



April 2012

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.

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Mountain Man Monthly

Editors

The Webb's

Monthly Meeting May 3 - 7pm

Target Painting/Work Party

May 5 @ LaChance Home

Pot Luck Lunch afterwards

NO club shoots in May!

Boy Scout Day Camp

May 19th - Big R

37th annual Memorial Day

Shoot & Rendezvous

May 26-28

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
NO CLUB SHOOTS	IN MAY.....	NO monthly club	shoots during May
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	May 3	last meeting before the shoot!!!
Target Painting/Work Party	LaChance Home 665 7 th St. Penrose	May 5	10:00 a.m. Come prepared to work & bring potluck lunch!!!
Women on Target Clinic	Cactus Flats Range	May 6	See Doug for details.
1 st Annual Colorado Black Powder Pistol & Revolver Championship	Weld County Fish & Wildlife Shooting Range	May 6; 9:00 a.m. Sponsored by High Plains MLoaders	Contact: Ken Kleinsorge (970) 352-7370 or Ron Ring (970) 416-5784
Boy Scout Day Camp	Big R at Falcon	May 19	come help with the scouts
37 th Annual Shoot & Rendezvous	Florence Mountain Park	May 26-28	lots of fun, work, and best shoot in the state!!!!
NRA Woman's Pistol Class	Paradise Sales Colorado Springs	June 2	basic pistol class for women. Doug has details & more info.
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 3	range opens at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	June 7	review the 37 th annual shoot
Colorado NMLRA Territorial Matches	SPVHS Range Ft. Lupton, CO	June 15-17	lots of shooting; sponsored by Buckhorn Skinners & Ft. Lupton
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 17	pistol @ noon; range @ 1:00 pm
High Country Hideaway All Shotgun Shoot	Blue Valley Range @ Kremmling, CO	June 19-22	all shotgun event with more than 50 matches for all shotgunners!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	July 1	range opens at 1:00 p.m.
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	July 5	monthly meeting of the group
Rocky Mtn. Nat'l Rendezvous	Lyman, Wyoming	July 12-21	More info: RMNR2013@Bresnan.net
Graingers Primitive Camp Out	Grainger's near Victor, Colorado	July 14 & 15	club campout & lots of shooting; chili cook-off & potluck on Sat.
Sierra Madre ML Rifle Club MtnMan Rendez	south of Saratoga, Wyoming	July 27-29	public invited. Info: Joe Morrison (307) 329-7944
CSMLA State Shoot	Ft. Lupton, CO	August 31-Sept. 3	Bracketed matches; annual shoot
Bell's Fort Rendezvous	Pending	August 31-Sept. 3	Bob Tristano (719) 564-4485

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

April's meeting was a busy one. We had a quick meeting and then Joy showed us how to make a capote in an hour or less. Don Stoner is the lucky owner of the capote that Joy cut and made for him. This is truly a fine craft and Joy does it so well.

Lots of things coming up for us and we'll all be busy in May and early June. There are Boy Scout demonstrations, our annual event for the 37th year, Women on Target, gun shows, work parties, and plenty of stuff happening. Be sure that your calendars are marked and that you make all the events that you can. We need your help to make this whole thing come together.

Reminder given about the work party at the LaChance home on May 5. We have to set up the tents, mark and cut poles, and do all the regular stuff we do at the work party. Be sure to bring your potluck lunch to share with everyone. Again if we all show up and work, then no one works hard. We have all kinds of jobs to accommodate all kinds of workers.

Our group did the BSA Shootaree and Doug has provided a report on this elsewhere in the newsletter. We have a second one coming up on May 19 at the Big R in Falcon. This is a special one for us and we need all the helpers we can muster. Mark and Liz are special to us and we want to do all we can to help them with this event and the group that is so dear to their hearts.

Remember that the May 3 meeting is our last chance to get all the things set for the Memorial Day shoot. Be sure to be at the meeting and help us prepare.

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Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. Regular Monthly Meeting April 5, 2012

The Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. membership meeting was held on April 5, 2012. The meeting was called to order by President Joy Hicks. Joy welcomed Mary and Jerry who both came to join

the club. Jerry also brought his friend Jack. Tombstone was also given a special welcome back.

Joy entertained a motion to accept the Secretary's report as printed in the *Mountain Man Monthly*. Motion made from the floor and seconded. Motion carried.

Gwen Blanchard gave a detailed report for the Treasury. A motion to accept the treasury report as read was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Ted reported the club has 11 new members, 50 renewals, with a total of 61 members. He is very positive that we will have several renewals at the annual shoot on Memorial Day as is the custom of several of our members.

Primitive Report: Doug reported that the shoot was great. Michelle Blanchard brought a group of her friends as new shooters.

Memorial Day Shoot Report: Ads were due at the meeting and reports indicate that ad sales were down.

The work party will be **May 5** at the LaChance home. We will be painting targets, stringing beads, and also setting up the tents to make sure that they are ready to be used with poles and ropes. The tent rips from last year have been repaired.

A great donation came in from Don Anderson for our drawing. Don donated a muzzle loading rifle that he had purchased from Ken West. Thanks to both of these gentlemen for their generosity and thoughtfulness to the club.

Marlin Johnson announced that he will be making a shooting stand for the drawing as well. We also have a king size wildlife quilt and a great wooden rocking horse.

Marilyn Stites noted that the club tent will be open for items that club members want to sell. Be sure to mark your price and if you will negotiate.

Barb Johnson presented an idea to have the group pay for an ad in the shoot book to thank the Melcherts for all their generosity. Money flowed in and the ad will be created by Doreen.

Old Business: The BSA Shoot-a-Ree will be out by Rocky Mountain Rooster's and all members are asked to dress in primitive attire.

The Boy Scout day camp date has been

changed to May 19 at the Big R in Falcon.

Gun show is May 5 and 6. Those that cannot attend the work party are encouraged to help with the gun show on the same date.

New Business: Nothing new to report at this time.

Upcoming events were announced. The group then adjourned the meeting portion and began to watch as Joy showed us how to make a capote out of a blanket in less than an hour. We'll be watching for Don in his new coat when the weather turns cold!

Respectfully submitted,
Lois Schainost

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## PAPER PISTOL MATCH APRIL 1, 2012

By: Ken "Suds" West

The temperature was very pleasant and the wind was from behind - - - until the end of the pistol match. Three of us shot pistol. The scores were:

Jim Murray 87  
Ken West 81  
Al Bartok 72

"Tennessee" Jim put an amazing 5 pistol balls in the same hole at 25 yards. Unfortunately in the 9 ring. Mine and Al's shots were a bit more evenly distributed over the face of the target.

### AN OLD PISTOL.....

I recently acquired an 1840s style overcoat pistol, probably made in the 1850s by a German immigrant; P. Mullen. The pistol has most of the features of an European dueling pistol of the

period: single-set trigger, hooked breach, and the hook on the trigger guard used in the European grip. However, it was made with a 4 & 1/2 inch, smoothbore barrel in .53 & 1/2 caliber. Apparently the market for self-defense weapons was greater than the market for dueling pistols in the New York City of the 1850s!

Those of us who were on the firing line before the start of the pistol match took turns firing this antique - - - all of us managed to hit the ground, some within yards of the mark that they had picked out at 25 yards! Definitely not a target pistol; but perfectly adequate for its design function - - - blowing away someone threatening you with a knife or club at a distance of 5 feet. The outside of the nipple is banded to prevent the percussion cap from falling off while the gun is in your pocket on half-cock.

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Primitive Chapter News

by: Doug "Moose Milk" Davis

The April primitive shoot turned out to be a really nice day, for April. It's been worse. Joel, Vanessa, and Maggie came down to see what we do. Joel and Vanessa had attended the Clinic the day before. Joe O'Brien and Friend also came by. Joe had shot before in Colorado and Wyoming.

Scores as follows:

Men:

Fred LaChance 21
Tom Gabor 17
Ted Beaupre 16

Joe O'Brien	14
Marlin Johnson	12
Don Stoner	11
Steve Sterner	10

Ladies:

Dee Beaupre	10
Judy Sterner	4

Thanks to Randy Ruyle who opted to help new shooters and also set up and tear down the range.



PRIMITIVE PISTOL MATCH

April 15, 2012

By: Ken "Suds" West

The cold wind in the face wasn't as strong as predicted; but I'll take any excuse! The rain didn't start until we were packing up. Three of us shot pistol; the scores were:

Lon Mehle	11
Jim Murray	11
Ken West	10

After two tie-breaker shots, Lone won. I tried Jim's technique of never practicing between matches -----works better for him than it does for me!



BOY SCOUT SHOOT-A-REE

The CSML was asked to participate in the Shoot-A-Ree held out by Rahma. Tom and Sandra Gabor, Ted and Dee Beaupre, Joy Hicks, Tony

Hecker, Steve Bingham, and Gwen Blanchard stepped up to provide the shooting portion and then there was Ken West with his "display". Sandra assisted by being the greeter and making sure everyone had eye and hearing protection before they entered the range. Tom Gabor was the Range Safety Officer.

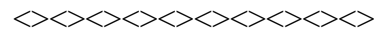
Things started a little slow, finding the area they had assigned us took a moment or two. The canopy wouldn't go up (Mariah), range orientation had to be changed. Then it was discovered that the club powder magazine had been left behind.....

A call was made and Mike Chase Delivery came through once again. Enough powder, patch, and ball was scrounged up amongst ourselves. Moral of this: leave the powder magazine in the truck forever.

Lunch was good, supper was even better. Some of us stayed for a steak and potato and what a potato; super-sized and other fixin's. A plaque was presented which more than likely will be at the next meeting.

We must have run through several hundred Scouts. At least 400 .490 round balls were used as well as .395's. But the Scouts survived, flyers and tri-folds were handed out, and contacts were made for future events.

Respectfully Reported,
Keeper of the Powder Magazine
Doug "Many Hats" Davis



SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

By: Treasurer Gwen

We have a member (of sorts) in our midst that is a tireless worker. Month after month, ream after ream, cartridge after cartridge, our copier keeps on running. Between the *Mountain Man Monthly*, the *Poke and Stroke*, Memorial Day events, and other mailings that we do, we make about 40,000 copies a year!!!!

As you may remember, in January our copier had a major meltdown, puked toner, and made a general mess of things. At the time, we looked into a

replacement because repair parts were very slow in coming. Our heroic service man was able to repair the machine, but gave us the sad news that its days were very limited, about six months. (January to May = 5 months.)

The Board looked at options including lease, lease-to-own, and buying both new and used from several local companies. While we will revisit the options at purchase time, it appears our best option is to buy outright with a quarterly maintenance package that includes repairs, service, and toner. The copier will be between three and four thousand dollars and the maintenance package about one cent per copy made.

We have the money in our general fund to replace the copier but I would like to suggest that we the members, consider a little extra donation here and there toward replacement so that we do not have to make a huge dent in our meager reserves.

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BUSY CALENDAR.....

As we have already noted in several places, our calendar for the next few weeks is very busy. We may be preaching to the choir, but it is very important that we all pitch in to help and ensure that we meet our responsibilities. If everyone helps out a little bit, then no one individual has a lot of work and wears out faster.

MAY 5: Work party at the LaChance home. Work starts at 10:00 a.m. Bring your potluck lunch, eating utensils, and lots of energy. We need to make shooter medallions, camp tags, string beads, paint targets, set up and take down tents, cut poles and ropes, and lots of things to be ready for the 37th annual shoot!!!! If you haven't already told Joy about what things you will help with at the annual shoot, please do so now. Don't let time slip away volunteer today.

MAY 6: Women on Target at Cactus Flats Shooting Range. Exposure for females that have never been around shooting and a chance for them to think about self-defense and future classes.

The 1st Annual Colorado Black Powder Pistol and Revolver Championship at the Weld County Fish & Wildlife Shooting Range. Ken Kleinsorge is

sponsoring this and those pistol shooters should really make an effort to attend. It starts at 9:00 a.m. You can contact Ken at (970) 352-7370 for more details.

MAY 19: Boy Scouts at the Big R in Falcon. Dress in your finest primitive attire and join us. We will be throwing hawks and doing things with the Scouts. This is where we help our friends Mark and Liz. We'll be trying to show them how to start fire with flint and steel so bring plenty of band-aids and help us out. (All activities will be weather dependent.)

MAY 26: 37TH Annual Shoot and Rendezvous. Lots of work and lots of fun. Remember the potluck on Saturday night near the registration tents. Bring your guns and plenty of powder and lead to shoot. We'll be doing our best to still be the biggest and most fun shoot in the state. Invite your friends and families to join us in the Florence Mountain Park.

While we don't know what the weather will bring, be sure to include in you gear, your garden sprayer full of water and a shovel in case we need them. If our continued dryness is still in place, we'll need to be super careful about fires and things like that.

June brings on the Territorial Matches, High Country Hideaway Shotgun Shoot, and our regular club shoots. July has the Rocky Mountain National Rendezvous (among others) and the club's Primitive Grainger Camp Out.

COLLINS AXES

By: James A. Hanson

The 18th century saw the rise of the American ax manufacturing industry and the development of distinctively American patterns of axes. A good blacksmith could forge in his shop no more than one head of excellent quality per day, according to Albert Thayer, a nineteenth century Connecticuter: "Every skilled user of this edged tool has his foible, his pet idea as to the proper weight, size, width, and thickness, and length of bitt and head, and many an axe....comes down to us with the name of the town,

state, or locality clinging to it.” Woodsmen’s axes of quality were expensive and in demand. And, of course, they stood in stark contrast to the “squaw ax” of the fur trade, made by bending a bar of iron around a round mandrel, and with a strip of steel inserted where the ends met to provide a better cutting edge. Yet fur traders and “progressive” Indians, along with most frontiersmen, seem to have demanded a better tool.

Brothers Samuel and David Collins and cousin William Wells pooled their resources in 1826 to form Collins & Company, ax manufacturers. The Collins boys had learned the iron business in their teens, but David was interested in manufacturing, so the young men threw their lots together. They set up business in an old grist mill in South Canton, Connecticut. Though slow going at first, in 1828 they added trip hammers and began to produce high quality axes in quantity; each worker’s output was set at forging and tempering eight axes a day. Collins axes were both sharpened and honed when they left the factory, unlike the products sold by other manufacturers. Charcoal was replaced by 6 Pennsylvania coal in 1829 and production increased to ten axes a day per man. The finished heads were usually packed in cardboard wrappers or boxes, and then packed in wooden boxes of a dozen each.

According to Thayer, a factory-made axe in the nineteenth century passed through ten to fourteen steps:

First: The cutting of the iron for polls [most of the head].

Second: The making of the poll.

Third: The making of the steel [the cutting edge].

Fourth: the insertion and welding of the steel.

Fifth: the hammering [forging] of the head.

Sixth: The rough grinding.

Seventh: The tempering.

Eighth: The finish grinding.

Ninth: The coarse polishing.

Tenth: The finish polishing.

Eleventh: The handling.

Twelfth: The painting.

Thirteenth: The boxing.

Fourteenth: The inspection [at each step of manufacture].

By 1831 Collins axes, selling for \$20 a dozen, were being ordered as many as 1,500 at a time because of their superior quality. A town, Collinsville, grew up around the expanding factory to accommodate the burgeoning work force. The factory superintendent was Elisha K. Root, who went on to become president of the Colt firearms company. In 1833 Collins & Company went bankrupt due to generally bad times, and was reorganized successfully the next year as the Collins Manufacturing Company.

An 1841 notice in *Niles’ National Register* stated, “There is an axe manufactory at Collinsville, about fifteen miles from Hartford, Ct, which turns out 800 a day, yet cannot fill all its orders. There are 145 men employed in it. The axes sell for \$13 a dozen.” Giant grindstones six feet in diameter and a foot thick were imported from Nova Scotia to finish the forged heads. Until 1843 the Collins Company (as it renamed itself in 1835) used blister steel provided by a nearby smelter and mine. The president of the firm made the trip to England in 1842 to learn about cast steel, basically the result of remelting or homogenizing blister steel. These ingots were then forged out and hammered to shape - - - they were not “cast” to shape, a process first introduced in the 1850s.

In 1845, with demand for axes exceeding the firm’s ability to provide them, Collins instead began manufacturing machetes for the foreign market. By 1860 the export goods included over 150 patterns of hoes, hatchets, axes, machetes, knives, and other exotic cutlery copying old patterns used around the world. The arrival of a rail line in 1850 continued the company’s expansion. An 1859 flood wiped out the railroad and destroyed several buildings; Collins was then forced to move parts of its business to other locations, including the establishment of four overseas plants.

During the Civil War, Collins produced bayonets for both Colt and Sharps, and for Springfield Armory. Military gear, especially knives and machetes, were supplied to the US government through the twentieth century.

After the Civil War, Collins' cast steel plows, the first made in the United States, helped break the vast American prairies.

Demand for quality hand tools has been diminishing steadily. Traditional local patterns are vanishing, usually replaced with cheap Chinese-made copies of American patterns. The Collins Company, along with its brand name or motto, "LEGITIMUS," was finally acquired by the Mann Edge Tool Company in 1966 and was relocated to Pennsylvania that year. The foreign operations were purchased by Stanley. The last tools marked COLLINS were produced by Mann in 2003.

Some early Collins axes are marked E.K. ROOT, CANTON, and/or WARRANTED. According to an 1835 *Missouri Republican* newspaper advertisement announcing the reorganization of the firm as Collins Manufacturing Company, the company's axes were henceforth to be stamped "Collins & Co., Hartford," and to have a paper label affixed to each one bearing the signature of Samuel W. Collins. Later, special logos were etched on better quality products. At some unknown time, Collins began marking products with the motto, "LEGITIMUS," and in 1875 adopted the heraldic design of a worker's arm holding a blacksmith's hammer over a crown. In Latin America this device became known as the "Collins," and customers demanded products so marked.

As one might assume, Collins axes were extremely popular on the frontier. A survey of St. Louis newspapers discloses many merchants carrying them. A laudatory article about the Collins Company was printed in the *Missouri Republican* on April 12, 1833. In 1834 Henry Shaw noted his store inventory included 100 dozen Collins axes and hatchets. Henry Choteau offered 15 dozen Collins axes in 1837. John Stagg in 1838 had available 40 dozen Collins superior cast steel axes, along with axes made by D.C. Stone. Glasgow, Shaw & Larkin had 80 dozen Collins axes on hand, while Stettinius & January had just received 60 dozen, and Wales, Norton & Company offered 55 dozen, all in 1839.

W.O. West, the government sutler at Fort Gibson, Oklahoma, where many individuals of the Five Civilized Tribes deported to Indian Territory purchased their needed supplies, reported to the Secretary of War on March 6, 1834 that he regularly supplied Collins axes at \$3 to \$3.50 each, and cast steel heads of inferior quality, "not of Collins make," at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 each. In 1845 as annuity goods supplied to the Seminoles, the Bureau of Indian Affairs ordered 412 axes made by manufacturers Collins, Hunt, and King, in equal proportions. Incidentally, the government specifications for axes called for regular heads to weigh 4-1/2 to 5-1/4 pounds; half axes were to weigh 3-1/2 pounds, and hatchets, 1/2 pound.

Pratte Chouteau & Company furnished mountain men Sarpy and Fraeb a long list of goods for the 1837 rendezvous, including "2 doz. Collins axes" at \$34 and "1 doz. Collins tomahawks" at \$9. I assume these last are belt hatchets. Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Company's requisition of merchandise for the Fort Pierre Outfit of 1846 includes a dozen "Collins chopping axes (Heavy)." The American Fur Company ordered Collins Yankee Pattern axes, 3-1/2 pound heads, in 1845 through New York hardware dealers Hyslop and Brother.

The Ewing Brothers, prairie fur traders headquartered in Fort Wayne, Indiana, ordered Collins Yankee Pattern axe heads weighing five pounds each in 1849. In 1851 the order was for three dozen Collins cast steel axes, half of which were to be helved at the factory. Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Company bought the trading outfit of Josiah Smart in 1854; the inventory included "11/12 dozen Collins axes" and 1-1/2 dozen more with handles. Often as not, inventories of goods and supplies furnished to a trader and his men to establish a trading post or wintering house would include by name a Collins ax along with a Collins broad ax and perhaps a hatchet by the same maker. Only rarely is any other maker mentioned.

In 1949 Charles Hanson ordered a set of trade goods that were still being supplied by the Hudson's Bay Company. The ax the company sent was the typical "Hudson Bay" pattern, light in weight but with a substantial poll for driving stakes and spikes. The blade flares downward to provide maximum cutting edge but with ample steel to prevent chipping and breakage. This pattern had been developed in the mid-nineteenth century and produced in Canada, but as the end of the fur trade neared, it was Collins that copied the pattern in high quality imitation of an old local product. It qualifies as the last truly fur trade ax.