

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee

Dear Delegates,

1. I must first, regretfully, inform you of the death of one of our former delegates to the MLAIC and our friend Hans Kowar, of Germany. Mr. Kowar passed away in his home town of Amberg in October at the age of 83, according to information received from Josef Ambacher, President of the Deutscher Schutzenbund. He had served his country in many capacities in the world of shooting, and had received many honors in that regard. You will undoubtedly remember that Mr. Kowar attended the World Championships held in Lucca, Italy in 2000, and all of us were pleased to see him at that time after an absence of several years.
2. Portugal participated for the first time in our MLAIC competitions at the European Zone Championships in Finland, and we are pleased to welcome them as a full member. The delegate from Portugal is Mr. Almeida Santos. His e-mail address is ftiro@iol.pt. We are pleased to have Portugal as our newest MLAIC member nation and extend them a hearty welcome.
3. We have also received notification of the appointment of new delegates to the MLAIC from two countries. Finland's new delegate is Mr. Veli-Pekka Karvinen whose e-mail address is Veli-Pekka.Karvinen@biofellows.com, and the new delegate from South Africa is Mr. Willi De Beer., whose e-mail address is WDeBeer@rel.co.za. We welcome them both and look forward to working with them.
4. I have received requests from several countries to practice at the Batesville, Indiana shooting range in the weeks just prior to the World Championships there. There was previously a rule in our MLAIC Rule Book prohibiting practice on the World Championship shooting range for a specified time prior to the event, but when I checked the newest set of rules and the set prior to that, the rule was no longer there. Therefore, I presented this question to the members of the Commission, who have thus far responded with the collective opinion that no national team members should be permitted to shoot on the designated World Championships range for a specified time prior to the official World Championship practice sessions. I will inform the President of the Tri-County Shooting Range at Batesville, Indiana of this situation and ask him to determine the time factor that he and his officers will be prepared to enforce in order to resolve the problem this year. I will then place this information on the 21st World Championship page link on the official USIMLT website, www.usimlt.org. I will place this question on the agenda for the 2004 Delegates' Meeting in Indiana, along with a motion to re-enter the missing rule into the MLAIC Rule Book, which should eliminate the question for future events.
5. There is a good supply of both Goex and Swiss powder for the 21st World Championships. All nations will be sent a powder supply request form in June that will include the prices. A request form for percussion caps will also be sent at that time.
6. An "Information and Questionnaire" form is being included with this newsletter concerning the final dinner to be held at the 21st World Championships in the USA. The United States organizers would appreciate a response from all nations at their earliest convenience to assist in their planning. World Championship information can be accessed at the official USIMLT website, www.usimlt.org, at this time and will be updated regularly as needed.

In the midst of this busy holiday season sometimes we neglect taking the time to pause and reflect on all we have to be grateful for. This year, especially, I think we would all agree that we must not take our freedom to continue to gather and compete in our shooting sport for granted. The places it has taken us and the friendships we have made are important parts of our lives. I wish all of you good health and happiness in this coming year, and look forward to the camaraderie and unity we all share within our organization.

Best regards,
Don Malson, Secretary-General



The Belle of Cincinnati

As you have read in our official invitation to all nations to participate in the upcoming 21st World Championships in the United States, we are planning a very special final dinner on Saturday, August 28, 2004 for everyone. We have hired an authentic paddlewheeler riverboat named The Belle of Cincinnati for a wonderful dinner cruise on the Ohio River. The boat is unique in its Victorian decor and offers three climate-controlled decks, each having a full bar, dance floor and elevator. The fourth, upper deck is open-air and offers spectacular skyline views.

Our dinner menu will include carved roast prime rib of beef with horseradish sauce served with one-half Rock Cornish game hen with a blend of wild rice, southern style green beans, traditional Caesar salad, mixed salad greens with a choice of dressings, assorted fresh baked dinner rolls, freshly brewed coffee and tea, and New York style cheesecake for dessert. A cash bar will be available on each deck, and live musical entertainment will make the entire evening even more memorable.

We are writing to you now in order to obtain numbers for the boat and bus charter companies, so that planning can be completed as accurately as possible. Although I realize that it is probably impossible to give exact figures at this time, I need your help to know approximately how many people from your nation (including any guests the competitors plan to bring) will attend the final dinner and approximately how many will require busing. There will be two cost figures involved (one for the dinner and one for busing), broken down as follows:

Dinner Cruise: \$60.00 U.S. per person

Busing: \$15.00 U.S. per person, involving a 45-minute trip to the boat dock from Batesville and 45-minute return trip after the cruise.

(If you have your own transportation and wish to use it rather than the buses, the only cost to you will be that of the Dinner Cruise.)

Again, although I realize that exact numbers are impossible at this point in your planning, I would greatly appreciate it if each nation could give me an approximate estimate of how many persons (1) will be attending the dinner cruise, and how many persons (2) will require busing to and from the boat. I

would like to have this information by March 1, 2004 or before, if possible. As soon as I have these approximate figures, I will be able to reserve both tickets and buses for the event. Please respond to either nimrod@dragonbbs.com or rr1108@dragonbbs.com with this information.