

May
2011



AGARITA GAZETTE

A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society

Agarita Ranch

Lockhart, Texas

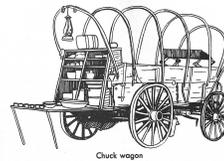
Marshalls

- Range Marshall - *Delta Raider*
- Territorial Governor - *Jake Paladin*
- Safety Marshall - *Elroy Rogers*
- Protest Marshall - *Vacant*
- Stage Marshall - *Boon Doggle***
See profile p. ____
- 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!

RSVP for lunch please!!

Delta Raider needs our help. His lunch "guesstimator" has not been working well. In April he had 15 extra lunches and had to eat the cost. He has requested in the future that we all **email him and RSVP no later than Thursday** before each shoot telling him whether we plan to eat lunch. That way he can order and pay for the right number. If you do not RSVP, there may not be enough food for you to eat. That does not mean you cannot join us for the after-match festivities in the pavilion; it simply means you may need to brown bag or make other arrangements for something to eat. leshikar@aol.com



Long Juan here continued page 6.



Down the trail with Joe Darter

Edge of the White Mountains, Springerville Arizona; this is Apache country and it darn sure looks like it. High plateaus, rolling plains of dry grass interspersed with deep canyons and tree-covered heights where the Elk live. The first day I was there, the wind blew 40 plus mph. Tumbleweed action across the roads was exciting. It snowed the following morning. New Year's Day temperature in Springerville was -23F, so no complaints from me about a little wind and snow!

Work not shooting brought me this scenic area. Winter weather aside, let old JD tell why this area is worth a swing through if your travel plans allow (like say on the northern route to Winter Range). First suggestion, leave I40 in Albuquerque and drop south on I25 to Socorro, then take Hwy 60 west. 60 takes you through the Gila and Cibola national forests. 50 or so miles from Socorro you will pass a huge US interstellar radar transmission installation, 40 or

more huge dishes all aiming up (not sure if answers are forthcoming).



Then there's Pie Town, New Mexico. Sitting right on the Continental Divide, middle of nowhere, Pie Town consists of...2 Pie restaurants. Darned good pie at the one I tried.

At Springerville, book you a room at the Rode Inn & Suites. In fact, book the John Wayne Suite! I did. You might not know that big John owned a rather substantial ranch just outside of Springerville along the banks of the Little Colorado River? Yep, the 26 Bar consisting of 20,000 owned acres and 30,000 leased. North to south 26 Bar ran 39 continuous miles. Duke never did things in a small way.



In its heyday of the 60's and 70's, the 26 Bar had one of the most successful championship Hereford cattle operations in the country. Quarter interest sales of top bulls were in the \$100K+ range and their cattle auctions were legendary. John's partner in the 26 Bar and life long friend Louis Johnson designed the first computerized feedlot operation which could handle thousands of cattle.

When John darn near lost his shirt financing his Alamo movie, he told Louis to keep the ranch successful as it was his children's inheritance. When John passed away, Louis sold the ranch for \$245M, which went to Wayne's family.

The Duke enjoyed Springerville. He rode in their 4th of July parades and was a regular at the local restaurants and watering holes. The Rode Inn name is appropriate as John often rode a horse to town and, if hours got too late, he would stay there and ask them to look after his horse. At that time the hotel had a bar and restaurant and it is reported Wayne played many a card game upstairs.

The John Wayne Suite is really a great room, built big with giant jacuzzi tub, huge bed (ever see a bed with chap skirting?)



and everything in western style with many Wayne memorabilia items. Give the nice ladies that run the Rode Inn a call (928) 333-4635 if traveling that way and they will be happy to book a room or suite for you.

Also of note in town is the Western Drug and Merchandise Store, one of the most unique "one-stop shopping" stores I've seen. It's kind of like CVS, Academy, and Spec's all rolled into one store. Yep, a pharmacy, sporting goods store, dry goods outlet, liquor store, and a heck of a gun department. They had 3 Cimarron Buntlines in stock!

There is a statue on one corner in Springerville called the "Madonna of the Prairie", which honors the women of the West. It is dedicated to their strength and sacrifices traveling and establishing communities in hostile territories. First Western statue I've seen dedicated to women, which is very cool.



So if your travels bring you to Northern Arizona, stop in at Springerville, check out the Rode Inn and see the sights. You will be glad you did.

Editor's Notes: Springerville grew up around Henry Springer's trading post and was officially given its name May 10, 1876. It sits at an elevation of 6,974'. Springerville, and its neighboring community Eagar, make up the place known as Valle Redondo or Round Valley in northeastern Arizona, near the New Mexico border. Together, Springerville and Eagar are the "Gateway to the White Mountains." Mark Gastieneau, former NFL player for the New York Jets, calls Springville his home. Ike Clanton, a major player in events that led to the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone,

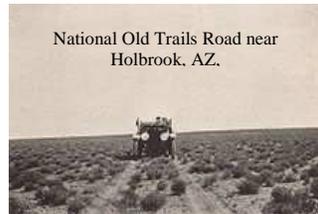
Arizona, was shot dead in Springerville while resisting arrest for cattle rustling on June 1, 1887.

The **Madonna of the Trail** statutes are a series of



12 monuments dedicated to the spirit of pioneer women in the United States. The 12

statues were placed along the National Old Trails Road (also known as the Ocean-to-Ocean Highway), which extends from Bethesda, Maryland, to Upland, California, one in each of the 12 states through which the road passed. Much of the road follows the old National Road and the Santa Fe Trail. The



Springerville statue was dedicated by the National Old Trails Association and the D.A.R. in September 29, 1928.

“**Joe Darter**” is the SASS alias of cowboy action shooter extraordinaire, Tom Morris. According to the dictionary, “Joe-darter” is an old term for a Jim Dandy, someone or something unsurpassed. “He’s a real Joe-darter.” The same dictionary says a Jim Dandy is a remarkable person, something of superior quality, an excellent example of its kind. In this first of what we all hope will be a continuing series of “Down the Trail with Joe Darter”, Tom has proved the merit of his alias. Thanks Tom, ..., I mean Joe!

Girl Scouts Shoot at Agarita Ranch

The Second Amendment is not dead in Central Texas, at least not with a group of Girl Scouts hosted by Delta Raider (Chuck Leshikar) recently at Agarita Ranch. The event was an NRA qualifying course for five Girl Scouts, member, cowboy action shooter and Colonel John Reed (J.R. Ott), was Saunders, father of another Scout, instructors. Margaret Ott, J.R.’s Girl Scout protocol. The girls, 13 and the Light Rifle, Prone Course of Fire rockers.



one Scout Mom and one Scout Dad. SASS grandfather of one of the Girl Scouts, Range Officer for the shoot. Tim and Jerel Walters were the NRA daughter-in-law, provided guidance on 14 years of age, all successfully completed and received a “Big Patch” with two

The five Girl Scout shooters, Amanda, Catherine, Courtney, Katie and Shannon, started earlier with a larger group of Scouts by taking the NRA Basic Practical Course and the NRA Basic Rifle test. They learned the basic knowledge, skills and attitude necessary for safe target shooting with a rifle, including safe gun handling, rifle parts and operation, ammunition, shooting fundamentals and range rules. Because of scheduling difficulties, not all of the girls who completed the basic classroom work were able to participate in the shoot. All who did earned both their Basic Practical and Pro-Marksman rockers.



One of the five girls had never handled a firearm before. She had no bad habits to fix and scored second highest in the group. Three of the other girls had previously shot rifles and the fourth had fired a shotgun. For all, it was the first time shooting prone and the first time shooting for score. All shooting for score was at 50’ using a standard A-32 target. After finishing their Pro-Marksman

tests, the girls had free time to shoot at the silhouettes normally used in Plum Creek Shooting Society cowboy action matches at Agarita Ranch. One of the gals is reported to have hit 30 of 30 at 75 yards. J.R., are you sure that wasn't 75 feet? Either way, Cody-Dixon shooters better be on the lookout if she shows up to shoot at one of our monthly matches.

One of Tim's main objectives of the day was to give the girls experience with several different types of rifle actions. They were able to shoot a semi-auto, a bolt-action, an antique pump (courtesy of J.R.) and a lever-action. Although it took time for all of them to shoot all of the different rifles, Tim reported, "It was well worth it."

All shooters used a scoped bolt-action to qualify. According to Tim, the girls did better than most Boy Scouts of the same age. "The boys usually have a more difficult time getting to the level the girls achieved in one day, even though they generally have more opportunity to shoot." Shooting is a regular part of Boy Scout summer camp. This was a first for the girls in more years than anyone involved could remember. Considering J.R. was there, that's a long time. All of the girls told Tim they want to keep shooting for the higher-level awards. Tim plans to facilitate that effort and interest among both the Scouts and Girl Scout leaders in the District is reported to be high.

The Mom and Dad who shot with the girls also qualified as Pro-Marksman. Tim reported having great fun watching the Mom go from not being sure she could even hit the target to being a very good shot with a scoped, bolt-action rifle. At one point she exclaimed, "I really like this gun!"



Amanda, Shannon, Katie and Catherine (shooting left to right)
Tim, Margaret and Jerel (instructor) (standing left to right)

The event was part of the Winchester/ NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program and specifically the Just-for-Women program, "Women on Target." Everyone involved asked me to pass on to Chuck their sincere thanks. This article is one way of my doing that. Those involved report that Chuck was a generous and gracious host and that J.R. provided guidance, experience and a valuable link to Agarita Ranch – he was a perfect Range Officer. Maybe we will see some of the girls at a cowboy shoot one of these days. I know we all hope so. They would all be welcome and it appears to me they would be more than just a little competitive with the rest of us. Thanks gals for being interested and for doing so well. Thanks Chuck, J.R., Tim, Jerel and Margaret for making it happen.



Shannon, Margaret, Courtney, Amanda, Catherine
(left to right, prone) Tim (standing)



Catherine, Katie, Amanda, Shannon (standing)
and Courtney (seated)

Marshal Profile: Boon Doggle, Stage Marshal

Boon Doggle, aka Roy David, is our club Stage Marshal. We call our club officers Marshals.



Our club, the Plum Creek Shooting Society, is unique. Our fearless leader and Range Marshal, **Delta Raider**, owns the Agarita Ranch where we do our shooting. Unlike other clubs, we do not have to worry about when our lease runs out and the myriad of other things cowboy action shooting clubs worry about. That does not mean we are not a club or that our members do not need to support our many activities. They do. **Boon Doggle** is a perfect example. Like many of us, he is a volunteer. We all need to help by volunteering. By volunteering, we help make the Plum Creek Shooting Society

everything it is – a GREAT cowboy action shooting club.

As Stage Marshal, **Boon Doggle** writes the stage scenarios each month. He also sets and paints the steel, with much appreciated help from **Elroy Rogers** and **Wild Hog**. **Boon Doggle** has been writing the scenarios we shoot for five years. That's a lot of stages and lots of work. Thanks **Boon Doggle!** He reports that he also has assumed responsibility for giving Delta Raider a hard time whenever he gets the chance. Thanks again!

Boon Doggle got started in cowboy action shooting about six years ago when he visited the old Tejas Caballeros range with a good friend and was immediately hooked. For the last couple of years, he has been shooting almost exclusively with the Plum Creek Shooting Society, but plans to get out and visit other clubs in the future. We all need to do that and invite the folks we meet to come shoot with us. Before getting started in cowboy action shooting, BD shot lots of trap and skeet and some sporting clays. He also did a bunch of bird hunting. He must like those moving targets. He tried IDPA, but cowboy action shooting is his real love. He still shoots a little trap and skeet on occasion and likes including clay targets in our shooting scenarios when he can. When I asked how he selected his alias, **Boon Doggle** responded, "I worked over 20 years for the State of Texas. Part of that time I had dealings with State purchasing and various other agencies. Do I need to say more?" I think we all will agree that says all that needs to be said!

BD likes big bore guns and targets that are a little further away. It will therefore come as no surprise that his favorite shooting category is Cody-Dixon single-shot. He admits the C-D targets are plenty far away and is not suggesting they be moved back. **Boon Doggle** likes shooting his .38-55 caliber, 1885 High Wall. He says it is more accurate than he is and does not beat him to death after five or six stages. He also loves old single-action revolvers. Like all of us, he says, "You can't play this game and not love the old Peacemakers."

Roy grew up near San Jose, California. That may explain a lot! He and his wife, Sandra, moved to Austin in 1971. Roy has been in some sort of sales virtually all his life. He was in retail when he first moved to Austin. Then he worked with the mentally and physically handicapped at the Austin State School for more than 20 years, where he wound up as Director of Marketing for the

sheltered workshop at the school. When he got tired of a new boss who was into micromanagement and he wasn't, he returned to retail, working at Capitol Camera selling cameras and other photo equipment. He also taught beginning photography classes until Capitol Camera went out of business. He insists he is not the reason they went out of business, but when they did, Roy retired from the everyday grind of working for a living.

Growing up in California, Roy did LOTS of trout fishing. He also enjoys bass and coastal fishing, but not the HOT weather in Texas. He says he just doesn't want to work that hard. He and his wife enjoy photography. When he is not shooting with the Plum Creek Shooting Society, he and Sandra can be found somewhere in the Hill Country shooting photos of old buildings and wildflowers. His wife uses the photos to make her own greeting cards.

BD has been married to the same woman for 44 years. He says she is the best thing that ever happened to him. She enjoys shooting and often joins Boon shooting at Agarita Ranch. BD says she has not picked an alias, although he has several for her. Then he said, "Probably best not to go there." Unfortunately, health issues keep Sandra from shooting with us during our monthly matches, but Boon and Sandra thank **Delta Raider** and **Kitchen Kate** for their hospitality whenever they the ranch. When I asked about things we might not know about him, **Boon Doggle** told me he and Sandra have three Macaws.



I know we all thank **Boon Doggle** for his hard work each month making sure that we have stage scenarios that are fun, educational and challenging. I particularly enjoyed the May match, where one stage include a Nevada sweep with rifle targets that used knock-downs as the middle target. It was different and fun. Now about those shooter's lines we say before shooting each stage?

Long Juan here! (continued from page 1)

Hot Times at Agarita Ranch

We had our first "summer" shoot on Saturday, May 7th, more than a month before the official start of summer. Thirty-four shooters showed up and braved the heat and humidity. Before it was over, shooters should have been dropping like flies. Fortunately all reached the finish line and many stayed for a great chilli hot dog lunch in the pavillion. Three posses shot six stages, all written by our club Stage Marshall, **Boon Doggle**. See profile on page 5. Winners in competitive categories (those with more than one

shooter) were: **Six Going South**, Ladies 49'er; **Elroy Rogers**, Cody-Dixon Single; **Artiman**, GAF Repeater; **Kickshot**, 49'er; **LW Hannabass**, Frontiersman; **Lucky Nickel**, Senior; **Farr Ranger**, Senior Duelist and **Bisbee Jackson**, Silver Senior. **Elroy Rogers**, **Boon Doggle**, **Kickshot** and **Long Juan** shot clean matches (no misses, no P's). Congratulations to all!! Rumor has it that several other shooters were clean until the last stage. Better luck next time! See pics pages 10 and 11. For complete results, see page 12.

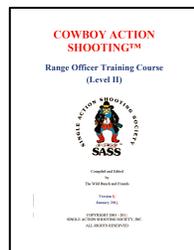
TG Shoot. At our scheduled shoot on June 4th, the Plum Creek Shooting Society will host Territorial Governors for the first annual TG Shoot at Plum Creek. Invitations have been extended to every TG in the country. This year we were a little late sending out the invitation and turn-out will likely be light. We hope those who do attend will help spread the word for next year. By hosting the TGs for a shoot, we expose them to our great club, facilities and club

members. The idea is to spread the word and encourage others to join us shooting on a regular basis, whether they are locals who might join our club or folks from other parts of the country who are traveling and have simply heard we are good folks and have a great place to shoot. Be sure to greet any of the TG's who are here next month warmly (that should not be a problem if the weather continues has it has) and help them have a great time.

RO's Corner

Everyone participating in cowboy action shooting should know the rules of the game. The most important rules are, of course, those dealing directly with safety. Certainly those rules are first and foremost in everyone's minds. That said, the "other" rules are important also. They are intended to provide a level playing field for everyone who is participating in a match, whether it is international, national, regional, state or local. The other rules include rules about what firearms are legal and what the costuming and other requirements are for each shooting category. If everyone does not play by all the rules, everyone loses, no matter who "wins" the match. In cowboy action shooting, we call that the Spirit of the Game. "Spirit of the Game" means shooters try their best to dress the part, to use appropriate firearms, to shoot the stage as intended, and to respect the traditions of the Old West. Some folks call it nothing more than good sportsmanship. Cowboy-action shooters call it "Spirit of the Game." After safety, it is our most important "rule."

So, how does one learn the rules? A good starting place is to download at least the Shooter's Handbook and the ROI Course from the SASS website. Shortly after the beginning of each year, the latest versions are available in pdf format. The changes from last year's versions are noted in redline. Reading both of these handbooks will give you a good basic knowledge of the rules. The rules deal with everything from clothing, weapon and other accoutrement requirements, shooting category requirements and range safety rules. The Shooters Handbook gives all the information a new shooter generally should know to be a safe participant. The ROI Course is designed to train those who function as range officers, timer operators, posse leaders and



the like during SASS matches. The ROI Course provides clarification and interpretation of information in the Shooters Handbook, i.e., more details about what the rules are and what they mean. That information is good to know, even as a *mere* shooter.

Beyond the Shooters Handbook and the ROI Course book are the ROII Course book and ROI and ROII courses. Every shooter would benefit from completing at least the ROI course, which deals with the rules. The ROII course is designed to train the people who will be running the match or the posse. Even if you never intend to function as a range officer, timer operator, posse leader or match director, you will benefit from taking the ROII course and knowing what those people do and why. Actually taking responsibility as a range officer, timer operator,

posse leader or match director is not only fun, but gets you more involved in our great sport. Quickly you will realize how much a part of a safe and fun shoot good, qualified match officials are. ROI and ROII courses are taught at most regional and above matches, at the annual SASS convention and often locally where instructors are available and there is interest from shooters who want to take the course. For example, the ROI and ROII courses were offered locally last November by Dakota Doc and Cactus Kay, a couple of Michigander snowbirds who shoot with us regularly in the winter. Both courses were also offered at this year's Texas State Match hosted by the Texican Rangers, at Winter Range and at End of Trail.

Another source of information about rules is the SASS Wire forum. There are often good discussions (threads) about interpretation of the rules. The discussions are interesting and are a great learning opportunity because they often describe something that has happened at a match and ask what the rule is. Discussions include everything from costuming requirements to safety issues, e.g., de-cocking, etc. A word of

caution here, not everyone who posts knows what the rules really are. Soon you will learn to know who really knows the rules and who just thinks they know what the rules are or should be. The best responses are those that cite or quote the rule that controls. After reading the thread, be sure to read the actual rule yourself.

Finally, ask question of those with whom you are shooting. Ask the RO/timer operator. Ask others who you know have completed the RO courses. I have completed the RO courses and occasionally run the timer. When a question arises about the correct interpretation and application of a rule and I am really not sure, I really appreciate the help I get from those who have more knowledge and experience than I do.

If you have not already done so, I encourage you to download and study, not just glance at or skim, the Shooters Handbook and ROI Course book. If you can, take at least the ROI course. Put yourself in position to know the rules and to help ensure that our matches are both safe for everyone and fair to all participating.

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	125	FP	56
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	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
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	250	RNFP	79
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	125	CN	56
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PLUM CREEK SHOOTING SOCIETY CALENDAR

May 11-15, 2011	<i>Comancheria Days 2011</i> , SASS Texas State Match, hosted by the Texican Rangers at the Stieler Ranch, between Comfort and Fredericksburg on Hwy 87.
June 4, 2011	Monthly Match and First Annual Territorial Governor Shoot (Note this year's <i>Battle at Plum Creek</i> has been rescheduled for the first weekend in October)
July 2, 2011	Monthly Match
August 3, 2011	Monthly Match



Boon Doggle



Farr Ranger and Schuezum Phast



True Blue Cachoo



Pledge of Allegiance



LW Hannabass and the Holy Black!



Kickshot

Plum Creek Shooting Society

Match Results

May 7, 2011

Name	Category	Posse	Total	Misses	Procedures
GOLD DOG	CDL	2	384.86	4	1
ELROY ROGERS	CDS	2	436.19	0	0
BOON DOGGEL	CDS	2	477.90	0	0
CAPT. MACK	CDS	2	648.36	4	0
ARITMAN	GAFR	2	464.75	8	0
LEFTY LEO	GAFR	2	662.24	15	0
SCOOTER	GAFS	2	658.23	6	0
SIX GOING SOUTH	L49	3	405.96	16	0
BLACKJACK BETTS	L49	1	704.39	4	0
MIZ ELLA	LS	3	475.97	5	0
LITTLE MAMA	LSS	1	470.35	4	1
TRUE BLUE CACHOO	LW	2	398.43	5	0
KICKSHOT	M49	3	178.95	0	0
JOE DARTER	M49	1	183.06	3	0
NUECES RANGER	M49	2	467.70	10	1
SCHUEZUM PHAST	MC	3	288.18	3	1
JAKE PALADIN	MCC	2	356.67	1	1
JAKE JONES	MD	2	314.24	1	0
BUNK STAGNER	MES	3	415.35	1	1
LW HANNABASS	MF	2	336.27	19	0
TEXAS SARGE	MF	2	416.05	6	0
ARTY FLY	MF	1	539.74	12	0
KLICKITAT BOB	MFCD	1	245.79	1	0
LUCKY NICKEL	MS	2	223.09	1	1
BOLO BOB	MS	1	310.43	1	2
CHISOS	MS	3	343.79	2	1
WHISKEY RUNNER	MS	3	572.58	1	0
FRIO SLIM	MS	1	586.86	10	0
FARR RANGE	MSD	3	281.83	1	1
LONG JUAN	MSD	2	309.10	0	0
DRIFTER	MSD	1	807.62	4	0
BISBEE JACKSON	MSS	2	308.13	2	0
BAR DIAMOND	MSS	3	310.12	6	0
BUNKHOUSE BOB	MSS	1	346.55	3	0
EL GUAPO	NG	1	552.62	12	1