



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

From D.I. Columnist to RRV Editor

Back in 95 – 96, I wrote a weekly column for the Daily Independent. It actually was a daily back then, and the editor, Scott Farwell, wanted to have a local column every day. I don't remember if he ever got there, but there were several of us. I started out on Friday. The big day of the week was Wednesday, since that was when the News-Review was published, and the D.I. wanted to put its best foot forward.

The Wednesday guy was Scott Leahy, a good writer, and politically liberal. The paper fantasized about getting kind of a "Point – Counterpoint" rivalry going, but neither of us was interested in doing that. Besides, Dan Akroyd and Jane Curtin had beat us to the punch years before on Saturday Night Live, *ala*, "Jane, you ignorant slut!" Scott wrote something derogatory about a local business that happened to be a D.I. advertiser, and they didn't appreciate getting bad-mouthed in return for the ad revenue the paper was getting from them, so Scott got fired. I was promoted to Wednesday, and was soon partially world famous in certain sections of north eastern Kern County.

At \$25 for 700 words, it was pretty much a part time minimum wage job, but the ego trip was fun for a while, and having to churn out a column every week without fail did improve my discipline as a writer. Granted, I always had a running list of potential topics, but all writers know that ideas are the easy part. Non-writers, not so much. They will often offer Pulitzer Prize level ideas which only need to be "written up," and all they want is co-author credit and half the money.

Eventually the ego trip wore off, and I didn't need the part time minimum wage job, so after 18 months I retired the column. I had hoped my new-found discipline would translate into the writing I really wanted to do, but a self-published western novel, about a dozen western short stories in a E-zine, and a couple of magazine articles are about it. I've been doing this

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Wild Bunch

by

Nasty Newt, SASS #7365

When SASS clubs, including this one, started shooting Wild Bunch matches, we paid homage to the Sam Peckinpah movie, and used a collective of 19th and 20th century guns. We didn't have a water cooled M1917 .30 caliber machine gun, but we did the best we could. We used revolvers, semi-autos, lever actions, bolt actions and shotguns, and had a ball.

When SASS got into the act, they came up with a game that used 1911s with four or five (or more) magazines per stage, Model 97s, and .40 caliber and up lever actions. Although we went out of our way to stress that our Wild Bunch side match was not the SASS variety, some people still showed up at our annuals prepared to shoot the official SASS game, and were not happy campers. In an effort to avoid confusion we changed the name of our game to The Professionals. The match guidelines are still on our website, but we haven't done one in many years. The last revision to the rules was in 2009. It's a game for people with lots of energy and lots of ammunition, but if somebody wanted to put together a match I'd shoot it. I never got excited about SASS Wild Bunch. I can shoot Pike category in a cowboy match if I want to shoot the 1911 60 times. I have no desire to shoot it 200 times.

But I found a way to keep shooting those bolt action rifles and double action service revolvers. I didn't invent BAMM, but I did elevate it to an art form. 😊 We have hittable targets to keep the action in it. We allow rifle caliber lever actions to let in more shooters, and double action service revolvers from the world wars. If I had to give up either CAS or BAMM, I would honestly have a tough time deciding which to drop.

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newsletter for twenty years, and for a long time I had them printed and mailed them out. It was a monthly for probably fifteen years, is now officially a quarterly, sometimes.

You've probably figured out by now that I sat down to write this newsletter and couldn't find any inspiration. But, I'll get it done, as I always do once I start. These days, getting the ball rolling is the biggest challenge. Lots of clubs today put out newsletters sporadically, if at all. I've got a few more left in me.

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Wild Bunch continued from page 1

One happy side affect of BAMM matches is the wide variety of suitable firearms. I don't like to shoot the same guns all the time in cowboy matches, and I REALLY don't like to shoot the same guns in every BAMM match, and, lucky me, I don't have to.

For Cowboy I usually shoot the Colts, but I have four shotguns I like to shoot, and as many rifles, so I routinely mix them in.

For BAMM, I have only ten bolt actions. I used to have twelve, but I gave two Mosin-Nagants to Zach. For handguns, I have two 1911s and four service revolvers. I have shot them all in BAMM matches, and will again. I've learned to not assume anything, and I try to make sure they function properly before the match. Even so, these old guns can be finicky, and they don't always make it through the day without jamming, but I love them anyway. I load for all of them. In fact, I reload everything I shoot, except 22 rimfire. I know it is possible to do that, but it doesn't look like fun and it DOES look like way more trouble than it's worth.

I enjoy owning and shooting these historic guns, and my interest in them was driven almost entirely by BAMM. Years ago, prior even to my Cowboy Action Shooting days, a co-worker was getting rid of his father's WWII bring back guns, a Browning Hi-Power and a Model 98 Mauser. I passed on them, and of course regret it now, but at the time about the only shooting I did was rolling cans around with a 22.

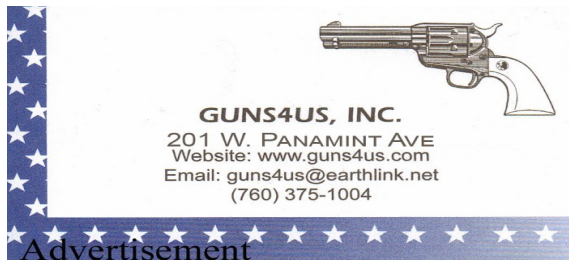
I've since aquired a WWII Mauser. It is a Russian capture, and was imported by Mitchell's Mausers, two vomit-inducing red flags to some serious Mauser guys. I've never figured out what makes a Russian capture undesirable, but Mitchell's is infamous for faking serial numbers and "pimp-shining" their Mausers. Well, I had the shiny bolt re-blued. It's a good shooter. I'm happy with it.

Reloading for BAMM

As I mentioned earlier in this newsletter, I reload everything I shoot, and of course that includes ammunition for my BAMM guns. Brass for the rifles has been pretty easy to find, but I admit I haven't looked for 8x56R Hungarian or 7.7 Japanese Arisaka for a few years. Cast bullets can be interesting, but I haven't run out of sources yet, though they keep changing, as vendors come and go. Bottleneck cartridges are pretty easy to load, and Unique is my go-to powder, at least until I run out. Then, we'll see.

Two revolvers are a different story. The Enfield takes 38 S&W, which is no problem, and the the Russian 1895 Nagant will safely fire 32 S&W Long. But the Italian Bodeo and the Japanese Type 26 are officially obsolete. You can buy it, but it is pricey. The Bodeo needs a shortened 44 Special case and tapering with a 303 British sizing die, which I can do. The Type 26 needs a shortened 38 Special, and for reasons known only to the inscrutable Japanese military mind, the rim of a 38 Special has to be thinned from the inside. Cowboy Earl made some for me, and I am in business. I don't mind jumping through those hoops as long as something useful results. It's kinda fun.

Business Cards



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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.



KZGN TV

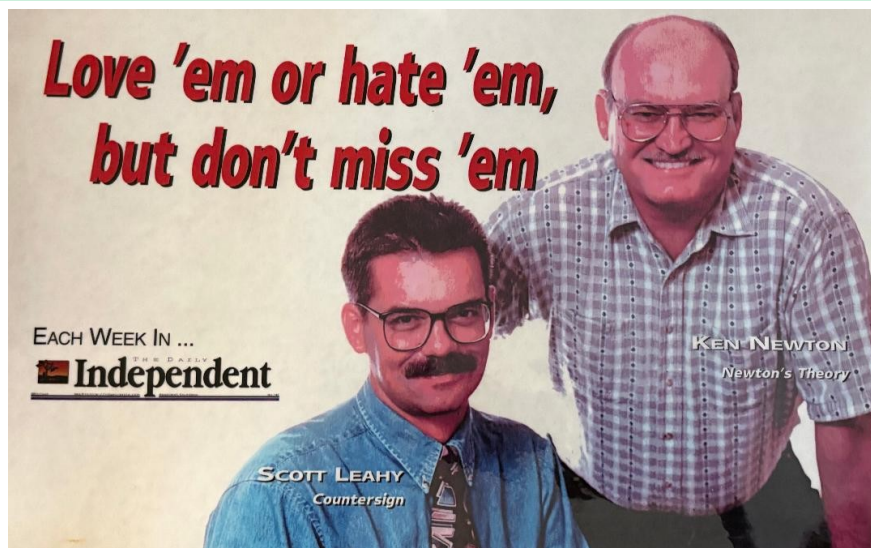
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Schedule of Monthly Matches

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.**

Summer Hours: Sign up around 7:00, Meeting around 7:45.



**Love 'em or hate 'em,
but don't miss 'em**

EACH WEEK IN ...
Independent

SCOTT LEAHY
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KEN NEWTON
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These were on newspaper vending machines WAY back in the day.