

HPRR Booshways Book

Introduction

As the Chairman of the High Plains Regional Rendezvous as well as the 2003 High Plains Booshway I have been asked to start a new Booshways Book. Since I have never seen the old Booshways book I am going to start from scratch on this. My hope is to put together some useful information in an organized and expandable manner. If all of the future Booshways will add their information in the same manner than this book should be a success. We will all go about our rendezvous in a little different way and I'm sure the material added to this book will vary as well. Just remember that we all learn from experience and if you can avoid a few problems by learning from our experiences than this was all worthwhile.

When I started the task of putting my rendezvous together I had absolutely nothing to go by. The Chiefs Council is always there and has plenty of good advice but they can only help so much. Details like how much ice and water do I need, how many pre-registered camps can I expect, what percentage is the pre-registered of the overall number, how much trash does 150 camps make are all the kind of details we tend to forget. That is the objective of this book, to list out the details and the little things that we might overlook.

With that in mind I will put together some of the thoughts, ideas and material I compiled while planning and running my rendezvous. I hope they are of help to someone in the future. I also hope that future Booshways will be diligent in updating this book. Remember this book shows how we did our rendezvous, you do yours as you see fit. The general membership elected you to do their next rendezvous. The Board, the Council and this book are a wealth of information but in the end it's your name that goes on the rendezvous.



W. Lee Tebbutt

*Chairman of the Board
High Plains Regional Rendezvous*

HPRR Booshway 2003

Items from High Plains 2002

Hooters:

Sanitation in each hooter, baby wipes or anti bacterial wipes

NO OPEN pits all need to be enclosed

Paper in hooters at all times, check hooters a couple times a day, especially just before everyone goes to bed so there is paper in the morning. Leave a couple extra rolls just in case.

Ice/ Groceries:

Announce when open

More obviously posted/ have posted in more than one spot.

Grocery store at gate all day with the essentials with special orders taken if they do not have what is needed

?Team and wagon to haul ice, water, garbage

Board Meeting/ Chiefs Council Meeting:

Judy (Booshway of 2002) is making Booshway book

Have a Raffle and an auction – rifle, quilt (get donations for items)

Number medallions for door prizes drawings

Tick Spray Can grounds be sprayed with SEVEN and environmentally safe pesticide

Do visitors need park permit (only discuss if park brings this up)

Do traders need to pay taxes to state on goods sold?

Have contingency backup for staff- just verbal agreement is okay

Have contingency backup for boggy roads

Dog soldier bags with medical supplies

High Plains has two medical bags that will be passed on to us

ATV for access if needed especially in medical emergency

Hooters will be pumped everyday

Concern with above ground fire pits

Dog Soldiers:

Need to be consistent

Dogs, Clothing, cell phones

People correcting others when they are not dog soldiers

Dog soldiers need to be marked with an armband or something so everyone knows who the dog soldiers are

During first camp meeting announce who dog soldiers are and show all camp their faces so they know.

Clothing needs to be enforced-Booshway in hiking boots on last day of camp

All vehicles out of camp by start of rendezvous

Oxygen tanks if needed for medical emergencies

Rope for hanging tree
Shackles (Trees and Twigs have)
Stockaid for hanging tree with skeleton by tree
Thunder Pole

Shooting:

Advertise non-competition shoots: i.e. trade shoot- prizes for how well individual does –
9 out of 10 type of thing

Archery/Trail Walks:

Check with Nature Conservancy to see if we can do this on their property north of
campsite. Check on shooting with them

Novelty Games:

Email Lori Crowson for ideas

Camp games at night

- Wet Chemise
- Dress your mate
- Bull Boat races
- Road Bullets
- Tchunky
- Skit Contest
- Pork and Beaner games (Wayne)
- Highlander Games
- Dance Cat and Mouse (Wayne)
- Mini Hawk and Knife throw
- Bull Darts
- Braggerts Contest (Nick)
- Atalatal Contest
- Chicken shit drop (betting game Wayne)
- Gunny sack race
- Three-Legged race
- Egg races
- Minnow Races
- Spoon carving contest
 - 16 and younger
 - 16 and older
 - Must be carved in camp
- Hog Calling Contest
 - 1st prize 1 pound of bacon
- Mate calling contest for women

Best period camp setup
Best tipi setup
Best trader setup
Ugliest camp with booby prize
Give out a vote sheet for camp prizes with registration
Indian games/Lewis and Clark games
Kids Games
 Haystack dive 10 and under

Camp Meetings:

Announce at first meeting Dog Soldiers
Portable Microphone
Council Circle not open area
Flags in a tipi tripod setup

Prizes:

Trader's bucks/frog skins – in \$1, \$5, \$10 increments (kids in \$1 increments)
Be consistent on places giving prizes for
Wood coins, copper coins (Nick will check into)
Mark coins when they come back in
Deadline for prizewinners as well as traders to turn in bucks or coins, this way only need a limited amount of them made up
Send someone around to cash in trades bucks or coins.

Miscellaneous:

Auction Quilt Nick said to contact Cheryl
Door Prizes one time entry only
Poison Ivy and Oak warnings
Post signs for events in more than one place

Advertising:

Nebraska Muzzleloader Newsletter wants photos of the site to put in their newsletter
Coalition of Trekkers-Get flyers to Rooster
 Rooster may bring large canoes
100's of Flyers to:
Rooster
Don Stranz
Tom Hanning
Red Wing

Wood:

Place wood in more than one spot in camp

Fires:

Plow disks with sand piles under them (talk to John Bera, Boosway of a local rendezvous on state ground that has used plow disks with sand piles)

Questions asked while campaigning on Thursday:

Ice dispersal across camp instead of at gate.

Enough water, wood, hooters, ice, four-wheeler for access

Will four-wheeler be only used for emergencies?

Early setup on Thursday or Friday?

Boxes for fires, can they sit on the ground or how high off the ground do they need to be?

Suggested that we tell the camp that the site has not been used for a feed lot for the past 56 years, since 1956

If there are any questions concerning anything above contact:

Trees, Rick

Twigs, Cindy

Twisted Cork, Wayne

Sun in the Night, Joy

Shane

OHPRRA Board recommendations/suggestions

Jooshway's Recommendations/Suggestions:

In looking back at the 2005 High Plains:

First of all what a trip!

I feel that the most important thing is to surround yourself with people that are as committed to the event as you are. Giving them a feeling of ownership to the event will help all of you when times get rough, and they will sometime. I was fortunate to have such a staff. We had the advantage of working together on past events and grew from there. Never be afraid to make changes or replacements if you feel it is needed. There may be some hard feelings, but remember the High Plains comes first. It is up to you as it was to me to continue in the traditions of the HPRR to provide the best event you can. Things will go wrong. ADAPT, adjust and go on. Did we make mistakes? You bet, but we had a good time and I feel others did too.

Do not be afraid to ask for help. The Chiefs' Council is there for that reason. Avoid things, if possible, that have been tried and cast aside. Take the advice and information you receive, sort it, and make the decision you need to make in your event. All the advice you receive is well intended. It is just that it will not all work on your site or with your crew. You will be the one to make the final decision and will have to live with the results.

TRY to keep short term and long term separate. Those people that stay the entire time want a primitive event. Yes, people staying in long term DO care if they see modern items (cars). Prior the 2005 event I received information that nearly 50% of the camps would be short term. I was hoping that was inaccurate and planned for less than that. I was very pleased to have the majority in long term. (Some people camp in short term and stay the full time. They say they want to be there so if they are not having fun they can leave. I have never "not had fun" at a High Plains Rendezvous.

Be creative, try new things. Look at your site and see what new things you could do. Ask your staff for ideas. Each site has certain attributes that will let you try new things.

Running an HPRR is a heavy load and a large commitment. I wouldn't have missed it for the world. The preparation and the actual event were some of my shiningest times.

Thank you all for the opportunity.

Thane Wells

Segundo's Recommendations/Suggestions:

Never underestimate the space needed for good parking. Don't be afraid to give the parking lot some guidelines. Even buckskinners like a little structure now and then.

Don't get caught up in what the "last guy" did or how "last year" was. The event is "yours". Do what you think is best. To follow up on that thought: Listen to those that have done it. You might learn something.

You can't, I repeat can't, please everyone. If you try, you will only cost us all a visit to the "nice place" they're going to send you when it's over.

Try the best you can to give the camp things to do. Think of something new. (No, it hasn't all been done) There at least some "twists" or "spins" left to make things interesting. Don't worry about people thinking you are some kind of genius, they won't. Look at your site with activity in mind. Often times the uniqueness of a site can give you some unique opportunities. For Pete's sake, don't be afraid to try something that has never been done before. Where do you think the new ideas come from? This is one of you opportunities to "bounce" the idea off the brain of a member of the Chiefs' Council. (It's why they let us hang around ☺)

If someone comes up to you and says "Hey Mr. Booshway, can we get some people together and do this?", consider if it will be a risk financially or legally, or a benefit to the camp as a whole. If it is a good idea let them run with it, even if it wasn't in your schedule or your idea. Some of the most memorable moments have been impromptu events.

When you look for a location, don't stop when you find one. Keep looking. If you don't find something better, it only confirms you have the best you can find. Remember, the "easy" one is not necessarily the best one.

I quote Mr. Spock: "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few". He was right. When you sit back and survey in your mind how things will play out, remember these words. For example: Don't put short term right across the road from long term. The folks in long term have an expectation of a little peace, quiet and lack of the modern world. They are the ones that have come to support your event for the duration and deserve some consideration. At the same time, don't make the short term campers feel like second class. You must find balance. Remember this when looking for a site.

Everyone always says that all you have to give the camp is the big "3" i.e. #1 wood #2 water #3 hooters and everything else will be ok. Not true. They want everything and they want it now and they want it delivered to the front of their lodge with a smile. (Ok, remember the "nice place" I mentioned earlier?) But seriously, the person that goes to a lot of events has some expectations that there is going to be more than just the big "3". Be creative. Oh, did I mention that by doing this, you might be the one to get the people that don't go much to get out to more events? If you pull it off, it is a win-win for everyone. Not just your event but those to follow as well.

Remember that everyone in your camp is important, from the biggest trader to the family camp right down to the one man camp of the guy just getting started. Make everybody welcome. That IS your job.

It is said that if the rendezvous is a success, then the Booshway picked a good staff. If the rendezvous is a flop, it's the Booshway's fault. Truer words were never spoken. Choose your staff carefully. There is more at stake than your event. The organization and future events are at stake. He might be your best buddy but if he isn't right for the job, find someone who is. Don't be afraid to go outside your "little circle". The concept of "this is our rendezvous" is correct. You just have to remember that "our" is far more inclusive than you think. Another thing to remember is that you have to delegate. Give your staff some ownership and create a command structure that works for you. You do not have to know everything that is going on. You have to trust that someone can take care of things besides you. There are lots of little things that go on from day to day at an event. Don't worry about the little things, there will be enough of the big things for you to worry about.

Remember there is more at stake than just your event. The organization has given you the official blessing and is therefore liable for your screw-up's. Think first, act second.

If you still want to be a Booshway, remember this. You can plan and plan and plan. You can have every detail worked out to the last minute. It's perfect. Nothing can go wrong. (Do you see a jinx coming?) Don't forget that God has all the trump cards in his deck.

Clerk's Recommendations/suggestions:

- Increase seed money from \$1500.00 to \$2000.00.
 - No net impact, as seed money is generally replaced.
- Request that OHPRA reserves a Trader's Table yearly at UNMLA Kearney, NE for annual HPRR publicity.
- Order additional Trader's Bucks due to attrition.

- Small net expense would be incurred.
- Consider establishing a set camp fee, with variation approved by the OHPRR Board.
 - Creates unity from year to year for participants (eliminates arbitrary valuation).
 - Also to include set structure: additional adults, additional structures, additional medallions
- Request that each annual event's "Purser" title be changed to "Clerk" on all documentation.
 - Avoid confusion with official OHPRR Purser (elected position).
 - "Clerk" is period-correct title for Fur-Trade era role (could also use "Commis" for period correct).

Future HPRR event recommendations/suggestions

Medic's Suggestions:

- Consider including a "First Aid Camps" list in packet.
- Medical Kit concerns:
 - Need band aids, regular aspirin, H2O3, sunburn aftercare, and tape
 - Need children's chewable aspirin
 - Need butterfly sutures
 - Need antibiotic ointment (Neosporin)
 - Consider adding both cloth and transpore tape
 - Consider Cortaid gel for itches/rashes
 - Consider adding eye drops
 - Consider adding "Second Skin", "Moleskin"
 - Consider adding Gatorade powder for emergency fluid restoration

Clerk's Suggestions:

- Trader's Bucks
 - Keep an accurate record of where (or for what event) Trader's Bucks are distributed. There aren't enough to get through an entire event now, so you'll need to cash in and re-issue. This also will give you an itemized expense for Shoots, Hawk/Knife, Archery, etc.
 - Keep a separate cash box for Trader's Bucks, with exact change for all bucks distributed. You will get bombarded near the end of the event and most likely won't have enough change on-hand without this separate box.
 - Possibly order additional Trader's Bucks (current value is \$1090, average prize expense is \$1800).
 - In 2005, we stamped a "5" on the Trader's Bucks. You may want to stamp your year, so you (and your Traders) know you are cashing in your Trader's Bucks, not some bag of coins purchased on E-bay.
 - A small, blue container of metal stamps was donated to the OHPRR for stamping needs this year. It will travel with the Trader's Bucks from the 2005 event.
- Registration
 - We designed a registration sheet in Microsoft Excel for 2005 that will be passed on. It makes tracking all the numbers everyone wants much easier (if you are familiar with a PC).
 - We have done the same with the OHPRR Balance Sheet that must be turned in when the books are closed.
- Record-Keeping
 - If at all possible (even if demanding is required), keep a separate cash box for raffles and registrations at all events leading up to and including the HPRR where money will be taken in.
 - Getting receipts can be difficult, carry a scratchpad or use a business card.