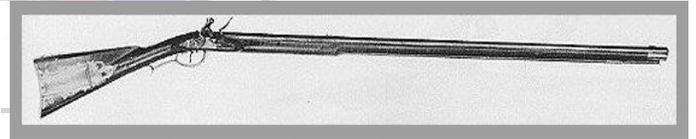


**MICHIGAN STATE MUZZLELOADING  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWS LETTER  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017**

*shoot or start of year shoot. Lyle*

**THE BEAVER BRIGADE  
HOWARD CITY CONSERVATION CLUB**



**THE PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

*It's that time of year. Hunting season is upon us. This is what many of us wait all year for. I have been working on plans for a week stay in the U.P. This is an annual trip to the hunting camp of my friend.*

*We have been hunting together for 26 years. Ever since the camp was built. Being in the Newberry area we have a low deer population but always have a good time. We have averaged a buck a season in those years.*

*The shooting season is wrapping up now. Several clubs are hosting their fall turkey shoots and sight-days. These are fun days at the clubs. Often new members are recruited at these events. They are a good time to display the benefits of membership.*

*Good luck and have a safe hunting season. Be sure to send in and share some hunting stories. See you soon at either an end of year*

In 1938 Mr. Bill Wilson, the shop teacher at the school, suggested that some of the fellows get together and organize a Howard City Conservation Club. A meeting was held at the McNaughton School( The present McNaughton School didn't exist until the 1950s, I am not sure where the old School was located ). A nominating committee was set up and thru the usual procedures the following officers were elected. President...Levi(Dud)Phillips, Vice President...? Sec. and Treasurer.....Earl Dean(the station agent at the time) At first there was a possibility of a Club house at Hartman Park just west of Howard City, but a short time later they had the opportunity to purchase forty acres,(where the Club House stands now).

Following is a list of the original group that got the ball rolling. Bill Wilson, Wayne Stevenson, Levi Phillips, Leo Ledger, George Heminger, Art Reams, Thayne Crittenden, Ralph Lowery, Earl Dean, Ike Barthalomew, Harold Edger, and Bill Barthalomew. The membership dues at that time was \$1.00 a year. The club was established on 80 acres of tax reverted land bought from the county, then 5 acres was sold to the pipeline company and that is were the building fund came from. The clubhouse was built in 1940 and 1941. Wayne

Stevenson and Leo Ledger were the supervisors and they were paid \$1.00 per hour, all the other workers were paid .40 to .60 cents per hour, depending on the type of work they did.

Next on the list was, how could they make some money? Some shot gun ranges were set up and they had some bingo games. Mr. Lewis Large from Six Lakes had some coon hounds and had been to coon hound trials and so he had the "know how" and helped them get started. The trials proved to be very popular and they had a good turn out for them. They had men from Indiana and Ohio with their coon dogs come up here and try for top prizes. Having all those events helped to build the membership up to 400 at that time.

The next project was the deer run and for quite a few years the deer run was cranked by hand, Levi and Lucile Phillips run the deer run for years and had a lot of fun doing it. Harold Ehgatz of Coral come over and installed an electric motor on it and it was appreciated very much.

There was a very outstanding member back then, by the name of Clyde Randall. He didn't hunt or fish, but he signed up more new members than anyone else ,and he could sell more raffle tickets than anyone else. He was always doing something for the club. he had a heart attack and passed away at a meeting in the Club house.

I am not sure when or why the number of members dropped but i imagine it was due to the change in activities over the years. But in 1964 the membership numbered 96 and by January, 1965 it had 194 members. The club was affiliated with the Michigan United Conservation Club and played a

big part in starting legislation for the first elk season east of the Mississippi in 99 years. They also worked to establish a wild turkey hunting season. They also had the distinction of holding the biggest Turkey Shoot in the state.

*NOTE.....This article was created from a handwritten letter by Mr. & Mrs. Levi Phillips. I have the original letter in my files.*

We have approximately 75 acres bordered with state and private property and the Little Muskegon *River* runs through one corner of it. I hope that someday somebody will come forward with some more documented history of the club, That is one reason I am posting this web site. The club was introduced to black powder shooting about 1980. The 100 yard *range* was constructed in 1981 and 1982 and we had our first advertised Black powder shoot June 20th 1982. Since then it has grown into a good sized rendezvous. In the past the club has hosted Boy Scout outings, several Summer Youth Camps, Wedding Receptions, and Graduation parties, And some very good times just sitting around a campfire with our friends.

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### ***Moustache Match Stats:***

*I put together some stats on the Roy "Pa" Keeler Centennial match:*

*NMLRA Trap Territorial: 16 registered shooters; 14 shot the match (88%)*

*NMLRA Rifle Territorial: 43 registered shooters; estimated 30 shot the match (70%)*

*MSMLA State Rifle: 42 registered shooters; 37 shot the match (88%)*

*MSMLA State Shotgun: 36 registered shooters; 34 shot the match (94%)*

*That gives a total of 137 registered shooters with 115 shooting the match for an overall average participation of 84%*

*I was able to attend three of the events. Some folks made up their own rules when shooting in a group. I had a grandfather/grandson rivalry going; a father/son match; four friends shooting for quarters; a lady who had just cleaned her rifle so she shot her pistol at 50 yards; several folks using guns made from parts Pa sold; and several individuals who said they attended a shoot just so they could “earn a Keeler patch.” Some of the patches have already shown up on shooting vests. Three fellows from Ohio came to the NMLRA Territorial Rifle match who hadn’t shot the Michigan Territorial in years. They said part of their reason for attending was because they knew Pa and wanted to get a patch.*

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#### ***Keeler Poster Proceeds:***

*All but one of the posters has been sold. So far six posters have sold for a total of \$481.00 with an average of \$80.00 per poster. Three of those posters were purchased to hang in a clubhouse—Tobacco River and Grand Valley. I have not checked with the treasurer to make sure a check arrived for payment. Should I?*

*The seventh poster is from the Kalamazoo Show (Roy standing by his bench gun at Wyandotte #2), because we were not allowed to auction it off during the event. Lyle said he gave that poster to Joe.*

*So the question before the committee is how do we sell the last poster? Offer it to the MSMLA membership? Hold a “postal auction?” Try to work through the NMLRA for a bigger audience? Hold a drawing among Keeler Society members? Your ideas, please?*

(Shot after the Fall Shoot Program)

Be safe and may God bless you all,

Denny

### **MSMLA SHOTGUN REPORT**

Hi All,

A big thank you to Pat King for all of her years as Secretary of the MSMLA Shotgun Committee. Pat took over the position as secretary when Betty Carr resigned. Pat is remaining on the Shotgun Committee BOD. I talked with Pat about her resignation and she told me that she had too many other things going that required her full attention. As much as she didn't want to resign she needed to because she would not be able to give the job the attention that it needed.

Again thank you Pat for all of your hard work and dedication.

At the September BOD meeting I appointed Bonnie Fernwalt to fill Pat's vacated position as secretary. Thank you Bonnie for Accepting.

Dave



*Lansing Muzzle Loading Gun Club  
1991 Junior's Match*

### **MONTE HEISER KIDS SHOOT LANSING MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB**

I would like to start out by saying how proud I am to be part of such a great and prestigious sport and the association that defines our heritage in shooting and our overall lives. Without all the fellowship, comradery and friendship this sport would not be possible.

As some of you know I run the Monte Heiser youth match. Monte started this match back in the early nineteen-eighties, which I participated in. He made all the trophies in his garage from old and new trophy parts donated to him from fellow shooters, family and friends. They were great looking trophies. To try and win a trophy all a youth had to do was have fun and display sportsmanship. No matter how you shot, it was how much fun you got to have with all the other kids outside not in doors with TV and video games (which now we are losing to greatly) When Monte passed away John Streeter took over and ran the match for year. Then Jim Gallager stepped in for a few years, until he could not do it anymore. That's when I stepped in, to run the match and make the trophies. It's been the best time I have had. When I get bored I go out to the garage and make a trophy or two. Then when September rolls around the fun starts. I get to see the kids running and smiling as they get to see all the trophies before they get ready to shoot. This special youth match brings tears and joy to me when I get to give out the awards to them. I have been doing this youth match for ten or eleven years and I hope to keep doing it for many years to come. So bring your

*kids, grand kids, nieces, nephews, friends or neighbors. All youths win no matter how they shoot. The best part is it costs nothing to shoot. We have had as many as 30 kids to 20 or fewer. The decline keeps coming. Hopefully with all of us getting the youth involved we can reverse this decline.*

*Sincerely,  
James Brotherton  
Lansing Muzzle Loading Gun Club*



**MONTE HEISER KIDS SHOOT LANSING MUZZLE  
LOADING GUN CLUB - 2017**

## **Roy "Pa" Keeler 100th Birthday Celebration**

*The Roy "Pa" Keeler Centennial Matches, or the "Moustache Match" as some called it, are now history. The purpose of the matches was to remind everyone of the principals that Roy Keeler stood for: honesty, integrity, sportsmanship and friendship. A secondary purpose was to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Roy Keeler's birth. And of course, the ultimate goal was to just have fun burning black powder in Pa's honor.*

*The NMLRA Trap Territorial, hosted by the Grand Valley Cap 'n Ballers™ saw 16 registered shooters; fourteen stepped to the line to participate in the special five-bird commemorative shotgun match (88 percent participation). The NMLRA Rifle Territorial at the Tobacco River Muzzle Loaders boasted 43 registered competitors with an estimated 30 shooting the five-bull buffalo with the black moustache stamp (70 percent).*

*The MSMLA State Rifle Championship, held at the Columbiaville Sportsman Club, drew 42 registered shooters and 37 took advantage of the free match (88 percent). The MSMLA State Shotgun Championship at the Grand Valley Cap 'n Ballers™ trap range registered 36 participants with 34 attempting to bust the five free clay birds (94 percent). In all, 115 of 137 registered shooters joined in the celebration (84 percent). Pa would've been surprised and pleased.*

*Some folks made up their own rules, and others stuck to two shots offhand and three*

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shots from any rest position at 50 yards. Jaden Wright and his grandfather, Jim Galiger, loaded side-by-side and contested against each other. Fathers and sons, mothers and daughters punched holes or busted birds in friendly competition. Ira Thumma shot a .45-caliber flintlock in the match. He built that rifle with parts purchased from Pa Keeler, as did others who shot muzzleloaders crafted with Roy's guidance.

Four friends shot for quarters, others for ice cream or just bragging rights. Scores were not kept in the match. Marcie Anderson shot her .45-caliber Thompson Center Patriot pistol at fifty yards. She cleaned her rifle earlier and didn't want to foul it again. Mike Thompson from Ohio attended the NMLRA Territorial Matches, and said, "One of the reasons I'm here is to shoot the Keeler Match." Several other folks journeyed from out of state to shoot the Moustache Match and earn a commemorative patch.

The numbered posters that promoted the Keeler Centennial Match sold well, too. Six of the seven posters brought in \$481.00 dollars, or about \$80.00 per poster. The generous bidding made the event self-supporting with a little cushion for the next Keeler Society project. Two posters are destined for display in the Grand Valley clubhouse and the third will find a home at the Tobacco River Muzzle Loaders (the picture of Roy and Thelma used for that poster was taken at Beaverton in 1969).

And the seventh poster, the one displayed at the Kalamazoo Living History

Show®, could not be auctioned off due to the show's guidelines for such matters. A number of ideas for the disposition of the image of Roy loading his big bench gun at Wyandotte have been discussed. For now, Keeler Society committee members will allow the smoke to clear from the 100 candles of Pa's cake; a decision on what to do with the seventh poster will come at a later date.

The Roy "Pa" Keeler Centennial Matches were a huge success. With deepest appreciation, Keeler society members wish to extend a hearty "Thank You!" to everyone who helped celebrate Roy's birthday. May each and every one of you display the honesty, integrity, sportsmanship and friendship that Roy Keeler shared as we continue to preserve our rich American black powder shooting heritage.

Submitted by the members of the Spirit of Roy Keeler Society



*Jim Galiger (l.) and his grandson, Jaden Wright (r.) showed off their "Moustache Match" targets at the MSMLA State Championship Shoot at the Columbiaville Sportsman Club in July. Jaden said "Well, I killed my buffalo" when asked why he held the target "feet up."*

### **SPONSORS**

*It is getting that time of year to be thinking about getting sponsors for the 2018 season of the rifle/pistol and shotgun championships. By getting sponsors in early saves the association \$\$\$\$\$\$ in postage and paper.*

### **NEWS**

*Let us hear from you on your success in hunting or on unsuccessful hunts if you like, also your fishing stories especially the one that got way*

#### **Wyoming mule deer hunt**



*Carl Rundquist of Concord and I left Jackson early Thursday September 28 for Encampment, Wyoming for a mule deer*

*hunt, a day and a half of hard driving for a couple of old men in their 70's. We got unpacked and settled into the ranch house where we'll be staying for the hunt. Late in the day Saturday the outfitter and his son, who jointly own and operate over 500 head of cattle on over 2000 acres of ranch land near Encampment took us out for a scouting trip prior to the Sunday October 1 opener of Wyoming mule deer season. It was quite the ride around the ranch into the foothills of the Sierra Madre Range where we came across several bucks that were "shooters", but the distances to the deer would really test my White .50cal. inline muzzleloader.*

*We were up real early Sunday getting our gear together and having a cup of coffee with the outfitter and his son before setting out way before daylight came. The outfitter-Bill and I were in his truck, while Carl went with Bruce-the son in his truck. About a half hour after shooting light Bill got a phone that Carl has got his mulie and it's a big one at that. Bill and I continue riding the two tracks seeing some does and fawns, when he is going along the edge of a drainage filled with aspens and he stops the truck right now and points his finger out my window. There on the far side of the aspens opposite the drainage stand a herd of mulies-they think their not being seen by us. The closest one is a 'big' buck that looks to be at least a 4 x 4. I get out of the truck with my rifle and have the capper at the ready while exiting the truck- they are still standing there while I'm putting a cap on the nipple, and without hesitation I shoulder the rifle on that buck and pull the trigger only to find I left the safeties on. Without lowering the rifle too much I remove the bolt and trigger safeties and again pull the trigger on that big buck that's*

still standing there. "BANG" There's so much smoke that Bill can't see the buck or which way he may have run, but there were deer running in different directions all at once. I reloaded as fast as I could while Bill watched for the buck. It was only about 40 yards to where the deer stood! We got to the other side of the drainage where they were and couldn't find anything to indicate a hit, so we spread out looking for blood. After a few minutes we could see a small buck hanging around near the edge of the aspens about 25 yards from us-that is really odd! That was telling me something wasn't right, so I moved slowly toward him, along the edge of the aspens and finally found blood on the sagebrush and deep hoof prints in the ground. BINGO! I whistled to Bill and pointed out the blood to him. We're onto something here! After about 40 yards we came upon my Wyoming 5 x 6 point big bodied mule deer that is estimated to score into the 170's in the Longhunter Society. Carl's buck is even bigger and was taken with his .300cal. Win Mag rifle at over 200 yards. After getting our deer to the processor and getting back to ranch house mid morning it started snowing and snowing off and on and didn't stop for a day and a half. When the storm finally passed by we had about 5 inches of wet snow at the ranch and near a foot up in the foothills.

By Surge Bourdeaux



### EDITORS NOTE

This is the last month of the write ups on the muzzleloading gun clubs in Michigan as I found the ones I did on the web. Any of those clubs that would like a write up send them to [rbfern@triton.net](mailto:rbfern@triton.net) or snail mail them to MSMLA, 16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City Mi. 49330

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### ATTENTION MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUBS

Please let your president and secretary know that they can send their club information to [rbfern@triton.net](mailto:rbfern@triton.net) on their activities and history of their club. What better way is there to get free advertising which is mailed out to over 200 families and is on the web @msmla.org



**REMEMBER WHEN**

*This person has been identified as our own Wes O'Dell from way back when. In fact he told me a year ago or so and I forgot to put it in.*



**GOOD BY FALL, WELCOME WINTER  
YA ALL HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND A  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

*From the MSMLA board of directors and  
shotgun committee*

**ALAN PICHAN ELK**

*Story and picture will appear in the next issue  
of the MSMLA news  
Congratulations Allan*