

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

March 2012

Lockhart, Texas

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Stage Marshal - **Phantom**

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Flag Marshal - **Artiman**

The President's Word from Dragon Hill Dave



As you may have heard, I have been elected (more like drafted) to be president of the **Plum Creek Shooting Society**. I have agreed to serve in this position because I believe that Agarita Ranch is an outstanding Cowboy Action Shooting venue and I want to help it reach its potential. It has so many advantages: a full size Western town, flush toilets, ample parking, RV spots with electricity and water, bunkhouses, marshal's offices, and other places for rent for overnight stays, 10 full stages with lots of space for loading and unloading, an imposing hotel and a saloon, excellent food, proximity to even more excellent barbeque, and a large pavilion for meals and events. Did I mention the flush toilets?

Equally important, the Agarita Ranch has landowners **Delta Raider** and **Kitchen Kate**, who are dedicated to making this a must-visit cowboy action venue. **Delta Raider** has devoted himself and his ranch staff to constant improvement of the shooting and visiting experience. But it has been a lot for one man and one woman. The formation of the **Plum Creek Shooting Society**, as a club with officers and volunteers, is designed to ease some of the load from **Delta Raider's** shoulders and continue the effort to improve the shooting experience.

Joining me as officers are **Joe Darter** as Vice President, **Long Juan** as Secretary and **True Blue Cachoo** as Treasurer. **Jake Paladin** continues as our Territorial Governor. But there are a number of volunteers who are also dedicated and strong supporters of the club, like **Elroy Rogers** and **Wild Hog**. We have been very lucky to have the talents of **Phantom** as our new Stage Marshal designing

our stages and scenarios. Lots of folks raved -positively- about the *Ride with Pancho Villa* shooting scenarios.

We had 62 shooters at *Ride with Pancho Villa*. They all had a great time. The weather was good, the stages were enjoyable, the food was good, and the generosity of Agarita Ranch to the shooters was overwhelming. Each shooter received a complementary group picture from Major Photography, a coffee cup, and Agarita Ranch shopping bag, and a shooter's booklet as well as breakfast Saturday and Sunday morning, two lunches and a dinner as part of their entry fee. Each posse drew for a derringer to be awarded to one member of the posse and each shooter got a ticket for a drawing for a '97. We offered a demonstration of Western 3-Gun, a Wild Bunch side match, long-range side matches, speed side matches, and Cody/Dixon and GAF categories. And awards for every contest. Every morning (and one evening) we got started with a cannon blast from a real cannon. Thanks to **Artiman** and his crew. Good shooting, good grub, logo'd goodies, and the chance to win guns—it was a solid value. If you didn't make it this year, then put it on the calendar for next year. You will want to be there.

One of the issues that some have mentioned in the past is **targets** at Agarita Ranch. No problem at this shoot, and they won't be a problem in the future. All of our shotgun targets functioned well if the shooter hit them (yes, we do still have a few rabbits, but they did go down). Our swingers swung, our tombstone targets fell, and our rifle and pistol fallers were falling. We plan to continue to improve our targets to assure that the only problem the shooter has to worry about is hitting them.

Another issue that some have mentioned is **scoring**. Agarita Ranch uses a total time scoring system. It has had some problems in the past, and unfortunately we had a few problems this time as well at *Ride with Pancho Villa*. But we have located and fixed those problems, posted the revised score sheet, and as far as we know the results for the individual categories did not change. **Phantom** and **Dream Chaser** were still our overall winners. But of course this identifies a problem that we are addressing with a dedicated staff of volunteers who will be in charge of entering and checking the scores. That is one of the advantages of having a club with volunteers who will assume those responsibilities.

I hope you can tell how excited I am about this new job and the

changes that are happening at Agarita Ranch. I want to hear from you about our club. If you have had issues in the past, or there is something that you think we need to address, I want to hear about it. So drop me a line at my email address below and I will get on it for you and for all of us.

If you have new shooters you want to bring out, but they lack leather or guns, let us know ahead of time and we can fix them up. If you have been in this sport for any length of time, you end up with more guns and leather than you can use on a single day, so many of us have extras that we can use to outfit your new shooter. And if we know of a new shooter ahead of time, we can plan the posses so we can make sure they have some help if needed as they shoot along with us.

Our next shoot will be the monthly shoot April 7th. I hope that you will put it on your calendar and come out and join us. If you haven't been here in awhile, come back out and check out the new **Plum Creek Shooting Society**. If you have never been, then you should correct that error right away and come out and shoot with us. And for those of you who are dedicated shooters with us—thanks and it will be good to see you again.

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Ride with Pancho Villa 2012

by Long Juan



March 2-4, 2012, the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* hosted its annual *Ride with Pancho Villa* match at the Agarita Ranch near Lockhart, Texas. The Agarita Ranch, which is owned and operated by **Delta Raider** and **Kitchen Kate**, has a 10-stage cowboy action shooting range nestled among buildings and structures of an Old West town. Included among the structures are a bunkhouse and hotel (where shooters and other guests can stay), a stockade (Fort Agarita), wheelwright shop, livery stable, barn, marshal's office and jail, bathhouse (complete with flush toilets), chapel, general store, saloon and pavilion for meals and other activities. There is plenty of parking, including space for RV hook-up (electric & water).

The weekend began Thursday with RO1 and RO2 classes taught by **Dusty Lone Star**, **SASS** Regulator and Territorial Governor. The shooting began Friday morning with a Western 3-Gun match. Set up and run by veteran shooters, **Phantom** and **Joe Darter**, participants enjoyed cowboy action shooting *on the move*. Scoring is similar to SASS, but one second is deducted from the shooter's score for each bullseye hit with pistols and the rifle. With a possible 20-second deduction, negative scores are possible, although



the lowest score this match was 16.52 by **Joe Darter** on one of the stages. Fun was had by all, especially those shooting W3G for the first time.

The weekend continued Friday afternoon with a 4-stage Wild Bunch match run by **Dragon Hill Dave**. Shooters competed in the traditional and modern categories, with **DHD** taking first in traditional and **Lucky Nickel** finishing first in modern. Long-Range and Fastest Derringer/Pocket-Pistol side matches began Friday afternoon and were completed Saturday afternoon, when Fastest Pistol, Fastest Shotgun, Fastest Rifle and Fastest 3-Gun side matches were shot. The winners were, Fastest Derringer-**Verdadero**, Fastest Pocket Pistol-**Fast Tracker**, Fastest Pistol-**Dream Chaser**, Fastest Rifle-**Verdadero**, Fastest Shotgun-**Dragon Hill Dave**, and Fastest 3-Gun-**Verdadero**. **Dream Chaser** asked why we bother with separate men's and women's categories in the main match? All of the rest of us wondered why we are not competitive in fastest anything? The winners in long-range competition proved speed is not everything: Single Shot, Big Bore Rifle-**Wild Hog**, Buffalo Rifle-**Fairplay John**, Lever-Action, Big Bore-**Grandpa Dillon**, Lever-Action, Pistol Caliber-**Fairplay John**, and Long-Range Pistol-**Fairplay John**. It must run in the family, **Fairplay John's** wife, **Bristlecone Jan** finished second in Buffalo Rifle and third in Lever-Action, Big Bore. Congratulations to all!!



Saturday morning the real fun began as a cool front cleared out the warm, humid air and the main match began. Following pledges of allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flags and a prayer, there was the obligatory safety meeting for all shooters. Just before the





shooting began, the *Austin Light Artillery Battery*, led by Lt. Jay Davis (**Artiman**), fired its reproduction "1841 Six-Pound, Smooth-Bore Light Artillery Piece" named *Patience* to signal the start of the shoot. More than 60 shooters competed on four posses in 22 different categories. Virtually all of the usual **SASS** categories were represented, including Cody/Dixon, but unique to the *Plum Creek Shooting Society*, several shooters competed in

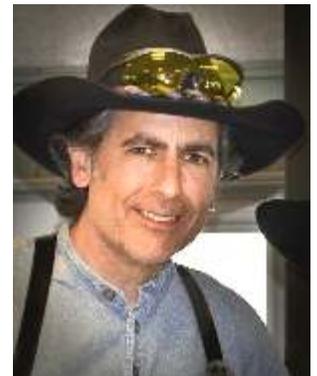


Grand Army of the Frontier (GAF) single-shot and repeater categories. *GAF* competitors wear military uniforms suitable for the era and shoot military weapons – a rifle, e.g., Sharps Carbine, Springfield Trapdoor or rifle-caliber

lever-action (using the Cody/Dixon targets), and one pistol they reload on the clock. No shotgun.

All ten main-match stages were designed by **Phantom**. A walk-through by posse marshals a week before the match identified and corrected any minor ambiguities. All of the stages included a scenario out of Pancho Villa's notorious life, from his days as a young outlaw, through his success and leadership during the Mexican Revolution (including his raid on Columbus, New Mexico), to his assassination in 1923. Two of the favorite stages included swingers. The first

stage started with the line, "Damn you Alvaro Obregon" (a Mexican general who defeated Pancho and his troops during the revolution), after which shooters released and engaged a large swinger with their first pistol. Shooters then engaged two pistol targets with their second pistol, alternating shots between targets. With their rifles, shooters next engaged a close, but small diamond target, alternating with shots on hanging chimes that were not close. Shooters finished the stage by dispatching four shotgun knock-downs in any order. The next stage began with the line, "A *revolucion* can be very profitable!" Pancho, who grew up poor, came out of the revolution with land and money. The shooters first engaged four pistol targets in a continuous progressive sweep. Moving to the rifle, the swinger was released and engaged with one shot, followed by a triple-tap on each of three rifle targets. Then shooters were required to reload and engage the swinger one last time. This stage also finished with shooters engaging four shotgun knock-downs in any order. Other stages included tombstone knock-downs for both rifle and pistol, hanging chimes and a variety of other target sizes, shapes and distances, together with interesting patterns. Great job **Phantom**!!



Six of ten main-match stages were shot Saturday; the final four stages were shot on Sunday. There was a dinner for all participants in the pavilion Saturday night, before which there was a costume contest. After dinner, costume and side-match awards were handed out. Winners of the costume awards included Best Dressed Couple-**Bad Little Mama & Lincoln Drifter**, Best Dressed Lady-**Bad Little Mama**, Best Dressed Gentleman-**Paso Tom**, Best Dressed Working Cowgirl-**Dream Chaser**, Best Dressed

Working Cowboy-**Jake Jones**, Best Dressed Military Man-**Lincoln Drifter**, Best Dressed Military "Woman"-**Jarhead Jake**. That last award may require some explanation, but **Jarhead Jake** and **Delta Raider** are not talking.



During *RPV12*, each posse drew for a Cobra derringer supplied by the *Plum Creek Shooting Society*. There was also a drawing for an 1897 shotgun donated by **Red's Indoor Range** in Austin. It was a good night for **Bad Little Mama**. In addition to winning two of the best-dressed awards, her number was drawn for the '97. There was also a silent auction Saturday night. Many items were donated for auction by sponsors, by the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* and by club members. Included among the items auctioned were a framed copy of the *RPV12* poster created and donated



by **Sterling Sage**, an 1849 Pocket Pistol donated by **Cimarron Firearms** and **Texas Jack's** in Fredericksburg, Texas, a pair of chinks (short chaps) donated by **Callahan's General Store** in Austin, a fine knife donated by **McBride's Guns** in Austin, a photo shoot donated by **Ranch Style Photography** in Lockhart, a straw hat donated by **Texas Hatters** in Lockhart, and a 1911 pistol provided by the **PCSS**. All who bid, and especially those who had the high bids, seemed happy with the results. Thanks to all who donated and a special thanks to our "corporate" sponsors, **Red's**, **Cimarron** and **Texas Jack's**, **Callahan's**, **McBride's**, **Ranch Style** and **Texas Hatters**. **PCSS** members, be sure to show your appreciation by thanking our sponsors in person next time you have a chance. Better yet, thank them while checking out when you next purchase something.

After shooting the final four stages Sunday morning, there was a great lunch, during which main-match awards were handed out. Congratulations to Top Guns **Phantom** and **Dream Chaser**. Congratulations to first-place finishers among the ladies: Cowgirl-**Texas Two-Step**, Wrangler-**Tahnimara**, 49r-**Dream Chaser**, Senior-**Weezy Anna**, Silver Senior-**Bristlecone Jan**, Grand Dame-**Boosey Babe** and Frontier Cartridge-



Lorelei Longshot. Finally, congratulations to the men who finished in first place: Cowboy-**Austin Slim**, Wrangler-**Phantom**, 49r-**Joe Darter**, Senior-**Verdadero**, Silver Senior-**Lonesome Lefty**, Elder Statesman-**Navarro Ned**, Duelist-**Long Juan**, Senior Duelist-**Sheriff Leming**, Frontiersman-**Wyandot Jim**, Frontier Cartridge-**Manassas Jack**, Frontier Cartridge



Duelist-**Jake Jones**,
 Classic Cowboy-
Dragon Hill Dave,
 B-Western-ET,
 Cody/Dixon Lever-
Lars Christopherson,
 Cody/Dixon Single-
Elroy Rogers, GAF
 Repeater-**Scooter**
 and GAF Single-
Jarhead Jake.

2013. Make plans to be in Central Texas next March to shoot a great match at a great venue.



The spotters say CLEAN??

Everyone had a great time at *Ride with Pancho Villa 2012*. The weather was super, if a little warm and muggy on Friday and a little windy on Saturday. Many new friends were made, as shooters from all over the country participated. There were shooters from Washington, Minnesota, Oklahoma and throughout Texas. Thanks to Match Director **Buck Bradley** and many other volunteers, *RPV12* was a great success. The only complaint heard all weekend was that the stages were too easy. After all, 11 shooters shot clean and there were few P's! But that's not a bad problem to have! Preparation is already underway for *Ride with Pancho Villa*



More pictures from *RPV12* begin on page 12.



Ride with Pancho Villa 2012

Artie Fly - Major Photography

<http://majorphoto.com/>



Find Chuck

Five people found Chuck in February. Congratulations to **Boon Doggle, Skinny Steve, Lefty Leo, Artiman** and **Mesquite Creek Mike**. All identified Chuck as one of Pancho Villa's banditos in the photograph to the left. Find Chuck again this month and you will be "mentioned in the dispatches" next month. This time it will be more of a challenge. Chuck/Delta Raider appears as himself in several photograph's from Ride with Pancho Villa. **THOSE TO NOT COUNT!!!** Find him in another pic, where he does not belong. Yes, I guarantee he is there.

Long Juan Here!

I want to keep it short this month. We have lots of other great content, including the **President's Word** from **Dragon Hill Dave**.



I want to thank our **RPV12** volunteers, sponsors and auction donors. From Match Director **Buck Bradley** to poster-designer **Sterling Sage**, the event would not have been possible without all of your hard work. Thank you, thank you, thank you – **Delta Raider, Kitchen Kate, Buck Bradley, Phantom, Joe Darter, Dragon Hill Dave, Wild Hog, Elroy Rogers, Mesquite Creek Mike, Gold Dog, Sterling Sage, Belle Fire, Old Bill Dick, Artiman, Lefty Leo, Kickshot, Six Goin' South** and **Dream Chaser**. Thanks also to those who provided photos of the event: **Dealin' Lead, Bright Eyes** and **Wm. "Fast Pete" Carson**.

Thanks to our sponsors – **Callahan's General Store, Cimarron Firearms** and **Texas Jack's, Red's Indoor Shooting Range** (Elroy Rogers), **Ranch Styles General Store, Arrow Business Printing** (Chisos), **Major Photography** (Artie Fly), **McBride's Guns, Texas Hatters, Circle M Saddlery** and **Things by MiHand**. Thanks also

to **Circle M** and **Mihand** for having vendor tents at the match.

Thanks to our sponsors and to **Ann Strohm** and **Lefty Leo** (Hardwood Pens by Leo), **Sterling Sage, Artiman, Boon Doggle, Jake Jones, True Blue Cachoo, Jake Paladin, Kitchen Kate** and **Delta Raider**, all of whom donated to the silent auction. We raised more than \$1,700 for the **Plum Creek Shooting Society**.

If I left anyone out, you have both my thanks and my apology.

Charles Goodnight (SASS #16522) pointed out a few mistakes I made when writing about **Cody/Dixon** recently. Ranges for C/D targets are 50-150 yards. The **Savage 99, Ruger #1** and **Little Sharps** rifles are NOT allowed. Lever-action rifles may be loaded with all six rounds. There is no requirement to load one on the clock.

Finally, I have two more 2012 calendars. If you asked for one and have not received it, see me at the next shoot. Hope to see all of you shooting at the **Agarita Ranch** – soon and often.



RO's Corner – by Long Juan

Range Operations and Ranger Officer Training

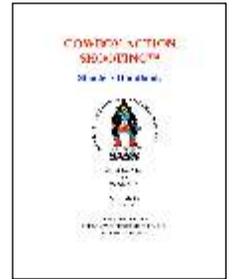
I attended a great RO1/RO2 refresher course presented by **Dusty Lone Star** Thursday before *Ride with Pancho Villa*. The RO1 course is a general course on SASS rules. All shooters will benefit from taking this course, whether you ever intend to RO or not. The foundation for the course is the *Range Operations Basic Safety Course (Level I)* manual that is available for download on the SASS website. The manual provides interpretation of the basic rules found in the SASS *Shooters Handbook*, which is also available for download on the SASS website. Between the manual and the handbook, you can find all the answers you might want or need relating to everything from selecting an alias, what firearms are allowed, categories and costuming requirements, side matches, scoring and, most importantly, safety. Your club officers strongly encourage all shooters to complete at

least the RO1 course. There is a small charge the first time you take it. Refreshers are free. If nothing else, at least download and read the *Shooters Handbook* and the *RO1 Manual*.

If you are interested in running the timer regularly, being a match director or just learning more about our great sport, the RO2 course, based on the *Range Officer Training Course (Level II)* manual, is a must. You will learn what is required for a match, safe stage design, shooter evaluation and the duties of the Range Officer during a shoot.

You can download all three manuals, as well as manuals for Mounted Cowboy Action Shooting, Match Administration and Wild Bunch, at <http://sassnet.com/Shooters-Handbook-001A.php>.

Read the manuals. Take the courses. You will enjoy yourself; you will learn and you will become a better shooter. I guarantee it..



What's it Mean? *Zorilla*

A *zorilla* looks like a striped polecat that somewhat resembles a skunk, but is actually related to the weasel. Did you know that *zorilla* also was a word used to refer to line-backed longhorns, the "black cattle" of early Texas? Cattle were not indigenous to North American. Spanish explorers brought their dark, thin-legged, wiry Moorish-Andalusian cattle with them to Mexico. The cattle strayed and soon turned wild. In the wild they thrived, becoming heavy-boned, skinny

and swift. Their long legs and long horns provided offensive weapons and defensive protection. Also referred to a *cimarrones* (wild ones), the black cattle developed a fiery temper and a malicious cleverness. Black cattle were usually marked by a light dorsal stripe and were often *sprockled* with white spots on the flank and

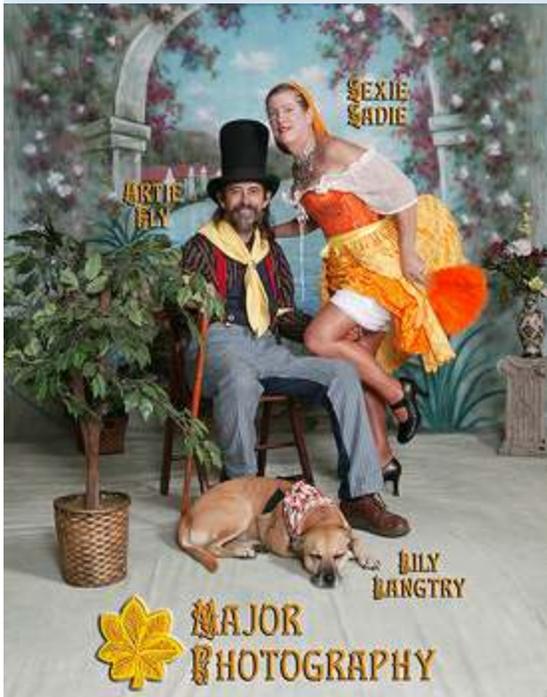


Sprockled Poinsettias

belly. Zorillas migrated to Texas from Mexico and mixed with eastern cattle brought to Texas by American settlers. The result was the Texas Longhorn.

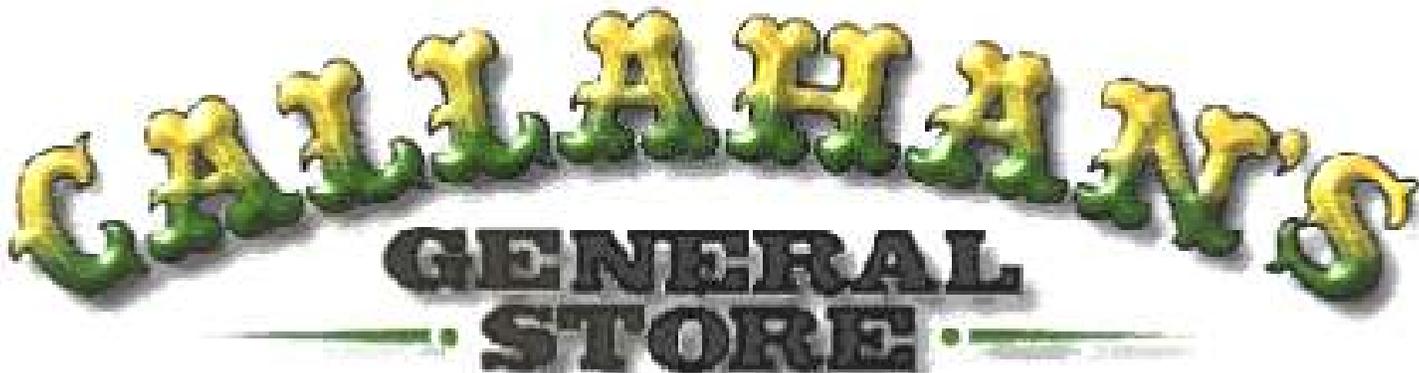


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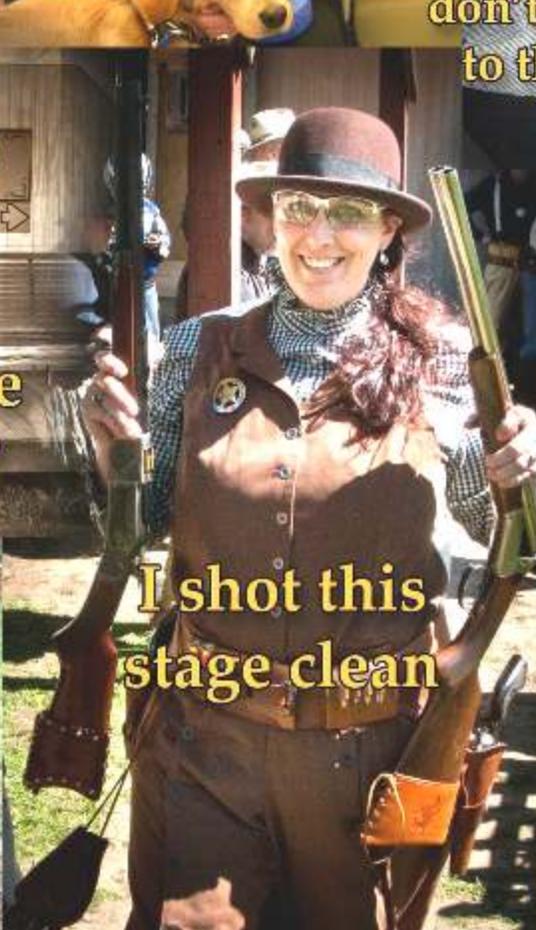
Ride with Pancho Villa 2012

Happy Clean Shooters ALL!!

Chuck, I just don't know how to thank you!



What about some nose protection?



I shot this stage clean

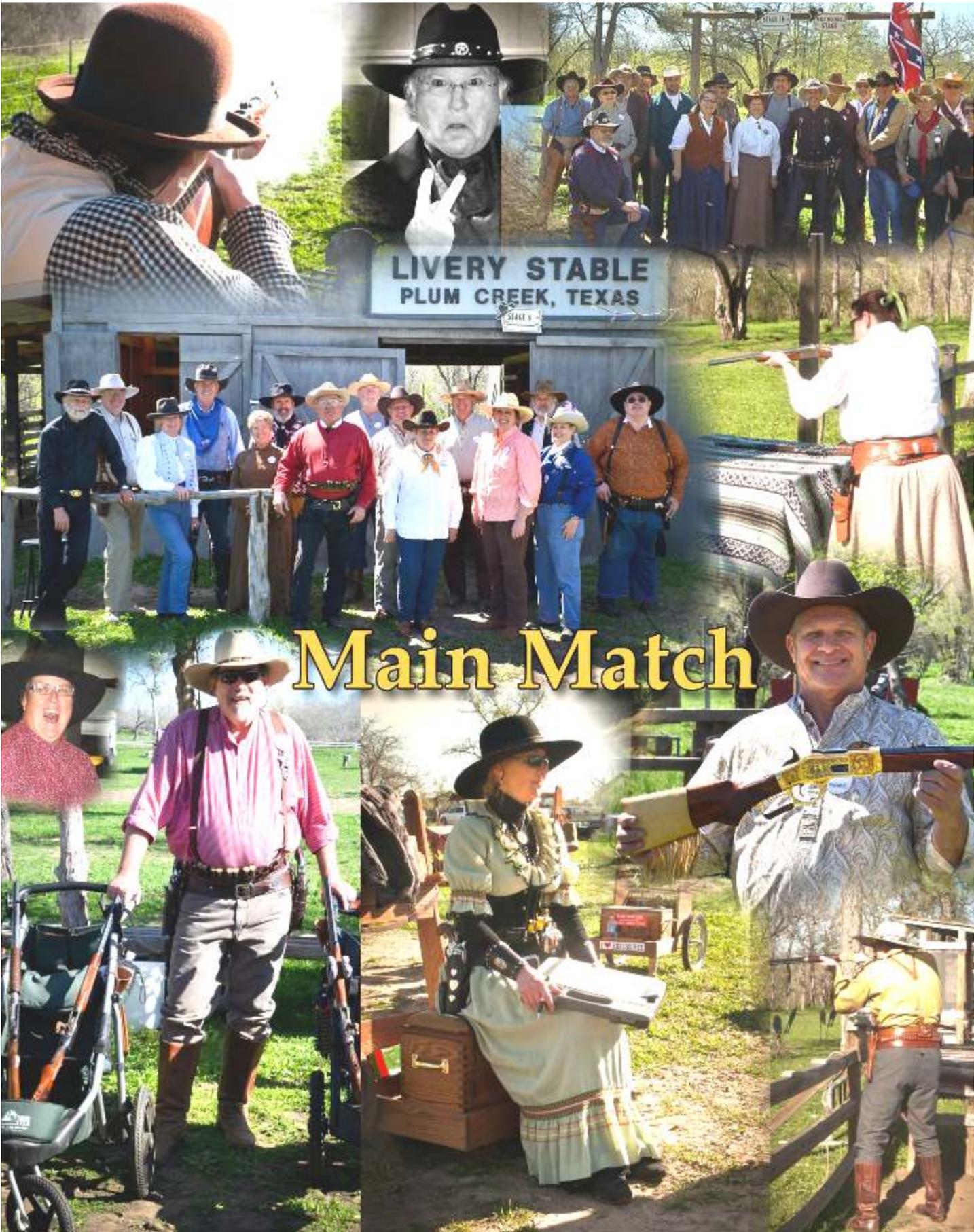


Next? Admiral! What else?



Butt, butt what?

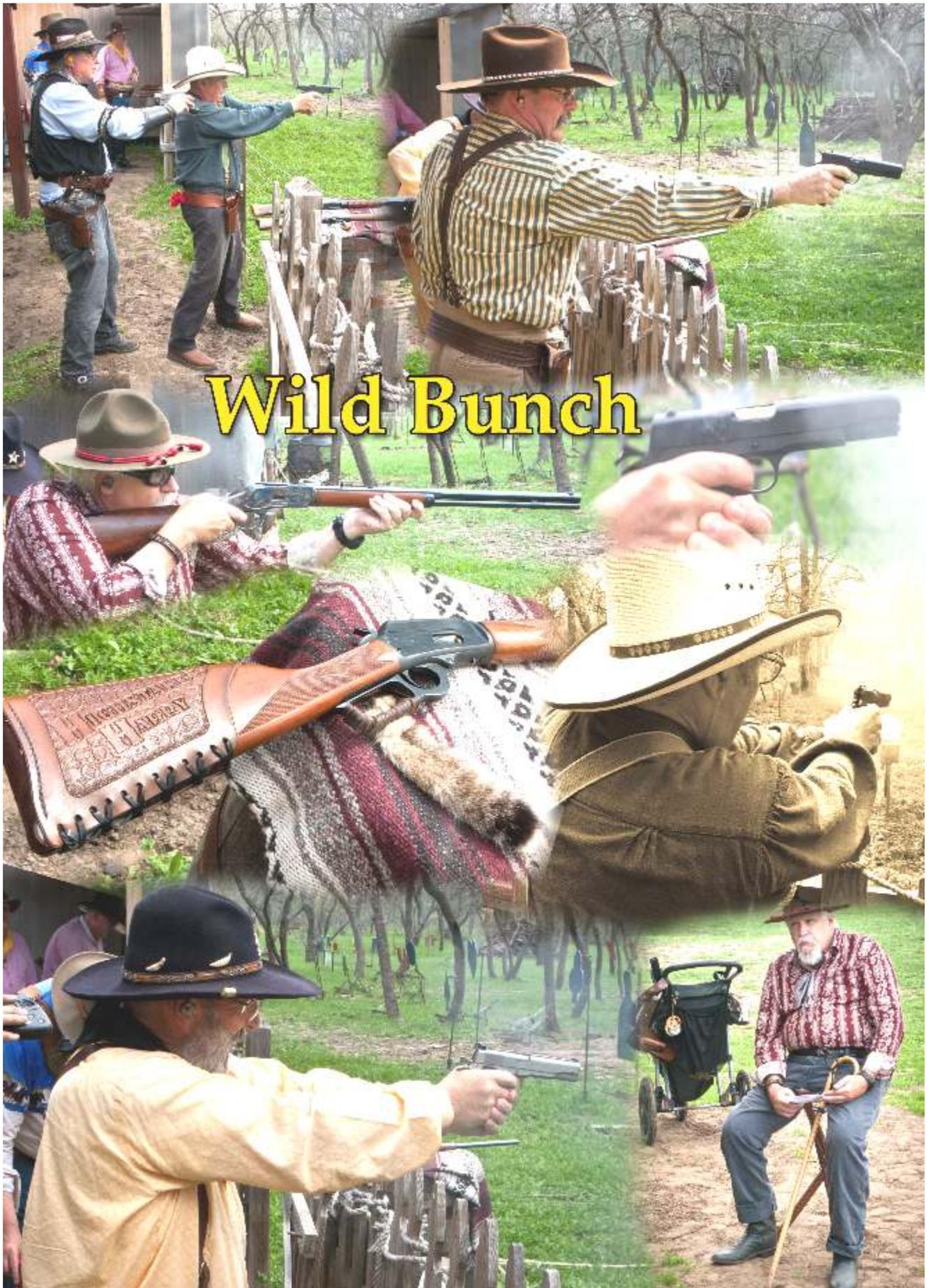






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	125	RNFP	58
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	130	RNFP	59
	158	RNFP	63
	158	FP	63
	158	SWC	63
	.380	100	RNFP
.38-55	245	RNFP	92*
.41	215	SWC	77
.44	180	RNFP	67
	240	SWC	81
.44-40	200	RNFP	70
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	76*
	180	RNFP	67
	200	RNFP	70
	250	RNFP	83
9MM	124	RN	58
	125	CN	58
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