

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 **RED**, **WHITE** & **BLUE** sign

► **Match this Saturday: April 24, 2021:** match of **6** stages.

Registration cut off **8:30**

**SWAP MEET AND PICNIC MOVED TO
MAY 1ST MATCH**

***FIRST BUY A COWBOY HAT AND BOOTS. THEN YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY
TO BEING A TEXAN.***

JAMES A. MICHENER

Club Officer Election Results: the club voted on March 27 for Vice-President and Secretary.

By acclamation everyone present (yea, I know it means the same thing) voted to keep **Willie Cheatem** as Vice-President for another two years.

cheyenne suffered the same fate for the office of secretary

Thanks to all who contributed to their campaign coffers, your gifts will not be forgotten throughout their terms in office

♪ **Summer Time and the Living is . . . Hot, and Humid and as close to Hell as you can get on the Face of the Earth** ♪ Just a heads-up for our new members (plus those who have memory problems—you know who you are—or you might have forgotten)

During the warmer months we go to our Summer Dress Program. There are two parts to it:

- Part 1: we shoot only 5 stages and do our darndest to make them as close together as possible. Don't need to be traipsing up and down the range while our gun cart tires are melting in the heat. That means we shoot more of the middle stages than the ends.
- Part 2: Clothing requirements are relaxed. First, NO BASEBALL CAPS. After than pretty much anything goes: T-shirts, shorts, tennies are fine. Men can wear short sleeve collar shirts (the Ladies always had this opportunity, rain or shine.) And did I mention NO BASEBALL CAPS?
- Part 2A: you are NOT required to do summer dress. It's fine, in fact great if you show up in full cowboy regalia with chaps, heavy wool shirt, layers upon layers of undergarments. We will attend you funeral but you'll look good lying there. Many of our members do stay with Old West costuming and I stand in awe of their stamina. However, if you suffer from old age, diabetes, high blood pressure, athlete's foot, the "vapors" then we want you to be as comfortable as possible.

When the Heat Index is predicted in the 90°s we usually initiate the TRR Summer Dress Code. [Heat Index Calculator](#)



Another Shotgun Tale

by Pappy Miles

Another funny shot shell story

As I was learning to load magtech 12 ga brass shotshells with black powder.

1. I had reshaped an rcbs Hand primer to accept a 12 ga holder. However the priming Rod was about 1/32 short to fully seat the large pistol primer.
2. I was using 777 as I could not get holy black where I was

3 I had hand greased the fiber wad and managed to coat the inside of the shell

4 . After adding shot I but some waded up poly fiber on the shot to take up space (what was I thinking)

5. Overshot card glued in with a watered down solution of Elmer's wood glue
I'm all set.....

Well here's how in went

As I transitioned to the shot gun (a mule eared TTN version of the 1878. I inserted the shells pulled back the hammers and pulled the trigger

Click..... remember I mentioned the high primer? The hammer hit the firing pin. The firing pin then fully seated the primer.

As I was re cocking I heard a funny sound. Like small lead balls bouncing down the barrel. Remember I ended up greasing the inside of the magtech shell with the hand greased fiber wad. Oh yeah. And the poly wad pushed the shot upward as it expanded. Pushing the over shot card out of the shell that the watered down Elmer's glue didn't stick to the inside of the shell.

As I looked down on the floor I noticed approximately 1 1/8 Oz of shot rolling on the floor. Dad gum it

So I thought what the hell as I overheard muffled chuckling behind me. I put the shotgun back in my shoulder an pulled the trigger again . . .

Bang!

And to everyone's amazement when the smoke cleared. There was a big grease spot on a downed knockdown target where this blob of grease and a fiber wad had hit.....

Pappy

TRUE COWBOYS ARE THE ONES WHO AREN'T AFRAID TO GET DIRTY.

LANE FROST



Troubleshooting a progressive reloading press: I use a back-up progressive press body to deprime my brass before wet tumbling. Makes it go much quicker when all you have to do is put a case in and not have to take one out first.

Put one case in and the press wouldn't completely cycle, figured the shell plate was not lining up with the decapping pin, and so began to search for the problem

1. Checked to see if shellplate was lining up: yep but still won't work
2. Replaced the spring and ball bearing that keeps the shellplate centered = no joy
3. Tore the machine down, replaced the wave bearings (Dillon Sq Deal), cleaned and lubed everything = nada
4. Changed out decapping pin = nope
5. Changed out tool heads with a third decapping pin = nuts
6. Looked inside case = we have a winner!

Seems the problem was the case had an off-center primer hole so there was no way the decapping pin could line up.

Tossed that sucker in the brass recycling box and got back to depriming
Such is Life



Which Stages and Why? As you know we have 9 stage buildings and shoot 6, soon to be 5, stages per match. When first constructed each was a brand new, wonderful shooting position acclaimed by all to be the best-ever at TRR. For this reason and to keep matches

fresh I pick different stages for each match (yes Virginia, we have to shoot some twice in two matches due to the limited total number available.) So how are they picked?

I keep track of the frequency of use for all the stages. The most current data is at the bottom. This way I'm "spreading the wealth" among all. When we do double up from match to match I tend to pick from The TRR Depot,

Dixie-Cullen and Tombstone Jail due to the fact they are the newest of the new. I try not to have the Jail and the Land & Cattle Company together as they both the have large targets and then there is the Depot and the Land & Cattle Co., again, due to the plate racks. Variety is the spice of life.

In similar fashion I have the initial firearm used equally divided among pistol/rifle/shotgun, two each. Hopefully shooter movement is both left and right, too. Fixed target order and round-count stages are another way to change up the stages. Remember though, round-counts can be tough on the spotters and they are never sure where the next shot will be fired.

2021											number of stages
	TRR Train Depot	Dixie-Cullen	Tombstone Jail	Frio Kid's Saloon	TRR Land & Cattle Co	Hooker's Hotel	Miss Ellie's General Store	Osage Mike's Leather	Utter's Freight & Powder		
2-Jan-21			X	X	X	X	X	X			6
3-Jan-21	X	X	X	X	X	X					6
6-Feb-21		X	X	X			X	X	X		6
27-Feb-21		X	X			X	X	X	X		6
6-Mar-21	X			X	X	X	X	X			6
27-Mar-21		X	X			X	X	X	X		6
3-Apr-21	X	X	X	X			X	X			6
24-Apr-21	X	X		X	X	X			X		6
1-May-21			X		X		X	X	X		5
22-May-21		X	X	X		X	X	X			6
TOTALS:	4	7	8	7	5	7	8	8	5		

Please let me know if there are other ways you would like to see the stage scenarios change up.

Revisiting the Ranger Point Precision Marlin Extractor: I installed a RPP extractor in my Marlin rifle in April of '19. It improved the feel of the bolt closing—much smoother with no “hitch” about halfway through the levering. RPP is pretty proud of their products (price) but I felt the cost was worth in after the installation.



Fast forward to the last couple of months and life has not been as good as it was. I have had three failures to extract. Now all three were caused by split cases but I also had them when I was using the OEM version—and they still extracted! I should explain that I shoot brass till it splits or the brass fairy runs off with them at the matches. Since I'm not going for Top Gun I feel it's the best way to keep costs down.

I removed the RPP one from the bolt, one pin, and used a drill bit to clean out the extractor hole; I just use the drill bit by hand—you could use a bronze bore brush too. It had significant junk in it.



Marlin "Bobby Pin" Extractor

The RPP will spring apart outside of the bolt so you have to be ready to keep it straight, there are several U-Tube videos on how to do this. The cylindrical parts were caked with crud too.

After a good cleaning of bolt hole and extractor I re-assembled it and will watch it for the next several matches. My thinking is that it has closer tolerances than OEM stuff so it should be function better but you also have the flip side of having to keep it very clean.

Time will tell . . .

Update: shot the following match with the rifle and everything worked fine. This tells me I'll need to check and CLEAN this part more frequently from now on. Small price to pay for having a much smoother levering action.

Stop by and see for yourself how smooth it functions—anytime

This place left blank for your notes

RO Facts:

Match Disqualifications (you are done for the day—hang up your guns)

- Dropped loaded firearm
- Discharge impacting within 5 feet of the shooter
- Discharge away from the firing line
- Discharge in loading or unloading areas
- Sweeping anyone with a loaded firearm
- Willful failure to comply with a “cease fire” or “Stop” command
- Any two (2) Stage DQs during the course of the match
- Belligerent attitude/unsportsmanlike conduct
- Shooting under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or impairing medication
- Leaving firing line with malfunctioning firearms unless under direct supervision of a match official

“Clean Matches, No Procedurals”

March 27:

Nostrum Damus
Nile City Slick

Red Rive Raider

Tell Sackett
Doc O’Bay
Osage Mike
Nile City Slick
Cowboy
Doc Jim Harvey

Col Mackenzie

Kurten Kid
Blackpowder Burn
Texas Six
cheyenne

April 6:

Oklahoma Dee

Top Ten Shooters

March 27:

Dealin’ Lead
San Juan Steve
Red River Raider
Crockett Texas
Willie Cheatem
Dusty Bottoms
Caledonia Red

Manassas Jack
Nile City Slick
Shotgun Steve

April 3

Oklahoma Dee
Red River Raider
Tell Sackett

Texas Jack Daniels
GW Ketchum
Doc Profit
Dealin Lead
Thunderhawk
Manassas Jack
Doc O’Bay

Top Lady Shooters

March 27:
Little Britches

April 6:
Bristlecone Jan
Ellie Mae

Angels
Little Britches
Lady Doc

THE COWBOY HAS BEEN CALLED AMERICA'S FOLK HERO
&
THAT THE COWBOY IS ONE OF THE MOST ROMANTIC
FIGURES IN AMERICAN HISTORY IS UNCONTESTED.

CHARLES W. HARRIS, BUCK RAINEY

The Thunder River Mercantile

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: 337.940.9400



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 346-261-962



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

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



Everyone has been noticing all the wonderful signs appearing around the range. We have **Suzie Q** and **GW Ketchum** to thank for them.

Their son commercially makes

them up in Willis so if you're in the market for some custom made ones of your own give them a call (936.827.2560) or catch them on FaceBook: [click on their name] [Fallow Fabrications](#)



R3L Co.
Ruby Red Raw Lead Co.



50 Pounds Raw Lead
Recycled from Indoor Range
\$45.00 each
\$40.00 (3 or more)



rubyredrider.cas@gmail.com

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 2021

El Jefe: **Crash**

president@thunderriverrenegades.com

Vice-Pres: **Willie Cheatem**

vicepresident@thunderriverrenegades.com

Secretary: **cheyenne**

secretary@thunderriverrenegades.com

Treasurer: **Osage Mike**

treasurer@thunderriverrenegades.com

Range Master: **Texas Jack Daniels**

RangeMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com

TG: **Texas Jack Daniels (TJD)**

RangeMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com