

# Washington State Muzzleloader's Association

November 2015 Newsletter

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



## Upcoming Events

We've got some exciting events coming around the corner and I want to tell you about. Most of these events will be familiar to you, but maybe this year there are some new twists. Here we go.

**Washington Sportsmen's Show (Jan 27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>)**. Bob O'Loughlin who runs the Sportsmen's Show contacted me over the summer saying he wants to expand the Muzzleloading section of the show. With our input, he is contacting more black powder vendors and hopes to have a several booths in our usual area where we can point people to so they can get set up to shoot with us. We'll need a good showing of our WSMA volunteers to have a good presence at the booth. Active demonstrations, such as horn or rifle making, really bring the spectators over.

**Youth Rony Boxes**. For those young shooters you want to bring around to rendezvous, we have several kits with everything a new shooter needs. A .50 cal rifle, pouch, horn, hawk, and knife, and it even comes with patches, powder and ball! Only one of the four boxes was used last year, we'd like to see these get out to the folks who can use them. Just fill out an application from the WSMA website and send it in for consideration. There is no cost for the year-long use of the box.

**Cascade Mountain Men Gun Show (Mar 12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>)**. The great folks at CMM will again have their annual Muzzleloading Gun Show at the Monroe Fair Grounds. This is one of the biggest events of its kind and brings vendors from all over the Northwest. WSMA will again have a booth set up where you can renew your memberships or purchase your tickets for the Fundraising Banquet in April.

**WSMA Fundraising Banquet (Apr 9<sup>th</sup>)**. The annual Fundraising Banquet will be held at the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club in Puyallup this spring. We've already been contacted by some of our local craftsmen with pledges to make items for the auction. As you know, we have some very talented people in our area and the items they turn out are true works of art. Also this year the women of Women's Primitive Skills have offered to cook the dinner for us! We know what a fantastic job they do with the honor table and the hors d'oeuvres, I can't wait to taste this meal! So start saving your money for this once a year event.

## WSMA Youth Grants

Congratulations to the Skagit Muzzleloaders for the award of their youth grant, which will help continue the great work they do in their neck of the woods. The deadline for applications was December 1<sup>st</sup>, but if your organization is still interested, get an application from the website and send it in.

## 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.

## A Poker Shoot in Bremerton

by Mike Moran

"Looks like I won't need to clean my fork now" said Bill Daly as he looked down and realized that it had been licked clean by one of the two dogs hanging around the fire. We were just finishing up a wonderful pot luck lunch under the gazebo at the Poulsbo Sportsmen's Club, where the Bremerton Brigade holds their monthly shoots on the first Sunday of the month. However, this was the second Sunday as they will adjust the date if the Seahawks are playing. Regardless of the date, everyone was well fed and had a good time.

Never having visited with the Bremerton Brigade I got to the site a little early. Wally McKendry was there to open the gate and between the two of us, we got a nice fire going in the gazebo. I would like to tell you that it was made with flint and steel, but I didn't bring that with me, so a Bic lighter and some Starbucks napkins had to suffice. As the flames grew so did the crowd, and soon there was quite a gathering. Boyd Phillips took me on a tour of the facilities, showing me the range areas, cook shack, and how things are laid out for their rendezvous.



*Some of the cards were on the snowman*

At 9:30 we gathered for the safety briefing and the firing order. Gene DuVall laid out the course, which was focused on four target, each of which had cards stapled face down to it. The object was to shoot one card from each target, then see what your poker hand was. In order to keep things in order, each target had cards from only one suit. This meant you had only a four card hand. Of course, if you missed a card, you might have only a three or a two

card hand. But a pair can beat an ace high hand, so anything might happen. In addition to the cards, Gene gathered up all the leftover vegetables from his garden and had them set out on the range, as well as a line of empty cans.

Shooting started with some practice shots at some of the stations along the trail walk as we made our way down to the covered range area. I was introduced to the “Nuts and Bolts” target, as well as some of the others. It’s a good thing we took these practice shots, and I discovered that I needed the practice. No scores for this area, just “braggin’ rights”. Once at the range area we broke into small groups and started shooting, stopping every now and then to retrieve our cards. There was no scoring on the cans or veggies, and most people had fun making salad. A few shots were taken at the long range buffalo target.



*Prizes ready for a Thanksgiving meal*

After the shooting was done, there was a bit of a break as some of the Brigade folks were finishing up some work party projects. When we all gathered up again, the cards were compared to see who had the best hand. Prizes that day were all food related, except for a hand-made wooden box given to the best hand. If you haven’t shot at Bremerton before, I recommend you go.

## **Of Turkey Feathers and Little Pumpkins**

by Mike Moran



I don’t know why we continue to do it, but we let Karla Hillberg choose the course of fire for the Paul Bunyan Plainsmen’s Turkey Shoot. It happened last year, too; but Mother Nature intervened with a rain storm to keep Karla in check. This year the weather was great so we were on our own and got the full Karla experience.

Being the week before Thanksgiving, and having frozen turkeys as prizes, there was naturally a Thanksgiving theme to the match. Even the scorecard had pilgrims on it. Our first paper target was a couple of turkeys, set at 25 yards, and shot with 5 shots. The second paper target was a pilgrim with an ax chasing a turkey, again at 25 yards and again with 5 shots. Not too difficult it would seem, but the target rings were pretty small, and you lost all 5 shots if you hit the pilgrim. The turkey hunters in the group would argue that those conditions were

pretty realistic.

Now for the fun. At 15 yards there were two novelty shoots. The first was a pumpkin, or more correctly a gourd of some kind, no bigger than an orange. You had one chance to hit the pumpkin. The next shot was at a row of turkey feathers stuck upright in a board. Now just to make sure there was no “exaggerated eye balling” going on, Karla stipulated that a hit would only be counted if you hit the spine of the feather. Again, there was only one shot to hit the target (and again the turkey hunters would say that was realistic). Ten points were awarded per shot, giving a max score of 120 for the match.

The paper targets were set and the shooting began. There was a mid-shoot pause called to reset the pumpkin and fix some targets, but the match progressed well. When it was over, there were a lot of smashed pumpkins, but those turkey feathers remained untouched. At the prize table there were 10 turkeys and some of the more regular prizes to be handed out. It was great to see so many people who traveled in to join us.

As we closed, Chip Kormas reminded everyone that the next match will be our **Christmas Match and Toys for Tots Fundraiser**, where in lieu of a shooter’s fee, we collect cash or new unwrapped toy donations for the Toys for Tots. We hope everyone can come join us that day, and help raise funds for such a great organization. It will be Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.

1. Mike Nesbitt	105	8. Wally McKendry	83	15. Gina Hansen	56
2. Don Kerr	93	9. Chip Kormas	75	16. Karla Hillberg	52
3. Mike Holeman	92	10. Freek Hoover	71	17. Bill Sick	35
4. Dave Rase	91	11. Chris Statz	71	18. Lori Caswell	32
5. Frank Ponceroff	86	12. Jim Hillberg	68	19. Dakota Nash	27
6. Bob DeLisle	85	13. Mike Moran	66	20. Jayme Haeckel	0
7. Jim Haeckel	85	14. Jack Knight	64		

## Our Monthly Shoot

by “Loco Jeff” Ritter



*Don Kerr, Bob DeLisle, and Frank Ponceroff hit the trail*

It rained all night, before the day we shot, but we still kept our powder dry. For we had targets and gongs to hit, and we hit them, do or die. (To be sung to "Oh Suzanna").

Actually, the weather was rather kind. The rain had stopped before the shoot got started and then held off long enough for some shooters to take several "revenge" shots. Those pesky gongs will move, won't they?

Attendees; Bob DeLisle, Don Kerr, Frank Ponceroff, Scott Isom, and Tony Yaklich, plus yours truly.

Don, Bob, and Frank burned powder, Tony made his usual great coffee, for the first time on his new shelf in the almost complete warming shed. Scott shot just for the heck of it. I made the usual nuisance of myself.

Bob DeLisle ran the paper side of the match with a 25 yard "sunrise" target and a 50 yard single bullseye buffalo. Scott noticed that one of the roof braces was broken. Because Mike Nesbitt was not there to take umbrage or defend himself, Mike was accused of hitting it with his head! (He is known for doing that.)

After the echoes of the shots had died away and the scores were tallied up, it was easy to see our returning champion was Bob DeLisle with Don Kerr in second place, and Frank Ponceroff with a trailing third.

By the time our monthly meeting, which consumed a whole 19 minutes, was adjourned, the sun had peeked out and gave promise of a nice afternoon.

Hope to see you all next month.

#### **MATCH RESULTS:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Trail</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1. Bob DeLisle</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>2. Don Kerr</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>3. Frank Ponceroff</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>104</b>

### [Correction to Last Month's Newsletter](#)

The results for Fall Harvest were a little scrambled when formatted. The winner of the Pee Wee division was J.D. Faubion and the winner of the Junior division was Dylan Kellem's. Congratulations again for a great performance.

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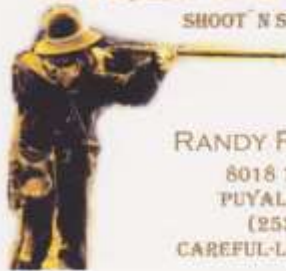
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Margaret Evenson

marken5@frontier.com

**WSMA Booth at Puyallup Sportsmen's Show  
Volunteer List**

Please contact Mike Moran at [michael.moran248@gmail.com](mailto:michael.moran248@gmail.com) to volunteer. We need a minimum of three people per shift, more are certainly welcome! Volunteers get into the show for free.

**Tues 26 Jan (set up - time TBD)**

1. Mike Moran
2. Bill Daly
- 3.

**Wednesday, 21 January**

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 12:00 to 4:00 (4 hrs) | 4:00 to 8:00 (4 hrs) |
| 1. Mike Moran         | 1. Mike Moran        |
| 2.                    | 2.                   |
| 3.                    | 3.                   |

**Thursday, 22 January**

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 12:00 to 4:00 (4 hrs) | 4:00 to 8:00 (4 hrs) |
| 1. Mike Moran         | 1. Mike Moran        |
| 2.                    | 2.                   |
| 3.                    | 3.                   |

**Friday, 23 January**

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 12:00 to 4:00 (4 hrs) | 4:00 to 8:00 (4 hrs) |
| 1. Mike Moran         | 1. Mike Moran        |
| 2.                    | 2.                   |
| 3.                    | 3.                   |
| 4.                    | 4.                   |

**Saturday, 24 January**

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 10:00 to 3:00 (5 hrs) | 3:00 to 8:00 (5 hrs) |
| 1. Mike Moran         | 1. Mike Moran        |
| 2.                    | 2.                   |
| 3.                    | 3.                   |
| 4.                    | 4.                   |

**Sunday, 25 January**

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 10:00 to 4:00 (4 hrs) | 4:00 to 8:00 (4 hrs+, includes clean up) |
| 1. Mike Moran         | 1. Mike Moran                            |
| 2.                    | 2.                                       |
| 3.                    | 3.                                       |
| 4.                    | 4.                                       |