
❖ Kings River Gazzette ❖

Special Edition

The official publication of the Kings River Regulators

Feb 16, 1997

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Sun Mountain

As some of you know, the Sun Mountain Sportsman's Club has made a bid to get our club to move to their shooting facility. They have offered to build us 10 shooting bays, 5 of which would be available for our monthly matches, and an additional 5 available for our annual match. We would be allowed to leave our props setup on the first 5 bays. The range would be closed to all other shooting for our annual match, and all areas would be available to us. They have a new club house with cooking facilities, bar and enough room for a couple hundred diners, dancers or whatever. The range has its own heavy equipment and operators, and is willing to change things around to suit us, at no cost to us. The range has been there for 30 years, and is operated by the owner, JR Phelan. It is located just south of Coarsegold, 25 min from Fresno, on 36 acres of Oak covered land at 2300 ft. Travel time is not a problem. The main shooting event presently at the Club is Sporting Clays. The owner wants to expand his operation to include Cowboy action Shooting, and is anxious to get together with us. He carries a \$1,000,000 insurance policy thru the NRA.

Shooting fees paid to the range would be \$3 for Sun Mountain members, and \$6 for non-members. A membership cost \$75/year and includes all family members and an annual steak BBQ for all. Camping is available at no cost for the weekend of the shoot. This all sounds good, and I'm sure that most of you are ready to go! But wait!

The range suffers from the same encroachment problems that the FR & PC is starting to see. The Indian Lakes development is knocking at the clubs front door, and all property around the range is up for development. This would leave no place for a misplaced round to go. A check by a couple of our members revealed that the range is 30 acres. No use permit could be found, but the conditional use permit is for shotgun with a limited rifle area in front of the clubhouse to the NE. The existing shooting area at the west end is out of compliance. County officials say we would be taking a huge risk locating there. The permit for the club house forbids the serving of alcohol. We sure don't want to make a move only to find ourselves out in the cold a few years down the road!

FR & PC

The Fresno Rifle and Pistol Club has been around since the 1930's. It has a well established reputation, and approx. 250 acres of land. You all know the particulars of the range terrain and makeup. The range is a private club, that is totally owned by the members, about 900. It is controlled by an elected board of nine directors (officers), and a representative of each shooting club at the range (Executive director). Only officers have the vote on money matters. The club employs two full time "Range Masters", and two part time workers. The range charges a very meager \$2/shooter fee to the various clubs that are a part of the FR & PC. This small fee is greatly enhanced by the fees charged the public. The club grosses over \$100,000/year and charges \$50 for membership.

It is a not for profit corp. and supplies a \$500,000 NRA insurance policy. As money comes available, the various improvements to the range take place. Salaries eat up a good portion of the income as well as supplies and maint of the range. When we came on board the FR & PC, it was understood that we would have to share range one until such time that money was available to build us a permanent home. There was no time limit set for that to happen. Money is spent on the public area first, due to the high income it produces. Most of you know the various problems that we must deal with. Limited space to stand leads to constant concern of road blockage, setup and take-down at every match, unable to expand our operation, only 4 bays, and the unbelievable rudeness of SOME of the employees etc.

Through our hard work, we have become semi-established at FR & PC. We have brought very favorable publicity to the range, and I think that is something they need. Out side of a few, I think we are becoming accepted as part of the group. If we move, lets make it for positive reasons, ones which will improve our shooting club. Even though I don't think we will ever get the expansion we need at the FR & PC, and I like the Sun Mountain Range very much, my vote is to reject their offer. It is just too risky!

Snakebite,
Mayor, Kings River Regulators

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Two Guns

Gun sales must be amite slow. Ever stage called for two hand guns. I LOVE IT! It's simply amazing to me that our matches become more fun ever time. There shur is KUDO'S to Leadfoot and his crew fer what was a DANDY Adventure. It had plenty of action and gobs of shootin. 62 Shootists gave it their best shot and some of them were fine tuned! Deputy Dog was doin some fine hammerin, follerd by that feller from the coast who's mama was ashamed to name him. (His raw time was FAST!). One of the best things I heard at the match was when Worthless Cheatin Liar said: "I hit that target! Honest!" I didn't know whether to believe him or not. I mean, come on, the man's known. Sheriff Hank and I were watchin the posse blast away when he said "Boy, they've come a long way". Well he's shonuff right. Folks are startin to polish up their shootin skills. The time gap is slowly closin for a number of folks and it's time fer some of you to venture out fer some showdowns at other matches to see how you rate. I think you might be surprised! Ours is not an easy course to shoot compared to some. This works to our advantage when we go to other places. Don't get me wrong, we don't want ours to be too hard but if there's no challenge, it's not fun. Who wants to play basketball with a 42 inch hoop 6 feet off the ground?

SB

OFFICERS:

Mayor: Doug Gilmore (Snakebite) 787-2943
SASS #4767 KRR #1
Sheriff: Jim Borton (Hank) 591-6056
SASS #7369 KRR #2
Banker: Barbara Chism (Jessie Montana) 673-7416
SASS #8244 KRR #27
Blacksmith: Paul Speer (Bearpaw) 582-3441
SASS #7559 KRR #6
Schoolmarm: Connie Gilmore (Fannie Oakley)
SASS #6719 KRR #10

Council Grows

Eighteen members of the Kings River Regulators were elected to the Town Council. The new members are: Alibi Bill, Roughcut, Sierra, River Dale, Antelope Kid, Flat Iron, Cole Chance, Toeless Joe, Kentucky Gambler, Leadfoot, Dutch Edwards, Widow Maker, Terrible Ted, Ruthless Ruth, Square Shooter, Hoss, Rev Buster, and Shiloh. This brings the Council to 28 members. The Town Council is the place where the decisions of the club are made. Major things, like whether to put on an annual match, how much dues should be, whether or not to ????? You get the idea. The members of the Town Council are selected from the general membership by nomination and vote. Prerequisite for nomination is a continued show of willingness to actively take part in making the club work, (i.e., setups, ROing, etc). The thought is that those who do the work should make the decisions. Want on? Let a member know that you are interested. You must be a Council member to run for office. The day-to-day running of the club is done by the officers. The Mayor speaks for the club in order to keep confusion to a minimum. The mayor or designee, represents the club as an Executive Director at the monthly meeting of the FR & PC Board of Directors. He/she must be a member of the FR & PC. The line of succession is Mayor, Sheriff, Banker, Blacksmith, Schoolmarm.



Quote of the Month

"We shall overcome, and if that doesn't work, we'll come over em"

BLACKSMITH RESIGNS

Shorty has decided to step down as blacksmith. He is a founding member of the Kings River Regulators and has been the blacksmith since the group started. He is not shy about rising to any challenge. When our first food supplier backed off, Shorty took up the slack. This has become a full time job during the matches and has really put the pressure on him and Ma Kettle. The amount of work that is required of the blacksmith can be very time consuming and you can imagine how much time it takes to prepare a meal for 60-70 people! Shorty has been doing both jobs for a year. We all owe him a real debt of thanks. It is a fact that the club would not be where it is today without his hard work. I personally want to thank Shorty for his support of me when it counted. That's the "Cowboy Credo", and he's got it!

SB

Bearpaw takes Anvil

With the resignation of Shorty as the club Blacksmith, a large and major hole was created in the line of officers. Fortunately, another member was willing to take on the duties of the office. The Officers voted to accept Shorty's recommendation to have Bearpaw fill out the remainder of his term. Paul Speer, Bearpaw, is also a founding member of the Kings River Regulators. He has worked closely with Shorty and is responsible for a good number of our targets and props. He has a lot of good ideas and the means to make them happen. We are indeed very lucky to secure his services. We still want your help with building projects but ask that you coordinate with Bearpaw.



COWBOY CHATTER

Had a great time at 5 Dogs Creek. Some of our bunch got recognized for everything from their shooting ability to their Bull Sh*tting ability. I won't say who won what. There was a TOP GUN shoot-off for braggin rights between Sheriff Hank and Banker Jessie Montana. Won't say who won that either but I think our money is safe.

The Antelope Kid is sportin some class on his butt. Check it out!

How do you shoot 14 times without reloading? Try 45 Schofields!

Plan to spend at least one day at EOT. April 24-27. It's an experience.

The roping off of the vendor area is a good move. It gave us a good staging area and helped to clear the road.

Are we going to have an annual match? If so, when? If we are, start thinking about something special. High Sierra has its mining car which runs on rails. Let's see if we can come up with something special too.

Council meets

The Regulators had a Town Council meeting after Sunday's match. The main topic discussed was Sun Mountain's request for us to relocate to their shooting facility. It was a very lucrative and inviting offer. Ten bays, large club house, trees, perfect elevation, exclusive for our annual match, and friendly, polite folks to deal with. Investigation of the range's use permit and request for a major subdivision in the area around the range prompted the offer to be unanimously rejected. Though the Regulators are not looking for a new home, it would be remiss of the Town Council not to at least investigate such an offer. I am a little concerned about the comment made by one of FR & PC Range Masters to one of our folks stating that our days are numbered at FR & PC. I don't know if there is any substance to his comment, or if he is just running his mouth. The Range Masters position is not a policy making one, they are simply employees of the range. At any rate, I asked Bill Pucket, the acting President to check into it. He said that he knew of nothing of the sort and in fact the range did NOT want us to leave. That was of course very good news. The KRR have tried to be good neighbors and members. Maybe we can get to the bottom of this and live and let live. One thing is for sure, hearsay can do a lot of damage. We all need to be prepared to back up what we say with facts! Write it down and remember, the Mayor is the ONLY person that speaks for the KRR. Enough said about that.

Kentucky Gambler is checking into Officers and Directors insurance for the KRR.



WORK PARTY NEEDED

The head Range Master wants us to build a corral to put our steel in. He suggests a 20 X 24, 7 ft cedar fence. I agree with him, it is needed. The fact that we are right out front makes it even more necessary. He has provided us with a list of materials and estimate of cost. Cole Chance is checking to see if he can get a deal. At any rate, we need a work party on Sat March 15 to dig the post holes and pour the cement. The next Sat., March 22, we will need a work party to build the fence. Let Bearpaw know if you can make it. 582-3441. Maybe we can make a BBQ out of it too. Does anyone have a powered post hole digger? I have a dandy cement mixer.

The request for a work party to put the RR ties on top of the burms was tabled for the time being. Tracy said that he wants the corral done first. I don't know that I'm ready to move RR ties around. We need some equipment there to do that. I don't want anyone hurt!

