



# THE VIGILANTE



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Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

Winter 2019

## The Quarterly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

### From the President

#### Another Year in the Rear View Mirror

I know it's a boring cliché, but the older I get, the more I find myself saying, "What? It's been a year?"

I am afflicted with what is known as "time compression." If I am of the opinion that something happened three or four years ago, it was probably ten years ago, at least.

I expect it's partially due to having grandchildren. Given that I have five grown kids, it's not surprising that I have my share of grandkids. And they seem to go from babies to 21 in a big hurry. I know young people roll their eyes and think, "Not this again," but they will understand some day.

Meanwhile, although it flew by in only a few weeks, the RRV had a good year. We got out there thirty times: twenty cowboy matches, eight trail walks, and two BAMMs. Every year I say "this year we're going to do more BAMB matches," and technically, I guess I succeeded. We had one in 2018, and two this year. But that isn't exactly what I had in mind. So, here I go again. *We'll have more BAMB matches in 2020!* And I'll be ready. In November and December, I loaded every piece of BAMB rifle brass I own: 8x56 R, 8mm Mauser, 8mm Lebel, 7.62x54R, 30-40 Krag, and 303 British. It occurs to me that I could shoot a six-stage match and use a different rifle on every stage. *Hmmm.*

Cowboy Earl proposed a Cowboy Rifle Match, which I think is a great idea and will be a lot of fun. The guns are a pistol caliber lever action, rifle caliber lever action, and rifle caliber single shot. Each type of gun will have its own targets, at appropriate distances, and it will be an action match, on the clock and scored like a cowboy match. We had one scheduled for the weekend after Thanksgiving, but we got snowed out (see page 2). We're thinking the fourth Saturday in January might be a good time to try it again. Stand by for news.

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### Santa Lives by Nasty Newt

I saw a good one on Facebook the other day. It said, "When you stop believing in Santa, you get socks." It reminded me of that famous letter to the editor, written in 1897 by an 8-year-old girl from New York City. Here's the letter, and the editorial response.

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.' Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

VIRGINIA O'HANLON.  
115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET.

VIRGINIA, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, VIRGINIA, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no VIRGINIAS. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

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

There are lots of opportunities to have fun shooting guns at the RRV range. Why not make it a New Year's resolution that you are going to get out there more often and put more lead down range?

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*Santa Lives continued from page 1*

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

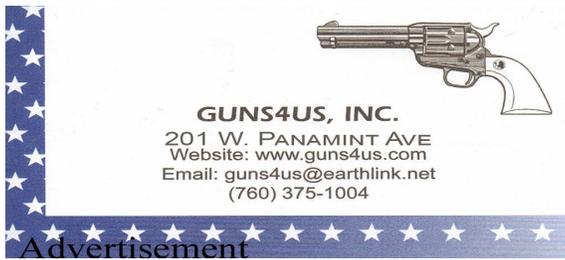
No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

\*\*\*\*\*

I've used this before in a Christmastime newsletter but this time I learned something new. According to an installment of Paul Harvey's *The Rest of the Story*, the author of the editorial response, Francis Pharcellus Church, didn't want to write it, and didn't want his name attached to it. He had been a war correspondent during the Civil War, and that experience left him a cynic with little faith in humanity and no interest in fostering superstitious beliefs. He did a good job, though, and today his work is the most reprinted English language newspaper editorial of all time.

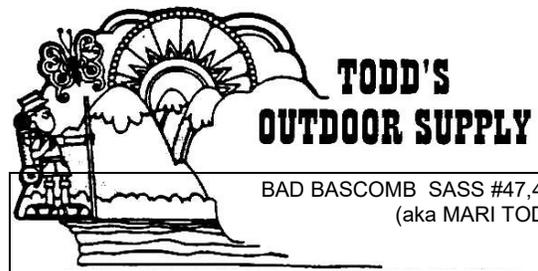


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## How to Join the Robbers Roost Vigilantes...

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](http://www.robbersroostvigilantes.com).

### KZGN TV

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## Schedule of Monthly Matches

Matches are announced on the web site and via email to all club members.

Cowboy matches are first and third Saturday. Trail Walks are second

Saturday, and BAMB and Cowboy Rifle are fourth Saturday, when scheduled.

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

## Another Great Turkey Shoot to Close Out the Year

As I write this, it's the morning after and I am well on the way to recovery. We had a hugely successful Christmas and Hanukah party, but then, we always do. It was still pretty cold when the worker bees started arriving, but Cowboy Earl's bonfire took the edge off that. I moved the office out by the fire pit and took sign-ups in cozy comfort.

Fourteen of us showed up to sling lead and shoot for drawing tickets at targets that included a bandito's rifle, the Texas star, the buffalo, a partridge flushed out of a pear tree, a stationary clay pigeon that served as a confused horse's nose, and some itty-bitty pistol poppers at rifle distance. Some, including Wrangler Red, Bad Bascomb, and MC Ryder, aimed straight and picked up lots of tickets. Others, including yours truly, didn't.

Then it was time for the feast of hot dogs, fried chicken, meat balls, salads of all kinds, deviled eggs, guacamole and tortilla chips, fudge, cookies, pie...well, you get it. Thanks to everybody for chipping in on such a delicious meal.

Next, Wrangler Red, ably assisted by Derrial Book, had the prize draw running like a short-stroked Model 73: fast, with only an occasional misfeed.

But mostly it was all about the camaraderie. To squeeze a little more life out of a tired but true cowboy cliché, this is a crew to ride the river with. The kidding around, helpfulness, and friendliness are what makes or breaks it, and this club makes it. Although some Saturdays I feel like I'd rather stay in bed, I always start getting happy on the way to the RRV range, and I stay that way all day. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy New Year.

NN