

Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's Club added to city's Register of Historic Places

Contact: Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's Club (206) 780-9374

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Bainbridge Island, Wash – On Sept. 3, the City of Bainbridge Island Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously to include the entire Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's Club in the Bainbridge Island Register of Historic Places. Formed in 1929, the club was originally known as the Bainbridge Island Rod and Gun Club. The club incorporated as the Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's club and moved to its current location in 1939. The clubhouse and pistol, rifle and trap ranges were constructed at about the same time.

The clubhouse is built in the rustic style of architecture with the intensive use of hand labor, with the clear rejection of regularity and symmetry that characterizes this style. Rustic architecture developed between 1917-1927 and was a style of architecture widely used in our country's wilderness parks during the 1930's. This movement in American architecture was a natural outgrowth of a new romanticism of nature and the country's western frontiers. The conservation ethic slowly took hold, and part of this ethic is what makes this architectural style unique: the building is an accessory to nature. Early pioneer and regional building techniques were revived to construct these buildings because it was thought that a structure employing native materials blended best with the environment.

The clubhouse building is currently undergoing significant repair and remodeling that is in keeping with the original design, funded in part by a grant from the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island. The club is striving to maintain the integrity of both the interior and exterior historic elements of the building during reconstruction. The clubhouse did not originally have electricity and was lighted by gas lamps. These lamps will be retained in their original locations. Though all the windows are being replaced, the original window openings have been retained and the wood trim is in the same style as the original installation. The club initially sought to replace only one façade with new siding; they have since decided to mill cedar trees from the site and are replacing all of the siding. Club member and retired contractor, Rich Schmidt, has hand-hewn the lower edges of the siding to maintain the architectural integrity of the rustic style. The club also recently received grant funding to upgrade the pistol range, making it

safer and quieter and to make the facility accessible to those with disabilities. A second grant is being used to create an indoor/outdoor archery range. The pistol range and archery range grants are from the Firearms and Archery Range Recreation Program division of the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Funding Board. Development of the property is contained in an area of approximately 2.5 acres. The balance of the nearly 16-acre property is heavily forested, with a pond and wetland areas.

According to the club's vice president, Steve Korn, "Inclusion in the city's Register of Historic Places is a major milestone for the Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's Club and helps solidify our position as an historic and important part of Bainbridge Island's heritage."

Club president Lynda McMaken added, "Though our primary goal is to promote recreational shooting in a safe and educational environment, we also support a wide variety of community interests, from our police force to the Boy Scouts. The club is currently working on providing hiking trails and additional park land. We would also like to invite community groups looking for a central meeting location to consider hosting at our rustic clubhouse."

The Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's Club, founded in 1929, promotes conservation of our natural resources and provides recreational, educational and charitable opportunities. Located on 16 wooded acres at 8203 Sportsman Club Road, Bainbridge Island, Wash., the club provides a venue for members to enjoy safe and courteous use of their firearms.

For more information on the Bainbridge Island Sportsmen's Club, visit the website at www.bainbridgesportsmensclub.org or call 206-780-9374. Mailing address is PO BOX 10421, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.