

# WASHINGTON STATE MUZZLELOADER'S ASSOCIATION

October 2019 Journal

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## Survival Tips for the Up-Coming Hunting Season by Steve Cole

A chill is in the air (at least at night). Many blackpowder hunters are sighting in their favorite rifles, patterning their trade guns or shotguns, and making preparations for this season in the field. As we do this, we have to be aware that safety has to be foremost in our plans and actions.

Inspect your firearms and other equipment for operability and cleanliness. Sight in your firearm to insure that the projectile is striking where you intend and your ignition system is functioning reliably.

It is also a very good idea to have a first aid/survival kit with you. This can be a very individual thing based on your knowledge level, the area that you are hunting, etc... Based on personal experience it is ALWAYS good to have a way to start a fire and stay warm no matter your knowledge on first aid. Western Washington can be really wet and cold as early as September. Eastern Washington is generally just cold in the early season. Later you get snow and ice. These are prime conditions for hypothermia, trench/emersion foot and frost bite.



Knowing where you are in the woods aids in not getting lost, or for you true woodsmen, "just a bit turned around sometimes". One of the easiest ways to avoid becoming the subject of a search and rescue scenario is to do research into the area that you will be hunting. Google Earth, topographical maps, and early scouts may help you in figuring out the lay of the land; it is just as important, to determine a "Panic Azimuth". This would be the direction that you can travel to reach a road or ranger station, in short, help. That is where the topographical maps or Google Earth come in really handy. They can tell you about natural obstacles that could slow you down or put you in a potentially life threatening situation. If you do find yourself in a situation that requires an unplanned night in the woods there are some skills that you can employ to make it less miserable and potentially can save your life.



A nice warm fire helps in a number of ways: first the heat that is generated, secondly if your clothes/equipment get wet you can dry them, thirdly the psychological effect of a fire aids in keeping your spirits up, and finally, fires are easier to see and smell than you are.

There's no need to discuss food for the short term

adventure but water purification methods are very important. The average person can survive for approximately a month without food. However, three days is the maximum amount of time without water. If you don't purify the water that you drink, you run the risk of contracting dysentery and dehydrating yourself more quickly. The easiest method is to boil water for as little as 30 seconds. This requires that you carry a container in which to boil your water. Tin is light-weight and works very well in my experience.

Shelter is another consideration which can be as simple as finding a "wind break" (ie. Low hanging tree branches, rock face, or other obstacle) to get out of the elements. A lightweight tarp can be carried and fashioned into a handy little shelter. The level of comfort is entirely up to the individual. Most times it's nothing more than an overnight stay, so less weight to carry is generally a good rule to follow.

As with anything else; practicing these skills before you need them makes the adventure more enjoyable and less of a hardship. These can all be rehearsed/practiced in your local area or home before you ever set foot into the wilderness. I hope that these tips have helped and that you enjoy your time in the woods.



# **FALL HARVEST RENDEZVOUS-2019**

By Mike Nesbitt



Once again the very hot and dry weather nicely vanished a week before the rendezvous. In fact, it vanished very well. Even so, there was no real problem in keeping the campfires burning. The rains even held off for most of Friday and Saturday but then returned, as if to make up for lost time, on Sunday.

This is the WSMA's (Washington State Muzzleloading Association's) Primitive Rendezvous and the awards are referred to as the Primitive Championships. "Primitive" simply means there are no paper targets, except for the Pee-wee class, and that rifles must have non-adjustable open sights, firing patched round balls. There are some other "rules" too but the rifles are the main thing. However, we do have and include knife and tomahawk throwing, trade gun shooting, and archery events, all of which fall into the "primitive" arena.

Primitive camping is included and Mike Moran, WSMA's president, is noted for enjoying a rather small and primitive "diamond fly" between him and the elements. Mike's "above-ground" campfire did its best to cook Mike's 'buffalo meat' in addition to throwing some welcome heat into his small open-sided camp.

There were at least a half a dozen other tents in the primitive camp and that was good to see. Tim Sampson had a very good camp set up and welcomed guests to join him for refreshments and conversation.



**Mike Moran at his camp**



**Bob Gietz, "at his desk"**

The real highlight and challenge for the Primitive Championships, of course, is the shooting. Bob DeLisle made sure that we had some new or at least changed targets for this year. He even 'set a trap' by having only 19 rifle targets but still having 20 spaces for targets on the scorecard. Nobody took the bait, none of the scorecards had any claims for hits on 'target #20.' Bob DeLisle wasn't the only one who worked hard to put on this doin's. Bob Gietz handled registrations for the whole show and he did it without any help or taking a break! That's a grateful "Some Doin's!" to both DeLisle and Gietz.



**Bob DeLisle on the trail**

Booshway Jerry Mayo deserves a "Some Doin's!" too and being the booshway is not an easy job. Jerry did appoint Will Ulry to be in charge of the Pee- wee match but only after we knew we had a Pee-wee who

wanted to shoot. That was one of those last minute things but it worked out very well, so another “Some Doin’s!” goes to Will too.

Our traders were on the low side for this doin’s but we still had some very good traders with a variety of goods. Debbie Freelove was set up with her yarns in the clubhouse along with Johnny Pierce. Outside were Will Ury, with his famous chairs and tables, plus Boyd Phillips with a few guns and shooting supplies. One new trader deserves recognition and that is Jim Wagner who is a tinsmith. A few of us bought new gill cups from Jim and he made sure we knew that the correct pronunciation for that cup is with a soft “g”, sounding like a “jill cup.” We ‘tested’ those gill cups too and all passed the test with flying colors...



Sebastian with his new rifle  
the shooter’s parents or guardian. In this case the Pee-

The prizes, once again, were very good. The main reason for that is because the shooters were donating shooting prizes that they would like to receive. Outstanding things like the wooden chair that Will Ury makes a habit to donate are always welcome and the shooters viewed the prizes very well just before the awards. And the first item to be awarded deserves greater comment.

Our habit, made possible by the support of the WSMA, is to award a muzzle-loading rifle to a Pee-wee or Junior shooter at our rendezvous. Of course, this is done with the permission of



Mike Moran with Sebastian and Jim Wagner

wee shooter getting the rifle was Sebastian Wagner, the grandson of Jim Wagner. Sebastian got the rifle plus a new handmade shooting box made and given to him by Frank Ponceroff. We can say that Sebastian left this rendezvous, his first but certainly not his last, well fixed for doing more good shooting.

Our Fall Harvest Rendezvous for 2019 is now a small part of history but we’re all looking forward to doing it all again. Join us next September for some good shooting, primitive style.

**WSMA Primitive Champions:**

**HUNTER’S CLASS**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jim Wagner
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Lee Bailey

**TOP MOUNTAIN MAN**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Nesbitt

**JUNIOR**

- None

**PISTOL**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Allen Tresch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Frank Ponceroff
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tim Sampson

**KNIFE & ‘HAWK**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Paul Nelson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Kerr
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rich Pogue

**TRADE GUN**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Nesbitt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Kerr
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Holeman

**ARCHERY**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Anthony Plante
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Nesbitt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Moran

**RIFLE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Bob DeLilse
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rich Pogue
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mike Holeman

**MEN’S AGGREGATE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Rich Pogue
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Holeman
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Allen Tresch

**WOMEN’S AGGREGATE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Isabelle Lamadue
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnie Lamadue

**SENIOR AGGREGATE**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Nesbitt
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Frank Ponceroff
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Don Carr

**PEE-WEES**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sebastian Wagner

**RIFLE WINNER**

- Sebastian Wagner

**BEST PRIMITIVE CAMP**

- Not awarded



## [Youth Grant Applications](#)

It's not too early to start thinking about next year's youth grant. The applications can be found on the website and are due to WSMA by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember, if you received a grant, please write to WSMA and tell us what you did with it.

## **2019 UPCOMING EVENTS**

19 OCT

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**MUZZLELOADER**

Historical Enterprises, LLC  
Jason W. Gatliff

PO Box 1316  
Gallatin, TN 37066  
Office: 615-230-9853

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