



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

A Cowboy's Guide to Facebook

Facebook was all the rage about fifteen years ago, and I knew lots of family and friends who were on it. I wasn't interested, because I wasn't too keen on participating in an activity that was so loved by people young enough to be my grandchildren. Old guys look really dumb trying to be hip. But, lo and behold, once the Baby Boomers started flocking to Facebook, the youngsters said "To hell with this," and moved to Twitter, Tik-Tok, and other sites that hadn't been screwed up by un-hip fogies sharing dad jokes and cat videos.

So, I joined. Turns out it's a good way to keep up with people that you care about, and since I didn't like chatting on the phone even when I could hear, it works well for me. I no longer have to wait for Christmas or the start of a new school year to get pictures of the kids and grandkids. They arrive in my feed darn near daily.

I also get contacted by large-breasted young women who say they are impressed by my handsomeness and insightful commentary, and would like to get to know me better. Well, of course.

But what I really like about Facebook is the gun and shooting related pages. The robot watchdogs are anti-gun and liberal, of course, and anything that even hints at buying or selling a gun will land you in Facebook jail. People talk about a rifle they picked up for "cinco doll hairs" and stuff like that to stay out of trouble. Even so, it's worth it to me because the photos and information sharing are great. There is a SASS page, but the ones I like best are the ones loaded with information and photos of cool guns. Some are firearm-specific, like Trapdoor Springfields and the Colt Single Action Army. There are also catch-alls like Vintage Firearms and Other interesting Hobbies, Historical French Firearms, M1 Garand, US Krag, the CMP, you name it. It's worth a look.

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Another Year in the Rear View Mirror

by

Nasty Newt, SASS #7365

We made it through 2024 intact, still out there putting lead down range. If you don't believe it, just ask Kern County, because every year we have to send dirt to a testing lab for "lead in soil" analysis. It was a dumb requirement when they made it a condition of the range building permit, and it remains a dumb requirement to this day, twenty years later. Sure enough, there is lead in the soil at a shooting range. Who knew?

Speaking of the county, our sea vans had been in place for years when the county spotted them. They said we had to make them handicap accessible or the Americans with Disabilities Act police would make us think, as Rooster Cogburn said, that "a thousand of brick" had fallen on our heads. We talked them out of that, so they said the sea vans had to be anchored at the corners so that the 5,250 lb twenty footers, and the 8,600 lb forty footer, each loaded with several thousand pounds of stuff, wouldn't blow away. We lost that one. I've since looked in vain for another sea van that the county required be anchored.

But I digress. Last year we shot twenty-one cowboy matches, eight trail walks, and only one BAMM/Cowboy 3 rifle match. Every year I say we're going to do more BAMM/3 rifle, but instead we seem to shoot fewer and fewer as time goes by. But this year, there WILL BE more!

Trail walks and BAMMs appeal to a limited group of shooters, and they tend to be the same people, namely, guys that like and own historical guns of many types, and like to take them out of the safe and shoot them. *Continued on page 2*

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Naturally, you're always going to get comments from guys who don't know what they're talking about, and the egomaniacs who make it all about them. But they're easy to weed out.

I've thought about responding to one of the large-breasted young women, since I'm kind of curious to know what they charge for pictures, but I know that would only unleash a barrage of additional friend requests, so I don't do it. Handsomeness and wisdom are just my cross to bear.

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Another Year *continued from page 1*

The people who started SASS in the 80s were shooters from other disciplines who wanted to do something different. But the folks who created the boom years, roughly mid-nineties to 2015, were mostly middle aged people who had never participated in formal shooting matches. But they had grown up on western movies and tv shows, and wanted to dress up and shoot some cowboy guns. I was one of them. I had some guns, and had been shooting my whole life, but hadn't been in a shooting competition since I came in third in the Junior Rifle Club match in 1958 when I was ten.

And make no mistake, the SASS boom was quite a boom. I joined Sass in 1995, and my number is 7365. My pal Gimpy Gus, a guy I worked with, joined the next year and his number was in the 12,000s. That rate of growth continued for some time.

That's over with now, and like SASS and all cowboy clubs, we're shrinking. But it hasn't stopped us, and it won't. We had six shooters at our January 4 match, but then again, we always have six shooters at our matches, and lever actions, and shotguns, too. 😊 But anyway, all six of us are stage writers, and there's another one or two out there, so fun, innovative, and challenging stages are going to keep getting written, and we're going to keep shooting them.

Twenty-one cowboy matches in a year is nothing to sneeze at. Most clubs only shoot once. A few years back, we kind of had a first Saturday group, and a third Saturday group. But today, it's all the same people. Going to one match a month would only mean less fun and less income for the club. So we will soldier on, and have a lot of fun doing it.

My Trip Down the Reloading Road

On November 5, 1997, Dillon Precision shipped me a Square Deal B progressive press in 45 Colt because I knew I would only ever reload pistol cartridges, primarily 45 Colt. But, I traveled to other matches quite a bit in the thrilling days of yesteryear. I needed ammo for my side match 30-30 and 45-70, and I soon tired of sending brass to Ten-X to be reloaded, so I bought a single stage Lee Challenger press. Unlike the Square Deal, it takes standard 7/8 – 14 dies. I got some, and started loading for my long range rifles. But then I bought a Garand from the CMP, and my father-in-law gave me a M1 carbine, so I picked up 30-06 and 30 carbine dies.

Around this time, my infatuation with bolt action military rifles began, so I needed to load for those old war horses. The list includes 303 British, 7.62 x 54R Russian, 8 x 56R Hungarian, 7.7 Arisaka, 8mm Lebel, 6.5 Carcano, 8mm Mauser, and 30-40 Krag. All together I load 14 rifle rounds on my single stage press, plus 4 pistol cartridges. On the Square Deal progressive, I make 5 pistol cartridges.

I knew for certain I would never have occasion to load shotgun shells, because they were cheap and readily available. I now load 12, 16, and 20 gauge on my Lee Load-All. 😊

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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
Matches are announced on the web site and via email to club members. **Cowboy matches are first (sometimes) and third Saturday. Usually, Trail Walks are second Saturday, and BAMM and Cowboy Rifle are fourth Saturday, when scheduled.**
Winter Hours: Sign up around 8:00, Meeting around 8:45.

1889 Bodeo 10.4 mm Italian Ordnance Revolver



In keeping with my unhealthy obsession to grow my collection of oddball firearms, how about this one? The trigger flips up and is held against the frame by a catch until needed. This is the enlisted man version. The officer's model has a trigger guard. Go figure. It's a six shooter, single or double action. The cartridge goes by both 10.35 mm, and 10.4 mm. Either way, it's a .44, which means like most .44s, it's really a .43. This confusion was caused, as most cowboy shooters know, by Gene Autry. While writing the lyrics for "Back in the Saddle Again," he got stuck. "Riding the range once more, totin' my old forty-three," doesn't rhyme, but he figured out a way to fix it.

I bought this gun intending to shoot it. Made in 1896, it's mechanically sound, so I do. Half the fun for me is learning to make ammunition for these guns. Thanks to the internet, everything I needed to know is out there. You can start with more than one kind of brass, but I use .44 Special. It's too long, so I ordered 50 cut down pieces, which is probably all I'll ever need. I taper the case with a .303 sizing die, seat a .428 bullet over 2.5 grains of Trail Boss, and crimp by hand with a Dillon Square Deal 44-40 crimp die. I've shot it in one BAMM match, and I'll shoot it again.