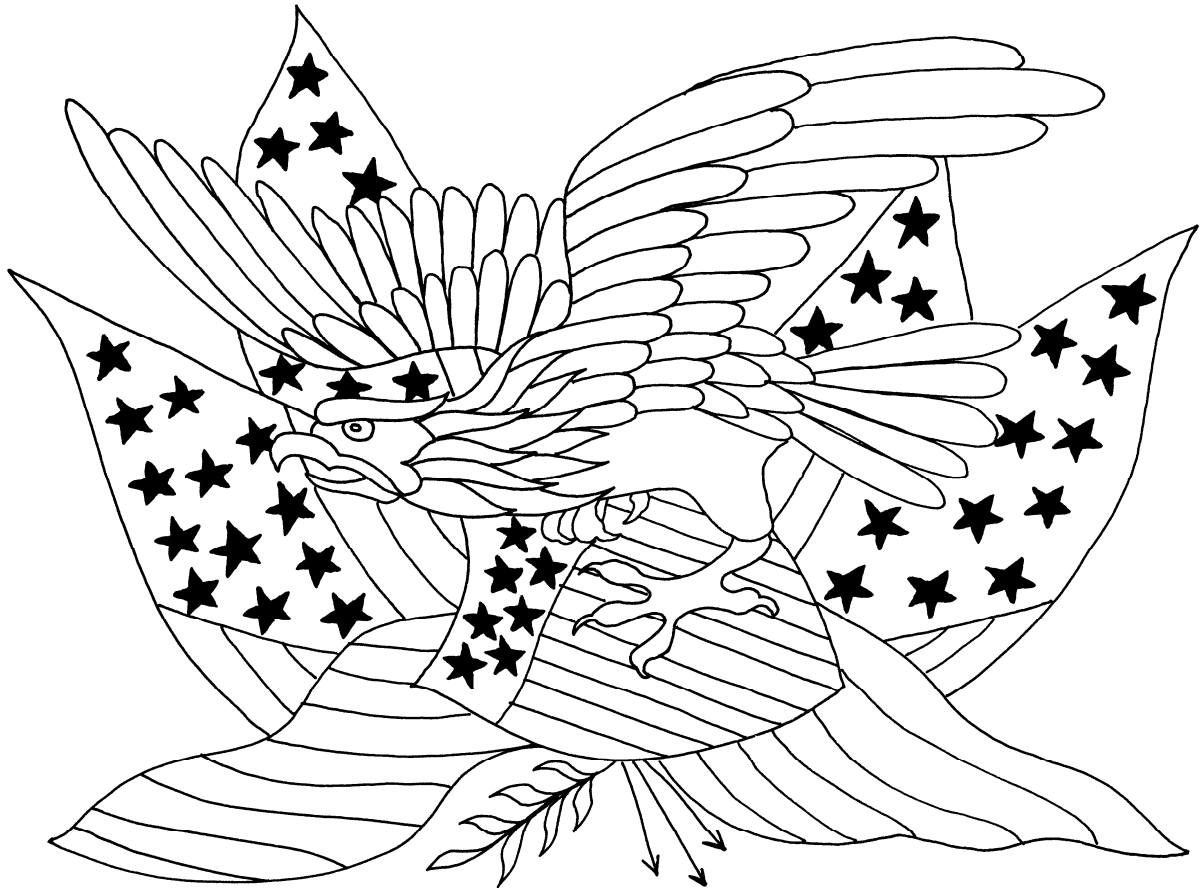


TMA JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE TRADITIONAL MUZZLELOADING ASSOCIATION

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**THE TMA IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE RICH AND
FASCINATING HERITAGE OF THE TRADITIONAL
MUZZLELOADING FIREARMS OF EARLY AMERICA.**

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President's Corner

Greetings All~

Welcome to the 1st T.M.A. Journal for 2008. Our new Journal Editor, Butterchurn, has worked hard to bring you a quality product. A BIG heartfelt thanks to him for taking on the job, and to our members for the articles they have taken the time to prepare and submit.

The TMA continued to grow all through 2007; both in paid members and in forum guests...and our members continue to work to keep us growing....look at just a few examples:

Butterchurn took over as editor for the Journal

Bigsmoke, Indiana and Jon in MI took on the job of getting the TMA News Letter out to all of the members

R.M. has volunteered for the job as National Match Director running all of our shooting contests

Beaverman and Sir Michael have revamped the TMA Store, which is now open for business

One of our Charter Members, snake eyes, has even offered to pay the membership dues for the winner of a shooting match....in Germany. That's spreading the word!

Now this is just a sampling of what our members are doing...no way can I list everyone without Butterchurn throwing rocks (none of them flint) at me. Besides, I need to save some for the next Journal. Now that hunting season has pretty much come and gone, I just know that there are plenty of first hand How To stories out there with our members. Heck, there are probably some How NOT TO stories too. Think about sending them to Butterchurn for the next Journal. The rest of us would enjoy them.

As I close this little communication (ok..ok..hold your applause), I want to take a minute to mention two things.

First, if you haven't done so already, drop by the TMA Store and check out the goods.

Second, our first monthly Postal Shoot will be in February. How 'bout go Postal Shot thread, count up all the shoots you want to enter and get your info and check mailed in to R.M. Go ahead and spring for the whole year...that way you get to make fun of my poor scores each and every month.

Thanks for making the TMA a great place to be,
Al "Two Steps" Bateman
TMA President



From the Editor

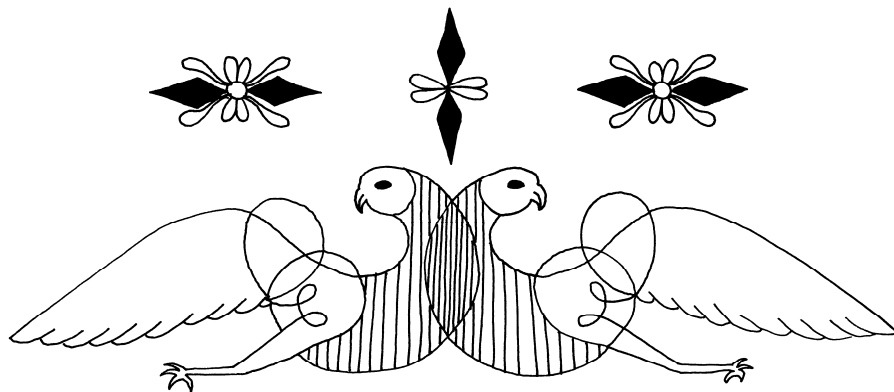


Well winter has past and summer is here! We are in the midst of summer muzzle loader activities. We are enjoying the perfume of burning powder that only people like us can appreciate. I have been working on a number of projects this winter. I built a Traditions Trapper Pistol Kit, and I am trying to get a Johann Shuler Rifle finished that I began several years ago. It is my first scratch build. It has been a process, but I'm learning a great deal.

Please keep those photos and articles coming. They are very helpful in putting together the journal. We enjoy reading about and seeing photos of your activities.

By the way, don't forget to visit the TMA store. We have many quality items to show pride in membership in a great organization!

Ron "Butterchurn" Jewett



Happy Canyon 2007 – according to Preacher

One thangs fer shur, I cain't ritly tell all what went on at them doins as I only arrived on Thursday nite (I think). Herd storys of 7 inches of snow on Tuesday up ther on the Simms mesa in the Colorado Territory. I do no thet ther weren't none a thet wite stuf wen me and Suz gots ther but ther wer som puddles big nuff thet thay otter be named. But on Thursday evening it twer nicet an cool an bout perfek fer settin camp. Tha camp is spread out on the top a Simm's mesa an the ride in don't look to promising till ya git ta the top. But the camp site is real purdy fur sure. There's the scrub oak, Pinion and Ponderosa on one side a tha path an pretty much wide open sage country on the other side. It is a purdy flat site so's ya jist gotta find a place either in the woods or on tha open ta set up.

I's lucky ta git ta camp up near ta the Booshway cause he gots hisself surrounded by cannon he do. Thet ment thet 'little bit' (my home made $\frac{3}{4}$ " bore) was welcomed ta the pardy. Ole Woodman (the Booshway)

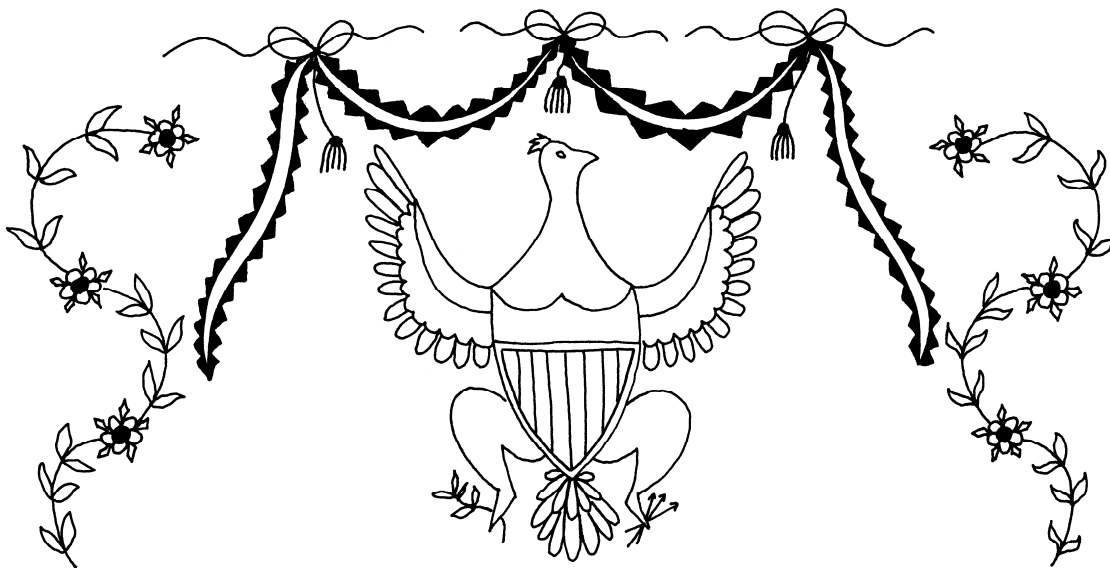


come down and greeted my like the frens we is. Booshway end a camp is sorta a close ta the stable end a camp fer those a us what fergit stuff back in the tin pony and have ta keep makin trips ta the tin pony corral. Now up ter the other end a camp is the Olefactory Assinline Saloon. Fer those a ya thet ain't rendezvood in the Colorado Territory recently - wall Screamin Eagle an Annie gots this idear bout 10 seasons ago ta take likker donations and have a travellin saloon with a free happy hour.

Turned out thet lots a us trappers was just hankerin fer someone ta haul our likker round fer us so's the saloon gots ta be real poplar and so did Screamin Eagle an Annie. Even had a near mirra image this year. Michelle and Will had the "Not So" Olefactory Assinline Saloon a goin rat next door they did.

Ther's always lots goin on at Happy Canyon. A couse ferst thing in tha morning is coffee. Ever monin ther's 2 gallons at the Booshway's. Some crazed ole idjit (yerz truly an Badger Breath) is up afore sunrise, blowin up a far and putting coffee on. When Sac Rat's ther an his bagpipes are a workin, we git the day piped in, an usually we git at least one cannon at sunrise – always followed my muffled shouts from inside tha loges a "MORE POWDER!", an maybe a few other not so printable shouts as well.

Then it's on ta the day's events. Why ther's shootin and throwin hawks and knives. Ther's a talent contest and kids games and the candy cannon a goin off. So many doins it's hard ta keep up with all whats happenin. Thet crazy Booshway even got a mortar what he shoots golf ball outta. He tries ta hit stumps and such, which I doubt he ever. But the real fun is goin down the range and trying ta ketch them little round things. Hard ta do since ya cain't see em comin, but if yer clost nuff, ya might git em on tha furst bounce!



But maybe the biggest hoopla is cause a few yars ago Bellwoman started this real formal occasion. It are a ladies tea it are with men servers. But I think thet tea weren't tea. I think it was more like champagne I do. But the ladies of camp sure seem to enjoy it an it seems ta get more poplar each yar. An at the end a tha tea, them ladies is the happiest I ever seen at any camp ever.



One a tha camp highlights is music. Ther's gitars an harps and all sorts of noise makers, drums an such. Wall this yar, the best session was with the legendary (least wise in his own head) Harry Harpoon. This yar Sac Rat joined fer a while. They

was great together. Had a couple a others an one young feller sang a song about daughters thet had every one spellbound he did. Ole Harry, he got us all going and singin along. Then a course, thar's the story telling and ain't no one better at it then the Woodman, although it gits harder ta tell when he's expected ta pass the jug and talk too. Hee Hee, sure makes fer a interestin evenin.

Partin time is always hard fer me, so's I gits away with it by leavin a day early. Ta be onest, I jist don't like leavin at the same time as everone elst so's I tend ta duck out early. I ain't no good at the goodbyes neither, but I kin say fer sure thet Happy Canyon is one doins I never miss. Jist gits the season off ta jist the right start it does and jist gobs a fun doin it. I'll be bak!

Shinin side up and watch yer back trail.

Preacher

©2007

Track of the Wolf Elk River, Minnesota

A Short Report
by
Butterchurn

I know that many of you do business of TOW and since many of you have never had the opportunity to visit their shop, I thought I would stop in and take a few photos to show you the place.



This is the main store front in Elk River. Notice the paper sign on the door is the only sign identifying the store. Most of their business is mail order and if you are a local customer, you KNOW where it is.

When you enter the shop you are greeted by a sight that can't help but make your mouth water and make either reach for your wallet

or wish you never brought it in the first place. Whenever I go there, Greg, one of the sales staff always has something he saved for me to tempt me to loosen my grasp on my cash.

The sales area is quite small, but their store is huge, filled with all kinds of goodies!



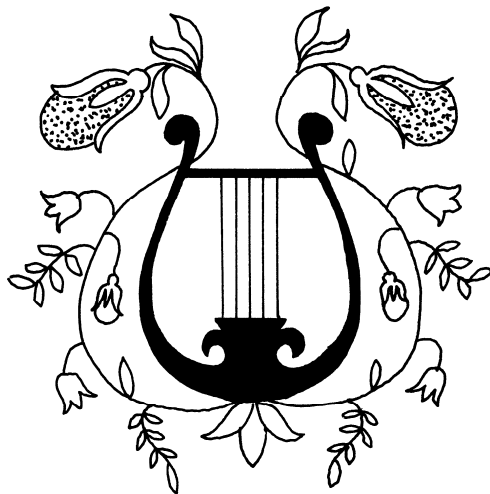
Behind the counter is Ethan Ripplinger one of the co-owners of the place.

Dave Ripplinger will talk your ear off once you get to know him. If they aren't busy, they might take you back to their break room and sit you down for a chat about guns.



Buffalo hide hanging on wall near the entrance/exit of the store.

I hope this will give you an image of the place when you call TOW or do business with them. If you ever get Greg on the phone, say “Howdy” from Ron



Hunting Tip

By

GreyHunter



My turkey hunting tactic is to be setup before 5 am, the birds don't spot me from the roost when I'm coming in. I don't owl hoot, crow call or try to sound like a peacock to get the toms to gobble from the roost. I already know where they roost. I just let 'em alone and they gobble when they are ready. When I think it is light enough for fly down, I do a hen fly down cackle and if they gobble back I work them real slow, light yelps and purrs. If they cut me off (my hen call) I prime

the pan! This has worked the best for me for many years. The TV run and gun and hooting in the morning just scares the birds here in NE PA. Besides it's a lot nicer listening to the woods wake up then scaring the bejesus outa your hunting partner with a peacock call when he aint lookin'! Regards, GreyHunter

GreyHunter's camp at last years club rondy

Butterchurn's Shuler



The lock, trigger and side plate have been removed for wood working

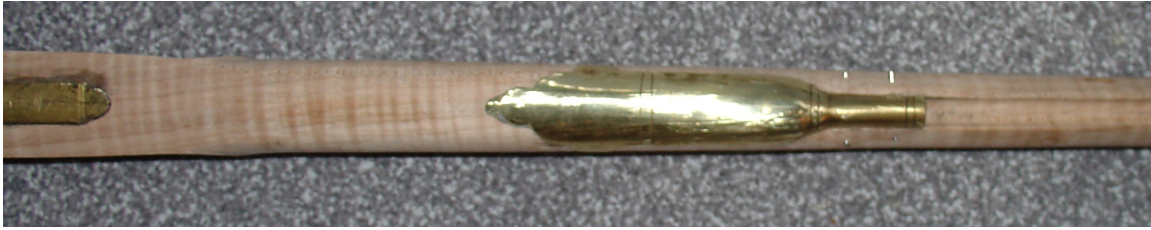
I have been working on this rifle for almost four years now and I thought I would share my progress with you. Four years ago I decided I wanted to learn to make a rifle from scratch. A friend of mine John Donnelson is a blacksmith and a master gun muzzleloader builder. I decided to work with him to build and learn as I built with John as my mentor.

I chose to make a copy of a rifle Johann Shuler built in 1790. Many of the parts are not commercially available so I had to make many of the parts myself. I made the lock pick inlay out of silver, brass ram rod pipes out of old brass door hinges I found in a dump, the nose cap is a modified commercial piece and the side plate and patch box I made out of sheet brass. The patch box opens by a rod under the toe plate, which I also made out of sheet brass. I had to forge my own trigger and modify the lock plate of a Chambers lock in order to get the shape I needed. All of this took me a long time to do.

The stock was a beautiful curly maple blank I found at TOW, rock hard and very curly.



Push down on the toe plate and the patch box opens.



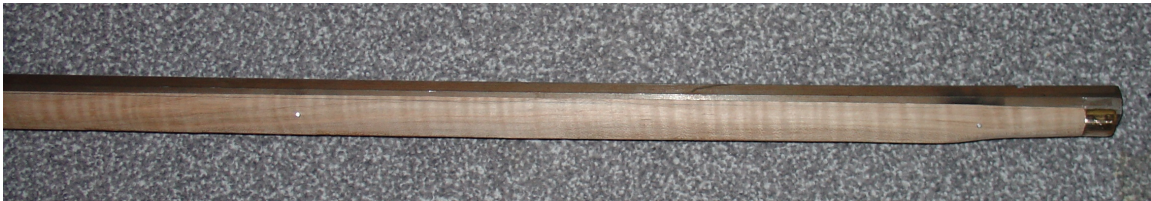
Rear entry pipe made from discarded brass door hinge



I am now at the point where I am beginning the final shaping of the stock and metal finishing. I can actually see the light at the end of the tunnel!



Yes, there are three ram rod pipes on the forearm [plus one rear entry pipe].



For the barrel I selected a Colerain swamped .54 cal, 42 inch





The vent pick inlay I copied from Shuler's, made from silver.

Hope that gives you an idea of what I've been doing with myself these past four years!



Hope you enjoyed the journal.

The hunting tip is a new feature added to the journal this time and I will publish a new tip with each new edition. Please send me your hunting tips to tmajournaleditor@yahoo.com

Until next time!

Butterchurn