



# RAMROD

*A monthly publication, distributed approximately seven days before each shoot.*

## JULY ~ AUGUST 2009



# The Ramrod CURRENT CLUB NEWS

*incorporating*

## Other Bits of Information

**which will surely educate and amaze!**

### SSAA-Victorian Muzzle Loading Club

ABN 86 186 186 714

An approved Handgun Target Shooting Club  
(Number 562-290-00T)

PO Box 2170 Templestowe Heights VIC 3107

Web Site: [www.users.bigpond.net.au/vmlc/](http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/vmlc/)

email: [horkeye@bigpond.net.au](mailto:horkeye@bigpond.net.au)

#### Executive Committee

President	Jim Morraitis	03 9401 1955 (BH)
Treasurer	David Tooth	via 03 9401 1955 (BH)
Club Captain	Phil Baker	03 9737 0421 *
Fund Raising	Ken Fisher	03 9457 3278 *
Special Projects	Noel Howland	0417 945 629 *
Eagle Park Rep.	Grant Steel	via 03 9401 1955 (BH)
Nominated Officer	Grant Steel	via 03 9401 1955 (BH)

**\* Please do not disclose these  
telephone numbers to any third party.**

#### Disclaimer

The sometimes unusual views expressed in The Ramrod are not necessarily those of anyone, especially the Editor, and should not be taken seriously.

#### Warning

Due care is exercised regarding data and articles published, however no responsibility is accepted or implied for errors or omissions or damage or injury resulting there from.

#### Contributions

Contributions to The Ramrod are welcomed and encouraged. If you have any article that you think will be of interest to the members do not hesitate to submit the article for consideration.

#### Change of Member Details

Please advise the President of any change in member details as soon as possible.

#### Executive Committee Meetings - 2009:

These will be held at the Hawkeye residence on Wednesdays at 7:30pm on the following dates:

15 July, 12 August, 16 September, 14 October, 18 November

#### Christmas General Meeting:

The Christmas General Meeting will be held at the SSAA Springvale Complex at 8:00pm on Wednesday the 16th December 2009. All members are requested to make a concerted effort to attend. Supper & entertainment provided.

#### New Member Book & Ramrod Warnings / Notices:

All Members are obligated to familiarise themselves with the new Member Book as it contains many important, and safety issues, so please take the time to read it.

#### Membership & New Members:

Unfortunately, Club membership has dropped slightly to 61, however, we have another new member. A hearty New Member Welcome to Julian Richardson; we all look forward to seeing you at the range at our shoots.

#### Member Name Tags:

These have been produced and distribution has commenced. See Hawkeye to obtain or order your tag.

#### Targets Beyond 100 metres:

The SSAA (Vic) requires any person taking or retrieving a target et cetera beyond 100 metres at Eagle Park is required to wear a High Visibility Jacket. The Club has purchased some of these jackets for the use of Members; see Grant Steel to "borrow" one if proceeding beyond 100 metres.

#### Where D'ya Get It?:

The VMLC, where else! At the next shoot there will be Quality Merchandise available for sale to VMLC Members, such as Black Powder, Musket, and Percussion Caps, Pill Bottles, VMLC Cloth Patches and Bees Wax. Members are advised to bring lots of money to purchase these items as supplies are limited. See David Tooth for more information. **Sales are COD and must be finalised on the day.**

#### Competition Programme August 15:

##### Muzzle Loading Shotgun Championship

Estimated

Starting Time	Competition
9:15	Cowboy Single Action*. Handgun Class 3: 25m Precision**.
10:00	Breech Loading Rifle: 75m OH 3ple Gong <b>AND</b> Breech Loading Rifle: 200m BR.
11:00	Muzzle Loading Smoothbore: 50m OH.
12:00	Lunch: Yum, yum! (Approx.starting time).
12:45	Muzzle Loading Shotgun: 25 Clays.
2:15	Muzzle Loading Rifle: TBAm OH Rev.
3:00	Muzzle Loading Rifle: 100m Bench Rest.
3:45	Muzzle Loading Rifle: 100m Prone or CS.
4:30	Member's assistance with pack-up.
4:45	Presentations, then Home Time!

\* Cowboy Single Action - or at any other convenient time.

\*\* Handgun Class 3: 25m Precision – concurrent with any other event.

Black Powder shooting is not permitted at Eagle Park on a day of Total Fire Ban for the Central Area.

For information regarding Total Fire Bans contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.



**VMLC Sponsor - Forbes Wholesale Pty Ltd:**

Licensed Gun Dealer 407-000-00F

Forbes Wholesale has been supplying the muzzle loading shooter since 1988, we import sell & the Pedersoli range of Black Powder Firearms, "Blackpowder No. 1"

Pedersoli offer the most comprehensive range of black powder firearms and accessories on the market today backed by a 12 month warranty on all product.

We also keep Euroarms military muskets in various configurations, 2 & 3 Band Enfield, Musketoon's, Volunteer & Whitworth rifles plus a range of American Civil War muskets.

We stock a wide range of accessories for sighting, cleaning and loading including moulds and reloading gear for black powder cartridge shooters. Moulds and loading dies for popular BP calibres in stock, we also keep some swaged projectiles from Taipan in stock for selected calibres.

Black Powder and percussion caps are usually available in various grades and sizes.

Mail order available for most items other than guns, powder or caps which generally must be collected in person.

We can deliver firearms interstate but they must be shipped to a dealer or armourer.

We also usually have a limited range of second hand guns available.

Check out our website [www.forbesws.com.au](http://www.forbesws.com.au) where you will find pricing information and links to the Pedersoli & Euroarms websites where you can see images of the products.

**VMLC Sponsor - Green River Rifle Works:**

LGD 626 98Z

Green River Rifle Works has been under its current ownership since 1985 and is the largest Muzzle Loading shop in Australia. We are the only shop to offer a complete service to Black Powder Shooters and our Green River Custom Firearms which are built to customer specifications on the premises are famous.

We also sell factory assembled firearms and kits, accessories - many specially designed and manufactured by us, spare parts, books and magazines, do repairs and restorations to reproduction and antique firearms, in fact anything to do with Muzzle Loading and Buckskinning.

A large part of the business is Mail and Telephone Order and since our beginnings, we have enjoyed an increase in business each year. As a result of that in 1988, we moved from our humble beginnings in a back shed to our large shop come workshop where customers can visit, browse, chat and watch the Custom Guns being created al in the one large area.

We are proud to say that we can offer a complete service to Black Powder Shooters and all your requirements can be found in the one place. If we have not got what you want, we will do our best to get it if it is available.

Orders can be done by e:mail, mail or telephone and charged to your Credit Card for convenience. It is not quite the same as being here with us but we do our best to supply what you need. Phone and mail orders usually sent out the same day. 08 8293 3686.

[picknowl.com.au/homepages/vaisham/](http://picknowl.com.au/homepages/vaisham/)

**VMLC Sponsors:**

The VMLC Executive Committee recommends to Members that when you are looking to purchase a new firearm or accessory, your first and wisest choice of supplier should be one of the VMLC Sponsors: **Forbes Wholesale Pty Ltd; Green River Rifle Works; The Kings Armoury; Stock Lock Antique Arms.**

**VMLC Sponsor - Stock Lock Antique Arms:**

LFD 599 259 00F

\* Western Action Supplies and consumables.

\* Complete range of Black Powder supplies and consumables.

\* Ammo boxes, gun bags, loading equipment, cleaning equipment, projectiles, ammo cases etc etc. Our range is forever growing!

\* Mail order available on most items, we also have regular deliveries to Melbourne.

\* Huge range of pre-owned black powder longarms and handguns available for sale, as well as Sporting, antique and collectible firearms.

\* Special requests are catered for on all items.

Contact Roger C Mowbray, c/o Post Office, Kalandra West, VIC 3634. Phone 03 5865 5585, Fax 03 5865 5565, or email: [austoil@mcmedia.com.au](mailto:austoil@mcmedia.com.au)

**VMLC Sponsor - The Kings Armoury:**

FDL 999 3 933

Welcome to your online firearms collectors dealer where you can buy and sell your used, collectable, antique guns, and military firearms.

We operate Australia's Premier Gun Auction website <http://gunauction.com.au> which allows shooters, dealers and collectors to advertise with a 24 hour online shop-front. Sellers share in the benefits of a monthly collectors newsletter which gets the word out about the Gun Auction Australia website. Advertising your guns and associated items for sale on the Gun Auction Australia website is FREE.

As an ethical gun dealer I always endeavour to give you a fair price and service that you are happy with. I will always be a collector at heart, so I know what it is like to spend hard-earned money ordering something over the phone or Internet only to be disappointed. My main goal is to have satisfied customers who will come back in the future to add to their collections without hesitation. I have made a commitment to represent every item with a thorough description and detailed photographs, along with a Seven Day Return Policy. "If you're not satisfied, then we're not satisfied!" I hope you find the antique gun, used gun, antique firearms, used firearms and collectible firearms you are looking for.

### **Shooting:**

The sport of shooting involves firing at targets of various kinds with rifles, handguns, and shotguns. Marksmanship has been practiced, particularly by soldiers, ever since firearms were invented in about 1300. As a competitive sport, however, target shooting is fairly modern because weapons accurate enough for consistent firing were not developed until the 19th century.

#### **Rifles**

Rifle shooting was a way of life on the American frontier, and in farming settlements on the Atlantic seaboard rifles were used for recreation as well as for protection and hunting. The flintlock Kentucky rifle, produced from about 1750 by American gunsmiths from Germany and Switzerland, provided fair accuracy up to 200 yards—then considered a long range. Virtually every settlement had a shooting match on weekends and holidays, often attracting 100 or more marksmen. A common target was a piece of board, blackened in the smoke of a fire or charred, on which an X was slashed with a knife to mark the centre. Shooting at a wooden bird on top of a pole, as crossbowmen had in the Middle Ages, was also popular. The turkey shoot, with a live bird tied up behind a box or rock so that only the neck and head showed, was a regular event. Contestants fired several rounds from three different positions—standing, on one knee, and prone—with the rifle supported by some form of rest. By 1830 shooting clubs were formed in the East and the Midwest. Target shooting from a bench rest was established before 1840. In the 1850s a Vermont bench rest shooting club was formed—called the National Rifle Club though its scope was regional—and its members won a high reputation for accuracy with muzzle-loading rifles. Rifle marksmanship became a national sport after the Civil War. In 1871 the National Rifle Association was formed by National Guard officers who wanted to improve marksmanship by standardising targets, firing distances, and contest rules. This group sponsored the first national rifle matches at the Creedmoor range on Long Island, N.Y. The National Rifle Association divides shooters into five classes—master, expert, sharpshooter, marksman, and tyro (or beginner). Military and other .30-caliber rifles are fired at outdoor ranges varying from 200 to 1,000 yards. The .22-caliber rifle is fired at 50-, 100-, and 200-yard ranges. Point totals are compiled from four shooting positions—offhand (or standing), kneeling (on one knee), sitting, and prone. The type of cartridge fired and the kind of sights used are fixed by regulations. Before picking up a gun, a shooter should learn the nine rules of gun safety. To become a good shot, first practice getting a correct sight picture—that is, the bull's-eye in the target should float just above the tip of the front sight. The front sight is centred in the opening of the rear sight. Next learn to adjust the gun sling so that it supports the left arm and helps hold the rifle steady. On the firing line, face the target and then do a half-turn to the right before assuming any position (standing, kneeling, sitting, or prone). Shift the body so that the rifle points toward the target. The actual firing is done in four steps: (1) take up the slack in the trigger; (2) hold the breath; (3) aim carefully; (4) squeeze the trigger with a slow and steady increase of pressure.

*continued...*

A good shot can always describe the sight picture at the instant the rifle fired centred, high, low, or to one side. Of Germanic-Swiss origin, the shooting called Schuetzen was practiced for centuries practically unchanged throughout much of central Europe. It was done in the standing position at indoor and outdoor targets. It has declined since the 1920s.

#### **Handguns**

Target shooting with handguns roughly parallels that of rifles, but perhaps because they are so much more difficult to aim and shoot accurately, they have never been as widely used. The early marksmen on the frontier, however, competed only with rifles because they believed that accurate shooting with pistols and revolvers required little or no skill. Many riflemen gained a new respect for handgun shooting when they tried to duplicate the amazing exhibitions of accuracy put on in Wild West shows by Buffalo Bill, Ira Paine, Frank Butler, and Annie Oakley. The National Rifle Association added pistol and revolver contests to its championship matches in Great Britain in 1893 and in the United States in 1900. Other matches are conducted by the United States Revolver Association in Springfield, Mass. The National Rifle and Pistol Matches are conducted annually by the National Rifle Association at Camp Perry, Ohio. For pistol and revolver shooting the standard outdoor ranges are 25 and 50 yards. Matches usually consist of ten shots each at slow fire, timed fire, and rapid fire. Used in various matches are .45-caliber military pistols, .32-caliber or larger centre-fire revolvers, and .22-caliber rimfire pistols and revolvers.

#### **Shotguns**

Target shooting with shotguns originated as practice for shooting game, usually upland game birds and waterfowl. For many years live pigeons were used as targets in trapshooting. The birds were held in box traps, and, when the string holding the box lid was pulled at the shooter's command, a bird would take flight. Its release at an unexpected angle offered good hunting practice. (Live-pigeon shooting remained popular in France, Spain, and Italy in the last half of the 20th century.) As live birds became scarce, they were replaced by glass balls—sometimes with feathers glued on—and other substitutes like balloons and small gyroscopes. The tin pigeon had a small disc in the centre for a target. Clay pigeons, made of real clay, were first developed in the 1860s. Trapshooting was known for a time as inanimate bird shooting in England, where the Inanimate Bird Shooting Association was founded in 1893. The sport was introduced into the United States in about 1880. In trapshooting today the marksman fires a shotgun (usually 12-gauge) at a saucer-shaped target tossed into the air by a spring mechanism. The target, usually a clay pigeon, leaves the trap at an unpredictable angle and elevation, imitating the swift flight of a quail. The bird is made of an earth filler and pitch binder and shatters when struck by shotgun pellets. Skeet, another sport using shotguns, began in the United States in about 1915, primarily as a form of target practice. The targets are clay birds, but the gun may be of any gauge. The birds are sprung from two traps, one at ground level, the other nine feet high. Seven firing stations are arranged in a semicircle near the traps; an eighth station is between the two traps. At each station, the marksman fires at least one shot at a bird from the high trap and one at a bird from the low trap.

*continued...*

A round consists of 25 shots, eight of them fired at targets sprung simultaneously. The sport was named in 1926 in a publicity contest with a hundred-dollar prize; the winner derived skeet from an old Norse word meaning "shoot."

#### History of Shooting

The earliest recorded shooting match was held in Eichstätt, Bavaria (now West Germany), in 1477; the shooters, probably using matchlocks, competed at 220 yards (200 meters). A Swiss painting from 1504 depicts contestants firing rifles at targets from enclosed shooting booths; each target is flanked by a small hut from which a target marker, concealed during the gunfire, could use a staff or pole to signal the value of the hit. Many German museums have wooden targets dating to 1540 that were made for weddings and were shot at by the guests and then given to the host as a souvenir. Shooting at a mark in Russia was recorded in 1737 when the empress established a target-shooting range at her court. The marks were live birds, and the most proficient marksmen were given gold and diamond-studded cups. The royal shooting matches became a tradition. The first public shooting range was founded in Saint Petersburg (now Leningrad) in 1834 for rifles or handguns. The first book in English on target rifle shooting was published in 1808. The English military conducted research on various rifles from 1800, especially emphasising long-range shooting. Long-range shooting became so popular that at the first prize meeting in 1860 of the National Rifle Association, Queen Victoria fired the first shot.

#### International Competition.

Shooting has been an Olympic sport since the modern games began in 1896. In the early games there were events for army rifles and service pistols, as well as events for shooting running deer, boar, and live pigeons. Ultimately Olympic Games events became free pistol (from 1936); rapid-fire pistol (from 1948); small-bore rifle, prone (from 1900) and three positions (from 1952); air rifle (from 1984); trapshooting (1900–24 and from 1952); skeet (from 1968); and moving target (1900 only, until revived from 1972). In 1984 three separate events were created for women-sport pistol, air rifle, and small-bore standard rifle (three positions)-and only two shooting events-trapshooting and skeet-remained open to both men and women. A world competition was held at the end of the 19th century. Later world championships were under the supervision of an international governing body, the International Shooting Union (ISU), which was formed in 1907 and reorganised in 1919 and 1946. World championship competitions are with the small-bore rifle, free rifle, centre-fire pistol, free pistol, rapid-fire pistol (.22 calibre), air rifle, air pistol, and shotgun. Targets are paper-either the concentric bull's-eye type or, for rapid-fire pistol and running boar and deer, silhouettes.

#### HUNTING

Game hunting began as a means of supplying food. The Indians of North America obtained much of their food by killing buffalo, bear, deer, and waterfowl. Frontiersmen also depended largely upon wild animals and birds for meat. Later, as farming and stock raising spread across the continent, hunting ceased to be a significant means of livelihood. Today it is primarily a sport. Critics of game hunting refer to it as a blood sport that causes needless suffering and death to harmless animals in order to satisfy primitive desires in those who do not need to hunt to live.

*continued...*

They also point out that the tons of lead from shotgun cartridges and bullets deposited in the environment each year have caused a steady rise in toxic lead poisoning in animals, including endangered species, who ingest it. Proponents of game hunting point out that killing animals quickly is often more humane than letting them starve slowly in regions where the animal population may be too large to be supported by the limited food available in the habitat. Through the years the steady increase in the number of licensed hunters threatened to wipe out the game supply. Since the late 1930s, however, sound conservation practices have been keeping the population of many species of game at a high level despite increased hunting pressures. To protect the present game supply hunters should follow the principle that guided the Indians: Kill only the game you want for food; never waste it. The four major types of hunting in the United States are upland-game, waterfowl, big-game, and pest (varmint). Upland game includes rabbits, squirrels, quail, pheasants, grouse, and woodcock. Geese and ducks are the favourite waterfowl targets. Big-game hunters stalk deer, bear, elk, antelope, and moose. Pest hunting may be coyotes in the West, crows on the farm, or woodchuck (groundhogs) almost everywhere.

#### Rules of Safe Gun Handling

The chief firearms used by hunters are .22-caliber rifles, large-calibre rifles, and shotguns. All these are deadly weapons and should not be handled unless certain rules of gun safety are followed. Nine basic rules are:

1. Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
2. When entering an automobile, home, or camp, carry a gun with the action open or taken apart.
3. Be sure the gun barrel is free of obstructions.
4. Carry a gun so that the direction of the muzzle can be controlled, even in falling.
5. Be sure of the target before pulling the trigger.
6. Never point a gun at anything except in shooting.
7. Never leave a gun unattended without first unloading it.
8. Never climb a tree or fence with a loaded gun.
9. Never shoot at hard, flat surfaces or at water.

#### Hunting with a Rifle

The first firearm that most hunters learn to use is the .22-caliber rifle. This gun serves best for shooting rabbits and squirrels. It is also a fine weapon to use on crows, woodchucks, and other animals that are hunted for sport or as pests and not primarily to eat. These rifles are most commonly made in four styles: single shot, pump, bolt action, and automatic. All can be used in the field or on a target range. For larger game, the most popular rifles are the .270, .30, and .375 calibres. The basic styles are: pump, bolt action, and automatic. These rifles are used chiefly for hunting bear, deer, elk, and other big game found in forested or mountainous country. Heavier calibre rifles are sometimes used for shooting elephants, rhinoceroses, and other big game hunted in Africa and elsewhere.

#### Other Types of Hunting

Upland game and waterfowl are hunted with a shotgun. There are six types of such guns: single barrel, single shot; side-by-side double barrel; over-and-under double barrel; bolt action; pump; and automatic. There is also a choice of shotgun gauges ranging from the small .410-inch bore through the heavy 10-gauge guns.

*continued...*

For most hunters, the 20-, 16-, or 12-gauge guns are best. Selecting the proper choke and the correct barrel length is important. The choke means that certain barrels are constricted (tapered) at the front end with the amount of this constriction designated as choke. It varies from a true cylinder (which has no choke) to modified and full choke. The cylinder barrel tends to spread the shot pattern of the pellets. The more a barrel is choked, the smaller the shot pattern becomes. A full choke barrel makes the smallest pattern, holding the pellets closer together at any given distance. Mechanical choking devices permit the hunter to use a variety of chokes on a single barrel. For quail and rabbits, where shooting is at close range and in brushy country, the cylinder choke is best. Usually, a barrel length of 26 inches serves well with this choke. For shooting pheasants, waterfowl, grouse, and other game at long ranges, the full choke barrel works more successfully, and barrel lengths of 28 or 30 inches are recommended. Actually, a longer barrel does not give a hunter much additional killing range, but it does make sighting easier. A shotgun should feel comfortable to the shooter if accurate gunning is to result. The stock may be shortened or lengthened to fit the shooter's shoulder. Another important point is the weight of the gun. A hunter must be able to throw the gun quickly to his shoulder and swing it with the target fast and accurately. Some hunters find greater sport in killing game with a bow and arrow rather than with a firearm. If properly used, this weapon is as deadly as a rifle. Much of the fun of hunting comes from just being in the fields or lowlands enjoying nature. Many hunters add to their pleasure by using a hunting dog. A well-trained dog can find game that would escape a hunter's eye. Most dogs also make good retrievers of killed or crippled game.

#### Laws and Rules Governing Hunting

The federal government and all state governments have passed laws to conserve the supply of game birds and animals. In general, migratory game birds are protected by federal laws; other forms of game, by state laws. These regulations prohibit the killing of game except during open seasons. The exact dates of these hunting seasons vary from state to state and sometimes by zones within states. Other regulations govern the method of taking game, the amount of game that can be killed in one day, and the amount of game that hunters may have in their possession. All states issue hunting licenses that may be purchased for a fee. Federal law requires the purchase of a migratory bird (duck) hunting stamp in addition to the license. Hunters are expected to follow the simple rules of hunting etiquette. Some rules are:

1. Never hunt on a farm without asking permission from the owner. If possible, park your car in the farmer's yard.
2. Close farm gates after passing through. An open gate may allow livestock to escape.
3. Be careful not to damage fences in crossing.
4. Do not damage the crop by walking through a newly planted field.
5. Respect all signs. They were put up for a purpose.
6. If hunting with a dog that belongs to a companion, never try to give the dog commands. Let its master do this.
7. Always give a companion the "breaks" in shooting. Hunters customarily alternate when shooting single birds.

*continued...*

8. Never be a "claimer." If another hunter shoots at the same bird, give the benefit of the doubt and agree that your companion killed it.

9. Offer to share your game with the farmer who gives permission for hunting on the land.

10. Remember the rules of safe gun handling. Careless gunners are not welcome hunting companions.

#### *Silly Section:*

Rodney Dangerfield ... I can see him adjusting his tie now....we miss Rodney Dangerfield because he said ..

My wife only has sex with me for a purpose - last night she used me to time an egg.

It's tough to stay married - my wife kisses the dog on the lips, yet she won't drink from my glass!

Last night my wife met me at the front door - she was wearing a sexy negligee, the only trouble was, she was coming home.

A girl phoned me and said, "Come on over, there's nobody home." I went over - nobody was home!

A hooker once told me she had a headache.

I went to a massage parlor. It was self-service!

If it weren't for pickpockets, I'd have no sex life at all.

I was making love to this girl and she started crying. I said, "Are you going to hate yourself in the morning?" She said, "No, I hate myself now."

I knew a girl so ugly... they used her in prisons to cure sex offenders.

My wife is such a bad cook; if we leave dental floss in the kitchen the roaches hang themselves.

I'm so ugly I stuck my head out the window and got arrested for mooning.

The other day I came home and a guy was jogging, naked. I asked him, "Why?" He said, "Because you came home early."

My wife's such a bad cook, the dog begs for Alka-Seltzer.

My wife is such a bad cook, in my house we pray after the meal.

My wife likes to talk on the phone during sex; she called me from Chicago last night.

My family was so poor that if I hadn't been born a boy I wouldn't of had anything to play with.

#### *Silly Section:*

Saturday morning I got up early, quietly dressed, made my lunch, grabbed the dog, and slipped quietly into the garage. I hooked up the boat up to the truck, and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 mph, so I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad all day. I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered, "The weather out there is terrible." My loving wife of 10 years replied, "Can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that?" And that's how the fight started....

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asked, "Do you know her?" "Yes," I sighed, "she's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many & years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since." "My God!" says my wife, "Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?" And then the fight started.....

### ***The July 2008 Engagement:***

It might've been the fact that July is in the middle of winter that kept the members away on the 18th. Well, it was cold but it's been a lot colder than that. It didn't rain, but the promised windy conditions began to arrive mid afternoon. Nevertheless, twelve members turned out and they all took part in at least one of the scheduled comps. (Very) new member Julian Richardson was also there (correction, that makes thirteen members on site) and showed great interest in the various types of black powder firearms which were present.

We started the day in earnest with Single Action as we usually do. Five shooters entered the comp and Doug Hill took off the gold. Although not yet decided, it will probably be agreed in Committee that proficiencies for this event will start at 170 for a bronze. Doug's 167 in the comp therefore come close, however he has shot 170 plus in the past and so will qualify. The Single Action was followed by 25m Precision Pistol which attracted just three shooters and resulted in a win for Bucket. The 25m was followed by 50m for the pistols, and regrettably there was a lesser number competing. Bucket was again the winner, and therefore the winner of the pistol aggregate,

Pistols were now put away and replaced with flinchlocks. Four competitors in this one, with Doug Hill winning and Bucket coming in closely on his heels. That did it for the morning and as we were about 1/4 hour ahead of schedule, it was planned to commence the afternoon's activities about the same amount earlier than intended.

The afternoon's activities in July comprised the Class 2 muzzle loading rifle championship with its four events. Seven shooters vied for the coveted Frank Brown shield. Seven is unfortunately five less than last year's number. As there were no shooters wishing to compete with non-Class 2 rifles and thereby possibly winning the usual award glass, it was Class 2s only shooting the set events.

First up it was 25m Snap at the 5 bull target. Past President Bazza won this one, after forcibly making known his intense dislike of this event. Must have really annoyed him and he took out his angst on the poor target. David Tooth however was just two points behind – a sign of things to come.

Next up it was 50m offhand, and "off-the-body" just to make it a bit more interesting. One shooter was seen operating from the area where we have shotgun, just to prove that he didn't need a bench! Once again it was PPB (last year's champ) with David Tooth in second place.

The third event of the championship was cross sticks at 75m. PPB faltered in this case and David soared to the lead with an 87. Finally it was 100m bench rest which was won by Bucket with 78. This was also his score in the 75m event, so the "stuck in a rut" saying could apply here. Then, after adding up all the figures, surprise surprise it was David Tooth in first place. So it's congratulations to him as this year's Class 2 champ, and commiserations to the rest. Don't forget. There's always next year. As a further comment, PPB in handing over the Class 2 shield commented on how few names there were on it in more than twenty years of use, and it was good to see that a new name would be added.

And next month we have the 25 clay muzzle loading shotgun championship. In June we had ten competitors in the 15 clay event, so there could be 250 clays to get through on the day. There will also be the usual Single Action and 25m pistol events, two for breech loading rifle, and some muzzle loading rifle activity after shotgun. Another beautiful day for VMLC members.

*Piecrust.*

### ***Silly Section:***

After 30 years of marriage Jacqueline and her husband, Mark went for counselling. When asked to describe her problems, Jacqueline went into a passionate, painful tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the 30 years they had been together. She went on and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unfulfilled needs she had endured over the course of their marriage. Finally, after allowing this to go on for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and, after asking Jacqueline to stand, tore open blouse with buttons flying everywhere, ripped her Bra off, starts tongue kissing while he embraces her, then puts his hands on her breasts fondled them, and kissed them passionately. A side glance at her husband he then puts his hand up her skirt rips her G-String off and fondles her wildly while her husband Mark watches with raised eyebrows and mouth wide open. Jacqueline flushed, try's to cover herself with the torn blouse, and quietly sat down as though in a total daze. The therapist turned to Mark and said, "Now do you understand? This is what your wife needs at least three times a week! Can you do this?" Mark thought for a moment and replied, "Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays, I play golf."

A lady walks into Tiffany's. She browses around, spots a beautiful diamond bracelet and walks over to inspect it. As she bends over to look more closely, she inadvertently breaks wind. Very embarrassed, she looks around nervously to see if anyone has noticed her little accident and prays that a sales person doesn't pop up right now. As she turns around, her worst nightmare materializes in the form of a salesman standing right behind her. Cool as a cucumber and displaying complete professionalism, the salesman greets the lady with, "Good day, Madam. How may we help you today?" Very uncomfortably, but hoping that the salesman may just not have been there at the time of her little 'accident', she asks, "Sir, what is the price of this lovely bracelet?" He answers, "Madam, if you farted just looking at it, you're going to shit yourself when I tell you the price."

An old lady dies and goes to heaven. She's chatting it up with St. Peter at the Pearly Gates when all of a sudden she hears the most awful, blood curdling screams. "Don't worry about that," says St. Peter, "It's only someone having the holes put into her shoulder blades for the wings." The old lady looks a little uncomfortable but carries on with the conversation. Ten minutes later, there are more blood curdling screams. "Oh my God," says the old lady, "now what is happening?" "Not to worry," says St. Peter, "She's just having her head drilled to fit the halo." "I can't do this," says the old lady, "I'm going to hell." "You can't go there," says St. Peter, "you'll be raped and taken advantage of." "Maybe so, says the old lady, but I've already got the holes for that."



# THE JULY 2009 ENGAGEMENT

Event:	CSA	25 Prec	50 Prec	Agg	50 Flint	25 Snap	50 OH	75 CS	100 OH	Agg
Competitor	HG	HG	HG	HG	ML	ML	ML	ML	ML	ML
AINSCOW, Ron		79	-	79						
BAKER, Phil					39					
FISHER, Ken					67	11	73	60	37	192
HILL, Doug	167				80	21	81	64	13	200
HOWLAND, Noel						18	66	-	-	102
KINDER, Alexander	101									
KITCHEN, Barry						26	85	76	73	286
McMILLAN, Malcolm	127									
MORRAITIS, Jim	162	80	54	134	78	12	74	78	78	254
RUSH, Gordon		67	-	67						
STEEL, Grant	77					13	74	80	68	248
TOOTH, David						24	84	87 B	75	294

### Legend

B = Bronze Proficiency   E = Equalled Record   G = Gold Proficiency   N = New Record   S = Silver Proficiency   V = Visitor

### Human Statue of Liberty:

One year, long ago, Alfie went back to Officer Cadet School at Portsea and they took some photos of Alfie with big bunch of old codgers. It took them hours to line em up...just in groups of a hundred or so. These poor devils below must have been standing all day being shuffled around.

I find it amazing that this photo, taken so many years ago, actually still exists! And now, someone has put it online for all of us to see. This INCREDIBLE picture was taken in 1918.

It is 18,000 men preparing for war in a training camp at Camp Dodge, in Iowa. EIGHTEEN THOUSAND MEN!!!! What a priceless gift from our grandfathers!

#### FACTS:

- Base to Shoulder: 150 feet
- Right Arm: 340 feet
- Widest part of arm Holding torch: 12 1/2 feet
- Right thumb: 35 feet
- Thickest part of body: 29 Feet
- Left hand length: 30 feet
- Face: 60 feet
- Nose: 21 feet
- Longest spike of Head piece: 70 feet
- Torch and flame combined: 980 feet
- Number of men in Flame of torch: 12,000
- Number of men in torch: 2,800
- Number of men in right Arm: 1,200
- Number of men in body, head and balance of figure only: 2,000
- Total men: 18,000

### Handgun Competitors:

If any handgun competitors want to have their attendances or shoots reported to LSD, then it is **your** responsibility to advise the Nominated Officer, Grant Steel, of any of these you wish to have recorded. Please do so on the day of the attendance or shoot.

