

Thunder River World-Guardian

February, 2022

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Vol. XII, No 2

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

Next match is Saturday, Feb 5th

Registration closes at 9:00

Yes, friends, we are again pushing back Saturday's start time a ½ hour to give the temperature a chance to climb up the old column of mercury a bit.

Also remember the plumbing last time was frozen so might want to *take care of business* before you arrive.

Message from our President: My time as President is drawing to an end. It has been an honor to have a chance to steer the ship for a little while. I enjoyed it.

The way our members step up with their time, tools, labor and finances, makes me very proud. I know that our members love this club. It shows.

We have another opportunity to show your love. Elections are coming up. We have a few seats that need to be filled. President and Treasurer.

It is very important that the openings are filled. Some of the time is just business. Some of the time is discussing improvements. All of the time is rewarding. I really encourage you to get with the Election Committee and throw your name in the hat.

It will be time well spent.

Keep your powder dry.



Crash

Dues for 2022 are now being accepted. Let's see what the fee schedule is:

- Adult: single with no friends or family: **\$35**
- Junior: eighteen or younger: **\$20**
- Family (one to two adults and an untold number of urchins): **\$70**



Feel free to use whatever arrangement comes out the cheapest for you. Example: 1 Adult and 1 child could pay \$70 for a family membership or each could join separately and total would be \$55.

No Mowing Day for this match as mowing frozen dead grass is not the most productive use of our time.



Up-Date on New Targets: Targets are done so here are the next steps:

- **Fairplay John** will drive to Dallas pick them up and deliver them to **Johnny Knight**
- **Johnny** will weld the square tubing on the backs
- **Johnny** and **TJD** will look into new target stands due to size and weight of them.

That's the most up-to-date info we have; we'll keep you posted



This month we have a number of reports on Hints and Tricks in the reloading room and frosty gun range. Thanks to **Nile City Slick**, **Rusty Elder** and **BPB** for sharing their skills and insight.

Gun Lubrication and Cold Weather:

firearms that operate wonderfully in cool to warmer weather can sometimes have problems when the temperature heads South; sluggish operation and misfires begin to come on stage to the detriment of your stage times.



Simply put, most oils, be they for your cars or firearms, tend to thicken in lower temps. This added drag requires more force *to make you guns go Boom* as well as overpowering the light hammer springs resulting in misfires. So, what to do?

Back when we had a choice of primers Federal was seen as the ones requiring the lightest hammer strikes—so much for ancient history—these days any primers are gladly purchased when they can be found.

Often just a simple cleaning will remove enough crud to cut the drag and allow successful use. Here we're talking about getting into the guts of the guns—the trigger, hammer, cylinder pawl, carrier/elevator and other assorted parts that require an almost total disassembly. I usually do this major cleaning twice a year with one of them being just before cold weather arrives.



The last step is to go to lighter weight oils—I use sewing machine oil in mine while other look to 0w20 oil and ATF (automatic transmission fluid.) They are super thin and even though they might thicken they still are way more slippery in cold temps than the tradition guns oils. A side note is they aren't as good as a long-term rust preventative but that's OK, I'm willing to swap rest prevention for firearm reliability in the cold.

Then there is a following for the “no oil or lube at all” in cold weather. Just a very clean gun is seen as a great way to beat the thickening oil problem. This is great when we're talking about below zero situations but I'm going to *tap out* long before the guns will and as an old, out of shape cowboy, shooting in freezing weather is not fun and I'm all about the ‘fun’ part of this.

In place of the thin oils some shooters will use graphite or other “Space-Age” products to solve this problem but then I’m cheap and sewing machine oil is much cheaper than these cutting-edge products



Dillon 650/750 and the flipping primer issue:

Blackpowder Burn reports that these machines are known for flipping primers during the reloading process. He has



become fast friends with the Dillon Tech Dept in trying to remedy this problem. Dillon even sent him a total rebuild kit for the primer assembly but to no avail.

Along with this problem the shell at the first stage would not line up with the resizer die resulting in a damaged case. It wouldn't do it every time but often enough to be a pain in the rear.

BPB had tried to clean out the shell plate thinking there might be accumulated junk in the rim recesses but again, “No luck.” Both Dillon and **BPB** were pretty much resigned to these problems being part of the “joy” of owning these machines.

Then, on a whim, he took the shell plate and ran it through his ultrasonic cleaner for a while. Then, upon reassembly, the machine ran like a top. Best guess was there was build-up that he wasn't able to remove by hand with the dental pick. There was just enough of this in the rim recess to keep the cases from lining up completely with the dies.

It should be noted that **BPB** figured he has reloaded 8,327,408 rounds on this machine so even with his periodic cleanings the crud was able to build-up



Thought I'd share this little reloading tool: the Seating Stop

by Nile City Slick

I made this seating stop so I can easily change between 38 Spl and 357 Mag. It can be used to set bullet depth without wasting bullets and brass. Quick and easy.

The pieces cost less than \$2 at Jim's Hardware in Montgomery. They have 2000+ threaded fasteners and a very helpful staff. Found exactly what I needed.

Components: automotive barrel screw (fitted using shell holder), all thread, locking nuts.





Using Large Pistol Primers in Shotgun Shells

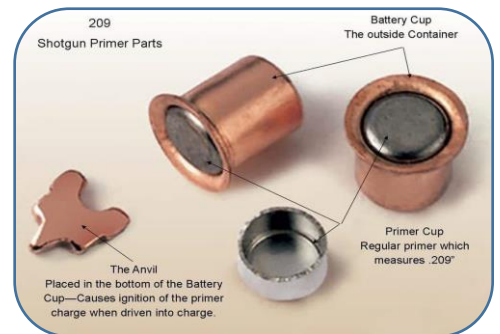
by **Rusty Elder**

The following is for informational purposes only. Neither the author, editor or TRR is suggesting in any way to actually try this. That being said . . .

I found a finishing nail that would fit inside the hole on the bottom of a spent 209 primer. I ground off the point and head, then placed it in the chuck of my drill press.

I then selected a socket from my 1/4 in. drive set that would support the outside edge of the primer. place the socket on a flat piece of metal then drive the primer out of the outside ring of the 209-primer assembly. It will drop down through the socket.

To assemble the new primer, Push the empty 209 shell into the bottom of a deprimed shotgun shell with your thumb with just enough pressure so that it won't fall out. Then press a new LARGE

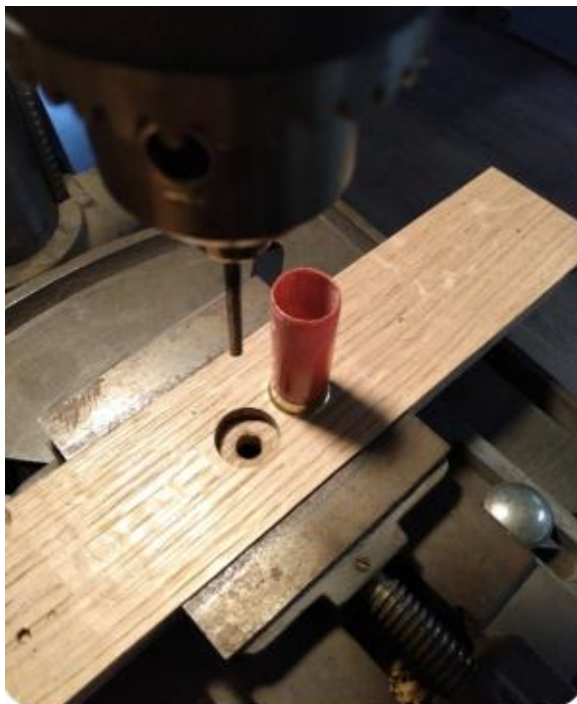


PISTOL MAG primer in the empty hole of the 209 primer shell so that it won't fall out.

Next, place the male end of a 3/8 in socket extension in a drill press. Run the female end into the 12 ga shotgun shell and press down. The primer and 209 ring will seat together in the shotgun shell. The primer does not bottom out in the 209 shell as they do in a pistol case so I used easy to ignite Federal primers. I only loaded four and they all went bang.

I need to try more to see how reliable they are. I used black powder. It is more forgiving than smokeless powder that require specific formulas. My black powder load is 50 to 60 gr. with 1 oz. of shot. **Remember, black powder is measured by volume not by weight.**

Editor's note: tried this with Large RIFLE primers and won't work—too hard a cup in them which is what is to be expected—stay with Large Pistol.



Punching out the primer



The new pistol primer is ready to seat



Seating the primer



The new primer is seated

A Repair for the Ages: RCBS makes a media-separator that has a snap-together basket for the brass and media mixture. This basket then sits inside a clamshell container to limit media spillage while you rotate the basket—all in all a nice piece of reloading equipment—but is it?

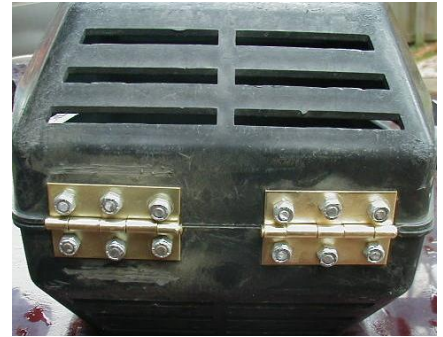


The basket is made of two identical parts that snap together at the hinges; they did this so for packaging reasons as it makes it much smaller and saves on packing materials and shipping costs. The problem is the hinges wear and at some point, they don't stay together—the two halves fall apart when you pick the basket up. *Stupid basket, only lasted 51 years.*

My solution was to cut off the molded hinges and replace them with a pair of metal ones. I cut off one pair and left the other intact so the alignment would be maintained. Once the first hinge was secured, I repeated the replacement of the other



one. This way the basket still snaps together at the front and doesn't pop open when in use.



While a smaller pair of hinges would have worked fine, I opted for a larger pair that had 3 screws per side. That way they wouldn't shift in use resulting in the basket not opening easily. I also used locknuts as I didn't want them coming loose during use.

A quick and easy job on an item I use quite often in reloading.

The Thunder River Mercantile

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 sounds 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)

rbyredrider.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 346-261-9620



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/>

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