

Old North State Posse Chronicle 2018 Mid Year Update

Old North State Posse 2018 Activities

For Old North State Posse, the first half of the 2018 year has been very non-productive. A weather pattern that seems to be locked into making the first Sat. of the month a challenge continues to confound our efforts to provide monthly shoots. This pattern started in the fall of 2017 and has continued through the first half of 2018 with the exception of only a couple of first Saturdays. Even our annual Big Iron match was held under wet conditions. The following is a recap of the limited activities which the ONSP team tackled during the first half of 2018.

- The eighth annual The Big Iron Showdown match was held on a wet Sat. in April. We had 23 hardy cowboys/cowgirls that braved the weather. We managed 6 of the 8 planned stages before deciding to head for dry land. The SASS NC State Black Powder Championship was again included as part of the match with 13 of the 23 participants smoking it up. This is two of the last three annual matches to deal with wet weather – some discussion about moving to May in 2019. To be determined....
- Targets and Target Stands:
 - No activity.
- ONSP Equipment Shed:
 - Installed new belts on the aging lawn/garden tractor.
 - Refurbished the equipment trailer deck. Stripped off the old deck and removed the old tail gate that we did not use – lighter is better. Tex James installed a new deck.
- Prop Activities/Efforts:
 - No activity.
- RCWA related news:
 - Continued refining the ONSP monthly match processes in using the training room facility for match operations.
 - Tex James has started attending most of the RCWA open board meetings – developing a much better working relationship ! Thanks Roger !
- We continued cleaning up and organizing 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.

- On-line Resources:
 - Tracker Mike has continued maintaining the ONSP web site (www.onsp.us).
 - Continued maintaining the ONSP Facebook site – thought we would see how that might be used to keep up with and discuss ONSP activities. This is primarily intended for ONSP members/regulars.
 - ONSP also continues some financial support when requested for the Carolinas Cowboys website which benefits all of the cowboy clubs in the area.

- Upgraded the SASS scoring software a couple of times as well as the range laptop computer software. We continue looking at some different scoring software that has a much more integrated approach to capturing scores in real time on the berms. This newer product has now become officially marketed and supported. Requires some capital investment for a fairly robust Wi-Fi setup. Noticed at least one other shooting venue at RCWA (IDPA I think) is using a similar type setup now. The traditional SASS supported scoring software is now trying to introduce a formally supported on-line scoring capability as well.

- ONSP membership (yearly membership runs from Jan. thru Dec.) is up from last year. We currently have 70 ONSP members for 2018 – up from 62 in 2017. Thanks for the support !

Old North State Posse Plans for Second Half of 2018

So what are some of the areas that we would like to address in the second half of 2018 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 and improve. The following will be the focus for 2018.
 - 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 have handouts which are in the back of the scoring notebooks available at each match - make sure they are offered a copy.

- Make sure we identify new cowboy action shooters (first time shooters) at each match and make sure that we have good mentors/coaches assigned for their first match or two. Help the new folks start off on a positive note.
 - 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 currently have no 2018 new shooter clinics scheduled at this time. If we have interested parties, we are happy to schedule a Sunday afternoon. We also will continue to be available at the Friday setup sessions for potential new cowboy shooters that would like to come try it out. We would like to ask that we get a heads up if someone is interested in dropping by on a Friday setup day so we can be prepared. We are also going to try to use our regular monthly matches for allowing potential new shooters some opportunities – we have occasionally done this in the past.
- 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 2018 – Nov. 2 – Nov. 5 .
 - This will include a work day or two to get the props and equipment ready. Keep an eye open for a notice on the workday(s).
- ONSP will continue running a full set of fun monthly matches. Remember the following schedule of events for 2018:
 - The NC State Championship match will occur on the ONSP November monthly match date. This will be Nov. 1 – Nov. 4.
 - The ONSP annual match, The Big Iron Showdown, will be held on the regular 7 April match date. Match details and applications are available on the ONSP website (www.onsp.us).
 - Monthly match opportunities:
 - We are always looking for help with target setup on Friday afternoon before our monthly matches. They usually get together around 2:00 to 2:30 at the range. Thanks to our usual setup crew – Papa Chet who usually writes the stages, Tex James, Rubicon Ryder, Myra Venge, Tracker Mike along with occasional others.
 - Would someone like to learn how to use our scoring software to do monthly match registration and scoring? We badly need some help with this match function. Yes being comfortable using computer based software is a requirement. Matches will be cancelled if we do not have anyone available to handle this function. See Tracker Mike if interested.
- 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
 - We need additional shelter capacity for prop storage. The shelter on the back of the equipment shed has been extended and closed in. Cleaning out unused equipment/props is probably the next priority.
 - We will be doing some refurbishment work on the small range tables – new carpet and/or stability repairs. May even add some new small tables for use on the firing line.
- With our target inventory needs addressed, we continue to look at both adding some specialty target stands to provide some different target scenarios and refurbishing some of the older pole target stands as money allows.
 - We will continue to refurbish some existing props as time and money allows.
 - As always, there is some train car refurbishment needed – clean up and painting.
 - The fences need some refurbishment work.
 - We will continue to look for some opportunities to add some new props to the ONSP inventory and repair some of the existing stuff. May schedule some repair work as part of the preparations for the NC State Championship.
 - We would like to add another saloon themed frame store front with traditional saloon type door (doors have been donated by Stonefire Slim/Colorado Aspen). Maybe add a saloon bar.
 - Build a new coffin.
 - 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.
 - Reminder: We still have a supply of ONSP badges now 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.

We have about 70 ONSP members in 2018 which is a bit higher for our annual numbers which are usually in the 60s. Our yearly membership fees are used to cover most of the ONSP annual liability insurance bill which is our largest recurring expense so your support is appreciated !

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 2018 for ONSP – just sorry the weather has been less than cooperative !! 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.

Joe Danby

KTown

Layden Payde

Sisco Ron

Tex James

Tracker Mike

Train Wreck