

MLAIC

Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee

Dear Delegates,

Nearly two months have now passed since the shocking and untimely death of my husband, your Secretary-General. While the pain is still often acute, it is nevertheless time to move on with our Zone Championships and plans for the 2008 World Championship event in Australia. This is as he would have wished it. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all who sent messages of condolence, as well as support for me to continue to go forth with the business of the MLAIC, so dear to Bucky's heart. I will take strength in not only your support, but also in the knowledge that his spirit will continue to work with all of us.

The Pacific Zone Championship will begin on Monday, July 9 at the Coonhunters Range in Batesville, Indiana. Many will remember this as the venue for the 2005 World Championship. It is anticipated that the event will be greatly enjoyed by all who attend and, once again, sample the fine hospitality of that part of the United States. I will be present and will include information about it in the next newsletter I send.

The European Zone Championship will take place from August 5 through 12 in Parma, Italy and promises to be a grand event. European Zone Vice President Antonio Ferrerio has been working very hard organizing a Championship that should be memorable for all. It is unfortunate that I will be unable to be there, as I was looking forward to attending. However, as I explained in an earlier e-mail, it would have proven to be a financial hardship at this time due to the estate of my husband not being settled until late November. Funds that would have made the trip possible will not be available until that time. However, I am confident that the event will run smoothly under Antonio's management, and I am pleased to be able to announce that our friends Erich Illing of Germany and Jose Luis Perez Pastor of Spain have agreed to oversee and handle any situations concerning rules and protocol that might arise. Both of these gentlemen have been part of the MLAIC for many years and have perhaps the best knowledge of our rules of anyone in the organization today. I have great confidence in Erich and Jose Luis, and I am sure they will be of great assistance to Antonio, as well. Erich and Jose Luis will also have the paperwork with them for MLAIC annual dues collection and receipt forms, so see them for dues payment. They will send the dues collected (in U.S. dollars, please) to America with Kim Atkinson, who will be coming here in September and meeting with me. I will then deposit the funds in the MLAIC account.

As you are no doubt aware, MLAIC President Kim Atkinson of Australia will also be present at the European Zone Championship, and he has agreed to act in my stead regarding any situation that might arise requiring attention. He will be able to communicate with me readily in the event of that need. Additionally, I will send to Kim prior to his coming to Europe any information for future consideration that I feel should be brought to your attention at the Zones.

The MLAIC World Long Range Championship is to be held at Cape Town, South Africa in September 2007. Gary Crawford, Pacific Zone Vice President, will be in attendance at that event and will relay any pertinent information I might need to send at that time.

I believe that the business of the MLAIC is well in control for the coming months leading up to the World Championship in Australia. Agenda items are beginning to come in and I am placing them in a document that I will send out after the first of the year. I will also ask that the agenda be posted on our website so that all delegates can receive input on the issues from their organizations and team members. In addition, Frank Thibault of the U.K. has suggested that anyone wishing to be considered for the position of Secretary-General at the election in 2008 place before the delegates a resume noting their qualifications by December 2007. I shall be submitting my resume for consideration, not only in the belief that I am qualified to handle the responsibilities of the position, but also that it would be the wish of my husband that I do so. Obviously, anyone else wishing consideration should do the same.

Finally, the MLAIC website is in the process of being updated and made much more attractive and user-friendly. This process will, understandably, take some time but the work has already begun. We are fortunate to have the services of our friend from Czech Republic Rene Martin Calderone in spearheading this project. Rene Martin specializes in doing this kind of work and has great enthusiasm and wonderful ideas. He will be working cooperatively with the present webmaster David Brigden in making these improvements over the coming months, and I am confident that you will all be pleased with the final results. Rene Martin has also developed several very nice logo proposals for our organization, and I will soon make these available for your future consideration. We owe our friends in France a "thank you" for offering their logo proposal at the meeting in Bordeaux and getting us started on adopting an official MLAIC logo. The proposal from France will, of course, also be included for consideration.

I wish all of you good shooting and great enjoyment in your upcoming Zone events!

Kind regards,
Nancy C. Malson
Secretariat, MLAIC