
◆ Plunder and Possibles ◆

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The Newsletter of the Jefferson Longrifles, Inc., an NMLRA Affiliated Muzzleloading and Reenacting Club

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**SQUIRREL
CAMP 2002**

TRADE FAIRE

**CLUB
RENDEZVOUS**

**MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

ST. AUGUSTINE

CALENDAR

Squirrel Camp

Well the 9th annual Squirrel Camp has come and gone. The three-day event was marked with wind and rain this year. I believe that this is the first time that has happened. Nevertheless, we had a record turn out of forty-one participants. Six more than last year, Hey! As everyone who participates in these activities with the Jefferson

an exception to those of years past, in other ways also. This was the first time that most of the participants were in DRAG. That is to say, in period dress for the 18th century. The camp had The Look! This may continue in future squirrel camps, but new members and guests that may read this are reminded that one can join



son crew knows, the weather only leads us to other entertainment. Flaming Feather, BoooshLee and Sunshine can attest. Undaunted by the elements, a rendezvouser will survive.

This years camp became

in the event with modern gear. Squirrel Camp will not segregate modern from period set ups! This event is the club's fall recreational camp and is meant to allow old and new members as well as potential mem-

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Trade Faire

Preparations are nearing completion on the 2003 Trade Faire. This year campers may stay for the entire week in accordance with the following dates:

Open to the public,
Friday through
Monday, 14 -17
February 2003.
Camping available 10-
17 February 2003.
Breakdown required
by Tuesday, 18
February 2003.

For those who don't know what it is about, or so members can share with their friends:

Colonial trade fairs were held in all the colonies. The object of the fairs were to get people together to provide a means to buy and sell products of manufacture, livestock, produce and other sorts of goods and merchandise. Artisans, tinkers and mongers would gather to h a w k t h e i r

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Spring Tonic by Jackie Shaffer

When I was a young girl growing up in the back woods of Georgia. My paternal Grand Mother had a strong influence on our family. She firmly believed in the positive effects of the SPRING TONIC, or Dosing, as she referred to it. Now this meant Castor Oil. She would whip out the largest cooking spoon she could find, and I swear she had some big ones. Then came the orange juice, a big shot to wet the throat. The large slug of foul tasting oil was washed down by chug-a-lugging half a glass of orange juice. I survived the experience and we seldom had to

go to a doctor so who am I to argue the validity of a spring tonic.

An organization like JLR is continually growing and changing (or it should be). Our driving force consists of a core group of people. It is this core that keeps things going. Over the past several years they are the ones who always seem to have their fingers in every pie, as they say. Some of these people have expressed an interest in kicking back a little. Perhaps it is time for the club to have a "spring tonic". Sometimes a "dosing is good it gives us a fresh start and a fresh prospective. Re-

Ochlocknee River Rendezvous

Co-Booshways Lori Ashe and Beth Bloomquist remind club members that the '03 Ochlockonee River Rendezvous will be held for the fourth year at beautiful Grey Fox Farm on February 20-23. Over the past few years the small rendezvous has developed a reputation as a competitor's 'vous with great black powder, archery, hawk, ladies' and children's events scheduled over the long weekend. There's sure to at least one activity for everyone. Recent workdays have yielded

plenty of firewood, a water tank near the center of camp, and new tables and benches for the camp feed. Campers coming straight to the rendezvous from the Trade Faire are welcome. The camp feed will once again feature a whole hog cooked on site in Mama's Kitchen supplemented by the capable cooking efforts of campers. A drawing for outstanding prizes including two Tony Bell bows and a travelling spinning wheel built by Bill

Lurvey will be held after dinner. Because of the quality and nature of the prizes, it has been decided that tickets for the rendezvous will not be sold to flatlanders and only campers will be eligible to win. Winners must also be present and dressed in Period Clothing. Mark your calendars now and make plans to be part of this great Longrifle event.

*Winners
must be
dressed
in Period
Clothing....*

Trade Faire, Con't.

wares. Commanders of forts throughout the colonies would organize fairs in an effort to supply the men under him with the personal items that were not provided by government rations and to promote better well-being with the civilians in and around the outpost.

The fairs, generally lasting three days, became home to

itinerant entertainers, food vendors, pickpockets, showmen and harlots. When you add to these the militiamen, aristocrats, housewives and children, you create a frontier celebration with the sights and smells unlike any other activity.

A trade faire today is reenactment of a traditional colonial Faire where goods of every sort are available for

sale/trade. Like those of old, many forms of entertainment are available for the modern family - music, dancing, dining and shopping. Like the colonial events it is a place where the sights, sounds and smells of a market faire will excite the senses; and a place where traditional skills such as shooting, hawk and knife throwing, archery, weaving, bread/butter making (to name a few) are all available for close inspection by the passers by. You can

Jackie Shaffer

member: If it is living and growing it can benefit from a spring tonic or at best an occasional shot of Geritol.

So here's your opportunity: If you would like to do a specific job say....., Shoot coordinator or chairperson for a committee or Booshway for the 04 rendezvous. Maybe you would like to shoot a little higher (no pun intended): like President (Ok you might have to fight me for that job), Vice president, Secretary or Treasurer. Or maybe the job you want to do doesn't even exist yet. NOW, is always a good time to volunteer for a job, existing or new.

At the March meeting, which is just 2 meetings away, we will be taking nominations for club officers and members to the board of directors. They will be voted on at the April meeting. Keep this in mind and start thinking along those lines. Nominations can be made in person at the March meeting. If you are shy about placing a nomination others or yourself or you can't make the March meeting, you may give your nominations to a club officer and we will see that the nomination is made.

Everyone who can, should make it a point to come to the club meetings in March and April. It's your club, exercise your voice. If for no other reason, come defend yourself. In your absence, there is no telling into what job you may be voted.

The Grand Illumination

After several years of Club member encouragement, Sara, Brianna and I finally went to this St. Augustine colonial celebration. What we found was something completely different than a Rendezvous experience, but an event that was a lot of fun too.

The usual suspects from the Club were there: Deni and Beth, Buck, William and Katherine, along with their sons, Wills and Dillon, with his girlfriend Lindsay Carpenter and Pete and Lisa. Notably absent this year were Pat and Charlie, John and Jackie and Art and Nancy. They were missed by all.

Kathryn's recommendation to stay at the Pirate Haus hostel was great. We had a room with private bath and will definitely stay there again.

We used Kathryn's sister's can-

dle shop as a home base. And kept coolers in the back cabin stocked with necessary refreshments and libations. The little building even had a nice bathroom for the ladies. Pete and Lisa also had a tent set up in the yard for special needs (naps of course).



The gatherings before and after the night time march through the streets are really good. There was a gathering at the Spanish mission complex on Friday night and another one Saturday night behind the Bakery after the event. Plenty of beer, rum and comraderie.

Although there were fewer reenactors that I anticipated, there were throngs of local folks lining the roads along the parade route. Those folks really got into the celebration and we could tell they appreciated our being there.

There was a little role playing around the modern visitors (considering that we were the local residents), especially in the vicinity of the "Cabin." Buck, Deni and William tried hard to communicate with some of them, and most of them went along with the play.

Shopping was very interesting and we could not visit all the shops in the time we had. Sara even attended two workshops on colonial Spanish embroidery.

The fort is really impressive, and walking through the period encampment on the north green near the fort gives one a deeper sense of the history we are recreating.

We will definitely make plans to attend next year and encourage all members to come along.

Alafia and Fire Retardant Tents

The fire retardant tent crisis is over, unless you are a vendor, preparing food with propane. If you are, contact the Booshway.

The rest of us are ok and several Longrifles plan to attend. This

includes Pat and Charlie, Edgar and Jeanie, William and Kathryn, Craig, Dick Beane and new members Cheryl Gibbons and Ruth Ann Shultz. Jan will be there for a short time and Art and Nancy will be walk

through attendees. Call Pat and Charlie for details on camp set up.

Alafia is at the new permanent location, south of Bartow off US 17. The cost is \$30 at the gate for campers.

Why Rendezvous ?
An Article by Perley Urquhart

AHHHHH! Rendezvous! This is as good as it gets! Them Mountain Men knew how to live! Are these your thoughts? Do you really enjoy Rendezvousing? Well Friends, they sure are mine, and yep, I sure do enjoy Rendezvousing! Why? It's difficult to put my finger on, to be truthful. It might be that intangible something that lives in Spirit, that pervades all nature, that lies dormant in all of us, waiting to be called to life. It may be something that is carried in our genes, given us by our Forefathers and passed down, generation to generation.

Whatever it is, it isn't that I am a socializer, for I'm not. I value my privacy to be sure, and I feel very insecure when in the midst of a noisy crowd of people, friends or no! And it surely isn't because I'm a born camper, 'cause I'm not! And it isn't because I am a competitor, for I fall far short of that.

However, I've got rendezvousing in my veins, and to shake it I couldn't, even if I tried. A late friend, who enjoyed it as much as life itself, introduced me to this hobby (for want of a better term). He invited me to visit the Northeastern Primitive Rendezvous on the appropriate public day in July of 1994 which was held in St. Albans in Maine and stroll around. I was hooked. I then rushed home and filled my wife in on what I'd seen, how people had dressed and camped, and the friendship shown to me, even by people I'd never met before.

I asked if she would care to go visit too, and her answer was, "not unless you are convinced that you would like to do it also, because I've always said I was born two hundred years too late". So off we went. She was hooked too! Later that day as we sat reflecting on all we'd seen, we started planning. I immediately sent off for catalogs from merchants who offered period goods, and in a few short days, we were compiling a want list.

Come October we were ready, and attended our very first event in Smithfield, Maine, down behind an old gravel pit in a postage stamp size field. Just a few days previous, I had turned

my ankle and chipped the bone, so here I was hobbling around on a cane, dressed to the nines, and lugging around a half-stock caplock rifle.

I'll never forget that Rendezvous, even if I go to a thousand others! I met more friendly people there during that weekend than I had in any one whole year's period before. I participated in a fun knife and hawk walk and even managed to stick them once in a while. A young man named Joey ran and retrieved my implements for me at each station so I wouldn't have to hobble around in the underbrush! I managed to repay a part of that debt in later years by being able to purchase a competition medallion for him at a subsequent Northeastern.

Some years after that I was privileged to be elected to be Booshway of a Northeastern Primitive Rendezvous, a truly humbling experience. I felt a great deal of honor in being allowed to head a lovely event such as it was. An experience I'll not soon forget. The friends I made at that Rendezvous will remain a special treasure for me for many years to come.

If you have never attended a National Rendezvous, let me issue you a heartfelt invitation to attend the Northeastern Primitive Rendezvous that is planned for Freeport, Maine for July 11 through 19, 2003. Look me up and we'll sit a spell and compare notes. I'll treat you to a cup of camp coffee and with a bit of luck, some of my wife's wonderful cooking, maybe even a piece of pie cooked in a dutch oven over an open campfire!

And if you have attended these events in the past but for some reason fell off the wagon train, please accept my plea to come back. Attend this one and look me up. Tell me why you felt you didn't want to come back anymore. Maybe you had a bad experience at a previous event, and it left a bad taste in your mouth. Maybe we can talk it out, you and I. Maybe we can find the salve that might smooth over any hard feelings you might be carrying. Maybe we can find that cement of brotherly

Why Rendezvous ? Con't.

“Maybe the Rendezvous will be better from your visit.”

love and friendship. Maybe I can gain a new friend from our visit together. Maybe I can renew a friendship gone wrong or strengthen a friendship that has never been strong. Maybe the Rendezvous will be the better from you visit. Maybe you'll come back another year, and another. Maybe you and I can grow old together sitting around campfires, sharing a pot of camp coffee and happy memories of the events gone past. Maybe you'd just like to come on a visitor's

day and get acquainted. That's fine too. I'd still love to meet you and share my memories of Rendezvous' past. Maybe you'll feel like we did in '94, and at the next Rendezvous you'll be geared up and camp next to us. You'll seldom find a hobby that will compare, and the friendships you'll make will make you rich beyond words. Give us a try! Freeport By the Sea, Two Thousand and Three! Check out the web site at http://www.nrlhf.org/2003_nepr

By Perley A. Urquhart

Club Events and Shoot Schedule

Our shoots remain scheduled for the second Sunday of each month, starting with lunch at 12:00 pm, archery at 1:00 pm and muzzleloaders at 2:00 pm.

Remember, Deni has been keeping track of the scores for the quarterly match winners and will conduct the end of year shoot off for the Club Championship. You can win prizes for in archery and gun.

The Annual Championship shoot was held in December, with only two qualifying club members competing in each category. Deni Bloomquist is the 2002 Archery Champion, Robert "Caplock" Pryor is the shooting Champion, and William Wilson is the Hawk Champion. Good,

and persistent work guys. Common now gals, the challenge has been made and we know you can best the men in archery and hawk. Practice, practice, practice.....whoop em!!

At the December meeting Deni let it be known that he would like to step down as competition director. The VP will select or draft his replacement (Charlie?) with the duties being shared between several folks so there are back-up personnel.

We need to continue supporting the Championship series, and are open to suggestions on how to get more club members active in the competition.

Remember, our club shoots are the best way to prepare for Rendezvous competi-

tion, and we would sure like to continue making a good show at national events.

The December meeting was hosted by the Wilsons, and they did a great job preparing a feast for the Club.

At the January meeting we approved new members: Marty Harris, John Cofield, David Ikenberry, Cheryl Gibbons, and Ruth Ann Schultz. Welcome to the Club guys and gals.

Plans are underway for two major events: The Trade Faire and the 2003 Club Rendezvous. As usual, volunteers are always needed so contact Jan for the Trade Faire and Beth or Kathryn for the Club Rendezvous.

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In This Issue...

2002 Squirrel Camp, Trade Faire, Club Rendezvous

Squirrel Camp 2002

(Continued from page 1)

bers to let their hair down, enjoy the weekend and see the camaraderie which makes the Jefferson Longrifles known throughout the Southeast.

My thanks to all who participated. I call it a success!! Check out the web site for pictures and commentary.
http://www.jeffersonlongrifles.com/squirrel_camp.htm
John Cole

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

February—shoot site at the Wilsons
March—Robert (won't drive) Pryor's house
April—Linda Collin's
May— John and Jackie's

To show support for the Club, Art and Nancy are offering wholesale prices to members and their immediate family until the end of January. This means their new Revere boot is only \$135 for us. Give them a call at 893-0387 to reserve your footwear.

Remember to keep trading with all Club member businesses: Leroy

and Francis, Edgar and Jeanie, Art and Nancy and Ron Russ.

Club Schedule

Jan. 2 Club Meeting
Jan. 12 Club Shoot
Jan. 18-25 Alafia Rendez.
Feb. 6 Club Meeting
Feb. 10-17 Tallahassee rade
Feb. 21-23 Club Rendez
March 6 Club Meeting
March 9 Club Shoot
April 3 Club Meeting
April 4-13 Southeaste Rvous

Officers:

Jackie Shaffer, Pres.
539-8960
William Wilson, VP
386-8506
Beth Bloomquist, Sec.
539-8175
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