

Annual Matches

CENTRAL CANADIAN Regional Championship 2016

By Bad Penny, SASS #1453



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Critter T. Longshot with his Pale Rider trophy.

The Bar-E Ranch is where the fifth annual Central Canadian Regional Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™ was held. It is also in the center lane of Ontario's Tornado Alley. In Mid July, a wary weather eye is constantly cocked for threatening clouds. Luckily, in 2016 the weather eye was cocked on an empty chamber. No tents were ripped from their moorings, no Wild Bunchers flushed away in torrential downpours, but lordy, was it hot!

The 15 valiant volunteers who hefted steel and dressed the scenarios with gallows, damsels-

in-distress chained to railway tracks (When ready line: "Dudley Do-Right can't save you now, Nell.") saloons, barns as big as garden sheds, and the wooden cutout peeps of Kitty Katz Arizona, should get medals along with sweat transfusions as every breath of sodden air came right from the Gulf of Mexico.

The molten conditions lasted through Side Match and Wild Bunch day. "I had to wring out my clothes and then clean my guns," complained Chuckwagon Chad (SASS #102623), the stalwart, strapping lad who took over wrangling the Range Burlington Bushwackers from yours truly and has done a great job of it. It was his first Wild Bunch match and he shot it with smokeless powder, something he considers a mere passing fad. For the Main Match he reverted to the dark side, taking second place in Frontier Cartridge.

Day one of the Main Match dawned like Baby Bear's porridge... just right. Light gray cloud cover, cool breezes, and a fun match with no procedural traps and no outlandish sweeps that leave old chuckleheaded



Top man and lady Chance Arizona and Canadian Two Feathers show off their Cadillacs.

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Central Canadian Regional Championship 2016 . . .

Cattle Barons like me lost after the first three shots. (And yet only five of the 83 shooters shot clean.) It really doesn't get much better than that. When it did sprinkle a few drops, the only things that were tucked under the slickers were the guns. Everyone else turned sunburned faces gratefully up to the cool shower.

My favorite stage was dubbed, "That feller couldn't hit the broadside of a barn." A red painted barn had a white door. Stage instructions were, "Ten rounds from rifle and five rounds each from the revolvers on the barn." We call that an Ontario Sweep. "That's the target, just the door," the posse thought. "No," said the posse marshal, "the target is the whole barn."

Too easy, eh? When the really fast riflemen tackled the barn, it was as if they were rocketing

through the Van Allen meteor belt. Shiny arcs of ejected live rounds curved into the air—quite the show. Front sights lads and lasses, front sights. (Even though that thought would not have helped me. I grabbed up my rifle, shouldered it and, lo and behold, no front sight at the end of the barrel.) No actual misses and a panicked rummaging in my soft case back at the car park revealed the errant sight safely within. That's the good news. After I showed my posse the absence of front sight on the clock, there was no need to discuss my time.

After guns were put away and virtue and the Cowboy Way made safe for another day, the Columbian Squires, a fundraising arm of the Knights of Columbus, put on a spread fit to founder the Seventh Cavalry. Steak, chicken, piles of salads,

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and pie after pie were put away until everyone crawled off to bed.

Day two had four more stages to go before we got to know who won the Cadillacs. Ever since the crew of the Bar-E heard, "You can't win a Cadillac Cowboy Action Shooting™" a Cadillac has been presented to top man and top lady at their regional championship matches. They started small with matchbox models. They are almost a foot long these days. Convertibles too—with whitewalls.

But for all the happy banging, clanging, joshing and laughter, there was a serious reflective tone to this edition of the Central Canadian Regional. One of our number, a cherished and much admired champion in his own right had his cancer return. Back to the chemo, back to the hospital parking, etc. All the match's fundraising this year, 50/50 draw, raffles, consignment tent takings, were put into his fund and \$1,850 was raised. We take care of our own. Much generosity was on display, too. Elwood Epps, a local gun shop donated a \$500 powder measure, Tandy Leather gave a holster kit, Stick Man (SASS #85041) gave a 10/22 Ruger in memory of his son Tuco. Shooters Senator Buttercup (SASS #94991—a real live member of the Upper House of Canada's Parliament) and Black Jack Shellak (SASS #71818) donated his and hers Caravelle watches.

We had competitors travel all the way from New Brunswick, Quebec, and even four shooters who made it up to the boiling north from Pennsylvania to shoot with us. Better still, three of them became Central Canadian Champions. Crit-

ter T. Longshot (SASS #53188) took the Golden Bucket symbolic of Pale Rider winner. He accepted his medal puffing on his corncob pipe. That man loves smoke. Ruby Rose Longshot (SASS #67697) took Ladies Frontier Cartridge, and Two Tracks (SASS #53162) took Frontier Cartridge Duelist. Shop Along Sassy (SASS #67795) was in the hunt, too, taking third in Ladies Silver Senior. Let's hear it for our Pennsylvanian guests. 🤠



Winners			
Wild Bunch	The Boy	SASS #87709	ON
Overall	The Boy	SASS #87709	ON
Overall	Chance Arizona	SASS #80609	ON
Man	Canadian Two Feathers	SASS #70784	ON
Lady	Canadian Two Feathers	SASS #70784	ON
49'er	Laredo	SASS #39142	ON
Buckarett	Pinkie Pie	SASS #104637	ON
B-Western	Milton Kid	SASS #85788	ON
C. Baron	Bad Penny	SASS #1453	ON
Classic CB	Northern Crow	SASS #39113	ON
Cowboy	Chance Arizona	SASS #80609	ON
Cowgirl	Kactus Kat	SASS #94280	ON
Duelist	Lock N Load	SASS #87491	ON
E. Statesman	Lefty Lorenzo	SASS #100744	ON
Fr. Cartridge	Snuffy Dave Edwards	SASS #51055	ON
FC Duelist	Two Tracks	SASS #53162	PA
Gunfighter	The Boy	SASS #87709	ON
Lady 49'er	Canadian Two Feathers	SASS #70784	ON
Lady FC	Ruby Rose Longshot	SASS #67697	PA
Lady Senior	Lady Smith	SASS #41781	ON
L. S. Senior	Sunny Jo	SASS #94627	ON
Pale Rider	Critter T. Longshot	SASS #53811	PA
Senior	Rawhide Wilson	SASS #40834	ON
S. Gunfighter	Mickey O'Rye	SASS #86989	ON
Silver Senior	Northern Easy Rider	SASS #92528	ON
S. S. Duelist	Doc Brant	SASS #93066	ON
Wrangler	Lucky Hand Luke	SASS #100337	ON



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