

EQUIPMENT OF THE TOP SHOOTERS

How often have you sat through an awards banquet and watching class winners and overall winners come up to accept their awards and wonder to yourself: “What equipment are they using and who did the work?” I wondered this myself and thought this would be the perfect time to find out.

In this section you will find a list of accomplishments, equipment, gunsmiths, and leatherworkers used by some of the top shooters currently participating. At the end of the book there is a section called “Resources” where contact information can be found. I hope that you will take advantage of this information the next time you prepare to buy equipment for Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS™).

The shooters in this section are arranged alphabetically by Single Action Shooting Society (SASS®) alias.

BADLANDS BUD, STEVEN RUBERT

Bud shoots in whatever category strikes his fancy.

Accomplishments:

- In addition to those listed below, Bud has won numerous matches throughout the West.
- 2007 World Champion Western 3 Gun
- 2007 Overall Winner, Oregon State Championship
- 2007 California State Champion
- 2007 West Coast Champion Western 3 Gun
- 2006 World Champion Western 3 Gun
- 2006 World Champion Junior Boy
- 2006 California State Champion
- 2006 Overall Winner, Oregon State Championship
- 2006 Overall Winner, Arizona State Championship
- 2005 World Champion SASS
- 2005 World Champion Junior Boy
- 2004 World Champion Junior Boy
- 2003 World Champion Junior Boy

Revolvers:

2 Stainless steel Ruger Vaqueros. 5.5 in. Barrels .38 Special
Grips have been replaced with Eagle Gunfighter Grips.
Parts polished, springs cut, and sears re-cut.

Rifle:

1873 reproduction Border Deluxe. .357 (but I shoot .38s). Cowboys and Indians Store has short-stroked my rifle, put in an aluminum lifter, cut the mainspring, re-cut the sear, and polished parts. I have wrapped my lever with a leather strip.

Shotgun:

Original take-down 97 cobbled together from parts of other guns until one worked. It has a 20 inch barrel, and no action work. I did, however, tighten the hammer spring as much as possible, ensuring positive ignition.

BLACK BARTH, STEVE BARTH

Steve shoots in the Traditional class.

Revolvers

Steve uses a pair of Colt Single Action Army revolvers. These are blued/case colored and have 5-1/2" barrels. They are chambered in .357, and outfitted with Eagle Gunfighter grips. In addition, Steve does all his own action work.

Rifle

Steve's rifle is a Marlin Cowboy II chambered in .357. He has cut the barrel down to 20 inches. He has installed and recommends a tang sight. He did his own action work.

Shotgun

Steve uses a 12 gauge, 1st generation Baikal. The barrels were cut down to 20 inches and screw-in chokes were installed. He did his own action work.

Leather

Gordon Davis built Steve's leather. The holsters are metal lined to retain shape and they can be easily adjusted to better hold the guns in place. His shotgun belt holds 2 shells together in a single loop. His leather was designed to "stay put" as he hates having a belt slide around or move.



Odds and Ends

Steve likes short-barreled guns since they swing to target easier and are lighter. He loads all his own ammunition and uses Vihta Vuori powder. He likes the Winchester AA or Remington STS hulls as they drop out of his double easily. His cartridges use Federal primers, Starline brass, and Precision bullets. He uses 125 gr. bullets in his pistols and 158 gr. bullets in his rifle. His shotshells contain 1-1/8 oz. or #6 shot.

CHUCKWALLA KID, SCOTT STEPHENSON, SASS #56565

Scott started shooting Cowboy Action in March of 2004 with his Dad (Palo Verde) because it looked like a fun thing to do together. He had not participated in any other type of competition before. He shot the first year in the Junior Category, switched to Traditional for 2005, then switched to Modern in 2006.



Accomplishments

- 2007 Overall World Champion, 1st Modern --- EOT World Championship
- 2007 Arizona Overall State Champion, 1st Modern --- Bordertown
- 2007 National Champion, Men's Modern; 1st Top Gun; --- Winter Range
- 2006 World Champion, Men's Modern; 2nd Overall; --- EOT World Championship
- 2006 Arizona Overall State Champion, 1st Modern, --- Bordertown
- 2006 Top Overall, 1st Modern, --- Verde Valley Range Wars
- 2005 Top Overall, 1st Traditional, --- Tombstone Open Range
- 2005 Top Gun Traditional for '05, --- Arizona Cowboy Shooters Assoc.

Revolvers

Scott currently shoots adjustable sight Ruger New Model Single-Six pistols in .32 H&R with 4 5/8 inch barrels. He has replaced the aluminum ejector housing and grip frames with steel ones to try to add weight to these little, light pistols. The front of the cylinders are beveled, rear sites are widened, front sites lowered and re-contoured, He has also fitted Eagle Gunfighter grips and installed free spin pawls. His split times for a double tap are usually around 0.12 seconds. All pistol action work is done by Bob James (Arizona Thumber) of James and Guns.

Rifle

Scott shoots a Winchester 1873 round barreled Carbine by Uberti in .357 and shoots .357 magnum cases to get his desired overall cartridge length of 1.525 (plus he hates trying to clean out that carbon/lead ring that forms in front of the .38 cases). He levers his rifle with his thumb against the right side plate and dumps 10 rounds from his rifle in about 2.28 seconds. He uses a Marlin front site and a Marbles rear sight. His rifle is short-stroked, springs are lightened, aluminum carrier, 1 ½ lb. trigger pull, 2 lb. hammer pull, extended firing pin travel and all contact points smoothed. Action work by his Dad (Palo Verde).

Shotgun

His shotgun is a Winchester '97 manufactured in 1957, barrel shortened to 19 ½ inches, oversized front bead installed, fitted with an older model corncob fore stock and a 1940s butt stock shortened to a LOP of 11 ½ inches and fitted with a Trap pad. Trigger pull is 2 lbs., hammer is at 4 lbs. His hands aren't long enough to pull four shells at a time so he loads his shotgun from the right by pulling two at a time. Good split times for Scott, between first and second shot, are around 0.42 to 0.44 seconds. Shotgun action work by his Dad (Palo Verde).

Leather

His holsters are modified old model Long Hunters by Kirkpatrick. Double loop shotgun belt by W. M. Brown. Lever and full Butt wraps by Palo Verde (Dad).

DANG IT DAN, DAN BEALE

Dan shoots in the Traditional class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 Overall Winner, Alabama State Championship
- 2002 Overall Winner, Georgia State Championship
- 2002 3rd Overall, North Carolina State Championship—
“Uprising at Swearing Creek”
- 2002 SASS Southeast Regional Champion—“Mule Camp”
- 1999-2002 Florida State Champion—“The Last Stand”
- 2002 Overall Champion—“Shootout In The Swamp”
- 2001 Runner up—“Winter Range”
- 2000 Pennsylvania State/SASS Northeast Regional Champion—“Susquehanna Roundup”
- 2000 Overall Champion—“The Reckoning”



- 1999 Runner up—“End of Trail”
- 1999 Overall Champion—“Trailhead”
- 1998/99 South Carolina State Champion—“Givhans Ferry”
- 1998 Overall Champion—“The Carolina’s Championship”

Revolvers

- Ruger Vaquero, stainless, 4-3/4" barrel.
- The stainless finish is bead-blasted to a dull gray except the cylinder and grip frame.
- The hammer and trigger were replaced with Ron Power half-cock hammers, and the free-spin pawl was installed. The cylinder chambers were honned and the mouth of each was beveled.
- The trigger breaks at one and one-half pounds. The front sight is cut into a forward ramp and serrated and also bead blasted to cut glare.
- The base pin is oversized and turned down to a tight fit in order to reduce play in the cylinder.
- The grips are original, but are sanded down, especially on the sides in order to create a better fit.

Rifle

Dan’s rifle is a Navy Arms Model 1873 Border rifle (20" barrel, octagon) chambered in .357. The rifle stock is modified to fit Dan. Specifically, the metal butt plate has been removed and the lower part of the remaining wood has been recut to resemble a carbine stock. Then, a leather cover was glued to it. Dave Smith, of Guncraft in Ruskin Florida, does all of Dan’s action work. The action work includes having the hammer lightened as well as the carrier. The internal springs were lightened as well, but the hammer spring was intentionally left a bit heavy to keep the hammer fall fast to reduce lock-time. The rest of the action work was just general de-burring and smoothing of the moving parts. The rifle has a short stroke modification which decreases the stroke about 3/4 inch.

Shotgun

Dan uses, and is partial to, the Winchester Model 97 shotguns that have a 1,000,000+ serial number. Usually these guns, built in the 50s, have bigger forearms and stocks. There has been no unusual work done on these guns. His set up includes having the stock cut down about 1/2", the barrel is cut to 20-1/2", choke tubes added, back bored, and trigger lightened. A slightly bigger bead is installed on the front of the barrel and a recoil pad was added.

Leather

His holsters and shotgun belt were both made by Columbus D. Shannon (a former national champion). The holsters have a forward cant of 15 degrees. The shotgun belt is loop next to loop but has loops for pistol/rifle rounds on both the left and right sides of the shotgun loops. The belt is cut on a 2" radius for additional comfort.

DANG IT'S DARLIN, ANDREA BEALE

Andrea shoots in the Ladies Traditional class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 1st Place Ladies Traditional, Georgia State Championship
- 2002 SASS Southeast Regional Ladies Champion — “Shootout at Mule Camp”
- 2002 Florida State Ladies Champion — “The Last Stand”
- 2001 Ladies Champion — “The Last Stand”
- 2001 2nd Place Ladies Winter Range
- 2000 Pennsylvania State/SASS Northeast Regional Ladies Champion—“Susquehanna Roundup”
- 1998-2000 SASS Southeast Regional Ladies Champion—“Shootout at Mule Camp”
- 2000 Florida State Ladies Champion—“The Reckoning”
- 1999 Ladies Champion—“The Last Stand”
- 1998-99 South Carolina State Ladies Champion
- 1998-99 North Carolina State Ladies Champion



Revolvers

Andrea prefers 357 caliber Ruger Vaqueros with an action job that is the same as Dan's except for the free spin pawl. Her Rugers sport custom tooled wood grips. Dave Smith did all work.

Rifle

Her rifle is a Navy Arms 38 caliber carbine with an action job and lightened trigger. Original work done by Spencer Davis (Harland Wolff) with additional work done by Dave Smith.

Shotgun

She uses a Winchester Model 97 shotgun with an action job, lightened trigger and removal of the lock out mechanism. Work done by Dave Smith.

Leather

Columbus D. Shannon made Andrea's leather. She wanted a light rig that was angled and cut to speed up her left-hand draw. Columbus made this rig especially for her because she was unable to draw her left gun comfortably from the holster.

EASY RIDER, CLYDE HARRISON

Clyde shoots in the Gunfighter class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 Georgia State Gunfighter Champion
- 2002 2nd Gunfighter—"Mule Camp"
- 2002 EOT Gunfighter Champion, 12th Overall
- 2002 Gunfighter Champion — "Winter Range"
- 2001 EOT Gunfighter Champion, 12th Overall
- 2001 2nd Place Gunfighter—"Mule Camp"
- 2001 Georgia State Gunfighter Champion
- 2000 EOT Gunfighter Champion, 12 Overall
- 2000 Georgia State Gunfighter Champion
- 1999 Georgia State Gunfighter Champion
- 1998 Duelist Champion—"Mule Camp"
- 1997 Duelist Champion—"Mule Camp"
- 1996 Duelist Champion—"Mule Camp"



Revolvers

Clyde shoots Ruger Vaqueros. They are stainless steel, with 4-5/8" barrels, chambered in .357, with Eagle Gunfighter grips. He shoots .38 special ammunition from Atlanta Arms and Ammo. The action work (done by Neal Spruill) on his revolvers includes:

- Bead blasting to reduce glare.
- Power hammer, trigger, and free-spin pawl.
- 17-pound mainspring. Clyde finds that a lighter spring reduces the lock time enough that he is moving to the next target before the hammer hits the firing pin.
- The trigger is set to 20 ounces.
- Rear sight widened and deepened to make it easier to pick up the front sight.
- The front sight profile was modified to resemble the front sight of Ruger Blackhawk.

Rifle

His rifle is a Navy Arms 1873 border rifle chambered in .38/.357. Don Jones (Cody Conager) did the rifle work. A large brass bead sight was placed in front and a full buckhorn in the rear.

Shotgun

He uses a Norinco 97. Coyote Cap did the action work and included screw in chokes, walnut stocks, and the stock was cut down and 2" recoil pad installed. The overall length of the stock is 3/4" less than normal.

Leather

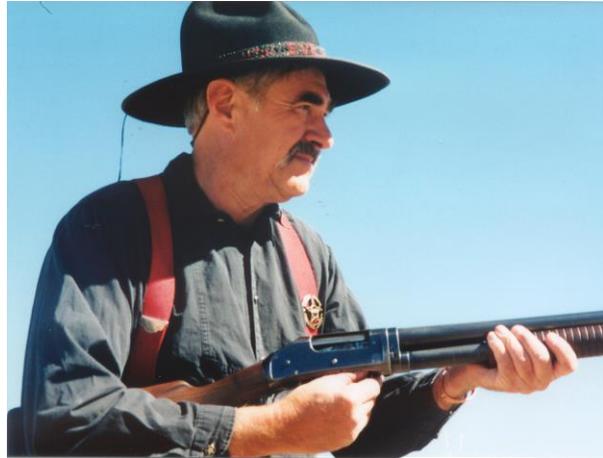
Bill Hunnicutt made his gun leather. His rig features two strong side holsters with a 15-degree forward cant. They have been flared out at the top for easier holstering. His shotgun belt was also made by Bill Hunnicutt and has several individual loops.

EVIL ROY, GENE PEARCEY

Gene shoots in the Traditional class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 3rd Overall, EOT World Championship
- 2002 3rd Traditional, EOT World Championship
- 2002 1st in Family Event with partner Holy Terror (his granddaughter), EOT World Championship
- 2002 2nd Overall, 1st Regional Men's Champion, 1st 49'er Class, 1st All Around Cowboy Shootout, 1st Top Gun Shootout, SASS High Plains Regional—"Hell on Wheels"
- 2002 1st Top Gun Shootout and 2nd Overall, SASS Southeast Regional—"Mule Camp"
- 2001 Overall World Champion
- 2001 Top Overall, Arizona State Championship—"Bordertown"
- 2001 Overall Champion, Rocky Mountain Regional
- 2001 Top Overall—"Siege at San Juan"
- 2001 Overall Champion, SASS Southeast Regional—"Mule Camp"
- 2001 Overall Champion, SASS Southwest Regional—"Shootout Behind the Jersey Lilly"
- 2000 Overall National Champion
- 2000 Arizona State Championship—"Bordertown"
- 2000 Colorado State Champion
- 2000 Top Overall—"Siege at San Juan"
- 2000 Overall Champion, Southeast Regional—"Mule Camp"
- 2000 Overall Champion, Southwest Regional—"Mill Creek"
- 2000 Top Overall—"Yuma Territorial Prison Breakout"
- 1999 California State Champion
- 1999 First Top Gun Shootoff—"Gunfight at Old Tascosa"
- 1999 Top Overall—"Gunsmoke"
- 1999 Overall Champion, High Plains Regional—"Hell on Wheels"
- 1999 Top Overall, High Plains Shootout



- 1999 National Champion Traditional Class
- 1999 Nevada State Champion
- 1999 Top Overall, Rocky Mountain Regional Raid
- 1999 Overall Champion, Southwest Regional—“Mill Creek”
- 1998 Colorado State Champion
- 1998 Top Overall—“Gunfight at Old Tascosa”
- 1998 Top Overall—“Gunsmoke”
- 1998 Top Overall—“Siege at San Juan”
- 1998 Overall Champion, Southwest Regional—“Railhead”
- 1998 World Champion Traditional Class

Evil Roy has many other Modern Class wins and has never finished lower than ninth place in any Cowboy Action match since he started competing.

Revolvers

Gene has been shooting Ruger Vaqueros, but is changing to a Colt-type gun. His Rugers are chambered in 357 caliber, have 4-5/8" barrels, and are stainless. Gene is changing to blued/case colored revolvers so he can see the sights better. Eagle Gunfighter checkered grips are his preference. The actions of the Rugers have been smoothed and lightened by Bob James in Phoenix, Arizona. Gene is currently working with a couple of companies to develop an “Evil Roy” Colt-type revolver which will hold up to the demands of the CAS™ shooter.

Rifle

Gene shoots the 1873 Winchester clones in .357. The action work is by Spencer Davis (Marshal Harland Wolff), and includes having the lever throw shortened and trigger pull lightened.

Shotgun

Gene uses a Winchester Model 1897 12 gauge with action work by Harlan B. Wolff and TL. He has had internal chokes installed and the barrel cut down to 19 inches.

Leather

Gene uses the custom designed Kirkpatrick “Evil Roy” rig. The holsters have a lowered front for safety and speed, a flared top for faster holstering, and a rigid lining to hold the gun better. He uses two strong side holsters, and his shot shell belt is the Kirkpatrick “Evil Roy” model.

Brief History

Gene started out 9 years ago looking for a sport he could participate in his later years. CAS™ looked like fun, and he really enjoyed it so he worked very hard to improve.

Gene enjoys the shooting, competition, and the type of people drawn to the sport. Most of his friends are CAS™ shooters and he enjoys meeting folks from all over the world and going to different parts of the country to shoot and plans on shooting for a long time.

HANDLEBAR DOC, TODD HODNETT

Todd shoots in the Traditional class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 2nd Overall, 2nd Mens Traditional, MidWest Regional—"Last Frontier"
- 2001 Top Ten Finish—"Landrun"
- 2001 Top Ten Finish, Rocky Mountain Regional
- 2001 Top Ten Finish—"Tin Star"
- 2002 Top Ten Finish, EOT
- 2002 Overall Winner—"Winter Range"
- 2002 Overall Winner, Louisiana State Championship
- 2002 Overall Winner—"Trailhead"
- 2002 Overall Winner—"Mule Camp"



Revolvers

Todd shoots Ruger Vaqueros with 4-5/8" barrels, chambered in .357, with action jobs by Wes Flowers. His pistol and rifle loads are the same: 125 gr. Hunters Supply bullet with 3.8 gr. Vihta Vouri N320 powder and a standard primer. The action job on the revolvers includes:

- The outside diameter of the Ruger mainspring was reduced on a sander and the spring was tapered with the narrower end going onto the hammer strut first.
- The right side leg (that goes over the cam) of the trigger spring has been cut off. A dremel tool with a flapper wheel was used to work the spring down lightening trigger pull.
- The hammer was welded up to strike the firing pin and the transfer bar was removed. The bottom of hammer was filed to make it flat and a piece of 3/16" square bar stock was welded to it. A safety notch, and a half-cock notch were cut making it function just like any other 3 screw with the 4 clicks. The half-cock helps if the hammer slips from your thumb before getting to full-cock. It also lines up the chambers for easy loading and unloading.
- The trigger was reworked to fit the new hammer notches and recontoured to look like the trigger from a 3-screw model.
- A spacer was installed between the trigger and locking bolt to ensure a tight lock up.
- The bolt was reshaped to ensure that it fully engages the cylinder notch.

- The rear sight was opened up to provide a better sight picture.

Rifle

Todd's rifle is a Marlin Cowboy chambered in .357 with an action job by Jim Finch (Long Hunter). This includes the installation of a single piece firing pin.

Shotgun

His shotgun is a Winchester Model 97, cut down to 22 inches, with an action job by Brisco Kid.

Leather

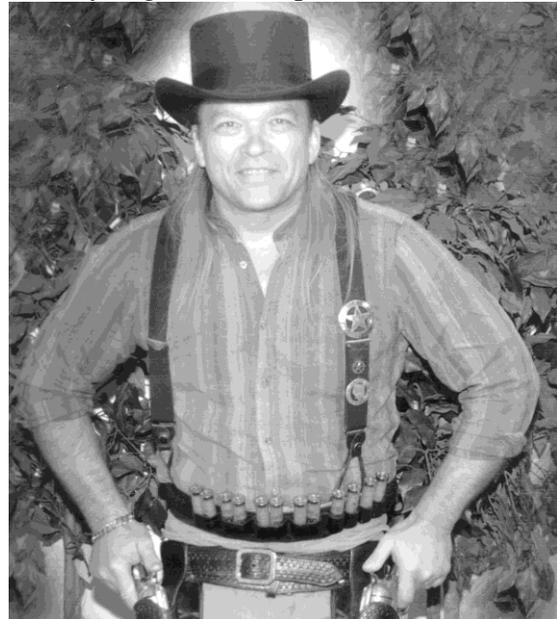
Todd carries his pistols and shot shells in the Evil Roy Rig from Kirkpartick Leather.

KANADA KIDD, KEN KUPSCH

Ken shoots in the Traditional class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 Third Place, IDPA Enhanced Pistol; Single Action Revolver Winner—"Steel Challenge"
- 2002 Stampede Top Gun.
- 2002 10th Overall, World Championships—"End of Trail"
- 2002 Match Winner, IPSC Alberta Provincial Championships
- 2002 Canadian Champion Cowboy Action Shooting
- 2001 Top Overall, US National Championships—"Winter Range"
- 2001 Second Overall, SASS World Championships—"End Of Trail"
- 2001 Second Overall, SASS Regional—"Mule Camp"
- 2001 Second Place, Single Action Revolver; Third Place, IDPA Enhanced Pistol, World Speed Shooting Championships—"Steel Challenge"
- 2001 5th overall, Florida State Championships—"Last Stand"
- 2001 5th overall, Range War Regional
- 2001 Range War Top Gun
- 2001 3rd overall—"Gunfight Behind Jersey Lilly"
- 2000 Top Overall, SASS Regional, "Great Northern"
- 2000 Second Overall, SASS Regional—"Mill Creek"
- 2000 Canadian Champion
- 2000 Winner of Colt High Noon Shootout—"End Of Trail"
- 2000 Top Gun, SASS Regional—"Last Frontier"



- 1999 Canadian Champion
- 1999 Top Overall, SASS Regional—“Great Northern”
- 1999 Top Overall—“Siege at San Juan”
- 1999 Match Winner, Montana State Championship

Revolvers

Ken has two different sets of revolvers. He uses Stainless Ruger Vaqueros with 4-5/8" barrels, chambered in .357 magnum with action jobs by Bill Oglesby. He also uses a pair of nickel 4-3/4" barreled AWA Peacekeepers chambered in .357 magnum with action jobs by AWA. He gets his pistol ammunition from Atlanta Arms and Ammo.

Rifle

Ken's rifle is a 1873 Navy Arms chambered in .357 magnum with an action job by Don Jones (Cody Conager). He gets his rifle ammunition from Atlanta Arms and Ammo.

Shotgun

Ken's shotgun is a Winchester Model 1897 cut down to 22 inches with an action job by Coyote Cap.

Leather

Ken has two different rigs. One is a cross draw rig made by Ernie Hill. The other is a two-gun forward rig made by Bill Hunnicut in Georgia.

LASS CAHL, HEATHER LANDERS

Heather shoots in the Ladies Traditional class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 Georgia State Ladies Champion, Winner of the Top Ladies Shootout, Georgia State Championship
- 2002 Ladies Speed Shotgun, Speed Pistol and Speed Rifle Winner—“Mule Camp”
- 2001 Top Overall Lady (Top Five Finish), Ladies Traditional Champion, Georgia State Championship,
- 2001 Ladies Traditional Champion (Top Ten Overall Finish)—“Mule Camp”
- 2000 Top Overall Lady (Top Five Finish), Ladies Traditional Champion, Georgia State Championship
- 1999 Top Overall Lady, Ladies Traditional Champion, Georgia State Championship



Revolvers

She shoots a pair of stainless steel, 4-5/8", .357 Ruger Vaqueros with Eagle gunfighter grips. Heather and her husband Ben (Macon Rounds) share revolvers. Since Ben does the gunsmithing work, descriptions are in this chapter under his section.

Rifle

Her rifle is a Marlin Cowboy II, .357 cut to 20" with full a Buckhorn rear sight and a 1/16" brass bead in front. Ben does the gunsmithing work, descriptions will appear in his section.

Shotgun

She prefers her Winchester Model 1897 Model E 12 gauge take down pump shotgun.

Leather

Heather's shot shell belt was made and designed by Bill Hunnicutt. It is 2.5" wide and has 19 shot shell loops and 6 cartridge loops. Her cartridge belt was made and designed by Andrews Custom Leather. It's a 2.5" Ranger belt with belt loops and suede lined. The holsters were made and designed by Andrews Custom Leather. The right holster is worn over her right front pocket and the left holster is positioned on her left hip.

LASSITER, TOM WILDENAUER

Tom shoots in the Gunfighter class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 First Place Classic Cowboy Class, Southeast Regional—"Mule Camp"
- 2002,2000,1999 First Place Gunfighter Class, Ohio State Championship
- 2002,2001 First Place Gunfighter Class, Indiana State Championship
- 2001 First Place Gunfighter Class, Kentucky State Championship
- Level 4 Mounted Shooter
- 1982-1993 Fast Draw Shooter
- Winner of State Championships in Alabama, Gorgia, Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, New Jersey and Missouri
- 1988 World Thumbing Champion



Revolvers

Tom uses a pair of EMF Hartfords by Uberti. They are blue/case colored hardened frames, have 7-1/2" barrels, and are chambered in .357 caliber. The action work was done by Tom's Single Action Shop and includes:

- The chambers are honed.
- The frames are beveled around the loading gate area to facilitate unloading.
- The rear sight notch has been filed square.
- Replica Colt hard rubber grips have been fitted to guns.
- The flat mainsprings have been replaced with coil springs for added reliability

Rifle

Tom shoots either a Uberti Model 1866 or 1873 in .45 colt. He has ordered another set of rifles in .357 in order to match his pistol caliber. The action work was done by Tom's Single Action Shop and includes:

- They have been short stroked and the safety lightened but not removed on the '73
- They both have had action jobs.
- The ladder sight on the '66 has been loctited in place so it won't flip up at the wrong moment.
- The rear sight on the '73 has been replaced with a flat top model.
- The buttstock and lever have both been covered with suede leather.

Shotgun

Tom uses a Winchester Model 97 in 12 gauge made in 1908. It has a 26" barrel which was cut off so there is no choke. The action work done by Tom's Single Action Shop includes:

- The chamber and forcing cone were lengthened.
- The buttstock is covered with suede leather.
- The gun was pretty slick when he got it and only minor wear and tear repair has been needed.

Leather

Tom's Single Action Shop built the gunbelt and holsters. His shotgun belt was made by Big Horn Leather.

LONG HUNTER, JIM FINCH

Jim shoots in the Modern class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 Winner, Modern Class, 3rd Overall, MidWest Regional—"Last Frontier"
- 2002 World Champion, Modern Class—"End of Trail"
- 2002 World Champion, Master Gunfighter, Top 20 Shoot Off—"End of Trail"
- 2002 Winner, Modern Class—"Mule Camp"
- 2002 Winner, Top Gun Shoot Off—"Trailhead"
- 2002 Winner, Modern Class—"Hell on Wheels"
- 2002 Winner, Overall and Modern Class—"Orygun Trails"
- 2002 Winner, Top 20 Shoot Off—"Orygun Trails"
- Has finished in the Top Ten of every match except one in the last two years



Revolvers

Jim shoots old Ruger 3 Screws, which are adjustable sight revolvers. His load is made from .357 Lapua brass, 3.5 gr. Vihta Vuori N320 Powder, Winchester Magnum Primers, and 125 grain Hunter Supply bullets. The velocity is 680 fps (feet per second). Wes Flowers did the action work on the Rugers, and Jim considers him the best Ruger man in the country. The action work that Wes did on Jim's guns includes:

- The outside diameter of the Ruger spring was reduced on a sander and the spring was tapered with the narrow end going onto the hammer strut first.
- The trigger spring is modified the same as the hammer spring.
- All internal parts were polished.
- The trigger was reshaped in order to provide a light crisp trigger pull.
- The locking bolt was reshaped to reduce the wear on the cylinder.
- A hammer stop was installed to reduce the wear on the cylinder and the frame.
- The forcing cone was recut to the correct angle.

- The rear sight was opened up to provide a better sight picture.

Rifle

His rifle is a Marlin Cowboy, chambered in .357. As with his revolver loads, he uses Lapua brass, 3.5 gr. Vihta Vuori N320 powder, Winchester Magnum Primers, and 125 grain Hunter Supply bullets. The velocity is 900 fps. He does action jobs on Marlin rifles and includes a one-piece firing pin.

Shotgun

Jim's shotgun is a Winchester Model 1897. Joe Brisco did the action job and is about as good a '97 smith that he has dealt with.

Leather

Jim carries his revolvers and shot shells in the Evil Roy Rig from Kirkpartick Leather.

Odds and Ends

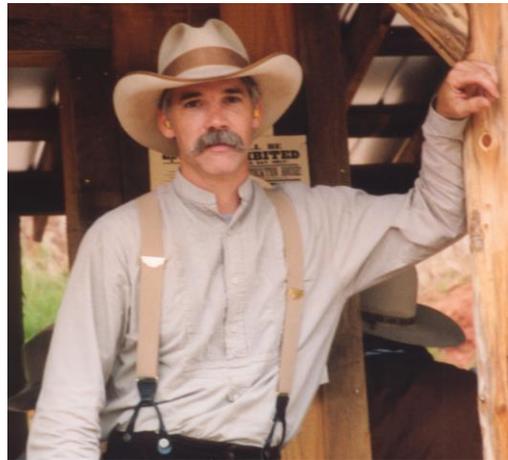
All of his guns are polished and slick. Jim says that you cannot run smooth and quick if you are fighting heavy springs and dragging parts. The key to being fast is being smooth. It takes smooth guns to accomplish this.

MACON ROUNDS, BEN LANDERS

Ben shoots in the Duelist class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 Men's Duelist winner, Top Gun Shootoff Winner, One Handed Shooters, Georgia State Championship
- 2002 Men's Duelist Champion—"Mule Camp"
- 2001 Men's Duelist World Champion—"End Of Trail"
- 2001 Men's Duelist Champion, Men's Speed Shotgun Winner—"Mule Camp"
- 2001 Men's Duelist Winner, Duelist Speed Pistol Winner, Georgia State Championship
- 2000 Mens Duelist 2nd Place Finish—"Mule Camp"
- 2000 Men's Duelist Winner, Georgia State Championship
- 1999 Men's Duelist Winner, Georgia State Championship



Revolvers

He uses a pair of stainless steel, 4-5/8", .357 Ruger Vaqueros with Eagle gunfighter grips. The action work on his revolvers includes:

- Ron Power hammer, trigger, and free spin pawl installed in both revolvers.
- All internal contact surfaces have been polished.
- Base pins were shortened to have just 3/8" exposed out of the front of the frame.
- The ejector rod spring has been shortened.
- The base pin retaining spring has been lengthened to make it stronger.
- The base pin to cylinder contact area has been honed.
- The chambers in the cylinders have been polished.
- The hammer and hammer strut have been polished.
- The bolt has been fitted and timing adjusted.
- The hammer spring is 15 lb. made by Teal Blue LLC.
- The trigger spring is a modified Wolff spring with 35% less tension for a 18 oz. trigger pull.
- The rear sight was opened up for quicker acquisition of the front sight and the back of the front sight was flattened for a better sight picture.

Rifle

Ben's rifle is a Marlin Cowboy in 45LC with full Buckhorn sights. His rifle load is 5.2 gr. Clays with a 250 gr. bullet. Action work on this gun includes:

- All internal contact surfaces have been polished.
- The hammer spring was replaced with a Ruger hammer spring cut to length. The spring tension is just enough to set off a CCI primer.
- The hammer face has been rounded and polished so that it moves smoothly over the bolt.
- The aft underside of the bolt has been rounded and modified to aid in smooth levering.
- The breach and chamber area have been polished.

- The stock trigger spring has been lightened to a 2-pound pull.
- The lever latch spring has been lightened.
- The left-hand ejector spring has been reduced and the contact area on the bolt has been polished.
- The cocking lever has leather on the underside to act as a cushion and reduce travel.
- The rear stock has been fitted.

Shotgun

His shotgun is a 12-gauge Stoeger double barrel coach gun. Action work on this gun includes:

- Chambers honed to a mirror finish.
- The breach area has been tapered slightly to allow for easier loading.
- The top of the receiver has been fitted to the barrel rib.
- The hinge has been polished.
- The hammer cocking levers have been polished and shortened so the gun will open further.
- The break lever spring has been lightened and a few other changes were made to facilitate opening.
- The auto-safety has been turned into a manual safety.
- Thin wall True Tubes have been installed in both barrels.
- A mercury recoil reducer has been installed, lead shot has filled the void in the stock, and a recoil pad was also installed.

Leather

Ben's shot shell belt was made and designed by Bill Hunnicutt. It's a 2-1/2" tapered belt with 12 shot shell loops and 10 bullet loops on the right side. The cartridge belt was made and designed by Andrews Custom Leather, it's a 2-1/4" tapered, suede lined belt with 38 bullet loops in back. His holsters were also made and designed by Andrews Custom Leather, and consists of two 25 degree cross draw holsters positioned over his front pockets.

Gunsmithing

Ben does most of his own gunsmithing and action work, but when he needs a professional gunsmith he uses Neal Spruill, AKA Hogleg Smith.

MARSHAL HARLAND WOLFF, SPENCER DAVIS

Spencer shoots in the Traditional class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 SASS North Carolina State Champion—“Uprising at Swearing Creek”
- 2001 SASS North Carolina State Champion—“Carolina’s Championship”
- 2000 SASS North Carolina State Champion—“Carolina’s Championship”
- 2000 Overall Winner, SASS South Carolina State Championship—“Shootout at Givhans Ferry”
- 1999 SASS Southeast Regional Champion—“Shootout At Mule Camp”
- 1999 SASS North Carolina State Champion—“Carolina’s Championship”
- 1998 Top All Around Cowboy—“Shootout At Mule Camp”
- 1997 SASS Southeast Regional Champion— “Shootout At Mule Camp”
- 1994 Traditional Champion—“Appalachian Showdown”



Revolvers

Spencer shoots a pair of Colt Single Action Army revolvers chambered in .45 Colt. The revolvers sport custom ivory grips made by Jerry Meacham of Charlotte, NC. Spencer does all of his own action work and firmly believes that the Colt and Colt-type guns can easily stand up to the demands of CAST™.

His revolvers have custom-made mainsprings and sear and bolt springs, coil hand springs, hammer stops, lightened bolts, and a few other touches that make them easier to shoot and last longer.

Rifle

Spencer’s rifle choice is a Navy Arms 1873 Deluxe Border Rifle in .45 Colt. He does his own rifle work. The action job on this gun includes a short throw action, lightened barrel and carrier, different sights, welded trigger, and a few little niceties that make it work perfectly.

Shotgun

Spencer uses a 1901 made Winchester Model 97. He favors a 20-inch barrel with screw in chokes. He shot a hammer double for 7 or 8 years before switching to the 97 and for 6 rounds was only about a second slower with the hammer double. He goes on to say that it pays to know how to use and use well any type of shotgun that is SASS legal.

He does all of the work on his 97 and says that there is not much that you need to do to “make them run really well and last for a good long time.” His gun has an action job that makes it very smooth giving it very little of the friction that prematurely wears out parts. All original 97s can benefit from making sure the chamber is 2-3/4" with a long forcing cone, “but other than that much more is not going to get you very far, seeing as how shotgun shooting in our game is more in knowing the right loading technique than in how raced up your gun is.”

Leather

Rick Bachman at Old West Reproductions made his holsters and cartridge belt. Spencer uses 2 Cheyenne style holsters that are buckskin lined and a cartridge money belt. He designed and had Rick make his shotgun belt also. He prefers a shotgun belt with single loops, not pairs. Single loops allow more flexibility to capitalize on different loading styles if they present an advantage for certain stages.

Now, there are no *tricks* in his leather gear. . . it’s all authentic and the closest it gets to being tricked out is the muzzle of his strong side holster being kicked forward. His guns fit tightly in the holsters so he can cover a large amount of ground at a full run whenever he needs to without worrying about them coming out.

PRAIRIE DAWN, BEV LUETKEMEYER

Bev shoots in the Ladies Traditional class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 1st place Ladies Traditional, SASS North Carolina State Championship
- 2002 SASS Northeast Regional Ladies Champion—
“Susquehanna Roundup”
- 2002 1st place Ladies Traditional, St. Charles Sportsmen’s Club, Waldorf, MD—“The Hurrah at Piney Church”
- 2001 Lady Top Gun in the Shoot-Off, Jean, Nevada— “Stampede”
- 1999 Club Champion, Mattaponi Sundowners Club Championship, West Point, Virginia
- 1999 First Place Ladies Traditional, Aurora, Colorado—“Rocky Mountain Raid”
- 1999 First Place Ladies Traditional, Annual Annie Oakley Match, Westminster, Maryland
- 1999 First Place Ladies Traditional, Southeast Regional Ladies Champion, Gainesville, Georgia—“Shootout at Mule Camp”



- 1998 First Place Ladies Traditional, Aurora, Colorado—“Rocky Mountain Raid”
- 1998 First Place Ladies Traditional, New Cumberland, Pennsylvania—“Susquehanna Roundup”
- 1997 First Place Ladies Traditional, Mid-West Regional Ladies Champion, Barry, Illinois—“Last Frontier Charity Shootout”
- 1997 First Place Ladies Traditional, Rocky Mountain Regional Ladies Champion, Aurora, Colorado—“Rocky Mountain Raid”
- Since 1998, Bev has not finished lower than fourth place in the Ladies Traditional Class at a national, regional or annual match.

Revolvers

Bev has two Ruger Vaqueros chambered in .357 with which she shoots .38 specials. She considers herself a bit of an oddball as she uses two pistols of different barrel length. One is 4-5/8" and one 5-1/2". Both have Gunfighter grips by Eagle Grips. Both have been set up identically by Sourdough Joe. Joe's action job included making and installing new springs, installing a stronger center pin spring and polishing all of the internal parts, chambers and cylinders. To accurize the pistols, Joe re-cut the forcing cones, turned the barrels as needed to bring point of aim to point of impact and re-crowned the muzzles. Joe also opened up the rear sights to make the pistols easier to sight quickly.

Rifle

When it comes to rifles Bev's choice is a Marlin 1894 Cowboy II in .38/.357. Sourdough Joe shortened the barrel to 20" and shortened the buttstock to fit. He re-crowned the barrel, and installed a full buckhorn rear sight with a gold-bead front sight. He also smoothed out the action and replaced the mainspring and trigger spring. Bev double-wrapped the lever with some leather lacing to make the opening smaller to better fit her hand.

She chose the Marlin because of its reputation for rugged reliability. It balances nice and the shotgun-style buttstock lets you shoulder the rifle and shoot more easily from a variety of positions. For instance, she is able to shoulder the rifle easily while sitting at a table. It is also easy to swing to the far left or far right for a shot while seated or standing. She is very pleased with the Marlin's accuracy.

Her's feeds .357s better than .38 specials and likes a bullet sized at .358. It is extremely accurate and will cut a single ragged hole from a bench rest. The full buckhorn rear sight with the gold-dot front sight is set up to be used like a “ghost ring.” That is, the gold bead is in the center of the circle formed when you extend the buckhorns into an imaginary circle. When the gold bead is in the circle and the target shows behind it, the shot will be a hit. Using the ghost ring helps her sight and fire quickly.

Shotgun

Bev shoots a Winchester Model 1897 12-gauge shotgun because of its versatility. Sourdough Joe shortened the stock and added a Pachmayr recoil pad so that it fit her better and is more comfortable to shoot. He cut the barrel down to 20", installed choke tubes and lengthened its short chamber. Joe's action job included replacing the mainspring and thinning and polishing the trigger spring. When it comes to shotguns in cowboy action shooting, one of the most important features is flexibility. In Bev's

opinion, the '97 is more versatile and faster to shoot than a double gun. It's easier for her to pick up from a variety of staged positions than a double gun. She likes having the option of single or double loading. She also finds it easier to transition to or from the '97 than to or from a double gun because she can pick up the '97 with either hand, depending on how it's staged, and can have one or more shells in her free hand ready for loading when the shotgun is in position. For instance, if the shotgun is staged leaning against a fence, she can pick it up with her left hand wrapped around the barrel and fore-stock

and while bringing it up to shoulder she can have one or more shells in her right hand ready to drop in the chamber for single loading. Or, she can bring the '97 up to her waist, double load with her right hand, shoulder it and squeeze off two quick shots. If the shotgun is staged on a table she can stage a '97 on its left side and pick it up with her right hand while dropping a shell in the chamber with her left hand. Or, she can stage the '97 on its right side, pick it up with her left hand and load with her right.

Another aspect of the '97s versatility that makes it well suited for Cowboy Action Shooting™ is its ability to negotiate the variety of props and situations a shooter faces during a match. The '97 is easier to shoot through windows and over high tables or bars than a double gun because you don't need the area in front of you for loading, clearing empty shot shells and re-loading. You only need enough room to be able to work the slide and reach the chamber. The empties clear themselves. When the shotgun is staged vertically and returned to that position, the '97 is a great advantage over a double because you can put it down with one hand and don't have to worry about the action closing or breaking the 170 degree plane as easily.

Leather

Bev uses two butt-to-the-rear holsters and a cartridge belt custom made by Columbus D. Shannon. She buckles the belt in back so the cartridge loops are in front for easy loading. It's a lot easier to grab the cartridge you can see than the one you can't. Columbus molds his holsters to fit specific pistol models. Her Rugers fit very snugly, and yet come out cleanly when drawn. Columbus made the weak side holster so that the trigger guard is exposed. Because the guns fit so well in the holsters they are still very secure, even in a cut down holster. The cut-down holster allows her to draw the left gun using only

her thumb and index finger. Her thumb lays across the back of the hammer near its pivot point at the web of her hand and her index finger pulls straight up against the front of the trigger guard. No part of her hand is engaging the grip and her remaining fingers are extended out of the way so that she can pass the gun off to her strong (right) hand without

having to reposition either hand (she uses a Weaver stance—see Chapter 3). These holsters have helped her make the most dramatic improvement in her shooting since becoming a fundamentally sound shooter. She chose two butt to the rear holsters because

of their flexibility. She doesn't have to worry about which way to turn to draw like she did when using a cross draw holster. She can let the ease of gun to gun transition determine which pistol she shoots first in a stage. For instance, if a stage calls for the shooter to fire one pistol and then pick up the rifle from a table, she can shoot the left pistol first and be reaching for the rifle with her right hand while she is re-holstering with her left hand.

Another feature she likes about her gun leather is the way Columbus cut the belt. He cuts the cartridge belt on a slight curve so that it fits a woman's body better. It doesn't dig in or ride up like a straight cut belt will.

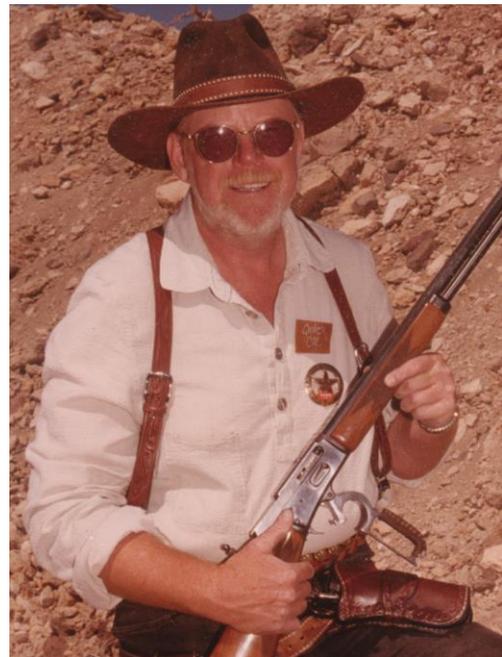
She uses a web belt made from fire hose with a buckle worn in back for shotgun shells. She prefers this belt to a shell slide because it puts the shells a little closer to the action for loading into the shotgun.

QUICK CAL, CAL EILRICH

Territorial Governor, High Plains Drifters,
Fernley, Nevada. Cal shoots in the 49'r Category.

Accomplishments

- 2002 Overall Champion, Western States
- 2002 Overall Champion—"Plainfield Raid"
- 2001 Overall Champion, High Plains Regional—"Hell on Wheels"
- 2001 Overall Champion, Northwest Regional—"Orygun Trails"
- 2001 Overall Champion, High Sierra and Arroyo Cantua (All 3 Major Matches in Northern California)—"Plainfield Raid"
- 2001 Nevada State Champion
- 1999 World Single Action Speed Shooting Champion—"Steel Challenge"
- 1999 Overall Champion—"Plainfield Raid"
- 1999 Florida State Champion
- 1998 World Single Action Speed Shooting Champion—"Steel Challenge"



Revolvers

Cal shoots Old Model Ruger Blackhawks chambered in .357 that have been converted to Colt style by Wes Flowers. They have the blued/case colored finish. Wes did the action

jobs and set the triggers to break at 1-1/2 pounds. The front sight has been polished on the sides and top in order to provide better sight definition.

Rifle

His rifle is a Navy Arms Model 1873 Border rifle (20" barrel, octagon) chambered in .357. Don Jones (Cody Conager) did the action job and short-stroke modification. Because of struggles with eyesight, Cal uses Tang Sights on his rifles, with a brass bead front sight. Usually he shoots them wide open with no aperture installed, unless the targets are farther than 50 yards.

Shotgun

Cal prefers the Winchester 1897 shotguns and has them smoothed out and worked on by El Rod. They are cut to 20" and have internal chocks installed.

Leather

Cal has a long-standing friendship with Mernickle Custom Holsters and advises Bob Mernickle on new holster designs. Bob created the Cal Eilrich Signature Series of Fast Draw Holsters in the early 90s and currently offers Cal's style of leather for CAST[™]. Mernickle Custom Holsters are soon moving their operation from Canada to Nevada and will increase production at that time.

Shooting History

Cal Eilrich has been a professional shooter since 1968. He got his start in the sport of Fast Draw winning his first World Championship at age 19 in 1972. He's gone on to compete successfully in most of the major Action Shooting Championships on the circuit, becoming an IPSC Master in 1985. He's proven his shooting ability in the Steel Challenge, Bianchi Cup, Second Chance Combat Shoot, Soldier of Fortune Three Gun, and was a member the United States IPSC Team in 1990 at Adelaide, Australia winning an individual Gold Medal. He has amassed 13 World Fast Draw Championships, still holds many World Records recognized by The World Fast Draw Association, was All-Around World Fast Draw Champion from 1993-1997 (5 years in a row) and has won more major titles than any other competitor in the 50-year history of the sport. Lately, Cal has been focusing on Cowboy Action Shooting and has won numerous regional, state and local championships. He is the only person known to have risen to the very top level in all three Action Shooting Sports: IPSC, Fast Draw, and CAST[™].

One of Cal's highest objectives is to teach Firearms Safety & Shooting Fundamentals to as many people as possible in all walks of life. He has instructed children, women, businessmen, security officers and peace officers, and has helped design and instruct two nationally recognized Range Officer Programs. Cal owns the Fernley Hills Shooting Range, a non-profit establishment created to benefit the shooting sports. This range is

home to the High Plains Drifters and the Western States CAST™ Championship. Cal makes his living as a Real Estate Developer and Homebuilder.

Red River Ray, Harris Ray Rummage

Accomplishments

- Overall winner 2005, 2006, 2007
“Mason Dixon Northeast Regional
Championship “North Carolina State
Champion
- 2005, “Uprising at Swearing Creek”
- Overall winner 2005, 2006 Virginia
State Championship “The Bend of
Trail”
- Overall winner 2006 South Carolina
State Championship “Givens Ferry”
- Overall winner 2005 “Smoky Mountain Shootout”
- 2005 Mule Camp, SE Regional, 4th place overall
- Overall winner 2003, 2004, 2006 “Raid on Andersonville”
- 2nd overall 2007 Florida State Championship “Last Stand”
- 5th overall 2007 “End of Trail” World Championship



Revolvers

New Model Ruger Vaqueros in 357 with 5.5 in barrel. Action work done by Marshal Harland Wolf.

Rifle

Two Uberti 73's. One is done by Marshal Harland Wolf and the other by Cody Conagher. Both have flat sights. I am a firm believer that a flat sight provides a faster target acquisition.

Shotgun

Baikal Bounty Hunter 12 ga SXS. Action work done by Surley Dave.

Leather

Holsters are 05 model “Long Hunter” rig by Kirkpatrick . I prefer this rig due to the “away from the body” fit. Shotgun belt is by “The Carver”, each shot shell holder is cut down in the front for easier release.

SINGLE ACTION JACKSON, RANDY JACKSON

Randy shot in the traditional class till 2002 and then changed to Modern.

Accomplishments

- 3 time winner of Single Action Division at the Steel Challenge
- 4 time winner of Shotgun Division at the Steel Challenge
- 2004 Modern World Champion
- 2003 National Modern Champion
- 2002 Georgia State Champion.
- 2002 2nd Overall, North Carolina State Championship—“Uprising at Swearing Creek”
- 2002 6th Overall—“Winter Range”
- 2002 5th Overall, Winner of the Master Gunfighter Stage—“End Of Trail”
- 2000 Winner of the Master Gunfighter Stage—“End Of Trail”
- 2001 SASS Northeast Regional Champion—“Susquehanna Roundup”
- 2001 Top Overall, North Carolina Championship
- 1999 Georgia State Champion
- Winner of Top Gun Shootouts: “Givhans Ferry 1998”, “Mule Camp 1999”, “Oglesby’s Last Frontier Shootout 1999”, “Carolina’s Championship 1999”, “Susquehanna Roundup 2001”, “Hell on Wheels 2001”
- Usually finishes Top Ten in most major matches



Revolvers

Randy shoots Ruger Vaqueros chambered in .357, stainless, with 4-5/8" barrels. He has had the actions smoothed and the triggers set to break at 12 to 14 ounces. His grips are Eagle Gunfighter grips, checkered in Buffalo Horn. Salty Dog (Herman Wingruber) engraved his guns. Atlanta Arms and Ammo makes his ammunition. They are 125 gr. truncated cone bullets (from Tennessee Valley Bullets) with Vihta Vuori powder, and Federal primers, they chronograph at 750 fps. For knockdown targets, he uses his rifle loads in his pistols.

Rifle

Randy uses a Navy Arms Model 1873 Border rifle chambered in .357. The action work was done by Dave Smith of Gun Craft in Ruskin, FL. This included the short stroke modification. He has added an out-of-production King full buckhorn rear sight with large front sight. His backup rifle is a Navy Arms Model 66 Short rifle equipped the same way. His rifle load consists of 6 gr. Vihta Vuori N340 and a 125 gr. truncated cone bullet.

Shotgun

Randy shoots a Winchester Model 1897, solid frame “E” model. It has a standard 20" riot barrel with Briley choke tubes added. The gun was sent to Coyote Cap for a “full race” action job. However, he has kept the slide lock in the gun to keep him from occasionally throwing out a live round. The stock was shortened enough for him to reach the loading port with the right hand without the gun moving forward during the process.

Leather

His holsters are from Bill Hunnicutt in Macon, GA. He uses two belts because they don't slide down as much. The holsters are steel lined to keep them from collapsing with use. He uses leg tie downs to keep the holsters in place during the draw. His shotgun belt is from Don McKinnon in Beech Island, SC. The shotgun belt also contains loops for rifle and pistol rounds for reloads. His belt buckle is compliments of SASS for winning Master Gunfighter stage 2000.

SLICK SILVER KIDD, CLAYTON DIEHL

Clayton shoots in the Traditional class.

Accomplishments

- 2002 Overall Winner—“Mason Dixon Stampede”
- 2002 1st Place Traditional, SASS Northeast Regional Champion, Pennsylvania State Champion
- 2002 6th Place Traditional, 8th Overall—“Shootout at Mule Camp”
- 2001 Top Shooter, North Mountain Shootout
- 2001 Top Junior Shooter, Appalachian Showdown
- 2001, 2000 Top Junior Shooter, 2001 2nd overall—“Ambush at Indian Creek”
- Winner of many local matches in central Pennsylvania



Revolvers

Clay shoots special edition Ruger Vaqueros with 5-1/2" barrels, chambered in .357. The pistols have a blued/case colored frame. He has had the Ruger pawl modified for free spin and has made the half cock notch modification to the stock hammer. Action work was done by Tom's Single Action Shot. The springs are the Ruger Magic Springs by Seven, and he has done a little polishing of the internal parts.

Rifle

Clay shoots an Uberti 1873 deluxe rifle, chambered in .357. He has a small leather lever wrap on the bottom of the lever. The back sight on the rifle is a full-buckhorn sight to help ensure that he gets down on the rifle when he picks it up from a staged position. The front sight is a basic post sight with a brass bead, similar to what comes on most Marlins. Don Jones (Cody Conager) did the action work on the rifle.

Shotgun

The shotgun that he is shooting at the moment is an original Winchester E Model 1897 Model shotgun manufactured in 1932. The gun is a takedown model with a 26" barrel and a modified choke. There is no real action work on the shotgun that he is currently shooting right now, he's shooting it just the way he got it. He plans to try out a new Norinco 1897 reproduction with action work done by Coyote Cap.

Leather

The belt and holsters that Clay is currently using are made by George Livingston of G&J Leather, located in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. The belt is straight cut. The holsters have a 15 degree forward cant, and have a 1-inch spacer between the top of the holster and the belt which pushes the butts of the guns out away from his body just a bit. Clay also uses a matching shotgun belt with individual loops.

DOC SHAPIRO, JOEL SHAPIRO

Now that you've heard from the top shooters, what about the author? I generally shoot in the Traditional class these days, though I do play with Gunfighter on occasion.

Author's Note: I've updated the following section to reflect what I am currently using.

Accomplishments

- 2007 Winner of numerous local matches in the Sacramento, CA area.
- 2007 Dry Gulch at Arroyo Cantua, 2nd overall, 2nd traditional, behind Badlands Bud.
- 2006 Winner of numerous local matches in the Sacramento, CA area.
- 2006 Shootout at Saddle Butte, 4th overall, 1st place Gunfighter.
- 2006 High Sierra Shootout, 5th overall, 2nd place Gunfighter.
- 2005 Overall winner of High Sierra Shootout, and along with Paniolo Lady, winner of the top gun Deadly Duo shootout.
- 2005 Winner of numerous local matches in the Sacramento, CA area.
- 2005 Plainfield Raid, 2nd overall, 2nd Traditional, and along with the team of Queen of His Heart and Frank Bruce, won the Three Amigos Top Gun Shootout.
- 2004 Mason Dixon Stampede, NE Regional, 14th overall, 6th place Traditional.
- 2004 Western States Championship, 4th place overall, 3rd Traditional.
- 2004 Plainfield Raid, 1st place Frontier Cartridge, 6th overall.
- 2004 Winner of numerous local matches in the Sacramento, CA area.
- 2003 Winner of numerous local matches in the Sacramento, CA area.



- 2003 Guns of August, Mid-West Regional, 3rd place Traditional, 10th place overall.
- 2003 Mason Dixon Stampede, NE Regional, 1st place Frontier Cartridge.
- 2003 Thunder Valley Days, *Maryland State Champion*, 1st place Traditional, Overall Winner.
- 2003 Mule Camp, SE Regional, 2nd place Frontier Cartridge.
- 2003 Susquehanna Roundup, PA State Championship, 2nd place Traditional, 4th place overall.
- 2003 Hurrah at Piney Church, Waldorf, MD, 2nd place Traditional, 4th place overall.
- 2002 Ambush at Indian Creek, Donegal, PA, 1st place Frontier Cartridge, 9th Overall.
- 2002 Mason Dixon Stampede, Thurmont, MD, 1st place Frontier Cartridge, 10th Overall.
- 2002 Thunder Valley Days - Maryland State Championship, 1st place Frontier Cartridge, 10th Overall.
- 2002 Ambush at Turtle Creek, Hollidaysburg, PA, 1st place Frontier Cartridge.
- 2002 Susquehanna Roundup, NE Regional, 2nd place Frontier Cartridge.
- 2002 Mule Camp, SE Regional, 9th place Frontier Cartridge.
- 2002 Hurrah at Piney Church, Waldorf, MD, 1st place Frontier Cartridge Duelist.
- 2001 Susquehanna Roundup, NE Regional, 3rd place Frontier Cartridge Duelist.
- 2001 Thunder Valley Days, MD State Championship, 2nd place Frontier Cartridge.
- 2001 Ambush at Indian Creek, Donegal, PA, 1st place Frontier Cartridge.

Revolvers

I am currently shooting a pair of blued Ruger Vaqueros in .357. My pistol loads are 3.1gr of Bullseye and a 125gr TC Desperado Bullet. The action work on my revolvers was done by Lassiter with additional work by Rowdy Yates. Some of the work includes:

- Deepen and widen the back sight to make it easier to find the front.
- Bevel the front of the cylinder to make holstering smoother.
- Hone and polish the chambers for speedier reloads.
- Hammers modified to remove the transfer bar, half cock cut for reloading.
- Triggers set back.
- Hammer stop and trigger stop.
- Shilen match grade barrels.
- JS Grips custom rusticated pistol grips.

- Set the trigger pull to 1 pound.
- Polish all internal parts for smoother action.
- Turn barrel and file front sight for Point of Aim (POA) adjustment with my loads.

Rifle

I have a couple of rifles, but my preference is the 73 Short rifle. My rifle load is

The same as my pistol loads. Cody Conager did most of the work on the rifle. Cody did his standard action job and short stroke, and took an inch off the butt stock for better fit. A marbles flat top rear sight was installed. Additionally, Lassiter replaced the mainspring with a coil spring.

Shotgun

I shoot either an 20 inch '97 or an SKB SxS. Action work on the '97 was by Marshal Harland Wolff.

Leather

Bob Mernicle build my pistol rig. He does an exemplary job. My holsters are steel lined so they don't stretch, and to hold shape. They have a slight forward cant. There are no pistol loops on my belt. My shotgun belt was also made by Bob Mernicle. It features 10 pistol caliber loops on the right side (buckle in back) to facilitate reloads.