

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

July 2012

Lockhart, Texas

Officers

President - **Dragon Hill Dave**

David Donaldson
Austin, TX 512-626-8189
dhdonald@mindspring.com

Vice President - **Joe Darter**

Tom Morris
Seguin, TX 210-464-3969
darterjoe@yahoo.com

Secretary &

Editor, Agarita Gazette - **Long Juan**

John Soule
Austin, TX 512-750-3923
jsoule@scottdoug.com

Treasurer - **True Blue Cachoo**

Nancy Forage
Austin, TX 512-775-0699

Territorial Governor - **Jake Paladin**

J.P. Forage
Austin, TX 512-970-4990
jforage@austin.rr.com

Range Marshal - **Delta Raider**

Chuck Leshikar
Lockhart, TX 512-227-1389
leshikar@aol.com

Safety Marshal - **Elroy Rogers**

Stage Marshal - **Phantom**

Flag Marshal - **Artiman**

Range Deputy - **Lightning McQueen**

www.pccss.org

Plum Creek to Host!



As many of you already know, the Plum Creek Shooting Society has been selected by SASS to host the 2013 Texas State Championship. Ride with Pancho Villa has been moved from its traditional first weekend in March to the first weekend in May and will be the championship match. Work to get ready has begun. The registration

form and schedule of events, together with an information sheet, are available on our website. We are working to get our range at the Agarita Ranch in the best shape ever. We had our first workday Sunday, July 1st. There will be many more opportunities to help. Match Director and PCSS President, **Dragon Hill Dave**, with lots of help from other board members, is busy identifying all that needs to be done. **Please volunteer soon and volunteer often!** We want Ride with Pancho Villa 2013 to be the best Texas State Championship match ever.

See also [The President's Word](#) on page 2.



Ivory Venom

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President's Word

Hard to believe how much has happened since my last President's Word in March. We have had four spectacular and well-attended monthly shoots with an average of just under 50 shooters a month. What a great start for the club. And it promises to get better because just one month after we adopted our bylaws and became official we applied for and were awarded the Texas State Championship by SASS. This is a big undertaking for the club, but I am confident that we have the ability to make this very successful if everyone chips in.



Part of my confidence comes from the fact that Plum Creek and Agarita Ranch are no strangers to large shoots, having done several Battles of Plum Creek and Rides with Pancho Villa. Our physical facilities and stages have the capability of handling the 300+ shooters, vendors, and on-lookers and their camping, dining, and shooting needs. The large dressage area across from the Pavilion and behind the RV hookups will become our dry-camping area, providing plenty

of space for the RVs, campers and 5th wheels of folks who want to stay on the range during the shoot. I will definitely be there, as one of my singular pleasures in Cowboy Action Shooting is camping out under the stars and sharing the camaraderie after the shooting is done.

Another part of my confidence comes from the officers and support personnel who have already been serving us so well. **Phantom** has been writing stages that challenge us but let us go all out if we wish. He will be writing the stages for the state match. **Elroy Rogers** has been out at the range nearly every day working on our targets, doing new stands, re-doing the shotgun knockdowns, and reviving our rabbits (don't tell me they don't go down—they will if you hit them.) He does love those rabbits!

We had been looking at buying new shotgun targets, but after Elroy got through renovating the ones we had we found out we have a bunch already. We are still looking critically at our targets as we want them to be high quality come State, but I am confident that we will be ready.

As always **Long Juan** has been a stalwart Secretary, putting together the poster, the schedule of events, and the application form for the State

Match to get us started. He does so much in the background that you don't really know how much he does for the club—trust me, it is a lot. Recently **Lightning McQueen** has been taking over the job of cleaning up the range for the shoots and has brought a huge amount of energy to bear as well as lots of mowing equipment. Our territorial governor **Jake Paladin** and his lovely wife **True Blue Cachoo** are already starting to round up sponsors from those who have supported us over the years and new folks too. And **Joe Darter**, who has been so gracious to step in at the monthly shoots when I have not been available, is already hard at work recruiting for the Wild Bunch side match and helping us with the State match planning.

And of course our landowner and Range Marshal **Delta Raider** has been hugely helpful in putting the planning together. He has so much experience in doing the shoots at Agarita Ranch, so many contacts with those who can help us put on a successful shoot, and such a great attitude in trying to run down the many things we have to think about in getting ready for the State shoot. We would be way behind without him. Our club continues to be blessed by having a landowner who is so

Continued next page.

dedicated to the success of the club.

I also have to thank the many folks from our other Central Texas clubs who have expressed their wishes for our success and promised to help us make the state shoot a success. I have been gratified to know that we have so much support out there from other clubs.

I plan to take advantage of those promises of assistance, but I want to see us prove that the members of the Plum Creek Shooting Society can pull this thing together. We will need a lot of assistance from our members during the state shoot

Officer Profile: Treasurer - True Blue Cachoo

We continue our profiles of Plum Creek Shooting Society officers and marshals this month with our Treasurer, **True Blue Cachoo** ("TBC"). Nancy Forage was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, moved to Colorado when she



but also well before the shoot as we prepare the range and facilities. As we get closer to that time we will announce a series of work days, probably on Sunday, where we will have officers available all day until around 5:00 to direct those who come on the projects we have set for those days. Those of you who have obligations on Sunday morning (and many do) can still join us in the afternoon. And remember that we still have regular work days on Friday for those who can come.

Enough about work. Let's talk about play for a minute. While we are spending a lot of

was 6 years old, then to Dallas and into the U.S. Marine Corps. She now lives in Austin, with her husband, JP Forage (Territorial Governor, Jake Paladin), where she is a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. She is also a certified hypnotist. I am thinking you want to ask how she is going to put you to sleep before surgery!

True Blue Cachoo started cowboy action shooting with the Travis County Regulators in 2009. She is also an enthusiastic hunter and tactical shooter. That may explain why she is a former Marine. The "True Blue" portion of her alias reflects her love of country and the Marine

energy preparing for the state match, we are just as concerned about making the monthly shoot at Agarita Ranch the best it can be by continuing to improve the shooter experience. If you have some suggestions on things we can improve or some ideas for fun things to do on stages, send me an email at dragonhilldave@gmail.com. I can't guarantee we will act on every suggestion, but we sure want to know what you think so we can just keep making it better.

See you next month!



Corps. "Cachoo" comes from the phrase, *Co coo ca choo*, used in songs by such artists as the Beatles and Simon & Garfunkel. It has absolutely no definitive meaning, although it is often used to mean the state of things is entirely fine; an expression of reassuring goodness. For those who know her, that pretty well expresses **True Blue's** view of life.

TBC usually shoots Lady Wrangler with a pair of Cimarron Thunderer pistols and a '73 lever-action rifle, all in .38 Special. She also shoots an SKB SxS 20g. With all of her guns, she is looking for speed and comfort! Having watched **TBC** shoot many times, her guns

seem to be working well for her (as long as she doesn't shoot the fence in front of the firing line). If you shoot often at Plum Creek, you have seen some of



True Blue's great costumes. It should come as no surprise that she won 1st place Shooter's Costume and 1st place Best Working Cowgirl at Winter Range in 2010. She also finished 1st in Classic Cowgirl at the Las Vegas Indoor Championship in 2010. Nancy is not one-dimensional. Her hobbies include tropical aquariums for fresh and saltwater fish, motorcycle riding and cooking. She is a state, national and world champion power-lifter in her age and

weight category and holds the world record in the 105 lb. category.

The least favorite part of **TBC's** job as Treasurer is having to get up and arrive early before each monthly shoot to help with registration. I am sure her favorite part is getting to work registration with me. She tells me her goal as Treasurer is to balance the books and to ensure that we get into and stay in the "green." Next time you see **True Blue Cachoo**, tell her thanks for everything.

Find Chuck!!

Last month, I made it easy. Chuck (**Delta Raider**) was hidden in two photos that appeared in the June issue. I asked everyone to let me know if they found even one and promised anyone finding both they would be "mentioned in the dispatches." Only three cowboys reported finding both. **Skinny Steve**, **Mesquite CreekMike** and **Lincoln Drifter**, consider yourselves mentioned. This month, Chuck is in three pictures. Anyone finding just one will be mentioned in the dispatches next month.



See how easy it was to find Chuck last month?

BREAKING NEWS!!

Cimarron Firearms has agreed to be the Presenting Sponsor for Ride with Pancho Villa 2013 - the Texas State Championship - and **Agarita Annie** has agreed to serve as Assistant Match Director. Thanks **Cimarron**, **A.D. Texaz**, **Agarita Annie** and **Dragon Hill Dave** for that great news!



Long Juan Here!



A number of members and frequent shooters with the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* made a good showing at **End of Trail – The World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting**. **Dragon Hill Dave** finished 3rd in Classic Cowboy and **Phantom** finished 6th in the 49'r category. **Kickshot** was 19th among the 49'rs and **Farr Ranger** finished 13th in Senior Duelist. **Big Iron Patnode** was 11th in B-Western and that talented duo, **Waterloo** and **Hey You**, finished 6th in Cowboy and 4th in Cowgirl, respectively. If I missed anyone or made any mistakes, I apologize. Please let me know and you will be “mentioned in the dispatches” next month.

Our annual July Red, White & Blue, Wear What You Think You Can Get Away With match found 47 shooters competing in 19 categories, 11 of which included more than one competitor. Congratulations to category winners and to our clean shooters, **Boon Doggle**, **Cowboy Small**, **Nada Chance** and **Pine Tree**. Complete scores have been emailed to all shooters with email addresses and are available online at our website and our Yahoo Group. Yours truly made two mistakes with the scores. I had **Lincoln Drifter** shooting in the wrong category. Once corrected, **Drifter** finished middle of the pack in Silver Senior and **Lucky Nickel** won Senior Duelist. My other failure was omitting the “P” that was clearly noted on the score sheet. Because it did not affect the final results, I’ll not mention that **Gold Dog** earned a “P” on Stage 9. Attire at the match was varied, with many sporting red, white and blue and several wearing what they thought they could get

away with. See the photos in this issue and decide for



yourself whether they were right. The shoot was followed by yet another great lunch – this time mesquite-grilled hot dogs, baked beans and watermelon. Our next monthly match is Saturday, August 4th.

The big news this month is that the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* has been selected by **SASS** to host the 2013 Texas State Match. See the lead story on page 1 and **Dragon Hill Dave**’s column, the President’s Word on page 2 of this issue. See also the Texas State Championship page on our website, where you can download more information, a schedule of events and a registration form. As noted elsewhere, we will need lots of help from members and others to make the event a big success.

Profiles of club officers continue this month on page 3 with our Treasurer, **True Blue Cachoo**. Next planned profile is our Stage Marshal, **Phantom**. He’s writing great stages, isn’t he? With all the news about the State Match and photos from this month’s shoot, I decided to hold the feature article I had written for this issue, *Texas Frontier Forts*, until next month.

In closing, I want to join our President, **Dragon Hill Dave**, thanking everyone who is working so hard to make the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* the very best cowboy action shooting venue in Texas. Thanks in particular to **Elroy Rogers** and **Wild Hog** who work hard every week to keep the range and targets in working order. **Dragon Hill Dave** seems indefatigable. That’s a big word meaning untiring, dogged, unrelenting, determined and more. As Dave notes in the President’s Word, there are many others who are stepping up to the plate to help. Thanks to all of you!!



RATTLESNAKES



Rattlesnakes were one of the most generally hated and feared creatures of the Old West. Men habitually killed them from a sense of duty. They vary in size from the very small to the big diamond-back, which can be over six feet in length. Rattlesnakes or rattlers are predators that live in a wide array of habitats, exclusively in the Americas from southern Canada to Central Argentina. They hunt small animals such as birds and rodents. They kill their prey with a venomous bite. All Rattlesnakes possess a set of fangs with which they inject large quantities of toxic venom.

travels bloodstream, and causing bleeding, Rattlesnakes



The venom through the destroying tissue swelling, internal and intense pain. fall prey to

hawks, weasels, king snakes, and a variety of other species. The best way to distinguish Rattlesnakes from other kinds of snakes is by their rattle. Most other characteristics are either too subjective or inconsistent, or require one to get too close for safety.

The tip of the tail of a new-born Rattlesnake ends in a smooth rounded, slightly pear-shaped, "button", which is the first segment of the future rattle. As the young snake grows, it sheds its skin often. Each skin shed adds a new, loosely overlapped and interlocked segment to the rattle. The number of times a Rattler sheds its skin each year depends on food supply and growth rates. Shedding twice a year adds two segments to the rattle. Shedding three times a year adds three. The more a Rattlesnake sheds, the more segments are added to its rattle. Only when there is more than one segment can the rattle produce sound.

There isn't anything inside the rattle; the various segments merely bump against each other to produce the sound. The tremendous amount of sound produced results from movement of the rattle back and forth 60 or more times per second. A Rattlesnake's age cannot be determined simply by counting the number of rattles on its tail. Rattlesnakes travel with their rattles held up to protect them from damage. In spite of this precaution, their day-to-day activities in the wild cause them to break off end segments.

One of the Rattler's pseudonyms is the Sidewinder, a term also applied by Westerners to a man of treacherous character. While many snakes use the method of locomotion called "sidewinding", Rattlers are particularly adept at



it. Sidewinding is a method of locomotion adapted for areas with loose, hot, sandy soils where traction is difficult. The snake throws a loop of its body forward and then pulls itself up on the loop. As the loop is thrown forward, the head

and neck of the snake pushes down into the sand. In this way much of the snake's body is held up off the hot surface. To the observer, the sidewinding snake appears to be going sideways with respect to the direction in which the body points.

If you enjoy reading about Texas and have not read any of J. Frank Dobie's books, you should. My wife, **Powder Keg Patty**, who hates snakes, recently purchased a used book by Dobie entitled, *Rattlesnakes*. To her surprise and mine,



she enjoyed reading it from cover-to-cover before passing it on to me. Chapter names include: Rattlesnake Lore, Some Rattlesnakes I've Associated With, A Dissertation on Lying About Snakes, With Friendly Feelings for Rattlesnakes and Snake-Killing Cats and Dogs. Some of my favorite passages from the book include:

Many a fiddler has kept rattles in his fiddle in order to prevent the strings from getting damp. This practice is probably based on the belief that a rattlesnake never allows his own "musical box" to get wet.

Perhaps the belief has foundation, as evidenced by the two big rattlesnakes I once saw disporting themselves in a pool of water, and all the while keeping their rattles turned up high and dry.

Well, said the old rancher, "I saw something once concerning rattlesnakes that I never expect to see again. It was out in the Davis Mountain country and I was just a kid. One day I rode up on two rattlesnakes swallowing each other. Each was about three feet long and they had each other by the tail. They had swallowed so far that each snake was beginning to swallow itself. I sat there on my horse watching them for maybe fifteen minutes, and all the time the hoop they made was getting smaller and smaller. After a while I got down and killed them. I have always regretted that I did not let them finish swallowing and then bring them in to preserve in alcohol. They would have been quite a curiosity.

One day I picked up someone in Austin, Texas, to do a day's work on my place in the hills. Another laborer got him for me. I didn't like his looks when I saw him. I soon found out that he was worthless. I put him to work pulling up cockleburs in a creek valley. He was afraid to move out of the trail. In the afternoon I saw him thrashing tall green grass; he explained that he was trying to run the snakes out of it before he'd go into it and pull out a few cockleburs. I've been sorry ever since that I paid him anything for his time; I can't say for his work, for he didn't do any. His fear of rattlesnakes was as unrealistic as the government's policy of putting his kind on "unemployed" relief.

Although encounters are infrequent, there are rattlers at the Agarita Ranch. Just in case, general recommendations for first aid snakebites in the field are as follows:



1. Remain calm, and retreat from the snake at least 10–15 feet. Arrange to have the victim transported to a medical facility as soon as possible.
2. Remove restrictive clothing items (rings, bracelets, watches, buttoned shirts, etc.) from the victim.
3. Splint or otherwise immobilize any bitten limbs, and keep them below heart level. If, and only if, the victim is more than 1–2 hours away from a medical facility, place a lightly constricting band (that admits one finger beneath it) above the bitten area to prevent spread of the venom.
4. Keep the victim calm; put them at rest; keep them warm and give them comfort and reassurance (which will lower their heart rate, slowing the spread of the venom). Keeping a victim's heart rate down should never interfere with getting the victim to a medical facility.
5. In no case should tourniquets be used, nor should any incisions or suction be applied to the wound.



Rattlesnake Den in Palo Duro Canyon

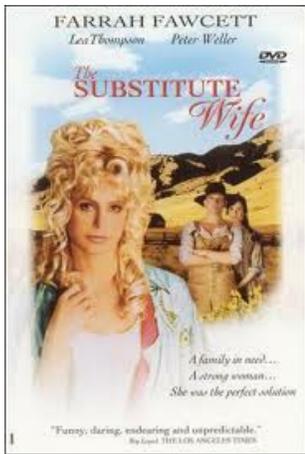


Bison Jim likes having a rifle that works

Western Movies: “Wants”

“If your wishes and *wants* are real enough, they’ll come in search of you.”

Celia Wallace played by Catherine Craig in Albuquerque (1948)



“What you *want* and what you get are two different things.”

Jeff Carter played by Eddie Acuff in Guns of the Pecos (1937)

“I know the quickest way to make you *want* something is always to tell you that you can’t have it.”

Blackie Williams played by Ray Middleton in Lady from Louisiana (1941)

“There is no place in this part of the country to waste your time crying over *wants*. Your life is about needs now.”

Sarah Graham played by Theresa Russell in Love Comes Softly (2003)

“Everybody *wants* what he hasn’t got.”

Utah Blaine played by Rory Calhoun in Utah Blaine (1957)

“Sometimes what a woman says she *wants* is a long walk from what she really *wants*.”

*Pearl played by **Farrah Fawcett** in The Substitute Wife (1994)*



Cheyenne Bodie on Gun Ban

I recently watched several episodes of the TV series, *Cheyenne*, on the Western Channel. The series, in black-and-white, was broadcast on ABC from 1955 to 1963. It was the first hour-long series with continuing characters from episode-to-episode. The show starred Clint Walker as Cheyenne Bodie and was known for its expression of a moral code in each episode. In the 1961 episode, “The Young Fugitives”, when someone suggests that guns are bad and should be banned, Cheyenne responds, “*A gun has no moral standard of its own accord. It’s kind of up to the man who’s using it.*” I suspect all of us would agree.



Calm before the registration storm



Moving to next stage



Lucky, you really did win Senior Duelist



Buckeye Slim & Phantom



Phantom and who??

Color on July 4th

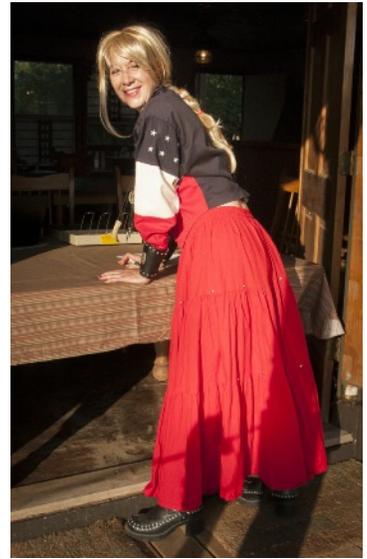




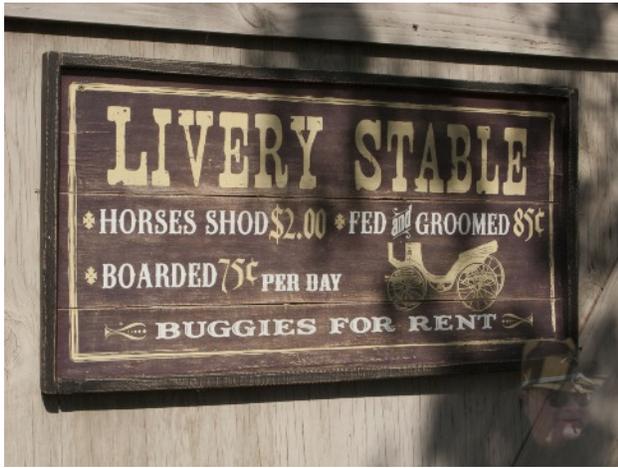
Wildcat Bob back from the North



Bisbee Jackson



True Blue Cachoo



Boosey Babe pumpin' brass

At this point, Bison Jim is looking for another rifle.

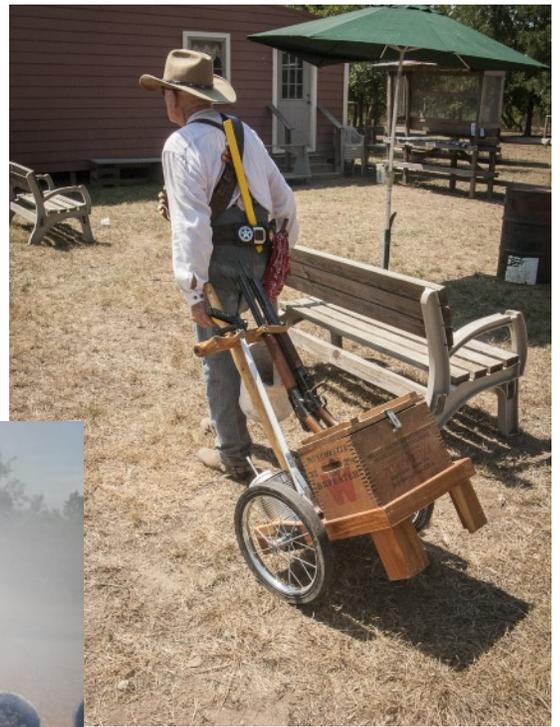




Loyal and happy,
quilting spectator



Frank Longshot &
Dutch Van Horn



Lincoln Drifter Moving On

Texas Sarge
shooting the
Holy Black





Minnetex Slim timing Boosey Babe



Wildcat Bob



More Holy Black



Someone has to score



Slip Stitch



Jasper

Great 4th of July braces, Dutch!!





Phantom



Wildcat Bob & Dragon Hill Dave



Cowboy Small and Minnetex Slim



Could he possibly be right about that shooting sequence?



Ivory Venom - Even her alias sounds fast!



Bandera Kid
"Mr. Bling"
and his
BLING!!



Nichols Creek



Which of these
cowboys do you
think is our
esteemed
Territorial
Governor?





He shoots fast!
He writes stages!
He paints targets!
He does it all!!



July 4th Fly-By



Dragon Hill Dave & Abilene

Jasper & Frank Longshot





Renegade Bullet Company
 Pricing as of 1 February 2012
 830-446-2123

Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	53
	105	FP	54
	125	RNFP	58
	125	FP	58
	130	RNFP	59
	158	RNFP	63
.380	100	RNFP	53
	245	RNFP	92*
	215	SWC	77
.41	180	RNFP	67
	240	SWC	81
.44-40	200	RNFP	70
	160	RNFP	76*
.45 COLT	180	RNFP	67
	200	RNFP	70
	250	RNFP	83
	124	RN	58
9MM	125	CN	58
	180	FP	67
.40 S&W	200	SWC	70
.45ACP	200	RN	70
"New"	230	RN	79
45-70	405	FPT	168*

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Jarhead Jake and his trusty Trapdoor

