

# AGARITA GAZETTE



*A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society*



Agarita Ranch

December 2011

Lockhart, Texas

## *Long Juan here!*

It's hard to believe this issue represents the end of my first year as editor of the *Agarita Gazette*. It has been a fun and productive year for me. From feedback I've received, I think most of you have appreciated and enjoyed my efforts. I want to thank those of you who provided input – feature stories, photos, information and the like. I hope for more input in 2012. My self-imposed deadline for publication each month is the 15<sup>th</sup>. That means I need any input for publication in a given month at the monthly match or shortly thereafter, particularly feature articles. Never fear if you are late. I may not get your submission in the *Gazette* for the current month, but it will run for sure the following month unless I have more input than I can handle in a single issue. That would be a GREAT problem to have. If you notice changes in format this month and in the months to follow, they are the result of my investment (finally) in a desktop publishing



program. I struggled with columns, tables, inserting photos and the like in Microsoft Word for as long as I could stand it. I hope my switch will simplify, speed up and eliminate the frustration of layout for future issues. With a few minor exceptions, it certainly did this time. As always, I welcome suggestions for improving both the form and content of the *Agarita Gazette*. In closing, I wish each and every one of you a **Merry Christmas** or whatever greeting fits your personal beliefs.

## *WHAT'S INSIDE?*

**Faro:** What's it mean?. Page 4.



**Western 3-Gun**  
Page. 3

Page 2.

**Match Report:**  
Rain *almost* washed out the annual Christmas shoot, party and silent auction.



## *Ride with Pancho Villa*

Our annual *Ride with Pancho Villa* match will take place Friday-Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> through March 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be Western 3-Gun, Wild Bunch and side matches on Friday, with side matches to continue Saturday afternoon. We will shoot six main-match stages on Saturday and four on Sunday, followed by an awards banquet. Lunch and dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday are included in the registration fee. Each posse will draw for a gun and all shooters will draw for another. **Buck Bradley** is match director. **Phantom** is writing the main match scenarios. **Joe Darter** is responsible for Western 3-Gun and **Dragon Hill Dave** is handling Wild Bunch. With that cast of characters in charge, it's bound to be a great match! Registration form and shooters' schedule on pages 11 & 12.

## *December Match Report*

No one complained about the rain, but it certainly put a damper on our December shoot and Christmas party.

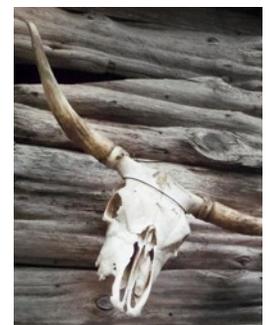
**Gold Dog, Scooter, Phantom, ET, Lucky Nickel, Bunkhouse Bob, Buckeye Slim and Lightning McQueen** were the only ones who braved the mud and muck to shoot the match. Only **Gold Dog** shot clean. Complete results on page 8. Twenty-six enjoyed a dinner of wild hog roasted on a spit by several Living History re-enactors. Thanks **Delta Raider** for planning a great event. Sorry the weather was not better. Despite the low turnout, the silent auction raised \$600 for the Caldwell County 4-H Shooting Club.

One of the items in the silent auction was a great **2012 PCSS calendar** created by **Sterling Sage** using photos from our matches during 2011. Additional calendars were available for \$20 and sold out quickly. \$8 per calendar went to the PCSS treasury. Thanks **Sterling Sage** for the idea and work that went into making the calendar/fund-raiser possible.

For those who missed out, more calendars can be ordered. Email me at [jsoule@scottdoug.com](mailto:jsoule@scottdoug.com) or give me an order at the January shoot. The price will depend on how many we order. See some of the calendar photos on page 7.

### Marshals

Range Marshal - *Delta Raider*  
Territorial Governor - *Jake Paladin*  
Safety Marshal - *Elroy Rogers*  
Protest Marshal - *Schuetzum Phast*  
Stage Marshal - *Phantom*  
Long-Range Marshal - *Wild Hog*  
Administrative Marshal - *Long Juan*  
Medical Marshal - *Jake Paladin*  
Raffle Marshal - *True Blue Cachoo*  
Costume Marshal - *Lorelei Longshot*  
Entertainment Marshal - *Old Bill Dick*  
Special Events Marshal - *Belle Fire*  
Side Match Marshal - *Texas Sarge*  
Editor, Agarita Gazette - *Long Juan*



## Western 3-Gun returns to Agarita Ranch

Those of you who participated in the Western 3-Gun ("W3G") match during the Battle of Plum Creek this past October will be excited to know that W3G will return to Agarita Ranch in 2012. Those of you who did not participate in or watch the match in October may wonder what W3G is? It

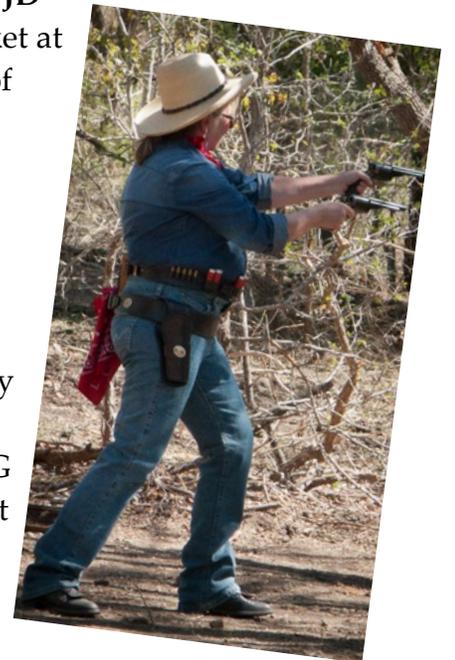


is a form of cowboy action shooting that allows shooting on the move and awards bonuses for accuracy. Basic requirements are essentially the same as SASS for guns, ammo and costuming. Shooting categories include: **Open** (shoot any style and go fast), **Shootist** (allows shooting with one or both hands, includes gender and age-based grouping), **Duelist** (shooting with either hand unsupported), **Gunfighter** (shooting with both hands at the same time), **Blackpowder Cartridge** (shooting with both hands allowed) and **Cap & Ball** (shooting duelist-style required). Other requirements for each category

can be found in the official W3G rules at [www.western3gun.com](http://www.western3gun.com). A shooter's total time, from timer buzz to last shot, is recorded. Each miss results a 5-second penalty added to the shooter's time. One second is deducted from the shooters total time (bonus) for each target hit dead-center during the course of fire. Penalties, e.g., not following stage instructions, add 10 seconds to the shooter's score. Once the timer starts in W3G, the shooter owns the stage – no do-overs. Shooters may not move with a finger in the trigger guard while the hammer is cocked, unless he or she is actively aiming at or engaging a target. Running is not required; but shooters have to move through each stage, as targets are often obscured until the shooter moves.

In 2012, there will be a W3G match at Agarita Ranch the last Saturday of each quarter – March 31<sup>st</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup>, September 29<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup>. **Phantom** and **Joe Darter** again will be in charge. **JD** reports the W3G donation bucket at BPC was filled with \$106. All of that money is being used to purchase targets, blockers and other needed supplies. Rumor has it that **Pine Tree** is constructing some new steel targets.

Hope everyone will be ready to shoot the last weekend of March in your next or first W3G match. Be ready to move, shoot straight, shoot fast and have fun!



## *Faro: What's it mean?*

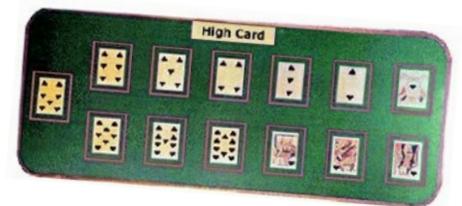
Today, the card game known as Faro is all but forgotten, but it once was the most popular card game in the United States. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century Faro gaming tables could be found in just about every saloon in every frontier town. From Deadwood to Tijuana, from Reno to Langtry, from New Orleans to St. Louis and countless places in between, the Faro table was a familiar sight and sound to virtually all persons who hung out in saloons.



Faro is a very old card game. Pharaoh, as it was originally known, originated in France in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century in the court of King Louis XIV. Its name was derived from the picture of an Egyptian Pharaoh on one of the cards in a French deck of cards. Pharo or Faro, as it became known, was extremely fashionable in Europe, particularly in England, during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The game disappeared from Europe after the early 1800's, but became exceptionally popular in America where it was considered by many to be "the national card game." During the Civil War, there were more than 150 gambling houses in Washington, D.C. Faro was the principal attraction in each and every one of them. From

1825 to 1915, Faro was played in almost every gambling hall in the Old West. Although poker is better known today, it was fairly obscure until the late 1850's and didn't really catch on until the 1870's. When Faro is played honestly, the odds of a player winning are the best of all gambling games. With easy-to-learn rules, Faro was the premier game of the Old West. High-rolling gamblers liked the easy odds and others enjoyed the quick action and thrill of staking it all on the turn of a single card.

Played with a standard deck of 52 cards, Faro is possibly the simplest gambling card game ever devised. In the Old West, it was usually played at a noisy table. Players (called "punters") stood around the edges of the table. Any number could play, although it began to get crowded if more than ten tried to muscle in at the same time. The dealer was called the "banker." A Faro table was usually oval, covered with green blazie (felt) and had a cutout for the banker. The betting layout consisted of one card of each denomination from ace to king, usually spades. There was also a "high card" betting box at the top of the layout. The banker/dealer used a dealing box, from which one card was dealt at a time without exposing those underneath. The first card in the dealing box, called "the soda", was discarded. The banker then dealt two cards per turn. There were 25 turns to a game; the soda and "the hock" (last card turned up) making up the 52 cards of a deck.



The object of Faro was for players to predict which cards would appear. Players bet on a card number to win by placing chips or "checks" on that card number on the betting layout. Players could bet on any number of cards. The first card dealt each turn, called "the banker's card", lost

for the players who bet that number. The second card, called "the player's card" won for the players who bet that number. Winners were paid even money. A player could bet a card to lose by placing a token on top of his checks. This bet was called "coppering", because copper coins or copper washers were used as tokens. A high-card bet won if the player's card had a higher value than the banker's card. If a pair was dealt (e.g., two kings, two sixes, etc.), the banker took half of any bet on that card. The hock card belonged to the dealer. The split and hock were an honest Faro bank's only real advantage over the players. At the end of each turn, remaining bets could be withdrawn or left on the layout for the next turn, any new bets could be placed and then play continued.

Faro was a pure game of chance. The only element of strategy involved the "case-keeper." The case-keeper was like an abacus with four beads on wires opposite each card. When the deal began, all the beads were pushed against the

cards, but as soon as soda was discarded, the corresponding bead was moved to the far end of the wire. With every turn the two beads opposite the cards dealt were moved

away. When all four cards of a denomination had been played, the four beads would be snapped together, indicating that the number was dead. If anyone placed a bet on a dead denomination, it became the property of the person (player or banker) to notice it and declare the error.



In an honest game of Faro, a player's chances were just short of even. Because there was no significant edge for the "house", cheating became commonplace. Trick decks, sleight-of-hand, and crooked or "gaffed" dealing boxes became common place. Every Faro table in Soapy Smith's 1889 Denver Tivoli Social Club was fixed to cheat. Even so, famed scam artist Canada Bill Jones loved the game so much that when asked why he played Faro at Soapy's, a game that was known to be rigged, he replied: "For better or worse, it's the only game in town." Cheating became so prevalent that American editions of *Hoyle's Rules of Games* began their Faro section with a disclaimer warning readers that an honest Faro bank could not be found in the United States. Dealers were not the only ones cheating. Carefully practiced distraction techniques and sleight-of-hand by dishonest players were common. Proven cheating often resulted in gunplay or a brawl, both of which gave better odds to a player, unless the player was in a "skinning den" (a term used for a game where most of the people in the room were cooperating together to cheat an unsuspecting player).

Faro forms an interesting part of American Western lore. Generations of Americans have been misled into believing poker was commonly played throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century Old West. In fact, Faro was the gambling card game of choice. Wild West gamblers who are often remembered for poker savvy actually got rich off Faro. They didn't actually play the game. They banked the game. Doc Holliday, among many others, was an itinerant Faro dealer, toting the table apparatus with him wherever he traveled. Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday both dealt Faro at the Oriental saloon in Tombstone. Western books and western films of the 1940s, as well as popular western TV shows, disregarded Faro in favor of poker. Although there were references to Faro in the radio version of *Gunsmoke*, starring William Conrad in the early 50's, it was not until John Wayne's last movie, *The Shootist*, in 1976, that western movie directors attempted to "get it

right" by portraying Faro being played in films. Now directors appear to be trying to get it right. For example, there are numerous references to Faro in the HBO television series, *Deadwood*.

By 1925, Faro had all but disappeared, in favor of craps, roulette and other games that have enticing payouts but give a much greater "edge" to the house. Faro is rarely played today. It became a casino game when Nevada legalized gambling in 1931, but went out of fashion after World War II. The last Faro "bank" was closed in Ely, Nevada, in 1975, although there was a short revival of Faro in Reno during the early 80's. Today, the vast majority of young American gamblers have never even heard of Faro. No doubt Wyatt Earp, Doc Holliday, Soapy Smith and other frontier gambling legends are rolling in their graves. At least now you know what Faro is and how it was played.

### ***RO's Corner: Spotter's Miss Matrix***

If you *know* it's a hit, it's a hit.

If you *think* it's a hit, it's a hit.

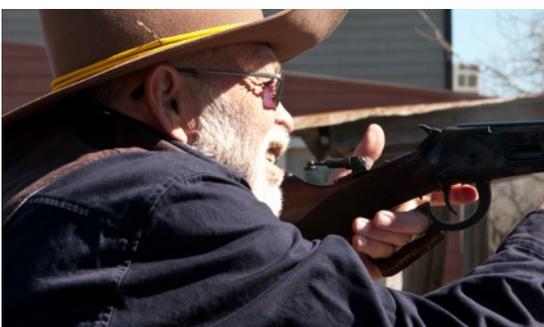
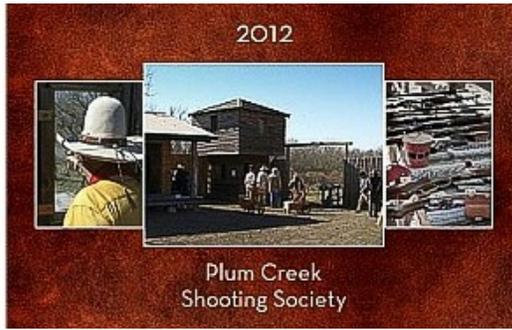
If you *think* it's a miss, it's a hit.

If you *know* it's a miss it's a miss.

**Now, all after me, if you *think* it's a miss, it's a ... .**



# 2012 Plum Creek Shooting Society Calendar



## PLUM CREEK SHOOTING SOCIETY CALENDAR

December 31, 2011	<b>New Membership/Waiver Forms &amp; Annual Dues</b>
January 7, 2012	Monthly Match
February 4, 2012	Monthly Match
March 2-4, 2012	<b>Ride with Pancho Villa</b> <b>See Registration Form and Shooters' Schedule last 2 pages.</b>
March 29-April 1, 2012	<b>Comancheria Days</b> – Texican Rangers
March 31, 2012	Western 3-Gun Match
April 7, 2012	Monthly Match

### Where's Chuck??

Somewhere in this issue, there is a picture of Chuck, *aka Delta Raider*. First person who tells me (**Long Juan**) where he is in what picture will get special mention in the dispatches - next issue of the *Agarita Gazette*.



#### December 3, 2011 Results

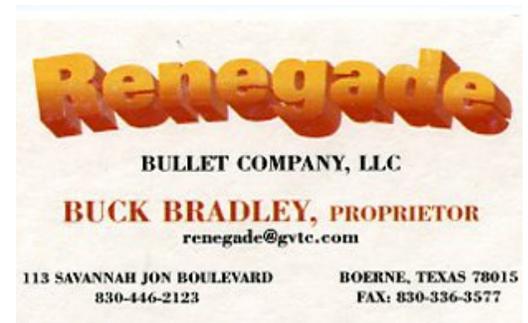
Name	Category	Score	Misses	P's
GOLD DOG	CDL	249.99	0	0
SCOOTER	GAFS	471.39	3	0
PHANTOM	M49	128.89	2	1
ET	M49	141.90	2	0
LUCKY NICKEL	MSS	198.37	4	1
BUNKHOUSE BOB	MSS	328.92	10	2
BUCKEYE SLIM	MW	257.88	11	0
LIGHTING McQUEEN	WBT	299.07	14	1



# Renegade Bullet Company

Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	52
	105	FP	53
	105	WC	53
	125	RNFP	56
	125	FP	56
	130	RNFP	57
	158	RNFP	61
	158	FP	61
	158	SWC	61
.380	100	RNFP	52
.38-55	245	RNFP	88*
.41	215	SWC	74
.44	180	RNFP	64
	240	SWC	78
.44-40	200	RNFP	67
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	70*
	180	RNFP	64
	200	RNFP	67
	250	RNFP	79
9MM	124	RN	56
	125	CN	56
40 S&W	180	FP	64
.45 ACP	200	SWC	67
	230	RN	75
45-70	405	FPT	180*

\* Pricing reflects the requirement for these bullets to be hand loaded to size and lube.





# Plum Creek Carriage & Shooting Society

## 2012 Waiver/Membership Application or Renewal

- \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Individual Jan-Dec (\$35)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Family\* (\$55)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Life Membership (Individual Only - \$200)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Half-Year Individual Jul-Dec (\$20)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Half Year Family Jul-Dec (\$30)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Correction/Update

SASS Member? \_\_\_ Yes/No \_\_\_ SASS#: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Each family member must complete a form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ ALIAS: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ RO I \_\_\_\_\_ RO II \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE : \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP : \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL : \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Please print clearly\*\*\***

I familiar with and agree to follow the safety rules of SASS and the PLUM CREEK CARRIAGE & SHOOTING SOCIETY ("PCCSS") while at the Agarita Ranch. I will maintain the highest level of firearms safety and sportsman-like conduct in the "Spirit of the Game" at all times. I recognize and accept the inherent risks associated with the discharge of firearms. I know how to handle safely the firearms I shoot at the Agarita Ranch. I certify that I can legally own and purchase firearms under the laws of the United States and Texas.

**I do hereby release and discharge the PLUM CREEK CARRIAGE & SHOOTING SOCIETY and its representatives, agents, servants, directors, employees, and/or any land owner or operating facility associated with the PLUM CREEK CARRIAGE & SHOOTING SOCIETY and the AGARITA RANCH from any and all liability, of every kind and character, howsoever arising, including bodily injuries and loss or damage of property, sustained by me, my guest, and any other person or entity, having or asserting claims or rights, by, through or under me; and I do covenant and agree to HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNIFY the said entities and persons from any claims of the nature released or discharged, arising by, through, or under me, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY CLAIMS ARISING OR ALLEGED TO ARISE FROM THE SOLE NEGLIGENCE OR ANY SUCH INDEMNITEE. I understand this is a one time waiver affecting me at any and all gatherings of the PLUM CREEK CARRIAGE & SHOOTING SOCIETY and while I am at the Agarita Ranch.**

**I AM SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT AS MY FREE ACT AND DEED FOR THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF CONSIDERATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN and/or SHOOTING PRIVILEGES WITH THE PLUM CREEK CARRIAGE & SHOOTING SOCIETY AND AT THE AGARITA RANCH.**

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian must also sign for family member under the age of 18.

# OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM FOR RIDE WITH PANTHO VILLA

**March 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Enclose total payment and mail with completed form. All refund requests must be received prior to February 21, 2012 and are subject to a \$25 processing fee. Shooter packets must be picked up before shooters meeting on Saturday.

**Make checks payable to: PCCSS Mail to:** 1794 Old Lytton Springs Rd., Lockhart, Texas 78544

www.PCCSS.Org • For Information call Delta Raider 512-376-2602

**(Complete an Entry Form for each shooter)**

ALIAS \_\_\_\_\_ SASS NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Match Fee (Fee covers all shooting events, Banquet and Awards Ceremony) \***

**Pre-Registration Before February 21, 2012** **\$105** \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**Registration received AFTER February 21, 2012** **\$115** \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra Banquet tickets and Awards Ceremony (EACH)** **\$20** \_\_\_\_\_

**Junior (14-16)** **\$25.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Buckaroo (13 & Younger) AGE \_\_\_\_\_ (Required)** **FREE** \_\_\_\_\_

**RV Hook-ups water & electricity \_\_\_\_\_ Nights @ \$25** \_\_\_\_\_

**RV-Dry Camping No Hook-ups \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Wild Bunch Side Match (4 Stages) March 2 at 12:00 AM Circle one YES / NO

Western Three Gun Match (3 Stages) March 2 at 8:30 PM Circle one YES / NO

**Side Matches: Will be shot on Friday March 2, 2012, after the 3 gun match and after lunch on March 3, 2012.** Long Range Rifle (Single Shot Big Bore) - Long Range Rifle (Lever Action Big Bore) Long Range Rifle (Lever Action - Pistol Cal.) - Long Range Rifle (Buffalo Rifle) - Fastest Pistol - Fastest Rifle - Fastest Shotgun - Fastest 3-Gun (Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun) - Fastest Derringer - Fastest Pocket Pistol - Long Range Optical

## All SASS Categories Recognized

**(Circle One) Men Lady**

Shooting Categories (Circle Applicable Category)

Cowboy	Cowgirl	Wrangler (36+)	Duelist	Senior Duelist (60+)
Gunfighter	Forty-Niner (49+)	Frontier Cart	Frontier Cartridge Duelist	
Frontiersman	Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl	"B" Western	Senior (60+)	Silver Senior (65+)
Elder Statesman (70+)	Grand Dame (70+)	Young Guns(14-16)		Buckaroo (13 and Younger)
Cody Dixon Single	Cody Dixon Lever	Grand Army of the Frontier Single		Grand Army of the Frontier Repeater

Shoot with \_\_\_\_\_

**Posse Limited to 15 Shooters**

- The entry fee includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner March 3, and breakfast and lunch March 4.

# Shooter's Schedule

## Friday March 2, 2012

- 8:30 AM Western 3 Gun Match (Run by Joe Darter and Phantom)  
(3 Stages)
- 11:30 AM Wild Bunch Match (Run by Dragon Hill Dave Stages 7-10)
- 12:00 PM Registration, Long-Range Sight Confirmation, Warm-up  
Stages,  
After Lunch (Lunch Available on site, we will take order Friday  
morning. This is not included in the Match Fee)
- 1:30- 4:00PM Side Matches, Long Range @ Fort Agarita (All Long Range Events)  
Derringer and Pocket Pistol @ Warm Up Stage 1, Fastest Rifle@  
Stage 4, Fastest Pistol @ Warm-up Stage 2, Fastest Shotgun @ Stage  
5, Fastest 3-Gun @ Stage 6

## Saturday, March 3, 2012

7:00 AM Breakfast available at Kitchen Kate's Cantina in the Pavilion  
(included in fee).

8:30 AM Shooters Meeting

Posse	Shoot Stages:
1	1,2,3,4,5,6
2	2,3,4,5,6,7
3	3,4,5,6,7,8
4	4,5,6,7,8,9
5	5,6,7,8,9,10
6	6,7,8,9,10,1
7	7,8,9,10,1,2
8	8,9,10,1,2,3
9	9,10,1,2,3,4

After completing 1<sup>st</sup> six stages:

Lunch available at Kitchen Kate's Cantina in the Pavilion (included  
in fee).

Best dressed Working Cowboy and Cowgirl in the Pavilion

After Lunch (included in fee).

Side Matches - Long Range @ Fort Agarita (All Long Range Events)

Derringer and Pocket Pistol @ Warm up Stage 1

Fastest Rifle@ Stage 4, Fastest Pistol @ Warm-up Stage 2,

Fastest Shotgun @ Stage 5, Fastest 3-Gun @ Stage 3

6:30 PM Judging for the Costume Contest

7:00 PM Dinner with Awards Ceremony

## Sunday, March 4, 2012

7:30 AM Breakfast available at Kitchen Kate's Cantina in the Pavilion

8:30 AM Cowboy Church @ the Church at Agarita

Posse	Shoot Stages
1	7,8,9,10
2	8,9,10,1
3	9,10,1,2
4	10,1,2,3
5	1,2,3,4
6	2,3,4,5
7	3,4,5,6
8	4,5,6,7
9	5,6,7,8

Lunch with Awards Ceremony (Included)