



# THE VIGILANTE



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Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

Fall 2023

## The Quarterly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

### From the President

#### “Time is irrelevant.”

Albert Einstein

I'm not going to get into a debate with Einstein, but when we start messing around with the clock, and changing the hour of the day back and forth, it seems relevant to me. It doesn't bother me as much as it does some people, such as the lady in the kitchen making smoothies, but it takes me a while to get used to total darkness at 5:30 PM, soon to be 5:00 or so. Desert Willow doesn't like the "spring forward" part, and she takes it personally that some long-dead politicians steal that hour from her every spring.

Anyway, since we're back on standard time, and the RRV has been on winter hours for the last month, I decided it was time to do something about the Fall newsletter, so here I am at my desk, inserting new pictures and changing dates, and trying to come up with something vaguely interesting to write about.

For a year-and-a-half, in '95 and '96, I wrote a weekly column for the Daily Independent, which at the time was an actual daily newspaper. Over the last several years it has seen a steady decline in the number of issues per week, and recently went back to a weekly, which it was when I started subscribing in the 60's, when it was known as the Valley Independent. The column was fun for a while, but eventually the ego trip wore off and I decided I really didn't want a part time minimum wage job, so I gave it up.

I've been editor of this newsletter since 2006, when Coso Kid and Kazarah Jane moved to Utah. For most of that time it was a monthly, but for the last couple of years it has come out quarterly. The ego trip wore off a long time ago, and it pays even less than the Daily Independent did, nothing being less than darn near everything else. 😊 Like most everything I write, I don't necessarily enjoy doing it, but I very much enjoy having done it. For me the sense of accomplishment makes it worth doing.

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### ZULU!

By Nasty Newt, SASS 7365

There is an old saw about old guns that usually goes something like, "Boy, if only it could talk, what stories it could tell." That would certainly be true in the case of what we refer to, possibly incorrectly (more on that later), as a Zulu shotgun.

These guns were built in the 1850's as muzzle-loading French military rifle-muskets, and served on the European battlefields of the day. By 1867, when the one-piece metallic cartridge was coming of age and militaries the world over were transitioning to breech-loading rifles, many of these muskets were converted to breech-loaders in Belgium. Muzzle loader conversions were happening all over the globe at the time, and included the Snider-Enfield in Great Britain and our own 1866 Springfield here in the U.S. Our conversion was to the "trap door" mechanism, and the French lock was called a "tabatiere" because it looked like a snuff box.

The tabatiere soldiered on for some time, but eventually bolt-action repeaters took over, and these old war horses were rendered obsolete. They were offered for sale on the surplus market, and garnered very little interest. The cartridge was 70 caliber, about the size and shape of a 12 gauge shotgun shell, and didn't provide very much ballistically, with a trajectory like a rainbow.

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The RRV is having a good year so far. We've put on two cowboy matches just about every month, and we do enough trail walks and BMM/3 Rifle shoots to keep us hard core fanatics occupied

The next BMM/Cowboy 3 Rifle shoot will probably be this fall. That's one reason why I'm working on the newsletter today. It gives me the opportunity to stall and not pick a date for the next one. Update: I have settled on November 25.

## **Robbers Roost Vigilantes**

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*Zulu! continued from page 1*

So, the idea was hatched to convert them once again, this time to a 12 gauge shotgun. It was a fairly easy conversion. The chamber and bore didn't need much reaming, as 12 gauge is .73". They cut down the stock, removed the rifle sights, and—voila—they had a sporterized shotgun.

These shotguns found their way all over the world, including Africa, no doubt. By most accounts, they were reliable, and they were cheap. So the poorer you were, the more likely you would be to own a Zulu instead of a higher quality firearm. Most likely, the "Zulu" moniker was more of a sales gimmick than anything else. Mail order companies like Sears and Roebuck sold them for 3 or 4 bucks. If an immigrant heading west could only afford one gun, it was usually a shotgun, and Zulus were definitely included in the mix.

So, if the Zulu on the wall in my family room could talk, it would no doubt have an interesting story to tell. Maybe three sets of stories. It belonged to my brother-in-law, who gifted me with it, which means he dumped it here so he wouldn't have to haul it to Texas. I tacked the stock, and tied the forearm to the barrel with rawhide (it had a hose clamp on it when I got it). It's in rough shape overall, and is missing some parts from the lock, including the firing pin, which is probably just as well. If it was fireable, I don't *think* I would try to shoot it, even with a mild black powder shell. But then again, I wouldn't put it past me. After all, it's SASS legal. ☺ The End

Here it is, 166 years old and still, uh, well, it's still here. I probably destroyed the collector value with the tacks and rawhide, taking it from \$3.00 to about \$2.50, but the brass tacks are worth fifty cents, so no real harm done. You can find nice examples on Auction Arms and Gun Broker, and videos of people shooting them on YouTube and Facebook, where there is a Tabatiere page. My junker looks pretty cool, though, and is an excellent conversation piece, as in, "What the heck is *that*?"



## 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)

Note: Both GUNS4US and KZGN TV are at a new location at 409 S. China Lake Blvd, Ridgecrest, CA. 93555



**KZGN TV**

201 Panamint St  
Ridgecrest, CA 93555  
(760) 375 - 6555

[www.KZGN.net](http://www.KZGN.net) "Your Community Station"  
[info@kzgn.net](mailto:info@kzgn.net) Ridgecrest, Inyokern, and China Lake

**Schedule of Monthly Matches**  
Matches are announced on the web site and via email to club members. Cowboy matches are first (sometimes) and third Saturday. Usually, Trail Walks are second Saturday, and BAMM and Cowboy Rifle are fourth Saturday, when scheduled.  
**Winter Hours: Sign up around 8:00, Meeting around 8:45.**

## The "State of the Club" Is Sound

About once a year I usually get around to talking about the club's financial footing, so here goes. I'll start with the bottom line and fill in the blanks. We are in great shape.

For those who might not know, we are a 501C non-profit, unincorporated association. Every year I renew our status with the IRS via a one page "e-card". It takes about five minutes. Every five years we renew our fictitious business name with the county. I just sent off soil samples to a testing lab so we can report the results to the county. This an annual requirement, and was a condition required for the permit to build the range. Guess what? Shooting ranges have lead in the soil. Who knew?

Although attendance at our matches is dwindling, including BAMM and Trail Walks, we put on a lot of matches, sometimes four a month, but typically three. So our income stream, which includes match fees and membership dues, remains adequate to meet our needs and keep a little nest egg in the bank for a rainy day.

Our NRA-endorsed liability insurance is paid, as is our NRA affiliation. SASS affiliation is coming due, and will be paid soon. We are good to go!