AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

February 2015

Lockhart, Texas

President's Word:

We had a wonderful weekend in February shooting on Saturday and on Sunday at Plum Creek. A record number of shooters (93) turned out

on Saturday. The weather was just about perfect, and six stages seemed to go really fast. We had 17 clean shooters.



SASS Regulator & PCSS President Dragon Hill Dave

One of the benefits of having two days of shooting is that we attracted several folks from other areas who decided to spend the weekend shooting at Plum Creek. **Colorado Jackson** brought a crew; he told me if we would shoot on two days he would definitely come and he did. **Oklahoma Dee** and **Kansas City Sneed** came over from Houston. And some of our regulars shot both days as well.

Many folks were preparing for Winter Range (myself included)

coming up later in February at the Ben Avery Shooting Complex in Phoenix. Glad we

could offer the opportunity. We enjoyed having so many good people come and join us to share our new targets and new approach to the range.

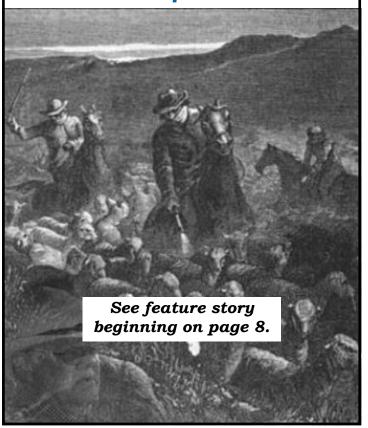
On Sunday we had 23 shooters. Most of them were people who had shot on Saturday, but several who didn't have a chance to shoot Saturday came out and joined us on Sunday. We will shoot both Saturday and Sunday again in March. While Winter Range will be over by then, there's lots of good reasons to come out in practice for the SASS Texas State Championship coming up in May.

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Speaking of the State match, registration for the Texas State match is proceeding well with 150

Sheep Wars



Continued next page.

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signed up so far. We are expecting 250 or more by hammers down on May 1st. If you haven't signed up yet—get those applications in. Come and shoot with some of the best in the country. And even if you aren't trying to burn down those stages, you will find the folks entertaining and the events memorable. Not only will we have some good stages and good shooting, we will have some great shopping opportunities. We have about 12 vendors committed so far to be at the State match.

Other developments are a major re-working of the area in front of the saloon and general store. **Delta Raider** and **Lefty Leo** have disked and plowed a rectangular area about 20 yards by 100 yards to improve our ability to grow grass. The seed is going down and the weather looks to cooperate with some light rains over the next week or so. With luck, we will have a nice beautiful grassy area for folks by the time we shoot in March.

We have also cleaned up the range substantially by bringing in many extra targets from the stages and storing them in the Wheelwright Shop. We are renovating many of our old shotgun targets with new steel and new designs. Thanks again to **Delta Raider** and **Lefty Leo** for that hard work.

We haven't been able to hand out clean shooter pins because we ran out (we had so many clean shooters!). We have replenished our supply and have been keeping track of who hasn't gotten theirs yet (Boosey Babe-we have your pin!). Come out next shoot and we will have pins for all who have shot clean and not received a pin. And you will have a couple of opportunities to earn 2 more with shoots on Saturday March 7 and Sunday March 8.

Now a housekeeping tip: Our shoot in February went well because each posse, when they finished the last stage, picked up the blankets, counting sticks, brass picker and bucket and put them in the gray tub that is associated with each stage. By doing that, it greatly helps the range crew who come in behind and close up the range after we finish the shoot. The range crew will pick up the shotgun ropes and store them in the gray tub and store the tubs in the Livery. Please also take the timer and the scoring box back to the Saloon. Then come join us for lunch so we can talk about the shoot.



Long Juan Here: RO's Corner - Read the Instructions

We get many compliments about the stages we shoot at Plum Creek. For example, we received the following via

email from a Houston shooter this month:

We really enjoyed the stages Saturday. Nice change from what we always see down our way. We like the option to start with different guns, as it adds some strategy planning for the shooter.

Phantom writes our stages, with help from **Joe Darter** and one or two others. I have learned from **Phantom** that I need to read the instructions and should not read in anything that's NOT there. For example, Stage 2 instructions this month read:

Pistol sequence: First 5 shots, engage a Stationary target at least once and KD Cowboys. Second 5 shots, engage the OTHER Stationary target at least once and KD the remaining Cowboys. Any remaining rounds once the Stationary targets have been engaged and all the cowboys are down can go on either stationary target. (Only Cowboys left standing and misses on Stationary targets count as misses.).

After the match, we discovered that one posse on Saturday awarded a "P" for not shooting the second stationary pistol target last. Nothing in the stage instructions said it had to be shot last and it didn't The only requirements were to engage one stationary target at least once with the first 5 shots and engage the other stationary target at least once with the second 5 shots. Cowboys left standing and misses on either stationary target were misses. If the shooter had not already engaged the second stationary target with the second 5 shots and had one round remaining and one cowboy still standing, the shooter had a choice - he could have shot thecowboy and taken the "P" for not engaging the second stationary target OR he could have shot the stationary target and taken the

miss on the cowboy still standing (plus any other misses). Bottom line, the second stationary target could have been engaged with any one of the five shots from the second pistol. It did not have to be the last shot.

At the Texican Rangers this month, one set of stage instructions read in part:

With pistols, engage outside targets with four shots each and center target with two shots. With rifle engage outside targets with four shots each, center target with one shot and Valentine heart target with one shot.

The instructions did not specify the order in which the targets had to be shot. Most shot the first pistol 4 on the left target, one on the center; then the second pistol, one on the center, four on the right target. The sequence could have been shot 2-1-2 with each pistol or any one of number of other ways. With the rifle, same thing: four on the left, one on the center, one of the Valentine and four on the right worked just fine. Or four on the left, four on the right, then one in the center and Valentine last. The instructions did not specify. It was up to the shooter to decide how to shoot the targets with the specified number of rounds. If the stage writer had said for the rifle, "with the rifle, engage the outside targets with four shots each, then the center target, then the Valentine," the center target would have to have been the 9th shot and the Valentine the last shot. Words have meaning. Don't read words that are not there.

Phantom and other stage writers give us choices. Often they do not tell us exactly how to do everything. If the stage instructions are silent, look first to SASS Stage Conventions and follow any applicable convention, e.g., hands at side for starting position if not stated in the instructions. If not covered by the stage instructions OR stage conventions, the shooter is free to make his or her own decision how to shoot

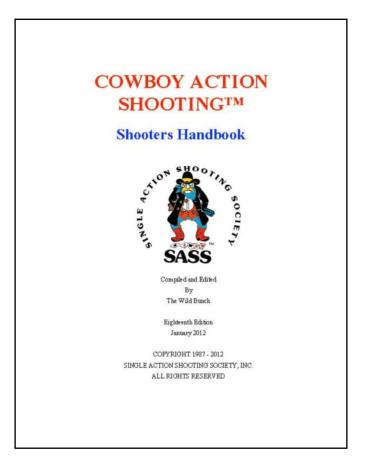
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the stage. Of course, compliance with SASS safety rules is always required.

RO's and TO's need to be sure they read the instructions carefully and must not read anything into the instructions that is not there. Shooters, if you have questions, ask when the instructions are read. RO's and TO's, if there is a question and you are unsure of the answer or if you have a question of your own, find **Phantom** or **Joe Darter** or **Whiskey Kid** BEFORE your posse shoots the stage. It is important for all of us to shoot the stages the same way or the scores will not be fair to all shooters.

Note: Anyone not familiar with SASS Stage Conventions needs to read the **SASS Shooters Handbook**. The handbook is available for download on the SASS website. http://www.sassnet.com/Shooters-Handbook-001A.php Stage conventions appear on page 21. For example, "No. 1 – All knockdown shotgun targets may be reengaged until down" and "No. 9 – If no starting position is given, the shooter shall stand upright with revolvers holstered and hands at the side, not touching any firearm." In addition to the **Shooters Handbook**, all shooters would be well served to read both the RO1 and RO2

handbooks, also available for download on the SASS website. There is lots of good information – for new shooters <u>and</u> for notso-new shooters.



2015 TG Agenda Items and Vote Results

- 1) Should we institute the following standard for all style/costume categories when breaking them down by age? The regulations for the base category will be applied first; THEN the age limits. **PASSED**
- 2) Should we change Senior Duelist to comply with that standard? PASSED
- **3)** Should we officially acknowledge the shooting category "Frontier Cartridge gunfighter" as a SASS sanctioned/recognized category? The category would follow the firearm and ammo guidelines of the current "Frontier Cartridge" category and follow the shooting style and holster requirements of the current "Gunfighter" Category. **PASSED**
- **4)** Should the MSV penalty for retrieving a dropped or ejected round be removed if done SAFELY? **FAILED**
- **5)** Should conflicts on costume based shooting categories ("B"-Western Men's & Ladies and Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl) Costuming requirement determinations be relegated to the Costume Contest personnel/judges? **FAILED**
- **6)** Should the Category of Grand Dame have the name changed to "Golden Girls"? **FAILED**

FIND DELTA RAIDER

Only 10 of you found **Delta Raider** in the mud just above where I said he should have been hidden him last month. Hereby mentioned in the Dispatches for finding him are: **Sheriff Robert Love, Shooting Iron**Miller, Leo's Lady, Meadow Biscuit Slim,

Artiman, Sole Proprietor, Kettleman, Lincoln Drifter, Big John Mesquite and Dutch Van Horn. Preacher Man Lee gets an honorable mention for persistence. He told me he found him three different times - all wrong, but he kept on looking. Remember, you have to find Delta Raider where he is hidden, not in a photo of him with others on the porch of the hotel or



identified in a photo elsewhere in the Gazette where he has been identified. He is hidden again this month. Find him for a mention in the Dispatches - honorable or otherwise.

Also mentioned in the Dispatches this month are **Sheriff Robert Love** and **Preacher Man Lee** for identifying William Henry Harrison as the person who beat OK Van Buren in the election of 1840.





Membership Promo Works!!

To encourage others to become members of the Plum Creek Shooting Society, recently re-elected Treasurer, True Blue Cachoo, offered to pay the match fee for the first ten shooters who joined for the first time at the February match. Sunny Spurs & Two Spurs, Kuckleburr & Show Me, Kansas City Sneed & Oklahoma Dee and the Manchaca Kid all took advantage of TBC's offer and joined for the first time in February. We currently have 114 members, of whom 36 are life members. Thanks True Blue and welcome to all new members.



True Blue Cachoo



Stories from Jake (Paladin that is):

The Election of 1840

Last month, knowing that William Henry Harrison defeated Martin "OK" Van Buren" in the 1840 election was worth a mention in the dispatches. This month, we stray a little from stories about the Old West to learn a little more about Harrison. On a personal note, I worked for Harrison's great grandson, William Henry Harrison III, at a museum where he was curator while I was in college. Harrison III also enjoyed "hard cider," his on the rocks. At least that was my observation when I bartended a couple of parties for the museum trustees. Ah, but I digress!

At 68, William Henry Harrison was the oldest person elected president until Ronald Reagan. He served the shortest time of any president - only 32 days. Although best known for his premature death in office, our 9th president should perhaps be better remembered for using campaign tactics familiar to most of us today. The contest between Harrison and Van Buren was nasty, prolonged and full of gamesmanship. It featured stump speeches, smear campaigns and dirty tactics - all of the things Americans love to hate about modern politics. The campaign was heavy on image-making, less so on substance - a harbinger of things to come. One bitter pro-Van Buren paper lamented after his defeat, "We have been sung down, lied down and drunk down."

One group of Harrison supporters pushed a ten foot, paper and tin ball emblazoned with pro-Harrison slogans for hundreds of miles, adding "keep the ball rolling" to the American vocabulary. A Philadelphia distiller named E.C. Booz provided hard cider to supporters at Harrison political rallies, but the legend that Booz's name gave the English language the word "booze" is a tall tale. The word actually existed for centuries before Harrison and his hard-cider campaign. Bet **Boosie Babe** already knew that! Harrison's campaign slogan was "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." During the campaign, America was flooded with cups, plates and flags with "Old Tip" pictured on them. Van Buren was referred to as "Martin Van Ruin" and "A First-Rate, Second-Rate Man."

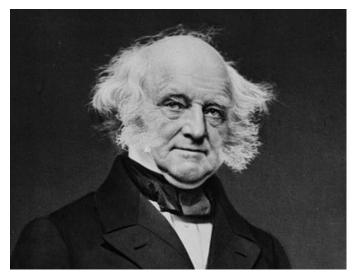
One Van Buren newspaper wrote of Harrison,

Give him a barrel of hard cider and settle a pension of two thousand a year on him, and take my word for it, he will sit the remainder of his days in his log cabin.

The image of Harrison as a hard-cider-drinking frontiersman was campaign gold for Harrison, as many Americans saw those attributes as positive character traits. Harrison and his supporters understood the value of electoral votes and made sure to "get out the vote" in the right states. When the votes were counted, Harrison won the electoral vote 240-60. The popular vote, however, was very close. Harrison received 1, 275,390 votes to Van Buren's 1,128,854, a margin of only 146,536 out of more than 2.4 million votes cast. The turn-out in 1840 was nearly 80%, but remember voting at the time was limited mostly to free, white, male property owners or those with taxable incomes.

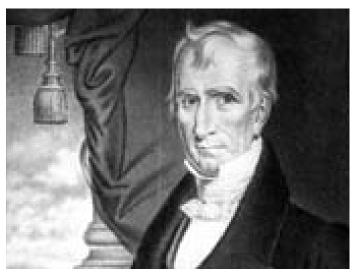
Harrison's victory won him precious little time as chief executive of the United States. After giving the longest inauguration speech in U.S. history (almost 2 hours in freezing cold, wet weather), Harrison served only one month. He died of pneumonia on April 4, 1841, leaving vice president "and Tyler too" to serve the rest of his term.

See Editor's Note next page.



Martin Van Buren

Editor's Note: The **Battle of Tippecanoe**, where William Henry Harrison earned his nicknamed, "Tippecanoe" or "Old Tip," was fought in 1811 near present-day Lafayette, Indiana, between forces led by Governor William Henry Harrison of the Indiana Territory and Native American warriors associated with the Shawnee leader Tecumseh. Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa (commonly known as "The Prophet") were leaders of a confederacy of Native Americans from various tribes that opposed US expansion into Native territory. As tensions and violence increased, Governor Harrison marched with an army of about 1,000 men to disperse the confederacy's headquarters at Prophetstown, near the confluence of the Tippecanoe and Wabash Rivers.



William Henry Harrison

Tecumseh, not yet ready to oppose the United States by force, was away recruiting allies when Harrison's army arrived. Tenskwatawa, a spiritual leader but not a military man, was in charge. Harrison camped near Prophetstown on November 6 and arranged to meet with Tenskwatawa the following day. Early the next morning, however, warriors from Prophetstown attacked Harrison's army. Although the outnumbered attackers took Harrison's army by surprise, Harrison and his men stood their ground for more than two hours. The Natives were ultimately repulsed when their ammunition ran low. After the battle, the Natives abandoned Prophetstown and Harrison's men burned the town before returning home.

What's it mean? Booze

Alcoholic beverages are known by many names, but a favorite is the iconic term "Booze." It rolls of the tongue and sounds like something a drunk would say. But where did word "booze" come from? Its origin is often mistakenly credited to E. C. Booz, who was a distiller in the United States in the 19th century. The first references to the word "booze" as an alcoholic drink appeared in the English language around the 14th century as "bouse." The spelling we use today didn't appear until the 17th century. The word "booze" itself appears to have Germanic origins, though which specific word it came from is a mystery. The most likely source was the Dutch word "búsen," which means "to drink excessively" or "to get drunk." The adjective form of "booze" is "boozy", which means "drunkenly."

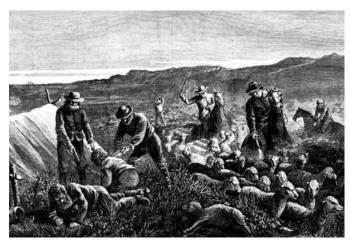
Not too long ago, I watched an episode of *Gunsmoke*, in which two cattlemen shot a sheepherder and all of his sheep. Then I read in a 1927 newspaper article that "today great herds of sheep and cattle graze side-by-side on the open ranges of the west." The article went on to say that "not so many years ago, such proximity of the two species would have been regarded by cattle barons as sacrilege and excuse enough for murder and slaughter." I decide to learn more.

Attlemen ruled the open range in the ✓Old West for many years before sheep first arrived. The arrival of sheep led to violent disputes over grazing rights, often referred to as "Sheep Wars." Sheep and cattle needed different quantities of water, different types of food and a different methods of herding. Cattlemen were convinced that sheep ruined the range for cattle. The basic problem was that if sheep grazed the grasslands so close that they pulled the grass out by its roots, leaving little or nothing for the cattle. Sheep also fouled water holes so that cows would not drink and the sheep left an odor that was offensive to cattle and horses.

One-sided, but bloody warfare quickly followed the arrival of sheep in what previously had been exclusively cattle



country. The response of cattleman ranged from intimidation to violence, directed at both the sheep man and his flock. Sheep were shot, clubbed, burned and poisoned in an effort to get rid of them. Cowboys would stand within rifle shot of a flock of sheep and use all their ammunition picking off sheep one at a time. They also engaged in "rim-rocking" – the deliberate driving of sheep over a cliff to kill them.

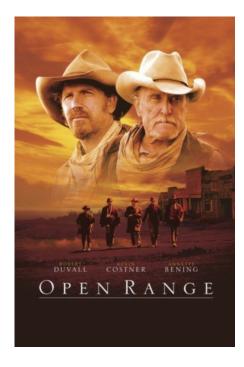


The Sheep Wars not only showed up in Gunsmoke, but also in other western TV shows and movies. At the beginning of the 1971 John Wayne film, *Big Jake*, several cowboys are in the process of hanging a sheep man in order to get his sheep off the range. The sheep men in turn were generally passive, electing to suffer in silence. They believed response to the cattlemen would only bring more violence and would do no good in courts dominated by the cattle barons.

Sheepherders were advocates of free grazing on public land, while many cattlemen fenced the land, whether public or private, to mark boundaries, to prevent rustling and to keep sheep herders and others from using the land for grazing. Of course, building fences across open range riled not only sheep herders, but also open-

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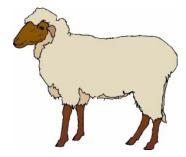
range cattlemen. See, for example, the movie, Open Range, starting Kevin Costner and Robert Duval.



The Tonto Basin, near Globe, Arizona, was the setting for one of the most notorious of the Sheep Wars - the "Pleasant Valley War," also known as the "Graham-Tewksbury Feud." John Graham and Edwin Tewksbury both began as cattlemen. Their feud started in 1887 when Tewksbury introduced sheep into Pleasant Valley, which was public land previously used exclusively for cattle grazing. Ambushes, fights and shootings followed, ultimately claiming 30 men, including every male member of the Graham family. The feud ended in 1893 when Tewksbury shot and killed Graham. Tewksbury was tried for murder, but was acquitted on a technicality. Tewksbury died in Globe, Arizona in 1904. In his novel, To The Last Man: A Story of the Pleasant Valley War, western author Zane Grey wrote about the Graham-Tewksbury Feud.

In another Arizona incident, angry cattlemen rounded up more than 100 wild horses, strapped cowbells to their necks, rawhide to their tails and drove them into a

collection of more than 25,000 sheep, yelling and firing guns in the process. The sheep scattered in all directions. Most of the sheep were killed or injured. It took a week to gather and separate the surviving stock. Later the same year, Arizona cowboys drove more than 4,000 sheep into the Little Colorado River, where many of the sheep died in quicksand.



The Sheep Wars in Wyoming and Colorado were exceptionally violent and lasted well into the 20th Century. In Oregon, cattlemen formed paramilitary organizations to eradicate flocks of sheep and anyone who attempted to stop them. Between 1895 and 1906, these "Sheepshooters" slaughtered more than 10,000 sheep and several men. The violence in Oregon ended in the latter half of 1906, when the Blue Mountain Forest Reserve was created by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the federal government established grazing allotments. Because the cattlemen and the



sheepherders were no longer sharing the same land, there was no reason to continue the fight. The Sheep Wars were finally over and herds of sheep and cattle could graze side-by-side without the ensuing violence.

February Match Photos

Thanks to **Dutch Van Horn**, **Bolo Bob** and **Six Goin' South** for the photos this month. For more photos of the February and other matches, please visit the Plum Creek website at: **www.pccss.org**



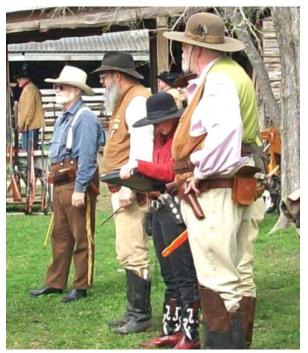
Now that's a bunch of good lookin' shooters!! L-R: Six Goin' South, Hey You, Kansas City Sneed, Sunny Spurs, Bellekaye & Spur Broke



Some of the 93 ready to shoot on Saturday



Lightning McQueen: Maybe that's one of our missing timers??



GT Sharps, Lefty Leo, True Blue Cachoo & Jake Jones



Skin Dawg's folks, Gena & David Skinner with Kettleman



Texas Sarge, Abilene and, yep, that's Kettleman inserting himself into the photo yet <u>again!</u>



Bandera Kid shooting, Dodge City Mike on the timer



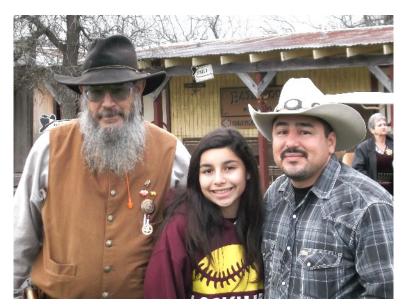
Lucky Nickel, Smoke Jensen & Kidd James - Nice Cart!



Delta Raider & True Blue Cachoo NO, THIS DOES NOT COUNT FOR A MENTION IN THE DISPATCHES



Colorado Jackson, all the way from Houston



Lefty Leo, Little Bullseye & Lightning McQueen



Plum Creel first-timers from Harper via the Texican Rangers: Texas Tony & Marshall Willy



Sunny Spurs



Bellekaye & I Reckon



Kansas City Sneed & Oklahoma Dee



Not as good lookin' as the gals on page 10 for sure!

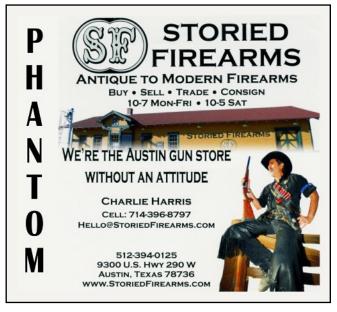
Bull Dunham, Shotgun Jim, John K. Wren, Kidd James & Dutch Van Horn

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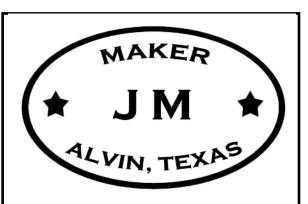






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	105	FP	33	66
	125	RNFP	35	70
	125	FP	35	70
	130	RNFP	36	72
	158	RNFP	39	77
	158	FP	39	77
	158	SWC	39	77
.380	100	RNFP	33	65
.38-55	245	RNFP	59	117
.41	215	SWC	49	98
.44	180	RNFP	41	81
	240	SWC	52	104
.44-40	200	RNFP	45	90
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	46	92
	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.