



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

Rinin' in the New Year

Rinin' Steel

We talked it over, and decided shooting on the first Saturday, which was the 2nd, might be a little too close to New Year's Eve for comfort for the RRV's party animals. Next, we tried to remember who the party animals are, and decided that the last two had moved to Oceanside. But we didn't shoot anyway.

In my dotage I think of New Year's Eve as amateur night, so I usually stay home. My normal routine is to watch the ball drop at 9:00 our time, and go to bed. This time I was watching a football game or something and missed it, so I watched some fireworks from all over the world and was in bed by 10:00.

However, eleven of us made our way out to the range on the 16th for what turned out to be a stag party. We tried out the new jail configuration, which consists of another shooting window and more room to move around, courtesy of Silver Badger and Cowboy Earl. It was pronounced a hit. We also put the unloading table up on the deck, which worked pretty well. We're kicking around other ideas as well and will try them out the next time one of our stage writers uses the jail.

On the other stages we took a couple of trips down range, tossed some dynamite, and splintered some wood with bullets like they do in the movies. Rum Runner shot Josey Wales, and between him and M. C. Ryder's 10 gauge, the air was thick with smoke, and M.C. showed us how to splinter some wood with that baby.

Venomous Doc shot his way to the top of the pile and has braggin' rights for January. Cowboy Earl, Buckhorn Bud, yours truly, and Duelin' Tom finished 2 through 5, respectively. We will be out there twice in February. I can't wait, and I hope you all can make it out at least once for some good, sorta clean fun.

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“¿Quién es?”

By Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

Every Old West aficionado recognizes those words. It's Spanish for "Who is it?" and they are the last words ever spoken by Billy the Kid—or are they?

The widely accepted story of the Kid's last night on earth is well-known. On July 14, 1881, Lincoln County Sheriff Pat Garrett and two of his deputies had gone to Ft. Sumner, New Mexico Territory, on a tip that the Kid was hiding there. The Kid was a fugitive from justice, having escaped from jail a few days before he was scheduled to hang for murder. In his escape he compounded his felonies by killing two of Sheriff Garrett's other deputies.

Around midnight, Garrett entered the bedroom of an acquaintance named Pete Maxwell. He sat on the edge of the bed and had just begun a conversation with Maxwell concerning the whereabouts of Billy the Kid when the door opened and a shadowy figure stepped into the room and asked that fatal question. Though he couldn't see him clearly, Garrett recognized the Kid's voice, raised his Colt Frontier Six-Shooter and fired two shots, one of which found its mark, and Billy the Kid was dead.

Well, maybe. Maybe even probably. But it gets kind of weird at this point. The first words out of the mouth of one of Garret's deputies upon getting a look at the body were, "That's not Billy." Numerous acquaintances claimed they saw him in the days immediately following the shooting, and after Garrett's death his own daughter said he didn't kill the Kid. But, lots of people did identify the corpse as the Kid, and Garrett eventually got the reward money.

Did Garrett shoot the wrong man, and did the Kid's friends in Ft. Sumner keep the secret to protect Billy? **“¿Quién sabe?”**

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In February we will be shooting on the 6th and the 20th. We're on **Winter Hours**, of course, so we'll start sign ups around 8:00, have the meeting at 8:45, and the new shooter class would be at 7:30. Let us know if a new shooter is coming so we can be prepared to take care of them.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Cajon Cowboys shoot on the: 2nd and 4th Saturday 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.5dogs creek.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.rrbar.com. Contact Little Jersey Jo, 1-760-247-5012, joed56676@gmail.com.

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

Chorro Valley Regulators shoot the 2nd Sunday and most 5th Sundays at Morro Bay. www.chorrovalleyregulators.org.

American Marksman TV Comes to Ridgecrest!

RGRA, begin in March. The first round is using your own .22s, and if you advance to the next rounds, guns and ammunition are provided. Later rounds will be televised. This is for amateur shooters only! www.ammarksman.com.

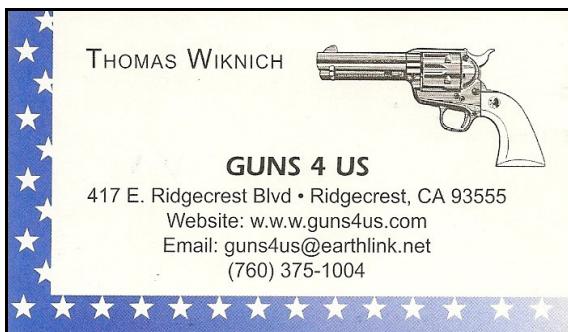
Range Security

We moved to our wonderful home on the RGRA range about ten years ago. Since that time, we have had occasional incidents where non-RRV members have trespassed on our range. A few years ago there was a break-in. They cut the locks on the sea vans and rummaged around, but nothing was taken. I guess the local meth-heads thought we stored guns out there, or something. Sierra Desert Gun Club was also hit at that time. Not too long ago the archery club's ATV was stolen, but was recovered.

What typically happens to us is people shoot holes in our steel with high velocity rifles firing jacketed bullets. It happened again very recently. It isn't done out of ignorance. It is willful trespassing and wanton destruction of our private property. Over the years we have just picked up the pieces and gone on about our business, since we don't want to give the vandals the satisfaction of a public reaction. We will probably stick with that policy, but we need to make it harder for them to come on our range, and in so doing we will make it a little harder on ourselves.

In the near future we will install a locked barrier to close the opening at the southwest corner of the RGRA parking lot. Some of us like to use that road because it is convenient. But unfortunately others see us using it, and then drive over to our range looking for something to destroy, so that convenience is going away. We will also block the north/south road at the berm that separates our range from the police range. Here's hoping that will put an end to it.

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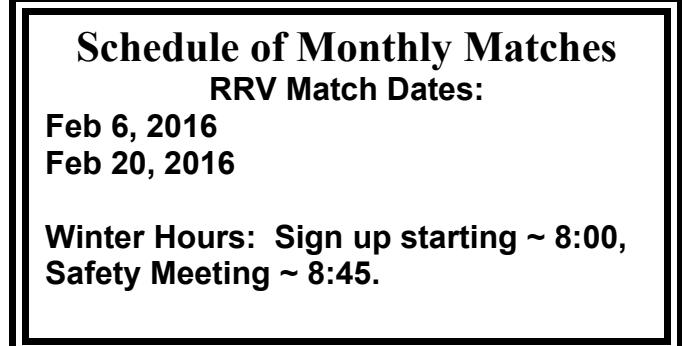
Come out to a RRV match, held the third (and sometimes first) Saturday of every month, or call Nasty Newt at 760-375-7618, or MC Ryder at 760-384-2321, or mail it in. Our membership application is here [RRV Membership Application](#)

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 877-411-SASS. SASS membership information can be found here:

<http://www.sassnet.com/Membership-Main-001A.php>

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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LOOKING BACK (and forward) AT BAMM AND SIDE MATCH DAY

Both of these events were a lot of fun, but sparsely attended. I believe they would draw more shooters if we did them again. That is based partly on wishful thinking, I admit, but also on declarations from lots of people that they wanted to attend one or both and for some reason couldn't.

Side Match Day was the more labor intensive of the two, requiring 11 venues to be set up for a total of 17 separate events. I would think long and hard about doing that again unless I was sure we would get more shooters. The bolt action match was easier; it was 6 stages on 3 sets like we do for a monthly match. I'd do that one again for the same handful of shooters.

So, another BAMM shoot is highly likely. Another Side Match Day is going to need some member input, including some thoughts on when would be a good time to do it.