



KINGS RIVER GAZETTE

www.kingsriverregulators.com

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Upcoming Annual Shoots

Dry Gulch at Arroyo Cantua
August 21-24

Ambush at Durham Ferry
September 4-7

John Wayne Shootout
September 11-14

Gunfight at Adobe Walls
September 26-28

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA RANGE WAR III



This year the John Wayne Shootout will also play host to the Central California Range War.

Last year, the Chorro Valley Regulators sent a short stack squad to the Shootout at Fort Miller and stole the coveted Singing Cowboy Outhouse Trophy from under our noses.

My fellow Kings River Regulators, we cannot let this await go unanswered.

We've heard those lowdown dogs at 5 Dogs are planning on taking that trophy home with them and the shorebirds at CVR want to keep it. Well, we want it back where it belongs...Fort Miller.

It's time to gird your loins, sharpen your eye, get your trigger finger twitching and ride, boldly ride, to the John Wayne Shootout and glory.

For those new to this phe-

nomenon, each of the central California cowboy action shooting clubs has their members who attend a designated match, this year John Wayne, randomly selected per stage to represent their club. No shooter knows which stage they will be scored on as it is done in the background of the main match, but bragging rights are on the table and we can talk dirt better than anyone.

AS THE ROOSTER CROWS

Two Toe Bill Quickshot gave us a little something different for a match. Decisions to be made as to which targets to shoot and some sweeps that had a different twist to them. Lots of movement and many bonus targets were a challenge for all; a bag of

gold to carry and a pot full of beans to transport to three different shooting positions gave everyone lots of fun and many comments. Great job **Bill**.

Sheriff **Ramrod** took the one-half second per spilt bean penalty for a total of 40 seconds. That is a lot of beans!

Hats off to the posse leaders **Ramrod**, **Geo Kid** and **Two Toe Bill Quickshot**.

Wobblin Bob seemed to be able to handle all of the challenges a little quicker than everyone AND he was able to shoot smooth and clean for the match. (Cont page 2)

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Monthly Matches*1st Weekend*

FRPC Silhouette and Long Range
5 Dogs Creek

2nd Weekend

Chorro Valley

3rd Weekend

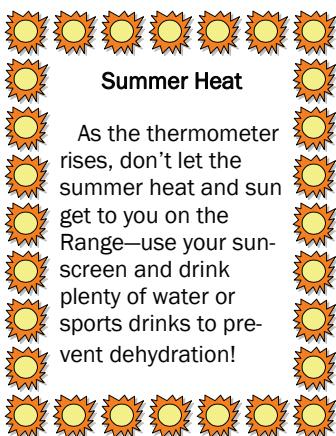
Kings River Regulators

4th Weekend

Two Rivers Posse
Manteca
Faultline Shootists
Gonzales

5th Weekend

Chorro Valley

**Summer Heat**

As the thermometer rises, don't let the summer heat and sun get to you on the range—use your sun-screen and drink plenty of water or sports drinks to prevent dehydration!

FROM THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR

It seems that cross draws are a controversial topic just about everywhere you go. I can't remember when I've attended a pre-match safety meeting that didn't include the Safety Officer saying something about the cross draws.

Enforcement of the cross draw rules range from the Dr Spock (Ultra Liberal) to the Attila the Hun (Ultra Conservative). It seems that everyone does not have the same view or understanding of the rules when it comes to a cross draw holster. Wearing, drawing from and returning to a cross draw holster should not be as controversial as it is.

What do the rules say about holsters in general?

All handguns must be carried in a safe holster capable of retaining the firearm throughout a normal range of motion. Main match holsters must be located one on each side of the belly button and separated by at least the width of two fists at the belt. (Note: Pocket pistol and Derringer holsters are not "main-match" holsters.) Holsters may not depart from the vertical by more than 30 degrees when worn.

It seems to be pretty clear that the shooter must have a holster for the handgun, and that holster **MUST** be worn to one side of the belly button. For the normal person, that means that a holster worn in the "crotch" is directly under the belly button, so therefore is being worn illegally.

It then says that the holster may not depart from the vertical more than 30 degrees **WHEN WORN!** I guess that if you have it on, it is being worn. Seems like the person wearing the holster would have to stand straight up for an angle measurement to be made.

The rule book talks about Muzzle direction in this rule:

"Muzzle direction is important between, before, during, and after shooting a stage. A muzzle must not be allowed to "sweep" the other participants at any time. Long guns shall have their actions open with chambers and magazines empty and muzzles pointed in a safe direction when transported at a match. Failure to manage safe muzzle direction is grounds for disqualification from the stage, and for repeated offenses, from the match."

I think that we all know this rule, but.... some of us don't seem to realize that this rule refers to hand guns that are **NOT** holstered or long guns that are not in a carrier. What about the dreaded "Breaking the 170 degree rule"?

Extreme care must be exercised when drawing a revolver from a cross-draw or shoulder holster or returning the revolver to leather. The user must

"twist" their body, if necessary, to ensure the muzzle never breaks the 170-degree safety rule during the process. Failure to ensure the muzzle is always down range is grounds for an immediate stage disqualification. A second infraction during the same match is grounds for match disqualification. (Note: The 170-degree safety rule means the muzzle of the firearm must always be straight down range +/- 85 degrees in any direction. If a competitor "comes close" to breaking the 180-degree safety plane, the 170-degree safety rule has been violated, and the competitor is at fault.)

Note that the reference to the "Twist", is followed by "if necessary". It may very well **NOT** be necessary to do the twist or the dance. Some ROs watch the shooters feet or his/her backside to determine if the shooter broke the 170 while using a cross draw holster. This is **NOT** an accurate or an acceptable method of making that determination.

So.... just when is a handgun considered "Holstered", and when is the 170 degree broken. For the purpose of the 170 degree rule, the handgun is considered holstered as soon as the **MUZZLE IS IN THE HOLSTER!**

If the shooter starts the muzzle of the handgun into the holster while that muzzle is inside the 170 degree point, and then turns, bringing the holster to or outside of the 170 degrees point while pushing the handgun further into the holster, then that shooter **HAS NOT** broken the 170 degree rule. **AGAIN...** the muzzle **MUST** have been started into the holster before the 170 degree was broken.

This is a very important point, and one which is often overlooked. If the shooter is to be given a DQ for breaking the 170 degree while re-holstering the handgun, then it must be known for sure that the **MUZZLE** of the hand gun actually broke the 170 degree before it was started into the holster. This should apply to any and all handgun re-holstering.

It should also be noted that shooters using a straight up strong side holster break the 170 degree as often as those using a cross draw. When they turn to move and re-holster their handgun, they very often let the muzzle of the gun get outside of the 170 degree.

If both the shooter and the RO will pay particular attention to the muzzle of the handgun, its angle and when it gets started into the holster, we will be able to bring some balance to this issue.

Also remember what the book says about being an RO... "Don't be a hardass". If you are ROing and see a shooter that is coming close to the 170 degree point, offer them some advice that will help them to get that muzzle started into the holster while they are still in the "Safety Zone".
Snakebite

RAMROD'S MUSINGS

From the Pokey

An incident that happened this month forces us all to understand where the 170 is and the rules for unsafe gun handling.

A shooter was having trouble with their '97 shotgun and set the loaded shotgun vertically on the shooting position table. While trying to figure out the problem the trigger was pulled and the shotgun went off. The RO called a **Stage Disqualification**, the shooter thought it should be a **Minor Safety** but the book says **Match Disqualification**.

Everyone, RO's, shooters and posse members should know the rules for safe gun handling. When in doubt, look it up or ask **Ramrod** or **Snakebite**

Cowboy Logic

Bear River Tom Smith

1830 - 1870

Thomas J. Smith, a worker on the first transcontinental railroad, quelled a riot in Bear River City, Wyoming, in 1868. He earned the nickname "Bear River Tom" and became a railroad troubleshooter.

After serving as town marshal of Greeley, Colorado, Smith accepted a similar position in the wild cattle town of Abilene, Kansas. Smith was known for refusing to use a gun, even during dangerous situations. Once he marched up to a burly fellow known as Wyoming Frank who held a gun on him. Unflinching, the two-fisted Smith slugged Wyoming Frank, then pistol-

shipped him with his own gun.

But after only six months on the job, Marshal Smith was shot in the chest while trying to make an arrest. After a furious struggle with the shooter, Smith was finished off with an ax. Abilene's next marshal would be a two-gun fighter—Wild Bill Hickok.

Thomas J. Smith

Marshal of Abiliene, 1870.

Died, a Martyr to Duty Nov. 2 1807.

A Fearless Hero of Frontier Days Who In Cowboy Chaos Established the Supremacy of Law

Bronze plaque in Abilene cemetery



Time Change

Summer hours are here. Registration is at 7:30, shooters meeting is at 8:00 and shooting starts at 8:30.

NEXT MONTH'S MATCH DIRECTORS

Sawdust Kid

Dude Tracker

Sierra Rider

Smokum Joe

Slick Rock Rooster

FANNIE'S SHARPSHOOTIN' AWARD

In honor of the Olympics, this month's Sharpshootin' Award goes to the fastest shooter out of the blocks on each Posse's first stage of the day:

Posse 1, Stage 1: **Sierra Rider** 33.56 (a no-Bonus stage)

Posse 2, Stage 3. **Wobblin Bob** 20.46 (includes Bonuses)

Posse 3, Stage 5 **Pocket Change** 23.53 (includes Bonus)

Congratulations to our KRR Olympians!



He was First Overall and tops in the Senior category, leading the rest of the field by twenty seconds.

It was great to see some faces we hadn't seen in quite a while. Welcome back to **Rogan Steele** and the Judge **Jeremiah Steele**, along with **Hoss-A-Round**.

For those of you that go on the SASS wire there is a great post discussing the "cross draw holster", the 170-degree rule. Our Territorial Governor, **Snakebite**, wrote the initial post, and it has been reprinted here on page 2. Many of the posts in response reflect the need for more posts of this

kind. Discussion of rules and their interpretation need to be administered to all participants. The more familiar everyone is with the rules of the game the easier it is to apply the rules.

SRR



❖ Our greatest glory consists not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

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Kings River Funny of the Day

Stage 2, the stage instructions say move from one position to the next remembering to take the bean pot with you. There will be a one-half second penalty for each spilled bean. **Ramrod** comes up to the line after admonishing his posse to not spill the beans, and lamenting about how hard it would be to spill said beans due to the bean pot only being half full. He shoots his first pistol, grabs the bean pot and sets it down for the rifle. Shoots the rifle and takes the pot to the next position for the second pistol. Sets down the bean pot and pulls the first pistol again. In the vain attempt to gain some lost time, he quickly shoves the empty pistol back in the holster and promptly knocks over the bean pot. After the counting and sorting, done every so lovingly by **Fannie**, he is assessed 40 bean-related penalty points. Yep, 80 beans were spilled.

I guess the starting line was closer to the truth than **Ramrod** wanted, "Not more durn beans".



Herb Bauer Sporting Goods

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10% discount on all shooting related merchandise to SASS members
Just show your SASS card

Western Warehouse

Shaw Avenue in Clovis
15% discount on all merchandise to Kings River Regulator members
Just show your KRR card



August Birthdays

Sudden
Smokie Irons
Slick Rock Rooster
Texas Daddy
Rogan Steele
Slipknot Dave
Dude Tracker
Fargo
Hoss-A-Round
Yancy Darringer