

Old North State Posse Chronicle 2016 Mid Year Update

Old North State Posse 2016 Activities

For Old North State Posse, the first half of the 2016 year was slow – continuing wet weather curtailed much work activity at the range. The ONSP Board also had folks dealing with health issues that slowed things down. The following is a recap of the major activities which the ONSP team did tackle during the first half of 2016.

- The sixth annual The Big Iron Showdown match was held in April on one of the better ONSP match days during the first part of 2016. We had 61 participants this year. The SASS NC State Black Powder Championship was again included as part of the match with 19 of the 61 participants smoking it up. This annual match April date appears to work much better and will be used again in 2017 for the seventh annual The Big Iron Showdown.
- As usual, a significant number of the ONSP club members were involved in supporting the 2016 SASS NC State Championship which is always a major club effort in the first half of the year. 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 again this year in the actual match. The club continues to work with the North Carolina Cowboys, Inc. to refine our support for the annual SASS 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 – it was a tough spring to get much maintenance done with the wet weather. Some things just did not get done. 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 the key stuff pretty well in 2016 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!!
 - We had a number of ONSP members that helped with the match setup on Tuesday. With KTown again coordinating the positioning of the steel and major props, the major equipment was in place on the berms by about 2:00. A very efficient crew – Ace of Clubs, Capt. Jeb Forrest, PaPa Chet, Whisky River Bill, Tex James, Dingo Dave, Rocky River Jeb and Sandhills Slim were some of the ONSP members involved.
 - The range ambiance/decorating crew did good – included ONSP members Colorado Aspen, Stonefire Slim, Green Eyed Indian, Rocky River Jeb, Sixgun Sallie, Dingo Dave, Earl E Bird and Myra Venge, and I am sure others.
 - KTown was running the side match berm on side match day with the assistance of ONSP members Rubicon Ryder and Layden Payde. Long Branch Louie ran the long range side matches up at the club house. Side match day wrapped up with Mustang Dave and Buckshot Bowers sponsoring a pig picking dinner at the range – a most enjoyable get together.

- Thanks to the ONSP members who helped with tear down on Sat. evening and Sunday morning. Rain was possible later on Sat. so we tried to get everything up on Sat. evening that we wanted to keep dry. Thanks again Mule Doc for the help on Sat. afternoon !

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 2016 SASS NC State Championship.

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

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

Red River Ray – 49er State Champion & Cat.
River Rat Randy – Elder Statesman State Champion & Cat.
Rocky River Jeb – Cattle Baron State Champion
Green Eyed Indian – Cattle Baroness State Champion & Cat.
Doc Perry – Frontier Cartridge State Champion
KTown – Frontier Cartridge Duelist State Champion & Cat.
Capt. Jeb Forrest – Frontiersman State Champion & Cat.
Ms Jewel – Gran Dame State Champion & Cat.
Salvador Dally – Grand Patron State Champion & Cat.
Sixgun Sallie – Lady 49er State Champion & Cat.
Colorado Aspen – Lady Gunfighter State Champion & Cat.
Myra Venge – Lady Senior Duelist State Champion & Cat.
Mustang Dave – Senior State Champion & Cat.
Grizzly Phil – Senior Duelist State Champion
Three Cut – Wrangler State Champion

There were many other ONSP members that placed at award levels in many of these available categories. Great job !

Also congratulations to Sandhills Slim (Cross Creek Cowboys) and Payden Emmett Cobb (Neuse River Regulators) for their NC Cowboy Top Hand awards !! Well deserved recognition for two very hard working cowboys from a couple of the eastern NC cowboy clubs ! Both of these cowboys received multiple nominations.

Some folks that shoot at ONSP on a regular basis won some national and world awards. JM Brown picked up another national champion Sr Duelist title at Winter Range. Trail Bandit picked up a world champion Elder Statesman title at End of Trail. There were a number of other local shooters that placed well at these events as well.

- 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 – trying to decide what are the next target priorities. Each NC State match puts as much use on the ONSP steel as a full year of ONSP monthly matches so steel impact is accelerated.

 - We added 3 more of the newer tripod target stands that were donated by the vendor after the state match. Thanks Mark Davidson !
 - We acquired the steel to create three vertical array stands – currently waiting on some fabrication work to be completed. The use of these in conjunction with our newer tripod stands will give us some new target scenarios.
 - Added some more target hooks and bolts.

- Repaired some broken timers

- Prop Activities/Efforts:
 - Returned all of the train to operational status. Touch up paint mostly. Also fixed the wheel assemblies on the train cars so they are stored in the train cars and are only hung on the train car when it is staged for use. Repainted all of the wheel assemblies.

 - Cleaned up the outhouse so it was useable again.

 - Added some additional rebar for stacking down props.

 - Refurbished props:
 - Refurbishment of a second fake rock is nearing completion – it has a first coat of paint. Two down and one to go.
 - KTown refurbished a number of the fences in need of some repair and added a couple of new ones.

- Equipment shed:
 - Started prepping the exterior of the ONSP equipment shed to either paint or cover the exterior – still evaluating options.

- 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.

- The ONSP computer in the clubhouse died (with help from someone trying to access the Internet even though there is a sign attached indicating no Internet access). The desktop unit was replaced with a new laptop and associated printer. Both are now locked up. Leaving anything out in the RCWA clubhouse for general range use has proven to be a useless effort. It has taken several matches to work out the rough edges with the new ONSP equipment.

- The computer software on the ONSP laptop was updated with the latest versions – the new laptop is now Windows 10. The SASS scoring software was upgraded multiple times.

- The ONSP website was maintained with some minor updates. 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 currently has five Regulators as club members:
 - Dingo Dave – currently providing TG services for another club or two
 - Sixgun Sallie - ONSP Territorial Governor (TG)
 - Tracker Mike
 - Rocky River Jeb
 - Green Eyed Indian
 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. SASS has now published the official requirements for TGs for the first time. These have been added to the ONSP website under the ONSP Club Info option.
- The weather has been a challenge so far this year – lots of wet weather has curtailed the ability to get much range work done. We have however gotten in all of the monthly matches although a couple were touch and go. The range does drain fairly quickly.
- RCWA related news: It appears that RCWA is going to add a sixth berm at the bottom of the parking area – it was apparently approved by the board – no date yet. There have been a number of changes on the RCWA Board as of Jan. so the ONSP Board is adapting to new expectations/requirements – dealing with the usual range politics and trying to keep up with any range changes that may impact ONSP.
- ONSP membership (yearly membership runs from Jan. thru Dec.) is up from last year. We currently have 61 ONSP members for 2016 – up from 52 in 2015. Thanks for the support !

Old North State Posse Plans for Second Half of 2016

So what are some of the areas that we would like to address in the second half of 2016 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 an ONSP Board or 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 2016.
 - 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 will normally try to work them into the end of stages if a berm is not 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.

We held a new shooter clinic in May. It was a challenging effort with a number of interested folks with minimal shooting experience. Thanks to those that helped out – especially Rubicon Ryder and Myra Venge. As noted above, we will be glad to work with any potential new shooters that will let us know they are interested. With the change in RCWA policy allowing use of all cowboy guns on Sunday, it gives us more options for holding new shooter clinics on Sunday afternoons. This seems to work better with many interested parties. May try another in the fall if enough interest.

- 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 2016 – June 2 thru 4.
- ONSP will continue running a full set of fun monthly matches for the rest of the year. Remember the following schedule of events for the rest of 2016:
 - 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 and PaPa Chet (usual stage writers), Joe Danby, Ace of Clubs, Layden Payde, Tracker Mike, Tex James, Whisky River Bill, and Rosebrook Kid.
 - 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, Stonefire Slim and Sixgun Sallie for their ongoing help. Train Wreck has learned the match registration and setup process and has recently been handling that process. This is a critical monthly match process that needs some additional member involvement – without match registration and match setup getting done matches can be cancelled.

- The maintenance of the ONSP equipment shed and the grounds immediately around the ONSP equipment shed is the responsibility of ONSP. We have paint colors approved by RCWA.
 - 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.
 - A major priority is some refurbishment of the exterior of the ONSP equipment shed. The roof and eaves have been replaced and covered. We are currently looking at the options for painting/covering the sides of the shed.
 - 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.

- Steel related : With most of our target stand inventory needs currently addressed, we are going to look at adding some specialty target stands (for example a vertical rack). Hopefully this will allow us to provide some different target scenarios. Steel has been purchased for some vertical target arrays – waiting on fabrication. We will continue to evaluate opportunities to acquire more targets.

- The range trailer needs a new bed installed.

- 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.
 - We have started acquiring the components to add a saloon themed frame store front with traditional saloon type doors (doors have been donated by Stonefire Slim/Colorado Aspen). This will include a saloon bar prop as well.
 - Build a new coffin.
 - Finish up refurbishing the fake rocks and get them painted so they are useable again. Two of the three are now refurbished and painted. One to go.
 - 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 need to repair some of the existing range tables and build some new smaller range tables.

- The ONSP website needs some additional updates. Some of the documentation that is listed is dated and needs updating. We added an ONSP Facebook site to provide a discussion forum and place to post photos. 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 Train Wreck 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 2016 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.

Layden Payde
President

Sisco Ron
Vice President

Train Wreck
Treasurer

Tracker Mike
Secretary

KTown
Match Designer/Director

Joe Danby
Member

Tex James
Member