

Thunder River World-Guardian

August, 2018

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Vol. VI, No 7

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

It's so hot outside my dog started melting



❖ **Match this Saturday:** July 28th: match of five stages; registration cut off **9:00**

❖ **Long Range: Sunday July 29th**



Matches report: Since we had three matches this time I'm going to do a 'group' report.

Weather was uniformly hot and humid. Some of our members were adversely affected by these conditions but plan to return when cooler conditions return. **Lorelei** did show up to run the unloading table for her posse and the Happy Trails match had a few more attend mostly for **TJD's** cooking.

The Honor Guard led by **Cherokee** did a wonderful job of honoring **Red Dawg**, **Marcus Hooker** and **Lazarus Longshot**. We

had **Lorelei Longshot**, **Happy Hooker** (Marcus' wife), **Walter Durbin** and **Def Willie** speak about our departed members.

Stages were easy to shoot and even without being able to buy miss tickets we had 7 clean shooters. I know of one shooter that only missed the CD target on the saloon stage.

Summer dress is evident but then so are those who still dress in full cowboy attire. Most of the summer dressers said they would like to be able to go 'whole hog' but preferred not to suffer heat stork at the matches.



"Clean Matches, No Penalties"

You are probably noticing the two pins on each side of this article. They are the brand, spanking new TRR clean match pins! Make out of 1880s period-correct plastic they will be available at our



matches from now on.

At the bottom you will see the pin for the other end of the spectrum—the one you get when you earn a "P" during a match—(some of the TRR Brain Trust think we'll run out of them way quicker than the clean match ones—just saying)

June 23: **Black Powder Burn**, **Doc Jim Harvey**, **Hopalong Ace**, **Red River Larry**, **cheyenne**

Happy Trails: Cherokee Jones, Fast Tracker, Hopalong Ace, Judge Pete, Red River Larry, Rusty Elder, cheyenne

July 7: GW Ketchum, Red River Raider, Lonesome Lefty, Preacherman Robert, Col. MacKenzie, Osage Mike, Ramblin' Gambler, Solomon River Kid

20% clean: All matches combined



←TRR's new Procedural Pin



A Big Welcome Howdy to our new member: we welcome **Caledonia Red** into our mist. He joined on Practice Day and despite the heat enjoyed himself immensely. Be sure to say 'hello' when you meet him at our matches.

NOTES FROM OLE SMOKEY



Happy Trails Match



The First Annual Happy Trails Match was a great success, thanks to everyone that participated. Preacherman Robert led an excellent service for remembrance of our lost members, while **Cherokee Jones** organized a 21-gun rolling salute and **Rusty Reb** provided a live rendition of Taps.

According to the accounting firm of **Dewey, Cheatum and Howe** (of which **Osage Mike** is Senior Partner) we raised a total of \$1,970 in the form of

- \$1,395 in shooter registration fees, and
- \$575 in cash donations from **Willow Hole Cowboys** and several generous individuals (including **Marcus Hooker's** widow, **Ethel Hamilton, aka Happy Hooker**)

We had expenses of \$357.54 for lunch and drinks, which left a net donation of \$1,612.46 to the Friends of the NRA.

In addition, Friends of the NRA had their Wall of Guns raffle at the match and we had two drawings. I'd like to especially acknowledge the generosity of two individuals involved with the raffle. To sell the number of tickets required for the 2nd raffle, the NRA rep, a young lady named Aubrey put in \$100 of her own money – then won the gun! She immediately gave it away to a nearby TRR member – **Outlaw Dave**. **Dave** then donated the gun to TRR, for which we are very grateful. It's a Kimber 1911 which will be offered for raffle at LSTR this year.

We'll plan to do Happy Trails 2 next year, except in a cooler month. My trusty calendar says March has 5 Saturdays next year, so March 30, 2019 looks like the date to put on your calendar. Unless, that is, you want to do it on June 29thjust let us know if you really prefer that option! ☺

Speaking of LSTR 2018

Just a reminder that we'll have LSTR on November 30 & Dec 1, 2018. We'll keep the same one day main-match format as last year. The difference is that we'll have Friday for a few side matches. There will definitely be some long range competition as well as some of the more popular conventional side matches.

Just as last year, we'll keep entry fees modest and have a pot luck lunch. That seemed to work well last year and saved a major expense for the club – which helped to keep the match price down.

As an added bonus, one of our very generous members has donated a Limited Edition Marlin 1894 rifle with engraving, gold inlay and octagon barrel to TRR. The wood is also extra fancy, making this a really beautiful rifle.



This rifle will also be raffled at LSTR. So.....between this and the Kimber 1911, there's lots of reasons to come to LSTR even beyond the great shootin' fun, food and fellowship. See y'all there! ☺

We've come a long way, baby.....

Considering where we started from 3 years ago with the new range, we've come a heck of a long way. From stage buildings (and some that didn't have a building) on open flat ground.....to a shaded pavilion, shade on all but a couple of stages, including loading and unloading tables, fans everywhere and flush toilets. TRR is a modern shooting oasis for the summer.

Yes, it's still hot outside, but when you have shade and fans everywhere it's actually pretty darn comfortable. If you haven't been coming out during the peak summer months because of the heat, you might want to consider giving it a try. Between the shade, fans, and a cold beverage of your choice while jawin' over lunch afterwards, it's a darn good way to spend a Saturday.

Blackpowder Burn

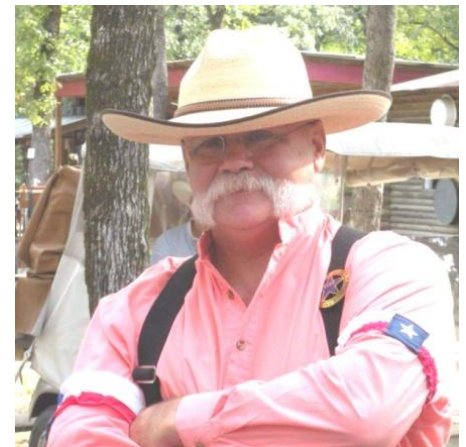
What is the SASS Default Position?

(Do we really use it anyway?)

By **TJD**

The infamous SASS default starting position is "Standing upright, hands at sides, not touching any firearm". From there everybody just argues.

1. Can I bend my head?
2. Can I slouch my shoulders?
3. How close can my hands be to my pistols?
4. Can I be touching my shells?
5. How much of a crouch is permitted? (aka do I have to be at "full attention"?)



As a TO we get asked a thousand questions for no conceivable reason than to gain a few thousandths of a second advantage, well maybe.

At EoT is was clarified that bending your head is OK. But nobody really wants to micromanage how you start.

TRR has adopted a "Stand as you will" approach to this. Unless specifically stated in the stage scenario and with the following two proviso's we don't care. We want you to have fun.

Proviso #1 Unless specifically stated otherwise in the stage scenario you cannot be touching any firearm. We don't care how close you are, just don't touch it.

Proviso #2 Unless specifically stated otherwise in the stage scenario your hands cannot be touching any ammunition in any manner.

So stand in whatever obtuse position you want and have a good time.

Regards,

TJD



Long Range: the **Long Rangers** as a group are growing and improving numbers as well as in accuracy by leaps and bounds. With the two shade covers they use during their matches and the fact that most of the events require them to sit in one place and move very little, results in an event that is much more user friendly during on “Ninety-fire Days in Hell” Summer we are having.

Nile City Slick is everywhere helping and explaining and suggesting and even getting to shoot when time allows.

Aug 5th will be a gong match, this is the Sunday after the first TRR cowboy match of the month. This is a lot of fun for the big borers of the club.

Here is his note about the next silhouette match:

Our next silhouette match will be on the second Saturday of August (11th.) Rimfire and pistol cartridge rifles will trim the feathers and hides of the little bitty animals. Shooters can shoot either of both for a one-time, Hot Summer Sale price of \$10. Yes, only \$10 bucks and you can enjoy making steel targets swing with excitement and you can shoot in two competitions in one day. So come one , come all next month. It will be hot or hotter than today, unless an unexpected hurricane arrives, so be prepared with BYOWB/G -- Bring Your Own Water Bottles or Gatorade. We hope to see you next month.

Nile City Slick





We DO need some Stinkin' Badges: with new members flooding the club we want to revisit how to buy a club badge. **Red River Mac** is handling this for TRR; see his message below:

*Make your check out to me, **L. M. DeBose**, for \$69. You can send it to me at **11535 Clover Lane Ct., Houston, 77066** or wait until you see me at*

the Range.

I will also need the correct spelling of your cowboy alias, and your mailing address.

Red River Mac



Thoughts on "Competing in SASS: much of this comes from the SASS Wire and makes pretty good sense; **Doc Shapiro** is a top competitor and he sees competition in the following manner.

In a game like this, you don't ever truly "beat" another person. To think that way causes you to measure your success against what others do. You have no control over how others perform.

Rather, I'd suggest that you just happened to shoot well enough to win. Reset your expectations, and your performance will improve for a host of reasons..

A positive outlook yields positive results. Whether you "compete" or not is really a state of mind. Again, it's about what's going on between the ears.

My First Year in Cowboy Action Shooting

By **Thunderhawk**



Well, the youngins moved on so I had to find something to do with that extra time. For me, it was time to quit dabbling and get serious about shooting. At first, I was just punching holes in paper, but that got boring in a hurry. I tried some USPSA matches but the schedule didn't work for me. So I started doing .22 steel competitions until some of them started telling me about their cowboy shooting exploits. Intrigued, I went to watch a local match and realized I had found what I was looking for.

For the uninitiated, the basic premise of Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS) is to shoot Old West-style guns at steel targets on the clock. You have two single-action pistols, a lever-action rifle in a pistol caliber, and a shotgun. Each gun has to meet certain requirements so that they are consistent with firearms used before 1900.

Pistols are mostly Single Action Army clones, many rifles are Model 1873 Winchesters, and shotguns are typically coach guns or Model 1897 Winchesters. Fortunately, I already had

one pistol and the shotgun. A local club member loaned me a pistol so I was ready once I bought my own 1873 Winchester rifle replica.

I started competing last June (2018), which put off dealing with another aspect of CAS. You see, competitors in CAS also dress the part, wearing duds that are representative of the Old West...or the Hollywood version of the Old West. But during the summer months at my local club, Old West clothes are optional due to the Texas heat.

By the end of my first match, I was hooked. I went ahead and bought another SAA plus a backup. I also bought a Stoeger Coach Supreme Shotgun to replace my grandfather's Model 1897.

During the year, I've found the people to be friendly beyond measure, courteous to the nth degree, extremely safety conscious, and helpful in spades to this greenhorn. A local match typically consists of five or six stages that take about four hours to complete depending upon the number of shooters. A single stage typically involves 10 pistol shots at steel targets shooting in a specified order, 10 rifle shots at steel targets further away, and four or more shotgun blasts at knockdown steel targets.

Each range has different sizes and placements for the steel targets. The sequence of guns may be different in each stage. You might start a stage with pistol, rifle, or shotgun. Pistol targets are usually 3-10 yards away, rifle targets may be 10-30 yards away, and shotgun knockdowns are usually about 10 yards away.

At some clubs, the targets are big and close and at others, they are small and distant. Pistols and rifles are loaded at a loading table next to the firing line just before you shoot your stage. Shotguns are loaded on the clock. The Range Officer runs the clock, three of the shooters serve as counters to tally misses, and another shooter fulfills the role of picker, picking up the empty brass and shotgun hulls.

The picker role is important because almost all CAS shooters reload for reasons other than to save money. Bullets in CAS have to be lead, no jacketed bullets. Most cowboy shooters use minimum powder loads to keep recoil down and also use lighter bullets than in factory loads.

I've enjoyed experimenting with different bullet weights to find the optimal combination of bullet weight and powder load that results in accuracy with minimum recoil (haven't quite found it yet). For most of the year, I used a 105 gr bullet but am experimenting with a 130 gr bullet for the pistols because they always shot low with the 105 gr bullet.

There is a fair amount of variation in the guns, calibers, shooting styles, and dress of CAS participants. Many of the CAS shooters participate for the fun of it, not in a quest to be the "fastest gun in the West." To them, an external hammer coach shotgun is an authentic feature, not a bug.

The .38 Sp is the most common caliber used in CAS, but you will also see many that shoot the .45 Colt and other calibers. Some shoot gunfighter style, which is a pistol in each hand alternating shots. A few shooters use black powder, which makes for a lot of flash and smoke on the firing line.

There are also special categories like the Wild Bunch and Cody Dixon. Wild Bunch shooters replace the SAA pistols with a Model 1911, the rifle must be .40 caliber or larger, and the shotgun is a Model 1897. Cody Dixon is a category found in Texas where the rifle targets are 50-150 yards away, necessitating a rifle that uses rifle cartridges.

The governing body for CAS is the [Single Action Shooting Society](#) (SASS). This is where you can find the rules for guns, shooting categories, and costumes, along with [links to local clubs](#). I've

found that I can shoot CAS up to three Saturdays a month at clubs that are 45 minutes or less from my home.

After a year in this CAS-thing, I'm a better shooter than I was. I'm at the point now where I am starting to realize that the guns may be one of the many things that are keeping me from shooting faster. So it's time to start looking into "slicking up" the pistols and rifle. Plus finding a good holster rig and spending more time dry firing.

I've really enjoyed this undertaking and look forward to doing it for years to come. If you looking for a shooting challenge and good people, find a nearby club and try it out.

Palm Leaf Pinch: many of us are sporting cowboy hats made of palm leaves rather than straw. Some think they look a bit better but my main reason is they usually cost more(?)



They are pretty stiff when dry and if you have a tendency to take your hat off by pinching the crease in the crown you could end up developing a crack there, I know I have and started looking for a way to deal with it.

After much drinkin' and thinkin' (more of the former) I came up with the solution of coating the inside of the crack with a heavy layer of hot glue. When cool this holds the original shape and keeps it from further flexing and cracking. There is no visible evidence of the repair and the glue is non-toxic in case you still use your hat to water "Old Dobbin."

Sunbody Hats in located in the general area of 610 N and 290. No cost for shipping but there is tax. Both **Violet** and I are happy customers. <https://www.sunbody.com/index.cfm>

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 - \$100 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>

After months of anxious anticipation, **Volume Two of the Adventures of Double Dog Darrenger and Gappy Jack Daniels: Deadwood or Bust** was published on December 16, 2017 and is now available. A little late for Christmas, but just in time for that special Epiphany gift or your personal celebration of Elvis Presley's birthday (we don't judge).

Questman Tales Publishing
The Misadventures continue in
Volume 2 - **"Deadwood or Bust"**
Available Online Now!
Questman Tales Publishing
www.questman-publishing.com

Copies will be available at the December 30th shoot for the less than kingly sum of \$10. Cheaper than the Amazon price (also available there) and with better delivery!

https://www.amazon.com/Deadwood-Bust-Madeleyn-Questman/dp/0999736620/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1514293695&sr=1-1

John Powers, Gunsmith



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Down South Leather
Custom Leather Goods for the Cowboy Lifestyle
by "Rusty Reb"
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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 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/>

Osage Mike
Custom Leather for Cowboy Shooters
MIKE GREEN
SASS 49,044
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 2018

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: **Texas Jack Daniels**
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