

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 4

the

BUCKHORN SKINNERS

NEWSLETTER

The weekend of October 17-19 marks this years "Buckfest" and the dynamic duo of Smokin 'Toes as the Buckfest Booshway and Bloodmuzzle planned and worked hard to make sure the activities were in place. The pair pulled in friday night to set a one pole for Pete an diamond fly for Bloodmuzzle. The weekend promised great weather but with nighttime temps dipping to low 40's a small fire is welcome.

There was much to do to get to the weekend and on arrival Saturday early afternoon found the guy's throwing hawk and knife and preparing for the revolver shoot. I noticed many little bags of flour and charcoal briquets swinging in the breeze on the bushes nearby for a competition yet to come.

The trio of Peter, Capt. Jerry and Bloodmuzzle step to the line and begin with Carl, Smokin Toes and Manyhides as spectators. Bloodmuzzle shoots a 50 with an X but still didn't score enough points to get by Peter with the winning aggregate score, Jerry was right in there but for some reason didn't finish a target for no score to drop him out of the running.

Smokin Toes, very upbeat and clearly in his element and enjoying his efforts. He gleefully shows off the

contraption for the candle shoot that indicates a sick man with a twisted mind had a hand in this-----him.

The candle mounts on a platform that he controls with two strings to cause it to rotate right and left.

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Wisdom from the Scribe:

Manyhides



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Now you know a little old flame on a candle is hard enough to shoot out but now it's going to be moving. Now we have Medicine Bow setting another one pole while Mule showed up with a diamond fly to get under. Always amusing to be around the Mule as he works and educates the uninitiated on the finer points of the task at hand. Deacon comes in also planning on a diamond fly for accommodations with Carl in his tin teepee.

As the fire pit was being prepared I thought of Splinter who was always the "keeper of the flame" and took care of the fire and showed up with wood boxes everyone would have to paw through for nice pieces of wood scrap to make knife handles and other projects. His humor around the fire, the smudge etc. always added value to the experience.

We are also missing Darrell who is battling his own health issues similar to what Mark went through with the mask etc. but an ordeal to be sure.

Dr. Horse Dr. is out trying to get skunked hunting somewhere when a good time is a sure thing here, go figure. And speaking of that, there were hunters on the property and Ron spotted a huge mule deer in the morning that bedded just above the house and stayed all day watching us play. It must have been too much work to go after so they left to return later hoping for some easy hunting.

With the competitions over for now, the activity is to prepare for the evening's potluck and of course the candle shoot.

Owing to a long week and a long

day Manyhides bowed out to rest for the Sunday activities. On arriving Sunday am I was informed the fun went to the early A.M.

The guy's decided to hold the event on the lower range and a quick set up of temporary backstops were set up for it.

The ground there is tiring to be on, it's like little mounds of muskeg like grass where the surrounding soil has washed or blown away creating a rough surface to walk or drive over. I should mention the Deacon also came in Saturday and pitched a diamond fly, poor guy, such a fine upstanding young man in the midst of them others.

Getting ready for the club shoot we learned Peter had a huge "senior moment" and left his shooter behind and despite offers to loan him something he decided to be a spectator. We also had a guest by the name of Gary Begurdis, a student from Red Rocks Community College there to research black powder shooting for a school project. I have no reason to think there could be a negative consequence, I just have suspicious side with all the stuff that goes on in todays world but anyway to his credit Bloodymuzzle sacrificed his shooting opportunity to pass along a lot of information as well as some hands on shooting for the young man. We had the same crew for the Sunday shoot as was there for Saturday with Manyhides prevailing as the aggregate winner.

Overall, a great weekend, could not have had nicer weather, thanks to all to put the enthusiasm back in it especially to Mr. Toes and Ron for their hard work.



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Did I say work? Oh yeah in addition to breaking down, Pat had some fence work for the gang and I am quite sure all were "greatly fatigued" by the time they got home. It was a small group but a good group and everything went well and very much look forward to next year and now on to the "meat shoot" for November.

Meeting notes:

Captain called the meeting to order at 1:37 PM and asked for a treasurers report, similar to last with the exception of many outgoing expenditures on the horizon, about \$650.00 for insurance, about \$200.00 for Peter to be reimbursed for materials for benches, by the time we buy a turkey, provide a \$100.00 gift certificate for landowners and a \$50.00 Captains prize plus money out for the Christmas party of about \$250.00 it will reflect a significant change for coming months. We also will have some supply side expenditure in the future months as well as Squirrel Shoot expense.

Captain Jerry asks for scribe report and scribe apologizes for not having one ready on minutes from previous months event.

In old business we re-visited the issue for the Christmas Party of a conflict

with the date we want, someone has previously reserved the facility for the weekend we usually hold the annual event. An offer by scribe to check on the Backbone events Center was rejected for now in favor of finding out if facility would be available second Saturday or fourth Saturday evening before looking for other venues. The issue of whether to hold the shoot following either date is in limbo pending information on available dates or to hold the shoot third Sunday regardless. It largely depends if we have people traveling long distance to attend both.

In new business we discussed being ready to purchase at the Wyoming State Convention in January by those that attend and save big \$\$\$ on hazmat and shipping on supplies. Peter brought out some three legged stools he would like the club to purchase to go with new shooting benches, motion was made and carried for Peter to purchase at 25-30 dollars each two stools.

The acquisition of meat for "meat shoot" was discussed--everyone bring something. Mr. Mule mentions hawk heads and the need to order and will handle that along with handles.

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He also asks for assistance as policy for the Lieutenant to monitor Squirrel Shoot contributions from members only as he will continue with other sponsors. Much discussion about a new category for people that want to be members but do not satisfy existing requirements--think about it, it will require a by-law review and by-law change very likely, let your voice be heard.

Motion to Adjourn and seconded. Adios Manyhides



Buckfest Shoot Results

PISTOL SHOOT RESULTS

<u>name</u>	7 yards	15 yards	25 yards	Agg	Tie breaker
Peter	40	47	32	119	5
Jerry	25	48	0	73	0
Bloodymuzzle	23	50X	39	112X	5

RIFLE SHOOT RESULTS

<u>name</u>	Pizza	Fer D Lac	4pt bull	Squirrel	Bird	Bush
Hawkdancer	45	36X	37	6	15	45
Deacon	45	37	27	12	15	45
Mtn. Mule	45	29X	5	3	10	45
Manyhides	45	40	39	19	10	45
Smokin'Toes	45	31	26	0	10	45
Standing Moose	45	32	40	0	5	45
Manyhides		153	Standing Moose	122	(Buckle)	
Hawkdancer		139	Smokin Toes	107		
Deacon		136	Mule	92		

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HEAVY HAUL

If I told you we regularly load 50-55 thousand pounds of rock on a semi you would say "wow, that's a heavy load", and it is. But, in the world of heavy haul which refers to anything high, wide, heavy, or long it is not. Often, the load is all of these and are routinely called: extra legal loads and are done by permit only. Loads require a lot of research on bridges and overhead clearance. They are always under escort with other vehicles in radio contact and a grade pole on the lead vehicle to be sure adequate clearance. Many times wires have to be lifted or temporarily disconnected to allow passage, sometimes parking meters even have to be removed to permit a turn by long vehicles. The trick is to keep adding axles and tires to support the enormous weight.

Recently a methanizer was moved from Broken Bow, Oklahoma to Ft. Lupton, Co. that weighed 535,600#, it was 186' long and including the weight of all the equipment under it had

a combined weight of 1,192,000#. The biggest mining haul truck carry's 400 ton, has 3650 HP, holds 1250 gal of fuel and has an operating weight of 1,305,000#.

For ships, the biggest ships, an aircraft carrier is well over 1000' long has a crew of nearly 6,000 and can carry about 90 planes and stay out for 25 years with re-stocking of food and provisions. Imagine the freezers and coolers and pantry, the size of the galley to prepare 18,000 meals a day plus coffee and snacks. They are floating cities with nearly all amenities for the crew that would be found on land.

A big tanker will be over 1300' long carry deadweight tonnage of 441,893# and carry 3 million barrels of oil. The space shuttle with a 50,000# payload at 182' long and 28.5' was big but the Antonov 225 can carry 250 tons of flying cargo with six engines making it happen.

And the one heavy haul that impresses me the most is the..... Corps of Discovery using oars, sails, and poles as well as ropes to pull heavy

fully loaded boats up river against the current, the Mississippi and the Missouri. The keelboat was 55' long with 22 oars, Lewis had additional covered boxes mounted to the gunwales so the covers could be walked on but also flipped up to afford protection if under assault.

Even the Pirogues, which were thought to be smaller boats with a sail and oars were still large boats, the one called the red boat was 41.5' long with a 9' beam and the smaller white boat was 39' with a 8.5' beam. Imagine that river, swollen with ice cold water from the runoff all the way from it's source.

The years of planning and the months of preparation, of acquisition of supplies, equipment, firearms and of course powder and lead and the novel way of transporting it. At a time when mass production was not done and each firearm was a compilation of custom made parts unique to each one and not considered interchangeable they took complete locks and trigger sets to replace parts if necessary.

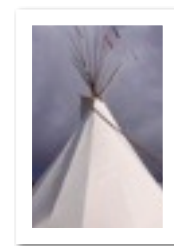
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The original expenditure approved by congress of \$2500.00 was surpassed many times over finally reaching about \$39,000.00. The mission itself was a military style operation with a rank structure, and punishment for infractions often being corporal punishment or lashes "well laid on". It seems there were issues in the beginning requiring this but things smoothed out for the remainder when they realized how inter-dependent they were for survival.

I have always questioned taking boats under those conditions, the rivers then were wild with no dams and every year widened it's banks sending large trees rolling down river that could sink any boat. The need to carry provisions for such a large group said to be between 45-50 individuals was the only way possible but remember they were going to be "off the map" for most of this journey.

Owing to their good planning and preparation they made a remarkable journey likened to Apollo 11 but many disagree in that there was no "Houston, we have a problem"! They would have many many problems but it was up to them to solve them all, however if not for some fortunate things that came there way such as help from indians they could not have counted on, or Sacajawea meeting her brother or remembering the way from her early days before she was taken. It was said that her presence had a remarkable effect on the men, a reminder of home.

It was also noted that on many occasions they could have been thought to be a hostile force but the indians realized they would not be traveling with a woman and baby and treated them different or let them pass. To have found her and her husband Charbonneau as interpreter was good fortune indeed. The entire story could not be scripted for it would certainly be considered fiction for that many to travel so far and suffer the grueling extremes and return except for Sgt. Floyd who died from what was thought to be a ruptured appendix at the outset of the journey near present day Council Bluffs, Iowa. These were certainly men and women who were undaunted by challenges of immense proportions. I never tire of reading and re-reading the exploits of the Corp of Discovery and fantasize what it would have been like to be part of it, at least we are in spirit for it was men and women like us that followed into the unknown. End

FLINTLOCK WISDOM

Ok - for a flintlock to work properly there are a few important things that need to be done for everything to work in harmony. This is the list of things I feel (mechanically) that need to be addressed on any factory rifle. (meaning, CVA, Traditions, Lyman, etc. - If you have a custom gun some or all of this may not apply depending on the rifles characteristics)

1. DOME shaped Touch hole liner - (Make your own from a stainless steel percussion nipple or buy a commercial "White Lightning" liner.) (Throw your factory liner in the VERY bottom of you P. Bag for dire emergencies)
2. Mirror polish of pan and surrounding area
3. Frizzen must be clean and free of "Wear areas" and other use problems (Frizzen can be re-done quite easily - Kasenit, leather, bone and oil, torch - and the know how)
4. No unnecessary "grub grabbers" on the lock (screwdriver slot on touchhole liner is the most common)
5. Proper touch hole alignment (factory guns are difficult to change for the average shooter, etc)
6. Lock Geometry - Flint must hit frizzen on the upper 2/3rds of the frizzen. (Again - factory locks are sometimes not right - the only way to deal with this problem with minimal work is to replace it)(Frizzen must rest flat with ZERO gaps against the lock and the pan - perfect flush fit) (Mine doesn't - it is impossible to make it too - as the hole lock was hastily assembled and of poor grade in my opinion - replacement is coming soon!)
7. Flint alignment, orientation and sharpness (1/2 cock, frizzen closed - align flint in jaws until the flint is flush and parallel to frizzen - back off a wee bit like 2 hairs widths but no more than a 1/16th of an inch (Orientation usually is "flat side" down - sometimes it is necessary to reverse - use whatever method that gives long flint life and the most sparks)
8. Use English Gun Flints (If you want flawless performance and in the field sharpening ability this is the only way to go) (Synthetic flints are harder - more wear on the frizzen, dull quickly and are very difficult to sharpen compared to real flint) Use what you have available or what works best for the gun - try the English gunflints first
9. Can't think of anything off hand.....
10. Questions?

♦ Thanks for your time & patience

"People will forget what you said; People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel."

Ever at your service

Scott Drake aka damnphoneyguy1330@aol.com

CSMLA West Rep

Buckhorn Skinner Treasurer

NMLRA Territorial Coordinator

American Legion Member

Son of the American Legion

NRA Member

Good Old Boy(GOB)

