

February  
2011



# AGARITA GAZETTE

*A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society*

1794 Old Lytton Springs Road  
Lockhart, Texas 78644

## Agarita Ranch

### Marshalls

Range Marshall - *Delta Raider*  
Territorial Governor - *Jake Paladin*  
Safety Marshall - *Elroy Rogers*  
Protest Marshall - *Vacant*  
Stage Marshall - *Boon Doggle*  
Long-Range Marshal I - *Wild Hog*  
Administrative Marshall - *Boosey Babe*  
Medical Marshall - *Jake Paladin*  
Raffle Marshall - *Shotglass*  
Costume Marshall - *Lorelei Longshot*  
Entertainment Marshall - *Old Bill Dick*  
Special Events Marshall - *Belle Fire*  
Side Match Marshall - *Texas Sarge*  
Editor, Agarita Gazette - *Long Juan*

### Long Juan here!

I handed out Posse Reporter Sheets this month with my contact information. I hope each month I will get something from you for the newsletter. I did not get any this month. Tell me about your posse happenings. Send me photos from your posse or other cowboy action shooting activities. Write an article. Tell me if you shot with another club or went to a state, regional or national match. Tell me anything! **Hope to hear from you next month.** (512) 750-3923 [jsoule@scottdoug.com](mailto:jsoule@scottdoug.com)



### CAPTAIN MACK AWOL.

**Have you seen this man?**

Absent without leave charges have been preferred. CAPT Mack, GAF, is reported to have overindulged during his New Year's overnight furlough and, as a result, to have missed maneuvers with his unit at the Agarita Ranch on Saturday, January 1, 2011. Again on February 5<sup>th</sup> he failed to report for duty. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of CAPT Mack is requested to contact Sergeant Major "Texas Sarge". CAPT Mack's failure to report for duty at the next muster of the Plum Creek Shooting Society will likely result in his being flogged, branded or otherwise appropriately punished for flagrant disregard of his military responsibilities and obligations with the Grand Army of the Frontier and the Plum Creek Shooting Society.

### Time to "Re-Up"



It's time to pay your annual dues if you have not already. With the exception of Life members, all club memberships expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Dues for the following year are due on January 1<sup>st</sup> and are prorated for those paying after the first of the year. If you have not paid your dues for 2011, please do. Remember that all shooters, including non-club members, must sign the waiver on the membership application form. Also, please let Delta Raider, Boon Doggle or me know if you have passed the RO1 and RO2 courses. We are trying to update our records. Finally, if you have an email address, please be sure we have it. Our Yahoo Group and emailing list are the two ways we communicate with members and guests. Thanks.

# February Match and Other News

The snows of February 3/4 had melted and temperatures were in the mid-30s when our February shoot began. By the end of the day, warm clothing had been shucked and everyone was enjoying a beautiful Texas day. A total of 35 shooters in 17 categories filled two posses. We had many visitors, including snowbirds and members of other clubs in the area. Category winners in those categories with more than one shooter were **Gold Dog**, *Cody Dixon-Lever*; **Scooter**, *GAF-Lever*; **Long Juan**, *GAF-Single*; **Joe Darter**, *Men's 49'r*; **Waterloo**, *Men's Cowboy*; **Jake Jones**, *Men's Duelist*; **Wildcat Bob**, *Men's Senior*; **Farr Ranger**, *Men's Senior Duelist*; and **Mesquite Creek Mike**, *Men's Wrangler*. Fastest Shooters were **Waterloo** (Men) and **Six Goin' South** (Women). **Jake Paladin** and **Joe Darter** both shot clean matches. *Bravo Zulu*<sup>1</sup> to all!!

March 4, 5 and 6, the Plum Creek Shooting Society will host *Ride with Pancho Villa*. On Friday, there will be a 5-stage Wild Bunch match and side matches for Derringer, Pocket Pistol, Fastest Pistol, Fastest Rifle, Fastest Shotgun, Fastest 3-Gun (rifle, shotgun and pistol) and Long-Range. The main match will be Saturday and Sunday, with six stages on Saturday and four on Sunday. **Kitchen Kate** will be serving more of her delicious meals, including a banquet on Saturday night. If you have not already registered, be sure to send in your registration form and fee soon. **Delta Raider** says there is a *belt buckle* for all registering by February 21<sup>st</sup>. The registration fee will be \$10 more after the 21<sup>st</sup>. You can find the registration form on the last page of the *Gazette* or on the club's website at [www.pccss.org](http://www.pccss.org).

On June 3-5, the Plum Creek Shooting Society will host the *Battle of Plum Creek*. Registration forms are available on the club website.

<sup>1</sup> *Bravo Zulu* is a naval signal conveyed by flag hoist or voice radio meaning "well done."



Warming Up



Elroy Rogers

## PLUM CREEK SHOOTING SOCIETY CALENDAR

March 4-6, 2011

Monthly Match/*Ride with Pancho Villa*

April 2, 2011

Monthly Match

May 7, 2011

Monthly Match

June 4-5, 2011

Monthly Match/*Battle of Plum Creek*

# OPEN-TOP REVOLVERS

by Long Juan

When I first began cowboy action shooting with the Texican Rangers in early 2008, I met two cowboys (Grouchy Spike and Sweet Tooth), who both became friends and mentors. At the time, they were both shooting “open-tops”, which I thought looked really *COOL!* Both told me, however, the open-top was a little finicky. Being a newbie, I elected to stick with my 5 ½” Peacemakers. In 2010, I decided I would never be fast and therefore needed to think about style points. I switched to Peacemakers with 7 ½” barrels. This year, when not shooting GAF (Schofield revolver and Sharps Carbine), I am shooting senior duelist with a pair of “open-tops”, an 1866 rifle and a hammered shotgun. I have definitely sacrificed speed, but I am having a great time and I am doing it with *STYLE*. When I began shooting them, I decided I wanted and needed to learn more about open-tops. What follows is a short version of what I have learned.

The *original* open-tops were pre-Civil War and Civil War cap and ball revolvers, a primary example being the Colt 1860 Army. The frame of these revolvers has no “top strap” above the cylinder.



Colt 1860 Army

After the Civil War, thousands of cap and ball revolvers were converted to fire metallic cartridges. These revolvers became known as “conversions.” Using a system patented by Colt employee Charles Richards, the first of these conversions was accomplished by cutting the back off the cylinder, fixing a breech plate or conversion ring (complete with firing pin and rear sight) to the frame, filling in the cap and ball rammer recess and affixing an ejector rod and housing to the right side of the barrel. A swinging gate allowed loading and unloading of cartridges from the rear. A second Richards Conversion (Type II or transition model) moved the sight and firing pin back to the hammer and improved the loading gate.



The “Richards Conversion” was an instant success and many 1860 Army revolvers were returned by the U.S. Army and by civilians to the Colt factory for conversion. Other Richards



Richards Conversion

Conversions were produced as new sixguns at the factory.

In July 1872, Colt factory superintendent William Mason was awarded a patent for an improved conversion. In addition to having the firing pin and sight on the hammer; a



Richards Mason Conversion

longer ejector-rod housing was used and, because Colt was running out of cap and ball barrels, new ones were manufactured.

The .44 caliber 1860 Army conversions were all chambered for the .44 Colt centerfire cartridge. The 1871-72 Open-Top bridged the gap between the cap-and-ball 1860 Army (and the cartridge conversions of the 1860 Army) and the cartridge-firing Colt Model P, Single Action Army "Peacemaker" introduced in 1873. The Open-Top, designed by William Mason, was Colt's first revolver manufactured from the start to fire large-caliber, metallic cartridges. Although conversions used the .44 Colt centerfire cartridge, Mason reverted to the .44 rimfire for the Open-Top so it would qualify for the 1871-72 Army trials. None of the revolvers submitted for those trials passed muster and Mason went back to the drawing board to re-design the Open-Top with a solid frame.



Colt 1871-1872 Open-Top

The most notable differences between the 1860 Army conversions and the Open-Top are

placement of the sight (V-notch on top of the barrel), the ejector housing and the absence of a conversion ring. Like all 1860 Army revolvers (at least for those with somewhat larger hands), the Open-Top and its predecessor conversions point naturally and are fun to shoot. And they have *STYLE!!* Uberti and perhaps others make replicas of the various conversions and the Open-Top. Get one! Shoot it! You will not be sorry!



Uberti Open-Top

If you want to know more about conversions and Open-Top revolvers, check out the **STORM** forum (**S**hooters of the **O**pen-**T**op and **R**ichards-**M**ason) at [CASCity.com](http://CASCity.com), [www.cascity.com/forumhall/](http://www.cascity.com/forumhall/). Other references include [Metallic Cartridge Conversions](#) and [Colt Single Action: From Patternons to Peacemakers](#) by Dennis Adler, [Shooting Sixguns of the Old West](#) by Mike Venturino, [Gun Digest Book of the .44](#), and [Single Action Sixguns](#), by John Taffin, and the definitive source, [A Study of Colt Conversions and Other Percussion Revolvers](#) by Bruce McDowell.



## RO's Corner: De-cocking Revisited

On the SASS wire recently, there was a discussion under the subject "Live round under hammer, you make the call." The situation described and the discussion that followed suggested it might be good to revisit last month's RO's Corner, where I discussed de-cocking.

Here is how the recent thread began:

- Shooter starts with rifle; shoots 10 rounds.
- Shooter lays rifle down on ledge of Gallows.
- Shooter pulls 1st pistol and cocks it.
- TO (timer) says, "Whoa", because he thinks rifle is going to fall or break 170.
- Rifle does not fall, but shooter has stopped and asks what is wrong?
- After discussion, a re-shoot is offered - shooter hands pistols to RO (not the TO), who carries them muzzles up back to the loading table ...
- ... where he finds that 1st pistol has live round under a lowered hammer!
- What's the call if any?

The forum discussion that followed suggested everything from Stage Disqualification to a no-call. For the reasons I will explain below, I think the shooter earned a SDQ and the TO needs some more training. Here is what the rulebook (RO1 Manual) says:

"De-cocking may not be done to avoid a penalty if cocked at the wrong time, position or location once a round has gone down range. NO gun may be de-cocked on the firing line except by pointing it down range and pulling the trigger or while under the direct supervision of a stage officer. The penalty for de-cocking is a Stage Disqualification."

Clearly a round had gone down range (10 rifle rounds). Clearly the 1<sup>st</sup> pistol was cocked and then de-cocked without pointing it down range and pulling the trigger. Clearly the 1<sup>st</sup> pistol had a live round under the hammer when the RO returned the pistols to the loading table for the re-shoot. The only question in my mind is whether the shooter was at the time of de-cocking "under the direct supervision of a stage officer"? I think not. Both the TO and the RO were apparently

unaware the 1<sup>st</sup> pistol had been de-cocked with a live round left under the hammer. It seems to me that they could not have been "directly supervising" something they did not even know had happened. One of them should have known, but apparently they did not. Once the shooter cocked the first pistol, he neither pointed the pistol down range and pulled the trigger nor de-cocked it "under the direct supervision of a stage officer." The rule is there to ensure a safe shoot. However tough it may seem, it's a SDQ in my opinion! Not sure that's the call I would have made at the time, but after thinking about it for quite a while, that's the call I think I should have made, had I been the TO/RO.

What should have happened? When the TO said, "Whoa", the shooter should have stood there with the 1<sup>st</sup> pistol cocked and pointed safely down range until the TO/RO directed him to de-cock the pistol by firing the round safely down range or by directly supervising de-cocking in some other manner. For example, the RO might have taken the pistol, de-cocked it and rotated the cylinder to leave an empty chamber under the hammer. I believe firing the round safely down range was the better course of action,

but “de-cocking under direct supervision” is part of the rule and must mean something. The problem in my mind is that the TO did not “take charge”, as he should have done, and the shooter de-cocked the pistol.

What we need to remember as shooters is that:

- The penalty for de-cocking is Stage Disqualification.
- Once a *rifle* is cocked, either the round under the hammer must be expended or the action opened in order for the rifle to be returned to a safe condition.
- *Shotgun* shells may be removed without penalty to return the firearm to a safe condition.
- Once a *revolver* is cocked, the round under the hammer must be expended in order for it to be returned to a safe condition. The only exception is if de-cocking is done otherwise “under the direct supervision of a stage officer.

Had I been the TO under the circumstances described above, I would have felt terrible about being at least partially responsible for the SDQ. Having just completed the RO1 and RO2 courses, I understand what must have gone through the TO’s mind. One of my first times handling the timer, I failed to count the rifle rounds fired by **Jake Jones** on a stage. He shot only nine of ten and left a live round on the carrier (not in the chamber). It cost him a minor safety penalty. Was it his responsibility as the shooter? Yes. Could and should I have been able to prevent the penalty? Yes! Did I feel terrible? Absolutely! Did I learn from the experience? Yes. Best of all, Jake, who is an experienced shooter and RO, made it a good learning experience for me. He quietly said to me, “Juan, that’s why you count the rounds.” He went on to assure me that it was

his fault and not mine. I still felt terrible, but I learned a good lesson. Let this discussion and last month’s RO’s Corner be a learning experience for all of us. Know the rule about de-cocking and be sure you do not get yourself an SDQ as a shooter and try to prevent it as an RO.

If you would like to read the entire discussion on the SASS Wire, go to the link below. As you will see, not everyone agrees with my conclusion about the call and what should have been done.

<http://sassnet.com/forums/index.php?showtopic=159921>



Jake Paladin

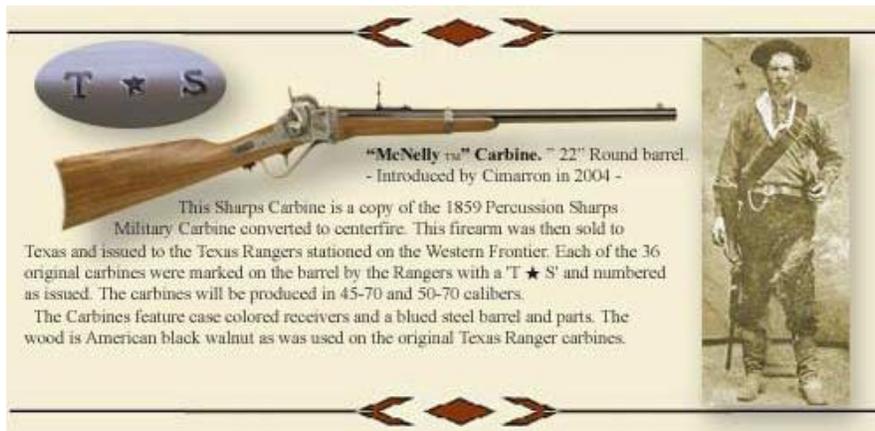


Jake Jones and Buck Bradley

## For Sale or Trade; Items Wanted

### “McNelly” Sharps Carbine .45-70 \$950

Still for sale. This gun was purchased new from Texas Jack’s in 2010. I had ordered a Shiloh Sharps carbine, but wanted to start shooting GAF and just couldn’t wait! I expected to shoot the McNelly for a season or two, while waiting on the Shiloh. To my surprise, the Shiloh shipped within a month of placing my order. The McNelly has been shot fewer than 200 rounds. Lonnie Aman out of Hempstead did some action work to lighten the trigger pull. Otherwise, it is stock and in like-new condition. It is a good shooter; I just prefer my Shiloh. I will entertain reasonable offers. I also have a sling for it that I will include at the asking price.



Contact: Long Juan, aka John Soule. 512-750-3923 or [jsoule@scottdoug.com](mailto:jsoule@scottdoug.com)

My friend Rob Chase (Tonto G) died in November 2009. His wife Judy is hoping to sell three of his vests and a pair of trousers. The vests are all size Large; the trousers are 36” waist, 28” length. Vest #1 is a Duke, Wah Maker, brand vest - new, never worn. These sell online and at Texas Jack’s, where this one was purchased, for about \$135. This vest is beautiful. I have seen it and wish it fit me. I would buy it. Asking price is \$95.

### Vests and Trousers



Contact Long Juan, aka John Soule. 512-750-3923 or [jsoule@scottdoug.com](mailto:jsoule@scottdoug.com).

The other two vests (#2 and #3), one black, one brown, were likely eBay purchases. Great shape, but I suspect not brand new. Asking price \$10 each. The trousers are Wah Maker Frontier Classics, worn only once or twice. \$40+ new; asking price \$25. All offers will be considered. I will deliver in person in the Austin area or at a Plum Creek or Texican Rangers shoot. Will discuss shipping if required.

# 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.



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# RIDE WITH PANCHO VILLA

MARCH 4, 5, AND 6, 2011

## OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM FOR "RIDE WITH PANCHO VILLA"

Enclose total payment and mail with completed form. All refund requests must be received prior to February 21, 2011 and are subject to a \$25 processing fee. Shooter packets must be picked up before shooters meeting on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 AM. Registration received by February 21<sup>st</sup> will receive a belt buckle. For registration after February 21<sup>st</sup> add \$10.

*Make checks payable to: PCCSS Mail to: 1794 Old Lytton Springs Rd., Lockhart, Texas 78644  
www.pccss.Org • For Information call Delta Raider 512-376-2602*

(Complete an Entry Form for each shooter)

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PCCSS Member? Yes  No

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

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

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

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

*Check the appropriate category*

	Non <u>PCCSS Member</u>	PCCSS <u>Member</u>
Main Match Fee (3 days, Banquet & All Side Matches)	\$85 _____	\$75 _____
Junior (14-16)	\$25 _____	\$25 _____
Buckaroo (13 & Younger) AGE _____ (Required)	FREE	FREE

Individual Side Matches (Friday & Saturday Only)

Wild Bunch Side Match (4 stages) Friday 10:00 am Circle one YES/NO

(All fees included in Main Match Fee and side matches)

We will shoot 6 stages on Saturday and 4 on Sunday.

Friday night shoot. Circle one YES/NO.

Shooting Categories (Circle Applicable Category and gender) Men Lady Boy Girl

Cowboy	Cowgirl	Wrangler	Duelist	Senior Duelist (60+)
Gunfighter	Forty-Niner	Frontier Cartridge	Frontier Cart. Duelist	Frontiersman
Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl	B Western	Senior (60-64)	Silver Senior (65-69)	Elder Statesman (70+)
Grand Dame (70+)	Young Guns	Buckaroo (13 & Younger)	Cody Dixon Lever	Cody Dixon Single
GAF Rifle	GAF Single	Military 1911	Military 1911 & M&P	

# VIVA VILLA! VIVA REVOLUCION!