

OHIO VALLEY MUZZLE LOADING



April, 2013

Well, this time winter is almost over. Hopefully we will have a spring before summer. On Saturday, April 6th we had our April shoot. The weather started out cold, in the 30's, I think, but ended the day in the low 60's. Thanks to all those that showed up early to rebuild the racks. Also, a special thanks to Ken and Mark Hazel for getting the materials and prepping them for setup. We setup the racks with 5/8" plywood clips instead of the grooved 2x4s. Mark Herman provided his version of a portable 50 yard rack. We are going to make a couple minor adjustments to it and will hopefully have it setup in May. We think it will work out fine.

Tom Darfus was shoot host and did a good job. We had 27 shooters, a great turnout for April. We had a couple fellows join the Hall of Shame. Josh LaRue, I believe dry balled twice. However, I did hear he was having troubles with his rifle so I really don't know for sure. Josh is a fairly new shooter, so we understand, but you made the list anyway. Sam Martin, I'm not sure what happened. The flintlock wouldn't fire so we added primer in the touch hole. It discharged with a strange fizzle, so we thought the ball discharged. Then Sam put in a new load and we couldn't get it to fire. After much frustration we pulled one ball, followed by powder. After the powder came out it still had a ball in the breach which we could not pull. Sunday I debreached the rifle and drove a second ball and powder out. Both balls had powder behind them, so I am not sure what happened. Since I'm the one that told him to add the second load I am adding my name to the list. I lost my notes, so am not sure who free shooter is in May, but it is marked on the list in the shed. Neil became our first Top Gun this year.

We added one new member this month, John Clark. John is from Galena and just recently joined the Centerburg Conservation Club. Welcome aboard. Thanks to all that came in April and made it a good time.

On Saturday, April 20th we hosted the muzzle loading station at Mt. Vernon's Pheasants Forever/ 4H youth day. Working the shooting station were Dave Nune, Mark Hazel, Rick Harkless, Bob Hurlburt and Ralph Arms, our resident Indian. 170 kids signed in for the day and we're guessing about 200 shots were fired from our guns. Thanks to Mark Herman for loaning his youth guns for the event. Ralph let a few shoot his club butt smoothbore and Bob had his flintlock there. The youngest shooter was 4. We let him fire a cap. His mom was thrilled we spent some time with him. I think we all had a great time. Thanks also goes to Dave and Bob for working the previous weekend with Fairfield County's youth day hosted at the Johnstown Sportsman's club.

On a sad note, I wanted to let everyone know Doc Riebel, a long-time member, passed on, mid-April. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

Sunday, May 5th is our next shoot. Shoot host is Ralph Arms. Remember, Sunday shoots start at 11:00. Hope to see everyone there.

Your pres,

Rick