

# Thunder River World-Guardian

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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

**Next match is Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Registration closes at 8:30**

**Three Matches this Month:** along with our matches on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will be hosting a TSRA Cowboy match on April 30<sup>th</sup>. While this last one is going to be pretty much the same as our normal monthly matches, proceeds will go to The Texas State Rifle Association.



So, mark your calendars and load up some extra ammo for this coming month.

Check out our new advertiser: **TELL'S PRIMERS**  
[Click Here](#)

**Club Election:** may I present to you your new officers for the next two years:

President: **Blackpowder Burn (BPB)**

Treasurer: **Doc Jim Harvey**

Range Master: **Texas Jack Daniels (TJD)**



They all extend their thanks to the **Cowboy/Industrial Complex** for its support in the form of campaign workers as well as print and media advertising services.

Oh, yes, additional thanks to all who voted for them and helped stuff ballot boxes. Your efforts help continue the proud heritage of Tammany Hall and the Ward Bosses of Boston.



**New Targets Update:** We now have all of our new targets in place and we got to shoot them this past Sat—boy, was it a blast! People like to hear the sound of their bullets striking the targets—it's FUN!

Again, a major Atta-Boy to **Fairplay John** for driving half way across America to pick them up and **Johnny Knight** for doing the welding and delivery to the range. They saved us loads of money by volunteering their services and skills. Also receiving special recognition is everyone who helped put these 60+ lb chunks of steel in place. It was not something that all of us could accomplish and we greatly appreciate their physical skill in

One side effect is we have a number of serviceable used targets hanging around gathering rust. This isn't good *materials management* plus it throws the rotation of the Earth off—all that metal in one place.

This is the current 3-pronged plan for them:

1. Willow Hole Cowboys, our sister club to the north, just west of beautiful North Zulch, has expressed an interest in acquiring some of these. As they were first to make inquires, we will begin negotiations with them. **An interesting side note: North Zulch can be adopted for \$25 per year. Check it out: <https://landrush.texasalmanac.com/places/north-zulch>**
2. Second, a number of TRR members are asking about purchasing some of these 'extras' and we have a list of these members. Depending on how many targets and cowfolk wanting them, we will work out a plan once Willow Hole has had its shot at them.
3. Our final option is to sell them for the value of the metal. **Crash** was instrumental in getting much of our old junk metal removed awhile back and we plan to follow a similar pattern.

All in all, your board wants to support our members, fellow clubs and our treasury. We'll keep you posted as we *get this show on the road*.

**Mowing, Weed Whacking and Small Projects Day is back with us:** since our ground cover (I would never call what we have at the range, grass) is back to growing it's time to return Mowing Day to our calendars, Yeaaaa.



## First one is this Thursday, March 31

**What it is:** usually the Thursday before a match members arrive at the range to address the grass, weed-eating and repair of small items. We will sometimes have quick and dirty mini-projects, too (example would be **BPB** repairing the General Store floor)

**What the member needs to bring:** gloves and safety glasses; ear plugs may also be needed (who says I don't read our Health and Safety data?) Then whatever equipment they have to weed-whack or attend to the minor projects. (For example, **Dusty Bottoms** is looking into wiring the Land & Cattle for our new fans and he never is one to turn down free assistance).

The member can usually pick whatever task they wish as they are the best judge of their skills and personal tools.

**Start time is very fluid** but most like to get there early before the heat and humidity arrive. Most stay till their chore(s) is complete. Since this is all volunteer, we understand some will need to leave early; we try to finish well before noon.

**What about the mowing?** After hundreds of hours of training and having passed rigorous testing, **Osage Mike** and I handle this task. **Osage** commands our zero-turn Bad Boy® mower **Maverick** while I muddle along on our John Deere lawn tractor **Cowboy Bob**.

I usually get there about sun-up so I can have the parking area mowed for all the cowfolks' vehicles when they get there (remember, I have no life outside of TRR)



**Maverick** but definitely not **Osage**

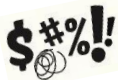


**Cowboy Bob** before I got hold of him

Hope to see many of you this coming Thursday

**Our First Small Project for Mowing Day:** with the installation of all the new targets we have the old ones spread out pretty much everywhere in the shooting lanes. We need to gather them together in one location

I envision a couple of folks with a two-wheeled hand truck collecting them from each stage and moving them to the open area between the Land & Cattle and Hooker Hotel. This location is pretty much centered so it would cut down walking from the 'far reaches of the galaxy.' **Several of these two-man groups would speed up the process.**



Since the targets are already on the ground they could be "walked" over to the hand truck, no lifting required though some grunting and swearing could be the order of the day.

If one of the old ones is being used as a counter weight on a standing target, we should probably leave it in place. New target stands are another upcoming 'challenge' and we can recover the old targets at that time.

**Our Second Project:** pull the front of our shotgun targets out of the dirt/mud. Every time we reset them, we force the front two legs deeper in.

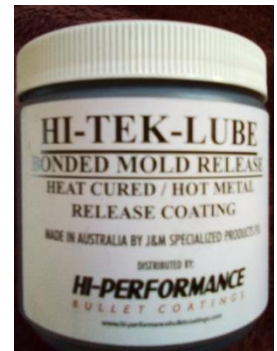
All we need to do is pull the legs out and move the targets slightly left/right so the legs don't go back in the same holes.

On our "We'll get to it someday" list we have welding some disks or pads on the front legs to keep this from happening

**Every so often you run right smack into a bit of Magic: Bonded Release Coating for Bullet Molds:** Casting bullets has many advantages: getting access to those weird size ones no one casts, cheaper end product and just plain fun as an additional hobby.

On the down side, one of the major headaches is the bullets not falling from the molds. For whatever reasons, be it the wrong temperature of the lead or the mold or both sometimes you can't get the bullets to fall freely from the molds—and there is a limit to how hard you can whack the mold before you damage it; never mind at that point all you really want to do is destroy it and move on with your life.

I ran across Hi-Tek-Lube, made by an Australian company J&M Specialty Products and distributed in the U.S. by Hi-Performance Bullet Coatings; talk about a game changer! Hi-Performance make coated bullets and, with this product I'm guessing, they have developed a way to use their coating on the molds, too.



[Continue to rest of article](#)



**Repairing an out-of-date Tumbler:** I was given this tumbler and it has cleaned thousands of cartridges in the years I have had it. It is a good product with one glaring exception: Frankford Arsenal no longer makes replacement parts for it.

After my last use I noticed some cracks at the inside center where the vertical shaft attaches. My guess is the stress of tightening down the lid on this shaft has caused the bottom to be pulled up and weakened

the mounting point. No problem, just order a new bowl—easier said than done as there are none to be found anywhere including eBay (and if it's not on eBay, it doesn't exist)

Epoxied a wooden disk on the outside bottom and filled the cracks on the inside with additional epoxy. That should hold it for another 10 years.

Also saw a suggestion to put an inverted funnel over the shaft to support the lid and spread the stress at the bottom over a wider range. Since I had one that fit figured I'd add that, too; can't hurt. Though not shown, the funnel is held in place by a 1/4" lock nut. The funnel is cut down to 'just' above the threads so the lid can clear the lock nut that holds the lid on.



**Bowl cracked around nut**



**Wooden disk epoxied on cracked bottom**



**J B Weld filled cracks**



**Funnel placed around center post**

And since I did all this work on it, I replaced the media as the old stuff was a bit gamey and had a tendency to crawl out of the bowls whenever it could.



# The Thunder River Mercantile

## TELLS PRIMERS

I have **Servicios Aventuras** small pistol and **Ginex** small rifle primers available for sale at my cost: \$100 per 1000 and \$110 per 1000 respectively.

I also have a small amount of Remington, CCI, and Winchester small pistol available at cost(\$100 per k) **IF** a like amount of SA or Ginex is purchased.

Also available: Federal Premium Gold Medal match small pistol primers. At my cost, with the purchase of SA or Ginex, which is \$143 per 1000.

Contact me at: [cmjdaj@gmail.com](mailto:cmjdaj@gmail.com) for more information or to RESERVE the limited American primers.

**Tell Sackett**



**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 346-261-9620



**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](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)

[rbyredrider.cas@gmail.com](mailto: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

## **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: **Blackpowder Burn (BPB)**  
[president@thunderriverrenegades.com](mailto:president@thunderriverrenegades.com)

Vice-Pres: **Willie Cheatem**  
[vicepresident@thunderriverrenegades.com](mailto:vicepresident@thunderriverrenegades.com)

Secretary: **cheyenne**  
[secretary@thunderriverrenegades.com](mailto:secretary@thunderriverrenegades.com)

Treasurer: **Doc Jim Harvey**  
[treasurer@thunderriverrenegades.com](mailto:treasurer@thunderriverrenegades.com)

Range Master: **Texas Jack Daniels**  
[RangeMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com](mailto:RangeMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com)

TG: **Texas Jack Daniels (TJD)**  
[RangeMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com](mailto:RangeMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com)

They have two types of this: the *Non-Bonded* which needs to be applied each time and the *Bonded* method which, once applied and then cured with heat lasts for quite some time. Since I powder coat bullets, I had the oven needed for the Bonded method and liked the idea of not having to do it each time I had a casting session—some would call that lazy, I see it as efficient.

It comes in two sizes and I like to get the larger amount of product if the shipping is the same—a penny saved is a penny earned.

<https://hi-performancebulletcoatings.com/bonded-release-50-grams/>

This idea is something I have not seen before—a coating of the mold itself. Once cured, the release coating keeps lead from sticking to the metal parts of the mold. Now the overly hot lead doesn't collect on the top of the mold blocks or the bottom of the sprue plate; nor do the lead bullets become 'sticky' within the cavities themselves. Think of this as smoking a mold but on steroids. And, like smoking a mold, it doesn't change the size of the bullet!

The method is simple and doesn't take too long. You first mix 5 grams of the powder with 150 ml of acetone and stir to thoroughly combine. I reduced the amounts quite a bit as I was doing a trial run and didn't want to use up too much in the initial test so 0.8 grams in 25 ml composed my initial batch. In any event you end up with more of a "wash" than a heavy paint-like product. Also, one thing to remember is most plastics soften in acetone so I use a small glass jar with a metal lid.

I disassembled the mold and, using acetone, I cleaned all the cavities and the top of the mold blocks as well as the top and bottom of the sprue plate. As this was a mold that had been run hundreds of times, I wasn't sure the cleaning was need but, hey, the instructions said to and it didn't take long with a cotton swab. I could see the acetone flash off as I cleaned the parts.

Then using a small paint brush like you would find in a kid's water coloring set, I "painted" everything I cleaned with the mold release/acetone solution. I set them aside to dry while I got my \$20 toaster oven set up; this is what I use to powder coat bullets and with the addition of a PID it holds temperatures to within 1° during the heating sessions.

Once in the oven, the temperature rose to 400°F and as I also had a load of bullets cooking, too; waste not want not, I let my normal 25 minutes pass. After that I took them out and let them cool to room temperature—it takes a long time for them too cool—I learned this the hard way.

Upon reassembling the mold, I noticed that, while you really don't see anything on the mold itself, other than a slight grayish color, there was something there that kept the bullets from sticking. I ran the mold as fast as I could to get it very hot and still the bullets dropped like rain. This also sped up the overall production of bullets which is always a good thing.

Long term results are unknown as of yet. The instructions do state, "The Bonded form requires the mold be heated to operating temperature to adhere and will last quite a while," so this is not a one-time solution but will need follow-up applications. This is not a problem given how well the release agent works.

So, what do I think of this/how do I rate it? Even without knowing the longevity of the release in the molds I'm going with a

**5-STAR ★★★★★ Rating** for the following reasons:

- Easy to apply
- Bullets drop out much, much better than without the release coating
- Inexpensive
- Doesn't affect size of bullets
- Adds even more enjoyment to one of my hobbies

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