

# *The Missouri Trekker*

## *The Coalition of Historical Trekkers*

### *Missouri Chapter*

*Tracy Smith - Missouri Representative*

*December Newsletter 2005*

Well, here I sit on New Years Eve morning writing out the December-January newsletter and I thought I should give a quick review of events from the past year.

The National gathering at Ft. Osage took place in April as it will again this year. It was good to meet many members from the Missouri and Kansas areas. There were some really cool events including a tactical, round robin trade circle, general meeting and of course the tavern. I know that Bait is hard at work getting even more things scheduled for this year. This years dates are April 20-23.

Bait attended the Audrain County walk Through Time this year and said it was a very worthwhile event. He set up his camp representing his persona and shared with the spectators as they came through. He'll be looking for others to attend next year.

I hosted a Camp and Shoot in June at the Strother Freetrappers range near Holden MO. We had a few members and families in attendance. We had a good time and the kids had a blast. The trappers race was really something to experience. I'll be doing this again this year but I haven't set a date yet.

On the Fourth of July Ft. Osage has a nice presentation to the public using the Ft. Militia and others. This year we learned how to use the cannon and set it off repeatedly for the spectators. Contact Steve Wilson at the Fort if you are interested, he will be there in April.

In September, I got to make it up to Hodge Park for the Fete'. This is an F&I event sponsored by the Middle Waters Group. It is always a bad weekend for me but my wife and I try to make it up one night to sing and play dice in the tavern. If interested in attending, let me know and I'll put you in touch with Kathy Johnson.

In October, Ft. Osage has their Militia Muster with help from an 1812 regular military unit from Nebraska. This was quite an educational event for me as it fits with my persona time period. I relearned how to march and got to experience a bayonet charge...from the wrong side.

Tom Hansen arranged a deer hunt up in

northwest Missouri during the antlerless season. There will be a better report later in the newsletter but I know he is planning on doing it again next year.

Gerald Anderson hosted a Winter Trek and Camp in the Hercules Glades national forest area in southern Missouri. I'm sure he could be convinced to do so again, maybe even during another part of the year. It really is a nice place to go.

I am hoping to see as many members as possible at the National Gathering in April. I'll let you know of a time and place for us all to get together and talk over upcoming events. Be thinking of things you want to do and if you can't think of anything come see what others are doing and tag along. Good company makes for better events.

Tracy Smith  
Missouri Rep. COHT

#### Antlerless Deer Hunt

I'm sending a full report to the TTG for a future issue but here is a summary for you. North Missouri is cold. We set up in a hollow out of the wind and were pretty comfortable the first night with buffalo skins to sleep in. The days hunting was unproductive, Tom got a shot at a deer but his flint refused to spark three times in a row. I got tired and fell asleep too early, the snow fell and was pretty. We decided to leave and this is when the adventure really started. But that is a tale for another time and place. We had a great time even with a few bumps.

#### Winter Camp and Trek

Gerald Anderson and I donned our packs and headed out down the trail at Hercules Glades in the early afternoon. We were looking for a particular camp site he had used before near the "Devil's Den". We hiked in for about an hour and left the trail headed for the camp. Come to find out we had left the trail early and we missed our mark. We scouted for the site a while but in the process we found another site that would work better for two anyway and set about making camp. We had found a rock overhang about 70 feet up from a spring fed creek

that had good clear water in it. The overhang had a flat floor that was already filled with several inches of leaves. We cleared leaves next to a rock and built a small fire area out of rock, collected wood and made tea. The weather this particular weekend was not very wintry. I had just my shirt on most of the afternoon and evening and was sweating a bit whenever working. We dined on venison steaks and tea and spent the evening engaged in conversation. We stayed warm in our blanket rolls through the night and although the next day brought cooler weather, it was not at all harsh.

We set out after breakfast to scout for our original destination and within about 20 min. we had found it. We weren't that far off. This site is a large overhang with a fire place that could fit several people. The deer hunters had decided to re-arrange things a bit and in their ignorance had moved the fireplace over top of the bedding area. So for a future trek things could be put back in a more usable position. We traveled on up to the actual "Devil's Den", an area of collapsed cave where the spring for the stream originates.

We hiked back out that afternoon. This is a really neat area and I got to see only a small portion so I am hoping to return again some this year. The ground is very, very rocky. I found trekking boots to be very valuable, moccasins would have eaten me up. (My wife calls me a tender footed wimp, but if the boot fits?)

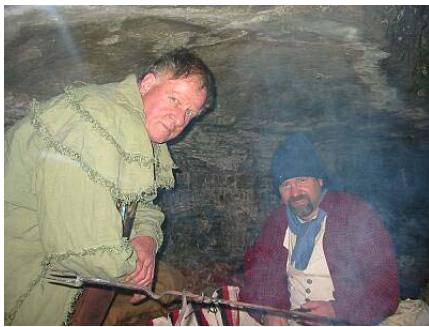
Thanks again to Gerald for showing me this area, I hope we can get together with more members and go again sometime this year.



Hiking out and up and up and up some more.



Clearing my gun at the trail head, no squirrels found.



Gerald Tracy  
Cooking Dinner



Minding the Tea



Sorry, don't know if I bragged about this yet. My son got his first deer this year during the Youth Season. We set up a blind, had our hot chocolate and graham crackers and started watching for deer. Saw some across the fence line and passed on the shot. Later one walked up 15 feet away. He shot it with the fifty cal. Traditions youth rifle I had gotten for him this summer.

I hope all of you have a safe and wonderful new year. Let me know if you've got something going on or want to put something together.

Tracy