

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

July 2015

Lockhart, Texas

President's Word:

It sure has been a busy Spring and Summer at the Agarita Ranch. The Plum Creek Shooting Society put on a successful State match in May. In June, we had nearly 70 shooters. Many of our members and regular shooters represented us well at End of Trail. Most recently, we had a well-attended 4th of July Red, White and Blue match and the club is in good shape financially.

I particularly enjoyed the July match because **Phantom** and **Joe Darter**, who wrote and set up and 4 of the 5 stages, gave us some "Winter Range" style stages to shoot. They provided more challenge, but were still eminently shootable. Stage 5 ("the Blacksmith Shop") was my idea. It involved identical pistol and

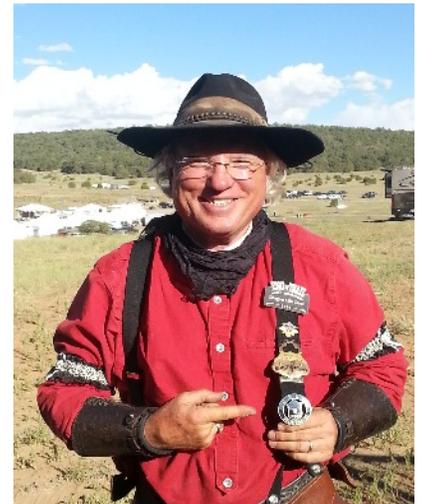
rifle arrays at opposite windows, then 2 shotgun targets at each window and, finally, the middle doorway for shotgun targets 5 and 6. Shooter's choice: Shoot pistols on one side and rifle on the other side, with 2 shotgun rounds at each location, followed by the final two shotgun targets. Despite some initial confusion (too many choices!), most folks figured out their best sequence and enjoyed the stage. Turned out a lot better than the Christmas stage I wrote, which was pretty much a P-trap. I loved the chance to shoot and move with the shotgun and I think others did too.

I also enjoyed the fireworks on Stage 7, the Bathhouse. We shot bottle rockets off before starting the stage. Everybody on the firing line knew when someone was getting ready to shoot on Stage 7 because we would hear and see the Whoosh! Boom! of the rockets. Where else do you get the chance to shoot fireworks at the start of a stage?

This month's match was also pleasant for me because of the effort the posses made to

break down the stages when they were finished and because of the folks who stayed to help me close up the range. With many hands, the work goes fast. By lingering just a little while before going to eat lunch, the work went really fast. As soon as the range was clear, we were able to pick up the shotgun ropes, take down the stage screens and close up the stages. Instead of leaving at 5:00 pm after a couple of hours of work following lunch, mostly alone like I did in June, this time I was out by 2 pm, with plenty of time for a beer and conversation during lunch. Thanks to all who pitched in and made the close-up go faster.

The success of the club has been heartening, but as **Long Juan** writes elsewhere in the Gazette, changes are coming to the successful officer combination we have had for the last 4 years. **Long Juan** is retiring as our secretary. Our longtime annual and State match coordinator, **Agarita Annie**, is also stepping down. They



SASS Regulator, National Champion
Classic Cowboy & PCSA President
Dragon Hill Dave

Continued on page 4.

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Stage Marshal - P.T.

Flag Marshal - Artiman

Long Juan Here:



I have decided not to run for re-election as Secretary of the Plum Creek Shooting Society this coming December. I have enjoyed my time in office, but it's time for a rest. I plan to continue as editor of the Agarita Gazette and, at least for a while, as webmaster of the club website.

We need to find a person or persons willing to run for Secretary and/or willing to handle some of the tasks I have been handling. The official duties of the Secretary are in the by-laws. They include being a board member, maintenance of membership records, club correspondence, etc. For more information, read the by-laws. They are available for download on the Downloads page of the Plum Creek website.

www.pccss.org

Scorekeeping and helping with match registration are the other two big parts of my job, at least as it is set up right now. In an ideal world, we would have two scoring marshals, separate and apart from the Secretary. The scoring marshals would handle scoring together at most matches and either one would be available to handle scoring if the other had to miss a match. Ideal, but not essential, would be for one or both of these persons to be non-shooters, i.e., a spouse or significant other who attends the matches regularly and wants to help, but does not feel the need to watch his or her spouse/significant other shoot every stage.

If one or more of you would volunteer now to help with scoring and registration, I could use the help. The experience will be invaluable when taking primary responsibility after the first of the year. If you are interested in running for Secretary or helping with scoring, please let me know as soon as possible and I will be happy to visit with you in detail about what all is involved.

If "office work" is not your thing, we still need help. As Vice President **Joe Darter** and President **Dragon Hill Dave** made clear during the shooters' meeting at our last match, we need help setting up before and tearing down after each match. We have work days every Friday and the Sunday before each match from 9 to

Continued next page

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noon. Please come out to the Agarita Ranch to help whenever you can. It's also a great time to practice shooting after the work is done. On match days, show up a little early and offer to help with set-up or registration. Even more important, stay a little late and help with packing up and putting everything away. Poses did a great job at the July match packing blankets, spotter sticks, brass buckets and pickers, etc. We still need help removing and putting away the shotgun target and KD ropes and other odds and ends.

A few have been bearing most of the workload for the club. It is important that

others jump in to help or things won't get done and then no one will be happy. The Board is working on an incentive program to recognize the folks who help the most each year. I've even heard talk of a possible gun give-away at the end of each year.

In closing, thanks for any and all help you can provide or have provided. I look forward to hearing from anyone and everyone who might be willing to help with scoring and registration and/or who is interested in running for Secretary. If someone is interested in becoming the webmaster, even better.

FIND DELTA RAIDER:

Delta Raider was hiding in my badge last month. Sneaky Devil! Mentioned in the Dispatches for finding him are: **El Sabre, Boon Doggle, Lefty Leo, Meadow Biscuit Slim, Delta Raider, Lincoln Drifter, Sole Proprietor, Sheriff Robert Love, Manassas Jack**, who also gets a belated mention for correctly identifying **Judge Roy Bean** last month as owner of the cigar, **Czexcan Dave** and **Hairtrigger Dave**. Let's see who can find **Delta Raider** hidden somewhere in this issue. You can also earn a mention in the Dispatches for telling me the origin of the name for the Cody-Dixon category.



The Cavalier. Young soldier with rifle and revolver on horseback at Camp Cheyenne in Wyoming.

Circa 1890 - John C.H. Grabill, photographer.



will still be shooting with us, but they are taking a much-needed hiatus from the pressures and responsibilities that go with those jobs. As **Long Juan** outlines, if we can break those jobs up into smaller pieces, it will be easier for everyone.

It's time for us to recruit and train a new crop of officers who can carry on the club's success and continue to deliver a quality shooting experience. To assist in that transition, I plan to run again for President in 2016 (my term is up at the end of this year). Assuming you decide to keep me, that two-year term will take us through the end of 2017 when I suspect that I too will be ready to pass the torch.

Remember, as **Long Juan** says, no one is quitting the sport. They will remain a resource for new officers and new positions. Nobody will have to start at zero in any position. I hope that many of you who enjoy shooting with us will step up and take over some of the jobs **Long Juan** has identified. That will be the best way to continue to build on our success.

While it seems we have just finished putting on the State match, it isn't too early to start thinking about next year's Battle of Plum Creek. It will not be the SASS Texas State Championship, but it will be our annual match. It gives us a chance to shoot 10 stages, party and enjoy the range and its

facilities more fully. We will need help putting the match together over the next several months. We will therefore have other volunteer opportunities for those who want to focus on the annual match.

OK, enough work talk. Let's talk about play and our next match. We discovered in July that Stages 3-7 offer the most shade during the hot summer months, so we are planning to shoot them again in August. We will have some different target configurations, crank up the swinger, maybe add in a few more pistol and rifle knockdowns and work on fixing the fans on Stage 7. August 1st is our playdate, so mark it on your calendars and plan to join us.





Ditties from Jake (Jones that is):



The saying, "the buck stops here," derives from the slang expression "pass the buck," which means passing responsibility to someone else. The phrase was popularized by President Harry Truman, who kept a sign with that phrase on his desk in the Oval Office, but do you know the true origin of the phrase?

Most men in frontier days carried a pocket knife with a buckhorn handle. When playing poker, it was common to place a "Buck" knife in front of the dealer so everyone knew who was dealing. When it was time for a new dealer, the deck of cards and the knife were passed on to the next person at the table. If that person did not want to deal, he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If the player accepted, "the buck stopped there (or here, as the saying goes)."



Walking Stick

This guy first hitched a ride on General Burlison's gun cart. He then move to Shooting Iron Miller and Sheriff Robert Love's cart, then to Shooting Iron Miller's skirt and back to their cart wheel. Then he rode all they way back to the car to help unload after the match. Thanks to Shooting Iron Miller for sharing the story and her photo.



Stories from Jake (Paladin that is): Cody-Dixon - Gunfighter

We know all about the Cody-Dixon category. Shoot regular cowboy pistols and shotgun. Shoot rifle-caliber rifle at targets farther away. We also know about

the Gunfighter category. Shoot pistols Gunfighter Style or Double Duelist Style. “Gunfighter Style” means shooting with a revolver in each hand. Revolvers must be cocked and fired one handed, unsupported, one right-handed and the other left-handed. There is no set pattern as to how the revolvers must be fired, but the shooter must shoot the same sequence being shot by other shooters in other categories. That said, alternating revolvers is usually the most efficient. Both revolvers may be cocked at the same time, but must be shot at the same time to facilitate scoring. But, what about Cody-Dixon Gunfighter?

At the conclusion of our June match, **Kettleman** and **Circuit Judge** (maybe **Bronco Birnbaum** too) suggested to the Cody Dixon/GAF posse that we all shoot Cody Dixon in July and that we all shoot our pistols gunfighter-style. Five shooters rose to the challenge. **Scooter** shot CD-Single Action GF. **L.W. Hannabass**, **Gold Dog**, **Long Juan** and **Artiman** shot CD Lever GF. **Kettleman**, **Circuit Judge** and **Bronco** didn’t even bother to show up! Guess they feared the competition.

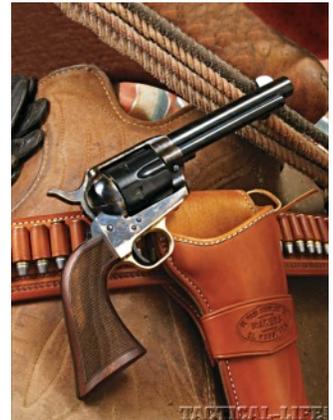
It turns out a better name for the Cody-Dixon/GAF posse in July would have been the “Broken-Gun” posse. Just about everyone had trouble with at least one gun during the match. Those who do not shoot Cody Dixon regularly pulled out rifles that have not seen action perhaps for years. **Nueces Ranger**, who started shooting Cody Dixon Lever-Action Gunfighter, switched to straight Gunfighter when his .45-70 caliber

’86 gave up the ghost on the first stage. After the match, he said, “That (shooting gunfighter) was really cool.” Maybe we have a Gunfighter convert!

Long Juan took the “most-broken” prize. The problems started with his rifle, an 1876 Centennial in .45-60 caliber that didn’t want



to cycle unless only 5 rounds were loaded and the 6th was loaded on the clock. After the first stage, he just needed to remember to load the 6th round. Next came his pistols. At the beginning of the match, he was really excited about using his Alchimista’s – SAA revolvers with Army grips. He had recently installed new low-profile hammers. He told me the actions were slick and the hammers were easy to reach – perfect for shooting gunfighter-style. Still on the first stage, he



transitioned from his rifle to pistols with great confidence and high expectations. Smooth they were, but neither went bang! No, it wasn’t bad primers or poor reloading. The firing pins on the new hammers were too short. Note to **Long Juan**: Always test fire. Don’t shoot it for the first time in a match. Slow with the rifle and 10 “misses” with the pistols, it could only get better, right? On to our second stage. The ’76 worked fine, although he “dry-fired” once before remembering to load the 6th round. Otherwise, all went well - not fast, but he hit all the targets. Next came a pair of back-up Model P’s. Ten

bangs; 10 hits. Shooting Gunfighter really is fun! On to the shotgun! It had worked fine on the first stage. This stage, all went well with the first two rounds – two targets down and two to go for a clean stage. Loading two more, bang went the first and down went the KD. Next thing we knew, the shotgun was in pieces on the dirt floor of the Livery – barrels, stock and forearm. Once we all stopped laughing, we took a look and

noticed the forearm latch had come loose from the forearm, causing the pieces to separate. **Boon Doggle**, who shot Cody-Dixon, but not Gunfighter, said the only thing of **Long Juan's** that didn't break were his holsters. It was nevertheless great fun. Others shooting Cody-Dixon, but not Gunfighter, included **Annalong Long Shot** and **G.T. Sharps**.

Plum Creek Shooters at End-of-Trail

As Dragon Hill Dave noted earlier, a number of Plum Creek members and frequent shooters made the trek to End of Trail (“EOT”). They all had fun. Some did REALLY well. Congratulations to World Champion Matt Black, who finished first overall and first in the Junior boy category. Congratulations also to his Dad, Colt Faro, who finished 15th overall and 1st in the 49r category. See more details below. Go to the SASS website for complete scores.

<u>Alias</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Finish</u>	<u>Overall</u>	
Colt Faro	49r	1	Matt Black	1
Colorado Jackson	49r	16	Colt Faro*	15
English Bob	49r	31	Tres Equis	18
Spur Broke	Cowgirl	5	SkinDawg	27
Shooting Iron Miller	Cowgirl	9	Whiskey Kid	54
Texas Cutie	Buckarette	4	Still Smokin'	89
Big Iron Patnode	B-Western	6	Big Iron Patnode	90
Dragon Hill Dave	Classic Cowboy	2	Colorado Jackson	106
Jim No Horse	Classic Cowboy	21	Spur Broke	117
Tres Equis	Cowboy	5	Dragon Hill Dave*	148
Czexican Davve	Senior	16	Diamond Kate	180
Nueces Slim	Senior	21	Czexican Dave	217
Sheriff Robert Love	Silver Senior	19	Fairbanks Sam	233
Whiskey Kid	Wrangler	11	Sheriff Robert Love	261
Cowboy Small	Wrangler	22	Cowboy Small	285
Fairbanks Sam	Gunfighter	14	Shooting Iron Miller	310
Matt Black	Junior Boy	1	Nueces Slim	341
SkinDawg	Junior Boy	3	English Bob	370
Still Smokin'	Junior Boy	6	Jim No Horse	514
Diamond Kate	Junior Girl	3	Texas Cutie	526

Dragon Hill Dave placed 49th in Wild Bunch

* Clean Shooters

Red, White and Blue Match Photos

Thanks to Dutch Van Horn, Lincoln Drifter, Bolo Bob and Long Juan
for the photos this month



Crazy Posse Marshal DHD and his Posse 4



Great tongue!



Boosey Babe and THE
Adobe Kid



Hail, hail the gang's all here and ready to shoot!!



Barb Steele



Lightning McQueen & Daughter, Little Bullseye



Annalong Long Shot & G.T. Sharps always take best advantage when we go to "summer" attire.



Slick Strollin' Shooting Iron Miller & Sheriff Robert Love



Charlie Reynolds sneakin' a peak from under a great Sam Houston



Abilene the Fierce



Super Hero John Kay Wren



Traci came with Buck Wilder and Old Bull. She kept great score for their posse!



Agarita Ranch Patriotic Tree



Hoppy taking a little rest on the porch of the Bath House



Jim No Horse



Big Iron Patnode



Joe Darter rarin' to go!



G.T. Sharps takes dead aim at the Cody-Dixon targets



Six Goin' South



Artiman shooting
Gunfighter for
the first time



Boon Doggle

Doc Josiah
Boone ready to
get down to
shooting





Jake "Doc" Paladin



Phantom says it counts if there is a cowboy hat painted on his ball cap?



Lightning McQueen shooting with Sheriff Robert Love on the timer



Lucky Chambers shooting his levered shotgun



Howdy Nabor shooting Frontier Cartridge with his rifle. Not sure who that camera hog is on the timer



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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

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