance and work required.

In response to a question, Tim explained the difference between the Springfield Sports Club Inc., which together with the RNBRA holds the lease for the range, and the Fredericton Recreational Shooters Association which is the shooting arm of the Springfield Club.

Proposed changes to Constitution and By-laws: Greg said the board had a series of changes to the constitution and by-laws it wished to present to the members. Some were small house-keeping changes to adjust small issues of language clarity, another change added "not-for-profit" to the association description, another to change to allow corporate use of the range and – most significantly – a change that would allow paid-up members for a particular year to vote at that year's annual general meeting. Another change was to clarify the insurance for the benefit of club members and directors.

There was some discussion as members asked for clarification on what is and isn't covered by the range insurance, about the protocol for guests at the range and whether they are covered (they are) and about the importance of signing the

range book. Chief Range Officer Steven Stewart reminded members that they and their guests must sign-in on the range book each time they use the facility. If something was to happen and the book was not signed, making an insurance claim could be difficult. Also, board members refer to the range book to determine use when making decisions on such things as the frequency of snow plowing the road and parking area.

It was moved by John Harper and seconded by Dan Chisholm that the changes be adopted. The motion was passed.

Membership Fees: (i) Fees for 2009

Tim Cairns proposed that the membership fees for 2009 stay at \$100 but that a \$25 late fee be added for members who join after the end of March. He said that the club needs the money early enough to book contractors while they are available for work to begin early in the spring. He said the late fee would prompt members who would normally delay paying their fees until the shooting season to pay sooner.

There was discussion around how best to encourage earlier payment of membership fees. Some members resisted the idea of a late fee. It was moved by a member and seconded by John Harper that the original idea be amended to make the membership fee \$125 with a \$25 discount for those members whom pay before the end of March.

This amended motion was passed.

(ii) Fees for 2010

Tim referred to the difficulty the board has encountered in getting sufficient numbers of members for work parties to accomplish what needs to be done on the range. He reminded the members that 2010 is the year extra work will be required to prepare the range for re-certification; rocks will need to be picked, grass and bushes cut, unused equipment and parts disposed of, flag poles repaired and/or replaced, windows at the building fixed and contractors coordinated. He suggested the members consider the possibility of raising membership fees next year by \$50 with the understanding that this extra money would go to contract out this extra work and coordination.

Greg Gilbert reinforced the need to get the work done and the difficulty in getting the required volunteers.

There was considerable discussion about the idea and the broader issue of membership involvement in range work. Several members said that they need considerable advance notice of work parties, as they have families with young children and need to coordinate activities well in advance. One members suggested identifying about six dates on the membership application and requiring members to pick one or two early in so they can plan for it.

Another suggestion was to add several “range clean up days” onto the shooting schedule so members could plan for them. One member said that by the time they counted the cost of gas, it might cost as much to hire a contractor as drive out to work at the range.

Greg said the various suggestions would be a help to the board over the coming months as they continued to study the issue. No formal motion was proposed or passed.

2009 Budget: Tim referred to the proposed budget distributed earlier, noting it was based upon the assumption the association would have 175 paid members. He said the budget would see about \$10,000 spent on the range including rebuilding some of the backstops. Tim explained the board is looking at a rubber-based product to help reinforce the backstops and is experimenting with heavy rubber pads as target stand backing.

It was moved by Tim Cairns and seconded by Dan Chisholm that the 2009 Budget be accepted. The motion was passed.

Range changes and upgrades: Greg Gilbert provided further details on the repairs, maintenance and upgrades planned for the range and elaborated on the boards discussions with the manufacturer of recycled rubber products with regard to target stand backs and back-stop reinforcement netting.

There was a question about whether the range would be the site of the IPSC provincials. It has been placed tentatively in the shooting schedule and the board is looking at hosting the event but – if they do – it won’t cost the club. In fact, the last time the provincials were hosted, the range benefited greatly from the work accomplished and target stands and other materials.

There were questions about what needs to be done to prepare for re-certification of the range. Steven Stewart explained various items need to be looked at for repair, upgrading or replacement including signage, flagpoles, etc. He said some of the back stops have an erosion problem; which is why the board is looking at different reinforcement options. There are also typically rocks that emerge over time and need to be picked. A brief discussion followed.

Shooting Schedule: Tim Cairns said a draft schedule with 32 events, similar to 2008, is being examined by the board but has not been finalized. As soon as it is, it will be circulated to all members.

Date for next AGM: The first Monday next December is the 7th. It was moved by Steve Stewart and seconded by John Harper that the next AGM be held Dec. 7, 2009. The motion was passed.

Election of Officers: Dan Chisholm, chair of the Nominating Committee, submitted the committee's suggestions for the slate of directors and officers for 2009. The list included:

- President – Greg Gilbert
- Vice-President – Dan Chisholm
- Treasurer – Tim Cairns
- Secretary – Dan Toner
- Chief Range Officer – Steven Stewart
- Directors-at-large – Laurence Gilby, John Harper and Bob Kierstead

Dan reminded the members that they were free to either offer themselves or nominate some other member for any of the positions and asked – three times – if there were any other nominations. No other nominations were forthcoming. It was moved by Will Waite and seconded by Jake Vancuran that the proposed slate of officers and directors be accepted as proposed. The motion passed.

Changes to ATT's: Tim Cairns and Steven Stewart advised the members that the Provincial Firearms Office has adopted new policies with regard to ATTs. Unlike in previous years, ATT's issued to take firearms to the range for practice will not automatically allow an individual to take their firearms to a licensed gunsmith. Individuals will need to obtain a specific ATT to bring it to a gunsmith and then another, separate ATT, to bring it back from the gunsmith. In addition, the provincial office has chosen to no longer recognize the RNBRA affiliation among ranges. Gun clubs will now need to establish separate, individual affiliations among themselves.

There was considerable consternation expressed by the members at these changes. Some asked what possible safety issue could be furthered by obtaining dozens of new ATT's for the same firearms. Others asked what prompted such inexplicable new requirements. Board members reported the office declined to explain their new rules.

Draws: A draw was held from among tickets sold at the meeting for a free club membership (first prize) and a range bag (second prize) donated by Terry Burns. Al Duguay won the free club membership and a member won the range bag.

A draw was also held for a free rifle/or/shotgun following a raffle initiated in the fall and sponsored by The Gun Dealer. The winner was Gerard Gilbert.

Adjournment: It was proposed by Dan Toner that the meeting adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.