



February, 2020

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.

Next Club Shoot - March 1
Host is Tony Hecker

Regular Monthly Meeting
TUESDAY, March 3, 2020
7:00 p.m.

CSMLA Winter Convention
March 14 at Ft. Collins

Memorial Day Weekend Multi-
Disciplinary Shooting Event
May 23 & 24 ... details inside

President

Ted "Dances With Deer" Beaupre

Vice President

John "Semi-Savage" Gloyd

Treasurer

Gwen Blanchard

Secretary

Membership Secretary

Marilyn "Wounded Thumb" Stites

Cannon Master

Richard "Singe" Stites

Club Shoots

1st Sunday each month

Pistols at 12:00 p.m.

Rifle at 1:00 p.m.

Always looking for new
members, shooters,
shoot hosts, and folks
wanting to have a good time!

Mountain Man Monthly Editor

Doreen Webb

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & STATEWIDE

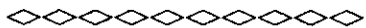
WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION/DETAILS
Meeting for Multi-Disciplinary Shoot	Gabor home 2515 Brady Drive	7:00 p.m.	help finalize the big shoot on Memorial Day weekend
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	March 3	who knows; come and see!
Daylight Savings Time	BEGINS again	March 8, 2020	set clocks ahead 1 hour!!!!
CSMLA Winter Convention	Elks Lodge Ft. Collins	March 14	tables of trade items, elections, awards, banquet, lots of fun.
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 5	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	April 7	club business and fun
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	May 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	May 5	club business and fun
Memorial Day Weekend Multi-Discipline Shooting Event	Cheyenne Mtn. Shooting Complex	May 23-24	traditional muzzle loaders, flintlocks, percussion, pistol & revolver, In-line, black powder cartridge, .22 rim fire pistol & rifle, pistol caliber rifle & carbine, pistol caliber handguns. Lots of shooting!!!
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	June 2	club business and fun
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 7	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 p.m.
Santa Fe Trails Rendezvous	Raton, NM	June 14-21	Info:575-643-6038 or 575-445-0169; facebook.com/sftrendezvous
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	July 5	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	July 7	come and see what's up
Grainger Primitive Camp Out	Grainger's near Victor	July 18-19	camping, shooting, chili cook-off; potluck, and lots of fun.
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	August 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 p.m.
Monthly Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	August 4	monthly business meeting
Grainger Paper Camp Out	Grainger's near Victor	August 15-16	shooting, potluck supper, elections, potluck breakfast, and loads of fun!!!
Monthly Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	Sept. 1	annual meeting and new officers presented

*For CSML scheduled shoots: CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 442-0150 after 9:00 a.m. to be sure shoot is on!!
Schedule subject to change at any time and is based on information available at time of publication. On-line, check csmlinc.org.*

PAST THINGS

While the Editor was not at the February monthly meeting, all reports indicate that it was a good meeting and an even better White Elephant gift exchange. Food, as usual, was good and everyone enjoyed the items brought.

Plans are really moving forward for the Memorial Day Weekend Multi-Discipline Shooting Event. Sounds like lots of shooting and fun to be had with minimal work. You can find the schedule of events at <http://csmlinc.org/registration> and we are asking that everyone help talk this event up. Event is open to the public. Camping is available; no pets, and no 4-wheelers. Ted and Doug have more information if you need it.



Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Regular Monthly Meeting February 4, 2020

The February 4, 2020 Membership Meeting was called to order on time by President Ted Beaupre, with around 20 present. Members acknowledged and pledge said; the meeting moved real fast. (I think everyone wanted to get to the festivities.)

The Secretary's report was accepted as printed in the *Mountain Man Monthly*.

Gwen was unable to make the meeting so there was no Treasurer's report.

Marilyn reported that we have 61 members on the books; 23 have renewed this year so far. She reminded us that DUES ARE DUE!

Old Business: Don reported we had a gun show last month and the next one will be March 14. The guys asked for a lot more tri-folds (YES!). John Gloyd reported that we had more interest at this one than any of the others lately. A great big thank you to those guys who take their time to do this for the CSML.

It was reported there was a shoot on Sunday with great weather.

New Business: CSMLA Winter Convention and Trade Show is March 14. Be sure to get your table and dinner reservations in to Gwen or Joy. Don't forget the nominations for Muzzle Loader of the Year.

The Memorial Day Weekend Multi-Discipline Event was up next. The flyer is ready; the schedule of events, and the registration forms are ready. (The flyer and the schedule of events are included in the newsletter.) The Schedule of Events looks like a lot of events but has been structured so there will be less work and more opportunity to shoot for our members. The fact that we are holding it at the Cheyenne Mountain Shooting Complex will give us more exposure in the community. We are hoping that by having it be a multi-discipline event, we can bring in people from other shooting sports and introduce them to the world of muzzle loading. We will be having a meeting at the Gabor's on February 19 to continue with the plans. A monthly meeting will be held to finalize our plans and make this the best with the least amount of work for our tattered bodies.

We are still in need of entertainment for the meetings so we can come together, visit, and enjoy the sharing of knowledge.

Shoot hosts: March 1 - Tony Hecker; April 5 - Brandon Morris & Richard Stites. Be sure to pick your month.

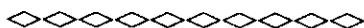
There was discussion about making the July 5 regular monthly shoot be done at the July 18 & 19 Grainger Camp Out and the August 2 regular monthly shoot be done at the August 15 & 16 Grainger Camp Out. We will need a host or maybe a couple of people for the Grainger Camp Out. We will also need someone to volunteer to pull up the trailer with the targets and supplies and also someone to haul the port-a-potty as Doug, Joy, and Randy will not be there. There will also be a need for someone to make pancakes if you want them. There is a real need for people to step up if we want the Grainger shoots to continue as they have.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting. So done.

With the meeting over, everyone gathered at the food table (yum) and the fun began. In the offering were snowman placements (most coveted), a dog on a stick (turned out to be a Native American

fetish), gloves, a metal statue of a crane, a Santa candle, ball caps, bean soup bubble bath with instructions (biggest laugh), a bag of cards including valentine cards, a Nativity scene in a bottle (Richard figures he would like to keep it), a mountain man statue returned (Marilyn said he didn't work out) and some .50 caliber bullets. A good time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Hicks (Just Standing In; we need a Secretary!)



Ramblings.....

Just some rambling thoughts that come to mind. We need to remember the CSMLA Winter Convention and Trade Blanket event on March 14. There is a flyer in the newsletter, but most importantly, we need to be sure and get nominations in for the coveted 2020 Muzzle Loader of the Year. Time is extremely short but if there is anyone you find deserving of this award, please get the information off as quickly as possible.

The deadline for submission of hunting applications is drawing near. If you plan to hunt, then you need to get your application submitted by April 2.

What with the holidays just behind us and taxes in front of us, it may have slipped your mind to renew your dues with us. Dues are due annually by January 31, but if you haven't done so yet, you still have a wee bit of time. We know that it is a slow process and this year there won't be a chance to renew at the shoot, so if you haven't done so, please send your \$25 dues to Marilyn Stites. Your dues help support mailing of the newsletter and keeping you informed of muzzle loading events all around us.

Lots of work being done on the Memorial Day Weekend Multi-Disciplinary Shooting Event to be conducted on May 23 & 24. We will be at the Cheyenne Mountain Shooting Complex (7790 Rt 1, Ft. Carson; take Exit 132B, just outside gate 20). A meeting to work on some of the issues will be held at the Tom Gabor home on February 19th.

We do our best to put all the events and things

we know about in the Upcoming Events page of your newsletter. If you know of something we don't have in there or if you see something that is wrong, please let the Editor know. You can call at 719-275-8724 or e-mail me at C_DWebb@msn.com and we will get things fixed. We want this to be a complete listing of all things but we don't know if you don't tell us!!



Monthly Club Shoot News

by: Doug "Moose Milk" Davis

The weather was great and we reached the required temperature at Ft. Melchert so that we could host the February 2 monthly shoot. It was a good break from the winter isolation to be able to be in the sunshine and shoot our muzzle loaders.

Here are the scores:

Ted Beaupre	113x
Jock Harmon	112
John Gloyd	78
Jeff Miller	60x
Don Stoner	33

If Mother Nature cooperates, we are planning a monthly club shoot in March, on the 1st. Tony Hecker will be the shoot host for March. Get your guns and ammo ready now.



Black Powder + Gopher Equals Hospital

By: Larry Janoff

Well now, being around muzzle loading for several years, I should have known better because I have often read, been told, and experienced just how explosive and dangerous this stuff we use really is. But if I needed any convincing, the experience I had a few years back really made a lasting impression.

I had a vendetta with this varmint, a sly little gopher, who was constantly getting into my garden and playing havoc with various vegetables I had planted. I used to catch glimpses of the little bugger as he dove down one of his numerous holes that he had dug all over the back yard. I tried to drown him by sticking the garden hose into one of his holes and turning on the water for an hour or so. But that didn't do any good. Then I said to myself, "Why not shoot him the next time he comes up and shows himself?" So one morning I loaded up my flinter, pulled up a chair about 25 yards away and waited. And waited, and waited, and waited. Have you ever had a fly that kept bugging you by landing in the same spot on your arm, or something, over and over until you can't stand it any more? You run to get a fly swatter or roll up a newspaper and he disappears. Put the newspaper down, and there he is again!

Well, this gopher must have tuned in my vibes because he never showed. One Sunday afternoon I saw him. In fact, it was high noon. I knew it was going to be him or me! I figured I didn't have time to load my rifle, so I grabbed a can of 3FFG powder, three-fourths full and ran out to the hole that I had just seen him dive into.

I'd fix him now! Heh, heh! I unscrewed the cap, poured a shot down his hole, closed the can, set it down and threw a match into the hole. There was the expected bang and I fanned away the smoke to see the results. I didn't see what I wanted to: chunks of hair, pieces of buck teeth strewn around the hole. I'd give him another dose just to make sure. There wasn't a trace of smoke now, or any embers present (I thought), so I opened the can again and cautiously reached over and tipped the can to pour some more

down his hole.

BA----VOOO----MMMM! Look Ma, I can fly!

I remember being lifted up and thrown across the yard, landing some distance from the hole. There was a large white mushroom shaped cloud rising up over the houses. The neighbors later said they thought it was a sonic boom because windows rattled all over the block. I couldn't breathe, my years were ringing, then I started to feel the pain. My brother-in-law was watching this whole comedy, and when I looked up at him, his face was pale and he turned his head saying "Oh my God!" That's when I got scared.

I looked like the coyote in a Road Runner cartoon that just got a stick of dynamite tossed his way. My clothes were blown to shreds and I had rocks and dirt embedded in my legs. I felt an intense burning sensation building and building until I had to find relief by doing something. I panicked! **WATER!** I need **WATER!**

I ran to the back yard faucet. I had to splash some on my face. When I cupped my hands to collect the water, they didn't seem to work right. Looking down at my right hand (the hand that held the can of powder) my two little fingers were sticking out at unusual angles. I tried to return them to their proper positions, but they just kept popping back in that grotesque shape. I figured this was a serious situation then.

I went into the house and everybody started screaming. My brother-in-law was still standing outside repeating "Oh my God!"

Inside, they ushered me into the bathroom and when I looked at myself in the mirror, I started screaming too! My face was black and it sure wasn't beautiful. I had lost most of my hair and all of my eyebrows and eyelashes. The only thing left of my beard was some curly black smoldering stubble.

When I got to the hospital, they packed me in ice, gave me some shots and checked the damage. I had second and third degree burns on my face, neck and hands along with two dislocated fingers. The little finger on my right hand was so badly broken that they had to pin it later and I only have about 30% movement to this day.

I must have subconsciously squinted as I poured the powder from the can because they were

amazed at the hospital that I still had my sight.

Well, a week later the damage really began to show. All the skin on my face and hands began to shred and crumble away. My wife called me a mummy and I was pretty embarrassed when I had to go out in public, a restaurant for instance.

When I returned home, I went to the back yard and looked at the crater where I had last seen the gopher. I think I got him!

About six months later, I found parts of the powder an on the roof of my house. The only explanation I can give for the explosion is that apparently a small blade of grass still glowed just enough to set it off. It doesn't take much! From then on, whenever I see somebody pour straight from their powder horn into the muzzle of their gun, I just cringe. I remember that ringing in my ears that took two days to subside.

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SMOKEPOLES IN THE CLOSET

By: Beau Jacques

In this age of sophistication - - - and sometimes I wish we all could live and think with a bit more simplicity - - - we may tend to forget that those folks back there in those wonderful mountain days were not quite so sophisticated as we try to view them. I don't think all of them were quite the visionaries and the paragons the history books put them down to be. From my slant on those people, I think maybe Meriweather Lewis and Jed Smith and Dan Boone hung a little bag of asafetida (always pronounced on the frontier as though it ended in "y") around their necks to ward off the ague (also pronounced as "ah gyew") like everyone else.

They probably depended on chicken wishbones for luck and marked hex signs on their rifles. Frontier nostrums and preventive medicine - - whether it originated back home in the Maine woods or came from some tribal medicine man along the Snake - - make a fairly complete study in themselves. But I'm not here to discuss medicine; only shootin'.

To us today, some of the voodoo and mumbo-jumbo of the frontier sounds ridiculous; but nonetheless such stuff was practiced. Here are some of the tricks of black magic of the old days as they concern black powder guns and shooting. I have a hunch, though, that these originated in England or in Europe in the days of the old Jaeger rifle (Jaeger, by the way, means "hunter" in German, and is pronounced "yager").

I wouldn't be at all surprised if some variation of these were used on the American frontier. After all a feller shouldn't depend on skill exclusively. I can't say without a moment of hesitation that these stunts work because I never got into any shooting matches with any sinister, fang-toothed characters from Transylvania. Nevertheless, if you're game, try some of them out. If they work, let me know. Heaven knows I need some kind of black magic to improve my shootin' eye.

First off, a simple recipe. Take the heart of a bat and place a small portion of it between the bullet and the powder; thus you will assuredly hit whatever you wish. You must pronounce the three names of the Most High as you begin to load the charge. However, you dare not complete this pronouncement until you have completed loading the gun.

(By golly, the way I load, I'd better practice a long, slow draw!)

And if the critters attacked your front lawn this summer, you're all set for our next mesmerizer. Put the blood of a mole in the barrel between the powder and lead; thus you will assuredly hit the mark.

Sometimes when you've just got to win that shootin' match, try this one. This is prescribed as a sure means to prevent another from shooting or killing game. To begin with, take some cuculi arambosti (unfortunately my alchemist doesn't handle it), six cents worth (tote up the inflation factor since 1819 and it ought to come out to about a buck-seventy five.) Rub this into fresh rabbit fat and spread it into the barrel of the gun of the one you desire to keep from killing game. He will never be successful with his gun.

(Except, I'm afraid, for peppering your rear-end if he catches you smearing that gorp down his Douglas barrel!)

And yet another way to prevent your enemy

from shooting accurately. (Now if it was me, I'd just switch his contact lenses.) Pull out your left trouser pocket, cross both your hands upon it so that your thumbs cross, and at the moment your opponent is about to shoot, say the following: "Racce, Balce, Veluti, Arma".

(Hell, yes.) Just a glimpse of you reaching around with both hands on your pocket and saying all that gibberish will get him laughing so he'll not even be able to pull the trigger.

By the way, I'm not making these up. They are put down in A. Monroe Aurand, Jr.'s version of "The Pow-Wow Book", 1929, Aurand Press, published originally in Germany in 1819.

No let me give you one that sounds a little more plausible:

A preparation to prevent rusting of weapons whether they are made of steel or iron. Take an ounce of bear fat, a half-ounce of badger fat, a half-ounce of snake oil, an ounce of oil of almonds, and a quarter-ounce of powdered indigo. (Wasn't that what used to be in Miller Bedford's "GunJuice" years ago?)

Place all these ingredients in a new container over heat and allow it to mix thoroughly without stirring. Then remove from the fire and preserve for use. Whenever you have need to treat a gun, take a portion about the size of a small nut and place it on a small, soft woolen cloth and rub the metal with it. This will positively insure against rust and stink to high Heaven!

For my parting shot, it is said that anyone going out hunting and carrying this talisman in his game-bag cannot but shoot something worthwhile and bring it home.

The story goes that an old hermit once found an old, lame huntsman in a forest, lying beside the road, weeping. The hermit asked him the cause of his dejection. "Ah me, thou man of God. I am a poor, unfortunate being (where have I heard that one before?); I must annually furnish my lord with as many deer and hares and partridges as a young and healthy huntsman could hunt up, or else I will be discharged from my office. Now I am old and lame. Besides, game is getting scarce (shades of 1975!) and I cannot follow it as I ought to. And I know not what will become of me." (I guess they didn't have welfare in those days.)

Here the old man's feelings overcame him, and he could not utter another word. The hermit, upon this, took out a small piece of paper, upon which he wrote some words with a pencil, and handing it to the huntsman said:

"There, old friend, put this in your game bag whenever you go hunting and you shall certainly shoot something worthwhile and bring it home, too. Yet be careful to shoot no more than you necessarily need, not to communicate it to anyone who might misuse it on account of the high meaning contained in these words."

The hermit then went on his journey, and after a little while the huntsman arose, and without thinking of anything in particular, he went into the woods, and had scarcely advanced a hundred yards when he shot as fine a roebuck (I'll bet he got his rifle from Sears!) as he ever saw in his life.

The huntsman was afterward and during his whole lifetime lucky in his hunting, so much so that he was considered one of the best hunters in the whole country. The following is what the hermit wrote on the paper:



At precedenti spectatur mantica tergo

Powdered batsblood and wolfbane, anyone?



Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association

ONE-DAY WINTER CONVENTION and TRADE BLANKET EVENT

March 14, 2020

Ft Collins Elks Lodge

(970) 493-3777

1424 E. Mulberry Street

(West off I-25 at exit 269B)

Ft. Collins, CO 80524

Trade room will be open to the public on Saturday, March 14, from 8:00am to 4:00pm

9:00am to 3:00pm Classes and Demos

CSMLA Membership Meeting - Election of Officers 4:00pm

Banquet, Awards 6:00pm

REGISTRATION FORM

For this special event the first space or trade blanket is FREE for members!! (based on an 8' front). Additional space cost is \$10.00, if space is available. **Do you want a vendor space or trade blanket? Yes** [] Number of additional spaces requested _____ x \$10.00 each = _____ (due at event). Do you need electricity? Yes [] First come basis if available.

Banquet Reservation

Dinner will be Buffet

Total Number of Dinners: _____ x \$30.00 (includes 3.55%tax & 18% gratuity) = \$ _____

Name: _____ CSMLA member Y[] N[]

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

Return Completed form by February 16, 2020 to:

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