



RATTLER TATTLER



Volume 20 Issue 12

December 2009

NOTES FROM THE RANGE



It was a cold day on the range Sunday, too cold to shoot. I'm not sure what the actual temperature was but I think I left permanent finger prints on my guns in the form of frozen flesh. Only five intrepid souls (fools) showed to shoot. After about an hour or so we decided to light a fire and give it a try. "Not gonna happen" was the consensus after trying one stage. Five people does not a posse make. Not enough to run loading and unloading tables, keep score and be safe. A vote was taken, by me, to call it a day. After trying to load and my fingers hurting like someone hitting them with a hammer, we packed it up and went to the ranch house and had some good food. Hot chili and Bar-B-Q beef, mighty tasty fare.

I do what to thank those that showed up Saturday to help set up, Haywire Snuffy, Dirty Pole Cat, Yaro and Bloody Lane. I also want to thank Haywire Snuffy for some very festive and challenging stages, a couple of which may be adapted to the January shoot.

Lane was unable to make it back because of medical problems with his hands and Star Shot due to serious back problems, John Henry with foot surgery and K-K just being sick. Looks like we are getting

old and decrepit, not. Lots of folks out there that shoot with use could use our prayers and support while going through trying times. Then there is Shooting Hoosier. Out gallivanting in the warm climes of Nevada while we shiver in the Colorado snow.

He was in Las Vegas at the TG meeting and SASS convention. Hope he had a good time and feels guilty and hung over for leaving us to freeze. Honestly I hope he enjoyed his time there and did some good

for our sport. I will end my rambling now as I prepare for the rigors of everyday living and get ready for work. I hope to see everyone in January and have good enough weather to shoot. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year. It will be 2010 when we get together to shoot again. Until then keep your powder dry and don't eat yellow snow.

Midnite Slim



UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Jan 2 | Setup for the match at 3:00 PM |
| Jan 3 | Monthly Shaketails Shoot – safety meeting 8:30 AM |
| Jan 10 | Monthly Cowboy Long Range Shoot – arrive about 9:00 AM |



SASS Convention and TG Summit Report



This was my first time attending the SASS Convention and the Territorial Governors Summit. My wife and I had a great time in Las Vegas. I wanted to provide a summary of the summit and few notes on the convention.

Let me start with the business part. The summit set a record for the number of clubs actually present or represented by proxy – with more than 300. If you follow the SASS Wire, you probably already know that all agenda items failed. Here are the specifics:

1. Should we adopt the circle of safety concept for the drawing and holstering of handguns from all types of holsters? Holsters must still comply with the 30 degree maximum cant from vertical requirement and handgun muzzles must remain within the four foot circle of safety while drawing and holstering.
Failed --- For 50 Against 278 Abstain 4 - 15% in favor
2. Should we allow Bisley Style Hammers mated with non Bisley Style Grips and Bisley Style Grips mated with non Bisley Style Hammers?
Failed --- For 204 Against 125 Abstain 3 - 61% in favor
3. Should we allow the use on adjustable sighted revolvers in all categories except Classic Cowboy and Black Powder Categories? That would be to allow them in the Duelist and Gunfighter category. They are already legal in all age based categories and B Western.
Failed --- For 168 Against 160 Abstain 4 - 51% in favor
4. Should we eliminate the minor safety penalty for overloading a RIFLE? This will do away with the double jeopardy penalty for overloading a rifle. Penalties for leaving rounds in the rifle would still apply but if a shooter over loaded the rifle they could clear within our rules and not be charged a penalty. (The only problem I see would be a rifle reload stage - state all reloads must come from the body.) Note this only applies to a rifle and NOT to a revolver or shotgun.
Failed --- For 181 Against 148 Abstain 3 - 55% in favor
5. Should we create the new sanctioned shooting category “Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter?” The category would follow the equipment and ammo guidelines of the current “Frontier Cartridge” category and follow the shooting style requirements of the current “Gunfighter” Category.
Failed --- For 195 Against 133 Abstain 4 - 59% in favor

The first agenda item concerning the circle of safety was resoundingly defeated. That means this proposal can not be reconsidered for 3 years. The primary concerns expressed during the debate were: safety related, conflicts with host range rules that require strict 180 degree rule adherence and the difficulty for an RO/TO to observe and enforce the proposed rule.

The remaining agenda items all actually garnered a majority favorable vote but could not attain the 2/3rds majority required to pass. Since the proposals did get a majority vote they are eligible to be reconsidered next year. In general there seems to be a fairly large contingent of TG’s that are reluctant to make additional changes concerning allowing more firearm modifications or adding sanctioned shooting categories. It was emphasized during the discussion that individual clubs can provide special categories that meet the needs of their club without it being a SASS sanctioned category. This sentiment hurt proposals #2 on Bisley hammers, #3 concerning adjustable sights and proposal #5 sanctioning a new FC gunfighter category. The concern with proposal #4 to eliminate the double penalty associated with overloading a rifle centered on the possibility for abuse when a shooter deliberately overloaded in certain scenarios where it might be advantageous. While a spirit of the game penalty could certainly be called if that were the situation, it puts the RO/TO in the position of having to judge the shooter’s intent.

In the RO Committee report there were a few house keeping items that were intended to clarify language in the rules. I am borrowing heavily from some notes taken by Chuckaroo on the key RO Committee topics:

Rule 34 in the handbook states that failure to stage ammo correctly by the shooter is the shooter's responsibility. If a shooter takes ammo from the RO's belt or is handed ammo by the RO, this ammo is considered "illegally acquired." The RO Committee has ruled that the penalty for getting ammo either way is a procedural. Any targets hit with the ammo are scored as a miss.

There was clarification of the de cocking rule stating a gun may not be de cocked in order to avoid a penalty. De cocking can be done under the direction of the RO/TO. This might happen if an unsafe situation arises downrange or a range cease fire has been called. Another exception is for the first gun and a round has not been fired and the shooter has cocked the wrong gun. The gun can de cocked under RO supervision or fired downrange and reloaded. This is only because a round had not yet gone down range.

Time was spent demonstrating what is and is not permitted in drawing, carrying and holstering pistols. The muzzle must break from vertical in the up range direction to be in violation. Current rules allow drawing from a right side straight hang holster, keeping the gun vertical, while moving right. Doing this, exposes a shooter to violation if the gun does not stay vertical. If the right side holster is a cross draw then drawing while moving from left to right is not possible without violating the vertical. The term vertical means the barrel is straight up and down. The current rule has no specific degrees from vertical - it is a judgment call. Canted holsters that are pointed downrange (crotch holsters) do not violate any rules if drawn and holstered when angled in the downrange direction.

ROII appeals section clarification: Assigned posse or match officials only can make calls on the shooter. Shooters that are not assigned posse duties cannot make a call, on the shooter. They must present the violation to the RO/TO and they will make the decision on any penalty.

I wanted to end with a few comments on the convention which was a lot a fun with seminars, social events and exhibits. NRA President Ron Schmeits was the guest speaker on opening morning so I took advantage of the opportunity to meet him. Since this was my first time to attend I have no reference point for comparison but my understanding was that attendance was down from last year. Since the contact with Riviera expires this year there was discussion about various options for next year but no decision has been made.

The TG agenda limited the seminars I could attend but I did make it to three: Wild Bunch Rules, New Shooters Clinics Recruiting, and Advanced Stage Writing. All were well done. The material for some of the classes is online accessible.

The exhibition floor included many vendors and entertainment, including the New SASS "Wild West Performing Arts Society" (WWPAS). After cruising the floor to see all the toys I could not help but come home with some new gun leather from Mernickle Custom Holsters.

We spent some time watching the indoor match. It was amusing to watch the reaction of the other hotel guests that happened to wonder into the convention lobby and find a shooting match going on by a bunch of folks that looked like they came in off the streets of Dodge. Brenda and I also tried our hand at fast draw. Fast draw is not something I have ever really had an interest in but it was a lot of fun to try.

There are a number of organized social events including a saloon dance, a ball and cowboy karaoke. I don't sing or dance but it was good to get to network with some fellow SASS members from around the country, some other Colorado Territorial Governors and run into some Shaketails familiar faces like Marshall Ransom Payne and Calico Glo.

If you ever get the opportunity to attend the SASS Convention, I would highly recommend it. I have included a few pictures below.

Territorial Governor, Colorado Shaketails

Shootin Hoosier

Indoor Match



Fast Draw Demo

This is Deuce Stevens (left) trying his hand at Fast Draw.

Benda and I gave this a try. It was a hoot!



**Catawba Kate
and
Tornado Alli**

**The convention exhibition floor.
The Wild West Performing Arts Society
stage is in the upper right,**



A Few Pic's from the Shoot

Santa's Helper



Match Director:

Midnite Slim -- midniteslim@yahoo.com

Assistant Match Director:

Open

Board of Directors:

K-K -- cayt@comcast.net

Lostriver Bill -- w.p.breithaupt@worldnet.att.net

Midnite Slim -- midniteslim@yahoo.com

Shootin Hoosier -- shaketails@earthlink.net

Silverton -- Silverton73@comcast.net

Yaro -- mayoryaro@msn.com

Territorial Govenor:

Shootin Hoosier -- shaketails@earthlink.net

Rattler Tattler Email:

shaketails@earthlink.net

Shaketails Web Site:

<http://www.shaketails.net/>



SHAKETAILE XXI

July 30 - August 1, 2010

Make your plans NOW!

SHAKETAILE XX SPONSORS

TOP GUN SPONSOR:

[Nation-Wide Horse Transportation:](#) 719-392-1888 - Brenda Steele
& David Steele, aka Shootin Hoosier

DOOR PRIZE CONTRIBUTORS:

[Cherry Hills Animal Hospital:](#) 303-730-3248 – Clyde Granville D'Arcy DVM, aka Okotoks

[Rocky Mountain Guns & Ammo:](#) 303-841-1933 – 10970 South Parker Road, A16 – Parker, CO 80134

[Specialty Sports & Supply:](#) 719-391-2556 – 4285 E Fountain Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80916

Some Nearby Clubs Along The Front Range

Club Name & City	Shoot Dates	Contact Alias
<u>The Colorado Cowboys</u> Lake George, CO	1st Saturday	el Gato Gordo 719-683-6713
<u>Coyote Gulch Cowboys</u> Boulder, CO	2nd Saturday	T.J. Walker 303-494-5229
<u>Pawnee Station</u> Wellington, CO	3rd Saturday	Red Creek Dick Martin 303-857-0520
<u>Rockvale Bunch</u> Rockvale, CO	3rd Saturday	<u>Nevada Steel</u> 719-784-6683
<u>Pawnee Sportmens Center</u> Briggsdale, CO	4th Saturday	Governor General 970-484-3789
<u>Sand Creek Raiders</u> Byers, CO	4th Sunday	<u>Sweetwater Bill</u> 303-366-8827