

ANNUAL REPORTS

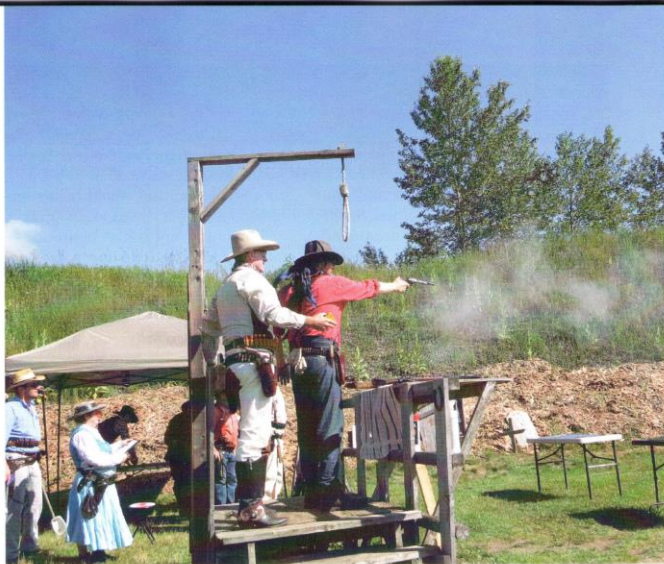
SIXTH ANNUAL CENTRAL CANADIAN REGIONAL

BY BAD PENNY, SASS #1453

A dedicated group of volunteers braved the July heat to put together the Sixth Annual SASS' Sanctioned Central Canadian Regional Championship. Held July 14-15, 2017, the match brought competitors from all over Ontario and Quebec as well as groups from Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Great stages, imaginatively decorated—including a stage dressed up with red and white targets and wrapped in Canadian flags to commemorate Canada's 150th birthday—were set in a grand facility. For the CCRC the stages are designed to be thought provoking for shooters, but the targets are left big. Too big to miss? Never.

Thursday was side-match day, spent shooting everything from single-shot long-range buffalo guns to tiny pocket pistols and Derringers. It is also Wild Bunch mini-match day. Word of the challenging CCRC Wild Bunch stages has spread. This year, due to partici-



pant numbers, this entertaining three-stage shoot had to be shot in two flights. More than thirty competitors took part using futuristic weaponry, including the 1911 pistol and Winchester 1912 shotgun! Overall winner of the Wild Bunch match and winner in Wild Bunch Modern was The Boy (SASS #87709). Four Fingers Fred (SASS #95390), won Wild Bunch Traditional.

Friday and Saturday consisted of ten stages, decorated with Kitty Katz Arizona's gorgeous peeps of Cowboy

Action Shooting with the classic firearms of the 1800s. This year Slow Don (SASS #66977) overcame both a recurring illness—which kept him away from last year's competition—and all competitors as he was declared the Overall Match Winner and Central Canadian Men's Champion. His prize, a model black 1955 Fleetwood known as the Godfather Cadillac. Serenity (SASS #64982), World Champion and Top Lady, got the pink 1955 Fleetwood known as the Elvis Cadillac. Congratulations to both great shooters. Slow Don's daughter and a SASS Scholarship recipient, Smoke N' Ash (SASS #86017), took top Cowgirl and 12th place overall.

Captain R.J. Law (SASS #15466), of the Wolverine Rangers—the stalwart roughriders who put on the annual Range War at the Bluewater Range in Port Huron, Michigan—pointed his cayuse north and did us the great honor of shooting with us. He told us he really enjoyed the great posse he was on and walked off with top spot in the largest category, Silver Senior.

We were also delighted to greet a fine bunch of compadres from La Belle Provence, Quebec. Highwall Drifter (SASS #68975), Rooster Corrigan (SASS #83743), Milly Oakley (SASS #98541), Saint Clyde (SASS #98540),

Four Fingers Fred (SASS #95390), and Marshall MacPhee (SASS #102392) all rode over to shoot with us. They came, they saw, they conquered.

Highwall Drifter came in second to Slow Don in the 49-er category. Rooster Corrigan won Cattle Baron and Four Fingers Fred took the Golden Bucket emblematic of Pale Rider dominance from Pennsylvania's Critter T. Longshot (SASS #53188).

There are strong traditions at this match. One of them is, if the Pale Rider winner of the year before loses, he must present the Golden Bucket to the new winner. This Critter T. did with style and grace, his grin bursting out of his full beard and behind his smoking corn cob pipe. The spirit of the game was running a full 90 proof. Critter T.'s better half, Ruby Rose Longshot (SASS #67697) repeated this year as winner of Lady Frontier Cartridge, thus saving the family honor.

In all it was a most successful shoot, a good time was had by all and, as always, the Cowboys showed their hearts and wallets to the charity raffle for our local Hospice, this year raising more than \$1,800.

Please join us July 19, 20 and 21, 2018 in Barrie, Ontario Canada for the Seventh annual Central Canadian Regional Championship. Please visit <http://osaf.ca> for more information and for complete match results. We look forward to seeing you.

SHOOTING WITH THE CANADIANS

BY RJ LAW, SASS #15466

Lefty Dutchman (SASS #41480) is one of our regular Canadian shooters who comes to Range War, the Michigan State Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™—held over Labor Day weekend—just about every year. Range War is held at the Blue Water Sportsman's Club near Port Huron and a short distance from the Blue Water Bridge to Sarnia, Ontario. Lefty came up to me at the end of the Banquet and Awards Presentation last year at Range War and suggested I should visit to Canada and shoot one of their matches. We

have a significant number of Canadian shooters who participate in Range War every year and I agreed it was time I shot on their turf. I attended the SASS' Central Canadian Regional in Barrie, Ontario over the weekend of July 14-15, had a great time, and would highly recommend it for our American shooters.

Obviously my initial hesitation—and I am sure that of most shooters from the U.S.—is the concern about taking guns and ammo across the border into Canada. I have to say, the process actually was very easy. Lefty put me in contact with Ms. Karen Amon, the Chief Firearms Officer of the Chief Firearms Office of Toronto. She was extremely helpful and also very nice. She really tried to make the process easy and it was. She sent me the copies of all of the required documentation and I had no problems of any kind.

As part of the registration process for the match, Lady Smith (SASS #41871), sent me the confirmation for my registration as well as an Information Sheet with important sections about bringing firearms into Canada from the U.S. One thing I did not do was click on the link to review information about storing, transporting, and displaying firearms in Canada. (See the accompanying Information Letter entitled "Bringing Firearms to Canada from the U.S.") I followed the U.S. laws and had my four firearms in locked cases, but I did not have trigger locks on the handguns, which I later found out is a requirement. (See the attached screen shot from the Royal Mounted Police about Storing, Transporting and Displaying Firearms.) Fortunately for me, the customs agent who checked my Rugers did not raise an issue about the lack of trigger guards and I passed through customs with no issues. Frankly, all of the customs people were very nice and the process of making it through customs was very easy. I talked to one of the customs agents about Cowboy Action Shooting™ and she was very interested hearing about it.

There are a couple of rules I had a hard time understanding when I got to the range. It turns out you are supposed to take your handguns in the locked case to a table near one of the stages and unlock the case and put the guns in your holsters there. You are not supposed to do that standing outside of your car or truck. Needless to say, I put my guns in my holsters while I was unloading my truck and was nicely informed by Crow (SASS #39113) the Match Director to take the guns in the locked case to one of the safe tables at one of the stages next time. After I was done shooting the match, I took my handgun case to one of the safe tables and took off my handguns there and put them in my case and locked it. Not a big deal and even Crow said some of the rules do not make a lot of sense.

I did not get to shoot the side matches due to my late arrival. It's a 270-mile drive and it was a little slow near Toronto. We shot ten stages on four bays for the match. Each set of targets was shot twice. One large bay had two stages. This means that they only had five sets of targets. For the second go round for each set of targets there would be a new stage written with a different shooting sequence. Actually, that was pretty efficient and it saved a lot of walking.

One of the rules they have in the Province of Ontario is all targets must be "shrouded." This means the targets have to be covered to prevent a ricochet from deflecting from the target and injuring someone in the surrounding community. Frankly, I would like to see the supporting evidence for that rule. The way that they handled this was to have a small roof over a series of targets or at least a wooded covering over all of the targets. This was not a big problem and the Club handled it well.

One of the other rules is all targets, including shotgun targets, must be at least 10 meters from the shooting line. This means all targets had to be at a minimum of about 33 feet away. (Bring your heavier shotgun loads.) I did pretty well with Winchester Extra-Lite loads but I did hit a couple of targets head on that did not go down the first time. One of the benefits of the targets being farther away is it forced me to aim and to use my front sight. Obviously that is a good habit to get into.

I had a very good time and will be going back. Barrie, Ontario is a very nice town and all the people were very nice. I really enjoyed the people on my posse. Hopefully I will be able to bring The Lady next time.

