

July 2026 McKinley Mountainmen Newsletter

Schedule of Events

Date	Category	Event	Location	Contact
11 Aug (Tue)	Pistol Shoot	MMMLRC Monthly Pistol Shoot	MVS Range, Mile 38 Glen Hwy, (6pm) Outdoors	Steve Anderson: ph. 315-0874 Email: heysanderson@proton.me
15 Aug (Sat)	Rifle Shoot	MMMLRC Monthly Rifle Shoot 2nd Saturday/not 3rd	MVS Range, Mile 38 Glen Hwy, (10 am) Outdoors	Steve Anderson: ph. 315-0874 Email: heysanderson@proton.me
8 Sep (Tue)	Pistol Shoot	MMMLRC Monthly Pistol Shoot	MVS Range, Mile 38 Glen Hwy, (6pm) Outdoors	Steve Anderson: ph. 315-0874 Email: heysanderson@proton.me
19 Sep (Sat)	Rifle Shoot	MMMLRC Monthly Rifle Shoot 2nd Saturday/not 3rd	MVS Range, Mile 38 Glen Hwy, (10 am) Outdoors	Steve Anderson: ph. 315-0874 Email: heysanderson@proton.me
17 Sep (Thu)	Meeting	Monthly MMMLRC Meeting	Basement of the Eagle River VFW 7:00 pm	Mary Mathis: ph 907 715-6352 Email: marym@mtaonline.net
25-27 Sep Sat-Sun	Rendezvous	MMMLRC Fall Rendezvous	Ft. Wick, Yoder Rd., Mi. 3 Talkeetna Spur Rd.	Keith Mathis: ph. 907 232-6052 Email: keith.mathis@hotmail.com

President's Message

Rain is what we are experiencing as of now but hopefully it will clear out soon. Summers are so short in Alaska and despite the rain, events still go on. Youth Day in June was well represented by McKinley Mountainmen. Big thank you to Tim Evers for cleaning and calibrating the youth rifles after the event so they are ready for next year. Thanks to Tim Pauloski and Jeff Trotter representing McKinley Mountainmen at two different events celebrating the 250th Year Anniversary of our country on the 4th of July. One in Palmer and the other in Anchorage! The 2026 NMLRA Territorial match was a great success with 11 shooters. Thank you, Steve Anderson, for organizing that! State Rendezvous in Delta Junction was a great time with many kids which makes it fun for all adults. Thanks to everyone accepting responsibility and taking the reins when needed to make this year's activities happen! Many thanks to David and Callie Underwood and Jenny and Adam Hughes for carrying the load again! Keith and I have been absent these last few weeks outside for our 60th class reunion, plus condoling my sister enduring her husband's severe health problems. And boy can it get HOT in Iowa in July! This cool rain is heavenly! **Your President, Mary "2 Fires" Mathis**

Secretary's Report for July 2026 Club Meetings

- The July MMMLRC Club Meeting was to be held July 16th at the Eagle River VFW however a party was going on that had no indication it would be over at 7pm as was scheduled. Bar was open and food still being served so those of us present decided to move the meeting to Tim Evers' place in Anchorage. Present at the VFW at the time for the meeting were, Keith & Mary Mathis, Tim Pauloski, Jeff Binigar, Mike Grisby, and Tim Evers. Mike Grisby elected to go home, and Tim Pauloski got lost enroute so only Tim Evers, Jeff Binigar, Keith & Mary Mathis attended the relocated meeting. Therefore, there were only three active members present besides the President. It was questionable if a quorum was being met, but any more efforts to require a quorum would almost eliminate all future meetings. It was decided to proceed with three members present! President Mary Mathis opened the meeting at 7:35pm. Jeff Binigar motioned to approve the minutes of the May Club Meeting as published in the June Newsletter. Tim Evers second, the motion passed.
- Question: Pertaining to the question of obtaining a quorum to make an official meeting. As of July we have 11 paid annual members for 2026! Of our 18 life members only 2 of them are active at meetings, with one other only active monthly shoot-wise, and one other only rendezvous-wise! That's a grand total of 15 active members out of a possible 67! 10%; what's our quorum 1.5 (2), or 6.7 (7)? **Active members!**

Treasurer's Report for May 21st, 2026 thru July 16th, 2026

- Jeff Binegar motioned to accept Treasurer's Report for July. Tim Evers seconded. Motion passed.

Shoot Reports

- For both Shoot Reports go to our website <https://mckinleymountainmen.com/shoots/>.
- The 2026 NMLRA Alaska Territorial Shoot was held June 25-28 at the MVS Shooting Range Palmer AK. Eleven shooters shot 51 aggregates. Tim Evers, Bart Topp, Steve Anderson, Mike Grigsby, Augustas Topp, Scott Crocket, Pat Reed, Paul Brown, Mike Deland, Howard Delo, and J.P. Wood participated in this year's Territorial. A successful shoot assuring Alaska's contribution to maintaining NMLRA's tradition! Viability of the Alaska Territorial Shoot has been in jeopardy for the past several years due to costs and number of shooters but enough this year to warrant again next year. Good luck to those who shot, and hopefully, we'll leave a national mark with some Alaskans as National Champions!

Old Business

- The 2026 Alaska State Rendezvous occurred June 20-27th south of Delta Jct., on the Richard Karr farm, tract M of Delta Barley Project, Mi. 1395 Alaska Hwy. Those participation give a special thanks to Sherry Olsen and Richard Karr, the landowners who graciously hosted the Rondy, plus let us cut firewood. David Underwood's Rondy Report follows in the Newsletter.

New Business

- Tim Evers has been making targets that can be set up in ten minutes, likewise, taken down in ten minutes also. He has some already located at Ft. Wick and plans on having enough to sponsor a shoot this summer at Ft. Wick. Not a rendezvous or campout, nor with traditional themes. Just a one-day black powder shoot. He would like to have several each summer if the first one works out. He wants the first one to be a smoothbore shoot the afternoon of August 22nd. Anyone is invited and bring a friend! Let Tim know if you intend to come and he will inform you of the details!
- Tim also suggested we change the venue and location of our Annual Christmas Party to the MVS Range. He feels the expense and burden on Mary Mathis is unnecessary! He would volunteer to smoke a brisket or something and others could bring a dish. We could eat on paper plates to facilitate easy cleanup! He surmised there probably would be a minimal fee from MVS for use of their facility. Mary counted Tim with she would prefer to do it again this year as she had already purchased Prime Rib for the party on sale last Christmas. Tim also suggested we could bring the Prime Rib to the Range. The subject was discussed with no decisions made.
- And finally, our discussion covered our low turnout for the meetings. Attendance has been dwindling continually for the past couple of years. Keith re-suggested possibly having our monthly meeting following our 3rd Saturday each month at the MVS Range after the Rifle Shoot. Our rifle shoots are bringing up to 10 or 12 souls and maybe we would have higher meeting attendance following a shoot. Many of the rifle shooters are not even members of the club so maybe we could pick up new members. Most MMMLRC business is now shoot related as rendezvous have moved north to Fairbanks people. Again, we may have a MVS fee for use of their facility! As always, no decisions were made, with further discussion pushed off to the future!

Good of the Order

- It was great to hear Pat Reed participated in the Territorial shoot from his wheelchair. Looking forward to him getting his prothesis and getting back on his "feet" again!
- Steve Anderson wife has completed most of her chemotherapy and is doing well without too much sickness or discomfort. MMMLRC wishes her well and a fast recovery!

- Beverly Grafel (Keith Bayha's wife) is planning on turning Keith's remaining possessions over to a consignment auction. She has yet to announce where or when that auction will take place.

Meeting Adjourned

- Jeff Binegar motioned to close the July Club meeting, seconded by Tim Evers. President Mary Mathis ended the July Club Meeting at 8:53 pm.

Split-the-Pot

- The split-the-pot drawing did not happen as so few were present. So \$220 will be carried over to the August Meeting.

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							

Here's My Report for the State Rendezvous.

Respectfully submitted , David 'Music Man' Underwood

Saturday, June 20th dawned warm and sunny by the time we had the "King George" shoot (a caricature of George the 3rd). Lots of kids buzzing about the camp! Afternoon found us engaged in the "Apple Bob" shoot, which involved an apple impaled on a log spike, suspended on a rope. The shooter had 5 seconds to shoot the apple before it was pulled back up behind an iron plate. Lots of apple-sauce was made! Opening ceremony that night explained that we named our camp "Fort Washington" because exactly 250 years ago on June 20th, American forces under General Rufus Putnam started construction of Fort Washington on Manhattan's northern end.

Sunday, June 21- Symphony of Alder flycatchers wanting beer at 3am (their call sounds like, "Quick, three beers") Numerous other birds throughout the day, each in love with their own particular melody. George Thompson taught an informative class on starting a fyre with flint and steel. Church service was held at 10 am. Miss Kitty and her friend Karla came for a visit,

and since she was the catalyst for the infamous "Biscuit Shoot" we held it for the ladies. It involved shooting a bag of flour, throwing a hawk at the East India Trading Co. logo (it was their tea that was thrown overboard in Boston) and starting a fyre with flint and steel. They then were invited to Booshways for tea and scones. Council fire every night had us singing different songs, mostly period correct, and we were blessed with intriguing history sessions, compliments of the honorable Curt Stables. We also shared memories of Keith 'No-Horn' Bayha, and Thomas 'Swanny' 'Sans Couteaux' Swan.

Monday, June 22- Challenges were made, seconds chosen and tension was high for the pistol duels, the lone survivor being Vern, who apparently hadn't shot his pistol for twenty years. Journal making in the afternoon (hopefully getting filled with imaginative writings by now) followed by a "Grocery Shoot" 2 teams were drawn out of a bag, who then shot at a 1/2 inch cotton rope, that had a burlap bag full of groceries suspended from it. Winners got to keep the groceries. Council fyre each night also featured a 'This day in history, exactly 250 years ago today'.

Tuesday, June 23- Woke this morning to the gentle patter of rain on the canvas. I was glad to hear it as we saw a forest fyre start up Saturday, west of camp. Hid 20 Sacagawea coins around camp, before anybody was up (luckily Riley, Hughes's dog didn't raise the alarm!) Kids spent a lively hour and a half finding them and getting nicely wet. Luckily we had a nice dry tent for crafts, several folks spent hours making chokers and working on their journals. Rained all day, so we didn't shoot. Curt had a memorable lesson on the battle for Breeds hill that night, complete with an obliging mud puddle to represent the harbor, and tiny toy soldiers representing the British and Continental armies.

Wednesday, June 24- Frost last night, gorgeous clear day. Taking the day off to go to the settlement for washing and grub. Had an informal long gong shoot in the afternoon. Met a decidedly unfriendly ruffed grouse hen in the woods that was hissing at me, trying to keep me away from her chicks.

Thursday, June 25- Up at 6am as usual, only the bugs and the birds to keep me company. Exploding hawk came off well at 10am. We would affix a cap to the end of a sawn off screw that was screwed into the hawk block. Then we rested a smaller wood round on top of two big nails, the round having a large nail on the backside, which rested against the cap. When the hawk hit the small round, it made the cap go off (usually) Exploding lime bags in the afternoon, lots O shooters! (small paper bags filled with lime, suspended on a string)

Friday, June 26- Kids hawk at 9, won by George Reidel, followed by Lilly Hughes, and Genesis. Melody Hughes, age 11, showed up 15 adults in the golf ball/softball shoot (shooting them off a stump) Luckily she didn't rub it in too badly.

Thank you Andrea Sonnichsen for tending the fyre several hours for our pinch pots. Curt and Adam set up a lovely woods walk with iron silhouettes, and too friendly bugs.

Saturday, June 27- Beecher Pierce shoot was won by.....you guessed it, Steve 'Broken Hand' Waggoner. Thank you Callie and Jenney for heading up the candle dipping, i tried to set an example by rolling mine in gun-powder. (I don't recommend them for indoor use)

Yours truly won best shooter overall, Bean was 2nd (also winning the raffle for my Dads smoothbore and shooting kit), Erin Riedel was 3rd. Wendy Cunningham was the ecstatic winner of a bodacious quilt, made and donated by Mary Ann Wick, thank you Mary Ann!

Rondy was a big success thanks to Co-Booshway efforts by Jenney and Adam Hughes, Callie and David Underwood, history and shoots by Curt Stables, and many other helpful folks.

Next years Booshway will be Curt Stables, with help by Segundo, Wendy Cunningham.

2026 State Rendezvous

June 20-27, 2026

]



Ft. Washington Richard Karr farm, tract M of Delta Barley Project, Mi. 1395 Alaska Hwy



Mark & Wendy Cunningham's Abode



Cannons Protect the Perimeter



Evening Council Fire

*Dick Underwood's
"Beaver Killer"
Rifle & Increments
Raffled
To
Jeff Binegar*



*Mary Ann
Wick's
Quilt
Raffled to
Wendy
Cunningham*



Daily Camp Life includes Cooking. Crafts, Shooting, Tomahawks, and Socializing followed by Council Fire



Rifle Shoot



Pistol Shoot



Ladies Shoot



Men's Shoot



Kids Drilling



Kid's Tomahawk



Tug of War for All



*2027Boohsway
Curt & Janis Stables*



Camp Social



Steve "Brokenhand" Wagonner



Adult Hawk Competition



*Ed Wick's
Rondy Tokens*



Camp Artillery



*2026 Boohsway
Jenny Hughes*



2026 State Rendezvous comes to a close! Many thanks to Jenny Hughes and David Underwood as Boohsway and Sergundo for putting on a Great Rendezvous. Fairbanks people are keeping the Rendezvous tradition going with their Youth and Vitality!