



MERLIN MARAUDERS Cowboy Gazette

www.merlinmaraudercowboys.com

Merlin Marauders, P.O. Box 202, Grants Pass, OR 97528

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"Who Are THOSE Guys?"

A Semi-Regular Spotlight on Our Members!

What's it like to be presented with a SASS Regulator badge? Just ask our two recent awardees (and married couple) **Mountain Grizz** (#56669L) and **Bobbin' Along Daisy** (#61452L).

"It was quite a surprise; I wasn't expecting it," said Grizz at July's meeting presentation. And Daisy, who was in on the secret voting for her husband's nomination but had no clue there was also a separate effort on her behalf, remarked, "That was a HUGE surprise! That was pretty awesome! For both of us it is very flattering and very special – just amazing!"

The Regulator badge isn't something that is just bestowed to folks without a great deal of club work over a span of time on the part of the awardees. For both Grizz and Daisy, it began in the early 2000's when they were introduced to CAS at Apple Valley's Double R Bar club as they were often wintering there with relatives.

"We worked at the range, helped set up the first annual at Dead Man's point, and then helped build the whole Western town and shooting bays at its current location at Chimney Rock," explained Grizz. According to the RR Bar Exec Director, that "help" amounted to hundreds of hours.

Daisy did not shoot the first year, instead lending her considerable artistic skills in costuming (not only for herself but helping others as well)

and painting facades (both activities she still carries on for us).

"After a year of that, the girls at the RR Bar said, 'What do you mean, you're not shooting?' So one day, they lined up the guns and got me shooting," she laughs.

"When the Merlin Marauders got started," continues Grizz, "we first went to the annuals and starting helping. It's like we just up like off the street and joined in." And they stayed – with Grizz recently completing three years as the club's Match Director and Daisy finishing a term as president, following a year and a half as secretary.

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GENERAL MEETING:

Tues. Sept. 8th. @ 6:30 PM

At the Black Forest Family Restaurant at 829 NE "E" Street, in the Grants Pass Shopping Center near Staples. Come early for dinner!

NEXT MONTHLY MATCH:

Saturday, October 3rd

Stage set-up is typically on Friday (watch for an e-mail notice).

Saturday Sign-in is 9:00-9:30 a.m.

Shooter Meeting is at 9:30 a.m.

I-5 Exit 61 and North on frontage road to Josephine County Sportsman's Park.

MERLIN MARAUDER CLUB NEWS

Membership: Membership now stands at 55

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MATCH CANCELED!__ As a courtesy to JCOSA's Trap and Skeet Club, we are canceling our monthly match scheduled for 5 September to allow them a safety zone for their Major Match that weekend. Please pass the word to your non-Marauder Cowboy Action Shooter friends that we will not be shooting on the 5th.

2015 SASS CONVENTION NEWS

AS stated last month, although SASS decided to hold the 2015 convention in the Las Vegas AREA, it will NOT be on "The Strip," but ten miles away. There will be several shuttles daily from the Green Valley Ranch to the Strip, I am told. For those of you planning on flirting with "Lady Luck," the ranch does have a casino, also. The TG Summit, as usual, will be held during the Convention, so start thinking about what rule changes or whatever, that you'd like your TG, Bear Bone Smith, to submit to the Wild Bunch as a Summit Agenda Item. These "Item Suggestions" should be headed to SASS by the end of this month. If a rule needs to be changed or eliminated, don't keep it to yourself or complain about it. Tell Bear Bone, and get it on the T/G Summit Agenda!!

GREAT LINKS!

The Latest edition of the SASS Shooters Handbook (April 2015) is now available for download and printout at:

http://www.sassnet.com/Downloads/SASS%20Handbook%20Ver%2020_2.pdf .

This edition now contains ALL the recent revisions and additions. Are you "up to snuff"?

Jed iTV's part 1 of the Roseburg "True Grit" Match can be seen here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFy6y1_5mPo&feature=youtu.be ..

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4YmT-7f56k>

Part 3. Is here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEJa71_Jg5s Thanks for a great job Jed !

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Pine Mountain Posse's Annual Match, "Smokin' Gunfight in the Badlands" will be held September 25-27 this year. Download a flyer here:

http://www.pinemountainposse.com/uploads/2015_flyer.pdf

It IS a ways off yet, but the Marauder CHRISTMAS PARTY will be December 5th at the Black Forest Restaurant. Stand by for more info.

2016 Merlin Marauder Annual Match dates: Our 2016 Annual "Battle of Rogue River" will be held on the weekend of 13-15 May. It will be a ten-stage main match with the usual side matches. More info coming soon.

SASS 2015 TG Summit Agenda

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1) Shall we consider a change to the maximum number of “P”s per stage to two...or one per gun/type of firearm. Also, should we reclassify “P”s for “stage/target engagement” issues vs “out of category” progressive penalties. **Discussion points:** *This might alleviate the problem of some shooters committing multiple “P” violations, knowing they can only receive one. Many times this would be an SOG situation, but proving intent can be problematic; besides the reluctance on the part of most T/Os in assessing the additional 30-second penalty.*

2) NON-SASS matches sometimes allow NON-SASS legal firearms. Clubs advertising as “SASS-affiliated” need to follow SASS rules. **Discussion points:** *Example would be a club that allows “new shooters” to compete in monthly match settings with DA revolvers, hammer-less pump shotguns (e.g. 870) and other “illegal” equipment. Those wishing to “try out” the stages with other types of firearms should do so outside of the actual match environment.*

3) The wearing of “logo’d” outerwear during inclement weather (up to, but not ON the stage), particularly during cold/wet seasons.

4) Suggestion from some TGs regarding attendance at the TG Summit. Should a TG be “present to vote”? **Discussion points:** *Territorial Governors carrying proxy votes should either ask the clubs they’re representing if and under what circumstances (e.g. specific amendments) they may change the club vote. TGs should also be given that same leeway by the clubs they represent directly if they can be convinced through additional information that an agenda item would be for the betterment of the sport.*

5) Should the RO1 Course materials be amended to disallow CRO/TOs running the timer for family members? **Considerations:** *Some family members, especially Buckaroo/ettes benefit from having a family member running the timer. Better able to coach through any problems due to familiarity with equipment. Same applies to spouses and offspring. Just as much, if not more, “buddy posse” cheating than among family members. Positives outweigh the negatives of having family members run the timer.*

Issues: *“fortuitous interference” and “re-shoots” should be “peer pressure” regulating. Some smaller clubs have a limited number of qualified T/Os.*

6) Should the “B” Western rules be amended to allow “any SASS-legal rifle”? *We need to hear from the BW shooters. ROC recommendation to “leave BW rules alone”.*

7) Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl: rifle (all firearms) cutoff change to 1880. **Discussion points:** *This would allow the TTN 1878 Colt SxS hammer gun but NOT the 1887 Winchester lever action shotgun in the category. Would also disallow the Remington 1890 revolver, and other models of a later date. We need to hear from Classics on these issues?*

8) Should chaps and spurs be MANDATORY in the “Classic Cowboy/Cowgirl” category? **Considerations:** *heat issues in some parts of the country. Also how do we apply this to Classic Cowgirls?*

9) Should Territorial Governors (TGs) be required to take a Mandatory RO I and/or RO II refresher at least every two (2) years? *TGs are charged with providing up-to-date info on rule/policy changes & clarifications to their respective club members, as per the Description of Duties listed on the SASS website. As such, they should be knowledgeable in regard to all SASS rules and clarifications.*

VOTING ITEMS: (Note: Some of the above Discussion Items may become voting items)

1) Should the rules be changed to allow the inclusion of “sub-gauge” shotguns such as 28 and 32 gauge for Buckaroos/Buckarettes? *The ROC recommends a “YES” vote.*

2) Should the MSV for retrieval of dropped/ejected ammo be deleted? **Discussion points:** *Under the current rules, a shooter may stage ammo (including ON THE GROUND) for later retrieval during the stage. There is NO DIFFERENCE between reaching for rounds that have been staged purposely and rounds that land on a table after having been dropped or ejected? One still has to maintain muzzle control while reaching for the rounds in either case.*

As a side note, WBAS rules have allowed retrieval of dropped ammo/magazines for the past 6+ years with NO SAFETY violations for muzzle break or dropped firearms while doing so. The ROC believes that retrieval of dropped ejected rounds can be done safely, and if the muzzle breaks the 170 degree, we already have rules in place to assess a penalty. The ROC recommends a “yes” vote. A “yes” vote would remove ALL REFERENCES to “dropped/ejected ammo” from the rulebooks and associated clarifications (also the Lazarus Rule).

3) Should the equipment regulations for GUNFIGHTER-style shooters be changed to allow the “butt forward” carry/Cavalry “twist” draw? *The butt forward drawing/holstering method is currently allowed for all other shooting styles in SASS. The primary objection has been that the T/O cannot see both revolvers at the same time. This is true whether carrying/drawing butt-forward or from “two standard holsters” (current rule). Spotters are assigned to watch for any safety issues that the T/O might not be in position to observe. If a shooter is unable to SAFELY use this method, they WILL BE penalized by the safety rules currently in place. Moreover, canted holsters do NOT create an issue with this rule change, as the same restrictions against breaking the 180° apply to ALL HOLSTERS and METHODS of DRAW/RE-HOLSTER. We should reiterate that the “straight hang” allowance applies to ALL types/styles of holsters, from canted double strong side to X-draw, to shoulder/Huckleberry rigs. As long as the muzzle of a revolver goes from the straight down 180° as it clears leather; then immediately into the DOWNRANGE 170° (and vice versa on the return) the shooter is OK. There are videos available showing other SAFE methods. The ROC recommends a “YES” vote.*

4) Should the penalty for not holstering revolvers at the end of the revolver shooting string be changed from a MSV to a Procedural penalty? **Discussion points:** *Currently the SASS Stage Convention is: Revolvers must be holstered at the end of the shooting string unless otherwise stated in the stage description. The ROC believes that failure to re-holster at the end of the revolver string is NOT SAFETY issue. Changing the penalty from a MSV to a “Procedural” penalty is far more appropriate and more in keeping with the “type” of penalty. There are some “unintended consequences” which need to be considered: A shooter could already have one “P” on the stage for some other reason, and then NOT re-holster to save time, knowing that only one “P” may be assessed. If it can be determined that the shooter did so on purpose for a competitive advantage (e.g. to make up some of the time penalty for the initial “P”), then a “Spirit of the Game” penalty could be assessed. This is a situation that is correctable on the clock before the next gun is fired. The ROC recommends a “YES” vote.*

5) Should the penalty regarding a shooter NOT complying with the CRO/TO commands of “cease fire” or “stop” while on the firing line be changed from a Match DQ to a Stage DQ? **Discussion points:** *Currently the rule for a shooter not complying with the commands of the CRO/TO is a MDQ. There is a perception that this rule is rather harsh for the first offense, and that a SDQ is more appropriate. The ROC recommends a “YES” vote.*

CLARIFICATIONS FROM the ROC:

1) Definition of “Designer Jeans” (Outlawed item) - “Designer Jeans” refers to those modern jeans that have **slogans or logos** embroidered, silk screened and such, saying things like “PINK” or “BABY”. (Jeans with fancy or flashy adornments are acceptable)

2) Welding the firing pin in the bolt of a rifle so as to cause a “slam-fire” situation when levering the action (without the need to manipulate the trigger or hammer) is an **ILLEGAL MODIFICATION subject to DISQUALIFICATION PENALTIES.** REF: SHB p.4

3) Definition of “short sleeve shirt” for men’s clothing: **A shirt with sleeves that do NOT extend to the wrist.** *Note: Rolling up a long sleeve shirt is acceptable, but fastening a rolled up shirt sleeve in place is the same as short sleeve; either of which are **Outlawed/Prohibited** and subject to **DQ penalties**.*

4) Regarding the CRO/TO’s command of “CEASE FIRE” or “STOP”, and a failure of the shooter to comply with this command, the language will be changed to read “.....the shooter WILL receive a MDQ”. Should the voting item be passed the shooter WILL receive a SDQ for not complying with the CRO/TO “cease fire” or “stop command”. The Range Command of “Cease Fire” or “Stop” as given by the CRO/TO must be followed by the shooter, as it may have serious safety consequences.

5) The point at which the “failure to adhere to loading/unloading procedure” SDQ applies is as follows: “Once control of the firearm(s) is relinquished, be it in a rack on the stage or at the shooter’s gun cart. (i.e. leaves the shooter’s hands)”

6) The only ammunition you can use on the stage is ammunition you initially bring to the line – you can't run to your cart for ammunition or even to get another firearm. In other words, you can't leave the "firing line" (as defined in the RO1 "Glossary of Terms") once you start the stage, and until all firearms have been verified as clear.

7) The action of a CRO/TO saving a long gun from falling over, still results in a penalty for the shooter. Basically if the CRO/TO had not been present to save the shooter from a penalty such as this, and the long gun would have fallen over regardless, then the penalty would still apply. The CRO/TO was just there to save the firearm from getting dirt on it!

Note: This is the only way to apply a penalty such as this, as some TOs may not be able to save the rifle from falling, and it would not be fair for those shooters who receive the penalty purely because of the action / inaction of their particular TO.

8) Revolvers (loaded or empty) that fall to the ground **while holstered** (e.g. gun belt buckle breaks) is a **NO CALL**, provided they remain holstered. The SHB and RO Manuals will be revised to read: "A dropped unloaded **firearm** on the firing line (from the loading table to the unloading table) results in the shooter's disqualification from the stage. A dropped loaded firearm results in a match disqualification. A shooter may not pick up a dropped **firearm**. The Range Officer will recover the **firearm**, examine it, clear it, and return it to the shooter. This **does NOT apply to holstered revolvers that remain "in leather"** in the event of an equipment failure (e.g. broken belt buckle) causing the gun/ammo belt to fall. Shooters may safely recover a fallen gun/ammo belt and continue finishing the stage without penalty. SHB p.25/RO1 p.18"

9) All rounds (live or empty) from the firearm in question **MUST be cleared before the next gun of the stage is fired (or before leaving the shooter's hands if it's the last gun of the stage). This applies to all types of long guns. The language of the rule as written, "...of the gun in which it was loaded..."** gives the clarification regarding a rifle round falling into the shotgun, which would be a **NO CALL**. In a different situation, if a shotgun hull comes out of a 97 but falls back in the port as the shotgun is put down and **then not cleared** before then next firearm is cleared, it **IS still a MSV**(this includes empty rifle case falling off hat into open rifle action after being set down).

Not bringing enough ammo to the line is NOT a "P" (just misses for un-fired rounds). The "P" in this case would only apply to ammo (like firearms) when not correctly staged on the line (e.g. on/in a prop), and not corrected by the shooter on the clock. The definitions in the SHB and RO Manuals will be revised to clarify.

— Edited by Blackjack Zak, ROC

MARAUDER MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION & MATCH FEES

<u>MEMBERSHIP</u>		<u>SHOOTING FEES</u>	
Individual Membership	\$25	Individual MM Member	\$10
Family* Membership	\$35	Additional MM Family Adults	\$5 each
<i>*Family is defined as all living under one roof</i>		Individual Non-MM Member	\$13
		Additional Non-MM Family Adult	\$5 each

For membership issues and information call: Molly b'Dam @(541) 479-2928
Complete new/renewal application and mail to: Merlin Marauders, P.O. Box 202, Grants Pass Oregon 97528
Merlin Marauder Badges – We are currently looking into finding a new source for club badges, as Lindholm Spurs is no longer in business.

NO STAGE SETUP FOR SEPTEMBER 5TH!



As the September Match has been cancelled as a courtesy to Trap and Skeet this Labor Day Weekend.

AUGUST Match Scores:

					Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5
Rank	Alias	Category	TIME	Misses	Net	Net	Net	Net	Net
1	Royal Flush	Forty-Niner	103.05	1	25.12	25.98	17.63	18.07	16.25
2	Bloody Bill Anderson	Cattle Baron	144.92	6	34.74	40.11	25.61	23.38	21.08
3	Butch Brass	Gunfighter	181.90	6	47.62	37.35	26.90	36.49	33.54
4	Wichita Belle	Lady Silver Sr.	191.16	5	40.03	36.68	41.59	36.20	36.66
5	Molly b'Dam	Lady Silver Sr.	206.30	4	38.29	62.30	28.06	31.55	46.10
6	Kidd Krystin	Sr. Gunfighter	209.32	4	61.27	40.91	36.09	35.77	35.28
7	Ocean Drifter	Senior	212.39	2	41.68	46.77	36.41	45.61	41.92
8	Britt Ponsett	Sr. Gunfighter	224.11	5	48.63	48.43	54.22	34.09	38.74
9	Johnny Dingus	Sr. Gunfighter	226.35	7	59.69	51.49	34.41	47.48	33.28
10	Imanaha Chuck	Senior	246.93	2	49.22	57.14	45.42	43.26	51.89
11	Barbarosa Mike	Senior Duelist	255.57	2	57.41	53.74	45.66	50.60	48.16
12	CHP Shot	Cattle Baron	282.87	3	58.14	47.99	50.97	65.43	60.34
13	Line Century	Veteran	289.59	5	65.73	56.70	45.45	68.92	52.79
14	32 Bit Bill	Senior	298.40	4	63.26	57.60	61.03	71.08	45.43
15	Lucky Rick O'Shay	Elder Statesman	317.13	2	72.41	58.63	57.04	56.18	72.87
16	Ima Loden	Lady Forty-Niner	320.29	2	64.58	68.18	52.12	86.24	49.17
17	Merlin Maverick	Veteran	428.02	4	92.84	70.55	92.64	113.79	58.2
18	Lucy Canon	Lady Forty-Niner	476.34	5	118.08	116.64	79.72	78.24	83.66
19	Cinona Hawk	Lady Sr. Gunfighter	1342.81	8	120.20	77.53	71.42	73.67	999.99
20	Long Henry Thompson	Duelist	4094.58	6	94.62	999.99	999.99	999.99	999.99



NO Clean Matches this month!

“Who Are THOSE Guys?” A Semi-Regular Spotlight on Our Members! — continued from page 1

Of course, they are still heavily involved, participating in the building of our work shed, the set up and running our annuals, upgrading our targets, and actively sitting on the board.

Grizz attributes his hard work ethos to his Dad from grammar school days. “In 7th grade, he had me hauling hay,” he shares. “My Dad would pour a bucket of water on me if I didn’t get up early in the morning,” he smiles. “And in high school I worked in a state park, where I learned to get up, get there, be on time, and if you wanted something, you had to work for it.”

“I think we have the word ‘volunteer’ invisibly stamped on our foreheads,” adds Daisy, who, by the way, chose her alias from a combination of a sewing store and her grandmother’s name while Grizz had always been nicknamed a variation of that alias since his younger days.

Both Grizz and Daisy value the camaraderie of being active club members. “The Merlin Marauders are great; definitely a part of our lives. And at the annuals, you get to see people you don’t see often. When you travel around, you come across them again on the trail and greet them like you’re back at your homestead.”

“We’ve made some really good friends along the way,” chimes in Daisy. “It makes it a lot more fun and worthwhile to work when you’re really involved with the club.”

Grizz summed it the presentation, “It is great. We truly appreciate it. Thank you.” On behalf of the Merlin Marauders, we thank you, Grizz and Daisy, for your dedication, hard work, and lasting contributions.

— **Britt**

Dispatches From The Territorial Governor

As the Merlin Marauder Territorial Governor, I plan on attending the upcoming SASS Convention TG Summit Meeting Dec. 2nd. in Henderson Nevada. In doing so, I will be glad to accept any club’s proxy vote on SASS issues to be discussed and voted on. Also, if any SASS member would like to submit any rule changes or proposals, I would be more than happy to share them with the other TG’s at the summit. As always, this is an excellent opportunity to have your opinions and suggestions heard by those who are responsible for making recommendations to the SASS ruling body. So, if other local club Territorial Governors are unable to attend the convention, please feel free to share your votes and recommendations with me and I will present them at the summit meeting. Any and all information should be sent to me prior to Sept. 25th. Email: [BearBoneSmith@msn.com](mailto: BearBoneSmith@msn.com) Time for some cowboy wisdom....To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target. In the meantime, take care and stay healthy.

My contact info is as follows.

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Your pard,

— **Bear Bone Smith**