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# The Marauder

Published by the Tennessee Mountain Marauders - A Cowboy & Cowgirl Action Shooting Club

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**2007 DECEMBER**

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## CONGRATULATIONS



**First Place**

**TEAM  
SHOOT**

**Outcast**

**Georgia Joe Tyke &  
Ricochet Richard**

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## **Campfire Chronicle**

**Cherokee Maddog SASS Life 48430**

Volume 14 - Dateline 20 December

What a wonderful winter day it was Saturday at Mystery Dog Ranch. Some 21 cowboys and cowgirls posse up with the Tennessee Mountain Marauders to hit the trail in our annual 3-man posse shoot. To be absolutely honest, I have never laughed so hard in my entire life. I woke up Sunday morning with a sore belly from laughing so much, and I was horse from hee-hawing so much.

It started off with a simple little stage dubbed the "alternate shot relay", or "how do I shoot when I am laughing so hard" stage, where shooters had to simply sweep the targets from left to right, alternating shots

between the three shooters. It was quickly determined that cowboys and cowgirls can neither count, alternate, or hit targets. This stage set the tone for the rest of the shoot, but the team of Trailbones, Angie Oakley, and Delta Desperado took top honors with a time of 135.57 seconds. Amazingly, every single team had a procedural penalty. Imagine that.

On the second stage, teams had to cut down a Christmas Tree using their rifles, pistols, and shotguns, since they weren't too happy to be given the task in the first place. Various strategies were used, including two members shooting at the bottom, while the third shot at the top. Some shot in the middle, others at the bottom and still others contested the "leaners" which had to be put "on the ground." When the smoke had cleared, the team of Outcast, GA Joe Tyke and Ricochet Richard took the stage with a time of 46.70 seconds, although some did contest GA Joe Tyke's use of a black powder cannons instead of regular cowboy firearms. However, special recognition was given to Trailbones for the most shotgun ammo used on a single stage. When his team's tree finally fell, it looked like he was standing the middle of a pile of AstroTurf. He even had to send a runner back to his cart for another box.

Stage three was simple enough. The cowboys and cowgirls hung a Christmas Gift on a fence and were to "open it" using their pistols, rifles and shotguns. Since the "present" was light colored, it became obvious that not all our cowboys and cowgirls are real marksmen. Instead of a nice straight line of bullet holes, several of the presents looked like a deranged beaver had gnawed its way through the present. Others were obvious hungry as theirs took on the look of Swiss cheese. When all was said and done, the team of Outcast, GA Joe Tyke and Ricochet Richard again finished on top; but not without questions about GA Joe's use of black powder artillery at a cowboy shoot.

On the last stage of the day, cowboys and cowgirls had four targets each in a "dump" relay, starting with shotgun, then rifle and finally pistols. We again were treated to a visual

confirmation of the inability of cowboys and cowgirls to count, alternate, and hit targets all at the same time. That, combined with the alternating rapid and slow fire, good natured ribbing and missed targets, was an excellent way to end the shooting day. The Team of Josey Buckhorn, Doc Harleyday, and yours truly, completed the task in 59.57 seconds to take first place.

We then sat down to a barbequed Rib Eye dinner prepared by Miss Dixie Ree and Shawnee Lee. As always, the meal was absolutely excellent and the perfect end to a great shoot. The team of Outcast, GA Joe Tyke and Ricochet Richard took top honors for the day and then we went about giving out the annual awards.

Marshal Too Tall took top male gun honors for 2007 while Last Kiss took top female gun honors. There were several other categories recognized with awards and certificates and those will be listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Overall, it was a great day. I had the opportunity to laugh as hard as I have ever laughed, had an exceptional meal, was able to spend time with good friends and socialize with a bunch of good cowboys and cowgirls. It don't get much better than that.

On a personal note, this had been a very busy year for me personally and for the Tennessee Mountain Marauders. We did what we could do between our "real" jobs and the need to play cowboy, but we did make improvements on the range, end the year solid financially, and had some really, really fun shoots, including our Thanksgiving special. We have added quite a few new shooters to the club, lost some old cowpokes, who will be remembered, and will end the year, much as we started it, with an active, engaged CAS club.

As for the holidays, Erma Bombeck once said, "There's nothing sadder in this world than to awake on Christmas morning and not be a child." I don't believe it is a date, but a state of mind. For those of you who consider yourself adults at this time of year, don't expect too much from the holiday season. We can't crowd into two weeks any arrears of unselfishness and kindness that may have accrued during the past twelve months, but we should hold the feelings we will have over the next few days for each and every day of the New Year.

Forgive your enemies, be tolerant of your opponents, give of yourself to your friends, have charity for all, be a good example to a child and respect yourself. It is

the holiday spirit in your heart that makes the holiday season and let's hope we all run out of money before we run out of friends.

Some of the things I like to do this time of the year is go see a Christmas parade, watch "A Christmas Story", watch "It's A Wonderful Life", watch "A Christmas Carol", watch "White Christmas", I don't count calories from December 15th until January 2<sup>nd</sup>, adopt a needy family for the holidays, take a basket of goodies to the local fire and police stations, play Christmas music at home and in my car, and finally, I try real hard not to forget the batteries.

I would like every cowboy and cowgirl who reads this to consider the following. If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the people on this planet. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish somewhere, you are among the top 8% of the worlds wealthiest. If you woke up this morning with good health, you are more fortunate than the million who will not survive this week. If you can read this note, you are doing better than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

We all have a lot to be thankful for this year and I hope the paragraph above adds some perspective. Now it is time to celebrate the season as we recognize the end of one year and look forward to the beginning of another. Do me a favor and be the first to wish everyone you meet a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We deserve the opportunity to celebrate the season, we have earned it. I wish everyone the joy of the holidays, but please be safe. I would like it very much if I have the same number of cowboy and cowgirl friends after the holidays as I have now.

On a closing and somewhat sad note, I have to let everyone know I am leaving the area in mid-January. My company is relocating me to the corporate offices in the frozen tundra of Michigan. I have a lot of mixed feelings about this as I have a lot of very good friends in this area and I hope to be able to return one day in the future. Until then, I want to thank each and every one of you for your support, friendship, and effort, as we grew cowboy action shooting in the local area. I just hope I can find a group of cowboys and cowgirls who have half the character, dedication and heart as the people I have known here.

Sincerely,

Cherokee Maddog

**NEXT SHOOT** - The Tennessee Mountain Marauders invite you to join them every *THIRD SATURDAY* at the Mystery Dog Ranch for fun, fellowship, and a daisy of a cowboy shoot! The next shoot will be **JANUARY 19th 2008** with registration, buffalo shoot and coffee from 8:00 to 9:00 and the safety meeting following. If you need directions to the shoot and ranch check out the MDR website See ya there!

## DECEMBER 2007 SHOOT RESULTS

Overall Ranking	Alias	Stage 1		Stage 2		Stage 3		Stage 4		Total	
		Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
1	Outcast, GA Joe Tyke, Ricochet Richard	157.75	4	46.70	1	26.22	1	105.79	4	336.46	10
2	Cherokee Maddog, Josey Buckhorn, Doc Harleyday	155.98	3	139.87	6	49.24	3	59.57	1	404.66	13
3	Tellico, TN Bountyman, Double Barrel	146.55	2	117.61	4	41.29	2	112.75	5	418.20	13
4	Wildcat Wilkey, Jerimiah Goodnews, TN Smoke	209.23	7	55.89	2	56.82	5	91.70	2	413.64	16
5	Trailbones, Angie Oakley, Delta Desperado	135.57	1	159.83	7	63.80	7	103.56	3	462.76	18
6	Coffee Joe, Barnes Door, Cowboy Bob	194.51	5	101.88	3	51.35	4	149.20	7	496.94	19
7	Bad Eye Tom, Bad Arm Slim, Calico Nichole	202.60	6	123.91	5	57.64	6	128.51	6	512.66	23

## **DESERT COWBOY'S CHRISTMAS**

The bells this cowboy's hearin',  
aren't off of any sleigh. They're  
'round the necks of the old milk cows  
comin' in for their mornin' hay.

There've been other times and places,  
where there weren't snowflakes fallin',  
But he can't remember a Christmas,  
when there weren't cattle bawlin'.

The desert air is chilled, as daylight  
tints the sky. It's plenty cold enough  
for frost but the air is just too dry.

Against the graying pre-dawn there's  
a darker silhouette. A remuda horse  
has just come in, but he can't tell  
which one yet.

The faint scent of creosote brush drifts  
on the mornin' breeze, And prob'ly  
because of the day makes him think  
of Christmas trees.

Pausing, he watches the sunrise  
break the hold of the night. Objects  
begin to emerge from the dark  
changing form in the light.

Saguaro, arms reaching skyward,  
cottonwood trees, bare limbed. A  
rooster up on the big corral fence  
sittin' there crowin' at him.

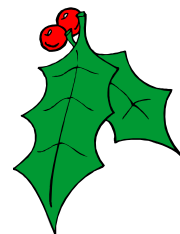
An old cow begins to bawl, knowin' it's  
time for feed. He breaks the bales  
and scatters the hay, and the others  
follow her lead.

Cattle and man have a bond, they've  
always been his life. Over the years  
they've taken the place of a family and  
a wife.

As seasons follow seasons, he's never  
changed direction. Horses, cattle,  
and wide-open spaces, the "cowboy  
connection".

"Merry Christmas, Girls," he calls,  
"here's a little extra hay. An old  
cowboy likes to do his part to make  
this a special day!"

His Christmas seldom means  
presents, or bright lights on a tree,  
More a time to pause and reflect on  
the way a man ought to be. Some  
folks don't understand this, but it really  
isn't so strange. It's what a cowboy's  
life's all about, to a shepherd of the  
range.



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