



THE VIGILANTE



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Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

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The Quarterly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From the President

It Makes a Fella Proud to be a Vigilante

I am very proud of this little club. Part of that is because, along with M.C. Ryder, I am one of the founding members. But beyond that, I've been here through our ups and downs, and we're still standing. I like to think maybe I had something to do with that.

The most recent badge number issued by the RRV was number 190. We currently have 32 dues-paying members. 158 ships have passed in the night, for probably every reason you can think of, but that happens with any kind of club. Many of them I miss, a few, to be honest, I don't, and some I don't even remember, and couldn't pick out of a line-up if my life depended on it. Then again, I can't remember what I had for breakfast.

The RRV had a great year in 2018. By the end of the year we will have put on 22 cowboy action matches, 9 trail walks, and 1 BAMM match. Some of us made darn near every one of them. Two of our members only shoot trail walks. Two others only trail walks and BAMM. The rest of the trail walk shooters and BAMM shooters also shoot cowboy action as well. Looking at the match results for the year, I was dismayed to see that we only shot one BAMM match in 2018. We WILL do better next year!

Coming up on December 15 will be our annual Christmas Turkey shoot. And as in the past, when you sign up you will get a ticket in the can for a chance at something on the prize table. The match will be six stages, and on every stage there will be at least one "ticket shot" where you can earn more tickets by being lucky, or good, or both. Prizes will include \$200 worth of gift certificates good at Todd's Outdoor Supplies and GUNS4US. If you want to, you can donate something to put on the prize table, wrapped or unwrapped, to add to the fun. More details about the event will be forthcoming in the email announcing the match. Come on out. It's always a good time.

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Howard Collins, R.I.P.

by
Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

As most of you know, Howard recently died at Rapid City, South Dakota. Howard had been in poor health for some time, and he and Sandi moved there last year to be closer to their family. His funeral service and burial took place on Monday, December 3, back home in Ridgecrest.

But I'd like to talk about the fellow I knew. Howard and I went back a ways, to the Public Works Department on the base, starting in the 70's. He was easy to get along with, and knew what he was talking about, a nice combination. I enjoyed working with him. I don't mean to imply that we palled around away from work; we didn't. My big hobbies at the time were bowling and softball, and I don't recall Howard being involved in either. But I liked him.

It was at that time that Howard told me he had, at least on an intermittent basis, second sight, or ESP, or sixth sense, whatever it was being called in those days. The reason it came up in the first place was because Howard had a FFL, and I had asked him if he could get me a specific type of gun. He said sure, but he added that he had thought I was going to ask him to get me a snub nose 38. That was interesting, because I had very recently bought a snub nose 38, and hadn't mentioned it to anybody. I asked how he knew that, and he said it just happened sometimes.

At some point he related a story from his days on an aircraft carrier flight deck. One of the planes getting set to take off for a mission over Viet Nam had no tail number. He pointed it out to a crew mate, who said you're nuts, and read him the number, which Howard still couldn't see. You've probably figured out where this is going. That plane didn't return from the mission. I don't believe Howard was the kind of guy who would make up such a story.

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Posting match schedules in a quarterly newsletter isn't of much use, because the crystal ball doesn't go out three months. But I will post the current plan on page 3 as always. Check the website and your email for shoot dates in the outlying months.

We're on **Winter Hours**, so we will start signups around 8:00 and try to have the meeting by 8:45.

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Howard Collins continued from page 1

Gunsmithing isn't something you get into to make money. Howard once told me, "I started this business with nothing, and I still have most of it." It also isn't a business where you will always be able to make everybody happy. That is the nature of the beast. Some liked his work, and some didn't. He worked on a lot of my guns after I got into cowboy action shooting, including a couple of Model 92s, a Model 97, a S&W pocket pistol, a trap door Springfield, a Ruger Single Six, two side by sides, and a pair of Italian SAA clones. I also trusted him with \$3,000.00 worth of real Colts. That pretty much tells you where I came down on that issue.

I once mentioned to Howard that my elderly father-in-law had lamented that he had never even held a Luger, much less shot one. He proceeded to lend me his shooter Luger and a Walther P38, and said although he collected Lugers and loved them, if he had to bet his life on one, it would be the P38. After Warren and I got done shooting them, I had to agree. It might have been ammo-related, but the Luger jammed several times, and the P38 never hiccupped.

Howard wasn't a cowboy action shooter, but he was a supportive friend of the club and a supportive spouse to Sandi, aka Buffalo Lil, SASS # 39617, RRV # 42. He made buffalo chili for some of our early annual matches, and always donated to the prize table. So long, Howard, and thanks for the memories.



Howard was a great guy and gunsmith. Strong willed and strong talent. I'll miss him.

Duelin' Tom

Several years ago, I sat with him and Sandi at the funeral for a friend. It was in a Protestant church and Howard, ever the joker, tried to get me to laugh by making cracks about the roof falling in when two Mormons and a Jewish gal sat together.

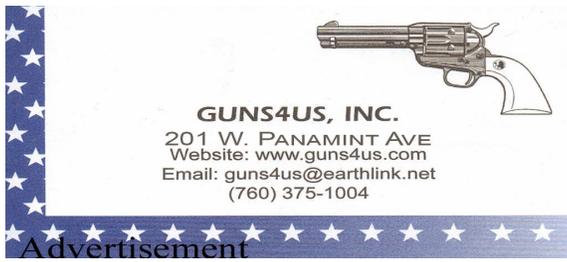
While he was in the hospital here, we had some interesting discussions about religion and how it had an effect on world events.

Howard was one of the most caring people I ever met, and certainly the best gunsmith.

Another thought. For a long time Sandi and I were the only lady shooters IIRC. Much as we will miss Howard, we will also miss Buffalo Lil!

Death Valley Rose

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How to Join the Robbers Roost Vigilantes...

Come out to a RRV match, held the third (and sometimes first) Saturday 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 nonmembers. 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 877-411-SASS. SASS membership information can be found here:

<http://www.sassnet.com/Membership-Main-001A.php>

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.



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Schedule of Monthly Matches
RRV Match Dates:
Dec 15, 2018 Cowboy Turkey Shoot

**Winter Hours: Sign up starting ~ 8:00,
Safety Meeting ~ 8:45.**

A Cowboy Quiz

John Wayne's signature line in *The Searchers* was: A. You're not the boss of me." B. "We may find her, we may not." C. You'll find that Comanches are good-hearted people once you get to know them." D. "That'll be the day." E. "I wish I knew how to quit you."

Now used to describe a firearm modification, the term "short stroke package" originally referred to A. Duelin' Tom B. Cowboy Earl C. M.C. Ryder D. Wrangler Red E. All of the above.

Which of the following sounds more manly? A. Plink-tink B. Bang-clang C. "Honey, where's the remote?"

In 1966 a young Burt Reynolds played an Indian in a spaghetti western called A. Apache Andy B. Sioux City Sioux C. Navajo Joe D. Nez Perce Percy.

In *Tombstone*, Doc Holliday says, "I have two guns, one for each of you" to A. Cheech and Chong B. Dolly Parton C. Ike and Ike Clanton D. Bill and Hillary Clinton.

You win \$1.00 for every correct answer. Submit your answers to Nasty Newt, Quizmaster, along with \$25.00 in cash or money order to partially offset the cost of administering the contest. The Quizmaster will let you know how many you got right and your check will be in the mail. Prize checks will be drawn on the West Bank of Goler Wash. Decisions of the Quizmaster are final. No whining. It's the Cowboy Way.