



November, 2019

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

TUESDAY, Dec. 3, 2019

7:00 p.m.

Ornament exchange & goodies

Next Club Shoot - Dec. 1

Host is Tom Gabor

DUES ARE DUE!!! Deadline is January 31, 2020

January's meeting will be on 1/7/2020 and will be the annual Wild Game Potluck

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
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	December 3	annual ornament exchange; goodie sharing and fun!
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 5, 2020	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	January 7, 2020	wild game potluck & award of trophies for animals taken
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting & white elephant gift xchg	American Legion #209	February 4	bring finger foods and a white elephant to give away and get!
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	March 3	who knows; come and see!!!
Daylight Savings Time	Begins Again on	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 pm
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 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	May 5	club business and fun!
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 pm
Monthly Club Shoot	Ft. Melchert	July 5	weekend of July 4 th /yes or no???
Regular Club Meeting	Am Legion #209	July 7	come and see what transpires
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 pm
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, potluck breakfast, and 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

The November meeting was a good one, while at the same time, a very sad one. We as a group, had to make the decision to no longer conduct the annual Memorial Day Shoot. The city of Florence still would have us so a site is not the issue. However, there are lots of other issues that we cannot overcome, amongst which is age. We are all getting older, slower, and are not as resilient as we once were. The time and toll on our bodies is getting harder and harder to overcome. However, we will do all we can to support other shoots during this time frame. We may even be able to convoy together to another shoot and have just as much fun and a whole lot less work.

The craft fair brought out lots of interesting items for sale and a few sales were made. We want to thank all who came and brought their items for us to see. This really is a good time to start the Christmas shopping!

We shared lots of good eats and I don't think anyone went away wanting more, except for more of those home-made chocolate chip cookies! They were so good.



Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Regular Monthly Meeting November 5, 2019

A total of 28 adults and 3 cute little curly-headed blonde girls were present when President Ted Beaupre banged the gavel and called the meeting to order. We again welcomed Clint and Jennifer Sandell to the meeting. The group then proudly pledged allegiance to our flag.

Ted asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes as printed in the *Mountain Man Monthly*. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

Treasurer Gwen gave us a current accounting of the treasury. She also provided a proposed budget for the year 2020, based on our past expenditures. If

things such as membership, room fees, and porta potties remain the same, we will run into a deficit in 2020. Some discussion held on the costs and ways to reduce them. Our income for the club is basically from the dues of members and the proceeds from the Bird and Buffalo event. There being no further questions, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed for acceptance of this report.

Membership Chairman Marilyn Stites noted we have one new membership and two renewals since the last meeting, making a total of 65 for 2019. She reminded all that dues will be due in January, 2020 and Marilyn will be happy to take your check or money at any time.

Old Business: Bird and buffalo for 2019 was discussed. Thanks to Dee for the fun table decorations she made. We also thanked Dee for stepping up and filling the shoes of the auctioneer for the evening. We did make some money even though we were few in number.

New Business: Final discussion held on whether or not to continue the annual Memorial Day shoot. Ted asked for a show of hands vote and there was an overwhelming majority that voted against hosting this shoot any more. Lots of reasons why and most folks know them. It was determined that we will stop with the last official Memorial Day shoot being held in 2018. It was a good run for a long time but we must let it go.

Don Stoner noted that there will be a gun show in December. He doesn't have the dates yet so this was left open to determine if we will have a table or not.

Ted noted that we still need monthly shoot hosts. We are also looking for demonstrations and or discussions for the monthly meeting. We would like to spice things up and have some fun at the meetings so volunteer to give us a book report, or a discussion on one of your hobbies, or anything that will allow us to leave the meeting having learned something or enjoyed a good time.

Upcoming events were noted.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Temporary Scribe Doreen Webb

DECEMBER MEETING.....

Don't forget that the December 3 meeting is the annual Christmas ornament exchange and sharing of goodies and treats. If you bring a wrapped ornament, you get to exchange it for one from someone else. There are always lots of interesting items that make it to this event.....and that includes the goodies that folks make to share.

Come join us and see what you might get to add to your holiday tree.

JANUARY MEETING.....

Since we are already reminding you of things, let's not forget the January meeting. This is the annual Wild Game Potluck and Tall Tale Telling event. This is where if you were lucky enough to have hunted and made meat, you bring some to share with us, cooked up your favorite way. If not, then be creative and create your "wild game" potluck dish and bring it to share. You will also want to bring your own eating plates and utensils so you can fill it up with all the goodies that will be present.

This is also the time when you tall tale tellers get to entertain us with the stories of your doing and dare. There is an award for the best of the tall tales told and the winner gets to keep the trophy for a whole year! We will also be awarding the trophies for elk, deer, and antelope taken with a muzzle loader in the year 2019. If you have not already done so, you need to make sure that Joy has your details on the success you had. Those winners will also have their name added to the trophy for the animal taken and get to take them home for a whole year.

and last but not least.....

Remember that in February we host the annual White Elephant Gift exchange. This is where the ugliest, most horrible, most unthinkable, weirdest, wildest, strangest.....well, you get the idea.....gift that you can come up with or have been gifted with gets re-gifted to someone else. Yes, that's right the ugly lamp Aunt Edna sent you or the long-johns with no trap door that your Grandmother

found on sale and sent to you can be sent to a new place to live!!!! What happens at the White Elephant stays at the White Elephant. No one will ever know. Just wrap up the item as disguised as you can and bring it to the event.

We will draw numbers and then open the gift of choice when your number is called. Each one that opens a gift has a chance to keep what they get or trade it with one other person that has already opened a gift. Whoever gets number 1 gets to make the final decision on what they want from all the White Elephants have been opened.

It is really a lot of fun and you can't believe some of the items that have shown up over the years. Plan now to come and enjoy this fun time with us.

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JUST IN CASE YOU MISSED IT.....

Annual membership dues in CSML are due by the end of January, 2020. The dues are only \$25 per family and includes the monthly newsletter which will keep you informed on all that we know is going on.

Cash or check is acceptable. If you use a check, simply make it out to CSML. You can bring it to Marilyn at the meeting or mail it to her at 6205 Powder Puff Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80918.

Renew now and then you don't have to worry; you're all set to have fun with the CSML!!!!

Mother Nature won out and we didn't have a club shoot in November, We will try again in December. Tom Gabor will be our Master of Ceremonies Plan now to come out on December 1 and support Tom with this shoot, I hear he has some fun things planned for us. Pistols will be at noon; rifles at 1:00 p.m.again, unless Mother Nature wins again.

Be sure to check your e-mail, the website (CSML.org), or call the shoot hot line (719-442-0150) after 9:00 a.m. if you need confirmation that the shoot is on.

STOCK FINISHES

By: Bill Falk

The following article is taken from The Buckskin Report, September, 1977.

So much has been written and so much can be written on this fascinating subject that I hope no one considers this one article to be a complete treatise but merely a beginning. Also I am primarily concerned with types of oil finishes rather than their actual application at this time. I intend to cover other aspects of stock finishes in later feature. OK!

Since I have sloshed a lot of linseed oil I will start with it. Now raw linseed oil is hard to find and you're lucky for that because the first thing you will no doubt try and do is boil it. After all every gun scribe worth his salt has at one time or another raved about "boiled linseed oil" and the old English hand rubbed finish that it produces. Now boiled linseed oil ain't exactly boiled, it's refrigerated. This caused the foos or non drying waxes to precipitate out. Linseed oil is then subjected to caustic soda to remove other non drying fats and oils present in the linseed. Next petroleum base driers are added as the linseed oil is heated and you are then offered this concoction as "boiled" linseed oil. So do not take this stuff home and boil it with the idea of further refining it as all you will do is drive off the driers. This is not good.

Straight boiled linseed oil will produce a beautiful finish but it takes time. At least a month of frequent application. Some professional stock makers claim linseed oil never does dry and always feels tacky. This may be true of raw linseed oil but not boiled linseed oil unless their sense of touch is different than mine. Boiled linseed oil will gradually develop a haze that needs to be rubbed off occasionally with a few caresses of a hand but I certainly wouldn't class that as being tacky.

Many years ago Harry Merkle described how to apply a linseed oil finish to maple. I have used it and it's certainly worth passing on. Here it is:

Mix boiled linseed oil with turpentine 50/50, that is equal parts. When the maple has been properly prepared and is ready to receive the finish soak, slop, and slosh this mixture on until it will absorb no more. Come back in an hour and slop on

another coat. Let it set until the next day and then wipe off the excess using a lint-free cloth soaked in the same mixture, so as to dissolve any gummy spots. Now set the stock aside for a week to harden. At the end of the week, rub the stock down with a few drops of linseed oil using your hands. After a couple days another coat can be rubbed in. Keep this up for three more weeks and you will have a finish as fine as the Olde English Hand Rubbed job.

Now linseed oil is not the ultimate stock finish. The old timers realized this as they tried many mixtures. Linseed oil, shellac, varnish, burnt umber and waxes. Now what objection did the old master find with linseed oil? Well for one, its not completely waterproof. Linseed oil is useful as a base for house paint as it does allow moisture to pass but this is a drawback as far as a stock finish is concerned. Most houses are constructed of green lumber and as the lumber cures the moisture must escape. If the linseed oil stopped the moisture completely all the paint would blister and peel off.

Stock woods are generally cured to a moisture content well below that of the surrounding atmosphere and will draw moisture. Linseed oil will let moisture in until the stock is near the moisture content of the surrounding air if left out in it long enough. From this brief explanation maybe you will understand why some stocks are unstable and accuracy is affected by changes in humidity, and why linseed oil should be used in combination with other products to make it more waterproof. Pure boiled linseed oil is useful as a **final** coat to bring out luster once the tock is filled and sealed.

We do have some excellent oil base finishes on the market today that overcome the problem of pure linseed oil for the most part. They are quick drying and easy to apply. I am speaking of **TRU-OIL LINSEED** and similar products. While these do use linseed oil they also contain varnish and driers so they are not a rubbing oil as they dry too fast. I'm sure that few ex-servicemen will object to this. These modern oil finishes do work well for sealing and filling the stock and a built up piano type finish can be obtained if you really want such. However, this is done by first filling the stock with heavy coats, usually 3 or 4 then taking each coat down to bare wood with fine sandpaper (400 grit or finer) and a sanding block where practical. Fine steel wool will work but can create

uneven spots if overdone. Anyway do this until the pores of the wood are filled or level with the surrounding woods surface. The built up finish is then applied by feathering in a few drops at a time with your hand rather than one or two coats heavily slopped on then rubbed out with rottenstone. If heavy coats are applied it seems that they will invariably develop a run, or bubble or catch a kurd of some kind or other that must be rubbed out to bare wood. Some folks can apply a finish this way but I never seem to have much luck. Apparently I'm not alone as others I've talked to complained of the same problem and they ended up solving it the same way I did. That is rubbing in a few drops at a time for many thin coats. These thin coats do dry fast so several can be applied in a day's time.

The Olde English Hand Rubbed finish can be duplicated with these products by using them as a filler. That is keep applying finish and taking it down to bare wood as previously described. When the pores are filled a rubbing mixture of half Tru-Oil, Linspeed etc. and half boiled linseed oil is mixed and rubbed in much the same way as straight "boiled" linseed oil. This mixture will usually dry in 24 hours and be ready to receive another coat. Occasionally, you may find it useful to lightly rub the stock with fine steel wool. You are the judge of when the job is done. Straight boiled linseed oil can be used for the final coat if you so desire.

Another product used to produce the hand rubbed oil finish is Watco's Danish Oil. It is far easier to apply than linseed oil and the results are breathtaking. The stock shines by itself or so it seems. I witnessed this finish on several guns owned by Virgil Gunning. Danish Oil is all that he has used for 12 years and aside from being a most knowledgeable gun man he worked for the Glidden Paint Company for many years. His choice of Danish Oil was not made lightly and his stocks show that he made a wise choice.

I had been doing some research on various oils and tung oil kept coming up. Tung oil comes to us from China and the oil is processed from a nut of the Aleurites fordil tree, however, the Chinese don't call it that and neither do we unless we are trying to impress somebody. The tung tree is now grown in the southern portion of the United States as this oil is finding great favor with the paint industry. No

wonder, the Chinese have used it for a thousand years or so to waterproof their boats. Now that has got to be a severe test! It is tough, flexible and very waterproof. However, it does have a couple of points you may find objectionable. It dries to a duller finish than linseed oil and you may be allergic to it. The dull finish is caused by minute surface cracks as it dries.

During World War II GI's discovered that rifles left by departed Japanese soldiers were virtually unharmed by being left out in tropical weather. These stocks had been finished with tung oil but some GI's were allergic to it. Now what form this allergy took I can't say. Sneezes, rashes or a boat ride back to the State or what I don't know. Maybe everyone is allergic to tung oil but if you are given to allergies might I suggest you go read another article and stick to whatever finish you now use.

My studies revealed that when linseed oil is mixed with tung oil the high luster of one combines with the waterproofness of the other. Knowing that, I hope you can appreciate my feeling when I bumbled in to visit Ed Dale the Splinter Peddler at his Lumber Store one day and spotted a can of "McCloskeys Tungseal, Royal Danish Oil." The label said "Tung oil and linseed oil combined with petroleum additives for deep penetration." I snapped it up! "Dries to hardness in 24 ours." "Oh Boy! This stuff sounds too good to be true!" The waterproof feature of the tung oil combined with the high luster of linseed oil plus a vehicle that would carry it deep into the wood. How about that! What more could I ask for. I'm leery of advertising and labels are certainly a form of advertising so I had to experiment first before I would be satisfied. Three small blocks of wood 3/4 of an inch thick were sawn off of a scrap of very hard curly maple. Three plastic containers with 1/4 inch of boiled linseed oil, Tru-Oil, and Tungseal were set out. A block of maple was then placed in each container with the intention of letting them soak for an hour. However, that plan went gunnysack as the boob tube captured me and I got involved watching Farrah's Fawcetts.

It wasn't until the next morning that the blocks of wood were removed. A thick scum had developed on the Tru-Oil even in its sealed container. (Normally

once you open a bottle of Tru-Oil it is best to store it upside down so this scum will be on the bottom as you open the bottle.) The linseed oil had also developed a surface film. The Tungseal was still as fluid as when I poured it in. The blocks were set aside for a day to dry then sawed in two and this is what I found. The Tru-Oil had penetrated 3/32nds of an inch, the linseed oil had soaked into the wood nearly a quarter of an inch, but the Tungseal had completely saturated the entire block!!!

The label said it penetrated deep and dried hard but I had a special problem to solve. Another piece of soft Western maple was soaked and left to dry. My project for the moment required checkering and I had used this soft Western maple. It was very pretty but oh so soft and all I could visualize was a badly whiskered checkering job. I hope you can imagine my relief as the checkering tool cut as clean on the sample as if it were cutting the hardest maple or finest walnut.

The pistol I was working on was stained with a Non Grain Raising stain available from Log Cabin Sport Shop and allowed to dry. The Tungseal was then applied which amounts to sloshing, soaking, flooding and in general just saturating the bejabbers out of the wood until it absorbs no more. After 15 minutes go over it again. Allow another 15 minutes for this to soak in then apply more, especially where the wood is dull as this indicates a spot where all the Tungseal has been absorbed and could absorb more. After another 30 minutes wipe off the excess with a lint free cloth. In this case I used a piece of an old "T" shirt. Set the stock aside for 24 hours to harden. The next day apply another coat as described above.

After the second coat had dried I completed my checkering. The checkering was scrubbed with a stiff tooth brush and a touch up of Non Grain Raising stain applied to it. This stain should not be applied too heavily as it does penetrate very deep consequently the color you see on the surface can not be appreciably lightened by using steel wool. The Tungseal will dissolve it to a small degree but not enough to change the color much. Therefore you are wise to test this stain on scraps before sloshing it on a completed gun. Various shades and darkness can be obtained by mixing the walnut and cherry color together to satisfy any taste. Turpentine or other thinners will cut the color to suit you but experiment

first! A feller once wrote and asked me what kind of stain to use to give a color that wouldn't give a rifle the appearance of a cheap painted lady. The only way I can answer that is with a short story.

"Two men were standing on a street corner admiring the passing scenery when one said "Hey look at that classy hooker!" The other fowled, "That's my wife!" So I am not about to recommend one stain over another as the finished product has to satisfy you and no one else. That's why I say EXPERIMENT.

Anyway, after the stain dries slight greenish hue of the stain was scrubbed off with the toothbrush and another coat of Tungseal applied. Three coats total should be sufficient as by this time a beautiful sheen is evident in the wood that would truly excite any lover of the "hand rubbed oil finish."

This term "hand rubbed oil finish" has always bothered me. Do "they" mean only those finishes that were actually many coats of oil rubbed in by hand or an oil and varnish finish used to seal the wood then rubbed down to a satin finish with rottenstone? In light of what I have seen and done with today's products I rather suspect many "hand rubbed oil finishes" were produced a little faster than all them "Good Ol' Boys" loitering around the pot bellied stove in the gun shop realize. I'm not trying to kill a legend only temper it with reality. Times have not changes in this respect: Gunsmiths have to eat. The more they produce the better they and their families eat. Many coats of hand rubbed oil will produce a nice cosmetic finish but it took a lot of time. When a customer angrily returns a rifle with the ramrod stuck tight in the stock because the stock swelled up that gunsmith had better come up with a solution better than plain linseed oil.

And they did. Shellac, varnish and waxes plus oil were used. The chemical composition of shellac and varnish is different these days and is changing all the time. Through various applications they can produce any appearance you desire with far more durable results.

Any way, that's all there is to applying Tungseal. No steel wool, no rottenstone, no more blistered hands. A slight haze did develop but this was quickly rubbed off with a dry cloth. So far it has not returned. A coat of stock wax can be applied if you wish for more shine.

Up until now I have spoken primarily of finishing maple but walnut presents a couple of points worth mentioning also. (That has a nice ring to it - "I have spoken." heh-heh.) The grain structure of walnut is open and porous but normally a stain is unnecessary. Usually oil finishes will darken walnut sufficiently for most tastes especially if a filler is used. About the only time a stain is necessary is to blend a portion of sap wood to match the rest of the stock. With the price of walnut being what it is these days finding stock blanks with sap wood in it will no doubt happen more often.

The porous grain of walnut should be filled and this can be done with commercial fillers available for stock finishing or by using many coats of stock finish by itself. However, the use of stock filler greatly reduces stock finish time. Good fillers are generally nothing more than finely ground silica, burnt umber and some type of fast drying oil as a carrier. The consistency of which resembles mud. Some shady operators will offer a filler composed of burnt umber, corn starch, and oil. These are all soft and will eventually fall out so read the labels carefully. I have had excellent results with Herters French Red Filler and those offered by Birch Wood Casey and have no qualms about recommending their use.

Fillers are applied by rubbing them in cross-grain so that the pores will catch and hold it. To rub the grain will pull the filler right back out and you will have gained little for your efforts. Instructions supplied with most fillers make a big point of this so I mention it only to let you know that I am at least a functional illiterate. In other words in desperation I do resort to reading the manufacturer's instructions. Also be sure to use sandpaper with a block as steel wool will pull the filler out of the surface of the wood.

There are many types of oil finishes and I have only briefly covered some of the better more common ones we are most likely to encounter. Later I intend to cover the varathanes and some of the epoxy type finishes available. A purist would snort at these as being too space age and I admit to similar feelings, but there are some exciting new developments that should at least be brought to our attention.

Let me close this typesetters nightmare with a note on safety.

DO NOT INHALE THE FUMES OF FINISH

REMOVERS!!!! The labels all warn us not to, but how many of us believe the warnings? "Caution, cigarette smoking may be hazardous to your health. Do they qualify it? How many? Will one cigarette burn out a lung? Sacharin is under consideration for banning because three mice out of 100 died of cancer after having the equivalent of 800 cans of sody pop a day run through them. Hell! I'd die of kidney failure first! Actually cancer researchers have found that if a chemical will not cause cancer it doesn't make any difference how much is run through you. You may die of gluttony but not cancer.

Anyway because of the above examples we tend to believe that warnings are overstated. In the case of finish removers the warning are not overstated at all. These fumes cause a reaction that introduces carbon monoxide into the bloodstream. This carbon monoxide has triggered heart attacks and some of these were fatal. Fatal or not, heart attacks can't be much fun!

ON that happy note, I'll close.



CSMLinc Email

Email from doug@csmlinc.org has been returned from practically all the free email service providers for whatever reason. In an attempt to send messages to members and the shoot list, Goggle Groups is being tried to remove those email addresses that no longer are 'good' or the user does not wish to receive messages from CSMLinc.

Each email address that was on file received a message with an invite to 'accept' the invitation the CSMLinc 'Group'. Several people did accept the invitation. Persons who did not 'accept' and were known to be members were added manually and then received a message that they have been added.

Once the CSMLinc Members Email List is complete, messages will be originated from csmlincorg@gmail.com

If you did not see the previous invitations to join the email 'group', check the spam, junk folder of your mail program. If you don't think you are on the list, please send a message to csmlincorg@gmail.com with join in the subject and message box.

*Thank you for your time and membership,
Doug Davis
Email List Gatekeeper*