



Washington State



Muzzleloader's Association

June 2015 Newsletter

www.wamuzzleloaders.com

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Upcoming 2015 WSMA

Sponsored Events

18-21 June Palouse Hills

*Muzzleloaders 24th Annual
Rendezvous, Colfax, WA*

*19-27 June Pacific Primitive
Rendezvous, Paisley, OR*

*10-12 July Yakima Valley
Muzzleloaders 48th Annual Pine
Creek Rendezvous, Cliffdell, WA*

*23-26 July 43rd Annual Peninsula
Long Rifles Rendezvous, Port
Angeles, WA*

*23-26 July Tenino Oregon Trail
Days, Tenino, WA*

*30 Jul-2 Aug Tioga Mountain
Man Rendezvous, Coquille, WA*

*31 Jul - 2 Aug Bremerton
Brigade 40th Anniversary
Rendezvous, Poulsbo, WA*

Paul Bunyan 40th Annual Rendezvous

The annual rendezvous at the Paul Bunyan Rifle and Sportsmen's Club in Puyallup was held over Memorial Day weekend. This was the 40th year for this great event, and the participants will agree it was fun. Read more on page 2.



Tacoma Sportsmen's Club Rendezvous Cancelled

The rendezvous held annually over the 4th of July weekend at the Tacoma Sportsmen's Club is cancelled this year. The club will be doing range maintenance and the facility will be closed.

Bring on the May Flowers

The Puget Sound Free Trappers held their annual Spring Hunt event for the Boy Scout of the Timberline District in April. Read about the results of this opportunity for the Scouts to practice those traditional mountain man skills.

Evergreen Muzzleloaders Trade Gun Frolic

The annual Trade Gun Frolic was held mid-April at the Evergreen Sportsmen's Club in Littlerock, WA, featuring paper targets, trail walks, and flying clay pigeons for the smoothbores.

Stories Needed!

Send us your stories! We need match reports, how-to articles, hunting stories (with at least 1% of truth), recipes, etc. Get your club's activities advertised!

Women's Primitive Skills

Women's Primitive Skills would like to thank Paul Bunyan for sponsoring our 16th Annual event. Each year we offer various classes (which change year to year) on everything from black powder gun safety classes, Dutch oven cooking, sewing, felting, beadwork, etc, etc. We had 80 plus teachers and participants and even a tea party this year. We strive to accommodate as much as possible but ask all to "dress the part" of the primitive environment and offer a "Granny's Closet" for loaner clothes as needed. This way any woman can come out and have fun with us. We also try to make it easy for everyone having fabulous pot lucks on Friday and Saturday nights. It could be a great way for women to try out black powder which is offered on Saturday so one wouldn't have to camp but could just come out for the day. For more information check out our website www.womensprimitiveskills.org.

Kathy "Smokin'" Vanarsdale
Grounds Committee Chair

Paul Bunyan Plainsmen's 40th Annual Rendezvous

by Mike Moran

After 40 years of fine tuning, one would think that this rendezvous would be predictably like the last several, but you know what happens when you assume. Many aspects of this rendezvous, hosted by the Plainsmen at the Paul Bunyan Rifle and Sportsmen's Club in Puyallup WA over Memorial Day weekend, were



Bill Sick with an old girlfriend

events everyone looks forward to year after year. But this year there were several new twists to make it unique. Whether it was staunch tradition or new and improved, everyone enjoyed themselves at the event.

Jack Knight was our Booshway again this year, volunteering for a second term. Jack and the other Plainsmen spent the year planning and preparing to put on a top notch event.

One of the new twists was an added emphasis on archery. Randy Scuka, Nina Baker, and Doug "Dakota" Nash have been working archery into the monthly shoots as a way to help get new-comers involved in the sport. While there was not a whole lot different about the course at the rendezvous, keep an eye on things for next year.

These three also thought it would be good to have a non-shooting competition, and put together the Buck and Doe event. This



Teamwork with the cross cut saw



Dakota Nash sets the trap

relay event consisted of 6 events and was run by a couple. It started with a frying pan toss and luckily the husbands participating were safe because it was for distance, not accuracy. Next came the knife and



hawk throw, with each person throwing one of the items. That was followed by one person setting an animal trap, with the other getting three chances to toss a stick and spring the trap. Every camp needs firewood, so the 4th station was a 2 man cross-cut saw that the pair had to use to cut through a log. Once the log was cut through, one person had to catch a spark from a flint and steel on a piece of char cloth, then the other person blew it into flame. The last station

One more strike oughta do it

consisted of setting up a folding camp table and two chairs, and time was stopped when both people were sitting down. Only 6 couples

competed, but they sure had fun.

Another new item for this year was on-site food service provided by Fireside Kitchen. Their mobile kitchen trailer was set up between the rifle range and clubhouse, and they served breakfast lunch and dinner. The meals were made to order, with chicken one night and London broil the other. They plan to be there next year as well.



Chicken Boy

So what remained the same in this sea of change? The aggregate scores were compiled as they usually are with a combination of the rifle, pistol, and hawk & knife. Each event had a maximum score of 20 points, with 15 targets and the option for 5 (smaller) bonus targets. The rifle targets were a variety of steel gongs set between 25-200 yards arrayed along the rifle range. The pistol was similar, but was set up in the woods in a trail walk style. The knife and hawk



Mike Holeman at the Chicken Shoot

presented the same challenges as last year, but Jim Hillberg and Jim Haeckel decided instead of throwing spears, the last target would use slingshots.



Some tired mountain men

In between all of this were kid's activities such as crafts, Will Ulry's candy cannon, and a scavenger hunt. For the big kids we had several novelty shoots. Team Smith won the club stake shoot, with their team cutting a 4x4 in half in the fastest time (timber, not truck). There was a candle shoot and trade gun challenge as well. And last but certainly not least was the "Chicken Shoot" where teams of two shot against each other and then amidst cheers from the audience our Chicken Boy ran down and reset the targets.

We had 66 camps, 9 traders, and 109 registered shooters this year (including juniors). When the smoke cleared and the camps were packed away, the awards ceremony and prizes were given out, with the top shooters in the aggregate listed below. It was a great event this year, but it is already shaping up to be an even better event next year.

Top Ladies:

1. Shining Owl
2. Karla Hillberg
3. Fallen Woman

Top Men:

1. Squatting Hawk
2. Boyd Phillips
3. Mike Holeman

4. Bob Delisle

5. Mike Nesbitt

6. Cricket

7. Iron Ball

8. Capper

9. Don Kerr

10. Nemo

11. Wounded Wolf

12. Wally McKendry

13. John P Florio

14. Jack Knight

15. Running Start

16. Joe Nevins

17. Two Tails

18. Mike Moran

19. Glenn Borg

Bring on the May Flowers

The scouts and leaders at the 2015 Spring Hunt certainly had their share of the April Showers (with even ice pellets and hail thrown in!). This event, held on Saturday April 11th at Capital City Rifle and Pistol Club, near Littlerock WA showed local weather at its assorted best with even a few sun-breaks thrown in. The 27 Boy Scouts from Troops 93, 141, 300, 310, & 419 of the Timberline District, Pacific Harbors Council of BSA were not only ready and prepared to participate for the event but two troops came a day early and camped overnight to be 'rarin' to go' at the day's start on Saturday morning. Spring Hunt from the Rocky Mountain fur trade saw the return of the mountain men to the beaver streams at the start of the year to harvest the heavier winter pelts for transport to the year's rendezvous. There were no beaver to be trapped this year but the Scouts did have the chance to compete in some of the traditional trappers skills. The Puget Sound Free Trappers combined with the Capitol City Bowmen hosted the competition of the skills involved with Archery, Tomahawk Throwing and Muzzle loading Rifle shooting. Attendance at Spring Hunt 2015 was comprised of eight scouts from Troop 93, five scouts from Troop 300, four boys from Troop 310, one from Troop 141, and eight from Troop 419. The weather forecast discouraged a few of the less hardy.

Three groups of boys were organized to stage thru the separate events; The Washington State Muzzleloaders Association provided medals for the top three in each category as well as a grant for shooting components and prizes. Cabela's of Lacey WA made a donation to the aggregate prizes and cast round balls for the shooting were donated by Derek Sotelo.

Event winners were:

Aggregate 1st Paxton Gifford T 326, 2nd Dylan Jensen T 310, 3rd Johnny Roach T 93.

Archery: 1st Dylan Jensen T 310,, 2nd Brandon Williams T 93, 3rd Caleb Gay T 310

Tomahawk: 1st Dillion Jenkins, T 326, 2nd Austin Boyet T 93 and 3RD Paxton Gifford T 419.

Rifle: 1st Paxton Gifford T 326. 2nd Johnny Roach T 93, and 3rd Brandon Williams T 93.

WSMA Pilgrim awards for first time shooters at a Black Powder event went to fifteen of the Boy Scouts. Each shooting group also received individual prizes for selection by each of the competitors

Support and conduct of the event would not have been possible without the work of the Puget Sound Free Trappers and Capitol City Bowmen. Early birds on Friday afternoon: Wayne and Cynthia Rankin, Don Kerr, Mike Nesbitt, Rowland Zoller Tony Yaklich, Frank Ponceroff, and Scott Isom ensured that targets and facilities were ready in ship shape.

Key people responsible for the activities were Tom Witt, Black Powder Range Director for CCRP who coordinated Scout signup and scheduling and served as Range Master, Tim Sampson, CCRP Boosway for 2014 in charge of the Tomahawk Throw and Bob Jamison headed up the Archery instruction and competition. Archery equipment came from the Washington State Archery Association National "Archery in Schools" program. Don Kerr, in full traditional attire demonstrated flintlock rifle shooting for each shooting relay. Additional workers assisting for

Tomahawk: Scott Isom, Roy Williams, and Frank Ponceroff. The Free Trappers brigade manning the rifle range was Loaders: John Vladeff, Don Freelove, Nelson Freelove, Clarence Atchison, Doug Simpson and BO Brown and Line Coaches: Derek, Kerry and Kyle Sotelo, Rowland Zoller, Tom Brown, Will Ulry, Ralph Birmingham Tony and Ben Woore. Rifles for the shooting competition were provided as the personal equipment of the Free Trappers.

WSMA Trade Gun Frolic, 2015 by Mike Nesbitt

The WSMA Annual Trade Gun Frolic was attended by fifteen shooter who were brave enough to submit to such beautiful weather and come to do some good shooting. As I have probably said before, the Trade Gun Frolic is, in the opinions of those who were there, the most fun of all our shoots or rendezvous. It's the most fun because it is the most carefree. All shooting is done with a smoothbore trade gun, a fowler, or similar flintlock arm. With those guns there is a lot of shooting and the aggregate alone consists of 46 shots with 45 shot fired for score and one shot used as a tiebreaker.



Mike Moran shoots on the trail with Bob DeLisle



Ralph Birmingham & moonshine target

The aggregate is divided into three sections; fifteen shots

at paper targets from the shooting shed, another fifteen shots on the trailwalk at selected gongs and clangers, plus fifteen more shots fired at flying clays from the 5-Stand. Those flying clays from the 5-Stand include the

running rabbit and clay targets that go to your left, go to your right, come from over your head, and even fly right toward you. Those fifteen shots at the flying or moving targets are really challenging and varied.

Shooters can shoot the entire aggregate in day, like Coffee Pot did, but to do so you keeps a shooter pretty busy. And for shooters who aren't busy enough there are some "after-aggregate" matches which cost the shooters a dollar apiece and they are re-entry matches. If you shoot one but don't like your score, buy another target and try again. Prizes for the re-entry matches are the \$\$\$ collected from the entering shooters with all of the \$\$\$ going to the top shooters, no 2nd place winners

Mike Holeman really wanted to win the "Canoe Gun Shoot" which is where the shooter starts with a loaded gun, loaded with a single round ball, and sits on a teetering "canoe seat." The shooter must stay on that canoe seat, as if actually floating in a canoe, and all loading must be done while sitting down. A timekeeper starts timing at the shooter's first shot. Then the shooter had one whole minute to put as many shots as possible, to get the highest score, on a standing bear target posted at 25 yards. Mike shot the Canoe Gun Shoot five times before he got a score that satisfied him.



Coffee Pot fires at a low flying clay target

Don Kerr entered the Canoe Gun Shoot just once and that simply meant Mike would win back at least \$1 which wasn't his own money. But for the fun and the challenge it is more than worth it.

Another after-aggregate match is called The Slice of Pie and this is a luck shoot, so to speak, using buckshot. I entered The Slice of Pie twice and on my second try I got a score that should have been hard to beat. But it wasn't hard to beat for Jeremy Tanzer, up from Oregon. He lucked out with two hits through tiny 5-point area, at the tip of the "pie" plus more and won easily with a total of 12 points. That's the highest score I've ever seen on The Slice of Pie.

If my memory serves me correctly, this was Jeremy's first time at the Trade Gun Frolic and he brought some other first-timers with him. They were the Aldrich family, Steve and Michelle plus their



The Aldrich Family

8 year old son Zane. Zane was outstanding and he is our very first junior shooter. He got a gold 1st place medal for his shooting plus (special compliments of Don Kerr and the Evergreen Muzzleloaders) a leatherman folding pocket tool.



Jeremy Tanzer with his "pie"

Mike Moran, WSMA president, was also enjoying the Trade Gun Frolic for the first time, shooting a borrowed trade gun. The borrowed trade gun probably wasn't very well trained because you don't see Mike's name in the list of awards. However, he already has the kit for his own trade gun and that one he should get to know a lot better than the gun he borrowed. Let' see how he does next year.

Here's a little detail that the awards doesn't show. We really needed our tiebreakers this year. Mike Holeman and I tied for top scores on the flying targets and Bob DeLisle and Don Kerr also tied. Mike Holeman was kind to me by completely missing his tiebreaker on his scorecard, so my lowly 7 carried me through. Bob DeLisle and Don Kerr both scored 10's so theirs needed to be judged as closest to center. That was the decision of Booshway Scott Isom and their shots were almost too close to call. This year's Frolic was really some doin's!!



Mike Moran with his trade gun kit



Booshway Scott Isom congratulates Top Shooter Don Kerr

TRADE GUN FROLIC AWARDS

MENS PAPER

- 1st Don Kerr
- 2nd Mike Holeman
- 3rd Steve Aldrich

WOMENS PAPER

- 1st Michelle Aldrich
- WOMENS TRAIL**
- 1st Michelle Aldrich

MENS TRAIL

- 1st Mike Nesbitt
- 2nd Don Kerr
- 3rd DeWayne Pritchett

FLIERS

- 1st Mike Nesbitt
- 2nd Mike Holeman
- 3rd Don Kerr

MENS AGGREGATE

- 1st Don Kerr
- 2nd Mike Holeman
- 3rd Mike Nesbitt

WOMENS AGGREGATE

- 1st Michelle Aldrich

JUNIOR

- 1st Zane Aldrich

CANOE GUN

- Mike Holeman
- SLICE OF PIE**
- Jeremy Tanzer

Youth Rondy Boxes

WSMA has several Youth Rondy Boxes available for issue to an up and coming youth shooter. The box contains a .50 cal percussion rifle, bag, powder horn, tomahawk, ball, patches, and other things to get started at rendezvous. If interested, please fill out the attached form and return. The boxes will be available at the Fundraising Dinner.

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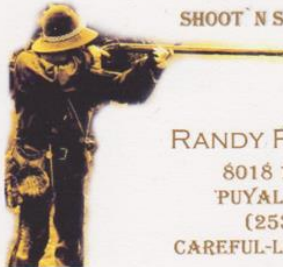


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