

EPILOGUE

Wow! I can't believe it's finally done. It's taken almost a year to put this book together. There have been about 4 different formats, 15 different versions, and several iterations of the information. As I write this, Donna (my publisher) is putting the text into layout and I am just about done getting the pictures scanned in.

Speaking of pictures, Scott Anderson said in the epilogue of his book, "Top Shooters Guide to Cowboy Action Shooting," that taking the pictures was the hardest part. After this project, I find that he's right! My table is covered with pictures from 18 rolls of film and several individual pictures from various shooters around the country. The vast majority are a little blurry and don't quite tell the right story. I've spent many hours looking at them and bothering my wife for comments on each one. I think the pictures that made it into the final product are the right ones, and help illustrate each point. I just hope that you find the included pictures helpful.

The drills and techniques outlined in this book actually work. When I haven't been writing, I've been practicing. The vast majority of my practice time has been spent doing dry fire drills in my living room. As a result, my stage times for a 10 pistol, 10 rifle, 4 shotgun "stand and deliver" type stage have dropped from the mid 30s (at the beginning of the year) to the low 20s and even into the teens by the end of the season. I hope this will encourage you to practice! I also won the 2003 Maryland State Championship and have gone on to place in other state matches, Regionals, and at EOT.

To write this book, I had the help of many of the top shooters in this game, and I couldn't have done it without their help. They were all free with their time and advice. Some of them spent many, many hours on the phone with me talking about all manner of things related to shooting, and not. I've made several new friends throughout the process and found that the "Cowboy Way" is alive and well in all parts of the country and with the people that participate in Cowboy Action Shooting. They have opened their homes and hearts to me and made me feel welcome and part of their family. I have made every effort to make this a book that they can all be proud of, and I hope that I have accomplished that. Thanks Pard!

Just remember that we do this for fun. If the practice becomes work, take a break or back off from your schedule. The goal of practice is to maximize your enjoyment of the game. I don't think that you have as much fun shooting poorly as you do when you shoot well. If you apply yourself and practice regularly using the techniques and drills that are in this book, you will get better. If you do, I'd really like to hear from you.

Shoot Straight and Have Fun!

Doc Shapiro