

## ***Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee***

Dear Delegates,

I want to take this opportunity to wish to all of you a new year filled with health and prosperity. In these troubled times it is rewarding to be part of an organization whose members work so well together, enjoying such a good sense of unity. Thanks to all of you for promoting our MLAIC programs in such a positive way, world-wide.

1. Pursuant to a request for information regarding the members of the new Small Arms Committee, I am happy to give you the information below. I would ask that every member nation with manufacturers producing replica muzzle loading firearms encourage that they submit those arms for approval by the Small Arms Committee in the proper manner; that is, by making direct contact with the Secretary-General rather than communicating with any of the members of the Small Arms Committee. This is not only to protect the privacy of the Committee members, but also to ensure that they feel no pressure from outside sources concerning their work. Firearms Submission Forms have, at this point, been received from Euroarms, Parker-Hale, Pedersoli, Uberti, Armi Sport and Pietta firearms manufacturers. The Small Arms Committee consists of the following members.

**Douglas Wicklund**, of Fairfax, Virginia, USA. Mr. Wicklund is the Senior Curator of the National Firearms Museum, located at the headquarters of the National Rifle Association of America. He is a collector and shooter as well, with a particular interest in American antique firearms.

**Rex Holbrook**, of Warwickshire, England. Mr. Holbrook, a former MLAIC competitor and medal winner, is also a collector and shooter. He is presently involved in producing high-quality replica sights for fine target rifles. He is particularly knowledgeable in the area of flintlock firearms and general antique arms of Europe. He was recommended for this position by the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain.

**Robert Fisch**, of Walkill, New York, USA. Now retired, Mr. Fisch was Curator of Arms at the Museum at West Point Military Academy in New York, where he also lectured on the use of all types of military firearms of all time periods. He was formerly a member of the United States International Muzzle Loading Team and won a number of medals in MLAIC competition. He is a published author on firearms and other militaria and has appeared on television documentaries on firearms.

**DeWitt Bailey, Ph. D.**, of London, England. A shooter, collector and highly respected author on a wide variety of militaria, Dr. Bailey has formerly competed in MLAIC events. He has been, and still is today, associated with the Imperial War Museum in London, the Tower of London Museum, and a number of other museums in England and other European countries. He has much knowledge to contribute to the work of the Committee and, in the opinion of the Secretary-General, is the most knowledgeable man on antique firearms in Europe today.

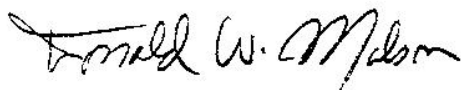
**William V. Osborne II**, of Whitewater, Wisconsin, USA. Mr. Osborne is particularly knowledgeable in the area of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century military firearms of all countries. He is currently in the business of reproducing replica parts for these types of firearms. He is perhaps the most well-versed person in America regarding the correctness of antique firearms, being particularly attentive to details.

**Shigeo Sugawa**, of Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Sugawa has also competed in past MLAIC events and is still an active shooter/collector of Japanese militaria. He has authored highly detailed and instructive books on matchlock firearms and has recently opened an internet web site on this topic. He will lend his rare expertise to the Committee in the area of matchlock firearms.

2. Packets should have now been received by all nations belonging to the European Zone for the 10<sup>th</sup> European Zone Championships to be held at the Hevonpaa Shooting Range in Halikko, Finland. The dates for the Championships are from Monday, August 4 through Saturday, August 9, 2003. An excellent web site is also open, with information about the Championships and the country of Finland. You may access it at [www.halikko2003.com](http://www.halikko2003.com).
3. The information packets for the MLAIC World Long Range Championships was e-mailed to all MLAIC member nations on November 28, 2002, and registration forms will be sent out before the end of this month. The Long Range World Championships will be held at Camp Butner, North Carolina, USA, from September 22 through 27, 2003.
4. The 10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Zone Championships program, because of the traveling distances and costs involved for the Pacific Zone member nations, will be carried out in two locations this year, as per agreement of the involved countries this past summer in Lucca. The event dates will be May 25 through 30, 2003 at the Monarto International Range in Southern Australia, for New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, and August 25 through 30, 2003 at the St. Joseph Valley Range in Bristol, Indiana, USA, for the USA and Canada. Japan may elect to attend at either location, depending upon whichever is most convenient. The Match Program and Registration forms will be e-mailed to all involved countries before the end of this month.
5. I would request that if you have photographs of any original civilian or military firearm that might be replicated in the future (or has already been replicated) from your own country, please send such photographs to me for inclusion in our Replica Firearms Specifications Guides. The more complete these guidebooks are, the easier the job of the inspection teams at MLAIC events will be.
6. I have received word from Kim Atkinson that their efforts to have muzzle loading pistols declared exempt from the very restrictive legislation that was passed in Australia has been successful. He was formally notified of this on January 6, 2003, so this is truly positive news for the "new year." You have most probably received his press release concerning this, as well. He noted that they were informed that the UK was apparently cited as an example of another country to exempt muzzle loading pistols from otherwise restrictive firearms legislation. We congratulate Kim on their victory and remind everyone in every country to remain vigilant for such attempts to restrict our ownership and use of the firearms we legitimately own and use for honest and appropriate purposes.
7. Finally, I would once again remind all delegates that they should send any proposals for future MLAIC consideration to me at their very earliest convenience. Please do not wait until the last minute before sending agenda items if you already know of something you would like to be discussed.

Good shooting to all in 2003!

Sincere regards,



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