



December, 2012

Mountain Man Monthly

The Authorized Publication of the
Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders Inc.

The Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. was chartered in 1969 by a group of men and women interested in their heritage and dedicated to preserving and promoting the sport of muzzle loading and buckskinning. CSML is a family oriented club that holds a broad range of functions such as camp outs, potluck dinners, and black powder shoots. CSML is affiliated with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association.

Views and opinions contained within articles submitted to the **Mountain Man Monthly** are not necessarily those of the editor or CSML. The editor reserves the right not to publish any article submitted but encourages articles on any subject regarding shooting sports and subjects related to the fur trade era.



Happy New Year!!!

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Assistant Primitive Exec.
Tony Hecker
Womens' Primitive Exec.
Dee Beaupre

Cannon Master
Richard "Singe" Stites

Mountain Man Monthly
Editor
D. Webb

Monthly Meeting - Jan. 3 Wild Game Potluck Trophies & Tales

Club Paper Shoot - Jan. 6 Club Primitive Shoot - Jan. 20

CSMLA Annual Trade Show & Convention - Feb. 16-17

DUES are due!!!
Still only \$15 per family per year.

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	January 3, 2013	wild game potluck; awards
Club Paper Shoot	Fort Melchert	January 6, 2013	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
CSMLA Annual Trade Show & Convention	Deadline for Dinner Reservations (\$27)	January 10	choice of London broil, pan seared chicken, vegetable strudel
CSMLA Annual Trade Show & Convention	Deadline for Room Reservations (\$85)	January 14	Holiday Inn Denver East (303) 321-3500
Club Primitive Shoot	Fort Melchert	January 20	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
2013 Board Meeting	Joy's House	January 22; 7:00 p.m.	set club calendar for year & such
Club Paper Shoot	Fort Melchert	February 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	February 7	white elephant gift exchange
CSMLA Annual Trade Show & Convention	Holiday Inn Denver-East Stapleton	Feb. 16-17	State Association annual meeting; loads of things to do
No Primitive Shoot	due to CSMLA	Trade Show &	Convention in Denver!!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 3	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	March 7	regular monthly meeting
Daylight Savings	time begins	March 10 set your	clock AHEAD 1 hour!!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 17	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	April 4	regular monthly meeting
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 7	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	April 21	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Colorado Squirrel Shoot	near Loveland	April 27-28	www.buckhorns skinners.com
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	May 2	last meeting before the 38 th shoot
NO CLUB SHOOTS	IN MAY --- WORK	ON THE 38TH	ANNUAL SHOOT!!!!
Annual Memorial Day Shoot & Rendezvous	Florence Mountain Park	May 25-27	biggest & best shoot in the state! Come and join the fun & shoot.
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	June 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	June 6	post annual shoot discussion

For CSML scheduled shoots; CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 632-7690 after 9:00 a.m. on shoot day to be sure shoot is on!!!
Schedule is subject to change at any time and is based on information available at time of publication. On-line check csmlinc.org

PAST THINGS

December's meeting was a fun one. We had a couple of new members and saw some of our older members at this meeting. The food was good and lots of it as always. There were some very interesting ornaments this year. Hope each of you decorated your trees and had a very merry Christmas.

We all signed cards for Ron and Juanita for their Christmas gift from the club. We also presented Susan (the bartender) a small gift of our appreciation for all she does for us. It is always a good thing to remember our friends and those who support us during the holiday season.

Given the craziness of our weather lately, not sure if there was a paper or primitive shoot in December. The only reports we received were from the pistol shooters. Thank you Ken, for your reports and results of these matches. Seems as though we are "collecting a group of pistol shooters who are as interested as you are and all seem to be enjoying the matches".

Reminder to all to check the website for up-to-the-minute information. Doug is very good about posting the information as soon as he hears it.

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## Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. Regular Monthly Meeting December 6, 2012

At the Christmas meeting of the CSML, it was good to see Kathie Hendricks and Carl Price. It was also fun to welcome Dave and Adam Votava, new members. Dave and Adam had been to the Memorial Day event a couple of years and joined our group at the gun show.

Minutes of the previous meeting were printed in the newsletter. Motion made, seconded, and passed for acceptance of the minutes as published.

Up next was the Treasurer's report by Gwen. She noted that we had garnered 39 cents interest on our account and that is all there was to this month's

report. She did not feel that there was enough information to qualify the cost of printing a report. (A treasurer looking at the profit margin for the group.....what a great thing!) Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to accept this report.

Ted's Membership report noted that we have had 21 new members join this year for a total of 89 member families. He also reminded everyone that dues are now due. Some folks have already begun to pay but we all need to remember that dues are due in January of each year.

Primitive Report began with Doug noting that Tony ran the last shoot. Then Tony told us that there were 8 shooters, it was a good day for shooting with only a light wind, and he was glad to have been able to have a shoot.

**Old Business:** The first point of old business was a report by Don Stoner on the last gun show. He noted that there was one member signed up at this one. The next one is scheduled for January 12-13, 2013. Need to plan to have folks come and help man our table at this one.

Reminder given to all that the reservations for the 2013 State Association Annual Trade Show and Convention are drawing near. Please be sure to get your reservations made. Also it is time to get your nominations for the Muzzle Loader of the Year submitted to Tom Gabor.

Marlin and Barb Johnson brought a card that was sent to them as a result of their recent demo at the handi-camp. They noted that all who came were very happy to attend and found it very gratifying to be a part of these kids' day.

**New Business:** Doug took the floor and thanked all who came to the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition meeting. We really showed them the whole realm of muzzle loading and the family sport that it is. Gwen & Michelle talked about family participation; Barb & Marlin did history and the fur trade; Ken West had his pistols and top hat; Ted & Dee talked about hunting as a family group; Joy talked about the demos we do for kids and groups; Todd & Blake talked about father & son activities; Tom Gabor talked about rifle building and sharing this with his wife Sandra; and Tony, well, he got picked on a lot but he was a valuable part of the club and it's happenings. "You

make me so proud!!!" was Doug's final comment.

The PPFC will be hosting their annual Christmas dinner one week from tonight (December 12) and all are invited. They will provide the meat and service ware, everything else is a potluck. Be sure to come if you can.

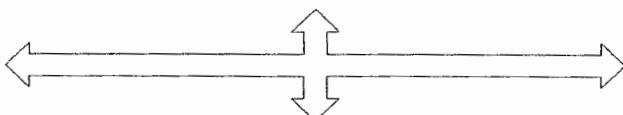
It was noted that since we now have a new copier, the old one is being moved to Todd's house so that he can use it to make copies of targets. It still has some life and this is a perfect way to use it. It will also be easier for Todd to have it there and not have to go somewhere else to use it.

It was noted that the shoot was held on Sunday, but Todd was not here to tell us about it. We understand that the weather was good and not much wind.

Announcements were made. We then asked Susan to come into the room. Joy presented her with a token of our appreciation for all she does to make our meeting space a nice one and help us with the service. Susan was surprised but very thankful for the card.

There being no other business for discussion, a motion made, seconded, and passed for adjournment. So done.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doreen Webb, Part-Time Secretary



## December 2 Paper Pistol Match

By: Ken West

The wind didn't seem to bother anyone but me. Of course, I claimed it as an exclusive excuse before we started shooting.

The scores were:

|               |       |
|---------------|-------|
| Jim Murray    | 92-2x |
| Fred LaChance | 84    |
| John Udovich  | 81 x  |
| Ken West      | 77    |
| Rich Anthony  | 77    |

Jim seems to be getting consistent at scoring above 90. Rich rejoined us after a long absence. I keep hoping for Tom Campbell's unfailing sense of humor on the firing line. Don Anderson is shooting a pistol better than I remember. We keep trying to drag him to a match.



## 38<sup>TH</sup> Annual Shoot & Rendez

I know with snow on the ground that you probably aren't thinking of the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Shoot and Rendezvous. However, it is fast approaching and we need to begin thinking about vendors and donations and such. It won't be long and we'll be selling ads to cover the cost of printing the shoot book.

Gwen has volunteered to send letters to vendors and she is planning to take packets to the ones at the State's Annual Trade Show and Convention. If you know of any vendor that you would like us to invite to our event, please be sure to get the name and address to Gwen. The sooner we do this, the better turnout we will have.

If you have any ideas for prizes for kids or materials that you would like to donate, be sure and share them as well. The sooner we start the better and less work at the end of the season.

It's also time to go through your plunder and see what you have that you no longer use or need. The club tent is always open and Marilyn does a fantastic job of selling your stuff for you. Just be sure that you put a price on the item and let Marilyn know if you will accept anything less.

Let's all join in and make this the best shoot ever!!!

## December 16 Primitive Pistol Match

by: Ken "Suds" West

Six of us braved the wind and cool weather to shoot gongs. Twelve gongs are used as targets.

The scores were:

|               |          |
|---------------|----------|
| Jim Murray    | 12 gongs |
| Ken West      | 12 gongs |
| Fred LaChance | 11 gongs |
| John Udovich  | 11 gongs |
| Rich Anthony  | 9 gongs  |
| Jorge Carbo   | 7 gongs  |

We decided that it was too cold to shoot a tie-breaker. I offered to let Jim put \$3 of the prize money in the range fund, but he insisted that I take the honor of depositing all \$6. I brought a new (cheap) range finder and was surprised that most of the gongs are further from the firing line than I had guessed. The squirrel and prairie dog are 22 yards and the last four round gongs are 28 yards.

While I hit all six of the knock-down targets, none of them fell. Firing a .350 ball with 6 grains of powder, they will only fall if I hit the very top and I didn't want to risk the shot in a match. After the match, I found that the combination of ball and powder will tip them if they are hit within a half-inch of the top.



## BOARD MEETING

Our group has scheduled a board meeting at Joy's house on January 22, 2013. This will begin at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is open to all members.

This meeting is where we discuss our club's annual calendar and what we plan to do for the year. It is also where we will begin the plans for the annual shoot. We'll be approving the prices and such for the event.

Please mark your calendar and come to the meeting!

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## THE BUFFALO, GIVER OF LIFE

Almost all necessities of the Plains Indians of Colorado came from the buffalo. Babies, wrapped in the soft hides of buffalo calves, sucked on buffalo meat and lived on a diet centered around buffalo the rest of their lives. Their mothers ground buffalo dung into a fine baby powder (moss was also used, with "diapers" of soft hides). Fresh buffalo meat, especially the tongue, was enjoyed the most; however, since buffalo were difficult to hunt in the winter strips of meat from buffalo killed in the summer were sliced thin, dried in the sun, and stored -- food known by non-Indians as jerky. Pemmican was also made from dried buffalo meat and berries.

Strict rules were followed during a buffalo hunt. No individual could start hunting without the others. If the herd was disturbed before the hunters assembled, those responsible for frightening them would have their tipis torn down, their weapons and horses destroyed, and their clothing torn. In some tribes the offenders were flogged by the soldier societies.

Hunting buffalo on horseback was thrilling and dangerous. The hunters wore only breechcloths and guided the horses with their legs or knees so their hands would be free to throw spears or shoot bows and arrows, or later, repeating rifles. The dust from the panic-stricken, charging buffalo made it hard to see, and hunters had to ride close enough to get a good shot. Before firearms, each hunter's spear or

arrow was marked so he could tell which buffalo (or enemy) he had killed. Many Indians preferred using arrows to guns for just this reason. Right-handed marksmen guided their horses to the right side of the buffalo, and the spear or arrow was thrust or shot into the kidneys. Some bows were so strong that an arrow shot from them would go in one side of a buffalo and out the other. The hunt usually lasted about ten minutes. Although the horses could run as fast as the buffalo, they could not keep up the rapid pace for long. There was only enough time to shoot a few lances, arrows, or bullets.

Hunters also stalked buffalo on foot when there were no buffalo horses, when the snow was deep, or when there were few buffalo in the herd. This activity was a challenge that showed the skill and cunning of the hunters. Covered with wolf skins, they would mingle with the herd and silently shoot many buffalo cows with arrows, without the herd noticing. Guns, of course, could not be used since the noise would create a stampede.

A carcass was butchered by at least two people. Some sources say that a buffalo was butchered while lying on its back. Others claim that because of the hump, a dead buffalo was butchered lying on its stomach. When butchered in this position, sharp stone knives were used to cut the skin along the back, and the hide was pulled down on each side of the animal. The skin served as a mat on which the best meat, sliced from the hump, was placed. The front legs were then stripped of meat, then the back legs, pelvis, vertebrae, and head. The soft parts of the animal, such as the liver, kidneys, brains, parts of the nose, the marrow of the leg bones, blood, and fat, were eaten raw at the butchering site.

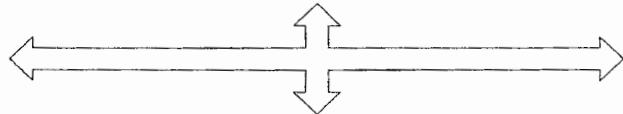
When the meat was dragged back to camp, everyone feasted. After pulling meat-laden travois to the village, the dogs scampered back to the kill site and devoured the scraps. Mother dogs ate their fill and returned to camp to regurgitate the chewed meat for their puppies.

The sheer number of necessary items made from buffalo parts testifies to the ingenuity of the Indians and to the importance of the buffalo to Plains culture. The hides were used for numerous purposes. Hides taken in summer were staked out on the ground and scraped by women with scrapers made of buffalo

bone then made into tipi covers. In the winter sometimes they left the hair on the hides to make warm sleeping robes or mittens, caps, and moccasins. Hairless hides were also made into stiff boxes called parfleches in which clothing, food, tools, cooking utensils, and other items could be carried. Rawhide (untanned skin) was also made into cooking kettles and round, tub-like boats, which were not used for river travel but for carrying things across water. Arrow quivers -- cases to carry arrows -- and moccasin soles, drums, and saddles were also made from rawhide. Both broken tools and broken bones were splinted with rawhide. From rawhide of a bull, good rope was made which was tied when wet so it would shrink when dry; this it could tightly bind a travois or a stone axe to a wooden axe handle. The thick neck skin from a bull was used to make battle shields for warriors. Although buffalo hide was too thick for most clothing (whenever available, deer, elk, or antelope hide was made into shirts, dresses, and breechcloths), the thin, soft hide of buffalo calves was made into underclothes.

Drinking cups and spoons were made from buffalo horns. The hooves provided glue. The sinew, or tendons, from along the animal's back were made into bowstrings and sewing thread. Needles were made from sharp pieces of bone. In the winter children scooted down hills on sleds made of buffalo ribs.

Since people on the move had little use for breakable baskets or pots, buffalo stomachs were cleaned thoroughly and served as water bags, food carriers, and cooking pots. Hot stones were added to liquid rather than placing the pots directly over the fire. A real treat was hot buffalo blood boiled in a buffalo stomach. Plains Indians supplemented buffalo meat with deer, antelope, rabbit, and wild turkey as well as plant foods such as wild potatoes and onions, spinach, and prairie turnips. Because there was little firewood available on the Colorado Plains, except for trees growing along the rivers, dried dung, commonly called "buffalo chips" was used as fuel for cooking fires.



## THE ARRIVAL OF THE HORSE

One blazing summer day in the year 1541 some Indian buffalo hunters saw a sight in the distant haze that baffled them. Snaking down a hill were over two hundred men covered with hard, shiny skin that reflected the sun and seemingly attached to huge dogs. As they came nearer, the hunters were shocked to find the men were white-skinned and had hair on their faces. What the Indians saw were the armor-covered soldiers of the Coronado Expedition sent from New Spain (Mexico) to find cities of gold rumored to be located on the Plains. Although the Spaniards were disappointed in their search, Spanish horses eventually became as valuable as gold to the native hunters of the Plains.

The buffalo hunters learned that a horse could carry four times the load a dog could and travel twice as far each day, even though Indian dogs were strong, big, and long-bodied. Before horses, Indians hunted buffalo on foot when herds were in the area; but it took days, sometimes weeks, to catch up to them, and the buffalo might move on as soon as camp was set up. By contrast, horses could carry all the camp equipment, and riders on horseback could easily keep up with the herds.

With the arrival of horses scattered groups of hunters and gatherers banded together to hunt the far-roaming buffalo herds. As the Plains Indians became raiders, the warriors left the women and children in protected camps while they sought their enemies on horseback. Their loved ones no longer had to suffer the consequences of warfare along with them. The few Indians living on small farms along the rivers of southeastern Colorado also soon saw the advantages of horses. These useful animals, along with the buffalo, helped create a powerful, exciting culture that thrived in Colorado from the late 1700s until the middle 1860s, after the Civil War.

In this culture horses became the focus of many activities. A man's wealth was measured by the number of horses he owned. As a child, he cared for foals; when older, he watched over the camp's herd with other young men and was given a fast horse of his own. A boy was taught that stealing horses from rival tribes or ranches was a necessary skill. Much time was spent training a horse to ride close to

stampeding buffalo -- a dangerous feat since a hazard as insignificant as a rodent hole could trip the most intelligent horse, sending both horse and rider to the ground where they would be trampled to death. A good buffalo horse was worth several pack horses. The best buffalo horses were wild mustangs that had been captured after becoming accustomed to grazing alongside herds of buffalo.

Mexican and Indian strays probably formed the first wild horse herds in Texas around 1650. The herds grew and spread from there north into Colorado, especially along the Arkansas River Valley and east of Colorado Springs. Capturing wild horses was not too difficult if done in the spring when they were half-starved from winter. At that time of the year the horses were usually full of fresh grass and water and not in shape to run very far. To capture horses, one hunter would lie flat on his horse's back, ride close to a herd, and then charge into the herd, scattering the horses. Other men would ride from behind low hills, where they had been hidden from view, and capture the horses. George Bent, son of the Cheyenne Owl Woman and the famous trader William Bent, described capturing horses in the 1860s:

Each hunter had a long slender pole with the noose of his lasso fastened to the end of the pole. As he overtook the mustang he was pursuing, he rode up alongside and slipped the noose over the wild horse's head. He then "choked down" the mustang until it was subdued, then threw it, put a rawhide halter on its head, and "tailed it up" to a tame horse. Gentle old mares were usually taken along to be employed in this work. The wild horse's head was tied close up to the mare's tail. This was called "tailing" the mustang. Old mares were best because the wild horses soon became very friendly with them and followed along after the mares without giving much trouble.

The horses remained tied to the mares' tails all the way back to camp. While still tied, a man would gently rub a horse's nose, ears, and back. After a while he would place a buffalo robe on its back and lead the mare and wild horse around the camp. Hobbling the wild horse, the man would untie it from

Circle (Medicine Wheel) is a common motif represented in ancient rock art and other mediums including modern jewelry designs. The circle is often divided into four parts, representing not only the four directions and four races but the heart, soul, mind, and body as well as the four seasons of life. In the Medicine Lodge constructed for the sun Dance, the circular shape of the lodge represents the universe while each post surrounding the lodge represents some object of creation.

Traditionally, an entire camp might be set up in a circle. Each clan was assigned a place within the circle to pitch its tipis, and wide walkways divided the clan groupings. Guards were usually camped on the outside to protect the people. Tipis were erected with the doors facing east, so the lodges would be sheltered from the blasting winter winds that usually blew from the west. When people opened their tipi door in the morning, they would greet the rising sun. At night, the fires lit up the tipis, and they looked like hundreds of giant lanterns.

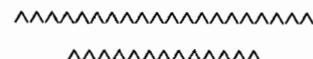
Tribes had favorite campsites where they stayed seasonally. Generally, in the summer camps were located on the Plains by rivers where cottonwood trees provided firewood and shade and where grass for horses was plentiful. The lush grasses of North Park and South Park located on the east side of the Rocky Mountains attracted animals, and consequently hunters, during the summer. There were often battles in these areas because enemies of the Plains tribes, particularly the Utes, were frequently encountered at these sites. In the fall before the winter winds blasted, the camps were moved west, closer to the protection of the Rockies.

Several guards known for their bravery usually slept outdoors near the camps, in the rain, hail, or snow, to watch for horse raiders. Some had an equally important job -- to watch for buffalo. If a nearby herd started moving during the night, hunters were warned so they could follow the herd.

When an entire camp moved due to a change of seasons or to be closer to a large buffalo herd, there would be a flurry of activity as dawn began to break. Young men and boys would round up the horses while women would take down the tipis and load them, along with the family belongings, onto the horse and dog travois. Young children and older people unable to

ride horses would ride on the travois, and women would ride horses with small children on their laps and babies in their cradle boards hung on the saddle pommels.

A moving camp of Plains Indians could be several miles long. Scouts rode in front to look for buffalo, enemies, and good campsites. The chiefs and hunters followed, and armed warriors rode on each side of the women and children. According to George Bent, the Indians spread out as they traveled and "...there were no well-marked trails in the plains. The Indians knew the whole country like a book and took any route they pleased. They traveled by landmarks from one stream to the next. As the Indians did not travel in 'Indian-file,' as the whites seem to suppose, they did not leave a deep-marked trail, and after the village had gone on, the trail would soon disappear and leave no mark in the grass". By contrast, trails were more clearly defined in the plateau and mountain regions, where rugged topography limited the available travel routes, usually to animal trails. Some of these ancient trails are still in use today. When the new camp was reached, tipis were set up along a stream, near trees which provided firewood and poles to make meat-drying scaffolds. Level ground was needed not only for lodges but for stretching and drying buffalo hides.



Our wish for you in the coming year is that you find peace, happiness, and love among your family and friends. Courage to face the unexpected and grace to know what you can and cannot change.

Pray for our service men and women who are far from home; that the good Lord brings them back safely to their families.

