

EDITOR'S NOTES

This issue has two features related to the outstanding display of William Bodenheimer rifles at the Spring Show in Marietta 2023. Although not a great deal is known about the senior Bodenheimer and his namesake son, enough of their work still exists to give testament to these makers' skill.

Continuing with the goal of introducing exceptional Ohio rifles and undocumented rifles by lesser-known Ohio gunsmiths of the 19th century, this issue contains images of undocumented rifles made in several places around the state. Represented are makers from Wayne and Allen counties (in an article by Tom McCullough), Belmont County (and West Virginia), and Pickaway and Fairfield counties. It is fascinating to see how certain features appear and reappear among local gunsmiths, making us wonder about how influences were transmitted and the effects of migration and the needs of young smiths to find new markets away from their teachers.

Dr. James "Jim" Whisker has again supplied us with useful information on overlooked Ohio gunsmiths. His contributions are always appreciated.

Mark Barnhill has also supplied us with an image of an article from the December 1939 issue of Muzzle Blasts, the journal of the national Muzzleloading Rifle Association at Friendship Indiana, noting that matches in Canal Fulton have been held since 1812 – talk about continuity of a tradition!

We also have word from our new AOLRC president and an update on the Ladies' Auxiliary. There are also some images from the exciting Spring 2023 show in Marietta.

I have already received some material for the Spring 2024 issue, but always need more. Let me know if you have the makings of an article (see guidelines below).

Note: Special thanks to Alexander Ash, Mark Barnhill, Jim Clippinger, Barbara Harwood, Bob Statler, Tom McCullough, Dr. James Whisker, "an interested collector of Ohio rifles," and others for contributions to this issue.

Mark Bender, Editor

GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLE SUBMISSION

1. The preferred format for articles is a Word document. Please use size 12 font, single or double space, 1 inch margins.
2. In rare cases, handwritten materials (and/or non-digital photos, illustrations, etc.) can be submitted. Please contact the editor by email.
3. Articles in Word (or compatible system), photos (j-pegs or other formats), and correspondence can be emailed to this address: mabgogo@yahoo.com
4. Please put "AOLRCfile" in the subject line of the email.
5. Please run a spelling and grammar check on your e-files and otherwise proofread them.
6. Please put the **title and author's name** at the top of the article; use the same font size for the whole article.
7. **Photographs** can be color or black and white. If you are not a professional, good results can be obtained by taking photos of objects in soft, outdoor light. Lay the object on a non-reflective black background (blanket, etc.) with no background clutter. Please keep in mind how a color image might look if presented in black and white. Photos should be clear and sharp. (Professionals will, of course, have their own protocols.)
8. Use **past issues as a guideline** to content. Ideas for articles include local or family histories of pre-1900 Ohio gunsmiths and the use of muzzle-loading arms; detailed descriptions of representative or unique rifles (in terms of features or level of craftsmanship); accoutrements; short interviews with AOLRC members relating to collecting and appreciation of the Ohio long rifle as a folk art; accounts of early shooting clubs, shoots, tales, etc.
9. The newsletter is normally published twice a year. Submissions are always welcome, however timely notices for the Spring or Fall shows need to be received **at least 6 weeks** in advance.

MEET YOUR DIRECTOR

BY JIM CLIPPINDER

I want to introduce myself not only as your Secretary, but as the newly elected President of the AOLRC. On behalf of my family, I would like to thank the ALORC for the F. G. Tilton Distinguished Service Award.

I have always lived in the Springfield, Ohio area. I spent my youth as an active member of the Boy Scouts. First as a Cub, Boy, and Explorer Scout. My first experience in marksmanship was as a member of our Explorer Post 22 cal. rifle team, competing in the BSA/NRA postal matches. In 1959, our team placed first in the Nation and I was individual National Champion. I also earned the Silver Award, the Exploring equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle.

As a teenager I got involved in collecting handguns called Saturday Night Specials. Fred Beck a member of AOLRC suggested I stop buying plastic replicas and spend my money on collectibles. I still have them in my collection. For a while I continued my interest in competition as a member of the 44th OVI in the North South Skirmish Association. About that time, I also served 6 years in the Army Reserve.

Over the years I have been active in Scouting serving as an Adult leader in the Explorer Post, where I started

as a youth, as well as a leader in Scouting's Order of the Arrow.

Scouting has honored me with the Silver Beaver, Order of the Arrow Founders award.

I also belong to the Masonic Fraternity. I have been the presiding officer in several of the Masonic Bodies and received the Masonic Fraternity Daniel Beard Scouter award.

I am a published author in subjects ranging from an Installation Manual, Masonic History, and the AOLRC newsletter.

In the Village of Tremont City I have been a Volunteer Fireman, Member of Village Council, and Mayor.

I became involved with the AOLRC when my father Howard Clippinger was President, helping him bring his Clark County rifles to the Annual Meeting, and anything else as needed. I have served on the Board off and on over the years.

My wife Carole and I have a wonderful family. I lost her this past November after 57 years of marriage. Our children Jeff, Wendy, and Kim all are proud members of the AOLRC, and are successful in their business and personal lives. I have several grandchildren and great grandchildren of whom I am very proud.

