



THE SPORTSMAN

“Conservation is Our Aim”



SYDENHAM SPORTSMEN’S ASSOCIATION,
 P.O. BOX 264 OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO,
 N4K5P3
www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/
 Affiliated with the OFAH, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters



SSA On Line

 Web Site

Volume 34 No.12 December, 2014



THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING,

First Thursday of each month, October to June,
 September exception -> second Thursday

Thursday

December, 4, 7:30 pm

AT THE CLUB HOUSE,

THE CLUB HOUSE is: on the
 Lincoln Park Road,
 in the township of Georgian Bluffs, or
 {082535 Side Road 6}, or
 {217567 Concession 3 Side road,
 behind Gord Maher Centre}

A reminder that the annual
 nibble night will be held
 during the December meeting.

President’s Message

From the looks of things it would appear that winter has decided to arrive early and stay. I thought mother nature was supposed to take care of her wildlife. Seems that something has put a burr in her bonnet. A couple mild days of rain really doesn’t help and probably just makes things worse. If conditions like this continue I think that our wildlife emergency committee may have a busy winter so if you get a call for help please step up as these fellows may weary quickly.

Much to the chagrin of our local farmers there may be some salvation in all of the fields of standing corn and soybeans that have not been harvested due to the early deep snow. Only time will tell.

So far I have been doing my part to keep the deer herd numbers up.

I wish there was a pill you could take for that “buck fever” thing.

If winter has arrived early then be safe out there. Watch your driving and where you walk. Take it easy shovelling those snow banks and be careful working with your snow blower. Accidents happen to easily at this time of year.

Have a Safe and Merry Christmas.

Mike Prevost, President

December Nominations

The December general meeting will be our second round of nominations for the 2015 SSA executive. I did not see a lot of new names that were nominated. If you want to put your name up to be nominated or want to nominate someone and cannot make it to a meeting you can e-mail me the nomination. If you are nominating someone else we will need an e-mail from them saying that they are willing to accept the nomination.

Thanks **Mike Prevost**

mbprevost@hotmail.com

Over 60 Years Promoting Conservation



Sydenham Sportsmen's Association

President: Mike Prevost
 1st Vice President: Fred Geberdt
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 Bill Douglas
 Recording Secretary:
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 Doug Murdoch, Ron Robb,
 Dennis Wiseman

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 Membership: John Ford
 Key Keeper: John Ford

Please inform John Ford if your address, phone number, or, email changes!

One day Jock bought a bottle of fine whiskey and while walking home he fell.

Getting up, he felt something wet on his pants. He looked up at the sky and said, "Oh Lord, please I beg you, let it be blood!"

A Scots boy came home from school and told his mother he had been given a part in the school play. "Wonderful!" says the mother. "What part is it?" I play the part of a Scottish husband!" replies the boy. The mother scowls and says, "Go back and tell your teacher you want a speaking part!"



Monthly Meeting Draw Prize Winners

November 13, 2014
 DRAW PRIZE WINNERS

Knife & multi tool	Mike Prevost
Heat-a-seat	Jack Doherty
Folding knife	Shane Ruther
Scissor set	Dave Hartrick
4 knife set	Ted Loughead
Gloves	Jeff Caldwell
Power bar	Larry Fischer
Headlamp & hat	Mike Fee
Flashlight	Ron Robb
Multi-tool	Bob Hunt

Red tag – 2 \$25.00 gift certificates
 From MacDonalds

Bob Esplen

Draw on December 4th will be
 New York strip steaks for
 Nibble Night

Thanks to all ! **Brian Clements**



A reminder that the annual **nibble night** will be held during the December meeting.

Members are encouraged to whip up a wild meat snack/meal (whatever the member wants, be it road kill, raccoon balls, beaver nuts, moose, deer, birds, alligator, fish, etc, etc,etc). Members at the meeting will be encouraged to try the various recipes; in the past all recipes presented have been really tasty. Here's a chance to try some recipes that can be really different. And great beverages will be available to wash down the snacks!

Members will have the opportunity to judge each meal/snack presented and vote on each one. The winning top three presenters will each receive the coveted nibble night award (first, second, or third place).

Thanks., Jim Hastie

Ice Fishing Clinic

There is going to be an Ice Fishing Clinic held at the Meaford Rod and Gun Club on Saturday December 13th from 2 to 4pm.

Admission is to bring along 2 non perishable food items that will be given to the Meaford food bank.

Couple of special guest speakers, Wil Wegman and Gerry Heels. Great door prizes.

Should be interesting. If you do not know where club house is then check in with their range control. Go through entrance gates. Watch your speed - 40 kph. First buildings you see on your right is range control. Park over on the right side of road as you drive in. Walk into building and inquire at window office on your right. If you take the wrong turn do not enter any roads that are posted NO ENTRY. It is not as difficult and scary as I make it sound but it is a military base.

Mike Prevost



Proposed Tree Cutting Bylaw for SSA Property and Administered Properties

August 14, 2014

1. We believe that, since the SSA is a Conservation Club, the wooded portion of the property should be managed for wildlife (of all types, including birds). It should be noted that this is consistent with our Managed Forest Tax Incentive Plan.
2. Our by law regarding tree cutting should be very restrictive. This means that no cutting may occur without being submitted to the WAC for recommendations to the Executive and General Members.
3. There are a number of good reasons for tree cutting which may include hazards to people and existing property as well as conservation cutting to free fruit bearing trees (e.g. old apple trees) for wildlife. Any tree cutting must not conflict with our conservation policies. Some standing dead trees are very beneficial to wildlife and birds (e.g. den trees for raccoons)
4. It should be noted that this bylaw does not prohibit tree trimming on existing trails and roadways or tree cutting in order to maintain our range certifications (as required by the C.F.O). Additionally, due to insect infestations, Ash tree cutting is exempt from this bylaw.
5. If any other exception to this bylaw is required, prior notification in two newsletters must be given. The Motion must be passed by a 2/3 majority in order to be accepted.

This proposal must be read at 3 successive general meetings before it is voted on at the January 2015 meeting, First reading occurred at the October meeting.

Bird Box Report

R Hunt

2014 was a very good year.

Lorne and I have 670 boxes that we look after and have about 80 more people looking after boxes and report back to us.

This year our totals from Lorne and I, plus the other people are as follows.

bluebirds fledged were	990
swallows fledged were	2680
wrens fledged were	<u>318</u>
total of all birds were	3988

- total of all boxes checked this fall - 1455 boxes

- 55% of them had good nests in them.

Seeing them all in one flock would be a lot of birds.

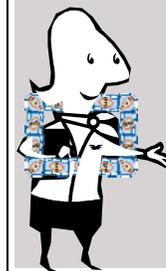
Donald: Have you seen one of those new machines that can tell when a person is telling a lie?"

Sandy: "Seen one!, I married one!"

Disclaimer:

The editorial comments in this Newsletter do not always reflect the policies or opinions of the SSA.

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Sandy: "Will you marry me?"

Girlfriend: "No, but I will always admire your good taste!"

Thanks to those submitting material for this newsletter.

Anyone with articles for this Newsletter should get them to me by the 20th (or sooner) of the preceding month.

*Dave Skelton 519-376-9554
dskel@golden.net*

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#6 Hwy & Ledgerrock Road
6 kms. North of Springmount

For more SSA Pictures: Connect to the SSA website using
<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/> then click SSA Gallery Images (right side)

SSA RENEWAL FORM FOR 2015 (TO BE COMPLETED BY 2014 MEMBERS ONLY)

(For your convenience SSA Renewal Memberships can be purchased directly on our website after Oct. 1,2014)

We need you to take a few minutes to help us update our records.

If you have a rural address, Canada Post requires your fire number and road as well as your rural route.

Membership Fees for 2015:	Memberships are based on the Calendar Year (January until December).		
Family	Adult, Spouse, Children, includes full time students under 21		\$135.00
Adult	Individual		\$110.00
Senior Citizen	Age 60 & over		\$95.00
Student	Age under 21 or in full time study; (no magazine)		\$40.00
Add a Spouse	Additional fee		\$25.00
Junior	12 and under; no magazine		\$35.00
Juniors & Students	Magazine available for Juniors & Students for an extra		\$8.00
Property Gate Key	With the return of last year's key		\$4.00
Property Gate Key	Without last year's key		\$5.00
Check off your selections above _____		Total	

Note: Help us save money and select to view the Newsletter on our website, please update your email address below. YES ___ NO ___

Please use reverse side for additional names, ages etc. for family memberships

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ (Please Update your Email Address)

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ (Juniors & Students only)

Wildlife Advisory Committee	Derby Committee	Fishery Advisory Committee
Public Relations Booth	Shotgun Shooting	Hatchery
Tree Planting	Social Activities	Derby Weigh In
Board of Directors	Fishing	I D P A shooting
Derby Fish Fries	Trap Shooting	Skeet Shooting
Sporting Clays Shooting	Cowboy Action Shooting	Handguns
Black Powder	Boat Draw Ticket Sales	Archery
Property Care	Wildlife Enhancement	Stream Work
Fish stocking	Hunting	Junior Activities
High Power Shooting	Earth Day	Fall Fair Gates
Computer	Other Interests (List Below)	Expertise (List Below) Retired
	Have ATT	Telephone Committee

TO MAINTAIN A STRONG AND VIABLE ASSOCIATION, ALL MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE.

Please select activities of special interest to you from the list above. This information is used in planning work parties, committees, etc.

If you would like to purchase your renewal by credit card, please enter the number and expiry date below.

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Security Code as it appears on the back of the Credit Card: _____

Gun Courses

There will be no more gun courses until after the snow leaves. The first Non Restricted course will probably be late April or May. Restricted courses will depend on demand for them but I would like to put on at least one in 2015.

I would also like to run a Ladies Only course. I ran one a few years ago and IF I CAN get five interested Ladies I will run one this coming year.

The cost for any gun course is as follows.

Registration Fee \$ 35.00 (non refundable) This pays for the book And the tests. Payable at time of registration.

Course Fee \$ 50.00 for Members. \$ 85.00 for NON Members , \$ 35.00 for Jr Members
\$ 50.00 for NON Members Under age 18.

The Course Fee is in addition to the Registration Fee and is payable on the first night of the course.

There have been some changes to the Firearms Act that members should be aware of.

NO ONE under the age of 18 may challenge the Non Restricted Firearms Test or Restricted Firearms Test. They have to take the appropriate courses.

There is also legislation in the works that IF PASSED will mean that NO ONE will be able to challenge the tests PERIOD. This means that first time gun owners will Have to take a Firearms Safety Course to LEGALLY POSSESS Firearms.

Remember Gun Safety BEGINS AND ENDS WITH YOU. **Bob McKay**



Chronic Wasting Not Detected in Local 2014 Deer Survey

Arnie Clark

Almost 550 head tissue sampled and tested revealed no evidence of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in Bruce-Grey-Huron whitetail deer examined by MNRF biologists during the 2014 fall hunting season. The geographic area sampled included the Bruce Peninsula south to the Grand River – Exeter area, specifically Wildlife Management Units 82A, 82B, 83, 84, 85A, 85B and 85C.

As a result of this latest survey, Ontario biologists are again, breathing a sigh of relief given the fact chronic wasting is not that far away geographically. It's already been found, primarily in captive populations in such neighbouring US states as Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. And just recently, for the first time, the disease was discovered in the state of Ohio. The state of Iowa also revealed in 2014, the confirmation of CWD. A total of 14 US states have now determined the presence of this deadly disease.

This neurological scourage, fatal to whitetails, elk, moose and woodland caribou, has the potential to destroy entire populations. Unfortunately, CWD, a disease that attacks the central nervous system, is untreatable. There is no known remedy to the culprit – an abnormal protein called a prion, which invades the animal's brain cells, subsequently leading to progressive weight loss, abnormal behaviour, loss of appetite and body functions, and in the end, death.

Much of the spread of CWD in the U.S. can be blamed directly on game farms and the inter-state import-export trafficking of diseased animals.

For more information on CWD, visit the world wide web, plus the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry website.

An **Application Form** may be obtained by using the link below.

<http://www.sydenhamsportsmen.com/> Top menu Bar -> **Membership**

Just fill in the form, and mail to the address on the front page of this newsletter, c/o **John Ford.**

Rainbow Trout

Rainbow trout numbers have by and large stabilized, with low mortality numbers being reported daily. Sometime before the snow flies, we will have to recapture the rainbows in the kidney pond, and clean the pond of the material that has accumulated since late spring.

Brown Trout

Brown trout numbers are virtually unchanged from one day to the next. The browns that are now in the hatchery will be held over winter and released next spring.

Chinook Salmon

Chinook salmon egg collection has been completed, and we now have approx.. 115,000 salmon eggs in the hatchery

Limited Term Lease

The lease has been signed by all parties, with electronic and hard copies distributed where necessary. Lease payment cheques have been sent to Jim Weaver for the balance of the year, and depending on how the land purchase work goes, we'll be issuing additional cheques in the new year.

Work is currently being done in getting a snow removal contractor on board, to fulfill the snow removal term of the lease.

OWEN SOUND MILL DAM FISH LADDER

On and off over the last two years, discussions on egg collections and fish stocking activities with Jody Scheifley have touched on the condition and design of the Mill Dam Fish Ladder. Jody has mentioned that we (non-specific) should be looking at replacing the fish ladder with a new one that is designed to move fish above the dam in a manner that is less damaging to the fish, more easily ascended by egg laden large females, and easier to work in during hatchery egg collections.

I discussed the idea a little more with Jody, this week; to get a feel for what is involved, how it would get started, parties involved, costs, etc. This project would be riddled with almost endless red tape, permits and applications, studies, assessments, design modifications, cost estimates, etc. As far as money is concerned, it would be totally funded by the MNR, since they have ownership of the fish ladder (estimated total cost of \$1,000,000 PLUS). The process would involve not only the MNR and the MOE, but also partners like the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, the City of Owen Sound, and the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association. The actual construction of the fish ladder wouldn't take very long, but everything leading up to it would probably take several years.

Jody is in the process of getting a piece of equipment that will measure the water flow inside fish ladders, and he believes that what is needed at the very start is data to be collected at the Mill Dam with respect to water flow inside the fish ladder as well as water temperatures at the dam itself. If we would be willing to participate in the collection of this data (helping him and his staff when necessary), he will show us how to use the equipment, and between him and use, get the process started. This work will be done in the spring during what would be the Rainbow trout run, and again in the fall during the Salmon run. The data would be used to determine how well the fish ladder is working, if there is a problem, whether a modification would correct it, or if an entirely new ladder would be required. He will keep me posted as to when the equipment becomes available, and when help from us will be required.

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Grey Sauble Conservation Authority, Owen Sound Tourism, and Sydenham Sportsmen's Association first annual "Fish Tasting and Spawning Bed Tour" fund raising project that took place on Oct 4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, and 13th is now history. All indications are that in spite of the cold and wet weather conditions, the event was well received by the general public that came out to see and learn about Chinook salmon and the fishery in Owen Sound and the surrounding area. Chris Hatchey was quite pleased with the number of visitors to the event, but hasn't as yet gotten back to the committee on the financial numbers. From what I've heard and seen, I'm confident that we will see a return that not only covers the monetary value of the salmon we donated, but should also contain a reasonable profit component as well

On a slightly different note, I would like to inform the board and FAC that the Conservation Authority is looking at rebuilding / repairing / reconditioning the spawning channel located directly behind their administration building. During the fundraiser, it became quite obvious that the channel wasn't even close to being utilized to its full potential, and definitely not up to the expectations of the event. Luckily we could show the public our spawning channels and the salmon that were utilizing them. I've walked the full length of the CA's channel, and couldn't find any more than three or four fish in it, at any one time. After a brief discussion with Chris about the condition of the spawning channel he instructed his people to put a reconstruction component into the Conservation Authorities next budget. If the SSA is willing to provide guidance and instruction, along with some manpower they will get some of their own workers and volunteers together, to work with us in getting the channel in a condition suitable to spawning activity. We'll get in touch with Chris sometime in the new year to see how things play out with their budget.

SSA FISH HATCHERY TOUR

A hatchery tour for representatives from the Stewardship and Conservation Incentives Section of the Peterborough Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry went very well. They not only toured the hatchery, but also went to the Side Channel Spawning Beds, to view the work we do at that location as well. All of them were impressed with what they saw and heard about our activities relating to the local fishery, in both a hatchery and wild setting.

SCHOOL SALMON HATCHERY PROGRAM

The two schools in Owen Sound are now prepared to receive the eggs once they can be transported. I have picked up the egg incubator trays from the schools and am now simply waiting for the eggs to eye-up so that I can get them placed in the school's aquariums.

COLDWATER FISH DISEASES WORKSHOP – UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

The workshop was an extremely interesting and informative event. We got first-hand experience in fish dissection, disease diagnosis, and guidance in what to when fish are sick and/or dying. Guidance was given as to what to do in certain circumstances where treatment can be done on site, as well as what to do when in-house treatment doesn't produce positive results. Ron Robb has decided that he will be the SSA Fisheries Physician and treat the disease where and when possible, as long as I determine the illness or cause of death; virtually becoming the SSA Fisheries Coroner (the dirty end of the stick again).

FMZ 14 & 13 MEETING

The next FMZ Meeting will be a joint meeting of Zones 13 and 14. It has now been confirmed that the meeting will take place in Sudbury, on Saturday, November 29th.

ROGERS TV / HISTORY LIVES

We completed the History Lives program with Rogers TV during the Salmon Egg Collection Activities at the Mill Dam. It dealt with the activities at the dam, various SSA fisheries activities and projects, as well as the importance of the Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular to all the things we do as a Conservation Minded Organization. Haven't seen it on television, but look forward to seeing the DVD they are sending us on this subject, along with the interview they did with Jack Osadzuk on the History of the SSA.

Dennis Wiseman, SSA FAC



TARGETS

As you read this newsletter, the current stock of practice targets available at each range will be running very low. More have been ordered and will, hopefully, be here before we run out. The cost to the club is around five cents a copy which is covered, in part, by your contributions to the donations boxes at each range. These contributions also help, but don't cover, the cost of range maintenance, backer boards etc. Please remember this next time you use any of our ranges and donate a loonie or two to help keep our ranges in their excellent condition .

I deliberately don't fill each target box completely as the targets absorb moisture and become musty over time, so please call me if the boxes need filling. My contact details are in each target box.

Thanks, **Stew. Wallace.**

FAC REPORT – November 20, 2014

FISH HATCHERY

Hatchery operations are fairly routine at this time of year; feed the fish, clean the tanks, remove the dead, keep an eye open for disease, update records, and make sure all the hatchery equipment is operating properly.

Chinook Salmon

Chinook salmon eggs have either hatched or are hatching at this time.

Hatchery Snow Removal

With the recent snow fall in our area, we are definitely into the winter season, and into the start of snow removal activity at the hatchery. As laid out in the new lease agreement, the onus is now on us to maintain the property in a safety and security condition; not only for ourselves, but also for the property owner.

OWEN SOUND MILL DAM

Water levels behind the Mill Dam have been lowered, in preparation for winter, and eventually the high waters of spring.

GREY SAUBLE CONSERVATION AUTHORITY / SALMON TOUR PROJECT

A wrap-up meeting has been scheduled for December 3rd, to go over the results of this years event, look at past operations and consider potential improvements that can be made to running the fund raiser again next year. At this point we know that the fund raiser realized a total net income of \$1,670.00, of which the SSA will receive \$835.00

CHP PROGRAM

The December 31st report submission date is coming up rather quickly, and I going to have to start pulling everything together and draft the actual report in about two weeks from now. The sooner I get my hands on the hatchery related invoices from April 1st, 2014, to date, the better. At the same time, I will need to determine how much, if any funding could still to be utilized. If there is potential to get more equipment for the hatchery, I need to determine what I can get, place the order and ensure that I get my hands on the appropriate invoice, to include it in the Dec 31st report.

YEAR END MNRF & MOE REPORTS / APPLICATIONS / PERMITS

Sometime between the first of January and the end of March next year, the 2014 Water Taking and Water Treatment reports will have to be submitted to the MOE. Early in the year, the Hazardous Waste Permit will be acquired from the MOE, and the Aquaculture Facility, Egg Collection and Fish Stocking Permits for 2015 will be obtained from the MNRF. 2015 is also the year when our current Water Taking Permit expires, and when we need to reapply for a new one, in order to keep operating our hatchery facility.

SCHOOL SALMON HATCHERY PROGRAM

Both Owen Sound public schools now have their 100 Chinook salmon eggs each, and are in the early stages of the program. If all goes well, between now and next June, they will be stocking out a relatively high number of smolts into the Sydenham River.

FMZ 14 & 13 MEETING

The next FMZ Meeting will be a joint meeting of Zones 13 and 14, in Sudbury, on Saturday, November 29th. Hopefully the weather doesn't get too crazy, and the meeting can take place as planned.

“IN DEPTH WITH RENO VIOLA”

I've agreed to do a telephone interview with Reno Viola for a segment of his show called “Conservation at Work”. The program deals with boots on the ground conservation or environmental projects done by the SSA and other like-minded groups across the province along with the benefits they provide to the great outdoors, and the surrounding communities. The details of the interview still need to be provided, but everything should be finished by the end of the month.

Dennis Wiseman

SSA FAC

Range Report - Shooting Sports **Bill Douglas and Al Hillis**



We are continuing our in-house program to train more Range Safety Officers, the next course will be held on Dec. 7th here at our SSA Clubhouse. All those involved have been notified by separate invitation and as usual the participants are prepared to do your fair share of shifts down on the 100 yd. range. Naturally all SSA approved Range Safety Officers must pass the course and be approved by the Executive.

The archery range is still in good shape and the 3D targets on positions #10 through #20, have been taken in for the winter (just before the first snow). The regular Ames targets are still out there, so enjoy them while you can. We put down some chips on the soggy sections of the trail before the end of October so it won't be as wet or muddy come spring.

As was mentioned in our Oct. newsletter the CFO range inspections on July 23rd went extremely well, and the couple of things we had to do to bring the 22 rim fire/CBA range into compliance were completed very quickly. Al and I would again like to thank all those involved for the extra effort put forward in proactively preparing the ranges for this inspection. We received our new Shooting Range Approval Certificates on Nov. 5th 2014, so we should be good for another two years.

The 100 yd range has seen plenty of action in the last 8 weeks with most of our members and guests sighting in there firearms prior to the Moose and Deer seasons. The weekends have be particularly busy with a couple of Sundays having line-ups. Now that December is here we will be going back to a more limited schedule with shorter hours (for instance the afternoon shifts will be from 1 to 3 pm). See the calendar or web-site for details.

The winter schedule for trap and skeet is now in effect. The Skeet/Trap range is only open on Sunday's from 1 pm. until you want to stop or it gets dark (which ever comes first).

Range Co-chairs

Bill Douglas & Al Hillis

Wildlife Emergency Receives Funding Support:

Thanks to the generosity of members of the Silver Cs – Caring Canadians club of Owen Sound, the coffers of the SSA's Emergency Fish & Wildlife Response Program is a little richer. After this past year's unforgiving winter, which stressed wildlife populations to the limit, Silver Cer's wanted to help the SSA with the purchase of deer mix, corn and other grains that would help species such as whitetail deer and wild turkeys make it through this winter. The SSA's Emergency Response team extends its thanks to Silver C members for their host of donations ... Gary Wood, Dan Coffey and Don MacIsaac for cash contributions, Arnie Clark for donating his Silver Cs 50-50 draw proceeds and to Rod Thorfinnson and Bob Millard for generously donating much of their hunting and fishing gear to the SSA's fundraising auction.

Arnie Clark

Nibble Night

Remember that our December general meeting night is our edible fun nibble night so start thinking of what wild game recipe you can whip up. This does not have to be gourmet as we are not fussy. We have been a little short on deserts so if you want to help out with this you could do a regular recipe. The dishes will be judged and voted on by the culinary membership with a nice award plaque going to the first, second and third place winners. This year, considering the time and expense that goes into participating, all of the cooking participants names will go into two draws for a \$25.00 gift certificate for each draw from one of our derby sponsors. As usual our bar will be open so plan to attend this special end of year meeting. Unfortunately and fortunately Fred Geberdt no longer has his coon dog so Coon Balls will no longer be on the menu !