



September, 2018

# 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  
October 4, 7:00 P.M.**

**American Legion Post 209  
3613 Jeannine Drive  
Colorado Springs, 80917**

**BIRD & BUFFALO EVENT  
October 20-21**

**Club Paper Shoot - Oct. 7**

**CRAFT FAIR - Nov. 1  
Free tables at the regular  
monthly meeting**

**President**

Joy Hicks

**Vice President**

Robert McCune

**Treasurer**

Gwen Blanchard

**Secretary**

**Membership Chairman**

Ted Beaupre

**Range Officer**

Ted Beaupre

**Assistant Range Officer**

Jock Harmon

**Primitive Exec.**

Doug "Moose Milk" Davis

**Assistant Primitive Exec.**

Tony "Tenderfeet" Hecker

**Cannon Master**

Richard "Singe" Stites

**Mountain Man Monthly Editor**

Doreen Webb

**UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide**

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	Am. Legion #209	Oct. 4	Planning for bird & buffalo
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Oct. 7	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Bird & Buffalo Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Oct. 20-21	camping after noon Oct. 19, potluck Saturday night, auction
Regular Club Meeting	Am. Legion #209	Nov. 1; 7:00 p.m.	club craft fair, FREE tables
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b>	<b>TIME ENDS - - - -</b>	<b>NOV. 4 - - - -</b>	<b>CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR</b>
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Nov. 4	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Election Day 2018	your precinct	November 6	get out and vote!!!!
Veteran's Day	everywhere	November 11	thank you to all our veterans!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Nov. 18	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion Post #209	December 6; 7:00 p.m.	annual ornament exchange and goodies to share
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Dec. 16	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting & Wild Game Potluck	American Legion Post #209	January 3, 2019 7:00 p.m.	bring your favorite "wild game" dish, utensils, and tall tales.
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Jan. 6, 2019	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Annual Board Meeting	Joy's House	Jan. 8; 7:00 pm	set annual calendar for club
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Jan. 20	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Feb. 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am. Legion #209	Feb. 7; 7:00 pm	annual white elephant exchange and finger foods to share
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	Feb. 17	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	Am. Legion #209	March 7	regular club business
CSMLA Winter Convention	Elks Lodge Ft. Collins	March 9	all day; one-day event & banquet; election of officers
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b>	<b>TIME BEGINS</b>	<b>MARCH 10</b>	<b>clocks FORWARD 1 hour!!!!</b>

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*



The dire weather forecast didn't happen! The four of us who dared the weather and shot were:

Connor Thurm	12 gongs
Jim Murray	11 gongs
Ken West	10 gongs
Andreas Thurm	7 gongs

Andreas and Connor are Jim's grandsons - - - haven't classified them as junior shooters since they out shot me at Grainger's several years ago!

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## SFTR - June 9-15, 2019

For those of you that don't recognize SFTR, it is the Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous held in Raton, New Mexico each year. We received a letter and a flyer from the upcoming Booshway, Joe Kierst. It is printed below:

"Howdy Friends!

I hope this letter reaches everyone hale and hearty. With summer winding down, it's time to prepare for the next one! As you're all probably aware we had to cancel Santa Fe Trails Rendezvous this year due to fire danger. It was a tough call but it was absolutely the right decision to make. Now we look to the future. I've spoken to the NRA Whittington Center and they want to keep this event going as much as we do and have graciously allowed us to continue gathering in the beautiful Coal Canyon. That said, I think it would be wise to choose a backup site in case we find ourselves faced with another cancellation and if anyone has any suggestions as to where that might be, please let me know. I am looking forward to carrying on in 2019 and sincerely hope you all will be in attendance!

For one thing I need volunteers. Anybody who would be willing to run competitions, teach

seminars, help with the gate, or just generally pitch in please give me a shout. And special thanks to those who have already volunteered; in particular our Segundo Tim Pray, PJ Shillings for all his hard work, John and Susan Beecroft, and Andrea Yancy-Goodwin.

Right quick let me mention that we are sitting on a pile of medallions dated 2018 so to recoup what they cost, we are selling them in the company of ten raffle tickets for ten dollars a piece plus shipping. Get 'em while they're going! We have some fine plunder to be raffled off in '19.

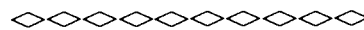
So far the bet thing about being Booshway is I've got a legitimate (sort of) reason to attend more than my usual number of rendezvous to talk up SFTR. Our camp count has been in decline and I'm really working to reverse that. I've spoken with lots of folks and taken their feedback to heart. One thing a lot of people have told me is "you need to bring that rendezvous back to its glory days, waugh! Let me be clear: I'm not trying to bring this rendezvous back to anything; I'm trying to move it into the future in a respectable fashion. But that's not something one person can do. It's going to take all of us making an effort and pulling together. So I'm asking everyone to treat your neighbors with kindness and consideration. Respect authenticity: if it wasn't around before 1840, keep it out of sight. And have fun! If we're not having fun there isn't much point to doing this.

Let me wrap this up by saying my ear is open. Give me a call or e-mail with questions, concerns, suggestions or just shoot the breeze. Watch our Facebook page for news and updates. Until our paths cross in June, mind your hair and keep your powder dry!

Dirty Shirt"

Joe "Dirty Shirt" Kierst  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 7** - regular paper shoot. Range Officer for this shoot will be Tony Hecker. Please plan to come down and shoot with the group and support the monthly shoot. Muzzle loading hunting season is done and there should be no reason not to compete in the monthly shoot. Besides, it will be good practice for the Bird and Buffalo shooting later on in October.

**October 20-21** - - Annual Bird and Buffalo event. This is the long distance and shotgun event of our club and the year. There will also be primitive targets at this shoot.

Lots of things go on at the Bird and Buffalo. You can camp at Ft. Melchert after noon on Friday. Be sure not to park near the septic system area which is marked by green fence posts. This is dry camping but it is better than driving back and forth or staying in a motel.

Noon lunch on Saturday will feature the witches' chili with fixings. It will be an all-you-can eat lunch, with the left-over chili going into the auction later that night. Cost for lunch has not been determined yet, but should be somewhere between \$5.00 and \$10.00 per person, with all proceeds going to the club.

We usually have a "guess how many" game, consisting of something in a jar and you guess how many of those somethings there are. There is a lot of shooting on the range during the day so bring plenty of powder and balls. If you don't you can probably obtain some from the Melchert store.

Saturday night at 6:00 p.m. will be the potluck supper. This is where you bring a dish to share with others and we put them all together for a banquet fit for a king. Be sure to bring your own plates, utensils, and drinks for the potluck.

Once our bellies are full, then we will proceed into the awarding of prizes, door prizes, and the auction. The auction is always fun so bring money you can spend because you never know what you will find. The only rule to the auction is that if you bring something and it doesn't sell, then you must take it back with you. Any and all items can be brought to the auction. Also, we are looking for someone who will help us by performing the role of the auctioneer.

Let us know if you can or will help with this part.

After a good night's sleep, there will be a potluck breakfast on Sunday morning, followed by shotgun shooting. The shotgun shooting does not require the gun to be a muzzle loader, only that it be a shotgun. It will all be in fun and for bragging rights. Come and plan to join us.

If you have any questions about the Bird and Buffalo, you can contact Joy, Doreen, Ted, or Doug. We just want you all to come and have a great time with us.

**November 1** - - - annual craft fair. This is where you can bring any crafted items you make or things you may want to trade or sell and have a free table to do so. Items do not have to be muzzle loading related; any craft will do including home-canned goods, baked goods, and anything else you do. Be sure to bring plenty of money as you can start your Christmas shopping here. There are always great items to give as gifts.

**November 6** - - - This is election day and we all need to get out and vote!

**November 11** - - - This is Veteran's Day. Let's all take time to honor and remember our veterans for all they have done and continue to do for us. As most of us know, freedom is not free!

**December 6** - - - ornament exchange and finger foods to share. This is the meeting where you bring a wrapped Christmas ornament and then we have fun exchanging and opening those presents. We also bring finger foods to share and eat while we have a great time.

### ATTENTION MUZZLE LOADING HUNTERS.....

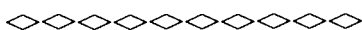
If you made meat this year, be sure to turn in your statistics to Joy so that we can prepare for the annual wild game trophies. Trophies are awarded for elk, deer, and antelope. Only requirement is that it must have been taken with a muzzle loader.

## A Year's Supply of Trade Goods for the Missouri River

In 1835 the St. Louis Superintendency of the Office of Indian Affairs composed a list of trade goods furnished Indians on the Upper Missouri for the 1835 trading year. The list and selling price per each one follows:

200 dozen paper covered looking glasses	.37-1/2	2100 lbs. nails, assorted	.12-1/2
126 dozen Wilson butcher knives	2.16	10,000 lbs. Dupont's gun powder	.28
75 dozen combs	.62-1/2	20,000 lbs. lead	.02-7/8
100 dozen fire steels	.75	12,000 lbs. tobacco	.06-1/4
50 dozen corn hoes	4.36	3,000 lbs. bar iron	.06-1/4
50 gross Indian awls	1.75	200 lbs. rod iron	.10
100 gross coat buttons	2.00	600 lbs. Crowley steel	.21
25 gross gun worms	.85	200 lbs. English blister steel	.18
300 papers hawk bells	.44	300 lbs. German steel	.18
61 lbs. House bells	.44	25 muskrat traps	1.00
20m Gun & Rifle flints	3.50	50 dozen playing cards	1.87-1/2
4500 lbs. blue & white pound beads	.62-1/2	1,400 pair ear bobs	.12-1/2
25 lbs. fine seed beads	1.56	50 pairs wheels	.62-1/2
280 bunches dark blue beads	.25	20 pairs hair knobs	1.25
317 bunches agate beads assorted	2.00	10 pairs arm bands #1	6.50
300 beaver traps with chains	3.50	12 pairs arm bands #2	4.75
1000 half axes	.75	15 pairs wrist bands #1	1.50
300 tomahawks	.37-1/2	20 pair hat bands	4.25
48 American felling axes	1.75	60 embossed brooches	.50
20 battle axes	1.75	10 sets pierced brooches	5.50
150 gross finger rings	1.50	10 sets gorgets	5.83
16 m brass nails	1.25	100 tomahawks	.37-1/2
4 m needles	1.62-1/2	150 lbs. pewter	.33-1/2
75 dozen files assorted	3.00	5-1/2 dozen pairs of scissors	2.08
600 lbs. vermilion	1.18	1 10/12 dozen brass cocks	1.36
200 lbs. verdigris	.37-1/2	12 dozen fox tail & cock feathers	3.25-1/4
150 lbs. copper kettles (same price as brass)	.62-1/2	47 saddles	9.49
300 lbs. brass kettles	.62-1/2	7 10/12 dozen bridles	18.98
1240 lbs. sheet iron kettles	.20	31 nests seal & morocco trunks	7.50
30 nests in kettles; 8 to a nest	5.50	5 gross Indian awls	1.51
8 dozen iron kettles	5.50	62,250 grains wampum (per 1000)	2.82-2/3
16 gross clay pipes	.75	2 corn mills	10.50
		1000 pairs blankets; 1 to 3-1/2 points	6.50
		40 pcs. blue stroud	25.00
		160 pcs. saved list grey stroud, scarlet & blue cloth, 3,192 yards	1.44
		9 pcs. flannel assorted colors; 720 yards	.39
		24 pcs. domestic plaid; assorted colors; 720 yards	.16-2/3
		28 pcs. fancy calico, 784 yards	.28
		18 pcs. Salempores; 324 yards	.30
		70 pcs. ribbons; 3, 4, & 6	.75

12 dozen pairs woolen gloves and mittens	3.50
12 dozen Scotch caps	3.25
10 dozen pairs woolen socks	3.00
200 scarlet chief's coats	8.00
60 blue and grey cloth capotes	4.50
76 pairs pantaloons; assorted	3.50
600 men's flannel and cotton shirts	1.50
45 men's vests	1.87
36 lbs. colored and white thread	1.00
6 dozen Indian sashes	16.50
200 NW guns	9.00
25 rifles	15.00
10 rifles	25.00
24 men's fur hats	2.25
18 pcs. silk handkerchiefs, assorted	6.34
25-1/4 dozen cotton handker- chiefs	2.68
13,850 yards domestic cottons assorted	.13-3/8
2 dozen vests	22.50
35 lbs. assorted colors worsted yarns	1.50
7 gross gartering	.39
3 lbs. candlewick	.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$38,590.35</b>
(remember this was 1835 values)	



## MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE

By: Terry C. Johnston

*The following is reprinted from the **Buckskin Report**, volume 3, number 6, March, 1976.*

One of the aspects enjoyed by the trappers was the Indian marriage custom which often allowed for polygamy, freeing the mountain man to take as many squaws as he wanted and could afford. Edwin Denig was strong in his defense of his right to have 2 wives, on the grounds that his first wife was ill and incapacitated. But, nonetheless, she was the mother

of his first child, and she did afford companionship to his younger wife, so Denig would not abandon the older woman.

But let's give George F. Ruxton's hero La Bonte a chance to tell it: "Here's the beauty of having two wiping sticks to your rifle; if one reaks while ramming down a ball, there's still hickory left to supply its space!" And La Bonte's trapping partner, Killbuck, often spoke in no uncertain terms of his numerous wives over the years. The mountain man's initiation into Indian marriage and divorce was described for Ruxton, "First I had a Blackfoot - - the darndest slut as ever cried for fofurraw. I lodgepoled her on Colter's Creek and made her quit." Sounds very similar to Bear Claw Chriss Lapp's words of advice when questioned about women by Jeremiah Johnson in the movie of the same name: "Worst bitch that ever bawled for beads!"

There were times when the trappers solemnized their wedding vows with their Indian wives, within the traditions of the white man's church. Passing through St. Louis on the way to visit his brother Augustus in Columbus, Ohio, Denig formally married his Assiniboine wife, Deer Little Woman, and his children received the rites of baptism by Father Daemen.

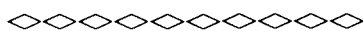
Taos trapper Ewing Young finally ended his wandering and settled in the Willamette Valley of Oregon Territory. By 1838 the Catholic Church had sent Father Blanchet to minister to the needs of both the Indians of the region and the white settlers. The Priest was aghast at what he saw as common-law marriages between the ex-trapper-settlers and their squaws, and immediately set about to right the situation. None of the women had been baptized into the Church, yet were married to Catholic en, most of them French-Canadian trappers and voyageurs. And were those half-breed children at play around various lodges baptized into the one, true religion? The Father had his work cut out for him, beginning immediately instituting classes to instruct the squaws in the Catholic catechism. However, more than grumbling raged about him when he demanded that the men and their squaws live separately until the women could be baptized and the couples married within the confines of the Catholic sacrament of marriage.

## PAST THINGS

We had our first meeting at the new location and it was fantastic! The location is easy to find and there is plenty of off-street parking for all of us. The building is clean and roomy and this looks like a good place to hold our meetings. If you missed this one, you need to plan to be at the next meeting on October 4 so that you too, can enjoy the new digs.

Not a lot of business to conduct at this meeting. It was determined that there would be a primitive paper shoot on Sunday, September 16 with Tony Hecker running the range. Doug will be out-of-state that weekend.

The club is still looking for someone to fill the position of Secretary..... which is not hard but sure is needed. If you or anyone you know is interested or will help out, please contact Joy and let her know.



## GRAINGER PAPER CAMP OUT

**August 18-19**

**By: Ted "Dances with Deer"  
Beaupre**

It was a nice weekend for a shoot; a little rain but not enough to hamper the shooting. We had a total of five targets from 25 yards out to 100 yards and for the adventurous we had a 200 yard target for 50 cents a shot; winner take all. Randy took the 200 yard target with a hit in the 10 ring.

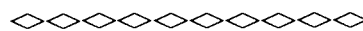
We had a total of 14 shooters; 11 men, 1 lady (Cori), 1 junior (Isabel), and 1 intermediate (Camron).

Both the dinner and breakfast potluck meals were tasty as usual. After breakfast and when everything was torn down, we headed to the range to shoot some shotguns. This is a lot of fun and we invite everyone to join in.

I would like to thank everyone who helped with set up and tear down. It made things a lot easier! Last but not least, I want to thank Doug for bringing

up the target stands.

Sorry if this seems short, but I am busy getting ready to head for hunting camp. Once again, thanks for everyone's help! See you all in October.



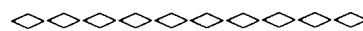
## GRAINGER PAPER PISTOL MATCH

**By: Ken West**

We had six pistol shooters - - - and some impressive scores! We decided that you could shoot as many targets as you wished - - - contributing \$4.00 to the club for each target. The scores were:

Jim Murray	94x
John Udovich	90
Al Bartok	85x
Randy Ruyle	80x
Ken West	78
Tom Gabor	72

I usually shoot in the low 80s so I decided to shoot a second target. After 5 balls went into the twilight zone, I decided to settle for a 78! Only Al improved his score, but not his placement, with the second target.



## Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Regular Monthly Meeting September 6, 2018

The September Regular Monthly Meeting was conducted at the new location and what a fine location it is! The room was spacious and the people on site were all very friendly and seemed glad to see us. There are lots of options for us to utilize at this new location. If you missed this meeting, you missed a great time.

The meeting was called to order by President Joy and we began this meeting with the Pledge of



The small group of free trappers in the mountains, followed by their squaws, in turn followed by all of the pack animals laden with lodges, furs and household goods, on the top of which set their black-eyed off-spring, all bouncing along the trails criss crossing the high country and plains of the Far West, presented a scene not dissimilar from a small tribe on the move. And nothing would have been more pleasing to such a free trapper, to have himself and his trapping party mistaken for Injuns by a newcomer to the mountains.

In such a community, just as within many of the Plains and Mountain tribes, the squaws had much to say about setting and maintaining the social standards and etiquette of their everyday life. And the mountain men almost invariably conformed in most things to the ways of their women. Those free trappers were proud in their close approximation to Indian life-styles, yet retained, as mentioned before, a residue of the white man's chivalry in regard to the feminine sex. Unlike the red warrior, a trapper would often romantically woo his squaw, pampering her lavishly from time to time, all of which brought the squaws of the various tribes to consider the white free trappers to be the most eligible of bachelors. DeVoto surmises that had there been enough mountain trappers to snare all the available squaws, nary a warrior could have found himself a mate.

And many a mountain man repaid that affection, devotion, faithfulness and love with his own in return for the Indian woman. In 1850, not long after marrying his third squaw, Jim Bridger took her along with him on a return trip to Westport, Missouri to purchase a farm with his eyesight beginning to dim and his bones beginning to feel the need of retirement. Although he was back and forth between the settlements and the mountains from then on, Bridger would remain faithful to this Shoshone wife.

William Laidlaw brought his Sioux squaw with him when he returned to Missouri in the mid-1840's. Joe Meek, Doc Newell and Caleb Wilkins took their squaws, all sisters, to Oregon with them to settle in the northwest. When Joe was asked why he had thought it at all necessary to bring his Nez Perce wife with him, rather than deserting her or merely telling her to return to her own people, there was no man like Joe for telling it like it was. With the appropriate gesture toward his chest, Joe calmly

stated, "I could not do that, it hurt here." Likewise, Philip F. Thompson moved his wife along with him when he pushed northwest into Oregon in 1842. Trapping partners Calvin T. Briggs and John J. Burroughs bundled up their wives, Shoshone sisters, and their half-breed children and headed for California to settle down. William Gordon, who led Joshua Pilcher's detachment charged with following Jedediah Smith into the heart of Crow country in 1824, took his Yankton Sioux wife with him upon his return to St. Louis years later with hopes of retiring from the trade, but then moved back up-river with her some time later to the Grand Cheyenne River to live out his days. Bidding farewell to the mountains, but unable to say good bye to his squaw, trader Daniel Harmon brought her with him as he returned to his native Vermont.

The trapper's faithfulness and devotion to his Indian squaw took on many dimensions, such that this writer finds himself convinced that real love very often did exist between the mountain man and his woman. Denig, encouraging his Indian wives to live as much like white women as possible in the Indian country, purchased from his employer, the American Fur Company, fine clothes for his wives and children and fancy foods for his table. "Squaw Man" was what they called ex-trapper John Poisal, retired from the mountains because he had been crippled, then living at the junction of the South Platte River and Cherry Creek in what is now Denver. One night some town rowdies got liquored-up and decided they were going to have some fun with Poisa's squaw. Dragging her from her husband's lodge, they noisily awakened the old man as they set about raping the woman. Dragging himself to the doorway, he threatened the drunks with his old rifle, standing off the group of men until they decided their fun could be found elsewhere.

Ol' Preacher Bill Williams found himself attracted right off to a maiden of the Grosse Cote, or Big Hill, Band of the Great Osage people. The courtship proceeded very much in Indian fashion, with Bill presenting a dowry of quite a herd of horseflesh and the couple married in 1813. Many a fellow trapper remarked that their marriage was secured with real love and affection, which lasted until the death of the woman, at which time Bill became Ol' Solitaire. *(To be continued.....)*