

What's New?

May 24th , 2016

Range and Club News

Howdy Pard and Pardettes!

What can I say? NTR's shooters were blessed once again with almost perfect weather this month! Nearly every weekend has been rainy and stormy but the Good Lord smiled on our little range in the hills of Iowa. A great big thank you to all the shooters who came out to see us this month. We had a whopping attendance and four FULL posses for our signature John Wayne's Birthday shoot and Cowboy Flea Market. Many cowboys and cowgirls swapped gear and clothes and there were lots of happy faces!

Hats off to Nat Love, a long time member, who has been fighting some serious medical issues but came out and braved some stages until his strength gave out. Now THAT is a serious Cowboy in the tradition of the Old West! We love you Nat and pray for your complete recovery! God Bless You! As a side note: Capt. Jim Midnight and Nat had a bit of rivalry with shooting fees and scores as you will see on this month's posting. I think Nat won out on that one!

We continue to attract some new shooters. Folks that say we are an aging population of shooters need to come around NTR! There is some hope for Cowboy Action! Keep beating the drum folks!

Folks had the bugs worked out of their guns and there was some fast shootin'! Hats off to all the clean shooters this month on some pretty challenging stages! We even got the Gatling gun out of moth balls for some Rooster Cogburn action! And shooting a shotgun off the spring horse has a lot of cowboys and cowgirls out of their comfort zone...but they got the bad guys anyway! One stage was totally open to choice of guns and even had the "gamers" in the crowd doing some serious thought about how to shoot it. And the infamous bottle targets took a few prisoners. Yup, it was a real challenging shoot!

Thanks to everyone for trying to follow "The Cowboy Way" and practicing good spotting skills. I've kept some of that content from my write-up last month at the end of this news bulletin if you wish to read through it again.

See You On The Trail!!

As one of my last "official" acts, it's with a bit of a heavy heart that I've come to the decision to turn in my badge to the NTR Board of Directors. The time has come for some new blood, new talent, and new ideas on the board of NTR. I have absolutely no hard feelings or worries about our past, present, or future for the club. My mission is complete. I'm just an old cowboy and I know when it's time to hit the trail. I'm sure the BOD will welcome anyone who wishes to step up and help fill the vacancy on the BOD so please let them know if you are interested. My intention is to continue supporting the club, as I have many times in the past, just not as Marshal.

Please continue to give your support to the NTR board and NTR. The current board members are some of the best, most talented people that I've ever had the pleasure to serve with. And NTR is the best cowboy club I've ever seen.

Your Pard On The Range,
Surly Bob

From April 2016
Posse Etiquette - The Cowboy Way

I gave a bit of a speech about how a good posse operates so I'll summarize. When you are on a shooting posse...everybody needs to find a job to do and everyone needs to work. This makes the fun factor a lot better for all the folks on the posse. Think of it as a team. If you are not a team player, no one is really going to want to be on the same posse that you are on. There are plenty of things to do and some jobs are pretty easy.

Jobs:

Loading and unloading tables need people to help the shooter load and unload safely. Our spotters (3) watch for safety and count the hits. The posse marshals (2) guide the shooter safely through the scenario. But the people who REALLY make the day go smooth are the folks who pick up the brass and help reset the targets. You need two brassers and perhaps one or two people teaming up on targets. Sometimes a person to shuttle a long gun to the shooter at the end of the stage is very helpful and saves a lot of steps and time for the shooter and the posse.

Saves Time:

When you save a minute here and a minute there, you can move the shooters through the stage very briskly and there is more time for commiseratin' at the end of the shoot. This not only gets the out of town people on the road at a decent time in the afternoon, but it helps create those extra moments where we can have a little fun.

Minimum crew:

So if I count this up, there needs to be a minimum of 9 people working all the time to maximize the fun factor. I've been on groups of 18 people before and was STILL looking for help. That just don't cut it folks. Step up and take a job. It's the Cowboy Way.

SPOTTERS

Everyone has heard the tale on this time and time again. But remember to give the benefit of the doubt to the shooter. The only time to call a miss is if you are guaranteed darn sure that it was a miss. And you posse marshals.....when you see the spotters have done a good job catching a hard to see hit, make sure you congratulate them on a job well done. In fact everyone on the posse should celebrate and congratulate each other when these jobs are carried out well. If you have been on a posse where these jobs were screwed up, you should appreciate when it is done right.