

MICHIGAN STATE MUZZLELOADING ASSOCIATION

NEWS LETTER
January/February 2012

President's Report

Don't forget the state meeting in Feb it is always the first Saturday and starts at 11:00am all clubs should attend and have some input to the MSMLA. I would like to see the room packed. Now if you would like to have anything on the agenda let me know or bring it up at the meeting. Shelly and I will be looking forward to seeing everyone.

Do you have a range large enough to hold the state shoot? Let us know or if you need details we can get them to you, the host club makes a little money and it's good PR for your club we have only 2012 and 2013 at the Grand Valley club so give it some thought.

Can you believe this weather I purchase a new snow blower this year in August best insurance policy I every paid for, anyhow check the shoot schedule Frosted Paw in Columbiaville Jan, 7-8 / Winter woods walk Lainsburg Jan 7 / Now I'll be at the Frosted Paw helping make the chlli with Dave Maddox and Doug Reddy just be careful this is hot stuff not in temp but let's say good peppers.

I'm looking forward to shooting in 2012 last year was a bad year for us and my bench guns are crying to get out, they don't like the dust they need to make some noise and burn some powder. And how about going to some gun shows? Once again we will have the State rifle at the shows with tickets for sale and if you can not find us give Ted Thelen a call, he will sell you as many as you need. By the way this is a very nice rifle built by Cal Meabon. THANK YOU Cal!!!!!!! If nothing else stop by our table and say hello. Thank you Ted for helping out again this year.

I'm looking outside 56degrees outside I'm gone.

See you Feb 4 2012

Hard to believe this is Michigan so get out there!

President 2012
Randy MacInnes

STATE SHOOT SCHEDULE

I just want to mention that this past year (2011) there were several address's that were incorrect (or the contact person moved) on the state shoot schedule. Some of the first mailings were forwarded or the postal carry knew the person and got it to them, but the 2nd time they were returned to me. Please pass this message on to

your club and those that are or were involved. Hopefully because of this there were no mistakes and the contact person's phone number is correct. This will make it difficult to get the information to the correct contact person next year.

Thank you for your cooperation: Ron

SPRING BROOK TRADING POST

EST 1990

Black Powder Shoppe

whammond88@hotmail.com

Owner

William F. Hammond

9024 E Spicerville Hwy.

Eaton Rapids, Mi 48827

517-663-3115

SPARKS FROM THE CAMPFIRE

The club's first range was on Kaap's Hill located just north of Manistee. Members began holding shoots at the range, and skirmishes by the club's 3rd Michigan Infantry. In August of 1960, the land for the present "Old Fort Renezvous" range was purchased for \$800. To pay for the land, subscriptions were sold to members which were redeemed as club funds became available. By 1961, a bulldozer was made available for the club, and work began on clearing the present range. In May of 1961, rail fence was erected and plans made to enclose the range into a stockade-type of fort. This effort later failed as members lost interest in this project. That same year, the first building was erected - the Trading Post. The structure was formerly a garage moved from its old Manistee location to the range and remodeled into its present look. It became the first clubhouse at the new range. A nearby field was bulldozed and seeded for the first shooting area. The back stop berm was rebuilt with the use of a crane to raise the height so bullets would not go over the top. In January 1962, a building committee was formed and presented a set of plans for the present pavilion to members. By April 1963, the basement of the pavilion was finished, and work proceeded on the six, hand carved wooden trusses for the roof structure. The building was completed in June 1964 in time for the big Rendezvous shoot the end of that month. To be continued in future newsletters



SCOTT LANGWORTHY (RIGHT) RECEIVING THE KEELER AWARD 2009

Scott Langworthy isn't one of those guys that needs' to be in the spotlight in order to find satisfaction in the Black Powder shooting sports.

In fact Scott is one of those guys that shies away from the spotlight and would sooner work behind the scenes doing what ever no one else wants to do.

Not so many years ago our State Association had trouble finding someone to score the targets that get shot in competition at our State Championships. It was an annual topic of discussion at our meetings and an almost constant source of problems.

Scott stepped up to take on the task of assembling a crew of people to score all of our targets and relieve our association of the nagging problem. Scott gathered a group of extremely capable people to aid in the task of scoring targets, the problem went away, and the scoring crew has a good time working together.

Through good health, bad health, and economic difficulty Scott has persisted and his efforts go on behind the scenes letting the rest of us shoot our targets.

These are the qualities that the Keeler Society was built around and it does a person good to see this prestigious award presented to a person like Scott Langworthy.

When he received the award, at this summers State Shoot, Scott's comment was that there are many more people that are more deserving than he is.

His comment stands as testimony that the Keeper Society is doing what it was intended to do.

When someone is selected that says;
“It’s about time I was recognized for all that I’ve been doing.”
I’d say we are doing something wrong.

Congratulations Scott and thanks for giving the rest of us something to aspire to.

The Sprit of Roy Keeler Society 2009

THE JAG SHOP
2103 – 101ST Avenue
Otsego, Mi. 49078
269-694-4749 cell 269-370-0919

**GOEX, SCHUETZEN & SWISS BLACK POWDER
PERCUSSION CAPS, FLINT**

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The Grand Valley Chefs are working diligently to provide quality meals at the MSMLA Rifle/Pistol Championships this year and next. The menu will appear in the May/June issue.
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RON SMITH’S ADVENTURE

I just returned from my 22nd yearly trek to Nebraska. This year wasn't as fruitful as past years because the deer numbers were down. I did however see 48 bucks in the three weeks I was there.

The weather was decent if you call the wrong side of "0" decent, naturally the day it was -17 degrees the deer were feeding in the crop circles longer in the morning than normal. As I sat in some old farm machinery trying to convince myself this is fun, I saw the buck I wanted. A very heavy and wide 8 point, but as nature rules that a buck would rather be with a doe than on my wall. He followed her off the field and headed back into the sand hills. I took off some heavy stuff and started for the outback, funny it took thousands of years to make those hills, but since last year they got a whole lot bigger and more of them. Anyway after a couple of hours walking and glassing I thought I could close the deal. Not so, as I inched up the hill

to peer over, several does caught me and naturally took off. Oh well, what's a few more miles. As my GPS now showed I was about 5 miles from my truck and it wasn't getting any warmer and remember I took off my heavy stuff. I decided to go about 1 more mile and call it quits. The ranch I hunt on is 16 thousand acres so one can, if he is dumb enough, walk his legs off.

The sand hills are just a rolling area of NOTHING, sand burrs and soap weed plants, and ya, prickly pear cactus. But sure enough I finally caught up to him. As I lie down and put my bipod legs down, my range finder wouldn't work (too*** cold). My glasses actually frosted, so did the focal lens on the scope. Wiping them only made things worse. I needed to calm/cool down.

As any hunter knows the window for a shot can slam shut very quickly, so I guessed at the yardage (mistake), angle (another mistake) and to top all the other errors the hammer went forward in slow motion. However after all this, yes I will be crawling around in those hills come next year. And he will be bigger, yea.

Oh ya, I did bring two 4x4 mule deer home!!!!



TURKEY HOMEWORK by Serge Bourdeaux

After last year's turkey hunt (one hour long), I figured just maybe I'll be paying for it this year thru a long wait for a gobbler to show up. With that in mind, a few scouting trips again might allow me to locate a roosting tree before start of the late May 2 opener. With all the rain and cool weather in early April, I was getting concerned about the middle of the month, and when the early season started on the 18th, it was still raining a lot that week. But the weekend cleared some so that I could get out, getting up in a tree stand late in the day Saturday to watch the turkey traffic. A few days later found me in another tree stand before daylight nearer a roosting tree. BINGO!!! With daylight coming on, there he is maybe 50 yards from me and with a couple hens too. At fly down a hen landed 20 yards from me,

while the gobbler went off towards the North-but he came back in a few minutes to within maybe 15 yards, strutting and gobbling. I'm froze to the trunk of the tree - but he passes by, eventually hooking up with three more long beards at the end of the woods and proceeded to walk the cornfield within sight of the tree stand. What a sight to see for almost a half hour!

After all the scouting trips I ended up setting my blind in the same position as last year. Even my hen decoys were set out almost the same place - but with an added Jake with tail fan. Opening morning May 2 started with a couple hens walking toward the blind and passing by. While watching one move toward my right, I caught site of movement to the right side of the blind, and when I turned my head all I saw was black - four long beards in strut about 20 yards away moving in towards my blind front. Those decoys had their attention big time!! My 20 gauge flint trade gun laid in my lap, but primed, as they strutted and gobbled amongst themselves. Eventually the gun is shouldered and resting on the window edge. I'm now trying to find the dominate gobbler by watching their necks for how red it is and how banged up their tail feathers are-- and one particular gobbler has two broken tail feathers and a very red neck. After many minutes of waiting for him to separate himself from the group, with one of them coming within 15 yards looking straight at me, I pulled the trigger on another beautiful older gobbler. He's not as heavy as last year, but the one spur looks to be almost 1 3/8" long, and he has a modest beard. I'm walking out of there after an hour and a half. Do your homework for turkey hunting and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

SAUK TRAIL LONG RIFLES

The 11th Annual 30 Shot Woods Walk date has been changed to April 13, 14, 15, 20012 in Tecumseh, Michigan. Make this change to your schedule. Contact person is Harold Hackathorn, 517-879-3096



It's October 29 and near 8am when I used a doe bleat call from my blind. This nice buck came on the run to check out who she was calling. He was a little more than 20 yards from me broadside when I pulled the trigger. A 8 point buck that field dressed out at 155 lbs. Crossbow magic

The **30th Annual Boiling Waters Spring Blanket Shoot** will be held at the Kalamazoo Rod & Gun Club (7533 North Sprinkle Road, Kalamazoo, MI) on **SATURDAY, March 31st, 2012**. The shooting will start at 10:00am and will continue until 3:00pm or so, with no starts allowed after 12:30pm. If weather permits, we will shoot a primitive woods walk, consisting of approximately 20 fun targets including new ones. They will range from a bowling pin to a playing card, providing all kinds of variety. There also will be several novelty targets on the lower range consisting of 20 to 30 shots. In addition, there will be knife and hawk competition at the clubhouse. In case of bad weather, we will shoot on the covered ranges. The firearms must be unscoped and use patched round balls. The shooting fee is \$10.00 per shooter plus a prize from each shooter valued at \$10.00 or more for the blanket. A good lunch may be purchased at the clubhouse from 11:00am – 2:00pm. Come out and join in the fun and bring a friend or two. For further information, contact John Fullerton at (269) 965-0764.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN 28 GROUND HOG SHOOT CHIC-OWA GUN CLUB – ZEELAND

**FEB 4 MICH STATE M. L. ASSOC. ANNUAL MTG EATON RAPIDS C.C.
11 A.M.**

FEB 4 UPMLA QUARTLY SHOOT BARAGA (Ottawa Sportsman Club)

FEB 5 SWAP MEET/GUN SHOW COLUMBIAVILLE SPORTSMAN CLUB

FEB 5 ATTICA MUZZLE LOADER BLANKET SHOOT LAPEER COUNTY
SPORTSMAN CLUB

FEB 11 – 12 HOG RENDEVOUS TECUMSEH

FEB 12 WINTERFEST DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS

FEB 19 NUMB SKULL SHOOT BRIDGEPORT

FEB 25 FINGER NIPPER SHOOT 2929 TOWER HILL RD, HOUGHTON
LAKE

FEB 29 –MAR 5 WESTERN NATIONAL SHOOT PHOENIX, AZ

MAR 4 CONTEMPORARY MUZZLELOADING ARMS &
ACCOUTERMENTS SHOW-----LAPEER

MARCH 11 WINTER 1/2 SCALE SILHOUETTE LINDEN

MARCH 11 ATTICA MUZZLE LOADER BLANKET SHOOT LAPEER
COUNTY SPORTSMAN CLUB

MARCH 11 WOODSWALK DETROIT SPORTSMEN CONGRESS

MAR 17 & 18 KALAMAZOO LIVING HISTORY SHOW™ KALAMAZOO

MARCH 31 BOILING WATERS BLANKET SHOOT KALAMAZOO

MAR 31 APRIL FOOL SHOOT BENZIE SPORTSMAN CLUB

MAR 31 & APR 1 STEAK & DOLLAR SHOOT (Trap & Rifle) GRAND
VALLEY CAP n BALLERS™

LANSING MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB (submitted by J W Brotherton)

The club started up in 1942 by five men. Chuck Langworthy is the only remaining member of the original five. They would get together in an old hardware store, owned by one of the members on Saginaw Street and Butler Boulevard. The owner died and the building was sold. After that time, the rest of the members

took turns holding meetings at their homes. At this time there was no shooting due to WW II.

After 1945 – 1946 veterans started coming home from the war. The club then started gaining new members as many of these vets wanted to continue to shoot and hunt with their old guns.

The purpose of the club was to promote the competitive shooting of muzzle loading firearms. Most of the rifles used at that time were old originals. Several members wanted to learn and teach building of muzzle loaders.

For a little over five years, Chuck Langworthy carried a small white metal box around collecting dues and donations. After a period of time Chuck collected \$900.00 and received a \$100.00 loan, giving the club \$1000.00 for a down payment on some land.

In 1964 the club bought the 40 acres of land where the club now sets. Hundreds of trees were planted on the hills behind the range back stop. We ended up with 25, 50 and 100 yard ranges. Later a makeshift shotgun range was developed at the north end of the 25 yard firing line. A 200 yard range and makeshift primitive range were set up diagonally northwest to southeast across the center of the 40 acres, from our present shotgun range.

Our first club house was an old CCC simulated log cabin about 20' x 30'. Steel cables on the inside walls pulled the walls inward to make the cabin solid. The front 2/3rds was the kitchen and the back 1/3rd was the scoring and target room.

After we paid off our first mortgage, we were able to purchase an additional 20 acres a quarter mile east of our 40 acres for our primitive range. It is very ideal for this purpose, containing a swamp, a creek and a high hogback ridge.

Our new shotgun range was completed with a new trap house and light system for night shooting. This year 2010 a covered loading area was added.

The club maintains a 501-C non profit license status. We operate with an executive board of directors, consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three directors. We work with several committees, shotgun, primitive, kitchen, grounds, buildings and facilities.

Revenue is generated from club dues, shoot registrations and our kitchen food sales at our larger shoots. We rent our range to other organizations such as the State Muzzle Loading Association for their championship matches as well as our clubhouse.

With our hard work and the source of our income, we were able to start building our present club house and kitchen in 2000. We ran into several problems with the County Planning Board, with one demand after another. They had us making changes we didn't need. Turns out, the inspector was antigun. We moved into the new building in 2005 – 2006.

Club priorities are set by the Board and voted on at our monthly meetings. Each committee submits an annual budget for needed supplies and repairs for board consideration. Meetings and monthly shoots are held on the second Sunday each month. Not too much shooting in winter months.

We hold open invitational shoots the first weekend of June, Labor Day weekend, T

To be continued in next issue

MSMLA
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Kent City, Mi. 49330