



# The Cowboy Chronicle

The Monthly Journal of the Single Action Shooting Society®

Vol. 22 No. 7

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July 2009

See our EXCITING Mercantile section (starting on page 91)

## COWBOY HEAVEN

### The Last Stand At Chimney Rock • SASS 2008 Western Regional! October 9-12, 2008

By Frederick Jackson Turner, SASS #28271

Photos by Hoss Hall, SASS #15689

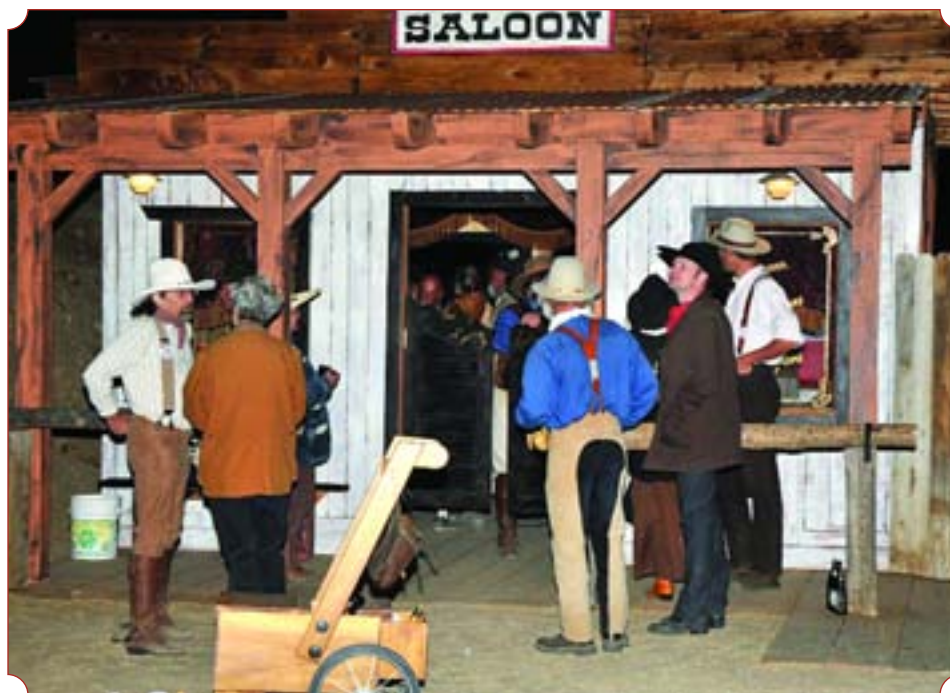
**L**ucerne Valley, CA – I'm sitting in a scoring shack that would double as a pretty decent hotel lounge in some parts of the country. The 2008 SASS Western Regional is over, folks are pulling up stakes, and headed back home after days of revelry. Everyone is headed for home, ready to take a shower, maybe pour out a good libation of some sort, and mull over the events of a long, satisfying weekend.

Except no one is in a hurry to leave!

I'm basking in the warm afterglow of a great match with Ella Watson and Kentucky Gal, letting the last of the day slide by, when Crusty Jim walks in. "It's a little bit of cowboy heaven," he grins through the dust and three-day beard. He tips his hat, and, having given voice to what we all are thinking, disappears into the warm afternoon sun.

And folks, that's what the 2008 Western Regional, the Last Stand at Chimney Rock was—a little bit of Cowboy Heaven.

Set in the picturesque Lucerne



*There are many parts to a world-class shooting match. Shooting, of course, is very important, but all the fun things wrapped around the shooting part is what makes a match really stand out ... and that's just what the Double R Bar Regulators arranged! The shooters, the Old West Town, and the evening social activities completed the picture. Twitchy Finger's Saloon was THE place to be each night!*

Valley, Double R Bar Regulators, with help from surrounding clubs, put together one of the most authentic and scenic matches held anywhere in this country. The serene landscape is the site of one of the last shootouts in the old west—Chimney Rock—and from that historical event, the Western Regional takes its name. The fact that part of the proceeds went to the Happy

Trails Children's Foundation simply added to the event.

The Double R Bar Regulators have built an entire western town in this little corner of the Lucerne Valley. Last year, the props and stages were great; this year, they were even better! Forget about looking like a movie set. To stroll down the streets and boardwalks of this range is like walking through

See **HIGHLIGHTS** on page 73

an 1880's southwestern cowtown!

Cowboys, bankers, train conductors gentlemen, scoundrels, and their ladies, amble down a long boardwalk, where real buildings line both sides of the street. Down the boardwalk, you'll run into the appropriately titled "Twitchy Finger's Saloon." It's a fully functional old time saloon—complete with working piano—that also happens to be Stage Three of the match! It would also become the site of regular late night gatherings as the weekend went on.

Cowboys started pulling into town by the middle of the week. Side matches were held Thursday, and when the last shots had echoed down the rocky canyons at the end of the day, those early arrivals were treated to one of those spectacular sunsets that just ache with the romance of the old West. Later that same evening, with the guns safely locked away, the first of several parties broke out in Twitchy Finger's Saloon, the working bar on Stage Three. Upgraded this year, the Saloon has become the social center for those looking for a little peace and quiet with a few dozen rowdy cowboys. Lit by kerosene lanterns, the annual Thursday after-hours event, bartended smartly (if not wisely!) by Twitchy and Co, lasted  
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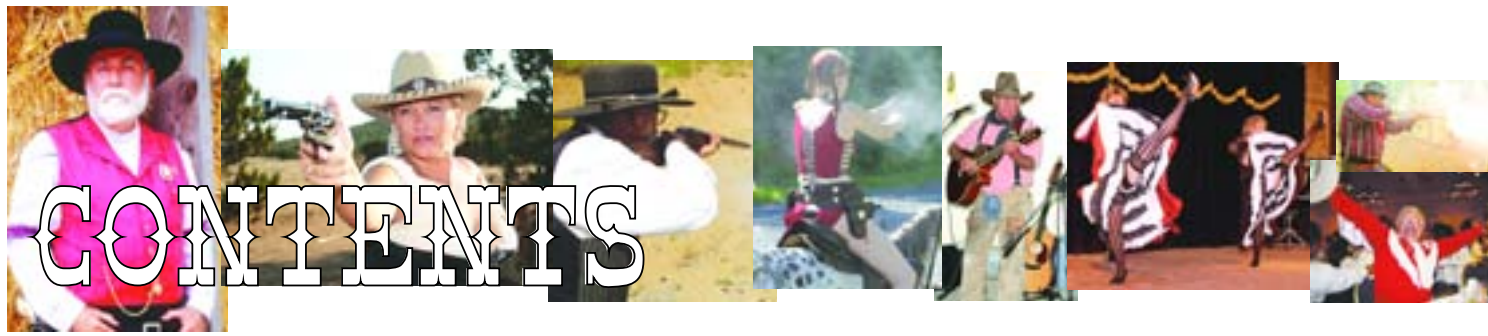
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SASS held its New Mexico Headquarters building grand opening in April 2009. Dignitaries from three counties, two cities, and the State of New Mexico were in attendance. The keynote speaker was New Mexico Governor, Bill Richardson. After the speeches and Dutch oven cowboy grub, everyone took the opportunity for a photo op with the Governor. If you're driving through New Mexico on I-40 east of Albuquerque, get off on the north frontage road at Edgewood and follow it west to the very end. Our New Mexico staff will be happy to show you around!



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 your firearms before firing.



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

# WHY CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?

By Tex, SASS #4

Maintaining growth of new membership is, of course, a primary focus of SASS as an organization ... but it's only half the job. The other half of the job is retaining membership. As folks fail to renew their memberships, SASS has a policy of asking why ... and a few are willing to respond. Sometimes cowboys have life changing events that affect their ability to continue playing the game ... and that's understandable, but sometimes the reasons given have to do with SASS itself ... and, as painful as these allegations are, they each deserve to be considered ... the question is ... has SASS lost its way?

Many of the reasons for dropping out have to do with club actions and policies. "The club has its 'clicks' and when I shot with them, I was completely ignored. After two or three matches, I got the idea ... they didn't need anymore folks in their inner circle." Another letter complained the club members were actually hostile toward her because of her political persuasions ... and were apparently intent on running her off! Most clubs, of course, go out of their way to welcome new potential members and make them feel part of the group ... the vast majority of e-

mails received at SASS headquarters are from ecstatic new members who have met the most wonderful people on earth! If your club isn't paying attention to new folks, take a hard look at what you're doing ... new members are the lifeblood of every organization.

It's also important to remember, it's not always the club that's at fault ... if one wants to be part of the "gang," one must make an effort to "fit in." Quiet, reserved personalities as well as "know-it-all," opinionated personalities may neither lend themselves to ingratiating one's self

*(Continued on next page)*

**S**ASS continues to attract new members ... and after nearly 30 years, that's wonderful! In many areas SASS is still a well-kept secret, but we're doing all we can to remedy that. Today, Europe is one of the fastest growing new regions. Folks in the "Old Country" have had a long love affair with the American West, and now they are beginning to play "cowboy" in a big way.



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(Continued from previous page)  
to existing club members. It's important for new members to lend a willing, helping hand with range operations, have a good attitude, and obviously enjoy themselves.

As much as I believe we are a friendly, outgoing bunch here at Founders Ranch, I received a surprise at a recent monthly match. A brand new lady competitor, whom I didn't know, walked up to me after two stages and introduced herself! You can bet I paid particular attention to her for the rest of the match, and will go out of my way to greet her at matches from now on! She did good!

SASS received another long letter with a long list of complaints saying SASS is only interested in "winners," courses of fire are laid out for the experts, SASS harbors "professional" shooters, SASS never talks about supporting charities, disabled, or new members, doesn't cater to "social" shooters, doesn't encourage greeting folks at matches, has allowed technology creep in the game, ignores social and other "fun" (non-shooting) events, ignores club recruiting efforts, does not encourage local events, and so forth ...

After drafting a politically correct and conciliatory response, I waited a few days before sending it ... and finally realized, SASS does indeed address virtually every one of his complaints ... and the underlying theme of most of his note is—he can't win! SASS, SASS philosophy, and *The Cowboy Chronicle* all encourage, value, and publish material for the non-top competitive shooters, the western life-style members, club efforts to support charities, recruit members, and take western history oriented trips and vacations. The only time winners are glorified is in the one section of *The Cowboy Chronicle* dealing with annual matches. The winners of the Annual, State, Regional, National, and World Championships are talented, work hard, and deserve their recognition ... and that recognition is about all they receive from SASS ... there are no new automobiles on the prize table!

SASS is not about winning. Winning is wonderful, and some folks are willing to work very hard to be competitive. SASS is about playing the game. That's why the

door prizes are distributed by random drawing ... your prize is determined by simply being present, not by how well you shoot. Everyone wants to shoot as well as they can and as well as they are willing to work for. With over 30 categories, there are plenty of opportunities to work hard and be a winner, if that's your goal. But if you simply want to suit up, strap on your guns, and share your western fantasy on the range with a bunch of other like-minded cowboys and cowgirls, SASS is YOUR organization!

Interestingly, another area of keen interest, both positive and negative, are Colonel Dan's monthly articles. *The Cowboy Chronicle* receives more positive e-mails and notes regarding this column than any other in the paper. However, occasionally, we receive a note to the effect, "if that's the way SASS thinks, I'm outta here!"

Let's be clear ... that political column is not a Democrats vs. Republican column. Neither party has a lock of "the way, the truth, and the light!" And, both parties are equally guilty of inappropriate power abuse and stupidity from time to time. A liberal vs. conservative connotation is closer to the truth, but for me what I find interesting is to be reminded what the Constitution says and, presumably, what our Founding Fathers intended. In the words of an old country song (almost), "the country we were promised is not what we're living today!" I find comfort in the idea the Constitution means what it says and says what it means ... and it's not subject to a new interpretation each Monday morning. Federal powers are vital, but limited. Personal responsibility is important.

Colonel Dan's articles are intended to get people to think ... not drive folks from the fold. His ideas seem particularly relevant in today's political climate where most gun owners feel legislative pressure to restrict gun use, and it's difficult to find reloading components. If anyone has an opposing point of view, you are always invited to submit an article expressing those views.

*"Patriotism is supporting your country all the time, and your government when it deserves it!"*

- Mark Twain 🐾

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BILLY THE KID

# BILLY THE KID'S BREAKOUT

*By Sgt. Shuster, SASS #60835*

Club's Old West Banquet in Ruidoso. Gomber calls historic Lincoln his home, and Western History is his true passion. He is the author of *Past Tense, Part I* and *Heroes and Villains of the Lincoln County War*, both of which are collections of his weekly newspaper column in the Ruidoso News. Gomber has also authored *A Primer to the Lincoln County War*, a small volume designed to help the novice understand the complexities of the characters, the politics, and the timeline of the Lincoln County War and the story of its most famous participant, Billy the Kid. He has appeared regularly on the History Channel, most notably the most successful series in that channel's own history: "Wild West Tech," as well as numerous other shows. He has worked for A&E, Biography, the BBC, and The Discovery Channel.

The Old West Banquet is open to the public and will start with a no-host bar at 5pm and dinner, featuring Chateaubriand, begins at 6pm. The cost is just \$40 per person. On Sunday, competitors and guests will have the opportunity for a tour of the historic town of Lincoln, tickets to all the New Mexico State Monument buildings in Lincoln, including the Courthouse and the Tunstall Store, participation in the Old Lincoln Days Grand Parade, and tickets to the annual pageant, "The Last Escape of Billy the Kid." And, all of this is included in the low introductory match fee of \$65. Juniors and non-shooters pay only \$45.

Volunteers are hard at work developing both Friday afternoon side matches and the Saturday main match. John Steele, SASS #82159, is writing six stages based upon the history of Billy the Kid, and each stage will feature a particular incident in his short life. The Regulators are also expanding the present Cowboy Action Shooting™ Range and Western Town for this event. Rowdy Lane, SASS #82087,

and Ginger Malloy, SASS #82160, are working on awards and award sponsors with help from Kitty Kaffeine, SASS #82174, and Karen Clontz. Plans are being made by Frank Coe, SASS #81585, for participants to walk or maybe even ride in a horse drawn wagon in the Old Lincoln Days Grand Parade to promote the Lincoln County Regulators, their sponsors, and SASS! Sgt. Shuster, SASS #60835 is the overall chair for the event and is also responsible for marketing the event.. Stage sponsors are being sought by Usurious Dave, SASS #80436. Stage sponsors will hang their banners on the stage they sponsor and will be mentioned in all pertinent press releases and public relations.

In addition to the event's major sponsor, City Bank New Mexico, stage sponsors include Fire Power Gun and Pawn in Ruidoso, New Mexico and the Best-Corn Guest Ranch near Roswell, New Mexico. Target sponsors include Copy Rite Printing of both Roswell and Ruidoso, New Mexico.

Fire Power has donated a Remington/ISP Model SPR220 Cowboy Side by Side Shotgun to be given away in a Deck of Cards raffle. This shotgun sports a satin finished walnut stock with checkered pistol grip, 20 inch barrels, double triggers, and functional external hammers. This rabbit-eared coach gun retails for \$561, but can be yours for just a \$20 playing card.

This major Cowboy Action Shooting™ event is a great opportunity for visitors to get a real taste of Ruidoso and Lincoln County, New Mexico, where the excitement of a horse winning by a nose at Ruidoso Downs, the pull of the jackpot handle at Billy the Kid Casino or the Inn of the Mountain Gods, and the majestic mountain vistas all take your breath away. Imagine hiking or biking along trails lined with ponderosa pines or golfing at one of the nine cool courses. In the evening, one can enjoy world-renowned artists and local talent at the performing arts and dinner theaters. Stroll along Midtown and explore quaint shops, dine in a steak house or other local New Mexican restaurant, and relax on the deck of a mountain cabin. Stay for a few days after the match to experience our unforgettable mountain resort. Ruidoso has the lifestyle you have been dreaming of—for a weekend or a lifetime. The Regulators are hoping to make this a major visitors' event for Ruidoso and Lincoln County. Any cowboy or cowgirl who wants to volunteer, sponsor, or participate is welcome. For more information and to sign up now for City Bank New Mexico's "Billy the Kid's Breakout," go to [www.LincolnCountyRegulators.com](http://www.LincolnCountyRegulators.com), contact Sgt. Shuster at [ShootingAction@aol.com](mailto:ShootingAction@aol.com), call (575) 257-0871 or write to Lincoln County Regulators at 2814 Sudderth Drive, Suite 515, Ruidoso, NM 88345. To get in the know about all of the activities in the Ruidoso area, click on:

<http://www.ruidosonow.com/visitor.aspx>.

Visit Billy the Kid country in southern New Mexico for an exciting weekend on August 7, 8 and 9, stay a few more days to enjoy this mountain paradise, and then head north to Founders Ranch the following weekend for Outlaw Trail, the SASS Four Corners Regional. 🐾

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## GWII REVOLVERS

  
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# SOUTHERN ONTARIO COWBOY ACTION SHOOTERS PROMOTE SASS AT TORONTO SPORTSMEN'S SHOW

By *Blind Eagle*, SASS #9657

From Wednesday, March 18th through Sunday, March 22nd a dedicated group of Cowboy Action Shooters (drawn from the ranks of SASS Clubs in Southern Ontario) worked a crowd of visitors in a 30ft. by 12ft. booth set up through the auspices of the Canadian Shooting Sports Association. This was the eighth consecutive year our shooting sport has been featured at this show, with many of the waddies having worked all eight years for the promotion of our sport.

The Toronto Sportsmen's Show, which runs during the March School break, promotes fishing, hunting, boating, archery, etc., and usually draws some 120 to 150 thousand paying visitors to view the almost 500 exhibits over the five day period.

Our exhibit consisted of a number of backdrops, two of which were used specifically to allow photographs to be taken of visitors dressed in Cowboy/Cowgirl costumes and holding reproduction firearms. These were then printed



*The kids also enjoyed dressing cowboy for the photos!*



*Folks really enjoyed dressing cowboy!*

on site for them, and as they waited for their photos, other SASS members talked to them about the sport while in the back of the booth a large screen was showing "END of TRAIL" and other suitable videos of our sport. Other exhibits were typical stage props, such as

the Alamo and a steam engine.

In addition, we also promoted and sold tickets at \$10 each to those interested spectators who were keen for a chance to experience a *one stage* tryout. Four different clubs in the area volunteered to host these special introductory events, indicating location and time on the ticket. The clubs will provide the stage set-up, firearms, ammunition, as well as safe supervision and instruction. The ticket holders (if they show up) will be reimbursed for their ticket, and the host Club will be reimbursed from the "ticket sales" at the show.

For the preceding years that we have manned this booth we have only promoted the sport through videos and handouts, along with scheduled demonstrations using wax bullets. By providing lists of scheduled shoots and their locations, we hoped to bring more interested people to the sport. However, that method failed to provide the attendance we hoped for. We expect that this new pro-

motion will be even more successful at introducing people to Cowboy Action Shooting™.

The Mayor of Toronto did not appreciate our efforts. He and the City Council are determined to remove all firearms from private citizens and has banned all

*(Continued on next page)*



*The Gang (many of the Waddies who worked the Booth)*



*Selling tickets to try our sport at one of four clubs on specific dates.*



Coffin Photo with paying customers.



Waddies talking to the crowd about SASS.

(Continued from previous page)

firearms from city owned facilities, and recently they were successful in ejecting two clubs from city owned buildings, regardless of the fact one was home to Olympic shooting hopefuls, and there is no other Olympic suitable facility within a 100 mile range of the city. Because of this city ban, the Toronto Sportsmen's show has just announced

after 63 years they are pulling out from the current facility and moving to a Provincially-owned venue right in the heart of the city and within site of City Hall. This short-cited council just cost themselves \$750,000 in rentals for this event. As the media have stated, the City Council has, once again, "shot themselves in the foot." Of course,

such a ban on firearms, not only affected our specific booth (promotion only of the Cowboy Action sport), but also affects all the manufacturers and retail firearms oriented booths. With no sale by retailers of rifles/shotguns allowed (if we had stayed at the current location), many of the exhibitors would have been forced to drop out.

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# DOUBLE R BAR RANCH IS UP FOR SALE!



The Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum, which was a prominent fixture in the California high desert for decades, transferred to Branson a few years ago. Roy and Dale were loved by people all over the



**A**pple Valley, CA – The Historic Roy Rogers Double R Bar Ranch is being sold at Auction May 30th 2009 .... Who will be the one who buys it, and will they carry on the legacy of Roy Rogers, “King of the Cowboys” and Dale Evans, “Queen Of The West?” Who will be the new owner of a piece of Roy Rogers’ heart ... his beloved Double R Bar Ranch? The 67 acre Double R Bar ranch, Roy’s only working horse ranch, which he named after the one on his TV show, has a landmark red barn he built himself, three homes, one is full of personal items and collectibles, a half mile racetrack, 17 horse stables, one still adorned with the name of it’s most famous occupant—Roy’s devoted pal, Trigger Jr., as well as carriage, buck board, and several vintage trucks he owned. Along with the ranch, water rights and the ownership and rights to the name, “Roy Rogers Double R Bar Ranch” are also included in the sale.

world as they touched their hearts with their down to earth ways and wholesome values. Even though they were well known celebrities, they were very approachable and unassuming. At this point all that is left of their legacy in the High Desert is Roy’s Double R Bar Ranch. What will be the future for this legendary place? Who will ultimately hold the keys to its fate?

The current owners, who purchased it seven years ago, have lovingly restored it to its original glory and hope to pass the baton to someone who will open its doors to the public and offer ranch tours, live music, and festivals with horseback riding and movies in the barn, which has already been converted into a movie theatre. These are all things the current owners have done over the years to raise much needed funds for the Happy Trails Children’s Foundation, an organization Roy and Dale founded themselves for severely abused



boys. Many weddings have also been held at the Double R Bar, as it can also be setup as a banquet facility, which includes a full kitchen in the barn. It is the current owners hope the new owner

will keep the Roy Rogers legacy alive for all to enjoy so we never forget the American hero, Roy Rogers, and his talented bride, Dale Evans. Please visit the website @ [www.royrogersranch.com](http://www.royrogersranch.com).

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# LAMENTS OF AN AGEING ELDER STATESMAN

*By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator #4375*

Sometimes we get too paranoid about safety. It's a no, no to say anything offensive about safety, but when you get to be older and wiser, you can always say, "there's a fine line between safety and paranoia, and 'hull' is one of those fine lines."

Speaking of fine lines I wonder why there aren't more women RO's. In my opinion, women see the overall picture much quicker than most men. Men sometimes get bogged down in their concerns about family, love-making, wealth, and winning, while women are more concerned about having fun and enjoying life while they can. Anyway, the "Hull Rule" should be changed.

My desktop is littered with "User Guides" I have no heart to read. I'm sure if I devoted the energy to reading them I might better understand

my Cell Phone, Computer and Printer, DVD Player, new High Definition Television set, and other items associated with this confounded technological age. Instead of reading this material and then really screwing things up, I just leave them littered about. In a way, the pile of User Guides does look impressive—almost like I really understand them. But the truth is I just leave them there until my grandkids visit and explain them to me.

Next to the aforementioned guides is a doctor's lab test form I'm supposed to take to the lab for blood tests. Now this I understand, but don't like. I try to stay healthy, but doing so really becomes a nuisance. Staying healthy means blood tests, stool samples, flu shots, skin cancer removals, and, every

few years, a Colonoscopy. Keeping on track to a healthy golden age can be tiresome and a pain in the derriere, so to speak. Attending a Western Shoot every now and then serves as a mental laxative and gets me away from all these other insignificant concerns.

Leaving the house is no problem. Both my wife and I frequently forget where the other is, so departure and absence have a commonality about them—either one gets no mind. Well, that's one good thing about Cell Phones. After a few days, we can call each other to let our whereabouts be known. "Are you okay" usually comes before "where are you anyway?" "I'm at a shoot in southern Oregon," or something like that is the normal reply.

*(Continued on next page)*

Loading the '97 gets more difficult with age. Common procedure: grab three shells from the left side of your belt, drop one whilst walking fast (or running) to the next shooting point, then load one of the remaining two over the top. Then, close the action with authority! Jacking or pumping with authority is what I've been forgetting to do of late and usually wind up with the dreadful "hull." This rule should be changed anyway. Once the darn shell is shot, it ain't going to hurt no one, no how.

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(Continued from previous page)  
"Okay, be careful and have a good time," comes from the other end of the phone. Nothing is said about having a "winning shoot." Those days have long been gone. Now it's shooting just to see if I can still cock the hammer and lever the action (and get the Hull out).

Forgetting the shooting sequences on the stage is a given. Help from the RO is now common practice, along with the request to hold the Timer very close to the right ear. Quite often there's a problem here, too, because the RO can't hear either, and that's why we need

more women RO's. It would be interesting to check with SASS to see how many Women are RO's ...

Finally, I wonder why there are no women members of the Wild Bunch? Seems to me most of our Ladies, especially those who win all those "Best Dressed Awards," would make great decision-makers. If women are qualified enough to be members of Congress, why can't they be qualified enough to be members of the Wild Bunch? Let's have some equal opportunity employment here!

Take care Pard, and jack those hulls out with authority!

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*Cat Ballou, SASS #55*  
~SASS Hall of Fame Inductee~

# WHAT WOMEN WORE

## Chapter 2 - The Hoop Skirt Era: 1859-1868(7)

*By Miz Annie Ross, SASS #60919*

**A**s the Cowboy Era was beginning in the 1860's, there were several significant events that would have an impact on ladies fashion.

First, the sewing machine had been invented. Although many women could not afford a machine of their own, the majority of clothes were sewn with one. This meant a dressmaker could more easily produce clothes at a more reasonable price, so women were able to buy more clothing.

Then there was the impact of the war that we Southerners like to refer to as the Great Misunderstanding. The influence of the War was felt most strongly in the South, leading to a scarcity of fabric and findings. During the first years of the War, southern ladies were able to use, re-use, and re-combine what they had, but by the latter years, supplies had become so scarce that even Scarlet O'Hara was forced to design a dress from her draperies!

The War also slowed the mails. When the mails did arrive, they brought news of the latest fashions from Europe and American clothes become European couture design driven. By the mid-1860's, Charles Worth began designing fashions that would set the standard on both sides of the Atlantic for years to come.

Finally, ladies had been using vegetable and other natural dyes to color fabric. Synthetic aniline dyes were developed and as these began to replace vegetable dyes during the 60's, more intense colors became readily available.

**Silhouette:**

Cage crinoline hoops gave the silhouette a rounded appearance. By the early 1860's, skirts had reached their ultimate width. This bell-shaped crinoline hoop gave the young ladies of the South their

nickname Southern Belles.

Many dresses were one-piece with the bodice and skirt sewn together at the waist, which was usually accented with a wide contrasting waistband or long draped sash.

**Bodices:**

The bodice for casual attire ended at the natural waist and was straight all around. Day dresses had necklines with lace or tatted collars or a chemisette for a modest daytime look. Bodices of this era had one of three sleeve styles: wide Pagoda style sleeves with linen under sleeves called engageantes; Bishop sleeves gathered into a cuff at the wrist, or Coat sleeves which could be pushed up.

Evening dresses were off-the-shoulder, had low necklines and short sleeves. They were worn with short gloves or fingerless mitts, crocheted or made of lace.

**Skirts:**



Skirts were made of plain widths of fabric pleated to fit a waistband at the natural waistline. By 1863, the hoops became more elliptical than round, with the back fuller than the front. These skirts were often gored in the front and on



*Miz Annie dressed in 1860's evening wear.*

the sides, with straight lengths of fabric in the back. During the War, hardships caused a decline in the amount of fabrics and trimmings used in the dresses. The excessive flounces became fewer and finally disappeared. They were replaced by bands of contrasting trim or fabric, when available.

By 1865, skirt widths began to diminish at the hips. All the panels were gored to almost fit the waist, leaving a conical-shaped skirt. As the width continued to diminish, skirts were often looped up for walking, showing a decorated underskirt, and leading to the introduction of the overskirt. By 1869, the hoop was replaced by the bustle. *(More about that in Chapter 3!)*

**Fabric:**

Heavy silks in solid colors became fashionable for both day and evening wear. A skirt might be

made with two bodices, one long-sleeved and high-necked for afternoon wear, and one short-sleeved and low-necked for evening

By the 1860's, cotton was no longer considered a high-fashion fabric. Silk, satin, taffeta, faille, moiré, silk, poplin from Ireland, and velvet were used for formal dresses.

**Closure:**

Garments were closed with hooks and eyes or buttons down the front of the garment or lacing running down the back. Skirts were fastened at the waist with hooks or buttons, and the waist openings were covered by the pleats or gathers.

**Undergarments:**



Women wore as many as seven layers of clothing under their dresses. This included Drawers, a Chemise, a custom made Corset, a Corset Cover or Camisole, Petticoats, a Hoop (Caged Crinoline), and an Over Petticoat.

**Jewelry:**

Jewelry was worn conservatively during this era since most citizens contributed much of their *(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)  
time and property to the war and to relief efforts. Southern women, in particular, often donated all but their wedding rings and a few cherished family heirlooms to help the Cause.

**Hats:**



As the decade progressed, most women no longer wore head coverings in their own homes, once their hair was dressed for the day.

Bonnets that covered the top, back, and sides of the head were worn for church or other formal daytime occasions. They were made of straw, horsehair, or buckram covered in silk or other fine fabrics. A decorative curtain (also referred to as a bavolet) on most bonnets shaded the wearer's neck and accommodated the low bun hairstyles.

Hats were considered more appropriate for younger women on informal occasions only.

Small decorative dinner caps with lace or ribbons were worn for formal evening socials. With a ball gown, a lady would wear only

a bit of ribbon or lace and flowers in her hair.

**Hairstyles:**




A wide, round face was the standard of beauty in this decade. To enhance this look, hair was worn parted in the middle and smoothed, waved, or poofed over the ears, then braided or rolled and pinned, or worn in a low bun at the back of the neck. Hair oils and pomades were used to maintain the style.

Styled hair was often confined in a decorative hairnet. These hairnets were frequently made of very fine material to match the wearer's natural hair color. Today we often refer to these nets as snoods, although the term snood is actually a European name. Americans simply called this item a hairnet until sometime after they went out of fashion in the 1870's.

For dances, balls, and evening wear, a lady might let her hair down and wear ringlets or sausage curls and decorate her hair with ribbon, flowers, or lace.

REMEMBER: All 1860's hairstyles had two things in common: (1) the hair was parted down the middle and confined for day wear and (2) no bangs.

This is a condensation of Chapter 2 from my book *What Women Wore: A Handbook for Cowboy Action Shooting™ Cowgirls*. To read the whole story, email [MizAnnie@dixiecowgirls.org](mailto:MizAnnie@dixiecowgirls.org) to order a book of your own! 

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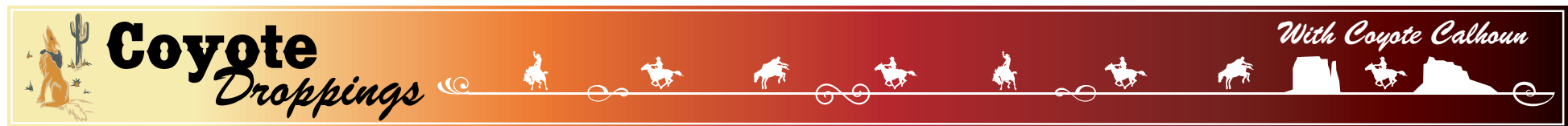
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Coyote Calhoun, SASS #201

# STAGE WRITING 101 - PART I

## or

### How to dodge bullets as a stage writer!

By Coyote Calhoun, SASS #201

We're recreating a gunfight, and they were up-close and personal.

The second rule on the list probably creates the most discussion. You should never write stages to favor any one group of shooters. Any way you write stages will intentionally or unintentionally favor somebody, but always try your best to be fair to all levels and categories of shooters.

Another thought to keep in mind when writing stages is there is NO rule as to the number of firearms that should be used; there is NO rule as to the number of targets that should be used, and there is NO rule as to the minimum number of rounds for each firearm. It is generally accepted that revolvers, rifle, and shotgun are available for use,

but any combination may actually be used. Stages containing only shotgun and revolvers, rifle and revolvers, or shotgun and rifle are perfectly acceptable.

#### Should Shotgun Targets Make A Difference?

Most stages that require the shotgun generally stay in the two to six target ranges. A few will argue two targets per stage favors double shooters. I don't think there is any evidence to support this, but it for sure helps a hammered double shooter who is allowed to stage their shotgun with the hammers cocked. On the other hand, if you go over six targets per stage, you may be accused of creating a pump friendly stage. The only sure bet about shotgun targets is

if you put an odd number on a stage, you will be instantly accused of catering to pump shotgun shooters.

Shotgun knockdowns are commonplace and expected in major matches. Using knockdowns for shotgun targets eliminates the "Golden BB" argument. Aerial activated shotgun targets on stages are also becoming more commonplace. If you are using flying birds, it is a good idea to place a make-up target on the stage in an effort to allow a shooter to keep their clean sweep intact.

#### What are the rifle rules?

Rifle targets in stages can vary from close-up to far away, and close together to spread apart. There are not many arguments about rifle tar-

*(Continued on next page)*

**W**hen it comes to stage writing there many different schools of thought, and it's for sure there is not just one way to do it. No matter what school you subscribe to, there are a few generally accepted rules. The first of these is definitely the most important. All targets should be safe, relatively close, and big. It's a lot more fun to hit a target than it is to miss one.



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 Date & Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
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(Continued from previous page)  
 gets, but if you get them out too far or too small, expect to get some criticism. The biggest difference in close-up, far away, close together, and spread out is the time required to engage the targets. For an average shooter, you can add ten seconds and a miss or two to their stage times by placing targets further out or further apart.

#### Can target placement on revolver targets favor one shooter over another?

**YOU BET!** Spread revolver targets out, and the gap will narrow between a two handed shooter and a duelist or gunfighter. Widely spread revolver targets create plenty of time for a one handed shooter to cock while moving to acquire the next target. Bring them close together, and the gap between a two handed shooter and duelist will widen.

There has been much discussion concerning knockdown revolver targets. I have tried many different types of scenarios with knockdown revolver targets ... from not counting a miss if hit and a bonus if knocked down, to not counting a miss if not knocked down and then requiring

another action by the shooter as a penalty. I have been criticized for all of them. I think there is a place for knockdown revolver targets in this game but, if you are going to use them, one rule to follow is ... the target should be fair. Most revolver knockdowns are smaller than a stationary target, so bring them in close. Also, revolver knockdowns should be adjustable and reliable. The SASS Handbook states "reactive targets are set to fall when squarely hit with no more than a standard .38 Special 158 gr. factory load." The key here is NO MORE THAN, and as I said earlier BE FAIR, and this means to all shooters.

#### I am too old for a foot race!

When I first started shooting in SASS matches, we crawled under wagons or laid down on our bedrolls only to spring into action and blaze away at the cattle rustlers. Most of that is now gone, but movement is still a part of the game. That is not to say a stand and deliver stage is not acceptable, because it certainly is. Movement in a stage can benefit the more athletic shooter, and a stand and deliver stage should not benefit any group. Movement should not be

confused with a "footrace." Moving from the saloon to the get-a-way horseshoes should NOT be a 40-yard sprint!

#### The bottom line!

I have only touched on a few points in stage writing, but the bottom line is if you write stages, you will be criticized. Remember, one man's trash is another man's treasure! You will have a target on your back! Constructive criticism is not a bad thing. Listen and question yourself. Is there a better way? But, when a shooter goes on the SASS Wire and criticizes a match for what are actually their personal shortcomings, or uses the match's

design ideas as an excuse for not winning, it is definitely NOT constructive criticism.

The best-prepared shooter will win! You cannot design a match to make anyone a better shooter. The shooter that is the best prepared and best practiced will win. Never use stage writing to try and slow shooters down. If you attempt to slow a top shooter down, you will succeed in slowing everyone else down exponentially.

I have just scratched the surface of successful stage writing and match design. Next month we will delve a little deeper into the subject ...

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## AWARDS OUGHT TO MEAN SOMETHING!

In regard to the recent editorial concerning not giving awards to EVERYONE, but only to those who deserved them ... we agree with this philosophy 100%!

It has often been noted END of TRAIL and several other State shoots and above go 10 deep in a category even if there are only 10 or fewer people in it, and the person taking 10th place might actually have come in 650th out of 650 people. In our opinion, that makes the awards mean diddly-squat. Someone who comes in 10th in a category with 45 people worked hard for that 10th place and deserves recognition. The person in the above example does not.

We use a little formula for awards at Heluva Rukus, the New York State Championship. We used to require three people in a category in order to give an award, but when SASS required us to give an award, even if there was only one person in the category, we did as SASS asked. HOWEVER, the depth of places we

go in each category depends upon the number of people who are registered in that category on our cutoff date. We even publish this in our Shooters Handbook so there are no questions later. This also seems to cut down on people changing categories when they get to the shoot. We have about 225 shooters. Below is our breakdown for trophy distribution. We feel this (or some similar formula/percentage) is the way ALL State shoots and above should handle their trophies. They would mean much more to those who receive them, and people would be less apt to just "choose their category wisely" so they can go home "packin' wood."

*For 1-2 in a category, we give 1 trophy.*

*For 3-5, 2 trophies.*

*For 6-9, 3 trophies*

*For 10-11, 4 trophies*

*For 12-14, 5 trophies*

*For 15-17, 6 trophies*

*For 18-21, 8 trophies*

*For 22-25, 9 trophies*

*For 26 and above, 10 trophies.*

ALL Young Guns receive a trophy. (We can't have Buckaroos/Buckarettes due to New York State Laws.) We also give out a Top Gun award (for top shooter overall) and a New York State Ladies' and New York State Men's Trophy.

Annabelle Bransford,  
SASS Regulator #11916  
Ballston Lake, NY

*(Some process such as this certainly seems rational and is encouraged at State, Regional, National, and World Championships. It should be noted, the current contracts between SASS and these matches no longer require categories to be honored nor awards provided for categories with less than five participants. If one wishes to shoot socially, then don't worry about demanding a category for yourself ... shoot in whatever category the Match Director assigns for you. If you wish to "go for the gold," then shoot in a category with your peers, and **earn** your trophy ... Editor in Chief.)*

VISIT THE SASS WEB SITE AT  
[WWW.SASSNET.COM](http://WWW.SASSNET.COM)

## THANK YOU, WILD BUNCH

Tex - While I'm at it, please allow me to take this opportunity to thank you and Cat for all you have done—and continue to do—for SASS. I was heavily involved in handgun metallic silhouette shooting (IHMSA) for 20 years, from local match director, to state director, to national IHMSA officer (secretary/treasurer). I know what's involved, and I know it can be disconcerting (to put it mildly) to have your efforts taken for granted, sometimes receiving more criticism than kudos.

Just want you to know—in this cowboy's humble opinion—the Wild Bunch has done a masterful job in creating and promoting and nurturing this pastime we all have come to enjoy so much. Although I know it's not expressed nearly enough, I just want to say "thanks."

Texas Jim Henry,  
SASS Life #20616  
Dallas, TX

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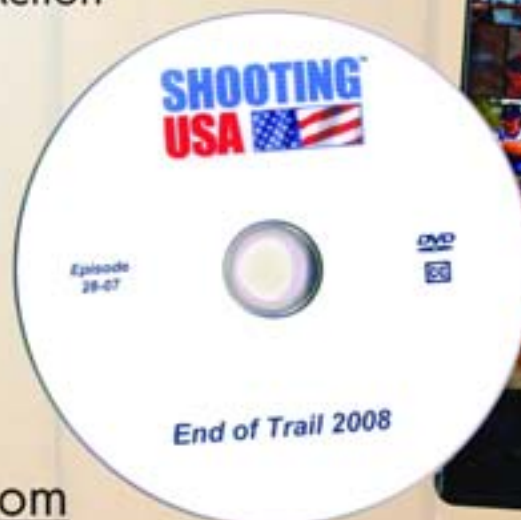


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Jim Finch, a.k.a. Long Hunter, has been at the top of Cowboy Action shooting for the last 7 years. He has won both National and World titles as well as numerous regional matches. As a top shooter and Cowboy Action instructor, Jim has sent many thousands of rounds down range. His experience throughout his shooting and training career has provided him with an understanding of what works and what doesn't.



Always looking to improve his skills and equipment, Long Hunter came to us with a new holster idea. Instead of just making a one size fits all rig why not offer a choice that will cater to a shooters individual style but still retain all of the features needed for a gun belt to be functional in the world of competitive shooting. With this in mind we created the new 2009 Long Hunter shooting system.

We introduced the Long Hunter gun rig in 2004. Comfortable, functional and very competitive, it has served many shooters well for the last 5 years. Since then we have made a few changes to improve the original design. The new 2009 version has a metal insert in the skirt to keep the pistol comfortably away from the body. This feature provides a draw unobstructed by the shotgun belt and presents the gun for a full shooting grip. Another feature is the retention screw and holster body lining. The tension screw allows modification of drag the holster has on the revolver and the lining insures the holster shape for years of use.

The Long Hunter rig is now available in 6 different configurations for both men and women. You can order the original Long Hunter or you can get a rig in a strongside with crossdraw, a double crossdraw (worn in reverse for muzzle forward cant), a B-Western model with more drop, a muzzle forward with crossdraw and even a 1911 rig for Wild Bunch competitions. All holsters are designed for the Long Hunter rig and will work on the original belt. Also, the new womens belt with contour for hips and adjustable length will interchange with any of the new holsters. Below are examples of the options available to fit your shooting style.

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**DISPELLING THE MYTH OF "THE WILD WEST" February 17, 8:48 AM**

*By John Pierce, Minneapolis Gun Rights Examiner*

These are interesting times in the fight to protect and enhance our rights as gun owners. In Wisconsin, we stand on the eve of an historic court ruling regarding open carry. In Texas, South Carolina, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, local activists have succeeded in making their voices heard regarding restoring open carry to these otherwise gun-friendly states. With all of this pro-gun activity, it should come as little surprise the anti-gun forces are out in-force repeating their aged mantra ... "This isn't the Wild West."

And this rhetoric is not limited to anti-gunners. Recently, I was quoted in a USA Today article about the open carry initiatives around the country and in that article Texas Senator Jeff Wentworth (R), a supposedly pro-gun legislator,

denounced open carry saying, "I think that's harkening too far back to the Wild West."

With all this talk of "The Wild West," I thought it might be informative to look at the reality of crime in the "Wild West" cattle towns and compare them to the peaceful streets of such eastern, gun-control paradises as DC, New York, Baltimore, and Newark.


In his book, *Frontier Violence: Another Look*, author W. Eugene Hollon, provides us with these astonishing facts:

In Abilene, Ellsworth, Wichita, Dodge City, and Caldwell, for the years from 1870 to 1885, there were only 45 total homicides. This equates to a rate of approximately 1 murder per 100,000 residents per year. In Abilene, supposedly one of the wildest of the cow towns, not a single person was killed in 1869 or 1870.

Zooming forward over a century to 2007, a quick look at Uniform Crime Report statistics shows us the following regarding the aforementioned gun control "paradise" cities of the east: DC - 183

Murders (31 per 100,000 residents) New York - 494 Murders (6 per 100,000 residents) Baltimore - 281 Murders (45 per 100,000 residents) Newark - 104 Murders (37 per 100,000 residents).

It doesn't take an advanced degree in statistics to see a return to "Wild West" levels of violent crime would be a huge improvement for the residents of these cities!

The truth of the matter is the "Wild West" wasn't wild at all ... not compared to a Saturday night in Newark. 


**THOUGHTS ON GUN CONTROL**

*By Ben Cartwright, SASS #84097*

I have been warning people about gun control for years. Living here in the Peoples Republic of Massachusetts, we have some of the most Draconian gun laws and strictest requirements for getting a license to carry a firearm in the country. During the Presidential campaign I constantly warned peo-

ple to vote for their rights. Shootings in America are horrible things, but the majority of them are done with illegal guns. Restricting law-abiding citizens' rights because of the actions of criminals is crazy and counter productive.

I have tried to wake people up with a new tactic/comparison. If people say, "if we ban guns, that will solve the gun problem," I then remind those people that we have a MAJOR DRUG problem in America. I reply, "if we BAN DRUGS, then that will solve the drug problem." They almost always tell me "drugs are banned." So, I ask them "if that is the case, then how can we have a drug problem, since you said if we ban guns, the gun problem will be solved." Everyone I have asked this of has suddenly said, "I never thought of it that way. You are right! Banning guns or drugs doesn't work."

We need enforcement of existing laws, not more laws. Write your Senators and Congressmen and try this argument. Let's see if we get any results! 

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**I LOVE MESILLA!**

THANK YOU for the article by Tex on all the cowboy history in the Land of Enchantment. You can probably guess by my SASS name (Mesilla Marksman, SASS #82449) I was impressed with the area's connection to the cowboy days. I used to be in sales as a rep that covered the state of New Mexico, and I loved the times when I would pass through the Mesilla area. In fact, when my family drove to Southern California to visit, we went the "long way" from Albuquerque to go south just so I could take my wife and son to visit Ft. Seldon and see some of the history (and to eat at "La Posta" restaurant—the sour cream, green chili enchiladas are AWESOME!).

Mesilla Marksman,  
SASS #82449  
Surprise, AZ 🐾

**POSSUM SKINNER –  
A GREAT  
SASS ADVOCATE**

If you can find space in The Cowboy Chronicle, I would like to give kudos to Possum Skinner, SASS #60697, a Louisiana Cowboy Action Shooter. I have taken a couple of new potential SASS members to several different Texas clubs, and Possum Skinner has been there and is the biggest advocate for the sport. He always greets and informs potential new members and is just the most knowledgeable, polite, and informative SASS member I have ever met. The sport will go a long way with members like him.

Hawkeye Lewis, SASS #69690  
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Colonel Dan,  
SASS Life #24025

# REFORMS FOR OUR TIME

By Colonel Dan, SASS Life #24025

Like you, I've watched the slow decline of American politics become a rapid descent into a progressive state of endless debt and corruption perpetuated by a politically elite ruling class. We have professional shysters entrenching themselves in office for decades and spending us into bankruptcy while undermining freedom at every turn. I wish I could be more positive, but that's just the truth about modern politics.

I've been an observer of the American landscape and writing political commentary for years, but I've never seen a mess like we have today. We're living in times when comprehensive reform is the only Rx, and I'll guarantee you one thing—that Rx won't spring from those benefiting from the disease, it will only originate with "We the People!" I know there are dozens of things we could suggest, but let me focus on just two reforms that would help start us on the path to recovery—spending accountability and term limits—and it's high time we demanded commitments for such change of all aspiring candidates.

**Line item votes—each add-on requires a publicized vote:** Congress is great at hiding pork in critical bills such as defense appro-

priations so they can spend billions on pet projects while generally hiding it from the public. One way to shine the light of truth on what they want to spend your money on would be to require a separate roll call vote for each proposed add-on line item within every bill. Then, after the vote, but well *before* it's signed into law, publicize the sponsor's names, how every member voted, and the cost of each add-on. Just knowing the public spotlight would be shining on them might itself discourage many porky proposals. But politicians have vehemently resisted any suggestion that directs the light of disclosure on their cloakroom antics. If they want money for studying fish dandruff, require them to bring it up separately and vote on it openly for

the whole country to see. Sadly, you'll *never* witness this because quietly holding critical bills hostage until they get their earmark is a well-known method of hiding wasteful spending—a practice that's resulted in unimaginable, generational debt.

**Term limits—one term only:**

With no hope of re-election and therefore no need for raising re-election money, politicians couldn't entrench themselves in power, corruption, and influence peddling for life, so we might be able to get some fresh and effective leadership for a change...maybe. I've read that in 15 of the 15 states where term limits have been proposed, it passed by a wide margin! Seems people like the idea. Who doesn't like it—incum-

(Continued on next page)

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bents and lobbyists, naturally.

Once someone is elected to Congress they have a tremendous advantage as well as incentive for staying in office. They have numerous benefits over any challenger, such as taxpayer funded full time staffers including attorneys, a hefty salary while running for re-election, and expense accounts, franking privileges of \$160k per year that allows them to send out thinly veiled campaign compost at taxpayer expense, access to the media that cost challengers millions, and the power to grant future favors in exchange for campaign cash today. The primary incentive for staying as long as possible is seniority: seniority = committee position = real power and big bucks for life. Lobbyists oppose term limits because they've spent years and millions of dollars "cultivating their crop" of legislators. Why would they support anything that required them to start over after every term?

What are some advantages to term limits? It reduces the arrogant sense of entitlement and omnipotence while restoring a sense of reality in those that represent us. It neutralizes the incumbent advantages noted above and hinders the growth of cronyism by

limiting the time available for establishing empires of graft and corruption. Will term limits completely prevent all shenanigans? Nothing can do that, but it will prevent entrenchment within the halls of power. It also returns our form of representation to the original concept of a temporary, non-elite, non-ruling class government.

What are some of the arguments against term limits—mainly promoted by incumbents and lobbyists? It limits freedom of choice. Do they mean the freedom to choose the tactics employed in buying elections with those incumbent advantages and wielding their political power of mutual back scratching? Another argument against term limits is it would negate the value of experience. If they mean it will stifle the opportunity to establish long term channels of graft, corruption, irresponsible spending, and liberty crushing legislation, then I'm all for it.

Another argument says it's unconstitutional! Now that's a real kicker! It sure is funny how the Constitution means something only when a potential threat to their personal seat of power arises. Otherwise, our Constitution is but a living, breathing document to be molded as their time and their cir-

cumstances require!

"But Colonel, those ideas would hobble Congressional work." Yep, and what's wrong with Americans taking action to rein in irresponsible government?

Bottom line - Legislators have clearly proven time after time and for years on end they can't be trust-

ed with the power of political office. Line item votes and term limits are two ways we can help thwart perpetuating abuse of that power. Just the view from my saddle...

Contact Colonel Dan:  
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# DODGE CITY

## A Brief History

By Miss Tabitha, SASS #26972, of River Crossing Inc.

*Author's note: Not everything about the West was pretty. Dodge City was a rough town built on blood—the blood of traders, Indians, settlers, soldiers, buffalo, and cowboys. But in the midst of the lawlessness and carnage, good, decent citizens did what they always do—they raised their children, built schools and churches, and strove to bring civilization to the Wild West.*

Since the early 1800's, traders had traveled through the High Plains of the American West, journeying from Missouri to Santa Fe with their wagonloads of goods, selling their merchandise to Indians and the residents of Santa Fe for a handsome profit. William Becknell had blazed a path in the spring of 1822 that would become the main branch of the Santa Fe Trail, which passed by the site of the future Dodge City. Over the years, trade along the Santa Fe Trail increased greatly, with a corresponding rise in the number of Indian attacks, and thus, an increase in the plea for military protection.

When the region obtained the status of a Territory with the passing of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, settlers poured into the eastern part of the area. Later, while the military was occupied with the Civil War, Indian attacks intensified. Traders, traveling gold-seekers, and passengers on stagecoaches journeying down the Santa Fe Trail were constantly in fear for their lives. The situation with the Indians intensified with attacks and retaliation on both sides.

In 1864, after previous efforts of military intervention, General Grenville M. Dodge was assigned command of the Department of the Missouri. This included Kansas as well as Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, and Utah. The purpose was to unify the entire Plains Region under one military command. General Dodge's goal was to ensure safe passage of travelers through the region by quieting the Indian threat. In the spring, the better to maintain his hold on the region, he ordered a post to be built. Dugouts and tents

were erected, and the new "fort" was named Dodge. Over the years, the sod buildings were replaced by limestone structures.

In the early 1870's, new blood was spilled on the plains—the blood of the buffalo. There were two main herds, one that grazed north of the Arkansas River and one south, with an estimate of an incredible five million to eight million buffalo in each main herd. Until now, buffalo had been hunted by white men to supply meat to the railroad crews, and sportsmen from around the world traveled to the American West to have their try at the wild beast. However, there were so many buffalo no one really thought they could all disappear.

That all changed in 1871 when a method was discovered to tan buffalo hides into excellent quality, serviceable leather. Earlier efforts had only produced a spongy result of little worth. Suddenly, the same men who had been shooting buffalo only to sell the meat realized there was a new market for the hides. Now for any man with a good gun, good aim, and a team of skinners, a literal fortune could be made, and the slaughter began.

Due to the huge numbers of hides needing to be shipped to the East each year, enterprising men began to bring the Santa Fe Railroad closer to Fort Dodge. Quite a few businessmen and entrepreneurs in the area were eager to see a town established near the fort, in order to do business with the railroad workers, soldiers, and buffalo hunters, all of whom lived in less than ideal conditions, had money in their pockets, and a desire for a good time. In August of 1872, shortly before the railroad finally arrived, the township company was established. At first the residents called it Buffalo City, in appreciation for the boom that had made the town possible in the first place. Because there was already a Kansas town named Buffalo, the inhabitants instead decided to name the town Dodge City, given it was located so near Fort Dodge, and since one of the leading members of the township company



*A view looking east on Dodge City's Front Street, circa 1878. The signs admonish you to check your guns and drink "Prickly Ash Bitters!"*

was Colonel Richard I. Dodge, who had assumed command of the fort earlier that spring.

The new town of Dodge City did a truly booming business in the buffalo hide trade. In 1873, the Santa Fe railroad transported a staggering 754,529 hides east to market, and other railroads shipped similar numbers as well. After 1873 the number of buffalo killed dropped steadily as the herds were depleted. At the same time, by 1875 the threat of Indian attack had been largely subdued, and the usefulness of Fort Dodge was coming to an end. Dodge City businessmen were in serious need of a new client base for their services, with both the buffalo hunter and soldier visiting in fewer numbers. Fortunately, the green grasses of Kansas that were no longer grazed by the buffalo were the perfect invitation for the Texas Longhorn and Cowboy.

Texans needed a way to get their Longhorn cattle to the meat markets in the North and the East. Cattle drives northward brought droves of dusty, weary cowboys to the railheads at towns such as Abilene, Ellsworth, and Wichita. Each town had to deal in turn with the dilemma of balancing the benefit of cash and profits brought by the cowboys with the problems that stemmed from too much whiskey and women. Abilene got so fed up with the difficulties of "submitting to the evils of the trade" that in 1871 the residents posted a petition requesting the cattlemen to take their cattle trade elsewhere.

The Texans respected the notice, took their Longhorns to neighboring towns, and businesses in Abilene promptly died.

By 1875 Dodge City was being seriously considered as a major shipping point for Texas cattle, and the citizens of Dodge responded with enthusiasm. To better accommodate the new influx of cattlemen and cowboys, new restaurants and hotels were opened, and existing businesses lowered their rates on products, including liquor and tobacco. It appeared the local townsfolk had in general decided to tolerate the wickedness of the cowboy in exchange for his money.

Cowboys were considered rough, wild young men, many who came from the east believing the stories written by traveling journalists who wrote romantically of the wide open skies and prairies. They traveled west in hopes of adventure and glory. What they found was a difficult life alternately full of boredom and danger, and only the tough and lucky survived. Roundups, cattle drives, and payday were all opportunities to come to town and let off some steam. Guns strapped to his side, these young men arrived in Dodge City with an appetite for liquor, women, and a roaring good time.

This was no civilized city back east—this was a "wide open" town, ready, willing, and able to cater to a cowboy's every desire. A bath, a meal, a hotel room, a glass of whiskey, a woman, and a gambler  
(Continued on next page)

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ready to take him for every penny he had. For a decade, Dodge City served as the “cowboy capital of the world” in every capacity.

Of course, Dodge City sported more than a few non-alcohol related businesses; but by far, the saloons must have been the most frequented. Whiskey and other spirits flowed freely. “The Bibulous Babylon of the Plains”—that’s how one newspaperman described Dodge City in 1878. The Saratoga, the Billiard, and the Long Branch were several of the successful drinking establishments on the “respectable” north side of Front Street, one even sporting a five-piece orchestra that provided background music for the saloon’s patrons.

For the most part, the saloons and businesses on the south side of Front Street catered to a rougher crowd. During its peak decade, Dodge City had two dance halls, one catering to whites only. “Hostesses” at these dance halls would receive a sum of money for dancing with the eager men, and usually part of the cost of the drinks the thirsty men would buy. Some of these girls would also add to their income with prostitution on the side. Stories abounded of how the “respectable” men of the city would visit the saloons on the north side of the street until after their wives went to bed, and then merrily cross the street for more unreserved partying.

Prostitution was rampant, and the business was sordid. Most of these women were as rough and crude as the men they serviced, and there were few happy endings. Fights were common, and depression, disease, alcohol, and drug abuse took their toll. These women were complete outcasts from proper society, and even the local minister was severely criticized by his congregation when he kindly visited one of these poor women as she lay dying.

Gambling was another easy way a cowboy could be parted from his money. Besides the local gamers, professionals from back east came to

Dodge City to rake in some of the profit. It was said there were men who would carefully save from two hundred to five thousand dollars or more, then travel to Dodge City just to gamble it all away, returning home with empty pockets, but full of a good time.

Dodge City had a wicked reputation, which it deservedly earned. A dearth of law enforcement in the early days didn’t help. Even after the election of lawmen such as Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson, senseless and numerous murders took place, including shootouts in the streets, and Boot Hill filled with the victims of the violence.

Saloonkeepers, gamblers, prostitutes, dance hall girls—these were the things that kept the cowboys coming and the cash flowing through the banks of Dodge City, and good, decent citizens realized the necessity of these evils to the survival of the town. But in the midst of the sin, churches and schools were built, organizations and societies were formed, and life was made as civilized as possible by the wives and other upright citizens of Dodge. In fact, one reporter to Dodge in July of 1878 was pleasantly surprised to find that in the daytime, the town was “as quiet and orderly as a country village in Indiana.”

Holiday celebrations, parades, horse racing, and dances were fine forms of entertainment for the residents of Dodge City. On the Fourth of July in 1877, a ball was hosted at the Dodge House, one of the finest hotels in town, lasting until 2:00 AM.

Finally, in 1885, after a decade of wild times, legislation was passed prohibiting the import of any Texas cattle into Kansas. This was due largely to splenic fever, carried by ticks on the Longhorns and to which they were immune, but which was devastating to cattle that had been brought in from the east. In addition, reformers were calling for an end to drinking and prostitution. The day of the great cattle drives had come to an end, and once again, Dodge City had lost its main source

of income. The party was over.

Dodge City was in danger of becoming a ghost town, but it had an advantage over other towns such as Tombstone and Deadwood—fertile farmland. In spite of periodic droughts and disagreements with local cattlemen, slowly the farmer established himself and brought new life to the threatened town. In time, Dodge City actually sought to blot out its rough history, wishing to be known for its peaceful present rather than its sordid past.


By the 1930’s, however, the cowboy and other Wild West characters had become glorified in novels and more importantly, the movies. In 1938, it was announced a movie named “Dodge City” would be made, starring Errol Flynn and Ann Sheridan. Dodge City could hardly contain its excitement. The movie premiered in Dodge City itself, and many more movies and radio shows followed. Dodge became a tourist town, and Boot Hill (long since sold off and emptied) was “rebuilt,” complete with fake headboards, a “hanging tree,” and a museum.

Tourism took an even larger turn after the television series “Gunsmoke” gained fans. Although the series claimed to be “authentic,” its whitewashed characters and storylines are a dim cry to the wildness of the true history of the town. This didn’t stop a group of local Dodge

businessmen from constructing a “replica” of the town in its heyday, but in truth, it represented the film set much more than the history books. “Gunsmoke” inspired many more Western-themed television series over the following years.

In the end, Dodge City survives today because of its hardworking, upright citizens, and its past wild reputation. The Wild West of history is not much like the West we’ve romanticized, made up of good guys in white hats, saloon girls with hearts of gold, and where justice always came through in the end. No, at times it was bone-weary and full of boredom, and other times it was wickedly evil. But perhaps we wouldn’t want it completely either way, would we?

On December 5, SASS will host the “Dodge City Ball” at the SASS Convention in Las Vegas. An article to follow in an upcoming issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle* will describe some of the characters of Dodge City to help inspire those wishing to dress in the flavor of the theme.

Quotes obtained and research collected mainly from the following excellent book: *Dodge City, The Most Western Town of All*, by Odie B. Faulk, published in 1977 in New York by Oxford University Press. I strongly recommend this book for a full, entertaining, highly-researched history on Dodge City. 



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Lori Dani Dixie, SASS Life #1695  
Photo by Major Photography

**BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE –  
(In the Beginning – by  
Lady Rebel, SASS Life #550)**

Thursday, April ? 1981: Rebel came home one day and stated, “I’m going shooting tomorrow ... it’s a three day match thing.”

“What?” I responded. “Since when is a PPC match three days?”

“No, it’s some cowboy thing Flint Westwood talked me into.”

# KID’S KORRAL

## The History of the Kid’s Korral at END of TRAIL

By Lori Dani Dixie, SASS Life #1695

Friday, April ? 1981: I gave up holding dinner from my four and six year olds, when suddenly, the front door flew open ... “Sorry I’m late. But this day has been great ... y’all have to see this yourselves. Come with me tomorrow” (... more words of explaining lateness then Rebel has ever given in the 40 years we’ve enjoyed marriage).

Saturday, April ? 1981: There were about 80-90 cowboy dressed shooters, six-shooter single action revolvers, lever action rifles and shotguns, and a lot of fun, nice people. We attended dinner that night at the horse barn in Coto de Caza, California. There was great food, lots of horse manure, dust, and more friendly people. A really wonderful lady, Dutch Annie, actually took all

the children (including mine) to another side of the barn and played games with them for over an hour, giving me relief from entertaining those two for the first time in 36 hours. Then, she pulled couples out to play the games, too!

Sunday, April ? 1981: The children were left at home with a babysitter, and I joined Revel at the range for the final day and awards ceremony. We had a **big** surprise. No, not awards for Rebel, but total embarrassment at our sweet little six year old **GIRL** winning first place in the **marble spitting contest** (100 marbles in a leather bag, which she still has today!).

May 1981 – March 1982: This cowboy group became more organized. We started attending monthly

matches. The group found a name, aliases and badge numbers were assigned. April’s three-day match became known as “**END of TRAIL.**”

April 1982 – the first END of TRAIL took place at Coto de Caza. Rebel and I both competed in the match. It was a great time, but very tiring to shoot and keep Joe (age five) and Lorlei (age seven) under eye, out of trouble, and unhurt. There were no games or activities for the younger generation, but by the Grace of God and the eye of all the “Dutch” aunts and uncles, we all lived through it. Twenty years later I learned this was the year three bored young ladies, Lorlei, (Lori Dani Dixie), Jessica Ming (Sweetwater), and Johanna Smucker

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)  
 created their own activities—drawing stick figures of the shooters (no harm in that) and selling them back to the shooters at 25 cents a piece (mortification, if I had known).

**THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION – What can we do with the kids?**

How can we keep them out of trouble, help them learn about what we are doing, and NOT babysit them? How can youngsters be a part of the incredible Action Shooting experience? What can we do to show ‘em why we do this?

**THE LESSON – TEACH THEM**

After END OF TRAIL 1982, Lady Rebel asked the Wild Bunch if they would sponsor the idea of Kid’s Korral. They claimed babysitting was not anything they wanted. They were reassured it would not be such, but a place for the non-shooting generation to experience the Old West days and ways.

And, it was and still is. Lady Rebel says, “I want to thank the Wild Bunch for their support in recognizing the importance of the Kid’s Korral activities and the Lady’s Tea Tent over the years. Also, the others who donated gifts for the Kid’s Korral—Bob and Becky Munden for the cow chip throwing discs we still use today; Dusty Rogers and the Happy Trails Foundation for all the various gifts they gave annually; Young’un and Lori Dani Dixie for all their help setting up, running, and cleaning up over the years; to the vendors who donated kettle corn and gifts. And, especially to Rebel for explaining to the rest of Wild Bunch the need of a central location and hay bales every year.”

Lady Rebel capitalized on her History of Sports class from college to try lots of different period correct activities. We explored a cow chip toss, beanbag toss, donkey pull, milk bottle toss, croquet, horseshoes, and, of course, marble spitting. With the heat we also tried to bob for apples and have relay races with washboards to keep cool. We made our own toys, beaded, and even tried sand painting (very messy —lots of crafts were “adapted” for modern supplies). Recently, we’ve added a tipi activity, history reading books, and journal writing to our Old West experience (to teach about primary resources). Most thrilling is seeing the success of teaching gun safety by using rubber band guns [more info coming later].

From my perspective, it’s amazing how an event that lasts only a few days could have such a deep impact on my life. Growing up and being involved in such a historically rich and grounded environment has offered me deep insight into what is commonly a book-bound dry subject in the classroom. I often found myself thinking, what would I have done in this same situation 130 years

ago? Would I be allowed to do this? What would I have to wear? What might my great grandmother have faced? How am I like her? Or, different? America is losing the presence of oral tradition to mass music and TV. It’s places where we recreate history, like SASS events, where those oral traditions can still be heard.

These questions about what happened “out west” have driven me to the woman I am. They drove me to a history degree, to teaching, and to take up the reins and run with Kid’s Korral when mom retired. My teaching experiences in classrooms from Pre-K to 12 in public, private, and parochial schools has shown me what an incredible dearth of *personal* understanding of history today’s generations have. Schools are spending incredible amounts of time and energy on programs to “build character,” “promote civic duty,” or “improve discipline,” trying to give students some context for our cultural expectations and customs, and everyone outside the education profession cries the system is failing all of us because the kids just don’t get “it” anymore. History IS that context, the “it” that makes it all fit together, and for Americans Western history is the key—because it has always been both solid reality and what we make of it. It is America’s Mythical Land (“California” was a mythical land in Spain).

**INDEPENDENT PRACTICE – Take it to the people**

Because I was challenged to think about what people lived like in the past at a very young age, my world is much broader. It is a short leap from me to my past, and then you find out your past isn’t what you thought it was, and it’s a short leap to someone else’s past, and then to someone else’s present. Historical context for myself and others developed from a very early exposure is what provides empathy. If we really want to grow tolerance for diversity, then LOOK AT THE PAST to keep the present in context. Let’s keep challenging young people to *live* the past. Let’s get out there, show off our duds, and answer questions! Let’s be the living myth that helps all the pieces fit together! The younger our audience, the better! And hey—who doesn’t need more “Dutch” aunts and uncles?

(I bring to readers an editing of my mother’s and my own accountings. SASS members may use this column as a funnel for discussion about the role of Cowboy Action Shooting™ in education and the role of education in Cowboy Action Shooting™. You can contact me by email at [ldgd@comcast.net](mailto:ldgd@comcast.net) or snail mail at Lorlei Dreibelbis, 12 Quann Lane, Chester Gap, VA 22623. Thank you.)

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By Doc Cary, SASS #10672

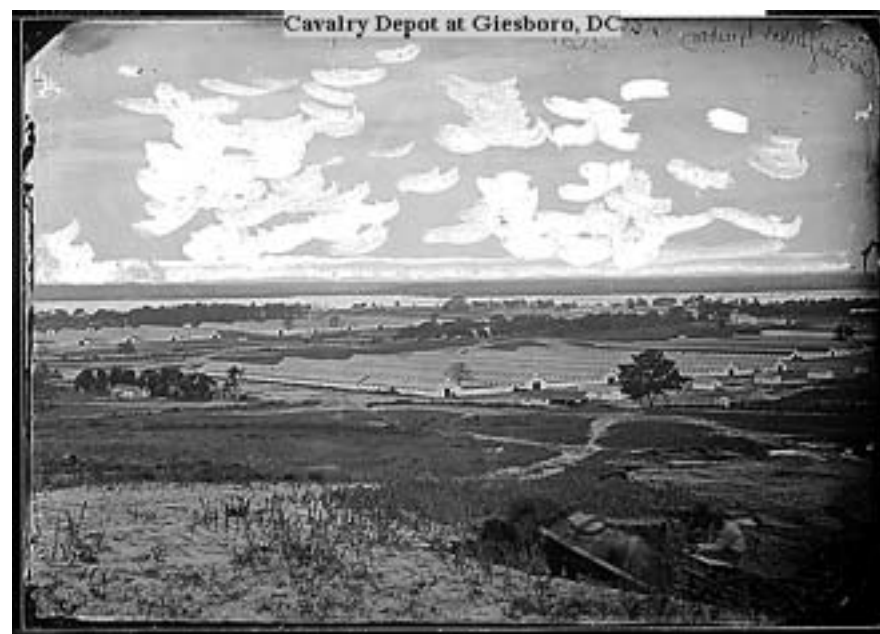
Very little has been written about this subject. The only book dedicated to the subject this writer is aware of is *VETERINARY SERVICE DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR* by Walter R. Heiss. Dr. Michelle Quigley wrote an article on the subject while a veterinary student, and it was published in *Veterinary Heritage*. When the war began, there were approximately 7 million horses in the United States. At this time there were only about 50 graduate veterinarians in the US; all were educated in other countries and most were foreign born. Therefore, most of the “veterinary care” of horses was administered by various persons with practical experience. Most of them were farriers (blacksmiths). It does not require much imagination to realize the tremendous logistics of procuring, transporting, training, feeding, shoeing, and caring for the large number of horses used by the military. Many, of course, were killed, wounded, and became sick, and the dead and disabled had to be replaced. This situation was compounded by the rudimentary state of veterinary medicine in the United States when the Civil War began and by a lack of understanding of the value of competent veterinary medicine by the army.

## CHRONICLE OF EVENTS

**1849** - First congressional authorization for hiring veterinary surgeons. This was the responsibility of the Quartermaster's Department. A limited number of civilian veterinarians were employed. There was no evidence of efforts or suggestions to enlist veterinarians for full-time military service.

**1853** - Quartermaster General Thomas S. Jesup asked Congress to establish an army veterinary corps and include a school for mounted officers and candidates for the veterinary corps.

**1855 & 1856** - Captain George B. McClellan observed veterinary schools in France, Prussia, and Austria. He advised each mounted regiment should have a chief veterinary with the rank of sergeant major



or even as a commissioned officer. He also recommended a veterinary school should be attached to the Cavalry School. Jesup's and McClellan's suggestions were ignored.

**1857** - A formal course on the “Veterinary Art” was introduced at West Point. Lessons included equine anatomy.

**1857** - The New York College of Veterinary Surgeons was founded, the first successful veterinary college in the United States.

**1859** - Dr. John C. Ralston (a graduate of the London Veterinary College who had served as a veterinarian in the British Army) urged the establishment of a veterinary corps in the U.S. Army. He was involved in the formation of the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons.

**1860** - The Northern States had an estimated horse population of 4.7 million; the South, 2.8 million.

**1861** - At the outbreak of the Civil War, the cavalry service was composed of the 1st and 2nd Dragoon Regiments, the Mounted Rifleman Regiment, and the 1st and 2nd Cavalry Regiments.

**1861** - The Army of the Potomac employed two non-graduates of the defunct Boston Veterinary Institute as animal inspectors.

**July 29, 1861** - the 3rd Cavalry Regiment was formed. One veterinary sergeant was authorized for each battalion and one farrier was assigned to each company. There was an assumption the veterinary sergeant supervised the farriers.

Nothing was said of the qualifications required for the position. Because of the significance of foot problems in army horses, many of the veterinary sergeants were farriers. In other words, the veterinary sergeant did not have to be a person specifically trained as a veterinarian.

**August 10, 1861** - Henry Corby, a graduate of the Royal Veterinary College of London, serving in the Union infantry, was wounded in action at Springfield, MO, and died 4 days later.

**August 31, 1861** - all of the existing cavalry units, by whatever name, were renamed as Cavalry Regiments 1st through 6th.

**July 17, 1862** - the battalion veterinary sergeant position was eliminated and replaced by a chief farrier. There is no known official reason for this. One opinion is where these veterinary sergeant positions were filled, the persons occupying them were not qualified as either sergeants or veterinarians; but, were, in fact, farriers or blacksmiths. Congress was indifferent toward the veterinary practitioners with little regard for their station, education, or qualifications. There is no evidence there was any effort to engage the fifty known graduate veterinarians in the country in 1861 to help form the beginnings of a competent veterinary service. This is supported by the fact from July 1, 1860 to June 30, 1861, only \$168.50 was spent to hire civilian veterinarians. From July 1, 1861 to June 30, 1865, only \$93,666.47 was



spent for the hire of veterinary surgeons. It is assumed these were civilian veterinarians and there is no record of their names or professional qualifications. These payments were made by the Quartermaster Department and were for the entire army. During the same time period, \$323,964.77 was spent for medicine for horses and mules.

**August 16, 1862** - Col. J. B. Fry, a Union Cavalry Chief of Staff, wrote, “Employ veterinary surgeon cheap as possible.” This exemplifies the lack of regard or appreciation of veterinary services.

**Fall of 1862** - Another example: The 3rd Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment received a number of remounts at their encampment. Many of these remounts were sickly. The Major in charge of the camp selected five volunteers and directed them to obtain medicines and use a guide book entitled, *EVERY MAN, HIS OWN HORSE DOCTOR* (1738). Not one of them knew anything about doctoring sick horses and apparently the book was of little help. They prepared a concoction of flour, arsenic, other drugs, and water. Over the next few days the sick horses were dosed with this “medicine” and about half of them died. Part of this attitude may have been due to horses being considered plentiful and cheap. The cost of serviceable horses at the beginning of the war was \$125 and increased to \$145 to \$185 at the end.

**1863** - There were six “contract veterinarians” in the U.S. Army.

**1863** - The American Veterinary Medical Association was organized in New York City.

**March 3, 1863** - Congress authorized another reorganization of all six Cavalry Regiments. It introduced the word surgeon. It created one veterinary surgeon position for each regiment and two farriers for

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each company. This was not a commissioned officer position. It was the highest rank for a non-commissioned officer—that of sergeant major. Compensation was set by law at \$75 per month, the equivalent of a lieutenant's pay. This veterinary surgeon was not regarded as an enlisted person. It was an appointment. The legislations listed the following qualifications: 1. Care and cure of sick and disabled horses; 2. Considerable education involving knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the horse; 3. Knowledge of chemistry sufficient to understand the character and use of chemicals and medicines used to treat horses; 4. A practical knowledge and experience in diseases to which horses are subject, and 5. Assigned responsibility for horse medicine and supplies used with accountability to the regimental quartermaster for the expenditures incurred for these items. There is nothing in the records about a specific veterinary surgeon's uniform and insignia. Therefore, it is assumed the veterinary surgeon wore the uniform and insignia of a sergeant major. There were possibly a few who established their identity by wearing horseshoe-shaped brassards on their sleeves.

**April 29, 1863** – General Orders No. 110 ordered each volunteer cavalry regiment to have a veterinary surgeon, the same as the regular cavalry regiments. The actual total number appointed is unknown. Neither the Congress nor the Adjutant General had the authority to force civilian veterinarians into uniform. Major General George Stoneman, Chief of Cavalry, stated there was a deficiency of horse doctors. He discussed the reasons as a general deficiency of veterinary talent in the country and the low government pay. Veterinary surgeons, regardless of education or experience, were only given the non-commissioned rank of sergeant major.

**October 1863** – Approximately 16,000 unusable cavalry horses were on hand. It was believed a majority of these could be made fit for service with proper care and treatment. Besides the deficiency of veterinary talent being recognized, there was the difficulty of obtaining what little there was for the poor compensation allowed by the government. President Lincoln, reported to be sympathetic to the need and value of veterinarians, offered the rank of lieutenant to several of the “best veterinarians of the day” and was turned down because this grade offered a lower income than they could earn in private practice.

**1863 Annual Report** – Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs estimated about 50% of the military horses sent to the depots in a disabled and broken-down condition are eventually returned to mili-

tary service. He criticized the Union Cavalry for the careless treatment and abuses of its horses, and said: “We have over 126 regiments of cavalry, and they have killed 10 times as many horses as Rebels.”

**December 16, 1863** – Dr. John Busted, one of the founders of the American Veterinary Medical Association and later President of the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons, wrote to Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, “The United States Army is the only one in the civilized world without educated veterinarians.”

**January 1864** – President Lincoln asked Dr. Joseph Bushman, graduate of the London, England Veterinary College, to serve in the army as a veterinary sergeant. He declined because army veterinarians in England were commissioned officers. Lincoln then exercised his executive privilege as Commander-in-Chief and commissioned Dr. Bushman in the Quartermaster Corps and assigned him to the veterinary service at the Giesboro Cavalry Depot in Washington, DC. Dr. Bushman did not remain long at Giesboro, stating, “I didn't last long, as a company of politicians from New York tried to foist a lot of quack medicines on the army, and I disapproved them, and soon lost my head through the machinations of the political gang.”

The Giesboro Depot was one of six Cavalry Bureau depots (horse holding facilities). It was officially opened in January 1864, and was built by 5,000 workers at the cost of \$1.2 million. The operating force consisted of approximately 1,500 persons of various categories: three veterinarians, many farriers, carpenters, teamsters, wheelwrights, wagon-makers, and laborers. It covered 625 acres and had 32 stables with 6,000 stalls. With the stable barns and corrals, it had a total capacity of 30,000 horses. It had a veterinary infirmary that could hold 2,650 horses. Its operating costs ran \$1 to \$4 million per day. From January 1864 until the end of the war, Giesboro Point processed 170,622 cavalry mounts. Of this total, 97,580 (57%) were distributed for service, 48,721 (29%) were sold as unfit, and 24,321 (10%) died at the depot. There was mixed information on the remaining 7,174 (4%). It is believed a large number of the deaths were due to Glanders, a contagious disease. Overnight deaths at Giesboro Point from Glanders reached a peak of 188 on January 13, 1865.

**May 12, 1864** – The War Department General Orders No. 195 and the Adjutant General's Office Special Orders No. 137 provided for the procurement of horse medicines and established a Standard Table for Horse Medicines and Supplies.

General Orders No. 195 made reference to the Veterinary Department of the Army. The table lists 28 different kinds of compounds, drugs, and chemicals. Four kinds of dressings and silk for ligatures were listed. Also, 16 different instruments were listed in the table, such as forceps, needles, and syringes.

**1864** – Secretary of War Stanton reported the army acquired and used up horses at the rate of 500 per day. During the Shenandoah Campaign, General Sheridan's force required 150 new horses each day. The average service life for a cavalry mount was less than five months. The average Union trooper used three horses a month. Much of this was considered due to poor management and lack of disease control. By the end of the war, the Union was reported to have purchased 1,032,000 horses out of the 4.7 million available at the beginning. It is estimated between 1.2 and 1.5 million horses and mules died in service. This appears to be conflicting numbers. The numbers come from three different reference sources used by the author of *VETERINARY SERVICE IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR*. The purchases are probably in addition to the army horse population at the beginning of the war. It is not known if the deaths included Confederate animals. There are no records that list the number lost in battle and those due to disease. It is estimated 10% died from battle wounds and 90% from disease and the effects of severe exertion and exposure.

**1866** – A Department of Agriculture report referred to Glanders as “a legacy left by the war.” The public sale of surplus army horses and mules at the end of the war resulted in the spread of Glanders across the countryside.

**July 28, 1866** – Congress authorized four additional cavalry regiments, each to be staffed with two veterinary surgeons with a pay increase.

**1867** – The first graduation from the New York College of Veterinary Surgeons.

**March 27, 1879** – War Department General Orders No. 36 required that army veterinary applicants shall be graduates of recognized veterinary colleges.

**1916** – Establishment of the Army Veterinary Corps with veterinarians as commissioned officers.

The above notes refer primarily to the Union Army. Notes about veterinary services in the Confederacy are as follows:

**1861 to 1863** – There were no veterinarians available by contract or otherwise to care for government stock. Indifference about veterinary care and a complete absence of veterinarians became a cause for strong unrest among Confederate officers.

**Early 1863** – General Robert E.

Lee stated: “Our horses and mules are in that reduced state where the labor and exposure incident to an attack will result in their destruction.”

**August 1863** – There was sharp criticism of the Confederate cavalry operation from Col. John Chambliss. He emphasized the necessity for competent veterinarians.

**October 1863** – The Confederate War Department established a system of large horse infirmaries. Prior to this time troopers were required to furnish their own horses. The infirmary program was intended to procure and service all horses and mules for the army. Diseased animals were assigned to hospitals according to their disorder and were treated by “practiced veterinary surgeons and farriers.” Such treatment was greatly exaggerated and quackery prevailed. Glanders was a big problem.

**1864** – The Confederate government did not make any verifiable provisions during the entire year for veterinary services at any of the infirmaries. General Pendleton, Lee's Chief of Artillery, advised Lee that the best veterinary skill in the country ought to be secured as soon as possible.

**January 1, 1865** – The Confederate Quartermaster's Department included in its budget an “incidental expenses” category for the hire of veterinary surgeons and addressed the need to prevent the loss from disease of animals in the service.

## GLANDERS

Glanders is a contagious disease that affects equids, humans, goats, dogs, and cats. It is caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia mallei*. Earlier, it was named *Pseudomonas mallei*. It was eradicated from the United States in 1934. However, it is still of interest because it could be made into a deadly biological warfare weapon. It can be 95% fatal in humans if not treated. According to an Internet website article published by the American Veterinary Medical Association, Glanders caused the death of 3,000 Confederate horses in 1863. The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture reported in 1915 that the annual loss from Glanders was \$5 million.

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**Capt. George Baylor,**  
SASS Life #24287

# DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

*By Captain George Baylor, SASS Life #24287*

**Vendors, read this: Products that could make you money**

I've written about several useful products in this column and in tests. Now I'm going to write about products that we need, but I haven't found yet.

**1. A new, good quality (ambidextrous) hammerless double shotgun.**

Currently there aren't that many new production doubles adaptable for SASS usage, so any good quality

new double adaptable for SASS usage will sell. Some very crudely made guns sell and then make 35 year-old gunsmiths look like Gabby Hayes from the stress of trying to make the parts smooth enough to work. Currently shooters are having classic SKBs and Browning BSS models cut, smoothed, chamfered, honed, and otherwise modified for SASS usage, and the cost of one of those has gotten over \$1,000.

I'm left-handed. Normally this is a good thing. We learn early to overcome, improvise, and adapt. Hot, fired caps fall into the palm of right-handed shooters, not lefties. The loading gate on the SAA is on the right side, facilitating loads with the gun held in the left hand.

On most SASS rifles the loading gate is easier to see for on the clock reloads. '97's are really easy to load for left-handers. (Most stages are blatantly right-handed, but this just proves we're the last unprotected minority.) But double-barreled shotguns are made for right-handers, believe it or not. The lever to open the gun is moved from left to right. With your right hand, that means pulling with your thumb. With your left hand, it means pushing with your thumb. Aside from the fact that the thumb is better designed for pulling than pushing, there's the fact that most of the levers are too short for the way we use them (meaning fast, without shifting our grip, not at all the way

the designers intended), and occasionally the end of the thumb hits the end of the lever, ripping off the nail or some part of it. That will get your attention.

A longer lever would help on most guns, but that's an external modification. (Kind of like putting a Super Blackhawk hammer on a Vaquero? Hmm.) I thought of having my thumb surgically lengthened. External modifications to shooters aren't prohibited, but sanity prevailed (meaning The Redhead vetoed it). Coyote Cap designed an action with a lever that sits in the middle and releases when moved either way. So if you're working on a new double for SASS, put in that lever.

*(Continued on next page)*

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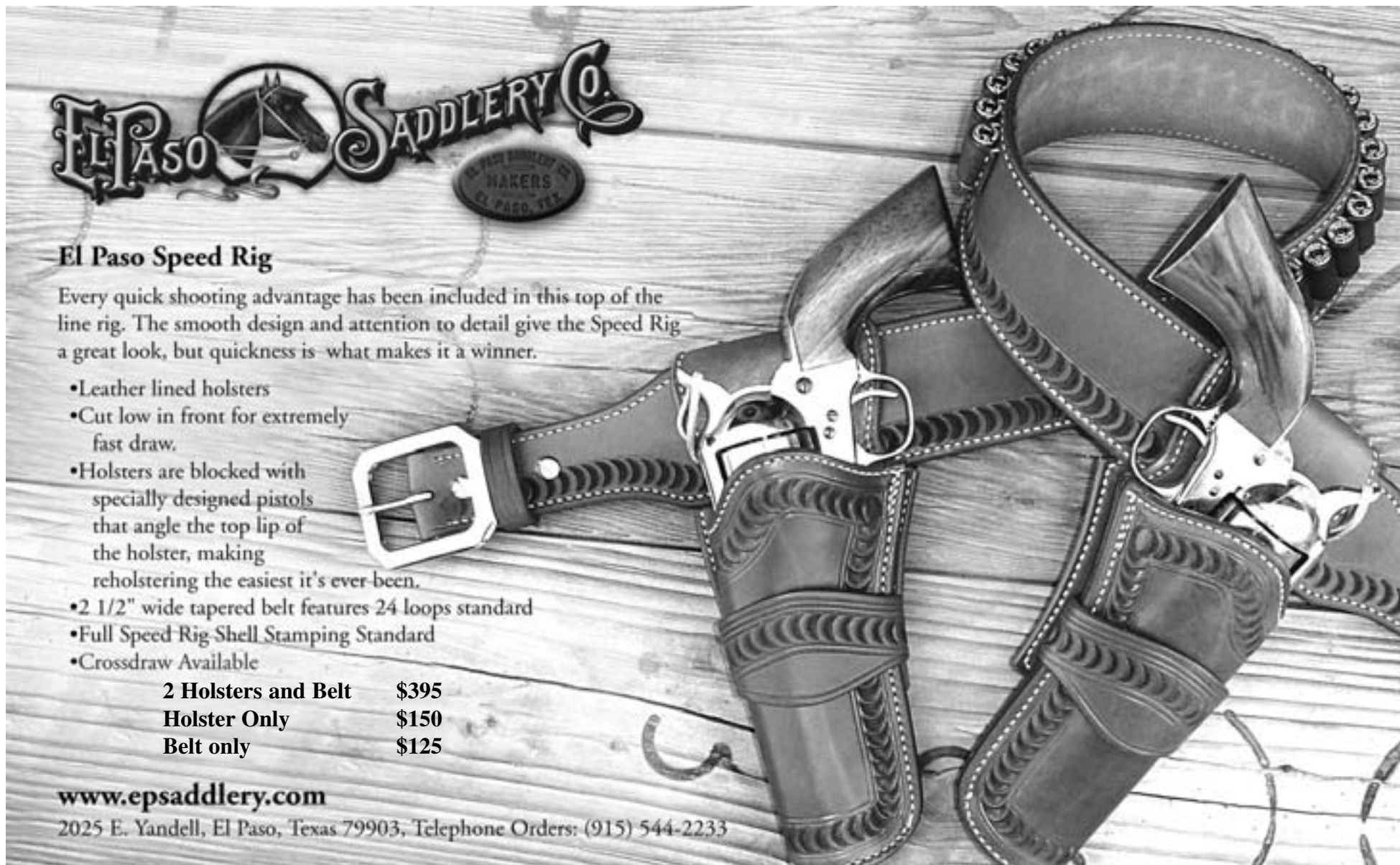


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**2. A true HEAVY-duty nipple wrench** (for percussion pistols ye of dirty minds. Go wash your mind out with soap).

We cap and ball shooters are a hardy breed. We put up with a lot of things cartridge shooters don't have to deal with. When two nipples stuck in the cylinders of my Ruger Old Armies, I used up every nipple wrench I had, learning pretty quickly that they were made of really cheap stuff.

Then one day Larsen E. Pettifogger showed me a nipple wrench Snap-On might have made. He started with a Grade 8 bolt and machined a wrench out of it. It is cut to fit a Tresco pistol nipple exactly. The only problem is he isn't producing them for sale, just for his personal use. We need wrenches this good to be produced in numbers great enough for every percussion pistol shooter to have two, so we can lose one.

### 3. Comfortable boots.

Recently I was introduced to a new, allegedly comfortable boot for SASS folks. It has 2" heels. For most of us, 2" heels will be comfortable only when we're lying down, preferably anaesthetized, or at least drunk, too drunk to take our boots off.

**Note to boot vendors:** SASS shooters don't ride horses. We run ten yard dashes while wearing two six guns and carrying a long gun. We average over 50 years in age and a few pounds over our fighting weight. I

weigh 40 lb. more than I did when I went to Vietnam. I was awfully skinny then. That's my story, and I'm stickin' to it. We're walking all day on rocks and sand. Most 19th century boots did not have 2" heels. They had walking heels because everyone except cowboys walked more than they rode horses. Military boots, for example, had 1" heels and were, for the day, pretty comfortable. Cowboys were notorious for not wanting to walk anywhere. They would ride horses to cross the street. Teddy Blue Abbot said, "There was only one thing a cowboy feared as much as a decent woman, and that was being set afoot."

Currently many of us wanting comfortable boots are wearing Earthwalkers or lace-up Packer boots. I'll wager there are people who don't shoot at matches anymore because of "Da agony of da feet." One vendor always busy at SASS matches is Steffon Dalberg of Earthwalker Boots. People literally stand in line to order his boots, all because of word of mouth by other shooters. Steffon makes all of the boots by hand. He is always backordered for months. If a boot manufacturer wants business like that, a simple solution exists. Make boots that are comfortable. Inside they should be tennis shoes with Gel Cushion insoles and shock absorbing soles. Outside they should look like 19th century boots.

### 4. A really good brass sorter.

Dillon sells a brass sorter that will

separate .45 Colt and .45 ACP into one tray, and .38 Special and .357 Magnums into another. That's great, because a .45 Colt will clog the case feeder tube when you're loading .38 Specials, and .38 Specials will fit inside .45 Colt cases and get stuck there.

But it doesn't separate .45 Colt from .45 ACP and .44-40, .38 Special from .357 Magnums, and once fired Starline from 12 times fired blurry head stamp. Let's face it - SASS shooters are busy, and more important, we're lazy. I know guys who hand select every case before putting it in their single stage presses, but they load 50 rounds a week, don't practice, and shoot one match a year. The guys who buy primers in 10,000 round lots and actually *PRACTICE* don't do that. Split cases should go to the discard pile. .38 Specials with .32 H & R Magnum stuck inside should be culled. The .38 cases full of rocks should go to the "clean me out" pile. Brass should be separated by head stamp and number of times fired. I realize this will take a computerized mechanism, with an optical scanner capable of reading head stamps and finding hairline cracks. But, try to keep the price down. SASS shooters are also cheap.

### 5. Realistic Cowboy Targets.

Long-range matches are using target sensors that cause a strobe light to flash briefly when the target is hit. This would be nice for every target in a match, but still not enough.

At least two spotters wouldn't see some flashes, so the situation wouldn't improve that much. Using all knock-down targets makes spotting easier. Even attention deficit afflicted spotters like me can look and see if all of the targets are down or not. But a lot of people don't like knockdowns. I like them. There's something satisfying about seeing your opponent lying on the field of battle.

So, to go one step beyond knock-downs, we need proper, entertaining Cowboy targets. When the target is hit, it should emit a scream or a grunt, or the words, "You got me, you sidewinder," or words to that effect. Then it should slowly topple over dramatically until resurrected by a remote control. "Blood" gushing out would be a nice effect. A few targets should be calibrated so that if they're only lightly hit, they say something like, "you call that a hit. My grandmother shoots harder than that." Really advanced targets should sense near misses and say, "Nyaa, nyaa, nyaa, ya missed me." Edgers should elicit "Just a scratch, but you got me." "Blood" would be definitely useful in those cases.

(A note to the dry-humor impaired: I'm kidding about #4 and 5. But if you've already built some anyway, or if you've built any of the first 3, send me one for testing, and, in the words of Billy the Kid, "I'll make you famous.")

Okay, inventors. You have your marching orders. Get to work. 🤠



*Celtic Knight SASS #68617*

# WILLIAM SEVERE

## Part II

*By Celtic Knight, SASS #68617*

**B**orn James Butler Hickok May 27, 1837 in La Salle County, Illinois, Wild Bill would grow into manhood as a muscular, well built, utterly fearless, blue eyed, 6 footer, sporting a full, walrus mustache and blond shoulder length hair. He became as flamboyant in dress as in his manner of speaking. Just how he became known as Wild Bill is anyone's guess. Stories abound to explain the appellation, but it seems to have been hung on him in his early twenties sometime before the Civil War. It first made print in a "Harper's New Monthly" article by Col. George Nichols in 1865. During his short life, Hickok would serve as a lawman in various Kansas venues including Monticello Township, Ellis County, Hays City, Abilene, and as a deputy US Marshal out of Ft. Riley.<sup>10</sup>

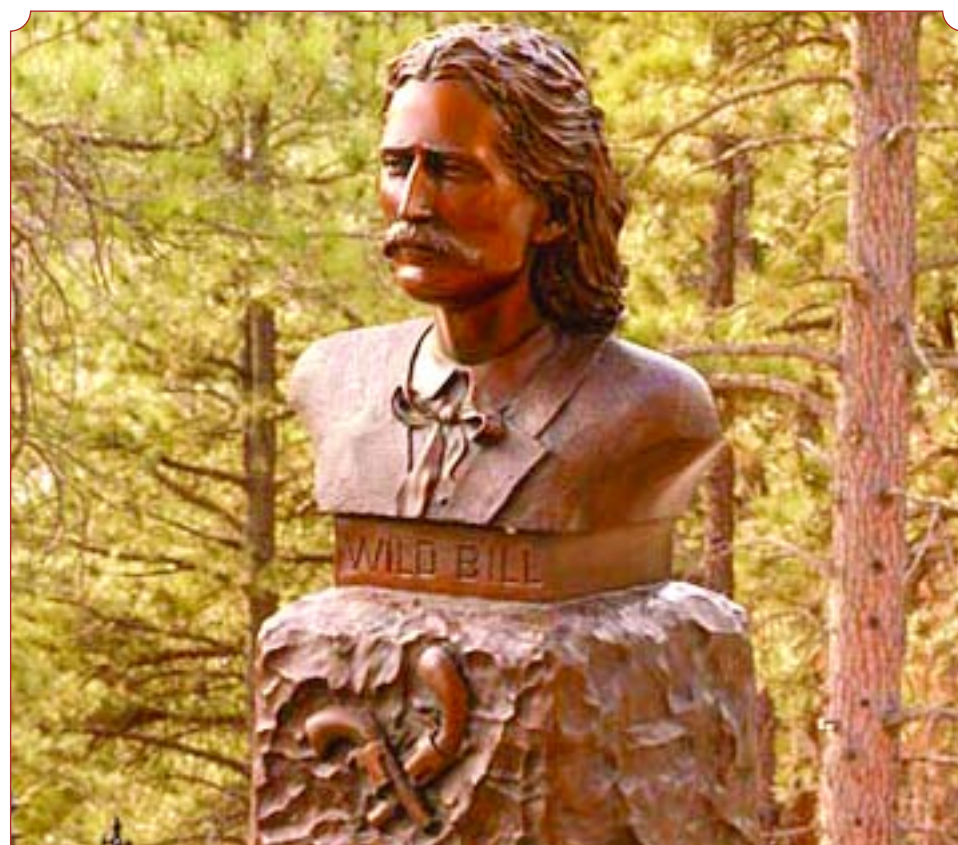
The number of men he 'sent to the farther side of the Jordan' is equally as clouded in mystery. The actual total is probably irrelevant when what really counted was what people believed his record of kills to be. To the gunfighter, reputation was more important than the facts upon which it was based. The high body count ... given by Hickok himself ... puts it at one hundred, but Bill was known to stretch the blanket a bit. The low figure given by those who regarded him merely as a liar, killer, gambler, and whoremonger disdainfully place the number at a modest ten. However, more unbiased estimates put those he killed in personal combat at thirty-six.<sup>11</sup> Whatever the actual body count, peace officer Wild Bill Hickok became widely regarded as the image of death with a badge<sup>12</sup> ... a reputation like that went a long way toward keeping the peace.

Like Doc Holliday, who would make a name for himself from Ft. Griffin to Tombstone, Wild Bill could read men like he could read cards. This gave him an edge that was fre-

quently credited to speed. Like Doc, he was a gambler and an absolutely ruthless man-killer when provoked or threatened, and he was efficiently ambidextrous. But, unlike Holliday, Wild Bill was physically strong and good with his fists, although fist fighting was an activity most gunfighters shunned even though the movies would have us believe otherwise. No surprise here. A broken gun hand would make it impossible to properly handle a sidearm, and such a disability would serve as open invitation to any young rooster with a reputation to polish. Also, unlike Doc, Hickok was a notorious womanizer. In fact, disputes over a skirt and chemise would figure prominently in at least three of Wild Bill's kills and numerous other disputes and arguments. Certainly, other issues were involved in each instance, but at the heart of the argument was a femme fatale.

In 1861 Wild Bill shot and killed David McCanles over money and a girl named Sara Shull. 1865 saw one of the very few classic (code duello), prearranged, daytime gunfights on the frontier. David Tutt and Hickok squared off over a pocket watch and a girl named Susannah Moore (played by Diane Lane in the 1995 movie *Wild Bill*). Bill drilled Tutt right through the brisket at fifty paces while each man was walking toward the other. More than any other event in his life, this sealed Wild Bill's reputation. It also set the standard for dime novels, Wild West shows and motion pictures for the high noon type gunfights that come down to us today in the shoot-em-ups of Gary Cooper, Audie Murphy, John Wayne, Clint Eastwood, and Tom Selleck. As mentioned above, it was Phil Coe's bad luck to get crosswise to Wild Bill over Abilene's disarm ordinance and the affections of a girl named Jessie Hazell.<sup>13</sup> One suspects, however, that a shapely ankle had more to do with the fatal dust up than disobedience to a city ordinance.

As with most frontier lawmen, particularly those in cowtowns, Hickok frequently moved from place to place. Today this would be regard-



*Wild Bill's Gravesite in Mount Moriah Cemetery, Deadwood, South Dakota.*

ed as professional instability. But, most Kansas peace officers were typically hired for the duration of cattle season three to four months at a time and discharged as soon as the last of the beeves were loaded on trains for their trip east and the drovers had retired back to the trail heading south to Texas. The low pay and temporary nature of frontier police work not only attracted a rough class of adventurers, but also those men who had other ways of making a living after they turned in their badges. Wild Bill was no exception. He had been an army scout, a teamster, wagon master, hunter, trapper, coach driver, a saloon owner, gambler, and trick shot artist.

Like so much about Wild Bill's life, his death at 39 is shrouded in conjecture and myth. The cards he was holding, when Jack McCall snuck up behind him and put a single .45 caliber slug through his brain, any sixth grade boy could tell you is the "dead man's hand," two aces and two eights and the Nine of Diamonds (some say

it was a Queen. Others insist it was a Jack). Why he was sitting with his back to the center of the room, which as a rule he never did, remains a mystery. Some speculate his failing eyesight positioned him there as the light was more favorable to read his cards by. Perhaps, it was simply the life ending provocative act of man who didn't wish to end up blind, being led around on someone's arm.

But why Jack McCall, a drifter, tramp, bar fly, killed him is the biggest puzzle of all. Carl Breihan in "Great Gunfighters of the West," offers one possible explanation, attributed to McCall himself, that if true would go a long way in explaining why Wild Bill met the end he did. Supposedly, fifteen years earlier, according to McCall, while working for the Overland Freight Lines, Hickok was being teased by a pair of young brothers whose ages were twelve and nine. As the story goes, the younger one called Hickok "Duck Bill" because of his long protruding upper lip, which

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(Continued from previous page)

was a part of Wild Bill's anatomy he was particularly sensitive about. In anger, Hickok allegedly wacked the youngster over the head with a hoe. The boy was rendered unconscious and then lapsed into coma and died. His name was Andy McCall. The older brother was Jack who then and there threatened to kill Hickok when he grew up. If true, it would explain Jack McCall's motive for the murder of Wild Bill. Problem is, there is no credible record of the incident, nor of any legal action being taken in the matter. In fact, Jack McCall seems to be the solitary source of the allegation he makes only after killing Hickok, thereby rendering him unable to dispute the charge. It seems an unlikely tale. For even as deadly a mankiller as Wild Bill became, it is highly improbable he would deliberately harm a child. For all his flaws, there is no other incident in his life to indicate similar conduct. McCall's explanation, being offered as it was for the first time during his murder trial, therefore, is highly suspect.

As with most infamous backshooters of historical notoriety, McCall's end is worthy of mention here for the bizarre way in which it came about. A day after he murdered Hickok, Jack McCall was tried by a Deadwood miners' court. These courts of common consent were found throughout the mining camps of California, Nevada, and Dakota Territories where there was no functioning statutory authority. Scattered outlying settlements were regarded as being beyond reach of the law. So, when a crime occurred (usually murder, robbery, theft) and a suspect was apprehended, the community of miners assembled and elected a president or judge, the prosecutor, and defense attorneys.<sup>14</sup> Most of the time it was an effective, common sense alternative to revenge killings, vendettas, blood feuds, and anarchy in the gold fields. However, in this case blind justice swerved smack into a stonewall. Incredibly disregarding eyewitness testimony,

the jury found McCall not guilty! (There may be some small comfort in knowing that jury nullification or stupidity didn't start with O.J.)

Upon his acquittal, McCall wisely left Deadwood just as fast as he could put it in skedaddle. He might not have been the sharpest tool in the shed, but he was bright enough to know that Wild Bill's friends, of whom there were many, would be seeking revenge on McCall's miserable hide for murdering the most celebrated character on the American frontier. That, however, was the last smart thing he did in life.

McCall located himself in Laramie where, comforted by the belief that he couldn't be tried twice for the same crime, was overcome by free whiskey and the urge to boast in lurid detail about his murderous deed. So, he got drunk and bragged to anyone and everyone about his having stopped the great Wild Bill's clock. What he didn't appreciate, until just before he got terminal rope rash, was that constitutional and statutory law prevailed even if its presence didn't throughout the Dakotas, and under that law, the verdict of the Deadwood miner's court was declared null. Thereafter, the blow-hard McCall was arrested in Laramie.

Based upon the jurisdictional invalidity of the first 'trial' and on the strength of his numerous subsequent confessions, he was brought to trial again for the murder, this time in a lawfully constituted court in the Territorial capital of Yankton.<sup>15</sup> The 'duck bill' story apparently failed the second time to moisten a single juror's eye, either as a justifiable defense or in mitigation of the penalty. McCall was found guilty, condemned to hang, and in the unsentimental idiom of the day, he was "jerked to Jesus" on March 1, 1877.<sup>16</sup>

In death, Hickok would join the ranks of other notable frontier lawmen who died from similar acts of treachery: Marshal Morgan Earp, Tombstone, would be shot in the back by an assassin while playing pool. Hickok's Abilene predecessor, Marshal

Tom Smith, was beheaded with an axe while attempting to mediate a property dispute. Former Sheriff, Pat Garrett, Lincoln County, New Mexico, would be assassinated on an isolated road where he had stopped to answer a call of nature. Marshal Ed Masterson of Dodge was murdered while making an arrest. Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire, El Paso, Texas, would be shot in the back of the head while struggling with his murderer's brother. Revenue Agent (former Sheriff) Bill Tilghman would be gunned down in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, with two back shots while making an arrest.

A reporter from the Cheyenne Sentinel interviewing Doc Holliday upon the occasion of Hickok's death asked if he thought Holliday could have taken Wild Bill. Shaking his head in the negative, Doc is reported to have replied, "You may quote me as saying Wild Bill was in a class all his own. I have no such aspirations."<sup>17</sup> From the normally reticent Holliday, who was approaching the height of his own fame, this was high praise indeed.

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- (Michael A. Crane, J.D., is an attorney and former Oakland Police Officer. Send him mail at [www.doc-holliday.com](http://www.doc-holliday.com). He has a Juris Doctor degree and a Master's degree in History. He wrote "A Fistful of Thorns" a fact based novel about Doc Holliday and Kate Elder available from the web site or through Amazon's Kindle Books. He has authored numerous articles on the western peace officer and related subjects that have appeared in *University of Wyoming's NOLA Quarterly*, *The California Highway Patrolman*, *The Oregon State Trooper*, *Your Virginia State Trooper*, *The Barnes Review*, *The Sagebrush Journal*, *The Cowboy Chronicle* and *Stitches Medical Journal*.)

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# SASS MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEXAN DAY

By Texas Flower, SASS Life #43753

It was February 20, 2009 ... or was it? For some Warner Elementary School students in the Cypress Fairbanks Independent School District, near Houston, Texas, part of the day was February 20, 1887.

Fourth grade students were studying Texas History, and this day was set aside for Texas History activities. The Warner Elementary Parent Teacher Organization sponsored and organized the various Texas related activities for the students throughout the day. Members of the PTO met us, Texas Flower, SASS Life #43753, and Texas Mac, SASS Life #43494, through our daughter, Gina Moss, the school librarian. For the second year, we were invited to participate in the Texas History Day activities to portray 1800 Texans.

The previous year, we had represented the 1870's decade. This year, we chose to represent the 1880 era. The time period depends on the type of dress I choose to wear for the presentation. After doing some Texas history research and planning how we would portray



Texas Mac and Texas Flower at the Warner Elementary School.



Texas Flower and Texas Mac pose with librarian Gina Moss and a student.



Excited students question Texas Flower and Texas Mac about what it was like to live in 1887 Texas.

happen similar to a series of books some of the students had read called the "Magic Tree House," by Mary Pope Osborne. She opened a western history book showing the students some pictures of people from the Old West. She talked about how it must have been in Texas years ago, and what if some of the characters could magically come out of the book to visit. Upon hearing our cue, we walked into the room. The student's reactions and looks were priceless throughout the day! We pretended not to know where we were or how we came to be in the room. We expressed amazement at the boxes with flashing screens and how everyone was dressed so different from us.

I began the presentation by explaining that we live in Texas, and the year is 1887. I reviewed some of the major Texas History events and spoke about what was happening now in Texas in 1887. I then talked about my dress and accessories. I explained the types of dress a town lady or a frontier lady might wear and the need for hats, parasols, and, of course, the fan. The students especially enjoyed the "language of the fan" demonstration. The girls laughed, and the boys turned red!

Next, Texas Mac came forward to talk about the cowboys of Texas and specifically the Texas Rangers. He talked about the history of the Rangers, and what it was like to be a Texas Ranger. He then explained

*(Continued on next page)*

1880 Texans, we got all decked out in our SASS clothes, hopped into our wagon, and headed to Warner Elementary School, dressed to the hilt with all the appropriate accessories, except the guns!

After checking in at the school office, we were shown to the activity area where we were to make our presentations. The PTO volunteer for our room explained the schedule of events for the day. Groups of students would rotate through the various activities all day. Each group would be in our room approximately 30 minutes. We were to have four presentations in the morning and four presentations in the afternoon.

Before the first group of students arrived, we found a place out of sight near the room to wait for the arriving students. Each arriving group of students was welcomed to a magic room by the PTO volunteer. She explained it was a room where magical things might

(Continued from previous page)

his attire and what was important about each item he was wearing and how it was used. No zippers on these pants!

Time was allowed at the end of each presentation for the students to ask questions or make comments. The questions from students and their teachers were very interesting and entertaining. The questions most often asked of Texas Mac were "Have you killed any Indians?" "Have you ever been shot?" And, "Can I touch your spurs?" The questions most often asked of Texas Flower were "Are those clothes heavy?" "Do you really wear all those clothes in the summer?" And, "What would I wear if I lived in 1887?" When students mentioned a car, computers, and John Wayne, we told them we did not understand what they were talking about and reminded them that we live in 1887.

The students came and went throughout the day amazed with our attire and asking us how we planned to get back home. A few of the students wanted to go "back"

with us! Whenever we had some free time, we were often in the halls visiting with students, teachers, volunteers, and getting our picture taken. We certainly enjoyed visiting with these future cowboys and cowgirls.

After our last group of students left, it was time for us to say our good-bys, check out at the front office, jump back into our wagon, and figure out how we were going to get "back" home with all those colorful metal boxes with wheels speeding around us.

Participating in the Texas History Day activities and spending time with the Warner Elementary students, school personnel, and Parent Teacher Organization volunteers had been a rewarding experience and a fun day for us. By belonging to SASS, not only can we enjoy the shooting and SASS sponsored events, but we are well equipped with the costumes, accessories, and interest in the Old West, to be a part of this educational event. We now have one more opportunity to dress up and play cowboy!

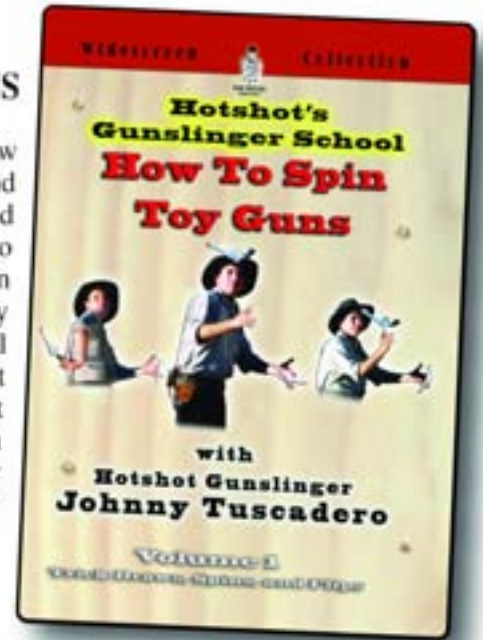
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*Ioway, SASS Life #214*

# MY HIDEOUT

*By Ioway, SASS Life #214*

his "Have Gun will Travel." I loved the chess knight logo, the black clothes, and the 7 1/2" SAA "cavalry" colt. But the gun, which intrigued me the most, was his Remington double barrel derringer hidden behind his belt buckle. In many of Paladin's adventures, his Colt 7 1/2" SAA would be taken, dropped, or somehow separated from him. Every time, Richard Boone would rely on his double barrel Model 95 Remington to save the day. His hideout was the gun my hero used to allow right to win out over evil. Later in time, Hollywood would cast the character of Yancy Derringer with the image of the derringer coming to mind. This time the lead character was a Mississippi



As a boy growing up in the 50's, my days were full of my Texas cutting horse and the herd of Hereford cattle we had bought in the Nebraska sand hills. This herd of 100 head only responded to a rider on horseback, and should one try to work them on foot, they would run for a mile regardless of any fence. The evenings were full of black and white cowboy shows on TV. My favorite was "Paladin" and

River boat gambler who headquartered in New Orleans.

As I grew older, and after my masters degree in English, I got

another masters degree in history. During one of my research projects, I discovered that both President

*(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)

Roosevelts carried Remington double derringers in their vest pocket, and many ladies, businessmen, gamblers, and saloon girls of the 1800's also carried the Remington.

Finally, one of my former students called from Denver with an 1873 blue and nickel Winchester for sale. If I would send an extra hundred dollars, he would throw in a Remington double derringer, which his bank had foreclosed on. Thus, Ioway got his first real, blue double derringer.

Research told me Remington made over 150,000 of the guns, and they were in four versions. These could be identified by the barrel-rib stampings. While the 1866-1888 models did not have extractors, all I have acquired (see photos) do have extractors. As the barrels hinge in front of the hammer and swing forward for loading, many cracked hinges occurred due to the rough treatment. While this can be repaired, collector value decreases greatly. After finding Navy Arms had the .41 rimfire ammo for \$15 a box, I laid in a good supply, as Cowboy Action Shooting™ was just starting in Iowa, and a derringer stage was held at some of the shoots. I took my Remington and a box of shells along to a Fort Des Moines Rangers' shoot. There, I discovered the gun shot high, and there is an

insignificant amount of recoil.

Many Cowboy Action Shooters took me up on the offer to shoot an original double derringer, so the first box of shells was used rather quickly. Since they are rim fire, they cannot be reloaded and the brass is throwaway. The 130-grain lead bullet is a hollow-base, greased one. Many accounts report that a gunshot by a .45 Long Colt, .44-40, or .38-40 would go through a human body. However, the greased .41 would usually not, and the body would fill with infection. Many times, a painful and slow death would occur. Thus, many gamblers and clients of the saloon girls feared being shot by the derringer more than being shot by one of the major calibers of the Old West era.

Historically, many types of derringers were carried for personal protection. These varied from single barrel to 4-barrel handguns. But, for me, the stereotypical Old West derringer is Paladin's Remington double barrel, Model 95. Since they were manufactured up until 1935, many of our immediate ancestors carried them on their person as well. Throughout history, the derringer has been sequestered on wrists, with a clip, in garters, chap pockets, vest pockets, suspender holsters, coat pockets, purses, and the hand muff, which my own aunt used in Iowa's winters.

The hideout then, as now, was a last ditch, close up and personal, defense weapon. What a history of the gun Paladin used frequently for a final salvation against the bad guys! Should anyone have family stories involving a derringer, please share them with me via *The Cowboy Chronicle* or directly through Ioway@hotmail.com. Also, should anyone know of a source for .41 rimfire ammo in addition to Navy Arms Old West Scrounger-obsolete ammo, let me know in care of *The Cowboy Chronicle*, as I am sure many SASS members would like to shoot their .41 rimfire guns.

Over the years, my first derringer purchase has increased to many more Remington's. As one can see from the photo, these have been nickel ones, engraved ones, blue ones, original boxed ones, and even ones in custom inlaid boxes. Many of them have grips other than the black hard rubber ones, such as stag, pearl, ivory, and wood. In the beginning, the Remington double derringer sold for \$8 blued and 50 cents more for nickel. Some had serial numbers, lot numbers, and others are identified by single line or double line addresses on the

top of the barrel rib. A new book on *Dr. William H. Elliot's Remington Double Derringer* by Douglas S. Drummond and others has just been published and is available from Graphic Publishers at 1-800-496-8726 for \$69.95 + S&H. This book is 207 pages of history and photos of the double derringers.

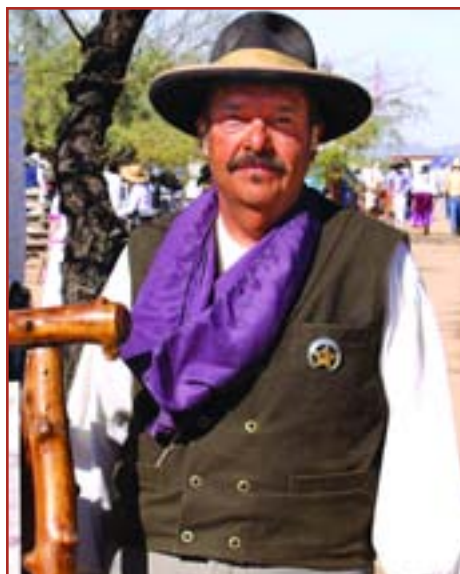
Some of my derringers have the single line address of "REMINGTON ARMS CO, ILION, N.Y. (2nd type-1888-1911) and REMINGTON ARMS—U.M.C.CO. ILION, N.Y. (3rd type-1912-1935).

While my aunt and mother carried "pocket pistols" while I was growing up, Paladin's Remington double derringer always struck my fancy. SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™ has given me a reason to shoot and relive history. Always make sure a competent gunsmith goes through any historical firearm before shooting it. Long live SASS and the revival of America's history! What a wonderful opportunity to shoot my Remington Model 95 again!

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Larsen E. Pettifogger,  
SASS Life #32933

# TUNING THE UBERTI OPEN TOP REVOLVERS

## Part 3

By Larsen E. Pettifogger, SASS Life #32933

Parts 1 and 2 of this series dealt with more or less standard action tuning procedures, and between them and the information in the Pietta articles, the actions on your guns should be a little smoother. However, a smooth action is useless if the cylinder binds and the gun is difficult or impossible to cock. This difficulty comes primarily from the cylinder gap closing because the wedge is going too far into the barrel, or powder fouling building up on the face of the cylinder (especially with blackpowder). The reason this occurs with Ubertis is because almost every Uberti open top has a poorly fitted arbor. In almost every case, the arbor is too short. Since the arbor is too short, as the wedge is pushed into the barrel, it tilts the barrel backwards and it binds on the cylinder or reduces the cylinder gap to the point powder fouling makes the cylinder hard to turn.

To test for this condition, remove the cylinder and make sure all gunk and dirt is out of the arbor hole in the barrel. Put the barrel on the arbor at a 90-degree angle to the frame and make sure it is fully seated on the arbor. (Make sure the arbor is in the arbor hole and not the bore!) Now twist the barrel down until it comes to rest on the barrel alignment pins or the frame. **Photo 44**. If the arbor is properly fitted, the

barrel will either mate perfectly with the frame or be only a FEW thousandths of an inch behind the frame. Perfect alignment is shown in **Photo 44**. On virtually every Uberti, the barrel will wind up a good distance behind the front of the frame. **Photo 45**. As long as this misalignment

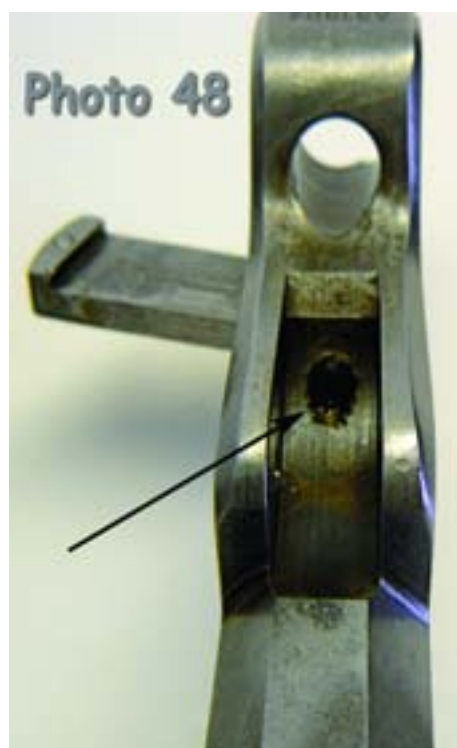


between the barrel and frame exists, the cylinder gap will never remain perfectly set. Once the arbor is correctly fitted, it will remain that way for virtually a lifetime. **Photo 46**



shows an original Colt. It is over 140 years old, and there is a lot of wear on the arbor and in the arbor hole in the barrel; yet, it still mates perfectly with the frame. So, how do we fix this problem? More importantly, is there a way the home gun tinker can repair the arbor?

One way to repair the arbor is to remove it and either try to find one that is longer or to weld up the existing arbor and machine it to fit. This is not practical for the home smith. There are a few other things that can be done. A precisely located hole can be drilled in the end of the arbor and a spacer installed. **Photo 47**. Another method is to drill a hole in the arbor recess in the



barrel and install a setscrew. **Photo 48**. The barrel/frame fit can then be adjusted by simply turning the setscrew. **Photo 49**. A setscrew



can also be fitted to the end of the arbor. **Photo 50**.

All of these methods present some potential problems. For example, the hole for the setscrew or spacer has to be centered well and the hole tapped perfectly straight or the setscrew or spacer won't seat squarely on the top of the arbor or in the center of the arbor hole. Also, the bottom of the arbor hole on Uberti's is typically not flat. It is concave in the center. That is why the setscrew or spacer must be well centered. If it is not, the screw will hit the concave area of the arbor hole and give poor contact with the barrel. Sometimes the arbors are hardened fairly deeply and are difficult to tap. Besides these mechanical problems, there is also a practical problem on many Uberti's.

The cutout in the barrel under the loading lever is sloped. On many of the open tops, cap and ball and cartridge, the bottom portion of the arbor hole is paper-thin or has been perforated during the machining process. For those guns with thin metal in the arbor hole or for those that are perforated, this makes installing a setscrew an unsatisfactory fix. (It is also some-  
*(Continued on next page)*







(Continued from previous page)  
 what difficult to measure exactly how thick the metal in the arbor hole is because of the sloping surfaces.) **Photo 51** shows a "C" series second-generation Colt '51 Navy barrel looking from the cylinder end. The center hole is the arbor hole, and it can be seen the lower half of the hole is perforated. **Photo 52**



shows the arbor hole looking down into the loading lever cutout. Again, the perforation is apparent.

So, does this mean if the metal in the arbor hole is thin or perforated we can't fix the arbor fit? No! The cutout in the barrel is sloped. So, even though the bottom half of the hole may be paper thin or perforated, the upper half is quite thick and will serve as a solid bulkhead for our arbor to bear against. It turns out the solution to our problem is something many of us already have lying around in our gunrooms. A Dillon #3 locator button! **Photos 53A/B.** (Dillon part number 14060.) That's right, one of those little brass buttons that locates the casings in all of the Dillon loading machines. The button is cheap, big enough to make solid contact with the bottom of the arbor



hole, yet small enough that if we make a small centering error it will still fit in the arbor hole, and, being brass, it is easy to machine.

The first thing we need to do is look at the end of the arbor. It's either flat, or it isn't flat! The arbor in **Photo 54** has a small nub left in the center from when the arbor was turned during manufacture. That little nub is right where our locator hole has to be drilled, and it has to be removed so we can get an accurate center punch location. Take a stone and stone the nub down until the stone makes uniform contact with the tip of the arbor. **Photo 55.** On our arbor, the end of the arbor is



shaped like a donut. The center is flat as are the edges of the arbor, but the area in between is slightly lower. **Photo 56.** As long as the nub is flat and there is even contact from the stone around it, we don't need to stone any further. At this point, we can use the bright spot left by the nub to center our punch. Remember to use a new, sharp, prick punch so you can see where the punch tip is contacting your work. Angle the punch, put the tip in the center of the spot left by the nub, (**Photo 57**), straighten the punch, and when you are certain it is centered, give it a tap with a hammer. **Photo 58.**

If there is no nub, or if the end of the arbor is all bright and shiny after you have stoned off the nub, or you don't trust your eyeball centering on the nub, then we have a little more work to do to make sure our center



punch is accurately located. Take a black magic marker or sharpie and blacken the end of the arbor. **Photo 59.** Now we need to scribe lines in the black surface to locate the center of the arbor. A machinist's centering square would be the simplest thing to use. **Photo 60.** It is designed so when it is placed on a round object, the leg of the square runs through the center of the round object. **Photo 61.** Not everyone has one of these things, and they usually can't be purchased at local hardware or tool stores. An alternative is a combination square that can be purchased at many local stores. **Photo 62.** This is a cheap one that was  
 (Continued on page 42)

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## TUNING THE UBERTI OPEN TOP REVOLVERS ...



Photo 62



Photo 63

(Continued from page 41)

picked up from Harbor Freight for \$7. Remove everything but the center finder and you wind up with a giant, but serviceable, version of the little machinist's square. **Photo 63.**

Put the arbor in a vice with the tip sticking up far enough so your square can fit down tightly against the end of the arbor. **Photo 64.** (Make sure to use some shims or padding so you don't damage the sides of the arbor.) Scribe a line down the center of the arbor. Remember to tilt your scribe so it makes an accurate line. Turn the square 90 degrees and make a second line. "X" now marks the spot. **Photo 65.** Tilt your punch to accurately locate it at the center of the X, (**Photo 66**), tip it up, (**Photo 67**), and when you are sure it is centered, give it a tap with a hammer. You should now have a nice, centered, punch mark. **Photo 68.**

In the next installment, you will get to do some home machining and use that Dremel you have been dying to use!



Photo 66

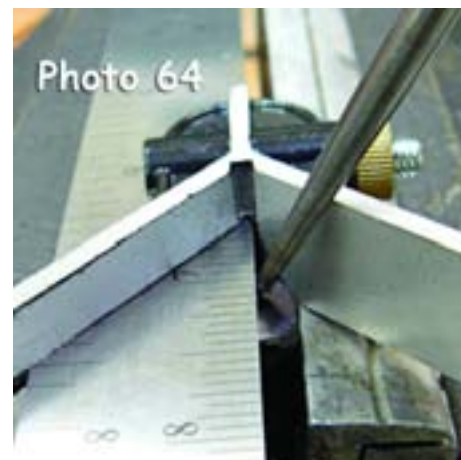


Photo 64

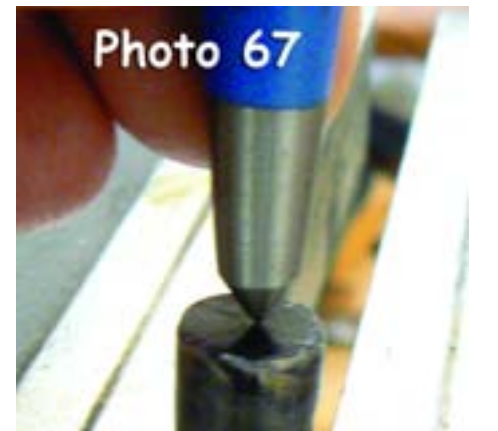


Photo 67



Photo 65

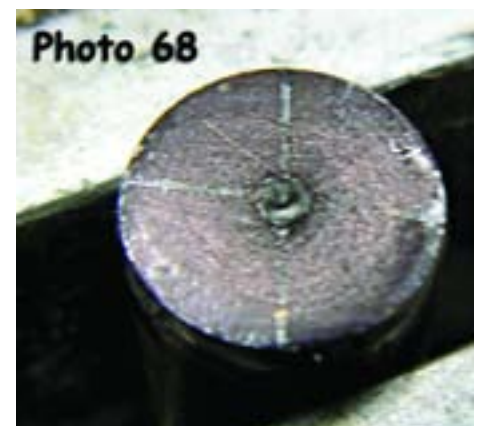




Photo 68

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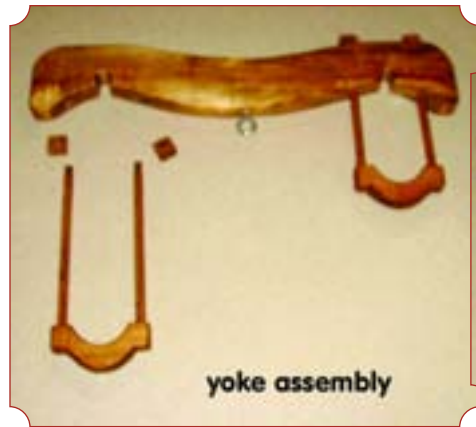
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**Cree Vicar Dave, SASS Life #49907  
Territorial Governor,  
Sucker Creek Michigan**

# A YOKE OF OXEN

*By Cree Vicar Dave, SASS Life #49907  
TG Sucker Creek, Michigan*



We have a couple wagons sitting along the main street of Sucker Creek. Props of plywood horses, mules, and oxen (cows) are sometimes hitched up to their tongues. I wrote an article (Staging the Long Gun) about building these critter props that was published in *The Cowboy Chronicle*, May 2006. There are pictures of these on our Website, [www.sucker creek.org](http://www.sucker creek.org), for viewing. Many of you received full sized drawings of these ersatz animals with a donation to Sucker Creek Saddle & Gun Club for which we extend a sincere thank you to all.

In viewing the oxen hitched to a

wagon, it became obvious to me that a "yoke" was missing. So, I set out to construct one for a pair of these draft animals. The yoke was made out of a piece of wood 2" thick by 7" wide by 36" long. It was cut in the form of a yoke, around 4 1/2" wide in the center tapering a little to each side. A 1" x 1" slot was cut up from the bottom 6" from each end. This slot sets over the neck of each ox. Holding the yoke upright in a small vice two 3/4" holes were drilled with a drill press through each side of the 1" X 1" slots for the two bow shaped neck braces. These holes are around 5 3/4" apart and are equally spaced on each side of each 1" x 1" slot. A 5/16" radius round over bit was used around the perimeter of the yoke.

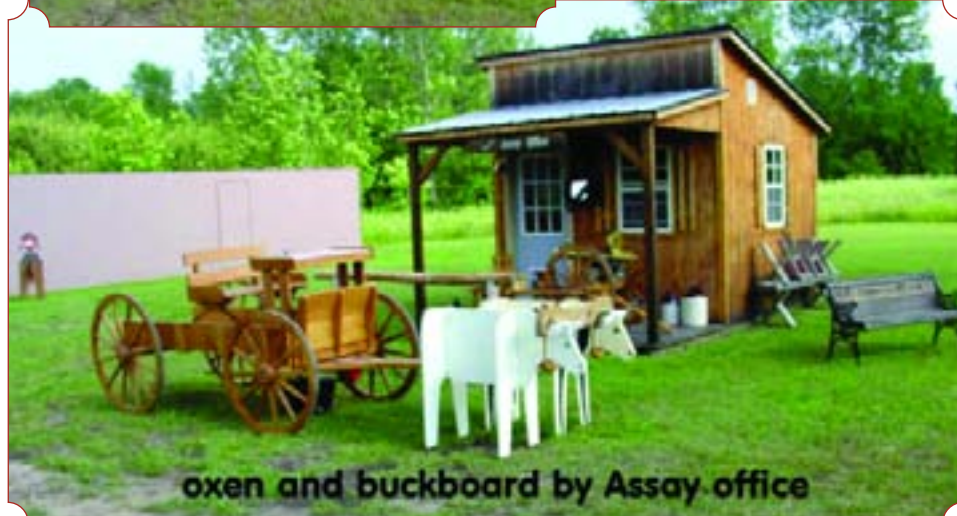
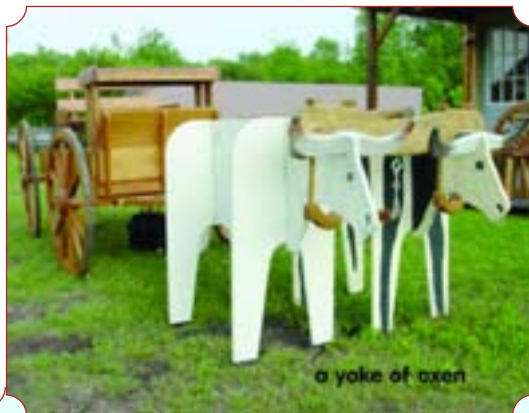
For lack of a steamer, I constructed each bowed brace out of two 3/4" oak wood dowels 15" long and a curved bottom piece made out of a piece of 1 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 7 1/4" oak board. The width of the curve is also 1 1/2". Two 3/4" holes were drilled in the bottom-curved piece at 5 3/4" on cen-

ter 1" deep for the dowels to be glued in place. The tops of the dowels were threaded with a wood-threading die and have wood nuts to match. Other devices could be used to hold them up in place. Finish is optional. I used MIN WAX Golden Oak stain and a couple coats of

polyurethane varnish.

The yoke adds to the allure of the Old West. I really enjoy designing and building props for Cowboy Action. It says in Job 42:12, "The Lord blessed the later part of Job's life more than the first. He had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand donkeys." We don't have quite that many critters at Sucker Creek, but our herd is increasing. I can relate to this passage as the Lord has blessed the later part of my life also, with abundant life in Christ, a loving wife and family, great friends, good health and Cowboy Action Shooting™.

Remember to always follow all safety and health rules when working on projects and playing with 'um. [creevicardave@hotmail.com](mailto:creevicardave@hotmail.com)



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Whooper Crane,  
SASS #52745

# WILD WEST "WHEELS"

## What Cowboys Rode When Old Paint Was at The Blacksmith's Getting New Shoes

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745

When we think of "Wheels" today, we envision our F-150 Pickups or our Jeep Grand Cherokees. Back in the Old West they thought of Buckboards and Prairie Schooners and Freighter Wagons and ... the most ubiquitous "wheels" of all ... the Stagecoaches.

With this new series of articles, we're going to explore where these various wagons came from and how they helped open the West. We'll look at everything from Travois (used mainly by the Indians and the earliest westerners) to the wheels that brought *real* civilization to the Wild West ... the fire-breathing, smoke-belching behemoths usually referred to back then as Iron Horses.



This month we're going to look at the "wheels" we all love to see when we're watching our favorite cowboy movies ... the Concord Stage!

The original Concord Stage was designed and constructed by the Abbot Downing Company in its works at Concord, New Hampshire in 1827. There had been several styles of stagecoaches built prior to this, but Abbot Downing created what came to be the yardstick by which all others were measured.

Roomy and comfortable, the Concord Stage was suspended on a unique multi-thoroughbrace system (leather belts) that isolated the coach itself from the twists and jolts that battered the undercarriage as the stage rumbled down the road.

Mark Twain compared the ride of a Concord Stagecoach to that of a baby cradle on wheels.

The company, under a series of ownerships through the years, produced over 3,700 Concord Stages until it ended production in 1899, so they were very evident during our "SASS Period" of 1865-1899.

The Stages used four-horse hitches in the more level areas they served and six-horse hitches in the more rugged, mountainous West.

If you've ever seen a Concord Stagecoach in a museum or at a Wild West Rally of some sort, I'm sure you were impressed with the degree of snappiness the company lavished on them to delight customers with their elegance. Just check out the detailing: Leather seats ... pin striping on the exterior ... panoramic scenes hand-painted on the doors ... brilliant red paint jobs ... bright yellow spoked wheels. No Cadillac Eldorado ever looked snazzier than these guys!

The Concord could carry up to 21 passengers, nine inside and 12 outside. (How they determined who rode *in* and who rode *out* is anyone's guess ... probably a fare price differential, I suppose).

But determining who rode "Shotgun" was very specific. The stage company hired tough-nuts called "Messengers" to ride with the Yehu (Driver) to protect the valuables the stages often carried from road agents (stickup artists) and, coincidentally, the passengers.

The seat that accommodated the driver and the messenger jugged out front of the stage and up high (over six feet high!). Beneath it was a leather-enclosed boot for passengers' luggage as well as a smaller compartment that held any valuables the Line was transporting. These were kept in a locked steel strongbox ... the item road agents referred to when they told the driver to "just kick that box over the side" whenever they waylaid a stage.

At the back of the coach was a



large hinged platform, usually canvas-protected, that held any heavier luggage or bulky freight the Line was shipping. Even more stuff could be tied on up top (if no passengers were riding there).

The coach itself weighed in at 1-1/2 tons and could haul a payload (including human cargo) of over 2 tons! Now that's a lot of weight for horses to pull, but the draft horses of the stage lines were made of sterner stuff ... but realize, they turned their load over to their relief team every 10-15 miles. And, speaking of miles, the typical day's journey for a western stagecoach was about 35 miles every eight hours. That meant the 2600-mile trip from St. Louis to San Francisco took 25 days if you were on a Line that traveled day and night, as some did. And the fare—rather hefty in those days at \$200.

As we've seen in so many great B-Westerns (and this was true in fact!), the drivers were generally hell-bent-for-leather individuals who had a penchant for trying to beat their previous times between stages (where horses were changed). In fact, their slang title Yehu (pronounced Yayhoo) comes from a biblical character who drove fast and furiously.

Fortunately, the Concord Stagecoaches were built so soundly that no matter how rough the punish-

ment their handlers put them through, they always held together and "delivered the mail."

With the coming of the railroads, the stage lines slowly disappeared, ending an era of hard-driving cross-country travel that so romantically portrays the Wild West to us cowboy wannabees today.

Who can forget John Wayne picking off attacking Indians from atop Andy Devine's Concord stage as he scrambled full tilt for Lordsburg in *Stagecoach*? Or, try to forget Dana Delany stepping down from the Tucson stage and catching Curt Russell's eye in *Tombstone*. These are moments we all savor ... thanks to the lore and the legacy of the Concord Stagecoach. What a legendary set of "Wheels!"

Next time we'll take a look at the mighty wagons that brought the pioneers to the West ... and essentially got the whole westering movement moving ... the elegant Conestogas!

### Sources:

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wheelsthatwonthewest.com  
oldwesternwagons.com  
hansenwheels.com  
stagecoachworld.net

### Photos:

Whooper by Deadeye Al  
Stagecoach by Stagecoach World



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# WHAT'S THE CALL?

*By Oracle, SASS #4854 Regulator,  
RO-III TG-The Bitter Creek Rangers*

and go through the motions or simply "look at" each individual target, it is still "shadow shooting." The Expeditors position is where the question is asked and answered, "Does the shooter understand the course of fire?" If no Expediter position is used, then the Loading Table is where the shooter reviews the stage requirements of positions, sequence, and movement. That is why it is important that conversation at the Loading Table be limited to counting rounds, watching the shooter load the correct number of rounds in each firearm, and answering any questions the shooter may have about the stage. It is tempting to talk about other subjects, but it is distracting to the next shooter.

The other Range Official involved with "Shadow Shooting" is the Berm Marshal/Stage Marshal/Stage Driver. The reason they are involved is their job duties. "The primary responsibility of a stage marshal is to ensure consistency between posses and to keep posses running on time." Part of that "keep the posse running on time" is to observe the Timer Operator and Shooter. The Timer Operator does NOT ask, "Does the shooter understand the course of fire?." The reason being time. If the Timer Operator has to explain the stage to each shooter, it adds an additional 30 seconds to one minute to the time each shooter is on the firing line. If the Timer Operator is allowed by the Berm Marshal to allow the shooter

to point at each target in the shooting sequence, it adds an additional 20 seconds. Further, if the shooter has to ask about stage instructions, review shooting sequence, etc, the shooter is NOT ready to shoot and should be directed to the Unloading Table. The only exception I can think of is for a worker on a "shoot through" to not be present during the initial stage instructions. At that point, the Timer Operator coaches the shooter through the entire stage if requested.

Where do Spotters stand and why do they take up a specific position? What is their responsibility after the shooter has completed the course of fire and they have given the count to the Timer Operator? Spotters spread out along the firing line in order to see down range with no obstructions. Spotters position themselves so those of the Holy Black will receive a fair "see and hear" strike of the bullet. Spotters don't look at other Spotters to see what they have in the way of misses and/or Procedurals. When the Timer Operator sees a Spotter doing that, they need to admonish the spotter to pay attention to their job or get another spotter. No shooter minds waiting until a new Spotter is brought forward in order to receive a fair count.

Additional responsibilities may include resetting knockdowns. It is not unusual for Spotters to pick-up brass. The most frequently broken

Safety Rule is for Spotters to stand/sit/work between the shooter coming off the firing line and down range. The shooter has two firearms in hand and additional firearms on their person. Hopefully, they are empty. The responsibility lies not only with the brass picker/spotters/workers, but also with the Shooter. Do not proceed until you have a clear, safe path to the unloading table. Not so usual, but it still happens, is the shooter with loaded firearms going to the firing line and allowing a Spotter/target re-setter/brass picker to remain in place between the shooter and down range. DO NOT stand/sit/work between the shooter and the unloading table. It may take a whole 5 seconds for the brass pickers to move so they are NOT between the shooter and the unloading table.

I strongly suggest during the Safety Brief before each SASS match, the Safety Officer remind ALL participants to get out of the way.

LOOK IT UP! Welcome to the hard call of a RO.

Question 1-Where are the Expeditors duties listed?

ANSWER-Range Officers Basic Course Student Boo , Page 7, Item 6

Question 2-Where are the Berm Marshal/Stage Marshal/Stage Driver duties shown?

ANSWER-Range Officers Basic Course Student Book, Page 6, Items 1, 2, 3, 4.

I would like to address two items of interest for this month's article. The first is a safety concern about posse members working or standing between the shooter coming off the line and going to the unloading table, and the other is "shadow shooting." Neither is addressed specifically. "Shadow shooting" is not defined in the Glossary of the SASS Shooters Handbook, and there is nothing in writing which specifically prohibits a shooter coming to the shooting line, pointing their finger to each target, going through the motions of the shooting sequence, maybe or maybe not picking up or putting down the next imaginary firearm, and reviewing the stage in their mind. Nor is there a written rule that says a shooter can not come to the first position on the stage and, instead of pointing their finger and going through the motions, they simply look at each target in sequence, placing all 20 to 30 targets in their place in time and space.

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# GOOD FENCES MAKE GREAT NEIGHBORS

By Chelsea Kid, SASS Life #47400

This saying of Robert Frost is well known here in Vermont, but in Cowboy Action Shooting™ we have found Good Fences make great friends ... Cowboy Friends that is. Over the last several shooting seasons we have been looking for some additional stage props that are easy to make, store, and assemble. Another major factor is cost, as all the clubs we belong to are looking to save money anyway they can.

Enter the Good Fences constructed by Chelsea Kid and Ken Shoot. The goal for the initial woodworking session was to use up some lumber acquired from the scrap pile at Chelsea Kid's work. After all, we had to clean up the basement so the winter wood



supply could fit in. Out of this session a quick and easy design to create a portable fence was developed.

The starting point was 12 foot long boxes in which supplies to Chelsea Kid's employer had been

sent. They were being emptied and then tossed into the trash pile. Ever the frugal Vermonter, Chelsea started bringing them home and stacked them up ... "I'll

find a use for them someday." The design involves two long boards 3/4" thick by 4" tall and 6' long. *(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)

These boards fit through slots created in the upright. The rail boards are removable, which greatly aids in the storage.

The uprights consist of a base with a 2" x 4" x 8" nailed or screwed to the center. We have found the best source of bases is wire reel sides. The wire reels we are getting (again from the scrap pile at work) are about 18" in diameter. This size makes a compact, but stable base to hold the upright and rails. You place the 2" side of the 2" x 4" x 8" piece down across the center of the reel, apply some glue and screw it down tightly using 2 1/2" dry wall screws.

The next piece of simple construction is the upright. These are made out of scrap lumber and are 4" wide by 36" long by whatever thickness you have available. Ours are from 3/4" thick lumber. You will need two of these uprights. The last cutting you will have to do is a 2" x 4" into 4" long sections ... you will need two of these for each upright.

Now for the construction phase. The uprights are created by placing a 2" x 4" x 4" section at the 3" stop in the jig and another at the 20" stop in the jig. (See jig directions below). Place some glue on each of the 2 x 4 x 4 pieces, then lay an upright down on top of these pieces, truing the end of the upright with the end of the jig. Screw the pieces to the upright with a 2" dry wall screw. Remove the one-sided upright from the jig, get the jig out of the way, and turn the upright over so the 2 x 4 spacer is up. Put some glue on the 2 x 4 spacer, lay the second upright on top, truing up


with the end, then screw together with 2" dry wall screws.

The upright now can set down on the base, right over top of the 2 x 4 you glued and screwed down earlier. Keep the 3" opening on the top so the rails can set in the space.

Even with only one upright and two rails, you have a useful device to direct traffic at a shoot. Just set the upright on the base, put two rails from the top opening, one on each side, down to the ground and you have a beginning fence. Keep building the base/upright units and slip rails into the top and middle spaces to create a regular looking fence. The sections will be lightweight enough to just pick them up and place where you want them. And they come apart for easy storage.

We generally screw the uprights to the base through the base unit 2 x 4 pieces, but this isn't always required. However, doing this will increase the stability of the fences.

Enhancements include creating a little box to sit on the top rail in which to keep shells at a stage. We are now looking at 6" soma tubes to set down over an upright to create a base for a decorative cactus. For those who are picky, you can plane the lumber, stain it, paint it, or generally get carried away.

We tend to keep with the natural look and keep them rustic. We use these fences quite a bit at the Great Nor'easter each year. They block off the road to the shooting range, provide crowd direction at registration, and are enhancements at a stage. In general, the sky is the limit for uses with these Good Fences. 


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# SOME THOUGHTS ON HOLSTERS

By Purdy Gear, SASS Life #33315



Purdy Gear, SASS Life #33315

The problem is there are RO's out there disqualifying folks for radically-raked crossdraws. Some of these have legitimate beefs and *should* be calling folks out for non-compliance, but others are just being "over zealous." Let's have a look at the rules specifically pertaining to the crossdraw holster and where controversy or misinterpretation might occur. I'm putting the rules in italics and discussion in regular type. The rules are printed verbatim, but I have taken the liberty of putting them slightly out of sequence to present a logical argument.

*All handguns must be carried in a safe holster capable of retaining the*

There has always been a certain amount of controversy over the crossdraw holster. Personally, I believe them to be a fine holster and a safe one when used in the manner prescribed by the SASS Handbook.



*The cut at the throat of the holster at the far left might allow for a grip and cylinder-heavy 3-1/2 or 4-3/4 revolver to capsize or spill if an inattentive shooter moves suddenly. The cuts on the holster throats to its right provide greater security against this.*



*At the unloading table: (camera position, the table supervisor; Sheriff Lord, shooter; and Sassy Motchee, "audience"). Sheriff Lord wears a "crotch" holster in this photo. You can see if he draws his revolver he will be sweeping "the audience." Technically, because he is wearing a strong-side holster, he is not required to do the dance.*



*Both of these holsters are raked at 25 degrees and are basically positioned at the same place on the front of the body. The crossdraw requires you to do the dance while the other does not.*



*This holster was constructed with a 25 degree muzzle flip. As you can see, a raked belt compounds this angle to one that would make any Range Officer anxious.*

firearm throughout a normal range of motion.

This is a sensible, straight-forward rule as it stands. The problem is in our quest for speed and competitiveness, we forget it's one thing to be toting a 7-1/2" long-barrel in a "gun bucket" holster with a cut-away trigger, deep front recurve, and a low cut flared cylinder. It is quite another to use the same-styled holster for a 3-1/2 or a 4-3/4. The shorter holster might be questionable straight up and down, never mind raked. The general rule is: the more the leather is cut away from a revolver, the greater the risk for capsizing it from the holster. The problem here is nobody says anything unless a gun flies out of such a holster.

The point is—not all straight holsters are safe and not all crossdraw holsters are unsafe. If the revolver is lashed down or held down during movement, there is no issue of safety. If not ... Safety issues abound!

*Holsters may not depart from the vertical by more than 30 degrees when worn.*

The standard by which ALL the holster makers, myself included, incorporate rakes into holsters is based on the angle of the revolver barrel with respect to the top of the

belt. To the holster maker, this translates as the rake of the belt loop with respect to the belt. This standard makes it easy to give a customer the holster rake they want. If I am asked to build a holster with a 30-degree rake, that is what I will build, based on that theory. So technically, the holster is always in compliance, right? Nope.

Here's the problem: *The customer isn't holding his body up to the phone for me to see!* And, no, I am not being facetious.

While I can build a holster to be within the rules, the person wearing that holster might become completely *out of compliance* wearing it simply because their body type requires their belt to be worn at an angle! Think of it. Lots of you are wearing your belts higher on the butt and lower at the front because it's either more comfortable for you to do so, or your body shape demands it. *This angling of the belt adds additional rake to the holster.*

The crotch holster and the crossdraw holster worn on the "center" of the belly are least affected by this as the rake of the belt is quite modest at this point. As the holster approaches the point of the hip or  
*(Continued on next page)*



(Continued from previous page)

the side of the leg, the rake of the belt in combination with the rake of the holster can be particularly dramatic. As a result, a modestly-canted holster can suddenly become an object of a range officer's wrath.

How do we handle this? The shooter and the person manufacturing the holster have, to the best of their knowledge, been in compliance. Yet here they are, getting yelled at or worse, getting DQ'd.

Furthermore, there are a number of folks out there who prefer a slight back-rake to their strongside holsters. The trouble is that with a deeply raked belt, suddenly you have a back rake that goes from the standard 15 degrees to 40 or 45 degrees. **That** is a major sweeping of the audience upon drawing and holstering! Do we ask them to do "the dance" in a sort of a weird, Ginger Rogers reverse of the standard twist? (No.) Do we banish this holster with DQ's? (No.) If we're gonna be cut-throat about the rules, we must be cut-throat on all counts, not just with the crossdraw holster.

*Main match holsters must be located one on each side of the belly button and separated by at least the width of two fists at the belt.*

The position of the gun on the body is critical. Theories abound as to which placement, rake, and ride are most beneficial to the shooter, but the actual answer is quite simple. The best position is the one that allows the shooter the most ergonomic draw. Translated, it means the position from which the firearm can be most easily grasped and most comfortably drawn without distortions to the wrist, elbow, or shoulder. Folks with short arms or with limited range of movement can benefit greatly by moving their guns forward of the main seam of their britches or even to the point of the hip.

A slight forward rake is also often of benefit as is lowering the position of the grips. Having said this, there are extremes to which this has been taken. Even with the ruling in place, it is not uncommon to see holsters in compliance at the belt line, but virtually touching at the muzzle end.

Many people rake their holsters quite dramatically when wearing their holsters in this position. My thoughts on this go beyond dangers of gun buckets, low cuts, dangerous rakes, and the potential of dropping a gun because the motion of your legs as you walk or run is contributing addition risk. Here's the issue ... If a **crossdraw holster** is worn at the front of the body, the wearer **must** do the dance. If that **same crossdraw holster** is worn on the strongside in the so-called crotch holster position, nobody says "boo" or has a kinipchen about breaking the 170. Furthermore, if the shooter

is "doing the dance" and has an accidental or negligent discharge from a crossdraw holster, the round will travel downrange without harming the shooter or those in attendance.

Now, think of what the same round from that same holster positioned in the "crotch holster" position will do under the same circumstances. The chances are likely that the round will enter the shooter's leg or the leg or body of someone standing to their side. Yes, we emphasize that spotters and RO's stand behind the shooter, but ... think ... not every target is addressed parallel to the back wall of the berm. A target angled to the side will bring a shooter's body to that same angle and, at that point, they may be not only sweeping themselves, but posse members or even the audience. If the "overzealous ROs" are addressing the issue of the crossdraw holster, then this issue must also be addressed!

Similarly, the issue of people holstering their pistols with the weak hands should be addressed. If you enforce the rule for one, you must do it for all!

Extreme care must be exercised when drawing a pistol from a crossdraw or shoulder holster or returning the pistol to leather. The user must "twist" their body, if necessary, to not break the 170-degree safety rule during the process. Failure to ensure the muzzle is always down range is grounds for an immediate stage disqualification.

Y'know ... this is such a sensible rule, yet I see it enforced unevenly at best. First, there seems to be a problem with the concept of what 170 degrees actually is. Is it the position of the shooter with respect to "down range," or is it the concept of the holstered gun with respect to "down range?" They are not the same thing!


If it is with respect to the position of the gun on the shooter's body, the angle of the twist required to comply with not breaking the 170 is a variable. Technically, those who are wearing a crossdraw on the belly need to turn less than those who wear a crossdraw on the point of the hip or on the leg. In short, someone who wears a crossdraw on the belly can do a much less exaggerated version of the dance than someone with a holster positioned further on the hip. The big **however** is attention must be paid to how the target is addressed. Facing an angled target with the crossdraw on the same side as the "audience" means a sharper twist is required! If the crossdraw is away from the audience, less twist is required. Think of the twists needed at the loading and unloading tables. They should be radical for a right-hander at a table placed audience back, berm forward on the left side of the

stage! Similarly for a leftie at the loading table placed on the right.

**Summary:** As we have seen by this discussion, there are many things that have not been taken into consideration by the Handbook. Unscrupulous makers and gamers who deliberately go outside the realms of compliance are easy to deal with, but there now seems to be a fuzzy line between those who intentionally go out of their way to gain unfair advantage and those who are in non-compliance by circumstance. I am of the opinion we need to consider dangerous holsters with the potential to spill guns rather than safe, compliant holsters raked at awkward angles because of a wearer's belt line. To do otherwise would be to "criminalize" (and tick off!) a good-some number of loyal and enthusiastic SASS members. In the long run, it might well prevent others from joining us.

And, under all circumstances, enforce the dance—not just on drawing, but on holstering as well. We need to consider the dance for **ANY** draw or holstering position that puts the audience at a risk of being swept, whether that activity takes place at the loading tables, on the stages, or at the unloading table. Educate *all* members as to what the 170 degree safty rule is about so we can level the playing field in a logical and acceptable manner. Good sensible rules will make this game logical, easy to play, and safe.

Compadres, I've vented some steam on this one. The opinions expressed are not mine alone. I've talked this'un over with some mondo smart folks. This is sort of a compiling of their thoughts and mine on the subject. The answers are out there if we pay attention. If you have something to say or add to this, please gimme a holler at 706-692-5536 or at [purdygear@windstream.net](mailto:purdygear@windstream.net). You can also get me through the link on my website at: [www.purdygear.com](http://www.purdygear.com). I'll see you on down the trail.

[Purdy Gear makes a lot of sense ... and this article is grist for many lively discussions (and maybe future rule changes). However, the TGs wisely added two words to the end of the basic rule ... Holsters may not depart from the vertical by more than 30 degrees **when worn**. Until the rules are changed, this, too, must be enforced. No one is doing their local shooters a favor by ignoring this rule ... sooner or later these folks may attend a "big match" and be terribly disappointed when match officials refuse to let them participate ... Editor in Chief] 

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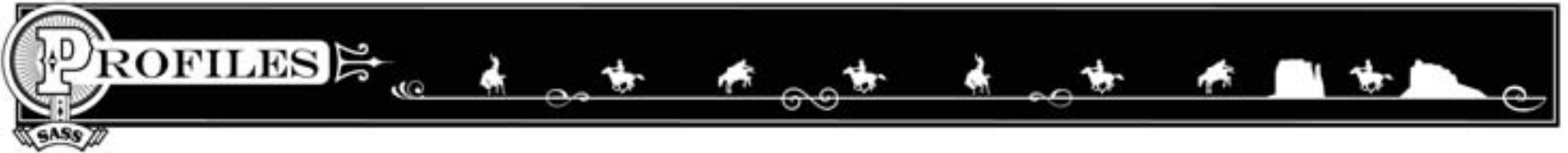


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# A BIG THANK YOU TO MAJOR AARON BASS, SASS #8149

By Turkeyfoot, SASS #78599

How do I say “thank you” to the person who introduced me to Cowboy Action Shooting™ and SASS? To someone who has very patiently shared his knowledge gained in 40+ years of shooting? To someone who has opened his home to me many times and to friends to learn about firearms and Cowboy Action Shooting™?

Well, a bottle of ‘corn squeezins’ from the Promised Land (Kentucky for those of ya’ll who don’t know where that is) and a “thank you” note seem so inadequate. So, this is a big “THANK YOU” to ‘the Major’ from me, his cousin, Turkeyfoot, for all our pards to see.

Here’s the story. I spent a lot of time as a kid at the farm outside of Fort Wayne, Indiana where ‘the Major’ grew up. That was the childhood home of my Mom and her brother, my Uncle Bill, who was ‘the Major’s’ Father. As kids, ‘the Major’ and I started shooting under the guidance of Uncle Bill.

We shot BB-guns and then moved on to .22s and .410s. We kept those pesky birds cleared from the barn and surrounding area, and groundhogs from the beans. We also ‘aerated’ many cans. We’d have shooting contests. I only beat ‘the Major’ once, with his own BB-gun no less, but that’s a story for another time.

Well, high school and graduation came. So did jobs, marriage,

kids, and moves. ‘The Major’ and I saw each other very infrequently. Then, things changed. The kids were raised and on their own. My wife and I moved back to Cincinnati. Retirement came. ‘The Major’ and I saw each other at a family gathering soon after we moved back. We were now only a three-hour drive away.

I took up Bullseye shooting with the Cincinnati Revolver Club. ‘The Major’ provided guidance on the right pistol for me. He also said I ought to try Cowboy Action Shooting™. It took awhile, but finally I visited him.

‘The Major’ took me to a monthly match at Cutter’s Raiders–Paradise Pass near Warsaw, Indiana (‘the Major’ lives



*Pals – Turkeyfoot (l) and Major Aaron Bass at the Indiana Pleasant Valley Renegades’ monthly match this past April.*

in the Fort Wayne area). My eyes bugged out and my jaw dropped to the ground! Here were all these folks dressed like it was 1880, and they were wearing guns, shooting, and having one heck of a good time. And, I’d never run across nicer, more friendly people. They were passionate about this game

*(Continued on next page)*

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(Continued from previous page)  
and more than willing to talk and answer questions.

A few months later I joined 'the Major' for the Indiana State Championship at Deer Creek. Murphy Custom Gun Leather from Evansville had a booth. 'The Major' called me over and pointed out a terrific looking rig on display. It was Buscadero style, which 'the Major' explained in a short lesson on holsters. He said it would fit me perfectly, and the price was correct. The rig was slightly used, but one would never know it. I put the rig on, and, as usual, 'the Major' was right. It fit me perfectly. He then arranged for a couple of six-shooters to fill the holsters. Wow!

OK, so now he really is "fishing," trying to hook 'n reel me into Cowboy Action Shooting™ by starting with that rig. I kept hemming and hawing, and asking lots of questions, as I'm known to do. I really pushed 'the Major' on how he knew the rig was a terrific deal. Finally, with his patience growing thin, he said, "Because I've been doing this for 40 years, that's how I know!" All right, I was hooked. I bought the rig and a half-hour later was offered \$50 more than I paid. But by then, I would not part with it for "love nor money," as my Mom used to say.

So now, I needed two revolvers, a lever action rifle, and a shotgun. As with the Bullseye pistol, 'the Major' guided me. And, he got me set up with a supply of cowboy ammo. We loaded that ammo in his basement during a cold weekend in January of 2008. He helped get action work done on the guns and the revolvers regulated. I had the advantage of his decades of experience. Boy, talk about good fortune!

Then spring came. I started Cowboy Action Shooting™ in the Cincinnati area, especially with the Pleasant Valley Renegades and the Scioto Territory Desperados, and continued to meet the nicest people. What a hoot! I'm a 10-year old kid again playing cowboy. Folks, it does not get any better than this!

'The Major' and I camped together last September at the Indiana State Championship at Cutter's Raiders (he finished a lot higher than I did). We had a ball together. And, he introduced me to Wild Bunch and cowboy clays.

Now, I've got an itch to shoot Wild Bunch, too. 'The Major' is right there again helping me. He found a '97 for me and had it put into shape for Cowboy Action Shooting™. He's helping me with a 1911. He's already loaded up another supply of .38 Specials, so I guess we'll load .45 ACPs at our next session together.

I'm very lucky. While 'the Major's' guidance and help are invaluable, the best thing has been reconnecting after all these years and the deepening of our relationship, and that with his wife, Cheryl. She is so understanding and supportive of 'the Major's' love of shooting. I should mention my wife, Cindy, too. While shooting is not her cup of tea, she's equally supportive as she knows how much I like to "play cowboy."

Thanks to 'the Major', I've "died and gone to heaven." So Major Aaron Bass, a big thank you for all you've done for your cousin and novice Cowboy Action Shooter. Yee Haw! 🤠

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# SASS EASTERN NATIONALS

By Lone Wolf McCrary, SASS #73199, and  
Outlaw Granny, SASS #73200



Outlaw Granny,  
SASS #73200



March 1st. A total of forty-nine competitors showed up at the Williston Horsemen's Park Arena in Williston, Florida, ready to shoot out the lights. Even a Saturday night/early Sunday morning storm could not break their enthusiasm, and when the sun broke through, everyone was ready, chomping at the bit to get started.

Friday night started the fun off with a two stage Rifle Cham-



Chinks - Division 4 winner

Amanda in the Open Divisions with Pistolero Spur and Pony Tail Rider winning the Limited Divisions.

The main match started Saturday morning. We began with our Grand Entry of riders and an inspi-  
(Continued on next page)



Pinky Amanda - Lady Rundown  
Limited and Xtreme winner

pionship. A total of fourteen riders were entered: eleven men and three women. The buckles were kept in the family with Lone Wolf taking the Open Division and Outlaw Granny winning the Ladies Division. Following Rifle was the Rundown Runoff. This is a speed event with five targets set up in a rundown with a barrel at the end. The rider shoots the targets in any order, coming or going, rounds the barrel and races to the finish line. Each rider was allowed to enter up to five runs to try and improve on his or her time. Some only ran once, while others gave it their all, four or five times. When the smoke cleared, forty runs were made. Taking home the buckles were Kid Dilligaff and Pinky



Bueno Bandito - Division 3 and  
Overall winner



Haw Creek Kid - Division 1 winner



Galloping Gator Girl -  
Lady Division 1 winner



Kid Dilligaff - Division 5 winner

## Winners

<b>Rifle</b>	
Man	Lone Wolf, SASS #73199
Lady	Outlaw Granny, SASS #73200
<b>Rundown Limited</b>	
Man	Pistolero Spur, SASS #79435
Lady	Ponytail Rider, SASS #82291
<b>Rundown</b>	
Man	Kid Dilligaff, SASS #38591
Lady	Pinky Amanda, SASS #78220
<b>Divisions</b>	
1	Haw Creek Kid, SASS #75170
2	Roughneck Rod, SASS #81741
3	Bueno Bandito, SASS #82530
4	Chinks, SASS #40727
5	Kid Dilligaff
L1	Galloping Gator Girl, SASS #83877
L2	Okie Red, SASS #75171
L3	Outlaw Granny
L4	Two Gun Gina, SASS #73446
<b>Junior Limited</b>	
	The Nickster, SASS #78102
<b>Senior Limited</b>	
Man	Paso Kid, SASS #83426
Lady	Smokies Shootin Mama, SASS #79441
Wrangler	Indian Mosoto, SASS #79497
<b>Xtreme</b>	
Man	Sassparilla Sundance, SASS #73445
Lady	Pinky Amanda

(Continued from previous page)  
 rational prayer by Sassparilla Sundance, SASS #73445. Our Grand Entry is awe-inspiring with competitors entering the arena in pairs following our nation's flag. The riders circled the arena and lined up side by side in preparation for our National Anthem and Praise to the

Lord. It was inspirational and sent chills through your body. At the conclusion of the Grand Entry, everyone exited the arena as it was time to set up and begin the first of four stages for the day.

Saturday night brought out all the fancy duds at our Eastern Championship Ball. Attendees



*Indian Mosoto - Wrangler winner*



*Roughneck Rod - Division 2 winner*



*Lone Wolf McCrary - Rifle winner*



*Pistolero Spur -  
 Rundown Limited winner*



*Paso Kid - Senior winner*



*Sassparilla Sundance -  
 Xtreme winner*



*The Nickster -  
 Junior Limited winner*



*Two Gun Gina -  
 Lady Division 4 winner*

enjoyed a great dinner, dancing, and lots of giveaways, including plenty of Mane and Tail products and Suncoast Bedding, donated by one of our top competitors and Mane and Tail Representative, Chinks, SASS #40727.

Sunday morning started off with black clouds, rain, and 30 mph winds. But the weatherman said it would pass, so everyone waited it out, and sure enough, the first shot rang out not long after the rain stopped. We  
 (Continued on page 56)

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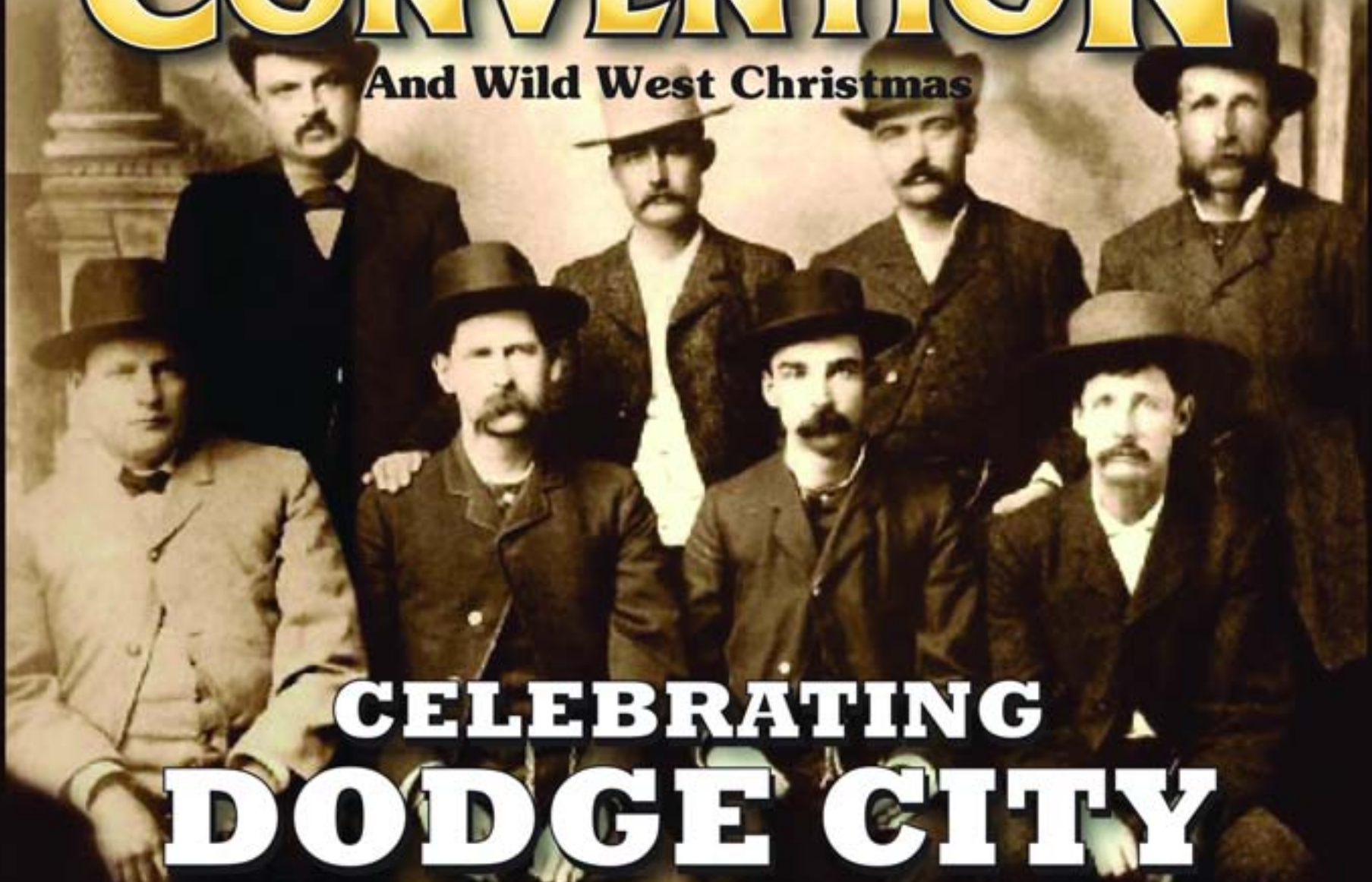
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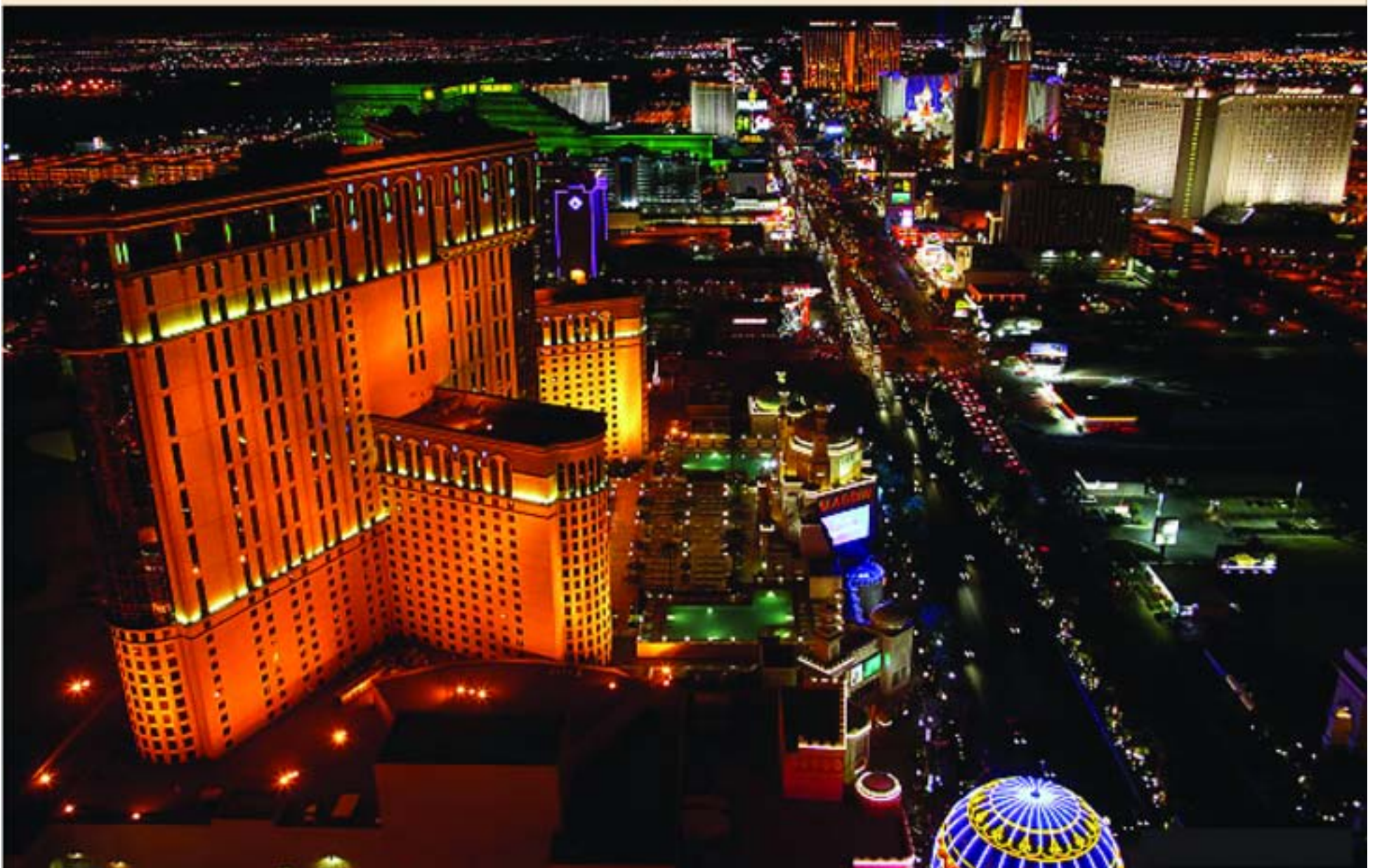
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# SASS EASTERN NATIONALS

(Continued from page 53)

are certain our arena was the only dry place in Florida that day. The last two stages were completed, but that was not the end of the match. We still had to run our famous Xtreme Stage. Our Xtreme Stage is what sets the Florida Outlaws apart from every other Mounted Shooting club in the country.

The Xtreme consisted of shooting targets while jumping hay bales, shooting helium balloons (try that on a windy day), pole bending, full barrel turns, backing into a pen, and shooting behind you, cavalettis, shooting a revolving target, getting off your horse and getting your second gun,



*Okie Red - Lady Division 2 Winner*



*Smokies Shootin' Mama - Lady Senior Limited winner*

more jumps, shooting over props, and shooting while jumping the hay bales again. Everyone loved it, and the crowd was very enthusiastic! Seventeen riders tried their hand at the Xtreme with Sundance and Pinky Amanda winning the Open Divisions, and Pistolero Spur and Okie Red winning the Limited Divisions. Our 2009 Eastern National Mounted Shooting Championship ended with a great award ceremony where all division and side match winners received beautiful buckles to commemorate their achievements.

This article could not be written without a special thanks to our

buddy, Hoosgow Hoot, SASS #59202. He traveled all the way from Pennsylvania to compete with us. What a great guy, and everyone loved having him with us. We hope he enjoyed being here as much as we enjoyed having him. We were sorry to see him leave sunny Florida to return home to the snow covered hills of Pennsylvania.

Last, but not least, a special thanks goes out to our vendors, JD Leather, Gunpowder Creek Trading Post, and Jackson's Western Store. Each one donated something to our Saturday night raffle and by the



*Ponytail Rider - Lady Rundown Limited winner*



*Outlaw Granny - Lady Division 3 and Lady Rifle winner.*

looks of their crowded tents, they all had a great weekend as well.

The Florida Outlaws host a Mounted Shooting match every month except December. If you are interested in joining us, check out our Events Calendar at Gallopingguns.com. If you can't bring a horse, we have plenty of quality horses for you to borrow, as well as guns and tack. Visit our message board and say, "hello." We would love to meet you. Any questions you may have, go to our website, or give Lone Wolf McCrary a call at 321 263-5239.

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**Capt. George Baylor,**  
SASS Life #24287

# MATCH READY GUNS

## Part 3

### *EMF Alchimista*

By Captain George Baylor, SASS Life #24287



**1860 Army on left and Alchimista on the right demonstrating the 1860 Army grip frame on the Alchimista**

0.98 in. center-to-center, Ten-X 130 gr. (Truncated Cone) .38 Special factory ammunition. 542 ft./sec. power factor 70.

Alchimista has big hands and had his gunsmiths put together his own 1873's with 1860 Army grips. They're available in .357, .44-40, and .45 Colt with 5-1/2" barrels and a limited number with 7-1/2" barrels. For those of you who don't have all the Colt lore committed to memory (shame on you), the 1851 Navy had grips that were eventually used for the SAA. The 1860 Army, in order to handle the "vicious" recoil of the 144 gr. round ball vs. the 80 gr. ball of the 1851, came with longer grips, about .2". I get 3.13" from the top of the wood to the bottom of the grip frame on the nearest SAA clone on hand, a Taylor's Smoke Wagon. The same measurement on the Alchimista was 3.44". Though I wear medium sized gloves, I liked the tall grips and found them quite consistent.

Most 1860 Armies came with brass grip frames, though the London built guns had steel frames. The Alchimista comes with a brass grip frame. Brass, being heavier than steel, adds a little weight to the gun. The 5-1/2" barreled test gun felt well-balanced. In addition to the grips, the trigger is different from Colts. The standard Colt trigger is narrow and offset to the left side, as were the 1851 Navy and 1860 Army (which pretty much dispels the myth that Samuel Colt was left handed). The Alchimista sports a wide trig-

ger that is set back a bit. The wide trigger spreads out force, so the trigger feels lighter than it is. A gunsmith at EMF tunes the GWII Customs.

The Alchimista comes factory tuned. I'm pretty sure this is the first Italian SAA clone to come match-tuned from the factory. Lawyers being what they are (uh, an absolutely essential part of American society. Please put that summons away), the factory tunes them to 3-3/4 - 5 lb. The one I tested averaged 4 lb. 15 oz. on my Lyman Digital Trigger Pull Gauge. It was crisp and consistent with no creep. This won't be good enough for some of the top shooters, but no factory or importer tuning job will be acceptable to them. Several of them shoot triggers I wouldn't shoot in a match if you paid me. Their triggers are so light it would be a match DQ looking for a time and place to happen. They will give these guns to their gunsmiths for ultra-light triggers.

Fit and finish are quite good. It is finished equivalent to the Great Western II Californian, not the Custom, which has Doug Turnbull case hardening instead of case coloring and a higher polish to the blue. But remember, this is a competition gun, and you're going to pull it out of its holster 14,500 times the month before END of TRAIL, and return it to same an equal number. It's going to get holster wear. It's going to be scrubbed with cleaning rags and



**Smokewagon trigger is standard Colt SAA trigger, narrow, and offset to the left**

toothbrushes. (You may, horror of horrors, shoot *blackpowder* in it!) It won't look new long. Someone once asked me how I "antiqued" my Ruger Vaqueros. I didn't. We nitpick guns based on fit and finish, but we use them in matches because of the way they shoot. No complaints about the fit/finish on this gun. I was quite happy to see the case colored hammer didn't have rub marks on the side after shooting. If a polished hammer gets rub marks, a gunsmith can thin it a tad, which is a good idea if it's rubbing. If it's case colored, it has to fit right before it leaves the factory, or you'll know about it soon enough. The grips fit the grip frame, and the grip frame fit the frame. The loading gate fit. All of the little things we normally look for when we pick nits were well done.

It is designed to shoot. The front sight is about 0.10" wide and untapered, and the rear sight is about 0.11" wide and deep at 0.080". The front sight is too tall for most SASS loads, but that's understandable. It will print low at SASS ranges. If you've been at this game for awhile, you know the front sight of clones used to be too short for our ranges and our loads. I believe the original Army (Continued on page 58)



**Alchimista trigger is wide and set back, centered in the frame**



**Taylor's and Co. Smokewagon on the left with SAA grip frame and the Alchimista on the right with the 1860 Army grip frame**

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## MATCH READY GUNS . . .

(Continued from page 57)

issued SAA's were sighted in for 75 yards. It's easy to file the front sight down, but really hard to file it up. Filing a sight down to match your loads is a common task in SASS (we use light loads), and it isn't a sign something is wrong with the gun.

The long overdue trend toward wide front sights and wide rear sight grooves is a major boon to SASS shooters. People who routinely hit their targets are getting a "flash sight picture." If you can see the front sight in front of the target, and if the gun shoots where it's pointed, you can "apply steady, even pressure to the rear" of the trigger and make the target go "ding."

This brings us to the next point, accuracy. I took this gun out to a Ransom Rest/Oehler Chronograph test session at Cowtown near Phoenix in January, along with several other guns. The only problem was I don't have Ransom Rest inserts for 1860 Army grips. Oops! This made it impossible to do accuracy testing. Oh, yes, I could have bought a Ransom Rest insert for a one time use, but sometimes I feel like the soiled dove who found out the other girls were getting paid. I work for an excellent, but cheap magazine, and it costs me money to write for them. I called Buffalo Sam Peed, and he wasn't keen on buying one. I could have, like lazy gun writers all over, shot groups hand held and claimed the 1" groups I wrote down were real, but I know that, even though I have a 1911 that will do 2" at 50 yards, I'm lucky to do 2" at 50".

However, I had tested the Great Western II Custom on a Ransom Rest and gotten good groups, including the .98" group mentioned above. Tight groups mean every chamber is correctly bored and aligned and the barrel is good. If you have big groups with a revolver, the first thing you check is the cylinder. It is important

a competition gun shoots close to where you expect it to shoot. If, at SASS ranges, it shoots 1" groups right on top of the front sight ... you see target behind the front sight, shoot. The front sight is your speedometer. It's nice to have a speedometer that's calibrated, lest you get a speeding ticket.

### Chronograph Results

I would like to have one of those neat charts that you see in almost all gun tests, but I know Tex will reprint them in three-point type to make it fit, so here are the results in narrative form.

Ten-X 105 gr. (pre-power factor vintage) averaged 488 ft./sec., for a power factor of 51. Use these in your derringer.

Black Hills 158 gr. averaged 827 ft./sec. for a power factor of 131. These are good for those pesky knockdowns.

Ten-X BP 130 gr. averaged 742, for a power factor of 96.

Ten-X 130 gr. averaged 585, for a power factor of 76.

American Pioneer Powder 3f (10 gr. WEIGHT), 105 gr. bullets averaged 776 ft./sec. for a power factor of 81. This is my wimpiest load. It exceeds the smoke standard, but I use a tad more powder at major matches just to make sure.

### Conclusions

If this gun fits your hand, and you're in the market for new match guns, you might consider a pair. It's moderately priced by today's standards, and, unless you like hair triggers, you won't need to send it to a gunsmith and spend more money. You're not paying for a super finish that's too nice to have on a gun that'll be used hard. It has good sights, good trigger and hammer operation, and it feels stable in your hand. If it doesn't fit, then consider the Great Western II Custom, which is available in a higher level of finish or, at a lower price, one similar to this gun. They're all fine, match ready guns. 🦁

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By Joe Fasthorse Harrill, SASS #48769



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Born in Dallas in February 1915, Kavanaugh was raised on Texas ranches among cowboys, horses, cattle, and cactus, which provided her the real-life experiences she gained to create exciting western movies.



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# TRUMPETER VOSS AT CUSTER'S LAST STAND

## Part II

By Ivan Innaccurate, SASS #28522

### Previously in Part I

About noon on June 25th 1876, General Custer divided the 7th Cavalry into three commands and the pack train with food and spare ammunition. He directed Captain Benteen's battalion of D, H and K Companies to scout to the south and attack any Indian camps. He sent Major Reno's battalion of A, G, and M Companies to cross the Little Bighorn River and attack the south end of the Lakota and Cheyenne camp. He did not know the camp extended almost two miles and contained thousands of warriors.

Reno's attack met a spirited resistance from the warriors that forced his battalion to retreat across the river. They climbed the steep bluffs and rallied on a hilltop. Captain Benteen found no Indians and returned to the high bluffs east of the river where he found Major Reno's battalion. The combined Reno and Benteen command had about two hundred fifty men, including about forty wounded. The pack train joined them later with food and spare ammunition. The strong-



*Trumpeter Henry Voss (Ivan Innaccurate) on Smokey sounds Recall telling E and F companies to withdraw. By tradition, cavalry trumpeters rode gray horses providing a visible marker for unit commanders.*

hold had no water, grass, or trees. The nearest water lay in the Little Bighorn

River a quarter mile away. While the surgeon set up a field hospital to tend the casualties, the troopers dug rifle pits with their knives, canteen cups, and mess plates. Captain Weir took his D Company north to look for Custer until warriors forced him back. Warriors on the surrounding hills kept the soldiers pinned down until late on June 26.

While Major Reno attacked in the valley, General Custer led C, E, F, I, and L companies through the rolling



*Trumpeter Voss (Ivan Innaccurate) and Smokey. This young barely broken gelding required careful handling, but quickly adapted to his role.*

hills east of the river to the north end of the camp. While the men rested in a coulee, Custer rode to the high bluffs along the river. He could only see cooking fire smoke and some lodge poles above the cottonwood trees on the riverbank. Upon returning to his troops he shouted, "Come on boys, we've got 'em now." Before starting his march to glory, Custer sent Trumpeter John Martin with a message ordering Captain Benteen to join him and bring the pack train. He then led his command down the dry streambed to flat ground east of the river. The Indians saw him and spread the alarm through the camp full of warriors. They had just turned back Major Reno's attack, had their fighting spirit up, and tasted victory.

### PART II

"I'll need my officers forward," Custer said as we watched the Indians swarming out of the camp and crossing the Little Bighorn River about two hundred yards away." He ordered, "Trumpeter Voss, sound *Officer's Call!*"

As I raised my trumpet, the General turned and galloped off toward our lead company. His personal red and blue swallowtail General's flag streamed in the wind as the regi-

mental staff trailed behind on exhausted and thirsty horses.

Captain Yates from F Company pointed toward the camp across the river and shouted, "Our guides were right. There must be thousands! Almost too many for us to handle."

"What's happened to Major Reno's attack?" Captain Keogh demanded.

Sergeant Major Sharrow spat a wad of tobacco and growled to me, "All Major Reno's done was get 'em riled up."

Custer ordered, "Hold your tongue soldier!"

All fell silent as Custer studied the warriors crossing the river. An Indian raced his brown and white pony toward us. He waved a blanket and blew a shrill eagle bone whistle to frighten our horses. He came within twenty yards of the General before turning and disappearing into the cot-

*(Continued on next page)*

## Commanders and Horses of the 7th Cavalry at Little Bighorn

General Custer ordered each company should have matched horses. This made units and trumpeters easily identifiable at a distance. Notice how six of the twelve companies had bay horses (chestnut hair with black manes, tails, and legs).

Company	Commander	Little Bighorn Battalion Assignment	Horse Color
	General Custer		Victor: A sorrel with four white feet and face blaze
A	Capt Miles Moylan	Reno	Coal black
B	Capt Thomas McDougal	Pack Train	Bay
C	Capt Tom Custer	Custer	Light sorrel
D	Capt Thomas Weir	Benteen	Bay
E	Lt Algernon Smith	Custer	Gray
F	Capt William Yates	Custer	Bay
G	Lt Donald McIntosh	Reno	Sorrel
H	Capt Frederick Benteen	Benteen	Blood bay
I	Capt Myles Keogh	Custer	Bay
K	Lt Edward Godfrey	Benteen	Sorrel
L	Lt James Calhoun	Custer	Bay
M	Capt Thomas French	Reno	Mixed
	Trumpeters		Gray

(Continued from previous page)

tonwood trees along the riverbank. Another galloped toward us and fired his repeating rifle. This one turned back to safety when we stood fast.

Custer pointed at the retreating warrior and shouted, "Look at that boys. I told you they ain't got the stomach for a good fight."

The officers waited and watched the seemingly endless stream of warriors. Captain Yates studied the camp through his field glasses and said, "I never saw so many in the same place!" Others turned their thirsty horses to distract them from the smell of water and sight of fresh grass. More officers approached from the companies at the rear.

Custer pointed to the camp and said, "Look at that! We've got 'em where we want 'em."

Captain Tom Custer asked, "Will we hit the camp?"

"Not at this point. We'll make 'em come out and fight our way." General Custer replied.

Hundreds of warriors on foot and horseback started to spread out and form an arc in front of us. The dismounted ones sprang from hiding places, ran for a few seconds and disappeared again. More mounted warriors made feints at us and then rode back to safety.

The General pointed toward the hills to the northwest and ordered, "Yates. Take E and F Company. Form a skirmish line two hundred yards up that hog back."

Captain Yates rode his horse in front of the General and asked, "How close do we let them come in before we start firing?"

Custer studied the hostiles and said, "Wait until Keogh's Battalion gets in position behind you. If the redskins get within a hundred yards, open up on 'em. Hold 'em until I send relief."

"Yes sir!" Yates touched his hat brim and galloped off followed by Lieutenants Smith, Sturgis, and Riley.

I followed the General as he trotted uphill and away from the river. The warriors seemed more numerous and spread out each time I looked back. Crouching, they ran forward and then disappeared. They came like waves breaking on a beach.

Custer turned in his saddle, watched Yates battalion deploy, and then ordered, "Captain Keogh. Take your battalion two hundred yards behind Captain Yates. Dismount and form a skirmish line. Cover Yates when I order him to fall back."

As Captain Keogh rode off, Captain Tom Custer approached his older brother, the General, and said, "Benteen should have been up by now. Shall I send another courier?"

The General frowned, "Can't waste people. I already sent Trumpeter Martin back. He's Benteen's man and can bring him here with the packs. There can't be that many warriors in the village."

"What about Major Reno?" Tom Custer asked as they trotted up the slope.

The General replied, "I figure he's got the south end of the camp wrapped up by now. He'll chase 'em toward us and get 'em from the rear. We can hold 'em off until help arrives. Give 'em a good fight and they'll run."

Tom Custer turned toward his older brother and used the General's family nickname. He pointed toward the river and shouted, "Autie, I've got a bad feeling about this. Send me to find out what's happened to Reno."

"What? Why he's chasing them to us." Custer laughed and added, "You want to miss the party? Now get back to your men!"

Tom Custer left and joined Captain Keogh's battalion of C, I, and L companies as they galloped in a column of fours past E and F Company.

I watched the E and F Company troopers dismount and form a skirmish line in front of their horses. Each trooper put his left arm through his horse's reins. They knelt and loaded their carbines like they had practiced on the parade ground without ammunition. I guessed Yates wanted firepower and could not put a fourth of his men out of action holding the horses in some covered safe location. A few experienced men made their horses lie down.

Trumpeter Tom Way from Yates' F-company sounded *Commence Firing*. I saw a cloud of gray smoke appear in front of the men and then heard the crash of a carbine volley. The soldiers had some concealment while the cloud cleared. They reloaded and prepared to fire again. They never knew what to expect when they could see again; the enemy might disappear or be among them. Now as the smoke cleared, they saw the Indian warriors had moved closer during the blind moment.

The sudden firing spooked the E and F Company horses. Some steeds pulled their riders off balance and dragged them backwards. Several animals escaped and ran toward us. The volley of shots panicked some mounts in the companies advancing toward us. Frightened chargers bucked off their riders and ran away from the firing.

Next to me Sergeant Major Sharrow cursed. "Damn it! We never had time or ammunition to train the horses to stand up to gunfire. Those wretched nags will kill more men than the Indians."

In my ten years of cavalry service we trained to fight by dismounting and using the long range of our carbines. We knew that most times the Indians would retreat if they thought they could avoid a fight and chance of getting killed. Our tired and heavily burdened mounts could never outrun a fresh pony ridden by a wild young warrior out for blood. So, we practiced how to turn around suddenly and defend ourselves at close range with a pistol or carbine. We had two unwritten

rules. Never let them get behind you. Always save a bullet for yourself.

On Custer's command, I sounded "*Column Left*" and "*Walk*" as C, I, and L Companies approached. When they had stretched out in a four-man column across the slope, he ordered me to sound "*On Left Into Line*." The companies formed a single rank facing us.

I heard shots and saw arrows arriving from our flanks. Custer ordered, "*Sound Officer's Call!*"

I watched Captain Keogh and his officers leave their men and gallop toward Custer.

"More Indians!" Sergeant Major Sharrow shouted and pointed behind the General. As the General turned his horse, Victor, around, we heard shots coming from the west slope leading down to the river bottom. A warrior galloped toward us firing a repeating rifle. He came within twenty-five yards and turned back when I drew my pistol and fired a shot his direction. My horse Smokey leapt at the sudden noise and muzzle flash near his head. His panic almost ended the battle for me.

Custer pointed to warriors on the slope toward the river and shouted, "Lieutenant Calhoun, Take L Company and form a skirmish line to our right flank."

"Shall I charge them?" Calhoun asked his brother-in-law.

Custer shook his head. "No! Have the men dismount. Fire at any warrior who shows himself. Make 'em stay down. Then get Sergeant Butler up to me. I need a dependable man to go for help."

Calhoun saluted and turned his charger to dash back to his men.

Custer rode to Captain Keogh and said, "These warriors intend to come at us from all sides. Cover our left and protect the flank. Fire enough to drive 'em back. But don't waste ammunition."

"Where do you want C Company?" Tom Custer drew up in front of his older brother.

Custer squinted as he looked down the slope and saw the warriors closing in on E and F Companies. They popped up, moved, and disappeared into the thousands of natural hiding places. I guessed a whole army could hide among the sagebrush and tall buffalo grass covering the hillsides. They used the same skills for hunting game and enemies.

Custer pointed to a spot halfway to E and F companies. "Send Lieutenant Harrington to Yates. Tell 'em to move to higher ground up hog's back. Have your men cover E and F Company's retreat with your pistols. Charge if you must, but fall back quickly. Don't mix with them."

As Tom Custer left, First Sergeant Butler of L Company approached on a bay horse blackened by sweat and foaming at the mouth.

"Butler!" Custer pointed off to the southeast and away from the river. "You're our best man. Now ride to

those hills. Keep low and stay out of sight. Find Major Reno or Captain Benteen. Guide 'em back to attack these warriors from the rear."

"Attack their rear. Right away sir!" Butler saluted, then turned and galloped off.

Custer turned his horse, Victor, and called to his staff, "Stay with me."

We galloped up the ridge two hundred yards and stopped. Custer eyed the surrounding slopes and ravines. I turned and saw E and F Companies retreating between I and L companies. They rode hard toward the General's flag. Only the gray mounts of E company kept any kind of formation. F Company men had scattered and rode in groups behind the gray horses. One man trailed behind holding a wounded comrade upright in his saddle. Dismounted men dashed desperately through the sagebrush to get away from the approaching warriors. Captain Tom Custer's C Company rallied and followed a hundred yards behind.

Custer watched and ordered, "*Sound Officer's Call!*"


When the E and F company officers converged on the General, he pointed further up the ridge. "Form skirmish lines a hundred yards to the left and right behind Keogh's battalion. Leave a wide enough gap so they can pull back through you. Cover their retreat and watch the flanks."

Yates and Smith saluted and returned to their men. F Company had halted and reformed in their four man sections. Several horses with empty saddles followed the company to remain with their familiar stable mates. Others feasted on the buffalo grass and sagebrush covering the bare high desert hills.

"Remain here." Custer said to his staff and then pointed to me. "Trumpeter Voss, you're gonna need to keep up with me."

We galloped off down the ridge crest toward the light sorrel horses of Tom Custer's C Company. They had charged the warriors and retreated. I saw more cavalry horses wandering aimlessly. Arrows and bullets now came from three sides. So far the warriors made no heavy or organized attack. We heard an occasional rifle shot or saw an arrow arcing high against the clear blue sky and descending to stick in the ground near us. I knew something had gone wrong and wondered what would happen next.

We had forced the warriors to fight by getting too close to their camp. Now they had to defend their families. The young men would give their lives so the women, children, and old men could pack up and escape into the trackless wilderness. They worked like a hunting party and started to move around to our flanks. Seeing our retreat emboldened them. They pressed us harder since they had tasted blood and sensed victory.

(Continued ...) 



# THE SUTTON - TAYLOR FEUD

## ✿ The Deadliest Blood Feud in Texas ✿

By Chuck Parsons  
 Reviewed by Tex, SASS #4

Family feuds and range wars have been common throughout our history. Everyone knows about the Hatfields and McCoys, the Grahams and the Tewksburys (Pleasant Valley Wars - Arizona), the Tunstalls and the Dolans (Lincoln County War - New Mexico), and so forth. There have been many, and most have been well chronicled. It's well known Texans have been the cause of all the ills ever experienced in the West (as written in the preface to "The Pleasant Valley Wars"), and after reading about the Sutton - Taylor feud, one begins to appreciate just how dysfunctional those late 19th Century Texans were! This feud was the granddaddy of them all!

The late 1800's was a very violent time, especially "out west." The fabric of Southern society was in shreds, and Union soldiers were stationed throughout the South. Drovers delighted in "taking on" Yankee marshals in the Kansas cowtowns, and no one relied on the law to amicably settle disputes. In fact, slights, wrongs, and killings were taken as family responsibilities to "set things right." And, nowhere was this more evident than in south-central Texas after "The Wah."

It's difficult to pin-point when this feud actually started, but certainly when a couple of the Taylor boys got hurrahed by local Union troops and then were about to be

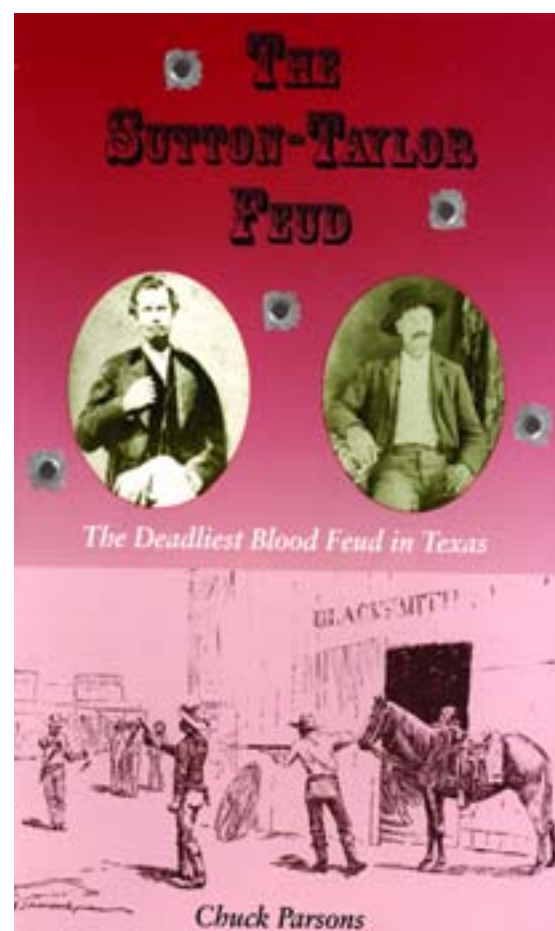
arrested for taking offense, they killed a trooper and the local commanding officer, making them fugitives from justice. Shortly thereafter some cattle went missing, and Sutton with a vigilante posse went after them ... shooting the alleged culprits on sight ... well, at least one of the culprits (Charley Taylor) ... the other was arrested, but was later shot on the road back to DeWitt County, Texas for "attempting to escape" ... which became an all too common occurrence for the next several years! Oh, yes, and John Wesley Hardin became an active participant in this feud on the side of the Taylors.

This feud lasted for a full 30 years and cost the lives of over 80 feudists! The Texas State Police were sent to quell the violence, but became part of the Sutton crowd. Few of their prisoners ever made it back to jail! The Texas Rangers had a much more positive impact on affairs, but couldn't remain in DeWitt County indefinitely ... and the violence resumed as soon as they were reassigned. Even after all the principals were killed, the violence continued ... old wrongs and ani-

mosities die hard!

This is a great read ... and it's well documented. It's another of those books that truly helps one understand the undertones of society following the Civil War. And, if you're a Texan, this is mandatory reading!

Parsons, Chuck. University of North Texas Press, 2009.



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## Blue Ridge Grizz

### Oct 1, 1946 - Nov 12, 2008

*By Bad Company, SASS #20195*

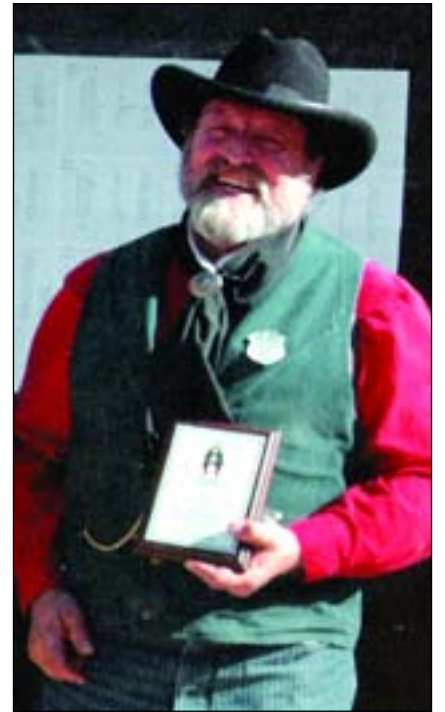
**Charlottesville, VA** Blue Ridge Grizz (a.k.a. John Douglas Doug Wiggins) passed away very unexpectedly November 12, 2008, at the very young age of 62. He was an avid outdoorsman, shooter, and a key member of the Blue Ridge Regulators. He was always there to help, setting up matches, tearing down targets, or doing whatever needed to be done.

Blue Ridge Grizz was a board member of Anderson's Regulators, and a member of Rivanna Rifle and Pistol Club, where he was instrumental in establishing the SASS affiliated club, the Rivanna Rangers.

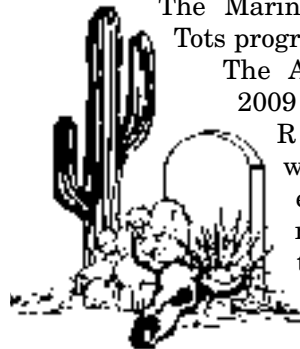
He served his country as a United States Marine and earned a Purple Heart in the Vietnam War. It figures that Grandpa Doug's favorite charity would be

The Marine Toys for Tots program.

The April 17-19 2009 Blue Ridge Roundup was dedicated to his memory. A trophy was awarded to the



top Duelist shooter and a prize was awarded to the shooter who finished in the overall place Grizz finished in 2008. The award will be perpetual, as will his memory. When we shoot, Blue Ridge Grizz will always be there with us. Always faithful, helping out, encouraging us, and having the time of his life! God speed, and Semper Fi, ol' friend.



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# SMOKE IN THE WOODS

## The SASS Midwest Territorial Blackpowder Championship

April 4-5 2009

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

**M**iddletown, OH - Brrr, what was I doing up so early on a cold April morning, the temperature hanging around 34 degrees. The inaugural Smoke in the Woods Indiana-Ohio State Championship was conducted over two years ago. And now, here I am on a cold (real cold) April morning shivering in my boots and Wrangler jacket in anticipation of the third Blackpowder Championship!

Shooting with all that smoke, flame and fury recreates the historical aspect of what the men and women of the Wild West really had to endure before the advent of smokeless powder in the early 1890's. Blackpowder-only shoots have really grown in interest and popularity with several such matches being held throughout the country. The Big Irons and Middletown Sportsman's Club have built on a long succession of historic events in SASS. Based on the superlative Guns of August and the previous two matches, the board of directors of the Big Irons and the planning committee planned each and every detail of what has developed into a full twelve stage shootout.

Nearly 70 cowboys and cowgirls from Ohio and several adjoining states showed up to give it a go. I could see my breath as all the shoot-

ers assembled on the hill for the traditional opening ceremonies. Deadwood Stan, President of The Big Irons, welcomed all the shooters; the Chief Range Officer, Lassiter, gave the safety briefing; and the Posse Marshals received their last minute range instructions. I commend Seven Mile Tom, who did an outstanding job in developing the shooters' handbook for our twelve-stage event. What really impressed me was the number of shooters who drove all the way from northern Michigan (a two-day drive from their still snow covered homes) for their first time ever shooting blackpowder.

Day one was the day to participate in all the side matches. The long-range rifle and speed rifle were held on the Flats while the tune up and speed pistol, pocket pistol, and speed shotgun were conducted on the tree-lined hillside. This allowed enough time for all the competitors to participate in as many side matches as they wanted. For those who didn't partake in the side matches, there was more free time to hob-knob with old friends or to make new ones.

To say shooting blackpowder with this gang of rough and ready cowpokes is more fun than you are legally allowed would be an understatement!! This year I was fortu-

nate to shoot with Wilbur Rexrot and his posse. We shot six stages through late afternoon on the first day. The weather throughout the day improved nicely so by mid-afternoon I had shed my mittens. Every stage allowed for a lot of shooting and a lot of smoke hanging in the heavy air. The spotters sure earned their keep. Poses ran so smoothly we were finished well before 5PM. The folks at Middletown had a freshly grilled steak buffet for the Saturday evening meal. Hospitality abounded!

Day two started early again with the remaining six stages held Sunday morning. This allowed plenty of time for shooting, lunch, and the awards ceremony. By the second day, Miss Bonnie had all the scores posted at the entrance to the shooting area for everyone to see. And, after two fun-filled, action packed days of competition, the top shooters began to emerge. The stages allowed for maximum shooter-scenario discretion. For example, stage eight required the revolvers be loaded with five rounds each, the rifle with ten rounds, and six plus ready for the shotgun. With two revolvers holstered and the rifle and shotgun staged on the table in the entryway to the corral, the call

(Continued on next page)

### Smoke in the Woods Winners

<i>49'er</i>	Max Montana, SASS #23907
<i>C Cowboy</i>	D. J. McDraw, SASS #37555
<i>E Statesman</i>	Whitey Quik, SASS #18584
<i>Frontiersman</i>	Doc Roy L. Pain, SASS #28321
<i>FC Duelist</i>	Samuel Doc Eells, SASS #40531
<i>FC Traditional</i>	I. M. Crossdraw, SASS #8321
<i>Gunfighter L 49'er</i>	Lassiter, SASS #2080 Honey B. Quick, SASS #47009
<i>L FC Trad.</i>	Ruthless McDraw, SASS #37556
<i>L FC Duelist</i>	Rose Louise Reasoner, SASS #12516
<i>L Gunfighter</i>	Clementine Valentine, SASS #66179
<i>Modern</i>	Lucky Lee Roy, SASS #31712
<i>Plainsman</i>	Dangerous Dave, SASS #2558
<i>Pale Rider</i>	Lonesome Charlie Reynolds, SASS #7639
<i>Pale Rider GF</i>	Black Jack Beeson, SASS #11523
<i>Senior Sr. Gunfighter</i>	Life-R, SASS #44051 Wilbur Green Rexroat, SASS #12515
<i>Silver Senior</i>	K. C. Jones, SASS #39124
<i>Traditional</i>	Two Bit Drifter, SASS #32899

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(Continued from previous page)

to action was, "It's a dark day at Black Rock!" It was the shooter's choice, as they were able to shoot their guns in any order with the only stipulation being not to finish with the rifle. It was fast, fun, and furious. It gave the shooter options on how they preferred to complete the stage. To say this stage was quick—Doc Roy L Pain shooting Frontiersman managed to shoot it in 29.42 seconds, while Two Bit Drifter shooting Traditional shot this one in 23.16 seconds!

The low score for the match was our local favorite and Inter-

nationally renowned Gunfighter—Lassiter. Now, I'm noted for not being too fast, but compared to him, I was standing still!!! If you ever get a chance to shoot with him, make the effort, as he is great to watch and emulate! And, hot on his heels was Two Bit Drifter shooting Traditional. Top lady again this year was Ruthless McDraw shooting Ladies Frontier Cartridge closely followed by Honey B Quick shooting Ladies 49'er. It was great to see so many of the ladies shooting blackpowder. Our winner of the Elder Statesman, Whitey Quick, finished the match 9th overall!

This year I again shot Modern with my trusty 1906 vintage Model '97, a pair of 1960's era Colt New Frontiers, and my well broken in Model '66. We had eight shooters go clean, and much to everyone's surprise I'd like to report I did, too!!!

Congratulations to all those who took part in the side matches. The speed shotgun was not only fun to compete in but also a hoot to watch as the smoke billowed from the ends of those old shotguns. Bison Bud did a sweep at 8.94 seconds with his double barrel. Lucky Leroy took top honors with his '97 in 11.37 seconds, and Balding Ranger did it in 17.8 seconds with his trusty model '87. After so many shots and the air filled with smoke, it was almost impossible to see the targets—one was almost tempted to poke and hope. I must give special note to some other side event winners ... I M Cross Draw in speed pistol at 5.07 seconds and Drifter at 4.70 seconds for speed rifle. WOW! You will find the complete match results posted at the Big Irons ([www.Bigirons.com](http://www.Bigirons.com)) as well as the SASS website.


All agreed it was the hospitality of the Middletown Sportsman's Club, the Big Irons staff, and the Smoke in the Woods stage designs that made this a very memorable event. They plan to spread the word about shooting with the "dark-siders" to have even more of our

friends and neighbors come next year where they will again be greeted with twelve action packed stages.

For those that want to give the "Dark Side" a try, The Middletown Sportsman's Club is nestled in the foothills between Dayton and Cincinnati. The Club offers an ideal shooting location for this historic event, particularly for those who love to shoot blackpowder, and it is easy to get to from anywhere in the country. The topnotch Middletown Sportsman's Club staff had everything under control. Although we had a typical late spring rainstorm before the match, the campground was ready for the vast array of motor homes, trailers, and campers. Folks had ready access to the modern clubhouse equipped with full bathrooms and showers. They now boast of two major SASS events at their shooting complex. I'm putting in a plug for the Guns of August 2009, one of the premier events in SASS, which is conducted annually during the second week of August right on the grounds of the Middletown Sportsman's Club. For shooting information or campsite/campground reservations, send your letters to them at 6943 Michael Rd, Middletown OH 45402. Of course, you can call them at 513-422-5112 or fax 513-422-6113.

The Guns of August continues to be such a popular event because of its reputation for fun, friendliness, a beautiful setting, and central location. It is easy to get to, having two major airports in the vicinity. It is also a great area for a vacation with numerous places to go and things to see within an hour's drive. This year will be the twelfth Anniversary of this event and the competition will include twelve stages and an outstanding evening for the awards banquet. We will have a model '73 rifle in the raffle that will be built in collaboration by one of the great western supporters, Taylor Arms, and with an action job by world famous

Lassiter. See further details in *The Cowboy Chronicle* and get your reservations in early for Guns of August 2009, as the posses will be limited again this year.

For further information on Smoke in the Woods 2010, The Guns of August 2009, or the host sponsors, The Big Irons, contact Deadwood Stan at 513-894-3500 or Lassiter at 937-687-1039. Of course, it's best to check either the Big Irons at <http://www.bigirons.com> or the SASS website for up to the minute information. I look forward to seeing you there next year ... but just in case, bring your mittens ... 

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# BUTTERFIELD RANGE WAR

## ❁ Cowboys vs. Law Enforcement ❁

By Rillito Red, SASS #36447

**L**as Cruces, NM – The Butterfield Range War started with a clear morning and a light breeze. The weather was a lot more agreeable than last year's of blowing dust that caused guns to jam, trucks to lose their paint, and small children to be blown into the next state. This was the Picacho Poses' third annual Cowboys vs. Law Enforcement match, and it brought in Cowboy Action Shooters from all over the state and law enforcement officers

from seven organizations, including state police, city police, county sheriff's department, Border Patrol, and the university police department. There were 38 cowboys and 26 law enforcement officers at the match.

All of the proceeds from the match went to La Piñon Sexual Assault Recovery Services and La Casa Domestic Violence Shelter. Over \$3,300 was raised.

The six-stage match started at 9:00 AM and lasted until 3:30 PM.



*Mica McGuire is seen here being timed by Half a Hand Henri. Mica was the overall winner, narrowly nosing out the top law enforcement competitor. Congratulations!*



*This Cowboys vs. Law Enforcement event is great for community relations and benefits local charities. It's a win/win for everyone!*

Three stages were designed by cowboys and three by law enforcement to make the match more equal. The law enforcement participants had paid a severe price in past years because they were not used to loading shotguns on the clock and were unfamiliar with the stage designs.

The Cowboy Action designed stages were at traditional Cowboy

Action distances with various sweeps, double taps, and charcoal flyers. Fortunately, no one was required to both think and move at the same time, so all had a good time. Both cowboys and law enforcement had to load shotguns on the clock for these stages. Cowboys started with revolvers and rifles loaded off the

*(Continued on next page)*

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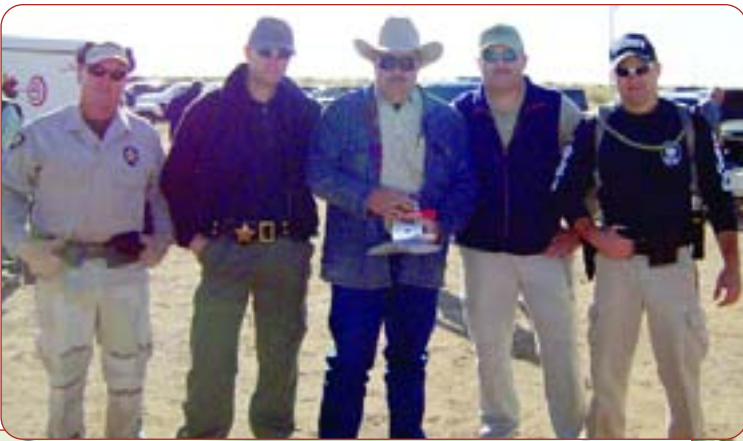
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(Continued from previous page)  
 clock in the normal way. Law enforcement inserted magazines in their rifles and pistols at the line and placed their pistols in their normal holstered carry mode. Law enforcement could fully load their shotguns on the clock if they wanted, while cowboys loaded two. The cowboys did better on these stages than law enforcement, mostly because of better shotgun loading skills.

The law enforcement stages had targets at longer distances than normal cowboy stages. Rifle targets were as far as 50 yards, and some pistol targets were at twice cowboy distances. The law enforcement shooters started the stage with shotguns loaded, chamber empty, while the cowboys started with empty shotguns and could only load two. The combination of loaded shotguns and familiarity with longer range targets enabled the law enforcement to do better on these stages.

Law enforcement and cowboys seemed to be equally accurate with

rifle and shotgun. Rifle speeds seemed faster with the law enforcement weapons, especially at longer range. Shotgun speeds depended on the loaded condition of the firearm. Law enforcement was faster when the gun was pre-loaded, and cowboys were faster when the gun needed to be loaded on the clock. The law enforcement pistols were usually shot faster than the cowboys' single actions, but not always, and law enforcement missed more often with pistols than the cowboys.

The results are Mica McGuire (cowboy), SASS #18526, first with a score of 227, and Mark Nunley (law enforcement) second with a score of 236.70. Five of the top ten were cowboys and five were law enforcement. The top 18 shooters in each category were totaled to determine the winning side. The cowboys top 18 shooters combined score was 5,868.59. The law enforcement top 18 shooters combined score was 6,119.59. Once again, the cowboys beat law enforcement, and helped two worthy causes doing it!



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# WOLVERINE RANGERS' RANGE WAR

## 10th Anniversary 2008

By R.J. Law, SASS Life #15466  
 Captain Wolverine Rangers  
 Photos by Goatlips, SASS #13135

**Kimball, MI** - The 10th Anniversary of the Wolverine Rangers' Range War took place at the Blue Water Sportsman's Association in Kimball, Michigan near beautiful Port Huron on Labor Day weekend (Friday August 29th through Monday September 1st). 260 shooters from as far away as California



*The Ladies' Tea Party was new this year and was a great success. Look for it to become a permanent fixture at future Range Wars.*



*Master Gun Engraver, Jim Downing, prepared a beautiful set of Rugers for the Wolverine Rangers' Range War Raffle.*



*The Buffalo Soldiers Calico Troops, a non-profit organization formed in 1970, presented the colors on horseback and in full uniform. This organization is dedicated to the preservation of the history of the Buffalo Soldiers who fought on the Western Frontier and ultimately made it safe for settlement.*



*Range War and Michigan State Champions - Duce Stevens and wife, K.J. Stevens. Congratulations!*

and others representing the states of Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arizona, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, and New York arrived to shoot the match. We were also honored to have 32 of our Canadian brothers and sisters in arms joining us. Side matches operated by the member shooting clubs of the Wolverine Rangers took place on Friday. On Friday we also offered RO-I classes taught by Cree Vicar

Dave, SASS #49907, and RO-II classes taught by Dakota Doc, SASS Regulator #9695, and Lucky Lennie, SASS #22244.

For our 10th Anniversary we had another first. Elsie Rose, SASS #45538, wanted to see something special done just for the women, so she and The Lady, SASS Life #15467, got together and organized the first annual Ladies Tea Party for Friday afternoon. Approximately 30

ladies gathered at the Club House and enjoyed tea and pastries in their Victorian clothes. They also had a guest speaker who talked about what life was like for Victorian women. The ladies then played Blackout, which in modern times is known as Bingo. They all had a great time. The Ladies Tea Party will be on the schedule for 2009, and it is expected to be even better.

Opening Ceremonies commenced Saturday morning. The colors were presented on horseback and in full uniform by The Buffalo Soldiers Calico Troops, a non-profit organization formed in 1970. This historic organization is dedicated to the preservation of the historical facts of the original Buffalo Soldiers who fought and settled the Western

*(Continued on next page)*

Winners		E Statesmen		L Junior		L S Senior	
<b>Range War &amp; Michigan State Champions</b>		Kecheese, SASS # 8037	Keel Over, SASS #41310	Cactus Kay, SASS #15158			
<i>Lady</i>	K.J. Stevens, SASS #67782	49er Mustache Kid, SASS #3923	L B-Western Pinky Buscadero, SASS #74038	L Traditional KJ Stevens			
<i>Man &amp; Overall</i>	Duce Stevens, SASS #55996	F Cartridge Slippery Pete, SASS #40726	L Duelist Betty Jane Buckshot, SASS #70395	Modern Three Gun Cole, SASS #50738			
<b>Match Winners By Category</b>		FC Duelist Tacoma Tad, SASS #38282	L 49er Honey B. Quick, SASS #47009	Senior Lightning Wayne, SASS #45658			
<i>Buckaroo</i>	Apache Wolf, SASS #65272	FC Gunfighter Split Rail, SASS #24707	L FCartridge Miss Elaineous, SASS #45042	Senior Duelist Smokin' Iron, SASS #22149			
<i>B-Western</i>	Faygo Kid, SASS #26408	Frontiersman Chili Pepper Pete, SASS #11917	L FGunfighter Rose Louise Reasoner, SASS #12516	S Gunfighter Dusty Feller, SASS #20010			
<i>C Cowboy</i>	Cherokee Maddog, SASS #48430	Grande Dame Snapshot, SASS # 8036	L Gunfighter Laporte Lil, SASS #33413	Silver Senior J.R. Hammer, SASS #45907			
<i>Duelist</i>	Doc Roy L. Pain, SASS #28321	Gunfighter Bad River Marty, SASS #23076	L Modern Turkey Legs, SASS #48384	Traditional Duce Stevens			
		Junior Duelin' Dylan, SASS #68052	L Senior Katie Callahan, SASS #23077				

**See Advertisement on Page 79**

(Continued from previous page)  
 Frontier. For more information, see [www.BuffaloSoldiersCalicoTroops.com](http://www.BuffaloSoldiersCalicoTroops.com). Calico Troop member, Jerry Hoyle, sang the United States National Anthem and the Canadian National Anthem as part of the opening ceremonies. He then gave a brief talk about the Buffalo Soldiers and their contribution to the settling of the Western Frontier.

Match Director Deuce Stevens, SASS #55996, handled the Safety Meeting and general announcements. The shooting then promptly began at 9:00 am in pleasant Michigan late summer weather. All of the 10 stages were designed by Deuce, and he wrote the stages so they were fast and easy to shoot. Deuce wrote many of the stages so the shooters had the option of shooting and moving either from right to left or from left to right. The stages were also designed so no particular firearm or shooting style had any undue advantage or disadvantage compared to any other. In short, Deuce did about the best job of writing and designing the stages I have ever seen.

In 2008 we again posted all of the stages and shooting scenarios on our website two weeks before the match. We started this in 2007, and it has been very well received. In 2008 we also posted the entire Shooter's Handbook on our website, allowing our shooters to download and print their Shooter's Handbook at home and bring it with them. We will be continuing that in 2009. Please visit our website at [www.wolverinerangers.org](http://www.wolverinerangers.org).

Continuing our theme started in 2007 of honoring Michiganians involved in bringing the Old West to life (Tom Selleck in 2007), this year we paid tribute to Elmore "Dutch" Leonard. Before Dutch Leonard wrote *Get Shorty*, *Mr. Majestyk*, *Jackie Brown*, and *Fifty-Two Pickup*, he was a critically acclaimed and prolific western writer in the 50's and 60's. Our stages featured story lines from such great well known western movies based on the writings of Dutch Leonard as *3:10 to Yuma* (the original, not the remake) with Glenn Ford and Van Heflin; *Hombre* with Paul Newman; *The Tall T* with Randolph Scott; *Valdez is Coming* with Burt Lancaster; and *Joe Kidd* with Clint Eastwood and Robert Duvall. We also featured some of Dutch Leonard's lesser-known short stories such as *Hurrah for Captain Early*, *The Tonto Woman*, and *Forty Lashes Less One*, soon to be a major motion picture.

On Saturday evening after the free chili dinner, Western Music Star Juni Fisher performed a free concert. Juni is the winner of the 2008 Western Music Association Songwriter of the Year award, the 2007 WMA Song of the Year award,

and the 2006 WMA Female Performer of the Year award. Juni put on a great concert, and she has graciously agreed to come back in 2010. In 2009, The Dooley Gang will be at Range War for karaoke on Saturday night.

Saturday evening we also had the annual Charity Raffle benefiting the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation. The Charity Raffle raised \$3,090 for AED's to be donated to high schools in Michigan. In the past seven years the Charity Raffle at Range War has raised \$23,455, resulting in the donation of 15 AED's to Michigan high schools. Faygo Kid, SASS #26408, and Eleanor Jewell, SASS #26409, won the Charity Spirit Award for their support over the years, including the donation of countless items of clothing for the Charity Raffle.

On Sunday our awards banquet was held at Alexander's in Marysville. Everyone dressed up in their best 1880's styles with the ladies in ball gowns and their gentlemen in frock coats. Prior to distributing the category winners awards, several raffle prizes were awarded, including a '97 shotgun, two USFA single action revolvers, and the grand prize, a matched set of Rugers engraved by Jim Downing with a Kirkpatrick rig. Samuel Doc Eells from Ohio was the lucky grand prize winner. A picture of the guns and of Doc Eells wearing them is on our website.

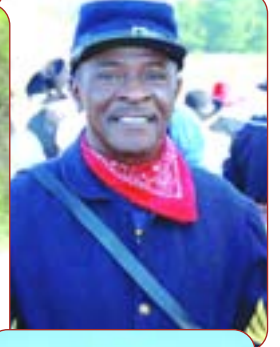
Faygo Kid and Eleanor Jewell also presented a going away gift to popular Michigan shooters No Buk Chuck, SASS #24540, and Elsie Rose, SASS #45538. No Buk and Elsie are packing up and heading south to Florida to bask in the sun. There were a few tears shed by some tough cowboys, but we fully expect to see No Buk and Elsie back at Range War in 2009.

On behalf of the Wolverine Rangers, I thank the scores of volunteers who made our 10th Anniversary of Range War a success. This included volunteers who set up and took down the stages, worked as posse marshals, ran side matches,

worked registration, handled the awards, handled the scoring, made sure all of the printing was complete, did the marketing, and handled all of

the other necessary jobs required to put on a first class SASS State Championship. We also thank SASS and the Wild Bunch for their support of our sport.

We look forward to seeing everyone over Labor Day weekend 2009.





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# COWBOY HEAVEN

*(Continued from page 1)*

well into the night. Prudently, the party wrapped up before sunrise. After all, there was gunplay to be had, come the dawn!

Friday morning, first day of the main match, dawned bright, clear, and warm, with just a hint of a



*Spence Getting ready ...*

breeze. Order was called, anxious nerves twitched a bit tighter, and with a blast of Marshall Broussard's 16th century siege gun, SASS' 2008 Western Regional was on!

I had the good fortune to spend the weekend shooting with Tupelo Flash's posse. On that posse, there were no stage instructions that couldn't be mangled, no starting lines that couldn't be "improved" upon, and no target so big or close it couldn't be missed. But, it was a hard working posse, loaded with championship talent, shooting and laughing all the while.

The match itself was a good match, with a mixture of up close and personal, and far-enough-to-be-a-real-challenge targets. All gimmicks were off the clock, of course, but designed to encourage the image of real cowboys doing their darndest.

Then there were the Germans. Every year the contingent from Deutschland grows larger, as these fun-loving and skilled pistoleros make the lengthy sojourn out to visit the real Old West. They are dedicated, skilled, and a heck of a lot of fun. Waggoner Fritz, Olli the Kid, and Shotgun Boogie were all back, smoother and faster than last year, along with another trio of shooters including German Champ, Westphalia Phil.

We all know Cowboy Action Shooting™ has grown into a worldwide phenomenon. Ever wonder how are they keeping up in the quiet European backwater? Shotgun Boogie is a highly respected gunsmith, and after handling his firearms, I can assure you, they are competitive with anything you can lay your hands on here in the



*Jackson Sings ...*

States. And Westphalia Phil cut through the Top Gun shoot-off ranks, ending up in the final opposite one Lead Dispencer. AND, they bring beer!!!

Every match has a thousand stories, and this one was no exception. Hoss Hall and his crew of capable builders and painters just



*Double R Bar Regulators.*



*Team Winners – Long Swede, Wiley One, Tex Fiddler, and Frederick Jackson Turner. Check out that backdrop!*

keep expanding the franchise, with new buildings taking shape, old buildings being expanded, and clever little touches abounding everywhere. In addition, the extremely tall berms between the stages made the event an incredibly safe one. None of this has escaped the scrutiny of the media. The weekend was to be host to not one, but TWO television events; "Dave Mordal's Wreckreation Nation," where the funnyman and adventurer proved himself to be not only a stand-up guy, but a fine pistolero as well, gamely strapping on sixguns and shotgun belt to blast through his first Cowboy Action Shooting™ stage ever—quickly and cleanly! That earned him a big Whoo-YEAH



*Twitchy Fingers Saloon ...*

from the posse.

Over the weekend, the match was also filmed by the popular show "Cowboys," hosted by the inimitable Tupelo Flash. In the course of the *(Continued on page 72)*



*Shotgun Boogie and Penny Pepperbox kick up their heels!*

# COWBOY HEAVEN

(Continued from page 71)

weekend, they were there to do a feature on one Frederick Jackson Turner, professor, musician, and gunslinger. Thank goodness, that added virtually no pressure to the complexity of shooting a major match. You know how easy it is to shoot, after all, once the buzzer sounds. Knowing that a few million people will be watching just makes it that much easier. Let me see; last year, no cameras to be seen, I finished 3rd overall. This year ... cameras rolling, instruction shouting, all eyes watching ... well, at least I finished. We'll see how it looks on film, but I'll be keeping my eyes peeled for the Cowboys show featuring the 2008 Western Regional!

Come Saturday evening, the main match was over, and it was time to *really* relax. I have the great pleasure of playing with a terrific country band, Big Red Sky, which was slated to entertain at the Saturday evening banquet. The impeccably dressed crowd really wowed the guys in the band. We also had several guest stars on stage, a truly talented Hud, who came wearing a gaudy shirt that would have left most B-Western shooters muttering in shame, playing a vintage Gretsch through an equally vintage Fender amplifier, while singing his heart out. Captain Jake Cutter, president of the nearby Cowboys, (largest SASS

club in the world) and one of the real fixtures here on the West Coast, gave a pretty sterling American Idol performance that left the audience clamoring. Whether they were clamoring for more, or for blood, I was never sure, but when he and Autumn Sky did a duet, the crowd went nuts. Lusty Lil and Lead Dispencer put on a dance display that would be banned in some states, and the crowd loved it.

On it went, deep into the night. The band twanged the evening away, dancers twirled, countless secret "pie" recipes made their appearance, and the dark velvet sky reverberated deep into the night with cowboys and cowgirls having what many admitted was simply, the best time of their lives. I was glad the crowd was so appreciative, but even better, when the event was over—and a whole passel of helpful cowboys had helped us clear up all the gear, the band stood around me in a circle saying it was the nicest crowd they had ever played for. Most of them stuck around to watch the following day, and they all tried their hand at shooting, and loved it. Nice work, Double R Bar!

When it was over, we went back to the Coffee encampment, and about the time we were getting settled, the German contingent stopped by. With more liquid refreshments. Apparently, they were planning to sleep on the flight

home ... If you ever have a chance, ask one of them to tell you their story about roving around the southwest in a pair of rented motor-homes, trying to drive out onto Boulder Dam, explaining to Homeland Security why all these guys with accents are driving around with 50 guns and about 10,000 rounds of ammunition ...

It was a suffering crew that dragged themselves out to the range for the team events and Top Gun Shoot-off. Through the haze, I spotted Tex Fiddler, 2008 Senior World Champ. "Got a team?" I asked. He shook his head, which surprised me, because he keeps some pretty fast company. Top Modern shooter Long Swede grabs my arm. "On a team yet, Jackson?" The three of us scoop up talented gunfighter Wylee One, and signed up.

Now, last year, I had the good fortune to be on a really loaded team for the Team Event. This year, we had to go up against Team Lead Dispencer's juggernaut. Well, it's just shooting, not rocket science, right? But Double R Bar had a clever event laid out, and you had to think your way through the team event. Having two PhDs on the team must have helped, because when the smoke cleared, Tex Fiddler, Long Swede, Wylee One, and Frederick Jackson Turner, showing more white hair than brown, took home the trophy.

This Sunday Morning gunplay—posse shoots, team events, and the Man-On-Man shoot-off are all among the most thrill-packed, adrenaline-charged events you'll ever see. Even those not actually in the shoot-off got into it, hooting and hollering, as the crowd cheered for their favorites, loud enough to get the most hung-over pulse pounding! I sawed my way through a lot of fine shooters, but got knocked out in the semi-finals.

As mentioned earlier, the Top Gun final came down to Westphalia Phil and Lead Dispencer. It was pretty funny. Someone in the crowd struck up the Star Spangled Banner, so another group launched into Deutschland Uber Alles. Spence and Phil just grinned, shook hands, and got to it. Spence pulled it out, but just by an eyelash. Both of those guys can really shoot! And Five Jacks, Justin O' Sheriff, Hoss Hall, and the rest of the Double R Bar gang can really put on a World Class Event!

If you're looking for a top-notch shooting event, nestled in the cradle of the Old West, featuring the best props you will ever see, great food, outstanding entertainment, and the finest pardos you will find anywhere, I recommend you get to the SASS 2009 Western Regional—a little bit of Cowboy Heaven! 🤠



Winners	
<b>Regional Champions</b>	
<i>Man</i>	Lead Dispencer, SASS #27115
<i>Lady</i>	Irish Eyes, SASS #22130
<b>Top Gun Shootoff</b>	
<i>Man</i>	Lead Dispencer
<i>Lady</i>	Not So Dead Eye Maverick, SASS #4435
<b>Categories</b>	
<i>49er</i>	Swiftly Swede, SASS #33879
<i>B-Western</i>	Lash Latigo, SASS #35308
<i>C Cowboy</i>	Chekahsah Joe, SASS #26301
<i>Duelist</i>	Frederick Jackson Turner, SASS #28271
<i>E Statesman</i>	Dr. George, SASS #5234
<i>Frontiersman</i>	Irish Ike, SASS #43615
<i>F Cartridge</i>	Snakebite, SASS #4767
<i>F C Duelist</i>	Smokin Gator, SASS #29736
<i>Gunfighter</i>	Guy Wolf, SASS #53548
<i>L 49er</i>	Lusty Lil, SASS #4103
<i>L Duelist</i>	Opal Rose, SASS #13032
<i>Grand Dame</i>	Medicine Woman Wiki, SASS #5963
<i>L F Cartridge</i>	Madam Orr, SASS #5562
<i>L Gunfighter</i>	Ella Watson, SASS #4552
<i>L Modern</i>	Irish Eyes,
<i>L Senior</i>	Pocket Change, SASS #58694

<i>L S Duelist</i>	Cruzan Confusion, SASS #39081
<i>L Silver Sr</i>	Running Bare, SASS #2323
<i>L Traditional Modern</i>	Sassy Lassy, SASS #4776
	Long Swede, SASS #22129
<i>Senior</i>	Tex Fiddler, SASS #10127
<i>Senior Duelist</i>	High Country, SASS #1068
<i>S Gunfighter</i>	Two Gun Sam, SASS #18045
<i>Silver Senior</i>	Badfinger O'Kern, SASS #60177
<i>Traditional</i>	Lead Dispencer, SASS #27115
<b>Side Matches</b>	
<i>Team Shoot</i>	Tex Fiddler, Long Swede, Wylee, SASS #53213
	Frederick Jackson Turner
<i>Speed Rifle</i>	Westphalian Phil, SASS #5897
<i>Speed Pistol</i>	
<i>Traditional (Or Not And)</i>	Timber Dan, SASS #74285
<i>Duelist (Or Not And)</i>	Wahsho Kid, SASS #8270
<i>Speed Shotgun</i>	
<i>'97 Or '87 (Or Not And)</i>	El Lazo, SASS #13116

<i>-SxS (Or Not And)</i>	Justin O'Sheriff, SASS #31342
<i>Speed 4-Gun</i>	
<i>Man</i>	Westphalian Phil
<i>Lady</i>	Irish Eyes
<i>Speed Derringer</i>	Westphalian Phil
<i>Speed Pocket Pistol</i>	Westphalian Phil
<i>Long Range Pistol</i>	Guy Wolf,
<i>Long Range Rifle</i>	
<i>Pistol Caliber</i>	Olli The Kid, SASS #63338
<i>Single Shot Rifle Caliber</i>	Justin O' Sheriff
<i>Lever Rifle Caliber</i>	El Rod, SASS #8849
<i>Open / Optical</i>	Toni Two Bits, SASS #20849
<i>Precision .22 Rifle</i>	Irish Eyes
<i>Precision .22 Pistol</i>	Lash Latigo
<i>Precision Pocket Pistol</i>	Big Bugs Chekahsah Joe
<i>Blackpowder</i>	
<i>Large Big Bore Single Shot</i>	Lumpy Grits, SASS #49458

<i>Large Pistol Caliber Rifle</i>	Smokin Gator,
<i>Horseshoe Toss</i>	J.D. Bull, SASS #49954 & Five Jacks, SASS #23711
<i>Plainsman Event</i>	Deadwood Doc Smith, SASS #4625
<b>Costume Winners</b>	
<i>Working Cowboy</i>	Dusty Duds, SASS #3418
<i>Cowgirl</i>	Penny Pepperbox, SASS #35309
<i>B. Western Man</i>	Grave Digger, SASS #36565
<i>Lady</i>	Nevada Skye, SASS #54791
<i>Huckleberry</i>	Wimpy Hank Yoho, SASS #19831
<i>Soiled Dove Gentleman</i>	Opal Rose Ivory Jack McCloud, SASS #8534
<i>Best Lady</i>	Kit Foxxe, SASS #18184
<i>Best Couple</i>	Ransome Hawk, SASS #18185 & Kit Foxxe,
<i>Military Conventioneer</i>	Ransome Hawk Dina Mo, SASS #73255
<i>Judges Choice</i>	Runs With Yellowboy, SASS #39576



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# THE HISTORY OF CUTTER'S RAIDERS AND THE 2008 HOOSIERS AMBUSH

By Matthew Duncan, SASS #23189

**Warsaw, Indiana** – In the year 1993 Geoff Herbst going by the alias of Cutter organized a two-day Cowboy Action Shooting™ match. The two-days were held twice a year at the Warsaw Rifle and Pistol club just west of Warsaw, Indiana.

Starting in 1996 matches was changed to a one-day monthly format. Something about grown men reliving their youth and substituting the pretend finger guns with real guns were drawing up to 40 participants. The range started with portable staked walls until the four permanent bays with western store fronts were dug out and a fifth temporary bay at the end of the long range rifle venue was added.



*Overall and Indiana State Champs – Doc Molar and Two Sons. Congratulations!*

Cutter, Carver, Cowboy, Midnite Desperado, SASS #4321, Montana Longhair, SASS #27261, Thorny Rose, SASS #12302, and Wooly Brown were the group that kept the matches running smoothly.

On December 8th 1996 Cutter came in from work, sat down, and went to meet his Maker. While waiting at Cutter's funeral, cowpokes discussed what was to become of the Cowboy Action Shooting™ matches? It was agreed the matches would continue, and Midnite Desperado and Thorny Rose "volunteered" to be the organizers.

Affiliation with SASS in 1997 was approved as Cutter's Raiders, in honor of its Founder, Cutter.

During 2002 Carver invited C.C. Top, SASS #62639, to a Cutter's Raiders match the following day. It was during this match that C.C. Top became friends with Montana Longhair and become "hooked" on SASS.

The Warsaw Rifle and Pistol club were great hosts, but the four permanent bays had a small problem. Any shots over the berm would send lead over a busy road and into the neighboring gravel pit; the result, as it should be, would be a MDQ. No space for additional stages, limited parking and no camping area.

One evening Montana Longhair was looking over C.C. Top's back  
*(Continued on next page)*

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[www.wildygapregulators.homestead.com](http://www.wildygapregulators.homestead.com)

(Continued from previous page)  
 forty. Talk led to how it would be to have a big place for Cowboy Action. How about the back forty? The next day Midnite Desperado and Thorny Rose rode in to meet with C.C. Top and Montana Longhair to look over C.C Top's spread and discuss the idea of relocating. There was front acreage for 50 or more campers and easily parking for 200 vehicles. The "back 40" had ample room for the match area with space for 15 stages or more, rifle long range, and plenty of elbow room. The Cutter's Raiders move to Paradise Pass was agreed!

Towards the end 2005 the original members, Midnite Desperado, Thorny Rose, and Montana Longhair along with Lil Sis, SASS #27662, and C.C. Top began organizing the move. That winter's low temperatures didn't stop a whole passel of volunteers, including Dru Redblood, JD Spencer, Spoon River Sam, JW Hous, Michigan Slim, Deppity Drago, Landgrapper, and DD Red to raise the Town of Paradise Pass.

Local businesses sponsored the seven stages: Gunsmith, Cantina,

Undertaker, Saloon, Butcher Shop, Fort Squeak, and the Blacksmith Shop. Five of the stages are three sided buildings with roofs. One stage is the typical front wall and the Fort has four fortified walls and a second floor sentry post with cannon. There is a heated clubhouse for registration, awards presentation with kitchen, and, in the near future, indoor ladies' facilities with shower. And, of course, the essential outhouse with all the modern features available in the 1880's for the men. In March 2006 the first match was held by Cutter's Raiders in the Town of Paradise Pass.

Up on the bluff, across Lee Lake, and overlooking the Town are cabins. Folks that don't cotton to the hustle and bustle of living directly in Town stay there. The Yankee Indian Scout, Hogleg Charlie, SASS #71829, his woman, Miss Rose Gillray, SASS #74402, along with the notorious Gunfighter, Korrupt Karl, SASS #68444, are some of the residents.

Then, the Deer Creek Conservation Club in Jonesboro asked for a year's break from hosting the Indiana Hoosier Ambush state match for 2008, and Cutter's Raiders request to host was granted by SASS. A flurry of activity resumed. Three more stages were built: the Sheriff's Office, Mad Montana's Mine, and the Open Range to bring the number of stages to ten. Other tasks included: Lee's Lake dredged deeper, more berms, signs made, painting, saloon piano tuned ... too many details and too many volunteers to name them all!

September arrived with high gasoline prices and 148 Cowpokes ready for the 2008 Hoosier Ambush.

Even the Jacks rode in from clear down Texas way. And before I forget, ask April Mae about her period correct authentic western Navaho moccasins she wore for the match!

The match included: a full day shooting, Friday night's Gunfight between John Murdock, his ranch hands and Marshall Dalton Trip and Deputies, the Band, more shooting, dressed to the nines Banquet, Cowboy church, awards and then ... it was over.

We trust the shooters experienced a State match that truly reflected the cowboy way and their faces were a hurting from the grinning!

The 2009 Indiana Hoosier Ambush will return to the Southern part of the state hosted again by the Deer Creek Conservation Club in Jonesboro, July 24th through the 26th. Doc Molar has "volunteered" to organize, so if'n y'all have any questions, he's the one to ask.

In closing there is one cowpoke to whom we must give special recognition. Without this individual there would not have been a 2008 Hoosier Ambush, no Town of Paradise Pass, and no Cutter's Raiders. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you, Cutter! 🤠



**2008 Winners**

- Traditional & State Champion  
Doc Molar, SASS #18470
- Buckaroo  
Apache Wolf, SASS #65272
- Buckarette  
Itty Bitty Cowgirl, SASS #60600
- B-Western  
Faygo Kid, SASS #26408
- C Cowboy  
Cedar Creek Coy, SASS #76694
- Duelist  
Nevada Gambler, SASS #10225
- E Statesman  
49er  
Kocheese, SASS #8037
- F Cartridge  
Raton Rick, SASS #16908
- F C Duelist  
Spoon River Sam, SASS #33194
- FC Gunfighter  
Justice D. Spencer, SASS #43954
- Frontiersman  
Mike Fink, SASS #29047
- Grand Dame  
L 49er  
Snapshot, SASS #8036
- L B-Western  
Elpaso Susie, SASS #35199
- L Duelist  
Pearly R Mateeth, SASS #29198
- L F Cartridge  
L Gunfighter  
Calamity Kelly, SASS #4774
- L F Cartridge  
L Gunfighter  
Lil Sis, SASS #27662
- L Modern  
Rose Louise Reasoner, SASS #12516
- L Senior  
Turkey Legs, SASS #48384
- L Traditional  
Two Sons, SASS #12636
- Modern  
Mama Missalot, SASS #47747
- Senior  
Buffalo Creek Kid, SASS #45529
- S Duelist  
Ole Short Tom, SASS #12635
- S Gunfighter  
Persimmon Dan, SASS #42428
- Silver Senior  
Dusty Feller, SASS #20010
- Silver Senior  
BB Hayner, SASS #33123



# HIGH NOON AT THE TOMBSTONE LIVERY

## February 4-8, 2009

By Sassy Dancer, SASS #70118

**Tombstone, Arizona Territory** – “The Tombstone Ghost Riders are callin’ you out!” the SASS Wire thread read ... with a promise of five days, yes, I said f-i-v-e days of events sure to hold your interest and test your abilities.

The shooters came from around the U.S. and Canada. Guess word spread after last year’s shoot, and even more shooters showed up this year full of anticipation and ready for action. A clear indication that once you shoot High Noon, you’ll be back for more!

With the Dragoon and Huachuca Mountains as its backdrop, the Tombstone Livery, home of the Tombstone Ghost Riders Action Shooting Society, boasts six bays with permanent props dedicated to Cowboy Action Shooting™, and Match Director, Wily Yankee, SASS #63066, uses each and every one of those bays along with great stage scenarios to ensure a smooth match flow.

On Wednesday, shooter sign-in began and the team of Hermoso Hombre, Lola Jane, Aim Me West, Go West, and The Blind Dutchman had the shooters registered and out the door in a heartbeat. Most of those registered headed on down to the range for the five-stage warm-up match to fine tune their techniques as well as their “hardware.” Also on Wednesday, Half-A-Hand Henri began her two-day “Finishing School.” Beginners and accomplished shooters alike attended, and all took home something of value from the course. One “graduate” in particular said she improved her total match time by almost seven seconds!

Thursday (which Wily called *Pecos Clyde Day*) arrived with perfect weather for the Long Range, Plainsman, and the ever popular and fastest growing side match, The Wild Bunch. Pecos was the mastermind behind all the events that day, which went on without a hitch. That night there was a potluck dinner in the clubhouse. About 40 people participated, and WOW what a spread—from appetizers to desserts—more than enough choices for even the pickiest palate!

On Friday, with a chill in the air left from the previous night’s frost,



**Overall Match Winners – Hells Comin’ & Annabelle Peacock holding the framed photos of themselves in action. It was Annabelle’s first in AZ ... how exciting for her!**

campers rose early and shooters arrived at the range ready for the first five stages of the Main Match. As the sun rose higher, the anticipation was palpable as posses gathered at their predestined bays. Two waves of shooters shot five stages that day, and whether you started in the morning or in the afternoon, the warm, sunny weather made it easy to hang out at the range, peruse the vendors, grab a bite to eat, and catch up with your pards.

The stages were as challenging as they were fun to shoot, most using all four guns! On one stage, you shot the rifle targets from a mineshaft. At another you shot all guns sitting on a buckboard wagon, and another had you shootin’ through the jailhouse windows and doors ... bars and all, shoutin’, “Marshall, I’m callin’ you out!” The Posse Marshals and volunteers worked hard to move things along and keep the stages operating in a timely fashion ... but not without

the help of all the fine shooters—timing, spotting, picking brass, and checking firearms at the unloading table—it was that spirit of cooperation that helped make this a well-organized and smoothly run match.

Then came Friday night down on Allen Street in the middle of Tombstone ... streets of dirt and everywhere the sound of spurs on wooden sidewalks, ching ... ching ...” and then the ruckus started. There at Big Nose Kate’s Saloon, the Tombstone Ghost Riders held their Casino Night. Shooters showed up in all their finery for an evening of eatin’; gamblin’ at the faro, blackjack, and poker tables (chips were included with dinner); and listenin’ to some mighty fine croonin’. Then, the REAL entertainment started ... Gil T Azell, SASS #62569, accused of murder, was brought to justice by Tombstone’s own Doc Holliday, Wyatt Earp, and our own Judge U. Harshly, SASS #45531. Now, wantin’ to be a

might merciful, they gave poor ol’ Gil T a choice ... a hangin’ or a weddin’! Gil T, bein’ the smart feller he is, chose a weddin’! “Merciful” is what they said ... rumor has it that maybe ol’ Gil T was just a might bit to “flashy” for Wyatt ... you know, bein’ a B-Western shooter, an’ all ... guess we’ll never really know. Regular saloon patrons were entertained as well by all the goings on, and became quiet spectators ... maybe even pinching themselves to make sure they hadn’t been transported to an earlier time! Needless to say, a good time was had by all!

On Saturday we went back to the range for five more stages to either keep a good roll goin’ or fix up a foul. Later, the shooters were treated to a delicious chuckwagon dinner cooked up and served by the Livery Gang headed up by Cowboy Doug and Tequila Terri ... beef brisket or chicken was the choice with all the fixins! Mmm-mmm good!

Sunday morning arrived soggy from the night’s downpour and word passed quickly the Speed Events planned (rifle, pistol, shotgun, and pocket pistol) were thought to be washed out ... WASHED OUT? Oh no, the Ghost Riders were not going to stand for that ... their pards came to Tombstone to shoot, and in the true cowboy spirit, one cowboy after another rushed to help set up those Speed Events ... for just a few more hours to play!

Then all the shootin’ was done and it was time for accolades. The Awards Ceremony acknowledged those finishing in the top five in each category with a laser engraved frame and a genuine photo of Allen Street at sunrise. Annabelle Peacock and Hells Comin’, Ladies’ and Men’s Overall Winners, were awarded a framed 8x10 photo of themselves in action.

Some special awards were handed out. Cowboy Doug and Tequila Terri, owners of The Livery, presented Wily Yankee with a pocket watch, and Lola Jane, a silver bracelet, for their endless hours of hard work and dedication to the success of the club and the Second Annual High Noon. Turquoise Jake, SASS #49626, presented his personal Turquoise Bullet  
*(Continued on next page)*

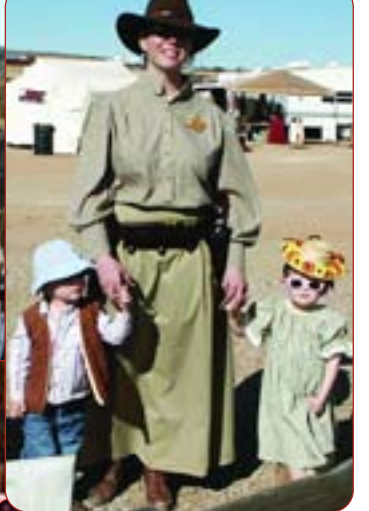


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Award to Hermoso Hombre, SASS #68678, for all his hard work ... above and beyond what was asked.

Folks, the event staff bears mentioning here, because without 'em, the match wouldn't have been the same: VP & Director: Wily Yankee, SASS #63066; Treasurer: Lola Jane, SASS #71324; Secretary: Hermoso Hombre, SASS #68678; Territorial Governor: J.B. Fast, SASS #15395; Match R.O.: Swift Water, SASS #9812; Co-Director & Medical: Marana Fred, SASS #49193; Medical: Mean Rayleen, SASS #67283; Side Matches: Silver

Heart, SASS #48482 and Pecos Clyde, SASS #48481.

Then it was over ... the smoke cleared, all the awards handed out, the last of the rigs chugged up the hill toward the open road ... and there was this feeling in the pit of the stomach ... anticipation ... that's what it was ... anticipation for the next High Noon at the Tombstone Livery ... wonderin' what the heck Wily and his gang'll come up with for the Third Annual High Noon in Tombstone, Arizona Territory next February! Look for it, pard. This match is a "must go!"



Winners	
<b>OVERALL Man</b>	Hells Comin', SASS #56436
<b>Lady</b>	Annabelle Peacock, SASS #50114
<b>Categories</b>	
<i>49er</i>	Hells Comin'
<i>L49er</i>	Annabelle Peacock
<i>B-Western</i>	Gil T Azell, SASS #62569
<i>L B-Western</i>	Silver Heart, SASS #48482
<i>C Cowboy</i>	Von Dutch, SASS #7995
<i>L S Senior</i>	Ramblin' Rose, SASS #2811
<i>Duelist</i>	Go West, SASS #43710
<i>L Duelist</i>	Mean Rayleen, SASS #67283
<i>E Statesman</i>	Dirty Dan, SASS #9726
<i>Frontiersman</i>	Capt. George Baylor, SASS #24287
<i>F C. Duelist</i>	Silverado Sid, SASS #51750
<i>F Cartridge</i>	August West, SASS #45079
<i>Gunfighter</i>	Jackpine Bill, SASS #33477

<i>L Gunfighter</i>	Rusty Dinero, SASS #26530
<i>FC Gunfighter</i>	Hondo Dan, SASS #45041
<i>L F C Duelist</i>	Tamale, SASS #16078
<i>L F Cartridge</i>	Miss Elaineous, SASS #45042
<i>Modern</i>	Arizona Redneck, SASS #49989
<i>L Senior</i>	Dakota Maid, SASS #11583
<i>Senior</i>	Johnny Meadows, SASS #45079
<i>S Senior</i>	San Juan, SASS #1776
<i>S Duelist</i>	Kidd Thunder, SASS #25814
<i>L Traditional</i>	Addie Rose, SASS #24062
<i>Traditional</i>	Taggart, SASS #14398

Side Match Winners	
<b>Wild Bunch Modern</b>	Pecos Clyde, SASS #48481
<b>Traditional Plainsman</b>	San Juan, SASS #1776
	Capt. George Baylor, SASS #24287





# WANTED!

## ALL GUNSLINGERS FOR A SHOOTOUT AT THE SASS U.S. OPEN COWBOY CHAMPIONSHIPS

### SEPTEMBER 9-13, 2009

WORLD SHOOTING AND RECREATIONAL COMPLEX • SPARTA, ILLINOIS

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>WED./THURS.</b> | • Long Hunter Shooting School  |
| <b>FRIDAY</b>      | • Free Side Matches & 4 Stage Wild Bunch Match<br>• Meet & Greet w/ finger foods |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>    | • 6 Main Match Stages<br>• Evening Banquet & Cowboy Karaoke with the Dooley Gang |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>      | • 4 Main Match Stages<br>• Awards Ceremony at 1 p.m.                             |



Dry Camp - Contact Troy Potts at 618-295-2700 Ext. 8466  
Full Service RV hookups - 1,000 RV spots  
Golf Cart Rental - Contact Marcie at 618-548-2366

For more information, call 618-295-2700 ext. 8467 or email [dennis.sneed@illinois.gov](mailto:dennis.sneed@illinois.gov)

#### PLEASE USE A SEPERATE ENTRY FORM FOR EACH SHOOTER

Alias \_\_\_\_\_ SASS # \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Posse Me With \_\_\_\_\_ Ph# (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Shooting Fees - Please circle one: Main shooter \$130 Spouse/Junior \$100 Buckaroo \$50.00 Family of Four \$300  
 All shooting fees include: Friday night finger food, Saturday night banquet, Saturday and Sunday Lunch, and all side matches.  
 Checks made payable to: WSRC/IDNR-US Open SASS

Please circle one:	Male	Female		
Please circle one:	Cowboy (All ages)	Wrangler (+36)	Duelist	Senior Duelist (+60)
	Senior (+60)	Gunfighter	"B" Western	Classic Cowboy
	Grand Dame (70+)	49er	Elder Statesman (+70)	Frontier Cartridge
	Frontier Cartridge Duelist		Young Guns (14-16)	Buckaroo (13 & under)

Mail payment to: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Open/Dennis Sneed, 1 Main Event Lane, Sparta, IL 62286



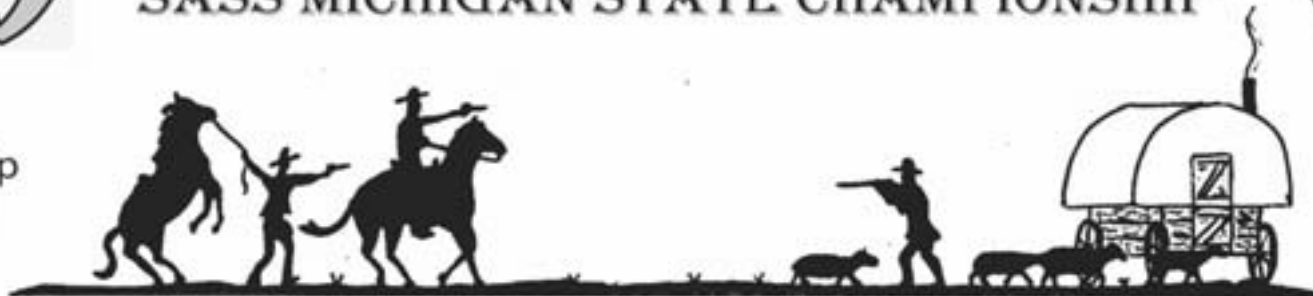


THERE'S A RANGE WAR COMING!  
11TH ANNUAL  
SASS MICHIGAN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



SASS  
Membership  
Required

SASS Rules  
Apply



# WOLVERINE RANGERS RANGE WAR

September 4th - September 6th, 2009

Bluewater Sportsman's Club @ 4866 Ravenswood Rd., Kimball, MI 48074

### THURSDAY:

Dooley Gang Shooting School  
See website for details

### FRIDAY:

Side Matches Rifle, Pistol, Long Range  
ROI and ROII Classes  
Ladies Tea Party  
Wild Bunch Mini Match

### SATURDAY:

Main Match: 8:30 am  
Five Main Stages  
Cowboy Trap  
Cook-Out Dinner  
Foundation Raffle  
Dooley Gang Karaoke

### SUNDAY:

Main Match: 8:30 am  
Five Main Stages  
Awards Banquet @ Alexander's  
Banquet will have cash bar  
Wolverine Rangers Raffle\*



\*The Sunday Raffle is for a pair of USFA Custom Revolvers and Rig plus other great prizes

### ENTRY FEES:

(Includes Sunday Dinner & 1st set of side events)  
\$95.00 Adult Entry Fee  
\$80.00 Spouse Entry Fee  
\$0.00 Junior Entry Fee (16 years and under)  
\$15.00 Unlimited Side Matches  
\$10.00 Wild Bunch Mini Match



### BANQUET FEES:

\$20.00 Adult Guest  
\$10.00 Junior Shooter  
\$10.00 Junior Guest (12 years and under)

### MISC:

\$10.00 Saturday Night Cook-Out (Per Person)  
\$10.00 Ladies Tea Party  
\$10.00 On-site Camping (Includes all nights)

Contact us at [www.wolverinerangers.org](http://www.wolverinerangers.org), or Killin' Kelin at [kelinpro@gmail.com](mailto:kelinpro@gmail.com), or toll free at (888) 695-0505  
Register before August 1st and receive a FREE Range War T-shirt!

### QUESTIONS?

R.J. Law  
Captain  
(248) 528-0440  
[rgillary@gillarylaw.com](mailto:rgillary@gillarylaw.com)

Bad River Marty  
First Lieutenant  
(989) 585-3292  
[mnbell@yahoo.com](mailto:mnbell@yahoo.com)

Killin' Kelin  
Secretary  
(248) 666-0505  
[kelinpro@gmail.com](mailto:kelinpro@gmail.com)

Deuce Stevens  
Match Director  
(616) 677-5275  
[deucestevens45@yahoo.com](mailto:deucestevens45@yahoo.com)





Accepting the first 400 paid entries.

All-Inclusive  
Style Match

# COMIN'AT'CHA

## SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



# BADLANDS

English **3** Texas



**Nov. 5th - 8th 2009**



Main Match Fee Includes:  
10 Stage Match  
Side Matches  
Friday & Saturday Lunch  
Saturday Banquet

**Schedule of Events**

Thursday - Side Matches,  
ROI/ROII Classes, & Wild Bunch

Friday - Main Match (5 Stages),  
Shoot N Scoot, & Party in the Barn

Saturday - Main Match (5 Stages)  
& Fiesta Banquet

Sunday - Team, Couples, & Top Gun  
Awards at High Noon

This Year's Theme is  
**MEXICAN**  
**Fiesta**

Online Registration Form at  
[www.badlandsbar3.com](http://www.badlandsbar3.com)

**Vendors**

Please contact T-Bone Dooley at  
903-272-9283 to reserve a spot.

**COMIN'AT'CHA 2009 ENTRY FORM**

**ALIASES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SASS #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CATEGORY:** \_\_\_\_\_

I am ROI  / ROII  Qualified

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

MATCH FEES	
MAIN MATCH	\$130.00: _____
SPOUSE/JUNIOR	\$100.00: _____
FAMILY (4 MAX)	\$300.00: _____
<small>(Family Fee includes main shooter, spouse, and two additional family members.)</small>	
ROI:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO \$10.00: _____ <small>(Pay for RO</small>
ROII:	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO \$25.00: _____ <small>classes at door.)</small>
CONVENTIONEER:	FREE
ALIAS:	_____
ADDITIONAL LUNCH:	\$5.00 EA: _____
ADDITIONAL BANQUET:	\$10.00: _____
BY BOOKUP	\$65.00: <b>SOLD OUT</b>
DRY CAMPING: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	FREE
TOTAL:	_____

Make check payable to Bar 3 Range & send to Bar 3 Range, 8027 FM 114, Clarksville, TX 75426.

See you next year!





# HELL FIRE '09



## THE FIRST ANNUAL JACKSON HOLE REGULATORS SHOOT OUT

September 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Quitman, Louisiana

♠ ♠ SASS Rules Apply ♠ ♠

♠ 10 Main Match Stages (6 Saturday & 4 Sunday) ♠

♠ Free Side Matches (Friday 1- 5 P.M.) ♠

♠ Free Long Range Shoot (Friday 11 A.M. – 5 P.M.) ♠

♠ Meals Included (Saturday Lunch & Supper, Sunday Lunch) ♠

♠ Saturday Night Supper 6:00 P.M., Karaoke with Dooley Gang, Side Match Awards ♠

♠ Free Dry Camping ♠

♠ Limited Electrical Hookups ♠

♠ Awards 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Each Class ♠



### Shooter Fees:

Single Shooter	\$95.00
Spouse	\$75.00
Junior	\$35.00
Buckaroo/Buckerette	Free

Limited to First 200 Shooters  
All Entries due by September 1, 2009

For more information and shooter's application visit website  
[www.jacksonholeregulators.com](http://www.jacksonholeregulators.com)

[slickmcclade@bellsouth.net](mailto:slickmcclade@bellsouth.net) or 318-278-9071





*Whooper Crane,  
SASS #52745*

Mug shot by Deadeye Al



#### DETAILS

Contact: Shawnee Shamus

Email:

[shawneeshamus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shawneeshamus@sbcglobal.net)

Phone: (913) 236-8812

Web Site: [powdercreekcowboys.org](http://powdercreekcowboys.org)

Location: Lenexa, Kansas

Matches:

2nd & 4th Sat. and 4th Wed.

Annual: 2nd Weekend in May

#### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

The old saw in the real estate industry is Location is the *three* most important aspects in selling a property. With this month's featured cowboy club, the Powder Creek Cowboys, Location also plays a vital role in their success.

Let's examine their Location as it applies to the Old West as a starter.

So many of us today think of the Old West as starting on the left side of the Rockies. *Whoa Nelly!* Back in the mid-1800's, folks called anything west of the Mississippi "The West" ... and rightly so!

The opening of the West essentially began with the mountain men, followed by the phenomenon known as the Santa Fe Trail, which brought eastern "civilization" in the form of trade goods to the frontier. The Santa Fe Trail's kick-off point was Franklin, Missouri. Crossing into Kansas, it went right through Lenexa, which just happens to be the

# BUNKHOUSE BIDNESS

## A Spotlight on SASS Clubs Around the Country

### POWDER CREEK COWBOYS

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745

home of the Powder Creek Cowboys.

To elaborate on the Location theme, need we say more than to mention that Lenexa is in the original Monticello Township, home of Wild Bill Hickok's first Lawman job in 1858 (where the pay was lousy, but Bill could earn an extra 50 cents for every stray dog he "eliminated"). And, Lenexa's only a stone's throw from St. Joseph, MO (where Jesse James met his end, thanks to that dirty little coward), even closer to Lawrence, KS (scene of one of the bloodiest Civil War raids on the frontier), and just a couple hours drive from Coffeyville (where the Dalton Gang bought the farm). I think these examples safely put The Cowboys about as smack dab in The Old West as you can be!

#### HISTORY

Back around the turn of the Century (the 21st, that is) there was a group of Cowboy Action Shooters in the Lenexa area who thought they'd like to shoot closer to home, rather than take the long drives necessary to reach the Old West events available to them at that time.

So, eager beaver Tame Bill rallied the troops (about 10 of them) and determined to find a nearby range to hold some matches. They contacted the Powder Creek Shooting Club in Lenexa who saw the benefit of having an active Cowboy Club as part of its shooting mix and offered the Cowboys the use of the east end of its property.

Then the real work began. The shooters called themselves The Powder Creek Cowboys and set about building appropriate Cowboy Action targets and constructing a western town with authentic-as-possible buildings to house their stages.

Here again, Location played a role. Since this range was located near burgeoning residential developments, the Cowboys had to devise a plan to ensure the safety of the neighborhood. They did this in two ways. First, they oriented their stages to



*Don't turn us in to the EPA,  
it's an unloading station  
for our 5th Stage!*

point them in the safest possible direction. Second, they designed and built a unique baffling system that all but guaranteed no errant rounds could fly out of the range.

When all was set, The Cowboys held their inaugural match at their new digs in 2003 and have been going strong ever since, with the support of an effective Board and a willing membership (now over 110 members) pitching in to keep their matches creative and exciting.

#### INTERESTING STUFF

We mentioned that the Cowboys built stages to resemble an old Kansas cattle railhead town as much as possible. As you walk down their town's street, you feel like you're there in the middle of the heyday of the cattle drives.

You start at **The Jail**, which is an amazing replica of the "modular" jails that popped up in every cowtown throughout the state. The Jail's tricked out with barred windows, a sheriff's desk, a log-burning stove, and other props to make it look lived in.

Next comes a small-scale version of the **C.M. Condon Bank** from Coffeyville ... the site of the downfall of the Daltons back in 1892 when they attempted to rob both this bank *and* the First National Bank at the same time (a bad idea!). The façade, like the others at the range, is 8-10 feet deep, giving a real feel of being inside the buildings (and adding to the sound effects when shooters start banging away ... not to mention the smoky scene when blackpowder shooters are doing *their* thing!

Then comes **The Alamo Saloon** with its bar and old-time piano. Now, for "period correct" fans, the saloon is a very authentic replica of Abilene's famous Alamo Saloon as back-engineered and created by the Club's resident artist, Biggun Stump. Like all the building stages, the saloon has a wide boardwalk to keep you out of the elements on "weather days."

Fourth Stage is **The Drover Store**, which is an exact copy of an actual cowboy mercantile that existed in Ellsworth, Kansas and which catered to the needs of drovers as they came in off their trail drives. Lots of antiques add to the authenticity of this great-looking stage.

Their fifth stage is **The Dewey Cattle Company Corral**, complete with railcar loading ramp, swing gate, and outhouse. This stage was designed by member Chauncey Dewey, whose namesake owned and ran the original Dewey Cattle Company (and who, as rumor has it, sent several adversaries to That Great Roundup in the Sky during the infamous Dewey-Barry Range War of 1902).

#### Some interesting sidebars:

Because their parking lot is immediately adjacent to their stages, most shooters leave their guncarts at home and simply take advantage of the nifty gunracks (which resemble hitching posts and horse troughs) at each stage.

*(Continued on next page)*

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Wild Bill Hickok performed several trick shot demonstrations during his career as a Lawman. So, as part of their annual, the Cowboys hold a Frontier Revolver Shootout using simulations of five of Bill's best demos for competition. These include shooting out a candle flame, shooting a silver dollar, shooting five corks from five bottles, shooting the ace of spades, and shooting a bullseye.

As you might have guessed, the Cowboys have a real penchant for Kansas history. They show it in the way they built their cowtown range. They also show it in a very special artifact they recently dedicated. It's a scaled down replica of the original flagpole that flew Old Glory over historic Fort Hayes on the Kansas frontier during the Indian Wars. Notable soldiers, including Custer, served at Fort Hayes when the Cheyenne and Arapahoe were holding sway. Before each match The Cowboys hoist a period-correct (ca. 1873) American Flag

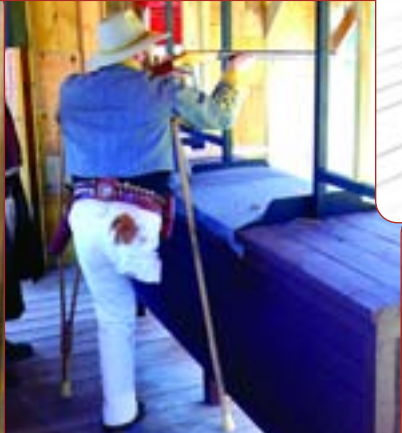
on the flagpole and recite The Pledge of Allegiance. It's a moving moment.

An active Club like the Cowboys couldn't be so successful without the help of its members *and* a group of very supportive sponsors ... like nearby Bass Pro Shops, Hodgdon Powder Company, and CZ Firearms. They also get great support of their annual shoot, The Prince of Pistolers Match (named after favorite son, Wild Bill) in May from local merchants like The Bullet Hole Gun Store and Show Me Shooters Gun Shop. It takes a keen combination of member and sponsor support to keep Clubs on top.

That's it for this month. Next month we're heading for the hills to meet with the fine folks in Wyoming who put on one of Cowboy Action Shooting™'s best-known Annual Matches "Hell On Wheels." See you then.

**Photos:**

Whooper Crane by Deadeye Al  
Action shots by Club members





# A LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT CONVENTION WITH A COWBOY THEME

By J.E.B. Stuart, SASS #5686

**New Zealand** - When the Carterton Lions Club decided to host the Convention, they asked me to be the Convention Chairman. I suggested they call the convention, "COWTOWN," as Carterton is a dairy-farming region. It was decided to hold all events in the Agriculture & Pastoral Society's Sports Stadium. The Local SASS club, "Tararua Rangers," were approached, and they agreed to build 10 1880's style buildings and screw them to the walls of the stadium to give the impression of being in an old 1880's town. They also built a 12m x 4m stage. The local art group was approached, and they painted a 12m x 3m painting of the local mountains to go up behind the stage.




The buildings were a Sheriff's Office with jail, a Blacksmith shop, Saddlers, Bank, Town Hall, General Store, Coach & Freight Dept., a Gunshop (with original rifle and pistols in the window), and a Saloon

with a "House of Joy" above it. Note the District Governor (a spinster Librarian) was Joy Tutty. The naming rights to the buildings were sold to local businesses. Other props

*(Continued on next page)*






SASS PRESENTS

## THE 2009 SHOW-ME SHOOTOUT

*The SASS Missouri State Championship*

Oct. 22-25, 2009

Ozark Shooters Complex, Branson, MO

- ← The \*120 shooters fee includes: Main Match Stages & Side Matches; Lunch for Three Days; Friday Night's Cowboy Social with Eli Barsi; & Saturday's Banquet at the Cobblestone Inn Conference Center. Reduced fees for young guns & buckaroos.
- ← Event Tickets Available for Non-Shooters & Conventioneers
- ← Side Matches along with Cowboy Trap and RO Courses on Thursday
- ← Five Stages on Friday & Saturday
- ← Team Event on Sunday
- ← Shooting Categories include: Duelist, Gunfighter, Frontier Cartridge, Frontier Cartridge Duelist, Frontiersman, Classic Cowboy, B Western, Elder Statesman, Grand Dame, Silver Senior, Senior, Senior Duelist, Forty-Niner, Wrangler, Cowboy, Young Gun, & Buckaroo.

**Contact Smokie or Connie at 417-759-9114**  
**or Visit Our Web Site At: [www.so-mo-rangers.com](http://www.so-mo-rangers.com)**

*SASS Sponsored • All SASS and SMR Rules Apply*



The Single Action Shooting Society  
CASS, Inc.  
&  
Gander Mtn.



Proudly Present

### Appalachian Showdown XVIII

### The West Virginia State Championship

September 25-27, 2009

Hosted by:  
The CASS membership & The CASS Territorial Rangers  
*ALL SASS rules apply - Must be a current SASS Member*

Official Entry Form (limited to the first 135 shooters / NO WAITING LIST)

ALIAS: \_\_\_\_\_ SASS # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Shooting category: \_\_\_\_\_

ALIAS: \_\_\_\_\_ SASS # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Shooting category: \_\_\_\_\_

*All SASS recognized shooting categories available*

Shooter fees include Friday side matches and Saturday Bar-B-Q! Purchase non-shooter Bar-B-Q's below.

Individual	CASS member	\$80.00	Non-member	\$100.00
Spouse/Significant other				\$ 60.00
Junior /Buckaroo, Indicate age				\$ 20.00

\*Juniors MUST be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian that is also a registered participant.

Saturday Evening Bar-B-Q, non-shooters: \$ 15.00/ea. X # \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL PAID: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I need/wish to shoot with: \_\_\_\_\_ First consideration is to families, and gun/cart sharing.

**\*\*Make checks payable to: CASS, Inc. \*\***  
**\*\*Mail checks to: Trixie Willis, ATTN: CASS Inc., Rt. 1, Box 120B, Burlington, WV 26710\*\***

For additional information contact:  
 Ralph Rickel, Jr. "Jackson", President, 540-678-0735, e-mail: [rickfam@verizon.net](mailto:rickfam@verizon.net)  
 Visit our website: [WWW.WVCASS.org](http://WWW.WVCASS.org)





(Continued from previous page) included a water trough (filled) a hitching rail, a coffin, and a mobile gallows. This was on the stage and quietly wheeled up behind speakers who talked too long.

On the opening night, Friday, the official party was brought into the hall and up to the stage in two old Landau carriages. One of the traditional ceremonies done on the opening night was the Flag Ceremony. To keep to the theme, girls from the Carterton Pony Club brought the flags up to the stake on their ponies. Unfortunately one pony was not too happy with the crowds and the music, so her owner brought her flags in without her horse. The other three horses were well behaved. We were not able to practice this part of the ceremony with the hall full of people.

Saturday the business session and voting events occurred. We made this more lively with the sudden appearances of a cowboy strolling across the front of the stage, and climbing the stairs to the 'House of Joy' with resulting 'squeaky bed' sounds. There was also a bank robbery with the usual gunfight. The Lions officials didn't know what was going to happen next while they were trying to run their meeting.

Saturday evening was the "Cattleman's Dine & Dance," and for the first time in NZ at a Lions Convention all 300 people who attended were dressed in 1880's style cloth-

ing to go with the Convention theme.

The Ladies in the House of Joy put on quite a show—even throwing a long john dressed cowboy down the stairs because he didn't have any money. Talk about a brave man! A local group, The Branding Irons, provided the music. Throughout the convention, the food was very good and plentiful (and at a very reasonable price).

Sunday morning began with a big breakfast and girls from the local dance studio performed the Can Can and other dances. They were much more attractive than the women at the House of Joy.

Finally, the stage and hall was rearranged so the Remembrance and Re-dedication service could be held. This was a very moving event and a wonderful finish to the weekend. The A&P Society were so impressed with the buildings they asked if they could be left up as they made the stadium look much brighter.

The Carterton Lions Club was very grateful for the work done by the Tararua Rangers who not only built the buildings and stage, but donated it all to the A&P Society. The stage is a portable modular design, which means any organization wanting a stage now will have one available.

For the Action Shooters this was one way of helping the community and repaying the Lions Club, who help with food during our annual matches. The event also promoted SASS and Cowboy Action Shooting™.

The Single Action Shooting Society and  
The North Alabama Regulators Present

**The 13th Annual  
AMBUSH  
AT  
CAVERN COVE**

The 2009 Alabama State Championships  
**October 2nd-4th**  
Located near Grant, AL.

**Five Gun Give Away!**  
We will be giving away, 2 Ruger Vaqueros, 2 Uberti Pistols and a Derringer

- Posse assignments will be made Sept 1st. Applications received after that will be assigned as available.
- Must Be a SASS Member to Shoot All SASS Rules Apply All SASS Categories Accepted.
- Side matches Friday, 6 main stages Saturday, 4 main stages Sunday.
- Saturday Night Banquet Included With Shooters Entry.
- Scoring by total time. This is a "lost brass" match.
- The "Secret Stage" will be here again.

**MATCH FEES:**  
First Entry: \$85.00  
Spouse: \$45.00  
Youth (16 & Under) SHOOT FREE  
Extra Adult Banquet Fee \$20.00

**APPLICATION:**  
Please go to our website: <http://northalabamaregulators.com>

**CONTACTS:**  
Vendors: Granna, [gfranks@nehp.net](mailto:gfranks@nehp.net), 256-728-2280  
Registration & General Questions: May Lillie, [rjburgess@bellsouth.net](mailto:rjburgess@bellsouth.net), 256-883-5554





# SHOOT TO SUPPORT THE TROOPS A STUNNING SUCCESS

*By Mescalero, SASS #12167, and Calgary Kate, SASS #33287*

Hats off to the generous and patriotic cowboys of the Pozo River Vigilance Committee in Santa Margarita, CA! They organized a shoot with all proceeds donated to support care packages for cowboys—and family members of cowboys—who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Three Fingered Dutchman, SASS #45779, and Dirty Sally, SASS #47110, worked tirelessly to promote the event, secure raffle prizes, sell tickets, and keep track of the million details an event of this type requires. The amazing guns donated by Filthy Lucre, SASS #55674, Tom Doodley Squat, SASS #5035, Madam No Shoots, and California Joe, SASS #49469, made some lucky cowboys very happy!

Many of the 67 cowboys who



attended traveled several hours or more to participate in a day that felt very much like a family reunion ... with guns. The relaxed atmosphere allowed everyone to enjoy some fun shooting, including a poker shoot, team match, and shotgun eliminator. The fun of shooting with friends, sharing a barbecue lunch, and lots of laughter was coupled with more serious moments as we remembered the reason we had gathered together.

Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance, and many others who sent support, an astonishing \$4,240 was raised for the cause. Given the tough economic times, this is an incredible statement of support for those in harm's way. *The cowboy way and patriotism is alive and well in Central California!*

**The Single Action Shooting Society & Cowboy Gunworks**  
Bring To

## HEAVY ROKUS

**SEPT. 18-20, 2009**

**SASS NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONSHIP COWBOY ACTION SHOOT**

Hosted by the Circle K Regulators, Kayaderosseras Fish and Game Club, 706 Geyser Road, Ballston Spa, NY.  
This is an NRA-sanctioned event. All SASS rules apply. You must be a SASS member to shoot.

<b>FRIDAY</b> 10 Side Events Blazing Saddles Feed	<b>SATURDAY</b> 6 Main Stages Cowboy BBQ	<b>SUNDAY</b> 4 Main Stages Top Gun Team Shootout Awards Ceremony
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**LIMITED TO FIRST 200 SHOOTERS**

**DOOR PRIZES / TROPHIES / COSUME CONTESTS / MEMORABILIA**

Sold Out

**ENTRY FORM - Please use one form per entrant!**  
Pre-registration by mail required. Must be received by **Aug. 22nd.**

<p>NAME _____ SASS # _____</p> <p>E-MAIL ADDRESS _____</p> <p>ALIAS _____ PHONE _____</p> <p>ADDRESS _____</p> <p>CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>Gender (Circle One): Male Female</p> <p>Class (Mark One):  <input type="checkbox"/> Young Gun (14-16)    <input type="checkbox"/> Classic Cowboy/Pr  <input type="checkbox"/> Cowboy/Pr (17+)    <input type="checkbox"/> B-Western  <input type="checkbox"/> Wrangler (26+)    <input type="checkbox"/> Forty-Niner (49+)  <input type="checkbox"/> Duellist    <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60+)  <input type="checkbox"/> Frontiersman    <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Senior (65+)  <input type="checkbox"/> Frontier Cartridge    <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Duellist  <input type="checkbox"/> FC Duellist    <input type="checkbox"/> Elder St/G Dame (70+)  <input type="checkbox"/> Gunfighter</p>	<p>For add'l info, call 518-274-8585, Or visit <a href="http://www.circlekregulators.com">www.circlekregulators.com</a>.</p> <p><b>COST:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Main Entry</td><td>\$100</td></tr> <tr><td>Spouse</td><td>\$65</td></tr> <tr><td>Young Gun</td><td>\$30</td></tr> <tr><td>Fr. Blazing Saddles Feed</td><td>@ \$5</td></tr> <tr><td>(not included with shooter entry)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Extra Sat. BBQ</td><td>@ \$15</td></tr> <tr><td>(1 BBQ included with shooter entry)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td><b>TOTAL enclosed</b></td><td>\$ _____</td></tr> </table> <p>Make checks payable to: Kayaderosseras Fish &amp; Game Club</p> <p>Mail to: Debbie Myers 8 Hidden Valley Lane Ballston Lake, NY 12019</p> <p>Shooter will receive confirmation via email or letter.</p>	Main Entry	\$100	Spouse	\$65	Young Gun	\$30	Fr. Blazing Saddles Feed	@ \$5	(not included with shooter entry)		Extra Sat. BBQ	@ \$15	(1 BBQ included with shooter entry)		<b>TOTAL enclosed</b>	\$ _____
Main Entry	\$100																
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Fr. Blazing Saddles Feed	@ \$5																
(not included with shooter entry)																	
Extra Sat. BBQ	@ \$15																
(1 BBQ included with shooter entry)																	
<b>TOTAL enclosed</b>	\$ _____																

We will try to accommodate shooters who wish to shoot together as much as possible. If possible, please use this.

**ELDORADO COWBOYS**  
PRESENTS THE TENTH ANNUAL  
**ELDORADO**  
S.A.S.S NEVADA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP  
OCTOBER 1 THROUGH 4, 2009  
BOULDER CITY, NEVADA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Main Stages: 6 Stages Friday, 6 Stages Saturday. Shooter Meeting 8:30 a.m. each day</li> <li>• Thursday: Side Matches 3 Stage Mini Match - \$18 Shotgun Challenge - \$18</li> <li>• Friday: Man on Man, Couples, and Team Events (Open to All Shooters) Approximately 1:30 pm after Main Match and lunch</li> <li>• Saturday: Banquet and Awards Presentation at Boulder Creek Golf Club (included in registration) Non shooter dinner cost \$30.00 per person.</li> <li>• Sunday: Top Gun Invitational Shoot Off (Open to the Top 20 Shooters Only) 9:00 a.m.</li> <li>• Dry Camping Available at Shoot Site - \$26 for entire shoot. Prior registration required. Space very limited so make your camping reservations early.</li> <li>• For more information contact - Nellie Blue 702-353-4812</li> <li>• Mail registration to: Eldorado Cowboys, P. O. Box 91582, Henderson, NV. 89009 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Eldoradocowboys@yahoo.com">Eldoradocowboys@yahoo.com</a></li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes Count on me to help with Side Matches on Thursday  <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Count on me for a Posse Leader</p>	<p>Complete shoot information on web page <a href="http://www.eldoradocowboys.com">www.eldoradocowboys.com</a> or <a href="http://www.nra-ncss.com">www.nra-ncss.com</a></p> <p><b>CATEGORIES</b> Category. Please select one.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cowboy  <input type="checkbox"/> Wrangler 36+  <input type="checkbox"/> B Western  <input type="checkbox"/> Classic Cowboy  <input type="checkbox"/> Duellist  <input type="checkbox"/> Duellist Senior 60+  <input type="checkbox"/> Gunfighter  <input type="checkbox"/> 49R  <input type="checkbox"/> Senior 60+  <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Senior 65+  <input type="checkbox"/> Elder Statesmen 70+  <input type="checkbox"/> Cattle Baron 75+  <input type="checkbox"/> Frontiersman  <input type="checkbox"/> Frontier Cartridge  <input type="checkbox"/> F. C. Duellist  <input type="checkbox"/> Young Guns (14-16)</p> <p><b>WOMEN CATEGORIES</b> Category. Please select one.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cowgirl  <input type="checkbox"/> Lady Wrangler 36+  <input type="checkbox"/> Lady B Western  <input type="checkbox"/> Classic Cowgirl  <input type="checkbox"/> Lady Duellist  <input type="checkbox"/> Lady Gunfighter  <input type="checkbox"/> Lady 49R  <input type="checkbox"/> Lady Senior 60+  <input type="checkbox"/> Lady Silver Senior 65+  <input type="checkbox"/> Grande Dame 70+  <input type="checkbox"/> Lady Frontier Cartridge  <input type="checkbox"/> Young Guns (14 - 16)  <input type="checkbox"/> Buckaroos (Under 13)</p>
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<p>First Shooter Alias _____ SASS # _____ \$125.00*</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Spouse S/O Alias _____ SASS # _____ \$ 95.00*</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Young Gun (14-16) Alias _____ SASS # _____ \$ 30.00*</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Buckaroos (13 and Under) Alias _____ SASS # _____ Free</p> <p>Name _____</p>	<p>Dry Camping \$ 20.00</p> <p>Shotgun Challenge \$ 10.00</p> <p>3 Stage Mini Match - 10:00 am 12:30 pm (Please Circle a Time) \$ 10.00</p> <p>Lunch - Non Shooter Fri. \$ 7.00 x _____ \$ _____</p> <p>Lunch - Non Shooter Sat. \$ 7.00 x _____ \$ _____</p> <p>Saturday Night Event - Non Shooter \$30.00 x _____ \$ _____</p> <p>Please circle amounts included in TOTAL \$ _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ St _____ Zip _____ Phone # _____</p> <p>E-Mail _____</p> <p>*Includes all four days, side matches, lunch Fri and Sat and Saturday Evening Banquet and Awards (Make checks payable to: Eldorado Cowboys)</p>
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This shoot is a 1-100 member to 1000. SASS Rules Apply. Fire and/or Poison Required. We reserve the right to refuse entry to any applicant. SEE WEBSITE FOR LIST OF BY STATES AND STATES.

Shooter # \_\_\_\_\_ Box # \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ NEVADACAS



SASS® Presents the  
**OREGON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
&  
**20<sup>th</sup> Annual Shootout at Saddle Butte**  
Albany, Oregon  
August 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009



Hosted by the Oregon Old West Shooting Society

Theme  
**"Killing Buck Castillo"**  
Based on Flint McCloud's book

Friday: Side Matches (FREE)  
12 Main Match Stages (6 on Saturday, 6 on Sunday)  
SASS Rules Apply  
Current SASS Membership Required

FREE Camping  
FREE Vending  
FREE Side Matches  
FREE Long Range  
Cowboy Trap  
Costume Events

Lunches and Dinner included with entry  
All SASS categories accepted (no minimum)  
including Black Powder Gunfighter

Guaranteed Fun for all ages

Register Online at  
[www.oowss.com](http://www.oowss.com)  
541-409-5047





**RUGER ROUNDUP**  
&  
**2009 SASS ARIZONA STATE MOUNTED CHAMPIONSHIPS**

At the Prescott Rodeo Fairgrounds, Prescott, AZ

August 7-9, 2009

Entry forms available on our website at  
[WWW.PRESCOTTRANCHRANGERS.COM](http://WWW.PRESCOTTRANCHRANGERS.COM)  
Email: [prescottranchrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:prescottranchrangers@yahoo.com)

- ♦ 6 Stage SASS Main Match Aug. 7-8
- ♦ Buckles for winners of all classes
- ♦ MSA Shoot August 9
- ♦ RV and Dry camping available
- ♦ Portable pens ok
- ♦ Saturday evening dinner included with paid entry




\*Ride • Shoot • Win!

**THE SASS MAINE STATE SINGLE ACTION CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**SEPTEMBER 11, 12 & 13**  
**"THUNDER OVER BEAVER CREEK"**

**HOSTED BY THE BEAVER CREEK DESPERADOES**

COST: Single \$50.00  
Couples \$90.00  
Juniors: Free with a paid Adult



Three Days of Cowboy Action fun  
Main matches 10 Stages Sept 12 & 13  
Side matches Sept 11  
Dry Camping  
Saturday Night Cook-out and Camp Fire

Visit <http://www.freewebs.com/beavercreekdesperadoes/> for more info  
or call Rhino Jacks (Ron Garland) @ 207-324-3117

Direction to Beaver Creek  
Take exit 19 (Wells) off Maine turnpike, turn right onto RT 109, turn left onto RT 9 to North Berwick, go to end, turn left, go to next light, turn right still on RT 9. Look for the Beaver Dam Campgrounds, Take next left onto Westworth Rd.  
**LOOK FOR SIGNS**







**Sweetwater Jack, SASS  
Life/Regulator #28885**

# LADIES DAY IS NOT LIMITED TO THE BALLPARK!!!

*By Sweetwater Jack, SASS Life/Regulator #28885*

there are no better qualified instructors than ourselves. Let me tell you right here and now, cowboys ... "we" are W.R.O.N.G. !!

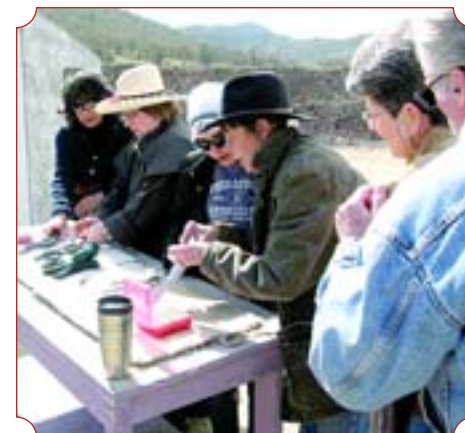
Living in the "Suthryn Orygun" area we are blessed with a total of SIX SASS-affiliated Cowboy Action Shooting™ clubs within decent driving distance, and all of the clubs enjoy a friendly spirit of cooperation with one another. Not surprising, as many, if not most of these SASS folks belong to several of these clubs in addition to their "home" club.

Returning to the "problem" stated above, the Merlin Marauders, Jefferson State Regulators, and Table Rock Rangers have begun a program of conducting a joint "Ladies' Day" Shooting Clinic and Practice Match, conducted for both brand-new and experienced lady Action Shooters, with no men allowed! Molly b'Dam, SASS #7861, Derringer Donna, SASS #64692, Harley Davidson, SASS #47309, Shootin' Silver Star, SASS #26379, Fairweather Kate, SASS #68305, and Gaye Abandon, SASS #44556, welcomed the ladies to this year's joint venture at the Table Rock Rangers' Range in White City, Oregon.

Sunday, March 29th, dawned cold and windy, but 15 ladies turned out for the event. When I say cold and windy I mean there were ice pellets mixed in with the sparse flakes of snow that were being wind-



*Molly with new shooter ...*



*Molly B'Dam (in straw hat) and Shootin' Silver Star (in dark hat) showing brand-new shooters how to load and safely check their revolvers.*

Most of us older males are aware of the less brilliant ideas that have ever popped into our heads is that of teaching members of the gentler sex, be she wife, girlfriend, or passing acquaintance, to drive a car. We pretty much know how that is going to work out, and have (usually) made the wise decision to spring for a professional driving instructor to impart that knowledge, allowing us to continue our lives relatively unscathed. For those of you younger gentlemen who have NOT learned this lesson, let me tell you when, in pure frustration, the lovely lady turns to you and in her sweetest voice says, "If you yell at me ONE MORE TIME, I'M GOING TO ... (insert your own threat here, as there are just too many to list in a short article) ... she MEANS IT!!!, and you'd better go find the old sleeping bag and a soft corner of the doghouse, 'cause the bedroom door is a'gonna' be locked from the INSIDE and for a loooooong time!

However, we seem to believe when it comes to teaching these same ladies the "Art of the Firearm,"

driven across the range. Fortified with hot coffee and cookies under the cover of the Table Rock Rangers' range house roof, the ladies listened and watched attentively to the safety and indoctrination lecture conducted by Molly, Harley, and Shootin' Silver Star. The few men who were at the range (only to set up the steel, thanks, and provide emergency firearm maintenance, if required), Treacherous Jack and Runnin' Wild, were shooed away from the lecture area, the firing line, and the coffee and cookies ... ( Rats! I LOVE chocolate chip cookies!)

Under the tutelage of the ladies named above, the newcomers were soon aware of the Rules, Regu-

lations, and General Good Practices of Cowboy Action Shooting™, and the SASS "way." After the safety and general instruction briefings were completed and everyone began to thaw out a bit (the weather began to cooperate just a teensy little bit—I know it was getting warmer ... the icicles on the range house porch began to melt and drip down the back of my neck), Chief Instructor Molly b'Dam led the way to the firing line by way of the Loading Table. As a male, semi-participant (As in "Yeah, SWJ, you and yer brothers, Treacherous Jack, Runnin' Wild, and CHP Shot ... move those targets three feet to the right ... no, they looked better where they were ... no, on second thought move them back to the right again ...) I heard things from the loading table like "on these Colts, load one, skip one, and load four ..." so, I knew all was well ...

Molly, Donna, Star, and Harley coached the ladies through a complete stage, and "individual attention" was the theme for the day. As the day warmed and brightened, the sounds of gunfire and laughter increased as the newest "Shootin' Cowgirls" of Southern Oregon and Northern California (locally referred to as "The State of Jefferson") began to feel right at "home on the range."

Comments were positive, and it looks like the "Ladies Day" Clinic is going to be an Annual Event! 🤠







# A VERY SPECIAL FLAG

By Corcoran Kid, SASS # 77635

On May 9, 2009 the Granite City Gunslingers conducted its inaugural opening ceremony and pledge in a historic fashion befitting the essence of what Cowboy Action Shooting™ and the Single Action Shooting Society represents.

A brief history aids in understanding the significance. The Granite City Gunslingers are a brand new club in St. Cloud, MN. Over the last several months there has been a flurry of activity simply to get this new venue going. As any shooter can appreciate, and any board members at the local, Regional, and national level understand, it takes a tremendous effort on the part of so many dedicated volunteers to get things rolling. Without the aid, assistance, advice, and council of other local clubs and Territorial Governors, it would be a nearly impossible task. Even more important has been the overwhelming support and encouragement of the ownership and management of the Del-Tone/Luth Gun Club. Randy Luth, range owner and President of DPMS manufacturing and Panther Arms, has been an invaluable key to getting this club started. Jon Olson, range manager,

has been tireless in his efforts and assistance in making sure we make this venture a success.

So, in the nearly hysterical flurry of worrying about targets, stages, scoring software, award certificates, and a hundred other things, we realized at the last moment prior to the opening ceremony we had no flag for the Pledge of Allegiance. Jon Olson came to the rescue with something very special.

Jon emerged from the back room of the clubhouse carefully holding what appeared to be a soiled and quite tattered American Flag. He explained this flag had flown over an American outpost in Bagdad, Iraq. In a recent ceremony this flag was flown into the Del-Tone/Luth Panther Arms facility by a Blackhawk Helicopter. Upon landing, a full complement of combat troops dispersed into a security perimeter. Then, the flag was presented to a contingent of veterans in honor of their service to this country. This presentation was particularly poignant to Jon, whose own son had served in Iraq.

As Jon handed us this flag to use and told the story with a tear in his eye, he said it would be appropriate for us to use it at our inaugural ceremony. Prior to the pledge, the story was retold to the shooters. As hats were removed and hands



*Pictured Left to Right - Timberjack Thompson, Territorial Governor; Corcoran Kid, Club Director; Lawless Guy Thompson, Board Member; Reverend Cepheus, Match Director; Amen Straight, Board Member; and Lady Cassie, Treasurer.*

placed over hearts, one could see the cowboys and cowgirls standing a little taller. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited with a renewed understanding of its meaning. And yes, there were tears of pride and joy.

At its core, Cowboy Action Shooting™ and the Single Action Shooting Society represent what America is really all about—the spirit of the soul and the belief and understanding that freedom paves the way for all mankind to grow and prosper. It is the understanding the hard fought battles to preserve freedom continue, and we must honor those who fight for all of us. They deserve our respect and gratitude.

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# SHARING THE RANGE WITH OTHER CLUBS

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life / Regulator #4375

One of the advantages of sharing a range with other shooting clubs is the opportunity to shoot together and enjoy each other's company. Essentially having more than one club on the range presents an opportunity to experience another shooter's pleasure. Such is the approach used by the newly formed Pine Mountain Posse, located in Central Oregon just a tad east of Bend. The Posse (for short) will soon join SASS as an affiliated club as soon as range and SASS insurance requirements are worked out. Currently the Posse is one of several different shooting clubs operating under the auspices of COSSA, the Central Oregon Shooting Sports Association. COSSA operates the range on BLM land, and currently manages the range for several different shooting clubs. These clubs cover the gamut of shooting venues, ranging from blackpowder cartridge rifle, IPSC, self defense shooting, to a group of ladies known as "The Lady Hawks." The Posse has committed to establishing a strong relationship with these other clubs not only for the fun of it, but also to build a soli-



*The Lady Hawks posing with their borrowed western firearms.*

arity amongst shooters that can go far beyond the confines of any range.

As part of this pro-active approach to friendly shooting relationships, several members of the

Posse introduced the Lady Hawks to Cowboy Action Shooting™. The Ladies were most impressed and enjoyed shooting a cowboy stage or two. New to the newly christened

get my drift), and found they could be happier with the rifles and revolvers. I'm only kidding—these gals are tough or else they wouldn't be out at the range with the temperature in the low 20's! They mastered the shotgun just as they mastered the other two main match guns. Hopefully, when it warms up a bit, the Posse and the Lady Hawks will combine forces again and do away with the "bad guys." Remember, ladies, hammer down on an empty chamber.

To spice the shooting up a bit, the Posse plans a varied menu of scenarios by integrating the venues of other disciplines and by inviting those disciplines to design their own particular kind of stage. The requirement will, of course, be that Cowboy Action Shooting™ main stage firearms must be included within the scenario. Likewise, perhaps the Posse can join other disciplines on their shooting days in order to "mix it up," so to speak. Additionally, within the world of western shooting, other disciplines, such as Cowboy Fast Draw and Western 3 Gun, will help provide the variety the Posse seeks.

There you have it in a nutshell.



*The Lady Hawks and members of the Pine Mountain Posse pose before shooting another stage.*



*The Stonewood Kid, SASS #62875, helps one of the Lady Hawks get the bad guys with a Yellowboy '66.*

cowgirls was the use of revolvers and lever action rifles. However, they mastered these firearms in no time at all, and before you could bat an eye, they hungered for more ... more that is until the 12 gauge shotgun came into play! The ladies recoiled a bit from the 12 gauge shotguns (if you

The Posse was formed to add a new dimension to western shooting. That dimension being good clean, safe, "fun shooting." We are all shooters at heart, and it's about time we start getting together and enjoying our mutual love of the sport. Thanks for hearing me out, Pards! 🤠

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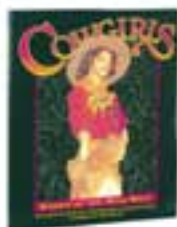
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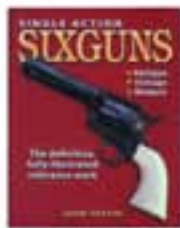
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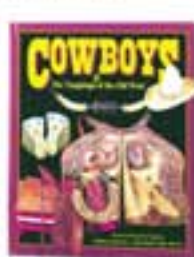
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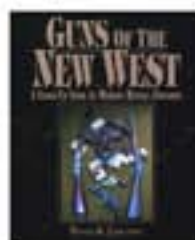
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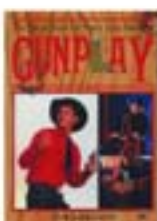
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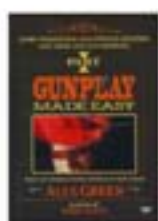
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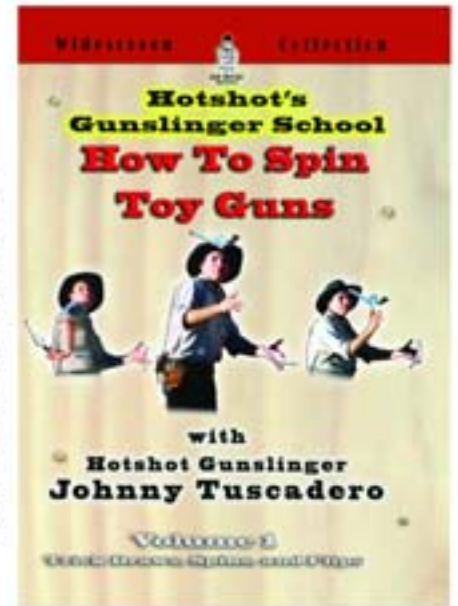
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Double Barrel Gang	MI	Slippery Pete	269-838-6944	Silver City Shooters Society	NV	Otto N. Sure	702-614-9205	Bounty Hunters	TX	Texas Dude	806-299-1313	<b>Australia</b>			
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Huron River Raiders	MI	Baja Kid	734-261-9786	Bar-20, Inc.	NY	Buckskin Bruce	607-674-5702	Butterfield Trail Regulators	TX	Texas Slim	325-668-4884	Gold Coast Gamblers	QLD	Virgil Earp	+61 7 4695 2050
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Cross Creek Cowboys	NC	Carolina Jack	910-864-9875	Dry Gulch Desperados	OR	Ron Amuck	509-525-2984	Dixie Desperados	UT	Alaska Bill Hillis	435-673-7111	Fratelli Della Costa Onlus	IT	Johndog	+35 338303118
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