

GHSS Round-up...

Hang Fire

Bang, Bang, Brrrrrrrr...



Pokin' A Long readies her next pistol shot during the recent rescheduled Freeze Your Buns Shoot held at Diamond Mac and Lead Spitt'n Rusty's place in Salcha. The cold temperature was troublesome but not debilitating. Photo: Valencia Rose

Delayed FYB shoot helps ease Cabin Fever

Clear skies vied with clouds and light snow as 16 society members and four guests gathered at Diamond Mac and Lead Spitt'n Rusty's place in Salcha on the Ides of March to shoot GHSS's rescheduled annual Freeze Your Buns shoot. Despite a thermometer that hovered in the low 20's, which one would think would be warm enough, a variable bone-chilling breeze made the session a contest between the participants' longing for Spring and the continued need for cold weather gear.

The cold had its effect as missed targets, malfunctioning firearms and mildly frostbit fingers took their toll. Making his first appearance on the range in some time was Wrangell Mountain Red who, while showing a lot style shooting gunfighter, tried to set the tone of the match by shooting the rifle targets

with his pistols his first time up to bat. Alaska Renegade was knocked out of the race when his Rossi '92 jammed as were Valencia Rose with a slug-gish firing pin in her '66 carbine and Poco Loco Louie with a puzzling and problematic extraction in his '97 pump shotgun, which left a fired shell casing in the action facing the wrong way.

Even so, those who were able to keep their hands warm and maintain their focus shot well. First place went to Co-host Diamond Mac who rang up a score of 121.73 for the three stages. "I had all week to practice," Mac joked good naturedly when the results were announced. Joke or not, practice would have been a good thing as Nicked M. Good was nipping at his heels taking second place with a score of 121.79. Judge Yukon Hatch was third

with a cumulative tally of 134.21. Lead Monger was

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This first session just got

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Measure twice, drill once...



Wind Drifter helps Sure Shot Chris line up his knife project for drilling the holes for handle pins during Saturday's inaugural knifemaking class. Photo: Valencia Rose.

Knife class sharpens new skills

About 15 Society members undertook the task of making their own knives at the club's knifemaking class held on Saturday, March 22nd at C & D Expediting on South Cushman.

According to Wind Drifter, the group had the opportunity to prep, pin, and glue handle material on their pre-selected knife blades. "It got a little bit frantic when we first started," Drifter said, "not everyone came at the same time, and we had various levels of competence present-all of whom wanted to get started right away."

Things sorted themselves out fairly quickly with the help of fellow instructors Brasspounder and Judge Yukon Hatch.

Sharing stories...



Wind Drifter and Poco Loco Louie share some stories while manning the Society's display during February's Alaska Territorial Guard gun show held at Pioneer Park. The show provided the club with its first opportunity of the new year to talk about cowboy action shooting in the Interior. Pictured from the left, Sure Shot Chris, Wind Drifter, Montana Kid Hammer, Poco Loco Louie. Photo: Valencia Rose

Not a bad snack...



Wind Drifter and Drover Knutts enjoy their food discounted on Sunday afternoon by gun show vendors. Photo: Valencia Rose.

Cowboy Camp, Shoot Out Among E-Board's topics

Two upcoming events-- Cowboy Camp and the Shoot out at Chatanika-- took up a large part of discussion at this month's Executive Board meeting held on Tuesday, March 18th at Poco and Valencia's place in North Pole.

At its inception, Cowboy Camp, which is held over the Memorial Day weekend, was an actual camp with club members setting up their tents, tipi's and RV's at the Chatanika range to spend the weekend visiting, sharing a communal meal or two, celebrating the club's birthday and competing in a variety of novelty shoots. As time went on, the shoot evolved to include a one-day new-shooter orientation followed by a two-day match. Further development saw the novelty shoots fall by the wayside as the orientation grew both in scope as well as in structure and, to accommodate members who could not compete both days, the two-day shoot became two one-day shoots. Pres-

Sharp work...

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the process started, so a follow-up session has been scheduled for Saturday, March 29th at "the same time and same station," Wind Drifter added.

Once the knives are complete, a new class will form focusing on Leather working.

"Along with those folks who will be looking at making a sheath for their new blades, we should also pick more students who may be wanting to learn how to make their own gun belts, loading

ently, the Saturday new-shooter orientation is comprised of a fairly comprehensive series of talks covering the many aspects of Cowboy Action Shooting followed by four mock stages in which newcomers could try their hand shooting (what for many were unfamiliar) cowboy-era firearms.

Responding to feed back, the Board decided to work towards restoring some of the vintage character of the the three-day event, which marks the official start of club's shooting season. To do just that, this year the talks will be dispensed with and on Saturday, after a range safety briefing, new shooters who choose to do so will be guided through instructed stages so that they can learn first hand about the sport from hands-on experience. In addition, Range Boss Diamond Mac has begun developing some 22lr novelty shoots for both luck of the draw teams and individuals to compete in. Anyone who has any ideas they would like share is welcome to communicate them to the Board as the revised schedule is still in its formative stages.

Also on tap for review was the work that is being done for the state shoot. Trail Boss Poco Loco Louie reported to the group that the club has received an acknowledgement from SASS of receipt of the signed contracts for both the 2014 and 2015 sanctioned championship matches. Kootenai Brown told the group that the required ads in the Chronicle have been submitted and paid for. Pokin'

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And so I said to him...



The cold prompted a variety of attire at the recent FYB shoot. Pictured from the left are Alaska Renegade, Wrangell Mountain Red and Nicked M. Good in the background. In the foreground are Lead Monger, Kootenai Brown, Smithy Jim, Judge Yukon Hatch and Poco Loco Louie. Photo: Valencia Rose.

Enough of this...



As an admiring Pokin' A long and Smithy Jim look on, gunfighter Wrangell Mountain Red heads for his gun cart and the warming fire after completing a stage at this month's Freeze Your Buns shoot. With a thermometer stuck in the low 20's a variable breeze made the shoot difficult. Photo Valencia Rose.

FYB: Cold shooters...

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a close fourth with 136.01, and Kootenai Brown rounded out the top five with a total of 147.99.

The rest of the pack were: Smithy Jim, 148.99; Poco Loco Louie, 159.75; Wrangell Mountain Red, 159.91; Valencia Rose, 186.05; Pokin' A Long, 241.05; and Alaska Renegade, 402.93. Lead Spittin' Rusty did not finish but shot the first two stages with a score of 158.52, and guests Simply Steve and Joe Ann each shot a stage.

Also attending but not shooting were Wind Drifter, who ably manned the loading table, and Kanuti River Wrangler who oversaw the unloading table and harvested spent brass.

After the timed shooting was done, several members took the opportunity to try out their latest pro-

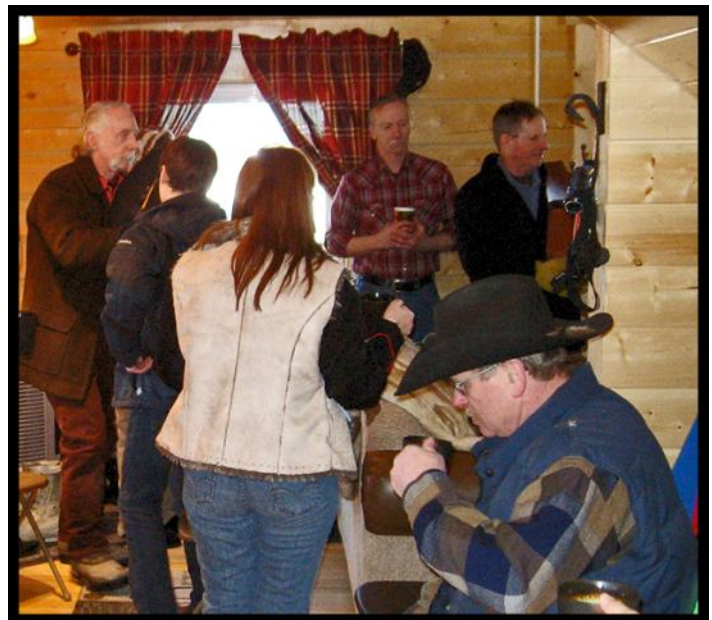
jects including black powder shotgun shells, a paper cartridge Sharps carbine, and a recently-acquired Springfield 1903A3.

While a well-tended bonfire served to warm the spirit of the shooters, the creeping cold was not broken until the group retired to Mac and Rusty's new cabin to get a warm drink and partake of a wonderful spread of pot-luck dishes.

The shoot came a week after the Society was scheduled to shoot for the first time this winter at the Air Curtain building on the Fort Wainwright Known Distance Range. That shoot was called off just minutes before registration was to open due to a last minute change in range policy and a communications glitch between the range staff and the club. In a follow-up E-mail the military ex-

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Where's the coffee...



A warm cabin and a hot cup of Joe helped shooters warm up after the FYB shoot was done. From the left, Judge Yukon Hatch, Nicked M. Good, Two-thumbs Becky, Smithy Jim, Diamond Mac and Wrangell Mountain Red in the fore ground. Photo: Valencia

Camp...

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A Long also reported that many letters requesting donations to the shoot from a variety of local and national vendors have been sent out and that we have already received some door prizes from Mernickle Leather. The brown bag lunches pre-purchased for \$12 by shooters last year also came up for review. The Board has decided to approach non

FYB Shoot...

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plained: "The only time the range will support club activities is when there is a range already scheduled by the military." For all practical purposes this change means that any Air Curtain shoots on the club's calendar for this winter are unlikely to be held.

Look at this one...



Sarah Brower and Callie Cross Fox admire some of the hand crafted blades on display at Saturday's Knife making class. Photo: Valencia Rose

-profit groups like the Boy Scouts or 4-H clubs to see if they would be interested in selling sandwich lunches in the hospitality tent during the shoot. Wind Drifter noted that he had a contact who stocks vending machines in the trade area and that he will approach him to see if he would be interested in supplying sandwiches. (As

In the works...



Nicked M. Good shows off his project which was the result of the Knifemaking class. Photo Valencia Rose.

a follow-up, this individual will be on hand at the next club meeting to present a proposal to the group.) Work on developing a unique award for first-place category winners continues as does a discussion about who should get the award in light of the prevailing practice of only presenting such an award if there were more than one competitor in a particular category. Faced with an "all or nothing" decision, the group voted to table its vote on the matter until its next meeting in the hopes that more specific information on cost will be forthcoming.

In other action, the Board:

--heard from Territorial Governor Kootenai Brown about SASS's decision to move towards becoming a non-profit corporation and the Wild Bunch's consideration of a proposal requiring all age sub-category competitors to conform to the category requirements they are shooting in. As an example, he cited the Duelist category. In this instance, if the proposal is passed, all duelists would be required to shoot fixed sight pistols no matter the age of the competitor.

--learned from Top Hand Sweet Caroline that the club presently has 60 life members and 19 annual members and that work is being done to simplify the distribution of club-wide E-mail by the club officers via G-mail accounts linked to the club web page.

--Agreed that, as an alternative to the May 10th shoot, a Range Officer 1 training session will be held at St. Jude's Church in North Pole. This session will also serve as a refresher course for ROII's. Marshall Stone from the Alaska 49'ers will be contacted to see if he is avail-

able on that date to take a co-instructor role in the class.

--Was advised by Banker Callie Cross Fox that a yard sale will be held as a fund raiser for the club on the second weekend in June at their place on Riverview Drive. More details will be available as the time for the event draws closer.

--Was again reminded by Range Boss Diamond Mac that the club has registered itself as a participant in the Postal Match benefiting the SASS Scholarship fund, and he encouraged all members who want to participate to register with SASS as soon as possible.

--Voted to approve an effort to explore the possibility of making a club bulk order for 22lr ammunition from distributors in the lower 48. Such an order would be in multiples of 10K cartridges.

And, rounding out the session, the group reviewed their calendars to insure that they contained the TVSA gun show to be held April 26-27th and the Alaska Fish Game Kids' Fun Day slated for May 17th.

How's your gun fund?

Ever wanted a Henry rifle? Here's a couple of options.

Rock Island Auction Company will be auctioning off Samuel Colt's unfired Henry rifle during a May 2-4 Auction. The rifle is expected to sell for over \$1,000,000.

Henry Repeating Arms is selling a rifle to original specs in 44/40 for \$2,300. A limited edition of 1,000 deluxe engraved rifles in 44/40 are also available for \$3,495 each.

Already in hand...



Mernickle Custom Holsters is the first national level vendor to respond to a letter of request from GHSS asking for prize donations for the state championship shoot. As seen here in this photo forwarded by Pokin' A Long, their donation was comprised of two caps and two loading strips. Photo: PAL

A couple of modest proposals

As Wild Bunch shooting begins to make its way into the local shooting venue, there has been much discussion about the possibility of incorporating a new local category in such matches.

Wild Bunch calls for the use of either a GI or slightly-modified 1911, a pistol caliber rifle, and a 1897 shotgun. The proposal that has been gaining traction of late among club shooters is that of incorporating a new category that would allow the use of double-action revolvers such as the Colt New Service and the Smith and Wesson 1917.

A variation of this idea is to allow such pistols but in tandem require the use of WWI bolt action rifles, which-because of our steel targets-would of

necessity have to sling lead bullets.

Of course, such category variations are only for local use as they have not been sanctioned by SASS.

Yet another idea recently bandied about for possible use in the club's regular CAS local matches is the development of a category that would require the use of box-stock firearms. This idea still has to pass through refinement but on the surface is quite attractive as it eliminates the need for acquiring highly-

tuned hardware to be competitive.

To the Trail Boss, it would seem that any opportunity we have to provide an avenue by which new shooters can be attracted would be a good thing.

These new ideas which keep percolating up always seem to provoke, in this writer's mind at least, a quote from the movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*.—"You just keep right on thinking there Butch."

CCW Class to have first session

Delayed for a week to confirm the total number of students, the Society's Concealed Carry Class will hold its first session at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 26th, at St. Jude's Church on Laurence Road in North Pole.

A total of nine students have committed to attend.

The three-hour class will run for three consecutive Wednesday evenings followed by a fourth shooting qualification session at one of the local ranges.

State WB Shoot

Applications

Now ready

Applications for the State Wild Bunch Championship Match Shoot Out at Moose Nugget Flats are now available for downloading on the Alaska 49'ers web page: alaska49ers.pistolshooting.com.

The shoot is scheduled to run May 17-19th.

A long shot

For sure

A potential new member has been looking for 45 Winchester Magnum ammunition and/or brass. If somewhere deep in your ammo stores you might have some that you'd be willing to sell, please contact the Trail Boss.

For the Record

—Word has been received that Moonshine Matt and Hillbillie Hottie are the proud parents of their third daughter: Rissah Renae, who was born at nine pounds three ounces on February 13th. The couple is in residence at Fort Benning, GA.

—Condolences to Bill Taxton whose mother Anne Martha Powers passed away at the age of 93 on March 9th.

—Prayers please for Ruby Lil and Gold Duster, who are both dealing with medical issues.

—Thanksgivings for successful surgeries for Muffin and Yukon Don.

—Also recently arrived at Fort Benning and taking up his new duties is Two-Gun Thompson.