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SASS END of TRAIL
(See page 9)



The Cowboy Chronicle

The Monthly Journal of the Single Action Shooting Society®

Vol. 28 No. 2

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February 2015

HELUVA RUKUS 2014

SASS New York State Cowboy Action Shooting™ Championship

*By Annabelle Bransford,
SASS Regulator #11916*



Travis Spencer (SASS #59583) shows off his Gunfighter skills at The Homestead, one of several stage fronts built especially for Heluva Rukus 2014.

Ballston Spa, NY. Once again, the Circle K Regulators did themselves proud as they hosted Heluva Rukus, the SASS NYS Cowboy Action Shooting™ Championship for the fourteenth year in a row. With more than 260 shooters from 19 states and Canada joining in the fun on September 19-21, 2014, it was by far the best attended Cowboy Action Shooting™ match in the Northeast, and the reasons were plain to see! The fun-filled, action-packed stages, world-class props, numerous vendors, beautiful trophies, warm hospitality, and lovely fall weather made for a truly enjoyable cowboy weekend for all. Shamrock Sadie (SASS #78511) summed it all up by saying, "This is a shoot not to be missed; everyone needs to put Heluva Rukus on their Bucket List."

As usual, the stage layouts were truly mind-boggling with the incredible props really bringing the Old West to life. Each of the ten individual berms presented the shooter with a different Western scenario. Half of the stages had permanent buildings, while the rest were set up solely for this event. But permanent or not, they all boasted a multitude of realistic props and accessories rivaling those you would expect to see on a Western movie set. Permanent stages included Fort Misery (Stage 1), the Treasure Trove Mine (Stage 2), the log cabin (Stage 4), the extensive town of Rukus Flats (Stage 8), and the Skinner & Wells Freight Office (Stage 10).

SASS Cowboy Chronicle

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**WARNING:** Neither the author nor The Cowboy Chronicle can accept any responsibility for accidents or differing results obtained using reloading data. Variation in handloading techniques, components, and firearms will make results vary. Have a competent gunsmith check your firearms before firing.

Noah, the littlest cowboy at the Idaho State Championships, is the son of Kuna (SASS #39361).



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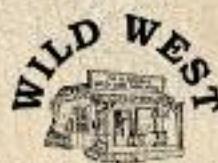
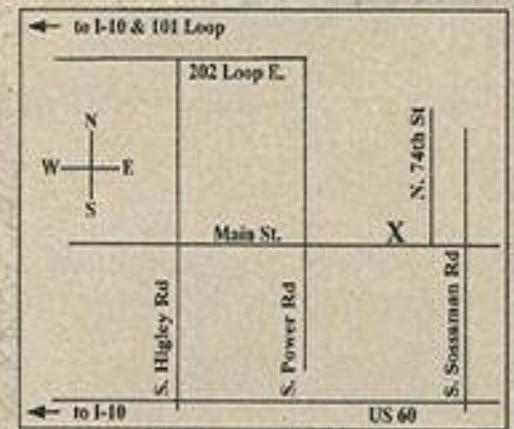
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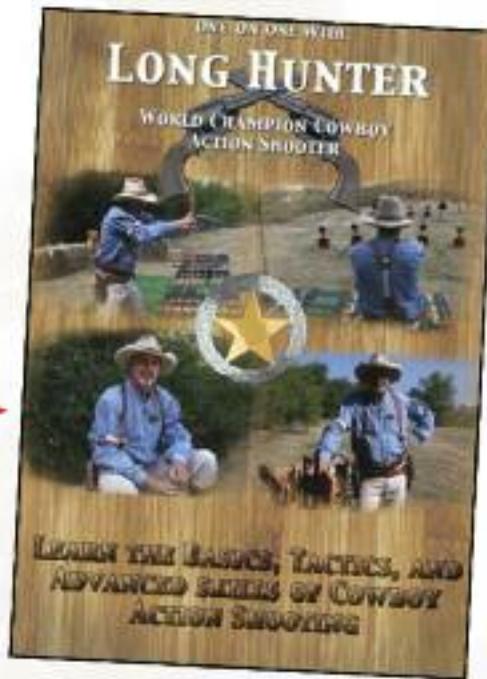
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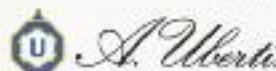
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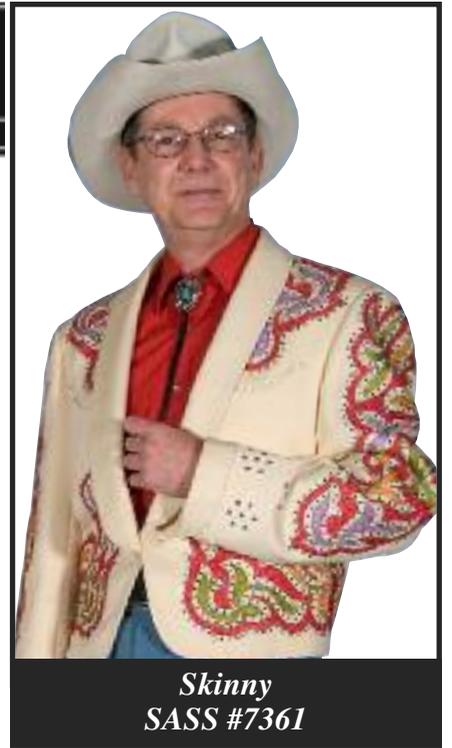
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# SKINNY'S SOAPBOX

## Reading the digital Chronicle Pt. II

In the past month, I have come to the conclusion that a tablet device—if you have one—gives you the best reading experience with the new digital *Cowboy Chronicle*, and to maximize this experience, it's best to download Mirabel's "Magazine Central" app. To do this, go to the Apple App Store, or the Android App Store, or the Kindle App Store, and search for "Magazine Central." Download it and launch it and it will display a page featuring all of the newest Magazine Central releases. If *The Cowboy Chronicle* is not one of them, click on "Store" then enter *The Cowboy Chronicle* into the search window and choose the current year and month in the dropdowns for those categories (or just choose "All" for both categories). The issue or issues of the *Chronicle* for which you're searching should appear on your screen and you can then download them to



*Skinny*  
SASS #7361

your tablet. Once that's done, go to "Library" and click view for the appropriate issue, and that's it. If you hold your device side-wise (landscape), you'll get a double page view, or if you hold it upright (portrait), you'll get a larger, single page view, which should be quite easy to read. Turning pages is a simple matter of using your finger to swipe left (for the next page) or right (for the previous page). If you want to see anything larger, use the "pinch and expand" method detailed last issue.

Of course, not everyone owns—or wants to own—a tablet, so the on-line and PDF versions of the *Chronicle* will always be available for viewing on your computer screen. But a tablet is in standard magazine aspect ratio, which is why the *Chronicle* is still laid out that way and why the tablet is your best reading choice. If you don't own a tablet, now may be the perfect excuse for you to buy a new toy.

It should be noted that the Magazine Central app is not available for smart phones and, while you can view on-line or PDF editions on your smart phone, it is probably your worst reading experience.

\*\*\*\*\*

### SASS Convention

As I write this, I am ensconced in my room in the Menger Hotel, located across the street from the Alamo in historic San Antonio, and I'm about midway through the twelfth annual SASS Convention. The Convention is truly a great experience and should be on the must do list for all SASS members.

I'm delighted to have met many new friends at the Convention and to have had an opportunity to chat with so many of you about Cowboy Action Shooting™ in general, and about *The Cowboy Chronicle* in particular. Thanks for all the constructive criticism and advice I've received.

My next big event will be Winter Range in February. See y'all there.

— *Skinny*

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## Match and Club Information

Could you please put the match and club info pages back in the Chronicle? Many people depend on this information as they plan their vacations, and match travel plans for the coming year. Many matches need their information easily found so they can keep attendance up.

I for one do not care about the comics and would prefer to see them replaced with more articles about our sport, members, and the guns and equipment we use. Or how about a new monthly article on how to be a good spotter, posse worker, or TO?

—Bill Bonney, SASS #68967

St. Johns, FL

Life Member / Regulator

Territorial Governor Ghost Town Gunslingers

Thanks for your input. The match and club info is still in the Chronicle. At the back end of each issue, look for the “Can’t Get Enough Shootin’?” page and click on the marshal’s badge for “USA and International Annual Matches” or “USA and International Monthly Matches.” These will take you, via your web browser, to a SASS site with all the information you need. The links work from both the web edition and the PDF edition. This way you get the most up-to-date listings possible.

Sorry you don’t like the comic book pages, but I’ve received a lot of favorable input from those who do, so we’ll stay with them for a while. As for your monthly article suggestion, I think that’s a great idea. Would you be willing to write it?

— Skinny

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We just need you to email your Microsoft Word Document with jpg Photos to [Skinny111@icloud.com](mailto:Skinny111@icloud.com) and we will take care of the rest! (It typically takes 2-5 months to be printed.)

*The Cowboy Chronicle is boring without you!*



# RIO GRANDE RENEGADES 2014

## Fall Fandango

*By Whiplash Whitey, SASS #81136,  
and Tex, SASS #4*



**Match Director**  
*Whitey Whiplash led negotiations with the City Range personnel and officiated at the awards ceremony.*



**Match Winners and Top Guns**  
*Sandoval Kid and Texas Tiger. Congratulations and Great Shooting!*



*The Renegades Range sported recently refurbished facades under clear fall skies—perfect for a Cowboy Action Shooting™ match!*

**Albuquerque, NM.** The Rio Grande Renegades are the 800-pound gorilla amongst the New Mexico Cowboy Action Shooting™ clubs. They are the largest and longest running club in the state, and they shoot at the Albuquerque city range. This range is tightly controlled and locked every night, making it darn near impossible for the club to hold a multi-day annual event... but that all changed this year.

Club President, Whiplash Whitey, negotiated a deal with city Range Manager, David Sanchez, to accommodate the Renegades, and Sanchez was more than helpful. Not only was 24-hour access granted to the Renegades, but the Trap and Skeet Range was also made available for a unique night shoot! It couldn't have worked out better!

This first annual match was held in mid-October and enjoyed beautiful fall weather throughout the event. The match featured the usual side events, Speed Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun as well as Long Range. It also hosted a unique side match featuring golf balls suspended from stands at three, four, and

five yards, where each competitor had up to ten rounds to hit all the balls. Fewest shots won! A Wild Bill Hickok Pistol Shot side match was also offered, requiring five shots at a 75-yard target. Most hits won! In the evening, the lights on the shotgun range came on and the cowboys enjoyed an evening shooting clays. Shooting continued until folks ran out of ammo!

The main match consisted of 12 stages shot over two days. The Renegades shoot five times a month and have a wonderful program where multiple club members assume the role of monthly match director. As a result, they have many experienced match designers. Accordingly, a different person designed each of the 12 stages, making for considerable diversity! The targets were kept big and close, encouraging everyone to shoot their best and in the shortest times.

The city opened up the Range Meeting Room to accommodate the Saturday evening potluck and Side Match Awards Ceremony. This facility was

*(Continued on page 8)*



### Rio Grande Renegades 2014 . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*



*The City of Albuquerque provided this big tent covering for one of the bays. It provided much appreciated shade for spectators during the Top Gun Shoot-off.*

made available again for the Sunday afternoon main match awards ceremony. It was wonderful to have tables and chairs in an inside venue after competing all day on the range!

The final event of the match was a Top Gun Shoot-off where everyone was invited to participate. True to form, our match winners were also the Over-



*The targets were generous in size and at comfortable shooting distances. Each stage was created by a different designer. Cat Ballou is seen here going after the "big guy!"*



*The Range Meeting Room provided an excellent, protected environment for meals and award ceremonies.*

all Top Guns—the Sandoval Kid (SASS #86892) and Texas Tiger (SASS #74829). Great shooting! Please visit the Rio Grande Renegades web page <http://www.riogranderenegades.org/fandango.html> for a complete list of scores and standings.

The match was successful, ran smoothly, and was enjoyable for everyone. It is a worthy addition to the annual match circuit in New Mexico, and everyone, especially New Mexico cowboys, are invited to attend next year's edition, planned for October 2015. Hope to see you here! 🤠

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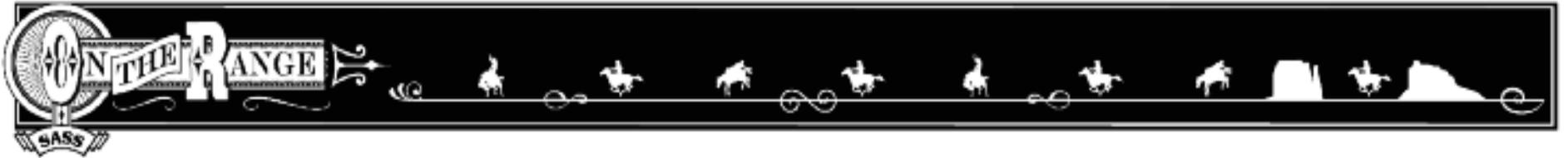
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# COWBOYS and COWGIRLS Congregate For the Twenty-Third Edition of Headquarters

*By Grey Fox SASS #223, Life, Regulator, Hall of Fame Member  
and Miss Mary Spencer SASS #55147 Life, Regulator*

*Photos by Grey Fox, Killshot Kenny, and Ken Koop*



In the early 1990s, Headquarters was the only Annual Match in Western Canada. Competitors would travel from Alberta, Saskatchewan, all around British Columbia and the U.S. to compete. One competitor has come from Germany for 22 years. The early years saw competitors from as far away as Hawaii, Alaska, Ontario, Manitoba, California, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming. In the current era

there are matches in the near area every weekend. Due to this action-packed schedule of events through-

*(Continued on next page)*

### WINNERS

|               |                                            |             |                                             |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Top Man       | Haweater Hal<br>SASS #55287 BC             | L Wrangler  | Montana May<br>SASS #95820 BC               |
| Top Lady      | Victoria Diamond<br>SASS #60952 BC         | Cowboy      | Kingfisher<br>SASS #98862 BC                |
| Gunfighter    | High Country<br>Amigo<br>SASS #49198 BC    | FC Duelist  | Killshot Kenny<br>SASS #91136 BC            |
| Classic       |                                            | L 49'r      | Helena<br>Handbasket<br>SASS #85280 BC      |
| Cowboy        | Slim Delgado<br>SASS #85279 BC             | Young Gun   | Captain Will<br>Turner<br>SASS #92899 BC    |
| Wrangler      | Single Action<br>Sheriff<br>SASS #94449 BC | L Duelist   | Miss Beadazzled<br>SASS #72424 BC           |
| Buckaroo      | Whistlin' Will<br>SASS #88382 BC           | Duelist     | Cornelius O'Keefe<br>SASS #60577<br>Germany |
| S Gunfighter  | Kananaski Kid<br>SASS #62402 BC            | Senior      | Cattail Jack<br>SASS #80476 BC              |
| Silver Senior | Teacher C<br>SASS #72703 BC                | F Cartridge | Bad Bobby Blue<br>Eyes<br>SASS #73397 BC    |
| S Duelist     | Newt Reno<br>SASS #51654 BC                | Buckarette  | Hurricane Hayley<br>SASS #94450 BC          |
| E Statesman   | Reg Rider<br>SASS #91436 BC                |             |                                             |

### SIDE MATCH WINNERS

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Saskatoon Barry (SASS #70295)
- Mid Range Lever Action Rifle Pistol Caliber**  
Cornelius O'Keefe (SASS #60577)  
Kissin' Carol (SASS #96421)
- Long Range Rifle Lever Action Rifle Caliber**  
Reg Rider
- Long Range Single Shot**  
Newt Reno (SASS #51654)
- Long Range Lever Action Pistol Caliber**  
Cornelius O'Keefe  
Kissin' Carol
- Scheutzen Target**  
Coachman Jim (SASS #75959)

### COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS

- Best Working Costume**  
Bad Bobby Blue Eyes (SASS #73397)  
Montana May (SASS #95820)
- Best Dressed Gentleman**  
Teacher C (SASS #72703)
- Best Dressed Lady**  
Montana May
- Best Dressed Couple**  
Kananaskis Kid (SASS # 62402) and  
Miss Belle Fire (SASS #96009)
- Best Dressed Junior**  
Whistlin' Will (SASS #88382)



## Cowboys and Cowgirls Congregate For the Twenty-Third Edition of Headquarters

*(Continued from previous page)*



match, that set the trend so long ago.

The current ongoing success of Headquarters can be attributed to Haweater Hal (SASS #55287), Victoria Diamond (SASS #60952), and their dedicated foundation committee, Black Ashley (SASS #89886), Montana May (SASS #95820), and Killshot Kenny (SASS #99136. This leadership has garnered ongoing support to field a very well-run match.

The 2014 edition was as spirited as ever! Billed as “Gamblers at Salmonella Gulch,” the stages were themed around gamblers of the frontier west era. The competitors were relentless in their pursuit of glory. There were some stellar performances by young shootists such as Whistlin’ Will (SASS #88382), who at age 13 set some of the fastest times in the match. Whistlin’ Will has been a stage writer and a match director. In the next few years Will certainly *will* be a star performer in the upper levels of Cowboy Action Shooting™.

The side matches, held as a warm up to the main event, revealed that newcomers to Cowboy Action Shooting™ are also contenders—such as Kissin’ Carol (SASS #96421). In the main match two relatively new competitors faired very well, Single Action Sheriff (SASS #94449) and Montana May (SASS #95820).



out Alberta and British Columbia, including the Canadian Nationals in Kamloops in 2014, the twenty-third edition of Headquarters came early. The oldest SASS affiliated match in Canada is usually an August or September event. However, for this edition, due to the tight scheduling, it was held in July of 2014.

Headquarters, as an event, still draws the best of the best to compete for the honor of winning the laurels and being the shootist who takes home the coveted German Scheutzen target—supplied by Cornelius O’Keefe (SASS #60577)—at such an historic

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# HELIVA RUKUS 2014

*(Continued from page 1)*

Other stages included a homestead with multiple building fronts, a stagecoach stop, a mission/cemetery, a 34-foot riverboat (with working paddlewheel), and a multi-car train. Several great new props and targets were added this year. The gorgeous new museum-quality stagecoach (built by Always Willin', SASS #73501) had two passengers inside—life-size, Western-attired dummies, Clem and Clementine, generously donated to the club by Turkey Creek Red and Night Train Kate of Florida (SASS #22854 and #22855). There were two new pot-bellied stoves and a new cannon (built by Whiskey Brooks, SASS #18852), and a newly expanded mine entrance with a nifty new moving target mounted to an ore cart. Two shotgun targets were added atop the water tower in the train scene, and props on many of the other stages



— **Best Dressed Townies** —  
*Rev. Dave Clayton*  
 (SASS #38263) and  
*Crackshot Bev*  
 (SASS #59869).

were “spruced up,” repaired, or repainted. Although the shoot itself didn’t officially start until Friday, the range was bustling with activity nearly a week in advance. CKR members partially set up seven of the stages the Sunday prior to the match, making the final Thursday set-up day a breeze. (It should be noted that just setting up the riverboat scene took several workers nearly five hours! Thank goodness the club has such a large and dedicated work crew!) Throughout the week, more than 50 RVers and a handful of tenters arrived on site, choosing their favorite spot and setting up camp. Meanwhile, 15 vendors set up shop along “sutlers’ row.” The clubhouse was readied for registration/door prize pickup, the scoring shack was prepared for its oh-so-important task, and the pavilion was set up for the various events scheduled for that area. By late Thursday afternoon, all the preliminary work was done, and it was finally time for the fun to begin.

Friday was packet pickup and side

event day, and the excited cowpokes wasted no time descending on the clubhouse bright and early to pick up their shooters packets, draw for a door prize, and purchase all-day side events, charity raffle tickets, CKR badges and/or HR lapel pins. Each shooter (and vendor) was also given a customized Heluva Rukus commemorative coffee mug, compliments of returning Match Sponsor, Klassic Laser Works. Although the early morning weather was downright chilly (upper 30s), the brisk temps didn’t stop 18 ladies from taking advantage of a wonderful opportunity to hone their Cowboy Action Shooting™ skills at Shamrock Sadie’s Doily Gang Ladies Shooting Clinic, conducted from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This was the first such offering at Rukus, but hopefully not the last, as the ladies were full of compliments and confidence following the clinic. And making this an even better deal, Sadie generously donated all of the profits from the class to the SASS Scholarship Fund. By late morning, the bright sunshine had warmed things up nicely, and the shooters headed out to the range in droves to sling some lead and visit the vendors. A variety of side matches were available, ensuring that everyone could find something to pique their interest. There were the usual rifle/pistol (Cowboy Action Shooting™ and 1911)/shotgun/pocket pistol/derringer speed events, along with an Iron Man Stage, long range rifle event, .22 caliber



*Shamrock Sadie (Top Lady), Spinning Sally (Top NY Lady), El Muerto Negro (Top NY Man), James Samuel Pike (Top Man).*

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*Tom Payne at Stage 1*  
 — *Fort Misery.*

*(Continued on next page)*

## Heluva Rukus 2014 . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

rifle, and pistol accuracy events, and two mini-stages which could be shot using either Cowboy Action Shooting™ or WB firearms. Once again the number of vendors at Rukus far surpassed that at other Cowboy Action Shooting™ events in the Northeast, allow-



*Whiskey Brooks (SASS #18852) Smoking up The Mission—Stage 6.*

ing the shooters plenty of chances to part with their hard-earned greenbacks. New on the scene was White Wolf Trading Co. from Texas with a huge “store” full of Cowboy Action Shooting™ clothing, hats, jewelry, and other accessories. Match Sponsor Sturm, Ruger & Co. was on site displaying their firearms and offering folks a unique opportunity to do some shooting using lasers. Pretty cool! Other vendors offered leather goods, laser engraving, steel targets, custom knives,

gun engraving, photography, jewelry, bullets, and more Old West and Civil War-era clothing and accoutrements. With so many HR first-timers and so many vendors on site, shopping was at an all-time high at this year’s Rukus, leading poor Spades Hanlin (SASS #66204)



*James Samuel Pike, on his way to an overall match win.*

to complete a “Cowboy Shooter Hurt Feelings Report” whining there were too many vendors and his wife had stolen his wallet and would not stop spending his money! Once the side events shut down and



*Lazy Ace Bob (SASS #38620) gives it his all on Stage 9.*

the vendors closed up shop for the day, Range Master Rowdy Bill, (SASS #9628), conducted an RO walk-thru. Shortly thereafter, about 65 hungry cowpokes gathered at the pavilion to partake of the goodies on the Tex/Mex taco/fajita buffet provided by Moe’s Southwest Grill, as well as

the delectable desserts donated by club members. By 7:30 PM, the gunslingers had their fill, and the last of the cowpokes headed off to prepare for the next day’s main event.

As in the last several years, the main competi-

*(Continued on page 14)*

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# HELVA RUKUS 2014

*(Continued from page 13)*

tion on Saturday and Sunday consisted of ten stages, with each of the 16 posses completing five stages each day, shooting straight through on a.m./p.m. flights. The split-flight shooting schedule was again a hit, allowing the competitors plenty of time each day for eating, shopping, relaxing, or watching other posses shoot. Some folks even took advantage of the extra time to sightsee nearby, checking out the lovely Lake George region or visiting the historic Saratoga Battlefields. The Boy Scouts of Troop #54 were back this year, presenting the flag at the safety meeting, picking brass for the shooters, and manning a booth selling various snacks. A new food vendor, Cargie's, kept the cowpokes' bellies full, serving breakfast and lunch throughout the weekend. Rowdy Bill once again provided the shooters with ten creative stages full of lead-slinging fun for all. Targets were at reasonable distances and varied in size from 16" squares to 28" tabletop-size circles. Rifle knockdown plate racks, revolver and rifle knockdowns, a kick-down door, and four different types of moving targets really kept things interesting. There were many different target sequences, plenty of "shooter options," and movement between firearms on every stage. Shooters got to quell an Indian uprising, dispense with river pirates, bring justice to a lawless town, and send various thieves and ne'er-do-wells to their maker. It was a heluva good time, indeed! By late Saturday afternoon, the shooting was done for the day, and it was once again time to sit down to a sumptuous meal. This time more than 100 cowpokes gathered at the pavilion to enjoy a chicken and ribs

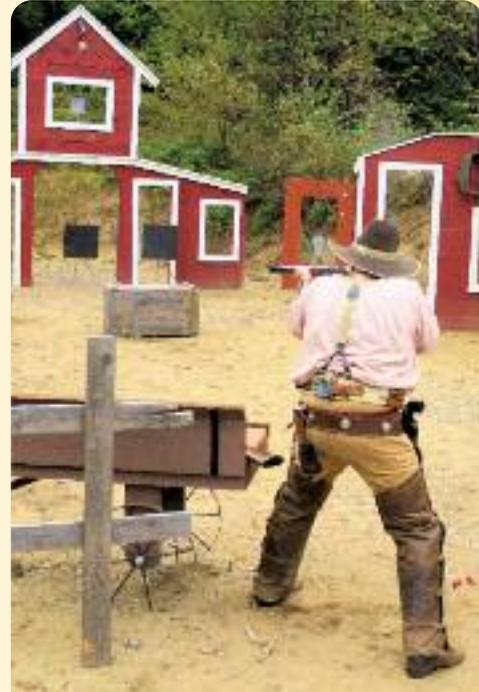


*Wes Durn (SASS #18998) engages the new shotgun targets atop the water tower at Stage 9.*

BBQ buffet catered by Shane's Rib Shack, while Territorial Governors from several states joined CKR's TG, Feany Valentine (SASS #35024), for a TG dinner meeting in the clubhouse. Finally, as the sun dipped below the horizon, the shooters dispersed for the evening, leaving the range abandoned till the excitement continued the next day.

Sunday dawned cool, crisp, and thankfully dry, much like the preceding day. By mid-afternoon, the posses had completed their last five main match stages and the shooters had taken a final walk down vendor row. It was then time to grab a seat in the pavilion in anticipation of the grand finale—the eagerly awaited awards ceremony. Trail Boss, Smokehouse Dan (SASS #12524), began the ceremony by thanking all the sponsors, vendors, shooters, and CKR members for their help in making HR 2014 a resounding success. The Boy Scouts were thanked for their assistance, and Smokehouse Dan announced they had raised a whopping \$2,041.00 for their troop through their efforts over the weekend. Money raised in the Chinese auction/charity raffle this year was split between the local volunteer fire department (in appreciation for providing emergency services on site throughout the weekend) and the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association (as a contribution to their legal fund to help in the fight for repeal of the New York SAFE Act). Representatives from each organization were presented with a check for \$1,400.00, with NYSRPA President, Tom King (aka Gotham Kid, SASS #99475), on hand to personally thank all those who contributed, and to promise continued efforts to strike down the SAFE Act and other anti-gun legislation in the State. Costume contest winners in seven different categories were presented with framed awards and gift certificates donated by Wild West Mercantile. Male and female winners in each of Friday's numerous side events were given their awards, followed by special Sponsor Appreciation Awards presented to Recollections (10-Year Spon-

*(Continued on next page)*



*Smilin Pete making his way through Stage 3.*

## Heluva Rukus 2014 . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

sor); and Klassic Laser Works, Gunpowder Creek Trading Post, and Russ The Carver (5-Year Sponsors). Winners of the charity raffle items were then announced, sending a handful of lucky cowpokes home with an awesome prize—a pair of SASS Ruger



*Part of the fun on Stage 8 — a kick down door you could actually kick down!*

Vaqueros (donated by Sturm, Ruger & Co.), a custom knife with beaded sheath (donated by Lupare Chenz, SASS #40013), embellished spur straps (donated by Pot Shot Bob, SASS #77084), and a handmade coverlet and handmade wall hanging (both donated by Calico Sue, SASS #75360). Gunpowder Creek Trading Co. awarded

gift certificates good for a complete Frontier Classics outfit to both male and female “middle of the pack” shooters. Clean shooters (29), stage winners, and category winners (both overall and NYS) were then presented with their well-deserved awards. It should be noted that shooters competed in a total of 29 different categories at this year’s Rukus, including the newly added Cattle Baron/Baroness and Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter categories. Competition at this year’s

*(Continued on page 16)*



*Rowdy Bill demonstrates a smooth gun transition on Stage 5.*

**“I would shoot any Cimarron Firearm Evil Roy revolver out of the box at any match.”**

Gene “Evil Roy” Pearcey,  
SASS World Champion  
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# HELVA RUKUS 2014

*(Continued from page 15)*

match was particularly tough, with many State and Regional champs from across the country participating. The ceremony concluded with presentations to overall Top Gun Male, James Samuel Pike (SASS #53331), and Top Gun Female, Shamrock Sadie (who also happened to be second overall!). Spinning Sally (SASS #89526) retained her title as New York State Lady Champion, while El Muerto Negro (SASS #83471) gained his first title as New York State Male

Champion (shooting Duelist, no less). And with that, another successful Heluva Rukus came to a close. If you missed out on this year's match, don't let it happen again. Check something off your bucket list by attending our big fifteenth anniversary match September 18-20, 2015. Go to the CKR website at [www.circlekregulators.com](http://www.circlekregulators.com) for a complete list of winners, as well as further information about the Circle K Regulators and Heluva Rukus 2015. 🤠

## HELVA RUKUS STAGES

*New entrance to the Treasure Trove Mine, with Ore Cart Mover.*



*Fort Misery — Stage 1.*



*Treasure Trove Mine — Stage 2.*



*The Homestead — Stage 3.*



*James Samuel Pike ROs Tequila Trish (SASS #76104) at the Log Cabin — Stage 4.*



*Stagecoach Stop — Stage 5.*

*(Continued on next page)*

# Heluva Rukus 2014 . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

## HELVA RUCKUS STAGES



*Stagecoach built by Always Willin, with "passengers" Clem and Clementine.*



*The Train — Stage 9.*



*Skinner & Wells Freight Office — Stage 10.*



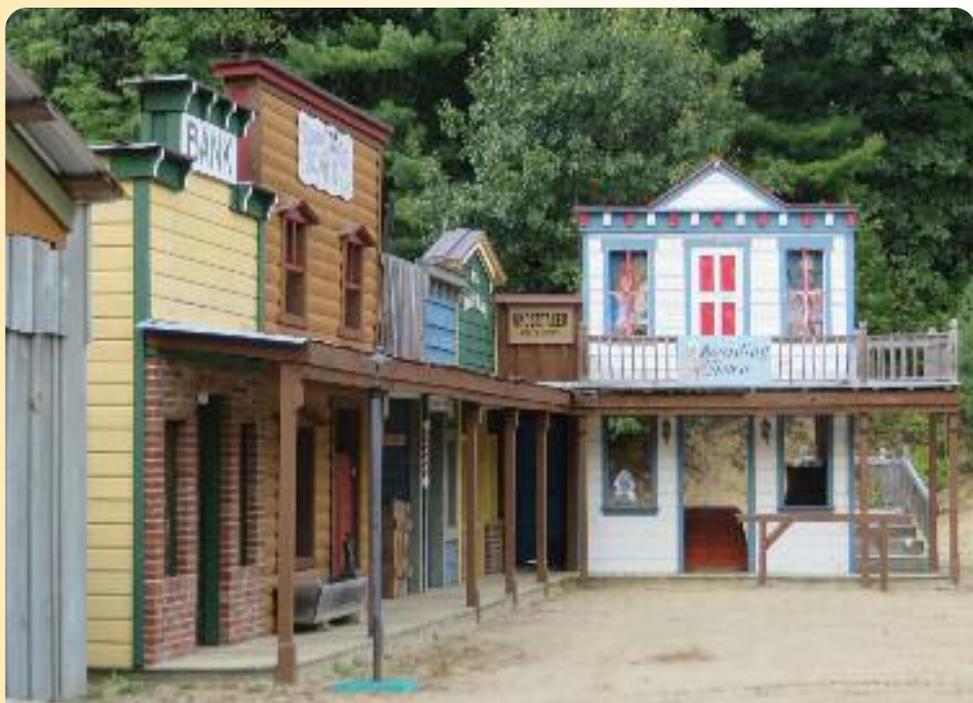
*The Mission and Boot Hill Cemetery — Stage 6.*



*The Laurenbelle Riverboat — Stage 7.*



*Pirate Boat and two moving targets on the Riverboat stage.*



*The town of Rukus Flats — Stage 8.*





# 2014 MAGIC IN THE VALLEY IDAHO STATE Championship

**Twin Falls, ID.** Despite a record-breaking deluge the day before the Idaho State SASS Cowboy Action Shooting™ Championships, the shoot was a big hit with the 100-plus participants. Weather was close to perfect for most of Magic in the Valley, August 7-10. This was the first time the Snake River Western



**Blacksmith Mike (SASS #98135) whips his trusty pony (stick horse) to gain some speed in the Team Shoot.**

Shooting Society had hosted the state match, and its members were excited.

The SRWSS Range is in the desert north of Twin Falls. It rarely rains there (average annual precipitation is about 13 inches), so three inches in a day is astonishing. Here, “dry camping” is almost always truly “dry.” With one exception, the 30-odd RVs camped on the grounds seemed to have no trouble, though the bays of the range

were lakes for hours.

The range contains 12 bays separated by berms. Each bay permanently displays a building façade or Old West scene. Examples include a bank, sawmill (complete with large circular saw blades for targets), ranch, train depot, cemetery, etc. These were outfitted with items to enhance the ambience of the scene.

Magic in the Valley’s 2014 theme, “Cowboy Crackups—Humor in the Old West,” was expressed throughout the shoot. Each stage displayed cartoons related to its scenario. In the pavilion, participants could enter the “You Write the Caption” contest by supplying humorous captions for a large cartoon drawing posted on the wall. The winner, Mizpah Pete (SASS #89299) received a prize on Saturday night.

By Thursday, the lakes of water from

the previous day’s three inches had percolated through the sandy soil and the ground was dry. This was side-match day.

Categories included Long Range, Cowboy Sporting Clays, Cowboy Trap, a three-stage 1911 Match, two three-stage Mini Matches, and side matches featuring derringer, pocket pistol, speed rifle, revolver, and shotgun, as well as precision pistol. The Stage from Hell was a nightmare, featuring two Texas Stars, a moving target, and knock down shotgun targets with poppers (flyers).

Magic in the Valley events and stages were generously sponsored by interested businesses, including Lamb Weston, Sportsman’s Warehouse, Vickers Western Store, First American Title, Wendy’s, Risk Barn, Red’s Trading Post, White Rider Bullets, Classic Electric, Hap Tallman Stockman’s Supply, Cabela’s, Washington Street Pawn, Magic Valley Pawn, Oregon Trail Rough Riders, Road Work Ahead, The Last Best West Cowboy Gear, Cimarron and Texas Jack’s. Some donated money and others donated a host of valuable prizes, such as gift certificates and CDs from Starline, a holster set from Mer-nickle, and a pistol from Desert Sky Regulators and Rupert Pawn and Consignment. Without sponsor support, the Idaho State Championships could not have been as successful.

The main match commenced on Friday. Starting lines for stages were based on the answers to silly riddles. At the Sheriff’s Office, the question was asked: “Why did the sheriff arrest the chicken?” The

*(Continued on next page)*



**Arizona’s Sly Puppy (SASS #78115) and Jackrabbit Joe (SASS #414) clench their chicken as they begin the Couples Shoot.**



**First, second, and third place costume contest winners, Ruby Lamoille (SASS #47449), Miss Rosalie Clementine (SASS #72774), and Painted Filly (SASS #86383) show off their fancy evening wear.**



**Magic In The Valley  
2014 Idaho State Championship . . .**

*(Continued from previous page)*

starting line was, "It used fowl language!" Behind the jail, a rubber chicken dangled on the gallows. Below it, a sign said: "Public Hanging, Sunday at 3:00—Pot Luck to Follow."

At the church, the riddle "Why did the frontier priest giggle?" was answered by the starting line "Mass hysteria!" "Why do cowboys want to die with their boots on?" was the riddle at the cemetery. The answer? "So it won't hurt when they kick the bucket!" Shooters started the timer there by kicking a bucket.

Though all stages showed attention to detail, such as bottles on the bar in the hotel, and a birdcage with canary (stuffed) in the mine, stage two was one of the shooters' favorites. It depicted a general store, com-



*Idaho Bad Company (SASS #28943) receives the coveted Jedi Gunfighter pin from Colorado's Painted Filly (SASS #86383).*

plete with supplies of canned goods, an apple barrel, jars of hard candy, and sacks of potatoes and flour. Antique merchandise such as lanterns and tools were displayed. Even a hand plow was "for sale." The starting line, in answer to the riddle "What kind of cowboy steals teapots?" was "A kettle rustler!" Unfortunately the teakettle had been stolen, so shooters had to start the stage holding a pitcher.

Another favorite stage was number ten, the barbershop. ("Why did the barber win the race?" "He knew a short cut!") The shotgun part was the most fun. Shooters aimed their shotguns at the back openings of two "cannons" (large-diameter black pipes with huge wheels) containing charcoal. Each shotgun blast cre-



*White Eyes (SASS #25106) wears a pair of feminine pink panties, keeping his promise to do so should he ever beat Twelve Mile Reb (SASS #30634) (left) at a match.*

*(Continued on page 20)*

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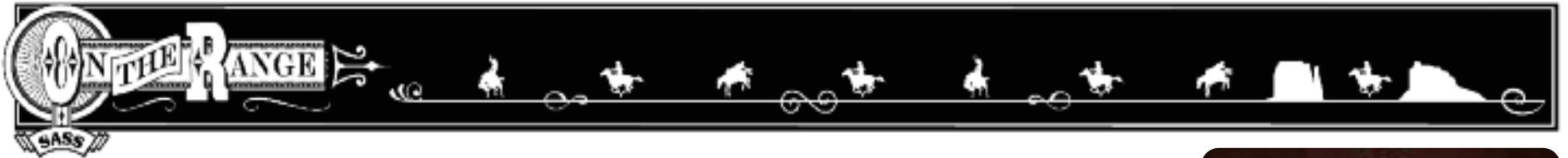
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**Magic In The Valley  
2014 Idaho State Championship . . .**

*(Continued from page 19)*

ated “smoke” of charcoal dust exploding out of the end of the cannon.

The sweeps on the various stages ranged from easy to moderately difficult and were specifically written to avoid procedural traps. Target placement was carefully crafted to make the shooting fast, but not too careless.



*Colorado Black Jack (SASS #58441) and Bulldog Ric (SASS #67896) display their “Odd Couple” (formed especially for the Couples Shoot) first place award.*

Shooters were often given a choice of starting position or direction of sweeps. The object was for shooters to have fun and do well. It must have worked, as there were 37 clean match awards given Saturday night.

After the shooting, participants enjoyed a free lunch in the pavilion, at which Club President Missy Mable (SASS #35458) presented side match awards. Most were plaques displaying a cartoon of a revolver racing on little legs: “The Fastest Gun in the West.”

Clay and trap awards were candle holders made from clay pigeons, and Celia Fate (SASS #64354), who had created them, handed them out along with bubble

wrap and small tubes of glue to emphasize their fragility—and to elicit a laugh.

Friday afternoon the Team Shoot began with the question: “What kind of horse loves arts and crafts?” “A hobby horse!” was the starting line, and the action included riding a stick horse, which was passed from shooter to shooter on the team.



*Idaho State Junior Champion Snake River Jack (SASS #100300) holds his State Champion and Overall Champion awards.*

The Couples Shoot involved repeatedly passing a “rubber” chicken between the two participants’ frying pans as they took turns shooting, after answering “Fry-day!” to the question: “What day of the week does a chicken hate most?” Participants could enter the standard “Couples” category or the “Odd Couples” category, for partners who teamed up just for this event.

Friday evening, people could explore the Twin Falls area or choose among three activities at the range. Line dancing was hosted by Mace Maddox (SASS #60681) and Hot Shot Sally (SASS #66925), award-winning western dancers. Camp Host Rascal Rick (SASS #51258) showed a campground movie, complete with popcorn and “bring your own drinks.” On the large balcony of the hotel in Bay 4, card players enjoyed Texas Holdem with card sharks Idaho Calliope Kid (SASS #88819) and Sagebrush Bandit (SASS #74438).

The main match concluded Saturday and was followed by the awards banquet held in a refurbished barn event center. Decorations by Tammy Baxter and Nancy Henley combined western bandana décor with humor. Each place setting included a little stand with a western cartoon as well as bandana-themed tiny boxes of candy. Napkins were ringed by jute, and centerpieces were burlap and jute covered cans, holding freshly cut sunflowers.

After a savory Dutch oven dinner featuring tri-tip, baked potatoes, salad, veggies, and an eye-popping array of desserts, including peach cobbler, cheesecake, and an assortment of pies, the awards continued the humor theme.

Costume awards were plaques displaying small mirrors and the poem: “Mirror, mirror on the plaque, who’s the best dressed of the pack?” Judges were Annie Sureshot (SASS #89992), Lady Dee (SASS #89337), Hurdy Gurdy Shirl (SASS #71759), and

*(Continued on next page)*

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*(Continued from previous page)*



*Idaho State Women's Champion Belinda Belle (SASS #42966) and Idaho State Men's Champion Idaho White Rider (SASS #71898) pose with their buckles.*

Butch McGie (SASS #71758). All shoot participants were entered in the contest and were judged during the entire event.

Main match awards were plaques displaying a western cartoon and the buckle earned by the shooter. President Missy Mable (SASS #35458) awarded the plaques with the help of Idaho Dusty Dawn (SASS #71899) and Sweet Harmony (SASS #89675). Clean shooters received special Clean Match pins.

For traveling the farthest to attend the shoot, Trail Bandit (SASS #52426), from Greenville, SC, won a tiny birdhouse made from an Idaho license plate by convicts at the Idaho State Correctional Facility. Sagebrush Bandit (SASS #74438) presented the "Most Wrenching Experience Award"—a foot-high cowboy made of welded wrenches—to Twelve Mile Reb (SASS #30634), who experienced a trailer mishap on the way to the shoot.

The high point of the evening was the announcement of the overall winners of the match. Idaho State Men's Champion was Idaho White Rider (SASS #71898) and Idaho State Women's Champion was Belinda Belle (SASS #42966). Overall Men's Champion was JT Wild (SASS #20399) and Overall Women's Champion was Belinda Belle. Junior Champion was Snake River Jack (SASS #100800)

Finally, on Sunday, shooters gathered for the exciting Top Gun Shoot-off, in which the fastest shooters of the main match were randomly pitted against each other on stage 10, a "mirror" stage. The scenario was duplicated so two participants could shoot the stage at the same time. Winners were paired against winners, and eventually, the Top Guns were declared:

Men's first place, Bulldog Ric (SASS #67896); Ladies' first place, Mesa Belle (SASS #9560); and Junior first place, Idaho Kid (SASS #100801).

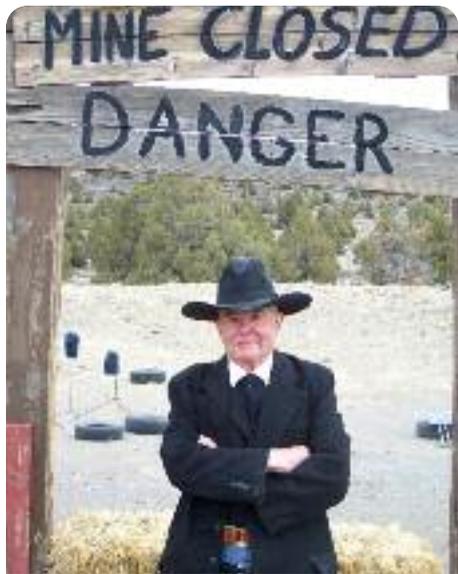
As participants packed up their gear, they were full of compliments for the Snake River Western Shooting Society and Magic in the Valley. "This was so much fun!"; "People are going to hear about this!"; and "You'll have more shooters next year!"; were frequent comments.

Members of the club have already turned their thoughts to Magic in the Valley 2015. To continue to use humor, but add some mystery, the club has chosen "Magic Medicine Show" as the theme for next year's August shoot. All SASS members are invited to Magic in the Valley, the 2015 Idaho State Cowboy Action Shooting™ Championships to see how the new theme develops. Please visit <http://www.idahocas.com/> for information, 2014 scores, more pictures, and much more! 🤠



*Belinda Belle (SASS #42966) and JT Wild (SASS #20399) display their Overall Match Champion awards.*

An advertisement for Meister Lead Cast Bullets. The top half shows a cowboy on a horse in a snowy field, with a wooden post and a lasso in the foreground. The bottom half features the Meister Lead Cast Bullets logo, which includes a bullet and a star. Below the logo, the text reads: "THANK YOU FOR SHOOTING MEISTER LEAD CAST BULLETS". At the bottom, the website and phone numbers are listed: "MeisterBullets.com | 417.708.5279 | Toll-free: 1.866.848.9834".



*Palaver Pete, who celebrates his 21st year as a contributing writer to The Cowboy Chronicle.*



# Visitors Galore

## A Tale of Oregon Inter Club Visits

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

**Bend, Oregon Territory.** There is a bend in the Deschutes River where Pioneers decided to settle back in the early 1800s. Back then it was the Oregon Territory, and hard feelings existed between the United States and England as to who would eventually own the territory. The French, who named the river Deschutes (meaning “the falls”) also had an eye on this fur-bearing and rich land, but soon discovered that the English and the Yankees were so firmly entrenched that to make further effort of land claims would be futile. So history tells



*Lil Italy, SASS #86063 (another visitor), was top senior, finishing just above The Legend, SASS #36069, who was top senior gunfighter.*

us that after a few clashes, and after the English seemed to be moving north to Canada along with the Hudson Bay Company, the Oregon Territory became the 33<sup>rd</sup> State in 1859.

With the English and French gone, and with no one left to fight, Oregonians turned their attention to fighting with each other. The western part of the state is heavily liberal, while the eastern part of the state is very conservative. Cowboys of today from those same regions seem to carry that political bent forward—they are united only when it comes to fighting with Californians and Washingtonians—unless, of course, the afore-mentioned visitors are paying for something, then they are most welcome—money spent in Oregon is just as good as spending cash, as Yogi Berra would put it.

The Pine Mountain Posse makes its home in the high desert country of Central Oregon—a location whose weather patterns can sometimes be very harsh and not too inviting. That’s why it’s always nice when our Cowboy friends come south from the State of Washington, or east, over the Cascade Mountains from the coast to visit and shoot with us. But, it’s not so nice when they visit and beat up on us, like the Stumptown Kid, SASS #89859, and Key-Hay Makena, SASS #93747, did this past October.

Stumptown darn near won the “whole caboodle” by coming in a close second behind top Gunfighter

*(Continued on next page)*

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## VISITORS GALORE

### A Tale of Oregon Inter Club Visits

*(Continued from previous page)*

Whisperin' Wade, SASS #36209, while Key-Hay nosed out Reloader Fred, SASS #68761 (another visitor), by 1.95 seconds for fifth place. Reloader Fred was top gun in the Elder Statesman category, and Yo Montana, SASS #72343 (another guest), came in right behind Arctic Annie, SASS #37265, in the Lady 49'r Category. The visitors (who enjoy shooting on our range and eating our food) had absolutely no sympathy for their hosts! Despite this display of rudeness, these visiting shooters are dearly loved, especially when they bring money! Fortunately for the Pine Mountain Posse, our own Deadwood Pete, SASS #57450, gave us something to cheer about by coming in third overall, just 1.29 seconds behind the Stumptown Kid.

Another visiting shooter, High-Roller Ross, SASS #99885, was top Cowboy, placing just above our Club Marshal, Tetherow Tex LaRue, SASS #90999, who won the Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter category. Frequent Top Gun winner, Hoss Reese, SASS #88815 had a misfired shotgun shell that caused a Stage DQ and dropped him down in the final standings, but being the good natured Cowboy he is,

he laughed it off and won top gun in three of the five stages—demonstrating what a good shooter he is, as well as reminding all shooters what the “spirit of the game” really means.

It was good to see returning Elder Statesman Champion Bad Eye Lefty, SASS #35114 (another visitor), who, despite suffering from macular degeneration, managed to complete the shoot and impress all shooters with his spirit and determination. Despite physical handicaps, spectators can always tell when a good shooter shoots—



*Visiting Shooter Key-Hay Makena is seen cleaning the stage with his pistols. Key-Hay is a perennial top-five competitor wherever he goes, and it's always a pleasure to see him come into camp.*

it's in his/her moves, and Lefty moves very smoothly! Speaking of moves, Sierra Sage Sue, SASS #57487 proved to be the Classic Cowgirl she is by winning her category, and then later, after the shoot, helping the other ladies do the distaff duties that makes Cowboy Action Shooting™ possible. Again, where would we be without ladies like Diamond Willow, SASS #37688, Sierra Sage Sue, and Arctic Annie, SASS #37265, doing the scoring for the shoot and preparing the food as well—thank you ladies! Well, that's about it for now—don't let this article discourage you from visiting with us in Central Oregon. Your visit and your money means a great deal to us.

Be sure to visit the Pine Mountain Posse Website at [www.pinemountainposse.com](http://www.pinemountainposse.com) for scores by total time and category. You'll find a pending Calendar of Events for the State of Oregon there as well. You're a Daisy if ya do. 🌻

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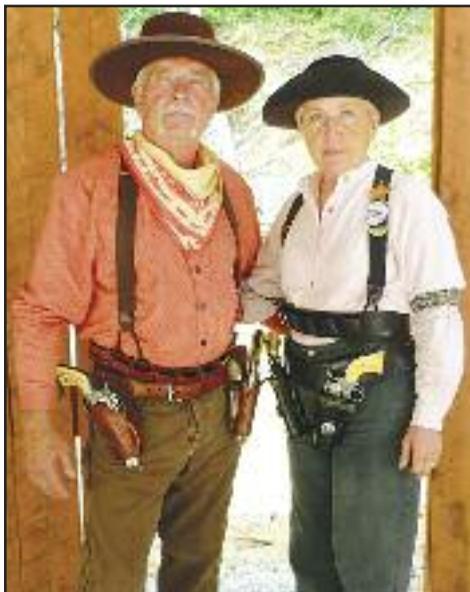
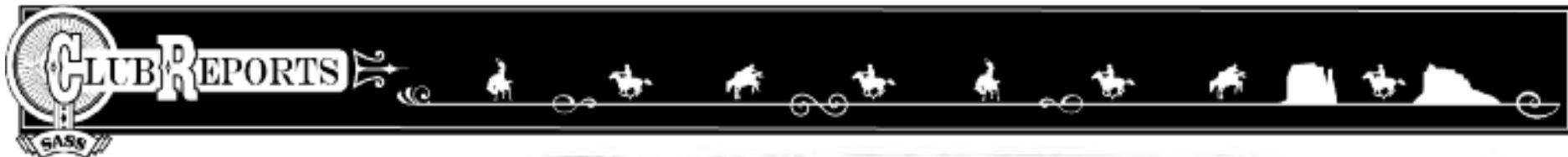
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*Visiting Shooter, Reloader Fred is seen stoking his 97 at a very rapid pace—note the empty hull heading toward the ground just above the hay bale. By the time the Hull hits the ground, Fred will have loaded another round!*



Rio Drifter, SASS #49244 and Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245

# SHOOTIN' OUR WAY ACROSS AMERICA

## Ohio

By Tennessee Tall, SASS #49245, and Rio Drifter, SASS #49244

Brown Township Regulators in June made Ohio our 43<sup>rd</sup> state. Before 8:00 a.m., Bobtown Cooter (SASS #94037) who was already hard at work setting signs, met us at the gate. Entering the range, we found folks cooking up a breakfast buffet; Sandy Creek Jake (SASS #85546) registering campers with help from his poodle, Maggie; Sixgun Seamus (SASS #94002) set-



Utah Scout and Brush Rabbit



Kit Colleen and Old Iron Hip

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ting steel; and folks catching up on the weather and latest news. The clubhouse boasts a full kitchen, rest-rooms, seating for fifty, and a covered front porch overlooking the ranges, lined with “liars” benches aplenty.

Black Run Butcher (SASS #97216) really is a butcher, taught by his dad and granddad. I. M. Crossdraw (SASS #8321) is a nurse in real life. I’m not sure how “crossdraw” relates to nursing, but if he is as efficient in nursing as he is in cross-drawing, then he is a darn good nurse! Yep, Blue Eyed Bob (SASS #49883) is blue-eyed and Rowdy Red Tailor (SASS #88557) qualifies as a red head. Old Iron Hip (SASS #22900) has two of ‘em and is still shooting and keeping his Irish wife, Kit Colleen (SASS #50543), busy keeping up with him. Brush Rabbit (SASS #93092) amazed us, talking about her passion for rescuing wild rabbits. She is well-versed in feeding and rescuing baby rabbits and returning them to the wild. Utah Scout (SASS #92575) is retired military who must’ve been a scout in his last life. We loved the friendly competi-

*(Continued on next page)*



**Shootin' Our Way Across America • Ohio**

*(Continued from previous page)*

tion between Billy Badazz (SASS #98024), Sixgun Seamus, Black Run Butcher and I. M. Crossdraw, as shown by the scores that day. Cayenne Kay (SASS #96415) is a new shooter (who also happens to be a



nurse) who held her own with us. Sixgun Seamus not only wrote the stages but set up the ranges, acted as our RO and donated the sodas for stage one, where we engaged two full sodas as well as two shotgun targets. Good fun watching the cans explode.

After six stages, we wandered up to the clubhouse and enjoyed cheeseburgers that would make anyone proud. We finished our meal with Sandy Creek Jake's

*(Continued on page 26)*

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*We would like to thank you for being such a dedicated member of SASS and helping this organization grow.*



## Shootin' Our Way Across America • Ohio *(Continued from page 25)*



wife's homemade cookies and brownies. She brought in popsicles too, to cool us off.

As we returned to our Army Corp of Engineers campsite on Berlin Lake at Mill Creek Recreation Area, we enjoyed driving through Minerva, Ohio. Minerva has brick-paved streets and a downtown lined with brilliant colored metal artwork flowers. Minerva was established in 1833. The Normandy Inn on the south end and Hart Mansion on the north end of Main Street anchor the beautiful downtown area. The ride to and from the range is darn good. 🍌





# THE HOLE IN THE WALL GANG

## Long Island, NY

*By Deputy Short Stack, SASS #81578*

*To View The Video—please access the Digital version of The Cowboy Chronicle.*

**L**ong Island’s Hole in the Wall Gang continues to produce champions. At the 2014 Heluva Rukus, the HWG produced five category champions as well as the overall state champ. HWG has a history as one of the most active clubs in the state, participating at many matches throughout the northeast. In addition to Cowboy Action Shooting™, HWG members hold several others events throughout the year. These include, tactical, sniper, silhouette, and Wild Bunch matches. Our own Hawkeye Harry (SASS #91326) was the first champion in the recent New York State Wild bunch annual match.

Two years ago, a group of students from Hofstra University produced a TV special about alternative



things to do on Long Island. They contacted HWG and filmed us during one of our local matches. They presented Cowboy Action Shooting™ in a very positive light and we felt like sharing it with the rest of the Cowboy community. 

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October 25-26, 2014

# WILD TIMES AT HARD TIMES

## OHIO STATE Wild Bunch Championship

Report and photos by Col. (Ret.) Fletch O'Dubois III, SASS #14224



*Blastin' Brad in full military regalia.*



*Match director Mean Gun Mark, timed by Black Jack Beeson.*



*Rose Louise Reasoner takes aim with her .45.*



*Boaz on the ready line with his choice of weapon.*

**Piqua, OH.** “Reach for the sky.” Beep! Ping! Ping! Ping! Ping! Ping! Man, that was fast. The first magazine of my Model 1911 pistol was already empty while shooting the 2-6-2 pattern on the pistol targets. One more mag to go before heading to the table to repeat the same pattern on the distant rifle targets. Don’t forget to move in slide lock to the table! Grab a magazine—shoot—reload—shoot the last magazine. Holy cow, now I’ve got to backtrack to the window to gather up the shotgun lying on the window sill and shoot two knockdowns, move to another window and shoot two more, then hustle to the final window for the last two. Huff huff huff, now to the rifle for another 2-6-2 pattern on the rifle targets. Show pistol clear and drop the slide, holster and gather up the shotgun and rifle. I think I can start breathing normally... must be Wild Bunch stage three!

Mean Gun Mark (SASS #78668), Boaz (SASS #88829), and Buckshot Jones (SASS #18177), from the Piqua Fish and Game Protective Association, hosted the second Ohio State Wild Bunch match, called “Wild Times at Hard Times.” It’s one of four premier major matches held in Ohio annually. “Smoke in the Woods,” the Midwest Territorial Black Powder Championship, is held in April every year, followed in May by the Ohio State Match and “Guns of August,” the Mideast Regional/Four day match in August. “Wild Times at Hard Times”



*Black Jack Beeson, a speed demon with the shotgun—note two spent shells in the air while ready to shoot his third.*

moved from May of last year to a bit later in the shooting season this year.

The first day started off cool and gray with a brisk wind—one of Ohio’s glorious October autumn days. Despite the conditions, Mean Gun Mark had doughnuts ready for the group, a nice little touch. He went over the range safety requirements and reminders on current Wild Bunch rules; Boaz made several announcements and reminded us about the dinner at the clubhouse that day and the schedule

*(Continued on next page)*



## Wild Times at Hard Times • Ohio State Wild Bunch Championship ...

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Match winner,  
Black Jack Beeson.*



*Ladies winner,  
Rose Louise Reasoner  
(SASS #12516).*



*Modern winner, Boaz.*



*Traditional winner,  
Blastin' Brad.*

of events for the following day. We proudly said the Pledge of Allegiance, and from that point on it was all fun and games as we spent the morning and most of the afternoon shooting. Glad I wore my heavier coat and brought my gloves.

For those not familiar, *The Wild Bunch* was a 1969 western film directed by Sam Peckinpah. It's about an outlaw gang and their exploits around 1913 on the Texas Mexican Border. The film was controversial at the time because of its graphic violence and its portrayal of ruthless men attempting to survive by any available means. One of the fun aspects of SASS Wild Bunch Action Shooting is the requirement placed on wearing the western or military dress from this time period or from the movie. Participants may choose the style of outfit they wish, but it's to be similar to that worn in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, to include period US military uniforms from 1900 to 1916 and Edwardian period fashion. Western dress such as characters Pike, Dutch, Lyle, or Tector wore in the closing scene of *The Wild Bunch* movie is also encouraged. It was great to see competitors like Blastin' Brad (SASS #90942) in military garb. He had it nailed, right down to the spats.

The skies eventually cleared and we ended the day after the first five stages. More fun tomorrow, but now off for a nice warm meal at the clubhouse. The remaining five stages were held on Sunday, which started off cool, but was nice and sunny. After the final five

stages, we ended the day early, which made it nice to attend the awards ceremony and still have time to get home at a relatively decent hour.

As with any successful event, it all starts with the dedication of the match directors. Mean Gun Mark and Boaz did a super job in scenario design and by using more difficult targets that were oddly shaped (one looked like a train engine), and others, such as strategically placed knock down shotgun, as well as small steel knockdown plates on a rack. Some rifle and pistol targets were at greater distances than typically found in traditional Cowboy Action Shooting™ events. Since there is a higher power factor required of the rifle and pistol ammunition, it made the shooters appreciate what the soldiers of yesteryear as well as the stars of the movie tried to portray. The directors of Wild Bunch Action Shooting scenarios promoted speed, movement, accuracy and a whole lot of fun. "Fast and fu-

*(Continued on page 30)*

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**Wild Times at Hard Times • Ohio State Wild Bunch Championship . . .**

*(Continued from page 29)*

rious” comes to mind. Oddly, this is the first match of any kind I’ve ever attended where there were no clean shooters, but not for lack of trying. *[Not uncommon for Wild Bunch Matches —ed.]*

Many shooters have never had the opportunity to shoot the handguns necessary in Wild Bunch Action Shooting. Contestants compete with firearms typical of those used just before and after the turn of the twentieth century: Colt 1911 style semi-auto pistols. The pistol must be a full-size, five-inch barrel, single stack magazine, steel frame, 1911 style, semi-auto pistol in .45 ACP. A lot of companies make copies of John Browning’s Colt 1911 pistol. Guns used are divided into two basic categories: Traditional, which replicates the standard military-issued style handgun, and Modern, which can have adjustable sights, beavertail grip safeties, etc. Rifles or carbines used must be originals or replicas of lever or slide action rifles manufactured during the period from approximately 1866 until 1899, incorporating a tubular magazine and an exposed hammer, and must be chambered in a pistol caliber of .40 or larger. This means .38-40, .44-40, .44 special, and of course the .45 Colt. A shotgun it needs to be either a Winchester Model 97 or Model 12 pump. The Winchester model 1897 pump in 12 gauge can be original or replica, in either the Civilian or Military style. SASS also allows the Winchester Model 12 pump in 12 gauge to be used since it was one of the shotguns featured in the movie. But shooters competing with a Model 12 must declare they have a Model 12 once on the firing line

and show safe to the RO since the hammer cannot be seen. Seems to be a shift to the Model 12, since some shooters have more problems with 97s than the other guns. Some are self-inflicted, as I found out. I managed to somehow take a bit of right hand knuckle off with the breech bolt when shooting then moving.

The shooting competition was indeed unique. Contestants shot in ten, three gun stages (courses of fire), in which they engaged both steel and knock down targets. One such example was stage seven, The Bank. The course of fire included the rifle loaded with nine rounds, staged vertically on a specially designed stand, which was located in the doorway. The shotgun, loaded with six rounds, was staged on one of the large window shelves, and the pistol loaded with one five-round magazine was holstered. The shooter’s starting position was with their back against the post/pillar entry way to the bank, approximately 10 feet from the firing line. “This is a holdup” was yelled and at the beep, the shooter moved to the doorway and grabbed their rifle, engaged each of three targets three times each, then re-staged the rifle back on the stand vertically. Then with the pistol, from two different positions, they had to put three rounds on each of the pistol targets and each of the rifle targets. Upon completion, they then acquired the shotgun from the window and fired at six knockdowns. Making the shotgun safe, they again acquired the rifle and moved from the stand to the far right window, re-

*(Continued on next page)*

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**Wild Times at Hard Times • Ohio State Wild Bunch Championship ...**

*(Continued from previous page)*

trieved a round from the body, reloaded and engaged a small single target in the far corner of the shooting area. Black Jack Beeson (SASS #11523) managed to get off all 20 pistol, 6 shotgun and 10 rifle (yes 10 with the reload) shots to pull this one off in 38.71 seconds. Yee ha! Go to <http://miamivalleycowboys.org/recentmatchresults.htm> for a complete list of winners.

We had quite a few spectators show up, some SASS folks as well as those plain curious about the sport. The rules are somewhat different for Wild Bunch than a normal SASS match, so those wanting to compete should visit <http://www.sassnet.com> to become familiar with the SASS Wild Bunch regulations. Movie buffs and serious shooters alike agree the use of vintage style firearms, turn of the twentieth century costuming, unique targets, and fast action make Wild Bunch one of the most interesting of all Cowboy Action Shooting sports for spectators and contestants alike.

To see what competitions are coming up in Ohio, you can check out the SASS website. Visit [http://miamivalleycowboys.org/state\\_match.htm](http://miamivalleycowboys.org/state_match.htm) for information about the

Annual Ohio State shoot, "Shootout at Hard Times," as well as "Wild Times at Hard Times," in Piqua, Ohio. Check <http://www.bigirons.com/goa/goa.htm> for details on the Mideast Regional Championship, "Guns Of August," to be held in Middletown Ohio August 9-12. I highly encourage shooters to get their applications in early. And, if you have never seen a cowboy or Wild Bunch match, any of these would be a good opportunity to drop in and say hello. 🤠

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



# DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR

*By Captain George Baylor SASS #24287 Life Regulator*

## Dillon XL650 Accessories

The Dillon XL650 may well be the best all-around consumer grade cartridge reloading machine on the market. It is immensely popular and has been since it came out. I've been using one since 1999.

But just because it is good doesn't stop small businesses from making accessories and improvements for it. The first "accessories" come from Dillon. I use all of the options, such as the case feeder. I load four calibers on it. I have a tool head for each caliber so individual dies don't have to be changed, and additional powder check systems and powder measures pre-adjusted for each load.

Several aftermarket companies have made accessories to solve perceived or actual shortcomings of the XL650. Along the way I've tried several. These are the ones I like and use.

(Note that all of the products reviewed I purchased. These weren't sent to me with a "please review" note.)

### And let there be light

For a long time, getting enough light into the machine for my eyes was difficult. Then Inline Fabrication (<http://inlinefabrication.com/>) used the



*Inline Fabrications  
"Skylight" LED lighting kit.*

burgeoning technology of LED lights to develop a lighting system that really works to get light to the cases in the shell plate. I got their "Skylight" LED Lighting kit (Photo 1). There's a high output light in the center of the tool head, and there's a four-inch, six-light strip on the inner front side of the press frame. Lighting is pretty well distributed on the shell plate.

The strip light comes with double-sided tape, and there's a Scotchbrite pad to "roughen" the surface of the frame for this, as well as the four clips with double sided tape that are used to route the wire to the back. Both wires plug into a 2-to-1 wire that plugs into the power wire, which has an inline on-off switch.

## Unique Tek's 650 Spent Primer Chute

Unique Tek (<http://www.uniquetek.com>), a long time SASS vendor and event sponsor, has several Dillon accessories. I like their 650 Spent Primer Chute (Photo 2). It replaces the mount for the fac-

*(Continued on next page)*



*Unique Tek's 650 Spent  
Primer Chute.*

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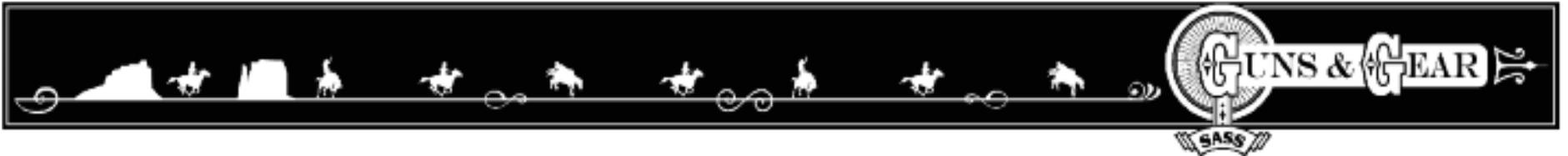
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## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

tory primer bin, which usually results in an annoying number of spent primers on the floor, not to mention jamming the machine if you forget to empty it occasionally. (Sometime back I put a wide, shallow plastic storage bin on the floor to catch primers, both live and dead, dropped bullets, and brass.)

### Easy Installation

“Remove the Spent Primer Cup and Spent Primer Cup Bracket, then install the 650 Spent Primer Chute™ using the original screws.

“Attach the tubing to the 650 Spent Primer Chute™ and route to any convenient container, on or under your reloading bench.” It includes a three-foot tube. However, three feet of tubing is not enough to get it to the floor. Routing it to the floor in front of the tool chest is a little iffy in my setup. After a few false starts I got a longer PVC tube, routed it around the tool chest drawers, and put a plastic bottle at the floor (Photos 3, 4, and 5).



*The tube from the Spent Primer Chute needs some “slack” when the handle is up. I substituted 1/2" PVC tubing from Home Depot because I needed more than three feet.*

3



*When the handle is down, the slack is taken up. At this point you need a “downhill run.” Any low points will fill up with primers.*



*I added a Wal-Mart bottle at floor level to catch the spent primers.*

5



6

### DillonUpgrades.com

However <http://dillonupgrades.com> sells 2 similar (but different) kits. One, for those using Strong Mounts (Photo 6), has a short piece of tubing and a spent primer bottle that attaches to the Strong mount, another one, for those not using Strong Mounts, attaches with four feet of hose; a bottom hose fitting and zip tie; and a pre-drilled soda bottle cap.

### XL650 Missed Live Primer Upgrade (Ski Jump Fix)

This is another item from [dillonupgrades.com](http://dillonupgrades.com)

*(Continued on page 34)*

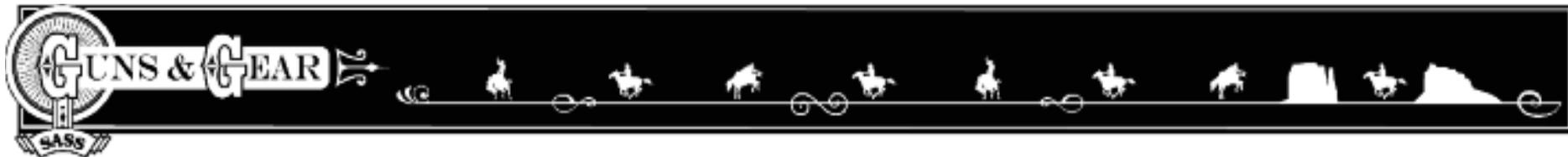
*If you use a Dillon Strong Mount, [dillonupgrades.com](http://dillonupgrades.com) makes a spent primer chute that works neatly with it.*

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## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from page 33)*

(Photo 7). From their blurb: "...the only thing worse than spent primers on the floor is LIVE primers on the floor. This New upgrade I designed will replace the original missed primer chute (better known as the Dillon Ski Jump) with my new primer catcher and completely eliminates any missed primers from jumping off onto the floor. Like my spent primer upgrade, this upgrade also creates a closed missed primer system so there is no way for the missed primers to exit the system and jump onto the floor. This system uses a Plastic Primer Catcher to contain missed primers as soon as they fall out of the Rotary Primer Disc and funnel them into a small plastic reservoir bottle which can then be unscrewed to transfer the primers back to primer tubes... The little plastic vial has a foam pad in the bottom to cushion the primer's fall."

This speeds up production in a way I didn't expect because I don't have to worry about "missed" primers if a round fails to fall into station one. Now I just fix the problem with station one, such as refilling the case feeder, and continue, retrieving the fallen primer(s) later.



7

*dillonupgrades.com also makes an XL650 Missed Live Primer Upgrade (Ski Jump Fix).*

## Inline Fabrication's "Factory" Dillon Bullet Tray Mount

Since I moved to the RV, the XL650 has been mounted on the bench top because there is not adequate clearance for the Strong Mount in the shop trailer, which raises the unit several inches. The bullet tray mount I had attached to the Strong Mount and couldn't be used without it, so I screwed it to the bench top. Not perfect. Recently I installed Inline Fabrication's "Factory" bullet dish support bracket for 650 and bench top mounting (Photos 8 and 9). This mounts the factory bullet tray to the ideal location using one of the 650's mounting bolts. The bullet tray will hold 200 or so bullets.

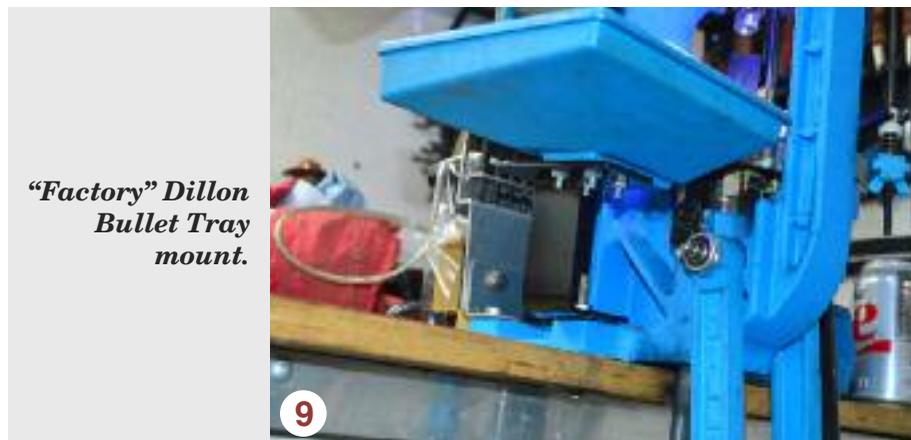
Inline Fabrication makes a long line of accessories for Dillon, Hornady, RCBS, and Lee presses. Among their other Dillon accessories are a series of Ultramount press riser systems that raise the machine 9-5/8", 6", or 4." They also offer bin barriers that extend the capacity of your bin (Photo 10), as does Unique Tek. I

*(Continued on next page)*



8

*Inline Fabrication's "Factory" Dillon Bullet Tray mount.*



*"Factory" Dillon Bullet Tray mount.*

9



10

*Inline Fabrication's Bin Barrier.*

*The Working Cowboy Gun Leather Shop*

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**Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .**

*(Continued from previous page)*



**11**  
*Dillon XL 650 Premium Performance Improvements Kit doesn't look too impressive on arrival, but it does live up to its claims.*

was pleasantly surprised at how much I like the bin barrier, because I don't have to empty the output bin as often.

**Dillon XL 650 Premium Performance Improvements Kit**

I found this kit on eBay (Photo 11). (Just use the search engine in eBay.) The description makes it clear that this is a one-man shop. "No use crying over spilt powder" is the sub-heading. "What I have here

are the necessary components required to smooth the overall cycling of the Dillon XL 650 in order to reduce powder spills, increase production and keep

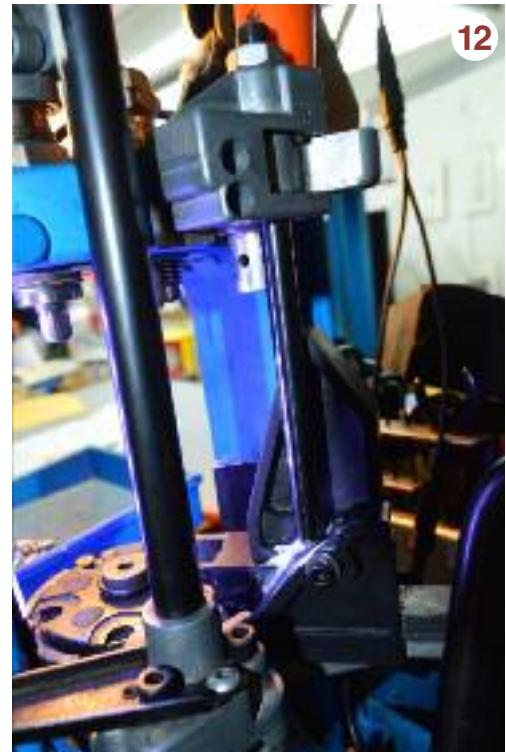
the press clean.

"The four issues addressed by this upgrade are:

"1. Addition of a bearing to the case feed ram cam follower to reduce friction and eliminate the need for lubrication at that point [Photos 12, 13, and 14].

"2. Replacement of the factory issued shell plate index detent ball with a low mass industrial bearing to reduce impact energy [Photos 15—old and 18—new].

"3. Replacement of the factory issued shell plate



**12**  
*Standard Dillon case feed ram cam follower.*

*(Continued on page 36)*

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**Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .**

*(Continued from page 35)*



**13**  
*Improved case feed  
 ram cam follower with  
 bearing on the left,  
 standard on the right.*



**14**  
*Improved case feed ram cam  
 follower installed.*



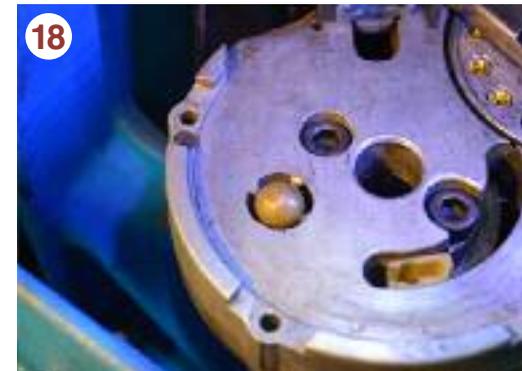
**15**  
*Standard shell plate index  
 detent ball.*



**16**  
*On left a standard shell  
 plate index ball spring  
 with half a coil cut off.  
 On the right the thinner  
 replacement spring.*



**17**  
*Replacement shell plate  
 index ball spring installed.*



**18**  
*Low mass industrial bearing  
 replaces standard.*

index detent ball spring which has the ideal level of pressure to engage the detent ball into the shell plate [Photos 16 and 17].

“4. Addition of a bearing atop the shell plate [Photo 19].”

I found myself agreeing with the seller’s blurb: “The addition of the bearing to the Cam Follower for the case feed ram reduces drag, friction and “Noise” to an amazing degree.

I immediately realized that upon installation, not only did it operate remarkably smoother, but I could actually better feel through the handle the “feedback” of the overall operations of the press.

Plus, with the bearing installed, there is no longer any need for grease on the cam, which really cleans things up.

The “Industrial Grade Phenolic Low Mass bearing ball” weighs 10 grains while the stock steel ball weighs 52. Amazingly, this does make a difference, especially when paired

with the lighter spring. I had already tried cutting half a coil off the stock spring, and that works almost as well. But if you’re getting the rest of the kit, these two combined minimize the bouncing that occurs every time the shell plate is indexed. That bouncing bounces out a few grains of powder occasionally, and several grains with some “fluffy” powders, such as Trail Boss. If you’re shooting black powder substitutes and filling the case to the base of the bullet, they’re also prone to bouncing out. Prior to getting this kit I put my finger over the case mouth when it came down at station three and released it when it stopped at four. Now I don’t have to, and that speeds things up.

The top shell plate bearing (Photo 19) minimizes movement of the shell plate. There have been needle-bearing kits out, but these were all wider than the shell bolt head, making it neces-

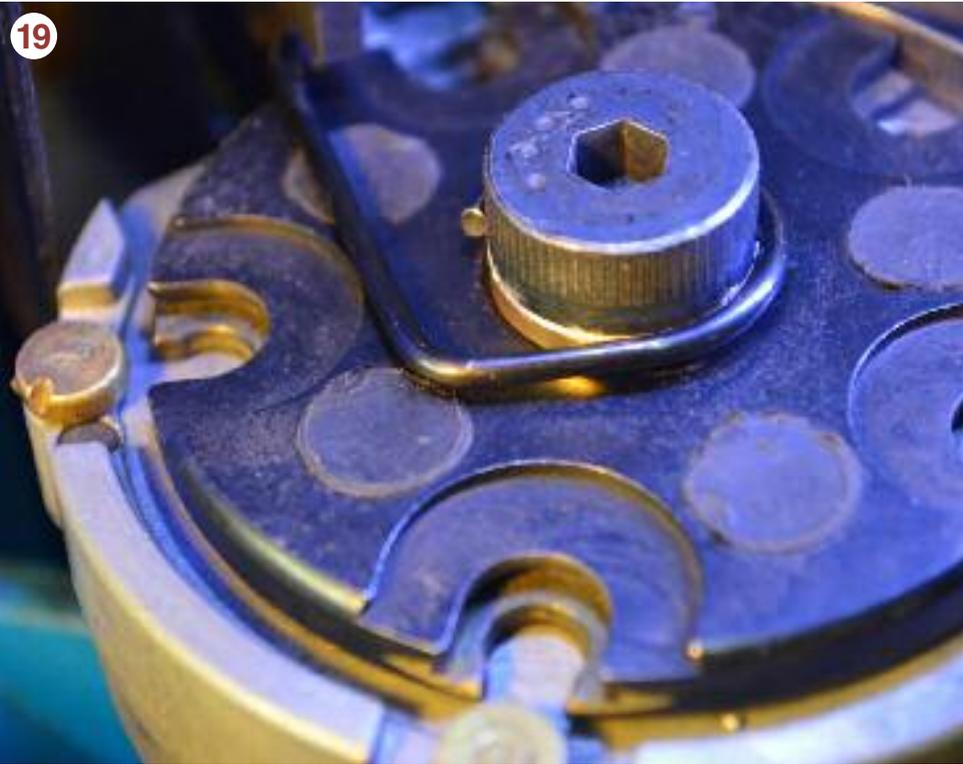
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**Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .**

*(Continued from previous page)*

19



*Addition of a bearing atop the shell plate.*

sary to re-bend the shell payoff spring. I had tried one of the needle bearings and didn't like it, so I had reverted to stock. This bearing is Oil-Lite oil impregnated Phosphor-Bronze bushing bearing material, and it's the same diameter as the bolt head, so the spring fits.

The addition of all of these items has had a cumulative effect allowing me to operate the machine faster and more efficiently with fewer stops. Net result, more ammo, less time (Photo 20).

20



*Net result of all these accessories, more of this in less time.*

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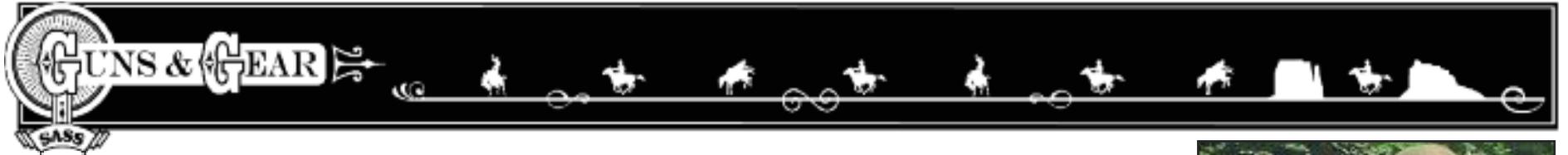
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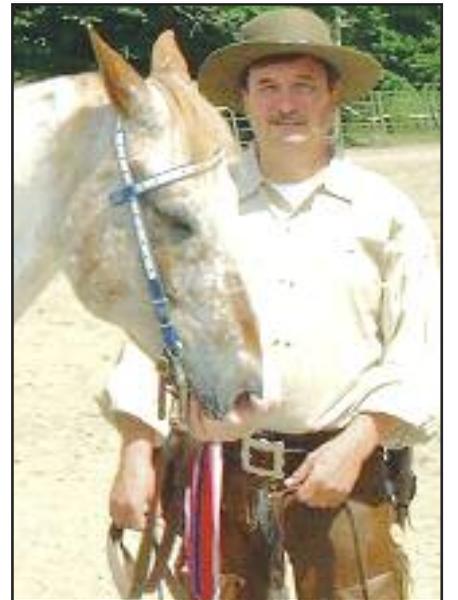
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# THE CAPGUN KID RIDES Hadda-Haves ...

## I Dunno Why I Hadda Make A Ted Gilmore Style Rig ...

By The Capgun Kid, SASS #31398



The Capgun Kid,  
SASS #31398

I think it was the Christmas of 1955—although it might have been '54—when a kid only had one of two lunchboxes. You had a Roy Rogers Lunchbox or a Davey Crockett Lunchbox. The Kindergarten and first grade arguments raged over who was best, and there was a third party minority in Pine Avenue School

A lot of folks liked Ike, most of America still thought Roe *versus* Wade were two ways to cross a river, “identity” and “theft” had not yet been put together as a phrase, and you could see the USA in your Chevrolet without a lot of taxes, the risk of texting behind the wheel, or other regulations. On the Christmas Eve of one of those years when I had just figured out that Mom and Dad were Santa, I crept down the hallway and snuck a look at the presents under the tree while the entire Geiger clan of adults were debating why Merry “Xmas” was heretical. It turns out that nobody had the right perspective because the “X” is really a Greek symbol for the crucifix.

Those years, dominated by Walt Disney, Roy and Dale, and Hoppy, are probably responsible for a major chunk of what the American Dream became... life was loaded with things you just *hadda* have. Right up to todays lemmings who can't live without the latest version of a smart phone, we are a society of Hadda

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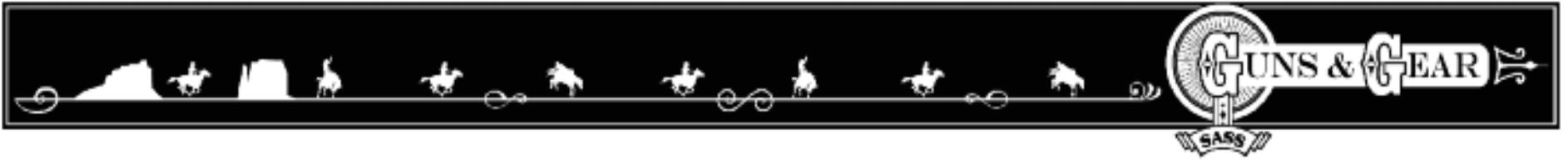
The Fanner Fifty. You hadda have them even though they'd break, or fall from favor within six months.

composed of loosely allied Hoppy or Lone Ranger boys. Nobody cared what the girls had.

At that time, Dad was on a roll that led me through the Roy Rogers Rodeo in Madison Square Garden, Frontier Town, and Fort William Henry in Upstate New York. When we dug out from under a blizzard one of those winters, he was still wearing his leather flight jacket left over from his stint as a B-17 Tail Gunner. In one year I got the skinny on three different centuries of American History that have dominated my interests to this day.

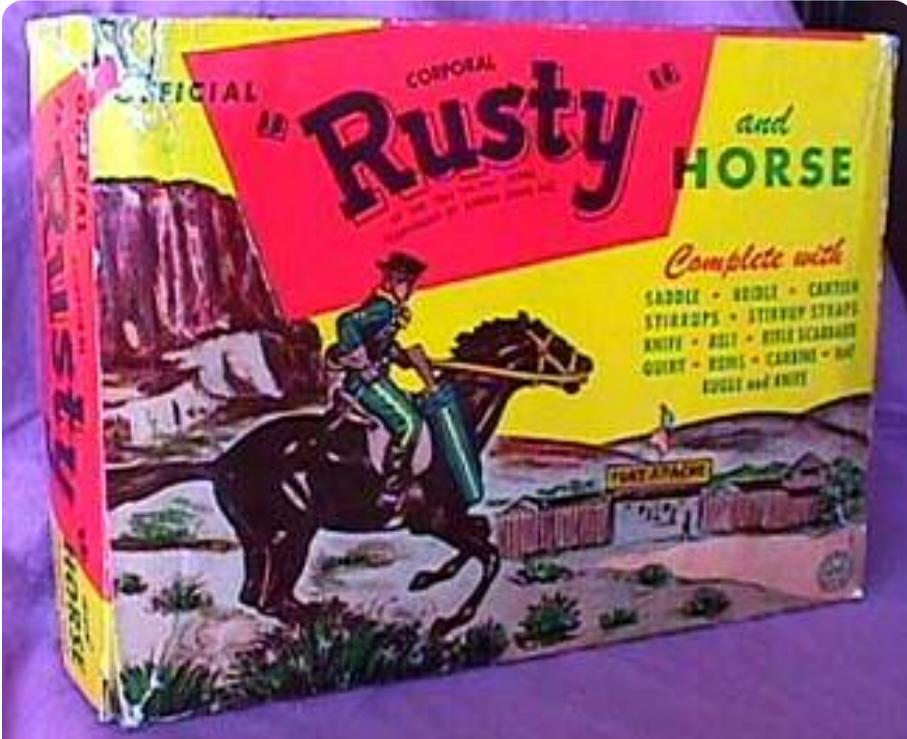


I dunno why I hadda make a Gilmore Rig...



**The Capgun Kid Rides • Hadda-Haves . . .**

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Brother Chris, so enchanted with his new Rusty from Rin Tin Tin.*

Haves who occasionally figure out that the best thing you hadda have was somebody to love, or a cart full of groceries that go into the community food bin, or the willingness to forgive the guy who just cut you off in the middle lane. We are a blessed people, but none of us really sit down and figure out the which and the why of how come there are hadda haves. This piece is the total extent of my own thinking on the topic, and I hope I run into some more hadda haves before I get too old to shoot.

If you step back and think about it, Hadda Haves are really split into several categories, and there is a reason the media has been able to tickle us with them all these years. See which one of these rings your bell.

**Category One Raphie's BB Gun, the original Hadda Have**

Only it was not always a BB Gun. In 1957 and 58 the entire New York area was blown away by Mattel's Fanner Fifty and Winchester Saddle Gun. I've probably had more fun writing about these than I had playing with them. They are throw backs to the day when a kid could see stuff for what it was: *stuff*. You hadda have them even though they'd break, or fall from favor within six months. There's a reason the *Christmas Story*, about the kid from the 40s, came outta nowhere and captured so many hearts.

It wasn't only capguns, though. Brother Chris and



*Willie Mays, Ted Williams, and Stan The Man... you could build an allstar team...*

I were glued to a set of oversized figures from companies such as Hartland and Louis Marx. You could get an entire baseball team of these figures that represented a complete All-Star Game, and to this day I remember Brother Chris so enchanted with his new Rusty from Rin Tin Tin that Mom and Dad had to beg him to keep opening the rest of his presents.

I found an original Roy Rogers Lunchbox at a cap gun show and immediately thought I could smell peanut butter and jelly in the air. Today it houses several leatherworking tools in case any of my pards of the stage need some repair on their leather.

*(Continued on page 40)*

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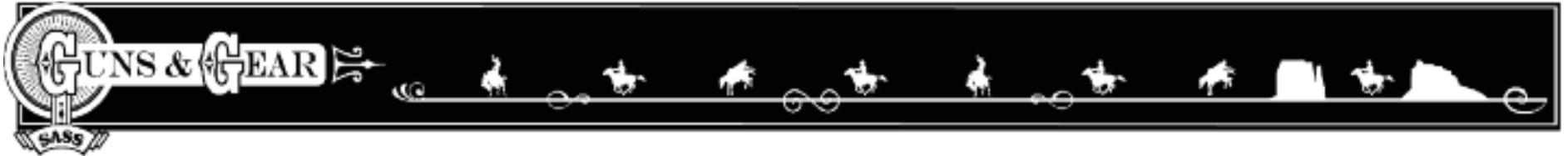


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### The Capgun Kid Rides • Hadda-Haves . . .

*(Continued from page 39)*

I guess what we never figured on was the fact that most of us would grow up with new hadda haves sprinkled along the way. Hence, category two.

#### Category Two Thank You, Vendors

Not being a Gamer (OK, so maybe I try to shoot clean and spend a minute on each stage to get my money's worth, so sue me) I am still not sure whether I go to a regional match to compete or to see the people and the vendors. I'm one of those fruitcakes who tries to buy everything with cash and drops change into a mug all year long to be sorted out for spending money at vendors tents. Everybody's got one go-to vendor for their guns, and the best shooters I have ever owned came from one source, namely Encks Gun Barn in Pennsylvania. If Dutch Henry Brown or Black Hills Barb is at the match then they're going home with some of my money. That's just the tip of the iceberg. I shudder to think of what would happen to my family's economic outlook if I ever wandered over to END of TRAIL...

#### Category Three I Gotta Make That

It takes another craftsman to understand this category. Forget my own curse of having to make all my leather gear on an egotistical basis, this category will drive you nuts. There's a little cobbler in all of us, but my shoemaker background pretty much drove my neuroses to the point where learning to ride also demanded learning to make my own saddle. I can understand that. What I can't quite cope with is why on earth I hadda have a Ted



*John Barleycorn, Gray Squirrel, myself and BDoc. Dirt Slider is in the background. You can't ask for better friends*

Gilmore styled gun belt, built on a whim and used on the range maybe once or twice before being traded off or sold. Gilmore made Roy Rogers and Buffalo Bill Jr. rigs and they were both my childhood heroes, so maybe there's some solace there.

A lot of folks have complimented me on my Saddle Pal Guncart which might be the consummate hadda-have because it saves my back from utter destruction long about stage four when I sit on it, so I suppose there's the "big head" weakness. What baffles me, though, is the fact that I don't have a lot of time on my hands yet I managed to stay up late

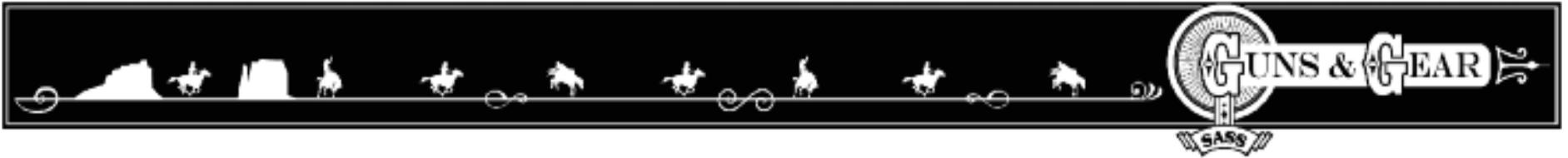
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## The Capgun Kid Rides • Hadda-Haves . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

crafting this stuff because I hadda have it. I remember unloading a whole bunch of gear at a Pennsylvania State Match where they set up a special tent for the SASS Scholarship Fund and we all gave the proceeds away from all those hadda haves we parked there. What amazed me was how all the dis-cards became someone else's hadda haves. I unloaded a Boss Of The Plains hat less than a year old and picked up a John Wayne Hat on the first day.

Once I crafted a key tag or two or three from a Marx Miniature Sixgun that I holstered and donated to the Heluva Rukus Match as door prizes. I guess they were cute enough, but I have been periodically surprised at how, every so often, somebody I don't know will walk up to me, point to the little tag and tell me what a great job I did. It really tickled that guy and I am surprised that my hat still fits. What am I, a walking flip that stuff reality show of the gun fighting community or something? Go figure.



*A Pennsylvania State Match where they set up a special tent for the SASS Scholarship Fund.*

### Category Four It's A Human Thing

I guess that, at the end of the day, the real driver in doing this is more than competition or stuff... it's

*(Continued on page 42)*

# The Cowboy Chronicle SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

*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 800-2500 words is a good target to shoot for, but shorter pieces are also fine, and we can accommodate larger reports in our virtual magazine, if the material warrants it. We may choose to break very lengthy articles up into two or more parts, to run in consecutive issues, however.

**Please do not embed your photos in the Word document.** They can be extracted for use in the *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 100 dpi and 1000 pixels (10 inches) on the short side. That will allow us plenty of leeway when it comes to cropping and adjusting them for publication. If you're unsure of how to size your photos, send what you have and we'll adjust them.

**Usually, a dozen or fewer photos are sufficient for an article, but we will consider using more for a "big" event, if provided.**

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 #XXXXXX, 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.

**Short video clips may also be included.** MPEGs, AVIs, WAVs, etc., may all be embedded in *Chronicle* pages, with MPEGs (mp4) preferable. Another 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 [skinny111@icloud.com](mailto:skinny111@icloud.com) for all article submissions.**



**The Capgun Kid Rides • Hadda-Haves . . .**

*(Continued from page 41)*

the people. I am really gifted, here, and I hope all of you coyotes can say the same thing. Part of the reason I hadda have, buy and then crush a John Wayne hat to make it look like the movie version in *The Searchers* is because one of my most valued friends is Tom Payne, out of New York. We are constantly bandying about John Wayne trivia and sporting John Wayne stuff and I can truly say this hobby would not be the same without him in it. That's to say nothing of folks like Annabelle Bransford, who puts on Heluva Rukus, or Black Hills Barb, who dedicates so much time to making the Pennsylvania State Shoot such a success. Appaloosa Amy and Quaker Hill Bill are those types who always appear in the *Chronicle* because they won something, and it is a lot of fun just seeing their pics. A guy like Cayuse has an instinct to organize and maintain a cowboy group (in spite of so much club politics) that beats the band and where would we be without folks like Tex and Cat and Skinny? All those

*Dutch Henry Brown and his killer dogs. Since I wrote about them last time, I think they may have helped take down Bin Laden...*



day-to-day shooters I met in Pennsylvania are still populating my screen saver and prove that it all boils down to one idea... this is a human thing. We can't explain the passion to anybody outside the realm of being in love with the American West. That makes each of us all the more valuable.

Yup. It's a Human Thing.

Don't shoot yore eye out, kid.

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# Andele, Mexican-Kiowa Captive

By Col. Richard Dodge, SASS #1750 Life

*In the spring of 1886, Rev. J.J. Methvin arrived in Anadarko, Oklahoma with his wife and five children in a buckboard wagon. He had been sent by the Methodist Church from Georgia to serve as "Missionary to the Wild Tribes" and he was to live in Anadarko until his death in 1942 at the age of 94. Two years after his arrival, he met a stranger standing on the bank of the Wichita River. The man's name was Andre Martinez and he told a story of being kidnapped as a child by Apache warriors, being traded to the Kiowas and raised by them as a warrior for 20 years. He was known as "Andele" by the Kiowas. The two men became life-long friends and together helped lead the Kiowas to the "white man's road." Methvin immediately hired Andele to teach in his school and assist in his church and his mission.*

*J.J. Methvin was my maternal great-grandfather. He fought in a Georgia regiment during the Civil War and lived long enough to baptize me when I was born. He wrote the story of Andele's life as I have related it here. This is the remarkable, true story of Andele Martinez.*

Juan Martinez could not have foreseen the traumatic events that would change the lives of his little family forever that October morning in 1866. It was haying time and he needed Dionicio, his older son, to help with bringing in the hay on their little farm. The task of watching the family's milk

cows would fall to 11-year-old Andre for the first time. Andre eagerly accepted the new task, anxious to show that he was grown up—no longer a child. Martinez had homesteaded his little farm near Las Vegas, New Mexico a year earlier and the new crop was critical to his family's survival. It was time for Andre to start taking responsibility.

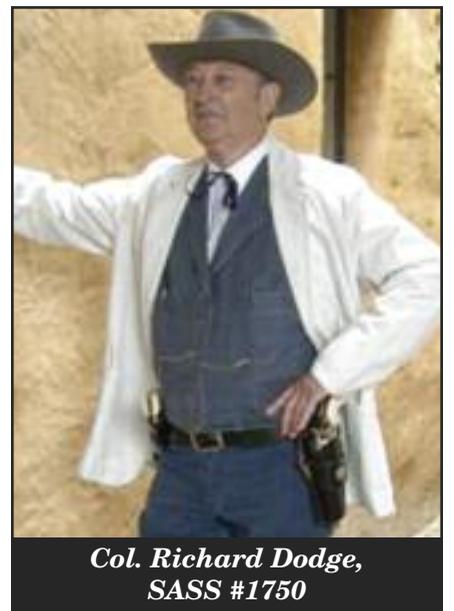
As the boy followed the three cows to their usual pasture, he was joined by his six-year-old cousin, Pedro, who had slipped out to follow Andre against his aunt's admonitions. Since it was too far back to return, Andre reluctantly took Pedro with him.

It didn't take long for the boys to learn how boring their task would be and the morning passed slowly in the warming sun. Shortly before midday, they were startled by shrill yells and a terrified scream coming from the nearby road. Scrambling up a low rise, they saw a horrifying sight through the tall grass. Their blood froze in fear.

Four mounted Indians had surrounded an elderly Mexican man leading a donkey carrying two large burlap sacks. One brave dropped from his mount and slashed one bag open; freshly ground flour flowed white, blowing across the road and dousing the brave in white dust. War whoops and laughter erupted from his mounted companions. The outraged brave turned to the hapless Mexican, his face contorted with hate, and without hesitation thrust his lance clear through the man's body, then withdrew it with a shower of blood. The doomed man stumbled to the side of the road, his body suddenly pierced by arrows. The flour-covered brave seized the donkey's ear and slit its throat with one swift stroke. With a pitiful bray the hapless beast collapsed, blood spreading across the dirt road. The mounted braves joyfully drew bows and released several more arrows into both the dead man and the burro.

Poor little Pedro gave them away. His gasps

*(Continued on next page)*



Col. Richard Dodge,  
SASS #1750





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brought the dismounted brave running toward them. They were quickly seized by the whooping, flour covered brave. In moments they were each bound and tied behind one of the mounted braves. Then they began a long, painful ride that took them far away. Andre would not see his home or family for twenty years.

These were the dreaded Mescalero Apaches, most vicious of all the Apache tribes. Andre's father would search for his son in vain for several years before dying of a broken heart.

For three days they rode eastward, at one point passing through an enormous buffalo herd that took two full days. On the third day, young Pedro, who never stopped crying, was thrown to the ground in disgust. As he lay sobbing piteously, a lance was driven through his small frame. A final scream of pain and he was abandoned to the scavengers of the desert.

Young Andre managed to survive by sheer will power. He refused to show fear to the Apache and that saved him from the lance, even though he was beaten and treated roughly. The Apache, like most tribes, admired bravery, even in a captive or enemy. Desperate to elude certain pursuit by their captive's family, the band traveled rapidly. Poor Andre had only ridden the family's plow horse around the farm and suffered mightily from the long ride. Each night he would lie bound, staring into the direction they had come, praying for his father to rescue him, hiding his tears from his cruel captors. What would become of him?

Several days after Andre's capture the band crossed paths with a much larger Kiowa hunting party led by Chief Tall Bear. The Kiowa and Apache were occasional allies, roaming freely over thousands of square miles, trading and marauding together. Tall Bear's own son had died recently and he took a liking to the young Mexican lad. He had promised to bring a new son home with him and after some bargaining, Andre was exchanged for a blanket and a donkey. Andre's new life was about to begin.

His arrival in the Kiowa camp was met with a mixture of delighted kindness from his new Kiowa mother and jealous aggression from the younger Kiowa boys. Again, he displayed a fierce anger at what had happened to him. His first fight happened almost immediately and he was making a

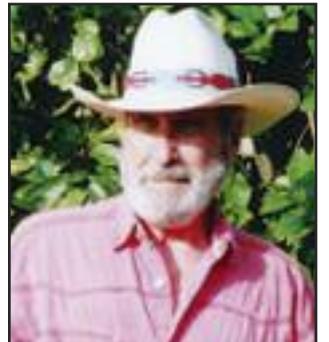
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## LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE Way Out West -

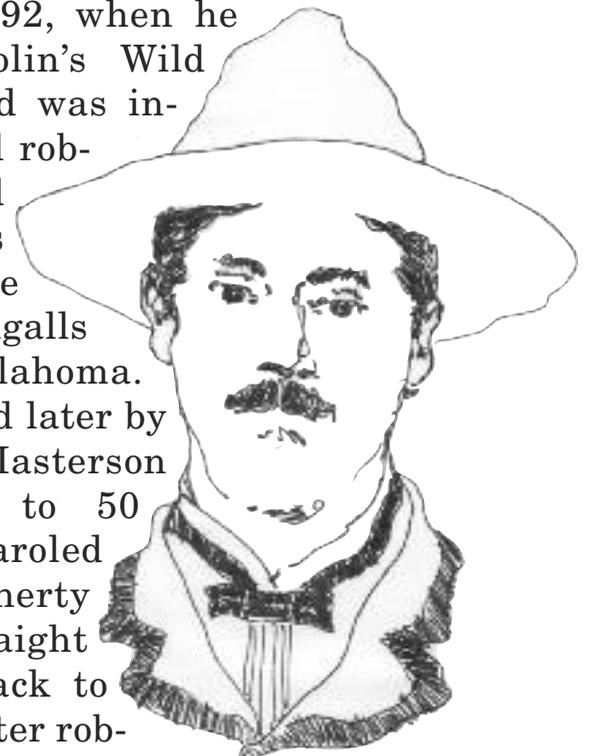
*By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769*

### Arkansas Tom Jones



*Joe Fasthorse,  
SASS #48769*

“ARKANSAS TOM JONES” was born Roy Daugherty in Missouri on January 1, 1870. The Daugherty family was a staunchly religious family. His two brothers became preachers, but Roy rebelled. He left Missouri for Oklahoma Territory when he was 14 years old and changed his name to “Arkansas Tom Jones.” Roy worked as a cowboy until 1892, when he joined Bill Doolin's Wild Bunch Gang and was involved in several robberies. He killed Marshal Thomas Hueston at the 1893 Battle of Ingalls in Ingalls, Oklahoma. Roy was captured later by Marshal Jim Masterson and sentenced to 50 years but was paroled in 1910. Dougherty tried to go straight but was sent back to prison in 1917 after robbing a bank at Neosho, Missouri. Released in 1921, Roy robbed another bank in Asbury, Missouri and remained on the run until he was killed in a gunfight with lawmen on August 16, 1924 in Joplin, Missouri. 🐾



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## Andele, Mexican-Kiowa Captive . . .

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good account of himself when the fight was interrupted by a Kiowa brave named Santiago, himself a Mexican captive turned warrior. They were soon to become close comrades, Santiago sharing in teaching Andre the skills and beliefs of the Kiowa.

As the days turned into months, Andre's hopes of rescue began to fade. Many times he stood at the edge of the village, staring off to the west, still hoping for rescue. As months turned into a year, then another, his alert young mind began to turn to his new life; his language and memories of home and family began to fade and he gradually entered into the Kiowa world.

One day when the Kiowas were camped near a Cheyenne village, Andele was gathering reeds from a nearby stream early in the morning. The sound of many shod horses reached his ears, then the rattle of the sabers of the white man's blue-coated soldiers. Peering through the reeds he observed a cavalry column, led by an officer with long, light brown hair, suddenly charge across the shallow stream and into the Cheyenne camp. Screams and gunfire erupted, heavy at first, then lessening until after a few sporadic shots—silence. Andele quickly ran to his own village to spread the warning. He had just witnessed Lt. Col. George Custer's infamous massacre of an entire peaceful Cheyenne village.

At the age of fifteen, four years after his capture, he was allowed to accompany Santiago on a raid on a Texas ranch. Although ordered to wait with the horses, he disobeyed and managed to steal a mule from its stall in a locked barn. There was much re-



joining and admiration by the tribe when they returned to camp. Andre was now "Andele," as close as the Kiowa tongue could come. His future as a full-fledged Kiowa warrior had begun.

Mount Scott is Oklahoma's highest point. It was sacred to the Kiowa and it was here that young Andele, as all other Kiowa lads must do, came to seek his vision. Climbing high up the mountain's flank, he sat and waited. And waited. Two days, then three, without food and only sips of water. As the inevitable waves of delirium approached, he drew his

*(Continued on next page)*



## Andele, Mexican-Kiowa Captive . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

knife. The sharp edge opened rivulets of blood along one arm, then the other, adding a blanket of pain to the torment. At last he slept and the dream came.

Out of the darkness a giant bear appeared, eyes glowing red and fangs bared to kill; a huge paw raised to destroy with its enormous claws. As death came closer and closer, a shield appeared—red with a yellow sun and a white handprint. The claws,



which could disembowel a horse, struck the shield and the shield did not yield. The bear arose to its fearful height, roaring in anger. Suddenly, the shield moved with great speed, striking the bear in the chest. The bear disappeared into the darkness.

It was dawn when Andele drifted back to awareness. He had his vision! Now he could return to the village to

stand before the gathering of the warriors and tell his story. Now he would be welcomed as a warrior, ready to embark on his path to do great deeds.

But first, he must nourish himself. He drank deeply from his water bag, and ate from the block of pemmican prepared for him by his mother. His return was a joyous celebration of this very important rite of passage for a young Kiowa warrior.

His first task was to have that shield made, and he carried it for the rest of his time with the Kiowa. His utter belief in the shield's power led him to adventures over the next ten years of his life that gained him great respect as a full-fledged Kiowa warrior. He even took a lovely Kiowa bride named "Ti-i-Ti" (White Sage) and began to aspire to become a Kiowa medicine man.

He almost single-handedly rescued Tahan, a "recovered" white captive, from the white man's sol-

diers. Tahan did not want to be "recovered" and with Andele's help escaped from the soldiers in a Kiowa ambush in a deep gully.

In other engagements, Andele participated in skirmishes with the U.S. Army and the Texas Rangers. Never injured, he earned an enviable warrior's reputation, the most coveted status for the Kiowa warrior that Andele had become.

Andele's life took a sudden turn when Tall Bear became ill with a strange disease. Frantic, Andele hired medicine men, four of them one after the other, to cure Tall Bear, impoverishing himself in the process as they demanded ponies, blankets and most of Andele's possessions. Of course, their "medicine" had no effect on the patient and death soon followed. Andele's faith in the power of the Indians' medicine was shattered. In his grief he disavowed his beliefs, his dreams, the very essence of the Indian way of life. The seed was planted for a return to the white man's world.

By 1880, the Kiowas and all other Plains tribes had been defeated and were being confined to reservations and military forts. The Kiowa were very closely guarded, for they were considered the most deadly of the Plains Tribes. Their people were confined to Fort Sill (later to be the site of Geronimo's confinement). Here, Andele found himself confined with his people for the next two years.

Strange new events now entered his life. He remembered nothing of his Spanish tongue, so he began to learn the white man's strange English language. He saw white people entering and leaving a strange building carrying small folded sheets of paper. They were

*(Continued on page 48)*

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*(Continued from page 47)*

“talking papers,” someone explained. Other captives like himself, long assimilated into the tribe, were one by one singled out, taken away and never seen again. With the help of the others, Andele managed to stay hidden away from the agents’ searching eyes. But it couldn’t last.

“You’re not Kiowa! You’re Mexican.” The words came at last. An alert agent finally spotted him and his Hispanic face gave him away. But his memory of who he had been was gone. There was no place to send him, so he was to remain at the fort. At his own request for work to do, he was introduced to the blacksmith and instructed in the trade, soon becoming skilled.

It happened suddenly. In the middle of the night, Andele awoke abruptly and sat up, startling the sleeping Ti-i-Ti. “My name is Andre Martinez! My father’s name is Juan!” Springing from the bed, he sprinted to the doctor’s office and pounded on the

door; it was just past midnight.

“My name is Andre Martinez! My family lived near Las Vegas! My brother was Dionicio! I remember!” The words poured out of him to the sleepy-eyed doctor. Nodding, the doctor opened the door, seated the excited young man and questioned him at length. He was astounded at how much Andele could recall, even up to the day of his capture.

“Do you think we can send a talking paper to my family?” Andele’s excitement mounted.

“We’ll try,” the doctor told him. “It’s been a long time and they may not even be there anymore.” A letter was penned, addressed to Juan Martinez in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Alas, the family no longer resided there and it took two more years for the letter to almost accidentally fall into his brother’s hands. The family had moved away from Las Vegas following Andele’s abduction and his father’s death. His mother was now elderly and frail, hoping always to see her youngest son again. Andele’s letter of course caused great excitement; his mother fainted when she heard the news. A telegram was quickly sent to Fort Sill and Dionicio set off immediately on a month-long trip to Anadarko by wagon to retrieve his long-lost younger brother.

When he arrived at the Kiowa Agency, Dionicio was met by a handsome Kiowa brave dressed in full beaded buckskin regalia, hair braided and bound in beaver skin, face painted, complete with feathered war bonnet, bow, arrows, war hatchet and a red shield bearing a yellow disc and a white hand print—Andele. One can only imagine the emotional reunion.

Reluctantly leaving his Kiowa family, including

*(Continued on next page)*

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Ti-i-Ti, Andele returned to New Mexico with Dominic to another even more emotional reunion. Andele could still not speak Spanish, though they could converse in English. He remained in New Mexico for four years to relearn Spanish and his ancestry.

Eventually, his thoughts returned to his Kiowa people. They will need me, he realized. Their world has ended and they must learn to live in the new

one. In the spring of 1888, Andele made the four-week return trip to Anadarko. There, he learned that his dear Ti-i-Ti had died in his absence. Many of his Kiowa people were also gone. There was much to do and Andele's mind was tortured with sadness and a quiet joy of returning to his Kiowa family. One fine day while standing on the banks of the Wichita, lost in memories, he was approached by a small, slight gentleman with a fierce red beard.

"Welcome, friend," the red-bearded man said, extending his hand. "I'm Reverend Methvin. Are you new to these parts?"

*P.S.—Methvin immediately hired Andele to teach in his "Methvin Institute" and assist in his missionary work. Andele became a Christian and was instrumental in bringing his Kiowa family into the white man's world. The Methvin Kiowa Methodist Church still serves a large, very devout Kiowa membership; hymns are sung in the Kiowa language and both Methvin and Andele are held in fond memory by the tribe. Andele died in 1935. The two men are buried within a few yards of each other in the Anadarko Cemetery.*

Methvin, J. J.; *Andele, Mexican-Kiowa Captive*; Plummer Printing Co., Anadarko, 1927.

## COWBOY'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

*Posted On The Wall At Cross Trails Church In Farlie, Texas*

*Submitted by Dan'l Sackett, SASS Life #17359*

- |                                                  |                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Just one God.                                | (7) No killin'.                                |
| (2) Honor yer Ma & Pa.                           | (8) Watch yer mouth.                           |
| (3) No telling tales or gossipin'.               | (9) Don't take what ain't yers.                |
| (4) Git yourself to church meeting.              | (10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff. |
| (5) Put nothin' before God.                      |                                                |
| (6) No foolin' around with another fellow's gal. |                                                |



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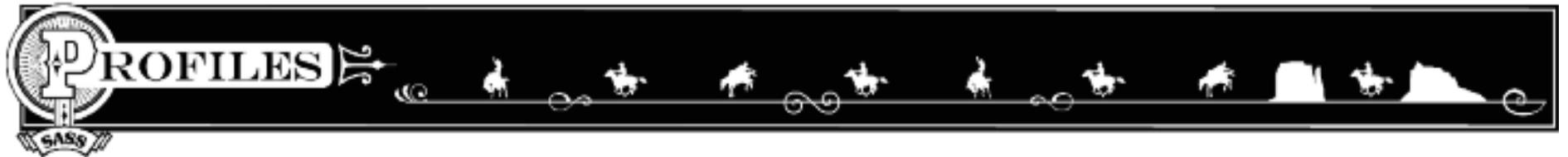
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# SASS: A Home Away From Home

By SASS Kicker, SASS #91899

**Dedication:** This article is dedicated to Boyd Davis, The General (SASS #2), who is one of the founding members of SASS. I want to thank him for his contribution to cowboy action shooting which is a sport that has truly changed my life.

— Jessica Kirkham, SASS Kicker

Four years ago I entered the SASS community in hopes of expanding my horizons and trying new things. I've always lived by the motto, "You will enrich your life immeasurably if you approach it with a sense of wonder and discovery, and always challenge yourself to try new things." (Nate Berkus, Designer and Author). Not only did SASS provide me with a sport that has made me a better competitor, it has also surrounded me with a family that has supported me in shooting, in school and most importantly, in life. I have built relationships that will last a lifetime and made connections that have helped me open my eyes and challenge myself to create a future that pushes me to my full potential. Most importantly, it has brought me closer to my entire family who has supported me throughout this entire journey.

Cowboy Action Shooting™ has allowed me to apply the principles of mental focus and commitment in my



SASS Kicker wins her first overall world championship title as a junior thanks to the love and support of her family, friends and the SASS community.

high school sports. This directly applied while playing varsity basketball. During the game it is necessary to focus on the task and eliminate distractions caused by competitors and spectators. Additionally, I was also able to incorporate the importance of practicing what I learned in shooting, which is "perfect practice makes perfect" (Vince Lombardi). It became evident that an exceptional practice session is not defined by the amount of hours spent; it's rather the quality of the skills learned.

One of the best things I can



From left to right: Jerrie Ryan (grandmother), John Ryan (grandfather), Kirk James, SASS #90539 (father), Jackie Kirkham (mother), Cody James, SASS #90540 (brother), and SASS Kicker, SASS #91899. SASS truly is a great family sport. In this picture the James Gang is outside the awards banquet for Eldorado, the SASS Nevada State Championship.

take away from SASS is the family I have built within this growing community. My local clubs and those surrounding me that I shoot with on a monthly basis (Yavapai Rangers and ACSA) have provided me with an incredible support system that is unconditional. I am forever thankful for extraordinary and generous individuals I have met. These individuals are literally willing to give the clothes off their backs to help young shooters. This was evident during my first year at END of TRAIL when I was caught off guard by the clothing requirements at the Sweet 16 Shoot Off. Competitors and spectators were quick to offer the necessities needed to fulfill the dress requirements. This amazing family we call SASS pushes me to exceed in this sport and all other aspects of my life. This year, I made a life changing decision to switch high schools and move away from my immediate family in an effort to advance my education. I needed more educational opportunities to prepare for my future. This decision could not have been possible without the love and support of my family, friends, and SASS members. As soon as SASS members became aware of my decision, nu-

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## SASS: A Home Away From Home . . .

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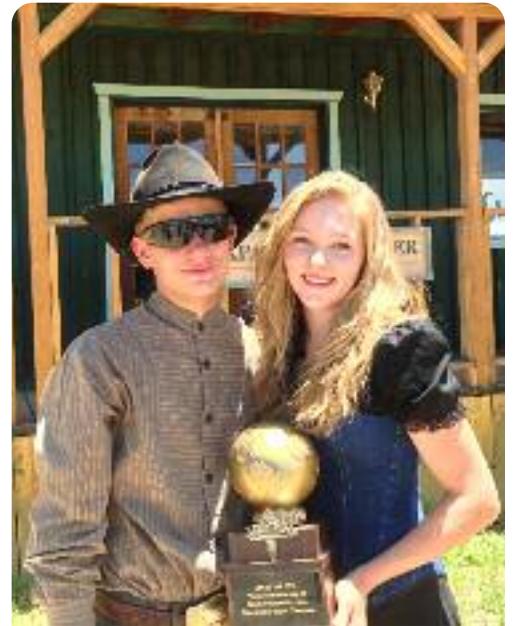
merous individuals offered words of advice as well as support. Many offered their contact information to insure a smooth transition while I was living two hours away from my family.

The diverse community of which SASS is composed has exposed me to opportunities that I would have never thought possible. One shooter, August West (SASS #45079), has had a huge impact on the way I view myself and my future. His kind words have given me the confidence to set my goals and expectations higher. He encouraged me to apply out-of-state and explained that I am the caliber of student capable of being accepted to a top university. It was humbling to hear these accolades from an alumni and professor of Stanford. Whether or not I am accepted into the university of my choice, it was reassuring to hear that as part of the SASS family, he considers me part of his family. He has the genuine concern a father has for his daughter, and I am grateful for his friendship. My shooting coach, Pecos Clyde SASS #48481, and his wife Silver Heart (SASS #48482), are also members of my SASS family. Aside from learning sound shooting techniques, I have learned life lessons about support, dedication, and work ethic through their companionship and coaching.

One of the greatest things I will

take from SASS is the strengthening of the relationship I have with by family. SASS has truly been a family sport that involves my immediate family as well as my extended family. I am fortunate to be able to shoot almost every weekend with my father, brother, uncle, and cousin, and spend quality time with them on the many road trips we take. This friendly competition allows us to push each other and grow stronger in the process. My mom is also a part of this incredible support system. She travels to all of our matches and always helps our posse. SASS has also brought me closer to my grandparents, who travel with us to every major event. This year they spent their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary supporting us in Edgewood, New Mexico. They have also opened their home to me and became legal guardians in my pursuit of a finer education in Phoenix.

In short, I am blessed to be part of the SASS family and I'm grateful for all the amazing shooters I've met. Many SASS members have contributed to my success through their positive encouragement. They've helped me through their generous donations of gunsmithing, insuring that I have top working firearms, and donating clothing and brass. I have never met a more generous group of people than those whom I proudly call my SASS family. Cowboy Action Shooting™ has given me the confidence and determination to do my best in all areas of life. It has afforded me the opportunities to shoot with first-class people who have a vested interest in the youth of America. Cowboy Action Shooting™ has changed me as a person and competitor and it has given me life-long skills, confidence, and a work ethic I will continue to apply in my life. Thank you to all who have supported me and given me a home away from home. 🤠



*Cody James, SASS #90540 (left), with SASS Kicker, SASS #91899 (right), at the 2014 END of TRAIL World Championship.*

*This is a great event to bring the family together. The two were supported by their parents, grandparents and the SASS community.*



*SASS Kicker and her father, Kirk James, enjoy a father-daughter dance at the Railhead awards ceremony in Northern Arizona*

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## 2014 Scholarship Recipient

### Red River Emma, SASS #90161



Justice Lily Kate,  
SASS #1000

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



**Owasso, OK.** I am Red River Emma, aka Paige Townsley. I have been a SASS competitor for four years with Indian Territory SASS at the Tulsa Red Castle Gun Club in Sand Springs, as well as at Tulsey Town in Tulsa, Oklahoma. My sister, Tater Bug, SASS #90160, aka Taylor Townsley, and I were introduced to Cowboy Action Shooting by my Dad, Josey Kidd, SASS #13170, aka Mark Townsley, in 2010 and have been participating ever since. I am starting my junior year at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and a possible minor in Management Science of Information Systems. I have been working hard and doing very well at OSU, maintaining a 4.0 GPA in all four previ-

ous semesters and earning places on both the President's Honor Roll and the

Business College Dean's List. I hope to join the business field after I graduate and start a successful career in a job where I will be happy and valuable, especially one that will allow me to do some traveling.

As a recipient of the SASS Scholarship for three years, I am very grateful and lucky to be part of such a wonderful society and great sport. It is so empowering to have the support of my fellow shooters in all that I do. You would be hard-pressed to find people as friendly and caring as these! We are truly a unique family. Cowboy Action Shooting™ has become a favorite way for my family to spend time and have fun together, even with all of our differing interests. The financial aid has been an incredible help to my education, allowing me to attend a college that I love with minimal debt, despite rising costs of tuition and textbooks. At OSU I have had the opportunity to get involved with a phenomenal college ministry that has helped grow my faith in tremendous ways—something that would not have happened had I not been able to attend Oklahoma State.

Many people have helped me get to where I am today, but most influential among them are my parents. They have supported me throughout everything, pushing me to excel in school and test my abilities while still being supportive of my choices. I was not pressured to choose a major or take a path they wanted me to take, but instead encouraged to find something I was suited for and would enjoy. This past summer I decided to attend a two-month discipleship training program in Denver, Colorado. You can bet the first thing I wanted to do when I came home was go shooting! Both of my parents were nervous about my fending for myself so far away from home in such a large city that was much different from anything I had been used to, but they recognized how important it was to me and supported my decision. They have made so many sacrifices for my sister and me so that we would have the best chance we could have at being happy and successful. My Mom taught me that I can

*(Continued on next page)*

## 2014 Scholarship recipient • Red River Emma, SASS #90161 . . .

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be strong and successful on my own and I have learned from my Dad that any situation can be fun and enjoyable if you are with your loved ones. I hope to one day be as great a parent to my children.

Of everything I've done, I am most proud of how much I have changed to become the woman I am today. I used to be shy, always unsure of my own value and strength. I felt like I always had to prove something to earn attention and friendship from others. I

never would have been confident enough to go to Denver by myself for two months, or even to excel and forge lasting friendships in college. Since coming to Oklahoma State I have gained the ability to recognize my own worth and strength, and stand on my own accomplishments without seeking the acceptance or approval of others. I don't need popularity and a glamorous social life to feel valued and significant. I have true, supportive friends and the love of my family and Creator, and that is enough. 🌱

# Gun Control

*By Red River Emma, SASS #90161*

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

**T**hese days, the subject of gun control is one you cannot discuss without a clash of opinions or rubbing someone the wrong way. Many gun control activists see possession of firearms as a catalyst to gun-related crimes and gun-related injuries and deaths. Gun control activists are not wrong to seek ways to reduce gun-related crimes and injuries, but they may be chasing the wrong solution. Many gun control activists assume that restricting possession of guns will ensure that crimes will not be committed with guns. I believe this solution would not work to the extent that gun control activists think, due to its potential ineffectiveness and the incentives it creates.

Banning all firearms may initially reduce crime committed and injuries by people who are not qualified or cannot safely handle guns, but I believe these effects would be short-lived. The reality is, the people who would misuse their right to bear a firearm will continue to do so. It seems foolish to assume that a person already willing to commit a crime using a gun will not hesitate to break an additional law restricting possession of guns. The habits of criminals will not be changed by the passage of such a ban. In fact, the only real effect I can see is the taking away of the ability for households and individuals to protect themselves against such crime and the elimination of recreational shooting and hunting. Statistics show that, out of the gun-bearing population of the United States (which is less than half of the total population), the majority of gun owners use their firearms for protection against crime. With that protection

taken away, criminals who would previously have been deterred by an armed victim will commit much more crime.

A restriction on gun ownership creates incentives for crime to turn to other forms as well. Crimes with other weapons, such as knives and blunt-force instruments, may experience a rise to replace the dip in firearms-related crime. Some may say this creates an incentive for crime to shift to potentially more painful and devastating types of abuse. If such a ban were enacted, we may also experience a counteractive resistance by illegal ownership and use similar to that seen after the prohibition of alcohol or presently, with the use of illegal drugs. What make guns dangerous are the safety practices (or lack of) of the man or woman handling it.

The repercussions on recreational shooting societies and hunting would effectively destroy those respective sports. This would remove a way for people to meet and enjoy an activity together, as well as restrict a traditional way for families to spend time together. Imagine if the government were to make fishing or skiing illegal. The effect on hunting would cause several other problems as well. Many households make livings and obtain food from hunting; the livelihoods of these people would be at risk if a ban were passed. In addition, without hunting, many animal populations would expand past the land's capacity and cause a multitude of other problems.

In conclusion, a total ban on firearms would not only potentially worsen the problem of misused guns but also cause a number of other problems. 🌱



## 2014 Scholarship Recipient

### Tater Bug, SASS #90160

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



**Owasso, OK.** I am Tater Bug, aka Taylor Townsley, and I am a Cowgirl who has been a member of SASS for four years now, primarily with the Indian Territory Club in Sand Springs. Though I live in Owasso, I participate in matches at the Tulsa Red Castle Gun Club in Sand Springs as well as at Tulsey Town in Tulsa. My passion for single action shooting grew through shooting with my father, Josey Kidd, SASS #13170 – formerly known as Pumkin Roller – aka Mark Townsley, who has been a member of SASS since the mid to late 90s. I shoot and compete with him along with my twin sister, Red River Emma, SASS #90161, aka Paige Townsley, who became involved in single action shooting at the same time I did in 2010.



*Justice Lily Kate,  
SASS #1000*

Currently I am in my junior year at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in English with an option in Screen Studies, as well as an emphasis in Creative Writing. I have been working diligently to further my education to the best of my abilities, having maintained a 4.0 GPA through the first year and my fourth and most recent semester as well. The effort I put into my classes and grades has earned me places on both the President's Honor Roll and the Dean's List. I am hoping, once I have obtained my degree, to become a screenwriter for various films, but am also interested in writing my own books as well as being an editor for other publications.

I am blessed to have the friendship and support of my fellow SASS members who have advised me in shooting as well as my future and education. As a third-time recipient of the SASS Scholarship, I am eternally grateful to be a part of such a fun sport and welcoming, friendly society. The members I have met in my four years in the sport have been nothing but kind and loving, and I am glad to have them around me through everything I do. Their support is very important to me. And though my studies prevent me from being as active at the gun club as I would like, it is nice to know I can come back anytime to have fun and spend time with my fellow shooters; they are like family to me now. The financial aid the SASS Scholarship provides is a great gift indeed, since both my sister and I are attending college at the same time while tuition, boarding, and textbook costs continue to rise. My choice to attend OSU, the campus I love, has been life changing in more ways than I could have imagined. I've had the opportunity to find myself—the real me that I never quite knew before—and got involved with an outstanding college ministry that has helped me grow more mature, both spiritually and otherwise.

Of everything I have experienced thus far, I am most proud of my growth and work at the Oklahoma State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM), my academic success in my courses, and my decision to be involved with the Single Action Shooting Society, where I

*(Continued on next page)*

## 2014 Scholarship recipient • Tater Bug, SASS #90160

*(Continued from previous page)*

have grown more confident in my abilities, both inside and outside of shooting. I have had many mentors who helped me get where I am today, and I am so thankful to have them around and to have their help in shaping my life and giving their advice and support through the life-changing decisions I've had to make. One such decision was the choice to take part in a discipleship training program this previous summer called Project Impact, where my sister and I went to live in Denver, Colorado, to learn how to live an active Christian lifestyle outside of the boundaries of our families and school, and in the workplace. My parents were hesitant at first to send us off, and we were just as nervous to go, but we had the guidance of our mentor from BCM and our parents' decision to support us in our decisions regardless of their worries.

My Parents have done everything to make sure my sister and I are happy with and successful in our lives,

and I have learned so much from them. From my mom, I got her strong desire to achieve much in life, to be a diligent worker, successful and independent. From my dad, I got his loyalty and steadfastness, and the insight to enjoy all types of circumstances as long as I'm with those I hold dear.

I am proud of how much I have changed over the years, from being shy and unsure of myself to courageous and confident, a side of myself that I certainly found in part through my experience with SASS. Through all I have learned up to now, I have finally been able to see my own worth, my own capabilities, and value that doesn't come just from the perceptions of others. I could not have made it alone, and thankfully I am not alone, for I will always have the support of my friends and family, whether they are blood relatives, from school, or from the gun range, to guide me along the way. [↵](#)

# The Gun Control Controversy

*By Tater Bug, SASS #90160*

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

**I**t is no surprise that most people I have come across view guns and their handling in a negative connotation. Many claim that heinous crimes and tragic deaths occur at the blame of guns, that to eliminate such threats guns should not be allowed to be carried or possessed anymore, or at least that there should be more restrictions placed on the handling of guns. Personally, I do not agree with this mindset. There is a possibility that banning guns could reduce or eliminate related crime, but there is also a great loss that comes with such restrictions.

In the right hands, a gun is not a device of death or destruction at all. Rather, it could be an excellent hobby in which to partake, one that involves both mental sharpness and does not exclude, at least for a bit, physical activity as well. Those who are taught early how to handle a gun safely and carefully can show how unique and fun an experience shooting can be, without situations becoming threatening or deadly. It is these types of people that will be at a loss if gun control is more strictly enforced. For many people, shooting has become a way to connect with others of similar interests and make friends, as well

as spend time with the family.

It should also not be ignored that even if guns were banned completely in an attempt to eradicate all related crime, this could actually have little effect on lowering crime rates at all in the sense that criminals will be unlikely to heed gun control laws and will continue to possess firearms regardless. Those who wish to deal in crime involving firearms such as murder or theft will not willingly stop just because it has become illegal to possess their firearms, especially if they were intending to participate in illegal activity to begin with. At this point, there would only be a higher difficulty in obtaining guns to use as a defense against those criminals. The threat would not be eliminated completely unless every gun nationwide was confiscated and destroyed, and guns were no longer manufactured. This seems like a highly improbable action for government to take, and likewise would be extremely difficult to carry out. Banning guns would also take away a sense of safety in a way, because family households would no longer be able to possess them for use in terms of self-defense. In this

*(Continued on page 57)*



# Readying for the Rukus

By Scout Wrangler, SASS #98068

**T**wo flats bottled water; one 15-count box 30-gallon trash bags; bubblegum, 100 cans; two 100-count boxes Nitrile gloves; two 50-count packages of name tags; one 40-count box gallon freezer bags; six sharpie markers—black; six ballpoint pens—black; six pencils; note pad; calculator; table; folding chairs; poster board; 16 canvas bags; 10 unloading table containers; work roster with posse assignments; extra copies of the work roster; extra hearing protection; extra eye protection; extra sunscreen; extra bug spray; box of granola snacks; box of chocolate snacks; \$50.00 cash; first aid kit; roll of paper towels; duct tape; extra liability forms; extra permission forms; medical forms; wagon; rubber bands for braces; extra pair of shorts (ugly, so I will get them back!); extra thermal top, ugly; cooler; disinfectant wipes; towels; toe warmers; a dozen washcloths; money bag; 20-dozen chocolate chip cookies; seven-dozen chocolate mint brownies.

This is all in addition to my personal gear: rain jacket, thermal top, extra shirt, extra pair of socks, glasses case, bug spray, sunscreen, eye protection, hearing protection, pocket knife, charged cell phone, small medicine case, snack, water, hat, \$20.00 cash, lunch, closed toed shoes, and backpack.

I am Scout Wrangler. I oversee the Boy Scouts, AKA Brass Rats, who pick brass for Heluva Rukus, the SASS New York State Cowboy Action Shooting™ Championship. Picking brass for this event has become the largest annual fundraiser for our Troop. Our



Scout Tom Raimo

Troop uses this money to replace worn out gear, defray the cost of dues and summer camp for boys who are on scholarship, and pay for fees associated with outings. The Brass Rats have all picked brass for me at a previous monthly match. I make sure they are aware of muzzle locations, know to listen to the RO, and understand when to go forward, how to discreetly stay out of the way, how to watch each firearm for expelled casings and/or brass, and how to be safe around the firearms. After all, even the ball boys and girls at Wimbledon are trained and have requirements to pass before they are allowed to shag balls.

I start recruiting for Brass Rats right after Labor Day and the start of school, since the Scouts will not know about school sporting events until then. I have to dodge rowing, volleyball, cross-country, part-time jobs, and other Scouting events. Each Scout has been given a list of personal gear, similar to mine, that they should bring, as well as a liability form and a permission form. My Scout brings that same list of personal gear and forms. All of the above does not include the gear needed for my husband—the shooter.

The list at the top is what is necessary for my Scouts to be successful. Some of those items listed make perfect sense. Some might seem a bit odd. We have picked brass for three years, now, so let me explain the logic behind some of the odder items.

30-gallon trash bags: Should a Scout forget his rain gear (and they will), I can cut head- and armholes in a trash bag. Next time he will remember. In 2013, I was placing brass pickers with posses, and one of the Scouts said, “What happens if it rains?” “That is why I told you to bring rain gear,” I responded.

100 cans: The Scouts put the rifle brass and shotgun hulls in these before returning them to the

*(Continued on next page)*



## Readying for the Rukus . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

shooter at the unloading table. Progresso soup cans are preferred, since they have a wider opening. Why so many, you may ask? For some reason, the Scouts like to mash them. It must be some sort of male genetic code thing, like crushing beer cans, and once a can gets too mashed, it is useless!



*Scout Stuart McDowell*

Two 100-count boxes Nitrile gloves: Using Nitrile gloves instead of latex keeps us clear of latex allergies. Why so many? I like the Scouts to start each shift with two pairs of gloves, one to wear and a spare. The gloves help reduce the amount of lead on the brass picker's hands. In the course of a shift, I have also had Scouts tear their

gloves multiple times. I make sure that all the adults have gloves, and I also carry extras.

Toe warmers. We use toe warmers for cold hands. The theory from the ski slopes is that veins for the hands and fingers are located along the back of the hand close to the skin. Toe warmers can be adhered to the back of the hands (flat end toward the knuckles). With the warmers attached to the backs of the hands, the warmth is closer to the blood and the hands should stay warmer. Plus hands can be put into gloves with warmers attached!

We sell "Healthy Snacks." "Healthy Snacks" as defined

by the Cowboy Action Shooters™ are homemade cookies, brownies, cakes, etc. If it's not approved by Weight Watchers or Jenny Craig, all the better! I think that this definition is located in the SASS Shooters Handbook somewhere. Hence 20-dozen cookies, seven-dozen brownies, money bag, poster board, duct tape, and the wagon.

I have had Scouts forget everything from bug spray to rubber bands for braces. I have had Scouts and adults forget money for lunch, split their pants, or not show up in their Scout shirt (and have had to give them my Scout shirt). Not having enough water occurs quite a bit, too. I always like the Scouts to have a good drink of water whenever the posse changes stages. One year, after reminding a particular



*Scout Nathaniel Coffey*

Scout to drink water all day and being reassured that he was "fine," at the end of the day as we were waiting for his parents, he informed me that he had a headache. He was dehydrated! Now, if I am unsure about whether a Scout has drunk enough water, I make them drink in front of me.

The canvas bags are for tips, and each is numbered. Each Scout gives a bag to his RO. At the end of the match, we collect the bags and tally the tips. We have had to number the bags because the competitive nature of the shooters is not restricted to the range. They want to know which posse donates the most money to the Boy Scouts and which donates the least, so we keep track!

We have about 90 percent participation from the Scouts and their families (barring some sporting event or part-time job). They get to see some of the fastest shooters from our region and the nation. Most of these Scouts have the rifle and shotgun merit badges, but they earned these badges shooting from a bench rest or at clay birds. They have learned from the SASS events that firearms are not always fired from a bench rest and that people can have a good time with firearms safely. We have had three families go from "not doing shooting events," to participation as brass pickers, to one family purchasing their first rifle and another couple considering getting involved with Cowboy Action Shooting™. Maybe these Scouts will go on to be shooters, maybe not, but from SASS they have learned people can have a good time with firearms safely, and they have had positive experiences with people who own firearms. 🐾

## The Gun Control Controversy . . .

*(Continued from page 55)*

way, more criminals could actually avoid capture, and more innocents could potentially be killed.

It has been noted that in countries where guns were outlawed, crimes violent in nature did not just disappear. Crimes involving guns were merely replaced with a higher increase in knife related crimes. Where there are guns, there will also be knives and other types of blades, or other weapons to be used in deadly manners. Those who partake in crime will always find a way to execute their violence, whether it is with guns or with something else. In the end, banning guns would not have the exact effect that gun control activists would wish it to have, and may end up with more negative consequences than positive ones. 🐾

SASS PRESENTS  
**2015 COLORADO STATE COWBOY  
 ACTION SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP  
 AND COLORADO STATE WILD BUNCH**





**CHAMPIONSHIP**

12 STAGES DESIGNED BY WORLD AND NATIONAL CHAMPION  
**COBRA CAT SASS # 19275**  
 JUNE 10-14, 2015 AT THE SAN JUAN SHOOTING RANGE  
 MONTROSE, COLORADO  
 SASS MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED      SASS RULES  
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SHOOTING CLASS BY SASS WORLD CHAMPIONS  
 COBRA CAT AND SAN JUAN WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 2015

Registration Application online at [sanjuanrange.com](http://sanjuanrange.com)  
 Contact: San Juan at 970-249-4227



# COWBOY POETRY

*Terry Stolz, who has participated at Cowboy Action Shooting™ matches under the alias Draathar Jager, Gun for Hire, is a burgeoning writer and poet of Old West and Southern adventure fiction. Seen here are two representations of his poetry, with accompanying illustrations, used with permission, by his associate, James Conahan.*



**Terry Stolz**



**WILD BUNCH**

**MUSTER AT FORT MISERY**  
**2nd ANNUAL NEW YORK STATE  
 WILD BUNCH CHAMPIONSHIP**  
 PRESENTED BY  
**CIRCLE K ROUGH RIDERS**  
**APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup> 2015**  
 KAYADEROSSERAS F&G CLUB -BALLSTON SPA, NY  
 10 Main Stages - 6 Sat & 4 Sun  
 Free dry camping available - No Hookups  
**ALL SASS WB RULES APPLY - SASS MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED**  
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**APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY April 17<sup>th</sup> 2015**  
 Available at [www.circlekregulators.com](http://www.circlekregulators.com)  
 Saturday Night Dinner - \$25.00 per person  
 Contact: Roy Cassidy (518)584-9869 or email  
[roycassidy1911@yahoo.com](mailto:roycassidy1911@yahoo.com)



**Cherokee Bill**

Cherokee Bill  
 Was in love with Lil  
 Cherokee Bill  
 First saw Lil  
 Down by the mill  
 Cherokee Bill  
 His heart stood still  
 Cherokee Bill  
 Climbed the hill  
 Cherokee Bill  
 Went to tell Lil  
 How Cherokee Bill  
 Felt about Lil



**Soiled Dove**

**Annabelle Lee Clark**  
 Her song was the birds' song  
 The song  
 That was carried by the wind.  
 Annabelle Lee Clark  
 Her bird song  
 Was her love song  
 That whispered her heart's intent.  
**Annabelle Lee Clark**  
 Her hair was a fiery red,  
 and on the  
 Minds of men  
 When they laid their heads  
 On their beds...  
**Annabelle Lee Clark**



# COMIC BOOK CORNER

## Wild Bill Pecos

*The Westerner Comics* had a long run from issue #14 (June, 1948) to #41 (December, 1951) and Wild Bill Pecos was the star of the title from the get-go. Strangely, though, Pecos was not featured on the cover of the book till the third issue (#16) and was relegated to the back of the first issue.

Wild Bill Pecos (clearly a play on the names of Western legends Wild Bill Hickok and Pecos

Bill) and his partner, Nuggets Nugent, traveled the West and righted wrongs like other red-blooded cowboy heroes, and were even fictionally present at the Battle of the Little Big Horn—a story we'll feature in next month's *Cowboy Chronicle*.



**\$100,000**

\$90,000  
\$80,000  
\$75,000  
\$70,000  
\$60,000  
\$50,000  
\$40,000  
\$30,000  
\$20,000  
\$10,000

**\$96,931**  
We Built It!  
Now Lets  
Furnish It!

# COWBOY Memorial Chapel

**THE CHAPEL IS NOW BUILT  
THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS  
CONTRIBUTIONS!**

**Now Lets Finish  
And Furnish It!**

Talk to Your Club Members And  
Lets Meet Our New Goal!



Goal  
Thermometer

As of today  
there has been  
\$896,931 earned  
and the goal  
is \$100,000

SEND YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

SASS WESTERN HERITAGE MUSEUM  
ATTN: COWBOY/COWGIRL  
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

215 COWBOY WAY, EDGEWOOD, NM 87015



## NOTICE to 2015 SASS® Sanctioned Match Directors

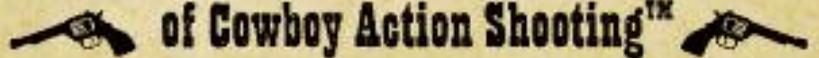
With *The Cowboy Chronicle* going digital, we have the opportunity to point shooters directly to your club's website to streamline registration for all clubs that host SASS sanctioned matches.

Therefore, it's no longer necessary to include a registration form in your required ad, like in the past. This will allow you the opportunity to put some "punch" in your match advertising.

So be creative, the sky's the limit! We suggest you send in your ad no later than 90 days prior to the date that you want your ad to appear. Remember, color is welcome at no additional charge.

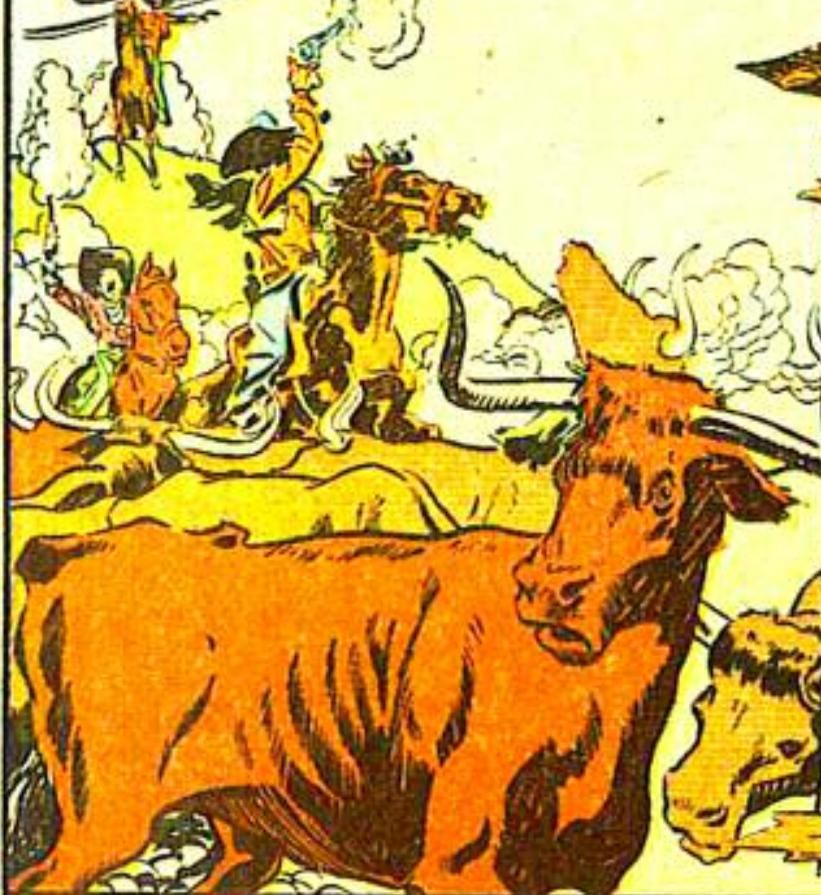
Please submit all ads to  
Prairie Mary at: [mary@sassnet.com](mailto:mary@sassnet.com)

Thank You for Your Continued Support  
of Cowboy Action Shooting™





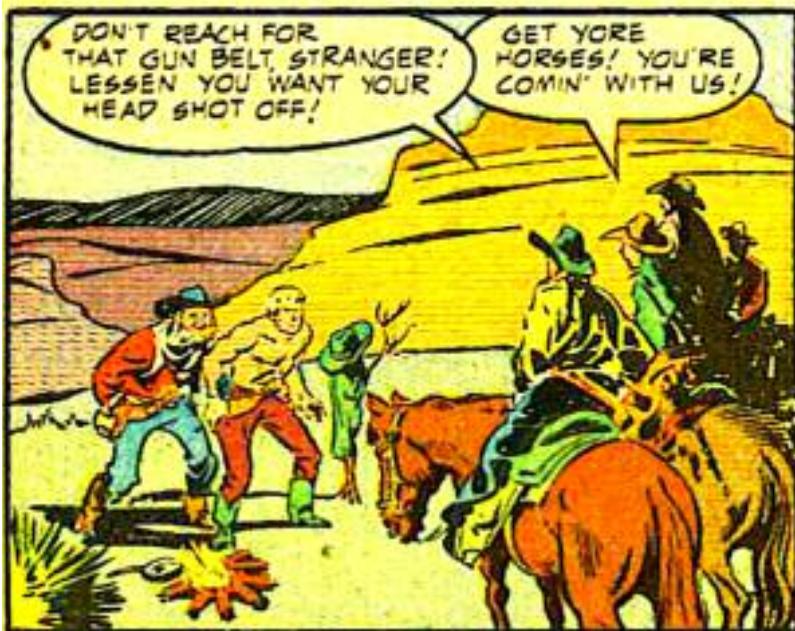
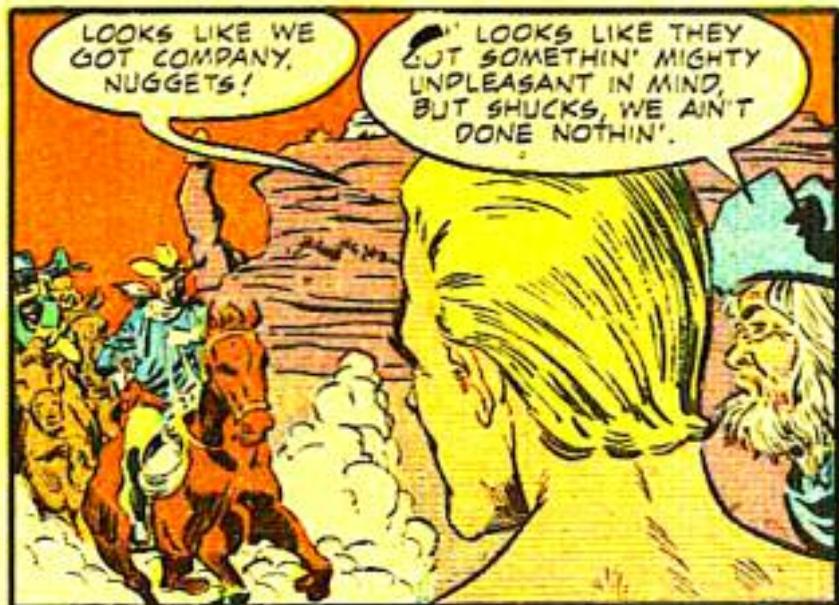
# Wild Bill Pecos The WESTERNER



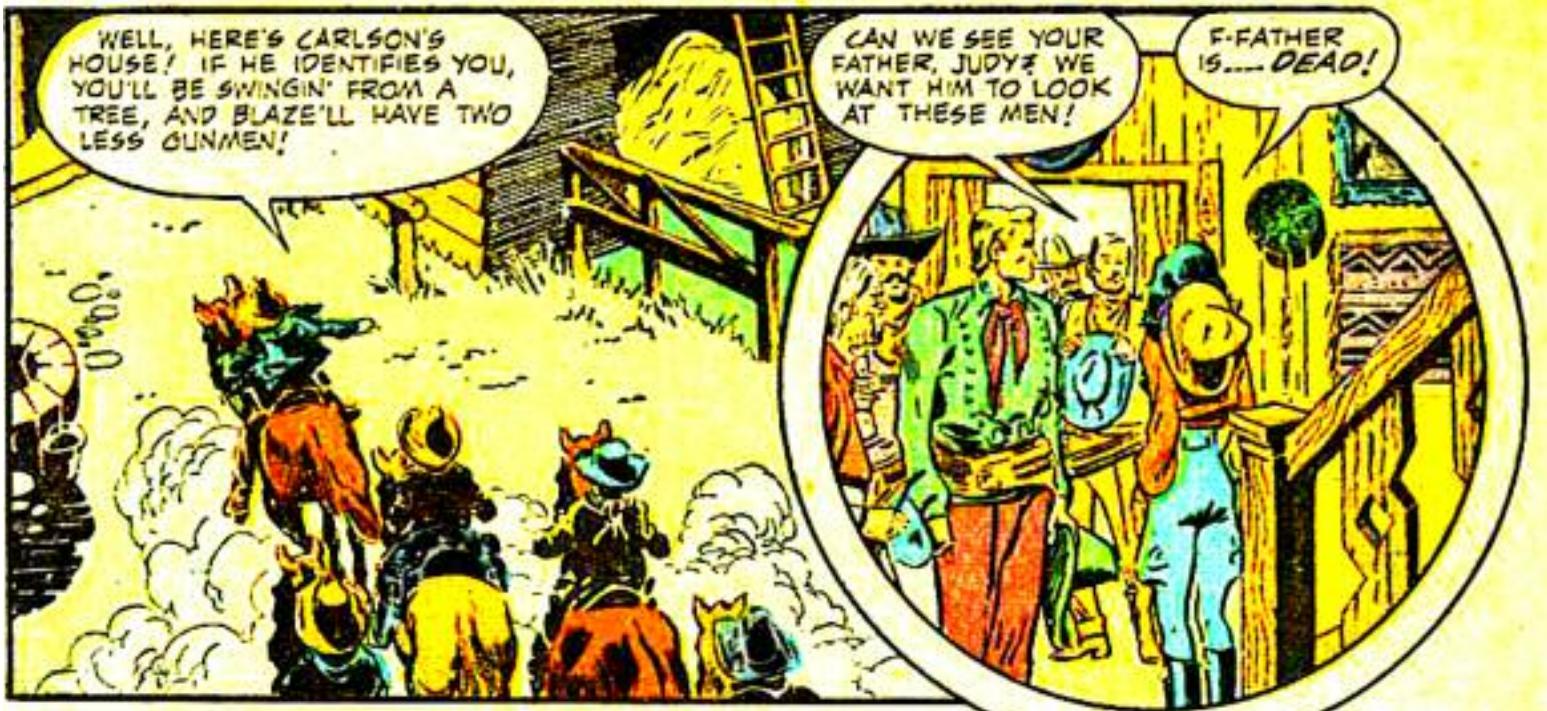
NOT ALL THE OUTLAWS OF THE OLD WEST WERE HARD-RIDING, FAST-SHOOTING, ROUGH-AND-READY BAD MEN WHO LIVED BY THEIR GUNS AND DIED BY THEM..... THEY WERE THE LEGEND MAKERS, ROMANTIC FIGURES OF A ROMANTIC ERA, AND THEIR CRIMES WERE OF LITTLE CONSEQUENCE COMPARED TO THE WHOLE-SALE MURDER, ROBBERY AND WANTON DESTRUCTION PERPETRATED BY SUCH MEN AS JERALD BLAZE, SHORT, FAT AND POMPOUS. DESPITE THE ENORMITY OF HIS CRIMES, HIS PROPHECIC NAME WOULD HAVE BEEN SPURNED BY LEGEND, HAD HE NOT HAD THE FORESIGHT TO MEET HIS DOOM AT THE HANDS OF

**WILD BILL PECOS**  
.....A NAME TO REMEMBER!





# ARTICLES





DROP YOUR GUNS PRONTO! OR I'LL DRILL THE LOT OF YOU!

HA! HA! THAT SHORE IS A JOKE! YOU POOR SLOW-WITTED CRITTERS THINKE' YOU COULD HANDLE WILD BILL PECKOS!

WHA-!

BANG! BANG!

SHUCKS, WILD BILL COULDN'T'VE SHOT CARLSON WHEN HE POKTS A SHOOTIN' IRON AT A MAN, THAT MAN DON'T DIE SLOW... HE'S DEAD BEFORE HE HITS THE DUST!



RECKON THAT MAKES SENSE, OLD TIMER! JUDGIN' BY THE TREATMENT WE GOT WE'RE SATISFIED YOU AIN'T THE KILLERS!

HERE'S YOUR GUNS, MISTER! NOW GIVE ME BACK MY OWN!



IF YOU MEN ARE FINISHED FIGHTING, WILL YOU PLEASE GO AWAY!



I'M MIGHTY SORRY ABOUT YOUR DAD, MAM IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, I'D BE GLAD TO HELP!

WHAT CAN ANYONE DO NOW...? WE SHOULD'VE LET BLAZE HAVE THE LAND... BEFORE IT CAME TO THIS...



WELL, HE CAN HAVE THE PLACE, NOW, AND I HOPE MY FATHER'S DEATH HAUNTS HIM ALL HIS LIFE!

Pss-ss, BILL! LET'S CLEAR OUT OF HERE!



# ARTICLES



ARTICLES



# ARTICLES



# ARTICLES



# ARTICLES

IF THOSE HOMESTEADERS FIND OUT ABOUT THE OIL, THEY'LL NEVER GET OUT! THERE'S GOT TO BE A SHOWDOWN, NOW!

WE SHOULD'VE KILLED THE LOT 'EM BEFORE WILD BILL SHOWED UP-----

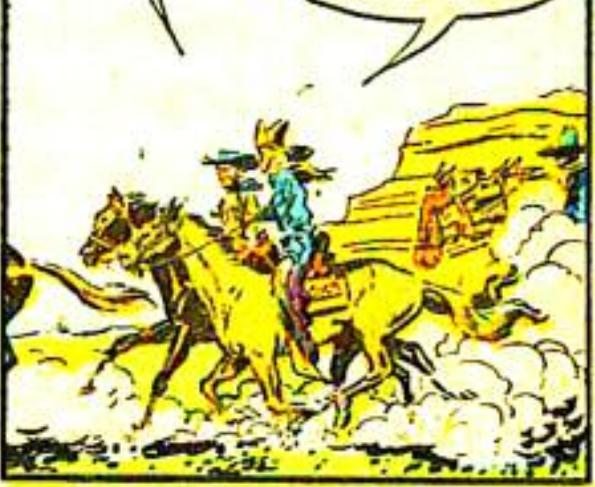


THE HOMESTEADERS WILL ALL BE AT THE CEMETERY! YOU'LL SET FIRE TO THEIR HOUSES! THE DRY RIVER BED IS A PERFECT TRENCH! YOU CAN AMBUSH THEM ALL WHEN THEY COME RIDING BACK! AND I'LL GIVE \$1000 TO THE MAN WHO KILLS WILD BILL PECOS!



THIS IS A DIRTY BUSINESS...DON'T KNOW AS HOW I LIKE IT...

YE CONSCIENCE BEGINNIN' TO BOTHER YE, PARD, NOW THAT WILD BILL PECOS IS WITH THE HOMESTEADERS?



RECKON IT WOULDN'T BE DECENT TO BREAK INTO THE SERVICES, BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT RATTLESNAKE, BLAZE, IS GOING TO STRIKE!



LOOK! OUR HOMES! ON FIRE!



LET 'EM HAVE IT!

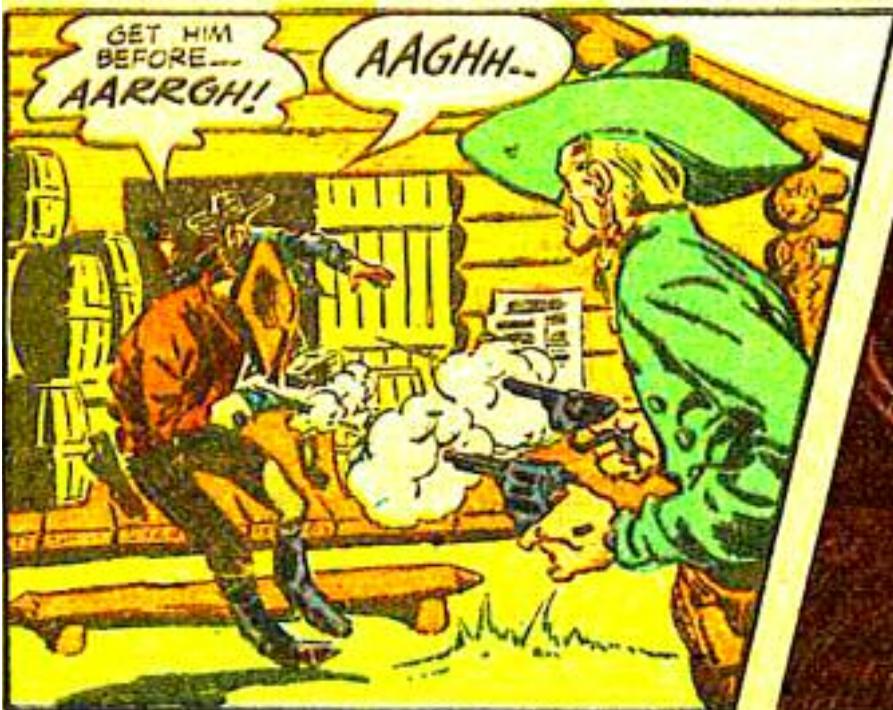
HIT THE DUST! IT'S AN AMBUSH!



BLAZE'S MEN ARE TOO WELL PROTECTED IN THAT RIVER-BED! WE'RE NOT GOING TO SHOOT THEM OUT THAT'S CERTAIN!



**A**RTICLES



# ARTICLES



THERE ISN'T MUCH OPPOSITION AROUND! THIS IS GOIN' TO BE MUCH EASIER THAN I FIGURED!



BLAZE'S GUNMEN ARE GOIN' TO GET MIGHTY WET, UNLESS THEY GET OUT OF THE RIVER BED... AND IF THEY DO, THEY'RE GOIN' TO GET MIGHTY SHOT!



*Minutes Later...*



WHAT IN...?? TH' WATER'S COMIN'! SOMEBODY MUST'VE DYNAMITED TH' DAM!

WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE **DROWN** LIKE RATS!



WE SURRENDER --ARRR-- NOW WE'VE GOT THE SNEAKING SNAKES WHERE WE WANT 'EM!

**BANG! BANG! BANG!**

*Meanwhile...*

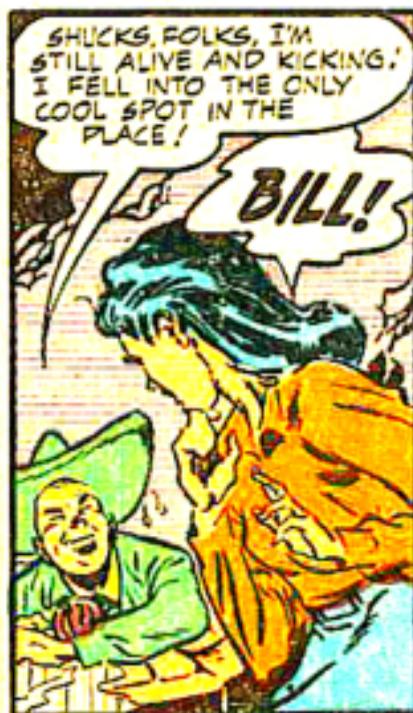
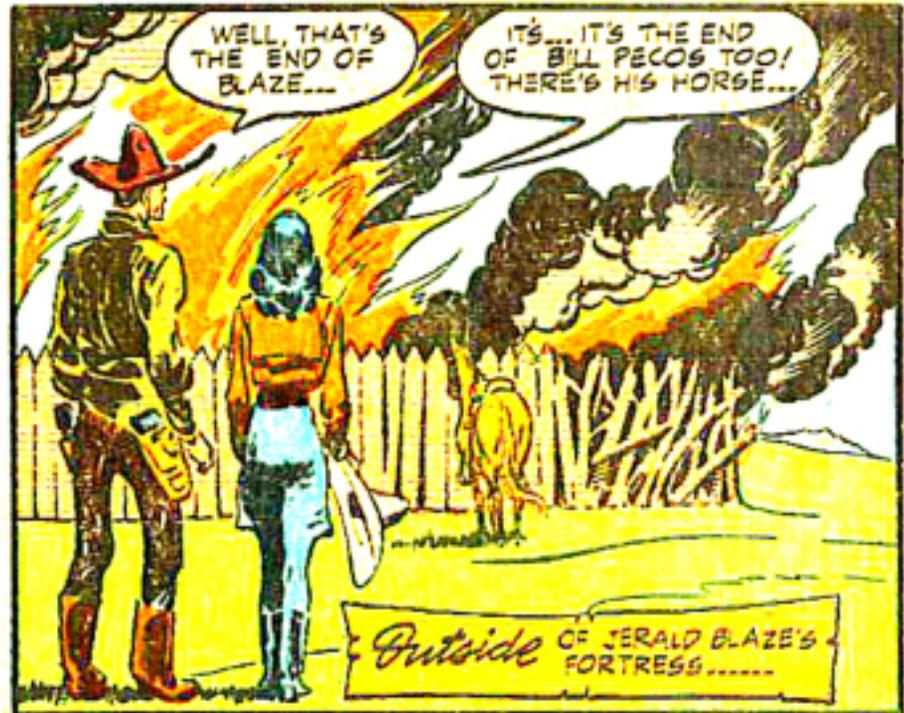
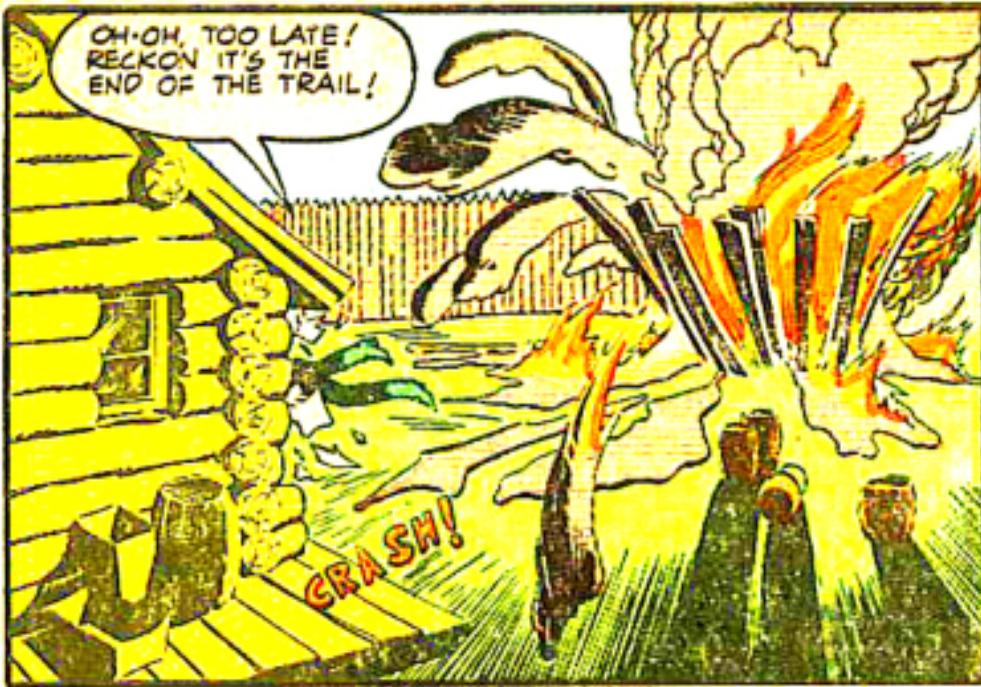


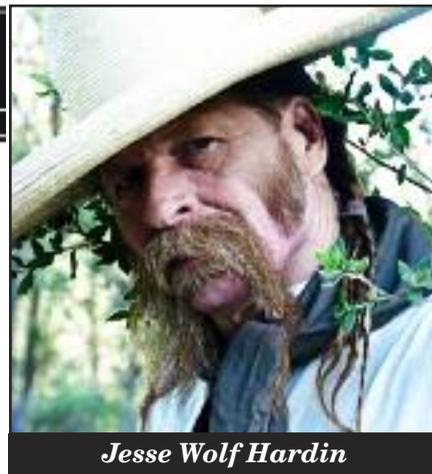
BLAZE LIKES TO SET FIRE TO PEOPLE'S HOMES, EH? WELL HE'S GOIN' TO SEE A REAL FIRE NOW! BLAZE'S RANCH IS GOIN' TO **BLAZE!**



THAT TANK ISN'T GOING TO HOLD THAT BURNING OIL VERY LONG! IT'S GOING TO SPILL OUT ALL OVER THE PLACE... AND I WANT TO BE ELSEWHERE!

# ARTICLES





Jesse Wolf Hardin

# THE STRAIGHT SHOT

## Elfego Baca & The Frisco War

### Part 1: Grit & Gumption

By Jesse Wolf Hardin

*“Badge? Badge?? We don’t need no steenking badge!”*  
— **B. Traven**, *The Treasure of Sierra Madre*

**Y**ou likely have already heard this famous movie line, or maybe even repeated it from time to time. While the above words were issued from the mouth of a bandito, there is something refreshing about the attitude, especially now in an era when so many people value passivity and compromise ahead



of honor, challenge and recourse. And I cannot hear it said nor see it written without thinking of the indomitable rascalion Elfego Baca, self-authorized and self-empowered, pinning a badge on his own chest, forcefully addressing what he saw as clear wrongs, and prevailing in one of the most markedly uneven confrontations in all of Western history.

I ‘spect there is nary a reader of the *Chronicle* who doesn’t share my hunger for a place too wild for collars and ties, and land too immense for fences, in a time when all men are fairly tested, where everyone has an equal opportunity to become a hero in the eyes of the dusty children that follow behind. While it is not possible for us to go back in history, at least outside of our determined imaginations, I nonetheless managed to gravitate to the contextual mountaintops and valley dwelling communities of our not so distant past, to the landscapes of my dreams and stage for my hopes. My poor boy cabin is situated in

a narrow river canyon with seven jeep-sinking river crossings between my family and pavement, but to get out and check our mail I drive each time past a lifelike statue of the steely eyed, gun toting Elfego in his prime. This lifelike bronze memorial sits at the center of the tiny hamlet of Reserve, New Mexico, in the state’s mountainous southwest, and adjacent to the first designated wilderness in this country. Some of us who live here affectionately call it “Reverse”—because of it’s dogged resistance to change—but for the longest time, it was known as Upper Frisco, only a short horse ride from Middle, and Lower Frisco plazas. While lately characterized by its world class elk hunting and the county’s outspoken resistance to federal lands policies, this bucolic riverside village once lent its name to the dramatic Baca fight: the “Frisco War.”

As a child, I was enraptured by the fictional accounts of Baca’s *Nine Lives*, as played out in the Disney movie of the same name. Then, oddly enough, some twenty years later my search for the West of my imagination would lead me home to a

*(Continued on next page)*



## The Straight Shot (Elfego Baca & The Frisco War) • Part 1: Grit & Gumption . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

piece of land lying within Sharps rifle range of the actual site of Baca's amazing if oft forgotten gunfight. When it came time for me to write *Lawmen of The Old West Unmasked*, it was made easier by being only a day's drive to where the "Fighting Pimp," Wyatt Earp, enforced his will and the truly admirable if lesser known lawmen Burt Mossman and Buckey O'Neill helped make their citizenry safe. And when I needed original material for the book, *Old Guns & Whispering Ghosts*, it proved a pleasure as well as a benefit to have among my closest neighbors the direct descendants of many of the original participants of Baca's battle. The Hispanic families hereabouts still take pride in their feisty little 5' 5" champion... and when I asked ol' Charlie McCarty about his controversial great grandfather's role in the fracas, he was as defensive of him as if the confrontation had happened yesterday. That's to be expected of New Mexico's rural contingent, folks with long place-based memories, mighty strong opinions, and even stronger loyalties. They were like that when all roads were dirt and horsepower was measured in the number of animals hitched to one's wagon, and they'll sure enough still be like that long after you and I have run off to the happy hunting grounds.

Indeed, a hundred years ago, people anywhere in the Western frontier were already known for being regular broncs, sure-headed and even headstrong, self reliant and self empowered, distrustful of the establishment and decidedly unwilling to be saddled. The men were exceptional if not always laudable, and the women often every bit as rugged and resourceful as the men. Teachers who could garden, kids who could shoot, cowboys who could sew... and nearly all of them certain of what they "know'd." Hombres on either side of the lawman's badge tended to consider themselves refugees from the constraint and propriety of an ever more perplexing urban society. Both were quick to resort to the decisiveness of gunplay, ignore the finer points of the law, and pursue their whims and agendas with a vengeance... not to mention, with characteristic humor, style, gusto and flair!

Surely this was never truer than with our Mr. Elfego Baca, reportedly delivered without a doctor on a softball field in the town of Socorro, Territory of New Mexico, in February of 1864. Local legend has it he was kidnapped by renegade Indians at the ripe age of one, and then promptly returned. He later cited this affair as but another example of his

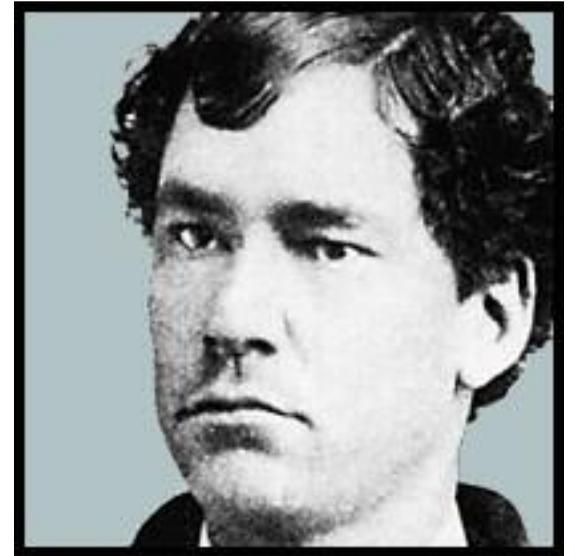
lifelong good fortune, but if true, the incident may say more about his native incorrigibility. Anyway you toss it, Elfego was "one tough bite to chew."

When he was twelve he may have helped his father (and consequently several other, less savory inmates) to escape from the freshly built Socorro jail, by sawing through the ceiling of their cell. Much later in life, while serving as a sheriff himself, he is said to have reversed the procedure by coaxing various wanted men in with a simple piece of correspondence: "Dear Sir... Please come in on [whatever date] and give yourself up. If you don't, I'll know you intend to resist arrest, and I will feel justified in shooting you on sight when I come after you. Yours truly, Elfego Baca." Legend and fact intertwine in uncertain ways in that place we've come to call the Wild West. What is certain is this dauntless little feller instigated and prevailed in a contest every bit as lopsided as that most famous altercation between the biblical boy David and the giant Goliath.

While one doesn't have to be a SASS shootist or history buff to have heard of the Earps and their world-famous altercation in an alley near Tombstone's O.K. Corral, few outside of this readership will know a thing about New Mexico's Gila country (pronounced hee-la) or the curious hero of the Frisco siege. This is rather odd, considering that the tussle in Tombstone fairly matched four men against five, consumed no more than 30 rounds of ammunition total, and lasted a scant 1/2 to 3/4 of a minute, whereas the "Frisco War" pitted a single individual against something like 80 armed antagonists, hundreds or thousands of shots were exchanged, and it was 33 hours before it ended! The walls of the flimsy structure where he'd taken refuge were splintered from the constant firing, with a reported 367 perforations of the door alone. Even forks and knives were hit, with the resulting courtroom audience appropriately aghast at the broom brought in as evidence with eight bullet holes in its slender handle!

The Frisco Valley was first the home of the

*(Continued on page 74)*





**The Straight Shot (Elfego Baca & The Frisco War) • Part 1: Grit & Gumption . . .**

*(Continued from page 73)*

Mogollon Indians, until they migrated down into the Rio Grande basin sometime around 900 AD. The next to arrive were the Apache, who came to consider the greater Gila as their “sacred hunting ground.” By the 19th Century it had become the staging ground for the last of the Indian wars, with anglo miners and trappers exploring the area tributaries, and several hundred Spanish speaking families farming alongside the slow wandering waters of the Frisco. Before long the villages of Middle and Lower Frisco could boast over a dozen bars and bordellos, each catering to the influx of cattlemen arriving daily from Texas and Oklahoma. The year 1884 was a time of increasing hostilities, not only between the Apaches and settlers, but also between resident Hispanics and the many newcomers: Celtic-blooded ranchers seeking their own grassy grail. The cowboys packed an assortment of arms including the “73 Winchester lever action repeater in .44-40, and matching .44 caliber single action re-

volvers courtesy of Samuel Colt. While some of the local Hispanic farmers were as well “heeled,” most had nothing but converted surplus muzzle loaders, Damascus barreled smoothbores, and percussion revolvers from Mexico.

“What happened next,” historian Jack Ritdron tells us, “was only a logical consequence.” It was in October of that year that a nineteen-year-old Elfego was approached in Socorro by his friend Pedro Sarracino, the sheriff of Lower Frisco. He recounted a tale of terror, with alarming stories of how the Hispanic community was suffering at the hands of a band of drunken cowpokes. According to Baca, one man nicknamed “The Burro” had been castrated, and another, Espitacio Martinez had even been tied to a tree and beaten or shot. Elfego claims to have chastised Sarracino for his hesitancy, who then supposedly replied that his job was “available to anyone who wanted it” before retiring to the solace

*(Continued on next page)*



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## The Straight Shot (Elfego Baca & The Frisco War) • Part 1: Grit & Gumption . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



of the nearest bar.

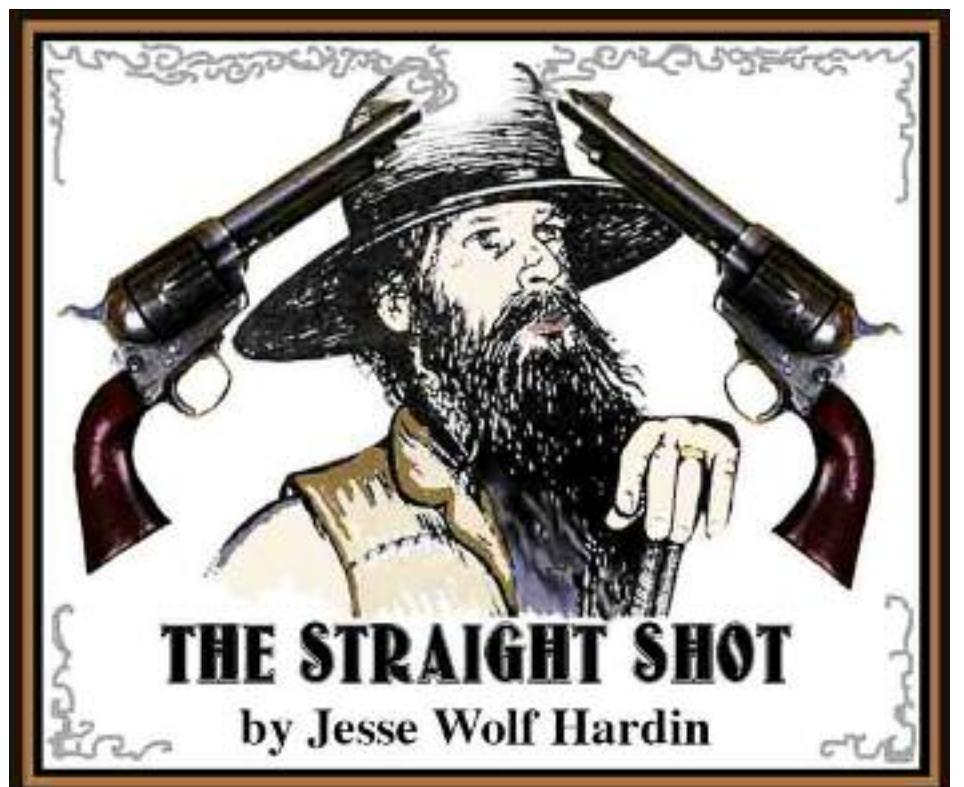
Some insisted he was already a legally sworn deputy at the time, campaigning in the area for the current Socorro County Sheriff, some say he reached into Sarracino's desk and helped himself to a deputy's badge, while in his memoirs, Baca tells us it was a kid's badge he pinned on before beginning the long ride to Frisco. Whichever way, it could be said that Elfego Baca had more guts than caution, charging headlong into a situation he knew little about. Strapped to his side was a Colt .45, with the tail of his coat draped over its characteristic grip.

It was soon after his arrival on the 29th, that the cowboy named Charlie McCarty decided to celebrate the good life with a shooting spree inside a bar located in the Upper Frisco Plaza. The owner was an Irish-blooded army vet by the name of Bill Milligan, who at first requested Baca's assistance in the matter. Convincing three local Hispanics to help, Baca quickly caught up with McCarty and disarmed him. Their new prisoner hailed from a notoriously rowdy outfit at the John B. Slaughter ranch, who were none too happy to hear their boy had been snagged by this self-appointed hero. When the local magistrate proved either too hostile or too intimidated to try the case, Baca considered whether or not to take him all the way to Socorro.

Meanwhile he and his friends would move McCarty to an adobe house in Middle Plaza where it would be easier to maintain possession of their prisoner.

By this time a dozen or so cowboys had gathered with their Winchester rifles at the ready, led by Slaughter foreman Young Parham. They immediately demanded their buddy's release, testing the door and windows with their shoulders. Baca responded from the other side, threatening to shoot if they weren't "out of there by the count of three." The story is, they were in the process of making jokes about his type "being unable to count" when they heard Baca call out in a single quick breath: "One-two-three!" while Parham and his friends began shooting through the door. In their haste to learn this lesson in rapid arithmetic, Parham's horse reared back and on top of its rider, resulting in crushing wounds that would later prove fatal. Elfego and the Frisco War had their first casualty.

*(continued next issue)* 🐾



Jesse Wolf Hardin is a wilderness-dwelling writer, artist, arms collector, co-editor of *Plant Healer Magazine* for students of herbal medicine (see: [www.PlantHealer.org](http://www.PlantHealer.org)), and author of dozens of books. Portions of this essay are excerpted from the full-color book *Old Guns & Whispering Ghosts: Firearms of the Old West & Those Who Used Them, 1866-1916*. He most recently released the conversation-stirring *Lawmen of The Old West Unmasked*. Bothbooks are available through [www.OldWestScribe.com](http://www.OldWestScribe.com). Hardin's work has garnered the respect of characters like John Taffin, Boge Quinn, Jim Supica, Doug Turnbull, Ned Schwing, Dennis Adler and Bob Boze Bell, while verily confounding the thin-skinned and politically correct. You can send indignant comments or letters of cheer directly to Wolf at: [Scribe@OldWestScribe.com](mailto:Scribe@OldWestScribe.com)



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101,708.....Sinaloa Spaniard  
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101,727.....Cowgirl Jessica Jane Pride  
101,760.....James Hipshot  
101,761.....Table Stakes George

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101,774.....Elvis Presley  
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101,831.....Wheeler Kid  
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101,684.....Pocket Pistol Paul

101,771.....Dakota Dust Devil  
101,821.....Midnight Justice  
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101,772.....Matthew Garth  
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 101,746.....Clyde Morrison  
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 101,789.....La Porte Lefty  
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 101,698.....101698  
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101,704.....Dutch Thomas  
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 101,840.....Emery Goodner  
 101,841.....El Gallo  
 101,844.....101844  
 101,856.....Silver Streak Barb  
 101,857.....Tinhorn Gambler  
 101,858.....Yankee Sol  
 101,879.....Cartwright

**UT**

101,747.....Tumbleweed Willy  
 101,749.....101749  
 101,750.....101750

101,753.....Light 'Em Up Loe  
 101,755.....Purple Pistol  
 101,780.....Pocket Aces  
 101,783.....Three Bears  
 101,843.....Back Track Bill

**VA**

101,765.....John Bolt  
 101,808.....Badeye Barry  
 101,812.....Abbadon  
 101,855.....Courteous Defiant  
 101,871.....Gentleman Jack

**WA**

101,767.....Roy "Sixkiller" Rodgers  
 101,790.....Herschel Tracks Heffe

**WI**

101,709.....Wisco Kid 'The'  
 101,853.....Rattlesnake Fred

**MEMBERS  
 BY COUNTRY**

**SASS # ALIAS**

**BC**

101,690.....Kootenai Bruin  
 101,824.....Wiskeydog

**NSW**

101,883.....Jackrabbit Johnny

**ON**

101,711.....Kay Passa  
 101,712.....Ub Noxious  
 101,714.....Short Leg Jack  
 101,828.....Momentary Mitch

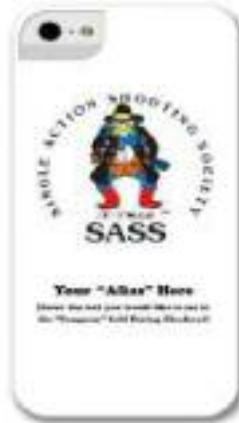
**SK**

101,781.....Sagebrush Pete  
 101,782.....Dusty Dawn

# GREAT GIFTS FROM THE SASS MERCANTILE!



**NEW! Leather Buckle Display Straps** from Mernickle Leather. **\$19.95**



**Custom Phone Cases** to fit a variety of cell phones. **\$24.95 with alias.** See online **SASS mercantile** for details.



**NEW** to the SASS mercantile. This 16 oz mug will hold your soup or hot beverage. **\$12.95**



**3" German Silver Scarf Slides** Makes a great gift! **\$50 without alias. \$60 with alias.**



**Insulated cooler bag** with ID window in back. Measures 10 x 11 x 7. Available in blue black and red. **\$24.95**



**Ceramic Mug with Spoon** **\$12.95**



**NEW! SASS Marshal Travel Mug** Keep you beverage hot or cold. **\$19.95**



**NEW! Cowboy Kona Coffee and new Ceramic Mug** Heaping 8.5 oz of delicious coffee. **\$22.95**



**Solid 13 ounce milk chocolate full size Hand Gun.** While quantities last. Comes with carry case. **\$29.95**



**NEW! Solid 13.5 ounce milk chocolate full size Revolver.** While quantities last. Comes with carry case. **\$29.95**



**20 Cal. Bullets or peanut butter filled shot gun shells.** Your choice. While quantities last. **\$12.99**



**SASS Holey Mug** Back by popular demand. **\$14.95**

**TO ORDER CALL: (877) 411-SASS OR VISIT WWW.SASSNET.COM**

# GREAT GIFTS FROM THE SASS MERCANTILE!



**Red SASS Marshal Tee-Shirt \$17.95**



**NEW! Soft gray Cowboy Action Shooting Men's Tee Shirt with Pocket \$17.95**



**NEW! Olive Golf Shirt.** Soft Pima cotton with moisture wicking make a great Christmas gift. L, XL & XXL **only \$34.95**



**NEW! Purple heavy-weight full zip hoodie.** Great for the cooler weather. **\$34.95**



**NEW! Black Life vented cap.** Show them how proud you are of your life membership. **\$14.95**



**NEW! Peeking SASS marshal in this great 2 tone sandwich bill cap. \$14.95**



**NEW! For the ladies of SASS. Pretty in purple non-constructed SASS cap. \$14.95**



**NEW! Carpet Bag** WOW! This great carpet bag measures a whopping 24 x 15 x 6. You can carry everything but the kitchen sink. **With alias \$79.95 plus shipping**



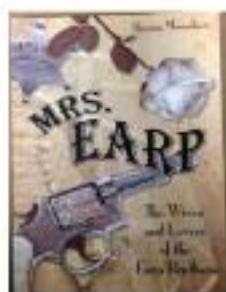
**On Sale Now! 60" Shade/Rain Umbrella** 4 colors to choose from. **\$19.95**



**Gun Cart Shell Bag** To put your spent brass or not. **\$37.95 plus shipping**



**2014 Winter Range Special Edition!** 30 minutes of highlights with some of the greatest CAS shooters of our day. **\$9.95**



**On Sale Now! Mrs. Earp** by Sherry Monahan **\$ 12.95**



**Royal Wade Kimes Music Collection** Give the gift of music. The gentleman outlaw Royal Wade Kimes is the only recording artist in history to be featured in the cover of True West Magazine. Your choice from his collection. **\$10.95**



**Custom Badge Holders** Comes in 3 different sizes and colors. **\$19.95 for 2 1/2", \$22.95 for 3" and \$24.95 to fit a custom badge.**

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# CAN'T GET ENOUGH SHOOTIN'?

## FIND A MONTHLY OR ANNUAL MATCH NEAR YOU!

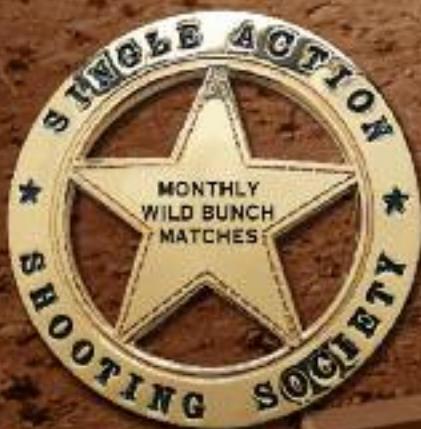
### CLICK ON ONE OF THE LINKS BELOW TO BE REDIRECTED TO THE APPROPRIATE PAGE ON THE SASS WEBSITE



**USA and International Annual Matches**



**USA and International Monthly Matches**



**Monthly Wild Bunch™ Matches**



**Monthly Mounted Matches**