

Traditionally the society teaches firearms safety in our community with the Eddie Eagle program; raises money for the Salvation Army during the Christmas holidays; holds at least two Concealed Carry class per year; participates in Alaska Fish and Game's annual Kids Day; and, donates the proceeds our annual charity shoot to the Wounded Warrior project at Ft. Wainwright.

Non-shooting members have been invaluable support to the society's shooting activities in the areas of registration, site construction, hospitality and serving as stage officials.

Given the welcoming atmosphere and pace of the society's matches, many non-shooters have been enticed into becoming active competitors.

### How do I join?

It's easy to become a member of the society. Applicants must sign the following pledge:

**"It is the intention of GHSS to always conduct ourselves on the principles of Honesty, Fair Play and the Cowboy Way. We will be excelled by no other in our behavior, honesty, integrity and the general high character of our members. To this end as an applicant for membership I certify that I am an honest and law abiding individual and will conduct myself in the true "spirit of the game". I understand that I do not have to shoot to be a member; however, if I do shoot I must demonstrate proficiency with the firearms to be used. I also certify that I am not precluded from possessing a firearm by law or conscience."**

Membership dues are \$40 a year for individuals and \$60 a year for families. Life time memberships are also available for a modest fee.



### When do we meet?

The society holds its monthly meetings at 7:00 PM, on the last Tuesday of every month except May and December at the AK Buffet at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Steese in Fairbanks.

### Other affiliations?

The Golden Heart Shootist Society is the local affiliate of the Single Action Shooting Society©. While it is not necessary to join **SASS©** to be a member of the Golden Heart Shootists, it is recommended—particularly if you want to compete on a state, regional, or national level. By joining **SASS©**, members receive many benefits including permanent shooter's alias registration

and member/shooter number; a **SASS©** badge, membership card and lapel pin; a **SASS©** decal; and a yearly subscription to **The Cowboy Chronicle**, the monthly journal of the society. Complete details may be found at **SASSnet.com**.

### Whom can I contact?

For further GHSS information and to download a membership application please check out our website: **GHSSFairbanks.org**.

Or, you can contact:

—Drover Knutts

[rd8734@outlook.com](mailto:rd8734@outlook.com)

907-749-9339

—Kootenai Brown

[DBS@gci.net](mailto:DBS@gci.net)

907-374-0331

Or, by snail mail: **The Golden Heart Shootist Society**, P. O. Box 55592, North Pole, AK, 99705



# The Golden Heart Shootist Society

The Golden Heart Shootist Society is the oldest Cowboy Action Shooting club in the state of Alaska. Almost 20 years old, the group sponsors a variety of CAS venues throughout the year; encourages the recreational use of firearms among our young people and firearms safety through the presentation of the NRA's Eddie Eagle program; and supports a number of community activities and programs.

### What is Cowboy Action Shooting?

Cowboy Action Shooting is just that: a multi-firearm competition that focuses on the clothing and firearms in use during a specific time period in American history, 1850-1900 and/or "B" western movies; the shooting stages involve movement; and participants are judged on their ability to engage targets safely with speed and accuracy. The fastest growing sport in the country, The Single Action Shooting Society ©, cowboy shooting's international sanctioning body, presently has over 120,000 members and is growing by 4,000 members a year.

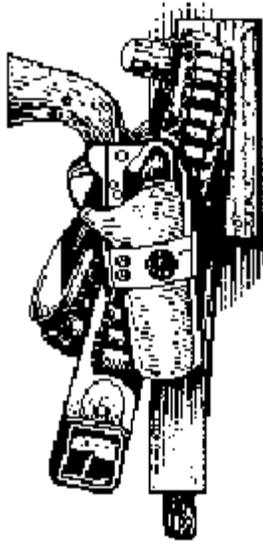
Locally, the Golden Heart Shootist Society has over 350 members on its roll with about 60 active and is also growing steadily.

### What is the format of CAS matches?

Cowboy matches can be



one-day or multi-day affairs. Each occasion involves shooting various stages in which shootists may use pistols, rifle and shotgun or any combination of all three. At each stage, competitors are timed while shooting at a variety of targets in a particular order. Scoring is a function of speed, accuracy, compliance with procedure and conformity with specific safety rules.



Shooters are eligible to compete in a variety of categories based on gender, age, smokeless or black powder, metallic cartridge or percussion, and shooting style: one handed, two handed, or "smoke wagons" in both hands.

In addition to the main match stages, Cowboy matches can also have side matches which may call for the use of single-shot buffalo rifles, tomahawks, lariats, bull whips, derringers, pocket pistols and 22 caliber rifles and pistols.

## ***What do I wear?***

To add enjoyment to this shooting game, cowboy action shooters should adopt an old-west persona complete with alias. As a consequence of this personal choice, each person's wardrobe will develop in support of the role they are portraying whether it be a gunfighter, lawman, vaquero, cattle woman, doctor, cavalry trooper, saloon girl or judge. "B" western attire is also appropriate.

Because gathering up a wardrobe can be a challenge and expensive, new comers to the sport are welcome to participate as long as they are making an effort to dress appropriately. A cowboy hat, a western shirt, denim trousers and boots will get you started. Eye and ear protection

are required for safety reasons. Tennis shoes, shorts, baseball caps and "Tee" shirts are not allowed.

## ***What do I shoot?***

Period firearms or their reproductions are required and consist of percussion or metallic cartridge single action revolvers; a lever action rifle of a pistol caliber; a double, lever or pump, external hammer, shotgun. Pistol ammunition is limited to flat point, lead bullets at no more than 1,000 fps while rifle ammunition is capped at 1,400 fps. Scattergun bores can be no larger than 10 gauge or smaller than 20. Shotgun fodder must be #4 lead or smaller. Magnum and high-velocity loads are not allowed. All shotguns must have a barrel over 18" in length.

## ***Where can I shoot?***

The Golden Heart Shootists' home range is located on the grounds of the Chatanika Gold Camp north of Fairbanks. The range is comprised



of five, bermed, shooting bays complete with old west store fronts. There is plenty of space on the grounds for modern or primitive "dry" camping and commercial lodging is available in the immediate area.

Monthly matches are held on the second Saturday and last Sunday of each month, May through September, weather permitting. Normally, registration starts at noon and the first rounds go down range at 1:00 PM. A modest \$10 shooting fee is assessed. The GHSS range is also the site of a yearly three-day Cowboy Camp held over the Memorial Day weekend; a Summer Solstice shoot on June 21; and, the Alaska State SASS© championship match held on the second weekend of July.



During the winter months the club shoots on a monthly basis at the Air Curtain house on the Ft. Wainwright Known Distance range.

## ***Must I shoot?***

No. While the society is fundamentally a shooting club, there are a number of members who are non-shooters and who have joined simply because they want to learn more about this period in our history and enjoy participating in the society's non-shooting activities. One particularly favorite event is attending premiers of Westerns at our local movie theater in full costume followed by dinner at a local eatery.