

# ALLIANCE RIFLE CLUB

## *Memories of the Airport Range*



*This is the road leading into the Airport Range.*

The Indoor Range is first and then just down the road is the 50 yd. Range with box car for storage, and next comes the 100 yd. Range. The Indoor Range was first used in the 1950's and began with Smallbore Rifle Matches as part of the Panhandle Rifle League. The Outdoor Ranges have been used by Club members for sighting in, practice, and just plinking. Benchrest competition, "Doc & The Judge" Matches, Cowboy Action, and other competitions have also been held at these shooting ranges. *(Photos taken May 1994)*



# Memories of the Indoor Range



The Alliance Rifle Club Indoor Range started out in 1949 as a surplus building on Hanger Line Road at the then newly deactivated Alliance Air Base.

During World War II the building was used as a stable for the horses that belonged to the officers stationed at the Air Base.

The ARC leased the land the building was on from the City. Lease was continued until 2008 when it was cancelled to make room for construction of a High Plains Veterans Cemetery.

In the beginning there was enough land to have a 50 yd. Outdoor Range. Many years later it was expanded to include a 100 yd. Outdoor Range. The Club asked the City if they could create the 100 yd. range and the expansion was granted if the person leasing the ground needed gave their approval. George Neuswanger was leasing the ground for his cattle at that time. After talking to the ARC secretary, he agreed to the expansion.

Above is a photo of the sign that was in place for many years. Located on Highway 2 at the turn off to the Airport.

*(Photo taken July 2008)*

# Memories of the Indoor Range



Over the years much work and improvements have been done on the Indoor Range.

At first it was very rough with wind and snow coming in the walls. As the years passed many changes were made to the firing line and improvements were made to the building.

Above you can see the wall that divides the prep room from the firing line. Windows were put in so people could watch the firing line. Doors would shut off the firing line so it kept the sound down in the prep room.

.....

The wide open space gives Club members and visitors a great place to practice, hold matches or enjoy some shooting.

Traps can be seen at the west end of the building. It is possible to shoot up to 50 ft.



**May 26, 1949 was the beginning of the Alliance Rifle Club.**

**The club was started with 11 members who were interested in smallbore rifle competition. They had been taking part in the Panhandle Rifle League which was formed in the mid 1940s.**

# Memories of the Indoor Range

## Lones Wigger Clinic Dec. 6, 1987

Many shooting clinics have been held at the Airport Range over the years. Here are some photos of Wigger giving a Clinic for 4-position smallbore rifle shooting.

In 1987 Wigger was the director of the U.S. Team at the U.S. Olympic Training Center at Colorado Springs, Colorado. He spent 25 years as a member of the U.S. Army's Marksmanship Unit. His list of accomplishments includes no less than 80 U.S. and International championships, including two gold medals at the Olympics.



Below: Diane Licklitter gets some advice on her offhand position.



Above you can see the firing line with Robert Pickering getting some instructions in the kneeling position. Notice the wall across the firing line. It had doors at each firing position with a moveable tray to hold ammo or equipment. This wall was later removed.

Clinic started at 9:00 a.m. with a slide presentation and time for questions. After lunch Wigger conducted a "hands on" training session coaching everyone attending with position and equipment.

*(Wigger Clinic Photos courtesy of Belinda Amerman.)*

# Memories of the Indoor Range



Here is a match taking place on the range. You can see the target stands in use. This time the pistol shooting is being done with bowling pins as targets. Over the years a variety of matches were held for pistol, smallbore rifle and air rifle. *(Photo taken 1998)*



Rusty Kendle, one of the Alliance Rifle Club Junior members gives a demonstration of the kneeling position for smallbore rifle competition. The Indoor Range has been used by the Junior Rifle Club for many years.

Note the poor old stove. For a long time this was all the heat there was for the building. It was hard to start and didn't put out much heat. Of course, none of the heat went on the firing line.

Later on a better stove replaced this one and a furnace was installed plus a ventilation system was added.

# Memories of the Indoor Range



Gil Davis and Jake Carlson are busy scoring an A17 target. The target is placed on a box with a light so it can be scored. This is the target used for the 4-position smallbore rifle matches shot for the Panhandle Rifle League.

The scoring room was closed off to give a good place for a desk and supplies.

*(Photo taken 1997)*

This is the prep room with tables set up. At times these were used during shooting clinics or classes that were held at the range.

Score board on the wall plus bulletin board where the Panhandle Rifle League matches were posted. At the north end of the building is a locked storage room used to hold club equipment.



From the beginning of the Alliance Rifle Club there has been a smallbore rifle team shooting with the Panhandle Rifle League in the winter. Awards they have won since 1986 were put up on an Awards Wall at the Indoor Range.

Alliance Junior Rifle Club has also been a very active group and they have won many awards and honors. These were also part of the Awards Wall.

*(Photo taken May 24, 2008)*



# Memories of the Indoor Range



These two photos were taken during the March 24 and 25, 1990 NRA Smallbore Rifle Sectionals hosted by Alliance Rifle Club. This was the first time a Sectional was in Alliance.

It had matches for 3-Position, 4-Position and Air Rifle. Awards are given at the Sectional matches held in various locations across the country. Then the scores are turned into the NRA where they are entered in a National Match.

Above you can see the south end of the firing line. Picture at right shows the north end.



Alliance Rifle Club Team competes in the Panhandle Rifle League each winter. They have been a part of the league since the 1940's.

Certificate has been on the east wall of the Indoor Range.

*(Photo May 2008)*



## NRA Certificate

On December 31, 2004 the National Rifle Association awarded this certificate to the Panhandle Rifle League.

*For Your Support  
of Competitive Shooting  
We Commend Your Dedication*

Signed M.S. Gilchrist, Director  
Competitive Shooting Division



Photos of the Indoor Range in use during the Panhandle Rifle League Shootoff of 2006.

Alliance Team has been competing in this league since the club was first formed.

Competition is 4-position smallbore rifle, shooting—prone, sitting, kneeling and standing.

**Indoor Range at the Airport.**  
In use since the Alliance Rifle Club was formed May 1949.



Photos here show the prep room. Above looking through the window down range to the targets.

*(Photos courtesy of Royce Brown.)*



# Awards Wall at the Indoor Range May, 2008



**1**  
**1997 Junior Olympic Rifle Championship (JORC)**  
**State Champion Team - Novice Prone**  
*Alliance Jr. Rifle Club*  
 Rusty Girard  
 James Girard  
 Zachery Beals

**2**  
**2000 JORC State Champion Team**  
**Smallbore 3-Position**  
*Alliance Aces*

**3**  
**1999 JORC State Runner-Up Team**  
**Smallbore 3-Position**  
*Alliance Aces*  
 Ryan Miller  
 Shane Dye  
 Christopher Blasi

**4**  
**2003 - 2004 Season**  
**Panhandle Rifle League**  
**High Team Average**

**5**  
**2003 - 2004 Season**  
**Panhandle Rifle League**  
**High Win/Loss**

**6**  
**1988 - 89 Panhandle Rifle League**  
**High Average 1946.56**

**7**  
**1989 - 90 Panhandle Rifle League**  
**High Average 1944.44**

**8**  
**1990 - 91 Panhandle Rifle League**  
**High Average 1933.94**

# Awards Wall at the Indoor Range May, 2008

## JORC Awards for Alliance Junior Club

### Season Awards for the Alliance Team from the Panhandle Rifle League

**9**

**1991 - 92 Panhandle Rifle League  
High Average 1936.39**

**10**

**1991 - 92 Panhandle Rifle League  
High Win/Loss 11 - 7**

**11**

**1992 - 93 Panhandle Rifle League  
High Average 1942.39  
High Win/Loss 11 - 7**

**12**

**2001 - 02 Panhandle Rifle League  
High Average 1935.556**

*Alliance Team*

Royce Brown	Pauline Brown
Ryan Miller	Chris Blasi
Tim Kollars	Neal Sutton
Jay Crotty	James Patrick
Roger Yerdon	Gil Davis
Shane Dye	Glen Fiebig

**13**

**2001 - 02 Panhandle Rifle League  
High Win/Loss 13 - 5**

**14**

**1986 - 87 Panhandle Rifle League  
High Win/Loss 11 - 5**

**15**

**JORC State Champion Team**

**16**

**1992 JORC State Champion Team  
3-Position**

*Alliance Aces*

Scott Ducker	Brandy Ducker
Chris Mischnick	M. Sherlock

**17**

**1993 JORC State Champion Team**

**Air Rifle**

*Alliance Aces*

Scott Ducker

Brandy Ducker

H. See

J. Trimble

**18**

**2005 - 2006 Panhandle Rifle League**

**High Win/Loss 12 - 6**

**High Average 1893.12**

*Alliance Team*

Gil Davis

James Patrick

Neal Sutton

Katie Patrick

Caleb Miller

Royce Brown

Marty Patrick

**19**

**Alliance Chamber of Commerce**

**Valued Member**

**Alliance Rifle Club**

**1999**

**20**

**2006 - 2007 Panhandle Rifle League**

**High Average 1890.33**

*Alliance Team*

Royce Brown

Wayne Davis

Gil Davis

Caleb Miller

Katie Patrick

Neil Sutton

Marty Patrick

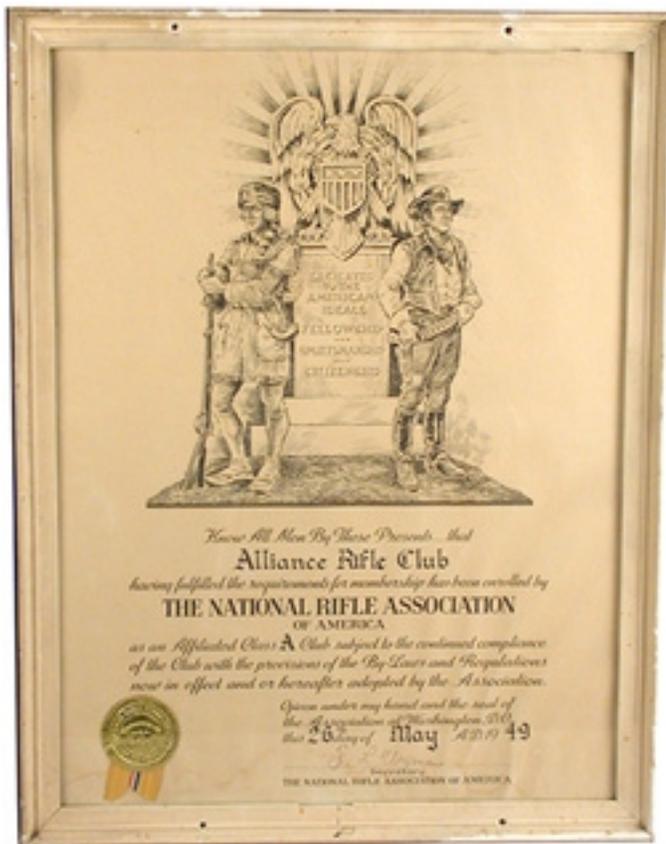
**21**

**National Rifle Association**

**1987 Outstanding Club Award**

**Alliance Rifle Club**

# Memories of the Indoor Range



Know All Men By These Presents. . .that  
**Alliance Rifle Club**  
 having fulfilled the requirements for membership  
 has been enrolled by

**THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION  
 OF AMERICA**

as an Affiliated Class A CLUB subject to the continued compliance  
 of the Club with the provisions of the By-Laws and Regulations  
 now in effect and or hereafter adopted by the Association.

Given under my hand and the seal of  
 the Association at Washington, D.C.,  
 this 26th day of May A.D. 1949

**F. L. Wyman**

Secretary

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION  
 OF AMERICA

Granted a charter by the State of New York on  
 November 17, 1871 the NRA was founded. Civil  
 War Gen. Ambrose Burnside was the first presi-  
 dent.



Know All Men By These Presents. . .that  
**Northwest Rifle Club**  
 having fulfilled the requirements for membership  
 has been enrolled by

**THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION  
 OF AMERICA**

as an Affiliated SENIOR CLUB subject to the continued compliance  
 of the Club with the provisions of the By-Laws and Regulations  
 now in effect and or hereafter adopted by the Association.

Given under my hand and the seal of  
 the Association at Washington, D.C.,  
 this 10th day of February A.D. 1975

**J. Daniel**

Secretary

THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION  
 OF AMERICA

From 1975 until about 1981 Alliance Smallbore  
 Team and five men from Crawford compete to-  
 gether in the Panhandle Rifle League. They shoot  
 as the "Northwest" Team.

# — Memories of the 100 yd. Outdoor Range —

The 100 yd. Outdoor Range was used for years by Club members. These photos show the firing line with the concrete shooting benches.

Looking towards the north you can see the berm added for a backstop for the range. On the right hand side is the berm that was later added to divide the 100 yd. Range from the newer 50 yd. Range.

*(Photos taken in 2004)*



Above is “The Judge” of the “Doc & The Judge” Matches. Glen Fiebig is shown here with his Trapdoor Springfield rifle during the July 1987 match.

The photo at right shows Gene Sheldon shooting a Trapdoor Springfield at the 1999 “Doc & The Judge” Match.



## **“DOC & THE JUDGE” MATCHES**

These matches were held from July 1984 until Sept. 29, 2002. Promoted by Dr. Wendell Fairbanks and Judge Glen Fiebig.

# — Memories of the 50 yd. Outdoor Range —

## **Cowboy Action!**

The 50 yd. Range was improved so Cowboy Action matches could be held. Stages could be run at the 100 yd. Range and the 50 yd. Range. Large dirt backstop was added for safety.



These two photos were taken during a 1998 match. You can see the target stand with plates and ram silhouette target. The popup targets are shown on the right side. Shooters might have to fire a pistol from a “window” in a barrier, sit on a “horse” to fire a rifle. Or even rope a “steer.” (See the horns and rope at the bottom of the photo)



Photo taken at another of the Cowboy Matches. This time it shows the platform with shooting bench. The large dirt berm to the west is the separation between the 50 yd. and 100 yd. ranges.

A small shed was used to hold equipment. Large concrete platform was put in place to use as a firing line.



*Airport  
Outdoor  
50 yd.  
Range*



Summer of 2000 a storage facility was added to the 50 yd. Range. A railroad car was purchased and delivered to the Airport Range.



*(Photos courtesy of  
Don Sheldon.)*

# — Memories of the Airport Outdoor Range —



*October,*  
*2008*

**The Airport Range  
Outdoor Ranges were  
closed.**

Oct. 28, 2008 the City of Alliance asked that the Indoor Range be closed 7 am to 6 pm on weekdays for the safety of construction crews working on the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery. The Outdoor Ranges were closed to all shooting.

May 31, 2009 the railroad car that was used at the 50 yd. Range was moved. It was donated to Stu Hardin of Gordon for use by their Junior Trap Club.

During September 2009 the storage building that was next to the railroad car was moved to the Glen Fiebig Range.



# Memories of the Airport Range



*Photos taken May 24, 2008*

*The End*