

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

January 2013

Lockhart, Texas

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Flag Marshal - **Artiman**

Range Deputy - **Lightning McQueen**

www.pccss.org



Long Juan Here!

Our January Match was cool, damp and muddy, but we still managed to have a good time. Congratulations to our top ten finishers, category winners and those who shot clean. Complete scores are available on the Scores Page at www.pccss.org. Once again we forgot to elect officers for 2013. We will try again in February.

Congratulations to **Jake Jones**, **Lincoln Drifter**, **Jake Paladin** and **Scooter**. They shot every match between May (first month for which we kept records) and December 2012.

More than 100 shooters have already registered for *Ride with Pancho Villa*, the SASS 2013 Texas State Championship. We need volunteers to help both before the match and during the match. Please contact Match Director, **Dragon Hill Dave**, or Assistant Match Director, **Agarita Annie**, to volunteer.

We are using our PCCSS Yahoo Group to communicate with our members. It's easy to join at <http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/PCCSS/>.



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The President's Word

by *Dragon Hill Dave*



Happy 2013 Plum Creek shooters! This will be a big year for the club with the Texas State match in May. But this month I want to remind everyone that while we talk a lot about the state match coming up in May, much of what we have been doing has been to enhance the experience that we offer every shooter each month here at Plum Creek. Our goal is to make Plum Creek a “must do” on your list when you are thinking about shooting every month.

You can see that in the improvements we are making on the range with wider and lower windows to shoot through, easier access to the stages, a lot fewer step ups and step downs, new targets, new blankets, brass buckets and pickers, and timers. While we are readying for the state match, the monthly experience has benefited a lot. And we will keep making progress for you.

For example, in the coming months you will see a lot of new investment in targets. Our old targets have served us well, but it is time to upgrade. We acquired 30 new targets recently, along with 4 larger targets we will use for the Cody Dixon shooters. We will start integrating the new targets into the range. Through donations and hard work by **Elroy Rogers** and **Lighting McQueen** we have upgraded our shotgun targets and

improved the means to bring them back into play.

All of these are reasons for you to make the *Plum Creek Shooting Society* one of the clubs that you join as a member. We are signing new members and renewing old members. If you haven't joined as a member already, sign up in February and the cost is prorated for the rest of the year (\$3/mo.). Shoot with us the rest of the year and the discount from being a member more than makes up for the membership cost. We are striving to make Plum Creek a club you can be proud of. Join us in this endeavor by becoming a member.

As a member, you also get a vote for the club officers. At the shoot on February 2nd we will elect our President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. If you have a desire to serve as an officer, let us know and we will get your name on the ballot.

I have been traveling for the past few weeks and missed the shoot in January. I am back and don't expect to be traveling much for the rest of the year, so I am looking forward to being here for a productive and successful new year for the *Plum Creek Shooting Society*. I hope you will be a part of that too.



The 1876 Winchester "Centennial" Repeating Rifle



For most of us, "Winchester rifle" refers to any of the lever-action rifles manufactured by the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. Winchester rifles were among the earliest repeating rifles, were incredibly popular and are known as "The Gun that Won the West." In the mid-1870's, the Model 1873 lever action was immensely popular, but the '73's chambering in .44-40 and .38-40 was woefully underpowered when compared to the heavier-hitting Sharps, Remington and Springfield single-shot rifles of the day. The little toggle-link lever gun simply wasn't a rifle powerful enough to take the nation's largest game, such as bison and bear. Something had to be done.

1876 was a stellar year for the United States. From its fledgling beginnings in Philadelphia through several wars and one great divisive internal conflict, the Great Republic was celebrating its Centennial and rapidly becoming an industrial power like no other on earth. Winchester introduced its longer, stronger lever action at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. The new rifle was appropriately named the Model 1876 Centennial and received a



commendation from the judges as "...the best magazine rifle for sporting purposes yet produced."

At first glance, the '76 looked like a Winchester '73 on steroids. Forty-eight inches long with a 28-inch barrel, it weighed more than 10 pounds. The toggle-link action

was retained, but the receiver was lengthened, the wood was thicker, and the overall gun was significantly bulked up. Winchester had hoped to design a rifle that would handle the new .45-70 Government cartridge, but the '76 action was still too short. The Model 1876 was therefore chambered for a new proprietary cartridge, the .45-75 WCF. This bottle-necked case gave the Centennial rifle almost as much power as the .45-70 Government, but in a rifle that held a dozen cartridges in its magazine. The .45-75 cartridge and the Model 1876 rifle proved to be a worthy combinat

ion. Until Marlin came out with its Model 1881 chambered in .45-70, the '76 was the most powerful lever-action rifle one

could buy. In 1879 a more potent .50-95 Express and a popular .45-60 caliber were added. In 1884, Winchester added the flat-shooting (for the day) .40-60. Four different versions of the Model 1876 were offered: a 28" barrel Sporting Rifle, an Express Rifle with a 26" barrel and half-magazine, a full-stocked 32" barreled musket and a full-stocked carbine with a 22" barrel.



The Model 1876 was a favorite hunting rifle of ranchers and cowboys. It was very popular in the northwest parts of North America and several made their way to Africa

and Asia in the hands of big game hunters. Theodore Roosevelt was a great proponent of the '76 and used them extensively hunting in America and Africa. When Roosevelt headed west in 1883 and again in 1885, he armed himself with two Model '76 Sporting Rifles and a carbine. While a lot of shooters today consider the '76 to be too heavy, most hunters in the late 19th Century wanted a powerful repeater that could be carried easily on horseback. Many lawmen, outlaws, regulators, and others (Johnny Ringo and Tom Horn included) also chose the big Winchester. A '76 was found in the possession of Apache warrior Geronimo when he surrendered in 1886. Like other Winchesters, the 1876 was never adopted by the U.S. military, but the Canadian North West Mounted Police ordered hundreds of carbines and used them for many years. The Mountie-model was also issued to the Texas Rangers and one large order of muskets was shipped to Honolulu for use by the Citizens Guard of Hawaii. The Model 1876 Centennial was discontinued in 1898, after 63,871 had been produced. In more recent times, it has found fame as the rifle used by Steve McQueen in the 1980 movie "Tom Horn" and in 2001 a slicked-upped Model '76 carbine was carried by Tom Selleck in the movie "Crossfire Trail."



Original specimens of the Model 1876 Centennial in good condition are difficult to

find. It was Winchester's top rifle of the day and, not surprisingly, the ones that have survived in good condition exhibit excellent workmanship. Because of its relative scarcity and the fact that most of these guns saw hard use on the frontier, any original Model 1876 in halfway decent shape is a costly treasure. While the replica Winchester market has long been flooded with affordable examples of the Models 1866, 1873, and even the Henry, the Model 1876 was largely ignored. First Chaparral Repeating Arms and now A. Uberti have brought this legend back to life. The Uberti 1876 Centennial Rifle is chambered in .45-60, .45-75, and .50-95. It comes with a 28" octagonal barrel, buckhorn sights, color case-hardened receiver and A-grade walnut straight stock and fore-end. The reproduction 22" NWMP Carbine is available only in .45-65.



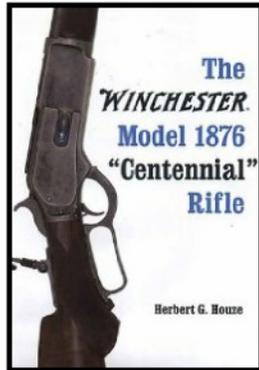
My personal adventure with the Model '76 began during one of those matches when I did not shoot guns, but was busy shooting photos. I noticed that **Circuit Judge** was shooting Cody-Dixon with what looked like a really big '73. I asked and he told me it was Model 1876 Centennial by Uberti, chambered in .45-60. Later I asked him if I could shoot it sometime. Shortly thereafter, on a weekend when he was unable to attend our monthly match, he sent it with **Kettleman**, together with a few rounds of .45-60. I shot it and was hooked. The following Monday I emailed **A.D. Texaz** at Cimarron. He told me they had two in stock. I immediately sent an email to **Phantom** at Storied Firearms. Two days later, he called to say I could come to the store and pick up my '76. I can confirm it is one big, beautiful rifle. With help from T.J. Bynum, a/k/a

Tom Horn, I have been working on the springs to make it easier to lever and to lighten the trigger pull. I have shot it in two matches, not well, but I love it. I will endeavor to persevere.

For more reading about the Winchester Model 1876 Centennial Rifle, see the following:

The Winchester Model 1876 Centennial Rifle
by Herbert G. Houze

This book is an authoritative study of the Winchester Model 1876



written using the company's own records. The book dispels the myth that the Model 1876 was merely a larger version of Winchester's famous Model 1873 and instead traces its true origins to designs developed immediately after the American Civil War.

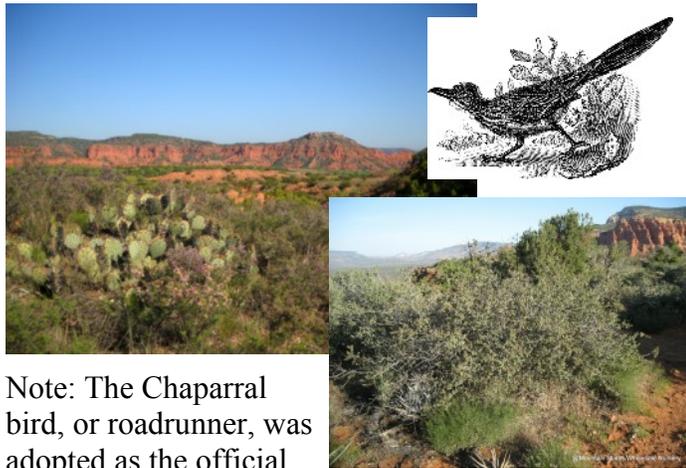
Winchester: An American Legend by R.L. Wilson.

Slicking the 1876 Centennial Rifle (A. Uberti) in 45-60 or the Chaparral 1876 Rifle in 45-60 by Tom Horn a/k/a James Hicks (TJ Bynum)
http://marauder.homestead.com/files/Slicking_the_1876.pdf



Find Delta Raider

Six readers found **Delta Raider** in the December issue. Mentioned in the dispatches are **Boon Doggle**, **Lincoln Drifter**, **Preacher Man**, **Manassas Jack**, **Leo's Lady** and **Six Goin' South**. **Lincoln Drifter** gets double mention this month, because I failed to note that he found all four of **Delta Raider's** appearances in the November issue. See if you can find him in this issue, and you will be mentioned in the dispatches in next month's issue.



Note: The Chaparral bird, or roadrunner, was adopted as the official state bird of New Mexico in 1949

Chaparral: What's it mean?

In Spanish, *chaparral* means an evergreen scrub oak. In the Old West, the word referred to a place with many scrub oak. The thickets of *chaparral* varied in size, from a few yards to a mile or more. The bushes and briars were covered with thorns and so closely entwined that they were almost impenetrable. Wild longhorn cattle took shelter in these thickets during the day and came out to graze at night. Cowboys wore chaparejos (chaps) to protect their legs from the thorns. With time, *chaparral* became a word covering all deeply brushed country.



PLUM CREEK SHOOTING SOCIETY

Agarita Ranch
Lockhart, Texas



Caos Drifter



**Is Six Goin South happy she
shot clean or what?**





Duke



Bisbee Jackson



**Joe Darter
&
Little Bullseye**

Frank Longshot came dressed for the cool, damp and muddy weather!



Six Goin' South & Little Bullseye



Lefty Leo takes dead aim



SkinDawg

Lucky Nickel





Nichols Creek says, "clean."

Wildcat Bob says a prayer



Tudelum Creek Granny



Phantom with long guns staged and ready





**Nueces Slim,
Phantom Timing**



**Big John Mesquite, Joe
Darter Timing**

Lightning McQueen



Minnetex Slim





Lefty Leo, Artiman & Jake Jones



Scooter

**Long
Juan
shooting
photos**



Boon Doggle



Kickshot





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Favorite Cowboy Western Movie Lines: What's yours?

(from the SASS Wire with editorial license)

"Dyin' ain't much of a livin', boy?"
Clint Eastwood – The Outlaw Josey Wales

"We're gonna to give you a fair trial, followed by a first-class hanging!"
Brian Dennehy (Cobb) - Silverado

"And now you understand. Anything goes wrong, anything at all ... your fault, my fault, nobody's fault ... it won't matter - I'm gonna blow your head off."
John Wayne – Big Jake

"Three things a man's gotta learn: How to handle a gun, a glass of whiskey and a girl. He don't learn that by reading."
Centennial

"When you have to shoot, shoot. Don't talk."
Eli Wallach (Tuco) - The Good, the Bad & the Ugly

"Badges? We don't need no stinkin' badges"
Rick Garza (Mexican bandit) – Blazing Saddles (but also The Treasure of the Sierra Madre and the TV comedy show – The Monkees)

"... a wonderful thing about Alaska is that matrimony hasn't hit up here yet! Let's keep it a free country!"
John Wayne – North to Alaska

"Ahh, women! I never met one yet that was half as reliable as a horse."
John Wayne – North to Alaska

It's not dying I'm talking about, it's living
Robert Duvall (Gus) – Lonesome Dove

"It's better to have that (gun) and not need it, than to need it and not have it."
Tommy Lee Jones (Woodrow Call) – Lonesome Dove