

May 2014

# THE BUCKHORN SKINNERS

## Newsletter



Hello to all:

In the course of an entire year and all things considered we don't get too many really nice day's to pursue our sport and hobby. There are just too many too's. Too hot, too cold, or too w----, or sometimes all of these, but the May shoot was one of those "nice day's" and if you missed it you missed a good time. For some reason a lot of people did miss it, Gutshot is "on the road again", Ron was at the Collector's show, Mule was up to his butt in alligator's as usual and I'm not sure where everyone else was but we did get five to show and the Capt. to put on

the event so it worked out ok.

I'd like to tell a little story for your benefit that you should find entertaining. An old man is struggling to climb a hill, stopping often to catch his breath and rest the muscles but he continues on. The first rivulets of sweat begin to trickle down but he presses on and keeps looking to the top, I'm sure there was a time he could have run to the top and more than once but that was a long time ago. He is overweight and out of shape and by now could have a bad ticker but still he continues to ascend the mountain.

### Notes from the Scribe:

### Manyhides



He begins to wonder "what will I do when I get there for surely I will be exhausted".

Finally, he reaches the summit and looking skyward thanks God for the strength to get there and notices the hawk swinging overhead and the song of others and the smell of new grass and spring flowers and surely this is reason enough for the strenuous climb. And now that I have your interest "the rest of the story " will have to wait for just a bit. Got some company business to attend to and then back to the story.

So, part way into the event here comes the Mule in civies, the Mule don't look happy but hey, I'm shooting over here so I don't have time to ask questions, he ain't packin no shooter so that's not part of it. Captain must have felt sorry for somebody he even put two luck targets in the pack.

So, here we are, got Dancing Waters and Smokin Toes on my right, now Dancing Waters he is being real quiet so I figure that ain't good for me, but Smokin' Toes he is happy as usual-- makes me think whatever he has got he ain't sharing. Then there is Horse and he all quiet and such too, again that ain't good for me. And way down on the end is the Deacon, he is always real quiet and pretty good at drilling little holes close

together and that ain't good for me either. Cap'n is off in his own little world cause he can't hear nothin' but he is happy, so maybe Smokin' Toes does share. Matter of fact, it is so quiet I start losing my concentration once in a while trying to figure out what's going on. The Mule is there man. Anyway, the Mule say's he has to go down and work on the trailer, seems all the Squirrel Shoot facts and paperwork got locked in there and since he is a lot like Festus from Gunsmoke with one eye going one way and the other going another way he was going to find that paperwork and get out some stuff for Territorials don't you see. One eye on the task at hand and the other on the future.

Then comes Peter with a couple a guy's in tow but again I'm busy, no time to be social. I noticed Horse loaded up and invited the older gent to take a shot and I think hit the gong first try, pretty good. Turns out it was Peters brother Hans and I think the other fella was a nephew (Nick), they stayed till we headed down and got in the meeting area. Right about the end of the meeting they took off, so never was a chance to get with them for conversation. Captain began with awards and because of the small group called out

scores on each target but paid on the agg. scores only.

The meeting sort of began informally but upon reminder was called to order, and a treasurers report given which lead the Mule right into old business and a report card on SS 2014 by the same with commentary from the absent Bloodymuzzle included. Usually the person that has to listen to that many problems gets a couple hundred bucks an hour but then we weren't offering solutions so it was free. But seriously, I guess a lot of stuff gets by me, because I was on the range as range officer and was unaware of the problems with scoring other than confusion about where certain materials were prior. I don't agree that the line should have been shut down until scoring was fully operational, just my two cents.

I think a lot of what was gone over will need to be addressed again at a later date with a bigger audience but some really good ideas did come out of the exchange. Scott would like a change to have the Lieutenant take care of member contributions for the table and release him from that responsibility. As I understand it, he would continue managing beg letters and prize contributions from supporters.

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He also mentions getting ICE or In Case of Emergency information on registration as a direct result of the incident with Jimmy that required medical attention and needing contact info for family to be notified and assist. About this time Mr. Bloodmuzzle enters the meeting area and joins the proceedings.

Speaking to the aforementioned incident he recommends keeping the breech area scraped and cleared of deposits. We are in process to install a ball pulling device and cradle for working on rifles at the line, Smokin' Toes has the lead to begin the process and if funds are needed to acquire from Treasurer.

One of the issues caught during the shift as range officer was a person smoking on the loading line. The individual was directed to the area next to the scoring board for the designated smoking area. Sometime later that persons companion

went to the smoking area lit up and then went to the loading line, as I drew a breath to warn of the smoker the first individual involved directed the companion to the designated area. Then, sometime later yet another put a cigarette in his mouth at the loading line right in front of me and when warned said "I'm not going to light it here". All of this is common sense but indicates a need for signage and to provide an area free of combustibles, a butt can or cans, sand or wet, a seating area and a defined perimeter and signage so designating the area.

Another item of business is: the roof on the wooden hooter flew the coop and now has a big skylight overhead--needs repair. Mule reports the availability of a modern plastic hooter for about \$270.00 if the club would like to purchase their own--tabled for further

consideration with the full group and Manyhides will check on cost to pump after each Squirrel Shoot. The thought would be to build an enclosure and only use for Squirrel Shoot-consider. Will decide June/July.

Also due to Ray Ezinga's issues we are proposing honoring him for all his efforts to promote Squirrel Shoot with hand built prizes by moving a rifle shoot probably August from Sunday to Saturday so he can participate and having a club pistol shoot the same weekend on Sunday. Ray also mentions he has a prize for the average shooter as usual and it turns out to be..... Dancing Waters with a 141 perc. agg.

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On to Territorial preparations, of course Mule will arrange to get the marquee from the storage trailer to Ft. Lupton, poor Mule--please ask for help, speaking of Mule he reminds that set up will be thursday the 12th--read here thursday, the event starts friday morning the 13th of June, if you can find it in your heart and your schedule please, please help all you can. We

need everyone, the Squirrel Shoot 2014 only did about a third of insurance costs so a successful Territorial is a must.

Please refer to the Poke for upcoming events, if you hurry you can still make the Memorial day event at Florence, May24-26. In addition I am told the postal match is still on so consider sending some targets if you care to. And finally, Ron has

asked me to write some articles for the Poke of general interest, take a look at some past Pokes and you will see previous submissions. If you would like to have an article, a story, a hunt, a how to published or perhaps some photo's even get me some material for bi-monthly publication. And now, as promised--the rest of the story.

Ah hem, where were we, oh yeah- so the old man is standing on the mountain admiring all the wonders of nature and lost in his thoughts and snaps out of it due to hearing voices, there are others climbing the mountain as he had and they are carrying muzzleloaders and they want to have a contest to see who the best shot is, so the old man uncases his rifle and say's lets do it.

So, the following are the results of the contest and the old man beats them all, and the old man looks a lot like Manyhides and GOD has rewarded him for the moment on the mountain.

	10ring	blind 1/4	postal	turkey	squirrel	agg	
Dancing Waters	14	7	42	32	4	99	
Manyhides	4	6	33	38	36X	117	
Horse	9	5	33	23	26X	96X	
Smokin'Toes	5	5	27	17	26	80	Buckle
Deacon	5	7	32	27	29	100	

**Thank You Vets, remember our vets this Memorial Day**

Scribe, Manyhides

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THE BUCKHORN SKINNERS A MOUNTAIN MAN CLUB

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Ok, so here is the deal- I will write a preliminary piece on muzzleloader maintenance as part of this months newsletter. I would love some inter-action on this, if you have something you would like to share or argue about send me an e-mail and after a time I will create an amended version for submission to the Poke. To begin, this is like true confessions and could be a little embarrassing but I'm sure you have all had your moments so let's be fair.

Now, if you have a program you have developed and it's working for you I would be interested in hearing it. I can still hear 'ol Jack Riddell saying " you don't need soap and you don't need hot water and you don't need boiling water, just water". I can't say that I was in agreement then or now, but I'm a lot closer to agreeing now.

The first thing we would like to do is neutralize the corrosive effects of black powder. That said, we also want to get it clean and prevent rust and preserve the bore. Jack also said " you don't need to use brushes, just swab it out", again- didn't agree then or now but now I have evidence that brushes are necessary in my view, you

could argue brass or bronze or nylon but I feel it is necessary to do a thorough job. I would love to hear about all those secret concoctions everyone has dreamed up for patch lube or cleaning solvents or rust preventative etc.

Is it possible to season a bore just like a cast iron skillet? Some say yes, and it keeps fouling to an absolute minimum and clean up is a breeze. Using hot water and soaps or solvents would surely un-season that bore just like the pan, yes?

Wouldn't it be great to have access to one of those tiny medical cameras to have a look see down there, like all the way to the bottom. A bore light is nice if you want to look at the bore but what if you want to see behind the bore light? Well, if after a year or more of shooting has gone by maybe if you are up to it, the breech plug could be pulled to have a look around and get everything really clean and make sure the threads are still lubed and not getting rusted etc. The bottom of the bore where the little burn ring forms could be examined closely but be sure you know how to do it without spoiling either the breech plug or barrel with improper tools.

Some have made scrapers matched exactly to the profile of the breech plug. I would think it may be possible to modify the inside of the breech plug to eliminate points that hold residue and can't be cleaned by conventional methods.

I have heard of people that use acetone or alcohol to flush thru to absorb any moisture and then flash off.

First of all you really don't want either on your bare skin and you really don't want to get it on the finish or anywhere near your stock, don't really think this one is necessary. Next up, what to use as a preservative, rust preventative or lube? Do you want to use a petroleum based product or a wax based product or ? Some believe that using something like bore butter will season the bore and protect it provided it is not cleaned away by the methods used that will remove the waxy residue such as soap and hot water or chemicals. I have tried WD 40 or 3 in one oil and have tried the bore butter with no success. In addition, and I think this matters, how your rifle is stored could be important.

In addition, and I think this matters, how your rifle is stored could be important. I read somewhere that they should be kept horizontal and not stood up in the corner. If you think about it, what you consider a thin coat of oil of any kind when subjected to the substance moving downward until it collects in the breech area would cause unnecessary fouling or even perhaps a no fire, like what happened at Squirrel Shoot.

After pulling the ball and thinking the unburned powder is out the rifle is re-loaded and fires which then dries out and ignites an ember of residue that is waiting for increased temperature or a rush of air and both are supplied as the ball is seated and unburned powder ignites. Kind of hard on hands and range rods and be happy you were not leaning over it. At least that's my theory but I would be interested in hearing yours.

Another issue I have been dealing with lately is good performance to about 3/4 of the way thru the event and then a no fire when I know powder is down. The last time it happened I pulled the nipple and there was just a tiny little hole thru the crud about the size of the one in the nipple, I'm sure beyond where I could not see the fouling had sealed off the

burn channel. It is my belief that oiling and standing vertical allows a big build up of fouling of oils and when combined with the natural fouling of powder causes this. I am planning to store the rifle horizontal and try and dry up all I can before firing the first shot to see if that makes a difference. I'm even considering storing it muzzle down to see what happens.

The next issue is: a burn ring forms quickly that prevents even a naked range rod from getting to within 1/2 " of the bottom or on top of the powder. I have tried to clean it out after a few shots but have to snap a cap or it either won't fire or is slow to fire, again I think this may be related to the oil buildup to a certain extent.

On to some other stuff that befuddles, like dry locks that fire the cap but not well and cause plugged nipples and ignition problems.

Had a situation a couple of years ago at the masters shoot. After an entire season of shooting all of a sudden I have ignition problems, caps are going off but the rifle isn't. So, I'm up against the clock and started pulling the nipple and noticed it was plugged--hmmm never had that happen before but because I had just changed from magnum caps to regular #11 I was sure that had something to do with it.

When I got back home after that disaster I was determined to rule out any mechanical problems and blame it on caps. After removing the barrel I held the trigger back and worked the hammer to discover I could almost get it to stop short of the nipple against the spring, it was also out of alignment and rubbing the lock plate. When I then disassembled the entire lock it was dry as a bone, I just didn't think it was necessary to clean and re-lube every shoot so it had probably gone two or three outings but how does oil and white lithium grease dry up that quick? So, always clean, check screws and re-lube lock and trigger assembly.

Next is sights, what maintenance on sights? Well, just like the breech there should be a witness mark of some kind to assure you everything is where it should be. A few years back I had shot a lot that summer and had shot pretty well, except it seemed that I had groups but they were always a little off. About the time I was going to move them it would be a little off the other way and I just figured I hadn't done a good job of using shaders and compensating the light if I weren't.

Late that year I was oiling the exterior and felt the sight move just a little, it wouldn't fall out but it would move a little left and a little right, gives you that sick feeling. Some adjustable sights do not track well and do not hold their setting, when you have things the way you like them you could take measurements and change out to a fixed sight. I like fibre optics front sight just because I don't have to paint it but it 's not nearly as bright as it used to be for some reason, sure can't file it either. Some like tall sights as it helps with mirage coming off the barrel, sounds good to me. Finally, touch hole size matters, the cone configuration on the

back side matters as well, there are some nipples you just about can't wear out and some that just don't last.

Also, every rifle has a personal preference about what kind of lube and thickness of patch and ball so that might be worth playing with off the bench someday.

The crown on the muzzle must be protected and after many years of shooting while should be reconditioned and hopefully you won't have to move your front sight.

I will be waiting for your input,..... but not forever, so get to it.

Thanks---Manyhides



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