



TERRITORIAL BULLETIN



Volume 3 Issue 1

February 2000

SASS TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS SUMMIT FRONTIER HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA DECEMBER 10-12, 1999

MINUTES

Saturday, December 11, 1999

MODERATOR'S OPENING REMARKS - Hipshot, SASS #7

Meeting called to order by Hipshot at 9:00 a.m. Governors addressed by Hipshot with welcome, explanation, intent, and processing order for the meeting. Rules were established to limit discussion to 15-minute blocks per item. Items not completed within the time limit will be moved to the bottom of the schedule and addressed as time permits.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

- **How should the territorial governors be organized? Is the present structure satisfactory or should we pursue alternatives?**

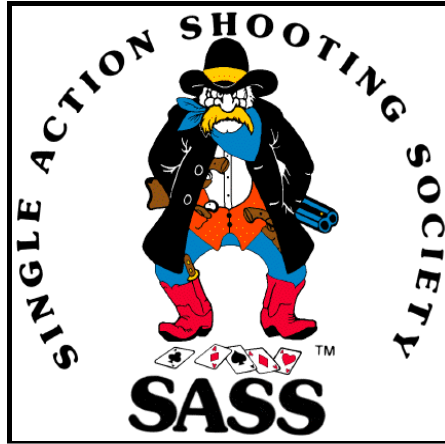
Motion and second to use straw poll vote to determine whether or not Summit decisions would be binding. Majority vote indicated all decisions made at the Summit are binding. Motion was made, seconded, and approved to leave SASS/Territorial Governor structure as is. Governors will use regional and state meetings as advisory meetings to establish agenda items for resolution at the Territorial Governors Summit.

- **Should there be standing committees? If yes, what committees? How should they be organized?**

Motion and second made to create "Special Projects" committees at the discretion of the SASS Territorial Governor Liaison as needs arise. Motion carried. Motion and second to not have standing committees was made. Motion carried. Suggestion to create a Special Projects Committee to deal with listing legal and illegal external modifications was made. Hipshot agreed to follow up with this item after completion of the Summit meeting.

- **How can the Territorial Governors issues be covered in *The Cowboy Chronicle*?**

Motion and second made to publish only resolved issues labeled as "Addendums to the Handbook" in *The Cowboy Chronicle*. Modification to the motion to include Effective Dates of each change was passed. Territorial Govern-



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

nors will be responsible to get working issues to their respective clubs.

SASS RULES

Equipment and Firearms Issues

- **What external modifications are allowed for rifle, pistol, and shotguns?**

Straw poll taken whether or not changes are required. Majority vote was to leave things alone. Motion and second to appoint a Special Project committee to research the necessity for clarifications to the existing Handbook was approved.

Editor - Tex

Conscience - Judge Roy Bean

Governor Liaison - Hipshot

Layout and Publication - The Chiseler

THE TERRITORIAL BULLETIN

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BASIC RANGE OPERATIONS SAFETY COURSE TO BE MAILED IN FEBRUARY

The SASS Level I Basic Range Operations Safety Course has been approved for distribution and will be mailed in February to those Territorial Governors who took and passed the course at the Territorial Governors Summit last December.

The course package will contain original copies of the course and test as well as instructions on how to administer the course and record the test scores.

Governors who take and pass the course are eligible to administer the course to their clubs.

SASS Basic Range Operations Safety Courses are scheduled for Winter Range (Wednesday and Thursday, February 9 and 10 at 5:00 p.m.), END of TRAIL, and all seven SASS Regional Championships.

Fee for the course is \$10. \$5 will remain with the club giving the course, and \$5 will be returned to SASS with the corrected test scores. The fee will cover the administration expense involved in presenting the course, including printing, RO pins, certification cards and postage.

The SASS Level II Range Operations Safety Course is still under development and will be announced in the next issue of the Territorial Bulletin.

SASS HAS A NEW ADDRESS

Territorial Governors please note SASS has a new headquarters address.

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Territorial Governor Summit Minutes Continued

· What firearms are approved for SASS competition?

Motion and second made to leave the Handbook as is, but add a few more acceptable firearms (e.g., Ruger Vaquero) to the existing sample list. Other questions to be referred to the Territorial Governors for clarification. Motion was carried.

· Should there be a formal process for the approval of new firearms?

Motion and second was made to create a formal process similar to that used for the Pocket Lightning pistol for the adoption of new "fantasy" guns. The firearm will be proposed to Territorial Governors at multiple Regional Matches prior to voting on its legality. Motion carried.

· Clarification of the existing rules relative to Derringers and pocket pistols.

Motion and second made to accept new rules as stated below:

Original and replica pocket pistols and derringers of the types manufactured during the cowboy era and meeting the specific criteria defined below are legal to use in SASS matches. Pocket pistols and derringers are popular for use in side matches and are occasionally introduced as an additional firearm in main match stages. When used in main match stages, a pocket pistol or Derringer and appropriate commercial ammunition shall be supplied by the host club with the provision competitors who possess their own firearms may use them at their discretion.

POCKET PISTOL

A pocket pistol is defined as an external hammer or hammerless, small frame, fixed sight, single or double action revolver of solid frame, tip-up, or break down construction of a pre-1900 design having a barrel length of four inches or less. Pocket pistols may be percussion ignition, rimfire, or centerfire of at least .31 caliber or larger. Model "P" Colts and clones and revolvers with swing out cylinders are specifically not allowed regardless of caliber, frame size, or barrel length.

NOTE: Pocket pistols meeting all of the criteria above but manufactured after 1900 are SASS legal pocket pistols. Break down design pocket pistols were manufactured in large numbers, some as late as the 1950's, by manufacturers such as Smith & Wesson, Iver Johnson, Harrington & Richards, and others.

DERRINGERS

A Derringer is defined as an external hammer, fixed sight, breech-loading or percussion ignition, small frame firearm of a basic pre-1900 design having one to four barrels that have a maximum length of three and one half inches. Derringers may be either rimfire or center fire of at least .22 caliber or larger. The Remington style over/under barrel configuration and the Sharps four-barreled pepperbox are typical SASS legal Derringers.

NOTE: Derringers of .22 rimfire magnum caliber having barrels as short as two inches have been chronographed exceeding the SASS maximum velocity of 1000 feet per second and are therefore not allowed.

Motion was carried.

· What penalties should be imposed for the use of illegal firearms or equipment at club, state, regional, national, and world championship matches?

Motion and second was made to assess a stage disqualification to competitors that shoot a SASS illegal gun in all matches higher than "club"

level (e.g., annual, state, regional, or higher lever matches). Motion carried.

· Should cartridges be allowed with bullets loaded below the level of the case mouth?

Motion and second was made to disallow recessed bullet loads. Motion carried. This rule does not effect wadcutters or other bullets loaded at or above the case mouth.

· Power Factor

Motion and second was made to not institute a rule specifying a minimum velocity standard. Motion carried.

SHOOTING CATEGORIES

· Do we need additional categories or modify existing categories?

Motion and second was made to not add or change categories at this time. All categories will stay as listed currently within the SASS Handbook (Senior Duelist was inadvertently left out of the current Handbook and will be added.) Motion carried.

· Gunfighter rule review and clarification. What are the certification requirements? Who certifies and issues the Gunfighter ID Card?

Motion and second was made to remove all Gunfighter Certification Requirements printed on page 12 of the July 1999 SASS Shooters Handbook. Motion carried.

It was determined during subsequent discussions clubs have the discretion of instructing their members in Gunfighter disciplines and requiring potential Gunfighters to sign affidavits indicating they are skilled in the discipline.

Motion and second was made to eliminate the Gunfighter Category. Motion denied.

· Overall championship status at state, regional, national, and world championships ... how do we determine the champion?

Motion and second was made to determine the overall match winner by using the lowest rank points or lowest time (based upon the declared match scoring method) for the main match stages only. Motion carried. (Note – a distinction was recognized between match winner and category champions.)

MATCH RULES

· Should knockdown targets be set to work with the minimum legal caliber?

Motion and second was made to set the minimum knockdown as a factory .32-20 Winchester brand 110 grain bullet. Motion denied.

Motion and second was made to set the minimum knockdown requirement as a standard .38 Special factory 158-grain load. Motion carried.

· Should we change the penalty for holstering a loaded firearm?

Motion and second was made as follows:

Holstering a pistol with the hammer cocked or on a live round is a stage disqualification. Holstering a pistol with the hammer down on a spent round or empty chamber is no penalty. Only misses will be scored for rounds not fired. Motion carried.

Motion and second was made once any round is placed under the hammer in any firearm, the shooter must shoot that firearm until empty. The penalty for shooting a gun out of sequence is a procedural. Motion carried.

· What should the penalty be for leaving a loaded round in a rifle or shotgun?

Motion and second as follows:

A live round left in the chamber constitutes a stage disqualification. A live round left in the magazine or on the carrier is a minor safety violation. An empty round left in the chamber, magazine, or on the carrier is a minor safety violation. Broken guns will not constitute penalties as long as the malfunction is declared and the gun made safe. Motion carried.

- **Should a penalty be assessed for leaving an empty round in the receiver and or chamber of a rifle or shotgun?**

Refer to above motion and decision.

- **Should we change the reshoot criteria?**

No, however, motion was made and seconded to add the criteria for reshoots as it exists today to the existing SASS Shooters Handbook. Motion approved.

RULE INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT

- **What do we do about SASS affiliate clubs that don't abide by SASS rules?**

All complaints regarding club rule violations must be submitted in writing. There must be at least two written complaints before a club is considered in violation of SASS rules. All matches should strive to enforce and honor all SASS rules. There are most certainly situations where strict enforcement of the rules is not necessarily the correct action, especially in the case of new Juniors and/or differently abled shooters. SASS can handle these issues on a case by case basis with regard to the individual club's needs and reasons.

- **How can we get all affiliated clubs to apply the SASS rules consistently?**

Decision was made to defer this issue to the Range Operations course to be addressed Sunday.

- **Who should a club go to for an official interpretation of a rule?**

All member questions should be directed to their local Territorial Governor. If no satisfactory answers are apparent, the Territorial Governor can seek advice from Hipshot.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. for the day.

SUNDAY 12/12/99

Meeting called to order by Hipshot at 9:00 a.m. Hipshot expressed gratitude for the diligence put forth by all involved. A motion and second was made to have another meeting next year in the Las Vegas area. Motion passed. A time schedule will be established later. Range Operations Course was turned over to Quick Cal for instruction.

RANGE OFFICER TRAINING COURSE

Quick Cal explained that the intent of and the process involved in creating the Range Operations Course is for the good of the sport. Floor was opened for discussion about the Range Operations Course, as it is an in-process document. Members passing the course at the Territorial Governors Summit received a pin signifying successful completion. In mid-January, all present will receive an updated Range Operations Course, and they are encouraged to instruct as many members of their clubs as possible. Quick Cal explained the important course highlights and clarified questions as they were encountered. Range Operations jobs and responsibilities were clearly identified and discussed as to how these joint ventures create a more consistent and safe match environment.

San Juan, C. S. Fly, and Quick Cal conducted an actual demonstration in an effort to clarify any remaining issues dealing with the Chief Range Officer's duties as a shooter engages a course of fire.

A motion was made to add a rule stating only one loaded pistol may be

out of the holster at any time with the exception of Gunfighter Category competitors. This item was not accepted as a motion since it was not a previously listed agenda item. A straw poll was then taken that approved this limitation, including the limit of only one gun out at a time during transition (drawing a loaded pistol while holstering the empty pistol). This item will be added to future Territorial Governor voting agenda items.

A straw poll dealing with a competitor holding their holster while drawing their pistol indicated this practice warranted a "no call". This item will be added to future Territorial Governor voting agenda items.

A one-yard rule was proposed to cover the technicality of breaking the 170°-safety rule when drawing or reholstering, even from a "straight" holster. After vociferous discussions a straw poll was taken that voted the notion down. It appears there is considerable confusion and misunderstandings regarding the proposition. This item will be added to future Territorial Governor voting agenda items.

Last minute reviews of the printed "range rules" portion of the Range Operations course exposed several areas requiring additional discussion. An agreement was made to accept the recommendations of a "Special Committee" regarding rules changes. The rule changes will be updated and forwarded to the Territorial Governors as soon as possible.

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADJOURN

FORMAL STRAW POLLS

Two straw polls were distributed to the Governors along with their agenda. These straw polls are non-binding, but reflect the opinions of the governors and will influence future SASS actions. The actual YES and NO counts are indicated below in a Y/N format.

1. SASS State Championship Issues

- Should present State Championship matches be grand-fathered into permanent State Championship status? 9/60 - NO

- Should the State Championship match be moved annually from club to club? 44/18 - YES

- Should the State Governors determine the State Championship match based upon club applications? 50/14 - YES

- Should SASS determine who is designated as the State Championship match? 25/42 - NO

2. Standard requirements for SASS Regionals and State Championships

- Should SASS regulate minimum target size and distance at Regional and State Championships? 54/16 - YES

- Should there be mandatory blocks for staged long guns at Regional and State Championships? 69/1 - YES

- Should there be a mandatory Stage DQ if a long gun hits the ground? 29/38 - NO

- Should there be no re-shoots based upon shooter's equipment or ammunition once the first round goes down range at Regional and State Championships? 62/8 - YES

The Cowboy Chronicle *will announce when the changes become effective.*

THE NRA NEEDS US

By Hipshot, SASS#7

As a club leader, you should make every effort to ensure your club members' Second Amendment rights are protected. You can do this by promoting NRA membership for all your members. The NRA is the strongest supporter of our Second Amendment rights, and we should all be members.

Promote the NRA through your club newsletter and at your shooter's meetings. Most SASS members are already NRA members, but we should ALL be members, including spouses and juniors. As in all things, there is strength in numbers, and we must do our part to strengthen the NRA.

If all the gun owners in this country were NRA members, there would be over a hundred million of us. If only 20 percent of all gun owners were NRA members, the anti-gun legislation just might stop.

Please do your part.

SASS® TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR REMINDER

A Territorial Governor is an elected or appointed representative of a SASS affiliated club. The Territorial Governor's term of office is twelve months. There is no limit to the number of terms one individual may serve.

Territorial Governors bring important issues to SASS, provide an effective conduit for SASS to keep its members informed, and have been effective in implementing changes throughout the organization.

SASS uses The Territorial Bulletin to communicate directly with Territorial Governors who are asked to vote on issues and proposals from time to time.

A Territorial Governor is

- A life member of SASS;
- Appointed/elected by the SASS affiliated club members he or she represents;
- The affiliated club's official representative at SASS Territorial Governor meetings and;
- Committed to serving the interests of his or her club consistent with the promulgation and preservation of Cowboy Action Shooting™ and "the Spirit of the Game."

Specific Duties

- Represent and support SASS, its philosophy, and its purpose to club members;
- Gather comments, criticisms, needs, suggestions, and proposed rule changes, and communicate these to the SASS Board of Directors;
- Vote on proposed rule changes and other issues tabled by the Board of Directors;
- Maintain current knowledge regarding Cowboy Action Shooting™ and SASS, its history, philosophy, purpose, direction, and Spirit of the Game;
- Communicate the Cowboy Action Shooting™ story locally and regionally to further the growth of the game;
- Network with other clubs and Territorial Governors.

THE WILD BUNCH

Judge Roy Bean #1

(Ambassador)

U.S. Grant #2

(SASS President)

Tex #4

(Editor, Cowboy Chronicle)

Hipshot #7

(Range Operations & 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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The NRA Needs our help

SASS has a new address