



The Telegraph

Volume # 2 Issue # 1

The Voice of SSAA Single Action Shooting - Australia

December 2010

CHISHOLM TRAIL 2010 Mud Replaces Dust

After years of drought dust and water shortages Chisholm Trail wore a different mantle in 2010. After weeks of rain the dams and water tanks were not only full and overflowing but the terrain simply couldn't take any more precipitation.

Three days of setting up the ranges the week before and there was a great deal of trepidation as to what the week of the annual SASS Australian Regional and National Championships would bring forth. Day One dawned fine and deceptive with Long range Rifle events scheduled for the day. Deceptive the day certainly was as shooters headed down to the range. Some decided to take a shortcut across the field and the results were disastrous to say the least. Hours of unbridled fun retrieving bogged vehicles was had by the cowboys even before shooting any long range events. Imagine how it would have been if the conveyances were wagons instead of vehicles. Even the complex manager bogged his tractor trying to retrieve Little Joe D's F250. Not bad for an ex farmer but testimony to the depth of mud after the weeks of rain.



Conveyances recovered and sanity restored the long range rifle events went ahead successfully. In fact the entire week produced fine cool weather that may be regarded as almost perfect shooting conditions.

The new accommodation units proved extremely popular and the Majura Rangers from Canberra certainly made their entire

block look like home with a hospitality tent and name plates on their doors. These folks take it to a completely new level when it comes to socializing after a days competition. So much fun was had that the units are already pre booked for the 2011 event.

Side events on offer included a new game in town entitled "Cowboy Snooker". Now this game is a real test. Shot with revolvers, plate racks and the Texas Star the trick is to amass a number of points in elapsed time by engaging a red plate then a colored plate each of which is worth a differing amount of points just as in the game of snooker played on a billiard table.. It is rumored that next year may see another new game entitled "Rifle Golf" for all those avid golfers in the single action shooting fraternity. Needless to say the established speed events have taken on a new life and increased interest from shooters. The Texas Star Challenge, Pat Garrett match, Seneca Run and others appear to have replaced the old standards of stand and deliver speed rifle, pistol and shotgun events. Main stages also appear to attract more intense competition these days when thought is given towards keeping it simple but challenging by including interesting engagement sequences and target layouts but at the same time maintaining the principles of speed and accuracy.

Read a more comprehensive coverage of the SASS Australian Regional in an upcoming issue of The Cowboy Chronicle.

Inside This Issue

Range master on Sweeps and other things - page 4

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Rare Collectors Item For Sale

Pair of original 9 1/2 inch Slim Jim holsters and belt stamped SC GALLOP saddlers. Slight cylinder marking and oil residue on holsters. Conservative value in the USA at between \$1,200 and \$1,800. Will sell for reasonable offer.

Contact
Scott
viscash@bigpond.net.au

Dalby Pioneers Continue Their Success Story

When clubs embark upon establishing annual events sometimes they find that to stage these successfully it is not as easy as it looks. Not so with the Dalby Pioneers.

This outfit is headed up by H and Mrs H two dedicated and longtime shooters and in particular single action shooters. These two stalwarts travel extensively to events around Australia not only competing but gathering knowledge generally on how these events are conducted.

Five or six years ago they decided to establish the annual Pioneer match held over the Easter break each year. Cunning they were when planning began. They decided to theme their annual event around a little part of history. Each year there is another chapter written about the beginnings and developments of "The Pioneers". An interesting theme indeed and one that attracts over one hundred competitors each year from all over Australia. One might call it a pilgrimage really and after all that is a term often attributed to the real pioneers of earlier times. Not by accident did the H's set out to achieve just that, an annual pilgrimage to the home of the Dalby Pioneers in Queensland.

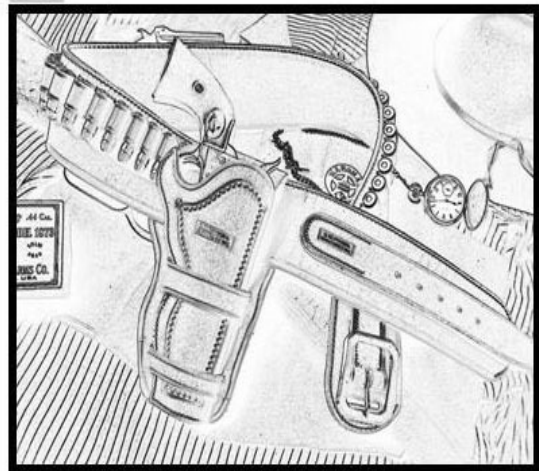
The principles established and that continue to underpin this event remain constant and yet creative so that each year competitors can look forward to some new aspect of the Pioneer event that keeps it fresh and alive.

Certainly the H's and their posse have bred a class event that should be on every cowboys (and cowgirls) "must attend" calendar.

Look for nomination forms and other information on the national SASA website early in 2011.

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Who's The Birthday Boy ?



Name the cowboy in the union suit above and win a Single Action Shooting Australia tee shirt.

Send entries to "Name the Cowboy" P.O. Box 431 Millmerran, Qld 4357.

In each issue of The Telegraph there will be a "Name the Cowboy or Cowgirl" competition so if there is a cowboy or cowgirl you would like featured send a photograph and details to "Name the Cowboy" P.O. Box 431, Millmerran,

Billy The Kid Fundraiser

After winning the travel sponsorship to End of Trail 2011 additional sponsorships have been received to enable this worthy cowboy and Barb Wire to bring the dream to life. Sponsors to date are:- Will E Doo, Morgan and Allie Earp, Judy's Lifestyle Photography, Dug Deeper and Trixie, Alice Longshot and anonymous donations.



*The Dalby Pioneers Posse
(L) RC Shot - Chef Extraordinaire, Mrs. H,
Mr. H and the workers who bring the Pioneer
Event to reality.*

Lesser Known Gunfighters and Lawmen.

Everyone has heard of Wyatt Earp and his fighting brothers, Bat Masterson, Commodore Perry Owens and other notable of the Old West but these are only a few of the many real characters some good some bad of that era. What about Baz (Or "Bass") Outlaw.

Outlaw was born in Georgia in 1855 and died April 5th, 1894 in El Paso, Texas. He was a law officer.

Reared in a good family in Georgia, Tennessee and Arkansas, Outlaw was well educated and had fine manners. Unfortunately he was also feisty and a problem drinker. Reputedly he killed a man and then ran away to Texas. In 1885 Outlaw enlisted in the Texas Rangers and won rapid promotion to sergeant. Found drunk on duty in Alpine he was forced to resign. After a time he secured an appointment as a deputy US marshal. Constantly warned to curb his drinking Outlaw finally met his demise in a wild gunfight in El Paso in 1894.

In town as a court witness, Outlaw spent an afternoon drinkin and visiting various El Paso dives. He fired a shot in Tillie Howard's sporting house. Constable John Selman was already on the scene and Texas Ranger Joe McKidric came running up, encountering Bass in the back yard. "Bass" challenged McKidric "Why did you shoot?" Drunkenly Outlaw replied, "You want some too?" With that he raised his pistol and fired point blank into McKidric's head, then shot the ranger in the back as he fell.

Selman went for his gun, but outlaw got off another shot, missing him but blinding him with the powder blast. Selman's return shot hit Outlaw in the chest, tearing through his left lung and emerging out his back. Outlaw staggered back, fired two more shots, wounding Selman twice in the leg, then he stumbled away.

When Outlaw encountered Texas Ranger Frank McMahon, he surrendered his gun and was led into a nearby saloon where he collapsed. A doctor arrived and placed Outlaw on a soiled dove's bed out back. "Oh God help!" cried Outlaw repeatedly. "Where are my friends?" At 9:15pm about four hours after he was shot, Bass Outlaw died.

Eye And Ear Protection What You Need To Know

The question arises from time to time as to if and when eye and ear protection is mandatory or strongly recommended.

Almost everyone is aware that ear or hearing protection is strongly recommended whilst on the Firing Line and indeed when in close proximity to the Firing Line. What many do not realize is that in fact there are instances when eye protection is mandatory and when it is only strongly recommended.

Firstly it should be recognized that if an act or direction declares something to be mandatory then there must be a mechanism whereby it can reasonably be enforced. It goes without saying that in this day of rampant litigation for almost anything and everything careful consideration must be given when declaring some act or requirement as being mandatory. In this instance we are of course discussing eye protection.

Simply the only place where eye protection can be enforced is when competitors are actually on the Firing Line and the Range Officer or other match official can manage those persons directly..

(Continued page 7...)

SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY - (SASS) WANTS YOU



The rising Australian dollar means it has never been more affordable for Australian Single Action Shooters to join SASS than it is now.

For the convenience of new and existing SASS members in Australia your very own Australian SASS Office is here to provide prompt and efficient service on membership and general matters.

Membership dues expressed in Australian Dollars (Effective November 30th, 2010)

	PDF	Chronicle	Print
Basic Life Membership	\$790		\$790
Senior Life Membership (65+ years)	\$530		\$530
<i>(includes gold plated badge)</i>			+\$63 p.a.
Individual Membership			
First Years Dues	\$58		\$121
Spouse or Significant Other	\$42		
Juniors (17 years and under)	\$27		
One Year Renewals			
Individual Basic	\$48		\$110
Spouse or Significant Other	\$37		
Juniors (17 years and under)	\$21		
<i>(Pay only 1st Junior all others renewed free)</i>			
Three Year Renewals			
Individual Basic	\$127		\$326
Spouse or Significant Other	\$90		
Juniors (17 years and under)	\$48		
<i>(Pay only 1st Junior all others renewed free)</i>			

Single Action Shooting Society (SASS)
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E-mail: earpvirgil@yahoo.com

NOTE: Due to fluctuations in the relationship between the Australian Dollar and the US Dollar fees expressed herein will change from time to time. Australian dollars stated are based on quoted bank exchange rates on the day specified.

SSAA Single Action shooting Australia

Visit YOUR Official National Website
At
<http://sasa.qir.com.au>

Regularly updated to keep you abreast of Single Action Shooting Cowboy Fast Draw and Civil war Re-enactment in Australia



RANGEMASTER ON RULES & SAFETY

Howdy Cowboys, Cowgirls, Buckaroos and Buckarettes I am pleased to have been asked back to answer your questions about Rules and Safety. Now let us get straight down to your questions.

Interestingly I have recently received a number of e-mails seeking clarification on that old issue of R.O. Timers and Spotters and their respective responsibilities and tasks. Heck I thought we had that covered some time ago but alas not so I guess. Well I am going to run my article on R.O. Timers and Spotters again in this issue so we can all have a refresher on these important tasks. Before that however I will answer a couple of new questions that also need clarification.

Sweeps and Loops

During the ongoing evolution of single action shooting there are always new and innovative shooting sequences being devised by match writers and in many cases variations on these sequences. There are Rainbow Loops, Cajon Sweeps, Lawrence Welk Sweeps, Badger Sweeps, Reverse Badger Sweeps, Nevada Sweeps and the list goes on and on. Our focus however is going to be the Nevada Sweep.

The original Nevada Sweep simply engaged a specified target array beginning on one end and finishing on an end. Pretty simple really. As time moved on however many variations were developed to keep the Nevada sweep interesting. Variations such as starting the sweep on any target other than an end target and finishing on a target other than an end target.

An interesting variation is the engagement in a Nevada Sweep of only some of the targets of an array. To be more specific take the following scenario ... A revolver target array consists of five targets. The Procedure states that the shooter will engage the three left hand targets with their first revolver in a Nevada Sweep. The shooter will then engage the three right hand targets with their second revolver in a Nevada Sweep. In this variation each Nevada Sweep leaves two targets in the array unengaged and the only common target engaged in both Nevada Sweeps would be the centre target. This is illustrated in fig # 1 below.

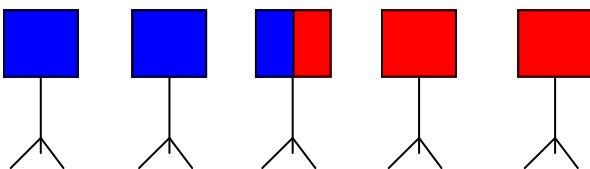


fig # 1

To take this one step further it can be noted that the Procedure does not state which target is to be engaged first only that the first revolver will be used to engage the left three targets and so on. This leaves the discretion to the shooter to start on any of the three designated targets.

I could continue burning up page space about this but

suffice to say match writers are only confined by their imagination when it comes to target engagement sequences provided Safety is maintained at all times in the layout of target arrays.

There is not nor has there ever been any formal "rules" or specific definitions of the various Sweeps and Loops and many clubs like to rename various sequences to suit their needs.

Before departing this subject let me leave you with a description of "The Chisholm Sweep" an interesting Sweep that incorporates both a Nevada Sweep and a Straight Sweep in the one rifle sequence.

The target array as set out in fig # 2 below shows three diamond targets as the centre array and each end target is square thus completing the entire array.

The shooter loads 10 rounds into the rifle and engages the targets as follows ... Nevada Sweep the three centre (diamond) targets then from either end Sweep the entire target array.

The principle here is that the target shapes are important in that the end targets should be one shape and the centre targets another. This simplifies shooter comprehension of the shooting sequence.

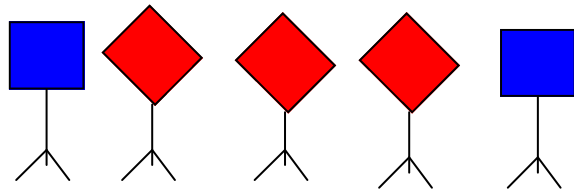


fig # 2

Have fun with the various Loops and Sweeps but above all keep it Safe.

De-Cocking Revolvers

Often there is some misunderstanding in regard to de-cocking revolvers and moving with unholstered revolvers during a Course of Fire.

We will get the easy one answered first. The scenario is that the shooter draws his/her revolver but does not cock it and moves from one position to the designated firing position without breaking the 170 degree plane or cocking the revolver.

Is this an allowable action.? Yes it is allowable provided the revolver is not cocked during the movement in which case the basket ball travelling rule comes into play and the shooter MUST discharge the revolver from that position.

I will not delve into the penalties at this point because that may better be dealt with later on.

The issue of de-cocking is a more serious issue and requires some reasonable address here.

In the event a shooter draws and cocks his/her revolver at the wrong place or time then generally it may NOT be de-cocked. This may occur especially if a stage begins with a starting position "hands on revolver butts" but the first firearm to be used is either the rifle or shotgun. Sometimes the adrenalin of the moment causes the shooter to draw a revolver instead of simply reaching for the designated longarm.

(continued page 5 ...)

Range Master (continued from page 4)

The only instance when a revolver may be de-cocked if drawn in error i.e. after the beep is if it is the first firearm used on the stage. At this point the stage has not commenced because no shot has been expended downrange.

In this instance the shooter may be granted a re-start. The issue of how to de-cock the revolver may vary from shooter to shooter and timer operator to timer operator however in most instances the revolver can be safely de-cocked whilst pointed downrange then re-indexed to the correct position of no round under the hammer.

In instances where either the shooter or T.O. are not comfortable de-cocking the revolver in this way the shooter may fire the round downrange then reload either immediately or at the Loading Table in readiness for a restart.

Once a round has gone downrange on the clock the shooter is committed to firing the cocked revolver incurring a Procedural penalty if shot out of order and a MISS if a revolver target is not placed so that it can be safely engaged from that position. The shooter would then have the option to replace that round if he/she chose to do so in order to negate that miss.

References can be located in the SASS rule book under the heading "Safety Practices" and in the *ROI Appendix A - Range Safety Rules #s 7, 8 and 9* and lastly the *ROI Pocket RO Card*.

Timer Operators and Spotters

The Mysteries of Timer Operators and Spotters Revealed. Sounds a little like a shattering revelation but in reality there is no real mystery about these important functions whatsoever. Inconsistencies are usually related to incorrect interpretation and application in the way in which a shooter is administered on the firing line and how misses and procedurals are applied. Then of course there is always the fear of offending a buddy by applying a penalty or recording a miss. Perhaps this is one of the more significant influences surfacing at both club and above club level matches. Let us take a look at the roles of Timer Operator and Spotter separately and see if we can clarify some of those perceived mysteries.

The Timer Operator or R.O. Timer, another commonly used term to describe the Chief Range Officer on the stage is in charge of the firing line and whose primary function is to *safely assist the shooter through the course of fire*. Additionally the T.O. assigns the three spotters required to run the stage. We will come back to this a little further on in this article. The T.O. also watches the shooter for unsafe acts, correct target engagement and stage procedures and ensures that the shooter expends all rounds as required before moving to the next firearm in the sequence. What the T.O. does not do is count misses for do so is to discount the ability to safely and correctly administer the shooter as described.

Administering the shooter on the firing line and operating the timer is not as difficult as some may think however there are a few fundamentals that should be kept in mind. Always stand at arms length behind the shooter on the strong side holding the timer at or above shoulder level just out of the shooters peripheral vision range and with the timer's sensor facing the shooter. It is not necessary to record every shot but it is important to get up close and personal to ensure the last shot is recorded. Another useful tip is to ensure that when performing the T.O. role that you do not cast a shadow over the shooters shoulder or firearms whilst in use. After announcing the

score to the shooter, clear the range and announce the score to the Scorekeeper. It is always useful to show the timer reading to the Scorekeeper to ensure that there is no misunderstanding the time called. Lastly poll the spotters for misses and procedural penalties and announce the results clearly to both the shooter and Scorekeeper. There it is in a nutshell, simple and easy really. Did I say easy? Yes I did. The T.O. task can be made easy but only if the T.O. shares the role during the match with other competent T.O.s In short don't hog the timer because you are the posse leader or you think you are the only competent T.O. on the posse. Share the task and you are being fair not only to yourself but the shooters as well.

Now as I stated earlier the T.O. assigns the three spotters needed to ensure that the shooter receives fair adjudication on misses and procedurals. This task requires a great deal of concentration and the use of not just the ears but the eyes as well. Next time you watch a referee at a ball game see how he focuses and watches intently as the ball is pitched so as to assess correctly what the pitcher and batter are doing. As a spotter you only need to ensure that the correct targets are being engaged to assess procedurals however you need to watch and listen to each target as it is engaged to ensure a correct call is made. Similar to the referee at that ball game isn't it? Eyes, ears and concentration are all used if a spotter is to discharge his or her duties correctly.

Spotters should be spread across the stage, one either side and one more or less in a central position so that there are three alternative perspectives of the target arrays. Watch the targets individually as they are engaged and you **will** see that "nick" or "edge" that more often is lost if you are only listening for that elusive ring of the steel. Another useful indicator is the ground below and to the rear and either side of the target being engaged. That puff of dust is not necessarily a missed target but often a fragment of the projectile as it sheers after hitting the edge of the target then the ground. There is no easy way to determine this except to say, assess the impact point in relation to the target and then assess where the firearm would have to be pointed to directly hit that ground point. In many instances the firearm would have to be pointed in a vastly different direction than at the particular target. Lastly of course if you are simply not sure give the benefit of the doubt to the shooter. Now that raises another issue. Exactly what does *benefit of the doubt to the shooter* mean? It means if you are not sure of a hit or miss then the shooter is given the shot as a hit. What it does not mean is that you confer with the other spotters or alter your miss and procedural count to agree with them. To do so is not only unfair to the shooter but it is in reality unfair to every shooter in the match.

The question sometimes arises as to how to adjudicate the miss count when three spotters do not agree on the number of misses. Firstly let us assume the count is 2, 2, 1. In this instance the call would be two misses. That is, majority rule or two out of three break the tie. Another more difficult situation is where the spotters arrive at a 3, 2, 1 count. The solution however is still a simple one, the shooter in this instance is accorded two misses. The score recorded I would then be changing my spotters immediately as obviously not enough attention is being paid to the task at hand. This may be for a number of reasons but most often it is simply due to weariness after spotting for lengthy periods of time during a match.

Tie Breakers and the last case *Average Call* have absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with *benefit of the doubt to the shooter*.
(continued page 7...)



From:

The Territorial Governors Desk

November 15th, 2010

Dear Single Action Shooters,

We are back ... Yes sir and how good that is. After a long break The Telegraph has come to life again only in a different format. That is we are moving with the times and publishing straight to our web-site in pdf format. The reality today is that the costs of producing hard copy of The Telegraph has simply outstripped the available funds that we have at our disposal.

The usual columns such as Rangemaster and others are back for your enjoyment and we are progressively adding new columns as we move forward into 2011. The first of those is the State Governors Column. Each issue will feature an article from one of our State Governors which will keep everyone abreast of developments in each State. Informative articles and light relief will all be a permanent feature of The Telegraph and you are all encouraged to submit articles that you think may be of interest to the broader membership. Please remember it is extremely difficult to produce interesting issues of The Telegraph without you our roving reporters.

On another note it is pleasing to see continued support of both the established and newer annual events around the country. During 2010 more than one club was admitted into the prestigious "One Hundred Club" membership to which is only available to those attracting over one hundred registered competitors to their annual signature event. Winter Roundup based in Adelaide was a new inductee during the year as was The Yella Gully Gunslingers of Wondai and Dalby Pioneers continued in their tradition of meeting the criteria. The annual Single Action Shooting Australian Black Powder Championships also cemented it's place as a member of the Club. Some may ask what is the big deal about the "One Hundred Club"? Simply it is no mean feat to be able to achieve such high competitor numbers in this country and as such recognition is well deserved. This also acts as encouragement to other clubs to work towards being admitted to the Club. Notwithstanding what I have stated here about the One Hundred Club it should never be forgotten that not only are competitor numbers important but the quality of all aspects of the event are a critical ingredient. In brief it is not only the size of the event that counts but the standard of the overall presentation that allows events to exist and grow.

In conclusion may I thank the State Governors for their diligent efforts in driving single action shooting in their respective States during 2010 and I thank them for their ongoing support. I have no doubt that 2011 will be another excellent year for us all.

Whilst this time of the year is a time of joy and festivities it is also a time to reflect on the year almost gone. Especially I refer to those of our Single Action Family that have left to join the heavenly posse in 2010. To their families I extend our warmest wishes that 2011 will be a year when grief fades into the past and good memories remain.

To each and every one of you that make up this Single action Family of ours may I wish you a very happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and I trust that 2011 brings you good health, wealth and happiness.

Hager

Until Next Time, Warm Regards

Range Master

(continued from page 5)

Someone said in one of my classes recently the shooter in the last scenario where the *average call* was used should have received only one miss. When questioned further the answer was *benefit of doubt to the shooter*. This is not correct and should never be interpreted as such.

There are three simple rules for Spotters that are not in any way difficult to follow. Rule # 1, Use the eyes, ears and concentrate on the target engagement. Rule # 2, Observe the area around targets in an effort to identify those target nicks and edges. Rule # 3, Be independent in your judgment.

It is always wise to change spotters regularly to avoid fatigue. Additionally it is always a good idea to avoid spotting for family members. What about spotting for those buddies of ours? Friendships are friendships but on the firing line there is an obligation to every shooter in the match not just our buddies to ensure we make fair calls. If there is any uneasiness about spotting for our buddies then hand over the role to someone else rather than compromise that friendship.

I trust the foregoing dispels any myths and mysteries about Timer Operators and Spotters but for further information consult the SASS R.O. Course materials and Rule Book.

In conclusion I will share a couple of principles that I have found invaluable over the years. These are to keep in mind that "*The Spirit of The Game*" means good sportsmanship and to read the rules as they were intended rather than to try and place some obtuse interpretation on them that simply does not exist. I hope these principles may be as useful to you as they are to me.

Don't forget to email those questions to me that you may like answered and we will see if we can do so for you. Address questions to me The Rangemaster -
E-mail: earpvirgil@yahoo.com

*That about wraps it up for me in this issue but in closing may I wish each and everyone of you a joyous festive season and may 2011 bring you good health, happiness and good shooting.
Yours ... Rangemaster*

TO OUR READERS A WARNING:

All of the information contained in this journal is based upon the personal experience of others who may be using specific products, components tools and equipment under particular conditions and circumstances, some or all of which may not be reported in particular articles and which have not been otherwise verified. Nothing herein is intended to constitute a manual for the use of any product or the carrying out of any procedure or process. Neither the author, contributors nor *The Telegraph* can accept any responsibility whatsoever for any liability, injuries or damages arising out of any persons attempt to rely on any information contained herein. Have a competent gunsmith check your firearms before firing.

Firearm safety is of primary importance to us all. Each reader must take responsibility for themselves and their actions to ensure safety comes first at all times.

Doris Day the actress proved she could ride, shoot and sing with the best of them when she starred as Calamity Jane

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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sam Balin
Tel: 0417-801-810

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

John Wesley Hardin
Tel: 08-9310-9629

TASMANIA

Jack Daniels
Tel: 0438 320 417

Eye And Ear Protection What You Need To Know

(continued from page 3)

As far as controlling spectators or other persons behind the Firing Line it is much more difficult and in reality almost impossible to enforce or control the wearing of eye protection whilst in these perimeter areas. It is therefore appropriate to strongly recommend the wearing of eye protection in these instances.

In summary it can be said that the wearing of ear or hearing protection is strongly recommended whilst on range property. The wearing of eye protection is strongly recommended whilst behind the Firing Line and mandatory whilst on the Firing Line.

For further information on this subject contact the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia national office. or SSAA Insurance Brokers.



Miss Clancys **COSTUME CORNER**

“Miss Clancy
can be contacted by e-mail at
clancy68aus@yahoo.com.au

Hi there. It is great to be back and to be able to talk costuming again. As this is the first issue of the new Telegraph I have decided to start at the beginning. Crowbar and Jinniebar who are keen costuming officianadoes have written an article about exactly what I am talking about - The Beginning. After all how can one decide what to wear if they do not have a clear picture of just who it is they are wishing to portray?.

Over coming issues I will most likely from time to time invite guest contributors to my column so that you can see costuming through many different sets of eyes so to speak. In the meantime I hope you enjoy this issue all about selection of *“The Character”*.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Clancy.

“THE CHARACTER”

How did you decide who you'd like to be?

It's always interesting to see the different costumes shooters and their partners wear at a shoot, and to speculate whether the outfits were chosen to fit a specific persona, or if an item had been seen, and the idea expanded from there.

How did you decide on your costume?

Crowbar and I attack this question from opposite directions....he knows what he wants to do, and then charms me into making the items, and I start by catching sight of something in an 'op shop' and adapting and fiddling around with it until it suits what I want it to be. Where would we all be without those 'Western specialists', St Vinnies, Salvo's and the like? We find it quite fascinating that it is so often possible to shuffle down the rows of shirts; jackets etc., and find the perfect article to set off the train of an idea.

We are always impressed with the authentic costumes on show at each match, and all praise must go to those competitors who do such a wonderful job, but not everyone can afford to be so precise, and that is where the hunt comes in. Of course, if there are special conditions imposed on your chosen arena; make sure you have all the information to hand before you begin. There is nothing as frustrating as thinking you've got it all together perfectly, and finding out you can't use certain buttons, or whatever.

I do tend to feel that the ladies have something of an easier time of it than the gents, as we can add frills or braid or flowers to almost anything we find, and can look like ladies sweeping about in full skirts, while the male of the species has not only to find a suitable shirt or pants etc., but in the case of alterations sweet talk someone else into doing the job. (To any men out there who sew their own outfits, my apologies!)

You'll have noticed the general conventions involved? Brown hats for country types, black hats for grim gunfighters, light colours for the 'good guys' while the ladies however, can wear any darn colour they like, and still look good.

Some of the Ladies hats discovered in 'op shops' lend themselves very well to the period, with just the addition of a silky scarf or clump of flowers [no guys, not you] while of course the stall holders who attend the shoots have often done all the hard work for us, and been on the 'op hunt' first, and are always worth checking out.

If you have come to the sport with a definite character in mind, half the fun is in the costume and getting into the part, so if you can't find what you need....ask around, there are some very good needlewomen (and Cowboys) in Single Action Shooting who are always more than willing to help you achieve **“THE LOOK”**

Enjoy Christmas and we will all catch up on the range (or at St. Vinnies) in the New Year..Remember decide on your character then go about gathering your costume together. You will be surprised how much fun can be had doing just that and in fact how small the cost can be..

.Great Costume Planning...

Jinniebar and Crowbar

Memories Of
Chisholm Trail 2010



State Governors Corner

Reporting From The Provinces



The new State Governors column will bring to readers a report from one of the States each issue. To kick this off the ACT Governor submitted the following report.

Well,...where do we start. It has been some time since the last Telegraph was issued, but then time can be a killer of ones own time! Can it not?

Let's go back to End of Trail 2009.

Here in the ACT we are indeed lucky that we have some members who are not only keen shooters, but travelers too, & are lucky enough to do so. The Majura Rangers have 4 members who are totally passionate about their game and attend as many shooting events as circumstances allow; both nationally and internationally. In 2009, Ms Clancy (SASS 46433); Kathouse Kelli (SASS 72384); Constable Nelson (SASS 11784) & Jackaroo (SASS 29989) all made another trip to the USA.

Beginning in Cortez at the Revenge of Montezuma, a really fun shoot where there were about another 20 Aussies; all excelled and placed in their categories. The folks who run this shoot are really some of the nicest people I know anywhere in the world, and cannot do enough for their international guests. I'd recommend any shooter from Australia to try and put this event on their calendar, should they decide to attend EoT.

End of Trail 2009 proved to be probably the best results some of the ACT members have achieved, with Kathouse Kelli (SASS 72384) at her first EoT; and Jackaroo (SASS 29989) his 6th both achieving championship buckles in 6th place, in their respective categories of Lady Wrangler & Senior.

Ms Clancy (SASS 46433) had her best EoT result to date, coming 2nd in Lady Wrangler, as did Constable Nelson (SASS 11784) 2nd in B Western. Kathouse Kelli (SASS 72384) & Jackaroo (SASS 22989) then both went on to the High Plains Regional in Cheyenne, Wyoming following EoT, where both were extremely successful in finishing in 2nd place in their respective categories.

This event is known as 'Hell on Wheels' and is one of the best Regional shoots around. The event gets its name from the trains that run through Cheyenne, around a hundred a day! Indeed many of the old west towns that had many trains passing through were known as "Hell on Wheels".

In 2010 both Jackaroo (SASS 29989) & Constable Nelson (SASS 11784) returned to the US, each attending a number of events, in Texas & New Mexico, and once again represented Australia and the ACT very well, by finishing in the winners circle at each event.

On the local scene these ACT club members continued on their merry way, attending Chisholm Trail; and the Australian National Black Powder Championships held at Newtec Pistol Club every year by CASS.

This year 2010, ACT members have travelled to a number of events around Australia, and have held high the Majura Ranger's club name in the Victorian Territorial, Winter Roundup, Gold Coast Territorial, Queensland Black Powder Champs, Chisholm Trail, and the Australian Black Powder Championship during the year. You can check out the all results on the SASA site.

During the past 2 years the club membership in the ACT has grown, albeit very slightly. I would expect most other clubs would have a similar result. Most are just club shooters, who shoot their required minimum shoots, and therefore do not really have the motivation to move to higher levels; and that is fine, it's up to each individual to pursue their own interests, but certainly I would like to see more ACT members at these away events.

Ricochet

TRAIL MARKER

Johnny Gilbert

"Giblets" as he was affectionately known was a notable character both on an off the range. Well known and loved Johnny Gilbert passed away suddenly earlier this year and will be sadly missed by his many shooting buddies, friends and acquaintances..

"Giblets" partner Red Roar continues his tradition of shooting the big calibers .



HOOT GIBSON

Profile Of A Cowboy Shooter

Martin Dorney was born in Randwick N.S.W. on August 6th, 1921. His first job was a Golfing and Tennis demonstrator. He used to demonstrate Alexander tennis racquets at White City against Jack Crawford and also hit balls to him in Farmers City store where he also demonstrated hitting golf balls into a net.

He then started a Radio Engineer apprenticeship with Stromborg Carlton earning 16/6d (\$1.65) per week. During the Depression he was put back to half time which dropped his pay to 83 cents. He then became a wood machinist at Crown Crystal Glass Co.

Martin became interested in shooting and joined the A.G.M. Rifle Club and started shooting .303's at Malabar. In June 1953 Martin, with John Sarks who had a sports store in Darlinghurst plus a small group of interested shooters started Sydney Pistol Club.

Martin used to train and shoot in a disused section of Wynyard Railway Station. Those days safety protection for eyes and ears was unheard of.

In 1956 Martin represented Australia at the Olympic Games in Melbourne, having to pay his own train fare, accommodation, uniform, meals and other expenses.

Sydney Pistol Club and Sydney Combined Muzzle Loading Club used to compete against each other monthly, alternating between Sackville and Sydney. It was here he met Tony Cohen (Mister Skye) and started to shoot "Western Action". Martin still competes monthly at Sackville and has made two trips to the Nationals and SASS Australian Regional Championships held at Millmerran, Queensland.

At 87 years of age as well as still conducting his business "Martins Firearms" along side his wife Mary he is still actively engaged in shooting in multiple disciplines including Single Action.

Martin loves to help shooters and apart from importing and selling firearms he spends on average six and a half days per week repairing firearms, casting lead, and loading for professional and sporting shooters. He also resizes and loads black powder Bofor shells for Sydney Yacht Club. So when you see the smoke from the starters gun for the Sydney to Hobart yacht race on New Years Day think of Martin as he loaded those rounds.

Martin or Hoot Gibson as he is known in single action circles is not only an all round nice guy but an accomplished sportsman and businessman One might call him the "*All Round Cowboy*".



Hoot Gibson (Left) Shooting at Wynyard Underground Pistol Range. Circa 1950.

Keeping The Memories Alive

By: Virgil (Morg) Earp

It has been said many times that when there is no history there is no future.

As the Single Action Shooting Fraternity moves forward into the twenty first century and we all gather in the years it is a foregone conclusion that some of our family members will move on to join the heavenly posse. Indeed this is more frequent now as our average age moves well into the fifty plus range. Factually it will become more and more frequent as we age.

Earlier in 2010 as I was pondering this delicate subject it dawned on me that now is the time to create an honor roll of the past members who have passed away over the years.



Sassy Lilly and Dr. Death present the honor roll slab at Chisholm Trail. 2010

Announced at the Last Man Standing match in Mackay, Queensland it was declared that a permanent honor roll would be erected in small rotunda located in the cemetery at Western Creek where Chisholm Trail is held. Small gold shields with each persons name will be affixed to the roll as a permanent reminder of those who have contributed to the growth of Single Action Shooting in this country simply by being competitors and believers in "*The Spirit of The Game*".

Subsequent to the announcement Sassy Lilly (sasa #4672) and Doctor Death (sasa #4664) of Mackay felt so strongly about this project that they donated a magnificent slab of Silky Oak (that was to have been crafted into a coffee table for their home). This slab was then prepared and finished by a master craftsman El Gutto (sasa #4000) who donated his time amounting to many hours and the finishing materials for the project also. Presented at Chisholm Trail opening ceremonies the slab now awaits final erection after the rotunda is built during the first months of 2011.

Now it is your turn to make this project really worthwhile and to achieve its aim. Whilst many of those who have passed are known by the writer there are certainly others who are not.

You are requested to advise the alias names and numbers if possible of any of your local club members who have passed away over the years so that they can take their rightful place on the honor roll for the future.

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Alamo Flag

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2' x 3' Rebel Battle Flag

30" x 30" Cavalry Battle Flag

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Lifestyle Photography

By Judy Burge

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