Thunder River World-Guardian

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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

A Shooter Handbook Myth Debunked



From the Desk of the President:

I was at a big match recently and heard an experienced cowboy action shooter say something during the safety briefing that got my attention. "Don't even put your finger in the trigger guard until your weapon is pointed 45 degrees downrange!" This is the second time I had heard this "rule" from a veteran shooter, but it didn't sound right to me, so, being a lawyer in my spare time, I decided to check the rule book for Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS).

According to the Shooter Handbook:

When drawing a Revolver from its holster, the revolver may not be cocked until it is pointed safely downrange (at a 45° angle downrange). (p. 13)

The only other reference to the 45 degree rule is found on p. 22 under examples of Minor Safety Violations:

Minor Safety Violation (MSV) infractions include:

Cocking a revolver before it reaches 45° down range.

There is nothing in the rule book that prohibits having your finger on the trigger or in the trigger guard before your pistol is pointed 45 degrees

downrange. Many shooters, including myself, draw pistols with their fingers already on the trigger or even pulling it. I don't cock or drop the hammer until my revolver is pointed downrange and (hopefully) at the target.

It seems possible that the source of the confusion is Wild Bunch Action Shooting. In WBAS, it IS a penalty to move with your finger in the trigger guard. The first offense is supposed to draw a verbal warning only. The second offense is considered a MSV and incurs a 10-second penalty. The reason for this is obvious, since shooters are using 1911s that have the hammer cocked automatically after the first round is discharged. But nevertheless, this rule only applies to WBAS, not CAS.

In CAS, no penalty is incurred for touching the trigger too soon. Just make sure you abide by the 170 degree rule and, when cocking, by the 45 degree rule! As always, be safe and don't forget to have fun!

Crockett Texas

From the Saddle of the TRR Vice-President



One of the duties in the role of Vice President at Thunder River Renegades is overseeing the planning and execution of maintenance, repair, and construction, when needed (they told me about that AFTER they talked me into taking the job). With our authentic, old western town, located in the damp climate of the piney woods, that's a continual challenge. Keeping the range buildings and grounds in good repair is a never-ending task and couldn't be done without the help of TRR members who answer the call when needed.

The biggest news of late is the addition of a new yet-to-be-named stage at the south end of the range. This challenging project was completed in record time by a massive effort, led by Job Foreman **Wild Eagle** and his faithful assistant, the **Manchaca Kid**. In addition, 14 Renegades showed up to brave two days of heat and humidity to do all the lifting, fetching, digging, sawing, hammering, drilling, screwing, sweating, and bleeding (yes, there was some bleeding—**RWK** and **cr** to mention two) that it took to get this done. These cowboys and cowgirls included:

Wild Eagle
Manchaca Kid
GW Ketchum
Suzy Q
His honor, Rawhide Ranger
Miss Ellie
Dude Cogburn
Tyrell Sackett
Doc Clint
Ranger Will Ketchum
Counselor Crockett Texas
Nostrum Damus
Hawk Eyes Hudson
Cheyenne Ranger
Colonel Mackenzie
Ranger Bill

The new stage will give us 10 stages to work with. That means we won't have to repeat a stage at our next LSTR match and can go to a "standard" 5-stage per day format. We are particularly indebted to **Wild Eagle** and the **Manchaca Kid** for taking the lead in planning, designing, and leading the construction of this project. We have purchased new rifle and pistol targets for the new stage. **Johnny Knight** took on the task of welding on the brackets for hanging them. Without all these cowboys and cowgirls going the extra mile for us, this new stage just wouldn't have happened. There are a few finishing touches needed but we should get a chance to try it out in July.

We are now fully into summer and that means the grass never stops growing. We mow the range and weed eat prior to every match. **Cheyenne**

Ranger is a master mower on our Trusty **Maverick** Mower. Weed eating is a challenge as we trim the front and back of all stages, as well as around all the outbuildings. I try to be available to back up **Cheyenne** and do some weed eating but additional help with the whacking is always appreciated. Keeping the water tower full is also a regular task. We have to haul the water from the Rickett's house to fill it, so that's another regular chore.

Since we are shooting at stuff all the time, the targets need to be repainted before every match. **Rusty Elder** is TRR's answer to Frederick Remington and Charles Russell. We do see some collateral damage to our targets, particularly the shotgun targets, so they are often in need of repairs. **Nostrum Damus** and **Rusty Elder** put in regular duty to make sure the knock-down targets will come back up so we can shoot 'em again. And of course, they need to be repainted for every match.

There always other repairs that are needed at our range. Presently, the awnings at the General Store and the Leather Shop need attention. There also some structural repairs needed at Utter Freight, and eventually, the Tombstone Jail. We are looking at a repair or full replacement of the Office building. So, we will be looking at more work days in the future, but we'll probably put them off until we see things cool down a bit, if possible. And of course, there are other issues that continually pop up such as boardwalk repair and plumbing issues. **Ranger Will Ketchum** is our resident plumber and works regularly to keep things flowing and flushing.

It takes a lot of work to prepare and keep things running and looking good on the ole Thunder River Range, and we have some dedicated people to keep things in shape. That doesn't mean we aren't always looking for help on any of these chores and projects. It's always more fun when we have a crowd. The roar of the maverick, the buzz of the weed eater, and the smell

of fresh-cut grass offer a symphony for everyone involved. Mowing and work days are announced regularly, so come on out and lend a hand if you are able.

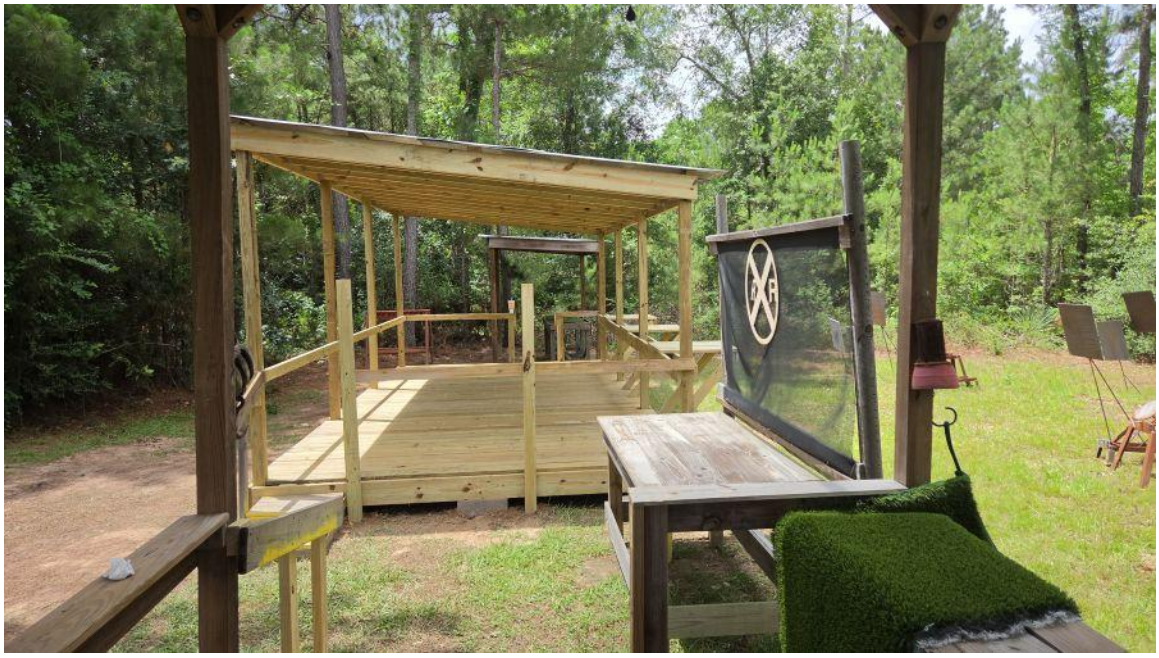
Our goal is to offer a range and cowboy action experience of which we can all be proud and be the shining mecca for cowboy action shooting the Tri-County area. If we did anything less, it wouldn't be The Cowboy Way.











♫ Summertime and the Shooting is Sticky . . . and Sweaty . . . and HOT! ♪

Let's look at how TRR addresses the above conditions

- **Summer Dress**: where you can, if you wish, wear T-shirts, shorts, tennis shoes, pretty much anything other than baseball caps. Why heck, fire, we even have one cowpoke that shoots barefoot!
- **Numerous coolers** with iced water and Gatorade. As **RWK** keeps saying, "Hydrate or die."
  - Special Thanks to our **Water Buffaloes**
    - **Pawnee Panther**
    - **Pawnee Possum**
    - **Hawk Eyes Hudson**
    - **Tyrel Sacket**
- We have awnings in front of most of our stages, and stages 1 & 2 have good old shade from their pine trees
- Fans and more fans: **Ranger Bill** spent a day installing new fans for the loading tables, which also cool the unloading tables in the

previous stages. Now you are less likely to drop sweat into your priceless, metal firearms.

- An earlier start time to beat the hottest part of the day. This, coupled with . . .
- Smaller posses keeps us from shooting till 3:00 p.m.

What you can do:

- Keep hydrated.
  - Start the day before and drink plenty of liquids
  - At the match, if you are thirsty, you are already behind.
- Check your fellow posse members. If they seem disoriented, at least tell someone else.
- Stay in the shade and in front of the fans.
- Take a break if you need to.
- Soak up ice water from the coolers and keep your neck cool.



Medical News reprinted from a TRR email:

Additional medicine in our first aid box
RWK reports: There are a couple of medications that any first aid kit should include that can actually save a life:, are cheap, and anyone can use. These are particularly important when you find yourself in situations where EMS response may be delayed (like at the TRR range).

The first is 325mg uncoated Aspirin. If someone is suspected of having a heart attack, one pill should be chewed and swallowed as soon as possible. This can reduce clotting and limit heart damage.

While no replacement for Epinephrine (EpiPen) for severe allergic reactions, the second is 25mg Benadryl (store brand equivalent is fine) for someone who is having an allergic reaction to something like a bee sting. They should take 2 tablets as an initial dose. This acts as an antihistamine to reduce swelling and other associated symptoms. However, Benadryl is too slow-acting to actually treat true anaphylaxis.

As one of our Cowboys did at this last match, when we were discussing this, if you have a known allergic sensitivity and carry an EpiPen, it is always good for others around you to know that, and know where you keep your EpiPen. It may very well save your life.

Both of these conditions should always be treated as potentially life-threatening events, and emergency medical treatment should be sought as soon as possible. These over-the-counter meds are only meant to potentially buy the patient some time until help can arrive.

Be safe out there.
RWK

We also have a tarp that is used in heat injuries (Heat Stroke), thanks to **Doc♣O'Bay**

- Spread the tarp
- Lay the patient on it
- Have people hold up the edges
- Pour the contents of several coolers on the patient
- Lift up opposite sides to keep the water/ice flowing over the patient



Removing Lube from Bullets: I was asked by one of my cowboy heroes to powder coat, PC, some of his bullets, which were lubed. He wanted them colored to distinguish his gunpowder loads.

While PC is easy, the removal of the lube was something new to me—I usually just cast the bullets I PC. Off to the internet . . .

Seems the methods fall into two categories: use a solvent or heat them till the lube runs off, then wipe them clean.

The solvent idea was NOT an option, as getting mineral spirits, turpentine, or gasoline all over the bullets, me, and the surrounding area was a disaster waiting to happen. I wanted something that would not blow up in my face.

Finally, settled on this method: put the bullets in a metal pan, and not one of Violet's kitchen ones, to be sure. Fill with water and heat to a boil. Let it boil for 10 minutes or so. Take it off the burner and let it sit till room temperature. Then I put it in the refrigerator overnight. This ensured the lube/wax, which was on the surface, was solid.

Finally, run water in the pot to wash all the wax out and the bullets come out clean of any lube—straight into the PC and business as usual

Dealin' Lead

Lone Star Wood & Leather

tahitipro@comcast.net
832-867-4102

Rayland Pless











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

Shooting once a month not enough?

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

President: **Crockett Texas**
president@thunderriverrenegades.com

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vicepresident@thunderriverrenegades.com

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Assistant Range Master: **Doc Θ☘Bay**
AsstRangerMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com

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