

# What's New?

August 6, 2022

Howdy Pards and Pardettes!

The August shoot wasn't too bad at all. A little on the hot side but we had the "cowboy air conditioning" fans out and plenty of bottled water so it was tolerable. Lord knows we've had more than our share of great weather for the shoots this year. Just two more shoots left this year so come join the fun! Lots of folks commented on how much fun it was. We've moved our "Young Guns" event to September so if you want to take a trip down memory lane, to old stages that required some thinking and some extra physical sharp shooting, well, September is the month for you! We will have normal stages and "young gun" stages. Some of our young guns in the past were 80+ years old so chronological youth is not required! You are as young as you feel!

## RANGE WORK

Spenerdy is putting up the new "spring style" shotgun targets. Come try them out! He also put some "singing" targets up on Stage 3, come make 'em sing! Give Spenerdy a call if you want to come help out with work. We have more fun than work on our workdays. A new and more spectacular roof on the livery and the floor in the mercantile are in the plans. The work on the floor has started. And bring any guns or ammo you want to test.

## WOMEN OF THE OLD WEST



These four sisters ( l-r ), Harriet, Elizabeth, Lucie, and Ruth Crisman, were photographed in 1886 near Custer County, Nebraska. They knew how blessed it was to have each other as many suffered from loneliness out on the frontier. Edith Eudora Kohl said in her homesteading memoir, "Yeah, the United States Government is betting you 160 acres of land that you can't live on it for eight months!"

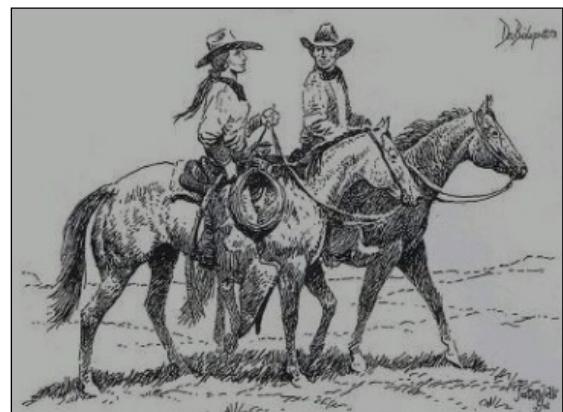
## THANKS SHOOTERS!

See you on the trail!

Your Pard,

*Surly Bob*

Surly Bob  
Marshal, Nebraska Territorial Rangers



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## Your Cowboy Wisdom:

**“Some cowboys have too much tumbleweed in their blood ta settle down.”**

**“Don’t worry about bitin’ off more than ya can chew. Your mouth is probably a whole lot bigger’n ya think!”**

## **SHOOTING SUBJECT OF THE MONTH –Tips For The RO/Timer Operator**

Those of us who grab the timer and conduct the shooter through the stage know there are specific things to the job that are important. But help your RO/timer operator with these things as it’s a lot to concentrate on!

- Make sure you have 3 spotter/counters. Be sure of this before starting a shooter.
- Do you have people at the loading and unloading tables? Make sure those are covered effectively.
- Check the timer, make sure it's operating and recording shots. Give it a glance when it's recording.
- Is the stage ready? Targets set? Nobody huntin' mushrooms on the hill? Brassers out of the way?
- Check for holes, snags, slick surfaces, etc. that people could step on and trip, etc. Make sure target ropes are out of the path of the shooter. Look for safety problems like that.
- Make sure when the shooter is staging the guns that there is nobody in the way and that the shooter is not passing behind people carrying loaded guns. Everyone should clear out of the way of a loaded gun and the way down range.
- Look at the shooter. Do they have shotgun ammo if using a shotgun? Are the guns holstered with tie downs tied (not ready). Do they have eye and ear protection on?
- Conduct the shooter. Make sure the shooter stages the guns properly and starts the stage according to the written scenario. Answer questions and assist the shooter. Be ready to act if there are problems.
- If the shooter fumbles on startup, quickly ask if they want to “start over”. This can be done before any shot is fired. However, if the shooter has pulled the hammer back on a pistol, or fired the first shot, the shooter must continue.
- Stay out of the way of the shooter. If you impeded the shooter’s progress, you must allow a reshoot.
- WATCH THE GUN. Don’t watch the targets. Keep your eyes on the gun as it is drawn and re-holstered. You can spot problems this way.
- COUNT THE SHOTS. Between you and the spotters, you should all be counting shots. This is helpful if there is a malfunction to put the shooter back on the proper target.
- If shotgun targets are “shoot until down” on the stage, be ready to yell “UP” if a target does not go down for the shooter. But watch that gun.
- Read the time IMMEDIATELY and protect the timer from recording other shots nearby which could alter the time. You can cover the hole that the timer “hears” through.
- Call the time to the scorekeeper and WITNESS the scorekeeper writing down the correct time. Don’t assume that they heard you correctly.
- Call the misses/procedurals to the scorekeeper after checking the spotter/counter’s call. Only the RO/Timer Operator can call time and misses/procedurals.
- Make sure the shooter goes to the unloading table after the stage. Too often this is neglected.
- KEEP IT MOVING AND KEEP IT FUN! Don’t waste time but crack a joke once in a while. Especially if you sense that the posse is tense or tired. But don’t rush your shooters either.
- WATCH YOUR POSSE! The weather could be hot and taking a toll on your people. Watch them for signs of heat exhaustion. Encourage them to take a break and have some water and cool off. We are here to have fun, not kill ourselves!
- If you screw up somehow, or the team screws up, offer the shooter a reshoot. It’s the cowboy way.
- If you cannot deliver an accurate time for whatever reason, the shooter must get a reshoot.
- Watch the weather during storms. You see lightning? Get your people off the range! Each of you holding a rifle can make for a human lightning rod!
- THINK SAFETY, SAFETY, SAFETY – in all things on the range. Keep your posse safe.