

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: November 6, 2021: match of 6 stages.

Registration cut off **8:30**

Report on the October 30 Work Day: report was sent out Saturday. Please refer to it for details on all the hard work accomplished. See below for info on our next mega-work day Nov 13



Annual Major Work Day, Part Duex: again, referring to the email from Saturday, we have 3 projects that need to be complete before LSTR.

1. Strapping and tin at Land & Cattle should be straight forward. The gutter and downspout installation is also envisioned to be an easy task
2. All the details have been worked out with the brass catcher at the Jail. A quick construction of the 1½ frames and then attaching all of them to the building will be easy to do (man plans, God laughs)
3. Boardwalk repair will be the area that may time some time. We'll need to see what the framework is like at the far right at Utters. Several other boards along the entire length will be replaced, too

Saloon discussions: at the beginning of next year, we will be rebuilding the saloon. Right now, all ideas are fluid and there is *give and take* on the direction to take, i.e., do we construct another saloon or do we build another structure such as a church, school or even a house of ill repute.

The reason for this major construction the the present structure is falling down around us. After a quick survey this past Saturday, the only

salvageable parts seem to be the concrete pads the present building sits on. Oh, and a hinge, the upper one from the left swinging door.

This is one of the oldest stages we have and it has undergone multiple moves as TRR has wandered the vast wasteland north of Houston in search of a home. We have reached the point of diminishing returns with all our 'band-aid' fixes.

We are limited to the present footprint and can't build *up* due to the condition of the knees and backs of 95.8% of our members so it will be a challenge, but one to which we are looking forward. Maybe something with a view with granite counter tops and hot and cold running rats.

As we further develop our plans, we'll certainly keep you informed.

Opinion Article on Target Size is attached to this email: I took a bit of time to put on paper my 'take' on increased target size, what it means for various shooters and its effect on the club. Hope you take a moment to read it; your comments are also welcome—[cheyenne](#)

Last Stand at Thunder River 21: A Salute to Texas Cattle Drives

As you have noticed by now, we are updating the shooters and their categories to you on a regular basis. There are two reasons for this

- First, the list gives you an idea of how many will be in your category. This is important in that we have our policy of *You must outshoot someone to win* in place for this match. Another way to state it: there won't be any awards presented in categories with less than 3 shooters.
- Second, this gives you time and opportunity to change categories if you wish so there will be sufficient numbers for awards



So, what do you do if you want to change? Nothing could be simpler: up until Dec 1 shoot me an email and I'll make the change. Heck, fire; you can even change it a couple of times but let's not go crazy here.

After that, changes require you contact **Willie Cheatem** and have him make the change in the scoring program—now folks, Willie is going to be up to his eyeballs in alligators so please try to make changes before Dec 1. I have no life so I'll be glad to do it before Dec 1.

NOTE: we now have hard copies of the LSTR match at the range—see Osage or me if you need a copy.



Now, let's be clear: if you are the only **Senior Sharpshooter Left-handed Gunfighter Who Walks with a Limp** you will certainly “win” your category in the sense that you beat everyone in it but you won't receive an award. It is perfectly OK to include this fact in your resume and I'll be glad to confirm it to would-be employers if need be.

LSTR Raffles (yes, there are two of them): As we have done in past there will be two distinct raffles with separate tickets and priced differently.

The raffle primarily supported by member donations, though the club has purchased a few items; you can be a winner several times over! Come early and bring money

Each item will have a bag in front. Place your ticket(s) in this bag if you are interested in winning it. Since I don't shoot 20 gauge, I wouldn't put mine in the drawing for a box of 20-gauge shells—you get the idea. Some items might come in multiples (several boxes of primers) so we would draw multiple tickets based on how many there are.

After lunch we'll have the drawings for these items

The second raffle is the **World Famous, All You Can Eat, Best in the West Mega Raffle** comprised of a .22 Henry Rifle, 2, count them—2 Wrangler .22 revolvers and a Custom Leather Rig from **Osage Mike's of Hollywood®** . . . what a deal! One lucky winner will take all of this home.

New Shotgun Reloading die:

QuikLoader. One of the challenges of cowboy action shooting is to quickly reload your shotgun and if you can do it with style—all the better.



In the case of the 97s you just throw a shell in the chamber and if you hold you tongue right, all is right with the world.

But if you are more of a purist and compete with a double barrel getting the shells into the chambers can be a challenge. Now folks have been trying all sorts of ways to improve loading. Some were good, some bad and a few were illegal, SASS-wise anyway.

This first method was to neck down the shell using the next smaller gauge sizing die. This was wrong on so many levels: first it increased the pressure in the shell which is not something we want to play round with.



Not that it matters that much but this results in a *one and done* reload for the shells—they were pretty much ruined after undergoing this procedure.

It was deemed illegal by SASS and finally it just didn't look *cowboy*. These were from SASS's early days so it's unlikely that many of us had witnessed them *in the flesh* as it were.



The next method was to 'dome' the hulls. There are two ways to do this: the first one was to not fully crimp the shells. You would run the shell through the crimp-starter die and stop at that point. If this method were used an overshot card would be needed to contain the lead pellets. These shells were somewhat delicate and were not to be handled roughly.

The second method of doming comes to us from the continent, Europe to be exact. Their method uses heat to melt the top of the semi-crimped shell closed. I can see how the shape would lend itself to easy loading, quite sleek looking. The down side is the availability of these presses on this side of the Atlantic and their price. Up-Date: turns out the cost of the machine to do this



is about \$350 shipping included. Even then you need a separate way to load the hull up to the crimp. You would then transfer the shells to this dedicated machine for the final crimp.

And that brings us to third, most recent and SASS legal method to taper shotgun shells for ease of loading: The QuikLoader. Once you have reloaded your shotshells you replace the starter crimping die with the QuikLoader. You then run all the loaded ammo through it and the end result is a SASS-legal 3° taper to your shells. The photo shows you a before and after view of the shells.



Before After

reloaded your shotshells you replace the starter crimping die with the QuikLoader. You then run all the loaded ammo through it and the end result is a SASS-legal 3° taper to your shells. The photo shows you a before and after view of the shells.

If this is so wonderful why doesn't everyone know about it? Well, it just came out around the 1st of October. It fits the MEC Jr. and SizeMaster machines. There may be others that would work but this is so new they haven't had a chance to check. It's quick and easy so what's not to like?

Here are some of the cons I've found: presently it's priced at \$79.95 so that's a pretty good chunk of change. You can find them with free shipping so that's a small plus. They only come in 12 gauge so you yellow-hull shooters are out of luck.

You have swap out the starting crimp die and the QuikLoader each time you use it. It's not hard but it is another step in the operation.

Finally, you risk being called a 'gamer' if you use it. 🤖

Since I'm a firm believer in sharing the wealth, I'll be bringing my MEC Jr with the QuikLoader installed to the next match

Anyone who wants to run their shotshells through it is more than welcome. Remember 12 gauge only

This way you can see for yourself if such an investment is worth it.

When It's Time to Call it a Day at a Match: every once in a while, like twice a month my body let's me know I might want to stop shooting before I finish all 6 stages.

Last match was a prime example, in fact 3 examples:

1. I became forgetful—went to the line with only half my shotgun shells in my belt. My routine is to pick up my pistols from my gun cart and check the shotgun slide—Nope not this time . . . Strike 1
2. I was loading my guns at the next stage. Again, I have a routine: rifle first, then pistols, finally cock shotgun hammers. Loaded the rifle, loaded first pistol and picked up and opened loading gate of second pistol—it was already loaded! I had picked up the pistol of the shooter ahead of me at the table . . . Strike 2
3. Third strike was at that same stage shooting my rifle, shot the 2 sweeps and set the rifle down—RO mentioned I still had two rounds in the Marlin—seems I'd lost the ability to count to 10—Oops; think that told me I was out and needed to hit the showers.



My Body--on a Good Day

“Clean Matches, No Procedurals”

October 9:
Shotgun Steve
Colonel MacKenzie
cheyenne

October 23:
Shotshell
Lead Dobber
Pappy Miles
Osage Mike
Doc Jim Harvey

Shotgun Steve
Rusty Elder
Texas Six
Emery Goodner
Don Alejandro
cheyenne

Top Ten Shooters

October 9:

GW Ketchum
Texas Jack Daniels
Thunderhawk
Fairplay John
Pappy Miles
Cowboy
Ellie Mae

Manassas Jack
Cherokee Jones
Osage Mike

October 23:

Shotshell
Lead Dobber
Rawhide

Pappy Miles

Manassas Jack
Fairplay John
Osage Mike
Ranger Will Ketchum
Doc Jim Harvey
Shotgun Steve

Top Lady Shooters

October 9:

Ellie Mae
Ruby Red Rider
Bristlecone Jan
Miss Hoppy

October 23:

Bristlecone Jan
Ellie Mae

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**

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