

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

July 2013

Lockhart, Texas

Plum Creek **Red**, White & **Blue** Shoot



Posse 3



Dutch Van Horn & Bison Jim



Annalong Longshot
&
GT Sharps



Kickshot



Wildcat Bob

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Range Deputy - Lightning McQueen

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Dragon Hill Dave

The President's Word

We have been having a great summer at the Plum Creek Shooting Society. Even though the temperatures have been hot, we have had a lot of loyal shooters join us at our summer monthly shoots and a lot of new

folks too, averaging over 50 shooters per match. We are glad to see them all. As a result of all the work that we did to prepare for the State Match, we have a lot of choices of which targets and scenarios to offer. One month it is swingers and pistol knockdowns and wide open spaces, another it is barns, rifle knockdowns, Indians and big buffalos. We like the variety we can offer. We plan to keep making it better.

Several Plum Creek shooters attended the World Championship at End of Trail at Founders Ranch. We couldn't help but notice that the targets were big and close, and the shooting scenarios were almost identical to several that we shot at our Texas State match. In fact, the targets were bigger and closer than what we offered at Texas State, and the reaction of the diverse shooters at EOT was overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the match setup. Having seen what SASS thinks the sport ought to be like, we feel that we are right on target with our stage design and target placement. But we need to improve our shotgun targets to assure that they can survive the rigors of the match. We had a few fail again at our monthly match in July, which points up the need for improvement to make sure we minimize down-ranges. Your officers are working on this issue.

At End of Trail your officers also discussed with several officials our club's desire to host the Texas State match again in 2014. We talked with people at SASS, who generally seemed supportive, but the folks who really matter are the Texas Territorial Governors, some of whom we also had the opportunity to visit with. In early August SASS will poll the Territorial Governors for clubs in Texas on who should host the State Match for 2014. They will choose between Plum Creek and the club at Oakwood. With the high marks and enthusiastic

Continued next page

response we got from the shooters at the 2013 State match, and the tradition that most clubs are given at least two years to host the State match if they want to, we feel we have an excellent chance to repeat. But to be sure, let your Territorial Governor and other Texas TGs that you might know that

Plum Creek is your choice. The plan currently is to hold the State match the first weekend on May and call it the "Battle of Plum Creek." Perhaps by next month's *Agarita Gazette* we will have some answers about 2014.



The Dispatches

Long Juan here! It was a HOT Red, White & Blue shoot to celebrate our nation's independence at our match on July 6th.

Fifty shooters, one for each state of the Union, showed up decked out in red,



Bison Jim, Bandera Kid, Dutch Van Horn, Abilene & General Burleson in the Spirit

white and blue. We had four posses with shooters competing in 21 different categories. We shot five stages, using great scenarios written by **Dragon Hill Dave**, complete with stories from the American Revolution. There were American flags galore, wonderful red, white and blue bunting and other patriotic decorations on, in and around the Shamrock Hotel & Saloon and at each of the stages, including red, white and blue targets.

Thanks to everyone who made such a great match possible. Registration and scoring was efficient. We got started on time and finished on time – before the

Continued next page



FIND *Delta Raider*

El Sabre, Sterling Sage and Lincoln Drifter were the only ones to find **Delta Raider** blowing hot air in June. Hope more of you will give it a try this month. Photos that identify **Delta Raider** in the caption do not count.

Stories from Jake (*Paladin that is*):

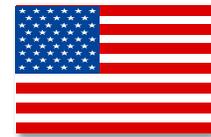
Did you know the saying "God willing and the Creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

heat got too brutal. Thanks to the scorekeepers on each posse who clearly made an effort to write legibly. Thanks to every shooter, especially new shooters, **Rattlesnake Red, J.T., Billy Willie**, a/k/a Billy the Kid, and **Dodge City Mike**. It was also good to have veteran **Lefty Rhodes** back shooting with us. Thanks to **Agarita Annie** and **Nueces Slim** for getting the range set up and ready for the match. Thanks to **Annalong Longshot** and **G.T. Sharps** for their decorating efforts (and for their costumes). They took real advantage of summer rules, while remaining period correct. Thanks to **Barely There** and **Lefty Leo** for helping out with scoring. Finally, thanks to **Kitchen Kate** and **Delta Raider** for providing a great venue for us to shoot and for a great 4th of July hotdog lunch following the match.

Final scores for the match are available on the Plum Creek website. www.pccss.org.

Phantom, Kickshot and **Ivory Venom** were the top three finishers. Lady 49'r, **Six Goin' South**, also finished in the Top 10. Better start practicing men or the women will take over! Category winners with competition included **Gold Dog** and **Boon Doggle** in Cody Dixon Lever and Single respectively; **Texas Sarge**, GAF Single; **Bison Jim**, Elder Statesman; **Dutch Van Horn**, Senior; **Wildcat Bob**, Silver Senior; **Dragon Hill Dave**, by less than a second over **Bandera Kid**, Classic Cowboy; **Lefty Rhodes**, Gun Fighter; **Long Juan**, Duelist; **Phantom**, 49'r; **Joe Darter**, Wrangler; and **Boomstick Jay**, Cowboy.

Hope everyone and more will be there to shoot our next match on August 3rd. We will still be following a relaxed dress code and will shoot only five stages to help cope with the heat. See you then!



More Long-Range Fun! *by Long Juan*



Sterling Sage in her GMLR special bandana

Sterling Sage and I enjoyed another long-range outing with the **Green Mountain Regulators** the last Sunday in June. **Sterling** shot well with

her Sharps. I shot my Rolling Block, not as well. **G.T. Sharps** showed us how to shoot with one of those early telescopic sights. Texas Big-Bore Long Range Champion,



GT Sharps takes dead aim

Circuit Judge, now has his own throne from which to shoot.

At the end of the day, **Scheutzum Phast** finished first and yours truly finished DAL.

Sterling finished in the middle of the pack. She clearly has me whooped in that long range shooting, but we both had a blast.



Circuit Judge on his throne

Long Juan congratulates Scheutzum Phast!



Plum Creek at EOT

Plum Creek Shooting Society members and frequent shooters made a good showing at End of Trail, the World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting. Our own stage writer, **Phantom**, came in 2nd in the 49'r category and 26th overall. President **Dragon Hill Dave** was 3rd in Classic Cowboy and Vice President **Joe Darter** was 21st in 49'r. Many who shot with us at the Texas State Championship did well at EOT. It must have been a good warm-up. Other members and frequent shooters at the Agarita Ranch who shot well at EOT include:

- Brushy Creek Bill** – 14th Gunfighter
- Colt Faro** – 4th Wrangler (and 23rd overall)
- Cowboy Small** – 30th Wrangler
- Czexican Dave** – 8th Senior
- Diamond Kate** – **1st Buckarette**
- Fairbanks Sam** – 22nd 49'r
- Handlebar Bob** – 3rd Silver Senior Duelist
- Ladies Texas State Champion, Hey You** – 3rd Cowgirl (65th overall and 3rd ladies overall)

- Hot Tamale** – 2nd Classic Cowgirl
- Mar-Lynn** – 16th Lady 49'r
- Miss Cubbie** – 4th Class Cowgirl
- Preacher Man Lee** – 37th 49'r
- Texas State Champion, Rattlesnake Wrangler** – **1st Junior Boy** (and 2nd overall by only 5 rank points)
- San Gabriel** – 24th 49'r
- Skin Dawg** – 3rd Buckaroo (and 55th overall)
- Spur Broke** - 7th Cowgirl
- Tres Equis** – 9th Cowboy (and 27th overall)
- Waterloo** – 5th Cowboy (and 9th overall)
- Whiskey Kid** – 16th Cowboy

Clean Match: **Brushy Creek Bill, Colt Faro, Dragon Hill Dave, Hey You & Spur Broke**

Congratulations to all! Hope to see you shooting at the Agarita Ranch again soon.

For complete EOT scores, go to <http://sassnet.com/EoT/results.php>.

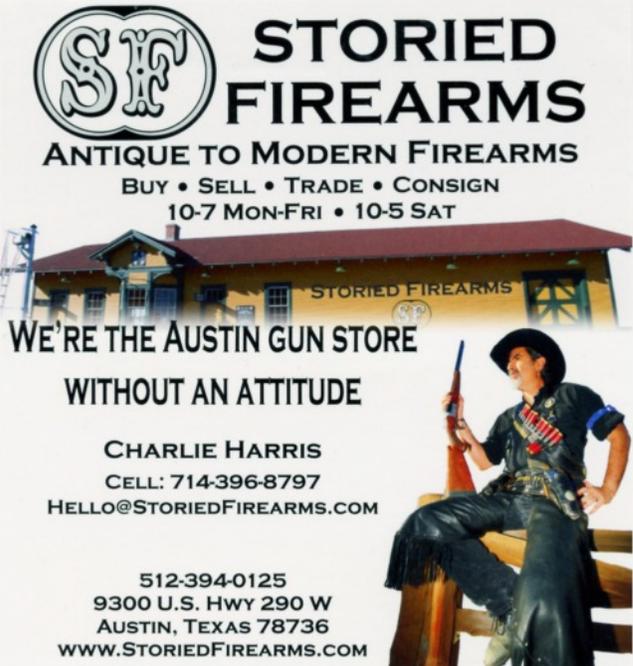
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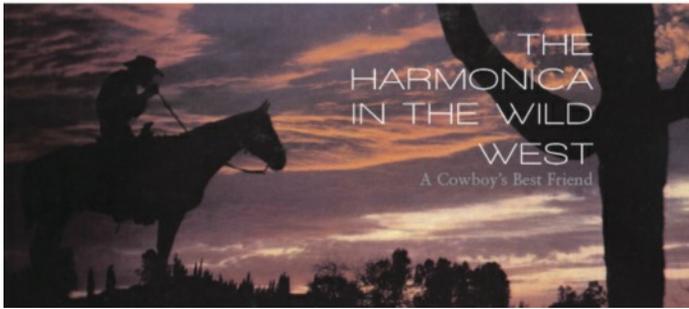
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The Harmonica

by Long Juan



The harmonica (also called a mouth organ, blues harp, etc.) is a small musical instrument that is played with the mouth by blowing into holes in its side, causing reeds to vibrate. It is inexpensive and relatively easy to play. Played well, it produces a raw, gritty sound that makes you want to stamp your feet, snap your fingers and scream out, “Yeaaaah!” And, it has a serious connection to cowboys and the Old West.

In the mid-1800’s, Matthias Hohner, a German clockmaker, started producing harmonicas. Hohner shipped some to relatives in the United States, where its music rapidly became a popular fixture of the American musical landscape. Abraham Lincoln carried a harmonica in his pocket. Harmonicas provided comfort to both Union and Confederate soldiers during the Civil War. After the Civil War, Americans began their western migration in earnest. Settlers in the Old West played the harmonica for entertainment and at dances. Cowboys played to soothe a restless herd or their restless spirit or just to while away time by the campfire. Frank James, Wyatt Earp and Billy the Kid are all believed to have played the harmonica. Legend has it that Frank James was saved from a bullet by a harmonica in his shirt pocket.

While history does not provide a *definitive* link between the cowboy and the harmonica, the German harmonica industry and the American music and film industries certainly

have. A 1904 Hohner Company poster at the St. Louis World’s Fair featured a cowboy virtuoso who toured the world playing his harmonica. Another harmonica manufacturer displayed a cowboy playing his harmonica while riding his horse on the cover of its 1926 catalog.

By the 1920’s, technology in the form of public radio, the recording process and sound for film turned a few cowboys into singing cowboys. Their music became country music, folk music and country and western music. Two singing cowboys, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, had connections to the harmonica. Gene’s sidekick Smiley Burnette played the harmonica. Frankie Marvin and Harmonica Bill Russell also played harmonica for Gene. The 1947 western, *The Stranger from Ponca City*, features a harmonica duel between Smiley Burnette and Bill Russell. Roy Rogers was an early member of the western singing group, *Sons of the Pioneers*, that featured Tommy Morgan on harmonica.

Almost every boy in the 1950’s wanted to be a cowboy. Television was full of cowboy series and movies. If someone asks you who is playing the harmonica in the soundtrack of any T.V. western series from the 50’s or 60’s, or a western movie, from the 50’s to present, answer Tommy Morgan and you will most likely be right. *Gunsmoke*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *Wagon Train*, *Maverick*, *Bonanza* and many other shows all featured Tommy Morgan’s harmonica expertise in



weekly doses. Morgan's western film credits include *Rio Bravo*, *Cat Balou*, *Hang 'Em High*, *Paint Your Wagon* and *The Wild Bunch*. In November 2011, Tommy Morgan performed at the John Wayne Tribute held in Hollywood California.

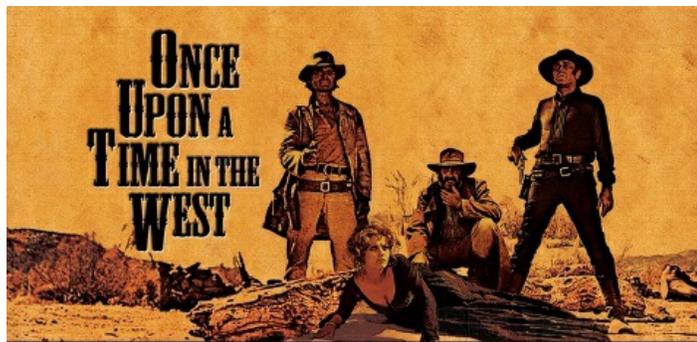
The 1960's were good years for the harmonica. Not only was it part of the "British Invasion" and subsequent explosion of rock and roll music, the cowboy and his harmonica were prominently featured in the "Italian Invasion" - Sergio Leone's spaghetti westerns, starring Clint Eastwood. Leone's most famous western movie, *Once Upon a Time in the West*, featured a mysterious character, *Harmonica*, portrayed by Charles Bronson. "Harmonica not only plays. He can shoot too." The sound of the harmonica is used throughout the film as a symbol of turmoil in the story of a mysterious stranger



harmonica was heard in films like *Chisum*, *Rio Lobo*, *High Plains Drifter*, *Blazing Saddles*, *Pale Rider* and *Silverado*. In the 1984 movie, *Draw!*, Kirk Douglas (Handsome Harry Holland) portrayed a

harmonica-playing gun fighter. The movie began with a stereotypical scene of a cowboy by the campfire playing his harmonica. In the 1991 movie, *City Slickers*, Jack Palance (cowboy Curly Washburn) told Billy Crystal to "put that (harmonica) away." Later in the movie, Palance ended up singing "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" while Billy played the harmonica

sitting by a campfire. A harmonica was also featured in the soundtrack of the more recent HBO series, *Deadwood*.



(Bronson) who joins forces with a notorious bandit (Jason Robards) to protect a beautiful widow (Claudia Cardinale) from a ruthless assassin (Henry Fonda) working for the railroad.

Even in the 70's, 80's and 90's, when fewer western films were being made, the

Clearly Hollywood and the music industry have done a great job of promoting and preserving the legend of the cowboy and his harmonica.

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What's it mean? Barbwire



The effect of the repeating firearm on the Old West was dramatic. Barbwire was simply fence wire with barbs on it, but its introduction was not only dramatic but also traumatic. The

most common design of barbwire consisted of two wires twisted together with the barbs themselves twisted a number of times and in various ways around the wire. Ranchers used barbwire fencing to stop cattle from drifting, to stop others from using precious water sources and to block trails. Farmers fenced crops in and cattle out. Many

powerful ranchers were passionate open-rangers. When the mighty *XIT* Ranch in the Texas Panhandle began using barbwire in a big way, the days of the open range were gone. The cowboy was downgraded from the historic herdsman on horseback to a laborer whose spade, pick, hammer and pliers were as or more important than his rope, gun and branding iron. Within a decade of its introduction in the 1860s, barbwire changed the character of the wide-open ranges of the West. Its effect on the economics and the social and workaday habits and customs of the Old West was abrupt and final. With the introduction of barbwire, the *Old West* was gone.

RO's Corner: Dead Round versus Illegally Acquired Ammo

"Today at a local match, a shooter was having trouble with his rifle. During the string, a live round stove-piped, so he flipped the rifle over and opened the lever. The round dropped to the table. He picked it up, loaded it into the rifle and finished the string with no misses." Penalty?

Once a round leaves the shooter's hand or control, it is considered to be a "dead" round. Minor Safety Violation ("MSV") for retrieving a "dead" round. There is no penalty for using a "dead" round, only the act of retrieving the round. There was therefore no miss.

The Rule. Ammunition dropped by a shooter in the course of loading or reloading any firearm during a stage or "ejected" is considered "dead" and may not be recovered until the shooter completes the course of fire. The round must be replaced from the shooter's person or other area as required by stage description, or if the round is not fired it is counted as a missed shot. ROI Manual, Page 19-20, #24.

Another Example. "Picked up my SxS, loaded it and oops... I'm supposed to be shootin' my pistols. Took the shells out of my SxS, laid them on the table, put the SxS down and shot my pistols. Picked up my SxS." Penalty?

No. There was no loss of control. The shells were placed on the table by the shooter. No penalty for picking them up and using them.

"A shooter runs out of shot shells with one KD still standing. Another shooter hands her a couple of shells. She load them and knocks down the final KD." Penalty?

Yes, a "P" and a miss

The Rule. "The penalty for using "illegally acquired" ammunition (i.e. NOT carried to the line/staged by the shooter in an approved manner) will be a PROCEDURAL. Any targets hit using that ammo will be scored as MISSES. NO adjustments will be made to the stage raw time." ROI Manual, Page 21, #35.



Dragon Hill Dave & Agarita Annie arrive early to set up for the match



Shamrock Hotel & Saloon in the early morning light



The Adobe Kid checking in with Agarita Annie & Delta Raider at match registration



Texas Sarge & Jake Jones



Abilene & AD Texaz



GT Sharps showing some leg!



Long guns ready to shoot



New shooters, J.T. (Left) and Rattlesnake Red (right)
Nueces Slim explaining how its done



Sunrise on the way to Agarita Ranch



**New Shooter Rattlesnake Red
Now what was it that guy
told me to do?**



**That's one way to cool off, Miss
Sassi Fras**



Texas Sarge shows off the flags!



El Sabre



Tascosa & Howdy Nabor



Dragon Hill Dave & Delta Raider
Guess which one served in the military?

Little Bullseye



Lefty Leo came to help,
and did!

Artiman





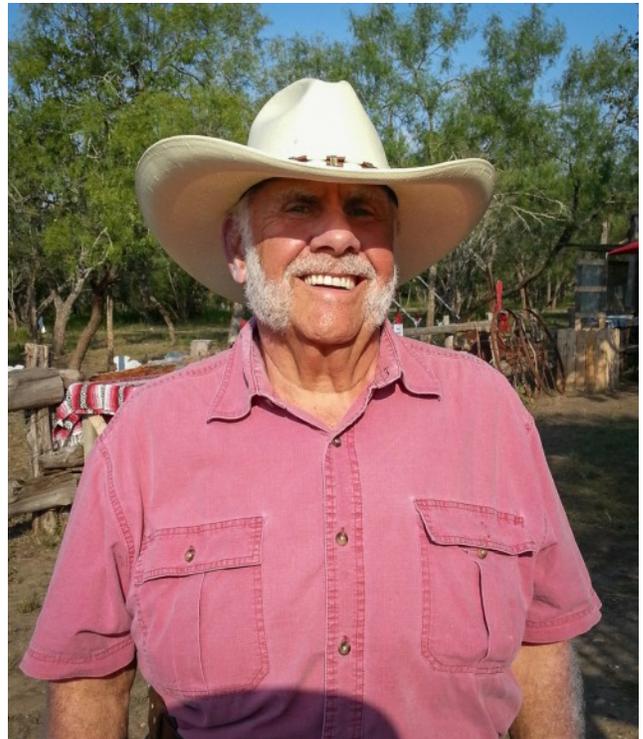
Mesquite Creek Mike



Annalong Longshot perfectly framed for the Red, White & Blue Shoot



Bunkhouse Bob, Will Johnson, Annalong Longshot, GT Sharps, Jake Paladin & Scooter



Boon Doggle sporting some new facial hair



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.38	100	RNFP	29	58
	105	FP	30	60
	125	RNFP	32	64
	125	FP	32	64
	130	RNFP	32.50	65
	158	RNFP	35	70
	158	FP	35	70
	158	SWC	35	70
	.380	100	RNFP	29.50
.38-55	245	RNFP	51	102
.41	215	SWC	42.50	85
.44	180	RNFP	37	74
	240	SWC	45	90
.44-40	200	RNFP	39	78
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	42	84
	180	RNFP	37	74
	200	RNFP	39	78
9MM	250	RNFP	46	92
	124	RN	32	64
	125	CN	32	64
40 S&W	180	FP	37	74
.45ACP	200	SWC	39	78
	200	RN	39	78
	230	RN	43.50	87
45-70	405	FPT	92.50	185