



THE VIGILANTE



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Editor: Nasty Newt SASS # 7365

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The Quarterly Chronicle of the Robbers Roost Vigilantes

From the President

The Old Guy Package Deal

In the mid-nineties I wrote a weekly column for the Daily Independent called "Newton's Theory." In those days, the D.I. was a daily, and I started out on Friday. When they fired Scott Leahy for speaking ill of a D.I. advertiser, I moved into the Wednesday slot, which is where they put their top gun because their rival, the News Review, published on Wednesday back then. It was fun for a while, but eventually the ego trip wore off and it dawned on me that what I had was a part-time minimum wage job, and I didn't want one of those. Also, my Pulitzer was apparently lost in the mail, so I quit.

But I did some good work. I wrote about Cowboy Action Shooting, for which I received no letters, and about what I called Playboy magazine's Crone of the Month series, for which I did. One of my favorites remains The Old Guy Package Deal. I was in my late forties, and feeling like a medical basket case (little did I know!) when I came up with what I thought was a clever cost-saving idea. Since old guys tended to be afflicted with a lot of the same ailments, why not put together surgical plans to knock out several in a day? Once the anesthesiologist had put you under, it would go like clockwork. The cardiologist would come in and do a quick triple bypass; the ENT/Brain surgeon would install cochlear implants in your skull with wood screws; then the urologist would remove your enlarged prostate gland and install a penile implant. Then it's off to the recovery room

They would only have to prep and staff the ER once, and they could use the same surgical instruments throughout because it's all the same blood and germs. Just wipe off the scalpel and carry on, and no wear and tear on the autoclave. I figured all of this cost avoidance could lead to sizable discounts off of the cost of individual procedures, maybe as much as 40% or more.

I never heard from the Sansum clinic, or Ridgecrest Community Hospital, for that matter. I was probably ahead of my time.

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The Changing Face of Cowboy Action Shooting

by

Nasty Newt, SASS #7365

NOTE: This article first appeared in the April 2012 edition of *The Vigilante*

I shot my first CAS match in 1995, at Five Dogs. I had just joined SASS, and didn't own a single CAS gun, but I was able to borrow everything I needed and buy reloaded ammo. Most stages then were one pistol, and I only needed to scrounge a second one for one of five stages.

It was a very different game in those days. One stage was started lying down, head resting on a saddle. You shot the pistol from your knees, and shot the rifle under a horse's neck. Rifle round counts of five or six weren't unusual. Some of the pistol targets were six-inch squares with feet welded on, sitting on pedestals. You had to knock them off the pedestal to get a hit. Some shotgun targets were the same. Shooting sequences were designed to make you think, which is heresy today. Much of the athleticism has gone by the wayside, and for a good reason. The average age of the shooters at that match seventeen years ago was probably under 40; today it's probably 60 or higher.

By the time we started the RRV in 1998, the pistol thing had reversed and most stages required two. People who only had one could always borrow one, and if they only had one holster we let them stage the second pistol. It wasn't long before people who did have two holsters were staging the second gun for competitive advantage—low rent gamers. So we said if you've got two holsters you've got to use them. Pistol strings were routinely separated in those days, as even thinking about shooting gunfighter style would get you

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From the President Continued from page 1

This summer has been a doozy. Desert Willow and I, along with numerous family members, spent almost a month in Oregon and Wyoming. There were a few days when we thought it was warm up there. We found out what warm was when we got home.

Back in the day we took off August for a few years in a row, but that was to go up and shoot with the Bridgeport Vigilantes. A lot of clubs stand down for either summer or winter. We've never done that, but the older I get, the better it sounds.

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thrown off the range and referred to an insane asylum.

In those days, when shooters went to a match, they happily shot the targets and scenarios put in front of them, and thanked the club for putting on the shoot. That is still often the case, but there is a growing faction that takes an entirely different attitude, namely, "This isn't the kind of match I like, so I will not support your club." They don't want variety, and pity the poor stage writer who insults their sensibilities with "silly stuff" like props, and lines, and non-shooting activity. What they want—ALL they want, ALL the time—is very big and very close, minimal movement, and easy shooting sequences that are the same for rifle and pistol. I think this attitude does not bode well for the future of CAS. I agree completely that hitting targets is more fun than missing them, but I think rifle targets at ten feet is going about it the wrong way.

I don't have a problem with big and close and easy. I even write some stages like that, but not a whole match at a time. However, I support clubs that put on that kind of match, and I think those people should support clubs that put on matches that are different than theirs. The pendulum has swung way too far in the "big and close and easy" direction. It probably won't swing back until the people who won't support a more traditional style of match dump their "my way or the highway" attitude.

The people who started this game did it because they were tired of equipment races and machine gun shooting sequences in other shooting games. Thirty years later, we are right where the Wild Bunch didn't want to be. * * *
NOTE: Well, it's now forty-plus years later. The Wild Bunch is long gone, and our champions are shooting 12-second stages. Some folks seem to think this will inspire new shooters to try the game. I think it is having the opposite affect. NN

It's Time to Pay Our Membership Dues

Our membership year is Sep 1 – Aug 31. Every year for the last several, I've contemplated making a motion to the board that we increase membership dues, and maybe even match fees. They are the same as they have been since 1998, which in our case, means forever, and sometimes I just feel like it's bound to be time to do it. And then I talk myself out of it, because "It hasn't increased in 26 years" would be a dumb reason to do it. The club is in good shape, we have money to pay our bills and buy things that we need to buy to host matches, and repair things that need to be fixed. A major expense we DON'T have, which most clubs do, is rent. Our great fortune of having our own dedicated range within the confines of the Ridgecrest Gun Range Association, which costs us nothing, can't be overstated. If you're not already, you need to become a dues-paying member of the RGRA, today.

Our dues are: Individual, \$25; Couple, \$30; Family, which includes children under 18 living at home, \$35.

Match fees remain the same: Member, \$10; Non-Member, \$15. Kids under 18 shoot free.

You can pay your dues at any match, or if you still do snail mail, send me a check at 1036 W. Vulcan, Ridgecrest, 93555.

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

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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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 BAMB and Cowboy Rifle are fourth Saturday, when scheduled.
Winter Hours: Sign up around 8:00, Meeting around 8:45.

It Worked Great In The Garage

Cowboy Earl brought a pair of newly-acquired cap and ball revolvers to the match on the July 20th. He commented that he had them running great, but that one of them would probably mess up during the match. Sure enough, one did, on stage #1, and he switched to other guns for the rest of the match. We all know that kids and dogs will make a liar out of you every time, because if anyone else is looking, they will refuse to do the cool thing you say they can do. I think we can add guns to that old saw. Sometimes it is self-inflicted. When I bought my Model 92 25-20, I took it out and shot it, and it worked just fine. The first time I used it in a match, it jammed after 2 or 3 shots. After I got it unloaded I took it to an adjacent stage and loaded up 5 or 6 rounds, and it hummed like a sewing machine. On the next stage, it jammed again. When I got home I noticed a dent in the mag tube, out fairly close to the muzzle. It turns out my practice loadings didn't reach the dent. But when I put in 10, they would go past the dent going in, but could not get past it backing up. It's probably best to try things out the same way use will use them in real life.

Which brings me to my BAMB bolt actions. I expect these things to be finicky, for lots of reasons. Many are over 100 years old, and some have languished in what I'll charitably call questionable storage conditions for decades. Several take rimmed cartridges, and rims love to hang up on the rim beneath them in the magazine. It's just their thing. Four of my rifles, whether rimmed or rimless, take enbloc clips. The clips need to be inserted just so, and in the heat of a match, if it's crooked, you're jammed. These clips are sheet metal, and were intended to be used only once, so they also bend. Part of the problem might be that things shift around under recoil, but I think I'll wait for cooler weather before going out and testing that theory. NN