



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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Shindig is here and full up! 100 shooters will be coming. We will not be able to sign up any walk-ups at match day.

We will have awards, prizes, raffle, food, fun and friends. Let's hope for good weather to enjoy it. We have added 2 more side matches, fastest big bore rifle(5 rounds) and fastest rim fire pistol.

We will open the old bathrooms along with the new privy for the match.

All shotgun targets will be knockdowns, the stand and chain types are coming off the range, just too much splatter.

The top gun shoot off will be all knockdowns too, unless the welder has an unplanned delay, the targets are due next weekend. We will adjust the rifle targets as low as possible and we already have knocked down the pistol targets with 38 caliber 90-grain rounds. The rifle targets already present went down with the same loads. The final pistol crossover target does fall slow with these loads.

This will be an exciting stage and will be in use next year for side matches on Saturday matches.

Lunch will be beef brisket, sausage, sides, desert and ice tea, included in the match fee.

The Club/match workers have put a lot of work into this match to end the year and we want to say thanks to all shooters that come to our range.

Remember the "Whoopin" is coming the first Saturday of October. Hope to see some of Ya'll there.

Dusty Chambers

September 9, 2006

Overall Winners:

1) Pico Kid 2) Reverend Trinity 3) Handle Bar Bob 4) Calvin N Hobbes
5) Pineywoods Jim 6) Barbary Coast 7) Blacky Vela 8) Alley
9) Lonestar Hoss 10) Dusty Lonestar

Class Winners:

"B" Western – Reverend Trinity
Classic Cowboy – Wild Bill Munch
Elder Statesman – Handsome Tom
Junior Boys – Slade the Kid
Ladies 49er – Odessa Star
Ladies Gunfighter – Cat Caliber
Ladies Modern – Barbary Coast
Ladies Traditional – Ivory Venom
Ladies Senior – Pepper Jacq
Men's 49er – Dusty Lonestar
Men's Duelist – Tascosa Joe
Men's Frontiersman – L.W. Hannabas
Men's Frontier Cartridge – Pinata Kid
Men's Modern – Pico Kid
Men's Senior – Pineywoods Jim
Men's Super Senior – El Paso Lee
Men's Traditional – Calvin N Hobbes
Men's Senior Duelist – Newt Ritter
Men's Gunfighter – Woody Duit

Clean Match:

Pineywoods Jim, Redding Renegade, Barbary Coast, Handsome Tom, Handle Bar Bob

Only 1 Miss:

*Reverend Trinity, Sassy Hatter, Two Shot Tex, Jonah Stark, Shotgun Professor, Lightfoot Louie,
Blacky Vela*

Billy Dixon Long Range:

Men's Single Shot – Blue Thorn
Men's Lever Action – Jonah Stark

Speed Stage Winner:

Reverend Trinity

Trail Walk:

Guatemala Kid

September 24, 2006

Overall Winners:

1) Calvin N Hobbes 2) Reverend Trinity 3) Barbary Coast 4) Lonestar Hoss
5) Picoso Kid 6) Jonah Stark 7) Polecat Tumlinson 8) Hopalong
9) Dusty Chambers 10) Gold Dog

Class Winners:

"B" Western – Reverend Trinity
Classic Cowboy – Abilene
Junior Boys – Bubba Shot
Ladies 49er – Ima Gutshooter
Ladies Traditional – Barbary Coast
Men's 49er – Two Shot Tex
Men's Duelist – Wild Bill Munch
Men's Frontiersman – LW Hannabass
Men's Gunfighter – Doc Schofield
Men's Modern – Picoso Kid
Men's Senior – Jonah Stark
Men's Super Senior – Listo Kid
Men's Traditional – Calvin N Hobbes
Cody Dixon Lever – Dusty Chambers
Men's Frontier Cartridge – Durango Kid

Clean Match:

Barbary Coast, Gold Dog, General Burleson, Lonestar Hoss

Only 1 Miss:

Calvin N Hobbes, Slade the Kid

Speed Stage Winner:

Reverend Trinity

The .38-55 for Cowboy Long Range

By Jonah Stark

I wrote the following article for an issue of 'The Fouling Shot', the magazine for the Cast Bullet Association. I've modified it slightly for our newsletter since I thought it might be of interest to some of our members.

I came by my Marlin 336 CB in a round about way. Black Irish Charlie brought me two Marlin 336 CB's to tune, one each in .30-30 and .38-55. He asked my opinion on which he should keep for Cowboy Long Range for club long range shoots. My opinion, if the rifle was mine, was to choose the .38-55 since it is a little different and out of the ordinary. However, I pointed out to Black Irish Charlie that components were easier to come by for the .30-30. To make a long story short, he chose the .30-30, but left both rifles with me. In addition to the rifles, he also left two Ruger Bisley and two Cimarron Model P revolvers to be tuned at the same time.

I have a weak spot in my heart for Marlins and with the .38-55 there in the safe, I began thinking about how much fun it might be to shoot it. I already had an 1895 Marlin CB, an 1874 Sharps and an original 1884 Trapdoor Springfield, all in .45-70, so felt I had no use for another long range rifle so I resisted the temptation to work up a load for the .38-55. However, Black Irish Charlie suggested, several times, that I buy the .38-55 from him, so, giving in to temptation, I ended up trading my labor and parts for the Marlin.

Along with the Marlin, I got a set of Lee dies, a set of RCBS Cowboy Dies, a Lee 379250RF mould, 35 rounds loaded with jacketed bullets and 15 empty cases, a Marble tang sight and a tunnel front sight with insert. Turned out to be the best deal I ever made!

I pulled the jacketed bullets from the loaded rounds, threw away the powder and resized the cases. This gave me 50 cases to work with until I could purchase additional cases. None of the suppliers I tried had .38-55 cases in stock. Winchester only runs the .38-55 cases on a seasonal basis, so it was many months before I acquired additional cases. Not to be deterred, I decided that I would fire form a few .30-30 cases to .38-55, even though the .30-30 cases would be a little short. Using 15.0 gr. of Bull's-eye and stuffing the case with tissue paper took two tries to blow the case out. I then used 12.0 gr. 700X and a 115 gr. lead bullet from my .32-20 and got a perfect blown out case every time. Did I mention that the .32 caliber bullet bouncing down the .379" barrel left the barrel somewhat leaded, to say the least? You don't think that wasn't hard to get cleaned out? Think again! With the amount of lead in the barrel, I wouldn't even try to shoot a jacketed bullet to clean part of the lead out.

I cast a few bullets with several different alloys and decided to stick with plain tire weights. Tire weights cast .381" to .382" from my mould. When the bullets were loaded in the cases, there was a distinct off center wasp shape to the loaded round and it took considerable effort to chamber the round. Not a good beginning! Did I bite off more than I could chew? I made a sizing die for my Lyman 450 to size bullets to .378" and try as I might I could not get the wasp shape to disappear. Even though my barrel slugs .379", the .378" bullet was quite accurate. I also ordered a Lyman .379" size die for the Lyman 450. I had been reloading with the RCBS dies that included both a .376" and a .379" expander plug. Using either expander plug resulted in the unsightly off center wasp shape. Switching to the Lee dies; the wasp shape was significantly reduced. It turned out that the expansion die for the RCBS set was not supporting the case during expansion, allowing the case to move to one side as the expansion plug entered the case. The Lee expansion die is a close fit to the case, which reduced the amount that the case could shift to the side as the case was expanded. The Lee expander plug was .371" and very short. Lee actually makes the set to cover the .375 Winchester and the .38-55 so it still allowed a wasp shape to exist. I turned a stepped expander plug for the Lee die on my lathe to include a .366" pilot, a .374" step, a .377" step and a .384" step. The .366" pilot centered the case as the

.374" step expanded for jacketed bullets, the .377" step expanded for the cast bullet and the .384" step flared the mouth of the case for the cast bullet. This is basically a modified Lyman "M" die with a pilot. Viola, the wasp shape disappeared and the loaded rounds chambered slick as glass and looked good. Since I never plan on shooting the .38-55 with jacketed bullets, the .374" step could have been deleted and the .377" step made slightly longer.

I started out loading the Lee 253 grain bullet to velocities in the 1600 fps to 1700 fps range to try to use one sight setting for ranges of 100 to 250 yards. Dusty Chambers had been trying to do the same with his .30-30; so it seemed like that would be a good way to go. Not only did this require holding at the bottom, center and top of the target, I was getting fairly heavy leading regardless of bullet alloy with leading fairly heavy after only 10 shots. I tried 16/1 lead/tin; tire weights and my own hard mix alloy, all to no avail. Another problem was that I had to remember where to hold at each range and I felt that this was just too confusing. I prefer to hold center of the target at all ranges as I do with the .45-70's, setting the tang sight for the specific range.

I used several different powders I had on hand chronographing several loads as follows; 22.0 gr. SR 4759 at 1789 fps, 20.0 gr. SR4759 at 1671 fps, 18.5 gr. SR4759 at 1544 fps, 32.0 gr. IMR4895 at 1732 fps, 22.0 gr. XMP5744 at 1602 fps, 20.4 gr. XMP5744 at 1558 fps, 20.0 gr. XMP5744 at 1442 fps and 15.1 gr. 2400 at 1355 fps. I also tried, but did not chronograph, 10.6 gr. Unique, 35.0 gr. W748 and 24.0 gr. ACC2015. All of the above loads performed well, but leading it was fairly heavy at velocities much over 1550 fps. I also tried a couple of commercial lubes, but my own mixture of 55% beeswax and 45% Crisco works as well or better and is much cheaper. The two most promising loads were with Unique and 2400 powders. Overall, the 2400 load was a little more accurate giving 10 shot groups at 100 yards of 3 1/16" and 5 shots groups at 100 yards of 2 1/16". Groups were shot over crossed sticks using the Marble tang rear sight and a Lyman 17A .404 high front sight. I'm sure this load would do better over a bench rest and with a scope sight, but I have found no reason to try. I have no trouble hitting our steel targets out to 250 yards and most of the time I clean the match. Recoil is light and the Marlin is very pleasant to shoot during extended range sessions. Many times I will fire 40 to 50 rounds and have never had more than a speck or two of lead on a cleaning patch. That is, whenever I happen to get around to cleaning the rifle. Go ahead, Blue Thorn, cringe! I think it was Lassiter that lead me down the path of cleaning my Cowboy guns when they told me they were dirty. Our 250 yard target string is fired against the clock to break any ties and due to the light recoil of the .38-55; I can easily fire the three 250 yard shots in less than seven seconds with all hits. Of course, sometimes gremlins, as Blue Thorn calls them, creep in and a stealth bullet or two show up and who knows where they go? Only the Shadow knows! (You youngsters may not know who the Shadow is.) Stealth bullets don't like steel targets, it seems!

I have been shooting the .38-55 for three years now with the 15.1 gr. of 2400 powder and the Lee 253 grain bullet with complete satisfaction. I considered buying a gas check bullet mould, but with the accuracy I'm getting with the Lee bullet, I see no reason to mess with a good thing. The .38-55 Marlin has turned out to be a fun rifle and cartridge to shoot. Load development took a little longer than for my .45-70's, but has proven to be well worth the time.

Best trade I ever made!

Cowboy Tradin' Post

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I acquired the rifle from the estate of the late Texican Star member, Handlebar Deputy, shot it several times and decided my elder statesman shoulder comfort limit is closer to my .44 Marlin. Hopefully, some younger, stouter cowboy can put it to good use.

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