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



The Flag

Red for the blood shed in the name of freedom,
For which we fought,
United.
Blue for the oceans of time we have crossed,
Remaining the land of the free.
White for the peace we wish to share,

Michelle Selby.

Your Guns, Sunlight, and Happy Hands:



Now that we are well into our beautiful Texas summer, we need to be careful about where we stage and transport our firearms. Many of us have blued guns, and these, in direct sunlight, heat up quite rapidly. It takes remarkably little time for them to warm to the point they become very hot, and holding them can become a problem.

Now we're not saying that a round will 'cook off,' or you'll get third-degree burns from handling them, but if they are uncomfortable to hold, the likelihood of mishandling them could arise. **Old Gentle Ben** picks up his rifle from his gun cart and drops it from the unexpected heat.

Or **Grandma Mosey** puts her shotgun up to her cheek and drops it from the heat . . . with two shells in it!

So, as we wander aimlessly through our courses of fire, show you firearms some love . . . and shade.

Lead Shot vs. Reclaimed Lead Bullets for Casting: First, let's look at the Brinell Hardness Numbers (BHN). These are used to express the hardness of many items, Lead (Pb) being of most interest here.



Pure lead usually runs around 5.0 BHN, while Lyman #2 (90% Lead, 5% Tin, 5% Antimony) can be 15-16. Hardness and bullet speed play a big role in barrel leading. While tin adds to the ease of pouring bullets, the antimony is the reason for the hardness; both add cost to the lead.

Most of our bullets do not need to be as hard as possible, as we are not shooting at the speed of sound, so using reclaimed lead from our pistol and rifle targets is a good way to save a penny or two. The trade-off is that there is more involved in getting this lead cleaned for the casting pot: cleaning the excess dirt off, removing shotgun wads (they're everywhere, they're everywhere!), and then having a second lead pot or container to melt it. Next comes the skimming off of the dross using sawdust or wax. Only then are you ready to pour clean ingots for your casting pot. This can double the time needed to cast the bullets you need.

Now we come to the reclaimed lead shot: recovery of it from the range is similar to bullet recovery but you now have ingot that have a

BHN of 20-24, too hard to use by itself for making those perfect lead spheres we all love sending down range.

Covering raw lead into ingots for casting.



Raw Wheel Weights

Because of the trash often encountered in scrap lead, you never want to put it in your casting pot. It needs to be melted, cleaned, and turned into ingots ahead of time. This keeps your main pot clean and working properly.

I have an old Lee 20 pot that I use for this purpose. I removed the pouring hardware, plugged the spout from the outside so I can easily handle this chore.

Since I am using clean, dry wheel weights (WW), thanks to **Poor Red**, the WW can be put into a hot pot. If I were dealing with scrap, I would only use a cold pot—I have suffered a steam explosion when damp scrap hits molten lead, and it's not pretty—still have a few scars on my chest and ample belly to prove that.



WW Clips

I fill the pot full; the level will drop as the WW melts. I add a bit of wax, let it burn off, and stir. This will cause the dross to rise to the surface, where I can scoop it out with an old spoon. Then all I need to do is pick up the pot, with heavy gloves, of course, and pour the liquid lead into ingot molds. From here it's back to adding WWs to the pot and repeating the process.

I ran a test and weighed 20 lbs of WW; from this I got 2 lbs of scrap, the clips, and 18 lbs of lead ingots. Not bad for an hour's work



The Thunder River Mercantile

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

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president@thunderriverrenegades.com

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TG@thunderriverrenegades.com