

Old North State Posse Chronicle 2014 Mid Year Update

Old North State Posse 2014 Activities

For Old North State Posse, the first half of the 2014 year has continued to be a busy time for the club. The following is a recap of the major activities which the ONSP team tackled during the first half of 2014.

- A significant number of the ONSP club members were involved in supporting the 2014 NC State Championship which is always the major club effort in the first half of 2014. Thanks to all who helped – it is much appreciated and we hope that all continue to find ways to assist. It was good to see the very good participation by the ONSP membership this year in the actual match. The club continues to work with the North Carolina Cowboys, Inc. to refine our support for the annual NC State Championship match, The Uprising at Swearing Creek. ONSP works to stay engaged with the North Carolina Cowboys, Inc. members to ensure that the ONSP owned facilities and equipment are ready to support the annual state match. As usual, there are also ONSP members that are active North Carolina Cowboys, Inc. members. The North Carolina Cowboys, Inc. provides compensation for the use of the ONSP club equipment so we try to make sure everything is ready for the annual state match. We seemed to have covered it pretty well in 2014 with a number of our ONSP club members helping with the match setup on Tuesday and Wed., running side matches and helping clean up the range and putting the ONSP equipment away on Sunday. Thanks for the help!!
 - The following are some of the ONSP members that helped on our prematch workday and match setup day for getting ONSP props ready for the match: Ace of Clubs, Sisco Ron, Train Wreck, KTown, Rosebrook Kid, Joe Danby, Barbwire Ben, Sixgun Sallie, Colorado Aspen, Stonefire Slim, Green Eyed Indian and Rocky River Jeb.
 - We had a number of ONSP folks that helped with the match setup on Tuesday. With KTown coordinating the positioning of the steel and major props, the major equipment was in place on the berms by about 3:00. A very efficient crew – Ace of Clubs, Capt. Jeb Forest, Tex James, Whisky River Bill and Sandhills Slim were some of the ONSP members involved.
 - Some extra work went into cleaning up the train cars on setup day – thanks to Colorado Aspen and Sixgun Sallie for painting all the trim.
 - The berm ambiance/decorating crew did good – included Colorado Aspen, Stonefire Slim, Green Eyed Indian, Rocky River Jeb, Sixgun Sallie, Dingo Dave, Myra Venge, Rubicon Ryder, Earl E. Bird, Ablazin' Grace, Ms Jewell and I am sure others.
 - KTown and Rubicon Ryder were running the side match berm on side match day.
 - Thanks to the ONSP members who helped with tear down on Sat. evening and Sunday morning. A special thanks to Mule Doc for hanging around on Sat. evening and helping get all of the store fronts and frames put up. Rain was possible on Sunday and we tried to get everything up on Sat. evening that we wanted to keep dry.

Again thanks to all of the ONSP membership that pitched in to help with the state match efforts!! There were many more in the cowboy community that were major contributors to this effort - just some recognition for the ONSP membership. If we did not include and recognize you, accept our apologies and more than happy to add you to the newsletter.

- The ONSP club members made their presence well known at the 2014 SASS NC State Championship in the first half of 2014.

The following ONSP members won category awards at the SASS NC State Championship:

Red River Ray – NC State Champion Cowboy and Top Cowboy Overall
Sixgun Sallie – NC State Champion Cowgirl and Top Cowgirl Overall

Red River Ray – 49er State Champion & Cat.
Sugarfoot – Young Gun Cowgirl State Champion & Cat.
River Rat Randy – Elder Statesman State Champion
Splinter Hauser – Cattle Baron State Champion & Cat.
Ace of Clubs – Gran Patron State Champion & Cat.
Doc Perry – Frontier Cartridge State Champion & Cat.
KTown – Frontier Cartridge Duelist State Champion & Cat.
Green Eyed Indian – Grand Dame State Champion & Cat.
Sixgun Sallie – Lady 49er State Champion & Cat.
Myra Venge – Lady Duelist State Champion & Cat.
Ms. Jewel – Lady Silver Senior State Champion & Cat.
Tracker Mike – Senior Gun Fighter State Champion
River Rat Randy – Silver Senior State Champion & Cat.
Three Cut – Wrangler State Champion

Also congratulations to KTown for his NC Cowboy Top Hand award !! Well deserved !

There were many other ONSP members that placed at award levels in the available categories.

There was also a large NC contingent at the 2014 SASS SC State Championship earlier in the year. The following ONSP members did well:

Red River Ray – Top Cowboy Overall

Red River Ray – Forty-Niner Category Champion
Ms. Jewel – Lady Silver Senior Category Champion
KTown – Frontier Cartridge Duelist Category Champion
Green Eyed Indian – Grand Dame Category Champion

Outstanding accomplishments for the ONSP membership so far in 2014 !!

- We have implemented new medical emergency procedures. Train Wreck donated a stocked first aid kit that is now available in the ONSP equipment shed during ONSP matches – Buckshot Bowers added a trauma kit. The first aid kit is kept in the RCWA club house at other times so it is out of the heat and cold. We have also posted emergency medical location/contact information in the scoring notebooks and on the door of the ONSP equipment shed. This information includes directions to a local urgent care facility as well as the hospital ER for situations where 911 is not needed. If 911 is needed, it is recommended to get someone to the front gate to direct the emergency responders to the proper range location in a timely manner.

- Targets and Target Stands:
 We continue to manage the ONSP target inventory with the help of Train Wreck and Sisco Ron. Thanks guys – your help has is much appreciated. Target inventory remained status quo....
 - Long Branch Louie fabricated some new S-hook target hangers for the new tripod target stands that are working out very well.
 - Long Branch Louie repaired our broken shotgun targets.
 - We added some new target hanger bolts for the pole target stands.

- Prop Activities/Efforts:
 Lots of help in getting some things done in this area. Thanks to everyone!
 - Added some new cow props. KTown coordinated this effort with Green Eyed Indian, Rocky River Jeb and family providing the artistic touch.

 - Refurbished props:
 - Completed building some new small range tables used on the berms. Thanks to Train Wreck and Sisco Ron for finishing this up.
 - Refurbished the big water trough. Train Wreck and Sisco Ron handled this one.

 - Refurbished the cactus props. KTown coordinated that effort – new stands to make it easier for setup and storage and some new paint (thanks Green Eyed Indian, Rocky River Jeb and Buck Sage).
 - Someone repainted the big horse – I think I saw Colorado Aspen, Sixgun Sallie and Green Eyed Indian working on this one.
 - All of the tombstones were refurbished – again our artistic crew did those - Colorado Aspen, Sixgun Sallie and maybe others.
 - KTown put the old coffin pieces back together so it is usable.

- We continued cleaning up the prop storage areas – keeping the green stuff cut down, getting rid of props that are no longer useable and keeping the bee population under control. We repaired one of the fences in the prop storage area that was coming apart.

- We added a phone/tablet recharging station in the ONSP equipment building. It is available as needed during ONSP events. Just need to plug in the power cord.

- A major effort was expended in addressing our range tractor needs. Our lawn mower has started showing its age a bit and the ONSP Board decided to proceed with finding a backup. We ended up purchasing a used Honda Rancher ATV (2010 – 2 wheel drive) that we got ready for use at the state match. Properly maintained, this should serve us well for many years. We have added another solar trickle charger for the battery in the ATV. We hope to pour a concrete pad under the shelter for permanent storage location. The intent is to continue using the lawn mower as long as possible – it is kind of nice having the ATV to run around the range area to pick up stuff we forgot to throw on the trailer – saves a bunch of walking. This is something the ONSP Board had been talking about for a number of years and was finally able to make happen.
- We rekeyed the metal cabinet under the computer in the RCWA clubhouse so we can now lockup ONSP stuff in the clubhouse. Some of the other RCWA shooting venues may also use it for similar purposes. The printer supplies are now in that cabinet. ONSP is also storing the match award chips and the match timers in that cabinet. This has allowed us to finally get the timers out of the hot equipment shed. The RCWA Board members have access to this cabinet. This will also provide a place for tablets if the club decides to acquire some for using the ACES scoring system.
- The computer software in the RCWA club house was updated with the latest versions. The SASS scoring software was upgraded multiple times – much of this to better integrate with the ACES scoring process.
- There was considerable effort expended in a major rewrite of the ONSP website. The code base was dated and did not work well with many of the newer mobile devices (smart phones and tablets) now in use. Every major module was rewritten to use the newer HTML language standards. This still needs some work but will probably again be one of those winter efforts. We are always interested in some help with this effort. Do not forget about the cowboy profile function on the ONSP web site. Round up that cowboy/cowgirl photo you would like to use and we will be glad to get it setup for you. You can send Tracker Mike your photo and appropriate profile verbiage you would like included. Remember the ONSP web site is available via www.onsp.us .
- Just a reminder - ONSP has five Regulators as members:
 - Dingo Dave – currently providing TG services for another club or two
 - Marshal Harland Wolff – one of our experienced veterans in these processes
 - Oklahoma Charlie - one of our experienced veterans in these processes
 - Sixgun Sallie - ONSP Territorial Governor (TG)
 - Tracker Mike - the newcomer
 Hopefully this will keep everyone informed as to any of the SASS changes being discussed and/or voted on so everyone has an opportunity to discuss and voice their opinion. Please feel free to contact any of these folks with your input or questions on the various topics of discussion.
- The weather has actually been fairly friendly to us so far this year for our monthly matches – a couple of marginal days but ok in the end. But the cowboy spirit prevailed and all of the monthly matches took place. ONSP membership (yearly membership runs from Jan. thru Dec.) is about the same as last year. We currently have 62 ONSP members for 2014.
- The ONSP Board would also like to thank RCWA for all of the range improvements that have occurred this year. They are much appreciated.

Old North State Posse Plans for Second Half of 2014

So what are some of the areas that we would like to address in the second half of 2014 and beyond? As usual, we have a list of things we think that we need to eventually address. As you will notice, there are plenty of opportunities for club members to participate in some of the activities that it takes to keep ONSP operating effectively. Just get in touch with a Board of Director member if you see an activity with which you would like to assist.

- The ONSP membership feels very strongly that we need to continue our efforts around both recruiting new folks to cowboy action shooting and helping new participants get started. The following will continue to be the focus for 2014.
 - Making sure we have a good process at monthly matches to identify potential new participants that drop by and watch. Please take the time to welcome visitors and be willing to answer any questions they may have. Make them feel welcome. We now have handouts available at each match - make sure they are offered a copy. The handouts are now in the back of the score sheet note books.
 - We will hold a stage at the end of a monthly match for potential new members to shoot a stage or two if they are interested. Please let KTown or Tracker Mike know during the match that someone is interested. We may be able to accommodate during a match if a berm is open.
 - We now will work with new shooters on Friday setups for the ONSP monthly matches if we are notified of interest. We are more than happy to run folks through our new shooter clinic process. We just need to know in advance so we can make sure we have equipment available.
 - Make sure we identify new cowboy action shooters at each match and that we have good coaches assigned for their first match or two.
 - We continue to try to update the ONSP web site info to try to better identify what new cowboy action shooters should expect and how to get ready to participate.

Please note that we did not schedule any new shooter clinics for 2014. We just have not been able to generate enough participation recently to justify the effort. As noted above, we will be glad to work with any potential new shooters that will let us know they are interested. We have updated the ONSP website to reflect this change.

- ONSP will continue to work with the North Carolina Cowboys, Inc. to support the annual NC State Championship match, The Uprising at Swearing Creek, and help to make this a successful event in 2015 – June 4 thru 6.
- ONSP will be providing some manpower and equipment to support the RCWA sponsored Gerry Wood Summer Shoot Out on the July 19 – 20 weekend.

- ONSP will continue running a full set of fun monthly matches for the rest of the year. Remember the following schedule of events for 2014:
 - The ONSP annual match, **The Big Iron Showdown**, will be held at our regular Nov. 1 match date. This will be an 8 stage match with a break for lunch (included in the match fee). This now includes three different match options:
 1. The SASS NC State BP Championship
 2. The Big Iron categories for those that want to shoot big iron
 3. The regular SASS categories

The details are on the ONSP website. Remember that the ONSP annual match counts double points in the ONSP Shoot for the Loot competition.
 - After the December monthly match, the annual ONSP membership meeting for electing your Board of Directors for the next year and deciding on club direction/priorities will take place. Details on location and time will be provided closer to that event. Please plan on attending – your input for the next year is needed and appreciated.
 - Monthly match opportunities:
 - We are always happy for help with target setup on Friday afternoon before our monthly matches. They usually get together around 2 to 3 at the range. Thanks to some of our regulars that help with this the first part of the year: KTown, Joe Danby, Ace of Clubs, Layden Payde, Tracker Mike, Tex James, Whisky River Bill and Rosebrook Kid. Buckshot Bowers is also usually in attendance.
 - Always looking for anyone who would like to learn to run the scoring software – this includes both the pre-match registration process and the post-match scoring and match results processing. This has been a collaborative effort of a number of the members. Thanks to Colorado Aspen and Stonefire Slim for their on going help. Also Train Wreck for learning the match registration process. This is a critical monthly match process that needs some additional member involvement.
- The maintenance of the ONSP equipment shed and the grounds immediately around the ONSP equipment shed is the responsibility of ONSP.
 - Some monthly maintenance to keep the green stuff under control. Some assistance with this effort would be appreciated – you just need some weed eater skills. The liberal use of Roundup this past year has helped make this an easier task.
 - A major priority is some refurbishment of the exterior trim on the equipment shed. The original trim has started to deteriorate and needs to be replaced before it starts causing other problems. The trim around the roof line also needs some refurbishment.
 - We need additional shelter capacity for prop storage. We have started acquiring some of the materials to extend the shelter on the back of the equipment shed. This will require a work day or two for this to progress.
 - We would like to pour a concrete pad under the shelter for parking for the 4 wheeler. Need to check with a couple of concrete companies and see what the minimum amount of concrete they will deliver.

- With most of our target and standard target stand inventory needs currently addressed, we are going to look at adding some specialty target stands (for example a vertical rack). Input from the members on suggestions they might like to see is always appreciated. Hopefully this will allow us to provide some different target scenarios. We are still discussing target stand options – whether to refurbish some of the pole stands and/or acquire some more of the newer tripod stands.
- We need to do some maintenance work on our old mower. We have cracked the rear frame where the trailer hitch is attached. I guess pulling loads it was never designed to handle finally caught up with it. Hope to get that welded up soon. Need to change the oil as well.
- We will continue to look for some opportunities to add some new props to the ONSP inventory and repair some of the existing stuff. Probably will schedule some repair work as part of the preparations for the ONSP annual match and the NC State Championship.
 - Refurbish water troughs – we have a new one donated by Iredell. This would include building a well type platform for the metal hand pump.
 - Build a new coffin.
 - We would like to refurbish the fake rocks and get them painted so they are useable again. Currently working on testing some new plastic material used specifically for coating foam objects.
 - We are considering building a new gallows that is on skids (easier to move) so we have an elevated shooting platform.
 - We would like to create some new horse props on which we could mount some saddles (we have saddles) for use in that shooting from horseback experience.
 - We have some 55 gallon metal drums that we would like to have painted so they look like old wooden barrels – improve the ambiance.
- The ONSP website needs some additional updates. Some of the documentation that is listed is dated and needs updating. The website code base needs some additional work to properly utilize newer language standards that are more compatible with mobile devices. We have talked for some time about adding a forum capability to the ONSP website to facilitate ONSP specific discussions and interaction. We have decided to add an ONSP Facebook site to handle this function – less coding on our part. Anyone interested in administering an ONSP Facebook site??
- We have ONSP badges available. As usual, these are sold at the club's cost - \$50. See Joe Danby or Tracker Mike if you would like an ONSP badge.

From the ONSP Board of Directors, we would like to thank all of the ONSP membership and those non-members as well who have provided their support to make this a successful first half of 2014 for ONSP !! It takes the help of all of the membership to make the operation of ONSP a sustainable and successful process. Again the ONSP Board does appreciate the feedback from the membership on what is working and what is not working.

Oklahoma Charlie
President

Sisco Ron
Vice President

Joe Danby
Treasurer

Tracker Mike
Secretary

KTown
Member

Layden Payde
Member

Train Wreck
Member