



# B.A.R. SHOT



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*Winter 2012*

## *From the Commander*

NWD Members, I hope this issue of the BAR SHOT finds you all well, and that you had a really meaningful Christmas season. I also hope your thoughts have turned to getting your kits in good condition for the 2012 season, outlined later in this issue. Usually this is the space I use to try to motivate you to attend NWD and BAR shows, but I don't know that it's had much positive effect. I guess if seeing your friends, visiting great sites, most of which are historic to our period, and that closet full of gear you have are not enough to get you out to events, then I don't know what to say. In fact, although I personally would be overwhelmed if we had events with 50% of our membership in attendance (that would be roughly 150 people), I am still more focused on counting the people that do attend. We had some high points last summer, notably Fort Laurens, where nearly every NWD Crown unit was represented by multiple members. My thanks to all of you that regularly attend and support NWD and BAR events, and perhaps those folks can trick a friend into coming to events by telling them they will get to dress in the 18<sup>th</sup> c. kit they worked hard to assemble, be involved in activities of the period, work with others with similar interests, teach and learn 18<sup>th</sup> c. skills and knowledge, and share all this with the general public, so that our period can stay alive and have importance for people outside our hobby. You can also add that they will not need to drive to the East Coast to do all this. On second thought, it might not work at all, and maybe I misunderstand why most of us took up this endeavor.

On another note, I would like to thank the NWD Board and all the NWD members that have helped keep the department in good financial stead by donations and keeping expenses to the NWD down. At a time when the price of EVERYTHING keeps rising, our expenses have leveled off, and in some cases dropped. This later case is due to our use of the internet versus long-distance telephone, printing, postage, etc. Thanks to everyone that negotiated events that put these burdens on the sponsors. Thanks to those that donated food for events. I know some of you do not like to think about the business end of this hobby, but all organizations require funding to operate, and we are no exception. We will not take time to print a financial statement in this newsletter, but any NWD member can email NWD Paymaster Bill Dibbern and get a thumbnail report of department finances; [wjddibbern@ameritech.net](mailto:wjdibbern@ameritech.net). It is the job of the Board of Directors to husband the resources of the department, and I believe they have done this very well. You can also be a big part of this by receiving the BAR SHOT electronically (see the piece later in this issue).

I'll see you all at the NWD School in Marietta,

Bob Cairns, cmdr. NWD

## **Note from the Inspector – Joe Forte**

Now that the re-enacting season has wound down it's a good time to inspect our kits and plan any changes for the 2012 season. The first and foremost item to attend to is the **CLEANING OF YOUR MUSKET**. I don't know why so many re-enactors don't clean their muskets and I really don't care why they don't - there is NO legitimate reason not to clean a musket. So, go get a bucket of hot water and get to it.

In the balance of my note I would like to discuss 3 items that I think we need to pay attention to because they are ruining otherwise good impressions. The 3 items are: modern eyewear, modern shoes and ill- fitting knee breeches.

In the past obtaining period eyewear was one of those things that required substantial monetary investment. That is not the case anymore. James Townsend and Sons offers period correct frames with round lenses and hinged temples for \$30.00 plus postage. You can have your prescription lens installed. Eyeglasses are the first thing the public sees when they look at you. If you don't think it matters, get a pair of period eyeglasses and see how often someone will ask about them. You will be surprised.

I fully understand that period correct shoes inflict untold misery to some in our hobby. There is no problem wearing a modern, round toe, laced shoe so long as the uppers are covered. Most modern shoes use 5 to 7 eyelets per side where 18<sup>th</sup> century shoes were laced with only one or two hole per side or the laces threaded around the folded latches. Modern shoes can be covered with overalls, full gaiters or half gaiters.

The last item needing attention is ill fitting knee breeches. What I mean by this is those knee breeches that extend well below the knee. While it takes considerable skill to shorten knee breeches it takes little if any skill to move the button on the knee band to prevent the legs from falling over the calf. If the breeches are so long as to prevent this modification it may be time for a new pair of knee breeches.

I hope that anyone who recognizes that some or all of these comments apply to them is not offended. They are not being made to offend anyone. But, as one board member recently stated, "We are getting a little lax." So, let's all take the winter months to make some improvements to our kits. And remember, CLEAN THOSE MUSKETS!

Respectfully,  
Joe Forte, NWD Inspector

## **NWD EVENTS for 2012 - Mark Your Calendars!**

**February 18-19 - NWD School, Campus Martius Museum, Marietta, OH.** You should have already received a separate mailing on this event. Keep watching the website NWDBARSHOT.com for more information. The event coordinators are: Dave Miller: [david.miller2@cox.net](mailto:david.miller2@cox.net) and Bill Reynolds: [reywilliamr@netscape.net](mailto:reywilliamr@netscape.net). Contact either for questions. We many topics I think you will find interesting, and for you men, please bring an 18th c. garment (or garments) that need mending, so our ladies can provide you with instruction on repairing them. I also know that Bill is working on a meal by subscription for Saturday evening. Watch for BLASTS or the NWD website. You will be providing your own meals for this event, and dress is either 18th c. or modern. The museum's website is <http://campusmartiusmuseum.org/>; located at 601 2nd St., Marietta, OH 45750-2122, (740) 373-3750. This event is a really good way to catch up with your friends and get the 2012 event season started.

**April 14-15- Fort Hand, Kunkle Park, Apollo, PA.** Fort Hand was authorized by Continental Congress and built in 1777. It was garrisoned by both regulars and militia and was used as a base for ranging operations for most of the war. It was attacked 26 April, 1779, by a large force of Indians and Loyalist rangers. The fort did not fall, and the defenders sustained only one casualty. This fort played a very prominent role in the Revolutionary War history of Westmoreland County, and both the Westmoreland Militia and the 8th Pennsylvania were active there. Kunkle Park, the site of our event, is just across the street from the site of the fort, where a large memorial stone now stands. If you do a native impression, this would be a good event for it. We were treated very well there several years ago, being show great hospitality and interest by the local public. There is a very large area for us to hold our tactical demonstrations, and we are only 20 minutes off the Pa. Turnpike, where hotels and restaurants abound. If you are camping, make sure you bring warm sleeping gear, as we are in the foothills of the Alleghenies, where the evenings can be cool. Bob Cairns is the event coordinator, and can be reached at: [robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com) with your questions. The address of the park is: 285 Pine Run Church Rd., Apollo, PA 15613.

**May 5-6 - Ohio Civil War Show, Mansfield Fairgrounds, Mansfield, OH.** This is one of the premier militaries shows in the country, and we are one of the advertised attractions. There are pieces on display and for sale from the French and Indian War through the Korean Conflict, and more demonstrations and exhibits than you can see in a weekend. The NWD will perform several lecture/demonstrations, as well as opening and closing ceremonies, and there will be plenty of time for you to see the show. Indoor sleeping is available, as is firewood and straw for tenters. This show is very convenient to get to, being just off Ohio state route 30. Google the Ohio Civil War Show 2012 and look at the photo gallery for some idea of the scope of this show. Reenactors from many periods are there, and it's like being in a museum where most of the pieces are for sale. I hope you will plan on attending this show, and I know you will be glad you did. The coordinator is Bob Cairns, [robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)

**June 9-10.** Please keep this date on your calendars, as there will be an NWD event this weekend. To explain, we are currently in the process of working on a possible event to commemorate Crawford's Defeat, in the Galion/Bucyrus area. Many things are still in the air, and we may not be able to make the logistics work. However, we are not able to come up with suitable arrangements; we will hold an event at Tom Hornbrook's farm, just south of Massillon, Ohio. This event will consist of a day of field training, where every soldier present will have an opportunity to act as a platoon officer and sergeant, and run a platoon or squad through the drill and maneuvers commonly used. This should help us all better understand this evolutions, and the particular problems of commanding a formation. It will also be excellent training for us all. The men will also be involved in a live-fire experience. It will not be the same format as our firelock matches, and there will be winners, losers or prizes. Instead, the focus will be on getting all our firearm-carrying members to actually live-fire the weapons they interpret, to enhance their abilities to do so. Rounds will be provided, so you won't need to bring any live ammunition. Instruction will also be provided for anyone needing help, and we will have a large target to use in volley fire. I know we have members that have never fired their firelocks live, and this will be an opportunity for that to change, in a very easy, controlled manner. For the ladies, there will be activities planned for inside the marquees and flies, and if you have suggestions, please contact Bob Cairns, or any of the NWD board or CCS. A mailing will go out no later than the first week in May to let you know which event we will be having, but please plan on attending either.

**June 23-24 - B.A.R. 50th Anniversary Grand Encampment, Fort Frederick, Maryland.** This is an excellent period site to celebrate the 50th birthday of the B.A.R. There are ample areas for both our camps and tactical exercises, and a large portion of the stone fort, constructed during the French and Indian War, is original. I know Brigade Commander Mark Hurwitz will have an interesting schedule of activities for us. I also know that our last Grand Encampment at this site, while well-attended by NWD members, lacked many of our friends from the other B.A.R. departments and regions. However, as always, we will count the folks that ARE there, rather than those that are not, and I hope you will plan on attending. I would not miss this milestone for both our organization, and reenacting in general, and I hope you will feel the same way. We did not hold a Grand Encampment last year, and I believe we are going to an "every other year" format for this event. Please plan on being there. It is an easy drive on the interstates, and is located in Big Pool, Maryland. Please look at the site's website to get an idea of the great facilities there. Just Google Fort Frederick, Maryland, and you will find a number of sites with great photos and history of the site. Watch B.A.R. national publications for information.

**July 14-15, Fort Laurens, Bolivar, Ohio.** For many years this has been the NWD's favorite event, based on the attendance. It is the site of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution, and is Ohio's only Revolutionary War fort authorized by Continental Congress. The coordinator for the event, Maj. Thomas Pieper, 23rd R.W.F., is an expert on the history of the site and has written the only comprehensive history of Fort Laurens. We will be looking to do some different things with the schedule this year, including two tactical events per day, and some new lecture/demonstrations. We had a very nice turn-out last summer, with a special effort from the NWD Crown units, which I hope will be repeated this coming year. The event is just minutes of the interstate, and there are hotels and restaurants available. We will hold our annual general membership meeting at this event. Coordinators are Tom Pieper, [tip@neo.rr.com](mailto:tip@neo.rr.com), and Bob Cairns, [robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)

**August 11-12, Fort Ligonier, Ligonier, Pa.** We've been invited back to this great period site, and there will be some brand new activities for you there. Watch for more information. Event coordinator: Bob Cairns: [robtcairns@cs.com](mailto:robtcairns@cs.com)

**September 1-2 - The Fair at New Boston, George Rogers Clark Park, Springfield, Ohio.** The person in charge of living history interpretation at Williamsburg once called this event the most authentic 18th c. street fair he had ever seen. The NWD's function is to field and a company of local militia, and perform opening and closing ceremonies each day, as well as a tactical demonstration and a music demonstration each day. This allows for plenty of time to peruse the merchants, and enjoy the victuals offered at the various food vendors. In addition, there is lots of free period entertainment, including jugglers, musicians and magicians. (Once they even had a museum of exotic curiosities). This event is a major source of income for the NWD, and we are paid based on the number of folks (men at arms) we field, so please come out and support the NWD while you have a good time. This next year, in difference to the bicentennial of the War of 1812, they have asked that if you have appropriate clothing for that period, please wear it. Of course, your regular kit will work, and this will not be an issue for us. In the past, we have been ask to register VERY early for this event, so I ask that when you receive the information to register, that you do it, if there is ANY chance you will attend. Google the Fair at New Boston or go to [Fairatnewboston.org](http://Fairatnewboston.org) to see photos of the event and site. Coordinator: Joe Forte, [jjforte@frontier.com](mailto:jjforte@frontier.com).

**September 30 - Brecksville Fallfest, Brecksville Metro Parks.** This is a really good one-day event in a very nice rustic setting. We have always had very large, very interested crowds of the public, and most of our day is taken with individual and small-group interpretation. I always leave this event feeling I have been able to teach something about my favorite historic period. You may come in Saturday and tent over, but most folks drive in for the day. Regardless of the fact that the NWD is compensated for this show, I would come even if we were not, it's that enjoyable. I would, however, recommend you stay away from this event if you do not enjoy talking about the Revolution, and sharing what you know with others. The event coordinator is MaryJo Lucas: [blmj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blmj@sbcglobal.net)

**In addition to these events, we will try to schedule a Firelock Match for early November.**

**Remove and Post this Calendar for easy Reference!**

**NWD School of Instruction - February 17-18, 2012. Campus Martius, Marietta, Ohio**

**Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**

You can make arrangements at the many local hotels or save your money and camp on the spacious hard floors of the museum. You may arrive at any time on Friday afternoon. One important thing to remember-the museum is open to the public so we ask that you keep your stuff compact and secure during public hours. It is a cooler friendly event but you are asked to keep all adult beverages in the coolers during public hours. Infractions will not be tolerated. We are the guest of the Friends of the Museums and should show the upmost respect. Many thanks on this one.

There will be a pub crawl starting at 7 PM for light refreshment and socializing.

**Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup>**

9-10 James Blake - *Natives of the Ohio valley* (part 2)

10-11 Jymn Hoffman - *Iron ware of the soldier*

11-12 Kate Crown - *What every guy should know about women's clothing*

12-1 Lunch – on your own

1-2 Wally Richardson - Whatever he wish to talk about but you know it will be British and excellent.

2-3 Bob Cairns - *Miniature Soldiers* - researching historic details and how that applies to re-enactors.

3-4 Board meeting

5:00 - Dinner and a tour of American Union Lodge Number 1 Free and Accepted Masons, lodge hall. American Union was one of the traveling lodges of the continental army and the oldest Masons lodge in the state. We will tour the lodge chambers and see some of the historical items relating to this lodge. This is a great chance to put on your best 18<sup>th</sup> century attire. The dinner will be a sit down dinner-baked steak, potato, vegetable, dessert, coffee, and tea - all for \$15.00 - which is very reasonable. This is a fund raiser for The American Union Lodge. They will do a super job and are very excited about having us. I will need to know who is coming by the 16th of February, so please ask those who wish to take part to give me a call at (740) 350- 0316 or email at [revwilliamr@aol.com](mailto:revwilliamr@aol.com). After dinner we will return to the museum for a presentation by John Conklin on the drinking habits of the soldiers with a sampling of 18<sup>th</sup> century tastes. Bring your musical instruments and dance shoes.

**Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>**

10-11 Julie Watkins - *How to Properly Patch your Clothing*

11-12 Ted Filer – *Hat Making in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* - see an original example and see how it was made.

Sutlers are welcome and several plan to be there. We will have tables available for your yard sale items if you want to clean out your field boxes.

**OFFICIAL NOTICE – ELECTRONIC NWD B.A.R. SHOT**

This is to notify all members of the NW Dept. of the Brigade of the American Revolution that the **NWD B.A.R. SHOT** will no longer be mass-mailed via regular mail to all NWD members after the general mailing of the Winter 2011-12 issue. All households are receiving this issue by mail, but to receive future issues via regular mail you will need to complete and return the request slip accompanying this notification. The new procedure for the distribution of the **B.A.R. SHOT** will be as follows:

1. The completed **B.A.R. SHOT** will be posted on the website: [www.NWDBARSHOT.com](http://www.NWDBARSHOT.com)
2. All unit commanders will be notified via email from the NWD Commander that a new **B.A.R. SHOT** has been posted.
3. Unit commanders will notify their unit members that a new **B.A.R. SHOT** has been posted.
4. NWD members may then go to the website and read/ print the SHOT for their use. Previous issues will remain posted on this site as long as space permits.

This new procedure will;

- save the NWD money for printing and postage costs
- allow NWD members using the electronic **B.A.R. SHOT** to access it as soon as it is ready to mail, and to print as many copies as needed.
- allow the SHOT, because of the savings involved, to be expanded to include photos, historical articles, etc. . . .
- allow NWD members to save the SHOT electronically, and not have stacks of paper copies with which to deal.
- allow the SHOT editors to spend their efforts assembling the SHOT, rather than on folding, stapling, and applying labels and postage.
- allow you to access the SHOT anywhere you have internet access.

To make this process work to its maximum effectiveness, it will be necessary for units commanders to have your most current email addresses, so **PLEASE KEEP YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CURRENT** for your unit commander and adjutant, and please, unit commanders, keep your members' contact information current with the NWD Adjutant. With the proposed changes coming for the U.S. Postal Service, this will decrease even more the time it takes to receive the **B.A.R. SHOT**. **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE INTERNET**, or have another reason to continue receiving a mailed hard copy of the SHOT, you **MUST** complete and return the form below.

Thanks for your cooperation, and PLEASE let us know about any problems or "glitches" in this procedure. Best wishes, Bob Cairns, NWD Cmdr.

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**Please add my name and address to the roster of NWD B.A.R. members receiving the B.A.R. SHOT by U.S. mail.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(CITY AND STATE) (ZIP) (Phone)

Return your completed form to; Maj. David Miller, 2851 Fleger Dr., Parma, Ohio 44134-6439

## 2012 Dues Reminder

All commanders and adjutants should have received their rosters to renew their units in the mail. Please review the material for accuracy. Make all necessary corrections as needed. The NWD would like to make sure we have current email addresses for all members in the department.

Please make your unit payment with one check. The check should be made payable to the Brigade of the American Revolution or BAR. One check makes it easier to process. Please do not delay while waiting for one person to get you a check. We can add them later. The Brigade's goal is to have all units get their materials in by March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2012. The Constitution calls for a late fee for units reregistering after that date. If a unit member is late, he is not charged the late fee because the unit has paid on time. New members can enroll at any time. If they are in the latter half of the year, I usually credit their dues into the next year.

We know the process starts at a bad time of the year. Christmas bills, taxes and so forth. But please do your utmost to get this done as early as possible. Please send to:

**Brigade Membership Services**

**Dave Miller**

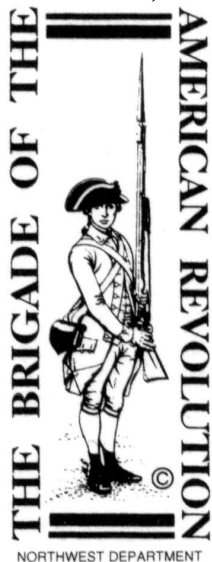
**2851 Fleger Dr.**

**Parma, Ohio 44134-6439**

If you have a question, contact me at [david.miller2@cox.net](mailto:david.miller2@cox.net) or 440-842-9128

P.S from Bob Cairns: Members, DO NOT send your dues individually to Dave. All B.A.R. membership is through units, and Dave will not process dues that do not come through a unit Adjutant or Commander. B.C.

**The NWD B.A.R. SHOT**  
**Editors, Verdie and Donna Abel**  
**6297 Johnstown Utica Rd.**  
**Johnstown, OH 43031**



***HUZZAH! Your Winter 2012 Issue of the B.A.R. SHOT Has Arrived!***

The NWD B.A.R. SHOT is the newsletter of the North West Department, Brigade of the American Revolution (NWD-BAR) and has been in publication since 1977. It is sent to subscribers and member families throughout the U.S.

Subscription rates are \$6 per year for non-members of the NWD-BAR. Cutoff dates for submissions:

Winter Issue – Dec. 15      Spring Issue – March 15      Summer Issue – June 15      Fall Issue – Sept. 15

Contact the editors for advertising rates (\$7 - \$40, depending on size and placement). The Brigade of the American Revolution was established in 1962 as a not-for-profit association dedicated to recreating the life and times of the common soldier of the War for Independence, 1775-83. The NWD was established in 1973. Extracted passages are scholarly comment only.