



ACWSA Michigan-Ohio Group Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1 – December 2009



Happy Holidays!

In the spirit of Christmas, Santa and Mrs. Claus have been hard at work making the boys and girls of Michigan happy for the holidays. Brian and Linda Haack are shown here delivering the spirit and gifts to the little children at the Vermeulen family get together. Phil, shown at right, said that while many of the little ones were not able to make it to the party, the kids who were there really enjoyed seeing Santa, and were excited to open their gifts. This really is what Christmas is about!

Our friends on the other side of Lake Michigan have also been celebrating the holidays in Civil War fashion. On Saturday December 12, visitors to the [Civil War Museum in Kenosha Wisconsin](#) learned how Christmas was celebrated during the mid-to late 19th century. The Kenosha News reported that the event was a big success and that “So many of our Christmas traditions come from the Victorian period.” “During these times of trial there are ways families stayed close.” Visitors learned simple gifts and carols were the manner of the day. President Abraham Lincoln celebrated Christmas in 1864 — a work day — with a few close friends and family members. Lincoln and his wife Mary also spent a great deal of time visiting with sick and wounded soldiers in hospitals near Washington, D.C.

Read the full story at http://www.kenoshanews.com/mystuff/a_civil_war_christmas_6945227.html

Here's to a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's to all of the members of the American Civil War Shooting Association, and their extended families!

This is the first communication that has been sent since the very productive meeting held on November 7th. I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who came to the meeting, who discussed the positive direction forward being taken here with ACWSA, and especially those who

donated from their team coffers, and individual bank accounts to insure that we had adequate funds to get things rolling. Chief among those who donated is Paul Davis, of the U.S.S. Michigan Landing Party who graciously matched all funds donated by other teams and individuals. One more time, thank you Paul! I am confident that through the donations and the funds raised by the T-Shirt sale discussed later in this newsletter that we will have enough funds to get up and running, and carry us into the future.

We have managed to get some work done to prepare for the coming season. Below is a list of accomplishments that have taken place since the meeting.

- **Membership:** We added several members at the meeting, and several new teams following the meeting. New Confederate teams added are the 7th Tennessee and Bledsoe's Battery. Bledsoe's comes to us from the reenacting community, but has been shooting live fire artillery with their original iron smoothbore for a number of years. On the Union side we have added the 8th Michigan Cavalry, and Blazer's Scouts. Blazer's Scouts is an interesting group for a couple of reasons. First, the original independent company of scouts raised during the war fought against John S. Moby's command and were one of the few units able to hold par with the Confederate guerilla. Secondly, in its resurrected form Blazer's Scouts is comprised of some of the best skirmishers from Ohio, and prompted the recent change in the scope of our group's title. We sincerely hope more groups in Ohio will form in the coming months, and that in future seasons we will schedule shoots that will be located in a more convenient setting for our Ohio friends.

Most recently eighteen shooters from the 1st Michigan have submitted a roster to ACWSA bringing the total membership of the Michigan/Ohio group to 189 members. A hearty welcome to all who have joined!

- **Targeting:** Peter Simpson, Dygert's Sharpshooters, has donated a sizable quantity of paper targets suitable for practice sessions at the skirmishes, as well as some breakables. Paul Lipka, 2nd Texas, has donated a large quantity of ceramic tiles for use at coming events, and Denny Carder, 7th Wisconsin, has donated several boxes of pigeons for our use. Thank you guys!

We have found a source for metal targeting similar to those being used in Wisconsin. We have gone through several drafts and have decided upon three designs, all of which are shaped like corps identification badges used by the Union Army during the war. No disrespect intended to any Union veterans out there, but we wanted to include more Civil War elements into what we do. We have decided upon the 2nd corps, 8th corps, and the 25th corps, as shown below. The targets will be ordered shortly, and will have to be drilled for holes once they are received from the supplier. We will post information about work times for drilling holes on the Facebook group as soon as times and location becomes available. They will be completed in plenty of time before the 1st ACWSA shoot in May.



The diamond (25th corps) is a 4 inch size, and can be drilled to be hung square or as a diamond shape. The clover leaf (2nd corps) and star (8th corps) are both created based on a target that is just a little bigger than 4 inches so that the relative size or amount of surface area approximates other targets we currently shoot.

- **Control Tower:** One of the bulkiest and most inconvenient items needed to host a skirmish at most ranges is the control tower which often requires a trailer of its own in order to get to and function at the shoot. The reality is that the ranges we use most often do not have a permanent tower, and because of the operations of the clubs when we are not there they will not have a permanent tower erected on their range. In an attempt to compromise the following issues, our need for an elevated observation point to control the range and the inconvenience of bulky



towers we purchased the mobile hunting stand shown above. The tower when erected stands 10 feet tall, is very stable, and has a permanent seat for the occupant. The entire unit weighs 90 pounds and can be moved when erected by two people with no problem. It collapses into three major components, the ladder and legs, the cross braces, and the platform. When collapsed it will fit in the back of any pick-up or SUV. It should take about 20 minutes to set up once on site. The tower can be fitted with an enclosure to protect those inside from inclement weather.

While it is apparent that there is only room enough for one person in the tower and traditionally there have been two people in this observation role, one of those people typically operates a stop watch. There is no requirement, written or otherwise, that says there has to be two men, and this will suit our needs very well.

- **Blue Water Range:** On December 5th several members put in some work at the BlueWater range that should reduce the amount of work and materials needed in order to host shoots at that venue. We measured the range for its maximum capacity and laid it out for 15 teams, the most it would hold. We then installed 24 inch sections of PVC piping in the ground so that

each firing position has a set of tubes to hold the uprights for the target frames. At this point there is only one frame per position, but cost was so minimal and we left enough space between frames that in the future, if needed we can add another set of frames to each position.

The advantage to putting in these fixtures at Blue Water is that when target frames are purchased we will save money in not needing feet. Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, when setting up and breaking down the range to aid in hosting there the uprights without feet are much easier to move, erect, transport, and store. The cost savings and space savings will be worth the effort.



While we were there we laid out the range for distance also, marking the range at 25 yard increments out to 150 yards. Having these distances laid out coupled with the very transportable tower we now have should give us flexibility to fire different firearms at various ranges, and still be able to make sure rounds are going into the hill instead of skipping. By moving the firing line instead of the frames the frames will be directly on the backstop.

In the future, once the snow melts, and the grass seed that has been planted has grown in, we are going to install some similar holes for artillery positions, and will do some work on getting foreign objects out of the backstop to further prevent ricochets.

Team Webpages: Gary Van Kauwenbergh, ACWSA Adjutant and Webmaster, has put a page on the www.ACWSA.org site for every team that has joined the Association. They can be seen at <http://www.acwsa.org/Team%20Pages/Teams.htm> As you can tell, many of those sites are currently empty. In the coming weeks we would like to populate some of the empty sites with new information, picture, and recruiting contacts for each team. If you have something that you would like added to your site contact Chris at minieball577@yahoo.com or Wally at acwsa.michigan@gmail.com. We have access to the site and should be able to post items within the next month or so. If you have something that is ready to go on the site now, please send it along to Gary at garyvank@aol.com

2010 Schedule: Below is a condensed version of the handout from the meeting that gives the 2010 ACWSA schedule for both Michigan/Ohio and Wisconsin/Illinois along side of the Northwest Territory schedule. To the best of my knowledge it is accurate, and contains very little, if any conflict. We are still working on a location for an ACWSA Championship, but I have been told the Aurora Illinois option is out as they do not yet have approval as a camping facility. While there may be changes to some of the shoots listed below, for the most part they are solid. The delay is that we are still waiting on a few ranges, which should be expected given the fact we as an organization have no prior arrangements or agreements with clubs upon which to rely. We will keep you informed of any changes to the schedule as they become known.

ACWSA Michigan Calendar Dates			
2010			
Date	Location	Hosts	Notes
May 8-9	Blue Water Port Huron, MI	146 th New York	LSHS Field Trip/ 1-Day ACWSA
May 31	Dearborn	Chris Hubbard	Memorial Day Parade
June 12-13 or June 26-27	TBD	8 th Arkansas	Caseville or Richmond
July 24-25	Blue Water or Championship		
July 31-August 1	Grayling	Loomis' Battery	Long Range Artillery
August 14-15	Richmond	1 st South Carolina	
September 18-19 or 25-26	TBD		Grayling?
October 9-10	Richmond		
October 23-24	Blue Water Port Huron, MI	146 th New York	LSHS Field Trip/ 1-Day ACWSA

ACWSA Wisconsin/Illinois Calendar Dates			
2010			
Date	Location	Hosts	Notes
June 5-6	Appleton, WI	66 NC & 2 WI	
July 17-18	Bristol WI	56VA	
July 24-25	Aurora Illinois or Bristol Indiana		Championship (Tentative)
August 7-8	Boscobel WI	15 WI & 8 WI	Civil War Days
September 4-5	Rhineland WI		
September 11-12	Bristol WI		ACWSA/N-SSA

NWT/N-SSA Calendar Dates			
2010			
Date	Location	Hosts	Notes
May 19-23	Winchester, VA		"Nationals"
June 19-20	Port Huron, MI	15 VA & 24 MI	
July 10-11	Defiance, OH	111 th OVI	
August 21-22	Carleton, MI	7 th TN	
September 11-12	Carleton, MI	Battery "C"	
September 29-October 3	Winchester, VA		"Nationals"

T-Shirts: At the November 7th Meeting we presented a T-shirt design as a fund raiser for the Michigan/Ohio group. I have included that design at the end of this newsletter. There seems to be big interest in the shirt, as the orders have begun coming in. I have received several orders from individuals along with their payment. This is great, and I hope sincerely that the orders keep coming in.

However, what we intended with the T-Shirt form was that team adjutants would handle the orders for their teams, and submit one form for the team. While I imagine some teams have done this, I have yet to receive any forms completed that way. I have included the T-Shirt design here again in an effort to get those orders in! Make checks payable to "ACWSA of Michigan." Remember, of the 14 dollars per shirt, 10 dollars will go directly into the ACWSA account, so this is a big opportunity to guarantee that we have the necessary funds to get targeting and ranges to shoot on! Plus, you get a quality shirt to enjoy...

We are asking that all T-Shirt orders be in by the 16th of January. Our hope is to have shirts printed by the second week of February and then distribute them as soon as practical following that. We would like to take the Wisconsin/Illinois shirts with us to Wisconsin for delivery at the ACWSA meeting in February.

Facebook Group: Most of the information contained in this newsletter has been posted in one form or another on the Facebook discussion group for ACWSA Michigan/Ohio. If you have a Facebook account, log on and search for "American Civil War Shooting Association" and you will find it, or follow this link - <http://www.facebook.com/#/group.php?gid=123117631965> . The Facebook group has been a great communication tool and will continue to be a main mode of communication and discussions among members, so if you're not on Facebook, join up!

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Chris Hubbard
4623 Detroit Street.
Dearborn Heights, MI 48125
minieball577@yahoo.com
(313) 769-5597

ACWSA - T-Shirt - Fund Raiser



Printed on Gray or Royal Blue 100% Cotton pre-shrunk T-Shirts

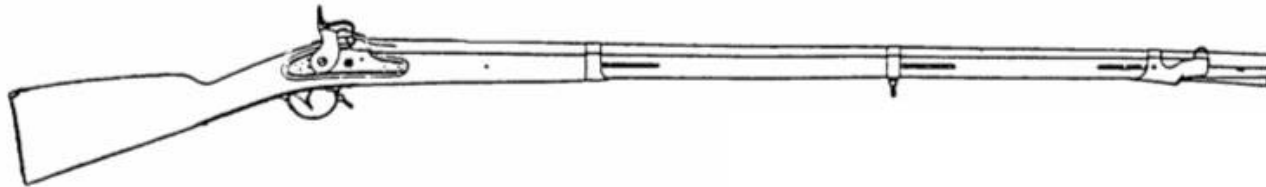
Available in Size Small - 4XL

Price Per Shirt: \$14.00

Benefit to ACWSA Per Shirt: \$10.00



REMEMBERING AMERICA'S CIVIL WAR THROUGH LIVE-FIRE COMPETITION



ACWSA T-Shirt Fund-Raiser Order Form

Please return by January 16, 2010

Cost Per Shirt – \$14.00

Name	Address	Team	Color	Size	Quantity

Order Summary

	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large
Royal Blue					
Gray					

Return forms and funds to Chris Hubbard by January 16th, 2010

Make All Checks payable to: “ACWSA of Michigan”

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(313) 769-5597