



# Gunsite Gazette

Mississippi River Rangers  
October 2009

## Club Calendar

October

- 4 MSSA Sunday Shoot
- 10 MSSA Shoot
- 17 MSSA WB
- 17 Work Party & Set Targets  
BOD Meeting
- 24 MRR Club Member Championship  
Cowboy Yard Sale  
Camp Out on the Range
- 31 MRR Fifth Saturday Match

November

- 1 MSSA Sunday Match
- 14 MSSA Match
- 21 MRR Work Party and Set Targets
- 21 MSSA WB
- 28 MRR Match

Everything can change in the blink of an eye.

But don't worry God never blinks.

## Jered's Cowboy Journal

Howdy Pard,

Just a short reminder, don't miss the club member championships on October 24th.

Vaya con Dios,

Jered



## On the Trail with Capt. Augustus & Skip

You are probably wondering, what's he doing up here. I don't know either. Jered was super busy, something about alligators, and Easy Lee had a lot of information about the Territorial Governors' Agenda, that we wanted everyone to know about.



I tell you after looking that agenda over, the game is under attack. We tried to put information about the items for background and things to think about. As we learn everyday, some decisions come back and bite us in the butt. Changes can be for the good and some can be bad. Please look them over and think about where you want the game to go in the future.

Once again, I forgot why I don't shoot in the rain. Well, there we were at Gunfight in Dixie, and there was a three day gully washer. I am still getting mud out of things. It was a fun shoot, but wet.

Take care and hope to see you at the Club Championships on the 24th.

## TG Notes

It's interesting to monitor the TG wire. There are quite a few postings with the byline "What's the call". TG's will describe a situation that has occurred during a match and then ask "What's the call?" Often as not there will be several interpretations as to what should have been done or not done. Solutions often range from DQ's, re-shoots, penalties to no calls. Then there are the second guessers who want to read something into what 'really' happened! This starts another round of "what ifs" .

It seems to me the root cause of all the discussions is that the rules and regulations of our game try to predict every possible sequence that might occur. We no longer have simple understandable rules. What was once a small note pad size rule book which could be carried in a shirt pocket is now a three ring binder having 25 8 1/2 X 11 pages which is supported by 26 pages of RO1 and 28 pages of RO2.

For the most part we are fortunate that those who shoot at MRR know the basic SASS guide lines and do not spend a lot of time trying to re-interpret them to their advantage.

## Safety

Following up on the TG notes, there has been a lot of discussion about lowering a hammer on a live round. Here's the latest twist of combining two different rules. If a shooter incorrectly starts with a pistol, cocks it but doesn't fire it, does he get a restart since there has not been a bullet fired down range?

On page 22 of the 2009 15<sup>th</sup> edition of the shooters handbook item 7 added the following: "De-cocking may not be done to avoid a penalty if cocked at the wrong time , position or location. No gun may be de-cocked on the firing line except by pointing it down range and pulling the trigger or while under the direct supervision of a stage officer". It is the second alternative which is causing the debate, while under the direct supervision of a stage officer .

On the MRR range de-cocking of a loaded pistol is only done when a suspected or known squib is involved. It is then done by the Timer Operator.

## Club News

### MRR Board of Directors Meeting

At the conclusion of the work party Saturday, October 17th, the BOD will be holding a meeting at the club house. If you are interested please join us. We do not have an agenda and will try to keep the meeting as brief as possible.

The Territorial Governors Summit Agenda came this week with the topics to be voted on in December. The Bulletin has been sent to all members via email. For those who don't have email addresses or haven't received a copy, there will be copies available at the work party October 17 and at the October 24 match. The club members present by a show of hands for or against will determine how the TG will vote (a simple majority will be used). If you can't attend the voting but want your vote counted please send your selections to Easy Lee by mail or email rabi-tridge@aol.com

As Territorial Governor and being a RO2 instructor I have access to the discussions which have take place on the TG and RO2 wires. While these are closed wires, I can share some of the information in order for new shooters to understand the issues. This years list of issues that the TGs will vote on is the shortest I have seen!

## The SASS 2009 Territorial Governor's Summit Agenda

1. Should we adopt the circle of safety concept for the drawing and holstering of handguns from all types of holsters? Holsters must still comply with the 30 degree maximum cant from vertical requirement and handgun muzzles must remain within the four foot circle of safety while drawing and holstering. Please see pages 4-5 for a description of the concept.

**Item 1** The Circle of Safety concept started a year or so ago by cross draw shooters who felt they were being disadvantaged by having to turn (do the dance) when drawing their cross draw pistol. They wanted to eliminate this requirement. Remember the reason for the turning was to preclude sweeping shooters behind you with a loaded or unloaded gun as you draw and reholster. Cross draw holsters may not exceed a 30 degree cant from vertical. This was to keep from sweeping other shooters with a loaded or unloaded gun as you moved about. In the early days of the sport, 10-12 years ago, this was a big issue with measurements being made to ensure compliance. As a result cross draw holster users made sure they were within the limits and the measurement issue faded away. Keep it mind the angle measurement is on the shooter not on the design of the holster rig laying on a table. Please read carefully The Concept, the caveats and the premise.

For your consideration: The perceived disadvantaged crossdraw shooter issue has now been combined with the desire to draw and holster loaded and unloaded pistols on the move in any direction.

2. Should we allow Bisley Style Hammers mated with non Bisley Style Grips and Bisley Style Grips mated with non Bisley Style Hammers?

**Item 2** The advent of the Ruger Montado with its low Bisley style hammer for mounted shooters has prompted other manufactures to make similar revolvers. Since the hammers can be, and probably are being adapted to other frames should these modifications be approved. This is another example of the "Race Gun" mentality which the SASS founders tried to preclude by limiting the list of SASS legal guns.

3. Should we allow the use on adjustable sighted revolvers in all categories except Classic Cowboy and Black Powder Categories? That would be to allow them in the Duelist and Gunfighter category. They are already legal in all age based categories and B Western.

**Item 3** Adjustable sight (Ruger Blackhawks) are modern guns not from the 1865-1899 SASS period. When SASS first started with less than 10 shooters some of whom only had Blackhawks for a single action pistol they allowed them and put them in the modern category. When the modern and tradition categories were combined the modern guns are now wanting to be included in other categories.

4. Should we eliminate the minor safety penalty for overloading a RIFLE? This will do away with the double jeopardy penalty for overloading a rifle. Penalties for leaving rounds in the rifle would still apply but if a shooter over loaded the rifle they could clear within our rules and not be charged a penalty. (The only problem I see would be a rifle reload stage - state all reloads must

come from the body.) Note this only applies to a rifle and NOT to a revolver or shotgun.

**Item 4** The double jeopardy is that if you load to many rounds which is a 10 second minor safety and then fail to clear a live round off the carrier of the rifle when it is restaged you have another 10 second minor safety. You can get more than one safety penalty.

For your consideration: With the advent of the super slicked up fast action rifles there are more instances of jacking out a live round. The shooter can reload from his belt to avoid a miss or if there is no penalty for overloading why not just put in an extra round and jack it out if you don't need it?

5. Should we create the new sanctioned shooting category "Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter." The category would follow the equipment and ammo guidelines of the current "Frontier Cartridge" category and follow the shooting style requirements of the current "Gunfighter" Category.

**Item 5** This just another category which MRR has used when requested by more than 5 shooters.



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).

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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:

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

## Around The Campfire



Have you ever wondered about the cowboys of yesteryear? How about Wild Bill Hickok? He was born May 27, 1837 and died August 2, 1876. Not many years by today's standards. Wild Bill was a scout, gambler, lawman and a shootist. The Prince of Pistoleers who killed dozens of men. Fact? Nope. In reality, he was one of the top gunfighters in the West. His kill count was probably under a dozen. He spent most of his time in saloons, brothels and gambling houses.

Hickok came to the West as a stage coach driver, then became a lawman in the frontier territories of Kansas and Nebraska. He fought in the Union Army during the American Civil War, and gained publicity after the war as a scout, marksman, and professional gambler. He was dashing with his long hair, sweeping mustache and tailored clothing. He loved cards, booze and "soiled doves". His biggest gunfight was with a gambling buddy who won his watch while gambling then dared to wear it in public (against Wild Bill's orders not to wear it). Their gunfight in the town square led to Wild Bill sending a bullet into his opponent's heart.

In October, 1871, Will Bills was marshal of a cow town in Abilene, KS. He got into a dispute with a gambler and shot him to death. He heard someone running behind him. He whirled and shot without looking. His victim was his friend and a fellow law officer who was coming to help him. This punched a hole in the legend of a man who was supposedly always cool and collected under fire. It also damaged Hickok's confidence. He never killed another man and it is believed that he didn't even pull his gun in anger after the incident. Between his law enforcement duties and gambling, which easily overlapped, Hickok was involved in several notable shootouts, and was ultimately killed while playing poker in a South Dakota saloon at the tender age of 39. Legend has it that Hickok, playing poker when he was shot, was holding a pair of aces and a pair of eights. The fifth card is either unknown, or, as some say, had not yet been dealt. "Aces and eights" thus is known as the "Dead Man's Hand".

Well, enough about Wild Bill. Let's get to the grub for the month. The weather is beautiful (minus a little rain) – just right for cowboy shooting and eating. How about a chilli cook off? Bring your favorite recipe for hot or mild chilli. Our cowboys and gals love it all. We also need corn bread, chips, and crackers. If you would like to bring a dessert rather than chilli, then how about bringing a delicious apple pie or cobbler? Or, whatever your favorite recipe might be. We're not picky!! Have a great month and we'll see you at the social.

Mississippi Tom and Delta Betsy

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I pass along this news. Sodbuster Bruce was in an accident and passed away this afternoon.

Sodbuster was a new shooter, having come around only early this year. Doc C Good introduced him to our game and he was like a kid in a candy store. He was enthusiastic and always looking to help the posse where he could.

Please keep the family in your prayers.

Sable

## **Emmett Bowers Chiles III**

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Pecan Point - Emmett Bowers (Bruce) Chiles III of Pecan Point, Mississippi County, Arkansas died Wednesday, September 23, 2009, at the age of 69. Mr. Chiles, a fourth-generation landowner in Mississippi County, was a retired farmer and commercial real-estate appraiser. Mr. Chiles was born on November 6, 1939, to Emmett Bowers (June) Chiles, Jr., and Sophie Broussard Chiles. In 1961, he received a B.B.A. from University of Mississippi, where he was a member of Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. An avid sportsman and fisherman, he was a third generation member of the O.K. Hunting Club and a member of Mississippi Single Action Shooting Society. Also active in local politics and agribusiness, he was a past member of the Board of Directors of Home Oil Company Inc., and the Farmers Gin Company, Inc., a two-time past president and member of the Board of Directors of the Mississippi County Farm Bureau, and a past member of the Arkansas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board. At the time of his death, Mr. Chiles served on the St. Francis District Levee Board, the Mississippi County Democratic Central Committee, the Mississippi County Equalization Board and the Board of Directors of the Riverlawn Country Club in Osceola, Arkansas. Mr. Chiles is survived by his wife of 40 years, Judith McDaniel Chiles; his son and daughter-in-law, Emmett Bowers (Chip) Chiles IV and Jonann Coniglio Chiles of Little Rock, Arkansas; and his daughter, Leigh McDaniel Chiles of Memphis, Tennessee. Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 10:00 AM, at First United Methodist Church in Osceola, Arkansas, where Mr. Chiles was a member of the Chancel Choir. Interment will take place at the Bassett Cemetery in Bassett, Arkansas, following the funeral service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials to, First United Methodist Church, 303 South Pecan, Osceola, Arkansas 72370, be considered. Online guestbook [www.rollerfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rollerfuneralhomes.com) Roller-Swift Funeral Home (870) 563-6578

## **A Word from Star**

My Heartfelt "Cowboy Thankyou," for the Beautiful Vase of Flowers, received from The Mississippi River Rangers. "A Special Thank You" to all of those, that had me on "Their Prayer List." I believe Prayers were in Motion that Pulled Me through, "The Two Surgeries."

The second one was, I'm told, was 4-6 hours after the initial Aortic Valve replacement, and the double by-pass. "My Most Sincere Thanks You Everyone."

STAR.

PS Look for the Revealing of "The Roping Rodent." Coming Soon and geared to bring smiles. STAR.

## Trading Post

**Once fired brass** is available at <http://www.gunbroker.com> and at <http://www.brassmanbrass.com>

**Improved 1866 loading gate.** Brass Action Gun Shop 402/721-2211 Ed Eldridge.

**Browning Gold Medallion**, .338 Winchester Magnum w/ 2.5-10x Simmons Scope  
\$700, Sagebrush Jim 901-380-5591

**Loading Strips** in .32, .38 or .45, or in any combination, available in Tan, Brown or Black  
\$25 including shipping, \$20 if picked up. Shotgun belts custom made.  
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