

Shinnin' Times

E A R L Y A R K A N S A W R E E N A C T O R S A S S O C I A T I O N

Save The Date

July 4—Territorial 4th of July, Historic Arkansas Museum Ed Williams 501-944-0736

August 4—Ice Cream Social Carol Fritt's Place, 501-350-1706

August 25—EARA Picnic NLR FOP site. Teresa Lafferty 501-247-6466

September 7-9-- Calico Rock Voo Billy Bennett 254-718-7410 /870-297-2269

Message from the President:

2018 Annual EARA picnic will be held August 25. We were not able to get a pavilion at Woolly Hollow as we had planned. We have been graciously offered the FOP location in NLR. It will be at the North Little Rock Fraternal Organization of Police club house at 3201 River Road, NLR, AR. We will have a large air conditioned building w/ kitchen, covered patio, playground (within walking distance up the road) and parking lot. We will meet at 9:30 and have lunch at 2:00ish. We hope all will attend. Please, bring Sides, Deserts, Condiments, and Drinks. We will have Hamburgers and Hotdogs. The club will provide the buns, meat and ice. There will be an Annual Business meeting at 10:30 and we request all the officers and board members attend.

Ice Cream Social at Carol's Porch.

Diets are all off. It is time for Deserts and Ice cream. We will be Making Homemade Ice Cream on Carol's Porch at 6115 Sullivan Road, Little Rock, AR. Please, bring all your fixings for your ice cream, Ice, Salt, Ice cream makers, and Drinks. We will be cooking Grilled Chicken. Please, bring the fixings for all the sides, desserts, and drinks. We have paper products for the group already. We will start about 9 am and stay until the last UNO card is played. Please, bring enough food to stay for the duration. Please, bring snacks for during the card game. Looking forward to seeing Ya'll.

131th Old Solders Reunion in Heber Spring, Ark. August 2-4th at Spring Park. The American Legion is sponsoring this event. It is an 1880 Post Civil War event. They will have a Parade at 6pm Thursday 8/2/18. It will start at Harp's and end at Spring Park. It is about a 1 mile walking parade and our participation is requested. There is a prize for the best 3 floats. They are requesting that we provide reenactors that do primitive skill for demonstrations on Friday and Saturday and make a Rendezvous site with lodges and Buck Skinners. Contact James Cathey after 4:30 pm at 501-206-9120 with any questions.

Battle of Jenkin's Ferry

We have been invited to participate in the event. Janette Horton has a 180 acre site in Sheridan, Arkansas area that will host the nonprofit event. She says that there will be 1000+ public in attendance. It is at 7271 Hwy 465, Sheridan, AR 72150. She requested that we will be doing the primitive skills like the camp followers in that time period. It is a commemoration of the Civil War Battle. The nonprofit organization that puts this event gives scholarships. They will require a \$10.00 camp fee per reenactor to cover porta potties and other items.

Trade Blankets and Traders are encouraged without a fee. Everyone is encouraged to give a donation to the good work that the group provides with the Scholarship Fund. We are not of that time period, but are requested to come to do as a camp follower would have done and portray much of our skills that are in both the Pre-1840 and Civil War time period. If anyone wants more information, please call Teresa Lafferty/James Thompson. 501-247-6466. Tony/Karen Woodruff have attended this event for years and would be able to assist with your questions, also.

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2018 Event Calendar

January 12—12th Night Christmas Party, Scott Connection Contact Teresa "Miss Hattie" Lafferty at 501-247-6466 for info.

January 26-28—Colonial Event, Cadron Settlement Park, Ed Williams 501-944-0736

February 16-18—5 Trails Voo, Historic Washington State Park (School day Feb. 16) Contact Teresa "Miss Hattie" Lafferty at 501-247-6466 for info.

March 2-4—White Oak State Park Colonial Event, Ed Williams 501-944-0736 or ed_laurine@juno.com

March 10-18 Southwest Regional Rendezvous—Nacona, TX

April 6-8 Sulpher Fork Days Doddridge, AR Contact Sam Bumgardner 903-824-3105

April 14-15 - Colbert's Raid at Arkansas Post. All come to celebrate the last battle of our Revolutionary War against Great Britain. Contact Ed Williams at 501-944-0736 or ed_laurine@juno.com

April 20-21 Woolly Hollow Voo, Tom Reedy 501-679-1636

April 27-29 Scott Rendezvous, Contact Ed Williams at 501-944-0736

May 12—Territorial Fair, Historic Arkansas Museum Ed Williams 501-944-0736

May 18-20—Saline Crossing Voo Doyle Richey/Marsha Kimmery 501-860-3686

June 1-3 —Fort Bennett "Wildcat" Voo Contact James "Nonose" Thompson 501-269-5833

June 12th, —Tuesday, - Keelboat and EARA members invited to present at the Ouachita Valley Association. Held at the Overflow Lodge near Wilmot, AR (a few miles east of Crossett, AR). Start time is 10am. EARA members are invited to present their various kills and crafts while Association members tour the keelboat. The keelboat will be on the trailer. Address is 895 HWY 173 West, Wilmot, AR. Call or text Edward Williams for more info, 501-944-0736.

June 23rd, —Saturday - Arkansas Post National Memorial. Program starts at 10am. The keelboat will be in the water, so, in addition to EARA presenters of crafts and skills we need a crew of three to five to row from the boat ramp to Memorial, about one mile. Call or text Edward Williams for more info, 501-944-0736.

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September 7-9-- Calico Rock Voo Billy Bennett 254-718-7410 /870-297-2269

September 21-22—Soggy Bottoms Voo Lori Bennett 903-949-8842

October 12-14—Leslie Voo Leslie at same location \$10 fee per camp. Glenn Cook 501-941-7910
gc1760@yahoo.com

November 21-25—Petit jean Voo, Petit Jean Mountain State Park, April Goff 501-590-2583

December 2—Christmas Frolic, Historic Arkansas Museum, Ed Williams 501-944-0736 ed_laurine@juno.com

Changes and additions, once more information comes in, will be noted in future issues.

Crafts, Kids, Projects and More!!

We are hoping to have more organized and scheduled activities for the kids (and adults) at upcoming events. This will give our growing crew of youngsters something “for them” to have at the events and give mom and dad a break to enjoy the rendezvous activities themselves. The embroidery blanket time at Saline was popular so we will be doing it again at Calico Rock. (Adults and kids are welcome to this one. More info on Calico activities will be later in this issue.) We are also plotting lots of other projects like rag dolls, yarn dolls, button spinners, medicine bags, doll quilts, fingerweaving, leather stamping, knot tying, and many others.

For our adult ladies we will have a quilt on a small quilting frame for anyone who wants to help quilt or learn how. This will travel to each Rendezvous (we hope).

We also hope to have classes on other activities like cooking, fieldcraft, tracking, primitive fishing, fire making supplies and many other mountain man/woman skills, for kids and adults alike.

To get ready for some of these activities we are putting out a call for crafters to save their fabric scraps, wooden buttons, leather scraps, yarn, and anything else you want to contribute for the activity stash. We are always looking for good activity ideas that are suitable. Contact Teresa or I about where to bring it or I can arrange to collect it if needed. Look forward to working with everyone on all the fun activities.

Thanks, April Goff

Contact Info: Teresa Lafferty misshattie1234@gmail.com 501-247-6466 or 269-5388

April Goff april.goff@arkansas.gov 501-590-2583

Historical Reenactor’s Top Ten (or so) List

Adapted from Mental Floss Article 3/10/2017

Time travel? Historical reenacting is close enough for most of us. Here’s a few “facts”:

1. We’re (usually) just regular, everyday “normal” people....who happen to have a passion for history. I personally got involved in living history when I volunteered at an open air historical museum. I worked in a log cabin demonstrating everyday life of a plains pioneer woman – cooking on a wood stove, washing clothes, doing needlework, and talking to visitors. I dabbled in Civil War reenacting in Kansas, and became involved in pre 1840 once I moved to Arkansas and found out about EARA.
2. Most people, when I mention that I’m involved in historical reenacting, their automatic response is “oh, Civil War”hmmm, no....”it’s not just dudes doing battle scenes.” I personally think the everyday life of the everyday person is much more interesting. Portraying daily activities as simple as cooking and everything that goes with it....where that food came from, how that fire was started, recipes from the time period, to me is interesting...and when you see a light in a visitor’s eye that they “got it”, that’s what makes it worthwhile. Cooking, tailoring, sewing, games and other activities make history come alive.

3. We don't wear "costumes". Call it garb, call it an outfit, anything but a costume. Developing a persona and clothing to go with it can be exciting and rewarding.
4. We don't just try to dress the part, we try to practice skills of our era. Some of us have blacksmithing skills, knife making skills, tailoring skills, spinning, weaving....the list goes on....if we have them, we practice them...If we don't have them, we're always thinking of a new one to learn. And we like to share our knowledge with our co-reenactors and visitors.
6. Movies, books, historical anniversaries, among other cultural activities can influence which reenactment eras and activities are popular at any given time. "Last of the Mohicans" comes to mind, as does "Glory".
7. We are historians. Some are better than others....but you don't have to be an expert on everything in your era....just a little knowledge to share is more than most visitors have. A little historical research really helps enrich the reenacting experience – both for the visitor and the reenactor.
8. We get asked silly questions....Is that fire real? Are you hot in those clothes? Do you really sleep here? Are you going to eat that food? We've heard them all, or at least most of them. It reminds me of a friend of mine who is rather tall. She has a business card that reads "Yes I am tall, you're very observant, 6'2" to be exact, Yes I played basketball, The weather is just fine up here." For the most part, I think the questions are asked innocently, and the visitor really doesn't know, so I try to be nice and answer correctly....most of the time that is!
9. We like to share our knowledge. There is really nothing like seeing a kid's eyes light up with the knowledge you have given them....when that moment hits that they get it. Try relating what you are doing reenactment wise to something in present day. I try to relate my camp cooking to something that might be done in present day – especially by comparing the length of time to prepare, the availability of food items, where the food items may have come from to the visitor. We have a lot of knowledge to share, but we sometimes don't know where to begin....I say, begin with something simple, work your way up. Find something YOU are interested in, do a little research so you can share your knowledge.
10. We don't always reenact for the public....in fact, some of the best times are when the public is NOT visiting. The "fun vouts" that are held, the workshops, the after public hours....Not that it is all reenacting, but it is with our reenacting "family."
11. We can get clique-y....true. I think, for the most part, the mountain man/pre 1840's era is not quite as prone to cliques as the Civil War era, quoting from the referenced article "Reenactors often split themselves up according to the degree of commitment to accuracy and in opposition to the much-maligned, less accurate "farbs" (sometimes said to stand for "far be it from authentic").The thing is, if you don't encourage and educate the farbs, your hobby dies." I've only heard the "farb" term used relating to CW reenacting, and to me, no one can start out day one in reenacting being completely accurate in any way. We can strive for accuracy, but for most, it's a long ways down the road, which is fine. We are portraying what we can, the way we can, the most accurate that we can at the time. I do think we can all strive to be more accurate each time we attend an event.
12. We might wear breeches to the grocery store....or to the restaurant. I think some of the best publicity our group can receive is being seen after an event at a restaurant or store....someone is bound to ask "why are you dress like that", or at least give you a funny look. It's a great opportunity to promote EARA and tell someone of our next event, Facebook group or website.
13. We don't want to live in the past....well, some of us might. Except for the intestinal parasites, dysentery, small pox....etc. And most of us are grateful for that hot shower at the end of a vout. And an ice cold beverage.

From Sherry Hetrick

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EARA Flags/Stickers

EARA Flags and Stickers are now available get with Teresa Lafferty to purchase one. misshattie1234@gmail.com 501-247-6466 or 269-5388

**E A R L Y A R K A N S A W
R E E N A C T O R S
A S S O C I A T I O N
O F F I C E R S**

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Thomas Reedy, James Thompson, Larry Thompson, Sherry Bryan, Billy
Bennett

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Liability Insurance: To be Covered by our insurance you need to sign the book or, if not available, a sheet of paper needs to be signed and sent to Teresa Lafferty or Glenn Cook. All volunteer events are covered whether in the state or not. If in doubt always sign a sheet and send to Teresa Lafferty at 210 W. 21st Street, Little Rock, AR 72206

To submit information for the events, recipes, tips and resources and any other items for the newsletter contact Editor April Goff at april.goff@arkansas.gov or call 501-590-2583

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