

# Thunder River World-Guardian

September, 2021

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Vol. XI, No 9

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

<sup>9</sup>/<sub>10</sub> of a mile north of the Texas Renaissance Festival Main Entrance—look for the **Red**, **White** & **Blue** sign

**Match this Saturday: August 28, 2021:** match of **5** stages.

Registration cut off **8:30**

**Not Here Yet but looking toward returning to 6 stages:** in the near future we will *again return to those thrilling days of yore* when we blasted away at 6 stages within our matches. The deciding factor has always been the weather so keep your ‘eyes on the skies.’

With this return to normalcy we will also be back in Cowboy Dress. As has been oft mentioned, “We are the only shooting sport with a dress code.” You don’t have to spend vast sums of \$\$ on your outfit, though some do.

Finally, your medical condition always enters into your choices in attire (wonder what it would take, illness-wise, to have someone shoot for me?)

TRR has always been about the FUN of cowboy shooting and we are looking forward to this year’s return to Old West garb.

**TRR Member Directory with pictures:** we’re coming along nicely. We are at 62% complete.

**Rooster** will be at Aug 28 match with his camera for any still in need of a photo or you just got the bandages off and now look completely different.



As you sign in (read this in a WW II German accent) *we will be watching you.* We’ll direct you to **The Rooster Professional Photograph** and

**Painting Booth.** Here our resident artist will take your picture, no charge. If you want your likeness in oils or watercolors there will be a substantial fee and wait of a few months—go with the photo.

Remember you can send a photo and later change if you get a better one.



**New Broom Sweeps Clean:** attached to this email is a list of sweeps that have been developed over the years. We are starting to use them in some of our stages.

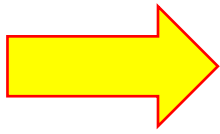
If you have your very own extra-special one send it to me and we'll include it. FYI: our stages range from 3-5 targets so if we get one for 10 targets it might be a bit hard to work in.

**The “Tree”:** several members wanted to see the tree in need of pruning. This is the one on your left as you arrive at the parking area.

Here is what it looks like from the range side of the property. As you can see, it needs serious work done to the lower part so **Mike ‘n’ Maverick** can get in close.

Figuring when the cooler weather arrives it will be time to address this.





**Thunder River Renegades** does not exist do to leprechauns, fairies or elves. Along with dues, donations, raffles

and the proceeds from the occasional armed robbery or two we count on our members' to tote that barge, and lift a bale or two when the need arises.

From the beginning TRR has relied on our members' sweat equity to build, enlarge and repair our physical property. It's part of that ***we're a family*** thing that we share with all our visitors.

This fall there will be a goodly number of times when you can lend a hand, hammer a nail, cut off a board twice and still have it come out too short. If you can't do any of this come out anyway and help move supplies and generally get in the way like I do.

We have been blessed from Day 1 with folks who would show up and help till the job(s) is done. They are a large part of the backbone of our club—a quick look at our Life Members gives you an idea of the caliber of people we're talking about. And there are many, many more who are always ready to answer the call for physical help—we salute them.

Now each year our club members get a year older (deep thinking, yea?) and there is a growing number who are unable to do manual labor anymore. We understand this and thank them for their efforts in the past. Last thing we want is someone slicing through his oxygen tubing while cutting lumber.

**Here's the punch line:** we as a club would appreciate our able-bodied members give consideration to supporting our club in all ways possible. From the list below you can see it will be a busy time getting all the chores completed—we hope to complete this on a number of **Saturday** workdays. We hope you can see yourself coming to a few if not more of them.

**‘The List’ of Chores** to be done at the range on **Major Saturday workdays** upon arrival of cooler weather:

1. **Porch Fixed** – considered a **safety item** that could not wait

a. **Crash** and **TJD** took care of this.

b. Crash’s picture at right –corner that was hanging down is now back up and supports have been added to strengthen the entire awning



2. **Buzzard’s Roost battery replaced**—health issue

a. **Crash** and **TJD** fixed this

3. **Replace and add fans** to Jail and Dixie-Cullen stage buildings—**health item**

a. **completed 8/14/21**

b. **Britt, Way Out West** and **Bearfoot Foster** completed task

c. additional fan needed for Utters Freight

1). **Health issue—Completed 8/18/21**

2). Replaced with fan from Lowes. Currently cheapest out *there*

4. Finish the Land & Cattle stage that needs a roof (needs funding)

5. Straighten up the splatter fences downrange between stages

6. Clean up wads

7. **Heard a lot of compliments on the stages on Aug 7<sup>th</sup>.**

7.a. Suggest we use them again in a few weeks

**Action:** *we will again have similar sweeps for the Aug 28<sup>th</sup> match. We aim to please—cr*

8. **Reminder to flip the shotgun targets around each month**

8.a. It is easy. They simply come out and are flipped by hand without tools.

- 8.b. They are A36 mild steel
- 8.c. Doing so will prevent them from becoming concave.
- 8.d. **Can be done on Mowing Day**
  
- 9. People have inquired about T-Shirts
  - 9.a. Maybe we can do this as a fund raiser?
  - 9.b. Help pay for the targets
  
- 10. **Sharpshooter targets**
  - 10.a. Have been damaged by high powered rifle rounds
  - 10.b. Options
    - 10.b.1 lay them down between matches
    - 10.b.2 leave them where they are and absorb damages
  
- 11. **Raising walkway around the saloon** (between right door of saloon and unloading table)
  - 11.a. That we can do... When it cools down.
  
- 12. Other projects
  - 12.a Spatter shields in front of tables
  - 12.b A few new tables and a couple of rifle racks.
  - 12.c Install brass catching screens at the Jail similar to the ones we have at the Dixie-Cullen stage
  - 12.d replace rotten board at end of sidewalk (Utters Freight)
  
- 13. Add tubes to **Cowboy Bob's** front tires—**completed 8/18/2021**



**Henry .22 Rifle modifications:** couple of things to do to improve these rifles for CAS use:

**Add Widder Soft Stoke to this rifle**—no permanent changes, so easy to do a caveman can do it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZt05QI6ANA>

**Widder “Speed Loader” + lever stop screw:** turn magazine tube to make a ‘speed loader arrangement and how to address headspace issues.bent lever (second part would need some skill and drill press): <https://youtu.be/kZt05QI6ANA>



**Lee Reloading Dies’ accessory:** Lee makes a nice set of dies for single stage press reloading. They get the job done and are reasonably priced. Throughout the years they have been up-graded: the depriming pin in the sizing die will move up out of the way if something is blocking the flash hole.

And the expanding die’s top now allows you to add powder through the die and/or add a funnel to it to keep spillage to a minimum, both nice features.





I have found an aftermarket fitting that will allow you to use Lee's Perfect Powder Measure on top of the expanding die. Nothing wrong with using scoops or a stand-alone powder measure and transferring the powder to the shell by way of the top of the die but it does save time if you have the powder measure right on the die.

They also have one that for any powder measure with 7/8 x 14" threads. As always, I am but a happy customer and not associated with the company in any other way. Their website is <https://gun-guides.com/Perfect-Reloading-Powder-Measure-Adapters%E2%84%A2-for-LEE-Powder-Through-Dies-c23094183>



Lee thru die



Funnel added



The Perfect Adapter™



Complete set up

**Lee Bullet Molds (Moulds) are more of a DIY Kit:** if you are into the *high pressure, big stakes world of bullet casting* you know the cost of molds vary greatly. At one end you can pay in excess of \$150 for a 2-cavity custom creation while at the lower end of the price range sits Lee Bullet molds in 2- and 6-cavities.

Now **Violet** and I are many things but 'poor' is close to the top so the vast majority of mine molds wear the Lee brand. And I'm the first to admit that a 6-hole mold will turn out vast quantities of bullets in a short time period, but .



..

With their low, relatively speaking, price comes some necessary work that is need to be done by the bullet caster. *There is no free lunch, Buck-O.*

The wood on the handles will loosen over time. I roughen up the metal tangs and apply a liberal coat of epoxy to them and shove the wood back on.



Clean up any overage that is forced out and let them cure without *coon-fingering* them to death. I do the wood handle on the spur plate while I'm at it.

The spur plate screw is not locked in place and will come loose with the repeated heating and coolings of the mold. Again, the molds at the upper end have a set screw to keep this from happening. A quick trip to ACE or Home Depot/Lowes for a selection of Allen screws and with a cheapo drill and tap set you can add your own in an hour or so. Note: if you do this put a small piece of brass or I use a lead shot pellet in the hold first to keep from bugging the threads on the spur screw.



My final modification is the one that takes the longest. Many times the cavities will have rough edges from the milling process—and we back to you get what you pay for. This results in the bullets hanging up in the mold and you end up whacking it repeatedly to get them to drop. Frustrating and time consuming.

Once up to temp I move the spur plate out of the way and place a large nut over the cavities. Usually I can't do this to all of them as the nuts' size doesn't allow it. I then pour a stream of lead through the nut giving me a handle on a bullet. I make a number of these



With a bit of 600 grit valve grinding compound on the bullet part I carefully close the mold around it and slowly rotate the nut with either wrench, fingers or both. This polishes the inside of the cavity and gets rid of many of the rough spots. You can push again different sides of the cavity, like where the mold comes together, to work on spots that are especially rough.

I clean the mold with a brush and some dishwashing soap and blow off the excess water. I finish by continuing to cast with the mold to make sure all the water has evaporated.

Depending on how rough the mold was to start you might have to do this procedure again—just had to do this that with a .38 Sp “long nose” bullet mold.

All these modifications take a bit of time but in the end you end up with a much more reliable mold that is a pleasure to use.





## “Clean Matches, No Procedurals”

August 7:  
Doc O'Bay  
Caledonia Red

Bristlecone Jan  
Baba Looey  
Hopalong Ace

Miss Hoppy  
Texas Six  
cheyenne

## Top Ten Shooters

August 7:  
Texas Scout  
GW Ketchum  
TJD  
Bristlecone Jan

Lead Dobber  
Rawhide  
Doc O'Bay  
Cherokee Jones

Texas Crazy Clay  
Caledonia Red

## Top Lady Shooters

August 7:  
Bristlecone Jan  
Miss Hoppy

Ellie Mae  
Ruby Red Rider

# The Thunder River Mercantile

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Lifestyle  
 by "Rusty Reb"

[RustyReb49@yahoo.com](mailto:RustyReb49@yahoo.com)

346-261-9620

**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](mailto:RustyReb49@Yahoo.com) or

346-261-962

## **Shooting once a month not enough?**

### **Oakwood Outlaws**

2nd Sat. & Sun. every month and the Monday following the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend.  
[www.oakwoodoutlaws.org/](http://www.oakwoodoutlaws.org/)

### **Willow Hole Cowboys** 3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend of the month

<http://www.willowholecowboys.com/>

#### **TRR Officers 2021**

El Jefe: **Crash**

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Vice-Pres: **Willie Cheatem**

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Treasurer: **Osage Mike**

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