

HELLO MEMBERS OF THE IOWA BLACK POWDER FEDERATION (IBPF) and fellow subscribers to the Powder Horn News (PHN). As I sit here authoring this piece it is the coldest night we've had in North Iowa so far this winter...a balmy 8 degrees (Fahrenheit). Chilly for this part of the country but not really a "deep freeze" (yet!). Good weather to start thinkin' about fillin' in your rendezvous and shoot calendar. The PHN does a fine job of letting' everyone know where the bigger events are but I want to remind everyone about the IBPF website [www.iowablackpowderfederation.net](http://www.iowablackpowderfederation.net) because there's lots of good stuff out there that just doesn't make the "News". When you check in at the IBPF website and click on events you will not only find the "Big Five" (those 5 IBPF events are the State Muzzle Loading Rifle and Pistol Shoot, State Black Powder Cartridge Shoot, State Black Powder Shot Gun Shoot, State Chunk Gun Shoot and the State Hawk and Knife Competition) but many other one day (and sometimes two day) event(s) around the Midwest sponsored by local clubs. Some examples are the one day "Flintlock Only" challenge sponsored by our friends with the Beaver Creek Plainsmen of Collins, Iowa and the Raccoon Valley Muzzle Loaders from Green County, Iowa (o.k. some of you may think of it as Jefferson, Iowa) and the Iowa Original Chunk Gun Shoot put on by the guys and gals from the Toad Hall Group (for lack of a better term) which is also hosted by the Beaver Creek Crew along with many others too numerous to detail in this article...so again, please check out that IBPF website, you'll be glad you did.

I have another "high tech" tidbit to share with all the "old timey" sorts that read this publication and that is that the IBPF now has a presence on "face book". Yup, just like all the big time marketeers ask you to "like" them on face book...now there is actually something to like on face book! I want to take a minute here to compliment and thank Scott Fruhwirth for being the voluntary information technology (I.T.) guy for the IBPF. Scott willingly volunteers not only his vast I.T. knowledge but an abundance of time to keep our web site up to date, modern, informative, affordable and virus free. Not too many weeks ago I dropped Scott a note asking what he thought of the face book thing...'bout two days later, BANG....we're there. Thanks from the IBPF for all you do Scott.

While I'm on that 'soap box' of that volunteer thing I guess I'd like to

spend a few sentences in an attempt to “lean on” the IBPF members reading this. Anyone watching the news (national news that is) has been recently briefed on “volunteerism”. Hundreds and thousands if not hundreds of thousands of hours have recently been provided in support of important issues across this great country. Everything from food banks to painting class rooms, from providing habitat for the needy to providing transportation for those less fortunate. Now my point: The IBPF could use some of that goodwill and efforts from its members. “What can I do?”, is what we usually hear.” Well, you can do lots! To start with, do someone a big favor and introduce them to the most wonderful sport of muzzle loading. Get em started, Bring them to an event and sell them a membership in the IBPF. Another idea, when the time comes around to support the IBPF raffle don’t just buy your 15 tickets and say “there”, I’m done with that”, instead sell a hundred or so to friends, family or other acquaintances (you might even enjoy it and the IBPF will certainly appreciate it). While I’m on that I need to tell this story. Last week a Federation member came up to me and said here’s \$60.00 for raffle tickets. Wow, we don’t even have a raffle going on was my comment. He says “I know, but I had an opportunity to pitch the IBPF to a local business person last week and they gave me this contribution for when we do.” Now folks, that’s thinkin’ ahead of the game! I’m sure you’ve got some ideas...maybe donate an item you’re not using so it could be used as a small raffle item, pay your National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) or National rifle Association (NRA) dues through the IBPF (they give us a reward for that), when you pay your membership put a couple extra bucks in the envelope. Help is help, and whatever you can do, will. In closing on this subject I want all of you to know the IBPF is financially stable. We’ve got a few bucks in the bank, medals and targets to cover 2013, a new “50” pin in inventory for those shooters lucky enough to win one...but our shooting events run precariously close to break even (as they should because the IBPF has no intention to take any financial advantage of members or competitors), however, here are some interesting facts: in 2012 one event broke even (so to speak), one made \$89, one made 98, one made \$180 and one \$219. That’s five hundred eighty six bucks for operating five events with all volunteer help! The more we do, the lower we can keep shooting fees and that’s good for all of us and it does enhance the prospects of getting new shooters interested.

Now also seems like a good time to give the IBPF 2013 postal match a little splash. Last year we had one tough target, yet we sold 257 targets of which 57 were turned in to be scored with medals being awarded to 17 IBPF members. For 2013 we have a big ol' friendly 2 bull target that should be lotsa 'fun. As previous years targets are available now through September 1, 2013, Categories include percussion rifle, flint rifle, military musket, in-line (any sight/any projectile), smoothbore, sighted smoothbore and any muzzle loading handgun. All targets to be fired from the off-hand position at 25 yards with NMLRA rules prevailing. Targets are one dollar each and you can enter as often as you like. IBPF medals will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category. Shoot safely, have fun and good luck. Rules and regulations are printed on the back of each target and advance to: IBPF Postal Match, 606 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Forest City, IA 50436. Completed targets to be scored for record can be sent to the same address. Of course, targets can be picked up and turned in at any IBPF event.

Best regards to all, hold center and I'll see ya' on the firing line,  
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