



The Bullet Hole

February 2021

Next Match March 21, 2021 - Shooters' meeting at 9:30 a.m.

SILVER STATE SHOOTISTS FEBRUARY 2021 MATCH IN GOLD HILL



February 21, 2021 match

Despite the snow Friday night and Saturday morning the Gulch was in good shape for our Sunday match. We had 13 shooters running through the six stages written by Jackpot Jerry based on the Western Regional Championship match of 2019. It was very interesting to see how many different ways there were to put 21 rounds on six targets.

It was a really beautiful day in the Gulch for a match. Saturday morning we had to make a decision about the condition due to the unexpected snow flurry. Sunday all of the snow was gone, it was mostly dry, the temperatures were really nice and had everybody shedding coats prior to the first stage.

There was a bonus target on Stage 4 and two more on Stage 6 that were less difficult than the January match but still a nice challenge. With 13 shooters, we had 26 rifle shots on target and 13 pistol shots on target. We had 22 rifle hits and 6 pistol hits. Jackpot Jerry was the only clean shooter of the match. He did shoot one of the shotgun targets five times before the RO declared a target malfunction which was fortunate since he had run out of shotgun shells!

We had a new shooter with us at the match, Big Hammer Steve cheered on by his wife. They are from the Topaz lake area. Welcome to the club.

DIAMOND DIRK SLADE



From Jackpot Jerry –

FEBRUARY AND MARCH MATCHES

The February match was set up in two bays rather than three since there were two very different strings for shooting stages. Also, I am optimistic that sometime soon we will be getting back to more shooters at each of the matches so setting up two areas accommodates two possess should be so lucky to get back to that point.

The March match will be a fairly straight forward shooting skill match with challenges for accuracy. It is the type of match that Smitty put together toward the last of our Carson City Range days. It will be a good match for everyone.

For April, I am working on some interesting ideas that I think you will really like.

As most of you know one of our shotgun targets gave us (me) problems at the last match. I will spend more time adjusting them in the future so this doesn't happen again. So speaking of shotguns, here is a story from Nevada Magazine written by Ron Soodalter

SAM BROWN'S COMEUPPANCE

Ranking among the deadliest of Nevada's early-day desperados was "Fighting Sam" Brown. Nobody liked Sam, and with good reason. For one thing, he was a vicious bully. According to his contemporaries, he was a bear of a man, standing a hulking 6 feet tall and weighing in excess of 200 pounds with "a broad, full chest, probably possessing double the physical strength of ordinary men." In a time and place where bathing was an occasional diversion, he was considered particularly offensive, refusing either to wash himself or trim his bushy red whiskers, which he reportedly knotted beneath his chin. One chronicler described him as "loathsome and repulsive."

Worst of all, Sam Brown truly enjoyed killing. It was an accepted fact that his victims were either unarmed or unsuspecting when he dispatched them. He is known to have fatally shot one man in the back in Carson City, and knifed Virginia City's town drunk for sport. Before coming to Nevada, Brown had left a trail of corpses in Texas and California, including three or four Chilean miners, for whose murders he earned himself a brief stretch in San Quentin. Lawmen avoided the homicidal Brown, and even the rugged miners of the Comstock steered clear of him.

Then, on the evening of July 6, 1861, Sam picked on the wrong man. Henry Van Sickle, a taciturn, universally-liked innkeeper whose tavern stood 3 miles south of Genoa, was chatting with the 20 or so locals gathered around his porch, when two men approached on horseback. One was Sam Brown.

Henry offered the big man a drink; instead, Brown drew and cocked his pistol, stating that he was going to kill Van Sickle, citing some obscure and probably imagined ancient offense. As the unarmed Henry ran into the tavern, Brown shouted, "You'd better run!" and went in search of him. Henry had hidden himself well, however, and Brown rode off muttering, "I would have killed him as quick as I would a snake."

Convinced his life was in peril, Henry loaded a shotgun and set off in pursuit. His first shots missed the killer, but apparently struck his horse, slowing Brown's progress. Finding himself on the receiving end for

the first time, Sam Brown lost his nerve, and attempted to find shelter in a nearby house. A determined Henry was not to be put off, however, and his next shot hit the bad man. The next round left Fighting Sam dead in the road.

Nevada's citizens breathed easier with the news of Sam's demise, and widely praised Henry for his grit in bringing the killer to bay. According to the coroner's report, the local justice, "knowing the ferocious disposition of Brown, ordered Vansickle's discharge."

FYI – The Vansickle ranch house is still there.



If you have a problem finding the location, or if you would like more information about the information in this newsletter, call Jackpot Jerry. My cell phone number is: 310-990-6482