
THE VIGILANTE



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Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

January 2013

The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

Vigilantes Ring (Steel) in the New Year

January 5th dawned sunny, bright, and calm, and nine Vigilantes took advantage of a beautiful winter day on the desert and shot six fun cowboy stages at the RRV range. Yours truly would have been there as well, but throbbing sinuses and an aching knee proved to be a discouraging combination.

Bad Bascomb shot his way to the top of the heap, edging Venomous doc by 21 seconds. Cowboy Earl, Ozark Lawdog, and MC Ryder finished off the top five spots.

The 19th was another perfect day, and twelve shooters turned out for a celebration of *Gun Appreciation Day*. There was a jail break to deal with, and assorted vermin were taking over the hotel. We were seeing double at the saloon, with more rifle targets than the law allows.

Venomous Doc and Bad Bascomb went at it again. This time, Doc edged Bascomb by six seconds. MC Ryder, Harvey Mushman, and your humble editor rounded out the top five. Goode Bascomb was top lady, and seventh overall. Tank and MC Ryder shot the match clean. I was intent on doing it, but I let one lousy cowboy get away on stage 3, and that was that. I don't know if MC Ryder gave himself a knife, or not. But Tank got one.

Ballarat Bob, aka Bionic Bob, came out to say hello and exercise his new store bought hip. Thanks to RGRA stalwart Elvy Hopkins for serving as his duty driver. Miss Mandy and Crumville Kid also stopped by to say hello. If you haven't seen Mandy's SASS scholarship write-up in this month's Chronicle, check it out. You'll be proud!

We also had a new shooter. Frank Andrasevits (alias Badger, if it's available) took the new shooter class, shot the match and joined the RRV. Welcome, Frank, and keep coming out to the range. We're glad to have you.

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The Colt Walker Revolver

Just how powerful was it?

by

M.C. Ryder

SASS #16346

I'm sure you have all heard someone state that the 1947 Colt Walker revolver was as powerful as today's 44 magnum revolvers. I've heard that too, and I've always been very skeptical of that statement. Given that the only propellant available then was what we today call black powder (back then they just called it gunpowder), and that the metallurgy of the time wasn't all that advanced, it seems unlikely that the revolvers of the time could produce and withstand the pressures necessary to obtain the performance of the modern 44 magnum cartridge.

We can speculate all we want to, but it is more accurate (and fun) to do some experiments. So, I loaded up my replica Walker, grabbed my chronograph and headed out to the firing range.

My research indicated that the maximum load for the original Walker was 60 grains of 3f powder and a .457 inch round ball. It also appears that Walkers would occasionally blow up using this load, and Sam Colt himself recommended that the maximum load be 50 grains of 3f. In fact the follow on model, the Colt Dragon, had a shorter cylinder in order to limit the load to 50 grains.

Throwing caution to the winds and putting my trust in modern metallurgy, I loaded 60 grains of
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Don't let a cool morning deter you from shooting. It was cold when I arrived at the range, but I had shed my jacket before it was time for the meeting.

In February we're shooting on the 2nd and the 16th. Sign up at 8:00, meeting at 8:45, new shooter class at 7:30. We'd like to know in advance if a new shooter is coming out. See ya out there!

Robbers Roost Vigilantes Executive Board

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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.

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.

Lone Wolf Shooters, Pahrump, NV, shoot the 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.

Bridgeport Vigilantes, Bridgeport, CA. Ben Maverick has announced that they will resume shooting in May. Since the Western Regional will be in August this year, plans for the RRV's Bridgeport invasion are TBA.

Colt Walker Continued from page 1

Goex 3f behind a 144 grain round ball and fired away. My chronograph measured an average velocity of 1220 feet per second. Not bad, and faster than I had expected.


Round balls are light compared to a conical bullet, so I cast some .457 conical bullets, which have a weight of 200 grains. Conicals take up more space in the cylinder, so the maximum load using them is 50 grains of 3f. These loads had an average velocity of 1070 feet per second.

For comparison, a typical 44 magnum load is a 240 grain bullet at around 1400 ft/sec. Research indicated that the 45 Colt black powder rounds used a 250 grain bullet and 40 grains of black powder, and had a velocity of around 850 ft/sec.

This is all good data, but what does it say about how "powerful", or if you prefer, "effective" these loads are. There are (at least) two schools of thought about this. One proposes that what is important is momentum (mass x velocity) and a big hole in the target. This favors large caliber, heavy bullets. The other school looks at kinetic energy ($\frac{1}{2} * \text{mass} * \text{velocity squared}$). This school likes medium size bullets going very fast. I'm not

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Defend the Roost 2013

May 16, 17, 18, and 19

Yep, it will be here before you know it. Application, Information, and Liability Release form are all on our web site at www.robbersroostvigilantes.com. Get it filled out and send it to our Match Director, Just George, at the address shown on the application. You can pay later if you want to, but get your name on the *Who's Comin'* list, like, RIGHT NOW!

How to Join the Robbers Roost Vigilantes...

Come out to a RRV match, held the third (and sometimes first) Saturday 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.

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Schedule of Monthly Matches

RRV Match Dates:

February 2, 2013.

February 16, 2013.

Winter Hours: Sign up starting
~ 8:00, Safety Meeting ~ 8:45.

New Shooter Class ~ 7:30.
No Breakfast.



going to get into which school of thought is correct; both have their merits. One might think the best of both would be a large, heavy bullet going very fast, but not too many people can handle a 454 Casull handgun.

The easiest way to compare is with the following table. Note that the commonly used concept of “power factor” (bullet weight in grains * velocity in feet per second divided by 1000) is really just momentum with non-standard units.

	Colt Walker	Colt Walker	44 Magnum	45 Colt		
Load	60 gr. Goex 3f Round Ball	50 gr Goex 3f Conical Bullet	Factory Conical Bullet	40 gr Goex 3f Conical Bullet		
Bullet wt (gr)	144	200	240	250		
Velocity (ft/sec)	1220	1070	1400	850		
Power factor	175.68	214	336	212.5		
Energy (ft-lbf)	475.44	507.94	1043.48	400.68		

It seems that despite the legend, the Colt Walker is no 44 magnum. However, it is fair to say that it is equal to the 45 Colt, which didn't come along until 1872. I doubt that anyone would argue that the 45 Colt is not an effective cartridge. Considering that the Walker preceded the 45 Colt by 25 years, I think it was reasonable back then for one to say, “If I had a big horse pistol like that, I wouldn't be afraid of no boogerman.”

The End



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Mark your calendars! The next annual RMEF Dinner/Fundraiser is coming.

When: Saturday, Jan 26, 2013

Where: Kerr McGee Center in Ridgecrest, CA

Time: Doors open at 5:00

Many levels of support are available.

Single tickets start at: \$70. Couple: \$105. Sponsorship starts at \$335.00. Get your tickets at GUNS4US in Ridgecrest or contact John Adams at ja6552@aol.com. Join us for a fun filled evening for a good cause.

Tom @ www.GUNS4US.com