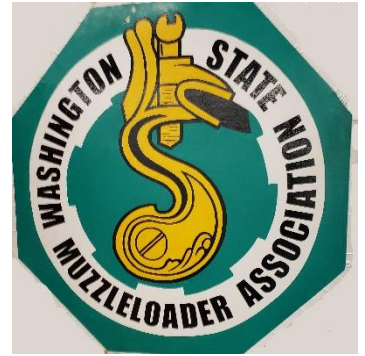


WASHINGTON STATE MUZZLELOADER'S ASSOCIATION

June/July 2021 Journal

www.wamuzzleloaders.com



President's Letter

By Steven Cole

How time flies. It seems like we were just shaking off the chill of winter and welcoming the first signs of spring, yet here we are with record breaking heat and more importantly a mostly rejuvenated rendezvous season.

It has been very nice reconnecting with members of the rendezvous family. I hope to see more of you as the season continues and we are able to experience the smell of black powder, the ever satisfying sound of a metal gong when it is struck by a round ball, and the camaraderie of sharing a campfire with friends.

As we add these experiences with those from past years, let's make it a point to invite the uninitiated into the fold. This sport/hobby/lifestyle is way too much fun to not invite others. It has been my personal experience that for every ten people that you invite to an event, on average two show up. Of those two, one will get the "bug" and continue in reenacting. I'm not saying this to be negative. In fact, just the opposite, our sport is unique in a lot of ways. We attract shooting enthusiasts looking for a another discipline to explore, people interested in camping and the outdoors, lovers of history, and hunters.

We need to explain to the people that we interact with, how very diverse muzzleloading is as a hobby. (or I would describe as a passion) My personal goal is to have ten new people attend a rendezvous, monthly shoot, or primitive encampment this year. Then the next step is to mentor them and make them feel welcome. I'll keep you posted on my progress. Please share your experiences as well.

Reflections and Observations on the Mountain Man Rendezvous

By Arthur Castle

Growing up in a house filled with books, I was drawn to the biographies of historic people. They transported my imagination and wonder into the periods of history in which these figures lived. In my youth I attended many events that were based upon actual history and some that were just fun. I preferred the historical events then as I do now.

A few years ago I was introduced to the Mountain Man Rendezvous' by a friend's friend. Not only was I pleased with the prevailing theme of "rugged individualism", but also the welcoming nature of the participants. You could pull up in a modern car wearing jeans and a t-shirt and be warmly welcomed by enthusiastic people representing different interests within the time period. Many willing to guide those interested in participating at varied levels of involvement. From just experiencing the environment to full participation portraying a person from history or a person from that time in history.

I have chosen to represent consistent characters from various times in history. Beginning with a merchant from Elizabethan England to a chandler for adventurers and pirates from the 1730s-40s, to a sutler providing supplies to the armies and other forces fighting for independence in America, and now as a trader of goods at rendezvous.

I have embraced the advice here freely given: "Tie in who you are to who you will portray and you will find more success and happiness in your endeavors."

We all have a story to tell. I invite you to come share yours with us.

2021 UPCOMING EVENTS

30 JUL-1 AUG

TWO RIVERS RENDEZVOUS FAWN CREEK CAMPGROUND LIBBY, MT (NO OPEN FIRES)

6-8 AUG

BREMERTON BRIGADE RENDEZVOUS POULSBO SPORTSMEN'S CLUB POULSBO, WA

13-15 AUG

WHIDBEY ISLAND FREE TRAPPER'S RENDEZVOUS GREEN'S GUN SHOP/SHOOTING RANGE WHIDBEY ISLAND, WA

19-22 AUG

WASHINGTON HISTORICAL GUNMAKER'S GUILD WORKSHOP CAPITOL CITY RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB LITTLEROCK, WA

PAUL BUNYAN RENDEZVOUS 2021

It sure felt good seeing old friends again at the Paul Bunyan Plainsmen Rendezvous this Memorial Day weekend. The weather was glorious and the good times abundant. The Plainsmen were honored to host this much needed and much anticipated event. It sure was Shining Times!

The crowd was a little smaller this year, at just under a hundred registered guests of which 58 were shooters. The format remained the same, with trail guides leading groups out to the rifle, pistol, and knife and hawk trails for the main aggregate event. Mark Curtis came all the way down from his new home in Sequim to Boosway the event.

Will "Bugler" Ulry had his candy cannon going everyday at noon for the kids, and Jack Knight led the kids in crafts and games. Jim Haeckel had a new twist on the self-guided archery trail with the addition of some 3-D animal targets. Tim Klima knocked it out of the park again this year with his now world-famous stew pot, and Rich Pogue almost completely re-vamped the knife and hawk trail. Mark Curtis held the trade gun shoot on Monday morning.

The only rainy day occurred on Thursday, when most of the traders set up their shops. The rain would start and stop, and the wind made setting up tents a challenge. But a little rain won't stop a hearty Pacific Northwesterner, and Trader's Row came together. There were plenty of blanket traders as well. We can't thank the traders enough for what they bring to the event, the true spirit of the rendezvous.

We lost Dan Smith this past year, a long-time Plainsmen and the man responsible for our Pee Wee Shoot. Dan's family committed to continuing his legacy and hosted what we now call the Dan Smith Memorial Pee Wee Shoot. This year's winner took home a muzzleloading rifle that had been worked on by Dave Rase and Doug Kitchens. It was donated by Mark Curtis, and was his very first muzzleloader.

The novelty shoots this year consisted of the team Stake/Steak shoot and a Split the Ball shoot, both led by Bill Sick. Apparently bad welds get worse with age and the axe heads proved no match for the shooters, which broke the axe heads instead of the clay pigeons they should have. Special thanks to Greg Romanczak who re-welded both axe head targets and the competition continued the next day after everyone's favorite, the Chicken Shoot.

A relatively new event this rendezvous was the "Fur Trade Follies", a self-guided scavenger hunt dreamt up by Mike Moran. The participant takes a card with 13 tasks on it, such as start a fire with flint and steel, have a meal or drink in someone's camp, or set a beaver trap. Once 10 of the tasks have been completed, the card is turned in for a chance to

win a prize. This year, Steve "Stitch" Hohnstein took home an American Flag display made by a local veteran.

Sunday night everyone gathered for the Council Fire and Apple Pie contest, with the leftovers available for sampling. A little apple pie goes a long way to lubricating the lips, and soon there was laughter, singing, and some music being played. It was a great wrap up to the events of the weekend.

To help raise a little money, the plainsmen raffled off some extra special prizes. This year we had a set of Steve Skillman powder horns, a painting donated by Mark Curtis, and a black powder rifle built by Tim Sliffe, a former Paul Bunyan R&S Club member. Tim built this gun back in 1976 for the U.S. Bi-centennial celebration and his sister donated it back to the club on behalf of Tim's estate. She hoped it would honor his memory in supporting youth marksmanship. It was won by one of our Juniors, Jazzy Rieves.

Booshtway Mark started the awards ceremony with a recognition of the military veterans in the audience and a remembrance of the fallen service members for Memorial Day. The prize table was chock full of great plunder thanks to Karla and Jim Hillberg. Mark recognized the many dedicated volunteers who helped make the event possible, with Chip Kormas and Helen Sick in registration, the many trail guides and helpers from other clubs, and Mike Moran, Dakota Nash, Eric Burkhead and others with set up and tear down.

As the tents came down and the people cleared out, only the smoldering ashes remained. Re-kindled friendships and new memories will hold us over until next year, when we can all gather again for rendezvous.

Men's Aggregate

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1. Glenn Borg | 48 |
| 2. Two Tails | 44 |
| 3. Squatting Hawk | 43 |

Women's Aggregate

- | | |
|------------------|----|
| 1. Knee Walker | 33 |
| 2. Marley Sotelo | 30 |
| 3. Lori Caswell | |

Junior Aggregate

- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| 1. Nicholas Schubert | 16 |
| 2. Natalie Schubert | 10 |
| | 21 |

Archery

Squatting Hawk

Junior Archery

Natalie Schubert

Trade Gun

Will Ulry

Fur Trade Follies

Steve Hohnstein

Pee Wee Shoot

Jazzy Rieves

Apple Pie Contest

Ted Hogland

Stake Shoot

Derek Sotelo
Tony Plante
Allen Tresch
Marley Sotelo

Split the Ball

Lem Bartley

Chicken Shoot

Bob Tresch
Marley Sotelo

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