

## In Postal Match

# Alaska shooters are second largest group

Well, the results of this summer's Postal Match sponsored by the Doily Gang are in, and Alaska in general and the Golden Heart Shootists in particular didn't do too bad.

The match was a fundraiser for the SASS Scholarship fund and elicited 120 participants from 19

clubs across the country and well as South Africa and Finland. Alaskan shooters comprised the second largest group with 15 shooters topped only by the host state Oregon with 17; third place went to New Jersey with 11 competitors. GHSS had eight registered shooters competing.

In the overall results, Poco Loco Louie ranked the highest among the local shooters shooting his way as a Senior Duelist to the 59th spot, Lead Monger in the 49'er category was second in 65th; Pokin A. Long shooting as a Lady 49'er was third in 84th. Valencia Rose shooting as a Lady Senior took

87th place while Junior shooter Nicked M. Good, Lead Spitt'n Rusty shooting in the Lady 49'er, Alaskan Lady Lou also shooting as a Lady 49'er, and Diamond Mac in Gunfighter rounded out the pack of 35 shooters making up 120th place.

Unlike many of the other clubs shooting the match, local shooters were hampered by the fact that they chose to shoot the postal match broken up over a four-month period which made it difficult for most of the shooters to complete all the stages. This took a toll on the cumulative scores of Nick, Rusty, Lady Lou and Diamond Mac, who were given times of 999.0 for each of the stages they missed. "If we ever do something like this again, we'll shoot the match all in one day," said Diamond Mac, GHSS Range Boss. "I guess if it's any consolation, I can say that at least I beat Pale Wolf Brunnel," he added with a grin. Though registered, Brunnel didn't shoot any of the stages. Yet another consolation was the fact that Mac won a \$25 gift certificate in the prize drawing among participants.

As far as category results were concerned, Lead Monger took 10th in the 49'er category; Diamond Mac was 6th in Gunfighter; Nicked M. Good was the Junior Boy winner; Pokin A. Long was 9th in Ladies 49'er while Alaskan Lady Lou was 12th and Lead Spittin Rusty was 13th to finish out that category. Valencia Rose took third in Ladies Senior and Poco Loco Louie took second in Senior Duelist.

## **GHSS Round-up...**

# **Winter Work**

## **Election, range work, calendar items**

## **Among topics discussed at monthly meet**

Meeting at the Hometown Family Restaurant while the Mayflower is being remodeled, at its regular monthly meeting this week the Society discussed a variety of topics ranging from range maintenance to the planned Christmas Party.

Starting out the meeting, the group heard and approved a banker's report which noted that with all bills paid, the present funds available for use by the club amounted to \$7,293.84. It was noted that this is quite a change from the early days of the club's life when a hat was passed around to help meet pressing bills.

Territorial Governor, Kootenai Brown, once again gave a brief overview of the proposed age-based category changes being considered by SASS. (See separate story in this issue.)

Kootenai also went on to explain to the group that he had gone up to the range and gathered up some targets for use at the

January "Freeze Your Buns" shoot and that while there he noted that one of the blockhouses on the Bay 1 was collapsing.

In the subsequent discussion, Lead Monger agreed to be the point of contact

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## ***Sprucin' it up...***



***Drover Knutts polishes up the receiver of his 1866 rifle as the club members staffing the group's display await the arrival of the public at the recent TVSA gun show. Photo: Valencia Rose***

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# Work on Block House needed...

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for anyone interested in joining a work party to go out to the range and see about shoring up the building before winter sets in. It was agreed that while we could wait until spring to deal with the issue, the collapse of the block house would also pull down part of the stockade thus forcing a more extensive renovation of Fort Chatanika. (If you would like to help with this project contact Lead Monger at 878-2158.)

While on the topic of construction, Kootenai also brought the group's attention to the club's commitment to participate in the annual Golden

## Postal...

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Also shooting the match, though not registered and thus not included in the final results, were Kootenai Brown and Smithy Jim.

After all expenses were paid, Shamrock Sadie reports the match raised a total of \$1,300 for the fund.

## GHSS Round Up

**October 2014**

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Days Parade and the idea that is currently floating around amidst the group to build a freight wagon for use as part of our entry in the parade. To that end, Kanuti River Wrangler offered to donate building material if a work party could be convened to move it to a secure storage area. Responding to Kanuti's offer, Light Rider said that he had room for the material. (If you can help with this project, contact Kootenai at 322-7779.)

Membership Secretary, Sweet Caroline reported that at present the club is comprised of 46 life members, 35 annual members, six memorial members and 15 honorary members. She also notified the club that in November 2015 annual membership dues would be payable and that she is in the process of sending out a badge order.

Under old business, the Trail Boss reported that the Postal Service has apparently lost the second set of State Shoot trophy buckles, despite the package being assigned a

## Straight shooter...



**Under Kootenai Brown's watchful eye, Montana Kid Hammer unleashes his Open Top during September's Fall Round-up shoot. Photo: Sally Alaska**

tracking number. Slip-noose is going to download all the October SASS shipments from her postal meter to see if she can determine what has become of the buckles.

Also under old business, Berry Woman gave a report on the nominations for the November election. (See separate story.) All slots have been filled with nominees.

The Trail Boss reported to the group that attendance at club tables in the TVSA gun show was very good with 14 members on hand Saturday and 11 members on site Sunday. Kootenai noted that several interested individuals had left contact information on the sign-up sheet at the tables and he wondered if we solicit volunteers from among the club members to make a follow-up contact with these new prospects just to let them know that we appreciate their interest and to provide them with timely information about club activities. In the subsequent discussion, the club voted to rent two tables at

the Alaska Territorial Guard's gun show, February 28-March 1, at the Civic Center in Pioneer Park. The show will run from 10-5:00 on Saturday and 10-4:00 on Sunday.

In new business, the group had a chance to review a draft 2015 calendar and noted that yet to be included in the schedule were an Introductory women shooter match in June, a law dawg and owl-hoot shoot in August, and the club's involvement in the Golden Days Parade. Amendments are being made to the document and a second draft will be presented at the November meeting.

Also discussed was the annual club Christmas party scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at the Santa's Senior Center in North Pole. The pot-luck affair starts at 6:00 PM with the meal self-served at 7:00 PM. The annual party is also the time when the "Espirito del Juego" award is given to the individual who most embodied the Spirit of the Game during the year. In addition, the club also draws for the "Clean Match" award. This award is drawn from a pool of tickets earned by those individuals who shot clean matches or stages during the season. A clean match is good for one ticket in the drawing and 10 clean stages are good for a ticket as well. A preliminary tally shows that Smithy Jim shot enough clean stages/matches to garner eight drawing entries followed by Diamond Mac with seven. Nicked M. Good and Poco Loco Louie shot their way to five entries while Kootenai Brown and Valencia Rose tied with four entries each. Pokin A.

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# Bust'm: novelty shoots make Fall Round-Up a fun fest

In the waning days of September, with the weather waffling in transition from fall to winter, over a dozen club shooters took part in the last shoot of the season as GHSS held its annual Fall Round-up, September 27-28.

This year the two days of shooting were broken up into two parts. The first was composed of three CAS stages, and the second featured three novelty shoots. Also different this year was

the offering of three different ways of shooting the stages: Wild Bunch, Riled Bunch and Mild Bunch. Wild Bunch involved the use of a 1911 pistol, a pistol caliber rifle, and a pump shotgun. Riled Bunch called for the use of the now ubiquitous standard cowboy guns, and Mild Bunch in addition to a pump shotgun, required the use of 22 caliber 1911 pistols and lever action rifle.

Lead Monger was the top shooter in the CAS stages shot on Saturday with a total time of 110.31.

Nicked M. Good was second with 120.02, and Poco Loco Louie was third with 124.06. Smithy Jim, Kootenai Brown, shooting Mild Bunch, and Valencia Rose followed in sequence with 133.83, 174.65 and 176.25 as their respective times. Montana Kid Hammer, Dead Eye Angel and Pokin A. Long rounded out the standings with times of 209.91, 214.67 and 217.20

Lead Monger repeated his performance on Sunday, as he once again took top honors in the first part of the match with a time of 117.65. Smithy Jim was second with a time of 125.11, and Nicked M. Good, (who was shooting duelist for the first time) had to settle for third with a total time of 142.23. Diamond Mac, Kootenai Brown, and Lead Spittin Rusty made up the second tier of finishers with times of 147.03, 159.34 and 177.65. Kanuti River Wrangler, Valencia Rose and Pokin A. Long were in the third tier with times of 185.38, 199.76, and 206.95. Finishing out the

competitors were Poco Loco Louie, Dead Eye Angel and Mattie Mahala West, who shot in the Mild Bunch division. Their times were 213.73, 234.79 and 315.49.

The three novelty shoots held in the latter part of each day's shooting were the "I Hate Snakes" Relay, "Hydraulic Mining," and "Custer's Last Stand" team shoots.

With teams made up from a random draw, the Snakes relay called for a three-person team with the first shooter endeavoring to knock out three snakes from a circle with their shotgun. Once this was done, they had to run to the second shooter who had to knock down five bowling pins with their pistol, and then the third shooter had to knock down five pins with their rifle. The shotgun had to be retrieved off a table, and the pistol and rifle could only be loaded with five rounds. Team 3 composed of Kootenai, Lead Monger and Nick won this shoot on Saturday with a time of 51.89 and Team 4 -Lead Spittin Rusty, Mattie Mahala West and Poco won it on Sunday with a time of 54.61.

The Hydraulic Mining shoot called for a two-person team to engage a popper target with a rifle and then shoot the aerial target it released with a shotgun. Team 4 comprised of Dead Eye Angel and Smithy Jim won this shoot on Saturday with a score 7.60 seconds, and Smithy Jim and Valencia Rose, Team 5, won it on Sunday with a tally of 6.32 seconds.

Probably the most challenging shoot was "Custer's Last Stand,"

## Smoothy Smithy...



**Smithy Jim above and Valencia Rose below were two of the shooters slinging lead at the club's final shoot of the season. Photos: Sally Alaska**



## Meeting...

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Long and Brasspounder earned three. Stephen Reed and Lightning Chaser tied with Lead Monger for two. Single entries will go to Alaskan Lady Lou, Alpine Belle, Drover Knutts, Judge Yukon Hatch, Kanuti River Wrangler, Lead Spittin Rusty, Light Rider, Mattie Mahala West, Red Roy, and Three Bars Keaton.

The club meets again November 25, though the location of the meeting is still to be determined pending the successful conclusion of Mayflower's remodeling efforts.

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## What's at stake...

# Governors will consider age-based specialty categories

By Kootenai Brown, Territorial Governor

The official agenda for the Territorial Governor's Summit at the SASS Convention is not yet set. But it appears that two items on the agenda are:

1.) Shall Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter (FCGF) be recognized as an official SASS category and be published in the next version of the Shooter's Handbook and be offered at all SASS Sanctioned Matches?

Currently, black powder shooters ("Frontier Cartridge") have two categories in which they can register: Frontier Cartridge (any shooting style allowed, typically two-handed grip for pistols), Or Frontier Cartridge Duelist (no two-handed grip for pistols allowed).

Those wanting to shoot black powder gunfighter style (pistol in each hand) must currently register as Frontier Cartridge Duelist or smokeless powder gunfighter. Shooters choosing smokeless powder can register in any age-based category which allows two-handed grip for pistol.

Duelist (requires pistol shot one handed, also includes Double Duelist for those who can shoot one handed with each hand); Gunfighter (one pistol in each hand).

This proposal would provide black powder shooters with the same category choices as a smokeless shooter. Arguments on the Territorial Governor's Wire for and against are: Arguments for are that it provides black powder shooters the same category structure as those who choose smokeless. Arguments against adding categories are primarily from match directors who find the addition of categories a financial burden to their matches. For example, the match directors of End of Trail (World Championship) and Winter Range (National Championship) say that they spend approximately \$800 per category to obtain awards, and that they need three months of lead time to get the engraving and customization done.

Other arguments against are that there are too many categories already, and adding any additional categories dilutes the pool of competitors further, making the competition, and therefore the awards, less meaningful. Those wanting to shoot Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter can do so now in other categories, they just won't be scored separately.

I am personally in favor of adding the FCGF for the reason that it makes the category structure consistent for shooters regardless of the propellant they choose. Frontier Cartridge adds a level of complexity to shooting the stages, and Gunfighter style adds a level of complexity. Those choosing to shoot in this style are deserving of recognition just as much as the two-handed speed demons. Plus, if you've ever seen a Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter blazing away on a humid day, you'd think you were on the range with Hoppy rounding up the villains. It's just plain cool!

Until our annual match quadruples in size, the cost of adding a category award is minimal for us.

I also think that offering new categories (within reason) has the potential to draw new shooters and increase the level of satisfaction among current members by offering competition between similarly-equipped competitors.

2.) Shall existing "Specialty" categories (those requiring specific costuming, firearm or shooting style) be further subdivided by age-based breakdowns, with the requirements for the "specialty category" being applied first. Current specialty categories are (both Women's and Men's categories exist; only the category is listed below):

--B-Western (requires costuming and specific firearms and holsters)

--Classic Cowboy (requires costuming and specific firearms and holsters)

--Duelist

--Gunfighter

This proposal has the effect of adding:

B-Western Cowboy  
B-Western Wrangler  
B-Western 49er  
B-Western Senior  
B-Western Silver Senior  
B-Western Elder Statesman  
Classic Cowboy  
Classic Cowboy Wrangler  
Classic Cowboy 49er  
Classic Cowboy Senior  
Classic Cowboy Silver Senior  
Classic Cowboy Elder Statesman  
Duelist Cowboy  
Duelist Wrangler  
Duelist 49er  
Duelist Senior  
Duelist Silver Senior  
Duelist Elder Statesman  
Gunfighter Cowboy  
Gunfighter Wrangler  
Gunfighter 49er  
Gunfighter Senior  
Gunfighter Silver Senior  
Gunfighter Elder Statesman  
Frontier Cartridge Cowboy  
Frontier Cartridge Wrangler  
Frontier Cartridge 49er  
Frontier Cartridge Senior  
Frontier Cartridge Silver Senior  
Frontier Cartridge Elder Statesman  
Frontier Cartridge Duelist Cowboy  
Frontier Cartridge Duelist Wrangler  
Frontier Cartridge Duelist 49er  
Frontier Cartridge Duelist Senior  
Frontier Cartridge Duelist Silver Senior

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## Nominees fill out slate For Annual Club election

Tuesday's report to the general membership from Berry Woman, chair of the Society's nominating committee, noted that the annual election cycle is just about complete with only the formality of voting yet to be performed.

This year's slate is composed of *Poco Loco Louie*, Trail Boss; *Kootenai Brown*, Territorial Governor; *Pokin A. Long*, Telegrapher; *Diamond Mac*, Range Boss; *Light Rider* and *Mattie Mahala West*, Trail Hands, and *Brasspounder*, Board of Directors.

Four of those on the ballot are incumbents standing for re-election: *Poco*, *Kootenai*, *Diamond Mac*, and *Brasspounder*. As for the rest, *Pokin A. Long* will be standing for election in place of the retiring *Sally Alaska* in the Telegrapher's (Recording Secretary) position, and *Light Rider* and *Mattie Mahala West* are standing for election for the position of Trail Hands (Board Members-at-large) presently held by *Smithy Jim* and *Drover Knutts*.

Ballots will be distributed to all those members present at the November meeting with those elected assuming their offices upon installation at the January General Membership meeting. As is club custom, provision will be made on the ballot

for members to write in an alternate candidate.

Those members in need of a mail-in bal-

lot may obtain one by contacting Berry Woman at [G.Jsearles@gci.net](mailto:G.Jsearles@gci.net). Mail-ballots must be returned by November 24th. The club address is GHSS, Box 55592, North Pole, AK 99705.

### GHSS Christmas Party

December 13th

6:00 PM

Santa's Senior Center

North Pole

## Age based...

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Frontier Cartridge Duelist Elder Statesman  
Frontiersman Cowboy  
Frontiersman Wrangler  
Frontiersman 49er  
Frontiersman Senior  
Frontiersman Silver Senior  
Frontiersman Elder Statesman

This has the potential of expanding the list of 12 specialty categories to 84. It seems highly unlikely that all 84 would have registrants at one time. However, if we had 84 registrants for a match, it is a problem I would gladly deal with.

I am in favor of this proposal, as it corrects the situation created when the Senior Duelist category was created four years ago. Senior Duelist currently allows any firearms eligible for the Senior category to be used. Senior allows the use of adjustable sight revolvers, whereas Duelist requires fixed sight revolvers. When the Senior Duelist category was created, it essentially created two Duelist categories with two sets of rules. I agree with the proposal in that any age-based breakdown of specialty categories offered should be based on the specialty category first, and the age-based breakdowns are for scoring only. The duelist category does not make a terribly compelling argument for this rule, with the only difference being fixed sight versus adjustable sight revolvers. Fixed vs adjustable is not a competitive advantage in this game. It's mostly a matter of appearance. But take for example, Frontiersman. Frontiersman requires percussion revolvers. Under the current rule that created the Senior Duelist category, a person could enter Senior Frontiersman category using any SASS legal revolver that is available to Senior, meaning it could be a center-fire revolver. That clearly creates a competitive advantage, and defeats the purpose of the Frontiersman category. For this reason, I believe that age-based breakdowns of specialty categories must follow the specialty category requirements.—**KB**

## Bell Ringing starts in November

GHSS has once again renewed its commitment to ring bells at Fred Meyer's West for the Salvation Army's Red Kettle fundraising campaign. Often described by the Army as one of the top fund raisers for the program, the Society will staff the donation sites at the store's entrances from 6-8:00 PM on the Fridays after Thanksgiving.

As a result of a sign-up sheet passed around at this week's club meeting, the following members will

be on hand: **November 28:** Brasspounder, Wind Drifter, Berry Woman, Forty Mile Phil, Kluane Kate; **December 5:** Brasspounder, Pedro de Borealis, Alaska Lady Lou, Wind Drifter, Berry Woman; **December 12:** Brasspounder, Wind Drifter, Berry Woman, Kootenai Brown, Callie Cross Fox; **December 19:** Wind Drifter, Berry Woman, Pokin A. Long, Valencia Rose, Kootenai Brown, Callie Cross Fox.

We could still use a few more helpers. If you would like to participate, contact the Trail Boss and your name will be added to the schedule.

## Fun Fest...

Continued from Page 3

which called for a three-person team to engage 50 targets. Team 3--Lead Monger, Poco, and Pokin A. Long won this shoot on Saturday with a time of 74.67. Team 1--Kootenai, Montana Kid Hammer, and Smithy Jim--were giving all the others a run for their money until a hit caused one of the targets to turn sideways with only the edge facing the shooters. Kootenai, shooting his double, made a heroic effort to knock it down and finally did manage it but only after expending over 30 rounds. On Sunday, Team 1, Lead Monger, Nick, and Valencia Rose took first place with a score of 54.66.

"It was really nice not to be so involved in competition," commented one shooter about the shoots. "I don't think we've laughed and yelled so much at a shoot in a long time."