
THE VIGILANTE

Volume 8 Issue 11

Editor: Coso Kid SASS Regulator #5735

July 2006

The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

Hot Lead and Lot of It!!!

by Kazarah Jane SASS Regulator #5734

Eighteen Vigilantes braved the heat and came out to the July shoot. We shot four fast and fun stages, and were done shooting by 11am. I think it is safe to say August is going to be just as hot, if not hotter. So the August stages will be just as fast, or maybe a tad faster, so we can get some shootin in, but get off the range and out of the sun before it gets too hot.

Nasty Newt was pretty hot himself, and has braggin rights as the RRV 'Top Gun' of July 2006. **Congratulations Nasty Newt!!!** But ya better keep yur fingers nimble, cause Fast Legs and Bad Bascomb will be looking to take you on again next month. Red Dog Don was the only shooter to shoot the match clean, and it was his first clean shoot to boot! The Results of the July match are included in this newsletter. The following Vigilantes were among our door prize winners: Goode Bascomb won a \$10 gift certificate donated by Duelin Tom, proprietor of Guns4Us, Fast Legs won a bottle of wine donated by Coso Kid, Just George won a box of shot shells donated by Red Dog Don, Viejo Oso won a knife donated by Bad Bascomb proprietor of Todd's Outdoors, and Wrangler Red won a cool western scarf made and donated by Buffalo Lil' (Door prize winners are randomly selected by shooter signup number).

Its a'bout that time of year again... all current RRV memberships expire at the end of August!!

Membership fees should be paid by August 31 or at the September 16th match at the latest. Single memberships are \$25, couple memberships are \$30, and family memberships, including all children under 18 living at home, are \$35.

The RRV Board Members have voted, and we have unanimously decided that it is about time to have

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Marlin Model 1894

by Mike Venturino

When I began planning my book *Shooting Lever Guns Of The Old West*, I realized I had never owned an original Marlin Model 1894, and therefore I had no experience with it. That was a problem easily remedied: I bought one. Marlin lever guns were not produced in numbers as large as Winchester's offerings back in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and not as much collector's mystique has grown up about them. Good shooting samples can still often be found at reasonable prices.

In looking for my first vintage Marlin Model 1894, I wanted one that was typical of the model. Rather quickly, I happened on what could be described as the quintessential Marlin Model 1894 rifle. It has a 24-inch-long, round barrel with full-length magazine tube and chambered for the .44-40 cartridge. The buttstock has a straight grip with crescent-shaped steel buttplate. The forearm is capped with steel. It has no checkering, and the wood is slender in feel compared to most modern Marlin lever guns. In fact, with both forearm and buttstock, the wood is the same thickness as the rifle's receiver. Sights consist of a bead front with small buckhorn rear. Both are dovetailed into the barrel so they can be drifted for windage. The rear sight has a notched slider so it can be raised for elevation. My first Marlin Model 1894 has a well-worn exterior. The metal is mostly gray with the stock having some minor dents. However, its bore is bright and still reasonably slick. It's a darn good shooter!

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a members appreciation shoot. So as a thank you to all of our members, the September shoot will be free for all current RRV members. **The hitch is that to be a current member in September, you must pay your dues in August or at the September shoot.**

It was exactly one year ago that we put the sun shade up on Cowboy Earl's stage. Our thanks to Nasty Newt, Duelin Tom, Cronus Walker, Red Dog Don, Spin N Whiel, Squeaky Whiel, Skeeter Oly, Cactus Gray, Cowboy Earl, MC Ryder, Pawnee Ron Grizzly Ike, Badges, Bad Bascomb, and Ballarat Bob. What a difference your efforts made to our range! Thank you all!

If you join SASS, please let us know so we start using your alias at our shoots, and issue your next membership card with your SASS alias on it. Also, if you have a good idea for a stage, don't be shy, let us know or jot it down on a piece of paper and give it to us at a shoot!!

We want to thank all the shooters who braved the heat and came out to our July match for supporting the club. Special thanks to Nasty Newt and Cronus Walker who came out early Friday morning to help Coso Kid set up the stages.

Please Note; our next shoot will be on August 19th. Sign ups will start at 7:30 am, and mandatory shooters meeting will be at 8:00 am. The new shooter's class will start at 7:00 am.

So round up your friends and come on out to the August match and have fun shooting cowboystyle.♥



UPCOMING EVENTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO ALL COWBOY SHOOTERS

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. Take the Cleghorn exit just south of the truck scales and continue south on old route 66. Contact Jim Hartman (760) 955-8965.

Five Dogs Creek Cowboys in Bakersfield on the 1st Sunday of each month, Call Ten Bears (661) 589-6838.

Double R Bar Regulators, Lucerne Valley Lions Cub Shooting Range, 2nd Sunday, Call Steve Frazier, (760) 868-0483

Annual Shoots:

Thunder Valley 2006, The American West Black Powder Championship, September 1-3, Lucerne Valley Lions Club Shooting Range, Contact Rowdy Yates, 714-532-2922 or Old Scout at 909-984-1548

The 12th Annual John Wayne Shootout, Sept 8-10, San Luis Obispo, CA, call Fillmore Coffins at 805-528-6705

SASS Nevada State Championship, Eldorado, NV, Sept 28-Oct 1, Boulder City, NV, call Charming at 702-565-3736

The SASS California State Championship, Shootout at Durham Ferry, Manteca, CA, October 12-15, call Cherokee Knight at 209-477-8883

Gunfight at the Jersey Lilly, Oct 25-29, Norco, CA, call Marshal Law at 951-780-6467

Just a note, if you are traveling anywhere in the U.S. on vacation, I bet you can find a local CAS club to visit and/or shoot with, no matter what part of the country you may be traveling to this summer. Check out the monthly shooting schedule in the Cowboy Chronicle for SASS affiliated clubs. If that doesn't find you a shoot, get on Cas-I and post a query asking for clubs and contacts in your area of interest.

Thomas Wiknich 

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Schedule of Monthly Matches

RRV monthly match dates 2006:

August 19, 2006

September 16, 2006

October 21, 2006

Important!!

Please note: Summer Hours

August Shoot

Sign Up will start: 7:30 am

Mandatory Shooters Meeting: 8:00 am



How to Join the Robbers Roost Vigilantes...

Come out to a RRV match, held the third Saturday of every month, or call the Coso Kid or Kazarah Jane at 375-9519. 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 will run from September of the current year to September of the following year. 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 ask us for a SASS application or call SASS at (714) 694-1800. SASS first year single initiation membership is \$45, renewal for single membership is \$35. 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.

If you have any questions please Call: Kazarah Jane or Coso Kid at (760) 375-9519.

Cowboy Gunsmithing

If you have any questions about the Gunsmithing Program at Lassen College, Please contact: Kazarah Jane or Coso Kid at (760) 375-9519 or check our web pages at:

<http://www.robbersroostvigilantes.com/>

select the:

[Cowboy Gunsmithing At Lassen College](#) link



Thanks

The

Robbers Roost Vigilantes
Says Thank You!.

Thanks to **Duelin Tom** of **Guns4Us** for donating a \$10 gift certificate.

Thanks to **Bad Bascomb** of **Todd's Outdoors** for donating a knife.

Thanks to **Red Dog Don** for donating a box of shotgun shells.

Thanks to **Coso Kid** for donating a bottle of wine.

Support the merchants that support the club!! The Club appreciates the support it receives from its members and from businesses.

Thanks partners, we appreciate all your help and generosity.

The 1894's Beginnings

Let's take a brief look at the Marlin Model 1894's background. Although the company was one of the first to offer lever guns chambered for full-size rifle cartridges, Marlin was rather slow to offer them chambered for the so-called pistol-cartridge calibers. The first was the Model 1888, and it was typical of what we have come to expect of lever-action firearms. That is, it loaded through a gate on the receiver's right side and held its supply of cartridges in a tubular magazine under the barrel. It even ejected its fired cases straight up like Winchester lever guns

In 1889 Marlin changed that with patents held by famous firearms designer L.L. Hepburn. Henceforth, Marlin lever guns would eject their cartridges to the right of the action. Both Models 1888 and 1889 were chambered for .32-20, .38-40, and .44-40 cartridges, and right at the end of the Model 1889's production run .25-20 was added to its caliber options.

In 1894 Marlin revamped the Model 1889. Most of the improvements were internal, such as going to a one-piece trigger, replacing the trigger and sear arrangement of the earlier gun, and a two-piece firing pin that prevented the rifle from firing unless the finger lever was fully closed. Outwardly the most noticeable difference was that the finger lever lock of the Model 1889 was eliminated on the new model.

In my opinion, the new Model 1894 was enhanced cosmetically. The Models 1888 and 1889 had all metal parts finished blue. In the standard rifle version of the new Model 1894, the receiver, hammer, buttplate, and forearm cap were all color-casehardened. Only the barrel and magazine tube were blued. However, carbine Model 1894s were still given an all-blue finish.

The 1894 Becomes The 94

Three versions of the Model 1894 were made: carbines, rifles, and muskets. I'll concentrate on the rifles here and save the others for later reports.

According to Lt. Col. William S. Brophy (whose book *Marlin Firearms, A History Of The Guns And The Company That Made Them* is the most respected source on the history of Marlin), rifles could be special-ordered with barrels as short as 14 inches and as long as 32 inches. The standard length was 24 inches (in the round configuration). When introduced in 1894, a standard rifle Model 1894 cost \$18. If the buyer wanted a 24-inch octagon barrel instead of a round barrel, the price was \$19.50. Interestingly, however, by 1902 prices had dropped



considerably. Then, a round-barreled rifle was priced at only \$10.40, and an octagon-barreled one went for \$11.25. By 1917 they were back up to \$18.35 and \$19.90 respectively.

Also according to Brophy, in about 1905 Marlin modernized the model numbering system. Without any changes the Model 1894 became the Model 94. About 1906 Marlin's factory records disappear so it is not possible to give total production figures, but again according to Brophy, 35,948 Model 1894 rifles were produced between 1894 and 1906. It must be noted, however, that production of the Model 1894 (Model 94) continued until 1933, so many more than the above mentioned figure must have been made.

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Robbers Roost Vigilantes Executive Board

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The Robbers Roost Vigilantes Executive Board and the editor of the Vigilante are not responsible for mishaps of any nature that might occur from the use of published loading data or from the recommendations by any member of the staff, guest writers, or from products sold by advertisers.

Because of Marlin's system of serial numbering all its lever guns in the same range, it is not possible to establish an exact chronology for them. For instance, one might find a Marlin Model 1897 .22 rimfire numbered consecutively with a Model 1894 .44-40 or even a Model 1895 .45-90. My Marlin .44-40 is actually marked Model 94, meaning it was produced after 1905. That's as close as I can date it.

The Model 1894 Marlin was only chambered for four rounds: .25-20, .32-20, .38-40, and .44-40. Rifling twist rates were one turn in 12, 22, 36, and 36 inches (in the same order as the calibers). Something I find very interesting is that Marlin caliber-marked the Model 1894s using the same nomenclature as we know these rounds today. That is, .44-40 or .38-40, etc., while Winchester marked its rifles for these exact same cartridges as .44 WCF or .38 WCF.

Shooting The 94

Among many shooters vintage Marlin lever guns often have a reputation for having oversize bores and as a result not giving suitable accuracy. I know this can be true as I have slugged ones belonging to friends that were several thousandths over the caliber's nominal groove diameter. So I held my breath upon first firing my Model 1894. To my relief, it proved to be very accurate, and I have not even bothered to determine its barrel's interior dimensions. The accompanying chart shows how well it fired with two cowboy-type factory loads and my favorite .44-40 handload.

After my lever gun book project was finished, I put several of the rifles used therein up for sale. I foolishly put that Model 1894 .44-40 up for sale. But I lucked out. It did not sell quickly, and I regained my wits and decided to keep it. I'm glad I did.

.44-40 Marlin Model 94 Performance					
Bullet	Powder (Type)	Powder (Grs.)	Velocity (fps)	Velocity Variation (fps)	25-Yard Accuracy (Inches)
RCBS No. 44-200FN 214-gr. RN/FP	W231	6.8	918	57	1.13
Black Hills 200-gr. RN/FP	Factory load	Factory load	1054	46	1.00
PMC 200-gr. RN/FP	Factory load	Factory load	948	30	0.75

NOTES: The Marlin Model 94 used to obtain these results had a 24-inch barrel and was manufactured sometime between 1905 and 1910. Accuracy is for one 10-shot group fired from sandbag benchrest at 25 yards. Velocity is the average of 10 rounds measured six feet from the gun's muzzle. The handload used Starline brass and Winchester Large Pistol primers. Bullets were cast of 1:20 tin-to-lead alloy, sized .428 inch, and lubed with SPG.



Mike's Marlin Model 1894 has a 24-inch round barrel, a full-length magazine tube, straight-grip buttstock with crescent-shaped steel buttplate, a steel-capped forend, bead front sight and buckhorn rear sight, and is chambered in .44-40.

We are proud to announce that we have Robbers Roost Vigilantes Badges available for Sale.

The badges are hand made by the Silverado Silversmith, and they are very handsome. The star is silver with engraving, and the circle is brass with the name Robbers Roost Vigilantes.

Your RRV membership number engraved. The badges have two tie tack pins and caps on the back.

(We have your membership number, so don't worry if you can't remember it).



If you would like a badge send a check for \$50.00 (made out to RRV). Sorry, since the badge will have your RRV membership number on it, **orders must be prepaid**. After we place an order, it will take 3 to 4 weeks to receive the badges. Order at a shoot, or mail check to RRV, PO Box 2336, Ridgecrest, CA, 93556

ROBBERS ROOST VIGILANTES

Results from July 06 Shoot

#	#	Alias	CL	< Stage 1 >	< Stage 2 >	< Stage 3 >	< Stage 4 >	Total	Total				
OA	CL			Time	Rk	Time	Rk	Time	Rk	Time	Rank		
FORTY NINER													
5	1	Tank	49	35.05	7	28.03	6	29.54	4	59.48	8	152.10	25
13	2	Waldo Wright	49	45.98	13	39.49	15	42.03	13	71.56	14	199.06	55
DUELIST													
1	1	Nasty Newt	D	30.42	3	23.57	1	23.72	1	48.01	2	125.72	7
4	2	Snakehipps	D	34.14	5	25.73	4	27.15	2	58.23	7	145.25	18
12	3	Duelin Tom	D	52.96	15	24.40	3	38.04	11	68.92	12	184.32	41
17	4	Viejo Oso	D	64.70	16	42.47	16	41.26	12	102.61	18	251.04	62
LADIES DUELIST													
6	1	Kazarah Jane	LD	36.98	9	28.77	7	36.26	9	53.34	5	155.35	30
SENIOR LADIES													
16	1	Goode Bascomb	LS	46.08	14	44.11	17	49.80	15	76.26	16	216.25	62
LADIES TRADITIONAL													
18	1	Spin n Whiel	LT	70.79	18	68.34	18	56.11	16	83.83	17	279.07	69
SENIOR													
3	1	Bad Bascomb	S	26.60	1	27.34	5	30.94	5	44.33	1	129.21	12
7	2	Wrangler Red	S	30.50	4	32.23	10	31.85	6	69.61	13	164.19	33
9	3	Squeaky Whiel	S	36.00	8	38.42	13	37.70	10	52.69	4	164.81	35
11	4	Red Dog Don	S	39.93	11	38.11	12	33.63	7	66.02	10	177.69	40
14	5	Kennedy Meadows John	S	45.46	12	38.66	14	68.66	18	68.64	11	221.42	55
TRADITIONAL													
2	1	Fast Legs	T	28.57	2	24.24	2	27.51	3	51.96	3	132.28	10
8	2	Coso Kid	T	34.75	6	29.69	8	47.72	14	56.84	6	169.00	34
10	3	Cowboy Earl	T	38.19	10	30.51	9	34.32	8	59.63	9	162.65	36
15	4	Just George	T	67.82	17	36.88	11	58.41	17	75.16	15	238.27	60

Note: Stage scores are each shooter's actual shooting times plus 5 seconds per miss on that stage, plus 10 seconds per procedural on that stage, if applicable for that shooter. Optional Adaptive Class: for any shooter not able to shoot a particular gun or part of a stage if the shooter is unable to do so because of a medical reason or a physical handicap. Any questions regarding these scores should be addressed to the RRV President, Kazarah Jane.



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Presents

"Thunder Valley 2006"

The American West Black Powder Championship

All cartridges to be fueled with Blackpowder or Blackpowder equivalent

September 1st ,2nd & 3rd - 2006

**10 Stage Main Match
& Side Matches**



Rules Apply

Hosted by Double R Bar Regulators

At the Lucerne Valley Calif Lions' Pride Park Gun Range

Friday

Side Events
Derringer
Pocket Pistol
Precision Rifle
Lever Pistol/Rifle
Caliber

Saturday

6 Main Stages

Contact:

Rowdy Yates
Old Scout

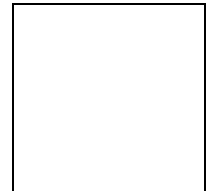
1-714-532-2922
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Sunday

4 Main Stages
Man on Man
(Grudge Match)
Match Results

Robbers Roost Vigilantes

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93556-8336
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Reminder:
Summer Hours

August Shoot
Sat, 19 August 2006
Sign Up At 7:30
Shooters Meeting At 8:00