

Special 50th Edition: The Mountain Valley Echo

*News from the
Mountain Valley Vigilantes
Hot Springs, Arkansas*

**A SASS affiliated club
(www.sassnet.com)
And a division of the
Mountain Valley Sportsman's
Association**

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COWBOY SPRING TIME IN JANUARY

By Tim Metcalf / Willy Fire

Well the Vigilantes / Cowboy Action Shooters had another excellent event in January. Saturday was much more like spring weather than the dead of winter and then Sunday was a WOW day. Who would have thought we would reach nearly 70 degrees in January.

We had a total of 48 shooters on Saturday and 1 new shooter. There was quite a large turn out of new spectators. The interest in our Cowtown seems to keep growing by the month and it is really exciting to see new faces that are potential new members for our club!

A total of 5 stages were shot on Saturday and for the first time ever we had a total of **FOUR** cowboys shoot a clean match on Saturday. Not a single miss! Congratulations to Wild Big Bill, Roadmaker, Des Arc and Sundown Duke on their hard earned clean matches. This is Des Arc's second clean match in the last few months! Christmas Kid had rearranged some of the targets and with so many people shooting clean matches don't be surprised to see some difficulty added in the near future!

As the scores were being tallied we had a Team Fun Match. Shooters on 3 different stages firing in sequential order; was very exciting to observe!

We had 12 shooters come back on Sunday for even more cowboy fun. Those of you that have not stayed over and shot on Sunday don't know what a FUN time you are missing. The atmosphere is a little more laid back and everyone just seems to really enjoy themselves even more than on Saturday. Try to make plans to come back on Sunday soon.

The workday that was held on Friday before our shoot really made an impact. A big old cowboy "yee haw" and "thank you" to all those that gave up their time to attend the workday. Several comments were made about how good the range looked!

Our new grill was put to the test as our new Cowboy Chef "Missy" provided an excellent lunch of ham, hash brown casserole, beans and cornbread! Thank you to Missy for all her hard work!

After the shoot on Saturday we had a large number of people that stayed around enjoying each other's company. We had such a great time visiting that 24 of us all went to dinner at Roland's Barbecue and had a great

time. Boy what a great group of friends you can make when playing cowboys!

Those of you that receive The Cowboy Chronicle from S.A.S.S. be sure and read your January issue. Our "Shootin' in the Shade" event from this past September had a really informative article published in the internationally read newspaper. This is great publicity for our club. We had photos of the shoot which included Christmas Kid receiving his Regulator badge and our website was mentioned as well.

The Cowboy Long Range Rifle will be postponed until the 3rd Saturday in **March**.

If you have not already done so, please remember that everyone wishing to continue to receive the newsletter needs to send their current e-mail address to: Dogtown Dave davidlhouse@hotmail.com

Top Ten Shooters for Saturday Jan. 5

10. Deadeye Duke
9. Roadmaker
8. Bulldog McGraw
7. Kiamichi Queen
6. Lightfinger Louie
5. Buster
4. Headstone Hunter
3. Tombstone Shadow
2. The Brisco Kid
- 1. Lie-N-Dog**

The winning team for the Team Fun match consisted of Lie-N-Dog, Wild Big Bill and Tombstone Shadow.

The top 3 after Sunday's shoot were:
Men: 1st The Brisco Kid, 2nd Buster, 3rd Christmas Kid

Women: 1st Kiamichi Queen, 2nd Sunny Girl, 3rd Shoot Fire

RECORD BOOK: ALL NEW FOR 2008

Train: 1st Christmas Kid, 2nd Buster, 3rd Headstone Hunter

Corral: 1st The Brisco Kid, 2nd Roadmaker, 3rd The Russian

Stage Line: 1st Lie-n-Dog, 2nd The Brisco Kid, 3rd Kiamichi Queen

Bank: 1st Lie-n-Dog, 2nd Rowdy Bob, 3rd Buster

Saloon: 1st Lie-n-Dog, 2nd Tombstone Shadow, 3rd Lightfinger Louie

Naildriver better watch out this year. A member of the dog pound is out for the record book this year!

Congratulations to Tim Metcalf for his article about Shoot'n in the Shade 2007 printed in this month Cowboy Chronicle!

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

There will be an RO1 class held at the Rifle Range Educational building on January 19, 2008, at 10:00 AM. Any one who has not already signed up and is interested, please contact Deadeye Duke, Ozark Outlaw or Bulldog Mcgraw. Cost is \$10. Bring a lunch!!

There will also be a new shooters school the same day and time at the Cowboy School House. Any one not signed up contact Christmas Kid or Bulldog Mcgraw. Bring a lunch!!

January and February Long Range Rifle Cancelled

**Next Cowboy Shoot
February 2nd, 2008**

From Panther Valley to Mountain Valley

History of the Mountain Valley Vigilantes

By Dogtown Dave

In 2001, there were a handful of Cowboys shooting at Panther Valley Ranch (right down the road from Mountain Valley). They were looking for a permanent home to build and enjoy a Cowboy Action Shooting Range. Little did they know that they would soon be founding the Mountain Valley Vigilantes and begin building and enjoying a premiere old west shooting range located on a portion of eighty beautiful acres owned by the Mountain Valley Sporting Association.

The first Cowboy shoot was held at the new location in August, 2001. "We set up targets on the IDPA range up the hill from present Cowtown. We had enough targets and space to set up two or three portable stages," said Christmas Kid, one of the original shooters. "I believe we had a total of seven shooters. We were a pretty small group."

"In order to be allocated land by MVSA, we needed ten members. We could come up with six for sure, so we signed up four additional members that we thought would be interested." So, with ten members in hand, the group was assigned a small spot down the hill from the IDPA range.

The first work day was February 16, 2002. "We started out with a hillside that was nothing but a thicket. Powder Creek was out of its banks," Christmas said.

"I was able to borrow a bulldozer from a man named Bud. He could loan it to us for a couple of weeks. So, we got busy moving brush, trees, and dirt. Bud ended up leaving the dozer for three months. It was still a lot of work, but it was great to have the use of the dozer."

The creek was rerouted and the hotel was the first permanent stage built followed by the jail, livery stable, and boot hill. The first shoot in Cowtown was June 1, 2002. Twelve shooters participated. Targets were made by Christmas Kid out of a donated 4 X 8 piece of steel. "That's one of the reasons some of our targets are small. I was trying to get as many targets out of the material as possible," Christmas said. The next stages added were the bank and gallows in late '02 or early '03, followed by the stage line and MVV corral in February and June, 2004. The major addition of the pavilion/depot was completed in June, 2004, as well. At the first "Shootin' in the Shade" in 2004, two temporary stages were added: Mountain Valley Mercantile and Deadeye Optical. Boothill was moved in the spring of '05 (You should have seen Deadeye and Christmas moving all those bones!) and Wolf Creek Mercantile and the Kiamichi Railroad were completed. 2006 saw the addition of the MV Schoolhouse complete with running water and indoor plumbing. Cowtown was uptown!

Along with all the work came a lot of fun. In February, 2003, there was the FBI shootout. June, 2003, was the first "Fun Shoot". November, '03, was the first cowboy workshop. March, 2004, was the first long range rifle match. 2004 was the first "Shootin' in the Shade." This event has grown from 74 shooters to 131 shooters in 2007. Regular shoots have grown from an average of 19 shooters in '03 to 46 in '07. The November, 07, regular shoot had 63 shooters. That's a lot of people having a lot of fun!

Along with the fun has come a lot of help. Folks have contributed time, materials, labor, and money. Everything from cleaning toilets, to digging ditches, to painting, to cooking food, to wrting scenarios, to building websites, to adjusting the weather. **Thanks to all who have helped build Cowtown!**