



# TERRITORIAL BULLETIN



Volume 4 Issue 1

January 2001

## SASS TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS SUMMIT FRONTIER HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA DECEMBER 8-10, 2000

Friday 9AM

Welcome Comments

Range Officer Training Course

*The draft Range Officer Training Course was by Coyote Calhoun, San Quinton, and Quick Cal. The written test was administered in the classroom. The Territorial Governor's then boarded buses and traveled to Nellis Air Force Base where the Field Study portion of the course was completed.*

Saturday 9 AM

Welcome Comments

Business Meeting

Governor Votes

*The Governors in attendance strongly expressed the opinion any decisions made and approved at The Summit should be binding, otherwise there was little reason to attend. Prior agendas and proxies allow non-attending Territorial Governors to voice the opinions of their respective constituencies. It was noted this year there was a majority of the Governors in attendance. The sole reservation was for items and new business discussed that were not in the pre-published agenda. Those items should be discussed and voted upon, and then submitted to the remaining Governors for concurrence.*

*Motion by Hemlock and second from the floor to adopt a binding structure of decisions voted by majority*



The Territorial Bulletin is the voice of the Territories and will accept submissions only from current Territorial Governors.

*of Territorial Governor's in attendance at the Summit was defeated.*

*Motion by Texas Palladin and second from the floor to adopt the above motion amended for next year as binding at the 2001 Summit. Current rule will stand for this year as a vote and require ratification of all Territorial Governors, afterward Summit decisions become binding, effective rules/policies. Motion carried.*

**Status of SASS Programs**

Editor - Tex  
Conscience - Judge Roy Bean  
Governor Liaison - Hipshot  
Layout and Publication - The Chiseler

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## SASS INTRODUCES RO CERTIFICATION COURSE AT GOVERNORS SUMMIT

By Chiseler, SASS #392

The Single Action Shooting Society brought to bear some serious Cowboy Action Shooting business among the glitz and glamour of the Las Vegas Strip when the Second Annual SASS Territorial Governors' Summit took place at the Frontier Hotel in this past December 8-10.

More than 120 Governors from thirty-two states representing 131 of SASS' affiliated clubs converged on the desert oasis with unrivaled enthusiasm and dedication to help steer SASS and the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting through the upcoming year.

The National Finals Rodeo was in town, and the Governors added to the pool of cowboy hats at the Frontier Hotel, bringing an Old West spirit to the grand casino whose name reflected the purpose of The Single Action Shooting Society and set the scene for the annual Summit.

The group got down to business on Friday morning when a brand new SASS Range Officer Certification Course was given for the first time. The program which is designed to train SASS Range Officers the procedures of safety and the process of guiding a shooting posse through the shooting stage was put to the test with an eye towards strengthening the integrity of SASS's Cowboy Action Shooting™ excellent safety record.

Governors were asked to take the course and to hold comment until Sunday, where the group then discussed, modified and corrected areas of the course in need of adjustment.

To be eligible to take the course, students must be SASS Members, are required to have a thorough working knowledge of the SASS Shooters Handbook, and have successfully completed the Level I Range Operations Safety Course.

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## Territorial Governor Summit Minutes Continued

- SASS State Championship Program  
**There are presently 21 approved State Championships**
- SASS Regional Territorial Governor Meetings  
*Currently there are seven US Regions and Regional Matches – will continue as such – there are no new Regionals on the horizon.*  
*A Territorial Governor’s meeting should be held as a part of each Regional match. These meetings are the responsibility of the local Territorial Governors. Meeting minutes are to be forwarded to SASS and will be included in subsequent Territorial Bulletins.*
- SASS International Affiliates  
*Several International Affiliates are being established.*
- SASS Scholarship Foundation  
*All clubs are encouraged to participate in the scholarship program from the club, state, regional, or other level.*

### Territorial Bulletin Poll Responses

SASS would like to get a response from ALL Territorial Governors. Currently, the participation rate is 60%. A 45-day response time limit was strongly suggested.

### SASS Regulator Selection Process

*The process is to provide a brief letter from the club stating the reasons why a shooter should be recognized as a Regulator along with supporting recommendations from other shooters and clubs. SASS will evaluate the recommendations and perhaps contact key club officials for further information. A private letter from a family member will not normally receive a positive response.*

### 2001 Summit Date and Location

*Motion and second to hold 2001 Summit in Las Vegas on approximately the same weekend. Motion Carried.*

### Shooting and Range

- Specialty Main Match Categories (do we really need any more categories)  
**Recommendations from the floor were made to add/change the following classes:**  
**Frontier Cartridge Duelist. NO INTEREST**  
*Age 49 to 59 with no gender rules – referred to as “The 49ers.” Any shooting style and firearm would apply. Motion by Marshall Law and second from the floor. Motion was defeated*  
*Motion and second to allow Senior and Elder Statesman Category shooters to participate in their respective categories as of January 1 of the year based on their birth*

*year instead of actual date. Motion was defeated.*

*Motion to add ability to shoot gunfighter or duelist within the Frontiersman Category. Motion was withdrawn.*

### Long Gun Transportation Policies

*Motion and second to change the next to last line on page 29, item #2 of the Handbook to remove “in gun carts” to read “at a match” as well as change “all firearms” to “all long guns”. Motion Carried.*

*Sentence will read: “Chambers and magazines must be empty and actions open for all long guns transported at a match”.*

### Legal Handguns

- Ruger Single Sixes in .32 mag.  
Motion and second to accept the gun. Motion carried.
- USFA “Omni-Potent” revolver as a main match gun?  
Motion and second to be accepted as a legal main match gun. Accept: 34, Not Accept: 50  
*Motion and second for The Wild Bunch to notify USFPA as to their false advertising and unauthorized printing of the gun’s legalities. Motion carried. The Chiseler will proceed.*

### Shoulder Holster Angle Limits

*Motion and second to alter the existing rule on page 18 of Handbook to read as follows:*

*“All holsters may not depart from the vertical by more than 30 degrees when worn”. Motion Carried.*

### Belt Loops

- Shotgun loops to accommodate only one round per loop - anything more is a pouch.  
*Motion and second to add verbage to pages 18/19 of the Handbook as follows:*  
*Shotgun ammo loops may not contain more than two rounds per loop, and pistol and rifle loops may contain only one round per loop. Motion Carried.*  
*Tex has discretion to add this verbage to the Handbook where appropriate.*

### Shotgun Staging Muzzle Down.

*NO. The Handbook is currently correct “as is.” This is not intended to preclude props such as scabbards.*

### Failure To Fire Last Round

*A little bit of common sense and good stage design will generally remove any conflicts. There is a difference between a willful early termination of the stage (too much trouble to engage) and a competitor simply being unable*

to complete the stage. The first instance is “failure to engage” at a minimum, and the second simply results in a few missed targets (those not engaged). It is NEVER appropriate to “thump” the timer to “get a time” for the non-engaged targets!

#### **When are Shoulder Holsters Illegal?**

Main match holsters are to worn one on each side of the belly button, separated by the width of two fists. A main match cross-draw on the same side as another main match holster is thus illegal. A weak-side shoulder holster and a strong side holster are “OK.” Note: The key word is “main match” – pocket pistols, for instance are not main match firearms and are “OK” to carry in a shoulder holster in conjunction with two main match pistols.

#### **Fastened, Secured, or Tied Down Bandolier**

A Bandolier that is fastened, secured, or tied down in any manner is a SUSPENDER and illegal for carrying stage reload ammunition.

Motion and second to change the current rule to allow bandoliers to be tied down. Motion defeated.

#### **Putting Ammunition in One’s Mouth**

Motion and second to amend bullet #4 on page 18 of the Handbook to add shotgun ammunition to the sentence dealing with ammunition in the mouth as a point of clarification. Motion carried. Tex will edit as appropriate to include ALL ammunition within this section..

#### **How Many Main Match Guns can a Shooter Wear to the Firing Line?**

Motion and second to allow not more than two main match pistols to be carried to the firing line. Motion carried. Additional derringers and pocket pistols are not main match firearms and can also be brought to the firing line.

#### **Motorized Gun Carts on the Range.**

Discussion was to allow discretion on a per match basis. Potentially add a statement as a part of the registration form. State level matches and higher should discourage the use of these vehicles. This is not intended to preclude handicapped individuals from participation and should be dealt with on an individual basis.

#### **SASS Rule Book**

##### **Moving with a Cocked Gun**

Range Officer Level I course will be modified to remove “unless otherwise stated within the stage description.” Basketball rules for traveling will apply in moving with a cocked gun.. All course materials need to be reviewed and edited appropriately.

- Equipment Modifications  
*The proposed legal modifications were not complete and were sent back to committee for further work.*
- Enforcement of SASS Rules at the Club Level  
*SASS is not an “enforcement” organization. Each club is expected to handle problems on an individual basis. SASS officials are happy to discuss club situations and suggest solutions, however, problem resolution responsibility lies with the individual club.*
- Female shooter clothing (sleeves, etc)  
No change to rule book. Appropriate ladies’ clothing shall apply. Let the ladies determine what is appropriate.
  - What is and is not an Acceptable Main Match Rifle Caliber?  
Suggestion to clarify the minimum legal rifle caliber for a main match gun as a 25-20 only – not just as .25 caliber pistol caliber since there are no .25 caliber SASS legal pistols. This item is referred to committee for final wording.
- Cutaway Speed Holsters ... is there an Issue?  
There was a discussion of inappropriate holster rigs such as skeletonized and fast draw types. All holsters should be of “cowboy” appearance. This is not intended to do away with spring loaded shoulder holsters or Bridgeport rigs. It was recommended the words “of traditional design” be added to the holster section of the Handbook.  
  
Motion and second to leave the Handbook “as is” in regard to the holster issue. Motion Carried.

#### **Additional Items from the Floor - not listed in the agenda:**

##### **Loaded Handguns**

*Is there a rule infraction if a pistol has a live round in it at the unloading table, or if a pistol is returned to leather after firing only 4 rounds? Determined to be a non-issue (assuming the hammer is down on a dead round).*

##### **Shooter Sweeps Himself**

*If the shooter sweeps himself, what is the appropriate call? If not during the process of going to or coming from leather, it is a disqualification. Poor stage design requiring a shooter to draw from a sitting position can cause significant portions of the body to be swept during the draw and should be avoided.*

##### **Rounds Left in Long guns**

*The issue of leaving an empty round in a long gun was discussed again. Should the penalty (minor safety) be removed? Discussion from the floor indicated safety has sometimes been compromised by shooters trying to correct the situation. Suggestion was made to clarify the current rule*

to state "on the carrier, in the chamber, or in the receiver." No decision was reached, but the consensus seemed to be that it should be left as is.

#### **Governor Materials**

Suggestion was made to provide all Territorial Governors in attendance with a list of those Governors who attended the summit. All Governors also wish to receive a copy of the minutes. Hipshot agreed to provide this information within 30 days of the Summit. Territorial Governors were encouraged to pass on to their clubs the information gathered at the Summit.

#### **State Championship Winners**

The state champion determined at a state championship match must reside in that state (this has nothing to do with being a "match winner," but has everything to do with who receives a free ticket to the local Regional). It was noted some State Championships are held near a state boundary – the local club may in fact draw many of its members from the adjoining state. There was a request to revisit this ruling and relax the residency requirement where it makes sense. The matter was taken under advisement.

**Motion and second to adjourn. Motion Carried.**  
**Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.**

#### **Sunday Morning 9 AM**

#### **Additional items were entertained from the floor.**

*Piscataway Ray will head an equipment committee for review of equipment rules. All who wish to participate should contact Piscataway Ray or Hipshot for information.*

*Splitting of classes: Marshal Law asked (again) to consider trading the modern category for a split of the traditional category by age – using age 40 as the break. No motion was entertained at this time - this was presented only as a suggestion.*

*Question was raised if SASS would consider a life membership payment plan. SASS is not presently prepared to do so.*

*Suggestion was made to require Territorial Governors to certify a "SASS affiliated" match meets all rules and requirements from the Handbook.*

*SASS as an additional insured: This affiliation requirement has been dropped, but it is still a good idea if the costs are nominal and the club's charter will allow it. SASS is presently working to provide insurance for SASS affiliated clubs in much the same way the NRA does. Discussions with the insurance carriers continue.*

*Can SASS create an incentive program for Junior Shooters? There was considerable discussion from the floor about multiple ways to bring younger shooters into the sport.*

*Annual Club Affiliation packages should be sent to the SASS office in accordance with the published deadlines. SASS understands some clubs' yearly meetings do not conveniently support these deadlines. Changes that occur after submittal of the package can and should be reported so the database can be amended.*

*San Juan expressed concern with the use of "period" shooting glasses that are not large enough to protect the shooter's eyes from lead splatter.*

#### **Discussion of Range Officer Training Course**

Suggestion was made the Field Study course be expanded to include Gunfighter Category specific instruction.

The Field Study portion dealing with Range Officer duties will be expanded to include all posse duties and functions. Roll playing during the Field Study portion of the program is extremely important, and the use of non-firing guns was discussed. Pair-a-Dice notified the Governors he can acquire the necessary toys.

There was a suggestion the entire course be put on video. Cody Conagher volunteered to assist in the creation of a video since he has access to some fairly sophisticated video and editing equipment.

A suggestion was made to change the Range Operations I teaching process to only allow persons who have passed the Range Officer Training course to teach the Range Operations course. The entire committee is in agreement with this suggestion..

A suggestion was made to move the portion of the Field Study course dealing with the Range Officer duties into the Range Operations I course and expand the time limitations for the Level I course. This probably will not happen due to the logistic problems of potentially re-training 2500+ individuals that have already taken the course.

A suggestion was made to have one trainer per state in order to improve logistics.

Ender suggested and volunteered to help in improving the Level I Range Operations test and materials. Committee agreed this would be helpful.

Cal and Coyote Calhoun discussed the Test Items that were obviously in question and corrections were made. The grading curve was presented and seemed to be agreeable to all.

A question was raised about the possibilities of holding the Range Officer Training class at each Regional match. It

was noted it would probably be more advantageous to hold the course outside of a match environment ... possibly on a Saturday to allow ample time to cover all of the material. The overall opinion of the group was to ensure allow ample time be allocated for the course regardless of the venue.

All participants who passed the Range Officer Training course at the Summit will be sent an orange pin from SASS in the near future.

SASS will print in both the Territorial Bulletin and The Cowboy Chronicle the new rules that require the Range Operations I course instructors to have passed the Range Officer Training course. This rule change only becomes effective after it has been published.

To teach the Range Officer Training course, the instructor must have completed the course and hold a Certification of Completion Certificate. The potential instructor must then submit a teaching application to SASS. The application will be evaluated by SASS and the Range Officer committee for final approval. There will be only a small number of trainers, possibly at the Regional level. All information provided to the Territorial Governors here should be disseminated to all members so they are familiar with the material in the event they choose to take the course. The orange pen is distributed, however, only to those students taught by designated instructors. (The issue at hand is the wide variation in the quality of classes already experienced with the Range Operations course - SASS endeavors to

improve the overall quality of the program and preserve the consistency that was the original objective.)

ALL of the course materials should be reviewed for consistency..

It was suggested the Stage Design section be reviewed and a distinction made between those items that are unsafe actions versus those that are poor stage design. The committee generally needs to change the word "eliminate" to "minimize" for clarity.

A safety concern was voiced concerning information in the Range Operations I course materials. The concern dealt with conveying the time and misses to a shooter in a safe manner. The process as explained within the material is correct. A suggestion was made to change the wording of the timer duties to reflect a clearer process in safely conveying the appropriate information to the shooter. San Juan suggested the timer call out the time immediately after the last shot is fired for each shooter, then convey the time and penalties again to the score keeper after verifying the shooter is safely on his/her way to the unloading table.

The committee should potentially add in the Range Officer Training Course a statement or section that pertains to the briefing of the posse marshals as well as the Range Officers.

*Motion and second to adjourn at 11:40 a.m.*

*Motion Carried.*

**Territorial Governors interested in becoming SASS Range Officer Instructors are asked to fill out this form and return it to Hipshot at the SASS Office.  
SASS RANGER OFFICER CERTIFICATION COURSE  
INSTRUCTOR APPLICATION**

**YES** I have taken and passed the Range Officer Certification Course in Las Vegas and would like to be considered for SASS Range Officer Instructor Training. I understand that SASS is limiting its number of Instructors and only a small percentage of applicants will be offered training.

**YES** I will be attending Winter Range 2001



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Alias: \_\_\_\_\_ SASS#: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Representing Club(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**SASS RO Course**

Continued from page 1

The SASS Range Officer Certification Course is a five-hour program utilizing a classroom environment and written test followed by practical field training in a controlled environment. Students are trained in the required areas of safety and the navigation of a shooter safely through a shooting stage and are subjected to real time examples of shooter timing, safety infractions, rule enforcement and poor and dangerous stage design.

Since SASS initiated its Level I Range Operations Safety Course at the 1999 Summit, more than 2500 members have successfully passed and a clear level of consistency has taken hold. The Level II Course is designed to take the program much further in safety and consistency. SASS plans to offer the course nationwide at its World and National Championships as well as all seven Regional matches.

Members who take and pass the Level II Course are issued a colored pin and certificate and are identified in the SASS database as having completed the course.

### **SASS RANGE OFFICER COURSE TO BE OFFERED AT WINTER RANGE 2001**

The first SASS Range Officer Certification Course will be given at Winter Range 2001. The five-hour course will be conducted by Coyote Calhoun, SASS #4864 and San Quinton, SASS #4818.

The course is offered to all SASS members and applications will be mailed to all registered Winter Range competitors. Governors interested in taking the course should contact Hipshot, SASS #7 at the SASS office for a registration form. All Range Officer Course students must register in advance. The fee for the course is \$25.00.

Territorial Governorws interested in becoming SASS Range Officer Certification Course Instructors must submit the application enclosed in this issue of The Territorial Bulletin or contact Hipshot at the SASS Office for further information.

### **THE WILD BUNCH**

#### **Judge Roy Bean #1**

(Ambassador)

#### **U.S. Grant #2**

(SASS President)

#### **Tex #4**

(Editor, Cowboy Chronicle)

#### **Hipshot #7**

(Range Operations &amp; Safety)

#### **Doc Bones #158**

(SASS Mounted Shooting)

#### **Dutch #455**

(Entertainment, Charity Director)

#### **The Chiseler #392**

(SASS Marketing Director)

SASS Administrator

#### **Wildshot #51**

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### *Inside This Issue*

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