

## The 21<sup>st</sup> WSMLA Winter Challenge Shoot by Phil Nissen

Members of the Deer Creek Muzzle Loaders enjoy this weekend of shooting, camping, and camaraderie as much as all of the shooters who travel from out of town that have joined us annually on President's Weekend for twenty one years! The shoot was born of cabin fever in these parts and is still a good fix for that common Wyoming winter malady.

Every year, the DCML President wracks his brain and with the help of a crystal ball and a little luck perhaps, puts together five guys and three gals and hopes they will be on top of their game for the weekend. It usually doesn't happen. There always seems to be one or two shooters on the number two or three teams that make a real stretch and shoot the lights out of the ten targets.

However, DCML returned to the top spot last year with its team #1 and when the smoke and snow cleared this year, we had done it again! The next closest team was breathing down our necks though and was certainly capable of taking the gold medallions and bragging rights away, but not this year.

Club members set up the canvas club palace along with Delbert's warm up tent on Thursday before the shoot, shoveling eight inches of the white stuff to get to dry ground. It was a calm day after the storm and the set up crew wished we had brought our rifles and had a target packet. Friday dawned equally as nice and even a tad warmer though, and by noon a festive and anxious little band of hillbillies was ready to assault the 200 yard range.



The first relay: Ready to burn powder on the 200 yard range were

Mike Dunn, Herb Dannar, Ned Dunn, Sean Dunn, Verlin Dannar & Brett Smith

The winds were like nothing I've ever seen in February before – dead calm! Ideal conditions for sure and it lasted the whole afternoon. Those shooters who got to our range early posted some pretty impressive scores. Why I even shot a 47 on one of the 100 yard targets, something I've never accomplished at any time. Hell! I haven't scored a 47 on any target at any distance in some years!

Some stragglers like Misfire rolled in about 4:00 and got in on a little bit of the fun, but most would have to wait for Saturday.

Saturday morning was pleasant enough; cold but not real windy - breezy but tolerable. By mid morning though, the weather started to degenerate and the wind picked up along with the white stuff. Somehow this didn't stop the party atmosphere. A group of seven giggling women and girls commandeered one of the fifty yard loading benches and proceeded to "man" the firing line. It sounded like a firing squad at first with a neatly choreographed "boom, boom, boom", and so on down the line. To say they were enjoying themselves would be an understatement.



Ginger Baumann, Jane Black, Brooke Mason, Angie Fredrick, Frankie Gavin, Amanda Mason and Trish Miller the only leftie of the squad get ready to make some noise!

In addition to capably running the club tent single handedly Trish Miller and Paula Sorter made the chili and sloppy Joes on Saturday and Sunday. In between signing up fifty four shooters they somehow found time to help score targets and post the scores for all to see. Trish even found time to play on the range and shoot all ten targets! That's what I call Mountain Women!

No less than two new rifles made their appearance at the shoot. Dave Lehto proudly showed off his pride and joy made by Gary Gavin. Brett Smith, too, passed around a new flintlock that displayed equally fine workmanship. Magic Johnson took delivery of a rifle new to him, a Travis Bennett long rifle that was passed along by Jim Archibald who gave Mike an introductory flint shooting lesson or two, not the least important of which was how to load a rifle almost as tall as the shooter.



Dave's new rifle made for him by Gary Gavin. It has many beautiful inlays and Dave promises to learn how to shoot it instead of drool on it and fondle it!



Brett Smith proudly cradles his beautifully finished new flint long rifle.



Jim Archibald presents his Bennett loooong Rifle to Magic Johnson and shows him how to best load the beast. Good luck with it Mike! It's a beauty!



Roger tries to remember how to load after grabbing a nooner and a nap at Kaycee on the way over Friday.



Junior Molina models the fancy gear needed by the well dressed Hi-tech muzzle loading shootist.



Mike Dunn demonstrates the proper Trigger squeeze on the 200 yd range



Bill Morrison tries to warm up as he gets ready to shoot a 50 yd target



Once he finally got his flintlock to fire his last shot, Rooster Baumann seems hopeful of a 200 yd score.



Jim Clarke shows another good 200 yard position



Do the math. 54 shooters X ten targets = 540 targets to score. Delbert Lesser and Dave Hein spent more than a few hours putting the markers to the paper



Paula Sorter and Trish Miller at work posting scored targets in the book

A few brave souls camped. Jeff Williamson and Rohm Whitaker set up a fine camp close to the range. Vern Fauss and Bryan Youngberg set up a single wall tent in a grove of trees they hoped would provide a windbreak should the wind erupt like it did last year when it shredded Bryan's tent to ribbons. He traded out of a covered trailer once again this year. Jim Clarke from Wisconsin drove in with his friend Frank Ferguson from South Dakota and camped for the weekend. Jim said he was getting away from the snow. It seems like they have had 79" so far, where he calls home. Jim celebrated his 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Sunday. Perhaps bravest of all was Magic Johnson and Rita Burg who decided to haul their big travel trailer over from Rock Springs. After sliding off the road just out of town, they safely made it to Glenrock by late day.

All in all, we had sun, we had snow, we had wind and we had fun. It sure beat being stuck at home. To those of you who participated, thanks and we'll see you again next year. Your scores appear elsewhere in this newsletter. To those that didn't, you missed a good shoot. Maybe we'll see you next year.



Phil Nissen, President, DCML

## 2008 Winter Challenge Shoot Results

	NAME	fer-du-lac	bottles	6-bull	5-bull buff	6-bull slug	dbl bull buff	sgl bull buff	pistol	single bull	200 yd bull	total	TEAM SCORE
1	Dave Hein	41	44	33	15	37x	44x	23	41	37	30	345xx	<b>DCML 1</b>
2	Jake Jacobsen	47x	23	45	24	45	46	8	39x	30	27	334xx	
3	Curly Lesser	39x	32	39	23	16	32	5	37	27	30	280x	
4	Brian Connelly	44	26	36	29	41	36x	27	26	22	13	300x	
5	Dane Sorter	47	35	42	30	39x	32	15	39	29	8	321x	<b>1580xxxxxxx</b>
6	Jim Miller	39	27	40	17	0	34	22	24x	21	6	230x	<b>DCML 2</b>
7	Rod Dye	42	28	35	14	8	41	20	28	15	32	265	
8	Phil Nissen	46	30	42	37	29x	42	36	47	26	22	357x	
9	Magic Johnson	42x	5	38	19	45	44	12	38	14	6	263x	
10	Jim Lantis	37	30	47x	22	27x	39	15	33	25	0	275xx	<b>1390xxxxx</b>
11	Ken Stack											0	<b>DCML 3</b>
12	Art Bergen											0	
13	Rohm Whitaker	31	29	35	14	19	7	0	13	0	26	174	
14	Bill Morrison	41	28	37	20	16	33	15x	23x	13	0	226xx	
15	Don Davis	37	23	36	9	8	9	10	17	5	0	154	<b>554xx</b>
16	Verlin Dannar	46x	47	43	39	44	44x	37	42	33	35	410xx	<b>5 Old Blind Guys</b>
17	Herb Dannar	43	25	38	31x	27	34x	21	28	36	0	283xx	
18	Ken Ford	45	27	40	19	25	32	38	32	37	12	307	
19	Rooster Baumann	43	25	44	13	35	35	22	17	25	14	273	
20	Ferlin Harris	46x	17	44xx	27	9	34	15x	23	29	21	265xxxx	<b>1538xxxxxxxxx</b>
21	Jeff Williamson	42	32	44	7	9	37	31	25	40	22	287	<b>PVML</b>
22	Bryan Youngberg	40	52	41	23	33x	41	26x	35	23	0	316xx	
23	Brian Lindgren	47	37	42	17	24	33	14	25	6	0	245	
24	Vern Fauss	44x	25	38	33	33	32	13	24x	26	0	268x	
25	Tim Fauss	45	41	42	26	27	33x	8	36	12	0	270x	<b>1386xxxx</b>
26	Dave Lehto	33	25	39	23	16	32	11	24	14	7	224	<b>WRML</b>
27	Kyle Lehto	35xx	32	42	27	28	38	15	34	16	7	274xx	
28	Rabbit Hubenka	42	18	44x	37	46	45	28	35	12	0	297x	
29	Bryan Wisky	44	17	45	38	28	44	23	36	19	10x	294x	
30	Everett Newell	35	20	32	9	17	22	5	0	19	0	154	<b>1243xxxx</b>
31	Brett Smith	45x	29	34	7	8	35	26	32	12	0	228x	<b>Misfits</b>
32	Ned Dunn	48xx	24	42	22	36	41x	30x	38	25	0	306xxxx	
33	Mike Dunn	46	32	41	37	25	38	8	34	21	16	298	
34	Sean Dunn	44	34	41	28	41	45	22	36	22	23	336	





