

JUNE 2017.....HELLO TO ALL IOWA BLACK FEDERATION MEMBERS AND READERS OF THE POWDER HORN NEWS

MY FIRST (Michael D. Podhajsky)

While stationed at NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia (around 1968) a Navy Airman came around selling a .36 cal, Navy Colts fully engraved for a small amount of money. Naturally, I had to have one. Now the problems started....needed some kind of powder, black, I guessed, then a bullet of some kind, and some caps and how to book.

Finding all of the components was a chore, since I didn't know of any gun shops around the area. Finally found someone that knew where to obtain the needed stuff.

BULLETS: Bought a .371 mold and a small single burner Coleman Stove, melting pot, and a ladle and some lead; (not sure where the lead came from) started making round balls in the fire place of our rental house off base.

GREASE: Now the manual says to put heavy grease over the bullet to prevent multi-ignition. OK what kind of grease? "Person 1"-Axle grease and motor oil mix 50/50 put in a catsup bottle and squeeze in place. Off to the filling station for some grease mix; the attendant thought I was nuts. "Person 2"-Simon Wax and bees wax melted 50/50, not the easiest thing to find. "Person 3"-Vaseline, so off to the drug store, looking hopelessly up and down the aisle, a nice lady clerk asked if she could help. I said "I need a jar of Vaseline". She asked me "do you want a big jar or a small jar", I said that I needed the big jar because it is for my gun. Hee Hee Hee was her reply. Any way, it was messy but worked.

Not sure where I first fired the revolver but I remember the last. After many large loads of powder, it was deduced to a wall hanger. Only it was stolen from me in Indiana. First indication was the cylinder pin was lose and back of cylinder was imprinted into the brass frame. Also the barrel was cocked to the left of center.

Rule #1, don't overload it. Rule #2, always clean after shooting. After all of this, it was on to rifles, pistols, revolvers shotguns and canons. Never got tired of black powder, and it doesn't smell like rotten eggs. Can't find anyone that remembers the last time they smelled a rotten egg.

Back to the stolen guns, remember to record the serial numbers and keep them where you can find them in a hurry. My incident was a little out of the ordinary. I was moving to a new city and had to live out of motel for awhile. That is where they departed from my life. No house to claim house hold insurance, truck insurance doesn't cover items in the back or in the cab (even under a locked topper), the motel insurance doesn't cover items not in the room. Motel stated that they had a safe for the items after the fact. When traveling with firearms, have the serial numbers handy just in case, take the firearms into the room with you. Check the gun cases when returning to the room, they may look like their full of guns. A lockable case is advised. Ask your insurance agent for your policy endorsements, both auto and house.

Please join the IBPF and have fun.

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Mike Podhajsky told you his story of his first shooting and to make this article a little longer, I might as well tell you the story of my shooting experience. I knew I could not hold a rifle to shoot but maybe I could shoot pistol. So I bought a rather lightweight pistol (don't know what it was now). We were going to the NMLRA Winter National in Phoenix so thought this would be a good place to shoot. I bought a NMLRA membership, paid the fee and got a practice target. I will leave my instructor/teacher's name unmentioned. The practice went fairly well and I hit the paper several times. However, during shooting friends came to visit so I had to quit, but I was pleased with what I had done. So the next day I went to the pistol range with agg targets in hand and a lot of confidence. I wanted to learn to do all the loading, etc on my own. So my

teacher was instructing me. I said let's find a bench where there is not anyone else shooting. I loaded and shot at the target, but no hitting paper so fired again and again and still no hits. This "no one around space" soon got very crowded. Then the fun began "these guys" started trying to help with their ideas. The end of the story was the range officer telling me to leave as I was upsetting the other shooters. Probably not upsetting but probably more laughing their selves silly. I was packing up to leave and this new lady range officer (first time being a range officer), said I could not touch anything until the relay began. (I don't know why anyone had reason to think I might harm them, I never hit the paper.) By this time I left in tears, sold the pistol, shooting box and powder never to return. Later on when I recovered from the embarrassment I do not remember putting any powder in the pistol. I might have become a great pistol shooter, but my career ended before it ever got started.

Now to a more serious reminder from Tom Mower, IBPF Vice-President and our connection to the Iowa Games. The Iowa Black Powder Federation, in conjunction with the National Muzzle loading Rifle Association, provides a unique sporting opportunity to men, women, youth and the handicapped to participate in the black powder tradition and shooting discipline with shotgun, rifle, musket, trade gun or smooth bore, pistol, revolver, modern in-line rifles and more muzzle loading guns.

What is a shooting discipline?? A shooting sport is a competitive sport involving tests of proficiency (accuracy and speed) using various types of guns such as black powder firearms. Hunting is also a shooting sport and a shooting discipline with muzzle loading guns. The shooting sports are categorized by the type of firearm, targets and distances at which the targets are shot. All ages of people can get involved in our black powder shooting and discipline and the IBPF greatly encourages the proper time and effort it takes to develop the needed skills for our shooting sports.

What are other in-roads to muzzle loading black powder shooting? IBPF strongly supports the IOWA GAMES. In supporting the Iowa Games the IBPF sponsors the Iowa Games Black Powder Shooting

Events. The Iowa Games Black Powder Shooting Event take place in conjunction with the IBPF State Handgun (Pistol and Revolver) competition August 4, 5, and 6th, 2017 at the Raccoon Valley Muzzleloader Club, 1430 Jordan Avenue, Jefferson, IA. The Iowa Games Black Powder Rifle events will be held with the IBPF State Rifle Event, August 11, 12 and 13th, 2017 at the Beaver Creek Plainsmen range, 10842 North 103rd Avenue West, Collins, IA (Located from Hwy 330 Des Moines to Marshalltown diagonal Hwy)

We will be drawing the for rifle and print at the Rifle shoot in August. We will look forward to seeing you at these events.

Next month (July) the June Chunk Gun scores will be posted.

Until next time, I am your IBPF Secretary,

Norma Holcomb

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