

WASHINGTON STATE MUZZLELOADER'S ASSOCIATION

November 2018 Journal

www.wamuzzleloaders.com



Western Washington Sportsmen's Show - January 2019

That's right folks, the Washington Sportsmen's Show is right around the corner. Finish those hunting trips, buy last minute Christmas gifts, eat too much turkey and stuffing, then come on out to the show. Once again the WA State Muzzleloader's Association will have our booth at the show, and we are looking for volunteers to help spread the word about all we do. See the sign-up sheet at the end of the newsletter to reserve your spot!

The Sportsmen's Show is put on by O'Loughlin Trade Shows and brings vendors and outfitters together with thousands of sportsmen for 5 days of demonstrations, new products, and hunting and fishing opportunities. Black Powder Clubs – are you looking for new muzzleloading shooters? This is the place to find them. Make sure your club is represented and your rendezvous flyers are on display.

You can find more information on the show at:

<https://www.thesportshows.com/shows/washington/show-information/>



[WSMA is on Facebook!](#)

A big thanks goes out to Dana Atchison for getting the WSMA up on Facebook! The website will continue but now you'll be able to get up to the minute announcements about events. We've talked about this for quite a while but Dana made it happen. We are still working to get information up on the site so please keep checking back for updates.

Washington State Muzzle Loaders Association

[Primitive Muzzleloading Hunting Seasons](#)

I'd like to pass on an email I received recently from a fellow muzzleloader with concerns on hunting seasons. I know this subject is near and dear to many of you. Is there interest in getting this changed? You can post your comments to the new facebook page.

Greetings,

I am writing to find out more about your organization. It is my understanding that you are the voice of the muzzleloader hunter for the WDFW.

I am a traditional muzzleloader hunter who has watched the WDFW basically destroy our sport. Over the course of the past several years adapting rule changes to accommodate modern inline muzzleloaders. Most recently allowing 209 primers and eliminating the language that required caps to be exposed to the elements. Since allowing inline muzzleloaders and all of the rule changes it has caused the harvest rate to drastically increase. Which has resulted in our hunting season to be reduced to a mere 9 days. Meanwhile modern rifle hunters get 11 days.

I am currently in an email exchange with the WDFW expressing my disgust with their failure to make a distinction between modern inline muzzleloaders and traditional black powder muzzleloaders. They are completely different methods with no comparison to the functionality and performance and should be in a separate category. I have asked the WDFW to explain their justification for giving a modern rifle hunter 11 days to deer hunt and a primitive black powder hunter only 9 days. So far they have failed to provide a coherent answer. Only a form letter response about herd size and harvest quotas.

I'm not sure how your organization feels about this issue. I am seeking fellow traditional muzzleloader hunters who are prepared to challenge the WDFW and fight to save our sport. We should not be in the same hunting method category as inline muzzleloaders and certainly should not receive fewer days to hunt than a modern rifle hunter. We need our own "Primitive" hunting category separate from inlines and modern rifles.

I look forward to your reply.

Best regards,

Brian

Brian,

Thanks for your email. Many people in the WSMA have expressed the same frustration. While the WSMA supports all muzzleloading activities, almost all of the 100 or so members lean toward the more primitive style of shooting and hunting. In fact, after trying to get more of the modern muzzleloaders in the organization, I'm convinced they just aren't interested. But back to your concerns.

The focus for the last several years has been supporting the various black powder clubs with their youth programs. This has been quite successful. The main reason we as an organization are not pursuing the primitive hunting seasons is that we don't have anyone with the knowledge of how to make the changes or the willingness to take on the issue. I've talked with one individual (a hunter's ed instructor) who said he would be willing interested to tackle this, but needs to get out of some of his other commitments before he can dedicate time toward this.

With your permission I'd like to pass on the text of your letter in our next newsletter, to see what kind of support is out there and perhaps find a willing ally or two. Thanks for voicing your concern

*Mike Moran
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Mike,

Thank you for the reply. I'm glad to hear your organization has a strong youth program.

Yes please pass along my email to anyone interested. For whatever reason the WDFW has completely over looked traditional muzzleloaderhunters for the past several years. I know there aren't many of us left. The original purpose of having a separate muzzleloader category was to offer the primitive hunters a fair chance before the modern rifle hunters each season. The newer in-lines feature a waterproof ignition and accuracy to 300 yards. Yet somehow the WDFW considers them equal to a primitive black powder muzzleloader. It is extremely unfair that we only get 9 days to hunt deer.

I look forward to hearing from others who feel the same. Hopefully we can put our heads together and figure out a good way to present our case to the new WDFW Director.

*Thanks,
Brian*

WSMA Booth at Puyallup Sportsmen's Show

Volunteer List

Please contact Mike Moran at michael.moran248@gmail.com to volunteer. We need a minimum of three people per shift, more are certainly welcome!

Wednesday, 23 January

12:00 to 4:00 (4 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4:00 to 8:00 (4 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Thursday, 24 January

12:00 to 4:00 (4 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4:00 to 8:00 (4 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Friday, 25 January

12:00 to 4:00 (4 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4:00 to 8:00 (4 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Saturday, 26 January

10:00 to 3:00 (5 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

3:00 to 8:00 (5 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Sunday, 27 January

10:00 to 1:00 (3 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

1:00 to 4:00 (3 hrs)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Help Wanted! WSMA Elections are coming soon

Are you concerned about the future of our sport and are willing to help promote it? We could use you on the executive board! Elections are coming up again in March and we have a number of positions available. Our current board is a small dedicated crew that has been doing great work for many years, but just like our federal political offices, there is something to be said for term limits and for sharing the load. Please keep this in mind as you enter the holiday season.

2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

23-27 JAN WASHINGTON SPORTSMEN'S SHOW, PUYALLUP, WA

9-10 MAR CASCADE MOUNTAIN MEN GUNSHOW, MONROE, WA



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