

# Bells, Votes, Awards move to center stage

A variety of activities are on tap for GHSS as the club slips into winter mode.

Topping the list is the group's traditional man-

ning of the Salvation Army's Red Kettles at Fred Meyer West from the Friday after Thanksgiving to the Friday before Christmas. The group will be stationed at two entrances

to the store on Friday evenings, beginning November 27th and running through December 4, 11 and 18th. A signup sheet was passed out at the October membership meeting

but failed to return to the Trail Boss. A second sheet will be passed around at the November meeting.

"It's really important that we get a handle on how many and when members are going to participate this year so that we can recruit folks for dates where we are short handed," explained Poco Loco Louie. "We have a reputation as being the best fund raisers the Salvation Army has for this annual funding drive and if at all possible we would like to maintain it."

The November meeting is also the date for the club's annual election cycle to be completed. This year all those serving in positions up for election have agreed to run again with the exception of Top Hand, the group's Membership Secretary.

"We've really been fortunate to have a top-notch leadership team in place on the Executive Board all these years with many individuals serving in a variety of positions," Poco explained. "And, it's not unusual because of the long tenures, every once in a while, an individual realizes that they are tired and that they need a bit of rest." In many ways long involvements are of great benefit in that they help insure continuity in accomplishing the club's goals but, at the same time, they can be an issue because they hinder the incorporation of new people with new ideas and new energy. "It's kind of a bittersweet deal," Poco went on to say. "On the one hand, as Trail Boss it's wonderful, and sure makes life a lot easier, not to have to struggle to recruit new members to the

## GHSS Round-up...

# Hace frio!

## Should

## We

## BAMM?

Best work your way back into the dark recesses of your gun safe and get out that old Mauser, British Enfield or Springfield 1903.

GHSS is considering hosting a BAMM (Bolt Action Military Match) this coming Spring. Outside SASS clubs are holding such matches as an outgrowth of Wild Bunch shooting as such rifles did make an appearance in the movie.

In our case, the shoot would be held either at the range in Chatanika or at Diamond Mac and Rusty's place in Salcha depending on the duration of Break-up.

While the particulars are still a bit hazy, the requirements for the shoot would be lead bullets in a bolt action military rifle shot off hand at either 80 yards (Chatanika) or 100 yards (Salcha.) The velocity limit would be 1,600 fps and we would be shooting at our prairie dog-sized targets. Ten shots

## What was that person's name?



**Staffing the Golden Heart Shootists tables at local gunshows can lead to visiting with large numbers of interested people. Sometimes so many people are in front of the tables that it's hard to keep track of them all. Here Berry Woman asks Poco about the last visitor. Also pictured hosting the club tables at the October TVSA gun show are from the left, Kootenai Brown, Drover Knutts, Bear Creek Bill, Sweet Caroline, and Sally Alaska. This show is more about maintaining a presence before the shooting community since the shooting season has just concluded. The same holds true for the next show at which the club will have a display, which is sponsored by the Alaska Territorial Guard at Pioneer Park in February. The April TVSA show provides the club the opportunity to recruit participants at its annual Memorial Day weekend Cowboy Camp. Photo: Valencia**

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## Sizing them up...



**Lead Monger looks over his target layout on a sheet of steel he, Kootenai Brown and Drover Knutts retrieved from storage in Wind Drifter's front yard. Photo: Pokin A Long**

## BAMM...

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with the number of hits in the least amount of time identifying the winner. Not unlike our annual Spring muzzleloader shoot, this go-round would be held just as soon as the thaw allows us to get out to a shooting venue and provides yet another opportunity to attract prospective new members.

### **GHSS Round Up**

**November 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.

## Bells, Votes...

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Board but on the other you worry about the future of the club."

Just as a reminder, the ballot distributed at the meeting will have provision for write-ins. "If anyone would like to step forward and run for this office it would be much appreciated," the Trail Boss said. "Otherwise, we're going to be in a bit of pickle."

Also to be voted on at the November meeting are a variety of proposals before the SASS Territorial governors. A complete listing of the issues to be considered can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Round Up.

While the club elects new

officers, this month the Executive Board itself will also be choosing the winner of the group's annual Espirito Del Juego award. The award is presented yearly at the Christmas Party to a deserving individual or individuals who best embodied the SASS Spirit of the Game during the previous year. Among the qualities considered are enthusiasm, participation and over-all bearing. Board members are excluded from consideration. If you have someone you would like to nominate for the award please relay your selection to a member of the board ASAP.

The Espirito award also brings into mind the annual GHSS Christmas Party which will again be

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## Done Deal...



**Lead Monger shows off the finished targets believing his work was done. Not so. Kanuti River Wrangler talked Napa Auto Parts out of two 60" x 40" sheets of steel; so now he is working on new shotgun targets. Photo: Pokin A. Long**

# Governors Consider Numerous Proposals

By Kootenai Brown

Once again it is time for the SASS Annual Convention and Territorial Governor Summit. SASS developed the Territorial Governor's program to provide SASS affiliate clubs with a voice in decision making and guiding and developing SASS sports and events. This year's convention will take place at the Green Valley Ranch in Las Vegas, Nevada, on December 2 - 6.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to attend a Convention, it is a great opportunity to meet folk from all over the world who are excited about Cowboy Action Shooting. You can attend seminars on all aspects of the Game, from costuming to gunsmithing to stage design to competitive technique. These sessions are presented by some of the legends of the Game, including Judge Roy Bean, Jim Bowie, Lassiter, Chuckaroo, Deuce Stevens, Frederick Jackson Turner, The Doiley Gang, Cat Ballou, Texas Flower, Kid Rio, CD Tom, Captain George Baylor, Ol #4, Coyote Cap, Shotgun, Silver Heart, Lacey O'Doyly, Pecos Clyde, The Butterfinger Kid, Sgt. Shus-

ter, Evil Roy, Solomon Star, Miss Tabitha and others.

One of the key functions of the Convention is the Territorial Governor's Summit, where proposed rule changes are debated and voted on, and then presented to the SASS Board of Directors for inclusion in the rule books.

This year, there are five issues that the Territorial Governor's will discuss. The items will be listed here, along with statements for and against the issue as summarized from discussion at the GHSS General Membership meeting on October 27.

## **Should the rules be changed to allow the inclusion of "sub-gauge" shotguns such as 28 and 32 gauge for Buckaroos and Buckerettes?**

DISCUSSION FOR:

Yes - if adding allowable firearms increases or encourages participation without diluting the Spirit of the Game, then yes, allow them.

This is an international organization, and some countries outside the US may have an easier time obtaining 28 and 32 gauge shells than .410, so yes, allow them.

DISCUSSION AGAINST:

None heard

SASS RO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Yes

## **Should the Minor Safety Violation for retrieval of dropped or ejected ammo be deleted?**

DISCUSSION FOR:

The rules currently allow for ammunition to be staged on the ground or on a prop for retrieval during the course of fire. There is no practical difference between reaching for rounds purposely placed on the ground or on a prop or reaching for rounds that drop and land on the ground or on a prop. The competitor must still maintain muzzle control at all times, and there are penalties in place for failure to do so. If a person can retrieve the ammo safely, why shouldn't it be allowed.

This is a preemptive penalty. It assumes that the shooter will be unsafe before the action is attempted. There are penalties in place already if the shooter is unsafe. This is akin to saying that you could break the 170 rule while moving from the load- ing table to the firing line, so every shooter who loads at the load- ing table will be assessed a Stage DQ.

Wild Bunch Action Shooting allows this practice and has not encountered a single muzzle control violation during the retrieval of ammo during the past six years. Consistency of rules between the two shooting disciplines

sanctioned by SASS would be a benefit.

It is not a requirement for anyone to attempt to retrieve dropped rounds. If an individual feels they cannot perform the action safely, they are not required to do so.

It is not a requirement to wear a shotgun belt or have any type of shot- shell carrier. The rules require that shotshells be retrieved from the body or when stage instructions allow, from a staged position. Why penalize a shooter just because they don't have a shotshell belt and don't have the opportunity to carry an ample supply of shells to the line.

This is not expected to become a routine action. The most likely instance in which dropped ammo would be retrieved is for that shooter trying to maintain a "clean" match, but has no more shot shells left in their belt. For most people, it would be faster to draw ammo from the body.

There is already a requirement to exercise muzzle control and to stay within the 170 degree rule, and penalties assessed for violation.

DISCUSSION AGAINST:

It doesn't seem safe to have people with long guns in their hands try to kneel or crouch to retrieve ammo. It seems like an invitation for loss of muzzle control and a sweep of spotters or spectators.

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### **Made a Donation?**

In order to help us develop a budget for the coming year, it would be helpful if you reported it to Callie Cross Fox.

## And that's my story...



**A bemused Wind Drifter listens to one of Chatanika Scout's wonderfully detailed stories as Silver Tip looks on. The trio were part of the GHSS crew at the October gun show. Staff photo.**

## Thief's rewrite not unfamiliar

Remus Reid was a notorious horse thief and train robber in the Wyoming Territory during the late 1870s and 1880s. He was sent to prison in 1883, where he served four years before escaping in 1887. After his escape, he continued robbing trains until he was caught by the Pinkerton men in 1889. He was tried, sentenced to death, and hanged the same year.

About 75 years later, a family member of Remus Reid wrote a book about the family, and here is what she wrote about ol' Remus:

"Remus Reid was a famous cowboy in the Wyoming Territory. His business empire grew to include the acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Union Pacific Railroad. Beginning in 1883 he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave in 1887 to resume his dealings with the Union Pacific. In 1889 he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton National Detective Agency. Later that year he passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when a platform on which he was standing suddenly collapsed."

## Governors Agenda...

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Sweet Caroline's "Stupid is as stupid does" rule. It is stupid to intentionally stage ammo on the ground. It's slow to retrieve, and provides a great opportunity to lose muzzle control. We should not provide the opportunity for shooters to be stupid within the rules.

**SASS RO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

Yes – for rule consistency and for eliminating a preemptive penalty

**Should the equipment regulations for GUNFIGHTER-style shooters be changed to allow the butt forward carry and use the Cavalry twist draw?**

**DISCUSSION FOR:**

The butt forward carry and Cavalry twist draw is currently allowed for all other shooting styles. The original reason for implementing this rule for Gunfighters (one revolver in each hand simultaneously) is that the T/O cannot see both revolvers at the same time. But this is true for gunfighter in general. Spotters are already assigned to watch for safety issues that the T/O might not be in a position to observe. If a shooter is unable to perform this operation safely, there are penalties already in place.

This rule change does not affect the current provision for drawing and re-holstering from straight hang holsters. The rules currently

provide for revolvers in straight hang holsters to be drawn vertically (i.e. at a 180 degree) until clear of leather then immediately moved downrange to within the 170 degree range. The same applies for reholstering. Revolvers may be turned to a 180 degree for placement in a straight hang holster.

If a person can demonstrate proficiency in this method, it should be allowed.

GHSS already requires would-be gunfighters to shoot one season as double duelist prior to registering as a gunfighter.

**DISCUSSION AGAINST:**

Penalties do no good after an accident occurs. This unusual method provides an opportunity for the competitor to shoot themselves in the leg or have other type of negligent discharge. SASS has a great safety record and we should jealously guard it to continue attracting new members.

It's a complicated method, and there are lots of opportunities for a person to make mistakes. There would need to be some method of demonstrating proficiency at this move before it is allowed.

**SASS RO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

Yes – this can be demonstrated to be safe

**Should the penalty for not holstering revolvers at**

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## Bells...

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held at the Santa's Senior Center in North Pole, on Saturday evening, December 12th. A pot-luck supper, members and their guests will gather at 6:00 pm with the meal being served at 6:30 pm. One of the highlights of the evening will be the announcement of the winner of the club's Clean Match Award. The highly anticipated award is based on the number of clean stages and or matches individuals shot during the past shooting season. Past prizes have ranged from chocolate pistols to a percussion 1849.

All-in-all, though, it doesn't seem like it, winter is a busy time for the society.

## Territorial Governors...

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**the end of the revolver shooting string be changed from a MSV to a Procedural penalty?**

Currently, the Stage Convention is "Revolvers must be holstered at the end of the shooting string unless otherwise stated in the stage description."

DISCUSSION FOR:

If the revolver is staged safely instead of being re-holstered, it is not a safety issue. Reclassifying the penalty as a Procedural is more appropriate in keeping with the type of penalty (note that MSV and P both carry a 10-second penalty). The competitor has the

opportunity to correct this situation and avoid penalty by properly re-holstering before the next firearm is fired.

DISCUSSION AGAINST:

There are some unintended consequences in that a competitor who has already earned a Procedural Penalty on a stage may attempt to save time by staging revolvers instead of re-holstering, knowing that they can only be assessed one "P" per stage. Although the Spirit of the Game penalty exists to penalize those who violate rules for competitive advantage, it is very difficult to assess competitor intent and apply the SOG penalty.

SASS ROC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Yes - for consistency in type of penalty

**Should the penalty regarding a shooter NOT complying with the CRO/TO command of "Cease Fire" or "Stop" while on the firing line be changed from a Match Disqualification to a Stage Disqualification?**

DISCUSSION FOR:

There is a perception that a MDQ is too harsh a penalty for a first offense.

DISCUSSION AGAINST:

No! Compliance with range officer instruction is a cardinal rule in competitive shooting sports. Cease fire is

not called without reason and immediate compliance is expected from all on the firing line. The penalty might seem harsh, but the consequences of not complying could be much worse.

SASS has an excellent safety record, and our club works hard to maintain our safety record, and it needs to be protected.

SASS ROC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Yes

I ask you to think these items over and provide your vote either by email or at the November General Membership Meeting on November 24. If you think of a new argument either for or against any of these items, please return it by email as soon as possible so it can be distributed to the club for consideration. The position that the majority of club members take on these items is the position that I will take to the TG summit and argue for on our behalf.

**Texas Bix Bender:**

*"When you're putting together an outfit, take your time. Wait for all the loose-lipped, manicured cowboys to run their line and wander off. Then make your picks from the wiser heads who stayed around listenin' and thinkin'."*

*"If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' someone else's dog around."*

## For Sale

**Offered for sale by Nicked M. Good are the following odd lots:**

CCI Small Pistol primers, 200 count--\$5; Federal Shot shell primers, 800 count--\$21; Winchester Small Pistol primers, 400 count--\$12; Winchester Magnum Small Pistol primers, 1,000 count--\$27; Winchester Large Rifle primers, 1,000 count--\$27; IMR 4198, 1 pound--\$27.

Hodgdon H110 powder, 1 pound--\$24; Hodgdon H414, 1/2 pound--\$14;

Winchester AA powder, 3/4 pound--\$22; American Select shotshell powder, 7 pounds--\$90; Number 7.5 shot, 24 pounds--\$90; 480 caliber loaded cartridges, 39 rounds--\$35; 32 H&R Magnum, 20 rounds--\$18; 7mm-08, 43 rounds--\$36.

45 Colt, 75 rounds--\$62; 45 ACP, 19 rounds--\$18; 32 S&W, 11 rounds--\$7; CCI Large Rifle Primers, 1,000 count--\$31; CCI Small Pistol, 1,500 count--\$41;

CCI Small Rifle Magnum Primers, 1,000 count--\$27; Remington Large Pistol Primers, 2,200 count--\$60; CCI Large Rifle Primers, 500 count--\$13.

Federal Small Pistol Primers, 500 count--\$13; 61 rounds of 454, \$70.

**If you're interested in any of these items, he can be reached at: 907-378-9655**