



January, 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,
Wild Game Potluck, & White
Elephant Gift Exchange
February 5**

Primitive Shoot - February 15

**CSMLA One-Day Winter
Convention & Trade Blanket
Event - February 21**

Paper Shoot - March 1

Regular Monthly Meeting 3/5

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
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting & wild game potluck	American Legion	February 5	food first, then meeting, then white elephant gift exchange
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 15	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
One Day Winter Convention & Trade Blanket Event	Elks Lodge Ft. Collins	February 21 (snow date March 7)	lots of fun and food; annual meeting of State Association; election of officers
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	March 5	regular club stuff & maybe demo
Daylight Savings Time	begins on Sunday,	March 8, 2015	clocks ahead one hour!!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 15	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	April 2	club business & fun
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 5	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 19	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
NO CLUB SHOOTS IN	MAY -- - PREPARE	FOR THE ANNUAL	SHOOT!!!!
Colorado Squirrel Rifle Championships	Buckhorn Skinners Range/Loveland	April 25-26 (snow May 16-17)	.40 caliber or smaller; flint & percussion; hunters' aggregate
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	May 7	last plans for the annual shoot
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!

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, no meeting in January so nothing new to report. HOWEVER, it is time to renew your dues!!!! Dues are always due at the end of January each year. If you have not done so, you should see Ted and give him your check or cash for the year's dues. That way, you won't run a risk of losing your newsletter and the information it provides on all the events we hear about.

Word has been received that John Atterberry has passed away. Many of you know John from his involvement in our Rendezvous as well as his huge involvement in the 4-H shooting events. John was a large sponsor and firearm instructor in the muzzle loading side of the 4-H events. He and his wife Kathleen and their family attended our annual event for many years. John will be missed. We do extend our condolences to his family.

Saw long-time member Joyce Weikel at a recreation district basketball game recently. She is doing very well and misses us all greatly. She is actively involved in her grandchildren and spends time with her son Brian, who lots of us know. Those of you who remember Joyce and her husband Elmer, will remember Elmer for his dry sense of humor. He was the one who brought patches for his shotgun round balls one time! None of us will forget that.

Have heard that Joy's shoulder surgery went well and she is on the mend. Won't be long before she'll be able to pitch for the Rockies.....and they sorely need the help!

Todd Schainost is away at heavy equipment school and obtaining his certificate in operation. Lois is doing her best to keep the snow shoveled and the chickens fed while he is gone. We are all hoping that Todd graduates with flying colors and returns home soon. Word is that Blake is doing well in his welding classes also. He did make it home for a weekend and helped his Mom Lois shovel for a bit. Blake is such a good kid!!!!

Hope all of you are well and planning on being at the February monthly meeting. We are combining several events which all start with the wild game potluck. (Even if you don't have any wild game, be creative and bring something wonderful to share with

the group.) We'll be having a great time and you won't want to miss it.

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Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Regular Monthly Meeting November 6, 2014

The membership meeting began with Joy calling the meeting to order. New faces were Tyler, Bob, Gary, and Mark in attendance.

A motion to accept the Secretary's report as printed in the *Mountain Man Monthly* was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Gwen gave the Treasurer's report. A motion was then made and seconded to approve as read. Motion carried.

Ted gave a membership report, noting that the club has 87 member families with three new member families. Ted has begun pulling off some members that have not renewed their dues.

Doug was not present so there was no Primitive Report.

Old Business: Gun show thank you were extended to all who are helping to spread the word at these events.

The Bird & Buffalo event was a great success. We had great fun and weather and wonderful friends who share our chili at noon. The auction went off well after the potluck on Saturday night.

New Business: Next gun show is November 28-30. Please plan to help our guys at this event.

The CSML is renewing our membership with the NMLRA. We need to have your names and expiration numbers to complete this task.

Decision by the group present was to cancel the regular monthly meeting for January 1, 2015.

A work party has been scheduled to clean out the shooting shed at Ft. Melchert before the primitive shoot on the 16th.

Barb Johnson is still in the hospital but is doing better. Keep all our friends in your prayers.

Motion was then made, seconded, and passed for adjournment of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Schainost, Secretary

The group then enjoyed viewing and purchasing items made by the many crafters in our club.



Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Regular Monthly Meeting December 4, 2014

December 4, 2014 began the regular monthly membership meeting with Joy calling the meeting to order. New member Tyler was present and Adam and his dad were welcomed back as new faces to the club.

There was no secretary's report for this meeting.

Gwen had nothing new to report for the Treasury.

Ted reported that Membership had been increased by two new members from last month. Tyler and Bob also helped at the gun show last month.

There was no primitive report for this meeting.

Old Business: The November gun show went well. Thanks to all who helped make this one work and shared information about our club.

New Business: The CSMLA Winter Convention plans were announced by President Tom Gabor. He reported that this year's event will only be one day at the Ft. Collins Elks Club. Traders are welcome and it is free for the first table and only \$10 per table after that. There is no admission this year but there will be a donation jar for those willing to contribute to the State Association. Tickets for the evening banquet are \$30.

All were reminded to get nominations in for the CSMLA Muzzle Loader of the Year. There are lots of good candidates out there and we need to make our nominations to Ken Wee.

The Wyoming Muzzle Loading Winter Convention is in Casper on January 23-25. There is a flyer available. Several folks in attendance have been to this event and it is fun and exciting to meet with other muzzle loaders.

Upcoming events were announced. December 7 is a paper shoot with a work party at 9:00 a.m. since the previous work party had to be canceled. December 21 is a primitive shoot and January 4 will be a paper shoot. Remember no meeting in January.

Those members present participated in the annual Christmas ornament exchange. We had lots of fun opening the various packages and revealing the new ornament for our tree. Doreen noted that she had over 30 ornaments on her tree from the many years of the exchange.

February 5th will be the next meeting and we will be conducting our annual white elephant gift exchange at that meeting. Right after the wild game potluck. Be sure to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Schainost, Secretary



Primitive Pistol Match

by: Ken West

The January pistol course is twelve gongs of various sizes and distances. The targets for tie-breakers are agreed by those who shoot them. It took four tie-breaker shots to decide this match! We had a good turnout to enjoy the good weather, a couple of new faces, and some good competition!

The scores were:

John Udovich	16
Jim Murray	15
Jay Rathman	13
Tom Gabor	10
Randy Hamilton	10
Ken West	10

Glenn Ohrns 9

Lon Mehle (came out to give John a dollar!)

Things everyone else already knew:

How much powder? We had a discussion on the right amount of powder to use. The right answer is -- whatever works. I use 5-6 grains in my .36 target pistol, which gives good ballistics. That light ball and light charge will not knock down the knockdown targets. I double the charge if I start getting hang-fires. I tell people that I'll go to 35 grains if I want to kill something. I have been shooting Swiss black powder, but discovered that Goex's "Olde Eynsford" gives a lot more pressure for the same volume of powder. The new Swiss "Null-B" priming powder (30F) did not improve the speed of my flintlock.

Burning tin? Recently got some lead that contained a bit of tin and discovered that, if you set the temperature of your lead pot too high, the tin will burn on the surface leaving a black film and soft lead balls.

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CSMLA ONE-DAY WINTER CONVENTION & TRADE BLANKET EVENT.....

If you haven't already done so, you need to make your reservations to attend the banquet at this event. The newest member of the CSMLA Muzzle Loader of the Year will be added at that banquet. There are also lots of other things that will be taking place and you need to be there.

We have heard that Tom and Sandra Gabor are relinquishing their positions of President and Treasurer so there will be elections for at least those two offices. There are also elections for the different

Directors whose terms expired in 2014. We are always looking for good volunteers to take on these positions and help keep the organization going. None of the positions are extremely hard or time consuming; they just need someone dedicated to helping to fill them.

This event is offering a free trade table to all who want to bring things to sell. There are other tables available but the first one is free. This would be a perfect time to bring your unused or unwanted muzzle loading items and see if there are interested buyers. Remember that one man's trash is another man's treasures.

There are lots of nice motels in the area near the Elks Lodge in case you want to stay the night. This is a once a year event where you can see old friends, break the winter doldrums, and have a good time. Please plan to attend on February 21st!!!!

MUSEUM OF THE FUR TRADE

Many of you know of the Museum of the Fur Trade located in Chadron, Nebraska. This is a great resource for many items and materials related to the American Fur trade. The museum has expanded and grown tremendously since its early days. If you have not been there you need to plan to go. If you have been there and it has been a while, it is time to return and see the many new exhibits and changes made in the museum.

During this last winter, the museum is working on the next volume of the Encyclopedia, *Provisions of the Fur Trade*. Jim Hanson has done a masterful job describing foods of the fur traders, the trappers, and native people. Just imagine 41 men, women, and children consuming 112 bison cows, 35 bulls, three elk, five bears, four beavers, three swans, 12 geese, 36 ducks, 1,150 fish, 775 sturgeon, 410 pounds of tallow, and 140 pounds of dried meat plus 325 bushels of potatoes and other vegetables from the post garden in less than a year. This was done at Alexander Henry's Pembina post from September 1807 until June 1808. The book will be full of other amazing research, facts, and history.

The Museum of the Fur Trade is the only

museum in the world dedicated to preserving the history of the fur trade, North American's oldest and most romantic business.



**LETTERS FROM THE FUR
TRADE: Kenneth McKenzie's
Letters to Prince Maximilian
at Fort Clark 1833-1834**

*Transcribed and Annotated by
Michael M. Casler.*

Fort Union 29, Oct. 1833

Mr. Jas. Kipp,¹

Dear Sir,

You were doubtless apprised by Mr. McKenzie that it was very probable the Baron Braunsberg with Messrs. Brodmer & Drydapple² would pass the winter at your fort. This will be handed you by the Baron & I am satisfied he will receive every attention in your power to render him. I have endeavored to persuade him to pass the winter here, but he is so anxious to gain information relative to the Mandan's & Gros Ventre's³ thro' your means that he cannot wait for it until spring. If Mr. McKenzie on his way hither, before this reaches you allow me to request you will make such arrangements for the Baron's comfort as the nature of your establishment will allow, he will require men to conduct him down stream in the spring but hereon you will receive instructions during the winter. Hugron Beaugard⁴ & Beauchamp will remain with you until further orders & you can no doubt find them work to do, the latter has generally atended on the Baron to make his fire, carry water, &c. Hy. Morrin & L. Vachard you will send back after a day or two rest unless you are expecting dispatches from below & wish to keep them to be the bearers thereof for a few days longer. I send you statement of the men's a/c's, if Morrin or Vachard take anything at Ft. C. Charge it to this post handing me particulars on their return. Mr. Chardon's compts.⁵ I beg to assure of my best wishes & am & c.

J.A.H. [James Archdale Hamilton⁶]

The Baron is charged in a/c with the boat, will

you have it looked after during the winter that it may serve him in the spring.⁷ I send you a list of prices to be charged Baron B. Other things in like proportion on his departure send a copy of his a/c to Ft. Pierre handing him a duplicate. Make any purchases you can in accordance with his wishes of the Indians & charge him a reasonable price. Please supply him with what he applies for if you can.

J.A.H.

Fort Union 15th Dec. 1833

M. Baron de Bransberg⁸

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter by Hy. Morrin⁹ bearing date Nov. 15th and assure you it has cause of great regret to me that our traveling arrangements so clashed as to prevent our meeting. Had I been so fortunate as to arrived here before your departure I think I should have prevailed on you to have given me your company for the winter and although at any place in this wild country you must suffered some privations I would have endeavored to have made them less sensible than at any post not under my immediate personal control. If the fates have so ordained that we do not meet again in Missouri Territory I do hope at no distant day to renew the acquaintance in your own country for I shall ever cherish the most agreeable reminiscences of our last summer's intercourse.

With respect to your arrangements for the spring I will find you men to convoy your boat downstream but I cannot promise you Hy. Morrin¹⁰ as he is about to make the voyage to Fort McKenzie and cannot be down in time to answer your purpose, but I trust you will be fully satisfied with such men as I shall appoint to conduct you. Although the winter has not yet commenced no snow having fallen, for a month past not a single gale of wind & the river flowing as smoothly in front of the fort as in the Month of May, yet though it tarry it will come. I shall then renew this pleasure and in accordance with your request will furnish you my bill of charges. I have no prospects of visiting Fort Clark this winter, But Mr. Hamilton tells me he invited you hither if you find the voyage practicable and to me there appears no insurmountable difficulty, allow me to assure you of a hearty welcome and that your visit will be considered an honor

conferred on.

Sir

Your Very Obedient Servant

(signed) K. McKenzie¹¹

Fort Union 20 Mar. (18) 34

M. Baron de Bransberg¹²

Sir

I had the honor to receive your letter of 10 Feby. & regret that I could not avail myself of your instructions relative to Le Gros Corne &c.¹³

I am so particular circumstanced this season & my men are so dispersed it is not without difficulty that I have selected trusty men to conduct you down tho I have men here whose term of service expires earlier that 26 sep. next & they have of course a claim on me for wages until that day. I have explained this mater [sic.] in my letter to Mr. Laidlaw & requested him to furnish you with men whose engagements will expire in July in order that the charge may be lessened, in either case I ask no more from you than I have actually to pay. I have learnt with much pain how poorly you have fared at ye Mandan's & again express my regret that I had not the pleasure to entertain you at my own table during the past winter. I trust your health has not suffered,¹⁴ in which case on your arrival in the land of plenty you can look back on your privations without pain or regret.

It would be very pleasant to me could I utter orally my Adieus! on your leaving this inhospitable clime but I must content myself with assuring you of my best wishes that you may be blessed with health & prosperous voyage to your Fatherland.

I enclose the accts. as requested, Mr. Laidlaw will make such additions as ascertain to his department & your final arrangement will be made with Mr. Chouteau in St. Louis.

Mr. Hamilton begs I will present his compts. nor would he forget Mr. Bordmer to whom also I wish to be remembered. I have the honor to remain.

Sir Yours Very Obediently

(signed) K. McKenzie

Fort Union April (1834)

M. Baron de Bransberg¹⁵

Sir

Flattering myself that sometimes when your

thoughts wander to the banks of the Missouri they may linger for a moment at Fort Union I embrace the opportunity of the usual winter express to St. Louis to appraise you that I found the fort in status quo on my arrival here on the 17th ulto. Mr. Klipp has left Fort Clark for Canada, Mr. Hamilton who was my locum tenens¹⁹ during my long absence is wintering with me, and the beauties of the Rhine & especially the hospitalities of Chateau de Neuwied are frequently subject of our conversations; I shall ever retain the most agreeable reminiscences of your polite attentions, and regret that I can only return you my poor thanks. Mr. Lamont appraised you of the loss of our steamboat last spring with several cases of animal & birds on board, collected with so much toil and trouble! Your loss is irreparable, I sincerely regret it and should feel happy could I in anyway supply the deficiencies thus created in your valuable collection of natural history. Our cargo of furs &c destroyed was of considerable value, from sixty to eighty thousand dollars, a total loss, no part being insured.²⁰ My voyage across the Atlantic was an agreeable as a good ship with experienced Captain, sumptuous fare, and pleasant company could render it. On my way out to St. Louis I visited that most sublime of natures works, the falls of Niagara, but what pen can describe so magnificent a scene, and still less the feelings excited by a contemplation there of - I reached St. Louis July 17th and after a month's sojourn commenced my voyage to this place, which occupied three months, the winter set in with great force unusually early the Missouri was closed on the 23rd Octr. Since my arrival I have been pretty constantly occupied in "talks" with the red skins, a great contrast to the very agreeable manner in which my time was passed at this period of last year, in fact my rambles in Germany, France, and England yielded me so much delight,²¹ I am anxious for a repetition of the like enjoyment. You will please command my services in this country or in the U. States in anyway they can be available. I make tender of my wishes for the continuance of your health & vigor to enjoy the many good things of this life which surrounds you, and have the honor to be.

Sir

Your Highness's

Most Obedt & Very Humble Servant

(signed) K. McKenzie

NOTES:

- 1 - Annie H. Able, *Chardon's Journal at Fort Clark, 1834-1839*. Papers from the Dripps, Chouteau, Culbertson Collections. Missouri Historical Society, St. Louis, MO.
- 2 - Baron de Branunsberg was a name which Alexander Philip Maximilian, Prince of Wied-Neuwied, (1782-1867), traveled under in the United States. Robert Campbell referred to Maximilian in his journal as "the Dutch Prince of Leyden" after a dinner at Fort William. Maximilian's education was the best that could be provided as a member of the German royal family. Studying with private tutors and at German universities, he showed an early aptitude for the "natural sciences" eventually coming under the tutelage of Alexander von Humboldt. As a member of the German royal family, Maximilian served with the Prussian Army rising to the rank of major general and was awarded the Iron Cross.
- Karl Bodmer, (1809-1893), was probably the best artist to travel the upper Missouri. Coming from a family of artists, Bodmer's training in Zurich and Paris refined those skills, where his training caught the interest of Prince Maximilian. A contract was signed which stipulated that on the return to Germany all sketches and watercolors would become the property of the prince, in return for a stipend, round-trip passage, and all expenses in America.
- David Dreidoppel a longtime family retainer, who was also a skilled taxidermist and hunter. He had accompanied the prince on the Brazilian expedition in 1815-1817.
- George R. Brooks, ed. "The Private Journal of Robert Campbell."
- 3 - The Mandan village of Mih-Tutta-Hang-Kush was located next to Fort Clark which today is in central North Dakota. The Gros Ventres are the Hidatsa Indians.
- 4 - James Archdale Hamilton describes Beaugard as "...a simple harmless fellow who is terribly haunted with fear of dying without confession & being buried in unconsecrated ground."
- 5 - Frances A. Chardon. He was about to travel up river and build Fort Jackson near the Poplar River.
- 6 - James Archdale Hamilton Palmer (?-1840) one of the more mysterious figures of the upper Missouri fur trade. He was from an English family, but left England under mysterious circumstances. He spent a great deal of his time on the upper Missouri, at Fort Union. It was said that he bathed everyday, wore fine linen shirts, carried a scented handkerchief, and despised the Indians he had to deal with every day.
- 7 - The mackinaw was removed from the river for winter. *People of the First Man*. p. 117.
- 8 - Chardon's Journal at Fort Clark, 1834-1839. Papers from the Dripps, Chouteau, Culbertson Collections.
- 9 - Henry Morrin was the steersman of the mackinaw boat.
- 10 - There is one reference to a "Morain" in a letter to Francis A. Chardon from Honore Picotte, dated March 12, 1846. Charles E. DeLand, "Fort Tecumseh and Fort Pierre Journal and Letter Books," South Dakota Historical Collections.
- 11 - Kenneth McKenzie, 1797-1861. Manager of the Upper Missouri Outfit and Bourgeois of Fort Union. Ray H. Mattison, "Kenneth McKenzie." *The Mountain Man and the Fur Trade of the Far West*, Vol. II. pp. 217-224

12 - Chardon's Journal at Fort Clark, 1834-1839. Papers from the Dripps, Chouteau, Culbertson Collections.

13 - French, "grosse-corne", for the Bighorn Sheep, (*Ovis montana*). At Fort McKenzie, Pierre D. Papin was paid \$100 dollars to obtain a skin of a Bighorn for Maximilian's collection. Papin and Dreidoppel returned on August 23, 1833 with the skin of a small Bighorn. At Fort Union, McKenzie had promised a horse if a hunter could bring in a live animal, but they could not obtain one.

14 - Maximilian fell ill on March 11, 1834, becoming so serious that his life was despaired of. Baptise LeClair, the African American cook at Fort Clark, thought the prince had scurvy, and began giving him a broth of wild onions (*Allium mutabile michx*) mixed with small white flowers (*Allium reticulatum*); within four days the prince began to recover. The prince was well enough to depart Fort Clark for the down river post of Fort Pierre on April 18, 1834.

15 - Papers from the Dripps, Chouteau, Culbertson Collections.

16 - Maximilian's party arrives at Fort Pierre on April 27, and St. Louis, May 27, 1834.

17 - The party finally has fresh buffalo meat to eat on February 24, but ran out of sugar and had to sweeten their weak coffee with molasses.

18 - *Chardon's Journal at Fort Clark, 1834-1839*, pp. 381-382.

19 - Acting master.

20 - This was the *Assiniboine*, which burned to the water-line, April 3, 1835 near Sibley Island, ND. The loss included 1,185 packs of furs, and Maximilian's natural history collection which was stored at Fort Union, for later shipment to Germany.

21 - In the cargo hold of the steamboat *Assiniboine* on its upriver journey in 1833 was a liquor still destined for Fort Union. Kenneth McKenzie sought a way around the prohibition of liquor in Indian Territory and set up a distillery at the fort producing "as fine a liquor as need be drunk." The government discovery of the illicit still on the upper Missouri had serious repercussions for the American Fur Company, and effectively ruined McKenzie's career as a fur trader. Rebuked by the company and the government, Kenneth McKenzie departed Fort Union in late summer 1834, for a "vacation" to Europe. This letter was written to Maximilian thanking the prince for his hospitality, after McKenzie's return to the fort in late 1835. His time at the fort would be short. By 1840 McKenzie was a wholesale grocer in St. Louis, and in 1848 expanded into wholesale liquor. By the time of his death, April 26, 1861, he had amassed a fortune.