

**MICHIGAN STATE
MUZZLELOADING ASSOCIATION
NEWS LETTER
NOV/DEC 2015**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Take a look at the November issue of Muzzle Blast as Jim Fulmer, winner of the State rifle raffle 2015, wrote an excellent article concerning the rifle and other cooters he won. Jim writes the column "Beyond Friendship" for Muzzle Blast. Jim is also a past President of the NMLRA and is a current board member of the NMLRA. Judy and Anson Morgan presented the rifle and other cooters to Jim at the fall shoot at Friendship Indiana, in September.



students received their 50 patch for getting at least 50 correct out of 55 questions. A great job, well done by all. It was a long day but, very rewarding. Thanks Anson and Judy for setting this up.

The proof in the pudding is below. The only one missing is Judy Morgan, our resident photographer.



**October 25, 2016 RO class at
Kenockee Trading Post**

We have had several shooters donate their medals back to the association for recycling. A very large THANK YOU to all for donating, it helps the association save a lot of money. I don't have the figures from Lyle as yet but, I understand that we have several years of aggregate medals. The aggregate medals are the expensive ones. Thanks again.

We do have a rifle builder for 2016. Mike Sullivan has agreed to build a rifle for us. I understand it will be a Hawkin Rifle of large caliber. Thanks Mike.

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October 25th I was over to Kenockee Trading Post, and a nice shop it is. They have anything you might need to fulfill your black powder needs. Anyway, I was invited to come over to put on a range officer class, which I did. It was a large class for one person to conduct but, I got it done. There were 19 attendees (representing four Muzzleloading Clubs. Blue Water Sportsmans Association, Lapeer Firelocks, Marlette Sportmans Club and Linden Sportsmans Club) and all passed. Five

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

- Russ Anderson (marshamallow@charter.net)
- Ron Fernwalt (rbfern@triton.net)
- Eric Hoskinson (ComputerGuy@EHoskinson.net)
- Randy MacInnes (rmacinn1@comcast.net)
- Lyle & Diane McGregor (tigerandtwodogs@yahoo.com)
- Alan Pichan (afpichan@yahoo.com)
- Ron Smith (rchasinrainbows@yahoo.com)

Joe Valentin (jvalentin@gmail.com)
David McMurray (davidl.mcmurray@charter.net)
Serge Bourdeaux (spbourdeaux@att.net)
David Maddox & Marty (dmaddox07@centurytel.net)

Put February 6th, 2016 on your calendar, it is the date for our annual business meeting. Plan to attend so you can air your concerns.

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

**David Maddox
MSMLA President**

BRIDGEPORT SHOOT

The members of the Bridgeport Gun Club would like to thank those who came and shot with us this year. We added several monthly shoots this year and many were well attended. The coming year will see some changes but many things will remain the same. We will start the year with 4 monthly shoots then take a month of before our Family Fun Rendezvous in June. We will remain on the third weekend of the month.

I want to introduce Dave Scoggins as our new match chairman and contact person. Dave and several others took over running of the monthly shoots this year and did a fantastic job. If Dave is busy Joe Frappart is right there to help out. When you see them on the line be sure to thank them for all their work and help at the club. You will be greeted with a warm smile and a thanks for coming from them both.

Our next shoot will be January 17th starting at 11am. We look forward to seeing you to join us in welcoming the new year of shooting. Lyle & Diane

HERITAGE MUZZLE LOADING RANGE

I received this memo from Mary and hope someone could help her out. I am trying to update the DNR shooting range webpage to include various shooting ranges

throughout the state of Michigan. I had information on a range called:

Heritage Muzzleloading Range
8300 Waldron Road
Jerome, MI 49249

Have you ever heard about it or do you know if it still exists? I thought since you are affiliated with the Michigan State Muzzle loading Association that you or some of your other members may know. Any information you can provide would be appreciated.

Mary H. Benson
Shooting Range Specialist
Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909-7528
517-284-6032
bensonm6@michigan.gov

GUN RAFFLE

Our rifle for the 2016 Gun Raffle is under construction already. Mike Sullivan of Vassar is building us a Hawken rifle in 58 caliber. It has a nice maple stock and will be done for the first of the year. We will have tables at the Lapeer Firelocks Gun Show, March 6th, and the Kalamazoo Living History Show, March 19 & 20. These are our biggest sales days but it would be nice to have some help on those days. Come sit for an hour or two and help out selling tickets. The help will be much appreciated and you will get a chance to visit with several of your fellow shooters as they buy their tickets. Your help will be greatly appreciated and welcomed.

If you have anything to add to the prize package please let me know. People have donated many add on prizes in the past several years making for a great package unit. Powder horns, primers, bags, range rods. shooting boxes and the like. If you want to take the rifle to a shoot this summer to sell tickets contact me

and to make connections with you. See you down the road. Lyle McGregor

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MISSOURIE TERRITORIAL

Ron and Bonnie Fernwalt Journeied to Macon Missouri for the Trap and Skeet Territorial. The host did a fantastic job with Coffee n rolls and desserts for breakfast and a lunch at noon. Saturday night they put on a fantastic meal. They net a lot of people they hadn't seen in some time.

It was quite windy and chilly. The clay targets flew every which way you could think of.

Bonnie placed 2nd in the Lady trap territorial and Ron missed out and placed in 1 match of the Territorial. Bonnie took a 3rd in the Daily on Sunday.

They had daily re-entry with a cash pay back and Ron took 3 first, a 2nd and a 3rd.

It was an enjoyable weekend and a good time was had visiting with people around the campfire and in the club house.

ADVERTISING

If you folks would send e-mail address' too rbfem@triton.net I will send the state news' letter to them and also if you e-mail me your flyer I can send that to them also. With them

getting the news' letter may help in getting more people involved in our sport.

Thank you for your support in advance on this matter.

Just a note on something that is starting to get a following with regards to muzzle loading clubs doing other things for fund raisers Dick showed interest in this as well, it is great fun

An excerpt from the editorial of **Precision Shooting Magazine**:

Rather strange (if not very strange) shooting activities in Michigan. PS columnist (they're a strange lot, generally speaking) Dick Wright recently sent us a letter from a fellow Michigan bench rest shooter (again . . . they're a strange lot, generally speaking), Wayne Lamson. After reading and re-reading the letter and the accompanying exhibit . . . we can only conclude that the occasionally harsh winters in Michigan have taken their toll on (well, never mind; let's not get into deep waters here).

Dear Dick,

I just finished reading your latest article in **PS** about the spring Holton match this year. I congratulate you on a piece well done, and console you on another match shot just the way I would have done it. Signs of brilliance, and then a headlong plunge into the sewer at the last minute.

I have put together a hunt this fall that might be of some interest to you and other like-minded people.

We have some members in our local club that have given up hunting, not due to the lack of interest, but rather due to aging body parts.

For the past few years I have been going out to our range in the fall and shooting flies with my .308. This has become my favorite pastime and my activities have not gone undetected by other club members.

I have tried to remain a closet fly hunter but last year I was forced out of the closet due to my own inability to keep quiet about a

particularly successful hunt... and the fact that I was caught in the act by two other club members.

Our range faces west. On a bright fall morning the bright sun shining on a white piece of paper is more than most cold blooded flies can resist. I noticed that if the sun was not shining the flies didn't come out and play, so I was limited to only hunting in beautiful weather.

I also noticed the same excitement seeing a fly suddenly appear on my hunting property, as I experienced when seeing a nice buck walk into a clearing. It was this excitement, and not knowing for sure if I needed to get professional help or not, that made me remain silent about my activities.

But there I was with three bullet holes in my paper, fly guts around each hole, and two club members wanting to know what I was doing there all alone with a thermos of coffee, a light lunch, and enough loading equipment to open a retail store.

"Fly Hunting."

Not many of our club members have equipment worthy of a 100 yard hunt but the concept was well received. Everyone has a 22 rimfire and most 22 rimfires are capable of a 25 yard hunt. So the hunt was born.

Every Tuesday evening, our club is alive with activity. One of our club members has printed up fly targets. People are buying new equipment, testing different batches of ammo, and are all excited. We have a club member in his 80's that has not hunted in 20 years. This club member now has a new rifle, a new scope, and the enthusiasm that would not be surpassed by a 16 year old. In fact, he is related to you. His name is Herman Wright. Owing to the fact that I have first-hand knowledge that both you and Herman share the same genetic defect, undoubtedly passed down through generations of Wrights, I thought that you just might be crazy enough to enjoy the hunt. I have discovered that being a lunatic is not such a bad thing as long as you associate

with like-minded loonies. I have canceled my appointment with my psychiatrist.

We are planning on hunting the last three weekends during September. If the weather report on Friday looks bad for Saturday, we will hunt on Sunday. If the weather report looks bad for Sunday, we don't hunt that weekend. We only hunt in nice weather. If we can't get in enough hunting during September we may extend into October - but that has not been determined at this time. There are 50-60 people that say they are coming "for sure". That means that we should have between 10-20 hunters. Twenty pounds of processed ground beef makes for a good hunt in my book.

We plan on making this an annual guided hunt and, hopefully, it will grow each year. In the future we may attach a registration fee to the hunt to help the club's treasury, but for the time being it's just for fun.

In the interest of safety, once the hunt begins no one will be allowed to go down range, and all rifles must remain pointed at the backer for the duration of the hunt. When the hunt is over a guide will inspect each firearm to make sure that it is empty and then all guns will be cased. We will be hunting from 8:00 A.M. until noon, thinking that most people would not be under the influence of alcohol that early in the day no matter how hard core they are (even allowing for the fact that this is Michigan, of course).

Talk it over with Glorya (your wife). If you can make it, you would both be most welcome. If you have portable benches you should bring them along unless you prefer a pick-up truck door or hood. Our club has five or six benches, and a few picnic tables but we can't make any guarantees. If you have any questions give me a call at XXX-XXX-XXXX.

Wayne Lamson

Official Rules

Finally, a guided hunting program that is within the budget of every hunter! No license required, no bag limit, no travel expenses, and we only hunt when the weather is good.

The hunt starts at sunup, and is over by noon. If you are successful, you take home meat that is already processed! No more guttin' and draggin'. No long walks deep into the boonies. Best of all, it is totally legal, and nobody seems to care, let alone protest. Animal rights activists even of the most fanatical sort seem to be singularly uninterested. Come join us at the Tobacco River Muzzle Loaders rifle range this fall for a 25 yard guided fly hunt.

Legal hunting equipment:

Any .22 caliber rimfire gun. Any scope or sights are allowed.

Entry fee:

A two pound package of ground beef from a local grocery store. Must be in the original store container and must be dated no more than two days before the hunt begins. Suspicious looking packages of questionable origin will not be accepted.

Alcoholic beverages:

No alcoholic beverages are allowed during the hunt.

Hunting trophies:

The hunter scoring the most legal kills during a hunt will receive 50% of the ground beef taken in during hunter registration. The second place hunter will get 30% and third place hunter will receive 20%. If these percentages don't come out even, they will be rounded off in a manner that will provide fair distribution of the trophies to the top three hunters.

No extra points will be awarded for any specific species of fly. Horse, house, deer, and big ugly flies all count the same. Fruit flies, and mosquitoes may receive extra credit if the tech committee makes approval before the kill is made. Dragon flies and butterflies are both protected species and taking them without a federal fly stamp will not be permitted.

In the case of a tie in the number of kills, (or in the event of NO kills) a shoot-off will be

held. The shoot-off target will be a national standard ten fly target at 25 yards. Each hunter will fire ten shots, the hunter having the highest number of hits will win.

Hunting shots may be fired from any shooting position including bench rest with sand bags front and rear. In the interest of providing a style of hunt that many of our customers are accustomed to, we will allow hunters to hunt through the window of a pick-up truck door, or rest the firearm on the hood of a pick-up. Please realize, however, that limited space on the firing line will not permit the use of an entire truck. Thus you must either bring your own door and/or hood, or you can remove the door and/or hood from your truck in the parking lot. Now that we think about this, during the height of the match season you just may elect to remove a truck door and/or hood at the start of the match season . . . throw it in the bed of the truck, and drive around that way until the end of the season. You should be all right in anything short of a full monsoon.

There is no limit to the number of shots that may be fired during a hunt. There is no extra credit given for highest percentage of kills with the fewest shots. A hunter shooting 100 shots making two kills will beat a hunter firing two shots with only one kill.

Each hunter will have a designated hunting area (one firing position). All kills must be made within that hunting area. Any kills made outside of the legal hunting area will not be counted in the kill totals. Kills made in another hunter's area will be considered poaching and result in a reduction of one kill. Baiting is allowed at the hunter's discretion. All bait materials may be placed around or under the assigned hunting area but may not be placed directly inside of the hunting area. Firing shots into bait piles in attempt to splatter bait into the hunting area is not permitted. Any hunter using bait will be responsible for removing the bait and properly disposing of it when the hunt is over. Once the hunt has started, hunters will not be allowed to go into the hunting area and freshen their bait pile.

Nothing may be attached, or applied, or smeared inside the hunting area except bullet holes and flies. (No fly paper or glue, etc.)

Decoy flies may be used but must be declared as such before the hunt begins. Each decoy must be circled with a felt marker before the hunt begins. No kills will be counted that are made inside a decoy circle. Decoys may be stapled, pinned, or tacked to the hunting area. No glue is allowed.

When a hunter is going for a kill, they must inform at least two other hunters prior to the shot so the shot can be witnessed. No claims of "I must have blown him clean through the paper" will be allowed. Hunters will only receive credit for confirmed kills. A blood trail and gut pile may be required if the hit was questionable.

Wounded game that get away and cross into a neighbor's hunting area become the property of the hunter assigned to that area. The first blood rule does not apply.

Fly driving will not be permitted. If a trophy is spotted on neighboring property shots may not be fired on the neighbor's property in an effort to drive game onto your property. If a hunter wounds a fly and it is unable to fly away, it must be humanely dispatched by the hunter. If a hunter is unable to finish off a wounded fly after two consecutive shots, all other hunters and guides in the area will be obliged to assist in finishing off the critter.

SUBMITTED BY: Ken Hobday

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UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC 31 "LAST BLAST OF THE YEAR"
BLUE WATER SPORTSMAN ASSN

On September 9, during MUCC's Camo at the Capitol lobby day, the original version of HB 4239 was amended in the Senate Committee on Outdoor Tourism and Recreation to include the safety zone language. That language amends the 150-yard hunting safety zone so that it applies only to "hunting with firearms," meaning that, for example, bowhunters and trappers would be able to hunt within that zone on their own properties, or on public lands, without requiring the written permission of a neighboring landowner.

The bill passed the Senate unanimously on October 8. Today, that amendment was concurred unanimously by the House of Representatives unanimously. An additional amendment to add an effective date of Jan 1, 2016, was approved by the House today, also. It will now get sent back to the Senate for concurrence with the effective date amendment.

The anti-poaching package, Senate Bills 244-246, passed today, as well. It will set restitution payments of \$5,000 for elk (up from \$1,500), with an additional \$250 per point for elk with 8 to 10 points and \$500 per point for 11 or more points. Additionally, a first offense for poaching an elk will result in a 15-year license suspension, and a second will result in a lifetime hunting ban.

Similarly, restitution for a moose will increase to \$5,000 for any moose and \$10,000 for an antlered moose, with similar license suspension and revocation penalties as for elk. Bears will yield a \$3,500 restitution fee, with a 5-year license revocation for a first offense and 10 years for a subsequent offense. Bearded wild turkeys will cost

the poacher an additional \$1,000 to the current \$1,000 fee for any turkey.

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MARCIE ANDERSON won the Thelma Keeler Aggregate followed by Marty Maddox and 3rd went to Janet Langworthy



CHRIS WOLFE from Bridgeport won the Novice Aggregate, 2nd went to Joe Frappert and 3rd went to Robert J Harris. These were all new shooters that attended the MSMLA Rifle Championship.

THE TRADE GUN LINE AGGREGATE was won by **JIM SPITTLER**, 2nd went to Wes O'Dell and 3rd went to Serge Bourdeaux



RICHARD WILTSE won the Lite Bench Aggregate, Matt Crum took 2nd and Ron Smith placed 3rd.



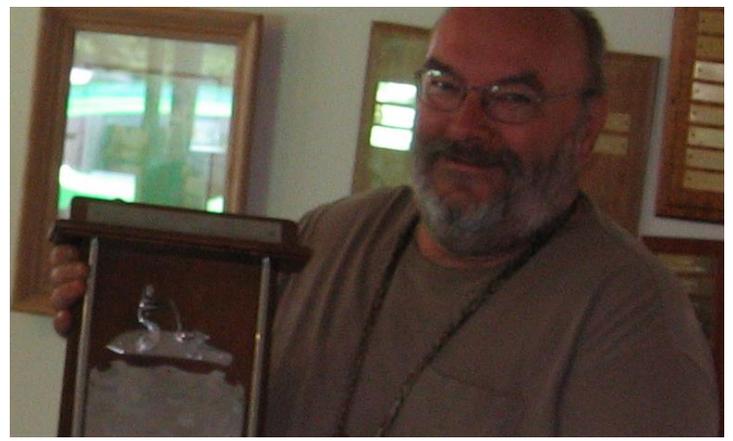
GORDON ELLIOTT won the Guy R. Smith Overall Aggregate, 2nd went to Marcie Anderson and 3rd went to Russ Anderson.



RON SMITH won the X Stick Championship Aggregate followed by Matt Crum and 3rd went to Ken Thomasma



ALAN PICHAN won the Musket Championship Agg with 2nd going to Gordon Elliott and Bob Wheelocvk taking 3rd.



LYLE MCGREGOR won the Flint Primitive Aggregate followed by Russ Anderson and 3rd went to Alan Pichan. **LYLE** also won the Flint OH Agg, 2nd went to Serge Bourdeaux and 3rd went to Alan Pichan



SERGE BOURDEAUX won the Bud Thompson Trade Gun Aggregate and 2nd went to Lyle McGregor. **SERGE** also won the V Line long Hunter Agg.



Anson and Judy Morgan presented Jim Fulmer past president of the NMLRA with the fine rifle he won at the MSMLRA annual shoot. Jim just forwarded this to us and wanted to share with you.

SHOOT SCHEDULE

Don't forget to get your shoot dates in for 2016. We are behind in getting that done this year. The cost is only \$5.00 per event. Make checks out to MSMLA, 16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City, Mi. 49330. Have the date, name of event, location, contact person, address and phone number on each event.

SPONSORS

It is getting that time of year to be getting sponsors for the upcoming MSMLA Rifle/Pistol events for 2016 and also for the MSMLA Shotgun Trap Championship. The cost is only \$25.00 per match. Let's try to get more clubs and businesses involved in sponsoring a match this year. The association thanks all of those individuals, clubs and business's that have sponsored a match in the past.

For Rifle/Pistol make checks out to MSMLA, 16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City, Mi. 49330 and for Shotgun sponsors make check out to MSMLA- Shotgun, 16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City, Mi. 49330.

Sponsoring a match helps greatly in defraying the cost of registration and to keep the association moving forward.

Thank you in advance-Ron

HUNTING SEASON

Good luck hunting this year and hope that everyone gets their big dream Buck. Let me hear of some stories and pictures on your success or the big one that got away. It doesn't have to be just about deer, it can be rabbit hunting, squirrel hunting partridge hunting or any other sport you or your kids and grand kids are involved in.

The association wants to wish everyone a happy Thanks Giving and a Merry Christmas.

MSMLA
16808 Peach Ridge
Kent City, Mi. 49330