

COWBOY TIMES

AN IRREGULAR PUBLICATION OF THE OAK RIDGE OUTLAWS

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CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? ACTUALLY SHOOTING SIX STAGES IN ABOUT TWO HOURS?

IT HAPPENED---I WAS THERE.

OK—SO WE ONLY USED THREE BAYS AND SHOT THE SAME TARGETS. BUT WE ONLY HAD A POSSE OF 10 AND BOY DID EVERYONE PITCH IN.

WE DID SOMETHING THAT I HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE ON THE UNLOADING TABLE. AFTER YOU UNLOADED AND CLEARED YOUR GUNS YOU WERE ASSIGNED TO WATCH THE NEXT COWBOY AND SO ON.

ALSO, WE ONLY HAD ABOUT TWO LOADING AT A TIME SO THAT WE HAD ENOUGH TO HAVE SPOTTERS AND THE USUAL CREW ON THE LINE.

CAN YOU TELL I LIKE THE TUESDAY MATCH? IT IS A GREAT WAY TO SHOOT AND VISIT AND COLLECT SOME MORE STORIES FROM EACH OTHER.

SPEAKING OF STORIES, THIS MONTH'S FEATURE IS AN INTERVIEW WITH FAST HARLEY AND LAST KISS AS THEY WERE ASKED A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH CAS AND OUR CLUB.

I ASKED THEM THE FOLLOWING:

1. WHEN DID YOU START CAS AND WHERE (IF NOT HERE)?
2. WHY DID IT APPEAL TO YOU?
3. HOW DID YOU CHOOSE YOUR ALIASES?
4. DID YOU BOTH GET INTERESTED AT THE SAME TIME?
5. DID YOU HAVE PRIOR FIREARMS COMPETITION IN YOUR BACKGROUND OR IS CAS THE FIRST?
6. WHAT KEEPS YOU COMING BACK EACH MONTH?

FAST HARLEY WAS KIND ENOUGH TO ANSWER THE INTERVIEWER'S QUESTIONS IN ESSAY FORM. I THOUGHT IT BEST TO KEEP HIS REPLY TOGETHER AS FOLLOWS:

“HOWDY.

WE JOINED SASS IN 2000, BUT OTHER OBLIGATIONS KEPT US FROM SHOOTING, ESPECIALLY BUYING A, THEN, 100 YEAR OLD HOUSE.

IN 2004 THE SMOKY MTN. SHOOTOUT WAS MY FIRST CAS MATCH.

I HAD BEEN A SHOOTER SINCE 8 YEARS OLD SO WHAT COULD BE SO HARD ABOUT IT, RIGHT? IT SNOWED, A LOT. I WAS 3RD FROM LAST. L.K. WAS MORAL SUPPORT.

EVERYONE WAS FRIENDLY, ESPECIALLY KENNESAW KID, AND OWLHOOT, (WHO IS THE ONE WHO INVITED US TO HICKORY CREEK). WE WERE THERE THE NEXT MONTH AND SOON BECAME LIFE MEMBERS OF SMSS.

I HAD ALWAYS LOVED WESTERNS, BOTH TV, AND FILM, AND ALSO WESTERN HISTORY AND WESTERN FICTION. I ALSO USED TO OWN AND RIDE HORSES, (LIVING OUT MY FANTASIES.) I STOPPED HUNTING IN 1989, BUT I ONCE DID A LOT OF THAT, THEN TAKING UP TARGET SHOOTING.

IT WASN'T LONG; MAYBE TWO MONTHS TILL L.K. JOINED ME IN SHOOTING CAS INSTEAD OF WATCHING. IT APPEALED TO HER COMPETITIVE NATURE. SHE HAD BEEN SHOWN HOW TO SHOOT AND BE SAFE WITH FIREARMS AS A CHILD BY HER FATHER.

SHE AND I ONCE WERE QUITE HARDCORE ABOUT RIDING MOTORCYCLES, (MODERN DAY COWBOYS,) THINKING WE WOULD ALWAYS DO THAT. CAS TOOK OVER OUR LIVES AND NOW WE RIDE VERY LITTLE.

SO, I BECAME FAST HARLEY, ('CAUSE IT WAS.) I CAME UP WITH LAST KISS.

THERE WAS ALWAYS THE LAST KISS BEFORE THE GUNFIGHT, OR AFTER IT FOR THAT MATTER, OR THE LAST KISS AS THE CREDITS ROLL. SOMETHING LIKE THAT. THERE IS A REALLY GOOD FANTASY STORY ABOUT US IF YOU GO BACK FAR ENOUGH.

ONCE WE SHOT UP TO FIVE WEEKENDS A MONTH, NOW HER WORK AND MY FINANCES HAVE US DOWN TO ABOUT TWO. OUR SHOOTING HAS SUFFERED FROM THIS REDUCTION, BUT WE STILL GET THE JOB DONE. WE HAVE TRAVELED WIDELY, EVEN AS FAR AS THE NATIONALS. (WINTER RANGE IN ARIZONA.)

I WAS THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF RANGE AFFAIRS FOR SMSS, ORSA COWBOYS, AND OR OUTLAWS SINCE 2008, (PLUS A YEAR AS ASSISTANT TO EL CARRERA.) I HAVE LEFT OFFICE STARTING THIS MONTH TO BE MORE AVAILABLE TO MY PARENTS. KISS HAS BEEN, AND IS, THE SAFETY OFFICER SINCE 2007.

THE REASON WHY WE KEEP COMING IS THE PEOPLE. WE HAVE FRIENDS FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD, AND CLOSE FRIENDS THAT I THINK WE'LL HAVE FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES WHETHER THERE IS SASS, OR NOT. PEOPLE YOU CAN TRUST, PEOPLE TO RIDE THE TRAIL WITH. THAT IS A HARD THING TO FIND IN TODAY'S WORLD.
HARLEY."

OUR CLUB WOULD NOT BE THE SAME IF WE DID NOT HAVE SUCH FINE HANDS AS FAST HARLEY AND LAST KISS TO NOT ONLY JOIN, BUT TO INVEST AND CONTRIBUTE SO WE CAN ALL CONTINUE TO ENJOY WORLD CLASS MONTHLY COMPETITION AND BE A PLACE OF FRIENDLY INVITATION TO THE NEWCOMERS. (EDITOR'S NOTE)

IF YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED YET, THIS NEWSLETTER IS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS BY OUR MEMBERS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WANT TO SEND SOMETHING TO BE INCLUDED AND WE WILL TRY TO WORK IT IN.

RECENTLY, OUR STAFF WAS FORTUNATE TO OBTAIN THE FOLLOWING ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURE FROM KENNESAW KID. PLEASE NOTE HIS SIDE BAR COMMENTS.

THIS WAS ONE OF OUR FIRST MATCHES AS A BONA FIDE SASS AFFILIATED CLUB. THE NEWSLETTER FROM THIS MATCH INDICATED THAT WE HAD A LOT OF MISSES. PROBABLY BECAUSE WE WERE USING SOME SMALLER TARGETS BACK THEN ---MUCH SMALLER THAN WE USE TODAY. ALSO THEY WERE A LOT FARTHER AWAY.

BASED UPON THE TIMES—IT ALSO APPEARS THAT WE TOOK A COFFEE BREAK DURING EACH COURSE OF FIRE AS WELL.

CLASS	NAME	STAGE 1		STAGE 2		STAGE 3		STAGE 4		STAGE 5		TOTAL TIME	TOTAL RANK
		STAGE 1	RANK	STAGE 2	RANK	STAGE 3	RANK	STAGE 4	RANK	STAGE 5	RANK		
D	ARIZONA JOE	82.26		82.17		65.05		68.42				267.90	1
T	CURLY BILL KELLY	50.50		89.61		103.77		70.50				314.38	2
T	RIVER JORDAN	69.12		98.82		100.55		79.87				348.36	3
T	BLACK EYED BILL	81.34		98.79		90.09		80.51				350.73	4
T	FLASH LA BEEW	69.13		96.61		115.74		80.87				362.35	5
T	OWL HOOT HARDIN	84.40		92.23		91.90		94.81				363.34	6
	BILL SMITH	72.59		115.93		99.09		86.60				374.21	7
T	STEVE TINY ALE	50.01		117.09		117.52		99.31				383.93	8
T	RICH PECK	71.82		99.54		120.39		91.94				389.69	9
FC	YAKIMA CANUTT	59.47		122.65		119.04		97.18				398.34	10
TS	BIG	74.74		122.92		116.89		96.39				410.94	11
T	SMOKY Mtn DAWN	79.33		123.69		105.00		130.35				438.37	12
T	DARLIN K.T.	80.96		122.71		103.76		136.77				444.20	13
T	JIM KID	85.65		139.39		122.78		104.55				452.37	14
T	FRANK JENNINGS	71.37		140.97		145.03		109.52				466.89	15
M	CHEROKEE BIRD	117.08		122.70		122.23		109.98				471.99	16
D	RON KENESAW	81.78		158.89		142.29		120.34				503.30	17
T	CHUCK	86.33		164.24		150.85		180.24				581.66	18
T	EUBEN HADD	66.67		120.67		103.55		—				—	—
D	BITTERROOT JAKE	57.39		—		—		—				—	—
D	BLADES OUT	73.81		68.66		—		—				—	—
D	DIRACO KID	—		—		—		—				—	—

SAT 6/12/99

One of Kenesaw's very first shoots. 18 shooters that finished and I came in 17th. All the scores were kept up with as we finished each stage. (Note that we only shot four stages that month) ...and most everyone was either dualist, traditional or modern.

Note:
All of the top 10 in the March 2012 shoot were well under half the time of the number one shooter at this first shoot and they shot 5 stages!

A DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS POEM BY MICHAEL MARKS

THE EMBERS GLOWED SOFTLY, AND IN THEIR DIM LIGHT,
I GAZED ROUND THE ROOM AND I CHERISHED THE SIGHT.
MY WIFE WAS ASLEEP, HER HEAD ON MY CHEST,
MY DAUGHTER BESIDE ME, ANGELIC IN REST.

OUTSIDE THE SNOW FELL, A BLANKET OF WHITE,
TRANSFORMING THE YARD TO A WINTER DELIGHT.
THE SPARKLING LIGHTS IN THE TREE I BELIEVE,
COMPLETED THE MAGIC THAT WAS CHRISTMAS EVE.

MY EYELIDS WERE HEAVY, MY BREATHING WAS DEEP,
SECURE AND SURROUNDED BY LOVE I WOULD SLEEP.
IN PERFECT CONTENTMENT, OR SO IT WOULD SEEM,
SO I SLUMBERED, PERHAPS I STARTED TO DREAM.

THE SOUND WASN'T LOUD, AND IT WASN'T TOO NEAR,
BUT I OPENED MY EYES WHEN IT TICKLED MY EAR.
PERHAPS JUST A COUGH, I DIDN'T QUITE KNOW, THEN THE
SURE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS OUTSIDE IN THE SNOW.

MY SOUL GAVE A TREMBLE, I STRUGGLED TO HEAR,
AND I CREPT TO THE DOOR JUST TO SEE WHO WAS NEAR.
STANDING OUT IN THE COLD AND THE DARK OF THE NIGHT,
A LONE FIGURE STOOD, HIS FACE WEARY AND TIGHT.

A SOLDIER, I PUZZLED, SOME TWENTY YEARS OLD,
PERHAPS A MARINE, HUDDLED HERE IN THE COLD.
ALONE IN THE DARK, HE LOOKED UP AND SMILED,
STANDING WATCH OVER ME, AND MY WIFE AND MY CHILD.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" I ASKED WITHOUT FEAR,
"COME IN THIS MOMENT, IT'S FREEZING OUT HERE!
PUT DOWN YOUR PACK, BRUSH THE SNOW FROM YOUR SLEEVE,
YOU SHOULD BE AT HOME ON A COLD CHRISTMAS EVE!"

FOR BARELY A MOMENT I SAW HIS EYES SHIFT,
AWAY FROM THE COLD AND THE SNOW BLOWN IN DRIFTS.
TO THE WINDOW THAT DANCED WITH A WARM FIRE'S LIGHT
THEN HE SIGHED AND HE SAID "IT'S REALLY ALL RIGHT.

I'M OUT HERE BY CHOICE. I'M HERE EVERY NIGHT."
"IT'S MY DUTY TO STAND AT THE FRONT OF THE LINE,
THAT SEPARATES YOU FROM THE DARKEST OF TIMES.
NO ONE HAD TO ASK OR BEG OR IMPLORE ME,

I'M PROUD TO STAND HERE LIKE MY FATHERS BEFORE ME.
MY GRAMPS DIED AT 'PEARL ON A DAY IN DECEMBER,"
THEN HE SIGHED, "THAT'S A CHRISTMAS 'GRAM ALWAYS REMEMBERS."
MY DAD STOOD HIS WATCH IN THE JUNGLES OF 'NAM',
AND NOW IT IS MY TURN AND SO, HERE I AM.

I'VE NOT SEEN MY OWN SON IN MORE THAN A WHILE,
BUT MY WIFE SENDS ME PICTURES, HE'S SURE GOT HER SMILE.
THEN HE BENT AND HE CAREFULLY PULLED FROM HIS BAG,
THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE... AN AMERICAN FLAG.

I CAN LIVE THROUGH THE COLD AND THE BEING ALONE,
AWAY FROM MY FAMILY, MY HOUSE AND MY HOME.
I CAN STAND AT MY POST THROUGH THE RAIN AND THE SLEET;
I CAN SLEEP IN A FOXHOLE WITH LITTLE TO EAT.

I CAN CARRY THE WEIGHT OF KILLING ANOTHER,
OR LAY DOWN MY LIFE WITH MY SISTER AND BROTHER..
WHO STAND AT THE FRONT AGAINST ANY AND ALL,
TO ENSURE FOR ALL TIME THAT THIS FLAG WILL NOT FALL."

"SO GO BACK INSIDE," HE SAID, "HARBOR NO FRIGHT,
YOUR FAMILY IS WAITING AND I'LL BE ALL RIGHT."
"BUT ISN'T THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO, AT THE LEAST,
"GIVE YOU MONEY," I ASKED, "OR PREPARE YOU A FEAST?"

IT SEEMS ALL TOO LITTLE FOR ALL THAT YOU'VE DONE,
FOR BEING AWAY FROM YOUR WIFE AND YOUR SON."
THEN HIS EYE WELLED A TEAR THAT HELD NO REGRET,
"JUST TELL US YOU LOVE US, AND NEVER FORGET.

TO FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS BACK AT HOME WHILE WE'RE GONE,
TO STAND YOUR OWN WATCH, NO MATTER HOW LONG.
FOR WHEN WE COME HOME, EITHER STANDING OR DEAD,
TO KNOW YOU REMEMBER WE FOUGHT AND WE BLED.

IS PAYMENT ENOUGH, AND WITH THAT WE WILL TRUST,
THAT WE MATTERED TO YOU AS YOU MATTERED TO US."

MERRY CHRISTMAS

