



THE VIGILANTE



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Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

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The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

April Fools, Fools Gold, and Revenuers

A grand total of 39 shooters turned out for our April matches, as we had 18 shooters on the 7th and 21 shooters on the 21st. The RRV range is the place to be on the first and third Saturdays of the month if you want to break out the cowboy guns and have some fun.

An assortment of April Fools answered the call on the 7th, and Bad Bascomb, Venomous Doc, and Harvey Mushman ran them through their paces. I was shooting my Henry with black powder, and Ima Schofield had offered to loan me a pair of pink mittens to keep from burning my pinkies. I passed on that, but I was planning to wear a glove on my left hand until Just George mentioned that he had never actually seen a cowboy do that. So I cowboied up and shot it bare-handed, and it didn't get too hot, after all. When the smoke had cleared Justin O' Sheriff topped the heap, followed by Cold Iron Charlie and Venomous Doc. Fourth overall, and shooting in the historically correct Classic Jester category, was Harvey Mushman. Lumpy grits was fifth and in sixth place was top lady Goode Bascomb. Nobody shot the match clean.

On the 21st the Vigilantes had to deal with unseasonably hot weather and revenuers trying to collect taxes. That's a tough combination. You can't predict the weather, but you can count on the revenuers coming around every April, and they are hard to discourage, no matter how much hot lead they have to duck. They even stopped by the cemetery intent on digging up some revenue, but Cowboy Earl devised a strategy to put a stop to that. No matter how they jumped around or tried to hide, a bullet was going to find them. As the last G-man headed for the hills, a quick accounting showed that Justin O' Sheriff, Soledad, Bad Bascomb, Ozark Lawdog, and Venomous Doc had accumulated the most deductions and exemptions. Kentucky Gal earned the woman-owned guns credit, and finished sixth overall. Justin O' Sheriff and Lady Jailer had no math errors and each earned a knife from MC Ryder, which could be a red flag that will put them in line for an audit. *continued on page 2*

The Changing Face of Cowboy Action Shooting

by
Nasty Newt, SASS #7365

I shot my first CAS match in 1995, at Five Dogs. I had just joined SASS, and didn't own a single CAS gun, but I was able to borrow everything I needed and buy reloaded ammo. Most stages then were one pistol, and I only needed to scrounge a second one for one of five stages.

It was a very different game in those days. One stage was started lying down, head resting on a saddle. You shot the pistol from your knees, and shot the rifle under a horse's neck. Rifle round counts of five or six weren't unusual. Some of the pistol targets were six-inch squares with feet welded on, sitting on pedestals. You had to knock them off the pedestal to get a hit. Some shotgun targets were the same. Shooting sequences were designed to make you think, which is heresy today. Much of the athleticism has gone by the wayside, and for a good reason. The average age of the shooters at that match seventeen years ago was probably under 40; today it's probably 60 or higher.

By the time we started the RRV in 1998, the pistol thing had reversed and most stages required two. People who only had one could always borrow one, and if they only had one holster we let them stage the second pistol. It wasn't long before people who did have two holsters were staging the second gun for competitive advantage—low rent gamers. So we said if you've got two holsters you've got to use them. Pistol strings were routinely separated in those days, as even thinking about shooting gunfighter style would get you thrown off the range and referred to an insane asylum.

In those days, when shooters went to a match, they happily shot the targets and scenarios put in front of them, and thanked the club for putting on the shoot. That

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There won't be any monthly matches in May. The California State Championship shoot is the first weekend, and of course there is then Defend The Roost starting on the 17th.

In June we will go to summer hours, which means sign ups start a 7:00, with the safety meeting at about 7:45. New shooter class (third Saturday only) will get underway around 6:30. Breakfast to be announced.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly shoots:

The Cajon Cowboys shoot on the: 2nd (club day) and 4th (open shoot) Saturdays of each month at the Gem Ranch in the Cajon Pass on old route 66. Contact Luke Warmwater at (909) 987-7017.

Five Dogs Creek Cowboys in Bakersfield shoot on the 1st weekend of each month. Call Dirt McFearson, (661) 805-3281. They host the **California State Championships May 3 – 6**. Call Mad Dog Draper, 805-497-2857.

High Desert Cowboys shoot in Acton on the 3rd Sunday. Contact Doc Silverhawks, (661) 948-2543.

Double R Bar Regulators, Lucerne Valley, shoot the 2nd Sunday. Call Five Jacks, (951) 347-0862.

Silver City Shooting Society has suspended operations until further notice.

Lone Wolf Shooters, Pahrump, NV, shoot the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday. Call Lash Latigo or Penny Pepperbox, (775) 727-4600 days, (775) 727-8790 evenings.

El Dorado Cowboys, Boulder City, NV, shoot the 1st weekend (Sat & Sun). Contact Charming at 702-565-3736, or Boxherder at 702-858-6396. www.eldoradocowboys.com.

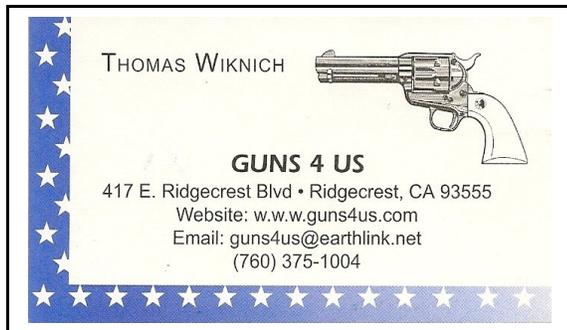
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is still often the case, but there is a growing faction that takes an entirely different attitude, namely, "This isn't the kind of match I like, so I will not support your club." They don't want variety, and pity the poor stage writer who insults their sensibilities with "silly stuff" like props, and lines, and non-shooting activity. What they want—ALL they want, ALL the time—is very big and very close, minimal movement, and easy shooting sequences that are the same for rifle and pistol. I think this attitude does not bode well for the future of CAS. I agree completely that hitting targets is more fun than missing them, but rifle targets at ten feet is going about it the wrong way. Shooting fish in a barrel isn't much of a game.

I don't have a problem with big and close and easy. I even write some stages like that, but not a whole match at a time. However, I support clubs that put on that kind of match, and I think those people should support clubs that put on matches that are different than theirs. The pendulum has swung way too far in the "big and close and easy" direction. It probably won't swing back until the people who won't support a more traditional style of match dump their "my way or the highway" attitude.

The people who started this game did it because they were tired of equipment races and machine gun shooting sequences in other shooting games. Thirty years later, we are right where they didn't want to be.

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How to Join the Robbers Roost Vigilantes...

Come out to a RRV match, held the first and third Saturdays of every month, or call Nasty Newt at 760-375-7618, or MC Ryder at 760-384-2321, or mail it in. Our membership application is here [RRV Membership Application](#) Annual membership dues for the RRV are: single membership \$25, member and spouse \$30, family membership (including children under 18 living at home) \$35. First time shooters will be able to take their FIRST (1) NEW SHOOTERS CLASS for \$10, any subsequent new shooters class or RRV match shoot will be \$10 members, \$15 non members. Donations for shooting regular monthly RRV matches will be \$10 members, \$15 non-members. Memberships run from September 1 - August 31. New memberships purchased after September will be prorated depending on the number of months remaining and the type of membership. RRV members are encouraged to become Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) members. Please call SASS at (505) 843-1320, or go to www.sassnet.com. SASS first year single initiation membership is \$55, renewal for single membership is \$45. As part of your SASS membership you will receive The Cowboy Chronicle (12 issues/year), registration of your alias, a SASS badge with your SASS number on it, a membership certificate and membership card, a SASS Marshall lapel pin, and SASS Shooters Handbook. SASS membership is not required for membership in RRV, or participation in RRV regular monthly matches. **RRV encourages all shooters to join and support the NRA and the NRA Foundation, and Ridgecrest Gun Range Association.** For further information visit our website at www.robbersroostvigilantes.com.

Schedule of Monthly Matches RRV Match Dates:

Defend the Roost
May 17, 18, 19, & 20
Daily Event Schedule
Is on the Application

The Range Needs Some Touching Up Prior to Defend the Roost

Starting now, every Saturday we aren't shooting there will be a work party at the range. We need to complete the jail and a bullet-proof wall, and do some general clean up and fix up. Due to its front and center location, the paint on the depot and stagecoach need to be touched up. Having that set looking good improves the appearance of the entire range.

If you can come out, there will definitely be something for you to do.

Our new sunshades are installed and looking good. Abilities Unlimited is going to backfill and level the ground around the footers.