

Cowboy Action Shooting 101

Andy Squires aka "Doc McCoy"

The sport is an attempt to re-live the time of the "Old West", whether real or fantasy. The shooting competition utilizes reactive steel targets and live ammunition. Shooters negotiate scenarios based on real or imagined incidents from the history of the 19th century West or the silver screen of the Saturday matinee.

Props, aliases, and period clothing are all utilized to help establish the feel of the American West of over 100 years ago. You'll often see such props as a saloon, fences, wagons or jail cell used in a scenario. Each shooter is expected to adopt a particular "alias", such as Ol' Beaver Tooth, Doc McCoy, Eyesa Horg, Sweet Mariss, Ranger Sgt. Jake McCandles, Chelsea Kid, Emma Goodcook and others. They then dress in clothing appropriate for the persona they have chosen -- whether it be a cowboy, schoolmarm, blacksmith, gambler, saloon girl, banker, Indian, or lawman. You won't find baseball caps, sneakers or T-shirts at a CAS event! Minimum dress can be as simple as a long-sleeved shirt, jeans and boots.

Unlike many modern "high tech" shooting matches, CAS takes pride in the use of firearms available between the Civil War and 1899. The technology of this sport is limited to what can be found in original or reproduction firearms of the period. While many shooters will have action jobs on their guns, that is not necessary for new shooters. Out-of-the-box is fine! Equipment needed includes two single action revolvers, a lever action rifle in pistol caliber, and a side-by-side, pre-1899 pump or lever action shotgun. Young shooters under age 14 may use .22 and .410 guns. Ammo must be lead bullets only (pistol under 1000 fps, rifle under 1400 fps); shotgun ammo must be lead shot, #4 or smaller. Shooters are grouped in categories based on the way the pistol is held when shooting (one or two-handed), the ammo used (smokeless vs. black powder), their age or their costuming.



The emphasis is on FUN rather than all out "win at any cost" competition. This is an opportunity to make friends and to share an appreciation for the lore and legend of the most well-known and unique period in American history, its equipment, dress and lifestyle.

For further information contact:

'Doc McCoy' (Match Director) at 802-363-7162 . docmccoy@gmavt.net

