



January 25, 2017

Hello All;

My first letter as your new club president! Hope I can do a good job and I promise to try my best. We had our annual meeting and elected officer and trustees. Items on new business consisted of painting the roof of the shooting cover, adding a woodswalk in place of the one on Founder's Day and going back to a paper shoot on Founder's Day. We are also working in smoothbores during the October's woodswalk.

A question was brought to our attention on what sites are allowed by our bylaws. I've been looking into the matter for clarification, especially on fiber optics sights. I was looking for a definitive answer like "they are not allowed" but it's not that easy. Our club bylaws adopted the NMLRA Primitive Range Rules; I've reprinted a couple of lines from those rules:

9020–EQUIPMENT–Primitive matches are conducted using traditional offhand hunting-style flintlock and percussion rifles, pistols, and smoothbore muzzle loading firearms.....

9090–SIGHTS–Rifle and pistol front and rear sights must be open, fixed, and non-adjustable. Shaders and sight hoods are not permitted, except in match 605, Bill Large. The tips and interior of buckhorn sights must pass a 1/4" gauge. Rear sights on rifles must be six inches (6") or more in front of the rear of the barrel. Certain special matches may permit specific exemptions to the general rules; such exemptions will be defined in the rules for those certain special matches. The "sealing" of adjustable sights with substances such as wax, lead, or tape to render them "fixed" is permitted. Smoothbore: no rear sight above the plane of the barrel.

Front sight color shall be black, white, or a natural metallic color such as brass, silver, gold, or iron.

I discussed this with past presidents, current board members and determined that the use of fiber optic sights are not allowed based on our bylaws (and believe they would not be allowed at any Primitive shoot under the NMLRA rules). Even the use of orange paint on the front sight appears to be illegal. We don't want any member to have to remove fiber optic sights from a gun and will allow them painted black during the shoot. They sell "sight black" in a spray can that can be removed with a little elbow grease and we will have this available in the shed.

Neil Eddington has agreed to host a seminar at his home workshop on Feb. 18th. Rick Harkless' wife prepared the enclosed flyer for club members on this event. The address and a map are included.

The club has several CVA rifles that are too heavy for younger ones to handle. In the past Mark Herman has lent us rifles with plastic stocks and they work good. At this seminar we will be cutting down the club rifles so the kids can handle them better. We hope this will make them light enough for their intended use.

Sorry this is a little long winded, I'll get better as we go along.

Mark Hazel