

The Cowboy Chronicle

The Monthly Journal of the Single Action Shooting Society®

See our
EXCITING
Mercantile section
(starting on page 90)

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November 2006

GUNS OF AUGUST 2006

By Col. Fletch O'Dubois III, SASS #14224

Photos by Black Jack McGinnis, SASS #2041

Middletown, Ohio – How can you improve on perfection? Like most shooters, I had been anticipating this year's event for a long time. To say last summer's Guns of August was a roaring success would be an understatement ... so, how were they going to do it again? Well, to start with, the Big Irons Board of Directors met regularly during the off months planning each detail of the match. From berm marshals to tractor drivers, from hospitality night to door prizes, every detail was considered. They even invited Evil Roy (2000 SASS Overall National Champion, 2001 Overall World Champion, and winner of over 30 State and Regional Championships) to travel all the way to Middletown, Ohio to put on a shooting clinic as a warm-up to the main event. "You have to practice and practice correctly," he advised and the students in attendance walked away with enhanced abilities in their overall shooting skills and enjoyment.

The Guns of August SASS Midwest Regional Championship continues to be one of the most prestigious and largest events in SASS. Nestled in the foothills between Dayton and Cincinnati, the Middletown Sportsman's Club offers a full



Much of Guns of August was shot with overcast skies and under a thick canopy of trees. Shooting into the arroyo with occasional rays of sunlight casting strange shadow patterns was exciting enough, but the blackpowder competitors put on an awesome display! Fire and brimstone belched from the muzzles of rifles, revolvers, and shotguns ... sometimes all the way to the targets!

shooting venue from trap and skeet to a pistol and 200-meter range for those who love to shoot those big caliber long-range smokepoles. Chuck and his staff had everything under control. Motor homes, trailers, and campers were housed close to the modern clubhouse with full bathrooms and showers. The vendors were set up close to the shooting venue, and the coffee shop was open early every morning for a quick jolt of Joe and a scrumptious donut or more filling plate of breakfast fare. They also provided the dinner before the Friday evening skeet and trap event ... always a favorite of the scatter gunners.

To show you how this has grown in not only national flavor, (there were shooters from 18 different states), but has grown in international flavor as well, I was fortunate to have breakfast at the Manchester Inn with part of the Canadian contingent (over 28 of our brothers and sisters from the North endured the intricacies of bringing all their guns and gear across the international border to be in attendance) and asked what brought them back in ever-larger numbers every year. And to a person, they all agreed it was the hospitality of the Middletown Sportsman's Club and Big Irons staff, the comfort and

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excellent meals provided at the Manchester Inn, and the Guns of August stage designs. They plan to spread the word to have even more of the Canadians come next year.

Local news media and shows about SASS on ESPN have managed to draw a lot of attention to our sport. We had lots of folks check out the shooting and visit the vendors. During lunch I ran into a gentleman and his wife who had driven that morning all the way from Northern Michigan to see what all the clang and clamor was about. I had a chance to introduce them to club officials, and Coyote Calhoun from SASS was able to provide additional guidance about name selection, an application for membership, and a copy of The Cowboy Chronicle. You would have thought we had given them a poke of gold!

Day one broke with a wisp of clouds and the promise of cooler weather, a welcome respite from last year's brutal heat ... This was the day to participate in all the side matches. Events ranged from the pocket pistol and speed shotgun, as well as speed pistol and speed shotgun on the tree covered hill, to the long-range rifle and long-range single shot on the flats near the vendor area. Wolf Paw managed to "pick off" 10 quick shots to walk away with the long range Quigley Pail event in 86.96 seconds flat. Hoss Lytle managed to get off all 10 shots in the speed rifle in 4.14 seconds and, not to be upstaged, Deuce
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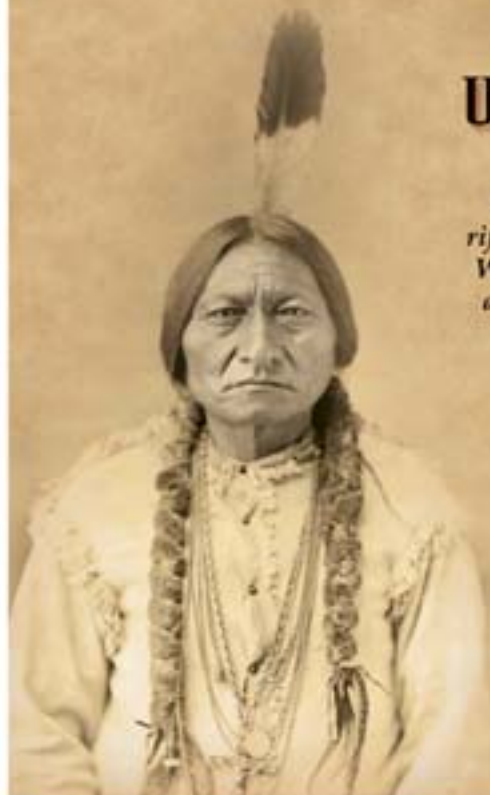
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Who would have thought? Smoke in the Valley started out as the World Championship of Blackpowder Shooting, evolved the next year into a blackpowder match that allowed smokeless competitors, and finally became the Southwest Territories Regional. That was all tough enough to keep up with, but the theme this year for the stages and Saturday night was truly bizarre, to say the least. Buccaneers! Pirates! Wenches! Kegs of Rum! What has any of that got to do with Cowboy Action? Not much, the uninitiated would say! But Coyote Calhoun did a masterful job weaving the two together, and Saturday night was nothing short of a hoot. Everyone appeared to have a marvelous time. It just goes to show, cowboy outfits aren't the only costumes Cowboy Action Shooters like to wear!



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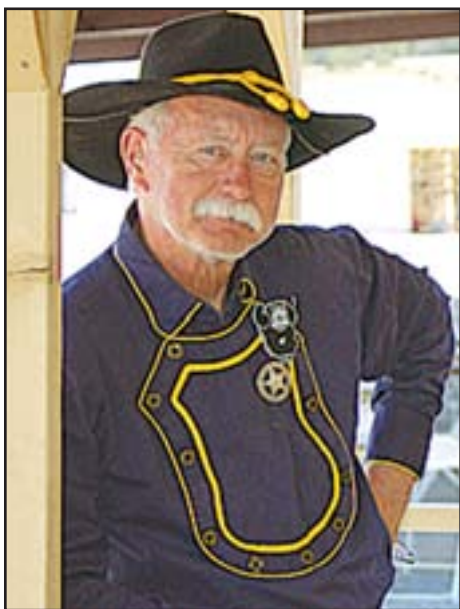
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Tex, SASS #4
~SASS Hall of Fame Inductee~

SASS INVADES LAS VEGAS

By Tex, SASS #4

tainly the ladies. The Hall of Fame induction ceremony just keeps on getting better each year ... and this year nine very deserving individuals will be recognized. Come to the ceremony and meet the people who have shaped SASS and made Cowboy Action Shooting™ the sport we know and love today. While it'll be difficult to top the Masquerade Ball we had last year, this year's Scarlet Ball will prove to be a colorful and entertaining evening. And, while it won't be the first indoor SASS shooting event, the SASS indoor championship is the first time we've hosted an indoor match in a venue where there is no shooting range! Participation is limited, so get signed up as soon as you can!

The original reason for our meeting in Las Vegas was to allow the Territorial Governors to discuss potential Cowboy Action Shooting™ rule changes. And, this is still the central activity for many in attendance at the Convention.

Territorial Governors

The agenda for the Territorial Governor Summit this December in Las Vegas is set and has been distributed to the Territorial Governors. If your Territorial Governor has not contacted you, one way or another, you should immediately get with him/her, understand the agenda issues, and make sure your Governor understands your point of view.

Most Governors feel obligated to initially vote the way their constituents direct, which is appropriate. However, after lengthy debate at the Summit, all Governors are expected "to do the right thing," all things considered. Any Governor who does not feel qualified to vote appropriately after listening to the discussions doesn't belong at the Summit. Please understand, this does not mean "caving in to pressure," it means after due consideration deciding what is best for the game, and voting accordingly.

Possible New Categories

One subject that continues to surface at the Summit is whether or not to recognize new shooting categories. The chorus, lead by many Match Directors who have to buy awards for their matches, generally starts with a resounding "no more new categories!" However, there have been several suggestions for new categories during this past year, and they all have merit. These may be good subjects for discussion on Sunday during the "open forum" portion of the Summit.

We now have B-Western and Classic Cowboy, two categories defined primarily by their costuming requirements. The B-Western folks have essentially eliminated all other Old West costumes except actual "cowboy" outfits. It has long been recognized there are a large number of SASS members who favor military oriented costumes and uniforms. They shoot in them,

(Continued on page 50)

The 2006 SASS Convention is right around the corner! If you haven't made arrangements yet to attend, you should! There will be a floor full of vendors, many with brand new products. It's also a chance to actually handle the current crop of new firearms and talk to the folks who sell them. The seminars are sure to have subjects of interest to everyone ... and cer-

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5X Beaver Quality, hand-creased 4 1/2" front double dent to a 7" rear trail. 3 1/2-4 1/2" raw edge brim, long oval satin lined crown, leather sweat band accented with 1 3/4" matching bow band. Colors: Silverbelly, Black or Chocolate. Sizes: 6 7/8-7 3/4. Reg. \$169.50
Sale: \$139.50 Save \$30!
We'll meet or beat any legitimate price on any instock item!

November/December Holiday Specials: FREE Stainless Steel Bowie Knife a \$39.50 value with every purchase of \$199.50 or more. While supplies last!

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Accent your Western Duds with a Pair of Hand-crafted Genuine Leather Chaps! Batwing chaps with three leg straps each side, & reinforced top & sides. Available in 30", 32", 34" & 36" lengths. Earth tone colors & black. Suede Leather - Reg. \$149.50
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Sale: \$179.50 Save \$30!

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"WHISKEY TRADER"
Top quality boise suede 3/4 length hand-laced with beaded trim & fringes accented with etched silver buttons. A real attention getter. Color: bourbon. Sizes: Reg. 36-56 Longs 40-52. Reg. \$399.50 Save \$100!
B Bar 10's Price \$299.50 +\$10.50 S/H 48 States
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From our Frontier Collection. Top quality fur blend, gas crown, 4" front, 5 1/2" back, 4" pencil roll bound edge brim, satin lined, leather sweat band, 1" bow band. Color: Chocolate with Tan trim. Sizes: 6 7/8-7 5/8. Reg. \$119.50 **Sale: \$89.50** +\$10.50 S/H 48 states **Save \$30!** **INSTOCK**

THE "HOSS"
5X Beaver Quality, 6 1/2" open crown you can shape or leave as is. 4 1/2" raw edge brim, satin lined crown, leather sweat band accented with matching 1 3/4" bow band. Colors: Silverbelly, Black or Chocolate. Sizes: 6 7/8-7 3/4. Reg. \$169.50 **Sale: \$139.50** +\$10.50 S/H 48 states **Save \$30!** **INSTOCK**

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Sale: \$89.50 +\$10.50 S/H 48 states

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Authentic Old West styling, hand-crafted by one of the nation's oldest boot makers, of Olathe, Kansas. Prime Mule hide leather outer, fully leather lined with all leather sole. 16" or 18" Stove Pipe tops with 12" Mule ear straps, heel & toe of the 1880's era. Black or brown with 16" 17" or 18" tops. In-stock sizes 7 1/2-13, D & EE widths. AVAILABLE WITH OR WITHOUT STAR Reg. \$339.50
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*Several Calibers Brought Back To Life
With Correct Headstamps*

MONTCLAIR, CA — Ten-X Ammunition, in collaboration with Jamison International of Sturgis, South Dakota, has brought several calibers back to life with correct caliber headstamped brass.

“The demand for the specialty, or what is sometimes referred to as obsolete cartridges, has been growing steadily over that past 20 years,” said Richard Pumerantz, owner of Ten-X Ammunition. “Replicas and previously undiscovered original firearms have been made available to the shooting world by firearms manufacturers and importers. Companies like A. Uberti, Pedersoli, C. Sharps, Chaparral, Armi Sport, and others have brought back parts of our rich history of firearms from the

Old West by creating replica arms. The buffalo and military rifles of the mid to late 19th Century are being reborn with vigor. Our role as a specialty ammunition manufacturer is to work hand-in-hand with the firearms manufacturers and importers to ensure there is a readily available supply of ammunition of the highest quality and performance to match these fine guns. That includes having high quality, caliber specific headstamped brass.”

More than creation of quality reproductions firearms is driving this demand. The discovery of stashes of antique military firearms, like those revealed to the world from an armory in Nepal by Christian Cran-

(Continued on page 21)

THE LONE RANGER CONTINUES HIS QUEST!

Issue #3 Available In November

Dynamite Entertainment released images and information concerning the November release of THE LONE RANGER #3. The dramatic retelling of The Lone Ranger's origin continues from writer Brett Matthews, cover artist and art director John Cassaday, interior artist Sergio Carriello, and colorist Dean White. Pre-orders for issue #3 of the series are being taken just as the company recently announced a complete sell-out of issue #1. Dynamite recently announced a second printing variant of the sold-out first issue. Due to the overwhelming demand and strong praise in the form of reviews and comments from fans both new and old, Dynamite requests specialty retailers review and adjust their orders for issue #2 as well as for the upcoming issue #3.



After the events of the first two issues, John Reid has struck out on his own to find the man responsible for the deaths of his fellow Rangers ... and kill him. Will Tonto's reappearance continue or end their uneasy alliance?

For more information please visit:

www.dynamiteentertainment.com

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38 Special	105gr TFP
38 Special ^{2,3}	130gr RNFP
44 Colt ²	200gr RNFP
44 Mag ^{2,3}	200gr RNFP
44 Russian ²	200gr RNFP
44 Special	200gr RNFP
44-40 ^{2,3,*}	165gr HBFP
45 Colt ^{3,*}	165gr HBFP
45 Colt ³	200gr RNFP
45 Schofield ^o	165gr HBFP
45 Schofield ²	200gr RNFP

50 rounds per box, unless noted.

¹ - 20 rounds per box.

² - Available in BPC for extra charge.

³ - May be used in rifle. SS - Single Shot

BPC - Black Powder "Substitute" Cartridge

^o - "Slick Silver" coated bullet for zero fouling.

Cowboy Rifle Cartridges	
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45 Colt ²	250gr RNFP
56-50 Spencer ²	350gr RNFP
Specialty & Cylinder Conversions	
32 S&W	78gr RN
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41 Long Colt ^o	200gr HBFP
44 Colt BPC ^o	165gr HBFP
45 Colt BPC ^o	165gr HBFP

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40-65 Win Lever ^{1,2}	260gr RNFP
40-65 SS ¹	270gr RNFP
40-82 Lever ¹	260gr RNFP
40-82 SS ¹	270gr RNFP
45-60 Win ^{1,2}	300gr FP
45-70 Lever ^{1,2}	405gr FP
45-70 SS ^{1,2}	405gr RNFP
45-70 Gov't ^{1,2}	500gr FP
45-75 Win ^{1,2}	350gr RNFP
45-90 Win Lever ^{1,2}	300gr FP
45-90 SS ^{1,2}	405gr RNFP
45-110 ^{1,2,*}	535gr FBSFP
45-120 ^{1,2,*}	535gr FBSFP
50-70 ^{1,2}	500gr RNFP
50-90 ^{1,2}	500gr RNFP
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44-40			
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44 MAG			
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SASS MEMBERS MIGHT CONSIDER JOINING WOLA

By Doc Shores, SASS Life #18672

SASS has a membership that enjoys preserving the ideals and culture of the Old West. They make every effort to dress the period, use similar firearms, and enjoy shooting western action scenarios or stages. Choosing an alias can sometimes be a challenge because new members are only familiar with well-known western characters who were period lawmen and outlaws. What is missing is access to the complete history of the Old West and its many notable characters.

Therefore, I encourage SASS members, old and new, to join Western Outlaw and Lawman Association (WOLA) to further inform themselves of Old West history. The organization is made up of mostly non-fiction writers who thoroughly investigate and write books and

articles about all the Old West characters. The group includes western writers of every stripe, Bob Boze Bell, Marshal Trimble, Professor Paul Hutton, and many other Old West history experts. Also included is Robert McCubbin, foremost collector of Old West photos.

Unfortunately, only a few SASS members such as Jim Durham, Kid Rio, SASS #2741, and myself participate in the annual conferences. WOLA also publishes four quality journals each year.

WOLA holds their annual conferences at locations where Old West history was made such as Tombstone, AZ; Price, UT; Ingalls, OK; and Cheyenne, WY. Tours are conducted to various historical locations and roundtable panels debate historical theories. Guest

speakers are brought in to compliment the tours.

If you want to enhance your

knowledge of the Old West history, join **WOLA** at www.westernoitaw.com. You won't be sorry. ♪

~ CORRECTION ~

When I read the August installment of "This Month in History," I came across a bit of an error. While it's true a Packard also crossed the country that year, the first automobile to cross the country was the Winton. On May 23, 1903 Horatio Nelson Jackson left San Francisco in a car manufactured by the Winton Motor Carriage Company and arrived in New York City on July 26, 1903. Packard's attempt to steal the honor came about by having the driver dip the front tires in the Atlantic Ocean after starting from the Pacific Ocean.

As an aside, Teddy Roosevelt

helped Jackson receive a commission as an officer in WWI, and he was one of the founders of the American Legion. Jackson also ran for Governor of Vermont, twice.

Alexander Winton started the Winton Motor Carriage Company on March 15, 1897, and on March 24, 1898, became known for the first commercial sale of an automobile in the United States.

*Rusty Springfield, SASS #15038
Collector of Curios & Relics*

* * *

View my Image Event albums at:
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The
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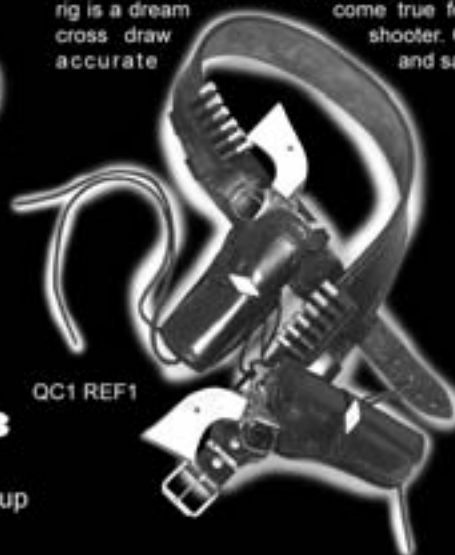
Best of the Best designed by WFDA World Champion Bob Mernickle and CAS World Champion Evil Roy, this gun leather system combines the best of both sports recognizing it's important to get the gun back in the holster as fast as it came out.



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The Illinois SASS State Championship Match has moved for 2007. The Macoupin County Regulators are sponsoring the match at their facilities—the Pheasant Valley Sportsmen's Club in Bunker Hill, Illinois and are proud to announce Taylor's & Co., Inc will sponsor the main match. The new dates are May 18-20, 2007. Applications are available on the Illinois

Spring Roundup website <http://www.ilspringroundup.com>.

We have lots of available space, and we encourage vendor participation. All vendors interested in the event should contact Match Director **Railroad Bill** at rrbill01@aol.com or by phone at **314-994-0367**.

We believe this will be a showcase event and are looking forward to seeing you all in the spring.



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Located along the heart of the Original Chisholm Trail, comes a new kind of ammunition company, targeting the Cowboy Action Shooting™ market. Chisholm Cartridge Company brings cowboy ammo up to a higher level with better consistency and accuracy and with the same quality as required by IPSC and IDPA shooters.

“We all know precision and consistency counts, even for the larger sized Cowboy Action targets. The bigger the target, the faster we tend to shoot. Accurate and quality ammunition is as important for Cowboy Action Shooters as it is for other competitive shooting sports,” says Kevin Estes, who has established the ammo company with his partner, Walter Craig, both from Andover, Kansas. Kevin and Walter have over 50 years combined experience in shooting and loading competition ammunition. It has taken



them two years of planning and experimenting to provide the market

with factory ammunition having the accuracy of a hand load.

On-line sales through CasCity.com

Chisholm Cartridge Factory has partnered with CasCity.com and Marshal Halloway for their online retail operation. “We are excited to have our store front on the longest living web site promoting the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting. To be qualified with an exclusive product line in CasCity was a step up the ladder for us,” says Kevin Estes. And, he also appreciates the fact the Halloways are well known for their one on one personal customer service.

Cowboy Ammo with a touch of the 19th century

Currently the Chisholm Cartridge Company’s cowboy ammo is smokeless and comes in .45 Colt, .45 Schofield, .44 Russian, .38 Special, and .38 Long Colt. The company is considering a line of blackpowder ammo, and a final decision will be

(Continued on page 21)

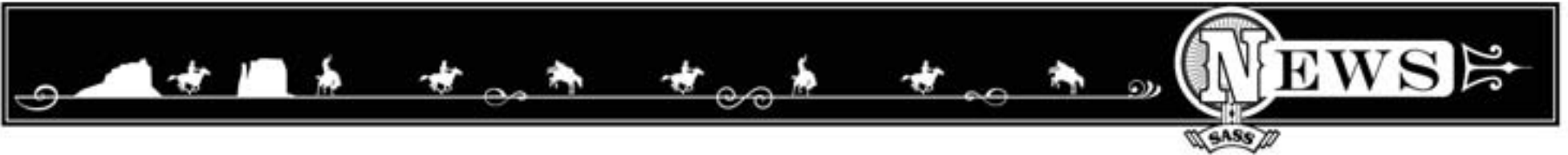
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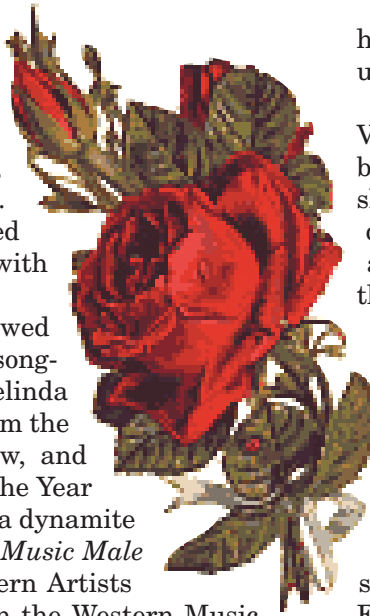


CURLY'S COWBOY CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CONCERT!

Benefiting the Happy Trails Children's Foundation Cooper Home

Apple Valley, CA—Popular award winning cowboy singer Curly Jim Musgrave of Lake Arrowhead, CA, along with talented friends, Belinda Gail, R. W. Hampton and Kip Calahan will perform in concert Sunday evening, December 17, 2006, at the Ambassador Hotel in Victorville, CA. Share the Holiday Spirit and enjoy an enchanted evening of great entertainment and delicious food with good friends at *Curly's Cowboy Christmas!*

Take pleasure in a scrumptious buffet meal followed by a great lineup of the finest cowboy singers and songwriters in the land today! Talented and beautiful Belinda Gail has won Female Vocalist of the Year Awards from the Western Music Association several years in a row, and Curly Jim Musgrave is winner of Male Vocalist of the Year by the WMA. Together, Curly and Belinda Gail are a dynamite duo! R. W. Hampton was recently named *Western Music Male Vocalist of the Year 2006* by the Academy of Western Artists and award winning Kip Calahan is a rising star in the Western Music revival. In addition to the great entertainment, a drawing will be held to select the winner of the gorgeous Silver Screen Legend IX, Hollywood style



hand carved and silver mounted belt and holster rig with a genuine and unique fully engraved Colt Single Action Revolver.

The Ambassador Hotel is located at the I-15 Palmdale Road exit in Victorville, CA. Doors will open at 4 p.m. for a Social Hour with a *No Host* bar and entertainment, followed by dinner at 5 p.m. and an extraordinary show. Tickets are \$50.00 each or \$95.00 per couple. There is a special 10% discount for Happy Trails Children's Foundation Trailblazer Club members and SASS members. Seating is limited and tickets will sell out fast again this year. All guests are invited to bring a *new* unwrapped toy worth \$5.00 or more and help the Happy Trails Children's Foundation support Toys for Tots.

To reserve your tickets for this special Holiday concert and dinner, please call the Happy Trails Children's Foundation, (760) 240-3330 or visit our website: www.happytrails.org. We welcome American Express, Discover, MasterCard and VISA. Dress is western/casual. Order your tickets today for this unforgettable evening of Holiday entertainment and dining pleasure!

Proceeds from Curly's Cowboy Christmas benefit the abused children served by the Happy Trails Children's Foundation Cooper Home. The Foundation is a tax-exempt nonprofit charitable organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A portion of each ticket purchased is tax deductible. ♪



CALENDAR - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

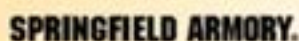
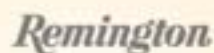
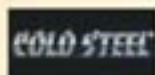
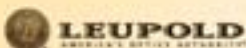
NOVEMBER EVENT LIST

Specialty Sports, Colorado Springs, CO — (11/3/2006 - 11/4/2006)
Guns, Fishing & Other Stuff, Vacaville, CA — (11/9/2006 - 11/10/2006)
Kittle's Outdoor Sports, Colusa, CA — (11/11/2006)
Frontier Sports & Liquor, 33 Deer Creek Cr. Fallon, NV — (11/12/2006 - 11/13/2006)
Discount Gun Mart, San Diego CA — (11/18/2006)
River City Guns, Sacramento, CA — (11/24/2006 - 11/25/2006)

DECEMBER EVENT LIST

East Main Trade, 5925 E. Main 87402, Farmington, NM — (12/1/2006 - 12/2/2006)
PHONE: 505 326-7474

Sprague's, 345 W. 32nd Street 85364, Yuma, AZ — (12/8/2006 - 12/9/2006)
PHONE: 928 726-0022



To schedule your event please contact Don or Jan Schaeffer at **702 528-6771** or you can e-mail us dj@elitesportsexpress.com.

Don and Jan Schaeffer have traveled all around the US with a state of the art promotional vehicle. Their work has included showcasing/sales for a major ammunition manufacturer as well as promoting sales in handguns, long guns and optics. They bring with them many years of experience in sales and marketing performance along with a passion to provide friendly customer service to outdoor enthusiasts.

Cat's Corner



Cat Ballou, SASS #55

The 5th Annual SASS Convention is just around the corner, and I know many of you are assembling your fabulous outfits for the Best Dressed Costume Contest. This article was published in an earlier Cat's Corner, but bears repeating as it has good information on entering costume contests ... Cat

TIPS ON ENTERING THE COSTUME CONTEST OR How to Impress the Costume Judges!

By Miss Tabitha, SASS #26972, and Mad Mountain Mike, SASS #4385,
of River Crossing, Inc.

intended priority is having a good time. You know, sometimes it's not always the flashiest, or most authentic, or most expensive or impressive costume that takes first place in the contest. Following are a few tips:

CATEGORIES:

To increase your odds of winning and also make for a better competition, consider entering a category that isn't as popular (almost everyone wants to enter in Evening Dress). But, choose carefully! Some flashy outfits would sweep the B-Western category, but would not score as well against authentically recreated garments.

THE JUDGING:

Many costume judges have adopted the system established by Cat Ballou and the Costume Com-

mittee, where each contestant is judged in four areas: Originality, Authenticity, Detail, and Presentation. Each category earns you points toward the total score, so paying attention to all four can really make or break your chances.

Originality:

You can have the most beautiful ball gown or classy men's outfit in the world, but if you're up against 15 other beautiful, classy outfits, what makes yours special? This is where being original can make or break your odds. This category often works closely with presentation.

Authenticity:

This category is judged on the historical look, silhouette, construction, style, and materials used in the outfit. For example: wearing the

correct footwear might help edge you up in the scores.

Detail:

This category showcases all those little things that set you apart from everyone else, like having the appropriate accessories and knowing their usage. Explain the reasons for your details; for example, the way you style your hair, how you handle your false teeth, what you carry in your pocket or reticule – basically the “above and beyond.”

Presentation:

This is your opportunity to tell why you are wearing what you are wearing based on who your character is; to show you “know your stuff.” We recommend you explain who your SASS persona is, and why you
(Continued on next page)

First of all – this is supposed to be fun! Just like when attending a SASS shoot, the

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Grips: 1 Piece Walnut Checkered

The *EVIL ROY* is produced on the tooling of the proven Cimarron Model "P" "Cowboy Comp". It features internal parts produced exclusively for Cimarron and springs from U.S. manufacturers. The rear sight notch is large and square while the front sight is wide with no taper, giving the shooter the finest sight picture for this fast and short range shooting sport. The grips are hand checkered or smooth walnut - very slim and trim for fast and safe handling.

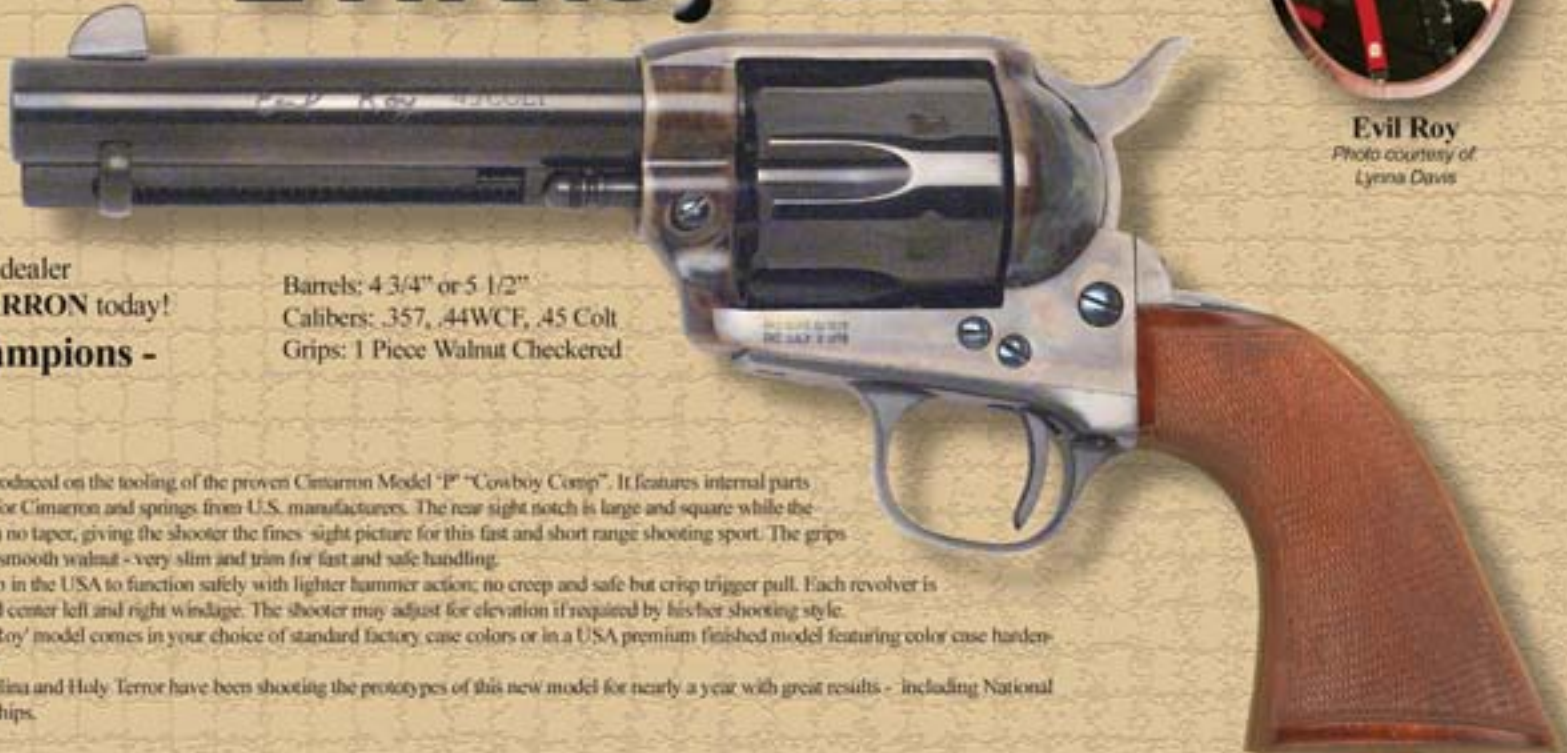
The actions are set up in the USA to function safely with lighter hammer action; no creep and safe but crisp trigger pull. Each revolver is regulated to shoot dead center left and right windage. The shooter may adjust for elevation if required by his/her shooting style.

The Cimarron 'Evil Roy' model comes in your choice of standard factory case colors or in a USA premium finished model featuring color case hardening by Doug Turnbull.

Evil Roy, Wicked Felina and Holy Terror have been shooting the prototypes of this new model for nearly a year with great results - including National and World Championships.



Evil Roy
Photo courtesy of
Lyrina Davis



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(Continued from previous page)
are dressed this way. Being "in character" is not required, but it doesn't hurt. Tell a little story! It's very possible a person with a less impressive outfit but a great presentation can out-score something flashier but weakly presented.

WHAT THE COSTUME CONTEST IS NOT:

This is not a history contest. However, knowing details about your character, the authenticity of fabric you selected, or any historical information will definitely help in your presentation.

This is not a sewing contest. While the judges admire the skill many of you devote to the fine details of your costume, there's nothing wrong with having someone else do the sewing for you.

This is not a popularity contest! Usually repeat winners have learned from trial and error. By now

they know how to research not only their costume, but have developed a great presentation that really showcases their character and more importantly, *why* they are wearing their specific outfit.

IN CONCLUSION:

If you're new at all this, enter anyway! Again, first and foremost, this is about having fun, not just about winning a competition, so start with what you have. The biggest tips: tell a good story, do your research, and select your category wisely. Good luck, and remember – the judges are happy you're here!

Postscript: Miss Tabitha and Mad Mountain Mike are always happy to visit with SASS members about building their character and costumes. Feel free to visit them in their River Crossing booth at events across the country, or contact them at www.rivercrossinginc.com or 970-221-2992.

VISIT THE SASS WEB SITE
AT
WWW.SASSNET.COM

For AD Rates
~ DONNA ~
(EXT. 118)

CHAMPIONS WEAR

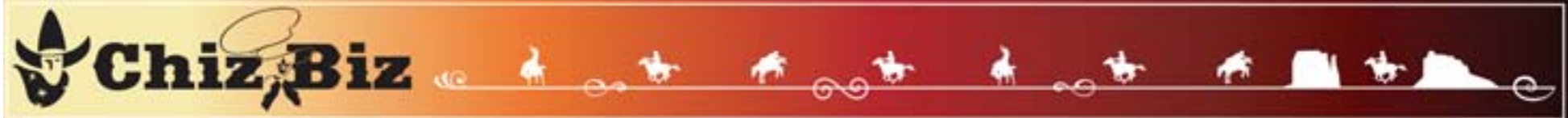
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BRIEF



Chiz, SASS #392
SASS Marketing Director

Brownells and Cimarron Firearms. Both Pete Brownell and Cimarron's Mike Harvey understand the importance television brings to our sport. Both companies are dedicated to providing products to the Cowboy Action Shooting™ community, as well as support in the form of sponsorships and marketing. Shooting USA Executive Producer and the show's host, Jim Scoutten, has covered SASS events for more than ten years and is the most experienced shooting sports reporter in the business. He's a Life member of SASS and understands the appeal of Cowboy Action Shooting™ and the impact SASS has had on family shooting sports.

Shooting USA now resides on the Outdoor Channel, the most shooting friendly television network in existence today. END of TRAIL



was the first show of the new season. Shooting USA will also cover the SASS Indoor World Championship at the SASS Convention in Las Vegas. The shows

air regularly on Saturdays 10:00 p.m. Eastern, and 7:00 p.m. Pacific time, as well as early mornings on



Tuesdays and Thursdays. Visit www.shootingusa.com for detailed schedules and other great information. If you like the SASS shows, please send an e-mail or letter to Jim and the folks at the Outdoor Channel. Comments and positive responses from the members go a long way in keeping our sport on television.

In other news, John Sigler, First Vice President of the NRA will be our special guest for our "Evening With" series at the SASS Convention. John will engage the large group of Conventioneers on

Friday night starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Top of The Riv Ballroom. He will discuss his efforts to protect our gun rights and take questions from the audience.

The SASS Convention is shaping up to be another huge success for the membership. We have already exceeded the attendance of last year with both Conventioneers and exhibitors. Moving the Convention one week later placed us on the bigger weekend of the two-week National Finals Rodeo. With SASS becoming more familiar nationwide, we can expect a lot of visitors who are curious about what this group of



Cowboys is up to. There's still time to sign up for the Convention and the indoor shoot. What are you waiting fer? **Happy Thanksgiving.**

I'll see ya at the Convention in Las Vegas, December 7-10.

"You're A Daisy If You Do"

Renew On or Before Your Membership Anniversary and be automatically entered to win one of these legendary firearms!

Simply renew your membership by mail, on-line, or over the phone on or before your anniversary renewal date, and you will be entered for a chance to win one of the pictured firearms. It's that easy!

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* Drawing is open to SASS Members only.
 * Employees or family members of the Single Action Shooting Society are not eligible to participate.
 * Renewal must be received, payment in full, by anniversary renewal date.
 * SASS Life Members are automatically entered.
 * Drawing takes place at the SASS Convention, December 7th-10th, 2006, in Las Vegas.
 * You need not be present to win.

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SASS-GERMANY HAS ITS OWN HEADQUARTERS

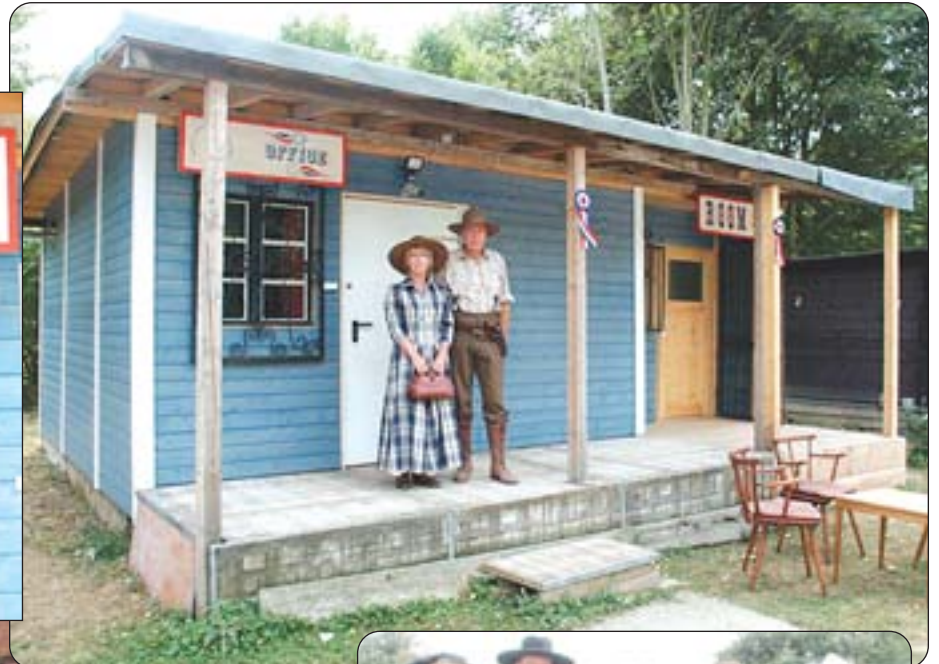
SASS-Germany now runs its own office, stationed in the western-town, "Carrizo-Springs," in Duesseldorf/Germany/NRW. Guests are welcome to stay overnight or a whole weekend in the guesthouse with full western lifestyle.

Either in the saloon or the Mexican Cantina you can have a whole lotta fun accompanied by the house band with the true western sounds.

The SASS-Germany bureau is organized and managed by Hurricane Irmi, SASS Life #48230, and Rhine River Joe, SASS Life #48229. They are doing their very best to bring the German Western-hobbyists closer to SASS-type Cowboy Action Shooting™.

More pictures and info can be found at www.western-hobby.com, www.sass-germany.de, and www.western-schiessen.de.

*Santa Klaus,
SASS Life #28780
TG Germany*





Folding Target Stand

- Instant Set Up. Stand unfolds in seconds
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914	Bottle 20" x 26"	
915	Bottle 4" x 13"	
916	Heart 15" x 18"	
917	Spade 12" x 18"	
918	12" round 13" x 18"	
919	Club 18" x 18"	
920	4 card set	
921	12" x 42" pepper	
922	5" x 28" pepper	
923	Folding Stand	

Steel targets are not meant for close range shooting. Shooter and all spectators must wear safety glasses in case of flying bullet spatter. Turn targets around and use both sides periodically to eliminate warpage.



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Available Calibers: 38 Special and 45 Colt. USFA has discontinued all other calibers.

Barrel lengths 4 3/4" and 5 1/2".

1. REAR SIGHTS WIDENED FROM .108 TO .140.
2. SERRATED FRONT SIGHT.
3. FORCING CONE CUT TO 11 DEGREES.
4. COMES WITH A CRISP, NO CREEP TRIGGER PULL.
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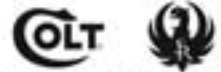


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CORRECT CALIBER HEADSTAMPED BRASS AVAILABLE AT TEN-X AMMUNITION . . .

(Continued from page 8)

mer, President of International Military Antiques, have rekindled a spirit in the hearts of many collectors, history buffs, and even a new generation of shooting enthusiasts.

Correct Brass Makes A Difference

For many years, having brass in calibers like .45-110, .45-120, .56-50, .38-56, .32-40, .40-60, .45-60, .45-75, .50-95, and many others, meant cut-

ting-down, reforming, or turning-down so-called parent brass to enable a reloader to use an antique or even a replica firearm. Parent brass like .45 Basic, .45-70, .348, .50-70, and brass shotshell cases were modified to accomplish the intended goal. But often, the reloader would encounter rims that were too thick or too thin, under-sized rim diameters, and wall thicknesses on cut-down brass that wouldn't allow for the proper bullet diameter to allow the cartridge to fit the chamber. This often led to brass that had a limited number of reloads available due to the stresses of reformation.

Caliber specific brass is correctly headstamped and was designed to function with maximum performance in their corresponding firearm. Ten-X Ammunition and Jamison International collaborated on the rebirth of the Winchester 1876 line of brass to function in the new replicas from Chaparral and A. Uberti, as well as in the original Winchester firearms.

"In the case of the Winchester '76, rim diameter and wall thickness are critical," said Mark Jamison, President of Jamison International. "The chambers have tight tolerances, and the reformed brass has a larger wall thickness that can make use of the correct bullet diameter difficult to allow the cartridge to chamber and fire correctly. The rim and head dimensions also play a major role in the smooth functioning of this lever gun, and parent brass can often lead to

problems with spent cartridge extraction. Our goal is to create the highest quality brass that will function in replicas and originals alike, and provide for a good number of reloadings."

Cartridges Available With Caliber Specific Brass

Ten-X Ammunition has released several cartridges with a Ten-X headstamp, and others with a Jamison headstamp. New Ten-X headstamped cartridges now include .32-40, .38-55, .45-70, .45-90, .45-120, .50-70, .56-50 Spencer, .577 Snider, and .577-450 Martini-Henry. These are in addition to the .45 Colt brass that already has a Ten-X headstamp. The new caliber specific brass with Jamison headstamps that Ten-X Ammunition is loading include .38-56, .40-60 Win, .45-60, .45-75, .45-110, and, soon, .50-95. As the popularity of reviving antique calibers continues to grow, Ten-X Ammunition will be there to provide a reliable source of ammunition with the highest quality and performance.

Visit www.TenXAmmunition.com for information on pricing and reloading services. Also, visit www.IMAUSA.com for information about Martini-Henry and Snider rifles.

Founded in 1992, Ten-X Ammunition is the leader in specialty lead ammunition for Cowboy Action Shooting™ sports and hunting. They offer a wide range of specialty cartridges with the highest level of quality and performance that are safe to use in functional original firearms.

VISIT THE SASS WEB SITE AT
WWW.SASSNET.COM

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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(EXT. 118)

NEW LINE OF COWBOY AMMUNITION FROM KANSAS, USA . . .

(Continued from page 14)

made at the end of this year. Their ammo boxes are hand-made, one at a time, in much the same way and layout as they would have been made in the late 1800's. From the box to the product in the box, you'll find top quality.

For more information about Chisholm Cartridge Company, look up www.cascity.com

* * *

Contact information:

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Kevin Estes,
phone # 1-877-405-4570
CasCity.com

* * *

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RIDE TO GLORY WAS THE BEST EVER!



Ivan Innaccurate, SASS #28522

Ellsworth T. Kincaid helped SASS members accomplish the impossible during the 2006 Ride-to-Glory at the Little Bighorn. Twenty cowboys became an authentic cavalry company under the direction of Sabre Jim (Lt. Bill Wirz of E Company, 7th Cavalry.)

We trained on the wind swept high plains of Wyoming with Kevin McNevin for two days to learn mounted drill and tactics.

Ellsworth's diplomacy and hard work took us on a two-day crosscountry ride from Custer's Last Camp to the Crows Nest and on to the Little Bighorn River where the Custer Battalion attempted to cross and fell back. We rode over grass and sagebrush covered hills and down valleys retracing the trail of the 7th Cavalry on June 25, 1876. We experienced rough riding that left us feeling like we had wrestled gorillas.

From my position as Chief Trumpeter to General Custer, I watched as our

gallant force created scenes worthy of the History Channel. Two days of quality saddle time honed our SASS men into a fighting force ready to earn the respect of the regular re-enactors who came to the battle.

During the Last Stand Battle, Kincaid's Irregulars put on a magnificent performance, forming a skirmish line, and protecting General Custer from a hundred Indians out for blood.

On Sunday, June 25 Kincaid's Irregulars rode with General Custer to the National Monument for special memorial services. Ellsworth's diplomacy arranged for us to ride our horses into the park and carry our pistols. Thanks to this great concession by the Park Superintendent, we could render honors while passing the Last Stand Hill Monument and Native American memorial. Upon our return, we galloped across the open ground below Last Stand Hill like ghosts from the past.

Only SASS members could have achieved so much in so short a time. My congratulations and thanks to all my fellow riders for their individual efforts. Our efforts created a fine tribute to the 7th Cavalry and our Crow Indian hosts.

My special thanks for Ellsworth T. Kincaid for making the 2006 Ride to Glory a grand success. I also need to recognize Kevin McNevin for providing excellent horses, Happy Pappy for the

great Chuck Wagon, and Lady Stetson for her photographic and administrative support.

Riding with Kincaid's Irregulars was an honor.

Ivan Innaccurate,
SASS #28522
Chief Trumpeter, 7th Cavalry

GOOD RESOURCE ARTICLE

Dear Colonel Dan,

I am a Buckaroo shooter in the 6th grade. I read your article in the July 2006 Cowboy Chronicle entitled "Have You Ever Wondered Why ...," and I was wondering, is there any way I can have you send the PDF file (or a link) to me? I have a homework assignment in Western Global with the subject of Core Democratic Values (you know; Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness). I think your article would be a good one to use for discussion.

Apache Wolf
SASS #65272

KEEP IT UP, COLONEL!

Colonel Dan,

I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate your articles in The Cowboy Chronicle. As soon as it arrives, yours is the first place I turn. I certainly hope what you are writing is getting read by more than those of us who read The Cowboy Chronicle.

I can't agree with you more, and I hope and pray this country will awaken before it is too late. I believe that is occurring up here in the "Last Frontier" where in the recent primary, Frank Murkowski was soundly defeated after one term.

Keep up the good work my friend, as it is our patriotic duty to get wishy washy politicians and those who are there only to benefit themselves and not the country out and put in somebody who will stand his or her ground and do what is right and just. Hooah!!!!

Barry M. Deeper, Undertaker
SASS #65152
Alaska

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RIDING TO GLORY AT THE LITTLE BIG HORN

I'd like to share with you my adventure back in time with the 7th Cavalry. After I read the article by Ellsworth Kincaid recruiting for the 130th anniversary of the Battle of the Little Big Horn, I couldn't wait to sign up. I was looking for an interesting way to do some serious horseback riding in Wyoming and Montana. Being a cowboy re-enactor, it seemed this would be right up my alley.

We all met for the first time in Lander, Wyoming. I was surprised to find a wide range of age groups, with the average age around 55. I am 57, so I felt right at home with my SASS family. We introduced ourselves and listened to stories of past events, which fueled my excitement and anticipation. The next day we were off to the backcountry of Wyoming. We drove in convoy for about 30 minutes and were headed down a dirt road when off in the distance on a high ridge sat a lone cowboy on his horse. Then suddenly he came ridin' like the wind, down the ridge and across the sage, charging towards our ranks. He pulled up to a trot and led us to the horses. This was America's Cowboy, Kevin McNevin, one of the coolest cowboys I have ever met. He rounded us up and introduced



himself and his son, Travis, and ranch hand, Bob. Kevin then helped us pick out the right horse for our 10-day adventure. I told Kevin I had come here to ride, and I was an experienced rider that would put a horse through a workout everyday. He gave me Dancer. I rode him the whole time. He was the perfect match. Kevin made sure of that, as he was always watching all the riders and offering advice along the way. After a couple of days he allowed me free rein with Dancer, and I was able to ride whenever I wanted. This was an honor and treat.

For the first two days the company practiced cavalry commands and riding in formation. It was not as easy as it may

seem. By the second day, most everyone was on the same page, and we were starting to look like a unit in 1876. Some fun was had when we tested our horses reaction to gunfire. One horse being ridden by our bugler just took off hell bent for cover with the corporal hollering, "Cease fire, cease fire!" I knew then we were going to have a blast.

We all met again in Hardin, Montana, which is just up the way from Garyowen and the battlefield. Again we rounded up our horses and headed out to ride the Custer route. We were escorted by Dr. Henry "Hank" Realbird, who with his brothers have organized the reenactment on the actual battlefield site. He is quite the figure. His knowledge of the battle is second to none, and he shares with us the other side of the story. One of the most emotional moments for me was when he took us to the Circle of Stones that was assembled by Sitting Bull just prior to the battle. As the story goes, Sitting Bull had his famous vision of soldiers falling from the sky in this stone circle. It was not marked and is on property where non-Indians are not allowed, so this was a great honor and a moment I shall never forget.

The actual reenactment battle was a childhood fantasy come true. To be able to play Cavalry and Indians on horseback, in full dress, with hundreds of Indians charging across the plains and

through the river was an unbelievable high. The young bucks were respectful, playful, and dedicated to the memory of all who fought and died in this battle. I met numerous young Indians whose ancestors were actually part of the battle. That was quite an honor.

I now have enough stories for the next 10 years, just ask my wife! I owe this experience to Ellsworth T. Kincaid, Lady Stetson, and the "Kincaid Irregulars," of which I am now a proud member. The trip was well planned and very well organized. I met so many nice people that now have become friends. I have traveled out west many times, and I must say this was the most satisfying. I'll be back for the 135th and have already started dreaming about the 140th when my granddaughter will be of age to make the trip and experience it with me.

Corporal Doc Whip Lash

SASS #15561

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Design longer stages, 60/90 sec, with "Cowboy Action" in between firearms.

For this match possibly reduce the number of categories, say no "Gunfighter." It might be a safety issue because of reloading. Possibly delete other categories as well.

I believe all this could be done at a "Specialized" match.

*Blaze Kinkaid,
SASS Life/Regulator #253*

(Marches like this are, indeed, "specialized" matches. They're definitely not for everyone ... only those who are adventurous and want an extra challenge. The old Coto Cowboys used to have a match Doc Bones called "Just Shooting" that was also a rough and tumble event. Give it a try and see how it works! By the way ... Gunfighters can figure out how to load their firearms under the clock as well as the rest of the folks! ... editor.)



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RATTLER JOHN



Owen Judice,
SASS #24581

“A” IS FOR ACTION

After a recent match at the Texas Troublemakers I was informed by Bent Barrel Betty, SASS #33237, my best friend and shooting partner, that a couple who had shot the match were not happy and were saying they would never come back. They thought the scenarios were too complicated, our targets too small, and we had too much movement. As I write the scenarios, pick the targets, and decide which guns will be used and where, I was curious. The scenarios were not complicated, the targets were the same targets we had been using for the better part of six years, and it was about the same amount of movement as we usually have, so what was the problem?

It turns out they didn't care for the theme, a 5-second bonus on each stage for a clean stage. As Betty listened to them they said the three reasons given for not coming back was also the reason the "GOOD SHOOTERS" don't shoot with us anymore. Well, by now I was just about heart broken, he says very tongue

in cheek. Betty had tried to explain that the scenarios were simple, the targets were not "all" too small, and this is an action sport, not Cowboy Stands Still Shooting.

We had a good balance of targets, both in size and placement. On four of the six scenarios, there were 8-10 rifle targets shot in any order; only two scenarios had multi-hit targets. With revolvers, we had a Nevada sweep, a couple of dump plates, a sweep the five targets one direction and then back the other, on some stages at least two sets of five targets any order, and a three-target double tap-single shot-double tap. The shotgun knockdowns were all shot any order until down. On movement, we always have a good balance of movement, from much on some stages to none on other stages.

Now we try to listen to everyone's comments, good or bad, but these folks went over the line. They don't help run any club, so it is hard to take them seriously. As the days after the match passed, Betty and I talked back and forth about what happened, and she reminded me that the A in Cowboy Action Shooting™ stand's for "Action." She gets the credit for the title. So, for those people who don't like lots of targets, simple scenarios, and movement-ACTION, please start your own club or better yet, start a whole new sport. You could call it

"Cowboy Stands Still and Shoots at a Single Target Shooting." I'm sure there are a lot of "GOOD SHOOTERS" who would show up, but I regret Bent Barrel Betty and I won't be there. We like SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™ just the way it is, and the way we play it with that pesky "A for ACTION."

Owen Judice, SASS #24581
Match Director,
Texas Troublemakers
Brownsboro, TX

AN ALTERNATIVE TO POOR PUNCHERS GUN BLOCK

I just read "Poor Punchers Gun Block" (Sept. '06) by Purdy Gear. She's right about the need for a dummy shape to keep your gun leather in proper form.

I would like to offer an alternative solution. The PVC cylinders are okay, but do not help form the leather for the frame and trigger guard. I have a number of wooden plugs for my holsters. The first pair was cut from a scrap piece of 3/4" mahogany on my small band saw. Here any soft wood will do, and leave it bare to draw any moisture from inside your holster.

I simply traced the gun and cut the shape, including a rise for the front sight.

The grip is shortened to a simple knob. Some whittling and rough sanding will bring the blank to the shape of your gun – and slightly LARGER. Then, some 1 1/2" PVC is cut and split to make the cylinder bulges. You want the two pieces, added to the thickness of your 'plug,' to be a bit wider than your cylinder. I made the piece for the 'outside' of the holster a bit long and cut at an angle to hold an outward flair in the holster top.

Now, locate your pieces on the 'plug,' mark and drill small holes in the PVC ONLY, for round head brass brads. Put a bead of Gorilla Glue on the edges, tap the brads home, and VIOLA!

My gun belts hang on pegs in my gunroom, so I tied leather loops through the 'plugs' and just hang 'em on the peg when the rig is in use.

Capt. Shaw, SASS #16191
Okeechobee, FL

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ELECTION REFORM I'D LIKE TO SEE

By Colonel Dan, SASS Life #24025

Now that the mid-term election is mercifully over, I'm sure we'll hear renewed calls for election reform—especially from the losers. While I agree some changes are warranted, those I'd support are aimed at attacking election manipulation and skullduggery, not enhancing it, as did the Campaign Finance Reform Bill. However, since political elitists naturally prefer a system they can control, my ideas will probably never be considered, but I'll suggest them anyway.

[I use the word "attack" not "eliminate" skullduggery because when you have a professional political class as we do, they'll always find ways to manipulate, get around, or unashamedly break any law ever passed—elimination is impossible.]

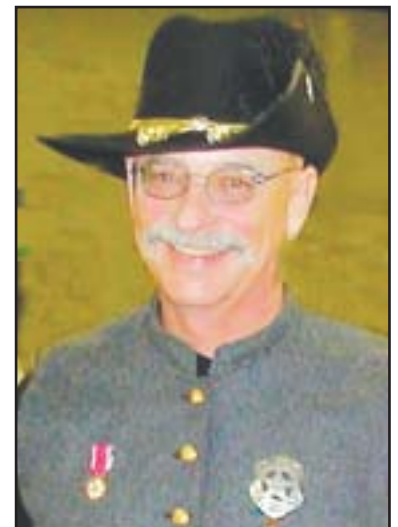
Without exception, require proof of citizenship and eligibility before allowing anyone to register and vote. This may be an obvious no-brainer to us, but the unscrupulous don't like it because that would cut voting way down in several key segments of their political constituency—illegals, felons, and dead folks.

Abolish punch card ballots. Dimpled ballots leave the election vulnerable to what we've already seen—fraud and exploitation. We should do away with those and adopt a universal system of optically scanned ballots. We have that system in my county, and it works fine. It combines electronic vote counting with paper ballots that can be used for any required verification. There are no hanging or dimpled marks or

pregnant chads requiring divine revelation to determine *voter intent*. Absentee ballots should be similarly marked with ink—no punch cards and no Internet voting. A web based system wouldn't allow hard copies to be retained and only permits a more sophisticated kind of fraud; e-fraud.

Do not call election results until all polls are closed. This would greatly lessen media hype on election night and reduce the arguments about who was discouraged from voting in the west because of early calls made in the east.

Assign Electoral College votes. For presidential elections, I'd consider doing away with Electoral College delegates but not the Electoral College system. Eliminating the system itself would



Colonel Dan, SASS Life #24025

essentially disenfranchise most of mainstream America. Without the Electoral College, a candidate would only have to win the few historically liberal hotbeds of our major population centers to win the presidency. The rest of America's mostly conservative strongholds would become inconsequential, and that's exactly why many liberals are suggesting elimination of the Electoral College.

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

One reason we have delegates is in the 18th century the way to cast an electoral vote was by the human hand in a central meeting place. Not so today. The change I'd consider is assigning the state's electoral votes to the winning candidate after state certification of the vote count was complete. This would retain the Electoral College concept keeping all of America in the election process and eliminate delegate tampering by political hacks. Politicians, on the losing side have been known to dig up dirt on the delegates in order to *persuade* them to change their vote from the election night winner to the loser as happened in 2000. If we assigned the votes, we'd eliminate such *persuasion* by removing the human targets. But never remove the Electoral College process; that must stay.

Shorten the election cycle. Presidential candidates today are required to canvass the country for months pandering to every little caucus, straw poll, and primary just to generate the momentum necessary to keep contributions flowing! This takes time; time takes money, and money takes contributors, and large contributors always come with *quid pro quo* deals. Why not shorten the primary and general election campaigns to a month each? You could argue the exact length for these two cycles, but for now, let's focus on the

concept rather than the details.

The political parties could declare several candidates internally as they really do now anyway, and the primary campaigning would last about four weeks. The country would vote on the same day in a national primary and be done with it. No need to go after *momentum* where the Iowa Caucus or New Hampshire primary sets the tone for subsequent states because the sheeple have allowed media hype to win out over independent thought. Best of all, there would be no year-long campaign requiring multi-millions of dollars, endless speeches, and countless lies.

Let's establish the official start date of the campaign season as April 16th – the day after tax day should have people in a proper mood to consider what they really want in their next leaders. Run debates and ads for a month with unlimited, but publicly revealed, contributions to the candidates and hold a national primary in mid-May—and do it on a weekend to help those with jobs vote more easily. The general election campaign would begin immediately after the primary and go for about a month. The general election would be held in June, again on a weekend, and a new set of leaders sworn in on July 4th—what more appropriate date?

Such a national election system

would reduce the money required by shortening the overall process and spare us from the torture of nonstop political rhetoric. In fact, such a process might convince a better crop of folks to run if the race didn't consume their lives, honor, and fortunes for over a year.

This would limit transition time between administrations, but folks could adapt. Since work always expands to fill the time available, even a year of transition wouldn't be enough for some politicians.

Term limit all elected officials to one and only one six-year term. With no hope of re-election and no need for raising re-election money, politicians couldn't entrench themselves in power, corruption, and influence peddling for life, so we just might be able to get some fresh, more decent, and effective leadership for a change ... maybe.

Postscript: At some point, we may hear calls for election reform tied to a constitutional convention "... to make common sense reforms ... for the children." Don't buy into that! The day we agree to allow official meddling with the entire Constitution is the day politicians begin officially meddling with our rights and dismantling the constitution legally. The "*modernization*" of the Bill of Rights to make it a "*more living, breathing*" document would be the first "*reform*" and the concept of pre-eminence of the individual over the state would officially die ... "*In the interest of society's overall welfare*"... Yeah, right! So if what I've suggested gets tied to an overarching Constitutional Convention, forget I ever said anything.

Just the view from my saddle...

Contact Colonel Dan:

coloneldan@bellsouth.net

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WORKERS & SHIRKERS

By Swift Montana Smith SASS #52720



Swift Montana Smith, SASS #52720

The big, three-day shoot was coming up, and Old Bob sat in the waiting room at his doctor's office.

"Bob," the nurse called from the hallway, "you're next." Bob eased himself out of the chair and walked slowly toward the nurse.

"Take your time." She said with a smile. Bob nodded and continued pass her.

"Forth door on the right, Bob."

Bob entered the examination room and sat on the end of the table. As the doctor entered the room, he looked at Bob and smiled.

"How we doin' today Chief." He said as he reached for his stethoscope.

"Tired," Bob said, "seems like every day it gets a little worse."

"That'll happen," said the doctor. He took the stethoscope and held it against Bob's chest. He moved it around as if he was searching for something.

"The reason I'm here Doc, is that I have a big, three day Cowboy shoot comin' up, and I sure would like to go. It's one of those things I always look forward to and this year is no different. I'd hate like heck to miss it."

"Well ..." the doctor said, and then, after a long pause he looked Bob straight in the eyes and said, "I don't see why not. I'll give you a prescription, and if you get any pain, you can always use it."

Bob straightened up his back and

got down off the table. "Thanks Doc. You've made my day." He had a big grin on his face and seemed to walk a little lighter. As he left the office, he waved to a total stranger who was sitting in the waiting room. "Have a great day!" he said and walked out the door.

It was a beautiful, sunny day as Bob drove down the highway headed for his favorite three-day shoot. He was smiling as he drove. He reached over and grabbed a CD lying next to him on the seat that had 'Cowboy Copas' written on it. He put it in the player, and it wasn't long before Bob was singing along with music that emanated from the speakers.

As he pulled into the camping area, he saw a lot more campers and tents than he had remembered from the previous year. "Hey Pete," he yelled out the window, "any room for me?"

Pete came walking over and leaned into the window, "Hey you old

codger, I didn't think I'd see you here this year, but just in case your sorry butt did show up, I saved you a spot right next to my camper."

"Thanks Pete. Now I can keep you awake all night with my snoring." They both laughed as Pete pulled away from Bob's window. Bob pulled his truck around and very carefully backed his camper into the spot Pete had saved for him.

After he had finished setting up his camper, he walked under Pete's awning.

"Mind if I sit down?"

"Who do you think that empty chair is for?" Pete said, and then added, "Santa Clause?"

Bob sat down, and the two men just sat there for a while not saying a word. Both men were in their sixties and both of them had grown up loving the Cowboys they had watched as kids. Cowboy Action Shooting™ for both of them was a way to play

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

Cowboy. Neither one really cared whether they won or lost the match they were at, and most of the time they were shooting against themselves anyway, just trying to do better in their own minds.

After a long silence Bob finally said, "Didja see the posse lists yet?"

"Yep," said Pete. "You're on my posse. We ride together once more!" He laughed, and Bob chuckled along with him.

"I hope we get a good bunch," Bob said. "I love this Cowboy stuff."

"Me too," said Pete, and with that the two just sat there looking out over the campsite enjoying each other's company without saying a word.

"I will be your Posse Leader for this weekend," said Cautious Calhoun as posse number five gathered around him. "Most of you I recognize, and some I have never seen before, but hopefully by the end of this shoot we'll all be good friends."

As Cautious Calhoun finished the last sentence, he heard a snicker from one of the shooters. He looked at him and asked, "What's your name Pard?"

"Prima Donna Punk," he said with a smirk. "Fastest gun here ... you can just give me the buckle now and save yourself a lot of time and trouble."

"Oh, 'taint no trouble at all," said Calhoun, "but just for fun, let's finish the match first."

Prima Donna Punk shirked his shoulders. It was then Calhoun noticed the several other shooters huddled around Prima Donna Punk. Most of them were pretty young, in their twenties, a few looked older, and one looked a lot older. Calhoun looked at their name badges and read them to himself - Big Stupid-N-Stinky, Dorcus Malorcus, Frick, and Frack. Calhoun pointed at Frick and then at Frack and asked, "Are you two brothers?"

"That's right," said Frick, "And we're hot guns too!" He laughed, and the rest of their small contingent laughed and slapped each other's hands.

Bob looked at Pete and Pete looked at Bob, and they both shrugged their shoulders. "I guess," said Pete to no

one in particular and turned and walked to the shooters spot at the stage where Calhoun had headed so he could read the stage scenario.

After reading the scenario and explaining the shooting order, Calhoun called out the names for Posse A, and then for Posse B. "When Posse A is shooting, Posse B will work and vice-versa." Big Stupid-N-Stinky just laughed in a low voice.

Prima Donna Punk and his gang were on Posse A, and they shot first. Bob volunteered to spot and said he wouldn't mind pickin' brass and settin' targets, "... but I moves a little slow these days so bear with me," he said.

Pete offered to do the same and several other fellows from Posse B chimed in they were always there to help.

As the members from Posse A shot the scenario, it was evident to Bob these young boys really were fast. They all shot in the Traditional category and wore very few accoutrements. They reminded Bob of a racecar that had been stripped down to the bare essentials so nothing would inhibit its speed. Every time they would finish shooting, they would write down their scores on a separate piece of paper and then grab the sheet from their shooter's packet and start ghost shooting the next scenario. Bob didn't worry that much about it since he was there to "play Cowboy" and basically have fun, and he figured, to each his own, until he noticed something very strange. When it came time for him to approach the loading table and get ready to shoot, he asked if anyone that had already shot wouldn't mind spelling him on the spotting duties. He noticed Big Stupid-N-Stinky, Prima Donna Punk, Dorcus Malorcus, Frick, and Frack, just stood there with their arms folded in front of them.

By the time they were finished shooting their third stage, Bob wondered why this small group within the posse had done nothing to help out at the stages. They hadn't set targets, spotted, or even picked up brass, and he thought about his friend Pete, whom he would watch slowly bend over to pick up the brass and then, with effort,

stand up straight again, and take the brass to the unloading table. He knew Prima Donna Punk couldn't be much older than twenty, and he couldn't get over how he just stood there watching the old man work.

Bob walked over to where the posse within the posse was standing. He listened to what they were talking about before he interrupted, in case it was something important because he didn't want to be rude.

"... and you should be able to shoot this next stage in fifteen seconds, twenty at the most," Prima Donna Punk said as he stood there ghost shooting.

"Yeah," said Dorcus, "Twenty tops!"

"Howdy fellows," said Bob. "I'm Old Bob." They ignored Bob and continued talking about the next scenario. Bob wasn't easily put off. "Me and my good Pard Pete have been pickin' brass, and we ... well ... I thought maybe you boys wouldn't mind helpin' a couple of old Cowboys make this a fun shoot."

Big Stupid-N-Stinky spoke up then, "WE DON'T WORK," he said. "We just shoot. We're the best darn shooters here, and we paid our entrance fee, and my boy here and me and our friends here ... well, we just came here to shoot, win buckles, awards, and certificates, and go home."

Frick started to smile and then burst out laughing. Bob felt embarrassed and turned to walk away, but before he left he said, "Just thought you might want to make it fun for everyone and not just for yourselves, but I guess I figured wrong." And with that, he turned and walked away and listened to the cajoling coming from behind him.

After the first day of shooting ended, Bob returned to his camper. There was a campfire going that someone else had started, and he and Pete moved their chairs over to it and sat staring into the flames.

"I guess it won't be long before guys like us are gone and out of this sport and those youngsters will be taking over and that's when it will just be another shooting sport with all the Cowboy stuff added for window dressing." Bob said quietly.

"They probably never even heard of John Wayne, let alone seen one of his movies," said Pete.

"Oh, I'm sure they know who J.W. is. Heck, you would have to be raised in a closet to not know who he is, but I'll bet they've seen more movies with Tom Cruise than they have seen movies with the Duke, and I'll lay money on that," Bob said sadly.

The second day of shooting started, and the Posse was gathered around their scheduled starting stage. Everyone was anxious to start shooting, but the Posse Leader had not shown up yet, and it was ten minutes past the time scheduled to start. At twenty-five after, the Posse Leader's helper was just about to start the stage when he saw Cautious Calhoun headed their way, and he told the fellows to wait one more minute until Calhoun could arrive.

"OK, sorry I'm late. I had to take care of some business. Old Bob and Pete won't be shooting with us today."

"All those two old farts did was slow us down anyway," said Prima Donna Punk.

"Yeah, I've seen some slow shooters, but those guys take the cake!" chimed in Frack.

"All those guys wanted to do is 'play Cowboy' anyway. They really stank when it came to shooting," said Dorcus Malorcus.

"Well you won't have to worry about *those* guys anymore," said Calhoun. He was feeling a little disgusted with his posse, but didn't say it. "Old Bob died in his camper last night." The Posse fell silent. "It appears Bob had terminal cancer and knew his days were numbered. He probably shouldn't have been here in the first place, but his friend Pete said he loved this shoot so much that he wouldn't miss it. Pete said he'd take care of Bob's stuff, so he's out of the match for the duration. I think we should bow our heads in silence and have a moment." Calhoun took off his cowboy hat, as did everyone else. After a minute or two, Calhoun put his hat on and said, "Posse five, please gather 'round. The name of this scenario is ..."



OUR EXTENDED FAMILY

By Longshot, SASS #747

I have been to 23 END of TRAILS and still participate in many cowboy matches. Recently, I have had the misfortune of attending several funerals – several cowboy and several not.

I have made the following observations. At the cowboy funerals even though the deceased had been a policeman for 30 years, or in the military for 20 years, or been a business executive or doctor, the pictures displayed or the poster sized picture of the person shown at their funeral has been their picture in full cowboy attire. In two recent funerals their guncarts or rigs were present at the funeral. When I looked out at the audience I saw about 120 people, fully half cowboys in costume and the other family and friends, and at the non-cowboy funerals about half as many total, just family and a few older friends. In marked contrast to a cowboy's funeral, people commented about the individual's past, their

accomplishments, mostly career wise, and a few family members and old friends spoke of fondly remembered times past.

At a cowboy funeral, it is different. First, there are about 50 to 60 cowboys and cowgirls showing their support, and they vastly outnumber blood relatives or remaining friends. They are of more varied ages, they remember the person for their recent activities, not for the distant past, they know why there are guns and guncarts in the chapel. They are missing a contemporary, not a "previous" acquaintance.

At a recent funeral of a 76-year-old retired policeman whose SASS number was less than 100 away from mine, I talked with his son after the funeral. I told him I knew his father a long time, and I was sorry to see his passing. He asked me an interesting question, and I had to stop to think before I could answer. He asked, "Were you close?"

Papa Joe was someone I had known for over twenty years, I have spent whole days with him on various posses at various matches. I had dinner with him many times. I shared his campsites and his friends many times, and we spoke at length about grandchildren, Cowboy Action Shooting™, retirement, and gun collecting. I saw him 12-15 times per year for over 20 years. Yet, I had never called him at home and didn't find out his last name until the funeral. But as I reflected, I had to answer yes, we were close. I have seen Papa Joe more than I have seen some of my family.

It strikes me as we participate in Cowboy Action Shooting™ for longer and longer into our "senior" years we become more defined by the company we keep. Long after retiring from the police force, Papa Joe was a Cowboy Action Shooter. The close proximity and frequent reinforcement of 200-500 participants at

monthly matches and attended annual events leads to a closeness with other Cowboy Action Shooters who eventually become an extended family. Sure, there are Cowboy Action Shooters I avoid, and some who avoid me (like members of my family, I might add). But, on the whole, there are more people I have learned to trust and would cancel any plans for to help if ever needed that I know as Cowboy Action Shooters than from any other organization I belong to – religious, fraternal, professional, or otherwise.

Recently I introduced a new shooter to Cowboy Action Shooting™. He is a professional with a long business resume and now owns his own company. After the very first cowboy match he attended, wearing borrowed guns, holsters, and ammo, he remarked "I have never met as strangers as many people willing to help me, show me a

(Continued on page 39)

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COWGIRLS AND THEIR GUNS

By Drummer Girl, SASS #21299

Women in Cowboy Action Shooting™ are sophisticated and particular about the guns they carry and shoot. When they begin Cowboy Action Shooting™, however, most are primarily concerned about the clothing they wear. Before their very first match, they select or make clothing to reflect the ‘character’ they assume. Understandably costuming has captured a lot of attention. Articles and photographs galore show women in calico gowns and poke bonnets, ladies in taffeta dresses with bustles and stylish hats, and dance hall girls in black net hose and bustiers.

Little has been said, though, about the firearms Cowboy Action cowgirls use. Partly, perhaps, because their guns are generally not the women shooters’ first order of business. After they’ve shot a few matches, however, most of the ladies of Cowboy Action Shooting™ recognize the importance of these tools of



Diamond J's equipment is highly personalized. Her revolver is embossed and the grips carved ...

this trade. Then they take a far more active interest in their ‘firearms of choice.’ Just as quickly, they learn a good gunsmith can turn a heavy or rough trigger into one that’s light, smooth, and easy to pull.

Let’s turn our focus, too, from Cowboy Action Shooting™ clothing to Cowboy Action Shooting™ firearms. The Single Action Shooting Society has specific guidelines for the choice of firearms used. The

SASS Handbook says: “Originals and reproductions of firearms manufactured during the early 1800’s by



Diamond J makes a patriotic statement with her costume.



Betty Boots with her personalized 12-ga. shotgun.

Colt, Winchester, Remington, Smith & Wesson, Marlin, Sharps, Henry, and so forth are allowed in SASS competition, as long as they are in safe shooting condition.”

When I decided to go forth and find out which guns are preferred, I attended a monthly match held by the Cajon Cowboys, (say ‘Ca-hone’) a thriving southern California Cowboy Action Shooting™ club that meets
(Continued on next page)



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(Continued from previous page)
on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. What I discovered during attendance at various matches, in various locations, is four firearms in particular dominate the field.

The revolver of preference may be the old COLTS, primarily because of their authenticity. If a shooter insists on an original COLT and can find one for sale, she must be willing and able to put out about \$4000. Understandably, COLT clones are also huge favorites. Some of the bet-



... in fact, all Diamond J's guns bear the signs of her personalizing. Even DJ's holster rig has been designed and decorated to reflect her attention to details.



Nellie Bly Pathfinder poses to show how she handles her matched RUGER .32 HMR revolvers in the demanding Gunfighter category. One of only a dozen women who shoot Gunfighter-style, Nellie says she's always looking for a challenge.

ter-known clones, mostly in .45 caliber, are 'The Regulator' (cost: about \$400) made by UBERTI, The 'Rodeo' (about \$500) made by USFA, and The 'Peacekeeper' from American Western Arms (made in Italy! about \$850). But COLTS aren't the revolvers found in most Cowboy Action Shooting™ holsters. Those you'll find in greatest number are RUGER 'Vaqueros' in several calibers - mostly .44, .45 Colt, and .357 with .38 Special rounds used in the .357's.

Women I saw at the Cajon Cowboy match, with a few exceptions, carried 'Vaqueros,' generally in 4-3/4" barrel length and, with just a few exceptions, in .357 caliber. RUGER 'Blackhawks' are another favorite. One competitor, Nellie Belle Pathfinder, who is one of only a dozen women nationally who shoots "Gunfighter" category uses a RUGER in .32 H&R. That same neatly sized and nicely balanced revolver and caliber is also used by another Cajon



Lickety Split hasn't let two hip replacements deter her from Cowboy Action Shooting with her RUGER .32 HMR, YellowBoy lever action, and WINCHESTER '97 shotgun.



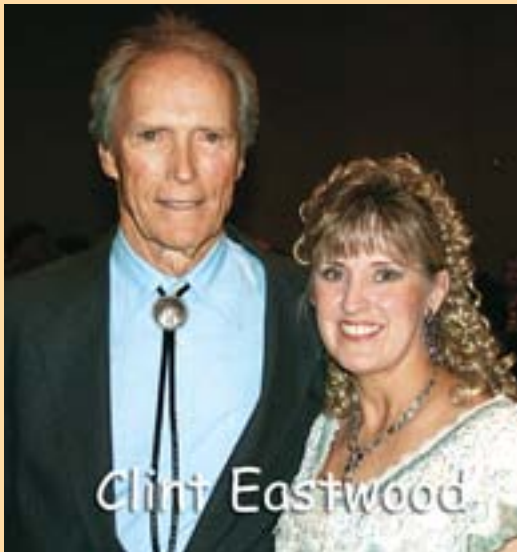
Jeanette Norwood enjoys portraying dance hall girl, Henry's Hussy, especially when she straps her holster rig and matched revolvers over her costume. She shoots RUGER Bisleys in .357 in a rig made by Cajon Cowboys president, BoJack.

Cowgirl, Lickety-Split. When I talked with Lickety-Split she confided she'd had not one but two hip replacements early this year. Surgeries hadn't slowed down this plucky lady, though. She was competing on
(Continued on page 37)



THE 24TH ANNUAL GOLDEN BOOT AWARDS

By Ellsworth T. Kincaid, SASS Life/Regulator #6037



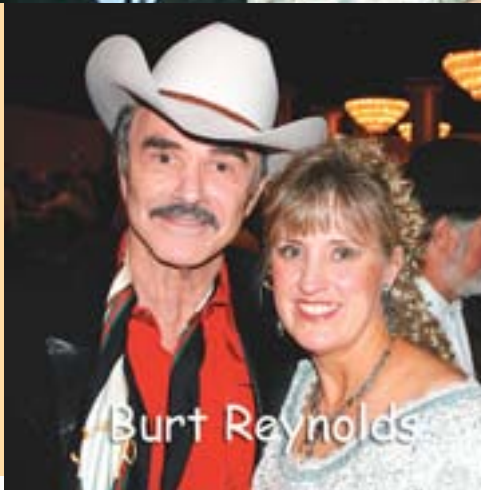
Clint Eastwood



Gerald McRaney
Deadwood's George Hearst



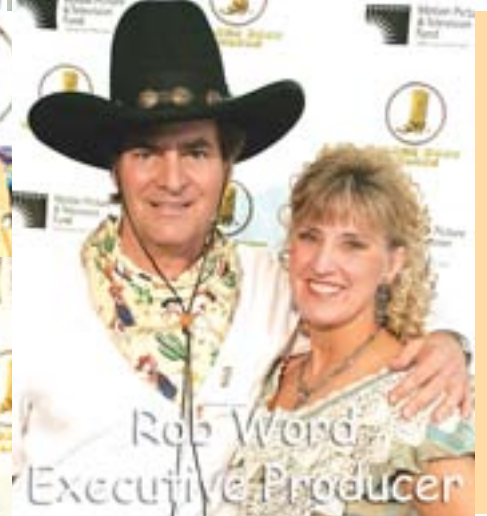
Ellsworth T. Kincaid
Lady Stetson



Burt Reynolds



Diane Farnsworth
END of TRAIL Champ



Rob Word
Executive Producer



Marty Kove
& son, Jesse



Bruce Boxleitner



Ben & Pamela Cooper
SASS MC



Powers Booth
Deadwood & Tombstone

Saturday evening, August 12, 2006, Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, California – Anticipation ran high this year at the “Boot” Awards ... Clint Eastwood “rsvp’d” and his arrival had the paparazzi, or “event photographers” as I was corrected by one of them, swarming. The PR firm organizing this event allowed me a media pass. I joined the other photographers near the red carpet. Initially they told Lady Stetson she couldn’t join me. Once they saw her dressed in her Victorian best, they allowed her to stand near the end of the Red Carpet where the “stars” would pass the photographers. This was a perfect step up as the PR personnel soon learned. I took photos, and she stopped celebrities and “interviewed” them, holding them for further photos. She’d motion to me, and I would slip down to her and take closer/better celebrity photos, most with Lady Stetson standing next to them, of course.

This was especially fun when the cast of *Deadwood* came through. Director Walter Hill (who earned an Emmy and the DGA award in 2005 for the pilot episode of *Deadwood*, and also directed the mini-series *Broken Trail*, and the movies *The Long Riders*, *Geronimo*, and *Wild Bill*) and Powers Boothe (‘Cy Tolliver’ from *Deadwood*, ‘Curly Bill’ from *Tombstone*) stopped and had their photos taken on the Red Carpet. Waiting for them was Lady Stetson and Parris Boothe, Powers’ lovely daughter and one of the soiled doves of the Bella Union Saloon in *Deadwood*. She and I had a scene together during the second season, and she remembered me (yeah sure, she did ... but I appreciate her saying so). She also remembered we tried getting her father to attend END of TRAIL several years ago. We waited, and once Mr. Hill and Mr. Boothe came off the Red Carpet, we had a great time reminiscing about the now-cancelled series. We did the same with Gerald McRaney (‘George

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from previous page)
Hearst' from Deadwood).

Many of the Western celebrities coming across the Red Carpet are SASS members. They have attended END of TRAIL and several competed over the years in the "Celebrity Mounted Shooting Competition." Enough of them recognized me, would walk over and shake my hand, stop and chat with Lady Stetson that one of the television interviewers complained, and we were asked to "tone it down and not work the room so well." Apparently Lady Stetson was having better conversations than the interviewers! HA!

One young woman walked the Red Carpet, stopped, and smiled for the "event photographers." I usually recognize these celebrities, but didn't recognize this beautiful lady. I called out, "What were you in?" Okay, I agree ... stupid on my part, but I got her attention. She walked over to me and politely replied, "Hell to Pay." I said, "I was in Hell to Pay, too!" I then recognized her name, Rachel Kimsey ... she's the daughter of our very own SASS member, Jubal Sackett. We had a quick laugh, and she moved on.

Oftentimes the most sought after celebrities will not come down the Red Carpet because it causes a commotion. They come via the "back way." We've figured this out over the years and were waiting for Mr. Eastwood. Sure enough, Clint and his attractive wife came out a side door, and we were there to shake his hand and click a quick photo or two. Lady Stetson asked, "May I have a photo with you for The Cowboy Chronicle?" as he was rushing to his table. Clint stops, looks at her and tells her how beautiful she looked and replied, "The Cowboy Chronicle? Sure." He put his arm around Lady Stetson and posed for me. Was he a nice guy? He sure seemed very gracious, unassuming, and pleasant ... Definitely a nice guy.

Dinner was announced and everyone took their seats. Hollywood executive producer Rob Word, SASS Life #50528, introduced and pointed out all the celebrities in the room. With many in attendance this special evening, this took awhile. I was surprised and pleased when he introduced Lady Stetson and me,



announced we were from SASS, announced the title of my just released novel, and asked us to stand and be recognized. Thanks Rob! SASS was heavily in attendance. Along with the SASS celebrities, Phil Spangenberg and his crew (almost all of which are SASS) were there assisting in the live auction and handling various chores for the event.

Ben Cooper was Master of Ceremonies. Mr. Cooper has MC'd this event for several years and MC'd the SASS Convention in Las Vegas our first three years. He and his wife Pamela were unequivocally the best looking couple that evening. Pamela radiates warmth and Ben is the persona of gentlemanly manners. Ben did an excellent job as an MC, keeping the event on time ... even interrupting Burt Reynolds' funny stories to remind Burt he was introducing Ann Margret. Burt was a hoot and THE entertainment on stage.

Clint Eastwood was awarded the prestigious Founders Award, presented to him by his friend Morgan Freeman. Other celebrities in attendance were Joan Leslie, Ann Margret, Wes Studi, Mike Connors, Anne Jeffreys, Cheech Marin, Stuart Whitman, Bruce Boxleitner, Stella Stevens, Andrew Prine, William Smith, Marty Kove, and many more.

The proceeds from this event benefit the Motion Picture & Television Fund (MPTF), which provides healthcare, childcare, retirement living, social services, and financial support to the people of the entertainment community. SASS congratulates all the honorees and presenters. ♪

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We All Dug Ponies. What Happened to Them?

By Bob Boze Bell, SASS #50,000



BOZE KNOWZ

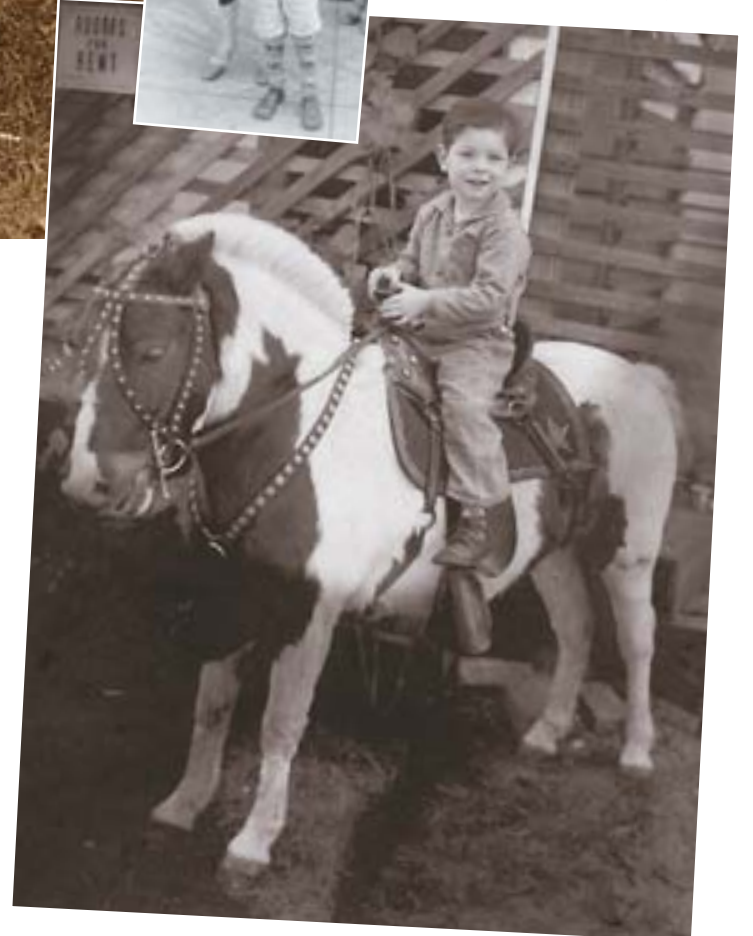
This past summer, I was in Bisbee, Arizona, working on a Top Secret Project. While taking a break, I wandered into a little store called Va-Voom and found a box of old photographs

featuring kids on ponies (see at right). Seeing them made me realize when we Boomers were young, most of us wanted a pony more than anything in the world. Is this still a desire among kids today? I don't know, but I do know looking at these photos makes me smile, and it makes me sad. Life was simpler when getting a pony was going to solve all the world's problems, don't you think?

Which brings me to one of my favorite jokes: "Shoot low, they're riding Shetlands." And by the way, everyone I ever knew who got a Shetland hated the little boogers. Said they were mean.

Come to think of it, I haven't seen a Shetland in years. Do they still make 'em? 🐾

Bob Boze Bell is the executive editor of True West magazine and the author of six illustrated books about the Old West. He writes a daily blog at twmag.com



Harry Houdini with a child on her pony

COWGIRLS AND THEIR GUNS . . .

(Continued from page 33)

the firing line with her 'posse' - and doing very well, thank you!

Reasons for the wide popularity of the RUGERS are basically strength, reliability, and price. Like most RUGER firearms, the 'Vaquero' offers honest value - a rugged, reliable firearm at a reasonable price. They're like the Eveready battery - they just keep going, and going, and going ... That's why 'Vaqueros' get the nod from so many Cowboy Action Shooters.

Another revolver gaining increasing numbers of fans, wears the "CIMARRON" name. These are made in Italy by UBERTI to specifications set by Texas-based CIMARRON. I find CIMARRON's neat, compact 'Lightning' model particularly appealing. In .38 Spl./38 Long Colt caliber, with 3.5" barrel and a bird's head grip, this little dandy looks good and fits a small hand beautifully.

The pistol caliber rifle of choice seems indisputably to belong to MARLIN. The guns are well made, function flawlessly, and the price is right. Second-place goes to another MARLIN - the 1886 'Cowboy' model. With octagon barrel and casehardened metal, this one, in .38 Spl. only, is a more expensive version of the basic lever-action, and it appeals to those who enjoy the authentic appearance. ROSSI's Model '92 lever gun is also being seen more and more. Uberti makes several high-dollar rifle and carbine clones of 1873 guns, which, like most of the pricey firearms,

are most likely to appear at major annual matches rather than at the club level shoots. They are offered in .45 Colt, .44-40, and .357 calibers. Quite a few 'Yellow Boy' (Winchester-Henry) clones also show up at every match, too, made by, among others, Navy Arms and Uberti. These are certainly handsome, eye-catching pieces. Their polished brass action stands out like a beacon among the blued or casehardened metal finish of most rifles.

As for shotguns, the hands-down favorite is the sturdy, ubiquitous side-by-side 'Coach Gun' made by STOEGER. Another, similar 'Coach Gun' is made in China by NORINCO. A close runner-up is WINCHESTER's '97 pump-action gun. Other smoothbores that find favor among Cowboy Action Shooting™ aficionados are authentic or reproduction 'mule ear' models - i.e., they have external hammers. While I admire their owners for attention to historic correctness, I have to wonder why anyone would subject himself (I've seen no women with these guns!) to the almost assured beatings those external hammers frequently inflict upon the hands of their devotees.

There are, of course, many other firearms used in Cowboy Action Shooting™ matches than those listed here. These, however, are the most popular. As long as they meet SASS standards and are not visibly modified, they may be used in sanctioned matches.

A TRUE WEST MOMENT



BOB BOZE BELL

Horses, Big & Small

Here's something that kind of grinds me. Rarely do Western movies portray the wide range of horse breeds that existed in the Old West.

In most Oaters, all of the horses seem to come from one stock provider (and they probably did). These horses are usually big, sturdy quarter horses, all of them about the same size and color. In fact, these horses are called "N.D.," which is script talk for "nondescript," an apt description.

Of course, in the real Old West, there were Mustangs and Indian ponies, farm horses, cousins to the famous Clydesdales, thoroughbreds and Arabs, not to mention mules. Believe me, there were a lot more mules in the Old West than Hollywood has ever depicted.

On authentic cattle drives, most of the horses used were cow ponies—small, agile cayuses—not the big, lumbering quarter horses that took over ranch life in the 20th century.

A few times, Hollywood has gotten it right: *Lonesome Dove's* Tommy Lee Jones is fantastic on his polo pony, the Hell Bitch, which he rides with classic cowboy bravado in each of his scenes. Also, the blooded stallions that were cast in Marlon Brando's horse-friendly *One-Eyed Jacks* are a welcome break from the same ol' horses picked by central casting.

In most Westerns, for too long, it seems like "one size fits all." And to us horse lovers, that's a crime.



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Internal modifications are allowed. The most common modification to revolvers is a 'trigger job' - reducing trigger pull and smoothing its action for ease of use and greater accuracy. Many of the RUGER 'Vaqueros' have been 'tricked-out' with improvements such as the 'free-spinning pawl' made by POWER CUSTOM. This nifty replacement part allows the cylinder, when the gate is open, to spin in either direction, which makes for faster loading and un-loading.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ rifles also undergo some 'after-market improvements' such as polishing the loading ramp, changing the springs, and smoothing the lever's action and trigger. One external addition is made on many of the rifles, too, and that's the addition of a peep sight - on the tang. The tang peep sight was used before 1899, so it's allowable - and it sure does help with quick target acquisition! Wrapping the lever handle with a leather thong is common, too, for appearance as well as to protect the back of the shooter's hand. This modification was adopted early in our nation's firearm history.

Shotgun modifications seem to be modest, if undertaken at all. The short, stocky 12-gauge 'Coach Gun' is inexpensive, simple, and rugged. It has internal hammers and two triggers. The triggers can be - and often are - lightened, but little else is generally done to these Cowboy Action Shooting™ workhorses. One exception, be-

cause the drop at the comb and heel are pretty steep, is some shooters build up the comb with padding, which is then covered with a piece of leather, laced firmly in place. This is permitted, for it appears to be what 'old timers' may well have done to their 'OI' Trusty.'

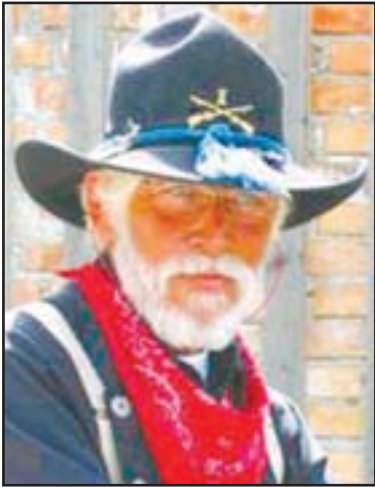
Those who select the WINCHESTER pump shotgun (or clones) generally get a trigger job done, as well as some internal polishing of the action. Even though the pump guns can hold more, only two rounds at a time are permitted in Cowboy Action Shooting™.

What is most evident at every Cowboy Action Shooting™ match is, whatever costume is worn, whatever revolvers are packed in whatever plain or fancy holster rig, whatever rifle and shotgun is carried, everyone's having a wonderful time. You won't find anyone who isn't obviously enjoying him or herself. Camaraderie is contagious, and the friendships formed seem to become lasting. Shooters share their equipment, their ammo, and their experience to help one another and are equally generous with a newcomer or a novice.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ is a wonderful game - a competition where everyone's a winner, not because of prizes won, but because participating in a delightful experience gives each one a treasure chest of valuable memories to take home. There's always the possibility, too, of making a new, lifelong friend.

* * *

(Originally published in
"Women & Guns" magazine)



Arizona Tom, SASS Life #30872

EUROPEAN COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ REACHES ONE MORE COUNTRY—SLOVENIA!

By Arizona Tom, SASS Life #30872

Photographs by Susanne Putsche

For those among us that are not too familiar with geographical conditions in “Old Europe,” Slovenia is located east of Italy, to the south of Hungary and Austria just north of the Mediterranean Sea. This part of Europe used to be the northernmost part of communist ruled Yugoslavia before that country was divided into several separate countries (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, and Monte-Negro) after the war ended here in 1990/91.

For the past two years Boro Licina, the proprietor of Pro-Guns, a gun-tuning store in the nation’s capitol city, Ljubljana, has been trying to get this fascinating sport legalized in his country. In 2003 Arizona Tom, Germany’s Cowboy Action Shooting™ TG, met with Boro at the International Gun Fair, IWA, in Nuremberg, Germany and offered his assistance in getting

“this good thing going” in yet another part of Europe. As usual, local authorities were not at all happy and/or eager to get more “idiots with guns” licensed in their jurisdiction. However, Boro is not only a certified gun dealer in his country, but is also an experienced IPSC competitor and organizer, so even though the process had to go step by painful step, it finally reached the point where Boro called Arizona Tom and invited him to join in the first Cowboy Action Shooting™ match ever to be held in Slovenia!

Boro and Tom also sent out the call to other surrounding countries, and on the memorable day, shooters from Croatia, Germany, Italy, and Austria showed up to join their new friends in Slovenia for a day of fun and enjoyment on the shooting range! Boro and his friends managed to set up five stages in the lanes of an ancient rock quarry they use as a shooting range. The cowboys and girls blasted away with everything they had to get into the “Spirit of the Game” that has already infected so many shooters all over the world.

Since this sport has just crossed over what used to be called “The Iron Curtain” of Cold War days (the elderly among us remember those days.) into a country that has not had any contact with this sport so far—there are not too many “cowboy shootin’ irons” available! But again, Boro is a gun dealer, and Arizona Tom has three complete sets of Cowboy Action Shooting™ guns he freely loans to folks just getting started. So blast away they did, with great fervor and enthusiasm.

At the end of the day, the winners happily received their certificates, and surprise, surprise, the winners were almost evenly divided among the nations gathered at the range.

Overall winner “Traditional” was Hellfried Otto from Austria, second winner Edgar Franjul from Croatia, third place going to Boro Licina from Slovenia, followed by Guenter Guetinger from Germany. The “First Lady” award went to Susanne Putsche from OWSS Italy. Arizona Tom did his best to “smoke ‘em out” by blazing away with his full house blackpowder loads and taking the lead in the “holy black” category while giving the photographers something to do ...

All is well as far as Cowboy Action Shooting™ is concerned in “Ol’ Europe” with the now quite impressive list of countries such as Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Austria, Hungary, The Czech Republic, Italy, Croatia, and now Slovenia actively participating in – and ENJOYING this fascinating pastime that first really got moving on the continent in 1999.

The Cowboy Action Shooting™ European Championship “Days of Truth 2007” will be sponsored by the renowned Italian gun manufacturer F.LLI Pietta, (Alessandro Pietta), and ARMI Sport, (Susanna & Rino Chiappa), and will take place in the latter part of August 2007 near Brescia, Italy!

It might be time to take a look at your favorite travel catalogue and think about Europe next year. What about me? I’ll be there! 🤠



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OUR EXTENDED FAMILY . . .

(Continued from page 30)

better way, or wanted to lend me guns and ammo to shoot than at this (monthly) match." He was, in short, "adopted" by the seasoned veterans as a hopeful new member of their community and treated as a welcomed newcomer. Needless to say, he is now hooked and can't spend his time and money fast enough to catch up with the rest of us. Now that he has attended four matches and bought his own guns and rig, he is ready for his first "away" match. When he experiences the campfires, communal meals, his first awards ceremony, and the breaking of camp, he will be initiated into the family of Cowboy Action Shooters.

My point is the people who offered him help, and many have (perhaps indicative of his skills), and didn't know or care what his profession was, what his real name was, or where he lived or whose son he is, offered to help because he was a new Cowboy Action Shooter and remembered the help they got at their first match when they were looking to join the family.

Tex Fiddler once commented,

"Cowboy Action Shooting goes way beyond the shooting." He is right. I look forward to monthly matches as well as annual matches not because I do so well (I don't), but because there is a "family" of people I care about and enjoy being with. If we look at Cowboy Action Shooting™ from a short distance, we see people who plan their vacations around annual matches, wear clothes that many ordinary citizens do not, engage in a safe and competitive, family friendly shooting sport, buy vehicles that support their hobby, spend time practicing and reloading, and frequently invest their time and energy in the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting™.

One often hears the expressions, "cowboy up" or "the cowboy way" or "spirit of the game." These words have special meaning for Cowboy Action Shooters; they define a lifestyle as well as a participative sport. These things contribute to camaraderie of same-minded individuals who to me are "my extended family."

RIP: Igo Heeled, Papa Joe, and Ken Stone. 🤠

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where you go, the action is fast, the targets are (usually) big, and our volunteer clubs are among the very best. There's a reason USPSA club shooters have long dominated the action pistol events, including Steel Challenge, IDPA, ICORE, and the Masters. — Come find out what our organization can do for you!

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Roy 'Sess' Poole, SASS #56545

SIGNIN' ON TO THE HEAVENLY SPREAD

By Roy 'Sess' Poole, SASS #56545

I wasn't quite sure how I fell in with this big posse. One moment, I'm makin' my way down the ol' 80 Road on my way to Cheyenne. I needed to get there early, 'cause a Regulator-friend of mine said he needed some help dragging the targets out to the stages. The next thing I know, I'm standing here with a bunch of fellers.

It looks like I'm in some sorta line. Most everyone is quiet, a few are talkin' though. The guy behind me is the talkative type.

"How'd ya git here," he asks. "Not quite sure," I answer. "I was pushin' those horses pretty hard, and it was gettin' pretty late. Maybe I fell asleep."

"Yeah," he continues, "and probably bounced off a big ol' rock!"

"But ya know," I say, "A lot of these fellers look familiar, 'though I ain't seen some of 'em in quite a spell."

"Yep, you might know some of them. We're all part of SASS, the Saints And Sinners Shootists."

"Well, I'll be! Is everyone in line to register for a big shootout?"

"Not exactly," my new friend explained. "You see, we're all in line to have a word with Marshal Pete. If'n he likes your answers, you might be able to pass through those big tall gates onto the Heavenly Spread.

There, you'll be working for the foreman, J.C."

"What sorta questions is he askin'?"

"Well, can't rightly say. I've never been here before. None of us have. You might say this is the real SASS Invitational."

The line moves slowly, and as we get closer to Marshal Pete, I notice not everyone is being offered a job on the Heavenly Spread. Most are. Those who aren't get invited to take a few steps away from the hitchin' post. But from where I'm standin', I can't seem to see where they're goin'.

Getting closer, a few are starting to hear some of Pete's questions, and whisper them to those behind. Eventually, one of the questions makes it to me.

He's askin', 'What kind of Shootist

are you?"

Well, that ought to be easy, I think to myself. I've been a Shootist for over half of my life, even started to compete in the silver-haired category. But, 'speed' and my alias are never used in the same sentence. And if you asked who had a clean stage, my alias also wouldn't get called out. Fact of the matter is, I'm only a fair-to-middlin' Shootist. Maybe I'm gonna have some trouble gettin' a job after all.'

I'm now standin' third in line before the Marshal. I can easily hear his questions of the nervous feller.

"Tell me again about what you did in SASS," says Pete.

"Well," says the cowboy proudly, "I was the state champ two years in a row. I placed 5th overall at the nation-

(Continued on next page)

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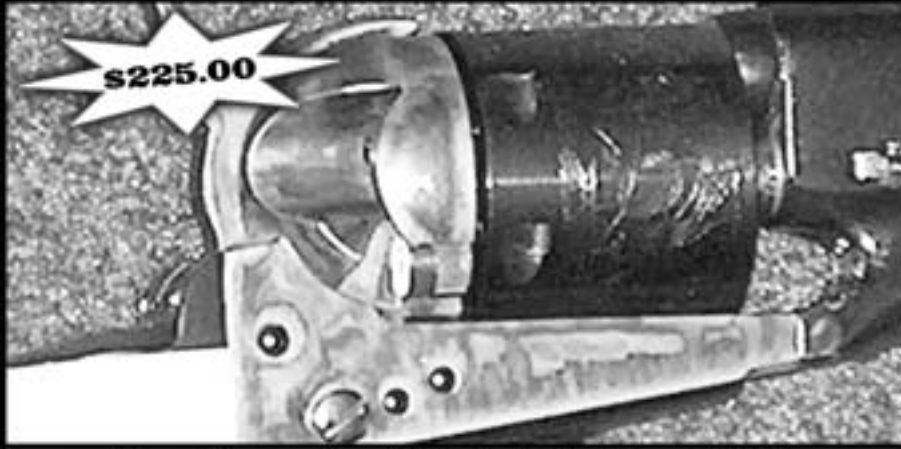
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Tornado Ali

(Continued from previous page)
al End of Line Camp.'

"I already know that!" says Pete, "I want to know what you DID."

"Well," he starts again. "I bought matchin' revolvers for \$1800 apiece, had 'em tuned for another \$500, and showed everyone how fast you could really complete the stages. There wasn't a soul who could come close to me."

"Let's try this another way," says a frustrated Pete. "What about the PEOPLE you knew while in SASS?"

"Um, the wife and I had a fallin' out after a couple of years. She always wanted to go, but complained all the time about sittin' around with 'nothin' to do. And then there were a couple of guys who could afford rigs like mine, we used to hang out after the shootin' was over. But not too often, 'cause they were always teachin' tenderfoots and ladies the basics."

"Thanks," says the Marshal, "I've got enough now. Why don't you follow that trail off to the side there?"

Looking confused, he started down a well-worn cattle trail. In an instant, the air just seemed to swallow him up. There wasn't even a boot print in the dust to say he'd ever been on the trail.

Now, it was the man in front of me who stood at the hitchin' post. Pete was once more smiling as he asked a question. "Understand you belong to SASS. Tell me about it."

"It's one of the greatest group of folks I've ever met," he began excitedly.

"Most everyone looks out for each other. Most everyone picks up a bit of the load. I liked being an RO, which means Range Officer, although on some days I think it really meant Rookie Observer." Marshal Pete smiled knowingly.

The cowboy continued with excitement, "Folks gave of their time and talents to set up the stages, or set up the dinner after. Why heck! I even saw folks loanin' guns or ammo to someone who needed a hand. Some of 'em made mistakes, but all of us together never let it get out of hand."

"Sounds like you had a good time," said the Marshal. Tell me what you liked best."

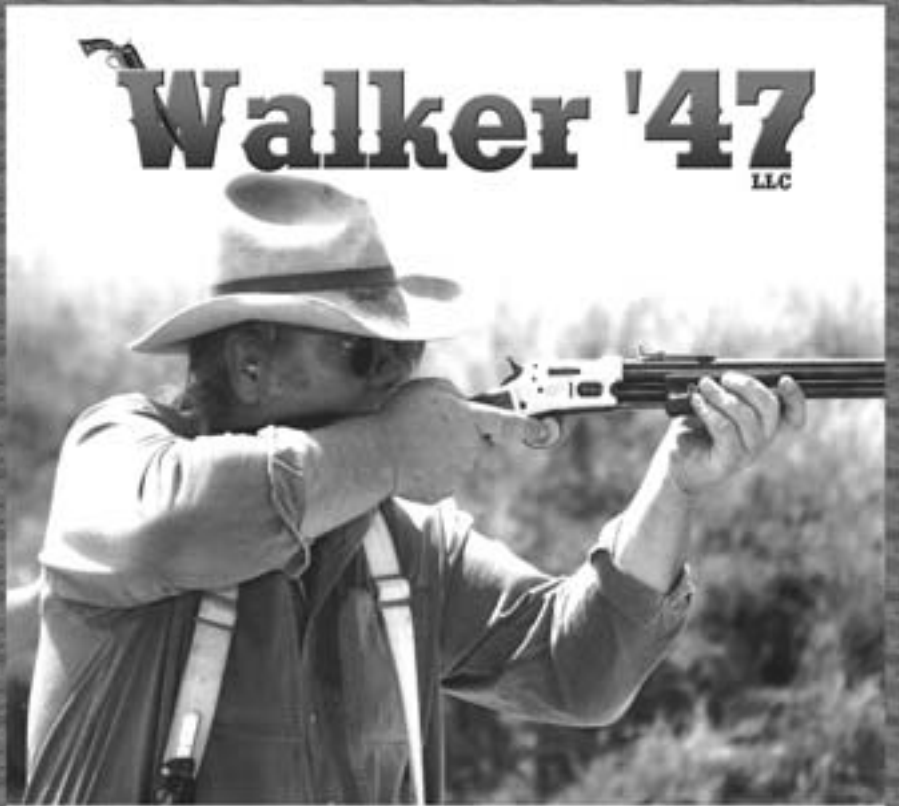
"To be honest, I never won much. But, and this probably sounds a bit silly, I really liked it when I could bring new folks into the game. I got a couple of my neighbors, my wife of 32 years, and even my son-in-law. Boy, new guns for the wife cost a bit, but I ain't never seen her happier."

"You know what," said Pete, "I think the foreman, J.C., would like to meet you. Head on up through the gates."

Pete was smiling broadly now, as I took my turn at the head of the line. "Which part of SASS did you find yourself interested in?" he asked.

Before answering, I smiled too, thinking about how much I liked doin' the same things the man ahead of me had talked about. ♪

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Holy Terror, SASS #15362

WOMEN, GUNS, AND GEAR TARGETS

By Holy Terror, SASS #15362

in the motel room for practice during the match.

Live fire practice has some very different target needs. When it comes to my personal live fire practice, I use three types of targets: paper targets, steel targets for rifle and revolver, and shotgun targets.

I have paper targets because they help me keep focused on the sights. I know if I hit the edge of a paper plate, then it was almost a miss. An edge hit on a steel plate is just a hit. For paper, I like to use regular paper plates with little orange dots attached. When shooting the dots live fire, I have to concentrate hard on the sights, which helps me remember to look at the sights when I am going fast. Shooting paper also helps me recognize if I am developing a jerk or some other prob-

lem I might not notice on steel.

The next set of targets important to my practice are the steel plates I use for rifle and revolver work. When buying steel targets, there are five things I look for: weight, height, number, size, and quality.

First, look at is the weight of the target. If your targets are big and heavy, then it will be difficult to move them around the range. Those of you who have to transport targets to and from the range certainly don't want heavy targets weighing down the back of your car. I like to have fairly small targets. They are easy to transport to the range and to move, so you can set up different scenarios easily.

Next, you don't want your targets to be all the same height. If they are all the same height, you will learn to

shoot on timing. If you vary the height of your targets, it will help you make sure you are on the target before you break the shot.

I think the perfect number of steel targets is two or three. I really like three because you are able to practice the common drills such as two-one-two, one-three-one, and the Nevada sweep. Three targets allow you a good compromise between enough targets to achieve a good practice and too many targets to move around the range.

When it comes to target sizes, you want to have a range of sizes. I personally like to have a 4", 6", and 8" target. This is much smaller than anything you normally see at matches. However, I find by training on the smaller targets, it makes the match targets seem easy.

(Continued on next page)

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to take the impact of a shotgun hit.

Second, make sure your target is safe to shoot with a shotgun. You want the target to be made of quality material so it won't break down and become pitted when you shoot at it.

Third, is your target a knockdown? Knockdown targets are used in most matches. They work great for finding out if you hit the target or not. However, in practice knockdowns can be a waste of time. A knockdown target has to be reset each time you shoot it, which eats up practice time. I use and recommend stationary targets because they are more convenient. However, you need to be responsible and make sure you are actually hitting the target.

The targets I personally use and recommend are manufactured by Action Targets. Specifically, I use the Evil Roy target. I like it because it is easy to set up and take down, it has different height settings, you can put different target heads on it, and it is small enough to fit in the back of my car. It is made of armor plate steel, and I can use it for rifle and revolver practice, as well as shotgun practice.

When you have a good set of practice targets, it gives you the means to practice to become a great shooter. Plus, who doesn't find pleasure in hearing that ding?

If you have any questions or comments about this article, or if you have an idea for an article for any and all types of shooters, please let me know at: holyterror15362@hotmail.com

(Continued from previous page)

Small targets can be a double-edged sword, however. They can teach you to be accurate, but because they are so small, they can also teach you to be slow. To combat this, I like to move really close sometimes. If you move close enough, even a small target can appear big. Every once in a while, I like to move in to about five yards and just blast away.

The last and most important consideration is the targets be of good quality. You want your targets to stand up to lots of shooting. Targets should be made of quality, durable steel that can take the beating with minimal damage. One thing I am very particular about on my own personal targets is ensuring there is nothing on the face of the target. Even a round bolt head or hole will throw splash back at you. I like to have a nice clean target face, so I don't get any bullet fragments coming back my way.

The last kind of target you want in your collection is some type of shotgun target. Depending on what type of targets you have, you can use your rifle/revolver targets for your shotgun as well. This works especially well for people who must carry their targets back and forth to the range or who can't afford a whole ton of targets.

When looking at shotgun targets there are three things to consider. First, will your target stand up to a shotgun hit? It is important your target not fall over. Many times a target designed for rifle/revolver won't be balanced enough

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*Pale Wolf Brunelle,
SASS Life #2495*

RANGE OFFICER ROUND UP WHAT'S THE CALL? Utilizing the SASS Wire

By Pale Wolf Brunelle, SASS Life #2495

the applicable rule(s) and reference the source documents.

When an interpretation of a "gray area" is called for, we will generally consult with the other members of the RO Committee via email to try to get a consensus before posting a reply.

We usually agree on most "common sense" applications and, as a rule, will always give a shooter the benefit of doubt (if any exists) when a "black & white" answer is not available.

One of the primary functions of the RO Committee is to make those determinations and interpretations based on the rules as written, and applying the actual **intent** of the rule if it is not clearly spelled out for

every conceivable circumstance.

One disconcerting observation I've noted is the number of RO's (including some Territorial Governors who are required to be RO-II certified) who are not up-to-date on the current versions of the rules. This is evident in some of the answers and opinions posted in response to some of the "what's the call?" threads.

A discussion based on outdated or obsolete information is counterproductive to getting a correct solution to the question.

Another occasional problem with "what's the call?" questions, particularly those originating from actual range incidents, is the lack of complete information in the initial post. An answer may be posted based on the details provided by the originator of the post (as s/he observed the incident), but then additional factors are introduced after the question has been answered that radically change the circumstances, thus modifying the correct call.

There have been some rather 'lively' exchanges when a shooter posts a "what's the call?" question and other posse members, including the timer operator and spotters, add additional details that seem to be quite the opposite of what others present recall happening.

When a Wire thread degenerates into an argument (or name-calling ... I personally consider the term "rule Nazi" extremely offensive), rather than a civil exchange of opinions (particularly in regard to what's considered "fair" whether the rules "as written" cover the situation being discussed or not), the Wire moderators have no choice but to edit or completely shut down the thread.

Posting as much relevant detail as possible and maintaining a polite conversation that stays "on topic" will help considerably in soliciting a response.

Keeping this in mind, the SASS Wire can be an excellent source of information and a means of generating clarifications to the rules as needed.

Some of the agenda items for Regional TG gatherings, the TG Summit, and RO Committee meet-

ings can trace their origins to "What's the call" inquiries on the SASS Wire.

Here are just a few examples of significant rule changes and/or clarifications that have been recently added to the rulebooks:

- The Gunfighter and **B-Western Categories** are the only categories that allow two **loaded** revolvers out of leather at the same time.
- When a stage calls for 10 revolver rounds in a single sequence or the use of only one revolver for the stage, the Gunfighter may draw both revolvers and engage the targets. The Gunfighter shall shoot the targets in exactly the same sequence as prescribed in the stage scenario.

Both revolvers may be cocked at the same time, but must be shot one at a time to facilitate scoring. **A Gunfighter may not holster revolvers with the intent to engage another revolver sequence.** All rounds must be expended prior to holstering unless the revolvers were drawn at the wrong time or a revolver/ammunition malfunction has occurred. **Stage design may allow a competitor shooting "Gunfighter Style" to stage or restage revolvers between target sequences.**

Inadvertently leaving unfired rounds in a revolver is a miss unless the round is under the hammer, then it is a Stage Disqualification.

If the stage scenario requires the use of another firearm between the revolver sequences or the shooter's hands are otherwise constrained (e.g., rolling the dice between revolver sequences), the revolvers must be drawn and shot one at a time **unless they are allowed to be staged rather than holstered.** **In this case, both revolvers may be employed at the same time for the first five rounds, safely restaged, and then employed at the same time again for the sec-**

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)
and five rounds.

(The intent here is to allow the Gunfighter the option of staging his revolvers between the two five-shot sequences, if it is safe to do so. He does not need specific permission in the stage description ... editor.)

SASS Shooters Handbook
(pages 19-20)

Revolvers are returned to leather (re-holstered) with hammer down on a spent case or empty chamber at the conclusion of the shooting string, unless the stage description specifically directs otherwise; e.g., "move to next position

and set gun on table or prop." A shooting string is defined as shots from one type of firearm prior to the next type of firearm engaged.

Revolvers not re-holstered with the hammer not all the way down on either an empty chamber or a spent case will result in a Stage Disqualification **unless corrected before using the next firearm.**

Range Operations Course
(pages 11-12)

Any discharge that hits the ground or stage prop less than five feet from the shooter, any discharge at the loading or unloading areas, or discharge

that is deemed unsafe will result in a Match Disqualification.

Any discharge that hits the ground or stage prop from five to ten feet from the shooter will result in a Stage Disqualification.

Note: Match directors have the latitude to place props so shooters must negotiate them. In doing so **Match Directors may declare props expendable or shootable without penalty.**

Range Operations Course
(page 13)

The Shooters Handbook, Range Operations (RO-I), and Range Officer Course (RO-II) links are accessi-

ble to all members on-line at the TOP of any of the forum pages and on the www.sassnet.com homepage.

The most recent version of the Shooters Handbook was also included in the July issue of The Cowboy Chronicle.

I highly recommend ALL shooters participating in Cowboy Action Shooting™ at clubs operating under "SASS rules" become familiar with those rules, either through the RO training program or, at the very least, by studying the available documents. ♪



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By Cree Vicar Dave,
SASS Life #49907
Territorial Governor, Michigan

THE "WHY" FACTOR

By Cree Vicar Dave, SASS Life #49907
TG Michigan

ty or state of being happy; 2. Good fortune; pleasure; contentment. 3. Aptness or felicity, as of expression." This explains what it is, but doesn't deal with the why. This WHY factor is the main reason for most of us being involved in Cowboy Action Shooting™.

According to articles obtained through Google, it seems our brains have been designed with a pre-frontal cortex kind of hard drive system that produces our mood direction. This is located directly behind the forehead. The right pre-frontal cortex directs negative moods or depression, while the left pre-frontal cortex activates positive moods or happiness. This hard drive system is programmed by the software package of your choice. In other words,

you are responsible for the type of feed you give your horse.

So what does all this mean to a 21st Century cowboy? I would estimate from first hand experience that over 90% of those participating in Cowboy Action Shooting™ fill to the brim their left frontal cortex, resulting in very large smiles on beaming faces known as a "Duchene Smile." Duchene was a 19th century head doctor who first noticed the difference between a polite smile that has no positive effect and a gully washer grin that wrinkles up the skin in toward the eyes. This genuine wrinkled face smile, turns out, activates the left frontal cortex, which in turn strengthens your positive outlook on life. Optimistic thoughts make sure of

a heapin' full left cortex that encourages you to do better, to climb out of the "I can't do it" wagon rut, and to program yourself to do the extraordinary. This tends to turn an introvert into an extrovert. Kind of like always riding high in the saddle with no fear of bushwhackers. All this can take place by positive thoughts, setting your sights high, and a healthy hearty laugh.

Proverbs 15:13 attests to the left side positive and right side negative dilemma. It says "A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit." As for me, I'm gonna stoke the ol' left side cortex with as much positive ammo as I can, and keep ginning ear to ear. The way I
(Continued on next page)

Recently I stumbled onto the cause of one of mankind's basic experiences, "HAPPINESS." There is an old adage "Happiness is something to do, something to hope for, and something to love." Webster defines happiness as "1. The quali-

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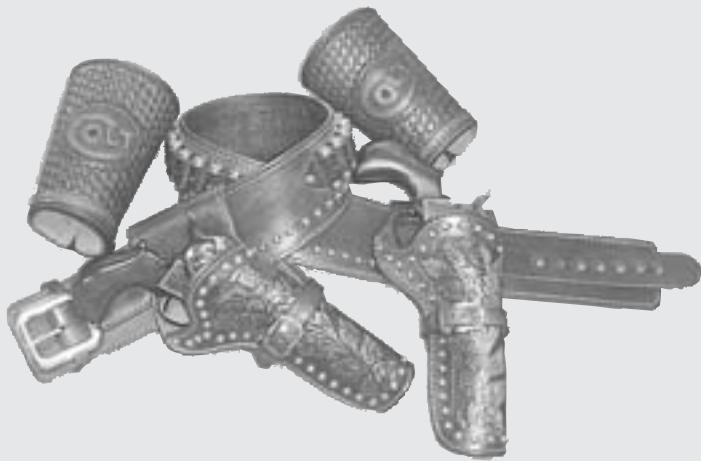
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THE "WHY" FACTOR . . .

(Continued from previous page)
intend to accomplish this is to keep
my faith in the Lord and be
involved with Cowboy Action
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The Vicar's Wife tells me she
can never tell how well I did on any
given stage because I always have
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I'm just stoking my left frontal cor-
tex. That's the WHY factor. That's
WHY I shoot Cowboy Action. *♪*

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(EXT. 118)



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Purdy Gear, SASS #33315

WHY DON'T THESE DARN THINGS FIT?

By Purdy Gear, SASS Life #33315

off the heel band and combines with the rowel (pointy, spiny thingies on end of shank) to tangle you up, toss you down stairs, and prompt impressive fandangos in attempts to keep your footing and prevent your compadres from laughing at you 'til civilization as we know it ends. Rowels come in many sizes and shapes. They can be outfitted with jingle-bobs (two little bell clappers that jingle against the rowel).

Depending on the type of spur, there may or may not be a chap guard protruding up off of the shank between the rowel and the heel band. This can be a curved talon-like device or a barrel-shaped one. There may also be a set of chains. In old times, these were extra long and dragged on the ground 'cause them ol' boys considered themselves *horsemen* not ground pounders. Chains nowadays



Heel bands, shank length and drop, and rowel size will all determine how your spurs fit and work for you.

Doggone! Britches and shirts shrink while in the closet, boots pinch or bite your tootsies, hats get pert near impossible to pry off after a quick, clean shoot and oh ... them spurs!

To understand spurs proper-like, ya hafta know their parts. First, there's the heel band, that pair of elongated thingies that pinch the sides of your heels. Then there's the shank. That part sticks backwards

are shorter and tend to pick up wads of bubblegum. (Very annoying.) Spur "c" is a style that has the loop for chains, but no chains.

Finally, there's the button. There are two of 'em, one on each side of the heel band near the front of the spur. These are the suspension mechanisms for the spur strap. Spur buttons come in two flavors, fixed and swing. The fixed ones are applied directly to the heel band, while the swing style has a hinge allowing greater movement and (supposedly) comfort ("c"). The fixed ones may be right on the heel band ("d") or on a slight upcurve of the heel band ("a" and "b").

Here's where the trouble starts: Most heel bands are made to fit a regular cowboy boot "counter." (That's that piece of leather that fits around the heel and ankle.) That's great if you have a cowboy boot with a regular-thickness counter and if you have regulation-sized feet. If you have larger-than-average hooves and/or boots made of extra-heavy leather, those regular-sized spurs are gonna be a misery. To fit properly, spurs have to be *slightly loose* in the heel band. Put short: *if they don't flop up and down on your heel easily, you'll be in a world of hurts by the end of the day.*

If your spurs are just a hair-tad tight on your heel, you can spread them ever-so-slightly with your bare hands. If that doesn't do the trick, don't go any farther. Your boots are either too heavy or your foot is too big. In this case, search for spurs that come

with bigger heel bands or look at custom spurs. The reason why bending doesn't work is that you aren't spreading the heel bands except at the ends. For heavy boots or big feet, the entire circumference of the heel band must be bent. Before you try this, understand that the application of heavy brute force on cast spurs can result in cracks and metal fatigue. You have a tad more leeway on forged spurs, but you must proceed with caution as it's easy to ruin silverwork or the gentle curve of the heel band if you get rambunctious. This is work best left to folks with serious metallurgical skills!

Another problem with re-bending heel bands is that they get shorter and some heel bands simply come short. (The old style charro or Chihuahua spurs have notoriously-short heel bands). If you take a look at spur "d," you'll notice the heel band is very short compared to the others. You'll also notice the buttons are on the heel band instead of on the upcurve as on "a" and "b." A short heel band or a combination of short heel band and the "in-line" buttons causes the spur strap to suddenly become too short for your foot. If you have spurs with short heel bands, make sure you're matched up with some spur straps long enough to work with your foot!

Another combination that causes grief is the spur doesn't seem to want to stay on your heel and droops and drags on the ground. The obvious solution is to tighten up on your spur
(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

leathers. The un-obvious one is that the spur strap might be the wrong shape for your foot and may be causing the spur to be incorrectly positioned. The heel band can also be too long for your foot and that will unbalance it. This was also a problem in days of yore and clever cowboys had clever solutions. The easiest was buying boots with a spur counter or spur ledge built into them. This is just a protrusion at the top of the heel where it meets the counter forming a little shelf for the heel band to rest on. Failing that, simply hammering a couple of small nails into the heel just below the counter provided a functional ledge. Inventive leather workers of the era also made detachable spur ledges that could be attached to the spur or spur strap. These were nice for narrow-footed punchers and also provided an extra layer of leather to keep the foot warmer in cold weather.

Next, consider the height of your boot heel with respect to the length and "drop" of your shank and the size of your rowel. The drop is the degree to which the shank is bent downward. This is determined by the length of your legs as well as the height of the ponies on your range. A long-legged puncher on a short horse would wear straight, long-shanked spurs or spurs with a slight upward curve. A short-legger on a tall horse would wear a severely-dropped shank spur so he

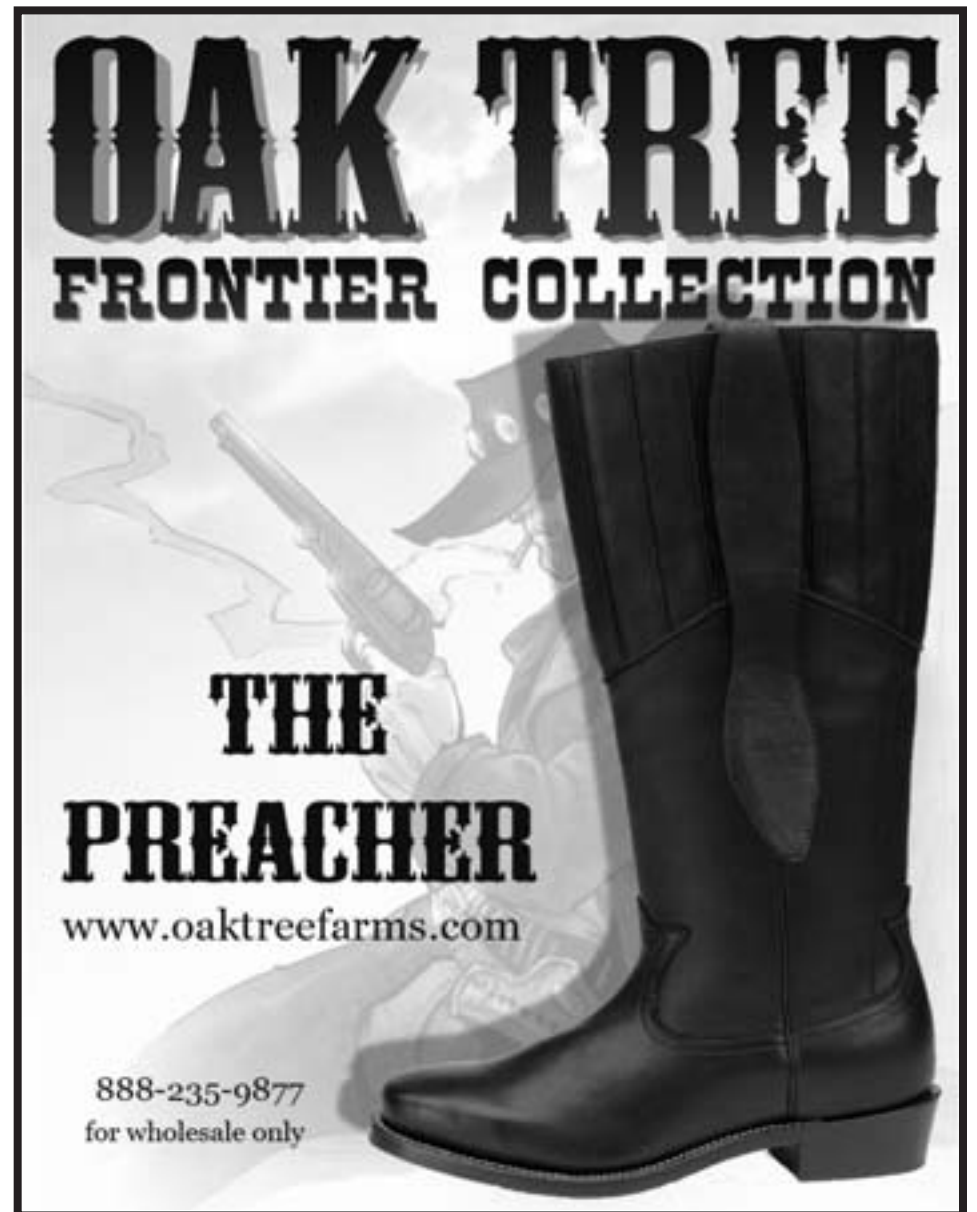
could tickle that pony's flanks in the spots that would do the most good.

For us walkin' & shootin' types, the considerations are somewhat modified. If you're wearing a boot with a high, riding-style heel, you'll be able to get away with having a lower drop on your shank as well as bigger rowels. You folks out there who sport walking heels or ropers ... don't even think about a big-rowel or a seriously-dropped shank. Go for shorter or straighter shanks and smaller rowels or you'll be kitin' into the dirt somewhere along the trail!

Incidentally, if your range has loads of gravel on it, you might also consider a spur with smaller rowels and straighter or shorter shanks. That way, if you lean toward fancy spurs, you won't be scuffing up the rowels near as much!

Compadres, I reckon you didn't think a simple thing like spurs could be that complicated. Don't forget—spurs are tools, and they have to fit and work with the wearer in order to be useful. I'll talk some more on the subject of spurs on down the trail. Meanwhile, if you have comments, suggestions, or crabbins', gimme a holler at 706-692-5536. I'm told my e-mail will be changing to purdygear@windstream.net in a while, but I don't know when, so if I don't get back to you pronto, try getting' through on the link on the website, www.purdygear.com.

Adios 'til next month! 🐾



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SASS INVADES LAS VEGAS . . .

(Continued from page 6)

and they compete in the costume contests in them. There are also literally thousands of military oriented re-enactors, who are not prevented from joining SASS and shooting Cowboy Action, but there is presently no attractive home for them within SASS. A Military Category was suggested in *The Cowboy Chronicle* a few months ago ... it's worthy of consideration ... and it might even prove to be a boost to

new SASS memberships.

The Gunfighter category continues to grow. Gunfighters are discovering this is an exciting, but challenging, category in which to shoot. Several folks have noted Seniors are the largest shooting category, and our Senior ranks are continuing to grow. Senior Gunfighter may now make sense, and is worthy of consideration.

Similarly, many Frontier Cartridge competitors have succumbed



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to the "dark side," and are asking for a Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter category. Whenever the numbers support the category, it should be considered for inclusion in major matches as well.

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WHO SAYS .45s CAN'T COMPETE WITH THE SMALL BORES?

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Introducing the first purpose built cartridge designed for use in Cowboy Action Shooting™.

By Adirondack Jack, SASS #53440

When I started shooting Cowboy Action three years ago, like many shooters, I already had one .45 Colt revolver, a Ruger Blackhawk, and soon bought a brace of Vaqueros. Following the familiar course, I ran what I thought were plinker loads, 800 fps 250s, that seemed mild compared to the heavy hunting loads I was used to. After a few monthly shoots, I began to realize mine were about the hottest loads anybody was shooting, prompting pards to comment I didn't need to "kill the steel."

Watching others shoot, it became clear if I was EVER going to get off the bottom of the score sheet, I needed to lighten up the loads some. My idea of light was a 250 at 730 fps, which seemed light enough, shot to POA, and I was content with my "warthog" loads. Then I began shooting Frontier Cartridge using 777 FFG, and I soon discovered a full case of 777 was a HOT load for Cowboy Action Shooting™, far hotter than my original smokeless loads. They recoiled considerably and slowed down my shooting.

I'd just invested in a progressive reloading machine, so I didn't want to use fillers, and wads cost money, (not that I wasn't spending enough loading .45 Colt and 12 gauge with 777), so I thought, "why not just cut the cases down?" I chopped off some .45 Colt brass to ACP length, and lo and behold, the fine Hodgdon 777 ran a sweet 730 or so FPS, just like my smokeless loads in .45 Colt. No fillers, no wads, progressive loading, about 40% less powder, not too shabby.

In all honesty, the cut down cases were only fair. Straight-walled cases are tapered on the inside, so when cut back as much as I did, they end up too thick for a proper case mouth, run rough in the press, and squeeze bullets excessively. Nevertheless, the savings in



Shown here are two cutaway cartridges to help illustrate the change in case capacity. On the left is a .45 Colt with a 200 RNFP bullet and in the middle is the Cowboy .45 Special with a prototype "EPP UG .45-147 boolit" named by Dick Dastardly for it's original creator, El Paso Pete (deceased SASS member). Dick has the molds on order. On the right is a round loaded with the EPP UG .45-147 bullet.

powder and the much lighter recoil made it worthwhile enough that I ran the cut down cases in my pistols for a year with good results.

Pards commented making the cases was a lot of work, (it was) and they did look funny when loaded, as the bullets bulged the brass (they did). The real answer, I knew, was appropriately drawn cases adhering to .45 Colt dimensions in every respect, except made shorter with the unwanted middle of the case removed, and a case mouth of the correct thickness preserved. After a heart to heart with my faithful wife, I got in touch with Starline Brass, and they agreed to produce a run of "custom brass" to the specs needed. They further told me they would not catalog or market the brass. That would be up to me to accomplish.

Then the man from Starline asked something I was totally unprepared for. "What are you

going to name the cartridge?" I was at a loss, and yet knew this was a moment that doesn't come around



Case head of the new brass.

often in life, and in truth, doesn't come around often in the world of revolver cartridges. Unlike a new cartridge designed to work in a new gun, this was a round meant for use in any .45 Colt revolver, without any modification to the guns.

What to name a unique round, with a unique purpose, to make the old .45 Colt, a 130 year-old black-powder military cartridge, suitable for use at target load levels in the guns Cowboy Action Shooting™ was built around, the SAA and clones, and the Ruger revolvers? After kicking it around a while, consulting pards on the wire, many of whom suggested I use some acronym involving my alias, and so forth, I decided to honor Cowboy Action Shooting™, the reason for

(Continued on page 62)



These are the firearms used in the development of the new rounds after a hard day's shooting with Hodgdon 777. The revolver is a Ruger Vaquero, and the rifle is the first Marlin 1894 Cowboy .45 Special conversion done by Spur. Shown as well are the prototype rounds.



THE LAST WORD ON BLOW UPS

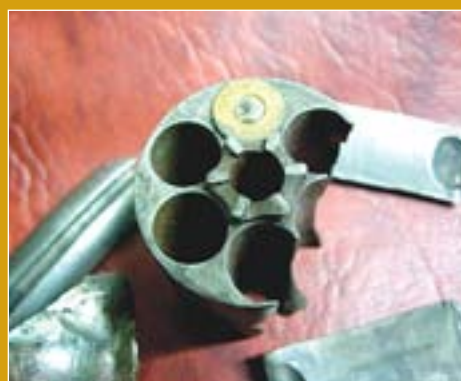
By J. P. Lower, SASS #18563

Hondo Smokin'up presented a valid but terribly overlooked problem in the September 2006 *Cowboy Chronicle*. Even though our editor, Tex, made light of his suggestion and theory, in his defense, he probably had very little information to work with regarding it. As a gunsmith who has worked exclusively with original Colt single actions for 25 years, what I have to offer should be credible to anyone who embraces safety and open minded thinking.

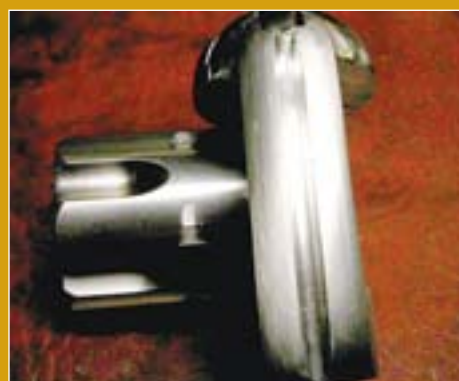
Although I cite many modern guns here that have blown up, I caution everyone not to use smokeless powder in Colts made before 1898. Those I have examined after a failure or near failure generally start to show pressure signs right at the cylinder notch if they have been fired out of time with smokeless powder. You can see a little dimple starting to push out into the notch as you look down a chamber. My first blackpowder Colt, an old workhorse that was shipped in 1878 to J. P. Lower in Denver has such a dimple, and that chamber is expanded. It wouldn't take much to burst it, so check all your antiques before shooting with black or smokeless powder.

To begin, I am in partial agreement with those who have investigated the phenomena of light powder charges and all the associated problems. In theory, the flash over from one end of the charge to the other may cause a pressure spike inside the chamber (while the bullet is still held by friction in the case) that exceeds the yield point of the steel from which it is made. Keep this in mind as we advance here, and remember, the bullet is the "plug" in the "pipe bomb" we are examining. Over charging, therefore, is a big no-no as well.

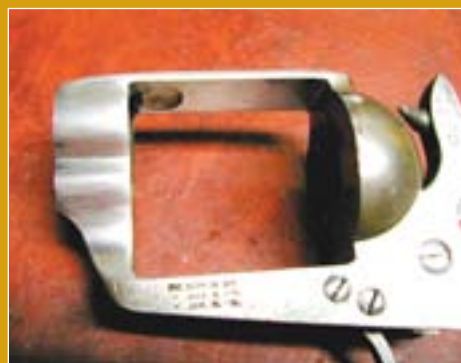
If we equate this with Hondo's idea, it becomes obvious any significant obstruction of the bullet could lead to catastrophic detonation in a cylinder or barrel. What difference is there if the bullet is stuck in the chamber behind a light charge or blocked from entering the barrel with a standard charge? As the detonation takes place in milliseconds, either scenario will produce the same result. I'm sure many of you have seen split barrels caused by bullets lodged halfway down a bore that had a second round pumped in



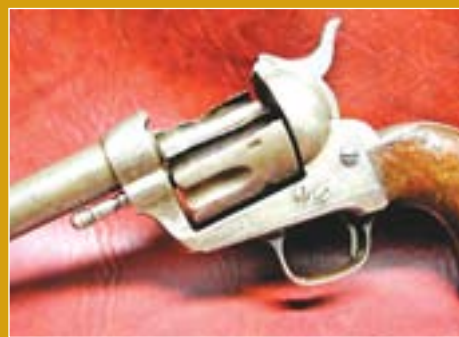
Rear of 1879 Colt cylinder with edge fired primer.



Top of the repaired strap of the 1879 gun.



Shot of the repaired strap on the 1879 gun.



Fine old 1879 .45 that had a light trigger spring. Note the bright spot on the edge of the notch, possibly from a throw by.

behind them. At the very least, the barrel will bulge while the gas exits around the barrel/cylinder gap, but the cylinder is usually intact.

Ok, you're all thinking, I've heard all this before, so what? Well Pard, the so what is what you have been doing to your guns to improve your scores. These "improvements" have graced my bench ever since I started working on single actions, and a great many of them can bite the hand that needs them. When they contribute to a blown frame and cylinder, we need to ask ourselves if they are improvements or liabilities.

No less than 50 blown frames have been repaired in my shop, and each and every one had a common denominator: the presence of lightened, non standard springs or damaged springs in the action. These blown up Colts were a mix of pre and post-1898 first generations, second generations, and new third and fourth generation guns. By far, the majority were post 1898 and third generation Colts. In every case but one, the strap was completely blown away along with the top half of the cylinder. Sometimes the blown cases

were still lodged in the chambers, with their primer witness marks present, but the offending cartridge was always missing, blown to pieces with the rest of the parts. The barrels NEVER showed any damage whatsoever, even when the threads in the frame were stretched up and out in the direction of the blast. However, they ALWAYS exhibited a large amount of leading on one side of the forcing cone, enough to create an oval bore opening. This observation initially got my attention, and a close inspection of the damaged parts revealed some consistent facts.

On the three or more remaining cylinder notches, each typically had a bright rub or wear mark on the edge opposite the lead in groove, an obvious sign of "throw by." This occurs when the bolt head cannot engage the notch at the right angle or misses it entirely because the rotation of the cylinder is faster than the speed of lockup. The cause? Light trigger/bolt springs or improper, altered shaping of the bolt head.

10 years ago, I sold a beautiful .45 single action made in 1903 to a fellow collector and shooter. I had

used this gun in fast cowboy matches and general plinking for five years without a hitch. It was basically a gray gun with some original blue left and a great set of grips. The locking notches on the cylinder were somewhat worn, but they locked up fine with the factory standard bolt and springs that had been installed correctly. I happen to like shooting normal factory weight springs; it's more challenging. My friend took the piece home and promptly sent it to a race gun shop. A month later he called to say the gun had blow up on his fifth shot at his first match, and he asked me to repair it. When I received the Colt and examined the parts, I found a piano wire type trigger/bolt spring, and a bolt head that had been hollowed out for some unknown reason. Removing what remained of the cylinder, I was shocked to discover that the bolt head could be pushed down into the frame with the lightest of pressure, just like the computer keys I'm now typing upon. That trigger spring had no business in that gun, and whoever put it there only had one thing in mind—making a buck, or maybe three.

I took out the spring and installed it in one of my better Colts, and then worked the action as fast and as hard as I could, just like in competition. Four out of six were throw bys, and they repeated over and over again. I changed bolts with a standard factory bolt and the throw bys continued. It was clear to me this spring was the culprit, but what about that hollowed out bolt? I later learned from my friend the person hollowing out the bolt thought the alteration created two surfaces with which to "catch" the notch instead of just one plain surface that could hop out of the notch. Hmmm, maybe they knew ahead of time that something wasn't right? In reality, the hollowing did absolutely nothing to improve lockup. In fact, it weakened the bolt head, for now the thinner cross section could actually bend under constant battering and reduce the critical dimensions of the bolt.

Testing the possibilities further, I primed several cartridge cases and put them in the gun, firing as fast as I could. Each time the cylinder would throw itself out of alignment.

(Continued on page 60)

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NEW DECEMBER 7 - 10, 2006

SASS Indoor World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™

The SASS Indoor World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™ is a three-day, nine stage shooting competition to be held during the 5th Annual SASS Convention and Wild West Christmas. Competitors will shoot provided firearms and wax bullets at steel targets in a variety of Cowboy Action Shooting™ scenarios. Competitors will be assigned to posses that will shoot in one of three shifts beginning on Thursday, December 7, early morning, late morning or afternoon. Shifts are broken down in to Red, White and Blue cycles and each competitor will shoot three consecutive stages per day, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Awards will be presented on Sunday at the Convention Hall Stage.

The SASS Convention

The 5th Annual SASS Convention and Wild West Christmas returns to the Riviera Hotel and Convention Center in Las Vegas, December 7-10, 2006. Presented by the Single Action Shooting Society whose 75,000 members have created a cottage industry based on the American Old West lifestyle, the SASS Convention brings together all that is Old West Cowboy and is presented to showcase the products, events and related industries pertaining to this icon of American Western Culture that is SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting.



Convention & Exhibitors

Liken it to a mini Shot Show. It's a convention with exhibitors in a fifty-thousand square foot convention hall teeming with aficionados of the sport and lifestyle. There you will find manufacturers and their products on display. Vendors of everything that is Cowboy Action Shooting and Old West are open for business and clubs from around the country and around the world have displays touting their activities and annual matches for the following year.

Seminars & Entertainment

In addition to the exhibition hall, the convention provides a daily schedule of educational seminars, guest speakers and entertainment. Seminars are conducted by experts in the various areas of the sport and many of the most recognized competitors in the game. From gunsmiths to leather makers and reloading professionals to clothing designers, the SASS Convention has it all.



Social Events

The social calendar of the Convention has set standards in the world of SASS. Starting on Wednesday evening, special receptions and functions are planned in the SASS Hospitality Sky Box. Each night a no-host bar is provided and special guests are invited to mix, perform and say a few words. SASS members and Convention Exhibitors are invited to gather for cocktails and hors-d'oeuvres. The private reception rooms overlook the convention floor and provide a perfect place for members and exhibitors to mingle after the convention hall closes for the evening.



Classic Cowboy Saloon Dance

The Thursday night Classic Cowboy Barn Dance adds a rousing yet casual opportunity for Cowboys and girls to cut loose and dance, mingle and socialize with the best dressed B-Western and Classic Cowboys in the country.

Wear your Woolies and strut yer stuff as Syd Masters and the Swing Riders whip up traditional Cowboy swing music.

SASS Scarlet Ball

The Scarlet Ball is the SASS social event of the year. The theme for this year is Scarlet and Conventioneers are encouraged to take on a new persona in the spirit of Scarlet Balls of the Old West and Victorian era. The Ball takes place on Saturday evening in the Grande Ball Room.

The evening begins with a cocktail reception in the Grande. This is a formal event and perfect time to break out your finest clothing and accouterments.



Costume Contest & Wooly Awards

Judging for the formal Costume Contest takes place prior to the cocktail reception and the winners are presented later that evening at the Ball. The evening includes a complete dinner, no-host bar and a photo gallery to get your picture taken. Victorian dancing highlights the evening and the annual Best of The Year Wooly Awards for Club, Territorial Governor, Annual Match, New Product, Merchant and Media (TV or Movie) are presented.

SASS Business

The convention is also the place where official SASS business takes place. The Territorial Governor Summit will occupy several of the meeting rooms that are part of the Convention Center. SASS also conducts meeting with directors from the SASS Regionals and State Championships to further enhance SASS national shooting program.



Visit the SASS Web Site at www.sassnet.com or call Toll-Free: 1-877-411-SASS



Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6, 2006

SASS Conventioneer Registration
Riviera Hotel West Registration Desk 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Check in. Pick up your credentials and gather any schedule updates and information.

SASS Hospitality Warmer
SASS Sky Box Suite 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
A private hospitality warmer to meet and greet good pals over cold drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Open only to Conventioneers. No host bar.

THURSDAY, DEC. 7, 2006

SASS Conventioneer Registration
Riviera Hotel West Registration Desk 8:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Check in. Pick up your credentials and gather any schedule updates and information.

SASS Convention Open
Riviera Hotel Convention Center
Royale Pavilion 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SASS Indoor World Championship - RED CYCLE
Capri Range 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

SASS Territorial Governors Summit
Top of The Riv 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Seminar Tracks 1000 Series
Capri Rooms 101 - 113 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SASS Indoor World Championship - WHITE CYCLE
Capri Range 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Victorian Dance Lessons with Miss Tabitha
Grande Ball Room 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

SASS Indoor World Championship - BLUE CYCLE
Capri Range 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

SASS Territorial Governor Reception
SASS Governors Suite #6407 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Territorial Governors & Guests Only

SASS Life Members Reception
Top of The Riv Ballroom 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
SASS Life Members are invited to a private reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Spouses are welcome. Stay for the Classic Cowboy Saloon Dance immediately following the reception.

Classic Cowboy Saloon Dance
Top of The Riv Ballroom 7:30 - 11:30 p.m.
Come in your finest Classic Cowboy attire, chaps, spurs and all for a Saloon Dance in Classic Tradition!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2006

SASS Conventioneer Registration
Riviera Hotel West Registration Desk 8:00am-5:00pm
Check in. Pick up your credentials and gather any schedule updates and information.

SASS Convention Open
Riviera Hotel Convention Center
Royale Pavilion 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SASS Indoor World Championship - RED CYCLE
Capri Range 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

SASS Territorial Governors Summit
Top of The Riv 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Seminar Tracks 2000 Series
Capri Rooms 101 - 113 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SASS Indoor World Championship - WHITE CYCLE
Capri Range 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
Grande Ball Room 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Victorian Dance Lessons with Miss Tabitha
Grande Ball Room 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

SASS Indoor World Championship - BLUE CYCLE
Capri Range 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 9, 2006

SASS Conventioneer Registration
Riviera Hotel West Registration Desk 8:00am-5:00pm
Check in. Pick up your credentials and gather any schedule updates and information.

SASS Convention Open
Riviera Hotel Convention Center
Royale Pavilion 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SASS Indoor World Championship - RED CYCLE
Capri Range 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

SASS Territorial Governors Summit
Top of The Riv 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Seminar Tracks 3000 Series
Capri Rooms 101 - 113 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

SASS Indoor World Championship - WHITE CYCLE
Capri Range 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Miss Tabitha's Fashion Show
Royale Pavilion Stage 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Life Member, Renewal, & Referral Firearms Drawings
Royale Pavilion Stage 1:00 p.m.

SASS Indoor World Championship - BLUE CYCLE
Capri Range 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Costume Contest Preliminary Judging
Top of The Riv Ballroom 5:00 p.m.
Participants must pre-register by 12 Noon on Saturday.
Walk-ups will not be considered.

SASS Cocktail Reception
Grande Ballroom 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Cocktails, piano music and conversation before the ball.

SASS SCARLET BALL
Grande Ballroom 6:30 p.m.
The SASS Social Event of the Year includes dinner, dancing, and special guests. Wear your finest and be ready to dance!

Wooly Awards Ceremony
Costume Contest Awards

SUNDAY, DEC. 10, 2006

SASS Convention Open
Riviera Hotel Convention Center
Royale Pavilion 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Cowboy Church
(Non-Denominational) 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

SASS Territorial Governors Summit
Capri Rooms 10:00 a.m. - Noon

SASS Indoor World Championship Awards Ceremony
Convention Stage 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Convention Closed. See Ya Next Year!



2006 SASS CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM ★ SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

- 1 • Your Conventioneer entry includes one free \$10 seminar for each day. You must be a SASS Member and a Conventioneer to attend Seminars.
- 2 • Enter "F" for your Free Seminars - one for each day - Thursday, Friday & Saturday. Free seminars do not include Indoor World Championship or RO II Courses.
- 3 • Enter "X" for all additional seminars, either Main or Spouse.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2006

Main/Spouse 9:00am - 10:30am - RED CYCLE

RED Indoor Championship Red (8:30-10:30 - MUST register for all three days)\$90
Mandatory Shooter Safety Meeting at 8:00a.m.

1000 Dismantling the Ruger Vaquero with West Fargo.....\$10

1001 Make the Most of Your Victorian Wardrobe with Pretty Mean Shawme...\$10

1002 Black Powder for Dummies with Capt. George Baylor.....\$10

1003 Flat Pattern Draft Part I with Cactus Concha.....\$10

1004 All Sources are Not Created Equal with Rangy Lil.....\$10

1005 SASS RO I: 9:00 - 12:00.....\$10

11:00am - 12:30pm - WHITE CYCLE

WHITE Indoor Championship White (10:30-12:30 - MUST register for all three days)\$90
Mandatory Shooter Safety Meeting at 10:00a.m.

1010 Making Felt Hats with L.J. Sawtooth Hatter.....\$10

1011 Making Fancy Bonnets with Hurricane with-one-r.....\$10

1012 Hunting Cowboy Style with Billy Boots.....\$10

1013 Flat Pattern Draft Part II with Cactus Concha.....\$10

1014 Mounted Shooting 101 with Johnnie Concho.....\$10

1:30pm - 3:00pm - BLUE CYCLE

BLUE Indoor Championship Blue (1:30-3:30 TGs ONLY - MUST register for all 3 days)\$90
Mandatory Shooter Safety Meeting at 1:00p.m.

1020 Shooting Accuracy with Holy Terror.....\$10

1021 Rhinestones & Fringes with Hurricane with-one-r.....\$10

1022 Gun Care & Maintenance with Jim Bowie.....\$10

1023 The Traditional Costume Contest with Cat Ballou.....\$10

1024 Gunleather and Holster Construction with Brazos Jack McCain.....\$10

1025 SASS MRO I: 1:30 - 4:30pm.....\$10

3:30pm - 5:00pm

1030 SASS Premier Scoring & Match Management with Ce Dee Tom.....\$10

1031 Ladies Shooting Techniques with Dixie Bell.....\$10

1032 Costuming for the Beginner or Non-Sewer with Autumn Rose.....\$10

1033 Evil Roy Shooting Techniques with Evil Roy.....\$10

1034 Selecting Steel Targets with Spent Bullet.....\$10

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2006

Main/Spouse 9:00am - 10:30am - RED CYCLE

RED Indoor Championship Red (8:30-10:30)\$90

2000 Dismantling the 1897 Shotgun with Jim Bowie.....\$10

2001 Advanced Victorian Hat Making with Hurricane with-one-r.....\$10

2002 Evil Roy Guns & Gear with Evil Roy.....\$10

2003 Shooting Accuracy with Holly Terror.....\$10

2004 The Myth of "The Gun That Won The West" with David Kennedy.....\$10

2005 Make the Most of Your Victorian Wardrobe with Pretty Mean Shawme...\$10

2006 SASS RO I: 9:00 - 12:00pm.....\$10

11:00am - 12:30pm - WHITE CYCLE

WHITE Indoor Championship White (10:30-12:30)\$90

2010 SASS Premier Scoring & Match Management Ce Dee Tom.....\$10

2011 Authentic Men's Shooting Costumes Capt. George Baylor.....\$10

2012 Costuming for the Beginner or Non-Sewer with Autumn Rose.....\$10

2013 Dismantling the Ruger Vaquero with West Fargo.....\$10

2014 Shooting Buffalo Guns.....\$10

2015 Ladies, Where Do I Begin - Victorian & Old West Clothing with Boulder Blossom.....\$10

2:30pm - 4:00pm - BLUE CYCLE

BLUE Indoor Championship Blue (1:30-3:30 TGs ONLY)\$90

2020 Black Powder for Dummies with Capt. George Baylor.....\$10

2021 Knowing Which Category to Wear What! with Hurricane with-one-r....\$10

2022 Flat Pattern Draft Part I with Cactus Concha.....\$10

2023 The Successful Cowboy Action Shooting Club with Chuckaroo.....\$10

2024 Costuming for the Experienced Sewer with Autumn Rose.....\$10

2025 The Rise and Fall of Sleeve with Rangy Lil.....\$10

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2006

Main/Spouse 9:00am - 10:30am - RED CYCLE

RED Indoor Championship Red (8:30-10:30)\$90

3000 Dismantling Lever Guns with Jim Bowie.....\$10

3001 Ladies, Where Do I Begin - Victorian & Old West Clothing with Boulder Blossom.....\$10

3002 Costuming for the Experienced Sewer with Autumn Rose.....\$10

3003 Making Felt Hats with L.J. Sawtooth Hatter.....\$10

3004 The Rise and Fall of Sleeve with Rangy Lil.....\$10

3005 Gunleather and Holster Construction with Brazos Jack McCain.....\$10

11:00am - 12:30pm - WHITE CYCLE

WHITE Indoor Championship White (10:30-12:30)\$90

3010 Frontier Cartridge with Rowdy Yates.....\$10

3011 Authentic Men's Shooting Costumes with Capt. George Baylor.....\$10

3012 Mounted Shooting 101 with Johnnie Concho.....\$10

3013 The Myth of "The Gun That Won The West" with David Kennedy.....\$10

3014 Flat Pattern Draft Part II with Cactus Concha.....\$10

3015 Selecting Steel Targets with Spent Bullet.....\$10

1:30pm - 3:00pm - BLUE CYCLE

BLUE Indoor Championship Blue (1:30-3:30 TGs ONLY)\$90

3020 Evil Roy Shooting Techniques with Evil Roy.....\$10

3021 Winning with Black Powder with Billy Boots & Cole Younger.....\$10

3022 Advanced Stage Writing with Chuckaroo.....\$10

3023 Shooting Accuracy with Holy Terror.....\$10

3024 Ladies Shooting Technique with Dixie Bell.....\$10

3026 SASS RO II 1:30 - 4:30pm.....\$25

3027 SASS MRO II 1:30 - 4:30pm.....\$25

Indoor World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting
MUST BE A REGISTERED CONVENTIONEER TO ENTER

Entry Fee includes all ammunition and firearms. DO NOT BRING YOUR OWN GUNS, LEATHER OR AMMO. Limited to the first 150 shooters. You must be a registered SASS Convention Conventioneer to participate in the SASS Indoor World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting. Match open to smokeless non-modern shooting categories only. You must pick your shooting slot, either early morning all three days or late morning all three days. Territorial Governors must shoot afternoon all three days. Slot switching or combining is not permitted.

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 "B" Western Ladies "B" Western

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Name: _____ Phone: _____

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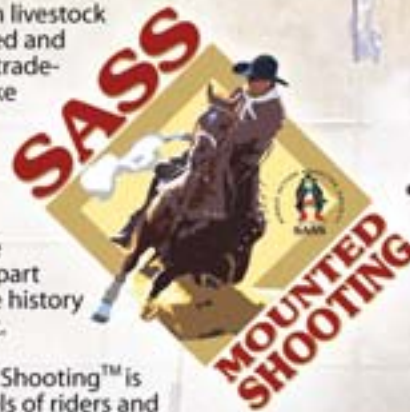
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SASS MOUNTED SHOOTING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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 #2 _____ #3 _____
 Male or Female Date of Birth: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
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 Telephone: () _____ E-Mail: _____
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I understand that I am participating in a sport, which contains dangers, and risks may arise, including but not limited to, accidental injury, the forces of nature and illness. In consideration of the right to participate in these events and the services provided for me by the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) and its agents, I have and do hereby assume the risks associated with such events. The contestant and/or SASS member shall at his own expense, defend management and/or all sponsors, their cardholders, or employees from any and all such claims and indemnify, from any and all liability, damage and costs arising from injuries to person or property occasioned by any act or omission of the contestant/member. By joining SASS, I am agreeing that images of my horse, equipment and myself may be photographed, videoed or recorded in any way and re-used without my permission and without compensation.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY®
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THE 2006 SASS NORTHWEST MOUNTED REGIONAL

Lots of Hard Ridin', Fast Shootin', and Havin' Fun!

By Eliza Mae, SASS #66037

Photos by Ken Taylor, Bunkhouse Studio, Prineville, OR

Millican, Oregon – The sun bore down on the horses, and they thirsted for the cool waters of the spring rains. They were in the high deserts of Central Oregon; yet, they still remained steady and faith-

ful to their riders. Hot and thirsty cowboys could empathize with their mounts. When possible they dismounted and walked, once the running and shooting subsided. The dust boiled, balloons died, but

Mounted Shooters prevailed.

The third annual SASS Northwest Mounted Regional match held on Horseridge in Millican, Oregon was full of hard riding, fast shoot-

(Continued on next page)

Northwest Regional Mounted Winners:

Overall Mens	Bullwhip Bub, SASS #66036
Ladies	Eliza Mae, SASS #66037
Divisions	
<i>Division 1</i>	Chick Magnet, SASS #70979
<i>Division 2</i>	Bullwhip Bub, SASS #66036
<i>Division 3</i>	Seemore Dust, SASS #45987
<i>Senior</i>	Tumbleweed Mann, SASS #71099
<i>Wrangler</i>	Oregon Rattler, SASS #63144
<i>Junior</i>	Tyler Gamble, SASS #70980
<i>L Division 1</i>	Hangin Hannah, SASS #71159
<i>L Division 2</i>	Eliza Mae
<i>L Division 3</i>	Princess Pay Pay, SASS #50184,
<i>L Senior</i>	Prairie Sunshine, SASS #42323
<i>Sharp Shooters</i>	Chick Magnet, Tyler Gamble, and Calamity Cassie, SASS #62512





FIRST EVER MOUNTED SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN UNITED KINGDOM

By Shotsie Sadie, SASS #7437; Arizona Dave, SASS #1283; and Auntie Lee, SASS #17261

Middlesborough, England—Badas Bob, SASS #3814, is crowned United Kingdom's Champion Mounted Shooter in the first Mounted Shooting event to hit the UK ever! Badas Bob of Elwick, England beat out Sonoita, Arizona, USA, Arizona Dave by one second! "If I hadn't missed that one balloon, I could have won England!" says Arizona Dave returning from an exciting adventure with his wife, Shotsie Sadie.

After visiting the USA several times from England, taking Mounted Shooting lessons from Outlaw Annie, and participating in many SASS, MSA, CMSA, and ACMSA Mounted Shooting matches in the USA, Badas Bob and Josie Blaze, SASS #4786, put on the first United Kingdom Championship match at their Woodview Ranch in Elwick, just outside of Middlesborough, England. They recently purchased their ranch and have done a great job remodeling and renovating. They have added an arena, an outdoor shooting range, and what they call the CQB house (Close Quarter Battle—for training) and have various events going on at their ranch, a beautiful area surrounded by lush green English countryside.

The Mounted Shooting Championship match was held in their arena. Arizona Dave and Shotsie



Division Winners (l-r): Morg, SASS #4785; Shotsie Sadie, SASS #7434; Blaze, SASS #4786; Badas Bob, SASS #3814; and Arizona Dave, SASS #1283. Shotsie Sadie and Arizona Dave were visiting from Arizona. Badas Bob was Overall Winner and Arizona Dave was the Reserve Champion.

Sadie attended by special invitation. The match was followed by a catered house/ranch warming with the spectators all dressing "the American theme." "Some dressed like cowboys, others like Elvis," says Arizona Dave. They had a pretty good country western band, too. All had a great time and many of the specta-

tors want to see more Mounted Shooting in the UK. Badas Bob and Blaze have put on Mounted Shooting demonstrations, stirring even more interest in the sport.

"They have some pretty fine horses over there," Arizona Dave commented. "They ride the same patterns and the same rules as we do in the US, but because of the restrictions in their country, they have to use a special blank gun in .45LC or a soft air pellet gun that looks just like a Colt. The match was a great success. Many spectators expressed an interest in getting clubs started. The western lifestyle and cowboy mentality is very much appreciated over there.

We take for granted our wonderful life here with wide open spaces."

Not only did Arizona Dave and Shotsie Sadie have the honor of shooting the match, but Badas Bob and Blaze made their 10-day visit exceptionally memorable by taking them to many tour sites, which included Leeds Armourie (reputed to be the best gun museum in the world), the Moors, York, Whitby, and others. They also visited friends' homes, the local cowboy club, and many great restaurants. What great hospitality! "Thanks Badas Bob and Josie Blaze," say Arizona Dave and Shotsie Sadie. And, best wishes for more Mounted Shooting in the UK! 🤠

THE 2006 SASS NORTHWEST MOUNTED REGIONAL . . .

(Continued from previous page)

ing, and best of all, having fun! This year six times the number of Mounted Shooters participated as the first year it was held. The competition was fast and furious, and still there was always an air of family, friends, and fellowship. The skill ranged from juniors up to seniors and one wrangler, Oregon Rattler, SASS #63144.

Thursday night, July 13th, began with a get acquainted "choose your firearm" fun shoot. Riders from Southern California and the Bay area as well as from Redmond, Sisters, and Prineville, Oregon all participated

Friday morning, July 14th, the six-stage competition commenced. Competing out in the junipers, sagebrush, dust, and heat added to the

ambiance of the "Old West" shoot. At the end of the first three stages, there were six perfect runs with the sharp shooter award up for grabs!

Buck Cantrell, SASS Regulator #38242, was kind enough to give the interested shooters the MRO-1 class. Saturday afternoon, he conducted the MRO-2 class. We appreciate you, Buck; thank you!!!!

Friday evening brought more fun. The Lone Pine Rangers hosted a cart shoot for the Action Shooters to hopefully give them a little taste of being on horseback. With 30 runs, only two "bucked off," Texas Jack Morales, the sponsor of the cart shoot, won the event even though he was one of the "bucked off."

Saturday, July 15th, brought more dust, sweat, and heat along with the last three stages of the com-

petition. The 4th stage of the shoot weeded out one sharp shooter, and the 5th weeded out two more. Saturday evening the much anticipated awards presentation was held.

Sunday, July 16th, Bunkhouse Billy, SASS #64388, conducted our Cowboy Church. Billy is also our club photographer. For shots of our regional, check out his website at www.bunkhouse-studio.com. Also, for more information on the Lone Pine Rangers, go to our website at

www.LonePineRangers.com.

As the sun set behind Horse-ridge, and the horses were fed and watered, the cowboys settled down for a deserved rest. With the shake of a hand, the nod of a hat, and a hug for the road, all headed for the barn. They were already thinking about next year with the thrill of the competition, and making new friends. But all still had one thing on their minds - RIDE HARD, SHOOT FAST, HAVE FUN! 🤠

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proving ground were cited, but here they were talking about artillery pieces that were loaded with a light charge. The energy to mass ratio is way out of kilter in this comparison. If we Cowboy Action Shooters were driving steel projectiles at super sonic velocities in our Colts, well, maybe then we'd be on equal footing.

Look at this from the bullet's point of view. All you want to do is exit the cartridge, engage the rifling, and strike a target down range with absolutely nothing impeding your progress. When it's your turn, you see ahead a thin, dark crescent to one side of the bore, something never seen before. Your buddies have made this trip before and never complained, but you know a shadow means something is in the way. As the heat and expansion at your base pushes you on your way, you realize that there is no way you can squeeze past this crescent, which is turning out to be the crusted up edge of the barrel face. Who, you wonder, would force you out of your home with the door partially closed? Well, the others made it, so here goes, but ... damn! I gotta lose weight to fit through here ... luckily, I can leave a little of myself behind, let the next guy worry about how to get out. So the next guy tries. The energy in the expanding gas behind him must go somewhere, and the weakest con-

tainment point is at the notch of his chamber. BANG! That's all she wrote folks. Is a two-dollar spring worth a 1500-dollar Colt?

These conditions where springs are altered or lightened are not exclusive to Colts and Colt clones. Several years ago, a Winchester '73 replica in .44-40 caliber blew and drove the firing pin into the eye of the shooter. Many articles and comments were written about it, but again, a basic tenant was overlooked. One of the articles had a photo of the actual cartridge case that had given out and caused the damage. Several expert opinions were given, most attributing the light charge or over charge theory as the cause. Looking at the photos, I found it hard to imagine how either could be the logical choice. The cartridge case was expanded and ruptured from the base about two thirds of the way up, but from there to the case mouth, it was narrower and matched the diameter of the chamber. This could only happen if the cartridge had been fired BEFORE it was completely seated in the chamber. How was this possible? Out came my Winchester for a test.

It didn't take long to see that if one depresses or renders inoperable the trigger block, that little metal stud that sticks out below the frame

(Continued on next page)

THE LAST WORD ON BLOW UPS . . .

(Continued from page 52)

The primers all fired, set off by the firing pin at the edge of the primer. There was apparently enough force and deformation of the primer cup to cause a detonation, and it was clear that a misalignment of up to 50 thousands of an inch, about a sixteenth of an inch, would give our pipe bomb plug very little chance of escaping.

Gun makers of long ago knew accuracy and safety depended upon fast lock up times. Hammer springs were as heavy as possible to insure ignition with flint, percussion cap, or primer. Positive lockup of a cylinder with a strong spring insured the correct alignment of chamber to the bore, and it had to function reliably, usually in the field of battle. Our early military had strict and comprehensive tests, requirements, and inspections to ensure each spring performed exactly the same as the next. Of course, they knew breakage would occur and ordered replacements as a standard part of their vast orders. The U.S. Government ordered over 30,000 Colt single actions between 1873 and 1890, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of percussion Colts of earlier manufacture. Music wire was available at the time, so why wasn't it used? Why would Colt and our government opt for expen-

sive machining, forging, and fitting of flat trigger springs if they were inferior to wire springs? Why would they, to this day, along with other clone manufacturers, use flat trigger/bolt springs and not piano wire springs? I should not have to provide an answer here, but it can be condensed into one word - Safety.

Music wire springs are excellent when in the coiled state, as in Ruger actions, but flat, they have the same breakage and stretching problems found in musical instruments. On a guitar, the spring usually breaks where it is bent at a ninety-degree angle over the bridge bars. If you shoot blackpowder and the residue coats the thin wire spring, a failure will occur much sooner than with a flat spring. When either a flat or round spring limits the amount of pressure needed for positive lockup, we indeed play with fire.

In each of the blow up repairs, the combination of light or damaged springs and altered or improperly fitted cylinder bolts was the root cause of the problem. The owners of the guns blamed everything else, from a progressive reloader to absentmindedness, but never considered the springs a problem. Why? Because gun writers have told us that these springs cannot possibly be related to blow-ups. Even tests conducted at Aberdeen

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to a blown gun, as I only cite about 50 examples. I've talked to shooters that swear by them and sometimes at them. But how many others have gone unrecorded, their owners too embarrassed to admit a mistake? Whether or not it was due to a light or heavy load or bad parts or all three, the parts problem cannot be ignored just to appease those who make them and place ads in our publications. They owe us the responsibility to provide parts and services that ensure safety in our shooting if they intend to make a living from it. If publications like The Cowboy Chronicle or Shoot refuse

to acknowledge the potential of these parts causing blowups, they are no better than the LA or NY Times leaning biased to the left just to be politically correct. If you are now shouting, "bull hockey," so be it! If The Cowboy Chronicle disagrees, let's do an actual test of these springs and try to blow up a cheap clone. I'll be happy to assist in any way, and if I'm proved wrong, I'll eat the biggest medicine crow I can find. But, if I'm proved correct, my reward and yours will be a safer, perhaps slower Cowboy Action Shooting™ experience. Besides, I HATE REPAIRING TOP STRAPS!

THE LAST WORD ON BLOW UPS . . .

(Continued from previous page)

and behind the trigger, the trigger could be snapped at any time during the travel of the bolt on its way to battery. With the cartridge case sticking out of the chamber two-thirds its length, the firing pin is drawn back out at the rear of the frame nearly an inch. If the hammer is cocked and the trigger tripped, it will fall with enough force to drive the pin forward and strike the primer. Go ahead; try it! The cartridge head is held in place at this moment by the extractor, and it provides resistance for the pin to fire the primer. It is also enclosed loosely within the carrier block, which can aid in directing gas energy to the rear. If powder and bullet had been loaded, the explosion would have driven back the pin and toggles instantaneously, probably with enough force to shear the thin firing pin retainer, thus propelling the whole pin to the rear and into an eye. During the heat of competition, it would have been easy for the

shooter to trip the trigger with a misplaced finger or even a shirt-sleeve while the action was unlocked. Was the trigger safety disabled or weakened? No one ever said, but the cartridge case certainly indicates a strong possibility.

If you boil this all down, our need for speed is at the bottom of the pot. Many well-intentioned individuals have created products and services to help us with our speed, but they may have not tested these items thoroughly enough to ensure safe operation under all conditions. Lockup of the action at battery is the critical factor, and only a factory engineered and tested spring/device, or one that has factory approval, can guarantee that lockup. In my opinion, using light springs that feel like mush is akin to driving your car at 100 miles per hour with under inflated tires. Something has got to give sooner or later.

It is plain to see not all light spring and bolt alterations have led

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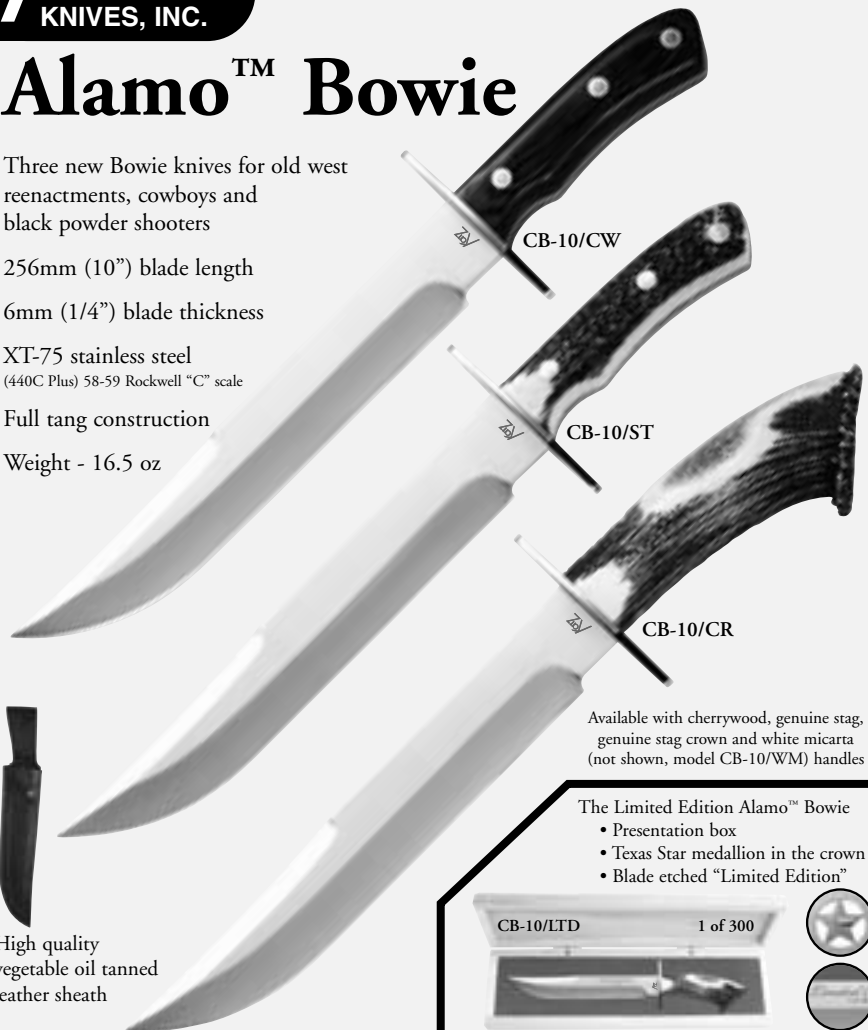
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shooting Traditional.

Then another happy accident occurred. I heard that Spur, cowboy rifle smith from Macomb, Illinois, and a fine shooter, could make a Marlin rifle cycle short cases. An exchange of emails later, he agreed to TRY to make the stubby .45 run in my Marlin 1894. Not only did he succeed in making it work, but also the gun ended up to be what one shooter called "the ultimate .45 Marlin for Cowboy Action Shooting™." In order to make the gun operate with the new round, a custom carrier is made from scratch, the ejector is moved forward a bit, and the lever throw ends up a compact 4-5/8 to 4-3/4 inches and as slick as oiled glass. The 650 fps pistol load runs right around 800 fps through the 24-inch rifle, and is the recoil equivalent to a .38, just as it is in the pistols.

Yet another unexpected development was a message from Dick Dastardly. It turns out he's been sitting on a 147 grain .45 bullet prototype. When he heard of my work with the new cartridge, he thought the light bullet would thrive in the short, reduced case capacity cartridge. He gave me a few of the pre-

cious remaining prototype samples to try, and I sent him some brass to try a few.

The results were astounding. He fired some extremely consistent blackpowder loads that shot into one hole, and I shot some smokeless loads that also shot into one hole. Recoil with the EPP UG .45-147 bullet is next to nothing. It was a match made in heaven. The molds are on order.

With that development, some adjustments to the Marlin carrier were in order. The light bullet has a fairly short nose, so it was too short to feed in my rifle. Spur was in the process of converting a second rifle, so I asked him to adjust the geometry of the carrier, and now we expect to be able to feed the 147 grain .45 bullet in the Marlin as well as the revolvers.

For those who love their .45s, but think they HAVE TO switch to .38s if they are ever going to break some personal speed barriers, think again. For those who love .45s but yearn for an accurate and consistent "orthopedic" .45 round for their pistols, got ya covered.

As one pard who shot a few samples and ordered some Cowboy .45 Special brass said, "It's about time!"

For AD Rates ~ DONNA ~ (EXT. 118)

WHO SAYS .45s CAN'T COMPETE WITH THE SMALL BORES? . . .

(Continued from page 51)

the existence of the cartridge.

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While waiting for the manufacture of the first 50,000 rounds, I used my prototype cases and worked on loads with smokeless, which I had not done a lot with previously.

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THIS MONTH IN HISTORY



Twentieth Century - End of an Era

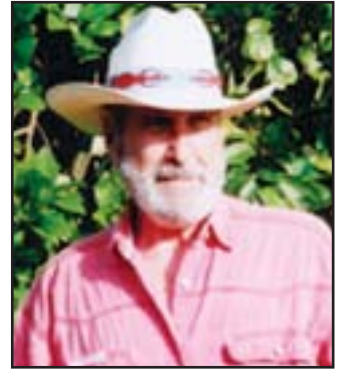
November

By Ellsworth T. Kincaid,
Life/Regulator #6037

- 21 Nov 1900** Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, Harvey Logan, Ben Kilpatrick, and Will Carver sit for a studio portrait at John Swartz's studio at 705 Main Street, Fort Worth, Texas. Swartz puts a copy of the photo in his front window. Fred Dodge, a Wells, Fargo & Company detective, recognizes Will Carver, suspects the others may also be outlaws, orders 50 prints, sending one to the Pinkerton Agency.
- 5 Nov 1901** Ben Kilpatrick, aka the "Tall Texan," member of the Wild Bunch and the Ketchum gang, is arrested by the St. Louis police. Ben had been foolishly spending Bank of Helena currency – money stolen during a train robbery months earlier in Wagner, Montana. With him is Laura Bullion, aka Della Rose, and Clara Hays, his lover. Laura is a prostitute known to associate with outlaws, including Tom and Sam Ketchum and Will Carver, and she supposedly rode with the "Wild Bunch," assisting them on raids by tending their horses. Cash taken by the "Wild Bunch" from that train robbery in Montana is found in her possession. She is given five years for her participation. Ben confesses and is given a fifteen-year term at the Atlanta, Georgia Federal Penitentiary.
- 2 Nov 1902** Wild Bunch member, Harvey Logan, is sentenced to twenty-years for wounding two police officers in Knoxville, Tennessee. He'll escape the following year and flee to Colorado.
- 23 Nov 1902** Augustine Chacon, Mexican gang leader, murderer, robber, nabbed by Arizona Ranger Captain Burton C. Mossman is hanged for murder at Solomonville.
- 20 Nov 1903** Tom Horn is hanged in Cheyenne, Wyoming for the July 18, 1901 murder of 13-year-old Willie Nickell, whose father was a sheep rancher. Horn had been an army scout and Spanish translator, present at Geronimo's surrender. He had joined the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, and finally became a gun for hire.
- 23 Nov 1903** Outlaw Tom O'Day, who once rode with the Cassidy's Wild Bunch, is captured with a herd of twenty-three stolen horses by Sheriff Frank K. Webb of Casper, Wyoming.
- 8 Nov 1904** Teddy Roosevelt is elected President of the United States.
- 16 Nov 1907** Oklahoma (Indian Territory) is admitted to the Union as the forty-sixth state. The population is 1,414,177 of which 5.3% is Indian. Attempts to name the state Sequoya, after the Indian author of the Cherokee alphabet is refused.
- 6 Nov 1908** After robbing a silver mine payroll, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid are surrounded by mounted soldiers at San Vicente, Bolivia. What happens is open to speculation. Does the wounded pair die at their own hands, Butch killing Sundance and committing suicide or do they escape?
- 1 Nov 1924** In Cromwell, Oklahoma, Wiley Lynn, a drunken Prohibition agent, murders 71-year-old Bill Tilghman, legendary lawman of Kansas and Oklahoma, one of the "Three Guardsmen," Dodge City Marshal, state senator, and Oklahoma City police chief.
- 3 Nov 1926** Annie Oakley dies in her sleep after enduring four painful years from an automobile accident. Despondent Frank Butler dies less than three weeks later, on November 23rd.
- 25 Nov 1930** Billy the Kid's half-brother, Joseph Antrim, dies at the age of 76; Denver, Colorado.
- 17 Nov 1935** Chris Madsen, one of the "Three Guardsmen" of Oklahoma dictates his memoirs to Harold L. Mueller. His story will be serialized as "Four Score Years a Fighter" in the *Daily Oklahoman* through March 15, 1936.
- 21 Nov 1948** Clay Calhoun, last of the five Outlaw Exterminators, Inc. members, dies at the age of 97.
- 18 Nov 1959** Robert Franklin James, son of Frank, dies at the age of eighty-two.

LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE WAY OUT WEST -

By Joe Fasthorse Harrill, SASS #48769



Joe Fasthorse Harrill,
SASS #48769

WES HARDIN was the most feared shootist in Texas. He killed his first man in 1868 and went on to kill dozens of men throughout Texas. Wes was hunted down and captured in Florida

by Texas Rangers in 1877. When Ranger John Armstrong pointed his pistol at Wes' head, Hardin said, "Go ahead and shoot. You will never kill a braver man, nor a more honest one." He was taken back to



Texas and tried for the murder of Jack Helm and spent the next 17 years in Huntsville prison. Hardin was killed in 1895 while rolling dice with the bartender at the Acme Saloon in El Paso. A part-time El

Paso policeman named John Selman shot him in the back. Hardin's last words were "Three sixes to beat." It is claimed that Hardin had drawn both his pistols before he hit the floor dead.

When the coroner examined the body, he found the corpse had a bullet wound in the back of the head and one in the chest. His only comment was, "Well, if Hardin was shot in the front first, Selman used good aim. If Wes was

shot in the back first, Selman used good judgment." The following year Selman got into a heated argument with George Scarborough and Scarborough won the quarrel. He shot and killed Selman.

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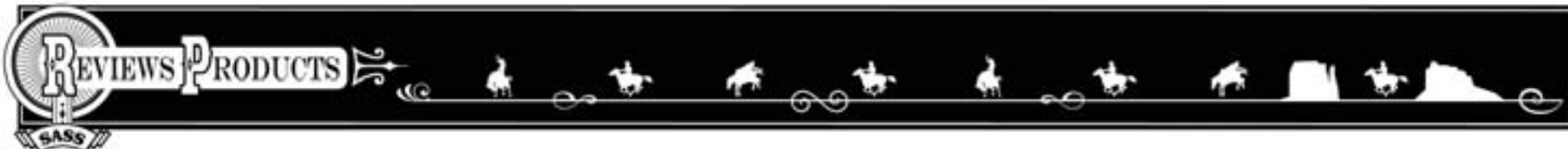
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**Tuolumne Lawman,
SASS #6127**

A. UBERTI USA CATTLEMAN .45 COLT "MILLENNIUM"

By Tuolumne Lawman, SASS #6127

it are still true, the part about being able to start on a shoestring is not as true now as it was back then. While the cost of clothing, carts, and leather hasn't changed greatly, unfortunately the cost of firearms has. When I joined SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™ in 1994, the shootin' irons were cheaper by a long shot. I started with a used Rossi '92 (65) in .44-40 \$175, a used Rossi 12 Ga. coach gun \$200, a Dakota \$175, and a used 1875 Remington \$225. I had about \$775 in the whole lot. It would be hard to do that now. I wish I still had the .44-40 Rossi, too!

Today, the average Cowboy Action Shooting™ shooter can easily spend as much as I spent on my whole battery on just one pistol, especially if they are not careful. Fortunately A. Uberti USA has introduced their



"Cowboy Action Shooting™, as epitomized by SASS, offers a unique opportunity for the shooter and western history buff. One of the best features (besides the "Spirit of the Game") is it doesn't have to be expensive to be enjoyed and participated in! In this series of articles, we'll talk about how to get started on a shoestring."

That is a quote from one of my early Cowboy Chronicle articles written in 1995. While some parts of

1873 Cattleman "Millennium Model." It is a good quality, reasonably priced main match revolver for roughly \$300 retail. When the original family run firm of Aldo Uberti was bought out by The Beretta Corporation, Beretta wisely kept the 1873 Cattleman Single Action Army clones as a mainstay of their cowboy line. In addition to the original caliber of .45 Colt, A Uberti USA also offers their mainstream 1873 Cattleman in the popular .44-40 and .38 Special/.357 Magnum calibers. The Millennium Model is available in .45 Colt only, however.

Uberti is still meeting their contracts with importers like Navy Arms, EMF, Cimarron, and others. Recently A. Uberti U.S.A. has been importing and marketing their firearms directly to US dealers. When Ted Hatfield of A. Uberti, U.S.A. contacted me and asked me to evaluate some of their guns, I specifically requested a .45 Colt 1873 "Millennium" model Cattleman. I have seen them advertised in Cabela's and other sources, but had never handled one. They have interested me for their potential as an economical, entry-level gun.

A. Uberti USA's "Millennium" .45 Colt

The fact that real Colts being well out of the average person's budget (\$1,800 and up for new Colts,

and two to three times that for vintage ones), gave rise to a booming industry producing replica firearms at very modest prices. The Italian firm of Aldo Uberti was the primary pioneer in this area. Now owned by Beretta, they are still leading the industry in Colt clones for Cowboy Action Shooting™.

When the A. Uberti "Millennium" arrived, I was intrigued. It is somewhat unusual looking, to say the least! This does not mean it's bad or ugly, but it is just "different" compared to an original Colt or higher priced clone. The Millennium has a 4-3/4" barrel. It has a matte black finish, almost like a modern military phosphate finish on an M16. It has a brass trigger guard and grip frame with a one piece oiled walnut grip, not unlike an 1851 Colt Navy revolver.

The fit and finish is actually fairly good, considering it is an inexpensive, entry-level gun. It has the "smokeless" style frame with transverse mounted, spring loaded, cylinder pin retaining screw of the post-1898 models. It also has the "smokeless" crescent style ejector rod. The metal-to-metal fit is good. It has a nice, one-piece, oiled walnut grip. The grip to metal fit of the one-piece grip is also very good. All mating surfaces are smooth, with no

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)
gaps or "wobble." The timing is right on the money. The trigger is fairly heavy, however, breaking at 7-8 lbs, crisp with some noticeable creep. The action is not as light as a Hartford or Frisco, but still fairly smooth. Again, this may not be a bad thing for an inexperienced shooter that hasn't learned to keep his finger off the trigger.

AT THE RANGE

How does the Millennium do as far as shooting? The bore on my sample had a groove diameter of .452, and all .452 and .454 bullets should work. For this article, I used:

- Black Hills .45 Colt 250 grain.
- Black Hills .45 Schofield 230 grain.
- Black Hills .45 Schofield 180 grain.

The shooting was done at 10-12 yards, traditional two hand hold. Group sizes could definitely be improved with a slicked up trigger. Seven or eight pounds is too heavy for bullseye shooting, but OK for Cowboy Action Shooting™ with its large targets and close ranges.

The 250 grain .45 Colt loads from Black Hills printed centered about 1-1/2" above point of aim, one inch right, with a group that was about 5 inches.

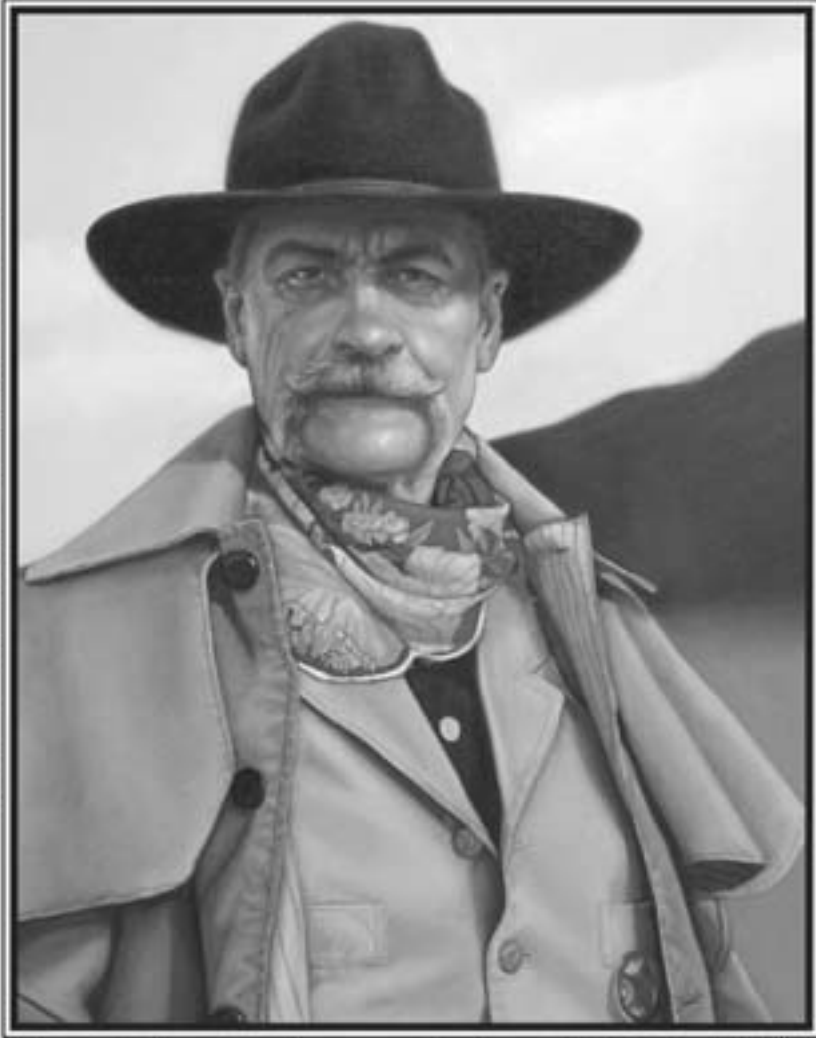
The Black Hills 230 grain Schofield groups were centered about 3" above point of aim, and about 4 inches.

The test Millennium absolutely did not like the Black hills 180 grain Schofield loads. The rounds impacted well below point of aim, always to the right of POA. As for groups' size, I guess it would be 8 or 9 inches!! I tried four separate groups, and finally gave up on the 180 grain Schofields in the Millennium. I have seen numerous instances of a gun not liking a particular loading, but this was ridiculous!

The sample "Millennium" preferred the 230-grain Black Hills Schofield factory load. This surprised me, as the other Cattlemen I shot definitely preferred .250 grain .45 Colt load. I am sure the accuracy issue was due to the heavy trigger pull. This could smooth out some with dry firing or simply putting a lot of rounds through the gun over a period of time.

CONCLUSION

After shooting the Millennium, another thought occurred to me, though. This is not necessarily just an inexpensive "beginner" gun. The matte black finish eliminates any glare a standard blued gun or nickel one would have. Since the Millennium is relatively inexpensive, spen-



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ding a few dollars for a light spring, action job, recessed muzzle crown, custom grips, and so forth won't hurt as bad. With this in mind, the Millennium has the potential to be a great gamer gun platform. I have seen people spend as much, or more, as they spent on the gun to get it "slicked" up. Spending less on the basic platform leaves more money for improvements. A number of years ago, Norinco sold many inexpensive 1911A1 clones that were bought up to be platforms "for race guns." Maybe those IPSC folks aren't so dumb after all <g>. If it was a good idea then, it is still a good idea.

To most of the world, the Colt 1873 Single Action Army revolver is the gun that tamed the Old West.

For over a century, the saying "God created man, Samuel Colt made them equal" has been ingrained in us from our earliest youth. Even among today's Cowboy Action Shooters, some insist "Real Men shoot Colts." Unfortunately, most of us can't afford Colts! For the entry level or budget conscious shooter, and even the gamer that wants an inexpensive gun to spend some dollars on to "gamer-up," the Millennium is a pretty good bet. The Millennium is made by Uberti's Italian craftsmen, in Brescia, a region that is famous for making guns since prior to the Revolutionary War.

You can check out their web site at: www.uberti.com. Tell them ol' Tuolumne Lawman sent ya! *J.*

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Capt. George Baylor,
SASS #24287

Classic Cowboy Shotguns

I call them Classic Cowboy shotguns because Classic Cowboy requires either a hammer double or an

THE "DROP TWO" 1887 WINCHESTER SHOTGUN IS FINALLY AVAILABLE!

By Captain George Baylor, SASS Life #24287

some worry because of the delay in the arrival of this long-awaited new shotgun. He didn't want an article about a gun that didn't exist or would require a very long wait. Well, the wait is over. Guns are arriving, and IAC has plenty in stock.

I received a couple of guns for testing. The first was a 2005 production gun, SN CC0500001, with 20 inch barrel, high grade walnut stock, recoil pad, really nice lever wrap, full action job, and #4 bead. Since this was SN 1, it was destined



2005 production 1887w-20 with 20" barrel.



Laser-engraved forearm on CC0500001 intended for Judge Roy Bean.



Two dummy rounds, one started in the chamber, and one below it, ready to go.

1887 lever gun. Additionally the blackpowder categories don't allow 1897 pump shotguns, so these look inviting for those categories, too.

1887 W20 Lever Action Shotgun

When I asked Tex if he wanted an article on the 1887 lever he expressed

for Judge Roy Bean, and it had a really nice laser engraved forearm. As a result, I didn't take it to a match and shoot it or let other people shoot it. I didn't want to have to explain any dings on it to The Judge.

The other got the bulk of testing.
(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

It's SN CC0600007, destined for Hipshot. Sorry, Hipshot, the wear marks on the action were earned legitimately. I put about 175 rounds through this gun and countless dummies. Both guns have the "Two Shot Feeding" system, and it works correctly and ejects the last round reliably as advertised. Length of Pull is 12.5".

It should also be noted the leather wrap is necessary to prevent pinching your fingers in the pivot. If you have a standard model, you've probably already learned this. The leather wrap is the nicest I've seen. I would immediately cut off the "tails," lest they get caught in something. I saw one at the Texas State Championship, and the owner had done that. They look cool, though.

The Two Shot Feeding System is the heart of the gun. If you can, every time, load two rounds at a time without a bobble, it's faster than a double. If you mess up, it takes a LONG time to cure some of the errors. Before I fired the gun the first time I literally wore out a batch of dummies, the extractors ripping the rims off some aluminum dummies. Several dummies made from fired hulls with silicone in the primer hole, filled with corn meal, crimped, and the ends sealed with silicone died because the abuse of

hundreds of repetitions caused the ends to open up and dump the corn meal on my floor. Additionally my right hand (I'm left-handed) has a repetitive motion injury that has hurt for days. About then I switched to loading with the strong hand while holding the gun to my shoulder with my weak hand. It seemed to be the superior method for me because the gun was more stable.

Then I took the gun to a monthly match and shot it for practice and in the match. Again, when it worked right, it was FAST. When I messed up, it took awhile. Normally a screw up with a double doesn't take much time to fix. If a round doesn't go in, fiddle with it, and it will. If it doesn't eject, yanking it out takes a second or two. 5-10 seconds to clear some screw-ups wasn't uncommon. But then I have been shooting a double for a long time. This was my first time with this gun.

Most of the rounds were blackpowder or blackpowder substitutes. If you decide to do a torture test like I did to your gun, stop every 25 rounds and run a Bore Snake through the bore with a generous amount of Windex squirted in. It'll save a lot of work later.

I took the gun to the Texas State Championship and shot it (badly) in the shotgun side match but not in the main match. As I said, I've been

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shooting a double since the earth was flat and dinosaurs ruled. I'll need a lot of practice to use an '87 in major matches. I talked to some name shooters who use doubles, who can't use '97s in their categories. As one told me, "I tried an '87 for an hour and a half and couldn't match the speed of my double. I decided if I couldn't do it in an hour and a half, I couldn't do it." Well, it took me a lot longer than an hour and a half, and I'm not there yet. On the other hand, I'll practice loading a double an hour and a half a week for weeks before a major match.

The fit and finish are excellent, with no-nonsense bluing and an oil-finished walnut stock. Laid side by side with my newest Marlin Cowboy, they appear to be part of a set.

Done properly the two shot feed-

ing system works. Make a mistake, and it doesn't. Practice, practice, practice.

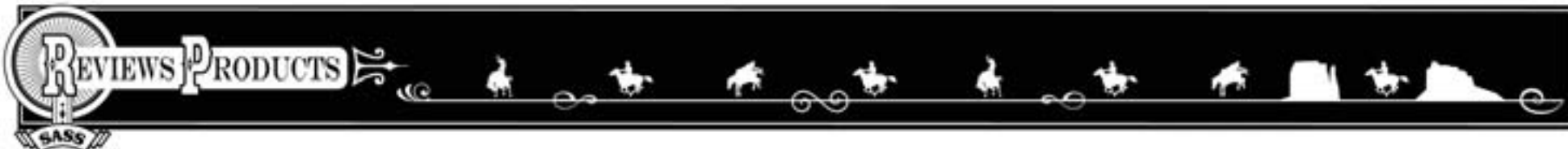
Conclusion:

Neat gun, worth the wait if you like the novelty, want to emulate Arnold Swartzenegger or Matt Dillon, or would like to use one instead of a double, especially a hammer double. I don't see it replacing the '97 in the categories allowing '97s. I do expect to see it in Classic Cowboy and the blackpowder categories. Someone will be very competitive, and then everyone will want one. But it will still boil down to the shooter with the most talent who practices the most will shoot the shotgun fastest whether it's a double, a hammer double, a '97, or an '87. Check availability and price at your local dealer's store.

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JACK STEWART - BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN

By The Jersey Kid, SASS Life/Regulator #287

Those of you who have been competing in SASS for awhile (my first END of TRAIL was in 1986) will be thrilled to know Jack Stewart, (Micky O'Hara, SASS #398) formerly of Show Low, Arizona has re-opened Stewart Saddlery. Jack was one of the earliest artisans to make high quality reproduction leather accoutrements for cowboys and re-enactors, museums, collectors, and, of course, cowboy folks like us. I own a few outstanding pieces from Jack, including an 1880's circa A-fork half seat saddle he built in March 1993. For those of you new to the sport who may not know about Jack, let me tell you a little about him.

Typical of the migration of young men and women west after the Civil War, Jack Stewart left his home, his pet raccoon, and Old Towne canoe in Bucks County, PA and moved to Carlsbad, NM in '65 (that's 1965 not 1865). From there, he followed his family further west to Arizona, living in the towns of Mesa,

Chandler, and ultimately settling down in the small town of Show Low. After high school Jack became interested in a cavalry reenactment group in Phoenix where, due to the lack of replicas, everyone rode original saddles. A repair made to one of these old McClellan saddles by "the troop saddler" failed one day, causing a wreck in which Jack was dragged over seventy yards through the desert. He reminisced to me years later, "Well, I had my tunic and shirt tore off, was kicked, stepped on, and had lots of cholla cactus in my hide."

While recovering, Jack decided he could do no worse than the faulty repair made to his saddle, so he bought his first tools and began working with leather. Next thing you know he was the troop saddler. In 1979, Jack went to work for the Arizona Historical Society, a pretty thrilling place for a man with a love of history. Working as a curatorial aide, he had complete access to one of the finest territorial land

transportation collections in the Southwest. During this time, Jack took notes and made patterns of original military and civilian equipment he still uses today to make his remarkable reproductions. He also learned historical rebuilding and conservation techniques, a handy thing to know when dealing with artifacts.

Jack made a decisive move in 1983 when he opened his first saddle shop in Show Low, AZ. Over the next five years, Jack handled the lion's share of the local trade,



making and repairing a wide variety of cowboy gear, submersing himself in the culture and traditions of the American stock hand; these people use their equipment hard and often. Stewart said, "An Arizona cowboy can knock a horn off an anvil with a rubber mallet, so you better make it strong." Jack noticed a growing interest in his 19th century cowboy reproductions, so he printed and advertised his first catalog in 1989 featuring both 19th and 20th century stock hand equipment. The catalog was well received, so that same year he closed down

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)
his shop in town and built a new shop at the house. Jack worked via mail order, repeat customer business, and word of mouth for the next 10 years.

In 1998, Jack published his text on Rough Rider equipment, Cowboys in Uniform and shortly after that pursuing his love for museum work, he moved to Oklahoma in 1999 to work for the Oklahoma Historical Society. Jack's love for the open country of the Southwest was too much to overcome, and he returned to his beloved Arizona in the spring of 2001. Jack accepted a job as a trail guide (mule skinner) in the Grand Canyon and was shortly thereafter also offered the position of company saddler during the winters. Jack now gets to work in a shop originally built in Theodore Roosevelt's presidency where he makes and repairs pack and dude equipment for over 150 head of mules.

Although Jack remains company saddler at the Canyon, he is now for the first time in seven years offering his leatherwork to outside customers on a limited basis. Jack's saddle shop is located at his home in Flagstaff, Arizona, southeast of the Grand Canyon.

Stewart's leatherwork customers include The Cowboy Hall of Fame, The Autry Museum of the American West, The Rough Rider Museum, and discriminating collectors and connoisseurs throughout the world. Jack's work is historically correct and will stand up to years of hard work, invoking the highest standard of his craft.

One of the unique aspects of Jack's leatherwork is the total lack of automated equipment. Jack does not use any sewing or clicker machines. All work is performed entirely by hand in his shop. He uses leather from the two oldest and most respected tanneries in the United States, Herman Oak Leather, founded in 1881 and Muir McDonald, established in 1863. Jack also does not edge-coat, varnish or color treat the leather, and he uses a special formula he developed to treat the leather. His saddle seats are installed using traditional heavy galvanized seat strainer, held in place with solid bronze boat nails, and as many as five layers of leather are used to form the seat before the final cover is hand stitched in place. My saddle is very comfortable! All cante bindings are heavily welted, all skirts are stoutly bar-plugged, and

riggings are put in as if his life depended on them, and every one is done in a first class manner.

When not busy at the Grand Canyon or his bench, Jack can be found spending time with his wife, Marci, their new son, John, his two daughters, Corinna and Rachel or his granddaughter Angelina. And, if Jack has any spare time, he really likes to collect and shoot 19th century bolt-action rifles! If you

are interested in the tops in quality leather gear, please contact Jack. You will be thrilled at the excellence and originality of his work. As with the great leather makers of the 19th century, Jack can only be contacted through written correspondence.

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NEW ENGLAND'S VERY OWN TV COWBOY "Rex Trailer's Boomtown" Documentary Film

By Deadwood Duncan, SASS #47933

There was a time in New England when we had our very own TV cowboy. For thirty years, youngsters set the dial on their TV sets to WBZ-TV in Boston to watch Rex



Trailer's Boomtown. Now, as I look back at pictures of the painted canvas and wood studio set, I still see a real place. For all us kids it was a very real place called Boomtown. Rex Trailer was the one who made it real, because he was
(Continued on page 87)

COMPLICATIONS *The Deputies* Book 1

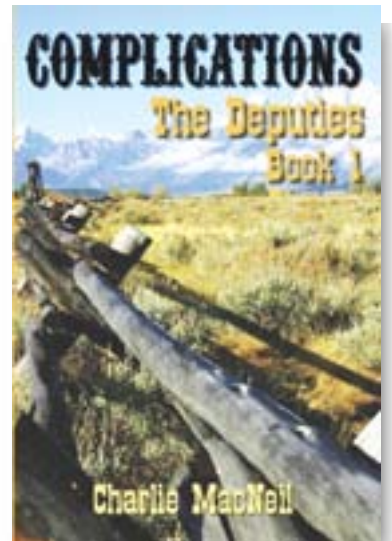
By Chuck "Charlie MacNeil" Buchanan, SASS #48580

Reviewed by Nubbins Colt, SASS Life #7802

Another pard asked me to review this Western novel and, again, it was my pleasure to do so. These pards want me to be truthful, so I'm going to start this review out just as I did the last time – the biggest problem I had with this book is that it is full of typographical errors. As the publisher is the same as the last time, I believe I have to recommend to AuthorHouse they hire a new editor!

The author is a rancher, a shooter, a hunter, a writer, and a few more interesting things. He understands things of the West and his writing evidences that under-

(Continued on page 87)



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~GUNS OF AUGUST~

(Continued from page 1)

Stevens managed a phenomenal 4.14 seconds in the speed pistol.

To commemorate the month of August as well as the notorious Wild Bunch robbery of the Union Pacific Overland Flyer number 1 of \$55,000 near Table Rock, Wyoming in 1900, they held a Wild Bunch side match. A team of three shooters compete while equipped with 1911's, a shotgun, and



President of the Big Irons, Deadwood Stan, tempts Wild Bunch member Coyote Calhoun with homemade cookies at the Guns of August Midwest Regional.

a rifle. To say this is more fun than you are legally allowed would be an understatement. The high score of 438 was posted by Knobby Dick, Here Kitty, and KC Jones – not too bad with modern firearms!

This year I managed to shoot on a squad with my 1906 vintage Model '97. I'd like to report I hit all the



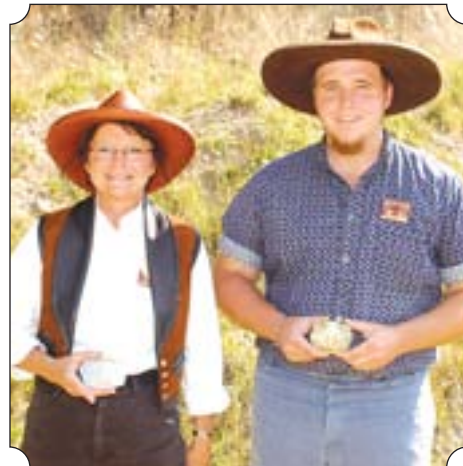
These young ladies look very "spiffy" as they participate in the Saturday night costume contest held in the historic Manchester Inn.

birds, but I didn't. However, my squad mate, Old Buckshot, went 25 straight with a full chocked hammered double barrel to win the event. And, Blackjack Beeson went on to win the Trap event with his 25 straight! What a hoot!

That evening was hospitality and Texas Hold'em poker night at the Manchester Inn hosted by Wilbur Rexroat and his lovely wife, Rose Louise Reasoner. But, just as they say about Vegas, what goes on at the Manchester stays at the Manchester. Seriously folks, we

know it was all clean fun and this charity event is held to support the SASS Scholarship Foundation.

Shooters assembled under the big tent for the traditional opening ceremonies. First, a Mounted Shooter in full Canadian Mountie attire brought forth the maple leaf for the playing of the Canadian National anthem. Then, closely followed a Mounted Shooter for playing of the US National Anthem. The flag they used was the same flag that was placed on the wreckage of the World Trade Center debris pile after 9-11 by our brave rescue workers. "Old Glory" was dirty and tattered, but still held in awe by all in attendance. Deadwood Stan, President of The Big Irons, set the welcoming tone. Lassiter gave last minute range



SASS Midwest Regional Champions—Two Sons and Deuce Stevens. Congratulations!

instructions, and we were off. This year departed from previous shoots, and there were now morning and afternoon posses. This afforded competitors and their families more free time to participate in local area events or just grab some grub and



This US Flag, presented during the Guns of August opening ceremony, was placed on the World Trade Center debris after 9-11 by rescue workers.



Canada was well represented at Guns of August with 28 Canadians participating in the match. At opening ceremonies, a Mounted Shooter in full Canadian Mounted Police regalia presented the Canadian flag, and the country's National Anthem was played.



Guns of August Overall Match Winners—Two Sons and Hoss Lytle. Great Shooting!

hob-knob with old friends or to make new ones. Posses ran so smoothly they were done by 4:00 PM every day.

The Authors of the Old West was the theme for this year's event, and Seven Mile Tom did an outstanding job developing the shooters handbook to dovetail the classic cowboy stories with the stage design. Those were the men and women whose writings helped us relive the history and romance of the Wild West we hold dear and endeavor to emulate. Each stage was designated for a significant writer. For example, at stage eight, with two pistols hol-

(Continued on page 72)

Winners

Midwest Regional SASS Champions

Male Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996
Female Two Sons, SASS #12636

Overall Match Winners

Male Hoss Lytle, SASS #30285

Female Two Sons

Main Match Category Winners

49er Pecos Pete, SASS #16437

Traditional Gunfighter Hoss Lytle, Lassiter, SASS #2080

Modern Black Tom, SASS #43775

Duelist Doc Roy L. Pain, SASS #28321

B-Western Copperhead Jack Black, SASS #39162

L B-Western Miss Misery, SASS #38072

C Cowboy Rowdy K, SASS #12225

C Cowgirl Dusty Boots Marge, SASS #41903

Senior Evil Roy, SASS #2883

S Duelist Dusty Feller, SASS #20010

F C Duelist Joe McGlue, SASS #37429

F Cartridge Indy Kid, SASS #4638

Frontiersman Black Jack McGinnis, SASS #2041

E Statesman Whitey Quik, SASS #18584

L 49er Honey B. Quick, SASS #47009

L Traditional Short Fuse Ruby, SASS #47939

L Modern C. J., SASS #11524

L Senior Two Sons
L Duelist Calamity Kelly, SASS #4774

L F Cartridge No Purse Nez, SASS #17532

L Gunfighter Laporte Lil, SASS #33413

Juniors Brass Picker Jones, SASS #50374

L Juniors Crazy Kate, SASS #52434

Buckaroos Bendito, SASS #64192

Buckarettes Sage Chick, SASS #48454

Blackpowder Mini Match

Mike Fink, SASS #29047

Costume Contest Winners

Lawman Mountie

Saloon Girl Clementine

Valentine, SASS #66179

Town Gent T.D. Waters, SASS #33187

Schoolmarm Sure Miss, SASS #42622

Gambler Lucius Hewlett, SASS #7874

Junior Boy Dillon Sneed

Junior Girl Country Rebel

Silver Screen Larkin Skaggs, SASS #22199

Working

Cowboy Rowdy K., SASS #12225

Cowgirl Dusty Boots Marge, SASS #41903

Poker Contest

Faygo Kid, SASS #26408



~GUNS OF AUGUST~

(Continued from page 71)

stered, the shotgun on the box in the doorway, and the rifle strategically placed near the doorway, the call to action was the infamous line of Edward Zane Carol Judson (more commonly known as Ned Buntline of dime novel fame) – “You got 24 hours to get out of town!” It was a fast sweep of the targets in front of you with the first pistol through the window, then a move to the opposite window to shoot either the rifle or the shotgun at the targets in any order, and the finish with the pistol in another window. It was quick, fun, and gave the shooter options on how they preferred to complete the stage. The stages were quick as Three Gun Cole managed to do this one in 18.27 seconds. WOW! Our vendors also sponsored each of the ten stages, and our berm marshals did a superb job of outlining the course of fire while also paying homage to the sponsoring vendor.

Scores were posted daily at the entrance to the stages for every one to peruse. And, after four fun-filled and action packed days of competition, the winners emerged. Three Gun went on to demonstrate his cowboy proficiency by being the Top Gun Shoot off winner! And, to say they were fun in this configuration, there were over 45 competitors who shot the entire match clean, to include our pre-match tune up guru, Evil Roy. The thing that impressed me the most was the number of younger shooters that have entered the sport. Ten young ladies and gentlemen were there, including Sage Chick, who won her Buckerette category (as well as being clean throughout the match), and of note, she recently was the Ohio State Ladies Champion.

The highlight of the weekend was the banquet and costume contest held at the Manchester Inn. The Manchester outdid itself. Four buffet lines moved quickly while serving up a gourmet meal. Contestants strutted their stuff in their finery for the costume contest. Costumes were not only reminiscent of a bygone era, but we were seeing more and more people in “B-Western” attire. The flashy dress added a sense of style and panache to the evening’s festivities. The Henry rifle that was raffled off garnered over \$500 for the SASS Scholarship Foundation. Several guns from Marlin, Uberti, and Taylor’s were given away as door prizes. Buffalo Dick was the “middle” shooter and was awarded a complete Kirkpatrick holster rig. Our “Friends from the North” inducted Highweeds into the Order of the Beaver and Uncle Stanley, Southpaw Too, and Heck were made Lifetime Honorary Big Irons members.

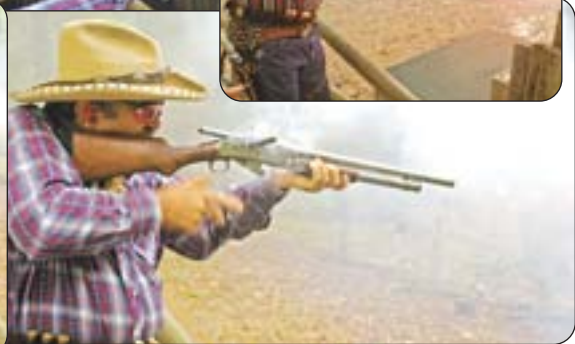
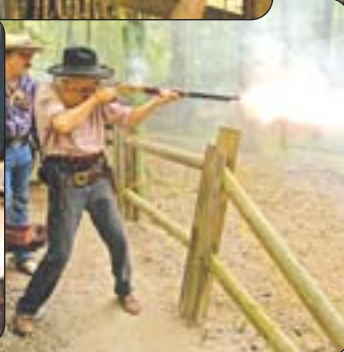
Congratulations to Two Sons and Duece Stevens who were the Midwest Regional SASS Champions and Two Sons and Hoss Lytle who were the Top Overall. You can find the complete match results posted at the Big Irons (www.Bigirons.com) as well as the SASS website.

The Guns of August continues to be such a popular event because of its reputation for fun, friendliness, beautiful setting, and central location. Guns of August is so easy to get to from anywhere in the country. The Middletown Sportsman’s Club is located in Middletown, Ohio half way between Dayton and Cincinnati, and both of these cities have a major airport. It is also a great area for a vacation with numerous places to go and things to see within an hour’s drive.

Guns of August is conducted the second week of August annually on the grounds of the Middletown Sportsman’s Club, 6943 Michael Rd, Middletown OH 45402 (5113-422-5112 or fax 513-422-6113). Next year will be the tenth Anniversary of this event, and it promises to be a humdinger. For starters, the competition will be expanded to twelve stages, and we anticipate having country Western icon, Royal Wade Kimes, the All American Music Cowboy, providing entertainment at the banquet. And there is a rumor of a commemorative rifle being built in collaboration by two great arms folks, Taylor Arms and Doug Turnbull. More details will be forth coming, as we get closer to the big event.

For further information on the Guns of August, or the host sponsors, The Big Irons, contact Deadwood Stan at 513-422-5112 or Lassiter at 937-687-1039. Of course, your best option is to check out the Big Irons and SASS websites listed earlier. 🤠







SHOOTOUT AT OLD SIMONS' RANCH

By Long Run, SASS #45523
Photos by Ed Helmick

The Smart brothers, a group of early settlers traveling along the Oregon Trail, made camp for the night. Their campsite was known as Old Simons' Ranch. A spring, which flowed year-round, made it an ideal spot to graze the cattle and horses for the night. However, the boys did not realize a gang of rustlers had moved into the area to steal livestock from those traveling along the trail. The Smart brothers awoke to the sound of rustlers trying to run off their animals. The rustlers, however, did not realize this group of settlers had years of experience fending off desperados as single action cowboy shooters. At the end of the shootout, the boys had dispersed the outlaws and vowed to come together each year for a cowboy shoot.

This year on July 22, 2006, the brothers, a gang of five, met for their annual shootout at Chester-

field, Idaho. Chesterfield, a registered historic site, is located near the Oregon Trail's Hudspeth's cutoff to California, just west of present day Soda Springs, Idaho. For the last five years the brothers have been getting together throughout the west to shoot it out. The boys, Doc Smart, SASS #68664, Rhodie, SASS #68452, Long Run, SASS #45523, Cowboy Sam, SASS #42364, and Preston, all grew up in Sacramento, California, but as so many of us do, they moved to seek careers in different parts of the country. However, these cowboys still find time each year to come from across the country to shoot together. They have shot with different clubs, notably the Murrieta Posse, in Rancho Murrieta, California; the Oregon Trail Rough Riders, in Boise, Idaho; the Big Hollow Bandits, in Heber, Utah;

family shootout in Georgetown, California; and this year in Idaho.

The boys came to Idaho to be part of a family reunion. Chesterfield was chosen for the family reunion because their grandmother, Elizabeth Call, was born there. Ira Call, the Smart gang's great grandfather, was one of the first to settle in Chesterfield in 1881. What a wonderful place for the cowboys to meet and shoot it out. The fun and companionship these SASS members share each year is an example of how our sport of single action shooting binds families together.

The day of the shootout broke with a clear sky and a hot summer sun over the high plains prairie. The first activity of the day was an introduction of SASS to descendants of the Elizabeth Call Smith and Isaac Homer Smith family. Many of these family members had never



shot a firearm before. The boys demonstrated gun safety and how to shoot a single action. Upon completion of the single action demonstration and shooting, the boys began
(Continued on page 79)

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Date & Year: _____ Location: _____
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HEADQUARTERS - THE CELEBRATION WAS A VERY HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

By Grey Fox, SASS Life, Regulator #223

Victoria, BC—Headquarters 2006, the oldest SASS affiliated match in Canada, marked its 15th year.

The event unfolded on a gorgeous August weekend, the 12th and 13th. Attendees converged on the Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association Range to pay homage to 25 years of Cowboy Action Shooting™ and the Silver Anniversary of END of TRAIL. The occasion also commemorated the 20th year of Cowboy Action Shooting™ in Western Canada and the 15th year of Headquarters itself.

Participants came from Canada, the U.S., and Germany.

After Saturday lunch a mounted aerial shooting exhibition was performed by Patrick Licciardi on Reno and Flatnose George Curry, SASS #10499, from Wyoming on Bo. There were targets on stands and balloons launched in the air. The culmination was a one on one race to shoot two balloons and then race back to shoot a third.

The Saturday night festivities were glorious with a wonderful dinner from Goldstream Catering. The prize table was a veritable treasure trove with trinkets for everyone, plus draw prizes consisting of SASS videos, leather from Walter Ostin Custom Leather and Blue Mountain Saddlery of Clark, Wyoming, plus gift certificates and prints. The top draw prize was a Uberti 1872 open top contributed by Shooters Choice

Gun Room, Waterloo, Ontario.

The prize table was not the only treasure Saturday evening; so was the entertainment supplied by Flat Nose George Curry. Flatnose's poetry and cowboy stories enraptured the audience.

The competitor's comments indicated this was the best match ever. Cariboo Lefty, SASS #5391, was
(Continued on next page)



Winners

<i>Top Gun</i>	Cariboo Lefty, SASS #5391
<i>Gunfighter</i>	High Country Amigo, SASS #49198
<i>Traditional</i>	Kokanee Kid, SASS #54531
<i>Modern</i>	Greg Grizzly, SASS #5585
<i>Senior</i>	Neut Reno, SASS #51654
<i>L 49er</i>	Victoria Diamond, SASS #60952
<i>Junior</i>	Nick Petersen
<i>F Cartridge</i>	Terry Parkinson
<i>Young Gun</i>	Giovanni Schicchi
<i>Rimfire Wrangler</i>	Kandice Petersen
<i>L Traditional</i>	Pauline Ptolemy
<i>Rifle</i>	Cornelius O'Keefe, SASS #67486
<i>Rifle</i>	Neut Reno, SASS #51654



(Continued from previous page)
 quoted, "The stages were great. Targets were big and up close with lots of movement and challenges." Mind you, he could be prejudiced ... he won Top Gun, again!

Other competitors voiced Lefty's praise. Novice shooter, Chris Jones, new SASS member #72703, AKA Teacher C, said, "I was apprehensive, however as the match progressed, I was encouraged by the more experienced shooters, which eased my anxiety. I found the stages entertaining, challenging, and attainable."

The rifle match on Sunday was organized by Cornelius O'Keefe, SASS #67486, with the largest attendance ever. Cornelius comes from Germany every year, and for the past five years has put together the rifle match. He contributes not only his time, but also a beautiful Scheutzen

target from Germany. This target is coveted by the sharpshooters. Cornelius was awarded the Spirit of the Game Award.

The event will be remembered by all competitors and spectators alike. All the participants received a CD commemorating Cowboy Action Shooting™ in Western Canada and the first 32 registrants received a commemorative mug.

The founders of Cowboy Action Shooting™ headed by the Judge must be proud of what they started, which begat the Single Action Shooting Society.



I personally am proud to have been involved since near the beginning. I appreciate the support of SASS; their participation and encouragement has made Headquarters a success.



May the fun continue! 🤠

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HOOTEN HOLLER ROUNDUP IV

2006 Kentucky State Championship

By Hoss Lytle, SASS #30285

McKee, KY—This was the fourth Kentucky State Championship to be held in the hills of Eastern Kentucky. There were 184 shooters who helped make this the most exciting and enjoyable Kentucky Championship to date.

It has been said things get better with age, and this shoot is no exception. The whole town had a facelift in the off-season. The berms there last year were improved and cleaned up. Each bay now housed some sort of front or permanent prop, from a jail to Copperhead Joe's Saloon and Brothel. We even had built in "facilities" if someone really had to go. There were also all new targets that made their debut at this shoot, the smallest of which was 16"X16" and largest was about 8"X5."

The weekend started off with



Kentucky State Champions and Top Overall Male and Female competitors, Short Fuse Ruby, SASS #47939, and Hoss Lytle, SASS #30285.



Match Director Big 6 Henderson, SASS #16594, getting ready to hand out awards.

beautiful weather for side match day. We started with long range in the morning, and much to everyone's dismay, we had to end it at 11:30 so we could get the other side matches running. By the way, we are working on



Cherokee Big Dog, SASS #17531, member of the Hooten Old Town Regulators and founder of the Champeen of the Hillybilly Nation Sub Category, accepting an award for distinguished service to the club.



Manatee, SASS #20426, shooting tiny in the Champeen of the Hillybilly Nation Sub Category.

a better way to have the long-range match for next year. We had nearly a hundred shooters on Friday to enjoy the weather, compa-

(Continued on next page)

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Winners

Overall and Kentucky State Champions	
Male	Hoss Lytle, SASS #30285
Female	Short Fuse Ruby, SASS #47939
Category	
49er	Ifin Ida Shotbedder, SASS #48552
L49er	Kitty Kitty Bang Bang, SASS #59861
B-Western	Taquila Tab, SASS #25048
L B-Western	Miss Misery, SASS #38072
Buckaroo	Terrible Tyler, SASS #28937
Buckurette	Sage Chick, SASS #48454
C Cowboy	Buffalo Balu, SASS #614
C Cowgirl	Mean Mary, SASS #45913
Duelist	Doc Roy L Pain, SASS #28321
L Duelist	Killin Time, SASS #42234
S Duelist	Ottway Smith, SASS #47839
E Statesman	Teton Tomahawk, SASS #40443
F C Duelist	Randy Atcher, SASS #54380
L F C Duelist	Ima Sure Shot, SASS #38191
F Cartridge	J D Brooks, SASS #63838
L F Cartridge	Lizzy of the Valley, SASS #58875
Frontiersman	Doc Duncan, SASS #39037
Gunfighter	Lassiter, SASS #2080
L Gunfighter	Rose Louise Reasoner, SASS #12516
Junior	Brass Picker Jones, SASS #50374
Modern	Leadville Clyde, SASS #42634
L Modern	No Purse Nez, SASS #17532
Outlaw	Lucky Lee Roy, SASS #31712
Senior	J R Hammer, SASS #45907
L Senior	Cimarron Lil, SASS #25823
Traditional	Hoss Lytle
L Traditional	Short Fuse Ruby

(Continued from previous page)
ny, and side match fun. There were grudge matches going on along with the big gun side match, T-Rex, and all the usual speed matches. The most visited and talked about side match was the couple's match, where a man and woman team competed for top honors. When side match day drew to a close and the range was shut down, we had a good old-fashioned hot dog roast for everyone's enjoyment.

On Saturday we began the main match with a wonderful and thorough safety briefing and prayer. The weather was great, and after the welcome speech from our Match Director, Big 6 Henderson, SASS #16594, we split up and headed to our starting bays. We shot six stages on Saturday, and ended the day with a barbecue and entertainment. Lassiter, SASS #2080, was on hand doing his fast draw routine, which drew everyone's attention, and when he was finished, the band "Cool Waters" entertained us deep into the evening. After the singing was over, some people gathered in the saloon for poker and enjoyment.

Sunday came and so did the rain. It rained through most of the night and by morning had turned into nothing more than a drizzle and cloud cover. The remaining four stages were shot, the scores tallied, and the awards were waiting to be handed out. As we have done in the past, the first three places in each category were recognized followed by the Kentucky State Champion in each category. Just before the awards were handed out, Just Wild Bill, SASS #17899, of Kirkpatrick Gunleather awarded the rig to the middle of the pack shooter. It went to Kitty Kitty Bang Bang, SASS #59861.

As the scores were announced and the awards handed out, there were a few that really stood out—Sage Chick, SASS #48454, and Terrible Tyler, SASS #28937. These two young folks won the Buckaroo and Buckurette categories and really shot amazing matches. Brass Picker Jones, SASS #50374, and Lil Chub, SASS #69881—

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these two were first and second in the Junior category. Lil Chub was the Junior Kentucky Champion. All of us at Hooten are very proud of this young man who works harder than two Copperhead Joe's put together and shoots .45's fully loaded with blackpowder. The last awards to be handed out were the overall champions. The Female Overall Winner and Kentucky State Ladies Champion

was Short Fuse Ruby, SASS #47939, and the Male Overall Winner and Kentucky State Male Champion was Hoss Lytle, SASS #30285. We can't wait to see everyone again next year.

The Hooten Old Town Regulators say thanks to all those who helped make this a wonderful shoot and hope everyone had a great time. We look forward to seeing you all back next year!

SHOOTOUT AT OLD SIMONS' RANCH . . .

(Continued from page 74)
the competition between the Smart Cowboys and Kate, Preston's wife. Cowboy Sam led the posse through three different stages requiring the shooters to lasso a horse, throw a hatchet at an attacker, and shoot a 470 High Wall buffalo gun at a long-range target. When the smoke cleared from the shootout, Cowboy Sam had the honors for the top shooter and Kate was the top female shooter. Doc Smart was awarded the best costume.

The Smart Boys had a great time participating in the family reunion and sharing their love of single action shooting with other family members. Special thanks must be given to Aunt Shirley and Uncle Jay Simons for providing the site for the shootout

and all the long hours they put into planning the reunion. This reunion will be remembered for its activities that re-enacted the life styles of the 1880's. The shootout, Saturday night dance, sharing meals, and telling family stories – what better way can a family celebrate its heritage and love for their grandparents?

May we all enjoy SASS activities as much as the Smart Cowboys and appreciate how these activities bring us all closer together. Look for the Smart Cowboys shooting with you somewhere soon!

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BIGGEST LITTLE SHOOT IN AMERICA

Western States Championship 2006

By Madd Mike, SASS Regulator #8595

Fernley, NV – It happens each year in June, just a few miles in the direction the sun rises out of Reno, Nevada, near the small town of Fernley. Pleasant little town by the way, old style homey country feeling, you will see. Folks show up at this great shoot from all over the United States. This year was no exception; there were shooters from Alaska, and as far away as Maryland, and a lot of places in-between. What does that tell you about how much fun there is to be had at this great annual Cowboy Action Shoot?!

The High Plains Drifters and their volunteers really did a lot of work on the range since last year. In fact, there are noticeable improvements at this range every year due to their hard work and commitment to providing us with the biggest little shoot in America. This range facility just keeps growing, and continues gittin' better every year. There were new shooting berms in place and shade located in the most convenient spots. Anyone who knows the desert understands the value of shade. New gravel was in place, to counter some of the rumors from their very first shoot many years ago, about the over abundance of dust that year. The RV camping area is just a stone's throw away, and designed for pull through camping spots, which is pretty darn handy. The shoot site comes complete with a large covered gathering



Western States Roving Team Trophy Winners.

area, where scores are posted, complete with a stage and sound system, where the awards are given out, and it houses all the social activities you would expect from great shoots. Vendors are set up for your shopping needs. Have you ever seen Idaho

Red Cedar gun carts? They were rite-handsome, and food vendors and others were on hand. Don't forget Blackies Photography, as he offers his expertise with the wonderful assistance of his better half.

The darn near famous Quick Cal speaks well in front of large groups, so he does the mandatory shooters meeting, and from the very first words out of his mouth, you can tell he shares the desire for everyone to have fun. He comes right out and says so, and he does it in a way that is believable. "If you are not having a good time, come see me (Quick Cal), and let's see what we can do about it." And, he is willing to back that statement up. Everyone that represents the club will be there if you need something. I had truck problems myself, just gittin' to the shoot this year, and they did everything they could, to assist me with gittin' my truck to the shop and rides back and forth, working all that in between shootin' and social events. Thanks everyone!!!

With all of that good camaraderie stuff goin on, the shoot is a good'un.



Western States Champions – Badlands Bud and Little Fawn. Congratulations!

Beginning with the Thursday side matches, movin' on to the great main match Friday and Saturday, and my favorite, the way they finish with their Sunday shoot-off. It's open to dang near anyone that shows up on Sunday. It comes complete with shade, sound system, chairs, and good ol' fashioned cold water. Folks, ya outta come, just for the shoot-off experience; it's a whole different thing when you are shootin' one on one. The match director makes it fun, it goes fast between shooters, and there is some serious goofing off from time to time. Remember we do this stuff for fun, not for Nike endorsements. The shoot-off is finished early enough that even with my 7.5 hour drive, I make it home before it even gits dark and the boogie man comes out.

I want ta thank everyone on my posse for being so much fun to shoot with this year and for helping with all the posse chores, and I thank everyone that took the time to participate in the shoot itself, including Ol' #4.

Ya see, after the last stage of the match was completed, Ol' #4, the prankster that he is, after our posse group hug and misty eyed "it sure was nice shootin' with yas" send-offs, we were all makin' our way back to the main encampment, when all of a sudden it sounded akin to a volley of fire from a Civil War battle. All ya heard was gunfire, and with a turn
(Continued on next page)

Winners

Match Winners

Male and Overall Badlands Bud,
SASS #15821
Female Little Fawn,
SASS #41497

Category

49er Quick Cal,
SASS #2707
C Cowboy Chekahsah Joe,
SASS #26301
Duelist Idaho Bad Company,
SASS #28943
E Statesman Wrangler Ron,
SASS #7122
F C Duelist Smokin Gator,
SASS #29736
F Cartridge Run Amuck,
SASS #49216
Frontiersman Red Desperado,
SASS #8204
Gunfighter Wildroot,
SASS #33149

Junior
L 49er

L Duelist

L Junior
L Modern

L Senior

L Traditional

Modern

S Duelist

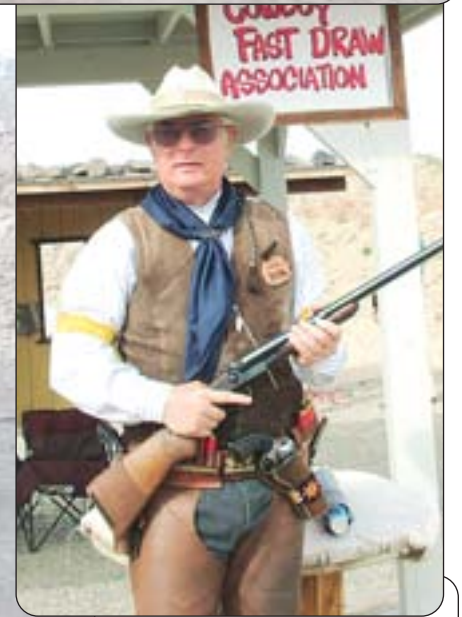
S Duelist

S Senior+

Senior

Traditional

Badlands Bud
Lefty Jo,
SASS #18830
Jessie Lyn,
SASS #7989
Little Fawn
Penny Pepperbox,
SASS #35309
Paniolo Lady,
SASS #38694
Pinto Annie,
SASS #27966
Lash Latigo,
SASS #35308
Silver,
SASS #31581
Diamond Dick,
SASS #1842
Sudden,
SASS #12166
Rascal Rick,
SASS #51258
Mid Valley Drifter,
SASS #35724



(Continued from previous page)
of yer head, ya saw huge clouds of smoke rising from Ol' #4's bermed stage area. Ya see, that previously mentioned prankster apparently (instead of a group hug) had his posse load up their guns, and then they emptied all of their guns safely down range, all at the same time, the whole posse. What a monumental five hundred and 21 gun salute that turned out to be for the High Plains Drifters and participants at hand. Ya shoulda been there for the smokin' fun!

This shoot only comes around once a year, and it has room for all of

us to bring a friend, so iffen ya have not tried the Biggest Little Shoot in America, (Western States Championship) then 2007 is yer next chance. Don't let this one slip by you. Mark your calendar now.

For more information and to see even more photos and results, go to www.nevadacas.com, hit High Plains Drifters, and start cowboy surfin'. And by the way, start putting together a state team, as there is a roving trophy that goes home to the winning state.

See ya folks there next year, ya hear!!!!

sasmaddmike@yahoo.com





RESURRECTION RANGERS

Ruckus At Tombstone

July 8, 2006

By Kid Karst, SASS #66239



Brooksville, FL – Home of Resurrection Rangers (RR) at Tombstone, the newly reborn shootout, founded on the range of the first SASS sanctioned club in Florida. On the second Saturday of this month and for each month to follow, RR kicked off their first match since resurrecting the first and original Florida SASS shoot. Six weeks ago this club was just a dream, an idea to add more fun and excitement to the lives of Florida shooters, but with the help, support, and dedication of so many eager cow folk, Resurrection Rangers became reality.

First a little history! Resurrection Rangers is the new name for the old Cigar City Shooters that started in Tampa, Florida and made its way to its home in Brooksville. Resurrection Rangers was put together to fill the need for another shoot in central Florida for fun and fantasy, that is close enough for anybody to come shoot, and also not to compete with existing clubs' shoots.

A big and special thank you goes out first to our new Match Director, Tennessee Tonto, SASS Life #20891, and Territorial Governor, Dixie Heart, SASS Life #43866, for all their hard work in making a dream become a reality. We also extend our deepest appreciation to the Phoenix Gun club in Brooksville for



their willingness and acceptance in allowing this dream to be seen through. Another huge thank you goes out to all the local clubs and their Directors and Governors for the guidance, advice, and generosity in helping us to not only become a SASS club, but also in helping

the finer details of club life.

An amazing and wonderful surprise were all the donations to the club, ranging from the homemade props such as horses and signs, to the steel targets made locally, and the tents for not only rain, but shade from the scorching sun. Our seventeen volunteers were able to setup and complete our stages the afternoon prior to the match. We had 60 hand-made trophies, custom awards for clean matches, and special shooters kits all hand made by our volunteers! We had what looked like the workings for a perfect event; our fingers were crossed.

Awakening on Saturday, July 8th, Florida shooters were faced with a 60 percent chance of thunderstorms and high humidity.

Despite the overwhelming urges to just lie in bed and relax, seventy five shooters showed up to be a part of the 1st shoot with the Resurrection Rangers as well as a host of others who came to watch.

Upon check-in, each shooter was given a shooter packet that contained a leather badge for the 1st shoot at Resurrection Rangers, a handmade neck coolie to keep the risk of heat related problems down, a ticket for our giveaway, and some information on the club and those that made it a reality.

From 8-9:15 speed pistol, rifle, and shotgun side matches were run


(Continued on next page)



Winners	
Overall	Pike Bishop, SASS #5974
49er	Seven, SASS #15837
B-Western	Badlands Drifter, SASS #68560
C Cowboy	Cypress Scout, SASS #15506
Duelist	Awesome Cactus Jack, SASS #623
E Statesman	The Englishman, SASS #11742
Frontiersman	Shiloh Jasper Green, SASS #16357
F Cartridge	Marshall Longknife, SASS #5898
Gunfighter	Cypress Sam, SASS #10915
	Willie B Fast
	Poison Lily, SASS #69098
	Wild Cat Elly, SASS #15838
	Feathers Ryan, SASS #42129
	Dixie Heart, SASS #43866
	Lulu Ann, SASS #47570
	Cypress Sun, SASS #16978
	Gun Dawg, SASS #21042
	Shenandoah Drifter, SASS #52885
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(Continued from previous page)

by Seven, SASS #15837, as well as a .22 rim-fire match run by Cypress Sun in the hopes of knocking out the misses early and just having a hoot of a time.

Our shooters meeting commenced at 9:15 and after our announcements and Pledge of Allegiance our five posses split up and the fun began. There were five stages set up for quick scenarios as well as keeping us out in the heat for as little time possible. This did not mean they were too easy by any means, as there were plenty of misses to be had. To everyone's surprise, the sun came out and decided not to rain on us. With our posse marshals running the show and keeping things moving, the last of the shooters finished by 12:30. Then, it was off to Papa Joes for our prearranged award ceremony in the good ol' air conditioning and some great food if one wanted.

Once the scores were tallied and our Match Director and Territorial Governor showed up, it was time for the awards. Tennessee Tonto began with the door prizes all donated by our fellow shooters for a little luck of the draw. For the awards he started with the category he believes most important - the junior

shooters, as without them the future of our sport will die. Next, awards were presented to the clean shooters and then handing out very creative sticks of dynamite with fuses that said, "I didn't blow it."

The top shooters in each category were called Top Huckleberry, sticking with the Tombstone theme. Special thanks to all you cowboys who wore your red sashes, giving that extra flare.

This event was extremely well planned and attended, as the shooters loved it. Thanks to everyone for all the hype and the word of mouth that made our shoot a fantastic one. Here's to many years of shooting fun.

I would personally like to say that as a new shooter in this sport (just over a year) being around Cowboy Action Shooters and getting to know everyone, as well as volunteering my time at match work parties and helping in whatever way I can, SASS has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and I hope everyone had as much fun as I did with this shoot. We hope to see all of you again next month.

To all new shooters I want to say welcome to SASS. You're in for the best time of your life, and when you come to Florida don't forget to check out our clubs!

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STAGE TRAIL SHOOTOUT 2006

By Juaquin Malone, SASS Life #44677

Photos by Digital Edge Photography, Tomahawk Johnson SASS Life #16927, and Staff



Juaquin Malone,
SASS Life #44677

Bloomington, IL – It's really hard to believe this was the fourth year for the Stage Trail Shootout presented by the Mclean County Peacemakers. It was on the anniversary of the club's formation the first one was held, and I was there and have been there for all of them. This year a few things were changed. In keeping with some



Mclean County Peacemakers Board of Directors.



Overall Match Winner – Wild Pike, SASS #31760.

For the first time a contingent from the Shady Creek Shootists made the journey from the west side of the state to make their presence known and ended up taking home a number of awards. Old #7, SASS #44566, with his better half, Muleskinner Mary, SASS #64750,

and T.A. Spurs, SASS #5419, with Shamrock Sis, SASS #23095, led the Shady Creek entourage.

The newly remodeled club house at Darnal's Gun Works and Shooting Ranges Gun Works was where the check-in table was located, and it
(Continued on next page)

Winners

Top Gun	Wild Pike, SASS #31760
49'er	Wild Pike
Duelist	Ugly, SASS #18106
E Statesman	Sunrise Kid, SASS #12719
F Cartridge	Slip Hammer Yates, SASS #8456
Gunfighter	Cripple Creek Kid, SASS #10614
Jr.	Sharp Shooter Steve
Jr. 22	Flaming Star, SASS #71391
L 49'er	Cheyenne Cinder, SASS #55699
L Duelist	Prairie Dancer, SASS #56589
L Senior	Broomtail Betsy, SASS #32030
L Traditional	Shamrock Sis, SASS #23095
Modern Senior	Scott Darnall Granville Stuart, SASS #8554
Traditional	Long Fingers, SASS #56813

expressed opinions in the SASS community, this year they chose not to provide a prize for all shooters. Instead a few really nice prizes were obtained, and all shooters were entered into a drawing having an equal chance. The top prize was a Stoeger Coach Gun.

The latest and greatest prop made its first appearance. The club obtained an authentic Amish wagon, and it was cut and chopped and converted into a jail wagon with bars from top to bottom all the way around. To use the vernacular of my youth, it is "Really Cool!" There has been a concerted effort on the part of the Peacemakers to get more people involved with the month to month operations of the club and more people are coming forward to help do more work. They are now in possession of three really great props—covered wagons, a general store (which is going to the state championship), and now the jail wagon. At this rate the club will be able to have a world-class prop at every bay.



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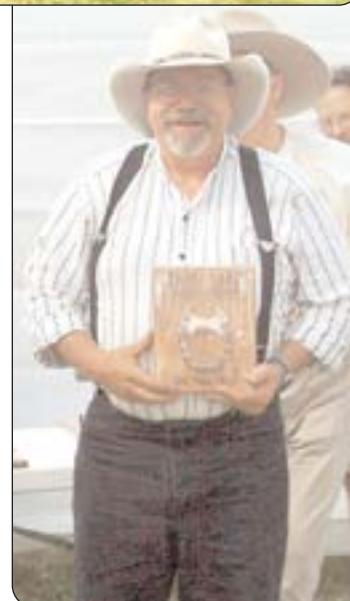
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(Continued from previous page)
also served as center of operations for Digital Edge Photography, as they printed out posse pictures on the spot. Across the room were the kitchen and the food line. We ate outdoors under the beautiful trees with a soft cooling breeze making for a very pleasant lunch. Then there was the food! What can I say about some really good food that was actually more than I could eat at one session? Maybe next year we should have a snack in the afternoon so we can do all of that food justice. I can think of nothing better than brownies in the afternoon. Is anyone listening?
There was a raffle to raise money

to upgrade the targets and have an increased variety available for more creative stages—twenty chances for \$10 with some great items available.
My favorite stage was shooting from inside the jail wagon. The old man needed a little help getting up the steps, and the height was considerable for one of my stature (I was concerned about nose bleeds), but it was neat looking down at everything and everyone. That is something I am not really used to.
Can't wait until next year! I will be thanking you in advance for listening, as that is the cowboy way, and, as always, I can be reached at juaquin@thecowboyway.us





RHETT MAVERICK

SASS #8291

May 22, 1959 – September 9, 2006

By Cuts Crooked, SASS #36914

The Zen Shootists lost their President and Club Founder suddenly to a heart attack on September 9th. Rhett, or just 'Maverick' (aka Brett Porter) as he was known throughout the Midwest, was the heart and soul of the Zen Shootists club. He was the one who greeted new shooters with a big grin and a hearty handshake. I don't think I ever shot a match around Rhett without hearing his trademark, "HOWDY AMIGO" directed at the newest shooters there. He was also the one who made being a part of the Zen Shootists so much fun. His sense of humor was near legendary and always in use.

At his funeral a consistent theme heard repeatedly was how much laughter and fun Rhett brought to the game of Cowboy Action Shooting™. No matter how bad things got, when the weather was at its worst or when there were problems with props and stage set up, Rhett would always find something to laugh at and soon everyone would be laughing right along with him. The words 'infectious grin' could have been invented specifically to describe Rhett!

He also had a tendency to write some very fun-filled stages, too. Possibly the most famous was the attack on the Alamo that started with the shooter looking over the wall at the ap-



proaching Mexican army and stating, "Houston, we have a problem!" And anyone who attended an annual match with The Zen Shootists will have fond memories of the informal musical group he put together with his good friends, Lakota Jack and Bugs Bonny, The Second Cousins of the Pioneers! (They were actually pretty good too!)

Rhett was a tireless promoter of Cowboy Action Shooting™ and would use
(Continued on next page)

The Hondo Kid, El Tejano, SASS #312

1942-2006

By Griff, SASS #94

I am sad to report The Hondo Kid, aka Lee Glover, passed away Wednesday, September 20th. Many SASS members never had the chance to meet Hondo Kid, but never has there been a man that brought so much enthusiasm to the game he as did.

You don't meet folks the likes of the Hondo Kid very often and when you do, you've been blessed. There was very little Hondo Kid couldn't do, little he wasn't willing to do. He jumped right in and started helpin' where help was needed. Some things are always allowed to fall by the wayside, but with Hondo Kid around, you could sure count of them getting done, and done right.

Sometime after he came to the Lone Star Frontier Shootists, we put on a shoot in Dublin, TX and included a Mounted Shoot. We had a course of fire set up, and the few entrants had run through the stage with varying degrees of success. Hondo Kid wanted to compete, but didn't have a horse. After looking over the field of horses, he decided he wanted to ride mine, something about her being short, and close to the ground. Miss Fits Poco is 14.1 hands of energy and 10 years old at the time, was a pretty well trained all-around horse. She wasn't so accustomed to me that she didn't still do a little crow-hopping or hunchin' her back when startin' the day. Hondo Kid jumped up on her back and took off across the arena (a grassy area along a berm) and took up his position. Missy was dancin' around a little bit, what with the spectators, an unfamiliar rider, and the day's general excitement. With stirrups a shade too long, a little too much rein, she unceremoniously dumped poor Hondo Kid on his "keester." All I remember seeing is Hondo Kid going in one direction, Miss Fits going in another, and Kid's revolver going in a third. It was at the exact moment that pretty much all of



the then Texas Mounted Shooters decided that was the last time we were using "live ammo" in mounted events! Not in the least discouraged, for several years Hondo Kid pretty much single-handedly ran the cowboy Mounted Shooting in Texas.

When Hondo Kid came to us in Texas, it wasn't as though he was green to the world of Cowboy Action Shooting™. He had helped found a Cowboy Action club in Pennsylvania at a time when the number of clubs outside California could, in all probability, be counted without resorting to your toes! He invariably found ways to improve, suggest, and in general, be the type of club member that is felt behind the scenes, mostly when he's no longer there, and you want his opinion.

Hondo Kid was the kind of guy that was always there to help out a fellow shooter, or one of the folks he considered his friends. And when he needed help, he was one of the last that would ask. I ask we all take a moment and bow our heads, and ask the Lord to make room for one more Cowboy in Heaven, 'cause Hondo Kid has ridden enough rough trails. Amen. 🤠

Black Boot, SASS #7397

1936-2006

By Arizona Billy Tilghman, SASS Life #5351

Black Boot, AKA Richard M. Furr, left the range June 3, 2006 following a prolonged hospitalization. He founded the Cowboy Action Shooting™ "dynasty" that spans three generations, including his sons Arizona Lightning Jack, SASS Life #7400, Billy Furr, SASS #28260, and grandson, Lightning Bolt, SASS Life #7399.

Black Boot was an Arizona native and enthusiastic shooter for most of his 70 years. A true Westerner, he loved John Wayne movies and followed the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Rattlers. At the memorial service in Mesa, many of his Cowboy Action Shooting™ compadres shared their recollections of the happy years riding the SASS ranges with him. Lightning Jack recalled stopping at a small gun store en route to an out of state match, and Lightning Bolt (then 12 years



Black Boot (on right) with son, Arizona Lightning Jack, and grandson, Lightning Bolt.

Photo by Nyle Leatham

of age) counted 23 firearms on display. Black Boot whispered, "We have more guns than that in the truck!"

Survivors include Wannabe Better, SASS #7396, his wife of 53 years, his two sons, three grand children, and two great-grand children. 🤠

OBITUARY FOR A COWBOY – HAYWIRE HAROLD

Sturgis, MI – The Hidden Valley Cowboys lost a very good friend this last spring, Haywire Harold, AKA Harold Denison, slipped the bonds of this life and rode into the sunset.

Haywire, though not a shooting cowboy, worked countless hours making sure our competitors had a safe ride into the Valley. You see, Hidden Valley does indeed sit deep within a valley woods, and Haywire drove the John Deere "team" that transported "Cowfolk" from

the 21st century down a narrow and twisted trail back to the 1880s. He was a fixture at all our shoots, providing safe and courteous service and an excellent "first impression" to our guests. His positive attitude and even-temper could be counted on to keep everyone safe. A true "waddie," he gave of himself without concern of reward, just to make things better.

Haywire will be missed. 🤠

RHETT MAVERICK, SASS #8291 . . .*(Continued from previous page)*

every opportunity to work something about Cowboy Action Shooting™ into a conversation. His friend Lakota Jack remarked Rhett had once stated when asked how many SASS clubs he would like to see in Iowa, “well, there are 99 counties in Iowa . . .” indicating he thought 99 clubs would be about right. His ready smile and easy manner served him well in his efforts to promote Cowboy Action Shooting™ in Iowa. He was comfortable with the media and more than once managed to drag reluctant reporters, either camera or print types, to Cowboy Action Shooting™ matches, and they always found good things to say about Cowboy Action Shooting™ after spending time watching and talking with Rhett. One of things I

recall vividly was a reporter from The Des Moines Register writing, “When Maverick tips his hat and says ‘Good day, ma’am’, it sounds natural, like he really does want you to have a good day, and it sounds like it’s coming from a real cowboy!”

Rhett was also very active on the political scene, particularly in protecting and promoting Second Amendment issues. Anti firearms politicians often felt the sting of Rhett’s quick wit! They would be disarmed by his easy demeanor and open smile, only to be surprised when he hit them hard with facts and figures concerning the truth about firearms ownership by private citizens. He took his responsibility to protect our rights very seriously and was an occasional guest on radio talk shows.

COMPLICATIONS . . .*(Continued from page 70)*

standing. Two things stood out for me with this book, one of which everyone will notice, the other of which only aficionados of Western fiction and/or the Old West will pick up on. If you are any kind of Cowboy Action Shooter, especially a SASS member (and you are, if you’re gettin’ *The Cowboy Chronicle*), then that is you! The first thing is kind of clever, actually – every important chapter in the book has someone thinking about “complications,” how things are getting complicated, and so forth. I did not recall ever reading a book where the title is not only reflected in the story, but is used throughout the story as a descriptive part of the text. It is woven in nicely, and I enjoyed it every time I saw it.

The second outstanding item was Charlie’s use of clichés. I am uncertain, of course, but I believe he didn’t miss a one. If you can think of the Western cliché, you’ll find it – holsters being tied down, a young (very young!) deputy tracking bad guys at the behest of a powerful judge, with bad guys everywhere – even insane ones! – meandering drifters and wan-

dering ranch hands, pretty girls in the right places, high spirited, well trained horseflesh, one girl and one horse, of course, coming from the “Big Ranch” outside of town; then there is also a ghost town, with a mine shaft, mind you!, a general store, a hotel run by one of the leading ladies, rifles that are held at half cock, an avenging “half-breed,” shooters in windows, a lost dog, and on and on. And each and every wonderful cliché is set at the precise time it needs to be set; it happens just when it should, all choreographed perfectly.

When it is all tied together, to coin a phrase, it is a rollicking good read. It is fast paced, always interesting, plenty of surprises, even when you know what is coming. The reader is drawn in; he quickly learns to like, or dislike, each of the characters, and you will be rooting for those bad guys to get their comeuppance, that I am sure of. The book, if you will, is NOT complicated at all. It is easy reading and fun while it is in your hands. And it is only Book 1, so I imagine I’ll be getting another book to read before too long! Good job, Charlie!

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Rhett was also the founder of the rock band, The Hold on Band, and was a member of the Elkhart Izaak Walton League, The Polk County Republican Committee, and a volunteer on the Urbandale, Iowa Fire Department for ten years.

He is survived by his wife Diane, daughters Megan and Taylor, father Jalapeno Harry, SASS #719, his mother Sharon, and of course by his beloved club, The Zen Shootists.

We’ll meet up with ya along the trail by and by! And when we do, we’ll share more laughter!

Vaya Con Dios, Amigo!

NEW ENGLAND’S VERY OWN TV COWBOY . . .*(Continued from page 70)*

the genuine article. While other Saturday morning kid shows may have entertained us with actors dressed as clowns or astronauts, Rex was the real deal, an authentic cowboy from Texas who could ride, shoot, play the guitar, fly a plane and a helicopter, and crack a bull whip. He taught us values and life long lessons. Rex didn’t stop being Rex when they turned off the camera. He did live shows, charity work, and even was a professor at Emerson College, but he always lived his life the cowboy way, setting an example for his young fans. Working in film and TV in New England, I have had the opportunity to meet Rex many times over the years, and I have never been disappointed by my childhood hero.

I recently had the opportunity to see a new documentary film, “Rex Trailer’s Boomtown,” at the Rhode Island International Film Festival, and the fond memories of uncomplicated childhood came flooding back. The film chronicles Rex Trailer’s career from his beginnings in Texas as a rodeo performer and singing cowboy to, after a little advice from his friend Gabby Hayes, children’s television cowboy. Rex moved to New York in 1947 and shortly thereafter became the host of the Dumont Network’s “Oky Doky Ranch.” He rode into Boston in 1956 on his trusty horse, Goldrush, to say, “Howdy there kids, we’re glad to meet you” for the next thirty years on WBZ-TV4. Rex had several side-kicks over the years, Pablo, Cactus Pete, and Sgt. Billy O’Brien, who helped him entertain millions of

New England boys and girls. Nothing lasts forever, and the era of live local kid’s shows came to an end when the national networks took over the weekend morning time slots to show cartoons and get all that advertising revenue.

In addition to interviews with former sidekicks and show regulars, the film includes comments from many celebrities, such as Jay Leno who have many fond memories of Rex Trailer. Ask any kid who grew up watching Boomtown and they could go on and on about New England’s very own TV cowboy. And yes, Rex Trailer is still that honest straight shooting cowboy today as he makes his way around New England for a fiftieth anniversary tour this year; he’s always glad to meet you.

If you get the chance to see this documentary film on the big screen, do it. Director Michael Bavaro of Trail Mixx Pictures has woven together a wonderful collection of show clips, old movies of personal appearances, news footage, and interviews. You can get your own DVD copy of “Rex Trailer’s Boomtown” with bonus footage and interviews at www.RexTrailer.tv. So, put on your cowboy hat and cap guns and sit down in front of your TV set with the kids for a real cowboy treat. This is a must have DVD for any New England cowboy and kid at heart who remembers “Boom, Boom, Boomtown!” (*Deadwood Duncan, aka Duncan B. Putney, is a professional actor, screenwriter, and historical consultant with over 20 years experience in the film and television industry. www.ldicasting.com/history and www.duncanputney.com*)

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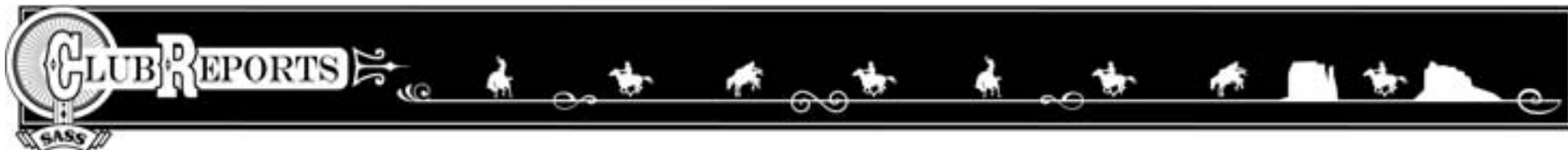
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A COWBOY THANKSGIVING WITH THE RAILTOWN ROWDYS

By Kanawha Katie, SASS #24111

The annual Cowboy Thanksgiving Dinner with the Railtown Rowdys at the Tazewell, Virginia Triangle Gun Club is held the second Sunday in November. The tradition began one year when the season had been so much fun the Rowdys didn't want it to end. The plea was for just one more rootin'-tootin' rip-snortin' shoot with good times, good fellowship, and good food. The invitation to this first Cowboy Thanksgiving Dinner simply said, "Come Play and Bring a

covered dish like Grandma used to make." It was a great success! They shared venison, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, corn pudding, green beans, and bread pudding with whisky sauce. As you know, November weather is unpredictable in the mountains, and one year it snowed so hard the shooters could not see the targets; another year the temperature was 15 degrees, while the next year it was a beautiful 70!

As the celebration of the Cowboy Thanksgiving began to grow and

expand, the Rowdys thought more and more about how Thanksgiving was for the original cowboys. On the trail the Cowboys referred to the cook as "Cookie," "Old Lady," or "Gut Robber." The cook also often served as their doctor and barber. The cowboy knew only a tenderfoot argues with a skunk, a mule, or the cook. If a cowboy was refilling his coffee cup and another cowboy called out to him "man at the pot," he was obliged to go around and fill any cup that was held out to him. The cowboy on the trail

also took all the food he could eat at his first helping—just in case there wasn't enough food for a second go around. If you helped the cook with the preparation of the food, gathering the wood, or some other task, you just might get an extra serving of food. The food, pots, pans, and the tin plates were transported in the chuckwagon—which had been originally designed by Charles Goodnight. On starlit nights, the cook would point the chuckwagon's tongue toward the North Star and this served as a compass for the Trail Boss the next morning.

Son-of-a-Gun Stew would certainly be one of the meals often prepared by the cook, as well as Rip-Snortin' Fried Ham with Red-Eyed Gravy, Rootin'Tootin' Green Fried Tomatoes, Git Along Little Doggies Cowboy Beef Pie, and Yippie-KI-O-KI-Ay Corn Pudding.

Now getting back to Thanksgiving Dinner with the Railtown Rowdys—everyone is welcome! To find your way there, you and your horse just amble down the trail that leads over the river and through the woods. When you see the campfire, you know you are there. Most certainly, as you gather around the campfire, you will hear stories of past Thanksgivings—of huntin' with Grandpa, and cooking with Grandma. You may even tell some of your own almost true shootin' range stories. My favorite is when Joe was sightin' in his deer rifle and a doe walked up behind him and nuzzled his neck. The doe's name was Snickers, and she was just looking for her favorite food. This scared Joe so much he shot a hole through the tin roof at the range. Of course after a story like that is told, the next cowboy has to tell an even better one, and so it goes. I personally like the stories the cowgirls tell the best. I have chosen not to repeat any of those at this time to protect the guilty.

The Railtown Rowdys wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving and encourage you to start your own Cowboy Thanksgiving traditions. As for myself, I plan to travel along the trail looking for more cowboy stories to tell. Life in America is great, so live it to its fullest!

TRAVIS COUNTY REGULATORS *Central Texas Hot August Hawaiian Shoot*

By Shotgun Sally, SASS #11574



Travis County Regulators "Bloomin' Posse"

All decked out in their gunbelts, boots, and bloomers, this leather and lace clad, gun-totin', group of girls made their posse debut during the Travis County Regulators' August monthly shoot. This nine-woman posse was a first in the history of the Travis County Regulators. We promote the Travis County Regulators as a family-oriented sport, with a great deal of emphasis on educating young shooters and encouraging women to join as well, every chance we get. SO here's to all the women shooters in the world of Cowboy Action Shooting™ – You Go Girls!!

Travis County Regulators Hawaiian Cowboys

In Smithville, TX as the temperatures soar above 100 degrees, the Regulators are still shootin' it up, just not quite in historic Wild West style. Dressed in full leather gear, cowboy boots, and hats, this posse is quite a sight in their Hawaiian shirts and shorts! If you look closely you might even see a couple of grass skirts and coconuts. To make it fun, prizes were awarded for the Most Creative, Most Colorful, and Best Hula-Dancing cowboys. It was a fun, festive way to enjoy the shoot and be a little more comfortable and safe while still following the "Spirit of the Game."



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Barrel Length: 4 3/4" 5 1/2"
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The SASS Marshal includes B-Engraving
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Barrel Length: 4 3/4" 5 1/2"
Caliber: .45LC .44/40 .38/40
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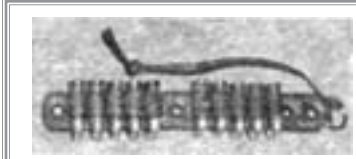


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