

ROSLYN RIDERS HISTORY

In 1956 several Roslyn area families who had been horse riding together for two previous years, formed and incorporated the Roslyn Riders to "promote the association of horsemen and horsewomen desiring to advance the interest of good horsemanship and support youth interest in horsemanship".

The incorporation officers were:

Trustees:	Juanita J. Griffin Angeline A. Reandeau Lyda M. Beedle
Incorporators:	Carl C. Beedle Elmer J. Reandeau James R. Stogdell Melvin L. Griffin Louise L. Stogdell

There were 86 members that first year, some of which were supporting local businesses as "Honorary Members". Of those original active members two, along with their children and grandchildren still remain active members and officers in 2007.

Over the years the club has given "Honorary and Lifetime" memberships to members serving in the US Armed Forces and members and non-members honoring their generosity.

Meetings have been held at least monthly per the by-laws, with special meetings every week to two weeks for the planning of large events.

Originally the club grounds were leased from the Northwest Improvement Co., a division of the Northern Pacific Railway. The grounds were continuously leased from them or their subsidiary, Plum Creek Timber Co., for the next forty-five years. After turning down their purchase offer in 1968 for the amount of \$3025, we purchased the land for the sum of \$65,000 in 2001, paying it off in less than two years time.

In 1958 the club purchased for the sum of \$150 a house from the Emerick Estate for use as a clubhouse. Members moved it on a borrowed truck one night from the corner of 2nd and Wyoming in Roslyn down to the club grounds with a young member sitting on the roof raising telephone and electrical wires with a pole. A new chimney, wiring and curtains were clubhouse projects that year. Donated hardwood flooring was installed in 1962, a kitchen in 1965 and a new roof in 1970.

In 1961 popular Seattle photographer, Howard Clark, honored the club by photographing several of their events. Many of these photos still are displayed on our club house walls. The club reciprocated by clearing brush from Mr. Clark's property in Domiere Flats and presented him with a commemorative belt.

Roslyn City water was installed to the club grounds in 1962 and to the club house in 1966, but we lost that water supply in 1990 and didn't have running water again until 2005 when we dug our own 500' well.

In 1963 preparation and construction started on the track, a 200' x 400' arena and surrounding fencing; all of which remain an on-going project.

In 1968 the original announcers stand was built. It was completely rebuilt in 2006. The original bleachers purchased from the disbanded "4th of July Loggers Festival" group in the early 1970's were replaced in 2005. The original electrical service was upgraded pole to new panel-box in 2005. Thirty-five local sponsorship fence signs initiated in 1982 were upgraded in 2005-2006

The clubhouse itself has been used by members for meetings, equine and rural living education seminars, special family celebrations and community groups such as: 4H Groups, BSA, western dance lessons and at one time for meetings of the United Mine Workers. The Grounds have been used by 4H Groups, BSA, Back Contry Horsemen of WA, Cowboy Mounted Shooters, private equine clinics and an all girl drill team.

Box Socials, dances and dinner-dances including cake walks, T-shirt sales, yearly steer, horse and local merchant-goods raffles, a chuck-wagon or kitchen, card and bingo parties, hosting the Indian John Hill Rest Area, annual poker rides, play days, yard and bake sales have been some of the methods beyond yearly membership fees the club has used to support itself and its projects.

The club has continuously supported community fundraisers and projects monetarily and with their labor. Some of which have been the March of Dimes, Cancer Funds Holiday Food Baskets, many private-needs fund drives, the Cle elum swimming Pool fund, HopeSource (the local Food Bank), Handicapped Equine riders Groups, the Cle Elum and Roslyn Libraries Summer Reader's Picnics, the Annual Coal Mines Trail Clean-Up and others.

The main horse events in the first thirty-five years of the club focused on family gaming events. Local fun-type, including a horse show at the annual July 4th "Loggers Festival" and the Indian Picnic in the Teanaway Valley and our own one or two yearly play days at the club grounds. More highly competitive events were held with Interclub groups from the west side of the mountains, (North Bend, Fall City, Issaquah, and Redmond) and the Western Riders groups from the Yakima Valley (Tampico, Highland, Naches, Wenas and Ahtanum) and the annual East-West show in Ellensburg. These types of gaming events faded in the 1970's, but gaming interest has been renewed by our club-sponsored junior group led by one of/and supported by our membership.

Other horse events have been parades, trail rides (both local day rides and overnight camping rides in the mountains, sometimes with other clubs), and cowboy polo matches, competitive cross country rides, sleigh and wagon rides, equine seminars, and fun membership play days.

Club non-equine family events held throughout the years included: work parties, sledding parties, campfire roasts and entertainment, dinners and various fun activities for junior members.

The club has been involved with different community events throughout the years, including sponsoring the early July 4th celebrations, participating yearly in the “Upper County Pioneer Days” and Roslyn/Ronald’s Heritage Club’s “Coal Miner’s Festival”.

The Roslyn Riders remain committed to furthering good horsemanship and the support of family and youth horsemanship. As well, our 66 family-membership’s future goals are to provide a local facility, equine and/or other, affordable to any one person or group. Preserving and furthering the heritage and history which we have experienced over the last 51 years.

Compiled 2006-2007 for submission to the
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Washington Heritage Register
By member Paula Griffin