

# The Ten Horn Gazette

June 2016

Texas Ten Horns

Cowboy Action Shooting

## Monthly Recap

Hairtrigger Hayes, President

Several Ten Horns competed in two large matches in the month of May. The first of which was Jailbreak hosted by the Oakwood Outlaws in Oakwood, TX. This match was just over 100 shooters and was shot over a Saturday and Sunday. As usual, the stages were fun yet challenging and the food was fantastic. Only match I've ever been to where they serve Filet Mignon for dinner. The Ten Horns were well represented at the match with a number of buckles coming home with our members. For a full listing please visit their web page and check out the scores at [www.oakwoodoutlaws.org](http://www.oakwoodoutlaws.org).

Just a week later we were "representing" again at the Texas State SASS Championship held at Old Fort Parker hosted by the Old Fort Parker Patriots.

**This match had about a 180 participants and the Ten Horns were able to bring 6 Champion titles back to our range.**

They were:

Tennessee Star – Champion Cattle Baron

Clueless Bob – Champion Sharp Shooter

Sharp Shootin' Leroy – Champion Buckaroo

Blind Bob – Champion Senior

Smokin' Limey – Champion Lady Silver Sr.

Hairtrigger Hayes – Champion Duelist.

And our highest ranking shooter in the match was Colorado Jackson coming in 8th overall with a total time of 201.99.



Diablo Slim, Steel Eyed Deacon, Hairtrigger Hayes and Bart Bittertrigger Finger ready for Jailbreak 2016.

For a full list of the scores from this match please go to the website [www.Oldfortparkerpatriots.weebly.com](http://www.Oldfortparkerpatriots.weebly.com). Fast forward just one week and we had our local monthly match at the

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[www.texas10horns.org](http://www.texas10horns.org)

## \*\*\*\*Special Feature Article\*\*\*\*

### The Art of Mindful Shooting

By Sondra Sneed (a/k/a Kansas City Sneed - SASS #71319)

I'm called a Lady Gunfighter. It's the name of the category I compete under in Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS). CAS is a worldwide shooting sport where men and women dress-up "Old West" while competing at a high-level, and they shoot Old West-era guns. My personal setup is a .38 Special Uberti replica of an 1873 Winchester carbine; a 12 gauge side-by-side shotgun made by SKB (Model 100), and my revolvers are a pair of .32 H&R caliber Rugers.

CAS is a timed shooting competition. A special electronic timer records each discharge using sound waves from each gun's concussions, shot after shot. When a competitor is ready to shoot a stage the timer operator gives a "Standby!" and resets the timer which emits a loud beep. That beep sends the shooter flying between guns, delivering his/her interpretation of a one-sided gunfight, speeding through a scenario, dispensing lead bullets against metal targets until all rounds are spent.

A good run, for me, is between 24 and 26 seconds. You might think it impressive, dear reader, for someone to deliver 24 rounds in as many seconds using the sum of two revolvers, a rifle, and a shotgun. The top world shooters, however, are averaging 12 to 16 seconds on a stage run. These rare champions fight for milliseconds. They squeeze every sliver of a moment out of their transitions of guns and shooting positions, their guns have finely tuned action jobs, and they even choose the right boots for traction and speed. There's hardly a thing they haven't done to make time stand still as they send round after round down range. But there's one element of the game that gets little attention, which happens to be my favorite part.

Many top shooters say 50% of your shooting is mental. To me that 50% is more than half the game; it's the entirety of it.

The mind can draw your targets closer, see sight pictures more clearly, and hit center target every time. Aligning the physical and mental is a constant challenge and mastery thereof creates the unstoppable competitor. For me, the mental game is the best part of the effort, but some are focused more on the physical practice.

My husband has well-developed physical skills. He competes among the top 20 in the world because he practices

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## Texas Ten Horns "Ten Cup Belt Buckle Series" Standings!!!

The buckle series continues. After the May match here are the points leaders:

Men's category:	Points
Hairtrigger	98
Huckleberry	81
Ruidoso	74
Nonstop	74
Blind Bob	67



## Ladies Category:

Smokin' Limey	48
Sopapilla Su	32
Okie Fenokie	23
Rowdy on the Red	21
Honey B. Graceful	20



We are now up to 31 clean shooters competing for the "Clean Shooter" buckle to be awarded at the end of the year. New additions include: Eyelash Larue, Jackrabbit Joe, Monk Parker, Rowdy on the Red, Sugarfoot Lomax, and Tejas Red.



BTW...The buckles are in and they are BEAUTIFUL!!! They'll make a handsome addition to any Cowboy or Cowgirl's gun belt.

Current standings are updated every month. Remember, regular attendance is the key!!!

## Historical Musings by Diablo Slim

Payback from Billy the Kid.

April 28th 1881

A sadistic and cruel Marshal Bob Olinger flashed a sardonic smile and aimed his 10-gauge double-barrel shotgun at the prisoner known as Billy the Kid. A jury had convicted the kid of

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**Comin' Up!**

112 days, 7 hours and 52 minutes 'til Back At Cha!!! WOOHOOO!!!!

Local Calendar:

- 1st Weekend **Texas Troublemakers**, Brownsboro, TX
- 2nd Weekend **Texas Ten Horns** workday  
**Red River Valley Cowpokes** – Albany, OK  
**Lone Star Frontier Shooting Club** – Ormsby Ranch, Cleburne, TX  
**Oakwood Outlaws**
- 3rd Weekend **Badlands Bar 3** – English, TX  
**Old Fort Parker**, Groesbeck, TX
- 4th Weekend **Comanche Valley Vigilantes**, Ormsby Ranch, Cleburne, TX  
**Texas Ten Horns** June 25th and 26th.

Big Matches on the horizon:

- EOT – June 18th thru the 25th.
- Red River Valley Cowpokes are having their first ever annual match July 8th and 9th. Friday will be side matches and a Wild Bunch match; Saturday will be 7 stages (4 before lunch; 3 after) with awards to follow. Contact Calamity Dibar at dibartoma@me.com for more information.
- July 31, 2015 – Saturday – TSRA Regional at the Texas Ten Horns

**DON'T FORGET** –We've still got 3 more 5th weekend matches this year. They will be in July, October and December. Please check the website for more details

[www.texas10horns.org](http://www.texas10horns.org)

**Monthly Recap, Continued from pg. 1**

Ten Horns' range in Leonard, TX. Our range is very easy to locate now thanks to the GREAT BIG sign built by Mississippi Slim!

As I've said before, the Good Lord really shines on the Texas ten Horns as he provided good weather for both days despite the fact that it wanted to rain so bad on Sunday!

Day one, we had 34 shooters including the Cody Dixon crew shooting their big bores. The stages were fun and challenging using a combination of stages we'd just seen at the two big matches listed above. We did discover, however, that just because a stage sounds good when you write it sometimes shooting it is a different story altogether. Stages 4 and 5 were those two stages. But we still had a great time.

On day two, we altered those two stages a little and made them much easier. In doing so we created one of the FASTEST matches ever shot at the

Ten Horns' range. Please see the attached score sheets for a complete recap of both day's matches.

Oh, and those shotgun targets on stage 4 that gave us fits last month...well, the modifications were PERFECT!!! Those targets now go down very easily! Even the lighter loads were taking them down with no problem.

**The Art of Mindful Shooting**

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dry firing every day. His body seeks the most efficient pull of a pistol, or fastest levering of the rifle. My way is different than his because I practice awareness.

Awareness is mindfulness and mindfulness is obtained through habitual spiritual training. Through Yoga three times a week, meditation, and prayer, I have found the way of silence. Silence in this sense is an active disposal of disruptive thoughts.

To empty the mind means to let go of "thinking" thoughts, or brain tedium. It's a way of using the higher mind to control the lower mind. It suppresses anxiety, calms the senses, and sharpens the focus. It is prayer.

On a stage run, it is also a way of losing what is not relevant and winning through what is true. The "true" is that my body knows what to do, so I trust that. My mind has programed the scenario; I open to that. I can articulate this "knowing" through a focus on each movement, which keeps thoughts that are irrelevant to the " " from derailing my attention. Aligning the present moment means the mind, body, and spirit are in one motion, uniting in the action, reaching optimum performance. But to achieve that requires a focus on the mental picture.

While loading my guns, I prepare to shoot the scenario using pre-visualization. I'll go through each movement of pistols, rifle, and shotgun over and over, before being called to the line.

I'll imagine the golden hue of brass sights, I'll drop steel targets out of focus behind them, and rather than move this imaginary bead from left to right, I mentally move the targets, like a moving diorama, where the sights are stationary and what they aim at moves in high speed.

When I approach the line, I hold the silence steady, and I own the stage. At the sound of the beep, I look for what my mind's eye has already seen. It has seen the glint of sunlight on brass sights, and hit the prize every time. One day this method will make me a champion. Unfortunately, that will also be the day I listen to my husband. I will have to heighten my physical game, and dry fire, too.

**Work Day**

We WILL be having a workday at the club on June 11th. Action items are:

- Securing divider fence panels to newly placed T-posts.
- Mowing and weed eating
- General clean up
- If enough members show up we need to get started on relocating the awnings from the old shotgun range to stages 5 and 6.
- AC in office; electrical along stages for fans.



Huckleberry Pace in the Freight Office



**Parting Shot!**

At the State Match this year I was luckily able to put together a very good match. With the exception of some cranial flatulence on the very first stage, I shot a very smooth, clean match. At the end of the first day Marshal Jack Bridges posed this question to me: "How do you get your head right to shoot consistent and clean over a full match?" My initial response was, "I don't know" because I'd never

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**Historical Musings by Diablo Slim  
Continued from pg.1.**

murder and Sheriff Pat Garrett had put Billy under twenty-four-hour guard. After Garrett left Billy in Olinger's care. Olinger bullied Billy every chance he got by insulting him, beating him and threatening him with his 10 gauge double barrel. Bob Olinger was a big man six foot tall 240 pounds with a hair-trigger temper. On Thursday afternoon Olinger escorted several prisoners to the hotel for a meal and he left his shotgun behind with Deputy Bell who got along with Billy. Confined with handcuffs and shackles Billy asked Bell to escort him to the Outhouse behind the courthouse. Unknown to Bell there was a gun hidden inside the Outhouse for Billy to use to escape. Bob Olinger heard the shot and ran back to the courthouse only to find Billy in an upper window overlooking the courthouse Courtyard with Bob's 10 gauge. When Olinger came into range Billy called out "Hello Bob" and pulled both barrels sending Bollinger to an early grave at age 40. Bob Olinger was buried in an unmarked grave at Fort Stanton Cemetery in Lincoln County New Mexico



**Parting Shot!  
Continued from pg.2**

really given it that much thought. But after thinking back on it I recall lots of good information I got from lots of good shooters. For example, Nuttin' Graceful taught me how to mentally approach a stage from the loading table, including visualization, breathing and even body movements to expend some of the nervous energy that can cause a wreck (that's why you might see me pawing the ground like a cat covering...well you get the idea...before shooting a stage). Another good lesson was delivered by The Tonic Kid at my first Land Run match. When it was my turn to shoot he said, "You've got all the time you need. When you're ready take a deep breath and give me a line." This is one of the most helpful tips I've ever received. Now I always start every stage with a deep breath. One of the reasons I always request Tonic's posse when I shoot at OKC Gun Club.

But I'd have to say that visualization is the most important part. And even that can be tricky. If I visualize myself shooting fast I usually miss...really fast! But if I visualize the order and the transitions the speed usually takes care of itself. I didn't really realize what I was doing until I read an article written by Sondra Sneed (aka: Kansas City Sneed - SASS #71319) in a recent issue of the TSRA magazine. In her article titled, "The Art of Mindful Shooting" she does an excellent job of explaining what it is like to visualize a stage. Although my visualization process is slightly

different from hers the result is still the same.

In his book, "Mental Management for Shooting Sports" Lanny Basham describes this as "subconscious" shooting. His theory is that training takes over and muscle memory and the subconscious mind take control of the things they are in charge of - sight picture, trigger pull, speed, etc. This includes your visualization of the stage that you've just committed to the subconscious. Now all the conscious mind has to keep up with is stage scenario.

Another important tactic that Lanny Basham teaches in to never, Never, NEVER let negativity enter your thought process. If you approach an odd stage don't say, "I hope I don't get a 'P'", rather say to yourself, "I'm gonna hit'em all and in the right order!" Or if it's raining you simply tell yourself, "Boy I LOVE shooting in the rain!" The mind is a much more powerful part of our overall performance than we give it credit for.

I was able to make contact with Kansas City Sneed and she graciously agreed to let me include her article in this month's newsletter. (Article attached)

I highly recommend reading her article. I also highly recommend looking into Lanny Basham's "Mental Management for Shooting Sports" which can be had on CD for those long trips to EOT, Winter Range, etc.

Here's to pullin' corks and pullin' triggers,

**Hairtrigger**

PS: Quote of the month - "Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance." - Unknown.

**Top Ten Shooters  
Saturday May 28, 2016**

1. Hairtrigger Hayes
2. Blind Bob
3. Colorado Jackson
4. Nonstop
5. Marshall Jack Bridges
6. Dirt Hill Bill
7. Ruidoso
8. Jackrabbit Joe
9. Tennessee Star
10. Diablo Slim
11. Smokin' Limey

**Top Ten Shooters  
Sunday May 29, 2016**

1. Hairtrigger Hayes
2. Blind Bob
3. Huckleberry Pace
4. Dirt Hill Bill
5. Marshall Jack Bridges
6. Deadeye Bob
7. Monk Parker
8. Cbeaux
9. Diablo Slim
10. Tejas Red

**Texas Ten Horns Club Leadership**

Hairtrigger Hayes	President
Huckleberry Pace	Vice President
Ruidoso	SASS Territorial Governor
Diablo Slim	Range Officer
Sopapilla Su	Secretary

**Video Montage from  
May Shoot**

[Click here to be redirected and see a YouTube video montage from the May shoot.](#)

Persons shown:  
Gun Wrangler, Hairtrigger Hayes, Huckleberry Pace, LaMesa Kid, Diablo Slim, Monk Parker, Ruidoso, Jangles