

January 2026 McKinley Mountainmen Newsletter

Schedule of Events

Date	Category	Event	Location	Contact
10 Feb (Tues)	Pistol Shoot	MMMLRC Monthly Pistol Shoot	MVS Range, Mile 38 Glen Hwy, (6pm) Outdoors	Steve Anderson: ph. 315-0874 Email: heysanderson@proton.me
12 Feb (Thurs)	Meeting	2026 Annual MVS Members Board Meeting	MVS Range, Mile 38 Glen Hwy	P Pat Reed: ph. 376-6826 Email: patreed@mtaonline.net
14-15 Feb (Sat-Sun)	Gun Show	17 th Annual MVS Gun Show (Mat Valley Sportsman Range)	Raven Hall, Alaska State Fairgrounds, Palmer AK 99645	Kelly Myers: ph. (907) 232-3447 Email: idpaak@yahoo.com
19 Feb (Thurs)	Meeting	Monthly MMMLRC Meeting	Basement of the Eagle River VFW 7:00 pm	Tim Pauloski: ph. 688-4018 Email: timpauloski@outlook.com
21 Feb (Sat)	Rifle Shoot	MMMLRC Monthly Rifle Shoot 2nd Saturday/not 3rd	MVS Range, Mile 38 Glen Hwy, (10 am) Outdoors	Pat Reed: ph. 376-6826 Email: patreed@mtaonline.net
10 Mar (Tues)	Pistol Shoot	MMMLRC Monthly Pistol Shoot	MVS Range, Mile 38 Glen Hwy, (6pm) Outdoors	Steve Anderson: ph. 315-0874 Email: heysanderson@proton.me
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President's Message

The new year is upon us and with it the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of a new birth of freedom the world had never known. As the concept of our Constitutional Republic began to spread, a sense of patriotism also encompasses the hearts of every citizen with the resulting hashing out of new ideas both political and social on every street corner of the United States. Alexis de Tocqueville confirmed seeing these debates among Americans at even the very lowest of social order, while, in turn, asserting this was not the norm among those living under the rule of European autocracies. With fits and starts, and sometimes turmoil and bloodshed, our republic survived and grew leading to a renewal of patriotism centered around the 1975 Bicentennial. With this patriotic renewal developed an interest in our past history to include the use of muzzle loading arms, which in turn grew into the largest growing shooting sport of the 1970's and 1980's. Fifty years have now past and our 250th birthday is upon us. Is it not our turn to once again stand at that proverbial street corner and debate what the future holds for the Republic and black powder shooting. I know this, the spread of the use of muzzle loading arms, after the bicentennial, acted like a vessel that expanded reenacting of historical periods and events and with it, a renewed sense of patriotism. Can we not do the same on this our 250'th birthday? As individuals, it is up to each and every one of us to assure a continuation of our muzzleloading history and in its own way play a part in a rebirth of patriotism for our Republic of freedom, that is the United States of America. On another topic, my term in office as club president ends this coming March. It is once again time for good people to come to the aid of their fellow club members and offer their services by filling out the positions that will come vacant this March.

President but still "The Mayor" Tim Pauloski.

Secretaries Report for December 2025 Club Meeting

- The December Monthly Meeting of McKinley Mountainmen was held at the Annual Christmas Party. It was held in conjunction with the Annual Fund-Raising Auction at the home of Keith and Mary Mathis. After meeting and socializing, Mary served a delicious Prime Rib Dinner, followed by the December Club Meeting, and the Annual Fund-Raising Auction led by Jeff Binegar. Club members attending were Jeff Binegar, Pat Reed, Karen Smith, Keith & Mary Mathis, Tim Pauloski, Steve & Linda Anderson, Ed Wick, Howard Delo, Jeff Trotter, Paul Brown, Paul Hoekema, Cathy Goins, plus guest Tim Evers. Charlie Peters also made a brief

showing but did not stay for the activities. Twelve active members besides the president were present for the meeting so a quorum was met. The meeting was called to Order by the President Tim Pauloski at 6:20pm.

- Mary Mathis motioned to approve the Minutes for the November 2025 Club Meeting which were published in the November Newsletter. Howard Delo seconded that motion. Motion unanimously approved all ayes!

Shoot Reports

- For both Pistol and Rifle Shoot Reports go to our website <https://mckinleymountainmen.com/shoots/>.

Old Business

- Tim Pauloski stated as the Treasurer of the dissolved Alaska State Muzzle Loaders Association he had been lost on the balance of the State Booshway Funds after this year's State Rendezvous. He felt the State Rendezvous Fund had lost too much money before grasping that \$800 from it was given to Ed Wick to construct a new more efficient outhouse on the south side of the Ft. Wick field. Even after this realization Tim still felt he and Keith Mathis (Treasure MMMLRC) should get together in this coming month, to discuss, and make decisions on continuing these different funds as well as where the money is to reside! Currently State Booshway Fund resides with next year's State Booshway (in this case Jenny Hughes of North Pole); the Fall Booshway Fund resides with Ed Wick (who has consistently been the Fall Rendezvous Booshway); and the Memorial Weekend Booshway Fund resides in ASMLA bank account. This whole issue of Booshway Funds has been very cloudy since the dissolution of ASMLA and should be resolved.
- Steve Anderson stated he had purchased the label maker and special label paper for setting out targets for the different aggregates at the annual NMLRA Alaska State Territorial Competition. His expense was \$133 and was to be reimbursed by Tim Pauloski from the ASMLA Emergency Booshway Fund.
- Ed Wick informed us he had \$300+ in Fall Booshway account prior to Kathy Waggoner (2025 State Rony Booshway) giving him \$800 to construct a new improved outhouse. He added the \$800 to the Fall Booshway Fund. After hiring an excavator to dig the hole and purchasing construction supplies \$700 remains in the Fall account. He build the outhouse on the south side in the mid tree line of the lower field. Wendy Cunningham tested and approved the seat measurements!

New Business

- Steve Anderson visited Keith and Beverly Bayha in Suelyn Novak's home on old eagle River Road in Eagle River (one block up the hill from VFW). Both Keith and Beverly are doing a little better but have come to the realization they can no longer remain active in the ASMLA or MMMLRC. Keith and Beverly Bayha wish to sell their Black powder and Rendezvous equipment. Contact ph. no. 907 301-0302.
- Steve Anderson has been notified by Kelly Mears that he was concerned that the range patronage is being insured in redundancy by themselves and the range. Kelly was also concerned that MMMLRC should have a representative at the MVS annual board meeting the week following the Super Bowl (February). The Board will be making decisions about rules indoors and on the outdoor ranges that concern black powder shooters.
- Speaking of the MVS Range, Keith Mathis noted he has not been able to verify a date for the annual MVS Gun Show normally in February each year. He will keep attentive and verify the date in the Newsletter Schedule of Events. To clarify, Paul Brown iterated the Gun Show always is the weekend following the Super Bowl with the Annual Board Meeting the Thursday (2/12) following the Super Bowl (before the Gun Show).
- Howard Delo wanted everyone to know the Mat-Su Borough Assembly is planning on constructing another shooting range. Tentatively planning in the Zero Lake Road just north of Houston. (May not be Mat-Su Borough but City of Houston, however it is Borough Land, so ?). This range would be similar to the Borough one on Maud Road, however Howard heard as follow-up comments, the Maud Road Range has gone to crap due to the lack or any authority on site or Range Safety Officer to oversee activities when people are shooting.
- The Annual fund raising Auction will be directly following the meeting with Jeff Binegar as auctioneer.

Good of the Order

- Nothing was brought up for Good of the Order.

Meeting Adjourned

- The December Club Meeting was motioned to adjourn by Mary Mathis and second by Howard Delo at 6:52pm. Motion passed so ended the December Club Meeting.

Split-the-Pot

- The split-the-pot drawing winner was Jon Anspaugh! He was not present and \$170 will be carried over to the January Club Meeting.

Secretaries Report for 2026 January Club Meeting

- The January Club Meeting was to be held January 15th in the basement of the Eagle River VFW. Four members (Jeff Binegar, Paul Brown, Keith & Mary Mathis) were present besides the President Tim Pauloski. Four members do not make a quorum, so no official meeting was conducted. Since the Christmas party and Auction are major club events, the Treasurer read his Report for December. Those present then sat and gabbed from 7:05 through 7:55.
- Since this was not an official meeting, no motion was made to accept either the overlooked December Treasurer's Report nor the unofficial January Treasurer's Report. These motions will need to be accomplished at the February Meeting.
- It was noted Tim Pauloski was on his 2nd consecutive year as President and would not be eligible to run this coming election in March. A new president needs to be elected. Nominees need to be posted in the Newsletter 30 days prior to the election, so volunteers need to step forward by the February meeting. Candidates are welcome for all 2026 MMMLRC Officers; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or either Shoot Chairman (though Shoot Chairmen don't need to be elected, just volunteer!)

Split-the-Pot

- The split-the-pot drawing is to encourage meeting attendance, so it was completed with Cort Broberg's name drawn. He was not present and \$180 will be carried over to the February Club Meeting.

Shoot Reports

- Both December and January Rifle Shoot and January Pistol Shoot Reports by Pat Reed:

For the last shoot of the year (Dec. 2025) we had a pretty good turnout. Nine shot the program and JP Wood also shot off the rest, but have no targets turned in for him. I shoot near him and noticed he is shooting some good groups. He has a nice rifle and I need to take a closer look at it, as I like that sort of thing.

The shooters in order of finish were : Augustus Topp 233, Mike Grigsby 209, Bart Topp 207, Steve Anderson 201, Jeff Binegar 177, Scott Crockett 172, Tim Evers 164 (shooting a smooth bore of .62 cal.), Paul Brown 143, and Pat Reed 125 (didn't shoot full course).

The January shoot was a bit short on attendance. One of the reasons was that there was a gun show going on. Even though there were only four of us, I still had a good time and it seemed that everyone else did too. The last two shoots were memorable in that I shot a different Don Mckee rifle at each one. In December I shot a recently acquired .45 cal. flintlock and in January shot a .45 cal. Leman style percussion rifle that I have had for quite a few years. The results for January were: Mike Grigsby 225x, Pat Reed 223 xxx, and Tim Evers 209 xxxx. JP Wood also shot with us again. He is fast becoming a regular.

Since Steve is off playing around in Italy, he wasn't here for the pistol shoot in Jan., so, I will give a brief report. It was pretty well attended with seven shooters. We shot the normal 3 targets at 25

yards. The results were: Mike Grigsby 269x, Tim Evers 263x, Augustus Topp 242, Bart Topp 233xx, Pat Reed 225x, Scott Crockett 224, and Paul Brown (did not finish). Pat Reed

- A reminder to check for shoot reports on our website maintained by Steve Anderson. For both Pistol and Rifle Shoot Reports go to our website <https://mckinleymountainmen.com/shoots/>.

Other Information

- Note the MVS Gun Show is February 14-15 and Mckinley Mountainmen have two club & one sales table. Sale items are requested from club members as well as assistance with planning, setting up, and tearing down our display. Keith and Mary Mathis have volunteered to be chairmen of our display but request assistance!
- Volunteer is needed to dress & fire BP firearm at Independence Day Cerebration in Palmer July 4th, 2026.
- The 2026 State Rendezvous will be held June 20-27th south of Delta Jct., Mi. 1395 Alaska Hwy, (looks like Buffalo Range again). Booshway will be Jenny Hughes with David Underwood Sergundo. See attached flyer.

McKinley Mountainmen Muzzle Loading Rifle Club Membership Application							
Date:							
Name:				Spouses Name:			
Mailing Address:				City, State, Zip:			
Email:				Home Phone			
I want the newsletter EMAILED to me:			YES	NO	Cell Phone		
Please circle your muzzle loading experience level				Novice	Intermediate	Expert	Range Officer
NRA membership? Yes / No	Member Number:			NMLRA Member? Yes / No	Member Number:		
Membership Rates:							
Individual: \$30 / yr	Family: \$35 / yr	Life: 10 x annual rate					
Circle one: New Member Renewing Member Life Membership							
Names / Ages of Children if family membership:							
P.O. Box 770555, Eagle River, Alaska 99577-0555							

And for a continuation, three more bios of our founding fathers who risked everything writing and signing our Declaration of Independence!

James Smith (Pennsylvania Politician)

James Smith (September 17, 1719^{[1][2]} – July 11, 1806), a [Founding Father of the United States](#), was an Irish-American lawyer and a signer to the [United States Declaration of Independence](#) as a representative of [Pennsylvania](#).

He was born in [Ireland](#); his family immigrated to [Chester County, Pennsylvania](#), in 1729.^[1] Smith attended the [Philadelphia Academy](#).^[3] He studied law at the office of his brother George and was admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania, initially practicing near [Shippensburg](#) and later near [York](#).^[4] He became captain of the militia there. He was appointed to the provincial convention in [Philadelphia](#) in 1775, to the state constitutional convention in 1776, and was elected to the [Continental Congress](#), where he signed the Declaration of Independence. He was reelected to Congress in 1785 but declined to attend because of his advanced age.

Smith died on July 11, 1806, and is buried in York, Pennsylvania, First Presbyterian Churchyard. The [University of Delaware](#) has a dormitory on its North Campus bearing his name.

James Smith



Born	1719 (?) Ireland
Died	July 11, 1806 (aged 87 ?) York, Pennsylvania , U.S.
Resting place	First Presbyterian Churchyard, York
Known for	signer of the United States Declaration of Independence

Signature

Ja. Smith;

John Witherspoon (Founding Father and Clergyman)

[The Reverend](#)
John Witherspoon



6th [President of Princeton University](#)

In office

1768–1794

Born February 5, 1723
Yester, [Gifford, East Lothian, Scotland](#)

Died November 15, 1794 (aged 71)
[Tusculum, Princeton, New Jersey, U.S.](#)

Resting place [Princeton Cemetery](#)

Nationality American/Scottish

Occupation [Clergyman](#) and [theologian](#)

Signature

A handwritten signature of John Witherspoon, written in cursive. The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

John Witherspoon (February 5, 1723 – November 15, 1794) was a Scottish-American Presbyterian minister, educator, farmer, and a Founding Father of the United States.^[1] Witherspoon embraced the concepts of Scottish common sense realism, and while president of the College of New Jersey (1768–1794; now Princeton University) became an influential figure in the development of the United States' national character. Politically active, Witherspoon was a delegate from New Jersey to the Second Continental Congress and a signatory to the July 4, 1776, Declaration of Independence. He was the only active clergyman and the only college president to sign the Declaration. Later, he signed the Articles of Confederation and supported ratification of the Constitution of the United States. The settled opinion among the American founding fathers, including Dr. Witherspoon, was that slavery would eventually disappear naturally within a generation. For this reason, Rev. Witherspoon advocated for "gradual emancipation" of slaves.

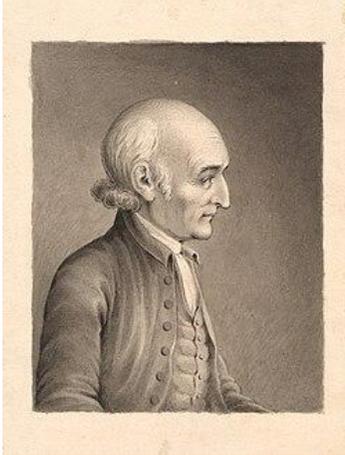
Princeton - At age 45, he became 6th president of the college, later known as Princeton University.

Revolutionary War - Witherspoon served in Congress from June 1777 until November 1784 and became one of its most influential members and a workhorse of prodigious energy. In Congress, he was appointed congressional chaplain and served on over 100 committees, helped draft the Articles of Confederation. He also served twice in the New Jersey Legislature and strongly supported the adoption of the United States Constitution during the New Jersey ratification debates. In 1780 he was elected to a one-year term in the New Jersey Legislative Council representing Somerset County, and was a candidate for Congress in 1789 and 1791.

Personal - Witherspoon married Elizabeth Montgomery on 14 August 1748 documented in the old parish register in Beith, North Ayrshire, Scotland. They were both from the parish. They had a total of 10 children, only five of whom survived to accompany their parents to America. At age 68, he married a 24-year-old widow, with whom he had two more children.

Death and Burial - Witherspoon suffered eye injuries and was blind by 1792. He died in 1794 on his farm Tusculum, just outside Princeton, and is buried along Presidents Row in Princeton Cemetery. An inventory of Witherspoon's possessions taken at his death included "two slaves ... valued at a hundred dollars each".

George Wythe (Colonial Politician and Mentor)



George Wythe
(1726 – June 8, 1806) was an American academic, scholar, and judge who was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. The first of seven signatories of the United States Declaration

Independence from Virginia, Wythe served as one of Virginia's representatives to the Continental Congress and the Philadelphia Convention and served on a committee that established the convention's rules and procedures. He left the convention before signing the United States Constitution to tend to his dying wife. He was elected to the Virginia Ratifying Convention and helped ensure that his home state ratified the Constitution.^[3] Wythe taught and was a mentor to Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall, Henry Clay and other men who became American leaders. Born into a wealthy Virginia planter family, Wythe established a legal career in Williamsburg, Virginia, after studying under his uncle. He became a member of the House of Burgesses in 1754 and helped oversee defense expenditures during the French and Indian War. He opposed the Stamp Act of 1765 and other British taxes imposed on the Thirteen Colonies. He was also a delegate to Virginia's 1776 constitutional convention and helped design the Seal of Virginia. Wythe served as a judge for much of his life, first as a justice of the peace and then on the Virginia Court of Chancery. He was also a prominent law professor at the College of William & Mary and took on several notable apprentices. He remained remarkably close to Jefferson and left Jefferson his substantial book collection in his will. Wythe became increasingly troubled by slavery and emancipated all of the people he had enslaved at the end of the

American Revolution.^{[4][5]} Wythe died in 1806, evidently from poisoning. His grand-nephew, George Sweeny, was tried and acquitted for his murder.

Delegate from Virginia to the Continental Congress

In office

June 1775 – June 1776

Attorney General of Virginia

In office

January 29, 1754 – February 10, 1755

In office

November 22, 1766 – June 11, 1767

Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates

In office

1777–1778

Mayor of Williamsburg, Virginia

In office

1768–1769

Born

1726

[Chesterville, Virginia, British America](#)

Died

June 8, 1806 (aged 79–80)

[Richmond, Virginia, U.S.](#)

Resting place

[St. John's Episcopal Church](#)

Party

[Federalist](#)

Spouses

Ann Lewis

(m. 1747; died 1748)

Elizabeth Taliaferro

(m. 1754; died 1787)

Education

[College of William & Mary \(BA\)](#)

Signature

George Wythe