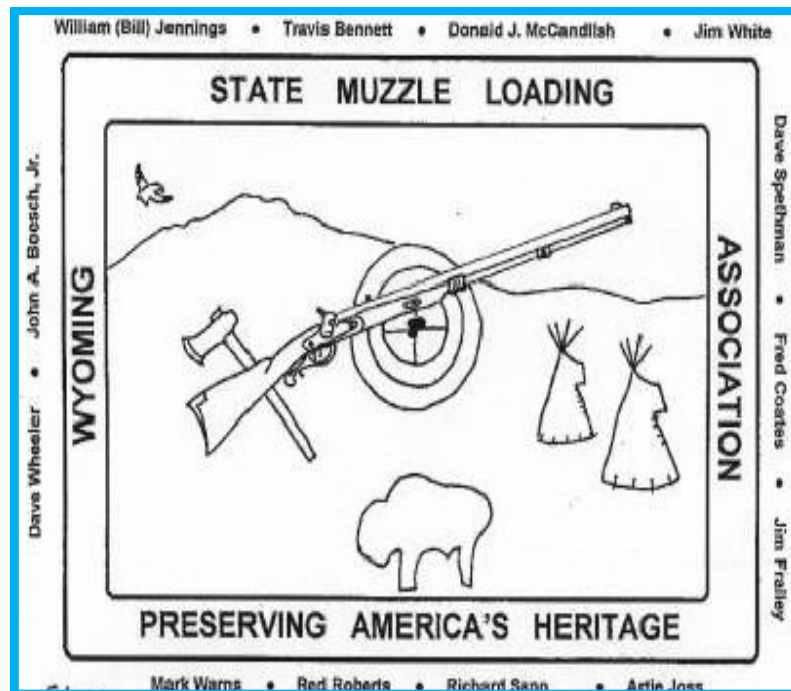


Wyoming State Muzzleloader Association News

December, 2023



Above— Traders Row 2022 Convention

President's Letter

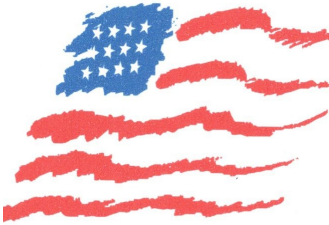
Happy New Year to you all! I believe 2024 will bring new beginnings to our group, new challenges and milestones. In a few weeks we will all gather for our annual convention. I challenge you to invite a friend, or a new acquaintance who may not have attended before. Let's make this event our best one yet. While you plan your trip, please remember to bring an item for the auction or save room for that one of a kind treasure you will find from our many vendors. Your board members will meet Friday and Sunday to discuss many topics. One such topic will be centered around the budget. If you have any thoughts, questions or comments, please reach out to any board member. I look forward to seeing you all soon. Stay warm and enjoy the winter season.

Melissa

WYOMING STATE MUZZLE LOADERS RENDEZVOUS & TRADERS' FAIR

JANUARY 26, 27 & 28 2024

FREE ADMISSION & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RAMKOTA HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
CASPER, WYOMING



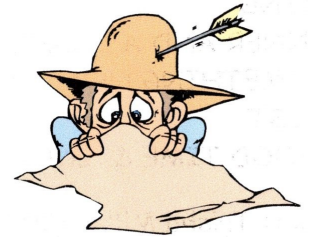
- *LEARN ABOUT HISTORY OF THE EARLY 1800'S
- *ATTEND A SEMINAR
- *ENTER A PHOTO CONTEST
- *DO SOME TRADING
- *HAVE FUN
- *MEET LIKE MINDED PEOPLE
- *LEARN SOMETHING INTERESTING
- *HAVE DINNER AND A DANCE
- *LEARN SOMETHING NEW OR OF INTEREST
- *HAVE A GOOD TIME & SMILE



Auction



PHOTO CONTEST



For information contact: Trisha Miller (307) 234-6591
For reservations call Ramkota Hotel @ (307) 266-6000

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JOIN THE WSMLA TODAY!



CLUB NOTES:

SMMLRC Officers Reelected for 2024

SMMLRC Rendezvous July 26,27 &28, 2024

At the annual Christmas party, the Sierra Madre Muzzle Loading Rifle Club voted to retain the same officers for 2024. Josh Saier president, Steve Kerpan vice president and Crystal Gillen secretary/ treasurer. About 40 club members and their families attended the party at the Saratoga American Legion. Turkey and ham provided by the club and guests brought sides and desert.

New Web Page Coming for WSMLA

Treasurer Crystal Gillen has been working with a local web page designer to replace the state association web page which has been online for several years. The current software is outdated and expensive to change and maintain, she said. The new page is being done by a new member of the Saratoga club for a free membership and a state membership. Crystal said the new page should be up and running by convention. Once the new page is active, Crystal will update, add and delete as needed.

Percussion caps for sale at convention

Bryan Youngberg of the Deer Creek Muzzle Loaders acquired a good supply of RWS (German) percussion caps and will have them available at the convention. The price will be \$35 per container (250 caps) or \$120 per thousand.

Cartoon at right was drawn and published by Lyle Bader who was a former newsletter editor and WSMLA historian for many years. The Walkin Eagle cartoons appeared in newsletters during the 1990's and early 2000's. Lyle lives in Worland. Big Horn Muzzle Loader territory.



GEORGE WALKER WINTER CHALLENGE FEBRUARY 16, 17 & 18, 2024

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Attention muzzle loading clubs and individual shooters:
The Deer Creek Muzzle Loaders challenges you to form your best teams of men & women to join us for a fun weekend match. Come for a great weekend of shooting, eating and fun. Men's teams are composed of 5 men; women's are 3 women (duh!). Women may shoot on a man's team but not the other way! We are not politically correct, we have fun!! If you need help with a team, we will help you out. This is a WSMLA sanctioned shoot, therefore, the Traveling Trophy Target can be shot. All shooters must be a State Member. You can pay your dues at the shoot. There will be a HOT lunch served Saturday, please bring a covered dish to share.
For Information: Trish (307) 234-6591

COME SHOOT AND PLAY WITH US



*Sierra Madre Muzzle Loading Rifle Club
November Turkey & December Christmas Shoots*



Above— Meeting was well attended
Left—Coltan aims, Dad Dusty spots
Below-Dave and Linda pick a prize



SMOKE FROM THE PAST

First published August, 1999 newsletter this article is about sustainability of ML clubs. About 12 were active in Wyoming during late 90's and early 2000's.

Living In The Past

Living in the past is something that most of us seem to enjoy at one time or another, otherwise why would we be so captivated by the challenges of shooting the old guns and recreating the lifestyles and accouterments of the various eras that interest us. We sometimes spend much time researching the correct way to do or make some simple thing used in years gone by, and then we spend our hard earned money achieving the goal of having just such a thing, all done up right and, of course, historically correct. And you have to be one of us to understand the satisfaction and enjoyment that all of this brings to our otherwise routine and normal lives. But no matter how "into" all this we get, the real world is always just outside the door, with all the inconveniences, expectations, responsibilities and obligations that are thrust upon us by the times we live in. Times do change, have changed, and will continue to change, and someday what we are doing today will become someone else's "good old days" to emulate and relive.

The point of all this rambling is, I guess, that sometimes we have to change a little in order to be able to enjoy what we've been enjoying.

I've noticed that in our club, The Wind River Muzzle Loaders, that we spend more and more time worrying about how to keep the bills paid than how to shoot, have fun or recreate the past. All of our expenses keep going up and we spend more and more time trying to find creative ways to keep expenses down, raise more money and still have a quality club and prime doin's for our members and guests. We continue to ask our membership and friends to do more and more donating of time and prizes so we don't have to cut the quality of the events we sponsor. And the simple matter is this, we continue to work the good horses to death. And we lose members by doing so, they just get tired of doing more and more with no possible end in sight, and take up fishing, golf or cartridge guns (which is another thing all together).

I started shooting in blackpowder events in the 1960's. There weren't many shoots going on at that time, the new muzzleloading was just catching on back east and working it's way west pretty rapidly. But once in awhile you could find some kind of shoot going on somewhere. And, when I could find a match somewhere, and afford to get there, guess what? Most of the matches, especially if they involved a paper target, cost you a buck entry fee. That's right, \$1.00 a target! Same as everyone expects to pay today! A good, shootable percussion rifle, original of course, might cost you a hundred or even two hundred bucks. Black Powder was around \$3.00 a pound, caps were less than a dollar per hundred, and targets from the NMLRA only cost \$7.50 a hundred for the heavy duty ones. Gasoline to go to the shoot ran about 50 cents a gallon, and I usually went in my pretty red '66 Mustang that I paid \$2800 for, brand new. I was working construction at the time and making big bucks, danged near \$5 an hour! A pair of Levis, before the zipper models took over, was \$3.50 a pair and a good pair of work boots was around \$10.

SMOKE FROM THE PAST (CONT.)

and it cost a buck a match to get into a black powder shoot! And I figure it was a bargain even back then.

In the '70s things started going up pretty fast, inflation was definitely a problem and nothing, and I mean nothing, stayed at what it was in the '60s. Except entry fees in black powder matches, that is, they still clung to the \$1.00 a match fee. Couldn't raise prices, might be some folks that just couldn't afford to pay more. So we didn't. But my brand new '77 Ford 4WD truck now cost me \$6300, gasoline was around 70 cents a gallon, black powder was up to \$5 a pound, and everything else had climbed accordingly. And we still managed to run good shoots, even if the targets had climbed to \$13 a hundred.

The eighty's and ninety's weren't any different, everything still going up and up and up. Wages and salaries too, I might add. But guess what, about everywhere I go they're they'er still chargin' a buck a match for shooting. What a deal, huh? But is it really? Our clubs are struggling to pay increased insurance costs, targets are now \$17 to \$20 a hundred, all the other expenses have gone up about the same way, and we're about out of creative ways to hold the line much longer. We're not getting the donations from the manufacturers the way we used to for prizes, they're about donated out. A lot of older members are about donated out too, both in time and material, and it's getting harder to get enough good prizes for the shots we have. Anyone that can't see what's happening to our club events must not be paying too much attention, near as I can see. Pretty dismal, Huh? Not really, the solution is pretty simple in fact. Let's start paying our own way for a change. Think about it, anyway, okay?

If a club raises some of the shooting fees, registration fees, camping fees, or whatever a little bit, in order to generate a little more revenue, and thereby improve the quality of their event, try to see it in a positive way. Try to continue your support of their efforts, and hopefully they will return the favor by supporting your events as well. I feel that it's time to stop "living in the past" on this issue and help put our muzzleloading clubs get back on solid financial footing. No one likes to see prices rise, especially on nonessential, fun type thing, but we also cannot expect our sport to be the only thing not affected by changing times.

The Wind River Muzzle Loaders, to which I have belonged for about 25 years, is discussing ways to improve the quality of our annual Memorial Day Shoot and still stay financially sound. We may well decide that it is necessary to increase our fees in order to do this. And we ask your support in our efforts and pledge our support if you decide that you must do the same. And I sincerely believe that, in the long run, we will all benefit by doing so. Something to think about, isn't it?

Travis Bennett (1939-2007)

Proposed BY-LAWS Change

During the Annual Convention in January, a discussion was made to make one of the Board of Director's meetings flexible. The purpose is due to the fact that the Annual State Shoot is often at, or shortly after, Memorial Day. Therefore, having a meeting later in the year will make the meeting more relevant and better distributed throughout the year. The proposed By-Laws listed below was brought to the General Members meeting and received full support. However, since this is a By-Laws change, it is important that everyone have an opportunity to review and participate in the vote. The final vote will be held at the annual convention in 2024 at the next General Members Meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Board Member.

Currently reads:

ARTICLE V

Section 2 - Regular Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall last no longer than two (2) hours and shall be as follows:

- 1) The location of the Annual Convention
 - a. Friday at 7pm
 - b. Sunday at 8am
- 2) Riverton, WY; Memorial Day Shoot
 - a. Sunday at noon
- 3) The location of the annual competition
 - a. Saturday at noon

The exact location of the Meetings shall be determined by the President.

Proposed Changes:

ARTICLE V

Section 2 - Regular Meetings

Meetings of the Board of Directors of the Corporation shall last no longer than two (2) hours and shall be as follows:

- 1) The location of the Annual Convention
 - a. Friday at 7pm
 - b. Sunday at 8am
- 2) The location and date To Be Determined (TBD) by the Board of Directors
- 3) The location of the annual competition (State Shoot)
 - a. Saturday at noon

Because this will be a By-laws change, it was first published in March newsletter, it will also be in the December newsletter so it can be vote on it next January. Please read the proposed change above.

**WYOMING STATE MUZZLE LOADING ASSOCIATION
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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_____ Year
Membership Form
Wyoming State Muzzle Loading Association

NAME: _____

NAME OF SPOUSE: _____

NAMES OF CHILDREN: (living at home) _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE: _____ **CELL:** _____

E-Mail Address: _____

NRA# _____ **EXPIRATION DATE:** _____

NMLRA# _____ **EXPIRATION DATE:** _____

LOCAL CLUB AFFILIATION: _____

Membership fee is \$25 \$20 if 65 years or over Make checks out to the WSMLA

Active Military Membership Free _____

Junior and Sub-Junior Shooters Free _____

(You still need to fill out the form listed above and request membership in the WSMLA.)

I wish to receive the newsletter by postal service YES _____ NO _____

The WSMLA newsletter is now available for your convenience online at:
<http://www.wyomingmuzzleloaders.com>

If mailing, please complete the above membership form and send along with your check to:

WSMLA
Attn: Crystal Gillen
PO Box 1871
Saratoga, WY. 82331

Updated 12/20/21