

# **Kalamazoo Rod & Gun Club**

## **Kalamazoo, Michigan**

### **MEMBERSHIP HANDBOOK**

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**Serving Southwest Michigan since 1934**

The Kalamazoo Rod & Gun Club, hereafter referred to as The Club or KRGC, is a members-only organization. The address is 7533 N. Sprinkle Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004. All Correspondence/mail should be directed to: KRGC, PO Box 19571, Kalamazoo, MI 49019.

### **Membership Information**

KRGC is a family club that belongs to the membership. Membership terms at KRGC are from January 1st through December 31st of the calendar year regardless of the time of year you join. There are no discounts for part-year membership.

Annual KRGC membership dues are: New Members \$100.00 Annual Renewal \$60.00

KRGC Life Memberships are available at twenty (20) times the current annual dues. All Life Members are entitled to all club privileges so long as they shall live.

Those desiring to become members of the club must apply at the clubhouse on the date and time set by the Board of Directors. All new members shall attend the annual club orientation course at this time prior to being granted membership. Other orientation courses may be scheduled at the discretion of the Board.

To Renew your KRGC membership, complete the renewal form in the end-of-year newsletter and mail it back to the club with your dues. If the club does not have your correct address, you will not receive a newsletter to renew your membership. Members may also renew their membership at the November, December, or January business meetings. Members are encouraged to renew by mail. All members-in-good-standing who fail to renew their membership by February 1st are delinquent and will stand suspended. Suspended members may seek to regain their status as members-in-good-standing by attending and completing the annual new member orientation course and by paying new members dues.

KRGC members have the right to vote at all membership or business meetings. One vote per membership. Members receive a Quarterly newsletter via mail. New members are issued the club membership booklet, a membership card, and a gate proximity card.

The club membership card and gate proximity card are the property of the club and are not transferable to any person(s) other than those to which they were issued by the club. The club membership card must be carried by club members at all times when on club property. When asked while on club property by a club range officer or board member to show your membership card, you must show it. For identification purposes, also be prepared to produce a photo ID. Failure to provide the above may result in permanent membership suspension from the club, at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Do not lend your proximity card to others.

Range Officers are volunteers who act in the best interest of the club and the safety of the membership. Please follow their directions.

The children of all members of the club are members to the age of 18. Attaining age 18, the children of club members must apply for their own club membership at the earliest opportunity to continue their membership status. Spouses of all cardholding members are also members. If the spouse comes out to shoot without the cardholding member, the spouse must have a membership card in their name (no charge for the card). Proximity cards will NOT be issued to spouses. Only one card will be issued per membership. If your proximity card is lost, you can replace it at any club business meeting for a \$10.00 fee. Your lost card will be deleted from the system and deactivated.

### **Meetings**

The monthly club business meeting takes place on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 PM at the clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend at all times. Special meetings can be called at any time if needed. If there is a problem or a member has questions they can call any board member.

### **Club Officers and Elections**

The Officers of the club are elected annually by the membership to run the club and constitute the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors run the everyday business of the club and formulate the rules and policies of the club. They may adopt rules and regulations that will run the club safely and efficiently. They may close any and all ranges at any time without prior notification, as deemed necessary for events, repairs, etc. The Board of Directors is not paid in any way or form. They volunteer their time to the club. The Club has no paid employees. The annual club elections take place every September at a meeting determined and scheduled by the Board, with notice provided by the Newsletter. Any member-in-good-standing may run to become a club officer. The Board of Directors reserves the right to deny/revoke membership privileges.

### **The Newsletter**

The club publishes a quarterly newsletter that is mailed to the membership and posted on the website. All information about upcoming events and membership information will be included. Anyone wishing to make announcements or include other information in the newsletter may make their request at the monthly business meeting, or send it via U.S. Mail or e-mail to the address in the newsletter or website. It is very important that you inform the club Membership Secretary if you change your mailing address. **The Post Office does not forward bulk rate mail like the newsletter.**

## **Guest Policy**

You may bring guests other than immediate family members with you to the club ranges, but no more than two (2) at a time. **You must brief your guests on range safety rules and be present with them at all times while on club property.** To bring more than two guests you must request and be granted Board approval. If the same guest(s) come to the club three times in one year, he/she should become a member. Operating the club is an expensive undertaking, Please help out and do not take advantage of the guest policy.

## **Range Operations**

Shooting Events/Matches/Tournaments: Most club shooting events are open to the public with varying registration requirements. Please contact the event contact person listed in the event program, website or the club newsletter for more information.

Please check to make sure the gate closes behind you, If the gate is locked open when you arrive, it is usually because a club event or road maintenance is in progress. A sign describing the event will be posted. If you are waiting for a guest to show up, meet him/her at the clubhouse parking lot. Use of the range road is **AT YOUR OWN RISK AT ALL TIMES**. If the Board of Directors decides that the road is unsafe to travel, a padlock will be placed on the road gate until the road becomes safe again. The club will not pay for towing. If the road is unsafe for travel you may walk up the hill to use the ranges. Use of privately owned ATV's, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles is prohibited anywhere on club property.

**BE CAREFUL!!!** The range road runs uphill from the clubhouse to the shotgun range. When it rains, water runs down the road causing severe erosion problems. Several short diagonal berms (rain traps) have been installed on the road with side-pits to catch and divert rainwater. This system does work so please do not try to cut these berms down. We know that some cars are quite low, so please go slow across the berms.

## **Shotgun/Trap Range & Sporting Clay Course**

The Shotgun/Trap Range is open to all members at all times unless a special event is being held. Use nothing larger than #7 ½ size shot. This means shot size #7 1/2, #8, and #9 only. No Rifles, Pistols, or Shotguns with slug or buckshot allowed on this range. A manual clay target thrower is mounted here for members to use. Make sure it is left uncocked when you leave. The club maintains a Sporting Clay Course for use during organized events only. The Sporting Clay Course is not open for general use!

## **200 Yard Range**

Open to all members at all times, unless a special event is being held. All firing points are covered. No shooting at targets closer than 50yards. Targets closer than 50 yards must be

approved by the Board of Directors (such as .22 Silhouette). Rifles, Pistols, Muzzleloaders, and Shotguns with slugs can be used on this range if fired at targets 50 yards or further. A Steel Gong target is posted at 200 meters. DO NOT fire Belted Magnum Centerfire Rifle loads or Armor Piercing rounds at the Gong.

### **25 & 50 Yard Range**

Open to all members at all times, unless a special event is being held. All firing points are covered. Target backers are at 25 yards & 50 yards. Target backers are placed at 50 yards. Portable target backers are available to place at any other range you wish to shoot. You can fire pistols, centerfire and rimfire rifles on this range along with muzzleloaders and shotguns with slugs. Do not pattern shotguns on the club backers. Please bring your own backer for pattern shooting.

### **15 Yard Pistol and Rimfire Rifle Range**

Located just east of the 25/50 Yard Range, the 15 yard pistol range is open to all members at all times unless a special event is being held. This range is for Pistols and .22 Rimfire Rifles only. No Centerfire Rifles, Muzzleloaders, or Shotguns allowed. All firing points are covered. The target backers are portable and can be moved to any distance you want to shoot at on this range. Do not remove these portable backers from this range! Also, Do not shoot bowling pins or other objects off of the backer stands! If you want to shoot bowling pins on this range, use the bowling pin rack provided or bring your own stand and clean up your mess when finished.

### **25 Yard Pistol and Rimfire Rifle Range**

Located just west of the 200 Yard Range, the 25 yard pistol range and rimfire rifle range is open to all members at all times unless a special event is being held. This range is for Pistols and .22 Rimfire Rifles only. No Centerfire Rifles, Muzzleloaders, or Shotguns allowed. All firing points are covered. The target backers are portable and can be moved to any distance you want to shoot at on this range. Do not shoot bowling pins or other objects off of the backer stands! If you want to shoot bowling pins on this range, use the bowling pin rack provided or bring your own stand and clean up your mess when finished.

### **Special Purpose (lower) Range**

Closed to general membership use. The range is located where the road starts uphill near the pole barn. Events must have a qualified Range Officer present and have prior Board of Directors approval. This range is also used for public service police training. Only authorized club members appointed by the club president are allowed to pick up spent brass after police training. This brass will be offered to members for a reasonable price usually at a Swap Meet or other club function. The proceeds from the sale will go toward the purchase of target backer material.

## **Archery Range**

The Archery Range is located just inside of the gate, right side of the range road. A parking area is provided just inside of the gate on the right side of the road. No firearm shooting on this range. Also, Do not shoot club targets with broadhead arrows. Please provide your own target if you want to shoot broadheads.

## **Club Operations**

KRGC is operated by members who are willing to take the time and effort to make the club a going organization. Any event that is held has a member who has made up the rules or used printed regulations and taken the time to make sure that it is run in the proper manner. If a member wants to organize a program or event all he/she has to do is to come to a business meeting and present their proposal. The Board of Directors is more than willing to listen to all proposals and will help in any way they can.

Every year in the Spring we have a scheduled clean-up workday. It is very important that as many members as possible come out and help.

The club cannot depend on a very few to maintain our property and our roads. Even if you can volunteer for only a short time, your work will be appreciated. As always, the club will provide rolls, coffee, and drinks in the morning, plus a very nice lunch at Noon. We do feed the volunteers well. Work parties other than those scheduled in the Spring and Fall may be announced by the Board if needed. Your newsletter will carry announcements letting you know when there is to be a work party. Please try to help out.

## **Range Storage Barn**

The range storage barn located just to the south of the upper ranges and is supplied with all sorts of material and tools for building and maintaining range target backers and frames. This shed is never locked and all members have access. The shed is usually well-supplied for your use. If you find a destroyed target backer or frame on the range that you intend to use, please take a little time to repair it.

## **Trash Barrels & Dumpster**

Trash barrels are located on each range for the convenience of the membership. The club also provides a dumpster, located between the pistol ranges. Please take a few minutes if the barrels are full and dump them into the dumpster.

## **Club Website**

A club website is located at [www.kalamazoorodandgunclub.org](http://www.kalamazoorodandgunclub.org) please check it for club news updates and general information. The “Members Blog” link is very useful for getting late breaking news to the membership. Please check it for postings.

There is a telephone (269-342-1550) in the clubhouse. If a member is present they will answer. If not, on the fourth ring the answering machine will give a message. You cannot leave a message.

## **Club History**

The club was founded in 1934 as the Michigan Trout Club with ten members present at the first meeting. The purpose of the organization was to foster restocking of local streams and lakes to improve fishing. For many years before the State expanded its fish stocking program, the club was already active in planting fish, some furnished by the Department of Conservation and some raised by the club. When Pheasants were introduced, the club raised and released birds to bolster the State program in this area. In cooperation with farmers, the club planted hardwood and softwood trees on unused farm land to conserve soil and improve game habitat.

By 1953 the interests of the club had broadened out so that the original name, Michigan Trout Club, covered but a small part of the Club's activities. The name was then changed to the Kalamazoo Rod & Gun Club.

As membership grew over the years it became apparent that a central headquarters for the club was needed. This led to the purchase in 1955 of the old Brook Farm School on Douglas Avenue. The school house made a good meeting place but the one acre lot was too small for any outdoor activity. In 1956 the need for more land was recognized and the search began for a suitable parcel. In 1957 the site of the current clubhouse was purchased. Construction of the clubhouse was started early that summer. Having sold its Douglas Avenue property the club was forced to use temporary meeting quarters in the old

#4 firehouse at Burdick and Ransom Streets near downtown Kalamazoo. The first meeting in the new clubhouse was held early in 1959. Initially, the fireplace was the sole source of heat for the building. Construction was substantially complete in the spring of 1960. Regular use by archers, rifle, and pistol shooters started the following winter and continues to the present.

An expanding archery program demanded still more land, so some 50 acres north of the clubhouse was rented for archery use. The tenuous nature of the lease led to the purchase of an additional 40 acre parcel west of the original 10 acres, giving the club a total of 50 acres.

Through the 1960's the primary interest in the club seemed to be archery with a 56 target course and a 25 target broadhead course on the rear 40 acres. A one hundred yard rifle range was located where the pole barn is now. Also a manual trap machine was located where our electric trap is now.

During the early 1970's interest in archery seemed to wane and membership hit a low. New members who had an interest in rifle and pistol shooting began to join the club. This in turned led to the construction of a new 200 yard rifle range in 1976. The late 70's also saw construction of a new pistol range where the pole barn is now located.

The 1980's saw continued growth in the club membership. The rifle range was widened and a covered firing line constructed. In 1989 the lower pistol range was closed and the current 25-50 yard range was built to replace it.

The year 1992 marked a milestone in growth. Fifty acres of land adjacent to the north property line of the club came up for sale. The Board of Directors held an emergency meeting and determined it was essential to the future operation of the club that we purchase this land. The club treasury didn't have the necessary funds for a sizeable down payment, so it was decided that we would appeal to the membership for donations. The membership responded through a mail-in fund raising campaign and we came up with a sizeable down-payment. Then with a generous land contract offered by the owner, the club was able to obtain this 50 acre parcel and double the size of the club's land holdings to the current 100 acres. Membership continued to rise during the 1990's.

The new millenium saw more changes. With the State of Michigan passing CCW reform, interest in short range pistol practice grew. The club responded with the construction of a new 15 yard pistol range. Membership continued to grow and the Board of Directors reluctantly passed a membership cap to avoid over-taxing the facility.

### **Affiliations**

To secure the preservation/promotion of the shooting sports and conservation, the club has affiliated with the following state and national organizations. Members are encouraged to support these organizations. Complete information on each may be obtained by visiting their web-sites.

#### **Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP)**

[www.odcmp.com](http://www.odcmp.com)

#### **Michigan Coalition for Responsible Gun Owners (MCRGO)**

[www.mcrgo.org](http://www.mcrgo.org)

#### **Michigan Rifle & Pistol Association (MRPA)**

[www.michrpa.com](http://www.michrpa.com)

#### **Michigan United Conservation clubs (MUCC)**

[www.mucc.org](http://www.mucc.org)

#### **National Rifle Association (NRA) [www.nra.org](http://www.nra.org)**



## Public Service

You may never have thought about all the things that your club does as a public service in the community. All of our shooting events are open to the public. We let several Police agencies conduct training on our lower range. We host 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts, Michigan Hunter Safety Classes, and our annual Sight-In Days is open to the public prior to Deer Hunting Season, as are most of our shooting events.

## RANGE RULES

**KRGC is for members only! All guests MUST be accompanied by a current club member. All members must sign a yearly “Waiver of Liability” form when they join the club or renew their yearly membership. ALL GUESTS must sign a “Waiver of Liability” form before shooting are availa.** Forms available in boxes at each range. Please place the signed form back in the box.

Shooting hours are from **9:00 AM to dusk**. Dusk varies with the time of the year. No night shooting. Ranges are open 7 days a week unless closed for events or by the Board of Directors.

No alcoholic beverages will be consumed on the ranges.

Use of hearing & eye protection is mandatory on all ranges while shooting is in progress.

No shooting at glass of any kind.

No machine guns or full-auto firing to include the use of any and all trigger assist/mechanical devices used to increase the rate of fire.

Muzzleloaders: No open powder containers. No smoking while loading/shooting. Muzzleloaders are considered loaded when a powder charge is present in the barrel. The idea of "unloaded" being a firearm loaded with a powder charge but no cap in battery is unacceptable at our facility.

**DO NOT handle firearms while people are downrange!** This includes taking them in and out of cases, adjusting scopes, etc.

Do not shoot at objects on the ground. Bullets may ricochet.

Do not shoot at targets closer than 50 yards on the 200 yard range. Please use the 25-50 yard ,25 yard or 15 yard pistol range for targets closer than 50 yards.

The use of incendiary, armor piercing, and tracer ammunition is prohibited.

All firearms being taken to or from vehicles, benches, gun racks, or the firing line MUST be unloaded and in a condition that it is clear to all persons around that they are unloaded with actions open, etc. This is what is meant by "cold carry." And KRGC is a cold carry facility: NO ONE has permission to openly carry a firearm in "hot" condition (loaded and ready to fire). Loaded weapons are to be handled on the firing line only and then obviously only when conditions are safe and there is nobody down range. Those members and guests who possess a CPL are reminded that a Concealed Pistol License is a license to carry a CONCEALED pistol, not a license to brandish openly a firearm at will, even at a Gun Club.

No hunting on KRGC property. This is for safety reasons to keep people from wandering behind ranges.

Always point guns in a safe direction at all times. "Safe direction" means the gun is pointed so that if it were to discharge it would not cause injury or fire a bullet off the range.

Do not use exploding targets.

Use of slugs is permitted on the 25-50 yard range and the 200 yard range. Slugs are not to be used on any other range.

To pattern shotguns: Permitted only on the 25-50 yard range. Bring your own backers that are self supporting. DO NOT shoot shot into club backers.

Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

Always keep the action open and the firearm unloaded until ready to shoot.

Know your target and what is beyond it.

Be sure your gun is safe to operate.

Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.

Shoot only at authorized targets. Ground-level targets are not authorized without permission of the Board.

Unload, open the action, remove detachable magazines, and ground/bench all firearms during "cease fire".

No shooting while/or advancing on targets, with the exception of organized Board approved events.

No shooting at steel targets on any range except those approved by the Board of Directors.

No "magazine dumping" of ammunition as fast as one can. This creates a negative stigma toward the shooting community and the club. The uninformed think that machine guns are being fired and that the shooter lacks the discipline required for accurate, aimed fire. This practice is unacceptable at KRGC.

DO NOT place targets on or over the wood target frames. Doing so will quickly destroy the frame. Attach targets on the backer, away from the frame.

Remember when on all ranges. SAFETY FIRST!

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