

**MICHIGAN STATE MUZZLELOADING  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWS LETTER  
MARCH/APRIL 2015**

**THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

*Even with the cold weather it is comforting to know that the Black Powder shooting season is going to be in full swing soon. I'M ready!*

*I just found out that Swiss powder has come out with a new grade of powder. It is a ball powder that they call "Caviar". It is a pressed powder so that it is uniform, with no fines. It comes in all granulations. It is more expensive, of course, but may be worth a try.*

*The new Factory In-line match was put together at the February meeting thanks to the work of Serge Bourdeaux and Ted Thelen (with Ron Smith in the wings). It will be a four target aggregate shot with any off the shelf in-line Black Powder Rifle. You may use any projectile, any ignition (no electronic) with Black Powder or Black Powder substitute. No muzzle breaks will be allowed however, porting is permitted. All rules and shooting positions will be displayed in the program. This is a non-medal aggregate with a 75% pay back from a \$5.00 match fee. Re-entry will be permitted for entire aggregate. High aggregate score is used for payoff. Good Luck! If you would like to have an early copy of the rules*

*e-mail me at [dmaddox07@centurytel.net](mailto:dmaddox07@centurytel.net).*

*The State Association is still in need of a rifle builder for 2016. If you or someone you know would like to build a rifle for the State Association for 2016 please let me or another board member know. The association would buy the parts the only thing we are asking for is the labor and your talent.*

*If anyone is in need of raffle tickets to sell for the State Rifle raffle please let me know. Marty and I have the tickets to distribute until I can get someone to take over the job of distribution. PLEASE VOLUNTEER.*

*Flintlock shooters it is very dangerous for you and others around you if you are not properly putting your priming horn or flask away after you have primed your flintlock pan. Many accidents and serious injuries have happened because it was just laid down or not put away properly. We all know that if a spark can get into the spout, it will and a spark in the priming horn has the potential of a small bomb and can cause serious injury. On another safety note for flintlock shooters if you are shooting bench or cross-sticks it is mandatory that you put a flash shield up, on the lock side of your gun, before you do any shooting. Offhand shooters have a responsibility to say "FLINT" prior to them firing their flintlocks. This protects other shooters from injury of burning powder from the pan or shards from broken flints. I know the above paragraph has been seen before, but it is a big safety concern for percussion shooters*

***The Association elected Board members and are listed below w/email addresses. Feel free to contact them with any questions or concerns you may have:***

Russ Anderson ([marshmallow@charter.net](mailto:marshmallow@charter.net))  
Ron Fernwalt ([rfern@triton.net](mailto:rfern@triton.net))  
Eric Hoskinson ([ComputerGuy@EHoskinson.net](mailto:ComputerGuy@EHoskinson.net))  
Randy MacInnes ([rmacinn1@comcast.net](mailto:rmacinn1@comcast.net))  
Lyle & Diane McGregor ([tigerandtwodogs@yahoo.com](mailto:tigerandtwodogs@yahoo.com))  
Alan Pichan ([afpichan@yahoo.com](mailto:afpichan@yahoo.com))  
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Serge Bourdeaux ([spbourdeaux@att.net](mailto:spbourdeaux@att.net))  
David Maddox & Marty ([dmaddox07@centurytel.net](mailto:dmaddox07@centurytel.net))

***Until my next writing shoot well and keep your powder dry.***

**David Maddox  
MSMLA President**

### **NMLRA SKEET & TRAP TERRITORIAL**

New this year for the Skeet and Trap Territorial is a Junior Aggregate and a Trap Aggregate. If we have any juniors out there that would like to compete medals will be available. Not knowing if there is any, the winners will have their medals mailed to them from the nationals. For more information contact Ron at 616-836-5760 or e-mail [rfern@triton.net](mailto:rfern@triton.net). See attachment for upcoming skeet and trap territorial at Grand Valley Cap N Ballers.

### **GRAND CALLEY CAP N BALLERS**

For several months now rumors have been circulating around the State about our Clubs intent to purchase the Black Powder sales and inventory portion of the Jag Shop located in Otsego MI. That rumor is in fact true GVCnB has entered into an agreement with Bob

Yoakam for that purchase. The business will be known as the Grand Valley Cap n Ballers Jag Shop. We will begin to sell powder at our Club as soon as our permit is approved by the ATF. I expect that will happen in the next 4 to 6 wks. Or maybe before that (we hope). Further information on this will be available soon. Do you have Questions? You can contact me at {269}-792-4384 or at [cubsterbear@hotmail.com](mailto:cubsterbear@hotmail.com). We hope to continue to provide you with best possible service and quality products that we can.

A quick reminder to join the NMLRA and NRA . Do not lose your 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. Remember this is the Right that protects all the others.

See you soon Jeff



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**cubsterbear@hotmail.com**

### **NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE**

The **Manistee Clan Muzzle Loading Gun Club** has new things going on this year. They are going to have three new activities. First, they are planning to have a sports sale at the range

where they will be renting tables, maybe providing some food and have people at the gate to charge admission. Another activity is an introduction to shooting at their range where people will have a chance to try some types of shooting. Lastly they are going to try and arrange an "Appleseed Shoot" where people will get a chance to improve their shooting skills and learn about our countries early patriots history

## **EATON RAPIDS CONSERVATION CLUB**

The Eaton Rapids Conservation has been a tradition with outdoor sports enthusiasts, particularly those who enjoy shooting, for the past 75 years. The club located west of town on the corner of Five Point Highway and Freeman Road has a current membership of 200 and they are always looking for more.

They are a sportsman club that promotes safety in hunting and fishing. They also focus on teaching young people hunter's safety. The hunter safety classes are offered several times a year at no charge. Jeff Shellenbarger said it is a place where we can help youth get involved in shooting sports and enjoying the outdoors.

The club was founded in 1939 by Ted Lyons and Lynn Baldwin. The 6.5 acre parcel of land was purchased in 1948 and the log cabin style club house was built in the early 1950's. The members were the ones that built it. They went to Lewiston in northern Michigan, cut and dragged the logs out of the woods and loaded them on trailers to bring them to Eaton Rapids. Club members spent the winter months cutting and preparing the logs and set them up in place when the weather was warm enough. Funds were raised by collecting

\$10.00 from members for the honor of carving their names in the logs. There are 100's of names etched in the logs as you walk around inside the club house.

Roy Keeler was one of the founding fathers and his daughter Jean Brown has been in the club since she was a little girl.

The grounds of the conservation club includes a club house, which seats 75 people, an outdoor pavilion, and a 100 yard shooting range.

The club is already planning on its annual Easter Egg Hunt, to be held April 4. They are also considering holding a community open house in the early spring or summer.

The Eaton Rapids Conservation Club allows the Michigan State Muzzle Loading Association to hold its Annual Winter Meeting there the first Saturday in February. **Thank you Eaton Rapids Conservation Club.**

For more information about the Eaton Rapids Conservation club and their activities give Jeff a call at 517-490-5649 or Jean a call at 517-663-1255

## **BRIDGEPORT NEWS**

Our first January shoot went well with 21 shooters greeting the New Year. We had to cancel our February shoot due to extreme cold and high winds. The wind chills we predicted to be near -35 degrees. We have our next match coming March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am. The April shoot will be on the 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be followed by one on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Come join in on the fun. We also hope to see everyone at the Kalamazoo Living History Show. We will have the Michigan State raffle gun there so come get your tickets early and often. We will see you down the road.  
Lyle and Diane

SPRING BROOK TRADING CO.

EST 1990

Black Powder Shopp

[whammond88@hotmail.com](mailto:whammond88@hotmail.com)

William F. Hammond, 9024 E Spicerville

Hwy. Eaton Rapids, Mi 48827

517-663-3115



**MISSY TAYLOR** has taken up trapping and looks as if she is doing a mighty fine job.

### IN NEED OF SPONSORS

First of all I want to thank everyone that has sponsored a match this year for the Rifle/Pistol Championships and the Shotgun Championships. The cost to sponsor a match is only \$25.00. See your local sport shop or business you frequent a lot and see if they would be interested in sponsoring a match. I am surprised with the number of clubs that

are in the state that they do not support their state association. For rifle sponsors make checks payable to MSMLA and for shotgun make checks payable to MSMLA Shotgun, 16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City, Mi. 49330. See attachment for the sponsors that we have already and what matches are available.

### MICHIGAN RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB

Hi, my name is Bill Bruske. I currently am on the Board of Directors for the Michigan Rifle and Pistol Association. I have been the Black Powder Division Director for the past 3 years. I put on 3 NRA BPTR registered mid and long-range shooting matches and our assistant match director Ron Walters puts on 1 NRA BPTR registered mid-range match as well. We are always looking for more competitors to improve upon our matches.

- 1.) May 22-23-24 Mid-Range State Championship 200-300-600 yd Cadillac Sportsman's Club, Cadillac Mi.  
Contact: Bill Bruske [tinatb@aol.com](mailto:tinatb@aol.com) or 1-231-326-3368
- 2.) June 26-27-28 Governor's Trophy Ultimate Long-Range 5 @ 1000 yds Camp Grayling, MI.  
Contact: Bill Bruske [tinatb@aol.com](mailto:tinatb@aol.com) or 1-231-326-3368
- 3.) August 21-22-23 NRA Regional 800-900-1000 yd Camp Grayling, MI.  
Contact: Bill Bruske [tinatb@aol.com](mailto:tinatb@aol.com) or 1-231-326-3368
- 4.) October 2-3-4 Cadillac 600 (Mid-range) 500-600 Cadillac Sportsman's Club, Cadillac Mi.  
Contact Ron Walters  
[hepburn3850@charter.net](mailto:hepburn3850@charter.net) or 1-989-422-3050

## FLINT LOCK HUNT

Starting two years ago my brother Larry and I have gone on a weekend bird hunt with our friend Tom Siminske. Tom has an English setter that is growing into a very good hunting dog. This past fall when we went to Tom's for our annual hunt weekend I took my 12ga. canoe gun. I had the goal of shooting a woodcock with a flintlock. The year before we had hit the flights and had lots of shooting.

This past October the flights had not arrived yet and so the chances were reduced but we were still optimistic. Tom and his setter, Hunter, took us out to the secret woodlot, home to upland birds of choice. We began with Hunter on point, a grouse went up in front of Tom and he neatly dropped it. We had a couple more flushes but thick cover hid the birds escape. As we moved on Hunter got birdy of to my left but didn't lock on point. He kept walking slowly and as I moved into position, there was the bird! A hen turkey was sneaking thru the brush.

We worked into more open cover near a river bottom. This is an area where the woodcock were more commonly found. Larry and Tom got off a couple of shots with one bird gathered. Soon Hunter went on point ahead of me. As I moved in the bird flushed. I brought the gun up, bringing it to full cock. I swung with the bird and squeezed the trigger just as the little woodcock past behind a large poplar tree. Score one for the woodcock. I would go on to miss 2 more times as the morning went on. Tom and Larry were polite but Hunter began to snicker every time I shot and missed.

Finally Hunter went on point between Tom and I. As we moved in the woodcock flushed

and flew up and over my head. I swung up as it passed overhead, and as the gun settled in on my shoulder I fired. I had finally kept my head on the stock and zigged as the bird zigged. I bagged my first woodcock with my flintlock. I was unable to connect with a grouse that day but we finished with two grouse and five woodcock for the morning. We ended the day around noon, as it began to rain. This fall I will try again, possibly with a 20 ga. trade gun. We had a great weekend and it was great fun to hunt with a flintlock that I had built for upland game. So far I shot turkey, squirrels and a woodcock. I am still after grouse and deer with that gun. I will let you know if I am successful. Lyle McGregor



Bonnie just picked these dogs up at the dog pound as they needed a home. She has been trying to decide on names. Please give her a call at 616-550-6829 for suggestions on names.

### FLINTLOCKS LLC

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### REMEMBER WHEN?

Can anybody remember these two? I need a story of who they are, where they were shooting. It appears they were shooting cross stix somewhere in the state. E-mail or write your article and send to [rbfern@triton.net](mailto:rbfern@triton.net)

### MSMLA

16808 Peach Ridge  
Kent City, Mi. 49330

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR 15	BRIDGEPORT FUN SHOOT	BRIDGEPORT
MAR 8	WINTER 1/2 SCALE SILHOUETTE	LINDEN
MAR 21 - 22	KALAMAZOO LIVING HISTORY SHOW™	
APRIL 4	APRIL FOOL SHOOT	BENZIE SPORTSMAN CLUB
APRIL 11 – 12	STEAK& \$ SHOOT (Trap & Rifle) GRAND VALLEY	
APRIL 18	SPORTING CLAYS (modern Shotgun) GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™	
APRIL 11	BLANKET SHOOT	WHITE RIVER MUZZLE LOADERS – ROTHBURY
APRIL 18	BLANKET PRIZE WOODS WALK POWDERHORN COUNTY MUZZLELOADING GUN CLUB	
APRIL 19	BRIDGEPORT FUN SHOOT	BRIDGEPORT
APRIL 14 – AUG 25	SUMMER AG BENZIE SPORTSMAN	
MAY 1 – 3	SPRING SHOOT	GRAND VALLEY CAP n BALLERS™
MAY 1 – 3	MEGA WOODS WALK	SAUK TRAIL LONG RIFLES
MAY 2	BLK PWDR CARTRIDGE SHOOT PINE RIVER LONG RIFLEMEN	
MAY 2	COLUMBIAVILLE S. C. PISTOL SHOOT-COLUMBIAVILLE SPORTSMAN CLUB	
MAY 15 – 17	RENDEZVOUS	HART LONG RIFLES
MAY 16	SPORTING CLAYS (modern Shotgun) GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™	
MAY 17	BRIDGEPORT FUN SHOOT	BRIDGEPORT
MAY 22 - 24	NMLRA MICH. SKEET & TRAP TERRITORIAL GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™	
MAY 22 – 25	TC RENDEVOUS	BENZIE SPORTSMAN CLUB

**Woods – n Waters**

**PO Box 278**

**Imlay City, Mi. 48444**