DESERT MARKSMEN
RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB

ANTELOPE VALLEY, CA

FOUNDED 1958

2021 FIRST EDITION

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DMRPC will host a membership meeting on Saturday,

March 13, 2021, at 2:00 pm.

In order for the DMRPC to remain current with California law, it is necessary to update and amend the club by-laws. There are a number of proposed changes to the by-laws, and in order to get this done, an in-person vote of the membership is required to approve sending the by-laws out for all the members to read and vote yes or no to change the by-laws. In the past, this could be done at monthly DMRPC membership meetings which before the current pandemic were regularly held in Palmdale; with today's current distancing requirements, it will be necessary to have this meeting at an outdoor setting, with the DMRPC complex being the favored choice for such.

The meeting will be at the Black Powder range; bring your own chair. Gate security staff will be in place to manage the Angeles Forest Highway gate for our member's convenience. As always, plan ahead for any type of weather.

RANGE CLOSURES

DMRPC members are reminded to **check the DMRPC webpage** prior to making a trip to the range, as the road leading into the DMRPC complex may be closed due to extreme fire weather, heavy rain, flooding, or other emergency incidents. There are also a number of upcoming range maintenance projects that will close the complex to shooting activities for short periods; these projects focus on brush clearance, road maintenance & repair, improvements to impact berms, and other DMRPC related infrastructure.

As a reminder, these projects are not for the collection of discarded targets, shooting supplies, etc. It is the responsibility of each member to remove all such materials, when they are done using them, and BEFORE leaving the DMRPC complex. DMRPC does NOT pay anyone to pick up after slobs and other idiots who leave their trash behind!

COWBOY ACTION

(Part six, continuing from the last installment)

Hello again my friends, and welcome to the sixth part of our discussion on "The Gun That Won The West". Isn't it fortunate that, even though we may be enduring a global pandemic, we can get together and talk about a favorite subject, and that's guns! What do you say we find ourselves a cool spot, out of the hot sun, sit back, sip some lemonade and continue our conversation. Last time we got together, we were enjoying the cool weather and the blossoms of Spring while learning of the impossible to overstate importance of the Henry repeating rifle and the ammunition designed just for it, the .44 Henry Rimfire. Even though considered anemic by any of today's standards, the Henry and its ammo put a permanent mark on the timeline of history. Some time back, we discussed some of the goals of firearms and ammunition developers, and those were: increased rate of fire, increased effective range, better weather resistance, and increased speed in the reloading of the arm. The Henry and its .44 Rimfire ammo checked all of those boxes pretty well considering the we are still engaged in the Civil War at this point in history. With the ability to deliver an aimed shot each second, hit targets beyond 200 yards and operate in almost all weather conditions, using its rifled barrel and self contained cartridge design. The basic elements of what a modern rifle needs to be, were indelibly carved into the stone of history. Add to that the ability to be fully reloaded in 30 seconds and maybe a repeating sidearm that uses the same ammunition and you have the makings of a person who can, without massive supply lines of support, make his mark on the world so to speak. A quick internet search for Pistol Caliber Carbines will show you just how important and popular this concept is.

Of all the long arms used by the more than three million soldiers in the Civil War, only two were multi shot repeaters (that weren't based upon a rifle length revolver), the Henry repeater and the Spencer rifle. While Spencer production totals, during the war, far outstripped the Henry's number, about 135,000 verses about 14,000 for the Henry, and while the Spencer was simpler, sturdier and fired a larger and more powerful cartridge, it suffered from smaller magazine capacity, was slower to fire because the hammer had to be manually cocked each time a fresh round was levered into position, and was much slower and more cumbersome to reload. The biggest drawback of the Spencer rifle was that it was not readily adaptable to modern centerfire ammunition and the Henry was. As we will later see, this is a very important advantage that favors the Henry.

In a fairly quick series of steps that happened between July of 1865 and February of 1867, the Henry repeater's production moved from New Haven Connecticut to Bridgeport Connecticut, and experienced a couple of name changes. From the New Haven Arms Company to the Henry Repeating Arms Company, we finally arrive at the Winchester Repeating Arms Company. This series of changes also sees us lose Mr. Henry and gain Nelson King, the man responsible for some very important improvements to the Henry Repeater. King is the man responsible for the side loading gate which in and of itself was a great improvement over the Henry, which had to be loaded from the muzzle end of the rifle, but there were other advantages that compound the importance of his improvement. As you might remember, the Henry was particularly expensive and difficult to manufacture. The barrel and magazine tube were one single machined piece, making it quite the feat of machining genius to manufacture. King's side loading gate did several things to help with that complexity and, to solve problems in service as well. His side loading gate allowed for faster easier loading and made it easier to stay concealed while reloading because of not having to manipulate the entire length of the rifle.

By loading from the side of the receiver, the magazine could now be a fully enclosed tube rather than have a slot on the entire length of its bottom surface. This closed tube did much to keep dirt out and made the magazine tougher to dent than an open “C” shaped cross section. It also allowed the barrel and magazine tube to be made of two separate pieces, each much more simple and less expensive to manufacture than the original Henry design. Secondly, it allowed for the application of a wooden forend, to both further protect the magazine tube from denting and to protect the shooter’s hand from a potentially hot barrel. Important as well, King’s improvement allowed for loading or topping off without rendering the rifle unusable while doing so. These improvements were described in Patent #55012 on May 22nd, 1866. Originally a hinged door that was opened by actuating a spring latch, King made changes to his loading gate that reduced the parts needed from twelve to just five. It is this configuration, arrived at during the Summer of 1866, that we recognize today on nearly all Winchester and Marlin lever action rifles and it was with these improvements that the 1866 Winchester was born. It is said that the Board Of Directors at Winchester were so pleased with King’s refinement of the Henry Repeater, that they awarded him a five thousand dollar bonus.

Manufactured from 1866 to 1898, nearly 160,000 1866’s were made, with some 4500 sold in just the first five months of production in the civilian market alone. Winchester had his first namesake rifle and had really cemented the basic configuration of the repeating long arm for some time to come. The rest of the world took notice as well, with several governments purchasing samples to see if the 1866 Winchester filled the needs of their Militaries. Both France and the Ottoman Empire made official purchases of the 1866 Winchester for their fighting men, with the Ottomans purchasing 45,000 Rifles and 5,000 Carbines in 1870 and 1871. The 1866 had a receiver made from Gunmetal, known as Red Brass, a composition of copper, tin, and zinc. This golden metal is how the Rifle got its nickname “Yellow Boy”. This nickname likely came from the Native Americans amongst which, the 1866 was a favorite. When Nez Pearce leader Chief Joseph surrendered to Colonel Nelson Miles at Bear’s Paw Battlefield near Chinook Montana, he gave up a well cared for 1866 that had been adorned with brass tacks. This Rifle is now in the Smithsonian Museum. As we can see, the advancements in firearms technology are really picking up pace at this point in History and, with the production numbers of each successive design, rapidly on the rise, it is obvious that the world has taken notice of the repeating Rifle as well. Is the 1866 Winchester “The Gun That Won The West”? Possibly, but I don’t think that we should draw a line in the sand or cast anything in stone just yet. Let us remain patient and give History ample time to reveal its answers to this age old question. Please stay tuned for the seventh part of our discussion on “The Gun That Won The West”.

Until Next We Meet
Doc Silverhawks
SASS Regulator #24427

TACTICAL MEDICINE CLASS FOR URBAN TACTICAL

By Rico Castro
December 2020

Well, you KNOW we had to take the class since it had the word 'Tactical' in it.

OK, that's not the ONLY reason. As you know, the Urban Tactical Match has been gearing up with some new and exciting course stages, interesting designs, and developing new stages based on feedback from our participants. But, of course, any time someone is on the range with firearms you have to pay special attention to safety. Perhaps even more with Urban Tactical, since our particular discipline involves handling multiple weapons within the same match stage, weapons transitions, and so on; so we have the POTENTIAL for more incidents.

With that in mind, the Urban Tactical crew took a customized medical training course specially geared toward the kinds of events that might occur at a range like Desert Marksmen. And these events are not just involving firearms, but since our stages can be strenuous, sometimes involve running, moving, and different shooting positions, there is the potential for things like falls, bruises, heat and cold injuries, even heart issues, so we need to be as prepared as possible for all of this.

Fortunately, in October 2020, and at our own range, we were able to get SERT International based out of Ventura to come out and put on a custom-designed course based on the TECC (Tactical Emergency Casualty Care) protocols for exactly our situation - complete with role players, simulated injuries and blood, using realistic prosthetics representing the various kinds of injuries. We trained all day long in practical and 'hands-on' scenarios that really helped the team get more comfortable with the types of incidents we might see, and how to handle them appropriately. We can't thank Scott and Lee enough - they brought their experiences as medics for Ventura SWAT Teams and their military units and applied it to a civilian setting to make it real for us. We worked hard, it was a long day, but we had a blast and it was completely worth it.

Afterwards, we also acquired some updated medical gear at our range to be able to utilize our new skill set should the need ever arise. As

always, we keep a safe and fun environment, and everyone has followed our safety guidelines in the past, but you can never be 'too' prepared.

If you are interested in learning more about this for yourselves, here are a couple of images to parts of our class where we trained on the proper use of Quikclot (hemostatic dressings), tourniquet use, junctional injuries and wound packing, thoracic cavity injuries and chest seals, Israeli bandages, skeletal injuries and splints, snake and insect bites, heat and cold injuries, even a CPR refresher. Feel free to contact me at coponthelooose@ca.rr.com, and I'll fill you in on some of the options I learned about.

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