



THE VIGILANTE



Volume 19 Issue 2

Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

October 2016

The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From The President

A Little of This, A Little of That in October

On October 8, we put on our second-ever black powder trail walk. Just like Wild Bunch, The Professionals, and the Bolt Action Military Match, shooting the muzzle loaders is just another way of having fun with guns, a notion that the RRV endorses whole-heartedly. So, if you've got a front stuffer in the safe, under the bed, or, like me, on display over the fireplace for the last 25 years, break it out, clean it up, and come on out. The next one will be November 12.

Cowboy Earl, who is the driver behind these matches, set up some great stations along the trail, with targets of various shapes and sizes that were close, far out, and every place in between. For good measure he threw in bowling pins, stationary clay birds, and paper plates. There's no clock, it's just hit or miss, and move on. Ed Hinkley, the newest RRV member, shot the match clean and won going away. The rest of the shooters, in no particular order, were Craig Wilson, Buckhorn Bud, Ball N Chain, yours truly, Rick Winks, M. C. Ryder, and Cowboy Earl. After the match Cowboy Earl grilled excellent hot dogs, and lucky for us, the day before was Buckhorn Bud's birthday and Ball N Chain brought delicious carrot cake!

At the Cowboy match on the 15th, it looked like we were going to have enough shooters to make a posse, but 9 shooters quickly turned into 7 as Death Valley Rose thought better of it and Ballarat Bob's rifle decided to quit working, ending his day. So we didn't always have a shooter loaded and ready to go, and once in a while the brass picker wound up checking somebody's guns at the unloading table, but we got 'er done and had a fun, albeit wind-blown, time.

Everybody earned Halloween treats by plugging the hired gun between the eyes on the "Open Range," and by taking out revenants with a provided Buntline Special, *a la* Wynonna Earp, at the cemetery. When the wind had blown away the smoke, which didn't take long, Cowboy Earl stood atop the pile, followed by yours truly, M. C. Ryder, Zig Mar, Duelin' Tom, Wrangler Red, Silver Badger, and Ballarat Bob, who got in two stages before his rifle retired him. *Continued on page 2*

Big Annuals Dominate The SASS Landscape

By Nasty Newt, SASS # 7365

I'm not sure, but I expect the first ever SASS-sanctioned annual match was End of Trail 1982. Of course, there's only one World Championship, and that's EOT. But to say the idea of an annual match quickly caught on is a huge understatement. As SASS clubs sprang up all over the country, and all over the world, for that matter, annual matches proliferated.

Most started small, like the RRV did, and grew. Our first several annuals were one or two day affairs with lunch and door prizes to celebrate the anniversary of the club's founding, and thank our members. Then a mysterious stranger rode into town and said he could make it rain. Oh, wait. That was Burt Lancaster. Our guy was Just George, SASS # 58097. He offered his services as Match Director, and said he had a vision of a four-day event with shooters from all over the country, nice awards, cool shooter booklets, karaoke and gourmet food, costume contests, gun cart contests, and more side matches than you could count. And someday we might even have a big tent with a bar in the corner. I asked him if he was crazy, and he said "Yes, but let's do it anyway. We can call it *Defend the Roost*."

Which we did, and thanks to George, a dedicated and hardworking cadre of Vigilantes, and a generous main sponsor in Duelin' Tom of GUNS4US, we had a great run. Over the years *Defend the Roost* was regularly attended by some of the best shooters, and best people, in the game. The fates conspired to cause us to end it, but I'm proud that we did it and I will always remember those days fondly.

Now, where was I? Once you've decided to

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In November we will be on **Winter Hours**, sign up starting around 8:00, and meeting around 8:45.

We will have Cowboy matches on the 5th and 19th, and a black powder muzzle loader trail walk on the 12th.

Get yourself out to the range and have some fun!

Robbers Roost Vigilantes

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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.rbar.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.



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Since this is India, he must be an Indian!

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put on an annual match, about the first thing you worry about is when to do it. The two main concerns, of course, are weather and conflicts. The weather part is a crap shoot. Back when the Nevada Rangers' *Stampede* was a major match, I went several years in a row in the late 90's and early 0's. They did it in April at Jean, Nevada. The landscape is just like ours, and the weather in the spring is just as volatile. I had some great weekends there, and some terrible ones that included high winds, rain, hail, and even snow. We did *DTR* in October at first, tried November, and eventually settled on May and crossed our fingers. Sometimes we got lucky, sometimes we didn't.

Trying to avoid conflicts with other California and Nevada annuals, not to mention the FNRA dinner, school graduations, and the like, was as important as the weather, and there were **lots** of annuals. I know George fielded many calls that went something like, "What?? You're doing your annual the same weekend as *The Great Gopher Gulch Lynch Mob and Jackrabbit Bar-B-Que??* Are you Crazy??"

These days, a look at the Cowboy Chronicle shows three annuals in all of California in October, and one in Nevada. The "small club-level" annual boom has busted, and a lot of people feel there are now too many "big" shoots, with all the state championships, regionals, and divisionals, and that the rapid growth of those matches has played a part in killing off the little guys. Time will tell. And as always, time marches on.

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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 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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417 E. Ridgecrest Blvd.

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Schedule of Monthly Matches RRV Match Dates:

Nov 5, 2016

Nov 12, 2016 Muzzleloader trail walk

Nov 19, 2016

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

Vigilantes Bring Home Hardware!

We don't send as many shooters to major SASS matches as we used to. We don't have as many shooters to send, for one thing, and some who used to travel, including your humble editor, now think it's just too dang much trouble. But those who do get out and about make us proud. Here's a sampling.

El Dorado, the SASS Nevada State Championship match: Bad Bascomb, 3rd place B Western. Wrangler Red signed up, but was unable to shoot the match.

The Gunfight Behind the Jersey Lily, the SASS Western Divisional match: Goode Bascomb, 3rd place Grande Dame; Bad Bascomb, 4th place B Western; Venomous Doc, 6th place B Western.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL.