

Silver Queen Mine Regulators

A History

By Lefty, SASS #361

In October 1992 the Hole in the Wall Gang, represented by the late Fargo Ed, participated in a shooting festival at the Long Beach Pistol Range. The range officials organized this event to promote the facility to the local community, and allow spectators to observe various shooting disciplines. Soon after the event Chuck Sees, Manager of the Pistol Range (future Drugstore Cowboy, SASS #2583), asked Fargo Ed to give him some tips on forming a new Cowboy Action Shooting club. Ed gave Chuck his much needed support, and help. Fargo Ed is also credited with conceiving the club name. Ed noticed Chuck recovering (mining) lead (silver colored metal) from the ground around the targets with a form of sluice box. When Ed asked how much lead they had recovered, he was surprised when Chuck told him over 55 tons, and the job was not finished. The range officials used picks and shovels to mine the coarse pieces, and the sluice boxes for the fine particles. Ed then suggested the name Silver Queen Mine Regulators and it stuck! All of us who know this story refer to Drugstore Cowboy as Silver Queen Mine Regulator "Number 1".

The first Club meeting was held in December 1992 and the first Monthly Match was held in January 1993. The Club used the Long Beach Pistol Range for the monthly matches until disaster struck in April 1993. Later that year a local resident accused the Range of being unsafe, and to help her agenda, she enlisted the aid of the news media. As a result, the Long Beach City Council refused to renew the lease, and the range closed in July 1993.

The Silver Queen Mine Regulators, being the club that refused to die, selected the Huntington Beach Police Range as a replacement for Long Beach. An inaugural exhibition shoot was staged in September 1993, but various constraints made this new location unsatisfactory.

Fortunately, about this time, Rick Philips, manager of the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, informed the group that they were expanding their range. Rick agreed that just as soon as the property was graded, the Silver Queen Mine Regulators could use the new area. The second Sunday of each month was

proposed and accepted for the club's monthly matches. The Army Corps of Engineers had to approve the new site, and the process took a few months. Interim club meetings and shoots were held at the Insight Range in Artesia. The construction at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club Range was finally finished, and the first Monthly Match was held in February 1994.

A couple of years later Kidd thought up the idea of having a second monthly club match. This additional match consists of typical Side Match events, such as Long Range Rifles, Derringer, Pocket Pistol, etc. Side Match Sunday, as it is now called, gives participants an opportunity to practice with shootin' irons not used in regular matches. The first of the month was chosen for this event and the match continues to be very popular with Club Members and other area shooters.

In 1997 and 1998, due to the persistence of Highway Man, the Club hosted the annual match "Glory Hole". All the attendees acclaimed these events to be enjoyable and well done. Due to the ever-growing popularity of Cowboy Action Shooting in Southern California, and the associated increase in the number of monthly and annual matches in the area, suitable dates for subsequent "Glory Holes" were not found. But, there's currently talk of another "Glory Hole" in the near future.

Also, in the late twentieth century, the Club produced several "Pardner Shoots" where all the stages were designed for 2 Shooters (another Highway Man original).

In 2000, after over a year's diligent work by Colorado Belle, the Club was incorporated in the state of California as a "Non-profit, Mutual Benefit Corporation".

In 2001 the Club's regular monthly match was changed to the third Sunday to avoid conflict with other area club's monthly matches. So, on the third Sunday in December 2002, the Silver Queen Mine Regulators held their regular monthly match. But, this day was special. The first decade of the club's existence was commemorated with a special match and celebration luncheon. Shooting was limited to 4 Stages (1/2 the usual), so that the participants and attendees could chow down on burgers, beans, and all the fixins.

The Club used the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club Range for over 11 years until the range was permanently closed for various political reasons in 2005. When closure of the San Gabriel Valley Range appeared imminent, Drugstore

Cowboy and I drove up to the Burro Canyon Shooting Park to ascertain if that facility could be the future “home range” for SQMR. After a brief discussion with Manager Joe Cavanaugh, it was decided to make the move to Burro Canyon prior to the final closure of San Gabriel Valley Range, in order to ensure a the availability of suitable Ranges on the Club’s regularly scheduled match days (1st and 3rd Sundays). Members and guests have now enjoyed shooting in the pleasant forest setting at Burro Canyon since 2005.

Some preliminary members of the club said, “You aren’t going to make it”, and left for greener pastures. But guess what? WE DID MAKE IT! We're still goin’ strong, and I for one expect be at the range in 2012 to celebrate the completion of the 2nd decade.

The Silver Queen Mine Regulators would like to thank all of the current and past Club Members, Officers, and supporters for our successful first decade. In particular, we're all thankful for the opportunity to have known and worked with Bob Ford, Highway Man, and Crankshaft, who now shoot on God’s Posse.