

# AGARITA GAZETTE



*A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society*



**Agarita Ranch**

**June 2013**

**Lockhart, Texas**

I think we have finally gotten the State shoot out of our system. For our June shoot we re-shot 6 of the best stages from the State shoot in May. It was a chance for some to shoot the stages for the first time and for others to re-live the glory and maybe do even better.

We were joined by Emily from the Texas State Rifle Association, who came to observe her first cowboy action shooting match and learn more about our sport. She got lots of insights and tips from our shooters. It was good to see her there to expand the TSRA's knowledge about our sport.

The TSRA is an important organization for our sport. In this last legislative session it was the TSRA that was there every day to look out for our gun rights in Texas. Your membership in the TSRA supports those efforts, so we urge you to join if you haven't already.

59 shooters came out to shoot with us, and we blazed through the stages, finishing around 12:45. It was an earlier finish than usual; welcome as the heat and humidity were taking their toll in the last 2 stages. I actually had to hand off the timer and sit down for a few moments on the last stage because of the heat.

The June shoot was a good reminder why Plum Creek typically moves to 5 stages instead of 6 in the summer so we can finish before the heat gets too oppressive. We will

## The President's Word



**Dragon Hill Dave**

go to 5 stages for July, August and September, then revert back to 6 stages in the fall.

The range is looking great. With the rain, the grass is growing and spreading to give us a much nicer surface for our firing line. We hope to keep that progress going. Of course with the spring and summer weather, the fire ants, wasps, and bugs are back, so we will be battling those this summer to cut down on the distractions.

Your officers met after the June shoot to discuss the State shoot, look at the evaluations turned in by the participants, and talk about how we can improve next year. The State match shooters gave us high marks for the overall match, even with some suggestions for improvement. We heard nothing but good things about the match experience overall from folks who talked with us about the match, together with occasional suggestions on how we might improve. We are taking all those suggestions seriously in our planning for next year.

*Continued next page*

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## **Stage Marshal - Phantom**

## **Flag Marshal - Artiman**

## **Range Deputy - Lightning McQueen**

## **The President's Word** *continued from previous page*

Some months ago we submitted our application to SASS to host the 2014 SASS Texas State Championship the first weekend in May 2014. We will not know whether Plum Creek has been selected until August because another club has also asked to be considered. The SASS Territorial Governors for Texas vote after August 1 to select who will host the State match.

Emily from TSRA asked me a good question at the June match. She wondered if all the shooting venues for Cowboy Action Shooting were as nice as ours. I have attended shoots at a number of clubs all over Texas, and I could tell her honestly that the Plum Creek range at the Agarita Ranch is one of the best Cowboy Action Shooting venues in Texas. There are very few places that offer the Western feel, the variety of stages and targets, and the physical facilities that we do, and that is why we feel we are a great place to hold the state match. While we are confident that we can do an even better job next year, we are taking nothing for granted and will continue to offer the best shooting experience possible so our reputation as a great place to shoot will be our best argument to do it again next year. See you in July!

## **The Dispatches**



**Long Juan** here! We have gone to summer rules for attire and will be shooting only five stages for the next three months. Summer rules do not mean simply strap on leather over your shorts and T-Shirt while wearing athletic shoes and a ball cap. We are a cowboy action shooting club. Everyone should want to look the part, taking the summer heat into account. That might mean, for example, shorts and a T-shirt with boots and a cowboy hat. Those shooting Classic Cowboy or B-Western must still meet the minimum SASS costuming requirements to shoot in those categories, but there are lots of options. For example, a vest and chaps are not required and you certainly can wear

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lighter clothing and roll up those sleeves. Another option would be to shoot in another category during the summer months. All of us need to remember to stay hydrated and to use what shade there is. Take a seat when you can or feel the need. Help with posse duties, but don't overdo it and don't let others overdo it. Take your turn so everyone will have a chance to take a break from time-to-time. Thanks.

Thanks to everyone who showed up early to register for the June match. It really helped us be ready to go on time. A special thanks to the shooters who said they would shoot on any posse. That gave us flexibility and let us adjust so we would have four posses of about the same size.

It's that time of year when some of your club officers and others who help get ready

for each monthly match will be on vacation, away shooting other matches, e.g., End-of-Trail, etc. There is lots of work that goes into getting ready for each match. There is a crew that goes to the range on Friday to set up and paint targets and do whatever other maintenance is needed on the range. There is a crew that shows up early Saturday morning to distribute the stage descriptions, post the starting lines, attach ropes to the KD's and assemble the posse supplies (timer, spotter sticks, clipboards, etc.). There is a crew that shows up to handle registration. There is a crew that enters scores. There is a crew that picks up after the match. Even in the best of times, the "crew" is often only one or two people. We always need help and welcome volunteers. With expected absences this summer, we are likely to ask for your help. If you can, just say YES.

## **FIND** *Delta Raider*

Probably because the Gazette is out earlier than usual this month, very few people reported finding **Delta Raider** in May. He was hanging around in the spotter flag on **Jake Jones'** hat.

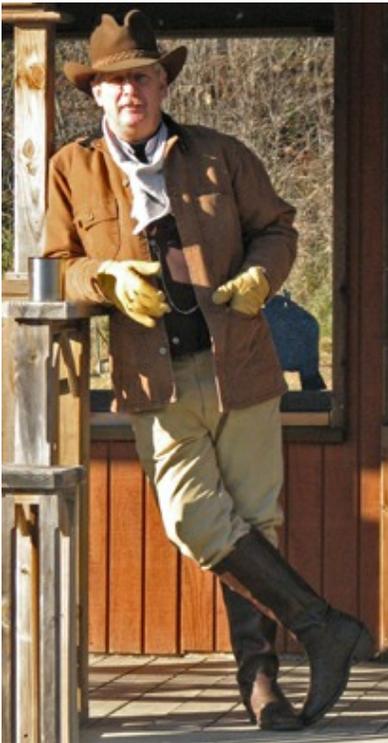
Hereby mentioned in the dispatches for finding him are **Sterling Sage, Lincoln Drifter, Boon Doggle** and **Lefty Leo**. Special recognition for my daughter, **Sterling Sage**, who is my copy editor each month. She keeps my embarrassing mistakes to a minimum. She reads a printed black and white copy and always finds **Delta Raider**. In my opinion, that is the toughest way to find him. Hint for those who wonder: The easiest way to find **Delta Raider** is to view online and enlarge each photo.

He is hidden again in this issue. Good luck finding him.



## **Stories from Jake** (*Paladin that is*):

At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking 'pints' and who was drinking 'quarts.' Hence the phrase 'minding your 'P's and Q's'.



You find yourself standing at your first cowboy action shooting match. You see a fellow dressed in what appears to be a pretty flashy cowboy outfit. He strolls up and places a rifle and shotgun on the counter of a late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

storefront. He prepares himself as someone else dressed in cowboy attire holds an electronic timer to his ear. There is a beep, a sudden flash of movement, a pistol drawn from a holster and a mild report erupts five times. He quickly holsters, pulls another six gun and five more mild reports erupt. He shoulders his rifle and levers off 10 quick shots followed by another gun change and four rounds from his shotgun. You hear the cowboy with the timer yell out, "24.56 and clean." In less than twenty-five seconds this cowboy, shooting in an age-based category, fired 24 rounds from four different guns and hit everything he aimed at. Impressive, to say the least.

roar and buck. As you watch the muzzle jump you notice this guy doesn't even try to hold onto them with both hands as the previous shooter had. His rifle is twice as loud and you notice those large steel plates are swaying with each hit he places upon them. They ring like a church bell as each lead bullet finds its mark. The shooting ends and this time the cowboy with the timer yells, "39.28 and clean" As before all targets have been hit but almost 15 more seconds were required to accomplish the same feat.

Why in the world is this fellow not sporting the straw hat of the previous cowboy? Why those leather chaps and jingling spurs?

## THE CLASSIC COWBOY

by Chauncey Dewey *(edited by Long Juan)*

What you and his fellow shooters have just witnessed is what cowboy action shooters refers to as the "classic cowboy." He's wearing all of the obvious items you saw plus a pocket watch, leather roping cuffs, large knife, suspenders and garters around his sleeves. This cowboy is wearing not just the required five items for a classic cowboy but ten. He put them all on thirty minutes prior to the match and will keep them on until the match is over and everyone is headed home for the day. To shoot in his category under SASS (Single Action Shooting Society) rules, you must wear a minimum of five items from a costume list and you must shoot large-caliber weapons that are not required in any other shooting category.

Your curiosity has gotten the best of you. You have to find out why this fellow would subject himself to such abuse on a hot day. You walk over as he's putting his guns away and inquire if you may have a word or two. Your first question is why he was dressed so differently from the others you have seen shooting this hot July morning. With a broad smile he begins to tell you that his character depicts a cowboy from the west who would

Now you hear the timer operator say, "shooter up" and you see another cowboy stroll to the firing line. This cowboy has a different appearance. Modern in dress, he is not. He's sporting a felt cowboy hat, leather chaps, silk scarf, canvas vest and spurs. You wipe sweat from your brow, glad you have on shorts as you feel the warm breeze pass over your bare legs on this 90 plus degrees day. He sets himself in shooting position, gets a go from the timer and his pistols begin to

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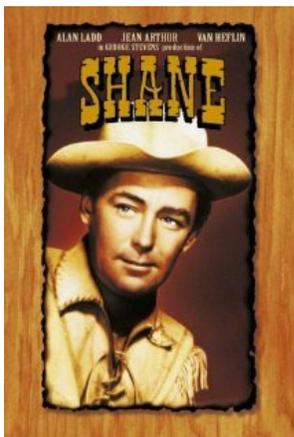
have pushed cattle, scouted for the army or worked a ranch anywhere from Texas to California. Time of year has nothing to do with his clothing. What a cowboy wore in the 1800's changed little with the seasons. When you inquire about his guns you discover he likes the guns that are true to the 1800's. They are of the same caliber that would have been available one hundred and sixty years to one hundred and twenty years ago. What he refers to as the "big bore" calibers, all 40 caliber and larger. He tells you about the 44-40 and 45 Colt rounds of years ago and how they produced the recoil you witnessed as he shot the stages. He tells you how he is required to shoot duelist, the one-hand hold that cowhands of yesterday preferred. His required rifle is a reproduction of a Winchester produced in 1873 or the earlier 1866, commonly known as the "yellow boy."

Like so many of my time, I rode the arms of that big old couch in our living room. I shot bandits, roped cattle and kept the peace from that couch. I watched Hoppy, Gene and Roy and others do the same every chance I had. They were my heroes. Now a lot of years and couches later I find cowboy action shooting allows me to relive the past. I find

myself following not the obvious heroes, but those who backed their plays. The drab cowhand wearing a gun, not slung low in a buscadero rig, but at waist level. Another favorite was the shotgun rider who usually got it in the belly, but first got off some rounds with that hammered double barrel. What I have come to love in this category called classic cowboy is that it requires shooting 40 caliber or larger, a one-hand hold on a pistol, a rifle produced from 1873 back and a hammered shotgun. The dress is simple, drab and functional. So come on out and give Classic Cowboy a go. I promise a smile at the end of every match.

Chauncey Dewey, SASS #72795  
Powder Creek Cowboys, KS

*Editor's Note: We had some great Classic Cowboys and Cowgirls shooting at the Stage Match. Plum Creek President **Dragon Hill Dave** is one of the best Classic Cowboy shooters in the country. **Bandera Kid** placed first in Class Cowboy at this year's Comancheria Days. Territorial Governor, **Jake Paladin**, regularly shoots Classic Cowboy at our monthly matches. They all say, "Try it; you might like it!"*



### Western Movie Wit & Wisdom

"A gun is a tool ...; no better or no worse than any other tool; an ax, a shovel, anything. A gun is as good or as bad as the man using it. Remember that." *Shane* 1953

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## What's are Spurs?

Spurs are one of the items on the list from which the Classic Cowboy may choose his costume. To the modern city man, spurs seem cruel, even barbarous. As with the bit, however, spurs are only as cruel as the man or woman using them. Horsemen of the Old West used spurs to guide their horses and as an emergency starter. A spur is composed of a heel band or yoke, a shank or neck and usually a rowel. The fashion in spurs was somewhat different east and west of the Rockies. The California spur, true to the Spanish-Mexican influence, tended to be larger and more highly decorated. Spur shanks could be straight or curved. The shank curve or angle from the yoke varies from full to straight. Old Californios favored so great a curve that spurs had to be removed on dismounting if the owner wanted to walk. The Mexican style spur fitted to the boot heel. Californios wore their spurs loose with a chain under the instep of the foot, while most Anglos wore a tight strap that went over the instep of the boot and held the



spur in position. Spur straps were often beautifully tooled with intricate designs. Spurs seen in western riding often have small curved-up hooks (chap guards) on the shank in front of the rowel that prevent the rider's chaps from interfering with the rowels of the spur. Rowels were of various design, but usually took the shape of wheels and stars. Rowels vary in size and number of points. Some cowboys added small metal *pajados*, also known as *jingle bobs*, near the rowel to create a jingling sound whenever the foot moved.



Jake Jones shooting three classics, including a Spencer and a lever-action shotgun

# RO's Corner: Correct Scoring is Important

Scoring is important, more important for some than others, but important nevertheless. If it were not important, why would we bother with a timer, spotters and a scorekeeper? We all need to pay close attention – the shooter, the timer operator, the spotters and the scorekeeper. If your mind begins to wonder, it is time to ask for a replacement. Get someone else to operate the timer, be a spotter or write down the scores.

When the scores were posted after the match in June, two shooters politely inquired about their scores. In one instance, the shooter shot the stage clean and recalled a time that was 20 seconds less than what was recorded. Twenty seconds would have changed the category results. I checked the original score sheets. They were legible and his time had been entered in the scoring system exactly as it was written on the score sheet. Question: Did the shooter remember his time incorrectly, did the RO read or say the time incorrectly or did the scorekeeper record the score incorrectly? For a monthly match, it is not as important as it would have been for the State Match, but we need to do what we can to be sure we get it right.

Here are some suggestions.

1. Be alert. If you are too hot or too tired to pay close attention, get a replacement.
2. RO/Timer Operator. Be sure you have three alert spotters before you say, “Stand by.” Tell the shooter his time as he or she leaves the line. Poll all three spotters. Read the time and report any penalties (misses, procedural, minor safeties, etc.) to the scorekeeper. Ask the scorekeeper to read it back to you or look at what was

written to be sure it is entered correctly.

3. Spotters. Pay attention. Get to a location where you can see the targets. For example, if spotting for a Cody-Dixon shooter, you may have to move so you can see the long-distance targets. Pay attention. When the shooter has finished shooting, signal the RO how many misses and report any other penalties you observed. Do not poll the other spotters to try to reach a consensus. Report what you saw. Remember, of course, the benefit of the doubt goes to the shooter. If you only THINK it was a miss, it was a hit.

4. Scorekeeper. Write legibly. Read back what you have written to the RO to confirm you have written it correctly. Write legibly. The folks entering scores in the scoring system can only enter



what they can read. If you make a mistake, cross it out and write the correction legibly, somewhere else on the score sheet if there is no room in the appropriate box. Be sure to use the correct score sheet for the stage. Remember the stages will print as Stage 1-6, even if we are shooting Stages 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 & 10. The correct name of the stage and our stage number (1-10) appears in the upper left hand corner of the score sheet. For example, last month, our Stage 3, the Elroy Rogers

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Wheelwright Shop, was match Stage 1. Oh, did I say, write legibly?

5. Shooters. A little self-help goes a long way. At big matches, shooters initial their scores. That way if there is a problem, it can be cleared up at the time. After the match, it is too late. Although we do not require initials at our monthly matches, it never hurts to check your score right after you shoot. If you think it has been entered incorrectly, you can raise a question before it is too late.

Bottom line, we all have a responsibility to each other to try to get it right. Just a little extra effort will go a long way. Thanks

## First “Summer” Match

The June match introduced us to summer weather in a hurry. Temperatures were in the 90’s and the humidity was high! I was among the many who wilted roses and had take a seat for a while to recover. I was drinking lots of water, but apparently not enough.

We had 59 shooters and competed in 24 different categories on 4 posses. As is becoming his habit, **Rattlesnake Wrangler** finished first overall. **Ivory Venom** was our top lady, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> overall. We had 8 clean shooters: **Big John Mesquite, Bison Jim, Bolo Bob, Dragon Hill Dave, El Sabre, Jake Jones, Joe Darter** and **Nueces Slim**.



Six Goin’ South had fun and shot one of her best matches ever

Winners in categories with competition included **The Adobe Kid** (Cattle Baron), **Gold Dog** (Cody-Dixon Lever), **Boon Doggle** (Cody-Dixon Single), **Bison Jim** (Elder Statesman), **Dutch Van Horn** (Senior), **Hopalong Herbert** (Silver Senior), **Big Iron Patnode** (B-Western), **Cimarron Jones** (Senior Duelist), **Bronco Birnbaum** (Frontier Cartridge Duelist), **Dragon Hill Dave** (Classic Cowboy), **Kettleman** (Gun Fighter), **Howdy Nabor** (Duelist), **Joe Darter** (49’r), **Colt Faro** (Wrangler) and **Tres Equis** (Cowboy). Complete scores are posted on the website, [www.pccss.org](http://www.pccss.org).



T-Bone Paul

Tascosa - dare  
I say Kid?





**A fan provided relief from some of the heat and humidity.**



**If only the water were potable, I suspect many shooters would have taken a dunk in the watering trough (fish tank)**



**Lightning McQueen**



**Bison Jim on his way to a clean match**



**One would think that G.T. Sharps could find a better way to hold his trousers together**



Ivory Venom showing the form that resulted in first among the Ladies and 5<sup>th</sup> overall



Gold Dog gives Emily from TSRA the lowdown.



Rocco



Kickshot



Delta Raider assures me he was admiring Wild Hog's knives. Not entirely sure what True Blue Cachoo was admiring. And, NO, this is not the the "Find Delta Raider" photo.



**Sombrero Negro**



**Cowtown Scout**



**Three Amigos  
Jake Jones, Artiman & Jake Paladin**



**Little Bullseye helping  
with posse duties by  
keeping score**



**Howdy Nabor**



**Little Bullseye gets some advice from Dragon Hill Dave**



**Bronco Birnbaum**



**Is the Agarita Ranch a great venue or what?**



**Bronco seems skeptical of Kettleman's score. Do you blame him?**



**It was good having Schuetzum Phast back shooting with us**



Will Johnson



Farr Ranger and son, Blake the Snake enjoy a moment together. The family that shoots together stays together, eh?



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.38	100	RNFP	29	58
	105	FP	30	60
	125	RNFP	32	64
	125	FP	32	64
	130	RNFP	32.50	65
	158	RNFP	35	70
	158	FP	35	70
	158	SWC	35	70
.380	100	RNFP	29.50	59
.38-55	245	RNFP	51	102
.41	215	SWC	42.50	85
.44	180	RNFP	37	74
	240	SWC	45	90
.44-40	200	RNFP	39	78
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	42	84
	180	RNFP	37	74
	200	RNFP	39	78
9MM	250	RNFP	46	92
	124	RN	32	64
	125	CN	32	64
40 S&W	180	FP	37	74
.45ACP	200	SWC	39	78
	200	RN	39	78
	230	RN	43.50	87
45-70	405	FPT	92.50	185