



TERRITORIAL BULLETIN



Volume 4 Issue 3

December 2001

SASS TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR SUMMIT 2001

Meeting Minutes December 7-9, 2001

Friday

Two concurrent workshop sessions were held on Friday - an RO II Course and a Stage Design Course. The Stage Design Course was presented by Coyote Calhoun and consists of a Power Point set of materials chuck full of helpful text and illustrative photographs. Hipshot followed Coyote with a set of Power Point Templates containing convenient target icons for quickly designing a monthly shooting match.

There were two committee meetings held in the afternoon. The first involved the Regional Match Directors where the discussion centered on ensuring consistency in Regional match practices (such as universal use of Rank Point scoring), and to facilitate Regional Director communication with one another. The meeting was extremely useful. Next year a similar meeting may be held for the State Championship Match Directors.

The RO Committee met to discuss RO course material changes and to ensure continuing agreement between the Handbook and the RO materials. It was agreed the Handbook will state the SASS rules in as concise a manner as possible, while the RO materials will be used to interpret the Handbook. While the Handbook may say "make the firearm safe," the RO materials will go into depth describing how each type firearm can be made safe under various conditions.

Saturday



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

There were 96 Territorial Governors and a large number of guests from 36 states plus Canada in attendance, representing over 140 clubs. This year, for the first time, the votes taken were binding and will not be sent out to the non-attendees for ratification. Accordingly, many of the Governors brought proxy authorization from other Governors along with voting instructions. Since the votes were binding and were supposed to represent the will and interest of the SASS member-

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SASS TG SUMMIT MAKES THE GRADE IN VEGAS

By Chiseler, SASS #392

The Third Annual SASS Territorial Governors Summit was held at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas December 6-9, 2001. More than 96 Governors representing 36 plus states attended.

The meeting was moderated by Hipshot, SASS #7, with the assistance of Judge Roy Bean, SASS #1, Tex, SASS #4, Chiseler, SASS #392 and Coyote Calhoun, SASS #201. The Summit began with a lively cocktail mixer in the SASS Hospitality Suite at the Frontier Hotel on Thursday evening. Friday morning was the start of the Level II SASS Range Officer Training Course and a Stage Design seminar put on by Coyote Calhoun in a well designed Power Point visual presentation. Friday afternoon saw the first ever Regional Directors Meeting with representatives from all but one of the SASS Regionals. The RO Committee also met in discussions.

The Summit meeting got underway Saturday morning with the entire Governor contingent fielding agenda items. Saturday night was reserved for the traditional Governor's Dinner at the hotel where Guests recapped the days events. Sunday morning opened with the entire contingent settling issues unsolved the day before, finally wrapping the 2001 Summit at 12 Noon.

All votes at this year's Summit are binding. The full text of the Summit minutes is printed in this issue of The TG Bulletin.

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ship, every effort was made to constrain the discussions and voting to previously distributed agenda items.

The Third Annual SASS Territorial Governors Summit

SASS Policy Statements

Summit Ground Rules

- This meeting of the Territorial Governors has binding results.
- Territorial Governors and the official proxies can vote. Guests are welcome, but they cannot participate in the discussions or vote.
- 15 minutes are allotted for each major subject.

National Programs

· State Championships

- Only SASS Members can participate, and all SASS Rules apply. In the event there are local range rules more stringent than SASS rules, they must be advertised ahead of time. No surprises.
- The top male and female competitors from the state are designated as the State Champions and are advanced to their respective Regional.
- All SASS categories must be offered. If there is not enough participation, they don't all have to be actually honored.
- All ROs must have gone through the courses - at least RO I, and preferably RO II.
- 2002 State Championships are set. January 2002 applications will be available for 2003 calendar year. Territorial Governors will determine who gets the State Championship if there are multiple applications for a particular state. Because of the late notification, the cutoff date for 2003 State Championships may be extended, but make application to Chiseler as soon as possible.
- State Champions must make application to their Regional - slots are not guaranteed.

· Regional Matches

- Only SASS Members can participate, and all SASS Rules apply. In the event

there are local range rules more stringent than SASS rules, they must be advertised ahead of time. No surprises.

- The top male and female competitors from each Region are designated as the Regional Champions and are advanced to the Nationals, Winter Range with a free entry.
- Regional Champions must make application to the Nationals - shooting slots are not guaranteed.
- Rank point scoring must be used.
- Alaska is part of the Northwest Region. Chiseler to republish the map. Canada has not been well addressed yet. Motion made and seconded to accommodate the adjacent Canadian states for the Regions by extending the boundaries north until we get a different program worked out. Approved. (4 nays) Australia needs to be addressed as well. For now, international competitors are to be accommodated at Regionals, as appropriate.

· RO Courses

- RO Courses are an interpretation of the Handbook.
- There have been 3200 RO I course graduates and 550 RO II course graduates.
- RO I instructors must have passed the RO II course.
- The RO II instructors must have completed the course and apply to Hipshot. Potential RO II instructors must be a student teacher under an existing RO Committee Member. After graduating from student teacher status to full instructor, these individuals can then teach the class. More than one person is required to teach the RO II course. RO II instructors cannot qualify other instructors.
- The RO I and RO II courses will be taught Wednesday before each Regional match, 9 AM and 1 PM. SASS encourages all State Championships to offer at least the RO I course.
- Deserving match officials and waddies can be given the RO courses at no charge.
- Some clubs are REQUIRING all members to have RO I training. Some clubs offer the course every 90 days.
- Handbook has the high-level rules - the RO material is the interpretation of the Handbook.
- Consider on-line training using the Internet. (C.S. Fly)

- Awarded pins can be pulled back if the lessons obviously did not take.

· SASS Scholarship

- \$25K in the account.
- There are many creative ways to earn money for the scholarship.
- The Regionals are required to raise scholarship money.
- Clubs and State Championships are requested to do what they can.
- The program is opening up beyond just entering freshmen.
- Four special contributions were made at the Summit - Orygun Cowboys/ The Alaska 49ers/ Lester Moore and Choupique.
- Some clubs have adopted The Scholarship as their official charity and are doing special things to raise money.
- The Selection Committee makes the selections. The eligibility requirements were reviewed.
- Trinity challenged all clubs to offer one month's entry fees to the Fund.
- (Consider periodically publishing the Fund contributors.)

Committee Reports

External Modifications Committee

- The External Modifications Committee report is Attachment A to these minutes. Minimum shotgun barrel length was discussed and the text modified as in Attachment A. A motion was made and seconded to accept the report as amended and was approved unanimously.

Long Range Rifle Committee

- The Long-Range Rifle Committee Report is Attachment B to this document.
- Pistol Caliber cartridges were proposed to be eliminated from the Rifle Caliber competitions, generating considerable discussion. Motion was made and seconded to add traditional pistol calibers to the Rifle Caliber competitions, including .25-20, .32-20, .38-40, and .44-40. The motion was defeated: Yes - 50, No - 56.
- It was noted an Open Category was being recommended for inclusion in the rules. A Motion to accept all the committee recommendations was made and seconded. The motion was accepted: Yes - 96, No - 2.

· A Motion was made to include all external modifications/long range rifle definitions in the Handbook. An alternate scheme was suggested where committee reports will all be published in The Cowboy Chronicle. The material will be added to the RO I course. The new RO I course material will be added to all new shooter packets when they join SASS.) The amended motion was seconded and accepted: Yes - 96, No - 13. These changes will become effective the first day of END of TRAIL.

· Rules go in the Handbook; explanations and interpretations go into the RO Course.

RO Courses Committee

· The RO Courses will be updated to remove inconsistencies and to accommodate changes made at the Summit.

· Timer RO does not have the right to simply overrule the spotters. He can discuss the situation with the spotters. Benefit of the doubt always goes to the shooter.

· Saying a Line - A new practice recently adopted at a couple of State Championships were to have the shooter "say their line," THEN have the Timer Officer command, "Stand by" and "beep." This provides a consistent "start" rather than having the shooter still muttering his lines after the first shot has already gone down range!

· Bandanas or batons are strongly recommended for spotters. This makes it clear who is officially counting misses, and encourages the spotter to ensure a good hand-off to another spotter when his/her tour of duty is complete

New Rules

Categories

· A Motion was made and seconded to add the 49er Category (open to anyone ages 49 - 59) and possibly dropping the Modern Category. There was no interest in dropping the Modern Category. This was proposed to be an "open" category allowing any firearms, any propellants, and any shooting style, except Gunfighter. This is very similar to the existing Senior Category, but with a

lower age bracket. This motion was defeated: Yes - 24, No - 91.

· A second Motion was made and seconded to restrict the 49er Category to a Traditional set of ground rules. This amendment was approved: Yes - 62, No - 50.

· There was a discussion regarding breaking the Juniors down by age group, (e.g., 12-14 and 15-16 because there is an apparent large disparity in shooting skills as the young shooters evolve. Holy Terror was pointed out as an excellent, strong counter argument to that notion. The Juniors are a small SASS population. We all need to work on increasing the size of this shooting group. Strongly consider making sure all the juniors get recognized at matches.

· The question was raised if allowing the Gunfighter to "change leads" is a problem. While this generated considerable discussion, the consensus was "no problem," but the Governors wanted to see the proposed language for the Handbook. An ad-hoc group was formed to bring the proposed text back to the Summit on Sunday.

· The Handbook is presently not clear there is a double duelist requirement when the pistol shooting is interrupted by use of a rifle or shotgun between two pistol shooting strings. It was agreed the material should be clarified to conform to the prior Territorial Governor votes. There is Gunfighter interest in being allowed to shoot the two five-shot strings Gunfighter style and then reholstering two half empty pistols with hammers down on spent cartridges after the first five-shot string. This is expected to be an agenda item next year, so begin consultation with your constituency.

· Motion was made and seconded to add a new Frontier Cartridge Duelist Category. The motion was defeated: Yes - 40, No - 67.

· Motion was made and seconded to change the existing Frontier Cartridge Category to a Duelist only category. A point of order was raised, since this was not on the agenda, there was no way to vote the membership's wishes or appropriately represent the proxy votes. This will be an agenda item for next year.

Begin consultation with your constituency.

· Motion was made and seconded to enlarge the small Frontiersman Category to allow Gunfighter style shooting in the category. It was noted percussion pistols can already be used in the Gunfighter Category, so this change would simply allow existing techniques to be used, ensuring enough participants to keep the diminutive category alive. The counter argument was Gunfighter techniques would put the existing duelist oriented competitors at a distinct disadvantage. The Motion was disapproved: Yes - 42, No - 65. This will also be an agenda item for next year, so begin consultation with your constituency.

· There was an extended discussion regarding Senior Duelist - is this a Senior Category with a subcategory that shoots one handed, or is it a Duelist Category for old folks? The issue is can a Senior Duelist shoot a modern pistol? It was judged to be a Senior category with a Duelist subcategory. Seniors may shoot anything they want!

Dropped Round

· The questions was when is a dropped round a dropped round? Some really strict interpretations were noted. Under certain conditions, staged rounds may be picked up if they are dropped back into the prop area. Clarification will be added to the RO course. No Handbook changes are required.

Redefine "Shot Dry"

· When a rifle or pistol is brought into action at the wrong time and the firearm cocked, it is clear the gun must be made safe before the competitor can move (basketball traveling rule). After that, there was no general agreement regarding requirements to shoot the gun "dry" or whether or not the targets should be engaged. Is there a procedure penalty and some number of misses, or is it one or the other? Must shotguns be "shot dry," or can they simply be made safe? Can the long gun guns be re-staged without incurring any safety penalties (gun is loaded and lever is likely closed).

· An ad-hoc committee was formed to

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workout a set of text to be presented to the Territorial Governors on Sunday.

Define a "Miss"

· When is a miss a miss? What could be simpler? Example after example was tabled showing where "brain-fades" caused competitors to shoot the wrong targets. Gamesmen were even envisioned carefully selecting their targets if certain rules were adopted.

· A Motion was made to define a miss as failure to hit the targets

· A second motion was made and seconded to define a miss as the failure to hit a target using the correct firearm described in the stage instructions. It was defeated.

· A motion was made and seconded to move the discussion to a special ad-hoc committee to develop acceptable text to be presented to the Territorial Governors on Sunday. The motion was defeated: Yes - 27, No - 53.

· A Motion was made and seconded to state the correct targets must be engaged by the correct firearms to achieve a hit. If they are shot in the wrong order, that is a procedure. Rifle, pistol, and shotgun targets must be engaged with the appropriate type firearm. Any designated targets hit by the appropriate type firearm will be scored as a hit. This was approved: Yes - 94, No - 14. A "miss" is the failure to hit the engaged target with the appropriate type of firearm. An ad-hoc committee met and finalized the language anyway for presentation on Sunday.

Issue of Failure to Engage needs to be revisited

· A Motion was made and seconded to change text on Handbook page 23 - change "failure to engage" to Spirit of the Game. Just change the text. Disapproved: Yes - 18, No - 82.

Make single barrel shotgun with extractors only SASS Legal

· A Motion was made and seconded to accept single shot shotguns (with extractor, but no ejector) SASS legal. Approved unanimously.

Empty shells or cases on carriers or left

in shotguns

· A motion was made and seconded to ignore inadvertent rifle brass that ends up in a '97's action at the end of a run, and not to worry about ensuring the empty shotgun hulls are cleared from the shotgun. There was general agreement, both of these "rules" overstepped sensibility, until the Judge accused the speed demons of wanting to be careless. The motion was disapproved. This will also be an agenda item for next year. It is intended to benefit the rank and file competitors by not punishing them with a safety infraction that is not unsafe. Begin consultation with your constituency.

Allowing non Life Members to be a Territorial Governor

· Motion made and seconded to leave it alone (no change) - passed.

Discussions for Sunday

Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Gunfighter Statement

Change the second paragraph on the current page 9 to read ... "Only when the stage calls for ten pistol rounds in a single sequence, shall the Gunfighter engage the targets with a six-gun in each hand, shooting the targets in exactly the same sequence as prescribed in the stage scenario (e.g., if the stage calls for sweeping a bank of targets left to right and then right to left, the Gunfighter shall sweep the bank of targets left to right with both guns and then sweep the bank from right to left with both guns. Gunfighters shall shoot the pistols alternately or may change leads, which is defined as no more than two sequential rounds from the same pistol.

Motion was seconded to accept. **Approved: 2 opposed.**

Note: The inclusion of the lead word "only" above makes it clear this is the only time the Gunfighter may shoot with a pistol in each hand. While this was the original intent, the Version 9 Handbook wording does not adequately reflect it.

Miss Statement

"Rifle, pistol, and shotgun targets must be

engaged with the appropriate type firearm. A "miss" is the failure to hit the engaged target using the appropriate type of firearm."

Motion to accept was seconded and approved: 3 opposed

(So, Rifle targets must be shot with the rifle, pistol targets with the pistol, and shotgun targets with the shotgun. Hits are hits, and misses are misses. If any of the targets are engaged in the wrong sequence a single procedural penalty is awarded.)

Shoot Dry Statement

Another significant discussion regarding notion a procedure must be allocated for any kind of mistake on the stage. Straw poll was to award a procedure and incur the miss. Make the gun safe and then do whatever is necessary to continue the stage. Shotguns can be unloaded with no penalty.

Change ... Page 30, Item #8. "Once a round is placed under the hammer of a pistol or rifle, the round is to be shot. If the firearm is shot out of sequence the shooter will receive a single procedural penalty. The shooter then has the option of making the firearm safe and moving to the correct position or restaging it. Shotguns may be opened and rounds removed or replaced without penalty."

#12, Page 31 - Add, "This does not apply to restaged long guns."

#7, page 30 - Delete

Motion to accept. Seconded. Approved: Yes - many, No - 4.

Summit Location

· The question of moving the Summit around the country each year was raised. A site selection committee was recommended. It was also suggested various clubs could bid to host the meeting. Chisler indicated this created a logistical problem for SASS. Motion was made and seconded to keep the Summit in Las Vegas next year. Approved by a vast majority.

Other Stuff

· Non-SASS members can take the RO I course and get a pin. Five dollars of the cost is deductible against a SASS membership.

· Regional Directors meeting was a big success. We need the same kind of meeting for State Championships. Encourage their attendance.

Environmental issues dealing with lead accumulated at shooting ranges

· Rangeinfo.com - The web site for the National Association of Shooting Ranges has a wealth of information regarding how to prepare a plan for environmental stewardship. Some conditions are not toxic, others are. You need to know and understand what you plan to do about it.

· There are many issues ... not just EPA issues. History Channel has a program on Shooting Ranges.

SASS and local club expansion ideas

· Let SASS know if you need support materials for gun shows. SASS has been very active in supporting these club activities. Some clubs are VERY active in gun shows and recruiting. In Vegas the club is not charged for the table. And, they are set up where the crowd is exposed to them.

· Festivals like Oshkosh have shooting venue opportunities. They offer wide-based exposure to Cowboy Action Shooting™

· Youth Appreciation Days in Alaska exposes large groups of youngsters to Cowboy Action Shooting™.

· Media Shoots - target small town newspapers - pair them up with SASS members and make sure they have a great time.

· Lt. Gatewood gives away pistols ... but, only to club members who are SASS members.

· Texas Governor passed a range protection bill. See if other states can do the same. He also indicated Eddy Eagle would be taught in schools.

· Local TV stations often will film fun events and these become good recruiting mechanisms.

How we can improve SASS

· Youth Programs

· Urban Cowboy Match - cowboy targets,

but can wear anything and shoot anything. Has been great at recruiting members.

· Bumper stickers have also been successful.

· Community Day at the Range ... Sheriff's Dept, SWAT teams, Fire Dept., etc., all come out for BBQ and see the facility.

· Youth and Fire and Safety programs at the range - use the opportunity to expose the students to SASS.

· Recommendation - State, Regional, National, and World Championships - let the kids shoot for free. Some matches have already recognized "family rates" where the juniors shoot for very little money.

· 4H Program - these kids are recruited and participate. In one small town area they got enough advertisement out of their program to be locally recognized on the street!

· Another club hosts training sessions for beginners plus a "Little Buckaroo" class - these kids shoot for free. The club has many mothers as well as the kids participating.

· Recognize the State and Regional Junior winners - a suggestion - like we do for the top male and female.

· Chronicle Column - what various clubs are doing to promote juniors. Tumblin' Tumbleweed to pull the material together. Also consider using the web page for a youth page.

Other Items

· Consider having the Summit on Friday and Saturday ... do the preliminaries on Thursday.

· Sidewinder Pete - (the Fireman who gave his life on Sept 11)- consider having SASS doing something for him. Already done. Over 2000 items have been donated. Pete's wife is providing Thank Yous. There is an on-going Memorial Fund. SASS provided a rifle and three life memberships for his sons - including one with Pete's old number.

· Governors want advance notice of the agenda items! October 1 agenda deadline is recommended. Consider making RO courses a standard preceding day Summit event. Approved.

· Recommend The Wild Bunch retain the power to veto within 30 days after the

Summit. Can be overturned by 2/3s vote of the Governors. This is intended to act as a final check and balance to cover mistakes or inappropriate votes.

· Small Handbook agenda item for next year -there was a motion and second to expand the SASS Handbook into a much larger book that also contains the RO manual. Since this was not on the formal agenda, no vote was taken. However, all clubs already have all the material in large font. Any club that feels so inclined can print and distribute this three-ring binder set of material. SASS provides new Handbooks each year to all members. This is a significant cost item that will result in increased membership fees, and is of marginal benefit. This is why ROs are being trained.

· Match Scoring - there have been inconsistencies. END of TRAIL and Regionals will use rank points. The suggestion is for all matches to be scored the same way. This is an excellent agenda item for the State Championship Directors.

· Good Eye Protection - The January Chronicle will highlight this issue (again). Lucky Lennie identified appropriate eye wear with his machine tools safety equipment supplier - One can get good eye protection (poly-carbonate lenses) with corrective lenses. 1-800-968-8665. They have clear, smoke, and mirror lenses. \$5.95 for the basic lenses, and another \$5 for the corrective lens inserts. These are similar to safety glasses available from Dillon.

· We are all on the same page when we leave the meeting. There are obviously different points of view ... and some of our proposals were accepted and some were defeated. Fight hard for what you believe is correct, but then take the results at the end of the meeting and make them your own. We are one community, and so long as we can cuss and discuss and then come to some agreeable position, we will remain strong.

· Motion to Adjourn made and seconded - Approved.

SASS LONG RANGE RIFLE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

SASS long range or precision rifle competition is different than main match rifle competition with more emphasis placed on precision shooting at longer ranges, with time being a secondary scoring factor. Scoring for these matches is determined by the number of hits, with either of two methods used to break ties. At the match director's option, either total time used to shoot the required number of shots or a shoot-off may be used to break ties.

There are four categories in long range or precision rifle competition, plus one optional category:

- Lever action, pistol caliber
- Lever action, rifle caliber
- Single Shot
- Buffalo Single Shot
- Open class (may be used at the match directors option to include those firearms not covered by the four official Long Range Categories)

Blackpowder categories can be added to any or all of the basic categories at the option of the match director. The Buffalo Single Shot is blackpowder or blackpowder substitutes only. Each category competes within itself.

Basic Rules for the Long Range Competitions

· Front barrel sights may vary from simple blades to period hooded wind gauge designs using interchangeable sight inserts and having a spirit level mounted

integral with the sight or sight base.

· Rear sights must either be open iron sights mounted on the barrel or original style tang or stock wrist mounted peep sights. Long range rear barrel mounted sights of the flip-up ladder type may use a peep-hole drilled through the sliding sight leaf. An example of this is the various ladder type sights used on the Springfield trapdoors.

· Optical and receiver mounted sights are not allowed.

· "Rifle Caliber" competition rifles must use traditional, period, rimmed cartridges. No cartridge chambered for use in any SASS approved main match pistol or rifle may be used in the "Rifle Caliber" competition. Thus, .30-30 WCF, .38-55 Marlin & Ballard, .43 Spanish, or .45-70 Government cartridges would be legal, while a .375 Winchester, .444 Marlin, .32-20 WCF, or .44-40 WCF would not be legal.

· Any SASS approved propellant, including smokeless, Pyrodex, and blackpowder may be used (with the exception smokeless powder is not allowed in the Buffalo Single Shot competition).

· Regardless of category or caliber, bullets used in long range and precision rifle matches must be made of pure lead or lead alloy having a plain base, gas checked, or paper patched configuration. Muzzle velocities are restricted only by safety considerations. Extremely high velocities tend to work to the shooter's disadvantage.

Lever Action Rifles used in long-range

matches, whether pistol or rifle calibers, must be originals or replicas of rifles manufactured during the period from approximately 1860 until 1899. Lever or slide action, tubular feed, exposed hammer rifles or carbines are allowed, providing they are in safe working condition. Note: The rifles must have an exposed hammer and a tubular magazine, thus eliminating the use of a Winchester Model '95 and a Savage Model 1899 or other similar rifles having a box or rotary magazine.

Single Shot and Buffalo Single Shot firearms must be originals or replicas of single shot rifles manufactured during the period from approximately 1860 until 1899. All rifles MUST have exposed hammers. The caliber and cartridge rules for the "Rifle Caliber" firearms noted above under basic rules also apply to Single Shot and Buffalo Single Shot rifles with the exception that Buffalo Single Shot rifles must be .375" caliber or larger.

Buffalo Single Shot competition has further restrictions requiring original or replica rifles to be of a pre-1899 design of US manufacture with exposed hammer. Spring-loaded ejectors are also prohibited, except for Springfield Trapdoor Rifles.

SASS ADOPTS CHAMPIONSHIP SANCTION LOGO

Beginning January 2002, championship matches, State, Regional, National and World, will adopt the use of a new SASS Sanction logo. The new logo designates the uniform rules and regulations set forth for SASS Sanctioned events. The logo will make clear whether or not a club which calls itself a state championship or regional is actually sanctioned by SASS. Look for the logo in advertisements and fliers to determine if a match is



sanctioned by SASS. The new logo will be provided by SASS to all matches sanctioned for the 2002 shooting year. SASS currently sanctions the World, National and seven Regional Championships as well as some 30 State Championships, an Australian Regional and an Alaska Territories Championship. The logos are available in both color and black & white and can be mailed or e-mailed to sanctioned clubs.

SASS EXTERNAL MODIFICATIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

RIFLES

SASS Cowboy Action Shooting™ competitions are divided into three separate types of matches as follows: main, team, and side matches. The rules relative to SASS approved firearms depends upon the type of competition in which you will be participating. The rules for main match and team event rifles are similar, but not identical, to the rules for side match competitions. All the rules and other specific requirements for each type of rifle competition are listed separately in their respective subsections.

-- RIFLES --

MAIN & TEAM MATCH COMPETITION

Rifles or carbines used in the main and team matches must be original or replicas of lever or slide action rifles manufactured during the period from approximately 1860 until 1899 incorporating a tubular feed and exposed hammer.

* Rifle Calibers

- must be centerfire of at least .25 caliber or larger.
- must be in a "pistol" caliber. (examples include, but are not limited to, .32-20, .38 special, .38-40, .44-40, and .45 Colt. No "rifle" calibers such as .30-30 or .38-55 are allowed.)

* Barrels

- may be rebored and chambered for any approved caliber.
- original barrels may be replaced with new barrels of correct styles (e.g., round, octagon, half-round), weights, and lengths that were originally factory available for that particular model rifle or carbine. Calibers as defined above.
- may be altered by machining or hand fitting to accept mounting hardware for an alternative tube magazine configuration and capacity appropriate to the model of firearm being altered.
- may be altered by machining or hand fitting to accept period style sights as allowed below.

* Sights

- Only original or replica style open iron sights or tang mounted peep sights of the 1860 to 1899 period are allowed.

- original style sights available during the cowboy era may be substituted for existing factory supplied sights, providing they meet all the other sight rules. Modern style "click" adjustable barrel or receiver sights are not allowed. No receiver-mounted sight is permitted.

- must be made from materials available during the cowboy era and look "period." Example: ivory, brass, gold, or silver bead front sights of period design are allowable, however, the same design sight with an insert of modern "day-glow" or colored fiber optic plastics or similar materials are specifically not allowed.

- rear and front sights may be "blacked" with ink, paint, or smoke soot. Other colors of paint or colored sight inserts are not allowed on either front or rear sights.

* Stocks

- may be replaced by shorter or longer length stocks providing they maintain the approximate original stock shape and contours that were factory available for that model firearm.

- Period style checkering is allowed on both fore stocks and butt-stocks.

- must be made out of materials that were generally available and used for stock making during the cowboy era.

- may replace the factory butt-plate with a period style, permanently fitted or lace on recoil pad, or change the butt-plate to a style that was generally available from the original manufacturer.

- may attach a piece of leather or similar natural material to the butt-plate.

* Receivers

- no external modifications are allowed on receivers except where the upper tang is an integral part of the receiver and then only to drill and tap the upper tang to accept approved type tang sights. Engraving the receiver is permitted.

* Levers

- "John Wayne" style levers may be substituted on Winchester Model 1892 and 1894 rifles for the standard factory

lever.

- Levers may be wrapped with leather or other natural material.

-- SHOTGUNS --

MAIN, TEAM, OR SIDE MATCH COMPETITIONS

Any side by side shotgun typical of the period from approximately 1860 until 1899 without automatic ejectors, with or without external hammers, having single or double triggers is allowed. Lever or slide action single barrel tubular feed, exposed hammer shotguns of the period are allowed, whether original or replicas. Certain shooting categories require a specific type of shotgun and ammunition to be used in those competitions. Please see the shooting categories for further information.

* Barrels

- may be any length greater than 18".

- must be centerfire of at least 20 gauge and no larger than 10 gauge.

- may be replaced, rebored, or sleeved for any of the legal gauges listed above within industry safety limits.

- may have internal choke tubes installed provided they do not extend beyond the muzzle.

- may be altered by machining or hand fitting to accept period style sights as allowed below.

* Sights

- front sights may be bead or simple post types typical of the era.

- must be made from materials readily available and of a style commonly used during the cowboy period from approximately 1860 until 1899 (e.g., ivory, brass, gold, or silver bead front sights of period design are allowable, however, the same design sight with an insert of modern "day-glow" or similar materials is specifically not allowed).

* Stocks

- may be replaced by shorter or longer length stocks providing they maintain the approximate original stock shape and

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contours that were factory available for that model firearm.

- Period style checkering is allowed on both fore stocks and butt-stocks.

- must be made out of materials that were generally available and used for stock making during the cowboy era.

- may replace the factory butt-plate with a permanently fitted, slip-on, or lace-on rubber or leather recoil pad, or change the butt-plate to a style that was generally available from the original manufacturer.

- may attach a piece of leather or similar natural material to the butt-plate.

* Receivers

- no external modifications allowed. Engraving is permitted.

* Levers

- Levers may be wrapped with leather or other natural material.

* Ammunition

- number 4 lead birdshot or smaller must be used in all competitions. No steel or plated shot allowed.

- light field or target loads are recommended for all competitions. No magnum or high velocity rounds are allowed.

- pump and lever action shotguns are allowed to load no more than two rounds at a time in the main match stages unless specified in the stage description. Single loading the pump or lever action shotguns is always acceptable. In team events shotguns may be loaded to their maximum capacity.

-- REVOLVERS --

MODIFICATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

Originals and replicas of full size single action revolvers manufactured during the period from approximately 1860 until 1899 and the SASS approved modern category revolvers are the only revolvers approved for use in SASS main match competition. The rules relative to SASS approved revolvers and pistols depend upon the competition category in which you will be participating. Examples of SASS approved revolvers for each category are listed in the Handbook.

Regardless of the model or approved type, revolvers shall be maintained in as original exterior condition as possible,

and must look period. The only allowed exceptions are listed below:

* Pistol Calibers

- Must be center fire calibers of at least .32 caliber or larger.

- must be in a "pistol" caliber (examples include, but are not limited to, .32-20, .38 special .44-40, and .45 Colt).

* Barrels

- may be rebored or lined to any of the approved calibers.

- original barrels may be replaced with new barrels of period styles, weight, and length.

- No heavy competition or "Bull barrel" is allowed.

* Sights Note: Sights are a major factor for determining in which category a revolver may be used.

- Traditional

< only traditional style barrel mounted fixed iron foresights of a simple blade or post configuration are allowed. A simple open notched rear sight cut into the frame, hammer, or latch mechanism is the only rear sight allowed. 1872 Open Tops have a legal, open notched rear sight mounted on the back of the barrel. Only Allowed Exceptions: Original cap and ball revolvers, those converted to "cartridge" and their modern made replicas may have either a dovetail front or rear sight, and they must conform to the types commonly found on the originals. Any other revolver by whatever manufacturer or model that has a dovetailed rear sight, whether movable or adjustable, is a "Modern" category revolver.

- Frontier Cartridge and Frontiersman

< Same as the Traditional Category.

- Modern

< may have factory installed dovetailed or adjustable rear sights and/or dovetailed front sights.

- Sights, all categories

< may raise or lower the front sight to bring point-of-aim and point-of-impact into alignment. The general contour of the sight shall remain as per the original.

< may serrate the back of the front sight

< may change the shape of the rear sight notch on Colt Single Action Armies and Bisleys and their replicas from the "V" to a "U" configuration.

< colored sights and sight inserts are not allowed.

< sights may be "blackened" by either

ink, paint, or smoke "soot." Black is the only color allowed and then only in the immediate area of the sights.

* Stocks or Grips

- Contemporary rubber grips, modern target grips, and grip tape are not allowed. Replacement grips of wood, ivory, pearl, stag horn, bone, and the like are acceptable so long as they are not severely customized to constitute a "target" grip. That is, they must be of original profile and scale.

* Grip Frame modifications

- Birdshead grip frames and grips may be installed on any SAA, its modern replicas, or Ruger Vaqueros.

- You may "round the grip profile" of any SASS revolver

* Frame modifications

- rear sight modifications as per above rules

- Ruger Blackhawk frames may be modified by removing the rear sight assembly, welding up the sight cutout, recontouring the frame top strap and cutting a new sight notch to replicate a Colt SAA frame. The reconfigured frame is mated with a conventional Ruger Vaquero type barrel and the original grip frame assembly.

* Other modifications

- Colt style bullseye or crescent ejector rods may be installed on Rugers.

- You may shorten the head of Ruger cylinder pins.

- You may apply a light bead blasted finish to the exterior of any SASS revolver.

- You may bevel the front of the cylinder of any Colt SAA, its modern replicas, and Rugers.

- Cosmetic engraving is acceptable so long as it does not constitute a competitive advantage. You may engrave your alias on the backstrap. You may not checker or stipple any portion of the grip frame.

- Trigger shoes, compensating ports, counterweights, and all other such modifications are not allowed.

* Interchangeability of Parts Rule

- You may interchange any part from one revolver to another revolver of the same SASS shooting category and from the same manufacturer if the part or parts can be exchanged without major modification to either firearm or the part. The

only modifications allowed would have to be accomplished with simple hand tools (e.g., hacksaw and files) and not by machining, welding, grinding, or major recontouring or external shaping of any parts. Some examples of this rule are: the exchange of a Single Action Army grip frame with an 1860 Army frame and vice versa, the exchange of a Ruger Bisley Grip frame assembly and hammer on a Vaquero, and the exchange of a Ruger Super Blackhawk hammer with a standard Ruger Blackhawk hammer. As in the last example noted, you could not replace the hammer on a Ruger Vaquero with a Ruger Super Blackhawk hammer because you would be moving a part from a "Modern" category revolver to a "Traditional" category revolver.

* A stage disqualification is issued for use of any non-legal SASS firearm at matches above the club level.

PHYSICALLY DISADVANTAGED SHOOTERS MAY MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THEIR FIREARMS THAT WILL ALLOW THEM TO OPERATE THEIR FIREARMS SAFELY THROUGH THE FULL RANGE OF MOTIONS NECESSARY TO COMPETE IN A COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ MATCH.

NO FIREARMS MAY BE USED IN MAIN, TEAM, OR SIDE MATCHES THAT CONFLICT WITH ANY OF THE RULES LISTED IN THIS SUBSECTION. NO MODIFICATIONS OR ALTERATION OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE MAY BE INCORPORATED ON FIREARMS USED IN MAIN, TEAM, OR SIDE MATCHES.



TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR MINUTES FROM SASS REGIONALS

Last Frontier

Territorial Governors Meeting

Date October 11th 4:00 PM
Presiding: Coyote Calhoun #201

Governors Present - 14
Wild Bunch Present - None

Welcome of all Governors.

Dakota Doc asked if the SASS rules concerning "Must be a SASS member to participate," at SASS State Championships, could be relaxed. He said, that they lost some participation because of the rule. There was some discussion but the consensus was that it should not be relaxed. He also asked, if SASS could provide more in the way of support and sponsorship. I explained what SASS was providing now and said that I did not think that SASS could do more at the present time.

Two Sons asked about the free entries to the regional, from the state match. She was not awarded her entry to the Last Frontier and wanted to know what the process was. I explained that the process had changed and each state match was now receiving the entries and that I would see that her fees were refunded for the Last Frontier.

There was a discussion of Ladies entries to Winter Range, for winning a Regional. The consensus was, that Men and Women should get free entries. I agreed and said that I thought that this would happen.

We, also, discussed ways to make the Last Frontier Regional better.

Meeting Adjourned

Range War

Territorial Governors Meeting

Date November 11th 4:00 PM
Presiding: Coyote Calhoun #201

Governors Present - 14
Wild Bunch Present - None

Welcome of all Governors.

El Matio asked about the legality of the modification of an 1873 or 1866 lever action rifle that improves the timing and

shortens the lever stroke. There was some discussion but the consensus was that this was internal. We also discussed the fact that the external modifications were to be voted on at the summit in December.

I asked the group what they thought a miss was, and as expected there were at least three different opinions. This is another topic that is to be on the TG Summit.

We, also had discussions on doing away with the Modern Category and splitting the Traditional Category. The consensus of the group was it would be ok to do both.

The last discussion was to allow proxy votes at the Summit. I said that this was going to happen this year.

Deaf Laws made a motion to adjourn

Meeting Adjourned

Gunfight Behind Jersey Lilly Governors Meeting

Date November 29th 3:30 PM
Presiding: Coyote Calhoun #201

Governors Present - 8
Wild Bunch Present - Hipshot

Welcome of all Governors.

There was a discussion of the agenda items for the upcoming T.G. Summit. The discussion of what was a miss dominated the discussion. Snakebite proposed some verbage but there was no clear consensus between the governors present.

We also discussed the creation of the 49er category and although there was no clear consensus of where the traditional category was to be split, there was a consensus that it should be split.

We, also, discussed the new venue for the Southwest Regional and all in attendance like the venue and the program.

Meeting Adjourned

2002 TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS SUMMIT TO COINCIDE WITH FIRST EVER SASS CONVENTION

By Chiseler, SASS #392

Although it is not yet "official", mark your calendars for December 5-8, 2002. Plans are in the works for the first ever SASS Convention in Las Vegas to coincide with the 4th Annual Territorial Governor's Summit. Negotiations are currently under way with a major Vegas Strip Hotel to provide convention space to accommodate exhibitors, vendors and entertainment for a convention geared to SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting. The Thursday through Sunday event also coincides with the National Finals Rodeo

as well as the world famous and massive Cowboy Christmas and Country Christmas western lifestyle shopping shows at the Las Vegas and Sands Conventions Centers. The SASS Convention will feature seminars, specialty classes, entertainment, exhibitions, a Saturday evening ball, extensive door prizes, newly developed awards of recognition and much more. Once made "official" we will publish complete details in the Cowboy Chronicle.

**TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR SUMMIT
DECEMBER 5-8, 2002
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**END of TRAIL 2002
APRIL 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2002**

THE WILD BUNCH

Judge Roy Bean, SASS #1
(SASS Ambassador)

U.S. Grant, SASS #2
(SASS President)

Tex, SASS #4
(Editor in Chief)

Hipshot, SASS #7
(Range Operations & Safety)

Doc Bones, SASS #158
(SASS Mounted Shooting)

Dutch, SASS #455
(Entertainment Director)

Chiseler, SASS #392
(SASS Marketing Director)

TERRITORIAL BULLETIN

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