



February, 2016

# 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**

**March 3 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Bow Drill Demo**

**NO Paper Shoot - March 5**

**State Winter Convention**

**in Ft. Collins**

**Primitive Shoot - March 20**

**Hunting License Applications**

**Due April 5**

**April 7 Monthly Meeting**

**Speaker "Living History"**

**President**

Joy Hicks

**Vice President**

Bob McCune

**Treasurer**

Gwen Blanchard

**Secretary**

Janie Clark

**Membership Chairman**

Ted Beaupre

**Range Officer**

Ted Beaupre

**Primitive Exec.**

Doug Davis

**Assistant Primitive Exec.**

Tony Hecker

**Womens' Primitive Exec.**

Dee Beaupre

**Cannon Master**

Richard Stites

**Legislative Liaison**

Doug Davis

**Mountain Man Monthly Editor**

Doreen Webb

## UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML &amp; Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	March 3 7:00 p.m.	business of the club; bow drill demonstration
CSMLA Annual Winter Convention & Meeting	Elks Club Ft. Collins	March 5	annual meeting & trade show; election of officers
<b>NO PAPER SHOOT</b>	Ft. Melchert	March 6	cancel as we'll be at convention!
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b>	<b>TIME BEGINS</b>	<b>MARCH 13</b>	<b>CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR!!</b>
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 20	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
<i>CPW Big Game &amp;</i>	<i>Hunting License</i>	<b>DUE APRIL 5, 2016</b>	<i>big game &amp; limited draw licenses - - www.csp.state.co.us</i>
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	April 7; 7:00 p.m.	Guest speaker "Living History"
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 17	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	May 5	last one before the big event
<b>NO CLUB SHOOTS</b>	<b>IN MAY.....</b>	<b>NO CLUB SHOOTS</b>	<b>Work on annual shoot!!!!</b>
41 <sup>st</sup> annual Memorial Day Black Powder Shoot	Florence Mountain Park	May 28-30	shooting, potluck, fun, and festivities
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	June 2	review of the 41 <sup>st</sup> event
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 5	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 19	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
<b>NO CLUB PAPER</b>	<b>SHOOT JULY 3</b>	<b>DUE TO JULY 4</b>	<b>HOLIDAY!!!!</b>
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	July 7; 7:00 p.m.	regular stuff & discussions
Grainger's Primitive Camp Out	Grainger property near Victor	July 16-17	camping, shooting, chili cooking contest, potluck supper, etc.
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	August 4	regular club business & whatever
Grainger's Paper Camp Out	Grainger property near Victor	August 20-21	camping, shooting, potluck, election of officers
<b>NO Club Meeting</b>		September 1	<b>LABOR DAY HOLIDAY</b>
<b>NO CLUB PAPER</b>	<b>SHOOT SEPT. 4</b>	<b>DUE TO LABOR</b>	<b>DAY HOLIDAY!!!!</b>

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

The February meeting allowed us to welcome new member Fred Bogotay from Kansas. This was his first meeting with us and we were sure glad to meet him.

The Treasury is very low at this point. We had our large bills (insurance, meeting costs, and copier maintenance) come out and this means we REALLY need to have the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Memorial Day Shoot and have large attendance so we can build our coffers. The good thing is that we have the supplies and materials from last year's cancellation that we can reuse and this will help the cost. Let's all pray that Mother Nature is kind to us in 2016.

Membership renewals are slow. Reminders given to all to get your renewals in now or you will lose the information in the newsletter that you receive.

Lots of discussion surrounding the upcoming State Winter Convention. Muzzle Loader of the Year nominations need to get to Tom Gabor now as he is helping Estill Ator with this. No paper shoot in March due to most of us being at the Winter Convention. Reminder that the first trade table is free for anyone wanting to come and trade goods. Joy and Gwen are doing all they can to run this year's event.

Flyers for our own 41<sup>st</sup> annual event are available and we need to widely distribute these. Take copies with you wherever you go and see if you can leave at least one to post. We need a big success to continue this group.

Once the meeting was done we then ate and opened the white elephants. Lots of fun this one was. A small outhouse ornament was the hit of the event and changed hands several times. It even outdid the bag of chocolates and who doesn't like chocolate!!!! We all laughed and had a grand time and if you weren't there, well, you missed out on it all.

Oh, by the way, we are still looking for additional demos, book reports, sharing, whatever for our monthly meetings. We want to make the meetings fun and educational or informational. Volunteer to help us out with these meetings. You never know how much you really know until you share it with others who didn't know it.



## CONDOLENCES

We extend our condolences to Joy Hicks on the loss of her nephew Josh to cancer. Josh put up a brave battle but was unable to overcome the devastation of the disease. Josh was only 34 years young. This young man was the son of Joy's brother that was recently killed.

Some of us old timers will remember a man by the name of Cliff Coyner. We have received word that Cliff has gone to the last great rendezvous due to a heart attack. Cliff was quite a character and was very much present at a multitude of the rendezvous and shoots that enable him to participate with his muzzle loaders.

## NEWS FROM FLORIDA.....

Marlin Johnson sent us an e-mail that we want to share with everyone.

HI EVERYBODY,

Barb and I miss all you guys. Just wanted to let you know that Barb is doing exceptionally well with her health down here. She is not shooting yet but I am shooting with the Volusia County Muzzle Loaders. I am having fun but it is not the organized well-oiled organization of the CSML. They only have a competition shoot about once a month, usually only 25 yards. Now that I am a range club member, I can shoot any time I want. It is open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to dusk.

Well, better close. I will be sending my dues to CSML soon. Also want to thank you folks for all the good times and also the State Association. By the way, the range down here is very nice; covered loading area in pretty dense trees, nice wide shooting lanes, and ranges at 25, 560, and 100 yards.

Take care,  
Marlin & Barb

# Primitive Pistol Match February 21st

by: Ken West

The weather was surprisingly good for this time of the year and considering recent history. Nine of us competed in the match. The scores were:

Al Bartok	12 gongs
Jim Murray	11 gongs
John Udovich	11 gongs
Clay Vandenberg	11 gongs
Jay Rathman	11 gongs
Ted Beaupre	10 gongs
George Greaves III	10 gongs
Ken West	10 gongs
George Greaves IV	5 gongs

A fun match with a lot of ingenuity and effort expended to figure out what happened to the gunpowder that Jay put in ahead of the ball in his pistol (and why the gunpowder poured in later through the nipple didn't burn). I have experienced this problem - - - to a lesser degree - - - as hangfires, and following the advice of a knowledgeable shooter (Jay Rathman), now pour a bit of Windex down the barrel to free up the carbon in the fire-path between the nipple and the charge before pumping warm water through the barrel and nipple. This results in particles of carbon being left in the washbasin that I use for cleaning guns.

*Things everyone else already knew.....*

As most of you know, the most time-consuming step in casting round balls is getting them out of the mold. After reading the article on casting bullets in the latest "Muzzle Blasts" I decided to try "smoking" the bullet mold before casting round balls. You use a normal wax candle and hold the mould in the flame, which causes the flame to become smokey, and coat the inside of the mold with soot (include the sprue cutter). Using this technique, I was able to cast about 200 balls before the balls began to stick to the mold.

George Greaves reminded me again that, if you are using a synthetic powder in a flint, follow the directions on the container and load about 5 grains of real black powder before loading the synthetic - - the synthetics tend to NOT light from the spark of a flint!

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## FOR SALE

Thompson Center .50 caliber Renegade and .50 caliber Hawkin rifles for sale. Both are percussion and price is \$350.00, negotiable.

Contact: Lou Moore (719) 544-3209

## Memorial Day Shoot Stuff.....

The time is drawing near and there is plenty to do for this annual event. We still need volunteers to help out with the various events and Ted will surely need staff on the firing line. We need to get going quickly and get this settled so that we can make it the biggest and best shoot ever.

Ted has stated that the shooting range will be open on Friday, May 27 for any worker-bees that want to shoot **A F T E R** the set up for the weekend is complete. This will allow some of the worker-bees to get some shooting in before the work begins.

We are still in a great need for donated items for the drawing table. We want to sell lots of tickets and get the attendees excited about winning the things that we have. Help us out and donate some of the things you have or make. The items do not have to be muzzle loading related but we do ask that they be of

good quality and worth the entry ticket price.

Everyone who attends the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Memorial Day Shoot will be asked to help us police the grounds and keep the area clean. This will mean less work on the last day. If you see it, pick it up!

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**DON'T FORGET.....**

Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association Winter Convention is March 5 in Ft. Collins at the Elk's Lodge (same place as last year). Banquet Saturday night. First trade table is free.

No paper shoot on March 6 at Ft. Melchert.

Daylight savings time is effective Sunday, March 13

Hunting License applications due April 5.

Income taxes are due to be postmarked by midnight April 18.

Only 87 days to the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Memorial Day Shoot!!!!!!



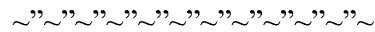
**A TALE OF A VETERAN**

It seems that we have a recently recognized veteran hero among us. While he is not one to brag on the things that have occurred in his life or experiences, we are sure happy to do it for him. We all know that he is most deserving of the praise and love that we can share.

At the Fremont County NRA banquet February 12, there was a portion of the ceremony where the sponsors showed a plaque that had been created by an individual who wanted to honor the veterans in attendance. The plaque was then auctioned off. Those same sponsors then asked every veteran in the room to stand. A huge round of applause was given to those who stood. The emcee then asked the standing veterans to sit down in varying categories of age, until there was only one

“young” man of 85 standing in the room. The young lady who had the winning bid on the plaque then walked over to **RON MELCHERT** and presented him with this gift. The room exploded in recognition. Way to go Ron!!! We are all so proud of you for all your accomplishments. You are truly a hero to all of us.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!**



**A DAY IN A HAT FACTORY**

*The Penny Magazine, London*

Most fraternities love to have a patron saint, when they can find one; and those hatters who regard St. Clement in this light inform us that this holy man, being forced to flee from persecutors, found his feet to be so blistered by long-continued travel, that he was induced to put a little wool between his sandals and the soles of his feet. On continuing his journey, the warmth, moisture, motion, and pressure of the feet worked the wool into a uniformly compact substance. Finally, the wanderer, observing the useful nature of this substance, caused it to be introduced in the manufacture of various articles of apparel.

But leaving St. Clement and his felted “inner soles,” we may remark that the philosophy of felting was not understood until the microscope was applied to the examination of animal fibres. It was then found that the fibre, whether of wool or fur, is surrounded by a vast number of minute teeth projecting obliquely from the central stem. As these teeth are very sharp and are turned in one direction, they present an obstacle to the motion of the fibre in that direction, but enable it to glide easily in the opposite one; just as an ear of barley, when placed stalk uppermost within the cuff of the coat-sleeve, will soon work its way up to the shoulder by the motion of the arm. In some woolly fibres the irregularities appear like concentric cups, rather than sharp teeth.

When a heap of such fibres is rubbed and pressed, and the fibres made to curl slightly by the action of warmth and moisture, they twist around each other, and the teeth interlace so tightly as not to separate. So complete, indeed, is the entanglement of

fibres thus produced, that a coat made from cloth manufactured solely by the felting process has been known to last in wear ten years.

The purpose which the serrated structure of hair or fur is intended to answer is matter for conjecture. With respect to the double fur of such animals as the beaver, the following opinion has been offered that, as the beaver passes much of its time in the water, the little projections from the filaments of the inner fur may serve as receptacles whereby the water is prevented from reaching the skin, and that the outer fibres may perhaps act like alves, which, when closed, shield the animal from cold, and when open permit the evaporation of water from the inner fur, and likewise permit respiration to go on from the pores of the skin.

But whatever be the purpose which these arrangements answer in the animal economy, it is evident that the minute serrations on the fibres of fur and wool are the means of the felting; this being understood, we shall be able to comprehend how the fur and wool are worked up into the form of a hat, and we therefore return to the "bowing" room. The bowed materials for one hat are divided into two portions, each of which is separately pressed with a light wicker frame, and afterwards with a piece of oil-cloth or leather, called a "hardening-skin," until, by the pressure of the hands backwards and forwards all over the skin, the fibres are brought closer together, the points of contact multiplied, the serrations made to link together and a slightly coherent fabric formed. These two halves, or "batts" are then formed into a hollow cap by a singular contrivance. One of the "batts," nearly triangular in shape and measuring about half a yard in each direction, being laid flat, a triangular piece of paper, smaller in size than the batt, is laid upon it, and the edges of the batt, being folded over the paper, meet at the upper surface, and thus form a complete envelope to the paper. The two meeting edges are soon made to combine by gentle pressure and friction, and the other batt is laid over the first in a similar way, but having the meeting edges on the opposite side of the paper. The doubled layer, with the enclosed paper, are then folded up in a damp cloth and worked by hand; the workman pressing and bending, rolling and unrolling, until the fibres of the inner layer have incorporated with those of the outer. It is evident that, were there not a piece of paper

interposed, the whole of the fibres would be worked together into a mass by the opposite sides felting together; but the paper maintains a vacancy within, and when withdrawn at the edger which is to form the opening of the cap, it leaves the felted material in such a form as to constitute, when stretched open, a hollow cone.

Our visit to this part of the factory has been somewhat lengthy; but the process of transforming the "bowed" materials into a conical cap is so important, as illustrative of felting, that if this be clearly understood, all that follows will be tolerably plain.

Few "kettles" are the scene of such busy operations as the hatter's 'kettle,' and few would be so uninviting to a person fastidious as to cleanliness. Imagine a large kettle or boiler open at the top, having a fire beneath it, and eight planks ascending obliquely from the margin, so as to form a sort of octagonal workbench, five or six feet in diameter, at which eight men may work. The planks are made of lead near the kettle, and of mahogany at the outer part, and at each plank a workman operates a conical cap, until the process of felting or 'planking' is completed. The 'kettle' contains hot water slightly acidulated with sulphuric acid; and, as far as words can do so, the following may convey an idea of the process: - - The cap is dipped into the hot liquor; laid on one of the planks, and subjected to a long felting process; it is rolled and unrolled, twisted, pressed, and rubbed with a piece of leather or wood tied to the palm of the workman's hand, and rolled with a rolling pin. From time to time the cap is examined, to ascertain whether the thickness of the material is sufficient in every part; and if any defective places appear, they are wetted with a brush dipped in the hot liquor, and a few additional fibres are worked in. Considerable skill is required in order to preserve such an additional thickness of material at one part as shall suffice for the brim of the hat. When this felting process has been continued for about two hours, it is found that the heat, moisture, pressure, and friction have reduced the cap to one half of its former dimensions, the thickness being increased in a proportionate degree.

In many parts of the factory are 'stoving' rooms, in which, by the judicious arrangement of flues, a high temperature is maintained. To such a room the

felted or 'planked' cap is taken, and, when dried, it presents the appearance of a fine, stout, and very strong kersey mere, having a drab or grayish colour. There can be little doubt that such a fabric is well calculated to serve the purposes of common broad-cloth, provided the means of manufacturing it of large dimensions were ensured; indeed a company is now established for this purpose.

Is not the reader still puzzled to know how or when the hat will make its appearance? We have described numerous materials, and have visited many departments of the factory, but have still produced only a drab-coloured, flexible, conical cap, about fifteen inches wide and fourteen high, and without a particle of beaver on its surface. The surface, colour, and form are, however, now about to be changed, in the order here indicated.

In the first place, the cap is taken to the 'water-proofing' room, where the odour of gums, resins, and spirits gives some intimation of the materials employed. Gum-lac, gum-sandrah, gum-mastic, resin, frankincense, copal, caoutchouc, spirits of wine, and spirits of turpentine, are the ingredients (all of a very inflammable nature) of which the water-proofing composition is made. This is laid on the cap by means of a brush and the workman exercises his skill in regulating the quantity at different parts, since the strength of the future brim and crown depends much on this process.

After another 'stoving,' by which the spirit is evaporated, the exterior of the cap is scoured with a weak alkali, to remove a portion of the gummy coating, and thereby enable the beaver fur afterwards to cling to the woolly fibres of the cap.

Now, for the first time, we have to direct our attention to the fine beaver fur, the purchase and preparation of which are so costly. The washing, plucking, cropping, and blowing departments we have already visited, and have seen the fibres of fur divided into two qualities, of which the finer is that to which the hatter attaches value. This finer quality, which appears to have been formerly known by the name of 'flich,' was, in bygone times, used not only for hats, but also for hosiery purposes, in allusion to which Dyer, in his poem of the 'Fleece,' has these lines; - -

"The beaver's flich  
Gives kindest warmth to weak  
Enervate limbs,

When the pale blood slow rises  
Through the veins."

The fur, being bowed very carefully by a smaller bow than that employed for wool, is spread out into a layer, and by means of the 'hardening-skin' is pressed and worked into a very delicate and light felt, just coherent enough to hold together. This layer, which is called a 'ruffing,' or 'roughing,' is a little larger than the cap body; and, to unite the two, another visit to the 'kettle' is necessary. The cap being softened by submersion in the hot liquor, the 'ruffing' is laid on it, and patted down with a wet brush, a narrow strip of beaver being laid round the inside of the cap, to form the underside of the future brim. The beavered cap is then wrapped in a woollen cloth, submersed frequently in the hot liquor, and rolled on the plank for the space of two hours. The effect of this rubbing and rolling is very curious, and may be illustrated in a simple manner: - - if a few fibres of beaver fur be laid on a piece of broad-cloth, covered with tissue-paper, and rubbed gently with the finger, they will penetrate through the cloth and appear at the opposite side. So, likewise, in the process of 'ruffing,' each fibre of fur is set in motion from root to point, and enters the substance of the felt cap. The hairs proceed in a pretty straight course, and just enter the felt, with the substance of which they form an intimate union. But if the rolling and pressing were continued too long, the hairs would actually pass through the felt, and be seen on the inside instead of the out; the workman, therefore, exercises his judgment in continuing the process only so long as is sufficient to secure the hairs in the felt firm enough to bear the action of the bat-brush in after-days. Eighty or a hundred years ago, when beaver fur was cheap, an "old English gentleman" was wont to have his hat so well beavered, that as much nap felted through it to the inside as remained on the exterior; and when the hat showed symptoms of decay and old age, it was sent to the maker, who turned it inside out, and gave it nearly the pristine freshness of a newly-made hat.

At length the cap is to assume somewhat the shape of a hat, before it finally leaves the 'kettle.' The workman first turns up the edge of the cap to the depth of about an inch and a half; and then draws the peak of the cap back through the centre or axis, so far

as not to take out the first fold, but to produce an inner fold of the same depth. The point being turned back again, produces a third fold; and thus the workman proceeds, till the whole has acquired the appearance of a flattish circular piece, consisting of a number of concentric folds or rings, with the peak in the centre. This is laid on the 'plank,' where the workman, keeping the substance hot and wet, pulls, presses, and rubs the centre until he has formed a smooth flat portion equal to the intended crown of the hat. He then takes a cylindrical block, on the flat end of which he applies the flattened central portion of the felt; and by forcing a string down the curved sides of the block, he causes the surrounding portion of the felt to assume the figure of the block. The part which is to form the brim now appears as a puckered appendage round the edge of the hat; but this puckered edge is soon brought to a tolerably flat shape by pulling and pressing.

We here terminate our visit to the 'blocking shop.' The conical cap has been converted into a hat with a flat brim; and we take leave of the 'kettle,' with its hot acid liquor, its wet planks, its clouds of steam, and its ingenious attendants. We will suppose the hat to have been dried in a stoving-room near the great chimney, and will then place it in the hands of the 'shearer.' In an appropriate room, this workman raises and opens the nap of the hats, by means of a peculiar sort of comb; and then shears the hairs to any required length. Connoisseurs in these matters are learned as to the respective merits of 'short naps' and 'long naps;' and by the shearer's dexterity these are regulated. The visitor recognizes nothing difficult in this operation; yet years of practice are necessary for the attainment of skill therein; since the workman determines the length of the nap by the peculiar position in which the long light shears are held. A nap or pile as fine as that of velvet can be produced by this operation.

The routing of processes now requires that we should visit the western range of buildings, on the opposite side of Bermondsey Street. At the remote end of the court-yard, we see a dark and dismal-looking building, having a very little light, and that little received through unglazed windows, - - large boiling cauldrons, which it requires some nerve to look into, - - a spacious brass cage or frame, - - cranes

and tackle for raising weights, - - and a party of workmen whose persons and garments denote the staining effect of the hot dye to which they are exposed. This is the 'dye-house,' where the hats exchange their drab or grey hue for a black one. The dyeing ingredients are logwood and some metallic salts, boiled in certain proportions in soft water. The logwood is imported from Capeachy in logs five or six feet long, and from five to ten inches thick; and a room in this extensive factory is appropriated to the cutting of these logs into fine shreds. For this purpose a powerful revolving wheel, provided with four cutting-blades inserted radially in one of its faces, is employed; the ends of the logs being applied to these blades, the wood is cut into shreds with astonishing force and quickness.

The cauldron with the dyeing ingredients being ready, a number of hats are fixed upon blocks, and the blocks, by means of a hole at one end of each, are fixed to brass pegs inserted in a large skeleton frame; so that the hats shall not touch each other. The frame is then lowered into the cauldron, and turned in such a manner as to allow all the hats to be submerged in the dye; after which the frame is hauled up, and the hats allowed to drain for thirty or forty minutes. This alternate submersion and partial drying is repeated twelve or fifteen times, until every fibre of the hat, - - felt as well as nap, - - is thoroughly dyed. This is followed by soaking and washing, which frees the surface from impurities; and the hat is then again 'stoved.' A few subsequent processes remove certain irregularities of shape, which the hat has acquired by repeated submersions in the dye-liquor.

We next visit a department of the building where 'finishers' are employed. A boiler is so arranged as to yield a jet of steam, over which the hat is held until thoroughly softened; and having a block shaped in every part nearly as the hat is intended to be, the 'finisher' pulls, rubs, and presses the hat, until it assumes the form of the block; after which the nap is stretched, turned in any required direction, and smoothed, by various sets of brushes, small cushions of velvet, and heated irons.

*(Still more to come later.....)*