

April Shoot Sees Eleven Warm Up

Sunny skies and warm temperatures welcomed the eleven shooters who turned out for the April 12th practice shoot at Diamond Mac and Rusty's place in Salcha.

Judge Yukon Hatch returned to his winning ways as he topped ten other hopefuls to post the winning score of 141.11 for four stages.

Smithy Jim was second with 148.23, Duelist Poco Loco Louie took third with a total tally of 150.44 and Diamond Mac, shooting Gunfighter, was fourth with a score of 173.04.

The rest of the order were: Lead Monger, shooting Frontier Cartridge, 178.64; Nick M. Good, 265.83; Lead Spittin Rusty, 280.78; Pokin' A. Long, 382.66; Mattie Mahula West, 455.28; Alaska Renegade, 504.75; and new shooter, Doc Harley Davidson shot a 147.43 in the only two stages he was able to shoot due to time constraints.

"For all intents and purposes, this will be our last shoot until Cowboy Camp," noted Diamond Mac in his report on the shoot given at this week's Executive Board meeting. He went on to explain that the area used for this month's shoot was now covered in water from the melting snow pack. "I guess you could say we now own lake-front property," he quipped.

The emergence of squib loads and quirky equipment malfunctions testified to the importance of these "shake-down" shoots prior to the beginning of the summer shooting season.

GHSS Round-up...

It's Break-up!

E-Board considers many topics Preparing for a busy summer

Because May is going to be a very busy month for the Society, the GHSS Executive Board dealt with a variety of topics in a mara-

thon session Tuesday evening.

In addition to the regular reports, the group also dealt with the on-going

plans for the July SASS State Championship Shoot, Alaska Fish and Game's Kid's Day, Cowboy Camp over the Memorial Day weekend and an early May Range Officer training session.

Moving off the table the question of what to do about Category awards for the State Shoot, the group voted to present awards to all category winners as opposed to awarding only those winners who shot in categories comprised of at least three shooters. Last year, winners were honored in 34 out of a possible 37 categories. Along with this, the board agreed to return to the club's previous practice and purchase an individual trophy to be awarded to the Overall Champion in addition to their name being inscribed on the

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Lead Spittin Rusty and Judge Yukon Hatch share a moment of mirth during this month's practice shoot at Rusty and Diamond Mac's place in Salcha. Eleven shooters, including one newcomer, shot four stages in a day that turned out to be sunny and warm. Photo: Pokin' A Long.

Just a Reminder!

Gun Show table staff

Signing up to staff the GHSS table at this weekend's TVSA gun show were:

(Sat.) Brasspounder, Inupiaq Aka, Kootenai Brown, Wind Drifter, Light Rider, Sweet Caroline, Pokin' A Long.

(Sun. AM) Lead Monger, Kootenai Brown, Wind Drifter, Desperado Rose. (Sun. PM) Wind Drifter, Alaska Renegade, Light Rider, Sweet Caroline.

Looking Good...



Doc Harley Davidson, GHSS's newest shooter, tries his hand at the rifle targets at the club's last shoot. Photo: PAL

State Registration Fees set

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traveling trophy.

Still on the State Shoot, the group voted to purchase sandwiches for lunch during the shoot from the Acord Company and to roll the cost into the registration fee. With this in mind and after some discussion, the board voted to increase the registration fee for shooters to \$125 for those registering prior to June 6th and to \$150 for those registering after this date. There was no increase for registered non-shooters.

Continuing its focus on food, the group agreed to send out a scouting team to check in with Chatanika Lodge about the state shoot banquet. (An early report from that crew states that the Lodge has booked the ban-

quet date and is in the process of working up a menu for the dinner. We can expect a full report at next Tuesday's member-

Smoke'm, if you see'm!



A cartridge case goes flying as Lead Monger burns up the targets with his blackpowder loads. Diamond Mac runs the timer. Photo: PAL

How 'bout Master Gunfighter?

The on-going discussion among the Executive Board about categories has really touched on a topic that I'm fond of cogitating on a fairly regular basis. The fact of the matter is that the steady growth of categories within the ranks of SASS has almost gotten out of hand. The Contrarian side of me posits that it won't be long before we have advocates pushing for a category for left handed, one-eyed, bald, fat men. The more positive side of my nature retorts that it is good to have as many hooks in the water as possible if we're going to catch new members while keeping the interest of veteran competitors. Of course, the truth is probably some-

where in the middle if we acknowledge the fact that the general membership of SASS is steadily growing older and, because of this, we have to keep leveling the playing field so that even crotchety old guys like me feel that they are being dealt a fair hand that insures competing against peers.

While being a SASS club requires that we conform to SASS rules in sanctioned matches, in local shoots there is nothing that says we can't be creative when it comes to developing our own categories. As noted previously in these pages, I am a proponent of expanding local Wild Bunch shoots to in-

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ship meeting.)

Moving on to pending May activities, the group voted to schedule a Range Officer One training session for May 10th at St. Jude's Church on Laurence Road in North Pole.

Also a refresher course for Range Officer Two, the session will run from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Participants were encouraged to bring a brown bag lunch.

On May 17th, Alaska Fish and Game is planning to host their annual Kid's Day at which the Society hosts a blackpowder shotgun/rubber band gun shoot for those children interested. However, since the club has not heard from AF&G as to whether or not the event is still on, the group agreed to pass around a sign-up sheet at next week's club meeting with the understanding that the event may be cancelled at the last minute due to ground conditions on the site.

Rounding out May activities, the group did extensive work laying out the schedule for this year's Cowboy Camp over the Memorial Day weekend. (See side bar this issue.) A brochure advertising the event was also proofed

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Board Sets Tentative Cowboy Camp Schedule

Cowboy Camp 2014, the official start of the Society's shooting season, is starting to take form as a result of Tuesday's Executive Board meeting.

The tentative schedule is shaping up to look like this:

Friday, May 23rd:

--Afternoon/Evening, Set-up, Sight in, Socializing.

Saturday, May 24th:

9:00 AM, Flag raising

10:00 AM, two illustrated stages for new shooter orientation

12:00 Noon, Lunch Break

1-2:00 PM, Final illustrated stage for new shooters as well as one-on-one instruction

3-6:00 PM, Novelty 22LR shoots

(Bring your 22 cal. pistols, rifle and lots of ammunition. If you do not wish to use the 22 cal. firearms, you may use your main match guns as separate category.)

--Team shoot, pistols, rifle, and shotgun

--Turtle shoot

--Hanging Briquettes

--Spaghetti shoot

--Card/Candle shoot

6:30 PM, Community Bean Pot, pot luck supper

Sunday, May 25th:

10:00 AM, Cowboy Church

(Open to ALL, just friends getting together)

12:00 Noon, registration for shoot

1:00 PM, Begin shooting six stages, one of which will be the SASS postal match

7:00 PM, GHSS Birthday Party. Cake will be furnished, bring your own drinks

Monday, May 26th:

9:00 AM, Flag raising with prayers for all those who have died in service to our country

9:30 AM, Registration

10:00 AM, Begin shooting six stages, one of which will be the SASS postal match

Note: All times and activities are projections and may be subject to change due to weather or conditions over which we have no control.

Board mulls May dates

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and will be available for distribution at this weekend's gun show. The flyer will also be posted in local businesses.

Because of the need for continuing work on the State Shoot, the board will hold its regular scheduled meeting in May but, because of Cowboy Camp, there is no May Membership meeting.

Under Old Business, the group heard a report from Wind Drifter that noted in the end, due to a number of circumstances, only two people graduated from the

Did you know...

...The little bud on the depth gauging rod of an RCBS powder checker die weighs about 40 grains? (This is important to know just in case it comes undone and decides to go its own way while you're pumping reloads through your progressive press.)

...The proprietor of the Smith Shop, where many folks buy parts for their Open Tops, has retired?

...Wyatt Earp was born on March 19, 1848 and was 40 years old when he and Josie moved to Alaska in the fall of 1897 to run a saloon in Nome. The Earps traveled back and forth to the lower 48 until 1900, when they sold their saloon and headed south with an \$85,000 grub stake.

Prayers please...

...For Gold Duster, who is seriously ill, and for Lee Penwell, who is also quite ill. He is known by many Society members as a regular at local gun shows and a purveyor of hard-to-find parts for old guns.

Concealed Carry Class. Of the knife makers, only four individuals have not completed their knife projects, while the rest of the group is now working on making leather sheathes for their creations. In response to his report, the Board voted, in future, to require pre-registration for CC classes and, with the rapid onset of the shooting season, to delay the formal start of the leather-making class until sometime this fall.

On behalf of banker Callie Crossfox, who is traveling, Kootenai Brown reported that there had only been minimal response to the June garage sale fund raiser for the club. The group decided that fate of the event will be decided by one more "go-round" of the sign-up sheet at Tuesday's meeting.

Under regular reports, Membership Secretary Sweet Caroline noted that a careful screening of the membership list identified 46 active life members of the 60 on the roll and 20 annual members. This number is significant because it is one of the determining factors which set the club's range insurance premium. The group agreed by consensus to draft a letter to inactive life members to touch base with them and see if we can encourage them to become more active.

Finally, in his Territorial Governor report, Kootenai noted that while the SASS Wire seemed to be down, individuals could still register on-line for the postal match. In state news, he noted that the Alaska 49'ers will host the state Wild Bunch Championship on May 18th and the state Black Powder Championship on May 30th.

Would you Master Gunfigher?

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clude a Mexican Expedition era category that would allow the use of early WWI bolt action rifles (shooting lead bullets,) period-correct double action revolvers and '97 pump shotguns. There certainly is precedent for this as the Chronicle has reported that at least one club has held a "Roaring '20's shoot" complete with Thompson semi-auto sub guns. (Though to be honest, I don't believe the idea really caught on nationally. Understandably so since, in my mind at least, emulating John Dillinger and Baby Face Nelson isn't near as much fun as pretending to be Roy Rogers, the Cisco Kid or Matt Dillon.)

Yet another idea that has recently surfaced

is that of creating a "Master Gunfighter" category that would allow the use of any shooting style in any stage. If you were to shoot this category you would have the option of choosing the style you think best after viewing the target lay-out at each stage. Now this could be quite the challenge for veterans as well as a goal that new shooters could work towards meeting. (GHSS has a rule that you can't shoot gunfighter until you've gained at least a year's experience and competency in Double Duelist.)

When I first started Cowboy Shooting, I set a goal for myself of doing well in each shooting style. Since then, I've gotten bitten by the Duelist bug and I can't seem to shake it's effects. Master Gunfighter could well draw me out of the familiar and into something different. How 'bout you? ---Poco

Easy does it....



Bear Creek Bill carefully smooths out a rough spot on his knife project during last month's knife making class. While four students are still working on their knives, most of the others have moved on to making a leather sheath for their creations. Photo: Wind Drifter

Forlorn fort...



Tricky drive...



Above are two views of the current conditions at the GHSS range on the grounds of the Chatanika Gold Camp. While there has been a considerable amount of thawing and melting of the snow cover, the resultant run-off produces its own issue in the form of soft, muddy ground. If temperatures remain in the high 50's, it looks fairly certain that the range should be ready by the time Cowboy Camp rolls around Memorial Day weekend. Photos: Wind Drifter