

WASHINGTON STATE MUZZLELOADER'S ASSOCIATION

March 2023 Journal

www.wamuzzleloaders.com



WSMA FUNdraising Banquet – March 25th

Come one, come all to the annual WSMA Banquet where we put the FUN in fundraising. This year is sure not to be missed, as we have some great things planned. This year, our caterer is providing a **Pacific Island Feast** – island BBQ chicken, kalua pork, and pineapple upside down cake – and that’s just for starters. In addition to being delicious, it’s a way to commemorate the influence of the “Kanakas” in the fur trade as the ships picked up sailors in Hawaii as they came ‘round the horn headed for Astoria. Many of those sailors jumped ship and headed up river with the fur brigades.

We also have to thank our many traders who donated items at the Cascade Mountain Men’s gun show for our auction. Their generosity, and the generosity of our many talented local craftsmen always ensure there are prime goods up on the auction block. And to keep it all flowing with a good dose of humor, Mark Curtis will be back as the auctioneer.

We still need some help once we get there with set up, helping to run the games and activities, and auction cashiers.

Tickets can be purchased at the door for **\$25 per person**. Bring plenty of money, there is lots to bid on, and it all goes to supporting the youth programs at our various muzzleloading clubs. At the gun show the WSMA booth was next to the folks from Pacific Primitive Rendezvous, who said they wouldn’t have a kids program if it wasn’t for our support.

Membership Renewals

Didn’t get to the gun show or forgot to stop by the booth and renew? You can still send in your renewal form by mail. You can print the form off the website, and while you’re at it, print two and get a new member to join.

NRA Certified Muzzleloading Classes

Bill Gruner of Velente’s Forge, one of our Traders, is a certified NRA Instructor at the Marysville Rifle Club. He teaches class in Basic Muzzleloading Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun. He has classes available **August 19th and Nov 18th, 2023**.

To sign up for a class, email Bill Gruner at wilhelm@nwinfo.net or call (360) 348-7081.

New Muzzleloading Shoots at Tacoma Rifle & Revolver

This year the folks at Tacoma Rifle & Revolver are bringing back muzzleloading to their range in the University Place area of Tacoma. There will be a shoot on **March 19th** and one on **September 10th**. The start time will be 10:00 am and the fee is \$10. There will be 4 targets at 25 yards, 3 targets at 50 yards, and 3 targets at 100 yards. Contact Chris Spieth at 30calchris@gmail.com for more info.

RAIN-DE-VOO!!

By Mike Nesbitt

Rain-de-voov is the biggest black powder event we have for February in our neck-of-the-woods so we can't let this go without a decent report on such doin's. And this year's Rain-de-voov was such a good one that it deserves a good report.

The booshway for this year's Rain-de-voov was Derek Sotelo and he did a very good job, in my opinion. Of courses, part of that good job included selecting good volunteers to help with things. Putting on a modern black powder rendezvous is not a one-man job. So, when I compliment Derek, I'm also complimenting his whole staff from the Segundo on down to the trail boss and the trail guides. To put all things into a tiny nutshell, it was good!

For me, Rain-de-voov began when the group of volunteers did their shooting on Friday morning. This is done before the general participants do their shooting so that those with jobs to do, such as trail guiding, can get their rifle shooting out of the way. It was lightly raining on the Friday morning when we, the volunteers, gathered at the trail head to do our rifle shooting. This group of volunteers was smaller than it had been in the past, only eight of us, but that didn't bother us a bit. We shot the trail in two groups of four, recording our hits on scorecards, and every shot had to be witnessed. (Nobody shoots our trails alone.) And I don't think the light rain was any negative factor at all in the shooting we did, flintlock or percussion.



In our group of four shooters, and we took the lead being just a little faster than the second group, included names you'll probably recognize; Bob DeLisle, Jerry Mayo, Mike Moran, and myself. Among those four, I was the only one using a percussion rifle (and I heard about it). The rifle I was carrying was my lightweight 'local' Hawken in .50 caliber and I selected that rifle because of its weight and

handiness, not for its ignition. (It is called a "local Hawken" because rifles like it were made for the local Missouri trade and not necessarily for the mountain men.) On top of that, I seem to be able to see that rifle's sights in the woods and that's reason enough to take it along on a trail-walk.

The load I used included 50 grains of 3Fg GOEX powder under a patched .490" round ball, and I was using Speer's swaged balls. Ignition was from a #11 CCI percussion cap.

Twenty-one shots later I could tally my score and I had missed only five of the targets. That's not too bad at all, especially considering how dark the misty-rainy morning was. I had even hit the last target which is a tiny white spot, no bigger than a golf ball, which we shoot at with a powder charge of no more than 40 grains. I dropped my powder charge down to 35 grains. Each shot must be witnessed and on this target that is necessary because the shooter won't be able to tell if the shot was a hit or a miss. Smoke from the gun's muzzle hides the small steel target and it has already returned to its standard position before that smoke clears. In my case, Bob DeLisle was watching and he let me know that my shot had been a good one.

While I say my shooting "wasn't too bad," I don't need to point out how there was a lot of room at the top. At least four shooters topped my score. They did some good shooting and I certainly tip my hat to them.

At Rain-De-Voo the shooting aggregate is made up with the score from the rifle trail added to either the knife & 'hawk score or the archery score. Shooters get their choice of trying their best with the knife & 'hawk or the primitive bow and arrow. Of course, shooters can do both if they enjoy doing so but the choice for which will be added to their aggregate score must be made before the scores are made.

Next, Mike Moran and I grabbed our bows and arrows to shoot the archery trail. I traded my Montana Peak hat for my beaver fur cap. One reason for changing hats was because the brim of the Montana Peak "cowboy hat" gets touched by my bow's string when an arrow is at full draw and that seems to distract me.

On each of the first four archery targets, I got just one hit. We're allowed two shots per target. Any hit is worth five points, from legs and feet to ears or antlers. But then a good hit in the "kill zone" gives the shooter ten points per shot. So, two good hits per target means twenty points per animal. On those first four targets, I got only five points each... Mike Moran was getting ahead of me very easily, although he was missing some of his shots too. Then on the fifth target we both hit with both shots. That was worthy of a picture. Yes, things were getting better.



When we finished the archery trail, Mike was in first place and I was second. Those scores would have gotten us awards if no one else had shot. In the end,

several shooters outshot me but Mike did well enough to stay in 2nd place. Let me finish this description of our primitive archery trail with one more big **Thank you!** to Dale Soost and the Capitol City Bowmen, that's a good shoot which is really a lot of fun.

For pistol shooting, we went back to the main trail-walk and fired at twelve pre-selected targets. The first target is what might be considered an easy one, it's a small oxygen bottle (empty, of course) hanging perhaps ten yards away. I loaded my .50 pistol with 35 grains of 3Fg GOEX powder under the .490" ball, aimed well, and squeezed the set trigger. The gun roared and Mike said, "Way down low and to the right!" I explained to Mike how what he saw was a ricochet in the brush and pointed out how the oxygen bottle was swinging back and forth from the hit. Mike agreed and we went on...

Last year I won the pistol match and I tried this year too. I recall, last year I missed just one target and I missed the same target this year, the sucker! (Little fruit flavored suckers mounted on a pole and why I keep missing, I don't know?) But this year my old partner, Bob DeLisle, tied me on the Pistol trail, we both got eleven out of twelve hits. And Bob's tiebreaker, which we had shot on the Rifle trail, was a tiny bit better than mine. So, I took 2nd and Bob was awarded first place for the pistol match. Good doin's, Bob!!

Tom Witt and Will Ulry joined our group for the Trade Gun match and that brought our group up to six people, counting both Mike Moran and I, plus Bob DeLisle, and Jerry Mayo. And it was raining again so I wore the Montana Peak for just a bit more protection. The rain didn't even slow us down at all, we shot very well and kept moving like a group of good shooters should.

About halfway through the trail, a quick check proved that the flint in my gun was no sharper than a tennis ball, so that was changed on the spot. From then on, I had very good ignition as well as having the bestlooking smoothbore on the firing line. (At least, I think so...!) Allen Tresch, who joined our Black River Troublemakers in the Quad-Club Match, won the Trade Gun match at Rain-de-voo. He also won the Top Mountain Man award and scored quite highly in all of the events he participated in. Good doin's for Allen!!

Also, at this Rain-de-voo we held a couple of meetings to discuss the Rain-de-voo for next year plus some other business. There will be a Rain-de-voo next year and we'll start including the flier for that doin's, maybe in the next issue. Also, the rendezvous-minded folks in the Puget Sound Free Trappers decided to put on another rendezvous, in late August or early September which will be called The Fall Gathering. More on that will be announced and it certainly sounds like a good doin's worth going to.

2023 Calendar Updates

Please check the schedule on the website to ensure your event dates and contact info are correct. Send your club rendezvous flyers to michael.moran248@gmail.com for upload to the website calendar.

- 25 MAR WSMA FUNDRAISING DINNER, PUYALLUP, WA**
- 5-7 MAY SNARLIN' BADGER GRUB SHOOT, BREMERTON, WA**
- 5-6 MAY HORN AND ACCOUTREMENTS FAIR, LITTLEROCK, WA**
- 19-21 MAY WOMEN'S PRIMITIVE SKILLS, PAUL BUNYAN R&S CLUB, PUYALLUP, WA**
- 26-29 MAY PAUL BUNYAN PLAINSMEN RENDEZVOUS, PUYALLUP, WA**
- 2-4 JUN INTERLAKE MOUNTAIN MEN RENDEZVOUS, SEDRO WOOLEY, WA**
- 23-25 JUN PALOUSE HILLS RENDEZVOUS, COLFAX, WA**
- 14-16 JUL TIOGA MOUNTAIN MEN RENDEZVOUS, COQUILLE, WA**
- 21-23 JUL OR TRAIL DAYS AND BOB GEITZ MEMORIAL ENCAMPMENT, TENINO, WA**
- 30 JUL TRADE GUN FROLIC, PAUL BUNYAN R&S CLUB, PUYALLUP, WA**

24-27 AUG HISTORICAL GUNMAKER'S WORKSHOP, LITTLEROCK, WA
1-4 SEP FALL GATHERING, PUGET SOUND FREE TRAPPERS, LITTLEROCK, WA
10 SEP MUZZLELOADER SHOOT, TACOMA RIFLE & REVOLVER, TACOMA, WA

You are invited to the
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***FUNDRAISING
BANQUET***

Saturday, March 25th, 2023

5:00 Bar is open
6:00 Dinner is served
7:00 The fun begins!!!

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or at the door for a \$25 donation per person

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For more information and donations contact:
Mike Moran (253) 232-3087
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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, mail to 6536 Fawcett Ave, Tacoma, WA 98408

Name: _____ Club: _____

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Newsletters will be sent by email unless requested otherwise.

AREAS OF INTEREST AND PREFERENCES

Primitive: _____

Flint Rifle: _____

Target: _____

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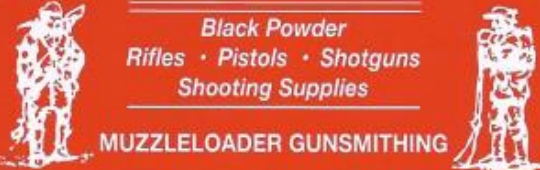
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