

# THE VIGILANTE



Volume 14 Issue 10

Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

June 2012

## The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

### From The President

#### It was a Hot Day in June

#### But the RRV Didn't Swoon

When you consider that summer vacation season is in full swing, and the thermometer peaked out well above 100 degrees on the third Saturday in June, a turnout of fifteen shooters for our monthly match is pretty darn good. There are clubs in Las Vegas drawing from a population of around two million that don't do much better. Our little club holds its own, and then some.

M.C. Ryder wrote some great stages. He sent them to me for review, and I told him all I could say was that I was sorry I wouldn't be in town to shoot them. If you were there, you know what I mean. One thing he did that I knew would be fun was a pair of stages on the same set, one with the targets at SASS minimum recommended distances, and one at SASS maximum recommended distances. You may have noticed we're into variety around here, although not always to that degree. Average scores between the two stages were a whopping 30 seconds apart, although Crumville Kid got it down to less than 5 seconds, and Ozark Lawdog's delta was less than 8 seconds.

For Ozark, Bad Bascomb, and Goode Bascomb, the match was a final tune-up before they headed to New Mexico for End of Trail. They made the club proud down at Founder's Ranch, but not before they all finished in the top 5 at our June match. Bad Bascomb won the match going away, with Ozark Lawdog, Venomous Doc, Crumville Kid, and Goode Bascomb rounding out the top one-third.

Desert Willow and I just returned home from Joseph, OR, a beautiful spot in the mountains in the northeast corner of the state. Also along in the two-RV caravan were two daughters, one son-in-law, and four grandchildren. Desert Willow and I had intended to RV for a while after the rest had gone home, doing some visiting in Idaho and Colorado, but the grandkids had about worn us out, and my back was giving me fits, so we packed up and headed home.

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### MISSING (TOGGLE) LINK: THE WINCHESTER MODEL 1868

by

Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

Do you know your Winchesters? I'd venture to say most of us who play this game think we have a pretty good handle on the evolution of the Winchester lever action. I used to think I was up to speed until I read an article in the American Rifleman a few years back. The article, entitled "Winchester's 'Centennial' Rifle," was about the Winchester Model 1876, and it included some surprising information.

We've all seen the Winchester "line-up," in pictures and in museums. It starts, of course, with the Henry rifle of 1860. Although the Henry didn't have Oliver Winchester's name on it, it was manufactured by his company, New Haven Arms, and it takes its rightful place in line as "the first Winchester." Next is the Model 1866. It is the first firearm to bear the Winchester name, and like the Henry, it takes a rim fire 44 caliber cartridge. Up to this point in my life I had believed that the Model 1873 came next (wrong), that with the exception of a handful of Henrys it was the first iron frame Winchester (wrong), and that it was the first center fire Winchester (also wrong). You may be a little confused at this point, but I bet you know one thing for sure: The next Winchester was the Model 1876 (right!), which was basically an oversized Model 1873 (wrong).

The American Rifleman article was written by a gentleman name Herbert G. Houze, the former curator of the Winchester Firearms Collection at the Buffalo Bill Historic Center in Cody, Wyoming, and a recognized Winchester expert. He got my attention in the second paragraph when he wrote, "Though folklore has insisted that the Model 1876 was simply a larger scale version of the smaller frame Model 1873, those stories are myths. The origins of the Model 1876's design actually pre-date its chronological predecessor by some eight years."

"In the immediate post-Civil War period, Oliver F. Winchester embarked on an ambitious program to develop new repeating rifles for foreign markets. Utilizing iron frames with detachable sideplates, these rifles were first produced for the Swiss Confederation in 1866. *continued on page*

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**We're not shooting the first Saturday in July,** but we'll be out there on the third Saturday, the 21st. We're summer hours, which means sign ups start a 7:00, with the safety meeting at about 7:45. New shooter class will get underway around 6:30. If you know of a new shooter that's coming out, be sure to let Bad Bascomb or MC Ryder know so we can be prepared.

Whether or not breakfast will be served has not yet been determined. TBA.

## **Robbers Roost Vigilantes**

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Monthly shoots:**

**The Cajon Cowboys** shoot on the: 2<sup>nd</sup> (club day) and 4<sup>th</sup> (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 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of each month. Call Dirt McFearson, (661) 805-3281.

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

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

**Silver City Shooting Society** has suspended operations until further notice.

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

**El Dorado Cowboys**, Boulder City, NV, shoot the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend (Sat & Sun). Contact Charming at 702-565-3736, or Boxherder at 702-858-6396. [www.eldoradocowboys.com](http://www.eldoradocowboys.com).

July 15, 2012, **Brimstone Pistoleros** host *Thunder Valley*, Lucerne Valley. Smokeless shooters are now welcome. Details at [www.brimstonepistoleros.com](http://www.brimstonepistoleros.com).

*continued from page 1* then for other governments in 1867 and 1868. Chambered for a variety of .45- and .50-cal. Center-fire cartridges, all of these models incorporated large receivers fitted with elongated sideplates. Though they achieved some commercial success, in 1869 the program was temporarily set aside due to the pressures being put on the Winchester factory by its Turkish contracts.


"Following the U.S. Breech-Loading Rifle Trials of 1872, Oliver F. Winchester revived the project at the instigation of the French Government (through the agency of Francois de Suzanne). During 1873 and 1874, a series of full-stock carbines and muskets were made for de Suzanne using receivers based upon the Model 1868 iron frame Winchester rifle." The article goes on to say how this work led to the development of the Model 76.

My library includes numerous firearm reference books, including "The Rifle in America," and "The Gun and its Development." Neither of those tomes mentions the Model 1868 and its role in the development of the large frame, center fire rifle that would become the well-known Model 1876. In fact, "The Rifle in America" perpetuates that myth that so annoys Mr. Houze, flatly stating, "Frankly, the 76 was merely an enlargement of the Model 1873..."

The Winchester Model 1868 has very nearly slipped under the radar of firearms history. But I now know there are a few of them out there, and one day I'm going to have a look at one. Maybe I'd better ring up the Autrey Museum in L.A. and see if they have one laying around.

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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](http://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](http://www.robbersroostvigilantes.com).

## Schedule of Monthly Matches

RRV Match Dates:

July 21, 2012.

**Summer Hours: Sign up starting  
~ 7:00, Safety Meeting ~ 7:45.**

**New Shooter Class ~ 6:30.**

## Nominations Sought for RRV Board of Directors

Summertime, and the livin' is easy, and it's time to think about whom you want on the RRV board.

The current board members are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. With a couple of exceptions, the tendency of this club over the years has been to reelect the incumbents. For the last two years at least, the only nominations received (if any) have been for sitting board members.

However, all dues paying members of the RRV are eligible to stand for office. If you would like to see changes on the board, this is your annual opportunity. Nominations will be accepted through August 15. The election will be held in late August or early September, TBA.