

# THE CLARK MESSENGER

WWW.GRCHA.ORG



## George Rogers Clark Heritage Association

P.O. Box 1251, Springfield, Ohio 45501 (937) 882-9216

*President – Rusty Cottrel (937) 322-4181 Vice President – Suzanne Luthe (937) 882-9216*

*Secretary – Sheri Forness (937) 324-3010 Treasurer – Bill Smith (937) 399-9395*

*Fair Master and Mistress – Bill and Karen Smith (937) 399-9395*

*Newsletter Editor – Suzanne Luthe (937) 882-9216 Office Administrator – Linda Katon (937) 322-0172*

*From the President's Quill*

*September 29, 2009*

*Dear Members,*

*October Meeting is 7 October, 2009*

What a great Fair again this year. All who participated and who were involved with the set-up and tear-down should give themselves a well-deserved pat on the back. The total gross income is the second largest Fair at New Boston on record. The last three years have been the three biggest. We were up and running in record time, as we had great groups on the set-up weekends, in fact, could barely fit everyone into the meeting room for the lunches. I was somewhat disappointed after we lost our takedown crew due to weather. It was really difficult to get a meaningful work crew together the following week to get the taverns taken down after the canvas and the field had dried out. Please, Please, don't forget that the work is not done after the gates close on Sunday. And, as this year demonstrates, if we can't get all the equipment and gear in on Monday, it doesn't put itself away the following week. For those few diehards who did show up reliably, I am tremendously indebted and the job did finally get done. Thanks again.

The meeting this October will be a celebration of the wonderful fair we had this year and a congratulations to all who worked so hard. Bring a snack or dessert to share, come a little early, at 6:30 P.M., and we will have a slide show of the high points of the fair, and some shots of our New Boston denizens. This will not be a time to air gripes, though we will have a suggestion box available for the preprinted suggestion form that should come with this letter or you can write out your own suggestions on your own paper to put in the suggestion box. If you can't make the meeting, you can you're your comments by e-mail to either Bill Smith at [ratcatcher1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ratcatcher1@sbcglobal.net), or Rusty Cottrel at [rcottrel@woh.rr.com](mailto:rcottrel@woh.rr.com). Positive comments are also appreciated.

The fall event will again be in the form of a retreat. The Demint Shelter is reserved for the weekend of November 6, 7, and 8. John Wysocki and I will be turning the Shelter into a cabin (complete with fireplace) on the 6<sup>th</sup> (Friday). We would be very happy to have more help if anyone is available. The main tasks are putting up canvasses to provide walls on the four sides, carrying firewood, setting up firepit(s) and perhaps some firing range work. The event is of course, not juried, so period clothing is optional, though encouraged. If you participate

in any other time periods from 1700 through 1865, feel free to provide a presentation of your other persona. There are rumors that a civil war (pa-tooie) cannon crew may challenge our resident artillerists to a shoot-off. Please bring sufficient food and supplies to feed your family, cooking will be over wood fires, either fireplace or open campfires. We will be glad to draw on our experience to advise you on cooking techniques, but we cannot feed the entire camp. I will again be offering an NMLRA safety and training session on operation of historic firearms and we will have some fun matches for all skill levels to participate in. There will be matches for rifles, smoothbores and pistols, so if you have a reenactment firearm that you have never fired live ammo in, bring it out, we'll inspect it and see if we can't set you up to safely shoot it. Please try to locate your own supply of powder, balls, flints and caps if you must shoot a percussion gun. Please, no inlines. If you have trouble locating the proper size balls, give me a call and I'll try to help you out. As usual this time of year, the fall woods should be great for walkers and Pam will be taking some posed pictures if you are in period attire. You might bring fishing gear (period or modern) and try out the fall fishing in Hosterman Lake. If you have a period skill that you would like to demonstrate, bring your materials and we'll let you experiment on us. The public is not specifically invited, but as always, they will probably wander in and we should be prepared to shift into education mode. If the weather shuts down our outside activities, the cabin should enable the show to go on. Bring some period games suitable for indoor activity if we get weathered in.

George's Birthday party is also coming up quickly. This year's date to avoid the dreaded OSU-Michigan game is November 14<sup>th</sup>. Check with Linda Katon on recipes and reservations. There will be dancing afterwards and we'll see if we can chase down some live musical entertainment. We'll party like it's 1790.

*The squirrels are laying in the winter's supply of nuts,  
so the membership should probably be on their guard,*

*Rusty*

## Education Day

I send a big THANK YOU to each of you who helped make Education Day a huge success. Typifying the responses from attendees was an e-mail from the leader of a home school group from Grove City, who thanked everyone who worked on it for making it such a 'wonderful experience and great learning opportunity'. She said she had attended the fair as a child and was so happy to be able to share the experience with her children. Some of the families enjoyed the day so much they returned to the fair Saturday, she related, and they plan to come back every year. She also thanked the volunteer who returned a lost wallet to a boy in the group, with contents intact. Demonstrators and entertainers mentioned how well behaved the students were and that they asked good questions. Those of you who were offering guidance on the field had something to do with that, I'm sure. I think we can all be proud of our Education Day, which some participants have told me is "best day of the fair".

***Ruth Peters***

## Costume Return

According to the files, there are still quite a few GRCHA period clothing items that have not been returned. Linda and Donna ask that those who borrowed get them back as soon as possible. The building is open during the day every Wednesday, and on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings for dance. If those times won't work, call Linda or Donna on any Wednesday 882-9216.

## Fair Photos

There are two large groups of lovely photos from the 2009 Fair. Check out these two internet sites.

<http://www.graphicenterprises.net/>

<http://projects.springfieldnewssun.com/cache/galleries/Entertainment/Events/2009fairatnewboston/>

## Raspberries To Pick!

**Jim and Diane Berezky** have a huge raspberry patch at their house at 1152 Old Coumbus Road, Springfield, and are offering special discount rates for GRCHA members. There is a bumper crop of red raspberries this year and they expect to have berries to pick up to the first hard frost. These have never been sprayed. Call 325-9700 to arrange a picking time.

## *Rat Droppings From Silas*

What a great Fair!! From the beginning of education day on Friday through the closing ceremony on Sunday, I was continually greeted with enthusiastic comments and compliments from the entertainers themselves, to merchants, artisans, participants, members and paying customers. "The best ever" was a comment that I heard more than once during the weekend and that is a tribute to all of you who planned and worked so hard during the course of 2009 to bring this about.

We have had record gates and receipts during the last three years and I believe that the changes we have made in the structure of the fair organization have helped revitalize and move our fair once again to the forefront of things for people to do. Our marketing efforts over the last three years have been sensational and thanks goes to Pam Cottrel for her tireless work to put the Fair on the map year round. We have been very active in creating a website and have initiated a streamlined registration process. Thanks go to Sheri Forness for her tireless work behind the scenes as the registration chair. We worked hard to please our merchants and artisans and we encountered very few minor problems, as we were proactive during setup a big thank you to John Wysocki who greatly assisted our on field contact with merchants. Our Indian village improves each year and thanks go to Rusty Cottrel with the militia and Amy Henry with the Indians for improving our registration and jury process with those groups. Our taverns continue to get better and better through the wonderful efforts of Andy and Carolyn Shuirr.

Education day once again was filled with curious, enthusiastic and well-behaved youngsters and we appreciate the efforts of Ruth Peters for her tireless work in heading up education day. Our preparation and set up for the field this year was the best I have seen and a three loud huzzahs must go to Fritz Kannik, whose tireless work in repairing, building and organizing the fair properties and set up was nothing short of sensational. A thank you also to Steve Hall who was in charge of on the field organization and set up and did a great job. And as always, a big thank you to Linda Katon and Donna Ward for their help with the day-to-day operations throughout the year and the delicious meals they prepared in August.

In thanking people, you always run the risk of unintentionally omitting someone. If I have, I apologize. Trust me when I say that your work and efforts to make this a great fair were noticed and appreciated. A sincere thanks to all. You will also find attached, a comment sheet. Please complete and return either at the next meeting, by mail or e-mail to me at [ratcatcher1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ratcatcher1@sbcglobal.net).

**Wm. L. Smith**  
**Fairmaster**

