

THE

September / 2015

# Cowboy

## CHRONICLE

*Calvin N. Hobbes demonstrates the art of Cowboy Mounted Shooting at Comancheria Days 2015.*

### Inside...

**THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER  
CIVIL WAR HISTORY**

By Big Dave

**DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR  
FRONTIERSMAN FOR DUMMIES PART 1**

By Capt. George Baylor

**THE STRAIGHT SHOT  
WYATT EARP PART 2**

By Jesse Wolf Hardin



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## PHOTO OF THE YEAR?

Perennial contributor Palaver Pete (SASS #4375) has suggested a Photo of the Year contest and has submitted the accompanying photo as his entry. If anyone else has an interest in submitting a photo please send it with your caption to editor@sassnet.com. Pete's caption for this one is:

"The temperature was in the high 90s and spotters and shooters alike were seeking any form of shadow they could find. Here we see Palaver Pete, 5' 7" tall, standing in the shade and shadow cast by 6' 6" Deadwood Pete (SASS #57450), both members of the Pine Mountain Posse, Bend, Oregon."

*Photo by Diamond Willow, SASS #37688.*



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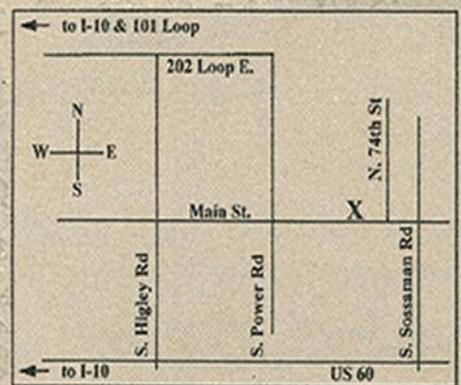
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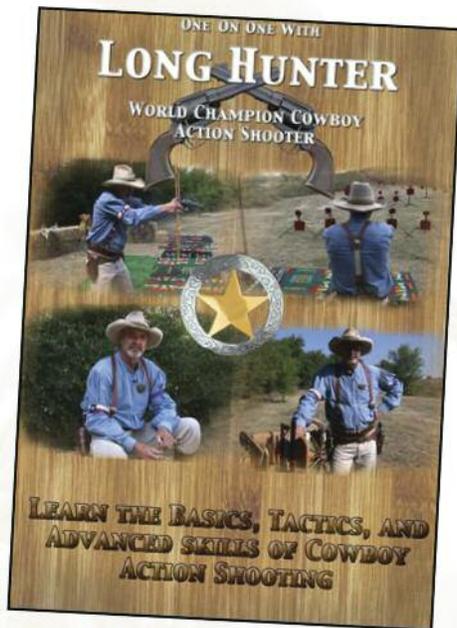
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### 13th SASS Convention in Las Vegas



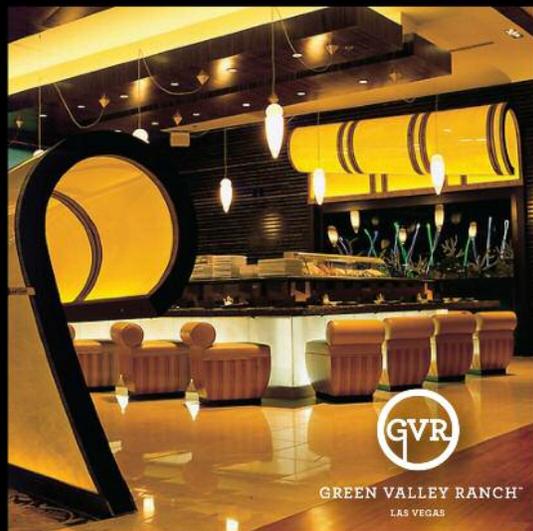
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# From The Editor

# SKINNY'S SOAPBOX

## Submission Guidelines Revisited

With the inclusion of a quarterly printed version of *The Cowboy Chronicle* on the horizon, I thought it best to revisit our guidelines with the aim of receiving material that will be suitable for both print and digital. Following are the new guidelines, which are not very different from the old, but nevertheless should be used from this point on:

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 welcome as well. We can accommodate larger reports in our virtual magazine if the material warrants it, but keep in mind that space is limited in the printed version and so articles may be cut to around 1500 words or less, or we may choose to break very lengthy articles up into two or more parts, to run in

consecutive issues.

Please do not embed your photos in the Word document. They can be extracted for use in the *The Cowboy Chronicle*, but it can be a chore to do that. Instead, send your photos separately, in one or more emails, as attachments. Three to six photos per email usually works best. It's best to send JPEGs, but

other formats are acceptable, and it's best to size them at about 300 dpi and 3000 pixels (10 inches) on the short side. That will allow us plenty of leeway when it comes to cropping and adjusting them for



*Skinny, SASS #7361*

*(Continued on next page)*

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## Skinny's Soapbox . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

both types of 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 #XXXXX, shooting his first black powder match; after much deliberation, he decided to give it a try and now he's hooked" is much better. A caption may also serve to let everyone know why the picture is worthy of being published in an international magazine.

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

### New email for Submissions

Up until now, I have been using my icloud account as my contact point for *The Cowboy Chronicle*. However, several contributors have told me they have had a hard time getting large files delivered to that account. Apparently some emails either bounce back or get lost. So, in an effort to correct that problem, I have acquired a SASSNET based email for use from now on. Please address future submissions to [editor@sassnet.com](mailto:editor@sassnet.com). My previous email will continue to remain active, so you can reach me there as well.



### ~~~~ CORRECTION ~~~~

The Mississippi Fandango match report in the August issue of *The Cowboy Chronicle* incorrectly identified Whip L. Tree (SASS #64977) as a Minnesota resident. Whip is in fact a Wisconsin resident and is the Wisconsin state Elder Statesman Champion.

## Two New Features

This issue introduces two innovations suggested to me by contributors. Palaver Pete has suggested a "Photo of the Year" feature, in which readers would submit interesting, humorous, or poignant photos they believe worthy to be called Photo of the Year. Pete's submission, to kick things off, can be found on this issue's Table of Contents page.

Buffalo Bri Bowie has likewise suggested a feature on various shooters and how they came to choose their alias. He has kicked us off with his documentation of his moniker in this edition's "How I Got My Alias," appearing in our Profiles section.

Anyone who may be interested in contributing to one or both of these is encouraged to do so. Please send submissions to me at [editor@sassnet.com](mailto:editor@sassnet.com).

## Comic Book Corner

Finally, this issue features the second adventure of lady pistolero Two Gun Lil, from *Crack Western* #64 (January 1950), with artwork attributed to Leo Morrey. Lil presents readers with a very positive image of lady Western heroes. Kudos is due to Quality Publications and *Crack Western* for being way ahead of the times in featuring a strong female character.

— Skinny 🐾

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# Letters & Opinions

## Scholarship Essay Rebuttal

Callaway Kid's scholarship essay in the August *Cowboy Chronicle* referring to the 1939 Supreme Court *Miller* case is incomplete and partly inaccurate. He states, "I do agree with the Court's decision in the *U.S. v. Miller* case, where the use and ownership of sawed-off shotguns was made illegal." That is not true, and it's distressing to see that misrepresentation in *The Cowboy Chronicle*.

### Here are the facts:

The defendant won his Arkansas District Court case for short-barrel shotguns on 2A grounds and the government appealed (of course), hence the Supreme Court's involvement. But *Miller* disappeared and when he failed to show, the USSC allowed the lower court decision to stand for the moment. That's far different from the Kid's erroneous statement that the Supreme Court "banned sawed-off shotguns." The Kid doesn't mention it, or maybe doesn't know, but

scatterguns with barrels less than 18 inches are legal if accompanied by a \$200 tax stamp.

In truth, the high court remanded the case "for further proceedings" but the District Court failed to do so. Hence, *Miller* became law by default, not by a specific Supreme Court ruling.

If you'll read just a bit, you'll see the government claimed short-barreled shotguns had no use for militia (military-type) organizations. That was untrue then and it's untrue today, so *Miller* is based on a false premise. Our police members know about 14-inch "entry guns," and special-ops teams also use them. Furthermore, at least one doughboy used a sawed-off scattergun in his Medal of Honor action, clearing out a German bunker in 1918. Beyond that, as an interior and home defense weapon, a short shotgun makes sense for maneuvering in rooms and hallways.

*(Continued on page 10)*

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## Letters & Opinions

# INDEPENDENCE DAY PAST

The Fourth of July is over this year, but after rolling in the awning on my RV, I had a very wet Gadsen flag to dry and put away. Having never served in the military (one of my great regrets in life), I looked at that wet flag and wondered about the past Americans who fought under that banner.

It always seems that people rank the measure of commitment to a cause in wars to the actual battles themselves. Still, you wonder just how brutal it was on the psyche of those Americans during the moments of silence, waiting for the onslaught. Even in war, I am sure that flag waved for days on end before bullets flew past it in either direction.

People today are not familiar with the way wars were fought at that time. More to the point, people of *that* day who fought under those banners knew all too well what would happen if they lost. Executions were common for the vanquished. Many more knew of the prison ships that offered a lingering death within its decks, or separation from their families to even more far off shores of the Empire. Such things were a different sort of a living death, and a government's depraved means of punishing the families of such rebels.

Still, if we consider the times they were in, where governments of monarchies that offered the merest forms of individual freedoms, were the only ones they knew, what possessed them to fight for a proposed government that lacked international recognition, a secure capitol, or framework of laws? They fought without knowing what awaited them even if they did win. Not only were the *Articles of Confederation* undrafted and unagreed-upon, whether they were fighting for future king of the USA remained among the great unknowns.

Yet such was their experience with Empires that they were willing to risk their all, not just death or incarceration, but the very destruction of their families' futures.



*The Gadsden Flag.*

These things, the drive for freedom by average folk, the willingness to endure great uncertainty, a body of people that would lay the great foundation for what would become our Constitution, conspired to develop a body of laws and rights that still influences the world today. It still has no equal.

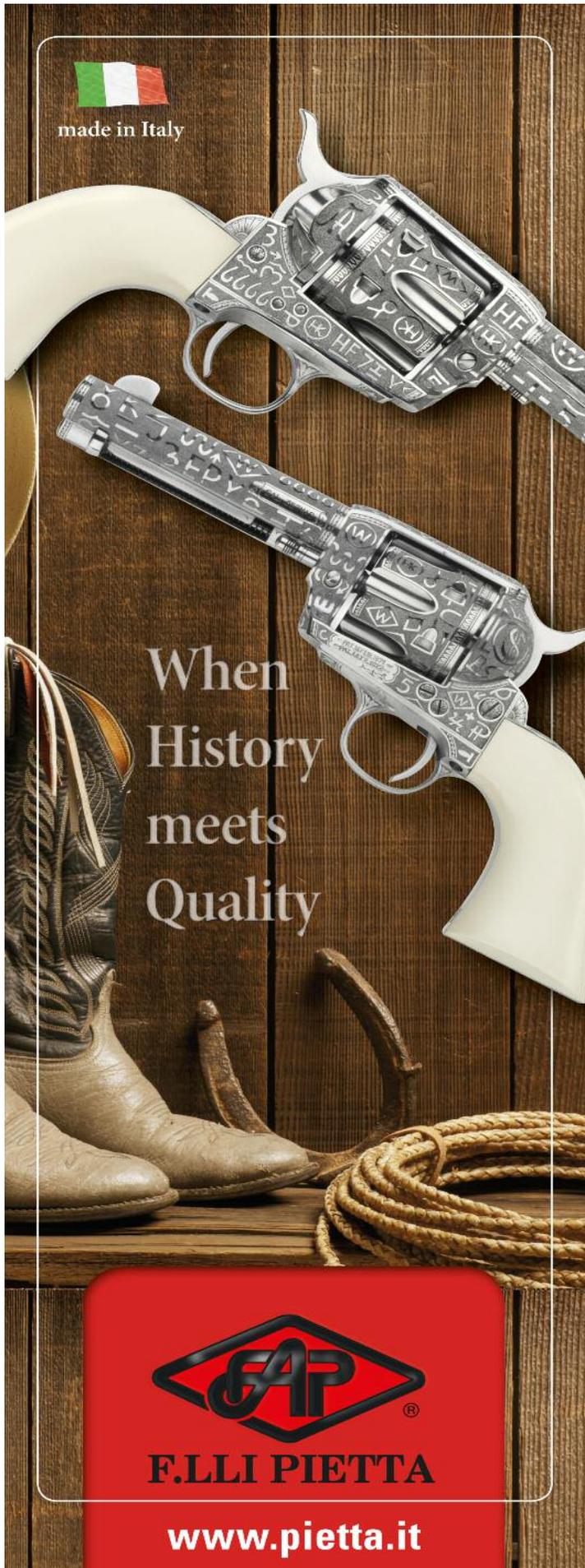
So now, just like ghosts, nay spirits, of our Founding Fathers, soldiers of the Continental Army, and citizen founders of the USA, we need to engage again to protect a government so envisioned by the *Preamble of the Constitution* and further wisely limiting that government with the amendments added to it.

When I folded that now freshly-dried flag made of materials unknown in 1776, I wondered whether the spot on the shelf in the RV was a fitting place. Its fabric is the flesh and ideas of those people who fought under that banner, and its ink that stands out so defiantly are the blood of those same people.

Those people who risked much so that people like you and I could contemplate these things without the fears *they* faced when *they* embarked into this unknown territory. I think we lose sight of just what the flag that flaps in the breeze represents.

Foard County News

SASS #77236 



# Letters & Opinions

## Scholarship Essay Rebuttal . . .

*(Continued from page 8)*

Finally, The Kid approves of banning “unreasonably unsafe firearms that would pose more of a risk to society than aid in protecting it.” Question for The Kid (and I’d really like an answer): **who do you suppose will make that determination?** Your six-shooters and high-capacity nineteenth-century assault weapon easily could be declared to have “no legitimate sporting purpose.” You have *two* revolvers? Scandalous! Nobody “needs” more than one!

Under the NFA, a government employee gets to decide what is militia equipment and what is “unreasonably unsafe.” In 1934, some nameless bureaucrat, lost to history, arbitrarily picked 18 inches. In 2015, what’s to keep another unaccountable government employee from deciding that the approved length is 19 inches, and that 18-inch shotguns are “unreasonably unsafe firearms that would pose more of a risk to society than aid in protecting it?” Suddenly The Kid and every other SASS shooter could be felons.

Some of these kids today—they just don’t ride the same range as we old-timers.

Arizona Billy Tilghman  
SASS Life Member #5153  
NRA Life Member  
Arizona Rifle & Pistol Assn. Life Member

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thank you very much, Bill, for your well-researched and informative rebuttal and clarification. Scholarship recipients’ essays are, in essence, opinion pieces, not necessarily facts, and Callaway Kid’s essay espouses a common modern opinion that is neither the opinion of SASS nor myself. Still, due to the nature of editorial opinion, I chose to let his essay stand in order to generate further commentary, such as yours. In retrospect, I realize that a disclaimer should have been placed at the front of his (and all other) essays, to that effect. Such a disclaimer will appear with essays from this point on.*

—Skinny 

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# COMANCHERIA DAYS

## Celebrates 20 years with "Shots from the Past" 2015



Yuma Jack,  
SASS #11261



By Yuma Jack, SASS #11261  
Match Photos by Doug Burress

**F**redericksburg, TX. Many matches scattered about the countryside commemorate shoot-outs, showdowns, and other such ruckuses. It is rather uncommon to find a match that celebrates a peaceful event. But, that's the case for the annual match held by the Texican Rangers. Comancheria Days celebrates a peace treaty between the local German settlers around Fredericksburg, Texas and the local Comanche. That treaty has never been broken.

Back in 1995, only nine months after having been formed, the Texican Rangers held the first "Co-

mancheria Days" celebration, which included what was to become an annual Cowboy Action Shooting™ match. That first match was another inspiration of Texas Jack (SASS #5148, a.k.a. Mike Harvey), owner of Cimarron F.A.Co. and Texas Jack's Wild West Outfitter. The match was held in March 1995 with less than a hundred shooters in attendance. They called the match "Comancheria Days" to commemorate those days when the area was known as the Comancheria or "the land of the Comanche." That match has been held annually on Becky Patterson's Stieler Ranch in the



Tex offered words of greeting and salutations at the opening ceremony. The mandatory shooter's safety meeting was provided by Match Director Shooting Iron Miller (SASS #85140) with support from Club President Yuma Jack.

Texas Hill Country ever since, and this year is the Twentieth Anniversary of Comancheria Days. Comancheria Days has also been the venue for the SASS Texas State Match four times over that period.

On Wednesday, Range Officer (RO) level I and II classes were offered. A full day of side matches was held on Thursday. In the afternoon there was the usual: Fastest Pistol, Fastest Derringer, Fastest Pocket Pistol, Fastest Rifle, and Fastest Shotgun side matches. There was also the always-popular "Blazing Saddles." A new version of Blazing Saddles was also provided, employing the use of 1911 pistols instead of single action revolvers. The shooters loved that one! Additional Side Matches were held on

*(Continued on next page)*



The weatherman threatened the match almost daily, but following a one-hour delay in the start of the main match, the rain held off until the event concluded.

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## Comancheria Days 2015 . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Friday evening after the first round of Main Match shooting, folks gathered at the picnic tables under the majestic old oak trees to enjoy a great show put on by Pistol Packin' Paula who demonstrated her incredible gun-twirling expertise and bullwhip-cracking skills.*

Friday afternoon. One consisted of a Shooting Gallery employing swinging targets, a Texas Star, falling plates, and pop-up shotgun targets—*all on one stage!*

Entertainment at the end of shooting each day provided a feature missing in a lot of “big” matches I have attended, except for END of TRAIL. Following the side matches on Thursday, World Champion Cowboy Mounted Shooter Calvin N. Hobbes (SASS #17218) and his wife, Barbary Coast (SASS #21965), brought three of their horses, cones, balloons, and all the rest of the paraphernalia necessary for a Mounted Shooting match. They set up and ran five separate Mounted Shooting courses, including one course with Calvin demonstrating mounted rifle shooting at

the ranch arena. They put on a truly great demonstration of Cowboy Mounted Shooting!

I was especially pleased to see Tex (SASS #4) and his lovely wife, Cat Ballou (SASS #55), attend and compete in this year’s match. Also attending from Australia (by way of Oklahoma) were Jackaroo (SASS #29989), who had been to Comancheria Days in the past, and Kathouse Kelli (SASS #72384).

Shooting Iron Miller and Culebra Blaze did an amazing job of putting this match together and making it run like clockwork. The targets were all big and close with no intentional “procedural traps.” There were no “stand and deliver” stages



*A full day of side matches were held on Thursday, beginning with 32 shooters competing in a three-stage Wild Bunch Match in the morning.*

as each had at least three shooting positions. Most shotgun targets could be shot in any order. The longer-range targets for Cody-Dixon shooters (using rifle-caliber rifles) consisted of two targets to be engaged with six shots on every stage.

Each main match stage was written to recapture a stage from a past Comancheria Days match. Because of changes to many of the



*After lunch on Saturday the crowd was entertained by champion trick roper, Kevin Fitzpatrick who, assisted by his son and “supported” by his horse, provided a spectacular display of rope twirling and bullwhip-cracking.*

stages over the years, not to mention the evolutionary changes that have taken place in Cowboy Action matches in general, they were not exact reproductions of those “old” scenarios, which often only included one pistol and either the rifle or shotgun, but not both. Overall, the stages provided a pleasant mix of comedy and good old western drama. The following is a brief summary of a few of those stages.

**Stage 4 (The Oriental):** In 2004 this scenario was built around an altercation between Wyatt Earp and Johnny Tyler. Back then the shooter had to roll dice and then, at the buzzer, spin the roulette wheel and move to the first position to com-

*(Continued on page 15)*

# Comancheria Days 2015 . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*



*Copperhead James, SASS #97028, and Kathouse Kelli, SASS #72384, were the top overall competitors at this year's Comancheria Days. Tex and Cat Ballou were happy to present the awards. Outstanding Shooting!*



*Seahawk Hans proved to be the "best" Sunday morning during the Master Gunfighter competition. Great Shooting!*



*There was a Long Range event at the recently completed Wm. F. Cody Long Range Pavilion for big bore lever action and single shot rifles. Targets were 24-inch squares and 16-inch circles at ranges out to 200 yards. Shooters were also invited to try their pistol caliber rifles at the long-range targets, which added a new category to our Long Range award lineup.*



*The Blazing Saddles side match requires shooting a rifle and pistols from a saddled 55-gallon "steed" while riding down range on rails.*



*(Continued on next page)*



*El Patron (SASS #102037) set up his beautifully restored authentic chuck wagon on Friday evening and served some great chicken and melt-in-your-mouth beef fajitas. The chuck wagon remained set up throughout the match to add to the Old West ambience.*





### Comancheria Days 2015 . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

mence fire. This year, there were no dice but, unlike 2004, spinning the roulette wheel became an integral part of the stage as it determined with which target the shooter started. The four rifle and four revolver targets were painted with colors corresponding to colors on the roulette wheel. The shooting se-

quence for rifle and handguns was a continuous Nevada Sweep starting with the color target on which the wheel stopped. If you were lucky and the wheel stopped on yellow or white, the shooting sequence was rather straightforward. But, if the wheel stopped on red or black, it became a little more complex. When finally finishing up with the shot-

gun, the four shotgun targets could be engaged in any order.

**Stage 8 (Cow Camp):** Here is my account of how I recalled living through this stage in 2007. As the Sheriff of Rock Ridge (in *Blazing Saddles*), I am faced with stopping Mongo after he has KO'd a horse, drunk a gallon of whiskey, and is fixin' ta squash some men with a piano. At the buzzer, I fire six quick rifle shots at the large center target

*(Continued on page 16)*



**Comancheria Days 2015**  
*(Continued from page 15)*

(Mongo) and then one shot each at targets on his flanks. Now I've just made him mad! So I retreat behind the tree to my right, pick up my shotgun and engage two targets once each. Well, that didn't stop him either. So with Mongo still in pursuit, I retreat again along the fence to my right, strategically keeping that barrier between me and the enraged human mountain where I engage two more shotgun targets,

once each. When the smoke clears, I see Mongo still moving toward me, and I again retreat, this time to the far right end of the fence. With nowhere else to go, and Mongo almost on top of me, I draw and fire my two revolvers in turn, engaging the six falling plate targets and dump target as he takes his last steps in my direction. I must have finally stopped him because I didn't miss a shot (either year).

**Stage 10 (Fort Cimarron):** Comancheria Days 2011 was the first year Fort Cimarron was available for use. Although the targets this year were arranged differently, the scenario employed the same four-target Progressive Sweep from either end for the rifle and handguns. The stage could be engaged in either direction. But this year the stage started with the shotgun, whereas in 2011 the stage ended with the shotgun. Shooting at the Fort is moderately active



as it usually involves negotiating the steps from one of the "towers."

During the main match, each posse was invited to participate in a posse match. All members of each posse lined up and opened fire at a suspended 4" X 4" timber. The object was to use rifles to cut the post in half in the shortest amount of time. The fastest team by a wide margin was Posse 2, led by Posse Marshal Hopalong Herbert (SASS #53264).

*(Continued on next page)*



**WINNERS**

**Match Overall**

- Man Copperhead James, SASS #97028
- Lady Kathouse Kelli, SASS #72384

**Master Gunfighter**

Skyhawk Hans, SASS #70053

**Categories**

- Buckaroo Cpl G. W. Williams, SASS #800129
- Buckarette Little Bullseye, SASS #95965
- B Western Chili Petin, SASS #95994
- Cattle Baron Fort Worth Dallas, SASS #48501
- Cowboy Joe Darter, SASS #38268
- Cowgirl Shooting Iron Miller, SASS #85140
- C Cowboy Texas Ghost, SASS #50125
- C Cowgirl Squawty Bawdy, SASS #62932
- C Dixon L Bootstrap Richard, SASS #79130

- C Dixon SS Rowdy Tex Yates, SASS #65825
- Duelist Roamin' Shields, SASS #61847
- L Duelist Brazos Belle, SASS #82399
- F C Duelist, Jake Jones, SASS #19910
- S Duelist Bandera Kid, SASS #83170
- S S Duelist Handlebar Bob, SASS #4650
- E Statesman Bison Jim, SASS #85850
- Grand Dame Lady Ghost, SASS #60899
- 49'er Phantom, SASS #54973
- L 49'er Yankee Texan, SASS #56796
- Frontiersman Six, SASS #41283
- F Cartridge Silver Sam, SASS #34718
- Grand Patron Shotgun Hammond, SASS #43299
- Gunfighter Kit Carson, SASS #60183
- L Gunfighter Hot Tamale, SASS #78531

- F C Gunfighter Texas Jack Daniels, SASS #8587
- S Gunfighter Lefty Rhodes, SASS #14206
- Senior Jackaroo, SASS #29989
- L Senior Boots Hill, SASS #80133
- S Senior Skyhawk Hans
- L S Senior Bristlecone Jan, SASS #72773
- Wrangler Copperhead James
- L Wrangler Kathouse Kelli

**SIDE MATCH WINNERS**

- Fastest Pistol
  - Man Jackaroo
  - Lady Kathouse Kelli
- Fastest Rifle
  - Man Two Spurs, SASS #81842
  - Lady Brazos Belle, SASS #82399
- Shotgun 87-97
  - Man Dutch Van Horn, SASS #51153
  - Lady Barbary Coast, SASS #21965

## Comancheria Days 2015

*(Continued from previous page)*

Many vendors were set up to cater to the shopping needs of shooters and visitors alike. Some of these vendors indicated this was their best match ever as far as sales.

During Friday evening dinner the crowd was entertained by Walt Perryman, who many refer to as the “poet laureate” of Luckenbach, Texas. Walt denies being a cowboy poet, saying he just tells true life stories. The ranch owner, Becky Patterson attended the Friday night meal and spoke to the crowd. Mixed in with the good food and camaraderie were also 29 awards presented to the Side Match competitors.

Saturday evening found folks in their finest period clothing ready to enjoy a wonderful Texas-style meal at the awards banquet held at the Gillespie County Farm Bureau in Fredericksburg, Texas. The food at the banquet was again provided by Buzzie’s Bar-B-Q, winner of the Texas State Pitmasters Award. Because it was



the Anniversary and all, Buzzie provided an absolutely fantastic meal anchored by some mouth-watering prime rib instead of the traditional brisket.

Come Sunday morning, under threatening rain clouds, competitors gathered for the Master Gunfighter competition that we traditionally hold after Cowboy Church. The shooters lined up one-on-one for a final shootout.

This year Comancheria Days was attended by 160 shooters who made the journey from all over Texas and 10 other states as far away as Min-

nesota and, indirectly, Australia, to the Texas Hill Country to join in the fun. The 2015 celebration of Comancheria Days was one of the most fun ever, reminiscent of the “old days” of Cowboy Action Shooting™. The tradition of this “Old West” shootin’ match has endured for 20 years. So, mark your calendars for April 7-10, 2016 and plan to shoot with the Texican Rangers when we will again be celebrating Comancheria Days. You can check the website for more information at <http://www.texicanrangers.org>.

### SIDE MATCH WINNERS (cont.)

#### Fastest Shotgun SxS

Man Texas Jack Daniels  
Lady Kathouse Kelli

#### Fastest Shotgun Hammered

Man Bandera Kid  
Lady Katie Cuervo,  
SASS #87634

#### Fastest Pocket Pistol

Man Doc O’Bay,  
SASS #63631  
Lady Brazos Belle

#### Fastest Derringer

Man Texas Ghost  
Lady Kathouse Kelli

#### Long Range Lever

Man Brushy Creek Bill,  
SASS #49466  
Lady Bristlecone Jan

#### Long Range SS

Man Bootstrap Richard  
Lady Bristlecone Jan

#### Long Range Pistol Caliber

Man Brushy Creek Bill,  
SASS #49466

#### Long Range Pistol Caliber

Lady Bristlecone Jan

#### Shooting Gallery

Man Black Bart Smith,  
SASS #38217

Lady Brazos Belle

#### Blazing Saddles – Cowboy

Man Jackaroo  
Lady Kathouse Kelli

#### Blazing Saddles 1911

Man Sheriff Robert Love,  
SASS #8960

#### Wild Bunch Traditional

Man Crooked Bullet,  
SASS #70870

Lady Brazos Belle

#### Wild Bunch Modern

Man Joe Darter,  
SASS #38268  
Lady Shooting Iron Miller,  
SASS #85140

### COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS

#### Shooter

Man Quintana,  
SASS #18843

### COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS

#### Shooter

Lady Boots Hill,  
SASS #80133

#### Best Dressed

Man Hawkshaw Fred,  
SASS #36811

Lady Texas Flower,  
SASS #43753

#### Soiled Dove

Military Kathouse Kelli  
Maj. J. H. J.  
Williams,  
SASS #22645

#### Couple

Lake City Kid,  
SASS #95019  
& SunShine Rose,  
SASS #95670

### SPECIAL AWARDS

Thrown Rider John Chisum,  
SASS #309

#### Spirit of the Game

Mad Dog McCoy,  
SASS #17292

# Costuming Corner



Texas Flower,  
SASS #43753

# SASS® COSTUME CONTEST

## Management and Administration...

### REVISED



Cat Ballou, SASS #55

By Texas Flower, SASS #43753 and Cat Ballou, SASS #55

Costuming is what makes Cowboy Action Shooting™ unique among all the shooting sports, and dressing in costume is as important to many SASS members as the shooting events.

—Taken from the SASS Costume Contest Management and Administration Mission Statement

**Y**ES, there is a SASS Costume Contest Management and Administration Guide on the SASS website! And it has been recently updated! Go to the SASS HOME PAGE, click on SHOOTERS HANDBOOKS, then go down and click on COS-  
*(Continued on next page)*



Promoting the Costume Contest at the 2009 SASS Convention.

## SASS® Costume Contest . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

**TUME ADMIN**, and there you are! PLEASE CHECK IT OUT!

The SASS Costume Contest Management and Administration Guide was first published in November 2005. It was written by a very prestigious group of



**Mad Mountain Mike and Miss Tabithia (SASS #26972) in 2011.**

SASS members who had a great interest in establishing rules and setting standards for organizing costume contests. The committee consisted of Cat Ballou, Chairperson; Ellsworth T. Kincaid, SASS #6037; Fannie Kikinshoot, SASS #33693; Hurricane with One R, SASS #19283; Mad Mountain Mike, SASS #4385; Lady Stetson, SASS #6038; and Tornado Alli, SASS #26303. The purpose of the Guide was to provide match organizers and costume contest participants with a consistent set of rules

and standards, ensuring uniform costume contests at all SASS costume contests.

Ten years later, the intent of the revised Guide is still to ensure uniform costume contests throughout SASS, but the guidelines needed a few revisions to get them up-to-date with current SASS costume contest management. So, Cat Ballou and Texas Flower got together to go over the guidelines and forms.



**Ellsworth T. Kincaid and Lady Stetson in 2002.**

Costume contests should be well planned and not an afterthought, and *The SASS Costume Contest Management and Administration Guide* helps do this by covering contest organization, chairperson's duties, structuring the contest, categories and rules, judging criteria and judges, mechanics, and it supplies sample

fillable contest forms. The revised contest forms can be printed from the website or downloaded and filled in when they are needed. The Guide and forms will especially be helpful to new Costume Contest Chairpersons.

The revised Guide reflects some important changes. Presentation was moved to the end of the scoring criteria. Presentations are no longer required, but a score for presentations can be used as a tie breaker, if needed. Knowledge of Costume was added to the judging criteria on score sheets to be used unless contestants

are judged only on costume appearance. There were other small changes made throughout the guide. For example, pre-registration is no longer required and references to "working" costumes were replaced with "shooting" costumes. Divisionals were added to the matches requiring a mandatory Shooting Costume Contest and a Best Dressed Costume Contest. A few clarifications were made, such as the reference to zippers and blue jeans for B-Western costumes.

*The SASS Costume Contest Management and Administration Guide* is just that, a guide. The intent of the revised Guide and the new fillable forms is to be helpful and make it as easy as possible for those involved in conducting costume contests. What works best often depends on the size of the match/event, fa-

*(Continued on page 20)*



**Tex (SASS #4) and Cat Ballou in 2002.**

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



### SASS® Costume Contest . . .

*(Continued from page 19)*

**END of TRAIL  
2015 Costume  
Contest Judges.**

*Baby Jane Doe  
(SASS #284),  
Sloan Easy  
(SASS #28129),  
and  
Copper Queen  
(SASS #20449).*



**SASS Convention  
Costume Contest  
Judges, 2014-2015.**

*Aspen Filly  
(SASS #50535),  
Cowtown Scout  
(SASS #53540),  
and Velvet Glove  
(SASS #50276).*

**END of TRAIL  
2015 Costume  
Contest Judges.**

*Creek Harding  
(SASS #4546),  
Sloan Easy, and  
Copper Queen.*



cilities available, and the budget. But when all Costume Contest Chairpersons follow these guidelines and use the same forms, contestants will know how to prepare for the costume contest and understand the scoring criteria.

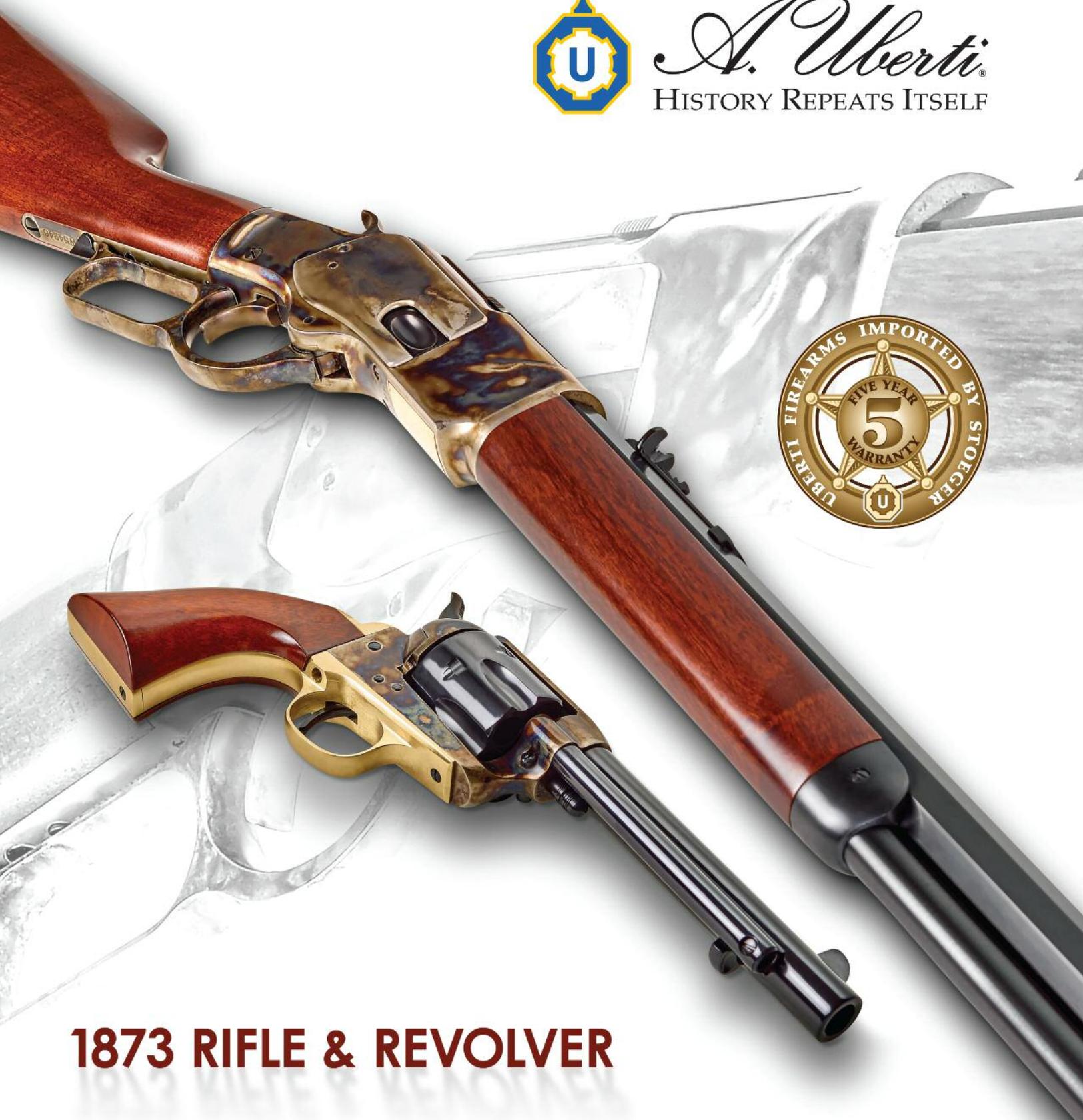
Enjoy the costuming associated with our sport, and REMEMBER, "It's not how good you shoot—it's how good you look!" —**Cat Ballou.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Note:** Cat Ballou and Texas Flower will be presenting a Costume Contest Seminar based on the revised *SASS Costume Contest Management and Administration Guide* at the 2015 SASS Convention. Hope to see you there! 🐾



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# On The Range

# LAST STAND *at* 2015 Thunder River

*By Cheyenne Ranger SASS Life #48747*



*Hand made Texas Quilt by Trixie LeDeauxxx, held by Rawhide (SASS # 39957) and Fairplay John for size comparison.*



*Stonewall Willie, SASS #47111.*

**Thunder River, The Republic.** Third time's a charm—or is it? This year the Thunder River Renegades had a few additional obstacles to overcome in order to pull this off. Let's start with the range being sold out from under us within the final three months and having to get the permission of the new owners to hold the match at the last minute. That, plus an unexpectedly large turnover of officers and key players, made this all the more exciting and challenging. *We live in interesting times: English translation of an ancient Chinese curse.*

But, as before, we picked ourselves up off the trail, shook off the dust, remounted our horses, and got to the job at hand. (Sounds like a B-Western movie doesn't it?) Club president and all around good guy Blackpowder Burn (SASS #39761) marshaled the troops and got us headed in the right direction. Manassas Jack (SASS #62087) stepped up to handle the Range Master job and

wrote a series of stages that revolved around the movie, *McLintock!* (One of the Duke's best by the way.)

Our Territorial Governor, Texas Jack Daniels, SASS Life #8587, Regulator, TG, as well as Club Life Member #1, lent loads of equipment plus himself as club "minions" came together for a final range clean up. Both Bristlecone Jan (SASS #72773) and her husband Fairplay John (SASS #63453), as well as Texas Ghost (SASS #50125) and Texas Rooster (SASS #39957), were also involved up to their boot tops. Texas Crash (SASS #85815) was gathering shooter packet items like a squirrel hoarding nuts for the winter. Our new and beloved club vice-president Rawhide Ranger (SASS #66087) was everywhere as he had the responsibility of everything from the firing line back. Also



*Texas Ghost.*

*(Continued on next page)*

## Last Stand at Thunder River 2015 . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

working behind the scenes were Two Spurs (SASS #81842) and his bride Sunny Spurs (SASS #83902), who burned the midnight oil on many a night completing their part of the “master plan.” Guess if I didn’t mention someone by name they fit into the “minion” category.

Along with the physical help, many Renegaders monetarily supported the match. Crossdraw Mike (SASS #43968) and his wife sponsored Stage 5, the Saloon. This was just one example of how the cowboy way was seen throughout the match.

The food honcho was Ellie Mae (SASS #66089), who had teamed up with Boy Scout Troop 878, Spring, TX, to provide the match’s meals as well as a pig roast as the main primo feast. She had been working with the scouts as well as lining up all the supplies needed for the previous 10 months. Goes to show you why she is Club Life Member #2; Rawhide Ranger, her husband, happens to be Life Member #3 so the club members have not overlooked their efforts.

Two weeks before the match Houston had received a great deal of rain. At one

point Texas Ghost was lining up all his farm animals two by two while the club treasurer Red River Mac (SASS #79649) was lining up all his decimal points to two places. People were buying boats and rafts and enrolling their offspring in swimming classes. Plus a large number took to the street yelling, “The sky is falling.” Good times for all. As far as the match was concerned, it was a bit damp in the parking areas and RV camping sites, but nothing to get in the way of some cowboy fun.

Friday was reserved for shooter sign-in, RO classes taught by Texas Jack Daniels, and the side matches. The RO I and II classes saw 13 and 12 new/renewal cowboy and cowgirl graduates. The group picked maroon and white as graduation colors with “Texas, Our



*Shotglass dressed as Maureen O'hara from McLintock!*

Texas” as the group’s song; nice since that’s also The Republic’s Official Song (work with me here folks; remember it’s the Republic of Texas).

A Wild Bunch match, all the side matches, dinner at the range and a night shoot pretty much filled the day with Western activities. Our official photographer, Texas Rooster was like a lion on the Serengeti, quietly moving from stage to stage and popping up whenever a photo op presented itself. That and taking out a wildebeest or two. We did have the usual number of customary events plus the ever popular tomahawk and Bowie knife throws; nothing like flinging edged weapons at a target, surrounded by other participants when you have never done that before—what could possibly go wrong?

The day ended with a night shoot—what a sight! Rather what *not* a sight, as it was dark. There is nothing more impressive than black powder firearms going off in the dark, unless it’s a bunch of them. Even though it was pretty much as dark as the inside of a well at midnight, with no moon, this was a shooting stage with targets. It was hard to tell how the shooters were able to hit the targets but they did so quite regularly.

Saturday kicked off the main match in earnest. After the Pledges to both the American and Texas Flags and a prayer lead by Preacherman Robert (SASS #89997), we introduced our honored visitors, Judge Roy Bean (SASS #1) and Justice Lily Kate (SASS #1000). The Judge and Kate have been in attendance at previous matches and we wanted to make them feel right at home. They also donated prizes for the raffle and Kate even walked off with a category win. The Judge? He was just cool and collected as always.

Now it was time for our four posses to get down to business (the Marshal’s posse had shot the match the previous Saturday, all 10 stages in one day—they are my heroes). Six stages would be shot Sat-



*Dusty Bottoms, SASS #88609.*



*Tombstone Lawdawg, SASS #81459.*

*Sundown, SASS #10092.*

*(Continued on page 24)*

# Last Stand at Thunder River 2015 ...

(Continued from page 23)



*Possum Skinner.*



*Tell Sackett.*

urday morning and the final four Sunday morning.

The stages all took their flavor from *McLintock!* As each line was read by one or another posse marshal, you could see the rest of the posse nod their heads in recognition; it's always nice to be able to bring the movies to the range. *McLintock!* has lots of great lines and it was hard to pare them down to just ten, one per stage.

The stages were fast, fun and void of the dreaded "P" traps that sometimes creep into stages. I rate "P" traps on a par with Stealth Bullets. Targets were reasonably close, freshly painted and of good size so everyone would enjoy the part of the sport called "hitting the targets."

After lunch, everyone had time to spend with friends both new and old and some just downright

strange. Stories were told, I'm sure some of them were true, and several groups got to visit Historic Old Town Magnolia—Home of the Red Caboose. One or two shooters actually did some maintenance on their firearms... gamers!

Sunday dawned a hair cool but at least dry and we were now on the final day of the match. Cowboy Church was lead by Preacherman Robert and had a large crowd in attendance. The targets had been painted and reset and we were off and running. Well maybe not running but moving with great purpose if not speed.

While the posses finished their final four stages, the shooters' prizes and the raffle items were laid out. Thanks to the generosity of club members and local businesses we had a great number of prizes. Tickets were bought by the "arm stretch." The buyer would stretch his/her arms as wide apart as possible then Shotgun (SASS #17153) would run a strip of tickets from one of their hands to the other. There could have been some person-to-person contact but my lawyer advises me to *take the Fifth*.

One of the greatest gifts the club ever received for raffle/auction was a hand-made quilt by Trixie LeDeauxxx (SASS #97994), the wife of Rusty Red (SASS #96730). It was a good 6' x 5' and honored the Republic, her flag, and Western activities—a true work of art. Texas Jack Daniels was our auction master and after much spirited bidding, Bristlecone Jan was the winner with a bid of \$650.

Boy Scout Troop 878 of Spring, TX whose motto is "Leadership, Adventure and Culinary Pursuits", catered the Sunday noon banquet. The Troop had done a whole hog pit roast (his name was Wilber) with all the trimmings.

*(Continued on next page)*

An advertisement for Greene's Gun Shop. At the top, the name "GREENE'S" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below it is a collection of hand-drawn sketches of various people, including cowboys and Native Americans. Under the sketches, the text reads "GUN SHOP OAK HARBOR, WA". Below that, it says "Hand Engraving - Scrimshaw - Charter Member APG Action Jobs - Rebuilding". At the bottom, there is a red banner with the website "www.greenesgunshop.com" and the phone number "360-675-3421". Below the banner are several logos for gun-related products and services, including "HENRY", "Tang Sights", "HAWKEN", "Traditions PERFORMANCE FIREARMS", and "K".

# Last Stand at Thunder River 2015 ...

*(Continued from previous page)*



Male—Possum Skinner (SASS #60697). Frontiersman, Top Male—Blackpowder Burn. Smokeless, Top Female—Sunny Spurs; Top Male—Oklahoma Dee  
*(Continued on page 26)*

The awards ceremony starting off with side matches winners, followed by shooter prizes. Powder Burn Jr. was on site to print the certificates for all the winners, which certainly added a personalized touch. I think he used one of those 1880s model computers.

We actually ran three divisions simultaneously: Black Powder Frontiersman, Black Powder Frontier Cartridge and the smokeless match. Each division shot the same stages as the others but was scored separately. We recognized overall and category winners from each, as they did not overlap. For this reason, while we had a top male and female in each division there were no Top Shooters named for all three contests combined.

So as the temperature and humidity were rising along with the excitement, the category winners, clean matches, Top Men and Women from the three divisions and Spirit of the Game winners were announced. The top shooters were: Frontier Cartridge, Top Female—Hot Tamale (SASS #78531); Top



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# Last Stand at Thunder River 2015 ...

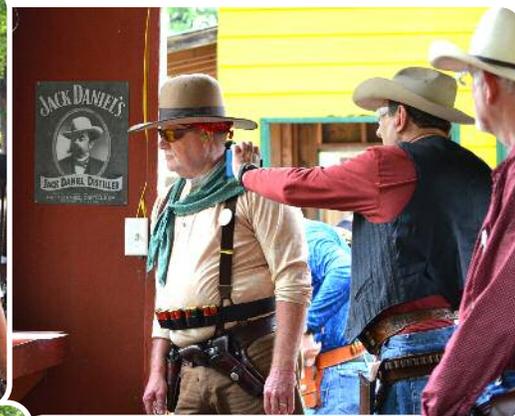
(Continued from page 25)

(SASS #44562).

Order of the Buffalo (Clean Match Shooters) went to Bayou Blossom, Blackpowder Burn, Cheyenne Ranger (3x repeat clean match winner), Possum Skinner, Rambin' Gambler (SASS #100408), Rio Brazos Kid (2x repeat winner), Tell Sackett (SASS #18436; 2x repeat winner).

Of special note was a clean Match by Bayou Blossom (SASS #46276) who on only her fourth match ever shot all 10 stages clean in one day; she was on the Marshal's posse. Also shooting clean was Rio Brazos Kid (SASS #88991) who is *only* 81 years old.

Our Spirit of the Game winners were two cow-



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boys who have returned to shooting after prolonged medical challenges. G.W. Ketchum (SASS #100493) was at the epicenter of an explosion and subsequent house fire awhile back. He suffered serious burns to his face, neck and hands but is now back among the posse members. He has to shoot with special compression gloves, but he is shooting nonetheless. Cheyenne Ranger has been away from discharging his cowboy guns since last August due to a shoulder injury followed by surgery. His first match back was shooting at Last Stand.

Then, as the Sun grew in intensity and started to beat down on the everyone, old friends, new friends, and fellow posse members made their way to their cars and trucks, jumping over the occasional mud puddle, the many scourges of mosquitoes, then from there headed down the trail, while they echoed the common thought of being back next year; they liked what they had seen at The Last Stand at Thunder River 2015—A Tribute to *McLintock!* & The SASS 2015 Southwest Regional Black Powder Shoot-Out.

(Continued on next page)

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# Last Stand at Thunder River 2015 ...

(Continued from previous page)



## Complete match results:

Wild Bunch side match:

<http://accessoring.com/scores/view/ca2decc4-e9cc-427d-ba15-2ca64b968b56>

Night Shoot side match:

<http://accessoring.com/scores/view/825b1649-2399-4860-85d4-3e3cb87f8da7>

Frontiersman match:

<http://accessoring.com/scores/view/b601c3c9-3593-40e1-9897-cbaf4df1454b>

Frontier Cartridge match:

<http://accessoring.com/scores/view/875f97e8-1291-477f-8aff-1cd9212e055c>

Smokeless match:

<http://accessoring.com/scores/view/eb95e917-6fd2-4ea0-b53b-b5464740060d>



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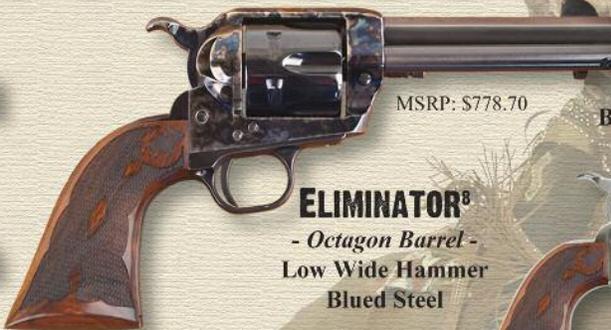


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# On The Range

## SASS NORTH CAROLINA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Uprising *at* Swearing Creek



By R. J. Gatling, SASS #86317



*The Old North State Posse presented Royal Barns a special award for many years of service and support to Cowboy Action Shooting™.*



*R. J. Gatling and Ladies presenting their version of The Cheyenne Social Club for the audience.*

It was the day before the big match. The skies were dark with clouds and a heavy mist filled the air. Those in the know warned that thunderstorms were going to plague the match and it was not looking good for the twentieth annual Uprising at Swearing Creek. The first day of the match came and as 153 shooters began to show, the clouds began to hide and the sun shone brightly, it was going to be a good day.

The SASS® NC State Championship began with side matches, which included the usual long range rifle and speed matches, two four-stage blasts, and a four-stage Wild Bunch. New this year, a team and couples

match was provided in the afternoon and awards for best male team, female team and couples team.

A double barrel shotgun was provided by Mustang Dave (SASS #95854) to raffle to the participants of the side matches and a random drawing was made when the side matches were complete. At the end of the day Mustang Dave provided pulled pork BBQ cooked by Buckshot Bowers (SASS #15915) for anyone interested.

The main match began with the usual opening ceremony, safety briefing and comments. The

*(Continued on next page)*



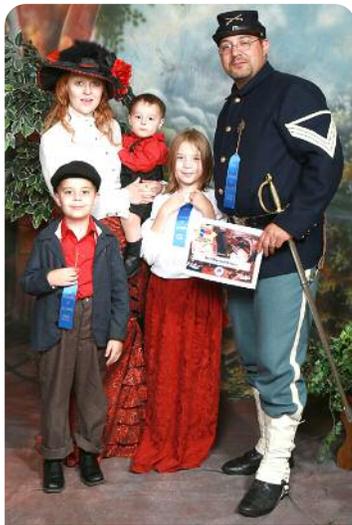


## Uprising at Swearing Creek . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

theme for this year's match was the Life and Times of Royal Barnes (SASS #5792), a dedicated participant since the beginning of the Uprising at Swearing Creek. Story lines written by Carolina Jack (SASS #18432) for each stage described his colorful life from that of a not so pretty baby, to lawless youngster who finally settled down, upheld the law and retired with his friend, Knob Creek. Royal attended the match, managed his favorite first berm and donated one of his paintings for raffle.

The main match sponsor for the Uprising is Cowboy Traditions, a major contributor to the event.



**Best Dressed Military:**  
*Forth Worth Pinkerton*  
*(SASS #92570) and family.*

Cowboy Traditions has actively supported the event for many years, starting with just a few cowboys sponsoring a stage, to becoming the main sponsor. Today it is comprised of many individuals active in the sport and interested in seeing it grow.

Stages, also written by Carolina Jack, were smooth with myriad variety and challenge. Four stages included six shotgun targets, one included

a reload and one featured a moving ore cart. Props included Uprising's train and lots of ambiance adding to the feeling of the old west and color to the stages.

Vendors for the match that included bullets, custom earplugs, jewelry, general mercantile and the like. Our food vendor provided delicious food at Old West prices. Sorry, no gourmet food allowed at this event. And, of course sponsors, too many to list here, supported the event. All are listed on the match website, <http://www.sassncmatch.org/home.html> and deserve your support throughout the year.

By the end of the day Saturday the shooting had ended, but the fun continued with entertainment at the Silver Star Saloon. Penelope Petticoat (SASS #45702) and Huckleberry Mike (SASS #45701) sponsored the banquet, but this was no ordinary banquet. Stonefire Slim (SASS #79869) organized the entertainment, which was truly second to none. As you entered you received your nugget of gold that could be traded for chips at the assayer's office, manned by Linden Kid (SASS #57332). You could get additional raffle tickets or chips to play

*(Continued on page 30)*



**Best Skit—Steampunk:**  
*Shamrock Sadie and*  
*Knot Hardly Dunn.*



## Uprising at Swearing Creek ...

*(Continued from page 29)*

at the blackjack tables, the roulette wheel or roll the oversize dice for prizes donated by the many shooters and sponsors.

During the social hour and meal, entertainment included ragtime piano by Ethan Uslan, a three-time ragtime champion. Guests found themselves tapping their feet to the music and saying, "You remember that song from the movie" and "I haven't heard that song in forever."

After a commercial break provided by Stonefire Slim with his many hats, Glenn the Magician entertained the audience with assistance from the crowd. Magical acts included card, rope and ring tricks, and even an old time act from the days of *The Lawrence Welk Show*. All were highlighted with his wit that amused the audience while keeping your attention.

As the costume contest awards were to begin. R. J. Gatling and five of our famous ladies, Mustang

Lindy (SASS #99691), Penelope Petticoat (SASS #45702), Candice B. Real (SASS #88872), Shamrock Sadie (SASS #78511) and Mattie Silks (SASS #101913) entertained the crowd with a presentation based on the Jimmy Stewart movie, *The Cheyenne Social Club*, following the overall theme of the film.

Pearl and Kearney Kid sponsored the costume contest and this year's theme was Ravishing Ruby. Judges this year were Captain Jeb Forrest (SASS #42258), Bull's Head Bill (SASS #33692) and Pearl (SASS #68953), directed by Kearney Kid (SASS #68592). Beaded Renegade (SASS #70248) again provided a nice necklace and earring set for the lady winner, Ablazin' Grace (SASS #95332) in her totally handmade outfit; and pocket watch for the gentleman winner, Quick Lead (SASS #18162). In keeping with the saloon theme, awards were given to best dressed Saloon Girl, Colorado Aspen (SASS #79868) and best dressed Card Shark, Stonefire Slim (SASS #79869). Best skit was awarded to Shamrock Sadie (SASS #78511) and Knot Hardly Dunn (SASS #43113), who performed their Steam Punk skit for the audience. Category awards included Best Dressed, Military, Shooting Costumes and age based winners.

After the costume contest awards and raffle  
*(Continued on next page)*



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## Uprising at Swearing Creek . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



**Costume Contest Judges:**  
 Captain Jeb Forrest, Bull's Head Bill  
 and Pearl. Costume Contest Director Kearney Kid.

drawings, the entertainment continued in the style of the Old West Saloon. This year the audience was graced by the performance of internationally known opera singer, Megan Cleaveland, daughter of one of our own ladies, Diablo Deb (SASS #94314). Among the five numbers performed, two were from the 1860s as performed in Leadville. And they say the cowboys have no culture!

The final day of the match began with Cowboy Church at the range lead by Lash Toru (SASS #85004). Awards followed, with 24 clean match badges along with the many other category awards. Special recognition by the Old North State Posse was awarded to Royal Barnes for his many years of involvement and support of the cowboy action shooting community. Special awards were also awarded to our Cowgirl Queen and Top Hand for outstanding contributions to the Cowboy Action sport. Green Eyed Indian (SASS #51116) presented the Queen's tiara to Beaded Renegade (SASS #70248). Last year's Top Hand recipient, K-Town (SASS #88476), presented the Top Hand award to R. J. Gatling.

Raffle drawings were made for a 1873 Rifle provided by North Carolina Cowboys, Inc. with action work by Three Cut (SASS #58264); a Custom Holster Rig provided by Red Cent; and a pencil drawing by Salvador Dally (SASS #37299). Proceeds from Salvador's drawing go to the SASS scholarship fund.

The overall Championship winners this year were Sixgun Sallie (SASS #38989) and Christian Mortician (SASS #83177). Presented with handsome awards, they posed for pictures surrounded by

a harmonious standing ovation for outstanding performances.

The Top Gun Shoot Off began with the top eight ladies and top 16 men. It was the fastest against the fastest; no room for error and pressure was steep. After the dust cleared Red River Ray (SASS #33254) took home the Top Gun Men's badge and Sixgun Sallie (SASS #38989) the Top Gun Ladies Badge.

Now the dust was beginning to settle, there were the normal smiles, hugs and handshakes between all the participants and guests, some leaving with awards, some leaving empty handed. But all were winners for another weekend with their friends. The range will again become silent except for the sound of God's creatures and the rain will wash away

*(Continued on page 32)*



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# Uprising at Swearing Creek . . .

*(Continued from page 31)*

the footprints of the Cowboys and Cowgirls who attended this year's match. Everyone will go home to their everyday lives and patiently await the twenty-first Uprising at Swearing Creek, when they can again join their friends for all the excitement of another match and continued fellowship.

Please visit <http://www.sassncmatch.org/scores.html> for a complete list of match results.



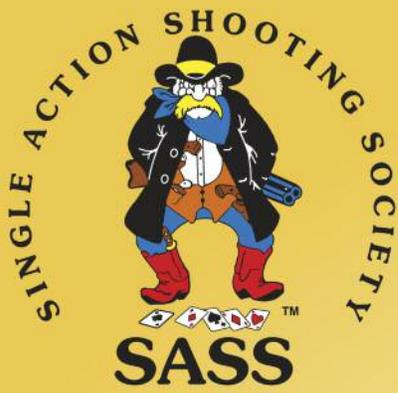
*Beaded Renegade, Cowgirl Queen; and R. J. Gatling, Top Hand.*



**Ravishing Ruby Theme Winners:**  
*Ablazin' Grace and Quick Lead.*

**Best Dressed Couple:**  
*Phoenix and Gunrunner Joe.*





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# On The Range

# Return of the Buffalo to the Plains Annual Match 2014

By Pawnee Drifter, SASS #68380



The seven happy Cowboys who made up the Clean Match shooters.

northern Colorado received days of steady rain which caused massive flooding and destruction in the area and threatened to cancel the event. Fortunately, the weather had cleared long enough for the competition to take place. At each bi-monthly match for the next year, when the announcement for the second annual competition was discussed, the promise was made by match directors Kid Bucklin and Sixty-Nine Cent Wizard (SASS #72259) that they guaranteed sunny and dry weather. The trucks and trailers continued to roll in during the morning and similar conversations began taking place in small groups over cups of coffee in campers, around the range, and in the clubhouse where registration packets were being distributed.

Just as Kid Bucklin had predicted, the sun began to break through the clouds about mid-afternoon but the stubborn north wind continued to blow. A few brave cowboys ventured out to begin shooting some

*(Continued on next page)*

**B**riggsdale, CO. “Are you kidding me?” said a couple of Cowboys huddled under the porch overhang of the clubhouse as low clouds scuttled across the rolling prairie pushed by a cold north wind. “It’s side match Friday and you guys promised us that this year’s weather for the annual match was going to be better than the soaking we took last year.”



Buckaroo category winner: Jus Oneshot (SASS #99132) flashes a big Cowboy grin as he receives his first place trophy.

“I know it looks kind of bleak right now, but I still guarantee the weather for this weekend will be good,” said match co-director and Territorial Governor “Lightning” Kid Bucklin (SASS #78261). What the cowpokes were referring to was the Briggsdale County Shootists First Annual match in September of 2013, when



## Return of the Buffalo to the Plains Annual Match 2014

*(Continued from previous page)*



**Classic Cowboy Winners:** *were Spades (SASS #31383), first place; Never Summer (SASS #97642), second place; and Hawkeye Sam (SASS #20180), third place.*

of the side matches but a lot of them stayed inside and hoped for better weather Saturday afternoon, when shooting the side matches would be continued.

Saturday morning dawned cool with the promise

of healthy doses of sunshine ahead. As the last minute registrations were being handed out, cowboys and cowgirls stopped by the clubhouse to check posse lists and then began to collect near the range shelter area for the opening announcements. Ninety-six participants were on hand for the event from all over Colorado and Wyoming, with Texas and Kansas cowboys represented as well.

Soon the sounds of gunfire, laughter and the smell of black powder filled the air. The next four hours flew by as lead was sent downrange and hoots and hollering could be heard as shooters made their way through the day's six fast and fun stages.

As promised, the novelty shoots were opened for business after lunch had concluded. The usual

*(Continued on page 36)*



**Overall match winners:**  
*Cobra Cat and Mesa Belle.*

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## Return of the Buffalo to the Plains Annual Match 2014 . . .

*(Continued from page 35)*

side events using pocket pistols, derringers, and speed rifle, shotguns, and pistols were held, but Briggsdale county also has their own brand of novelty shoots not always found at other places. Never Summer (SASS #97642) along with some of the Wyoming boys, including Assassin (SASS #9836), Slowpoke Wyoming (SASS #5164), and Amarillo Slim (SASS #19182) ran a long range rifle and pistol side match which included a Buffalo and a Quigley event. Also new this year was a Quail Flurry shoot held at the nearby trap range for cowboy shotgun enthusiasts. We also had the Briggsdale county original “Medusa” shotgun competition and the ever-popular “Annie Oakley” shoot, with the rifle slung over your shoulder and using a mirror to line up the sights. Obviously some of the people had been practicing during the year as they managed to shoot bull eyes to win this event. We also have a popular .22 rifle and pistol shooting gallery that received lots of attention during the afternoon.

As the sun headed toward the distant profile of the Rocky Mountain skyline, many folks headed out to rest up for the next day, and those who had brought their wagons with them gathered up the potluck dishes they had prepared and enjoyed a nice dinner under the clear western sky. Ric-A-D-Split (SASS #62071) graciously provided the.

Sunday morning showed the promise of another great day on the Northern Colorado plains. Church service was led by Pastor Mark Fellini from the local



**Lady Wrangler winners:**  
*Turquoise Queen (SASS #64719), first place;*  
*Sassey Cue (SASS #64669), second place;*  
*and Scarlet Rebel (SASS #38694), third place.*

N3C Cowboy church, who reminded us that a positive can-do attitude is necessary to be successful in life and the cowboy shooting range. Afterward, folks gathered at the gallows platform for the last day announcements and safety talk.

After that, shooters found their other posse members and headed out for more fun. Each had thoughts running through their heads. “Will I be able to shoot the rest of the match clean?” or “Just put yesterday behind you as today is another day.” And the ever-popular “Gosh I sure hope I got this gun fixed and it doesn’t jam up on me again today.” Others were thinking, “Thank goodness I am able to spend another day enjoying this fantastic sport of Cowboy Action Shooting™” and “I have so many great friends and good times at these shoots.”

The lead began to fly and the steel rang out in response to all the hits. Occasionally the steel was silent indicating that the shooter’s front sight wasn’t quite on the target when the trigger was pulled. The morning wore on and the laughter and good-natured joking could be heard all over the range.

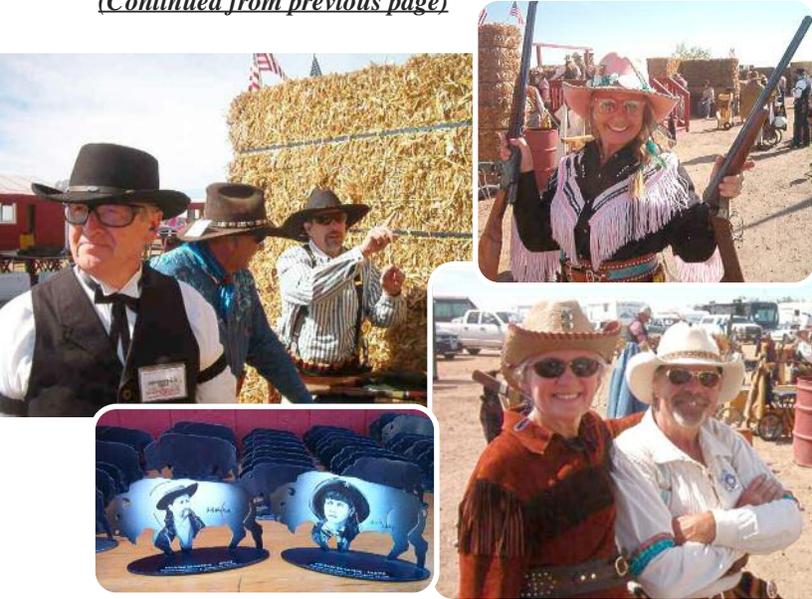
Kid Bucklin and his wife, Ida Claire (SASS #79493) finished up tallying and recording the final results and the crowd gathered under the range shelter this year to get out of the sunshine instead of the pouring rain, as had happened the year be-

*(Continued on next page)*



## Return of the Buffalo to the Plains Annual Match 2014 . . .

(Continued from previous page)



to the seven Clean Match Shooters. The final two buffalo trophies were held out to give to the overall match winners. These special buffalo were beautiful hand painted images of Buffalo Bill Cody and Annie Oakley and were given out to Cobra Cat (SASS #19275) and Mesa Belle (SASS #9560).

Please visit <http://briggsdalecountyshootists.com/annual.htm> for a complete listing of match results.

The Briggsdale County Shootists range is located at the Pawnee Sportsman's center near Briggsdale, Colorado in the Northeastern part of the state. Regular SASS matches are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. They have great props, targets and stages at their range and they provide clean, fast and fun stages for every shoot.

fore. The Wizard joined Kid Buckin on stage where they thanked all of the shooters for participating in this year's festivities and began handing out trophies and door prizes. Clapping, cheering, and good-natured ribbing of the winners kept everyone in happy spirits as they waited for their categories to be announced. Special Golden Buffalo pins were awarded

The third annual "Return of the Buffalo to the Plains" match will be held September 11-13 2015. Plan on joining us for a great shooting experience. For more information, check out the Briggsdale County Shootists website at [http://briggsdalecountyshootists.com/sass\\_shoot.htm](http://briggsdalecountyshootists.com/sass_shoot.htm).

*The Return of a Legend*

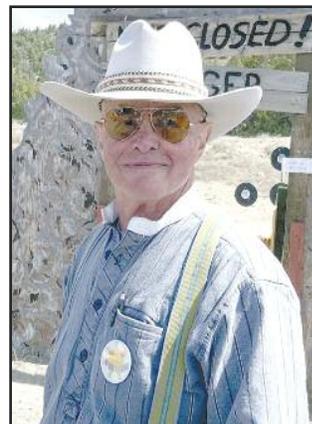
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# Club Reports

# ESCAPING THE TORRENT

By Palaver Pete, SASS #4375



*Palaver Pete,  
SASS Life/Regulator  
#4375*

On Friday, July 10, the COSSA Range looked like a newsreel clip of the recent floods in Texas. The torrent of rain came down so hard that I got wet standing under shelter—it was going side-ways as well as straight down. On Saturday it was a different story—although the range was dust free and wet spots appeared here and there, the range gave only the appearance that it had sprinkled a bid of late—a phenomenon of the high desert country we love and live in. Personally, I will take this kind of weather instead of the weather we have seen in other areas of the United States on TV of late.

Pine Mountain Posse shot five stages on Saturday and because of rain, only three for record on Sunday. The two days were devoted primarily to preparation for the Oregon State Cowboy Action Shooting™ Championship, held in Albany July 17-19. Shooters asked each other to observe and check them for correct movements and shooting positions in hopes of not only doing well at the state match, but also avoiding any penalties for possible safety infrac-

tions. The idea spread out well and cooperation was at its best. We were fortunate to have three visiting shooters, Lefty Lem (SASS #50056) and Meadow Patty (SASS #72250) from Walport, Oregon, and Klickitat Bob (SASS #21903) from Sun City West in Arizona. Their presence added to our enjoyment.

Saturday's top guns were: Hoss Reese (SASS #88815), Sunrise Bill (SASS #64301), Palaver Pete, Pepper G (SASS #89336), Lefty Lem, Klickitat Bob, and GDub (SASS #98435), who kept score and did not shoot all the stages. Sunday's top gun was Big Casino (SASS #4306), with a total time of 80.35 for the three stages, an average of 26.78 seconds per stage. Big Casino was closely followed by Hoss Reese, with a total time of 82.16 (breathing down Big's neck), and third place went to Deadwood Pete (SASS #57450), with a total time of 93.81. Whisperin' Wade (SASS #36209) came in fourth, followed closely by Arctic Annie (SASS #37265). Top Elder Statesman was Pecos Bill Corrigan, who nosed-out Pepper G by 8.76 seconds.

GDub won the Lady Senior Category, just ahead of visiting shooter Meadow Patty, while The Legend (SASS #36069) won the Senior Gunfighter Category. Other Category winners were: Sierra Sage Sue (SASS #57487), Tetherow Tex LaRue (SASS #90999), Lefty Lem, Klickitat Bob, Mojave Mick (SASS #7861), Stonewood Kid (SASS #62875), and Palaver Pete. As usual, we thank Diamond Willow (SASS #37688) for coordinating the Sunday lunch as well as helping on the score keeping. Many of us will remember how weird the month of July was, with more rain than most native Oregonians can recall for this time of year. However, as long as it keeps things green and reduces the threat of fire, we are grateful. Happy trails and shoot straight Pard.

To see all scores by category and total times, please visit our website at: <http://www.pinemountainposse.com/>. You're a Daisy if ya do. PP. 🤠

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**General Match Information:**

- Posse assignments will be made Sept. 1st, Applications received after that will be assigned as available.
- Must be a SASS member to shoot, All SASS rules apply, All SASS categories Accepted.
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**Match Fees:**

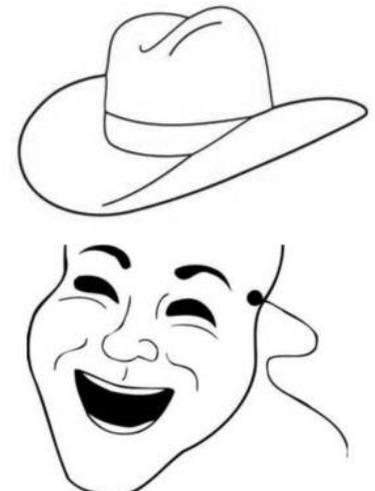
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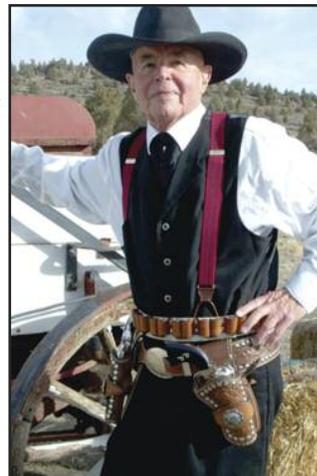
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# Club Reports

# PMP HOSTS OPEN HOUSE



*Palaver Pete,  
SASS Life/Regulator  
#4375*

*By Palaver Pete, SASS #4375*



*Guest Jeff Knust learns the ins and outs of Wild Bunch Action Shooting™ and the Model 97 Shotgun under the guidance of Sunrise Bill.*

knew who might possibly be captivated by the sport and eventually join both COSSA and the PMP. All in all, seven guest shooters showed up, and by all indications were smitten by both the Cowboy venue as well as the Wild Bunch venue. Wild Bunch, as most COSSA members know, is a spin-off of the 1969 movie *The Wild Bunch*, starring William Holden and Ernest Borgnine. Participant's use 1911s as well as Model 97 or Model 12 shotguns, and Cowboy rifles in calibers .40 or larger. We have noticed that younger shooters seems to be more attracted to automatic firearms rather than the six guns used by Hoppy, Roy, and Gene. Well, as long as they shoot, we forgive them.

In hopes of attracting more shooters to the game of Cowboy Action Shooting™ as well as the shooting sports in general, the Pine Mountain Posse (PMP) held an open house at the COSSA Range on the weekend of June 27-28. Active PMP members were encouraged to invite friends they

Five Stages were organized by Sunrise Bill (SASS #64301) for both days. Ammunition for visiting shooters was donated by John Hull, who reloads for several of the PMP members. Lunch was provided by the club on both days for members and guests. Our thanks go to Stargazer Sal (SASS #57411) and Side Kick Rick (SASS #57410) for putting Saturday's lunch together, and to Tetherow Tex LaRue (SASS #90999) for putting Sunday's grub on the table. Members who assisted our guests were Shevlin Kid (SASS #72550), Dakota Del (SASS #33067), GDub (SASS #98435), Sweet Shots (SASS #92782), Huckleberry Hickock (SASS #88886), and Tetherow Tex LaRue. Guests were also provided informational handouts as well as application forms—let's hope the club's efforts will pay some future dividends!

For overall scores by stage, time, and category, as well as upcoming Northwest events, please visit our website at [www.pinemountainposse.com/](http://www.pinemountainposse.com/). You're a Daisy if ya do. PP. 🐾

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Captain George Baylor,  
SASS Life / Rugulator #24287

## Guns & Gear

# DISPATCHES FROM CAMP BAYLOR Frontiersman For Dummies 2015

By Captain George Baylor, SASS #24287 Life/Regulator

**Part I**

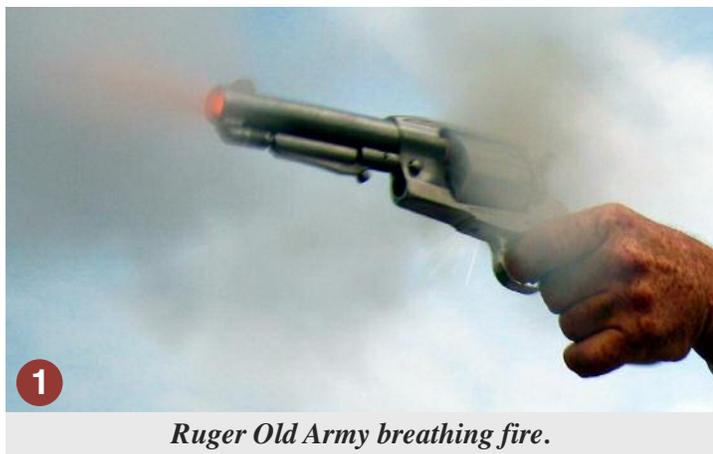
My website has had [Frontiersman For Dummies](#) for more than 10 years. I looked at it recently and realized it needed revising. So this is a dual purpose article, appearing in *The Cowboy Chronicle* and on my website. On my website I'll be able to update it as needed.

### Most Difficult Category

Frontiersman category in SASS requires black powder or black powder substitutes used in all of the firearms; percussion revolver fired duelist-style (one handed), any SASS legal pistol-caliber rifle, and either a side-by-side shotgun or a lever action shotgun (no pumps).

Black Powder categories are separated from other shooters into their own categories because Black Powder:

- Smokes—a lot. The shotguns, particularly, lay out huge clouds of smoke.
- Requires extra care and feeding. Often black powder guns have to be cleaned before the match is over.



Ruger Old Army breathing fire.



Ten Bears shooting a Colt 1860 Army at Winter Range 2002, he took third place.

• Requires different, generally more difficult, loading and cleaning techniques.

Add to that, Frontiersman requires percussion revolvers (Photo 01) and each one has to be recharged between stages. Where loading a cartridge pistol takes 15 seconds, loading a percussion pistol requires one to five minutes, preferably with no distractions. *Frontiersman For Dummies* concentrates on the pistols. Another article on my website, [Black Powder For Dummies](#) covers cartridges and shotguns. (Yes, it needs some updating, too.)

### Pre-Civil War Technology

The replicas of old guns all use Civil War era technology. Getting five good bangs from each gun for each stage can be a challenge in itself. Colts dropped their loading levers in mid string, had poor sights that usually shot high at our ranges, and became hopelessly jammed with spent caps. Remingtons seemed better but had their own problems.

These guns, unmodified, are hard to use in Fron-  
*(Continued on next page)*

## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



3

*A pair of 5-1/2" Stainless Steel Ruger Old Armies.*

tiersman. The ones that work have usually been prepared by gunsmiths who understand percussion pistols. Larsen E. Pettifogger has written about prepping both Ubertis and Piettas and his articles are in *The Cowboy Chronicle* archives. He is not in the gunsmithing business, however, and preps guns only for himself now.

The only one I know personally who specializes in percussion pistols is Rowdy Yates at [Lee's Gunsmithing](http://Lee's Gunsmithing) 344 N. Magnolia, Orange, CA 92866, Phone: (714) 921-9030, e-mail: [info@leesgunsmithing.com](mailto:info@leesgunsmithing.com). Rowdy is semi-retired. Call him before sending him any guns. (Other gunsmiths who can and want to work on these guns and want to be included, [contact me.](#))



4

*Stainless Steel Ruger Old Army with 7-1/2" barrel and fixed sights. The original ROAs had adjustable sights, then they made these, the first that were SASS Legal for Frontiersman category.*

### A Savior

But there is a pistol that was built to modern standards and is, for a percussion pistol, very reliable and easy to shoot, the Ruger Old Army. Unfortunately Ruger no longer makes it or supports it. This makes guns on the secondary market expensive and hard to find.

It came in a stainless version as well as a blued version, and it has good sights and action out of the box. Rowdy Yates prepped mine.

### Nipples

Ruger no longer makes the stock nipples. A very popular replacement, Tresco, is no longer being made, but some vendors still have some. But there is a really good replacement (Photo 5).



5

*Ruger nipple on left; Tresco in center; SliX-Shot on right.*

SliXprings [SliX-Shot nipples](#)

- Part #830825RS—Fit most Ruger Old Army models with long 12-28 X .250" threads.

- Designed to allow lighter hammer springs.

- Fit Remington #10 caps perfectly, hole inside is a tapered "venturi," allowing hotter spark.

- "Vent ports" in sides reduce backpressure allowing lighter hammer springs and cause spent caps to split and fall off on next cycle or stick on the cap, minimizing cap jams.

- Stainless steel.

*(Continued on page 44)*

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## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from page 43)*

Note that they recommend Remington #10 caps. So do I. I've tested everything on the market and some out of production caps. Remingtons are the most reliable. Some nipples work best with #11.

Another replacement nipple is sold by [Track Of The Wolf](#).

They sell a stainless steel nipple that has the original Ruger hex nut shape. The advantage of this is you can use a 3/16" socket wrench instead of a nipple wrench.

### Powder

There are several substitutes available and "wholly" black powder is available in some areas.

### Black Powder

Both 2f and 3f will work in your percussion pistols and can be used in cartridges for your rifles and shotguns. Most progressive reloaders forbid the use of black powder in their machines.

### American Pioneer Powder and American Pioneer Powder Premium Grade

These can be used in progressive reloaders. They work with smokeless bullets and poly coated bullets. No special black powder lube is needed. I recommend 3f for all main match guns. Premium Grade 3f is exceptionally clean in the loading machine. It is also easier to clean up in the guns. You may leave your guns uncleaned without worry of corrosion (but leave them oiled). It "travels well," meaning it's low maintenance at multi-day matches.

### Hodgdon Pyrodex

The original black powder substitute has the advantage of wide availability over "wholly" black. It is also approved for use in progressive reloading machines. Clean every day after use. Treat it like real black powder. Bullets need black powder lube.

### Hodgdon Triple Seven —

Can be used in progressive reloaders. Works with smokeless and poly coated bullets. Designed for hunters, it is 15 percent hotter than Goex. Read the loading restrictions before using.

### Percussion Tools

[Treso flask](#) (Photo 6)—easy to use, easy to refill. Empty it after each shooting session and clean out with compressed air if you live in a high humidity area—not necessary if you live in the desert. Use [Hornady One Shot case lube](#) on moving parts. You



*Treso powder flask.*

may need two flasks for a six-stage day. Similar flasks are available from [CVA](#) and [Traditions](#).

[Powder Spouts](#) (Photo 7)—Get a powder spout for your heaviest load and 5-grain intervals down to 15-grain. Then you can tailor your load as needed.



*Powder spouts.*

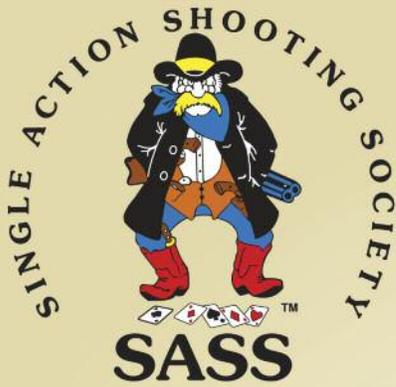
### Filling the Powder Spout

(Photo 8) Instead of capping the spout with your finger, use an empty case (.45 ACP shown) with spent primer wired to the powder spout—more consistent, doesn't get wet and contaminate powder.

*(Continued on page 46)*



*Using a spent cartridge case instead of your finger.*



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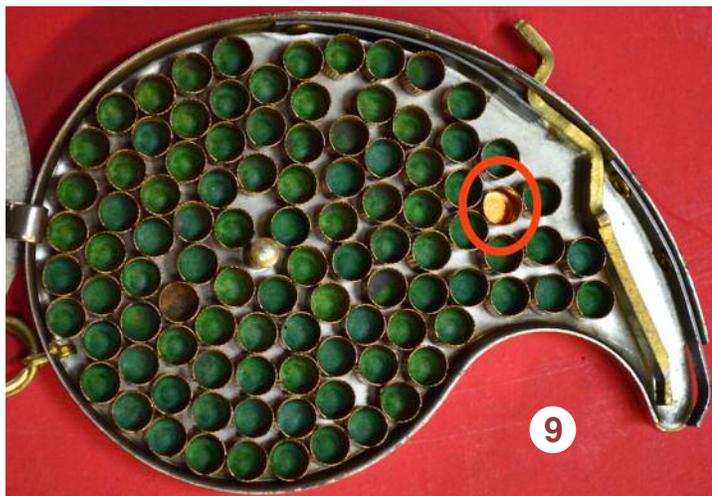
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*(Continued from page 44)*

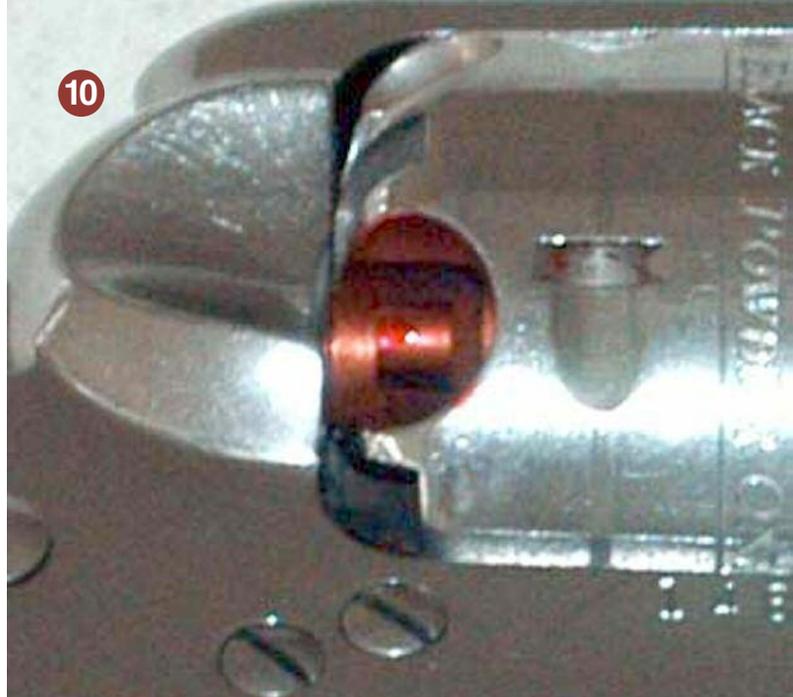
**Use a Snail Capper**

Get at least two [Ted Cash Snail Cappers](#) (Photo 9). Inspect caps. Remington caps should be green inside. If they look brown, put them in a “practice only” container. If they look like brass, throw them away.



9

*Ted Cash snail capper with Remington #10 caps. The circled cap is missing something—its priming compound.*



*The red marker trick.*

**The Red Marker Trick**

(Photo 10) Paint one nipple red using a permanent marker (Sharpie)—the pistol’s nipple, that is! It won’t be permanent. You’ll have to do it before every match. Now you know where the empty chamber is. It makes for interesting conversation at the loading and unloading tables.

**Marking the Empty Chamber**

[Aspen Filly](#) engraved mine for me with a circle around the empty chamber (Photo 11). It doesn’t wash off. She also engraved the last three of the serial number on side of cylinder at that chamber, so even if you forgot to paint that nipple red, you can find the empty chamber.

*(Continued on next page)*

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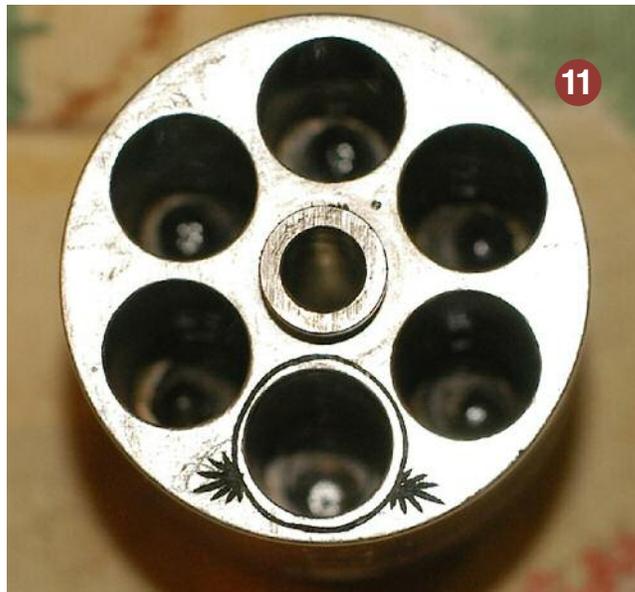


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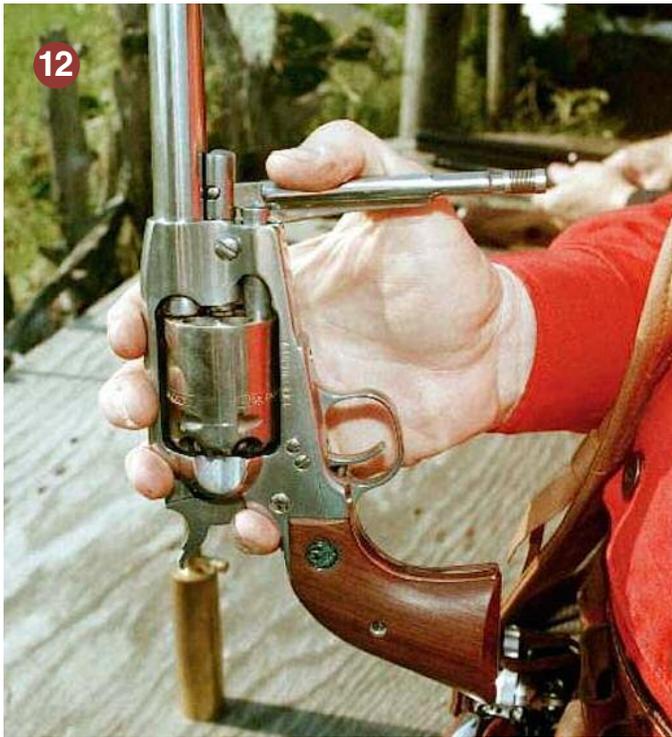
*Aspen Filly engraved the “empty” chamber.*

## Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*

### Loading

First, the traditional way. Before loading the first time in the morning, put a cap on each chamber and fire the caps (safely down range). That will burn off any oil in the nipple hole. If you have a stainless gun and keep the cylinder and nipples free of oil, you can skip this. If in doubt, pop the caps. Test doing without it on practice days to see if your gun fires reliably on the first shot without it. With substitutes or BPI have never needed a nipple pick. Commercially available picks don't fit in Tresco nipples. Put the revolver on half cock so the cylinder can be rotated. Put the red nipped (empty) chamber under the rammer (Photo 12). To start with, push the rammer down to lock the cylinder in place so



*Loading 1.*

the first chamber after the red nipped one is in the loading position.

Put your index finger tip over the powder spout. (See above for a suggestion about using a spent case instead of your finger.) Turn the powder measure upside down. Push the powder release with your thumb. Shake the powder a couple of times. Release the powder release button. Turn the powder measure right side up. LOOK AT THE SPOUT. You should see powder to the end (Photo 13).

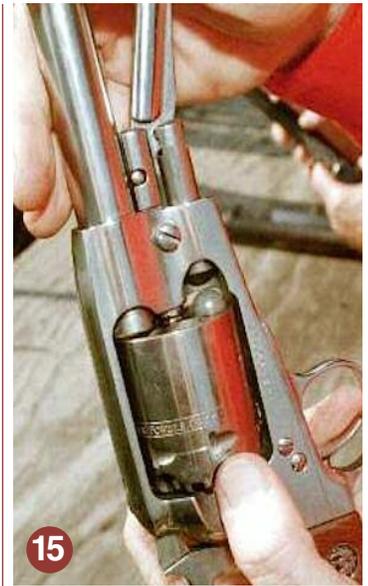
Carefully place the tip of the nozzle in the



*Loading 2.*



*Loading 3.*



*Loading 4.*

chamber and turn the measure upside down (Photo 14).

Check the chamber for a consistent level of powder. (If you are using a Wonder Wad or equivalent, insert one and ram it. We didn't use wads in this instance.) Insert a .457 Round Ball. Release the rammer. Rotate the cylinder one chamber so the ball is centered under the rammer (Photo 15).

*(Continued on page 48)*

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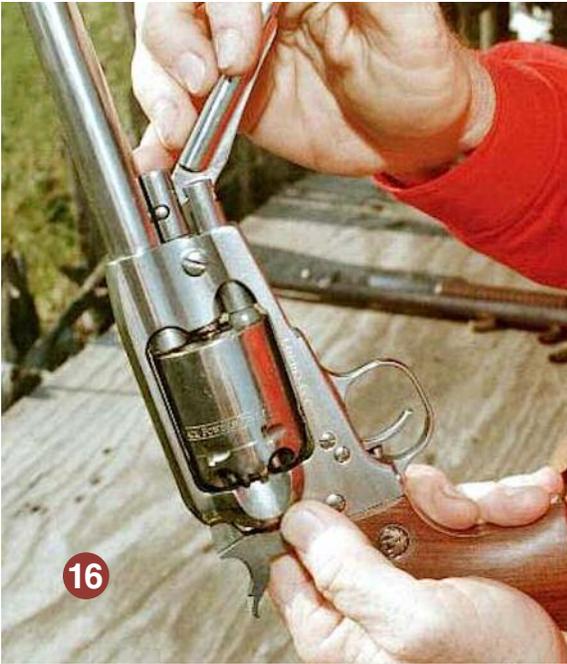
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# Dispatches From Camp Baylor . . .

*(Continued from page 47)*

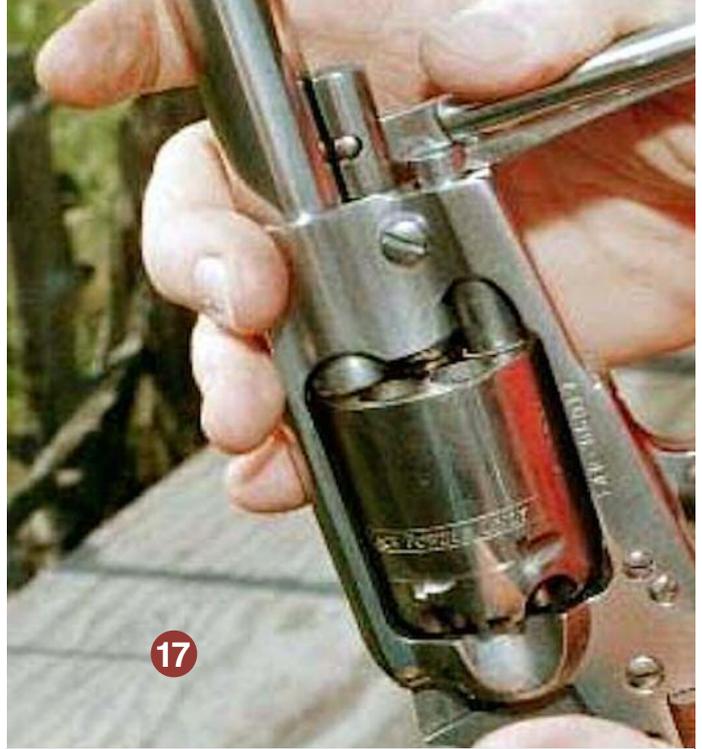
Begin to seat the ball. The rammer should be centered over the ball (Photo 16).

Firmly seat the ball. You should have a little ring



16

*Loading 5.*



17

*Loading 6.*

of lead cut off by this action (Photo 17). Using a rag or, in a pinch, your finger, rotate the cylinder one turn and remove loose lead rings. This also cleans the cylinder face. Spin the cylinder until it spins freely.

Continued to next month, and the entire series is at [Frontiersman For Dummies](#) .

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# History

# THE BATTLE OF THE CRATER

## A Botched Opportunity



*By Big Dave, SASS #55632*



*Big Dave, SASS #55632*



*The Crater is still visible and is a tourist attraction.*

The Battle of the Crater was part of Ulysses S. Grant's attempt to capture Petersburg during the closing phase of the Civil War. Had everything gone according to plan, a Union victory would have probably shortened the war by eight months. However, an innovative plan was poorly executed and the war dragged on. Thousands of men on both sides who might have survived the war were killed.

The armies of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee had spent the last four months slugging it out in Virginia during the spring of 1864. Though Lee's Army of Northern

Virginia was making a good account of itself, Grant refused to behave like Lee's previous opponents: instead of stalling or retreating, Grant kept on advancing. By June, even though he was inflicting horrendous casualties on Grant's army, Lee was forced to defend the city of Petersburg, a key railroad junction south of Richmond. To make a long story short, if Petersburg fell, Richmond would soon follow.

Petersburg was well defended by a series of trenches and fortifications that foreshadowed the Western Front during WWI. These

defenses had been constructed back in 1862 and were nearly impregnable to frontal assaults. After some early attacks had failed, Grant realized he would have to lay siege to Petersburg. It was a dismal option: sieges were time consuming and frustrating. Grant had had enough of that type of warfare in Mississippi the previous year.

However, some coal miners in the 48<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment came up with an idea. Why not tunnel under the Rebel trenches, set a huge amount of explosives, and blow a hole in the defenses? The breach in the Rebel lines could be attacked and Petersburg would be captured. The regiment's commander, Colonel Henry Pleasants, was a former mining engineer and liked the idea. He submitted the plan to his superior, General Ambrose Burnside, who approved it. Mostly the plan was met with skepticism but Burnside's superiors, Meade and Grant, eventually decided to give it a try.

*(Continued on next page)*



*An artist's depiction of the battle.*

## The Battle of the Crater

*(Continued from previous page)*

The miners went to work at the daunting task before them. The tunnel had to be more than 500 feet long and the Army's engineers were especially scornful of the project. According to them, it couldn't be done and the engineers provided no help. Basic materials had to be scrounged from abandoned buildings. Nevertheless, a tunnel was constructed complete with ventilation shafts and a large underground room that would hold 8,000 pounds of black powder. The explosives were placed 20 feet or so beneath the Confederate lines. It took about a month to complete the project.

A division of United States Colored Troops, as they were called (part of the U.S. IX Corps), had been trained to lead the assault once the explosives were detonated. The plan was most of them would go around the hole and penetrate the Rebel lines. Two other divisions of white troops would support them. Ambrose Burnside, commander of the IX Corps, was enthusiastic about the plan. Unlike his superior commanders in the Army of the Potomac, Burnside felt it was time to give the colored troops a chance to prove themselves in an actual battle. Until then, they had been relegated to menial tasks such as digging fortifications or burying the dead.

Poor Burnside. The disastrous Battle of Fredericksburg followed him around like Jacob Marley's ghost. Though he hadn't been dismissed, he was demoted and probably felt he needed a chance to prove

himself. This operation could hopefully restore his reputation. If Petersburg fell, Fredericksburg would be expunged, if not forgotten.

Burnside's superiors, Generals George Meade and Ulysses Grant, were willing to explode the charges and try the assault, but they weren't very confident about using colored troops as the spearhead. A lot of that had to do with the prevailing prejudices of the day. However, there was also a political consideration. The spearhead was bound to take a lot of casualties; the press, they thought, would crucify them if it appeared that colored soldiers were being used as

cannon fodder. Moreover, the plan was risky and there was no guarantee that the assault would succeed.

The day before the attack, Meade changed the plan. Meade informed Burnside that a white division would spearhead the attack. The colored division would be used as support. Burnside protested, but

*(Continued on page 52)*



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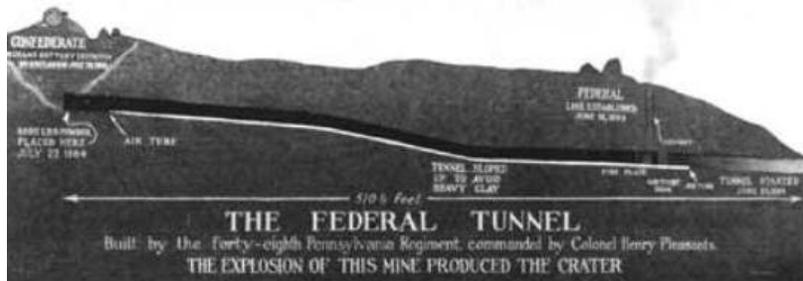
# The Battle of the Crater . . .

*(Continued from page 51)*

Grant upheld the decision. Burnside then seems to have lost interest in the entire affair. The replacement division was chosen by lots. Brigadier General James Ledlie's 1<sup>st</sup> Division "won" and would be used to spearhead the assault. It was a terrible choice.

Not only was the 1<sup>st</sup> Division untrained for this operation, it was led by one of the Army of the Potomac's worst officers. General Ledlie's most conspicuous talent was to obtain liquor from the surgeon's tent and to drink it in times of stress. These were stressful times and apparently Ledlie exercised his talent to the fullest. The 1<sup>st</sup> Division would have no coherent leadership: they weren't even told what to do after the explosion other than to charge the Confederate lines.

On the morning of July 30, 1864, at about 4:45 a.m., the charges were detonated. It was the largest explosion ever seen in the U.S. Almost 300 Confederate soldiers were immediately killed. The explosion created a hole about 170 feet long, 100 feet wide and 30 feet deep. It is still visible today. That part of the operation worked beautifully: the Confederates were



*The ingenious tunnel.*

bewildered. Then things started to go wrong.

The assault was supposed to be launched immediately after the explosion. Ledlie's men waited 10 minutes, left their entrenchments, and gawped at the enormous hole once they got to Confederate lines. After milling about for a while, most of them entered the crater, apparently thinking that this was the best way to get at the enemy. The problem was, it was difficult to get out of the crater without ladders and they had none.

This wasn't what was supposed to happen. The original plan was to go around the crater in a kind of pincer movement. The colored division had been trained to do this, but nobody had explained this to the white division chosen to replace them. General Ledlie, the 1<sup>st</sup> Division's illustrious commander, was behind the Union lines having an early morning

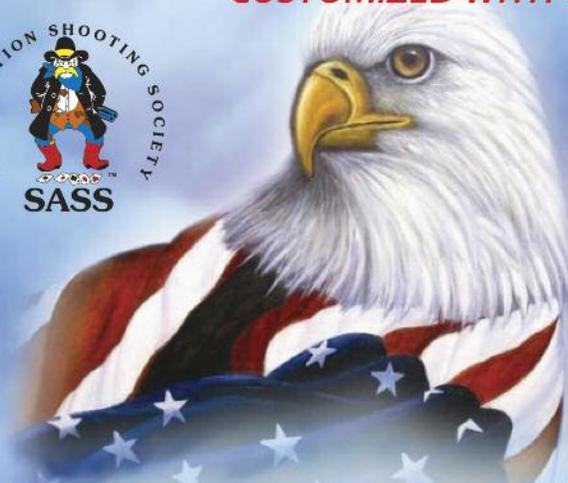
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## The Battle of the Crater

*(Continued from previous page)*

cocktail when the assault began. This whole thing would have been kind of funny except for what followed.

The Confederates recovered quickly after the explosion. (After all, this was Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and what was left of it was tough and very professionally led.) Confederate troops under General William Mahone rushed in to deal with the situation. The bulk of the Union spearhead was essentially stuck in the pit and unfortunately, more of them kept sliding down to join their comrades.

What happened next was similar to going "hunting" at a petting zoo with an assault rifle. The Confederates, who weren't exactly happy



*Ambrose Burnside's name wasn't synonymous wasn't with success.*

about the explosion to begin with, saw their opponents trapped and began shooting into the crater. It was difficult to miss. Soon artillery began firing into the helpless Union troops. There was nowhere to run. Canister at close range makes for a messy battlefield clean up.



*James Ledlie led the spearhead from behind Union lines with a drink in his hand.*

The entire IX Corps, including the colored division, was sent in to support the spearhead hours after the explosion. The colored soldiers did what they had been trained for and went around the crater, and even though they managed to make some progress, it was too late to change the outcome. They fought bravely. One Confederate soldier paid them a tribute and remarked, "They fought like bulldogs and died like soldiers."

However, most Confederate troops had a less chivalric attitude. The very idea of colored troops enraged them and once the colored division arrived on the scene, it drove them into a frenzy. To make matters worse, some idiot had given the colored division the battle cry, "No Quarter!" because they couldn't expect much sympathy if they were captured. (This was probably close to the truth, but it didn't help matters.) Many of the members of the colored division who later tried to surrender were shot down or bayoneted anyway.

By the time Grant called off the attack, the Union soldiers had suf-

*(Continued on page 54)*



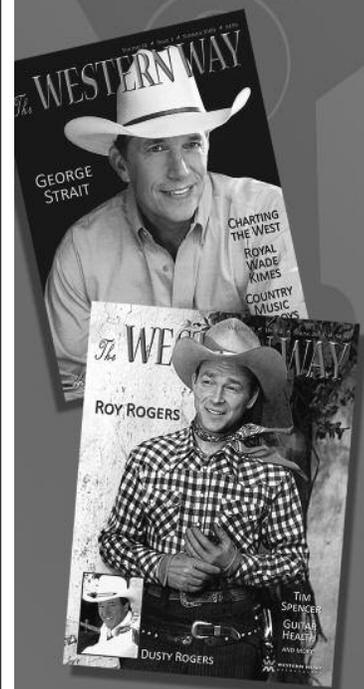
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PHOTOGRAPHER: JANET WARD, NOAA.

## The Battle of the Crater . . .

*(Continued from page 53)*

ferred about 4,000 casualties. (The Confederate casualties were about 1,300.) In the aftermath, Burnside got canned. It was unfair, but probably for the best: Ambrose Burnside didn't exactly have the Midas touch when it came to warfare. General Ledlie was also relieved of command, but this was one of the few good things to come of the battle. Meade, who was as much to blame for the disaster as anyone, escaped official censure. Grant called the Battle of the Crater "the saddest affair I have witnessed in the war."

Petersburg held on until April 2<sup>nd</sup> of the following year (1865). Richmond fell to Union forces the next day. Lee's army had managed to escape but on April 9, it surrendered at Appomattox.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Joe Fasthorse,  
SASS #48769

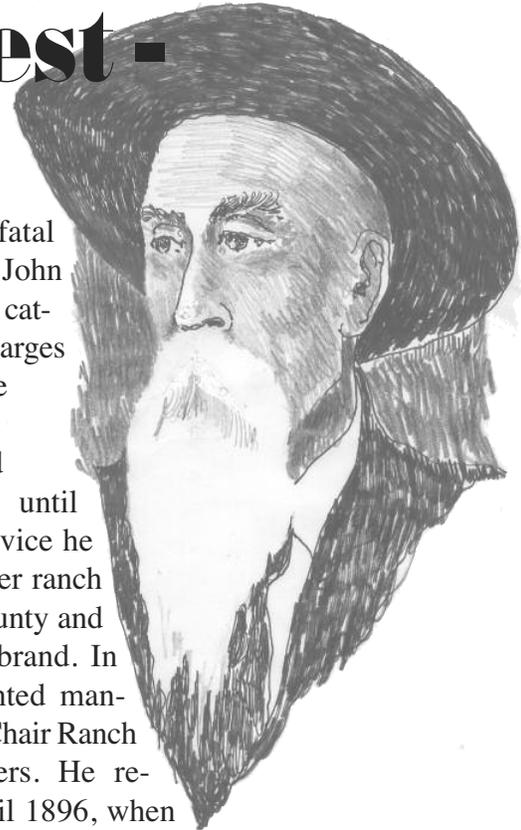
# LITTLE KNOWN FAMOUS PEOPLE

## - Way Out West -

By Joe Fasthorse, SASS #48769

**Captain George Washington Arrington** was a Confederate Guerrilla, Texas Ranger, sheriff and rancher. He was born John C. Orrick, Jr., in Alabama, in 1844 to John and Mariah (Arrington) Orrick. John's father died when he was four. At the age of sixteen, John enlisted in the Confederate Army and rode with Mosby's guerrillas. After murdering a black businessman in 1867, he spent three years in Central America before moving to Texas. It was then that he adopted the name George Washington Arrington to break with his troubled past. Arrington worked for the railroad in Houston and later at a commission house in Galveston. In 1875, George enlisted in Company E of the Frontier Battalion of Texas Rangers. He was promoted from sergeant to first lieutenant in 1877 because of his success in tracking down fugitives and outlaws in the Rio Grande Valley. The following year he was made captain and ordered to Fort Griffin to restore peace in the wake of uncontrolled vigilante action. In 1879 Arrington's company was moved to the Panhandle to investigate widespread depredations at area ranches. To stop the plundering and robbery he established Camp Roberts, the first Ranger Camp in the Panhandle. From there he led his men to chart the area from Yellow House Canyon to Ranger Lake in eastern New Mexico. His troop also located uncharted watering places and secret Apache hideouts. It was at this time he received the nickname Cap. Cap resigned from the Rangers in 1882 to take advantage of local ranching opportunities. After helping area ranchers break up a ruthless rustling ring, he was elected Sheriff of Wheeler County. In 1883 he met Sarah Burnette. They were married that same year and raised a family of two sons and six daughters. During Arrington's years as sheriff, his reputation as the "iron-handed man of the Panhandle" in-

creased with his fatal shooting in 1886 of John Leverton, a suspected cattle rustler. Murder charges were filed against the sheriff but he was acquitted. Cap served as County Sheriff until 1890. During his service he filed on Washita River ranch land in Hemphill County and registered his CAP brand. In 1893 he was appointed manager of the Rocking Chair Ranch by its British owners. He remained manager until 1896, when the Rocking Chair was sold to the Continental Land and Cattle Company. George Washington Cap Arrington died of a heart attack in 1923 and is buried at Mobeetie. 🐾



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# Profiles

## HOW I GOT MY ALIAS

By Buffalo Bri Bowie. SASS #99205



from SASS® and I knew I wanted in. I checked it out and joined and in doing so, I learned I needed to have an alias, so this is how I came up with mine. My Grandpa was John Bowie, farmer, hunter and fisherman, and an all around outdoorsman!

He was also kin to Jim Bowie (yes The Knife and The Alamo). Also a few years ago, a Native American I knew gave me the Tribal Blood Brother name of Grey Buffalo, so Buffalo Bri Bowie was born!

I used to love watching the old Westerns with my Dad and older brothers. Movies with great Western stars like John Wayne and Roy Rogers, and TV shows like *Have Gun will Travel*, *Wanted Dead or Alive*, and so many more... Well, that's my story. Have a Rootin' Tootin' Good Shootin' Day! 🤠

**H**owdy Folks, here's my tale. When I joined Huronia Handgun Club, Ontario, I found out about Cowboy Action Shooting™ from some of the guys. When I went to one of the matches, I loved it. Canadian Marshal (SASS #72066) had a Badge

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# Trail Markers



## Devil Jack

SASS #21901

March 31, 1940 - April 17, 2015

By Clay Alexander, SASS #80068



The Escondido Bandidos lost their stalwart leader, friend, and long-time Match Director Devil Jack (Kenneth Notter) last Spring. Devil Jack, with a couple of friends, formed the Bandidos in 1989 at Escondido Fish and Game where he was president. Ken was an avid shooter and participated in Cowboy Action Shooting™, IDPA, and trap. He loved fly-fishing, was one of the founding members of the Downey Fly Fishers, and was an active member of the Golden State Fly Casters in San

Diego County, serving as their membership chair.

Born in Terra Haute, Indiana, he grew up on a farm, the oldest of five children. It was there he learned his life-long values of hard work and the meaning of commitment. The seventeen-year-old Kenneth met his future wife, Dorothy, while working as a box boy at a local market. Dorothy fibbed a little and told him she was fifteen. She was actually fourteen. They were happily married for 53 years. Ken was devoted to “the most beautiful woman on the planet” and was sure to bring her flowers regularly. They have two children, Kenny and Denise, and one grandson, Jon, of whom he was exceptionally proud.

Ken was married and working full-time when he enrolled at California State Los Angeles to study mechanical engineering. He felt it would help him to better provide for his family. He went to school part-time for several years to earn his degree, all while meeting his commitments. Ken worked at Alcoa Aluminum, Kaiser Aluminum, and Sony, where he was Director of Plant Engineering.

He loved everything western. His favorite cowboy star was John Wayne; his favorite film was *Stagecoach*. He took his alias from the famous Texas Ranger and Mexican War officer, John Coffee “Devil Jack” Hays. Like his namesake, Ken was a natural born leader, an in-charge and steady man. A long-time friend and notorious hothead remarked, “In all the years I knew him, I never saw him get mad.”

Devil Jack was honored at our monthly match with a 37-gun salute. After the match there was a celebration of Ken’s life at the range clubhouse with more than 125 in attendance. His hat and boots and club badge formed a cowboy cross. We take solace in knowing Devil Jack is in a better place and that the good Lord now has by his side one expert fly fisherman. The Bandidos offer their sincere condolences to Dorothy, the Notter family, and to all of Devil Jack’s many friends. 🤞

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# Trail Markers



## Two Dog

SASS #10663

May 6, 1935 - May 2, 2015

By Clay Alexander, SASS #80068



Jim Schaubel, a.k.a. Two Dog, of the Escondido Bandidos, passed away just four days shy of his eightieth birthday. In 1956 at San Diego Junior College Jim pitched and won both games of a double header for a total of 16 innings. He was a star ballplayer and the best third baseman Hoover High ever had. An outstanding athlete all of his life, he was, not surprisingly, one hell of a cowboy shooter. Jim had been approached by the Chicago White Sox to play in their minors but the native San Diegan did not want to leave San Diego or his sweetheart, Bina. Jim and Bina loved to dance to the rock and roll of Elvis, Bill Haley and the Comets, and Buddy Holly. They were happily married for 58 years and had three wonderful boys, Ronny who passed away in 1986, Kurt, and Howard.

Two Dog was an avid outdoorsman and taught the boys how to hunt and fish. He was an expert fly fisherman and would take them on unforgettable trips. They particularly loved fishing for trout and steelhead on the renowned Umqua River in Oregon. Jim loved ocean fishing. In his boat, the *Two Dog*, he caught yellowtail and tuna, yellowfin, bluefin, and albacore. He was thrilled when he hauled in a 200-pound blue marlin in Baja. When asked about his cowboy

alias he said, "No, it isn't that old joke."

One day, predator hunting with a fellow hunter, Jim shot two coyotes and was thereafter known as "Two Dog."

Two Dog is remembered as a happy and content man who loved his family, the

great outdoors, baseball, and the Padres. He was an enthusiastic booster of the San Diego State Aztecs, his son and daughters-in-law are Aztec alumni, and two of his grandchildren are currently attending. As a cowboy shooter, he was a man you would ride the river with. The Escondido Bandidos offer their heartfelt condolences to Bina, Kurt, Howard, Jim's sister Bonnie and husband Jerry, his daughters-in-law Mary and Jamie, and his three grandchildren, Kristy, Dylan, and Alison. The Bandidos fired a 45-gun salute for Two Dog at our June match. To see it, visit the Escondido Bandidos' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/AlpineLil/videos/o.929502823744544/10153422332924602/?type=2&theater>



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## Articles

# COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™ Handout For Spectators

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

*This is the sixth in a series of articles presented by Palaver Pete that provides suggestions for informing the general public about Cowboy Action Shooting™ and Wild Bunch Action Shooting™ as well as safety hints developed over the years. Subsequent articles will cover Range Safety Rules, and Firearms Training. Since summer shooting season is here and more guests can be expected, we are stepping out of order to suggest approaches to be used for visitors. Segment six suggests a HANDOUT as a way to inform your visitors about the games we play—an approach that can be suggested to your entire club or posse. This procedure or tool explains our games in terms the visitor will understand.*

*Keep in mind these articles reflect the opinions of many shooters and are not the sole thoughts of one person—there is nothing original in these opinions—they represent, in many cases, the thought of others expressed over the SASS Net or through The Cowboy Chronicle. If you see something that may not be correct, please send a letter to The Cowboy Chronicle Editor so others may benefit from your observation or experience. The bottom line is the same for all of us: Safety and fun in the game we all love to play. Keep this in mind—You're a Daisy if ya do. PP.*

There are two forms of Cowboy Action Shooting™ (CAS): The Cowboys and Cowgirls you see playing the game on any range in America are called ACTION SHOOTERS—all their shooting is done on foot. The other form is MOUNTED and yes, they shoot from horses. Action Shooters shoot lead bullets at reactive metal targets using various calibers and firearms that existed during the period 1860 to 1899. Mounted Shooters shoot pole-mounted balloons at a gallop with factory made wax loads in caliber .45 Colt only. Both Action and Mounted Shooters are affiliated with the Single Action Shoot-

ing Society® (SASS), the mother organization for this western shooting game called Cowboy Action Shooting™

Non-Cowboy Action Shooting™ persons often ask, “How many categories do you have in Action Shooting?” A very good question that often stumps the most dedicated of Cowboy Action Shooting™ participants, because categories continue to be added. Perhaps what causes the greatest confusion is the fact that many categories have AGE related extensions added to them. The SENIOR Category (age 60+) is a good example. There are Seniors and Senior Ladies, and then there are Silver Seniors for both men and women over 65. These Categories can be further sub-divided into the manner of shooting, *i.e.* traditional (using both hands to hold the revolver), or duelist (holding the revolver in one hand and cocking with the thumb).

Black Powder competitors are basically Frontier Cartridge shooters and yes, that category is further broken down to Frontier Cartridge Duelist, so you see how confusing it can be. However, to answer the question directly, there are at least 30 categories in Action Shooting, not counting a new venue called the Wild Bunch, which gained its origin from the movie of the same name. Currently there are two major divisions within this new Cowboy Action Shooting™ related game, modern and traditional, however, the newness of this venue indicates that more categories may one day be added.

Mounted shooting currently has 16 Categories divided into various gender divisions, plus a recent addition of Mounted Rifle and Shotgun (once again shooting only approved wax loads). Shooting a Rifle and/or Shotgun while galloping along is something to behold. State and regional championship matches for both Action and Mounted shooters are sponsored by SASS and



*Palaver Pete,  
SASS Life/Regulator  
#4375*

*(Continued on next page)*

## Cowboy Action Shooting™ • Handout For Spectators ...

*(Continued from previous page)*

hosted by local clubs. World Championship matches are held at the SASS home range known as Founders Ranch, located a few miles east of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Attendance at these various state and regional competitions often reaches 500 or more and soars into the six or seven hundreds or more at the world event at Founders Ranch.

Well that's it in a nutshell. The only thing consistent in the world of Cowboy Action Shooting™ is change. The newest and perhaps most exciting venue is Wild Bunch. The demand for variety in Cowboy Action Shooting™ has become so loud that sometimes the participants can't hear the shooting. Take care Pard. 🤠

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# Articles

# ONE POT CHUCK

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

By Whooper Crane, SASS #52745, and The Missus

Photos by Deadeye Al, SASS #26454



Whooper and The Missus

### Kenny's Arizona-Style Shrimp Fajitas

Our good shootin' buddy, Kenny Reds, hails originally from Pennsylvania. He's now become a year-round "Zonie," living here in Arizona's Valley of the Sun. Kenny enjoys cooking and, being an Easterner, likes to pull together some specialties from his roots... especially seafood.

Now lobster and bluefish and crabs are the more usual fare from back east, but Kenny has a special fondness for shrimp. Combining that with the desire to serve



One pot (in this case your big skillet) handles your chuck.

it in a southwest fashion, Kenny came up with today's tasty treat: Arizona-style Shrimp Fajitas.

Now, any good Fajita has to have a lip-smacking Guacamole as one of its key ingredients, so we'll start off with one that goes great with seafood... nice and tasty, but not so spicy that it overpowers the subtle flavor of the Shrimp.

### Guacamole

#### Ingredients

- 3 Ripe Avocados
- 1 Cup fresh Pico De Gallo
- 1 Cup Ranch Dressing
- 1 4-oz. can Diced Green Chilis (mild)
- 1 Tsp. Garlic Salt
- 2 Tbs. Lime Juice

#### Directions

Smash up the avocados real well. Add the rest of the ingredients in any order. Stir it all up, adding lime juice to your liking. Set aside to put in your fajitas later.

*(Continued on next page)*





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# One Pot Chuck . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



*Here's a plate full of good stuff, Cowboy!*

## Fajitas

### Ingredients

- 1 Bag of large-size (10") Tortillas
- 1 Lb. of cooked Shrimp (as large as possible)
- 1 Large green or red Bell Pepper, sliced thin
- 1 Large Sweet Onion, sliced thin
- ¼ Cup chopped fresh Cilantro
- ¼ Cup Olive Oil
- Your Guacamole

### Directions

Heat up your biggest skillet over a good fire.

Add Olive Oil.  
 Add pepper slices to skillet.  
 Add Onion slices.  
 Add 8-10 shrimp (you'll want 4-5 per fajita).  
 Sauté (like in the picture) for 10 minutes, turning twice.  
 Lay half the shrimp, peppers and onions in a tortilla.  
 Spoon on plenty of your guacamole.  
 Sprinkle on half of your chopped cilantro.  
 Fold it up like in the other picture.  
 Repeat for the second fajita.  
 Serve with coleslaw and olives on the side.  
 If you've done it right, you have a good meal for two cowfolks.

Want more? Just repeat the directions.

### Note

In our picture you'll see just six shrimp. They were enormous (we scored a deal at Fry's grocery store). The ones you get may be smaller, and if so cook up 8-10.

You'll probably have more guacamole than you need for the fajitas. That's okay... spread it on tomorrow's scrambled eggs. Yum! 🌱



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 (MUST HAVE 3 ENTRIES TO HOLD CLASS)  
 POSSE PREFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_ 4 names max.

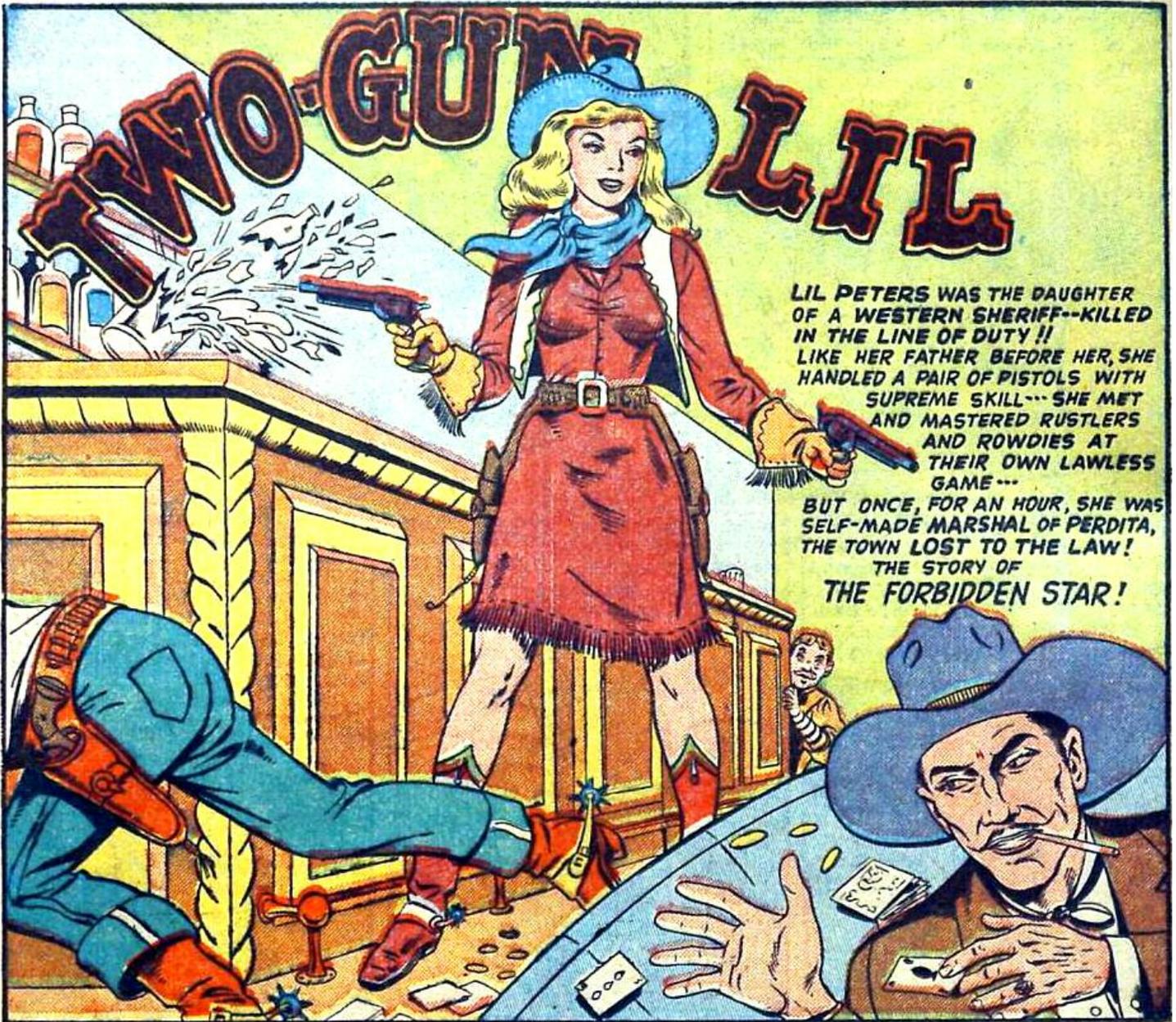
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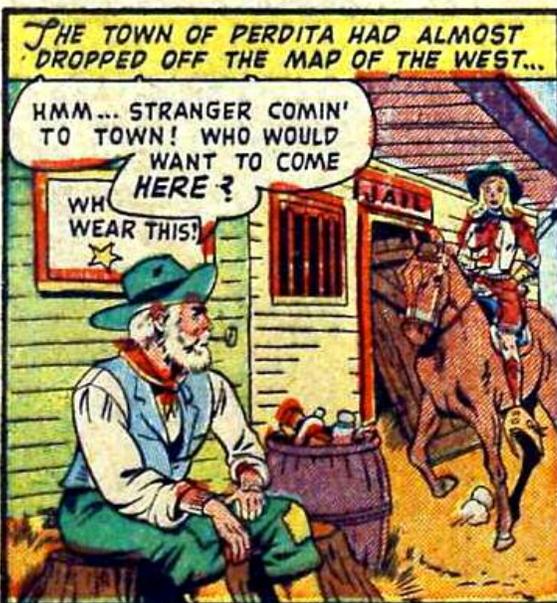
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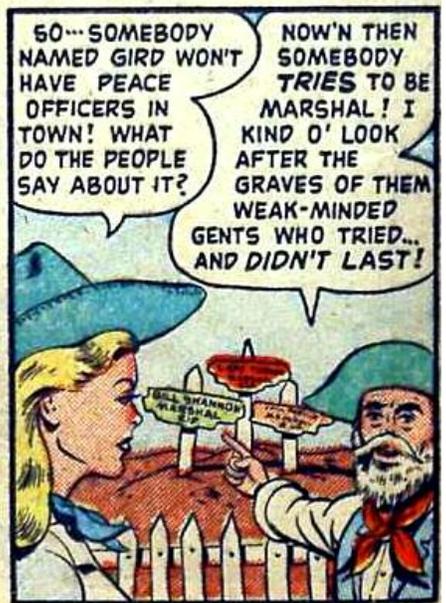
THE TOWN OF PERDITA HAD ALMOST DROPPED OFF THE MAP OF THE WEST...

HMM... STRANGER COMIN' TO TOWN! WHO WOULD WANT TO COME HERE?



JUST WHAT DOES THAT SIGN MEAN, OLD TIMER?  
JUST WHAT IT SAYS, MISS! GIRL... THE CARD SHARP OF THIS TOWN... DON'T ALLOW NO MARSHALS IN PERDITA! NOR NO SHERIFFS, NEITHER!

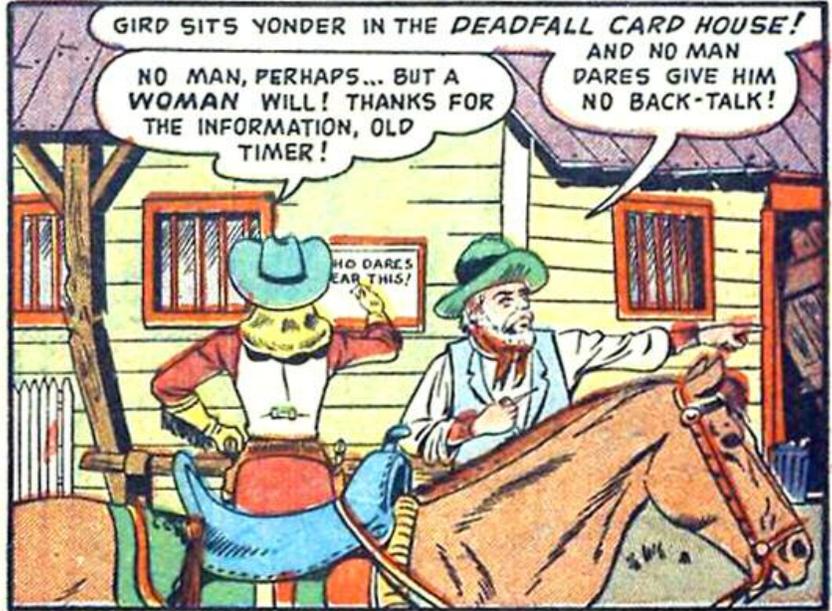
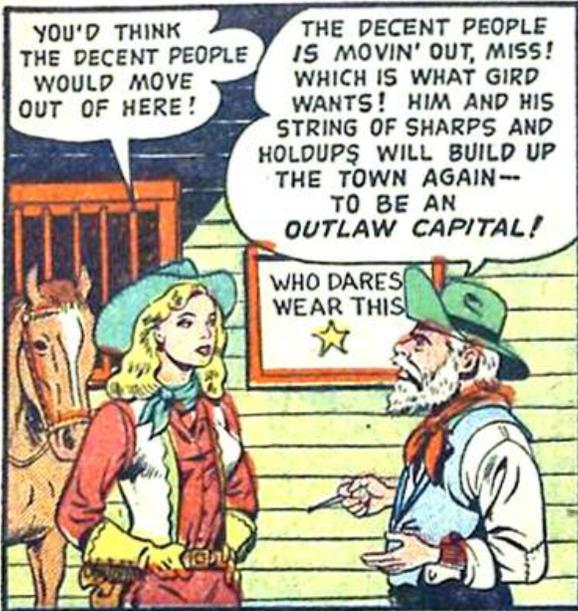
WHO DARES WEAR THIS!



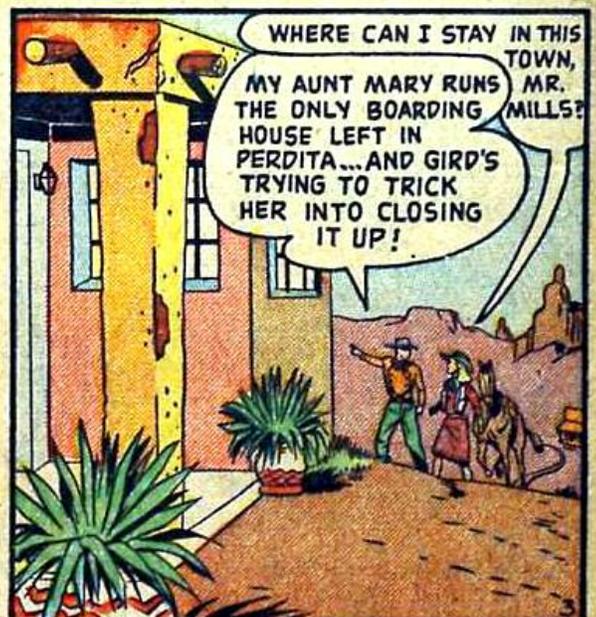
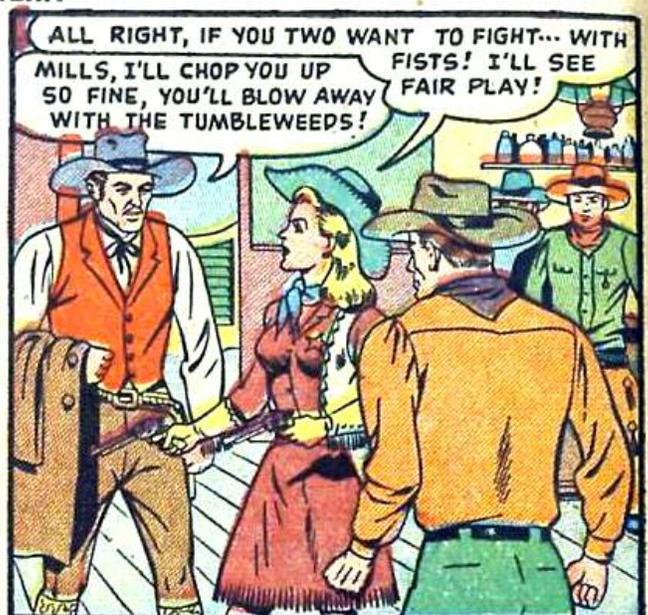
SO... SOMEBODY NAMED GIRL WON'T HAVE PEACE OFFICERS IN TOWN! WHAT DO THE PEOPLE SAY ABOUT IT?

NOW'N THEN SOMEBODY TRIES TO BE MARSHAL! I KIND O' LOOK AFTER THE GRAVES OF THEM WEAK-MINDED GENTS WHO TRIED... AND DIDN'T LAST!

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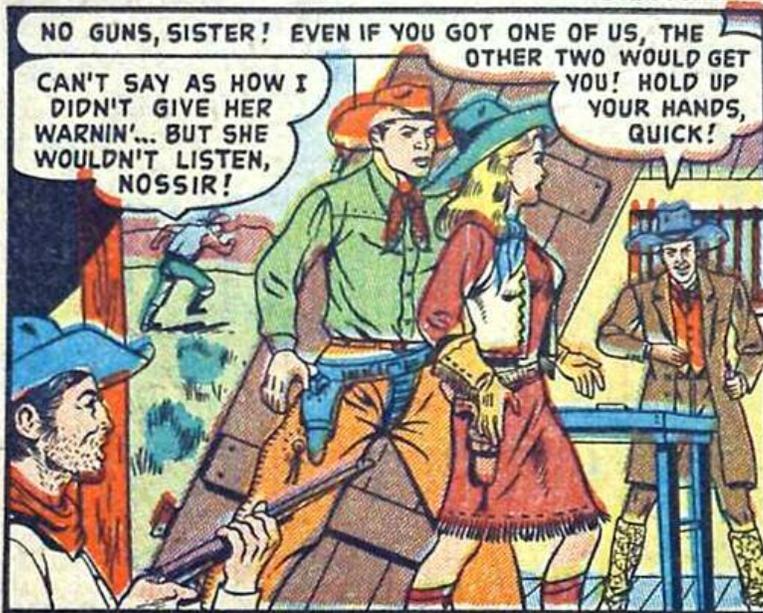
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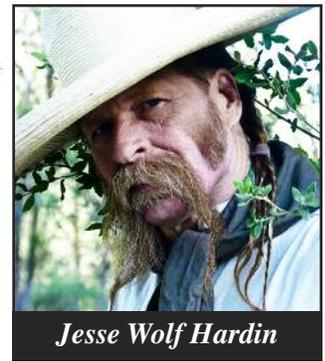


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# Straight Shot

# THE STRAIGHT SHOT



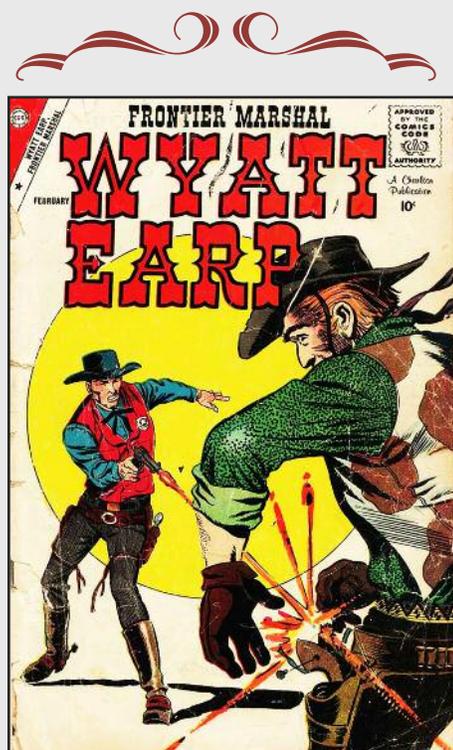
Jesse Wolf Hardin

# Wyatt Earp

## Part II

## Tombstone and A Royal Pain

By Jesse Wolf Hardin



The unrealistic lionization of Earp that began with Stuart Lake was alive and well in the comic books I and others read in the 1960s.

Soon after being run out of Wichita, Wyatt Earp worked two short stints as deputy of Dodge City, possibly shooting one fugitive in the back during a chase, clubbing dozens of rowdy partygoers with the butt of his six-gun, and putting a bullet in the leg of a Texas cowpoke in the course of enforcing an ordinance against carrying guns in town. Resigning his post, he fatefully chose the silver mining town of Tombstone for his next attempts to strike it rich with as little effort as possible. It was there he and his brothers came into conflict with an equally roguish band of part time rustlers who called themselves simply “the cowboys,” with the Earps being both romanticized and provoked by the self proclaimed champion of “law and order,” Tombstone

Epitaph editor John Clum.

In March of 1881, someone with insider information robbed the Benson stage and Wyatt came under suspicion. Years later his brother Virgil’s wife wrote that she had hidden the masks and disguises they used, but regardless of the facts, things were heating up for what would be the shootout upon which much of Wyatt Earp’s future fame was to be predicated. In June, the then Mayor Clum appointed Virgil the town marshal, who in turn temporarily deputized Wyatt and Morgan Earp as well as the always “game” Doc Holliday. By October 15, things had heated up between the contending parties and their respective political bases, beyond the point of hope for a peaceful resolution. It was

*(Continued on next page)*

## The Straight Shot • Tombstone and a Royal Pain . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



WYATT EARP, circa 1923.

*He would live six more years after this photo and die at the ripe old age of 80.*

ironic, many would agree, that the gun-toting, often lawbreaking Earps would again use the enforcement of early, widely-resented gun laws to spark the confrontation that everyone had been so long expecting.

On that infamous afternoon of October 26, word had gone out that “cowboy” faction members Ike and Billy Clanton, Billy Claiborne and Tom and Frank McLaury were armed and gathered in the aforementioned alley, saddled and ready to ride out,

though clearly making a point of taking their time. As was indicated by later trial evidence, of the five cowboys only Billy Clanton and Frank McLaury were actually “packing iron,” while all three of the Earps and Holliday were carrying. While no hard documentation exists, it is reasonable to believe that each of the Earps carried ubiquitous Colt SAA revolvers in .45 or .44-40 caliber, the by far preferred handgun of the period, and that Holliday swung a double barreled shotgun in 10 or 12 gauge that Virgil had handed him, as well a Colt SAA and probably a backup Colt 1877 Lightning or Thunderer double action pistol as well. What Wyatt most certainly did not carry, was the extra long barreled, so-called “Buntline Special.”

The fight apparently went down much as dramatized in the movie *Tombstone*, other than the ridiculous fanning of a dozen rounds into the nearby Fly Photography Studio. Virgil yells at the cowboys, “I want your guns,” as Wyatt draws his Colt and Doc jabs his shotgun menacingly at Tom McLaury. The spunky Billy Clanton pulls his revolver in response, as an unarmed Tom McLaury struggles to get his Winchester 1873 rifle out of the scabbard on his horse. Somewhere up to 30 shots are fired in a space of around 25 seconds or so, a wild melee in which Sheriff Behan

pulls Billy Claiborne to safety, the troublemaking Ike Clanton runs, Billy Clanton shoots at Wyatt, Wyatt shoots at the more formidable Frank McLaury, and Doc puts two loads of buckshot into Tom as his horse spins out of his grasp. The fight ends with the thrice-shot and quickly bleeding-out teenager Billy Clanton hollering for more bullets as he clicks his emptied revolvers, and a dazed Morgan Earp and puckish Holliday, now armed with a Colt handgun, facing down a wounded Frank McLaury who bravely asserts, “I’ve got you now.” “You’re a

*(Continued on page 72)*

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## The Straight Shot • Tombstone and a Royal Pain . . .

*(Continued from page 71)*

daisy if you do,” Holliday is reported to have replied, as he and Morgan simultaneously drop him dead. Scorecard: The McLaury brothers and Billy Clanton, deceased; Doc Holliday, a flesh wound to the hip; Morgan, a round in the shoulder; Sheriff Virgil Earp, a .45 caliber hole through his right calf; Wyatt, unscathed and movie-poster proud. Later, Wyatt and Doc are both arrested, and then freed in November. Judge Spicer felt obliged to drop charges, in part because they hadn’t gunned down the despised but unarmed and retreating Ike Clanton.

Dissatisfied with the ruling, cowboy compatriots ambushed and shotgunned Virgil Earp first, crippling him, and then blew away Morgan Earp as he bent over a billiard table. One of the suspected shooters was Frank Stillwell who, contrary to the movie version, was at work at the stock yards in Tucson and not stalking the Earps when he first had his legs shot out from under him and then suffered two loads of buckshot and four rifle rounds to the

*(Continued on next page)*

# 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 800-1500 words for the printed editions is a good target to shoot for, but shorter pieces are also fine, and we can accommodate larger reports in our virtual-only issues if the material warrants it. We may choose to break very lengthy articles up into two or more parts to run in consecutive issues, or heavily edit them, however.

**Please do not embed your photos in the Word document.**

They can be extracted for use in the The Cowboy Chronicle, but it can be a chore to do that. Instead, send your photos separately, in one or more emails, as attachments. Three to six photos per email usually works best. It’s best to send JPEGs, but other formats are acceptable, and it’s best to keep them at about 300 dpi and 3000 pixels (10 inches) on the short side. That will allow us plenty of leeway when it comes to cropping and adjusting them for publication, but in any case try to use photos that are at least 1000 pixels on the short side. If you’re unsure of the size of your pictures, or how to size them, send what you have and we’ll adjust them.

**Usually, six photos are sufficient for an article, especially for the printed version, but we will consider using more for a “big” event, if provided.**

The digital editions can accommodate more images, as well. Photos need not have captions, but captions always make photos more interesting. Ideally, the caption would consist of one or two sentences that say something about the picture that is not obvious and/or is not implicit in the body of the article. “Sam making smoke” is a title but not a caption. “Sam, SASS #XXXXX, shooting his first black powder match; after much deliberation, he decided to give it a try and now he’s hooked” is much better. A caption may also serve to let everyone know why the picture is worthy of being published in an international newspaper.

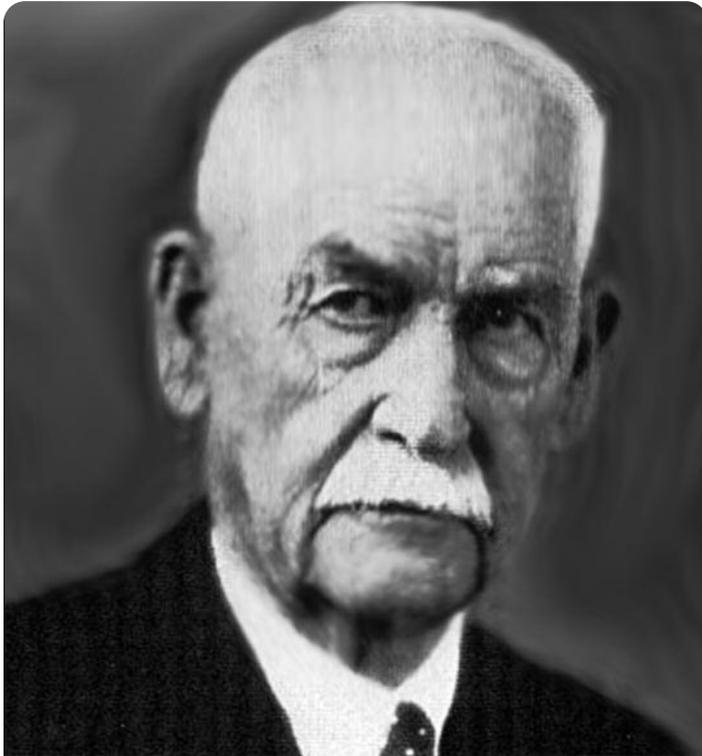
**For digital editions, short video clips may also be included.**

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

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

## The Straight Shot • Tombstone and a Royal Pain . . .

*(Continued from previous page)*



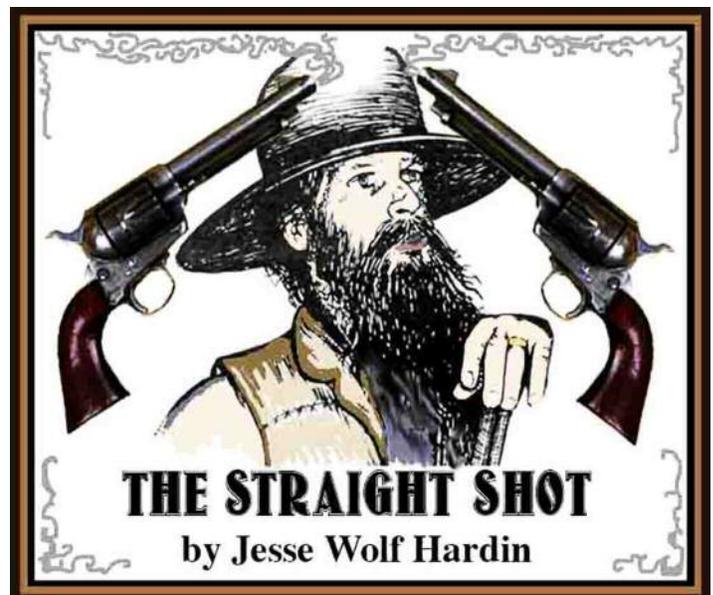
*An aging Earp in Los Angeles, lobbying hard to get Hollywood to make a movie about him. That wish would come true more than once, but not until long after he was dead.*

torso. Earp and friends put five holes in a second suspect, Indian Charley, before he could get away from the area, and the third suspect Pete Spence promptly asked Sheriff Behan to place him in protective custody. Satisfied at having taken the law into their own hands and extracting revenge, Wyatt and Doc left Arizona, not as triumphant lawmen, but as fugitives with warrants out for their arrest and a reward on their heads. For Earp, the O.K. Corral shootout was the historical high point from which he slowly spiraled down into a life of increasing irrelevance and personal desperation.

Hugh O'Brien aside, Wyatt never wore a badge again. Instead, in the ensuing years he traveled around the West with his brother Jim, running confidence schemes and real estate scams, and were arrested a number of times including in Idaho on two counts of claim jumping. His notoriety won him honored work as referee of the world champion boxing match in 1896, a bout which he ended due to a foul he called against contender Fizzsimmons, a judgment it was commonly believed was made because of bets Wyatt had placed on opponent Sharkey. As late as

1911, at age 63, Earp was arrested again for vagrancy and for bilking tourists in a bunko game. In the end, it was no shootout that did him in. The year of the stock market crash, on January 3, 1929, Wyatt Earp died not from bullet wounds but from prostate cancer.

Wyatt spent much of his later life trying to get film star William S. Hart to publish his autobiography and make it into a movie, but Hart found problems with the manuscript's veracity. Stuart Lake held no such reservations, and printed his pack of colorful lies under the title *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal*. Seventy years later, there have been several imaginative programs and movies made about his life, with little understanding of or attention to the complexities and twists of this most famous lawman/outlaw. And we are left with what we as a collective people seem to need more than truth: the hope that can only come from an excitingly portrayed legend. 🐾



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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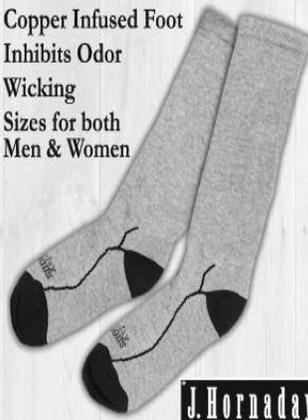
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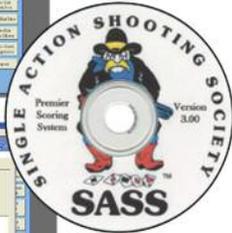
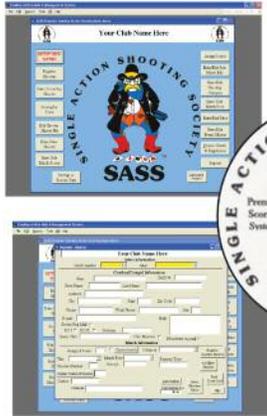
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**SASS Match Management & Scoring System**  
**\$340.00 (Includes \$15.00 for Shipping)**  
**For SASS Affiliated Clubs Only**



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



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



**The Venatical Gun Cleaning System** This simple and reliable gun care system contains all the necessary components to completely and correctly clean you cowboy guns. **Select from; Rifle, Pistol, or Shotgun. \$44.95**

## SASS Winner's Buckle Order Form

Please clip and return this form and mail to: **\$109.95 — (Includes Shipping)**  
**SASS 215 Cowboy Way, Edgewood, NM 87015**

Alias: \_\_\_\_\_ SASS#: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_



### Winner's Buckle Information

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

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

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

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

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

# NEW SASS® MEMBERS

## FROM EACH STATE AND COUNTRY

### AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 31, 2015

#### MEMBERS BY STATE

##### SASS # ALIAS

###### AL

103,182..... Longshot Bob  
103,200..... Miss Half Pint Kay

###### AR

102,963..... Hotshot Cotton  
103,076..... Ouachita Badman

###### AZ

102,919..... Ben Daniels  
102,936..... Jake Silver  
102,954..... King Schultz  
102,977..... Bounty Hunter Berry  
103,036..... Matt Jensen  
103,047..... Doc D Graves  
103,113..... Flying-D  
103,156..... Cool Hand Cole  
103,157..... Two Gun Tally  
103,158..... Wide Eyed Wyatt  
103,165..... Arizona Red

###### CA

102,915..... Wesley Greybeard  
102,927..... Bart Ender  
102,945..... Little Ace  
102,946..... California Drifter  
102,973..... Lieutenant Worf  
102,982..... Belle Beaumont  
103,005..... Sassparilla Shooter  
103,008..... Joshua Tree  
103,014..... 103014  
103,016..... Zig Mar

103,035..... Hawkeye Thunder Scout  
103,062..... Rattlesnake McCoy  
103,063..... Lever Action Larry  
103,064..... Young Gun  
103,068..... JR Brown  
103,074..... Two Shot Bob  
103,098..... Judge Lee  
103,100..... Scalper Sinclair  
103,102..... Mission Dog  
103,141..... 103141  
103,142..... Sugar Sprinkles  
103,162..... Bpaw  
103,170..... Doc Backbone  
103,171..... Linda Loo  
103,178..... Tombstone Tom  
103,196..... Horse Thief Harold  
103,197..... Wild Child  
103,208..... 103208

###### CO

102,920..... Melonhead  
102,971..... Wild Will Hudson  
102,972..... Kalamity Kitty Hudson  
103,017..... Josie Bassett  
103,039..... Katie Belle Liberty  
103,125..... Bare Back Belle

###### CT

102,923..... Justin A. Shootout  
102,937..... William "The Butcher"  
Poole  
103,107..... Deadeye Dick

###### DE

103,019..... Winding Creek Steve

###### FL

102,939..... Chance Boynton  
102,943..... Maine "E" Ack

102,957..... Long Island Lady  
102,965..... Duke Of Death "The"  
103,046..... Suwannee Lawdog  
103,051..... Neighbor Dave  
103,061..... Tacoma Tom  
103,077..... Dead-Aim Dave  
103,095..... Cutthroat Charlie  
103,103..... Okie Dan  
103,106..... Grumpy Bison  
103,177..... Rowdy Red  
103,198..... Tallahassee Lassie  
103,199..... Tularosa Bob

###### GA

103,006..... Georgia Boy  
103,048..... Ethan Sackett  
103,054..... Batt-Outta-Hell  
103,144..... Lady Ace  
103,180..... 103180

###### IA

103,067..... Ranger Huckleberry  
103,134..... Steppenwolf  
103,135..... Dragonfly

###### ID

102,914..... SonShine  
102,941..... Sawtooth Annie  
102,978..... Elk Tracker  
103,121..... Nine Lives Louie

###### IL

102,959..... Rufus Onfyre  
102,960..... Angel Onfyre  
102,970..... Dogmeat's Baroness  
103,111..... Mountain Man Champ  
103,112..... Daisy Ann  
103,122..... Arkansas Desperado  
103,155..... Vavo Bravo

**IN**

103,110..... Dodge City Dave

**KS**103,065..... Howell Jackson  
103,127..... Moosemeat Jackson  
103,133..... Marshal Mabe  
103,187..... Big Iron Mike  
103,188..... Match Stick Miss**KY**102,979..... Bitter Creek McCrae  
103,086..... Hondo Holland  
103,137..... Huckleberry Howell**LA**103,193..... Doc Parson  
103,194..... Lady Sierra Belle**MA**102,983..... Chief Dan George  
103,001..... Rusty Gunderson  
103,092..... Pauly The Kid  
103,179..... Ripple**MD**102,930..... Tumbleweed Tom  
102,933..... Stretch Stapleton  
103,168..... Dastardly Dutchman**ME**

102,975..... Luc-N-Heat

**MI**102,924..... Ka Adik Krista  
102,949..... Appalachian Outlaw  
103,002..... Windy Britches  
103,011..... Jim Wyatt  
103,024..... Kimber Starr  
103,128..... Footsore**MN**102,964..... Mazama Blue  
103,040..... Dirty Dirck  
103,145..... Johnny Wyoming**MO**102,925..... Zumwalt Zeke  
102,938..... Wild Willie G  
102,951..... KanDo Ken  
102,995..... Big Bad John Cook  
103,015..... Cast Iron Bill  
103,038..... Biggun Ornery  
103,085..... Doc "Sheepdog" Earp

103,109..... Huckleberry Red

103,186..... Poker Chip

**MS**102,974..... Clinch Leatherwood  
103,104..... Ranahan  
103,105..... Lakota Leila**MT**102,967..... Tics Girl  
102,968..... Flat Creek Rancher  
102,969..... Blue Water  
102,976..... Little Belt Outlaw**NC**102,948..... Law Dog Mike  
102,998..... Hunter Goode  
103,033..... Capt. Charles Young  
103,066..... Big Daddy D.  
103,205..... Carolina Highlander**ND**103,012..... Stag McGraw  
103,093..... Fearless Lady**NE**103,108..... Scarface  
103,202..... Deadwood Erik  
103,209..... Hat Full of Brass**NH**

103,139..... Old Lobo

**NJ**102,944..... Renegade Angel  
103,021..... Two Pistols Paisano  
103,029..... Needle Foot MacKay  
103,138..... Wild Bill Fury**NM**103,013..... Tweedsman  
103,115..... 103115  
103,173..... Johnny Sharps  
103,204..... Ratlesnake Randall**NV**

103,114..... Snake Shooter

**NY**102,928..... Weasel Murphy  
103,049..... Big Hoss Heatmore  
103,192..... Dusty Acres**OH**102,940..... 102940  
102,955..... Johny Blackhouse  
102,980..... Kathouse Kathy  
102,988..... Sloपालong Casually  
102,993..... Buffalo James Younger  
102,994..... Juanita "Loco" Younger  
103,031..... Buffalo Dutch Dixon  
103,056..... Big George McCoy  
103,078..... Lenny James  
103,083..... Popo Agie Outrider  
103,146..... Kourageous Kay  
103,154..... Artillery Rebel  
103,164..... Gun Totin' Doc  
103,189..... Catherine Longhorn**OK**102,987..... Kaptain Hastings  
102,999..... Barr Bear  
103,018..... River Bottom Ringo  
103,025..... Tommy Ringo  
103,129..... Blacksmith Jake  
103,147..... Outlaw Jack Flash  
103,167..... Short Runner**OR**102,953..... Quick Feet  
102,981..... Hungry Hill Slim  
103,022..... W. L. "Boomer" Nixon  
103,052..... Blue Mountain Kid  
103,055..... Farmer Wiggins  
103,071..... Ms. Sunrise B.  
103,101..... John "Liver Eating"  
Johnson**PA**102,917..... Sergeant Kaz  
102,918..... Hollyanna  
102,921..... Tesla Ranger  
103,045..... One Arm Bandit  
103,050..... JW Silver Rider  
103,088..... Oso Fantasma  
103,089..... Minerva Hex  
103,161..... 103161**SC**102,934..... Baltimore George  
102,950..... Tom Blue  
102,952..... Chainsaw  
103,117..... Capt. Deef Pennell  
103,172..... Guadalupe Pennell  
103,190..... Leveler  
103,203..... Athur Itis

**TN**

102,947..... Smiling Cherokee Jack  
 102,962..... Ricochet Ruthie  
 103,081..... Savoy Sarah Dawg  
 103,082..... Eleanor Rose Dawg  
 103,143..... Jersey Law Dog  
 103,176..... Chinkapin

**TX**

102,922..... Jailhouse Jason  
 102,966..... Sabine Kid  
 102,986..... Spicy Tart  
 102,992..... Augustus  
 102,997..... American Outlaw  
 103,000..... Gnarly Burl  
 103,020..... Lewi Leadslinger  
 103,023..... Will McNutt  
 103,027..... Falcon Bill  
 103,028..... Two Gun Tess  
 103,032..... Swearingen  
 103,057..... Gabby Johnson  
 103,058..... Bluebonnet Girl  
 103,059..... Milo Talon  
 103,069..... Rebel Ranger  
 103,070..... Nash Creek Marshall  
 103,080..... Sassy Trouble Maker  
 103,126..... Mississippi Slim  
 103,150..... Little Bit Sassy  
 103,152..... Sheepdog Sam  
 103,153..... Rootin' Tootin' Realtor  
 103,160..... Mad Hatter "The"

**UT**

102,996..... Skookum Mamuck  
 103,043..... Kicken Asspen  
 103,044..... Mountain Bug  
 103,118..... Chckn Frmr  
 103,140..... Red Creek Kid

**VA**

102,961..... Outlaw Ted  
 102,989..... Good For Nothing No  
                   Good Dirty Scoundrel  
 103,007..... Square Deal Jim  
 103,026..... Marshall Dead Eye  
                   Davidson  
 103,084..... Gracie Guns  
 103,169..... Jimmy Dangerous  
 103,195..... Willie T  
 103,207..... Running Doe

**VT**

102,984..... Gooddrift  
 103,119..... West River Kid "The"

**WA**

102,916..... Pasayten Pete  
 102,929..... Kid Leadslinger  
 102,931..... J. D. Lupo  
 102,958..... I Candy  
 102,990..... Mad Dog Nate  
 103,079..... Buzz Driver  
 103,116..... Kona Cowboy

**WI**

102,926..... Marshall Jon Law  
 102,935..... Marshal Flint  
 103,096..... Buck Thorn  
 103,097..... Vera Thorn

**WV**

103,037..... Phineas Rugsatchel  
 103,184..... Cimarron Phil  
 103,185..... Beaverman

**WY**

103,060..... Wyo Kid

# MEMBERS BY COUNTRY

## SASS # ALIAS

**AB**

103,094..... Whistler  
 103,163..... Morning Glory Alberta

**AU**

102,991..... Michigan Mike

**BC**

103,034..... Wandering Weed  
 103,041..... Sunset Ranger  
 103,091..... Smokin Chaos  
 103,201..... Johnny K. Oss

**FRC**

102,932..... Old Oak Claudee  
 103,136..... Mary F. Ladder

**GER**

103,087..... Slim Hip  
 103,099..... Tom Dee

**NRW**

102,985..... Big River Valley Poacher

103,042..... Old Chatterhand  
 103,151..... Corporal Quint

**NSW**

103,072..... Lead Sprayer  
 103,073..... Ricochet Rose

**NZ**

103,130..... Aldo Raines  
 103,148..... Festus O'really  
 103,149..... Lady Esmay

**ON**

103,004..... Bearclaw Boehk  
 103,053..... Decew Kid  
 103,123..... Sam Bass  
 103,124..... Dee Structive  
 103,174..... El Lobo  
 103,175..... Miss K

**QC**

103,009..... Chakal

**QLD**

103,090..... JP Remington

**SA**

103,075..... Cowbilly





# IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM SASS® HEADQUARTERS



## TO ALL SASS MEMBERS

The Single Action Shooting Society® takes great pride in providing the highest quality product and services to our members, and has for more than 30 years. Price increases are a fact of life at certain points in the economic cycle; and while nobody likes them, no one company can stem the tide.

SASS® and its members operate by a certain code; something we refer to as “The Cowboy Way.” In the spirit of full disclosure to our members, it is with this code in mind that I address your concerns regarding the membership rate increases—with honesty.

SASS® is a business, and that business has been struggling through the dismal economy for some time now. As a multi-faceted organization, our expense streams are extensive and many of those expense streams have been sustained for more than 30 years without a counter income stream to cover them. The result has been a thorough depletion of membership revenue to cover the costs associated with club affiliation and sanctioning fulfillment items.

SASS® tackles consistent challenges regarding membership recruitment and retention; governing and sanctioning fulfillment; club

affiliations; industry partnerships; value and quality of products and services; employees; legal issues; licensing and fees; and insurance.

The fact of the matter is SASS® is faced with a steady decline in revenue and rising numbers in the cost of doing business. Despite valiant efforts to reduce expenses across the board without compromising the quality of our products and services, SASS® still faced significant financial shortfalls. The decision to increase membership dues along with the introduction of a club affiliation fee and the recent implementation of a per-shooter sanctioning fee isn't about profitability it is about sustainability.

## SASS TRANSITION TO A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

As previously stated, SASS® is in the process of transitioning to a Non-Profit Corporation. You may have also caught the term “not-for-profit” corporation in a few instances. Since both terms have been in use, it makes sense to ask, “What is the difference between a nonprofit and a not-for-profit?” In a technical sense, it's probably correct to say there is no significant difference between the two terms. State “nonprofit” or “not-for-prof-

it” corporation statutes sometimes use both terms side by side to suggest they are synonymous. The IRS does make one distinction though. In some publications, the IRS explains that for them, “not-for-profit” refers to an activity, for example, a hobby (like shooting). In contrast, “nonprofit” refers to an organization established for purposes other than profit making. (Note: nonprofit does not necessarily mean “charitable.”) SASS® is consulting with business attorneys on retainer to ensure the transition is successful. It has yet to be determined which of these two designations will best categorize SASS®. I apologize if my interchange of the two terms has caused any confusion.

A lion's share of the work associated with the transition to Non-Profit has been to “sharpen our pencils” and clean out all the corners of the corporation. A detailed examination and evaluation of all aspects of the business has been and is being conducted. It is this scrupulous investigation that has brought to the surface multiple concerns regarding the services and related revenue and expenses.

The transition is in progress. The process is lengthy and tedious to ensure that SASS® is positioned for success.

## SASS MEMBERSHIP

SASS® is a membership organization at its core. Annual SASS® Members are the lifeblood of the organization, and annual SASS® Membership has been in a steady decline for years. Added to that, historically membership revenue has been utilized to cover costs of other SASS® expense streams; i.e., club affiliation support and sanctioning services—services that had been undervalued and offered at no charge for more than 30 years—essentially depleting membership resources and leading to the organization’s inability to grow the benefits of the membership program.

## THE COWBOY CHRONICLE

*The Cowboy Chronicle* ceased being offered in printed format after April 2014. SASS® management anguished over the decision for months, but with the publication *losing* approximately \$24K each month, due to a significant drop in advertising revenue, we were faced with few options. An upward trend in the economy and print media market for publications has been reflected in 2015, leading to SASS® optimism regarding the re-launch of *The Cowboy Chronicle* as a quarterly publication in January 2016. The upward trend is promising, and gives us hope for the re-launch to be successful. However, hope doesn’t pay the printing and mailing costs. A secondary reasoning for the increase in membership rates is to help cover these costs. Printing and mailing costs are estimated at \$30K per issue.

## SASS SANCTIONING FEES

Lovingly referred to as the “SASS® fee” or a “SASS® tax” by many of our members, SASS®

Type	Description	Total #
Annual-Active	Annual, renewing annually members	19867
Corporate	Corporate members	7
Endowment	Non- renewable, no revenue impact	97
Life	Non-renewable, no revenue impact	7568
Patron	Non- renewable, no revenue impact	53
Military	Membership “on hold” while on deployment	9
Inactive	Inactive members	67750
Invalid	SASS® #'s marked as invalid; skipped #'s that were not issued	41
None	“None” is a classification for members who do not want to be contacted by SASS®.	3328
Deceased	Deceased SASS® members (upon notification to SASS® HQ, the members profile type is marked as deceased)	1768
Unknown	Variance in un-issued SASS® numbers	2722
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>103210</b>

Sanctioning fees were implemented in 2013 for SASS® Sanctioned State Championship matches. Regional Championships were brought into the structure in 2014, and 2015 includes the Divisional Championships. Sanctioning of a shooting match by the parent organization ensures the event will meet the highest standard of safety and consistency, and by hosting a sanctioned event you communicate that to your customers/members. The implementation of sanctioning fees beginning in 2013 was a necessity in order for SASS® to continue to provide the highest level of quality support, awards, and prizes to these host clubs without continuing to deplete declining membership revenue in order to do so.

## SASS CLUB AFFILIATION

Club affiliation, and the benefits and support it entails, is another SASS® expense stream that has historically been absorbed by dwin-

dling membership revenue. Upon detailed evaluation of the expenses associated with this service, it became clear that it could no longer be offered at no charge to the club. Consequently, the recent incorporation of an annual SASS® Club affiliation fee was announced. The collection of the nominal associated fee takes some of the pressure off of the already weakened membership revenue and can begin to rely on some of its own revenue to maintain and grow the SASS® Club affiliation program and support packages.

## SASS MEMBERSHIP PRICING HISTORY AND FUTURE

Initial reactions may be that the increase of \$20 per year per member translates as extreme. But considering that membership rates have remained untouched for 10 years, the increase translates into a \$2 increase per year over 10 years that

happened to come at once, despite our best efforts to do everything in our power to keep rates down.

A financial analysis of our membership revenue and expenses reflected the immediate need for a \$16 increase to cover basic membership expenses. The determination of a rate increase of \$20 per member is in preparation of investing that additional \$4 per member back into the Membership program, elevating the quality of membership materials and expanding member benefits.

The implementation of sanctioning and club affiliation fees to cover their own expense streams takes a significant amount of pressure off the membership revenue long term. These elements help to reduce the possibility of increases to the SASS® membership pricing well into the future.

## **SASS OPERATING EXPENSES**

I have covered income concerns and shared with you the steady decline in SASS® membership. Now I would like to outline a sampling of SASS®' expenses:

### **Payroll & Benefits**

- Wages & Salary
- Payroll Processing
- Employee Benefits/Health

### **Plan**

- Contract Labor
- Payroll Tax
- Workers Compensation
- Employee Education

### **General Expenses**

- Insurance
- Property Tax
- Taxes, Licenses & Fees
- Legal & Accounting
- Amortization & Depreciation
- Merchant Services
- Bank Charges
- Association Fees
- Rent

### **Event Expenses**

- Site Prep

- Food/Provisions
- Hospitality
- Equipment Rental
- Labor
- Entertainment
- Advertising
- PR/Marketing

### **Operations Expense**

- Computers & Software
- Repairs & Maintenance
- Equipment Rental
- Printing/Art/Film
- Postage, Shipping, and Supplies
- Utilities
- Website Design & Maintenance
- Office Supplies

### **Awards & Prizes**

- SASS Stock – pins & badges
- Sanctioning Fulfillment

### **Membership Materials**

- Membership cards
- Envelopes
- Decals & Promo items

### **Business Development**

- Advertising
- Dues & Subscriptions
- Promotions
- Marketing
- Travel Expenses

### **Club Support**

- Club resource materials
- Fulfillment expenses

As you can see from the outline above, the expenses associated with being in business are significant. SASS® has made every effort to reduce expenses wherever possible without compromising the quality of the products and services we provide.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

SASS® ranks stewardship of funds at the highest of priorities. Yes, there have been some gambles in the past that didn't have the anticipated result. For example, in 2005 large amounts of SASS® money was spent on a TV series "Cowboy Action Shooter"; that was a resounding "flop." Along the way some advertising and membership campaigns have been a bust.

SASS® pays its employees a fair wage, and provides health coverage. There are no exorbitant salaries or bonuses. When SASS® relocated its World Headquarters to Edgewood, New Mexico in 2009, the total staff at the facility dropped from 15 to 5.

Revenue is expended with the utmost care to ensure SASS®' good standing in the industry, cover operational costs, and provide the highest level of quality in goods and services to its members.

## **CLOSING**

We cannot do this without you. Despite our efforts to "right the ship" and position SASS® in a manner that will ensure its future for generations to come, if we do not have the support and confidence of our members... we simply will not make it.

The mission statement of SASS®, circa 1987, is "To Preserve and Promote the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting™." It is that common goal and activity that ties us all together and forms the SASS® membership organization. Our members, who surround SASS® joined by a common interest to honor and celebrate the traditions of the Old West, support our mission. We have not lost sight of that mission. SASS® has led the charge in the Shooting Sports Industry, setting the gold standard for safety and consistency in shooting competitions worldwide.

It is my sincere hope that every SASS® member is proud to be a part of this fantastic organization and that each of you are willing to stand with us during this crucial transitory time. Together, and only together, we can ensure SASS®' viability for our grandchildren's grandchildren.

Respectfully,  
Misty Moonshine  
Chief Executive Officer

# 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**