



Washington State



Muzzleloader's Association

October 2015 Newsletter

www.wamuzzleloaders.com

Board of Directors

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Upcoming 2015 WSMA

Sponsored Events

25-26 September Sacajawea
Heritage Days, Pasco, WA

25-26 September Trask
Mountain Primitive Rendezvous

3-9 October Early Muzzleloader
Elk Season

3-11 October WA Early
Muzzleloader General Deer
Season

17-27 October WA General Deer
Season

Late November WA Late
Muzzleloader General Deer
Season (see Regs for details)

Late November WA Late
Muzzleloader General Elk
Season (see Regs for details)

The Coming of Fall, by Mike Moran

There is something about fall that seems perk me up. The mornings are a little darker and cooler, and often as I walk the dogs the fog lays over the field. Sound travels differently in conditions like that, and you become more aware of the sounds around you in the diminished light. Winter is around the corner, time to check the roof and gutters and assess the wood pile. Fall also brings renewed interest in black powder projects, and I would like to tell you about some of mine.



I received my North Star West Trade Gun kit back in April, opened it up, and got ready to start. Having made one kit gun already I knew how to proceed, but then something about summer got me sidetracked. I went to the Gunmaker's workshop in August which kick started my progress again, and I've been setting aside regular workshop time to get it done. I've learned something new with this gun, "I hate soldering." But the soldering is now complete, extra solder has been cleaned up from the floor and walls (don't ask) and I'm ready to start shaping the stock.

Last spring I also thought that a nice wool over shirt would be nice for the days when a capote is just too much. I found some red wool fabric and a pattern for a drop yoke shirt and set to work. Of course, being the traditionalist that I am, I was going to hand sew the whole thing. I quickly realized that that is a lot of work, and decided to outsource. I talked with Ralph Birmingham, one of our traders who makes clothing and made a deal with him to finish what I started. Ralph did a better job than I ever could, and it gave me more time to work on my other projects. Unfortunately, the part I did make, the yoke, ended up way too big for me, and I had to reset the sleeves to make up for my miscalculation. But it fits pretty good now.

Earlier this month Chip Kormas helped me put on a black powder demonstration for the Boy Scouts during their Fall "Pioneer Adventure" Camp-o-ree in Orting. Chip has recently discovered bow making and taught the boys about wood selection, grain orientation, and tillering. I haven't tried

that yet, but it is on my list for sure, especially if you've seen my current bow. I also finished the shooting bag that I started while with my troop at summer camp this year.

As if that weren't enough, I decided to try brain tanning last year, and after several mistakes, came out with two nice buckskins. I've already got one hide this year that is waiting to be de-haired after I finish this letter, and I'll be looking for more. And that led me to take a look at my 2nd pair of moccasins that never quite fit right, and I figured out a way to modify them to both fit and look better. And I could use a new hatband. And a rifle case. And this, and that....., and.....

It is a tough life as a "maker of things", but there is no better place to practice it than with Muzzleloading. Happy Hunting.

WSMA Youth Grants

One of the best things we can do is get new shooters into our sport and the WSMA youth grant program does just that. I'm happy to report that we are already getting requests to support next year's events. Our Youth Grants applications are due by December 1st, reviewed by the Board of Directors, and granted based on funding available. Congratulations to the Evergreen Muzzleloaders, Interlake Mountain Men, and Puget Sound Free Trappers for their recently approved grant requests. These clubs have traditionally been exceptional at assisting young, new shooters get started. So good, in fact, that some of these kids have grown into pretty fierce competitors! If your club is interested, the application can be found on the WSMA website.

Got a Good Hunting Story?

Share it here. We are looking for more stories, tips, tricks, and other information to share. One thing I've learned about muzzleloaders is there is no shortage of stories told and advice given. Think about writing your story down and sending it in.

FALL HARVEST RENDEZVOUS-2015

By Mike Nesbitt

Once again we had some very good doin's at our Evergreen Muzzleloaders' Fall Harvest Rendezvous, including the weather which, at times, was too good. Our attendance was good, about 60 shooters, not as many as we've had at some previous doin's but still very good. While we must complement the crew and the staff, maybe even the booshway, for putting a good rendezvous together, it is still the participants who deserve just as much credit for being there. And we saw a couple of new faces too. Let's hope those "pilgrims" felt welcomed enough to come back and join us for some of our other doin's. And we had some new traders too.

Those traders, including Rusty Young the blacksmith, do their share in a big way to make our black powder

rendezvous more complete. Everyone who attends adds to the doin's.

Don Kerr was the booshway again and he had a lot of help from Scott Isom. Lew and Louanna Gaiser handled registrations this year with the help of their little dog. Yes, the little hound even had a special bed below the registration table. Most of us aren't that lucky. Tony Yaklich was on hand most of the time with coffee made and ready in the "warming shed" where we now have electricity. Pete Strobl



managed Sunday's "after aggregate" events again and there was a candle shoot on one of the evenings. Bob DeLisle and I did what we could to get the trails in order and Frank Ponceroff did quite a bit of work for us too. And Ol' Joker Joe was on hand as well, offering to assist where he could.

Some camps were being set up on Thursday and the first trader to get his tent and display set up was Ralph Birmingham. Ol' Ralph was making a blue wool mackinaw jacket for me and he promised to get it done by Fall Harvest. Well, when he pitched his camp it wasn't quite finished but he did get it done on Friday morning. I thought that was some doin's and I sure do like the jacket.

Yes, many of these names should be familiar to you if you have read one of these reports before. In that same vein, our top shooter was Clark Sherwood again. Yup, "Ol' Squatting Hawk" himself, pictured below. He was tops again this year, like he's done for so many



years, that just to get revenge I'm going to use last year's picture of him. I know, that's almost as bad as simply printing last year's report. Maybe next year I'll get an updated picture of him.

Mike Moran didn't make it this year so I can't tease him about his trade gun score again. And if he had shot with us, he'd still be using my gun just 'cause his own isn't quite ready to fire yet. Besides, with the low score I got, Mike would be teasing me. And Pete Strobl might have gotten a new trade gun. I'm saying that because I didn't see him do his shooting but he won the trade gun match with nearly a perfect score and that sounds like a new gun to me. Frank Ponceroff did extremely well too, only missed one target. And Ralph Birmingham made some good improvements with his trade gun shooting too by getting one of the flying targets. It seems like almost everyone's trade gun shooting was up and improved except mine. And I don't have

enough excuses to tell you what was wrong with my shooting. We'll try to pick on Mike Moran more seriously next year.

To the right is a picture of Ralph Birmingham as he fires at one of the trade gun targets. You can see fire going almost all the way across the picture. We'll have to ask him what he's feeding that gun...

The archery trail seemed to be tougher this year and only one archer came away with a score over 200. That was Kim Harrison with a score of 201. Tony Woore placed 2nd with 190 and Steve Andrews caught "the last arrow" with a score of 188. That's all very good but not quite as high as last year when all archers placed with scores over 200.

This year's pistol trail saw some very good



shooting, particularly from the gun of Mike Holeman. Mike aced the trail and there is no way to beat that. I didn't get to see Mike do his good shooting and I should have a picture of him to include here.



The heaviest competition was still on the rifle trail and Don Kerr did his best to make some of the targets very challenging. Just finding some of those targets was the challenge! Of course I had the help of Bob DeLisle in finding a couple of those targets even though my shooting was still all my own. Yes, I missed more than Bob did...

We can't forget that the Fall Harvest Rendezvous of the Evergreen ML'ers is also the Washington State Muzzleloading Association's (WSMA) Primitive Championships. All of the events were awarded with

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place WSMA medals. The main mission of the WSMA is to encourage black powder shooting for our youth and with assistance of the generous WSMA grants, the Evergreen Muzzleloaders gives away two guns each year. At this event the youth rifle, a full sized .50 caliber percussion, was won by J.D. Faubion who is seen at the right just after he received his new rifle. That rifle was purchased with money from the grant we received from the WSMA. This year Mike Moran, now the WSMA president, was not on hand to draw the winning name out of the hat. That didn't slow us down much at all but we hope Mike joins us again next year. Visit the WSMA web site at www.wamuzzleloaders.com.



WSMA Primitive Champions:

SHOTGUN

1st Pete Strobl
2nd Clark Sherwood
3rd Tony Woore

HUNTER'S CLASS

1st Bob Gietz
2nd Dale Gietz
3rd Nelson Freelove

PEE-WEE

1st J. D. Faubion

JUNIOR

1st Dylan Kellems

PISTOL

1st Mike Holeman
2nd Jojo McWhinney
3rd Don Kerr

KNIFE & 'HAWK

1st Clark Sherwood
2nd Mike Holeman
3rd Don Kerr

TRADE GUN

1st Pete Strobl
2nd Frank Ponceroff
3rd Gary Girard

ARCHERY

1st Kim Harrison
2nd Tony Woore
3rd Steve Andrews

MEN'S RIFLE

1st Tony Woore
2nd Clark Sherwood
3rd Don Kerr

MEN'S AGGREGATE

1st Clark Sherwood
2nd Mike Holeman
3rd Don Kerr

WOMENS' AGGREGATE

1st Cindy Riggs
2nd Minnie Lamadue
3rd Tom Dwyer

SENIOR AGGREGATE

1st Mike Nesbitt
2nd Jerry Charlton

TOP MOUNTAIN MAN

1st Clark Sherwood
2nd Allen Tresh

SENIOR RIFLE

1st Kim Harrison
2nd Gary Emberly

WOMEN'S RIFLE

1st Cindy Riggs
2nd Minnie Lamadue

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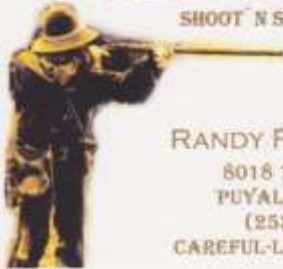
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