

WASHINGTON STATE MUZZLELOADER'S ASSOCIATION

September 2017 Journal

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FAREWELL TO PETE STROBL

By Mike Nesbitt



Pete Strobl passed away on the morning of September 4, 2017 at the age of 83. There will be more accurate and complete histories of his life, listing his personal credits, his career accomplishments, and his family written elsewhere because I want to focus on Pete and his activities as we knew them best, as a driving member of the Evergreen Sportsman's Club and the real pioneer of the Evergreen Muzzleloaders. Let's guess that there aren't many shooters at the Evergreen Sportsman's Club who come in contact with Pete Strobl.

Exactly when Pete joined the Evergreen Sportsman's Club is something I cannot say. That could be researched, rather easily perhaps, but just giving the date isn't the point right now. To say more about Pete, he was a serious shotgunner

and he also shot muzzleloaders. In those fields as well as others, Pete was a real leader.

My association with Pete Strobl came about in the mid-1980s. We had met before but no more than conversationally. It was in the mid- or late-80s that Pete visited a black powder shooting event at the Capitol City Rifle & Pistol Club just as an observer with the idea of starting a black powder club at Evergreen. Shortly after that, the Evergreen Mountain Men became an active but small cluster of shooters, headed by Pete. At first we did our shooting on the rifle range but many things have changed since then. (In 2008, after some re-organization, the name of the black powder club was changed to become the Evergreen Muzzleloaders.)

It was in 1992 that Pete almost single-handedly made the black powder shooting range, the shooting shed (since enlarged) and the trail-walk along the old railroad grade. Pete also designed and made the Knife & Tomahawk trail, which he called the Survival Trail because participants also must throw sticks and stones, even spears, to complete the course. Shortly after the shooting trail-walk was completed, a second shooting trail-walk was made. That's what we know as the "high trail" and it takes the shooters through more "hunting like" conditions.

Pete's interest in black powder shooting included all "corners" of the sport and that certainly included muzzle-loading shotguns. He also was keenly interested in teaching others about shooting all kinds of sporting arms and taught a shotgun shooting class for high school students. Back to muzzle-loading for a few more moments, he was an early member in the WSMA (Washington State Muzzleloading Association) which mainly focusses on black powder shooting and activities for young people. Pete became a member of the board in the WSMA and he also promoted and ran a number of WSMA shooting events.

More should be said about the Sporting Clays range and the activities there but I didn't personally participate enough on the Sporting Clays range to offer very many more comments. We can suppose, however, that Pete did almost all of the work putting that range together. We can guess that Pete did most of the work because if there was one thing that Pete had trouble with, it was he found difficulty in asking for help.

Marie Strobl, Pete's highly devoted wife, seems to be bearing up well. She says there are plans for a Celebration of Life in honor of Pete during the latter part of October at the Evergreen Sportsmen's Club. This will be a gathering of relatives and friends to share pictures, stories, and memories of Pete with the setting of a communal pot luck. Arrangements are being organized and further information will be provided as the time draws nearer. Marie is also looking for suggestions as to appropriate organizations to recommend as a recipient of memorial donations for a suitable non-profit cause.

Bremerton Brigade Rendezvous by Mike Moran

Take a great group of people, put them in their own area of a range, and open two weekends for great events and you have the Bremerton Brigade. This year I had a chance to attend the 42nd annual Bremerton Brigade Rendezvous on the first weekend of August. I found a nice shady spot to camp which would turn out to be a crucial decision, as the weather was hot. So hot, in fact, that the fire marshall outlawed open fires, and everyone was left to cooking on propane, however most folks just moseyed up to the cook shack for their vittles.



Terry Gadberry shows 'em how to load

The rendezvous had all the makings, including a rifle and pistol trail, hawk & knife, archery, candle shoot and the like. One event, however, made this rendezvous unique. Dave Rase had made up four "handgonne", or hand cannons for a competition on Saturday night. For those that have not seen one, this was one of the first versions of a muzzleloading weapon, which consisted of a barrel fitted on one end with a wooden handle like a broom stick so that the handle and barrel are both in line. One person holds the handle and aims, while a second person touches off the fuse. In this case, teams of two competed for the best

score out of 8 shots. The two winning teammates each got to take home one of Dave's creations.



Now that's some darned good shootin'

The Brigade also hosts an annual Youth Day, where kids can come in to try all the fun activities we muzzleloaders enjoy. Held on the first Saturday in June, kids from all over come to try their hand at firing black powder guns, shooting arrows, making fires, etc and get a nice lunch to boot!

Over the weekend the Bremerton Brigade folks dedicated their archery range to Coffee Pot, aka Bob Kindsvater who passed away not too long ago. Coffee Pot was a beloved member of the Brigade and a

trader who made his way around to many of the events in the area.

If you haven't had the chance to rendezvous in Bremerton, put it on your calendar for next year. It's worth the trip!

[Many Rivers Rifle Frolic, August 12-13](#)

by Will Ulry

It's a new ronde and with success. Seven Rivers shy on people to put on 7 Rivers ronde joined the Puget Sound Free Trappers for a time in the woods. It was a summer time Rain de Voo. Jerry Charlton filled the Boosway duties with Will Ulry Segundo. Fifty one shooters manned their muzzleloaders for the first of many "Frolics". It was great to see 10 Pee Wees and 5 Juniors join the shootin'. John Rhodes actually ran low of shooter prizes for the kids although it did work out. A couple new shooters joined the Juniors also. That left 36 armed adults blasting away on our trail walk. Jerry added some small and far bonus shots. That with two 5 shot paper targets left the aggregate at a 350 point total. No one came close to that but fun it was. Gary Emberly, a 7 Rivers guy, managed the top score winning with a tie breaker from the 3 way tie. Jerry wanted you to know he took second in the aggregate. Beside the aggregate, shooting was made up of side matches, "Blanket Shoots". The first was a Derringer shoot. Rowland Zoller drilled the gambler between the eyes for the win. Jerry's gopher was Sunday. An old Oregon guy won that you may remember Steve McLary. It was good to see our dead eye resurface. Steve brought pee wees and his lady Sally along. There were about 8 in his clan for the weekend. Jerry hung 3 beers at 100 Yards for a dollar shoot.



No one hit any of the 3. I don't know where that Dollars total was. Jerry was listing a little due to the dollars in his pocket. He changed that to a Liars shoot. We all advanced down the range with front stuffers ready. Someone would declare they could hit it. He would fire away. At the miss we would advance again. Finally someone didn't lie and hit it. About 6 of us lied about being able to hit it. Roy Brown didn't lie and blew the beer to smithereens. It wouldn't have been fitting for Roy lying being a preacher and all. It was good to see Roy



Dakota showing how to tan a hide

too. He has been missing from our rondes also. Roy and his son both shot. It was fun. That was it for the shooting. We will have more side matches "Blanket Shoots" next year. Six traders made it to the Frolic. Rain Saturday night sent shooters home with wet canvas. Bummer. Ben Crow was good addition to our doin's. I would like to thank Margret for her hard work. She filled in as waitress in the kitchen. Dana Atchinson and she really helped with the Pee Wees. John sends his thanks. Bob Jamison said the Frolic was the 13th kitchen duty he has done this year. Bob got a Life Membership to our club for all the hard work he has done. The food showed his efforts. Yum Yum. The Frolic is our 3rd ronde of the year. Rain de Voo, Oregon Trail Days and now the Many Rivers Rifle Frolic. Numbers were down but spirits up . See

you all at one of our shoots next year.

[Plainsmen at the Pierce County Fair](#) by Mike Moran

Doug "Dakota" Nash and Jenn Kellum from the Paul Bunyan Plainsmen set their lodge up as one of the displays at the Pierce County Fair held at Frontier Park in Graham from August 10-13, 2017. Throughout the fair they and a few others gave demonstrations on flint & steel fire making, primitive cooking, kids games and other skills of the pioneers. The crowd really enjoyed learning about life in the old days and many took the opportunity for some hands on practice. At the end of the fair they received the Director's Award for their innovative display.



Jenn and Doug show off the Director's Award

2017 and 2018 Calendar Website Updates

Have an event you want to get posted to the calendar? Need to post your new flyer or registration form? You can send the info and flyers to Bob Geitz at duckfreak@q.com or Mike Moran at michael.moran248@gmail.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

22-23 SEP SACAJAWEA HERITAGE DAYS, PASCO, WA

21 OCT S. HAWKIN BIRTHDAY SHOOT, OAK HARBOR, WA



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