

Eastern Platte Muzzleloaders

More Wind from the High Plains!

MAY 2007

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Life is what happens when you are making other plans.
John Lennon

PRESIDENT: Cal Griffiths
VICE PRESIDENT: Sean McKown
SECRETARY: Jim Klinger
TREASURER: Fred Rieser
RANGE OFFICER: Mike Benham
GUN SHOW CHAIR: Butch Appel
WEBMASTER: Karl Lindholm
NEWSLETTER: Pat Appel

NEXT MEETING! June 12, 2007 Perkins
72nd St. (N. of interstate)

Howdy Members!

Anybody seen my pen? I can't do this without the tools. My computer wiz-teacher-swami-techno-nut professor Karl.(dot)comLindholm would say " You don't need a pen with a computer. " What kind of wiz can't figure out I threw it across the room and went back to " the old ways ? " Isn't that what this club is all about?

The meeting of May 8th was a real hoot. Actual club business was discussed but it wasn't as good as the food. Nine members attended to bash their brains against past and future business, and luckily no one was hurt.

I'm to remind members that dues need to be paid by the end of May or renewing cost is \$ 75.00. New members must pay \$ 75.00 anyway, with a membership probation period of one year. And if you're already a member and miss your dues for a year or more and want to rejoin, the cost is \$ 75.00. If you woke up this morning and you were still breathing, EPM would like \$ 75.00.

The new combination to the range was decided at this meeting. I'm not allowed to pass it on because it's a BIG SECRET for those not current with their dues. We're doing our part for National Security. So if you don't want to end up in the CALaboose or want to visit the range after the end of the month get your dues into Fred last week.

Members may want to check off on their CALendars the following dates:

- 1) club shoots are the 1st Sunday of every month
- 2) the meetings are the 2nd Tues. of every month
- 3) work parties are the 3rd Sat. of every month

The next scheduled work party is for Sat., May 19th. Members who want to help out might want to bring mowers, weed whackers, chain saws, and other such boring yard implements. (wake me up for the next paragraph..) And most important of all---bring something for a " shared lunch . " If you get overstuffed and bloated you can beg off working after the feast!

On June 16th a work party has been scheduled to spruce up the range before the SANDS event on the 17th. We need to " be prepared " for visitors. You know what Cal always says, " You got to chew your corn flakes BEFORE you get up in the morning! " I'm sure this Editor will get the job of cleaning out the potties, (French for " hooters ") because apparently, the bears don't s_ _ t in the woods... I thought I could give up being the " poop fairy " when I landed this important news job, but when you can fly and have all that " poop knowledge " floating around in your brain, they put you to work! So come on down and help beautify the range (EPM CAListhenics) for our visitors and if you have to pee, head for the woods! Those hooters are only for nice-nice.

Vice President Sean McKown is planning a mountain man " walk through the woods " competition for the Fall Shoot. What kind of challenge is that? I think Sean's making it a too-easy competition. Now if he could get those guys

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to pee in the woods...

The road to the range by the 1st bridge is in need of rock. Cost will be \$ 125.00. Butch Appel (where do I know that name from?) was hired by Cal and members present at the meeting to do the job. All agreed they'd rather trust and pay a club member to get the work done.

Nick Siracuse and Carol Bucholz are taking on the duty of having EPM flags and T-shirts produced again. Carol is making the flags with her own hands. She once made the huge EPM flag that was used at the trade fair. (and by the way, if any member knows where this flag IS, please let an officer know. we are looking for it!) For newer members who wouldn't know--- Carol and her husband, Neil, were founding members of EPM and have known our landlord, Richard Mougey, forever. The sign over our creek bridge "THUNDER VALLEY, IN MEMORY OF NEIL BUCHOLZ " is to honor them and their many contributions to EPM. Our club is extremely privileged to have Carol back as a member. The ink on her check was barely dry and she is being of service to the club again. Carol is exceptionally talented at A LOT of things and we are lucky to have her.

Try not to piss her off!

Members should also welcome back Wade Farr and his wife, Karen. Wade is a former member of EPM and if you don't already know this couple, you want to. Both are down-to-earth, tell-it-like-it-is, humorous, sensitive, and full of sense people. It will be to our great benefit to have them hanging out in the woods.

Try not to piss them off!

Cal says if any member wants to use the range for other-than-club functions (such as reunions, Boy Scout events, beer blasts, or mountain man orgies) you must first seek permission from the club. These things must be known for insurance purposes and for our landlords' information. (and because Cal probably wants to be invited...)

INTERMISSION: Is it just my imagination, or are a lot of swear words creeping into the newsletter? Must ask Karl about correcting behavior of foul mouthed computers...

WELL, HERE IT IS!!

While you people were out enjoying your intermission, I was busy writing my 1st OFFICIAL REPORT on an EPM event! (It's going to get real chatty from here on in so you might want to fetch that last beer and the Cheetos)

The Spring Shoot was held over the weekend of April 28th & 29th and the weather was with us. Some members attending were: Cal Griffiths, Sean McKown, Jim Klinger, Nick Siracuse, Mike Benham, Karl Lindholm, Bob Dube, Carol Bucholz, John & Davis Anderson, Wade & Karen Farr, Ron Greenlee, this Editor & the Mister. If I've missed a members' name it isn't out of snottiness. It's just that my memory is not half acute as this computer's. (or a deranged newt, for that matter...) There were 4 campsites to fight over the food. On Saturday there were 8 shooters and on Sunday there were 13. We had visitors from Woodbine, Pawnee City, and Indian Cave. Prizes were select cuts of meat and leather for making black powder crafts. Sausages were cooked over the fire for lunch and served up with chips.

Sean and his dog, " Shadow, " were responsible for a lot of mayhem at this event! I'm sure everyone has seen Mr. Appels' sweet tempered, innocent, shy dog, " Buster. " Well, Shadow tried to EAT him! Lots of times! And we let him! We were all busy with our dinner around the campfire and had no inclination to try and civilize dogs. So Shadow is still a perfect savage!

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After dinner on Saturday night Sean started a bonfire for the enjoyment of campers. The fire was fueled mostly by his household goods, an old door, and gasoline just to keep our attention. EPM range is now a mushroom cloud over Georgia. (so screw your dues!) Thank God Cal has to explain it to the landlord. I report, not " 'splain. " Sean and Shadow... wouldn't that make a cool Edgar Allan Poe story?

On Sunday, Cal and Sean made breakfast for the entire camp and did a wonderful job of it! We were served pancakes, bacon, eggs, and fried potatoes smothered in white gravy. (no one should be surprised at these 2 wanting to smother things...) All of this cooked over an open fire and DELICIOUS in the end! I'm still amazed! Not sure I could pull that off in my own kitchen! 'Course Cal and Sean are helping the nice people at Mentals 'R Us make baskets now, but WE got fed in style!

I'm happy to report our creek is a babbling brook again. That peaceful sound has been sorely missed in the vicinity for quite some time. Members found a turkeys' nest with 3 eggs in it on a bank by the creek. Mama turkey had been frightened off. (Can't imagine why a female turkey would flee in terror at the sight of a male EPM member!) Our Sunday cooks threatened to scramble the turkey eggs in with the plain 'ole chicken eggs. I put a stop to that! Or I ate them at breakfast. Mountain man cooks are notoriously sneaky and I was tired because it was morning.

I had the honor of sitting at the range on Sunday with our " Youngin' of the Year, " Davis Anderson, and we had a nice chat. Mostly about snakes, spiders, ghastly wounds and other gross stuff. It was kind of like conversing with Bart Simpson channeling Freddy Kruger. Davis is my kind of kid. All joking aside, Davis' enthusiasm about the whole world is infectious and sometimes enlightening. He's going to make a great mountain man if his elder mountain men don't get hold of his ed-je-cation. And Davis, if you're reading this, don't you have some

homework or something to do? This is not suitable reading material for children! (or a reasonably aware adult...)

The really BIG hit of the Spring Shoot was--- Karen Farris' pickle relish! Nick was in a total rave about it, so I had to try it. Nick then had to be " quietly taken care of " because I didn't want to share what was left. Everyone who tried it, LOVED it! Maybe we could cajole (EPM-speak for " twist her arm off") Karen into sharing her recipe for this newsletter. FYI Karen also designs excellent wood crafts she sells out of her house or in yard sales. Give her a call if you're interested. After that free advertising she owes us a recipe!

For those several members who were stung by bees at the Spring Shoot it should infuriate you to know that this reporter heard a story on the national news entitled, " The American Bee Crisis--- Where Are The Bees? " I swear this is true. They seem to think bees in America are disappearing. Dumb asses! Where are the bees? At EPM range! The point you want to take away from this rant is that reporters on the " real " news aren't half as savvy as the one writing your newsletter. And don't get stung by bees. If you do, you may want to use some CALamine lotion.

On Sunday afternoon when the shodding was over Cal handed out prizes and declared EVERYONE was a winner just for participating. Cal and Butch like to remind people of this at shoots. Is that why I always see at least three guys chuck their guns into the woods in absolute disgust? And who is this Chuck and do we really want him in the club?

I declare the Spring Shoot was a great success regardless of the competing. There is no success greater than people coming together in friendship, humor, with their hard times, good times, baggage, and leverage. If you don't believe me--- ask the creek.

And leave those turkey eggs alone!
MAYBE Next Month, (because of all the law suits) PAT APPEL

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I asked our officers at the meeting if there was anything else they wanted in the newsletter. Sean said, " Recipes! " Can you believe it? He's getting to be quite the Suzy Homemaker! I LOVE how he cleans. Just burn the crap!

Anyway, Sean wants a recipe. (Cal just wants to EAT. Must need those CALories...) This is a " recipe " Pam Geiger and I literally threw together with what we had on hand once at the range. We were surrounded by starving mountain men (go SHOOT something!) whining for dinner. This is what we came up with. It turned out great and I still make it all the time. Pam said, " It's kind of like a Mulligan stew. " I said, " Well, we didn't DIE! " Here you are Sean---

at least 1lb of lean hamburger
1 small onion
4-6 peeled & cut potatoes
some carrots
1 can dill flavored green beans liquid & all salt-pepper to taste
garlic salt to taste
1 tbsp flour or corn starch to thicken (if wanted)

Brown meat with onion, salts, & pepper
Throw the rest in & let simmer 'til veggies are done
Add flour or corn starch to thicken

This stew is great for being so simple. I think it's the dill flavored beans. If you can't find these, use regular green beans & add dill seasoning. I think Pam said she found the beans at Hy-Vee. Getcher butt busy! I'll be expecting a pot of this next time I'm at the range.

THOUGHT FOR TOMORROW:

When he saw them all flee,
The skunk decided
He was the King of Beasts
Dag Hammarskjold

Maybe he knows we're in a wildlife preserve where lions can get away with anything. I was not unarmed; I had my Swiss army knife in my pocket with the built-in can opener, the corkscrew, the 2-inch folding blade, the screwdriver.

Edward Abbey

If you work on your mind
with your mind,
How can you avoid an
immense confusion?
Sing-ts'an

I don't know why we should expect Americans to be able to locate the Pacific Ocean, when a great many of them cannot locate their airplane seats.

Dave Barry