



# Gunsite Gazette

Mississippi River Rangers  
March 2010

## Club Calendar

### March

- 7 MSSA Sunday Match
- 13 MSSA Match
- 20 MSSA WB
- 20 MRR Set Targets  
Work Day
- 27 MRR Match

### April

- 4 MSSA Sunday Shoot
- 10 MSSA Shoot
- 17 MRR Set Targets
- 17 MSSA WB
- 24 MRR Shoot

## Jered's Cowboy Journal

Howdy Pards,

One of the best things about our newsletter is the opportunity we have to share with each other. Not just information about the club or SASS, but also about ourselves or things that we have learned. Even just cowboy history or things you may have discovered that you think others would enjoy or could benefit from. You don't have to be a board member to submit an article, you just have to have the desire to share. Captain Augustus needs to have articles by the 5th of the month to get them ready for publication, but other than that there is nothing keeping anyone who wants to submit an article from doing so.

This month I'm going to share something I have learned. You may agree with me and you may not. Over the last year I have been collecting the monthly scores and putting them in an Excel spreadsheet. I would then look at how I did that day and then look at where I would have finished with out any misses. I would look at how my rank points would change from stage to stage and where those adjusted rank points would have landed me without the misses for the match. Now I'm what you might call a slow learner sometimes. I guess that is a by-product of my stubborn nature. But do you know what I came to realize over time? I can't shoot fast enough to make up a miss. Sure, I've heard other cowboys say that, but until I could see it in black and white time after time it did not sink in. None of us, including 'Tater, can shoot fast enough to make up a miss when we are shooting against those of the same skill level. I figure that a miss is caused by rushing a shot maybe, a tenth or two tenths of a second. That one heartbeat that it takes to make sure you are on target. Remember, once you pull the trigger, that bullet is gone, you can't get it back. So I was getting pretty good at shooting a match with only one to maybe four misses. One miss is worse than four in my opinion. That's a discussion for another time. But that is five to twenty seconds per match. Depending on the stage one miss could move you up or down several rank



points for that stage. And moving up those rank points for a stage can move you up a place or two in the overall results.

One of my favorite Tom Selleck westerns is The Crossfire Trail which is based on a Louis L'Amour story. There is a scene where the "kid", J.T. is working on shoeing a horse and working pretty hard at filing down a shoe on a horse. The old timer Joe Gil shakes his head at the kid, seeing the effort he is putting into it.

"Better slow down young fella'," Joe says.

J.T. responds, "What difference does it make?"

Joe tells him "Well, see, if you take your time you get a more harmonious outcome."

I don't know about the rest of you, but I get a more harmonious outcome with no misses. I've only done it twice now at Byhalia, but those few heartbeats it took to be on target and shoot clean did not cost me any rank points in the overall results. I'll keep working at shooting clean until the speed starts to follow. There is a sense of pride that comes from shooting a clean match. And a certain amount of confidence from knowing that you can do it. "See, if you take your time you get a more harmonious outcome." So my advice, take your time, hit your target and get a more harmonious outcome. And if you're stubborn like me look at your scores from month to month. Look at where you would have ranked without the misses on a stage and then use those numbers to figure out where you would end up in the overall results. Most likely you would have moved up in the overall ranking by several places. Try it and see what your outcome is.

Vaya con Dios

Jered

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## Club News

Howdy Cowboys and Cowgirls,

A special thanks goes out to all the folks that came out and worked Saturday.

Our first workday was a huge success, We were able to scratch many items off our list.

EVERYONE contributed and it really shows.

Tentatively our next workday will be Saturday 3-20-10 as this is target set day.

Thanks

Taska Jim

"rr not tb"

# Around The Campfire With Mississippi Tom and Delta Betsy



I thought it was time to explore some history of folks who lived in yesteryear. While searching the internet, I came upon this interesting character and thought I would share his story with you. It's the story of Cherokee Bill.

## *Article Taken from the Wild Wild West Website*

["This is as good a day to die as any..." quote from Cherokee Bill, March 17, 1896, as he stepped into the courtyard at Fort Smith and saw the gallows.](#)

Crawford Goldsby (a.k.a. Cherokee Bill) was born at Fort Concho, Texas, on Feb. 8, 1876. One of my sources, has Bill being of mixed blood, being part white, Hispanic, and black. Another source has reported that Bill was of African, European and Indian ancestry. His father was a mulatto from Alabama. Bill was homeless at the age of seven when his parents separated. An old black woman, named Amanda Foster, took him in and raised him at Fort Gibson, I. T.

At age twelve, Goldsby shot and killed his first man. It was his brother-in-law, who told him to feed some hogs. Because of his age he was not prosecuted. As a teenager, Goldsby took to petty thievery. He got into fights regularly, and when he could not settle them with his fists, he would go for his guns. By the age of fifteen he had become an expert shot.

In 1894 he shot and wounded Jake Lewis while attending a dance at Fort Gibson. The two men had gotten into a fight over a woman, and as Goldsby was getting the worst of the fight.

He drew his six-gun and shot Luis. Goldsby didn't hang around to answer to the law, he took to the brush. He was charged with assault with intent to kill.

At the age of eighteen, a wanted man on the run, Goldsby fell in with some of the worst outlaws in the Indian Nations, William and James Cook. Goldsby was given the nickname "Cherokee Bill" by Bill Cook. He was with the Cook brothers when a posse cornered the three desperadoes near Tahlequah, I. T., in June of 1894. Lawmen had a warrant for the arrest of Jim Cook on a charge of larceny, but when they moved forward to arrest Cook, all three youths went for their guns. The outlaws were able to drive the lawmen back and they quickly mounted their horses and made a run for it, but the posse was hot on their heels. As they were being chased Cherokee Bill turned in his saddle and fired a shot that killed Deputy Sequoyah Houston.

After the fight with marshals at Tahlequah, Cherokee Bill used his sister's home, Maud Brown, to hide out from the law. Her husband, George Brown, a vicious drunkard, took a whip to Maud one day for not responding fast enough to his orders. While he was beating the woman, Cherokee Bill walked up behind him and shot him to death. He then rejoined the Cook brothers.

In the summer of 1894, Cherokee Bill robbed the railroad depot at Nowata, I. T. At the depot he shot and killed station agent Richard Richards as he went for his gun. Then, he waited on the platform for the next train to arrive. When it did, he ordered the express car to open up. When conductor Sam Collins opened the door, he ordered Bill to leave, at which point Bill shot him in the face and killed him. Then the brakeman came running down the platform, and Bill shot and wounded him. He then mounted his horse and rode away.

Deputy Marshal W. C. Smith learned that Bill was infatuated with Maggie Glass, a cousin of Isaac "Ike" Rogers, who had been a deputy for Smith on several occasions when posses were needed. Smith arranged for Roger's to lure Bill to Roger's home to meet the girl. Bill showed up at the Roger's the evening of Jan. 29, 1895, and after dinner, as the night wore on, he fell asleep. Rogers and a neighbor, Clifton Scales, jumped Bill as he laid asleep and tied him up and took him to Fort Smith.

On Feb. 26, 1895, Cherokee Bill was tried for the murder of Melton by jury before Judge Isaac Parker. He was found guilty. Judge Parker sentenced him to hang on June 25, 1895. Cherokee Bill seemed unconcerned about the sentence, and joked that no one would ever put a noose around his neck. His lawyer, J. Warren Reed, managed to file several appeals that delayed the execution date.

In the meantime, Bill was working on his "appeal". Sherman Vann, a trustee at the jail, had smuggled a six-gun into Bill, which he hid in a hole in the wall of his cell. On July 27, 1895, Bill attempted a jail break using the weapon. When the night guards came to lock the prisoners in their individual cells for the night, he jumped them. Guard Lawrence Keating reached for his gun and Bill shot him in the stomach. Keating wheeled and staggered down the corridor. Bill shot him again in the back. Other guards arrived and were able to keep Bill from escaping. In a spectacular gun battle that lasted several minutes, neither the guards were able to enter the jail nor was Bill able to leave his cell. Then another prisoner, Henry Starr, was able to convince the guard that he could enter the cell and bring out Bill if they promised not to shoot him. They reluctantly agreed, and Starr walked down the corridor and entered Bill's cell, then moments later reappeared with the disarmed killer.

Cherokee Bill was quickly tried for the murder of Keating. He was once again found guilty and sentenced to hang on Dec. 2, 1895. His lawyer once again filed several appeals, but the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the verdict in the Keating murder, and a execution date was set for

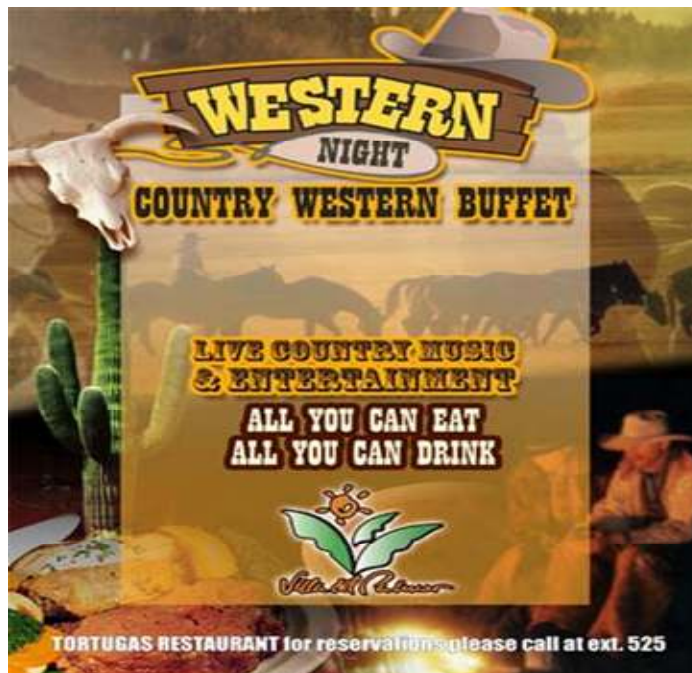
March 17, 1896. On March 17, 1896, Cherokee Bill was led from his cell to the gallows. As he stood on the gallows with a noose around his neck, he was asked if he had any final words, he said, "No! I came here to die, not make a speech." A moment later he was dead. His mother took his body to Fort Gibson to bury it.

And so, another cowboy tale. There are so many that one could spend all day reading tale after tale. Well, another day.....

This month, let's cook up some fried chicken, potato salad, assorted veggies and/or any kind of dessert that you might like to bring.

One last thing, don't forget about a cowboy's guide to life.....Always take a good look at what you're about to eat. It's not so important to know what it is, but it's critical to know what it was!

Have a great month and we'll see you at the social.



## Announcements

Talladega Tickets for the April 24-25, 2010 race.

4 Sprint Cup tickets \$120/ea.

4 Nationwide tickets \$50/ea.

3 Campsites - West B - \$75/each

Contact Rattlesnake Rowan (Steve Rowan) 901-484-6658

Any questions, please let me know.

Thanks!!!

Sweetwater Sage

and

Rattlesnake Rowan

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Would you please put in a mention for the Newsletter that there will be a gun show at the South-aven Arena on Hwy. 51 Saturday March 20, 9 -5, and Sunday, March 21 10-5

Thanks,

Rosebrook Kid russ0646@aol.com

## On the Trail with Capt. Augustus & Skip

Howdy Folks,

It seems like spring has sprung, at least a little. Last month's shoot was bright and sunny, but that wind was bitter.

I agree with Jered concerning misses, having done my fair share of them. During the last year, I decided to set a goal of shooting a clean match. I now have two badges from MSSA, one for a Wild Bunch Match, one from MRR and earned another at the February Match at MRR, even with those cursed bowlegged cowboy targets. I still can't finish first, but I have a goal in mind and something to shoot for.



I was talking to Lee the other day about a Cowboy Picture Directory for the club, either printed or online or both. It's an idea, so that folks can find a picture to match an alias. Let me know what you think about it.

It would be great if other folks in the club would send in articles, it would help fill up the Gazette and give the regulars a break. If you don't have Word or Works, you can just put it in an email and I'll move it around.

Send it to [rclifford384@bellsouth.net](mailto:rclifford384@bellsouth.net)

Well, that's about it for this month, take care and see you at a shoot.

The Gunsite Gazette is the official newsletter of the Mississippi River Rangers, whose address is: MRR, PO Box 942, Byhalia, MS 38611. You can reach Easy Lee or Casino Clair by telephone at 662-838-7451. By internet their email address is [rabitridge@aol.com](mailto:rabitridge@aol.com).

The editor is Capt. Augustus a.k.a. Ray Clifford. He can be reached by telephone at 901-384-6669. On the internet his email address is

[Rclifford384@bellsouth.net](mailto:Rclifford384@bellsouth.net)

The Gazette welcomes articles and pictures, which should be received by the 5th of the month. If at all possible, they should be sent via email to Capt. Augustus, otherwise they should be typed and mailed to:

Ray Clifford

3123 Chaucer Lane

Bartlett TN 38134

Web page address:

<http://www.mississippiriverrangers.com/>