

## The Alafia River Rendezvous

The Alafia River Rendezvous, a reenactment of early (pre-1840) American life, is held annually at the Florida Frontiersmen property in Homeland (Polk County), Florida. The Florida Frontiersmen is an all-black powder club of over 250 active shooters. The Alafia River Rendezvous is one of the largest gatherings of period reenactors and black powder shooters from all over the United States. Typically the participants number over 1,200. The Pistol and Rifle Ranges are some of the finest in the state and attract shooters from all disciplines.

The Port Malabar Rifle and Pistol Club black powder shooters, the Calusa Country Longrifles, were fortunate to have one of our own shooters, Rick Eberle, attend the January event to compete. Rick is a Field Rep for the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) and an active competitive shooter who shoots in the NMLRA Championship Shoot every year where he holds some national records.

At this year's Alafia River Rendezvous Rick won match medals in two categories, pistol and rifle. Rick won an off-hand rifle match shooting a score of 48 out of 50.



The ranges at the Florida Frontiersmen are well designed and laid out for competition at the local level as well as national matches. Shooters can compete choosing to shoot at 25, 50, 100 and even 200 yards depending on your comfort level. Individuals can even move to what may be considered fun matches over at the Primitive Range. There you have approximately 16 stations including a running boar, breaking a string at 25 yards, and breaking two clay birds by splitting a fired round ball on a two bladed ax that is stuck in a log.

Members of the Florida Frontiersmen, a NMLRA chartered club like the Calusa Country Longrifles, volunteer their time as great hosts, scoring targets and assisting shooters when needed. Every year the Alafia River Rendezvous is a worthwhile experience and a wonderful Living History event, show and tell for young and old alike, not to mention a first class shooting competition for everyone.

The Florida Frontiersmen not only put on outstanding Rendezvous and professional shooting matches, this year for the first time they are hosting a National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association - Territorial Shoot at their over 300 acre facility in Homeland. This should attract shooters from throughout Florida, Georgia, and other parts of the Southeast.

If you have never attended a Territorial they are lots of fun with every shooting match you can imagine and at all skill levels. They include pistol, off-hand flintlock, percussion rifle, and smoothbore, ladies, primitive, juniors and so much more. You can even learn to throw a tomahawk and visit the many vendors and traders which will be there May 4 thru May 6, 2018. For additional information visit [www.floridafrontiersmen.com](http://www.floridafrontiersmen.com). Or contact: Chief Range Officer: Mark Landon at [Mdlandon3@verizon.net](mailto:Mdlandon3@verizon.net).

Don't forget our own PMR&P Club's Black Powder Range for a great experience firing black powder pistols, rifles and more. The range is active throughout the week, and we offer a public shoot the second and fourth Saturdays every month. Stop by and one of the shooters will let you try shooting their flintlock or other black powder firearm. We have several NMLRA certified instructors in the group that are always willing to help you as well.

