



**Battle Born
Rangers Company**
Monthly Newsletter
Representing
High Plains Drifter's
And
Roop County Cowboy's

Volume 1 Issue X



Ya'll

How's everyone surviving the pandemic, the politics, and weather change?

The October shoots are behind us. I'm not sure what's happening but we had two of the nicest days for our shoots and only 18 shooters each weekend! I determined that October is our neutral month. We can't complain about the heat and or the cold. Next month we can start the discussion on how cold it is.

If you haven't been out to the property in a while, they have made some big changes. Starting at the southern end of the pits they have constructed a road course all through our long-range area. They also cut the hill where the office is to allow tiered spectator viewing. On our HPD weekend 125 racers showed up for a race using Razors and off-road vehicles. The campers filled up the spectator parking area for the circle track. And they graded the area next to the abandoned trucks for another camping area. Steena said they had around 400 people attending. It's good to see more and more events happening at the property.

The only thing that affected us was during our Sunday shoot a motorcyclist came up behind our berms. We ceased fire and Jasper chased him down at his camp. Seems he was a youngster and his mom said she would take care of it. Never saw him again.

We are starting to see shoots showing up for 2021 on the SASS Website. People are taking on the idea that all of the "pandemic" will be over and we can get back to the new normal.

Check our website for the events going on each month. Jasper has listed the long-range events on there also. We are having a 22-caliber silhouette shoot on 10/24. Let's see....you shoot the whole match and you spent \$5.00. Not bad.

Remember get out and vote and vote often.

Regards

El Jefe Supremo
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Hello -

Mr. Ed here again.

The past few months Wilbur, Carol and I have accomplished quite a bit of traveling. When we stop, Wilbur rides the heck out of me. My back just aches! I am scheduled for four new shoes at the end of the month. Wilbur continues his Cowboy Shooting. After some discussion on Mounted Cowboy Shooting, I had to put my right hoof down and threaten to discuss this with Carol if it didn't stop. That was the end of that discussion!

Our evening discussions, while mulling around the horse trailer, frequently continue to center on the Timer Operators and Counters. After again reading the SASS Shooters Handbook, RO Course Materials Booklet and the Match Directors Handbook, we found much good information. Wilbur attempted to get me to read the Mounted Handbook, but after again threatening to discuss this issue with Carol, that put a quick end the discussion.

Here are some of the issues we discussed and wish to again point out to our shooting partners. Much of the following information is a cut and paste routine from the SASS website and Manuals. I will have to admit that Wilbur had to help me out quite a bit here on this one. It was just too hard for me to continue with the pencil in the mouth routine that I usually do while writing my articles for the Battle Born Rangers Newsletters.

The primary role of the RO/TO is safety!

We all assume we are all safe and tend to take that for granted. After the last "bang" of the shooting string we listen for the time and then the results from the spotters. Yes, the spotters have now become very important. Have you ever walked away thinking to yourself, "I did not miss" then look back to see who was spotting. Or, how about the time you KNOW you missed and the TO shouts CLEANNN. "Really? They should spot me all the time."

Good spotting is WORK. It is rarely possible to see a clean miss from single position. Especially if there is movement. At times the targets look fine from the shooters position, but from the side (where many spotters stand/sit) the targets overlap preventing from seeing a clean miss. *The most discouraging thing to use to have seen this summer is when a spotter turns around to notice what his or her fellow spotter has spotted for misses and then holds up the appropriate fingers to match.*

Why are there three spotters? Because no one is perfect and because for most of us our final score is important.

Please review the following paragraphs from the SASS Courses and Handbook.

RO I Course

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The TO verifies at least 2 of the 3 spotters agree on misses and can consider input from the spotters regarding procedural and/or safety violations- as well as any personal observations during the stage. A TO does not have the authority to overrule the spotters in regard to misses, but can question spotters as to the location of misses.

ROII Course

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SHOOTING CATEGORY

In which category is the shooter competing?

This information should aid in determining the best location for the spotters and Timer Operator to position themselves in order to assist the shooter, as well as what to expect of the shooter and their equipment upon engaging a stage.

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Make sure there are three spotters in place, are ready, and are in an appropriate position to see the targets. Generally, one can't be an effective spotter from the gun cart or while chatting with a buddy! It is a good idea

to have bandanas or batons for the spotters to hold. This helps identify the spotters and keeps them on the line and attentive until they hand off the baton or bandana to the next spotter.

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As the shooter approaches the last shot to be fired, prepare to watch the last timer update and cover the timer's microphone immediately after the shooter is finished, preventing the recording of shots from the adjacent bay(s). Once the shooter is finished the course of fire, the TO shall call out the raw time in loud, clear voice to the shooter, and then instruct them (if they are not doing so already) to holster all revolvers, retrieve all long guns, and move to the unloading area with the muzzles in a safe direction. With the shooter moving to the unloading table, the raw time is then communicated to the score keeper and the spotters polled for misses, procedural input and safety input. These penalties may then be communicated to the score keeper and the shooter without delay. Discussion between the TO, spotters and score keeper that takes more than a moment, or issues that need resolving in order to determine a score, should not take place on the firing line. The TO should consider passing off the timer to a new TO, new spotters engaged, and the discussion moved well behind the firing line. This will minimize any potential delay, and keep the stage moving.

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BREAKING THE 170° SAFETY RULE

A TO/Spotter shall make an immediate "Cease-Fire" call if any firearm breaks the 170° safety rule. This call will result in a Stage or Match Disqualification to the shooter. The Timer Operator shall make a good faith effort to prevent the shooter from breaking the safety rule by verbal command or physical contact, if necessary.

My note to our readers -

Last weekend while Wilbur was running the timer at a match not too far from his Fernley Home Range a shooter declared a broken rifle during a stage. The shooter elected to carry the broken rifle (completely loaded with a round in the chamber) to the unloading table. During this process, as the shooter headed towards the unloading table, he pointed his broken gun at the unloading table where a few people were standing. As I stood watching, Wilbur quickly used his hand to lift up the muzzle of the loaded rifle from pointing at the unloading table. As I watched his eyes sadden, I knew what was going to happen next. Wilbur, so very apologetically, declared a Match Disqualification on the shooter. As I watched Wilbur's actions during the rest of the match, I could tell he was very upset during the rest of the match for having to make this difficult call.

Shooters Handbook

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Spotters/Counters – have the responsibility to count shots and misses and to verify targets were engaged in the correct order for the required number of shots. A minimum of three spotters are required – majority 2/3 breaks any ties in regards to misses.

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ASSESSING PENALTIES AND PROTESTS

During the course of fire, a shooter may on occasion incur penalties which need to be assessed. The immediate authority on the stage to that end is the Chief Range Officer/Timer Operator (CRO/TO), assisted by the input of the spotters. The scope of assessing penalties includes safety violations, procedural errors, appropriate completion of stage activities, illegal firearms and equipment, appropriate ammunition, appropriate dress, and other category specific requirements such as the adequate production of smoke in the black powder SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY Shooter's Handbook Copyright© Single Action Shooting Society, Inc. 2020 Version 24.1 25 categories. The CRO/TO may unilaterally assign penalties for safety violations and procedural errors when they have clearly occurred (this does not include assessing misses). Assessing misses is purely in the purview of the spotters. In the event a competitor feels a CRO/TO's ruling is in error or has been unfairly assessed, and the firearms have been made safe and unloaded, the ruling may be politely and calmly appealed, initially to the CRO/TO and/or Posse Marshal, and only by the competitor involved. The discussion should be taken off the firing line so as not to incur any delays in the shooting flow, involving only those officials on the line at that time and the shooter (the shooter, CRO/TO and spotters). The CRO/TO must remain completely objective, consider the facts and evidence as it is, and must be prepared to discuss the details addressing any questions the shooter may have. Recorded video/audio or photographic data will never be allowed to be presented as evidence in either regard.

Remember: The benefit of any doubt always goes to the shooter. Competitors are typically required to register their appeal or protest prior to leaving the stage or bay where the event in question took place. If the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of the shooter by the CRO/TO and /or Posse Marshal, and they wish to take the matter further, they may then elevate their appeal to the Range Master. The Range Master will objectively and without bias consider the appeal on grounds of policy and rules interpretation only and should conduct their own investigation by interviewing those persons directly involved in the matter (CRO/TO, Spotters and the Shooter). For issues involving illegal equipment and/or firearms, illegal modifications, questionable ammunition, illegal clothing or dress, a direct inspection must be made, including if necessary, following the procedure for assessing power factor/smoke production.

As you read this it must again be pointed out that the Timer Operators primary reason for being on the shooting line is for safety reasons. That person should be up to knowing most of rules of our hobby and be prepared to make the appropriate calls on whatever situation may arise. The three Counters are the most important people on the shooting line. It is their job to watch the targets the shooter is shooting, count the number of shots, count the number of misses (if any), notice any procedural errors and also be safety officers. What a hard job it is for those four individuals!

And now it is time for me to finish up the rest of the hay Wilbur brought me for dinner and the apple and carrot for desert.

Until next time.

I am
Mr. Ed

