

SILLY VALLEY SAFETY COMMITTEE
RECORD

First of October, Nineteen Hundred Ninety and Six

FIRST ROUND

By Henry Fardan, editor

Welcome to the first issue of the *Record* of the Silly Valley Safety Committee.

The Committee is a small but growing group bringing Cowboy Action Shooting to the South Bay Area. For those unfamiliar with it, Cowboy Action Shooting is a fast moving, live-ammunition event, sometimes compared to IPSC, but done in period costume with period firearms.

Exemplified by the Single Action Shooting Society [SASS], with which the Committee is affiliated, Cowboy Action Shooting has a history stretching back over fifteen years. With hundreds of events each year at SASS affiliates in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia, culminating in the famous *Colt's End of Trail* shootout in L.A. each spring, Cowboy Action Shooting has something for everyone.

Whether you come as a shooter or significant other, dressed up as a cowboy or a drifter, dancehall girl or a gambler, Western villain or hero, join us in a having one hell of a good time with Cowboy Action Shooting. For membership information, contact Elegant Ella at deb_ella@ibm.net

BANK ON IT

With all the niggling details of filing a DBA statement, getting a bank account, setting up the bylaws of the Committee, and electing the first year's slate of officers finally out of the way, the organization can now move forward to create a lively Cowboy Action Shooting scene in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey counties.

Your dues of \$24 per year will help us establish an insurance umbrella by our acceptance as an NRA shooting club, along with the important step of becoming a SASS affiliate.

The insurance lets the Committee arrange for the use of the Santa Clara County Shooting Sports Park, located on Metcalfe Road in San Jose, for both our monthly practice and open shoots.

We're planning the first SVSC shooting match, open to members, their guests, and the public, for March of 1997. We'll have more details by the next issue, so hang on to your hat.

**SIGNING ON
TAKING A NEW NAME**

You might be wondering what that section about choosing an alias is doing in the middle of our application.

To join the SVSC, as well as participate in any SASS affiliated shoot, you must have an alias. It should be representative of a character or profession from the Old West, or the name of a Western movie or television character. It may not in any way duplicate or easily be confused with the alias of another member. All aliases must be accepted by SASS headquarters before becoming 'final'. The Committee *strongly* encourages you to become a member of both the NRA and SASS.

SADDLING UP

Alright, pardner, you say, I've signed up, paid my dues, now what in tarnation do I do next?

Assuming that one of your choices for an alias [see *Signing On*] made it onto the SASS master list, you will now need to outfit yourself as a proud member of the Cowboy Action Shooting community.

While firearms may seem the first priority, the Committee suggests that you consider getting an appropriate outfit together first. You'll find fellow members willing to loan you a sidearm or two until you get your own, but no one is going to let you borrow their pants, boots, or hat!

Clothing is readily available from the back of your closet, the local thrift shop, and costume stores. If you or someone who loves you is handy with a sewing machine, there are many patterns available to make period [pre-1900] clothing. Worst case, some button-front jeans with suspenders, a long-sleeve collarless shirt, along with a cowboy hat and boots, makes a decent start. Avoid items that don't look like that picture of your great-grandparents you keep on the mantlepiece.

As to firearms, there are plenty of replicas available from any local gunshop, along with a surprising number of originals made before the turn of the century. While a complete set of SASS rules is available, and is the last word on usage of firearms at all our shoots, here's the shorthand version:

Revolvers, whether black powder [percussion or cartridge] or smokeless, must be single action, manufactured prior to 1896 or a reproduction thereof.

Rifles can be lever or slide action, tubular feed, exposed hammer rifles or carbines of .25 caliber [pistol caliber] or larger, with iron sights and barrels over 16".

Long-range rifles are similar to the rifles above, but can be lever action or single shot in rifle calibers, manufactured

prior to 1896 or a reproduction thereof.

Shotguns can be any side-by-side double-barrel typical of the period, any lever action shotgun, or any pump shotgun with an exposed hammer [the Winchester 97 is a good example]. Shotguns can't be smaller than 20 gauge or larger than 10 gauge, with all barrels over 18" long.

Ammunition for all firearms must be *all lead*— no jacketed or other modern bullets are allowed. There are velocity restrictions as well, so consult with the Committee or another member for details.

Shooting styles refer to both the type and handling of your revolver:

Black powder is a single action with fixed sights, using percussion caps or cartridges.

Traditional is a single action cartridge revolver with notch-style fixed sights, where you shoot two-handed.

Duellist is a traditional single-action, whether black powder or smokeless, where you shoot one-handed.

Modern is any single-action cartridge revolver with adjustable sights.

Shooting matches will typically have events where shooters must choose which style they are to compete in at the start.

RIDING HERD

Now that you have an alias, look the part, and own or have borrowed a period firearm or two, you're probably itching to get going. So are we. So keep posted on shoots in the area [ask any member of the Committee for a schedule, or consult the SASS web site at <http://128.125.109.137/SASSNet.html>], come to meetings of the Safety Committee, help plan for our first big meet next year, and let's get shootin'!

BADGEWEARERS

Members of the executive committee are:

President: *Elegant Ella*
aka Debra LaVergne @
(408) 463-2428

Vice president: *Cheapshot*
aka Cliff Cook @
(408) 742-8653

Secretary: *Major Slinger*
aka Ruea Davis @
(408) 742-4053

Treasurer: *Tennessee Jed*
aka Dean Rogers @
(408) 653-1052

Range Master: *Railyard Red,*
aka Tom Goostree @
(408) 485-6921

Members may contact them about membership or other issues, as appropriate.

Meetings of the Silly Valley Safety Committee are held at 7 PM, the third Monday evening of each month, at the National Shooting Club, 1100 Duane Avenue, Santa Clara.