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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE :

Irish Road Bowling at Fort New Salem

Sunday October 23, 2011 at 1:30 p.m.

The Fort New Salem Foundation will introduce Irish Road Bowling, a Civil War era sport, as a benefit match on Sunday October 23, 2011, at Fort New Salem. The start time will be 1:30 p.m. All proceeds go to the Fort New Salem Foundation. The Foundation is working on a restoration of this living-history outdoor museum interpreting the history, crafts and lifestyle of pioneering Appalachian settlers. The Fort consists of 18, soon to be 19, log structures on an 8-acre site overlooking Route 50 in western Harrison County. Nine of the structures have been restored and upgraded, with nine remaining. All proceeds go to this restoration.

Everyone is encouraged to see the Fort New Salem restoration, and enjoy a roll and stroll with Irish Road Bowling on a West Virginia autumn afternoon. Teams can be 2, 3 or 4 - any single bowlers will be placed on teams at the start.

This restoration plan, "passionately preserving our Appalachian heritage," has been spearheaded by a group of dedicated volunteers, and the Foundation appreciates support from surrounding communities. New events at Fort New Salem, include blacksmithing, dulcimer and other workshops, the Front Porch Series of concerts, and on December weekends continues the traditional Spirit of Christmas in the Mountains. As new buildings and events are added, the Fort can become a significant tourism draw for the state.

Irish Road Bowling, an ancient sport from rural Ireland, was played by Union and Confederate Irish troops during the American Civil War. It is extremely easy to learn, and play. It is scored like golf, the player or team throwing the fewest shots from start to finish line wins the match. A 28 ounce iron and steel "bowl" the size of a tennis ball is thrown underhand, and a chalk mark is made on the road next to where the bowl stops. The next shot is thrown from behind that mark and so forth to the finish.

All proceeds will go directly to the Fort New Salem Foundation; cost is \$20.00 per person which includes a Pioneer-style dinner at the Fort, or \$10.00 for the dinner only. Pre-registration is requested, and can be made at the Salem City Building, 229 West Main Street, Salem, W.V. 26426, 304-782-1318, or by contacting the Fort New Salem Foundation director@fortnewsalemfoundation.org, 304 695 2220. See also www.fortnewsalemfoundation.org or for info David Powell 202 387 1680, wdp320@aol.com.