



September, 2017

# 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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**Cannon Master**  
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**Mountain Man Monthly Editor**  
Doreen Webb

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**October 5, 7:00 p.m.**

**“Make & Take”**

**Annual Bird & Buffalo Shoot**  
**October 14-15 @ Ft. Melchert**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**& annual craft show**

**November 2, 7:00 p.m.**

**Daylight Savings Time ends**  
**November 5!!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML &amp; Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	October 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	October 5	Make and take.
Annual Bird & Buffalo Shoot	Ft. Melchert	October 14-15	camping Friday evening; potluck on Saturday night, auction
Regular Club Meeting and annual craft fair	American Legion	Nov. 2; 7:00 p.m.	bring your crafts of any kind and plenty of money to buy them up.
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b>	<b>TIME ENDS</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 5</b>	<b>CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR!!!!</b>
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 5	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 19	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting and ornament exchange	American Legion	Dec. 7; 7:00 p.m.	bring a wrapped ornament and your favorite finger foods.
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 17	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting & Wild Game Potluck	American Legion	Jan. 4, 2018	bring your favorite "wild game" dish & utensils; tall tales told
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 7, 2018	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
CSML Annual Board Meeting	Joy's House	January 9, 2018 7:00 p.m.	set annual calendar, discuss shoot & flyer, discussions
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 21	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting & White Elephant Gifts	American Legion	February 1 7:00 p.m.	regular meeting followed by white elephant gift exchange
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 4	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 18	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	March 1, 7:00 p.m.	Come see what happens!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 4	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b>	<b>TIME BEGINS</b>	<b>MARCH 11</b>	<b>CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR!!!!</b>
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 18	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
To shoot or not to shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 1	This is Easter Sunday/go/no-go

For CSML scheduled shoots; CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 442-0150 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

## Grainger's Paper Camp Out

By: Ted Beaupre

The September meeting was short, but the food for the potluck was excellent! Those few of us who showed up ate and were fully suffonsified. If you didn't come, you missed a really good buffet.

The Women on Target class was again scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup>. Joy and her crew were looking for help so we hope all of you that could were there to assist where needed. This class is very important for women who have never handled firearms and may be making a choice to own one.

Seems as though the Boy Scout Shoot-A-Ree was a little short on funds and determined that they could not feed our instructors who went to host the shooting event. So, as is common in our group, we fell back five yards, improvised, and came up with a way to feed the hungry volunteers. Joy and Gwen used petty cash and bought the fixin's for hamburgers and grilled them right on site. The group that was there were very impressed and happily devoured the food.

Just again one more reminder about articles and information for publication in the newsletter. Deadline is Thursday following the primitive shoot. Please, please, please send us stuff for the newsletter. It is your club and we would like to hear from you.



### UPDATES.....

For those of you who did not know it, Ron Melchert had a spell and spent a few days in the hospital to get over the issues. He is now at the Canon Lodge undergoing rehab and building up so that he can once again go home. He is improving daily and is now walking with his cane more and going farther without assistance or stopping. We are all glad to hear that Ron is improving!

Ron is looking forward to all of us being at Ft. Melchert for the Bird and Buffalo so let's get our plans together and be there.

I'm writing this from hunting camp, so here we go.

WOW! What a great weekend for a shoot. As Doug said "How do you rate sunshine?" The weather was bright and sunny ; not too hot, not too cold.

We had a total of 15 shooters. 9 men, 5 ladies, and one youth, who shot at two targets posted at 25 yards, 2 at 50 yards, and one at 100 yards. There was a long range target posted at 200 yards. We also had a Schutzen target to shoot at.

Randy Ruyle took the pot for the 200 yard target with a scoring shot in the 10 ring. Delores Beaupre took the Shutzen target, and Tom Gabor walked away with the average shooter award.

Both the potluck dinner and breakfast were a hit as usual. Thanks to Isabel for helping me cook eggs for the crowd.

As for the election of officer, well nothing has changed. The slate remains the same and the train ran through the mountains just like it does down in the city.

I would like to thank all those who helped set up and tear down the range. The help is always welcome.

Here are the results:

Men:

Mark  
Ron  
Jock  
John  
Randy  
Randy - re-entry  
Brendon  
Tom Gabor  
Craig  
Tom Campbel

Ladies:

Cory  
Delores  
Maribeth  
Lynnette



good one and may actually have made some money for the State Association.

**New Business:** The annual Bird & Buffalo event is scheduled and will be held at Ft. Melchert on October 14 and 15. This will include long distance paper targets, pistol, primitive shooting, chili lunch, potluck supper, auction, and Sunday potluck breakfast. Lots of things to do and participate in so plan on being there. Dry camping at Ft. Melchert begins on Friday after noon.

Sunday, September 10 will be a Women on Target class. Need to have help with this one. Tony Hecker noted that he had heard there were enough ladies to host this that men were no longer needed. Joy responded with the information that we will always need our special guys that are skilled and help support the group. She also noted that there are still plenty of openings for attendees. You just need to let Joy know so that they can prepare the class materials. Cost will be \$25 at the door and will need to be paid at entry for those not already pre-registered.

The next gun show will be September 16-17. Same place and if you are interested in helping with the club table, please contact Don Stoner.

Announcements of upcoming events were made.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Temporary Scribe Doreen Webb

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### Spring Mountain Free Trappers Mountain Man Rendezvous

Experience the fur trade era of the 1830s at the Annual Spring Mountain Free Trappers Mountain Man Rendezvous on **October 27-30, 2017** at the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, located at 6375 Highway 159, Blue Diamond, Nevada 89004. This is located just west of Las Vegas in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

There is no charge for admission beyond the normal \$7.00 per vehicle park entry fee.

Features include traders, primitive village

(where primitive dress is required), tin tipi area, games of challenge for the buckskinner in all of us, hawk throwing, target shooting, archery, and a raffle on Sunday.

For more information:

Dan Trousdale (Buffalo Rump) 702-645-2658

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## BIRD & BUFFALO

Okay, one last reminder about the upcoming bird and buffalo weekend. This is on October 14 & 15. Dry camping at Ft. Melchert begins after noon on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to park where others can get in around you and not near the septic system at the fort.

Saturday will feature the shooting events; long-range, paper, and primitive. I'm fairly certain that the pistol shooters will find a time to sneak in the pistol shooting as well. If enough show up, we'll try to throw a few birds for fun as well.

The witches will make chili to sell for lunch. It will be an all-you-can-eat deal with chili and the fixin's and it will be around \$5.00 per bowl. If the ingredients cost more this year, it may go to \$6.00 or so per bowl, but you'll have plenty of good eatin' either way. Just bring a couple of extra bucks in case.

After the shooting is all done, then we'll have a potluck supper at around 6:00 p.m. Bring your favorite dish to share with others and most important of all, bring your own eating utensils and plates. It always helps if you bring a serving utensil for your dish then everyone can dig in and share the food. We are not known to run out of food, nor does anyone go away hungry.....unless that is their choice.

Following the potluck, we'll award the prizes for the day and then we'll have our famous auction of the evening. Bring your stuff to sell and be prepared to find the "treasure" you've been looking for. This is always a fun time and you just never know what will show up. The only rule to the auction is that if you bring something and it does not sell, then you **must** take it back with you. Nothing is to be left at Ft. Melchert. They are **not** a storage unit.

After a good night's sleep, we'll all meet for a potluck breakfast on Sunday morning. Once we are

again full and sassy, we'll tear down the ranges and then head on our way home.

You can rest assured that if you come to this event, you'll have fun, food, and lots of laughter with good folks. Make it a date!

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### ATTENTION MUZZLE LOADING HUNTERS

If you were successful in taking an animal with a muzzle loader this year, you need to provide the details to Joy. In January we will be awarding the big game trophies and you could have the pleasure of taking one home for the year. Your name is added to the plaque and you will become a part of the history of the trophy.

Trophies are awarded for elk, deer, and antelope. We also award the George Bennett Memorial Tall Tale Trophy. This will go to the individual that tells us the best hunting tale.....or makes up the best one. You need to come and hear these tales!

### NATIONAL MUSEUM HELPS PRESERVE THE PAST

By: Les Coalson

From a printing in December, 1980

An Arapaho 17-hide buffalo hide tipi dominates the Plains Indian exhibit. The sign on the right reads "Tipi Etiquette - The host sat opposite the doorway with male guests to his left and his wife and female guests to his right. It was impossible to pass between the host and the central fire."

Buckskinners. The very name conveys images of a bygone era of western exploration, of beaver, and of rendezvous. It carries also a sense of self-reliance and strength. For Buckskinners, like the American Indian, used to the maximum extent the natural resources around him. From the animals of the plains and mountains he took food, and created shelter, tools, clothing and weapons. While much of the skills needed to do these tasks were copied from the Red Man, the Buckskinner also used his own imagination

and creativity to improve centuries old techniques.

So it is with the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Buckskinner. We spend yours poring over books or reproductions of early American paintings and sketches, studying the clothing and artifacts of the last century. We demand authenticity. At the same time, we concede the right for all to use their imagination and artistic talent to improve the plunder, regardless if the final product is "authentic".

What is "authentic" and what isn't? There is no easy answer to this question. The mingling of cultures heavily influenced both the Indian and White Man's way of life. The White Man brought trade goods, cast-iron cook ware, metal knives, muskets, horses, blankets, and beads which the Indian quickly assimilated into his culture. What was "authentic" in 1780 was probably no longer so by 1880.

If we had unlimited sources of clothing, utensils and weapons from past centuries we could be more positive in our pursuits for authenticity. Unfortunately, we have only glimpses of what life was like back then: historic narratives, paintings, sketches, Indian pictographs, and legends which relate stories of the past, but leave us hungering for more.

However, there are still original objects we can study and copy. Museums often possess a treasured flintlock, perhaps an early hand-made knife, or even some beadwork in their collection. One such museum complex is the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. It is often called our National Museum.

### The National Museum of Natural History Indian Exhibit

The Smithsonian Institute consists of 12 separate museums and the National Zoo. It owns more than 60 million objects and specimens with about 700,000 of these on public display at any one time. The American Indian exhibit is within the National Museum of Natural History. The exhibit depicts various aspects of tribal life from the east to the west coasts of the United States.

The Plains Indian exhibit is especially impressive. It is dominated by an Arapaho tipi made of 17 buffalo hides. Although encased, the display allows for general study of the tipi. The tipi arrived at

Washington, D.C. in 1875. Files show it was collected by Mr. Vincent Collyer, but no further information is available concerning the circumstances of the collection.

Stitching is tight, looking very much machine-sewn from a distance. The hides look soft and pliable, allowing them to be quickly folded and packed. Various artifacts of everyday life are located around and inside the tipi.

Outside the doorway the shield and weapons of the owner were hung on a tripod. There is also a drying rack with the following recipe for pemmican listed:

“Sun dried buffalo meat, sliced thin, buffalo fat, marrow, grease, dried unpitted wild cherries (optional). Pulverize meat in rawhide mortar with stone pestle. Melt fat and grease and stir in to taste. Crush berries with pits, add as desired. Pack in hide sack. Store until winter. 3500 calories per lb. Serve 3/4 pounds per day.”

Examples of exquisite beadwork are also on display. “Big bead” and seed bead embroidery from the 1830-1890 period are shown. The big bead exhibit is entirely Sioux while the seed bead exhibit contains examples from other tribes. In both displays there are diagrams showing how to string and stitch the beads.

Seed bead designs vary among the tribes represented. Fine lines on white background decorate the Sioux leggings. The Blackfoot leggings contain pyramidal designs which are made of smaller rectangles. At the bottom right of the Cheyenne leggings is beadwork consisting of narrow bands of solid colors, while the Kiowa leggings also have narrow bands, but with small designs on them.

### **Preservation is Museum Goal**

Preservation of all displays and their interpretation to the visiting public is of major concern to the museum staff. Since Indian artifacts are made of natural materials they will rapidly decompose and rot if not properly handled. According to Mrs. Carolyn Rose, museum specialist with the Smithsonian’s conservation laboratory, fluctuations in relative humidity is preservation’s

worst enemy.

“Most of the (Indian) objects will survive for centuries if properly handled and kept free of moisture,” Mrs. Rose reports. “There was a practice years ago to lacquer some specimens, but we found this caused more damage than if we just left things in their natural state.”

Maintaining a constant degree of relative humidity is the key to furthering preservation. Although the use of air conditioning removes moisture from the air in the summer, it is not enough in itself. Museum specialists are beginning to use especially designed display cases to further reduce moisture fluctuations.

Also, objects and specimens are no longer tacked on walls or displayed in such a manner that could be considered harmful. Curators now use padded brackets or suspend objects from above. Mannequins are also popular and effective means of displaying clothing.

### **Researchers Welcomed**

The Smithsonian Institute does not have the staff to research their files and historical collections for every inquiry that they receive. This is one reason why files are made available to qualified researchers for study.

If you are planning to visit Washington D.C., your plans should include a visit to the Smithsonian’s complex of museums. If you intend to do research, appointments must be made at least two weeks in advance. Specify what it is you’re looking for, and how long you estimate you’ll need access to the files.

You can make appointments regarding Indian exhibits by writing the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. 20560. If you are interested in authenticity, these exhibits are certainly well worth the visit.

### **James Smithson’s Gift**

It is ironic that the Smithsonian Institute is what it is today because of an English bastard who never visited America. James Smithson was one of four illegitimate children fathered by the then Duke of Northumberland. His mother was a descendent of

King Henry VII.

According to research by Paul Oehser, the Crown debarred the bastard James from serving in the army, the civil service, the church, or politics - professions traditionally pursued by gentlemen. The only field not closed to him was the study of natural sciences. He proved so apt at scientific study he was elected to the Royal Society at age 22.

It was evident James was influenced by the democratic ideals of America. Here in a new country where vast wilderness lay ever westward, a man could carve for himself a new life. Be he legitimate or bastard, America did not distinguish between her citizens. All were equal under the law. There was no Crown to prohibit a bastard from even becoming President!

So, in 1826 he rewrote his will leaving the bulk of his estate to his only surviving heir, a nephew. The will, however, had a proviso: in case his nephew died without leaving heirs, the estate would then go to the United States to found "...under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men....."

James Smithson died June 26, 1829. Six years later his nephew died and left no heirs. Thus, James' estate went to the United States of America. From this bequest the Smithsonian Institution was established in 1846. In the ensuing one hundred thirty-four years it has proven to be one of the truly great Establishments in America.

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## THE CAVE

By: **Honest Don Henjum**

**Hi, I'm a Cave!**

I can tell you're not too much impressed, bet you thought a cave was just a well turned sideways! Well, it ain't so; a cave is an honorable profession.

I was born during an earthquake, and grew up slowly over a period of years. My first tenant was a Cave Lion. I speak of them that live in me as tenants because I'm like a landlord. Anyway, I bet you didn't know that man was invented to be a food animal for Cave Lions and Dire Wolves. However, man soon outbred the lions and wolves. Part of the trouble was

man was so small and the Dire Wolf stood seven feet tall at the shoulder. A Dire Wolf could eat two people and still be hungry. Anyway, the Cave Lion went out to get a drink and the Dire Wolves killed him and ate most of him. A Cave Bear finished him off and then moved into my Cave.

Like all new tenants, the Cave Bear had to redecorate, so he dug around in me and moved a lot of dirt, then there was exciting times. The Cave Bear would hide by the entrance and when something edible come by he would rush out and grab it, drag it into the cave, and finish it off. But then one day some funny looking 2-legged animals come by. They looked kinda like food animals but were bigger and had some sharp pointed sticks in their hands. Anyway, they had one of their tribe walk by and when the Bear rushed out they hit him and poked thee sharp things in him and made him cry out. The he was still and they took off his coat and ate him (yuuk!).

Then these beasts lived in me for a while but they were terrible tenants. They had this terrible thing for a pet. It ate logs and while I have never much cared for trees, it did seem awful to feed trees to this beast, but my, how he glowed and warmed me. But they hollered and made so much noise it was hard, having tenants like that. Too, their pet made lots of smoke and so one of the ingrates dug a hole through my top to let some smoke out. That helped but it also made a draft, so it was much cooler in me, so then they made me much wider at the back. I was sure glad when they left; nothing like a pack of them to cheapen the neighborhood.

Then a big Snake moved in. He was a nice tenant; never made no noise and was an all-around nice guy even if he did use the cave for a loo. But for an all-around tenant he was hard to beat. He would hang around the cave mouth and when something good come by he would throw a couple of coils around them, crush them, and eat them. He could take a half-grown Dire Wolf, but mostly he ate antelopes and cattle.

Then one fine day he was laying in the sun digesting a cow and a band of "Marchers" come by. These are like ants, only about 3 inches long and they march in a column a yard wide and 100 yards long and if you are in their path, you had better move fast. The



Snake was much too full to move and while he put up a good fight, he was doomed from the start. They picked his skeleton clean and moved on.

After that I must have slept for a couple hundred years, then a noisy bunch of rowdies come by and killed a Mastodon who was stuck in the mud by the cave. He fought hard but there was just too many of them, the awful noise, the mess; for such a crude bunch, it makes a Cave wonder. Two were killed by the Mastodon and they were laid on a bench way in the back of me. You would have thought the way they laid them to rest they loved them, but surly animals that act like that are not capable of real feeling.

They lived in me while they ate the Mastodon, and they had somethin' the women made out some palm trees that they made in a stone pit. It fermented for several days and smelled fierce. Then one night they drank it, all of them. Then they danced, and fought with each other, even the women and kids. What a mess; several got killed and crippled and they were sure sorry the next day. I think that proves beyond doubt that they are unfeeling animals.

Then they went away and a family of Pigs moved in. Fierce, with long sharp tusks, they were good enough tenants but that grunting sure gets on your nerves. Also they raised hell with the floor. It's getting harder and harder to get good tenants but a leopard killed and ate the pigs, one a week until they were gone. After that, some field rats moved in and they pt holes in me all over. When the wind blew just right, I could almost play a tune. I think the tune was **When The Wind Blew Through The Knot Hole in The Old Man's Wooden Leg**. It was a good tune and it sang it for 2000 years and it got better all the time.

Then I got lucky. A bunch of farmers moved in and this lasted for a few hundred years. They lived slower and nicer, with not so much hollering. How do they expect a Cave to get any rest?

They also had more time for rituals. I had a cousin in Mexico and he said that down there they were more military and killed unarmed men, women and even children, as a sacrifice to their Gods. Must be crude Gods that like a blood sacrifice. I'm glad I'm a Cave.

Well, after a while some hunters moved into

the area, and at first they traded with the farmers and after a while they started to rob them and steal their women, so eventually the hunters drove the farmers out, that is the few they didn't kill. People sure are trifling.

Then I had a long rest - the tenants were a long succession of cats. Mountain Lions mostly, once in a while a Bobcat. They only slept here and had their little ones here and it was peaceful. I could sleep sometimes for 500 years. Those were good times.

Then one cay I was dozing and come the gawdawfulliest roaring. Some dumb Grizzly Bear was trying to dispossess the Lion family. What a mess! It took a while but he finally kicked them out. But he was a lousy tenant too. Boy, what a grouch!

Then one day comes trouble even he can't handle. A half dozen of those man critters, wearing animal skins and carrying some kind of metal tubes in their hands. They pointed those tubes at the bear and he jumped at them but the tubes made a loud roar and he fell down and cried. When he jumped up the tubes roared again and he laid down and was still. They took him apart and ate him right on the spot. I sure wish them peoples would go somewhere else and do their yelling.

Then for a long time, nothing but a few animals and now and then a couple guys on horses, trying to get in out of the rain.

Then again, nothing for a long time. All the big animals are dead, the men went someplace else. Now some guy is keeping his sheep in here. Talk about noise! Baa! Baa! Baa! all the time. I ain't had a good nap in 100 years. But some coyotes are moving in and while they sing soprano, that's better than sheep. Maybe then things will quiet down and I can get some real rest.

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**Don't forget the craft show on November 2. Tables are free and there is no limitation on the items you can display, sell, or trade.**