

Wyoming State Muzzle Loading Association December, 2008

www.wyomingmuzzleloaders.com



**Bilbo Baggins Goes Hunting or
“Gnome-n-chariot”**

WYOMING STATE MUZZLE LOADERS'
STATE RENDEZVOUS & TRADERS'S
FAIR

JANUARY 9, 10, & 11 2009

PLACE: RAMADA PLAZA RIVERSIDE
CASPER, WYOMING

WHY: FUN, ENTERTAINMENT,
GOODIES,
FRIENDS, DINNER, DANCING, ETC.

WE WILL HAVE 3 SEMINARS

ARTISAN'S FAIR
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

WHO TO CONTACT:

TRISHA MILLER

(307) 234-6591

Ramada Plaza Riverside

300 W. 'F' St.

Casper, Wyoming 82601

(307) 473-3105

**HOTEL RESERVATION PHONE 307-235-2531 ASK FOR THE WSMLA
CONVENTION FOR ROOM DISCOUNTS**

WYOMING CLUBS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

BIG HORN BASIN MUZZLE LOADERS	Willie Felton P.O. Box 2 Ten Sleep, WY 82442 307-366-2216 bearpaw@tctwest.net	Tom Brewster 1202 Road 47 Ten Sleep, WY 82442 307-366-2391 brewstertom70@hotmail.com
DEER CREEK MUZZLE LOADERS	Phil Nissen 3158 Aspen Drive Casper, WY 82601 307-235-8889 Stands_in_ants@yahoo.com	Trish Miller 5531 S. Elm Casper, WY 82601 307-234-6591
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FREE TRAPPERS	Mike Corrigan 7459 E. Geary Dome Road Evansville, WY 82636 307-237-5136	Allen Hibbert 1089 County Rd 110 Cheyenne, WY 82009 307-778-7106
SHERIDAN BULLSHOOTERS	Roger Roebeling P.O. Box 535 Dayton, WY 82836 307-655-2583	
WIND RIVER MUZZLE LOADERS	Terry Hubenka 844 Hancock Drive #9 Lander, WY 82520 307-332-9269	Carrie Gavin 216 Valley Circle Riverton, WY 82501 307-857-4221 frankiegavin@hotmail.com
CROW CREEK MUZZLE LOADERS	Mike Penz 117 East 3 rd Avenue Cheyenne, WY 82001 307-635-0791	Chris Allen 2920 Ames Court Cheyenne, WY 82001 307-635-8425
SERRA MADRE MUZZLE LOADERS	Ed Kennaday P.O. Box 372 Saratoga, WY 82331 307-326-5059 werendezvous@hotmail.com	Joe Morrison P.O. Box 214 Saratoga, WY 82331 307-326-8944
PLATTE VALLEY MUZZLE LOADERS	Jeff Williamson 307-235-5220 jwilli5220@yahoo.com	Dennis Obert 307-237-5705 d.g.obert@att.net
1838 Rendezvous www.1838rendezvous.com	Tony Larvie Lander, WY. 82520 307-332-4718 alarvie@wyoming.com	John Boesch, 102 W. Bell Ave., Riverton, WY 82501 307-856-2554 johnb@a-bsystems.com

2008 Schedule of Shoots and Events

	Event	Location
January 9-11, 2009	WSMLA Rendezvous & Convention	Casper, WY
January 16-18, 2009	Wind River Winter Camp, Pig Shoot	Riverton, WY
February 13-15, 2009	WSMLA Winter Challenge Shoot	Glenrock, WY
February 20-22, 2009	CSMLA Winter Convention	Castle Rock, CO

Note from WSMLA President

Hi!

I hope all of you had a successful hunting season, and had friends and family to share it with. Jeannie and I had a nice elk camp set up, and started out with good weather, but after four days we had four feet of snow. What a fun trip it was with the wolfs coming into camp to see our horses.

I hope all of you can come to the annual festivities in Casper.

See Ya Thar

Ned Dunn

News from the Editor

The Wyoming State Muzzleloading Rendezvous and Convention is next month. Whoopee! What a great time to get away and enjoy the camaraderie of Wyoming Muzzleloading.

I have learned a lot and made a lot of friends being involved in Wyoming Muzzleloading. The WSMLA Convention is a time to visit with friends, make new friends, admire the handiwork of members, maybe learn a thing or two and continue to support Wyoming Muzzleloading. There are some very talented and knowledgeable members of the WSMLA that I know I can learn a thing or two from.

'Tis the season for winter projects: like building a new muzzleloader, skinning knife, powder horn or other favorite rendezvous or Muzzleloading project. So before cabin fever sets in too bad, bring your projects to the trader's fair and convention. Phil Nissen is planning an Artisan's fair to show off the talents of our members. The best part of the convention is trader's row, meeting with friends and old acquaintance, telling tall tales, hunting stories, and great camaraderie. The WSMLA convention will only be successful if the members, guests and traders of the WSMLA support the organization.

The board members of the WSMLA are working hard to host a successful rendezvous and convention. Trish Miller is lining up seminars for the convention. Phil Nissen is working on the Artisan's Fair and the photo contest. Ed Kern is working setting up a great auction. So you better start planning to participate in these great events that showcase the talented Wyoming Muzzleloader members. The Convention will be held at the Ramada Plaza, formally the Holiday Inn on the River. Phone number is 307-235-2531 for reservations.

Several board members of the WSMLA will be up for re-election at this convention. Mike Corrigan and Ed Kern and maybe Charlie Romaine are up for re-election. If you want to see this organization continue to promote Muzzleloading, please consider running for a position on the board. The WSMLA board is who runs this organization. Please consider becoming part of the board and help us grow. Nominations will be open during the general meeting.

I found this recall and thought it might be a important forward it to anyone who owns Ruger rifles.

“Sturm, Ruger manufactured M77 bolt action rifles from 1968 to 1991. The trigger over travel adjustment set screw in a few of these rifles may not be securely tightened and may move too readily. This change in original adjustment can, in extreme cases, either cause the rifle to fire unexpectedly (with the safety “off) or cause the rifle to not fire at all. This may occur suddenly and with out warning”. Further information is available at the Ruger web site:

<http://www.ruger.com/Firearms/PDF/SafetyAnnouncements/M77.pdf>

Kathi, Julie, Charlie and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Casper, January, during the convention.

Bill Morrison



COPPER LADIES MTTELS

June Reed “Copper Lady” is back with some tasty Idea’s Thank you Copper Lady

Want something different for a camp dinner? Something to warm and fill the winter-chilled body? Try this hot soup as described in *Buck Skinning III*.

Pepper Pot Soup

2 pounds Honeycomb Tripe (ask your butcher)

1 Veal or Beef knuckle

2 chopped Onions

1 stalk Celery, chopped

2 sliced Leeks

4 potatoes, diced

Parsley

Thyme

1 TBSP black pepper

2 chopped dried Red Chili peppers

1/3 cup flour

1/3 cup butter

{Opt: prepare meat and vegetables ahead, bring to the campsite ready to pop in the cook pot for the last 1 ½ hours of cooking}

Wash tripe and boil in salted water 20 minutes, cut into small squares. Simmer knuckle, onions, celery, leeks, thyme and parsley for two hours. Remove knuckle, cut meat off and chop.

Return meat to pot along with tripe, salt, pepper and chili's. Simmer one and a half hours covered. Add potatoes and cook for another twenty minutes. Blend flour and butter in a paste; add hot broth from kettle and mix to use for thickening the soup.

For a milder less hot version, reduce the chili's to one and the pepper to a rounded teaspoonful.

Serve with a bread such as this one from Pap's *Buck Skinner's Cook Book*.

Cat Tail Flour and Bread

Plains Indians often spent days roasting cat tail roots to make flour and bread. First, peel the fresh cat tail roots, then dry and pulverize them into flour.

Moisten one cup of the flour with enough water to make dough and divide into two parts. Bake in a pre-heated Dutch oven for 10-15 minutes or until done.

With the holidays just around the corner, it seems fitting to top it off with a Christmas pudding, such as described in *Buck Skinning III*.

6 cups Flour	½ cup raisins
2 cups finely shredded Suet	½ cup candied peel
2 tsp Baking Powder	½ cup currants
1 cup Brown Sugar	½ cup dried figs, diced
2 tsp Ginger	
1 tsp Nutmeg	
Pinch salt	
3 eggs	
Grated rind and juice of one Lemon and one Orange	
½ cup brandy & ½ cup water	

Mix flour, suet, baking powder, sugar, salt, and spices. Add fruit, peel and rind. Mix well.

Beat eggs and add to juice, brandy, and water.

Mix all ingredients with wooden spoon into a smooth firm paste. Add more flour if too moist. Form into a solid ball. Dampen a heavy cloth, coat one side with flour. Wrap ball loosely – it will swell during cooking – and tie top.

Lower into large kettle; cover with boiling water and simmer for three and one-half hours. Unwrap, slice and serve

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WSMLA Convention Agenda- Schedule

Ramada Plaza at the River Casper WY

This is a preliminary agenda and schedule for the WSMLA convention. Look for poster at registration table for final agenda and schedule.

January 9, 2009

12:00 pm Traders will start setting up and open for business.
2:00 pm Convention opens, registration table open
3:00 pm. Start setting up for Artisan Fair and Photo contest.
 Voting starts on Photo Contest
 Donations for Auction taken.
5:00 pm Potluck, WSMLA to provide sandwich fixings and drinks
7:00 pm. WSMLA board meeting

January 10, 2008

8:00 a.m. Convention opens, registration table open
 Donations for Auction taken from 8:00 a.m. till around 2:00 pm
 Artisan Fair and Photo contest all day
 Traders open for business all day.
8:30 am 1st Seminar ??
9:30 am 2nd Seminar Trivia
10:30 am 3rd Seminar Bead work

1:00 pm WSMLA General meeting all members are encouraged to attend. Prizes and trader bucks to those members in attendance during the General Meeting. . Election of new board members. Announce winners of Traveling Trophy, Winter Challenge and Postal Shoot.
3:00 pm Sale of meal tickets ends. No meal tickets after 3:00 pm. Cost \$17.00 per person for meal, auction and music.
3:30 pm. Voting ends on photo contest.
 Artesian Fair is closed.
4:00 Pm Registration table closes.
5:00 pm. Convention Dinner
 Auction to start around 6:30 pm
 Photo Contest awards.
7:30-12:00 pm Music and dance to Swing sounds

January 11, 2008

8:00-12:00 Convention opens
 Traders open for business
8:00 am. WSMLA board meeting. All board members to be present for meeting.
12:00 Convention closed, wishing everyone a safe trip home.

THE REST OF THE STORY..... re-print from the Colorado Muzzleloader Newsletter.
With a Wyoming twist starring one of Wyoming's Muzzle loader's *Bret Smith* from Sheridan, WY

I am the person who was injured by the exploding powder horn as reported in your recent issue (September-October, 2008) under the title of "Radio Report of Interest". I will go through the article with the facts as they are and not how it was reported.

I did escape serious injury not only due to the actual explosion but because my friend, Brett Smith (a fireman and EMT) was there and prevented a lot of well-meaning people from doing some less-than-correct actions like rolling me in the dirt, putting butter on my arm and wrapping it in a towel. Brett and Bill (don't know his last name but glad he was there) ripped off my burning shirt then held me upright until a couple of silk scarves appeared as called for by Brett; upon which ice water was applied, having been carried from her camp by Amber Starr in an Igloo cooler. Quite a feat as it was almost full and she did it by herself. Her husband Mark ran all the way up to the parking lot to get his truck to take us out to meet the ambulance.

I did spend the night in town as the guest of Jeanne Goetzinger, the owner of the Main Street Inn. She's a dear friend and even though she had a full hotel due to the excitement of Trapper Days going on she came to the emergency room to support me and offered a place to stay. Such spontaneous kindness was incredible as it was shown by others as well. Ned and Sean Dunn, Mark Starr, Brett Smith (if I left anyone out here I apologize) all came into the emergency room; they even went to Wal-Mart and got me a sweatshirt and pants as I was lying there in just my colonial breeches and moccasins. I guess I should add it was a Homer Simpson sweatshirt.

I was not working on my flint as reported. I had just finished the woods walk and decided on my way back to camp in passing the range, to take a last shot at the 100 yard gong. Now, I have been shooting for 43 years and have never had an accident. I have been shooting a left-handed .40 flintier for 3 years. I use an antique flat horn which has a brass spring loaded round shut-off valve which was half full. I attached it to the bag straps on my right side to ride up under my right arm, thus the spout was pointing up. The billion-to-one spark from the pan lasted long enough to fall in the spout to fuse the old residue and some remaining grains of powder. The shut-off valve was NOT flush against the surface of the lid as I had always assumed it was. (Right, we all know about that word.) The horn was old and fractured into two vertical pieces; my arm and rifle protected my face and eyes. The immediate reaction by Brett, Bill, Mark, Amber and others resulted in second degree burns that healed without infection.

So the valve did not jam as most of them are not tightly sealed as I have not come to realize. I will always wear my horn on the opposite side of my rifle from now on and when using a plug horn, will not have a tie thong on it so that I will have to plug it or shoot with the plug in my mouth-not likely.

This is a dangerous sport and we need to be ever vigilant; aware and patient (hurry, get the next shot off). We don't need any more rules, just good teachers and range officers. The article stated that I had escaped serious injury then a little farther down said it was the first serious injury in 32 years--- not very consistent.

Here's something else Brett did. When meeting the ambulance on the dirt road to town, he locked the doors and kept the windows closed until the ambulance was turned back towards town and all the dust had settled. This is to keep the possibility of infection down.

Hope this helps set the record straight.
Best Regards, Tom Fletcher—new camp name 'Fire hand'

WILLIAM ROTTON NEBRASKA GUN MAKER

William Rotton was born in England about April 1, 1826 and there learned the trade as a gun and rifle maker. He married his first wife Sophia in England and records show he had 6 children by his first wife, four boys and two girls. The oldest child was born in England. After coming to America (year unknown) he migrated west as records show their second child was born in Massachusetts, the third in Kentucky, the fourth in Iowa and the two youngest in Nebraska. His first wife Sophia died January 17, 1863 and in 1864 Mr. Rotton married Mrs. Caroline Williams, the widow of Morrison Williams and two more children were born to this union. (Note) It is noted that by the Federal census in June 1860 that William Rotton was listed as 34 years of age, his wife Sophia as 24 years old, both born in England and five children the oldest William, ten; Elizabeth, eight; Henry, six; George, four; and Wallace, two years of age. This would indicate that Sophia Rotton was about 14 years of age at the time of William's birth. The dates and ages of the children may be incorrect from the records from which I condensed this information, but it was customary during this period to marry young. It is noted that William's second wife was 15 years old when she married her first husband Morrison Williams in Wisconsin in 1850.

Mr. Rotton was first mentioned at Nebraska City in March 1857, when it was stated that he had a shop where he repaired firearms and that he sold guns and ammunition. (per. Nebraska City News, 1857 Mar. 14-P. 4) A few months later Mr. Rotton advertised himself as a gunsmith and he continued to make this the center of his business until 1870. In his business announcement in January 1867 he announced he will make

guns to order. In the census of that year he reported that he had \$6000.00 invested in his business. He employed three men the year around for a total of \$2500.00. Steel, iron, etc. that he used cost him \$850.00. His products the previous year had been worth \$6000. During all this time Mr. Rotton was also a merchant who carried a considerable stock of goods. This included ammunition, firearms from various manufacturers and sporting goods of all kinds. Occasional shipments of goods by steamboat up the Missouri River were mentioned in the news. In December, 1868 he received a shipment of Ice skates from England. The city directory of 1870 stated that he was agent for the Laflin Powder Company.

In the election campaign of 1860 he was an officer of the Republican Club and in August of 1861 his shop was burglarized. In January, 1862 Mr. Rotton joined the Union League and took the oath of allegiance. At the state fair held at Nebraska City in the fall of 1869 Mr. Rotton received the award for the best cage of canaries exhibited. The business of a gunmaker was fast declining so in the fall of 1871 Mr. Rotton turned the business over to his oldest son William and in November was appointed railway mail clerk, running from Nebraska City to Lincoln. This was a political appointment at that time. William Rotton was in the railway mail service about 15 years till his discharge in 1886 to a Democrat. During most of this period he made his home at Nebraska City. In 1889 the family moved to Omaha, where Mr. Rotton died December 8, 1891. Mrs. Caroline Rotton survived many years, dying at the home of her daughter Mrs. Conkling in St. Louis, Missouri, November 20, 1903.

This biography of William Rotton was compiled by Mr. Dale of the Nebraska Historical Society

several years ago and I have condensed it for the major points of interest. I want to thank Mr. Dale and the personnel of the library at the Nebraska State Historical Society for their help.

William Rotton was probably the first gunmaker in Nebraska Territory to set up a permanent trade—and certainly one of the few that spent his life in Nebraska.

The records show there were other gunmakers in early Nebraska but most followed the frontier and moved west. Most significant of these was probably the Freund brothers, Frank W. and George who came to Nebraska after the Civil War about 1865. They also opened a shop at Nebraska City and later moved on to Julesburg, Colo.

Another gunmaker was Alexander McAusland who came to Omaha in 1857 and opened a full-fledged gunshop and ammunition store in 1866 under the name of A. D. McAusland. A younger son William established a store also at Nebraska City. After Alexander Sr. died in 1867 the three brothers formed a partnership, later moved on to Montana.

During this period the trade of the oldtime gunmakers went by the wayside as the advent of the Civil War and factory made cartridge guns made the respected craftsmanship of muzzle loading gun and riflemakers obsolete almost overnight.

Dennis Sebek



FRANKIE'S ANTELOPE

Carrie (or Frankie to all her muzzleloader friends) spent several days in the field East of Riverton Wyoming scouting for the perfect pronghorn. The goats were pretty wild and a decision had to be made rather to use her modern firearm or to make an attempt to get her second black powder buck antelope. After not so much convincing by her husband Gary, the decision was made to use her custom .40 caliber flintlock for the task. On the opening September morning the antelope were still not completely in rut, and it would make stalking somewhat challenging. But after spotting several nice bucks from the road, we took off on our ATV to see what the rest of the area looked like. After traveling several miles, a large herd was spotted that were definitely in rut. Frankie said she was sure she could harvest a nice buck out of that herd. We parked the ATV in the bottom of a draw and began the trek to a small rock outcrop below a steep hill. Here is where she showed her true hunting skills by being very patient while the herd buck chased off several smaller bucks. This ritual went on for nearly 30 minutes, while she remained still behind the rock ledge. Finally she could see the tips of a nice goat coming toward her. Still she remained hidden behind the ledge. When the buck was about 40 yards from her he became aware that something was not quite right. At that point Frankie primed the pan on the 40 caliber flintlock and waited. The goat then continued to walk to about 35 yards to see what was amiss. At that point Frankie eased the Flintlock into position and waited for the buck to present a broadside shot. The antelope froze and starred at the hunter for what seemed like an eternity. Finally Frankie decided enough was enough and set the rear trigger of the flintlock. The buck heard the soft click from the double set trigger and turned, quartering away. The hammer fell on the flintlock, igniting the charge in the pan. The 40 caliber round ball traversed through the buck. It was a perfect shot into the lungs and through the animal. The goat was hers. He ran about 40 yards and piled up near a small draw. The buck represented the second black powder antelope harvest for Frankie. Although it was not quite as big as her previous, it was none the less a true trophy.



2008's First Christmas Joke

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

'In honor of this holy season' Saint Peter said, 'You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven.'

The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. 'It represents a candle', he said.

'You may pass through the pearly gates' Saint Peter said.

The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, 'They're bells.'

Saint Peter said 'You may pass through the pearly gates'.

The third man started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's panties.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, 'And just what do those symbolize?'

The man replied, 'These are Carols.'

And So the Christmas Season Begins.....

DEER CREEK MUZZLE LOADERS
WSMLA WINTER CHALLENGE SHOOT
February 13, 14, 15, 2009

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Attention Muzzle loading Clubs and Individual shooters: The Deer Creek Muzzle Loaders challenge you to form your best teams of men and women and join us in a fun weekend match. Enjoy a late winter muzzle-loading shoot! Shake that case of cabin fever and dust off your muzzle-loading rifle and come over to the Arnold Ranch near Glenrock. If you are an individual shooter or are short of having a full team, we will sign you up and make up teams as they sign up. If you are a couple bricks short of a load, one of our DCML teams may just whoop up on ya! This is why we call it the Winter Challenge Shoot. Men's teams are to be composed of 5 men; Women's teams are to be composed of 3 women. Women may shoot on a men's team but not vice versa even if a skirt is worn. This is a WSMLA sanctioned shoot. Each shooter must be a member of the WSMLA. You can join or pay your 2009 dues at this shoot.

Matches & Entry fees: The entry fee per shooter is \$20. This will include a target packet of ten targets. A lunch will be available to shooters both days and is included in the entry fee. Medallions will be awarded to the top three men's and women's teams, and individual awards for men, women, and senior high scorers. So challenge yourself and try to best the records for individual aggregate and team aggregate scores. The DCML range offers challenging matches at 25, 50, 100 and 200 yards. You must use a traditional muzzle loading, hunting type rifle with open sights and use black powder or substitute and a patched round ball. No under hammer or in line actions or black powder cartridge rifles. NMLRA scoring rules will apply.

Camping: The DCML Range on the old Arnold Ranch offers fine primitive and modern camping areas in the cottonwoods. Wood is provided but you will need to bring your own water. Dogs ARE allowed in camp but must be on leash, in control of an adult and kept a safe distance from the range. No horses. Come have a winter rendezvous and burn some powder with us.

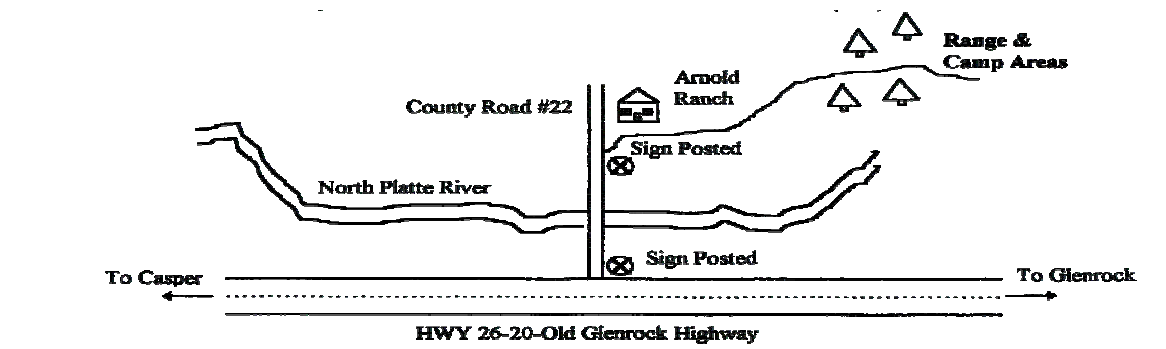
Schedule: **Friday Feb 13 – Set up your camp, registration and shoot in afternoon**

Saturday Feb 14 - Range open 8-5

Sunday Feb 15 – Range open 8-12. Awards at 1:00

Continue to enjoy a winter camp

Information: Phil Nissen, 235-8889, Delbert Lesser, 436-8809, Trish Miller, 234-6591



REMINDER FROM YOUR TREASURER CONVENTION 2009

I hope everyone had a successful hunt year and a great Thanksgiving Day! We were very successful in our house, harvesting a cow elk (Gary), antelope (Carrie), and two trophy buck deer (Carrie and Angie). So we should have plenty of meat for the winter. Seems like the things you enjoy the most, like hunting season, come and go so fast!

I would like to remind everyone of the upcoming general meeting at convention. I think it is very important for as many members as possible to show up for this. Not only will new board members be elected, but we have several things that need to be discussed at these meetings.

One thing to remember, as I mentioned in the last newsletter, is the possibility of ordering caps and t-shirts for the WSMLA. We need some input on this and hopefully you have had time to come up with some ideas for a logo for them. If you can bring a draft of your idea to me, I will post it at the registration table for everyone to look at. We hope to have some prices put together to present at the meeting also. If no interest is shown in this idea then it will not be pursued.

Please bring any and all ideas for this or any other suggestions you have to make our organization prosper to the meeting with you. The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 10, 2009. (Room will be announced later.)

Also, don't forget to renew your membership as it expires at convention. Membership is \$25.00. If you plan to attend the Saturday night meal, it is \$17.00 per person and starts at 5p.m.. **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR MEAL TICKETS PURCHASED BY 3 P.M. THAT DAY. NO LATE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!!**

Hope to see everyone there.

Until later,
Carrie aka Frankie



Lyle found this old cartoon. I just hope that Gary at least carried Frankie's gun back after shooting the big antelope☺



"...AND I WANT A NEW HAWKEN RIFLE, A HUDSON BAY
CAPOTE, A LIFETIME SUBSCRIPTION TO BUCKSKIN
REPORT, A NEW GREEN RIVER SKINNIN' KNIFE, A..."

Hunting Story from Copper Lady

Hey Bill, I don't know if this fits your definition of a hunting story, or what you were looking for, but it's something I experienced and still have to laugh at. Enjoy! June/Copper Lady

It happened during one of my very first hunts with Pap at my parents' old homestead near Keeline. Pap assumed that since I had grown up on a ranch and had shot a .22, I knew what I was doing, but unfortunately we had not talked about it.

Mistake! We found a herd of antelope grazing peacefully and we snuck up on them. A small knoll separated us from the antelope when they noticed us. Pap said softly to keep my eye on the heart-lung area and shoot.

I pulled Winchester 243 to my shoulder and began searching for the antelope. I quickly moved the scope left, then right. No antelope. Suddenly Pap said, "They're gone. Why didn't you shoot."

I had not been able to locate anything in the scope because I had never learned how to do that. I'd not been real adept at looking through the microscope in Biology class in Lusk either, but after a few practice sessions, I figured the scope out and was able after that to 'locate' the deer or antelope and generally get meat for the table.

But I always thought it was funny. I just couldn't get any picture in that little tube!

POSTAL SHOOT REMINDER

Please return your postal shoot targets to
Trinidad E. Herrera
865 Hobson Street
Lander, WY 82520-2029

ARTISAN'S FAIR

Last year's Artisan's Fair was a hit. What a bunch of multi-talented members we have. The Board would like to do it again in January 2009 so we will again set up a room at the Convention to display your handcrafted items. Please bring a couple of items you have made for everyone to see and enjoy. I will have tables set up but will not be using the large glass display cases as they were very heavy to haul in and out. We will again provide some security in the room at all times and if you have brought something to display I am asking you to volunteer a 30-60 minute shift to keep an eye on things so we can all enjoy the rest of the convention.

What Items to bring and display you ask? Items that fit in with muzzle loading, buck skinning, or the historic period we are interested in. Some examples that come to mind include muzzle loading firearms of course, but also accoutrements like powder horns, shooting bags, tools, pistol presentation cases, etc. Hand crafted buckskin or leather items such as clothing articles, moccasins, bags, par fleche boxes, equestrian accessories, etc. would be great. Hand or loom woven textiles, dresses, moccasins, sashes, would be fine too. Beadwork, jewelry, knives, scrimshaw, antler art, hand forged tools, pottery, and wooden items are good too. Fine art such as oil paintings or water colors would also be most welcome if the subject matter is time period appropriate, an outdoor landscape, a portrait, or animals for example. Anything that would be of general interest to our members "fits" what to bring. Everything displayed last year was great! Uncertain about the appropriateness of an item? Give me call (307) 235-8889, or you can email me at stands_in_ants@yahoo.com

Not only is this an opportunity for all of us including the general public to enjoy seeing something you have proudly crafted, this fair will hopefully stimulate some latent creativity and sharing of ideas on how to fabricate or decorate various items. Along with the item, please provide a small note card no larger than 4" x 6" giving your name and telling what the item is. Here is the only rule: It is not the place to display your items to sell; no visible price tags will be permitted. If you want to display things to sell, buy a trade table for the weekend. If someone expresses interest in buying an item, you can certainly do that at the end of the convention when the fair is finished.

There will still be a photo contest so bring your photography for display in a separate area. We will use the same categories as in previous years; scenery and wildlife, hunting and shooting, camp life, and humorous. Photos can be B & W or color and should be 8" x 10" and mounted on a durable backing. Photos can also be matted but should not be framed as frames are too heavy and an unfair display advantage. *Phil Nissen*

2009 WSMMLA Photo Contest

The Wyoming State Muzzle Loading Association will feature a photo contest at State Convention in Casper on January 9-11, 2008. This event is open to all members and your participation is encouraged.

Categories:

- A. Humorous (Relating to our sport)
- B. Shooting/Hunting (black powder target shooting or hunting, etc.)
- C. Camp Life/Portraiture (rendezvous, primitive camps, scenery
Around camp/people)
- D. Scenery/Nature (a picturesque view or landscape/wildlife)

(If your photo does not quite fit one of the above categories, we will, with your help place it into one anyway.)

Who may enter: Any paid up member and their immediate family.

Rules:

Photos must be enlarged to 8 by 10 and matted. Digital photos are acceptable but Xerox copies and pictures that are framed will not be allowed. This is to make it fair to all participants. Please try to have your photos turned in to Phil Nissen by 10:30 A.M. on Saturday January 12th. Remember: the earlier you have it on display, the more time people will have for voting on your entry. Limit of three photos per category per person.

Awards:- 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes will be awarded in each category.

- 1st prize in each division is \$ 15.00 in Trader Bucks
- 2nd prize in each division is \$10.00 in Trader Bucks
- 3rd prize in each division is \$5.00 in Trader Bucks
- A grand prize for best photo overall will be awarded \$25.00 in Trader Bucks
(These prizes will only be valid for this year's convention)

Judges:

All members (including family) will be allowed to vote during the viewing period on Saturday. You will vote for one photo per category plus the best of show. Judging will be closed at 3:30 p.m. to allow for a count of the ballots. Prizes will be awarded during the auction. Photos may be auctioned off at the owner's discretion.

If you have any questions about the photo contest, please feel free to call Phil Nissen at: (307)235-8889 or email me at stands_in_ants@yahoo.com

COLORADO STATE
MUZZLE LOADING
ASSOCIATION

Web site: www.csmla.org



PRESENTS the

CSMLA WINTER CONVENTION 2009

February 20th, 21st and 22nd
at the

Douglas Co. Fairgrounds Event Center

500 Fairgrounds Drive – Castle Rock, Colorado

Traders will be allowed to pull into the building to unload after 8:00 a.m. on Friday
NO VEHICLES inside after 12:00 p.m. on Friday.
Traders may still setup after that, just have to cart it in.

NO PETS ALLOWED, NO COOLERS, FOOD or DRINKS ARE TO BE BROUGHT IN (sorry!)

Open: Fri. - Noon - 9:00p.m. / Sat. - 9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. / Sun. - 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

CONCESSION STAND FOR BREAKFAST & LUNCH

Traders Row – Mountain Man Supplies and Wares – DOOR PRIZES

We will have Traders and Sutlers selling period correct "Trade Goods" - anything from soaps and jellies to tents and tipis, and anything else a "Mountain Man" could possibly need!

FREE Classes and Demonstrations open to all attendees

SATURDAY NIGHT AWARDS BANQUET – featuring a **Guest Speaker,**
Awards for "Muzzleloader of the Year", "Masters" and other awards and recognitions for
outstanding members - LIVE AUCTION and ENTERTAINMENT following dinner
at the

EVENT CENTER (same place!!!)

Cash Bar opens at 5:30p.m. for Happy Hours!
Dinner will be catered by Flying Horse Catering

Hotel information available upon request

For more information contact:

Ron Saner at 720-933-9469

Email: rbsnya@yahoo.com

or Visit my web site at:

www.douwana.com



www.csmla.org

(information is subject to change without being noticed)

Muzzleloading Hunting Truths

1. A deer killed with a lead ball you cast yourself seems like a much greater accomplishment than one killed with an identical ball that was store bought.
2. A wool mitten beats a Thinsulate / Gortex / Cordura glove all to hell for wiping your nose.
3. You can dress too warm or too hot, but never just right.
4. A sandwich of cold baloney and soggy bread tastes a lot better in the woods than in the kitchen.
5. Deer always appear downwind, no matter which direction the wind was blowing 2 minutes ago.
6. Deer never appear when you are still, but always when you are doing a bad impression of a "Hunter Bobble head Doll".
7. Your chances of seeing a huge Buck are directly proportional to the distance away from your rifle when taking a leak.
8. Most bucks you see will not offer you a shot.
9. You only shoot a deer when they make a mistake.
10. Deer seldom make mistakes.
11. A field dressed deer at the end of a drag rope weighs more than it did live on the hoof.
12. Finding that you have put one of your three layers of long johns on backwards is not nearly as funny in the woods as it is telling about it back at camp.
13. The does you passed up on the first days of the season will not re-appear when you want to shoot one later in the season.
14. If you don't have a doe tag, you will see lots of does, if you do have doe tags, the amount of does you see will be in an inverse proportion to the number of tags you have.
15. Nothing is waterproof if it rains long enough.
16. A four wheel drive vehicle will only get you stuck worse, farther from help.
17. If you don't set your knife on your wad of toilet paper, the wind will blow it away just before you reach for it.
18. There's no such thing as a secret hunting spot.
19. Slicing your finger while gutting a deer doesn't seem to hurt much.
20. "Next year, I mean it this time, I'm going to have everything packed and ready before the night before the season opens".
21. The fun does NOT stop when you pull the trigger. You ever see a hunter wearing a frown while dragging out a deer?
22. You can practice all you want, but you can't practice buck fever.
23. Your rifle somehow gains weight the farther you walk.
24. No matter how much you plead and pray, you cannot turn back time to re-do that bad shot you made 20 seconds ago.



**WIND RIVER MUZZLE LOADERS
ANNUAL PRIMITIVE WINTER CAMP
AND
PIG SHOOT**

January 16, 17, & 18, 2009

**CAMP BEGINS (FOR THOSE WHO ARE BRAVE ENOUGH) ON
Friday – Saturday
(must be primitive)**

**Pig shoot on Sunday, at 10a.m.
\$10 fee for each shooter
4 matches with 10 payouts on each match**

DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRIMITIVE TO SHOOT ON SUNDAY

that shiny brass is shore to bring a passer of Indians down
on ye, shinin in the sun, the way hit do. I'll take a good

to be continued,

THE GIFT OF PEACE

By
**BENJAMIN C.
SLAUGH**
Vernal, Utah 1902

submitted by
his grandson,
Brent L. Boren

In the valley of old Ashley
A winter's day had gone.
The last of His flaming banners
Had galled the sinking sun.
Dark gloomed the old Blue mountains
Against a cheerless sky,
Bleak wind swept the naked forest
Burying the wolf pack's cry.
But now the moon had risen,
Looking down about the scene,
And the misty field of silver
Soon filled each deep ravine.
And down in this lonely valley
Surrounded by mountains walls,
The horror of night on the Borders
Fell like a funeral call.
And down in the lonely valley
By the edge of towering woods,
And facing an ice blocked river
A settler's cabin stood.
Down in the shadowed low lands
Sending bright gleams afar
The light from this little cabin
Shone like a beacon star.
Guiding a band of warriors
Savage, revengeful and bold
Who came down from the mountains
Like wolves upon a fold.
They surrounded this little cabin
In the dead of the Winter night.
Quietly and cautiously, their chief
Crept towards the light
And through a hole beside the window
Which the fire gleams did bestray;
His eyes, hard and cruel
Did that little room survey.
As he spied the pale face sleeping
Beside the fair haired wife,
With evil satisfaction
He fingered his scalping knife.
But something stayed his war cry
With a grunt of surprise instead.
For he saw that the mother's bosom
Pillowed a little head.
And close beside the chimney
He spied a stocking small,
In easy reach of the opening
That was there in the cabin wall.
The old chief smote his side
In quiet, dire distress,
As if to dispell the spirit
That had caused this queer unrest

And he thought of an Indian village
At the edge of a forest glade
And the blooming strip of meadow
Where their little children played.
He thought of a budding chiefton
Who ran to meet his sire
When the braves returned from hunting
To surround the council fire.
Then came that terrible winter
Many long years ago;
When the Great Spirit locked the rivers
And covered the lands in snow.
When sickness and hunger
Ever traveled side by side;
Until women and little children,
Yes, even the warriors died.
Then came a Jesuit Father
To relieve them of their pain.
He told them of a Savior
Who died, then rose again.
And how it had been the custom
That had followed each Christmas Tide
Until the little Chiefton listening,
His black eyes open wide,
Begged to hang a stocking
That some Saint, so good and mild
May pause with some little token
And remember the Indian child.
The old chief stood by the window,
He peeped inside again.
His band of savage warriors
Waited his cry in vain.
But the old chief turned around
And slowly walked away,
Then he and his band of warriors
Vanished before the Christmas Day.
Waking, the little one ran to his stocking,
Shouting in childish glee,
And hold aloft some object
For them to come and see.
Lo, it was the Pipe of Peace
It's carved bowl dark with age,
Smoked at numerous councils
The stalwart Indian sage
And as they gazed upon this object
They halfway understood.
Their eyes fast full of tears
Sought the mystery of the woods.
Then like the shepherds of old
They knew love would never cease
For the hand that could have slayed them
Had left them the Gift of Peace.

FROM THE WORK BENCH

USING HYDRAULIC PRESSURE
TO REMOVE A LOAD

by Larry Niday

As I was sitting at my bench, tinkering with something or other, I heard a familiar voice. I looked up to see a young man with a rather sheepish look on his face, standing at the door of my shop. He handed me a Thompson Center wrapped in a leather case. "Here's that rifle I asked you to work on." I looked at the rifle and tried to recall the problem. I thought for a minute, then it hit me. Two months ago, he had mentioned that he had a ball stuck in his barrel. "You mean you haven't got that ball out yet?"

His answer was obvious, I had the rifle in my hands to see that. I promised to have it ready for the next day's shoot. He left confident that I would keep my word. Before that day was over, I would come to regret that promise. That "easy" job nearly had me pulling out what little hair I have left.

Had I been at a place where I could shoot, I would have tried priming the nipple or the cleanout screw first, but out of respect for the neighbors and my wife's nerves, I decided to skip this method. With an undersized ball and/or a clean bore, this usually works. This rifle had neither, and I probably would have been pounding sand in a rat hole anyway!

I swabbed the barrel a couple times, then some rummaging through my neatly piled workbench produced a worm which I fully expected to be the answer to my problem. It wasn't! Several, or I should say, many tries produced nothing but a small pile of lead shavings. I was sure the ball had grown roots and nothing was going to budge it.

At this point, I was ready to remove the breech. Now, to me this is bordering on desperation. Generally, it is not a difficult job, with exceptions of course, but I don't like to unbreech a rifle unless it's absolutely necessary. There are those that would disagree with me on this point, but I doubt that Bridger and the boys made a habit of taking their breech plugs out, and I'm convinced that a continual practice of this promotes leakage which I'm not too crazy about.

But anyway, as I was saying before I interrupted myself, the breech had to come out, or so I thought. With the barrel secured in a vise, I dug out my trusty T/C breech plug wrench and a pipe wrench and went to work. The breech refused to budge. No amount of coaxing, pleading or cussing would break it loose, and since I had no idea whether or not there was any powder behind the ball, heat was out of the question. So I sat down, lit a cigarette and glared at the barrel.

That didn't help either, but finally a flash of inspiration hit me. Somewhere, sometime in the dim past, I had heard of using hydraulic pressure to force a ball out of a barrel.

I tried a grease zerk in the nipple hole, and to my surprise it fit. I slid a rod down the barrel to gauge the movement of the ball and with an automotive grease gun, started pumping grease through the grease zerk. After about a half dozen pumps to fill the breech, I felt some resistance and with a loud clang, the rod bounced off the far wall of the shop. Some checking showed that the ball had dislodged and jerked forward about two inches with such force that the rod turned into a

projectile. I re-inserted the rod in the barrel and pleasantly watched it inch back out with each pump of the grease gun. In less than a minute, the rod, ball and patch fell to the floor.

Now, I looked at the muzzle, level full of grease, and wondered if I would ever remove it all. But, with a bore sized swab, and removal of the grease zerk, I was able to neatly push the grease out through the nipple hole. A little swabbing and the bore was mirror bright again.

Since that day, I have done some experimenting with the idea. First, the grease zerk will fit a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thread, but the threads appear to be tapered and might mess up the threads in the rifle, so to save any potential problems, I made an adapter.

From a brass $\frac{1}{8}$ inch compression fitting (figure a) from an automotive store, I turned one end down in a drill press, and threaded it $\frac{1}{4}$ x 28 to fit the standard nipple size. The opposite end was drilled and tapped female threads $\frac{1}{4}$ x 28 for the grease zerk. The hex flats were left in the center for use with a wrench (figure b.). An adapter for musket thread is made the same way from a larger fitting and the male end is threaded 5/16 x 24. Adapters for other size nipples, including metric, can be made identically by merely threading the male end to the desired size.

FIG. A $\frac{1}{8}$ " BRASS COMPRESSION FITTING

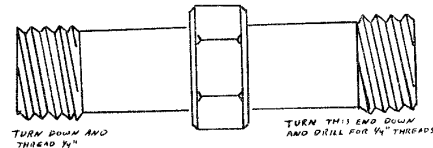
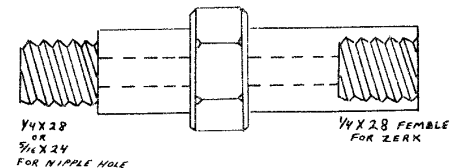


FIG. B



The next time you have a stubborn load to remove safely, not just a ball without powder but a wet load also, just keep in mind that a little grease does more than lube a car; it can sure soothe a mess of jangled nerves.

SILER LOCKS

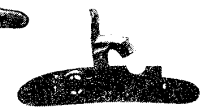


- 5— $\frac{1}{4}$ x 1 (rifle size) Flint or Perc.
- 4— $\frac{1}{4}$ x 7/8 (pistol—rifle size) Flint or Perc.
- Left Hand Flint (5— $\frac{1}{4}$ x 1 only)

- 16 Years Experience
- Highest Quality
- Drill Locations Spotted
- Instructions For Assembly

LOCK KITS

From your dealer or direct
Flint Kits \$32.00 ppd.
Perc. Kits \$19.50 ppd.
Send for Free Literature



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**WYOMING STATE TRAVELING TROPHY
QUALIFIERS FORM**

Sponsoring Clubs: Please fill this form out after your shoot the form and the proceeds to the State Treasurer at the following address:

Ginger Bauman
P.O. Box 808
Douglas, WY 82633
307-358-2326
baumanng@netcommander.com

Please also e-mail the results to Bryan Youngberg bryan.youngberg@gmail.com

Qualifiers: (The highest score qualifies but all scores 50 or over qualify)

Men's Name: _____

Score; Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Men's Name: _____

Score; Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Women's Name: _____

Score; Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Junior Name: _____

Score; Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Sub-Junior Name: _____

Score; Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

EDITORIAL POLICIES:

No charge for fliers or announcements from membership when results are sent in:

Please send items to: bearlodge@bearlodgeangler.com

This newsletter is published during the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. The day you might get the newsletter is determined by competence and dedication of the Editor and/or Printer, neither of which is necessarily competent or punctual.

The Deadline for material to be published is the 20th of the month before the desired issue.

All submissions should be sent to

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307-347-3371 fax**

**billmorrison@wyomingmuzzleloaders.com or
bearlodge@bearlodgeangler.com**

Wyoming State Muzzle Loading Association offers a video library for members of the WSMLA. **Please contact: Charlie Romaine about viewing tapes.** xrailrdr@wyo2u.com A list of videos available is on the state web site at:
http://wyomingmuzzleloaders.com/video_library.htm

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

New Address information:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

Mail, phone or email to:

Carrie Gavin
216 Valley Circle
Riverton, WY 82501
307-857-4221
frankiegavin@hotmail.com

Membership Renewal Form Wyoming State Muzzle Loading Association

NAME: _____

NAME OF SPOUSE: _____

NAMES OF CHILDREN (living at home): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ WSMLA# _____

NRA# _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____

NMLRA# _____ EXPIRATION DATE: _____

LOCAL CLUB AFFILIATION: _____

I wish to receive the newsletter by postal service (yes or no) _____

The WSMLA newsletter is now available for your convenience online at: <http://www.wyomingmuzzleloaders.com/>

Please enclose a check for \$25.00 made out to the WSMLA with the above form and send to:

Carrie Gavin
216 Valley Circle
Riverton, WY 82501
307-857-4221
frankiegavin@hotmail.com

**WSMLA
P.O. Box 50441
Casper, WY 82605-0441**

Address return service requested:

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