



# High Plains Drifters

Fernley, Nevada

**Volume 12**

**Issue 5**



## MONTHLY MATCH

A very nice weather weekend, campout, potluck dinner and shoot all rolled into one. On Saturday, we had 8 shooters compete in a Wild Bunch Match set up and run by Bordello Fellow. It went off without a hitch and everyone had a really good time. We even used some new targets that were donated to the club by Gil T. Azell.

On Sunday, 31 shooters came out to play. This was Fallen Grace's "Red Underwear" match. Since it was the 4th year of the match, the 4th place finisher wearing red underwear won a prize. That was Big Dave who came out to shoot with us and went home with some really nice things.

We had a couple of new shooters with us. One was "Dusty" (Gary) the other one we called "New Shooter" (Don). They were introduced by Washoe Monte and Drifter John. They looked to have had a whole lot of fun. We gave "New Shooter" fair warning to come up with an alias-pretty quick or the group might pick one for him.

A big THANK YOU to Fallen Grace and Hellfire Preacher for writing the stages and another big THANK YOU to everyone who helped set up and take down all of the targets.

## RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

If you came out this weekend, you probably noticed that the slab is finally done in the Pavilion. It came together pretty quick when I could get the people in place. Allen Annette out of Minden with his Skid Steer did the grading. He had some interesting comments on how hard the dirt is in our part of the world. He also took material up to the bays and we did some filling in around the props as needed to prevent tripping hazards.

Bret Allen with Newt Concrete and his crew did the flatwork. There is 20 yards of new concrete in place and watching Bret and his 7-man crew was really impressive. They have that kind of work down to an art form. I have poured a lot of concrete over the years and it is strictly for the young!

Anyway, the end product is really nice and will make the Pavilion much more user friendly with the tables and chairs.

We appear to have had some luck with the pre-emergent that we put down to control weeds. Doesn't seem as bad as in years past.

## SHOOTER'S CLINIC

A few weeks ago, Dutch Dalton and Deadeye Dick put on a Shooter's clinic at the Range and we had 20 people attend. It was VERY well done. There was a lot of good info for everyone from experienced to rookie and I heard a lot of good comments. Lots of tips, tricks, advice to make you a better shooter. This is one we will have to do again.

## TARGETS

The targets have now been repaired. In fact, we used them for the shoot on Sunday. If you find a target that has a crack or any other damage, report it to me or Jasper and we will make arrangements to get it repaired ASAP. This also goes for Shotgun targets or anything else on the Range. Drifter John put new bolts in a bunch of the Shotgun targets to beef them up.

## LONG RANGE

We have a verbal agreement at this time with Rudy to shoot Long Range on his Sniper School Course for Shootout on the Comstock. Jasper, Brazos and Ike met with him this weekend and it looks like we are good to go for the near future. Rudy is a super nice guy and very enthusiastic about what he does. He was practicing on his Range by himself while we were shooting on Saturday and told us he went through *600 rounds* of ammo!

## **SHOOTOUT ON THE COMSTOCK**

Well, it's only about 6 weeks away. We have pretty much got everything in place. We WILL need some help at the event. Just ask what you can do. A little bit goes a very long way. We need items for the raffle. If you have something you're not using or don't need, bring it out! This is a big money maker for us. That is how we can afford targets, range improvements, etc. It is going to be a lot of fun, so get hold of Dutch Dalton and sign up now! We will also be auctioning off a belt and holsters again from Bob Mernickle. That money goes to the Boy Scouts that help us so plan on bidding.

## **WEATHER**

Looks like another long, hot, dry summer ahead. PLAN ACCORDINGLY when you come to the shoots or Annual Matches. Bring some cold water, sunscreen, a power bar and maybe wear some lighter clothes if needed. If you are out there and don't feel well, TELL SOMEONE. We don't want anyone to have heat issues or get so sick they can't shoot. Ain't none of us getting any younger!

## **BODIE KID**

Bodie Kid, aka Hank Coles passed away Monday of last week in Florida. He was a really sweet man and an absolute Cowboy Shooting nut! Great enthusiasm, and a huge heart for all that he came into contact with. He will be missed by all.

## **ROOP SHOOT**

ROOP will hold their monthly match this Sunday the 10th at the Fernley Range.

Shooter's meeting at 9:00 AM.

Shooting right after.

This is Fanny Seabrides annual "Mother's Day" match so you better make sure your &%#\* is covered at home before you come out. Better yet, bring her with you!

That's all I have for now, it's going to be busy here for the next month and a half and we all need to contribute to make it work.

See you at the shoots!

Washoe Zephyr

## MAY Underwear Match





## Wild Bill Hickok

Take James Butler “Wild Bill Hickok,” who once showed up for a gunfight wearing a black cutaway coat, wide trousers and two ivory-handled 45s. Hickok was born on a farm in La Salle County, Illinois, on May 27, 1837. He died on the afternoon of August 2, 1876, in Saloon No. 10, on the main street of Deadwood, in Dakota Territory, when a bullet fired by Jack McCall plowed through the back of his head, coming out through his cheek. During his lifetime, Hickok did some remarkable deeds, and they were even more remarkable after being embroidered by his adoring fans. And himself. When he died, he was holding two pair of cards—aces and eights—a combination known ever since as “the dead man’s hand.”

Today, Wild Bill’s fame as a marksman seems secure, partly because of the publication, in the 1930’s, of three biographies. In those, the celebrated “marksman” never missed his man. Moreover, we learn that Wild Bill could hit a running man with a bullet from his revolver every time at 100 yards and that he could crease a friend’s hair at 50 paces, with no damage to the hair. Or its owner. According to his biographers, Wild Bill never made an outright poor shot.

One time in Mesa, Arizona, a pair of murderers fled from him. A Hickok biographer states that, “One was running up the street, and the other down the street, in the opposite direction. Bill fired at the men simultaneously and killed them both.”

Another biographer says that, “Wild Bill shot an evenly spaced row of holes along the outside of a hat brim as it was falling off a man’s head, before it touched the ground.” To fully appreciate this miracle of marksmanship, one must remember that Hickok was shooting with black powder. (Smokeless powder did not come into general use until about 1893.) Each time he fired, therefore, Wild Bill put a puff of black smoke between himself and his target. After his first shot, the “marksman” could have barely seen the target, if at all.

Judged by modern standards of marksmanship, Wild Bill Hickok was a poor shot. Support for this judgment is found in the targets that have come down to us from frontier times - specifically, when those targets are compared with the targets that are being hit today on pistol ranges all across America. If alive today, Hickok would be viewed as a shooting neophyte, at best.

