



# Michigan State Muzzle Loading Association Newsletter

***JULY/AUGUST 2025***

## **Manistee Muzzle Loading Club News**

We hope our June 28th & 29th "Shoot Time at Old Fort Rendezvous" was a good primer for those that competed in the MSMLA state shoot a few days later. There were 50 registrations for this year's 65th annual event, and the campground was quite full. Match results will be included in our next newsletter published around Sept. 1st. In the following months, we will see where improvements can be made for our 2026 June Shoot.

A big thank you goes to Ira Thumma who gave a bench gun demo that Friday afternoon. He provided a great opportunity for folks to shoot the rifle for a minimal cost of powder and ball. Saturday was a perfect summer's day for all matches, evening awards, raffle drawings, NW Council meeting and pavilion fun & games that followed into the night. Rain came down during Sunday morning's Village Green matches, but shooters still came out. It was nearly impossible to keep the powder dry, and the flintlock folks should be commended for trying. Thankfully, the skies cleared and

the sun came out in time for folks to break camp and head for home.

The entire club wants to wholeheartedly thank all those that came from near and far to compete, bring items for the consignment sale and/or just join in the fun. Our June Shoot is dedicated to making happy memories.

**J & J**

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**WHO'S RUNNING THIS PLACE  
ANYWAY?**

**MICHIGAN STATE MUZZLE LOADING  
ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**ALL ADULTS THAT REGISTER TO SHOOT  
ARE REQUIRED TO WORK**

**2026 RULES**

The 2025 Michigan State Muzzle Loading Rifle and Pistol Championship Matches are behind us now. It was another good year with lots of fond memories for us all to look back on in the future. One

question that remains in many people's minds is, "Who is running this place anyway?" I will attempt to answer that question in this article.

Sometime in the early 1970's a group of black powder shooting enthusiasts got together and started talking about the need to hold an annual State Championship Match event. Our founding fathers had an awful lot of potential problems to work out but this is what they ended up with.

They decided that the State Association wouldn't need to own a piece of property to build the State Association range on. Instead the Association would rent an existing range for a weekend and the members of the association would conduct the event themselves. Their thinking was that if you came to the championship matches and registered to shoot you would become a member so you would be agreeing to help conduct the event. You could shoot at the event but there would be a work requirement so you could help perform all the necessary duties.

Who's running this place? The answer is we are all running this place and that includes you.

The first State Championship matches were held on September 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> in 1974 at the Western Michigan Rifle and Pistol Club in Ionia Michigan. At that two-day event they had about 100 shooters and 19 matches. The work requirement worked good at the time because there were only 19 matches and unless you were a 15-year-old girl you wouldn't qualify to shoot the entire program.

In 1976 the championship matches were extended to a three day event. There were

27 matches and attendance had increased up to about 150 shooters.

In 1980 the championship matches were extended to a four-day event. There were 36 matches and attendance had topped 250 competitors.

In 1992 the championship matches were extended to a five-day event. There were 52 matches and attendance stayed at about 250.

In 2024 the championship matches remained as a five-day event. There were 83 matches to shoot and only 54 people registered to shoot.

Since the early 2000's there has been a steady decline in the number of people coming to the state championship matches. That gives us fewer people helping with the same 83 matches being offered during what remains a five day event. All of those targets need to be scored tabulated and posted for the competitors to see in the evening. There are five days of relays that we need to find range officers to cover and with only about fifty people shooting it has put a strain on our ability to host our own event.

Some people work one or two, two-hour shifts, during the shoot and they feel like they have done their part. There are not enough people to get all the range officers slots filled so the overflow falls on the people that have already turned the championship matches into a full time job.

You are free to review the association's history and draw your own conclusions. In my view the way we are doing things right now is unsustainable. We're pushing the majority of the work off on four or five people and finding a replacement for any

one of those people would be next to impossible.

The next time you're at the state championship matches don't ask who is running this place, ask yourself if you are doing your share to make things run the way they need to run. If everyone signed up for a two hour shift everyday it would be a big help so give that some thought.

Respectfully submitted  
Wayne Lamson



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## MSMLA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

As a reminder the MSMLA Rifle/Pistol championship will be at Grand Valley Cap N Ballers Muzzle Loading Gun Club in 2026 and then will be moving to Mannistee in 2027, 2028 and 2029. the election of officers are as follows: President Jim Brotherton, Vice President David Maddox, Secretary Diane McGregor, Treasurer Ace Hendrickson and board members elected were Wayne Lamson, Eric Hoskinson and Rick Peterson.

There were 54 competitors at the state shoot this year and a couple coming from Pennsylvania and one coming from Kentucky.

A thank you goes out to Cal Meabon for cutting out the silhouettes.

**J & L Horrigan Ent.**

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## KEELER AWARD

Wayne Lamson spoke on what the Keeler award was and the qualifications to get in to the Society. To make it simple it is many years of promoting, helping others and do what Pa did on supporting the sport of Muzzleloading. Dennis Priddy, 2024 Keeler Society Member presented the award to Bobby Elka, son of the late Bob Elka.





Congratulations Bobb Elka to the Society. It was a long time coming. Bobb has been involved in Muzzle loading ever since he was a youngster growing up with his Dad Bob. There will be more and a better write up on Bobb in the next issue of the newsletter.



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David Maddox presenting the 2025 Raffle Rifle winner to Toney Baughman. The rifle was originally won by his brother Tim and hjis Dad Wayne Baughman donated it back the the MSMLA to be raffled for 2025. Congratulation Toney.



Keeler Society members that were present at the 2025 Championships held at Grand Valley Cap N Ballers are from left tt right Eric Hoskinson, Wayne Lamson, Ron Fernwalt, Jim Brotherton, Dave Maddox, Bobb Elka, Ruth Palmer, Ira Thumma and Dennis Priddy.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JULI 31 – AUG 2** **FRONTIER SHOOT**  
**54<sup>TH</sup> GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™**

AUGUST 9 & 10 **RENDEVOUS**  
**COLUMBIACVILLE SPORTSMAN CLUB**

AUGUST 10 **WOODS WALK**  
**DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS**

**AUGUST 14 - 17** **MSMLA STATE SHOTGUN**  
**CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™**

AUGUST 15, 16, 17 **MICHIGAN RIFLE/PISTOL**  
**TERRITORIAL** **BEAVERTON**

AUGUST 16 **CENTER FIRE PISTOL WOODS WALK**  
**DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS**

AUGUST 22 - 24 **BENZIE RENDEVOUS**  
**BENZIE SPORTSMAN CLUB**

AUGUST 23 & 24 **FUN TYME AT THE RANGE” \***  
**GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™**  
**{AN EVENT FOR WOMEN ONLY}\***

AUGUST 30 & 31 **FALL SHOOT**  
**LANSING MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB**

AUGUST 31 – NOVEMBER 2 **FALL AGGREGATE**  
**BENZIE SPORTSMAN CLUB**

SEPTEMBER 6 **ARCHERY NOVELTY SHOOT**  
**GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™**

SEPTEMBER 14 **WOODS WALK**  
**DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS**

SEPTEMBER 13 - 22 **N. M. L. R. A. NATIONAL**  
**MATCHES** **FRIENDSHIP, INDIANA**

SEPTEMBER 20 **SPORTING CLAYS (modern**  
**Shotgun)** **GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™**

SEPTEMBER 19, 20, 21 **HOWARD CITY**  
**HOWARD CITY CONSERVATION CLUB**

SEPTEMBER 20. **22 RIMFIRE RIFLE WOODS**  
**WALK**  
**DETROIT SPORTSMAN CONGRESS**



Enjoying the meal that GVCNB Kitchen Crew prepared and also waiting for the awards ast the State Shoot.



Drawing for the raffle Trade Gun that went to Toney Baughman.

## SPONSORS

We are still accepting sponsors for the State Shotgun Championships. Send to MSMLA, 16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City, Mi. 49330

Ask your club if they would like to sponsor a match and it will appear on the web until September of 2026