

# Buckles, plates and cups make their way to GHSS

Just as many club members were preparing to celebrate Easter, word was received from club mem-

ber Montana Kid Hammer that miraculously both the 2014 and the 2015 State Championship buckles

had arrived in the mail. Reception of the package from SASS caps an almost year-long effort by GHSS

to get the 2014 buckles from the national office after the first set and a follow-up replacement set which, according to Slipnose, the national organization's Club Administrator, were twice lost in the mail.

"In many ways this was a 'Deja Vu' experience not unlike the club's fruitless efforts in 2000 to get a replacement set of Championship buckles from SASS to make up for the one's they sent to the wrong club," explained GHSS Trail Boss, Poco Loco Louie. "This time we managed to get it done. In 2000, SASS refused to send replacements despite assurances from Judge Roy Bean that it could easily be done."

Despite repeated e-mails and phone calls since May of last year beginning well before the state shoot, action on replacement of the missing 2014 buckles only became evident after Montana Kid Hammer made in-person contact with Slipnose at the

**GHSS Round-up...**

## Miracles happen!

**A Plethora of Buckles...**



*Above, after 10 months of effort, the 2014 State Shoot buckles finally are in GHSS' hands. The traditional certificates did not accompany them. Photo: M K H*

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**GHSS BP Shoot  
this Saturday**

GHSS black powder shooters--and those who would like to give it a try--will gather this Saturday at Diamond Mac and Rusty's place off Howell Road in Salcha for the second informal club shoot of the season.

The shoot will start at noon and is open to muz-

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**Right, listed for many years as missing, a cache of GHSS plates and cups were recently discovered in storage and returned to the club. Photo: Staff**

**A touch of class now restored...**



# Inaugural shoot draws eight shooters to Salcha

## Aw, shucks...



**"It was nothing," Smithy Jim seems to be saying after shooting the top score. Photo: PAL**

## Serious shot



**Deadeye Angel was the top woman shooter. Photo: PAL**

## GHSS Round Up

April 2015

An occasional publication for the sole benefit of the Golden Heart Shootist Society members, their friends, casual acquaintances and anyone else interested in the life and times of Interior Alaska's Cowboy Action Shootists.

Eight shooters and one guest were present at the Mid-March shoot at Diamond Mac and Rusty's place in Salcha.

Shooting the top score was Smithy Jim shooting in the Senior category with a time of 103.06. Shooting as a Classic Cowboy, Diamond Mac took second with a time of 141.08. Lead Monger representing the Duelist category took third with an adjusted time of 157.06. Deadeye Angel was the top woman shooter with a time of 192.67, which was fast enough to capture fourth place overall. Rusty was fifth with a time of 192.90. Drover Knutts shooting Gunfighter took sixth with a time of 195.80. Pokin A. Long shooting as a Ladies 49'er tallied 223.65 and seventh place and, shooting for the first time in several years, Teddy Blue Abbott in the Cowboy category rounded out the scores with a time of 356.98.

The shoot incorporated three stages and concluded with a pot-luck dinner.

## I'm Baaack....



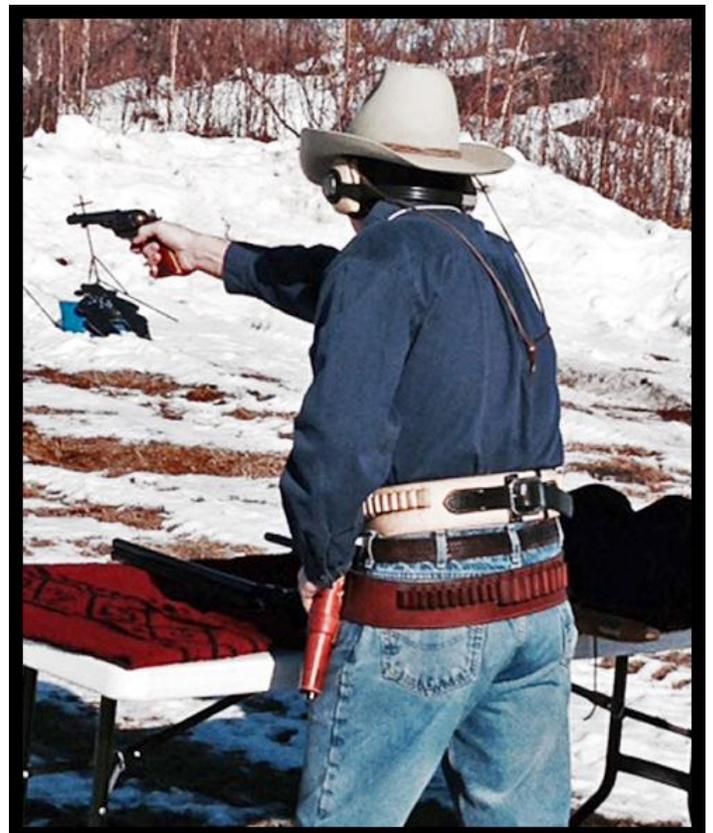
**Teddy Blue Abbott returned to shooting after dealing with a number of physical issues. Photo: Pokin A. Long**

## I came this close...



**Above, Drover Knutts explains his performance to Rusty and the photographer. Despite informality, accuracy was still important. Photo: Pokin A. Long**

## All Business...



**Diamond Mac gets it done with Open Tops as his pistols of choice. Photo: Pokin A. Long**

## Plates and Cups...

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SASS Convention.

Elation over the successful completion of the quest to have the buckles in hand was tempered, however, by the fact that missing from the package were certificates, which also normally come from the SASS office. These include 2015 door-prize gift certificates in various denominations from the SASS Mercantile as well as the 2014 and 2015 scholarship certificates to the Regional championships. "Hopefully this won't take another year to get sorted out," Poco said wistfully.

A second miracle emerged during the week after Easter when a cache of GHSS plates and cups were located after being misplaced and forgotten following the club's move from its meeting place above Conkle's Repair in North Pole. The trove included 60 cups and 24 plates all trimmed in gold and carrying the club logo. "For quite some time now, it has seemed that these plates and cups had just disappeared off the face the earth. It's really wonderful that they have been located and returned to the club," Poco said, adding " We all should be grateful that Judge Yukon Hatch never gave up trying to find them."

For many years the plates and cups, designed and created by Tree Trimmer and Berry Woman, were presented to category winners at the state

shoot and, on rare occasions, to special visitors as a memento of their visit.

"It's highly unlikely that we will ever be able to replicate these in the future, so, we're going to have be very thoughtful about how and when we use this last batch," Poco concluded.

## Black Powder...

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zleloaders, cap and ball pistols and cartridge guns. "It's really just an open shoot," said Mac, who went to explain that the idea is to provide club members and guests an opportunity to use their black powder shooting irons at a variety of targets. "It's not a competition but rather a chance for shooters to burn up a little powder and at the same time help provide an opportunity for those who have never shot a black powder firearm to give it a try," he added.

Participants are encouraged to bring their own drinks as well as snacks to pass around. The shoot site is the third driveway on the right on Howell Road, which is off the Richardson between Eielson and the Knotty Shop.

## Got Pictures?

Pokin A Long is now able to post pictures on the GHSS website. If you have one to contribute, please send them to [jericleve-land@gmail.com](mailto:jericleve-land@gmail.com).

## TVSA Show

GHSS will again have tables at the TVSA Gun Show, at the Patty Center, April 25-26. The theme of the display is CAS guns. Staffing help is needed and much appreciated.

## The Rest of the story...



*Boy, this picture brought back memories...*

*Picture was taken of the GRRW (Green River Rifle Works) crew about 1974 at the zenith of the GRRW's existence. They went out of business in 1976. Rifles were excellent, and high priced, but employee pay was too low to live on. Most of us quit because of that. and GRRW went under as a result.*

*Photo From left to right, back row...Carl Walker, riflesmith, also worked as a truck driver. Greg Roberts, GRRW General Manager, "The boss." He and I both left Colorado at the same time to work for GRRW in June 1973. Gardell Powell, riflesmith, a nice young man. Tanyu Howard, Black powder mill worker. Tanyu left the Company just prior to a disastrous explosion at the powder mill north of town that blew three of our friends literally to bits. He cited dangerous practices at the mill. The mill was never rebuilt. It made great Black powder, I shot what I had of it for years afterward. "Black" White, barrel smith. We had modern Pratt & Whitney barrel drill and rifling equipment in our barrel shop, Made excellent barrels for muzzle loaders.*

*Front row, left to right...Your's Truly, riflesmith, specializing in fullstock Hawken Flintlock rifles. I have a list of 42 such rifles I personally made, and who they were originally sold to. Next three I have forgotten their names. they worked as stockers, on the stock spindle carver machine, and as machinists in the barrel shop.*

*Far right front row... Phil "Bluejacket" Sanders, Master riflesmith. He made the Leman flintlock rifle I still own today.. Fine fellow. Phil also worked in the barrel shop, Master barrel maker as well.*

*We made our own barrels, stocks were spindle carved from rough bandsawed Hard maple blanks we bought by the truckload. For Custom rifles, we carved the stocks by hand from rough blanks, including all the fullstocks. We used high quality wax castings to make the percussion rifle locks from scratch, and a variety of commercially made makes of high*

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# “Small Glass Fritz”

When I started down this trail of reminiscing, truly I had absolutely no idea where it would lead. That said, here we go again.

Late on a Friday evening in mid February 2002, the then GHSS Trail Boss, Valencia Rose, had just arrived home from work, when the telephone began ringing. It had been a long cold day, so when she answered and heard an accented male voice ask for her, she assumed it was another telemarketer and as she said later, she was just too tired to deal with the call. Calling to her husband Poco Loco Louie, "Here," she said, and handed him the phone. Not sure what was happening, Poco took the phone and introduced himself. At this point the caller introduced himself. "This is Juer-gen Schoenhabers, from Frankfort, Germany. I am a member of SASS, badge num-



***A chilly but charming group of hosts included from left to right, Chatanika Scout, Wind Drifter, Cody's Darlin, Wrangell Mnt. Red, Scattergun Annie, Poco Loco Louie, Valencia Rose, Bill Thaxton, Montana Kid Hammer and, kneeling, our guest Small Glass Fritz.***

ber 3--, and my alias is 'Small Glass Fritz.' I will be in town for several days, and I saw your club listed in the Cowboy Chronicle, so thought I would give you a call and see if you were doing anything this weekend."

As I said earlier, it was mid February and we were in the midst of a long cold snap. Poco was somewhat

taken aback by the question. Answering he said "This is the off season for us, so we do not schedule shoots at this time. Besides that, it's right at 40 below zero." Fritz replied, "Well you folks live in Alaska, and I thought you might be doing something."

The conversation continued for a while, and the reason Fritz was in town came out. It seems he was an aircraft mechanic for Lufthansa German Airline. They had a plane on the ground in Japan with some type of mechanical problem, and he had been sent over to get it fixed up enough to fly back to Frankfort for further repair. His service being no longer needed, he was "dead heading" back to Frankfort, and it would be several days before another plane stopped here headed East.

The conversation continued for several minutes, talking about SASS, shooting, guns, and so on.

Poco said later, all the while they were talking, he was thinking about getting something together on very short notice. He asked Fritz where he was staying and told him to sit tight and let him see what he could come up with. Poco called me and asked if I could help. After learning what had happened, I made some phone calls and in short order several other club members joined in the effort to make this crazy idea happen.

Saturday morning a group of equally dedicated (make that goofy) CAS shooters gathered at the North Star Borough's South Cushman range where, with the temperature right at -40, we made Small Glass Fritz welcome. In the meantime Fritz had gone over to Big Ray's Outfitters and bought a set of Carharts that made him fit right in with the rest of Fairbanks.

Long story short, our impromptu shoot went off with a minimal number of frostbitten noses, fingers and hands. After a couple of abbreviated stages, we all agreed to call it good for a day. Naturally, there was no way we would adjourn without a photograph to commemorate the occasion. Pictures taken, we all gathered at Airport Way Family Restaurant for lunch and some much needed hot drinks.

When Fritz was back in Germany, he e-mailed me and said that when he related his story to his friends, they all agreed "Those people must really be crazy." Well, this pretty well concludes this trip down memory lane.

—Wind Drifter

## Story...

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***quality flintlocks for the flintlocks we used on the fullstock flinters.***

***All the rifles GRRW made were produced by handfitting. Few power tools beyond a drillpress were used. It took me about 50 hours each to produce a fullstock flint rifle complete enough to test fire before it was taken apart and sent to the finishers for stock staining/finishing and metal parts browning. We personally fired each completed rifle we made for function and accuracy before we shipped them.***

***There are hundreds of them still out there.***

***I still have and shoot a fullstock flint rifle I made similar to those I made while at GRRW.***

# Society's Black Powder roots go deep

Long, long ago in lands far, far, away--sort of.

While Brasspounder is currently GHSS's most pre-eminent standard bearer of the Black Powder banner as a Frontier Cartridge competitor, a number of club members can also trace their shooting lineage back to an early fascination with a variety of sooty cap locks and rock locks as participants in various reenactments and rendezvous.

Among those current Society members who have contended with the many nuances of shooting and or competing with Black Powder are Lead Monger, Kootenai Brown, Montana Kid Hammer, Yukon Don, Chatanika Scout, Diamond Mac, Wind Drifter, Big and Kanuti River Wrangler.

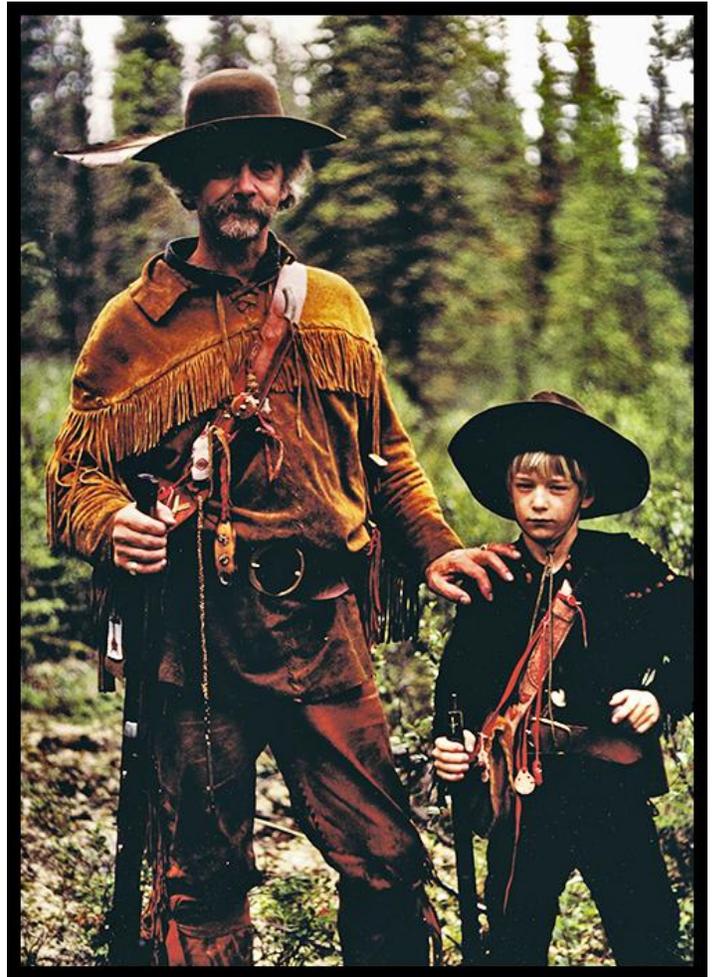
While smokeless powder is the present normal, the fact of the matter is that, deep down, many club members believe it is just a fad.

## Makin' Smoke...



*Some 30 years ago, Poco Loco Louie unleashes his newly built Northwest Trade Gun at The French Creek Rendezvous in South Dakota. Photo: Valencia*

## Like Father, like son...



*A young Wind Drifter and an even younger Coldfoot Charlie pose in full buckskin garb in the wilds of Alaska.*

## Review: Rydon Quick Six Loading Stand



**5** *Rydon's Quick Six loading stand. Photo: Poco*

Being reviewed this issue is the Rydon Corp. Quick Six Revolver Loading Stand in 44 caliber, part number RC038.

The press is machined from a section of steel 3 1/2" x 5" I-beam. One side of the central member is a round pipe that serves as a hand hold while using the press. On the opposite side is a 3" long threaded shaft with a "T" handle that is attached to a round pressure plate with 6, 7/16 x 3/4" projections that match the six

chambers in an 1860 Colt cylinder. Centered directly below is a stub over which the cylinder fits and is held in place during the charging process. Without any printed material to give directions, I surmise you hold the cylinder up right, charge each chamber with powder, place the appropriate-sized ball in each opening, and then insert the cylinder into the stand. The pressure plate with the six projections is then rotated to match the

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## For Sale...

Salcha Slinger and DD McNeil have the following items for sale:

—**Uberti Model 1873 Round Barrel** - with custom short stroke kit \$1000.00 from Long Hunter Guns, warranted for life, used for only 2 seasons, in great shape  
\* 18.5" round barrel with full length magazine  
\* Straight Grip Walnut Stock \* Standard Blue only

—**2 Vaquero (New Model) 45's single action revolvers** 4 ½" barrels with the rig: \$800. Very little wear, in great shape

—**Uberti 1849 31 cal pocket pistol**, converted to 32 S & W short with a Kirst cylinder. It can be converted back to B.P. 31 cal by changing cylinder - \$450.00

If interested, you can contact Russ at **907-888-8516**.

Charlie Tressler, Diamond Mac's brother, has the following items for sale:

—**Hi-Standard, SK-100, Sportsking** 22 cal pistol - \$200

—**Ruger single six**, fixed sights, 22 cal. - \$175

—**Marlin 1895CB**, 45-70 - \$550

—**Springfield M1**, 30-06, not matching numbers - \$900

—**Lyman 50 cal percussion. rifle, Great Plains Hunter**, 1 in 32 twist - \$450

All in good to excellent shape. Charlie can be reached at **907-488-1960**

Kanuti River Wrangler, on behalf of Jean Weingartner, has the following items for sale:

--**Colt 1851 Navy Revolver**, 36 caliber, parts gun, cased with accessories - \$350

--**1861 Colt Army Revolver**, 36 caliber, blued, 4 screw for shoulder stock, cased with accessories - \$340

--**LeMat, 1860 Confederate Calvary Revolver**, 44 caliber, 20 gauge shotgun, cased with accessories - \$900

--**Remington 1863 Army Revolver**, Uberti, 44 Caliber, cased with accessories - \$415

--**Buccaneer 1640 flintlock Doglock Pistol**, India made, 64 caliber, cased with accessories - \$285

--**Kentucky Flintlock Pistol**, 44 caliber, cased with accessories - \$300

--**French Flintlock Pistol**, 66 caliber, cased with accessories - \$275

--**Kentucky Caplock Pistol**, CVA, Spain, 50 caliber, cased with accessories - \$300

--**Flintlock Rifle**, Pedersoli, 45 caliber - \$450

Kanuti can be reached at 322-0503 after 5:30 PM and before 11:00 PM.

## Quick Six..

*Continued from Page 5*

six charged chambers, allowing the operator to turn the "T" handle thereby pressing all six balls evenly into the cylinder to the desired depth.

From a personal standpoint, I think this press would be beneficial if you were loading several cylin-

### Here's my rig...



*Co-host Lead Spitt'n Rusty shows off her new rig at the club's mid-March shoot.*

## Did you Get done?

Horse's Mouth has offered access to his leather shop as a way to help all those attending the knife making class complete their knife sheaths. The offer will go public at the next General membership meeting, April 28th.

ders at a time, such as at a match or where many are needed. Little would be gained while loading for a single pistol, because of having to remove the cylinder from its frame to accomplish the loading process. I am not familiar enough with the internal ballistics of a black powder pistol cylinder to know if there is much to be gained by having each ball seated to the same depth and powder compression. If that is a factor, and judging from on-line discussions, some folks think it is, then this press would be of significant value.

The price, less shipping, is about \$30 and can be ordered on line directly from the Rydon Corporation at [www.rydoncorp.com](http://www.rydoncorp.com).

--Wind Drifter

## Wanted: Contributors

The *Round-up* is soliciting contributions from society members.

Pictures, short articles, and letters to the Editor should be e-mailed to the editor at

[Poco@acsalaska.net](mailto:Poco@acsalaska.net)

Please no poetry.

Contributors should keep in mind that the mission of this publication, in addition to providing the Society's membership with timely information about society activities, is the portrayal of the Society, its members, and CAS in the Interior of Alaska in a positive light.

All submissions may be subject to editing for clarity and to help meet space requirements.