



JANUARY FEBRUARY 2024

THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and new years. As we begin this fresh year we look back at last year. Many good things happened. A successful shooting season once again. We had excellent sales of raffle tickets that will enable us to promote our sport more. This creates a good starting point for this year.

Our 2024 raffle gun is done and is a beauty. A package is coming together with a bag, horn, 2 knives and case. I believe we have more items coming. Support for this endeavor is wonderful. It's heartwarming to see the craft work that people donate every year to enhance this offering.

This year's shoot schedule is out but has shrunk. Please encourage your local clubs to advertise their events in

the schedule. We can still send out notices. Getting information out about your events will help attract more participants. When you visit other clubs you have the opportunity to invite new shooters to your club.

Sadly we lost several friends and family members this year. This is the case every year but none the less sad. Our condolences to all who suffered a loss this past year. Their memory lives on in all of us. We can be thankful for the time we had.

On a personal note, I was able to go to the Blue Water Last Blast shoot and complete. This was my first time out with my trade gun in two years. I did ok and enjoyed finally have full medical clearance to shoot again. The new shoulder is working fine. Now I have to remember how to shoot again. Thank you for all the support and help throughout this

process. I appreciate it more than you know.

So the new year has begun. Here's to another happy and successful year. I hope to see you soon. Keep your powder dry.
Lyle

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2024 MSMLA Club Directory Updates

It's time to update the MSMLA Club Directory!

Please take a couple minutes to review your club's listing in the directory, which is posted on the MSMLA.org website. Don't lose a new shooter because "...the number you are dialing is disconnected or no longer in service..." or "...the email address is invalid..."

If your club's contact information needs updating, now's the time! Please ask the listed contact person or a club officer to email daneely@frontiernet.net or call

517-592-8762 with your updates. A response by January 26, 2024, will be greatly appreciated.

Ohhh...and how about spending a few more minutes penning a short article about your club's next shoot, range improvements or new matches for 2024? The MSMLA is as strong as you make it, so why not start out the New Year with a resolution to promote the black powder shooting sports in your community?

Respectfully requested by the members of The Spirit of Roy Keeler Society

BLUE WATER SPORTSMAN CLUB

December 31, 2023 the Blue Water Sportsman Assoc, Muzzle Loading Division held their annual Last Blast with 49 like minded folks taking part in their woods walk. Neither rain, snow or mud stopped them. Ron Provost, chairman of the event had a hardy and happy crew of fellow club members to help with this. After the woods walk was over they took to the club house up front to enjoy visiting, food and prizes. There were folks from several

places in Michigan as well as Ohio. We had a couple that joined us for their 1st ever shoot from Hillsdale County. The President of the MSMLA Lyle McGregor and his wife Diane joined us for the day. Also, President, Pete Galante of BWSA was working away on the woods walk. Several muzzle loading clubs were represented as well. Enjoy the

pictures.

keeps the price down and supporting your association.



FIELD REP REPORT

SPONSORS

Letters will be going out soon asking for match sponsors for both Rifle and Shotgun matches. The association wants to thank you in advance and for your support last year. Mention to your club that it is only \$25.00 a match or aggregate and

A new year has dawned and time for us muzzle loaders here in Michigan to plan out our year. I have observed communications from fellow clubs in the State and see a large void in communication. Today I counted from the 2023 clubs that belong to the Michigan State Muzzle Loading Association 29. I counted from the Charter Club

list for Michigan with the National Muzzle Loading Association at total of 14 clubs. Our state has a good number of clubs which is great! But where are YOU! Do you communicate with other muzzle loaders and clubs in the state? Do you have flyers posted not only on line but hard copy to hand out to folks interested in muzzle loading? Do you reach out and invite them to take part in your activities? Do you interact with other like minded people when at a shoot, rendezvous or re enactment? Do you submit an article to the State Newsletter? We try to keep folks informed and involved, but without YOU it is hard to do. Yes, we print out flyers for your shoots and events. Yes, we print out the State Shoot flyer to keep folks informed. DO YOU PART AND GET INVOLVED! WITHOUT ALL OF US TAKING PART THIS SPORT WILL DECLINE! INVITE SOMEONE INVOLVE THE YOUTH!! Join the State Association - Join the National Muzzle Loading Association - Join a club and become an active member! Thank you for reading .

Judy Morgan
NMLRA Field Rep. State of Michigan
co-owner Kenockee Tradin' Post

ANOTHER FIELD REP REPORT

Talked with several people on joining the NMLRA at different events and signed up 3 new members and 4 members that extended their membership. Grand Valley Cap N Ballers™ 4 new members this year and 7 Sponsored members.

Ron Fernwalt, Field Rep. State of Michigan

MSMLA STATE RIFLE RAFFLE



***This years 50 caliber colonial
flintlock was built for us by
Jim Rozmarek of Manistee.***

***To go with this year's lovely
rifle we have:***

*Powder horn donated by John
Turner.*

*Shooting bag with damascus
patch knife donated the late
Ted "Pathfinder" Jayson.*

*Folding lockback knife donated
by R. C. Evans, Crow Bar Forge
of Moreland, Ga.*

*We also have a blanket style
gun case.*

*Any other items to enhance the
package will be gratefully
welcome.*

MANISTEE CLAN

*The dates have been set for our
club's 64 th year of black
powder competition at "Old Fort
Rendez-vous." You may not think
you're interested in shooting
black powder, but maybe it's
time to explore
the possibility on these dates.
We have a new bench rest match
on*

YEAR IN REVIEW - 2023

Accomplishments

*The new 100/200 yard range
project is nearly completed.
April's range cleanup was suc-
cessful and just in time for*

*the summer's higher than usual
fire danger months.*

*May brought a new Ladies
Pistol League target shed in-
stalled on the pistol range.
June "Shoot Time at Old Fort
Rendezvous" had 80 adults &
children in matches.*

*July's Appleseed Project
weekend course had 21 adults &
children participants. The 3
CPL classes had 50 adults pass
the course.*

*The 3 Adopt a Hwy. Gatherings
kept a 2-mile stretch of M-55
cleaner of trash & debris.*

*A donors' restoration plaque
was installed near the
artillery (Big Gun).*

*A new Eye & Ear Protection sign
was put up on the range tower.*

*November's Sighting-In-Days
assisted hunters with 62
rifles.*

JUNE 29 th & 30 th

*The 2-day registration fee
remains at \$40. A extra \$5 fee
will be charged for those
wishing to stay 2 nights in our
campground. The*

*Military Match on June 28 th is
a separate fee*

*weekend course had 21 adults &
children participants.*

*The 3 CPL classes had 50
adults pass the course.*

*The 3 Adopt a Hwy. Gatherings
kept a 2-mile stretch of M-55
cleaner of trash & debris.*

A donors' restoration plaque was installed near the artillery (Big Gun). A new Eye & Ear Protection sign was put up on the range tower. November's Sighting-In-Days assisted hunters with 62 rifles.

The **June 29 & 30, 2024** schedule has been mailed out for the **64th Annual "Shoot Time at Old Fort Rendezvous."** The schedule and other info can also be found on our club's website - manistee-muzzleloaders.club.


We're excited to have a new match this year headed up by Ira Thumma - Introduction to the Old Time Sport of Shooting Muzzle Loading Heavy Bench Round Ball Rifles & Heavy Slug Guns. Learn about these forgotten guns and how much fun they are to shoot. Ira will let anyone interested in shooting one to do so for a \$1.00 fee to cover powder & ball expenses. The match will be held on Saturday at our new 200 yd. range. Traditional match sign-up is at the range.

Six months seems a long time away, but we hope to see you there!

Sandy Saxman



Chelsie Fox nice Buck she harvested

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Patty Bouman with her trophy
Dee

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Wayne Boughman and his 7 Point Buck he harvested



Jim Brotherton and his nice 8 Point Buck he harvested



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News from the Tobacco River Muzzle Loading Club in Beaverton. 1-9-24

After the dissappointing attendance at last year's territorial championship matches there was a question if our club should host the event again in 2024. We had twenty-two competitors last year and fourteen of them came from out of state.

At our annual meeting, in December, we decided that our club was founded in order to give people that were interested in shooting muzzle loaders a place to get together and shoot their muzzle loading firearms. Keeping with that tradition we decided to host the territorial matches again in 2024. We are hopeful that more than eight people show up to those matches from the state of Michigan.

Those matches will be held on the third week end in August (16th, 17th, 18th) as we have done in the past.

Our club has grown in size to the point that we now have an average membership of ninety. The vast number of our members say they only belong so that they'll have a place to go shoot the pistols they bought for self protection. These people have no interest in shooting black powder and they also have no interest in competitive shooting. Because of that when we host a black powder event we only have about ten of our club members that are willing to work at these events. This leaves us a bit short handed but we somehow manage to get things done. Anyone that would like a place to camp out for the weekend is more than welcome to attend this event. If you pay the registration fee camping is free and it would give you a chance to spend some time with people that you haven't seen in a while.

That's about it from Beaverton so I'll sign off during the first heavy snow of the year.

Wayne Lamson

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 13 WINTER WOODS WALK
LANSING MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB

JAN 27 & 28 ½ NUTS SHOOT
RIVER VALLEY MUZZLE LOADERS

JAN THRU DEC YEAR AROUND
4th Sunday RIVER VALLEY MUZZLE LOADERS

JAN 7 THRU FEB 24, EVERY SUNDAY
OAKLAND COUNTY SPORTSMAN CLUB

FEB 3 MSMLA ANNUAL MEETING
EATON RAPIDS

FEB 10 WINTER FEST
DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS

FEB 24 FROST BITE SHOOT
BENZIE SPORTSMAN CLUB

MARCH 3 CONTEMPORARY MUZZLELOADING ARMS
& ACOURTERMENTS SHOW LAPEER

MARCH 8 - 10 HOG SHOOT
TECUMSEN
SAUKTRAILLONGRIFLES@GMAIL.COM

MARCH 10 WOODS WALK
DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS

MARCH 16 - 17 KALAMAZOO LIVING HISTORY
SHOW KALAMAZOO
kalamazoolivinghistoryshow@gmail.com

APRIL 6 ART ZIMMERMAN MEMORIAL SHOOT
GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

I encourage you to join the NMLRA, NRA and your local club. They need the support and membership to survive. Earlier in the publication from Field Rep Judy Morgan wrote a very good article.

We have 29 Muzzle Loading Gun Clubs in the state of Michigan and only just a few write an article in the state newsletter and only a few chartered with the nationals.

Dennis Neeley took over a year to get the clubs and phone calls to get their contact person in charge. I get phone calls asking where a local gun club is close to them and I go to the directory and ask them where they are located and tell them what clubs are in their area. I've gotten phone calls back and either the phone is not in service or they never called them back.

Our club has gotten members from the same village (City) that we are located in and didn't know we were there. We have been located in the same area for over 50 years.

Clubs need to work as a team and promote. When you get tiered of promoting you need to continue promoting.

So please if your contact person has changed get that information to Dennis. (see article mentioned earlier in the newsletter.

If you or your club can sponsor a match for the MSMLA rifle or shotgun the cost is only \$25.00.

This will get your club name out there and hopefully will help your membership

Go to www.msmla.org web site and you can get a lot of information from there what your association does for you.

I have had some people say that they can't open the newsletter. If you go to www.msmla.org in a day or two it will be on the web site.

Thanks for reading

*Ron Fernwalt
editor, sponsorship chairman, board member, shotgun committee*