

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

Next match is Saturday, June 4th

Registration closes at 8:30

6 Stages

NOTES FROM OLE SMOKEY



TSRA Annual Match

We hosted the TSRA Regional shoot last month at TRR, with a good turnout. The purpose of our match was to raise funds to help put on the TSRA annual match at the Texican Rangers in Fredericksburg the weekend of July 30th. Please plan to attend that match if at all possible. Given the actions of the politicians in control of our country at present, the TSRA and NRA need all the support we can give them.

If you've not been to a match at the Texican Rangers, you'll really enjoy the experience. The range is about half way between Fredericksburg and Comfort, and is a beautiful facility. Not to mention Fredericksburg is a great place to spend a few days in the Hill Country. It's a win-win for everyone.

NRA Annual Convention

In case you live under a rock and are unaware of it, the 151st NRA Annual Convention is at the George R Brown Convention Center in Houston this week (Friday through Sunday). It's a heck of a show and every vendor under the sun will be there. Not to mention lots of seminars and the Annual Meeting of Members. While I know TRR has a shoot next Saturday, I encourage y'all to go to the show and/or meetings. I'll be manning the SASS booth Saturday along with Crash. Osage will be there Friday afternoon. We've had some literature for TRR printed to hand out to interested folks that stop by the booth. If you have the time to volunteer, SASS needs a couple of more folks to help Friday afternoon. See the link below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c4eadae22a1fb6-nraannual>

LSTR 2022

We continue to work toward putting on a great LSTR this year. Things are coming together and we'll have much more defined information in the next week or so. I know I said that last month, but I've been distracted with my Mom in and out of the hospital the last several weeks. That should be behind us now and I'll be focusing more on nailing down details. Look for the registration form posted shortly. Don't you dare plan on being anywhere but at LSTR the weekend of December 10th!

Miscellaneous

Many thanks to the folks that built **(TJD)** and painted the new rifle racks for TRR this week. I apologize for not having everyone's name at hand, since I was otherwise occupied – but you know who you are! All the help we get

from members is what makes me so grateful to be associated with an outstanding group like we have at Thunder River.

Blackpowder Burn

Texas Jack Daniels reminds everyone of the **2022 TSRA Cowboy Action and Wild Bunch State Championship** being held at the Texican Rangers'



range on the Stieler Ranch; directions are on the application. The dates are July 29-31.

There will be 10 stages for SASS Cowboy action and 4 for the Wild Bunch Shooters.

You do need to be a member of TSRA and you can get a Single-Match Membership for \$10 (**it's on the form which is attached**).

Pre-registration is appreciated, but you can sign up at the match.

Mowing, Weed Whacking Day



It's been awhile since we had a mowing day. Time to dig out the weed eaters and give it another "go."

It will be our normal outing of cutting anything green that is over ¼ inch tall.

Date is this **Thursday, May 26th**.

Start time is anywhere from Sun-up to ?? but it's getting warmer each and every day

How to Keep from Needing that Third Rotator Cuff Surgery ~ or ~ Down-Loading Shotgun Shells for (My) Health and Safety

Back when I was young and stupid I did many things that weren't good for me physically. This manifested in undergoing 4 rotator cuff surgeries, two on each shoulder.

Not wanting to travel down that path ever again I came up with a way to download my shotshells and still have enough umph to put down the Knock Downs.

My method consists of using the MEC progressive 8567 Grabber while loading the shot by hand. Yes, it does take a bit longer but there is always a price to pay and this is a cheap one for me.

The Grabber requires you size the shells off press which I do with a MEC Super Sizer; this is a completely separate operation and I do all of my hulls before the actual reloading process.

The shells go through the depriming, priming, powder loading (my powder bar is set at 12.3 gr of Red Dot powder) and wad insertion stages (Stages 1-3) in normal fashion. When you load the wad, shot is automatically loaded too. Here is where the process changes.

I don't fill the shot hopper as I will load by it by hand. Once the wad is loaded I move the shell plate $\frac{1}{2}$ a turn. This allows the external funnel and an extension tube to line up with the hull. I hand pour a Lee 2.3cc dipper of shot into the hull (that works out to 0.55 oz). . .

Now, here is the major part of the process that allows for a decent crimp: on top of the shot load a place a $\frac{5}{8}$ " or $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter, $\frac{5}{8}$ " long foam backing rod; both diameters will work. This will extend above the hull but don't worry. (Note: you can "play" with length of the rod to fine tune the crimp—since it didn't affect the power or loading of the shells, I never pursued it)



Foam Rod: this one is $\frac{5}{8}$ " dia by $\frac{5}{8}$ " long

Even though the foam rod is, well, *foam*, there has never been any kind of residue in my SxS's barrels—just for the record, I use smokeless powder.

I get my Foam Backer Rod at Lowes or Home Depot; 10 feet will seem to last a lifetime but I'm on my third 10-foot purchase.

I finish moving the shellplate to the next station and finish running the hull through the Crimp Starter, the Closing and the Finishing Stations (Stations 4-6). During these operations the foam rod is pushed down and allows the shell to end up with a decent crimp. You might see a bit of foam at the center if it is an old shell or the crimp sinks in a bit but it doesn't affect the shell in any way.

After all the hulls are loaded I run them through a QuikLoader to put the SASS-approved 3° taper on the top. This is done on a separate machine, an old MEC Case Conditioner with the die swapped out.

These loads do a fine job to taking down all our KDs and at the same time keep me from helping to pay for my doctor's new Porsche (the 911 Carrera starts out at \$101,200 and goes up from there 🤖)



Press with Shot Funnel attached



Wads, Shot and Foam Rod Sections



Close-up of Funnel



Another View



Stage 3: load Wad but no Shot



Stage 3½: Loading Shot--end of dipper showing in funnel



Foam Rod added at Stage 4 before operating press



After Stage 4 press operation




Before Final Crimp




Final Results; depending on the age of the hulls, the crimp may be pushed in more than usual. This does not affect its power

The Thunder River Mercantile

R3LCo.
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

 **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](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 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

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](#)



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: **Blackpowder Burn (BPB)**
president@thunderriverrenegades.com

Vice-Pres: **Willie Cheatem**
vicepresident@thunderriverrenegades.com

Secretary: **cheyenne**
secretary@thunderriverrenegades.com

Treasurer: **Doc Jim Harvey**
treasurer@thunderriverrenegades.com

Range Master: **Texas Jack Daniels**
RangeMaster@thunderriverrenegades.com

TG: **Texas Jack Daniels (TJD)**
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