



C.R.R. Trail Blazer

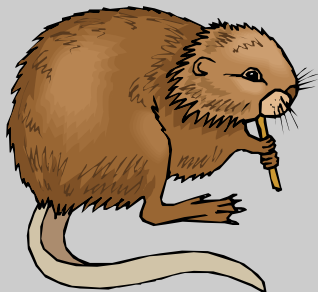


The Newsletter of the California Range Riders

Driftin' Along....by Jon Fix alias Tumbleweed

The winter does not get this cowboy down. I am from a farming area of the west coast of upper Michigan and some of my best memories are in the dead of some hellacious winters. Bass Lake connects to Lake Michigan and would often freeze completely over. The snow drifts sometimes prevented the school bus from getting to us. We had lots of time off due to the winter.

Huntin', trappin' and ice fishin' were a way of winter life for the family of a good friend of mine. I don't know if I ever mentioned Pat Anthony to y'all, but he and his family were as country as you can get. They were a large family of struggling dairy farmers and they relied heavily on the land and the lake to provide food for the family. Pat was as big as a house, strong as an ox, tough as they come, with the soul and heart of a saint. He had a little black mutt named Max that would go everywhere with him. In the winter, one thing we trapped and hunted was muskrats. If the lake was froze over, the muskrats would come out of breathing holes and sit on the ice with fish they had caught. Now understand that Pat was the best shot I have ever seen and he would shoot them muskrats from the shore and Max would run out on the ice and bring 'em back. One early winter day, the lake was only frozen out from the shore line for 30' or so. The ice was paper thin at the outer edge and not all that thick right at the shore. Too thin to confidently support us, but Max was little and light and had no problem running around on it. A muskrat surfaced at the outer edge of the ice, with a fish, and got onto the thinly frozen surface. BANG! Didn't take but a second for Pat to nail that muskrat, first shot. Problem is, the shot knocked it back into the water. Little ol' Max was already at a dead run to get his prize. Pat and I both knew what was coming next and we started yelling for him to stop. Max always did everything Pat asked him to and he did hit the skids. Yep, he slid across the last few feet of ice and right into the freezing cold water, under and out of sight.. A brief moment later, Max re-surfaced. His little head above water, his eyes wide in panic, his front feet clawing madly at the thin ice and that damned muskrat firmly clenched in his mouth. He couldn't get back on top of the ice with his mouth that full, but he refused to let go. I stood there stunned and Pat wasted not a tick of the clock starting out after his friend. I yelled at Pat that the ice wouldn't hold him and just as I did, it didn't. He crashed through the ice and up to his waist in unbelievably cold water. Did Pat wisely turn back to shore? Hell no. His dog was in trouble. The fall through the ice didn't even slow him down. In his heavy winter boots and full snow suit, Pat began beating and breaking the ice in front of him with his fists and forearms as he made his way into deeper water out to the struggling little Max. He reminded me of a blacksmith pounding double handed at an anvil. It seemed like slow motion to me as Pat finally made it out far enough to grab Max and fling him across the ice back to shore. You gotta picture this little black dog, no bigger than the muskrat that he held onto, the both of them spinning spread eagle, around and around across the ice until he tumbled into the snow. Gathering himself up, he was the proudest looking little dog you ever saw as he sat in the snow with his prize in his mouth. I ain't sure he was as proud of gettin' and keepin' that muskrat as he was of what his human had just done for him. Oh Pat made it back to shore ok. He stripped to his skivvies and we sat in his old 56 Chevy, blasting the heater, laughing until we choked and praising Max



for being such a good dog. Heh.

I have a lot more Pat Anthony stories and, since there ain't much shootin' news this time of year, I may tell y'all another next month. Matter of fact, I been thinkin' about writin' a book about ol' Pat and the things we done. I have that many memories of him. If y'all interested, let me know. Until then, I'll just keep on...

Driftin' Along.

Tumbleweed.

Happy Birthday!

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Karen Townsend | 01-02 |
| David Ruggiero | 01-08 |
| Zelda Betcone | 01-10 |
| Meg Blackmon | 01-13 |
| J.T. Myers | 01-16 |
| Craig Frederikson | 01-17 |
| Bruce Shoji | 01-25 |
| Jim Haze | 01-28 |

Believe it or Not-A true tall tale.....by John Cuneo, alias Johnny Longknife

Whenever I hear how people in the rural areas of the Sierras have problems with bears I am reminded of my experience with a camp bear. It is a true story, but you know the old saying "the truth is stranger than fiction".

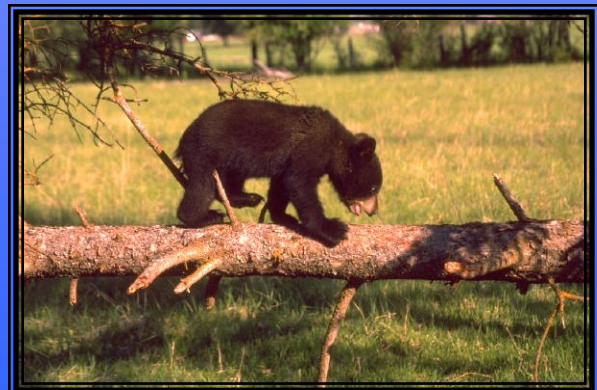
Many seasons ago when the world was young and so was I, a friend of mine and I were avid hunters and fisherman. So much so that we built a little "A" frame cabin in the wilderness area between Donner Lake and Five Lakes Basin, a three hour hike from the North side of the Pacific crest trail. We kept our own little trail marked the Indian way with crossed sticks and rocks. We were backpackers, but not in the purest sense as we each would carry a pack weighting about 80lbs, mostly canned goods and liquid refreshments. We had built this little cabin over a period of 8 years with materials we carried in on our backs each trip. No living tree went into building it and we always carried our empty cans and bottles back out. This was our hideaway; we even had carried in a sheet metal "sheepherders" stove.

We had good trout fishing in the nearby lakes and the deer, squirrels and birds would wander through our camp at will-we felt so accepted by Mother Earth and The Great Spirit that we never felt like shooting anything! The deer would hang around until we fed them our vanilla Oreo cookies and some of the fruit we had brought in.

Now for the problem bear... What we did not know was our camp was in his territory, a large male black bear. Now one night after enjoying some Cajun stew (very spicy) we were sitting on the porch listening to the night sounds when this big bear just walked in and began sniffing around. We did not want any trouble with him, but we both kept our guns on him hoping he would leave. He scooped up our pot of stew and finished it and threw the pot down. He shuffled around about ten minutes at the edge of our camp like he knew we were there but didn't want any trouble either. Cajun spices must not agree with bears because he began grunting and dragging his rear on the ground and leaving scat (another word for bear poop) every few feet all the way back into the woods. We were laughing so hard we could not have hit him even if we had to shoot. The next day he was back for lunch scraps like nothing had happened.

Now the problem was in leaving our well stocked cabin, we just knew when we left that he would tear our camp up, eat our food, and probably drink our booze too!

On the way out we noticed he had marked a large dead fir tree. Bears mark their territory by reach-



ing up as high as they can and clawing a tree, they then urinate at the bottom of the tree. Now after having a few drinks we thought "what if"..... somy friend climbed up my shoulders and clawed the same tree with a screw driver much higher than the bear did. Then we relieved ourselves at the base of the tree and poured a little whisky on it to boot! Never after that did that bear ever come closer to our cabin than that tree. He would wander around the outskirts of our camp whenever we were there knowing that when we left we would leave him scraps beyond the tree. We always knew it was the same bear because his right ear was split, obviously from a pervious fight.

This was all thirty some years ago. Mother Earth has reclaimed the cabin, my friend has since gone to a better place, and the bear probably has too. I am no longer backpacking either but the memories are as fresh as yesterday.

Now every time I hear about a problem bear I wonder if they tried our method if it would solve their problem.....Bears understand that sorta thing!!



California Range Riders 2011

Buckle Series

\$20 entry fee

Must attend 6 out of 10.

Anyone can enter even if you aren't in the main match. Main match stages will be run and buckle participants run at the end of each stage if not in the match. If in the match your stage time is your series time. No do overs.

Every Class competes as their division. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5's. No division of seniors. Men and women are separate. This make for better competition.

Points

Participation : 5 points

Performance: A point for how you finish. Example if there is 5 in your class, first place gets 5, second gets 4 and so on. Only 6 of 10 matches count. Best of 6 will count for their points.

Awards

Buckle to overall winner of each class, given out at the last match of the season. In the event of a tie, winner is the person with the least amount of misses. If you are not at the last match and you are the buckle winner, your buckle will be delivered to you.



What will yours look like?

January Dates to Remember.....by Scarlet Angel

January 1st:

New Year's Day

Birthday for Paul Revere, American patriot, in 1735.

The Tournament of Roses Parade, first held in 1890, is held on New Year's Day, unless it falls on Sunday. If New Year's Day falls on Sunday then the parade is held on Monday, January 2nd. Why? Some say if it's held on a Sunday then it will rain on the parade the following year. Others say the real reason is the parade officials were afraid the noise from the bands would frighten horses that were tethered at nearby churches.

1908- On this day in history the first time, a ball signifying new year dropped at Times Square.

January 3: The birth date of JRR Tolkien, famous for his Lord of the Rings series.

January 4: On January 4, 1875, Jacob Ludwig Carl Grimm of fairy tale fame was born in Germany.

January 8: Elvis Presley born in Tupelo MI, 1935.

January 11: Amelia Earhart became 1st person to fly solo from Honolulu, Hawaii to Oakland, CA. (1935).

January 12:

The Alamo, a Franciscan Mission built in 1722.

1st Public Museum opened in Charleston, South Carolina in 1773.

January 15:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Born 1929.

First Super Bowl held, 1967.

January 19: Birthday of 1809 Edgar Allan Poe, poet and short-story writer.

January 24: Gold discovered in California, 1848.

Reminders

Club dues

(You can join CRR only if you wish)

Joining CRR & CMSA and renewing dues for 2011 **important change, please read carefully.**

CMSA is now running its calendar year from the World's in October. So as of October 24th, we're officially in the 2011 CMSA calendar year.

If you're planning to shoot at a CMSA match, you must renew your CMSA dues prior to the match.

Another important change is the renewing members dues amount.

Individual membership:

CMSA is now \$60 thru our club, CRR is \$50 total = \$110

Family membership:

CMSA is now \$90 thru our club, CRR is \$80 total = \$170

If you join or renew with CMSA on your own you will not get the \$10 discount**

Please list California Range Riders CA5, as your club.

To get the discount, your new or renewal must be paid by our club check/credit card.

It's important that all club members renew their CMSA membership for 2011, through our club, the California Range Riders.

Go to the CMSA website and **print the renewal form, fill it out and sign it.**

Please make your check out to CRR and send it to our Secretary:

Judy Stewart

C/O CRR

2480 Day Road

Gilroy, Ca. 95020

If you have questions, feel free to call me at 408-710-1616 or email: oldbuckaroo7@aol.com

Your Opinions Count!

Suggestions for improvement of future matches and ideas for prizes have been asked for at the awards ceremonies. If you are too shy to speak up in a group setting take a moment to talk to Steve or one of our board members or send an email. C.R.R. is always looking to make improvements for all of its members.

Don't forget every now and again you will receive a survey email ranging from practice places, match places and days to awards and many subjects in between. Please fill them out and return them. These surveys are designed to help improve our club for our club members. They are read and go before our board for votes and consideration.

Maybe you have a suggestion you have not seen in a survey or cannot wait to suggest, email it to Old Buckaroo at Oldbuckaroo7@aol.com . The board of members looks forward to your input!

Watch your emails for announcements regarding upcoming practices and fun activities.

Check our [website](#) for 2011 Match dates.

Remember, participating in Demos, Wild West Shows, and Clinics, as well as shooting at matches, will get you credit for CRR year end awards. Volunteer, It's a lot of fun!

Submit your items for sale, stories (two part is OK!) and announcements to add to the newsletter to Debbie, scarletangel86@sbcglobal.net.

If you have any changes in your contact information, please email it to Secretary Judy Stewart at: calgirl101ranch@aol.com

C.R.R. Officers:

President: Steve Holland

Vice Pres: Jerry Bestpitch

Secretary: Judy Stewart

Treasurer: Judy Millikin

Board members:

Constance Jaegel

Jerry Kurtz

Debbie McAlpin

Dan Millikin

Joe Squillacioti



L a s s o A D e a l :

CRR sponsor, Dave's Hay Barn with 7 locations to serve you.
Squeeze load and delivery available. They grow their own. San Jose store
408-292-3337 Other locations: Santa Rosa, Esparto, Upper Lake, Oroville, Shingle Springs

Portable pens, quick setup, pin together, light weight, fit in the back of a 6' pickup bed,
purchase 5 or more.

Old Buckaroo 408-710-1616

If you have anything to sell or are looking to buy pertaining to Cowboy Mounted Shooting, please email the description and photo if possible to scarletangel86@sbcglobal.net and I will publish it.

President's Message:

I hope you all had a great holiday season and I wish you all good fortune in 2011.

As most of you know, the **weather is changing** and most of our early practices and matches could be adjusted because of rain. So be sure to read your emails and watch for last minute announcements. The **2011 calendar** is available on our website.

<http://www.CaliforniaRangeRiders.com>

As always, a big thank you to **Scarlet Angel** (Debbie McAlpin) for the excellent work on the "CRR Trailblazer", and to **all the contributing writers**...great job!...keep it comin'

Happenings...

We now have a Facebook website...check it out and join. Just type in the search window (upper right) **California Range Riders (CRR)**

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?v=wall&gid=342606616686>

Click on "**events**" We have 18 events listed, so please feel free to RSVP.

New for 2011: CRR Buckle Series (see article on page 5)

As you know, **CRR** does many activities in addition to mounted shooting competitions, practices, and clinics. Events are subject to change...

CRR is now affiliated with:

CSA Cowboy Sports Association <http://www.cowboysportsassociation.com/>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Cowboy-Mounted-Shooters/225866044009>

and **WSSA** Western States Shooting Association <http://mountedshooting.net/>

2011 January Dates:

15th CRR mounted shooting practice TBD due to "weather"

22nd SoCal CMSA "True Grit Shoot" Norco, Ca

2011 February Dates

5th Plans are being made for our **CRR Awards Party/Dinner** to be held at the Kelley Bros Brewing Co in Manteca...watch your emails for details...we had a great time and good food the last 2 years with 40 + attendees. White elephant gift exchange. Friends of CRR and non members are welcome...please RSVP

- 12th** CRR practice/clinic Lone Tree Ranch Tracy “weather”
- 12th** RRRl CMSA “Ranger Roundup Shoot” Winchester, Ca
- 26th** SoCal CMSA “Shootout by the River” Norco, Ca

Looking forward to seeing all of our new members and prospective members at these upcoming events.

If you're inexperienced, come ride time-only and learn the “in's and outs” of cowboy mounted shooting.

The reason for Rsvp's

Rsvp's are important. It helps us plan the amount of supplies (ammo, balloons, etc...) we need at each event. Many times the balloon setter groups want to know how much they will be paid (ahead of time). They are paid by the number of contestants and the number of stages run. The Diamond Bar would like to be able to purchase the appropriate amount of food, instead of over buying or having to make a last minute trip to the store.

It's a courtesy and I ask all of you to make an effort in the coming year.

Happy Holidays to all

Old Buckaroo 408-710-1616



Editor's Dispatch:

Welcome to 2011!

I am looking forward to the 2011 shooting season and hope to make a parade or two, as I know many of you are.

I'd like to thank everyone who supported CRR by purchasing a calendar. Special thanks to John Myers who purchased the most calendars.

Curious about how much we raised? Come on out to the awards dinner (It is right around the corner and will be a great time) I will be letting everyone know how much was raised and giving the final check to Old Buckaroo, by the way don't forget to let him you will be coming!

Scarlet Angel

***"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass.
It's about learning to dance in the rain."***

"Dance like no one is watching. Sing like no one is listening. Love like you've never been hurt and live like it's heaven on Earth." – [Mark Twain](#)

Lookin' Back

Awards Dinner 2010



Reno 2010