



April, 2015

Mountain Man Monthly

The Authorized Publication of the
Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Inc.

The Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. was chartered in 1969 by a group of men and women interested in their heritage and dedicated to preserving and promoting the sport of muzzle loading and buckskinning. CSML is a family oriented club that holds a broad range of functions such as camp outs, potluck dinners, and black powder shoots. CSML is affiliated with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association.

Views and opinions contained within articles submitted to the Mountain Man Monthly are not necessarily those of the editor or CSML. The editor reserves the right not to publish any article submitted but encourages articles on any subject regarding shooting sports and subjects related to the fur trade era.

Regular Monthly Meeting

May 7th - 7:00 p.m.

Last one before the
40th Annual Shoot!!!!

No monthly club shoots in May!

Work Party - May 9th

10:00 a.m. at the

LaChance home; potluck
lunch afterwards

**MAY 23 – 40th annual
Memorial Day Shoot!!!!**

President
Joy Hicks
Vice President
Roy Crouse
Treasurer
Gwen Blanchard
Secretary
Lois Schainost
Membership Chairman
Ted Beaupre

Range Officer
Todd Schainost
Assistant Range Officer
Ted Beaupre & Marlin Johnson

Primitive Exec.
Doug Davis
Assistant Primitive Exec.
Tony Hecker
Womens' Primitive Exec.
Dee Beaupre

Cannon Master
Richard Stites

Mountain Man Monthly Editor
Doreen Webb

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
<i>NO CLUB SHOOTS IN</i>	<i>MAY -- - PREPARE</i>	<i>FOR THE ANNUAL</i>	<i>SHOOT!!!!</i>
Muley Deer Event		May 2	contact Todd or Ted
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	May 7	last plans for the annual shoot
Work Party	LaChance Home	May 9	10:00 a.m. with potluck lunch
40 th Annual Memorial Day Shoot	Florence Mountain Park	May 23-25	lots of shooting, sharing, and fun for the weekend!
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	June 4	review of the big event!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 7	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Santa Fe Trails Rendez	Raton, NM	June 14-20	lots of shooting, fun, and frolic
NMLRA Territorial Matches	SPVHS Range Fort Lupton	June 19-21	lots of events; some camping at the range; fire in barrels only
Liberty Encampment	Rd 74-22 near Elbert	June 21-28	info: Jerry Collins 719-347-3142
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	July 2	club business; who knows what!
High Country Hideaway	near Kremmling	July 15-19	state Shotgun Shoot; lots of fun!
Grainger Primitive Camp Out	near Victor, CO	July 18-19	annual club camp out & chili contest; lots of shooting
Buckhorn Skinners Schuetzenfest/Eagle Shoot	Buckhorn Skinners lower range	July 19	40 th anniversary; shoots start at 10:00 a.m. Registration fee of \$15.00
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	August 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	August 6	who knows what?????
Paper Grainger Campout	near Victor, CO	August 15-16	potluck on Saturday night
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	September 3	election of officers
<i>No paper shoot</i>	<i>September 6th due to</i>	<i>Labor Day</i>	
Muzzle Loading Hunting Season/deer-elk-moose	draw only	September 12-20	specific game management units (GMU's) per the draw
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	September 20	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	October 1	plan for bird & buffalo shoot

For CSML scheduled shoots; CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 632-7690 after 9:00 a.m. on shoot day to be sure shoot is on!!!
Schedule is subject to change at any time and is based on information available at time of publication. On-line check csmlinc.org

The meeting was then adjourned by President Joy Hicks as consented by the group.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra "Falling Star" Gabor
Temporary Scribe

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Primitive Pistol Match April 19, 2015

by: Ken West

The weather had turned pleasant by the time the pistol match started. Six of us enjoyed the weather and camaraderie. The scores were:

Tom Gabor	12 gongs
Steve Sterner	11 gongs
Fred LaChance	10 gongs
Jim Murray	10 gongs
John Udovich	10 gongs
Ken West	10 gongs

Steve is shooting a long-barreled .36 made by a machinist which is a novelty --- and accurate!

MUSING: I go through about 1,000 percussion caps in a good month. Good shooting is the result of natural talent and practice. Having little natural talent, I engage in a lot of practice (it is NOT a 1-1 trade off!). Percussion caps are still somewhat restricted in

availability. Not wanting to take Ron's entire supply in case someone shows up for a shoot needing caps, I keep looking for other suppliers. Big R, on Powers, seems to have a reliable supply of CCI #11s at a total cost of \$5.90/100. I keep hoping that some of the wholesalers will restock!

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CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Joy Hicks on the loss of her Aunt Babe in California. This was her father's sister and is the passing of an era in Joy's family history. Please keep Joy and her family in your thoughts & prayers.

FREMONT COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE NRA FUND RAISING DINNER

The Fremont Friends of the NRA will be hosting their NRA fund raising dinner on Friday, June 5th at the Abbey Event Center in Canon City. Doors open at 5:30; dinner starts at 7:00 p.m. There are lots of great alive and silent auction items, 22 long rifle ammunition, and all sorts of cool stuff.

Dinner choices are prime rib, chicken & mushrooms, or vegetarian lasagna. Tickets are \$40 per person and can be purchased at Lincoln Park Pawn, 1345 Elm Avenue, Canon City. (719) 276-3030.

There is also a pre-event auction for \$50 per ticket with only 200 tickets being sold. Winner will receive a Winchester 24-gun fire safe and 8 assorted firearms including two Glock pistols and a Daniel Defense AR15. Over \$7,000 worth of merchandise for only \$50.....if you have the ticket.

WORK PARTY FOR THE 40TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY SHOOT

Don't forget that May 9th is the work party for us to get ready for this big event. The work party will be held at Fred and Petra LaChance's home in Penrose. We need lots of hands to make light work of the targets, cleaning the trailer, stringing medallions, making score cards, and lots of general work that needs done before the Memorial Day event.

The work starts at 10:00 a.m. and will be followed by a potluck lunch. Be sure to bring food for your self and at least one other and the right eating utensils to share the food. Bring your favorite drink as well.

If you need directions to Fred and Petra's house, please let someone know. We all will be happy to give you the directions.

See you all at the work party!!!!!!

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A note from your Editor.....

Hey guys, I know that you all are busy and don't have a lot of spare time. However, I am at a point where I really need your help. I am at my wits end trying to find things to put into the newsletter to keep it interesting and informative to our membership. I have just about exhausted all my patience and perseverance in trying to find things to put into the newsletter.

I really need you to send me things of interest to you that I can share with others. I've been doing this newsletter for about 15 or so years and I've run out of stuff. I'm also running out of desire to do the research to find things to fill the pages.

I do appreciate the folks that are pretty consistent in sending their information like Ken West and the Secretary's report, but where are the rest of you? I know that you all go places, do things, attend shoots, and yet I never hear anything about them. We have nothing to advertise to our members to encourage them to try some of the things that you have been doing.

What about a book report? How about a

journal that you may have kept on your last vacation? What about your favorite recipe or something new that you have tried and liked? What about a description of your craft and why you like doing it? Come on folks, there are lots of things out there that surely you can find a little time to e-mail me, snail mail to me, or even send me pictures and a story.

I don't want to give up on the newsletter but there may not be any other choice for me. Please help me by providing information to share. Send me something at any time. If there are dates, just be sure that I get the information at least two weeks before the date so that we have time to get the information out to our members.

Due to the Memorial Day shoot, there will not be a May newsletter. You now have 60 days to find something to contribute to the next newsletter. Start now and you'll have plenty of time to get it to me. The deadline is always the Thursday after the primitive shoot Sunday.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE help us keep the newsletter going!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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William Craig, Mountain Man and Homesteader

Continued from the February, 2015 Mountain Man Monthly.

The Governor's thought was to give the tribe no opportunity to waylay his party if they were hostile and to rely upon a sudden and unexpected appearance to retrieve their wavering friendship if they were not yet too far committed to hostilities. No doubt the Governor was counseled and advised by Craig on the manner of dealing with the Coeur d'Alenes. At daylight the next morning, with Craig, Pearson, and the four Nez Perce Chiefs Looking Glass, Spotted Eagle, Three Feathers, and Captain John, the governor pushed on, leaving directions for the train to follow and arrive the following day. As the sun was just sinking behind the mountains, the seven well-armed horsemen dashed up in front of the Coer d'Alene village, with rifles in hand and ready to fire. As the astonished tribe poured out of the lodges, they were asked, in peremptory tones, "Are you friends, or

enemies? Do you want peace, or war?" The governor's orders had been that at the first hostile act or word, his party was to open fire upon the tribe, disabling as many as possible, to fall back upon and hold the solidly-built church against all attacks until the main party arrived.

However, the Coeur d'Alenes were so taken by surprise that in response to this formidable summons, they declared that they were friends and preferred peace, and then they gathered around with apparently friendly greetings. Thus by vigorous actions, for which Craig was probably responsible, an attack upon Governor Stevens' party was avoided, and peace maintained with the Coeur d'Alenes for the time being.

When the Indian Wars of 1855 and 1856 broke out in earnest, the Nez Perce, thanks to Craig and Spalding, remained friendly, sending a company of warriors to serve with Governor Stevens' soldiers. Craig was attached to Governor Stevens' staff with the title of lieutenant colonel, which accounts for the reference to Craig thereafter as Colonel Craig.

Then in August 1960, following the Otter Party Massacre on the Boise River, Craig guided Captain Dent and eight cavalrymen from Walla Walla to the scene of the massacre, by virtue of which sixteen survivors were rescued. However, following this event, Craig returned to the Lapwai Valley, where he continued his less adventuresome life as a homesteader.

As a farmer and agriculturist, Craig's home on the Lapwai became famous. Not only was it a way point and stopping place between Canada on the north and Mexico on the south, but it was located strategically between Walla Walla on one end and the mines in the Pierce City mining district on the other. Many travelers stopped there and were surprised at the variety of home-grown food that was available. Colonel John Owen tells of an Indian stopping at the Craig ranch at various times during the 1850s to feast upon melons, tomatoes, and green corn. Upon receiving a gift sent by Craig, Colonel Owen wrote in his journal: "May the snow of many winters set lightly on his brow."

Joaquin Miller, the poet of the Sierras, who was in the gold rush at Orofino in 1861, attributes to William Craig, the naming of Idaho. Miller wrote:

The distinction of naming Idaho certainly belongs to my old friend Colonel Craig (since deceased) of Craig's Mountain, Nez Perce County. As for some fellow naming it in Congress --- bah! The name was familiar in 5,000 men's mouths as they wallowed through the snow in '61, on their way to Oro Fino mines long before Congress, or any man of Congress, had even heard of the new discovery.

The facts are these: I was riding pony-express at the time rumors reached us through the Nez Perce Indians that gold was to be found on the headwaters and tributaries of the Salmon River. I had lived with the Indians; and Colonel Craig, who had spent most of his life with them, often talked with me about possible discoveries in the mountains to the right, as we rode to Oro Fino, and of what the Indians said of the then unknown region. Gallup your horse, as I have a hundred times, against the rising sun. As you climb the Sweetwater Mountain, far away to your right, you will see the name of Idaho written on the mountain top - - at least, you will see a peculiar and beautiful light at sunrise, a sort of diadem on two grand clusters of mountains that bear away under the clouds 50 miles distant. I called Colonel Craig's attention to this peculiar and beautiful arched light. "That," said he, "is what the Indians call E-dah-hoe, which means the light, or diadem on the line of the mountains." That was the first time I ever heard the name. Later, in September, '61, when I rode into the newly discovered camp to establish an express office, I took with me an Indian from Loapwai. We followed the trail, crossed Craig's Mountain, then Camas Prairie, and had all the time E-dah-hoe mountain for our objective point.

On my return to Lewiston, I wrote a letter containing a brief account of our trip and of the mines, and it was published in one of the Oregon papers, which I have now forgotten. In that account I often mentioned E-dah-hoe, but spelt it Idaho, leaving the

pronunciation unmarked by any diacritical signs. So that, perhaps, I may have been the first to give it its present spelling, but I certainly did not originate the word.

In contrast to his exciting and widely traveled life as a mountain man, trader, trapper, and frontiersman, William Craig died quietly in the Lapwai Valley, in which he settled and lived for the last twenty-nine years of his life. The *Idaho Tri-Weekly Statesman*, Boise City, Idaho Territory, for Thursday, November 4, 1869, announced the death of Colonel William Craig in an article, "Death of an Old Mountaineer," that concluded with this sentence: "The deceased was a man of nerve, kind-hearted and generous impulses, and his death will be regretted by all who respect the toil and suffering endured by the early pioneers in opening up the county to the settlement."

*The following article was originally published in **The Buckskin Report**, Volume 3, Number 4, - January, 1976.*

Beads, Buckskin, and Blackpowder in the Bayou Salade

by: terry c. johnston

They are broad, open and lush mountain valleys running from north to south along the expanse of the Colorado Rockies. To the traveler of the 1970s, it would be easy to travel from North Park near the Wyoming-Colorado border, through Middle Park, then on to South Park in a day's journey, climbing over the passes which cut through the spine of the Continental Divide.

To those who came to the Colorado mountains in search of fur, adventure and freedom, these valleys were known as New Park, Old Park, and the Bayou Salade. The last, a gentle, rolling veranda of rich grasses and gurgling beaver streams, was given many titles by the trappers. Balla Salado, Bayou Salado, the Bayou Salade - - each denoting the influences of the French trappers and the Mexican provinces of Santa Fe and Taos to the south.

The soft hills which climb into the rugged snow crested peaks have seen much of history pass by

at their feet, or erupt itself within their laps. The valley is silent now, deaf to many a seeker's questions, that searcher having to piece together the fabric of the Bayou Salade's story from torn fragments of legend along with the threads of clues found within diaries and journals.

Those merry, colorfully-attired men of the mountain waterways, the French voyageurs, were the first to apply the term "parc" (park) to the broad, open high-mountain valleys. Such places of beauty and quiet, abounding in game, brought back memories of the hunting preserves in their native homeland. With much affection, the name was given over to the valleys, remaining with us today on even the most recent of maps.

It is in the Bayou Salade that the South Platte River begins its course to the sea, given birth by the many streams which flow from the surrounding hills and peaks of summer rains and melting snow. To the trapper moving north from Taos, the Bayou Salade, or "Salt March," was a beaver-rich region a tableland of plenty that could be reached within a few days, spread before the man who rode in to pick its fruit. T. D. Bonner, the author who created the legends of hero James P. Beckwourth from the life of mountain men Jim Beckwith stated that the Bayou had no rival in its bounty of beaver.

Besides the fortune of beaver taken from the many streams, the valley abounded in great populations of elk, deer, and buffalo. Due to their highly salitrose content, the many springs and even the soil made the "Salt Marsh" the favorite of the large mammals common to the mountain west of the 19th Century. Natural salt licks brought the elk, deer and buffalo herds to the valley floor to graze and languish in the thick, tall grasses.

The shaggy buffalo especially sought out the Bayou Salade, leaving behind the poorer, stunted grasses of the wind-washed and blizzard-driven prairie. In the winter months the great herds found shelter from the icy hand raging just above them among the peaks, yet had room to roam and wander in search of food. The buffalo lived in comfort during those months of short daylight. There among the thick carpet of tall grasses, the cows dropped their young during the spring. It was a paradise to the animals of

the Rockies, and a paradise to the red men who lived along side their brothers, the elk, the deer, and the buffalo.

Just as the great animal herds sought out the Bayou Salade because it offered comfort and riches, so the tribes came to winter there, sheltered through the winter months until the blossoms of wild mountain flowers raised their heads to slowly dance with the spring breezes. Without written records, it is difficult to determine tribal claims to the valley, although it has been fairly well established that the Utes, George F. Ruxton's "Yutas," wintered their lodges along those streams long before the pilgrims stepped forth from the Mayflower. During the height of the fur trade in the mountain west, several tribes also laid their claim to the Bayou. Arapahoe, Sioux, Comanche and Cheyenne contested the Utes, but rarely entered the valley except on raids against the "Yutas."

The trapper who left Taos for the Colorado Rockies could easily reach the Bayou Salade within a few days, traveling north through gentle Poncha Pass, crossing the Arkansas River into United States Territory. Saddled between present day Mt. Ouray and Simmons Peak, Poncha Pass rises 9,010 feet from the San Luis valley before gently descending into the Bayou.

From the top of the pass, the mountain man would look down upon a valley about thirty to forty miles in size, ranging from an elevation of 8,000 to 10,000 feet. To his right rose the spine of the Continental Divide, on his left were matching peaks towering over 14,000 feet to pierce the clouds. Below him lay the valley, nestled between the South Platte and its North Fork, an area which today comprises most of Park County, Colorado.

As he began his descent, the trapper could begin to discern the outline of the two main hills which ran in a north-south direction in the northwest corner of the valley, now named Red Hill and Bald Hill. In addition, a long ridge runs in much the same direction in that corner of the Bayou Salade, very much pointing to one of the trails from the valley, Red Hill Pass. The famous mining town of Fairplay, Colorado now lies just south of the Pass.

Besides the mountain which tower around the Park, there are several hills the trapper would have

seen, each rising close to 10,000 feet. On the east are Observatory Rock, Eagle Rock, Spinny Mountain, and Sulphur Mountain. Over to the west are Black Mountain, Jones Hill, and that ridge named Kaufman.

A French trader by the name of Regis Loisel left St. Louis in 1803 with a large trapping party, headed for the Teton, or Bad River. Indians pestered the group, picking off stragglers and stealing a few horses here and there. Finally, Loisel led his men off the high plains into the Colorado high country and into the Bayou Salade. It is generally believed that the French voyageurs with this group first attached the name "Bayou Salade" to the Park.

James Pursley, who had joined the party of over 200 men in St. Louis, was one of the few Americans along on the expedition. Indians from a mixture of eastern tribes rode with the group, primarily charged with tending the reputed 10,000 head of horses brought west with the party for trading purposes. The Delaware Indians, however, had been hired to trap. The French-blooded of St. Louis were staunchly Catholic, even to the point of raising a towering wooden cross in the center of their large encampment, at the foot of which they said morning prayers and partook in evening vespers. Three years later, when Pike would cross the valley, he would be awe-struck with the size of the remnants of the large encampment, marveling at the still-standing cross which caused him to wonder if the party had not been Spanish up from the provinces to the South.

It was James Pursely who would return to be the first to find gold in the Bayou Salade, the first discovery of the Colorado Rockies. Alone when he made his discovery, it would be very few years before the barely half-old 19th Century would strip the area of its treasure.

Pike entered the valley from the south in 1806-07, to find a few hardy souls drawing riches of fur from the streams. Soon, many trappers haunted the groves and river courses of the Bayou Salade. However, the Park was very much unknown to the rest of the world until it would be advertised by Fremont following his crossing in 1844. Until then, the trappers found solitude, peace, comfort, and a bounty of beaver dollars.

To be continued.....

The Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc.

40th Annual

BLACK POWDER SHOOT

Memorial Day Weekend

May 23, 24, & 25, 2015

Florence Mountain Park, Florence, CO

** FEES **

Camping	\$20.00
Individual shooter registration	15.00
Families of 3 or more shooters	25.00
Each match or event	1.00*
<i>(*Except Mountain Man, Mountain Mama, Gong Shoot & Shotgun)</i>	
Trader's Row (pre-registration required)	35.00

Recommend Shooters have eye & ear protection.

Potluck Saturday night at 6:00 p.m. near scoring tent.

** EVENTS & HAPPENINGS **

- Colorado State Championship Trap Shoot
- Men's & Ladies' flint, percussion, pistol, & revolver matches
- Team Events for clubs and couples
- Junior rifle, shotgun, knife, and hawk matches
- Old Timer's Matches
- Cannon Matches (rifled and smooth bore)
- Gong Shoot (\$5.00)
- Trader's Row
- Mountain Man and Mountain Mama Runs (\$5.00)
- Super Seniors' Match (for those 70+ shooters)
- Knife and Tomahawk Matches
- Shotgun Matches
- Games, Tug-of-War, and craft classes for Kids - -NO CHARGE
- Door Prizes: muzzle loading firearm & more.....
- Spectator Shoot (come & try out a muzzle loader) - - - FREE
- Open trade session 7:30 p.m. Saturday night. Bring your blankets & trade goods.*
- Musicians are encouraged to bring your instruments!*



PUBLIC WELCOME!

For additional information:

Joy Hicks - (719) 598-5715

Doreen Webb - (719) 275-8724

(csmlinc.org)

Trader's Row Pre-Registration & Info

Gwen Blanchard (719) 291-0995

NO CAMPING before 9:00 a.m. Friday

Separate Primitive camping and shooting

Bring your own firewood & water

Haul your own trash

➔ NO PETS ➔

