

Androscoggin County Fish and Game Association

Volunteer Discount Incentive for Members

Effective starting with the **2012-2013** membership year, there will be an increase in the club membership fee to \$80 for renewals and \$100 for new members. The fee for Indoor range access will be raised to \$60. Junior membership will remain at \$10.

Starting in the **2011-2012** membership year, new and existing club members may participate in a rebate program that allows them to earn credit towards the renewal of their **2012-2013** membership by participating in Volunteer Events. Each member participating in one of these events will receive, from the designated event coordinator, a coupon for \$10 credit against his or her 2012 ACF&GA membership/access fee(s). The coupon will be validated by coordinator signature after a minimum of one hour of service per event. These Events will be posted periodically on the ACF&GA web site and announced at monthly Member Meetings.

A member that collects 3 coupons will be able to redeem them towards his membership dues for the 2012-2013 membership term, effectively eliminating any increase in that member's costs. Members that collect up to 5 coupons may use the 4th and 5th coupons towards Indoor Range access and/or one Junior Membership for an immediate family member. Members will be solely responsible for keeping track of and redeeming their coupons. This requirement significantly reduces the overhead for the directors and virtually eliminates the need for a dedicated volunteer coordinator. No more than 5 coupons may be redeemed per member; 3 towards membership and the 4th and 5th towards Indoor Range Access and/or one Junior membership as described above.

The volunteer rebate program begins on April 1, 2011, with the rebates applicable to the 2012-2013 membership year for renewing members. New members joining in 2012 will be required to pay the full new member amount, but will have the opportunity to earn rebates on subsequent membership years.

Program FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q. Do the coupons have a cash value?

A. The coupons can only be redeemed against club dues. They have no inherent cash value.

Q. What is a qualifying "Volunteer Event?"

A. A volunteer event may be any of the following:

1. A scheduled, seasonal "club cleanup" event, held one or more times per year. Attendance for such activities as brush clearing, trash hauling, building maintenance, berm repair, fence building, etc. would earn the volunteer one coupon per event.
2. A scheduled event that requires RSO support, assuming that the volunteer is a NRA-Certified Range Safety Officer. The member must identify himself as an RSO and be prepared to assume Range Safety duties during the event.

3. Participation in Club Promotion activities such as staffing a table at Cabela's or LL Bean's during special events.
4. Assistance with club-sponsored training or public awareness activities such as Sighting-In Days, Hunter Safety Training, or an Open House event.

Q. Are there any other volunteer activities that would qualify?

A. Yes. There are a number of areas in which the club may benefit from solitary efforts by individual members. Equipment maintenance, locksmithing, plowing, road grading, signage, mailings and other activities may qualify. These would be evaluated on a monthly basis by the Board of Directors and coupons issued as appropriate.

Q. The increase in dues is considerable. Why so much?

A. The cost of maintenance, utilities, insurance, operations and improvements for our club increases every year. The club has not had a membership fee increase in a very long time and dues alone are not covering our costs. The increased membership fees and volunteerism incentive provides a relatively simple method for both covering the club's costs and eliminating any additional financial hardship for those willing to provide volunteer labor.

Q. Are coupons transferable to other club members?

A. No, coupons are to be used exclusively by the member who earned them, against his own membership or indoor range fee (the sole exception being for Junior memberships for immediate family). While we very much appreciate the extraordinary volunteer efforts some of our club members make, the intent of this program is to encourage volunteerism in **all** of our members.

Q. Can excess coupons be used for subsequent membership years?

A. No. Coupons must be redeemed against the membership year immediately following the membership year in which they're earned. Our intent to keep costs manageable will only prevail if we incent our members to volunteer every year.

Q. Why can we accrue only 5 coupons? Can't we finance our entire membership through volunteering?

A. The simple fact is that, while volunteerism is an extremely valuable resource for the club, we still require money to cover our capital and recurring costs. For that reason the minimum dues paid in cash will be no less than the prior year's dues.

Q. How do our increased dues compare to other clubs in the area?

A. The Durham Rod and Gun Club has no indoor shooting facilities and significantly fewer member amenities and charges \$75 per year. The Falmouth club's annual dues are \$125, again, without the same variety in shooting sports and no Indoor range facility. Scarborough's annual dues are \$175 and comes closest to the features offered by the ACF&GA. Capitol City in Augusta's dues are \$50, but only rifle and pistol sports are offered.