

NEWSLETTER: Upper Peninsula Muzzle Loading Assn, Inc.

June 24, 2021

Summer Issue



The 44th annual UPMLA Rendezvous is scheduled for the traditional third weekend in July: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, July 15, 16, and 17. Please note these dates on your summer calendar. The Rendezvous again will be held on the grounds of the Ottawa Sportsmen's Club near Baraga, Mich.

A descriptive flyer about the rendezvous is being sent to UPMLA members with this newsletter. To help publicize the event, please contact the secretary to obtain more copies to display where they may be seen by interested persons.

A rendezvous program with the schedule of events, guidelines for camping, and brief rules for shooting events will be mailed to members soon. The schedule has been slightly modified from previous years, and event organizers are still working out some details.

If personal schedules do not allow attendance for all three days, then participating for one or two days is encouraged. The registration desk opens on each day. Visitors who are not participating in any events are welcome most any time.

Please note that it is permissible to begin an early set-up of traditional camping equipment on Wednesday, July 14th, beginning at 12 noon (but not before). The rendezvous ends officially on Saturday evening, but campsites do not have to be vacated until noon on Sunday, July 18th. Our host, the Ottawa Sportsmen's Club, has granted these helpful extensions to the UPMLA.

The raffles held at the rendezvous have always been popular and are a significant source of operating funds for the UPMLA. Raffle tickets may be purchased at the registration desk during the mornings and usually during afternoons. Drawings take place on Saturday evening after the business meeting.

This year there will be at least three separate raffles. The traditional raffle for numerous items donated by members will be conducted as usual. The members furnishing appropriate and desirable items for the raffle are the source of its success.

As announced in the March newsletter at least two special raffles will take place this year, each for a very fine muzzle loading rifle. One of the prizes is a .50 caliber Lyman Great Plains rifle, which appears to be a well-finished and properly assembled example of this model. The prize for the second raffle is a .54 caliber Thompson/Center rifle in really good condition.

Results of the UPMLA Shoot of April 3, 2021

The weather at the Ottawa Sportsmen's Club on April 3rd was the finest that any attendee could recall for an April shoot. It was 55°F, the sun was shining brightly, skies were clear, and the wind was not blowing.

Fourteen shooters registered, and two additional persons were present. Shooting followed recent precedent, with two matches for individuals, and two matches for 2-person teams organized on site.

The "Best-X" one-shot match for individual shooters was won by Lyle H, followed by John E, Riley W, Bob K, and Jon H. In the 6-shot 50-point bullseye match, Bob K was first with a score of 42, Jon H second (41), Clint C third (40), Mike S fourth (39), and Lyle H fifth (34).

The indoor partner match required each of the two persons on a team to shoot at 4 targets. Targets were scored as hits or misses, so that the highest possible team score was 8 hits. The match was won by the team of Jon H and John M, who hit 7 of 8 targets. There was a three-way tie for third place, each team hitting 4 targets. Based on their tie-breaking shots, the team of Dino R and John E were awarded the 2nd place ribbons. Lyle H and Al J were third.

As promised in the previous newsletter, the outdoor partner shoot featured "The Return of Discarded Kitchenware" as targets. Taking first place was the team of John M and Jon H, with a clean score of 12 hits. Bob K and Sandy M smashed 11 of their 12 utensils to take second place. Lyle H and Al J hit 9 of 12 for third place.

After a year's hiatus, the tradition of excellent \$3 luncheons was restored happily by Lyle and Joy H. The menu included fresh salad, baked lasagna, banana bread, and a desert involving a chocolate-pistachio pudding and whipped cream topping nestled snugly in a graham cracker crust. Betty Crocker herself could have not done better.

Results: Monthly UPMLA Shoot of May 1

The weather for the May shoot was okay. It was 65°F, and sunny, with mostly clear skies. However the wind was strong and made shooting difficult. An encouraging 16 shooters registered for the shoot, with two other persons who showed up to help.

The course of fire followed the recent pattern of four matches, two for individual shooters, and two for 2-person teams organized on-site.

The wind made it difficult to score well on the 6-shot 50-point bullseye target set at 50 yards for an individual match. Jon H was first with 43-1x, Tom S second with 42-1x, Riley W third with 41, John P fourth with 39-1x, Andy S fifth with 37, and Larry D sixth with 35.

In the "Best-X" match (measured by distance from target aiming point), rankings were 1st Eric M, 2nd Tom S, 3rd Riley W, 4th Lyle M, 5th Jon H, and 6th John P.

The team of Tom S and Bob K won the indoor partner match with a total score of 7 of 8 possible hits. Two teams tied for second with 5 hits each. On tie-break Riley W and John P were awarded second place, with Tom C and Jon H with third.

(May 1 shoot, continued)

The outdoor partner match was scored as number of hits on gongs of various outlines and colors (blue fox, yellow duck, orange pig, red ram, and green gopher) set at varying distances from the firing line. Two teams tied for first place with 11 of 12 hits. Breaking the tie using scores on an indoor tie-breaking paper target, the winning team was Lyle M and Eric M, while second place went to Tom S and Bob K. Third place went to the team of Riley W and John P with 10 hits on 12 targets.

Results: Monthly UPMLA Shoot of June 5

The weather for the June shoot was conducive to pretty good marksmanship. It was 65°F and sunny with mostly clear skies, and with some light wind.

The normal routine of conducting a shoot was somewhat muddled because of a scheduling mishap, but with some hustling the club house was vacated in a timely manner with minimal upset.

Seventeen shooters signed up along with young Andrew H. A couple of shooters' spouses also came along to provide encouragement, along with Sandy and Jim M, who prepared lunch.

There were four matches again this month, two for individual shooters and two for two-person teams organized on site. The courses of fire were designed by Andy S, Lyle H, and Jon H.

The Best-X match was decided with the first shot of the day. It was fired by Riley W, and his ball landed sufficiently close to the center of the aiming point to win the match. Second place was won by Andy S, third by Lyle M, fourth by Les K, and fifth by Eric M.

Paper bullseyes were set up at 50 yards for the second match for individuals. Shooters took six shots at their targets, with the best five shots being counted for score. Les K and Bob K tied for first, each scoring 43-1x. Based on tie-breaking procedures, Les was awarded first place and Bob second place. Andy S was third with 42 points, Jon H with 41 was fourth, and Tom S fifth with 36.

The two matches for partners were set up on the outdoor range. One of these dubbed the "Novelty Shoot" included five different unusual objects as reactive targets. Each partner shot once at each of the five targets for a possible team score of 10.

The target objects in the Novelty Shoot included (1) charcoal briquettes sitting on top of a thin 12-inch long dowel inserted into the ground at a range of about four yards; (2) old, stale, solidified marshmallow "Peeps", small in size and yellow in color, similarly presented; (3) a heavy steel crowbar, painted orange, suspended from bungee cords at a distance of about 30 feet; (4) a spinner with white and green four-inch round gong targets; (5) a line up of 2-quart plastic drink bottles filled with water dyed orange.



Peeps – target du jour, June 5th, 2021

First place in the match went to the team of Andy S and Les K with a score of 10 hits. Riley W and Bob C were second with 9 hits. Three teams tied for third with 7 hits: Tom S and Gary L; Lyle H and Scott H; Lyle M and Eric M. After tie-breaking, Lyle H and Scott H were declared third-place winners.

The second team match was a gong shoot, conducted on gongs and also including some novelty targets. A 100-yard target was made from a metal end piece of a 55-gallon drum. A large-diameter metal ring with a missing central area was set up as the 60-yard target, and a segment of a 10-inch yellow steel pipe suspended horizontally made a 60-yard target. Two of the targets were made of saw horses; from each were suspended a standard bowling ball and bowling pin with one saw horse was set at about 45 yards and the other at 30. The decision as to which partner shot the ball and which the pin was left to them. With five shots each, the possible team total was 10.

The team of Les K and Andy S won this team match also, scoring 10 hits. Two teams tied for second place with 8 hits. After the tie-break process, the team of Scott H and Lyle H were awarded second place, while Gary L and Tom S took third.

Youth shooter Andrew H, shooting for fun, decided to concentrate his efforts on the two sets of outdoor targets. An informal count of his shots showed him hitting more targets than some of the older and far more experienced adult shooters.

Sandy and Jim M served a fine lunch of sloppy joes, potato salad, and two deserts.

A Misplaced Zouve

Member Matt Laird's Civil War Zouve musket, a replica made by Zoli, has been misplaced. It was present at the June 2021 shoot. If you have know anything of its whereabouts, please contact Matt at 231-750-7952 or mslaird@mtu.edu.

UPMLA Information and Contacts

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