



MERLIN MARAUDERS

Cowboy Gazette

www.merlinmaraudercowboys.com

Merlin Marauders, P.O. Box 202, Grants Pass, OR 97528

Merlin Marauders Officers for 2011

President

Heike Arnold
- Molly B' Dam
(541) 479-2928
haha@budget.net

Vice-President

Ed Rea, Jr.
- Kidd Krystin

Treasurer

John Stubbe
- Johnny Eight Toes

Secretary & Membership

Rhonda Peltier
- Bobbin' Along Daisy
(253) 258-1105
Rhonda5647@hotmail.com

Match Director/Range Officer

Rick Smith
- Bear Bone Smith
(541) 582-4144

Territorial Governor

Gary Hanson -
- Sweetwater Jack
(541) 479-6021

Past President

John Hudick
-Rogue Rascal
(541) 472-8585

Directors

Martha Warr - Gaye Abandon
Chuck Pool - Imnaha Chuck
Wes Fauver -Sgt. Buffalo B.S.

Member-at-Large

Kathie Stubbe
- Fairweather Kate
(541) 479-3718

Webmasters

- Johnny Dingus & Library
Babbage

Newsletter Editor

- Sweetwater Jack
sweetwater@uci.net

THE Prez Sez:

IN MEMORIUM, October 15th,
2011... TEN SLEEP GOOD GUY

David was the ultimate cowboy with his chaps and 44/40's; the big bang as he loved the smoke, of course, and the competition (right Babarosa?); he had the mentality...and he loved his Patty above all else. He always referred to his fellow cowboys and cowgirls as steadfast friends. He was a Charter Member and Past President of the Merlin Marauders. He always said we should run our Annual Match with Grace and Class. This is his message for our hearts: Live to love; get a good laugh and a great kiss; live for the joy of it all, and for fun. Live to give to those in need, and most of all, live for the present as life is short.

He was my mentor and friend and I will greatly miss him... Molly b'Dam

It's time, for our Annual Elections of Officers for the 2012 term. Nominations were closed at our November General Meeting, All current members will be receiving a voting ballot by mail which needs to be returned by the December General Meeting in order to be counted. We have a great club with lots of participation by terrific members, and I am proud of the interest of those

wishing to serve on the Board. Remember that every vote counts.

Just a reminder – Please RSVP for the Cowboy Christmas Celebration as we need a count in order to purchase the meat. If you are bringing a child/grandchild to the Christmas Celebration, **please bring a gift for Santa to give out.**

Hope your Thanksgiving holiday **IS FILLED WITH JOY AND THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS...**

Yer Prez...Molly b'Dam

Match Winners–Nov 5th, 2011

1. Royal Flush
2. Purgatory Smith
3. General Lee Goode
4. Gawd Awful
5. Bear Bone Smith

NEXT GENERAL MEMBER MEETING

Tuesday, December 12th @ 6:30PM

At the Black Bear Diner in Grants Pass.

Take the Second Grants Pass exit and head south on 6th Street – you'll see it on the right at 1900 NW 6th Street.

Our Next Monthly Match will be on:

Saturday, December 3rd, 2011 We

will shoot our monthly matches EVERY month

at these times: Arrive early to help set up

stages @9:00 a.m. Sign-in is from 9:00 to 9:30

a.m. Shooter Meeting is at 9:30 AM, with

first shots downrange right afterward.

MERLIN MARAUDER CLUB NEWS

Membership: Our Merlin Marauders membership now stands at 84 folks.

October's Spook 'n' Shoot...

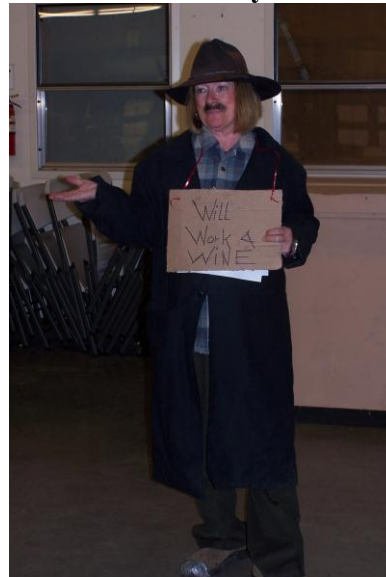
The October "Spook 'n' Shoot on the 21st was a blast in several ways; First, the costumes were great, ranging from a Gypsy Fortune Teller who refused to tell fortunes, to a "Homeless Hobo" who would apparently "Work for Wine", to a Viking "Berserker" (Those wooley "leg-warmers" were very "chic" Bear) a "Vampirette", and a PAIR of "Zorros" to fight off the pirate, "Captain Jedi Sparrow". The contest was a very close thing with The Viking and little Vampire squeeking past their competition.

After getting our fill of HOT cider and lots of CHILI, thanks to Lonesome Rose and Kate Brinning, we repaired to Fort Swampy to shoot the 3-stage night match. Lighting was dim, (but better than last year) and a lot fewer misses were racked up than before. Simplifying the scoring, only two categories were registered; Smokeless or Black Powder.... As a side note, The un-official "Oh My Gawd!" Club's roster has now swelled to a grand total of FOUR: Sweetwater Jack, Purgatory Smith, Rocky Hill Rustler, and now Jed I. Knight! The requirement for membership is to pull both triggers at once on Sweetwater's 1879 Remington-Whitworth TEN gauge, double-barrel "mule-ear" coach gun, sending FOUR ounces of #71/2 shot downrange ahead of 180 grains of FFFg black powder. (At night, the FLASH and BOOM are something to behold.) A few costume pictures:

"Los Dos Zorros" & "Viking Berserker"



"Muscatel Molly"



Would you buy a used pirate ship from Cap'n Jedi Sparrow??? I think not.....



“Spanning a FEW? Time Zones”

**Merlin Marauder Spook & Shoot
2011 Scores**

Rank	Alias	OVERALL		Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
		TIME	Misses	Net	Net	Net
1	Bear Bone Smith	103.73	2	44.92	33.92	24.89
2	Britt Ponsett	135.77	2	43.25	51.91	40.61
3	Jed I Knight	141.73	8	52.88	49.94	38.91
4	4 Gun Confusion	181.67	2	47.24	88.91	45.52
5	Sweetwater Jack	195.96	4	68.80	71.52	55.64
6	Barbarosa Mike	199.50	7	65.42	68.83	65.25
7	Nick L Ante	222.76	9	77.64	81.61	63.51
8	Checotah	247.51	7	70.21	91.98	85.32
9	Kookanadude	258.18	10	92.74	73.53	91.91
10	Cinona Hawk	379.54	11	95.16	124.38	160.00
11	Katie	439.64	1	154.02	125.62	160.00

MERLIN MARAUDER Board Elections:

Nominations for the expiring committee members (maybe I should re-word that to “expiring terms of office”) are as follows:

For VP: Kidd Kristin and Sgt Buffalo B.S. For Treasurer: Johnny 8-Toes; For Match Director: Bear Bone Smith and Jed I Knight; For Secretary: Bobbin’ Along Daisy; For Director (2 Positions): Lonesome Rose, Innaha Chuck, Fairweather Kate, Mountain Grizz, General Lee Goode. Ballots will be in the mail this month. Please support your club and vote your choices.

T/G Summit Items.

At the regular club meeting on the 8th of this month, Sweetwater asked for the club’s recommendations on the 5 voting items that are on the T/G Summit Agenda this year as this was the last meeting before he and Gaye will start the drive to Las Vegas for the SASS Convention, The nearly unanimous voting of those in attendance was as follows.

1. Change the scoring program re: DNFsYES
2. “Jumping” Age-based Categories .. NO
3. Add “Open” Category .. NO
4. Additional Ladies Costuming in “B” Western... YES
5. Revamp all categories, eliminating many Ladies Categories... NO

Full wording on these items are not repeated here, as we’ve e-mailed everyone copies of the Items.

A CEREMONY TO HONOR TEN-SLEEP GOODGUY Was held prior to the start of this month’s match. A 21 gun salute in a cold, light, Oregon drizzle was fired by 7 Marauders, and a minute of silent prayer marked our respect and love for our prematurely departed pard. David Taylor was taken from us so suddenly and unexpectedly that none of us could initially truly believe that he had gone down the trail ahead of us. David was a charter member of the Marauders as well as a past Club President. A U.S. Marine air traffic controller in Vietnam, “Ten-Sleep” was a quiet, compassionate, force in the growth of the Marauders and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.....



THE ANNUAL JEFFERSON COWBOY CLUBS CHRISTMAS PARTY will be held on December 10th, at the Rogue River VFW Hall, as we did last year. We will continue the tradition of the popular “Steal-a-Gift” program as well as requesting that you bring an unwrapped gift for the Marine Corps “Toys for Tots” Drive. All Cowboy Action Shooting Clubs in Southern Oregon/Northern California (State of Jefferson) are invited to attend in their Christmas Finery.

THE NEXT ANNUAL MATCH/STATE MATCH PLANNING MEETING: will be held on Wednesday, 16 November at Black Bear Diner in Grants Pass. Meet between 5:30 and 6:00 PM if eating, 6:30 PM if not. Our “Theme” will be “Oregon History” and a brief “Theme Intro” has been placed on the M/M website: www.merlinmaraudercowboys.com Oregon has a LOT of history, and as I said on the intro, both “shiny” and “dark”... SWJ

JCSA NEWS : Imnaha Chuck: Reminder: MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The JCSA General Meeting is at 2:00PM, Saturday, 12 November. We need a big turnout of Merlin Marauders for this meeting! According to Lonesome Rose there will be a BIG financial advantage for the club with the most folks there!!!

Monthly Match Stage Setup for Saturday, December 3rd:

- Stage 1– Jed I Knight
- Stage 2- Bear Bone
- Stage 3- Britt Ponsett
- Stage 4- Molly ‘b Dam
- Stage 5- Bear Bone (Double up)

MERLIN MARAUDER MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND MATCH FEES:

MEMBERSHIP

Annual Individual: \$25, Family* Membership \$35

**Family is defined as all living under one roof*

MONTHLY MATCH SHOOTING FEES

Individual M/M Member	\$10
Additional Family Adults	\$5 each
Individual Non-MM Member	\$13
Additional Non-MM Family Adult	\$5 each

For membership issues and information call: Molly b'Dam @ (541) 479-2928

OREGON & Northern CALIFORNIA MONTHLY MATCHES

1 st Saturday	Grants Pass	Merlin Marauders	Molly 'B Dam	[541] 479-2928	haha@budget.net
1 st Saturday	Canby	Mollala River Rangers	Gold Dust Bill	(503) 705-1211	
1 st Sunday	White City	Table Rock Rangers	Jed I. Knight	(541) 944-2281	jed@theincredibells.com
1 st Sunday	Bend	Horse Ridge Pistoleros	Big Casino	(541) 389-2342	
1 st Sunday	Florence	Siuslaw River Rangers	Johnny Jingos	(541) 997-6313	johnnyjingos@yahoo.com
2 nd Saturday	Medford	Table Rock Rangers	Jed I. Knight	(541) 944-2281	jed@theincredibells.com
2 nd Saturday	Burney	Shasta Regulators-Hat Creek	Cayenne Pepper	(530) 275-3158	modocsass13826@sbcglobal.net
2 nd Saturday	The Dalles	Fort Dalles Defenders	Frisco Nell	(541) 835-5630	
2 nd Sunday	Myrtle Creek	So. Umpqua Vigilantes	Dr. Ecchymosis	(541) ???-????	deputvanimal@yahoo.com
(Note: So. Umpqua Vigilantes are NOT SASS-Affiliated as yet)					
2 nd Sunday	Bend, OR	Pine Mountain Posse	Juniper Butch	[541] 416-0361	
2 nd Sunday	Klamath Falls	Klamath Cowboys	Tule Spud	(541)	
3 rd Saturday	Ashland	Jefferson State Regulators	H. Apple Bob	(541) 826-9140	
3 rd Saturday	Redding CA	Shasta Regulators	Modoc	(530) 365-1839	modocsass13826@sbcglobal.net
3 rd Sunday	Shedd (Albany)	Oregon Old West Shooters	Deaf Eagle	[541]	deafeagle@centurytel.net
3 rd Sunday	Bend	Horse Ridge Pistoleros	Big Casino	(541) 389-2342	
4 th Saturday	Klamath Falls	Klamath Cowboys	Tule Spud	(541)	
4 th Saturday	Shedd (Albany)	Oregon Old West Shooters	Deaf Eagle	[541] 259-2774	deafeagle@centurytel.net
4 th Saturday	Eureka/Arcata	Mad River Rangers	Kid Knee Stone	(707) 445-1981	clsnowden@aol.com
4 th Saturday	Yreka CA	Hawkinsville Claim Jumpers	Humbug Hank	[530] 598-6969	mpine@snowcrest.net
4 th Sunday	The Dalles	Fort Dalles Defenders	Frisco Nell	(541) 835-5630	
4 th Sunday	Roseburg	Umpqua Regulators.	Oregon Gustaf	(541) 430-1021	swansonville@charter.net

MERLIN MARAUDER MERCANTILE

Got something to sell that you don't need or want anymore?

Put it up for sale here in the Mercantile: ctc. Sweetwater at sweetwater@uci.net with price and details. I'll list it here, and if you want, put it in the NW Cowboy Campfire, too!

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MATCH RESULTS

Rank	Alias	Category	OVERALL		Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
			TIME	Misses	Net	Net	Net	Net	Net
1	Royal Flush	Forty-Niner	95.14	0	19.71	17.14	20.20	21.45	16.64
2	Purgatory Smith	Gunfighter	104.95	1	19.11	16.64	27.38	22.60	19.22
3	General Lee Goode	Gumfighter	118.66	0	21.22	18.49	34.01	26.62	18.32
4	Gawd Awful	Gunfihghter	128.80	0	22.86	28.51	26.52	29.53	21.38
5	Bear Bone Smith	Silver Senior	136.56	1	25.33	23.30	33.56	30.31	24.06
6	Vendetta	Lady Gunfighter	174.40	3	33.29	33.84	41.65	33.88	31.74
7	Molly b'Dam	Lady Silver Senior	178.26	1	40.75	34.19	32.24	37.85	33.23
8	Johnny Dingus	Gunfighter	186.75	1	34.30	29.65	55.33	37.63	29.84
9	Jed I Knight	BP Gunfighter	195.14	0	59.13	35.49	32.08	39.76	28.68
10	Riverdog	Forty-Niner	195.41	9	25.81	23.01	33.68	72.33	40.58
11	Nick L Ante	Gunfighter	201.47	0	36.94	45.03	35.37	43.69	40.44
12	CHP Shot	Elder Statesman	204.13	0	34.78	45.87	42.97	44.89	35.62
13	Treacherous Jack	Senior	207.93	3	45.68	33.51	44.11	40.33	44.3
14	Kidd Krystin	Senior Gunfighter	216.16	4	43.10	57.43	40.46	44.41	30.76
15	Merlin Maverick	Veteran	218.80	0	50.43	45.31	44.25	41.30	37.51
16	Esther Jen Overload	Lady Wrangler	221.13	16	40.83	40.57	33.35	72.67	33.71
17	Rogue Rascal	Elder Statesman	262.10	4	53.77	33.38	50.12	72.42	52.41
18	Liucky Rick O'Shay	Cattle Baron	284.84	3	48.29	46.67	82.66	56.48	50.74
19	Imnaha Chuck	Senior	301.56	0	64.85	47.52	78.92	55.16	55.11
20	Awful E Nice	Cowgirl	330.20	8	55.27	54.50	91.93	74.10	54.40

Designates a Clean Match (No Misses, Procedurals, or Safety Penalties)

Being unsure just what a "Gumfighter" does..., I'll leave General Lee Goode to do it....

Dispatches From the Territorial Governor

Seems there are still a few questions out there about Overloading the rifle:

... **Overloading a rifle on a stage is not a safety issue.** The safety comes into play if the shooter has any rounds left in the rifle after he/she has fired the rifle and committed to the next gun. Then, and only then, a safety shall be issued if a live round is left anywhere in the rifle.

Should the shooter realize that they have loaded too many rounds and safely ejects those rounds, it's a no call.

Should the shooter fire more rounds than called for in the stage, it would be a "P" for using ammunition that was illegally acquired.... What's the Call? Application of related existing rules/penalties

Stage calls for 9 rounds in the rifle. Shooter loads 10 rounds at the loading table.

Whats the call if:

1. Shooter shoots 9 rounds and ejects the 10th round...safely restages rifle "open & empty".
NO CALL – NO MSV penalty for overloading – Rifle is considered "safe to leave shooter's hands".

2. Shooter kicks out the first round and then shoots the next 9 rounds.
"P" + miss (use of "illegally acquired" ammunition)

3. Shooter shoots 5 rounds, then kicks one out, and then shoots the next 4 rounds.
"P" + miss (use of "illegally acquired" ammunition)

4. Shooter shoots 9 rounds then puts down open rifle and then shoots the next gun.
MSV for an unfired round remaining in long gun action or magazine

...Or...

SDQ if round is chambered (e.g. lever closes when restaged)

So what's the key, here? If you jack one out, **AND YOU'VE OVERLOADED THE RIFLE AT THE LOADING TABLE** you must replace the round immediately after kicking out the live round and then jack out the extra (s) after completing the firing string before going to the next firearm. This will avoid the "use of illegal ammunition" and the "P" + miss, MSV or SDQ.... No, actually, the KEY here is pay attention to the stage instructions and DON'T overload the rifle at the loading table!!!

NO SASS Convention and Cowboy Christmas 2012

I just received word (as most of you did), that SASS will NOT be holding an Annual Convention in 2012.

I certainly hope this is NOT the death-knell of the SASS Convention. Gaye and I have not missed any of the Conventions, and each and every one was worth the drive (sometimes through 100 miles of snow and ice in a 2-wheel drive pickup truck) if for no other reasons than the great seminars, camaraderie with our fellow SASS members, colorful and sometimes amazing costumes and of course, the Territorial Governor Summit meetings, which although often a verbal bloodbath, hammered out some good rules and guidelines (usually).. The Wild Bunch has only said no Convention in 2012, and NOT "no more Conventions at all, but I'm very concerned.....

And now, how about loading up black powder shotgun shells? Hard? Nope..

One of the keys to successful reloading of smokeless powder shot-shells is wad pressure, where you have to get a good combination of powder quantity, wad height/length, and shot quantity. In smokeless reloading you'd best stick very closely to the manufacturer's recipes (usually the powder manufacturer) to achieve loads that do what you want and expect, without creating dangerous overpressures, or "blooper" loads.

Black powder loads are similar but not as pressure-critical for good performance in Cowboy Action Shooting. As I only shoot 12 gauge my article will stick to that gauge. Once again, yes, you can use your regular shotshell

loader for black powder, as you can for cartridge ammo. What powder granulation? Most folks use **FFg** for shotguns. If you feel you want a little more “oomph” with the same powder and shot quantities, switch to **FFFg**. (Don’t use **FFFFg** (4Fg) as it is too finely granulated and is made for the “flash pan” of flint-lock rifles and burns way hotter than **FFg** or **FFFg**. If you are using a black powder substitute instead of the real thing, use the same granulation as for real black powder. How much? Between 50 and 60 grains (volume) works well for a typical 1 1/8 oz shot load in 12 Ga. I’ve been using an old and inexpensive MEC 600Jr. for about 40 years and it works just fine with the 1 1/8 oz shot bar and the #44 powder bushing. I use Winchester Red Wads or any other plastic wad brand that has the SAME height from bottom of the shot cup down to the base. This gives enough wad pressure to make sure the wad is fully down against the powder and still produces a good solid “star” crimp at the shell mouth. How about using the classic over-powder nitro card wad, then a fibre filler/compression wad and finally a thin cardboard over-shot wad? Are you nuts? I’m WAY too lazy to do all that..!!!! As with the metallic cartridge, the resizing and re-priming is the same, whether you use a simple MEC loader or the Dillon 900 Shotgun press. I actually prefer to use my MEC 600Jr, rather than the Dillon. Slower, but I’m usually only reloading two or three boxes at a time, not 20. Use the same brand of primers you use for your smokeless shells, I usually use Winchester or Federals. The hardness/softness of the primer cups isn’t a real factor in the shotshells as it is with rifle and pistol ammo, unless you’ve REALLY lightened the hammer springs in your shotgun. Hulls? I stick with Winchester AA’s or Remington’s green STS hulls, mostly as they “shuck” better out of my SxS. (The b/p shells WILL heat up the barrels a lot faster than the smokeless loads do, and ribbed hulls (and those with aluminum bases) “stick” in the chamber more than smooth ones with low brass bases. And as I’ve said before....clean those SxS barrels the EASY way. At the end of the day, take the barrels off, turn the hot water tap in the old laundry sink on, let the water get HOT and run the water down those barrels ! That gunk should run right down the drain. If there is still plastic wad residue (the following doesn’t really apply if you forsake the ease of the modern plastic wads and go full out for authenticity and use fibre, etc. “card” wads...) in there, go to my “secret” process. Plug the muzzles with a pair of those rubber stoppers you bought at Ace Hardware (you took your shotgun barrels into the store with you to get the right size stoppers, right?) pour in a mixture of 1 part Ballistol Sportsman’s Oil (From Cabelas usually) to 10 parts water, making “moose-milk” you keep in a plastic milk jug) and stand the barrels in the corner while you clean the rest of your guns. (About 20 minutes to a half hour will do the trick) Pour the “used” moose milk back into the jug for next time, and tear a paper towel in half and wad each half into the chambers. Shove the wadded paper through the barrel and out the muzzle. You’ll get a black or grey plastic “snake” that was the wad residue out. Run a “bore snake” through from breech to muzzle and put the barrels up to the light and be amazed at how clean and shiny the bores are. Have fun! SWJ

