

At the moment there are three issues of interest for us. First, the ever-evolving county range ordinance, second an agenda motion to raise membership dues, and third a proposed bylaws change.

The first is for information only since the ordinance is now in the hands of the county commissioners.

As of this past Friday, September 12, we had what we believe to be our last input to the ordinance language. Please keep in mind that the commissioners are not bound by our suggestions nor the suggested ordinance that is the result of two years of work; they will vote or change as they see fit. But as of the last change, which is really a modification of a change that was revised (get the picture?) we believe that the club will maintain all present shooting programs including the Cowboy action competitions and the Pistol Group matches. Both of these last two were contentious on a number of levels including shooting outside over-head baffles.

The comments in the Kitsap Sun about hours are a shift back to the governing state law and in our case we are well inside that requirement. This does pose the point to all members and guests that when we say we open the range to shooting at 9:00 AM that is the standard we need to meet. Expectations are important and our neighbors have a right to know what we are doing. So when you are faced with the aggravation of having to wait 70 seconds to shoot when you are already set up, well, deal with it.

I suggest if you have interest in the topic, read the whole ordinance, I think you will find it acceptable in all respects. And if you are moved to do so, an email, letter or phone call to your commissioner suggesting that they vote on the ordinance as it is currently, as of today, structured might benefit us.

The second issue is just ours, no outside influence here. The Executive Board has passed a motion to increase annual membership dues as of April 1st, 2015 to \$100 for an individual membership, which will also increase the amount for the initiation fee, and family membership.

When we first look at our bank balances we have a substantial sum in place but, we need to look ahead and not very far. Before we get into the details though, please consider this. We have been able to maintain the current level of dues for almost ten years without an increase, one way we were able to maintain that level was to increase guest shooter fees by 50% which aligned us with other local clubs and did not impact the number of guests for well over a year. Our competitive position in the 'market place' if you think that way, will remain strong as we will still be the least expensive alternative for rifle and pistol clubs in the county. Bainbridge Island Sportsman's Club is already at \$100 a year for membership with additional 'day fees' for members. KRRC is at \$100 annually and requires 10 hours of work or an additional \$100. Bremerton Trap and Skeet is \$60 annually but doesn't offer rifle or pistol.

So with this increase we will just be keeping up with the Jones, we aren't becoming 'expensive'. Besides that our new annual dues will be about the cost of about 200 rounds of 9mm, forget about .45.

Besides the competitive position, we are experiencing a major downturn in guests, as are all of the ranges in the county. We are down about 40% in revenues from the range, which includes, shooting fees, targets, and brass recycling. The number is high but if there is any consolation it is that the other ranges are experiencing the same thing. It's just a guess but I think all of the clubs are spending board meetings talking about money more than usual.

So there is the competition and the revenue side, now for the spending. We have in place a committee that has the Soap Opera moniker of "Life Cycle Planning" which besides giving me something to make fun of is providing the board with an absolutely terrific insight to the deferred maintenance that needs to be attended to as well as the development of replacement funds, notably among which are the trap machines. You would think people would build things to last but twenty, twenty-five years and stuff just gives out.

Some of you may recall the catastrophic failure of the overhead baffle on the 15-yard line. Through a superior effort a bunch of members too numerous to name and thank here got it up and got it back in service but it is still old and decrepit and needs to be replaced. We will also need to reconsider the total 15-yard set-up. Next time you are in take a look at where shooters line up; the 200 has a shooter, or two, maybe the 100 will have three or four shooters except in hunting season, the 50 will have room to shoot, the 15 will be busy and the 7 will have a line out the door. If we had more room we could put in a 3.5 and take all the pressure off the 7. We also need to take care of routine expenses like insurance (big \$) garbage, phone, electricity, building and parking maintenance none of which are going to reduce prices anytime soon.

I am asking for your support on this matter. \$40 dollars a year is a fairly insubstantial sum for the value that members receive from the club. The purposes that money will be put to are required for our safe use and effective maintenance of our club facilities and ranges. The membership ratification vote for the dues increase will be held at the October 7, 2014 meeting. A simple majority vote of vested members is required to pass the increase.

The third issue is a motion to change our by-laws regarding the treasurer, secretary, and archivist. The full text of the proposal is on our web site www.pscnet.net for your review. Its purpose is to streamline the work of the Executive Board and take at least some pressure off the necessity to have as many elected officers as we currently have. The motion will be discussed in full before the vote. The vote will be taken at our regularly scheduled membership meeting on October 7, 2014. A 2/3 majority vote of vested members is required to pass the revision.

Of course comments to me or the executive board members are always welcome.

Doug O'Connor
President