



The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

Lions, Lambs, and Leprechauns

We got in our two shoots in March, but we had to work at it a little bit.

On the first Saturday, March came in like a lion but wasn't sure it wanted to go out like a lamb. There were also some stray Valentine's Day stages left over from February, and broken-hearted cowboys all over the place. Thirteen shooters came out for a good time on the range, and they got it. Justin O' Sheriff edged out Cowboy Earl by seven seconds to take first. They were followed by Venomous Doc, Bad Bascomb, Ozark Lawdog, and top lady Goode Bascomb, who finished sixth overall. Justin O' Sheriff, Cowboy Earl, and Goode Bascomb shot the match clean.

Yours truly came in dead last thanks to a Stage DQ for failure to follow unloading table procedures. When I got to the loading table for the next stage, one of my pistols still had five empty shells in the cylinder. That's a no-no. More on the issue of safety 4 ¼ inches to the right.

Come the third Saturday, we were all set to shoot MC Ryder's St. Patrick's Day stages *on St. Patrick's Day*, but the weather man wasn't having it. The bad weather he'd been promising all week arrived, and we had to cancel the match. Ball N. Chain wondered if we couldn't just slide St. Patrick's Day to the 24th, and everybody thought it was a darn good idea, so we did. Twenty shooters shot the match, and most of them successfully negotiated MC's shamrock challenge and walked away with a shamrock lapel pin. It was good to see Death Valley Rose, Belle E. Button, and Rusty Dover back out there, and Utah Blaine came over from Tehachapi for his first RRV match. Not to mention Lady Jailer, who is an inspiration to us all.

Justin O' Sheriff, Venomous Doc, Bad Bascomb, Duelin' Tom and MC Ryder topped the pack, and Goode Bascomb was top lady on the day. Justin O' Sheriff and Buckhorn Bud shot the match clean. All of the scores from both matches are posted elsewhere on this web site.

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Safety First, Last, and Always... Dammit!

by
Nasty Newt, SASS #7365

As I mentioned in my column, I had to give myself a safety related stage DQ on March 3. Then at our match on the 24th I overheard an RO cautioning a shooter who had just swept someone with an unloaded gun. Later in the day, while working the unloading table, I found myself looking down both barrels of a side by side shotgun as the shooter carrying it walked toward the table. None of the shooters were neophytes. I've shot hundreds of matches. What is going on here?

Actually, I know exactly what's going on. We all know the rules, and we all know that safe gun handling trumps everything else, including fun. As MC Ryder has pointed out in the past, as a group we're getting careless, and we need to snap the hell out of it.

Apprentice carpenters don't cut their fingers off. They're scared to death of saw blades, and rightly so. It is the experienced journeyman, who has been using a table saw since Noah was a pup, and who is so good at it that he really doesn't even have to think about it while he's doing it, who pushes his thumb into the blade. Experienced shooters are in the same boat.

Every one of us needs to get safety first and foremost on our minds, and keep it there. We used to read two pages of rules at the meeting before every match. But the problem isn't that we don't know the rules. The problem is that we aren't thinking about safety.

Nobody likes to call penalties, but we aren't doing anybody any favors with lax enforcement of safety rules. The next time somebody points a gun at me, or at anyone else and I see it, they're getting a stage DQ. And if I sweep you, call it. It's time to snap out of it.

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The next RRV matches are scheduled for April 7th and 21st, with sign-ups at about 8:00, and the shooter meeting around 8:45.

There **will not** be a new shooter class on the 7th. Anyone wishing to take the new shooter class on the 21st should be at the range by 7:30. As always, we request advance notice if someone wants to take the class so we can be prepared.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly shoots:

The Cajon Cowboys shoot on the: 2nd (club day) and 4th (open shoot) Saturdays of each month at the Gem Ranch in the Cajon Pass on old route 66. Contact Luke Warmwater at (909) 987-7017.

Five Dogs Creek Cowboys in Bakersfield shoot on the 1st weekend of each month. Call Dirt McFearson, (661) 805-3281. They host the **California State Championships May 3 – 6**. Call Mad Dog Draper, 805-497-2857.

High Desert Cowboys shoot in Acton on the 3rd Sunday. Contact Doc Silverhawks, (661) 948-2543.

Double R Bar Regulators, Lucerne Valley, shoot the 2nd Sunday. Call Five Jacks, (951) 347-0862.

Silver City Shooting Society has suspended operations until further notice.

Lone Wolf Shooters, Pahrump, NV, shoot the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday. Call Lash Latigo or Penny Pepperbox, (775) 727-4600 days, (775) 727-8790 evenings.

El Dorado Cowboys, Boulder City, NV, shoot the 1st weekend (Sat & Sun). Contact Charming at 702-565-3736, or Boxherder at 702-858-6396. www.eldoradocowboys.com.

Nevada Rangers have announced that Stampede, scheduled for April 5 - 7 2012, has been canceled.

1873, a Good Year for Guns

If you read any of the gun magazines, you know that innovation and invention is the name of the game today, with numerous new guns being introduced every month. And although it's tapering off now, for a while we also had the "new short magnum rifle cartridge of the week." Even with all that, it is still hard to top the year 1873 for inventiveness. That year saw the introduction of three iconic firearms, and three new cartridges to go along with them: The Colt Single Action Army revolver in .45 Colt, the Winchester Model '73 lever action in .44-40, and the Model 1873 Trapdoor Springfield rifle in .45-70. None of them "won the west" single-handed, but they all played a huge part.

The Colt and Springfield served as the primary sidearm and small arm of the U.S. military for more than two decades, and the Colt was extremely popular with civilians. It has been argued that the government could have chosen better weapons, but there is no debating the fact that both guns served our fighting men long and well, and deserve their place in history.

The Winchester improved on the Model '66 with a stronger frame and a more powerful bottleneck cartridge that reduced blowback into the action. Additional chamberings followed, and when paired with a Colt firing the same cartridge, a westerner had a convenient one-two punch in his saddle scabbard and holster.

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How to Join the Robbers Roost Vigilantes...

Come out to a RRV match, held the first and third Saturdays of every month, or call Nasty Newt at 760-375-7618, or MC Ryder at 760-384-2321, or mail it in. Our membership application is here [RRV Membership Application](#) Annual membership dues for the RRV are: single membership \$25, member and spouse \$30, family membership (including children under 18 living at home) \$35. First time shooters will be able to take their FIRST (1) NEW SHOOTERS CLASS for \$10, any subsequent new shooters class or RRV match shoot will be \$10 members, \$15 non members. Donations for shooting regular monthly RRV matches will be \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Memberships run from September 1 - August 31. New memberships purchased after September will be prorated depending on the number of months remaining and the type of membership. RRV members are encouraged to become Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) members. Please call SASS at (505) 843-1320, or go to www.sassnet.com. SASS first year single initiation membership is \$55, renewal for single membership is \$45. As part of your SASS membership you will receive The Cowboy Chronicle (12 issues/year), registration of your alias, a SASS badge with your SASS number on it, a membership certificate and membership card, a SASS Marshall lapel pin, and SASS Shooters Handbook. SASS membership is not required for membership in RRV, or participation in RRV regular monthly matches. **RRV encourages all shooters to join and support the NRA and the NRA Foundation, and Ridgecrest Gun Range Association.** For further information visit our website at www.robbersroostvigilantes.com.

Schedule of Monthly Matches RRV Match Dates:

April 7 2012. Sign-up ~ 8:00, meeting ~ 8:45. No breakfast, no new shooter class.

April 21 2012. Breakfast TBA. New shooter class at 7:30. Sign-up ~ 8:00, meeting ~ 8:45.

The Range Needs Some Touching Up Prior to Defend the Roost

Starting now, every Saturday we aren't shooting there will be a work party at the range. We need to complete the jail and a bullet-proof wall, and do some general clean up and fix up. Due to its front and center location, the paint on the depot and stagecoach need to be touched up. Having that set looking good improves the appearance of the entire range.

If you can come out, there will definitely be something for you to do.

Our new sunshades are installed and looking good. Abilities Unlimited is going to backfill and level the ground around the footers.