

November / 2015

TALL

# Cowboy

## CHRONICLE

*Dedicated to the Sport of  
Cowboy Action Shooting™*

*Inside...*

**U.S. OPEN 2015**  
— THE SASS® CENTRAL  
DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP  
By Tennessee Tall

**COSTUMING CORNER**  
— MEMORIES OF PAST CONVENTIONS  
By Texas Flower

**FAMOUS PEOPLE WAY OUT WEST**  
— WILLIAM BECKNELL, FATHER  
OF THE SANTA FE TRAIL  
By Joe Fasthorse Harrill



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**T**his vintage Annie Oakley cowgirl costume is one of the many Western-themed displays at Geppi's Entertainment Museum, located next to Camden Yards in Baltimore, Maryland.

It was manufactured circa 1950 by Herman Iskin & Co. A similar outfit in "minty" condition and in the original box sold on eBay for \$76.57 in 2013.



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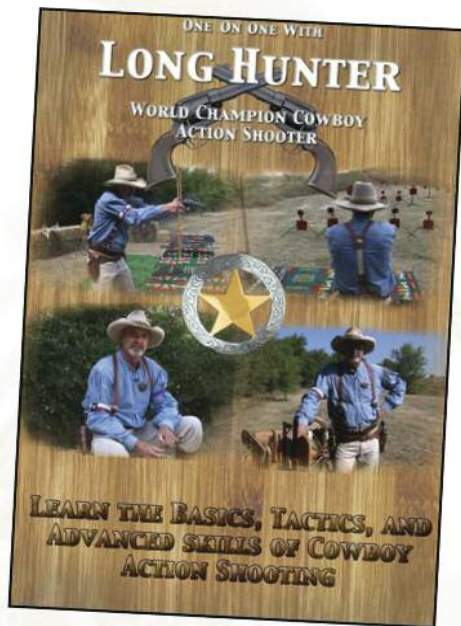
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# SAVE THE DATE

## December: 2-6, 2015

### 13th SASS Convention in Las Vegas



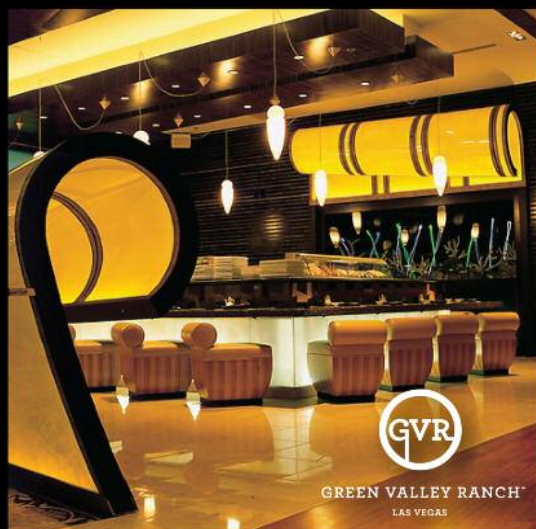
# 13th SASS CONVENTION & WILD WEST CHRISTMAS



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# From The Editor

# SKINNY'S SOAPBOX

## The Cowboy Chronicle "Dress Code"

A growing concern I have is the submission of photos of Cowboy Action Shooting™ participants—particularly award recipients—not dressed correctly for our sport. I'm not talking about those wearing jeans, or straw hats, or even "relaxed" footwear due to a medical condition. Those are all perfectly acceptable. I'm talking about ball caps, T-shirts, shorts, and the like.

Current SASS® guidelines, per the April 2015 edition of the *SASS Shooters Handbook* (page 3) state, "All shooters must be in costume, and we encourage invited guests and family also to be costumed. Shooters must remain in costume at all match events: dinners, award ceremonies, dances, etcetera." Now, many annual matches obviously choose to relax that rule and allow casual dress at

their awards ceremony and even at certain other match events, and I'm not going to get into the rights or wrongs of that decision here.

However, if anyone appears out of costume at an awards ceremony or other match event, they should not look for their picture in *The Cowboy Chronicle*, as there is a 99 percent probability I will not publish it. (The exception is for informational events that are put on by clubs to introduce the public to Cowboy Action Shooting™. Images of non-SASS attendees *will* be considered for publication.) Remember, this periodical is dedicated to Cowboy Action Shooting™ 100 percent, and a large part of our discipline is "dressing up." That aspect is what appeals to many of us—easily as much as shooting—and is what draws many into trying our game. It's a disservice to CAS™ and to SASS—and I believe it would be a turn off to any interested non-SASS members who see our publication—to present images of incorrectly attired match participants in *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

## The SASS Convention

And speaking of costuming, the Thirteenth Annual SASS Convention will be right around the corner by the time you read these words. Of course, a major appeal of the Convention is costuming and attendees' opportunity to wear their very finest without fear of getting dusty, dirty, muddy, or greasy.

If you've never attended, you really should make the time. This year, the Convention is returning to its "roots" in Las Vegas and it promises to be a lollapalooza.

I plan to be there and will be happy to chat with anyone who wishes to discuss anything "Cowboy." You can even beat me up for the above (or any other) opinions, if you wish.


## How I got MY Alias

Early polling indicates our new feature, "How I Got My Alias," appears to be popular with our readers. Several folks have sent in their stories so far

*(Continued on next page)*

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**Skinny's Soapbox . . .***(Continued from previous page)*

and I'd encourage any and all to join in. Several correspondents have suggested to me that I share the story behind my alias, and even though it has appeared in these pages in the past and is not (in my opinion) particularly interesting, I will do so now.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ was relatively new back in 1993 when I first heard of it. It sounded like a blast so I gathered up and/or borrowed the firearms I needed, put on jeans, a B-Western-type shirt, my old boots and my old cowboy hat, and went to my first local match.

When I arrived, the lady doing registration took my money and said, "What's your alias?" I said I didn't have one. She said everyone had to have an

alias to shoot and I'd have to come up with one. Since I'm 5'11" and weighed 130 pounds at the time, I said, "Er... Skinny." And the name has stuck with me ever since. You really have to be careful what you say! (I have gained weight over the years, by the way—I'm now up to 145.)

Years later, I picked up a copy of the *Encyclopedia of Western Lawmen & Outlaws* by Jay Robert Nash (recommended) and found the following entry on page 328:

**Brown, Neal (AKA: Skinny),** a lawman in Dodge City, Kan., in the late 1870s, was a deputy under Bill Tilghman in Oklahoma. Brown was with Tilghman when he chased the Doolin gang.

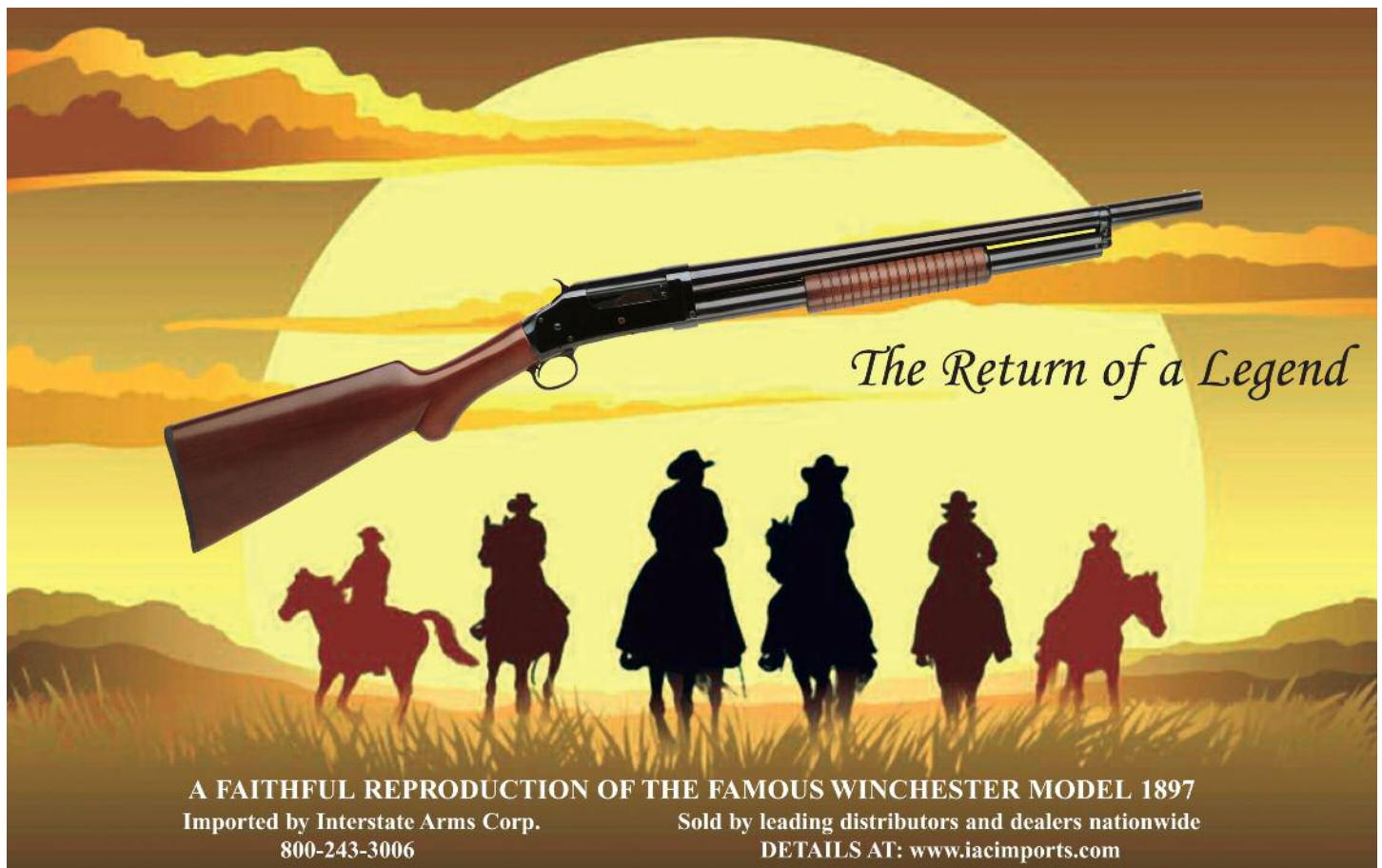
Certainly an interesting addendum to my alias.

**Comic Book Corner**

Finally, this issue I thought we'd take a step back and present another story of The Black Diamond, that Lone Ranger wannabe, from issue number 44 of his magazine, April 1953. The story and art are by Dick Rockwell. Look for another adventure of The Black Diamond next time around.

—Skinny 🐾

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# BILLY THE KID'S BREAKOUT 2015

By Singin' Sue, SASS Regulator #71615



**Old Lincoln, New Mexico.** They did it again! The Lincoln County Regulators put on yet another great, challenging match. Billy The Kid Breakout was a huge success, for the third year running. Participation has grown each year, and this time ranged all the way to Kentucky. The weather was great, albeit warm for this time of year.

Gunsmoke Cowboy (SASS #84261), Dirty Earl (SASS #94084), Dixie Wrangler (SASS #97036) and "Still Looking" (as I call her) aka Lisa Daniel are the heart and the meat of this match... and what a fine job they did. As the food vendor backed out shortly before the match, Miss Lisa stepped in. There were sausage and cheese biscuits and homemade cinnamon rolls at breakfast, and pulled pork sandwiches with choice of slaw or macaroni salad for lunch. If ya walked away



**Top overall man and lady, Boggus Deal (SASS #64218) and Texas Tiger (SASS #75829).**

hungry it was your own doing.

The stages were toned down just a bit, but they were fun, unique, and a little challenging—still some surprises, but not over the top. They definitely were stages that took some thought, but not so much that they couldn't be shot well! Side matches were fun and well done. The team shoot, Shoot Earl's Balls seemed to be the favorite to watch. One team member shot a .22 caliber rifle through a curved pipe, sending a golf ball into the air (if your shot was true)... and if the ball caught air, the other team member shot that airborne ball with a shotgun... sending it to the back berm! What a hoot!

We had several Buckaroos and Buckarettes, and a Young Gun, all the way to some Cattle Barons and Baronesses. Several shooters enjoyed staying in their category, as all categories were allowed and placed, even if you were the lone shooter.

The Friday night festivities this year were at the range. There was a "carnival" set up for social time and games after supper, which was supplied by LCR. We had fun playing Beanbag Toss, a Ping Pong Toss, Shooting Tin Cans off a table with Nerf Guns, and a Ring Toss over soda bottles (which is harder than it sounds). Lil Fast Hammer (SASS #74620) was kind enough to snag me a liter of grape soda! Thanks buddy!

The banquet for Saturday was held at the nearby Country Club—  
*(Continued on next page)*



*Shooting around a moving obstacle was one of the many hazards to overcome at BTKB 2015.*



*Shooting Earl's Balls.*





*Opening ceremonies at Billy the Kid's Breakout 2015.*

## **Billy the Kid's Breakout 2015 . . .**

*(Continued from previous page)*

easy to get to, and a very nice place.

There were prizes galore to put your stretch raffle tickets toward, and side match awards were given throughout the drawing for the prizes, which flowed nicely. The meal was wonderful, plentiful... and many went back for seconds!

After Sunday's final stages, there was a very short pause while the last scores were calculated and awards were presented in a timely fashion. All in all, this proved again to be a match to put on your calendar. It is not your average match—you do have to give some



*As always, good-looking ladies were not scarce at the banquet.*



thought and you do have to aim—but it is a match you will enjoy! Just ask those from Texas who return every year! So keep the second weekend of August open, and we hope to see you there. Please visit our website <http://www.lincolncountyregulators.org/> for a complete list of match results.

*(Continued on page 10)*

# Billy the Kid's Breakout 2015 . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*



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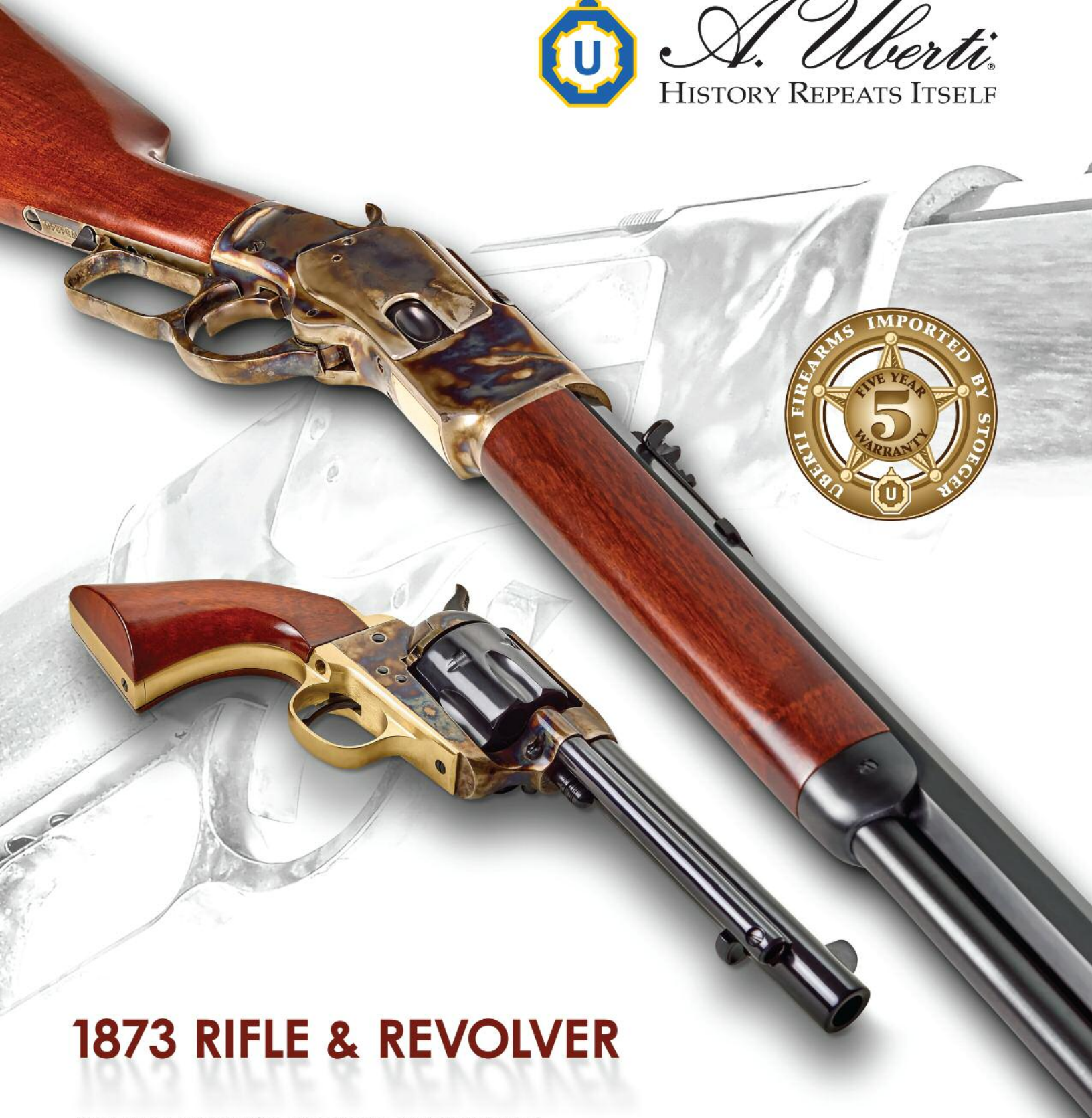
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# Costuming Corner

## THE SASS CONVENTION

### A Costume Extravaganza And Lots of Memories

By Texas Flower, SASS Life/Regulator #43753

Photos by Texas Flower

**O**MG...The Thirteenth SASS Convention and Wild West Christmas is only a month away! I am ready to go but I've got to get packing (costumes... not guns). The conventions have always been

one of MY favorite SASS® events! I can wear some of my favorite gowns, stay warm or cool, and clean and dry! This is a time when I can visit with many "old" friends and make new ones from all over the world. I enjoy attending all the con-



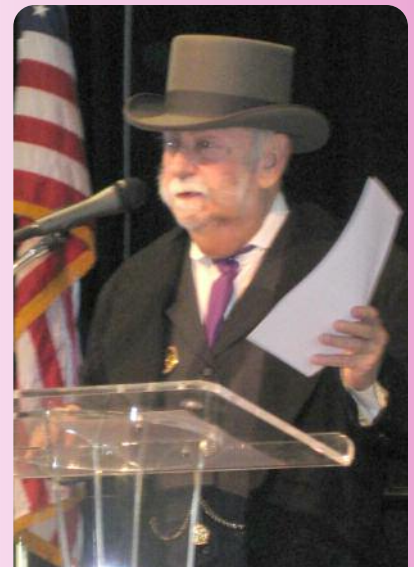
Texas Flower,  
SASS #43753



2006—Our **FIRST** Convention



2007—Texas Mac shooting  
at the Indoor Championship.



2009—The Judge  
at Opening Ceremonies.

vention events, especially the Victorian Tea, the fashion shows, the seminars, shopping with the vendors, the costume contests, and... the BALLS with Victorian dancing!

Let me tell you, it was a real challenge to get my husband, Texas Mac, SASS Life/Regulator #43494, to go with me to our first convention. I had wanted to go for a couple of years, but he was not interested in conventions,

*(Continued on next page)*



2008—The Promenade at the Costume Ball.

## The SASS Convention • A Costume Extravaganza And Lots of Memories

*(Continued from previous page)*



2009—Attendees at the Saloon Night Party.



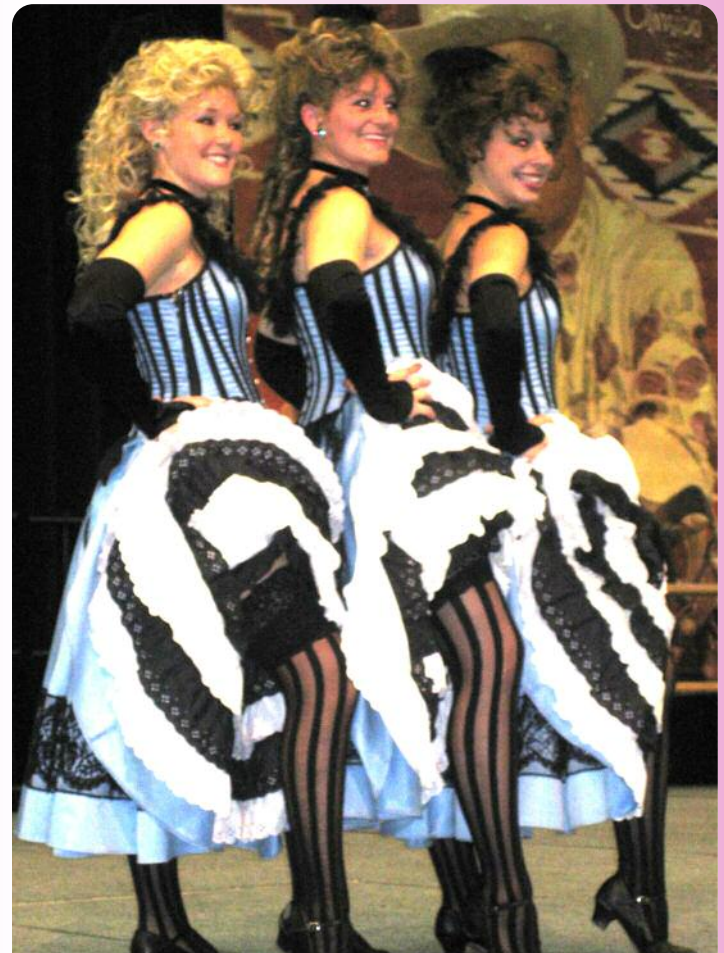
2009—  
Lady LaSalle conducts a seminar on underpinnings, while Greeneyed Gypsy looks on.

balls, or flying to Las Vegas. After some begging, he finally consented to tag along to please me. So... off we went to the 2006 Fifth SASS Convention and Wild West Christmas in Las Vegas, Nevada. That first year, he attended many seminars and learned a lot about how to shoot better and how to work on different cowboy guns. He also enjoyed visiting and talking to cowboys and vendors about guns and shooting! At the ball, we both learned some Victorian dances. I was quite surprised how much we BOTH enjoyed the dancing. By the time the convention was over, we were hooked!

The next year, going to the 2007 Sixth SASS Convention and Wild West Christmas was a piece of cake! I did not have to convince Texas Mac to go

along with me. He was ready to go again. The Indoor Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™ (wax bullet) match was started at this convention and right at the front of the line was Texas Mac. Now he could

*(Continued on page 14)*



2011—Saloon Night Dancers.



2011—Peaches O'Day, Tex, and Cat Ballou at Victorian Tea.

## The SASS Convention • A Costume Extravaganza And Lots of Memories

*(Continued from page 13)*



2011—Texas Mac and I entered the Fashion Show.

attend the convention *and* shoot! He shot the Indoor Championships every year thereafter. Of course, as a Territorial Governor, he had to make time to attend the TG meetings.

As for me, I always had a GREAT time every year, dressing up and attending the seminars and the fashion shows. At my first convention, I was a “newbie” to Victorian dressing; I needed a lot of education. In the seminars, I learned the “dos and don’ts” of Victorian dressing and all about the underpinnings! The fashion shows were fabulous. The ladies wore gorgeous gowns and the gentlemen looked so dashing!

At the 2011 Tenth SASS Convention and Wild West Christmas, I attended my first Victorian Tea. From this convention forward, I never missed the Victorian Tea. The programs have always been interesting and the tea and crumpets so delightful! In the beginning, there were only a few gentlemen at-

tendees, but in recent years, there have been many gentlemen attending. In Victorian times, a tea party was a great place to be introduced to an “available” gentleman!

And the parties... there have been saloon night parties, swim parties, and pajama parties in the past years. The pajama party was a favorite of many attendees. It was a good time and place to be casual and comfortable and dance the night away! The “gentlemen” in their PJ attire were a “hoot.”

The balls have had many different themes. But no matter what the theme, everyone always looks so elegant in whatever they choose to wear.

There is a best-dressed costume contest before the banquet and ball. Awards are given during the ball.

The costumes are fabulous! Of course, what is a

*(Continued on next page)*



2011—  
Woolly Award recipients Mad Mountain Mike  
and Miss Tabitha.

# The SASS Convention • A Costume Extravaganza

*(Continued from previous page)*



**2013—Military Costume Winners.**

ball without dancing? The Victorian dances are taught by Miss Tabitha (SASS Life/Regulator #26972) and Mad Mountain Mike (SASS Life/Regulator #4385). No matter what your level of dance *(Continued on page 16)*



**2013—  
Inductees into the Hall of Fame**

*Top:  
Mist Chance, T.A. Chance,  
Lead Dispencer, Lassiter.*

*Bottom:  
Justice Lily Kate,  
General U.S. Grant for EMF Company.*

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## The SASS Convention • A Costume Extravaganza

*(Continued from page 15)*



2013—*The Swim Party.*

talent might be, everyone is successful and has a good time!

The convention is a Costume Extravaganza enjoyed by all, but other important business and events are also conducted. Meetings are held for all the governing bodies of SASS, the Woolly Awards are given for best annual match, the best merchant, the best affiliated club, the best product, and the best territorial governor. One special event held at the convention is the SASS Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Reception. The cowboys and cowgirls who have been selected are inducted during the ceremony. This award honors those who have gone above and beyond with their hard work, dedication, and commitment to SASS.

*(Continued on next page)*



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## The SASS Convention • A Costume Extravaganza And Lots of Memories

*(Continued from previous page)*



2015—Victorian Tea.



2015—Ready to go to the PJ Party.

Many attend the ceremony to honor the inductees.

After the convention is over, we are safely back home, and the costumes are put away, and I have many memories in the pictures I took to add to my scrapbook. Looking back through them, I wanted to share some memories of past con-

ventions. Hope you enjoy the pictures, and I hope to share memories with you at this year's 2015 Thirteenth SASS Convention and Wild West Christmas!

#gottogopack 🐎

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# Costuming Corner

## The Best Dressed Costume Contest

### At The 13th SASS Convention

By Cat Ballou, SASS #55



Cat Ballou,  
SASS #55

Welcome back to our original “stomping grounds,” Las Vegas, Nevada and the beautiful Green Valley Resort and Spa. It’s now time to don your best “threads” and sign up for the Best Dressed

Costume Contest at the 13<sup>th</sup> SASS® Convention.

The Best Dressed Costume Contest is open to all registered Conventioneers and judging will occur Saturday, December 5 at 5:00 p.m. in the El Viento Promenade. No pre-registration is required. Just show up dressed in your finest and sign in.

Awards will be given from first to third place in the following categories: Ladies, Men, Couples, Military, and a special themed category honoring the Silver State, Nevada—Silver State Cowboy and Silver State Cowgirl. Our great judges will be faced with the difficult task of determining the winners from all your fantastic costumes.

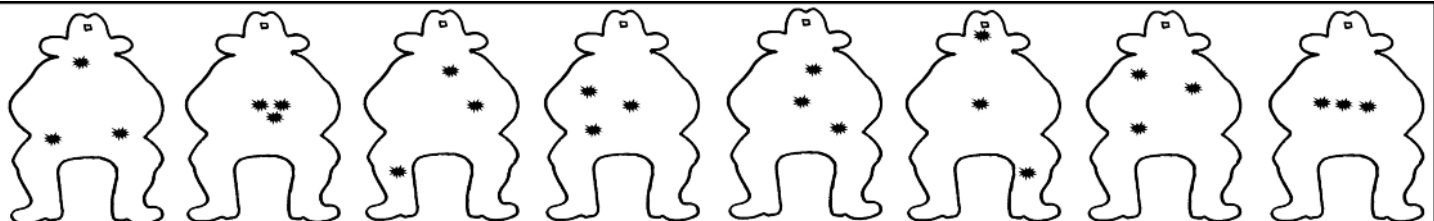
At 8:00 p.m., during the Silver Ball, there will be a promenade of all the contestants around the dance floor, either solo or in tandem with their lady/gentleman (Couples Division). An awards ceremony will be held immediately after the promenade.

Thanks again to our long time sponsor, Wild West Mercantile of Mesa, Arizona for their many years of supporting costume contests throughout SASS.

Hope to see you all in December in Las Vegas! 🐾



2009 Hall of Fame Inductee, Grey Fox, SASS Life #223 and Miss Mary Spencer, SASS Life #55147 at the 12th SASS Convention in San Antonio.



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Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

# On The Range U.S. Open 2015

## The SASS® Central Divisional Championship

By Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

Photos by Daisy Dee (SASS #94034),

Fannie Kicker (SASS #71706), and Titus A. Gnatsass (SASS #71705)



Miss Weev as Mrs. Claus.

**Sparta, Illinois.** Tom Payne provided the opening for 2015's SASS U.S. Open Central Divisional Championship by playing the Star Spangled Banner on his harmonica. At the World Shooting and Recreational Complex August 27-29 in Sparta, one hundred and twenty-four Cowboys gathered for a Celebration of America Cowboy Holiday Match.

World Champions, Regional, and State Champions were knee deep. Iron Maiden (SASS #67188), Assistant Match Director, created decorations for stages celebrating Christmas, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Veteran's Day, Fourth of July, Halloween, Flag Day, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Eve.

Mose and Bella Spencer, of Outlaw Entertainment, were Match Directors. Match sponsors were Taylor & Co. Inc.; Ruger; World Shooting & Recreational Complex; and Ringer's Bullets. Our thanks to vendors who supported the event by donating door prizes and sponsoring stages: Klassic Laser Works, F & D Gunsmithing, The Butcher Block, The Ear Emporium, Clark's Custom



Overall Champions  
Lead Ringer and Shamrock Sadie.



Ginger Rail and  
Cash Profit (SASS #95351).

Bullets & Ear Plugs, Bullet Splat Jewelry, Gunpowder Creek Trading Post, Sunrise Custom Leatherworks, Hastings, Gold Rush  
*(Continued on next page)*

# U.S. Open • The SASS® Central Divisional Championship...

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Mose and Bella*



*Fanny Kicker and Titus A. Gnatsass.*



*Digger John with wife Susan.*



The St. Louis Post had a reporter on site interviewing Cowboys and writing an article for the Post covering the 2015 U.S. Open.

We are always grateful for positive news coverage of Cowboy Action Shooting™. The economic impact information Mose and Bella gathered is something we might all consider doing for our own clubs.

States represented at the match were Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Florida, Missouri, Kansas, Indiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Minnesota, Iowa, South Carolina, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Texas, South Dakota, Ohio, and Connecticut. Thanks for coming folks!

Miss Caroline (SASS #89308), Miss Weev (SASS

*(Continued on page 22)*



Sights, Ballistol, CMP Custom Metal Products, and Boomstick Jay (SASS #90849).

Thanks to Low Gap Kid (SASS #89323), who donated a Baikal side by side 12 gauge shotgun, which was raffled for the SASS Scholarship Fund.

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At The Hat Shop. Details in the video.

## U.S. Open • The SASS® Central Divisional Championship ...

*(Continued from page 21)*

#76367), Dodge City Dixie (SASS #90920), and other talented seamstresses spend countless hours designing and constructing shooting costumes.

They, (and the rest of us Cowgirls) sincerely appreciate the “World’s Nicest Cowgirl Porta-Potty” provided for us at the event. Miss Weev won the Saturday night costume contest with an awesome Mrs. Santa Claus dress that she made and wore beautifully.

Miss Caroline and Blackfoot Bob (SASS #61968) won the couples contest with American Indian costumes made by Miss Caroline.

Angela, Lefty Rhodes’s (SASS #14206) Personal Assistant, created an unofficial hospitality campsite for the shoot. Angela treated us to *hors d’oeuvres*, acted as bartender, and coordinated with Ginger Rail (SASS #95352), Susan—Digger John’s (SASS #88514) wife, and Fanny Kicker for meals and Ladies Day shopping expeditions.

She sent us on our way Sunday morning with a breakfast buffet, Cowboy music and “Happy Trails” wishes.

The County Fair Friday night was a hit, topped off



with ice cream in waffle cones. We have added MoBetta (SASS #98793), Mean Mary (SASS #45913), Lonigan (SASS #97989), and Knot Werkin (SASS #82307) to our list of great aliases.

If the food were as good everywhere we travel as the Saturday night Holiday Dinner of ham, turkey, and all the fixings, *my* new alias would be “Fluffy” or “Chow Hound.”

*(Continued on next page)*



**U.S. Open • The SASS® Central Divisional**

*(Continued from previous page)*



Top Cowgirl was taken by Shamrock Sadie (SASS #78511), with Lead Ringer (SASS #87957) claiming Top Cowboy.

Please visit: <http://longnincowboys.org/news-events/bringing-home-the-gold-and-more/> for all category scores along with side match winners. 🐾

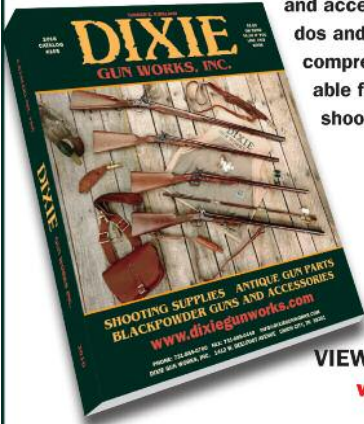


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## On The Range

# SASS® U.S. Open 2015

## THE LESSON

*By Knot Werkin, SASS #82307*

Hello, once again, to any fans of the Knot Werkin view of Cowboy Action Shooting™. As I write this, I'm fresh back from the SASS U.S. Open Central Divisional Championship that was held August 27-29, 2015 at the World Shooting & Recreational Complex in Sparta, Illinois.

Now, all of that was quite a mouthful so I'll try to break some of it down as we go along. In the here and now, we're at the end of August.

By the time this piece is published there could

be snow on the ground, much more may have already been written and posted about the match, including scores, winners, pictures, etc., in *The Cowboy Chronicle* and elsewhere.

This short treatise is just a narrative from my small window on the world of Cowboy Action Shooting™ at this particular event. Even though I'm an older coot, I've only been a Cowboy for the last couple of years.

*(Continued on next page)*







## **SASS® U.S. Open • The Lesson . . .** *(Continued from previous page)*

Usually, I finish way at the bottom of the list, so I'm not a contender for anything (well, fame and glory, but it's a tad late for that).

First off, let me say I am not affiliated with SASS (other than being a member), the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois government in general, or the Outlaw Entertainment Group.

Any comments about these organizations are strictly my own and nobody asked me to say anything for them, against them, or about them; throw rocks my way if anything I say upsets you.

The folks who put this program together, which came off without any apparent external hitches, were a fine pair by the names of Mose and Bella (aka Jeff and Kelly Alexander), owners of Mosen-Bella's Frontier Firearms.

I'm sure they'd appreciate a visit at [www.mosenbella.com](http://www.mosenbella.com). They're also the folks behind Outlaw Entertainment Group. Although I was unable to attend the gala events on Friday and Saturday evening (stepdaughter, son-in-law, grandson, father/mother-in-law within protracted driving distances), I heard from quite a few Cowboys and Cowgirls that the meal, adult refreshments, games, giveaways and Carnival theme were as fine as the friendships and

camaraderie with which this event was imbued. Thank you Jeff and Kelly for all the work you put into this and I look forward to attending any other events you might sponsor.

Let's talk about the World Shooting and Recreational Complex (WSC), which is under management of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). From my home in Southeast Indiana it would have been much quicker to drive as the crow flies, but barring that, it wasn't all that bad of a sojourn to Southwest Illinois (not all that far from St. Louis): two Interstates (I74 and I70) and IL Rt. 4. The scenery was, at best—what should it be called—monotonous, unless you like corn and beans.

If it wasn't corn, it was beans. If it wasn't beans, it was corn. (By the way, the "beans" were soybeans.

That was probably one of the first lessons this city boy learned when he married a country wife whose family were all country folk, some of whom even grew corn and beans.

I had the audacity to once mention something about "soybeans" and was immediately admonished to drop the "soy" part. In this fine country of ours, we swear to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, and the same goes for beans and nothing but the "beans.")

Sorry, I start talking about beans and my mind  
*(Continued on page 26)*



## SASS® U.S. Open • The Lesson . . .

*(Continued from page 25)*

will wander endlessly. This was my first time at the World Shooting Complex and I was amazed, as I guess I should have been.

If I were a skeet/trap shooter, I probably would have gone berserk. Station upon station, or whatever shotgunners call these things. I don't know how many shooters can be accommodated, but I know it's a bunch. I wouldn't want to say there were as many camper hookups as shooting stations, but I'm told there are close to 1000 camper slots. And there was an impressive *cadre* of Cowboy campers parked along the way to the cowboy range.

We had the opportunity to check out the Event Center and it too was as impressive as the grounds. It was clean, modern and looked like it could easily hold 500 or more attendees.

This was not the kind of building I would expect under the scrutiny of any DNR.

I might mention that the roads through this complex, even into the Cowboy Action Shooting™ area, are *paved* with blacktop in relatively good condition!

It almost took the fun away by not having to traverse loose gravel, riprap, rocks, mud, or soggy bottomland to get to the shooting. Not only was the road paved, there were signs (legible signs) that directed you to the various shooting venues the park had to offer. "Cowboy Shooting" [*sic*] directed us to another paved road, which led to parking—miles and miles of parking (okay, that's an exaggeration, but parking was identified by striping, almost as far as the eye could see).

You could actually maneuver your vehicle between two white lines that backed up to a freshly cut grassy area, which faced 10 Cowboy stages. This was almost too good to be true.

The theme for the 2015 SASS U.S. Open was "Cowboy Holiday." Each of the 10 stages was appropriately and fancifully decked out in the particular holiday fair for that stage.

And the start lines reflected the themes as well.

Here's a sampling: "Gobble, Gobble, Gobble," "Trick or Treat," "It's Like Christmas, but way hotter." Then there was "Let's Dance" (New Year's), "Ya gotta be quick like a rabbit" (Easter Bunny

*(Continued on next page)*

**SASS® U.S. Open • The Lesson . . .***(Continued from previous page)*

Hop), and “Let go of me Lucky Charms” (which didn’t turn out to be so lucky—I shot the stage quickly [for me], only to learn that the timer conked out [the electronic thingy, not the guy doing the timing] and it took a good while to roust up another one [thingy, not guy], which backed up the posse following us, etc., etc., etc.).

But we still had fun and everyone understood the situation. Cowboys are a patient lot. (And, I got to re-shoot for free!)

I guess my point on the stages is that the IDNR did a bang-up job (no pun, really) back when constructing these areas. The berms are exceptionally high and, literally, envelop the stage area on three sides, to the point that the loading/unloading tables and the general milling about area are within a “valley” created by the berm.

Each of the aforementioned tables is spacious (at one time or other, two cowboys were loading with another two loaded and in the gate, so to speak), sturdy, and (are you ready?) covered, even having an overhang!

The “trail” to and into each shooting bay is covered with crushed limestone. I’m sure that’s especially appreciated on rainy and melting snow days. The thing to remember, though, is all of this (and the ongoing upkeep) took really big bucks, engineering, a meticulous work detail, and really big bucks. One other observation—actually, it was some things that

were not observed: wasps, hornets, flies, fleas, bees, sweat bees, honey bees, spiders, chiggers, crickets, gnats, bats, webs, webworms, mosquitoes, mojitos, or other creatures that are usually part and parcel of a Cowboy’s day in late August in the Midwest.

(Okay, maybe there was a small gathering of some of these critters in the trash barrels, but that was it.) Unless this complex sits atop a massive toxic waste site, I gotta find out what the IDNR uses to achieve the no-bug effect.

Let’s summarize about the WSC. Convenient (relatively), clean, clutter-free, home of the Kaskaskia Cowboys, and CLOSED!! As of this writing, the WSC was supposed to shutter its doors, by order of “The Gov” on 9/1/15. Rumors abound about why.

Someone was cooking the books. Union busting move. Political jockeying. Lack of profitability. Whatever it was or is, it stinks to literally abandon a one-of-a-kind facility such as this, the livelihood of its employees, the economic impact on Sparta and surrounding communities, and the shooting community itself. Hopefully disputes will be resolved in the near future and everyone can get back to slinging lead downrange and not at one another.

Now, as I mentioned earlier, if you’re looking for scores or overall winners and such, stop reading this and go about your business.

I’m sure someone else has already recorded that information, wrote about it, discussed it, argued

*(Continued on page 28)*



## SASS® U.S. Open • The Lesson . . .

*(Continued from page 27)*

about it, or at least posted it on-line somewhere. Me, I'm just gonna tiptoe around that subject and kinda get to *The Lesson*, as this piece is entitled.

I've been to several State matches and my home club, the Pleasant Valley Renegades, holds an annual two-day match each October, but this was my first time at a "real" SASS match, *i.e.*, where one is in the realm of the Kingdom of SASS and SASS will crown the winners.

Hey, these guys and girls were dead serious shooters and were employing what appeared to be subtle warfare and other techniques of which any counterinsurgent would be amazed.

There's no need to get into the specifics, but it was an eye-opener as to the lengths gone to gain an advantage.

Nothing unfair about it, I guess, and I could be scolded for not being in that frame of mind myself. At this level, shaving seconds and parts of seconds, "psyching out," and the like was an art to behold and a lesson that should be part of the curriculum in a course titled *Spirit of the Game* (and the particular lesson plan on that day would be "What You Can Do, What You Could Do, And What You Can't Do).

You will have noticed that I've been referring to "we" in this little tome. That other half referenced is of course my much better half, Annie Dan (SASS

#82308). Although no longer an active shooter (but an active member), she *is* an active shopper and enjoys studying the vendors' wares, even if it's something so un-Annie Dan-like as to give me a chuckle.

One such item was a badge that read "IOAFG" (It's Only A F\*\*\*\*\* Game). It's not like this verse was something new or unique; it was just something that caught her eye. So, now let's switch to the last stage on Saturday (which was Stage 1 for my posse).

I was the first shooter (for what it's worth, I took the plunge as the first shooter for every stage—why wait around for bad news? Get it done—show other shooters how to *not* shoot the stage).

I knew I was working on a clean match, even told myself to purposely shoot this stage slow, aim carefully, squeeze the trigger, don't pull, and all that bull. So what do I do? First off, I misread the stage directions so that made it harder than was intended.

Then, of course, I rushed it. And then, two very easy "Bangs!" away from the end of a hard-fought clean match, there was only one death knell "Ding!" I was hoping the autopsy would reveal a defective target, but when has one-quarter-inch steel ever lied?

So, here I am, dejected, forlorn, feeling sorry for myself (think "*Mighty Casey has struck out...*"), hot, sweaty, hungry, thirsty, quite naturally ticked off at having been so stupid as to not follow my own advice, slinging stuff on my gun cart, and, in the dis-

*(Continued on next page)*

**SASS® U.S. Open • The Lesson . . .***(Continued from previous page)*

tance, my very loving spouse calls over to me, “Remember, Sweetie, it’s only a game...” She was right, ya know. I knew it. I understood it completely. In an instant, I accepted it (but I was still steamed).

However, I noticed around me that the atmosphere kind of changed. I think the earth may have rumbled a bit. The breeze stopped and the humidity hung there with a drenching, almost choking, fervor.

Although the sun hid behind some clouds, the heat index increased exponentially. From the boys and girls within listening distance of those words, I know I heard at least two gasps and a gulp, saw several looks of incredulity, and heard what I thought was someone having dropped their teeth.

I got the feeling not everyone agreed with the admonition, offered in comic relief, to temper my rising discontent of the moment.

Soon thereafter, I had the opportunity to talk to the Buckarette on our posse. I won’t mention names, but her Dad is a well-known cowboy (I also learned that “Dad” is a two syllable word, as in “Daa-ud, I don’t need any help!”).

She’s only 11 but handles herself confidently on the range. She also wielded that side by side just like the tough but adorable dudette that she is. I could almost see her “riding shotgun” for real.

The little lady talked to me politely, like an adult and didn’t cuss once (her, not me). I asked how she was able to finagle her way out of school for a few days, and she told me that Mom convinced her teachers this was an opportunity for an educational experience.

Well, think of it. Here’s a “little kid” not only hanging around with adults who are way older than even her father, but interacting with them, following rules of procedure and safety—rules that are sometimes in the abstract—wielding and shooting weapons with live ammunition, and trying always to be Miss Independent.

She’s hearing all kinds of language, the timbre and resonance of which changes with the excitement of the moment, emotions sometimes unchecked, and behaviors to embrace as well as avoid.

“Brava” to you young lady! Your parents and teachers can be proud that your “educational experience” was a resounding success and extra credit is

due. (You might want to remind everyone there is another opportunity to learn even more at many other shooting venues). I look forward to shooting with you again.

So, what lessons did I learn from all of this? I really like the WSC and will be back, assuming it opens.

SASS matches are serious business for a lot of folks.

It’s tremendous that most any SASS member can sign up for a shoot, renew friendships engendered from days past, and even meet a few of THE shooters so often seen or written about in *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

You can also learn to listen to what your fellow shooters have to say about technique, in general, and as it applies to a particular stage.

It doesn’t mean you need to agree with what was said, but just listen. Take it all in. While you’re doing all of this, step back and have fun at it.

Let go of the rope and jump into the lake... leap into that freshly raked pile of leaves... throw those snowballs at unsuspecting targets.

And yeah, the final lesson, it is only a game...

As always, ride for the brand. 🐾

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# On The Range



Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

# BLACK GOLD SHOOTOUT

By Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

Photos by Jim Wilson

*Having a good time is not new at Ponderosa Pines. Copperhead Joe's mom and dad, Rose and Boots Jarvis, built a small cook shed there in the 1980s and started having cookouts. Family and friends kept coming and in 1992 Boots decided to build a stage, where Blue Grass bands came to play. Folks kept coming and it grew so much that in 2000 they built a bigger shelter. In 2010 Copperhead Joe (SASS #39162) and friends built a range and the shooting began.*

**Manchester, Kentucky.** July 16-18, 2015 at Ponderosa Pines saw the Intercontinental Outlaw Championship of the World, the second leg of the 2015 Triple Crown, and fifth annual Black Gold Shootout, which brought in 173 shooters from South Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, North Carolina, Illinois, Texas, Ohio, Georgia, Alabama, Indiana, Michigan, Florida,



South Dakota, Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts, all exercising their Second Amendment Right in the Cowboy way! Boots, Rose, Copperhead Joe, Miss Bo (SASS #87860) and the whole family were on hand to host the best shoot and party of the year. Where else do you go for good music, good food and good friends, all served up with your match?

As Boots and Rose say, "That's what the place was built for."

Many thanks to sponsors, New Truckers Coal, Hooten Old Town Regulators, and Highland Regulators. Thanks to Shaddai Vaquero (SASS #69779) for the fireworks, the Vaquero family, Baby Bull (SASS #52542), Whiskey Creek Johnson (SASS #67187), and Iron Maiden (SASS #67188) for door prize donations, Copperhead Joe and his assistant match di-

*(Continued on next page)*

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## Black Gold Shootout . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

rector, Iron Maiden, for writing ten great stages, and Iron Maiden for her beautiful art work and for putting together the Redneck Spelling Contest.

Thank you to Boozy Creek (SASS #82771) and Tennessee Tombstone (SASS #34723) for manning the smokers Wednesday and Thursday, which provided ribs, chicken and pork roast for dinner. Nuttin' Graceful (SASS #39117) was our emcee Thursday and Friday nights and Honey B. Graceful (SASS #51369) and Ringer (SASS #48552) provided score keeping services for the competition.

With the heat and humidity there wasn't a dry thread on any of us by match's end, we were all grateful for the covered stages, covered eating areas, and the awesome food Copperhead Joe and his family of cooks provided for lunch and dinner; and the fifty campsites with electricity. A special thank you to all of you who came early or stayed late to help set up steel, paint, clean up, and in general make the shoot happen.

Congratulations to Fire N. Fallback (SASS #60185), who won the seriously hard fought Three Stooges contest. Congratulations to Sue Render



(SASS #87925) on her dance contest win and to Titus A. Gnatsass (SASS #71705), who won the men's dance contest, possibly due to his superb cowboy outfit. Congratulations to Perfecto Vaquera

*(Continued on page 32)*

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## Black Gold Shootout . . .

*(Continued from page 31)*

(SASS #69780) for taking the win from a close second, Judge'm All Duncan (SASS #67320), in the Redneck Spelling contest.

Yazoo City Gal (SASS #68552) took Top Lady Outlaw and T-Bone Dooley (SASS #36388) carried the Intercontinental Outlaw Championship of the World title belt home to Texas. Handcrafted coal dust creation trophies were presented to Top Cowboy Missouri Lefty (SASS #91721), and Top Cowgirl Sue Render.

Team shoot winners were Iron Maiden, Missouri Lefty and Three Cut (SASS #58264), with Missouri Lefty taking the win the in man-on-man. Koda Joe (SASS #89807) was chosen best-dressed cowboy and Dodge City Dixie (SASS #90920) was selected as best-dressed cowgirl.

Koda Joe and Dodge City Dixie put a lot of time, effort, and money into being poster children for dressing the part. Congratulations on much deserved recognition. There were 42 clean shooters. Please visit [www.ponderosa-pines.com](http://www.ponderosa-pines.com) for complete scores for all categories.

After two days of stiff competition in the Hill-

billy Olympics, the Olympic Committee determined that it was a 173-way tie for trophies! Whiskey Creek Johnson practiced for the Olympics by herding cats and catching greased pigs.

Tennessee Tombstone and Lady Tombstone (SASS #54252) presented a Salvatore Dali original drawing to Whiskey Creek Johnson and Iron Maiden in recognition of their work supporting Cowboy Action Shooting™.

In our humble opinion Tennessee Tombstone and Lady Tombstone are folks who should be recognized for being the first on the line with phone calls to check on ailing cowboys, donating door prizes, cooking and providing food, working as posse marshals, and showing us the Cowboy Way over the years. Thank you to both of you, you make a good team.

The WYMT television station out of Manchester, Kentucky carried a feature story about the Single Action Shooting Society® and the Black Gold Shootout. With the anti-gun climate of today's media, it is nice to see something positive about gun owners.

Angela, "Personal Assistant to Lefty Rhodes,"

*(Continued on next page)*

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John A. Taffin

*Evil Roy*  
Evil Roy (aka - Gene Pearcey)

*Michael L. Venturino*  
Michael L. Venturino

*Mike Delty*  
Mike Delty

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# Black Gold Shootout . . .

(Continued from previous page)



summed up her first time at the Black Gold Shootout saying, “The down-home warmth, the food and entertainment” were her favorite parts. Lefty Rhodes (SASS #14206) said, “The covered stages and up-close targets” were what he liked best. Miss Bo said, “Seeing old friends, and making new ones” was what she enjoyed most about the gathering. Compliments and no complaints—that is how I’d sum up the 2015 Black Gold Shootout.

Plans are already underway for next year’s Hillbilly Olympics and a Redneck Spelling contest... oh, yeah, and next year’s match. If you don’t wanna miss out, ya better come join us! 🤠

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# Club Reports

## RR Bar Regulators Host

# “ORIGINAL STYLE” SASS Match



*By Col. Richard Dodge, SASS #1750*



*Col. Richard Dodge,  
SASS #1750*

About fifty of Southern California’s most dedicated Cowboy Action Shooting™ contestants gathered for the RR Bar Regulators’ September match at their Chimney Rock Range on September 13, 2015. They came all the way from Orange County’s famed beaches and the glittering gulch of Las Vegas to the range in the high desert east of Victorville and Apple Valley, California. The range is

on the Lucerne Valley’s Lions Club facility, hard up against a rocky gray desert ridge, its ragged summit contrasting sharply with a stark blue desert sky.

This was a long-awaited match, uniquely designed to return to the fun-filled matches of the early days of SASS®. It was indeed fun—and challenging. No targets aligned like dominoes here. And no one

*(Continued on next page)*



*Cowboys and Cowgirls came from as far away as Orange County beaches and Las Vegas.*

## RR Bar Regulators Host • “Original Style” SASS Match . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Some ladies just know how to dress.*

well-equipped, clean, air conditioned and connected by a growing network of concrete sidewalks. There is even a trap range.

The fun started Friday evening with the traditional Black Powder Match, held just at dusk. It's tough shooting black powder in the dark, especially when the rifle targets are way out there.

There were lots of misses, with shots going high when sights were raised so they could be seen in the dark. Shooters walked away with a sheepish grin.

Sunday morning was cool, for a while, with scattered clouds that soon disappeared to leave a clear blue sky and rising temperatures. After the 8:00 a.m. shooters meeting, posses were assigned and all moved to their assigned bays.

The first stage was shot from an elevated platform around the Water Tank. After shouting “You know what else can kill you? Doctors!” while holding a plastic red and black striped snake, the shooter engaged four diamond targets 20 yards out with the rifle in a Lawrence Welk Sweep, then did the same with the

*(Continued on page 36)*

“cleaned” the match.

“I had a lot of misses, but I sure had fun.”

“We need to do this again—soon.”

These were just two of the positive comments heard from tired, dusty shooters as they gathered up their gear in the desert heat at the end of six challenging stages.

Targets were all over the place, near and far, staggered, mixed together, small. The bays on this range are long and narrow and many rifle targets, even a pistol target or two, were *waaay* out there.

The idea for the match rose from a widespread interest in returning to a more varied and jovial match like the ones “back in the day,” when SASS was new, before speed became the only issue. RR Bar's Mexican Rob (SASS #96419) studied many videotapes of early SASS competitions for inspiration in designing the match and he did it well.

Chimney Rock Range shows the results of many long hours of labor contributed by the RR Bar and Lions Club members, a true labor of love with an enormous investment of hard work and cash. Main Street is lined with a variety of Old West storefronts, nicely painted and well built. There is even an air-conditioned museum, the pride of RR Bar Regulators. The Lions Club facilities are

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## RR Bar Regulators Host • “Original Style” SASS Match . . .

*(Continued from page 35)*

revolvers at diamond targets eight yards out. After knocking down two shotgun targets (only two shots allowed), the shooter had two shots to blow the snakes out of a circle ten yards out.

Stage Two was shot from inside the Saloon, seated at a card table overlooking the bay. Rifle and pistol targets were in the form of card suits. Both pistols were staged on the table, covered by a bandana. On the table were a “knife” and a deck of cards. “That guy is one of the best shots around.

I look like I have Parkinson’s next to him” started the timer. The shooter stabbed a picture of a man seated against the wall on the left and then drew a card from the deck. The suit determined which target would be shot first; after uncovering the revolvers, a Nevada Sweep was shot at nine yards distance followed by the rifle at 20 yards. Moving to the window at the right, the shooter engaged the four shotgun knockdown targets until down (the targets were also shaped like card suits).

Stage Three: “I’m not the hero. I’m the guy making fun of the hero’s shirt.” After tossing a lariat over a horse’s head, the shooter engaged a plate rack with the rifle at 15 yards, alternating the plates with a side target, then knocked down four shotgun targets with only four rounds. A miss was a miss. With the handguns, alternate rounds were placed on a series of falling targets and a side target at eight yards; all 10 rounds had to be fired.



*Charity Rose Lee (SASS #96420)  
shooting at targets way out there in the dark.*

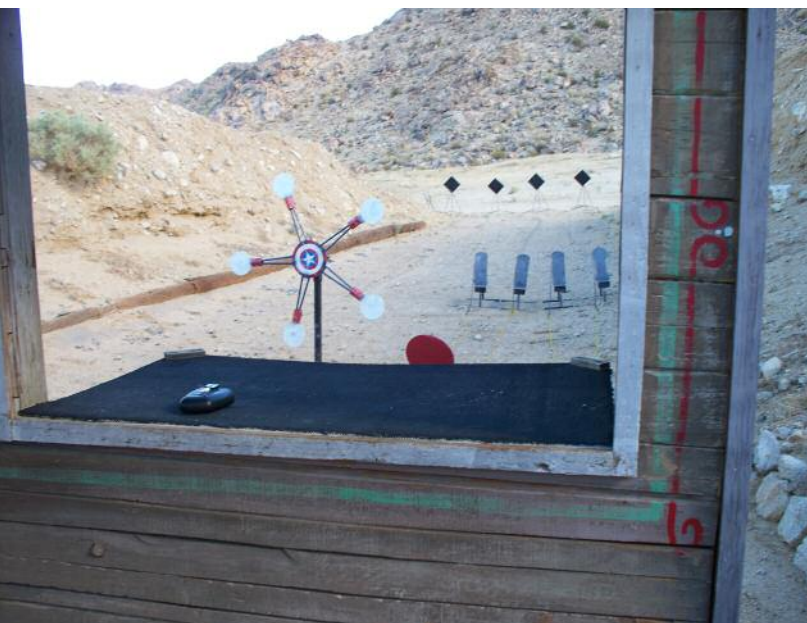
Stage Four: Two identical rows of five targets at 20 yards (rifle) and 10 yards (handguns) were shot in an outside-outside, inside-inside, center sequence, requiring rapid target acquisition back and forth. After shooting the rifle, the shooter engaged two clay birds with the shotgun. Missed clays had to be made up on a side plate (the make-up plate looked pretty battered). Then the revolver sweep had to be shot through a window blocked by two crossed boards. Not easy if the window height didn’t fit.

Stage Five was shot from the Hotel, starting with a Yuma Sweep with the rifle at 30 yards. In the center of the bay was the dreaded Texas Star, which was engaged with both handguns; any remaining rounds were fired onto a dump plate. Finally, four shotgun targets were engaged with four rounds; a miss was a miss.

Stage Six, shot from the Post Office, was the most unique of the day. The shooter was required to take a rubber chicken from one shooting position to the next. An unloaded revolver was staged at the right window; shotgun shells were placed in a bucket on the table in the doorway. Taking the chicken to the left window, the shooter engaged two handgun targets for five rounds at 10 yards, then took the chicken to the center doorway and engaged two rifle targets for 10 rounds at 22 yards.

Retrieving shells from the bucket, the shooter engaged six shotgun targets with six rounds at eight

*(Continued on next page)*



*The dreaded Texas Star on Stage Five.*



*Targets for the Black Powder Night Shoot wee way out there in the dark.*



*Pack Rat pays tribute to Roy Rogers. This is Roy Rogers country.*

## **RR Bar Regulators Host • “Original Style” SASS Match . . .**

*(Continued from previous page)*

yards. Finally, taking that poor chicken to the right window, the shooter loaded one round from the body into the unloaded revolver and took his final shot at a red 12" target at 24 yards. There were very few dings on that red target.

Following the match, all hands met in the dining room of the Lions Pride facility for a nice lunch provided by the Lucerne Valley Lions Club. Dutch SASS #455), director of The Happy Trails Foundation, appeared with a squirrel-cage drum of ticket stubs. It was the date of the drawing for several wonderful prizes, including a pair of matched stainless Ruger Vaqueros with a Roy Rogers style buscadero rig, a Sharps rifle in 38-55, an FMK 9mm Second Amendment pistol, and more.

Tickets had been sold throughout the year and many more were sold on the spot. Sadly, the ticket was drawn belonged to no one present, but several thousand dollars were raised to benefit the Happy Trails Cooper Home for Abused Children, founded many years ago by Roy Rogers and Dale Evans and still fulfilling its mission.

Most SASS shooters know that RR Bar was Roy Rogers' brand. This is Roy Rogers country; his

home was in nearby Apple Valley and the Roy Rogers Museum was in Victorville until Roy's death.

His son, Dusty, was forced to move it from California and took it to Branson, Missouri and eventual dissolution—a sad turn of fate.

Many of the RR Bar members knew Roy and Dale well. Marshall Broussard (SASS #16614) had countless stories of members' times with them and at the museum, serving as both curators and security officers. RR Bar President Five Jacks (SASS #23711) even has Roy's SASS badge, which is on display in the club's museum on special occasions. Roy was the only SASS member who could use his own name and his badge is engraved "Roy."

Roy's influence is evident with RR Bar. More than a few B-Western outfits were there, fancy buscadero rigs, fringed shirts and all.

Pack Rat's (SASS #1739) outfit was right out of one of Roy's movies.

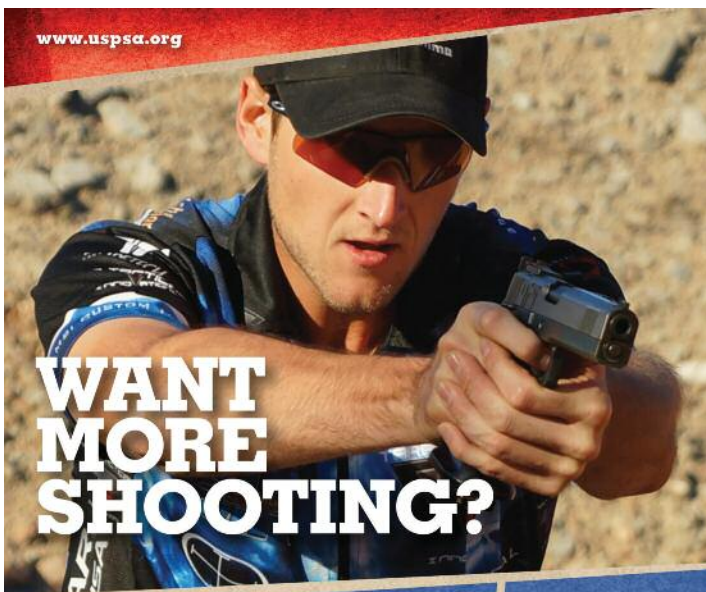
RR Bar Regulators meets at Chimney Rock the second Sunday of the month. The range is a 30-minute drive from a hotel in Victorville.

Its high desert location brings year-round sunny

*(Continued on page 38)*



*RR Bar Regulators Museum.*



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**RR Bar Regulators Host •  
"Original Style" SASS Match . . .**

*(Continued from page 37)*

skies, though summer months are predictably warm and you may need a stampede string on your hat. You won't meet a more friendly, welcoming group of cowboys and cowgirls, many of them driving long distances to shoot with this great SASS club.

For complete results of the Original Style Match and further information about the club, check out their website, <http://www.rbarregulators.com/>, because it won't be too long before they do an old-fashioned SASS match again and you'll want to be there. 🤠

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*The Cowboy Chronicle welcomes and encourages submissions of articles and match reports from any and all readers.*

**Please submit articles in MS Word or something compatible.** Open Office and Apple Pages (saved as MS Word) are also fine. A count of 800-1500 words for the printed editions is a good target to shoot for, but shorter pieces are also fine, and we can accommodate larger reports in our virtual-only issues if the material warrants it. We may choose to break very lengthy articles up into two or more parts to run in consecutive issues, or heavily edit them, however.

**Please do not embed your photos in the Word document.** They can be extracted for use in the The Cowboy Chronicle, but it can be a chore to do that. Instead, send your photos separately, in one or more emails, as attachments. Three to six photos per email usually works best. It's best to send JPEGs, but other formats are acceptable, and it's best to keep them at about 300 dpi and 3000 pixels (10 inches) on the short side. That will allow us plenty of leeway when it comes to cropping and adjusting them for publication, but in any case try to use photos that are at least 1000 pixels on the short side. If you're unsure of the size of your pictures, or how to size them, send what you have and we'll adjust them.

# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

**Usually, six photos are sufficient for an article, especially for the printed version, but we will consider using more for a "big" event, if provided.** The digital editions can accommodate more images, as well. Photos need not have captions, but captions always make photos more interesting. Ideally, the caption would consist of one or two sentences that say something about the picture that is not obvious and/or is not implicit in the body of the article. "Sam making smoke" is a title but not a caption. "Sam, SASS #XXXXX, shooting his first black powder match; after much deliberation, he decided to give it a try and now he's hooked" is much better. A caption may also serve to let everyone know why the picture is worthy of being published in an international newspaper.

**For digital editions, short video clips may also be included.** MPEGs, AVIs, WAVs, etc., may all be embedded in Chronicle pages, with MPEGs (mp4) preferable. A better option would be to post your video to YouTube and then provide us with the YouTube link. Those will be viewable provided the reader is connected to the Internet.

**Please use [editor@sassnet.com](mailto:editor@sassnet.com) for all article submissions.**

## Club Reports

# The Great Western Migration

## Or How The Thunder River Renegades Moved Their Range And Were Shooting In Less Than A Month

*By Cheyenne Ranger SASS Life #48747*

The Thunder River Renegades, Magnolia, TX, held its annual match, *Last Stand at Thunder River*, the final weekend of April, 2015. In the first week of May we stopped using our range as it had been sold out from under us for a cool \$1.1 million—a bit out of reach for the club finances. The new land owners were accommodating and allowed us the month of May to pack up and head out with all our buildings and such in tow; time to circle the wagons and load them to the gills.

That was the bad news; the good news was the former owner had another piece of property eight miles west from the current one and was ready to rent that to us.

The land was undeveloped and we would have to start from scratch (this would be the club's fourth range), but it would have a long term lease, there was plenty of room and it would be ours to develop as we saw fit for only a slight increase in rent.



*Texas Jack Daniels setting up the Fourth of July Match.*

We could put in a long range stage and not have trees downrange that we would have to shoot around—it did have possibilities, no doubt about it. Additionally, the land was directly across from the Texas Renaissance Festival north of Houston; to the locals this is a great landmark from which to give directions to the range, “Drive north to the

*(Continued on next page)*



*Thunder River Renegades' new range ready for its first match, June 2015.*



## The Great Western Migration . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Stage buildings being loaded for the move to the new range, May 2015.*



*Stage buildings on convoy to the new range.*

TRF, at the tall tower on the right turn right—follow the signs.”

Fun fact: we do have a low water crossing which after heavy rains is no longer a *low* water crossing.

The teardown and transportation of the range property took less than a week! Members gathered

on the first Wednesday and disassembled everything that could be disassembled.

This ran till Friday. Starting on Friday, a member-owned forklift began loading the buildings onto flat bed trailers, and bright and early Saturday morning trailer convoys began moving to the new range, “Head ‘em up, move ‘em out.”

Several convoys later all the buildings plus boardwalks, targets, stands, tables, chairs and a


*(Continued on page 42)*




*The new Tombstone Territorial Jail stage building under construction.*

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A look down the right side of the new Thunder River Renegades firing line.

### The Great Western Migration . . .

*(Continued from page 41)*

million other items (some we didn't know even existed), had been gathered, loaded and transported to Range #4; life was good.

Then the first hiccup appeared: the Houston area had received massive amounts of rain in April and the new range was a bit under water.

We had to off-load the buildings and such at a staging area and wait for the land to dry; we put them along the access road and waited and waited and, you guessed it, waited some more.

We held a couple of monthly matches using just loading/unloading tables and our imagination as the land dried out and the temperatures rose.

Then with summer in full force, we finally could begin the task of staging our town and erecting an entire new building: the Tombstone Territorial Jail; you have never enjoyed working outside until you do it under the Texas Sun

*(Continued on next page)*




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## The Great Western Migration . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*


in the middle of summer.

This effort started in August and some fine-tuning continues to this day but the TRR range is once again operational.

Our Grand Opening is set for December 5, 2015 with our monthly match plus a few extra surprises to help repay all the volunteers for their hours upon hours of hard work.

Fifty-five-percent-plus of the

membership donated time, tools, money, material, other family members, or a combination to insure the success of this relocation; this is a much better percentage than the 10 percent you usually see doing these types of tasks.

The Thunder River Renegades, Grimes County, Texas, is open for business and proud to be an active SASS® club. 

### Here is a list of all the cowgirls and cowboys who stepped up to make this move possible:

“Abilene Kansas Kyle” volunteered family member.  
 “Badlands Blake” volunteered family friend.  
 Badlands Bruce, SASS #98333  
 Bitterwood Ranger, SASS #69142  
 Blackpowder Burn, SASS #39761  
 Bristlecone Jan, SASS #72773  
 Britt, SASS #99012  
 Cherokee Jones, SASS #52092  
 Cheyenne Ranger, SASS Life #48747  
 Def Willie, SASS #86036  
 Doc Crossdraw, SASS #43968  
 Doc Emmett, SASS #98004  
 “Dublin Dan”  
 Dusty Bottoms, SASS #88609  
 Ellie Mae, SASS #66089  
 Emery Goodner, SASS #100427  
 Fairplay John, SASS Life #63453  
 Good Troy, SASS #98102  
 Graveyard Greg, SASS #101890  
 Grump E. Gunz, SASS #51251  
 GW Ketchum, SASS #100493  
 Idaho Sue, SASS #38585  
 Judge Roy Bean, SASS Life #1  
 Justice Lily Kate, SASS Life #1000  
 Marshall Raylan, SASS #98162

Neshannock Leo, SASS #90245  
 Nile City Slick, SASS #96568  
 Odessa, SASS #88048  
 Oklahoma Dee, SASS #44562  
 Osage Mike, SASS #49044  
 Preacherman Roberts, SASS #89997  
 Ramblin’ Gambler, SASS #100408  
 Ranger Travis Tyree, SASS #89207  
 Rawhide Ranger, SASS #66087  
 Red River Larry, SASS #35838  
 Red River Mack, SASS #79649  
 Ricochet Ron, SASS #38584  
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 Texas Rooster, SASS #39957  
 Texas Shotglass, SASS Life #17153  
 Tombstone Lawdawg, SASS Life #81459  
 Tricky Red, SASS #100842  
 Two Spurs, SASS #81842  
 Walter Durbin, SASS #11447

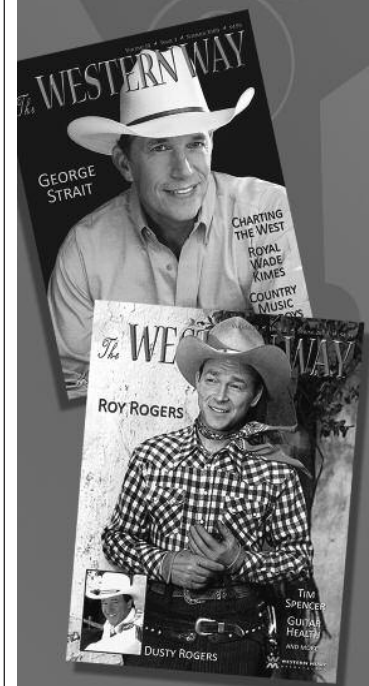


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*Captain George Baylor,  
SASS Life / Regulator #24287*

## Guns & Gear

# DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

### Bone Orchard Ammunition and other Heathen Smokeless Ammunition

*By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life/Regulator*

At END of TRAIL, I always try to visit every vendor. While in the indoor mall at END of TRAIL 2015 I saw a new vendor, [Bone Orchard Ammunition](#). They make three loads for us. I managed to test them all.

#### Oehler 35

#### Printing Chronograph

One hot day in July at Founders Ranch (at 6870 feet, altitude) I set up the Oehler 35P

Printing Chronograph. John Brownell gave it to me some years back after I wrote an article he liked. This out of production chronograph is unique in that it has three screens, so a “proof” channel is formed between screen one and two while the main reading is between one and three which, on my set up, are four feet apart, making it very accurate. If the proof channel reading isn’t very close to the main channel, the velocities are discarded automatically. High, low, mean (M), ex-

treme spread, the difference between the high and low velocities (ES), and standard deviation (SD) are computed automatically. I shot groups of five. If anything looked suspicious, I shot another five-round group.

#### Muzzle Up vs. Muzzle Down

Back when the monstrously high power factor of 60 was inaugurated there was a big worry that many powders, in the light loads we use, are position sensitive. If the muzzle is aimed up before chronographing, the resulting velocities will (theoretically) be higher than if the muzzle is held down before the first shot (as in coming from a holster) and the gun leveled, more accurately simulating match usage.

The SASS Shooters Handbook specifies how to chronograph when testing for power factor: “The muzzle of the firearm shall be raised to 80 degrees and then lowered each time prior to firing through the chronograph.” This is advantageous to competitor because the readings will be the highest available. So I did at least one string that way, the other strings starting muzzle down.

*(Continued on next page)*



*Oehler 35P Printing Chronograph with Proof Screen.*



*Ammunition for chronographing.*

## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

### **Bone Orchard .38 Special 125-grain Lead Truncated Cone**

This bullet design is very popular. It's a good all around weight for CAS, and the shape and length feeds very well in 66s and 73s. These rounds looked very good—new Starline brass and no visible flaws in the rounds. I believe the powder used was HP38. This is a very popular powder with commercial ammunition makers. It's usable in a lot of loads and very stable. Test gun was a Ruger New Vaquero with 4-3/8" barrel.

Muzzle down: M 716, ES 29, SD 11, Power Factor 89.5. These are very consistent numbers. The factory claimed velocity is 700 feet per second.

Using the "muzzle up" method,

M was 720, ES 61, SD 25, and a Power Factor of 90. This is very consistent and indicates the ammunition is not position sensitive.

My test rifle was a Taylor's 73 with 18.5" barrel.

M 809, ES 20, SD 8, PF 101.1. These are very consistent numbers.

### **Other Factory Loads**

To put these numbers into perspective I dug out a couple of factory loads to compare:

Evil Roy .38 Special Ammunition by [Powder River Cartridge Co.](#) 125-grain Lead TC. Again, these were in new Starline brass and looked very good. I tested this in the [November 2011 Cowboy Chronicle](#), p. 40.

Muzzle Down: M 726, ES 92 SD 36 PF 88.5.

Muzzle Up: M 774, ES 200 SD 43 PF 96.8. (When I tested this ammunition for [The Cowboy Chronicle](#) article it was very accurate, giving a 0.56" five-shot group at 15 yards on a Ransom Rest. M 729, ES 45 SD 16. PF 91.125.)

Black Hills Cowboy Ammunition 158 gr. RNFP:

Muzzle Down: M 762 ES 26 SD 9 PF 120.4.

Muzzle Up M 815 ES 38 SD 17 PF 128.8 (Yes, that's the stuff you keep in the gun cart for recalcitrant, uncalibrated knock-downs... or charging Buicks).

### **Conclusion**

I should have asked for a case of Bone Orchard .38 Special instead of a box to do the testing. This is good Cowboy Action

*(Continued on page 46)*

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125-grain LTCFP .38 Special Bone Orchard ammunition.

## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from page 45)*

Shooting™ ammunition. If you were flying in from, say, Australia, having some of this waiting for you would not be a bad idea.

### .45 Colt 200-grain LRNFP

This load is sold as a Cowboy Action Shooting™ load, but I wanted to see if it would be a Wild Bunch Action Shooting legal load as well. The power factor for WBAS is 150. I shot this from my Twentieth Century production Cimarron (Uberti) 73 carbine with a 19" barrel.

M 887, ES 95, SD 37, PF 177.4. So you could, indeed, use this in either Wild Bunch or CAS.

For comparison I found a Winchester Cowboy load in my collection, 250-grain LRNFP: M 871, ES 40, SD 16, PF 217.8. By the way when I did a Ransom Rest test of this ten years ago it was the most accurate .45 Colt ammo I had. It is very hot for Cowboy Action Shooting™ or WBAS purposes.

*(Continued on next page)*



230-grain LRN .45 ACP Bone Orchard ammunition.



*200-grain LRNFP .45 Colt Bone Orchard ammunition.*

## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

I also tested a load made with VihtaVuori. See below.

The Bone Orchard .45 Colt ammunition qualifies as a good choice for “Store Bought” ammunition for Cowboy Action Shooting™ or WBAS.

### **.45 ACP 230-grain LRN**

This load appears to be designed for WBAS. While the .38 Special and .45 Colt used new Starline Brass, the .45 ACP used new Top Brass, also excellent brass. I tested it in my Les Baer Thunder Ranch Special:

M 787, ES 19, SD 19 PF 181.

My comparison load was 230-grain coated RN with 4.1 gr. WST, Federal Large Pistol Magnum Primers: M 686, ES 51, SD 20, PF 157.8. This is my match load and is more accurate than I am.

The ES and SD of all of the Bone Orchard loads were very good, indicating excellent accuracy. I was unable to do a Ransom Rest test in time for this article. With numbers like these for all of the Bone Orchard ammunition, it was obvious it would be more than accurate enough for our purposes.

### **Three Powders for .38 Special**

With the continuing powder shortage you might have trouble finding your favorite powder. I tested three powders. Experienced reloaders are probably familiar with at least the two popular powders, but if you’re not, this might give you a baseline.

### **VihtaVuori Tin Star**

I was given some VihtaVuori Tin Star powder at an END of TRAIL a few years ago for a test article. Tin Star takes up more volume per grain of weight than most powders, so it takes up more space in the case. With our less than maximum loads this is a good thing. This minimizes the chance of double charging and generally makes muzzle up vs. muzzle down less of a factor.

Then I realized there was precious little velocity data on it. I put the powder aside hoping someone would publish data I could use. Never happened, or if it did, I can’t find it. A few loads are on [VihtaVuori’s website](#) now.

Eventually I did get enough information that made me think I could come up with some useful loads for Cowboy Action Shooting™ that wouldn’t get me into trouble. I tested three loads with Tin Star (note-these are not in the range *(Continued on page 48)*)



*230-grain LRN .45 ACP Bone Orchard ammunition.*

## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from page 47)*

or bullet weights used on the VihtaVuori website):  
 3.5 grains of Tin Star, 105-grain Poly Coated TCFP,  
 Federal Small Pistol Magnum Primers:  
 Muzzle Down: M 556, ES 189, SD 71, PF 58.4.  
 Muzzle Up: M 567 ES 47 SD 19 PF 59.5.

This load is listed as a starting point in case you want to work up loads in your guns/altitude/climate. Obviously if you are trying to “just barely” exceed the 60 power factor, then somewhere between 3.5 and 4.0 gr. will get you there—at 6870 feet. Test at the altitude at which you’ll be shooting. A lot of variables, including temperature, altitude, and humidity affect velocity, and I always put in a safety factor.

4.0 grains of Tin Star, 105-grain, Poly Coated TCFP,  
 Federal Small Pistol Magnum Primers:  
 Muzzle Down: M 676, ES 148 SD 58 PF 71.0.  
 Muzzle Up: M 712 ES 68 SD 29 PF 74.8.

4.1 grains of Tin Star, 105-grain Poly Coated TCFP,  
 Federal Small Pistol Magnum Primers:  
 Muzzle Down: M 715 ES 148 SD 64 PF 75.2.  
 Muzzle Up: M 800 ES 142 SD 53 PF 84.0.

Rifle tests, Taylors 73, 18.5" barrel:  
 3.5 gr. M 742 ES 150 SD 56 PF 77.9.  
 4.1 gr. M 846 ES 127 SD 57 PF 88.8.

### Tin Star .45 Colt rifle load

There is no printed load data on the VihtaVuori site on .45 Colt using 200-grain bullets. During the (continuing) powder shortage last year, with Mica McGuire’s help, I settled on a rifle load for Wild Bunch Action Shooting:

7.0 grains of Tin Star, 200-grain Poly Coated FP, Federal Large Pistol Magnum primers from my 19" carbine: M 914, ES 86, SD 37, PF 182.8. It’s close to the minimum usable load because at around 6.5 grains



*Dirty brass from chrono session.*

the loads become inconsistent. The .45 Colt is a big case to fill.

Powder is still hard to find. Tin Star his is a pretty good powder, so if you find it when searching for powder and the price is right (well, by 2015 standards), you’ll have some starting loads. Generally, but not always, lower SD means higher accuracy. We’re shooting at big plates at inside 20 yards. If your club is Cowboy Accuracy Shooting instead of Cowboy Action Shooting™, and you know who you are, then you might make your loads differently.

Note that I’m not responsible for misprints or your loading mistakes.

I made some alternate loads from powder on hand:

### Clays

105-grain Poly Coated TCFP:  
 2.8 grains of Clays Muzzle down: M 672 ES 152 SD 73 PF 70.6.  
 Muzzle up: M 691 ES 226 SD 113 72.6.  
 3.0 grains Muzzle down: M 738 ES 103 SD 47 PF 77.5.  
 Muzzle up: M 734 ES 158 SD 61 PF 77.1.  
 3.2 grains Clays Muzzle down: M 775 ES 76 SD 30 PF 81.4.  
 Muzzle up: M 847 ES 114 SD 48 PF 88.9.  
 Taylor’s 73 18" Barrel, 2.8 grains of Clays: M 836 ES 74 SD 31 PF 87.8.

*(Continued on next page)*



**What does all that mean?**

A lot of the popular pistol powders are very scarce. It's not impossible that someday you'll need powder and your stalwart do-everything powder for the last 20 years won't be available. You'll be looking for a powder that is accurate, consistent, and not terribly position sensitive in light loads.

In testing Tin Star, we learned that low powder charge loads are not consistent. Muzzle down vs. muzzle up does not appear to be a problem. We don't want to overemphasize the importance of that because generally we don't shoot from 80° muzzle up. If the muzzle level velocities are legal and consistent, it's an acceptable load. Upping to 4.0 grains made a legal load. I tested 4.1 to see if it would make any difference other than velocity. It didn't.

If I was desperately looking for smokeless powder for either Cowboy Action Shooting™ or WB loads, all three of these will work. I started Cowboy Action Shooting™ with Clays and have used it for Wild Bunch, too.

I've used Trail Boss for Cowboy Action Shooting™ and Wild Bunch. I did one of the first test articles on it about 10 years ago, and it was quite accurate. Several subsequent chronograph sessions haven't changed my mind on that. My only complaint has been it's so light it bounces out of cases on the Dillon XLt650. The aftermarket accessories I wrote about in the [February 2015 Cowboy Chronicle](#), page 32 have helped considerably in this matter.

If you have to use a powder you've never used before, the standard rules apply. Start at the bottom end of the factory chart; make some at 0.2-grain intervals up until you think you've got one that works and chronograph. You can get a chronograph for \$105 these days. If you spend more money you can get a remote readout and even options to text or email the results to your phone or computer.

This powder shortage adds another reason to shoot Frontier categories: there is no shortage of black powder substitutes. I get American Pioneer Powder four cases at a time. *A*

*Raw Data.***Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .***(Continued from previous page)*

3.0 grains Clays: M 921 ES 103 SD 39 PF 96.7.

3.2 grains Clays: M 968 ES 68 SD 25 PF 101.6.

**Trail Boss**

105-grain Poly Coated TCFP:

3.0 grains Trail Boss Muzzle down: M 644 ES 116 SD 41 PF 67.6.

Muzzle up: M 722 ES 104 SD 41 PF 76.9.

3.2 grains Trail Boss: Muzzle down: M 669 ES 73 SD 32 PF 70.2.

Muzzle up: M 705 ES 54 SD 21 PF 74.0.

3.4 grains Trail Boss Muzzle down: M 770 ES 55 SD 22 80.9.

Muzzle up: M787 ES 45 SD 22 82.6.

3.6 grains Trail Boss Muzzle down: M 771 ES 58 SD 23 PF 81.0.

Muzzle up: M 827 ES 80 SD 31 PF 86.8.

Taylor's 73, 18.5" Barrel, 3.0 grains of Trail Boss: M 851, ES 45 SD 18 PF 89.4.

3.2 grains Trail Boss: M 871 ES 126 SD 40 PF 91.5.

3.4 grains Trail Boss: M 898 ES 134 SD 63 PF 94.3.

3.6 grains Trail Boss: M 967 ES 55 SD 19 PF 101.5.

Note: I didn't do cold weather testing. If you're going to shoot matches in cold weather, test in cold weather.

VISIT US AT [SASSNET.COM](http://SASSNET.COM)*Lots of Raw Data.*

# History

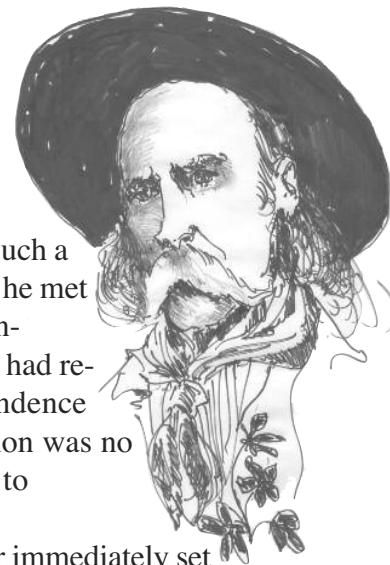


Joe Fasthorse,  
SASS #48769

## LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

### - Way Out West -

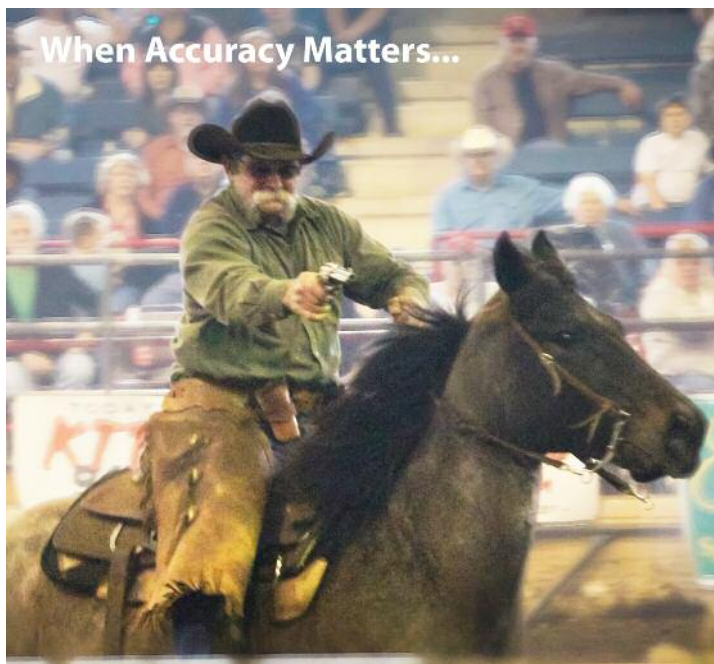
By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769



Indian trader **William Becknell** is the Father of the Santa Fe Trail. He was the first trader to arrive in Santa Fe, New Mexico, ten years after the Spanish had closed their Southwest holdings to foreigners for fear of American domination of the region. During this decade, the Spanish confiscated the goods of any trader who violated their directive and put the trespasser in prison. However, many purveyors continued to trade with the Indian Tribes on the American-controlled eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. Becknell was one of

those traders. While on such a trading mission in 1821, he met a Mexican soldier who informed him that Mexico had recently won its independence from Spain, and the region was no longer out of bounds to American traders.

The American Trader immediately set out for Santa Fe, where he quickly sold all his goods at an enormous profit. When he returned to his base in Franklin, Missouri, his saddlebags were heavy with Mexican silver. The next summer, Becknell traveled to Santa Fe again, this time with three wagonloads of goods. But instead of following the old risky route over a high pass, he blazed a shorter cutoff trail across the Cimarron Desert. Becknell's role in reopening the Santa Fe Trail and laying out the shortcut earned him the title, "Father of the Santa Fe Trail." Becknell's trail was destined to become one of the most important of Old West trading routes. Travelers continued to follow the the Santa Fe Trail until trains took over in 1872.



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Photo by Doug Wertman

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# Reviews Books

## ~ THE COWBOY YEAR ~

# A STORY of DADS and GUNS

By Ethan D. Bryan published by eLectio Publishing LLC, Little Elms, Texas.

*Reviewed by Tame Bill, SASS Life/Regulator #30699*

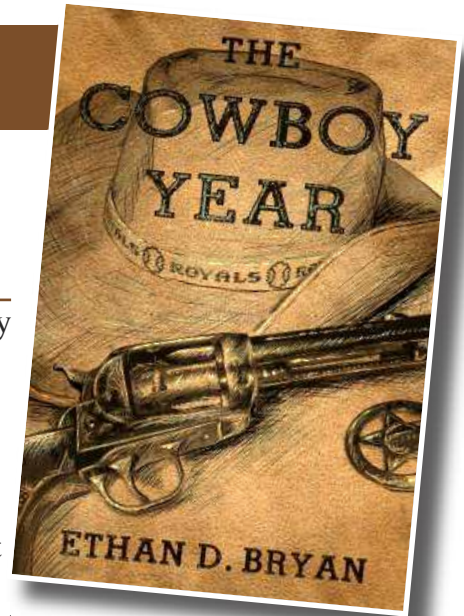
**T**he *Cowboy Year* is a tale of a son's and his father's partnership during his introduction to Cowboy Action Shooting™ and its fraternity. I met Ethan Bryan, aka Fret Maverick (SASS #96843), during his cowboy year at the 2014 Prince of the Pistoleers Cowboy Action Shooting™ tournament. Immediately, I recognized his pedigree as being J-Bar's (SASS #18287) son, and the fact that he and I were wearing identical waistcoats spoke highly of his sense of style and *panache*. What I did not recognize then was the story teller, worthy son, and adamant KC Royals fan.

The book takes the reader on Ethan's and his cowboy counterpart, Fret Maverick's, yearlong Odyssey of discovering a broader appreciation of firearms, the shooting sports, and his father. The relationship between father and son is prominent throughout the book. The knowledge shared and their open and warm relationship is compelling.

The book is packed full of Ethan/Fret's experiences, learning our game as a tenderfoot who is fortunate to have as mentor his father, J-Bar, a veteran competitor and his posse of SASS® yahoos. Add in Ethan's passion for baseball's Kansas City Royals

and subsequent sketches such as catching the first pitch thrown by Royals super fan and his friend, Sung Woo, and you have an entertaining tome well worth adding to your library.

*"Mosey on over to the campfire and take a load off, and me let tell you about the adventures of J-Bar and me, Fret Maverick."* You'll be happy you did! 🤠



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# Profiles

## Scholarship Recipient

### Tater Bug, SASS #90160

*Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000*



*Justice Lily Kate,  
SASS #1000*



**O**wasso, OK. My name is Taylor Townsley, aka Tater Bug. I've been a member of SASS® for about five years now. I was introduced to Cowboy Action Shooting™ by my father, Josey Kidd (SASS #13170), who has been a member of SASS since the mid to late 90s.

I was taught everything I know about handling firearms from my dad. In the beginning, I shot alongside and competed with him as well as my twin sister, Paige Townsley, aka Red River Emma (SASS #90161), who got involved in SASS/Cowboy Action Shooting™ the same time I did in 2010. Now more

members of my family have joined in the fun and the competition, including my step-father Vallian (SASS #99388) and my mother Kim Zwahlen, who has not officially joined yet and is still working on an alias. We participate in matches at Tulsey Town in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Tulsa Red Castle Gun Club in Sand Springs, Oklahoma.

I am now in my senior year at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and am pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in English with an option in Screen Studies and an emphasis in Creative Writing.

I am hoping to obtain my degree and become a screenwriter or to publish my own books (and hopefully contribute to the Western genre in both media), and I'm also interested in being an editor for other publications.

The most influential people in my life have got to be my parents. My mom is such a successful and diligent worker. I can tell that I have inherited her work ethic and determination, and from her I have learned to never give up.

My father has always been my rock; he has always been steadfast, always there to comfort me when I most need it. He has also taught me how to enjoy all circumstances, even the trying and frustrating ones, as long as I am with the ones I hold dear.

I'm so happy to be a part of SASS, which has provided me not only a network of friends who have always been kind and supportive to me, even while I've been off at college. It has been great to have most of my family involved in such an organization.

I always look forward to going to the range and spending quality time shooting with my friends and

[\(CLICK HERE to Continued page 57\)](#)

# Supreme Court Rulings on the Second Amendment

By Tater Bug, SASS #90160

Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

The Second Amendment asserts, “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” There had, for a great length of time, been a controversy on the meaning of these words. Conflicting opinions on what exactly was meant lead to two common approaches to interpreting the Second Amendment.

The debate was between an “individual rights” approach, in which it was interpreted that the Second Amendment was written to protect an individual’s rights to the ownership of firearms, as well as their possession and transportation; and the second approach, which dealt with the idea that the Second Amendment protected only the right to bear arms in relation to an organized state militia.

However, it has been decided now that the Second Amendment does, in fact, in-

clude the protection for an individual’s right to bear firearms, unconnected to a militia, under the grounds of self-defense. This ruling was decided in the court case *District of Columbia v. Heller*, which dealt with the District of Columbia’s ban on handgun possession in the home, which had been decidedly in violation of the Second Amendment in that the ban made it impossible for citizens to use firearms for the purpose of lawful self-defense.

It was reasoned that while the Second Amendment does address the rights of an organized state militia, it is not limited only to that, and it also affirms the right of the individual to possess and bear arms. Another court case that upheld the right of an individual to possess and bear arms for the purpose of self-defense was *McDonald v. Chicago*.

A court case that somewhat limited the right to own and bear firearms was the court case

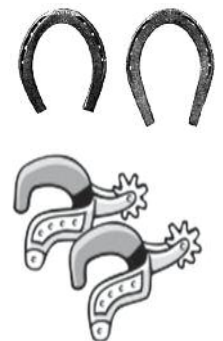
*United States v. Miller*. Specifically, that court case limited what type of weapon was included in the Second Amendment right. This ruling helped to define what constituted a lawful firearm, in the specific case of the sawed-off shotgun. It was decided that the sawed-off shotgun could be regulated because it didn’t have a reasonable relationship to preservation or efficiency (in the terms of a militia).

I, for the most part, agree with the reasoning behind and conclusions of the Supreme Court rulings. I do believe that the Second Amendment upholds the right for an individual to possess and bear arms, not just in the case of a militia, for I think it is necessary and important for civilians to be able to protect themselves in self-defense.

I also agree with the regulations of certain firearms (even though many do not share this belief and are against strict gun con- [\(CLICK HERE to Continued page 57\)](#)



## SASS Scholarship Help Educate Our Youth



# Profiles

## Scholarship Recipient

### Renegade Riley, SASS #79445

*Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000*



*Justice Lily Kate,  
SASS #1000*

**O**tis, OR. I'm Riley Schroeder—or Renegade Riley. I started in Cowboy Action Shooting™ more than seven years ago when my father, Brother Bob (SASS #79444) took me to a competition in Florence, Oregon with the Siuslaw River Rangers. That's when I met a great group of people and I continue to shoot with them to this day, along with the Oregon Old West Shooting Society, Molalla River Rangers, Pine Mountain Posse, and Umpqua River Regulators. After two years of shooting, my father and I even got my mom, Annie Lu (SASS




#89287), shooting and occasionally we rope my two brothers into the sport.

Last year I spent my time at Western Oregon University working on my core classes. I'm now moving on to Oregon State University and it has a rifle and pistol team! My lifelong goal has been to become a history/shop teacher and return to my hometown.

SASS® members have been very influential to me because there is somebody from nearly every type of career with whom to talk and get advice. It resembles a miniature career fair. Over the years I've received


*(Continued on next page)*




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# Citizens' Rights for Self Defense

*By Renegade Riley, SASS #79445*

*Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000*

This great country couldn't stand today without guidelines that are represented in the Constitution. The only reason the Constitution has been able to operate this country for more than two hundred years is because it can be adapted. Our founding fathers were on top of their game at the Constitutional Convention. To make sure the law was understood, they designed the judicial branch where the Supreme Court resides.

The Supreme Court is the highest federal court that gives answers regarding Constitutional questions. Multiple questions have arisen regarding the second amendment which states, "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed," and the Supreme Court many times has agreed that it gives people the right to own firearms.

Multiple organizations have been involved in instituting gun control but have been held back due to Supreme Court decisions.

The Supreme Court made a

big difference in 2008 during the *District of Columbia v. Heller* case. Heller was a judicial officer who was permitted to carry a handgun at work but when it came to his home he was denied access to a functional sidearm. Anyone within DC at the time could not own an immediately functional firearm. To follow the law, all citizens had to have a trigger lock mechanism installed. Heller appealed to the court saying it was against the Second Amendment in that it denied him his right for self defense.

The *District of Columbia v. Heller* verdict clarified that the Second Amendment allowed possession of firearms for lawful purposes. This ruling removed a law in DC preventing guns in the home. This also included the right to use a gun for self defense, which is why many people own a firearm.

The last major court case occurred in 2010 due to a conflict in Chicago. A grandfather wanted to own a handgun in Chicago after having his house continuously broken into. Un-

fortunately he couldn't own a sidearm due to a law enacted in Chicago preventing him from buying one. He challenged the Chicago law and it went to the Supreme Court where it became the *McDonald v. Chicago* case.

The Supreme Court Justices asserted that the Chicago law violated the Fourteenth Amendment, which confers equal rights in all federal and state jurisdictions to life, liberty, and property. This was an appropriate interpretation because firearms are property, and lawful citizens should have a right to own what they please. This case abolished a ban that had existed since 1982.

Gun control is a never-ending debate that has lasted for centuries, but as long as it stays that way, no one will ever be more powerful than the another. These two major cases were milestones in the protection of U.S. citizens' rights to own firearms. The Supreme Court has been in favor of the gun community and hopefully gun owners' rights will always be represented. 🇺🇸

## Scholarship Recipient • Renegade Riley, SASS #79445 . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

help from shooters who were involved with education, law, medicine, and more.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ is the one sport I've devoted many years to, and I believe that my passion along with tons of support is what led me to winning

the Northwest Regional Championship and Oregon State Championship in 2013. SASS has been very important to my family and to me because it has helped us grow, become united, and the scholarship will help with college expenses and the pocket book. 🇺🇸

# Profiles

## How I Got My Alias



### Dice, SASS #21400

I'm from New York and I transplanted to Maryland due to my job. I have always worn a cowboy hat and boots. People in Long Island would always ask me if I really

was from the West, and I'd say, "Yes, I'm from Brooklyn. It is West of LI."

While in New York, I was a manager and when Tom, my Regional Manager came to Long Island from Maryland, He would always tell me the way I talk (twalk) and my type of humor reminded him of Andrew Dice Clay the comedian.

Using colorful language, I'd ask him "Wad'da mean?" When I moved, I had to pick up my guns that were transferred from New York to a FFL holder in Maryland.

While waiting for the storeowner to get my guns from the back, I saw a Ruger Vaquero in the showcase. I asked him when he came to the front if I could see it.

He said, "That's the gun they use in Cowboy Action Shooting™." I gave a loud Scooby Doo "Haaaaaa—Please tell me everything about this Cowboy Action Shooting™."

Well he did, I went to see a match, went to a gun show to buy and trade my guns for Cowboy guns, and joined SASS®.

At that time, you needed to pick three names you'd like for your Alias and you got the one not already used.

Well I figured Dice sounded kind of cool and reminded me of my roots in Long Island. So in September 1998 Dice, SASS #21400, was born.

Even people not in SASS call me Dice and I'll only answer to that at a match. Should anyone know my real name?

I'd like to thank all of you who come out to play cowboy with me. 🤠

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**Scholarship Recipient •  
Tater Bug, SASS #90160 . . .**

*(Continued from page 52)*

family. Other influential people in my life are the mentors I have at college, where I am involved in a student ministry on campus. My mentors have really helped me keep growing and shaping my beliefs and providing guidance in a time when I need it most in my life.

I am most proud of how I have grown and matured over the years, developing a confidence and courage in myself when before I was nowhere near as strong. This part of myself I've found in part through my experience with SASS. I've come to realize that my own capabilities and value don't come from just the perceptions of others. I'm proud of my growth and work at the Oklahoma State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM), my academic success in my courses, and my involvement with the Single Action Shooting Society, where I have by far grown more confident in my abilities, whether or not it involves shooting. I am proud of where I am today, and I could not have gotten this far without everyone's support along the way. 🐾

**Supreme Court Rulings on the  
Second Amendment . . .**

*(Continued from page 53)*

trol), because I don't think that some (arguably more destructive) firearms are necessary to self-preservation and could in the wrong hands be extremely dangerous for not only the one in possession of them but also the community as a whole. It is necessary for there to be restrictions to both the types of weapons owned the people who can own them to prevent any unnecessary danger or damage; my involvement in the Single Action Shooting Society® has specifically shown me how important it is that there precautions in place when handling firearms, and the practice of safe gun handling is something that needs to be taught to everyone.

**Bibliography**

“Second Amendment.” *Second Amendment*. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 Apr. 2015.

“Second Amendment—U.S. Constitution—FindLaw.” *Findlaw*. N.p., n.d. Web. 08 Apr. 2015.

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*Scholarship Essays represent the opinions of the writer and are not necessarily an accurate reflection of the opinions of SASS. 🐾*

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## Articles

# ONE POT CHUCK

*Cooking Up Some Tasty Grub  
Like Cookie Did Out On The Trail*

*By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745, and The Missus  
Photos by Deadeye Al, SASS #26454*



*Whooper and The Missus*

## Big Wolf's Aunt Emma's Pork and Apple Stew

This time of year, late Fall, reminds us of the pleasant sunny days and chilly, crisp nights of our youth, back in the East. It also reminds us of one of our good shooting buddies who grew up

in New York State and (naturally) of a great family recipe that his sweet Aunt Emma taught him, and which he passed on to us.

We're talking here about that late, great rough and tumble former Marine Gunny and City of Rochester LEO, George Wheeler, bet-

*(Continued on next page)*



*Hot Stew on a cool evening at the range is just the ticket!*

## One Pot Chuck . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Big Wolf almost stretched a rope for some of his tall tales  
—but never for his recipes.*

ter known as Big Wolf in Cowboy Action Shooting™ circles.

Now, Rochester is located in northwestern New York, just a stone's throw from Lake Ontario. It's in fantastic apple-growing country, settled and farmed by the Dutch, who pioneered this beautiful part of the country. Along with apples, the Dutch nurtured some wonderful apple recipes, including Aunt Emma's Pork-Apple Stew. Now, apples in stew may be a new concept to you (it was to us) but once you've made it, you just might make it one of your "One Pot Chuck" faves for cool Fall evenings at the range. It's a potluck Winner!

*One of the nice things about this stew is it features value-priced pork instead of currently high-priced beef. We've found pork tenderloin selling for \$1.88 per pound. Compare that with the prices of even the meanest cut of beef. We buy whole pork tenderloins at these low prices and cut them up into real thick chops, wonderful roasts and super tender stew meat and freeze them. You can't find a better meat bargain anywhere! Go for it!*

### Ingredients

- 2 Pounds boneless Pork, cubed
- 2 Tablespoons Olive Oil
- 4 Cups Chicken Broth
- 1 Tub, Knorr Chicken Stock (or 2 Bouillon cubes)
- 1 Teaspoon dried Thyme
- ½ Teaspoon, fresh Ground Pepper
- 2 Bay Leaves
- 12 Small Red Potatoes, quartered
- 3 Tart Apples, peeled and cut into wedges
- 2 Tablespoons Flour
- 1 Cup, cold Water
- 1 Cup, Sour Cream

### Directions

- Heat up your Dutch Oven.
- Add oil.
- Brown pork in the hot oil.
- Add broth and spices.
- Bring to boil.
- Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 2 hours.
- After the 2 hours, add your potatoes.
- Cook for 30 more minutes.
- Add your apple wedges.
- Cook for 15 more minutes.
- Combine flour and water in a bowl and stir into pot.
- Stir sour cream into pot.
- Cook for 10 more minutes.
- Serve to hungry cowfolk in big soup bowls.
- Live it up! 🤠





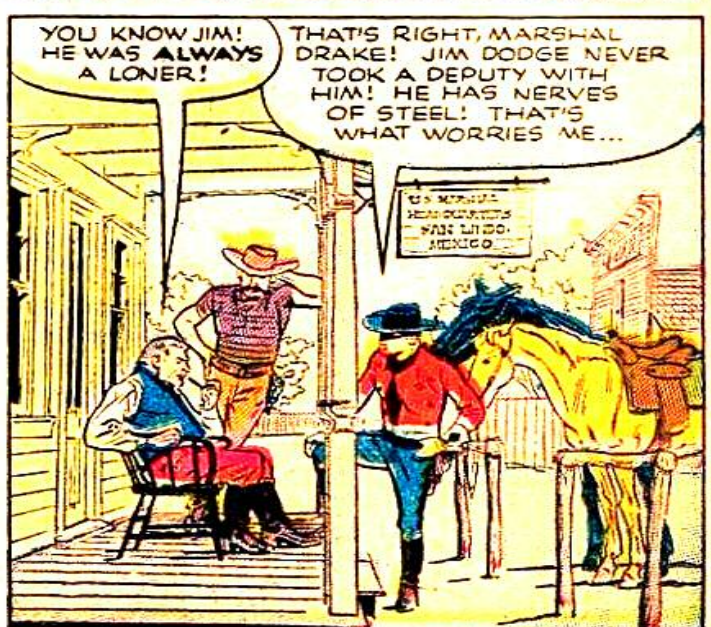
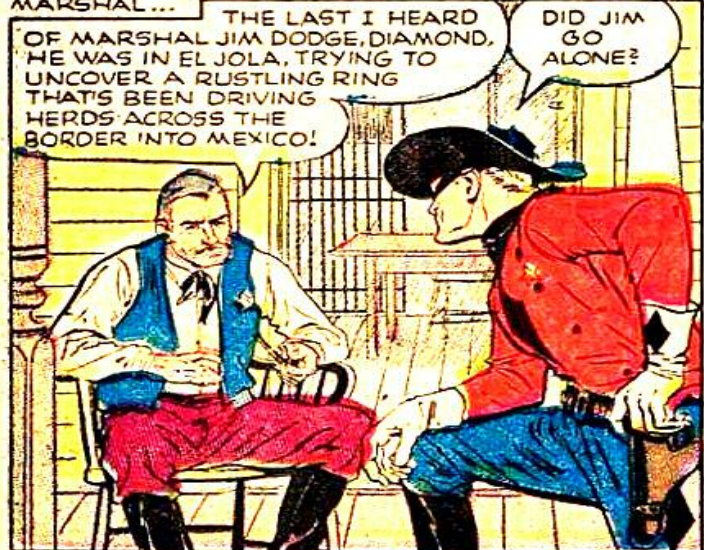
BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

# BLACK DIAMOND

## IN "TRAIL OF DOOM"



IT IS 1877. IN FRONT OF GOVERNMENT HEADQUARTERS AT SAN LINDO, MEXICO, BLACK DIAMOND IS SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT A FELLOW GOVERNMENT MARSHAL...



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

FRANKLY, I'M AFRAID HE MIGHT'VE TAKEN ON A JOB THAT'S TOO BIG FOR ONE MAN!

IN HIS LAST REPORT, DODGE SAID HE WAS POSIN' AS A RUSTLER HIMSELF, AN' THAT HE EXPECTED TO CRACK THE RING WIDE OPEN IN ABOUT A WEEK! IT'S THREE WEEKS SINCE THEN, AN' I HAVEN'T HEARD A BLAMED THING FROM HIM...

I FIGURE THE RUSTLERS GOT WISE TO HIM AND TRAPPED HIM!

I'M GLAD YOU CALLED ME IN, MARSHAL! THE LAW CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE MEN OF JIM'S CALIBER WITHOUT A FIGHT! COME ON, BUMPER!

WHERE TO, BLACK DIAMOND?

EL JOLA! WHERE JIM DODGE WAS LAST HEARD FROM!

WE'LL TRY TO CRACK THIS RUSTLING RING FROM TWO DIRECTIONS- OUTSIDE AND INSIDE! BUMPER, YOU'LL POSE AS A MAVERICK OUT FOR SOME EASY MONEY! TRY TO JOIN THE GANG!

RIGHT! AND YOU?

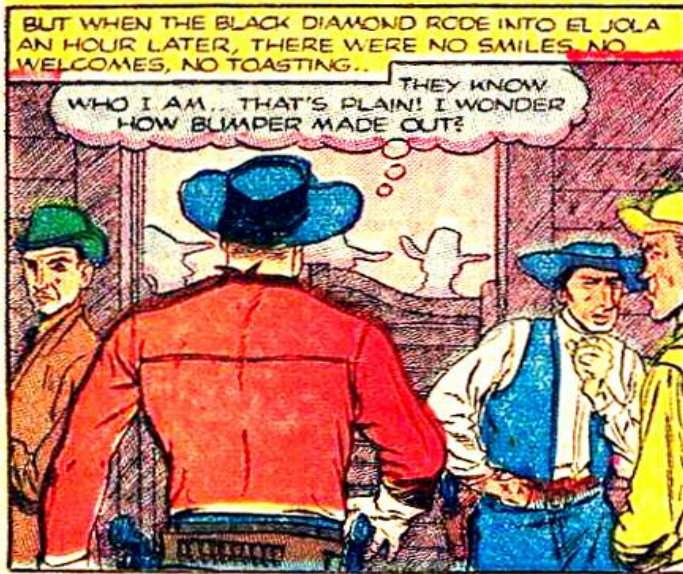
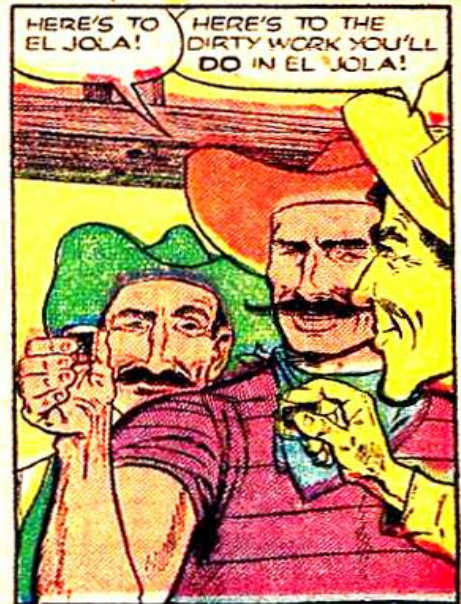
I'LL PRETEND TO BE LOOKING FOR A RUSTLER NAMED DODGE! IF HE'S STILL ALIVE, IT WON'T GIVE HIM AWAY, BUT IF HE'S TRAPPED, THE QUICKER WE'LL DRAW FIRE FROM THE MOB THAT TRAPPED HIM!

IT WAS 9 P.M. THAT NIGHT WHEN BUMPER TURNED THE CORNER OF EL JOLA'S MAIN STREET...

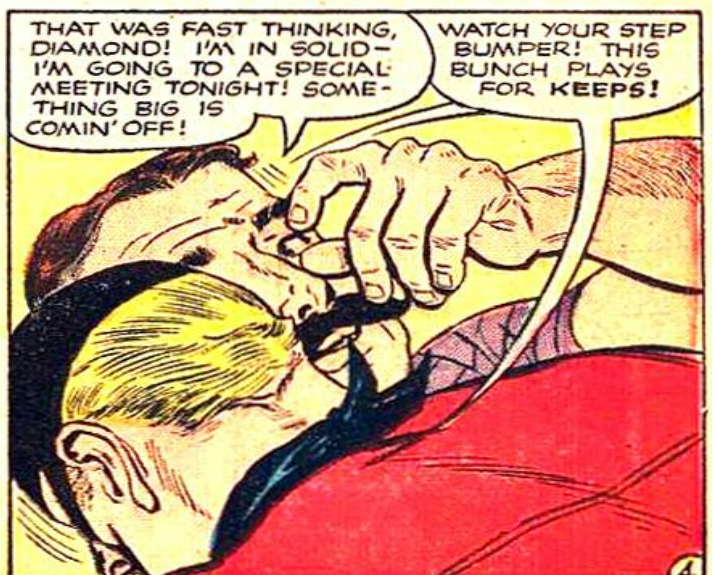
WHOA, EL LOBO! LET'S GO TO THAT BAR! IT'S THE RIGHT SPOT FOR AN UNEMPLOYED RUSTLER!

WELL, HERE'S WHERE I HAVE TO PUT ON MY MAVERICK ACT-TO ATTRACT RUSTLERS AN' THIEVES!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN





BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN.

YOU'RE TELLING ME! BEING PALS-Y-WALS-Y WITH 'EM FOR ONLY AN HOUR GIVES ME THE CREEPS! I'M AFRAID TO THINK WHAT HAPPENED TO JIM DODGE!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THESE VARMINTS ARE LYING! IT ISN'T POSSIBLE SOME OF 'EM DIDN'T SEE JIM!

SOONER OR LATER I'LL FIND SOMEBODY WHO'LL TALK! WHEN I DO, YOUR RUSTLER PALS BETTER LOOK TO THEIR SHOOTING IRONS!

LET'S HOPE! BUT DON'T FORGET THERE'S ONE RUSTLER WHO'S YOUR FRIEND!

OKAY, BUMPER, PRETEND YOU'RE HIT FOR THE KNOCKOUT!

UGH!!

TAKE A LESSON! ANYBODY WHO HASN'T GOT CIVIL ANSWERS FOR CIVIL QUESTIONS WILL JOIN HIM ON THE FLOOR!

VERY NEAT, MARSHAL! I ADMIRE HE-MEN! CAN A HE-MAN ADMIRE A LADY ENOUGH TO BUY HER A DRINK?

I'VE GOT A LOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT JIM DODGE...

SINCE YOU KNOW JIM'S REAL NAME, LET'S TAKE A CORNER TABLE!

I MET JIM SIX WEEKS AGO WHEN HE CAME TO ELJOLA TO BUST UP A RUSTLING RING! I FELL IN LOVE WITH JIM... AND HE WITH ME! HE TOLD ME EVERYTHING... THAT'S HOW I KNOW HE'S A MARSHAL...

YOU TALK AS IF JIM DODGE WERE STILL ALIVE!

HE IS! HE'S BEING HELD AS A HOSTAGE BY THE RUSTLERS IN CASE THE LAW SHOWED UP! WHAT'S MORE I KNOW WHERE HE'S BEING HELD!

TAKE ME THERE! THE LAW WANTS TO SHOW UP!

MEANWHILE... IN AN ALLEY NOT FAR FROM THE SALOON...

THANKS FOR LETTIN' ME JOIN THE GANG, BOYS! YOU WON'T BE SORRY!

THAT'S WHAT WE FIGGER TOO!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

TEN MINUTES LATER, NEAR THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...



ENTER AS IF NOTHING WERE WRONG! GIVE AN ALARM AND YOU'LL BE DEADDER THAN A COONSKIN CAP! NOW OPEN THE DOOR!

IS THAT YOU, MARCUM?

YEP! IT'S ME!

YES, AND MARCUM'S GOT COMPANY!  
GASP! JIM! JIM DODGE! YOU'RE ALIVE! YOU'RE SAFE!!

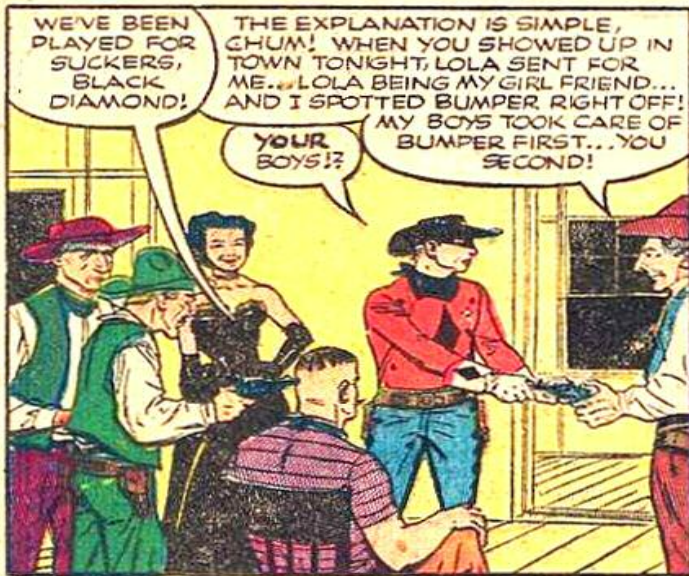


THANKS TO YOU, BLACK DIAMOND! THEY WERE HOLDING ME AS A HOSTAGE! IT WAS TERRIBLE! I'LL SHOW YOU HOW THEY FORCED ME TO LIVE!



TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THIS ROOM!

GASP! B..BUMPER!



WE'VE BEEN PLAYED FOR SUCKERS, BLACK DIAMOND!

YOUR BOYS?!

THE EXPLANATION IS SIMPLE, CHUM! WHEN YOU SHOWED UP IN TOWN TONIGHT, LOLA SENT FOR ME... LOLA BEING MY GIRL FRIEND... AND I SPOTTED BUMPER RIGHT OFF! MY BOYS TOOK CARE OF BUMPER FIRST... YOU SECOND!



DIDN'T YOU KNOW? BEING A MARSHAL IS ONLY A FRONT! I'VE BEEN RUNNING THIS RUSTLING GANG FOR YEARS! TONIGHT I'M PULLING OFF MY BIGGEST JOB! I'M DRIVING A HERD OF FIFTEEN HUNDRED CATTLE ACROSS THE BORDER TO A MEXICAN BUYER! PRETTY GOOD, EH?

OF ALL THE MISERABLE, BACK STABBING TRAITORS... YOU'RE THE ROTTENEST!



I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR HAVING HARD FEELINGS... CONSIDERING HOW YOU CAME HERE WORRYING ABOUT ME AND TRYING TO RESCUE ME! HA! HA! ISN'T THAT A LAUGH? TAKE CARE OF 'EM, MARCUM! THEN MEET US AT MEXICAN GULCH!

SURE... SOON AS I SEE THESE TWO BURIED IN OUR BACK YARD!



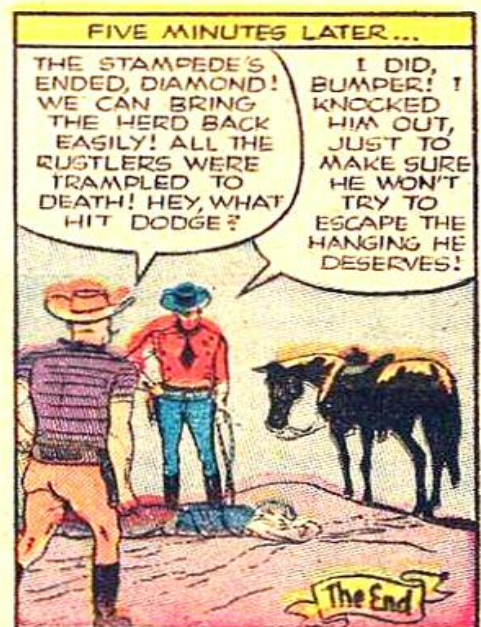
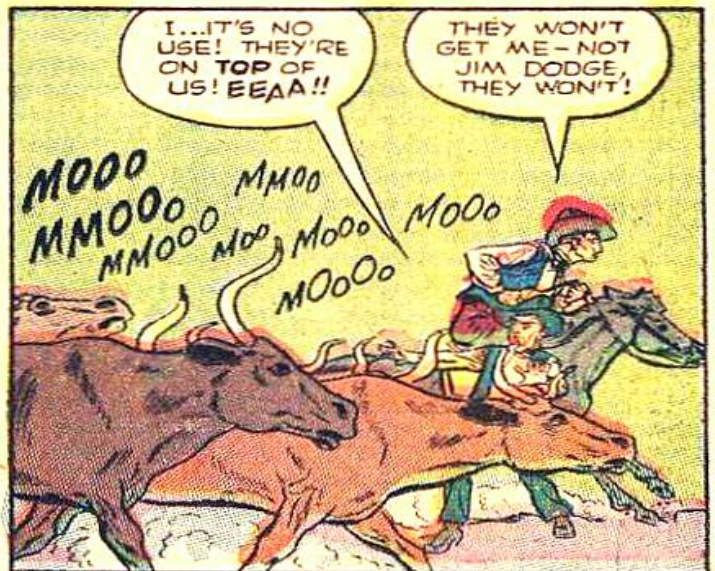
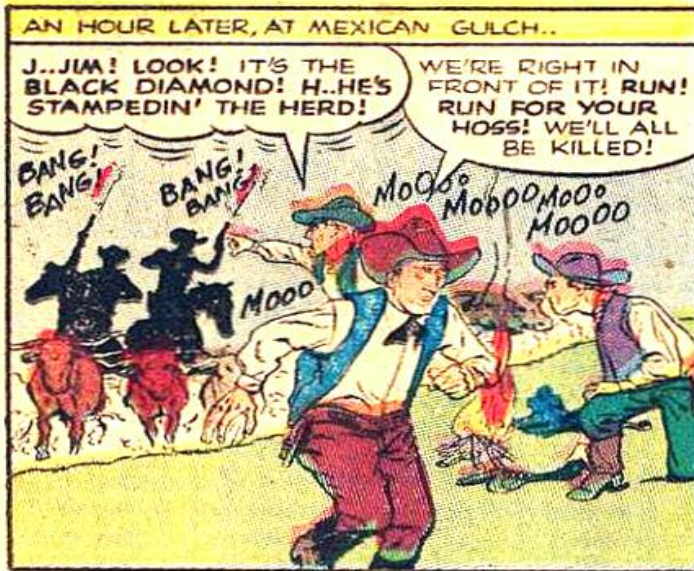
OKAY, BIG SHOT! WHERE ARE YOUR EYES NOW? WHAT GOOD ARE A MILLION EYES TO YOU! A LITTLE PRESSURE ON MY TRIGGER, AN' I BLOW OUT BOTH OF THEM!

DON'T BE A FOOL, MARCUM! WE CAN MAKE A DEAL! THERE'S A MAP IN MY POCKET - OF A SILVER MINE I RAN ACROSS! I'LL GIVE YOU THE MAP IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR LIVES!



YOU SAP! I DON'T HAVE TO MAKE NO DEALS! I JUST TAKE WHAT I WANT! WHERE'S THE MAP? I DON'T FEEL NO MAP!

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN



# SASS Winners Buckle Order Form

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## Buckle Information

**\*Please provide proof of placement\***

Hosting Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

SASS Sanctioned Match Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State  Regional  National  World  Territorial Shoot Out  State Shoot Out

Year of Match: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Finish: \_\_\_\_\_

## Method of Payment

Winners Buckle: \$109.95 (includes \$9.00 Shipping)

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TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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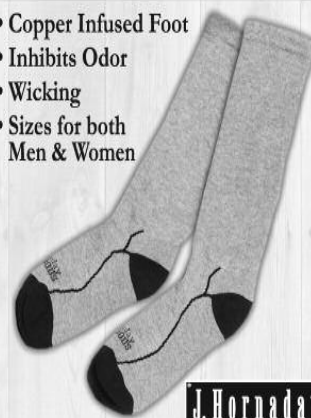
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affiliation. – Or Else!

Email to [roxy@sassnet.com](mailto:roxy@sassnet.com)

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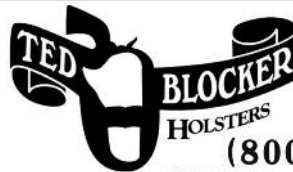
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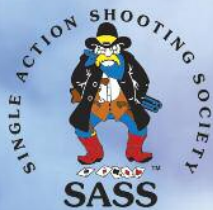


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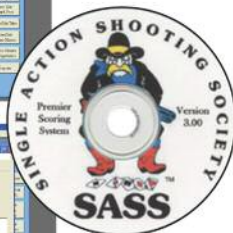


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### Winner's Buckle Information

**\*Please provide proof of placement\***

Hosting Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SASS Sanctioned Match Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State  Regional  National  World  State Shoot Out  
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 Year of Match: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Category: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place of Finish: \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of Payment (u.s. funds)

Winners Buckle: \$109.95 (Includes Shipping)  
 Flapper Clasp? Please add \$10.00  
 New Mexico Resident? Please add \$7.95  
**TOTAL: \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check  Money Order  Amex  Visa  Discover  M/C  
 Card#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Any 1st to 5th place category winner in any SASS Sanctioned State, Regional, Territorial, National or World Championship match can order a buckle with proof of placement. Complete the form above and return to the SASS office with payment or call the office at ( 505) 843-1320 to place your order. Congratulations to our many winners!!!

# NEW SASS® MEMBERS

## FROM EACH STATE AND COUNTRY

### OCTOBER 1 - 31, 2015

#### MEMBERS BY STATE

##### SASS # ALIAS

###### AK

103,337..... B Wag

###### AL

103,313..... Big Poppa Hurricane  
103,316..... Stacks M High  
103,327..... Autumn Fire  
103,353..... 103353  
103,409..... Light Bender

###### AZ

103,350..... Coleman Justice  
103,357..... Panama Rose  
103,406..... Navy Jack

###### CA

103,328..... TK Mann  
103,329..... Slim Jim Harvey  
103,340..... Shorty McPhee  
103,360..... Deadeye Drake Wilson  
103,365..... Blue Eyed Jack  
103,421..... 103421  
103,422..... 103422  
103,434..... Hard Steel  
103,435..... Lassen Annie  
103,436..... Younger Gun  
103,446..... Paladin1872  
103,449..... Sharin'Lead  
103,450..... San Francisco Kid

###### CO

103,323..... Dizzy Mountain Rose  
103,410..... Dark Horse Diane  
103,431..... Vash the Stampede  
103,439..... 103439

###### DE

103,403..... Trail Boss Terry

###### FL

103,314..... Father Kit "Cool Gun"  
Garth  
103,325..... Swamp Gator  
103,346..... Tallahassee Jack  
103,402..... Longbow  
103,411..... The Reaper  
103,413..... Florida FlapJack

###### GA

103,319..... Janey Wales  
103,420..... White Buffalo

###### HI

103,338..... Terrible Morgan

###### ID

103,362..... Indy Bootlegger

###### IN

103,438..... Doc MacCroi

###### KS

103,366..... Delano  
103,412..... David Windrider  
103,444..... Purdy Goodwife

###### KY

103,408..... Professor Sour Mash  
103,437..... Hoot Owl

###### LA

103,324..... Brother Bronson

###### MA

103,343..... "Iron Shirt" Marcos  
103,361..... Mister Sunshine

###### MD

103,330..... Jack Ripper  
103,345..... Casey Green

###### ME

103,432..... 103432

###### MI

103,332..... Hickok Holly

###### MO

103,333..... Rusty Coot  
103,453..... Cindy Lou Q

###### NC

103,423..... Danger Russ  
103,424..... Twilight Sparkle  
103,425..... Firefly Lightning  
103,433..... Simple Bill

###### NJ

103,336..... Kid Jackson Hole  
103,428..... Black Biskit Bill  
103,440..... Paver Kid  
103,448..... 103448

**NM**

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103,320..... Maggie O'Buckshot  
 103,321..... 103321  
 103,322..... Emiline Cantankerus  
 103,334..... Bad Deal  
 103,341..... Cowboy Troubadour  
 103,351..... Miss Kitty Red

**NY**

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103,367..... Lone Rider Lou  
 103,427..... Deerlake Kate  
 103,430..... Wooden Nickle Higgs  
 103,441..... Rudy Rockette

**OH**

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103,349..... Stanislav Tomahawk

**OK**

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103,335..... Gunrunner Dan  
 103,355..... Slim Pickins Jr.  
 103,418..... Steely Dan

**OR**

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103,401..... Copper Dave  
 103,443..... Jeff Zee

**RI**

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103,419..... Single Six

**TN**

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103,344..... Captain Nall  
 103,369..... Show Girl

**TX**

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103,318..... Saltwater Slim  
 103,326..... Texas Templar  
 103,347..... Willie McGee  
 103,359..... Miss Di Agnost  
 103,363..... Pinfire  
 103,404..... Doc Neugi  
 103,417..... Ranger Tays  
 103,447..... Judge Hog  
 103,451..... Cowboy Lingo

**VA**

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103,407..... Little Dan

**WA**

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103,370..... Windage Bob

**WY**

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103,317..... P.A. Kidd

# MEMBERS BY COUNTRY

## SASS # ALIAS

**AB**

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103,315..... Juliannie Oakley

**AU**

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103,429..... Blackjack Al

**BC**

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103,442..... Senhor Montana

**SK**

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103,416..... 103416



# CAN'T GET ENOUGH SHOOTIN'?

## FIND A MONTHLY OR ANNUAL MATCH NEAR YOU!

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**USA and International  
Monthly Matches**



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**Monthly Mounted Matches**