

WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS FOLKS, our loyal and most industrious Iowa Black Powder Federation (IBPF) secretary Norma Holcomb sends out a note that says somebody better write an article for the Powder Horn News (PHN) for the month of February or she will! The final threat was "It'll be about my grand children". Not that we don't want to learn more about your grand kids Norma but this space is supposed to be devoted to the IBPF.

There are IBPF issues that do merit attention. First and foremost this is essentially a black powder shooting organization so let's talk "SAFETY". One segment of shooting that really seems to be gaining popularity is the flintlock. With good reason I believe: traditional, challenging and above all FUN. Unfortunately with this increase in popularity I've heard of (and witnessed) a few specific situations that merit attention. Even if you are not a flintlock shooter, I'll ask you read on and perhaps your knowledge can help someone else from an embarrassing and potentially dangerous accident in the future. The number one and most obvious difference between percussion and flintlock muzzle loaders is the percussion cap vs. the powder used for priming. That container of fine priming powder is always in the direct vicinity of "spark and fire". A very habitual loading routine I have witnessed is priming the pan, then while still holding the priming device in the hand, the frizzen of the lock is snapped to the closed position. That essentially is a very critical moment and a far more proper loading procedure simply calls for proper storage of the "primer" before closing the frizzen or going ahead with any other action. By proper storage I simply mean returning the primer to a pouch or a pocket, completely away from any source of ignition. I must say carrying any amount of priming powder as a "necklace" can not be considered a good idea even though I do see it practiced regularly. Three recent incidents that beg I call this to our collective attention are as follow. One, an individual was having trouble getting a lock to "spark" so was repeatedly priming and "flashing the pan" while holding the priming horn. When the spark from the frizzen finally lit the pan, the pan ignition transferred quiet immediately to the horn which exploded instantly. That lapse of good judgment cost the shooter three fingers and a thumb. Two, this shooter was shooting from a bench rest and simply laying the primer on the

bench before proceeding with either closing the frizzen or firing the gun. A slightly better procedure but not “good enough”. After a number of successful shots some how spark, flame or heat found it’s way to the primer and again, ignition! Reports are the shooter received some none life threatening injuries and a very good lesson (and a second chance!). Three, a very capable shooter from the IBPF ranks was shooting a flintlock with considerably better procedure in that after priming his flintlock and properly storing the primer he snapped the frizzen closed but yet allowed his hand to cover the area directly exposed to both pan and barrel touch hole. The jar of the frizzen closing was sufficient to cause the hammer to fall. Again the results were burns, some permanent black powder tattoos and another chance. There is an old saying, “All good judgment is based on experience; unfortunately all experience is gained by bad judgment.” It is so true, but now we all can gain knowledge, better judgment and hopefully a better loading procedure thanks to someone else’s experience.

Now on to the **“IBPF EVERYTHING BLACK POWDER JUBILEE 2014”**, scheduled for March 29 and 30, 2014 at the Community Building located within the Hardin County Fairgrounds, Eldora, Iowa. Relatively centrally located in the state of Iowa, this spacious, convenient and very accommodating facility will assure a successful first time event. While the theme of this event remains wholly consistent with the original intention of the IBPF (that being the “safe use of black powder whether target shooting, hunting or collecting) this is neither a gun show or a flea market. Only muzzleloaders and historically appropriate merchandise, demonstrations, crafts and clothing will be presented (no modern firearms will be allowed). While tradition dress is encouraged for this most interesting two (2) day event it will not be required as a vendor or a presenter or attendees. All I can ask is your consideration as a vendor or presenter. An early registration fee of only \$10.00 per table makes this event affordable to all. Additionally single day admission is also available for \$3.00 for adults (children under 12 when accompanied by and adult) and U.S. Veterans with identification are free. Table registration is available by contacting Mr. Terry Kamstra by phone at 712-348-1513 or via email at mckinley280@netllc.net

In closing I'd like to wish all our IBPF members and PHN readers, a healthy happy 2014 and I can think of no better way to make sure they are fun than to participate in the events and competitions offered by the IBPF.

See ya' on the firing line,
Pevine