

# NEWSLETTER: Upper Peninsula Muzzle Loading Assn, Inc.

March 24, 2021

Spring Issue

## Next Monthly UPMLA Shoot: Saturday, April 3

The regular monthly shoot scheduled for Saturday, April 3, will take place as planned.

The site will be the grounds of the Ottawa Sportsmen's Club west of Baraga on Highway M-38. Registration for the shoot will begin about 10:30 AM Eastern time. Orientation and shooting begins at 11:00.

The entry fee is \$3 per shooter. Non-shooters pay nothing.

This shoot will follow our usual protocol. Firearms should be traditional muzzle loaders, sidehammer or underhammer, flint lock or cap lock, rifled or smoothbored, using patched round lead balls. Only open sights are permitted -- no peep or optical sights. Note: If you or your friends want to shoot a muzzle loader that does not conform to these specifications, contact Lyle Hebert (see below). As long as you use patched round balls, chances are good that you will be welcome to participate, although possibly you will not be eligible for awards.

There will be 15 to 20 shots., mostly offhand. The majority will be outdoors; others will be on the inside range. Distances to targets will vary from pretty close to 100+ yards. Six of the shots will be taken at a paper target at 25 yards. Types of targets may include gongs or breakable items.

For this April shoot the management team is pleased to announce the ***Return of the Discarded Kitchenware Targets.*** (Imagine a scary movie soundtrack here.). Regular shoot participants may recall that for 3-4 years prior to 2020 a half-dozen old pots, pans, rolling pins, egg beaters, etc. would be set up as targets on the outdoor range. Shooting at these was almost always fun and provided shooters with opportunities to inflict some violent payback on the type of skillet that burned the bacon last week. (We collected these targets in various ways, none overtly nefarious, and we can state categorically that no local hoboes lost their tin cups to our programs of target procurement.)

A happy April announcement (drum roll please) -- ***The Return of the UPMLA Luncheon!*** After various cancellations and postponements that began last year, this news is extremely pleasant. So, at the conclusion of match-shooting a volunteer-prepared lunch will be available for participants and accompanying persons. A donation of \$3 per individual, collected at registration, is requested to help defray the cost of preparation. Lyle Hebert is making the April lunch, which by definition will be of Presidential quality. Distribution of the ribbons and other awards will immediately follow lunch.

Membership in the UPMLA is not required to participate in the monthly matches. Still, UPMLA memberships will be available at \$15 for individuals or \$20 for families.

The remaining monthly 2021 shoots are scheduled for May 1 and June 5. Their format is planned to follow that of the April shoot.

Further description of UPMLA monthly shoots can be found on the UPMLA website. Questions? Contact Lyle Hebert (see below).

## **2021 UPMLA Rendezvous & Championship Shoot** **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, July 15, 16, and 17**

Ottawa Sportsmen's Club, Baraga

Please mark your calendars!

### **Event Coordinators for the 2021 UPMLA Rendezvous**

Success of our Rendezvous this year depends on well-run events. Because the 2020 event was canceled, organizing will start with the following list of volunteers from 2019:

- Long-Distance Shooting: Bob Keen and Lyle Hebert
- Youth Shoot: Sandy Mead (Elton Kalm, backup)
- Long Bow: Scott Henkel
- Clout Shoot: Bob Lukes
- Hawk and Knife Throw: Wayne Williams
- Trade-Gun Woods Walk: John Maki and Lyle Hebert
- Smoothbore Match: Clint Collick
- Rifle Matches Saturday: Lyle Merrill and Lyle Hebert and Bob Lukes and Elton Kalm
- Pistol Match: Bob Lukes
- Firewood: Andy Schumer
- Pan & Hammer Throwing: Larry Drum
- Rolling Pin: Larry Drum (Sandy M to locate dummy)
- Fire Starting Contest: Bob Lukes
- Target Scoring: Jon Henkel and Kate Henkel
- Fun Shoot: Clint Collick and Lyle Hebert
- Water and ice supply: ??

**Note: The listed volunteers should contact Lyle Hebert promptly if they cannot organize these events in July 2021.**

### **Raffle Rifles**

The UPMLA has just obtained a Lyman Great Plains to be used as a prize in a raffle to be held at the 2021 Rendezvous. This is a 50 caliber rifle and appears to be one of the properly assembled and well-finished Lyman products.

A Thompson/Center rifle in 54 caliber has been selected also to be raffled off. It seems appropriate to make an early note of these prizes so members may start a savings program for purchasing raffle tickets in July.

### **Who Will Prepare Lunch in June?**

Lunch for the shoot on May 1 will be prepared by Jon and Kate H. If you would like to prepare lunch for the shoot on June 5, please contact Lyle H.

### **Mike Fink Shoot in Northern Wisconsin, April 27**

The Hivernann Muzzleloaders of Marathon, Wisconsin, have announced their Mike Fink shoot for 2021. It's conducted by Eric Carlberg, a UPMLA member who has attended UPMLA shoots. Members of the UPMLA have attended the shoots at Marathon near Wausau for years. When more information is received, it will be posted on the UPMLA website or call Eric at 715-432-2583.

Eric is asking for volunteers to help with their events. If you're feeling both helpful and organizational, please call him.

## The February 2021 Brushy Trails Woodswalk

Lyle Merrill, a long-time member and often elected officer of the UPMLA over the decades, again organized his regular snowshoe woodswalk in Channing. It has always been an enjoyable blanket prize and potluck event. This year, despite viral complications and weather, seven UPMLA members attended and were treated to the usual fun targets and lunch. Except for John Pera, shooters found the shooting challenging. John hit all the targets.

Thanks are extended to Lyle for the considerable effort and time spent in designing the course, hanging targets and other arrangements. Barb was again a wonderful potluck hostess.

### Monthly Shoot of February 6

The UPMLA shoot scheduled for February was canceled. The weather was poor and predicted to deteriorate further. Now, weather by itself has never halted a UPMLA shoot. (We're yoopers and we thrive on shooting in blizzards of minus 20°F.) However, a phone poll of regular shoot attendees showed that none were planning to attend with bad weather being added to the inconveniences of a viral pandemic. The shoot was reluctantly canceled.

### Results of Monthly Shoot of January 9, 2021

The January shoot was held as scheduled. UPMLA Vice-President Andy accepted the chore of organizing it. Given the viral muddle, we felt fortunate in having five shooters attend. (Well, actually only four actual shooters. One individual could not persuade his rifle to fire, no matter how kindly it was spoken to nor how direly threatening the curses directed toward it.)

The usual four matches were conducted. Sandy M won the Best-X match, followed by Lyle M and Andy S. The paper target match requiring six shots at 25-yards was won by Sandy M with a score of 49-2x. Lyle M was second with 49, and Andy S third with 48-2x.

The outdoor target set #1 consisted of five assorted metal objects plus a clay pigeon. Sandy hit four of five, while Andy and Riley each hit three. Outdoor set #2 was made up of five dangling targets. Sandy and Riley W both hit all five, and Lyle hit four.

Sandy M had a very good day, taking clear first on three matches and tying for first on the fourth. Nice work, Sandy!

### Results: Monthly UPMLA Shoot of March 6

An encouraging ten shooters showed up for the March shoot, with pretty good winter weather prevailing. The regular four shooting events took place. The one-shot "Best-X" match was won by Lyle Hebert, with Riley W second, Michael M third, and Clint C fourth. Riley W won the 25-yard 6-shot paper target match with a fine score of 47-1x. Andy S was 2<sup>nd</sup> (45), Clint C 3<sup>rd</sup> (42), Lyle H 4<sup>th</sup> (41) and John P 5<sup>th</sup> (39).

The shooters were organized into 2-person teams for an outdoor and an indoor match. John and Riley took first place in both matches. Lyle H and Clint were second in the outdoor match and third in the indoor. Lyle M and Andy were the second place team indoors, while Matt L and Michael M were third outdoors.

## A UPMLA Shoot in 1998

Your editor was cleaning out some old files and came across a short account of a UPMLA shoot at held in 1998 at the range of the Portage Lake Sportsmen's Club near Chassell. At the time I was writing the newsletter for that club, and wrote a brief story about my experience shooting the event. Here's the story, slightly edited, as it appeared in the PLSC newsletter about 23 years ago.

### The October Black Powder Shoot

In late September Jon Henkel got the urge to hold a black powder rifle match, so the range was reserved for Saturday, October 17. Last minute notices went out by email to local club members. A dozen shooters showed up with their families, most of them a lively and friendly crew of some of John's charcoal-burning compadres from the southern UP and Wisconsin. Shooters had to bring a prize as an entry fee.

Ye olde editor decided to try shooting the match, so he borrowed a fifty-caliber Hawken, got a 15-minute show-and-tell from the owner on loading it, and showed up.

The shoot was organized around 3-shooter teams selected at random from participants. Somehow the group detected my inexperience; maybe it was my request to "borrow some patches". There were genuine looks of pity directed at the teammates of yr humble editor. My teammates started practicing their lines: "No, Bob, the powder goes down the barrel before the ball."

When the group discovered that only 11 shooters were present, they decided that one shooter would have to be picked randomly to shoot on two teams. Out of the hat came a card with . . . yep, you guessed it. Now yrs truly had a golden opportunity to make himself look foolish twice as fast and twice as often. The other team now got the pitying looks. My first team started to feel a little better, with the incompetence being spread around. However, PLS student member Andy Haas showed up at the last minute to serve as the needed 12th shooter. The other team was saved; my team started looking grim again.

Teammates Ken and Lyle proved to be sufficiently good coaches so that all my shots went downrange in the general direction of the targets. Then participants got to shoot at John's home made scrap-iron contraptions, which was an exercise best described as "real interesting".

To shorten the story, our team finished first. The entire group had a wonderful potluck meal, and everybody went home happy and better for the experience. (Yes, Jon, I ordered my own T/C Hawken day before yesterday.)

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Some notes: Jon recalls that the reason for the use of the PLSC range was that the UPMLA 1998 Fall Shoot had been scheduled for the Quinnesec range, which had become unavailable. Teammates Ken and Lyle mentioned in the narrative were very likely Ken Kazmar and Lyle Merrill. This was my first experience shooting a muzzle loading rifle. Tom Snyder loaned me his T/C Hawken that he had assembled and finished from a kit about 1980. He still uses that rifle in UMPLA shoots, and I still use the T/C Hawken I ordered as a result of the 1998 experience.

### **UPMLA Information and Contacts**

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