

KLAMATH SPORTSMANS PARK ASSOCIATION
Newsletter
May, 2010

President's Corner

The park is awakening from winter. Dust off your bow. Mount your quad or motorcycle. Grab your favorite rifle or pistol. Go and enjoy the park facilities.

New EVENT SCHEDULES will be posted at the Host kiosk and on the website www.sportsparkkeno.org

Many people contributed time, money, sweat and tears over the years to keep our park going. These volunteers are mostly unsung and unrecognized. The Board and Officers donate their time and are visible, others aren't. I have been thinking about how Tom and Pat Harris have donated time and energy for thirty years. Also, Nell and Frank Kuonen helped start the park and have never stopped helping. These people and others like Bill Scholtes made the place I go to have fun a reality that continues to be great place for a having a good time. Visiting recently with Dick and Linda Wickline, who were also there at the beginning, made me realize that our park exists and continues to exist because of the efforts of people who jumped in and helped and who continue to do so.

If any of you see something that needs attention, please drop a note in the 'Iron Ranger'. The new picnic tables were built as a result of a member's written suggestion so please give us your ideas.

Phil Doddridge,
President

Fire Season

You don't need to be a farmer or rancher to know that we are entering a serious drought year. Our first fire of the year started on April 30 at the area in back of the impact berm on the 200m range. There's nothing but tinder there. The fire has burned for a week as of this writing. It may have been caused by a ricochet from a steel core bullet or a tracer. Use of those types of ammunition is prohibited on the range. We all have to be aware and pro-active to prevent any condition that might be a fire danger. Park Rules prohibit charcoal barbecues and open fires. Fire fighting tools will soon be available at the Host area. Linda Wickline prompted us to act on that matter. Our fire truck should appear at the park before too much longer. It was donated to us by the Folsom Shooting Club. Take a look at their website, www.sacvalley.org . If you are ever near their facility, stop by and take a look.

Improvements in the park

The Kingsley Bowmen are working to fix a problem on one of the field courses. They plan to install a couple of culverts in the drainage that goes from Hwy 66 to the pavilion area. Darin Hamilton and Lyle Phelps are heading up that project.

A few new signs have been placed since last news letter. Len Doddridge is the pro with the router who does the lettering. If you have any suggestions for more signs, let us know. Email or a phone call will do.

Perimeter fencing repair is ongoing but nearly done. Tom Harris and Walter Haupt are the engineers. Any assistance would be appreciated. There's a corner and a couple of short stretches left to do.

Pete Johns has submitted a grant request for funds to be used on improvements to the 200 meter rifle range. Mike Monciardini has a plan to pave the firing line under the cover and to also install a six foot apron in front of it for use during matches in which the shooters use a prone position.

ATV Permits

ATV permits are available from the park Hosts. The permit is required for operation of an ATV within the park. Additionally this year, all riders must possess an Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept "ATV Safety Education Card". The card is available by taking the online training offered at www.rideatvoregon.org. Riders under 16 must be under supervision of an adult over 18 who also possesses an "ATV Safety Education Card". Don't forget DOT approved safety helmets. The 2010 OPRD ATV handbook is also available from our Hosts. There are some other changes that you will probably want to know about so be sure to pick up a copy.

Sports Show

JSSA's Sportsmen's Show which was held in combination with their April 17 & 18 Gun Show provided us with an opportunity to promote the park. Walter Haupt headed up the group who manned the park's booth. They sold raffle tickets and recruited some new park members. The Sportsmen's Show is a terrific venue for anyone who wants to exhibit their outdoor sport related products. It is the only assemblage of its kind offered in the basin and has gotten good support from local businesses as well as some from out of town. Len Doddridge will be assuming the duty of chairman, taking over for Mike Monciardini who has been the driving force behind the Sportsmen's Show concept since its inception. Our hats off to Mike, best wishes to Len.

Sporting Clays Fund Raiser

Sporting Clays season begins this month. Their matches are held on the second and fourth Saturday each month, May thru September. Match registration is at 8:30am, shooting at 9:00. This season they will be raffling a Henry Golden Boy lever action .22 rifle . Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the park. The drawing will take place on September 25th, after the match, during the Sporting Clays annual steak barbecue. Tickets can be obtained at the Sporting Clays registration desk or from Bryan Vanderpol, Phil Hodge or Phil Doddridge. They are \$5.00 each or six tickets for \$20.00. All of the Member Organizations can follow their lead to keep the park in the black.

Third Thursday

If you don't know what it is, watch for information in the Herald and News. It is a kind of street fair sponsored by downtown merchants. We hope to have our Sportsmans Park booth set up a couple of times this year to let folks know who, where and what we are. It's a great chance for some 'people watching' and you could do a lot to promote the park if you can spend an evening manning the booth. Call or email if you're inclined to help out.

Raffles

As you know, we have two raffles each year to generate the money to retire our loan from the County for the park purchase. **The prize is \$1,000.00 in cash.** Tickets are \$5.00 or five for \$20.00. Contact anyone on the Board of Directors to purchase your tickets. The tickets for the next raffle are available now. The drawing will be in time for Christmas.

Lions Clubs a big help

The Keno Lions and the South Suburban Lions Clubs provided the cooking and wait staff in the snack bar at the Sports Show. All reports are that the food and the service were great. The clubs took on the task as a community service project. Profits on the food concession were in excess of \$3,500.00 and the total was donated to the park. It is earmarked (not always a bad thing) to help retire the loan from Klamath County.

Many Lions put in long days, starting before 6am, to have everything in place for the crowds. Pat Harris took the lead in creating a menu, purchasing the food, and generally supervising the kitchen. She even returned the unsold non-perishables for credit. Pat's assistant, Tomas, drove the car.

LOGO for the park

A couple of months ago the Board discussed creating a logo for the park that we could use in advertising, reproduce on shirts and hats and use as a background on our stationery. It was thought that we could hold a contest open to high school students and offer a \$100.00 prize for the concept that the Board approved. We sent letters to each of the school district superintendents asking for permission to promote the contest through the schools. Neither of them replied to our letters.

We still need the logo. Requirements and suggestions for what we want are ready to go. What we need now is someone to run the contest. If you have any time to work on this, a very necessary project, please contact the Board either through the website or by phone.

None of us on the Board is experienced in advertising. A few have purchased ads in the Yellow Pages or the newspaper but that's about it. We know we need to advertise the park but we're not sure how to go about doing it. If you can help, even by just giving us some direction, we really need it. We are hoping to qualify for a grant from the Tourism Bureau but we need to tell them what our needs are and project the cost. We are really in the dark.

Website

Our website, www.sportsparkkeno.org is one of the ways we have been publicizing the park. We checked with the webmaster, David Glenn, last month. He tells us that we got 1200 hits in March so the word is getting out. Take a look for yourself. It's a work in progress so any input from our members is welcome.

Complaints, suggestions, news

President Doddridge mentioned it in his column. We need your input. A note left in the "Iron Ranger" or with a host will be given consideration at the next Board meeting, if not before. Phone calls work, too. Our newsletter publishing dates are on a somewhat odd schedule but news that affects the park is welcome and we will do our best to get relevant information to the membership.

Sign in, please

Whenever you visit the park it is important that you sign in at the Host kiosk. Grants are based on attendance to some degree and we need to make accurate records of attendance. Some members, new and old, seem to think it's too much trouble to stop and sign in. We invite them to write the next grant application and, if it is successful, we will grant them sign-in amnesty.

Free firewood

We've got a few trees down in the park. Members are welcome to them for firewood. Contact Phil Doddrige for more specific information. He can tell you which ones are available and advise you of any precautions you need to be aware of.

Meetings

The Board of Directors meets on the second Monday each month. 6pm at the Senior Center. Meetings are open to all. Mark your calendar now for June 14th. Get involved with the future of the park. We'd like to see you there.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

Dick and Linda Wickline are leaving the Klamath Falls area. They have been a hard working pair involved with the formation, purchase and operation of the park since the very early days. Dick's pet project was the 600 yard range and organizing high power rifle competitions. JSSA has named the range in his honor. Linda has done so many jobs for the park they can't be listed. Suffice it to say she has chopped weeds, fought fires and anything else necessary for the park. During the Sportsmen's Show they were presented with a plaque to honor their service. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude. And so does the community at large for their many contributions of both time and money to many causes and projects in the Klamath Falls area.
