

# BC Rifle Silhouette Update – February 2021

Hello fellow silhouette shooters! These are challenging times. I hope everyone is healthy and safe. May we get back to (mostly) normal ... in the not-too-distant future!

This informal newsletter is intended to update people on what has been happening with silhouette in BC. To do so, I have reached out to BC Target Sports Association (BCTSA) directors and Jordan Marsh (president of Silhouette Rifle Association of Canada) and asked them to provide an update on their clubs/regions. I also have a few things related to Covid-19 that I would like to share.



Air rifle silhouette allows shooters to keep sharp over the cold winter months.

## **Impact of Covid-19 on the 2020 Season**

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the silhouette sport in a big way. BC Provincial Health Orders (PHO) have changed a number of times over the past year. For much of 2020, practices and local club matches were allowed, but only with limited numbers of participants. Large matches, and those involving travel, were not allowed. As a result, Bull River Shooters Association (BRSA) and the Silhouette Rifle Association of Canada (SRAC) cancelled the 2020 Nationals. Prince George cancelled the 2020 Silhouette Provincials. Some clubs continued with practices and small club matches in 2020, but other clubs shut down silhouette for a while.

Should health orders allow, BRSA is keen to host the 2021 Nationals, which are scheduled for June 27 to July 3, 2021. Prince George is hoping to host the Provincials July 24-27, 2021. We will likely have on-line registration should we go ahead with the 2021 Provincials.

Mission has cancelled its 2021 March Invitational. See George Kesic's report below.

## **Current Covid-19 Situation in early Feb 2021 – Very Restrictive PHO**

As I write this in early February 2021, the BC Government has a very restrictive Public Health Order (PHO) in effect for “Gatherings and Events”. The following statements are based on my understanding of the PHO. Go directly to the PHO for the official government position (I am not the legal authority on this!). Here is the link:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>

In my opinion, most adult (22 years old or older) silhouette events fall under the “Group Sport” category in the “Gatherings and Events” PHO. Children, youth and some other athlete classes are excluded from the “Group Sport” category. Currently, no more than two individuals can participate in an indoor Group Sport event, and no more than four individuals in an outdoor Group Sport event. The PHO lists other requirements, including the need for 3 m social distancing.

The current PHO has no end date. But, recent statements by government officials have hinted that restrictions may loosen in the near future. Periodically visit the above website. ViaSport, an organization which administers amateur sport in B.C., also has relevant Covid-19 information on their website:

<https://www.viasport.ca/>  
<https://www.viasport.ca/news/february-5-2021-updates-province-wide-restrictions>

## **Other News and Some Thanks**

Steve Shulhan of Victoria has updated an old BCTSA brochure entitled “Welcome to the World of Metallic Silhouette Shooting”. This is a great summary of our sport for new shooters, and for those of us that need a refresher. We will get it on the BCTSA website soon.

Long time silhouette organizers George Kesic, Bernd Meier and Bob Ball are stepping down from their leadership roles. They are not retiring from the sport, just allowing others to take over most responsibilities. See the reports below for more details. A big thank you to George, Bernd and Bob for your dedication and hard work. You guys leave large shoes to fill.

Please contact regional silhouette directors and club organizers for info on local practices and matches. I have received match dates for the various clubs. I will post these on the BCTSA website, likely once there is a loosening of the PHO.

Hopefully, we will be able to practice and compete in club matches in the near future. At this point, it is uncertain when we can get back to holding big matches. Jordan Marsh and I will be sure to keep you updated on the status of the 2021 Nationals and Provincials.

Stay safe. Wishing you the best, Mike Rutherford

## REGIONAL REPORTS

*[note that some reports were submitted before more restrictive health orders came into effect]*

### Prince George Silhouette Report

Because of Covid-19, the PG silhouette section cancelled all silhouette matches in 2020, including the 2020 BC Championships slated for July. We developed Covid-19 protocols and had informal Sunday smallbore practices but had no sanctioned club matches. Assuming we get through this Covid issue in time, we look forward to hosting the 2021 BC Rifle Silhouette Championships this summer. Smallbore will run July 24-25, with High Power running July 26-27, 2021. We plan to do an online registration for the Provincials... stay tuned.

In winter, some have been participating in air rifle silhouette, which takes place in the Hartman Clubhouse. Members have “regular” springers, recoil-less match springers, CO<sub>2</sub> and precharged pneumatic rifles. These are not sanctioned matches. We do just do them for fun and some equipment does not meet all NRA rules. Recently, we have taken a break from air rifle silhouette due to the recent very restrictive health order mentioned earlier in the newsletter. We are hoping for a loosening of restrictions over the next few weeks.



In PG, air rifle silhouette is shot from 20 m in the Hartman Clubhouse. Recent Covid-19 public health orders have greatly restricted group practices/matches.

The PG Rod and Gun Club has made some upgrades to our Hartman and Blackwater ranges over the past year. Electronic signal systems have been installed to indicate when it is safe (and not safe) to go down range. These replace red/green flags. At the Blackwater range, we have installed card gate access, power and security cameras. Berm and target stand repairs are on the list for 2021, as are improvements to the Hartman SB parking area.

Submitted by Mike Rutherford and Merl Sinoski

## Vernon/North Okanagan Silhouette Report

Silhouette in Vernon got off to a slow start in 2020 due to Covid-19, however this did not hold back progress on range improvements.

Our club has added berms and target stands to allow us to shoot at regulation distances out to 100 m. Previously we were shooting at reduced ranges of 25-40 m. Pigs, Turkeys and Rams are now shot on the rifle range while a creek has made us continue to shoot chickens on the handgun range at 40 m. Concrete slabs have been poured at both ranges (in front of the benches) to create a nice firing line.



Recent upgrades to the Vernon silhouette range.

A big thanks to all the volunteers and donations that made it happen!

Submitted by Doug Aoki

## Mission Silhouette Report

Happy New Year to all members of Silhouette community. The times are tough for all of us. Covid is lasting much longer than we expected. Under the circumstances, we are trying to do the best we can. I normally send a note to all shooters about Mission Invitational sometimes in December. This year, I purposely waited longer to see if we might have some positive changes in our club, but no luck. Since November, our club members are allowed to use Rifle range, but only to a maximum of 9 benches (or nine participants because of distancing rules). This means that we can have club matches but nothing more. Therefore, we decided to cancel our Invitational for 2021 and hold only club matches. What will happen to Provincials and Nationals, I don't know but time will tell.

Because of our age, Bernd and I have decided to give up our positions to Brendan Tien ([tatsubon1213@gmail.com](mailto:tatsubon1213@gmail.com)) and Joel McDonald ([joule73@hotmail.com](mailto:joule73@hotmail.com)). From now on the two of them will organize and carry on with preparations. That does not mean that Bernd and I will be totally passive. We will help as much as possible for a long time until Brendan and Joel master the leadership in full. You can still contact me with all your questions and needs. I will be happy to help.

So much for now, stay well and stay active. Wish you all the best.

Submitted by George Kesic

## **Kamloops Silhouette Report**

Bob Brown and Dale Searle are seeking permission from the Kamloops Sports Association for an introductory 0.22LR silhouette event. The requested dates are April 24 and May 19, 2021, but these have not yet been confirmed. More information should be forthcoming.

Submitted by Bob Brown and Dale Searle.

## **Vancouver Island Silhouette Report**

2020 was been a challenging year for Vancouver Island silhouette shooting, as it has been for all regions. We started out the year with some dates lost to bad weather, and then Covid-19 restrictions kicked in shortly after Mission held the annual 2020 March Invitational Matches. Nanaimo restricted to small numbers of member-only range use; all matches were canceled indefinitely. Unfortunately, Bob Ball decided to call it a day and retire as silhouette director. The future of smallbore matches in Nanaimo is in doubt. A big loss for silhouette on the Island.

Down in Victoria, Steve Shulhan pulled it back a notch, holding practices for a month or two. Not to be bested by a mere pandemic, Steve was able to create a strategy to incorporate Covid-19 guidelines. Matches were limited in number of shooters, social distancing was in place, as well as traffic flow to and from shooting stations. The match guidelines continued to be refined throughout the season. By late in the season, it was a well-developed action plan. Steve and the Victoria club did a great job in keeping the game alive. With Covid-19 ramping up in December, matches once again have been restricted to members only. Throughout the season scores kept creeping up with good improvement throughout the club. Victoria is building a good base of talent into 2021.

In Port Alberni, the short course High Power matches were able to carry on. Victoria's model was used as a template to create guidelines to respect the Covid-19 restrictions. We minimized movements by keeping to one bench for the entire match, restricted to eight shooters, and target resetting by one person rotated each relay. Matches were well attended, with scores stretching into the high 20's. Alberni was able to carry on through December match, but into the New Year we have put matches on hold due to public health orders, as we understand them.

2020 has been a disappointment with so many of the years big matches being canceled. Alberni and Victoria both have been holding regular practice sessions in both small and big bore, so as the new season opens up we won't be too rusty.

Bob Ball retiring as match director in Nanaimo leaves the Island down one venue. Discussions are ongoing how and where to fill that loss. Hopefully, Bob will continue to come out and



compete. Bob has been a huge benefit to the sport and we are all grateful for his many years of running the Nanaimo matches. Kudos Bob!

Best wishes to all for 2021. Al Cody, Vancouver Island.

## **Bull River Shooters Association (Cranbrook/Ft Steele) Silhouette Report**



“Socially distanced” firing line. Note Lysol wipes at each bench.

Here at the Bull River Shooters Association (BRSA) we had another successful Silhouette season despite the obstacles we had to overcome. All members at the turn of the new year were super excited and eager to host the 2020 Canadian Nationals. With Silhouette competitors from the USA, Mexico, and even as far as Australia coming to the small town of Cranbrook to enjoy the sport of rifle silhouette and enjoy our little slice of paradise. This was the first major sponsored event by Lapua for the rifle silhouette game, putting on a North American circuit with big prizes for all those who competed at each national event. The Bull River club would have been the first leg in this north American circuit with the USA nationals in Ridgeway PA as the second leg and finishing it off in Saltillo Mexico. It was named the Monarch Cup because of the Monarch Butterfly that starts its journey Canada and makes its way through the USA and finishes in Mexico. We are hoping 2021 or 2022 year can support this amazing idea that will bring rifle shooters of all classifications together to compete for the LAPUA CUP TITLE.

BUT... after March 2020 we had to postpone our major events and focus on all the new obstacles thrown our way. We had to cancel our matches until we had written guidelines to follow from VIA Sport. Once we had that plan in place we were able to host our small local club

matches once again. We had a lot of new interested people. The club had to do a pre-registry system with limited amount people allowed on the range. Also, the firing line was reduced from 3 banks of each set of animal instead of 5 banks. Youth who are new and learning the proper handling and safety of a firearm are allowed to compete off the bench; these are our “sandbaggers”. We had lots of new talent show up!!! One young man in particular (age 11) shot his first match off the bench and then returned the following month to shoot off-hand. Dad did a great job as coach. Not only this young man complete a 160 shot match off-hand!! But, he hit a 5-in-a-row Pigs!!!! Luke Anderson impressed all of us. Many of us are very excited to see how he does in the 2021 season.



Luke Anderson with his 5 in a row pig pin

We are looking forward to the 2021 silhouette season here at the Bull river club. We are going to move ahead as normal as long as the government allows us to do so.

Submitted by Jordan Marsh

## **BC TARGET SPORTS ASSOCIATION - RETURN TO SPORT WORKBOOK**

In late spring 2020, the BCTSA in conjunction with ViaSport produced a working document entitled “Return to Sport – Shooting Workbook”. The intent of the document is to provide guidance to clubs in developing measures to minimize the risk and spread of Covid-19 for practices and club matches. When published, small club practices and matches were OK but

current restrictions prohibit adult Group Sport. The workbook provides protocols to minimize the risk of Covid-19 within a number of shooting sports. The workbook downloaded from this BC Target Sports Association webpage:

<https://www.bctsa.bc.ca/news/9026093>

## SOME BC SILHOUETTE CONTACTS

Contact BCTSA regional directors for information about silhouette in their region.

BCTSA Directors	Name	City	Phone	Email
Provincial Director	Mike Rutherford	Prince George	250-562-3958	<a href="mailto:mrutherford@telus.net">mrutherford@telus.net</a> *
Stats Director	Joan Morgan	Parksville	250-586-3859	<a href="mailto:joankmorgan@shaw.ca">joankmorgan@shaw.ca</a>
Interior/Kamloops	Dale Searle	Kamloops	250-972-5640	<a href="mailto:threeb@telus.net">threeb@telus.net</a> (via Bob Brown)
Vernon/Okanagan	Doug Aoki	Vernon	250-306-7699	<a href="mailto:doug.aoki@gmail.com">doug.aoki@gmail.com</a>
Northern BC	Merl Sinoski	Prince George	250-640-6744	<a href="mailto:steyr3@shaw.ca">steyr3@shaw.ca</a>
Kootenays	Rick Fraser	Cranbrook	250-464-5648	<a href="mailto:rickf280@gmail.com">rickf280@gmail.com</a>
Fraser Valley	George Kesic	Surrey	250-583-4110	<a href="mailto:gmkesic@shaw.ca">gmkesic@shaw.ca</a>
Vancouver Island	Al Cody	Port Alberni	604-868-6593	<a href="mailto:coastdogdhc3@gmail.com">coastdogdhc3@gmail.com</a>

\* new email address for Mike; the old email address still works

### *Other Contacts:*

SRAC - Silhouette Rifle Association of Canada (SRAC) and BRSA President, Jordan Marsh, can be reached at: 250-421-1974, or [jm\\_30\\_06@yahoo.com](mailto:jm_30_06@yahoo.com)

Bull River/Cranbrook – Rick Fraser or Jordan Marsh, or [bullrivershooters@gmail.com](mailto:bullrivershooters@gmail.com)

Victoria – Steve Shulhan can be reached at 250-474-4035, or [silhouette@vfgpa.org](mailto:silhouette@vfgpa.org)

Port Alberni – Tony Biamonte – 250- 723-9336

Mission – Brendan Tien : [tatsubon1213@gmail.com](mailto:tatsubon1213@gmail.com) ph: 604-728-7136 (cell); or, Joel McDonald [joule73@hotmail.com](mailto:joule73@hotmail.com) ph: +1(778) 989-8045; (or contact George Kesic)