



October, 2014

# 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.

## Bird & Buffalo Fun & Results

**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

## Regular Monthly Meeting

November 6

Craft Fair (free tables)

## Primitive Shoot - November 16

December 4 - Regular Monthly  
Meeting & Ornament Exchange  
finger foods

December 7 - Paper Shoot  
December 21 - Primitive Shoot

### UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Annual Craft Show & Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	November 6	bring your wares & display for free; do not have to be ML related
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 16	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting & ornament exchange	American Legion	December 4	bring a wrapped ornament & some goodies to share
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 7	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 21	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting???	American Legion	January 1, 2015	do we want to cancel this meet?
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 4, 2015	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Annual Board Meeting	Joy's House	January 13	set annual calendar & stuff!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 18	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
CSMLA Muzzle Loader	of the Year	Nominations due to	Ken Wee by January 30, 2015
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	February 5	white elephant gift exchange
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 15	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
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
<b><i>Daylight Savings Time</i></b>	<b><i>begins on Sunday,</i></b>	<b><i>March 8, 2015</i></b>	<b><i>clocks ahead one hour!!!!</i></b>
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 SHOTS IN	MAY - - - PREPARE	FOR THE ANNUAL	SHOOT!!!!
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	May 7	last plans for the annual shoot
40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Shoot	Florence Mountain Park	May 23-25	lots of shooting, sharing, and fun for the weekend!

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

From the minutes, it looks as if the Editor was not the only one who missed the October meeting. Vice President Roy Crouse ran a well organized meeting and took care of the business at hand.

The Bird and Buffalo event held at Ft. Melchert was a great time and a fairly good success as well. We witches served 38 folks chili for lunch. That included jalapeno cornbread and regular cornbread, onions, Fritos, cheese, ice tea, and cookies for dessert. Lois shared her pickled green beans and peppers which were a real hit with a lot of us. It was an all-you-could eat lunch and there were several who came back for more than one bowl.

Supper head count on Saturday was about 26 folks. We ate until we almost popped. Included in the buffet was pork & apples, meatballs, casseroles, pickled beet salad, white chili, and so much stuff it was hard to choose. The dessert table was filled with pies, cakes, warm cobbler in a Dutch oven, and cookies. If you went away hungry it was by your own choice.

Again Lois showed her creative talent by decorating the room with flowers and leaves in all the beautiful fall colors. The arrangements were each unique and different. Tickets were passed around and three lucky winners were chosen to make their pick of the table decorations.

The event's counting/guessing game was pumpkin flavored candy corn in a mason jar. Folks had all day to count and multiply and try to figure out how many were in the jar. The winner was Sandra Gabor with a guess of 161. The official total count was 165.

Fred LaChance had brought a curiously folded item and was asking folks to guess what it really was. After everyone was filled to the top, he asked Blake to model the item. Turns out it is a cardboard hat that can be worn in many ways. Blake is always such a wonderful sport in allowing himself to be the model for many crazy items. We love you Blake!!!

Doug Davis was then called to the front of the room. He was presented a wonderful quilt for his very own for all the work and efforts that he does on behalf of muzzle loading, safety, and shooting sports.

Lois and Blake both thanked Doug for all that he does for us and for them as well. Doug is a real go-getter and is an avid and passionate individual about his shooting and safety.

Jock Harmon was also presented with a quilt that contained horses and horseshoe patterns as a border. Once his wife Pat saw the quilt, it disappeared from Jock's possession and he may never see it again. The whole thing was a perfect thing for Jock.

Todd Schainost thanked Tom Gabor for all his help on the range for the event. Winners were:

Bull Target:

Tony Hecker

Petra LaChance

Women's Overall Paper:

Petra LaChance

Men's Overall Paper:

Jock Harmon 152x

Ron Deurmyer 128

Fred LaChance 119

Todd noted that they had garnered about \$80 for the club's treasury.

Our auctioneer Marlin Johnson was given the floor and he conducted a really great auction of the unique and somewhat different items on the table. Marlin did a remarkable job considering that his wife Barb was in the hospital in Pueblo. We thank you Marlin for your time with us. Give Barb our love. The auction netted over \$600 for the club!!!! There were only a couple of things that had to go home with their owners, which is a great thing.

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Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc.

### Regular Monthly Meeting

### October 2, 2014

The CSML membership meeting was held October 2, 2014 with Vice President Roy Crouse calling the meeting to order.

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

Gwen gave the Treasurer's Report. She noted

that nothing went in and nothing went out. Motion was made and seconded to accept this report. Motion carried.

Membership report by Ted Beaupre noted that one new membership had come in on that Thursday and 34 memberships were being dropped from the books because of lack of dues being paid for a while.

No primitive report available.

Old Business: Women on Target was beautiful with 27 in attendance. They were a little short on instructors and all were done with the range by 2:30 p.m. Doug, Joy, Tony, Gwen, Michelle, and Tim were the members helping with the event.

Challenge Match report given by Tom Gabor. Doug and Tom were the only CSML attendees. There was a total of 12 shooters from across the state. Tom asked that whenever a shoot is held in the state, we need to try and support the activities. It is important to help and maintain the events and make it worthwhile for those sponsoring and setting up the event. Tom and Doug joined Stewart Leach to make up a team for participation.

New Business: Bird & Buffalo on October 18 and 19. Craft fair at the November meeting; bring finger foods. There is a gun show October 25 and 26.

Upcoming events were noted.

A bit of history was told. The Grainger's camp outs began on August 14, 1980. We have enjoyed the hospitality of the Grainger's for a long time!

Cookies and seven layer dip were enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to the members who brought this to share.

Motion made, seconded, and passed for adjournment of the meeting. So done.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Schainost

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### Prayers for our Friends

An update on our friend Barb Johnson notes that she is still in the hospital in Pueblo. Her illness is very serious and the doctors are working to help her through this. Marlin has one of his grandchildren

staying with him and he tells us he is being spoiled and well taken care of. Marlin is spending a great deal of time at the hospital as well as on the road. Please keep both Marlin and Barb in your thoughts and prayers at this time.

We need to remember Juanita Melchert as well. She is remaining about the same and Ron does his best to visit with her each day. Being a care giver is never easy so keep these folks in your prayers.

Michelle Blanchard is finally over having continual morning sickness but has lost her job and had to move back in with Gwen. There are some complications for Michelle but Gwen and her family are doing all they can to help her during this time. Please keep these individuals in your prayers.

President Joy has been having pain in her shoulder and has had to participate in an MRI. It is unknown the extent of the damage or the plans for resolution at this time, but she can always use our prayers for her.

We are rapidly approaching that time of year when the winter weather can be treacherous and illness can come upon us quickly and without warning. Please keep each other and all our members in your thoughts and prayers. We need to love and support each other to get through the trials of life.



### LEFT AT FT. MELCHERT

*A couple of things were left at Ft. Melchert after the Bird and Buffalo event. The owners are asked to claim these items.*

*One large white bath towel. Looks almost new and unused. It was left on the chili serving table at lunch.*

*One blue & white Coleman Oscar cooler. This is about the size of a six pack and has some silverware in it.*



# Paper Pistol Match

## October 5, 2014

by: Ken West

Amazingly good weather -- the forecast was for 8 mph winds at 12 noon. At 11:59 a.m. there was no wind, at 12:00 p.m. the wind was at 8 mph --- scary!

We had six shooters enjoying the weather and company. The scores were:

John Udovich	94x
Lon Mehle	84x
Jim Murray	84
Ken West	84
Clay Vandenburg	81
Jay Rathman	77

Jay was sighting in a new (to himself) flint. Playing it safe, I tried my flint after the match!

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

HANG-FIRES: I tried out the new Swiss Null-b (9-Fg) priming powder. It may be a bit faster. Firmly seating the balls so that there is no space between the ball and the powder definitely reduces hang-fires. Not easy with a 10 inch ramrod and a 12 inch barrel. Another way to reliably create hang-fires, even on percussions, is to fail to run hot water through the fire channel when cleaning the gun!

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# BIRD & BUFFALO PISTOL MATCH

The Bird & Buffalo get-together seems smaller --- and friendlier--- each year. Everyone agreed that the chili was the best ever.

The weather couldn't have been better, nor the shooting! We all noticed that the targets were at 20 yards, but the shooting was extraordinary regardless. The scores were:

Clay Vandenburg	98-2x
Fred LaChance	97-4x
Jim Murray	96x
Jay Rathman	93x
Ken West	92
Doug Davis	90-2x
Al Bartok	85x
Petra LaChance	82x
Michael Philippi	82
Ron Deurmyer	76
Bart Longrie	75
Joe Caprio	68

Al Bartok did pretty well with two broken bones in his shootin' hand. We told Ron Deurmyer that the firing line was the loading bench; he picked the bench 5 yards back from the firing line for the first 7 shots -- little hard to see by the time he got to the pistol range. Doug, of course, handicapped himself by shooting a flint.

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## DON'T FORGET.....

The November 6 meeting is the craft show. Bring all your stuff and money to purchase from the others. We also bring some finger foods to share while we shop. Maybe the right dish will loosen a wallet and you can sell your wares.

The December meeting is the annual ornament exchange. Bring a wrapped ornament and take a different one home with you. We also bring goodies to share at this meeting. You know, the taste of the season and such.

January's meeting is scheduled for New Year's Day in 2015. It is my belief that we should cancel this meeting but it is up to the membership to decide. Please let Joy know your thoughts by the December meeting so that we have plenty of time to notify everyone if we cancel or change this meeting.

February's meeting is the annual white elephant gift exchange. This is always a hoot and it is one where you just never know what will show up and look for a new home. Closets are cleaned and junk stores are scavenged for the oddest and most unique thing to give away. Basically what is one man's junk may be someone else's treasures. You just never know.

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## ***RUXTON AND HIS RIFLE***

***By: James A. Hanson***

(Continued from last month.....)

About thirty years ago, a regional antique gun auction in Scotland run by Christie's included a percussion rifle described as having a cracked stock. The gun arrived in due course in 1979 at a London, England gun show, where several enthusiasts recognized it for its historical significance - - George Frederick Ruxton's rifle. This was really not so difficult, since a silver banner inlay on the buttstock above the patchbox is engraved "G. F. RUXTON".

The rifle is typical in most respects to those being produced for English hunters in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It measures 57 inches overall, with a forty-inch barrel, and weighs ten pounds, four ounces. The straight octagon barrel is 1-1/8 inch in diameter across the flats, and is equipped with a two-leaf buckhorn rear sight. Bore is about .60 caliber, which Ruxton said was for 25 gauge round balls. The rifling has ten shallow grooves. There are post-1815 London proofs on the underside of the barrel, which is held in the walnut stock by two keys.

The percussion Wesley bar pattern lock, with sliding safety catch, is marked "Thos. K. Baker." The safety is probably that invented and patented by Thomas and John Seymour, the rights to which Baker acquired in 1844. The rifle has a set trigger which is activated by pushing the single trigger forward. The

barrel carries the maker's address: "34 St. James' Street, London." According to Blackmore, Baker was a London gun maker from about 1833 until after 1852. He moved from 2 Bury Street, St. James', to 34 St. James' Street in 1846. Thus Ruxton must have had the rifle made new for his 1846 trip.

After his return, Ruxton obviously took the rifle in for modification. The rear sight, likely a flat leaf or leaves, was apparently replaced with a folding American-style two-leaf buck horn sight. A silver escutcheon was added to the cheekpiece, depicting a buffalo bull in the style of artist George Catlin, and just as Ruxton described as engraved on the patchbox of Killbuck's Hawken in *Life in the Far West*. Finally, he had the English-style shotgun or musket-style buttplate and a portion of the buttstock removed. A large wood patch was added to extend the butt out to accommodate a new American-style crescent buttplate in steel to match the original fittings. English travelers were fascinated by these American crescent butts. An English naval officer in California during the Mexican War observed that the scouts with Fremont carried rifles that looked like Turkish guns. Ruxton, however, must have recognized the improvement in aiming the design afforded, especially when wearing heavy coats. These modifications indicate that Ruxton was otherwise pleased with the rifle, that he intended to take it on his 1848 trip, and that he had it modified rather than buying a new gun because he was on a tight budget. We may also assume that Ruxton carried a small arsenal with him. He had been in darkest Africa, and his trip from Mexico City to Colorado had taken him through country infested with bandits, Apaches, Comanches, and army deserters from both sides. In his first book he mentions being armed with two pairs of pistols, a blunderbuss, a double rifle, and a double-barreled carbine. Upon his death, his younger brother Augustus traveled from Canada to St. Louis, and he arranged for George's effects to be sent to their mother in England. An inventory of the property was seen before 1950, but its present whereabouts is unknown. Thus there may be several more Ruxton guns to be found.

If you wish to see George Ruxton's rifle, along with a magnificent collection of western firearms, rifles, Northwest guns, St. Louis guns, Russell knives

and so much more, they are on exhibit at Jim Gordon's museum in Glorieta, New Mexico, just off Interstate 25 near the Glorieta Pass Civil War Battlefield, and just north of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Jim keeps no regular hours, but is happy to show his astonishing educational exhibits to those of us who are interested. Please give him a call at his home number, 505-982-9667, to arrange for a visit. If your hands are clean, he might even let you touch Ruxton's rifle.

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### ***THE SABLE AND THE MARTEN***

It is an interesting fact that the Russian conquest of Siberia in the seventeenth century was almost entirely for the purpose of obtaining sable skins. The sable's rapid depletion, as much as a 75 percent reduction in numbers in fifty years, eventually drove the Russians across the Pacific, to the vast fur resources of the Aleutian Islands and the North American mainland. There the Russians found, not sables, but martens, first cousins in the weasel tribe.

Through most of the seventeenth century, the imperial government monopolized the best sables and foxes for its use, insisting that all taxes be paid in the best quality furs available. Sables not only supplied the Russian royal family with their best garments and were an important source of government revenue, but they were immensely useful diplomatic gifts as Russia tried to expand its sphere of influence westward. The general run of sables were worth, in Siberia, around 2-1/2 rubles per skin, with the government acquiring the best pelts, those worth 10 or more rubles each.

Western European demand for sables was greatest for the darkest pelts, while Russian tastes favored the skins with the most white or silver hairs scattered through the coat, which made the fur sparkle in bright light. The pelts were graded into bundles of forty, a good number for a single garment for an adult, and then secured between two boards for storage, shipment, and sale at the wholesale level. Moscow prices were about 20 to 100 percent higher than the Siberian price.

The best years of sable production, when new areas were just opened, showed as many as 50,000 skins going to Moscow each year. Average years

before the collapse of trapping produced around 10,000 sables. By the nineteenth century, the main production of sable pelts was in Kamchatka, the Amur, Yakutia, and Sakhalin Island, and their value to the trappers there was \$6 to \$30 US. These high prices encouraged the trappers to hand light-colored pelts in dense smoke to give them a rich, dark luster.

In Alaska, the Russians found the marten, as had the English traders in Hudson Bay. The marten yields a beautiful brown pelt, slightly larger than the sable. The easiest way to tell the difference, other than by color, is that the American marten often has a white throat patch. This species is also found in Western Europe, and is often referred to as a stone marten. Another variety, the pine marten, found exclusively in Western European forests, has a beautiful orange throat patch.

In the early years of the Hudson's Bay Company, the standard of trade often reckoned two marten as one beaver. Company records indicate that from 1821 to 1905, the firm purchased over seven million martens. In the period 1821-1891, American firms purchased 2.6 million, or 37,000 pelts a year. By the late nineteenth century the HBC was collecting an average of 70,000 martens, while another 40,000 were purchased by other firms. European sources supplied another 10,000 to the market. This compares with about 25,000 sables caught each year in Russia, of which perhaps 10,000 were sold outside of Russia. The sale prices for marten, per skin, usually averaged about \$6 to \$12 before World War I, and over \$20 each after the war. On an average, these prices were one-third of the prices realized for the smaller but darker and finer-furred Russian sable. Both marten and sable are extremely popular today, and remain important furs for fine women's garments and men's hats.

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### **THE TEA BRICK**

One bit of confusion among fur trade and mountain men re-enactors is the use of the tea brick, a hard-pressed board composed of tea and tea dust. Ark brown in color, the bricks are usually a little smaller than a sheet of regular typing paper, and about





## COLORADO STATE MUZZLE LOADING ASSOCIATION (CSMLA)

Conceived by a group of men on a wet rainy hunting trip, CSMLA was started in order to obtain and maintain a primitive hunting season in Colorado in 1971

Since its inception, the CSMLA has represented the black powder shooters of our state. Its founders and following leadership have worked successfully toward the establishment and continuation of a Colorado Big Game Season for Muzzle Loading.

**The CSMLA is recognized as the spokesman for the Muzzle Loading community in Colorado. Working with the Division of Wildlife and the Wildlife Commission on seasons and permits we have been able to retain the primitive season and increase the available licenses.**

The **Poke and Stroke** is the official bi-monthly newsletter of the Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association that keeps the Muzzle Loading Community informed of upcoming black powder functions...from shoots or meetings around the state, to rendezvous, and of proposed legislation or regulations that may affect the continuation of our sport. Now available on our website.

In addition, CSMLA sponsors two events per year. **The Colorado State Shoot** has been an on going event since the inception of the Association. It is a bracketed shoot with brackets for men and women. There are also matches for all types of shooters, from sub-junior, to "Old Timers". This event is held Labor Day Weekend each year.

**Winter Convention** started in 1988. It is the general meeting and election of Officers. Winter Convention is also a learning opportunity and a gathering of good friends and Traders during the winter months.

### GOALS

An organization that covers a state as large as Colorado can be a powerful tool. We are committed to serving the muzzle loading community and its many diversified interests in pursuit of bettering our sport in all ways possible. Colorado is one of the West's premier states for Big Game Hunting. We continue to interact with the Division of Wildlife and the Wildlife Commission for the continuation and preservation of the Black Powder Season. Our continued success depends on the support and participation of individuals and clubs alike.

For more event information or if you have questions contact:

[WWW.CSMLA.net](http://WWW.CSMLA.net)

*or*

### Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association

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## INVITATION TO JOIN

The COLORADO STATE MUZZLE LOADING ASSOCIATION, INC. NEEDS YOU! We offer information and activities for all muzzle loaders. **Our numbers include: re-enactors, collectors, gun builders, hunter education instructors, match competitors, shotgunners, hunters and buck skinners.** If it loads from the front end, we have matches and members who share your interests. **WE NEED YOU TO GROW WITH US!**

Hunters, we especially need you. The primary thing that gets a politician or bureaucrat's attention is numbers of members. We need you to be one of our "numbers" so we can present a united front to combat anti-hunting and anti-gun factions and organizations. We've been successful in helping to establish and maintain an early muzzle loading season. With your support we can do an even better job. Please help--JOIN THE CSMLA NOW.

Please use the membership application on the opposite side of this invitation and JOIN THE CSMLA!

