

# AGARITA GAZETTE



*A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society*



Agarita Ranch

December 2013

Lockhart, Texas

## December Match and Planned Festivities Rescheduled: *Right Decision*

On Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, the PCSS Board made the tough decision to postpone the monthly match and Christmas festivities planned for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The forecast was for temperatures in the 20s and 30s with a chance of freezing rain and drizzle. The decision to postpone turned out to be correct. Current plans are to reschedule for Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, as a New Year's and Belated Christmas Party. Specifics will be announced later this month. Watch the website and your email for details.

	Sat 7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm
Forecast	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy
Temp (°F)	27°	27°	28°	29°	31°	32°	33°	34°	34°	34°	32°	31°	30°	29°	29°
RealFeel®	15°	15°	17°	18°	21°	23°	25°	26°	26°	24°	23°	21°	19°	19°	19°

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Lockhart, TX 78644

Change Location

**Today** **Hi: 33°** Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of freezing rain. Highs in the lower 30s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. Wind chill readings 15 to 20.

**12/7/2013** **Lo: 25°** Cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s. North winds 5 to 10 mph. Wind chill readings 20 to 25.

# Plum Creek Shooting Society Officers

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## **Range Deputy - Lightning McQueen**

## **Safety Marshal - Elroy Rogers**

## **Stage Marshal - Open**

## **Flag Marshal - Artiman**

[www.pccss.org](http://www.pccss.org)



## President's Word:

**W**ell Dang It! We were all ready to go on our Christmas shoot December 7<sup>th</sup> when the weather just cratered on us. The forecast just kept getting worse and worse. This led to the decision that it would be safer and more enjoyable for our shooters not to try to come out to the range this Saturday. The forecasted sleet, freezing rain, 20+ mph winds and cold, cold, cold just didn't sound like the right conditions to shoot all day and party all night. So your officers opted to make the "we're not shooting" call pretty early so we could let everyone know. We sure wish the weather would have cooperated. Tuesday before the 7<sup>th</sup> was clear, high in the low 80s, and no wind—a perfect day for shooting, just not Saturday. We are set to try again the first weekend in January. Then we can celebrate the end of a successful year and the beginning of another great year of shooting.

**T**his delay will give you some additional time to go through your closets and gun safes to find those Cowboy Action Shooting items that you want to donate for the silent auction or offer for sale at the Cowboy Yard Sale. Maybe Santa will bring you a new gun or guncart or clothing item that makes the old one you have superfluous. Perfect for the silent auction or the Cowboy Yard Sale! We have several new shooters who are excited to get into the sport, and they would really appreciate the chance to get some quality clothes and equipment at a reasonable

price. At Plum Creek we want to upgrade some of our targets and target stands, but we need some funds to do it and we are a little light at the moment. So your support by donating items that the club can sell at a silent auction or donating a portion of your proceeds from the Yard Sale can go a long way toward range improvements.

**O**fficer elections are in progress with absentee voting underway. If you can't be at our shoot in January and you are a member, please send in your vote to **Long Juan** at [jsoule@scottdoug.com](mailto:jsoule@scottdoug.com). I am not going to use this column for politicking for myself, but I can say some words about someone who is unopposed in this election.

*Continued next page.*

## President's Word continued

We are so incredibly lucky to have our secretary, **Long Juan**. He does so many things for this club that help make us successful. He is the creator and editor of the *Agarita Gazette*, he is our email voice to the many shooters who follow our club, he oversees and updates our website, he manages the registration and scorekeeping, and he worries about the little things that make the shoots go smoothly and the club

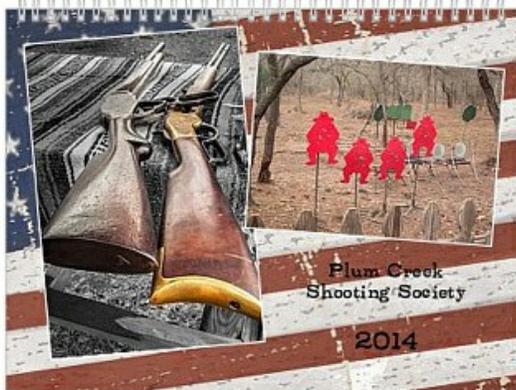
function effectively. In real life John is a attorney. If we paid him by the hour for the time that he works for us, we couldn't afford him. In this holiday season I am thankful that he is willing to volunteer his time to serve as our secretary and for all the things he does to support the club. Next time you see him I hope you will take a moment to thank him for all he does for the *Plum Creek Shooting Society*.



## The Dispatches

**L**ong Juan here! It's hard to believe that this issue marks the end of my third year as editor of the *Agarita Gazette*. Thanks for your support. I confess that I have enjoyed putting together each and every issue.

**T**his month we have a great article about Samuel Ringold written by **Lefty Leo**. You may remember that he contributed a wonderful poem, *Freedom*, which ran in the April 2013 issue. Because we did not shoot this month, there are no new match photos in this issue. Instead, I used photos from my "Best-Of" collection for 2013. Many of these photos appear in our 2014 Plum Creek Calendar created by **Sterling Sage**. The calendar is popular each year with members and others who shoot at Plum Creek. We



have only 5 calendars remaining from the pre-order. If you want one at the low price of \$20 (including a \$5 contribution to our club), place your order soon. We can get

more, but the price will be higher, even without a donation to the club.

**T**hanks to all of you who have voted early. We will vote for officers in person at the January match. If you still want to vote early, you can. Send an email to [jsoule@scottdoug.com](mailto:jsoule@scottdoug.com) with your choices: **Artiman** or **Dragon Hill Dave** for President; **G.T. Sharps** or **Joe Darter** for Vice President. I am the only candidate for Secretary. **True Blue Cachoo** has another year in her two-year term as Treasurer. For your early ballot to count, I need to receive it by 6:00 p.m., Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**G**lenn Jordan (**Farr Ranger**) has written another novel. Glenn's first book, *Cowboys & Terrorists* was entertaining. See my review in the August 2013 issue of the *Cowboy Chronicle*. Glenn's new book, *Serpents of Eden*, is even better. I am working on a review and recommend it to anyone with an interest in western fiction, Texas history and/or just a good read. It is set in Central Texas shortly after Texas became a state and before the Civil War. It involves settlers, Comanche, Karankawa and other Indians, soldiers and Rangers. You can find it for Kindle on Amazon.

**I**n closing, I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas or Happy Hanukah and a Happy New Year!! Hope to see all of you on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget your donations for the silent auction and/or items you would like to sell.

# Samuel Ringgold (Mexican-American War Hero)

by Lefty Leo



Born on October 16, 1796 in Hagerstown, Maryland Samuel B. Ringgold went on to become the first hero of the Mexican-American War. He was the son of Maryland Representative Samuel Ringgold and his wife Maria

Cadwalader.

In 1814 Samuel Ringgold began his military education at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He graduated 5<sup>th</sup> in a class of 23 in 1818 and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in Artillery. From December 1818 to July 1821 he served as Aide-de-Camp to General Winfield Scott. After a 6 month assignment in 1821 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Army Topographical section, he returned to the position of Aide-de-Camp for General Scott, as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant. He held this position until late 1823.

From 1824 until 1826 Lieutenant Ringgold served at the Fort Severn, Maryland, and Fort Monroe, Virginia artillery schools. In 1826 he was assigned to Ordnance duty at Fort Monroe, a position that he held until promotion to Captain in May 1832. He was then transferred to Fort Macon, North Carolina as an artillery officer.

Captain Ringgold served on Ordnance duty at Fort Macon until August 1836 when he was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Artillery during the Florida War. When the Florida War ended in 1838 he was promoted to Major and moved on to Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

As a Major, Ringgold then taught at the Camp of Instruction near Trenton, New Jersey in 1839. After his position in New Jersey he was then transferred to Fort McHenry, in Maryland until 1843. During part of 1843 he was on detached service,

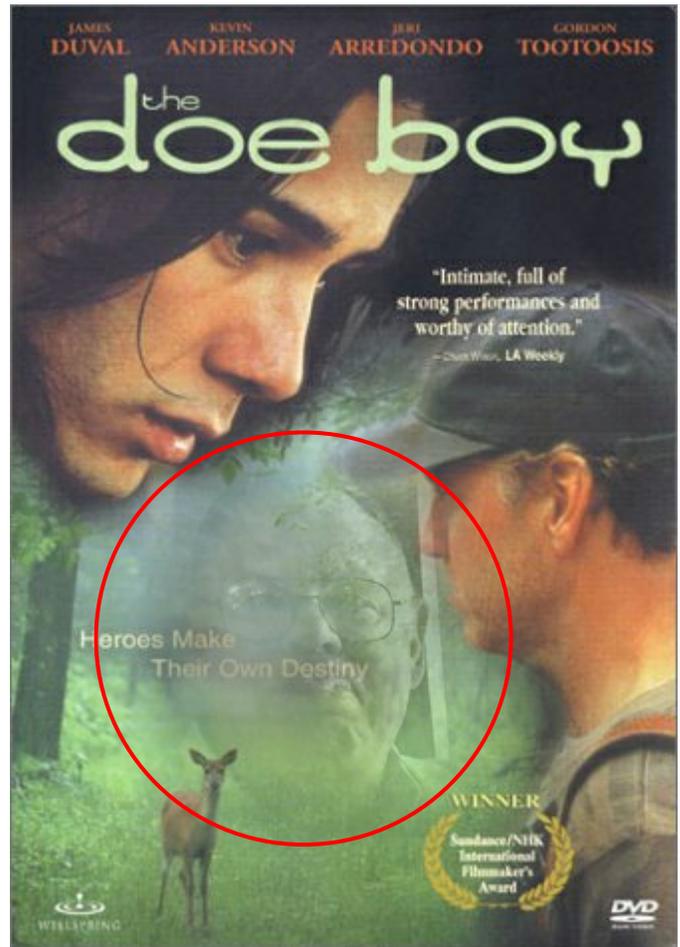
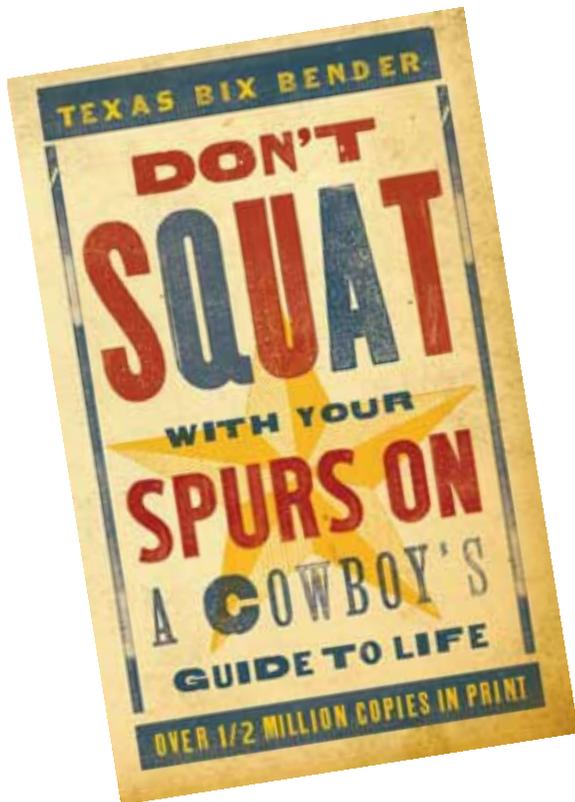
again at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Upon the completion of his detachment Major Ringgold returned to duty at Fort McHenry, Maryland until being assigned to the Army of Occupation in Texas in 1845. During his career, Major Ringgold introduced several sweeping changes to the way that artillery was used in battle. He introduced the idea of the Flying Artillery where every member of a gun crew was mounted on horseback, making maneuverability of the artillery a priority. He also introduced the use of the McClellan military saddle by artillery members, and numerous improvements to the artillery pieces themselves. In 1846 the Mexican-American War broke out and Major Ringgold was placed in charge of the artillery under General Zachary Taylor.

On May 8, 1846 during the first hostilities of the war at the Battle of Palo Alto, Ringgold showed his expertise in the art of artillery by using tactics he had perfected throughout his career to defeat a larger artillery force which was under the command of Mexican General Mariano Arista. While directing his own artillery, Ringgold was hit in the legs by Mexican cannon fire. Even though he was mortally wounded, Ringgold refused to leave his post and continued to supervise his artillery until the battle was won. Major Ringgold survived until May 11, 1846, when he succumbed to his wounds at Port Isabel, Texas. Major Samuel Ringgold was buried outside the walls of Fort Polk, Texas. On December 22, 1846 his remains were reinterred at Baltimore, Maryland in Greenmount Cemetery. Ringgold was the first casualty of the Mexican-American War. His heroism became a source of national pride throughout the rest of the war. He will always hold a special place of honor among the greats of the United States artillery history.

# Find Delta Raider

Hereby mentioned in “the Dispatches” for finding **Delta Raider** in the November issue of the *Agarita Gazette* are **Sterling Sage, El Sabre, Lincoln Drifter, Boon Doggle, Skyhawk Hans, Delta Raider, Preacher Man Lee, Big John Mesquite** and **Buffalo Phil**, the latter all the way from Kansas. See if you can find him in this issue.



I found another great book: *Don't Squat With Your Spurs On! A Cowboy's Guide to Life* by Texas Bix Bender. Some of my favorites:

*Never take to sawin' on the branch that's supportin' ya, unless you're bein' hung from it.*

*Never follow good whiskey with water, unless you're out of Whiskey.*

... and my favorite:

*After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: when you're full of bull, keep you mouth shut.*





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

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. There were no telephones, TV's, radios or internet. The politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs and bars. They were told to go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words "go sip" were eventually combined when referring to local opinion and we thus have the term, "gossip," which now means idle talk or rumor, especially about personal or private affairs of others.

*Editor's Note: Although I like Jake's story, according to The Oxford English Dictionary, the earliest recorded use of the word "gossip" comes from 1014, but its meaning would have no significance today. "Gossip" referred to a child's godmother or godfather. The spiritual kinship between the child and the godparent extended to the child's birth parents as well, making them "siblings in god." Here is where things get interesting: "gossip" is short for "god-sib" which is itself an abbreviated form of "god sibling." Thus your gossips were the women and men you*

*chose as godparents for your child – gossips were your closest friends.*

*In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, "gossip" began to refer to the women who attended a woman during labor and delivery of a child or at her recovery afterwards. Here we begin to see the word taking on its negative connotations. Prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, childbirth was women's business and a central occasion for women's sociability. A woman gave birth not in the presence of doctors and nurses (whom she did not know), but among her friends and neighbors. Such gatherings of women made some men very nervous and they spent a great deal of time voicing their anxiety. In 'Tis Merry When Gossips Meet (1602) and its sequel A Crew of Kind Gossips (1609), Samuel Rowlands described the meeting between a widow, wife and spinster, in which the three women exchanged complaints about their husbands and the widow offered the other women advice on how to manipulate their spouses.*

*The mediaeval Mystery Plays, when showing the story of "Noah," depicted his wife as being surrounded by her female "gossips." She preferred to chat idly with them instead of boarding the ark. Noah dragged her aboard and her gossips drowned in the flood.*



## What's it mean? Plains Rifle

Men on the frontier needed a "plain" rifle - a utilitarian weapon for use on the plains and for trade with the Indians. This "plain" rifle developed into the "plains rifle," a name that took the place of the "mountain rifle." The latter was long-stocked and long-barreled. Shortening of the barrel probably took place because steel was scarce on the plains and, when the muzzle was damaged, it was simply sawed off. The plains rifle was not confined to any geographic locality, in spite of its name. Many manufacturers made many types of rifles under this category, including the notable *Hawken*. More on the *Hawken* in another issue.

## Western Movie Wit & Wisdom: Variations on “Prayer”

“It always helped me to find my way even when I was in doubt. It gives you answers to things when you’re confused about it. It helps you find courage when you’re afraid.

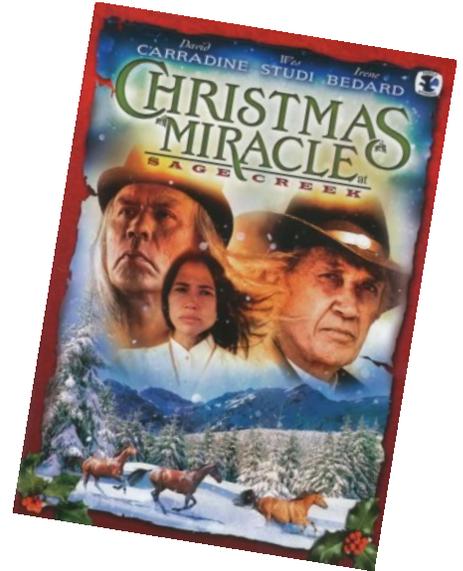
*Seth Keller played by Daniel Quinn in Miracle at Sage Creek (2005)*

“Lord, make these sinners repent. If you can’t make them repent, make them slow on the draw. If you can’t make them slow on the draw, then make their powder wet. Thank you.”

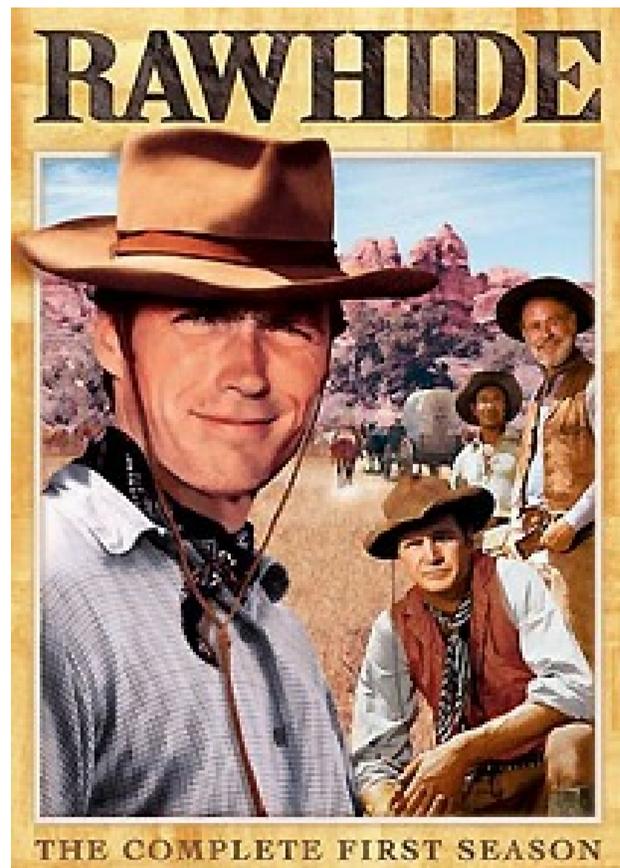
*Beauregard Shelby/Preacher played by Rory Calhoun in Mulefeathers (1977)*

“Them who pray the loudest are the biggest hypocrites.”

*Dallas played by Terry Moore in Rawhide (1959)*



It was Terry Moore's only appearance on Rawhide. Wonder if it was the line?





**Diamond Kate**



**Kettleman**



**Little Bullseye**



**Bronco Birnbaum**

**Texas Sarge &  
Jake Jones**

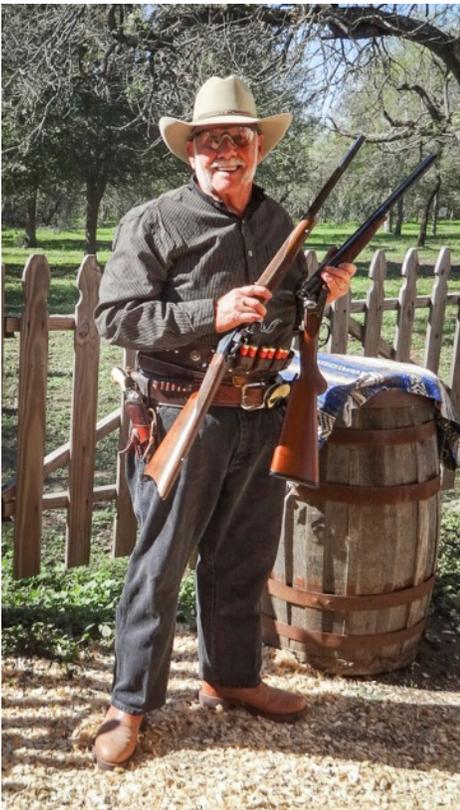




**Sterling Sage**



**G.T. Sharps &  
Annalong Longshot**



**Boon Doggle**



**Jarhead Jake**



**Elroy Rogers**



**Lightning McQueen**



**Six Goin' South**



**Six Goin' South & Little Bullseye**



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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.