



Williams Lake Sportsmen's Association

P.O. Box 4097, Williams Lake, BC, V2G 2V2
<http://www.williamslakesportsmen.ca>

WLSA Annual General Meeting Minutes January 18, 2010

Present: Wayne Biffert, Debbie Powers-Barron, Barry Jenkins, Ed Oliver, Gerry Lucas, Otto Pflanz, Scott Betts, Gord Mayfield, Roger Gysel, Mark Everard, Geoff Goodall, Ernie Davidson, Vic Rafuse, Judy Jenkins, Roy Slavens, Lorne Gulliford, Mike Chesley, Corky Berkelaar, George Chignell, Moe Monita, Lorne Barron, Jacques Drisdelle

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm

Meeting chaired by Barry Jenkins

January 19, 2009 AGM Minutes:

- ❖ The minutes of the January 19, 2009 Annual General Meeting were read by Debbie Powers-Barron.
 - Judy Jenkins moved that the minutes be accepted as read
 - Gordon Mayfield seconded the motion
 - All in favour
 - Carried

Treasurer's Report submitted by Ed Oliver:

- ❖ Ed Oliver presented the following Treasurer's Report
 - Ed Oliver moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read
 - Lorne Barron seconded the motion
 - All in favour
 - Carried

Revenues	
Membership	\$19,810.00
Range Fees	1,619.88
Banquet – Tickets	3,845.00
Banquet – Donation	250.00
Banquet – Silent Auction	2,385.65
Banquet – Moose Horn	1,953.55
Banquet – Raffles	784.75
Banquet – Bar	1,700.00
Banquet - Total	10,985.20

Trap	3,387.66
Hall Rental	2,920.00
Core	1,376.00
Archery	995.84
Donations	95.00
Patronage Credit WL CR Union	1.87
Biff's Pond Fundraiser	70.00
Sergeant At Arms	275.00
Total	41,536.45

Expenses	
BCWF Convention	1,759.65
Postage and Bulletins	390.77
Lic/Permits	25.00
Sub Total Membership Expense	2,175.42
Range Expense	137.30
Banquet – Moose Horn	503.98
Banquet – Trophies	1,015.96
Banquet – Raffles	157.90
Banquet – Alcohol	1,051.27
Banquet – Food	2,043.46
Banquet – Total	4,772.57
Trap	4,233.56
Hall Cleaning	189.00
CORE	498.75
Building Insurance	8,291.00
Building Remodel & Expense	4,716.16
Building Electricity	1,406.24
Building Heating	3,854.68
Building Ads	284.04
Donations	756.00
Bank S/C	42.00
Office	852.60
Fraser Basin Handicap Expense	1,278.00
Argo	64.00
Club Day Expense	410.45
Total	33,961.77

Account Balance	\$22,935.51
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Outstanding Bills	
Hub Property Insurance	7,259.00
BCWF	5,791.00

Account Balance After Outstanding Bills Paid	9,885.51
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Audit of WLSA books for 2009

- ❖ It was suggested that the WLSA books be forwarded to Leanne Allan for audit
 - Gord Mayfield moved that the WLSA books be forwarded for audit
 - Lorne Gulliford seconded the motion
 - All in favour
 - Carried

By-Law additions or revisions:

- ❖ None reported

President's Report submitted by Barry Jenkins:

2009 was a generally positive year for the Williams Lake Sportsmen's Association with the effects of the economy and political fallout impacting us somewhat.

We started the year with a very successful Annual Wild Game Banquet, netting the club in the order of \$6,000.00. Thanks to banquet chairman, Mike Ramsay and your able executive, special thanks to Wayne Biffert and his crew for drumming up all the sponsors for the fundraising part of the evening.

Our association was involved with many activities throughout the year:

- ❖ The Cariboo Archers held an indoor 3-D shoot in 2010
- ❖ The shotgun section hosted two turkey trap shoots and a sporting clay shoot
- ❖ The club day was a great success, bringing many members and non-members out for the day to experience rifle, shotgun and archery shooting
- ❖ The WLSA sent delegates to the BCWF convention in Fernie
- ❖ We lent our support to the Horsefly Community Club and acquired a grant for the completion of a Handicap accessible fishing wharf at Tisdall Lake. This is now in place.
- ❖ The WLSA participated in a campaign expressing our concern over allocation of the wildlife resource and the hunting season rationale. This issue is still far from resolution but communications have improved thanks to Jacques Drisdelle as regional president and Wayne Biffert and Roger Gysel as club representatives.

A couple of other thank yous:

- ❖ George Chignell, single handed, replaced the siding on the lower section of the south wall. This was a pilot project to determine the feasibility of replacing the larger west wall in the coming year.
- ❖ Wayne Biffert took on the unpopular task of cleaning and re-fencing the sewage lagoon. Bruce Reid donated a substantial amount of the machine

time with his excavator. Should be good for another 20 years. Thank you Wayne for that.

- ❖ Thanks to the members of the work bees for painting our tables, which along with our program to acquire 30 new chairs each year in 2009 and 2010 should offer greater comfort in hosting events and for rentals.

Ongoing items to be worked on in the coming year are:

- ❖ Outdoor Outreach for the handicapped and using our ARGO ATV to their benefit.
- ❖ Shooting range upgrades, maybe Cowboy Action bays or acquisition of the Likely 1000 yard range.

I am pleased to have served as your president but I only wish I could have dedicated more time to some of the issues. Perhaps as your Past President, I can. Thank you.

Barry Jenkins, President, WLSA

Shotgun Committee Report Submitted by Barry Jenkins:

The shot gunners held weekly practice shoots throughout the year; Sundays at noon in the winter months at 6:30 Wednesday evenings in the daylight savings months. Attendance was down this year as many people are affected by the lack of work.

Three shooting matches were held for fun and prizes. Participation was sufficient to show a modest profit.

The club's purchase of a self-loading attachment for one of the trap machines has been a real improvement in running our practices and little shoots.

Current fees are \$4.50 per 25 target rounds. Cost of 25 targets to the club is \$2.50. We are considering lowering our fees to \$4.00 for the coming year as we were able to purchase a supply of targets at this very favourable rate.

We are looking forward to the new year and some new shoots.

Barry Jenkins

BCWF Liaison Report submitted by Jacques Drisdelle:

Region 5 – Cariboo

Change in Mule Deer Hunting Season
September 10 – 30

4 Point Buck

October 1 – 31	Any Buck
November 1 – 9	4 Point Buck
November 10 – 20	Closed
November 21 – 30	4 Point Buck

For the 2009 Mule Deer Season, the bag limit was reduced from 2 bucks down to 1 buck with the second Mule Deer being 1 doe under LEH. Additionally a 10 day closure for Mule Deer was imposed in mid-November. This has been very upsetting for resident hunters.

After mounting a public campaign in the local media against recent changes to the Mule Deer Hunting Regulations, we elicited the assistance of eight retired biologists to support our position. **On August 25, 2009** a letter was published in the 100 Mile Free Press signed by Dan Blower, retired BC Ungulate Coordinator, Ken Child, retired Omineca Region, Wildlife Section Head, Ray Demarchi, retired BC Chief of Wildlife, Fred Harper, retired Thompson-Nicola, Regional Wildlife Section Head Doug Janz, retired Vancouver Region, Regional Wildlife Section Head, Dave Low, retired Thompson-Nicola, Regional Wildlife Biologist, Bill Munro, retired BC Wildlife Branch, Deputy Director, Bruce Pendergast, retired BC Manager, Wildlife Inventory Section, criticizing the Regional Wildlife Manager from Williams Lake and asking that the Ministry of Environment implement and institute an independent review of Region 5's mule deer and moose management strategies.

As a result, the Minister of Environment, Barry Penner, wrote a response letter and invited the signatories of the August 25th letter to meet with Senior MoE staff in Victoria to discuss the issues. Region 5 BCWF President, Jacques Drisdelle and Provincial wildlife Allocation Committee member Garth Lee of 108 Mile House contacted Donna Barnett, MLA for the South Cariboo and requested a face-to-face meeting with Minister Penner. A meeting was arranged to meet with **Penner on October 20th at 3:30 pm** in his office at the Parliament Building in Victoria. In attendance at the meeting were: Minister Barry Penner, Ian Hatter, Manager, Wildlife Management Section, Tom Ethier, Manager Fish & Wildlife Branch, Doug Janz, retired Vancouver Region, Regional Wildlife Section Head, Wilf Pfeleiderer, Past President BCWF of Quesnel, Jacques Drisdelle. Garth Lee who was supposed to be the fourth representative fro the region was unable to make it due to weather that grounded his flight.

We used up the entire hour that we had with Minister Penner and raised most of our concerns about MoE not listening. I explained that what they describe as consultation is anything but consultation but rather the opportunity for them to announce what they have decided beforehand.

We shared our frustrations of MoE:

- ❖ Not sharing information, especially information directly requested by us
- ❖ Stalling by not meeting their own deadlines for certain actions to be

- completed
- ❖ Not following the government's own policies; in particular I raised the concern that the Ministry's own Allocation Policy wasn't being followed
- ❖ That all changes in recent years favour Guide Outfitters and place a disadvantage to resident hunters
- ❖ I explained that we are particularly upset of the changing of the Mule Deer hunting regulations without sound conservation or science based reasons or proper consultation.

We provided some suggestions on how things can be improved and cited 2 case studies for their consideration.

In the end, Minister Penner was clearly not happy with our presentation and expressed disappointment with the tone of our message. He stated being disappointed that BCWF, after being a strong ally and supporter of the Ministry, were upset with the Ministry. He asked what advantage any of his staff would have in doing all these things that we complained of. After a brief time of discussion, he had to leave as his presence was required in the legislature. To say that we were not happy with his response is an understatement.

After his departure we stayed on to talk with Ian Hatter and Tom Ethier. The mood was very cordial and we did address a couple of issues such as the Mule Deer hunting regulations and the lack of flexibility on their part to explore a reasonable method of opening Moose hunting in Region 5, just like Region 6 and Region 7.

This second meeting was short but Hatter and Ethier listened. Everyone present was in agreement that we had to do more talking in order to find solutions to our concerns. The eight biologists listed above had a scheduled meeting with Victoria MoE staff scheduled for November 9th. My feeling was that something good would come out of that meeting as the retired biologists have facts that will be very difficult to refute.

Ray Dimarchi reported on their meeting with MoE on **November 5th**. In general he felt that it was a positive meeting with good information exchange and an indication on the part of the Wildlife Branch to "validate" some of our suggestions for blackmailed deer, mule deer and moose management and to begin improving the way these species are being managed. (It is noted in the minutes that we were labouring under some misconceptions regarding the information that was available for my analysis of Region 5 mule deer management and I take responsibility for these oversights).

It is apparent that the Wildlife Branch is aware of the concerns being expressed by BCWF members and intends to continue discussing the issues amongst themselves and with wildlife interests in Williams Lake. If the Branch is able to conduct adequate post season mule deer surveys after this year's season, the

information obtained should go a long way towards resolving the major differences between the Wildlife Branch and the major stakeholders.

There are gains to be made including getting mule deer management back on a more scientific footing not only in Region 5 but throughout the province and expanding selective hunting for moose to Region 5 as well as to other regions in the province, at least on a trial basis.

Region 5 delegates met with local MoE staff, Ian Hatter and Tom Ethier in Williams Lake on December 8th. The meeting focused on the Mule Deer hunting changes and potential for a Moose season similar to what has been taking place in Region 6. The meeting was positive with MoE announcing they would be ready to open a moose season in specific management units on the east side of the Fraser River as a pilot project. Also discussed was the elevated predation by wolves and the possible implementation of a wolf season from November 1 to March 31. Both suggestions are being considered by MoE.

The ten day closure during November will be re-visited when the buck/doe ratio is improved, which MoE feels will take 3 years.

Jacques Drisdelle
President, Region 5, Cariboo Chilcotin

CORE Annual Report presented by Judy Jenkins:

The C.O.R.E. hunter training program graduated nearly 60 students in 2009, bringing in revenue of \$1,376.00 to the club minus advertising expenses of \$449.00 for a total income of \$877.00.

Four courses were offered over the year in February, March, May and August.

Judy and Barry Jenkins

Range Management Report by Jacques Drisdelle:

There have been no significant issues raised with any of the ranges. New shooting benches were built for the rifle range which are a good addition.

Both the rifle and handgun ranges need a good cleaning. The tall grass between these ranges should be burned as soon as reasonably possible. The rifle range should be scraped. New target holders need to be built.

Firearms Permits by Jacques Drisdelle:

Nothing new to report

Club 22's by Jacques Drisdelle:

All club 22 rifles are registered in my name as a director and are safely stored.

Jacques Drisdelle

Membership Report by Lorne Barron:

After several years of increasing memberships, numbers have decreased from last year.

As of January 10, 2010, the club's memberships consist of:

72 family memberships with 212 members, down from 85 memberships with 269 members.

43 senior memberships, up 1 from last year.

16 senior family memberships with 32 members, up from 14 senior memberships with 28 members.

12 junior memberships, no change from last year.

165 regular memberships, down from 186.

Total memberships 308, down 31 from 339.

Total members 464, down 73 from 537.

Membership levels in the regular and family categories have fallen from the high levels of last year. This drop reflects the economic downturn we are currently experiencing.

Lorne Barron, Membership Committee Chair

Junior Olympics Program Report presented by Mike Chesley:

2009 saw a distinct decrease in the number of youth participating in the program. By June 2009, there were only 2 – 3 youth attending each week. After the summer break and a late start in the fall, it was decided that we would have archery on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month rather than go every week and have no attendance.

As of December, 2009, there has been an increase in new members and we have decided to go back to holding archery each Thursday night. There have been 11 new members attending each week with approximately 15 members total at this time.

A few of the members have participated in the 3-D shoots held in Williams Lake and elsewhere in the past year. There were no fundraising efforts in 2009 as the lack of membership made it challenging to coordinate.

Mike Chesley & Corky Berkelaar

Trophies & Awards presented by Roger Gysel:

Total entries 38 both fish and Big Game, 11 Fish and 27 Big Game. No entries for Black Bear, Grizzly, Elk, Caribou or Goat. Currently working with Woodlands Jewelers' for Trophies, Plaques etc.

Concerns and hopeful changes from a few Club members:

Biff's Pond Entries. Some people see this as farmed fish and not everyone has equal opportunity to partake in fishing when they choose. Idea was to have it as its own category with its own Trophy; again I report this with all due respect to Wayne Biffert.

Fish weight deductions by 10% to co-inside with what is know as a dressed fish. I understand the logic of the past with people not having scales etc, today you can buy a really good digital scale for under \$30, this category has been on the honor system in the past number of years with no official weigh in station, I think it is time to rethink this one and STOP penalizing entries with the deduction.

Are dead animal pickups eligible for awards such as Sheep, Caribou etc, they are eligible under the rules of the BC Record Books if properly permitted from the MOE.

Lastly, with the liberalization of the Pink Mountain Buffalo authorizations and knowing that at least 6 club members had draws this year, I would formally like to donate on behalf of my family a new Trophy and Category for 2010 and go forward. Trophy will be available for entries of 2010.

Discussion followed around weighing fish for trophies after they are gilled and gutted. This eliminates catch and release fishers. On the other hand, fishers who spend 4 or 5 days at the lake cannot submit fish for weigh in unless they are gutted. This will be further discussed at the next executive meeting.

Question: Are pick-ups allowed to be entered for WLSA awards? They are recognized by the BC records book for all allowed species. This also will be discussed at the next executive meeting.

Building Maintenance Report by George Chignell:

The entire building outside needs paint and the gable ends and railings are in

serious condition.

The nails are protruding from the deck and need to be replaced with new nails or screws. It has been hard to shovel the snow off the deck as the shovel catches on the dislodged nails. Someone is going to trip on these nails.

The siding on the west wall is in bad shape and it will take approximately 1600 feet of lumber to fix it. I will need the help of at least two other people to repair this.

The eaves trough over the deck cannot carry the volume of water when it comes to a big rain or melt as there are only two down pipes on each end of the clubhouse. There needs to be more downpipes installed.

George Chignell.

Trophy Scoring:

It is reported that the scoring is working well having one consistent scorer. Thank you Moe Monita.

Communications Committee Report presented by Debbie Powers-Barron:

My main focus over the past year has been to attend as many meetings as possible which included taking, transcribing and posting meeting minutes, responding to email and phone inquiries from individual members, forwarding relevant membership issues and concerns to the executive, and updating and maintaining the club website.

Email Distribution List:

There are currently 211 residences that are on the club email distribution list, sixty-nine of which are expired members, 142 current which constitutes approximately half of all households that currently hold membership. This figure does not consider the number of individual family members.

There were approximately 10 residences who contacted me this year to request that they be removed from the distribution list as they are on dial up and found that the number of emails they were receiving from the club filled their inbox and slowed down their systems. These families were not added to the snail mail list as they do have access to the internet and all information that is mailed, with the exception of membership renewals, is posted on the website.

Newsletters:

There were no newsletters published and posted in 2009. The cost of one

mailing is approximately \$115.00 which includes the cost of stamps, paper and envelopes. The cost to the club to maintain 4 newsletters a year would be in excess of \$450.00. It has also been very labour intensive for volunteers to print and stuff the newsletters, however there are many remote members without internet access.

My recommendation would be to identify which members have internet access that are not on the email distribution list. This could greatly reduce the number of mailings for the club as these members have the option of accessing the web for up-to-date information.

Website:

The cost of hosting the website is \$116.00 per year which includes domain and registration fees. These costs have been paid up to December of 2010.

I have greatly enjoyed my activities on behalf of the Williams Lake Sportsmen's Association and I have to say that it has been an honour to serve with such great people on behalf of an incredible membership.

Debbie Powers-Barron

Sergeant at Arms AGM Report presented by Wayne Biffert:

There was no rowdiness, fighting, bad behaviour, etc at any of the meetings so no one had to be escorted off the property.

The raffles at the meetings brought in \$275.00.

Biff's Ponds fund raiser brought in \$70.00 for the club. Ten people caught fish. Peggy Rafuse caught the biggest one at 8 lbs. 5.85 oz, however as this was her second fish, it didn't count for the biggest fish that day. It is the biggest fish caught at Biff's Ponds to date.

Wayne Biffert

Northern Zone Handgun Championships presented by Scott Betts:

The Northern Zone Handgun Championships were held in Prince George in 2009. A profit of \$600.00 was realized from this shoot. \$300.00 was given to the Prince George club and \$300.00 was donated to the WLSA at the 2010 AGM.

Discussion was held as to whether the WLSA could host matches. At least 6 bays would be required to host an ISPC match. Both Quesnel and Lone Butte meet this criteria.

It would be possible for the WLSA to possibly host qualifiers or a provincial match but work would need to be done behind the shotgun range which would require someone to donate equipment and fuel to improve the range.

There are a lot of locals who may be attracted to this range such as people who are involved in cowboy action.

Fishing Committee Report presented by Mike Chesley:

Nothing new to report other than Kokanee was stocked in Chimney Lake.

Cariboo Archers Report presented by Mike Chesley:

The BC Provincial Outdoor 3-D shoot is being held in Williams Lake on July 10th and 11th, 2010 at the WLSA site. They have capped off participation at 350 shooters.

Ed Oliver added that he, Barry Jenkins, Mike Chesley and Lorne Barron attended the Cariboo Archer's 2009 AGM to discuss club finances. The outcome is that the Cariboo Archers have decided that 50% of their profits on all future shoots will be given to the WLSA. In addition they are also paying \$250.00 per year to the WLSA to cover the cost of insurance for their targets.

Nominating Committee:

Jacques Drisdelle and Lorne Barron were delegated the task of contacting members to determine who would be interested in running for office.

Election of Officers:

President	Jacques Drisdelle
Past President	Barry Jenkins
Vice President	Vic Rafuse
Secretary	Debbie Powers-Barron
Treasurer	Ed Oliver
Sergeant at Arms	Wayne Biffert

Directors with two year terms:

Corky Berkelaar
Moe Monita
Gord Mayfield
Roger Gysel
Ernie Davidson

Sitting Directors:

Gerry Lucas
Mike Chesley
George Chignell
Lorne Barron
Dave Jackson

Further Business:

- ❖ Marty Beets is in the process of making a knife for the WLSA Banquet fundraiser.
- ❖ The BC Cattlemen's Association AGM, Trade Show and Convention is being held in Williams Lake on May 27 – 29. The WLSA has been invited to provide sponsorship or to rent a booth. It was suggested that the WLSA could go into partnership with the BCWF regarding this opportunity. Further discussion will be held at the next executive meeting.
- ❖ The new ATV act is effective as of January 1, 2010. Details are not yet out as to what the act will consist of. It is probable that all ATVs will have to be registered and will have a plate attached. Registration will be at the point of purchase, not annually. The purpose of registration is to combat habitat destruction and it is hoped that infractions will be tracked back to the offender. Public liability will be mandatory when operating an ATV on a Forest Service Road. WLSA members are covered up to 5 million in liability when operating their ATVs in the pursuit of fishing and hunting activities which includes scouting out fishing and hunting areas. It is thought that the wearing of helmets will be mandatory. There will be HST on registration fees.
- ❖ The WLSA requires two delegates to attend the BCWF AGM and Convention in Prince George in April of 2010. Please contact us if you are interested in attending

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm