

TUSCO TIMES

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TUSCO LONG RIDERS

"The Shooting Makes It Fun, the People Make It Special"

July 2020

Writer/Editor: Baby Doll Blue

July 4th

4th of July started with a bang at Tusco this year. Congrats to our Top Overall shooter, I.M. Crossdraw, and Bdoc who is our Top Women's shooter. Join us at High Noon 2020, there are only 15 spots available. We look forward to seeing everyone at our August shoot! Have a great month!

Top 20

1. I. M. Crossdraw
2. Cheyenne Culpepper
3. Stone Creek Drifter
4. John Barleycorn
5. Swiss
6. Hooligan Howes
7. Sixgun Seamus
8. Buckshot Charlie Bill
9. N.A. Custer
10. Cheatin Charlie
11. R.S. Dancer
12. Moosetracks
13. Bdoc
14. Loquacious Loner
15. Angie Oakley
16. La Porte Lefty
17. Thunder Creek Kid
18. Last Gun
19. Muleskinner
20. Jesse Duke

Clean Shooters

Last Gun
Marshall Coal Run Willey
Moosetracks
Short Gun Shorty
Six Gun Seamus
Stone Creek Drifter
Wells Fargo Slim

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Next Shoot: Aug 1st 2020

Rain or Shine



Prairie Dawg's Old West Chronicles

A Compendium of Useful Information – July, 2020

James -- Younger Gang in Modern Film

The Long Riders



The Long Riders is a 1980 Western film directed by Walter Hill. It was produced by James Keach, Stacy Keach and Tim Zinnemann and featured an original soundtrack by Ry Cooder. Cooder won the Best Music award in 1980 from the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards for this soundtrack.

The Long Riders is a notable film in part due to the decision to cast four sets of actor brothers as the real-life sets of brothers:

The Keaches: Jesse James (James Keach) and Frank James (Stacy Keach)

The Carradines: Cole Younger (David Carradine), Jim Younger (Keith Carradine) and Bob Younger (Robert Carradine)

The Quaid: Ed Miller (Dennis Quaid) and Clell Miller (Randy Quaid)

The Guests: Charley Ford (Christopher Guest) and Robert Ford (Nicholas Guest)

Origins and Development:

In 1971 James and Stacy Keach played Orville and Wilbur Wright in a television film called *The Wright Brothers*. This gave James the idea they should portray Jesse and Frank James in a film together. James started off by writing a play about the James brothers which Stacy financed and produced. They staged it at the Bucks County Playhouse, in New Hope, PA, and then toured it through schools in New Jersey.



The play was then adapted into a country musical, *The Bandit Kings*, and performed off-Broadway at the Bowery Lane Theatre, in New York City. James Keach produced it for \$10,000, directed, and starred as Jesse James. The Keaches then decided to turn the musical into a feature film screenplay in which both could star. The brothers rewrote the material into screenplay form, and combined it with the work of Bill Bryden, who had his own Jesse James script. Then, Stacy Keach says writer/producer Steven Smith "came in to pull all the threads together".

In 1974 James Keach was acting opposite Robert Carradine in the television film *The Hatfields and the McCoys*, and mentioned the project to him. Carradine suggested that he and his brothers play the Younger brothers. David Carradine liked the idea that all the brothers in the story would be played by real-life brothers. They expanded the brothers idea to include Randy and Dennis Quaid, playing the Miller brothers, and Christopher and Nicholas Guest to play the Ford brothers.

James Keach later recalled, "Everyone told me, 'You can't get all these guys together. Family devotion is one thing, but this is Hollywood.' We decided to prove how serious we were by having a group picture taken. We did it at midnight in a recording studio where Keith was cutting some numbers. We sent limousines for everyone -- it was quite a production." The photograph helped convince NBC to finance *The Long Riders* as a six-hour mini-series. But then Fred Silverman became president of NBC and cancelled all the mini-series ordered by his predecessors. "It was all happening while I was on Bora Bora making *The Hurricane* (1979)," said James. "I spent a lot of time fishing with Tim Zinnemann, who was producing the picture. We became good friends and I told him about *The Long Riders*." Zinnemann took the project to United Artists, who were interested in funding the film, if a suitable director could be found.



Stacey Keach said the gimmick of the brothers playing brothers got the film over the line.

Film director George Roy Hill "scoffed at the notion" of the brothers casting.

Then, Zinnemann showed the script to another director, Walter Hill.

Walter Hill had been working on another film

which had fallen through and, as he later said, "I'd been dying to do a Western for years. I just like 'em. There's a kind of an idyllic quality that surrounds the shooting of them. It seems like a more fundamental film process, more to me what movies are about, than clearing crowds off a city street."

Under Hill's direction, instead of the conclusion being the botched robbery in Northfield, Minnesota, the story continues its downward spiral, ending with Jesse's death. The Northfield raid and its aftermath are the culmination of the third act. The fourth act is an epilogue, describing how the gang went down. That's really what this movie is about. These were big, reckless, high-spirited guys who were unaware of the ripples they caused.

The Ford brothers were going to be played by Beau and Jeff Bridges, but by this time they had become unavailable. Jeff Bridges later said, "I couldn't do it because of a schedule conflict. And when I first read the script, I thought it was another case of where the material didn't match up with the gimmick. But then I saw the end result, and I thought it was pretty good, and I figured we would have had a good time doing it, because we know all those other guys. Walter Hill is an extraordinary filmmaker, and I think he added a specialness to it that the script lacked."

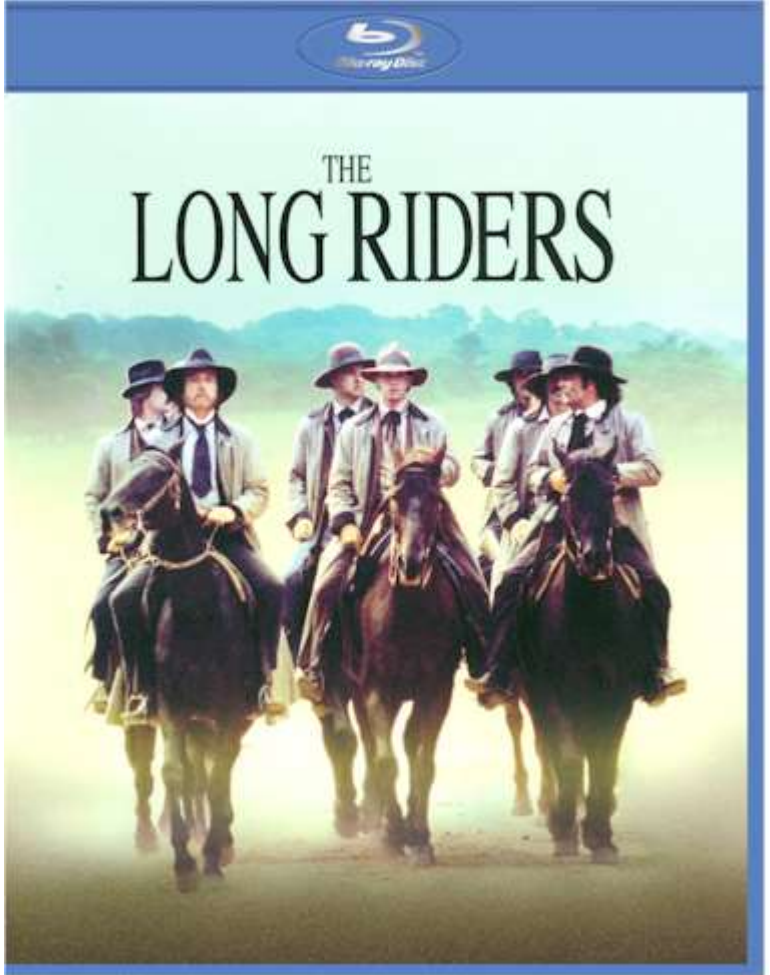
In order to make the film, David Carradine forfeited his customary profit participation, and the Keach brothers gave up the extra profit percentages they were entitled to as executive producers, in order for the Carradine brothers to get the same amount of profits.

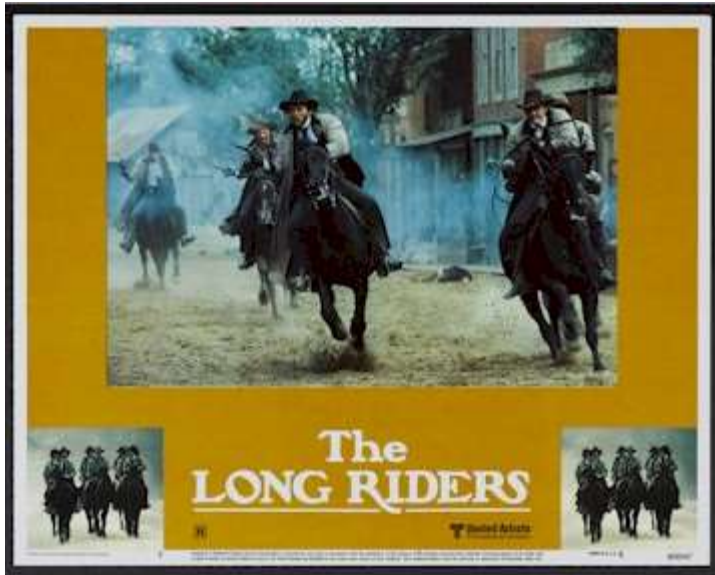
Walter Hill on *The Long Riders*:

- "The use of all the brothers can be perceived as a gimmick, but I wanted a family feeling to the movie."
- "My 'code' for the film was to keep the jokes funny and the bullets real. It is about moral choices. I think people who object to violence shouldn't go to the movies."

- "The best film that had been made about the Younger-James brothers prior to this was *The Return of Frank James*. In the historical sense it was also the least accurate, but it had a real sense of character truth."

Filming Notes:

- The company originally wanted to shoot in Missouri, but they found that urban sprawl just blew that out of the tub. Parrott, GA was chosen because it's almost as if time stood still there. The ravages of the years have not touched the buildings, and it closely resembles Northfield, Minn., in 1876.
 - Hill says the most difficult sequence was the one where horses jumped through glass. "We trained them for three weeks, making them do the jump without the glass. Once we conditioned them to that, we put the glass in. It's a big surprise to the horses, and they'll only do it once. We had to use a different set of horses for the second jump."
- 
- Stacey Keach said that the brothers would bond by playing music together every night during the shoot. He said the Guest brothers would sit apart from the others because they were playing villains.
 - James Keach said the film "was very authentic, but not a traditional Western with sagebursh and desert. Ours has more of a midwestern feel to it.
 - When the film went over its original \$7.5 million budget, the Keaches forfeited their executive producer fees. He commented, "The Long Riders has been made on faith and idealism."
 - Stacy Keach wrote in his memoirs that Hill "did a great job imposing his vision on our script without undermining its essence," but says "none of us had the clout" to stop the studio from cutting several scenes involving Keach and Randy Quaid. "They just wanted to keep the story moving and focus on the action and not the personal relationships."



Reviews:

Gene Siskel of the Chicago Tribune gave the film three-and-a-half stars out of four, and wrote that "the Western will live as long as directors make Westerns as fresh and exciting as 'The Long Riders,' which tells an oft-told story uncommonly well."

On Rotten Tomatoes, the film holds an approval rating of 82% based on 22 reviews, with a weighted average rating of 6.5/10.

On Metacritic, which assigns a normalized rating to reviews, the film has a weighted

average score of 64 out of 100, based on 5 critics, indicating "Generally favorable reviews".

The Long Riders

From: <http://thegreatwesternmovies.com/>

By Nicholas Chennault ~ August 14, 2013

There's an obvious gimmick to this movie, with several sets of actual brothers playing historical brothers. The effectiveness of movies about the James gang must usually balance three characters: Jesse, his brother Frank and their cousin Cole Younger. Historically, Jesse was the most charismatic of the three, and making him seem so in a movie can be a challenge. You can think of movies obviously cast with a charismatic Jesse first (as with Tyrone Power and Brad Pitt). But in this movie, Jesse (played by James Keach) seems a little remote, and is perhaps less effective than his older brother Frank (Stacy Keach). David Carradine, as a long-haired Cole Younger, has one of his best movie roles, along with brothers Keith and Robert as Jim and Bob Younger. The Guest brothers are Bob and Charlie Ford, and the Quaid's play Ed and Clell Miller. Gimmick or not, the casting works remarkably well here.

Three Carradines, two Guests, two Quaid's and two Keaches. The long linen dusters are historically accurate, worn by the gang because they could be used to cover up guns and firearms.

This western has a dim, dusty and rough-hewn look to it, appropriately evoking the post-Civil War era. The music, composed and arranged by Ry Cooder, has an old-timey bluegrass-mountain flavor, also appropriate to the time and setting. The outlaws wear grey dusters and other period gear, and it looks authentic but not glossy.

There are a number of good small touches here:

- A three-man band swings into "Jack of Diamonds" at the gang's favorite whorehouse, although it only plays three or four bars before the action cuts away.
- There's a real community feel to the dancing at Jesse's wedding.
- A solemnly drunk Clell Miller quotes Isaiah to a bare-breasted prostitute.

- There are many small moments are engaging to watch even if the gang isn't robbing a bank or a train or having a shootout with the Pinkertons.
- Particularly notable among the supporting roles is Pamela Reed as Myra Belle Shirley (later Belle Starr), a whore who longs for semi-respectability through marriage to the rootless Cole Younger but will never get it.



Like most movies about Jesse, this one is mostly sympathetic to the outlaws. *The Long Riders* is more historically accurate than most, and was referred to on its release as revisionist because of that accuracy (and because of a certain amount of nudity). The Pinkertons are generally unsympathetic here, as they could be in real life and as they are portrayed in most movies about Jesse James, although they are not unrelievedly so in this film. There are a few inaccuracies, especially with the characters of Belle Starr (the impressive Pamela Reed) and Sam Starr (James Remar). Some historical episodes are telescoped closer together for purposes of pacing. Still, it's good, and marks the entry of director Walter Hill to a genre with which he clearly feels some affinity.

Director Walter Hill is known for his association with and admiration for Sam Peckinpah, leading to a supposed preoccupation with violence. The extended climactic sequence at Northfield, Minnesota, in which the James-Younger gang tries to rob a bank and is shot to pieces by the townsfolk, is one of extended violence, some of it in slow motion. But it is well-staged, with good stunt work, and has a compelling quality to it, a horrific fascination—more, perhaps, than the more celebrated climax of *The Wild Bunch*. When Jesse and Frank, seeking a way out of the death trap on the main street, burst through two sets of large windows on horseback and make their escape, that is visually impressive. And when a cold-eyed Jesse makes the decision that he and Frank will leave the Youngers and Clell Miller behind because they're all shot up and can't ride, that seems like real Jesse. It's amazing that the Youngers survive their wounds; Cole is said to have been shot eleven times.



The Keach brothers not only have the lead roles here; they're also listed as executive producers and have writing credits. They, along with director Hill, deserve most of the credit for this successful venture into western history and action, especially in an era when westerns were no longer cinematically fashionable. This was released shortly after the *Heaven's Gate* debacle, and may have suffered at the box office by association. Hill and the Keaches do a good job in attempting to connect the James gang with their actual history.

Box Office:

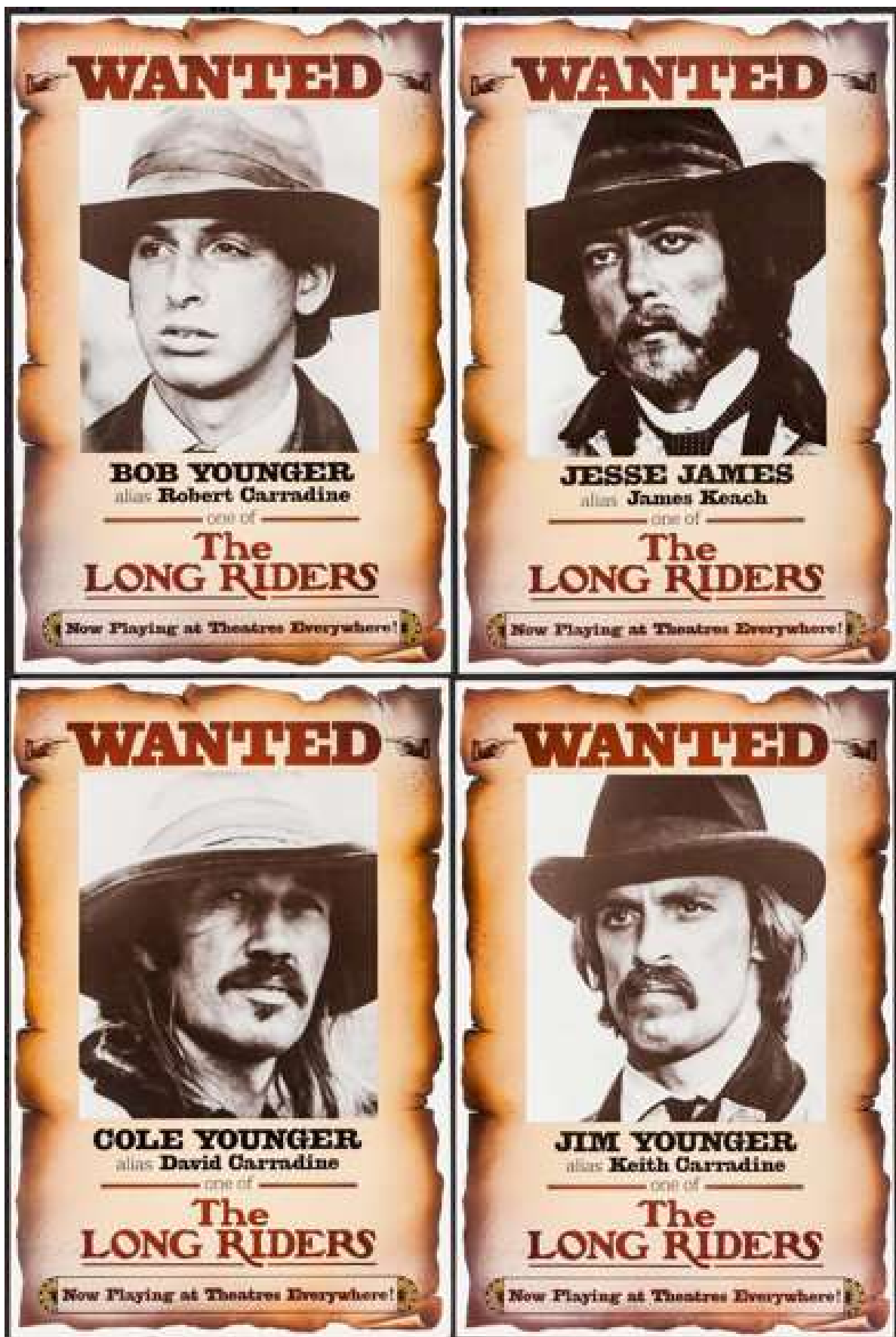
The Long Riders was a box office disappointment upon its initial release. The distributor, United Artists, claimed it only broke even.

In June 1981, James Keach wrote a letter to the Los Angeles Times in response to an article on the poor box office performance of Westerns. Keach claimed *The Long Riders* "wasn't a Star Wars at the box office," but recouped its full \$9 million investment, and earned United Artists a profit.

Stacey Keach wrote in his memoirs that "I believe to this day that the movie made money even though the studio claimed it only broke even."

With rentals and foreign distribution, the film realized almost 16 million dollars on an 8 million dollar budget.





News & Notes

Six Stages

We shoot six stages at Tusco. A few people have told us that they drive a good distance to shoot at Tusco and would like to shoot as much as possible. Obviously we only have room for five shooting bays. So what we do is shoot the first stage you start on twice.

Consider it a warm up stage. Only five stages will be scored. You can take your best time on your first stage. If you don't want to shoot it twice you do not have to. This would provide more shooting for our shooters.

New SASS Magazine

With the new release of the SASS Quarterly Cowboy Chronicle, I once again would like to start collecting any unwanted issues of the magazine. We will use these for our promotional events, like our Tusco Long Riders' Day at Kames Sports. Please either black out or cut off your name and address or I will do it before they are passed out.

Thank you!

Facebook Page

When you make a post about Tusco or share pictures on Facebook, include #TuscoLongRiders. Let everyone see what we are all about.

New Shooters Shoot for Free at Tusco

The Tusco Long Riders will be offering FREE SHOOTS to ALL FIRST TIME SHOOTERS AT TUSCO. This is ONLY for a shooter's first ever shoot at Tusco. (*this is only for monthly matches, excluding High Noon 3-day Shoot in October, and the Charity Shoot in November.)

Cowboy Swap Meet at Monthly Shoots

As a reminder, feel free to bring your old Cowboy Gear, Guns and Equipment to sell at our monthly shoots. It's a good opportunity to sell some of your unwanted stuff to your fellow shooters. Your items are your responsibility.

Help Wanted at Tusco

If you are available to help set up target stands/props before our shoots it would be greatly appreciated.

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Supporting Clubs

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Middletown, Ohio
www.bigirons.com

Blackhand Raiders

Nashpost, Ohio
www.blackhandraiders.com/home.html

Brown Township Regulators

Malvern, Ohio
www.browntownshpregulators.com

Firelands Peacemakers

Rochester, Ohio
www.firelandspeacemakers.com

Greene County Cowboys

Xenia, Ohio
www.gcfng.com/gccowboys/index.html

Henderson Wild Justice League

Williamstown, WV
<http://hendersonwilds.com/>

Logan's Ferry Regulators

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
www.logansferrysportsmens.com

Miami Valley Cowboys

Piqua, Ohio
www.miamivalleycowboys.org/

Ohio Valley Vigilantes

Mount Vernon, Ohio
www.ohiovv.com/

Sandusky County Regulators

Gibsonburg, Ohio
<http://scsclub.org/events/cowboy-action/>

Scioto Territory Desperados

Chillicothe, Ohio
www.sciotodesperados.com

Shenango River Rats

Masury, Ohio
www.brookfieldconservation.com/Cowboy.html

Wild West Point

West Point, Ohio
www.affox.com/casscores/westpoint.html

Tusco Long Riders' Mercantile

Brought to you by: LouAnn's Sewing Shoppe

One-Shot Al & Needle-Eye Annie



The collage displays a variety of custom-made items for the Tusco Long Riders. It includes several baseball caps in tan and white, some with "TUSCO LONG RIDERS COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING" and others with "BUCKAROO BUBBA". There are grey and white t-shirts, drawstring bags, and patches, all featuring the "TUSCO LONG RIDERS COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING" logo. A white mug and a grey vest also display the branding. A hand holding scissors is shown cutting a dashed line on the right side of the collage.

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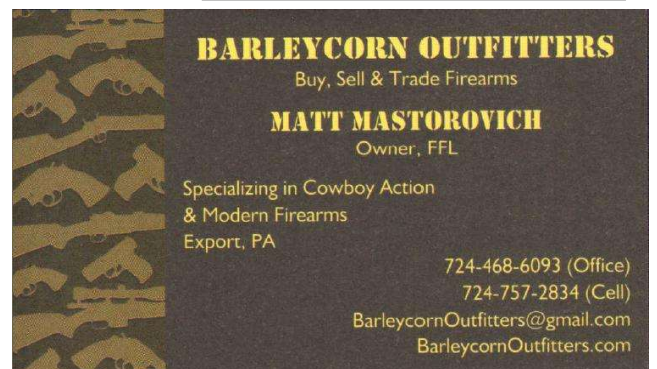
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