

GUNSLINGER'S

# GAZETTE

The just about monthly newsletter of the Four Corners Gunslingers

[www.cowboyactionscoring.com/fourcorners](http://www.cowboyactionscoring.com/fourcorners)

April 2009

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As you know O Bar Freddie's wife passed away in March.

O Bar sends this note to everyone:

"To the Four Corners Gunslingers and the Windy Gap Regulators, Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated." *Mike, Ann and Barbra.*

Stumble Leena has an Izzie page on their website where you can donate things to support the SASS Scholarship Fund in Izzie's name, you can see it at: <http://WWW.windygapregulators.Com/Izzie.HTML>



We had our first match in March, my thanks to Ruff Cobb, Camptown Lady, Cerveza Slim, Bombay Ginnie for getting the match organized, and thanks to Stumble Leena for getting the scores up on the Windygap web site for the shooters. Rulo is improving, still not able to shoot or lift anything, but looks like the screw is holding those bones together so far !

*Tansy Aster*

# Stage Stop



**MONTHLY MATCH:** The Four Corners Gunslingers will have a monthly match on Sunday, April 19th. Setup at 9:00 AM and shooting starts at 10:00 AM.

## 2009 Revenge of Montezuma

June 19, 20, 21st

Entry forms for the **2009 Revenge** are on the Windygap Regulators web site and entries are pouring in.....if you haven't already made up your mind to shoot the Revenge you better or you may find yourself standing on the sidelines watching! Info and applications can be found at:

[www.windygapregulators.homestead.com](http://www.windygapregulators.homestead.com)

We've got 45 Shooters for the Revenge signed up so far! Would love some of you who have never shot an Annual to give it a try. It's a good one to start with! **We've got Aussie's coming out of the woodwork!** I am tickled that they like our match so much and keep coming back. Last year we had quite a few Ducks left over from blasting them with our shotgun! So this year we are gonna try killing them again with our 22 Side Match on Friday, the 19th of June. We've got Haycamp making Foghorn Legghorn Targets. We've got eggs in a nest with goodies inside! Lots of fun! No handcuffs or leg irons and ya won't have to do any back flips, but we'll keep ya busy with something!

**Ladies (members) and spouses and daughters** of our Male members ..... This is a **Purple Alert**. Don't forget we are giving **Crazy Kerri** a boost and a smile with our **Purple** day. Tentative.....Pictures will be taken on Friday, June 19th just before Saloon Night, around 6:30 PM. (need feedback if this time will work.) We'll all meet in front of the sign in trailer. (If day or time changes, we will let you know) Any color of **purple** with any other **color!**

Pesty Pot Shot and Patch , Aneeda Huginkiss and Cannon Ball Charlie are all NEW grandparents of little **Girls**. (One of which makes me a Great Aunt! Again!) Both are having complications. So prayers up for those sweeties and their Parents.

*Stumble Leena*

# Smokeless Powder and Old Guns

By Canyon Jim

Guns and cartridges that were designed and made in the days when black Powder was all that was available can be shot with smokeless powder but one must be careful. Old cartridges like the 44/40, 45/70, and others which were designed for black powder have a great deal of room for powder because it was needed for the proper amount of black powder. When using black powder, it is hard if not impossible to overload these older cartridges. Not so when you start using smokeless powder. Black powder burns much slower than smokeless. This is why you can see the flame coming out of the barrel when a black powder gun is fired at night. The bullet has left the barrel and the powder is still burning. This means that the black powder has not generated as much pressure as it could have if it had been able to completely burn before the bullet left the barrel. Smokeless powder on the other hand, burns much faster and generates much more pressure with a much smaller amount of powder. This is taken into account when the newer cartridges were developed and they do not have the oversize space for the powder in the cartridge. Take a look at a 45 ACP cartridge and a 45 long Colt cartridge. The 45 ACP is much shorter and was designed to be used with smokeless powder.

The other side of the coin when it comes to older guns is, they were never designed to handle the higher pressures that can be generated by smokeless powder. Just take a look at the wall thickness of a 44/40 1873 peace maker cylinder, and a modern 357 cylinder (Picture 4). You will soon come to the conclusion that the modern guns use much higher pressures.

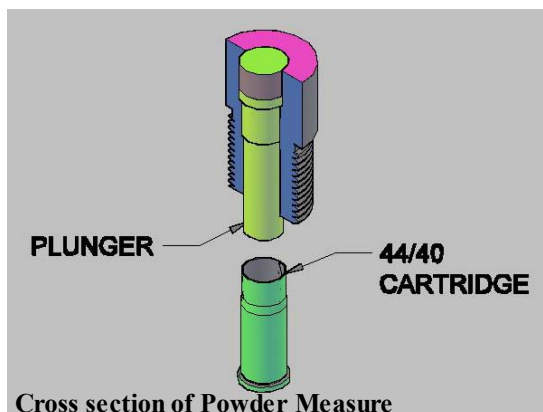
This all means that when reloading for the older cartridges you must use a much smaller amount of powder if it is smokeless powder. This is no problem, except it is quite possible to place way too much powder in the cartridge because of the extra room. When reloading with a single press this is usually not a problem because you have to handle each shell by hand when placing powder in it. Also it is easy to check each shell before seating a bullet on the cartridge. Not so when using most progressive presses. The powder is placed in the cartridge automatically each time you pull the lever down. Most of these presses make it very hard to see just how much if any powder was placed in the cartridge. A cartridge with no powder can be just as dangerous as a cartridge with too much. An empty cartridge can lodge a bullet in the barrel by just the pressure generated by the primer going off, and the next round can explode the gun because of the plugged barrel. All this means that it is paramount to get the correct amount of smokeless powder in the cartridge each and every time.

Most progressive presses are very good at dispensing the proper amount of powder each time, but when the press malfunctions and doesn't index (turn to the next position) you can easily hit a cartridge twice under the powder dispenser. Of course you will clear the press and check everything out but you are never quite sure you didn't just possibly let an overloaded cartridge get by. Well that happened to me a while back and it blew the cylinder in half and the top frame off of a good 44/40 revolver (Picture 2).

The charge I normally use is 7.4 grains of Hodgdon HS6 powder. The recommend max load for the old 44/40 cartridge is 9 grains, but when you hit the powder dispenser twice the load becomes 14.8 grains. That is a good bit over the max load. I use a LEE load master progressive press and it has no method of checking the powder level as you produce loaded ammunition.

This press has 5 threaded holes for dies. I only use 4, one for resizing, one for priming and flaring, one for powder, and one for bullet seating and crimping. So I decided to make a die that would show just how much powder was in the cartridge each time the lever was pressed (Picture 1). To do this I took a piece of rod and turned a thread on it to fit the die thread on the press and bored a hole in it to fit the 44/40 cartridge. I then made a sliding plunger that would go into the cartridge each time the cartridge came to the top of the press and entered the die (Picture 3). If there was powder in the cartridge the plunger would protrude from the top of the die. The amount the plunger came up showed just how much powder was in the cartridge. It gave a very good indication of an empty cartridge as well as one which was double loaded. The only thing you must be sure of is to check the powder indicator each time you pull the lever on the press. I have not yet come up with a method to sound an alarm or stop the press if the plunger does not move to correct height. This could be done with some mechanical switches or optical indicators, but that is another project.

Canyon Jim  
James W Bignell



Cross section of Powder Measure



Powder Measure in press



357

44/40

### BUNKHOUSE TERMS EVERY COWBOY SHOULD KNOW

**ON THE PROD:** Anything or anyone wanting to do battle

**PROD POLE:** A long pole for prodding cattle into railroad cars

**PRIORY:** Open land-either rolling or flat-that is covered with grass

Sent in by *Camptown Lady*

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Rulo and I will be out of town the first couple of weeks of October. I need someone to volunteer to take over the Annual Cowboy Gathering Demonstration, which, if we host it, will be on Sunday, October 4th this year. Linda had left a message for me while we were in Denver for Rulo's surgery, she had an advertising deadline to meet and since we were not able to connect before I got back, the demo match is not going to be listed on the first round of advertising, but can be added in for the second round, which will crank up in August sometime.

So if someone would like to take this over and get in touch with me, I would appreciate it. I can then let Linda know that the club will be doing our regular demo thing and who she should be talking to for co-ordination of the event from our club, as well as listing on the advertising as the contact person for more information about the match. I told Linda I would get back to her after our April match and let her know if we will be participating again this year or not. Thanks for considering it!



### **1st Annual Durango Heritage Days Cowboy Action Match**

It has been reported to me by Ramblin' Rose, that the Durango Heritage Days Committee has been working with herself, Ruff Cobb and Cerveza Slim to put on a mini-match as part of their annual activities in October this year. The date chosen is October 11th, which has already been approved by the Gun Club as an available date. Apparently they will also be having a demonstration after the mini-match where non-shooters can pay \$5 to try out Cowboy Shooting. They are working on details for this match and I will get them out to members as soon as I have them. Sounds like they are putting together a nice little match and local shooter support should make it a dandy!

Wish we were going to be around to participate, but we'll be out of town for this event too!

### **Jobs I have held.....match the person to the job!**

A) Bartender/Bar Manager

Stumble Leena

B) Airport Security Guard

Ramblin' Rose

C) Turkey Hatchery Vaccinator

Tansy Aster

D) Christmas Wreath Maker

E) Animal Abuse Investigator

F) Hertz Renta Car Girl

Several of these ladies have more than one job listed...if you are married to one of them, your "guess" doesn't count! Only ladies replied this go round, come on guys we know you've had some "odd" jobs!

## NEWS FROM THE TERRITORIES:

**Tres Rios Bandidos** have a new web site, if you haven't already visited it, get yourself over there and take a look. [www.trbcas.org](http://www.trbcas.org)

Lots of good info on their site, pictures and information about upcoming matches. O Bar is doing a dandy job on this new site!

Shootout at Three Rivers 2009 entry forms are available on both web sites,  
[www.sjwf.org](http://www.sjwf.org) and [www.trbcas.org](http://www.trbcas.org)



Last month I listed local shooters who participated in Winter Range, unfortunately I missed someone!! A new shooter who is so hard core that he and his lady (Ruth) camped in a TENT at Winter Range. **Mazourka Jim** tells me he enjoyed his first Winter Range and that in spite of the wind that blew up during some of his stages, he enjoyed himself and plans to go back! Congrats on attending your first Winter Range!

Piedra and I took a trip to the Meteor Crater in Arizona, I was right.....it was a big hole in the ground. We traveled along Route 66 and I have never seen the Burma Shave signs. That was fun! Those who grew up in the 50's know all about them, but I am way tooooo young to remember them.

She put  
A bullet  
Thru his hat  
But he's had  
Closer shaves than that  
Burma-Shave

If daisies  
Are your  
Favorite flower  
Keep pushin' up those  
Miles-per-hour  
Burma-Shave

Cattle crossing  
Means go slow  
That old bull  
Is some  
Cow's beau  
Burma-Shave

These are just a few that we read on our little trip.

Stumble Leena



I attended the Windygap Team Shoot last weekend, it was a BLAST, good teams and good fun, not to mention good food too!

Cudo's **TEAM 3**, we placed 3rd and got bandana's with a little extra surprise inside!

Tansy Aster

## NEWS FROM THE TERRITORIAL GOV:

- The latest updated SASS handbook is now on the SASS website.
- Also, there is now a handbook for the Wild Bunch on the website. This rule book standardizes the rules for all competitions at Regional and above.
- It is illegal to disengage the latch lock on Double Barrel shotguns. I don't think this is a new rule but it was brought up at the TG meeting as a reminder.
- SASS is considering a "Cone of Safety" around the shooter. This is designed to help determine when a shooter (particularly a shooter using a cross draw holster) is drawing and holstering safely. The shooter must keep the muzzle in a safe direction in a 3 foot circle around the shooter. Apparently, at a 30 degree cant, the muzzle is safe within 2 feet from the shooter. Spotters and RO's must enforce the 30 degree area around the shooter. We had lots of visual aids and diagrams, however, I'm not sure I know what SASS is doing!
- The Rules Committee has determined that the lowered, flared hammer is now legal on modern or fixed type revolvers. This hammer was first offered by Ruger on their new revolver designed for mounted shooters. It is also described as a Super Blackhawk hammer and it is OK on any revolver.
- A Bisley hammer is not legal unless the revolver has a Bisley Grip.

Wicked Felina~!

### Patriotic Retirement Solution:

Dear Mr. President,  
There are about 40 million people over the age of 50 in the workforce. Pay them \$1 million dollars each with these 3 stipulations:

1. They leave their jobs. Creates 40 million job openings and **unemployment is fixed.**
2. They buy new AMERICAN cars. 40 million cars ordered, **Car Industry Fixed.**
3. They either buy a house or payoff their mortgage. **Housing crisis fixed.**

All this and it would still be cheaper than THE "bailout".

The Windygap Regulators will soon be handing out wooden nickles for clean Monthly matches. Collect 5 of them, and we'll let you shoot free. We hope that Durango and Farmington will join the fun.

*Stumble Leena*

# TRADING POST



**Gorgeous Dresses  
by Stumble Leena.....**

**Dandy Lookin' Shirts  
by Shotgun Shell.....**

All can be found on the Windygap  
Regulators web site:

[www.windygapregulators.homestead.com](http://www.windygapregulators.homestead.com)

## **Griner Gunworks**

[www.grinergunworks.com](http://www.grinergunworks.com)

Check out Ken's web site for info on  
CAS specialty gunsmithing as well as  
firearms for sale.

**El Mulo Vaquero  
Sass #55,942**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Not too early to be thinking about the Annual Meeting this summer. Bar-B-Q, Swamp Meet, Election of Officers, and lots of good fun will be on the agenda.

Date and location to be determined, but be thinking 'bout it!

If you have some ideas for the meeting, get them to me so we can include them when the time comes.

Thanks!  
Tansy



## **Four Corners Gunslingers Cowboy Action Shooting club**

**Tansy Aster (President)  
970-769-0527**

**Camptown Lady (Vice President)  
970-247-4386**

**Bombay Ginnie (Secretary/Treasurer)  
970-247-0745**

**Rulo (Match Director)  
970-884-3249**

Matches are held the  
3rd Sunday of the month  
Setup at 9:00,  
shootin' Starts at 10:00  
(weather permitting )

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Score Website:

[www.cowboyactionscoring.com/fourcorners](http://www.cowboyactionscoring.com/fourcorners)