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High Plains Drifters

Cowboy Action Shooting Club

Fernley, Nevada



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Volume 11

A Few From Our President - Irish Ike

Ho, Ho, Ho



It's that time of year again. Santa didn't show up at the Match this month so he must be busy elsewhere. Either that or we have all been bad little cowboys and cowgirls.

December's Match

It was cold and damp when we started Sunday with 25 shooters but by about the 4th stage the big bright disk in the sky showed itself and it got a bit warmer. Brazos wrote some good stages that let us use three bays instead of six to keep the work down. We continue to see varying distances to targets. This is good for all of us as we never know what the target placement will be like when you go to other matches. We have had a few people volunteer and write some stages. This really helps the Range Officers and it gives all of the shooters some variety. Saying that, please feel free to volunteer to write some for any monthly event. We'll all pitch in to get it set up and then make fun of the stage writer. It's what we do.

Western States Update

We had an after shoot lunch and discussion on Western States I know it's only 6 months

away. We are moving the dates back to where it was a few years ago. The event will be held Thursday June 16th to Sunday June 19th, 2011. This time slot will clear all of the graduations for Nevada, California, Oregon and Idaho. We have lost some attendance because of people needing to attend these functions with their families. Again we need the club members to step up and help with this event. It is the one thing that provides us with funds to replace targets and other equipment. The other element here that if you have any ideas about the event please bring them up. We are always looking to improve.

I submitted a Grant Request to the City of Fernley for our advertising and printing expenses. We use the money to advertise in the Chronicle, local TV, our event booklets and the coffee cups. We'll know by Dec. 13, 2010 if we received the grant. We have nothing new to report on the use of Bays 11 & 12. Fernley is meeting with Cal to discuss it with him.

Food Bank

Miss Rickey took all of our food donations to the Food Bank. They were happy to see the support. The organization she dropped the food off to reaches out to Seniors who homebound and are in need. Thanks to all of you who brought food.

It's time for my periodic pontificating.

There is a small group of people who write the stages, set the stages up, take them down, come to the works days and generally do whatever is needed. Most

clubs are like this. Everyone doesn't help. I know you pay your dues, which are due in January by the way, and you pay your monthly match fees. *We appreciate the money but it's not a get out of jail free and don't have to work payment.* Ask yourself this. What would happen if at the next shoot the people who normally do this either didn't show up or just quit! Then who would do it? Would the club cease to exist for the lack of volunteer help? I would hope not. The expectation here is that unless you are physically unable to help, you are expected to help right along with everyone else. Stepping off of the soap box.

Miss Rickey and I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and may the new year provide you with all of the things that make you happy.

El Heffe Supremo

Irish Ike

And now some words from our Territorial Governor(s)

Hello everyone

This is a combined report for the NVCAS website for Roop and HPD on the results of the TG's meetings in Las Vegas last week.

There were 329 out of over 600 worldwide SASS clubs represented at the Territorial Governor's meetings in Las Vegas last week. In the meetings were approximately 160 men and 8 women representing in person those clubs that sent or held proxies for other clubs.

Item Number 1

As usual with the very first agenda item, TG's wanted to change the wording of eliminating the 10-second safety penalty for overloading a rifle. It seems there are shooters that consistently overload their rifles at the loading table because their rifle consistently spits out a loaded round so the shooter doesn't have to reload off his/her body. Pale Wolf Brunelle and Black Jack Zak (both on the RO Committee) clarified that NO



Luke 2, 9 - 12

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you; You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

round in the rifle that is accidentally or purposely overloaded in the rifle from what the stage description says is a DEAD round and cannot be used. The shooter must load off the body or take a miss as well as a safety penalty for overloading. Hipshot, who Chairs the meetings, reiterated that the first time a shooter overloads a rifle, it's a minor safety penalty of 10 seconds, the second time it's a Stage DQ, and the third time in the same match, it's a Match DQalso along the way some clubs give "Spirit of the Game" 30-second penalties. If perchance a shooter does overload and uses that extra round, it's a Procedural for illegally acquired ammo and a miss. I don't know of anyone in our clubs who consistently overload their rifles because of ejecting a live round all the time, but be aware this penalty is tightening up. Just about everyone at some time has overloaded a rifle, but don't do it consistently. Get your rifle fixed. This item failed by 57% to keep the penalty to 43% to get rid of it, so it'll probably come up again next year.

Item Number 2

The second item was, as usual, a real loud one. This agenda item has surfaced every year for the past 3 or 4 because it doesn't pass nor fail by a two-thirds majority. It's always about a 55% against changing the "open and empty" rule to about 45% or changing it. There are TG's (and clubs) that are very passionate about getting rid of open and empty in the long guns, and other clubs are just as passionate on keeping it. This rule is important for the Timer Operator to know the shooter has nothing left in the chamber. Those that want to change it say it's not a safety issue, but we all know there are times when someone overloads a rifle (see above paragraph) and has a loaded round still in the weapon that "could" get fired accidentally, especially if there was a stage where the shooter and Timer Operator, and maybe one or more spotters, go downrange during the stage and someone else picks up the rifle to take it to the Unloading Table to expedite the stage. There again, those TG's and clubs that want to get rid of this rule think they can save time by not having to make sure the weapon is open and empty, but this also applies to everyone one on saving time. Or get their long guns (rifle and shotgun) fixed so the spent shell always comes out properly. Also, several TG's mentioned the side-by-side shotgun shooters had trouble "shucking" rounds, so if the shotgun didn't have to be empty that would save time. Here again, others said clean the gun(s) or spend some money with a competent gunsmith to have the rifle/shotgun releasing/extracting the spent shell(s) properly. A lot of us believe if this ever passes, the next year an agenda item will be just to put the long gun down without any opening at all. This item will also probably show up again next year because it didn't pass (or fail) by a two-thirds majority. (See below for more on "open" clarification).

Item number 3

Frontier Cartridge Gunfighter failed as it always has. That's not to say that any club can't have this category - just that it's not one that will be "sanctioned" for State and above Championships. (See below for more on categories.)

Item number 4

The Burgess Rifle in B-Western...passed. Now for that Category, any rifle made by 1880 or later or a replica thereof, is approved for B-Western

Category. This now applies to the Burgess, 1892 Winchester or Marlin, Lightning).

Solomon Star snuck in a fifth item under New Business that was approved by the majority of the TG's without the clubs knowing anything about it. Solomon is a "died in the wool" glitzy, B-Western guy, and he wanted a Bolo Tie included in the items for B-Western. There actually was about a 20-minute wrangle on this item....not because anyone cared about the Bolo, but because some TG's didn't think we could add on and vote on an item that our clubs didn't know about. Elder Kate, SASS Wire Moderator and a member of the RO Committee, told everyone that the TG's are the body of the clubs that can vote on any item, or table it until next year, and the RO Committee clarifies any of the rules (new or old). Since this was a really small item, we all voted for it. If this were an important item that was voted on, the club members might not like whatever the item was...so a representative in person at the meetings is somewhat helpful. Here again, if this was an important item and there wasn't a representative, that club doesn't have a vote one way or the other. Proxies are only for the EXACT wording or an agenda item that is published in October. Any changes or new items have no votes.

We find quite often the agenda items are modified in the meetings so we might not be voting on exactly what was mentioned to all our club members. Amendments are floated on the floor, discussed, argued upon and possibly changed or go back to what was originally written.

Discussion items:

(1) *Double alias at matches* -- a LOUD resounding NO at State and above Championships. But at the club level, a shooter can have 2 aliases in one or two categories...the club gets 2 entry fees....BUT if one alias Match DQs both aliases are OUT (i.e., if John Doe in Duelist and the same person, Joe Blow in Gunfighter Category drops a loaded firearm, both are out. If John Doe has a Stage DQ, he can continue on in both categories.) A lot of us in the meeting thought this was not the best thing because the one shooter gets 2 chances to shoot the same stage and others in those categories only get to shoot it once for score.

(2) *Mares Leg in Main Match as a pistol....*this one was laughed out. One TG said if a short-statured shooter was allowed this firearm in a Buscadero rig, it would drag the ground....a lot of laughs.

(3) *Possible realignment of categories.* The committee that met several years ago when the Wrangler Category came out are going to reconvene and try to get a handle on "fixing" the 100+ official categories. It was hoped those people could add some "new blood" to the committee and be opened-minded. One TG said start out with just four items -- shooting style, propellant, sex, age and go from there. More from that committee later in 2011.

The RO Committee met for several hours to "clarify" current rules, one of which was what is "OPEN"? How far does an action need to be open. At first, Pale Wolf and Black Jack Zak said the RO rule book would be clarified about open that if you could see a part of the shell, but several TG's said this wouldn't work since there are several models of guns you can see the shell when it is totally closed, early model Lightning with no dust cover and a '66. There are other models of lever guns a rim can be seen without any opening. Pale Wolf tabled this one for further study....shouldn't open be described as "open until it hits a 'stop' whether it's a rifle or a shotgun? Turtle has sent more on RO Committee clarifications and probably more on this one, too. Shouldn't an action be totally open to have a spent shell extracted or ejected? Several of us couldn't figure out why the RO Committee was even "clarifying" this item.

During the Convention, El Rod presented 2 2-hour seminars on the pump rifle. If you haven't been to a convention, you might want to try it once...there is a lot going on with seminars all day long. Dinners and get-togethers every night to meet and greet people from all over - some are free and others you have to pay for. Seminars such as Evil Roy's pistol class, ROI and ROII classes, pistol modifications, lever rifle dismantling and cleaning, Victorian ladies dresses, hats, wigs and other personal items of the period, Victorian Tea Dance, pistol twirling, roping and bullwhipping, SASS Scoring program, Tombstone OK Corral saga, what type of holsters/belts are best for each shooter, and a huge number of others. Seminars were free. Also during the same time in Las Vegas is the

"Cowboy Christmas" tied with the National Rodeo. SASS vendors at the convention are at the Riviera, but the Cowboy Christmas is gigantic at the LV Convention Center and Sands Convention Center. We've only managed to get over to the LV Convention Center once during our trips down there because of SASS things, but Winchester and his wife were there this year and from what I understand found several cowboy items of apparel at really good prices.

Chocolate Party Note

Thanks to everyone who spent their time to come to our chocolate party last week. Also a big thanks for the goodies, munchies, flowers, plant and wine. We tallied up 63 people who came sometime during the day. Three years in a row our dinner has been the leftovers on the table late in the evening, especially Brazos' wife May's chow main noodles...yum. As mentioned before, this was our last open house chocolate party after 25 years of not being able to go anywhere from the first of November until Christmas. We'll still make some truffles to give away, maybe in September or May, but not have an open house.

Happy Holidays to all and to all a good night. See you next year after El Rod's second knee replacement this month.

Toni2Bits and El Rod

Yup - think I have enough for the next stage.



Notes from the HPD Board Meeting, December 6th, 2010

Officers and Members in attendance:

Irish Ike, Brazos, Dutch Dalton, J.J., Drifter John & Robin, Fernley, Domingo, Fanny, Big Pete and Deadeye Dick.

WS Date Change Proposal

A motion was presented and seconded to change the Western States dates to June 16, 17, 18 and 19. These dates were presented to further correct any conflict problems. After much discussion the motion passed with no opposition.

Further discussions related to WS:

All officers and members, if able, should be at the range on Wednesday to help with any last minute details. Lunches will again be provided on Thursday – Saturday. The banquet will again be Saturday evening.

Irish Ike would again petition the Fernley Tourism Board for a \$6,300 grant. The grant would help pay for local radio/television advertising as well as in the Cowboy Chronicle, cups, rags and brochures.

WS Side Match awards will be presented at the banquet Saturday evening along with the main match awards.

There will be a \$5 each charge for the Plainsman and Wild Bunch matches. A \$5 fee will be assessed for the first gun entered in the Long Range Match and an additional \$5 fee for all other guns entered.

The long range will be open on Wednesday for sight-ins and before the Thursday match.

Side match fees will be 'Free' for the declared run for score. All other practice runs will be assessed a \$1 fee. The awards for all side matches will be presented to the top three contestants in each category.

Entrance fees for WS will be the same as last year. Shooters under 16 will shoot free.

Bays 8 and 9 need further discussion with Cal and the National Guard their needs and our desires before construction will be able to commence.

The 'Mine Shaft' was again discussed and where the possible locations could be considered before construction. The 'Function Bay' was ruled out because of safety concerns. The discussion was tabled for further discussion. (???)

Footloose Phil and Aloha again have volunteered to do the scoring.

After and drinking too much at the pub, the meeting was finally adjourned with no further discussion.

J.J. - HPD Secretary and Newsletter Person.

Dang - it's cold out here !!





FRONT SIGHT---FRONT SIGHT---FRONT SIGHT
SMOOTH IS FAST

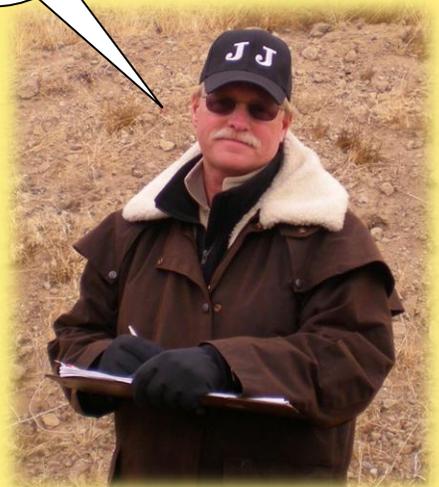




RENO SLIM
VICIOUS VICCI
RENO, NV.



Yes - this really is my hat







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