

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: July 3, 2021: match of **5** stages.

Registration cut off **8:30**

It's almost time to wish a **Happy Birthday** to **The United States of America!** She's a 'young' 245 years old and looks great for her age.

Best way to celebrate is to come out and *Shoot at Stuff*TM with you friends at TRR.

Changes in place for the Summer: most of us already are aware of the following but for those who have been living under a flat rock here are the match modifications:

- **Drive at a slow rate of speed** past the houses and mobile home on the property. **Dust is not their friend.**
- **Optional Summer attire** of T-shirts, shorts, tennies but NO baseball caps
- Five, count them—**five, stages of fire.** Hopefully this has the match ending before the heat of the day
- Using **stages with adequate shade**—sorry TRR Land & Cattle—*no soup for you* till we get the shade built and with the price of lumber and tin it will be awhile till that happens

► **NOTE:** Violet just suggested we could put up portable shade canopies at the Land & Cattle till a more permanent solution arrives—we'll look into that (I married for beauty and brains)

ROs are people, too: everyone needs to remember that when you are hot and sweaty during a match your RO usually are, too and they have the added 'fun' of moving back and forth across the stage. With summer upon us it doesn't take too long for them to call it a day.



This hobby/sport/obsession is supposed to be fun for everyone and changing out ROs more often than we do in the winter goes a long way to have everyone on the posse enjoy SASS.

For those who might want to give it a try remember that it's about 99% saying, "Stand By," pushing the timer button and staying out of the shooter's way.

Thoughts and Musings on our Picnic: now that we've had time to reflect on our Swap Meet and Picnic some impressions have emerged.



First and foremost this wouldn't have happened without a bunch, and I do mean a bunch of folks' help and efforts. We had people working way before the big day, many at the event to the extent that some gave up shooting so the rest of us could fill our bellies at the end. Clean up is always a 'fun' time and there were still plenty of worker bees collecting trash as returning tables to storage.

One special group that got Shanghai-ed were many of the wives and family friends who came out to eat and enjoy themselves and ended up working. Even if we didn't thank you then we truly appreciate your joining in.

If I had to pick one thing to describe this event it would be how everyone who saw a need just filled it. Smiles were everywhere and it brought back

memories of *Small Town Living* with everyone really just one big happy family.

Again, from the board, thank you very much for making this a safe, fun family-friendly event.

Different loads for Rifle and Pistols . . . or Not: some shooters will have different powder and/or bullet weights for their revolvers and rifles, and some will shoot the same loads in both. Let's look at the details of these two methods:

▶ Same loads for both:

Pros:

- If it was good enough for **John Wayne** it's good enough for me
- Simple to do, no having to change settings half way through a reloading session
- Lends itself to those who have to buy over the counter ammo
- Don't have to worry about mixing up the ammo at the loading table
- Don't have to carry two different loads on your belt

Cons:

- Revolver recoil can be daunting in the pistols for some shooters*
- Costs would be slightly more due to same powder charges in both
- Can't call yourself a "Warthog" if you shoot reduced pistol loads

▶ Loads tuned to the Revolvers and Pistols

Pros:

- Less recoil in pistols could keep a shooter from flinching and missing target
- Different shape and weight of bullets if needed
- Easy to mark different loads using colored marker on base of cartridges
- Less powder in pistol rounds would lessen overall cost of reloading
- Change out from rifle to pistol powder weight is less than 3 minutes (Dillon SDB with extra powder measure)

Cons:

- Do have to be aware of which ammo you are loading into rifle and pistols
- Does require a few more steps to keep track of which ammo is which
- Does increase reloading process time
- Loading from belt can be problematic

Most of us started out with the same ammo for both and some then fine turned their pistol ammo. If you haven't yet tried lighter loads for your revolvers you might want to give it a try—you may like it and have your scores improve

**back in another life I flew R/C models. At an impromptu race a plane when out of control and I ended up “catching” the wide open throttle Enya 60 with a 12 inch propeller with my left hand.*

After the surgeons sewed all the pieces and parts back together it was found I also had traumatic carpal tunnel syndrome in my left wrist. Another surgery and additional 6 months and the final outcome was a much weakened hand and wrist—main reason I shoot lighter loads in my revolvers.

. . . and no I couldn't play piano after the injury but then I couldn't play before the accident either.



Size of plane and engine

Back to the Casting Room: (Sizing Cast Bullets): Once you have lubed your bullets it's time to size them. Now some size then lube and some do both steps using a Lyman 4500 lubricator sizer or Star lubricator sizer. We are going to look at this step as a separate operation to keep from getting too much information to you too quickly.

Sizing is simply pushing a bullet through a machined die that squeezes the bullet to the correct diameter. Folks will try different sizing dies on the same bullet in an attempt to increase accuracy and/or keep chamber

pressure for increasing to a dangerous level. Then there is the group that will shoot them 'as cast' figuring the barrel will do the sizing as the bullets travels down it.

In the case of the **Lyman 4500**, you place a bullet on top of the die and lower the handle that pushes the bullets it the die. You then turn the top screw to apply lube and raise the handle. You remove the sized lubed bullet from the top of the die and repeat. If you are sizing powder coated bullets there is no lube to worry about. While the Lyman 45, 450 and 4500 (updated machines through the years) has sized and lubed literally millions of bullets it is slow and with hard lubes you have to use a heater. But it works well for the cowboy shooter/caster that goes to 2-3 matches a month.



Lyman 4500

The **Star machine** is supposed to be the Cadillac of the lube sizer machines and at \$338 plus dies costing an additional \$53 they certainly live up to the idea of being high priced. Since I was a poor, poverty stricken teacher I never have seen one in the flesh (steel?) so I can only say they do exist and are highly thought of by their owners



Star Lube-Sizer

The final method is to use a Lee sizing die which works in a single or turret press. You place the bullet on the extended sizer punch that fits where the shell holder goes and lower the handle. The bullet is pushed into the die and you then turn the screw at the top to squeeze lube into the lube grooves. Raise the handle, remove the bullet and repeat the process.

The third method is the **Lee Sizing Kit** that looks like a regular reloading die and has the corresponding sized punch included. You mount this in your press, put a bullet on top of the punch and raise it. The bullet enters the die and is squeezed down to the correct diameter. The bullet is held in place and the next one pushes the previous one out the top into a collection bin which is really the red plastic case of this sizer. It runs about \$20 per sizer, is quick and it's the ones I use. I mount my press upside



Lee Sizing Kit

down and built a ramp that allows the bullet to slide down into the die so you can do 10 bullets per minute which is quick in this area of casting.

The final method is the **Shoot as Cast** method which really is nothing more than taking the unsized cast bullet and loading it



into the case, the idea being that the barrel will size the bullet as it is being shot. My concern is grossly oversized cast bullets could raise the internal cartridge pressure to unsafe levels.

This could result in damage to both the firearm and you.



“Clean Matches, No Procedurals”

June 12:

Shotshell
Texas Jack Daniels
Lead Leg Vaquero

Doc Jim Harvey
Manco
Col Mackenzie
Shotgun Steve

Fast Tracker
Angels
Red River Larry
cheyenne

Top Ten Shooters

June 5:

Shotshell
GW Ketchum
Texas Scout

TJD
Lead Leg Vaquero
Outlaw
Dave Crockett

Cherokee Jones
Doc O’Bay
Rawhide

Top Lady Shooters

June 5:

Angels

Ruby Red Rider
Miss Hoppy

The Thunder River Mercantile



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



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

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**

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