

# AGARITA GAZETTE



*A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society*



Agarita Ranch

October 2013

Lockhart, Texas

## The President's Word



President Dragon Hill Dave

The Plum Creek Shooting Society is an unincorporated association of shooters dedicated to Cowboy Action Shooting at the Agarita Ranch near Lockhart Texas. This club has existed only since April 2012. Our bylaws went into effect in May 2012. In 18 months the club has grown, held a successful Texas State Championship match and steadily built our reputation as a great place to shoot throughout the state and surrounding area. While we were not selected to host the state match for 2014, we are not discouraged and still plan to have a great shoot the first week of May 2014 called "The Battle of Plum Creek."

Your officers have been busy since you elected us in 2012 and re-elected us last December. We continue to plan for the success of the club, but it is important that all of our members have the opportunity to hear a report on the "State of the Club" and that we share with you our vision for the future. After the monthly shoot in November, as part of our Thanksgiving lunch, your officers will discuss plans for The Battle of Plum Creek, the expected range and target improvements, the recent membership

survey results and plans to start offering shooting on the Sunday following our Saturday

shoot beginning in February 2014. We will also be ready to answer questions or discuss any topics that you want to discuss.

Elections are coming up in December 2013 for President, Vice President and Secretary. Our Secretary and Treasurer serve two-year terms. Those offices are elected in alternate years. Our Treasurer was reelected last December and will serve until December 2014. The election will be right before our monthly match on December 7. Under our by-laws anyone who wants to run for an officer position or nominate someone for office must notify the Secretary (Long Juan) at least 10 days before our December 7 meeting.

We are changing our regular workday to prepare for the match to the Sunday before the match. The Friday before the match has not been well attended because of work schedules. We hope for a better turnout on Sunday.

Our December match will be a Christmas shoot. We will have a 4-stage Wild Bunch match in the morning and a 5-stage Cowboy Match in the afternoon, followed by our annual Christmas party and dinner that evening. More details soon.

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## Plum Creek Shooting Society Officers

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### Range Deputy - **Lightning McQueen**

### Safety Marshal - **Elroy Rogers**

### Stage Marshal - **Phantom**

### Flag Marshal - **Artiman**

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## The Dispatches

**Long Juan** here! Life has been good. **Powderkeg Patty** and I spent a wonderful two weeks in Switzerland in September. The weather was good, the people were great and the trains were clean and on time. It is tough to pick from the 1,400+ photos we took, but I have included a page of photos from Switzerland in this issue of the Gazette.

We returned in time for me to shoot the October match. Maybe a forecast that included possible rain and a cool front deterred folks from attending, but the 45 shooters who did had a great time. I bailed on the *Texican Rangers* match the following Saturday because of the forecast and wish I had not. Speaking of the *Texican Rangers*, we welcome their members to shoot with us in November and December at member prices.

We were glad to have **Deadly Michael, Slick** and **Creek Johnson** shooting with us, I think for the first time in October. Our top ten shooters overall were **Phantom, Joe Darter, Skyhawk Hans, Bison Jim, Lefty Rhodes, Dutch Van Horn, Hopalong Herbert, Frank Longshot, Whiskey Kid** and **Lincoln Drifter**. Category winners included **Lucky Nickel** – Cody Dixon Lever, **Will Johnson** – Cody Dixon Single, **Bison Jim** – Elder Statesman, **Dutch Van Horn** – Senior, **Skyhawk Hans** – Silver Senior, **Lars Christopherson** – Senior Duelist, **Bronco Birnbaum** – Frontier Cartridge Duelist, **Circuit Judge** – Duelist, **Phantom** – 49'r and **Joe Darter** – Wrangler. There were six clean shooters for the match – **Abilene, Bison Jim, El Sabre, Gold Dog, Lars Christopherson** and **Lincoln Drifter**. Congratulations to all.

We will have a club meeting immediately following our November match, just before Thanksgiving lunch. Club officers will present a "State of the Club" report and members will have the opportunity to ask

questions and to provide input on the direction of the club. In December, we will elect officers. The positions up for election this year are President, Vice President and Secretary. If you want to run for office or if you want to nominate someone to run for office, be sure to let me know by November 28<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed photos for the website, including **Six Goin' South, Lefty Leo, Lincoln Drifter, Dragon Hill Dave, Boon Doggle, Flatwater Frosty, Lightning McQueen** and **Frank Longshot**.



## FIND *Delta Raider*

Hereby mentioned in the dispatches for finding **Delta Raider** on the Four Corners berm in last month's issue are: **Sterling Sage, El Sabre, Hoss Roonwright, Boon Doggle, Fairbanks Sam's wife (NOT Fairbanks Sam) and Meadow Biscuit Slim. Delta Raider** appears in this issue also. Let's see who can find him? You might also try to find the helicopter in this issue.

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

### ***Bet you didn't know this!***

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. The problem was how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called

a "Monkey" with 16 round indentations. If the plate was made of iron, the iron cannon balls quickly rusted to it. The solution was to make "Brass Monkeys." That solution, however, had a problem of its own. Brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when it is chilled. As a result, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations shrank so much that the cannonballs rolled right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, "Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey." And all this time, you thought it meant something else, didn't you?

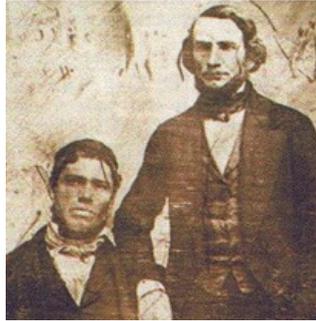


**L.W. Hannabass**

# Richard King and the King Ranch

by Long Juan

Our story begins in the mid-1830s with an eleven-year-old boy indentured by his destitute family to a jeweler in New York City. That boy, Richard King, chafed under the arrangement. In 1835, he stowed away on a ship heading for Mobile, Alabama. He was discovered and adopted by the crew. He trained in navigation and became a steamboat pilot by the age of sixteen. Now Captain King, he moved to South Texas and founded a steamboat line with his friend, Mifflin Kenedy. Together they set up ports and moved goods and people along the lower Rio Grande River.



During the Mexican-American War, King and Kenedy ferried men and supplies to the United States Army along the Rio Grande River. After the war, King and Kenedy achieved nearly monopolistic control of the Rio Grande. Their near-monopoly lasted almost thirty years and was extremely profitable.

When King arrived in Texas, he began acquiring land. In 1852, he traveled overland from Brownsville to Corpus Christi. He was fascinated by the grasslands along Santa Gertrudis Creek in the "Nueces Strip" (the land between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande). The Nueces Strip was also called the Wild Horse Desert because of its large herds of beautiful wild mustangs. King's vision for a great cattle ranch had begun to take shape. He purchased the 15,500-acre Mexican land grant then known as the Rincon de Santa Gertrudis. The San Gertrudis Ranch became the first foothold of what would become the legendary King Ranch of Texas.

In the early days of the King Ranch, there was a terrible drought in South Texas and Northern Mexico. King traveled to the little hamlet of Cruillas in the Mexican State of Tamaulipas. The townspeople were in such dire straits that they sold all of their cattle to him in an effort to survive. A short distance out of town, slowly driving the cattle north toward Texas, King realized that he had solved the immediate problem for the people of Cruillas, but had simultaneously removed their means of long-term livelihood. He returned to Cruillas and made its people a proposal. He would provide them with food, shelter and income if they would move and come to work on his ranch. The townspeople conferred and many of them agreed to move north with King.

Already expert stockmen and horsemen, these residents of the rugged Mexican range became known as Los Kineños – King's people. They and many generations of their descendants would go on to weave a large portion of the historical tapestry of the King Ranch. The Kineño cowboys occupy a legendary place in the history of the American West.



The mystique of the Kineños is alive and well. Descendants of the original residents of Cruillas still live and work on the ranch today, providing a vital link with the past.

King married Henrietta Chamberlain in 1854. Henrietta was the refined daughter of a Presbyterian minister from back East. Her refinement would become a hallmark of the remote King Ranch, as weary travelers encountered not only an impressive ranching operation, but an oasis of gentility and warm hospitality in the very midst of an

otherwise wild and often hostile country. Henrietta and Richard King had five children: Nettie, Ella, Richard, Alice Gertrude and Robert E. Lee, the latter named for family friend, Robert E. Lee



The Civil War years found the resourceful Captain King thriving in his steamboat business by running the Union blockade, but his long-term vision was for the ranch he was building. By the end of the Civil War, the King Ranch had grown to 146,000 acres supporting thousands of head of cattle. Getting his cattle to market was a real challenge. One thousand miles of dangerous wilderness stretched between the King Ranch and mid-western railheads where King's cattle could be sold. King's longhorns were some of the very first cattle to comprise the early northward Texas cattle drives.

During the early days of the ranch, King tried a variety of grazing animals, including cattle, horses, sheep and goats.

Texas longhorns became the base stock. King transformed the hardscrabble longhorns and wild horses of his lands into the finest cattle and horses in Texas. In 1874 he bought several Brahman bulls for breeding. In the 1880s, shorthorns and Herefords were brought to the ranch. Brahmans, which were especially adapted to the South Texas climate, were crossbred with shorthorns to



produce the first officially recognized new breed of beef cattle in America - the famous Santa Gertrudis breed.

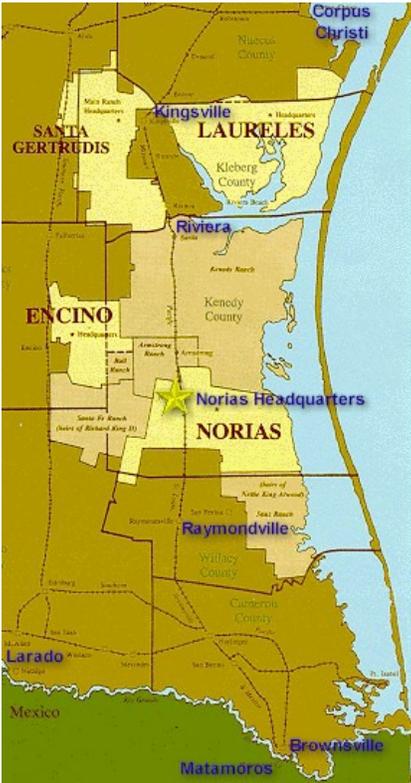
In addition to his ranching operations, King invested in the Corpus Christi, San Diego & Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railroad Company (later the Texas Mexican Railway and now part of the Grupo TFM railroad system operating mostly in Mexico), packing plants, ice houses, and harbor improvements at Corpus Christi. King is also linked to several attempts to seize Mexican territory by force and privately funded operations of the Texas Rangers, particularly the company under Captain Leander McNelly.

In 1869, King registered a brand that has since taken on mythic significance in the taming of the West, the famous "Running W." The meaning of the "Running W" remains a mystery. Some say it represents one of the ranch's many diamondback rattlesnakes or the path of the Santa Gertrudis Creek. Others are sure it signifies the sweeping horns of a Texas Longhorn.



King continued acquiring land until his death in 1885. At the time of his death, the 614,000-acre King Ranch included land in Nueces, Kenedy, Kelberg and Willacy Counties. Richard King created a legacy known, far and wide as the birthplace of American ranching. Today, the King Ranch spans 825,000 acres, an area roughly the size of

Dallas, Houston and San Antonio combined, and continues to be a dominant economic force in South Texas. For the Yankees



among our readers, the King Ranch is larger than Rhode Island, plus the Borough of Brooklyn (or the size of 982 Central Parks). The boy who started as an impoverished, indentured jeweler's apprentice became a hard-working and visionary steamboat captain, businessman and

rancher. By the time of his death, Captain Richard King had made an indelible mark on the landscape and had taken his place as a giant of Texas.

The King family and the King Ranch are part of the myth and mystique of Texas. They have been featured in several books and at least one film. For example, the *Kings of Texas: The 150-Year Saga of an American Ranching Empire* by Don Graham traces the history of the ranch through decades of conflict arising from the Mexican-American War, the Civil War and countless skirmishes between Texas Rangers and border bandits. Edna Ferber's novel *Giant*, a sweeping tale that captures the essence of Texas on a staggering scale, was the basis for the film of the same name, starring Elizabeth Taylor, Rock Hudson and James Dean. Many King Ranch events, like the discovery of oil on the ranch, are in the film. In James Michener's novel *Centennial*, the Venneford Ranch is said to have been patterned after the King Ranch. Matt Braun's western, *Lords of the Land*, is based on the King Ranch and its founder. *The King Ranch* by Tom Lea is a two-volume definitive work that covers not only the history of the ranch, but also that of the region, most notably the Rio Grande Valley.



*The resourceful, visionary and driven Captain Richard King.*



Santa Gertrudis — King Ranch Headquarters, Kingsville, Texas

# Long Juan goes to Switzerland





**Duelist Winner, Circuit Judge, Frontier Cartridge Duelist Winner, Bronco Birnbaum  
& Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter, Kettleman**

**Senior Gunfighter, Lefty Rhodes shooting with Phantom timing**



**Whiskey Kid showing good form**



**He who picks brass also serves.  
Thanks, Abilene!**

Nueces Ranger creating the fog of black powder (below) and the result (left)



Little Bullseye carb-loading for the match



Long Juan loading to shoot Stage 1



Jarhead Jake shooting in the GAFS (single) category



We will miss Miss Sassy Fras (top left) and Tascosa (top right). They are relocating to Santa Fe. Something about the summer temperatures in Texas

Kit Carson, Slick and Deadly Michael (right)



Delta Raider, Wild Hog & Elroy Rogers

Kettleman (below)



**Lucky Nickel**



**Artiman & Annalong Longshot (above)**



**Lady B Bruce & Little Bullseye (right)**



**Jack Jones shooting his black powder  
1887 lever-action shotgun**





**Doug the Kid shooting, with Phantom timing (left)**

**Kettleman shooting gunfighter (below)**



**Cody Dixon shooter, Lefty Leo, takes dead aim**



**Alamo Bill takes a break**



**River Ben & Flatwater Frosty**

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Pricing, effective 9/1/13\*

Don Herbert (Hopalong) 210-602-6994

Rick Page 210-844-9362

Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/500	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	32	64
	105	FP	33	66
	125	RNFP	35	70
	125	FP	35	70
	130	RNFP	36	72
	158	RNFP	39	77
	158	FP	39	77
	158	SWC	39	77
.380	100	RNFP	33	65
.38-55	245	RNFP	59	117
.41	215	SWC	49	98
.44	180	RNFP	41	81
	240	SWC	52	104
.44-40	200	RNFP	45	90
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	46	92
	180	RNFP	41	81
	200	RNFP	45	90
	250	RNFP	53	106
9MM	124	RN	35	70
	125	CN	35	70
40 S&W	180	FP	41	81
.45ACP	200	SWC	45	90
	200	RN	45	90
	230	RN	51	101
45-70	405	FPT	111	222

\*Price increase because of higher cost of lead. Sorry for any inconvenience.