

# AGARITA GAZETTE



*A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society*



Agarita Ranch

May 2016

Lockhart, Texas

## Battle of Plum Creek 2016

*By Dragon Hill Dave*



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**B**attle of Plum Creek - was that a fun time or what? We had 117 shooters join us to shoot 10 stages over the weekend. The weather was just about perfect on Friday and Saturday, and the rain very courteously held off until we had finished lunch and awards and folks were packed up and on their way home.

Our overall winners were **You Bet** (beat his dad

**Reckon!**) and **Hey You** for the Ladies. We had 21 clean shooters and a pile of fun.



*Continued on next page*

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We opened our shooting on each day with a cannon shot from “Patience” handled by the Austin Light Artillery Battery. As is their practice, they confer the honor of actually firing the cannon to one special person. On Saturday it was Eddie Farrell (the brother of Mack Farrell, our beloved departed **Elroy Rogers**) and on Sunday, it was **Wild Hog**. A big thank you to the crew who brought “Patience” out and shared her roar with us.

Many of us come out to these events and enjoy the atmosphere, the friends, the shooting, and the food but may not be aware of all the work that goes into making a shoot like this work. Like the duck who appears so calm on the surface, there is a lot of furious paddling that goes on underneath that I wanted to share with you, especially recognizing some of the folks that were doing that paddling.

Let me focus on the range first because we had one of our most successful executions of the shoot itself with the fewest number down-ranges I remember at a major shoot at the range. Part of that success goes to our team of folks who worked on the range and the targets. **Phantom, Joe Darter, Whiskey Kid, Pedernales Drifter** and **Two Spurs** all helped in getting the target array together. **Whiskey Kid, Joe Darter** and **Phantom** came out the Sunday before the shoot and re-wired and installed pulleys on all the 30 Dodger shotgun targets we added last year. In the last few monthly shoots we had noticed that some of the Dodger shotgun targets were getting hard to pull up and some would be hard to knock down. The installation of the pulleys made them so easy enough

*Continued on next page*

to pull up that **Texas Cutie** could do it, and I don't remember any reports of those shotgun targets being reluctant to fall if hit correctly.

I also have to commend **Lefty Leo** for prompt repair of the few shotgun targets that did fail. These were our old buddies the rabbits and the discs down on Stages 9 and 10. Luckily we were well supplied with spares and **Leo** fixed the ones that broke so fast we had backups to our backups. **Lefty Leo** and his wife **Fuzzy One** had been at the range for most of the



week before cleaning up, repairing and mowing (and mowing and mowing). **Lefty Leo** built the nifty benches around the firepit while he was out there. And **Leo** was our go-to guy for pretty much anything else we needed done to help the match run smoothly. And he even cooked beans and hamhock for our pot luck on Friday. **Lefty Leo's** daughter **WolfBlu**, SASS# 103605 furthered the family contribution on Saturday--helping where asked and on

Sunday she helped fire Patience and helped in the kitchen for our Sunday meal.

Our only glitch in targets seemed to be the swinger on 8, which became very hard to pull up and didn't swing all that much when we activated it. We think one of the pulleys broke and created the problem. We are aware of this and intend to get it fixed quickly.

A big thanks to **Two Spurs** and **Manchaca Kid** whose work on the range, especially Stage 8, radically improved our experience on that stage. And **Manchaca Kid** is another one of those guys who works in the background, knows what he is doing, and gets stuff done. He and I (mostly he) got the loading and unloading tables on Stages 9 and 10 back into shape for the match. (Did you notice that they were turned around and had new screening?) And he was one of the guys at the end on Sunday helping me tear down the stages and re-pack the stage boxes for the next shoot.

I want to thank **Pedernales Drifter** for coming and handling our issues on Stages 8-9-10 on Saturday. He injured his trigger finger just before the shoot and could not shoot the match, but he volunteered to help wherever, so I put him down there to "just handle it" when

problems arose on that end of the range. He handled it very well.

Moving to the other end of the range, the *Green Mountain Regulators* handled our long range event on Stage 1, and they did a marvelous job. I especially want to commend **Circuit Judge** for all of his work in getting the targets ready, painting them, mowing and trimming, and supervising the crew that oversaw the long range. One shooter who has been to many long range sidematches said this was one of the best run ones he had ever been to. I agree. Everybody had a chance to shoot, and the targets were visible and hittable, with spotters who knew if it was a hit or a miss.

**Circuit Judge** also helped mow the firing line and around the stages in the days before the match so we could find our brass. **Six Goin' South** and **Bolo Bob** also helped with the important mowing. **Lefty Leo** and **Fuzzy One** were mowing too in the assembly areas, the campgrounds and the parking areas. We had mowers everywhere because we had so much rain. I think we had to mow the range twice to get all of the growth under control.

You think you have everything under control, then game day starts to come closer and you realize

*Continued on next page*

there is still a mess of work to be done. In the days before the match that is where I was, and thank goodness for **Mad Dog McCoy** and **Three Fingered Dutchman**, who were staying at the bunkhouse. As soon as they got settled in they came over and said "What can we do?" That is all it took for us to get them going. They helped put up the signs around the range, set out trash bags, and did who knows what else at the request of **Delta Raider** and **Lefty Leo** while I was out doing something else. **Mulehead** also joined them to help during the downtime between the shoots to take in the blankets then put out the blankets the next day and otherwise get the stages to shoot. I really appreciated these guys being available to help.

Speaking of folks who were there when we needed them, we really put **Six Goin' South**, **River Ben** and **Barb Steele** to work in getting people checked in and answering questions about the shoot. **Jake Jones**, whose health issues kept him from being able to shoot, also helped with administration and getting things done. Later **Six Goin' South** played utility infielder, pitching in wherever we needed someone. She could work stages with a posse, get the Pavilion ready for the next

event, or get people answers to questions or track down **Long Juan** or me to get them answered.

Another unsung hero was **Seawillow Slim**, who came out and pitched in doing whatever anyone asked him to do. He helped me get the range set up Thursday evening and helped out all through the match. One of his big contributions was bringing the sound system we used for the banquet Saturday night and the award ceremony on Sunday. It worked great! Thanks **Slim** for being there and sharing the equipment with us.

**Artiman** was on the spot with our flags, and he was running up and down the range picking up scoresheets and helping out when he wasn't helping fire "Patience." He was there all weekend helping make the match go smoothly.

A hard but necessary task is inputting the scores.

**General Burleson** assumed scoring duties this year, and he has risen to the task. He and my wife **Barely There** developed a rhythm in recording the scores and made it look easy. They had the scores out in plenty of time for the sidematch awards on Saturday and

there was no delay on Sunday in getting the winners determined and the awards assigned. Great job!

I have to make special



General Burleson, Long Juan & Barely There

mention of **Levergun Justice** and **Shinbone Bob** (especially **Bob**). **Levergun Justice**, SASS #102700 was visiting from Denmark and wanted to come help out. He showed up Saturday morning and started picking brass and running score sheets and generally making himself useful. It was a pleasure watching the big blond guy in the purple shirt from far away enjoy himself and interact with the posses.

And then there was **Shinbone Bob**, my pure-D Waddie. **Bob**, who has had experience as a certified personal trainer, was just the man to keep the water and ice in the jugs to refresh our shooters. He was there when we were taking down the stages on Friday and there to help set them up on Saturday and then take them down. He checked out the bathrooms to make sure the toilets weren't running. He hauled trash, he painted

*Continued on next page*

targets. He was all over the place.

But he wasn't alone. Another great help was **Lincoln Drifter**. At the end of the day Friday I was pretty tired and wondering how the targets were going to get painted that evening. I looked up and **Lincoln Drifter** had the paint cans on the back of his 4 wheeler driving up and down the line painting targets. What a relief. He saw what needed to be done and just started doing it. **Lincoln Drifter** was there to help any way he could, and he did. He reprised his role as target painter again on Saturday evening to prepare for the Sunday shooting.

Of course, **Delta Raider** and **Sue Freely** were the backbone of the shoot. They spent days beautifying the range, buying food and supplies, planning the meals, and supervising the range improvements and road work that made the shoot go smoothly. I want to particularly thank **Sue Freely** and **Delta Raider** for the hard work in getting the Pavilion ready to serve on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Sunday was particularly tough because I came to **Sue Freely** Saturday afternoon to tell her that with the size of our posses and the speed of our shooters, I expected them to finish earlier than anticipated. I asked if we

could move lunch up 30 minutes and be ready by 11:30, instead of 12:00 on the schedule. That was a hard ask, but she said it would be done, and it was.

Indeed, it happened even sooner than I had requested. By the time I got there from breaking down stages around 11:30 most folks were already eating. That let us start our awards ceremony early and let us finish the program in plenty of time for folks to pack up and head out before the rain hit. It was tough, but I thank **Sue Freely** and **Delta Raider** and the kitchen crew (**Lefty Leo**, **Fuzzy One**, **Tina** (Agarita Ranch employee **Ramon's** wife), and **Leo's** daughter **Wolfblu**) for making that happen.

But even before that we had some stars in the kitchen. For our Friday night potluck

venison chili from yours truly.

In addition to treating ant hills and mowing the grass and doing other range-ready stuff before the match started, **Bolo Bob** circulated throughout the match and took photos all over the place. He also helped with our award photos on Sunday, so we will have some for each category available on the website. Thanks **Bob** for being there for us—and we have the photographic proof of it.

**Texas Jack Daniels**, **Shotglass**, **Squawty Bawdy** and **Hey You** helped with the stretch raffle. They stretched and sold those tickets at the Saturday banquet. We ended up raising \$1750 with the 11 stretch raffle items, and a lot of people went home with smiles on their faces. We



Long Juan enjoying a stretch with Shotglass while Dragon Hill Dave solicits comments

**Whiskey Kid** whipped out some serious chicken and sausage gumbo, complemented by Subway sandwiches, fruit and vegetables **Sue Freely** arranged for as well as some

also sold every one of the 52 cards for the 1911, and **Mulehead** ended up winning the 1911. Made it worth his trip, and the SASS Scholarship Fund will get a nice donation.

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Finally let me mention **Long Juan**. Of course, he had been sending out emails and communicating with shooters and setting up posses and arranging for posse marshals and creating the shooter book and a zillion other things before the match even started. With **General Burleson** and **Barely There** handling the scoring, that freed up **Long Juan** during the shoot to make sure the check-in

process was organized and he was available to answer questions and resolve problems as they developed. Best of all for me, he helped put together the presentations for Saturday night and Sunday awards, a task that I was unfit for by Friday night. He saw the desperation in my eyes that evening and stepped up to organize the event and to see that the shooter prizes, the raffle tickets, and the

awards were handled smoothly and efficiently. He even took over MC tasks where needed and did a fine job. I can't thank him enough.

I am sure I am leaving out several someones and I probably didn't identify half of what people did to make the shoot a success. But to all who did help at the Battle of Plum Creek - Thank You!!



## President's Word

**Dragon Hill Dave's** story about the Battle of Plum Creek 2016 takes the place of his President's Word this month.



Plum Creek President  
Dragon Hill Dave



## Long Juan Here:

Shortly after conclusion of the Battle of Plum Creek 2016, my wife **Powderkeg Patty** and I headed to Rome for several days, which I hope explains why this issue of the Gazette has been somewhat delayed. We had a great trip and now it's back to work and fun in the good old US of A.

The Battle of Plum Creek 2016 was a great match. **Dragon Hill Dave** wrote an excellent story about the match that appears in this issue. I want to add my thanks to our many volunteers who helped make the match a resounding success. In particular, I want to thank **Dragon Hill Dave**, our indefatigable Match Director. You may recall that in past years we have referred to **Agarita Annie** as the Energizer Bunny. With no disrespect to **Annie**, **DHD** gave her rabbit a real run for the money leading the charge to get ready for the big match this year. Thanks **Dave!** I also want to thank everyone who shot the match with us. Without your participation, there would be no reason to have a match.

Our monthly match in June will be in Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup>. I am told we will shoot the best six stages from the Battle of Plum Creek. If you did not shoot BPC16, this will be your chance to shoot some really fun scenarios. We hope you will join us and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

Be sure to note that **Lefty Leo** is hoping to get early reservations for the Thanksgiving Turkey Fry. See the information on page 9 of this issue.

## A Poem for Memorial Day

Those of you who attended the Battle of Plum Creek awards ceremony and lunch on Mother's Day will remember the great Mother's Day poem poem by **Texas Drifter** read to us by **Sue Freely**. He sent another poem, this for Memorial Day. Thanks **Drifter**!

### They Were Loved

By Texas Drifter

In God we trust  
To coin a phrase  
What does it take  
To be able to praise

A way of your choice  
A time that you choose  
A way of living  
With nothing to lose

We know of the sacrifice  
That's been given in the past  
The lives that have been shattered  
Or death slow and fast

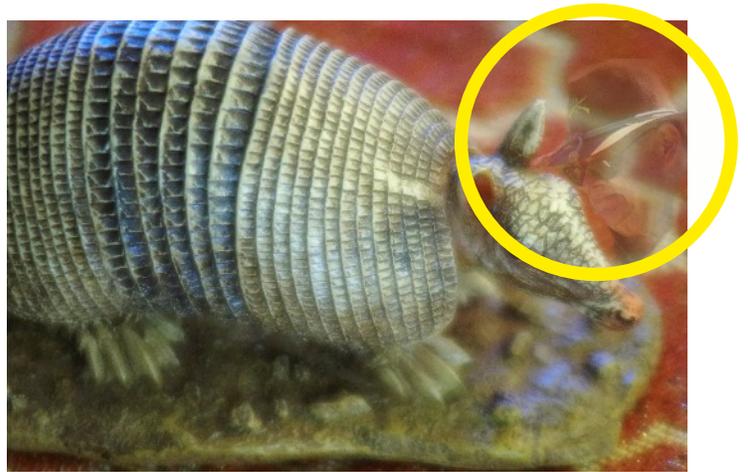
To families that have given  
Their loved ones to assure  
That freedom is sustained  
The loss they have endured

So let us all remember  
Those who have been taken away  
Those who were loved and cherished  
On this a Memorial Day



# FIND DELTA RAIDER:

Ten of our readers found **Delta Raider** hiding with the armadillo last month. **El Sabre, Big John Mesquite, Preacherman Lee, Mad Dog McCoy, Cimmaron Jack, Sheriff Robert Love, Hairtrigger Hayes, Joe Darter, Sole Proprietor** and **Shooting Iron Miller** are hereby mentioned in the Dispatches. Let's see who finds **Delta Raider** this month?



## Ditties from Jake (Jones that is):

I Thought I would share with you a few Old West insults this month. I think most of you will agree that fits my personality pretty well. So, what would you say about someone who's a little crazy? How about, "He's studyin' to be a half-wit." What about someone who's a little dense? "If all his brains were dynamite, there wouldn't be enough to blow his nose."

Finally, what about someone who's not particularly attractive? You might try, "She's so ugly, she would back a buzzard off a gut-wagon." I'm guessing that's probably all you can or want to handle. Hope at least some of you enjoyed my sick, Old West humor!



## Stories from Jake (Paladin that is):

**Violence in the Old West.** Shootouts, bank robberies, highly-choreographed bar brawls! If we know anything about the Old West, we know it was one heck of a violent place. That's why it was often



called the Wild West! But was it?

The popular image of the Old West as a place where manly men solved their differences by shooting and fist fights is simply not true. Yes, there were isolated examples of violence, but the true story of the American West is one of cooperation, not conflict. In a harsh and lawless world, people got together and generally found ways to cooperate rather than to fight. It was better to side with your neighbor for mutual benefit and protection than to start shooting. Bank robberies were virtually unheard of. Before 1900 there were no successful bank robberies in any of the major towns in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, the Dakotas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, or New Mexico, and only a pair of robberies in California and Arizona. During the entire frontier period, there were fewer than 10 documented bank heists across all frontier 15 states .

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Homicide rates were also low in the Old West. In Dodge City, there were five killings in 1878, the most deadly year in the little town's frontier history. In the most violent year in



Deadwood, South Dakota, only four people were killed. In the worst year in Tombstone, home of the shoot-out at the OK Corral, only five people were killed. The only reason the OK Corral shoot-out became famous was that town boosters deliberately overplayed



the drama. They cashed in on the tourist boom by creating the myth.

However you cut it, daily life in the Old West was nowhere near as violent as Hollywood would have us believe. So there you have it!

---

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Amount Included: \_\_\_\_\_

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# BPC16 Photos

Thanks to **Bolo Bob**, **Dutch Van Horn** and **Six Goin' South** for the photos this month. To see all the photos from the Battle of Plum Creek 2016, use the link on the Plum Creek website home page. You can see awards photos at the Photos page on the Plum Creek Shooting Society website.

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



Texas Cutie sure is .....  
a cutie that is.  
With Dad, Fairbanks Sam

Justice Lily Kate - SASS #1000



Shotglass looks great and ran a GREAT stretch raffle too!



Texas Jack Daniels just THINKS he as cute as Texas Cutie. He did teach great RO Classes and was a great Posse Marshal



Dragon Hill "Chief No Bull" Dave gave the shooters a resounding "CHOP" just before start of the match.



Six won the Plainsman Side Match and the Frontiersman category as well. Good shootin'!



Ellie Mae showing great form (and not only with her rifle)



Sunday was yellow shirt day for Dragon Hill Dave and Long Juan



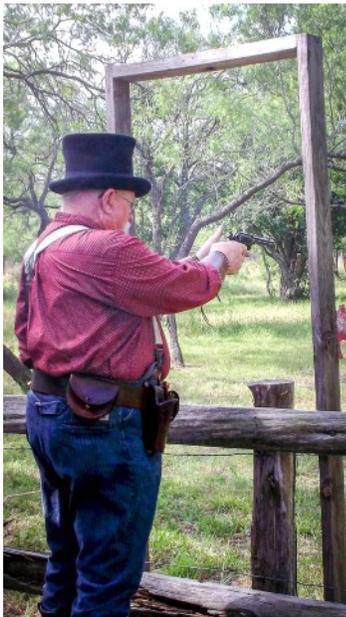
Volunteer extraordinaire, Six Goin' South, with Judge Roy Bean, SASS # ONE



Diamond Kate - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Girl's Young Gun



Shooting Iron Miller looks great and shoots great too!



Is that hat perfect for Scooter or what?



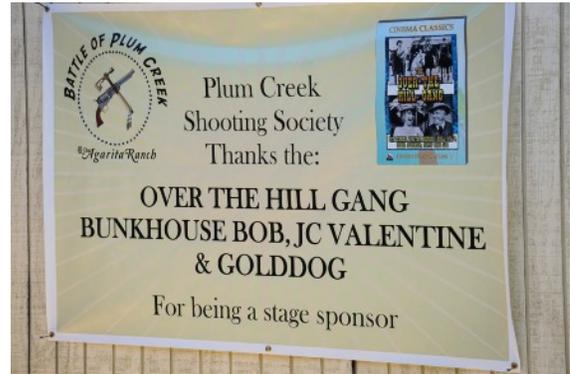
Wildcat Bob shooting Frontiersman



Texas Jack Daniels inspecting those brass, black-powder shotgun loads!



Wild Hog helping spot during Long Range Side Match



Thanks to all of our sponsors, including the Over-the-Hill-Gang



There were some great awards for the winners



Texas Sawbones, Doc O'Bay & Mulehead  
Next time you see him, ask Mulehead what his alias is?



Three Fingered Jack showing great smoke and gunfigher form



A great lookin' family - Waterloo, Paisley & Hey You



Panhandle Cowgirl & Whiskey Kid



Major J.H.J. Williams & Gunny



No, Shooting Iron Miller and Sheriff Robert Love are not shooting at each other! Right??



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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.