



# RATTLER TATTLER



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## SASS Convention and TG Summit Report



Howdy, Shootin Hoosier here. Since we were not able to shoot in December, the Tattler will be devoted to the SASS Convention and the Territorial Governors Summit this month. I'll start off with some observations from the convention and then the notes from the summit. Since I am including the full minutes of the meeting this year, it is going to make for a longer report than usual.

The convention was held in Las Vegas again this year and was moved back to the first weekend in December. SASS announced a few weeks ago, that after 10 years, there would not be a convention in 2012. For the Territorial Governors there will be a ½ day meeting planned at Outlaw Trail September 26-30, 2012. After that it is not clear what will happen. SASS is considering their options for what to do going forward.

-- continued on page 2 --



Tom Foolery, U.S.M



Steel Belle & Shootin Hoosier at Reception



River Crossings, Inc. Gets a Woolly Award



Cowboy Fashion Show



Fast Draw

## UPCOMING SHOOT

**Jan 1** Monthly Shaketails Shoot – Frontier Sportsman's Club. Setup 9:00 AM, Registration 9:30 AM and Safety Meeting at 10:00AM



## SASS Convention and TG Summit Report



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The convention was a lot a fun with seminars, social events and exhibits. Attendance seemed similar to last year but once again the number of vendors on the exhibition floor was less. However, one of the larger vendors told me they thought business was little better this year. Steel Belle and I certainly did our share to support the vendors☺ SASS brought in entertainment Friday night again this year - Don Edwards was a big hit performing his ballads of the American West. During the day there was always some sort of exhibition or entertainment on the stage in the exhibition floor, including the SASS "Wild West Performing Arts Society" (WWPAS). I also enjoyed spending few minutes over at the Fast Draw match.

NRA Second Vice President Jim Porter was the guest speaker on opening morning. One of things they do opening morning is hand out the SASS Wooly Awards. I wanted to mention that because a Colorado company got the award for Best Merchant. Congratulations go to River Crossings, Inc. and the proprietors Mad Mountain Mike and Miss Tabitha.

Many of seminars were repeats of last year, which was fine because it gave me a chance to attend what I missed last year. In addition, there some new ones offered. I particularly like Fredrick Jackson Turner's "Shoot Like a Champion"; Bottom Dealin' Mike's "Reloading Shotshells without a Press"; and Coyote Cap's "Gun Smiting Simplified." Coyote Cap discussed some issues he is seeing with many of the less expensive shotshells that have gone from brass to anodized steel. Some Winchesters 87's have been modified in a way to enhance speed loading such that the chamber does not sufficiently support these steel hulls. The result is a very bad day for the shooter when a steel shotshell ruptures. Winchester AA's are still brass and do not have a problem in the modified 87's. If you know anyone that shoots one of these lever action shotguns, you might mention it to them. If you are not sure if your brand of shotshell is steel or brass, use a magnet to check. Steel Belle made it to a variety of seminars and events as well, including the Victorian Tea; Miss Tabitha's Western Victorian Fashion Show; and she made it through the RO1 class - congratulations.

As always, the best part of the convention is the time spent meeting SASS members from around the world and the other Territorial Governors. I am saddened to think about the convention coming to an end. Hopefully SASS comes up with something even better in 2013.

Now on to the Territorial Governors Summit. I want to start by providing the voting results. Only Item #1 (Should the scoring program be changed so that any shooter that does not finish TWO or more stages in a match is not eligible for any main match awards?) passed with the required 2/3rds majority. As stated the last two years, despite the push to make changes in categories by some, there is still a large contingent of TG's that are reluctant to add more sanctioned shooting categories or make modifications to the existing categories so Items 2-5 all failed. Items #4 and #5 garnered greater than a 50% majority so that they may be reconsidered next year. Items #2 and #3 failed by a wide enough margins that the proposals cannot be reconsidered for 3 years.

### Voting Results for 2011 Meeting of SASS® Governors

Item #1 For 235=82.75% -- Against 48=16.90% -- Abstain 1=.035% PASS  
Item #2 For 112=39.44% -- Against 170=59.86% -- Abstain 2=.070% FAIL  
Item #3 For 130=45.77% -- Against 152=53.52% -- Abstain 2=.070% FAIL  
Item #4 For 182=64.08% -- Against 100=35.62% -- Abstain 2=.070% FAIL  
Item #5 For 148=52.11% -- Against 136=47.89% -- Abstain 0=.00% FAIL

I opted to include the full minutes of the meeting as published by Chuckaroo #13080 Regulator. Also note the inclusion at the end of the minutes of the **Range Operations Committee Discussion/Clarification Agenda** that covers a number of important rule clarifications.

### SASS Territorial Governor Summit Meeting Minutes

Thursday December 1, 2011 10:00 AM open TG Summit and Welcome

Pledge by Hipshot

There are 284 clubs that were represented.

Hipshot announced that several raffles that were going on at the convention.

Outlaw Trail Sept. 26 to 30 2012, (at Founders Ranch) will also be a Governors Cup Match. There will be a category for Governors. The match will include a ½ day TG Meeting for 2012.

Reminder that there is a State Match directors meeting 2:30 on Friday and a Regional match directors meeting at 2:30 on Thursday.

Preface before we begin;

There has been a strong movement to revamp the category system. When we get to item 5 we will spend some time clarifying the proposed system of categories.

Starting 2013, state level and regional matches will have the option of using a minimum of 5 entries per category. They have the option to drop a category if there are less than 5 entries in a category.

Winter Range and EOT will have the option of 10 minimum entries before the category is available.

Reading of the agenda items.

1) Should the scoring program be changed so that any shooter that does not finish TWO or more stages in a match is not eligible for any main match awards?

Voting YES would apply the same criteria currently in place for multiple SDQ's & SOG's to DNF's (Did Not Finish) i.e. 2X = Match Disqualification.

A NO vote would allow a shooter who DNF's multiple stages to place ahead of competitors who actually completed all main match stages.

#### **Discussion item 1;**

Views were expressed in favor of leaving this alone. As absolute rule it was not fair to eliminate someone that has an emergency. Legitimate reasons should not prevent anyone from getting an award.

It was asked if the RO committee had a position on the rule. RO committee supported the rule.

Some felt that if a shooter did not finish they did not complete what was required of the match.

It was questioned whether the scoring program had the ability to remove a shooter while their scores were still in the match.

Comment that total time matches would not have a problem. We did not go there on that one.

Lots of discussion on both sides.

2) Should the limiting criteria for shooters in Age Based categories be changed from the current “minimum qualifying age OR GREATER” to “between the ages of...”? (e.g. Wranglers from 36-48; 49ers from 49-59; Seniors from 60-64; etc.) A YES vote would no longer allow a shooter to compete in Age Based categories below his/her actual age range. Cowboy/Cowgirl category age range would end at 35 years of age. The Junior (Buckaroo/ette and Young Gun) categories would NOT be affected. A NO vote would leave the Age Based category restrictions unchanged. e.g. Two shooters with adjustable-sighted revolvers & a 66 or 73 rifle:  
-- A 65 yr old competitor currently has the option to sign up in FIVE Age Based categories: Silver Senior, Senior, 49er, Wrangler or Cowboy;  
-- A 26 yr old using those firearms only has ONE option: Cowboy).

### **Discussion item 2;**

It was mentioned that some wanted to shoot lower categories because it was not as hurtful to get beat by a younger shooter.

With 98% of the shooters shooting for fun there was no need to make rules up for removing the options. Some felt that age based categories were designed for the ages that the category was created for.

One comment was that an 18 year old shooter (inexperienced) that got beat by a 65 year old the dropped down in category, would turn off the new shooter.

Tex referenced that the Cowboy Category is “The” category . All shooters can shoot that category.

The additional categories offer an option where you are able to protect yourself somewhat in a category with people your own age.

Other’s were of the opinion that changing into lower categories was detrimental to the growth of the sport when older shooters move down to a category they can win in.

3) Should an “OPEN” category be added with NO RESTRICTIONS regarding gender, age, shooting style or propellant? This would provide a single category in which ANY shooter could register. (Gunfighter-style competitors would have to comply with the current category regulations)

### **Discussion item 3;**

If item 2 passes, and this item passed, there would be a place that all shooters could use as an option to shooting in their age based category.

This would be an approved by not an official category. (Not a mandatory offering at state level and above).

It was mentioned that some folks would choose this category knowing they would be shooting against all shooters that entered and it would encompass many good shooters.

Current SASS rules would apply and no new guns, equipment or accessories would be added.

It was also clarified that the category would include all shooting styles and they shooting style could be different on each stage.

Some felt that we did not need any more new classes.

Some felt the real problem was people changing categories after getting to a match.

It was asked that there be an open ladies category. It was clarified that there was no ladies Open Category.

The conversation wandered into a concern for shooters changing categories. This was mostly a problem when it was close to the match date and awards had already been purchased. Some wanted control over this and wanted a cut off on category changes.

Hipshot - Limits on category changes will be added to the match administration guidelines as an option for match directors for controlling category changes.

4) Should the “B” Western Category options be rewritten to allow for additional ladies costuming

options?

A YES vote would have the ROC rewrite the BW requirements to include the suggested changes.

A NO vote would leave BW as is.

**Discussion item 4;**

The ladies were requested to respond first.

There were different opinions on whether there were enough items to select from. Some also felt that it would lead to new categories like Saloon Girl or other professions in the B Western era. Opinions and comment were varied and split down the middle by those that spoke on the subject.

Miss Tabitha is the sounding board for additional clothing items and documentation would be needed to verify authenticity.

Ladies commented that adding Towns Woman was appropriate for B-western.

Others commented that the limited number of clothing items was difficult for the ladies.

Some felt there were a lot of options. Any additional footwear, like moccasins, could give a competitive advantage.

Concern was expressed that saloon women costumes could put out an image we would not want.

5) Should the attached, proposed Category System be adopted?

NOTE: Some of the Ladies categories that have historically been 'under populated' at most annual matches are no longer on the "officially recognized" list.

Those have been replaced with FCGF, SGF, Cattle Baron, and 80+ (name as yet undetermined)

A Match Director will always have the OPTION to offer ANY additional categories; as well as the OPTION to change the minimum requirement for honoring a category.

(As modified with amendment)

NAME-----	AGE / STYLE-----	M/F-----	LADIES
Buckaroo/ette-----	13 & under-----	X-----	X-----
Junior-----	14-16-----	X-----	X-----
Cowboy/Cowgirl-----	17-35-----	X-----	X-----
Wrangler-----	36-48-----	X-----	X-----
Forty Niner-----	49-59-----	X-----	X-----
Senior-----	60-64-----	X-----	X-----
Silver Senior-----	65-69-----	X-----	X-----
Elder Statesman-----	70-74-----	X-----	X-----
Cattle Baron-----	75-79-----	X-----	X-----
(name TBD)-----	80+-----	X-----	X-----
Duelist-----		X-----	X-----
Senior Duelist-----	60+Duelist-----	X-----	X-----
GunFighter-----		X-----	X-----
Senior Gunfighter-----	60+GF-----	X-----	X-----
Frontier Cartridge-----		X-----	X-----
Frontier Cartridge Duelist-----		X-----	X-----
Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter-----		X-----	X-----
Frontiersman-----		X-----	X-----
Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl-----		X-----	X-----
B Western-----		X-----	X-----
-----	COUNT-----	>-20-----	20-----

Category Rules:

1. Categories listed are the "Official" SASS categories.

2. All categories must be initially offered at State and above level matches.
3. MDs are NOT required to honor categories that fail to secure a minimum of 5 entries at the State and Regional level, or a minimum of 10 entries at WR and EOT.  
A cutoff deadline shall be established and posted by the sponsoring club.
4. Match application forms should ask for a shooter's second (or third) choice.
5. If it becomes necessary to drop any category due to a failure to meet the minimum number of shooters required, those effected shooters will be placed into their second choice category. If no second choice has been given, "Age" based category shooters will "Rollback" into the next lower category.  
The only exception is the Cowboy category. Since it is at the bottom of the scale, it will roll forward into the Wrangler category if necessary.  
The Junior categories are exempt.
6. Shooters will not be allowed to compete in an "Age" based category that is outside of their age group, except in the case of a category "Rollback"
7. At the MD discretion, ANY category may be added, and any minimum requirement may be reduced.
8. These rules apply to state and above matches, and are recommended at all lower level matches.
9. OPEN category is any age/shooting style/propellant w/SASS-legal CAS equipment.

**Discussion item 5;**

The intent of the item is an attempt to see if it is broken, does it need change.

A motion was made and passed to reinstate Grand Dame to the list.

Lady TG's expressed that the ladies categories were not represented equally in the category offerings.

It was expressed that ladies categories should mirror all mens categories.

Tex asked, is it a problem with the minimum entry numbers required? If so, how low should the entrant numbers be?

Hipshot, the minimum number of entrants requirement was an option for match directors to eliminate under utilized categories.

Much discussion followed, I mean a whole bunch!

Much discussion on the general concept that we had to many categories now. A few really don't care how many categories we have.

A suggestion was made to keep the current category structure as the SASS Official categories and any new categories be added as SASS Approved categories.

Comment was made that we have a lot more men shooters than ladies shooters. It would be inappropriate to have an even match of categories.

A Motion was made and approved to amend agenda item number 5 to mirror all of the proposed categories for ladies.

This would create several new categories and the final total of categories would be 40.

FRIDAY Open 9:00 AM

Hipshot-Results of the votes will be available Saturday morning and they will be posted on the SASS TG Wire along with the minutes of the TG Summit. Voting Results are listed below. It requires a 66% vote to be passed.

Hipshot-Regional and State match residency requirements, when a shooter has multiple residences, are

the state if residence is determined by your driver's license. By law you can only have one driver's license.

Active military personnel use the home of record.

At Winter Range the winner must be American citizen. At EOT, the winner can live anywhere in the world.

**PaleWolf Brunelle,**

**RO Committee:**

PaleWolf Brunelle, gave a report on some new RO Committee clarifications. His report is below. Changes are marked with the strike outs.

The RO Committee is also reviewing the use of elastic on shotgun belts.

The RO committee will review the capping of percussion cylinders outside of the gun and the penalty for dropping a capped cylinder.

Motion was made to accept the RO committee recommendations. Approved.

**Range Operations Committee Discussion/Clarification Agenda – 2011 TG Summit --**

**1. CLARIFICATION of the rules re: DE-COCKING:**

(As posted on the SASS Wire(s) on 26 October 2011)

7. De-cocking may not be done to avoid a penalty if cocked at the wrong time, position or location once a round has gone down range. NO gun may be de-cocked on the firing line except by pointing it down range and pulling the trigger or while under the direct supervision of a stage officer/Timer Operator. The penalty for de-cocking is a Stage Disqualification.

**SHB p.23 / RO1 p.16**

**"Under the direct supervision" requires the TOs acknowledgement in an instructive or affirmative manner.**

**In other words there must be a positive indication to the shooter that the TO is giving his approval for the shooters action.**

**2. RE: NAVY PEPPERBOX REVOLVER**

Noting that it is assembled on a "Colt Navy frame it qualifies as a **MAIN MATCH** revolver & thus is **DIS**qualified as a "**Pocket Pistol**" (regardless of barrel length).

**3. RE: .38 S&W SPL is LEGAL for PLAINSMAN sidematches**

(originally introduced in 1899 as a blackpowder round)

**4) BASIC RULES FOR THE LONG RANGE COMPETITIONS (SHB p. 18 bullet #4)**

Optical and receiver mounted sights are not allowed.

EDIT for CLARIFICATION:

Receiver mounted sights are not allowed. OPTICAL sights are only allowed in that category.

**5) ROC ruling: NO to the use of a 12ga/.70cal "slug gun" in SASS Long Range RIFLE sidematches. Shotguns using slugs are NOT legal as a RIFLE.**

6) There is a mobile app being used DURING Long Range sidematches to calculate info for sight adjustment. (Real time info, including elevation, temperature, humidity, etc inputs combined with preset individual firearm/ammo data). One person punches in the numbers & provides the adjustment info to the shooter. **Shooter v.1.6.2.8**

In addition to rangefinders, the use of this or any similar device is a Sidematch **DQ**.

7) BISLEY HAMMER on a Ruger OLD ARMY percussion revolver?

SBHK hammers on a ROA are OK under the current "Firearms Covenants".

Lower and/or wider hammers on percussion revolvers fall under the same allowance as for cartridge pistols. BISLEY hammers (modified or not) installed on ANY revolver **without the BISLEY gripframe** are still **NOT ALLOWED**.

8) Clarification re: **Ammunition-related “Outlawed/illegal” items** will be covered under:  
The **“Use of illegally-acquired ammunition”** penalty.

9) There is no prohibition re: wearing a rifle/pistol ammo slide over SG loops on an ammo belt (as there is in regard to a SHOTSHELL ammo slide),  
**Sewing the loops directly to a shotshell loop on either a slide or belt is acceptable.**

10) **Handbook edit** (due to oversight):  
ADD single-shot shotguns to PLAINSMAN sidematch rules.  
**SHB p.17**

11) **Handbook edit** (clarification): re **OCTAGON BARRELS on REVOLVERS:**  
BARRELS  
Original barrels may be replaced with new barrels of correct styles (e.g., round, octagon, or half-round) for that particular ~~model~~ TYPE firearm.  
**SHB p.4**

12) **EDIT:**  
**Dropped ~~round~~/ firearm** – a ~~round~~/ firearm that has left the shooter’s control and come to rest at a location or position other than where it was intended.  
**RO1 "Glossary of Terms" p.30**

13) **CLARIFICATION:** what is meant by "in hand" as applied to loaded revolvers?  
The following was posted (March 2011) on the TG, RO, and ROC Wires (to be added to the next edit of the RO1 "Glossary of Terms") :  
**"REVOLVER IN HAND"** is defined as it applies to:  
**Holstered** = Muzzle clear of the mouth of the holster (i.e. "out of leather")  
**Staged** = Muzzle no longer in contact with the surface of the initial staging point  
...this provides the same allowance for a 'full grip' on the second (loaded) revolver while firing the first no matter how/where the revolver(s) start on the stage.  
**Once the muzzle clears the holster or all contact is broken with the prop, the shooter is in violation if not registered as a GF or BW competitor.**

Well that’s the report for 2011. Hopefully the weather treats us better in January than it did in November and December. Hope to see you all there.

Territorial Governor, Colorado Shaketails

*Shootin Hoosier*



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