



Texican Star

A publication of the Texican Rangers
An Authentic Cowboy Action Shooting Club
that Treasures & Respects the Cowboy Tradition

SASS Affiliated
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The Presidents Corner

Howdy Members

Well, our year is winding down and Shindig is just around the bend. We'll start a half-hour early for this busy day; registration begins at 7:30 am, shooters meeting at 8:30 am, shoot'n at 8:45 am.

Our club is again funding the shoot due to profits made from Comancheria Days this year. Members will shoot and eat free. Our new cook is planning smoked brisket and fixings. We will have our annual awards and a prize drawing for the workers that helped this year. Each time you made a workday you will be entered in the drawing. We have 13 prizes to hand out along with something special for each worker. The club will spend \$1500 for the match with food costs, prizes and shooters fees to the landowner. Non-members will pay match fees. The stages will be a little different than normal and should be loads of fun. Those scenarios were sent to you by email earlier. The 6th stage will be optional and **you will need 4 pistols and 2 rifles and one shotgun**. Round count will be 6 plus shotgun, 20 pistol, and 20 rifle. There is also a Wild Bunch category! Bring your 1911, four (4) magazines. You can stage or carry them magazines.

The 6th stage will reshoot at the Mission with a target rearrangement. After the banquet we will need some help putting away the targets on these last 5 stages.

We have started the new stage. We had a workday and set 20 poles. The stage will go up fast after we get the cross ties level. This new stage will be ready for the state match next year. It will have a covered shooting line and the rifle targets will be in windows and doorways. I am planning some simple props to spread around to get in the way of the pistol targets.

Also a new outhouse is coming too, built by Sheriff Robert Love. We haven't decided on its position yet, maybe a small stage between the Dentist office and Fort Cimarron.

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The Presidents Corner (continued from Page 1)

The officers will be working on the state match needs over the time off and maybe get a chance to visit other clubs. The flyers are ready, so that shooters can sign up for the match. We'll get some advertising out and try to promote the match. Cimarron is helping to sponsor the match, continuing to support the Texican Rangers at Comancheria Days.

Woody is the director of the main stages and I will write the side matches. There will be lots of shooting for 4 days with side matches all day Thursday, main stages Friday and Saturday and we are adding a team and couples shoot on Sunday with man on man to end the match.

I am excited about the coming year with new stages, the state championships and shooting our new targets. There will be several workdays planned in the first quarter as weather permits and the club will need your help.

I hope to see ya'll at Shindig!

Dusty Chambers

On the Trail with Handlebar Bob

Howdy Cowgirls and Cowboys.

Fall is in the air and those cold fronts are starting to roll in making the air crisp in the mornings and the days very pleasant. Such was the case this past weekend at the Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA) shoot which was hosted by the Butterfield Trail Regulators in Abilene, Texas.

Five Texican Rangers made the trip to west Texas to try their hand at getting their name etched on the TRSA Cowboy Action Shooting trophy. And I must say they did rather well. Here are the results:

Phantom -----1st, 1st Wrangler, 1st fast rifle and 1st fast 97 shotgun
Buck Bradley -----57th, 1st pocket pistol and 4th Senior Duelist
Big Iron Patnode ---16th, 1st B-Western
Blue Thorn -----52nd, 2nd B-Western
Handlebar Bob ---- --25th, 2nd Senior Duelist
Dragon Hill Dave-----29th, 1st Classic Cowboy

After the shoot the annual meeting of the TRSA Cowboy Action Shooters was held. Cowboy Action Shooters have four representatives on the TRSA board. Two of those positions are up for election this year. There are three nominees this year for those three positions. Our own Territorial Governor, Dusty Lone Star is up for reelection and Cob Eye Zack and Shotgun are the other two nominees. The ballot will be coming out in the TRSA "Sportman" magazine that members receive.

If you are not a TRSA member you should consider joining, especially if you have a CHL. Had it not been for the efforts of TRSA, we would not have the right in Texas to have a concealed carry law. And even if you don't have a CHL, you should join. There were over a million hunting licenses sold in Texas last year and there are over four hundred thousand CHLs in Texas, but yet there are only eighty thousand TRSA members.....we should have over a million members. If you already are a TRSA member, ask a friend to join.

It was announced at the annual meeting that next year TRSA Cowboy Actions Shoot will be held October 2-3, 2010 in Oakwood. Hope to see you there.

The Saddlebag by Grouchy Spike

Cowboys and Cowgirls, we're working on improving communications within the club. If you are not receiving emails from me about club activities, score sheets, etc then I don't have your email address (++) , you are blocking my address (1), or I'm having difficulty with your address (1). Or you don't have a computer (2).

Welcome to new cowboys Himself and Doc Fleming, and Two Hogg Jim who returned to this game and joined up. And welcome to Colonel Jack Hayes who just moved Beeville, visited last match, and joined up as a member. Bandera Kid rode the trail from Bandera to the Texicans after making a reputation at the Rough Riders and Moderators. Say hello to these visitors and new members!

As I was posting scores on the 27th, I noticed on one score sheet that there were comments by the shooter's names – 'red scarf', 'striped pants', 'top hat', 'red suspenders', etc. Then I realized that Lady Rico was scoring and made notes to help her recognize the shooters. I eagerly looked toward my alias expecting to see 'handsome' or some such, but alas, only 'gold boots' was written there. Go, Lady Rico!

On another score sheet I didn't recognize the alias 'King Juris Don'. Then I realized that Long Juan had written phonetically what he heard for 'Dangerous Don'. Ah, hearing difficulties and earplugs make a 'king juris' combination! Reminds me of the time I was offered 'Fudge Squirrel. It was 'Fudge Swirl'.

In Memory

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Ironburner (aka Lee Tobin) of the Green Mountain Regulators. Ironburner will be missed by all who knew him, especially those who cowboyed with him. Please remember his wife T Texas Tilly (Teresa) and family in your prayers. There is a fund at Green Mountain Regulators to be used in construction of a new stage – a blacksmith’s shop – in memory of Ironburner. Contact Sing’n Zeke for more information.

In Memory

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Kay Sullivan, wife of Marshal Willy (William Sullivan). Please include Marshal Willy and family in your prayers.

From the Loading Bench

Articles from Dusty Chambers, Jonah Stark, and Bronco Birnbaum are scheduled for publication in the next couple of issues.

Cartridge Overall Length by Jonah Stark

Attention must be paid to the overall length of pistol caliber rifle ammunition for use in lever actions. Failure to do so may result in a jam during a match. The Marlin calibers starting with a 4 seem to be more tolerant than those starting with a 3. Some .357 Marlins will feed just about any .38 Special or .357 that you feed it. The next .38/357 Marlin may only function within a narrow cartridge overall length. I’ve had .45 Colt Marlins feed empty brass or Scofield rounds and never miss a beat. The .44-40/.44 Special Marlins seem to be tolerant of overall length. Most Marlin jams are due to “letting in two”. This is a Marlin weak point, but with many thousands of rounds through my Marlin it has never happened to me.

The 1866’s and the 1873’s are not tolerant of short or long cartridges. The loaded round must be very close to the overall length of the carrier to prevent a second cartridge from tying up the action. Acts just like “letting in two” in a Marlin or the cartridge is stuck between the carrier and the magazine tube.

The 1892 can suffer the same problems as the other Winchester clones from an overall length that is too short if the cartridge stop in the left side of the action fails to catch the next round coming out of the magazine. A dirty action will most often be the culprit here. 1892’s generally seem to jam as the cartridge feeds up between the cartridge guides and then jams into the top rear of the chamber.

The fly in the ointment with the lever actions is the split case. Failure to catch the split case when reloading the brass is almost a guaranteed jam if the bullet gets pushed deeper into the case. A heavy crimp may save you here if you are lucky.

The single shot long range rifles are not nearly as affected by overall cartridge length. However, there are exceptions. The Rolling Block will sometimes have trouble with long bullets loaded in .45-90 cases. Also, the .45-110 will normally be too long. The Trapdoor Springfield will work with almost any .45-70 caliber bullet. The Sharps, H&R’s and the 1885 High Walls generally don’t have overall cartridge length problems regardless of caliber unless they happen to have a short chamber lead.

Pay attention to the condition of your brass and to the overall loaded length of your cartridges and you should have little to no problems when you are cranking the rounds out at top speed on the line.

‘Til next time, shoot straight and keep your head down.



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