

Shingle Point

Sight In Your Rifle Program



Winners of the 50 yard 'Open Sight' Competition (l to r), Eugene Pascal, Herbert Allen, Jerry Arey, Jordan McLeod, and Cody Kogiak.

Location: Shingle Point, Yukon Territory

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Report completed by:

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RRO Ian McLeod Report:

The Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (AHTC) in conjunction with the GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and the Yukon's Department of Environment (YDE) implemented a *Sight in Your Rifle Program* (SIYRP) at Shingle Point, YT, this past summer. The SIYRP event is held each year to stress the importance of 'sighting in your rifle' prior to hunting large game, such as moose, caribou, sheep, etc. The weather was very favorable for the event this year.

The SIYRP event was implemented concurrently with the Shingle Point Summer Games (SPSG), which is an annual event hosted by the Aklavik SPSG's Committee. Shingle Point was chosen because of the large number of people who gather there during the summer. Approximately fifty people attended the SIYRP event to watch the shooting competitions and acquire Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) educational information. Twenty-nine people took part in the target shooting competitions. SIYRP participants came from Aklavik, Inuvik and Alaska.

This is the third consecutive year that Renewable Resource Officer (RRO) Ian McLeod planned and implemented this program. This year the YDE sent a representative to assist with the SIYR Program, Conservation Officer (CO) Shaun Hughes also implemented a 'Distance Judging Contest' where participants were asked to judge the distance of two objects he had set up. The winner would be the person who guessed the closest to the actual distance. Forty people took part in this event.

Prizes were purchased by ENR from a local business in Inuvik. Additional prizes and targets were supplied by YDE and the PCMB. RRO McLeod and CO Hughes set up the firing range in consultation with the AHTC. The AHTC members coordinated the event.

Each participant was provided with four bullets for each competition, the Men's, Ladies and Youth 50 yard 'open-sight' (without scope) and the Men's, Ladies and Youth 100 yard 'scope' competition. The competitions were very well organized and implemented.

We would like to continue to make this an annual event and ideally track if the SIYRP participant's scores improve over the years. We believe this could have a measurable impact on the reduction of caribou being lost to wounding each year.

It is also an excellent opportunity to implement various conservation education initiatives and distribute educational material on the Porcupine Caribou Herd and how to reduce wounding the animals.

We would like to thank all the participants for their involvement and especially the AHTC, ENR, YDE and PCMB for providing prizes and their cooperative assistance in making this another successful program.

Mahsi Cho, Quyanainni, Thank you.



Sam McLeod sighting in his rifle before the event.



Spectators watching the event.



Yukon CO Shaun Hughes checking targets with spotting scope.



Ladies Competition.



Checking the 100 yard target, notice all the participant's orange safety toques.

Yukon Conservation Officer's Report

The Yukon Department of Environment was pleased to be part of the SIYRP at Shingle point in 2011. The event was very well received and ran smoothly. For Conservation Officer, Shawn Hughes the event provided an excellent opportunity to experience Shingle Point in the summer and to meet some of the people that frequent this unique seasonal camp. In addition, the weekend provided a valuable opportunity to collaborate with staff from partner agencies including the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Parks Canada and the NT Department of Natural Resources.

Having been involved the 2011 event at Shingle Point as well as a recent one in Old Crow, I can think of a few ideas that might further add to the program in the future:

1. We could bring up a proper shooting rest that stabilizes the gun better for sighting in. We used one in Old Crow called a "Lead Sled" that all but eliminated the recoil from high powered rifles.
2. We could deliver a brief talk about the physics of shooting and bullet trajectory as it relates to sighting in your rifle (ie. the arc of the bullet for different calibers etc). Take home material could be provided for participants as well.
3. A gun maintenance and cleaning demonstration might be a valuable addition to the program as there were some poorly maintained firearms brought out for the event.
4. Safety wise, it might be good to flag off the firing zone with tape to ensure that nobody crosses it without the range officer's permission. Also, it might be better off to hold the event at the other end of the spit to ensure a more safe backstop against the cliff instead of shooting across the open water.

These are just a few thoughts, but the bottom line is that I thought it was a great event that went very well and I hope to be part of it again next year.

Sincerely,

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Additional images of the event:



Winners of the Men's 100 Yard 'Scope' Competition (l to r): Cody Kogiak (2nd), Eddy Greenland (participant), Jordan McLeod (1st), Kevin Arey (3rd) and Andrew Charlie (4th). Missing is Nathan Gordon (4th).



Winners of the Ladies' 50 Yard 'Open Sight' Competition (l to r): Carol Arey (1st), Shauna Charlie (3rd), Stephanie Charlie (3rd) and Arlene Kogiak (2nd).



Spectators relaxing by the beach.