



River Junction Epitaph

Presidential Ponderings

August already. I can't imagine what it would have been like out on a cattle drive, in the middle of nowhere, in weather like this. Those Cowboys where some tough Hombres.

Lot's of shootin' this month with the Ladies of River Junction bringing back the Sadie Hawkins shoot, with some added fun before the match. So check out Slo-Poke Sara's article. Then on the 28th the good deputy is having another Fuzzy's Wild Bunch match.

Speaking of the Deputy, he has officially resigned as VP, probably a little later than his Doctor would have liked. I want to thank him for his help and efforts for the club. If anyone is interested in the VP position, or would like to nominate someone, please let me know.

Support Cowboy Action Shooting. For a host of reasons attendance is down at most CAS clubs this year. Not near as many of us are traveling between clubs for shoots, me included. So make an effort this month and for the rest of the season to support the other clubs by attending their match. Dry Gulch is this Saturday, Logan's Ferry is the next, then RJSS. And don't forget Hollidaysburg and Indiana.

I've listened to several complaints about splash back and intend try to limit it as much as we can. However, take a look at the shotgun shells you're using. If you're going to Wal-Mart and buying the cheapest low brass shells you most likely have hunting/ target loads and that WILL cause splash back. You need to be looking for lite target or extra lite target. We will try to do what we can, but if someone is shooting too powerful a load there's not much we can do.

From the Deputy

THE AMBUSH IS OVER

I would like to thank everyone that helped with the Ambush, Cutter Kid, Gatekeep, Just Boots, Vegas Kid, Chalkdust Kid, Surly Sal, and the girls that took care of registration Sol-Poke Sara and Mattie. Without these people the match would not have happened. Only three posses shot, but I hope everyone had a good time. When the posse walk-through was taken and that's the time for posse leaders to express their thoughts, because the safety officer does the walk through with the posses, Nothing was said about targets being angled or to close, or any unsafe conditions and that is the time it should be said, if any are seen. It was a hot two day shoot, and lots of water was drank, over 15 cases in two days, that comes to almost 360 bottles in two days for about 60 shooters, about 3 bottles a person per day, if each shooter drank water from the range. No rain but lots of sunshine, I'd rather shoot in the sunshine than in the rain any day. I guess that's from being at 12 Ambushes, and getting rained on in about half of them and snowed on in a few. I wish Dip and Slo- Poke all the luck next year when they run the Ambush next year in Sept.

SMOKE AND FIRE

That was the last time Smoke/Fire will be held at RJSS, it was moved to a club down east, where more shooters could shoot it because it is closer to lots more clubs and closer to more states. I was the only person that volunteered to do it in the last two years, it's hard being the match director for the Ambush and Smoke/Fire at the same time. You have to design at least 6 stages that can be shot for both matches that way you don't have to change the stages around for the next day. Now Dip and Poke can concentrate on the getting the Ambush ready for Sept. 2011

MY THOUGHTS

Here, are some of my thoughts on matches. If people see things that are wrong with a stage, speak to the safety officer and not complain to the other people shooting it. If there are knockdowns, make sure your shells can take it down. Take your time but hurry up.

The posse I was on in the Ambush had 4 people clean the stage that everybody complained about, only having ten rounds to hit ten plates. Knock downs not going down, was that lots of time the knockdown was hit to low or the shell wasn't powerful enough, I shot all handguns and they went down when I hit them right. Once a walk through is done, nobody moves anything unless it's approved by the safety officer. Splash back is caused by a few things, Targets to close. To powerful shells used, shotgun shells to hot. People complain they're too far because they'll down load the shell as not to hurt their arm, next guy up to shoot fires a loaded up shell, result splash back. People say targets to small, but meet what the SASS guide lines say. Some of those rifle targets were 2' x 2.' The match isn't set up right, all of the targets should be in a straight line, all evenly spaced, not spread out and mixed. Cowboy match, shot like cowboys shot, not a speed match. Most people are getting older at cowboy action shooting, look at the classes anymore, more 49er's than ever, if you get over three shooters that are under 30 in age you're lucky. The 90's are history, we're all twenty years older now. That means if you were 40's in the 90's than you're in the senior class now, and not as fast as you used to be. Things change and if you don't change with them, than you're lost. That's the way I feel.

See all of you down along the trail somewhere.

SO LONG

I have been involved with this club since it was started, back in 1998, built buildings, set up and tore down stages, back in the 90's you had to do that before and after each match. Props were put away, the range was closed down like we do for winter, after every match. Every match the help got harder to find to help do that work. So after I became VP, things changed at the club, because the same people, had to do all of the work, others would come and shoot and go home. I thought after a match, why should a few of us be here working when the others have left for home and already eating supper. The worry was always, afraid someone would break-in and steal things. I knew where I could get a fence with a gate to across the road into the town. Got the gate from Marshal Perry, had my brother haul it up, used his backhoe dug the holes, got some telephone poles from the phone company, my brother again hauled them to the club, and with the help of my dad, we put gates up to the range, that could be locked. That

took care of the range problem, because I thought that anyone that wanted to steal targets and carry them to the gate, to load them up, they could have them. The targets were left out from Apr. to Nov. Now better props could be built for the stages and left out. This meant setting up time was less and tearing down and putting targets away did not have to happen. This meant help after the match was not needed, so everyone could go home after shooting. As the years went on more things happen to make it easier for the people that helped, set up and used to tear down. Then, I contacted Amerikol and they brought one of there loaders over and dug out five new bays to use, that gave the club the set up ability to set up all of the ten stages for the Ambush to save having to change have five set up on Sat. and having to change 4 of them for Sun. This meant more props could be built on those stages that didn't have to be torn down, a long range was built to be shot across the back of stage #5 to the target out beyond stage #10 that gave the club a place to shoot long range rifle. A generator was given to RJSS by Chuckwagon Sam and a building was built for it and the town was wired to run the saloon, café, and the Administration building. That took the club from having to run three generators to one, great sound improvement. Putting up tents was always a pain, so a pavilion was bought for putting the picnic tables under and anther was bought to set between the café and the courthouse to make room to eat or stay dry or just get out of the sun. These pavilions were used to store the wagons under during winter. Fuzzy came to me and he said he had a idea of a use for those styrofoam blocks, that was a mission + aid station. Cutter, Fuzzy and I started building it and with the help of Chuckwagon Sam, the town had it's church, thus the name Fuzzy's Mission. Parking spaces were leveled off, up in the field for campers, instead of them having to park and having to jack up your campers. Then, Dakota Dan came to me with this idea for a saloon/hotel two story stage, I thought about it, told him to draw up some plans for it, he did and after a long and hard work party's held and it was up, which I had my doubts it would ever get done, but it did. Then after it was up, Just Boots and Gatekeep stained over 95% of the building, the group that worked on it decided to name it after two of the club's departed members, that did a lot for the club, it was named Fuzzy's Faro and Miss Dorothy's Inn. I would like thank all the people that helped me in the past and I couldn't have done it without your help. The doctor said I had to stop being the VP because I

dodged two bullets and he couldn't guarantee that I could dodge a third, he told me to quit while I was ahead. So, in Aug. it's up to someone else to take care of the range, I'll be back to shoot and check on how's it going. PS. The best part of this range improvement was when Chuckwagon Sam took over as the food vendor and it made me fatter.

JULY 31ST FUZZY'S WILD BUNCH MATCH

It was great match weather, not too hot, no rain, and a slight breeze. Eight people showed up to shoot the match, Gatekeep, Powderburn, Rowdy Bovine, Slick Mick, Three Toed Pete, Lone Rider, myself and that guy from Derry, Terri. We shot the first six stages from the Ambush, Adobe Walls, Star – 5 swingers, the new target, Joe's Store, and the 2 stages at the hotel on stage # 6. Everyone worked together on the posse, we started at 9:30 and were done by 12:30. That was some good time, even after picking up all the 45 auto brass, plus the shotgun and rifle brass. All the knockdowns went down when hit, very little shotgun splash back from the shotgun targets. Now, I understand that people have different reasons for not coming to matches, have to work, weddings, graduation parties, family events, or maybe just lack of money and they can't go to as many matches as they used, they have to choose where they want to go. Maybe the gas it takes them to get there and back home, so they choose to go some club closer to their home or it's the people that attend the match, or how they're set up. I live on a limited income and my wife recently lost \$400.00 a month from her job. Changes had to be made to meet paying our bills, attending less shooting matches was one I had to make, I hated to do it, but I had to do my part in paying household bills. So, I don't blame people for not coming to a match. They have to do what's best for family.

YMCA TOUR

On July 28th a group of about 35 youngsters from the YMCA took a tour of the range and the town. They were divided into three groups, some ate lunch while others toured the town and a group went up to the range and were told about gun safety and how cowboy action shooting was shot. Phil. Kid and Just Boots and Gatekeep did a stage for them. After they all saw what was happening and asked if they had any questions, A little boy asked why we wore such hot clothes, we

said that's what they wore in those days. Phil's daughter is a group leader for the YMCA and had them on a field trip to Living Treasures Animal Park and wanted to stop to eat a picnic lunch, and take a tour of the range. These youngsters are the future to cowboy action shooting, who wants to pick brass and reset targets when their seventy. I said No Problem.

Registration Notes

Ambush XII has gone down in the pages of RJSS history and I would like to thank Deputy Keck for all his hard work & dedication to RJSS over the years. I would also like to thank all those who worked to help make the Ambush possible, we certainly appreciate your help. I want to remind everyone about the August match, "Sadie Hawkins Day at RJSS." The women of the club will be posse leaders and I, SloPoke will be match director.

All the cowboys have the option of entering our "Sad Lookin' Sadie" Contest. Come on guys, we know you were just waiting for this great opportunity to show off that fancy apparel! Those of you who are a little "shy" or don't want to get them purty outfits dirty, we will be judging the contest as you register for the match. So....you won't have to stay all "dressed" up for too long! You still have some time guys to get those outfits picked out!

For all the cowgirls, we have a "Boot Tossin' Contest. So warm up those throwing arms and see how far you can throw the old boot! This contest will also be available to you before the shootin' starts. So come on out and have a fun day of cowboy shootin'

See ya there!
SloPoke

River Junction Shootist Society
SASS and NRA Affiliated
Officers and Staff 2010

President
Sam Miller
"Chuckwagon Sam"
sgmiller@zoominternet.net
724-626-2001

Vice President
David Keck
"Deputy Keck"
vdeputykeck@wpa.net
724-423-6255

Secretary
Linda Zinn
"Meaner N. Zinn"
meanernzinn@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Rebecca Silvis
"Miss May Neverbefirst"
cesilvis@aol.com
724-853-1969

Territorial Governor
Christopher Silvis
"Vegas Kid"
cesilvis@aol.com
724-853-1969

Safety Officer
Mike Spezziale
"Cutter Kid"
724-863-9055

Match Results -----
Debbie Schumacher
"Slo Poke Sara"
expressshot@webtv.net
724-228-4215

Officers
Carol Sipe
"Mattie Hays"
csipe@lhtof.com
724-593-6602

Newsletter
Sam Miller
"Chuckwagon Sam"
sgmiller@zoominternet.net
724-626-2001



RJSS MONTHLY MATCHES 2010

April 17 – April's Fool's

May 15 - Upstairs & Downstairs

June 19 - Happy Posse Match

August 21 - Sadie Hawkins Day

September 18 -19 – Ground Hog Day

October 16 – Two Mules For Sister Sara

Registration 8:00 AM to 9:25 AM --- Shooters' Meeting at 9:30AM

Extras

April 24 – True Grit

May 22 – Wild Bunch

May 29 – Josey Wales

June 26 – True Grit

August 28 – Fuzzy's Wild Bunch

Rendezvous Dates

March 14 & Oct. 31

RJSS Membership Meeting Dates – Jan. 23, Oct. 23, - Brady's Restaurant - 10:00 AM

SASS PA STATE BLACK POWDER SHOOTOUT – July 16

AMBUSH AT INDIAN CREEK 12 - July 17-18

COMMUNITY DAY WITH ICVSA – July 10

<http://www.nauticom.net/www/rjss/>

Disclaimer: All articles will be published as received with only spelling or grammar errors corrected and do not necessarily reflect the views of the organization or its officers. Any articles to be published in the Epitaph must be received by the 24th of the month. No unsigned articles will be accepted for publication.

River Junction Shootist Society

PO Box 185

Donegal, PA 15628

