

AROUND THE FIRE  
IBPF April  
News Letter

As we look outside the snow is beginning to leave, thus the thoughts of spring, the shooting season and Rendezvous seem to be beckoning. We know the warmer weather is coming and with it the sounds of laughter and setting around the campfire with old and hopefully new friends.

Speaking of old friends, we spent the weekend of March 12-13th at the 30th annual New Ulm Trade Fair in New Ulm Minnesota. Great to see old friends, go down memory lane as we have been getting with the same group for the last 22 years. I know this as I have celebrated 22 birthdays with this wonderful group of people and have the opportunity to help three others do the same for their March birthdays, what a way to celebrate. Iowa Black Powder Federation was represented by Pevine and believe he had one renewal and signed up two new members, great to have every one on board. There were a few new traders here this year and with that brings new items to look at and try to decide what you need. If you have not been to this Trade Fair you need to make the trip as the variety of items is endless and Turner Hall has good cold beer to ease your aching feet. The food and the people of Turner Hall are worth the trip also. So get the second weekend of March marked on your calendar for next year and make the trip, you will like it.

Pevine has done a tremendous job in the last two issues of the Powder Horn News letting everyone know what is happening with the Federation so will try and not duplicate what has already been written. I will go a route with this article and discuss the facilities available at our up coming events. The Iowa State Chunk Gun Shoot is June 4th and is hosted by the Beaver Creek Plainsmen at Collins Iowa. This is a one day event and a great way to spend the day learning a new form of shooting. The range is covered and the loading benches make for a relaxing way to reload and have all your items at your finger tips. If you have never tried this old way of shooting you definitely need to give it a try as it is a challenge and you just may get hooked. There is a group of great people to help you understand this game and they will make sure you have good time. Shooting for the homemade pies make the trip worthwhile, so try something different you may find out you like it.

The State Rifle and Pistol Shoot will also be held and hosted by the Beaver Creek Plainsmen in Collins Iowa on August 12-13-14th. There is no electricity for the tin teepees but there is water, showers, hooters and firewood available with tons of camping area on either side of the creek. It would be great to see some traders but can not guarantee how many pilgrims and primitive campers will be there. If we could get some skimmers to come maybe we could hold some mountain man competitions or even start having an archery shoot for a state function along with the shooting, just a thought so let us know skimmers. We would appreciate seeing new faces, so again, give us a try you may just like us.

Next on the list is the State Black Powder Cartridge Shoot held on August 19-20-21 at the Pine Ridge Rifle Club's range at Steamboat Rock Iowa. This range has a covered 100 and 200 yard line with benches and the 25 and 50 yard lines are not covered. The range is well maintained and gives us plenty of space to shoot all yardages at one time. The range is located by the county park which has 30 plus campsites with electricity available. There are four water faucets around the campground, no dump station but very good restroom and shower facilities. The Iowa River runs by the campground so bring your fishing poles. There are plenty of shooting matches for rifles, pistol, revolver and bench so come and spend the weekend with us and you will get your shooting fix. We would love to see some new faces and if you need help we are there to help where we can.

Now we come to our last shoot of the year, the always popular State Shotgun Shoot to be held on September 23-24-25 at the Marshalltown Trap Club in Marshalltown Iowa. There are six or seven trap houses so we are able to shoot muzzle loader and cartridge trap at the same time so you can pick what you want to do. Did I mention we also shoot skeet using the old muzzle loading shotguns and cartridge shotguns and for some added fun we shoot under the lights with the cartridge shotguns loaded with black powder, hope for some breeze so you can see the clay birds. There is plenty of camping at the range, no electricity is available but there is a campground approximately 10 miles toward Marshalltown. The club is great to work with and allow us full use of all the facilities while we are there. I do not think you could pick a better way to end the shooting season than

being at the shotgun shoot. Here, again we have plenty of people willing and able to help new shooters. Come shoot with us and you just may get hooked.

These are the shoots which the Iowa Black Powder Federation put on for members and non-members and we try to have a variety of things to do when it comes to the shooting sports and all the events a just a few hours away from most location in the state, so stay in state and save on gas expense and come and find out who we are. Most, if not all of us were skimmers at one time, some still are, so come and join us and have some fun and we enjoy discussing rifles, pistols, black powder cartridge, hunting just about everything that has to do with skinning. Any question you may have we can probably find someone who has done it or is doing it. Hope to see some new faces at the shoots this year and thanks for taking the time to read this article.

Don "wheat" Wheatley