

Kinda feels like we're riding the whirlwind...

You have to admit, it's been a busy time for the Golden Heart Shootists since the weather started to moderate. In Mid-April, twelve members gathered at Diamond Mac and Lead

Spittin Rusty's place in Salcha for an open Black Powder shoot. The event gave members an opportunity to shoot their smoky long guns as well as put their cap and ball revolv-

ers through their paces. Wind Drifter's comment, "It was a great shoot. We need to do this again in the fall," was echoed by most of the participants. The last weekend of the

month saw the club staffing its traditional display tables at the TVSA gun show at the Patty Center on the UAF Campus.

Black powder reemerged a month later, on May 16 as a dozen members staffed the Society's tent at the annual Alaska Fish and Game's Kids Day at F&G. Slightly over 3 pounds of powder were used as the club guided over 200 youngsters through the shooting of almost 420 blank shot from percussion double barrel shotguns. A similar number of even younger kids lined up to test their skill at the rubber band gun shooting gallery. Despite the gusty winds that swept the field, "This is the best batch of shooters we've had in many years," commented Kootenai Brown, "very few have missed a balloon." Also unusual this year was the fact that there were only three misfires in all the loads expended. "The only reason this happened was because the shotguns were all getting pretty dirty, they got a pretty good work-out," explained Brasspounder.

By the time the event was over, GHSS'ers had handed out 236 of the newly designed and printed stickers depicting the club badge. "We had just enough members on hand to staff the event, and one of them, Kanuti River Wrangler was sick with the flu," said the club's Trail Boss, Poco Loco Louie. "Next year we're going to have to be more intentional about recruiting more helpers so that everyone has a chance to take a break, otherwise it turns into a long day for those involved."

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GHSS Round-up...

Busy, busy, busy!

As Championship Shoot nears...

Preparations fall into place

With the imminent arrival of the Alaska State Championship shoot, preparations for the event are falling into place.

The stages have been written, the championship buckles and category awards are in hand, the banquet has been arranged with the nearby Chatanika Lodge, door prizes are arriving, registrations have been acknowledged and the information processed, the sandwiches for lunch are awaiting a final count from the supplier, hospitality tent goodies are being gathered and finally the Sani-cans have been reserved.

"With a little over a month left before the shoot begins there are still a few items that we need to pin down," explained Poco Loco Louie the club's Trail Boss. "We are need of someone to design and put together the shoot buttons; we need to decide on the side matches and to identify who's going to run them; we need to finalize who our brass pickers are going to be; we need to come up with a list of volunteers to help with the hospitality tent; we still need someone to

help Sally Alaska with the scoring; and, finally and perhaps most pressing, we need to work on getting the range ready."

In terms of the range,

our first priority is to relocate the two out-houses on the range in response to a request from the landowner. "At present Val and

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Hanging out with the ladies...



Diamond Mac, center, stops long enough to pose with Sweet Caroline, left and Lead Spittin Rusty during the TVSA gun show. Photo: Valencia

That's it...



Judge Yukon Hatch coaches Nicked M. Good on the intricacies of shooting a scoped 1874 Sharps rifle. Club members had the opportunity to try out a number of black powder firearms during the mid-April informal shoot hosted by Diamond Mac and Lead Spittin Rusty at their place in Salcha. The shoot was the second warm-up gathering for the club prior to the group being able to access the range at Chatanika Gold Camp. Photo: PAL

“Wounds

My heart

With

Monotonous

Langour.”

GHSS Round Up

May/June 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.

State Shoot Preps...

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Matt are considering good spots to move them to, as soon as they let us know, we need to get this done," said Poco. "This will involve putting the present structures on skids, filling in the holes, digging new ones and then moving the structures to the new locations. It's going to be a big project and we're going to need a lot of help with this project."

As for the second item on the to-do list, "I think we need to focus on refurbishing Fort Chatanika on Bay One," said Diamond Mac, GHSS' Range Boss. "We need to take down one of the sagging block-houses and replace it with a three foot high palisade and a board walk. We also need one more loading table for the bay."

Finally, sitting on the sidelines is the idea that we could also use some wooden canopies and boardwalks on the two store fronts on Bay 5. "This project is for later

down the road because right now our plate is pretty full," Mac explained, "but if anyone has free time and wants to work on it, that would great."

While the exact date for a range work day will be set at this month's Executive Board meeting, right now the most likely candidates are Saturday and/or Sunday June 27/28.

In the meantime, if you would be willing to help with the hospitality tent, contact Berry Woman at GJsearles@gci.net; if you can help with the scoring, contact Sally Alaska at slynbrower@hotmail.com; and, if you have any ideas for side matches contact Poco.

"As always, the State Shoot comes off as a success mainly due to the hard work of a lot of people including the numerous volunteers who show up to lend a helping hand," Poco said. "To be honest, we really couldn't pull it off without them," he concluded.

Where'd it go?



Brasspounder, Kootenai Brown and Sally Alaska look for a missing percussion nipple at F&G's Kids Day as Wind Drifter supervises. Photo: Valencia

Whirlwind personifies Spring GHSS schedule...

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Not much of a break was in the cards, however, as the next weekend the club hosted its annual Cowboy Camp three-day shoot at its range at the Chatanika Gold Camp.

On Saturday, a dozen prospective new members were outfitted with the appropriate hardware and leather and were mentored by 13 club shooters and five non-

shooting members through a three-stage mini-match. Top shooter among the prospects was Jeff, a recently transplanted Nebraskan, with a score of 144.97 which was a good enough score to place ninth over-all. Chad Glaza, who was working in Arizona this past winter and was able to shop at Wild West Mercantile for clothes, grabbed second place among the newcomers with a tally of 162.71. He was followed in order by Bryan Kramer, 191.89; Bill Sowers, 197.09; Michael Chemburg, 218.51;

Jay Gesin, 270.16; Denise Sowers, 273.31; Lead Bottom, 316.29; Jonathan Ebel, 335.61; and Mary Downs, 437.03. Chris and David Ebel also shot but chose to not finish the shoot.

Shooting in the youth category, Michael and Jonathan made an excellent showing after arriving a bit late fresh from an in-town awards ceremony where they each received marksmanship medals. Michael carried over some of the glow from his award as he was the only one among all the shooters to shoot a clean match.

Among the club shooters Smithy Jim shooting in the Senior category took top honors with a score of 94.04. Marshall shooting in Cowboy was second with a time of 100.03. Diamond Mac shooting Gunfighter and Poco Louie shooting Silver Senior Duelist swapped third place back and forth throughout the match with Mac coming out on top with a score of 115.38 while Poco had to settle for fourth with 117.36. Lead Monger cinched fifth place with a score of 126.60. The rounding out the list of club shooters were: Nicked M. Good, who was struggling with a malfunctioning rifle, shot 136.95; Kootenai Brown, who in a quite atypical fashion had a disastrous third stage with 6 misses, garnered a time of 141.00; Valencia Rose, 143.50; Kanuti River Wrangler, 145.81; Brasspounder, 166.18; Red Roy, 178.21; Lead Spittin Rusty, 186.03; Pokin A Long, 189.71; Steve Reed, 233.86; and Mattie Mahala West earned the red lantern with 260.43.

Described by several club members as one of the best new-shooter events in

recent history, the day-long affair was well received by the prospects, several of whom promised to return and shoot on a regular basis as soon as they could get their schedules in order. "We were really blessed to have all the right equipment and ammunition on hand thanks to the generosity of the membership and to have so many shooting and non-shooting members present to help these new folks learn the ropes and to take care of the many details such an event involves," said Poco. Among those details was the afternoon novelty shoot featuring 22's hosted by Wind Drifter and at which the visiting youngsters did quite well. "I'll say one thing about those kids," Wind Drifter noted, "they can shoot!"

Fifteen shooters gathered Sunday to shoot five stages. Nicked M. Good, returning to his winning ways after sorting out his rifle issues, posted the top score with a 142.98; Lead Monger, 170.13; Diamond

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For the Record Book

--Kusko Kid's daughter Briahna Gurlach won 3200 meter race at Alaska State track meet.

--Fairbanks Hank and School Marm have resumed residence in Fairbanks.

--Moonshine Matt and Hillbilly Hottie have returned to their home in North Pole following a two year stay at Ft. Benning.

--Judge Yukon Hatch and Jury have left for an extended trip to the lower 48. The Judge noted that they hope to return in time for the state shoot.

Capping off some rounds...



Kootenai Brown lets loose with his 1858 Remington during the club's April Black Powder shoot. Photo: PAL

“In the beginning: GHSS”

As a member of the *Golden Heart Shootist Society*, have you ever pondered about the genesis of our club? Here is what I remember about those very early days. Our first club member, *Alaskan Wrangler*, had done his research with SASS headquarters, then in California, and not New Mexico like today, in order to stand up our organization, and where he had also contacted a host of us very earlier members. Then on Wednesday night, February 22nd of 1995, at an eatery known as *Diana's Cajun Restaurant*, we held our initial meeting. To my knowledge there are no surviving notes from that first meeting though *Alaskan Wrangler* did take some notes for himself at that assembly. As I recall there were about one dozen of us gathered, thanks in large part to *Alaskan Wrangler*. I cannot recite all of the names of those attending our first club meeting, save that I know *Dirt Dancer #3/SASS-12097*, *Dead-Eye Smith #4*, *Gray Griz #21*, and of course *Alaskan Wrangler #1/SASS-2195* and myself were there. I do believe *Wind Drifter #9/SASS-7097* may have been there, too, though I do not remember for sure. Our meeting lasted several hours, and it was agreed that we would meet on the last Wednesday of March at the same place and the same time. Yes, we

used to meet on Wednesdays, but that is another story for another issue as to why we would meet on Tuesdays like we have for most of our club's history. Later meetings in spring of 1995 netted *Rojo Grande #5*, *St. Louie Kid #6/SASS-6912*, *Chinny Chin Buckskin #7*, *Mastodon John #8/SASS-11643*, *Coldfoot Charlie #10/SASS-13809* and, well, our roster is replete with Interior Alaskans, some who have trailed to greener and kinder pastures in the ever after, and wait for us to join them someday. The unincorporated Golden Heart Shootist Society would meet four times at the *Cajun Restaurant*, which is no longer and used to stand on the south side of the Old Rich Hwy about two blocks east of South Cushman. Then during the summer several of our meetings were held at *Jeffery's Restaurant/Bar*, now a carwash on the Old Steese Hwy. In the fall of 1995 the club began regularly meeting at *Soapy Smith's Restaurant* on Second Street in downtown Fairbanks, and we met there for several years, and where several good stories could be told of in that timeframe back then.

On Memorial Day weekend of 1995, May 26th – 29th, our fledging organization, by invite, attended the spring state mountain man rendezvous in the campground down at Anderson, Alaska. This event began our club's very own major shooting function entitled, *Cow~boy Camp*, and thus our very first shooting event, but not actually a SASS/CAS match. Among those present at our initial



(Kid's Winchester Model 1894 Trapper)

camp were *Alaskan Wrangler*, *Chinny Chin Buckskin*, *Dead-Eye Smith*, *Kanuti River Wrangler*, *Berry Woman*, *Wind Drifter*, *Valencia Rose*, *Poco Loco Louie*, *Brasspounder*, *Salcha River Drifter* and myself, and the club will held its 21st Annual Cow~boy Camp this May. In 1996, there would be a dozen or more GHSS members at this very same camp, and immediately after that camp, on Wednesday, May 31st, 1996, a vote was held by all of the then approximately 20 plus GHSS members to stand up our SASS club, as well as incorporate GHSS with the State of Alaska. So fitting was that *Alaskan Wrangler* would become our very first *Trail Boss*.

On Sunday, June 30th, 1996, about *High Noon*, at the *Fairbanks Airport Police Shooting* complex, our brand new outfit held its very first Cowboy Action Shootist match, where it was lead on paper and steel, (pistol and rifle targets were cardboard, and shotgun targets were steel.), and where two of only three Winchester Model 1894 rifles present broke during the shoot. I still have the *Trapper* model lever rifle that was the surviving rifle of our first event. We had a lot to learn in those formative

days, and we had a lot of fun doing just that back then, as we do nowadays. The club would not host Alaska's first *Alaska State SASS Championship Shoot* (State Shoot, or Justin Pierce Memorial State Shoot), until August of 1997, which was held at the *Fort Wainwright Small Arms Known Distance (KD) Range*, and that to is again another topic for another issue. This then is my thumbnail club history sketch of the very early days of our organization, which celebrates 20 plus years this very year. So now I hope you have a better idea of just how it all got started for GHSS, and where we came from initially. - **Montana Kid Hammer, GHSS #2/SASS 6476-L**

Come shoot
at midnight!

**GHSS' Solstice
Shoot**

Friday and Saturday,
June 19th and 20th

Registration at 7:30 PM

Posse Pictures at Mid-
night

Finger food potluck fol-
lows.

Finger off the trigger...



Berry Woman and Inupiaq Aaka (above) and Sally Alaska (below) provide safety guidance to youngsters at the club Fish and Game Kids Day booth. Photo: Valencia



A whirlwind of activity...

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Mac, 173.21; Smithy Jim, 173.45; and Marshall, who was celebrating his birthday, posting 180.21 to round out the top five.

Making up the balance of the top ten were Drover Knutts, 196.39; Kanuti River Wrangler, 240.74; Brasspounder, 241.39; Chad Glaza, shooting as a Double Duelist, 264.96; and Lead Spittin Rusty, 278.96.

Finishing out the rankings were Pokin A. Long, 280.47; Montana Kid Hammer, 281.57; Alaskan Lady Lou, 281.72; and Clay Street Kid, 512.68. Also shooting was Jay Gegin who had to leave early due to a prior commitment.

With the day's shooting concluded, everyone present gathered under the tent to have a slice of birthday cake marking the club's 20th year of existence.

Memorial Day, the third and final day of the event, started with a formal flag raising and some prayers on behalf of all those who have given their lives in service to our country as well as a small but growing list of club members who have passed on to that great open range in the sky.

Following the solemnities, sixteen shooters unlimbered their shoot'n irons and set about working their way through a final set of five stages. Once again, Nick shot his way to the top of the pack averaging 28.86 seconds per stage for a total time of 144.31. Seemingly on a 20 second scale, Marshall was not far behind with a tally of 162.94, and Smithy Jim was third with a score of 182.04. Lead Monger was fourth with

an adjusted time of 192.76, and Diamond Mac took fifth with 198.66.

Poco lead the second set of five with a score of 206.75. He was followed by Red Roy with 230.43, Chad with 231.85, Kanuti with 235.22, Pokin with 255.95 and young Jake Glaza, shooting his first match, with a score of 275.77.

Places 11-16 were earned by Rusty with 283.20, Montana Kid Hammer shot the only clean match of the day while shooting 285.84, Valencia Rose with 288.09, Alaskan Lady Lou with 321.81 and Mattie who shot 406.94. Stage two proved to be troublesome for Valencia who stopped halfway through a four shot shotgun round to describe to the RO how the her hair had gotten trapped between the butt of the shotgun and her shoulder. Her vivid description of the problem was cut short by the spotters yelling that she was short two shotgun targets. Averaging 50 seconds per stage for the match, stage two earned her 87.79 seconds. Brasspounder arrived late and did not shoot the first two stages.

This year, scheduling conflicts on five shoot days have risen to the fore and volunteers have stepped forward to set up matches for the range boss who is unable to attend due to other commitments. Alaskan Lady Lou and Pedro De Borealis designed the first such match in April, and on the Sunday following Cowboy Camp, it being the last Sunday of the month and a scheduled shoot, Lead Monger and Pokin A. Long put together a match that was both challenging and

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For Sale

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

—**2 Vaquero (New Model) 45's single action revolvers** 4 ½" barrels with size 30/34 buscadero rig, blued: \$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

—**Reloading package deal**, Dillion square Deal B with 38/357 and 45 colt die plates. Trimmer, bullet sizer and lube, lube pad and lube, scale, tumbler, separator, brass in 38 and 45 colt, lead, lead pot, bullet molds in 38 and 45 colt, reloading books, and more not listed. I want someone to take it all as a package deal. Great deal for a newbie, everything a person needs to produce their own rounds is here.—\$800.00 for all the reloading stuff and \$50.00 for the new box of Oregon Trail.



—**Gun cart**, 3-gun cart. 3 piece, red oak, brass trim, wheels handmade by Amish, umbrella holder/coat hat hook, both boxes lock.—Steal at \$250

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

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

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

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

—**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

Whirlwind...

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a lot of fun. Eight shooters were in attendance and while this made covering the required posse responsibilities a bit of a chore, everyone did what they could and the stages progressed in good order with a lot of banter and much laughter. Marshall took top honors with a score of 167.79 with Lead Monger turning in a score of 186.43 for second place and Poco claiming third with a 195.39. Smithy Jim had to settle for fourth place due to a bug landing in the corner of his left eye just as he drew his first pistol on stage three. Being bugged led Smithy to a staggering 8 misses on the stage and almost doubled

his average stage time for the match. Brasspounder shot his way to fifth with a smokey score of 270.86; Valencia took sixth with a tally of 281.10; Pokin shot a 355.78 for seventh and her granddaughter Dead Eye Angel finished out the scoring with a 368.10.

In addition to an interesting course of fire, Lead Monger and Pokin A. Long also introduced a new funding-raising method for the club in which shooters were offered the opportunity to participate in a 50/50 game of poker. Those who kicked in a \$10 contribution, each drew a card at the completion of each stage with the best hand at the end of the match splitting the pot with the club. In what could be considered a bit of consolation, when all the shooting was done, Smithy Jim drew the best hand and took home \$40.

The next scheduled shoot is the second Saturday of this month, June 13th with Poco and Valencia tasked with designing the stages. As is usual,

registration will be a noon and lead goes down range at 1:00 PM.

A week later on Friday and Saturday, June 19th and 20th the club will hold its annual Solstice Shoot. Registration on both days is at 7:30 PM with shooting to start at 8:00 PM. The matches will stop at Midnight for posse photos and a tailgate finger food potluck follows each shoot.

Yup, all-in-all it's been a busy time, and with only a few more shoots before the State Championship in mid-July it doesn't look like it's going to slow down much until the snow flies once again. So, screw down your hats and hang on tight to the reins as we ride this whirlwind out of the chute.

A Special Thanks to:

—To *Diamond Mac and Lead Spittin Rusty* for hosting two shoots at their place.

—To *Sally Alaska* for making sure the club birthday cake made it out to the range for the birthday party.

—To all those who volunteered the use of their leather, firearms and ammunition so that prospective new shooters could try their hand at Cowboy Action Shooting.

—To the hardy crew who ran the rubber band gun gallery at Kid's Day and spent all day going up and down on their knees to retrieve the bands.

—To *Brasspounder* who chose to be the sole loader of the percussion shotguns used at Kids Day and then took them home to clean.