



**GRAND VALLEY CAP N BALLERS™  
SMOKEPOLE JANUARY 2018**



**JEFF'S JOURNAL**

*January 2018, Michigan, the weekend after the New Year began there is two feet of snow on the ground at the range and what should we do? Can we get in to have the Shoot and Meeting or not if we can move that much snow? Larry called on Thursday and said "he would try to plow to the club house and parking lot if he could". The result was of course he could not and on top of that he ended up with a damaged truck to boot. After that I then checked on the weather report for the coming Sunday. That forecast was for a little warmer but very windy with a chance of snow later in the*

*day and so the decision was made, I called Ron and asked him to send out the word there would be no activities at the Range that weekend. There was a third option, have a contractor come over and plow, that option is expensive and besides there is not any real pressing Club business we would have to deal with anyway. To you die hard shooters I'm sorry I left you in the warm and not out in the cold, although later I heard from a few who were happy I made that decision because they were still recovering from illness and this way they didn't have to be tempted to leave the comfort of home. On that, I can seriously say me too, even though cabin fever sets in early for me, last weekend I was one where I was happy to be home. Then what happened four days later the temperature goes up to 60 and 90% of the snow melts away, now it if would just stay away for awhile and give us a break for a month or two I'd be even happier. While I was contemplating what my decision for the shoot weekend would be my thoughts wandered back some 35 to 40 years ago when I first arrived on the scene at the Grand Valley Cap "n " Ballers Range. Back then we were all like our mailmen neither rain nor snow or wind or cold could keep them from their rounds or keep us from attending a scheduled shoot. Oh yes! We did shoot under all those conditions and no plowed driveways or covered firing line or benches either. A typical Winter shoot day would be something like this and remember we have 1 to 2 ft. of snow on the ground. Arrive at the Range about an hour before the scheduled shoot time of 1 pm, find a place to park along 26<sup>th</sup> st. (gravel road at*

*that time) then take out your sled put your rifle and everything else you needed for the day on your sled, open the east gate strap on your snowshoes and make your way to the range. When we were there, we would brush the snow off the three or four old wire spools someone had acquired and get ready to shoot. Nope not yet! we have to tramp behind each other to make a path to the 25yd. line so we could hang our target. Then follow the path back to the firing line, Um! Exactly where is the firing line? After some digging we found that 4 x 4 marker under the snow and then kind of made a line off the guy who was closest to the marker and prepared to shoot. As I recall almost everyone shot from their bag to avoid having the walk back through the snow to the bench. After 3 or 4 targets we had enough of the cold and made our way to the basement to get warm. The earliest arrival usually started the fire in the woodstove in the basement so it was toasty by the time we shooters came in out of the cold. After a half an hour of warm-up and conversation, we sat ourselves down for the monthly meeting. I don't believe it was ever necessary to refill the stove at a meeting back then because the topics were so hotly debated that it was not necessary to do so. The room was just heated by the debates and an occasional flaring temper. After things settled down and adjournment took place, it was pack up your stuff on your sled trudge back to your car with the hope a snow plow hadn't come by and boxed us in. In spite of all that effort, we had a great time and I would not want to trade the experience for anything. You might ask me*

*if that was that much fun why did you cancel the shoot last weekend. There are several reasons which relate to almost all of us months conditions will be much improved and then so will attitude about our February weekend.*

*My prayers go out to all of you who have been or are sick right now the flu season came way to early this year and shows no sign of letting up. Get well soon and I hope to see you there*

*. (1 ) age (2) aches and pains we all have those and (3) enthusiasm that's affected by the previous other two. Let's hope next have those and (3) enthusiasm that's affected by the previous other two. Let's hope next months conditions will be much improved and then so will attitude about our February weekend.*

*Jeff*



*Ha, Ha-didn't have to run for cover this past weekend*

***A snowflake is one of God's most fragile creations; but look what they can do when they stick together***

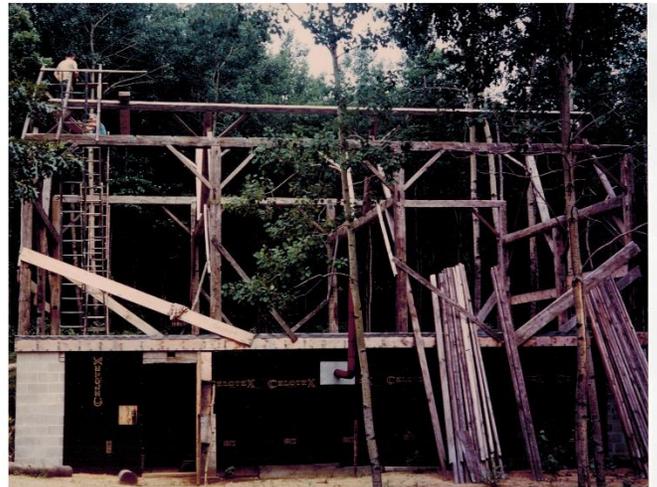


## **FOR SALE**

*Flintlock Rifle built by Dick Miller. Delores Haag is wanting to sell Dean's rifle. It is .45 caliber built in 1977. Not a lot of use. There is some tasteful carving in the wood and a wood patch box in the butt. Curly maple stock. Call Dick Miller at 616-532-5552 for more information. This is a great way to get a fine rifle and not wait until the proverbial second coming for delivery.*



*Foundation of the of the club house going in. Members on the work detail are Bonnie Schantz, Bob Lawton, Bob Bernard, Elmer Schants and son Chris in the year of 1969.*



*1970 Club House going up*

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

*Dick Miller will be supplying lunch at the February meeting. Be sure and be there to see how great a cook he is. I hear that he puts some good grub together.*

## **SMOKE POLE NEWS LETTER**

*Any member not receiving the Smoke Pole please let me know so we can get your e-mail or snail mail into the system. We were going down thru the membership list and found two members that were not on the mailing list.*

*Bonnie*



*The new concession stand going up. This is on the current site of the old Traders cabin and concession stand. Date unknown*

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

*The Thurkettle family as they have a new Grandson in Texas that is having medical issues and Dawn's mother has recently had a stroke.*

**GVCnB 2018 MEMBERSHIP AND CAMPSITE RENEWAL FEE**

Annual dues and campsite fees are payable no later than January 31, 2018. Payment must be made to treasurer either at any meeting or postmarked no later than January 31, 2018. This form must be completed with payment. Make checks payable to Grand Valley Cap N Ballers. Fill out ahead of time to avoid confusion. Thanks.

If you have a designated campsite and the fee is not paid ahead of time, FEE WILL BE DOUBLED AFTER JANUARY 31, 2018. If not paid within 30 days after January 31, the unit must be moved off club property, or it will be impounded by local law enforcement.

**REMEMBER THAT ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE CAMPING UNITS ON CLUB PROPERTY ARE EXPECTED TO CARRY INSURANCE ON THEIR UNITS OR ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE THAT MAY OCCUR WHILE ON CLUB PROPERTY.**

Please fill out the following in very clear and legible print and return to GVCNB, 16808 Peach Ridge, Kent City, Mi. 49330

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 NMLRA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dues \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Campsite Fee \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Submitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Group Camping Area \_\_\_\_\_  
 or Lot Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Membership Status Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Life \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year Joined GVCnB \_\_\_\_\_