

December 2014

The Buckhorn Skinners Newsletter

The Buckhorn Skinners a Mountain Man Club www.buckhornskippers.com



NOTES FROM THE SCRIBE:

MANYHIDES

Greetings,

Feels like the north pole on the next to last day of the year, sitting at 7 degrees in the middle of the afternoon and heading to somewhere around minus 15 tonight. Shooting activities seem like something of the distant past already and just because it's officially winter for what nine days now, I didn't really need this.

Must have been all those wishing for a white Christmas or at least that's who I am blaming it on. At least now we will have a newfound appreciation for warmer day's. I am really starting to understand why snowbirds are what they are, and speaking of that I sent a letter to Sandy Friedman addressed to the Lindenwood one in Ft. Collins and got it back, so if anyone has other contact info we would like to get the newsletter to our honorary's somehow, if no e-mail we would forward a hard copy.

Recently, I was contacted by Travis Inskeep as he is interested in us as well

as his wife Tamara and family. I invited them out to our last event which was just a few days after the contact and as we were going to be on the lower range it worked out well as we were having rifles, pistols and revolvers. I had mentioned to Travis to bring out whatever they had and we would get them shooting.

Upon arriving found them already there and after a quick orientation the others had set up the range and we got going. As always, anytime we have new people we watch them pretty close for safety issues so Manyhides stuck with them and Travis was going to shoot but Tamara was not, at least for that day. It was obvious someone had trained him well back in the day and he didn't need any watching and it was also obvious he knew how to shoot. So Tamara spent her time trying to stay warm with the rest of us, man that wind was cold and it was overcast and brrrrr.

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After a while that famous mountain man "Smokin Toes" decides to go build a fire in the meeting area cause he wasn't shooting either for some reason.

After a while Tamara headed over as there was still quite a bit to be done before the rest of us got there. Finally, got done despite having to keep shutting down to set up portable backstops with the wind blowing them over and headed back. A nice fire and the sheltered area was very inviting by the time we got back there, the snacks and refreshments were enjoyed while we waited on Capt. Jerry with shoot results and there was some pretty good scores despite

conditions. Shoot results to follow meeting notes:

Capt. Jerry called meeting to order and we heard Treasurers report and Scribe report. Mountain Mule volunteers in old business that Ray Ezinga had a stint in the hospital but was out now and also mentioned issues with Steve Farrington but forgive me I didn't get a note or remember what the issue was. (note: Steve's house burned to the ground saving only girlfriend, and dogs). So, if you know Steve, might want to get in contact. New business brought mention of the one-day Winter Convention and Trade Blanket at the Elk's Lodge in Ft. Collins, Co, all the details are up an the

CSMLA website in the Poke so check it out for the 21st of February.

Discussion moves to advertising in Muzzleblast, Muzzleloader and the Poke, Scott say's the flyer will have to re-sent to the Poke. We have people going to Casper for the Wyoming State Muzzleloader Convention on January 23, 24 and 25 of 2015 if you are interested, not sure just exactly who has committed so far and as previously mentioned will do what they can for replenishment of supply items. That's all I have for now, folk's say I'm too windy---hope they were talking about the newsletter.

BLANKET SHOOT	TEDDY	TICTACTOE	4 SQUARE	SQUIRREL	POSTAL	TIE	AGG
Deacon	16	15	25+1/30	26	33		120
Peter	0	0	20/1M	10	29		59
Bloodymuzzle	18	25	20+1/25	10	5		83
Horse	25	0	25	17	35		97
Travis/ Guest	44X	25	25	16	32		143X

Sorry don't recall who walked away with he buckle, not in shoot notes, maybe he will wear it at the Christmas Party. See Ya, Manyhides

Thomas Jefferson has planned and had congressional approval for an expedition on February 22, 1803, a full two months before the Louisiana Purchase was made and signed on April 30, 1803. Approval for expenditure of approximately \$2,500.00 was given however the final cost ended up at about \$40,000.00, considering the cost of fifteen million dollars was a bargain for about 820,000 square miles of territory that though unknown at the time was rich with resources of all kinds.

Jefferson was convinced that the land had to be secured before it fell under control of others and at times acted both on the purchase and on the expedition without approval of all elements including a mix of military people with seasoned frontiersman for the expedition. The President and his personal secretary and assistant Meriwether Lewis began working out the details for the mission that

would include many facets of planning and preparation to include training, procurement of a specific list of necessities and mode of transport chosen based upon the numbers of men on the expedition and the weight and volume of their cargo. An interesting side note is that the expedition was known to be "The Corps of Discovery" when in fact it was a term taken from the journal of Patrick Gass in 1807 as his title page in his account of the journey. There was a reference by Clark of "The Corps of Volunteers on an Expedition of Northwest Discovery" in his personal journal.

To lead the expedition Jefferson chose his long time assistant Meriwether Lewis which had to be a tough decision because although he trusted Lewis more than anyone, he had come to rely on his friend daily.

DEC. SHOOT



**CSMLA one-day Winter
Convention and Trake Blanket
Event February 21, 2015**

Fort Collins Elks Lodge
1424 East Mulberry
Street Fort Collins, Co.

See flyer in this issue

Jefferson attributed to Lewis that "he was brave, prudent, habituated to the woods and familiar with Indian manners and character". Lewis, in turn chose William Clark, a former commander and fellow Virginian as a Co-Captain for the mission. Clark, whose older brothers including George Rogers Clark had fought in the Revolutionary War and taught him many things including marksmanship, how to build forts, draw maps, lead pack trains through Indian country and fight Indians. Clark of course accepted the offer and in a letter shortly thereafter from Lewis where he wrote: "they should chose only men that were good hunters, stout, healthy, unmarried men accustomed to the woods and capable of bearing bodily fatigue to a considerable degree".

Of all the things they would take on their epic journey the choice of "Arms and

Accoutrements" is an official list taken from the records in the National Archive:

- 1 pair of pocket pistols
- 176# gunpowder
- 52 leaden gunpowder canisters
- 15 powder horns and pouches
- 18 tomahawks
- 15 scalping knives w/belts
- 15 gun slings
- 30 brushes and wires
- 15 painted knapsacks
- 125 musket flints
- 1 pair of horseman's pistols
- extra picks and locks
- 15 pairs of bullet molds
- 15 wipers and gun worms
- 15 ball screws
- 24 pipe tomahawks
- 24 large knives
- 15 rifle frocks/waterproof
- 15 cartouch boxes
- 500 rifle flints
- 50# best rifle powder
- 420# sheet lead.

The recurring number 15 relates to the number of troops

scheduled to accompany the Lewis and Clark expedition and thought to be armed with the latest .54 cal, half stock flint rifle known as the 1803 Harpers Ferry to replace the 1795 .69 cal. smoothbore musket. The new rifle was tested and found to be far more accurate than the old smoothbore. Lewis visited the Harpers Ferry armory and found many long arms but the only 1803 was the one in testing. Lewis intended to order the first 15 available but new research suggests when the group left Camp DuBois on May 4th, 1804 they were armed with .69 cal. muskets from Harpers Ferry and Springfield armory.

The newfound theory has been updated (as of 2003) by Philip Schreier, curator of programs for the National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Va.

It is said that "when Lewis entered the Harpers Ferry armory what he saw was scores of Brown Bess muskets and Committee of Safety muskets and an unknown .50 cal. rifle". George Moller a noted military arms collector reports the 1803 Harpers Ferry wasn't produced as a completed rifle until after April 1804, too late to reach Lewis and Clark before departing. In addition, upon returning, all military rifles were to be turned back in and there is no record of the Harpers Ferry rifles being returned. There were 1792 flintlock, full stock rifles and 1795 smoothbore muskets on the trip. There may have been some of the new locks for the 1803's but it is felt no complete rifles other than a record of the 1792 w/1803 lock in .45 cal. In addition the 1792 had provision for slings (Lewis ordered 15) and the 1803 did not.

Where some of the confusion originates from is what the

military people would have carried as opposed to the "frontiersman" who most likely would have carried their own arms likely mostly smoothbores and Kentucky rifles noted for long range accuracy.

Before departing the men of the expedition were visited by a group of local "sharpshooters" were unaware the men had been practicing while in camp. The local "sharpshooters" won the first match but lost every other attempt, the total is unknown and Clark awarded an extra ration of whiskey to the best shots.

The "horse pistols" that Lewis carried were thought to be .69 cal. Simeon North & Elisha Cheney or large pattern full stocks by John Miles. The only mention of a pistol being used on the trip was on July 27, 1806 when the group was awakened by Blackfeet Indians trying to steal their rifles/muskets, upon finding his gone Lewis drew

and fired whereupon the Indians dropped the rifles and ran and hid.

The most popular rifle on the trip was the "air rifle" thought to be an Italian design by Girandoni and imported by Philadelphia dealer Jacob Kunz. The air rifle looks much like the 1795 musket but with a different lock with a large cast iron chamber affixed to its lower portion. Said to shoot 22 round balls in 22 seconds (after sufficient pumping) with the separate air pump. The Indians were never made aware of how long it took to load and prepare the rifle to fire, or how many they had with them which was thought to be a great deterrent to any thought of overrunning the group. They also had a French or Spanish swivel canon mounted at the bow with 16 musket balls on the 55' keelboat.

Astern were a pair of blunderbuss for self protection and the big guns were fired occasionally

with great effect as the
thunderous roar and smoke made
an impression on would be
attackers.

Their other rifles and muskets
saw plenty of action with daily
hunting and self defense against

the "terrible bears" and Indians.

At Fort Clatsop two men brought
in 18 Elk in one day. Sgt. Gass

wrote in his diary that between the
1st of December 1805 to March 1806

they brought in 131 Elk, 20 deer as
well as many other smaller

mammals such as otter, coon and
beaver.

TO BE CONTINUED.

Information contained within
was taken from the November 2003
edition of Guns and Ammo written
in an article by Rick Hacker

HOW TO TEMPER A HICKORY RAMROD

By Turner F. Kirkland

"Hickory ramrods can be made quite flexible so that the smaller sizes especially will bend almost double by soaking them in coal oil*. In my opinion, what happens is that the coal oil penetrates the wood and allows the fibers to slide and give against each other more.

To temper a ramrod, soak for three months in pure coal oil either in a long pipe or in a trough-like container. This will definitely keep them from breaking while using. The old timers tempered their ax handles and spade handle too with coal oil."

*coal oil? - where to find it?

A friend of mine, Keith Bayha, Alaska - you may have read about him in one of the recent Muzzle Blasts - uses Kerosene or Diesel Oil successfully.

PVC-pipes make a good container for this procedure.

Though I wouldn't want my ramrods to "almost double", a certain flexibility comes very handy.

Peter

Sep. 9, 2013



Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association

ONE-DAY WINTER CONVENTION and TRADE BLANKET EVENT FEBRUARY 21, 2015

(Snow date: March 7, 2015)

Ft. Collins Elks Lodge
(970) 493-3777

1424 East Mulberry Street

Ft. Collins, CO 80524

(West off I-25 at exit 269B)

REGISTRATION FORM

Set up: _____ Trade room will be open to the public on Saturday.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: () _____

Are you a member of CSMLA? [] YES [] No

Dinner Choice: # of Chicken _____ # of Beef _____

Total Number of Dinners: _____ x \$30.00 per person (includes gratuity & tax) = \$ _____

Do you want a vendor space or a trade blanket (based on an 8' front)? [] YES [] No

For this special event the first space or trade blanket is **FREE!!!!** Additional space cost is \$10.00 if space is available. Space may be available after February 7, 2015. If you indicate interest in additional spaces below, you will be contacted before February 14, 2015 with a confirmation of the number of spaces available. Costs will be due at the event.

Number of additional spaces requested _____ x \$10.00 each = _____ (due at event)

Do you need electricity? [] Yes [] No First come basis if available.

RETURN COMPLETED FORM BY JANUARY 31, 2015.

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You can contact either Joy, Tom, or Sandra if you have questions or need further information.