

# Show Time!

## *ATG Gun Show*

### *Is a fun venue*

### *For recruitment*

The Society begins the new year participating in one of the activities that defines it as a healthy, living organization: promoting the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting at a local gun show.

In this instance, GHSS will be staffing two tables at the Alaska Territorial Guard gun show at Pioneer Park on Saturday and Sunday, February, 22-23. The theme of our display will be the guns used in CAS.

A sign-up sheet passed around at the January general membership meeting resulted in the following volunteers:

**Saturday**, (Morning) Wind Drifter, Judge Yukon Hatch, Poco, Valencia, Lead Monger and Three Bars Keeton. (Afternoon) Wind Drifter, Poco, Valencia, Judge Yukon Hatch, Montana Kid Hammer.

**Sunday**, (Morning) Red Roy, Wind Drifter, Berry Woman. (Afternoon) Red Roy, Wind Drifter, Poco, Valencia, Drover Knutts.

"Just because you didn't sign up it doesn't mean you can't show up and lend a hand," said Poco Loco Louie, the outfit's Trail Boss. "It's really a lot of fun visiting with old and new friends at the show and being able to talk at length about our sport."

For many attendees, the Golden Heart Shootists' display tables are a "must see," providing an opportunity to see the latest in cowboy guns and also the

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## An experienced corps of instructors

## Share their knowledge of reloading

Instructors outnumbered students as GHSS held an introduction-to-reloading seminar in the garage of Kootenai Brown and Callie Crossfox's house. Just Yukon and Alaskan Lady Lou came to partake of the knowledge that Brasspounder and Judge Yukon Hatch offered with assistance from Montana Kid Hammer.

Brasspounder laid the groundwork for the session. "There are 3 must

have to get started in reloading," says Brasspounder, "a good reloading manual, a good powder scale, and a set of precision calipers. Everything else falls into place after you know how these tools work."

Kootenai demonstrated the equipment he uses, starting with case cleaning equipment. He uses a vibratory cleaner with crushed walnut shell media, and usually adds a

squirt of Brasso. He showed "before" and "after" cases. Alaskan Lady Lou contributed that she puts a piece of dryer sheet in the vibratory tumbler to absorb the grime and dust generated in case cleaning. Kid Hammer added that he gets good results with corn cob media, and others, like Smithy Jim prefer stainless steel pins. Brasspounder noted that

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## *Reluctant approval...*



**An unidentified gun show official and Wind Drifter at GHSS's first appearance at a local gun show. After much persuasion, Drifter was able to wrangle enough space for a card table and used every inch of it to promote the newly-formed club. Photo: Berry Woman**

## Now let me think about this...



**Student Alaska Lady Lou poses a puzzler to reloading instructor Judge Yukon Hatch during this month's Introduction to Reloading class. Photo: Kootenai Brown**

## Reloading...

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you can also just wash the cases with soap and water and dry them thoroughly with satisfactory results. There was also some discussion on the process for cleaning cases. Brasspounder prefers to decap cases before cleaning so that he can use a primer pocket cleaning tool on those that need it. Others decap after using a vibratory cleaner.

Brasspounder then went through the setup of dies on the single stage press. Kootenai has a Lee Challenger press, mounted to a 1-1/2" thick board. The board was clamped down to a foldable

work table. Such a setup is compact and easily stored for folks with limited space. Brasspounder first showed how to adjust the decapping and sizing die.

Next Kootenai demonstrated the RCBS Hand Primer that he uses in conjunction with the single-stage press. He explained that he finds the hand priming tool easier and faster to use than the single-stage press for priming. Judge Yukon Hatch described some of the variations found in hand priming tools and how to load primers in the hopper.

Then Brasspounder demonstrated the setup of the flaring die. Brasspounder, Judge and Kid all explained their methods for determining the proper amount of case flaring.

The discussion then turned to powder charges. There is a bewildering ar-

ray of powders available, and it is difficult to give a concise answer about which one is best for a given use. Given today's current low supply of powder, one must often find a load to match the powder available, rather than determining the performance sought and selecting a powder to suit.

There was time available for Alaskan Lady Lou to ask questions specific to her use of a Dillon 650 progressive press. Kootenai had a Dillon 550 available to demonstrate, and Judge Hatch and Brasspounder answered Lou's questions to her satisfaction.

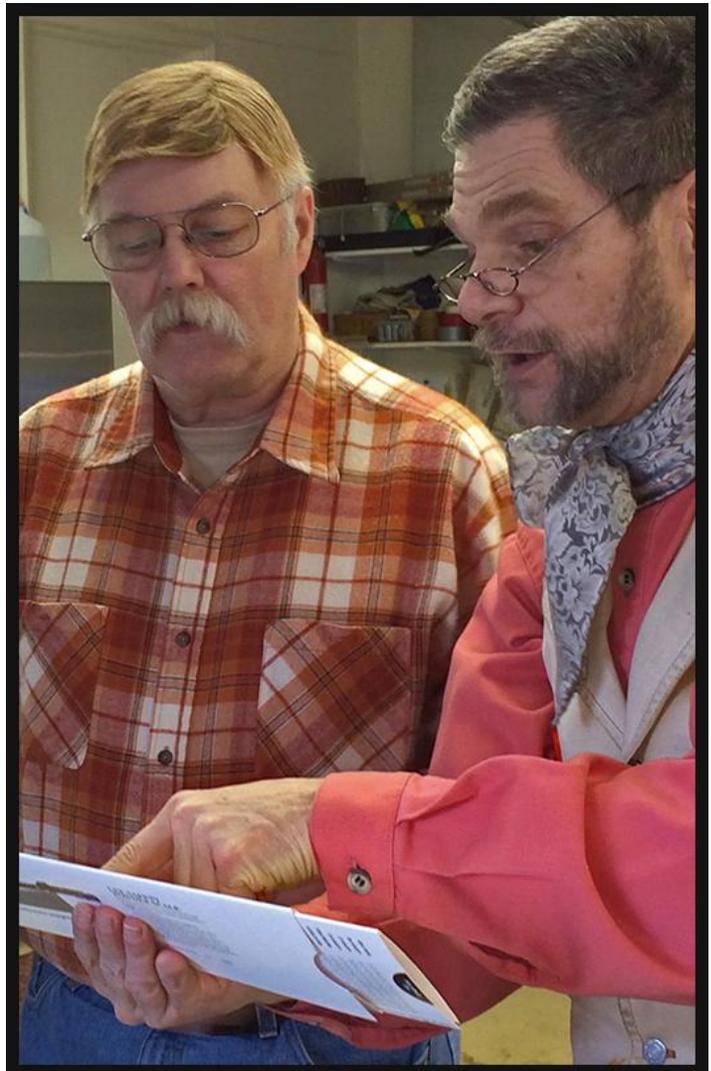
Just Yukon was able to ask questions specific to

Cowboy loads for his Colt Walker conversions. He also got several links to brass suppliers and sites for load data. Both Kid Hammer and Judge Hatch were able to provide him their preferences in loads for their Colt Walkers, and Brasspounder gave him the rundown on loading Pyrodex for the truly authentic experience for firing a Walker.

It was a good day for those involved. It would have been nice to have higher participation. We discussed having future intermediate and advanced reloading classes. Maybe those sessions will draw higher participation.

—Kootenai Brown

## Now it says right here...



**Montana Kid Hammer points out a load to Just Yukon. Photo Kootenai Brown**

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chance to tap the extensive shooting experience embodied in those minding the tables.

Such was not the case when the club was first getting started. According to Territorial Governor emeritus, Wind Drifter, when he approached the officials of the first local gun show to be held after the formation of the Society, they were unwilling to allow the club to set up a display. After some wrangling, they conceded enough space for a card table. "It took a bit of talking, but they finally let us in," he said.

Since those early days the GHSS display tables are among the most popular at any show they are set up.

"Our display not only allows us to show off our guns and accouterments but, more importantly, it gives us a chance to communicate our excitement about our club and our sport to many folks who have never heard of Cowboy Action Shooting; and that excitement is contagious," Poco said.

The ATG show runs from 11-6:00 pm on Saturday and 11-4:00

**We're Invited...**

The Horse Ridge Pistoleros sent out a reminder that the SASS NW Regional is May 29-June 1 and that Oregon State Wild Bunch is August 29-31. Both events are in Bend, Oregon.

**"Chatanika Shoot Out"** is the new name for the annual Alaska State Championship match as the result of a vote by the Society's Executive Board during its regular monthly meeting, February 18th. The group chose the name in an effort to establish a brand for the shoot that would help identify it in the mind of the public.

In other action related to the July shoot, the group voted to restore the practice--discontinued about five years ago--of awarding the overall winner an individual trophy in addition to a plaque on the champion's large traveling trophy; approved the submission a state championship agreement and sanction application with SASS; authorized Kootenai Brown to submit the insertion order for the required advertising with the Chronicle; and began work on creating a unique award for individual category winners, with Smithy Jim and Alaska Renegade volunteering to develop a mock-up.

In the financial arena, Banker Callie Cross Fox noted with delight that voluntary donations by life members had generated \$250 in income and about a third of the cost of our annual range insurance premium.

Range Boss Diamond Mac recapped the rescheduled *Freeze Your Buns* shoot plans. He noted that the shoot will be March 15th with registration at 11:00 am and shooting to start at noon. We will hopefully be able to shoot three stages. A potluck supper will follow.

Mac also gave a report to the group outlining our participation in the SASS approved Postal Match benefiting the SASS Scholarship Fund. According to Mac, the club will be registering as a participating

organization prior to the March 18th deadline. Individual shooters will have until June to register online by going to the pinned post about the match on the SASS Wire. He went on to explain that if you're planning on shooting the match locally, you should try to register by May 1. The match is composed of eight stages and will be shot two stages at a time during the Second Saturday shoots beginning in May. Under consideration is the idea of including each month's postal stages in the Last Sunday shoot of each month so that those unable to shoot them the first go-round can make them up. The registration fee is \$25 and goes directly to SASS.

The recent *Introduction-to-Reloading* class was reviewed by Kootenai and Judge Yukon Hatch (see separate story), and Wind Drifter brought samples of the knife blades ordered for the March *Knifemaking* class. Drifter reminded the group that the class will be held March 22nd, from 1-5:00 pm at DK Expediting on South Cushman in Fairbanks. "You need to go past the Van Horn intersection until you reach Safway Scaffolding. Turn left there and DK is located in the last bay on your left," he explained. Anyone needing further clarification of the directions can contact him at 457-2113.

Drifter also noted that a *Concealed Carry* class will start up at the end of March and will run for three, three-hour class sessions ending with a shooting qualification. The class dates are Wednesday March 19, 26 and April 2nd. Held at St. Jude's Church on Laurence Drive in North Pole, the sessions will begin at 6:00 pm. Registration is \$35 for mem-

bers and \$50 for non-members.

Recent ideas for fund raisers were again discussed and, while the timeline does not permit soliciting area Boy Scout troops to participate in Cowboy Camp, Judge Hatch agreed to develop a model for such an activity with the Scouts in general and with his troop 007 specifically. Limited Scout involvement at this year's May event would be a trial run. Callie Cross Fox also agreed to iron out the details and location of an early June Garage Sale to benefit the Society's range fund. Preliminary discussion of the particulars established that participants would have to provide their own tables, would have to remove all unsold items at the conclusion of the event, and would contribute 10% of the proceeds to the club.

Finally, the board had a good discussion on several items bearing on communication. The group reaffirmed the current policy that the club e-mail list only be used for Society business; agreed that requests from sport-related businesses would not be linked on the organization's web page and asked the web-master to archive the monthly issues of the newsletter on the web page so that they could be accessed by anyone interested in reviewing recent club activities.

**Need powder?**

Kanuti River Wrangler is gathering up a bulk powder order. Cost is retail plus \$2 per pound shipping. This is a cash upfront deal. Orders must be in by the end of February. Contact him with your needs: 322-0503.