



# THE VIGILANTE



Volume 23 Issue 1

Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

Fall 2020

## The Quarterly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

### From the President

#### What a Year

My sister-in-law shared this on Facebook a while back. It said, "I'm going to stay up until midnight New Year's Eve. Not to welcome in the new year, but to make sure this one leaves."

I will be right there with her. What an unmitigated mess 2020 has been, and it isn't over yet. But we will make it out the other side, and although I sometimes wonder how, I'm convinced common sense and rationality will prevail. Somehow.

We took a little time off in the "early Covid" era, but before long we were back shooting, trying to comply with CDC guidelines and mimicking procedures in place at some other Southern California clubs. But we don't normally get more than ten shooters, and if we do, we can deal with it. So we are out there distancing and making noise, and in the case of Cowboy Earl and M.C. Ryder, also making smoke.

And then there is the insufferable heat. Records are being set all over the west, and that includes our neck of the woods. But as luck would have it, we have a group of excellent stage writers, and one mediocre one, who know how to write stages that are both fast and fun to shoot. When we combine that with a little bit earlier start, we can shoot six stages and be done before it gets hot. The match on August 15, written by M.C. Ryder, was a blast. But I must admit that by the time we got to stage 6, I was happy there weren't any more.

And lest we forget, which is impossible to do, the whole damn state of California seems to be on fire. Some of the fires are fairly near, and our valley is choked with smoke.

I know, it's hot every summer, and there are fires every summer. But this year has been a S.O.B., and has gone above and beyond the call of duty. Coupled with Covid and "peaceful demonstrations" that include assault, destruction of property and burning and looting, I'm hoping 2020 might even leave early.

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### Tinkering

#### By Nasty Newt, SASS #7365

I'm staying around the house quite a bit these days. As hot as it has been lately, I'd be doing that anyway, but with Covid, I'm more house bound than normal. I still run errands, do what I need to do. Even though the kids do some shopping for us, I still go to the grocery store on occasion, doctors, dentist, hardware store, that kind of stuff. Life goes on. But I always mask up, try to keep my distance, and wash up when I get home. 40% of the people who have died from this thing in this country are over 70, and I don't want to contribute to that statistic.

But this is about tinkering. Hanging around the house I've had plenty of time to look at gun-related You Tube videos. Now, a word of caution: There are a lot of people posting how-to videos on just about any gun you can think of. Some of them don't have a clue. Fortunately, a great many of them are very knowledgeable and helpful, and even a guy like me who is no gunsmith can usually tell the difference early on.

Watching these videos, and reading written instructions, which are also widely available, made me think maybe I could tackle some simple gun repairs. My first project was a trap door that wouldn't eject. I have two, a carbine and a cadet. The carbine throws hulls across the room, but the cadet left them in the receiver most of the time. So I took both of them apart and went to work. And I will admit at this point that had I not searched for "how to disassemble a trap door" *continued on page 2*

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**We're on Summer Hours**, so any matches announced will start signups around 7:00, and we'll try to have the meeting by 7:45 **unless otherwise announced**.

**We will probably go back to winter hours in October if things cool down as normal.**

## Robbers Roost Vigilantes

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I probably would have ruined the stock on the first one I took apart. The hinge pin for the breech block (the trap door, as it were) has a tab on the end that fits in between the stock and receiver. I might have noticed, but I also might have tried to drive it out before removing the stock with disastrous results. Anyway, I successfully got them apart and the extractor, spring, and spindle in the two guns looked exactly the same. It turned out that on the cadet the hole the spring and spindle fit into was too deep, and there was no tension on the spring. How that happened I'll never know, but a spacer in the bottom of the hole fixed the problem. I was an E1 tinkerer.

My first cowboy pistols were EMF clones with Howard Collins action jobs. These days I only shoot them with black powder, so they don't get shot a lot, but I never did like the hair triggers. I had the original parts, and I knew the mainsprings would be easy, but was worried about the sear springs. However, after watching a video, and thinking, "it can't really be that easy" I took them apart and sure enough it was easy. E2.

Thus emboldened, I watched more videos and dug into the safe. I disassembled a Model 94 30-30 that's about my age, deep cleaned, smoothed, and put it back together. It shoots. Zach's Stoeger was hard to break open, and most of the time would only fire one barrel. Armed with the knowledge of what was the likely cause of both problems, I was able to take it apart and fix it. It drops open and fires both barrels. E3

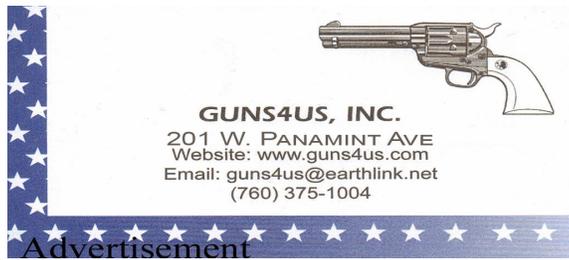
My M1 carbine didn't look too complicated, and it wasn't, but it did need a good cleaning. It functions more reliably now. When I was putting it back together, I was having a tough time with the bolt, but I re-watched a video and found the answer. The orientation between the bolt and receiver has to be just so, or it won't go. Get it right, and it just falls in. Most instructional articles and videos are in agreement on the gas port: If it ain't broke, don't tinker with it. So I didn't.

<<<<<The crown jewel of my tinkering career to date would have to be my M1 Garand. These rifles have a very sturdy and reliable operating

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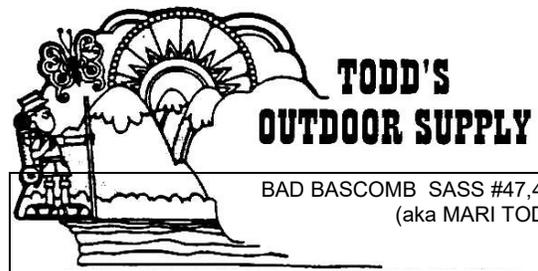


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## How to Join the Robbers Roost Vigilantes...

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

201 Panamint St

Ridgecrest, CA 93555

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## Schedule of Monthly Matches

**Matches are announced on the web site and via email to all club members.**

**Cowboy matches are first and third Saturday. Trail Walks are second Saturday, and BAMB and Cowboy Rifle are fourth Saturday, when scheduled.**

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

*Tinkering continued from page 2*

system, which is also somewhat complex. But the deeper I got into it, the more I appreciated the engineering that went into it. Maybe John Garand really was a genius. I know for certain John Moses Browning was.

But, back to tinkering. I had wanted to give the Garand a good deep cleaning for some time. I've run a lot of surplus ammunition through it over the years, and most if not all of it had corrosive primers, and I was a little worried about corrosion. Unlike the carbine, the instructions for a Garand almost always recommend disassembly and cleaning of the gas cylinder, but only if you know what you're doing. Heck, I was an E3. M1s come apart fairly easily, and I was happy to see no corrosion at all, and only a little soot, on the gas cylinder, operating rod, follower rod, and spring. I didn't take the trigger group apart, but for some reason did remove the feed and action assembly. Getting those parts back together took several trips from the garage to the computer in the house. I don't know if I could have done it with only a video, or only written instructions. I needed both. But it shoots. I am now an E4 tinkerer.

There is a Carcano 91/24 TS at GUNS4US waiting for the background check. It belongs to my son-in-law Mitch, and if all goes well it is going to be his BAMB rifle. But I get to do the tinkering.