



Squinter's Comments
A Cold December Shoot

Congratulations to all the brave cowboys and cowgirls that came out and shot the December match. It was cold, but no rain. Fun was had by all. Some people's brains were cold, others had cold fingers and everybody had to wear a coat. What better fun can you have on a cold winter day? We missed the ones that were not there. The next shoot will start a new year. We have a little work to do to the range before the April three day so be prepared to put aside a work day or two in February and March. I would very much like to get everything in place before the first of April, so we do touch up things at the last minute. January is also the starting of a new year where changes can take place. We will have a member meeting after the match in January (providing it is not extremely cold). It is time to elect club officers. All positions are subject to change. If you want to run for a position or make a nomination please let me know well in advance of the match. It is also the time to amend By Laws and make changes to the way we do things. Anything you want to be on the meeting agenda, let me know in advance of the meeting. It has been suggested that all new members take a ROI course during there first year shooting with us. This needs discussing. Harpe has said he wants to step down as Editor, Paperchaser is in the running for new Editor. All other officer positions are unchallenged as far as I know. If this is not correct let me know. Merry Christmas to all. Have a safe and Happy New Year.

Squinter



Editor's December Comments

Not only cold, there was a light drizzle when I opened the gate. Doc, Squinter, Bar E. Bull, Homewood, Neck and others rolled on in about 7:20 and we made short work of *range setup*.

Dead Eye said I left his name out when I gave credits for the berm wall erection work crew. Doc ran the drill with the long drill bits.

Dead Eye Doc and Freestate were posse marshals. As you can see from the score sheet, we had an array of stages from short and sweet to longer thinking required stages. The rain never happened and we had a good day.

Dinner, chicken was fine but I had my mind on the ribs we often get. We had chocolate cake and lemon pie with thick white topping for dessert. I had one piece... I was offering \$2 to anyone for their slice. Diamond Lilly (little red hen of Purgatory) made the pies and cakes. Even the layabouts and do-nuthins get pie at Purgatory. Both were excellent.

Toilets. Katrina relocated what we had. I talked to Squinter to claim some dollars for a new facility. Targets always get the money. Squinter wants a new pavilion dinning area. Fleetwood says the old location is too far. The facility has to have running water, flush, a place to wash your face with potable water etc. Get your work clothes ready.

Safety issues are discussed each month. On the wire is a true story about a dead man...he shot himself in the stomach practicing gun fighter they think? They don't know if he is a SASS member. You loosen your grip when you flip the barrel up to hook the hammer with a thumb?? A slip and the trigger will rotate on your finger and the barrel points to your stomach or someone else. It is also easy to send a round down range over the berm with a high accidental discharge. Even riskier for little hands or weak hands.

There is *an article in the new chronicle*, didn't have anything to do with this death, it discourages letting non SASS members shoot at the ranges or at the shoot. It's worth reading and thinking about. It sez we are all better off if people join SASS and read the rules from a legal and safety standpoint. How can anyone disagree?

Harpe



Louisiana State Championship Match

Harpe's Travel Report

Whitey, Free State, Shortstuff, Fleetwood Mac, Parson lucky Delacroix , W.D.Brand, I'm Saved, Dead Off Dave #1, and I traveled to shoot with the Cypress Creek Gang near West Monroe. I called Parson lucky because he bought one raffle ticket...and he won a new Kirkpatrick leather rig...can anyone be so lucky. I said Dead Off Dave #1 because he won it all in a big way beating a bunch of well knowns.

You don't see cypress at their range; the land is high and rolling. I saw a well groomed road into the range, concrete gravel rolled in so smooth my cart didn't bounce and I didn't stumble. A new business house for the score keeper, a new covered pavilion, new stage buildings ...it looked like Santa had given them their wish list. The people were friendly, I never heard a complaint. They have a large camping area and it was covered in motor homes and travel trailers.

They had metal barrels filled with oak fire wood all along the firing line. Near the pavilion they dug a large pit and they kept it full of oak logs and hot coals, no one had to go far to warm up.

There were Texans, Oklahomans, and many Louisiana friends. The main man Ed Seiker was there, approximately 120 shooters with family members attended. The food was plentiful and convenient. The Boy Scouts earned near \$700 in gratuity for gathering brass and working.

The first thing I looked for was a stage book. They were being printed. First impression was ...not having a stage book would be a problem. Things got underway, we moved to the first stage. Free State (posse leader, Black Toe Whitey assisted) read the stage and we started. Our posse decided not to shoot in the standard lineup. Fleetwood wanted to shoot first and did so each stage. The only drawback was the score keeper had to learn the names...this proved to be no problem. People too nervous to shoot first were able to see the stage shot and relax. Everyone was experienced and everyone pitched in when needed.

The stages were all different, lots of movement, yet no one was confused. No story line.....stage instructions posted at each stage. We shot sweeps left to right, Nevada sweeps, 1-1-1-2-2 on pistol, 1-2-2-3-3-3-4-4-4-4 and 1-1-1-2-2-3-3-3-4-4- on rifle. All different...nothing complicated...no penalty by luck of draw etc.

After the first stage, no one on our posse cared about the stage book. It was a straight up shootem up. We had a good time. It was a great match. Dead Off Dave won overall, Free State, Shortstuff, and Parson Won their class, I'm Saved won a buckle. Whitey came within 2 misses of a buckle.

Matt and the work crew kept it relaxed and enjoyable. The announcements were short and informational. The range was picture perfect. Other than a berm between each stage which few places have, the range is complete in every way. I'll go back every chance I get.

Harpe



Ignoring Trouble

I felt so good; I ignored a habitual complainer I recognized from several previous matches. He is not from Cypress Creek. I was determined to keep the good buzz I had going from two good days of shooting and nice people.

Senior Olympics

Got a call, they wanted to know if we wanted to keep the Senior Olympics shoot again this year. Last year everyone participated for free in the Senior Olympics. It cost \$20 extra to shoot in the Senior Olympics. Squinter was concerned that most people would not want to pay the match fee plus the extra \$20. Every one age 50 and older needs to give some feedback quick if you want to participate or not.

Exit

Per Squinter's comments, I asked Paperchaser to try his hand as Editor. He agreed a few months ago to give it a whirl if you vote him in. Anyone can run and should run if they have an interest. I look forward to seeing a fresh new format. From the beginning, my focus was always on the workday people that built the range. The liberties I took with the facts at times were never intended to deceive. Along the way I offended some. I appreciate the tolerance afforded me.

harpe

