

The Missouri Trekker

The Coalition of Historical Trekkers

Missouri Chapter

Tracy Smith - Missouri Representative

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Report from the National Gathering at Ft. Osage

Well if you were there you already know how good it was but for those who missed it, here's the rundown. The COHT National gathering was held at Ft. Osage in Sibley Mo last week and once again the event grew. I was glad to meet some new faces as well as see some members I had not seen in a number of years. The weather was absolutely wonderful (on Saturday afternoon). Ok, well the weather was a trial on Thursday and Friday but it led to a little more togetherness as we re-imagined ourselves being on a late winter scout while we huddled close around fires and tested our skills at staying dry.

There were once again some really good seminars on period skills. Paul Jones from Texas taught us about the history of fishing and how to make and use period fishing equipment including fish hooks and horse hair fishing line. We even got to handle some real artifacts! Darylee Foertch taught us how to cover glass bottles with rope to help keep them from breaking while traveling. Jeff Bottiger taught us how to set deadfalls and snares, I missed this one while I was still covering my bottle so if someone could write up a report that would be great and I'll include it next time. Tammy White hosted a ladies tea and taught some sewing. The weather forced us to cancel some of the members only shooting events and the canoe trip this year. But, we did go to the Steamboat Arabia Museum. I had been before but they always have something new. It was fun to watch those who had never been ooh and aah over the extensive collection of goods available in 1856.

We had a very nice tour guide who was glad to answer our many questions and would take us personally to specific items if we had missed them. Since we all went in period garb, we made quite an impression. Several of the members spent a good amount of time talking with one of the museum owners who was one of the five people who found and recovered the Arabia. They are now looking for the "Enterprise" which is from an earlier time period and was one of Ashley's boats that was lost on an upriver trip. I signed up to help with the dig if they are able to make the find.

Of course the tavern was a great success as always and we had the dance Saturday evening after the dinner and auction. The Duffys played the music for the dance and we had about three times the amount of people involved this year than we had last. Tom Hansen gifted a barrel for a swivel gun to Dick Underwood from Alaska. It was something that Dick had been looking for for years. I wonder if he had any trouble getting it on the plane?

Thanks to those who were able to attend and make this such a great event!

New Organizational Stuff

We have had a couple of changes in the last year that will affect you. First the good news! Our dues have been lowered to \$25 a year for individual and \$35 a year for family. Dues for the year are due in June and will run that calendar year. New members may take advantage of a prorated amount if they join at some point mid year. Now for the not so good,

due to some questions that arose regarding our liability insurance coverage for events and the answers we got from our insurance company; a vote was held online and the decision was made that anyone actively participating in a COHT sponsored event will need to be a member of the organization. This came about because our liability insurance only covers the members of the organization. If you have questions about this please post online or email Scott Carlson treasurer@coht.org so you can get the best answer.

How to get Juried into an Event

Well I finally made my schedule work so that I could attend a Juried Event. I was always curious just how much you had to do to get accepted and I found this lack of knowledge more than a little intimidating. So, here is how it worked for me.

I had been told the the April event a Ft. De Chartres was a really good event and was juried so you had to be accepted to attend. After talking to some people who attend regularly I found that there was a web site that outlined their rules and application process. So the first thing I did was go to the web site and download the rules and application. I poured over the rules to find where my outfit was lacking and to my surprise I did have everything I needed. Now to be honest, I have been working toward this for a number of years a bit at a time so there were many years when I first started that I was not ready to attend. But, I also found that had I set my sights on doing this a few years earlier I could have used the rules to improve my outfit and accoutrements more quickly. They requested a picture of me in the outfit I would be wearing and of my shelter and all accoutrements that I would be bringing. Two of their big requests were NO plastic and NO non-period eyewear. So I took pictures of myself that showed head to toe in period dress and of my stuff laid out on the bedroll I would use, and the diamond fly I would set up for shelter if I

needed it. I filled out the application and put everything in an envelope. I mailed it off and waited a week or so for my reply. I did get accepted, huzzah! Now another hint, make sure your picture shows your feet as period footwear is also a must and they do actually look at the pictures.

I had a family commitment hit me from nowhere the week before the event which messed with my plans but I did make it to the event for the last evening and morning. Hopefully I will be able to attend it again next year and have a better feel for the whole event. (and a better report afterwards.)

Upcoming Events

Pomme De Terre Rendezvous May 3-4
Just below Lake Pomme De Terre
Check www.talking-bear.com for flyer

Ft. Osage Muzzleloaders NMLRA State Shoot
May 9-11 Near Pittsville Mo. Contact Bob
Kurth for info 816-228-0521

Ft. De Chartres Rendezvous June 6-8
Near Prairie du Rocher Il.
www.ftdechartres.com

High Plains regional Rende June 13-21
Near Mclouth KS.
Check www.talking-bear.com for flyer

First Sante Fe Trails Plainsmen Rendezvous
July 18-20 Near Over Brook KS.
Check www.talking-bear.com for flyer