

With a MUZZLELOADER

- A SPECIAL REPORT



HUNTING WITH A MUZZLELOADER

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What will be discussed / taught

Note! Black powder weapons are not for self defense

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Patch and ball / conical Minie /sabol

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sing a muzzle-loading firearm to hunt is a challenge. Muzzle loaders are more susceptible to rain, snow and moisture due to the less advanced ignition system used. Most muzzle loaders have one shot, and take a minute or more to reload. The use of black powder as the propellant causes fouling that will slow down reloading and is corrosive. A muzzle loader is more sensitive to improper cleaning and maintenance. The average range of a muzzleloader is about 200 yards, closer if you are using a smooth bore. This forces the hunter to possess better than average field craft and stalking techniques. Hunting game with a muzzle loader is not for everyone. So why do people still use muzzle loaders to hunt?

Muzzle loaders have been used for hundreds of years. War has been fought, empires destroyed and freedoms defended from the business end of a muzzle loader. The firearm is still usable today. It is a simpler weapon, cheaper to use on a regular basis than a modern cartridge firearm and it still gets the job done. Once you understand its usage and limitations, it is a pleasure to use.



Black powder firearms are deadly. Make no mistake about that. HOWEVER, they are not recommended for self defense. The possibility of a misfire is too great to risk your life or the lives of those you love. Hunting game is fine, but do not use black powder firearms for self defense unless you are in dire need. Always follow proper safety procedures when using black powder.

The term 'lead' is used to describe the round ball or Minie ball rounds used in a muzzleloader.

Most rounds are made with a large amount of lead and a small percentage of other alloys.

If you decide to make your own round ball or Minie balls, be sure to follow proper safety concerns regarding lead. The average person that purchases pre made lead bullets will suffer no ill effects as long as you don't chew on the bullets or use one to stir your morning coffee.

Never use smokeless powder in a muzzle loader unless it specifically states that weapon is safe to use with smokeless powder. Smokeless powder is what modern cartridges use. Black powder has a different burn rate, generally does not create the same pressures as modern smokeless powder and does not burn as clean. Do not confuse the two types of powder when using a muzzle loader.

Using a muzzleloader is a very hands on endeavor. As the shooter, you have to pour the proper black powder change, lubricate the patch if one is used, ram the charge and bullet down the barrel and prime the pan. All this work to get one shot at your game. When I use a muzzle loader to hunt, I feel closer to the experience and have a better appreciation of the sport. There is a lot of information available online and in print regarding muzzle loading. I am going to condense all this information down and give you a general overview of what is entailed in using a muzzle loader to hunt game. I enjoy hunting game with a muzzle loader; it is for me a far more challenging experience and a great source of satisfaction when I harvest my game animal.

WHAT IS A MUZZLE LOADER?



The muzzle loading firearm was developed from technology invented from the use of antique cannons and mortars. As metals and metallurgy became more refined, thinner and thinner barrels could be cast. Arming the foot soldier with a weapon that fires a lead or stone bullet became a dream realized and warfare changed forever. This book will discuss the usage of modern muzzle loaders in the hunting application. The term muzzle loader refers to the flintlock, percussion cap and in-line black powder firearms types, rifle, pistol or shotgun. I will discuss each in a separate section. The term 'traditional' is referring to any original or replica muzzle loader that uses black powder as a primary propellant. 'Modern' muzzle loaders can use black powder and any of the other black powder substitutes available on the market. A modern muzzle loader is an inline system. Don't get confused, however. A newly manufactured replica muzzle loader is still a traditional muzzle loader if it is using a flintlock or percussion cap system. The term traditional is just referring to the ignition system used, not the actual manufactured age of the weapon.

FLINTLOCK MUZZLE LOADER*



A flintlock muzzle loader is a traditional design firearm. The flintlock firearm uses a piece of flint to ignite the powder charge. Yes, a piece of rock fires the gun. This piece of flint is held in a vise called the jaws, with a screw to tighten the vise down on the flint. There usually is a piece of leather wrapped around the flint in the jaw to keep it from cracking and to aid in gripping. A long gooseneck hammer or cock holds the flint and jaw. To fire, you pull back the hammer to 'cock' the weapon. When the trigger is pulled, the hammer is released and swings down against the frizzen. The flint, when the weapon is fired, will strike the frizzen, which is basically a striker face to generate sparking. The flint slides across the frizzen generating sparks and all these spark land in the flash pan. The pan contains loose black powder, finely ground to aid in ignition. This spark causes the powder in the pan to ignite. This flash explosion travels in all directions, to include the touch hole. The touch hole is a tiny hole drilled into the barrel of the muzzle loader. Fire from the pan explosions travels down the touch hole and ignites the main charge in the

barrel of the muzzle loader. The main charge ignites and forces the projectile down the barrel and to the target. This method also causes burning powder to be cast in all directions, including the shooters face. This can cause the shooter to flinch as the weapon fires. There is also a slight delay in the firing sequence. It takes a moment for the hammer to fall, the flint to spark, the pan to flash and the main charge to detonate. It is not excessive, but it is noticeable. This has to be factored in when you take the shot.

Now you can see why a lot of things can go wrong. This was the technology used in the late 1700s into the late 1800s. Before you scoff, the British Empire controlled most of the world by the mid 1800s and they used a flint lock standard issue infantry muzzle loader called the 'Brown Bess' to achieve this distinction. American colonists used a flintlock rifle nicknamed a 'Kentucky rifle' to gain independence from the British Empire. Using a muzzle loader to hunt game is still a viable idea. The technology is just outdated. It is similar to using a carburetor instead of a fuel injector. They both work, just fuel injection is more efficient and provides power faster.



PERCUSSION CAP * MUZZLE LOADER

As firearms technologically advanced, a more reliable method to fire a muzzle loading weapon was invented. The use of a small 'cap' containing a charge was introduced to replace the flintlock. This cap is called a 'percussion cap'. The part that the cap rests is called a 'nipple'. This change to percussion cap removed the frizzen and jaws but still used a hammer to strike the percussion cap to fire the weapon. The nipple becomes the new touchhole, enclosing the ignition spark and directs the spark into the breach of the weapon. The touch-hole is now enclosed to aid in firing and this new system greatly aided muzzle loaders in reliability and safety. This style of weapon was used extensively in the U.S. Civil War and was finally replaced by the cartridge round used today.

Using a percussion cap firearm to hunt takes out a lot of the variables out of muzzle loaded hunting. The cap is more reliable, safer and easier to use than a flint. The enclosure of the touchhole increases reliability also. Nipples can become clogged or loose, but are easily cleaned or tightened. Today, most percussion muzzle loader is fired with a percussion cap or a shotgun primer. Caps do come loose, fall off or fail to fire. Most hunters do not cap until they are ready to fire, similar to disengaging your safety in a modern firearm. With practice, this can be done by feel just like you do with a modern firearms safety.

INLINE MUZZLE LOADER *

Inline muzzle loaders are termed modern muzzle loaders. Inline muzzleloaders were not used by the military but have become an exclusive firearm designed for hunting only. Instead of the side mounted ignition system used by the flintlock and percussion cap, the gun companies redesigned the percussion cap ignition system to be directly behind the barrel. This allowed for a more direct spark into the breech of the firearm. A percussion cap or shotgun primer is used to detonate the charge. The use of a scope is easier with an in line since there is now swinging hammer on the side to strike the scope. Another advantage of the inline system is that it makes cleaning easier. All one has to do is remove the breech plug and it's a straight barrel to clean. With a flintlock or percussion design, the ignition comes in from the side, and to remove the breech pug is very difficult and time consuming.

RIFLE, SMOOTHBORE * AND SHOTGUN

A smoothbore muzzle loader has no rifling in the bore. Smoothbore muzzle loaders were the first design for a shoulder fired weapon. The technology at the time had no way to create rifling on the inside of the barrel. When the round is fired, the round ball would travel down the barrel. Due to the loose fit of the ball round, the ball would bounce off the side of the barrel and exit in a random trajectory. The reason that the 1800th century military units stood shoulder to shoulder in big bunches of men was that the accuracy of a

smoothbore muzzle loader was about 75 yards. The rounds had a tendency to fly off in random directions once fired. The only sure fire way to achieve any chance of hitting someone was to fire a lot of rounds in their direction. You can equate this to a snowball fight. There are a lot of snow balls flying about but very little hits.

Rifling is created by several different methods, but the basic concept is that cuts are made in the interior of the barrel to create the lands and grooves of the rifling. The lands will engage the lead skirt of the Minie ball round, the patch of a ball round, or the plastic of the sabot round and impart a spinning motion to the round as it travels down the barrel. Rifling started to become commonplace in the 1900th century. Once rifling was introduced, accuracy increased and the days of the mass military formation ended.

A muzzle loading shotgun is usually a larger gauge muzzle loader that uses either flint or percussion cap to fire. The basic concept of muzzle loading applies, but there are a few extra steps to ensure safety and accuracy. Once the powder is poured down the barrel, an 'over the powder' wad is rammed down on top of the black powder. This is to prevent the powder from mixing with the shotgun pellets loaded next and to cushion the shot. The shot charge is loaded next, this is the pellets that leave the barrel and strike the target. A second wad is then rammed on top to prevent the pellets from running down the barrel if the muzzle is depressed. If you enjoy hunting fowl or small game, the muzzle loading shotgun is enjoyable and challenging to use.

WHAT GOES DOWN THE BARREL?



We have discussed how the round gets fired by the three different types of ignition systems. But what kind of round or bullet do you use and what causes the round to leave the barrel. The barrel will contain a powder charge measured by volume and not by weight. This charge is poured down the barrel or if it is a pelletized form, dropped down. Once the charge is 'thrown', the hunter will ram a projectile down the barrel on top of the powder charge. It is very important that the round is fully seated against the powder. When the weapon fires, the powder turns into a gas and any space between the round and the powder will lessen the gas expansion and reduce muzzle velocity. There is a touch hole or some way for a spark to enter the breech and detonate the powder charge in the barrel. Once this detonation occurs, the round will exit the muzzle. The easiest way to imagine the powder charge and round in the barrel is to think of the barrel as a modern casing that is holding the powder and shot. There are 3 types of rounds a muzzle loader can fire.



The round ball is spherical in shape. It has very little surface area to engage the rifles lands and groves to induce rotation. These rounds are usually wrapped in a cloth patch that will engage the rifling and cause the round to spin once it has left the muzzle. Round ball is the traditional projectile used. In a smoothbore weapon, it is the only thing to use since there is no rifling in the barrel to engage. You can use other types of rounds; it just is fruitless since there is no rifling to engage.

A conical round or Minie ball looks like a small rocket, squared at the base and pointed at the end. The base is hollowed out to allow for a thin 'skirt' of lead to be expanded under pressure from the burning black powder.

This skirt engages the rifling and creates a better seal for more consistent velocity.

This type of round was used extensively in the U.S. Civil war and the Crimean war and created devastating wounds. Using this round eliminates having a patch since the round skirt will expand outwards and will engage the rifling. This decreases reloading times.

SABOT HUNTING ROUNDS

A sabot round has a projectile that is smaller than the bore diameter. The projectile is wrapped in a 'sabot' to ensure a proper gas seal. Once the projectile leaves the barrel, the sabot drops from the projectile. Sabot rounds have been used by the military for many years.

The concept behind using a sabot round in black powder hunting is that the projectile will achieve a higher velocity, be more accurate due to the sabot having more surface area to engage the rifling and achieve penetration and expansion almost as well as a modern bullet. The use of a sabot round sounds wonderful, but there are some issues to be discussed. The rifling twist rate on most black powder rifles runs about 1 rotation in 60 inches of rifling or more. Modern weapons such as a Remington 270 have a rate of 1 rotation in 10 inches. If the wrong sabot is used, the sabot will not stabilize the round fast enough and accuracy suffers.

Black powder is a 'dirty' propellant. Most black powder hunters clean their rifle every few rounds while out hunting, more often if time permits. The plastics used in the jacket for the sabot round can cause plastic fouling in the barrel. This small deposit of plastic in the rifling is only removed by proper cleaning and elbow grease. What is used to clean the black powder residue (soapy water) will not remove the plastic residue left behind in the barrel. Using a sabot will add an additional step in the cleaning process. Once the proper sabot round is found for your muzzle loader, the use of sabots does increase accuracy and penetration. If you are planning on hunting with a muzzle loader and want to use sabot, ensure the rifling rate is compatible with the sabots you want to use.

A WORD ABOUT POWDER

When you are using black powder and black powder substitutes it is important to remember that the powder charge is measured in volume not weight. I have used every powder marketed today. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. I have always gravitated back to traditional black powder. . Black powder is a natural blend of charcoal, sulfur and potassium nitrate. The fuel in black powder is the carbon. Black powder is very inefficient, burning only about half of its mass to create propellant gas. The rest of the unburned powder creates white smoke or a sludge that fouls the bore as a corrosive paste. Black powder is considered an explosive. If you go to most big retail sporting goods store, they will not carry black powder due to safety concerns. Black powder can be ordered online, but due to the hazardous material charges, it is best to order 25 pounds or 50 pounds at a time.

There are several types of traditional black powder. There is an "F" designation for powder; it is referring to the screen size used to filter the manufactured black powder. The smallest grain 'FFFF' powder is very easy to ignite, so this type is used in the flash pan of a flint lock. The 'FFF' is usually used in .45 caliber or smaller weapons, with 'FF' being the usual powder type for most rifle muzzle loaders. The 'F' is very coarse and used in cannons and mortars. The more 'F's the finer the grain and the faster it will burn. If you plan on using an inline or percussion cap muzzle loader, 'FF' black powder is the only powder you will need. If you plan on using a flintlock, a few pounds of 'FFFF" will last a long time.



Pryodex is a very common black powder substitute. It is the synthetic 'black powder' most commonly used by hunters. It is measured the same way as black powder, by volume and not by weight. Pyrodex is bulkier so a similar volume size will weigh less. Pyrodex is corrosive, but it is less impact sensitive than black powder. Being less impact sensitive makes it safer, easier to ship and store so it is found in most retail sporting good stores. Pyrodex is not classified as an explosive.

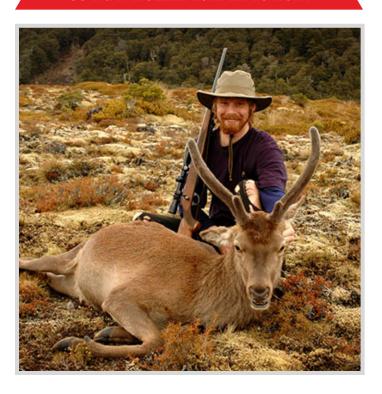
Triple Seven, GOEX clear shot and Black Mag 3 are other brands that are sold to replace traditional black powder. All 3 are slightly corrosive, but produce higher pressure and velocity. Since they generate higher pressure and velocity, caution should be used when using them in black powder weapons. A lesser volume of these 3 propellants will produce the same pressure as black powder and Pryodex. If you plan on using these 3 brands, start lower than your usual black powder charge. They are still measured by volume, and only

consume half of that volume as a gas. The rest of the charge is left over as a solid reside or sludge.

A pelletized form of Triple seven and Pyrodex is available. These pellets are made using a type of rocket fuel propellant similar to the rocket motors used in hobby rockets. It is a lot easier to toss a few pellets down the muzzle of your favorite muzzle loader and ram a ball on top of it. However, the use of pellets can drastically affect the pressures developed. The variation in pressure is affected by the barrel length, weight of the projectile and the caliber. Care should be used when you use pelletized black powder substitute. Very few firearms can handle the pressures developed by 3 pellets of this type of propellant. If you plan on using pelletized propellant, I strongly recommend you do the research and find a firearm that can handle them.

NEVER load black powder from your powder horn directly into the barrel, always use a cup or powder measure. If there is a burning ember in the barrel and you pour directly from the powder container such as a powder flask, you are holding a black powder bomb. I have never seen it happen, I don't want to. NEVER look directly down the barrel to see if it is loaded. If in doubt, use a ramrod to measure the distance from the muzzle to the breech. If there is a difference in depth of the barrel, it's probably loaded. Like with any firearm, don't cover the muzzle with anything you don't want destroyed. This included your face, hand or arm.

USING A MUZZLE LOADER TO HUNT



Hunting with a muzzle loader is not for everyone. There is an old adage, 'Keep your powder dry'. If the black powder used in muzzle loaders gets wet, it will fail to ignite and you will go hungry. There are a lot of steps to load and fire the weapon safely and accurately. The range of the smoothbore muzzle loader is about 50-75 yards. A rifled musket can reach out to a range of 200 yards and the average range of the newer in-line muzzleloader is about the same. If you are hunting in thick brush or where cover is ample, these ranges are more than adequate. However, if you are hunting in an open area such as high desert or grasslands, your average shot is 250-400 yards. This is not to say that you cannot use these weapons, just that you will have to stalk closer or use a blind for cover.

A disadvantage of a muzzle loader is that you have only one shot, unless you purchase a double barreled muzzle loader, then you have



two shots. That is correct; you had better not miss when the time comes. This is a double edge sword. A follow up shot will take upwards of 2 minutes, but knowing this will make sure you are taking the best shot you have and forcing you to concentrate better on your aim. This can be a great training tool for new shooters. With modern magazine fed weapons, there is a tendency to have the attitude of, 'I have another round'. With muzzle loaders, you do also but it takes a while for it to get reloaded.

There is a positive when using a muzzle loader and that is one of the reasons they are still sold today. In the long run, they are more economical. If you recover your lead, all you have consumed when you go shooting is the black powder used as a propellant, the patch which can be an old shirt or table cloth and the flint or cap used to fire the round. Lead can be recast and reused.

There is no casing to lose or worry about. The current cost of 1 pound of GOEX FF powder, the powder commonly used to fire the round in black powder weapons, is 19.99 USD. The average cost of smokeless powder per 1 pound container is 24.99 USD. You don't have to go out and buy a multi stage cartridge reloader and all the dies and accessories that can set you back 1000s of dollars. You will need a heat source, a crucible to melt the lead, a ladle to pour the lead into the cast and a casting die. This was done back in the 1800s and the technology really hasn't changed much. This will be around 150.00 USD or so. A basic single stage reloader for a modern cartridge is 150.00 USD. Lead can be purchased premixed with the proper amount of tin, lead and wax already cast into the ingots.

The decreased range of muzzle loaders does force the shooter to have a better field craft. I have seen modern hunters driving their ATVs down the road, looking for a game. This type of hunter is better off shopping at a grocery store than to actively hunt for their food. If you want to hunt, you have to walk. If you want to use a black powder, you are going to stalk and become one with nature. There is no way around that. Moving silently in nature is one of the basic field crafts but it has become almost a lost art today. With a black powder firearm, you have to get closer than a modern hunter. You have to try and be a better hunter. This creates a steep learning curve, but it can be overcome.

MUZZLE LOADERS AND THE LAW

I strongly recommend that you learn your states hunting laws. Each state is different. Some states require a .36 caliber muzzle loader or larger to hunt large game. Other states require .50 caliber or higher. There are some states that even allow the use of scopes or red dot sights on muzzle loaders. If you are ever in doubt about any aspect of hunting in your state, a quick trip to the local Department of Wildlife will answer your questions. It is best to know the law than to plead ignorance. Every game warden I have met is professional and helpful, but they have a job to do. They are expected to enforce the laws for their state.

Most states allow muzzle loaders to hunt at the same time as bow hunters. This season is usually earlier than the center fire hunting season. This is a huge advantage for both bow hunters and muzzle loaders. The game animal has not felt the pressure of hundreds of ATV hunters flooding the area. There is a less human presence in the area so this might make the animal less likely to spook. It is early in the year so the weather is milder and hopefully less rainy or snowy. By hunting during the muzzle loading / bow season, I have noticed that every person out there hunting feels the same way. There is a conscious effort to reduce noise and human presence. Both hunting styles need to be closer to the game for a successful shot, so they support each other by making their presence less felt by nature.

Any animal can be hunted with a muzzle loader. A well placed round can bring down a deer, but



most states require a specific caliber or larger depending on the game animal hunted. The most common caliber for large game hunting is .50 caliber. It is a bit large to be hunting small game such as rabbits and squirrels, but it is an effective round for deer and elk. If you are casting your own ball or Minie ball rounds, the larger the caliber the more lead used per shot. A smaller caliber weapon will allow you to hunt smaller game more economically, both by powder used and lead used to make the round.

Each state has a different view on the possession of an additional firearm for self defense. Some states will not allow the hunter to possess ANY other firearm other than the muzzle loader being used to hunt with. Some states allow a muzzle loading single shot pistol to be carried. That is, a single shot pistol, not a cap and ball revolver similar to the ones used in the U.S. Civil war. Some states allow for a personal sidearm for self defense. Once again, I strongly suggest that you do the research into your state muzzle loading laws. I know you don't want your self-defense pistol impounded over a mistake.

CARE FOR YOUR MUZZLE LOADER

If you think that you can shoot a firearm and then not clean it for a few months, I suggest you don't purchase a muzzle loader. Every propellant used in muzzle loading is corrosive at some level. The traditional black powder is very corrosive. When you are hunting and a follow up shot is required, there is no need to clean the bore. Get the reload over and continue the hunt. The time to clean is at the end of the day. When you are practicing, it is recommended that you at least swab the bore every few shots to ensure accuracy.

Disassemble the rifle as recommended by the manufacturer. The cleaning process will vary depending on the type of weapon: flintlock, percussion cap or inline. It is very important that you remove the residue from the black powder off the metal and wooden parts. Black powder residue attracts moisture and moisture causes rust. Once all the residue is cleaned off, a coat of oil will protect the metal. Be sure to clean everywhere, a forgotten spot today will rust tomorrow.

To use a brass bore brush to clean the barrel is a personal choice. By using a bore brush and soapy water, the protective coating of pantina is removed from the bore. Some hunters insist that the pantina provides better protection for the metal. Like most thing related to firearms and hunting, it is a personal choice that deserves your own research. That is also true of all the different cleaning systems and cleaning solutions sold for black powder weapons. It is best to experiment and make your own decisions. Just remember that nothing is wrong with hot soapy water and elbow grease. No matter what you do, it takes time to properly clean any firearm, modern or antique.

WHAT TO BUY



You do not have to spend a lot of money to purchase a reliable quality black powder weapon. To get into the sport, you can buy new or used at any sporting goods store or gun store. There are a lot of excellent online websites, and every area usually has a dedicated black powder themed store. Be sure to look around and get a general idea of what you are interested in purchasing. When you are purchasing new, be sure to purchase compatible ammunition and all the other accessories needed to load and fire. Having the wrong size percussion cap the first time you go to the range will make that day a complete waste of time. Most hunters and shooters have a checklist to ensure you leave the house with everything you need. It's a good idea to bring cleaning supplies also, fouling will occur after the 4th or 5th round and make loading more difficult.

There are a lot of doodads and gizmos for muzzle loading. With any sport, everyone jumps on the band wagon and makes things that make money. Some of these items are a must. A good powder flask to hold the powder and pour a consistent volume charge is essential. A powder cup or pow-

der measure with a funnel will save spilled powder going all over your feet when you load. A good strong ramrod is needed to load and clean. The wooden ones that come with most firearms are handy, but for a lot of firing at the range, buy a steel or fiberglass one. If you want to load faster, purchase a tube that can contain a measure of powder and a projectile all in a convenient package. The good thing about most of the accessories needed for black powder is that they are cheaper to purchase than a modern firearm magazine. Ask around and see what works and what doesn't.

Buying used is more work, but there are some good bargains to be found if you know what to look for. If you are going to a storefront, be sure to completely disassemble the weapon. If the sales person won't do that, or allow you to do that with proper tools, walk away. Any knowledgeable sales person will know that black powder is corrosive and if the weapon was not properly maintained, it will not be safe. Be sure to bring a bore light to inspect the bore and use that light to inspect the finer nooks and crannies of the weapon. Examine the touch hole or nipple area and check under the stock and forearm. If the weapon is a flintlock or percussion cap system, look at the lock and see if there is any excessive wear or thin springs. If it doesn't look right, it's probably not. Find out the return policy of the store. All these suggestions apply to modern smokeless powder weapons. If you have a knowledgeable friend, bring them along and have them show you what to look for. That is the best way and that is how you avoid any mistakes in purchasing a used firearm.

Everyone wants to save money and the internet is the best place to save a buck or two. Buying a new or used firearm online is always risky. Always find out about the store refund policies. Who will pay the return shipping if you decide the weapon is defective? How long do you have for inspection and can you fire the weapon? Most online stores will work with you, but if you are dealing with a private party, be sure to get the policy in writing. I have purchased many black powder firearms online and have never had any issues, but I deal with companies that exclusively manufacture and deal with black powder. There are several wonderful sites and if you have any questions, feel free to drop me a line. I have NO affiliations with these sites; I just enjoy the sport and shop around.

Hunting with a traditional muzzle loader or a newer in line muzzle loader is exciting and challenging. It is economical and very hands on. When you decide to take the plunge, be sure to research your states hunting laws regarding muzzle loaders. Caliber restrictions apply to most game animals and the use of optics or red dot scopes vary. Purchase the black powder weapon that you have to use to hunt the game you are shooting for, not one that looks cool or is cheap. Be sure to know if you can carry a self defense weapon and what type. NEVER use a black powder firearm for self defense, man has created far better weapon systems and it is not worth your life or the life of others. As always obey the firearm safety rules. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at this website and I will be glad to answer them. Be safe and happy hunting.