

# **Old North State Posse Club History and Evolution**

The Old North State Posse (ONSP) had its beginnings late in 1993 at the PHA (Piedmont Handgunners Assoc.) range in the Lexington, NC area. This began as an informal group using donated materials to build some props and targets for some initial cowboy matches. With increasing interest, the Old North State Posse club became SASS affiliated in late 1993 and was formally organized in 1994 with an annual membership fee and monthly shoot fees to raise money for operating expenses. As the posse grew, the needed props, targets and target stands began to be accumulated.

## **The Old North State Posse Charter Members**

Bad Hand - Calamity Allie - Carolina Ranger - Coachman - Dexton Fox  
Doc Barnes - Firestick - Grizzly Greg - Hangfire - Harry II Late  
Horse Soldier - Jess Wade - Kidd Blackhawk - Klearwater Kate - Longeye  
Mississippi - Oklahoma Charlie - Pecos Ranger - Polecat Landis - Richard Egan  
Royal Barnes - SassyFrass - Stinky Jim - Tall Dark Stranger - Woodeye  
Cajun Kid - Calamity Jane - Charles Sirringo - David Neagle - Dirtwater Duke  
Doc Tetons - Gray Rider - Gun Shye - Marshal Harland Wolff - Hole in the Head Kid  
Just Plain Lucky - John Hardin - Kit Wilkins - Lone Scout - Mace Bowman  
Nathan Hawkes - Packin Penelope - Pistol Packin Possum - Rawbone Bill  
Sam Carp - Showdown - Sundance - Thomas P. McCall - Wyatt E  
Josh Barton - Rick II Feathers - Rebeckah Barton

Note: The above list was taken directly from a certificate that was created by Cajun Kid recognizing charter members about the time ONSP moved to the RCWA range. Signed by Firestick (Chairman of the Board), Oklahoma Charlie (Club President) and Cajun Kid (Vice-Chairman & Treasurer). It should be noted that there were a number of other cowboys that were key to founding ONSP that were not included on this charter membership document which was actually created a couple of years after the initial organization process. Finding anyone that remembers others that were involved, at least by alias, has been difficult. If anyone can provide a clean copy of the original charter member certificate, we will be glad to post it.

The first “big” match for the ONSP club was Frontier Days in 1995. After this successful event, Cajun Kid began working with the SASS organization to create a formal framework for SASS sanctioned championship matches. This included the concept of regional matches and a national/world championship match structure. Cajun Kid wrote a proposal document for SASS state matches that was used by SASS for establishing guidelines for SASS sanctioned events. ONSP next hosted the first NC State Championship match at the PHA range in 1996 – it was actually called The Carolina’s State Championship match since both NC and SC state champions were recognized. SC state champions were recognized in the 1996 thru 1998 NC SASS state championship matches. With increasing interest and participation in ONSP, a decision was made to move ONSP to its current home at the Rowan County Wildlife Assoc. (RCWA) in 1997 to better accommodate the larger club participation and the annual NC state championship match. ONSP subsequently sponsored and hosted the next 9 annual SASS NC State Championship matches at RCWA in addition to regular monthly club matches. The SASS NC State Championship match (unclear whether it was 1996 or 1997) was probably the first ever SASS sanctioned state championship match in the country that operated under the new formal SASS guidelines. Cajun Kid and the early founders of ONSP started a SASS state championship process that became a model for many other SASS state championship matches now held around the country. After sponsoring and hosting the 10<sup>th</sup> annual NC State Championship in 2005, ONSP decided that they no longer had the man power needed to run both the normal ONSP club operations and the popular NC State Championship match. In 2006, an independent group, the North Carolina Cowboys, Inc., was formed to organize and run the annual NC State Championship. The NC State Championship has subsequently proven to be even more popular under the

leadership of the North Carolina Cowboys which includes representation from many of the other NC cowboy clubs. Although still involved in supporting the NC State Championship, ONSP has subsequently turned its primary focus back to providing fun monthly matches for the club membership and increasing interest in Cowboy Action Shooting. It was at the start of this new era for ONSP in 2006 that Tracker Mike took over much of the ONSP organization process from Cajun Kid and other original ONSP founders. ONSP continues operating at RCWA trying to evolve and reflect current SASS directions while adding new cowboys and cowgirls. The decision by the early ONSP founders to move to RCWA has proven to be a good decision – great location in NC and great range facilities.

This information was accumulated from multiple sources and consolidated over a number of years by Tracker Mike. Cajun Kid and Sam Carp provided much of the detail time lines included in this history summary.