



THE VIGILANTE



Volume 16 Issue 10

Editor: NastyNewt SASS# 7365


June 2014

The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

June Busted Out All Over

Then Again, It Usually Does

Most of the worker bees either were exhausted, or not available to work, or both, plus it was hot, so we didn't shoot on the first Saturday. By the third Saturday, Desert Willow and I had loaded up the RV, hooked up the dinghy, and headed for Joseph, Oregon, which is up in the northeast corner of the state. The town is named for Nez Perce leader Chief Joseph, of "I will fight no more forever" fame. For more on that, look here .

But I digress. M.C. Ryder stepped up, as he always does, and wrote a fun and fast match for June 21st. Ten shooters turned out, which is not bad for us on a warm summer day. The ten included some out-of-towners, which makes you think maybe you're doing something right.

A pair of Elder Statesmen, Bad Bascomb and Venomous Doc, burned through the stages at a pretty good clip and finished 1 – 2, respectively. Bad Bascomb edged Venomous Doc by 1 & 2/3 seconds over the course of the six stages. M.C. Ryder, Goode Bascomb, and Magnus Halvorson rounded out the top five. It was Magnus' first RRV match. Welcome, Magnus, and don't be a stranger! All of the scores are on our web site at www.robbersroostvigilantes.com.

As our membership ages, it seems like every summer we get a little more serious about taking the summer off. About as far as we ever got in that direction was shutting down in August. For a few years we invaded our friends Bodie Kid, Bee Blest, Flatland Kid, Miss Susie Q, and Ben Maverick at the Bridgeport Vigilantes. Over time participation dwindled, and Bodie and Bee moved to Florida. Ben Maverick wanted to keep the Bridgeport club going, but to date has held no matches, and it doesn't look promising. The good news is, the Western Regional is now held at Chorro Valley in August, and that's a darn nice time to shoot at a great range.

Anyway, we're shooting July 19. Stand by for a decision on August.

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Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce

A Reluctant Warrior

By Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

Chief Joseph was born in 1840 in the Nez Perce homeland in the Wallowa Valley of Northeastern Oregon. The name Joseph was given to him by white men, of course, and it was originally Young Joseph, as there already was a Chief Joseph, his father. As young Joseph rose to prominence in the tribe, he came to be known as Chief Joseph, and his father as Old Joseph.

The conflict between the white settlers and the Nez Perce began and grew in much the same manner as it did in most areas of the country. The white people were few in number and more of a curiosity than a concern for the Indians at first, as there was plenty of land for everyone. But more settlers quickly followed, and before long newspaper editors were stirring the pot about all that prime real estate that was "going to waste" in the possession of "savages."

The Nez Perce would go on to sign several treaties with the government, and just like everywhere else, the first one left the Indians with everything they wanted, which they were promised they could keep for perpetuity. But perpetuity didn't last long, and the government was always able to find a reason to punish the Nez Perce by taking ever increasing chunks of their homeland.

By 1877, the Nez Perce were tired of being lied to, and in the wake of the fight at the Little Bighorn, public sympathy for the plight of Native Americans was at an all-time low. Even so, General O.O. Howard, the former Civil War hero, had developed a relationship with Chief Joseph. Old Joseph had died some years back, but not before beseeching his son to never give up the Wallowa Valley, and never sell the bones of his ancestors to the white men.

Chief Joseph was only one of many Nez Perce leaders, *continued on page 2*

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In July we will be shooting on the 19th. We are on **Summer Hours**, so we'll start sign ups at 7:00, have the meeting at 7:45, and the new shooter class will be at 6:30. As always, we'd like to know in advance if new shooters are coming out so we can be prepared to take care of them.

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UPCOMINGEVENTS

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. www.cajoncowboys.com.

Five Dogs Creek Cowboys in Bakersfield shoot on the 1st weekend of each month. Call Utah Blaine, (661) 203-4238. www.5dogscreek.com

High Desert Cowboys shoot in Acton on the 3rd Sunday. Contact Doc Silverhawks, (661) 948-2543, or Lumpy Grits or Ima Schofield at (661)265-1923.

Double R Bar Regulators, Lucerne Valley, shoot the 2nd Sunday. www.rrbars.com. Contact Little Jersey Jo, 1-760-247-5012, joed56676@gmail.com.

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. www.lonewolfshooters.com.

El Dorado Cowboys, Boulder City, NV, shoot the 1st weekend (Sat & Sun). Contact Charming at 702-565-3736, or Creeker at 702-328-4867. www.eldoradocowboys.com.

Chorro Valley Regulators shoot the 2nd Sunday and most 5th Sundays at Morro Bay. They host the **SASS Western Regional** August 6 – 10 2014. www.chorrovalleyregulators.org.

Chief Joseph *continued from page 1*

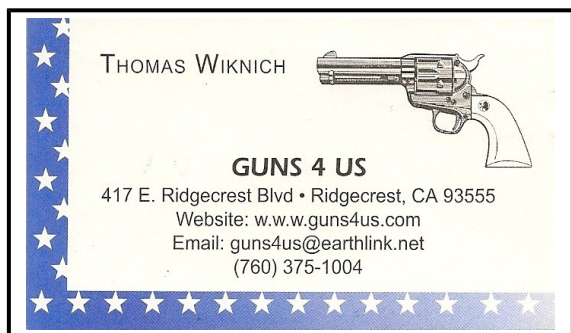
and as such did not have sole authority to speak for his band, let alone the other bands. But Howard and others preferred to negotiate with him, as he had for years been counseling the Nez Perce to try to find a way to live with the white men. He knew there would be no end to the number of soldiers who would be sent to force his people to comply with government orders. But when told his people would have to relocate to a reservation in Idaho, Joseph flatly refused.

As he knew they would, soldiers came to round up his people and herd them to Idaho. Many of the young warriors, including Joseph's younger brother Olokott, had long disdained the idea of peace, and were ready to fight. By the time the shooting started, the Nez Perce were a divided people. Some agreed to go to the reservation, but Joseph's band decided to try to make their way to Canada as Sitting Bull's Sioux had done after the Little Bighorn. Even the young hotheads had been convinced they couldn't stand toe-to-toe with the U.S. Army and expect to prevail. But they believed they could fight their way to freedom up north.

Thus began an epic 1,500 mile, 4-month trek. Joseph and the other chiefs led 750 people across Montana, through Yellowstone, and into Wyoming toward Canada, fighting what has been described as a brilliant rear-guard action all the way. The odyssey ended in the Bear Paw Mountains of north central Montana, just forty miles from the Canadian border. There the army surrounded the Nez Perce, captured their horse herd, and killed all but two of the primary chiefs, including Joseph's brother, Olokott.

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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 nonmembers. 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.



Chief Joseph

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Schedule of Monthly Matches

RRV Match Dates:

July 19, 2014

August 2014: To be Announced

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

New Shooter Class ~ 6:30.

Chief Joseph *continued from page 2*

During the siege in the Bear Paws, the Nez Perce sent a rider to Sitting Bull, asking for help, but the Hunkpapa leader had already been told by Canadian officials that if he crossed the border, he would not be allowed to return. The Nez Perce waited in vain for help that was not coming. Ninety Nez Perce had been killed, and more fighting would only mean more dead in a lost cause. Joseph, who for the first time really was in charge, sent word to the soldiers that, "From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more, forever."

Howard recommended that Joseph's band be allowed to settle on the reservation in Idaho, but General of the Army William Tecumseh Sherman insisted they be punished, and sent them to Indian Territory. Joseph tried for the rest of his life to return his people to the Wallowa Valley. The closest they ever got was Washington state, where he died in 1904.