

# NEWSLETTER: Upper Peninsula Muzzle Loading Assn, Inc.

December 28, 2021

Winter Issue

## UPMLA 2022 Monthly Shoots

The UPMLA is planning to sponsor our traditional six shoots during the winter and spring months of 2022. The events are scheduled for these Saturdays:

- January 8
- February 5
- March 5
- April 2
- May 7
- June 4

All six shoots will be held at the Ottawa Sportsmen's Club, located six miles west of Baraga on Highway M-38.

Registration will begin at 10:30 AM Eastern time. Coffee may be available in the OSC clubhouse before registration. Orientation and shooting will begin at 11:00 AM. Shooting is usually finished by 1:00 PM, followed by lunch and the distribution of awards.

The registration fee is \$3, unchanged for the past 20 years. For an additional \$5 (see below) shooters and accompanying persons may have a fine homemade lunch.

Membership in the UPMLA is not required to participate in the monthly shoots.

For individuals new to these shoots, here's brief review of guidelines: Firearms should be traditional muzzle loaders, side-hammer or underhammer, flint lock or cap lock, with rifled or smoothbored barrels, firing patched round lead balls. Open sights only, no peep or optical sights. Contact Jon Henkel (see below) if you have questions about your rifle or if you would like to use a non-conforming rifle. If you use patched round balls, you will probably be welcome to participate, although possibly ineligible for awards.

For 2022 the course of fire will generally follow that of previous years' shoots. Shooters will fire 15 to 20 shots, mostly from the standing offhand position. A few targets may require shooting using a rest, or sitting on a stool, etc. Targets will be located either in the indoor range or outdoors. Distances to targets will vary from just a few yards out to 100 or more yards. Some targets will be paper; others may be steel gongs, chunks of wood, vegetables, feathers, etc. We're unsure whether Henkel has any more discarded kitchenware to be used as targets. What might replace those items is unknown.

Four separate matches are planned for each shoot. These may consist of a single shot at one target, or a pair of shots on one target, or multiple shots at several individual targets. One match will require six shots on a paper target at 25 yards as part of the International Postal Match. At some shoots, some of the matches will be set up for teams of two or three persons. Teams will be organized on site with a semi-random procedure. Members of a team usually have to cooperate to maximize team scores.

Prize ribbons will be awarded to high-scoring shooters in each of the four matches.

The shoots will be take place regardless of weather conditions, except possibly when snow conditions have caused the snow plows to be ordered off the highways.

Questions or comments? Contact match director Jon Henkel: phone 906-353-6511 or email <jonhenkel@up.net>.

## Why \$5 for Lunch ? ? !

For about twenty years the fee for the lunch furnished at the UPMLA monthly shoots has been \$3. This year it will be \$5. The increase was needed to protect the pocketbooks of the volunteers who prepare the lunches. All lunch fees collected go to those volunteers. For the last couple of years the fees have not covered increases in prices of lunch materials. As a result some volunteers have, in effect, been paying shooters to eat the lunches the volunteers have prepared. For a non-profit corporation that relies on volunteers to make events successful, this is not a sustainable business practice

## Lunch Preparation for 2022 Shoots

A couple of years ago the current UPMLA President, Lyle Hebert, campaigned for his election with a promise to fix recurring problems of confusion about who had volunteered to fix lunch for which shoots. To date he has lived up to this promise and his persuasive skills resulting in the following schedule for the coming year::

January 8 – John Pera, Phill Blank, and Gary Lowe

February 5 – Kate & Jon Henkel

March 5 – Lyle Hebert

April 2 – Andy Schumer

May 7 – Sandy Mead

June 4 – Bob Currie, Donna & Riley Watkins

Our thanks are extended to these individuals.

## The UPMLA International Team Postal Match

At the monthly UPMLA shoots each shooter fires six shots on an individual "postal target" and automatically becomes a monthly member of the "Baraga Blackpowder Bunch" team.

For 14 years the UPMLA has conducted a postal match for muzzle loading clubs scattered over the US and Canada. In recent years clubs have been from Alaska, Arizona, California, Wisconsin, and Ontario, Canada. Clubs sign up to participate in six monthly matches from January through June. The match simulates shoulder-to-shoulder matches. Participation is free.

The postal match was canceled last year due to covid problems, but is restarting this year. Several clubs from 2020 have signed on for 2022 and some new clubs may join.

Each month the individual clubs shoot on targets sent from the UPMLA. Target appearance varies month to month, but all clubs shoot the same target in a given month. At each club a coordinator distributes monthly targets and mails fired targets to the UPMLA for scoring. There are no penalties if a club member misses a shoot, or if a club skips a month entirely. A club's monthly team score is the sum of their five best individual scores. Club coordinators monthly receive tabulated results for targets shot by all individuals from all clubs. Summary club scores are posted on the UPMLA web site each month.

The Baraga team has been competitive with teams from much more populous areas shooting in much milder climates.

## The 2021 Fall Open Invitational and Memorial Shoot

The UPMLA fall event was held at the Ottawa Sportsmen's Club this past October 2<sup>nd</sup> as a memorial for deceased members of the UPMLA. The competitions were organized in the same format as the previous five years and included individual accuracy matches for muzzle loading rifles, long bow shooting, and throwing of tomahawks and knives. There was an additional match for two-person teams of rifle shooters, with teams made up of partners selected with a drawing process among the shooters who were present.

Weather cooperated completely, with warm temperatures, scattered clouds, and little wind. Fifteen individuals signed up to participate in one or more matches. Some of these participants showed up with spouses or other "accompanying persons".

Again this year the partner muzzleloader match used a four-quadrant bullseye target, with each partner required to put a shot into two separate quadrants. Of the eight different teams only one, composed of Holly Lukes and Jon Henkel, placed one shot in each quadrant winning the match outright.

The match for individual rifle shooters required six shots at a paper bullseye target. The best five shots were counted for score, with 50 points possible. Results from 15 entrants:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Jon Henkel, 48-2x
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Andy Schumer, 47
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bob Currie, 46-1x
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Bob Keen, 46
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Riley Watkins, 45
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Scott Henkel, 37-1x

Nine persons shot the long bow match. Each made six shots with only the best five shots counting toward a possible score of 50. The top six places:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: John Pera, 38
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jon Henkel, 31
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Andy Schumer, 28
- 4<sup>th</sup>: John Elmer, 22
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Scott Henkel, 21
- 6<sup>th</sup>: John Maki, 15

Twelve individuals participated in throwing the hawk and knife at a paper bullseye target. Three throws were taken with the hawk and three with the knife. The end of the blade cut in the paper closest to the center determined the numerical score, with the best five scores counting toward a 50 point maximum. The first six places:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Lyle Hebert, 41
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Pera, 35
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jon Henkel, 33
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Andy Schumer, 31-1x
- 5<sup>th</sup>: John Elmer, 25
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Bob Keen, 23

The overall winners were determined based on the total score of the three individual events:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Jon Henkel, 112-2x
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Pera, 108
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Andy Schumer, 106

As the first place overall winner, Jon Henkel took home the perpetual traveling UPMLA Memorial Trophy.

As in previous years, winners of the various competitions were able to select their awards from a fine array of edibles. Edible door prizes were also distributed from random drawings.

Everyone seemed to find the potluck lunch enjoyable.

## The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual UPMLA Rendezvous for 2022

Thurs, Fri, and Sat, July 14, 15, and 16  
Ottawa Sportsmen's Club, Baraga, Michigan  
Plan to attend!  
Mark your calendars!

### List of Event Results of 2021 Rendezvous

Enclosed with this newsletter is a draft listing of the results of the competitive events of the 2021 UPMLA rendezvous. It is not yet complete. We're still looking for a couple of mislaid handwritten result sheets. Please notify Bob Keen if you have knowledge of some blanks that need to be filled, or find errors in the lists. Thanks!

### UPMLA Membership Round Bronze Pieces

A UPMLA policy is to give each new member of the Association a spiffy bronze piece when they join. It has been called by various names: token, coin, medal, medallion. The purpose is to build *esprit de corps* among members with a shared symbol of their membership. In the recent past it has been used as a item for a random prize drawing at some UPMLA events.

Last year the supply of coins from our last purchase was depleted. We thought this was a good sign of membership numbers, so we ordered a new lot. We discovered that new coins were a great deal more expensive than those purchased about 15 years ago.

The price for a replacement coin has accordingly been adjusted to \$12. Applications for a replacement should be submitted to the Association's secretary.

### A Member's Misplaced Zouave Musket

A short note in the UPMLA Newsletter of June 24, 2021, described the disappearance of member Matt Laird's Zouave Musket. The musket was a Zoli-built replica of a Civil War military percussion arm that had disappeared on the day of the June monthly shoot at the Ottawa club.



Since then Ye Olde Editor has been asked several times whether the musket had been found. Matt says the current answer to that question is "No", despite thorough searching.

### The 2022 Brushy Trails Woodswalk – February 19

UPMLA member Lyle Merrill will again this year conduct his annual winter woodswalk in February at his home in Channing. Details will be announced with a mailing to previous participant and a posting under "News & Notes" on the UPMLA website when the information becomes available.

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#### UPMLA Information and Contacts

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