



MERLIN MARAUDERS Cowboy Gazette

www.merlinmaraudercowboys.com

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

Merlin Marauders Officers for 2015

President

Art Ferranti - Britt Ponsett
(541) 582-6195
aferranti@aol.com

Vice-President

Ron Dreher - CHPSHOT
(541) 592-6994

Treasurer

John Stubbe
- Johnny Eight Toes

Secretary & Membership

Joe Peters
- Long Henry Thompson
(541) 218-3137

Match Director/Range Officer

Chuck Pool - Imnaha Chuck
(541) 474-7677

Territorial Governor

Rick Smith - Bear Bone Smith
(541) 582-4144
bearbonesmith@msn.com

Past President

Rhonda Peltier
- Bobbin' Along Daisy

Directors

Rick Peltier - Mountain Grizz
Heike Arnold - Molly b'Dam
Karen Crume - Queen 'O Clubs

Member-at-Large

Chris Holley - Lonesome Rose
(541)476-5490

Webmaster

Christy Kiltz
christy@designbykiltz.com

Newsletter Editor:

Gary Hanson
- Sweetwater Jack



"Who Are THOSE Guys?"

A Semi-Regular Spotlight on Our Members!

Is there anybody in these parts who does not know **Sweetwater Jack** (#28885L) and **Gaye Abandon** (#44556L)? Talk about a couple who have made/etched their spot in Cowboy Action Shooting history but who have also made their mark (and will continue to do so) in life! Just look at their history: In his non-SASS life, Gary Hanson served twelve years in the Navy and Reserve, and 28 years with the now defunct airline, TWA. He earned a commercial pilot's license (heck, he even flew a Japanese "Zero" in the film *Tora! Tora! Tora!*). He commanded the Civil Air Patrol's 129th Air Rescue Squadron, entered the California Army Guard as a captain and Army Senior Aviator (finishing as a Lt. Colonel). He then shipped out in 1991 for a dozen years in the Merchant Marine, serving as the Supply Officer on US Navy intelligence ships with the MM (you think those double M initials were a herald for the future?) in Desert Storm and later. He sums up his career as simply, "I got to see a lot of the world."

I know I've missed a few things, but you get the picture. He's an accomplished guy. But clearly, his greatest success, the "world" notwithstanding, was the impression he made with Martha, the future Mrs. Hanson, way back when they met in high school, while double-dating, although not with each other. They didn't get together per se back then, but they kept up a sporadic letter-writing friendship through the years.

It wasn't until 1998 when a letter from Martha reached Gary while his ship was docked San Juan, P.R., that – both now being unattached – they decided to re-meet. The rest is history. Gary moved to Oregon to join his Grants Pass love of his life. (They officially tied the knot in Kauai, HI, on April 26, 2013.)

1998 also was the year they were both introduced to Cowboy Action Shooting by a friend of Gary's. Besides, he had already been a long-time western fan as an avid reader of

the genre and with a favorite uncle running a successful ranch in Trinidad, CO, a town whose marshal in 1882 was some guy named Bat Masterson.

"I got my alias after I first tried to become 'Monterey Jack' – you know, 'a Big Cheese from the Bay Area' – but that had already been taken by a SASS member. So I kept the 'Jack' and combined it with part of my Army Aviation call sign."

Martha had enjoyed the classic Stan Lynde comic strip "Rick O'Shay" (1958-81) and adopted her nom de plume of Gaye Abandon, the strip's town of Connipion's school teacher. "Yes, I'm a cartoon character," she laughs. At first, Gaye was just interested in CAS costuming but Shooting Silver Star got her to strap on a pair of .32's and she began ping-pong on a regular basis.

In 2001, the couple joined the Jefferson State Regulators in Medford and the Ashland Gun Club, and then, in 2002, they became founding members of the Merlin Marauders (officially numbers 10 and 11).

— concluded on next page

GENERAL MEETING:

Tues. October 13th, @ 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.

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 the agenda that has been posted and how you want YOUR representative, YOUR TG, Bear Bone Smith, to vote at the Territorial Governor Summit. Those at this month's meetings were able to share with Bear your thoughts and votes on the various topics (see next page for details). If you were not there, I hope that YOU GUYS will contact him on some of the items that are going to be discussed and voted upon this December. As I've said before way back when I was your rep, a TG can't vote intelligently without YOUR input. SWJ

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 revision IS the latest out, published in April, 2015

Planning to shoot the Wild Bunch matches? Here's the latest handbook for THAT!

<http://www.sassnet.com/Downloads/Wild%20Bunch%20Handbook%20v8.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. The theme will be from the Western thrills of Zane Grey & Louis L'Amour. The application will be made available shortly.

Match pricing (including 3 meals) is:

1st shooter: - \$90, Spouse - \$75, Young Adult - \$70, Young Gun - \$40, Buckaroo/Buckarettette - No Fee Charged. Complete extra meal package (2 lunches and Saturday night dinner) will be \$40. Side Matches: Wild Bunch - \$10, Plainsman - \$5. This year we will assess a late sign-up fee of \$20. (The late sign-up cut-off will be May 1.) More info coming soon.

MERLIN MARAUDER MATCH MECHANICAL MANAGEMENT

Our thanks to Checotah who is in the process of upgrading/updating our match management computer program.

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

Not being one to shy away from responsibility, Sweetwater went on to become the club's Territorial Governor, a position he held for 12 years until "retiring" in 2014. In 2007 the dynamic duo helped found, with others, the State of Jefferson Vigilance Committee, our local Old West re-enactment group. In 2009, Sweetwater was awarded the distinguished SASS Regulator badge and honor, and Gaye became the SASS Oregon Lady's State Champion in her category. Yet, despite all their accomplishments and accolades, Gaye and Sweetwater sum up why they have not only stuck with CAS all these years but why they've been so involved, "It's the people – the friends we've acquired, the shooting fun – of course, and keeping the Old West alive." To which we can only add, "Well done and well said."

— Britt

RECAP of TG SUMMIT VOTING ITEMS: These are being discussed to give Bear Bone direction on how the majority of our club members want him to cast his votes at the Territorial Governor Summit in December.

1) **Should the rules be changed to allow the inclusion of "sub-gauge" shotguns such as 28 and 32 gauge for Buckaroos/Buckarettes?**

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.*

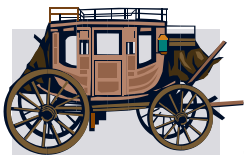
4) **Should the penalty for not holstering revolvers at the end of the revolver shooting string be changed from a MSV to a Procedural penalty?** **Discussion points:** *Currently the SASS Stage Convention is: Revolvers must be holstered at the end of the shooting string unless otherwise stated in the 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.*

MARAUDER MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION & MATCH FEES

MEMBERSHIP		SHOOTING FEES	
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.



STAGE SETUP FOR OCTOBER 3RD:

Stages #1, 2 - Bear Bone Smith Stage #3 - Barbarosa Mike Stages #4, 5 - Britt Ponsett

SPECIAL NOTE: The next Merlin Marauder monthly match will have a special twist -- for this match we are adding a "Josey Wales" category on top of the regular ones. For Josey Wales, the shooter uses four pistols (two are staged on a table at the normal rifle shooting position and those are used for the rifle targets and sequence) and one shotgun (as normal). All other categories are offered as well (with their normal two pistols, one rifle, and one shotgun). So mark your calendars and come on down! Should be a lot of fun!

SEPTEMBER Match Scores: NADA



NO Match this month!

Dispatches From The Territorial Governor

At our Merlin Marauder September meeting the members in attendance voted on the items listed in the TG summit agenda and also debated those items up for discussion. The voting results are as follows.

- 1) Should the rules be changed to allow inclusion of "sub-gauge" shotguns such as 28 and 32 gauge for buckaroos/buckarettas? **Merlin Marauders voted YES.**
- 2) Should the MSV for retrieval of dropped/ejected ammo be deleted? (As worded in the RO - 1 Book) **MM voted NO.**
- 3) Should equipment regulations for Gunfighter style shooters be changed to allow "butt forward" carry/cavalry twist draw? **MM voted NO.**
- 4) Should the penalty for not holstering revolvers at the end of the revolver shooting string be changed from MSV to a procedural penalty? **MM voted YES**
- 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 match DQ to a SDQ? **MM voted YES**

In addition to the official Merlin Marauder club vote on actual items to be voted upon at the TG Summit, I will be submitting our club's opinions on the "discussion only" items for consideration by the SASS RO Committee. If other local TG's will not be attending, I would be glad to accept their club's proxy vote on the agenda items and deliver it to the ROC at the convention.

My contact info is as follows.

email: BearBoneSmith@msn.com

Phone: 541-582-4144

Hope to see ya on the range, pards!

- Bear Bone Smith