

# UPPER PENINSULA MUZZLE LOADING ASSOCIATION

## Spring/Summer 2025 Newsletter

Summer has come to the UP, and it's time to think about the things that are important in the summer, especially regarding the Rendezvous. Most of this letter will be about that event, but we have had a few things going on so far this spring. The monthly shoots are in the books for this year, and for the most part things went well. Turnout for the shoots was mostly good, with from eight to eighteen shooters showing up. Weather was the only glitch. Last year we had very mild temps and low snow cover all winter; not so for this year. January through March found us loading inside to avoid frozen fingers, and we had really blustery weather for March, with one car in the ditch. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured. All-in-all things went really well, with good shooting, good fellowship, and good food. Thank you to everyone who helped out.

The 48<sup>th</sup> annual UPMLA Rendezvous will be held from July 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>. As usual, set-up of camps will begin on Wednesday, the 16<sup>th</sup> starting at noon. People from the club will be there to assign campsites. Remember that camps have to be broken down by noon on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I plan on being there on Wednesday by early afternoon. Anyone who is there during the day can register early. We tried that last year, and it really saved time on Thursday morning. This year there will be no Thursday evening buffet supper, so we're on our own that night. There are a few minor changes to the schedule this year, but the only one that involves a time slot is the Pistol Woods Walk. It is no longer an "on your own" starting time. It's going to be treated as a regular event with a specific starting time. I have a few slight changes to make (fix) in the program, but as soon as I have that finished, I'll get them mailed out in a separate envelope, as we have done in the past. I'm hoping to have them on the way by around the 4<sup>th</sup>. Those of us who are familiar with the Rendezvous know that rules for the events are posted in the program, but if there are any questions, ask an officer. One other note – if you're going to do the Table Rest Shoot you need to provide a target of your own. Choose one that you think you can get a good group on.

At last year's annual meeting we set up the volunteers for the various events. I told Andy that I would post them in this letter. So here they are:

Trade Gun Woods Walk – John Maki, Marc Phipps, Mike Phipps  
Pistol Woods Walk – John Maki, Greg Klingler, Marc Phipps, Mike Phipps  
Long Bow and Clout Shoot – Andy Schumer, Bob Lukes  
Long Distance Rifle Shoot – Andy Schumer, Bob Keen, John DePuydt  
Smoothbore Shoot – John Pera, Lyle Hebert  
Table Rest Shoot – Andy Schumer, Bob Keen  
Knife and Hawk – Kate Henkel, Jon Henkel, John Flaughner  
Rifle Fun Shoot – Mike Krempp, Riley Watkins  
Rifle Shoot – Lyle Merrill, Sandy Mead  
Pistol Shoot – Sandy Mead, Bob Lukes?  
Archery Fun Shoot – John Pera  
Open Shoot – Lyle Hebert, Andy?  
Raffle – John Maki, John Elmer  
Youth Shoot – Sandy Mead  
John DePuydt mentioned making new rests for the Table Shoot.

If you find a mistake in this list, or if for some reason you can't follow through on your event, please contact either Andy or me so we can make adjustments. In the past, we've been lucky with everyone

doing their part, and things have run very smoothly. With all this said, lets all hope for a good turnout and good weather!

Also, remember that we have the raffle after the annual meeting. If you have anything that you'd like to donate, anything would be appreciated. If you can make something, or if you have something in your own kit that you no longer need, consider bringing it in.

And, as I've posted several times before, I have to remind everyone that liability waivers are required for anyone on the property during any of our events. Last year Bob amended the UPMLA waiver to be permanent, but the OSC must be done every year. If you filled out a UPMLA form last summer or at any of the monthly shoots you should be OK. If you're in doubt I'll have the forms there to refer to.

I contacted Jon Henkel the other day about the Postal Shoots, and he told me that so far no one has come forward to take over the job. Jon has done this for a lot of years, and it's time for someone else to take over. If no one does it, the event will die. I, personally, would hate to see that happen. It's a lot of fun, and something I look forward to every month. If you're someone that takes part in these shoots, maybe you could try taking it on for a while. Jon is willing to guide you through the process to ensure a smooth transition.

Finally, if you think that it's been a long time since the last newsletter, you're right. There are a couple of reasons for this. First, at some times of the year there isn't much to report. During some stretches nothing much goes on, and any letter would be rather short and boring, so I've been looking at doing spring/summer (this one), post-rendezvous (late July/early August), and fall/winter (right after the Fall Shoot). Admittedly, I probably should have sent this one a month ago, but I'll know better next year. The second reason is economic. With postage costs being what they are each mailing costs about \$45.00, with costs going up again in July. That means that with three newsletters, programs, and reminder letters, the club is spending at least \$200.00 on postage.

With all that said, I hope you're all having a good summer, and I hope to see all of you at the Rendezvous!