



IN TRADITIONAL GARB, Kala Bose (above) took part in the shooting this weekend during the Beaver Creek Muzzle Loader's Black Powder Shoot. Tony Howard (below) of St. Francis headed back to the big wheel table to reload his gun.

Shooters display skill with black powder, old-fashioned weapons

With a gun tucked snugly in her shoulder, Kala Bose took aim.

Bam! She pulled the trigger, and a little plastic duck spun in a circle. Bullseye!

Dressed in a long pink dress with long sleeves, set the gun on the ground and marked her score on a sheet before reloading her gun to shoot at the next target.

The targets ranged from tea bags to plastic toys to cans to bowling pins in the Beaver Creek Muzzle Loaders' Black Powder Shoot in Oberlin this weekend.

The club holds two shoots a year, said member Tom Ewing, usually the last weekend in September and then one either Mother's Day weekend or the following weekend.

Mr. Ewing said this weekend, there were about 30 shooters, which means around 75 people in camp. Several of the campers slept in big canvas tents, cooked over an open flame and had to carry in water to drink and even do the dishes. Not all, but some, were dressed in clothes from a century ago: pants made of animal hide, long-sleeved shirts that breathe better. Others wore jeans and T-shirts.

The shoot, he said, includes competition for all ages. There is a subjunior group for kids up to 12, juniors for those up to 15 and then seniors, for adults. This weekend, he said, there were quite a few subjuniors.

Shooters go to the club's range at Sappa Park on Friday and start the course, he said. They camp over-

night Friday and Saturday and leave around noon on Sunday.

Mr. Ewing said the shooters score themselves on the one obstacle course, then there is a shotgun shoot, where a scorekeeper keeps track of how many birds are hit. He said there is also a scorekeeper for the knife and tomahawk throws. He said the subjuniors are the ones to watch on the knives and tomahawks. They can throw either and hit a playing card or a bottle top.

On Saturday evening, the group provides the meat and beverages for dinner, followed by a Dutch oven cook off. This year, the Bose girls won with cherry cobbler, said Mr. Ewing, and there was also a lasagna.

He said everyone in camp brings something for a potluck. After dinner, candy is shot out of a cannon, soaring up above the cottonwood trees.

After the kids round up the candy, it's time for the chicken chase. This year, there were two chickens. Mr. Ewing said the kids line up, then the chickens are placed about 20 feet in front of them. When the chickens see 20 or so kids coming after them, they take off. Mr. Ewing said they have lost a few chickens out there, but usually they are caught. The two chickens this year, he added, are still on their way to Danbury.

He joked that there was one chicken this year that was a three-year veteran and is being "put out to pasture."

The shoot also features a hunter's walk, which allows the registered

shooters a chance to use their guns and tomahawks. At each stop, the shooter had a chance at a target. The shoot in the spring is just paper targets from 25 yards or more.

All registered shooters are welcome for all meals, said Mr. Ewing, and before leaving Sunday, the group cooked breakfast.

He said they always welcome spectators.



IN BIG PANS, Nakita Bose (right) and Bret Ashley washed the dishes after lunch on Saturday. Cooper Lines (above) sat back and relaxed in the sun Saturday afternoon.



Story and photos by Kimberly Davis