

May 2015

Shinnin' Times

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A Publication of the Early Arkansas Reenactors Association (EARA)

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REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

2015 Whiteoak Lake State Park Colonial Encampment

This event was to commemorate the Colonial times in Arkansas. A full slate of events were schedule, the weather was perfect, and we had a nice crowd of Park campers and local residents show up. The Park had a load of firewood for us.

Things started early on Saturday morning with a smoothbore fowler, trade gun, and musket competition. Targets were at 50 yards and consisted on a life size drawing of either a French or British soldier. You had your pick depending on which side you were on. We had four shooters, Matthew Bell, Earl Harrell, Jimmy Walker, and Ed Williams. The competition was fierce, with Ed winning the match by one point. Not enough rifle shooters showed up to hold the competition. I think James, who won the event last year and was expected to defend his title, was suffering from Southwestern Rendezvous Swamp Fever and needed a break. While we were shooting, Jimmy Allen was entertaining folks back at the Park with various games.

Saturday afternoon was a battle between opposing French and British troops. We had an artillery piece on each side, Bill Farmer with a 6# howitzer, so half way thru the battle an artillery duel commenced. Needless to say the expert French gun crew took duel. However, Will Hardage's 16th of Foot British took the day. British newcomer Dalton Ratliff showed his metal. Saturday night was a potluck of jambalaya and lo mien noodles.

Sunday morning was the hawk and fire starting contest. Steve Fleming cooked up a batch of cowboy bacon to get us all started. Mathew Bell won the Hawk throw, with Billy Koch a close second. Plus, Kelby Koch did a stand up job on the Hawk, look out. The fire starting contest was a hoot. We all did okay, except someone had tinder problems. However, the winner was Tommy

Adkins. Tommy is the Park Interpreter at Fort Saint Jean Baptist Park in Natchitoches, LA and he began his fire starting with, "Hey, I do this for a living." and he lived up to that statement, getting flame in 13 seconds, again, Billy Koch came in a close second.

All in all we had 14 people and 5 camps at this years event. In addition to Tommy, we had Lewis Ducros from Monroe and Mike Roberts from Shreveport attend from Louisiana. The date has not been set for next year, but, will be the last weekend of Spring Break. Typically this is the last week of April. See you all next year if not sooner

Arkansas Post: 2015

This year in April was the 232rd anniversary of the attack on Spanish held Arkansas Post by The British/Tory led band of militia and Chickasaw tribal members in 1783. The Post commemorated this event with a day long program on Saturday, April 18th. We had 12 Reenactors, six Spanish soldiers from Park Staff and volunteers and six British soldiers and militia. The Spanish shot off the Parks 6# cannon on the half-hour and the British drilled and conducted volley firing. EARA members Will Hardage, Steve Shore, and Ed Williams were on the British side. The morning was slow for the public, but by the early afternoon folks were pouring into the Park. Estimates were 60 to 80 people attended the event. We did see two alligators, one in the bayou was about 4 foot long, but the one in the Park's lake was a six footer. Keep your dog on a tight leash. The weather held off for us, plus, the Park's volunteer group fed us lunch. Next year plans are to work in the keelboat as the British led forces arrived at the Post by Keelboat and other vessels.

Ed Williams

WOOLY HOLLOW

Wooly Hollow State Park event is always one of our favorite events, more like a family reunion than an "event." However, this year the weather reports and sickness decreased the numbers from previous years.

Whatever that "flu-like" illness that many of us got at the SWRR has weakened and slowed down some of us old folks who were not able to camp due to the after effects of the illness. Tom and

Betty Reedy and the girls day-tripped it, David and I day tripped it. John Paul and Cindy Jordon didn't make it up from Louisiana, and we sure missed them. Keith Armbrust was only able to day trip it due to having to work on Sunday. Carol and Heather and Heather's friend Jeff made it and Carol cooked up some tasty stuff.

Teresa Lafferty spent Saturday making period buttons for a few shillings a day. Billy and Nichole were there with their kiddos. The folks from Texarkana made a quick trip there and were gone before I got there so missed seeing them. Shine and Jennifer Johnson, and Critter were there as well as several other traders. Larry and Mary Thompson camped as well. Jean and Dave Leffler were also there for a day trip as pilgrims. Was good to see them and visit. The Stanleys camped.

We had talked up a "garage sale" for the day Saturday and I took a load of stuff to sell, but no one else had brought stuff. I laid mine out on a tarp and did pretty well, well enough to buy David, "Bruiser," a new shirt and pants from Critter. Bless his heart, David's shirt was becoming thread bare and his pants too. Since he refuses to wash shirt, I made him get a new one that was BROWN and won't show the dirt as bad. LOL He says he is keeping the old one for "period work clothes." LOL

Glenn Cook and Corie were there as well, and Glenn did his "story time." I'm sure I forgot to mention some of the folks that were there, so if I didn't mention you, please forgive an old woman's CRS.

There was a great communal meal on Saturday evening with a smoked ham that Billy smoked. Thanks to all the cooks who fed us camp doggers. Though the event was the smallest in recent years, we had a great time!!! Hopefully the old codgers will be feeling better next year.

A board meeting was held and it was agreed that EARA would buy some EARA flags which will be for sale soon, so that you can post an EARA flag outside your camp. I'll have more on the "when" soon. These are a bit larger than the older ones. I think the price will be \$12.

Possible new event for 2016: I also talked to the board about the call we had from the "Umpire" school near Hot Springs who has requested an event there. We may be able to work this event

in for next fall, maybe the end of October for the small K-12 school at a nearby state park. Sounds like it would be a great event as both the school and community are supporting it and weekends are fine with them. More on this as I get more information.

IMPORTANT UP COMING EVENTS

Saline Crossing Event

*The Saline Crossing group wants to say THANK YOU to the folks of EARA for their support and help in drawing attention to the area near the old wagon bridge over the Saline River. This area is on the southwest trail, later know as Military Road, and one section of the trail of tears. In 1815 William Lockhart settled his family near this spot on the Saline River.

Through EARA's help and continued support we now have two picnic tables on both sides of the river for the public to use while enjoying the area. Soon, we hope to have a cabin built to represent the life Lockhart and his family lived in the early 1800's. Thank you again for your help and support from Saline Crossing Inc. Since Saline Crossing was settled in 1815, 2015 will be the 200th anniversary of this first Saline County settlement. Plans are being made to have a grand bicentennial celebration during the last week of May, 2015. Doyle Ritchey and Marsha Kimery*

*Website: <http://www.salinecrossing.com>
<<http://www.salinecrossing.com>>*

*P.S. We hope to see all of our EARA friends at the various voos coming up!

SCOTT CONNECTION

To all:

Scott Connection Outdoor Farm Museum and Park, where we are building the pole barn to house and protect our keelboat, is having their annual dinner and silent auction on Saturday, June 6th. The Museum asked to put a keelboat ride and dinner up for

silent auction. The plan is to put the keelboat in at Willow Beach Park, row around the islands, out to the river, and then to my place for crawfish gumbo dinner. This is no cost to EARA. We will need help with a crew, folks to shuttle people, and help with food preps and serving. Plans are to auction for a group of up to six people, with the float taking place in Spring 2016. We did this twice with HAM in a live auction. I figured a silent auction will have a starting minimum bid of \$500. Let me know if you can help. Also, tickets for the dinner on June 6th will be available soon. I think the run about \$75 each and are tax deductible. Let me know if you want tickets.

Ed Williams
501-944-0736

2015 EVENTS

Lots of great events planned for 2015, including the first SWRR held in Arkansas for quite some time. If you know of any events that are not listed here that would be appropriate for EARA members, please let me know at joyce@heifercreek.com

May 9 HAM Glenn Cook 501-941-7910/350-6640
May 18-19th a MONDAY AND TUESDAY for History days, also at **Old Davidson**, contact Ed at ed_lauraine@juno.com for this event as well, He may have problems getting off work so we may need to recruit someone to pull the boat.

May 29-30 Saline Crossing Voo Doyle Richey/Marsha Kimery 501-860-3686 or Lynn Moore 501-778-8661 this is the 4th annual Rendezvous and it is free. It is being sponsored by "Friends of the Bridge" and Saline Crossing regional Park and Recreation area as well as EARA.
Location: Old Saline County Airport off Airplane Drive behind the Holland Chapel Church, Benton, AR. It is off I-30 exit 116. The bridge is one of the oldest in the state and funds are being raised to restore it.

July 4 HAM Glenn Cook 501-941-7910/350-6640

Sept 5 EARA Annual Picnic Glenn Cook 501-941-7917/501-350-6640

Sept 10-13 Calico Rock Voo James Ross 870-746-4030

Sept 17-20 Soggy Bottoms Voo @ Washington, AR Teresa Lafferty/Misshattie
501-247-6466/255-5801

Oct. 1-4 Critter's Voo @ Foulke, AR Bobby Cooper 903-908-5088 Lori
Bennett 903-949-8842

Oct. 9-11 Leslie Voo @Leslie, Ark. Glenn Cook 501-941-7910
gc1760@yahoo.com

Nov. 6-8 Civil War Days @Washington State Park Charlene Pippin
cmacharliegirl@yahoo.com 870-983-2307 there are GREAT vendors at this
event for just about anything you might want, from period correct buttons on.

Nov. 26-29 Petit Jean Voo @ Petit Jean State Park Glenn Cook
501-941-7917/501-350-6640

Dec. 6 Christmas at HAM (Little Rock) Ed Williams 501-944-0736
ed_laurine@juno.com

2016 Events

Saturday, January 31st. Colonial Days at Cadron contact Ed Williams
501-944-0736

EARA INFORMATION

Newsletter Notice

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Keelboat – Ed Williams

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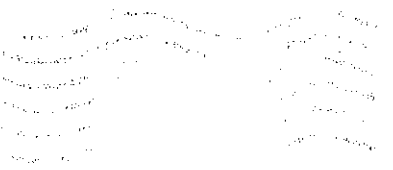
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To be covered you need to sign the book or if not available, a sheet of paper needs to be signed and sent to Glenn Cook. All volunteer events are covered, whether in the state or not. If in doubt always sign a sheet and send it to EARA President, c/o Glenn Cook, 331 Mark Lynn Cir., Cabot, AR 72023

William Hardage - britishofficer@yahoo.com

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