

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 Black & White sign

**Next match is our combination matches
with Willow Hole Cowboys
Registration closes at 8:30
5 Stages**

NOTES FROM OLE SMOKEY



“Ole Smokey”

Just for a little minor humor – there are several of us that shoot the true, original, environmentally friendly projectile propellant (known to commoners as “black powder”) on our posse. The newest inductee is **GW Ketchum**. Since I’ve claimed the “Ole Smokey” moniker the last few years due to the title of this column, we’ve come to agreement on the nicknames in our group. I am **Old Smokey**; **GW**, the next oldest, is “**Older Smokey**”; and **Fairplay John**, being the eldest, is now “**Oldest Smokey**”. Y’all greet them as such the next time you meet!

TSRA Annual Match

Don't forget the TSRA Annual Match is the last weekend of July. I know travel is now expensive, and Fredericksburg has become extremely proud of their hotel rooms (i.e., they're expensive), but please plan to attend that match if at all possible. Given the recent, and ongoing, actions of the politicians in control of our country at present, the TSRA and NRA need all the support we can give them.

LSTR 2022

Plans for LSTR 2022 continue to progress. If you haven't noticed, the registration form is now live on the TRR website. We've also sent notices to all SASS clubs in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. We'll hopefully see a few "furriners" show up to see how we do it in Grimes County.

We'll have lots of really nice raffle items this year. Everything from multiple firearms, to gun carts, Dillon reloading equipment and more. Don't you dare plan on being anywhere but at LSTR the weekend of December 10th!

Old School Match Scenarios

As y'all are aware, **Doc ♣ O'Bay** wrote "old school" stage scenarios for our match this weekend. From the comments I heard, it seems like everyone really enjoyed them. I know I did, but then, y'all wouldn't expect anything else from me!

That being said, I spoke to **Doc**, and he's graciously agreed to write more of them for us. We'll plan in using a couple of them in each match to break up the "stand and deliver" stages. I hope it makes everything enjoyable for the slow old farts among us (like me) while still giving the gamers enough of their preference to be satisfactory.

TRR/WHC Combined Match

Next weekend should provide something fun for everybody if your kin will let you loose to run around a little. I'm sure you've gotten the emails from

cheyenne and **Thunderhawk** about the details of the upcoming match, so I won't bore you with it all again.

All I can say is, drag everything you have out of the gun safe! You can shoot everything from cowboy guns, to .22 steel challenge (revolvers, semi-auto pistols, lever rifles, semi-auto rifles – whatever ya' got!), long range with BAM rifles, and long-range lever and single shot. It's a full weekend from Saturday through Monday. Come on out and play!

Butterfield Trail Regulators

We have received a free match entry for *Ridin' the Trail*, hosted by the Butterfield Trail Regulators on the weekend of October 8th and 9th. The club is located in Anson, Texas, which is just north of Abilene. For those of you going to Land Run, this would be a good warm-up match on your way to Oklahoma (very small detour from the route) and the timing is perfect.

At any rate, if you are interested in attending the match, please reply to Cheyenne and let him know. We'll put everyone's name into a random drawing for the entry. We'll draw the winning entry at TRR on July 2nd, the weekend of the TRR/WHC match. You don't need to be present to win.

Blackpowder Burn

A Look Back at Our Current Range: We are starting our 8th year at our present location. Many of us remember loading up the stage buildings at Ricky's first location, driving down FM 1488 and 1774, crossing the low water crossing with the buildings on our trailers and staging them on the South 40 parking area.



Then came a good 6 months of waiting for the field, for it was just a bare spot in the woods, to dry out and start moving, repairing and improving everything you presently see above the ground plus wires and piles below.

Cost estimates for having all of this done professionally range somewhere between \$1-2 million . . . and all this was donated by our members!

We shot our first couple of matches off hay bales and a few loading/unloading tables and we loved it! It was cowboy shooting in its most basic form and we were as happy as ducks in a swarm of June bugs.

And we didn't stop, haven't stopped since then. With each passing season we have continued to improve as needed. We see this is a continual work in progress.

Here are a few photos of our early days at our present site:



Range Set Up for first Matches; June 2015



4th of July Match: July 2015

TJD acting as Landing Signal Officer for incoming aircraft



BPB handling RO duties at 4th of July Match.

Notice our first 'Shade' at the range

FIVE

What does the High Cost of Primers mean for a Us at a Match?

As we all know, primer prices have tripled or quadrupled in the last few years. Where we once could find them for \$40, presently it takes \$100 to \$125 for the same amount.



Now we have people like **Tell Sackett** who has taken it upon himself to search out and buy out of his own pocket both SP and LP primers so our members can continue to shoot—he sells them at his cost, too. The prices are in line with current market costs but at least they are available.

But what does this mean for “**Cowboy Joe**” as he reloads for a match? We are going to look at our current 5 stage matches for this; it keeps the math simple:

- A 5-stage match requires 100 metallic cartridges
- Back in the day, when primers were 3-4¢ each that comes out to \$3-4 dollar for primers for a match
- Now the primers are 10-12¢ = \$10-12 for the same 100 cartridges
- Simply put it is now costing **Cowboy Joe** an additional \$7-8 more to shoot, everything else, bullets, powder, being the same.

I know everyone’s situation is different and each person has to decide if this additional cost is *the straw that breaks the camel’s back* as far as shooting goes.

Couple of other thoughts:

You can shoot just once a month vs. twice

You can shoot in the .22 category and save a bit of cash doing this.


Weed-Whacking Day

Thanks to all the hard work **Osage** put in mowing last Thursday, we just need weed-whacking done this time.



Also we will be painting **some** of our white targets **Red** and **Blue** for our Independence Day Match, which is on the 2nd. Kind of looks like **Rawhide** Believe it or not, there is a pattern to this so check before you go whole hog and start painting everything one color
Date is this **Thursday, June 30th**.
Start time is anywhere from Sun-up to ?? but it's getting warmer each and every day

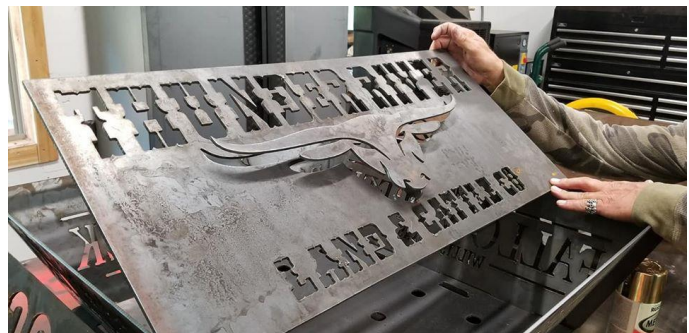


Making Gas Checks: along with this issue of the *World*  *Guardian* is an article on making gas checks out of aluminum cans. It's an interesting process and something else to add to all the fun and games of reloading.

If nothing else it will keep you out of the bars while you fabricate them.

The Thunder River Mercantile

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

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.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

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)**
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Vice-Pres: **Willie Cheatem**
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Secretary: **cheyenne**
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Treasurer: **Doc Jim Harvey**
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