



February, 2014

# 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.

## Monthly Meeting March 6

## Primitive Shoot - March 16

## Paid your DUES yet?

## 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Powder Shoot in only 11 weeks!

## April 19<sup>th</sup> Work Party 10:00 a.m. followed by potluck lunch

## Prayers for our members

**President**

Joy Hicks

**Vice President**

Roy Crouse

**Treasurer**

Gwem Blanchard

**Secretary**

Lois Schainost

**Membership Chairman**

Ted Beaupre

**Range Officer**

Todd Schainost

**Assistant Range Officers**

Marlin Johnson, Ted Beaupre,  
Blake Schainost

**Primitive Exec.**

Doug Davis

**Assistant Primitive Exec.**

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**Womens' Primitive Exec.**

Dee Beaupre

**Cannon Master**

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**Public Relations**

All of Us

**Legislative Liaison**

Doug Davis

**Mountain Man Monthly Editor**

Doreen Webb

### UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	March 6	come see what's up; mailing flyers & such
Daylight Savings Time	Begins on MARCH	9, 2014 - - - set your	clock ahead 1 hour!!!!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 16	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	April 3	getting ready for the big shoot
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 6	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
39 <sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Shoot Work Party	Fred LaChance Home - Penrose	April 19	plenty of work for all; potluck lunch when we are done
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 20	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Colorado Squirrel Rifle Championships	Buckhorn Skinners Range/Loveland	April 26 & 27 Alt. May 17 & 18	.40 caliber or smaller shoot; largest prize table in the region
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	May 1	business meeting/shoot details
CSMLA Board Meeting	Village Inn Castle Rock	May 3	necessary board meeting for conducting business
Colorado Black Powder Pistol & Revolver Shoot	Ft. Lupton Range	May 10	state pistol championships sponsored by CSMLA
Lancaster's Restoration Rendezvous	Ft. Lupton	May 23 - 26	John Keeling (303)594-6201 Pepe Lucero (720)297-8850
39 <sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Shoot.	Florence Mountain Park	May 24-26	annual event of shooting and fun; potluck on Saturday night
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	June 5	wrap-up of the shoot event!
Santa Fe Trails Rendezvous	Raton, NM	June 8-14	near Whittington Center; lots of shooting, fun & prizes
Colorado NMLRA Territorial Matches	SPVHS Range Ft. Lupton	June 13-15	Darrel Koleber (970)669-2599 Scott Drake (970)635-9544
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 15	Father's Day/pistols & rifles
San Luis Valley Old West Days	Saguache, CO	June 20-22	capture San Luis Valley as it was in the late 1800's

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*

# PAST THINGS

Well, we are off to a flying start for the year. A little over 20 of us showed up for the monthly meeting in February. We had a relatively short meeting, a few goodies to eat, and some interesting white elephants that were traded around the room. It's a shame you missed all the fun.

The State Association's Winter Convention was conducted in Greeley in February. Lots of us were there and saw the happenings. We saw Ken Wee at a loss for words when he was named the 2014 Muzzle Loader of the Year. Good choice by the judges. The food was good, traders sparse but interesting, and lots of time to visit with old friends. The elections were no surprise and now our own Tom Gabor is the President for the upcoming year. We all need to get behind Tom and the Association to keep things moving and increase all our numbers; both for membership and participation.

We retrieved several flyers for upcoming events at the Winter Convention. It is important to share the information on events so you'll see these in the upcoming events as they draw closer. Time to start marking your calendars so that you'll have plenty to choose from when deciding what to do.

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**Don't forget that daylight savings time begins on March 9. Set your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night.**

**Don't be late!!!!**

Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc.  
Regular Monthly Meeting  
February 6, 2014

While it was a cold, cold night there were 17 gaily wrapped gifts on the table and 21 people present when Joy called the monthly meeting to order. Was good to see Adam and Dave Votava at the meeting. Dave explained that Adam's training at the Olympic

Training Center had been canceled so they came to the meeting to join with us. Adam shoots pistol and air rifle and has taken 2<sup>nd</sup> at the State level. Adam is also the lucky winner of the junior shotgun at our Memorial Day event and has taken first in the High Country Hideaway at Kremmling. WAY TO GO ADAM!!!!!!!

Joy asked for and received a motion to accept the Secretary's report for January as printed in the **Mountain Man Monthly**. Motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

When asked for the Treasurer's report, Gwen provided the group with a recap of last year's funding. She noted that our balance is less than where we were this time last year, but our insurance for 2014 has been paid and was up about \$20 over last year's fees. Question was raised on where we are losing money. Some issues are the price increase in postage, normal expenses for paper and the cost of doing the business we do. We also had to buy tires for our rendezvous trailer. Attendance at our event is down and that also affects the bottom line.

There being no more questions, a motion was made, seconded, and passed for acceptance of the report. Thanks to Gwen for recapping this for us.

Membership report by Ted noted that there is nothing new. Dues are trickling in and there is a gun show in March which may get us some more memberships. Motion made, seconded, and passed for acceptance of this report.

Primitive Report by Doug noted that there is no primitive shoot in February due to the State's Winter Convention. At the March paper shoot, Jim Murray will be hosting the pistol matches as Ken West is unavailable. Motion made, seconded, and passed to accept this report.

Memorial Day Shoot Report: At the January board meeting, it was decided that the name would be changed to the Annual Memorial Day Shoot. We no longer have rendezvous participants or camps so there is no sense in getting everyone's hopes up and then have them disappointed when there is none.

We are also working on reducing some of the costs associated with the event. We are reducing the number of hooters, changing the printing of our shoot book, and raising a portion of the fees. While we don't like to raise fees, this will be the first time in

many years that we have done it. We are moving Trader's Row and the knife & hawk event closer to the range to provide better access for visitors and to include these groups in what is happening. We have other plans as well so be sure to come and see what's happening.

We are also changing our medallions in some ways, but they will still tell you what you won it for. We are just looking for ways to provide a good quality shoot and retain some of our funds for the future.

There was no old business to discuss so we moved right on into the new business. First up is a notation that the April meeting will be a "show and tell" event. Please bring something interesting to show us and tell us about it.

May 4<sup>th</sup> is a Women on Target event. All are encouraged to come and assist and participate in this event.

May 10<sup>th</sup> will be an event at the Rocky Mountain Roosters location. It will be the same as last year's event and Doug will keep us updated. There will be powder and balls available for all.

Upcoming events were noted. Reminder given that there is no primitive shoot this month.

The meeting was then adjourned to begin the fun and frivolity of the White Elephant Gift Exchange. Humphrey made it back and there were several new items that were unwrapped. A rather large horseshoe was taken home by on lucky individual. Again if you missed this you missed a really good time and lots of laughter.

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## LOOKING FOR PRESENTERS

We are looking for individuals or groups to present a short something at each meeting. It can be entertainment, education, a book report, just something so that our members go away with having had a chance to learn something new or exciting. The presentations do not necessarily have to be about the fur trade. How about a short history lesson about our area?

We have lots of individuals who are avid readers; how about a book report on something you

have read lately? What about a report on authors you think are interesting and why?

April's meeting is a "show and tell" so maybe it will spur you on to something else. It may give you some ideas on what you might do for the group.

May's meeting, Ken West will be discussing pre-lubed patches. This should be a good one so mark your calendars and get to the meeting!!!!

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## Let's Remember.....

Word was received that Marlin Johnson was scheduled to have a total hip replacement on February 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary Corwin Hospital in Pueblo. Be sure to keep Marlin in your thoughts and prayers. Send him a card and let him know you care.

Joy is still recuperating from her back surgery. While she is making exciting recovery and moving forward, let's keep her in our prayers and work to help her keep our group going. She is still unable to do any bending, stooping, or lifting so we can all pitch in and help her.

Sharon Udovich has been under the weather. She is working to get better, but let's keep her in our prayers as well. We miss her tremendously!!!

Let's all remember Ron and Juanita Melchert. Without these very generous and loving individuals, we could not have monthly club shoots nor would we be as active as we are. Keep both of these folks in your prayers and let them know how much you appreciate them.

Let us also remember all our veterans and those currently serving in our military. This is a thankless job and yet is one of the most important that any individual can do for us and our country. Keep our military in your prayers.

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**DON'T FORGET.....** The work party at the LaChance home on April 19h. We start work at 10:00 a.m. and when done, we'll share a potluck lunch. Most of the work is pretty simple and it should not take long but we need many hands to make it light.

He was getting old and paunchy  
And his hair was falling fast,  
And he sat around the Legion,  
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in  
And the deeds that he had done,  
In his exploits with his buddies;  
They were heroes, every one.

And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors  
His tales became a joke,  
All his buddies listened quietly  
For they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,  
For ol' Joe has passed away,  
And the world's a little poorer  
For a Veteran died today.

He won't be mourned by many,  
Just his children and his wife.  
For he lived an ordinary,  
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,  
Going quietly on his way;  
And the world won't note his passing,  
'Tho a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth,  
Their bodies lie in state,  
While thousands note their passing,  
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories  
From the time that they were young,  
But the passing of a Veteran  
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution  
To the welfare of our land,  
Some jerk who breaks his promise  
And cons his fellow man?

Or the ordinary fellow  
Who in times of war and strife,

Goes off to serve his country  
And offers up his life?

The politician's stipend  
And the style in which he lives,  
Are often disproportionate,  
To the service that he gives.

While the ordinary Veteran,  
Who offered up his all,  
Is paid off with a medal  
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians  
With their compromise and ploys,  
Who won for us the freedom  
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,  
With your enemies at hand,  
Would you really want some cop-out,  
With his ever-waffling stand?

Or would you want a Veteran  
His home, his country, his kin,  
Just a common Veteran,  
Who would fight until the end.

He was just a common Veteran,  
And his ranks are growing thin,  
But his presence should remind us  
We may need his likes again.

For when countries are in conflict,  
We find the Veteran's part,  
Is to clean up all the troubles  
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor  
While he's here to hear the praise,  
Then at least let's give him homage  
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline  
In the paper that might say:  
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,  
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."

## **RUNNING EAGLE: WOMAN WARRIOR OF THE BLACKFEET**

*Visions are sacred to the Plains people. Men or women trying to find their way on the road of life go on a vision quest. The spirit voices tell one what to do and give visions that will determine one's journey in life. Once, a long time ago, a woman took the traditional ways of a man through her vision. She dreamed of becoming a respected, brave warrior. Her dream vision gave her the direction to follow men's ways. She proved her courage time after time and was respected as a great warrior.*

Running Eagle has become the most famous woman in the history of the Blackfoot Nation because she gave up the work of the household in exchange for the war trails usually followed by men. In fact, she became so successful on her war adventures that many men called her a chief and eagerly followed her whenever she would take them. She was finally killed during one of her war adventures.

Because this woman died sometime around 1850 the actual facts of her life are now hard to separate from the popular legends. My grandmothers of today still talk about her, and an old book about her life can be found on some library shelves. However, all the stories agree that this woman was very successful in all but her final efforts, and that she was well liked and respected by her people. It is generally believed that she was also a holy woman who put up Sun Dances, for which she qualified by never marrying or taking a lover in her life. It is said that she pledged herself to Sun, as the result of a vision of power.

The popular story is that Running Eagle began life as an ordinary Blackfoot girl named Brown Weasel Woman. She had two brothers and two sisters, and her father was a well-known warrior. When she became of age that boys began to practice hunting, she asked her father to make a set of bow and arrows with which she could practice. He did so, though not without some argument from his wives. It is said that he even allowed her to go with him buffalo hunting and that she learned to shoot well enough to bring some down.

It was during one of the buffalo hunts with her father that this unusual girl is said to have first shown her warrior's courage. There were only a few Blackfoot hunters in the party, and it was not far from the camps when an enemy war party attacked and chased it. As the people rode toward the camp at top speed, Brown Weasel Woman's father had his horse shot out from under him. One of the bravest deeds performed by warriors in the old days was to brave the enemy fire while riding back to rescue a companion who was left on foot. This is what the daughter did for her father, both of them making their escape on her horse, after she stopped to unload the fresh meat that was tied on behind her. When word of the attack reached the rest of the tribe, a great crowd of warriors rode out after the enemy, killing many of them and chasing the rest away. The young woman's name was mentioned for days and nights after, as the people recounted what had taken place during that particular fight. It is said that some of the people complained, and feared that the girl performing men's deeds would set a bad example which might lead other girls to give up their household ways.

However, when her mother became helplessly ill sometime later, the future warrior woman decided on her own to take up household work. Since she was the eldest child in the family, there was no one to do the cooking and tanning while her mother slowly withered away. So she worked hard to learn what she had been avoiding, and she taught her younger brothers and sisters to help out wherever they could.

It is hard to say for how many years this young woman took the place of her mother in running the family household, but it is said that she did it very well. However, it is also said that she did it without receiving any pleasure from it, since she had probably already experienced too much excitement from the adventures of men's ways. At any rate, she had no boy friends and she took no interest in the plans others her age were making for marriage.

The turning point in the young woman's life came when her father was killed while on the war trail. News of his death also killed his widow, in her weakened state. The young woman and her brothers and sisters suddenly were orphaned, and she decided at that point to devote herself to her dream power giving her direction to follow men's ways. She took a widow woman into the lodge to help with the household work, and directed her brothers and sisters

in doing their share. She even carried a rifle inherited from her father- - at a time when many men still relied mainly on their bows and arrows.

Her first war adventure came not long after she and her family had gotten over their initial mourning. A war party of men left the Blackfoot camps on the trail of Crow warriors who had come and stolen horses. When this party was well under way, one of its members noticed someone following behind, in the distance. It turned out to be the young woman, armed and dressed for battle. The leader of the party told her to go back, threatened her, and finally told her that he would take the whole party back home if she didn't leave them. She is said to have laughed and told him: "You can return if you want to; I will go on by myself."

One of the members of this party was a young man who was a cousin of the young woman - - a brother, in Blackfoot relationships - - and he offered to take her back himself. When she still refused to go, the leader of the party put this cousin of hers in charge of her well being, so that they could all continue on their way. She grew up with this cousin, and learned to hunt by his side, so the two got along well, in general.

The war party with the young woman spent several days on the trail before they reached the enemy camps of the Crows. They made a successful raid, going in and out of the camp many times, by cover of night, to bring out the choice horses that their owners kept in front of the lodges. It is said that the woman and her cousin went in together and that she, by herself, captured eleven of the valuable runners. Before daylight they were mounted on their stolen horses and headed back toward their own homeland, driving ahead of them the rest of the captured herd. The Crows discovered their loss in the morning, and chased the party for some way. But the raiders were able to change horses whenever the ones they were riding became worn out, and in that way they soon left the enemy followers way behind.

However, the most exciting part of this first war adventure for the young Blackfoot woman was yet to come, according to the legend that has survived her. While the rest of the party rested and cooked in a hidden location, she kept watch on the prairie country from the top of a nearby butte. From there she saw the approach of two enemy riders, and before she could alert the rest of her party to the danger, the

enemies were ready to round up the captured herd. It is said that she ran down the butte with her rifle and managed to grab the rope of the herd's lead horse, to keep the rest from running away. Then, as the enemies closed in on her, expecting no trouble from a woman, she shot the one who carried a rifle and forced the other one to turn and try an escape. Instead of reloading her own rifle, she ran and grabbed the one from the fallen enemy, and shot after the one getting away. She missed him, but others of the party went after him and shortly brought him down as well. Her companions were quite surprised and pleased at what she had done. Not only had she saved their whole herd from being captured, but she also killed an enemy and captured his gun. She even captured his horse and one of the others took his scalp and presented her with it. It is said that she didn't want it, but she felt better when reminded that she had avenged her father's death.

Although the young woman's first war experience was quite successful, there were still many people who thought that the chiefs should make her stop following the ways of the men. However, the critical talking came to an end altogether after she followed the advice of wise elders and went out to fast and seek a vision. She spent four days and nights alone and the Spirits rewarded her with a vision that gave her the power that men consider necessary for leading a successful warrior's life. Such visions were not always received by those seeking them, and very seldom have women received them at all. By tribal custom, no one questioned her about the vision, nor did they doubt her right to follow the directions which she was thus given. From then on the people considered her as someone unusual, with special powers, whom only the Spirits could judge and guide.

The young woman's second war adventure took her west over the Rocky Mountains, to the camps of the Kalispell tribe. Among her companions were some of the same men who had been on her first war raid, including her cousin/brother, with whom she was spending a lot of her time. This time, instead of wearing her buckskin dress, she had on a new suit of warrior's clothing, including leggings, shirt, and breechcloth. She also carried a fine rawhide war shield, that had been given to her by the man who married the widow woman who had moved into the orphan household some time before.

The second raid turned out quite successfully, although one member of the party was killed. They captured a herd of over six hundred horses, and killed a number of the enemy during a fight which followed their discovery during the raiding. The young woman was shot at, and would have been killed, but the two arrows both struck her shield, instead of her body.

The next time that the tribe gathered for the annual medicine lodge ceremony, the young woman was asked to get up with the other warriors and tell the people about her war exploits. Other women had done so, but they had usually gone in the company of their husbands and had not accomplished such fearless deeds as she. When she finished her stories the people applauded with drum beats and war whoops, as was the custom. Then the head chief of the tribe, a man named Lone Walker, is said to have honored her in a way never known to have been done for a woman. After a short talk and a prayer, he gave her a new name —Running Eagle— an ancient name carried by several famous warriors in the tribe before her. In addition, the Braves Society of young warriors invited her to become a member, which honor she is said to have accepted as well.

From that point on, Running Eagle, the young woman warrior, became the leader of the war parties she went with, no longer a follower. I cannot say how many such war raids she went on, nor how many horses she captured, nor enemies she killed. There are many different legends about them. There are also legends of men who could not accept that this proud woman wanted no husband, so they tried all the ways known of to make her change her mind about marriage. But the issue was settled when she explained that Sun had come in her vision and told her that she must belong only to him, and that she could not go on living if she broke such a commandment.

As Running Eagle lived by the war trail, so she died also. It was when she led a large party of warriors against the Flathead tribe in revenge for their killing of some men and women who had gone from the Blackfoot camps one morning to hunt and butcher buffalo. The revenge party was a very large one, and she led it right to the edge of the Flathead camp during the night. In the early morning, after waiting for the camp to be cleared of the prize horses by their herders, she gave the cry to attack. There followed a long drawn-out battle in which many of the enemy

were killed. After the initial shooting, the battle turned into a free-for-all in which clubs and knives were the main weapons. Running Eagle was attacked by a large enemy with a club, whom she killed, but another came up behind her and killed her with his club. One of Running Eagle's men in turn killed this man. When the battle was over, the members of her party found her, the large man in front, the other behind, and she dead in the middle. And so ended the career of the woman warrior whose life has become a legend among the Blackfeet.

From *The Ways of My Grandmothers*, by Beverly Hungry Wolf. Copyright 1980 by Beverly Hungry Wolf.