



Poke and Stroke

The official publication of the Colorado State Muzzle Loading
Dedicated to the preservation of the muzzle loading sports
October, December 2024 Issue

Annual family membership \$30.00 Junior membership \$15.00
Membership Director: Chris Baker, 17338 E Asbury Cir, Aurora CO 80013, 720-936-4218,
bakedchris@yahoo.com Download membership application at: <https://www.csmla.net/join-us>

Letters, articles, and advertising should be addressed to Mike Lee Editor, CSMLA *Poke and Stroke*, 7430 Deviney Court, Arvada, CO 80005 or emailed to editorpokeandstroke@gmail.com All material submitted is subject to editing for content and space considerations. Commercial advertising rates available on request from the Editor. Our web site address is www.csmla.net

Here Are Some Upcoming Events. Full Info Inside

February 21st thru the 23rd
Frozen Toes Rendezvous, Ft. Lupton,
Colorado

CSMLA Winter Convention and Trade Event
Golden, Colorado

Keep an eye on the Ft. Lupton club calendar. Not much going
on now but as the weather warms things will be picking up!
Fmlc.org

May 10th - 12th 2023 Annual Squirrel Rifle Championship
Shoot with the Buckhorn Skinners.
Watch for flyer in coming issue

New Web Site Feature, Members Trade Blanket

<https://www.csmla.net/members-trade-blanket>

COLORADO STATE MUZZLE LOADING ASSOCIATION, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EVENT COORDINATORS

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Ray Ezinga, 5258 North Monroe Ave. Loveland CO 80538

Official positions of the Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association, Inc. are expressed only in written minutes of Board of Directors or General Membership Meetings, or as noted in articles by-lined by CSMLA officers

SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO THE *POKE AND STROKE*

If you have information on shoots, club meetings, re-enactments, classes or other items that would be of interest to our membership, please send it to: Mike Lee, Editor, CSMLA *Poke and Stroke*, 7430 Devinney Court, Arvada, CO 80005 or email to editorpokeandstroke@gmail.com Written or digital information are preferred, **HOWEVER**, phone calls will be accepted. Deadline for publication is posted in the most recent edition of the *Poke & Stroke*. If you have an article to share, we appreciate it. Your name will appear on the article. Material may involve any aspects of muzzle loading, including but not limited to: history, crafts, trades, gunsmithing, hunting, and rendezvous. Photographs are especially welcome; black & white photos or color is fine. Digital images sent by email are preferred but any format is welcome. The Editor and the CSMLA are not responsible for loss or damage in the mail to manuscripts or photographs. All material will be edited for content and space requirements. Letters to the Editor will be accepted in any legible form. Mention of a product or service in advertisement or article does not imply endorsement, approval nor testing by the CSMLA

HONOR ROLL

The following individuals are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association.

Founders

Paul Arndt
Cliff Malmquist
Eugene Ball
Dell Mendenhall
James Ball
Hez Salsbury
Chuck Deats
K. C. Williams
Jacob Dewell
Chuck Wolf
Harlan Goodner

MUZZLE LOADERS OF THE YEAR

1988 Barry Conner
1989 Del Mendenhall
1990 Al Main
1991 Chuck Deats & Fred Newcomb (co-winners)
1992 Ray Ezinga
1993 Bill MacAfee
1994 Larry Webster
1995 Ron Melchert
1996 Charlie Webb
1997 Ken Klabor
1998 Ramona Laffler
1999 Dave Burman
2000 Jack Riddell
2001 Paul & Marcia Kelly
2002 Joy Hicks
2003 Doreen Webb
2004 Stanley B. Honour
2005 Jerry Farringer
2006 Larry Hicks
2007 Doug Davis
2008 Doug & Bridget Rightmire
2009 Ron Ring
2010 John & Mary Jo Kummer
2011 Scott Drake
2012 Tom Gabor
2013 Marlin Johnson
2014 Ken Wee
2015 Estill Ator
2016 Darrel Kolebar
2017 Ron Deurmyer
2018 Ron Mann
2019 Louie Silva
2020 Ted Beaupre
2021 Dee Beaupre
2022 Erin Olefson (Griz)
2023 Mike Lee
2024 David McCord

Clubs and affiliates

If you are a member of a club that is not listed and you would like it to be, or you want to update this information, please contact the Editor.

Buckhorn Skinners

Ron Ring
3513 Red Orchard Ct, Loveland, CO
80537 rring282@gmail.com

Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders

Ted Beaupre, President 719-329-8126
941 Daffodil
Fountain, CO 80817
paper shoot - 1st Sunday 1:00 p.m.
www.csmlinc.org

Ft. Lupton Muzzle Loading Club, Inc.

Jaramie Allee, 731 Grand Ave.,
Platteville, CO 80651
juniorallee@gmail.com 970-473-4710
See <http://www.flmlc.org/> for shoot information

High Plains Muzzle Loaders

Bill Phillips 970-454-2109
Jim Eckersley (970) 353-8200
jimeckersley@comcast.net
shoot - 1st Sunday - 9:00 a.m. June, July & August 10:00 AM other nine months
Public welcome.

Kit Carson Mountain Men

Park G Wood 719-688-5696
27039 West Ridge
Lamar CO 81052

Rocky Mountain Men of Aurora

Chris Baker (720) 936-4218
shoot - 1st Sunday at Aurora Gun Club

San Luis Valley Renegades

Earl Wilson 719-580-9750
Meetings 2nd Thursday of every month 6 PM. Call for location
Shoot Sunday after 2nd
Thursday 10 AM. (Weather permitting)

South Platte Valley Historical Society

P.O.Box 663 Ft. Lupton,
CO8062 <https://www.spvhs.org>

Starvation Trails Muzzle Loaders

C.J. Biwenga (303) 646-3090
John Kummer (303) 646-2724

Tallow River Trappers

Members of SPVHS
<https://www.spvhs.org/tallow>

LIFETIME ACHEIVEMENT AWARD WINNERS

2013	Ray Ezinga
2014	Larry & Barb Webster
2015	Jack "Mato" Cardinbal
2016	Darrel Koelber
2017	Doreen Webb
2018	Joy Hicks & Gwen Blanchard
2019	Ron Ring
2020	Dale Crabb
2021	(snowed out)
2022	Doug Davis
2023	Hez Salsbury
2024	Ron Mann

Advertising in the Poke

Did you know that you can place your business card advertisement in the Poke & Stroke for only \$10 per issue? Contact the editor at editorpokeandstroke@gmail.com

Editor's Note

If you are listed on the Masthead (page two) please check for correct information and advise the editor of any needed corrections.

If you have or know of an upcoming event let me know so that we can get it publicized here in the Poke and on the website.

The CSMLA has a printer for sale.

Kyocera TASKalfa 4500i with Duplexer and Finisher, Serial # NLS1X00075. \$2500 Contact the Editor if interested

editorpokeandstroke@gmail.com

Website Update

Traffic on the website is increasing regularly. Our members are using it as well as non members who wish to learn more about the CSMLA and muzzle loading in Colorado.

www.csmla.org

Here are some changes to our CSMLA members postal match. The format is changed in a way that will make the match more accessible to all our members. Here are the entire rules for the postal match including changes which are in **bold**.

What is the entry fee? There is no entry fee. There is no cost to participate. Who can enter? The CSMLA postal is for CSMLA members only. Memberships include all family members including children under age 18 and junior members.

How do I get targets? You can download targets at

<https://www.csmla.net/csmla-postal-match>

What if I don't have access to the internet how can I get targets? **In a pinch, you can contact Ron Mann at 303-257-7239. He will send you a single target which you can copy or have copied.** Targets do not have to be mailed in. **Text or email a photo of your target (get close!) to Ron Mann at 303-257-7239** oldbuzzard101@yahoo.com Targets and photos of targets must be whole. No missing corners or torn off portions.

The match is scored monthly and winners determined annually. **At the end of the year the shooter with the highest single target score for the year will win 2 pounds of powder. The shooter with the second highest single target score for the year will win 1 pound of powder.** Winners will be announced and prizes awarded at the annual Convention and Trade Show in March. Bragging rights will be on a monthly basis. The scores for the monthly will be updated in each issue of the Poke and on the website at <https://www.csmla.net/csmla-postal-match>

FIRED IN ANGER - Gunplay Along the South Platte as transcribed by Ken Wee

Here is a second entry in a series offered to Poke and Stroke readers.

Rufus B. Sage left Independence, Missouri in 1841 and wrote about his adventures in the Rockies for the next three years and had them published in 1846. Traveling south between Forts Vasquez and Lancaster, both along the South Platte River he recorded this on page 209 of his journal.

"A short distance above this, at a point of timber occupying a large bottom, had been the scene of a fatal duel the previous winter, between two whites by the names of Herring and

Beer. On my first arrival in the country I had become acquainted with both of the actors, and felt much interested in the details of the bloody affair as related by one present at the time of its unfortunate occurrence. The difficulty between them related to a Mexican woman from Taos, - the wife of Herring.

Backed by a number of personal friends, and anxious to obtain the lady from her husband, the former had provoked a quarrel and used very insulting language to his antagonist. This was received with little or no reply, but soon, however, resulted in a challenge which was promptly accepted.

The preliminaries were arranged in confident expectation of killing Herring, who was considered a poor marksman, especially at an offhand shot. The weapons selected by Beer were rifles, the distance fifty yards, the manner off-hand, and the time of shooting between the word fire and three. The two met, attended by their friends, at the time and place agreed upon, - at the word "fire," the ball of Beer's rifle was buried in a cottonwood a few inches above the head of his antagonist,- at the word "three" the contents of Herring's rifle found lodgement in the body of Beer, who fell and expired in a few minutes."

A second entry in his journal on pages 211 - 212 described another shooting, this time at Fort Lancaster, later called Fort Lupton and the southern most of four fur trade forts along the South Platte River.

"Some twelve or fifteen Mexicans were at this time present at the Fort. They constituted a trading party from Taos, escorting a caravan of pack-horses and mules, laden with flour, corn, bread, beans, onions, dried

pumpkin, salt, and pepper, to barter for robes, skins, furs, meat moccasins, bows and arrows, ammunition, guns, coffee, calico, cloth, tobacco, and old clothes, which were to compose their return freight.

A worse looking set was here presented than that previously described in the second chapter of this volume. Some of them were as black as veritable Negroes, and only needed only the curly hair, thick lips, and flattened nose, to define the genuine Congo in appearance. A more miserable looking gang of filthy half-naked, ragamuffins, I never before witnessed.

Their cargoes had already been disposed of at various prices, according to circumstances. Flour and meal were sold at from four to six dollars per fanega, (one hundred and twenty pounds,) and other articles at like prices. Their first asking price was at the rate of twenty dollars per fanega; but an affray which occurred with a small part of Americans, immediately upon their arrival, had made these produce merchants much more reasonable in their demands.

The particulars of the affair were rather disgraceful to both parties. The Americans, anxious to purchase a quantity of flour, offered to take it at the asking price, provided the Mexicans would receive their pay in robes of a rather indifferent quality. This the latter refused and a dispute arose, when insulting language was used on both sides, coupled with threats of mutual injury.

The Mexicans retired a short distance and camped, - soon after the Americans, four in number, rushed among them and drove off their entire cavallard, containing twenty head of horses and mules. The Mexicans seized their arms for resistance, and the commandante advancing demanded of the nearest assailant:

"Que quiere, cabellero?" (what do you want, sir?)

"Yo tenga lo caballardo,--porque dicirme esta?" (I have your horses,- why do you ask?)

"Carraho, Americana!" said the Mexican, leveling his gun at the speaker. In an instant a pistol-shot from the latter laid him prostrate,- the ball entering his chest near the heart. No further resistance was offered, and the assailants retired with their booty.

The next morning, however, they returned, and the two parties compromised the matter by certain conciliatory arrangements, which result in the Americans giving up the captured animals, on condition that the Mexicans should in future be less insolent and conduct their trade on more reasonable terms.

The wounded man recovered in three or four weeks, and was now ready to accompany his party on their homeward-bound journey."

These two excerpts came from Rufus B. Sage's book ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIFE an account of his adventures in the West from 1841 to 1844 also titled ROCKY MOUNTAIN LIFE or, Startling Scenes and Perilous Adventures in the Far West, During an expedition of three Years University of Nebraska Press Lincoln and London First Bison Book Printing: April 1982

Next here we have the story of Ken Wee's trials and tribulations in his 2024 elk hunting escapades.

Dispatch: to Editor, Poke and Stroke November 20 2024 From: Ken Wee at Beecher Island Memorial Battle Site.

Precisely two months ago I was blessed to fill my either sex muzzle loading elk license forty five minutes into the hunt.

Extenuating circumstances made this seem unlikely. A nasty cold with persistent cough and congestion after Trapper's Day Rendezvous made me suspect whooping cough or COVID. Waiting for negative test results delayed setting up base camp and canceled spike camp nine miles back.

Acclimating and healing enough in primitive camp allowed me to venture out on Friday, September 20th with only two and a half days left in a nine day season.

Acting on a tip from two friendly out of state early season bear hunters, I knew exactly where to start. Being somewhat familiar with my Game Management Unit (GMU) the past forty years had it's advantages. Collecting reliable intel from locals, other hunters, outfitters and Colorado Parks and Wildlife personnel helps when you can't do your own boots on ground reconnaissance. With trusty heavy full stock .54 flintlock in hand and even heavier hunting pack on my back, I didn't feel particularly optimistic.

Besides the severe winter kill in 2021 on the Bears Ears herd, greater non hunting traffic from hikers, cyclists, E-bikers, horse ranch dude riders, "City-Slicker" style pseudo cattle round ups, pine bark beetle kill, aspen disease deforestation and recent forest fires all cumulatively contributed to reduced cervid densities and

increased dispersal. Less elk, more stressed, farther apart. The unwise (polite for idiotic) and poorly timed re introduction of known livestock predatory Oregon wolves has made immediate and negative impacts on livestock and wildlife. Just how severe and permanent these will affect Colorado wildlife remains to be seen.

The wind was coming from the wrong direction and cooking odors from last night's supper still lingered on my hair and skin. A solar shower and shampoo would have wasted another day. Treating hunting clothes with a scent shield and wearing a pine scented wafer would have to suffice. Within several hundred yards of where the bear hunters were surprised by a curious cow elk three days earlier, I too came face to face with a medium sized one. Could this be the same cow that startled them on this less traveled trail along a willow lined creek?

Before I could ask, at twenty yards it did an about face, ran off a short distance only to halt abruptly and approach a second time. Strangely it ran away again only to come back, the third time was not only a charm but slightly different, It came right at me with no indication of slowing down or stopping, Noticeable were veins in the ears, moist nostrils, whiteness of eyes not showing fear but curiosity. Now at twenty feet, not yards I was forced with a quick decision – where to shoot. Her head covered the throat, It bobbed to rule out forehead placement, Hesitate much longer and I'd be left with the dreaded and ill advised Texas heart shot (The south end of a north bound deer).

A hunting friend of mine usually asks the animal “are you here for me?” three times. If it hadn't vacated the premises by the third query he took it as a “yes” and also took the shot. The next few moments lasted several blinks of an eye yet seemed like stop action slow motion frames in a movie. Pull cock to full, point muzzle left of breast bone, pull unset front trigger. A snap shot without lining up the sights. Without delay FLASH – BANG – RECOIL – WACK! Through the cloud of white smoke I saw the cow head to her left down toward the willows and creek. There it collapsed and expired.

The deafening silence was a stark contrast to the previous loud explosion. What followed was an intensely private and sacred bitter-sweet moment of joy, sadness, gratitude, humility and somber reflection. Life and death in a flash of lightning and a clap of thunder. If life is sacred then the intentional ending of it is also sacred. Most hunting stories soon end with details on loads, range, autopsies and how rigorous the pack out and field dressing was. The .530 hand cast soft lead round ball traveled the entire length of the body cavity and came to rest against the inner hide by the tail. I didn't ask the meat processor if they ever found a .018 thick red pillow ticking patch lubed with bear grease and beeswax nor did I find it while field dressing to check burn marks from the 70 grain fffg charge of goex.

The field dressed elk yielded five bundles including the hide. Ferrying a bundle at a time in the dark following blaze orange

surveyor tape flags took seventeen hours to reach the bridge and vehicle. The total weight of 300 pounds over seven and a half miles extracted a toll on my body I'm still paying. Hoping to still get a remaining first season (any legal weapon) bear tag I took the meat to be processed by a new butcher in town – something I rarely do. Doing your own butchering guarantees quality control, sanitation, and that you get your own animal back. Never got to hunt bear as the hide, bones, hooves and leg sinews still needed attention. Prior to hunting, along with special prayers, an oath is pledged to the animal to treat it with respect in life and after by utilizing as much as practical from it's sacrifice.

A final quirky twist to the story concerns the meat itself. Elk burger tacos were served at a rendezvous with no problems. Later a taco Tuesday dinner ended with diarrhea or the “runs”. Wonder if it got it's name from how one gets to the toilet. The elk head was never taken into Colorado Parks and Wildlife to test for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). They will reimburse your processing fee if your animal (moose, elk, deer) tests positive but only if they test it. They won't test from meat samples.

A lab in Minnesota will for \$60.00. You send a slice in one vial and a one inch cube in another. After receipt of payment and samples they email you results within two weeks of testing.

Several questions are posed, Did

the beef suet added to make burger make the diners sick? How about the pork fat for the sausage and brats? How good a job of cleaning the plant, tools and grinders did the processor do? Was the lack of fear of humans in this elk an indication of CWD? A list of symptoms such as lethargy, excessive salivation, thirst, urination, emaciation, hair loss on the hide, and strange or aggressive behavior should be evaluated, Was this cow, who had milk in its udder, a mother protecting a calf? No calf was seen in the vicinity of the harvest. Improper thawing of frozen meat can cause illness too.

So to conclude, I anxiously await the CWD test results. Better to be safe than sorry though there is no documented evidence of human fatality from consuming elk, deer or moose with CWD.

Considering the hunt took 45 minutes to "make meat" but seventeen hours to get to a locker and no heart attacks, strokes, slipped or cracked discs, broken legs or arms or sprained ankles were experienced by the hunter I would chalk up the 2024 edition of muzzle loading elk season as a wonderfully memorable success, Thank god for elk, elk hunters and elk hunting in Colorado, WAUGH!!

Some CSMLA History

I Recently received several emails from our member Paul Kelly. Paul has been around for a while and he was a past Editor of the Poke & Stroke and has gathered together some of the history of how the CSMLA was born. Follows is a brief introduction by Paul along with a

description of the very beginnings of the CSMLA.

Paul has provided additional bits of history which will be appearing in future issues of the Poke & Stroke.

Here's Paul:

"This was written by Gene Ball (Grizz) and ran in the first Poke in Fall of 1973. When I wrote a history of the Association in 1997 many who were still around told me this was as accurate as they could remember. It was written while the events were still fresh. I relied on it a lot"

Paul Kelly

"A little history – Uncle Grizz

How did this Association get started? Who organized the thing? Where did it all begin? Well, I'll try to answer these questions and a lot more in the months to follow. Most of it's gotta come out of my hed' cuz in the beginning we didn't write things down.

It all started at the State Championship Shoot at Grand Lake in July, 1972. The subject was brought up one night in the men's john where a bunch of us had gone to get out of the rain. Harlan Goodner, Jim Ball, Charley Deats, Cobb Wolf, K.C. Williams, Lil' Bear Ball, Jake Dewell, Paul Arndt, Ron Janc, myself, and a few others was havin' a bull session. Jake Dewell asked us what we thought of a State Association. We kicked it around, but no decision was made.

Then a few months later, K.C., Jake, Lil' Bear Ball, and myself were in K.C.'s truck headin' for Duchesne, Utah, to do a little shootin' with Tom Floyd and the Duchesne Zephers Club. As we were tuckin' along, Jake said to K.C., "What do you think of this State Association thing?"

K.C. said, "Not much".

Jake asked, "Do you think it would work?"

K.C. replied, "No!"

A few more niceties were exchanged. Then Jake asked, "Would you guys be willing to try it?"

K.C. replied, "I guess so."

Well, we all had a good time at the shoot. We visited with Gary White and Les, his chief mechanic. Did some shootin', enough to steal two pistol barrels from Tom Floyd. Got K.C.'s rig stuck in the sand at starvation Res. When we went swimming. But not much more was said about the Association.

That fall I was invited to a few meetings that impressed me. The most impressive was the Game and Fish pre-season meeting here at the Moose and Goose headquarters. Cliff Malmquist invited me as his guest just to see the action. Cliff and the Denver Muzzle loading Gun Club are the people who got you a muzzle loading season here in Colorado. Sometime I will relate the story of how it was done, but a lot of the credit must go to Cliff Malmquist. That meeting sure opened my eyes. I can tell you all that is a game of politics that you wouldn't believe if you saw it. I decided then that to really have a voice at the Moose and Goose we had to have this Association.

We really started to see what could be done. Around Christmas time I called Paul Arndt in Leadville, he being the guy most centrally located in the state. I ask him if he could find a place to meet and if he would be part of this state association, if we could put it together. He said he would try. I called Harlan Goodner to see if he would be willing to take a chunk of the Association for the Western Slope and come to the meeting at Leadville. He said he couldn't wait to get there.

We started talking it up here to the

organized clubs.

When the Denver Gun Club had their Gun Show at Adams County Fair Grounds, Bill Rutherford called me and offered the Association a free table. I went out just to plug the Association. Bill also has been a great help to me. When I went to the Denver Gun Club meeting to thank them for their support at the show, he passed he hat to help get things on a paying basis.

Jim Ball at the Golden Gun Club in Golden held a shoot to raise money for the Association. The Rocky Mountain of Aurora threw in also.

Around the first of April we had a meeting at my house to get things firmed up a bit and planned a meeting in Leadville on the 28th of April, if Paul Arndt could arrange it. He did and we did. People from a goodly part of the State were there. Mick Meilike, Muley Carr, Lyl' Bear, Cobb Wolf, Silent Philips, K. C., and myself from the Rocky Mountainmen of Aurora, Jake Dewell, Ron Janc, Slick Ron Long, Bud Greenwald from the Denver Club, Harlan from Grand Junction, Ted Jump from Alamosa and, of course, Paul Arndt of Leadville in his classroom at the school where the meeting was held.

We set down some by-laws that we all could live by, then elected officers. K. C. Williams was elected President. We all call him the "mountain That Walks Like a Man". Haran Goodner,

Goody as he's called, is First Vice-President. Second Vice President, Mike Meilike, called "Funny Gun" by people who know him. Secretary is Jim Ball. He is the guy who does all the work, sends you all the Association junk. Bill Large hung a nickname on him that is a dandy, "Jasper Juniper". I'm your Treasurer, Gene Ball by given name, Uncle Grizz for fun. The Range Officer is Paul Arndt, we all call him "Starchy" and he is. The historian is Robert Ball, my son. He ain't worken too

hard of I wouldn't be writing this. We all call him "Lil' Bear", and that is a story in itself.

After this was all done, Jake Dewell announced that he and Slick Long had accepted an invitation to run a shoot in the name of the Association at Colorado City. That, my friend, put the fat in the fire. We had just barely gotten this Association started and had a shoot to run. The only support we could on was in that school room in Leadville. We had some 60 days to do it in.

This is where I'm gonna leave ya. Next bulletin I'll give ya some more."

Uncle Grizz

More History From Paul Kelly

(Editors note) This next recounting is also by Gene Ball (Grizz). It actually precedes the article above and references the State Shoot which was actually taking place before the CSMLA was formed and then goes beyond the time of that formation. Here's Paul again:

"After twenty plus years, this is the best I have been able to do. There are no digital records, and now most of the people I spoke with are gone. This may be as good as it gets. I'm transcribing Grizz's second article from the second Poke. Even if you can't use this stuff I feel better knowing it's stored digitally in more than one place."

Paul

"Shooting muzzle loaders never really died out. In fact, the last commercially available were trade guns sold in Western Canada into the 1930's. Many people still lived by hunting there and were nervous about getting ammo for a cartridge gun, so they kept a muzzle loader for backup.

In the early 20'th century in Colorado

there were people still shooting originals, but there just weren't high enough concentrations of shooters in any area to justify clubs. In the 1940's the Denver Muzzle loading Club affiliated with the National Association but that was just about it.

By the late 60's, however, things had changed. The population of the state had increased and clubs were forming outside Denver. The centennial of the Civil War had just happened and interest in shooting muskets and reenacting had gone way up. The country's bi-centennial was coming up which increased interest in colonial reenacting. And, the state's centennial was also coming up which increased interest in the fur trade era and the rendezvous period.

It seemed like it was time for a state shoot. SO, the Denver Club put one on. It was held in 1968 at Nederland and the only information I have is that it was sparsely attended and some people I talked to thought Ron Long won. (Ron did win in 1969, I think, so this could be a confused memory. Then again, maybe not. We'll see.)

The 1969 shoot was in a meadow by Grand Lake and starting that year (? maybe) a trophy was engraved with the name of the men's champion and he got to keep it for the year. In 1980 when it was retired, it was awarded to Ken Hayden who had won it most often. In 2001 Ken sent me a list of the winners from those years. The problem is that I might have shifted the years.

1970, 71, and 72 were all held at Winding River Ranch, also by Grand Lake. Here's what my notes show for those fist five years, but they're probably wrong.

1968 ----- ? maybe Ron Long
1969-----Ron Long

1970----- Jerry Rhodes (Texas)
1971----- Jerry Rhodes
1972----- Ken Hayden

To further complicate things, I have a group photo labeled "Winners - Winding River Ranch 1970". The problem is that the guy in that picture holding the trophy sure looks a lot like Ken Hayden. I can see no way that can be right.

I think the memories I heard were right and the list I got from Ken was right. I think I got the years off and the picture was mislabeled. This is what I think now.

1968---- Ron Long
1969----Jerry Rhodes
1970----Jerry Rhodes
1971---- Ken Hayden
1972-----Ken Hayden

People die, memories fade, and no one had a personal computer back then so nothing is filed digitally anywhere. If written records ever existed, I cannot find them and no one has come forward with them. So, unless something new turns up this is probably as good as it will get.

It was at the 1972 shoot that the "Out House Gang" proposed a state association. The main reason for this was to create a unified voice to deal with the Division of Wildlife to expand hunting. They already had a state shoot.

They met in April of 1973 and agreed to do it and incorporated the State Association in May. They agreed to hold elections at the state shoot from then on.

There was no way they could organize a state shoot on such short notice, and there was no reason to. The Denver Muzzleloading Club had the 1973 shoot ready to go.

The 1973 shoot was held at Half Moon Campground Northwest of

Leadville and the men's champion was Ken Hayden. (Unless I had the years right in the first place, in which case it was Ron Hayden, but I don't think so.)

All the shoots from 1974 till 1980 were held at Camp Hale North of Leadville. Nobody saw any reason to change things, so the same people continued to put on the shoot, but now they were also members of the State Association. So, they listed the Denver muzzleloading Gun Club and the State Association as co-sponsors. It wasn't till 1979 that the State Association took over the whole thing. The good thing is that from 1974 on the results were published in the "Poke". Well, at least most of the time.

1974:
Men
Percussion-----Ken Hayden
Flint-----Ron Hayden
Bench-----Louise Dobson
Light Bench----Ken Hayden
Pistol-----Ron Carr
Musket-----Ken Hayden
Women-----Louise Dobson
Junior-----Mark Hayden
Sub-junior--Jerry Crocker

1975:
Men
Grand-----Ken Hayden
Percussion----Ken Hayden
Flint-----Rex Yazel
Pistol-----Ed Brown
Musket-----Ken Hayden
Shotgun-----Charlie Semmer
Women-----Corky Brown
Junior-----Dave Malmquist
Sub-junior----Alan Asmussen

1976: No results published, but if I have the years right the Grand was Ron Hayden. If not, it was Ken Hayden.

1977:
Men
Grand-----Ron Hayden

Percussion-----Ron Hayden
Flint-----Ken Hayden
Bench-----Ken Hayden
Light Bench----Ron Hayden
Pistol-----Ken Hayden
Revolver-----Ron Hayden
Musket-----Ron Long
Shotgun-----Larry Finnell
Women-----Stella Brown
Women Pistol--Kathy Adleman
Junior-----Kris Hayden
Sub-junior----Ron Harding

This is the first ten State Shoots. I may get more information in the future, but at this time, I doubt it. I'll do the next ten in a future submission."

2025 Muzzle Loader of the Year

It's that time of year when all members of the Association are called upon to nominate candidates for Muzzle Loader Of The Year! All nominations are considered and a new Muzzle Loader of Year will be named and inducted at the annual Convention and Trade Show in March. Decide who you would like to nominate and submit your nomination in writing either by email to dmccord60@earthlink.net or by USPS to: David McCord, 855 Newport Street, Denver, CO 80220

Muzzle Loader of the year has been a continuing award given for many years. The list of past Muzzle Loaders Of The Year can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. So, put on your thinking caps and decide who you think is a good candidate. Your nominations should be highly detailed and describe why you support your nominee. Don't spare your superlatives Understand that nominations and nominators are kept private. Only the chosen candidate is named.



Colorado State Muzzle Loading Association
ONE-DAY WINTER CONVENTION and
TRADE EVENT
March 8th, 2025

Elks Lodge #2740 16795 W 50th Ave Golden, CO 80403

Trade room will be open to the public on Saturday, March 8th from 8:00am to 4:00pm

Trade room open to vendors at 7:00am

Classes: Dale Crab Flintlocks Ted Beaupre Makin Bacon
Lloyd Shindelbower TBD Amanda Alee TBD
Ken Wee TBD Other classes TBD

CSMLA Membership Meeting - Election of Officers 4:00pm - Awards 6:00pm

REGISTRATION FORM

The first space or trade blanket is FREE for Members for this special event!! (based on an 8' front). Non-members \$10.00 each. Additional space cost is \$10.00, if space is available. **Do you want a vendor space or trade blanket? Yes [] No []**

Number of additional spaces requested _____ X \$10.00 = \$_____

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Dinner will be pay as you go at Malones Restaurant just north of Elks Lodge
14455 W 64th Ave, Unit G, Arvada, CO 80004 **Total Number of Dinners: _____**

Please let us know if you will be attending dinner so reservation counts can be made.

Name: _____ CSMLA member Y [] N []

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email _____

Return completed form by February 23, 2025 to:

Ron Mann
5332 Howell St, Arvada, CO 80002
303-257-7239
oldbuzzard101@yahoo.com

Ron Ring
3513 Red Orchid Ct, Loveland, CO 80537
970-692-4658
rring282@gmail.com

FROZEN TOES RENDEZVOUS 2025

At Historic Fort Lupton, Colorado



Sponsored by the Tallow River Trappers

(South Platte Valley Historical Society)

February 21st - 23rd

(Early Set Up Saturday, Feb. 16th, Tear Down Sunday the 23rd)

TRT MEMBERSHIP MEETING on Saturday Morning 10:00am

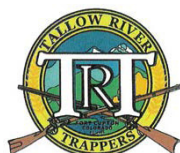
Booshway: Shaggy & Missy (720-431-3599) and Segundo: Tony Thom (720-940-7646)

TRADERS WELCOME: Traders may be asked to donate a prize
 Above Ground Fire Pits Required, Shovel and Water Bucket Must be Visible
 Water and Some Firewood Onsite..... Absolutely NO Tree Cutting!
 No Vehicles in Camp after 6pm Friday Unless Pre-Approved by Booshway
 Pets **MUST BE LEASHED** at ALL Times
 Campers Must Be in Pre-1840's Dress after 6 p.m. on Friday night and
 throughout the rendezvous
 NO Visible Plastic or Aluminum
 Camps with Horses **MUST HAVE** proof of Insurance
 Cannons in Designated Area by Pre-Approval **ONLY**
 (Owners **MUST** Sign Waiver before any "Fire in the Hole" commences)

FEES:
 Non-Member Camping Fee: Family \$40 & Single \$30 and
 Members Camping Fee: Family \$35 & Single \$25
 Modern Camping and Tin Tipi areas Plus (space limited) Electric hook-up available for
 an additional \$10 fee

**Enter the Annual Chili Cook-off
 contest on Saturday night**
 (Other Events to be determined)

Living History Events & Demonstrations



Tallow River Trappers
www.SPVHS.org/Tallow-River-Trappers

