

◆Kings River Gazette◆

Volume 4 Issue 11 The official publication of the Kings River Regulators November 1999

ELECTION OF NEW KRR OFFICERS IN DECEMBER

IT'S TIME TO ELECT THE OFFICERS WHO WILL LEAD KRR INTO THE YEAR 2000. IF YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ELECTED TO A PARTICULAR POST, GET YOUR NOMINATIONS, IN WRITING, TO COLE CHANCE BY THE 12TH OF DECEMBER SO THAT BALLOTS CAN BE PREPARED.

POSITIONS UP FOR ELECTION ARE:

MAYOR
SHERIFF
BLACKSMITH
BANKER
SECRETARY

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME:
TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR

This position has to be a life member of SASS and someone who travels to other shoots.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE DECEMBER SHOOT, AS ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD FOLLOWING THE EVENT. THE LEADERSHIP OF THIS CLUB KEEPS THINGS ROLLING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. VOICE YOUR OPINION BY NOMINATING THE PEOPLE YOU THINK WOULD DO A GOOD JOB FOR THE CLUB AND THEN VOTING AT THE DECEMBER SHOOT.



Justice Comes to
the KRR
by: Cole Chance

This month's match director was Justice Loving. Those of you that stayed home because of the threat of bad

Officers

Mayor: Cole Chance (Leon Chism)
673-7416
SASS #8243 KRR #26
Sheriff: Joaquin Rivers (Richard Ramos)
435-6483
SASS #11912 KRR #46
Blacksmith: Buckskin (John Dotts)
855-2713
SASS #12434 KRR #47
Banker: Jessie Montana (Barbara Chism)
673-7416
SASS # 8244 KRR #27
Sec/Editor: Ruthless Ruth (Ruth Polman)
251-9507
SASS #9015 KRR #37
Territorial Governor: Doc James (Eldon James)
675-1230
SASS #5061L KRR #08

weather, or whatever reason you had, missed one heck of a good match. The turnout for the November match was a little on the light side. That's too bad because this was a really nice match and the weather cooperated. Justice Loving worked hard and put on a well organized, fun match. Good job cowboy!

At this month's match we were visited by some folks from Colorado, Rusty Spur and Sassy Sal. Hope they enjoyed the KRR brand of shooting and hope they enjoyed their visit. It's always nice to see folks who come from a long distance stop by and shoot with us.

Welcome and congratulations to J.L. Hank, KRR's first graduate from the Goat Roper program to shooting with the big kids. I'd like to say that J.L. Hank will be a fine addition to our ranks. We may have to take volunteers from now on to start giving the poor boy a ride home when he starts beating Dad. Hey Hank - make sure J.L. Hank gets to use some of Needa's new brass she won at Fort Miller! We'll all be checking up on you.

December 5th is the next Silhouette Long Range Match. I would sure like to encourage all the KRR members who can to come up and shoot with these fine folks. This would be a way of saying thank you for all their help with Fort Miller '99 because without their help our long range event would not have been the great success that it was. We all own those long range guns, and this is just another place that we can play with our toys and also support those that support us. If you haven't tried this kind of shooting and didn't get a chance to do it at Fort Miller '99, this is a good time to give it a try. If you want more information about the match, give me a call.

Well, folks, it's election time again. All officer positions are open. Those

positions are: Mayor, Sheriff, Blacksmith, Secretary, and Banker. Remember, nominations must be submitted in writing to the Mayor before December 12th. This deadline is to allow us time to make up the ballots for voting at the December match.

This year we will be electing our Territorial Governor for the first time. In the past, this was an appointed position by the Mayor. The board has discussed making this position elected rather than appointed, and SASS has recently come out with a recommendation that the Governor be elected. Having the Governor elected by the KRR members means that everyone in the club has a say in who represents them in this very important position. Just a reminder that the Territorial Governor is the one who votes on the rules that affect your sport. This person should be someone who will represent the KRR in a knowledgeable way that reflects the view of this club.



Stepping up to the Plate

Well, I finally stepped up to the plate and designed a monthly match.

I hope everyone enjoyed the shooting scenarios, I got a kick out of putting them on. I want to thank all of the people who helped set up the event (and put up with all of the last minute changes!) Thanks to Madera Dave, Sutter Lawman, Terrible Ted, Ruthless Ruth, Joaquin Rivers, Roughcut, Miss Kitty, and Longbranch. You did a great job!

I have been wanting to take an opportunity to say how much I enjoy shooting with the KRR, and this is it. I have rarely met a nicer group of people. I am always impressed with your generosity and friendliness. Another reason that I enjoy belonging to the KRR is that it is an active club. It seems like every time I go to the range there is another prop, or

newer stuff, or some improvement from the last time I was there. It is a real tribute to you that the club is constantly improving. I thoroughly enjoyed the annual match, as did we all, and my son Buckshot (the best dressed four year old cowboy) had a ball with the egg race. Thanks for a wonderful time!

I guess I've blown enough sunshine for now, but I like being a member of this club.

I Love Justice, I'm Justice Loving

P.S. If you didn't like the November shoot, my name's Riverdale.



No Grounds For Complaint

BY: Longbranch

How many of us drink coffee in the mornings, or all day during the winter for that matter? Our cowboy shoots are filled with coffee drinkers, as the urns at our winter matches attest. Did you ever stop to wonder how we all came to drink so much coffee? When did America develop such a fondness for hot water passed through a bunch of crushed beans?

During the American Revolution, few Americans drank coffee, as it was a very expensive luxury. By 1860, coffee had caught on among the middle classes to some extent, and more so among the wealthy, but it was still a rather expensive luxury generally available only in large cities and ports where it was imported. Most Americans lived on farms and had never even heard of coffee, much less tasted it. Americans in 1860 consumed less than three pounds per person annually, and again, that was mostly the few who did drink coffee.

The Civil War changed all that, forever. The armies (and navies) of both sides quickly developed a taste for the strange new brew and the military ration increased accordingly, to 28 pounds per soldier per year, nearly ten times the pre-war consumption. A Union soldier issued his authorized 9 ounces of grounds per week could brew

the equivalent of 22 cups, about a pint of coffee per day. Confederate issue called for 21 pounds per soldier annually, but the Confederate supply only lasted until January 1862 due to the Yankee blockade. After that, the rebels had to make do with whatever substitutes they could find, which included parched corn or rye, chicory, dried apples, peanuts, and even sweet potatoes. None of these were very satisfactory, and several methods of obtaining the real article from their Northern opponents became quite common. The first was to loot the haversacks of Northern prisoners, and even the wounded and dead. Another method was to actually initiate a raid or other attack specifically to capture Yankee camps or supply depots. The most common however, was to trade with their opponents for it. Countless times two pickets would meet across a lonely stream, one sending over a ration of coffee, the other of tobacco. Throughout the war, soldiers drank coffee day and night, stopping briefly along a dusty or muddy road long enough to boil a small cup of water. Veterans soon learned to boil the water first, then dump in the grounds, so that if the march was resumed before the water was hot, the precious grounds would not be wasted. Nearly every man carried some sort of tin cup or can, often with a wire handle across the top from which to suspend it over a small fire with a stick. Green units could instantly be recognized by the bright, shiny cups they carried. Coffee pots were unheard of in veteran field units,

Due to insurance Company guidelines the following policy will go into effect August 1, 1999

All Shooters must sign up before 9:30 am. Every shooter must attend the shooters meeting, this is mandatory, no exceptions.

**Shooters this rule will be enforced
Cole Chance**

every man carrying his own cup blackened by countless fires the size of the palm of your hand.

When the war finally ended, the immediate result of hundreds of thousands of men becoming accustomed to drinking oceans of coffee was predictable. America found itself addicted to the brew. The nation's per-capita consumption of 3 pounds in 1860, increased to 5 pounds by 1866, and 8 pounds per-capita by 1880; a 166% increase in less than 20 years. By 1890, America was importing 400% more coffee than in 1862. Our coffee consumption has varied widely since then, but has never declined below the 1880 level. People of the 19th century were clear about why coffee had become America's drink of choice, and the reason had little to do with the Boston Tea Party. Soldiers both North and South had developed a need for it around many a dark and lonely campfire, amid miles of hardship, boredom or battle. Coffee had become one of the things that helped keep them going when little else could. It had picked them up when all seemed lost, and had sustained them on many a hard march or icy night of picket duty. When they returned to their farms, or moved west after the war, they took their fondness for coffee along wherever they went, and it has been intertwined with our history ever since.

The next time you brew a pot of coffee, reflect on how it came to be that you acquired a taste for it. Picture yourself around some lonely campfire on a dark and snowy night. Nearby a single sentry marches his solitary track. The only thing to keep you warm is your tattered uniform jacket, a single thin army blanket and a hot cup of coffee brewed from beans crushed with the butt of your musket. The study of history is not about reading a few facts in some old book, but in putting yourself in the place of people in the past, in trying to understand what it was like for them, as if you were there. Coffee connects us to our forebears of the 19th century in a tenuous way few other things can, because it is as important to us today as it was to them in ages past.

FOR SALE

Time-Life Books
"The Old West"

Complete set - 26 Vols.

\$150.00

Flatiron

432-3264



6 Gun Collapsible Gun Cart

\$75.00

Terrible Ted

251-9507



Places to Shoot

««««Monthly Matches»»»»

1 ST Sunday of Month

FRPC

Silhouette Range

Long Range

Shooting starts around 9:00 am and goes all day. Let's support these people, they really helped us on our Long Range at the Annual

1st Sunday of Month

5 Dogs Creek

Bakersfield

2nd Sunday of Month
Chorro Valley Regulators
San Luis Obispo
Need Directions? Call
Riley @ 805-489-4989

2 nd Saturday of Month
California Rangers
Sign up 8:30-9:00
Shooting starts at 9:30
for more info call
Harry Love
209-223-0316

THE MUSSEL SLOUGH TRAGEDY

In 1865 Southern Pacific was contracted to build the railroad south from San Francisco to Los Angeles and San Diego. They received grants of land along the proposed route. In 1868 the contract was taken over by Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker, Collis Huntington and Mark Hopkins, builders of the Central Pacific.

The new owners did not take title to the lands right away, but invited settlers to build farms there and declared: "If the settler desired to buy, the Company gives him the first privilege of purchase at the fixed price, which in every case shall only be the value of the land, without regard to improvements. The lands are offered at various figures from \$2.50 and up per acre. Most is for sale at from \$2.50 to \$5.00."

Settlers settled at Mussel Slough, in Tulare County, located in the southern San Joaquin Valley. Some settled on public domain, but others chose to start their farms on nearby railroad lands, planning to buy the land at the cheap price the railroad offered at a later date. They worked hard, bringing water to the area and cultivating the land. By 1878 the land was rich in barley, wheat and fruit.

In 1878 the railroad took title to the lands and sent an appraiser in to fix a price for the land. William Clark, the appraiser, set the value of the land at \$25.00 to \$35.00 an acre. The settlers

sent letters to Charles Crocker reminding him that the railroad has promised to sell them the improved land for \$2.50 to \$5.00 an acre. The railroad refused to honor their promises and the settlers took them to court, the case was litigated for several years, and in the long run the railroad won and more than 200 families were evicted from their homes and land.

On May 11, 1880 William Clark, a railroad man, and a United States Marshal named Alonzo Poole, showed up at Henry Brewer's homestead to serve him with an eviction notice for the wheat field next to his homestead. Clark and Poole arrived in a buggy, armed with pistols and shotguns, on another farm wagon were two local customers of Clark's, Mills Hartt and Walter Crow. The wheat field was to be handed over to Crow, who had paid \$1,624 down on a purchase price of \$6,288. Crow and Hartt were armed with three pistols, a Spencer rifle and two shotguns

Waiting for them were 15 or more local settlers, all armed with pistols, who believed that they would be evicted next. The group was lead by James Patterson, who informed Poole that he would not be allowed to serve the eviction papers, and ordered him to surrender his pistol. Poole refused and Patterson assigned two settlers to guard Poole, a horse knocked Poole down, a shot rang out and in the next 30 seconds or so a farmer named James Harris died from four pistol shots in his abdomen, Hartt was mortally wounded, and Crow killed a man named Knutson and shot Daniel Kelly off his runaway horse with a shotgun blast in the back. Crow also killed Archibald McGregor and another settler named John Henderson. Six men lay dead. Crow ran into a field and was killed by an unknown assailant a mile and a half away on a bridge with a bullet wound in his back.

This gun battle could have taken place anywhere along many sections of railroad right of way in the west, but it took place on a piece of homesteaded property at the boarder of Tulare and Fresno counties in California and became known as the Mussel Slough Tragedy. Five of the settlers were

found guilty of obstructing a federal officer in the discharge of his duty and served 6 months in jail, and 200 settlers were evicted from their land.

Now I've told you this story because it is an interesting fact of California and Fresno and Tulare County history, and because a group of KRR cowboy's were asked by a documentary film maker, John Cabibi to help him reenact the Mussel Slough Tragedy. So one fine Saturday, Cole Chance, Wichita Willie, Terrible Ted, Madera Dave and Arkansas Mike met with John and his crew, Richard Popejoy, Michael Cabibi, John Capriola, and Roy "The Painter" Peterson and put the gun battle on film. Terrible Ted



Crow (Cole Chance) Hartt (Terrible Ted)

was the first killed, and Jessie Montana pleaded to be the one to shoot Cole Chance, but John had a script he was determined to stick to and in no time the project was done. Everyone involved had a great time, were treated to some good food and drink by John and heard about a piece of history some of us knew nothing about.

Ruthless Ruth



Crew & film maker left to right Terrible Ted, Roy "The Painter" Peterson, Richard Popejoy, John (the film maker), Michael Cabibi, Cole Chance, Madera Dave, Arkansas Mike, and John Capriola. Wichita Willie must have got camera shy.



Heard Round the Corral

Had one of our Goat Ropers move up to Junior Class at Novembers shoot. J. L. Hank shot his first match as a Junior Shooter and did real well. He's got his sights set on beating Hank, and we all wish him well.

Only two shooters managed to shoot through the bonus card standing on edge Sunday. Good shooting Hoss and Hank.

Not everyone stayed after the shoot for the prize drawing, so for those who left early, just wanted to let you know T-Bone's number was drawn for the losers award. Congratulations cowboy.

Hank says Needa's still picking pie out from behind her ears.

Someone on Posse 2, won't say who, but you know who you are, came mighty close to getting a procedural for trying to give the dead guy at the undertakers place mouth to mouth. Cole Train had to ask more than once if the shooter was ready.

Had two shooters, Rusty Spur and Sassy Sal, from Ft. Collins, Colorado shooting with us Sunday. Hope you had fun folks, glad to have you visit with us. (And the guys from Porterville thought they had to get up early to make the shoots!)

Ruthless Ruth



**KRR
MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
DUE BY
12/31/99
MEMBERSHIP \$20
FAMILY \$40**

Kings River Regulators
MATCH FINAL OVERALL STANDINGS
STAGES 1 thru 4

MATCH FINAL ALIAS	CLASS	< STAGE 1 >		< STAGE 2 >		< STAGE 3 >		< STAGE 4 >		<-- TOTALS -->	
		TIME	RNK	TIME	RNK	TIME	RNK	TIME	RNK	TIME	PNTS
1. LONGBRANCH #12433 T	51.01	2	48.76	2	66.42	6	42.38	1	208.57	11	
2. JESSIE MONTANA # 8244 W	55.66	3	51.57	4	63.96	3	51.06	5	222.25	15	
3. T-BONE #23708 T	75.55	15	40.07	1	56.62	1	49.44	3	221.68	20	
4. COLE CHANCE # 8243 T	70.70	10	57.99	9	63.54	2	53.41	6	245.64	27	
5. PORTUGUESE PHILLIP #17510 T	48.86	1	48.78	3	73.76	10	60.23	15	231.63	29	
6. COAL TRAIN # 8146 T	62.65	5	52.45	6	69.81	8	58.40	11	243.31	30	
7. JOAQUIN RIVERS #11912 T	64.97	6	66.29	13	79.84	14	43.89	2	254.99	35	
8. HANK # 7369 D	61.96	4	58.58	10	103.86	23	50.80	4	275.20	41	
9. SHILOH #17515 T	66.44	7	72.01	16	65.83	5	61.02	16	265.30	44	
10. TERRIBLE TED # 9014 S	72.26	12	53.61	7	73.69	9	66.08	19	265.64	47	
11. MADERA DAVE # 5929 D	76.98	16	56.08	8	65.51	4	66.34	20	264.91	48	
12. GOOD HANDS #**020 T	91.76	20	52.05	5	79.01	13	55.84	10	278.66	48	
13. TEN BEARS #18407 D	104.44	24	58.96	11	65.83	5	54.10	8	283.33	48	
14. HOSS # 9565 D	72.25	11	61.38	12	82.58	18	58.66	12	274.87	53	
15. RUSTY SPUR #**022 S	75.41	14	66.84	14	81.87	16	54.98	9	279.10	53	
16. FLATIRON # 7983 T	80.94	17	73.05	18	69.73	7	59.21	13	282.93	55	
17. TWO-TOE BILL QUICK #25358 D	67.60	9	74.63	20	84.33	19	60.14	14	286.70	62	
18. BUCKSKIN #12434 S	67.11	8	78.35	22	74.02	11	69.17	21	288.65	62	
19. GEEZER #11911 T	98.72	22	73.56	19	93.08	21	53.71	7	319.07	69	
20. KODIAK PETE #16560 T	100.60	23	68.59	15	82.14	17	62.53	17	313.86	72	
21. RUTHLESS RUTH # 9015 W	96.96	21	87.84	26	78.92	12	76.34	22	340.06	81	
22. ROUGCUT # 8464 T	84.74	19	72.05	17	86.03	20	91.51	27	334.33	83	
23. TOELESS JOE # 8608 S	74.61	13	83.22	25	93.89	22	87.38	26	339.10	86	
24. SUTTER LAWMAN #24333 D	111.21	28	98.19	27	80.57	15	82.98	24	372.95	94	
25. 3 FINGERS RED LABE # 9218 D	108.16	26	78.61	23	106.71	25	86.58	25	380.06	99	
26. JUSTICE LOVING #**003 T	84.71	18	103.71	29	139.34	29	81.21	23	408.97	99	
27. JL HANK #**021 J	149.05	31	79.44	24	120.15	28	64.29	18	412.93	101	
28. LITTLE ELK #18403 W	118.26	29	75.81	21	104.00	24	99.18	28	397.25	102	
29. JED COOPER #**024 D	110.28	27	99.93	28	109.17	27	105.52	29	424.90	111	
30. KEEBLER KID #**012 J	105.03	25	127.04	31	108.18	26	112.77	31	453.02	113	
31. BEARPAW # 7559 S	173.16	33	108.34	30	145.24	30	111.71	30	538.45	123	
32. SASSY SAL #**023 W	135.16	30	143.63	33	178.71	33	137.82	32	595.32	128	
33. KODIAK SUE #19618 W	193.04	34	136.00	32	159.15	31	149.66	34	637.85	131	
34. TUOLUMNE LAWMAN # 6127 BP	168.91	32	164.54	34	175.83	32	149.25	33	658.53	131	

LONG RANGE

Single Shot

- 1 st Longbranch
- 2 nd Two-Toed Bill Quickshot
- 3 rd Joaquin Rivers
- 4 th Buckskin

GOAT ROPERS

- 1 st Sasparilla Kid