

Bill Scholtes
KLAMATH SPORTSMANS PARK
Board of Directors Newsletter
October 1, 2009

From the President:

It's always a shocker to suddenly note the bulk of the year is behind us! A little skiff of snow is a good indication, too!

The Park function is operable and the condition is fair thanks to many volunteers. Changes have occurred to improve various facets of it. Active long-range planning will be the key to an even better Park.

This Newsletter also gives me the opportunity to thank both past and present board members and so should you.

This necessary dedication is accompanied by passion for this special park and all that it stands for. I was told the "A" personalities are in abundance here and so when an occasional burst of temper sneaks through it is understandable. Once objective arguments and the merits of proper perspective are applied, we solve the problems and subsequently feel a little closer, particularly where this Park is concerned.

Thank you all for your perseverance and support.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

This October Newsletter is also our opportunity to fulfill the Bylaw requirement to post the openings for Board officers in an odd number year (2009-2011-2013 etc). Article 4, Section 4.1.4 states:

The President and Secretary positions shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the annual December meeting in odd numbered years.

Nominations are therefore open for these two positions as well as Director nomination for each park organization. Voting for these officers and directors will occur at the December annual meeting.

RANDOM NOTES

The improvement in the park road should be very evident. John Chavarria, local contractor, reshaped the road and installed a new culvert that should reduce maintenance this winter. Our thanks to John for the very reasonable price.

Our efforts to secure a grant for a new restroom, which included a new pump for the well and electric service to the southwest corner of the Park are still in the works. A renewed effort will begin in January 2010.

Our most recent raffle, conducted to defray the payment of our loan from Klamath County, was quite successful. The winner collected \$1,000 on September 6th. The December gun show, put on by JSSA, will start off another raffle. Don't miss the opportunity to support the Park and possibly put a little change in your pocket. Stop at the Park booth, get a few tickets and take a look at the many photos of Park activities. Tom Robison designed and built the backdrop for the booth.

Work on the fence surrounding the park continues and you should have noticed those improved sections. We were very grateful for the peeler cores that were donated 20 years ago by Columbia Plywood and Thomas Lumber but they finally gave up. Thanks to Jim Monroe and Bill Watson for the work done on the JSSA section of the fence and to

Walter Haupt for the work done on the section along Hwy 66. There are serious rocks in that ground!

Our Fire Truck is pretty close to completion. The ordered pressure relief valve is in and waiting to be installed. It will be ready to go for next year. Thanks to Leon Williamson and Phil Doddridge for acquisition and maintenance.

SOUTHERN OREGON DIRT RIDERS

The Dirt Riders had a couple of races, one featuring an extended cross-country leg which seemed to be pretty popular but entry control has created a problem. We can only control its safety aspects on a given race day. Currently we do not have the folks to control it for public use on a daily basis. As with most new additions, it will take time to get the 'bugs' out of it.

With increased active membership in the coming year they hope to be able to do maintenance work on the track. This is going to require the availability of good soil and sand to facilitate this accomplishment.

KLAMATH BASIN OHV

The Klamath Basin Off Highway Vehicle Club presently represents the ATV area for the park. KBOHV is at the forefront of the motorized trail inventory for the Fremont-Winema National Forest Travel Management Plan. The same effort will be pursued for Klamath and Lakeview BLM.

The ATV area sees a fair number of riders, with a substantial number of two wheelers as well. There is room for some 4-wheel drive activity also.

This area was used for training classes for ATV's this year and we expect to see that increase.

Although there was no formal events held this year we are looking at some in 2010.

FLIGHTMASTERS OF KLAMATH FALLS

The Flightmaster's facility, at the Keno International Airport, continues to offer one of the best airfields in the State of Oregon due to a whole lot of dedicated stewardship. It still is in need of an upgraded restroom facility and power. A grant will be pursued this fall if one is available.

With their 26 member club they have hosted Fly-ins from the Medford and Bend Clubs at different times. The fly-in with Medford is followed by a trade-off BBQ. Medford is a 125 members club but they draw from Ashland and Grants Pass as well. The flyers from Bend bring their jet planes and all have a great time but they tend to leave burn marks on the grass strip!

Flightmasters is a club that is willing to help others learn to fly. If you are interested just contact them.

JSSA SPORTING CLAYS

The Sporting Clays just finished their season with an event hosting 56 shooters. Ordinarily there are more but I was pleasantly surprised at the numbers.

They do have some changes they are pursuing but these plans are not on paper as yet. One possibility is a Quail Shoot trail.

Just started this year is the ability for the itinerant shot gunner to contact the Range Host for a string of clays to be loaded so they may utilize one of the shooting cages. Please pass this information around. Just might get a new member!

KINGSLEY BOWMEN

Kingsley Bowmen now have 125 members in their group. This summer saw a good increase in range utilization. They held two events with 179 archers in April and 102 archers in August.

Their target butts installed four years ago by Tom Nealy and the group are still holding up very well.

Long Range Planning includes updating target frames, over fly carpet panels and redefining shooting trails plus a posting of safety measures such as proper drawback procedure.

JEFFERSON STATE SHOOTERS

Mike Monciardini championed the grants for the JSSA Barn construction. Dobi Stork has worked with Mike and contributed a great deal of labor for the project. I am sure there are others but do not have a list of names and would just like to say thanks to you all.

JSSA did received grant money to continue the class room construction. Water and Power are there and fixtures will soon follow. There are other classroom items that are needed and if you have something that you think they could use, please contact them. The barn construction was necessary to accommodate the sundry items that JSSA need to place in storage.

The classroom, however, is the key to whatever perpetuity recreation can realize. Long Range Planning must include a place to teach!

There are some improvements for the ranges that are in the planning stages. Ease of maintenance and improved safety are among the prime reasons behind these changes.

The shooting ranges will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays beginning in November this year. Jefferson State Shooting Association controls and maintains the ranges. The Range Host is on site to monitor range use and to do the day to day chores around the ranges. We decided to schedule his days off on the days which seem to get the least use. We understand it may be an inconvenience to a few but it is necessary to establish regular days off for the Range Host.

The 200 meter range is scheduled for some repairs and improvements. JSSA will be seeking grant money to accomplish those things in the future.

KLAMATH COWBOYS

The Klamath Cowboys Annual Labor Day Event hosted 75 shooters in a four day campout. They had 39 campers and people from four states attending.

Their local schedule is the second Sunday and fourth Saturday of the month.

It may be old fashioned clothes and antiquated firearms, but it has become as popular as antique motorcycle racing. There is a stigma of simplicity and honesty in the 'old ways' that has become very attractive. Perhaps it is the shortcoming of today that provides this comparison. At any rate it is a welcome segment of today's recreation.

*Tom Harris, President
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