



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BRIGADE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NORTH-WEST DEPARTMENT

# B.A.R. SHOT

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## NWD Commander's Corner

Well, I got my gear put away after the Schoenbrunn event this past weekend and need to put something on paper for this issue of the BARSHOT. Let me start by thanking all those NW Dept. members that supported the NWD with their attendance at Schoenbrunn. As most of you know, this is an early 1770's Christian Delaware village, with the buildings being reconstructions on the actual original sites. We were asked to provide one demonstration of about 45 minutes to one hour each day, and these went off very smoothly with good participate. We received many positive comments from both our audiences and other participants. Units with at least one participating NWD Dept. member were:

5 <sup>th</sup> Va.	23 <sup>rd</sup> R.W.F.	Geographers	King's 8th, Detroit
8 <sup>th</sup> Pa. Ft. Pitt	47 <sup>th</sup> Regt. of Ft.	RNLP	Delaware Regt.
8 <sup>th</sup> Pa. Ft. Laurens	Coldstream Gds.	Westmoreland Militia	Kings 8th, Lt. Coy
Garrison Regt.			

You might notice that a unit that doesn't regularly appear on our NW Dept. returns is listed, that is the Light Company of the King's 8<sup>th</sup> Regt. Two of these stout young men drove down from Ontario, Canada for the weekend. The weather was fine on Saturday, with only a hint of rain, and while Sunday was dry, it got much colder, which may have discouraged spectator participation. Look for photos of this event taken by David Weidner, Del. Regt.

I would like to thank Daniel O'Connell for proposing this event and for making the initial arrangements.



Dave Weidner

The season has two, specialized events left. They are;

**Fall Firelock Match,** 3-4 November, at the Log Cabin Gun Shop, Lodi, Ohio. The Brigade of the American Revolution was founded by shooting clubs, and for many years participation in firelock matches was a requirement for membership. I believe shooting live is required for you to be a good interpreter of your flintlock, and for you to have a real appreciation of what it and YOU can and cannot do. Our NW Dept. firelock matches have become much more about the experience of live fire, and much less about the competitive end of shooting. You are encouraged to come to the shoot both days, with Saturday being for individual matches and Sunday for team matches. Don't worry if you've never fired live. There will be lots of help from veteran shooters, and you just might surprise yourself with how well you do. If you have never fired live, take a look at the rest of this newsletter for some guidance on choosing round ball, loads, and how to roll live rounds. Live rounds that contain powder and ball **MUST** be rolled in aluminum foil. The shop is open on Saturday if you need shooting supplies, but closed Sunday.

The Log Cabin is very hospitable, and a fine facility. The firing lines are covered in case the weather is not ideal, and we are permitted to stay in the store, in the museum room overnight Saturday. If you have any questions, contact the Firelock match event coordinators;

Bob Kashary (216) 538-0411 [K9Kash@roadrunner.com](mailto:K9Kash@roadrunner.com)

Joe Forte (740) 474-6183 [jjforte@frontier.com](mailto:jjforte@frontier.com)

Get your rounds rolled and I'll see you at the shoot!

**240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Continental Army's Arrival at the Tuscarawas,** 16-17 November, Bolivar, Ohio

This event will begin for some of us Friday evening, November 16<sup>th</sup>, when we erect a camp on the site of the last camp used by Gen. McIntosh's army before they reached the site on the Tuscarawas river where they would build and garrison Fort Laurens. On Saturday morning those of us that camp will pack up and march to the fort site, a little less than 6 miles. If you want to participate but are not interested in camping and starting your walk from there, you can meet us at the elementary school north of the fort site about one and a half miles. We should arrive there about 10:00-10:30 AM. If you want to participate but don't want to walk at all, you can meet us at the Fort Laurens State Memorial, about 11:30 AM on Saturday. If you are going to park at the school, work within your units to have some folks park at the fort museum so they can take you back to get your cars at the school.

Once at the Fort Laurens Memorial, we will have a memorial ceremony at the tomb, a talk on the march of the army, some of our regular demonstrations, and anyone wishing to camp on the fort site Saturday evening is encouraged to do so.

ALL NW Dept. impressions are welcome, and I hope you will join us in putting the cap on our event season in a special way.

Watch your email for BLASTS with additional information. The camp site is on private property, and the address is;

1063 Dueber Ave. SW  
East Sparta, Ohio 44626

The farm's lane is long, and when you get to a gate, if it appears closed and locked, it won't be. Just remove the chain, open the gate, drive through, and return things the way you found them. Keep driving on the lane past the house and up to the top of the hill, the location of our camp. Water is available at the house but bringing a jug of water with you will be easier than carrying water a couple hundred yards up hill. There will be firewood, and if needed, straw for bedding. If you get lost, I'll have my cell phone with me. My number is;

Bob Cairns (330) 806-1485 or email [robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)

You can arrive at the camp site any time after 4:00. According to the farmer there won't be cows in the field, but just in case, if you open a gate, close it again.

I hope you all will make at least one of the two remaining events, the last before we go into winter quarters.

Bob Cairns

8<sup>th</sup> Pa. Ft. Laurens Det., Cmdr., NW Dept.



Photos by  
Dave Weidner



## **Notes from the Inspector**

As we near the end of the 2018 North West Department schedule of events and the Board starts to develop the 2019 schedule I think it's a good time to look over our kits and examine them for areas that need improvement. As time passes more research is completed identifying items that were previously unknown, or we find that our prior knowledge is in error. Either way, now is a good time to plan some changes for next year. I know a BAR member who tries to find one item each year in his kit that needs to be improved and works to make that improvement. When I look at his kit I see one that any BAR member would be proud to possess. I know it didn't come easy but as he makes his yearly improvements he reaches a higher level of authenticity than he had in the past. I know that there is no such thing as the truly authentic kit. We can nit-pick anything, but we should all strive for the highest level of authenticity within our reach. Maybe cost or the time required to make improvements are issues, and we will fall short, but it doesn't hurt to keep trying. Besides, you may learn something new or pick up a new skill. And that's never a bad thing.

I hope you will find the time to come to the remaining events on the NWD schedule.

Joe Forte, 8th Pa. Reg't., Ft. Laurens Det.  
Inspector, North West Department

## **Lost from Our Ranks**

Rich Spahr joined the re-enacting world in 1997. Rich was a long time member of the BAR. He was born May 24, 1947. He was 71 at the time of his passing. He was buried at the Arlington Memorial Gardens in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He loved re-enacting once he got over his shyness of being in the strange clothes; as he put it. He enjoyed dressing and walking in Williamsburg, Va. He enjoyed the Fair at New Boston and that was the main event he visited in the last few years, besides Williamsburg. He was planning on retiring early next year and worked up to the day before his surgery. He worked at Post Glover transistors in Erlanger, Ky.





### Live Fire

At our Authentic Weekend I talked with a number of shooters that had never fired in B.A.R. live-fire matches, and would like to share with you what I talked about. First, I believe that if you are going to interpret a musketeer of the Revolution, you should have practical, first hand knowledge of loading and firing your musket live at a target. So, I believe you all should live-fire your musket once and a while so you can accurately relate this to the public.

The B.A.R. requires that muskets be loaded from foil (aluminum or tin) cartridges. There are several reasons for this. First, it is nearly impossible to mistake a foil cartridge for a blank paper round, which means our tacticals are safe from this error. Secondly, when you ram the foil, it actually acts as a scraper, cleaning some of the fouling from the barrel, making your musket a little easier to load a number of rounds in succession. And thirdly, we do it because it is a B.A.R. regulation, and keeps us within our insurance requirements.

I'm going to share how I roll cartridges and get ready to shoot. These aren't the only ways to do it, but they have worked for me for 30 years. What you need to roll live rounds is;

- aluminum foil** (buy good foil, if you get cheap stuff it tears too easily)
- copper tube**, 6"-7" in length, and slightly smaller diameter than the ball you use  
If you use a wooden dowel, the foil tends to collapse when you remove it.
- powder measure**, if your measure has a funnel, it makes pouring easier
  
- powder can spout**, optional, but makes pouring from the can easier, usually made from a spent brass rifle shell
- wooden cartridge block**, from your cartridge box
- lead balls**, make sure these are pure lead. Balls cast from tire weights or other Alloy metals are hard, and difficult to pull if need be.
- BLACK POWDER** the unit uses GOEX or SCHUETZEN brands. DO NOT use black powder substitutes such as Pyrodex. You will be creating a very dangerous situation. The two brands used by the unit are readily available. Use ONLY FFg or FFFg granulations for cartridges.

- 1<sup>st</sup> cut your foil cartridges out using the pattern diagram included. You can cut squares, but then the seam of the cartridge runs straight down the side instead of spiraling around the cartridge, which I believe is a little stronger
- 2<sup>nd</sup> lay your former (copper tube) with a ball at one end, on the cartridge. (see the diagram). Make sure to leave enough foil beyond the ball so you can twist it closed.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> roll the former and ball up in the foil, making sure you keep the ball tight against the former, and roll it tightly in the foil. Twist the ball end shut.
- 4<sup>th</sup> remove the cartridge w/ ball from the former, and put it in your cartridge block. When you have a block full, the measure your powder charges and load each round. Fold down the tops, and you're ready to go.

I don't use any lubricant on the cartridges, although so folks do. I've found it just made a mess for me, and if you have the right sized ball, lubricant isn't necessary. (Bore Butter is the brand named used by some shooters, if you're inclined to try a lube). Now you're ready to shoot.

### **Live Firing Tips**

- Never step off the line to load your musket or with a loaded musket. If you have a problem, notify the range officer.
- Although at B.A.R. matches it is permissible to prime before you load, if you prefer not to (as I do) it is also permissible to prime from a horn with less than 2 oz. of powder. Make sure you return the horn to a safe place on your person before you fire.
- If you have a "hang fire", or if only your prime goes off, continue to Hold your musket on the target for several seconds before lowering it.

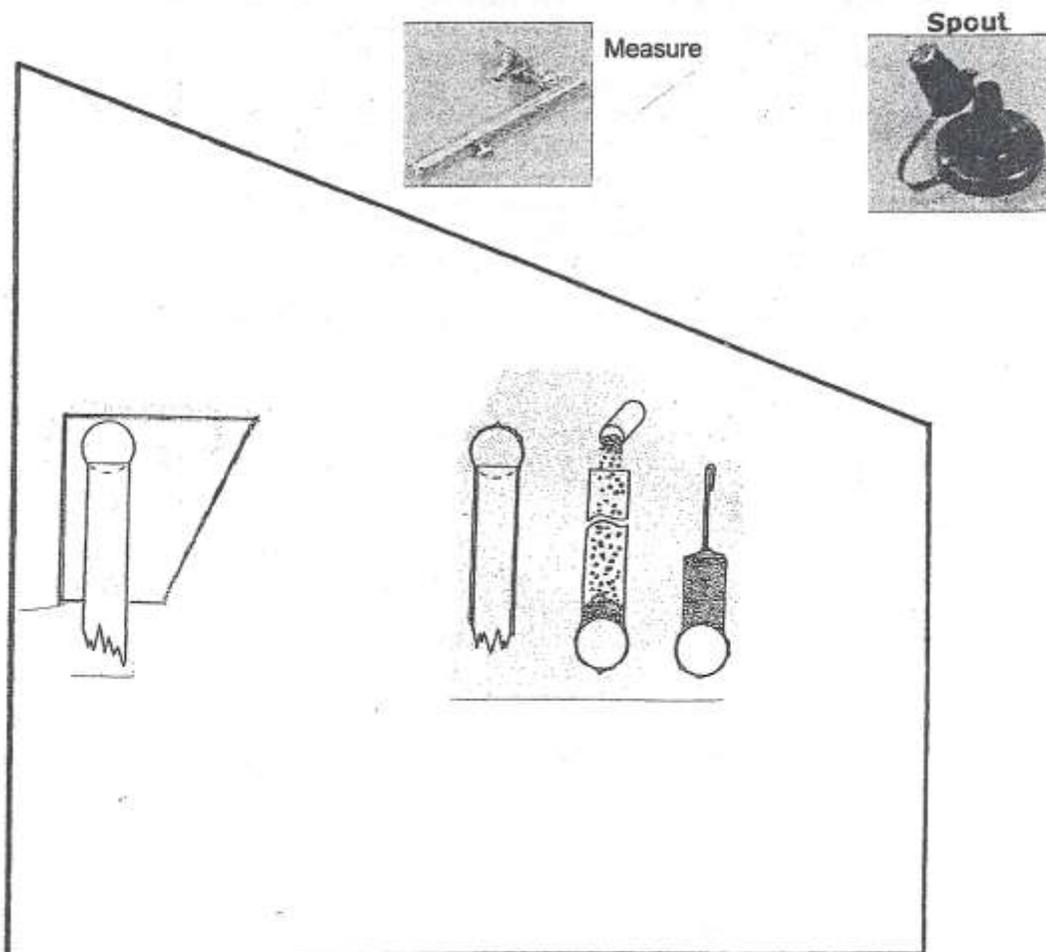
- If the foil bothers your dental work, tear the top of the cartridge off with your fingers.
- Always start your shooting day with a CLEAN musket. It makes things work better.
- Ball Size. Trying to shoot a ball too large is a common problem that can take a great deal of fun out of your shooting, so I recommend that you start with the following ;

.75 cal. Musket – No larger than .735, but many very experienced shooters use .730 or .715. (I shoot a .730 in my .775 musket, with good results).

.69 cal. Musket – No larger than .662, but I recommend .648, .620, or even .600. (many of the Navy Arms French muskets seem to have a choke several inches from the muzzle, and a smaller ball works better. *Never* use .678. I guarantee you'll get one stuck, and your shooting day will be over.

Precast round ball are available from many sources, including Dixie Gun Works, Track of the Wolf, and The Log Cabin Shop. If you can't find the ball size you want from these folks, it might not be made. If you want to cast your own, make sure that you use pure lead. Tire weights, or other such metals may, and probably do, have tin and other things alloyed with them that will make it very difficult to get a ball puller in if need be. Save this harder metal for casting buttons.

**Powder Charge** Your charge will vary with your musket, but I recommend you start with about 65 grains of FFg. Shot this charge till you get all the rounds going in about the same place at about 35 yds. If you're consistently low, add 5 grains and keep experimenting until you get a charge that puts the ball where you want it. If you are priming from the cartridge, take this into account and add 5 grains.



A final note on live-firing. Don't be embarrassed if you don't know something. There is no problem in not knowing. The problem is not knowing and *NOT ASKING* for help. We have many experienced shooters at our shoots, and they are glad to help by sharing what they know.

## **FALL FIRELOCK**

**November 3 and 4, 2018**

We hope to see you at the Log Cabin Shop!!! It is not too late to let us know you are coming, what you will be shooting... smooth bore, rifle, or pistol, and if you will be roughing it by "camping" with us in the Log Cabin Museum Saturday night. The address is 8010 Lafayette Rd. Lodi Ohio 44254. Our shoot will start Saturday morning with a Safety Meeting between 0900-0930hrs. Open practice from 0930-1000hrs, then the FUN begins. Saturday will be individual competitions, Sunday we will make up teams and have a Team Shoot. Our shoots are more about the experience than the competitive nature, but you will have bragging rights until the next Firelock.

What do you need? 1. Eye and hearing protection is recommended. 2. About 60 rounds of foil wrapped live rounds for the smooth bore and 25 rounds for the rifle. Pistol will shoot about 15 rounds. 3. A sleeping bag/cot to sleep in the Museum. 4. Morning coffee will be available. All other meals are "on your own" and we normally go out for dinner Saturday and breakfast Sunday. The store will be closed Sunday, so any purchases must be made on Saturday during normal business hours.

Time is short so call me, Bob Kashary 216-538-0411 if you will be joining us.

Bob Kashary & Joe Forte Coordinators



Schoenbrunn  
Photos  
By  
Dave Weidner





### **Adjutant's Freshest Advises**

Our NWD Election process is well under way with the Election Committee submitting their results to Commander Cairns. The next phase will be "Nominations from the Floor". Essentially, any member can run for any office, but they must: 1. accept the nomination in writing, and be willing to attend NWD Board Meetings and support NWD Events. 2. Their name must be submitted by (2) two separate Units in good standing. If you want to be involved in planning the future of the NWD, please consider stepping up and volunteering your time and energies. This is YOUR organization!

As always, if you change addresses, emails or phone numbers, please, Please, PLEASE let us know by emailing me at: [K9Kash@roadrunner.com](mailto:K9Kash@roadrunner.com)  
YMHS,

Bob Kashary, 5th Va. Reg't.

NWD Adjutant

### **Upcoming Events**

Nov 3-4      Fall Firelock—Coordinators Bob Kashary and Joe Forte

Nov 17-18    Fort Laurens March In —Coordinator Bob Cairns

## **Fort Meigs After-Action**

August was a HOT month!!! The NWTa and NWD BAR joined together for another combined event in the sweltering heat and then it RAINED Saturday until Noon!!! It wiped out all our morning programming but gave everyone the opportunity to shop at our Sutlers and tradesmen. Once the skies cleared, the crowds came, and we had a full afternoon. Sunday was clear, and we went back to our normal programming. I want to Thank Dave Phipps, Commander of the NWTa and all his members for attending and participating in all the programming. The 4<sup>th</sup> Connecticut did their exceptional impression of drilling and soldiers "camp life". Another group of independent/Fort volunteers, The Dutch Milners did a fine job in presenting a Fashion Show with the assistance of Squire Brennan of the Geographers. Thanks to Thos Yoder and the 8<sup>th</sup> Pa, the NWD presented a Court Martial scenario that was fun and entertaining for those that attended. It was so nice having quality sutlers like: Smoke and Fire, Flying Canoe, Wm. Booth Draper, and Samson Historical at our event and really added to the whole weekend. One cannot THANK the Fort Staff and Volunteers enough, for the hours they donate and the Saturday dinner they provided.

Dan Woodward, Fort Meigs Programs Manager appreciated all our efforts on behalf of The Ohio History Connection and Revolution on the Maumee. We have been invited back for 2019. The date had to be chosen for 2019 to coordinate with the State of Ohio. It was chosen as August 24/25 2019. Neither the NWD Board nor the NWTa have finalized their schedules when the date was chosen by Fort Meigs. I know that we will have other commitments and do not like doing back to back weekends, but I would like to hear from YOU the membership. Would you like to go back to Fort Meigs on August 24/25/2019 for a JOINT NWTa NWD BAR Event. Please email me your thoughts on supporting a Fort Meigs Event in 2019 at: [K9Kash@roadrunner.com](mailto:K9Kash@roadrunner.com). I would like your input before our November Board Meeting.

Bob Kashary, 5<sup>th</sup> Va. Reg't., NWD Coordinator



## **Brecksville After Action Report**

On Sunday, September 30th the NWD again starred at the Brecksville Metroparks Fallfest Celebration. The day was perfect—not hot, not cold, no rain. The crowd was constant and interested and the day passed quickly. As always we were fed to bursting by the park volunteers.

Although few in number, all present gave the public an interesting and informative show. Special thanks to John Conklin and Mark Vozar, who manned the howitzer and swivel gun for the always crowd-pleasing artillery demos.

Thanks all who attended!

Bill Lucas, 23rd Reg't. of Foot



**The NWD B.A.R. SHOT**

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