



Shootout on THE LITTLE RIVER

2013

By Big Boyd, SASS #41359

Valdosta, GA – The annual match of the Valdosta Vigilance Committee was held on a beautiful day in South Georgia on March 30, 2013. The theme of the match was *How the West was Won*. We shot through many different scenarios from the classic movie by the same name. Marshal Troop, SASS Life #70448, wrote the story line and designed the stages. There were multiple opportunities for the shooter to make a choice about which firearm to begin with and/or which targets to engage first. Many enjoyed this opportunity.

The match was dedicated to the memory of Papa Jake, SASS #48550, who passed from this life on February 28, 2013. He embodied the Spirit of the Game as well as any cowboy we know. We have named our Spirit of the Game Award for Papa Jake.

Much work was done to get the range back in shape for the match, due to rain and flooding.

Sixty-six shooters participated



Top Shooters Wabash Valley Slim and Shamrock Sadie

in this match, the largest number of participants at any match put on by the Valdosta Vigilance Committee. The four posses moved through the scenarios proficiently, aided by members of the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office Explorers, young people who helped with parking, re-setting of shotgun targets, and picking up brass. The appreciative cowboys took up a collection of nearly \$150 for this group of young people.

While most of our shooters came from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and South Carolina, we had a few from North Carolina and from as far away as New Hampshire.

The top shooters for this match were Wabash Valley Slim, SASS #71092, and Shamrock Sadie, SASS #78511. Congratulations to both. They are not only good shooters, but fine ambassadors for our sport.

Several members of our parent club, the *Little River Sportsman's Association*, put in several hours of manual labor the week before the match. After the match, we shared





Sam's Famous Bar-B-Que with all the fixin's. The tables were set up under the shelter on the pistol range, while what was left of the floodwaters was still lapping at the edges of the concrete floor. Several shooters referred to this as riverside dining, and it seemed to add a little ambiance to the lunch.

We were supported by hard-working non-shooters who helped make the match run smoothly—Mel Evans, Blue Jeans, Wild William, and Just Lee. Their hard work before and during the match was invaluable. Just Lee also served as the official photographer.

A few of the comments we received after the match:

"Great one day match." – Major Mishap, SASS #40451, and Ennah Tizzy, SASS #58791.

"Really enjoyed the match. Especially getting to shoot with both Florida and Georgia friends. Thanks to all who worked to make this shoot possible, and congrats to the winners. Miss you, Papa Jake." – Cassaong Hopidy, SASS #39703.

"Brisket and I had a great time. My thanks to all the folks who worked so hard to make this a fun match. The stages had lots of shooter options and movement. The lakeside dining was really neat, and the BBQ was delicious. And, on top of all that, the weather was perfect! We enjoyed meeting up with some old friends and making new ones. I even won a door prize AND a coozy." – Badlands Bob, SASS #61228.

"Good match. Good people. I

am impressed with the extreme tenacity required to put on this match. The range was under 15 feet of water two weeks ago. Outstanding effort. My congratulations." – Talon Macleod, SASS #29883.

"Excellent variety of stages and target placement ... there was not one stand and deliver stage. There was one stage with no shotguns and one stage with no rifle ... now that was fun. Marshall Troop did a great job writing the stages, and all the folks that built the props and set everything up are to be commended ... just a great all around annual match ... Great match and congrats to all the winners, and many thanks to all who worked so hard to put on such a great match and ordering up that perfect match weather. This is an annual match ya'll should put on your calendars for next year." – Krazy Kajun, SASS #91338.

"Bea Itchin' and I had a great time. More misses than I'm used to. We plan on being back next year." – Rolan Kraps, SASS #24084.

"FLASH FORWARD TWO YEARS ... Remember that little shoot in Valdosta? Well I heard they had 150 shooters this year. That's what I predict will happen with this shoot. Especially if they promise the same kinda people, weather, food, and fun stages. Thanks for all the work [the Valdosta Vigilance Committee did]. Posse 4 – a great mix of new and old friends." – Loco Notion, SASS #20214.

"Wow, what a good time!!! ... I'll be back next year! Besides, I have to come back to find my stool I left behind after the last stage! Well Done, Folks – Great Match." – Mississippi Kid, SASS #96425.

"I had a great time shootin' with Posse 1. Fun time had by all, and I even won a door prize while enjoying the great food. My pa would have been proud. Love you Papa Jake." – Wild Bill Jake, SASS #97318.

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