

Coon 'n Crockett Muzzleloaders Club

P.O. Box 13904, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3904

~Membership Application~

Please complete, detach at dotted line (retain brochure for your information) and send with payment to address above or submit to a club officer as listed on reverse side. Thank you!

Name: _____ Family members: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____ Phone: (____) _____
I am a member of:
East Grand Forks Rod & Gun Club
NMLRA # _____
North Dakota Muzzleloaders Association
other gun club _____
Member accepting application: _____
E-mail: _____
I would like to receive my newsletter as (select one): mailed paper e-mail online
Paid: \$15.00 Cash Check # _____ Date: _____

Coon 'n Crockett Club History

In 1969 Dick Ganyo borrowed a rifle from Al Thompson to use at the North Dakota state association shoot held at Cooperstown, ND. He and Don Purpur attended the event together. While returning to Grand Forks from the shoot they came up with the idea that they should form a club. The first get-together was in Don's basement. Don Purpur, Dick Ganyo, John Breidenbach, Al Thompson and Forey Flaagen attended.

It was decided to run an ad in the Grand Forks Herald City Briefs inviting anyone interested in muzzleloading to attend, which was to become the first Coon 'n Crockett meeting. This meeting was held during the first part of June at Lincoln Park Clubhouse, Grand Forks, ND. The first shoot was held the first weekend in August of the same year though it was only a one day event. It became a two-day event in 1973.

The movie "Jeremiah Johnson", released in 1972, inspired an interest in shooters as well as gun manufacturers to recreate the era. Thompson-Center started the production of their Hawken rifles around the same time. The first two in the area found their way into the hands of John "Bear" Breidenbach and Garald Gillies through the Sportsman's Headquarters (now the Ski and Bike Shop), then run by life member Jon Dickson. They started with percussion rifles then went to flintlocks and even a matchlock, to be more nostalgic.

The charter members attending the first meeting were: John Breidenbach, Dick Ganyo, Jim Deitz, Forey Flaagen, Garald Gillies, Al Thompson, Clarence Mutscher, Don Purpur, and Jim Lambert. Verna (Mrs. Jim) Lambert designed the C 'n C logo and painted the original canvas banner. In addition, when the club was officially chartered on July 5, 1973, Olav Aarsvold, Curtis Lande, Richard Skow, Lewis Seyler and Charles Robertson were also members.



Coon 'n Crockett Today

Since 1973, the Annual C 'n C Shoot is one of the lasting yearly shoots of the region, attracting men, women and youth competitors. The public (pilgrim and flatlander) is welcome to watch or join in the events. The club is family oriented and welcomes new members. There are C 'n C members in several states and Canada.

The Coon 'n Crockett Muzzleloaders Club makes public appearances at regional events such as centennials, festivals and parades

The club has appeared in newspapers, magazines, radio and TV. In 1993, Willard Scott of NBC's Today Show announced our Annual Shoot. In 1994 some of our club members were filmed for a "What a difference Today makes" segment which aired on national TV. Some members appeared in a commercial promoting North Dakota tourism.

In April 1996 Neal "Doc" Martin created the C 'n C internet web site (www.coon-n-crockett.org) which was one of the first black powder club sites. It has since become a popular central jump point for muzzleloading interests worldwide.

C 'n C Events

~ for more information call ~
Steve (218)773-6850 or Bill (701)594-5356

- August, first weekend – Annual C 'n C Shoot, East Grand Forks Rod & Gun Club Range, EGF, MN (located 9 miles North of East Grand Forks, MN on Hwy. 220 and 3 miles West)
- Cabela's Spring and Fall Expo – introduction to club and muzzleloading.

The Coon 'n Crockett Club is available to the community, clubs and schools to give presentations on the Fur Trade Era of 1800-1840, muzzleloading and Minnesota / North Dakota Hunter Safety classes.

4-H Muzzleloader Shooter Education Certified instructors conduct youth summer classes.

New or prospective members are invited to contact any officers for an introduction to muzzleloading or attend monthly meetings to get acquainted.

Club Benefits

- ⊙ \$15 annual dues includes membership for husband, wife and children up 18 years old.
- ⊙ Club newsletter "Coon Tales" which includes club news, regional calendar of events, trading post, muzzleloading and Fur Trade Era articles. Issues available as mailed paper or computer online.
- ⊙ Help and instruction to the sport.
- ⊙ Club-owned teepee and one pole tent for members use at events.
- ⊙ Blacksmith forge in East Grand Forks.
- ⊙ Camaraderie of others with an interest in muzzleloading, Fur Trade Era history and primitive camping.
- ⊙ Target shooting designated evenings during summer months.

The Sport of Buckskinning

The interest in shooting muzzleloaders and the American Fur Trade Era of 1800-1840 has become the pastime of over "250,000 weekend mountain men" according to the NBC Today Show. The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, founded in 1933 and based in Friendship, Indiana, sponsors several regional National Rendezvous each year with shooters from around the world in attendance. Several regional rendezvous have also developed.

Buckskinning becomes a break from the hectic everyday way of life for some people. The primitive camping and living the way it was two centuries ago takes history out of the books and into reality. It's a way to learn what the original explorers of the West had to go through by first hand experience. Imagine making fire with a flint and steel, then cooking your meal in a cast iron Dutch oven on an open fire. The smell of the wood camp fire, the taste of a cup of hot coffee under the open sky, that sense of real freedom we all want, this is buckskinning.

Buckskinners can dress and act the part of an early fur trapper and trader, learn to shoot, use the tomahawk and throwing knife. Friendly competition often erupts at these gatherings we call rendezvous. It is not uncommon to find people shooting or throwing hawk and knife for not only the "braggin' rights" but perhaps for a friendly wager.

Blanket shoots are common at rendezvous. Participants put a trinket or money down on a blanket set aside to hold the items. The top shots select their prizes in order.

Some shooting events are primarily target shooting such as the Annual C 'n C Shoot, while some shoots are primitive or a mix of both. Primitive shooting usually is the real test of shooting skill as there are no specific rules of how one is to be run. Targets, courses and distances will vary. You may be asked to shoot at lumps of coal dangling from sinew cord or at an ax blade trying to split a ball (bullet). No matter what, you are almost certain to have fun trying your shooting skill. There is fun to be had for the whole family, too.

You don't have to get into buckskinning to shoot muzzleloaders but it's just that much more fun.



Coon 'n Crockett Muzzleloader Contacts

Steve Peavey (218) 773-6850
Bill Fuehrer (701) 594-5356
Kathy Newman (701) 775-9866
Neal Martin (701) 775-9509
Brad Gerszewski (701) 772-8027

Contact Coon 'n Crockett Muzzleloaders at...
mail: PO Box 13904, Grand Forks, ND 58208-3904
internet: www.coon-n-crockett.org
e-mail: martin@gra.midco.net



Visitors and Prospective New Members Welcome!

Meetings are held the
third (3rd) Monday of each month
7:00 PM at

Cabela's

310 DeMers Ave., East Grand Forks, MN
meeting room in back of store off gift area

COON 'N CROCKETT MUZZLELOADERS CLUB



Chartered July 5, 1973
Grand Forks, North Dakota