



# THE VIGILANTE



Volume 20 Issue 5

Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

January 2018

## The Monthly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

### From the President

#### Starting the Year off with a Bang Thousands of 'em, Actually

Last month I hinted that we might put on four events in January. Then we proceeded to go out and do it! What a blast. There were three stalwarts (ok, nut jobs) who shot 'em all: M.C. Ryder, Silver Badger, and your humble editor. I'm writing this the day after the fourth one, and I admit I'm a little tired. But in a good way.

The cowboy match on the sixth was the biggest show, with eleven shooters. Orland Granger and Crumville Kid came out for the first time in a long time, and it was good to see them, for a while, anyway. The fly in the ointment is that Crumville showed no respect for his elders and won the match going away. He used to be a nice kid, but the older he gets, the more annoying he gets.

The muzzle loader trail walk on the 13<sup>th</sup> was the next fun time. Some wise guy, namely me, suggested that we try splitting a bullet on an axe blade like they do at Mountain Man Rendezvous. Cowboy Earl set it up, and everybody but me did it. Another great idea of mine. M.C. Ryder won the match, proving once again that he can blow smoke with the best of them.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> we strapped on the six-guns again and shot another cowboy match, a Zig Mar production. When the dust had settled and the smoke from M.C. Ryder's and Rick Winks' guns had cleared, M.C. had shot his way to the top of the pile. Zig Mar and yours truly shot it clean.

We went around for one more go 'round on the 27<sup>th</sup> for a BAMM match. M.C. Ryder was the fastest bolt action guy, and Zig Mar was first with the lever gun. He shot the match both ways, and also finished second in the bolt action category. He put 150 rifle rounds down range. A good day's work for him, and capped off a good month's work for all of us!

All the scores for each match are posted.

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### The Evolution of a SASS Club

by  
Nasty Newt  
SASS #7365

The Robbers Roost Vigilantes Cowboy Action Shooting Club has been in business since 1998. We're into our 20<sup>th</sup> year, and although, as Loretta Lynn said in *Coal Miner's Daughter*, "A lot of things have changed since way back then...", we're still here, and doing fine.

I had considered starting a local club, but after looking into it I decided there were too many details to be ironed out and dropped the idea. Then I learned that Coso Kid and Kazarah Jane were working on a club. I contacted them and found to my delight that they were well along in the process. They and I, along with M.C. Ryder and Gimpy Gus, threw seed money into the pot, and before too long we were shooting.

Like all SASS clubs, and SASS in general, we grew like mad. This was the hey day of cowboy action shooting, and we were right in the thick of it. SASS was adding thousands of new members every year, and it wasn't too long before the RRV had over 60 members.

From the start we had what we called our anniversary shoot, basically a monthly plus burgers and door prizes. But under Match Director and SASS Regulator Just George we amped up and for several years put on a great annual match called Defend the Roost. Some years we had two annuals, including for a while the California State Black Powder Shootout. Defend the Roost drew 130 shooters one year! For a variety of reasons, the phase that I call "The Small Club, Big Annual Era" went bust, and we were not immune. But it was fun while it lasted.

We grew right along with SASS, and we're still keeping pace, but we're both going in the opposite direction. For years, all SASS would talk about was their "100,000 Badge Numbers." Not too long ago they said the current number of dues-paying members is around 22,000.

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*From the President Continued from page 1*

In February we're shooting cowboy matches on the 3rd and 17<sup>th</sup>, and a trail walk is planned for the 10th. Watch your email for confirmation. We're on **Winter Hours**, so we will start signups around 8:00 and try to have the meeting by 8:45.

## **Robbers Roost Vigilantes**

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**Evolution** continued from page 1

The RRV is standing pat at 31. Nine or ten shoot on a regular basis, and another five or six show up sporadically. We sometimes have a visit from old friends from out of town. I don't remember the last time we had two posses. Much like SASS, we're losing members faster than we are adding new ones, for a variety of reasons. That's just how it is now.

When we decided to start putting on the occasional trail walk or BAMB match, it was just to get out and do some more shooting with fun guns that we didn't use much. But they have turned out to be a financial boon. Shooters at those matches pay the same as shooters at our cowboy matches. On average, that's around a thousand bucks a year in revenue that we wouldn't otherwise have.

Speaking of money, we haven't had a board meeting or issued a treasurer's report for quite a while. There really isn't much of a reason to do it, except for show, and I kind of got tired of putting on the show. But club members are entitled to know how the club is doing, so here is my

### **State of the RRV Address**

My fellow RRVers, I am pleased to announce this evening that the State of the RRV is strong. We have a surplus of \$4,105.92, or will have after we deposit the proceeds from the January BAMB match. We have no outstanding debts, save for whatever amount M.C. Ryder has recently spent on the club's behalf for toilet chemicals and supplies, bottled water, paint, toilet dump fees, etc. Of course, we have on-going costs for maintenance and repairs.

Our NRA endorsed liability insurance is paid up, as is our NRA affiliation, SASS affiliation, Kern County Fictitious Business Name registration, SASS scorekeeping software maintenance, and DMV fee for the toilet trailer.

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**Evolution** Continued from above

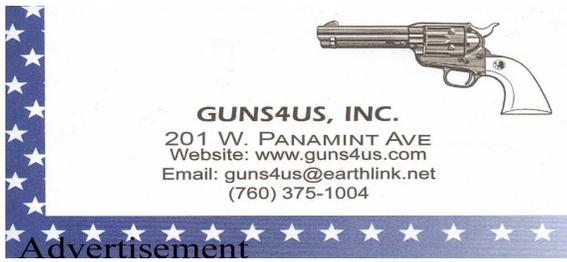
Our annual non-profit "E-card" has been filed with the IRS as required. Our website domain is paid up. Our annual silly exercise of testing the soil for lead content, as required by Kern County, is done.

Recent significant purchases include \$922.46 for target steel and \$701.49 for insurance. We're getting a \$40.00 refund on the insurance since we have fewer members than the last time they asked for an update. A little over a year ago we bought a new porta potty for \$833.89, plus another \$85.00 for miscellaneous parts and supplies to mount it and upgrade the trailer (not to mention \$22.00 to deposit the old toilet in the landfill). Every year the club buys a sponsor package for the local Friends of NRA banquet. Last year's package was \$375.00. We'll get one again this year, and we might just get lucky and win something. We're due. ☐ ☐

Last year we made a charitable contribution to PACT, and a time or two we have donated to the Happy Trails Children's Foundation by buying raffle tickets for the Silver Screen Legends opportunity drawing.

That was a good meeting. If you have questions, please ask.

## Business Card



**GUNS4US, INC.**  
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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](http://www.robbersroostvigilantes.com).

## KZGN TV

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Ridgecrest, Inyokern, and China Lake

## Schedule of Monthly Matches

### RRV Match Dates:

Feb 3, 2018 Cowboy

Feb 10, 2018 Trail Walk

Feb 17, 2018 Cowboy

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

## The Evolution of BAMB (Bolt Action Military Match)

Since I'm in the mood to wax eloquent about changing times, I'd like to talk about BAMB. The notion of shooting bolt action rifles at cowboy action clubs goes back a ways. My first encounter was in Nevada, probably fifteen years ago at annuals put on by the Silver City Shooters, who shot north of Vegas at Indian Springs, and the Lone Wolf Shooters in Pahrump. On side match day, along with all the standard long-range stuff, they included bolt actions. We did it as well at Defend the Roost.

Then a thing called Wild Bunch came along. Inspired by the movie of the same name, clubs, including ours, put on Wild Bunch side matches at their annuals, or as stand-alone events. Clubs made up their own rules and had a ball with bolt actions, 1911s, shotguns, cowboy guns, and you name it. Then SASS, which hated Wild Bunch before they loved it, took it over and wrecked it. We had to stop calling ours Wild Bunch and call it The Professionals to eliminate confusion between our game and the SASS version. The Professionals died along with Defend the Roost.

But we still wanted to shoot those rifles, and now we have BAMB. We've broadened the scope some to throw in a military sidearm from time to time, and we added a category for lever actions in rifle calibers, 30-30 etc. For the most recent match we added a single shot category for Sharps, trap doors, and such, though nobody took us up on it. We're making our way full circle back to the old Wild Bunch days. And that is not a bad thing. NN