Thunder River World-Guardian

May, 2026 ©Thunder River Renegades, Inc. Vol. XI, № 5

The Oldest Cowboy Action Shooting Club in Grimes County, Texas

9/10 of a mile north of the Texas Renaissance Festival Main Entrance. Look for the Black & White sign, Eastside

Target Size at TRR



From the Desk of the President:

Your TRR Board recently placed an order for some new targets for our soon-to-be-built Stage 1, The Corral. The targets we ordered were square, 24x24" targets, or more precisely, 23.5x23.5" targets, since they are cut from a 4x4' sheet and the cutting consumes about half an inch. We ordered this size because we wanted the new targets to be the same as all of the rest of our targets at Thunder River: Standardized. With the exceptions of the swinger target at the Telegraph Office and obviously the plates on the plate racks at the Depot, all of our targets are 24x24". These are big targets, but they are in keeping with the direction we have seen Cowboy Action Shooting take over the past several years. The trend is away from smaller targets that are further out. Pistol targets at TRR are placed between 5 and 6 yards from the shooter. Rifle targets are 8.5 to 10 yards from the shooter. I can personally testify that it is quite possible to miss these targets.

I've heard some constructive criticism that our targets are too big and too close, and that as a result, TRR is not a good place to practice for big

matches. Is this true? The answer, of course, depends, but I would say, for the most part, "No, it is not true."

Some other clubs do use smaller targets. I think most use at least 20" targets but a few still use 18". Many have moved to use 24x24" targets just like TRR. At the clubs using smaller targets, the DISTANCE at which the targets are placed becomes a critical question. The APPARENT SIZE of a target from the shooter's perspective is what matters, and it can be calculated using some simple equations. Or, if you were an English major like me, it can be calculated using some simple *websites*. One of them is here: https://rechneronline.de/sehwinkel/angular-diameter.php

All you have to do to test this is put in two values: The **size** of the target and the **distance** from the shooter. The tool on the website will then calculate the size the target appears from the shooter's standpoint. All values must be in the same unit of measurement, so let's use inches.

At TRR, our targets are 24x24 and are placed at a distance of 5-6 yards, so let's input 24 and 198 (5.5 yards). This yields 6.94", which is how big the target looks when you are aiming at it.

Some of the clubs with smaller targets move them closer than 5 yards for matches, especially big matches where they want people to be able to go fast and still hit them. So let's use our calculator again. A 20x20" target at a distance of 4.5 yards. We input 20 and we input 162 and get an apparent size of...7.06" inches. Yes, that's right: The 20" target appears **bigger** than our 24" target just by moving it three feet closer!

Let's try it again with an 18" target at 4 yards. Input 18 for the size and 144 for the distance and you get: 7.15". So just a half yard closer and the 18" target appears bigger than ours to the shooter!

You can play with these numbers and readily see how a little less distance makes for a much bigger target.

I have shot at matches recently where the targets appeared to be no more than 3-4 yards away. Unfortunately I did not have the opportunity to measure them, but they were closer than ours.

My point is, at Thunder River Renegades, although our targets are relatively large, we follow SASS guidelines and place them a safe distance away from the firing line, with target stands that deflect lead downward. Our distances and target sizes are reasonable and provide shooters with about the same challenge and degree of difficulty as most other clubs. Just like at other clubs, you have to aim at our targets to hit them. That's part of the fun of Cowboy Action Shooting!

If any of you are still reading at this point, I hope my foray into the World of Mathematics has not been too boring. Hope too see you out at the range soon!

Crockett Texas





We are starting a new section, **Shootin' At Stuff at *Other* Clubs**. **Nostrum Damus** suggested this, so those TRR members *who don't get out much* can get an idea of what else is out there.

Shootin' At Stuff – At Other Clubs

(A word of introduction …. Me and **Bullion Rose** aren't nearly as well-traveled as many other TRR'ers, but we still like to get around to Shoot At Stuff at other clubs within reasonable distances from home, when the opportunities arise. It might be for "big" matches like a Texas State Championship match of one sort or another, or just because we happen to be nearby another club when they happen to have one of their monthly matches. We hope that this piece will inspire others to share some experiences of Shootin' At Stuff At Other Clubs, too.)

We recently shot the 4th Saturday Cowboy Match at the home of the **Green Mountain Regulators** near Marble Falls. We were visiting and staying with good friends who live in gorgeous Hill Country, and they're used to hearing all about our SASS cowboy shooting exploits and fun. When we asked if they wanted to join us to see what it's all about, they jumped into the pool with both feet first!

First and foremost, **GMR** VP **Whiskey Kid** and Secretary **Kettleman** were helpful and welcoming from my first inquiry about their match. When we arrived, they and the others greeted us and our friends warmly, and told us that as new shooters to their club, all four of us would shoot for free! (Free is my favorite price.)

As the 4th Saturday in March was also when Trailhead was being held at THSS, the crowd was just large enough to make up two small posses, so we all worked at some job nearly all the time we weren't actually loading, shooting or unloading guns. It was a great way to meet folks and a great introduction to the friendly ways of cowboy action shooting for our friends. By the way, here we are with our friends, who knew a bit about handling modern guns but to whom guns of the Old West were both strange and wonderful.

Me and "**Milledge Luke**":



Bullion Rose and "**Patience Whitefall**":



As you can see, our friends took their homework assignments seriously! **GMR's** club is surrounded by the hills just west of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge. The rising hillside forms a natural berm behind all of the well-designed stages. The parking area is very close by so it was easy for me to keep returning to my truck to refill loading strips and possibles pouches with ammo for our friends. I own enough gear that I was able to outfit and equip all four shooters in our party, but as soon as we got out of the truck and started meeting folks, offers of more equipment for our friends to use were forthcoming without even asking.

All in all, we all had a great time and we highly recommend giving **GMR** a try if you happen to be up near there on a 4th Saturday. Because there were only 21 shooters spread out over so many categories, me and **Bullion Rose** finished tops in our categories (and I shot a clean match, to boot). And total noob **Patience Whitefall** also came in 1st in her category … with an overall time of 835.16, and that put a big smile on her face!

Nostrum Damus

The Tale of the Troubled Tumbler. About 6 months ago I was *souvenired** with a Berry Bullets Model 400 Tumber that had been through the wars. I called the company in need of a new lid, and they said the machine had a life guarantee and sent a lid and BOWL for free. Life was good.



(**souvenired* was the term the Vietnamese children used when they wanted something for free: "GI, you souvenir me Coke?")

Time passed and the mounting bolts broke off the motor—these bolts both held the motor together and attached it to the frame. Easy-peasy, email the company explaining my needs: 4 mounting bolts—crickets.

Tried again, this time with pictures so show the parts were broken—more crickets.

Third times a charm, offered to buy the parts—the silence was deafening. I could understand them not covering these parts but a simple reply would have been considerate.

Ended up ordering the parts from other sources and getting the tumbler back in service, good as new. Now to find where I put my extra cleaning media.

Off-Cowboy but still a lot of fun: Did you know that **Crockett** is a Class 3 FFL? This means he can handle **suppressor (silencer)** sales. From the talk round the pavilion this sound like a lot of fun and while not cheap still is within the price range of many of us.

For more details contact him at: **trentffl@gmail.com**



Tells Primers

My wife, **Angels**, and I are traveling more these days, so it's best to contact me regarding primers and see what can be arranged. Or when I might be out to the range



I can be contacted at: **cmjdaj@gmail.com** or **texted at 714-857-4471.**

Tell Sackett

Recline Lodge: **Doc Jim Harvey's** storefront:



I have created some 10-10-4 merchandise on the TeePublic site (link below or click on the graphic on the left). Stickers, t-shirts, coffee mugs, travel mugs, and many more items are available. Check it out. I will be creating some more 10-10-4 graphics soon.

Link to his store: **LINK**

John Powers, Gunsmith



Powers Metal Works
228 Colorado Rd.
Duson, LA 70529

Phone number for Texas
281.513.3438 Cell
281.254.7881 Fax
NEW LA number: 337.940

Dealin' Lead

Lone Star Wood & Leather

tahitipro@comcast.net
832-867-4102

Rayland Pless











Shooting once a month not enough?

Willow Hole Cowboys 1st Saturday of the month
http://www.willowholecowboys.com/

Thunder Hole Long Range Cowboy Rifle Match: the Sunday after the 1st Saturday of the month: **Blackpowder Burn:** garry@laxtontx.com

Oakwood Outlaws
2nd Saturday & Sunday of every month and the Monday following the 2nd weekend. www.oakwoodoutlaws.org/

Brazos Rangers (part of Greenwood Gun Club)
https://greenwoodgunclub.org/cowboy-action
Second Sunday of each month
If planning on shooting the Match, contact **Scott** beforehand to get the gate code for entry to the range.
Director: **Scott Miller** (AKA "Slimy") scottlittlefish@hotmail.com

Texas Historical Shootist Society: Weekend of the 3rd SUNDAY of the month(both days). https://www.thss.org/

Orange County Regulators: 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month.
https://www.facebook.com/orangecountyregulators
Texas Gator: rtexasgator@aol.com

TRR Officers 2024

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