

Squinter's Comments

Many things Happening

The June match was fun, not too hot, no rain during the match and no rain (even though we need it) until the match was over. Stages were somewhat different. Harpe was spoken to about his stage; we'll see what he does next. There have been a couple of "big matches" between the May and June match.

The State match at Byhalia was held and **Diamond Lilly** is again the State Women's Champion. In addition she was the high woman shooter overall. Way to go Lilly!! The rest of us just shot. There is a complete list on the River Rangers web site. Our representatives at Mule Camp fared well. **Free State** is the Regional Duelist Frontier Cartridge Champion. **Short Stuff** finished third behind two world champs and **Whitey McCall** was 4th place Black Powder Regional 49'er. Good shooting folks. While big matches are fun to go to we shoot eleven matches at home every year, sometimes more. So, we need to do a little work around the range. A work day is set for JULY 29. Make plans to attend. We need to build a pavilion next to the Club house to be able to get out of the sun and rain and have a place to sit and eat and just sit around, the porch is getting crowded. The work day will start early (7:00 AM); working with tin on a hot roof is not fun. The cooler the better.

In an effort to have a little more competition, we will offer a "NewComer" category. A new shooter will be able to compete with other new shooters for six months before having to select a category to shoot in with a bunch of old shooters, of course a new shooter may opt out of the NewComer category at anytime. This is not a SASS category and will be offered just at the monthly club shoot level. Also we will start a "Shootist" category for people who finish first in their category and also finish in the overall top ten. The more experienced shooters will shoot against experienced shooters and not new shooters. More people will have a chance to win a category. The overall standing will not be affected. If a "shootist" falls below the top ten, they may shoot in their normal category the next match. We will try this for a while and see how it works.

The July match will be Watermelon Match, we will have watermelon to eat after the match and each category winner will be able to take a melon home. If you don't want to take one home, we can shoot it. Bring a new shooter with you next time, if not just come yourself. Have fun. See you in July.

Squinter

Results from Byhalia State Match
And the Winners are:

Diamond Lilly	Match Overall Ladies Mississippi Ladies Overall Spirit of the Game – Posse 2
Leatherneck	2 nd - Frontier Cartridge Duelist
Paper Chaser	3 rd – Frontier Cartridge
Harpe	3 rd – Senior
Fleetwood Mac	Clean Match
Diamond Lilly	Clean Match

Travel Report- Mule Camp 06

This story starts on Wednesday morning leaving Jackson headed east toward Covington, Georgia. Got there around 6 or 6:30 pm , but with the Atlanta traffic it took about 1 ½ hour to go through town, Got checked in the motel , unloaded and had supper at a nice family owned restaurant next to the motel. There were several groups of other Cowboy Shooters eating there also. Left early the next morning for the range to sign in and attend safety meeting for the Regional Black Powder Match that day. Freestate and myself shot the 5 stage match and Short Stuff helped in the posse and took pictures. Got finished around 2 pm . There were also side matches and other various types of entertainment going on throughout the day. Vendors , Gun dealers , clothing, boots, leather, any and every thing a cowboy needs could be purchased. Friday started the main match and we were in Posse 1 & 2 shooting the morning shift. We had a grand Posse with Matt Masterson , La. Lady , Silver City Rebel, Lassiter , just to name a few. Our Posse got to start on stage 1 and shot 6 stages that day, finishing around 2pm. Packed up the truck and went back to the motel and cleaned up and met the Alabama gang and several of our Posse at Outback that night with fun being had by all. Saturday we were to shoot the afternoon shift. At the Food Wagon I happened onto Tequila , he was there shooting episodes for the TV show *Cowboys* , Had a short talk with him and he said the TV show was keeping him very busy. Well we made it through the heat and shot 6 stages. Got loaded up and headed for the room, needed to soak up some AC. Sunday morning was Awards Day, Short Stuff won 3rd place in Ladies Traditional, finished 62nd overall. Freestate won 1st place F.C. Duelist 2nd place in the Regional Black Powder Match, finished 72nd overall. I finished 4th in the Regional Black Powder match, 16th in 49'er and 85th overall. There were 453 competitors this year. If you want to go to a major match that is not so far away Mule Camp is the one.

Submitted By,

Whitey McCall

Cattle Trails of the Old West

In the years immediately following the Civil War, the Texas veterans returning home were surprised to find not only had their herds survived but the numbers of cattle had increased considerably. Estimates are that in the year 1866 about six million head of cattle, mostly Texas longhorns roamed the vast Texas territory. So there was the problem: lots of cattle but no place to sell them. One man with an answer was Joseph G. McCoy, a cattle buyer and shipper from Springfield, Illinois. His idea was to provide a shipping point somewhere along the westward expanding Kansas-Pacific railroad. His choice was Abilene, Kansas.

The first important cattle trail for the Texas cattle was the Chisholm Trail. It's estimated that between 1867 and 1873 more than one and a half million head of Texas cattle were 'trailed' along it to Abilene. (that's from one source) Other sources seem to indicate that as many as nine to ten million head of Texas cattle were trailed north to the cowtowns of Kansas and other destinations north and west and yes, even to the east.. Jesse Chisholm had used an old, established military trail through the Indian Territories (present day Oklahoma) to haul freight for his trading post, located on the North Canadian River. The Trail didn't, as some have supposed, begin in Texas and end in Kansas. There were many 'trails' in Texas that moved cattle north and 'merged' into the original Chisholm Trail; on their way to Abilene and other cattle shipping points. The best part of Chisholm's trail was the water and grass for grazing. These two essentials made it a natural for cattle drives. Unfortunately Jesse Chisholm died in 1868 and never got to witness the great herds of beef moving north along 'his' trail. As years of the drive progressed the cattle trails shifted west, and split off from the original Chisholm trail. One such offspring was the Great Western Trail which fed their cattle herds into Dodge City, Kansas.

Along with the birth and growth of the cattle trails, during this time period into American history came a new kind of working man: the **cowboy**. And let me be quick to point out that all cowboys weren't men or boys, there were a few women who also worked the trails as a 'cowboy'. It's been said and written that the cowboy working these great trails exemplified the best of the American character. They honored the simple virtues of courage, loyalty, and pride in doing a job well.. They also developed a 'code of conduct' and an attitude toward their work that can simply be called "the cowboy way".

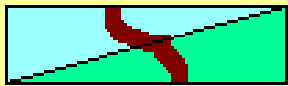
More next month.

Trails

Main Chisholm Trail



Chisholm variations



"Feeder" trails



Shawnee Trail



Great Western Trail



Kansas Cowtowns

- A. Abilene 1867-71
- B. Newton 1871
- C. Wichita 1870-77
- D. Caldwell 1879-85
- E. Ellsworth 1871-75
- F. Hays 1867-71
- G. Dodge City '72-86

Chisholm Trail Landmarks

- H. Buffalo Springs
- I. Dover Stage Stand
- J. Caddo Springs
- K. Silver City
- L. Rock Creek Crossing
- M. Old Duncan Store
- N. Monument Hill
- O. Reid Store
- P. Fleetwood Store

Texas Cities

- Q. Fort Worth
- R. Dallas
- S. Waco
- T. Austin
- U. San Antonio
- V. Uvalde
- W. Houston
- X. Texana
- Y. Laredo
- Z. Brownsville

Sources:

- Chisholm Trail Historical Museum,
Waurika, Oklahoma
- "Cowboy Culture" by David Dary
- "The Cowboys" by Time-Life Books
- "Historical Atlas of the American West"
by Warren Beck & Ynez Haase
- "The Look of the Old West" by Foster-Harris

Map is not to scale; errors are intentional; just follow the dust clouds.