

The Missouri Trekker

The Coalition of Historical Trekkers

Missouri Chapter

Tracy Smith - Missouri Representative

Summer Quarterly 2008

Dues First

I sent an email to remind the Missouri membership that dues are due in June of each year now. I'll mention again some recent changes. Dues have been **lowered** to \$25 individual and \$35 family. I am enclosing a membership application to make your renewal easier. If you paid in April at the National Gathering, you should be good until next June. Also note on the form that there is a place for you to check whether you want your information listed in the TTG so other members can contact you regarding events they might be hosting or trying to plan. If you do not check this box, your information will not be made public. Also as a favor to me, make sure that you list a current email address if you have one. This saves me money on postage. I know I can turn this expense over to the organization for reimbursement but I never remember to do so.

Report on High Plains Regional Rendezvous

Well I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the HPRR this year in McLouth KS. The last time this event was held in KS was five years ago and I only went for a weekend that time. This time I was able to be there for the whole week and two weekends. It started off VERY muddy but they were organized enough and prepared to deal with getting people in and out without too much trouble. Bill Carl was the Booshway and did an excellent job I thought, although he blamed that on those who were helping him. I got pulled in by the track hoe through the mud and ended up setting camp in the midst of a bunch of trees next to the hooters. I wasn't sure that it was a wise thing to do but as

it turned out, the ground dried pretty quick and the honey wagon was able to make it in for service so my fears of a stinky camp were unfounded. It also turned out to be a great place to have a trade blanket since there was a large amount of foot traffic.

There were quite a few other COHT members attending including Rooster, Todd Wells, and Clatch from up north; JP Finn and John Meyer from Missouri; and I was able to meet other members and former members at a "Meet and Greet" that we sponsored on Wed. Evening. We had about thirty or so camp members that came by and we discussed the COHT a bit and shared stories and questions and even sang a few songs over a beer or two. Rooster brought up a couple of items from his trade tent for a "door prize" drawing. (BTW, I had not seen Rooster's full trade setup before. He had by far the best quality goods of any of the traders in attendance.)

The Meyer family camped the whole week just around the corner and so their three kids and my two; as well as various other kids from age 4 to 12 began congregating at our tent. So much so that we finally set up a tent just for the kids across the road. It was neat to see them figure out ways to entertain themselves (usually without too much strife) without the aid of tv's video games, or ipods. At the end of the week after closing ceremonies they did make a little adventure video using John's camera. It was pretty cool. But during the week it was "sticks for guns" and "build a fortress" and "chase each other around". There were other activities for the kids also but they entertained themselves well most of the time.

A situation regarding Rooster and Bears taught me something I did not know! Its not something that is easy to talk about in public but someday I might have to compose a bawdy song about it. In the end it made my wife happy!

Back in January I started the process of recording a CD of period songs to sell at events and I sat around at the trade blanket performing songs and selling a few CDs at times throughout the week. Had to keep them out of sight of course. I'm pretty pleased with the CD and have gotten pretty good reviews from those who have picked up a copy. (You can check it out online at <http://cdbaby.com/cd/tracysmith>)

They had many good shooting events throughout the week and also archery and knife and hawk matches. Really there was more to do in a day than you had time for so you had to pick and choose or run yourself ragged.

The next HPRR will be in North Dakota and Clatch will be the Booshway. He says he has a really beautiful sight next to a river. You can keep your eye on the web site www.hpr.org for more info.

Palisade Shoot

One of the neatest shoots they had at the HPRR this year was a palisade shoot that was put on by Leland Davis (also a fine gunsmith). You signed up for a time and went down to the range. You were not allowed to come to the firing area until it was your time and you were already loaded. They gave you a small paper target which was the tie breaker and sent you down to the line when it was your turn. Once there, you were not allowed to go scout the targets. You had to stand to the side of a picket fence made of logs and shoot your tie breaker target which they hung on a tree at 15-20 yards. Once you fired that shot they started a timer and you had five minutes to step to the line, load and shoot as many targets as you could in five minutes. The targets were metal clangers but they were standing behind trees, in shadows and were painted brown so they blended in. You had to be searching with

your eyes while you were loading to acquire the next target because you had to shoot a different target each time. I really enjoyed this one and not just because I shot particularly well that day. It was a very original and new concept for me. Leland did a great job putting that shoot together.

Upcoming Events

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

Barren Fork Territorial Rendezvous
Aug. 27-Sept. 7th Near Gainsville MO
Check www.talking-bear.com for flyer

Flint Hills Muzzel loaders Rendezvous
Aug. 29th-Sept. 1st Florence KS
Check www.talking-bear.com for flyer

Ft. Osage Bicentennial
Sept. 6-7th Sibley MO.
<http://www.fortosagenhs.com>

Grand Festival of Chez Les Canses
A "self juried" event of the F & I time period.
Sept. 13-14 , Ft. Osage in Sibley MO.
<http://www.fortosagenhs.com>

Osage River Mountain Man Rendezvous
Sept. 19-21, 2008 Crybaby Campground
Osage Beach, Missouri
Check www.talking-bear.com for flyer

Strothers Fall Rendezvous
Oct. 5-7 Near Holden MO
www.strotherclub.com

I also hope to be hearing about some fall treks, or hunts put on by members that I can let you know about as they come up.

Until next time,
YMHS
Tracy Smith
Mo-rep@coht.org

