

PACKING IRON

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING, IT'S A LIFESTYLE

- CAS SECTION NEWS BY Ron Finlayson

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HIGH NOON – CAS NATIONALS '08

The weather gods turned on a spectacular display of fresh crisp snow on the mountains surrounding Cowboy Paradise in the hours leading up to our major shoot of the year. It was character building stuff for the eleven Aussies who came across to compete, as well as those from the Far North Region. But it was just par for the course for those from the Deep South who drove through snow blizzards to get there. Thankfully the weather then cleared up and we shot the match in fine conditions.

Six-S Shooting School. Wednesday and the Six-S Shooting School was under-way. A big thank you from the CAS Section to the team who put this together and judging by some of the results at the end of the Nationals, some of their students are fast learners. Expect these shooters to shine in the near future! Please read the accompanying report from the shoot.

Thursday was for the warm-up stages and side matches. It never ceases to amaze me some of the times posted in the speed events. One notable cowboy shooter said some five years ago that 'Blazing Irons' wouldn't get shot in less than 20 seconds. This year the time was down under 14 seconds. And those fresh from the shooting school were putting into practice in the warm-up stages what they had learnt from the masters the day before.

Friday morning was still a mite crisp and after the welcome and briefing it was into the first 6 main stages. There was a lot of shooting through windows and doors and pistoleros also needed to be proficient at reloading their pistols under the clock.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny, a good day for shooting another 6 stages. Cowboys and cowgirls were asking each other who was still in the running for a golden buffalo. The day concluded with the banquet with everyone dressed up in their best costumes. Some of these were truly outstanding with a lot of time and thought going into what to wear.

Sunday and it was time for Master Gunfighter. As hordes of expectant cowboys & cowgirls lined up to 'have a go', everyone knew there would only be one winner in this gunfight!

Golden Buffalo. Competition was fierce to try and 'go clean' for the whole match. After the dust had settled and the scores were added up, only three shooters managed to score a 24 carat buffalo. They

were Miss Ruby, Cisco and Black Jack. Congratulations to the three of you. And to the rest of us who 'also ran', there will be another chance next year- if we can shoot straight and 'hold it together'.

Rookie of the Year. Rookie of the year medals were awarded this year to Ranger Doug and Flint. Their efforts as first timers at a CAS Nationals were great and it is hoped we will see them competing at many more National & Island shoots in the future.

Reminder. SASS members are reminded to fill in their SASS alias and SASS number on entry forms for the New Zealand SASS Regional shoots in the future as this is the only record available to the organizers of who is eligible for the prize draw and the SASS Regional Championships.

SASS Trophies. One person worthy of mention is James B Hume (who has reverted to his SASS alias James B Wright). Since New Zealand has had its own SASS Regional starting four years ago, JBH has very generously supplied the keenly sort-after SASS Trophies. This is a great effort as they do come at a cost and the CAS Section really appreciates this sponsorship. Thank you James B Wright.

Golden Buffalo. As already mentioned, these awards were fiercely shot for. Competition was strong but by the end of High Noon there were only three shooters who were able to balance speed and accuracy. To the Deadwood Rangers from Napier who sponsored these 24 carat gold buffalo for these Nationals, a huge thanks. Initially it was their design we decided to use. They got the buffalo manufactured and plated for us. They brought the buffalo south to the shoot and it was them who stood guard over them for the weekend until the presentation. Their support for the CAS Section is much appreciated. I can see the Golden Buffalo will be worn as a badge of excellence.

Duel Down Under. Another reminder for you all to consider the flight across the Tasman to the Little River Range near Melbourne from 6th – 9th March 09. Email Tony Diablo diablot6@bigpond.com to organize on range accommodation and getting ammo loaded. It's a good time to start getting the paperwork underway for getting firearms into Australia. It will be a great weekend. Don't miss it!

As the year draws to a close I'd like to wish you all a Very Merry Xmas (hang up a stocking big enough for a long gun. A brace of pistols or a reloading press) and a safe and prosperous New Year.

See y'all on the range next year.