

# NEWSLETTER: Upper Peninsula Muzzle Loading Assn, Inc.

June 26, 2023

Summer Issue



The 46<sup>th</sup> annual UPMLA Rendezvous will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of the traditional third weekend in July, the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. The location for the rendezvous will again be on the grounds of the Ottawa Sportsmen's Club near Baraga.

A descriptive flyer about the rendezvous is included with this membership newsletter mailing. It lists most of the formal events planned for the Rendezvous, many of which are traditional with a decades-long history at our Rendezvous.

Members can help publicize the Rendezvous by posting or otherwise distributing the flyer. Please contact the secretary if you would like to obtain more copies for public display .

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

The pan throw, rolling pin toss, and the Saturday evening cook-off are listed, but will not take place unless at least five individuals sign up for them at registration.

Attendance for all three days is not required. Participating for one or two days is encouraged for persons who have conflicting schedules. The Rendezvous registration desk is open for part of each day to accommodate this.

The flyer indicates that wearing pre-1840s frontier garb is preferred. How completely participants at the event follow this recommendation is up to each individual. There will be no formal evaluation of costuming.

## Camping at Rendezvous

When you show up at the Ottawa club with plans to camp for Rendezvous, please contact a club officer on the grounds to obtain helpful information about selecting a campsite and setting up. This is a change from a couple decades of camping tradition. It began last year when some persons employed by the State of Michigan at last noticed that UPMLA members were camping on the Ottawa club grounds. These persons were made unhappy because some state camping regulations were being insufficiently observed, even though not intentionally. We are now attempting to make them less unhappy. So, when you show up, please help us with this.

Please note that it is permissible to begin early set-up of traditional camping equipment on Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, beginning at (but not before) 12 noon. The rendezvous ends officially on Saturday evening, but campsites do not have to be vacated until noon on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Our rendezvous host, the Ottawa Sportsmen's Club, has granted these helpful extensions to the UPMLA.

## Liability Forms

Participants in last year's Rendezvous might recall that they signed a form, "Accident Waiver and Release of Liability". It was the first time for such a form, and will be required this year. Here's an explanation for this.

In years past the UPMLA relied on insurance held by the Ottawa club to cover our liability. Recently their insurance coverage changed. The UPMLA was advised to obtain liability waivers from participants in all our activities held on Ottawa club grounds. Signed liability forms are required for Rendezvous participants and guests, and from any visitors.

In Michigan, parents can waive liability on behalf of a child if the waiver applies to recreation sponsored or organized by non-profit, non-governmental organizations – which is us. So if you bring kids to the Rendezvous, you will have to sign a form on their behalf.

## 2023 Rendezvous Event Volunteers

Here's list of events and members who have volunteered to help conduct them. If you are on the list and will not be able to help, **please contact** a UPMLA officer to find a replacement.

- Trade-gun woods walk: John Maki, Mike Phipps
- Long bow and clout shoot: Bob Lukes, John Pera
- Long distance rifle: Andy Schumer, Lyle Hebert
- Smooth bore shoot: Lyle Hebert, John Maki
- Table rest rifle shoot: Bob Keen, Andy Schumer
- Knife & hawk throw: Eric Murray, Matt Laird, Lyle Merrill
- Just-for-fun rifle shoot: John Elmer, Andy Schumer
- Rifle target shoot, Relay 1: Lyle Hebert, Lyle Merrill
- Relay 2: Andy Schumer, Bob Lukes
- Relay 3: Sandy Mead, Joe Hebert
- Pistol target shoot: Bob Lukes, John Pera
- Youth rifle shoot: Andy Schumer, Bob Keen
- Campfire cook-off: To be arranged
- Camp wood supply: Andy Schumer
- Raffle tickets and set-up: To be arranged.

## 2023 Rendezvous Event Volunteers

The raffles held at annual rendezvous are important for the financial health of the UPMLA. Members should plan to bring items to donate to the raffle. Member-crafted items are especially welcome, although nice commercial widgets are certainly appropriate.

A Thompson-Center Hawken will be raffled separately. A prize drawing for those carrying a UPMLA bronze coin may also take place.

## Results of Rendezvous 2022

Enclosed with the mailing of this newsletter is a sheet showing results of the competitions from last year's 45<sup>th</sup> Rendezvous. It took some time to sort out some errors. If you should find some still remaining, please inform an officer and a correction will be performed on the copy published on the web site and on the copies retained in the association archives.

## Notes on some 2023 Events

The Table Rest rifle shoot was introduced last year, and attracted more competitors than expected. However, all but one person failed to place the required three shots on the target. The UPMLA Board of Directors decided to retain the event, but they thought it advisable to shorten the distance to the target while the UP riflemen become more familiar with the procedures involved. Accordingly, in 2023 the distance to the target will be 35 yards.

As in 2022, there will be a handout available at registration describing the event. Meanwhile, interested individuals can find a copy of the description from last year's rendezvous is posted on the UPMLA website under "news & notes" for 2022.

Three events will be subject to being canceled based on demonstrated lack of demand. Each of the pan throw, the rolling pin toss, and the camp cook-off will take place if five (5) persons sign up for them. Sign-up sheets will be available at registration and if five legible names are written for an event, they will be conducted on schedule. .

## An unplanned 2022 Rendezvous Event

Last year the editor helped put up the gong-targets on the range used for the long distance rifle shoot. It was pretty hot and the sun shone intensely. He failed to drink enough water to stay hydrated. Some heavy-duty medication he was taking may have contributed to the mental lapse and/or have enhanced the symptoms of dehydration. After shooting the match he salt down to rest and then passed out. Andy S and Eric M prevented him from falling onto concrete, and arranged for an ambulance ride to the Baraga hospital, where rehydration happened. Moral of story: Drink water, stay conscious.

## Richard C. "Dick" Yanke, Jr. 1951-2023

Longtime UPMLA member Richard "Dick" Yanke Jr., died May 5, 2023, at his home in Ogema, Wisconsin. He was 71 years old.

Dick and his wife Sue attended most of our annual July Rendezvous during their two decades of UPMLA membership. They usually set up their tents and tipi near the entrance of the camp ground, where they traded rendezvous goods and supplies. Dick volunteered frequently to help conduct rendezvous activities in like throwing the hawk, knife, hammer, and pan, along with some Saturday cook-offs. He was a successful competitor in archery, hawk and knife. His colorful period costumes attracted the attention of rendezvous sightseeing guests.

Dick and Sue actively recruited friends and family to visit the UPMLA rendezvous and become members. These participants were valued and appreciated.

For many years Dick helped to plan and conduct the Hidden Prairie rendezvous in Price County, northern Wisconsin. These events often attracted UPMLA members. He was president of the organizing group when he died. Dick will be missed by many active participants in regional rendezvous events.



Dick and Sue in their tent at a UPMLA Rendezvous



Jimmy Counts (left) with Dick and their awards at a UPMLA Rendezvous

## UPMLA Information and Contacts

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