

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

March 2016

Lockhart, Texas

Splatter... it happens

by Phantom



Splatter has been an issue since the beginning of time. No one likes their projectile to come back at them.

Unfortunately, we in the Cowboy Shooting world

shoot at steel targets that will always reflect back at us that which we throw at them.

When one accepts the fact that lead bullets hitting steel targets will produce splatter - always - we can move ahead and discuss the real issue: How to control the splatter. There are three components that are within our control that can help minimize the splatter that comes back at the firing line. These components are Target Material/Condition, Target Stand design and ground conditions.

Target material is critical because if it is inadequate, the target will warp/pit/bend, etc. Why is this critical? Generally speaking, splatter will come off a flat and smooth target at a relatively predictable 20 degrees. Once the "flat and smooth" characteristic is removed, it makes the angle of deflection random. In order to control splatter, we must have a predictable angle of deflection.

Predictable splatter patterns allows us to erect barriers, prepare ground conditions and position other targets

all in an effort to keep splatter away from the shooters.

Target stand design is important since it adds both a primary and secondary impact surface. Just as a target should be smooth and flat, so should any target stand surface. Obviously this presents a difficult hurdle to overcome. What we can do is minimize the use of Re-bar and reduce the amount of the stand exposed to both the bullet being shot and the downward impact zone of the splatter.

Ground conditions can do a lot to minimize return splatter. Hard surfaces will not absorb energy and irregular surfaces such as rocks will, like pitted targets, produce unpredictable splatter zones. While it is probably beyond our ability to change the ground material on our stages, it's important to do everything we can do to make the ground surfaces within the splatter zones void of rocks.

Unless we can develop a bullet that vaporizes upon impact on a steel

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www.pccss.org

Splatter - continued from previous page.

target, we will be dealing with splatter. All we can do until that time comes is control the impact area of splatter so that shooter exposure is minimized. Plum Creek is in the process of upgrading the steel targets, designing new stands, replacing Shotgun targets, erecting barriers and clearing impact zones of rocks. We're doing our part - **please do your part by wearing quality eye protection.**

President's Word

Lots to talk about this month. So let's get to it.

March Shoot. First, we had another tremendous turnout at our Saturday shoot the first weekend of March. 81 shooters joined us, with 10 new shooters who had never shot at our range before. We hope that they return home with a desire to come back and will tell their friends. **Joe Darter, Two Spurs** and **Whiskey Kid**, with advice from Phantom, whipped up some humdinger stages with some new sweeps we have never tried before (single tap Nevada Sweep one way on 4 targets, then finish with double taps?). Once everyone understood how they worked, they seemed pretty popular.

Congratulations to our clean shooters **Big Bad Jim, Chisos, Lobo Muerto, Nueces Ranger, Scooter, Sheriff Robert Love, Skyhawk Hans, Texas Cutie, Two Spurs, Verdadero Dan** and **You Bet**. The top fifteen shooters, from 1-15, were **Two Spurs** (shooting clean pays off), **You Bet, Joe Darter, Skyhawk Hans, Reckon, Colorado Jackson, Still Smokin', Rusty Shackelford, Big Iron Patnode, Faygo Kid, Dragon Hill Dave** (one miss cost me the top 10), **Verdadero Dan, Whiskey Kid, Fairbanks Sam, and Diamond Kate** (our top lady).

Our Sunday match only had seven shooters, but we had a great time. **River Ben** and I shot Wild Bunch, while **Whiskey Kid, Cowboy Small, Sixwire, Frank Longshot** and **Tres Equis** shot cowboy. The Cowboys shot the same scenarios as Saturday; the



Plum Creek President
Dragon Hill Dave

Continued on next page

Wild Bunch shooters did too, but with a lot more pistol rounds (we love shooting that 1911!). It wasn't that pretty—none of us shot clean, but boy did we have a blast!

Range Safety and Improvement. **Joe Darter, Two Spurs** and **Whiskey Kid** are working on range and safety improvement ideas with the full backing of the Board. We have already extended the wall at the fort on Stage 1 to minimize the splatter issue between stages 1 and 2. We also lowered the window in the jail cell so even Texas Cutie and shoot out of it without something to stand on. Thanks to **Lefty Leo** and **Delta Raider** for handling both of those projects. We are looking at replacing some of our more concave and dimpled targets, and we are working on other approaches to continuously improve our targets and range safety. This same group is developing the stages for the Battle of Plum Creek, coming up this May.

Lunchtime after the shoot. One of the elements of success I think we have with our shoots is the opportunity, when the shooting is over, to sit down and have a meal together and share our stories of the shoot. We pride ourselves at Plum Creek on completing the scoring during lunch so that we can make the announcement of the category winners and the overall winners to those with us at lunch. But recently we haven't been getting as many folks to stay and eat with us as in the past. **Delta Raider** and **Sue Freely** do a fine job of decorating the Pavilion and its tables and assuring we get a good meal (with dessert!). Even if you bring your own food (I certainly bring my own beer), try to linger with us and relax in the presence of your cowboy friends. We'd love to have you.

Battle of Plum Creek. It is time to get that application in for the Battle of Plum Creek. We have 54 folks signed up so far, but there are a lot of familiar names that are not yet on the list, and we are looking for a bunch of new names this year too, so if you haven't already, get your application in. We are going to have some neat shooter prizes and some cool awards. You are going to want to be a part of this.

Long Juan recently sent an email with information about sponsorship opportunities for the Battle of Plum Creek.

We need bodies to help us with the various duties that come with putting on a big match, but we know many of you have other obligations that may keep you from coming on our workdays. Another way you can help is look over the sponsorship opportunities and consider becoming a sponsor of the Battle of Plum Creek. If you have a business that might be

interested in getting its name in front of some good potential customers, think about sponsorships in their name. Sponsors get signage at the shoot, a verbal mention in the various announcements we make, an ad in the shooter's book and a link on our website for a year, depending on the level at which you contribute.

Join the Yahoo Group. In addition to our website, the Plum Creek Shooter's Society maintains a Yahoo Group. This allows us (particularly me) to send out emails to the group about work days, practice, events at the range, and other important communications that we want you to be a part of. **Long Juan** does a great job of emailing folks on important issues, but there are other announcements and tidbits that I put out usually only to the Yahoo Group. Group members can also email one



Dragon Hill Dave enjoying Winter Range

President's Word - continued from previous page

another through the Yahoo Group as a public announcement. So if you aren't a member of the Yahoo Group, we would really like you to join. There is no cost, you simply have to go to our website www.pccss.org and click on the "About" section. It opens up to show a link to our Yahoo Group where you can learn how to join the group.

Texas State 2017. At the March match we asked the members if they have an interest in seeking to host the SASS Texas State Championship in 2017. More importantly, we asked members if they would be willing to take on important and substantive roles to help put on the match. The affirmative responses to both were considered by the Board, and the decision was made to put in our application for the Texas State 2017. We understand, though, that there are other fine clubs who are also seeking the match. I am sure they would do a fine job, but we think that our proven record of success, especially with the improvements we have been working on, and our central location

make us the better choice for the state match. So we will be submitting our application shortly. If there are competing clubs seeking the State match, then the decision will be made by the Territorial Governors for Texas sometime this summer.

There are several more exciting things for the club percolating in the background, but it is too early to talk about them. Suffice to say that the Plum Creek Shooting Society continues to enjoy lots of success, particularly with the help of you, our members. We thank you.



Long Juan Here:

Dragon Hill Dave pretty much said it all. I have little to add other than my thanks also to everyone who works so hard to make the Plum Creek Shooting and the Agarita Ranch the best darn place in Texas for cowboy action shooting! Also, there's a new gunsmith in town. See ad on page 14.

FIND DELTA RAIDER:

If you didn't find **Delta Raider** last month, you didn't look. He was in the Valentine heart on our February holiday tree. He so desperately wanted to be your Valentine. Mentioned in the Dispatches this month for being **Delta Raider's** Valentine are **El Sabre, Hoss Roonwright, Jim No Horse, Artiman, Nichols Creek, Mad Dog McCoy, Big John Mesquite, Grayrock, Preacher Man Lee, Delta Raider (have to think about someone being his own Valentine), Meadow Biscuit Slim, Sole Proprietor** and **Hairtrigger Hayes**. Hope more of you find him this month.



45.70 Government

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Fort Concho Dispatch

Newsletter of:

Fort Concho Museum

Director of Education – Christopher Morgan

National Historic Landmark

630 South Oaks

San Angelo, Texas 76903

Submitted by: Lefty Leo, SASS 92277

The 45-70 rifle cartridge, also known as the 45-70 Government, was developed at the US Army's Springfield Armory for use in the Springfield Model 1873. It was also known as the 45-70-405 but was also referred to as the .45 Government cartridge in commercial catalogs. The nomenclature was based on three properties of the cartridge: .45: nominal diameter of bullet measured in decimal inches, 70: weight of black powder charge measured in grains, 405: weight of lead bullet measured in grains. The minimal acceptable accuracy of the 45-70 from the 1873 Springfield was 4 inches at 10 yards, however, the heavy slow moving bullet had a "rainbow" trajectory, the bullet dropping multiple yards at ranges greater than a few hundred yards. A skilled shooter, firing at known range, could consistently hit targets that were 6 X 6 feet at 600 yards – the Army standard target. It was a skill valuable mainly in mass of volley fire, since accurate aimed fire on a man-sized target was effective only to about 300 yards. After Sandy Hook tests in 1879, a new variation of the 45-70 cartridge was produced: the 45-70-500, which fired a heavier 500 grain bullet. The heavier bullet produced significantly superior ballistics and could reach ranges of 3,350 yards, which were beyond the maximum range of the 45-70-405. While the effective

range of the 45-70 on individual targets was limited to about 1,000 yards with either load, the heavier bullet would produce lethal injuries at 3,500 yards. At those ranges, the point of the bullet struck at a 30 degree angle, penetrating three 1-inch thick oak boards and then traveling to a depth of 8 inches into the sand of the Sandy Hook beach. The 45-70 is still used by the US military today in the form of the CARTRIDGE, CALIBER .45, LINE THROWING, M32, a blank cartridge which is used in a number of models of line throwing guns used by the Navy and Coast Guard. As is usual with military ammunition, the 45-70 was an immediate hit among sportsmen and the 45-70 has survived to present day. Today, the 45-70-405 load is considered quite adequate for taking any North American big game within its range limitations. It does not destroy edible meat on smaller animals such as deer due to the bullet's low velocity. The 45-70 has been used to hunt the African Big 6 and has been loaded to harvest everything from birds (45-70 Forager round, which contained a thick wooden bullet filled with birdshot in effect turned the rifle into a 49 gauge shotgun.) to elephant and the cartridge is still undergoing new development work well over a century after its introduction. Note that while the normal bore diameter was

Continued on next page

.45-70 - continued from previous page

.450 inches, the groove diameter was actually closer to .458 inches. As was standard practice with many early US commercially produced cartridges, specially-constructed were often "paper-patched", or wrapped in a couple of layers of thin paper. This patch served to seal the bore and keep the soft lead bullet from coming into contact with the bore, preventing leading. Like the cloth or paper patch used in muzzle-loading firearms, the paper patch fell off soon after the bullet left the bore. Paper-patched bullets were made of soft lead .450 inches in diameter. When wrapped in two layers of thin cotton paper, this produced a final size of .458 inches to match the bore. Paper patched bullets are still available and some

black-powder shooters still roll their own for hunting and competitive shooting.



Ditties from Jake (Jones that is):

The term "red light district" came from the Red Light Bordello in Dodge City, Kansas. The front door of the building was made of red glass and produced a red glow to the outside world when lit at night. The name carried over to refer to the town's brothel district.



Stories from Jake (Paladin that is):

Judge Roy Bean once killed a Mexican official in a dispute over a girl in California. A friend of the Mexican official hanged Bean; but, before he died, he was cut down by the contested damsel. Ever after, Bean was unable to turn his head due to the injury.



Plum Creek at Winter Range

Plum Creek members and shooters had a good turnout at Winter Range.
Here is what we found. If we missed anyone, our apologies.

Clean Shooters

Alamo Andy
Hey You
Oklahoma Dee
Nueces Slim

Categories

B-Western

Alamo Andy - 6th

Classic Cowboy

Dragon Hill Dave - 3rd

Cowboy

Matt Black - 2nd

Waterloo - 9th

Forty-Niner

Oklahoma Dee - 1st

Colt Faro - 3rd

Two Spurs - 6th

Colorado Jackson - 7th

Joe Darter - 16th

Frontier Cartridge

Silver Sam - 17th

Frontier Cartridge Duelist

Cowtown Scout - 10th

Yuma Jack - 21st

Jake Jones - 28th

Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter

Texas Jack Daniels - 4th

Frontiersman

Klickitat Bob* - 14th

Junior Boy

Skin Dawg - 2nd

Senior

Kickshot - 18th

Dutch Van Horn - 26th

Nueces Slim - 43rd

Top 25

Matt Black - 3rd

Oklahoma Dee - 9th

Colt Faro - 16th

Skin Dawg - 20th

Categories

Senior Duelist

Texas Mac - 15th

Newt Ritter - 16th

Senior Gunfighter

Kit Carson - 5th

General Burleson - 24th

Wrangler

Whiskey Kid - 8th

Buckarett

Texas Cutie - 2nd

Classic Cowgirl

Shotglass - 6th

Squawty Bawdy - 8th

Cowgirl

Hey You - 2nd

Grand Dame

Texas Flower - 10th

Junior Girl

Diamond Kate - 2nd

Lady Gunfighter

Kansas City Sneed

Lady Forty-Niner

Six Goin' South - 13th

For complete Winter Range results:

<http://www.winterrange.com/2016results.html>

March Match Photos

Thanks to Dutch Van Horn, Nueces Ranger & Alamo Andy for photos this month. More match photos are available for viewing at www.pccss.org.



Prayer before the match

Plum Creek shooters at Winter Range. General Burleson (left) looking relaxed and ready to go. Dutch Van Horn, Joe Darter, Alamo Andy, Two Spurs, Colorado Jackson & (I think) Ain't Durnit (below)





Cowboy Action Shooting is a GREAT family sport!
Flaco Jimenez & Muerto Lobbo with parents, Mia Jameson & Rusty Shackelford



Scooter (left) and Mad
Dog McCoy (right)



For a mention in the Dispatches, whose hat?



The dashing Nueces Ranger



Kuckleburr may be asking herself - Why all the attention?
Long Juan timing, Bronco Six & Show Me spotting.



Two Spurs



Whiskey Kid

Good friends - Texas Two
Step & Boosey Babe



Circuit Judge - but a vision of
his former self



Texas Trinity Kid - "Best Hat" this month



Good lookin' sisters Diamond Kate
& Texas Cutie



Big Iron Patnode greeting long-
time absent shooter, E.T. (left)

Tumbleweed Tex showing off a
great "Stache" (right)

Totes Magoats showing great
shooting form (below)





Dapper Gunfighter Charlie Reynolds



T-Bone Paul's pre-match icy stare



Joe Darter with a "new" hat



2nd Place Best-Dressed Couple at Winter Range - Comin N Hot & Alamo Andy

Guess who sent in this photo?

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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.