

# Washington State Muzzleloader's Association

August 2016 Journal

[www.wamuzzleloaders.com](http://www.wamuzzleloaders.com)



## Public Interaction – Building Our Future

It seems like the summer is flying by. I almost can't believe as I look back that the last Journal came out back in April. The weather this summer has been fantastic and it has kept me either out at events or in the garage tinkering with projects. But now it is once again time to put quill to parchment for another story.

Did you ever have that “a-ha” moment when the lightbulb goes off? I had one recently when I attended the Oregon Trail Days event in Tenino. It was a great little rendezvous put on by Adam Sampson and Will Ulry at the end of July, and it was the first time I attended. The rendezvous is only one part of the town's pioneer celebration, and the feature event is the shooting contest right in the middle of the city park. This, of course, draws some attention from the



**Jenn Gray shows off the President's Medal**



**Will Ulry and Adam Sampson at Tenino**

bystanders who could try their hand at a shooting during the public shoot. The two teepees and half dozen other camps helped to draw folks in as well. Unlike past years, the primitive camping area was moved down to the open area next to the shooting range, which brought a lot of interest from the bystanders. That's when the lightbulb went off – we need to get in front of the public.

All of the rendezvous events around are open to the public, and our advertising usually invites newcomers, but since most rendezvous have shooting contests, they are usually held at shooting ranges. Now as all good free trappers know, you get more plews when your trapline is set up where the beaver are. So here is the challenge – can we move our traplines?

It wouldn't make sense to relocate most of our big events, but keep an eye on smaller opportunities. Let

me tell you about a few of the recent ones. Earlier this month Bill Sick, Steve & Linda Cole and I set up a display at the Judsen Park Retirement Center in Des Moines for their "Pioneer Week" event, and gave a presentation on colonial and rendezvous era fur trade. Also this month was the Pierce County Fair at Pioneer Park in Graham. Jenn Gray and her daughters set up their camp and had people practicing their flint and steel firemaking and other buckskinner skills. She even won the President's Award for the Fair!

Keep an eye out for opportunities where we can get "out of the fort" so to speak, and into the public. Many clubs are already doing this – keep it up! If we want our clubs, events, and traders to remain strong into the future, we need some new blood in our ranks.

Mike Moran  
President, WSMA

## **SAYING GOODBYE TO NELSON**

By Mike Nesbitt



use, and has since that time been developed.

Nelson was given a buskskinners farewell at the Grand Mound Cemetery which is just across the road from where the old Fort Henness used to stand, near Rochester, Washington. He was a veteran and the flag that covered Nelson's coffin was folded by an honor guard from the National Guard and presented to Debbie Freelove, Nelson's loving wife for over 35 years.

With a genuine note of sadness, one of our members has gone under. That was Nelson Freelove, a good shooting member of the Evergreen Muzzleloaders plus the WSMA, and previous to that he was president of the Fort Henness Free Rifles plus being very active in Tenino's Oregon Trail Days. Nelson died at his home of natural causes on the morning of August 10, he was 65 years old (almost 66).

While Nelson was the president of the Fort Henness Free Rifles, he was also booshway of the shoots at Tenino and the two or three rendezvous that were held in the City of Rainier. Those Rainier rendezvous were outstanding and they had to be discontinued because the land was no longer available for such







The service was brief and informal, just the way Nelson would want it to be.

Then, as a final salute, four flintlocks were fired after everyone who had words to say had paid their respects. We can only assume that Nelson hear those last shots. He will certainly be missed.

## **THE DOIN'S AT TENINO, 2016**

By Mike Nesbitt

The doin's at Tenino was again the site for the **WSMA Formal Rifle Championships** and this year things were just a bit different. That's because Adam Sampson was the booshway and all of the shooters think he did a very good job. There will be few changes noticed in the scores due to his leadership, but a couple changes are there. Two examples of those changes; the rather unpopular 'hawk & knife match and the stake shoot were both dropped. This was the 39<sup>th</sup>

year for these



**The shooting line at Tenino, in the City Park**

blackpowder matches, held at the Tenino City Park in conjunction with the town's Oregon Trail Days. Once again, the "formal" part about these matches is based on the fact that this competition is all on paper targets for score and the rifle shooting done here is what makes up the WSMA Rifle Championships.

There are other matches held along with the rifle competition, such as a Trade Gun Match and a Pistol Match as well as some one-shot



**Tom Brown calling the shots**

novelty rifle matches which are not part of the championships or the rifle aggregate. Those “other matches” are certainly a good part of these doin’s at Tenino.



**Mike Moran with his flintlock .54 pistol**

There is also a Ladies’ Match and special matches for the young ones which are not part of the main aggregate. Those other shoots make the Tenino shoots more of a good doin’s for the whole family and they certainly add to the fun.

Again, Tom Brown was the range-master and he’s a good one. All of the shooters will agree that the time limit of 20 minutes per match is a good idea and most of us had no problems at all in getting off five shots in that length of time. Tom also does a very good job of explaining each target, for each match, so that every shooter has a clear understanding of how the match will be shot, from what distance and what shooting position.

Mike Moran joined us a bit late for any aggregate shooting but he did make some good shots on Sunday in the Trade Gun Match and in the Pistol Match. His pistol shooting with that new flintlock

.54,  
were  
good  
enough  
to put  
him in  
3<sup>rd</sup>

place, winning a certificate.

The Trade Gun Match is always a real attention getter at Tenino and this year we have a new winner. Don Kerr used his long barreled fowler to outshoot all the others. Don was followed closely by Adam Sampson, just three points behind. And Tim Sampson, Adam’s father, took 3<sup>rd</sup> place while scoring only one point behind Adam. That was a rather “tight” match.



**Trade Gun shooters Adam Sampson, Don Kerr, and Tim Sampson**

Those three shooters were all awarded with buffalo powder horns made by Steve Skillman.

In addition to the aggregate prizes “off of the blanket” which all shooters receive (if they participate in the aggregate), shooters were awarded WSMA medals for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> in the rifle events, and with certificates in the non-aggregate (non-WSMA) matches. The aggregate winner this year was JoJo McWhinney and he also won the pistol match. JoJo picked a custom Bowie knife as his aggregate prize.

Once again, very big, sincere and multiple Notes of Thanks go to **Top Shooter, JoJo McWhinney** Adam Sampson with the help of Will Ulry and Bob Gietz for being “ramrods” for this shoot. Let’s also mention Jan Sampson who ran the registration tent for these events.

There are really a lot more names who should be mentioned and thanked for their participation in helping with the set-up and operation of this event, in addition to those who have donated prizes for either the raffles or the shooting aggregate. Those aggregate prizes are the excellent and varied items that are “for grabs” by all shooters who shoot in the aggregate., are more than enough to be very good “bait” for



**Top Shooter JoJo McWhinney**



bringing shooters back to these events in Tenino. Those prizes almost covered the “prize blanket” at the beginning of the awards ceremonies.

The annual shooting matches at Tenino are, like I’ve said before, too good to pass up. Our turnout this year climbed just a little over last year with 35 shooters. That’s nothing like it was several years ago and if more shooters will come to these doin’s, the shoots at Tenino can only get better.

#### **MAIN AGGREGATE**

- 1. JOJO MCWHINNEY**
- 2. ANDY MCCOY**
- 3. TIM SAMPSON**

#### **MATCH #1 90 YD SINGLE BULL ANY POSITION**

- 1. JERRY CHARLTON**
- 2. MIKE NESBITT**
- 3. JOHN RHODES**

#### **MATCH #2 75 YD SINGLE BULLSEYE**

- 1. DON KERR**
- 2. ANDY MCCOY**
- 3. JIM RHODES**

#### **MATCH #3 50 YD SINGLE BULL BUFFALO**

- 1. ANDY MCCOY**
- 2. ADAM SAMPSON**
- 3. JERRY CHARLTON**

#### **MATCH #4 25 YD NIGHTMARE TARGET**

- 1. IRA MAKI**
- 2. JOJO MCWHINNEY**
- 3. TIM SAMPSON**

#### **MATCH #5 25 YARD CROW**

- 1. BOB DELISLE**
- 2. ADAM SAMPSON**
- 3. STEVE MALI**

#### **TRADE GUN MATCH**

- 1. DON KERR**
- 2. ADAM SAMPSON**
- 3. TIM SAMPSON**

#### **LADIES MATCH**

- 1. SHARI ENDIMSTER**
- 2. KIM HATFIELD**

#### **JUNIOR AGGREGATE**

- 1. CARSON EDMINSTER**

#### **PISTOL MATCH**

- 1. JOJO MCWHINNEY**
- 2. ADAM SAMPSON**
- 3. MIKE MORAN**

#### **CANDLE MATCH**

- 1. DAVE PERRY**
- 2. JACK NORTON**
- 3. KEN EDMINDTER**

#### **VEE NOTCH**

- 1. JACK NORTON**
- 2. CALEB SMITH**
- 3. CHADE SMITH**

#### **MIKE FINK MATCH**

- 1. KIM HATFIELD**
- 2. ANDY MCCOY**
- 3. SCOTT ISOM**

## **Fort Connah “ANGUS McDONALD DAYS”, 10-14 September**

The Fort Connah Restoration Society will celebrate "ANGUS McDONALD DAYS", his 200th birthday, during our Fall Open House Rendezvous Sat. Sept. 10-Wed. Sept. 14. This is a great opportunity to see the 1846 historic Hudson's Bay Fort Connah Trading Post come to life! This event will be FREE TO THE PUBLIC and includes demonstrations of time-era activities, crafts and kids games. *Moose Creek* chuckwagon-style bar-b-que, bake goods sale, beer & wine. MAIN EVENTS will be held Saturday 10-4 and Sunday 10-4.

There will be historical talks after the opening ceremony at 11:30 A.M on Saturday featuring the *Montana Highlander Bagpipe Band*. The band will also play at 3:30 P.M. in conjunction with a cake cutting ceremony.

Buckskinner Camp, Traders & Fort OPEN FREE TO PUBLIC, Mon Sept 12 thru Wed Sept 14. 12-5 P.M. Vendors & campers FREE with society membership.

Buckskinner Camp Sat-Wed with early set-up Friday Sept. 9. Contact Al Williams, Booshway at (406) 546-5067 OR [suewilliams0101@gmail.com](mailto:suewilliams0101@gmail.com) for more information. General information & trader/demonstrator set-ups call Carolyn Corey/Preston Miller (406)745-4336 email: [4winds@blackfoot.net](mailto:4winds@blackfoot.net)

Fort Connah is located 6 miles north of St. Ignatius at mile marker 39 on Highway 93.

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INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING EVENTS.**

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# Washington State Muzzleloaders Association

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## APPLICATION TO JOIN WSMA

New   Renew

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Annual Dues (\$10.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Family Annual Dues (\$15.00) (Head of house, spouse, children under 18, still living at home)

\_\_\_\_\_ Club Annual Dues (\$10.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Trader Annual Dues (\$20.00). Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to WSMA and mail to PO Box 2913, Olympia, WA 98507**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletters will be sent by email unless requested otherwise.

## AREAS OF INTEREST AND PREFERENCES

Primitive: \_\_\_\_\_

Flint Rifle: \_\_\_\_\_

Target: \_\_\_\_\_

Perc. Rifle: \_\_\_\_\_

Hunting: \_\_\_\_\_

Pistol: \_\_\_\_\_

Historical: \_\_\_\_\_

Shotgun: \_\_\_\_\_

Trader: \_\_\_\_\_

Trade Gun: \_\_\_\_\_

Gun Maker: \_\_\_\_\_

Appraisal: \_\_\_\_\_