

Submitting Manuscripts to *Muzzle Blasts*

Thank you for your interest in contributing to our magazine. These writers' guidelines will help you prepare your manuscript. Please read them carefully; your adherence to these requirements will improve your article's chances of being accepted. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call (812-667-5131 ext. 230) or e-mail us at ttowbridge@nmlra.org.

Muzzle Blasts Submissions Guidelines

Our magazine publishes articles about the history of the muzzleloading era, on hunting with muzzleloading firearms, on technical aspects of muzzleloaders, including gunbuilding, and on many related subjects.

If your article deals with the history of the muzzleloading era or a muzzleloading firearm, be sure to include appropriate **footnotes or endnotes and bibliography**. If extensive quotations are used, submit photocopies of the pages from which the quotations came. Footnote and bibliography formats are illustrated in many resources that are readily available, including *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition* (pp.1547-1549). Here are a couple of samples that follow the format:

Footnote or endnote:

¹Mark Silver, "Flintlocks: Performance, Touch Holes, and Tuning," *Muzzle Blasts*, Feb. 2000: 5. [Magazine article]

²James T. Butler, Jr. and James B. Whisker, *Long Rifles of Virginia* (Bedford, PA: Old Bedford Village Press, 1996), 112.

[book]

[subsequent reference] ³Butler and Whisker, 144.

Bibliography (at end of article; arranged in alphabetical order by author's name)

Butler, James T., Jr., and James B. Whisker. *Long Rifles of Virginia*. Bedford, PA: Old Bedford Village Press, 1996.

[book]

Silver, Mark. "Flintlocks: Performance, Touch Holes, and Tuning." *Muzzle Blasts* vol. 61 no.6 (February 2000): 4-6.

[magazine article]

Footnotes or endnotes and bibliography entries should be included whenever you quote from or refer to someone else's published work, or when statements you make may require substantiation by a third party.

If hunting is your focus, begin your article with a short description of the hunting area so the reader can better envision the hunt. Give full details of the firearm used; include the manufacturer or gunmaker, bullet make and caliber, and powder type and load. (Beware of excessive black powder loads and shooting distances; in the first instance, do not exceed manufacturer's recommended maximums.) Include details of the hunt (sights, sounds, scents, what you felt physically and emotionally), and relate humorous situations or any potential danger; these details keep the story interesting.

If your article is technical or instructional ("how-to") be sure to mention the equipment and materials used and describe the procedures step by step. Keep your readers in mind and write for someone who has never tried your project before. Tell why or how your technique works. Include accurate measurements, charts, photographs, and tables that help illustrate the process. Don't forget relevant manufacturer information, especially if the article involves a product evaluation.

Above all, *avoid wordiness*. Simple and direct writing appeals most to readers. Brevity and clarity appeal to editors! At the same time, be sure to provide all necessary information. Proofread your manuscript carefully, and if your computer has a spell-check function, don't neglect to use it.

A special note about book reviews: Publishers automatically send many new books to us for review. We run multiple, brief reviews several times a year, and we have no desire to fill the magazine with lengthy book reviews. Generally speaking, we have no need for more book reviews than the ones we generate in the *Muzzle Blasts* office.

One more note: Although we occasionally profile noteworthy muzzleloading gunmakers, we generally do not seek manuscripts that focus on living individuals.

To Write and Submit an Article

First, *know your topic*. Be sure that the subject matter conforms to the standards of our Association and that you have researched it thoroughly. Keep your readers in mind as you write. Upon receipt, articles will be reviewed for publication in *Muzzle Blasts* by the editor, the publications committee, and technical advisors, as deemed necessary.

Conform to *all applicable safety measures* (see photo requirements) when writing articles on topics that may involve potential hazards (hunting, shooting, technical, how-to, operating machinery, etc.).

Present your manuscript by email (tthrowbridge@nmlra.org) or on a disk preferably in Microsoft Word. If that is not possible, please submit the typewritten manuscript on high-quality white paper. If the foregoing formats are not possible for any reason, but you still feel that you have an important story to tell, contact the editor in care of *Muzzle Blasts* for special arrangements.

Six to eight typewritten pages, double-spaced, provides the editor with an average-sized article. Longer manuscripts will be considered if the topic warrants the length. Please number manuscript pages.

All manuscripts accepted for publication are subject to editing to ensure that they conform to *Muzzle Blasts'* format, style, and space limitations.

Be sure your name, address, telephone number, *and social security number* are included in a cover letter accompanying your manuscript. Please note that we require your social security number (for payment and tax purposes only).

Submit Manuscript To:

Muzzle Blasts

Attn: Editor

P.O. Box 67

Friendship, IN 47021

Please include a self-addressed, stamped manila envelope for return of material, if necessary. Manuscripts will be acknowledged upon receipt.

Illustrations

All submissions should include high-contrast photographs and/or well-defined diagrams. Digital photos are preferred, and can be submitted by email or on a disk in high resolution TIF or JPEG formats. If you are sending files through email, please send each one as individual attachment. Please *do not* embed the files into your article or email. Black-and-white prints and color photos are also accepted and must be of good quality. Photos will be reviewed and selected by the editor and/or director of publications.

On the back of any photo prints submitted, *print your name, address, and title of the article*. Use a very soft lead pencil. (Ink pens, especially felt pens, may bleed through the backing paper and spoil the photo.) Include a separate sheet of paper with captions, and key the captions to the photo(s).

If you submit photos of rifles, don't neglect to include an overall (full-length) view. Many readers appreciate being able to see the whole rifle.

All mechanical art, line drawings, and tables must be submitted in black and white. If necessary, ink the drawings for clean-cut reproduction. Submit on a separate sheet of paper. Mechanical art and line drawings produced on can be submitted in JPEG or TIF formats, among others. Contact the Director of Publications for more information.

Requirements for Photos and Mechanical Illustrations

Photos should be in separate TIF or JPEG formats in high resolution. If you are sending files through email, please send each one as separate attachment. Please *do not* embed the files into your article or email as this reduces the quality of the photo. You may insert a message such as "IMG_1234 here" to indicate a photo to accompany a particular spot in your text instead of embedding the photo. If your photos *are* embedded in the text, you must also send them as separate files.

If you are submitting photos 5x7 or 8x10 are preferred. However, a good, sharply contrasting 3x5 photograph is acceptable. All submissions should be black and white or color prints. Submitting color slides with a document may be cause for return of the materials.

Mechanical artwork, including charts, may be lettered in pencil; such text will be typeset and sized to fit the illustration. Identify the manuscript location for graphics on the back of the sheet.

When submitting cover art, note that digital files are preferred in high resolution TIF or JPEG format. When submitting film, 3x5 transparencies are preferred; sharply contrasting 35mm color slides are acceptable for cover art only if submitted in portrait (vertical) format.

Be Conscious of Safety when Submitting Photos

Do not submit photos that depict firearms used or held in an *unsafe* manner (e.g., pointed in an unsafe direction, hand or arm over muzzle, finger on trigger when not actually firing, loading or carrying at full cock, etc.). When submitting photos for technical articles, be aware of and demonstrate all safety measures. For example, all shooters should be wearing eye and hearing protection.

Writer/Artist Responsibilities

Responsibility for copyright law compliance (e.g., for artwork or text), as well as procuring all model-release forms, is the submitter's and not the NMLRA's or its affiliates'. When submitting materials that have been reproduced whole or in part from other sources, include copies of permission letters from the appropriate person(s) or organization(s).

Payment Procedure

Payment will be made *upon publication* of articles that deal with muzzleloading firearms or firearms with historical value, for good instructive or how-to, and similar articles. Payment is normally not made for committee or shoot reports and other Association affairs.

Electronic Rights

The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association also publishes a few articles from *Muzzle Blasts* on the NMLRA website. This electronic version is designed primarily for a non-member audience to let them get a glimpse of what they can expect from the magazine. Writers and photographers may grant or deny this use of their work by including a statement with materials submitted. If no express denial of such use is included, author's consent is implied. (No additional payment will be made for use on the website.)

Muzzle Blasts Writers' Compensation Schedule

Special-purchase Photos

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Black and white | \$30 maximum. |
| Four-color (for covers) | \$300 maximum. |

Product Reviews

All reviews \$100-\$300, depending on the amount of research, tests conducted, and number of photos or illustrations submitted (if applicable.)

Columns and Articles

All standing columns \$50-\$150 depending on the amount of research, tests conducted, and number of photos or illustrations (if applicable) submitted (if any.)

All feature articles \$100-\$400 depending on the amount of research, tests conducted, and number of photos or illustrations (if applicable) submitted (if any.)

Electronic Use

The only time payment will be made for electronic use is when an article is used exclusively on the Web and it has not been printed in the paper version of the magazine. No additional payment will be made for use on the NMLRA website. Once again, if you do not wish your article to be used on the website, please state so when submitting your article.

We appreciate your expertise and good efforts in helping us bring the best information to our readers. If you need any assistance in preparing your material for our consideration, be sure to contact us.