



THE VIGILANTE



Volume 18 Issue 7

Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

March 2016

The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

March Madness, the Cowboy Way

To most folks, March Madness means the NCAA Mens' Basketball Tournament. But to a select few who have a better idea, it means shooting a couple of cowboy action shooting matches on a range decorated with wild flowers. It wasn't nearly as colorful as last year, but the desert is still looking pretty good this go 'round.

The first Saturday your humble editor was out of town, but they somehow managed to get by without me. The Week One gang put on one of their patented "something for everybody" shoots, with lots of shooter's choice, thinking man sweeps, and even a little bit of old school. Nine shooters turned out to see Venomous Doc accomplish a rare feat by bumping Bad Bascomb out of the top spot, all the way down to second place. M.C. Ryder, Buckhorn Bud, and Ozark Lawdog completed the top 5. Nobody shot the match clean.

The third Saturday was an event a lot of us look forward to, M.C. Ryder's St. Patrick's Day shoot. Those gold-hoarding leprechauns were doing their thing, aided and abetted by zombies, and the darn snakes and other critters were doing their best to keep us from picking even a single four leaf clover. And of course the whiskey thieves were everywhere. But they hadn't planned on dealing with thirteen armed and dangerous gun hands. Bad Bascomb reclaimed his customary spot at the top of the pile, followed by M.C. Ryder, Venomous Doc, Utah Blaine, and yours truly. Goode Bascomb was first lady, and Fast Legs and I shot the match clean, same as last month. I don't know if he is my lucky charm or I'm his, but I'll take it either way. I lost track, but I think just about everybody walked away from Stage 4 with a Shamrock pin.

After the guns were put away we repaired to the cantina for a Guinness or two, and some lesser beers and soda pop as well. We also snacked on green chocolate chip cookies courtesy of Death Valley Rose. Actually the chocolate chips were brown, and the cookies green, and, oh, you know what I mean.

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Why Does the Easter Bunny Bring Eggs?

It is thought that the word *Easter* comes from a pagan figure called *Eastre* who was celebrated as the goddess of spring by the Saxons of Northern Europe. A festival called *Eastre* was held during the spring equinox by these people to honor her. Of interest is the word's relation to *east* (*ost* in German). The name for a celebration of the sunrise and a change of season was eventually applied to the Christian celebration of the resurrection of Christ and the new era he heralded. Eggs were forbidden during lent, and were often boiled in order to preserve them, and later would commonly be served as an Easter treat.

The goddess *Eastre's* earthly symbol was the rabbit, which was also known as a symbol of fertility, since they birth large litters in the spring.

The legend of the Easter Bunny bringing eggs appears to have been brought to the United States by settlers from southwestern Germany. The German tradition of the Easter Bunny or "Oschter Haws" migrated to America in the 1800s, likely accompanying German immigrants, many of whom settled in Pennsylvania.

And that's why the Easter Bunny brings baskets filled with colored eggs, candy, and sometimes toys to the homes of children on the night before Easter, in much the same way as Santa Claus delivers presents on Christmas Eve. The Easter Bunny will either put the baskets in a designated place or hide them somewhere in the house or garden for the children to find when they wake up in the morning, giving rise to the much-loved annual American tradition of the Easter egg hunt.

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In April we will be shooting on the 2nd and the 16th. The Week One gang is working on an April Fool shoot for the 2nd. You don't necessarily have to be one to shoot the match, but it might help! This will be the last month on **Winter Hours**, 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.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.

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.




Who Was St. Patrick, and Why Does He Get a Day?

One thing for sure is he wasn't a Leprechaun. Sometime in the last half of the 5th century, when he was about 16, he was captured from his home in Great Britain, and taken as a slave to Ireland, where he lived for six years before escaping and returning to his family.

After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland as a missionary. In later life, he served as an ordained bishop, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated as both a religious and cultural holiday on March 17, which is believed to be the date of his death.

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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 New t 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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Schedule of Monthly Matches RRV Match Dates:

April 2, 2016

April 16, 2016

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

Palm Sunday, St Patrick's Day and the Date of Easter

In 1940, an unusual coincidence took place when Palm Sunday (which is one week prior to Easter Sunday) occurred on the same day as St Patrick's Day. In Ireland, which has St Patrick as its patron saint, people were able to wear both the shamrock and the palm on the same day. St Patrick's Day falls on March 17 but Easter Sunday, and hence Palm Sunday, moves according to the rules that determine Easter.

Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday after the full moon occurring on, or after, the March equinox (taken as March 21). So for Palm Sunday and St Patrick's Day to be on the same day, March 17 must fall on a Sunday AND there must be a full moon on either March 21, 22, or 23. So are we actually due for a repeat of this coincidence shortly? Well, not exactly, because the next such occurrence is in the year 2391!