

NATIONAL RENDEZVOUS & LIVING HISTORY FOUNDATION, INC.

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Spring Newsletter!

“Spring is sprung the grass is riz...I wonder where the wousy wittle flowers is?” *Stewart Morgan, 1920-2016*

Hello the Lodge!

I may be a bit premature with the whole spring thing...but with the winter we've had who can blame me!? Besides – the NRLHF rendezvous season kicks off in a little over a month. Time is flying...preregistrations need to be sent if you haven't already.

This newsletter will focus primarily on the first two events of 2026 – the Southeastern Primitive Rendezvous and the NRLHF Corps of Discovery. But we will also touch base on the Old Northwest Territory Primitive Rendezvous, the Northeastern Primitive Rendezvous and the Eastern Primitive Rendezvous.

But first a little good news! Our Facebook page for the [National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation](#) reached 5,000 followers on February 28! We've had more and more people joining each of the event page rendezvous answering questions by saying they had gotten out of the sport for a while and look forward to getting back into it, or their grandparents/parents used to go and they look forward to getting back into it, OR they've recently retired and now have time to devote to getting back in it. "IT." How do you describe this incredible hobby that all of us love so much? How very cool that so many wish to come back? Or had never heard about it and our AI produced fliers have generated quite a bit of interest? I fully believe 2026 will bring many back into the fold and our events will be bigger, brighter and so much more fun than ever.

Don't forget – it is the America's 250th Celebration! 50 years ago, the first Eastern took place in Brookville, PA thanks to the 200th Celebration and look how far we've come!



National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation

2026 Southeastern Primitive Rendezvous (SEPR)

The NRLHF Southeastern Primitive Rendezvous will be held April 10-17, 2026 at the Reavis Family Farm, 297 Reavis Road, Yadkinville, NC 27055. Your 2026 Booshway for the NRLHF Southeastern Primitive Rendezvous is Ronnie Willis. Ronnie's dad got him interested when he was just knee-high to a grasshopper!

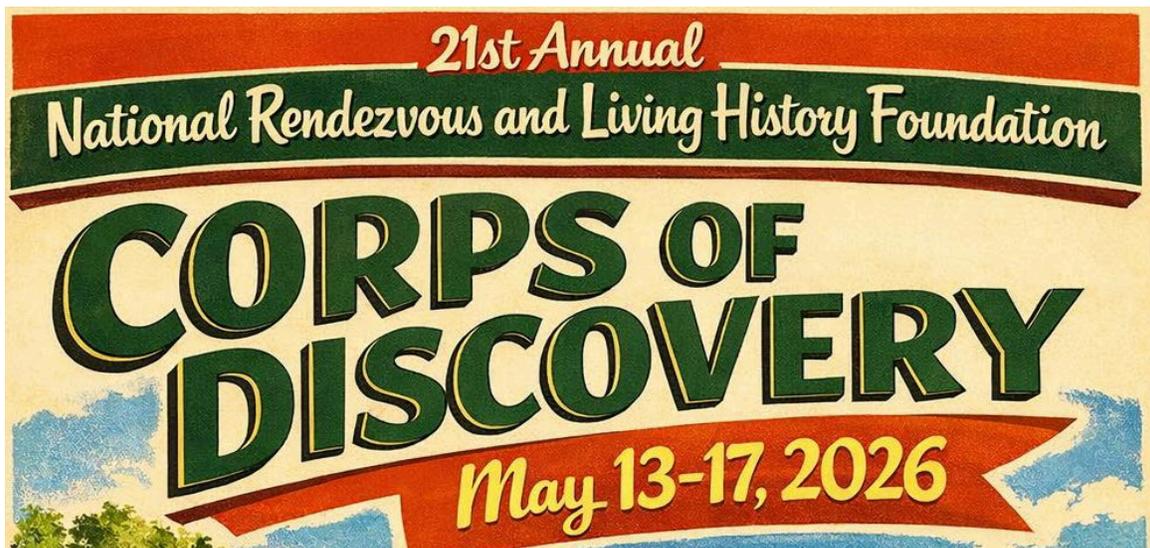
Ronnie's vision for the 2026 SEPR is to see great participation and enjoyment at the rendezvous, and he wants folks to be full of anticipation and excitement to come back next year! One of Ronnie's favorite things about any rendezvous is he loves the conversations and stories that are shared around the evening campfire. He also enjoys friendly competitions and the SEPR will have those!

The ranges will be open during the SEPR on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday for first half (awards Monday night). Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for second half (awards Thursday night). Friday is for tie-breakers and tear down. Saturday and Sunday for juniors, (awards Sunday night) - so juniors can return for school Monday. If anyone is left the rest of the week, a shoot may be added for fun or for donated prizes. For those archers out there – a full archery program is being planned.

Lots of other great activities happen during the SEPR including blanket throws and regular hawk and knife competition, flint and steel challenge, family games, even a camp throw-in feast and church service. Make plans to attend our 2026 SEPR in Yadkinville, NC!

Interested in the event but not yet have all the gear, or would enjoy a wonder through camp? Public days for the 2026 Southeastern will be Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12 from 10:00am - 4:00pm – all are welcome. A \$5.00 donation is encouraged, there will be a container at the gate, or see the gate captain. We recommend that you wear shoes made for walking in all sorts of terrain and weather.

April is quickly approaching and the **SEPR pre-registration deadline is March 20!** Preregistration helps the staff plan on how much wood, water and sanitation facilities to have on hand. If you've not done so yet, use the form at the end of this publication or go online at <https://www.nrlhf.org/shopping-cart> - where you can register for any or all of the NRLHF rendezvous using PayPal. If you have any questions, suggestions or offers to help, please reach out to Ronnie at 336-521-5461 or via e-mail at: ronald_willis@hotmail.com.



The Corps of Discovery (Corps) will be May 13-17, 2026 (with early set-up beginning on Monday, May 11) at 5 Covered Bridge Rd, McDonald, PA 15057. Beneath open skies and beside a timeless covered bridge, the spirit of early American exploration returns. NRLHF

We are once again looking into a Woods Walk in 2026 – that may include archery, hawk & knife – both or maybe something other! Time will tell...we love leaving you in suspense! We will not be offering a shooting program in 2026 as it is too difficult with our limited staff and having to move off-site to do so.

Our Saturday evening covered dish camp feast is still a main feature of Corps. Please plan on bringing your favorite camp meal to share!

Step beyond the present and stand where history breathes! Folks of all ages are welcome especially those with a passion for history. Walk among canvas lodges, hear the crackle of campfires, and witness the daily life of those who pushed the frontier westward. Corps will be free to the public (donations gladly accepted to help defray costs) and will be located at the Krepps Covered Bridge Field between Cherry Valley and Hickory, PA. Camp will be open to visitors from 10:00am-6:00pm Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. To provide our reenactors time to tear down, the event will be closed to the public on Sunday.



As with so many things, Corps had to increase our prices by \$5.00 this year to help us better cover our expenses. Preregistration always helps in planning (and mowing more higher ground). You can preregister online at: <https://www.nrlhf.org/shopping-cart>. Corps has a separate preregistration form as our fees are much less than an NRLHF Rendezvous.



Old Northwest Territories Primitive Rendezvous – Exciting NEWS!

For this year’s 250th celebration, the National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation’s 40th Old Northwest Territories Primitive Rendezvous (ONW) will be held at the NMLRA’s primitive area in Friendship, Indiana – June 26 – July 3, 2026. The NRLHF Board of Directors and the NMLRA Directors are excited to be combining forces to bring this event to the Laughery Valley Campground – where there are flush toilets and showers on site! The primitive campground offers acres and acres of shaded grassy woods within walking distance to world-class ranges.

This year’s Booshway is Chris "Panda" Peterson. Panda and his staff have all kinds of fun activities planned including all the usual events, such as Shooting, Hawk and Knife, Archery and Highland games. But we will also have an Atlatl throw, a Seneca run, Pastry toss, and of course a “water balloon” fight for the kids. Fireworks and signal cannon fire are also in the works. A full schedule of events is planned, or feel free to just sit around the campfire, and enjoy the music and friendship that always permeates the campfire in the evenings.



One of the most asked questions about this event is do you have to be an NMLRA member to attend? No, you do not. Although you do receive a discount when registering if you are. However, the NMLRA has recognized the NRLHF’s Old Northwest as a private event with use of their grounds.

If you camp in the primitive area for the NMLRA’s national shoot June 12-21, and you pre-register for the ONW, there is no need to tear down your camp. Pre-registration with the ONW will allow you to just stay where you are. Our event doesn’t begin until Friday officially, but many people come on Wednesday for early setup anyway, and there is always a friendly face around with whom to pass the time. This special early setup time is only for people who are attending the NMLRA on Sunday the 21st.

Don’t forget to pre-register for the ONW as soon as possible. It really does help in the planning process and enables you to set up on Wednesday with no additional charge. Online preregistration can be found at: <https://www.nrlhf.org/2026-old-northwest-primitive-rendezvous> or fill out the preregistration form at the end of this newsletter and send it USPS to the NRLHF business office.

SAVE THE DATES!

NRLHF presents
THE
**NORTHEASTERN
PRIMITIVE RENDEZVOUS**

July 25th
through August 1st
2026

Public Days 7/26-7/30
9:00am - 4:00pm

Located at
2911 Stoney Run Road
Sugar Grove, PA 16350

Booshway - Bonnie Curry
814-688-4021

National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation
50th Annual
**2026 Eastern Primitive
Rendezvous (EPR)**

September 25 - October 3, 2026

2787 Lakes Corners-Rose Valley Rd
Clyde, NY 14433

Pre-registration deadline is September 4, 2026

Edwina Czadzeck - Booshway
315 548-2516
gwinnie8@yahoo.com

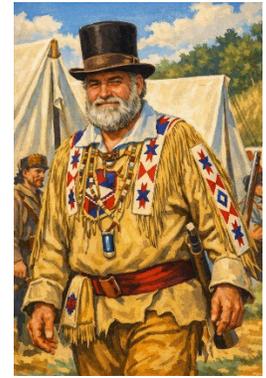
Yadkinville, NC – Southeastern Primitive Rendezvous, 2023



Photo by Greg Bagshaw

Bear's Dutchy

Greetings and welcome to a new segment "Bear's Dutchy". I am Don "Bear" Ricetti and am the Captain & Co-founder of the NRLHF Corps of Discovery held the third weekend of May. I & the wife have been involved for 40 years and I have been doing the cooking the whole time so I do have some practice with cooking. What I plan on doing is sharing recipes that I personally have prepared and give some tips & tricks along the way. Not all of the recipes will be baking since the Dutch oven is so versatile. With that let's start with one of the first recipes that was given to me by a good friend about 39 years ago and is super simple.



To get this out up front I do not use liners or usually inner pans unless I am doing a pie in my ovens. This following is probably the messiest recipe but simply boiling plain water in the Dutch oven with the lid on for 15-20 minutes cleans it right up. Also remember to re-oil the oven with peanut oil. Note: I use peanut oil since it does not turn rancid and survives high heat well without scorching. If allergic to nuts then use whatever oil you prefer.

Cobbler

2 C. Flour
2 C. Sugar - reduce to 1 C. if using pineapple
1½ tsp, Baking Powder
Pinch of Salt
1 4 oz. can Evaporated milk
1 12 oz. canned fruit of choice



I wasn't kidding when I said we've been at it for 40 years!



Start by placing lid of dutchy onto the fire to pre-heat it.

In a well-seasoned 10" Dutch oven mix all ingredients including the juice from the canned fruit. Stir until combined and no dry spots.

Place a shovel full of coals onto your baking surface, I pack a small paver stone for this. If you are cooking on the ground the heat will be sucked out of the coals resulting in raw dough at the bottom. In the past I have even used a platform made of firewood for the same purpose.

Place Oven on the coals and retrieve the HOT lid from the fire and seal the oven. Place an additional shovel full of coals on the lid.

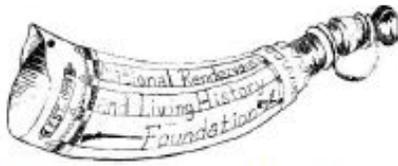
Depending on the type of wood coals you are using (or cheating with charcoal briquettes), cooking time will vary between 25 & 40 minutes. Try not to keep peeking by lifting the lid too often as this cools down the inside of the oven too much.

When the top has achieved a nice dark brown color, your cobbler is done.

Use caution as it is hot & sticky. Once at a winter rendezvous I was flogging leftover cobbler around camp and someone wanted it placed directly onto their hand. I warned them it was just cooked and he just said bring it. Upon serving up a scoop into their hand, they screamed "that's hot!", put it in the other hand, screamed "that's hot!!" again, then proceeded to put it on both knees all the while screaming "that's hot!!!"

Another note, fresh fruit can be used but you will have to crack the lid about half way through to let moisture out, apples especially. I can also state that plums are not advisable from personal experience. My parents were attending the second Glengarry EPR many years ago and they brought a case of plums from their orchard. Dad said they would make a good cobbler so I fixed one for him. Let's just say it's a good thing the hooter were close.

Editor's Note: If you have an idea for an article, contact Jill at jill.ricetti@gmail.com! I am always looking for new content. And I didn't even coerce Don to write this one! He came up with it on his own...



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Four horizontal lines for gate use.

PRE-Registration form 2026

Circle One : Southeastern Old Northwest Northeastern Eastern

Last Name First Name
Address
City State Zip
Phone (home) Phone (cell)
Email Address (Where you want your confirmation sent)
Commercial Trade Name & type of vendor (food, period goods, etc.)

NMLRA members & Spouse 18 & over \$60 each Children 17 & younger - Free
Non NMLRA Members & Spouse 18 & over \$70 each

All Traders are responsible for knowing & complying with NRLHF trade rules

Emergency Contact Phone Number
Medical or Physical Disabilities/Medications (optional)

NMLRA membership number & expiration date must be posted for each member

Name NMLRA # Exp. Age () Fee

Four horizontal lines for gate use.

Total Amount Enclosed

Skills you would like to volunteer for - FIRST AIDE - GATE - WATCH - RANGE - HAWK & KNIFE - ARCHERY

Would you conduct a Seminar?

Where will you be camping? Primitive Sutler Modern Both

VEHICLE LICENSE # STATE MODEL MAKE

UTILITY TRAILER LICENSE # STATE COLOR

TRAVEL TRAILER/MOTOR HOME LICENSE # STATE

I (we) listed above, agree by signing this form that the National Rendezvous and Living History Foundation, Inc. (NRLHF) is not liable for loss, damage, or injury, to myself or my Property during the NRLHF event that I attend, and that I will Abide by all of the rules and regulations of the NRLHF. I will also hold harmless the NRLHF for all losses resulting from my acts or omissions or those of my minor children.

Signature Date



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LIVING HISTORY FOUNDATION, INC.
P.O. Box 5073
Statesville, NC 28687
www.NRLHF.org email: nrlhf@nrlhf.org

PRE-Registration form 2026

NRLHF Corps of Discovery

Last Name _____ First Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone (home) _____ Phone (cell) _____
Email Address _____ (Where you want your confirmation sent)
Commercial Trade Name & type of vendor (food, period sutler) _____

NMLRA members & Spouse 18 & over \$25 each **Children 17 & younger - Free**
Non NMLRA Members & Spouse 18 & over \$30 each

All Traders are responsible for knowing & complying with NRLHF trade rules

Emergency Contact _____ Phone Number _____
Medical or Physical Disabilities/Medications (optional) _____

NMLRA membership number & expiration date must be posted for each member

Name _____	NMLRA # _____	Exp. _____	age ()	fee _____
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Name _____	NMLRA # _____	Exp. _____	age ()	fee _____
Name _____	NMLRA # _____	Exp. _____	age ()	fee _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Skills you would like to volunteer for - FIRST AIDE - GATE - WATCH - RANGE - HAWK & KNIFE - ARCHERY

Would you conduct a Seminar? _____

Where will you be camping? Primitive _____ Sutler _____ Modern _____ Both _____

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Signature _____ Date _____

Pre-Registration Instructions and Definitions

Payment: Make checks/ money orders payable to **NRLHF (US funds only)** and mail to:

NRLHF Business Office
P.O. Box 5073
Statesville, NC 28687

Forms must be filled out in BLACK or BLUE INK only. Please print legibly.

ALL Pre-Registration forms must be postmarked no later than 21 days before the start date of the Rendezvous. Forms that are postmarked after the 21st day deadline will be returned to sender.

- ▶ PayPal transactions must be dated 21 days before the start date of the Rendezvous.
Funds will be refunded on transactions dated after the deadline. (9/2024)

The NRLHF provides a reduced rate for NMLRA members and their immediate families. Immediate family includes spouse and legal dependents. Any person expelled or denied membership in the NMLRA is excluded from the preferred rate for their selves and their family members. **If more than one person/family is listed on a pre-registration form the membership number must be listed for each person/family. Participants attending a NRLHF event must show a current NMLRA membership card of a member of that family in order to obtain the reduced rate.**

Participants who are not NMLRA members may attend NRLHF events and participate in all activities and competitions fully and on an even basis with NMLRA members.

ALL CHILDREN 17 AND UNDER ARE FREE

Other:

- Anyone who attends NRLHF events and are under the age of 17 MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian. They may not camp alone.
- There is no early set up fee for participants who are pre-registered
- NO ONE, not on the Boosway staff will be permitted to set up prior to the Wednesday preceding the start of the event, with the exception of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Delegate.
- NO PETS IN THE PRIMATIVE AREA. The NRLHF follows the ADA rules and regulations. Pets in the modern area are subject to the NRLHF's nuisance rule. (9/2011)
- Traders must comply with all NRLHF trade rules. Visit our website at www.nrlhf.org for a list of the rules.
- In the event that someone does not attend the Foundation event for which he/she was pre-registered, he/she may request **in writing** a refund of the pre-registration fees **within 21 days prior to the event.**
- Refund requests are to be submitted to the Business Office.
- NO refund checks will be distributed before the event.