

INNOV

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Cowboy

CHRONICLE



SIDE MATCHES AT SASS REGIONALS ARE FUN AND DIVERSE. AT THE 2018 NORTHWEST REGIONAL COUPLES SIDE MATCH IN JEROME, IDAHO, EACH TEAM MEMBER HAD TO "ROPE" A "DONKEY" AND MOVE IT FROM ONE PEN TO ANOTHER BEFORE SHOOTING. WHILE AT THE 2018 NORTHEAST REGIONAL ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN PELHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE (INSET) THE WILD BUNCH MINI MATCH PROVIDED ITS USUAL RATION OF CHALLENGING STAGES.



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COVER FEATURE



SASS NORTHWEST REGIONAL 2018

“WHERE THE WEST IS FUN”

BY RANGER SIX, SASS #94237

The Northwest Regional Championships have been located in the past at Benton City, Washington; Bend, Oregon; and most recently at Wenatchee, Washington; but the Snake River Western Shooting Society, located in Jerome, Idaho, were the hosts for 2018's SASS Northwest Regional Cowboy Action Championship held August 16-19. Six states comprise the Northwest Region: Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, and Cowboy and Cowgirl shooters from Arizona, California, Colorado, Utah,

North Dakota, North Carolina, and Texas also participated, for a total of 134 registered quests.

The event was sponsored by SASS — which provided gift certificates and the Champion belt buckles — and also US Foods, which provided a refrigerated truck for food storage as well as sponsorship of the Long Range side match. SlixSprings sponsored the Plainsman Match and were also an on-site vendor. Several other sponsors donated to the event in the form of gifts and prizes.

Shooting began Thursday with a morning four-stage warm up and three-stage Wild Bunch mini match. The warm up match was again offered in the afternoon, along with side matches. Speed rifle, pistol, and shotgun; .22 pistol and rifle; precision rifle and pistol; as well as derringer and pocket pistol matches kept folks busy trying out their skills. Friday morning started off with a Welcome Address by Co-Match Director Missy Mable (SASS #35458). Once the safety meeting was completed, eight posses headed off to their first stage to



PINTO ANNIE — BEST DRESSED LADY



GRIZZLY WOLF — BEST DRESSED, UNIFORM



BEST DRESSED SOILED DOVES — IDAHO DUSTY DAWN (FIRST PLACE) AND ALLEN STREET CONTESSA (SASS #98330, SECOND PLACE)

begin slinging lead downrange.

The Main Match theme was “Where The West Is Fun.” Each of the 12 stages had a scenario dealing with a location in the Old West where fun might be found. From *the Shooter’s Handbook*, “In the early 1870’s...a rumor started circulating that somewhere out west there was a place where people were having fun. Two interesting eastern characters, who claimed to be descendants of the famous Lewis and Clark expeditions and fancied themselves explorers, decided they should make an expedition of their own to the west in an attempt to locate this purported happy place. With only a vague description of the location, amounting to ‘somewhere in the Northwest Region of the country near a big river,’ Mary Heather Lewis and Willard Clark embarked on their expedition to locate Where the West is Fun. As luck would have it, they did not find fun at the different locations they visited and so they moved on to the next stop in search of fun.”

Friday afternoon provided more shooting with Couples and Team events in addition to Long Range and a three-stage Plainsman mini match. In front of the stage where the Couples match took place, there were two pens of donkeys, (balloons with a picture of a donkey’s head attached). Prior to each course of fire, a donkey was required to be moved from one pen to another by the first shooter with the use of a brass picker/grabber. Once the first shooter had completed his or her course of fire, they would call out to their partner to “MOVE YOUR ASS,” at which time the second shooter would move another donkey from one pen to another, then engage another section of the scenario. Once the revolver and rifle portions of the scenario were completed, both partners would move to the firing line together and engage the shotgun targets. This event was won by Pinto Annie (SASS #27666 Life) and Shaloko Tucker (SASS #27964 Life). Four shooters were required for the Team Shoot, a revolver shooter, a shotgun shooter, and two rifle shooters. The scenario called for gold nuggets to be passed back and forth before each set of targets were engaged. The winning team was comprised of Molly Magoo (SASS #74540), Rum

Walker (SASS #74539), Hoss Reese (SASS #88815), and Lefty Way (SASS #49683).

By early evening folks were beginning to think about dinner. The choice was between chicken and steak, with baked potato, sautéed mushrooms, green beans, and a variety of deserts. Following the shooter appreciation dinner, side match awards were presented.

Saturday morning found the shooters on their way to form up posses and start the final six stages of the Main Match. The afternoon was spent tallying scores and preparing for the Costume Contest. Folks were judged on the range for their costumes during the shooting portion of the day, then again when they showed up for the Costume Contest and Social Hour.

Social hour was BYOB and finger foods. During this time door prizes were distributed by drawings and the raffle for a quilt was completed. The quilt, made and donated by Idaho Dusty Dawn (SASS #71899), won by Charlie MacNeil (SASS #48580), was donated to help raise funds for the SASS Scholarship Foundation. It can be seen in the background of the picture of Grizzly Wolf.

Remember Mary Heather Lewis and Willard Clark, the ones looking for fun in the West? Well they showed up to emcee the Costume and Main Match Awards. They also brought up an interesting question — what were the names of the big rivers that flowed next to the locations where fun was sought? Each main match stage scenario was located in a town or city and a list of these places was displayed. Those who knew their rivers could submit a list with the correct river corresponding to the towns and cities on display. One town was



OVERALL YOUNG GUN WINNER, ELK TRACKER (LEFT), ALONG WITH 2018 NORTHWEST REGION CHAMPIONS AND OVERALL WINNERS FAST ENUFF AND BELINDA BELLE

Three Forks, MT and bonus points were given if the names of all three rivers were provided (The Madison, Jefferson, and Gallatin rivers merge to form the Missouri River nearby). The team with the most correct answers was Copenhagen Kid (SASS #100392) and Ranger Six (SASS #94237).

Mary & Willard also presented trophies for clean shooters (there were 39) and for the costume winners. Results for Best Dressed are as follows: Working Cowgirl — Pinto Annie. Working Cowboy — Sunrise Bill, SASS #64301 Life. B-Western Cowgirl — Maisie Grace, SASS #104310. B-Western Cowboy — Bootstrap, SASS #104304. Gentleman — Silver Shadow, SASS #91531. Lady — Pinto Annie. Uniform — Grizzly Wolf, SASS #22887 Life. Couple — Owl Eye Olga, SASS #94036 and Dakota Drifter, SASS #71219. Young Gun — Rhay Gun, SASS #103231. Soiled Dove — Idaho Dusty Dawn, SASS #71899. Dirty Ol' Cowpoke — Charlie McNeil, SASS #48580.

Category winnings went five places. The highest-ranking region shooter in each category was recognized as the Category Champion. The top male and female competitors from the region were recognized as the Regional Champions. Northwest Regional Champion belt buckles were presented to Cowgirl Champion Belinda Belle (SASS #42966) and Cowboy Champion Fast Enuff (SASS #85412). They both were also male and female Overall Winners. Elk Tracker (SASS #102978) was the Young Gun Overall winner.

Sunday morning, folks began to gather on the shooting range for the Top Gun Shoot Off. Those participating were paired off to begin the elimination process. One by one shooters were removed from the lineup until only the fastest Cowboy and the fastest Cowgirl were left. Cowboy Top Gun Honors went to Fast Enuff and Belinda Belle took Cowgirl Top Gun Honors.

The Snake River Western Shooting Society will host the 2019 Northwest Regional Championship on August 15-18, 2019. For a complete list of Category and Main Match winners, along with other information, visit www.idahocas.com.

