

HELLO AGAIN to all the readers of the Powder Horn News (PHN) and fellow Iowa Black Powder Federation (IBPF) members. The IBPF's most capable secretary, Norma Holcomb, "tapped me on the shoulder" (via email) asking me to pen a few words in promotion of the upcoming (August 17,18 and 19, 2012) IBPF annual "Black Powder Cartridge State Shoot".

The timing of this request is such that I would certainly like to share a few thoughts and words. Let's start here: **"Firearm Safety"!** I am motivated to start here based on news I recently read. Dave Higginbotham, founder of Lone Star Rifle Company was killed by an accidental discharge while taking a rifle out of his vehicle. This man handled guns his entire life, made a living building firearms, a hunter, a competitor and considered an expert by many. All of us ought give a situation like this serious thought and make certain we learn from it. "Shortcuts" when handling firearms is something all of us may be guilty of on occasion. Leaving a hunting muzzle loader loaded after hunting season, capping a rifle on the way to the line, carrying a muzzle loader when the muzzle is not "up", we can all think back to some "close calls". Firearm accidents don't allow for "second chances". I do not know if the above incident was due to a lapse of judgment or safety but I do know all of us must think about what we are doing when handling firearms and never forget how easy it is to make simple mistakes. Let us all make sure "SAFETY" is kept foremost in our minds.

Now the event, the 2012 IBPF State Black Powder Cartridge Shoot, to be held at the Hardin County Conservation Range at Steamboat Rock, IA. This is the home range of the Pine Ridge Rifle Club and the IBPF "thanks" them sincerely for sharing this fine facility. Camping is available adjacent to the range on a "first come, first served" basis...but there has always been room for everyone! Both electric and non-electric sites are available to campers. Accommodations are available for motor homes, camping trailers, pop-ups and tents. Should you wish to compete a single day and camping isn't required you are more than welcome too! A full flyer with events is available by visiting [www.iowablackpowderfederation.net](http://www.iowablackpowderfederation.net) I will note, if you shoot black powder cartridge, there's probably an event for you! Military or sporting, big bore or pistol cartridge, long gun or handgun, we've got it all. Matches are five (5) shots and with the exception of the State Championship Aggregate, all matches are re-entry. Even if you only have one or two eligible firearms with which to compete you can shoot relay or all day or all weekend.

Awards are presented to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place competitors in each match, and again in each aggregate. Trophies are presented to the top 3 shooters in the "Championship" aggregate.

Refreshments and a light lunch concession is available on the grounds. Think that

about covers the bases. Mark your calendars and come join us for a fine weekend of friends and friendly competition. Once again the dates are Friday August 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday August 18<sup>th</sup> and Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012. This event is worth attending and I sincerely look forward to seein' ya" on the firing line. Pevine

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