

THE

October / 2015

Cowboy CHRONICLE

Cowboy Action Shooting™ is alive and well in the Nordic countries, as evidenced by the smoke and thunder heading down range at The Norseman Trail, the 2015 SASS® Nordic Championship.

Inside...

THE BATTLE OF PLUM CREEK THE 2015 TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

By Long Juan

PRIVATE WATKINS' WAR CIVIL WAR HISTORY

By Big Dave

THE VIEW FROM OUR LENS KICKING OFF 2015 IN PICTURES

By Artie Fly and Sexie Sadie



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*Hall of Fame inductee
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(SASS Life #223)
and
Miss Mary Spencer
(SASS Life #55147)
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Editorial Staff

Skinny

Editor-in-Chief

Misty Moonshine

Managing Editor

Tex and Cat Ballou

Editors Emeritus

Adobe Illustrator

Layout & Design

Mac Daddy

Graphic Design

Square Deal Jim

Advertising Manager

(703) 764-5949 • Cell: (703) 728-0404
chronicleads@sassnet.com

Staff Writers

Big Dave, Capgun Kid

Capt. George Baylor

Col. Richard Dodge

Jesse Wolf Hardin, Joe Fasthorse

Larsen E. Pettifogger, Palaver Pete

Tennessee Tall and Rio Drifter

Texas Flower

Whooper Crane and the Missus

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email: SASSCHRON@sassnet.com
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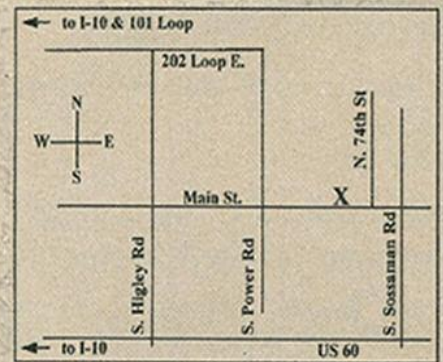
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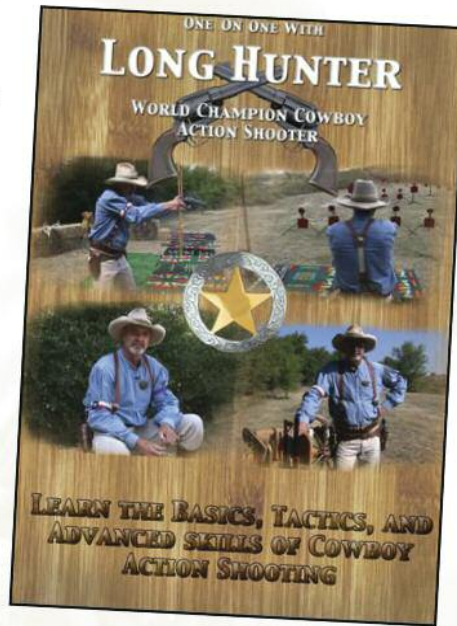
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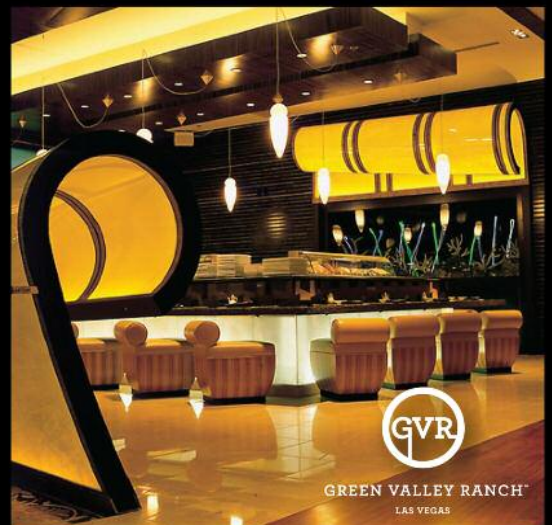
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From The Editor

The SASS[®] Organization What Does SASS do?

By Misty Moonshine, SASS #83232

A few of SASS' own members have recently stated, "What does SASS do for me?" "What does SASS do as a "parent" organization... and even, "We don't need SASS to play Cowboy Action Shooting™"...

While the latter statement may be true in the short term, it wouldn't remain so for long without SASS, and Cowboy Action Shooting™ wouldn't be the recognizable or respected discipline it is today in the Shooting Sports and Firearms Industry if it weren't for the direct efforts of the Single Action Shooting Society®.

At this critical time in our organization, I think it is important to illustrate what your membership in SASS means on a global scale- and list just some of the achievements SASS has championed on your behalf over the years. While being humble is an admirable

quality, I think it is time to outline some of SASS' accomplishments.

SASS membership means different things to different people, and membership in SASS has both tangible and intangible benefits. In many ways, those intangible benefits outweigh the tangible benefits of a registered alias, a shooters badge, and member discounts.

Did you know?

- Colt SAAs and their clones would be illegal in California if not for the direct efforts of SASS on your behalf.
- Without SASS, members in California would be able to own only rifles that are limited to 10 rounds.

(Continued on next page)



*Misty Moonshine,
SASS #83232*

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The SASS® Organization • What Does SASS do? . . .

(Continued from previous page)

- SASS represents its members interests to protect gun rights:

Testified before the California Senate Judiciary Committee on Firearms related legislation.

Testified before the California House Public Safety Committee on Firearms related legislation.

Testified before the United Nations General Assembly on the Treaty for Regulation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (currently titled The Arms Trade Treaty or ATT).

- Today's wide variety and availability of Single Action Revolvers and Lever Action rifles is directly attributable to SASS and its success as an organization.

- SASS created and still creates and maintains a visible market that influences manufacturers such as Ruger Vaqueros and Marlin Rifles without "micro-grooved" barrels.

- There would never have been a need or desire for a .38 bullet weighing less than 158 grains.

- SASS members would have a difficult time finding competent gunsmiths to work on their guns (there were only a very small handful in the early 80s).

- Winchester quit putting the cannellure in their .45 Colt brass and made it a smooth walled case so it would last longer.

- The quality and design of CAST™ firearms is immensely superior to those of yore, and while that's largely due to the efforts of Boyd Davis (EMF) and Val Forgett (Navy Arms), their efforts would've been fruitless without the visible market that is the SASS Organization of members.

- Many retail giants in the industry (Midway, Dillon, Cabela's, Brownell's) stock and market Cowboy Action Shooting™ accessories, parts, etc.—a direct result of SASS' influence.

- Internationally, many countries are signing on to the UN Arms Trade Treaty. Those countries will be expected to conform to the mandates of the treaty. SASS stands as the organization that invokes protection to ensure that SASS members and affiliated clubs are protected by definition—meaning their guns are protected.

- SASS membership affords members in many foreign countries the ability to possess firearms that they otherwise could not legally own.

- SASS has had a profound effect on the way firearms and the shooting sports are viewed by many, including the press. Men, women and children dressed in 1890s clothing and shooting old-time firearms present an aura of FUN. That in turn has influenced other shooting

sports, which have adopted the public approach of "shooting is a FUN, SAFE, pastime." Even the National Shooting Sports Foundation advertises their First Shots program with an emphasis on FUN.

- SASS has been a member of the National Shooting Sports Foundation since its inception, and has helped develop many of their range programs.

Today we are seeing many of our traditions, much of our history, and many of our core values denigrated, devalued, and in some cases, simply erased. SASS stands for and promotes the preservation of those valued elements. If you think not, ask yourself why you like your SASS pards. Why do we all say you'll "come for the shooting, but stay for the people?"

It is our mission to ensure SASS continues for many, many years. Not the least of our reasons is our ability to pass on the history, the values, the camaraderie, and the good will exhibited in our game. The core qualities of free men and a free nation should not be allowed to die. Every single SASS member should be introducing friends, family, and neighbors to SASS and influencing them to join. There is strength in numbers, and the larger we are the stronger and more influential we are. 🤠

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News

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ DISPLAY GARNERS MUCH INTEREST

On Thursday, July 17, Ministry to Men, an organization in St. Charles County, Missouri, held a Hunting and Fishing Expo to showcase many different vendors and suppliers to the hunting and fishing industry. Two cowpokes thought it would be a great place to expose folks to Cowboy Action Shooting™, so a table was purchased, a tablecloth sign was ordered, and they gave away old issues of the paper Cowboy Chronicle while running a loop of Cowboy Action Shooting™ on YouTube via a laptop.



The cowboy table was the most visited of any table in the place! There was a lot of interest in our game, our gear, and our purpose. The two cowpokes, Alibi Cole (SASS #56001) on the left and Black Angus McPherson (SASS Life #34280) on the right had a ball explaining our sport, and of course appearing decked out and “heeled” created a ton of interest. Cowboy Action Shooting™ has already been asked back next year. 🤠

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Letters & Opinions

Gun Control in America is About Incrementalism

Arizona Billy Tilghman's Scholarship Essay Rebuttal in the September issue was right on the money! Gun control in America is about incrementalism, and support for banning "unreasonably unsafe firearms that would pose more of a risk to society than aid in protecting it" plays right into the hands of those who would disarm civilians by gradual encroachments. Lever action rifles—AKA the "high-capacity nineteenth-century assault weapon"—are already banned for much of the world's population. Imagine a campaign against them featuring a modern day version of the opening scene from the old TV series *The Rifleman*, in which Lucas McCain empties the magazine of his modified Winchester in a matter of seconds. It takes little imagination to realize that those who have been convinced that AR-15s "spray bullets" would have no trouble believing that lever action rifles are too dangerous for civilians to own.

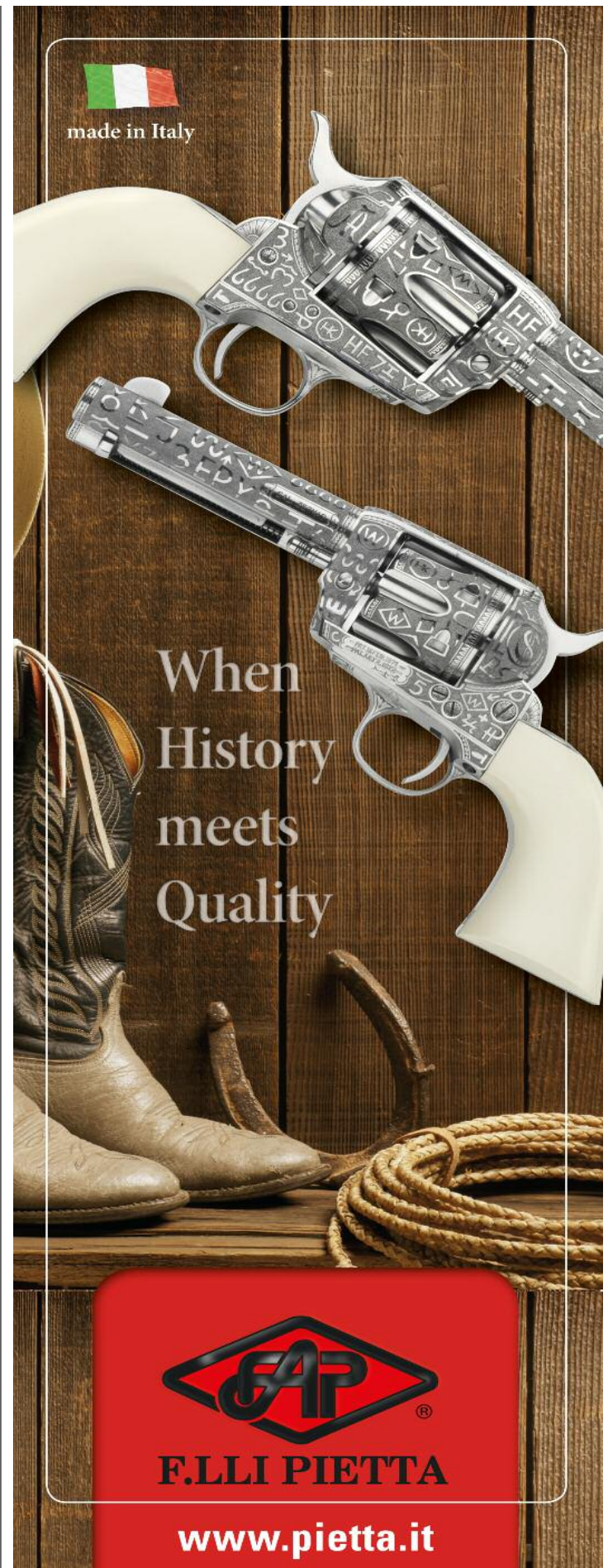
His comments about how no one "needs" more than one revolver are also perceptive. I live in a state (Massachusetts) in which the previous Governor repeatedly attempted to get his "One Gun a Month" plan passed. How much of a stretch would it be to eventually allow only one handgun per person once we let them start down that road?

Younger people today have been subjected to a relentless indoctrination program throughout their lives. Part of that program is an assault on ownership of firearms by private citizens along with denigrating many traditional American beliefs and customs. The Internet is not as great a counter to that program as many would think, because search engines tend to point to information sources that agree with "modern" interpretations of the Second Amendment. I think we older gun owners must help them understand WHY the Bill of Rights came to exist, and WHY it must be vigorously defended, or this once great Republic will pass from history as a "failed experiment" in liberty.

Shawsheen Scotty,

Sass #55157

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THE NORSEMAN TRAIL

Cowboy Action Shooting™

Nordic Championship 2015

By Captain Anacletus Sims, SASS #98742

Cowboy Action Shooting™ is truly a global sport, as evidenced by the July 2015 Nordic Championship shot in Loppi, Finland. The Norseman Trail (TNT) competition gathers the best shooters of Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark—i.e. The Nordic Countries—with no Icelanders joining the fun, however, at least not this year, to compete for the Nordic titles annually, with organization responsibilities and location rotating between the countries. This Year it was the honor of Classic Old Western So-

ciety of Finland (or more familiarly COWS) and SASS Finland to host the event.

The cool and somewhat rainy summer continued over the four July days the competition was held. Random heavy showers and partial clouds, but also hot sunshine, were all enjoyed, as the 50+ single action shooters took part in the match. Besides a 12-stage main match, the competition offered four-stage Plainsman and Wild Bunch matches, speed and long-range



Fastest Overall Man and Lady
Ray Heartless and Mad Cat With A Gun

competitions, team shoots, and costumeing competitions. And naturally the last event was a shoot-off of the eight fastest competitors.

After registration for the competition opened on Thursday at 8:00 a.m., the shooters meeting for the four-stage Plainsman match was held at 8:30. As was proper, it happened to be Armadillo Andy (SASS #91527), chairman of the board of COWS who put the first shots downrange in the competition. After Plainsman, Wild Bunch was divided between Thursday and Friday, with the long-range matches also taking place on those days, in late afternoons. For the first time in Finland, the long range matches involved five different sized buffaloes, making strategy an integral part of the

(Continued on next page)



Many thanks to Match Director, Cold Hand Leo (SASS #86547). He placed eighth overall in the main match (second in Gunfighter), but won the Wild Bunch side event, shooting Traditional.

The Norseman Trail . . .

(Continued from previous page)

competition, as each shooter had to optimize his score while trying to keep realistic expectations for his own, and his rifle's accuracy.

The main match stretched from Friday to Sunday, with four posses going about the stages in a planned order. The timetables were tight, but allowed for good breaks too. On each evening there was sauna at the cabin (this was in Finland after all). Due to the random light rains, some of the nights were enjoyed inside instead of the traditional campfires, but a lot of firewood was used nevertheless, a few guitar tunes were heard, and a lot of nice discussions were had. On Saturday evening there was even a burger bash, with one of the shooters building up a burger restaurant on site for the evening.

Final events took place on Sunday. After the last stages were shot, while the scores were being counted, there were the three speed competitions and also the Finnish Championship competitions in speed draw, and lastly, the shootout of fastest guns. In the shootout the finalists were Ray Heartless (SASS #62762) and Ace Heart (SASS #46760), with the Ray, the Norwegian, heartlessly taking his victory in the shoot-off over his Swedish senior. Ray Heartless, shooting in the Wrangler category, was also the fastest overall shooter on the main match, Ace Hart (Senior) being overall third. The second fastest, Scattergun Scotsman (Wrangler), came from Denmark, and the fourth was Colorado Jack Sterling (Frontier Cartridge) from Finland, distributing the top four places evenly over the participating countries—as could have been ex-



**Best Dressed winners
Concho C. Ellen and
Captain Christian.**

pected, knowing the general solidarity of the Nordic neighbors. On Plainsman and Wild Bunch matches the Finns took all the first places however—there are limits to hospitality after all.

In numbers, 50-plus shooters isn't so big perhaps, especially compared to the biggest competitions in USA, but the Western spirit was strong and everyone had great fun.

Some background information for the interested:

Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark together have a population of 26 million people (USA 321) and an area of 472,000 square miles (USA 3,794,000). Gun control laws in the Nordic countries are strict, but as long as one has a suitable reason for owning a gun, such as Cowboy Action Shooting™, the law does not really cause serious problems.

Old West is a common interest in Nordic Countries, with a lot of pioneers moving to North America back in the days. In fact, the oldest

log buildings still existing from the pioneer era are likely built by Finnish and Swedish builders. The Western genre has been a big interest for the locals over the decades, with classic Western films still being rerun on the national channels. Western movies are sold aplenty in digital formats. Besides imported programs, books and comics, the locals have also put in an effort in order to enjoy Western fiction. For example the famous (at least in Europe, with 22 million copies sold) Western novelist Louis Masterson was actually a Norwegian (Kjell Hallbing 1934-2004) who had never visited North America, but immortalized his visions of West, especially in his Morgan Kane books. With the popularity of the old west era in mind, it is quite easy to understand why Cowboy Action Shooting™ is also a big hit on the western loving adult demographic.

This year's venue Loppi, being a tiny community in southern Finland, is more than 5,000 miles away from the SASS headquarters, but only a hundred miles away from the Russian border.

Southern Finland here means almost as north as Anchorage, Alaska. Winter season is slow for shooting, as snow and cold weather is ill-suited for outdoors shooting (except for hunting off course). In the warmer seasons, there are a lot of matches—monthly in Finland on average.

Over the year, many shooters also travel to international matches elsewhere in Europe and even in the North America.

The main organizer this year, COWS, was founded in 1999, and incorporates a wide range of old

(Continued on page 12)

The Norseman Trail . . .

(Continued from page 11)

west interests and enthusiasts from shooters to buckskinners and handcrafts to old west culture. This year, with Wild West as the theme of the US embassy's Fourth of July party, COWS was even asked to send in a few cowboys in their best outfits (minus the weapons, naturally) to generate some more old west mood among the participants of the party. 🤠

TNT

the norsemen trail

2015



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On The Range

Eas'dern Shore ROUND-UP 2015

SASS Delaware State Championship

By Wyoming Schoolmarm, SASS #32070

In 1867, John O'Hanlan and Harley Sullivan are aging cowboys working on open cattle ranges in Texas. O'Hanlan gets a letter from an attorney in Cheyenne, Wyoming, informing him that his disreputable and now deceased brother, DJ, left him something in his will called, "The Cheyenne Social Club." After making the 1,000-mile trek to Cheyenne, the pair learns that The Cheyenne Social Club is a high-class brothel. When a gentleman came to call on one of the ladies, he would ring the bell inside the lobby a specified number of times to call the lady of his choice. If it were their number of rings, they would get up and excuse themselves so they could "visit" with their guest. O'Hanlan's new-found status as a man of property makes him the most popular man in town, until he decides to turn the Club into a respectable boarding house. When John returns to the Club one day to discover that Jenny, the head girl, has been assaulted by a man named Corey Bannister, John, with Harley following along, arms himself and goes to the bar where he kills Bannister when Bannister mistakes Harley's cracking pecans for a second gun.



Irishman Jim (SASS #68928)
with his ladies—
Sweetheart Sherry (SASS #68929)
and Sweet Irish (SASS #96160).

And so on Thursday, April 30, 2015, the William T. Roe Range in Sudlersville, Maryland, home of the Eas'dern Shore Renegades who hosted the Delaware State Match, was transformed into scenes from the movie *The Cheyenne Social Club*. Outside on the shooting bays, match director, Teton Tracy (SASS #40592), and the setup crew began pulling out targets, props and scenery. Other committee and team members readied for the early arrivals by organizing registration packets, door prizes, and decorating the porta-potties. Shortly the range took on the appearance of dusty cowboy trails leading on to Main Street in Cheyenne. While strolling through town one could see the living room and a bedroom of the Cheyenne Social Club, a lawyer's office, a sa-

(Continued on next page)



Hand Cannon (SASS #60485) had some of Dr. Foy's
Blue Nectar and is racing with that shotgun!

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Eas'dern Shore Round-Up 2015 . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Delaware Top Cowboy was Cool Hand Lee, Top Overall Cowboy Jesamy Kid, Top Overall Cowgirl Side Saddle Sue, Top Delaware Cowgirl Wyoming Schoolmarm.

loon, and the town's huge water tower.

Friday dawned with a slight chill in the air. After a few adjustments, 9:00 a.m. marked the start of Range Officer Training Classes and shooter registration began. Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 850 from Kent County Delaware had coffee ready by

7:30 a.m. and began cooking breakfast sandwiches. These veterans prepared and sold breakfast, lunch, and snack items as well as drinks all three days of the match. Side matches were held from noon until 4:00 p.m. Participants could compete in long range rifle and pistol events, as well as speed shotgun, rifle, pistol, pocket pistol, and derringer. This is the part of the match where you find some cowboys just wanting to warm up and send rounds downrange, while others compete with each other to see who can bang 'em out quickest. It's all about the raw time and always lots of fun! At 4:00 p.m., side matches were wrapped up and workers completed the final preparations for the main match competition, set to begin Saturday morning.

Friday evening was a time to renew friendships, meet new shooters, relax and mentally prepare for "game day." Groups made plans to eat together and catch up with friends. Many out-of-state competitors like to visit our seafood restaurants and a few even tried their luck at the Dover Downs Casino. We all tried to relax and get a good night's rest, before the pressures of the Main Match set in.

The mist Saturday morning lent a surreal air to the

(Continued on page 16)

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Eas'dern Shore Round-Up 2015 . . .

(Continued from page 15)

“herds of buffaloes and horses” grazing on the long range field. Registration opened at 7:30 a.m. for the last of the competitors to get checked in before opening ceremonies were scheduled to begin. Teton Tracy greeted everyone promptly at 9:30 a.m. He led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Corkscrew Tom (SASS #68972) offered a short prayer. Teton Tracy introduced the Delaware State Match Committee and thanked our sponsors and vendors. Safety Officer, Cactus Whiskey (SASS #75905), reviewed the SASS Match regulations and Delmarva Sportsman Association’s range rules. Having completed the preliminary procedures, Teton Tracy dismissed the shooters, wishing them all good luck and a safe and fun match. Cowboys and Cowgirls began retrieving their gun carts and heading to meet their posse members per the schedule.

Once the shooting order was established by each posse and duties assigned, the posse leader explained the stage and the competition began. As the day progressed, posses “met” John and Harley on a cattle drive, rode the dusty trail to Cheyenne, entered the town of Cheyenne, heard the reading of DJ’s will, rang the bell for their favorite “lady,” and saw justice prevail when one of their own was harmed. We even learned how to make Indian whiskey! Stages were fast and varied. The targets were large but somehow there were still a few misses due to those danged stealth bullets! There was a nice mix of movement and stand and deliver and the shooting patterns were fun! Definitely something for everyone.



*Luck of the Draw Winners—
Unexpected Bill, Stunt Girl Taj and Big Whiskey.*

Lunch was on a staggered schedule to keep the lines short at the food booth. Shooters also used this time to shop on vendor’s row, watch fellow competitors not on lunch break, and catch up with friends. Shooting wrapped up about 2:45 p.m. on Saturday. As shooters packed up their guns and put away ammo, many talked about the day’s competition. There are always tales of the stealth bullets and several joked about a target or two that somehow “jumped” out of the bullet’s path, while others laughed about the story lines, and a few crossed their fingers hoping their clean match would carry over to Sunday’s stages.

Cowboys, Cowgirls, and their guests relaxed for about half an hour while the caterer, Where Pigs Fly, began setting up the BBQ and names were drawn to receive door prizes. While eating desserts, side match awards were handed out. Gunpowder John (SASS #78053) earned the dubious ward of “Most Shots Fired In A Single Side Match” this year for firing 305 shots in the long range pistol event. Some cowboys just don’t have “quit” in their vocabulary!

At dinner The Too Dang Frank Award was presented. Too Dang Frank (SASS #31985), one of our cofounders, passed away in 2008. Each year we honor a cowboy/cowgirl who exemplifies Frank’s dedication to Cowboy Action Shooting™ and promotes our sport through his/her actions and interactions with others. This year’s winner was Gunpowder John. He has

(Continued on next page)



*When Corkscrew Tom shoots it's always a religious experience—
we pray for a breeze!*

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Eas'dern Shore Round-Up 2015 . . .

(Continued from previous page)



*Sherlock Doc takes a moment
for a sip of tea!*

grown tremendously in the years he has been shooting and has become a first-rate posse leader and a very hard worker for the Renegades. John's family was in attendance as well as Too Dang Frank's wife and son, and co-founder Slash 8 (SASS #51146) and his wife, Betty. John was completely surprised and humbled to receive this well-deserved award.

Sunday dawned bright with low humidity. After breakfast and Cowboy Church led by Sherlock Doc (SASS #97868), Poses headed out to defend the ladies of the Social Club from ruffians, meet up with desperados in the woods, face the Banisters whose brother was killed by Harley, hand control of the Social Club over to Jenny, and head back to working the cowboy trail. While final scores were being tallied, competitors could throw their name

badge in the hat to compete in the Luck of the Draw Team Shoot. Teams of three were randomly determined as follows: First badge drawn shot pistols, second drawn shot rifle, and third drawn shot shotgun. The teams of three were drawn until badges ran out. The stage was explained. The three team members staged their guns and stood at the start line. At the buzzer, the shooter was to go to the line, shoot the pattern assigned, and return to the start position to tag the next team member. The shotgunner went last and in addition to his assigned shooting pattern, s/he made up any misses made by teammates by

shooting a dump target. The team with the lowest total time was declared the winner. Competitors seemed to enjoy this fun "show-down" at the end of the match.

As awards were laid out and the list of winners double-checked, raffle winners were drawn, and sponsors, vendors and the Match Committee were thanked. Awards were handed out by Delaware's Territorial Governor, Deacon Will (SASS #24170), and Match Director Teton Tracy. Category winners were announced and presented with plaques, and the top Delaware winner in each category received a special Delaware State Category winner emblem. Six cowboys received Clean Match

(Continued on page 18)

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Eas'dern Shore Round-Up 2015 . . .

(Continued from page 17)

pins. Braggin' rights for The Luck of the Draw Team Shoot were won by the team consisting of Big Whiskey (SASS #73829), Stunt Girl Taj (SASS #87096—Big Whiskey's daughter), and Unexpected Bill (SASS #84398), all New Jersey shooters. Top Delaware Cowboy was Cool Hand Lee (SASS #81764), who won for the third year in a row, and Top Delaware Cowgirl was Wyoming Schoolmarm. Overall Match winner and Top Cowboy was Jesamy Kid (SASS #34841) and Top Cowgirl was Side Saddle Sue SASS #73023). Top overall male and female winners received Top Shooter plaques and a leather picture which was hand-tooled by Corkscrew Tom, a fine cowboy and an artist with leather.

We are grateful to our main match sponsors: The Cowboy Shop, Senior Care of Goldsboro, and By George! Custom Embroidery. Contact information for them is available at www.dsarange.com/RoundUp.htm.

A big thank you goes to Slash 8 who prepared the stages for the shooters handbook again this year.

Thanks also go out to the Eas'dern Shore Round-Up Committee of Teton Tracy, Southpaw Sadie (SASS



Happy Valley Harlot (SASS #84435) shoots good and looks good shooting!

*Damascus Steel
(SASS #52807)
and
Tomahawk Teri
(SASS #52808)
browsing on
vendor row.*



#40592), Bonnie B Good (SASS #27711), Cactus Whiskey, Deacon Will, Delaware Coop (SASS #69691), Hazel Pepper (SASS #49662), Jingles Jerr (SASS #5463—the Renegades' TG), Vaquero Dan (SASS #31330), and Wyoming Schoolmarm. This committee worked hard to offer a smooth, well thought out, interesting and challenging match and successfully pulled it off. A full list of winners, match scores, sponsors, vendors, pictures and videos can be found at www.dsarange.com/RoundUp.htm.

Mark your calendars for May 6-8, 2016 as the Eas'dern Shore Round-Up prepares to celebrate their fifth Eas'dern Shore Round-Up. Hope to see you all there.

(Continued on next page)

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Eas'dern Shore Round-Up 2015 ...

(Continued from previous page)



(More HIGHLIGHTS on page 20)

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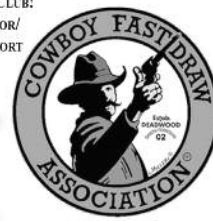
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On The Range



BATTLE OF PLUM CREEK

SASS Texas State Championship 2015

By Long Juan, SASS #84671

Lockhart, TX. More than 11 inches of rain fell on the Agarita Ranch in the two weeks leading up to the 2015 SASS Texas State Championship match. In the four weeks after the match, we had another 16 inches. We need the rain, so we are not complaining, but we were extremely fortunate to have been able to shoot the match when we did. It was so wet before the match workers who planned to pre-shoot two weeks earlier had to wait until the Sunday before and then were able to shoot only 6 of 10 stages. The remaining stages had to be shot catch-as-catch-can during the main match. Thanks to the posses that let them “shoot-through.”

In the days before the match, everyone worked hard to make sure the shooting experience on match weekend would be a great one. There was grass to mow, drying chips to spread, and much more. Targets had to be set and painted. Props had to be reworked and put in final shape for the competition. Volunteers galore worked steady the days and nights before the match and even some on side-match Thursday to make sure everything was ready.

The shooting began early Thursday morning as 11 shooters on Marshal Two Gun Johnnie's (SASS #59477) Plainsman posse took to the range and started sending black smoke down bays. Elsewhere at the Agarita Ranch on Thursday morning and early afternoon,

Texas Jack Daniels (SASS #8587) taught RO-I and RO-II classes. Everyone who attended reported learning lots. Registration opened for shooter check-in at 10:00 a.m., and by late Thursday, all but 35 of 249 registered shooters had



The Judge held court on the porch of the Hotel, accompanied by Cat Ballou and Justice Lily Kate. Tex, of course, paid close attention to the shooter's meeting and couldn't believe what “Old Paint” was telling the troops!

picked up posse assignments and the great shooter's bag put together by Agarita Annie (SASS #88620) and her many helpers. Right after lunch, six ladies and 39 men participated in the four-stage Wild Bunch match.

During the mid-afternoon hours, Texas Flower (SASS #43753) presented a costuming seminar with help from Kathouse Kelli (SASS #72384) and a few others. Attendance and participation was great. They were on the other side of the pavilion from shooter check-in where I was working. I learned more than I thought I ever could about the construction, size,

(Continued on next page)



Top Lady at Battle of Plum Creek '15 was Spur Broke. Congratulations... Great shooting!



Dragon Hill Dave as “Old Paint” puts the final touches on the safety meeting, explaining in graphic detail what will happen to ANYONE caught violating SASS rules or being unsafe!

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Mini-matches are in vogue

Wild Bunch continues to grow with each new match, and Plainsman is making a resurgence. Recognizing Modern and Traditional Plainsman categories has made a huge difference and opened up the event to many more competitors and firearms than in years past.

Battle of Plum Creek 2015 . . .

(Continued from previous page)

shape, and wearing of bustles and corsets. It was a great afternoon. Thanks, Flower!

All day long Thursday, shooters participated in various side matches, including Long Range and just about every “fastest” match you can imagine. The Coal Burner is one side match that requires more explanation. A charcoal briquette was placed on a cart mounted on rails. At the buzzer, the shooter retrieved his/her shotgun and released the cart, which rolled down the rails. The first shot was used to engage a popper on the cart that, when hit, sent the briquette airborne. With the second shot, the shooter engaged the flying briquette. Quickest time without misses won. Fun was had by all who participated.

At the end of the shooting day Thursday, Stage Sheriffs and Posse Marshals did a walk-through of main-match stages with Phantom (SASS #54973) and Joe Darter (SASS #38268). With a little help from a few others, they wrote the great main-match stages. Stage Sheriffs were each assigned three or four stages during the main match. They were “first responders” when there were questions during the match. We had 15 great posse marshals who kept things running smoothly and efficiently.

As noted earlier, the weeks leading into the match were laden with heavy rain, but the weather

during the match could not have been better. It was sunny and dry—cool in the morning and warm in the afternoon. That’s absolutely as good as it gets in Cen-

(Continued on page 24)

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Battle of Plum Creek 2015 . . .

(Continued from page 23)

tral Texas in early May. Friday morning of the match dawned sunny and cool. Seven posses of shooters participated in the shooter safety meeting at 8:30. Match Director, Delta Raider (SASS #57227), welcomed everyone to the Agarita Ranch, where the Plum Creek Shooting Society regularly shoots. The Agarita Ranch Events Center is owned by Delta Raider and his wife. After Delta Raider imparted words of welcome, Phantom and Joe Darter briefed shooters on the stages they would be shooting and Safety Marshal, Artiman (SAS #94959), discussed the importance of being safe.

Then came what has become a fun tradition at big matches hosted by the Plum Creek Shooting Society. Club president, Dragon Hill Dave (SASS #59561), appropriately attired as Matthew "Old Paint" Caldwell, and complete with personal sound effects and big knife in hand, demonstrated to shooters how they would be scalped if they violated any SASS or



Matt Black continued his reign as "top shooter," being the top overall competitor at this year's "battle."

range safety rules. Ranger Captain Caldwell, who fought and led at the real Battle of Plum Creek, was nicknamed "Old Paint" because of white spots in his hair, beard and on his breast—like a paint horse. Dragon Hill Dave certainly looked the part. At past big matches, Dragon Hill Dave has appeared as Pancho Villa and Chief Hides-in-Bushes.

Formalities complete, main-match hammers were down by 9:00 a.m. By the end of the day, all 15 posses had completed five of the ten main-match stages and were ready to

party. Les Newcomb (Six Wire) and Joe Blanda with the Folkwine Trio provided great live music. Snacks and beverages were served, while side match awards and shooter prizes were handed out. There were guns, knives, and pretty much any-

(Continued on next page)

Winners

Overall and State Champions

Man	Matt Black, SASS #54580
Lady	Spur Broke, SASS #94572
Categories	
Buckarett	Little Bullseye, SASS #95965
Junior Girl	Diamond Kate, SASS #95104
Junior	Matt Black
Cowgirl	Spur Broke
Cowboy	Boomstick Jay, SASS #90849
L Wrangler	Kathouse Kelli, SASS #72384
Wrangler	Copperhead James, SASS #97028
L 49'er	Bent Barrel Betty, SASS #33237
49'er	Constable Nelson, SASS #11784
L Senior	Dream Chaser, SASS #79316
Senior	I Reckon, SASS #35883
L S Senior	Bristlecone Jan, SASS #72773

S Senior	Lefty Wheeler, SASS #78042
Grand Dame	Cactus Kay, SASS #15157
E Statesman	Pineywoods Jim, SASS #56822
C Baroness	Boosey Babe, SASS #77984
C Baron	Rebel Bill, SASS #75429
Patron	Ed Sieker, Texas Ranger, SASS #15960
L B-Western	Panhandle Cowgirl, SASS #77924
B-Western	Texas Slim, SASS #43510
C Cowgirl	Hot Tamale, SASS #78531
C Cowboy	Dragon Hill Dave, SASS #59561
L Duelist	Green Eyed Brazos Belle
Duelist	Hairtrigger Hayes, SASS #92280
S Duelist	Eli Blue, SASS #53766
S S Duelist	Handlebar Bob, SASS #4650

Gunfighter	Rusty Remington, SASS #61821
L S Gunfighter	Krazy Legs Kay, SASS #87857
S Gunfighter	Texas Gator, SASS #74485
L F Cartridge	Silver Streak Barb, SASS #101856
F Cartridge	Preacher Kid, SASS #92048
F C Duelist	Billy Boots, SASS #20282
Frontiersman	Six, SASS #41283
L C Dixon L	Red Ramblin Rose, SASS #79745
C Dixon Lever	Bootstrap Richard, SASS #79130
C Dixon SS	Old River Ranger, SASS #53057

Side Matches

Long Range Lever	
Man	Davy Austin, SASS #88248
Lady	Bristlecone Jan
Long Range SS	
Man	Circuit Judge, SASS #20823
Lady	Bristlecone Jan

Battle of Plum Creek 2015 . . .

(Continued from previous page)

thing and everything that a shooter could want among the shooter prizes. Many in attendance finished the night with a great bowl of jambalaya cooked and served by Whiskey Kid (SASS #96877) at his circle of RV wagons.

We were very fortunate to have members of The Wild Bunch join us for the match. Judge Roy Bean



Patience roared to life and set all the initial waves of shooters into motion. Each relay on Friday was sent to the firing line with a blast from Patience!

(SASS #1), his wife, Justice Lily Kate (SASS #1000), Tex (SASS #4) and his wife, Cat Ballou (SASS #55), were all there. We thank them for being a part of the Battle of Plum Creek 2015 and for everything they have done for years to make Cowboy Action Shooting™ the great sport it is today.

Saturday dawned a little earlier for the shooters, as we were hammers down by 8:30 in order to finish in plenty of time to get ready for the big awards banquet that night. Immediately after the shooting was finished, more than 26 people entered the late-afternoon costume contest. Competitors had to be SASS members, but did not have to be registered shooters. Awards were presented three deep.

At the awards banquet Saturday night, everyone enjoyed chicken-fried steak and fixin's for dinner,

(Continued on page 26)



Phantom and Joe Darter wrote the main match stages and briefed the shooters during the safety meeting.

Long Range Pistol Caliber	Fastest Shotgun Hammered	Traditional	
Man Verdadero Dan, SASS #57083	Man Needmore Gunz, SASS #48268	Lady Green Eyed Brazos Belle	
Lady Belle Kaye, SASS #35884	Fastest Pocket Pistol	Costume Contest	
Long Range Pistol	Lady Daisy Dee, SASS #94034	Best-Dressed	
Lady Bellekaye	Man Rusty Remington	Couple	Smoke Jensen, SASS #101467
Man Rusty Remington	Fastest Derringer		Gypsy Diamond, SASS #101468
Fastest Rifle	Lady Dream Chaser, SASS #79316	Gentleman	Kettleman, SASS #27254
Lady Panhandle Cowgirl	Man Colorado Jackson, SASS #92770	Lady	Yankee Texan, SASS #56796
Man Phantom, SASS #54973	Charcoal Burner	B-Western	
Fastest Pistol	Lady Spur Broke	Lady	Lil McGill, SASS #85754
Lady Spur Broke	Man Two Gun Johnnie, SASS #59477	Man	Handlebar Bob
Man Rusty Remington	Mini Matches	Soiled Dove/Parlor House	Madam
Fastest 1911	Plainsman	Shotglass	
Lady Green Eyed Brazos Belle	Man Six	Military	Major J. H. J.
Man Constable Nelson	Lady Kow Katcher, SASS #53134	Williams,	SASS #22645
Fastest Shotgun '87-'97	Wild Bunch	Junior Girl	Texas Cutie, SASS #98454
Lady Mar-Lynn, SASS #94314	Modern	Junior Boy	Kidd James, SASS #101467
Man Phantom	Lady Shooting Iron Miller, SASS #85140		
Fastest SG SxS	Man Captain Sam Evans, SASS #16788		
Lady Panhandle Cowgirl	Traditional		
Man Constable Nelson	Man Pineywoods Jim		
Fastest Shotgun Hammered			
Lady Shotglass, SASS #17153			

Battle of Plum Creek 2015 . . .

(Continued from page 25)



while Dragon Hill Dave, Joe Darter, and Phantom served as masters of ceremony, and Agarita Annie once again played the Energizer Bunny, keeping everything organized and running efficiently. Shotglass (SASS #17153) and her crew did a great job with the stretch raffle. Not sure if everyone was buying tickets for the raffle or just to enjoy the "stretch." Thanks, Shotglass and crew, for everything. Money

was raised to defray expenses for the match and for a nice donation to the SASS Scholarship Fund. Included in the raffle items were a Dillon 650, together with several rifles and pistols. Handlebar Bob (SASS #4650) served as live auctioneer for a first-generation Colt donated by Event Sponsor, Red's Indoor Range. Thanks to Goatneck Clem (SASS #16787) for the winning bid and to everyone else who encouraged him to bid high.

Congratulations to 52 (21 percent) clean shooters. Complete scores are available on the Texas State Championship page of the Plum Creek website, www.pccss.org.

Sunday morning started with cowboy church in the chapel at the Agarita Ranch. "The Reverend" Bisbee Jackson (SASS #77610) presided and Cameo Jackie (Wildcat Bob's better half, AKA Wildcat Tamer) provided some beautiful a cappella music. Man-on-man and a team shoot followed cowboy church. Phantom was last man standing in man-on-man, but getting there was pretty tough. In the round of six, Phantom beat Ain't Dunit (SASS #71048), Oklahoma Dee (SASS #44562) beat Constable Nelson (SASS #11784), and Jackaroo (SASS #29989) beat Spur Broke (SASS #94572). Spur Broke and Constable Nelson shot faster than their opponents, but both missed the rifle knock-down to close it out. Thereafter, Jackaroo had a buy while Phantom had to beat Oklahoma Dee to face Jackaroo in the finals. Four teams started the team shoot. Congratulations all!

Overall the 2015 SASS Texas State Championship—the Battle of Plum Creek—hosted by the Plum Creek Shooting Society at the Agarita Ranch was a booming (literally) success. Each wave on Friday started with a boom from our cannon, Patience, fired by Lefty Leo (SASS #92277) and others of the Austin Light Artillery Battery. Seeing everyone have fun and the many kind remarks we

(Continued on next page)



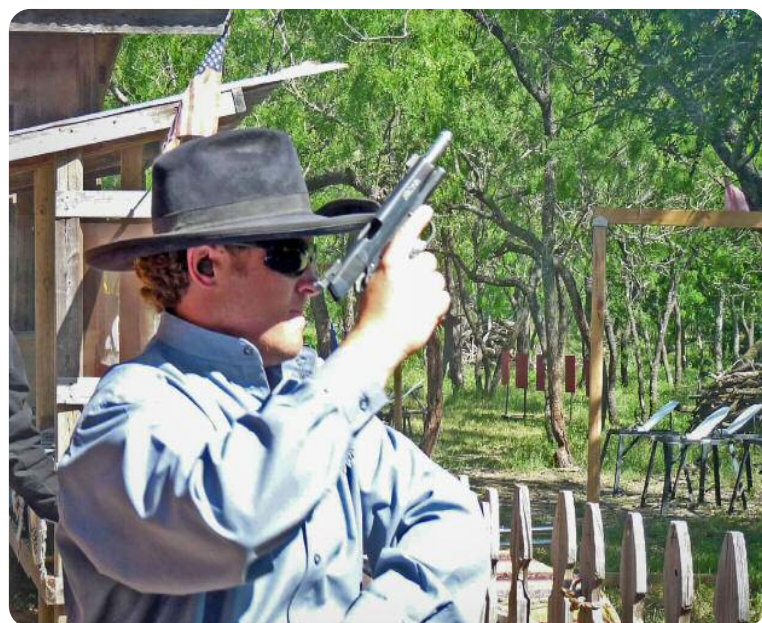
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Hat Chat #8 Part 1
Different Creases

Battle of Plum Creek 2015 ...

(Continued from previous page)



received after the match made all the hard work worthwhile! Thanks once more to everyone who worked so hard before and during the match to make the Battle of Plum Creek a success and to everyone who came and shot, watched, and otherwise participated in all the fun activities. 🤠

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On The Range

ABOVE AND BEYOND

THE Shootout at Hard Times

SASS Ohio State Championship

May 22-24, 2015

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

***The Lead Mine.** Shooter starts facing the revolver targets of choice, hands on hat. "He sure can shoot" and at the buzzer revolvers are shot from outside of the left of the wall, three shots on the first target alternating with the remaining two rounds on the first and second target. The shooter then moves outside the opposite wall and engages the other two targets with a three on one and alternate for the last two rounds. The shooter then moves to the table inside the two walls and repeats the instructions on the left and right rifle targets. They then retrieve the shotgun and shoot all six knockdowns till down. Sounds easy enough doesn't it? Ha! This was fast and furious shooting for sure! More on stages later.*



Sage Chick



Deuce Stevens

It's hard to believe the inaugural Shoot Out at Hard Times was conducted thirteen years ago! The Hard Times staff had everything under control. Even though we had a late spring rainstorm before the match, the stages were ready. Mean Gun Mark (SASS #78668) in concert with Boaz (SASS #88829—the Territorial Governor) as well as assistant match director Buckshot Jones (SASS #18177), put on one heck of a show!

The day prior to the match, Lassiter (SASS #2080) hosted a SASS Range Officer I and Range Officer II Course. The ROI Course is all class room and takes about six hours; then participants receive a ROI Certification Pin at the end of the class. This is where they learn all the rules of our game. The ROII Course is about two to three hours of classroom and then another couple of hours on the range doing practical drills that included having a stage set up with safety problems (the class had to identify the problems and correct them). Once the stage was safe to shoot they shot a couple of stages to give everyone a chance to become familiar with running the timer. Attendees were welcomed that evening at a meet and greet potluck dinner.

Day one was the day to participate in all the side

(Continued on next page)

Welcome to the Shootout at Hard Times in Piqua Ohio, home of the Miami Valley Cowboys and on this weekend, a place to honor great events that shaped great heroes—people whose ideals shaped American history. Also places where life on the open range merges with your 1950s-60s era cowboys and makes them come to life. Memorial Day, the final weekend of May, saw more than 150 Cowboys and Cowgirls from Ohio and as far north as Michigan and as far east as New York come to compete. All gathered in a fitting tribute where each stage was in honor of one of our great American heroes. There were a number of shooters who were out for their first time ever of shooting a SASS®-affiliated match. This year I was fortunate to shoot on Wilbur Rexroat's (SASS #12515) posse. His philosophy is, if you're not shooting you should be spotting. If you're not spotting you should be loading. If you're not shooting, spotting, or loading you should be keeping score or picking brass. Everyone participates!

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Above and Beyond • The Shootout at Hard Times . . .

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matches, which were conducted inside the shooting arena. The highlight of the morning was the Wild Bunch Mini match, which drew more than 30 competitors, and the warm up mini-match. Speed events ranged from the pocket pistol and speed shotgun to the speed pistol and speed rifle. Not to be outdone, on the long range they held the long range single shot, long range rifle, as well as the long range pistol caliber rifle events. This day was set up to allow



each of the competitors the ability to participate in all the side matches. Those who didn't partake in the side matches had more free time to participate in local area events or hob-knob with old friends and make new ones. That evening concluded with a wonderful steak dinner at the Piqua Fish & Game clubhouse and the distribution of Side Match awards.

Day two was a very beautiful and special May morning as all the competitors and visitors assembled in front of the gallows for the traditional opening ceremonies. Mean Gun Mark welcomed all the

(Continued on page 30)

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Above and Beyond • The Shootout at Hard Times . . .

(Continued from page 29)



shooters, Boaz gave the safety briefing, and after The Star Spangled Banner and Oh Canada (the Canadian National Anthem) were played, the Posse Marshals received their last minute range instructions, and we were off. I'd like to commend Corbin Dallas (SASS

#41040), the historian, for his outstanding job in developing the biographical information of the twelve great heroes that were read preceding each of our twelve stages. And Sports Photography and Design were on hand to take action shots of each competitor.

The main match was a fast paced shoot with six stages on day one with the remainder on day two. With great zeal, the rest of the posse members kept us moving right along so that by the last day of the competition we were able to finish the matches, present the awards and still have time for folks to make an exit back to their families at a decent hour.

The stages allowed for maximum shooter/scenario interface. For example, at stage two, with two pistols holstered and the shotgun on the box located in the center of the stage and the rifle on one of the horses on either side of the box, the shooter was positioned behind the box with their hands touching the box but not the shotgun. The call to action was... "Welcome to Black Rock." Then it was the shooter's choice, at the buzzer they were to get their shotgun and shoot the targets in any order, then get the rifle and engage each of three targets at least three times and finally, using revolvers as needed, engage each of three targets at least three times each. It was challenging, fun and gave the shooter options on how they preferred to complete the stage. This stage was quick—Lassiter shot it in 17.37 seconds! That's right, twenty-four shots from four different guns in 17.37 seconds. I don't know how he could even see the targets in that billowing cloud of smoke, but I have to give him a big Yee Ha!

Posses ran so smoothly that we were finished well before 5:00 p.m. and we relocated to the nearby Eagles Club where hospitality abounded. Sports Photography and Design were on hand to take pictures of folks dressed in their go-to-dinner finery. The cooks prepared some fantastic entrees for the Saturday evening dinner. To say they outdid themselves would be an understatement! They had a double line going and nobody went away hungry, as there was lots of grub! After dinner they held an auction of beautiful handmade items that raised several hundred dollars for the local cancer society efforts in combating this dreaded disease. Additionally there

(Continued on next page)

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Above and Beyond • The Shootout at Hard Times . . .

(Continued from previous page)



they then drew their revolvers and followed the same sequence as the rifle. Doc Molar (SASS #18470) was really moving; he shot all 26 shots while moving throughout the stockyard in 21.80 seconds. Folks, now that's hustling!

And, after two fun-filled and action packed days of competition, the winners emerged. The low score for the match this year was our perennial favorite Cowboy, Deuce Stevens (SASS #55996)! Now listen up, if you ever get a chance to shoot with this speed demon, make the effort, as he is great to watch! But hot on his heels was Doc Molar shooting 49'r. Top lady was Sage Chick (SASS #48454) shooting Cowgirl.

To see how all the shooters fared, please check out the Miami Valley Cowboys web site at:

http://miamivalleycowboys.org/recent_match_results.htm

For action photos as well as banquet photos please see Sports Photography and Design's great web site at http://www.photostockplus.com/home.php?tmpl=89&user_id=36747&album=2045006.

were numerous door prizes that had been donated in celebration of this event. One of the shooters even brought in a cake to celebrate the occasion!

Day two broke early with the final six stages held Sunday morning. This allowed plenty of time for shooting, lunch and the awards ceremony. A very unique stage was The Stockyards. The layout really looked like the stockyards portrayed in so many old western movies. Here, the shooter started with their shotgun in hand with the muzzle touching the top of the corral fence rail. "Yeah, he's my brother" and at the buzzer the shooter had to engage six knock down targets as they moved forward through the stockyard. After placing the shotgun on the bench at the end of the corral and retrieving the rifle, they then had to shoot at least three shots on each of the vertically arranged rifle/handgun targets with no triple taps. Finally, after securing the rifle safely in the vertical rack

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On The Range

The First Combined Annual Southeast New Mexico Shootout

A cowboy by the name of Stink Creek Jones (SASS #49656) had ventured beyond the city of Old Phenix and out into the bleak desert in search of the ever-diminishing supply of rabbits to feed his family. But they were smart little creatures (you have to be to survive in the desert, right?) and Stink Creek was not having much luck. He would need to head home soon—for the sun was approaching the horizon.

Stink Creek Jones climbed a plateau to get a survey of the area and when he reached the top, he realized he was not alone. There, on the other side of the plateau, was the back of another cowboy armed with a gun and a pile of rabbits at his feet. At first Stink Creek was angered by the scene—this was his hunting ground. However, when the cowboy turned around, recognition took hold and he realized the potential threat was a nearby rancher and friend by the name of Curly Bill Jones (SASS #91599).

The two exchanged the usual pleasantries before Stink Creek inquired as to how Curly managed to bag so many rabbits. Much to Stink Creek's surprise, Curly handed him a few rabbits and said, "Half of these are yours." Astonished by this statement, Stink Creek questioned, "How is that possible?" "I couldn't have done it without you," replied Curly Bill. "You were causing such a ruckus down there that all the rabbits came running for cover just below me. All I had to do was wait."

As it turns out, Curly too, was hard up for food. He had ventured into the desert for the same reason as Stink Creek. The two talked a while longer and reasoned that it was only fair that Curly would flush up the remaining rabbits for Stink Creek before the two headed home. This partnership worked so well that they agreed to meet the next day and try it again... And that is how the idea for a Combined Annual came about... only this is the Twenty-First Century and no rabbits were injured in any of the events mentioned in this article!

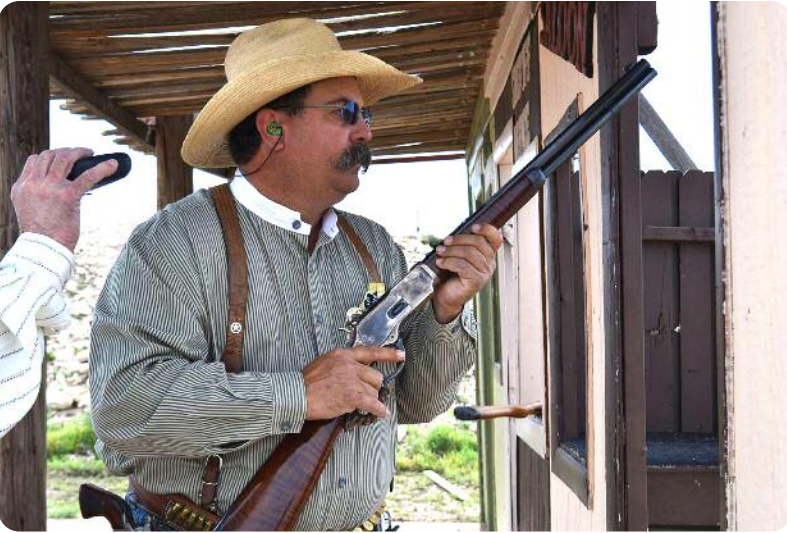


The Seven Rivers Regulators (7RR, Carlsbad, NM) and the Monument Springs Bushwhackers (MSB, Hobbs, NM) collaborated to hold the first "Combined Annual Southeast New Mexico Shootout" (CASNMS) on May 15, 16 and 17, 2015 at the MSB range in Hobbs, New Mexico. The festivities began on Friday afternoon with a Wild Bunch side match. The match consisted of four fun but challenging stages written by the MSB Territorial Governor, Val Darrant (SASS #39689). Each stage required at least 20 pistol rounds, plus the usual complement of ten 10 rifle and six shotgun. Participants

(Continued on next page)

The First Combined Annual Southeast New Mexico Shootout . . .

(Continued from previous page)



in the Wild Bunch Match shot a variety of targets both close and far, big and small, and attempted a scenario with the infamous 7RR Ducks! There was even a special stage with two special targets called Texas Stars.

After the smoke cleared at the end of the day on Friday, Gunsmoke Cowboy (SASS #84261) beat Tex (SASS #4), by the width of a spider's web

strand for top honors in the Wild Bunch Match. Gunsmoke was the winner of the Modern category, while Tex won the Traditional category. Miss Flora Bubbles (SASS #84608) took the trophy in the Lady Modern category, and Texas Tiger SASS #74829, got the Lady Traditional trophy.

The 10-stage Main Match began on Saturday. After the safety meeting, announcements, prayer, and pledge of allegiance, the shooters were divided into posses and the banging and clanging commenced promptly at 9:00 a.m. With the combined resources of both the MSB and 7RR, shooters were able to use rebounding, popper-style shotgun targets on all the stages. If the cowboy did not make the spotters see red, it was a miss, causing the contestant to reengage the shotgun target.

The first two stages were shot in the town of Monument Springs. Cowboys and cowgirls had to engage yellow duck-shaped targets with the rifle from the saloon doorway, shotgun knockdowns from the door of the Sheriff's Office, and with revolvers more ducks from the doorway of the general store. Al-

(Continued on page 34)

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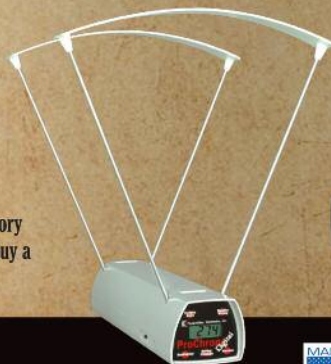
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The First Combined Annual Southeast New Mexico Shootout . . .

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though the ducks caused consternation among the shooters, they are not really that hard to hit if you do not let yourself get psyched out! To paraphrase Yogi, “[shooting] is ninety percent mental, the other half is physical.”

Stages 3 and 4 were shot at the remains of the MSB stage relay station, which had suffered grievously from an Indian attack. Each shooter engaged shotgun targets from the doorway and rifle/revolver targets from the East and West windows. Whether shooting with rifle or handgun, each Cowboy and Cowgirl had to negotiate a falling plate rack of five tombstone shaped targets plus additional rectangular targets. The falling plate targets were arranged in-line so each plate had to be knocked down before the succeeding plate could be engaged. As each tombstone target fell, a smaller target was revealed. The last tombstone to engage is rather miniscule, and requires each contestant to actually use their sights!

After successfully (more or less) negotiating the falling plate tombstones, each posse moved on to the next bay, which contained the Monument Springs

Bank, where stages 5 and 6 were engaged. At this scenario, all of the targets were engaged from the doorway of the MS Bank. The scenario looked easy initially, but each shooter in turn came to realize that the stage designer had a diabolical streak! Not only did each shooter have to engage six shotgun knock-downs, but the rifle/handgun targets were arranged in one continuous diagonal line of 10 targets, near-to-far. As long as the competitor remembered to take good aim so the spotters would “see red,” the shotgun targets were pretty rou-



tine. However, both stages required some concentration in order to shoot clean on the rifle and revolver targets. Stage 5 required each shooter to engage the first five targets with the revolvers (no double-taps). Then, each shooter had to engage all 10 targets with the rifle as quickly as their ability allowed. On stage 6, the shotgun targets presented no problem as long as the competitor remembered to squarely center the top portion of the target so the red bottom would show. Then each shooter had to double tap the last five targets with the rifle, and then shoot all 10 targets once each with the revolvers! These were not your average scenarios!

Each posse shot six stages on Saturday, and then broke for lunch. The midday meal was catered by crowd favorite, Bovine & Swine Barbecue. However, instead of the usual assortment of cobblers for dessert, this year we were provided with Bovine & Swine brownies (Yum-yum!). After everyone finished eating, the afternoon was filled with an array of side matches. In addition to the regular assortment of speed shooting and long-range rifle courses, the side matches included the increasingly popular lollipop side match. For those of you who have never heard of this side match, a cowboy or cowgirl must quickly demolish 10 suckers with a .22 caliber rimfire rifle.

The final four Main Match stages were completed on Sunday. Stages 7 and 8 were shot in the bay containing a genuine, authentic covered wagon and a valiant steed by the name of Broomtail. The shotgun and rifle were staged in the bed of the wagon for Stage 7, while the shooter started across the bay holding Broomtail's reins. At the buzzer, the shooter dropped the reins and engaged the handgun targets

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The First Combined Annual Southeast New Mexico Shootout . . .

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with both revolvers. The shooter then had to move several yards across the bay in order to engage the rifle and shotgun targets, which were arranged downrange from the wagon. On Stage 8, the shooter began the scenario standing by the wagon. At the buzzer, the shooter engaged four shotgun knockdowns, and replaced the shotgun in the bed of the wagon. The rifle was retrieved from the bed and the rifle targets were engaged. After placing the empty rifle back in the wagon, the shooter had to move several yards across the bay to good ol' Broomtail and engage the pistol targets with both revolvers.

Stage 9 occurred in the bay containing a campfire, a water trough, and a well. This stage involved considerable movement because the shooter started at the campfire holding the shotgun. When the buzzer sounded, four knockdowns had to show red. The shooter then moved to the water trough where the shotgun was staged. After retrieving the rifle, the targets were engaged in a combination of single taps, double taps, and finished with a triple tap. The rifle was placed back on the water trough rack and the shooter moved to the other side of the well and engaged the revolver targets in the same sequence as the rifle. This was a unique scenario for most of the shooters (most of whom are accustomed to shooting in the desert), as an evening thunderstorm the night before had put some actual water in the "water hole"! Shooters, spotters and spectators alike enjoyed the effects of spattered lead in the water... while a few of the ladies had to wipe mud off their dresses!

The final stage was shot in the last bay at the very end of the MSB shooting range. This bay is

very narrow and can only accommodate a few targets. Therefore, it is traditional for this to be a "stand and deliver" stage. The target arrangements and sequences encourage each competitor to see how fast the stage can be shot. As expected, many shooters tried to win this stage by seeing how fast they could miss. However, all seemed to have fun trying.

After the last round went downrange, the shooters gathered to eat lunch while the scores were compiled. Although the top three shooters were separated by the narrowest of margins, the Devil finally won out. El Diablo (SASS #90046) was the overall winner, followed closely by Bogus Deal (SASS #64218) in second place and Sundance Kid (SASS #92810) coming in third. To view a complete listing of the results from the weekend (Wild Bunch, Main Match, and Side Matches), please feel free to visit our websites: www.sevenrr.com and/or www.ms bushwhackers.com.

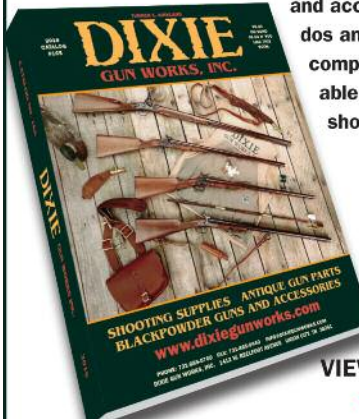
The MSB and 7RR would like to thank all the workers and participants for making the First Combined Southeast New Mexico Shootout a success! It is our hope that the Second CSNMS will occur at the same time next year, so mark your calendar! 🤠

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Club Reports

Pine Mountain Posse Gallops To Another Community Shootout In Sisters, Oregon

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator #4375

High Desert Country, Bend, Oregon: Latitude 44° 03' North--121° 18' West—just a lick and a holler east of the Pacific Ocean—hotter than Hell at times—colder than Minnesota at other times.

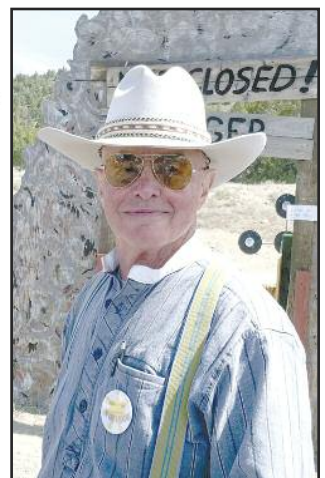


The Pine Mountain Posse Players assembled before the western-style town used by the city of Sisters, Oregon, to promote its annual "Western Celebration."

Another shootout to promote our sport! This past August marks the third year that the Pine Mountain Posse (PMP) has thrilled residents and guests alike with their beautiful western attire, and exciting shootouts during the "Western Day" Celebration in Sisters—a "western façade" styled town of medium size located in Central Oregon. Events such as this are great publicity for not only the local Cowboy Action Shooting™ clubs, but for all the shooting sports as well. Curious Spectators are enthralled by our guns, our outfits, and our polite manners, and above all, our close

connection with western history—they all want to know more about Cowboy Action Shooting™. Questions abound, to include how to join and participate in this fun-filled activity—a great marketing tool for bringing more people into the game. Spectators can see immediately that participating in this sport is nothing less than a hoot and a holler!

Playing and acting "Cowboy" is our game and putting on mock gunfights using blank ammo is our *forte*. Needless to say, safety is a primary concern—each participant receives an airport-type inspection before being issued blank ammunition by



*Palaver Pete,
SASS Life/Regulator
#4375*

only ONE appointed person. Even at that, each firearm is checked twice before the shooting begins.

The PMP also participates in a similar Western Event held at the County Fair Ground. This year the county event was held a month before the Sisters gathering, providing a golden opportunity to practice and experiment with new shooting acts. Programs and venues normally include a shootout on the main street, a brawl over a woman (go figure), and a showdown with the local sheriff.

This year the Sisters event included a reenactment of the Gunfight at the OK Corral. Shootouts at both events were frequent, and the undertaker had more business than the local black-

(Continued on next page)



A man never knows where an ambush may occur. Huckleberry Hickock, SASS #88886, is not taking any chances as he enters his office fully prepared to defend himself while attending to other matters.

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Pine Mountain Posse . . .

(Continued from previous page)

smith. But, enough palavering dear reader, let's let the photos do some of the talking. For more photos, story line, and Oregon Cowboy Action Shooting™ news, please visit our Website at: www.pinemountainposse.com/. You're a Daisy if ya do. 🌻



Soon more bullets will fly as Silver Sage Outlaw, SASS #70532, indicates with his finger that he is first in line to visit with Cascades Annie, SASS #70533, who watches with interest directly behind him. Obviously someone doesn't agree with Outlaw, so trouble is definitely brewing in Sisters, Oregon.

Photo by Mean Lean Betty Jean.



Trouble is brewing
We can tell that soon bullets will fly because of the antics of the naughty gal called Stargazer Sal, SASS #57411, strutting her stuff to provoke a jealous lover. The undertaker will soon have some business.

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Club Reports

THE Guns of August

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator #4375

Bend, OR. The smoke from several forest fires raging throughout Central Oregon was so heavy on Sunday, August 9, that our Black Powder Shooters looked rather insignificant amongst the fallout. Having lost their ability to irritate people hurt their pride and spirit for the day. Despite their frustration, the Stonewood Kid, SASS #62875, topped the BP Frontier Cartridge Category, while Tetherow Tex LaRue, SASS #90999 walked away with the Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter Category. However, their victories provided little satisfaction because of the disappointment brought about from smoke created by others. Their revenge will be sweet next time, I'm sure.

Sierra Sage Sue, SASS #57487 was the big hit for the afternoon dressed in her beautiful Classic Cowgirl outfit. Sue won her category while nosing out Rifleman Daniel, SASS #87919, and Miss Chasity Doozy, SASS #102235 who with husband Lecherous Les, SASS #87422, was visiting from the Oregon coast. Les won 49'r Category placing just ahead of Pecos Bill Corrigan, SASS #79317, who won the Elder Statesman Category. Right behind Pecos Bill was the Shevlin Kid, SASS #72550, who slipped by Silver Sage Outlaw, SASS #70532, by approximately 11 seconds. GDub, SASS #98435, won the Ladies Senior Category while managing once again to keep score and computerize the final standings for the Posse Website. Cascades Annie, SASS #70533, came

up second in the Lady Senior Category with a very respectable time of 27.14 seconds for Stage 2.

Top Gun for the day was Whisperin' Wade, SASS #36209, with a total time of 114.37 for five stages—a commendable average of 22.87 seconds per stage! Close behind WW was Deadwood Pete, SASS #57450, who won the Men's Senior Category as well as finishing in second place. Hoss Reese, SASS #88815, Palaver Pete, Pepper G, SASS #89336, and Arctic Annie, SASS #37265, rounded out the top six overall. Lunch was put together by GDub, and Sierra Sage Sue, with help from all the ladies. All told, 17 Shooters enjoyed five well-planned stages as well as each other's company. The next event for the Pine Mountain Posse will be the Sisters Wild West Show, August 22-23 at the Sisters Garden RV Park. Performances will be held at noon, 1:00 and 2:00 p.m., with dinner show on the 22nd at 6:30 p.m. (sing along). Back at the range, those not attending the Sisters show will be shooting Cowboy and Wild Bunch on the 22nd and 23rd. For Overall Match Scores as well as upcoming events, please visit our website at: www.pinemountainposse.com/.

You're a Daisy if ya do. 🌻



*Palaver Pete,
SASS Life/Regulator
#4375*



*Shouldering that rifle, and shucking those spent shotgun shells in perfect form,
Elder Statesman Category winner, Pecos Bill Corrigan, trumps another stage "clean."*

The Wild Bunch Corner

MUSTER *at* FORT MISERY 2015

New York Wild Bunch Championship

By Roy Cassidy, SASS #23458 and Violet Cassidy, SASS #23459



Muster at Fort Misery 2015, presented by the Circle K Regulators, is now in the history books. There were 49 registered shooters for the April match. Even though the weather did not cooperate, everyone seemed to enjoy the 10 stages designed by The Dude Bandit (SASS #20930). Although there were no clean shooters (it is Wild Bunch, after all), everyone agreed the stages were challenging but also fun. Saturday night dinner was a success. Kayaderosseras Fish & Game Club members Donna and Eric once again put on a fabulous dinner for us. We all agreed that it was one of the highlights of the weekend. A big Rough Rider thank you to the Chronograph crew, Homer Suggs, Feany Valentine, Mo'lasses, and Stickman Tom. Also a special recognition to Stickman Tom for doing anything that needed doing. Kay T Ryder as always did a great job in the scoring shack.

At the end of the match, the overall man and overall woman were Rowdy Bill (SASS #9628) and Renegade

Roper (SASS #86367). Modern and Lady Modern winners were Rowdy Bill and Annabelle Bransford (SASS #11916). Traditional and Lady Traditional winners were Hawkeye Harry (SASS #91326) and Renegade Roper.

Please visit <http://www.circlekregulators.com/15MusterResults.html> for a complete list of results. With the great turnout we had, we all hope to see you next year on April 23 and 24 for Muster at Fort Misery 2016. 🤠



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Captain George Baylor,
SASS Life / Rugulator #24287

Guns & Gear

DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR Frontiersman For Dummies 2015

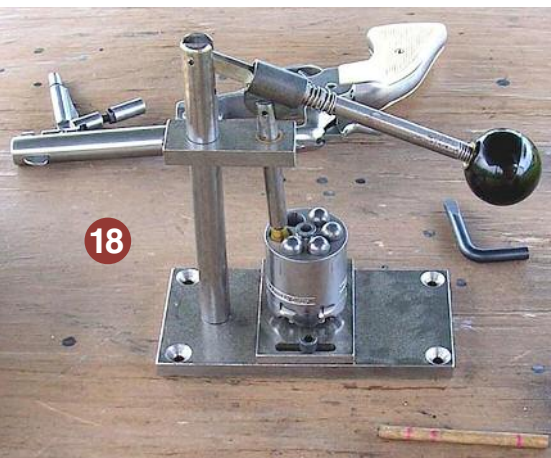
By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life/Regulator

Part 2

Part one was in last month's Cowboy Chronicle. The entire series is at [Frontiersman For Dummies](#)

The most efficient way to load is with a cylinder loader.

[Powder Inc. Cylinder Loader](#)— \$75.00 +\$12.35 shipping (07-15). (Photo 18) Adjustable for



Powder Inc. Cylinder Loader.

all popular C & B revolvers, it cuts loading time in half, makes it easy to wipe off cylinder, recoil shield, and hammer, and minimizes errors. (Note this is a photo taken several years ago. For some time the the vertical rod has been welded to the base, a significant improvement.)

[Tower of Powder Cylinder Loader](#)— from Dick Dastardly, Biglube.com, \$99 +\$12 S&H, Stainless Steel. (Photo 19)



Tower of Power Cylinder Loader.

See also [The Cowboy Chronicle, May 2014, P. 44 Cylinder Loading Stands](#).

Before putting powder into chambers— With Stainless Steel cylinders, hold cylinder up to light. If you didn't oil nipples or chambers and you can see through all 6 nipples, you don't need to "pop caps" before loading unless you want to annoy smokeless shooters. (Photo 20) If you oiled the cylinders, you will need to "pop caps" to burn it off before a match.



Using a Cylinder Loader:

Use your Frontiersman [Screwknife](#) (or a dowel, etc.) to mark last filled chamber. (Photo 21) Put powder in next chamber.

(Continued on next page)



Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from previous page)

(Photo 22) APP and 777 make their own lube, so lubed wad not needed, but dry or lubed wad over light charges seals chamber and makes ig-



nition more positive. I use .450 x 1/4" Circle Fly shotgun wads (1/2" thick wads cut in half.) With Wholly Black and Pyrodex a lubed wad such as a Wonder Wad is recommended between powder and ball. (Photo 23)



If you're using wads, insert and ram them. Then insert balls into chambers, center rammer over balls. Ram each ball into cylinder. (Photo 24)

Insert cylinder into frame. Turn locking screw to lock base pin. (Photo 25)

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Seating Caps:

The best cap seater is a unicorn horn. It has many functions. [Redwing Trading Co.](http://RedwingTradingCo.com) makes a special Frontiersman Screwknife with a Unicorn Horn handle. (Photo 26)



At the Loading Table

Use your Frontiersman Screwknife to check for balls in each chamber. (Photo 27) Sometimes you'll forget your balls. This can be very embarrassing.

Capping constitutes loading in SASS. It must be done at the loading table. (Photo 28) Use the snail capper and Remington #10 caps. Keep your fingers BEHIND the front of the cylinder. MUZZLE DIRECTION!

Seat Caps

Seat with unicorn horn. You may use period correct 1/4" dowel or period correct Bic pen. (Photo 29) Don't use anything metallic. Don't use your thumb, or the hammer (Duh!)

(Continued on page 42)

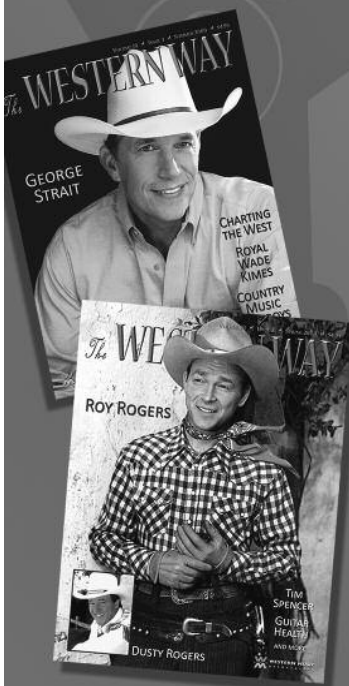


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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 41)



If you have to push hard the caps are too small. If you have to squeeze them, they're too big.

After the buzzer sounds:

Shoot fast. Don't miss. In other words, do as I say, not as I do.

At the unloading table:

Remove spent caps at unloading table. Spinning the cylinder helps throw some off. Show the unloading

table monitor your naked nipples—all 12! There should be no live caps, and no spent caps when you're done.

After the stage, at your gun cart (near the unloading table and pointed at the berm if possible):

Wipe off front of cylinder with shop towel sprayed with Windex or Windex wipes. Windex wipes are per-

(Continued on next page)

Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from previous page)

fect for this, and, of course, they're historically correct. Rub crud off nipples. Wipe crud off hammer and hammer slot. Recharge. MUZZLE DIRECTION!

Light Loads with Ruger Old Armies

The cylinder is designed for hunting — 45-50 gr. A stock ram only pushes the ball far enough to clear the front of the cylinder.

Four Ways to load light:

1. Double Ram. Ram once normally. Insert .357 158 gr. RNL bullet between ram and ball and use it as a spacer to push the ball further down. Bullet drops out when done.

2. Filler/Wads— Insert powder as normal. Fill chamber with yellow corn meal from French's Mustard squeeze bottle or equivalent. (Combustible— adds to smoke). *Or* use 3/8" or 1/2" thick fiber wads (Circle Fly) (Photo 30). Insert ball. Ram. Makes for an accurate, mild load (ball close to forcing cone).

3. Extended rams— [SliXRam](#) drop in replacement of stock ram, but longer. (Photo 31) It will

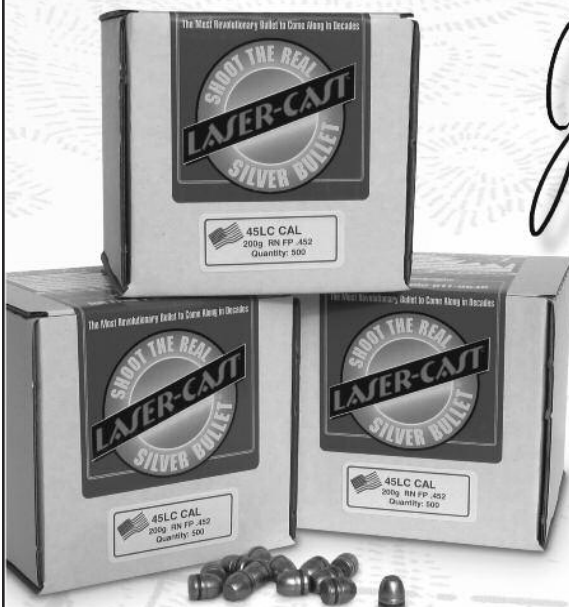


work with loads as light as 23 gr. without a wad. Adding a wad will allow lighter loads.

(Photo 32) Several people have made extended and even adjustable rams over the years. Top is *(Continued on page 44)*



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John A. Taffin
John A. Taffin

Evil Roy
Evil Roy (aka - Gene Pearcey)

Michael L. Venturino
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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 43)

stock. Middle is an extended one by Rowdy Yates at Lee's Gunsmithing. The bottom is a one-of-a-kind adjustable ram by the late Hawkeye Pierce. I'll pass on his advice. If you're going to make one, start with a blued ram. The stainless ones are very hard.

4. (Photo 33) And the best method is a Cylinder Loading Stand— Properly adjusted can load very light loads. (Very used Powder Inc. Cylinder Loading Stand on wood base with a [Dixie Gun Works revolver stand](#), Powder flask holder (PVC), and 10-hole ball holder. The 10-hole ball holder is a piece of half-inch Baltic Birch Plywood. The holes were made with a Chinese Checker bit on a drill press. Base is clipped onto a



WalMart folding computer table with reinforcing on the legs and cross brace. Fits on gun cart)

Clean up—Percussion Revolvers

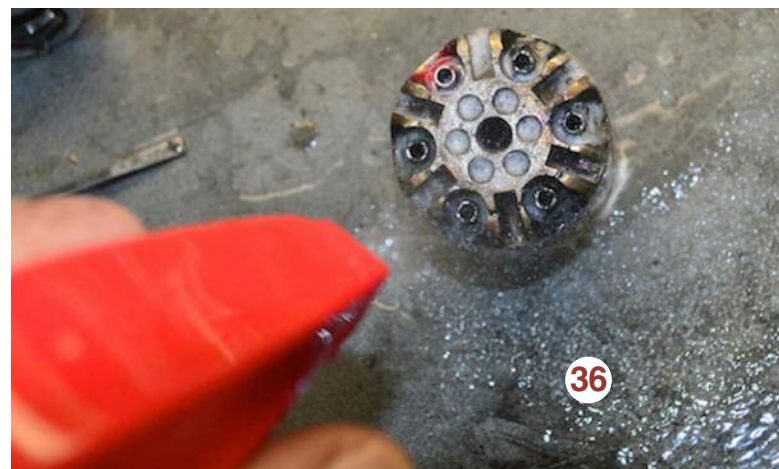
(See also [Cleaning Ruger Old Armies For Dummies](#)) You need a cleaner that's mostly water, detergent, and slightly acidic, with a drying agent. I use Windex Multisurface with Vinegar (Photo 34)

Bore Snake

Get a [Bore Snake](#) for each caliber. Spray Windex down bore. Spray Windex on front of snake, lubricant on back. Make one pass from chamber to muzzle. (Photo 35) This usually works. Sometimes more will be needed.

Remove grips. Remove cylinder. Spray with Windex. (Photo 36) Cap residue is hardest to clean off recoil shield, hammer slot, and

(Continued on next page)



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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from previous page)

nipples. Spray these areas (Windex). Brush. Use Q-tips on hammer slot. Spray cylinder, chambers, and nipples. Use compressed air to dry and to clean out nipples. (Photo 37)



Brush nipples

—the gun's nipples! (gun cleaning brush. Stainless steel bristles are okay on a Stainless Steel gun). (Photo 38)



Nipple Wrench

The best commercially available nipple wrench is available from [The Possible Shop](http://ThePossibleShop.com). (Photo 39) It features a ratcheting handle and fits Tresco & SliX-Shot Nipples precisely (Photo 40). It is good for removing hard to remove nipples.



If you don't want to remove the nipples every time you clean your guns, when nipples are clean on the outside, use nipple wrench to loosen 180°, exposing "dirty" side. Spray (Windex). Brush nipples again, getting this side. When both sides are clean, tighten nipples. (Apply *Never Seize* to threads of nipples be-

(Continued on page 46)

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Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

(Continued from page 45)



fore first firing and whenever removed), at least 4 times a year.

To really clean extra dirty nipples, a special jig is needed, (Photo 41) available from Captain Baylor's Emporium for only \$250—or you can use 12-28 nut in vise, a stainless brush, and elbow grease.

Spray hammer spring from both directions (Windex) (Photo 42)

Use High-pressure air after water spray if available.

Lubricate gun. Spray compressed air into chamber from chamber end. Look through chambers. If you can see light through the nipples, they're clean. Leave nipples dry. Don't use oil on stainless steel cylinders. You may have to oil blued cylinders. Re-assemble.

Use a drop of Blue Loctite on grip screw. Do not over-tighten.

In wet climate dry everything on blued guns, frame, cylinder, barrel (hair dryer, compressed air, etc.), or use WD 40 if you can't dry. Lubricate: ([Ballistol](#), [Break Free CLP](#), [Rem-Oil](#), and [Hornady One Shot Cleaner and Dry Lube](#) all work with subs). Ballistol works best with wholly black.

Detail strip before major matches to get gunk out of areas you can't get to in routine cleaning.

See also [The Cowboy Chronicle, April 2015, p. 32, Ultrasonic Cleaners](#)

Remember, if it was easy, anybody could do it. 



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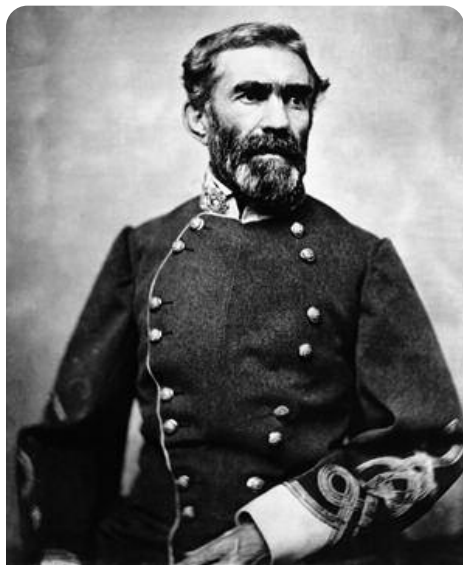
History

Private Watkins' War

By Big Dave, SASS #55632



Big Dave, SASS #55632

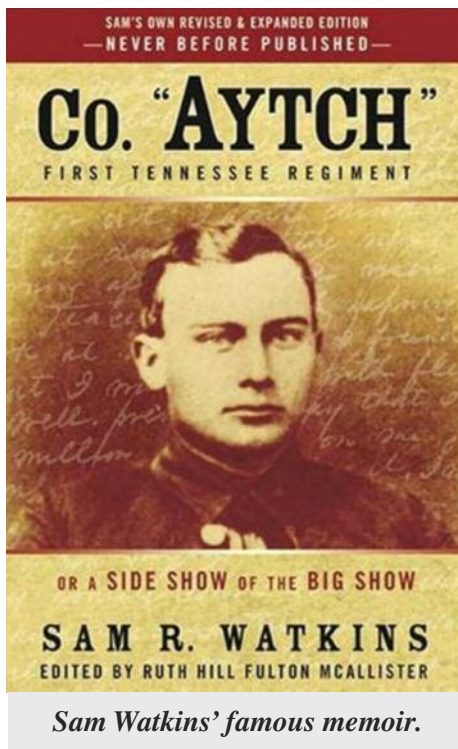


Watkins had the misfortune to serve under Braxton Bragg.

Private Sam Watkins served in the First Tennessee Regiment, Company H from almost the beginning of the Civil War until April 26, 1865, when General Joseph Johnston surrendered to William T. Sherman in North Carolina. Of the one hundred twenty men who enlisted in Company H in the spring of 1861, Watkins was one of seven still alive at the war's end. In the early 1880s, his memoir, *Co. Aytch: A Sideshow of the Big Show*, was published. It is still in print today and has become an important resource for anyone interested in the day-to-day life of an ordinary Civil War soldier. Moreover, Watkins' account is an excellent history of the hapless Confederate Army of Tennessee.

In Watkins' words, "Us boys all took a small part of the fra-

cas." He was being modest—Watkins and his comrades fought in virtually every major engagement that involved the Army of Tennessee. This includes every battle from Shiloh to the Battle of Nashville. Besides Shiloh and Nashville, he was in Murfreesborough, Chickamauga, and the Battles for Atlanta and Franklin:

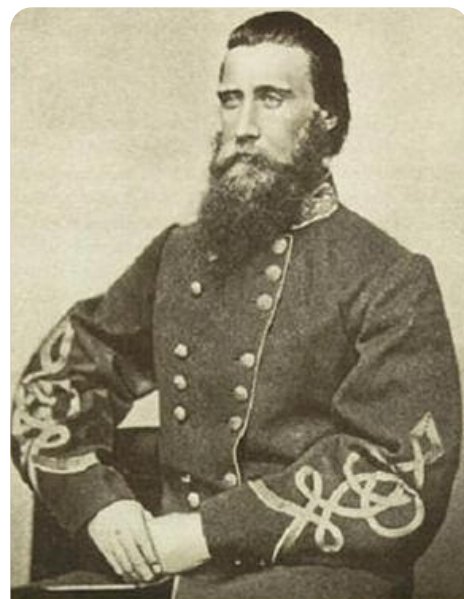


some of the bloodiest conflicts of the war. How Watkins managed to live through all this without receiving a serious wound is almost a miracle.

Sam Watkins fought under the command of generals Albert Sidney Johnston, Braxton Bragg, Joseph Johnston, John Bell Hood and Joseph Johnston again at the

war's end. Though he had little experience with Albert Johnston (he died at Shiloh), Watkins made some interesting comments about the others. He was particularly critical of Bragg whom he felt was stingy, ill tempered, and generally ineffective. "None of General Bragg's soldiers ever loved him. They had no faith in his ability as a general. He was looked upon as a merciless tyrant." Watkins had little praise for Hood either: he was too aggressive and used very little common sense in battle. (Almost all historians agree with that assessment.) Watkins had good things to say about Joseph Johnston, especially

(Continued on next page)



Another commander of the Army of Tennessee, John Bell Hood's aggressiveness squandered the lives of thousands of his soldiers.

Private Watkins' War . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Sam in later years
Though he hadn't been seriously wounded, the war took a toll on his health.

about how he restored the Army of Tennessee's morale after Bragg; but he said in hindsight that, "[He] made many blunders in not attacking Sherman's line at some point." One of the reasons Watkins liked Johnston so much was Johnston didn't waste his soldiers' lives—unfortunately Johnston was too reluctant to go on the offensive.

Early in the war, Watkin's regiment served for a short time under Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson. At this point in the war, Jackson's reputation was still in the making. Watkins referred to Jackson by his old nickname from VMI, "Tom Fool." According to Watkins, "He would have a man shot at the drop of a hat and drop it himself." Indeed, Jackson's policies were draconian: one of the first things the Tennessee regiment witnessed after being attached to Jackson's Corps was the execution of two men for desertion. The two had stopped fighting to carry a wounded friend off the battlefield. In Jackson's defense, this was a favorite ploy of shirkers. Jack-

son was fed up with it and instead of employing more "humane" punishments like whipping, branding or hanging the offenders by their wrists from a tree limb, Jackson just ordered them to be shot. Later on, Watkins realized that Jackson's disciplinary measures were key to his success. Jackson's men feared Stonewall Jackson more than they feared the enemy. After all, you might get shot in battle, but you almost certainly would get shot for cowardice or desertion.

Much of Sam Watkins' war involved boredom, drill, marching and hunger. This was typical for any Civil War soldier, whether he fought for the North or the South. Also, like any Civil War soldier, Watkins had to endure an almost constant infestation of lice. However, as a member of the rather poorly supplied Army of Tennessee, Sam's battle with hunger was certainly worse than that of his opponents.

At one point, while stationed at Chattanooga, Watkins and some friends had heard of how some of the citizens of Vicksburg had to eat rats during the siege. They were hungry, it sounded like a good idea, and so they hunted down a rat, killed it, skinned it and fried it. Sam's portion came on top of a corn dodger, but as he got the morsel almost to his mouth, he thought of what the critter's tail looked like as it was going down a hole. This ended Watkins' "first and last effort to eat rats."

When the boredom and discomfort were over, they were replaced by terror. Sam lost many of his friends—some of them were fighting beside him when they died.

At the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Private William Hughes, one of Watkins' best buddies, saw that Sam was reloading and about to be shot through by a Federal soldier.


They were literally face to face with the Federals at that point. Hughes grabbed the Yankee's rifle by the muzzle and was shot point blank through the hand and arm.

Hughes died later of his wounds. Before he died, Hughes bequeathed his rifle, blanket and clothing to Watkins—the rifle was a particularly fine one, which Hughes named "Florence Fleming," and had been inscribed with silver letters. Needless to say, Watkins was wracked with grief. He wrote, "He [Hughes] gave his life for me, and everything that he had."


While reading Watkins' account of Kennesaw Mountain, it reminded me
(Continued on page 50)

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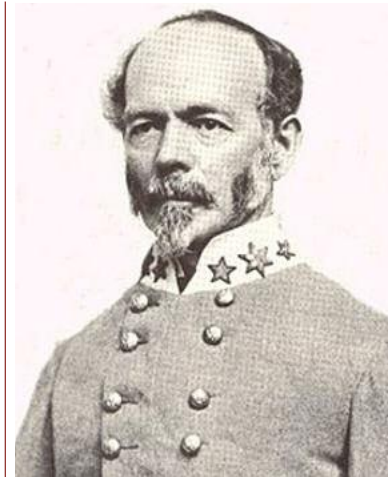
(Continued from page 49)

of a song I had once heard. In fact, some of the words of the song matched Watkin's writing exactly. Watkins wrote of how on the morning of the battle, "the sun rose clear and cloudless, the heavens seemed to be made of brass..." These very words are the lyrics of a song, *The Kennesaw Line*, written by Don Oja Dunaway. Other references point to Watkins' memoir as the song's inspiration. After some research, I found this to have been the case. (*Kennesaw Line* a great song, by the way. You can hear it on YouTube.)

What was left of the Army of Tennessee was in North Carolina (again under the command of Joseph Johnston) when Johnston surrendered to Sherman on April 26, 1865. Afterwards, Sam Watkins returned to his home in Maury County, Tennessee, married his sweetheart, farmed, and lived in a house "full of young rebels clustering about my knees and bumping against my elbow." In 1881, he began writing his memoir. (The title comes from a phonetic spelling of Company H, Watkins' unit; also called the Maury Grays.) By then Watkins had earned a reputation



Sam Watkins at the Civil War's Beginning. Like most young men on both sides, he had no idea what he was getting into.



Though Watkins admired him, Joseph Johnston was probably overcautious as a commander.

around Maury County as a great storyteller who also possessed a wonderful sense of humor. His memoir attests to this reputation. I would without hesitation recommend *Co. Aytch*, especially in these times when everything Confederate is becoming taboo.

Sam Watkins died in 1901 at the age of 62. Though he hadn't been seriously wounded, the war had taken a toll on his body. He was buried with full military honors by a Confederate veterans group at the Old Zion Church in Columbia, Tennessee. Ironically, the cemetery is not far from Franklin, Tennessee, where Sam participated in a particularly hideous battle. Many of his friends were buried in Franklin and it may have comforted Sam to know that his final resting place would be near theirs. It is pretty clear from Sam's memoir that the war, like the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain in Don Dunaway's song, was "forever etched upon [his] mind."

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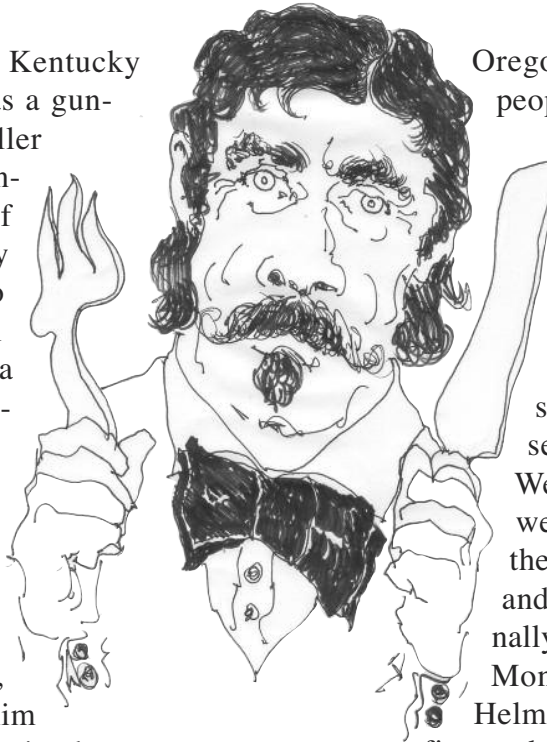
Joe Fasthorse,
SASS #48769


LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

- Way Out West -

By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769

BOONE HELM was known as the Kentucky Cannibal. Born in 1828, Boone was a gun-fighter, a mountain man and a serial killer who earned his nickname for his unrepentant proclivity for the consumption of human flesh. He was born in Kentucky into an honest, hard-working family who moved to Missouri when Boone was still a boy. Helm married 17-year-old Lucinda Browning in 1848 and soon gained a reputation for heavy drinking, riding his horse into the house, and beating his wife. Lucinda petitioned for divorce. Helm decided to head for the California Gold Fields and his cousin Littlebury Shoot agreed to accompany him. But when his cousin decided to *not* go West, Helm stabbed him in the chest, killing him instantly. Boone then headed for California alone. On the way, he murdered several men in various altercations. When he reached Montana he teamed up with half a dozen men with whom he confided that he had eaten a few of his murder victims. "Many's the poor devil I've killed, at one time or another, and the time has been that I've been obliged to feed on some of 'em." Helm and his party was attacked by Indians in Idaho and forced to flee into the wilderness. Their journey was arduous, winnowing the party down to two... Helm and a man named Burton. When Burton could go no further he took his own life. Helm ate one of Burton's legs and wrapped the other to take with him to Salt Lake City, Utah. When Boone became wanted by the law in Utah, he fled to San Francisco, California where he killed a rancher before heading for Oregon. In



Oregon, he resumed robbing people for a living, frequently murdering them. In 1862 Helm gunned down unarmed Dutch Fred and fled. While on the run, Helm ate another fugitive who had been accompanying him to Texas. Helm soon reappeared at many settlements throughout the West, killing more men as he went. After teaming up with the notorious Henry Plummer and his gang, the killer was finally captured in Montana. The Montana Vigilantes hanged Helm and gang-member Three-fingered Jack Gallagher in Virginia City in 1864. On seeing his friend Gallagher hanged, Boone said, "Kick away old fellow. My turn next. I'll see you in Hell in a minute." 

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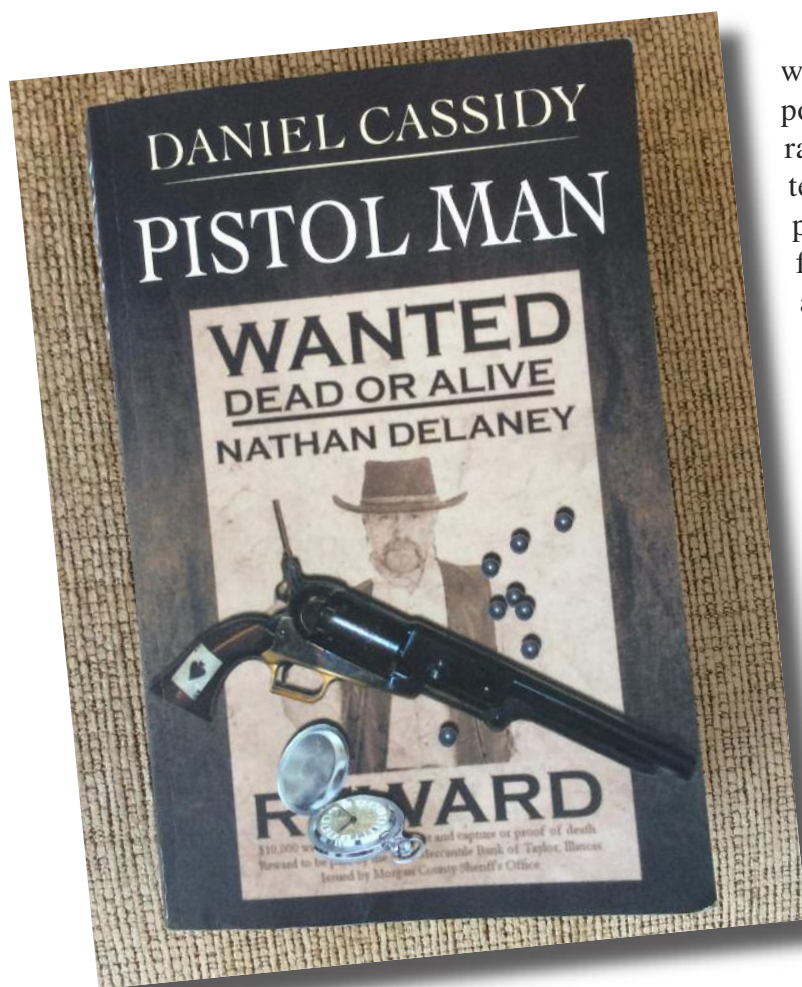
Reviews Books

PISTOL MAN

By Texas John Alden, SASS #102260



Texas John Alden,
SASS #102260



I have just been fortunate enough to have one of my long-term dreams realised with the publication of my first Western novel, *Pistol Man*. The book chronicles the life of Nathan Delaney from his childhood involvement in the conflict between Mexico and the USA in 1846 through to the chain of events that lead to him becoming an infamous pistoleer during the years following the Civil War.

Being someone who has a great love for the western genre in all its formats, writing *Pistol Man* was a real work of passion for me and took me more than a year to complete, with a lot of that time taken up

with research work. I wanted to make sure the events portrayed were done so with as much historical accuracy as possible. Mixed in with the fictitious characters of Nathan Delaney and others are the real-life personages such as John Coffee Hays, William “Big-foot” Wallace, Nelson Story, and Bill Tilghman. As a writer who is also a keen shooter, and firearms collector, I especially wanted to place particular emphasis on getting the firearms of the period just right. One obvious drawback for me is the fact that I am UK-based, which meant a lot of research into the geography of the western USA of that period.

As a child of the 1950s, a lot of my younger years were spent watching western movies and TV series—there was certainly no shortage of either at the time—and I grew up watching and being enthralled by them all. *Wagon Train*, *Cheyenne*, *The Rifleman*, *Wanted Dead or Alive*, *Have Gun Will Travel*, *Rawhide* and many others were all a very important part of my younger days. I was also a voracious reader from a very early age, and it is hardly surprising that the western novels of the time formed a large part of my literary diet.

One of my great dreams then was to become a writer myself, and more specifically, a writer of westerns; and indeed every now and then I would sit down and peck out a few chapters or a short story or two. And then I would come across something like the absolutely awesome *Lonesome Dove* or maybe one of Elmore Leonard’s classic western tales, and my pitiful efforts would usually end up in the little cylindrical filing cabinet beside my desk. It was actually my wife and lifelong friend, Evelyn, who pressured me into making a real go of it, and who made sure that I stuck at it. A year or so ago, I had a spell where I was only working part-time and had a lot of spare time on my hands, and the writing

(Continued on next page)

Pistol Man . . .

(Continued from previous page)

and completion of a full-blown novel was Evelyn's suggestion as to how to best utilise that time. And so I did stick with it—didn't have much choice really, with Evelyn demanding that I read her the daily proofs of what I had managed to write. Now, with the book finally in print, I am so glad that I did. Nothing to compare with the kick of being able to hold a copy of the finished work in your hand and knowing that other people are going to be able to read it and (hopefully) enjoy it.

I hope everyone out there can take heart from this and realise that you are never too old to realise your dreams. Never give up on them.

Anyone interested in the book can read the first few chapters free of charge via the Amazon Kindle edition. It can also be purchased direct from the publisher, Whimsical publications in Florida, at http://www.whimsicalpublications.com/Daniel_Cassidy/Pistol_Man.html

An abundance of straight and safe shooting to all of you,

Texas John Alden
(AKA Dan Cassidy) 🤠

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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 for all article submissions.



Profiles

SHADOW CARSON

100 Clean Matches

By Red-Eyed Kid, SASS #37263



targets to hold his shotgun pointing down range and load it while holding it under the stump of his right arm, then turns safely back around to fire it. Needless to say, his category is Duelist. You can tell from his SASS number that Shadow's been at this for a while. His home club is the Jefferson Outlaws in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania.

Shadow's a great guy, always willing to help when he can and has one of the best attitudes around. Talk about the "cowboy spirit," this guy has it! Knowing he could never really be competitive, Shadow has always strived to shoot clean matches. That was his personal goal, and recently he has achieved 100 clean Cowboy Action Shooting™ matches... way to go Shadow!

To commemorate this achievement, Chuckaroo (SASS #13080), Match Director for the Damascus Wildlife Rangers in Maryland, presented a 100 clean match plaque made for the occasion during the closing ceremony of Thunder Valley Days 2015, the Maryland State Championship and Shadow's hundredth clean match. Additionally, the Jefferson Outlaws have presented Shadow with a custom-made belt buckle for him to display on his holster or shotgun belt. We hope Shadow displays the plaque and wears the buckle with much pride, they are well-deserved honors!

Is he done counting now? Or is he going for 150, or 200? Only time will tell. If you ever visit the Pennsylvania or Maryland Clubs, you may run into him. Make sure you say hi, and no doubt he'd also appreciate a "thumbs up" and a job well done! 🤠

Yep, just like the headline says, this is a story about a Cowboy Action Shooter™ who has shot 100 clean matches. "Why is this so special," you may ask yourself? "I'm sure *many* other shooters have also accomplished this. But odds are the other shooters had the use of both of their arms.

That's right, Shadow Carson, SASS #22660, lost his right arm above his elbow, in an accident when he was younger. Yet, when he found out about Cowboy Action Shooting™, he was determined to find a way to handle and shoot his guns safely so he could "play" this shooting game with the rest of us. And he **DID!!!!**

Shadow said it took him a year or so to figure out how to shoot his Marlin rifle one armed without it falling off his shoulder. That feat alone impresses many shooters when they see him for the first time. He shoots a double-barrel shotgun and has developed a method of turning away from the

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Profiles

How I Got My Alias




Arizona Mustang, SASS #37849

When I first joined SASS® I chose Arizona Drifter as my alias because co-workers had nicknamed me Drifter many years before. But, when I lost my good shooting horse, Emmett, I acquired Harley, an eight year old, desert-bred Mustang. I have now had Harley more than ten years and I use him for everything. Trail riding, parades, and Mounted Shooting. Being a Mustang, he still occasionally gives me grief, but he's the toughest horse I've ever had... so, changing my alias to Arizona Mustang was a no-brainer. 

Lefty Spurmaker, SASS #59018



My Alias was easy. I am left-handed and do very little with my right hand except drink milk. My last name is "Spurrier," which is of Anglo-Saxon origin and loosely translates to "maker of spurs." So... Lefty Spurmaker was born in 2004 when I joined SASS®. 



Profiles

Scholarship Recipient

Diamond Blaze, SASS #97568

Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000



*Justice Lily Kate,
SASS #1000*



Colorado Springs, CO. My name is Diamond Blaze, aka Hayley Powers. In 2012 I began shooting with my father, Howlin Wolf (SASS #97566) and my mother, Ivy Wild (SASS #97567). In 2013 my sister, Jade Star (SASS # 98847) began shooting with us as well. Our home club is the Colorado Cowboys in Lake George, Colorado, and every one of them has become a part of my family.

In the fall I am scheduled to attend Fort Lewis College to receive my bachelor's degree in Psychology, with a minor in forensic sciences. I have always had an interest in the field of Psychology. It has been a very

large part of my life considering that I have many family members who served our country in the military, and who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. After I obtain my doctorate degree, I want to open my own practice to help people who suffer from PTSD.

Both of my parents have been very influential in my life and pushed me to pursue what I want. My dad has always been there for me and although he may be hard on me, it is what has gotten me through the struggles of life and made me the person that I am today. I honestly can't describe how much he has taught me and helped me through my life. My mom has also helped me to become who I am today and she is the closest person to me. She has influenced me to be a better person and to do what makes me happy. She has made such an impact on me and has always been there to help me when I needed it the most.

The Single Action Shooting Society® and Cowboy Action Shooting™ has had a huge impact on my life as well as that of my family. SASS has brought us closer together as a family and it has extended our family. Many members of SASS/Cowboy Action Shooting™ have impacted us so much that they have become a part of our family and we care for them as if they were.

I spent my 18th birthday at a match where many shooters showed up simply to help me celebrate and other shooters even showed up at my high school graduation celebration. SASS/Cowboy Action Shooting™ has showed me an amazing group of people and quite honestly it has restored my faith in humanity. I am so happy to call so many members of the SASS/Cowboy Action Shooting™ community my family and I wouldn't have it any other way because they have helped shape who I am and helped me find myself.

(Continued on next page)

Banning Guns Is Not The Answer

By Diamond Blaze, SASS #97568

Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

Personally, I have a lot of experience with guns, given that my father is retired army infantry and served for 22 years. Ever since I was a kid I have been learning how to handle guns safely and how to shoot. Over the years, I have learned a lot about guns and, in my opinion, the theory of “ban all guns and there won’t be any crimes committed with guns,” would not work. This theory—that anti-gun activists believe—has a tendency to get publicized only when major things happen such as a mass shooting, but remains fairly low-key at other times. Most of most anti-gunners ideals are based on what the media portrays, and then they exploit what happens and force people to focus on how bad people choose to use guns.

There has always been, and always will be, major controversy about guns and the proper way to go about using them. However, banning all guns would not eliminate crime because bad people are always going to do bad things. The people that commit the majority of

crimes purchase their guns illegally through the black market, on the street or “under the table.” Banning all guns would simply cause legal gun owners to no longer be protected in their own homes or on the streets.

Banning all guns also brings up the issue of taking away citizens Constitutional rights, specifically 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.” There have been many examples of how this mindset does not work all over the country.

The city of Aurora, Colorado is an excellent example of how individuals can be defenseless in their own city because of gun control activists and the ideals that they have pushed for. When the shooting in the movie theatre happened in 2012, John Holmes entered a movie theatre and killed 12 people while injuring 70 others. He targeted a gun free zone because he was not looking for a gunfight but simply looking for a large number of people

that he could kill, which is how most mass shootings tend to happen. Another example is the Fort Hood shooting that occurred in 2009. Nidal Malik Hasan entered the military base and killed 13 people and injured 30 others. He had also targeted a gun free zone which seems to be where the majority of mass shootings occur.

Banning all guns is not going to prevent people from using guns because there is always another way to get them. Criminals will undermine the government by using the black market to buy and sell guns. However, we can also look at the other end of this and talk about how the government is trying to work around the second amendment by banning certain types of ammo which essentially bans guns because there is no longer a use for the gun with no ammo.

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

Scholarship Recipient • Diamond Blaze ...

(Continued from previous page)

I am most proud of the volunteer work I have done over the years. I love to help people and going on my mission trip to the Appalachian Mountains had a major impact on my life. That mission trip opened my eyes

and made me realize what a small part of a huge world I belong to. Overall, I am so very thankful to receive this scholarship and appreciate all the contributors who helped make this possible. ♪

Profiles

Scholarship Recipient

Choctaw Chase, SASS #92410

Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000



*Justice Lily Kate,
SASS #1000*



San Antonio, TX. I'm Choctaw Chase, aka Dylan Conti, and I fell in love with Cowboy Action Shooting™ instantly. Experiences as early as age six—observing and brass picking—eventually led to my competing these past five years at SASS® matches with my home club, the Texican Rangers and the Tin Star Texans in Fredericksburg, Texas.

My grandparents, Quintana (SASS #18843) and Pepper Jacq (SASS #18842), introduced me to CAS™. They and many other members spent time with me offering tips and guidance on how to shoot fast, safe, and accurately, to never give up, and have fun because it's only a game.

The SASS organization itself has taught me to live by the “cowboy way” of working hard and being honest, which was a major factor in getting me to where I am today and providing a positive direction for the future.

Because of the people with whom these experiences were shared and the friendships formed, I am proud to have been selected to receive the SASS Scholarship. The scholarship will go towards my tuition at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, where I will be studying to obtain my PhD in Pharmacy.

I am proud to have had the opportunity to compete with many other supporters of our Second Amendment right and I have enjoyed the camaraderie experienced over the years with these fellow shooters. In coming years, as in the past, I will be looking forward to getting back into my cowboy gear and continue the fun of Cowboy Action Shooting™ with sincere hopes that organizations like this will be around for generations to come. 🤠

Gun Control

By Choctaw Chase, SASS #92410

Edited and Adapted by Justice Lily Kate, SASS #1000

Today we are a nation governed by innumerable laws which our city, county, state, and federal governments somehow believe will actually stop illegal activities. The key in this assumption is the word illegal. If such activity is already illegal and the law or laws that are being broken have not prevented the activity then why would they presume an additional law would prevent it? When an individual or group has determined to break a law because of a motive to destroy, or eliminate, or some desperate physical need, a rule against allowing them to do so with a gun, while it may delay the activity, will not deter that activity.

There are too many gangs controlling our streets today. There are initiation rituals that must be performed and most involve violence. These gangs are controlled by people with few or

no moral ethics. Our movie industries and video game industries depict and glamorize too much of this violence, which encourages acts being carried out with guns. Our law enforcement officials need better training and funding to gain a better control of the gang situation.

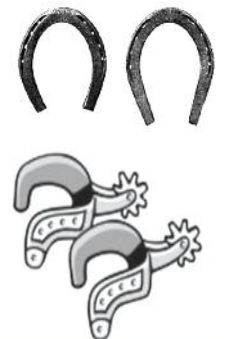
A breakdown of the family unit has only added to the violence that is growing in the youth of this country. Families once taught respect for others and respect for laws and law enforcement. They encouraged children to be law-abiding citizens and the family's friends and neighbors taught these same values to their children. Too many children today have to fend for themselves. This includes everything including their daily nurturing, health habits, peer pressures, and simply finding someone to build their self-esteem.

Unfortunately, guns have come to be blamed for all our nation's problems. The liberals in our government see guns as a scapegoat on which to blame everything. They believe if no one has the right to possess a gun that no one will have a way to harm someone else. Yet almost weekly we hear of a perpetrator using a car, or a knife, or some other object to harm or destroy something or someone. Today, gun owners strive to retain their Second Amendment rights so they may use their guns for sporting, competition, and last but certainly not least, protection from those who would choose to harm them or their loved ones.

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



SASS Scholarship Help Educate Our Youth



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

Paladin's Spicy Sausage Wrap

Last month we featured a seafood specialty, grilled shrimp fajitas, a real tasty treat wrapped in a warm Tortilla. The Tortilla wrap reminded us of a great snack-food supper introduced to us by another one of our good shootin' buddies, Wire Paladin (SASS #5954), from up Oregon way. (By the way, put in a good word for Paladin during your nightly "kneemail," he's currently rehabbing from a serious stroke that waylaid him this summer.)



Here's our One Pot Chuck doing its' thing.



Lip-smackin' goodness The Duke would love!

Now this tasty recipe is pretty spicy, both in the meat and in the toppings, but if you still like the sound of it you can always tone it down a bit. Instead of chorizo or hot Italian sausage, substitute bratwurst or sweet Italian. And, instead of *pico de gallo*, use a mild salsa. Our local market offers several types of fresh sausages in their meat department from which to choose.

Now, a neat part of creating this One Pot Chuck is using your Dutch Oven to cook both your sausages and your no-bean chili at the same time. See the photo. OK, let's get started!

(Continued on next page)

One Pot Chuck . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Here we are, ready to wrap tightly.

Ingredients

- 1 Bag of large size (10-inch) Flour Tortillas
- 4 Fresh Chorizo or Hot Italian Sausages
- 8 Green Onions
- 1 Can Hormel No Bean Chili
- 1 Cup fresh *Pico de Gallo* (or Salsa)
- 1 Squeeze-Bottle of Honey Mustard

Directions

Heat up a bunch of water in your Dutch oven.
Remove wrapper from your can of chili and remove the top lid.
Place can of chili in the center of your boiling water.
Place sausages around the perimeter of the can.
Fire up your barbecue grill.

After your sausages have simmered for 10 minutes, remove them from the water and put them on the hot grill.

Lay your green onions on the hot grill.

After another 10 minutes, remove your sausages and green onions.

Lay one sausage and two green onions on a tortilla, per the picture.

Spoon on some of your chili.

Spoon on some *pico de gallo*.

Squirt on some honey mustard.

Wrap the whole thing up tightly.

Enjoy this savory snappy treat with a cold one.
The Missus' potato salad makes a great complimentary side.

Keep lots of napkins handy.

Say a prayer for Paladin. 🙏



The flavor of the grillin' makes this recipe extra special.

Articles

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ Initial & Basic Training Outline

By Palaver Pete, SASS Life/Regulator #4375

This is the final article in a series by Palaver Pete that has presented suggestions for informing the general public about Cowboy Action Shooting™ and Wild Bunch Action Shooting™ as well as safety hints developed over the years. As soon as the warm weather hit, we interrupted the flow of training- and safety-related articles to provide handout information for visitors and guests. Now it may appear we are going backwards because of the title Basic Training, but remember making the assumption that everyone knows all about firearms is as faulty as safety is paramount. Before making that judgment, look over this material carefully—who knows, you may learn something yourself.

Keep in mind the articles presented over the past few months reflected the opinions of many shooters and were not the sole thoughts of one person—there was nothing original in those opinions—they represented in many cases, the thoughts of other shooters expressed over the SASS Wire or through The Cowboy Chronicle. If you see or recall seeing anything that may not be correct, please send a letter to The Cowboy Chronicle editor so others can benefit from your observations and/or experiences. The Bottom Line is the same for all of us: Safety and fun in the games we all love to play. Keep this in mind—You're a Daisy if ya do. PP.

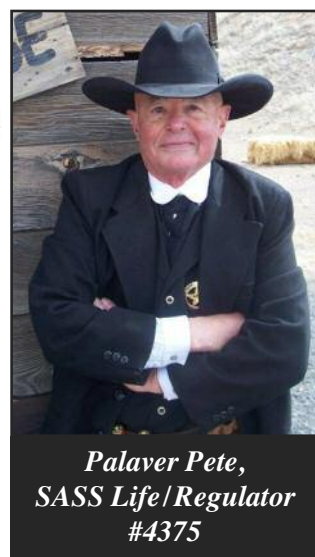
Do not assume that students, be they young kids or adults, know the basics of firearms and their operation. You may be surprised by their lack of knowledge, so stick with it and watch their reactions as you cover these basic essentials for shooters new to our game:

- First, discuss the differences in firearms. Plan ahead and use VISUALS if available. Discuss automatic firearms (rifles, shotguns, and pistols). Show a revolver; spin the cylinder, and explain how re-

volvers are loaded for Cowboy Action Shooting™ (hammer down on an empty chamber). Explain bolt action, pumps, and side by side shotguns. Show a cartridge and a shotgun shell, and explain how they are made. Basic stuff: brass and hulls and powder (black and smokeless). Lead shot and sizes; bullets and calibers; and primers. Last, but not least, show what a good SIGHT PICTURE is like!

- Discuss the differences in shotgun gauges, shotgun lengths, chokes, shotgun loads, shotgun actions, correct shouldering, sighting, and loading.
- Again, emphasize sight picture and mention shotgun pellet spread.

(Continued on next page)



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ • Initial & Basic Training Outline ...

(Continued from previous page)

- Discuss revolvers and 1911 automatic pistols: revolver cylinder (5 round loads), 1911 magazines (5 round loads). Explain revolver ejectors and magazine release buttons for automatics. Demonstrate holster drawing techniques for both the revolver and the 1911, and the 170-degree rule. Demonstrate safe holstering of a revolver.

- On the subject of safety, discuss the 170-degree rule, muzzles down range. How to carry firearms on the range; *i.e.*, open and empty, pointing upward or cased—and to never move with loaded firearm except from loading table to the shooting stage. Explain loading and unloading tables; dropped rounds, and procedures at the unloading table. Explain the differences between various holster designs and shotgun belts, and how they are supposed to be worn. Mention the “belly button rule” for SG Belts.

- Discuss stage design; types of targets; score sheets, shooting off a prop horse, staging firearms, shooting through doors and windows, and movement of firearms from side to side. Explain rounds on the carrier and movement with rounds on the carrier, and what to do when you close the action (basketball rule).

- Discuss transitions: holster to hand and revolver(s) off flat surfaces. Discuss or demonstrate picking up long guns and keeping muzzles down range, movement to next firearm, deciding which revolver to draw first, and dropped firearms (and resulting stage or match DQ).

That should do it for a good start, pard. Remember the basics and don't assume your student knows about firearms—chances are he/she may never have shot before. 🤠

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THE VIEW FROM OUR LENS

Kicking off the Year 2015, Musings from the Road

By Artie Fly, SASS #25397, and Sexie Sadie, SASS #25398

For most people, the year starts with New Year's Day. For us, it's the end of February at Winter Range. Spring SASS® events were plentiful this year in March and April, and we were kept busy moving around to events in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Our greatest memory of this season is how much it rained. It was wet just about everywhere. It either had rained, did rain, or had to deal

with the effects of rain at every shoot we attended. We wore our mud boots at all but one of the eight events, but then this is an outdoor sport, so you deal with it. As always, being on the road is an opportunity to meet up with old friends, make new ones, create and revisit some visual memories and make some general and trivial observations. Since I am such a visual guy, I included lots of images. 📷

Winter Range



Dixie Bell is still very active, shooting Main Match and Wild Bunch. She was inducted into the SASS Hall of Fame in 2009 in recognition of her shooting skills and SASS activities.



At the first SASS Convention, Dixie Bell wore this handmade gown, setting a high standard in elegant dressing.



C.S. Fly and Claudia Feather were inducted into the SASS Hall of Fame in 2007 on the strength of their contributions to the sport through their proprietorship of Wild West Mercantile.

Winter Range really starts out our year of SASS activities. This year, we had the sad news that long-time SASS participant and Hall of Famer C.S. Fly of Arizona had gone on to the great gun range up above. C.S. Fly, with his spouse Claudia Feather, was proprietor of Wild West Mercantile, one of the first clothing vendors catering to Cowboy Action Shooters™. The Arizona Rangers, who routinely put on a great event, arranged for [\(CLICK HERE to continue on page 67\)](#)

These Warbirds provided C.S. Fly a great send-off, while honoring our military as well, during Red Shirt Friday.



THE VIEW FROM OUR LENS

BAYOU BLAST

The start of March found us in Lake Charles at Bayou Blast. The Up The Creek Gang hosted with a Pirate theme. It's kind of a "Loosianna Thang," although there was a forgettable B-Western with a boat theme. The costume contest included a Pirate category with some real tough competition. Cooper York participated and he looked great with the props he included, which

really pop out in the stereo image we made for him. The ever-graceful, and absolutely beautiful Honey B. Graceful won "Best Pirate Wench." Honey is one of the loveliest women in SASS and a real sweetheart. A charter member of the Dooley Gang, she has been instrumental in putting together Comin' at Ya, one of the largest annual matches in past years. Bayou Blast is one of the

most social events on our circuit and a gang from Southeast Louisiana came in to have a good time. We crammed 22 shooters into a spur-of-the-moment, off-the-cuff group shot. We also had a group of Law Enforcement Officers gather for a cowboy memory. These fellows shoot CAS™ on a regular basis, so they can compete well against other SASS members, but I hear that may

not be so from other clubs that hold Cops and Cowboys matches. If you haven't experienced Louisiana hospitality, there are several opportunities during the year, just check the SASS Annual Matches.



If we ever get pulled over, or need Law Enforcement help, I hope it's one of these guys.



The Southeast Louisiana Gang shot it up in Lake Charles!



ARRRGG! Cooper York is a fine dresser whether shooting Cowboy Action Shooting™ or playing the Buccaneer.



The ever-graceful, and absolutely beautiful Honey B. Graceful won "Best Pirate Wench."

THE VIEW FROM OUR LENS

TRAILHEAD



Fort Finn is the most impressive Fort stage we have come across in our travels.

A couple of weeks later, we were at Trailhead in Columbus Texas, hosted by the Texas Historical Shootist Society or THSS. THSS is the oldest Cowboy Action Shooting™ club in Texas and is in fact Justice Lily Kate's original club.



Texas Slick always organized the Stage Marshals for Trailhead, ensuring the posses moved through smoothly and shot the stages the same way.

Sadie, my son Z Lone Gun, and I shoot there when we can, but with our schedules only once or twice a year if we are lucky.

They have a very well developed range, which was one of the first town fronts around. My favorite stage has always been the mine, which has a small port out of which you can shoot, usually moving through the mine to the sluice outside for rifle and shotgun.

The tri-level Fort Finn is the best-developed fort stage I have seen in our travels. For instance, you can start shooting pistols at the main gate, move to the first level to engage shotgun targets, then to the top for some challenging rifle targets. Cody-Dixon shooters (a non-official category in which competitors use rifle-caliber rifles alongside other traditional SASS firearms) can get a great long-range target view from there.

This was THSS's 24th annual

event and dedicated to a long time board member who recently passed, Texas Slick. Slick always said it would not rain during Trailhead, and it had not in 23 years, but Saturday brought 3-4 inches and we lost that shooting day. I think Trailhead was crying for Slick.

Expecting the rain, they shot six stages on Friday and based the standings on that. This is an outdoor sport, after all. They still had a well-attended



This oil print from the mid-1990's won high praise in a professional photographic competition.

banquet though. Sadie and I have been to twenty Trailheads and through the years this has always been one of the best-dressed banquets around. Davy's wife Sister Sarah deserves a special mention, wearing a sensational black and white gown which looked like it was made just for her. She truly stood out in the crowd.

Zeb McCahan and Dead-eye Dawn are long-time friends and in
(Continued on next page)

Trailhead . . .

(Continued from previous page)



Davy's wife is not a shooter, but like many SASS wives she has always supported and participated. We started calling her Sister Sarah after they dressed for the Eastwood movie one year.

fact a couple of the very first shooters we met when we got into this game. We have photographed them often throughout the years. Back in the days of celluloid film, I hand-developed, hand-printed, and hand-painted one of Zeb's portraits to enter it in a professional photography competition in the mid-1990s.

It won me my highest score in

professional competition and I am quite proud of it. This year, they wore their Scottish regalia and I captured perhaps my best image of them ever. I just love his steely-eyed glance into the camera, his dirk-forward protective embrace, and the look of confidence in her man that she is projecting. Dawn (or RD to her friends) calls the portrait "Our Romance Novel Cover—senior edition!"

"BUT WAIT," you say, "that clothing is not Cowboy!" Actually,



This mine is complete with a tunnel rear exit. The sluice can be seen through the middle opening above the ore car.



*Dead-eye Dawn and Zeb McCahan are channeling Maureen O'Hara and Brian Keith from the western *The Rare Breed*.*

ethnic clothing was very period correct on the frontier. Many immigrants to America moved west after debarkation and did not adopt mainstream clothing for a generation. This reminds me of Brian Keith in the movie, *The Rare Breed*, starring Jimmy Stewart. Speaking of Jimmy Stewart, he made a passel of westerns, which would make a great basis for scenarios of a big match. What a great idea for END of TRAIL, scenes from *Destry Rides Again*, *Winchester '73*, and *The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance*, among others. 🤠

The View From Our Lens • Winter Range . . .

(Continued from page 64)

a fly-by of vintage War Birds, complete with a missing man formation in honor of this long time friend to SASS. Sadie and I were tied up in another part of the range during the memorial that was arranged for C. S., but with the Missing Man Formation everyone who was on the range could experience the memorial "on the fly," a nice touch by which to remember him.

As always, we meet up with long time friends at Winter Range. We have known Dixie Bell for probably fifteen or more years, and have run into

her at some surprising locations throughout the country, from out west to as far east as at Guns of August in Ohio. Dixie is a World, National, and State Champion shooter and a World Class Dresser. We missed her at the SASS Convention in San Antonio, which we regret because she is also one of the best dressers in SASS and always a sight to behold. At Winter Range she came to shoot, and participated in both Wild Bunch and the Main Match, placing Second in WB Lady Traditional and First in Main Match Lady Duelist. 🤠

THE VIEW FROM OUR LENS

DUEL IN THE BAYOU

The next weekend, we were off to Louisiana again for Slick McClade's Duel in the Bayou. Slick had not intended to have an invitational match this spring, but so many shooters encouraged him to do it, he scrapped one together on some short notice. The shoot featured some innovative side matches, such as shooting at dynamite (water bottles) *a la* John Wayne's *El Dorado*, an Annie Oakley over-the-shoulder mirror shot, and shooting clay birds with a rifle like Jimmy Stewart in *Winchester '73*. This match had a modest group of Junior shooters, including 2013 World Champion Junior Girl, Diamond Kate and her sister, Texas Cutie. Texas Cutie has started with .22s and shoots clean most of the time. Slick's children also shot. If you attended Winter Range 2014, you may remember Lily Bleu from the opening ceremonies, when she sang The Star-Spangled Banner *a capella*. Hammer Rock has been shooting a couple of years. These young folks are the future of

(Continued on next page)



Diamond Kate is already an accomplished Junior Shooter and Texas Cutie is following her lead.



In 2006, Mule Camp was shot on Memorial Day weekend, enabling a large group of young shooters to attend. Events scheduled during three-day weekends could allow more junior participation during a break from school activities.

Duel In The Bayou . . .

(Continued from previous page)

SASS and we as a community need to encourage their participation. One year, when Mule Camp was still active, there were more than 20 young shooters, the largest group I can remember. This is the generation which will need to step up after us to defend our God-given inalienable right to self defense and our constitutional right to do it with a gun. 🦏

*Two more Junior shooters with growing experience.
Shooting in a posse with their Dad, Slick McClade.
Mom sat this one out.*



JAILBREAK

Moving to Oakwood, Texas and Jail Break, Sadie captured a couple of interesting action shots of the Wild Bunch shooters. Blackfoot Drifter shows his flaming traditional style 1911, with the slide in recoil and the casing not yet ejected. The shot of You Bet's rifle is VERY unique. Capturing flame with smokeless powder is not unusual, but I find the flame 4-6 inches in front of the muzzle a bit freaky. I promise, I did not Photoshop this image! We have made thousands of action images, but never one like this. I would be interested in hearing an explanation how that gap occurred. 🦏



The heavy overcast created the low light conditions which made capturing flame from smokeless loads more likely.

Honest, no Photoshop here! Why is that flame so far from the muzzle?



THE VIEW FROM OUR LENS

THE BATTLE OF PLUM CREEK

By April 30, we were in Lockhart, Texas at the beautiful Agarita Ranch. The Battle of Plum Creek started with a BANG thanks to Patience, a fully functional 1841 Six Pound Smooth Bore Light Artillery Piece of the Austin Light Artillery Battery.

The Austin Light Artillery Battery is proud to announce they have been offered a permanent home by the Plum Creek Cowboy Shooting Society (PCCSS) at Agarita Ranch outside of Lockhart.

They are growing their ranks and will soon be building a Battery Headquarters out at the ranch.

The headquarters will include an office, bunkroom,

and storage space for their cannon, Patience. They will be calling their headquarters Fort Agarita on Plum Creek. This event was the SASS Texas State Championship and landowner Chuck Leshikar, aka Delta Raider and PCCSS worked for a year to get the ranch ready, especially reseeding the parade ground in front of the firing line and hotel. Unfortunately, torrential rains in Texas over the previous two months left a newly seeded parade ground somewhat mushy, resulting in very soft, easily damaged ground.

Luckily, the weather cleared for the event itself.

(Continued on next page)



The 1841 cannon "Patience" is period correct for the Texas Revolution, Mexican War, Civil War, and later year reenactments. Many historians credit the US Army employment of this weapon during the Mexican War as giving us a decided advantage in battle.



This building at Agarita Ranch is a working hotel and saloon and is used as an administration area during matches.

The Battle of Plum Creek . . . *(Continued from previous page)*

In the accompanying file photo of the Hotel-Saloon, you can see it is a fully functional building with some rooms above and lobby entrance on the left, and it divides the firing line.

One of the stages can be seen behind the yellow

bathhouse on the left. The ambiance of Agarita Ranch cannot be overstated.

For the evening banquet, we set up a photo station in the Hotel Lobby—what a great location.

The first portrait we made was of Shotgun, Squady Baudy, and Montana Hannah, winners in the

(Continued on page 72)

Costume Judges
*Nellie Blue,
 Texas Flower,
 Kathouse Kelli,
 and Texas Scout
 take a break
 from their
 duties to
 record this
 moment in
 the period hotel
 lobby.*



The Battle of Plum Creek . . .

(Continued from page 71)

evening costume contest. The Costume Contest received special attention this year, thanks mostly to Texas Flower who personally organized and promoted it for months. The Judges for the contest were Nellie Blue, Texas Flower, Kathouse Kelli, and Texas Scout, all serious costumers themselves.

Their portrait shows the entire Hotel Lobby well.

We ended our Spring travels with a trip to Hobbs, New Mexico for a modest match, and guess what? It rained! We caught our breath, got in a little down time, then got back on the road for our big summer trip, which culminated with END of TRAIL. See you on the trail! 🐾



No Cowboy event would be complete without Soiled Doves and Madams.

Here we have soiled doves Shotgun and Montana Hannah with their "Business Manager" Squady Baudy.

LAST STAND AT THUNDER RIVER

A few days later we were in Magnolia Texas for Last Stand at Thunder River. This was the Southwest Territory Black Powder Shootout. Again, rain threatened the match, but after a 90-minute rain delay we were able to start things up. Wet conditions are always worrisome for black powder shooters, but it seemed to dry up enough and we did not hear of any unusual problems. The overcast sky did help us capture some flames though, as Texas Ghost demonstrated. Texas Ghost deserves special mention. He is a board member of the Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA), our state NRA affiliate, and he is very active in promoting Cowboy Action Shooting™ as a shooting sport and general awareness of gun rights, pending legislation, etc. He put together the TSRA Cowboy Action Championship, held the last weekend in May in Oakwood, Texas. The message here: SUPPORT YOUR STATE GUN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION! Most have a significant presence in State Legislatures. 🐾



Texas Ghost is a very active promoter of citizen gun rights, working through the Texas State Rifle Association.



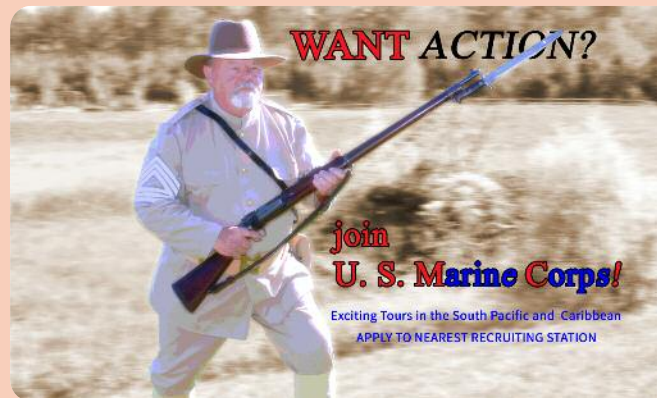
THE VIEW FROM OUR LENS

SHOWDOWN IN PURGATORY—



Sexie Sadie sporting her Victorian swim suit and mud boots. Those boots were the best \$10.00 investment we ever made!

After Jailbreak, we traveled back east to Mendenhall, Mississippi, for the Mississippi Peacemakers annual Showdown in Purgatory. This had been a very wet year so far, and Purgatory was no different. Those \$10.00 Walmart Mud Boots we bought for a previous Winter Rains, uh... Winter Range, have gotten a great deal of use so far this year. Luckily they are period correct in black or brown, so it doesn't look too out of place, even it does look like you've been sloppin' hogs. Some 65 shooters braved the forecast and gathered for the event. Lola Montez, the photo dog, wore her slicker, but the rains never appeared and the shooting went on without any troubles. Leatherneck is the Territorial Governor of the club and a proud Marine, with an extensive collection of period correct Marine uniforms, both Dress and Utility. In this poster we created for him, he is in a Span-Am period uniform, complete with a 30-40 Krag. 🐾



Leatherneck, the TG for the Mississippi Peacemakers, owns the most impressive vintage USMC uniforms around. This Battle Dress is historically accurate, but his Formal Dress uniforms are eye-popping!



Some 65 shooters braved the forecast, but Lola Montez the Photo Dog wore her slicker, just in case. Lily Langtry, our original Photo Dog, stayed high and dry back in camp.

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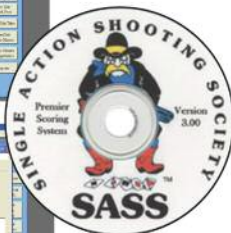


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103,291..... Mariannie Oakley

NE

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103,209..... Hat Full of Brass

NM

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NV

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NY

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103,237..... Lily Pad Leadshot

SC

103,203..... arthur Itis
103,233..... Doodle Brown

SD

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TN

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TX

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