



August, 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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**Legislative Liaison
& Webmaster**
Doug Davis

Mountain Man Monthly
Editors
The Webb's

No paper shoot in September!
Support other events over
Labor Day Weekend

State Shoot - Ft. Lupton
August 31 - Sept. 3

Monthly Meeting - Sept. 6
Potluck & Election of Officers

Primitive Shoot - Sept. 16

Bird & Buffalo Shoot

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
CSMLA State Shoot	Ft. Lupton, CO	August 31-Sept. 3	Bracketed matches; annual shoot
Bell's Fort Free Trappers Rendezvous	Off Hwy 69 and CR 119	August 31-Sept. 3	Bob Tristano (719) 564-4485 Dan Hoffman (970) 389-3939
Regular Club Meeting & Election of Officers	American Legion	September 6	potluck at 7; followed by meeting and election!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Fort Melchert	September 16	pistol at noon; rifles at 1:00 p.m.
CSMLA Club Challenge Match	Rightmire Ranch near Agate	September 22	camping, shooting, pig roast, & bring a side dish to share
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	October 4	club business and whatnot
Club Paper Shoot	Fort Melchert	October 7	pistol at noon; rifles at 1:00 p.m.
Annual Bird & Buffalo Shoot & Auction	Fort Melchert	October 20-21	potluck Saturday night; auction, lots of shooting; loads of fun
Annual Craft Fair & Regular Monthly Mtg.	American Legion	November 1	free tables to display & sell your wares; short business meeting
Club Paper Shoot & DST ends.....	Fort Melchert	November 4	Set your clock back 1 hr. Range opens at 1:00 p.m.
ELECTION DAY	Everywhere	November 6	Get out and vote!!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Fort Melchert	November 18	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Fort Melchert	December 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	December 6	ornament exchange; finger foods
Club Primitive Shoot	Fort Melchert	December 16	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	January 3, 2013	wild game potluck; awards
Club Paper Shoot	Fort Melchert	January 6, 2013	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
2013 Board Meeting????	Joy's House	January 15, 2013	set club calendar for year & such
Club Primitive Shoot	Fort Melchert	January 20, 2013	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Fort Melchert	February 3, 2013	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	February 7, 2013	white elephant gift exchange
CSMLA Annual Trade Show & Convention	Holiday Inn Denver-East Stapleton	Feb. 16-17, 2013	State Association annual meeting; loads of things to do

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

We had a very quick August meeting of the group. Reports were given and it is noted that we have 77 paid memberships so far this year.

Discussion held on the upcoming Paper Grainger shoot and camp out. We're hoping that there are more at this one than were at the primitive event.

Reminder given that for August, the primitive and paper shoots are reversed. Primitive is the first Sunday and paper is at the Grainger Camp Out.

Next Women on Target event is September 16. Be sure to get with Doug if you can or want to help with this event. We always have such a good time!!!

Those present who already hold an office were asked if they want to continue. Those who will "ride the train" are Joy as President, Roy Crouse as Vice President, Gwen as Treasurer, Lois as Secretary, Todd as the Range Officer, Ted as Membership, and Doug as Primitive Exec. Unless there is a budding writer out there that wants to take over the newsletter, Doreen will still remain.

Don't forget the upcoming muzzle loading hunts and craft fair. Provide Joy with your results of the hunt so that we can award our trophies in January. Craft show tables are free!!!! at the November meeting.

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## Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. Regular Monthly Meeting August 2, 2012

August 2 was the CSML membership meeting. The meeting called to order by President Joy Hicks. We had 18 members with one guest. Blake brought his classmate Connor to the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the Secretary reports from May and July as printed in the *Mountain Man Monthly*. Seconded and motion carried.

Gwen gave the Treasurer's report which was "nothing came in and nothing went out". Motion made to accept. Seconded and motion carried. Gwen

then gave a report that she had received information that Bircham's Office Supply has copiers to give away to non-profit organizations. The machines were used in contracts at military bases. Gwen is working with the State Association to get the information so that the CSMLA can apply to receive one of these copiers. Joy will house the printer and use if for the State Association things that we do for them. This will be a win-win situation for all. Thanks Gwen for looking out for us and the State Association.

Ted reported that we have 77 paid members to date this year.

**Primitive Report:** Doug noted that this Sunday is the shoot since the third Sunday is the Paper Camp Out. The third Sunday in September will also be a work party on the range back stop. It is in need of sand because of wash-out. Bring your shovels and gloves and plan to help with the work on the range.

**Old Business:** Paper camp out at Grainger's on August 18-1. Potluck Saturday night with pancakes on Sunday morning. Come and have fun.

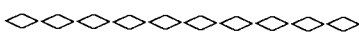
**New Business:** 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Good News Fun Shoot event will be Saturday, August 11. Linda Hill is looking for range officers to help out. Doug, Tom, Joy, and Todd will be assisting. Heritage Days is September 15-16; 10 to 5 on Saturday, 10 to 3 on Sunday. Dress in time era. If you have questions contact Suzanne at 719-495-3017. Women on Target is September 16.

Upcoming events were noted. Remember the potluck and election of officers for September. No paper shoot in September; all are encouraged to support our sister clubs and events.

Then so that we could take something from this meeting, Joy presented a discussion on Hydration and Nutrition for Shooting. She reminded us that our blood is 90% water and our brain and muscles are 75% water. It is important to stay hydrated when shooting and especially so when it is hot. It is also important to maintain your body's energy level with good nutrition before, during, and after the shoot.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lois Schainost



**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!**

In case you were not present at the meeting when Don Stoner announced his engagement, we're going to tell you now.

Don Stoner has given a ring to his former classmate Carol Meador. They plan to be married in the near future. Way to go Don!!!!

It is interesting to note that while Don and Carol were classmates, so were their mothers. Maybe this is just a destiny finally taking place.

Happy - - - Happy - - - Happy!!!!

**AUGUST PRIMITIVE PISTOL MATCH**

By: Ken "Suds" West

"Tennessee" and I arrived about an hour early and, after spending some time not finding the ejector lost from Jim's Lama, decided to go ahead and shoot the match. No wind and pleasant temperature.

Before we had finished, Lon Mehle showed up and joined us. By the time that Tennessee and I had finished the match and shot a tie breaker, Fred LaChance came up to join us. Fred missed the squirrel - - doing a trick shot at about 30 degrees - - we really would have given you a good shot at it!

We distracted Lon to the point that he tried shooting the squirrel without gunpowder. When he had added gunpowder to the load, he missed! Jim and I decided that, having shot one tie-breaker and tied, we'd call the match a tie. Jim got the honor of putting the winnings in the range fund jar!!!!

***British Sea-Service Flint Pistol***

After procrastinating for over a year, I finally re-shaped the frizzen pivot on a Japanese Made British Sea Service .69 caliber fintlock pistol so that the flint would uncover the flash pan when it struck. This pistol seems to require a musket flint, not a pistol flint, so it wasn't too reliable. I

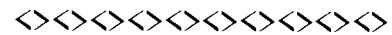
loaded it up with 40 grains of powder and a handful of BBs, set up a target at seven feet and blazed away. Seven feet is about the range that these smoothbore pistols were designed for - - two feet beyond the reach of a cutlass. The BB's made a satisfactory mess of the target so I cleaned the pistol and hung it on the wall, ready for the next pirate attack on Colorado Springs.



**Primitive Chapter News**

by: Doug "Moose Milk" Davis

We assume that "no news is good news". No reports have been received.



**PLEASE HELP US.....**

We would really like to have reports from the things that you do, the places you go, and the people you meet in the muzzle loading community. We also like to have reports and stories from our own local events to publish in the newsletter.

You don't have to be a great writer or write a novel about the thing, just give us some information about the things you saw or did and we'll make it look and sound good. We want to hear from you!!!

Deadline for each issue of the newsletter is the Friday after the Primitive Shoot. You can snail mail or e-mail the information; we don't care. Just send us the information and of course, scores if they are available.

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**STATE SHOOT - August 31-Sept. 3**

Be sure to note the State Shoot date and plan to attend. It is held at the Ft. Lupton range. Camping fee is \$15; adult registration is \$10, Senior registration is \$5.

Looking for things to help fill the pages and yet provide some good information for us, I found an old book on the bookshelf called A Book of Country Things. This book is "told by Walter Needham; recorded by Barrows Mussey". The book is full of snippets of what Walter remembered about his grandfather and what his grandfather taught him.

The first version of this book was completed during World War II and part of it appeared in the *Saturday Evening Post*. The manuscript was finally printed in 1964.

Walter Needham was raised by his maternal grandfather, L. L. Bond, to use his hands and his head. L. L. Bond was born in 1833 and is described by Walter to be "as square as a brick - - just dodge the sharp corners and you'll be all right."

"I was always Grandpa's boy. He brought me up more than anyone else until I was a dozen years old. When I was sixteen I run away from home, and got as far as Indiana; afterward I come back. People sometimes ask me why I didn't go west and grow up with the country. I tell 'em, because Vermont is where I've been treated best, and oftenest.

Since I was sixteen I've always made my own living, never had a dollar from anyone, or ever owed anyone. I've been an automobile mechanic, and I've assembled electrical gadgets in a factory, but mostly I'm just an old Vermont Jack-of-all-trades."

"My knowledge of doing things was from Gramp, from the way he done things. You see he lived in he time when everything grew in the woods, and he could make anything out of wood. When I come to think back about Grandpa, I see that in his young days he hardly bought anything except maybe from the blacksmith. He was born in a log cabin; he was a farmer all his life; hey grew their own wool, and dyed their own cloth, and made their own tallow dips and their own ink, and cut their own quill pens. They framed their own houses, and quarried their own slate. An old Indian taught Grandpa about medicinal herbs, and I still remember some of the things he learned. This story is just going to be the country things that he taught me; I think they'd ought to be put down before they're forgotten altogether."

#### INDIANS

"Gramp is the only man I ever knew, or knew of, that actually helped an Indian collect herbs for Kickapoo Indian medicine. People generally think Kickapoo Indian medicine was just water and burnt sugar,

as Indian as you are, merely something o sell for a dollar a bottle at medicine shows. Maybe most of it was, but Gramp made the real thing."

"He was probably fifteen or sixteen - - old enough to be full of questions - - when this old Kickapoo doctor came down the river from the north, looking for herbs. Gramp was interested, and used to go with him. The Indian was looking fo some particular herb, and showed Gramp what it was."

"Gramp happened to know where there was a lot of it, so he took the old Indian over. After that the old fellow came there often for different herbs, because he found so many. After a while it got so that this old Indian wold show him an herb, tell him what it was and when it should be gathered, and ask Gramp to pull some up for him and save it until he could come, because he wouldn't be there at the right season."

"So Gramp learned a great many of these herbs and what the uses were, and how to prepare some of the different concoctions. I wish I hadn't forgotten so much of it; and besides I suppose Gramp didn't tell me all about it, at that."

"He did tell me about the Kickapoo doctr curing somebody of tapeworm. He crushed up punkin seeds, and boiled them, and give the fellow he water to drink. Fixed him right up, too."

"The principle part of my job with the herbs was to collect the buds from Bam of Gilead poplar. When the buds start to swell in the spring they are filled with a sort of pitch, and if you go around where there is a Balm of Gilead popular you will smell them. It smells like medicine. They grow a good deal on his farm in Vernon; they're kind of a weed tree, and will spring up anywhere. They're not considered anything for fuel or lumber; to the average person they wouldn't look much different from any popple tree."

"I used to have to gather the swelling buds, and then Gramp would dry them. Some of them he wold just put fresh in a pint bottle, and when the bottle was full of buds he poured it full of grain alcohol and left it to soak. That made a liniment, and he even claimed it was good for colic."

"He used most of the buds in his hard salve,

and in soft salve or ointment. For the hard salve he would send me out to collect white-pine pitch. If there was any white-pine lumber around, that was the best source to get the pitch. I would scrape it off the end of boards and logs with an old knife and get it into a can. I put the can on the stove, and melted and strained the pitch. Once it was strained through cheesecloth, just enough to take the sawdust and bark out, the pitch from off of logs or lumber I would look like the nicest basswood honey you ever saw."

"Next Gramp put the pitch on the stove where it wouldn't be too hot, and boiled it down slowly until it would form a rosin in cold water; I used to get some of it to chew for gum. Then he cooked up a mixture of the rosin, mutton tallow, and Balm of Gilead buds. He strained it and poured it in molds - - tins, or anything he could get. Mostly he'd try to make it into sticks, like sealing wax."

"He used the hard salve on the oxen. When they wore shoes in winter, they would sometimes cut one foot with the other shoe. Gramp would take a match and warm the end of a salve stick to the melted stage, and put some on the cut. It would coat right over and stay there. When I had cracks in my hands from chaps, he would warm hard salve at the fire, and drop a little in the cracks. There it hardened again to form a protective coating, and it was really healing."

"The soft salve was an ointment to rub on. It was made without the boiled-down pine pitch-just mutton tallow and Balm of Gilead, and I think sometimes he used butter in it. It was very good stuff."

"Gramp was always telling me the medical properties of different plants in the woods, such as pipsissewa and sarsaparilla and rattlesnake plantain, which he called the king of all poisons. It is a beautiful little plant, but I never tried it out to see if he was right about the poison."

"Sarsaparilla and saffra root was used in making root beer. When I was very small he made root beer occasionally, but later years he didn't bother. He also made hop beer. Then his male hop plant died, and so they was all pulled up. Hops has to be of each kind, one male plant set in the center with four or five of the female vines around it. When the male vine dies there will be no more hops."

"The herb I know best about is wild turnip or

jack-in-the-pulpit. Gramp used to give it to me to start a sweat or cure my cold, and I can tell you it did."

"You watch the plants until the berries get ripe or it's right to gather. You pull up the bulbs, and peel them, and put them where they will dry. Once they are dry they're good to keep indefinitely, the same as any spice."

"In the winter when you have a chill or are coming down with a cold or grippe or fever, you grate one level teaspoonful of that jack-in-the-pulpit bulb, and mix it up in hot water with milk and sugar. Maple or white sugar, it doesn't make any difference. It's not unpleasant to take, but you certainly will warm up. I think it is equal to Jamaica ginger or anything of that sort. If I was going to prescribe it, I would go a little bit lighter on the ingredients."

"Grandpa always gathered tansy and pennyroyal and catnip to brew up with water for tea. Most all of his herb mixtures was some kind of a brew. He used to make catnip tea and tansy tea for mild fevers or to give to children."

"When beef was butchered, Gramp would save the gall in an earthenware bowl, and dry it down to a black gummy mess that looked a good deal like tar, only not quite so black. For a laxative he would dig out a little of this gummy stuff, and roll it up in a round pellet not quite the size of a Canada pea or a field pea; that was one dose. It was about the size of any pill, except it wasn't sugar-coated, and believe me it was bitter; I've taken them."

"An Indian product that Gramp told me about but never made was hickory-nut oil. The Indians used it as a substitute for mother's milk or fats of any kind. They done that quite often with butternuts, too. They would take a hollow stump, fill it with hickory nuts, and pound them into a meal with a stone pestle; then they filled the stump with water and put in hot stones out of the fire. The oil raised to the top, and the shucks stayed on the bottom."

"They quite often boiled fish the same way; cooked it with hot stones in a wooden trencher or a clay pot until the meat come off and the bones settled to the bottom."

