

KITTITAS VALLEY RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB NEWS

Mid winter 2018

Greetings to all members of the KITTITAS VALLEY RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB. I take this opportunity to let the membership know how the club is doing. This season our total membership for all shooting disciplines and members not shooting in our organized activities stands at 52 members. With this number of members we are able to keep our bills paid and save money for any incidentals that come up. We have yet to hear about the "FRIENDS of NRA" grant that the KVR&PC has applied for. Brett Hollar is spearheading this effort. The reason the KVR&PC has applied for the grant is to replace the very old heaters in our building. Up until now we have been paying for the range upgrades by using left over funds from club operations. The cost of the heater replacement exceeds what the club can afford without the grant application. If approved the project will take place during the off-season so no organized shooting activities will be disrupted.

Lately I have taken several questions about just exactly what the KVR&PC is, how it began and who was responsible for it in the beginning. So, with those questions in mind, here goes.

The KVR&PC is a 501-c7 non-profit sports club corporation. Our articles of incorporation and KVR&PC BY-LAWS are filed with the following.

1. US Federal Government, IRS.
2. Washington State Secretary of State.
3. Civilian Marksmanship Program.
4. National Rifle Association.

Our Secretary, Marilyn Mason, does an excellent job of keeping these filings up to date and the fees associated with each paid. The actual ownership of the KVR&PC rests with the 501-c7 corporation and not with any one individual. The five members of the KVR&PC Board of Directors as per the KVR&PC BY-LAWS are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the club. We have our liability insurance through the National Rifle Association GOLD MEDAL CLUB program. This program requires that any member who has un-fettered access to the KVR&PC range be an up to date member of the NRA. Members who do not have the door code and only participate in organized shooting activities do not have to be NRA members. The KVR&PC Board of Directors encourage all users of the range to be members of the NRA to support the sport shooting activities that we all enjoy.

How did the KVR&PC begin and who was initially responsible for it. From the written history of the club that I have been able to gather the following is the best I can provide to the membership. Most of this record comes from a former member, Ray Wheeler, who had several conversations with the earliest members before Ray

passed away. Ray left the records with me prior to his passing. The following is a quote from the history of the KVR&PC prepared by Ray.

The history was provided to Ray by Mr. Don Knoke who was a valley resident at the time the range was built.

From Don Knoke.

“ As I recall, Harold Mathews and Wynn S. Vickerman were the prime movers in getting the range started. I believe they did the work in getting the club in the NRA, and also finding and arranging the purchase of the property where the range now stands. Jack Bull handled the job of getting the club incorporated and probably did the paperwork in getting the club signed up with the DCM and getting rifles and ammunition from them. The range building was designed by my brother, Alton Knoke, who was finishing his degree at Central at the time. He had taken two years of architecture at UW before joining the Navy in 1941. As you know, my Dad was in charge of construction, with many of us helping as time permitted. He also loaned the club the money to buy materials (\$1500.00, I believe), which was repaid at \$30.00 per month. Merle Gordon cut the lumber at the mill he owned and operated with his Dad and brother-in-law. The heavy backstop material was procured and installed by Murl Pease, who was shop foreman at the County Shop at the time. The steel plate with a diamond pattern on it had been used on bridges. Murl also arranged to have the blacktop floor installed as well as the gravel beneath it. The original heat source was a coal furnace donated and installed by Clovis Chartrand. Clovis also installed the gas heaters that are used now. The original wiring was done by J.B. McCament, who was an electrician in Ellensburg at the time. “

The statement from Don Knoke is part of a letter that was written to Ray Wheeler and was passed down to me. The letter resides in the records of the KVR&PC. Don also included a list of the early shooters, men and women that participated in the club shooting activities. The list is very interesting if you have been a resident of the valley for a long time. You would recognize the individuals as numerous roads were named after them or their historical families.

Our current shooting activities are going well. Bullseye Pistol has been especially well attended this year, both the noon and evening sessions. Target Rifle shooters are providing scores to the IERPA and to the Yakima Valley Rifle League. The Light Rifle evening is providing shooting opportunities to families and those members who want to shoot for their own enjoyment.

As ever, it is a pleasure to be in the company of people that enjoy the shooting sports.

Hal