



Voice of the
LITTLE RIVER RAIDERS

Website www.littleriverraiders.com.au

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President: Tony Diablo

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Scribe: Patrick Floyd Garrett

EDITORS NOTES.

Working bee 3rd Sunday March can you please let Tony Diablo know if you are coming on 0419 187980.

The membership renewal's will now be due by the 30th of may for 2018/19. The renewal form will be soon up on the website.

Also don't forget to get your entry form in for Walkers Creek. The form can be found on the website for you to download.

CAPTAIN'S CORNER (OR SAMBUCCA'S SPEAK)

Howdy all,

Well we are well into it for another year and first:

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Because of a large National Match involving over 500 competitors we have had to **change our March monthly competition from 18 March to 4 March (2 weeks earlier)** and we only have Ranges 17 and 18 available. This is the only date and ranges available to us until April. It is an inconvenience but we need to make way for National competitions to allow time for the host Club to set up etc.

I have a few other matters to comment on:

WICKHAM BUSH RANGERS: In January 18 of us made the journey to the South West Muster held at Woolsthorpe (just out of Warrnambool) and had a great time. I have mentioned this shoot on a regular basis because it is the first for the year and a good fun way to start the year. This year was no exception, what a ripper weekend, and aside from bringing home some 14 trophies it was pleasing to hear comments from outside our Club about the exemplary behaviour of the 6-

young people who attended from Little River Raiders. Whether it was shooting or cavorting around the dance floor (read grass on Range 2) they were an absolute credit to their parents and our Club and we are very proud of you.

EAGLE PARK FRIDAY EVENINGS:

Until end of Daylight Saving the Range is open until 8.00pm so take advantage of this while you can. A good roll up will help ensure it continues next year. Grizzly Grumps is usually on hand so have a chat to him if you would like to come down.

MUZZLES UP:

An ongoing reminder to keep those muzzles up. Breaking the 170 degrees is a **STAGE DQ.**

When you are handling firearms, your mind should be on that and nothing else and therefore you should be concentrating on your muzzle direction.

When carrying long arms simply hold them towards the middle with the butt towards the ground and, with the weight evenly distributed, your muzzle will point to the sky.

When approaching the firing line from the Loading Table it is sometimes just as easy to point your muzzles a little downrange.

If you are not sure about the process or having problems please ask for help.

With a Handgun, in the absence of a Holster (e.g. following a malfunction) the same Rule applies – point the muzzle to the sky.



CATEGORIES:

Categories can give you variety in what and how you shoot and add another dimension to our sport.

The matter of Categories is covered the Shooter's Handbook that can be accessed via

www.sassnet.com go to Shooter's Handbook and then pages 5 & 6.

There are Open Age Categories (Cowboy and Cowgirl), Age Based Categories, Shooting Style Categories and Costume Categories. We have people participating in all of these categories. I would like to focus on the Shooting Style Categories this time in that they do give options to the standard two-handed grip style.

The first is "**Duellist Style**". This is defined as shooting a revolver cocked and fired one-handed and unsupported. Usually this is done with the strong hand. Naturally this is quite a step from shooting two-handed so practice is essential. Next comes "**Double Duellist**". Basically, the same as Duellist except that your right-hand revolver is shot with your right hand and your left-hand revolver with your left hand (cocked and fired one-handed and unsupported). Now this does take some practice to get your weak hand doing the job properly and efficiently. To practise this, you don't need to live fire.

Next is "**Gunfighter**". This is an extension of "Duellist" but you are shooting both of your revolvers at the same time.

For this you need to be tested and certified after you have met two pre-requisites:

1. Holster Qualified (which you should have done)
2. Supervised completion of 3 monthly club matches as a "Double Duellist". You need to let a Club official that this is what you want to do.

You are then required to undertake the test which involves shooting 7 pistol sequences under supervision to ensure you meet the standard required for "Gunfighter" category.

If you would like to discuss any of these categories further for a better understanding please see me on the Range.

DRESS:

I gave this a fair bashing at the last General meeting and in my last column and would like to thank those that have made the effort particularly with regard to Boots.

Now Boots are an issue with some for various reasons, which the Committee acknowledges, so we ask that if you do have a problem please write to the Committee so that your case can be considered and, in need, we will discuss the matter further with you.

The objective of this aspect of dress is to remove wearing of boots that have "moulded lugs" that provide an unfair advantage in movement. See u on the range. Regards, Sambucca, Club Captain

KIT CARSON STORY

Christopher Houston Carson (December 24, 1809 – May 23, 1868), better known as Kit Carson, was an American frontiersman. He was a mountain man (fur trapper), wilderness guide, Indian agent, and U.S. Army officer. Carson became a frontier legend in his own lifetime via biographies and news articles. Exaggerated versions of his exploits were the subject of dime novels.

Carson left home in rural present-day Missouri at age 16 to become a mountain man and trapper in the West. In the 1830s, he accompanied Ewing Young on an expedition to Mexican California and joined fur trapping expeditions into the Rocky Mountains. He lived among and married into the Arapaho and Cheyenne tribes.

In the 1840s, he was hired as a guide by John C. Fremont. Fremont's expedition covered much of California, Oregon, and the Great Basin area. Fremont mapped and wrote reports and commentaries on the Oregon Trail to assist and encourage westward-bound American pioneers. Carson achieved national fame through Fremont's accounts of his expeditions.

Under Fremont's command, Carson participated in the uprising against Mexican rule in California at the beginning of the Mexican-American War. Later in the war, Carson was a scout and courier, celebrated for his rescue mission after the Battle of San Pasqual and for his coast-to-coast journey from California to Washington, DC to deliver news of the conflict in California to the U.S. government. In the 1850s, he was appointed as the Indian agent to the Ute Indians and the Jicarilla Apaches.

During the American Civil War, Carson led a regiment of mostly Hispanic volunteers from New Mexico on the side of the Union at the Battle of Valverde in 1862. When the Confederate threat to New Mexico was eliminated, Carson led forces to suppress the Navajo, Mescalero Apache, and the Kiowa and Comanche Indians.

Carson was breveted a Brigadier General and took command of Fort Garland, Colorado. He was there only briefly: poor health forced him to retire from military life. Carson was married three times and had ten children. The Carson home was in Taos, New Mexico. Carson died at Fort Lyon, Colorado, of an aortic aneurysm on May 23, 1868. He is buried in Taos, New Mexico, next to his third wife Josefa Jaramillo.

EARLY LIFE (1809–1829)

Carson was born in Kentucky on Christmas Eve, 1809. His parents were Lindsay (or Lindsey) Carson and his second wife, Rebecca Robinson. Lindsay had had five children by his first wife Lucy Bradley, and ten more children by Rebecca. Kit was their sixth, making him the eleventh of Lindsay's offspring.

Lindsay Carson had a Scots-Irish Presbyterian background. He was a farmer, a cabin builder, and a veteran of the American Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. He fought Indians on the American frontier, losing two fingers on his left hand in a battle with the Fox and Sauk Indians.

The Carson family moved to Boone's Lick, Howard County, Missouri, when Kit was about one year old. The family settled on a tract of land owned by the sons of Daniel Boone, who had purchased the land from the Spanish. The Boone and Carson families became good friends,

working and socializing together, and intermarrying. Lindsay's oldest son William married Boone's grand-niece, Millie Boone, in 1810. Their daughter Adaline became Kit's favourite playmate.

Missouri was then the frontier of American expansionism west; cabins were "forted" with tall stockade fences to defend against Indian attacks. As men worked in the fields, sentries were posted with weapons, to protect the farmers. These men were ready to kill any Indian who attacked. Carson wrote in his Memoirs: "For two or three years after our arrival, we had to remain fortified and it was necessary to have men stationed at the extremities of the fields for the protection of those that were labouring."

In 1818 Lindsay Carson died instantly when a tree limb fell on him while clearing a field. Kit was about 8 years old. Despite being penniless, his mother took care of her children alone for four years. She then married Joseph Martin, a widower with several children. Kit was a young teenager at the time and did not get along with his stepfather. The decision was made to apprentice him to David Workman, a saddler in Franklin, Missouri. Kit wrote in his Memoirs that Workman was "a good man, and I often recall the kind treatment I received."

Franklin was situated at the eastern end of the Santa Fe Trail, which had opened two years earlier. Many of the customers at the saddle shop were trappers and traders, from whom Carson heard stirring tales of the West. Carson found work in the saddlery not to his taste: he once stated "the business did not suit me, and I concluded to leave".



Josefa Carson, Carson's third and last wife. She holds Carson's son.

INDIAN FIGHTER

Carson was nineteen when he set off with Ewing Young's expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1829. In addition to furs and the company of free-spirited, rugged mountain men, Carson sought action and adventure. He found what he was looking for in killing and scalping Indians. Carson probably killed and took the scalp of his first Indian when he was nineteen years old, during Ewing Young's expedition.

Carson's Memoirs are replete with stories about hostile Indian encounters with the memoirist. In January 1833, for example, warriors of the Crow tribe stole nine horses from Carson's camp. Carson and two other men sprayed the Crow camp with gunfire, killing almost every Crow. Carson wrote in his Memoirs: "During our pursuit for the lost animals, we suffered considerably but, the success of having recovered our horses and sending many a redskin to his long home, our sufferings were soon forgotten."

Carson viewed the Blackfoot nation as a hostile tribe, believing they posed the greatest threat to his livelihood, safety, and life. He hated the Blackfeet, and killed them at every opportunity. Historian David Roberts has written: "It was taken for granted that the Blackfeet were bad Indians; to shoot them whenever he could was a mountain man's instinct and duty."

Carson had several encounters with the Blackfeet. His last battle with the Blackfeet took place in spring 1838. He was traveling with about one hundred mountain men led by Jim Bridger. In Montana territory, the group found a tee pee with three Indian corpses inside. These three had died of smallpox. Bridger wanted to move on, but Carson and the other young men wanted to kill the Blackfeet.

They found the Blackfoot village and killed ten Blackfeet warriors. The Blackfeet found some safety in a pile of rocks but were driven away. It is not known how many Blackfeet died in this incident. Historian David Roberts writes: "If anything like pity filled Carson's breast as, in his twenty-ninth year, he beheld the ravaged camp of the Blackfeet, he did not bother to remember it." Carson wrote in his Memoirs that this battle was "the prettiest fight I ever saw."

Carson's notions about Indians softened over the years. He found himself more and more in their company as he grew older. His notions about Indians became more understanding and more humane. He urged the government to set aside lands called reservations for their use. As an Indian agent, he saw to it that those under his watch were treated with honesty, fairness, and clothed and fed properly. Historian David Roberts believes his first marriage to an Arapaho woman named Singing Grass "softened the stern and pragmatic mountaineer's opportunism."

MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR (1846-1848)

Lasting from 1846 to 1848, the Mexican-American War was an armed conflict between the United States and Mexico. At war's end, Mexico was forced to sell the territories of Alta California and New Mexico to the United States under The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

One of Carson's best known adventures took place during this war. In December 1846, Carson was ordered by General Stephen W. Kearny to guide him and his troops from Socorro, New Mexico to San Diego, California. Mexican soldiers attacked Kearny and his men near the village of San Pasqual, California.

Kearny was outnumbered. He knew he could not win; he ordered his men to take cover on a small hill. On the night of December 8, Carson, a naval lieutenant named Beale, and an Indian scout left Kearny to bring reinforcements from San Diego, 25 miles (40 km) away. Carson and the lieutenant removed their shoes because they made too much noise, and walked barefoot through the desert. Carson wrote in his Memoirs: "Finally got through, but had the misfortune to lose our shoes. Had to travel over a country covered with prickly pear and rocks, barefoot."

By December 10, Kearny believed reinforcements would not arrive. He planned to break through the Mexican lines the next morning, but 200 mounted American soldiers arrived in San Pasqual late that night. They swept the area, driving the Mexicans away. Kearny was in San Diego on December. Military career (1861-1868)
In April 1861, the American Civil War broke out.

Carson left his job as an Indian agent and joined the Union Army as a lieutenant. He led the 1st New Mexico Volunteer Infantry and trained the new men. In October 1861, he was made a colonel. The Volunteers fought the Confederate forces at Valverde, New Mexico, in February 1862. The Confederates won this battle but were later defeated in June and retreated to Texas.

HIS DEATH



The last known photograph of Carson. Taken around March 20, 1868, during Carson's visit to Boston with Ouray and Ute chiefs, two months before his death, by photographer James Wallace Black and signed by Carson. It is the largest extant photograph of him.


When the Civil War ended, and the Indian Wars campaigns were in a lull, Carson was appointed brevet brigadier general (dated March 13, 1865) and appointed commandant of Ft. Garland, Colorado, in the heart of Ute country. Carson had many Ute friends in the area and assisted in government relations.

After being mustered out of the Army, Carson took up ranching, settling at Boggsville in Bent County. In 1868, at the urging of Washington and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Carson journeyed to Washington D.C. where he escorted several Ute Chiefs to meet with the President of the United States to plead for assistance to their tribe.

Soon after his return, his wife Josefa died from complications after giving birth to their eighth child. Her death was a crushing blow to Carson. He died a month later at age 58 on May 23, 1868, in the presence of Dr. Tilton and his friend Thomas Boggs. His last words were "Goodbye, friends. Adios, compadres". Carson died from an abdominal aortic aneurysm in the surgeon's quarters of Fort Lyon, Colorado. His resting place is Taos, New Mexico.



Kit Carson, circa 1860

Born	December 24, 1809 <u>Richmond, Kentucky</u>
Died	May 23, 1868 (aged 58) <u>Fort Lyon, Colorado</u>
Resting place	Kit Carson Cemetery <u>Taos, New Mexico</u>
Residence	Taos, New Mexico
Nationality	American
Occupation	Mountain man, frontiersman, guide, Indian agent, United States Army officer
Known for	Opening the American West to European settlement <u>Carson City, Nevada</u> namesake
Spouse(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waanibe • Making-Out-Road • Josefa Jaramillo
Military career	
Allegiance	 <u>United States of America</u> <u>Union</u>
Service/branch	<u>Union Army</u>
Rank	<u>Brevet Brigadier General</u>

Commands held

1st New Mexico Volunteer Cavalry Regiment

Mexican-American War

- Battle of San Pasqual

Jicarilla War

- Battle of Ojo Caliente Canyon

American Civil War

- Battle of Valverde

Battles/wars

Navajo Wars

- Battle of Canyon de Chelly

Plains Indian Wars

- First Battle of Adobe Walls

Signature

A. Carson

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Regards *P.F.G.*

COWBOY JOKES

Two cowboys come upon an Indian lying on his stomach with his ear to the ground. One of the cowboys stops and says to the other, "You see that Indian?" "Yeah," says the other cowboy. "Look," says the first one, "he's listening to the ground. He can hear things for miles in any direction." Just then the Indian looks up. "Covered wagon," he says, "about two miles away. Have two horses, one brown, one white. Man, woman, child, household effects in wagon." "Incredible!" says the cowboy to his friend. "This Indian knows how far away they are, how many horses, what colour they are, who is in the wagon, and what is in the wagon. Amazing!" The Indian looks up and says, "Ran over me about a half hour ago."

The cowboy was trying to buy a health insurance policy. The insurance agent was going down the list of standard questions. "Ever have an accident?" "Nope, nary a one." "None? You've never had any accidents." "Nope. Ain't had one. Never." "Well, you said in this form you were bitten by a snake once. Wouldn't you consider that an accident?" "Heck, no. That dang varmint bit me on purpose."

