

**MICHIGAN STATE  
MUZZLELOADING ASSOCIATION  
NEWS LETTER  
JSN/FEB 2019**

**THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**



*Hope everyone had happy and safe holiday season. I am looking forward to hearing stories of hunting season. The fossil and I enjoyed our week in the upper peninsula. Fossil managed to stay awake opening morning and shot an eight pointer.*

*That was the extent of our success. We saw several spikes and does but no others of shooting size. There was a foot of snow and it stayed all week. Muzzleloader season was enjoyable but no more successful.*

*Our annual meeting is coming up at the Eaton Rapids club February 2nd. The meeting is open and a good way to start promoting your club and it's shoots. State shoot schedules will be there for distribution as well as club flyers.*

*The best way to get greater attendance is to get out and promote your events.*

*We are also looking for bids for the Michigan State shoot for 2021-2023. This bidding is open to any club in the state. For more info or any questions please contact*

*me or Dave Maddox. We like to see the shoot travel around the state. Every club offers it's own unique flavor and hospitality.*

*Our 2019 state raffle rifle is complete and tickets will be on sale soon. Leon Dennis has offered up his skills and built us a beautiful 50 cal early lancaster rifle. If anyone has accoutrements to donate please contact me. Making a package makes for an extremely special prize for our drawing. We have a beautiful rifle so be sure to get lots of tickets. Your going to want to win this one.*

*Hope to see you soon, Lyle*

**STATE SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*Any club interested in having the MSMLA State Shotgun Championships held at their club for a 3 year commitment for 2020, 2021 and 2022 must have their request in by June 1<sup>st</sup> to MSMLA, % David McMurray, 10510 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Otsego Mi.49078*

**STATE RIFLE RAFFLE**

*First showing of the MSMLA rifle that is being offered for Raffle 2019. Built By Leon Dennis from Lansing Muzzle Loading Gun Club. 50 cal, 42"bbl, early Lancaster. leon donated the stock and labor.Thanks Leon.*





## UNDER THE WEATHER

*Wes O'Dell had complete right knee replacement on the 26<sup>th</sup> of December. Keep Wes in your prayers for a quick recovery. His address is: Wes O'Dell, 2800 W. Snover Road, Mayville, Mi. 48744*

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## **THE 2018 TREK TO NEBRASKA**

*is now a memory. One of the best hunts I've had. Together we took 5 Whitetail bucks and 3 mule deer bucks. The opener, December 1st was Mother Nature at her worst. Snow Snow and more Snow. Did I mention snow! Could not get into the Sandhills where I like to hunt. Stuck with the truck more times than I ever was, stuck with the buggy (4x4 mule) and because my hips are worn out I couldn't walk very far. However the deer were in the feeding mode and using the hay and corn fields all*

day.  
No need to set up pop up blinds because all one needed was to stand by a hay bale or fence post. Sometimes the hay field would have 60-80 deer., Although most were does, the smaller bucks would come out and chase them around. As usual the bigger boys wouldn't show up till half hour before dark but didn't leave till hour after day light. My Grandsons made their first trip this year and wouldn't believe where this old grandpa would put them out in the mornings, sometimes 10-15 miles away from each other. And then go a few miles farther by himself. They each missed their first buck and were sure down in the dumps. So I had to find them another and even let them use my MZ. Adam filled 1st tag with a 3 year old 8pt White tail and 2 days later filled 2nd tag with a 5x5 mule deer. I found Nathan a 4 year old mule deer, I thought to be bigger than Adams' but with snow in the air I just couldn't see through the binoculars to count points, put him on the top of a high hill and told him where to watch. Sure enough about an hour after daylight the buck came up the hill straight at him, and if buck fever hadn't gripped him he would have beat out his brother. But as he told me the MZ hang fired and the buck lives another year. Oh ya the old man did harvest a 4 year old white tail. Got another license and saw several more shooters. But Grandma (Sharon) said DON'T you shoot another deer. She was tired of processing... The deer have to be boned out to bring back to Michigan. She did all the packaging and vacuum sealing so she had a reason to be tired.

Till Next Year Ron Smith

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- [NMLRA MAIN WEBSITE](#)

## Membership Application

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[MEMBER INFO](#) > [USER INFO](#) > [PAYMENT](#)

### Membership Options

**\*\*\*Attention all existing NMLRA members\*\*\***

To log in to your account, please use your 6 digit NMLRA Membership Number as both your username and password.

Once you are logged in, click "your account" at the top. Here you can renew your current NMLRA Membership and will be able to change your username/password if desired. If you are a **new member**, please follow the steps to fill out a Membership Application

If you have any questions or do not know your NMLRA Membership Number, please contact Lora Parks at the NMLRA office 812-667-5131 ext 226 [lparks@nmlra.org](mailto:lparks@nmlra.org)

### Membership Benefits Included:

**Muzzle Blasts:** All members of the NMLRA receive digital and print Muzzle Blasts, with the exception of Associate and junior members, the monthly membership publication devoted to all aspects of the muzzleloading sport. Read articles about the experiences of the muzzleloading shooter, collector, historian, gun builder, and hunter - all coming to your door every month.

**Rendezvous:** The National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation sponsors national rendezvous throughout the United States, and a valid NMLRA membership card will save you \$10 off the cost of attending these functions. NRLHF rendezvous are the best there are. The Association supports these rendezvous through free advertising and promotion of events through Muzzle Blasts magazine.

<http://www.nrlhf.org/>

**National Competitions:** With your NMLRA membership card, you have the opportunity to attend two National Championship matches in centrally located Friendship, Indiana. If a Western climate is more to your liking, the NMLRA holds its Western National Shoot in Phoenix, Arizona.

**National Range:** The Walter Cline National Range in Friendship, Indiana, is open to NMLRA members who wish to shoot - whether it be for a day or a weekend, because camping facilities are available at the range. The range supports all forms of muzzleloading shooting, from long-distance slug gun shooting to silhouette targets to trap and skeet shooting. Whatever your fancy, the NMLRA National Range has it all.

**Scholarship Program:** The NMLRA sponsors a scholarship program for its members and their dependents. Each year up to two (2) scholarships of \$1000 each will be awarded.

**Territorial Competitions:** NMLRA sponsored territorial matches are held throughout the United States and your NMLRA membership card allows you to participate in these events.

**Charter Clubs:** The NMLRA has over three hundred muzzleloading charter clubs across the country, each with its own schedule of

events and range times. The NMLRA Charter Clubs are well-supported by the Association, with discounts on advertising, scoring aids and targets. Charter Clubs are eligible for matching funds through an NMLRA grant program. Members of charter clubs can participate in a National Charter Club Championship.

**Hunting Opportunities:** When coupled with a valid Indiana hunting license and a hunting permit obtained from the NMLRA office, your NMLRA membership card gives you black powder hunting access to five hundred acres of prime southeastern Indiana land owned by your Association during respective hunting seasons. The NMLRA Hunting Regulations

### **Longhunter Big Game Records**

**Program:** Members who enjoy the extra challenge of hunting with a muzzleloading firearm have a chance to participate in the Longhunter Big Game Records Program. The Longhunter Muzzleloading Big Game Record Book is the premier registry for all record-class indigenous big game trophies in North America taken by muzzleloaders. Books 1-6

**Camping Opportunities:** Your valid NMLRA membership card also gives you access to a full-facility campground in southeastern Indiana. Complete with showers and electrical hookups, all for a price much lower than even state-run campgrounds.

**Dealers:** Many companies that deal in muzzleloading and period-reenactment supplies are longtime advertisers in Muzzle Blasts, the NMLRA membership magazine. Members benefit from this close relationship by having access to knowledgeable and friendly manufacturers and dealers when it comes time to buy equipment. Also, many dealers attend the NMLRA National shooting competitions, bringing their best items and prices to our members.

**NMLRA Stolen Gun Registry:** For added security and to protect members' investments, the NMLRA supports a regularly updated database, called the Stolen Gun Registry, in which descriptions of members' stolen black powder firearms are kept. Law-enforcement officials and people who believe they have

received a stolen gun can contact the NMLRA to find the rightful owner.

**Muzzleloading Education:** Members of the NMLRA can take advantage of the Association's Muzzleloading Education Program. This program offers members the opportunity to become NMLRA Muzzleloading Education Instructors and Trainers.

**Beginner's Bench:** NMLRA members who attend the National Championship Shoot or the Spring National Shoot can invite their children, grandchildren, or a novice friend to the NMLRA Beginner's Bench. For no charge, a qualified individual will help the new shooter safely load and shoot a muzzleloading rifle.

**Range Officer Training:** The NMLRA offers its members the chance to become an NMLRA Range Officer through courses offered every year.

**NMLRA Museum:** The NMLRA has a very complete and regularly updated library and museum for research and study. Members can find information about almost anything related to the muzzleloading field and can see some of the most interesting exhibits imaginable at the NMLRA Museum and Library. Located in the NMLRA Education Building and the historic Rand House, the museum displays are open only during the National Shoots.

**Legislative Action:** The NMLRA represents its 15,500+ members in legislative matters. The Association seeks to protect your Constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

**NMLRA Gunsmithing Seminar:** The NMLRA's world-renown Gunsmith Seminar is held annually, and members have an opportunity to receive hands-on instruction as well as attend demonstrations and classroom training by some of the most widely known and talented gunsmiths in the world.  
<http://www.nmlragunsmithingseminar.org/>

**NMLRA Postal Match:** The NMLRA sponsors an annual postal match with categories in rifle and pistol.

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## ***BUMP STOCK RULING***

*Acting Attorney General Matthew Whitaker announces that the Department of Justice has amended the regulations of ATF, clarifying that bump stocks fall within the definition of "machine gun" under federal law.*

- Bump-stock-devices allow a semiautomatic firearm to shoot more than one shot with a single trigger pull.*
- The new rule goes into effect 90 days from the date of publication in the Federal Register.*

### **What's Next?**

*The second option for owners is to turn them in. It is preferred that owners contact their nearest ATF office to make an appointment. To find the location of your nearest ATF office visit:*  
[www.atf.gov/contact/local-atf-offices](http://www.atf.gov/contact/local-atf-offices).

*ATF has created a new page to discuss options available for current owners of bump-stock-type firearms to allow them time to get rid of them by the effective date of the final rule. Owners can destroy the device by either melting, shredding, or crushing it. To learn more about destroying the devices, visit*  
[www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/bump-stocks/how-to-destroy](http://www.atf.gov/rules-and-regulations/bump-stocks/how-to-destroy)

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### **SPONSORS**

*Sponsors for Rifle have been coming in at a nice pace. The suggestion that was made about each trying to get someone to sponsor has been working. We have a good number of sponsors for rifle so far. Shot gun sponsors have been a little on the slow side. If we can get our sponsors whether it be a person or a company it will sure helps in defraying the cost of the shoot.*



*This nice 10 point Buck was taken by Zack Wadsworth of Hamilton Indiana. Zack was waiting for a nicer 10 point he saw earlier in the season but thought he had better take this one while he had the opportunity. Zack is a MSMLA Shotgunner that has shot trap ever since he was a youngan. Congratulations Zack.*

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**LARRY AFTER 5:00 PM 269-793-3265**

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**CALL OR SEE JEFF 616-366-3404,  
RON 616-836-5760 OR [rfern@triton.net](mailto:rfern@triton.net)**

**LARRY AFTER 5:00 PM 269-793-3265**

***DON'T FORGET THE WINTER  
MEETING AT EATON RAPIDS  
CONSERVATION CLUB  
FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 11:am***

***ALL MUZZLE LOADING GUN  
CLUBS ARE WELCOMED AND  
THEY WILL HAVE 1 VOTE FOR  
THEIR CLUB***

*I will be available at the club shoot February 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 till 1:30 to get your powder. For club members leave your order on the front table and I will get the powder for you. All others give me a call at 616-836-5760.*

*Ron*