



MERLIN MARAUDERS Cowboy Gazette

www.merlinmaraudercowboys.com

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

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Newsletter

Sweetwater Jack

The Prez Sez:

Hi Again!

We survived the great February rainstorm and are looking forward to a wonderful match on March 7. We hope you can come and have a blast (literally) banging steel and getting the bad guys.

Speaking of shooting it out with a whole host of villainous varmints, please plan on attending our Annual Match May 15-17 — only three months away! The team has been working diligently on the preparations, stepping up to handle all the myriad details, and checking off all the “To Do’s” on Molly b’Dam’s Match Matrix at our monthly meetings. (BTW: Sweetwater comments on a few of those topics later, within this newsletter.)

The theme is “Great Western Film Shootouts” and for those into the fantasy of our sport, you’ll enjoy reliving climactic, action-packed scenes from the great cowboy movies of cinematic history. You’ll get to utter their memorable lines as well as take-on an assortment of owlhoots, gunmen, lackeys, train robbers, and town raiders.

For those who are more into the competition of the sport, you will not be disappointed. You’ll be able to test your speed and accuracy

skills both on the main stages as well as at a variety of side matches — against an array of standard target arrangements as well as a good smattering of fun gimmicks and bonus time opportunities.

Why the hype and plugs? Because now is the time to get your applications in (just download off our website) and ensure a place among the ranks of your compadres for a rootin’, tootin’ magnificent (7) event.

Until then, hope to see you in Merlin as well as at our fellow clubs throughout Southwestern Oregon and Northern California. It’s a terrific time to be a cowboy and cowgirl!

Ride easy,
— Britt

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 12[@] 6:30 PM,
at the Black Forest Family Restaurant
at 829 NE “E” Street, in the Grants
Pass Shopping Center near Staples.
Come early for dinner!

NEXT MONTHLY MATCH

Saturday, March 7th.

Stage set-up is typically on Friday
(watch for an e-mail notice). **Sat.**
Sign-in is from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m.
Shooter Meeting is at 9:30 a.m. I-5
Exit 61 and North on frontage road
to Josephine County Sportsman’s Park

MERLIN MARAUDER CLUB NEWS

Membership: Membership Dues are still coming in,,, and they are NEEDED!

BATTLE OF ROGUE RIVER 2015 — MAY 15-17: FYI Get Your Application from the Website!

Meetings of the Annual Match Committee continue and the planning is coming together pretty smoothly. The Saturday Evening Banquet at the match will be a special treat for all, as we have found a GREAT caterer! You will NOT be disappointed with the food!

WORK PARTIES: The next "project" will be the addition of new gravel to the shooting areas. This project has been "tabled" until the warmer and drier springtime. Work parties to prep for our annual Battle of Rogue River will be on April 18 and 25 (both are Saturdays). If necessary we also will schedule one for Saturday, May 2, instead of holding the monthly match.

REMINDER: The 2015 Oregon State SASS Championship Match, "Shootout at Saddle Creek": The OOWSS Annual Match for 2015 will be presented in Shedd (just south of Albany) on July 17-19. Per Match Director Tuffy Tumbleweed: "The State Match theme will be *Women of the West*." **Save the dates: July 17, 18, and 19.**

SASS CONVENTION: Well, the 2014 SASS Convention, which was held in January 2015, is history. Good News for us "Westerners": the 2015 SASS Convention will be back in the Las Vegas area. No, it won't be back at the venerable Riviera Hotel this year. The SASS Convention and Territorial Governor Summit will be held at the Green Valley Ranch, Resort, Spa, and Casino in the Las Vegas suburb of Henderson: from December 2-6, 2015. We don't know what the room rates will be yet, but believe there will be a special **SASS** rate. At least I hope so. The "rack" rates here for December 2-6 start at \$155 and run almost double that on Friday nights. Don't know what is going on in Henderson, Nevada, on Friday nights, but here are the lowest rates shown:

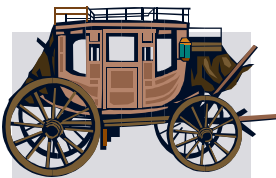
King Deluxe Room, (which is the lowest rate) for December 2-6, 2015. These are copied from the resort's website: <https://greenvalleyranch.sclv.com/>

Wed.2	Thu.3	Fri.4	Sat.5	Sun.6
\$155.00	\$180.00	\$280.00	\$200.00	\$125.00

A daily resort fee of \$28.24 will be added to rate.

The resort has some entertainment but is not anywhere near "The STRIP"

Merlin Stage Setup for March 7th



Stages 1 & 2 (Bay 1): Imnaha Chuck

Stage 3 (Bay 2): Molly B'Dam

Stages 4 & 5 (Bay 3): Britt Ponsett

Help with set-up on Friday will be much appreciated, as usual.

MARAUDER MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION AND MATCH FEES:

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>		<u>SHOOTING FEES</u>	
Individual Membership	\$25	Individual MM Member	\$10
Family* Membership	\$35	Additional MM Family Adults	\$5 each
<i>*Family is defined as all living under one roof</i>		Individual Non-MM Member	\$13
		Additional Non-MM Family Adult	\$5 each

For membership issues and information call: Molly b'Dam @(541) 479-2928
Complete new/renewal application and mail to: Merlin Marauders, P.O. Box 202, Grants Pass Oregon 97528
Merlin Marauder Badges – We are currently looking into finding a new source for club badges, as Lindholm Spurs is no longer in business.

FEBRUARY Match Scores:

Due to anticipated horrible, stormy, and otherwise unpleasant WEATHER, the February Match was canceled by the President and Match Director. (No, not THAT president.) We apologize to anyone who did not get the word in time and actually braved the floodwaters and fallen trees and arrived at Ft. Swampy to shoot. I will be happy to validate your parking. Sweetwater Jack

Dispatches From The Territorial Governor

There has apparently been some confusion on a couple of points of procedure for some time. The RO Committee has made the following clarifications, and published them on the T/G Wire:

Long guns "closed/open" issue: (from 11th Convention, Dec. 2013)

- Long guns will be cleared and discarded with barrels pointing safely downrange. If the action of a long gun closes after being cleared then the competitor will, at the conclusion of the stage, show it to be clear to the TO. No person other than the competitor may handle the long gun prior to opening the action and showing the long gun to be clear. Appropriate penalties will apply if the long gun is not clear.

Shooting on the move:

- The rules for movement (Basketball Traveling rule) does not relate to shooting on the move. Shooting on the move is expressly disallowed. The "basketball traveling rule" was originally intended to pertain to a competitor who inadvertently cocks a firearm in a position other than the designated firing position or was moving both feet whilst engaging targets at the firing position. One foot may be moved to adjust stance or correct balance. The Basketball Traveling rule was not intended to relate to multiple movements between shots (e.g. Shooting multiple shots during continuous movement.)

There is a shooter at one of the local clubs whose method of transporting long guns has been brought into question. He has a gun cart with leather scabbards on each side, pointed down. When transporting his long guns to and from his vehicle and during the match between stages, he closes the actions on his long guns and puts them in the scabbards.

Shooters' Hand Book:

“Safe Gun handling is the shooter’s responsibility. The 170 degree safety rule is in effect. Muzzle direction is important between, before, during, and after shooting a stage. A muzzle must not be allowed to “sweep” the other participants at any time. Long guns shall have their actions open with chambers and magazines empty and muzzles pointed in a safe direction when transported at a match. A holstered revolver (loaded or empty) with the hammer fully down on an empty chamber or expended case is considered safe and may not be interpreted as sweeping another shooter while safely secured in the holster. Failure to manage safe muzzle direction is grounds for disqualification from the stage, and for repeat offenses, from the match.”

One shooter asked:

One of the main issues is that at a lot of the clubs where I shoot the only berm is at the end of the range. There are no berms between stages. How do you not break the 170 degree rule even if you are pointing the muzzle into a berm because your cart is behind the firing line?

The 170 doesn't apply off the line.

IF you read the definition in the RO1, you'll see that it requires pointing the muzzle downrange within the 170 "cone".

GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

170° Safety Rule - means the muzzle of the firearm must always be pointed down range +/- 85 degrees in any direction.

A shooter at the back of a bay with other shooters between him and the actual stage (downrange) would be penalized for sweeping them if the 170 was enforced at that point.

The 170 applies during the engagement of the stage...not at the Loading Table/Unloading Table or behind the line (depending on range setup).

Common sense must be applied to the concept of NOT SWEEPING ANYONE with the muzzle of a firearm at ANY TIME.

Inattentive “muzzle control” AWAY from the firing line, whether back at your gun cart or even clear back at your vehicle, may not get you assigned “a safety penalty time,” a “Stage Disqualification,” or a “Match DQ”... but it MIGHT just get your butt kicked by the “sweepie”...



Sweetwater (One-eyed) Jack