

Above left: Left side of GLOCK 4th Generation GLOCK 17 with Wolf 9mm ammunition. Above right: Right side of 4th Generation GLOCK 17 with Black Hills 9mm ammunition.

Handguns for Modern 3-Gun

*For Kids
By Kids*

By: The “Juniors” and the Staff

There are a variety of handguns that are applicable to 3-Gun competitions. The most important requirements are functionality, comfort (something you are used to and feels good in your hands), and magazines with large capacity to minimize reloads. We will cover most of the ones we have tested and used.

The most popular 3-Gun pistol is the GLOCK. It is usually the model 17 9mm. We have used both 3rd generation and 4th Generations and are very, very happy with them. We have also used the GLOCK 22 .40 S&W. GLOCKS are great guns for 3-Gun as they are dependable and provide excellent magazine capacity (17 for the model 17 and 15 for the model 22). We used GLOCKS in the 2010 Ironman and plan to do so for this one as well. Sarah Bowers (16), the only junior girl to shoot the Ironman to date, used a Gen3 in 2008. Her full article on *Glocks Are For Girls* can be seen in Volume 5 Summer 2009. Here is what some of our shooters thought about the new Gen4:



Above: Danny Garcia shooting a 4th Generation GLOCK 17 9mm on stage five at the 2010 MGM Ironman.



Above: Sarah Bowers (16) shooting a 3rd Generation GLOCK 17 9mm on stage three at the 2008 MGM Ironman.

Danny Garcia (17): “I’ve been shooting GLOCK pistols for a few years. My dad bought me my first GLOCK when I was 14 years old. It was a generation two GLOCK Model 17 9mm. Since then I have shot thousands of rounds through the gun in practice and dozens of USPSA matches. Even though I have shot other guns, the GLOCK has been my favorite, particularly my GLOCK 17. This is mainly because of the trigger reset and the great reliability. I would often see other shooters with their \$2,000 race guns malfunction when a \$500 GLOCK would not. I swore I would never shoot another pistol. Of course, that was until I was lucky enough to be sponsored to shoot the MGM Ironman match by *Junior Shooters* magazine in June of 2010. Part of the sponsorship included shooting a 4th Generation GLOCK. Even though the gun was a GLOCK, I was hesitant to shoot it in a match because I was married to the reliability of my Second Generation GLOCK 17” (Article at www.juniorsshooters.net).

“The big test would be the 3-Gun Ironman match in Parma, Idaho. The match is a grueling three-day 3-Gun match that

goes from sunup to sundown. Not only does it test your equipment because of the high number of rounds you shoot through your guns, but because of the environment out there. When the wind blows, it kicks up piles of fine dirt some call moondust. This dust embeds itself into all of the competitors guns, including my 4th Generation GLOCK, that shot without a malfunction. Now, I just have to convince my dad I need a new GLOCK.”



Above: Cody Leeper (15) knocking over the whirlingig with a 4th Generation GLOCK 17.

Cody Leeper (15): “The new 4th Generation GLOCKS are worth checking out. I shot one for the MGM Ironman and was glad I did. Just like every other GLOCK, it is dependable. Of the entire match I only had one jam. This made me very happy with the new GLOCK. The new Gen4 has several new features designed to satisfy the most demanding consumers. Most noticeably, the Gen4 design has a multiple backstrap system that allows the user to change the circumference of the grip to fit their individual hand size. The grip has three options: a short-frame version, medium frame, or large frame that are easily changed and secured with a single pin. The magazine release catch of the Gen4 is reversible and enlarged. The reversible magazine catch allows users to switch access of the catch to the left or right side of the pistol with no additional parts. Internally, the original recoil spring has been replaced with a dual recoil spring assembly. The dual recoil spring assembly noticeably reduces the recoil while simultaneously increasing the life cycle of the pistol. Additionally, the Gen4 has a new Rough Textured Frame (RTF) surface designed to enhance grip traction and is present on the frame, as well as the interchangeable backstraps. The Gen4, just like any GLOCK pistol, has the same time-tested “Safe Action” system, durable exterior finish, cold hammer forged barrel, durability, reliability, and lightweight that make GLOCK firearms famous. All GLOCK pistols are backed by the GLOCK Limited Lifetime Warranty and world-class customer service and support that is second to none in the firearms industry.”

Terry Bowers (Staff): “The Glock 17 Gen4 is like taking a good pistol and making it better between the adjustable grip dimensions and reduced recoil due to the double recoil spring. This has always been, but is now even more, a great out-of-the-box pistol. Using a pistol out of the box in a competition is difficult, but it is made easier by the GLOCK Gen4.”

FNH has two handguns we have used and are quite happy with: The FNP-9 (Full article by Corey Shaw (17) on page 46 of *Junior Shooters* Volume 8 Winter 2010 issue) and the FNX-9. These are outstanding handguns. One advantage to using the FNX-9 in 3-Gun competitions is that it is the pistol that is used in the FNH 3 Gun Nation classifiers and main event so it gives you excellent practice. Jessie Previtt (14) is currently using one, and here is what she says:

“I have been shooting the FNH FNX-9 for about four months now and could not be more pleased with an out-of-the-box gun. It has run flawlessly for me in every circumstance. As well as being reliable, the FNX fits my hands. This is one of



Above: Two great FNH 9mm handguns. The FNX-9 on top and the FNP-9 below shown with FMJ 9mm ammunition from Zero Ammunition.



Above: Jessie Previtt (14) with her FNH FNX-9.

the most important factors to me because my hands are not particularly large or strong. It is perfect for women or men because of the easily interchangeable grip sizes and textures. The FNX is also a completely ambidextrous pistol. There are no changes that need to be made for a left or right-handed shooter. I may not shoot pistol left-handed, but being cross-eye dominant, I know the importance of finding a left-handed gun.

“The only real issue I have ever had with the FNX-9 was the double-action trigger on the first round. It is a fantastic trigger, but is just very heavy for me. I would put it between 10 and 12 pounds. After the first shot, though, the single-action trigger is light and has a short reset. The only thing I would change about this gun is to be able to put on adjustable sights. But the FNX was meant to be a carry gun, so the combat sights are appropriate. Overall, the FNH FNX-9 is a great, reliable gun, which I would trust to perform in any match.”



Above: Dallin Hixson (16) in the bunker shooting the whirligig, knockdown plates, and clays at the 2010 MGM Ironman.

Ruger’s SR-9 is not the normal handgun one sees at a 3-Gun event. However, we had one junior shoot the Ironman using it who really loves it. It has a harder trigger pull than most for that first shot, but he got used to it right away and has done very well with it. Check out his article on page 24 of *Junior Shooters* Volume 9 Winter 2009 issue.



Above: Sig Sauer’s Sig 250 is a double-action only 9mm and also makes for an excellent 3-Gun pistol.

Sig Sauer has a number of excellent guns that work very well for 3-Gun Competition. They have the standard P226, the USPSA P226, and the P250 D/A, which are the only ones we received. I really like the P226 as you can get the P22 LR conversion and swap out calibers very quickly for practice - which we did.

Hayden Hixson (15) has used one extensively and really did well with it. You can see his full article at www.juniorshooters.net. An excerpt from that article is as follows: “I have shot this gun in USPSA, IDPA, and 3-Gun matches, including the MGM Ironman. The Ironman was one of the hardest but most fun matches I have ever been to. I used the Sig P226 with reloads, and it only jammed a couple of times in the thousands of rounds and that was due to the low-power reloads I was using. I absolutely love this gun.”



Above: S&W’s M&P 9 works very well for 3-Gun competition.

The S&W M&P 9 is also an excellent choice. It has proven functionality, is reasonable in price, and is familiar to many shooters. The one we received functioned smoothly right out of the box, had additional back grip panels so your length of pull could be adjusted, and an excellent trigger pull. We were very pleased with it.



Above: STI’s USPSA Signature series in .40 S&W is a top-of-the-line, 1911-style (this is the 2011) handgun.

Single and double-stack 1911s can also be seen on the range. STI makes phenomenal 1911s, and you can get them in 9mm, .40 S&W, and .45acp. They are pricey but of exceptional quality and tuned to perfection right out of the box. We have also used the Kimber Tactical Pro 9mm, the S&W 1911, the Sig Sauer GSR 1911, and the Para Ordnance 1911 with good success, other than the fact that some of these are single-stack so require multiple reloads.



Optics for Modern 3-Gun

By: "The Juniors" and the Staff

For Kids
By Kids



Hayden Hixson (15) with Alpen's 10x42 Shasta Ridge binoculars.

Aimpoint Red Dot: Micro H-1 4 MOA

Craig Hixson: "I loved the red dot. It was very easy to sight in. Target acquisition was very quick. The dot was very noticeable even in the light of day. I usually left it on the number three brightness setting. It had excellent intensity. The controls were on the right so it worked great when pointed on top of the firearm or on the right side of a mount but would not fit on the left side of a mount next to a scope. We first used it on a Ruger 10/22 for practice and in steel challenge matches. It was also used on the JR Carbine for steel challenge where I was able to complete the Smoke and Hope stage in under two seconds. My son Hayden beat me with this combination by 2/10ths of a second. I was able to get a time of 1.68 seconds on the Smoke and Hope stage when it was mounted on a Tactical Solutions Paclite."

Hayden (15): "It was a really nice setup - easy to put on and off, a very lightweight and sturdy red dot. I actually dropped the red dot and it still worked without any problems."

Alpen Outdoors Optics

Junior Shooters has received a number of optics from our sponsors for our juniors to use and to review for 3-Gun competitions, as well as other shooting sports. We have used red dots, holographic sights with 3x multipliers, standard scopes, scopes with lighted reticles, hunting scopes, tactical scopes, spotting scopes, and binoculars. We have put them all to good use on multiple firearms.

Optics for 3-Gun competitions need to be clear, usable under varied light conditions, have quick acquisition capabilities, be lightweight, and acquire targets at various ranges.

There are certainly classes such as Limited and Heavy Metal which don't allow the use of optics depending upon the particular match. We have opted for the juniors we work with to shoot mostly in the Scoped Tactical class. This provides the capability for one firearm to use optics, and we have naturally chosen the rifle. In some cases, that is just a scope; in others, it is a combination of a scope with a red dot mounted next to it using a Warne RAMP (Rapid Acquisition Multi-sight Platform) mount. (Read the full article at www.juniorsshooters.net - type in "Warne Scope Mounts" in the search box). This is a mounting platform I recommend to anyone wanting to have more than one optic mounted on their firearm. We have also used a holographic sight with a 3x multiplier.

Many 3-Gun matches are at fairly close range. Others have small targets and easily go out to 400 yards or beyond on a number of stages. The smaller targets and longer distances really require a good set of optics, even when you have young eyes like our junior shooters. Binoculars and spotting scopes are not only handy for sighting in and training, but they really help in a match so a spotter or coach can see where a shooter is hitting and assist them, if allowed, or advise them for the next stage. Range-finders are also very helpful in determining the exact distance to targets.

Here are some of the optics we have been using quite successfully and what some of our shooters think about them:

We received a variety of products from Alpen Outdoors, including a spotting scope, binoculars, and three rifle scopes: the 3-9x42 Apex scope, a 3.5-10x50 Apex scope, and a 1.5-4.5x32 Kodiak scope. We used the spotting scope and binoculars for sighting in, spotting, and on a general basis while the scopes were mounted on three different rifles: a Remington R-15 .223 used by Craig Hixson, a Ruger SR-556 .223 used by Dallin Hixson (16), and a Rock River Arms LAR-15 used by Danny Garcia (17). All of these products functioned exceptionally well, and the people using them were able to see and hit their targets effectively. Here is what some of them had to say:

Danny Garcia (17): "During the Ironman, I was issued an Alpen Kodiak 1.5-4.5x duplex reticle scope from *Junior Shooters*. I wasn't familiar with this brand, but I was willing to try it out. I mounted the Alpen scope with a Warne Rapid Acquisition Multi-sight Platform (RAMP) scope mount on top of my Rock River Arms LAR-15. I was quite impressed on how accurate this scope was. It was very easy to use. On some stages during the MGM Ironman, we had to shoot out to 400 yards, and I was hitting my target on the first hit. With this scope and the Rock River Arms LAR AR-15 platform, I was able to achieve sub-MOA (Minute Of Angle) accuracy.

"The scope is a 1.5-4.5x power duplex reticle scope. It is intended for close to medium type of shooting. I zeroed this scope at 50 yards because the majority of the targets at the Ironman competition would be between 100 to 300 yards away. With a 50-yard zero, my bullet would impact approximately 1.5 inches high at 100 yards, a half-inch high at 200 yards, and a little less than 3 inches low at 300. This zero



made it easy to aim high or low at different yardages.

"If you're looking for a good quality scope at a price that won't put a hole in your wallet, check out the Alpen Kodiak scope."

Dallin Hixson (16): "The Alpen 3-9x42 scope that I used during the MGM Ironman 3-Gun competition was an excellent scope! When I came to a stage that had long-range targets, I knew that if I had a good sight picture and the right hold on the scope, I would be dead on. This was the case for most of my stages during the Ironman! It turned out that it was true; I hit my targets with very few shots taken. I saw a lot of shooters who had trouble with their scopes, but not me. I'm sure this affected their scores in a bad way!

"During 3-Gun competitions, especially the MGM Ironman, there is a lot of wear and tear that occurs on your equipment, such as scopes. The Alpen scope performed very well under the extreme conditions that the Ironman presented: heat, rain, mud, movement, and impact. Shooting and surviving the Ironman while using an Alpen Scope is a huge testament to the scopes this company makes! There are a lot of shooters who attend the Ironman who have a lot of problems with their equipment. I was surprised at the quality and performance that this scope provided me. The Ironman pushed these scopes to their limit, and they passed the test.

"The scope was also very easy to mount and sight in. I spent one day mounting this scope onto my rifle, and it didn't take very long at all! It was very user friendly and straightforward. It was actually very easy. So once I had mounted the scope, it was time to go sight it in. When I took my first shot, I was very surprised at how accurate it was for a scope that I had just mounted. But it still needed a few adjustments. It didn't take long at all to get it to place the bullet exactly where I wanted it to be. Since then, I've shot in the same exact place every time.

"The scope had a very sleek look and design. It made my gun look way better while it was on top of it. It also made my gun shoot better! It's not a big and bulky scope at all, but still has enough power to see the far targets. The size made it easier to put away in its case. It is also a very lightweight scope. The weight of my gun really didn't change at all while it was on top, which was something that I really liked because I have a heavy rifle, and it made it easier to maneuver around during those intense stages!

"After using many different types of scopes, I can honestly say that this scope has what it takes to be a top-notch scope for the best shooters out there. If I were to recommend a scope to someone, I would definitely be quick to suggest any Alpen scope. But don't take my word for it: go out there and try out an Alpen scope. Then see for yourself why this scope is so great!"

Above: Aimpoint's Micro H-1 red dot is outstanding! Shown here mounted on the right side of a Warne RAMP multi-sight mount on a Remington R-15.



Dallin Hixson (16) with an Alpen 3-9x42 Apex scope mounted on a Ruger SR-556 .223. This is the combination he used for 3-Gun matches in 2010.



Dallin spotting for us with Alpen's 15-45x60 WP spotting scope. This is an excellent spotting scope and worked very well for us on the range and at the match.

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A close-up view of Burris' 3-9x BPLEX scope and FastFire II red dot with the red dot mounted on the right side of the mount.



Top: Jessie Previtt (14) with a Burris 3-9x BPLEX scope mounted on a Warne RAMP mount with a Burris FastFire II red dot on the left side of the mount. Mounted on top of the Stag Arms Model 1 AR-15, it makes a perfect long-range and short-range combination.



Bushnell's Elite 4200 6-24x long-range scope mounted on a Ruger Mini-14 Target model achieved sub-MOA groups out to 500 meters and was used in the 2008 MGM Ironman.

Burris

Burris was nice enough to send us a Fullfield 3-9x 40mm BPLEX Matte scope along with a FastFire II 4 MOA red dot, and a High Country spotting scope 20-60x 60mm. These came in handy when we were looking for optics for our Stag Arms Model 1 AR-15 rifle. We mounted the 3-9x scope and the FastFire red dot on the Stag Arms with a Warne RAMP mount. This allowed us to put the red dot on either side of the scope. It was easy to sight in when used in conjunction with the High Country spotting scope. This combination is now being used by Jessie Previtt (14) for 3-Gun competitions.

Jessie Previtt: "Burris Optics has a reputation of high quality, American-made scopes, and the Burris Fullfield II is a perfect example of why. It is crisp, clear, and versatile. With a 3-9x adjustable magnification and a ballistic-plex reticle, it can be used in a wide array of short- to long-range targets. The Fullfield II is easy to sight in, and I have a nine-out-of-ten average on a 4" steel popper at 100 yards. In all of the weeks I've been shooting this gun, the scope has never lost zero. This is good because I tend to be a little rough grounding my rifle during matches. The Burris Fullfield II is an excellent scope and great for any rifle.

"If you're looking for a red dot optic for your pistol or rifle, look no further than the Burris FastFire II. It is the ultimate close range, lightweight optic for any firearm. It is easy to use. Just keep both eyes on the target, and where the red dot is, is where the bullet hits. By taking advantage of the red dot on close targets, times can be decreased and accuracy increased. With a metal housing and precision ground lenses, the Burris FastFire II is as tough as it is precise. I use the FastFire in combination with the Burris Fullfield II scope for stages with close-range as well as long-range targets. Just by angling my rifle, I can go from using the red dot FastFire on targets as close as 50 yards to using my scope on targets up to 450 yards away, all without adjusting the magnification."

Bushnell

It was really nice to receive a Spacesaver spotting scope, 8.5-45x binoculars, an Elite 2-6x Multi Reticle scope along with an Elite 4200 6-24x scope for long-range precision shooting from Bushnell in 2008. These were used in training and in the MGM Ironman extensively that year. The Elite 2-6x Multi Reticle was mounted on a Smith & Wesson M&P 15 while the Elite 4200 6-24x was mounted on a Ruger Mini-14 Target model that was able to shoot a five-shot 4.5" group at 500 meters! The spotting scope comes in a small package and is easy to use. Just remember to expand it all the way out before use.

EoTech

From EoTech, we received a XPS2 A65 Reticle holographic sight along with a 3x Magnifier G2. This combination has been combat tested and worked quite well for us. We had Hayden Hixson (15) mount it on a Sig Sauer 556. He used it in the 2010 MGM Ironman.

Hayden Hixson (15): "The cool thing about this holographic sight was changing the brightness. You could turn it off and on easily. The design was built to last, and you could put it on any type of gun. You certainly don't need a lot of tools to set it up. The battery compartment was easy to get into. It mounts very nicely and is perfectly stable regardless of movement. The 3x magnifier can be put on or off in seconds with a flip of a switch. It folds out of the way or is placed back into operation easily and has a quick disconnect mount allowing it to be taken off the rifle quickly.

"The image in the holographic sight is a very clear picture

with no dust or dirt. It was easy to see the see the small flash targets even out to 400 yards. Adjust the intensity to the desired level, and with the magnifier, I could hit the targets without any problem.”

Horus Vision

We received a 1-4x24 Talon from Horus Vision which is quite an astounding scope. Cody Leeper (15) used it in the MGM Ironman in 2010, and he mounted it on a Next Generation Arms MP 168 AR in .223. This combination did very well for Cody as he was our top junior and placed 30th out of 101 shooters in the Tactical Scope class!

Cody Leeper: “I recently had an opportunity to use and test a Horus Vision Talon during the MGM Ironman, the toughest 3-Gun match in the country. The Talon is an extremely effective optic for close-to mid-range engagements from close quarter distances to approximately 500 yards and even beyond. The Talon reticle consists of a “ghost ring” with a modified Horus Vision reticle within the ghost ring. Like all Horus Vision optics, the reticle is in the first focal plane, so the milliradian-based reticle can be used for ranging at any magnification.

“The Talon’s medium distance eye relief is such that the shooter can quickly acquire a sight picture with both eyes open with alignment onto the target virtually instantaneous. I found that for distances of up to 75 yards 1x works great, and when targets are inside 25 yards, all you need to do is get the target in the “ghost ring” and pull the trigger. At mid-ranges out to 250 yards, the magnification should be increased to either 3 or 4 if there is a dramatic wind and the windage marks are needed. Any farther than that and you will need 4 power. During stage three of the MGM Ironman, I was able to use the Horus Reticle to easily drop all four rounds onto the ‘flag’ portion of an IPSC Target at 400 yards.”

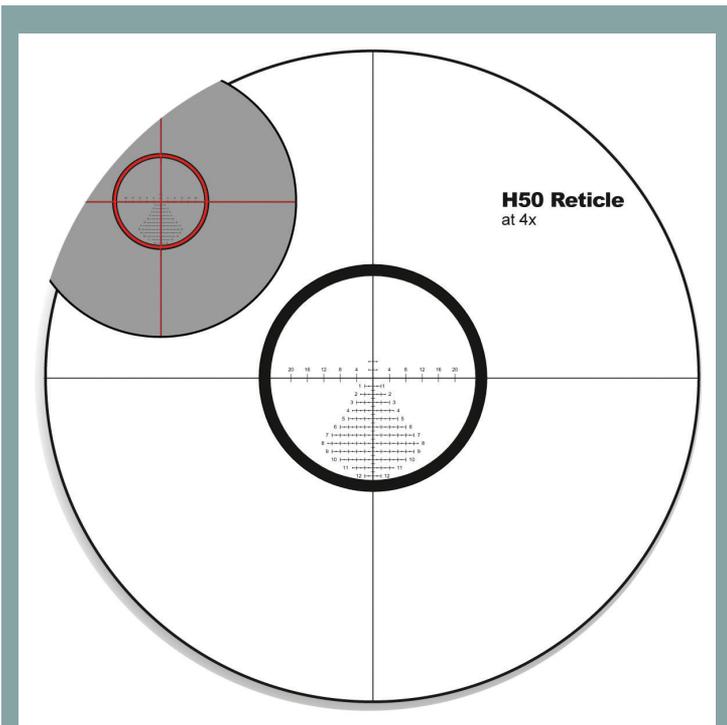
See the complete article on our website at <http://www.juniorshooters.net/2010/09/13/horus-vision-1-4x24-talon-scope>.



Above: Eotech’s 3x magnifier is flipped to the right out of the way so Hayden (15) is only looking through the XPS2 A65 Holograph reticle sight.



Above: The 3x magnifier is flipped in for longer range targets.



Above: The Horus Vision’s unique H50 illuminated reticle easily switches between close targets using the bold aiming ring and engaging long-range targets out to 600 yards using the grid.



Horus Vision’s Talon 1-4x scope is outstanding out to 600 yards and even further. Mounted here on a Next Generation Arms MP 168 SPC AR.



Above: Sightron's illuminated multi-reticle is the cat's meow for short range. Here it is mounted on EMF's JR carbine in 9mm.



Above: Corey Shaw (17) using Swarovski's Z5 5-25x52 long-range scope with pre-set positions on stage 3, the long-range stage, at the 2010 MGM Ironman.



Swarovski's Z6i 1-6x24 is absolutely amazing! With a long eye relief, ultra clarity, and illumination controls, it is perfect for both close-range and medium-range targets.

Sightron

The Sightron S33-R is an excellent red dot. It is a 1X dot with multi-dot four MOA with click values of one inch at 100 yards. The multi-dot has four separate selections: a single dot, a crosshatch, a circle with the dot in the middle, and a combination dot, circle, and crosshatch. The controls are easy to work, the windage and elevation notches click smoothly, and there is plenty of intensity. We have used this sight on multiple platforms from practice rifles such as an S&W M&P 15-22 .22 LR, a Ruger 10/22, and the EMF Just Right Carbine (Junior Carbine) in 9mm to mounting it on a Warne RAMP scope mount on top of an FNH SCAR and a Ruger SR 556. It does the job!

Swarovski

Swarovski provided us with two Z6i 1-6x24 scopes and a Z5 5-25x52 long-range scope. Everyone that used them was overwhelmed with the clarity of the image and the quality of the scopes. The Z6is were mounted on a FNH SCAR-16 used by Corey Shaw (17) and a custom made AR-15 with a Cavalry Arms lower and a LAR Grizzle OPS-4 upper with a Krieger barrel used by staff member Terry Bowers. The Z5 5-25 was mounted on a FNH SPR .308 which was used by a number of our shooters for long-range out to 950 yards. These scopes allowed us to achieve the maximum accuracy possible out of these firearms.

Terry Bowers: "Swarovski Optik is a name that makes any serious shooter or hunter sigh like an expectant mother looking at a new baby.

"The Swarovski Z6i 1-6x24 caught my attention last year at the SHOT Show. This compact powerhouse of optical bliss was mounted on a stock so it could be shouldered and appreciated. I was looking for a small, low to medium power scope for the upcoming MGM Ironman. In this match, where I know speed and accuracy are very important, I wanted something with a good field of view, meaning very low power. However, I wanted to be able to engage targets at greater distances as well, say out to 200 to 500 yards. With that in mind, I was looking for between one and two power on the low end to as much as I could get on the high end without extra bulk or complex controls that were difficult to operate. What I chose was the Swarovski Z6i 1-6x24 with the CD reticle. The rifle I wanted to put this scope on would be a custom AR built on a Cavalry Arms (now Cavalry Manufacturing) Cav-15 MKII lower with a Brownells' lower parts kit. The upper would be an LAR Grizzly OPS-4 with a fully chromed bolt carrier and to top off this package a Krieger 20-inch 1-7.7 twist barrel with a satin bead-blast exterior finish. Wow, and the Swarovski became the crown jewel for this custom package set perfectly in the Warne RAMP (Rapid Acquisition Multi-sight Platform) mount."

Check out the detailed article at www.juniorshooters.net. Corey Shaw (17) said, "I mounted a Swarovski Z6i 1-6x24 scope on the SCAR-16 for the MGM Ironman. I've got to tell you: I love this scope. It was everything I needed for both short and medium range, out to 400 yards. The combination of the SCAR and the Swarovski Z6i gave me a shooting platform I was very confident of."

Trijicon

Trijicon provided us with a RM-5 RMR reflex sight and a RM34 & RM55 mount adapter.

Terry Bowers: "The Trijicon RMR (Ruggedized Miniature Reflex) sight is always on. We got to test the RM-5 which is a battery-free sight using fiber optics and tritium. The dot is a 9 MOA dot. The unit is designed to automatically adjust the brightness of the reticle using a sensor within the unit. The body of the RMR is made of aircraft aluminum 7075-

T6. This makes for the ultimate rugged close-quarters sight. Quick target acquisition, the ability to keep both eyes open to see everything around you, and speedy follow-up shots are essential when time counts. Of course, this gives you greater sensory and peripheral input and control without sacrificing accuracy. Speaking of accuracy, the sight has windage and elevation adjustments of 1 MOA.

“One thing that sometimes gets overlooked in articles is mentioning the operator’s manual. I liked the way Trijicon laid out this one. It is worth your time to look at it. I think Trijicon’s packaging is great also. I shoot many disciplines, so frequently change optics to different platforms. Often on the range I try something new. Trijicon thought of me when they put their RM-5 in its plastic foam case. I mounted my sight on the optional picatinny angle mount. This worked well with my primary scope, a Swarovski Z6i, mounted in front on the Warne scope mount. I really like this combo.”

Valdada

Valdada provided an IOR 4-24x tactical scope for us in 2008 and a 4-12x50 hunting scope in 2010. Both of these are excellent scopes and work extremely well. The IOR tactical scope has been used extensively from 100 to 1,000 yards.

Terry Bowers: “The IOR M-2 scope has its roots in the 4-6x M military scope first introduced into military service in 1979. The civilian version of this scope is improved and available in a variety of reticles from Valdada USA in Colorado. Our scope came from Brownells, a major supporter of *Junior Shooters*. The scope I tested had a tactical M-series CQB 4-24x red, illuminated reticle with range estimating and holdover horizontal lines etched into its photo engraved, glass reticle.

“We had the scope mounted on a Bushmaster XM15 A-3 flattop rifle by our good friends at RK Gunsmithing. Since the M-2 is designed for a short-stocked rifle like the AR or AK variety, we were in business.

“Next, my daughter Sarah (16) and I went to the range to sight in and learn the new reticle. This reticle gives the shooter enough information to be very useful without sacrificing a clear field of view. It features 15 mils of ranging or holdover and has a center dot of 1-Minute Of Angle (MOA 1-inch at 100 meters). The inside horseshoe is 10 MOA, and the outside is 18 MOA. A 10” target ranges as follows: 100 m inside horseshoe, 200 m dot to inside edge, 300 is first circle marked “3,” “4,” “5,” and “6” are the smaller circles as you move to the right. Our scope was ordered as a .223 cal. scope to be used with the 62-grain bullet. This allows the true Bullet Drop Compensator cam adjustment (BDC cam) to put you on target by simply turning the elevation adjustment knob to the distance to the target. We found that from 100 to 800 meters we could consistently hit our target simply by ranging or knowing the range to target. This will work for either .223 or .308 depending on which model you have.

“Both my daughter and I used this scope rifle combination in the 2008 MGM Ironman with great success.”

Check out the detailed article by Terry at: www.juniorshooters.net - type “Valdada” in the search box.

Thank you to all of our optic sponsors. We really appreciate your support and would not be able to provide the opportunity for juniors to use your products and without it would not be able to provide the opportunity for them to write. Thank you.

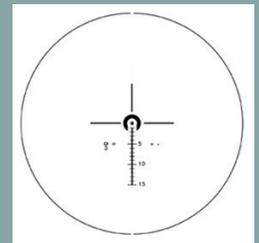
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| Burris: | www.optics.com | |
| Bushmaster: | www.bushmaster.com | |
| Bushnell: | www.bushnell.com | |
| Cavalry Arms: | www.cavalrymanufacturing.com | |
| Eotech: | www.eotech-inc.com | |
| Horus Vision: | www.horusvision.com | |
| L.A.R. Man: | www.largrizzly.com | |



Trijicon’s Ruggedized Miniature Reflex (RMR) sight is always on and mounted alongside a Swarovski Z6i on a Warne RAMP mount makes the perfect short-range and medium-range combination for Terry’s custom-built rifle with LAR Manufacturing OPS-4 upper receiver, Krieger barrel, ATI forend, and Cavalry Arms lower with a lower parts kit from Brownells.



Sarah Bowers (16) sighting in the Valdada IOR tactical scope prior to the 2008 MGM Ironman. Shown here mounted on a custom AR by Robert Krone of RK Gunsmithing based on a Bushmaster A2 CMP heavy-barreled competition AR-15.



Close-up of Valdada’s M-series IOR CQB 4x24 illuminated scope and reticle with range estimating and holdover lines.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Next Gen. Arms: | www.nextgenerationarms.com |
| Ruger: | www.ruger.com |
| Sightron: | www.sightron.com |
| Sig Sauer: | www.sigsauer.com |
| Swarovski: | www.swarovski.com |
| Trijicon: | www.trijicon.com |
| Valdada: | www.valdada.com |

Shotguns for Modern 3-Gun

By: The "Juniors" and Andy Fink

For Kids
By Kids

We have used a variety of shotguns for 3-Gun. These include: FNH's SLP standard and MK I (my personal favorite), a Mossberg 500, the Remington 1100, and the Winchester Super X2. The Mossberg was a lightweight with an adjustable ATI stock, and, though a nice gun, too light for shooting lots of slugs. I have also used the old Winchester original Model 1891 in the Cowboy division quite successfully, a pump that only holds five rounds. It didn't have any jams the whole match.

The shotgun is where a 3-Gun match can be easily won or lost. You need to have a good, dependable semi-auto shotgun where the magazine holds eight rounds. It needs to have a bead or sights that will allow you to shoot clay pigeons as well as slugs. With the exception of the lightweight Mossberg, each of the shotguns we used worked very well, though again we were really happy with FNH's SLP. Here is what some of our shooters had to say about the shotguns that were used:

FNH's SLP

Dallin Hixson (16): "This shotgun (SLP Mark I with 8-round magazine) is by far the best shotgun that I recommend for shooting a 3-Gun competition. It shoots 12-gauge shot, buck shot, or slugs. It comes with two chokes: a modified and full. It is easy and fast. The sights are clear even if you are shooting slugs. It took me about two minutes to sight it in for slugs at 100 yards. The sights on this gun are just amazing. One of the best features about them is that the front sight is a green neon sight which is faster to get onto your target. It comes with a flip-up leaf sight for when you are shooting long-range with slugs for better accuracy.

"It has a long magazine tube underneath so you can stuff

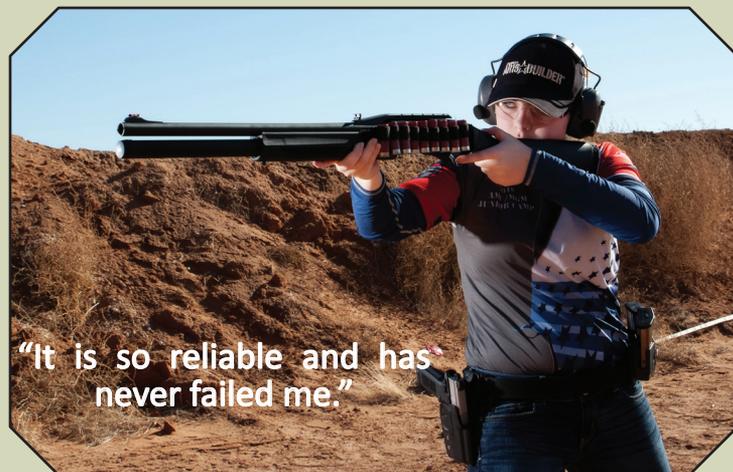


"Just slam them in!"

Dallin Hixson (16) Shooting the FNH SLP MK I shotgun during the 2010 MGM Ironman. Shotgun vest from 3 Gun Gear.

it full with eight rounds in the tube and one round in the chamber. That comes in handy so you don't have to reload so much. This gun is the best performing gun you can buy if you are looking for a good gun to shoot in 3-Gun competitions. It will not let you down, especially when you need it most.

"I recently shot the MGM Ironman. On one of the stages, it started to pour down on my dad and I when we were in the middle of shooting. As I was running, I dropped some shells, and they got muddy, wet, and covered with rocks. As I was shooting, I had to reload. So my dad yelled, "Just slam them in!" So I got the shells and was slamming them in the loading port on the bottom of the receiver. The gun couldn't have worked any better. I will never shoot a match without my FNH SLP Mark I, the most reliable shotgun I have ever shot."



"It is so reliable and has never failed me."

Jessie Previtt (14) shooting the FNH SLP 12-gauge competition shotgun. Shotgun sidesaddle from 3 Gun Gear.

Jessie Previtt (14): "The FNH SLP was the first shotgun I had ever shot. From the first day I loved it. There was minimal recoil (as long as I used reduced recoil slugs) and was so much fun to shoot. The sights differ from normal shotgun sights because they are actually rifle ghost sights. The sights make it very easy to line up on a target. I've shot with a bead sight, and I didn't like it much. These sights are a different story.

"Another feature I like about the SLP is its reduced weight. It only weighs about eight pounds so it is easy to carry around and maneuver. Originally it could only hold six rounds, but with a two-round extension, it was very competitive. The trigger reset is amazing; I can't pull it fast enough to trip it up. I cannot say enough good things about this shotgun. It is so reliable and has never failed me. I continue to shoot it with great satisfaction in every 3-Gun match (so much so my dad purchased one for himself)."

Terry Bowers (staff): "Yes, yes, yes, it is the best darn shotgun on the market for 3-Gunning. I love it. Dust, dirt, rain, and it just keeps on shooting."



Corey Shaw (17) said, "Awesome! I preferred the standard short-barreled SLP."



Cody Leeper (15) shooting 12-gauge slugs at 100-yard targets with his Remington 1100. Shotgun side saddles from 3 Gun Gear.

Remington 1100

Cody Leeper (15): “The Remington 1100 shotguns are pretty well known in the shooting world. Well, I was recently given the pleasure of using one of these shotguns in a couple 3-Gun shoots this past summer. I was given the Model 1100 Tac 4. This gun is quite amazing right out of the box, and I was very anxious to shoot it. At the range, I found that it shoots like a dream. It is light, fits to your shoulder very easily, and has little kick. Every time I pulled that gun up to my cheek, the bead was always right where I wanted it. I never had to change my grip on the gun or its position on my shoulder. Then I got to see how it performed. It was great. I shattered each clay and knocked over every target except for a couple that I knew were my fault. In other words, it shoots straight every time.

“I was very pleased with the performance of this shotgun and wanted to learn more about it. Practice is really handy when in a rush during a match. I was excited about shooting the MGM Ironman with this shotgun and looked forward to it.

“It worked very well for me during the match, though I had a little trouble, occasionally loading more than five shells. After the fifth shell it would stick a little as they were being loaded.”

Winchester Super X2

Danny Garcia (17): “During the 3-Gun match, I shot a GLOCK 17 Gen4 pistol, a Rock River Arms LAR-15, and a Winchester Super X2 shotgun. Winchester’s Practical model Super X2 appeared in about 2001 and was marketed to 3-Gun shooters as the fastest cycling shotgun. The gun has a 22” barrel and a magazine tube that allows eight rounds plus one in the chamber. The gun has a Williams’ fiber optic front sight and a rear flip-up rifle sight.

“The gun I own had some custom work done on it by Sure Cycle of Meridian, Idaho. The custom work consisted of replacing the spring in the butt stock and modifying the gas piston. This made it more reliable for shooting slugs, as well as light and heavy loads.

“My shotgun survived the Ironman and so did I. If you are looking for a good, reliable shotgun, I would recommend the Super X2 by Winchester. You may be out of luck, though.



Danny Garcia (17) on stage 4A of the 2010 MGM Ironman with his Winchester Super SX2.

Winchester no longer produces the Super X2 model under their name. The good news is you can get the same shotgun, but now it is marketed by FNH USA as their SLP shotgun.”



COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

WHAT IS IT?

By Tex, SASS #4

Cowboy Action Shooting™ is one of the fastest growing shooting sports in the world! This 30-year-old overnight sensation recently issued its 90,000th shooter's badge! It's a fantasy game where folks dress up in their best 1880s apparel, strap on their sixguns, and make the West safe for God-fearin' families. It's an opportunity to help Roy, Gene, and Hoppy bring outlaws to justice, save the ranch, and protect the water hole. It's the same game that all of the older folks, over 50, played in the neighborhood as kids: the only difference between then and now is the price of their toys!

Cowboy Action started in Southern California in the late 1970s. It had its origins in the Practical Pistol, IDPA, and IPSC games of the time, but the twist was it had to be shot using the guns of the Old West: single-action revolvers, lever-action rifles, and "old-time" shotguns. Movement, fast shooting, and penalties for missed targets were always part of the game. Those who shot the fastest and most accurately won!

Early on there were those who had an interest in costuming, and the custom of shooting in costume and holding costume contests in the evenings were started. In those early days, the costume winners were the ones not wearing blue jeans! Today, our cowboys are often finding bit parts in western movies because they look so authentic!

Cowboy Action came of age in April 1982 when the first END of TRAIL, an annual Cowboy Action Shooting™ match, was held in Coto de Caza, California. END of TRAIL has been held every year since and is now recognized as the Single Action Shooting Society's (SASS') World Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting™. In 2004, SASS and END of TRAIL moved just outside Albuquerque, NM, established Founders Ranch, and built a headquarters building. The 30th Annual END of TRAIL will be celebrated in June 2011.

Cowboy Action is a shooting competition. We keep score, and we recognize our champions. And these champions are awesome! They can operate those 19th Century firearms as fast and accurately as most folks can operate their modern semi-auto firearms! They are a joy to watch! But, the story doesn't stop there ... Cowboy Action is far more than "just a shooting sport."

The first thing one realizes is we don't give the keys to a new Cadillac or big money prizes to our match winners. They receive a trophy, get their picture taken, and have bragging rights. Since there is no money involved, these champions can afford to be nice and even helpful toward the other competitors ... even to their competition. And they are! Cowboys being cowboys where one's word is one's bond, honesty is expected, and civility demanded, this is one sport where the competitors score each other, assessing hits and misses, penalties, and procedurals.

SASS is a membership organization. There are over 500 Cowboy Action clubs across the country and around the world. Only about 5% of the competitors have any hope of winning the club annuals, State Championships, Regional Championships, National Championships, or the World Championship. So why do the shooters travel great distances and attend these matches year after year? Cowboy Action is a lifestyle, it's a fantasy, it's social, and it's fun! Anyone can compete in any of the matches, even the World Championships. No one really cares how well you shoot, so



Above: Tex, besides being SASS # 4, is a World Champion CAS shooter and the editor of SASS's *Cowboy Chronicle*.

long as you're safe. You shoot with friends even if you don't (initially) know anyone! You can shop (some call it the Single Action SHOPPING Society!) 'til you drop. And the costumes take us all back to what we fantasize was a simpler time. It becomes an escape from the harried 21st Century. It takes many of us back to our childhood games.

Cowboy Action is a game where we want as many folks as possible to have a great time, shoot their guns, and come off the firing line grinning. Our match directors know they're not in the competition business, they're in the ENTERTAINMENT business! So, how do we make folks happy?

First, we make provisions for youngsters and oldsters. Everyone wants to shoot against their peers, to the extent possible. SASS Cowboy Action has shooting categories for 12-14 year olds (Buckaroos), 14-17 year olds (Young Guns), Seniors, Silver Seniors, and Elder Statesmen. There are also corresponding shooting categories in every instance for the ladies (if they so choose). There are "open" categories where



any kind of shooting style or propellant is allowed, and there are protected categories where blackpowder is required, or particular shooting styles, such as Duelist (one handed) or Gunfighter (a blazing sixgun in each hand!), is required. Today there are over 30 different shooting categories from which to choose. As one sage competitor once remarked, pick your category wisely!

Cowboy Action competition requires two revolvers (.32-.45 caliber), a lever or slide operated rifle (.25-.45 caliber) with an exposed hammer, and an old-time shotgun (double barreled [20-10 gauge.], Model '97 pump, or 1887 lever action in 16-12 gauge).. The shooters are assembled into posses of roughly 20 competitors who stick together for the entire match, moving from stage to stage as a group. Each shooting stage is unique ... there are no "standard" Cowboy Action Shooting™ stages. Each stage represents a scenario out of the Old West, the old B-Western movies, or from TV props, such as storefronts, old wagons, cactus cutouts, and the like, all add to the Old West flavor. While safety is paramount, fun is the rule of the day. Targets are generally of generous size and not all that far away. We want even the rookie shooter to be able to hit them all! The more seasoned competitors will find a way to miss by going way too fast!

Cowboy Action is an easy "sell" to the older generation. We all grew up with Roy, Gene, and Hoppy. Many of our younger potential shooters have never even heard of these guys! Cowboy Action is not Space Cadets, but it's just as much fun! Talk to mom and dad (or maybe even granddad!) about bringing you out to a Cowboy Action match. Dress as western as you can. Don't be surprised if someone takes the time to talk to you ... and maybe even offers to strap a pair of sixguns on you! Also, many clubs have indoctrination sessions for new shooters. Once you try it, you'll be hooked for life!

Please see the SASS website, www.sassnet.com, for further information on the Single Action Shooting Society and Cowboy Action Shooting™. Local clubs and their shooting schedules are also listed on the website. SASS is the governing body of Cowboy Action Shooting™. Its Handbook defines the game, ensuring consistency of rules and practices both across the country and internationally. SASS also provides training for Range Officers/Operations as well as for Match Directors. ©

Above: "Last Chance Morales" (16) is the Wild Bunch World Champion - End of Trail 2010. Below: Winchester Reed (9) at the Summer Games in Cedar City, Utah.



MY LIFE AS A COWBOY ACTION SHOOTER

By: Sarah Harp aka "Sage Chick" (17) SASS #48454
*For Kids
By Kids*

Howdy. My name is "Sage Chick." I am 17 years old, and I am a cowboy action shooter. Before I tell you any more about myself, let me tell you about cowboy action shooting. Cowboy action is just what it says it is: pretending to be a cowboy, from the Wild West days, while doing lots of action shooting.

I have participated in other types of shooting as well: action pistol, bullseye, and trap shooting. However, nothing compares to the adrenaline rush of shooting cowboy.

First of all, you get to shoot four guns instead of just one. These consist of two single-action revolvers, a lever-action rifle, and either a double-barrel or hammered-pump shotgun. All four guns are used as you progress through a series of targets in the correct sequence, or what we call a stage. A match consists of several stages, and every one is different. Secondly, your score depends not only on hitting the targets but also hitting them in the correct order AND as quickly as you can. Your score is the number of seconds it takes you to complete the stage, adding five seconds for each miss and ten seconds for shooting the targets in the wrong order. The fifty or more people you shoot with have cowboy names and are dressed like they just walked off the set of the most recent western. In addition, the stages are set up with props and gear to make them look like western scenes. With a combination of these elements, you begin to feel the excitement of the Old West.

I have been shooting cowboy since I was eight years old. Previously I had gone to matches to watch my dad and brother and to help on the posse by picking up brass. I shot my first state and regional contests when I was nine. Such a young shooter was kind of a novelty then, and I got a lot of attention, especially from shooters from other countries. In their parts of the world, gun ownership is regulated so much that even teenagers are not allowed to handle a gun. And there I was, about 3-1/2 feet tall with two sixguns strapped on and a rifle that was almost as tall as I was! Everyone thought I was cute, but fast forward a few years, and suddenly I am not so cute anymore because I kick most of their butts when the results are posted!

The two best things about shooting cowboy are getting to travel around the country meeting all the great people who are a part of our sport and spending time with my family doing something we really enjoy. I have been fortunate to be able to travel to Founder's Ranch in New Mexico where they hold the World Championships. At this event, known as End of Trail (EOT), we have met some great folks from all over the world who share a love for shooting and the Old West. At EOT, I have won six World Championships in my age category. The last five years I have been in the Sweet Sixteen Shoot-off, which is the sixteen best women shooters at EOT. In 2009 and 2010, I was in the master gunfighters, which is the top sixteen overall (men and women). My greatest accomplishment was my 2010 win as Women's Overall World Champion. I have also shot the National Championships at Winter Range in Arizona, the Hell on Wheels Regional in Wyoming, Mule Camp in Georgia, and several state shoots in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan. It has been a lot of fun to meet and shoot with people like Evil Roy, Holy Terror, Constable Nelson from Australia, and even some of the founding members of our sport known as The Wild Bunch. Some of the finest people, though, are right here in Ohio, ones we see at every monthly shoot. They have helped and encouraged me along the way. My favorite shoot is still Guns of August, the Mid-West regional. The last four years I have been the Women's Regional Overall Champion. I also enjoy our Ohio State shoot,

Shootout at Hard Times. This past year, for the first time, I managed to make a woman the top shooter in the state of Ohio. Most of the larger shoots take a lot of driving to get to, and sometimes I even have to miss school to participate (YES!!)

Surprisingly, I do have a life besides shooting! I am a junior at Delaware Christian High School where I also play volleyball, basketball, and run track. Both my school and my church are very supportive of my shooting. At home on the farm, I raise chickens and sell eggs for my college fund. I like participating in 4-H, showing cattle at the fair, and riding my horse, Bailey. I plan to study veterinary science in college. Meantime, most Saturdays will find me on the way to a shoot somewhere, so come on out and give it a try. I look forward to meeting you!





Left: "Sage Chick" with her Ladies' World Championship buckle from EOT 2010. Lower left: She almost has her hand on her next shotgun shell and, the old hull has barely left the chamber. Top: The 1873 Winchester replica stays on her shoulder as she levers. She uses Ruger Blackhawks and Kirkpatrick Leather holsters and shotgun belt.



THE JUNIORS OF E

By: The "Juniors" and Andy Fink

For Kids
By Kids



"Last Chance Morales" shooting his Spartan 1911 in the Wild Bunch category at EOT 2010. Below: Some of Last Chance's many awards.



"Lulu Sure Shot"

Dressing up as a cowboy or cowgirl, shooting guns, competing against the best in the world, and seeing friends of years past; what could be more fun? Juniors, buckaroos and buckarettes come from all over the country to compete in the tradition of the Wild West. Some of these youngsters put the adults to shame, and I can't believe how fast they are. They not only compete against each other in their class but also against the adults for the overall champion.

If you have never been to one of the Single Action Shooting Society's (SASS) cowboy action shooting matches, you definitely need to try one. I guarantee you will have so much fun you'll be holler'n up and down for more!

Here is what some of the top juniors at the 2010 End of Trail (EOT) World Championship had to say:

"Last Chance Morales"

"In June of 2010, age 16, I competed at EOT, the SASS World Championships held in Edgewood, New Mexico. I don't get to practice much, seeing as the closest range is 50 miles from my hometown, so I rely on dry-fire practice in my bedroom. Practicing magazine changes is a must to be good in this sport, and, in my opinion, it primarily sets you up for faster times. So I practice probably 90% dry-fire and 10% live. The Northwest Wild Bunch Regionals, in June at my home range club, the Horse Ridge Pistoleros, was my last live practice prior to the world championships.

"This is my favorite match not only because the stages are fun and challenging but because of the people that are there. I get to see many of my long-distance shooting friends only once or twice a year, and always at EOT. This is what makes my time there well worth it. Some of these friends include world champions (Long Hunter, Fast Hammer, JT Wild, and Goatneck Clem), many of whom have helped and coached me since I started shooting at age 12. I can't be more thankful for being so lucky to have friends of such a high caliber.

"I have shot this match every year since 2006. I love the entertainment at night and the extra activities. They are very enjoyable, especially the can-can girls. They are my favorite. The match itself was fun this year because it was more challenging with very different target arrangements and more of them. I now mainly prefer Wild Bunch over regular CAS. For me, the best part of shooting Wild Bunch is how different the stages are set up. Making targets smaller and farther away with different shooting positions is a great way to stretch and challenge the abilities of any shooter and make them better. The Wild Bunch handgun, the 1911, is one of my favorite guns of all time. I shoot an STI Spartan .45, with an action job by Scott Springer.

"At this year's EOT World Championships, I won Wild Bunch Men's Overall, Wild Bunch Modern, and Wild Bunch Team for the third year. In the side matches, I won World's Fastest Young Gun, Junior Texas Surrender Speed, Fastest Pocket Pistol. In the CAS match, I placed second in Young Gun, and our posse won the World Championship Posse.

"I enjoy the SASS World Championships EOT every year. It's a major highlight of my summer. Being lucky enough to shoot Wild Bunch and CAS, along with the coaching and support of my parents, has helped me tremendously in becoming a better shooter. I look forward to trying more shooting sports in the future to come.

"My real name is Chance Koch, but I sure do my like my SASS alias, "Last Chance Morales."

END OF TRAIL 2010

“Lulu Sure Shot”

“Hi. My name is Lindsey Taylor Bottensek aka ‘Lulu Sure Shot,’ and I am a two-time World Champion Cowboy Action Shooter. Not your common introduction for a 13- year-old girl, but, yes, I am a two-time world champion, one-time national, and three-time Oregon State champion buckarette.

“I compete in SASS (Single Action Shooting Society) using a 12-gauge 1897 shotgun, Marlin .357 Magnum rifle, and Uberti Stallion pistols.

“I have been competing in SASS matches and competitions for five years now with my grandparents, John & Kelty La Rocco aka “Johnny Jingos” and “Annie Odem.” I owe all my accomplishments to them. They have provided me with everything needed to compete, including teaching me the techniques. They also have driven or flown me to all my competitions, which have included Phoenix, Arizona; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and all over the state of Oregon. So thank you to Grampa John and Gramma Kelty!

“I love competing, whether it’s with my horse, Charlie, barrel racing or basketball and softball. I look forward to what’s in store for me in this sport.

“I encourage anyone that is interested in shooting to give Cowboy Action Shooting a try. You will have a blast.”

“Justin Parker”

Justin has been shooting SASS/CAS for nine years. He started when he was 8 years old, and the guns were bigger than he was! I have a picture of him wearing his Ruger Blackhawks, and the holsters reach nearly to his knees. His first shotgun was a cheap, double-barrel 12-gauge with the stock cut down to fit and very light-loaded, blackpowder shells. Blackpowder loads do not kick and therefore help to keep the young ones and the women in the sport. His grandfather taught him gun handling and safety and was the biggest competitor Justin had. “Justin” is his SASS alias. His real name is Tylor, the o is correct, Seely but, most everybody, even his SASS family, call him “Opie,” a name his papa gave him when he was small. The competition between the two was fierce and helped to mold Opie into the shooter he is today. We lost Papa two years ago, and Opie has had to learn to fill his shoes. The first year Papa was gone, Opie had to drive us to EOT. This was no small feat because first he had to get his driver’s license! He actually had never driven a standard and had never pulled a camper, but his determination to keep competing and make Papa proud seems to overcome the obstacles we face. Yes, he got his beginner’s license, and he pulled that camper all the way to New Mexico from Azle, Texas. He also molds our bullets and reloads all our ammo.

Opie has been Buckaroo World Champion twice. In 2005 he was the first ever Buckaroo World Champion, and in 2007 he won it again. In 2009 he made the Top 16 Shoot Off at EOT, and in 2010 he won his category and made the shoot-off again. Currently, Justin is the 2010 Texas State Champion Junior Boy, Regional Junior Boy Champion, National Junior Boy Champion, and World Champion Junior Boy.

“Sugar Cookie”

Rozlyn Flanagan, aka “Sugar Cookie,” began shooting in cowboy action shooting in 2006 at 10 years old under the watchful eye of her father, “Deputy Curly,” and her mentor,



Top: Justin shooting his 1897 12-gauge shotgun at the 2008 Shootout At the Oakwood match.



Left: Justin “Opie” at age 11 with the Oakwood Outlaws - already a world champion.



Below: Sugar Cookie at EOT 2010.

Judge Harshly." Rozlyn began with a Henry .22 caliber, lever-action rifle, a Stoeger .410 shotgun, and a pair of Ruger .32 Vaqueros. She eventually progressed to a Marlin model 94 (.32 H and R) and a Stoeger 20-gauge, side-by-side shotgun.

As a member of Arizona Cowboy Shooters Association, she participates in regular monthly matches. She began shooting major matches in 2007 with Winter Range National Championship. In 2009 she won Bordertown (Arizona State Championship) followed by winning Winter Range in 2010. She went on to shoot End of Trail in New Mexico (SASS World Championship) for the first time placing third, after which she shot Railhead in Williams, Arizona (Grand Canyon), taking first; then on to Bordertown, again taking the Arizona State Championship in the Junior Class.

Roz attends high school and is involved in school activities, as well. She has aspirations of becoming a medical examiner, which keeps her busy with schoolwork. This year Roz became involved in the political process by volunteering for Quayle for Congress learning the importance of community service, but she always finds the time to shoot.

She has desires to hunt with her dad and possibly try other shooting disciplines.

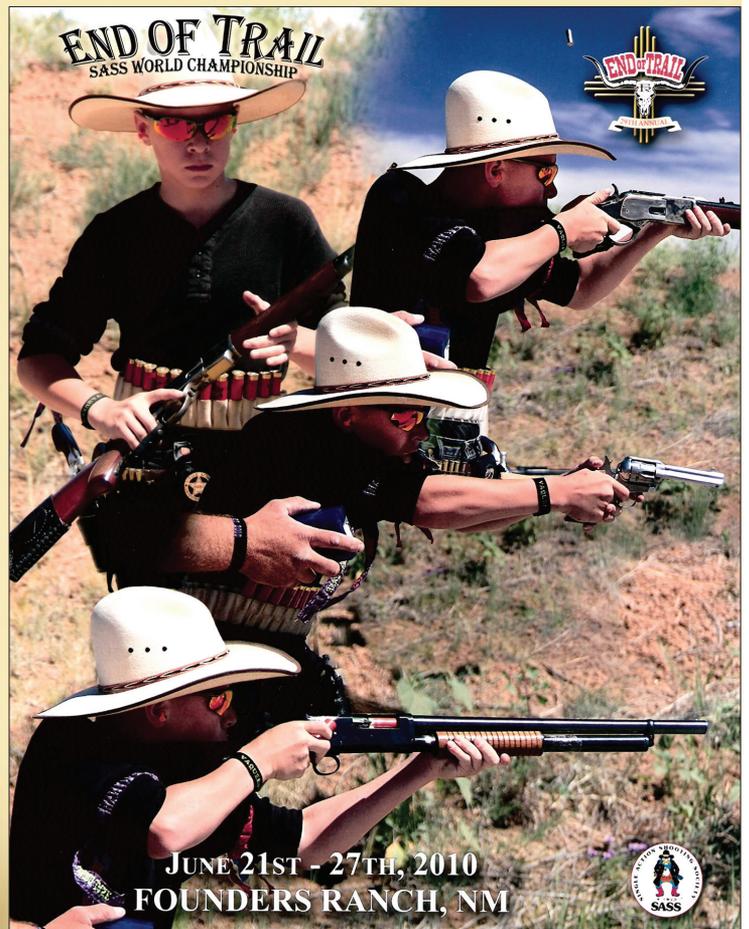
"Vaquero Jake"

Jacob Franklin Montgomery, aka "Vaquero Jake," is not a hunter, but he enjoys shooting and has been a member of SASS for four years. He enjoys traveling to various SASS competition sites. "My dad has taught me a lot." His mother and father, James and Deborah, also SASS shooters, make this a family affair as they travel throughout the year. With the recent opening of the Rockwell SASS club in Park Mammoth Resort, which is situated next to Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, Jake expects to shoot much more since the range is within 20 minutes of his home. He plans to continue this enjoyable sport for many years.

This now 13-year-old shooter has won numerous awards during his four years of participating in cowboy action shooting in the Buckaroo category. These include: Indiana State 2009, 1st Place; Montana State 2007-2009, 1st Place; Alabama State 2009, 1st Place; SM Shoot Out 2007-2009, 1st Place; Tennessee-Kentucky Black Powder Shoot Out 2010, 1st Place; Hell Fire 2010, 1st Place; SW Regional 2010, 1st Place; Kentucky State 2010, 1st Place; Midwest Classic 2010, 1st Place; U.S. Open, Sparta, Illinois 2010, 1st Place; and the World Championship End of Trail 2010 in New Mexico where he came in second.



Below left: "Sugar Cookie" with her 2010 EOT winning buckle. Above: "Sugar Cookie" loading up her firearms prior to shooting the stage. Below: "Vaquero Jake," World Champion 2010 SASS shooter.



I LOVE COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING



By: Reed Harrison (9) "Winchester Reed"

*For Kids
By Kids*

Hi, my name is Reed Harrison aka "Winchester Reed." My SASS badge number is 83782. I am in the third grade, and I am 9 years old.

I started shooting when I was 4 years old. My dad always talks about safety. My dad taught me safety from the very beginning. I think safety is the most important thing in shooting. When you're safe, you have fun. I like to go to a shoot knowing that I am safe. Always wear hearing and eye protection when you shoot, and always know where your muzzle is pointed. Be safe always! You can never forget it.

When I was little, I loved to play cowboys. I love history and always liked it when my dad would read me stories by Louis L'Amour. One day my dad told me about cowboy action shooting. He showed me videos of it and told me about the guns they shoot. He asked me if I would like it. I told him I would love to try it. My dad got me some cowboy guns and taught me all about them so I would know how they worked and how to be safe with them. I am so glad I said yes to cowboy action shooting. It has taught me a lot of responsibility, and I have so much fun! I use the responsibility I learned from shooting in school, too, and I think it makes me a better student. My dad says school is most important, and I have to do well in school if I am going to shoot. I tested that idea one day, and let's just say it didn't go so well for me. It makes me a better person in everything I do.

I love my guns because they are cool in every way. I want to tell you about what I shoot.

My rifle is an 1894 Marlin lever-action .357 magnum. I shoot .38s in it. My dad and Gary Ladd aka, "Cat Cummins," shortened the stock on it so it fits me real good. It got an action job from "Long Hunter," and now it runs like greased lightning.

My pistols are Cimarron Lightning's that shoot .38s. They have bird's head grips and have short barrels. They fit me real good. Bob Munden did an action job on them so they are easy for me to shoot. I love them!

My favorite gun to shoot is my shotgun. It is a Lefever Nitro Special, and it's a side-by-side. It's a coach gun like what they used on the stage coaches a long time ago. It's a 12-gauge, and I shoot 50% loads. I love it, and I just learned how to load two shells at once. My dad cut the stock and barrels so it fits me really good. "TL," aka Terry Miller, of the Cowboys and Indian store slicked it up for me so it opens easy and my shells fall right out.

One or two things I like about shooting are the people you meet. The people are so nice to me. They are amazing in every way. They help you and teach you things. Oh, and they also give me cookies! I love to learn new techniques and different ways to make myself a better shooter. When I see a good technique, I jump at it and ask my dad to help me practice it. I love to go to shoots and camp at the range. After the shoots is just as fun as the shoots. I have had breakfast with a World Champion Gun Spinner named Johnny Tuscadero! I have had supper with a World Champion Cowboy Action Shooter

named "Evil Roy!" And I think that is extremely awesome! I got to meet the host of the *Cowboys*. His name is "Tupelo Flash." He looks like Elvis, and guess what...he can sing like him, too! It was so cool and so much fun.

I have got to go to a lot of great shoots, like the Summer Games here in Cedar City, Utah, where I live, The Ruckus at Red Rock in St. George, Utah, The Best Dam Shoot by a Dam Sight in Boulder, Nevada. I think that's a funny name, but notice I didn't swear! Ha Ha. Also, the Eldorado in Boulder, Nevada, Yuma Territorial Prison Breakout in Yuma, Arizona, Castle Gate Robbery in Price, Utah, End of Trail in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I have even shot in TOMBSTONE, Arizona! I can't wait for Winter Range in Phoenix, Arizona.

I like shooting. I like it because I get to spend a lot of time with my dad. He teaches me how to take care of the guns and teaches me about responsibility and safety. I like sitting with him while he cleans the guns. He teaches me a lot of things, and we talk about a lot of stuff, too. I am also the "brass feeder" when we reload ammo for the shoots. I like that.

I am lucky to be able to do cowboy action shooting. Everyone should try it. I think more kids should get involved in it. Dads, moms, and kids can do it! I know you will love it. I have been in newspapers, on the Internet, and I even got to be on TV! I am so lucky to have the opportunity to be able to do this. I even get to dress up!

Before I go, I just want to tell everyone one thing:
My dad may shoot faster....but I hit more targets!
See ya on the range.

©





A custom holster set from Kirkpatrick Leather for Ruger .22 LR Bearcats.

Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS), while getting to be one of the older shooting sports, still ranks as one of, if not the, most fun shooting disciplines to be found. The largest governing body of CAS is the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) which has been welcoming shooters, young and old alike, into the sport for more years than many of the readers of *Junior Shooters* have been alive.

What makes cowboy action shooting so attractive to so many is that within the confines of the sport a shooter can become another person, either a real historical figure or a fictional character as one sees fit. Registration of an alias and the building of a shooting persona is all part of the fun of western action shooting.

The sport is, more or less, a 3-Gun competition utilizing firearms that are representative types available before the turn of the 20th Century. While few shooters use actual antiques from that period, the availability of replica arms are now more common than ever before. In this article, I will identify some of those firearms, both by general type as well as specific brands that one can obtain today.

From the junior shooter perspective, it is important to understand that the younger shooters, buckaroos, are allowed by rule, to use rimfire rifles and handguns which are typically smaller and lighter, making them more user-friendly to smaller hands. While in all the adult classes, the shotgun requirement calls for chambering in 12, 16, or 20-gauge, the Buckaroo class allows .410 bore guns. These rule accommodations make for a safer firing line, as well as a much more enjoyable experience for those not yet ready to handle full-sized firearms and centerfire cartridges.

The firearm requirement for a typical western action shooting event is one rifle, either lever-action or slide-action, two single-action revolvers, and one shotgun which may be

CAS GUNS FOR YOUNG SHOOTERS

By: Ray Walters aka "Smith n' Jones"



A perfect set of CAS guns for the young buckaroo. A Stoen double-barreled .410 shotgun, a Henry youth lever-action .22 LR, and a pair of Ruger stainless steel Bearcats .22 LR.



Above: Three of Ruger's sixguns provide versatility in shooting and skill levels as a junior grows. A stainless steel Single-Six in .22 LR and .22 Magnum, a Blackhawk in .357 Magnum comes with an extra 9mm cylinder, and a Blackhawk in .45 Colt comes with an extra .45 acp cylinder. Middle: Cimarron's Plinkerton .22 LR is a very realistic replica of the old Colt .45. A little smaller frame, it will work very well for that young buckaroo or buckarett. Bottom: Author's grandsons, Colton (8) and Cody (13), with a Henry youth lever-action rifle and a Stoeger .410 shotgun.

single-shot, side-by-side double barrel, slide-action (with exposed hammer), or lever-action (Winchester 1887 as a primary example).

The revolvers may be, as previously stated, centerfire or rimfire (in the case of the Buckaroo category) and representative of the period immediately prior to the turn of the 20th Century. The choices are nearly endless and limited only by one's personal choice and budget. For the youngest shooters who may find themselves more comfortable with a small frame size, mild recoil and report of a .22 rimfire cartridge, the choices are usually limited to the Ruger Bearcat which is a true six-shot, single-action revolver. This sixgun has withstood the test of time being introduced around 1960 and now being made in a very handsome and rugged stainless-steel version that is both tough and accurate. For larger hands, there are more selections available, including the Ruger Single-Six, the Heritage Single Action Army (SAA), and Cimarron's relatively new Plinkerton which is a true replica of a full-size sixgun in .22 rimfire.

For the older youngsters who may wish to step up to a full-sized, single-action, with centerfire calibers, the choices are legion, including guns from Ruger, Colt, Uberti, and some smaller manufacturers which are both strong and reliable and will endure years of practice and competition. The Ruger Vaquero, both new and old model versions are particularly popular as are the SAAs from Uberti and available from Beretta, Uberti, Cimarron, and Taylor's & Company. New guns can be had from a variety of sources, and used guns abound in gun shops and on-line. While there is more possibility of problems with a used gun, the reality is that it is pretty hard to hurt a good single-action revolver, and a little knowledge and discretion will go a long way in picking the right used gun.

In the centerfire cartridge world for both handguns and rifles, the .38 Smith and Wesson Special reigns supreme both from a standpoint of low recoil as well as cost per round of ammunition. There are other choices available to the more creative, daring, or traditional shooters, including, but not limited to, .32-20 (WCF) .32 H&R, .357 Magnum, .44 Special and Magnum, .44-40 (WCF), .38-40 (WCF) .45 Colt, and .45 Smith and Wesson (Schofield). From a practicality point of view, most of these rounds are not going to serve most shooters well especially with considering the cost of buying factory-loaded ammunition.



CUSTOM CAS GUNS FOR SMALL JUNIORS

By: Terry L. Miller aka T.L. SASS 5365 Life

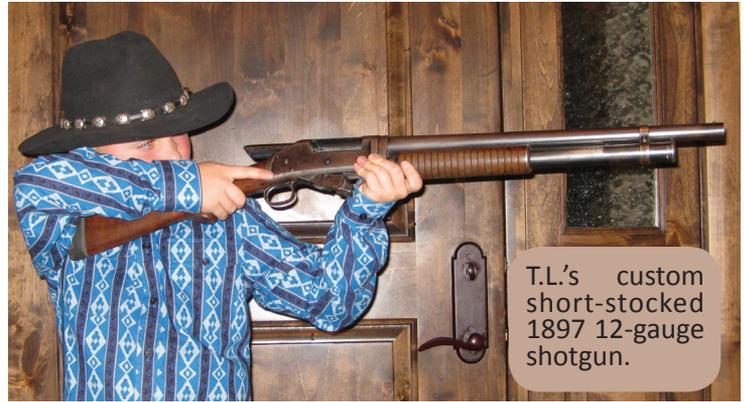
I enjoy building guns for the kids and ladies because they most often are the recipients of leftovers from their fathers or husbands. They should have the best equipment so they will have fun and want to continue to shoot. It is not fun to shoot if your guns are hard to operate or not functioning at their best.

I custom build the 1897 shotgun with an 18" barrel with a choke. A long forcing cone is installed to cut down on recoil. Depending on the size of the person, I recommend a solid frame and cut down the magazine tube to lighten the front end as much as possible. For a very small kid or a lady under 5 feet, the stock should be cut down to 10" to 11".

For the rifle I start out with a 16" barrel 1873 Winchester which will hold 10 rounds of .38 Specials. A short-stroke kit from Cowboys & Indian Store that includes an aluminum carrier is highly recommended. Replace the original extractor and firing pin. The front sight is replaced with a gold bead; the rear sight is replaced with a standard rifle sight. All this work can be done by the Cowboys & Indian Store. I do my best to have the gun function like butter and be so smooth you can throw the lever with one finger.

For kids and ladies, if they are not shooting .22 caliber pistols, I recommend the small "P" frames from Cimarron. They fit their small hands well and have the shortest hammer stroke of any of the guns out there. They can be made to have very smooth actions and coupled with a light load, like 3 grams of American Select and a 95 or 105 bullet, they will have hardly any recoil. ©

Editor's note: Terry has been a gunsmith for over 10 years and co-owner of Cowboys & Indian Store, LLC, based in Santa Ana, California, and Washington, Utah.



T.L.'s custom short-stocked 1897 12-gauge shotgun.



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