



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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I wish everyone a Merry Christmas this year. Safe travels to all. I haven't seen anyone lately as I haven't been shooting anywhere since Shindig. I am looking forward to January.

I got me a new set of engraved pistols in 45 colt, and got some of that new 45 Cowboy Special brass and am trying loads. A Hampton 160 grain and 4 grains of clays hits almost 650 fps. 3.5 grains shoots like 125 grain 38's at just under 500fps, but does not burn efficient. I'm going to try 3.8 with magnum primers next. Gotta read up on that Classic Cowboy class.....

Comancheria Days 07 notice is out. It's gonna be a whole lot like 06. We got raffle guns, a grand prize and plenty of shootin and awards. The pistol pair this year will be Great Western II's in stainless steel, 45 caliber. Got the first vender lined up already, and we are advertising in the Cowboy Chronicle in Feb and March. We'll need some help as Stage Marshals, and it requires pre-shooting the match. Match fees are dropped to \$25 for workers. If you can help out please contact me or a Club Officer.

The club expects to follow right along in 07 shooting the second Saturday and fourth Sunday. Look to see monthly awards this coming year for long range, like we did for the speed stage in 06. Lunch will be on tract thru March and hopefully a vender for Comancheria Days. Starting in May we will need a cook to be able to continue lunch at our matches.

If we could get 2 more cooks, they could alternate and only cook 1 month at a time. I would help in 07 if 2 more would step up. Each taking a month, then getting 2 months off.

We have a work party Saturday January 6 to set up the range for the first match and will continue with more, weather permitting in the first quarter of the year. Building improvements are needed this coming year along with stage repair and upgrades. We need help and will get the word out on dates.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

Take Care
Dusty Chambers

CROSS STICKS FOR LONG RANGE

by Jonah Stark

Unless you have been a target shooter or practice shooting offhand with a rifle, you will generally shoot a better score on our long range if you will use wooden cross sticks. I say wooden because the various metal cross sticks available on the market are not SASS legal.

The question becomes, do I buy or make my own cross sticks? In my opinion, making one's own gear just makes the sport more fun. Everyone is not talented enough to make their own leather or do extensive gunsmithing work. However, with just a little bit of 'want to', you can make your own cross sticks.

Two styles of wood cross sticks are seen. The two legged style are the most common. However, there are some people that prefer the three leg style. Since you still have to support the butt of the rifle on your shoulder, I am of the opinion that neither style has any distinct advantage over the other. This article will only address the two leg style.

Cross sticks may be round, rectangular or square in cross section. I think that round are more comfortable to the hand while shooting, but that is just my opinion. All three shapes are made into cross sticks in the same manner. My own sticks are made from old broom sticks and are 1" in diameter. A similar size dowel from the hardware store or a piece of 1" x 2" lumber will work. The length of the sticks is up to each individual. For sitting and kneeling, generally a length of 36" will be about right. I suggest that you start with 48" if you are tall. It's easy to cut them off to a shorter length, but rather hard to add on to the length.

Take the two sticks and lay them side by side on your work table and mark the sticks for drilling cross holes. Make the first hole from the top at 6" and then add at least three more sets at 2" intervals down the sticks. These holes will allow you to adjust the sticks for different heights if needed. I have never needed to use the additional holes. Drill all the holes to accept a 1/4" bolt long enough to go through both sticks plus about a half inch. This will allow you to use a washer on each side and one in the middle between the sticks. For ease of tightening the bolt, use a wing nut. On the bottom of the sticks, drill a small hole into the end of the stick that will accept a 16 penny nail. The hole allows you to drive the nail about half into the bottom of the stick without splitting the wood. Cut the head of the nail off and sharpen it to a point if desired.

Add a piece of leather or felt glued to the inside of the vee formed when using the sticks to protect your rifle forearm and barrel and you have a good set of cross sticks. You can decorate and finish the sticks to suit your own tastes or just leave them plain and let time darken the sticks.

In use, I rest only the rifle forearm on the sticks and hold the intersection of the sticks and the forearm at the same time. Others will rest the barrel on the sticks. Use the method that works best for you.

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

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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“If we ain't got it, we'll get it. If we can't get it, you probably didn't need it anyways.”

To add a post to the Texican Star, please contact the editor – Lone Star Hoss

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