

Straight from the Muzzle

Traditional Muzzleloading Association

Newsletter

Spring, 2008



John Shorb

"BigSmoke"

co-editors

Patrick Thevenow

"Indiana"

President's Message

Greetings Fellow TMA Members...

I hope this latest issue of the News Letter finds all of you doing well. I know that there has been some pretty harsh weather across the country, and some of you are still digging out of the snow. As I sit here on the Ides of March writing this little missive, Spring seems to have come here to the NC. sand hills. The Dogwood and pear trees are in bloom, and my wife can't keep the bird feeders filled. Ya know, prior to 153 BC, the Ides of March was the first day of the new year for the Romans, and it kinda seems like a fresh start here too. This is the time of the year when a lot of folks are checking and rechecking their gear...pawing the ground and getting more impatient for the first doings of spring. I hope Spring will soon push into your neck of the woods so that you can break loose. There are turkey hunts, 'voos, frolics and treks to take care of and I sure hope that you have the

best of them. Try to share your pictures and maybe submit an article to the News Letter or Journal, that way we can all share in your fun. As for me...this is the weekend that I will attempt to hit a 10x on my March Postal Shoot targets (stop laughing, I'll do it one day...maybe). If any of you haven't signed up for the Postal Shoots, now would be a great time to do that.

I'll close by thanking all of you for supporting the T.M.A. and keeping it a great place to be.

Good Wishes,
Two Steps

Al Bateman
"Two Steps"
TMA President

Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors held their winter meeting on January 29, 2008 and the following items of business were conducted.

- Existing officers and members of the Board of Directors were nominated and elected to serve another term.
- A vote to terminate the ad in Muzzleloader Magazine passed. The cost of an ad elsewhere is to be investigated.

- The membership will be offered, in the next newsletter, to vote for the replacement member of the Board of Directors.
- Use of Pay Pal for purchase of membership and goods is to be investigated.
- The cost of a re-order of TMA tri-folds is to be investigated.
- There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Traditional Muzzleloading Association
(A Non Profit Organization)
Comparative Statement of Fund Balances

	12 Months	12 Months
	12/31/07	12/31/0E
Revenues		
Membership Dues	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 2,640.00
Contributions	95.00	147.00
Postal shoots	140.50	430.50
Merchandise Sales	155.00	52.00
Great TMA Raffle	1,490.00	749.00
Kentucky Rendezvous	0.00	75.00
Medallions	<u>21.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Revenues	4,541.50	4,093.50
Expenditures		
Advertising	\$ 421.20	\$ 421.20
Other Expense	149.70	723.84
Office Supplies	0.00	166.50
Patches	331.00	0.00
Postage	453.81	439.83
Printing	518.54	57.77
Web Site/Forum	<u>276.61</u>	<u>278.82</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 2,150.86	\$ 2,087.96
Fund Balance		
Prior Year Surplus	3,525.46	1,519.92
Unappropriated	<u>2,390.64</u>	<u>2,005.54</u>
Total Fund Balance	\$ 5,816.10	\$ 3,525.46
General Operating Funds	\$ 5,816.10	\$ 3,525.46

Meet the NOMINEES for TMA Board of Directors

The nominees have sent the following biographies in for your consideration. Instead of simplifying matters, I think it has only made a decision-making process more difficult. The Officers and the Board of Directors of the TMA urge you to read each of these bios and give some consideration as to whom you think will best serve the organization the best. Then please, take a few minutes and fill out the ballot and send it in. We would like to have 100% participation in this vote. In no particular order are the candidates for this post.

Bob Riegl (Voyageur)

I am called Voyageur, and am a widowed 77 year young retired Professor of Chemistry and live on Long Island in the Empire (Vampire) State of New York. I was born and raised on Long Island and have spent all of my life here except for 4 years in the service and six years in pursuit of my PhD in Chemistry. I share my life with a big Classic Silver Maine Coon cat, Toddy, who keeps me laughing and loving this big gentle giant. He's quite a pal and companion.

I have spent a great part of my life hiking & climbing the Adirondack & Catskill wilderness areas and peaks and am a lifetime hunter and fisherman. I am also an avid fly fisherman and fly tier.

Expressing my artistic side is satisfied by producing detailed wood carvings of Duck decoys and Shore Birds. My life has always been involved with a passionate interest in firearms and I began collecting antiques while in college. My current collection of Antique weapons, reproductions, including several pre-Flintlock weapons is quite large. I do spend considerable time enjoying firing many of these guns and also use a select few for hunting. Though I am not a "re-enactor" my life-long study of American History specializing in the beginnings of our colonies and a huge passion for the Civil War period, specializing in the Battle of Gettysburg.

I feel I would be a good Board member as I bring a lot of back ground knowledge to the table and an excellent background in general history as well as our firearms history and that of our great country. My purpose would be to try to make our TMA the TMA of a lot more devoted members.

Rich Worthington (RichW)

I was born in British Columbia, but a U.S. Citizen from birth. My earliest memory is of being poked by a diaper pin. I got my first pair of brain-tan moose moccasins at age 5, shot my first muzzleloader at about age 13, and became hooked for life. My dad made my first traditional bow when I was about the same age. Growing up, my brother and I were what many people would call poor, but we never lacked books, raw materials, or the desire to make things. Among my greatest influences were the books by Eric Sloane, and later, Roy Underhill. By age 18, I was building muzzleloaders from kits, and making

most of my gear for rendezvous/reenacting/living history. In those days, I also spent my summers living in a tipi that I made myself.

My first job out of High School was working on a 1,626 ton (net) square-rigged sailing ship, built in 1886. I held the lofty title of "Janitor." But I was expected to lend a hand and "learn the ropes" when needed, which was fairly often, and when I moved on, five years later, I could knot, splice, reef, hand, and steer. I also had the opportunity to sail on several visiting tall ships, including the Christian Raddich, and Our Svanen.

From there, I worked as an auto mechanic, boat-engine mechanic, and served in the Army Reserve for eight years (Combat Engineer). My last assignment was as a Platoon Sergeant during the Gulf War. After the Army and the war, I attended the University of California-Berkeley, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. From there, it was on to Graduate School, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (mom's home town), where I earned a Master's Degree, and where I currently work as a cartographer.

It was in my first year of Graduate School that I married my lovely wife Margarete. She shares my passion for history, antiques, old ways, old houses, and of course, dogs! Thanks to her unrelenting search, we found and bought an 1860's farmhouse on just over 2 acres out in the country.

I believe strongly in the goals of the TMA, and want to help it grow within the spirit of our charter. I believe we have, and need to maintain, a good balance of hunting, building, target shooting, and reenacting/rendezvous, and you know I always encourage folks to try making their own gear. Above all, I want to help ensure that TMA is a fun, educational, and friendly place for all who are interested in traditional muzzleloading.

Patrick Thevenow (Indiana)

I was asked to write a short biography of myself for the members of the TMA and state what I can bring to the Board of Directors. I figure the best place to start is from the beginning, where else is there to start? My name is Patrick Thevenow and I am from Madison, Indiana, a small town in rural southern Indiana. While I am only 18 years old, I believe there is much I can bring to the TMA as a member of the board of directors. Most of you are already familiar with me and all of the candidates through the official internet forum, but there are members who do not access the forum and they are just as important to the TMA as the people who are able to participate in daily discussions online. For those of you without access to the forum, you may recognize my name from the as-of-yet unnamed newsletter as one of the

co-editors. My other current involvement with the TMA is as State Representative for Indiana.

As a member of the board of directors, I hope to bring a younger, yet passionate voice to the TMA board of directors and its decisions. Having young people actively involved in this hobby is incredibly important and if I am able to serve every one of you as a member, I will do my best to aid in steering the growth of this organization.

We are all members of the TMA because we have a passionate interest in the traditional aspects of muzzleloading. I try to learn as much as I can about all aspects of traditional muzzleloading and history in general. I shoot a flintlock rifle I built myself (which I never would have completed or even started, had it not been for the TMA), wear clothes and gear I made myself, and try to share what I have learned at every possible opportunity. I like to spend most of my time out in the woods of our farm, scouting around and just enjoying it. That is how I spend most of my summer breaks from school... in the woods. I also really enjoy making my gear. That is some of the best fun, and it really makes your equipment mean something more to you than just something you have bought. My favorite time period is from the French and Indian War through the end of the Revolution. I plan to further my education with a degree in history at Butler University, starting this fall. I hope this short piece was able to introduce me to you and thanks for considering me as a candidate for this position!

Eric Scott Campbell (Eric S Campbell)

Greetings fellow TMA members! My name is Eric Scott Campbell. Some of you on the forum know me and what I do, but for those of you who don't frequent the forum let me tell you a little about myself!

I grew up being in the woods, in fact my earliest memory is of myself being carried on my grandfather's shoulders walking through the snow covered woods and seeing a doe. I grew up in the Maryland, PA area until recently when I moved to SC. Growing up I always had a passion for history from movies, books, and from a lifetime of hiking in the woods with my father. All year I would look forward to the two weeks a year I got to spend running around the mountains of Virginia and NC. I grew up learning about nature, hunting, woodworking, and family history. My family played a big role in my interest in history, and were very supportive of it all by taking me to pow wows, ronny's, and muzzleloading fairs. At the age of 15 I started to make and sell my own muzzleloading accoutrements to people involved in living history and muzzleloading. Since then I have become a trekker and try to recreate everything I make with historical accuracy. A lot of my time goes into reading historical descriptions to better understand the time we try to recreate.

I have been a member of the TMA since January of

2006. Since then I have spent a lot of time on the TMA forum and have become a moderator on the forum and am one of the two State Representatives for SC. At the age of 18 I really don't have any qualifications for a seat on the BoD beside my passion for the lifestyle of ours and my love for the TMA. What I do hope to bring is my honesty and love for the members wants and needs to the BoD. I truly believe the TMA is nothing without it's members! And that is something that will never be forgotten by me.

Ron LaClair (Longhunter)

My name is Ron LaClair, "Longhunter" on the TMA forum and I am running for a position on the TMA Board.

I was born and raised in Michigan and I've tromped it's woods and streams since I was knee high to a Badger. I've always had a love for history, especially the weapons that were used back then. For me there is absolutely no challenge in hunting with modern guns and bows. In addition to hunting with Flintlock rifles and smooth bores, I also hunt with longbows during the archery season.

I've been in love with bows and arrows since I was five years old and I won my first archery award when I was eleven. I've been a black powder buff for 35 years and I was here when they lobbied and won a Special Muzzleloading season in Michigan in 1975. It was a short season in early December for all zones of the state but it was OUR season. It was a sacred time for those of us that wanted to turn back the clock and hunt in the tradition of our forefathers. Little did we know at the time that our precious season would be sold out to those with no interest in history, only what they could profit from it, and a desire for an easier way to kill a deer.

It is my firm belief that we can win back our independence and be separated from the modern inline shooters. We can have our own season again... if we are strong enough to fight for it. They say strength lies in numbers but even the largest of Armies cannot win a battle unless they are organized. Through The Traditional Muzzleloading Association, we CAN be organized.

Over the years I have been involved in various organizations. I served on the board of our local muzzleloading club in the late 70's. I was the Founder of the Michigan Longbow Association in 1983 and was it's president for the first 7 years. Later as a Board member and again president. After 20 years serving the MLA I moved on to be a founding member and Board member of the Compton Traditional Bowhunters, a National traditional bowhunting organization.

Having recently stepped down from my duties as board member for the CTB, I am ready willing and able to do what I can to help the TMA achieve it's goals. I believe the TMA has a bright future, we just need to turn up the flame a little so more people can see our light. I would appreciate your vote.

The following people are the current Officers, Board of Directors, and Advisors of the Traditional Muzzleloading Association:

President: Two Steps (Al Bateman - NC)
Vice President: Beaverman (James Smith-WA)
Secretary/Treasurer: Talking Hands (Lynn Poss - GA)
Board Member: Hota (Darren Welch - PA)
Board Member: Jon In MI (Jon Bertolet - MI)
Board Member: Captchee (Charles Starks - ID)
Board Member: Hawkeye (David Ely - MI)
Board Member: Bigsmoke (John Shorb - CA)
Board Member: StaticXD00d (John Cundiff - NC)
TMA Legal Advisor: SSE
TMA Advisor: RollingB
TMA Advisor: RussB
TMA Advisor: Griz
TMA Advisor: Ohio Joe

Straight from the Muzzle

After a weekend of deliberation and voting, your Board of Directors has selected the name "Straight from the Muzzle" for our previously untitled newsletter. The name was chosen from a field of 16 suggestions submitted by several members. **Ridjrunr** submitted the winning entry and will soon be receiving the grand prize, a Cureton Mostly White Powder Horn, valued at over \$80.00. Congratulations to him and thanks to the BoD for their votes and to **Powder Horns and More** for the horn.

Official TMA Board of Directors Ballot

Vote for one (1) only and return to John Shorb, P O Box 1922, Morro Bay, CA 93443

- Bob Riegl (Voyageur)
- Rich Worthington (RichW)
- Patrick Thevenow (Indiana)
- Eric Scott Campbell (Eric S Campbell)
- Ron LaClair (Longhunter)