

The Sentinel

vol 4 Annual Review

Newsletter of the **Valdosta Vigilance Committee**

December 2005

The Year in Review

This year we were able to hold eleven cowboy matches. April's match was flooded out. While the Hurricanes of the summer threatened us, we were able to hold our shootouts in spite of them. It seemed that several times, the rain was threatening and the water rising soon after we finished our match, and the range was under water for two weeks. It seemed to recede in time to dry out enough for a match. After the rains stopped, and some of the beaver dams blown up, the range has stayed fairly dry during the fall. We finally upgraded the storefront props by making the doorways and windows much more accommodating to grown men. The addition of staging shelves in the windows have helped us, as well. We have been able to add a couple of reactive targets (auto-poppers) and some other interesting additional targets. We have been able to provide a variety of scenarios, thanks to a variety of targets (poppers, pigeon flippers, and whirligig target). We had 46 different cowboys and cowgirls shoot in our matches this year, with the largest posse being twenty-four – the July shootout.

Match Winners

We had *three* different cowboys win matches this year:

- ✍ January – **Sorgum**
- ✍ February – **High Ransom**
- ✍ March – **Yancey James**
- ✍ April – *Mother Nature*
- ✍ May – **High Ransom**
- ✍ June – **High Ransom**
- ✍ July – **High Ransom**
- ✍ August – **Sorgum**
- ✍ September – **High Ransom**
- ✍ October – **High Ransom**
- ✍ November – **High Ransom**
- ✍ December – **High Ransom**

Clean Shooters

We had only *six* shooters shoot clean this year:

- ✍ **Aucilla Fugitive**
- ✍ **Pepper**
- ✍ **Chickasaw County Kid**
- ✍ **Sorgum**
- ✍ **Ethan Sackett**
- ✍ **Bank Floyd**

Empty Stocking Fund

The proceeds from the December Christmas Shootout were donated to the Valdosta *Empty Stocking Fund*. We donated \$100.00 to the fund. Thanks to all the cowboys who came out and participated in this Christmas Shootout, which supported a very worthy cause here in Valdosta.

Annual Membership - Dues

The time to pay dues for 2006 is upon us. The dues schedule is as follows:

- ✍ Regular - \$20.00
- ✍ Junior - \$10.00
- ✍ Family - \$30.00

Please fill out a membership application (available on the website, or mailed to you). You may bring it with you to the January 2006 shootout, or mail it in.

January Shootout

The shootout in January will be held on January 14, 2006, with the safety meeting beginning at 9:00am. The fee for this shoot will be \$15, \$10 for juniors (or \$5 with a paid adult). We will have (perhaps not the same old) 5 scenarios, with some added attractions:

- ✍ **Lunch** – hamburgers and hot dogs provided. If some of the shooters would like to provide side dishes, desserts, etc., they would be greatly appreciated. There are a limited number of chairs, so

you might consider bringing your own.

- ✍ **Special Annual Awards**
- ✍ After-lunch **side matches** to include a Cowboy Clays, Buffalo shoot, and a top gun shootout.

Buffalo Shoot side match

Bring an extra box or two of shotgun shells. We plan to use the wobble trap.

Buffalo Shoot side match

The Buffalo Side match will entail 10 rounds, 5 at 100 yards, and 5 at 150 yards, standing, offhand. The buffalo targets are approximately 18" tall and 24" long. Acceptable rifles are single shot, lever action, or slide action, shooting **lead** bullets at velocities of *no more than 1400 fps*. These rifles must have open or receiver sights of the period, and exposed hammer. You may use your Winchester or Marlin 30-30's if you like, as long as the ammunition is appropriate. 45-70's are also allowed. You may also use your pistol-caliber cowboy rifles.

Top-Gun side match

The top-gun side match will be a man-on-man competition, using rifle, shotgun, and one pistol, all staged on a table, single elimination. The winner is the last man (or woman) standing. (Bring lots of ammo!)

Monthly Shootouts

Beginning with the February 2006 shootout, the monthly shootouts will be held on the first Saturday of each month, starting at 9:00am. We will plan to shoot five scenarios, trying to finish in time to get lunch at one of the local eating establishments. This will allow several shooters to shoot our match and one of the other nearby matches held on second Saturdays.