

The Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. was chartered in 1969 by a group of men and women interested in their heritage and dedicated to preserving and promoting the sport of muzzle loading and buckskinning. CSML is a family oriented club that holds a broad range of functions such as camp outs, polluck dinners, and black powder shoots. CSML is affiliated with the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association and the National Rifle Association.

Views and opinions contained within articles submitted to the Mountain Man Monthly are not necessarily those of the editor or CSML. The editor reserves the right not to publish any article submitted but encourages articles on any subject regarding shooting sports and subjects related to the fur trade era.

President Joy Hicks Vice President Roy Crouse Treasurer Gwen Blanchard Secretary Lois Schainost Membership Chairman Ted Beaupre

Range Officer
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Assistant Range Officer
Ted Beaupre & Marlin Johnson

Primitive Exec.
Doug Davis
Assistant Primitive Exec.
Tony Hecker
Womens' Primitive Exec.
Dee Beaupre

Cannon Master Richard Stites

Mountain Man Monthly Editor
Doreen Webb

Regular Monthly Meeting Oct. 2nd

Paper Shoot - Oct. 5 Ft. Melchert

Bird and Buffalo Event October 18-19 Potluck & Auction Ft. Melchert

November 6 - Craft Fair & Regular Monthly Meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS: CSML & Statewide			
WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	INFORMATION
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	October 2	normal stuff
Regular Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	October 5	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Annual Bird & Buffalo Event & Auction	Ft. Melchert	October 18-19	long range & lots of shooting, potluck Saturday night; auction
Daylight Savings Ends	turn your clock back	November 2	to be on time for the events!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 2	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Annual Craft Show & Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	November 6	bring your wares & display for free; do not have to be ML related
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	November 16	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting & ornament exchange	American Legion	December 4	bring a wrapped ornament & some goodies to share
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 7	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	December 21	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting???	American Legion	January 1, 2015	do we want to cancel this meet?
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 4, 2015	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Annual Board Meeting	Joy's House	January 13	set annual calendar & stuff!!!
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	January 18	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
CSMLA Muzzle Loader	of the Year Nomina-	tions due to Ken Wee	by January 30, 2015
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	February 5	white elephant gift exchange
Club Primitive Shoot	Ft. Melchert	February 15	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 1	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	March 5	regular club stuff & maybe demo
Daylight Savings Time	begins on Sunday,	March 8, 2015	clocks ahead one hour!!!!
Club Paper Shoot	Ft. Melchert	March 15	pistols at noon; rifles at 1:00 pm
Regular Club Meeting	American Legion	April 2	club business & fun

For CSML scheduled shoots; CALL SHOOT HOT LINE (719) 632-7690 after 9:00 a.m. on shoot day to be sure shoot is on!!!

Schedule is subject to change at any time and is based on information available at time of publication. On-line check csmline.org

PAST THINGS

The meeting was a short one but those of us who were there had a good time. Ted and Dee were hunting and we sure hoped they had some success along with a good time.

Good reports of the Shoot-A-Ree, Grainger Paper Shoot, and State Shoot. We had good representation at all-of these events. Lots of notations about good food at all of the events. Sharing and potluck food with good friends - - - it doesn't get any better than that.

We all talked about the upcoming events including the Club Challenge Match, Bird & Buffalo, and November's craft fair. Time for all of us to get our craft things together and bring them to sell. It's also fast moving toward the holidays and this is a good way to start our holiday shopping.

When time came for the annual elections, it was obvious that the massive diesel engine was building up a good speed to run through the room. There were no passengers and the current board was re-elected by acclamation and default. Joy did remind us that it takes all of us and all of our participation to make our club a success at any of the things we do. We all have to work together to make it happen.

We thought the meeting was almost over when Don Stoner noted that there was some unfinished business to be taken care of. He had a patch from the Big R for Joy for her participation. Don presented the patch to Joy and thanked her for her dedication to the group.

Additionally Don shared with us a shadowbox that had a full pheasant with some native plants in it. He was unsure of how old it was but we do know that it was not a modern art piece. The item is for sale and if you are interested, contact Don.

Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc. Regular Monthly Meeting September 4, 2014

September 4, 2014 was the CSML membership

meeting with President Joy Hicks calling the meeting to order while everyone enjoyed the potluck that the great cooks shared with everyone.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Secretary report as printed in the *Mountain Man Monthly*. Motion carried.

Gwen gave the Treasurer's report with a motion and seconded made to approve as read.

Doug was not present to give a primitive report.

Ted was not present for membership.

Old Business: Ron was very thankful for the jump-start box and has used it many times already.

Thanks to Ted, Dee, Tony, Doug, Gwen and Joy for helping out at the Shoot-A-Ree.

The Grainger paper camp out was great fun and shooting weather.

The State Shoot over Labor Day weekend was held with 31 shooters. One thought on the participation was that Labor Day is usually many family activities that may have drawn away shooters.

Joy was presented with the Boy Scout patch from the Big R event in May that she was not able to attend. Joy supports everything to the fullest.

New Business: It was election night for the CSML board. A motion was made and seconded to re-elect the board as it is. Motion carried and there will be no changes to the board.

Women on Target is September 14, Club Challenge Match is September 27th. Our own Bird and Buffalo is October 18 & 19 and the craft fair is at the November 6 meeting.

Upcoming events were noted. Don Stoner showed a pheasant that was mounted into a picture that was in his mother's home. He has it for sale if anyone is interested. Contact him if you are.

Meeting adjourned.

September 21 Primitive Pistol Match By: Ken "Suds" West

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A really nice day for shooting, no wind and pleasant temperatures. Everyone must

have been hunting; I thought I was going to have to shoot this one against myself, then Michael Philippi showed up with a Remington .36 --- which he had not sighted in, giving me a huge advantage! I hit 10 of the gongs and Michael hit 7 -- after the match, he shot very well with my target pistol, which has been sighed in!

Things Everyone Else Already Knew:

I have another bottle of 86 proof, 8year-old Kentucky Bourbon with; "#1 Pistol, 2014 Bird & Buffalo" engraved on the bottle for first prize at that shoot - - bring your pistol!!

BIRD & BUFFALO Oct. 18-19

Yes, here it is already. Time for our fall shoot and fun event weekend. You can start camping (dry camp) at Ft. Melchert on Friday afternoon. Be sure to steer clear of the leach field when you park your campers.

Saturday's events include the long distance shooting and plenty of target shooting for all who want to participate. We will be serving the "witches chili" for lunch for a mere \$5.00 and it is all you can eat. Saturday evening at about 6:00 p.m. we'll all sit down to the potluck supper. Be sure to bring your food to share, something to serve it with, and your own utensils to eat with and on. This is always a good time and the food is also out of this world.

After everyone has been filled up with the good food, then we'll start our annual auction. This is where you bring all your unused, unwanted and unneeded items to donate. You also bring your money to buy someone else's treasure to take back with you. The only rule to the auction is that what you bring that does not sell you must take back with you. You cannot leave anything behind at Ft. Melchert.

Haven't heard from the Range Officer, but I'm fairly certain that Sunday will be a laid back day with some plinking and finishing up. In the past none of us

have moved too fast on Sunday but taken the time to enjoy the company and the beautiful fall morning with our friends. Just come prepared to have a good time.

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CRAFT FAIR/NOVEMBER

November 6 will be our annual craft fair. This is where you can bring your craft items of any kind and sell them. There is no charge for the tables and this makes a great way to display all the creativity that our group has.

This same craft fair is open to all your friends and neighbors as well. Invite them and then we'll have even more to buy from. It will also be a good thing for them to see what it is that you belong to. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Bring your money and begin that holiday shopping and filling out the lists you have. There is no better time or way to begin to get a head start on the never-ending chore of buying gifts for all your friends and family.

As a quick reminder since the holidays are rapidly approaching, the December meeting will be the annual ornament exchange. Now is the time to begin the search for that perfect Christmas ornament to bring to the meeting.

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Please remember our friends and family members who have been under the weather and injured. We heard that Dee's granddaughter was in a serious wreck and has some injuries. Keep this young lady in your prayers.

Remember Juanita Melchert as well. She is doing as well as can be expected, but she can still use our prayers. Keep Ron in your prayers as well as it is never easy to be a care giver. Many of us are aware of how hard it is to watch those you love and feel so helpless.

Please remember all our service men and women that are away from their families. It is never easy to do that but we are very blessed to live in a country where we can and do still have proud patriots.

SPECTACLES

(Continuation from last month......)

Another trader on the Upper Missouri, Henry Boller, reported the story of a medicine man named Face that Doesn't Run. He saw Boller reading a book and asked him to make a gift of it to him. Face then asked Boller to write down on one of the pages some sentences he dictated. Later, at Face's earth lodge, Boller noticed a large crowd at the doctor's abode. Boller wrote, "he had on a pair of heavy silver-rimmed spectacles, and, as might be expected, looked profoundly wise. With difficulty suppressing my mirth, I was turning to go away when one of his guests, who was evidently skeptical as to the Doctor's literary attainments, called me back and asked if he could read. Prompted by a glance from the Doctor I nodded affirmatively, whereupon with consummate adroitness the old fellow repeated the lines I had written at his dictation, and then pushing his glasses up over his forehead, handed the book to me. I at once read off the same sentences and his triumph was complete. After casting a quizzical glance at me, as if to say that we understood each other thoroughly, he closed the book, and looking around with an air of intense satisfaction complacently received the undisguised plaudits of his friends."

The US Office of Indian Trade factory at Natchitoches, Louisiana had 2-1/4 dozen "temple spectacles" on hand in 1798. Obviously the pince nez glasses were equally popular in Euroamerican society. In 1810 the Office of Indian Trade asked for a dozen pairs of spectacles as annuity payments to the Ottawa Indians. The US OIT ordered twenty boxes of spectacles, each box containing eight pairs, in 1816. At the US factory at Prairie du Chien in 1818, the request was for two dozen spectacles "assorted as to age." Six pairs were to have green glass lenses.

In 1871 the Hudson's Bay Company order for spectacles specified the frames to be of blued steel.

SPECTACLES WITH COLORED LENSES - SUN GLASSES

London optician James Ayscough is credited

with inventing sunglasses and in attaching the temple side pieces to eyeglasses, in 1752.

Just as Kurzas noted for his eye glasses, so too was a noted Sioux chief, Wanaton, a Yanktonai leader known to the whites as "Charger," (Rushes to the Attack). Edwin Denig, a chief of the American Fur Company's Fort Union, wrote that after the War of 1812, Wanaton relocated his band to the upper Missouri River. "This man was decidedly the greatest Indian chief of modern times. Dressed in officer's clothing, top boots, green spectacles, sword and pistols, his strange appearance contrasted greatly with that of his half clad followers." Rather than referring to him as Charger, however, the members of his tribe called him "Ista maza" or Iron Eyes (Eye Glasses, sometimes translated as "Goggles"). Thunder winter count for 1839-40 records the volent death of this chief near present Fort Yates, North Dakota; he was walking alone in the hills near his village, and the death occurred at night. The winter count concluded, "Don't know who did what."

American Fur Company trader Samuel Abbott at Mackinaw asked for a dozen pairs of "Good common green glass spectacles \$6-7 a dozen." The Ewing Brothers, those intrepid fashion trend setters of the Midwest fur trade, offered their customers both reading glasses and green sun glasses with German silver frames in 1849. As early as 1839 they had stocked green sun glasses. These were further described as having small round lenses. An advertisement in the *Missouri Republican* on June 12, 1856 illustrates spectacles with rectangular or octagonal lenses. By 1851 the Ewings were ordering six dozen metal framed sunglasses at a time.

GOGGLES

Indians had problems with eye strain due to bright sun, wind, dust, and smoke, and purchased proprietary eye water medicine containing opiates. Snowblindness was exceedingly painful, so excruciating that sufferers sometimes asked to be killed rather than endure it.

Some spectacles with colored lenses had side panels of colored glass to reduce unfiltered ambient light from the sides and lessen particulates reaching the eye, but we have found no record of their sale in the fur trade. The best sunglasses available were the goggles with wire mesh that fit tightly around the eye.

Sybille and Adams, trading with the Sioux in the Fort Laramie area, had two pairs of goggles on hand in 1843. At the junction of the Gila and Colorado Rivers in 1849, Lieutenant A. W. Whipple encountered Pablo, chief of the Yuma Indians, wearing "a scarlet coat trimmed in gold lace, with epaulettes of silver wire, and, to crown all, green goggles.

The 1867 trade goods requisition for the HBC post, York Factory, asked for five dozen strong wire goggles with colored lenses. These were delivered in 1869. The 1868 order for York Fort included five dozen "strong wire goggles with colored glasses." Another four dozen were shipped to Fort Chipwyan, and Mingan ordered three dozen with blue and green lenses. The York Factory order in 1887 asked for both smoked and green lenses.

For issue at the Fort Laramie Treaty negotiations, the Peace Commission ordered eight dozen pairs of "wire eye protectors" at a dollar a pair.

TELESCOPES

There was obviously a "niche market" for telescopes among the Plains tribes. Henry Boller, trader on the Upper Missouri, wrote "the Indians are all well armed and equipped and almost every warrior of standing is provided with a spy-glass, thus adding the assistance of the white man's art to his own matchless vision." Alexander Culbertson, in charge at Fort Pierre in 1848, wrote his trader on White River to price the "small spy glasses" at two robes each. In a long inventory of goods remaining in the Chouteau Company warehouse near Fort Laramie after the Grattan Massacre in 1854 are listed six "spy glasses".

An undated list of trade goods for the Indians, probably dating to 1766, in the Baynton, Wharton, & Morgan Papers lists "1 mahogany telescope." HBC trader and surveyor Peter Fidler ordered a telescope by Dolland from London in 1820. Peter Dolland was King George III's optician. In 1817 the HBC had ordered a telescope from Thomas Blunt of London.

William Ashley ordered "3 spy glasses with achromatic object glasses with shades" in 1832. Prices were \$9.50, \$12, and \$13. The achromatic feature meant that the lens did not act as a prism to form a

visible rainbow. The shade merely covered the front lens, eliminating glare.

On August 8, 1867, the Peace Commission bought six telescopes for Indian presents from longtime St. Louis fur trader Robert Campbell for \$6.50 each. As late as 1920 the HBC was still ordering a few telescopes, "cheap kind" for its customers.

Besides Indian customers, both traders and mountain men carried telescopes. Osborne Russell recorded in his diary in 1837 that Jim Bridger regularly mounted a high bluff with his telescope to look for inclement weather coming toward their camp. James Willard Schultz recorded that he used his telescope to scout for enemy war parties in the 1870s: "I was the fortunate owner of a three-joint English telescope of 35 diameters (power) and with it we scanned the country near and far.

In his biography of HBC trader and mountain man Hugh Monroe, Schultz wrote that Monroe was provided a forty-power telescope when he first began trading on his own. Monroe, known as Rising Wolf, used it to spot two enemies who were then ambushed and killed. Blackfoot warrior Lone Walker told him: "that far-seeing instrument would be of great help to us. I tell you now that you must take the best care of it; sleep with it; never under any circumstances let it out of your sight." The late artist Bob Scriver collected three early brass draw tube telescopes from the Blackfeet.

When Diamong Jenness was conducing field research among the Canadian Eskimo just before World War I, he showed them his telescope. Jenness rested it on sticks and spotted a herd of caribou so far away as to be invisible to the naked eye. The men were impressed, and asked where the caribou would be the next day when they planned to hunt. When he responded that he had no idea, the hunters lost interest. They informed him that their shaman was able to see where the herds would be tomorrow, unlike his tube which only saw them now.

A large brass draw-tube telescope was found during the archeological excavation of Bent's Fort, Colorado.

FIELD GLASSES

In the 1830s the American Fur Company ordered six dozen "field glasses" for the Yankton Sioux, and also sent a dozen to Fort Union for the Upper Missouri trade. The problem with these references is that the prices for them are very low, just 33 cents a dozen -- too low to be what we think of as field glasses, and probably refer to small mirrors. In fact, the *Oxford English Dictionary* lists its first reference to the term "field glass" as occurring in 1836. Field glasses were ubiquitous by the time of the American Civil War.

George Bent, mixed blood son of a fur trader, wrote of attacking Platte Bridge at present Casper, Wyoming in 1865. He and another Cheyenne warrior examined the bridge and the soldiers' camp with "our field glasses. The Indians had captured several pairs of glasses during the raids on the South Platte the winter before; and those proved a great help to our scouts."

Margaret Carrington, widow of an army officer killed in the Fetterman Fight at Fort Phil Kearney, wrote that, "the Indians not only use mirrors and flags for signal purposes, but many carry with them good field and spy glasses, some of English styles, procured from Canada, and others are supplied by traders on the frontier. In discussing Indian scouts, army scout William Clark stated that, "of late years, in addition to their arms, the scouts carry a mirror and field glass which are furnished by friends if they do not themselves possess them."

By 1874 inventory of the Blackfoot trading post at Badger Creek, Montana, listed three pairs of field glasses on hand. They were priced at \$9.40 and \$11.25 each.

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RUXTON AND HIS RIFLE

By: James A. Hanson

The man who ignited American hero worship for the mountain man was an English adventurer named George Frederick Ruxton. While Sir William Drummond Stewart deserves our gratitude for bringing Alfred Jacob Miller to paint the mountain men and the rendezvous, Stewart's two novels, the autobiographical *Edward Warren* and *Altowan*, are so convoluted with frilly Victorian style as to be almost unreadable. It is the word pictures of Ruxton, filled with romance, danger, and the enchanting American backwoods dialect he attributed to the beaver trappers, that every western novelist and Hollywood script writer has copied or parodied for a century and a half.

Ruxton was born in England, near Oxford, in 1821. The son and descendant of Scottish and Irish soldiers, he had severe problems with self-discipline. Today we would probably attribute his excessively violent behavior (committing what Ruxton himself termed "schoolboy atrocities") to some excusable syndrome or disorder, but at the age of 14 his parents sent him to military school at Sandhurst, the English equivalent of West Point. Within two years, he was expelled for failure to follow the rules.

Instead of feeling ill-used, young George saw it as freedom for action, and in 1837 he rushed to Spain where a revolution, the Carlist Civil War, had been raging for nearly three years. Receiving a junior commission as a lancer, he distinguished himself at the Battle of Belascoin Bridge and was knighted for gallantry before his eighteenth birthday by the Spanish queen, Isabella II. Upon his return to England Ruxton discovered that his youthful bravery had attracted the attention of his countrymen, and he was made an ensign in the 89th Regiment of Foot, also known as the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Later he was with the Service Company at Amherstburg, Ontario, the base from which treaty payments including arms and munitions were dispensed to the queen's Indian allies in western . Canada.

Needless to say, this sort of garrison duty palled on such an active man, and he resigned his commission in 1843. He spent the winter trapping and hunting with the Ojibwa Indians around the Canadian Great Lakes. In the spring of 1844 he went to Africa by way of England, but gave up exploring there due to lack of government support.

In May 1846 the United States went to war with Mexico over the location of the border of Texas. Ruxton secured an appointment as a British commercial attache charged with protecting the lives and property of his nation's citizens in Mexico. Landing at Vera Cruz in July, he made his way to

Mexico City then north to the province of New Mexico, where he met Lt. James Abert of the Corps of Topographical Engineers. Ruxton found much to dislike in the Southwest: Mexican men, Yankee businessmen, priests, Mormons, American emigrants, slave owners, to name a few.

Taking leave of the settlements (and narrowly missing the massacre of American in Taos in January 1847), he made his way to Bayou Salado, the South Park of the beaver hunters. He wintered there with several old mountain men, men no longer trapping much beaver, but full to the brim with stories of Indians, rendezvous, and high adventure. Ruxton carefully translated their folksy jargon into written dialogue, and filled notebooks with stories and drawings. He hunted and explored with them. In the spring he headed east to Bent's Fort, encountering and becoming friends with Lewis Garrard, whose future book *Wah-to-Yah and the Taos Trail* would become a classic of western literature.

It was apparently at Bent's Fort that Ruxton suffered a grievous injury. A mule he was riding reared over, and Ruxton fell backwards on an Arapaho tipi stake. He never recovered from the internal injuries he suffered. And later, traveling east with a military wagon train, Ruxton lost nearly all his notes and sketches at a crossing of the Arkansas River.

By the time he reached England in August 1847, however, Ruxton had the manuscript of his epic journey in hand. It soon appeared in print as Adventures in Mexico and the Rocky Mountains, and is has remained a most successful early travelogue. He then wrote a booklet about the Texas Rangers, and one of the earliest accounts of the Battle of Buena Vista, or as the Mexicans knew it, the Battle of Angostura. But Ruxton's great work written during the winter of 1847-48 was his novel of the early mountain man, Life in the Far West.

Ruxton did a great job of giving form and life to his characters, and I compliment him on trying to tell of an earlier time. Sometimes his research went awry. For examples, his trappers thrust their knives into their enemies "up to Green River," even though knives so marked didn't appear on the market until after the last rendezvous. Likewise, the old trappers told him that the early rifles were brass mounted flintlocks, and that the best rifles were Hawkens, so Ruxton had his early mountain men carrying brass

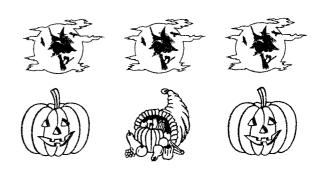
mounted flintlock Hawkens, which don't exist and maybe never did. But ignoring some slight anachronisms, his book remains a powerful piece of Western Americana.

Hoping to recover his health, Ruxton sold his novel to *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* for 55 pounds to finance a return trip to America, and booked passage for New York. *Life in the Far West* ran in serial format as an anonymous article June-November, 1848, and as a book, later reprinted numerous times, in 1849.

In August 1848 Ruxton reached St. Louis and checked into the Planters House, where he was stricken with cholera, the epidemic dysentery that strangled St. Louis and the entire Missouri River Basin. He died from it on August 29, 1848; the same cholera epidemic apparently killed Jacob Hawken, whose rifle Ruxton's words made famous. Oddly enough, the grave of both men have been lost.

Dan Thrapp, author of the Encyclopedia of Frontier Biography, summarized Ruxton's contribution to the mountain man legend: "Ruxton's books remain to mark him as one of the most colorful and influential writers to depict the Rocky Mountain country and characters in the fading days of the fur trade....His descriptions of the trapper-mountain man, regardless of how accurate or universally true, have been plagiarized by virtually every fiction and many fact-writers ever since." This high praise was equaled by president and western historian Teddy Roosevelt, who remarked that "no one was to equal [Ruxton] in his portrayal of the Rocky Mountains and their Mountain Men."

(More to this later....)



Colorado Springs Muzzle Loaders, Inc.



ANNUAL BIRD & BUFFALO SHOOT October 18 & 19, 2014

WHERE:

Ft. Melchert; 0086 K Street, Penrose, CO

WHAT:

Long range buffalo, shotgun, primitive, pistol, and more!!!!

Range opens on Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

Chili lunch on Saturday; all you can eat with chips and fixin's for \$5.00

Potluck dinner Saturday night, followed by live club members donation AUCTION.

Bring any of your old, no longer wanted "plunder" and donate it to our annual auction. Your used or unused "plunder" can be of great benefit to CSML and a true treasure to the lucky buyer with the winning bid. All proceeds go to CSML, Inc.

Dry or self-contained camping available beginning Friday evening.

BRING A FRIEND AND ENJOY THE WEEKEND!!!

For more information, contact:

Joy Hicks: (719) 598-5715 Doreen Webb: (719) 275-8724 Ron Melchert: (719) 372-3286 Doug Davis: (719) 632-7690

