

Thunder River World-Guardian

January, 2018

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Vol. VI, No 1

The **Premiere** Cowboy Action Shooting Club in Grimes County, Texas

9/10 of a mile north of the Texas Renaissance Festival Main Entrance—look for the Red, White and Blue sign



[Click here for printable Monthly Match Calendars](#)



!! Match this Saturday: Dec 30th (5th Saturday): full match of six stages; registration cut off 8:30

October 28 dawned cool and clear with a wind that would set your teeth on edge . . . if you still had your teeth, that is.

Thirty-Eight shooters made for 3 posses with enough folks on each one to cover the posse chores and, at the same time, allow timely movement along the stages. **TJD** warmed things up by a awesome donation of a combination fire pit and fish fryer—it sure took the nip out of the air.

Looking out over the assembled Old West 'Good Guys' you could see several new costuming choices for our first cool match of the Fall season: **Judge Pete** was resplendent in his new mountain man outfit and most everyone had on long pants for a nice change of scenery; no arctic-white knobby knees or boney legs could be seen in any direction.

As has been the case in the past we had scenarios that called for thinking and not all were awake and warm enough to do this. On my last stage (Jail) I had no idea what to shoot with my second pistol—**Lonesome Lefty** had to *save my bacon*. A mind is a terrible thing to lose.

The cool temps were not kind to our firearms either. There were a plethora (**Violet** got me a thesaurus as a gift) of light primer hits, stiff levers and shoguns that would NOT go bang in the night (see an article below on firearm lubrication for cold weather). But never mind the challenges, cowboys from one end of the firing line to the other shot over, under and through these minor annoyances.

p.s. everyone enjoyed their rides home in the sun warmed cars and trucks.

And the rains came as did clumsy track hoe drivers:

The week of Halloween we got a very good rain for a couple of days. Turns out that all the water washed out the road from *Loch Ricky* to the range proper. And not to stop at one problem one of Ricky's track hoe drivers plopped it into the pond (good help is hard to find.) Ricky was planning on cutting into the road so the pond could drain, installing a culvert and filling in behind it. So as of Thursday-noon everyone was waiting for word on the outcome . . . times passes . . .

Nov 4th Match: turns out the road problem was a non-issue. Ricky came through and so did all our members.

Thirty-six members signed up and 35 started shooting on their first stage. To this day we have no idea what happened to **Baba Looney** but smart money was centered around an alien abduction of some kind.

Weather started out muggy and proceeded to hot and humid. With only 2 large-ish posses it took a bit longer but those that were still standing at the end said they had fun.

ACES scoring program on the internet has been down for a number of weeks so we have reverted to sending the results in just a summary version. When you're working with something free you can experience all sorts of troubles.

Clean Matches for Nov 25 and LSTR: **Blackpowder Burn** (2), **Buckshot Sully**, **Cherokee Jones**, **Colonel Mackenzie**, **Constantine**, **Doc Emmitt**, **Doc O'Bay** (2), **Don Alejandro**, **Dusty Bottoms**, **GW Ketchum**, **Hopalong Ace**, **Hot Tamale**, **Oklahoma Dee**, **Osage Mike** (2), **Ramblin Gambler**, **Rusty Reb**, **Sundown**, **Tell Sackett** (2), **Texas Rooster**, **Three Fingered Jack**, **Trooper Siegel**, **cheyenne** (2)

23% clean: both matches combined



NOTES FROM OLE SMOKEY

Another Year

Well, we've all survived another year more or less intact. We may be moving a little slower, but we're all still here playing cowboys and Indians. And given that yesterday was Christmas, I sure hope you got to spend some quality time with your friends and family. I also hope you got a new toy or two from Santa to try at our "end of the month" match on Saturday.



A Leading Question and the TRR Website

One thing I can't help but notice over the past year is that usage of the forum on the website has darn near ceased. I'd like to know why. Is it because Cheyenne is so good about sending out regular club updates by email that we just don't need it to communicate as much? Is it because you go to the Facebook page for information on TRR? Or have we all just turned into hermits that don't like to chat with each other as much?

Drop a note to Cheyenne and let us know if we need to do something different to make the forum more useful, or maybe it's just not needed any more.

Long Range

As I'm sure you're all aware by now, our long range (now officially dubbed "The Open Range") is up and running – well, at least 75% of it is, at least. And that's more than I expected by this point in time. FairCone and Slipshod construction deserves a big "Atta Boy!" for that.

We now have everything set up for rimfire, pistol caliber and cowboy long range. We still need to build a shooting platform for the 500 yard firing line, but that is in the works and coming soon. Fairplay has a detailed article on the upcoming activities elsewhere in the TRWG, so be sure to check it out.

We'll have some kind of long range activity both on the 1st Sunday of each month, and on practice day. We want to be sure you have plenty of opportunities to put your new rifle to use that Santa brought you (I hope)!

See ya' there next weekend.

Blackpowder Burn

LSTR '17, Grandma Got Run Over by a StageCoach! is in the books. You received a copy of the article on December 12.

Big thanks to All who came and had fun with us; all the worker bees hope you'll plan to return next year to repeat the experience.



Believe it or not plans for next year are already on the way. If you hadn't had a chance to fill out the critique sheet please do so; a copy is attached.

TRR Long Range Events



TRR is proud to finally have our Long Range set up and ready to start holding regular matches. We've dubbed our new Long Range, the "Open Range". Of course, there is still more to be done to get everything in final shape, but enough has been accomplished that with the start of 2018, we intend to start a regular schedule of matches. After much discussion and review of available dates, we have decided to hold a Long Range Gong match on the Sunday following the first Saturday of each month. This will be the day after our first Saturday Cowboy shoot. The Gong match will consist of firing at our square targets, currently set at distances of 100 yards, 150 yards, 200 yards, 250 yards, and 350 yards. On match days, the range will be open for practice and sight-in shooting at 8:30 am with the match starting at 9:30 am. The course of fire will include 5 shots at each target for a total of 25 rounds. Cost to shoot the match is \$10 which goes to support future long range events. So get those big bore rifles you have had tucked safely back in the safe, wipe the dust off and maybe put a new light coat of oil in the barrel, and bring them out to the Range to show off your best Billy Dixon impression!

Then, for those anxious to shoot their .22 and pistol caliber rifles at those pesky little animals, we plan to hold cowboy silhouette matches on our regular practice day, the second Saturday, each month. We will start off the year with a silhouette match for both rimfire and pistol caliber rifles on January's practice day. You can shoot either or both at this match, as the targets are the same. We will shoot the half size silhouette animals, with the chicken at 40 yards, pig at 50 yards, turkey at 75 yards and ram at 100 yards. Silhouette matches will include 10 shots at each of the animals for a total of 40 rounds. The range will open at 8:30 am for practice and sight-in with the match starting at 9:30 am. Cost to shoot the silhouette matches will be \$10 for the first rifle and if you want to shoot both rimfire and pistol caliber, just \$5 for the second rifle. Then in February, we will hold a rifle caliber silhouette match in place of the rimfire and pistol caliber match. The rifle caliber match will be for your big bore lever or single shot rifles and will shoot the full size silhouette targets with the chicken at 50 yards, pig at 100 yards, turkey at 150 yards and ram at 200 yards.

Your Long Range Committee is committed to developing long range shooting events that are of interest to our members. With this in mind, we would like to get your feedback on our plans for the long range matches. Please let us know what type of matches you are interested in attending; Long Range Gong matches, Rimfire or Pistol Caliber Silhouette matches, Rifle Caliber Silhouette matches, BPCR Silhouette matches, or something else? Do you prefer shooting from a bench, or off of sticks on the ground? We plan to construct an elevated firing line at the back firing position which will allow us to set up targets all the way out to 500 yards. This will also allow us to set up silhouette targets to hold a BPCR (Black Powder Cartridge Rifle) Silhouette match where the chicken is at 200 yards, pig at 300 yards, turkey at 400 yards, and ram at 500 yards. Does this type of match interest you? Please send an email to our able-bodied club secretary, cheyenne, at secretary@thunderriverrenegades.com so we can develop long range events that you, our members, would enjoy.

Fairplay John

Details About Our New Long Range Gong Matches

Howdy to all our members and glad to hear many of you are interested in our long range matches. Currently we have the following targets set up for the long range "gong" matches:

- 100 yards - 12" square with a 6" diameter bullseye
- 150 yards - 16" square with a 6" diameter bullseye
- 200 yards - 24" square with a 12" diameter bullseye
- 250 yards - 30" square with a 12" diameter bullseye
- 350 yards - 36" square with a 12" diameter bullseye



When we are able to finish construction of a shooting platform at our new firing line, the range will be extended from a maximum of 350 yards to a maximum of 500 yards. At that time the targets will be

repositioned to set at 100 yards, 200 yards, 300 yards, 400 yards and 500 yards. Hopefully that will be completed early next year.



We also have a half size set of cowboy silhouette targets for pistol caliber rifle and rim-fire rifle matches and a set of full size silhouette targets for rifle caliber cowboy silhouette and, once the shooting platform is built, for BPCR silhouette matches. As we get things going with our long range program, we hope to have one silhouette match and one long range "gong" match each month.

Thanks for your interest and we hope to see you at one of our matches!

Let me know if you have any more questions.

Fairplay

Our Long Range Range now has a name! Seems calling it Long Range range was off putting to some folks—me included for after an unnecessarily long and drawn out process with Roberts Rules of Order invoked multiple times and massive amounts of money changing hands, it has its new name.

The Open Range is its brand new moniker! So from this point on any time we speak of the Open Range we are referring to all things past 40 ft. Cody-Dixon is still part of the cowboy range target array but once you get down to Stages 8,9 and 10 Open Range means those tiny little dots out past where the human eye can see.

And speaking of the Open Range, did you know we will be building an elevated shooting platform about 100 yard **east** of the firing line behind Stage 10? And not to worry the height of this will be about 6 feet, just enough to see over the near berms and out to the very-long range ones. Current plans call for it to be constructed of RR ties and dirt similar to the long range targets have.



This puts it way behind all the buildings and parking area so when that is being used, right now it's just a mound of dirt in a mini-swamp, we will have the cowboy range closed. Access to this platform will be by the new road to the right that Ricky cut about even with the second non-operational bathrooms.

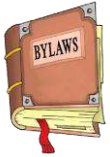
This means the Open Range shooting events will not coincide with or regularly scheduled programs of firing and fun. **The Open Range Committee and Milking Society** is fine tuning this as you read this.



Dues: now we have put our annual match to bed the next item on the agenda is re-upping for 2018, **Year of the Dog**. A renewal form is attached and note that we are asking for a bit more information than in previous years. Osage is doing an in-depth update and needs these



vital facts as much of the original info has vanished (Oh, No!) For those of your in WITSEC please be assured that this will go no farther than the club website which can be accessed from anywhere in the world . . . especially Russia-- **Dasvidanya! comrades.**



Going back into our Bylaws and Charter: we will be electing the President and Treasurer March 3, 2018. That's like 'right here' folks. The board will appoint an **Election Committee** in the hopes of luring unsuspecting members into running for office.

In January we start accepting nominations for these offices; this process continues to the morning of our election (yep, still March 3—hasn't changed since the first paragraph.) Please, please if you're going to nominate someone other than yourself ask them first—surprises like this are usually not welcome in any way, shape or form.

During the February matches those nominated will have time to speak to the assembled club members. Since we do have electricity now slide presentations can also be made, hand outs handed out, babies kisses and payoffs made. Candidates can also send information via email to the entire club.

March 3rd, before the shooting starts we will have the election. Only 2018 members will be able to cast ballots and then only one per member. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee and results announced either at the end of the safety meeting or, at the latest, by the completion of the match.

Lubrication and the Cold Weather Firearm: ever notice when you heat syrup it gets thinner? Lubricating oil does the same thing and when it gets cold it will thicken and be more like molasses than water. Now put all that thick, gooey stuff inside your guns with the reduced hammer springs and such and you have a recipe for light primer hits = no boom when the trigger is pulled. While this is not often a big deal here in the South, it is a BIG DEAL when the **keys to the Cadillac** are on the line.



You have two routes to solving this problem and both are easy: first, you can do a complete cleaning of your six shooters and long guns and leave them dry. Don't put any oil on them. They will still run and you won't have to fight through the "Log Cabin Syrup" to get the gun to function.

There are some of us that just have to use some kind of oil because **Uncle Billy** did; if this is you then check out a very light oil like sewing machine oil. It will give you some liberation but won't gum up the guts until it gets around 40° below, well past our physical ability to exist in those temperatures.



The second method is an addition to the first: thoroughly clean your guns and then use a dry lubricant such as graphite or molybdenum disulfide; google dry lubricant and there are loads from which to choose.





Product Review: RCBS Cowboy Shotshell Die 12 Ga is for those of us who use brass shotgun shells. All the reviewers are using MAGTECK brass shells as am I. First and foremost this die retails for \$100 give or take. I was able to run across one for much less with free shipping and being of weak will ordered it. It is made up of one die body with locking nut and 4 other parts.

Be advised the thread size is 1 ¼ x 12 so you have to use it on a press with a removable 7/8” bushing.

The other parts all fit into screw onto the body. There is a removable sizing ring at the bottom, a screw-in de-priming rod and a crimping ring with a screw in adjustment top.

For those of you who love instructions . . . good luck. The instructions’ pictures are for rifle and pistol cartridges and, while the written part pertains to this die, it is sorely in need of a rewrite. Here is where YouTube is your friend. There are a number of videos that show how all of these work.

Concern areas: low pressure cowboy loads don’t expand the brass cases enough to need resizing. RCBS has a smaller die just for the asking but again that one is still too big = the brass isn’t in need of sizing—guess this is not really a problem of the die

The screw in de-priming rod is spring loaded for some unknown reason and you can easily bend the inner “E” clip. After replacing two of them I went to hobby shop and bought ¼” wheel collars, filed a flat on the rod and the set screw holds it in place. Still have to tap the top of the rod a few times when the primers wouldn’t pop out on their own.



I use it on a Lee Classic Cast press and the thickness of the top cross piece means the lock not can’t be used—doesn’t let the crimp right come down far enough. I fabricated a nylon washer as a stop-gap but will be looking for a thinner nut for a permanent solution.



Slight Crimp on Left

It does do a great job of ‘just’ rounding over the top of the brass tube and for this feature alone I would probably buy it again. This operation makes a world of difference in loading the shells into a SxS shotgun.

So it’s overpriced but does a needed job that no other tool on the market does. Guess it boils down to how much trouble you have loading brass shotgun shells in a SxS shotgun.

Weather Watch for Saturday

Leg Lead and **Hopalong Ace** want to remind you that the Saturday forecast is a high of 55°, 8 mph winds from the N, 97% humidity . . . otherwise known as cold weather



A couple of chemical hand warmers would not be out of place in your pockets (Academy carries these among others) **Rawhide** puts them in his back pockets to keep his skinny butt warm.

The Thunder River Mercantile



Wooden Fully Adjustable Bench Top Shooting Sticks

Made in the U.S.A.

Solid Oak, wood sealed for long life, heavy duty construction, leather strips on uprights to protect rifle, pinned-easy height adjustment, fully adjustable to match shooting bench height and shooter, collapses for easy transportation.

If anyone is interested in owning one of these bench top shooting sticks built by one of your fellow TRR members please contact Cartwright at gauth1965@gmail.com Currently have 5 ready for delivery shortly after 08 December, also currently orders would take about 2-3 weeks to deliver.

Cost - \$120 Thanks, **Cartwright**



J M Leather: is a small leather shop where leather items are crafted one at a time to provide long service to the cowboy shooter. **Johnny** and his wife **Montana Hannah** are cowboy shooters as well and understand getting what you paid for and being treated fair. The promise is a simple one, if you are not happy with your gear, let us make it right. We want you to be proud of the gear you wear, and proud that you got it from us. We are not a big name maker, but we will put our reputation and gear up against anyone. **Johnny**

Morris, jmorris69007@msn.com website: <http://www.jm-leather.com>

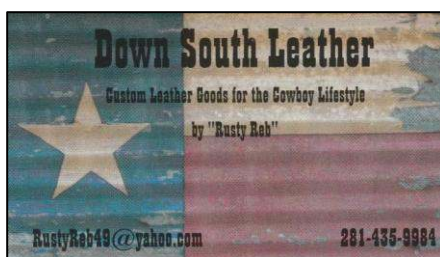


From our own **Doc O'bay**, his his wife **Cat Caerula** and brother-in-law **J.T.**

Click on the picture to go directly to the site:



Questman Tales Publishing
*A collection of fun and irreverant tales
chronicalizing the misadventures of
everybody's favorite cowboy shooters*
Questman Tales Publishing
www.questman-publishing.com



Down South Leather, Custom Leather Goods for the Cowboy Life Style by **Rusty Reb** is proud to announce the opening of its Houston branch. Contact **Rusty** and discuss your needs and wants; he's only

an email or phone call away: RustyReb49@Yahoo.com or 281-435-9984



Oklahoma Dee Vendor/Services/Products Company is now on line and open for business. **Dee** has been working on this for some time and is proud to announce the start of this business as well as his operational website.

Take a few moments to check out this new and exciting venture.

<http://oklahomadee.com/> or RangeMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com

Osage Mike

Custom Leather for Cowboy Shooters

MIKE GREEN
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JAYEMGEE@MSN.COM

281 785 2397

Osage Mike's: I'm a one man shop building custom leather goods for cowboy action shooters. I build holsters, cartridge belts, shotgun belts and cowboy shooter accessories one at a time. TRR member **Osage Mike**, jayemgee@msn.com Phone: 281.785.2397

Shooting once a month not enough?

Oakwood Outlaws

2nd Sat. & Sun. every month and the Monday following the 2nd weekend. www.oakwoodoutlaws.org/

Willow Hole Cowboys 3rd Weekend of the month <http://www.willowholecowboys.com/>

TRR Officers 2015

El Jefe: **Blackpowder Burn (BPB)**
president@thunderriverrenegades.com

Vice-Pres: **GW Ketchum**
vicepresident@thunderriverrenegades.com

Secretary: **cheyenne**
secretary@thunderriverrenegades.com

Treasurer: **Osage Mike (Osage)**
treasurer@thunderriverrenegades.com

Range Master: **Oklahoma Dee (OkD)**
RangeMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com

TG: **Texas Jack Daniels (TJD)**
TXTJD@sbcglobal.net



TRR Calendar -- Decmeber 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
24	25 	26 	27	28	29 TRR Maintenance Day	30 TRR Match
31						

TRR Calendar -- January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5 TRR Maintenance Day	6 TRR Match
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Practice & Work Day
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 Willow Hole Match
21	22	23	24	25	26 TRR Maintenance Day	27 TRR Match
28	29	30	31			

TRR Calendar -- March 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 TRR Match & Election
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Practice Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Willow Hole Match
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 TRR Match
25	26	27	28	29	30	