



THE SMOKE POLE

February 2017

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From the Editor:

Thank you for your comments regarding the newsletter! Please don't hesitate to contact me via email or my telephone number. It may take a couple of issues to ensure smooth delivery. Thank you for your patience!

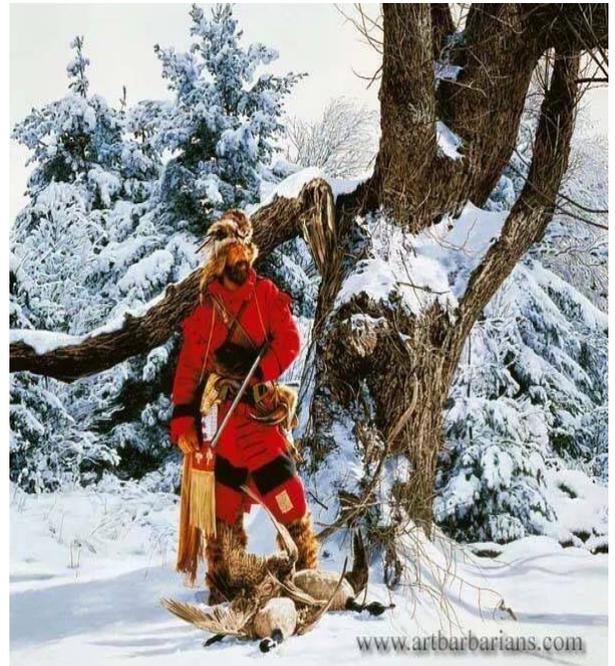
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Regards, Laura

Jeff's Journal

Here we are into February, the shortest yet longest month of the year. That's because we think of March as when Spring arrives. That's true, but since Spring arrives late March the reality is we are just a week over halfway through winter season. We had a couple of days last week with sunshine and the forecast is for a sunny and warmer weekend. This time of year a little sunshine goes a long way to help lift my spirits. Maybe with a few sunny days here and there we will get the impression we are closer to Winter's end than we really are. Most of us are more than ready for it to be over. That was definitely on my mind when preparing to go to the range for the shoot and meeting last weekend. I stepped out the front door with my rifle in hand and was met with a cold gust of wind; it prompted me to return my trusty rifle right back to the safe. Hopefully next month it won't be so cold and I will be able to shoot! Now instead of my rifle and accessories all I needed was my briefcase, a notebook and pen to conduct the meetings. On my way to the



Range I was having second thoughts about leaving my shooting stuff behind when another thought entered my mind, "hey—you won't have to stand in your cold shed cleaning a gun. Instead, you will be sitting in your favorite chair with food and a beer awaiting the beginning of the Super Bowl." OK, I can live with that, at least for this month anyway. I arrived at the range and there were a few people there. They had a nice fire going in the woodstove and I did not regret my earlier decision to leave my rifle at home. I was surprised to see how many people were there to shoot and as more people arrived, it was apparent we did not have enough 50yd targets available. I asked Larry Horrigan who was February shoot Range Officer about this; he said "I never expected this many shooters in February and with all the ridges surround-

Fire and some lunch. This month's lunch provider was Jackie Armstrong and she brought a homemade bean soup that was just delicious. Thank you Jackie! Next month's lunch provider will be Dick Miller. We shall see what delicacy he comes up with. There were several items discussed at the meeting. These items include: (1) The Club calendar of events is posted on MUCC website; (2) State Shoot will be at our Club in 2018; (3) Delores Haag has Muzzle Blasts from past years. If you would like them, please contact her; (4) Prices on Schuetzen Powder have increased slightly and the adjustment to our pricing has been made; (5) The combination gate locks continue to be a problem. I had hoped after a year I would not have to say that. Please take time to make sure the lock is not upside down when leaving. Spin the dial so passcode is changed when you leave. If using in cold weather, please have something to apply a little heat for ease of operation to enter. The code has been changed. The new code is on the back of your membership card; (6) Thank you to Cheryl Snyder, Pam Adams and Ron Fernwalt for taking the time last month to audit our books. I'm glad to report there were no discrepancies! (7) I have received several donated items that are to be sold at the Living History Show in March. I am willing to accept more items at next month's meeting should you want to provide them. I will see you at the March shoot and meeting.

-Jeff

MARCH SHOOT INFORMATION

The March Shoot will be range "officered" by none other than the legendary Dick Miller. This is to celebrate exactly 50 years, to the exact day, of membership in GVCnB. I will add one special match that everyone is eligible to compete in at no added cost. Just register and pay the monthly shoot fee. The match will have a special prize for the best score, worst score and a drawing of all the competitors for a prize. The prizes will be all equal in value and they will have a value sufficient to make you want to compete! I am financing this event personally, so I would like to see a good showing of support for the club.

-Dick Miller

Reminder from Ro

COME CELEBRATE DICK'S 50-YEARS WITH GVCNB!

"Come celebrate my 50 years with GVCnB at the March Shoot!"

- Dick Miller

SHOOT SCORES

Trade Gun 25y	Men's 50yd OH	Woods Walk	Men's Novelty
1. Ed Henson 47 3x	1. Ed Henson 43	Flint: 1. Dennis Priddy	1. Dennis Priddy 43
2. Larry Horrigan 46 2x	2. Dennis Priddy 39	2. Kurt	2. Ed Henson 43
3. Dennis Priddy 45	3. Tom Knight 29		3. Roger Pierce 42
Trade Gun 50y	Men's 25yd OH	Trade Gun: Ed Henson	
1. Ed Henson 38	1. Roger Pierce 45		
2. Larry Horigan 36	2. Dennis Priddy 39		
3. Dennis Priddy 45	3. Tom Knight 29		

Ron's Report

On January 15th, the Keeler Society met in Flint for a meeting. Those that knew Pa Keeler, he would be celebrating his 100th birthday this year. Six of the Keeler Society attended (of which I am a proud member) and came up with a Centennial Patch that will be given out this year at the State Rifle Matches and the Michigan State Rifle Pistol Territorial. This patch will be free just by registering at the shoot and shooting a target with the same gun 3 shots from the bench and 2 off hand. No scores are kept; when target is completed, you will receive your patch. The same goes for MSMLA Shotgun Championship and the Michigan Shotgun Territorial. Register in the Territorial and the State Championship and you will be given a score card to shoot 5 shots from the 10 yard line. No scores kept; your card will be turned in and you will be issued the patch. These are all muzzle loading rifles and shotguns.

The State Association is in hope that it will draw more participants from out of state to the State shoots and Territorials which means more money for the State Association and the local clubs involved.

At each event, there will be a silent auction for a framed picture of Pa Keeler. For those that didn't know Pa Keeler, he was a great promoter of muzzleloading and wrote a monthly article for Michigan Out of Doors magazine and it was called "Pa's Powder Horn." Ask an old-timer that knew him and they can tell you many stories. It would take a ream of paper and time to write it all. I was very privileged to know Pa and am proud to be a member of the Keeler Society.

- Ron

*"Sponsor sheets,
calendar of events and
event flyers are in the
rack"*

-Ron

Advertising

Being a member of MUCC allows us to advertise our events online in their calendar. All but 3 are listed including our meetings, Waiting for more info on the 3 events. Hopefully this will draw more people to our events and monthly club shoots. As Don Rose says, it's "OPM." If you don't know what that is, ask Don!

-Ron

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Muzzle Loading Gun Club

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Visit our Webpage
www.gvcnb.org

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Organization

On a Personal Note:

As many of you know, we have lost two members of GVCnB. Please see last page of the newsletter for tributes to both.

Under the weather—Joan Wadsworth has returned home following surgery. Please keep the Wadsworth family in your prayers.

This and That:

Another year of Territorial competition from around the country is complete. Here is the Territorial Top Gun report. We are very proud to see that we have members of GVCnB in the top 10! Those that made the top 10 were: Ladies Trap Championship: **Bonnie Fernwalt**. Ardith Knop who supports our club and shoots with us also placed in the top 10. Trap Championship: **Richard Wadsworth**. Flintlock Trap Championship and Flintlock Skeet Championship: **Ed Henson**. Great shooting and congratulations to all! Ed Henson used his Trade Gun in the aggregates he placed in.

Time again to ask for sponsors for our upcoming events. There are sponsor sheets, event calendars and event flyers available in the rack in the clubhouse. There are two different letters for sponsorship. One for new and one for thanking those that sponsored last year. Ron has removed his name and you may sign your name to it as sponsorship chairman.

Ron drove through the shotgun area and all looks very well. Everything is intact and no branches were down or lying on trailer roofs.

Remember— Living History Show is March 18-19, 2017 at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, Kalamazoo County Fairground, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo MI. Admission is at the door: Single day: \$7.00, Weekend pass: \$10.00. Hours are Saturday, 9-5 and Sunday, 9-4.

Dates to Remember:

March 5, 2017 Club shoot and Membership meeting

March 18-19, 2017 Kalamazoo Living History Show

This month has been a very sad one for our Grand Valley Cap 'n Ballers family, losing two of our longtime friends to cancer the earlier part of the month. Paul Van Slooten passed away February 7th and Jerry Schricker last Saturday.

Jerry was a life member of our club since 1990 but was an active member many years prior to that. Before his cancer diagnosis, he was one of our most dedicated members. Whenever a work detail was called, he was there to lend a helping hand. He was instrumental in some of our major building projects such as the covered firing line and the construction of our permanent outhouse facilities to name just two,. Several times he came to me with a suggestion on facilities that were in need o repair and then without asking, just went ahead and did the work. At our Spring and Frontier Shoots he was always one of the first people to sign up to be a Woods Walk range officer. The Woods Walk was where he truly liked to be always one of the first to shoot there on the Sunday mornings of our Club Shoots and then taking part in the monthly meeting. The cancer and treatment weakened him to the point where he was not able to be at the Club as much as he wanted. The last time we talked was this past fall. He rode his bicycle to the club one day when I was making repairs. We stood for a half hour and I told him of happenings at the Club and our plans. Dedicated to the end, Jerry will be missed for his sense od humor, help and loyalty. Rest in peace, Jerry. You have certainly earned it.

I first met Paul Vanslooten when he became a member in 2008. When he did, he jumped in with both feet and then it was full speed ahead. I soon realized Paul was "Mr. fix-it" and he did. Plumbing and electrical issues were his specialty which I greatly appreciated. Paul and his wife Peggy loved to spend time and camp at the Club. They made many friends and were involved in Ladies shoot and other activities. Paul served on the Board of Directors and Vice President for 2 years. Woods Walk was his venue of choice when it came to shooting. As the cancer took his strength, he was not able to do many of the things he enjoyed at the club. One of the last things I can remember is seeing him walk the grounds he loved with that big dog of his. We will miss you, Paul, and may peace be with you at last.

-Jeff