

# Choosing Your Sport

By: Ray Walters



Western-action shooting. That is the all-in-one phrase we use when discussing the various Western shooting disciplines available to shooters using pre-1900 firearms or replicas thereof. And there are getting to be a bunch of them. From the sport that really brought Old West shooting competition to the forefront, cowboy action shooting, to the newer events like Cowboy Fast Draw, Western 3 Gun, and NRA Lever Action Rifle Silhouette, Western-action shooting has a place for just about anyone, young or old, looking for an opportunity to shoot pre-1900 firearms or their replicas in a competitive atmosphere. But how does a junior go about choosing which shooting sport he/she might like to be a part of?

The history of Western-action shooting as a collective subject is somewhat sketchy at best. Whether it was the original black powder muzzleloaders getting together for an

impromptu rendezvous or fast draw competitions of the 1950s, which came about first is hard for to say. During that same era, black powder shooters started holding regular muzzleloading competitions and the big-bore single-shot black powder cartridge shooters have probably never stopped trying to show one another up. Organized events using pre-1900 firearms and their replicas have been around for as long as I can remember and indeed well before that.

Still, we live in the here and now and today's junior has access to more and different opportunities to participate in some form of Western-action shooting than any generation before. If you have been looking on from the sidelines or have been reading about the various opportunities to participate and are thinking of jumping in, one of the first decisions you will have to make is which Western-action shooting sport you want to take up. The decision is not always easy.



In an attempt to try to outline a rational process of decision making, I offer the following advice. First, educate yourself as to the various types of Western-action shooting that are available. The junior shooter can choose from: Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette (BPCRS), Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS), Cowboy Fast Draw (CFDA), NRA Lever Action Rifle Silhouette, Muzzle Loading Rifle (NMLRA), Western 3 Gun, World Fast Draw (WFDA), Cowboy Mounted Shooting (CMSA), as well as the various re-enactment groups around the country. Right off, some will not appeal to you while others, for a variety of reasons, will. Once you have made a short list, you can take the next step and get out to one of the events that looks interesting. If you can't drive yourself, get mom or dad or another adult to take you. Some are easier to attend than others. Cowboy action events are held just about every weekend somewhere in your state. The best CAS shoots to attend for information

gathering are the local monthly club matches. Usually smaller and more informal than the annual shoots, the folks that attend these are always more than eager to show you the ropes and get you shooting, especially youngsters. Other disciplines like CFDA or WFDA vary in the number of monthly events that are available to you. Same goes for the NMLRA, Western 3 Gun, and Cowboy Lever Action Silhouette matches. Internet searches can help a lot as well as information available at your local gun shops. **SHOOT! MAGAZINE** also offers an events listing on its web-site, [www.shootmagazine.com](http://www.shootmagazine.com). Videotapes and specialty television programs can also be very informative. Still, the best information is through direct contact at an event. Just remember that you will have to take a responsible adult with you if you want to do any shooting.



Once you have made a determination as to which direction you want to go and are ready to make a commitment, you will need to start the equipment purchasing process because every one of these disciplines requires guns, gear, and in some cases, special clothing. While this is the part that is going to be the costliest, it is also for many of us a whole sport in itself.

Right now I want to caution you to not decide on a certain Western-action shooting discipline due to the cost factor of purchasing equipment, particularly the firearms. Look over all the possibilities before you choose and choose with your heart and not your wallet.

The costs vary considerably from sport to sport and even within a given discipline. For example, you can get started in black powder cartridge rifle silhouette using a relatively inexpensive Italian-made falling block or rolling block replica or one of the better quality Italian imports like those from Pedersoli and Cimarron Arms. On the other hand, you may opt for an original Sharps or one of the U.S.-made replicas from a company like C. Sharps or Shiloh Sharps, typically costing much more. All of these companies make guns that will qualify for BPCRS competition but there is usually a considerable difference in quality and value. It is usually wise to go for the highest quality firearms you can afford and forego the frustration and expense of upgrading later.

When trying to decide which Western-action shooting sport to embrace and while looking at the associated firearms and equipment costs consider the following:

Cowboy action shooting requires two single-action revolvers, one lever or slide-action rifle, and one shotgun. Costs will vary but about the least you are going to spend for just the firearms is \$1,500 to \$2,000 and then you add the gunsmith work, leather, and clothing. Western 3 Gun is very similar in nature to CAS and equipment costs are very nearly the same. Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette on the other hand requires only one firearm, a single-shot breechloading rifle. Cost of such a gun can run from around \$600 on the low end to more than \$3,000 to \$5,000, plus a few extras like clothing, reloading equipment, and optics. Buffalo match competitions use basically the same type of equipment that is used in BPCRS events and costs are therefore similar.

At the low end of the equipment cost scale is cowboy fast draw which requires only a .45 Colt caliber single-action revolver and a CFDA approved holster. Like most shooting sports, you can spend a lot of money on a custom Colt single-action but it is certainly not necessary and you gain little or nothing by doing so. Most CFDA shooters use Colt SAA replicas both foreign and domestic and leather that is relatively inexpensive. Indeed, all the equipment for a CFDA sanctioned event can be purchased new for less than \$1,000.

At the other end of the fast draw game is World Fast Draw which allows most of the guns legal for CFDA but it is nearly impossible to be competitive without spending several thousand dollars for a highly customized revolver and holster rig. These people are very fast and you need the best equipment to be competitive.

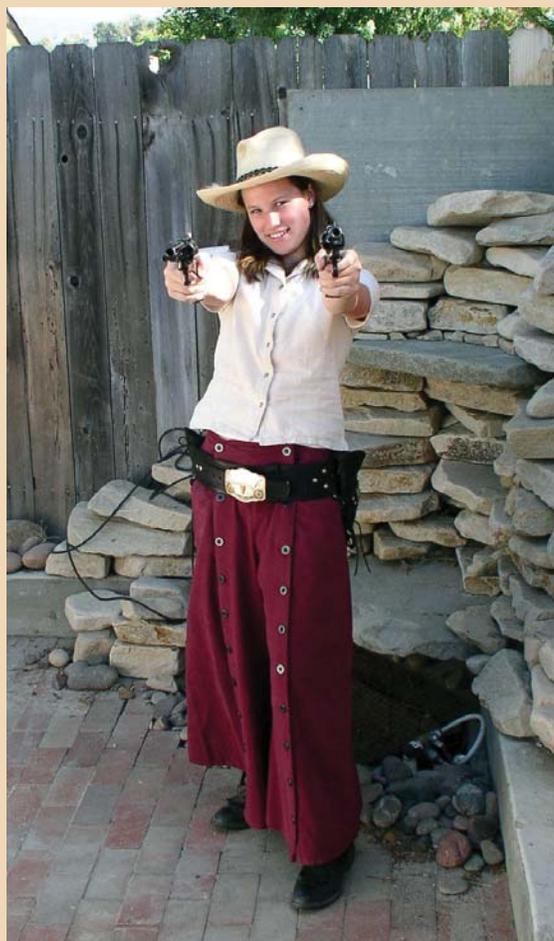
Like all the other sports listed above, muzzleloading events can be as expensive or cheap as you like but the fact remains that quality equipment is usually expensive so plan accordingly. An inexpensive muzzleloading rifle can cost as little as a couple

hundred dollars or you can opt for a custom made precision gun that can set you back several thousand dollars.

Mounted shooting may be the most expensive venue of all Western-action Shooting sports. The firearms are usually not that big of a budgetary bite – two single-action revolvers and the appropriate leather, but, the big dollar items here revolve around the horse, which can cost several thousand dollars by itself. Then you throw in a quality saddle, bridle, blankets, trailer, feed, etc. and it is not hard to see \$10,000 or more vanish very quickly. But, for many, the horse and associated gear is already paid for and cowboy mounted shooting is just one more way to enjoy and continue the love affair with your horse.



## Contacts



# Single Action Shooting Society: A Great Outlet for Children of All Ages

By: Randi Rogers, aka Holy Terror

Photo by: Reflections of Life; Lynne Davis

In today's society there are constant reports of young people getting into trouble and causing problems. Most people blame these problems on a lack of family influence and an erosion of values. One organization that has greatly ushered my own personal journey from childhood to adulthood is The Single Action Shooting Society. This organization is dedicated to safety, responsibility, and respect for one's elders and history. It is my belief that children as well as adults can benefit from membership in this organization.

The Single Action Shooting Society is a group of people that enjoy shooting firearms in competition. SASS puts on competitive events all over the country where competitors shoot pre-1898 – 1900 firearms in scenarios that mirror events of the Old West. All scenarios require a combination of single-action pistols, lever or pump-action rifles, and either pump or side-by-side shotguns that were made, or reproduced from models that were made, before 1900. During these scenarios competitors are penalized five seconds for each missed target, and 10 seconds for mistakes in the shooting order. At the end of the scenarios each person is awarded a number of points corresponding to how their time ranked among the other competitors. The person with the fewest points wins.

SASS is a wonderful organization for many adults because it gives them the chance to relive their childhood. However, SASS can also be a wonderful organization for people of all ages, especially those entering their adolescent years. There are so many benefits that will help them not only through the transition from childhood to adulthood, but also tools with which they can succeed in the rest of their lives.

One such benefit that SASS can offer to youth is the chance to have fun. I can speak from personal experience that shooting is by far one of the most enjoyable activities that I have ever participated in. Adolescence can be a stressful time for anyone, and with the pressure from school, sports, friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, after school jobs, and parents, it can be very important for young people to have a place where they can relax and have fun. SASS is a very unique organization because while it is competitive, it is not required that you be very serious or highly competitive to participate. Many people shoot simply for the enjoyment of the experience and don't worry about how well they do. By having this unique no pressure atmosphere, it allows young people to have a place to truly relax and take time out from all the other pressures in their life.

The next way that SASS is beneficial to young people is it teaches a high degree of personal responsibility. Firearms are not inherently dangerous, but they need to be treated with a high degree of caution. In SASS all competitors are expected to act with a high degree of respect, responsibility, and safety. There is no letting up just because you are young. Young people are expected to be very safe on the range and are punished severely for misbehavior and carelessness. In the history of SASS there has never been a major accident or fatality.



Another behavior that SASS promotes is the practice of Old West values. The Single Action Shooting Society is based on the time period from 1860 to 1900. The competitors are required to use period correct firearms, dress in period correct clothing, and even shoot under an alias. Along with all of this come the behaviors and values that were practiced at that time. All competitors, especially the youth, are expected to behave with a certain degree of respect. If you ask any SASS competitors what is most unique about the sport of cowboy action shooting they will say it is the people. The reason for that is everyone behaves with a high degree of respect and friendliness. You will never meet anyone who is mean, rude, or cruel. That goes for adults as well as youngsters.

The last behavior that is significant to SASS is that of sportsmanship. In many popular sports there is a degree of bad behavior. This kind of behavior is not tolerated at SASS events. There is no excuse for winners to be rude or egotistical, or for losers to throw tantrums simply because they lost. In my experience I have never seen anyone misbehave because of where they placed. I have seen my closest competitor offer to lend me their firearm if mine broke, and I have seen the winner give handshakes to the runners-up before accepting his prize. SASS gives no slack to those who wish to misbehave because of the way they are shooting.

The Single Action Shooting Society is a very wonderful organization that promotes important values and ideals. My name is Randi Rogers, aka Holy Terror, and I have been shooting SASS for eight years. I started shooting when I was 11 years old and I have been active ever since. I have been very fortunate in my shooting career. I started shooting with my grandparents Evil Roy and Wicked Felina, and they have helped me not only with my shooting, but they helped me become the person I am today.

I fell in love with shooting and I have worked hard with the help of my grandfather to win seven world championships as well as setting many records for women's shooting. I have won the overall

women's world title four times, as well as being the only woman to make it into the top five overall at the world championship, End of Trail.

Not only has SASS given me this great opportunity to be the best at something, but it has also taught me many life lessons along the way. In the first place SASS has enforced the ideals of fun, personal responsibility, respect, and sportsmanship into me. Beyond that it has also given me some very useful tools to tackle life with. I have learned dedication: I know that if I ever want to do anything I only have to try my hardest at it. I have learned the sweet taste of success, as well as the bitterness of defeat, and how to take myself from defeat to success. I have learned how to connect with my elders, how to listen and benefit

from their experiences. I have also learned the importance of family and how complete your life can be with them.

SASS has given me the benefit of all of these lessons. Because of SASS I feel like I am better prepared for life. I feel confident in my decisions and actions, and I know that with enough effort and desire I can accomplish anything. I think that SASS and cowboy action shooting can give these same lessons to young people anywhere.

It is important to keep our history and rights alive. SASS does both, not only by keeping the history of the Old West in play everyday, but by protecting our rights to keep and bear arms. If we want these things to stay part of the future then we must teach the youth about them. Young people are the world's future and SASS can teach them how to make it a good one. 

## Cowboy Action Shooting: The Boy and His Father



By: Jordan Bledsø, aka Bacon and Andy Bledsø, aka Jerky

I started shooting for the National Congress of Old West Shooters in May of 2003 when I turned 12. I came with my Dad to the Cedar Valley Regulator shoot at the Prairie Fire Range in Ackley, Iowa before that, but could only watch them shoot. I've always liked guns and I like shooting them a lot. When I finally turned 12 I got to shoot! I got pretty nervous sometimes and I missed a lot. But now I've improved a lot. I got some clothes and gear for Christmas (gun belt, holsters, pants, suspenders, and scarf.) Before that I just wore jeans and a T-shirt. My Dad, Andy, taught me a lot of things about shooting. He gave me tips, taught me how to reload, and other things about cowboy

action shooting. He's teaching me how to disassemble and clean the guns because he is a trucker and doesn't have much time on the weekends.

I think any person that likes rifles, shotguns, pistols, or pocket pistols should look into shooting at a local NCOWS range. It is a lot fun. As I said before, I was nervous when I started but not for long because of all the support from the great people you shoot with. No one has said anything bad to me, all they do is joke, give me tips, and get to know me.

We go to monthly shoots with the Cedar Valley Regulators posse at the Prairie Fire Range in Ackley, Iowa. Sometimes we go to two shoots a month. A few

months ago we went to the NCOWS Midwest Regional shoot in Logan, Iowa, put on by the Nebraska Territorial Rangers posse. There was a ton of people there! We shot with a lot of people from the shoots we attend at the Prairie Fire Range, so we knew each other. There was an activity called the "Team Shoot" where five people are in a jail and you go out of the cell, go to the window, shoot the targets, come back, open the cell, and watch. The next person repeated the stage. Our team got first place! It was my Dad and me and three other people. On one stage my pistol jammed on the first shot and it had to be fixed. That was five misses! That made me mad because it took me out of the running for the youth category. Oh well, there's always next year and it was great fun!



Mainly, I just love cowboy action shooting! If you feel like you want to shoot, do like I did and look around your area for a local range.

I hope you have fun shooting, I know I do!

Jordan has an amazingly calm, cool, collected, yet serious, attitude toward cowboy action shooting and had no trouble performing well on the stages when he started shooting. He has continued to maintain this approach and is a joy to watch in action. Cowboy action shooting has definitely helped him in his everyday life by building his confidence and helping him cope with difficult situations that may arise. I would recommend cowboy action shooting to any youth (or adult) with an interest in guns or shooting.

Jordan and I attend monthly shoots for the National Congress of Old West Shooters on the Cedar Valley Regulators Posse at the Prairie Fire Range in Ackley, Iowa. Jordan was the first place Junior Shooter on the CVR Posse for the 2003 Season. Cowboy

action shooting has given Jordan and me a way to spend valuable time together and is something we can do for the rest of our lives. It also builds a great sense of trust and honesty between us, and others in the sport. Jordan is also a First Class Boy Scout working toward Eagle Scout and we went to Philmont, New Mexico in the summer of 2005 to spend 12 days with the Adventure Expedition program in the mountains. I am very proud of Jordan and it is a great feeling to know these things about my son.

Jordan has continually improved his shooting accuracy and participated in the 2004 NCOWS Midwest Regional Shoot, Gunfire in the Hills, in Logan, Iowa. Jordan was on the winning Posse for the Team Shoot and it was a great thrill for us to receive a medal and recognition at this great annual event. As always, the NCOWS Annual Midwest Regional was a blast and the Nebraska Territorial Rangers did a great job with this event. We will definitely be back next year!



# Girls Can Draw Fast

By: Stormie Mernickle, aka Stormy Weather

My stepfather Bob Mernickle, aka Talkalot Bob, taught me everything I know about fast draw. It all started one day in his shop in Mission, British Columbia (BC), Canada when he decided to build me a holster out of some scraps. He then taught me the commands: shooter(s) on the line, shooter(s) set. A few seconds later he would command draw at which time I was to react by fanning the pistol as I drew it out of the holster. With his help and encouragement, I got better and better.

My name is Stormie Kay Mernickle, aka Stormie Weather. I began shooting world fast draw in 1996. I won my first contest in the Billy the Kid division. As I got better, I advanced up in the classes. I won the BC Provincials and one year I took 5<sup>th</sup> place in the world championship.

I hadn't shot for close to four years when Talkalot Bob and his friend Quick Cal started teaching me twist fanning. But I didn't continue with that for long after I heard about cowboy fast draw. I instantly wanted to learn, so Talkalot Bob built me a rig. In 2006, I took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the juniors category and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the second chance shoot-out at the U.S. National Cowboy Fast Draw competition held in Boise, Idaho. I am ecstatic about my



accomplishments. My mother Sherrie, aka Talkalittle Sherrie, has stood behind me the entire way and is always encouraging me to do the best I can.

There are many things I enjoy about shooting, but the main three are the safety, the excitement, and the adrenalin rush. It's a rush just to be in a competition but even more so when you win.

When it comes to shooting I have many goals. One goal is that I want to win the world championship in cowboy fast draw. Another goal is to promote the sport and get younger people involved. Getting more juniors involved in shooting will help keep the sport alive longer and they will help teach more people about gun safety. Last but not least, win, loose, or draw I will always do my best.

To juniors just starting out, I would just like to say stay safe, practice whenever you can, and have fun. You don't just shoot against people your own age. If you ever stop having fun, don't continue. Everyone I have ever met that is involved in shooting are good, fun people. So to all you juniors out there if you are looking for something new and exciting come join me in the sport of cowboy fast draw.



# Shooting Cowboy Fast Draw

By: Thomas A.F. Schuster, aka Young Guns

My dad and I have always been interested in guns and shooting since I can remember. About 15 years ago, my dad was on a pistol (revolver) team for the Idaho Maximum Security Institution in Boise, Idaho. It was a friendly competition between surrounding prisons and local law enforcement. Ever since then, my dad enjoyed the competition, but really never found another club that seemed interesting. A few years back, my dad's friend Bob Krone introduced us both to Practical Pistol Competition. I was old enough at the time to compete so we both gave it a try. My dad bought us the guns and the equipment needed, but later figured out that if a person really wanted to do good in this type of competition he or she would have to invest in better, more "race equipped" firearms. That became too expensive for us, not to mention the huge quantities of ammunition needed. So, for a while, we were both lost, not knowing where we could compete that we could both afford.

In August of 2006, my dad bought a copy of Shoot! Magazine. He decided that he was tired of all the modern semi-autos out



there and trying to be competitive with them. There are many fine automatics being built these days, but with so many to choose from we seemed to be going from one to another and so-on. Anyway, looking through the pages of **SHOOT! MAGAZINE** inspired my dad to call Mississippi Marshal (Cowboy Fast Draw Association's Operations Manager) and that's all it took. Marshall invited us to come and practice with the Idaho Shootists. After that, my dad and I were both convinced that we had finally found a shooting sport that we could afford and one that had the friendliest members to boot. Everyone welcomed us with open arms and, in no time at all, we started making friends and acquaintances. Both my dad and I have always liked Old West history and really like shooting revolvers. Especially the ones used by both the good guys and the bad guys.

Of course, I wanted to become the fastest quick draw cowboy out there, and to my surprise, I was actually pretty good at it. My dad is pretty good too, but I'm much faster than he is. With a lot of great advice from fellow shooters, I am continually working on improving my game. I feel that it is very important to practice as much as possible, wherever possible. It might sound kind of crazy, but all you can hear in the evening at our house is the sound of hammers being pulled back, and then falling onto snap caps. At this time, we do not have a practice target, but the holidays are coming and thankfully my mom supports us. For now, my dad and I practice in front of a mirror or just draw the gun anywhere in the house, as long as we don't bump into any of my mom's antiques. This kind of practice has worked well for the draw, but not so good for accuracy. We both rely on the Tuesday practice sessions at the Idaho Shootists winter range, which is in Shoot! Magazine's warehouse, for accuracy work.

In the four months or so that we have been shooting, my dad and I have become more and more involved with the club and continue to improve our game. I am really excited about the youth program getting off the ground and hope that I can inspire other young shooters to develop their game and interest in this great shooting sport.



# The Fastest Sport in the World



Jack Rudd used to joke with his children, Melissa and Ethan, that they were the only kids in the neighborhood who had to say, "Hold your fire" before going into the garage. The Rudd children, 15 and 19, who grew up in the aptly named suburb of Gunbarrel, Colorado are long-term competitors in the international shooting competition of world fast draw.

The three Rudds (Melissa, Ethan, and Dad) are members of the World Fast Draw Association (WFDA), an organization founded in 1976 after Knott's Berry Farm stuntman Dee Wollem drew interest and popularity for the sport with nationwide tours and demonstrations. The WFDA currently has hundreds of members who compete in competitions throughout the Midwest and Western United States, as well as in Canada and Japan. These competitions pit shooters of single-action Old West-style revolvers against each other as they attempt to draw the gun, cock the hammer, fire, and hit the target in the fastest time possible.

Unlike the larger and better-known sport of cowboy action shooting, world fast draw shooters use no live ammo in their competitions, only wax bullets and blanks, and usually stand between five and 15 feet from their targets. But competitors are quick to defend the difficulty of their sport. "A target eight feet away may sound easy to hit, in theory," says Melissa, "but drawing, cocking, firing, and hitting the target in less than half a second, with full knowledge that a miss or a hit one thousandths of a second too slow may knock you out of the competition, is no easy matter." Men and women of AA class (the fastest) in world fast draw competitions routinely take less than three tenths of a second to see the light on the target come on, grab the gun, draw, fire, and hit the target, at which point the light turns off and the shot's time is recorded. By comparison, the average human takes .25 of a second to blink an eye. Live ammo would be an impractical and dangerous choice in a sport where most shooters cock their guns while they're still in the holster, and a shooter who pulls the trigger a fraction of a second too early will end up hitting his/her leg or foot. However, with current rules World Fast Draw is not only the fastest, but also one of the safest shooting sports in the world.

World Fast Draw competitions have been a part of Melissa and Ethan's lives for nearly as long as they can remember. The family's affiliation with the WFDA began in 1992 when Jack's parents, George and Cleta, came across an advertisement for the annual Wild Bill Hickok World Championship while driving through Deadwood, South Dakota. They told Jack about the contest because his interest in fast draw dated back to his childhood, when he regularly attempted to outdraw James Arness' character on the TV show *Gunsmoke*. Jack immediately called to obtain more information, received instructions on appropriate guns and loading, and entered that same Deadwood contest the following year. The Deadwood World Championship shoot, which draws competitors from all over the United States and Canada, would subsequently become a family tradition. Melissa too competed in world fast draw for the first time in Deadwood in 1996 at age 10. Three years later she would become the Women's B class (times between five tenths of a second and one second) world champion. Ethan entered his

first fast draw contest in Chugwater, Wyoming at the age of seven.

In a sport that is dominated by older competitors with decades more experience, Melissa and Ethan often find themselves the youngest shooters at competitions. Initially, age was an even greater factor. "I'm sure all shooters feel nervous the first time they compete," recalls Melissa, "but for a little kid, preparing to shoot for the first time, it's absolutely terrifying." Once she got older, she explains, she gained a sense of perspective, realizing "that the contests are just fun events among friends, having a bad day or missing a target is okay and life will go on." To a 10-year-old, though, "doing well in front of all those people seems like the most important thing in the world."

Ethan imagines that in his early years in the sport contestants felt bad beating "a kid half their height who didn't look capable of drawing a gun." More painful than beating a seven-year-old competitor, however, is losing to one. Contestants who underestimated Ethan at his first contest soon learned better as Ethan hit his first 10 shots perfectly in the difficult event of double balloon elimination. At the 2006 Deadwood competition both won second place in their respective classes, Ethan in B-Class men (times between .38 and one second) and Melissa in A-class women (times between .4 – .5 seconds). More recently, Melissa came in first among women at the August 21, 2006, event in Medicine Bow, Wyoming, which was a double balloon elimination competition, where she shot her best doubles time yet, knocking out two targets in .603 of a second. Rather than being jealous of each other's successes, a typical manifestation of sibling rivalry in their early days in the sport, Melissa and Ethan now cheer each other on whole-heartedly, though Ethan does complain good-naturedly that it's easier for Melissa to win prizes since there are fewer women competitors than men.

Melissa and Ethan know that most of their classmates and teachers at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, or at Boulder's Fairview High School would be surprised, perhaps shocked, to learn of their participation in World Fast Draw. Despite living in a suburb named Gunbarrel, their hometown of Boulder, Colorado, is a uniquely liberal city in a conservative region, with a culture far more reminiscent of Berkeley, California in the 1960s than of the Old West. Besides, in their World Fast Draw participation, Melissa and Ethan have long differed from their Boulder peers in their conservative political orientation, often finding themselves the only conservative voices in their classes. As an East Coast Ivy League school, Dartmouth is of course even further removed from Old West culture. Despite the seeming disconnect between the two worlds Melissa and Ethan see no incompatibility between World Fast Draw and school. On the contrary, many of the skills developed in one are transferable to the other. Melissa, who has completed many demanding and stressful exams and essays in the course of applying to college and attaining the International Baccalaureate Diploma, says that "in many ways, the stress of taking a test or writing a paper pales in comparison to being up on the line." Above all, both Ethan and Melissa say World Fast Draw has taught them the importance of maintaining composure and determination in stressful situations, and giving their all to winning, while maintaining the ability to lose gracefully. The Rudds believe that these are worthy lessons that will serve them well, not just in World Fast Draw, but for the rest of their lives.



# Drawing Against the Best

By: Dan Qualls

Colby was born Feb 14th 1996, (Valentine's Day) in Modesto Calif.

He has always been a healthy, good sized boy for his age. At about three years old he started driving the riding lawn mower to mow his Grandpa's lawn. Shortly after that he started learning to ride an 80 cc Suzuki quad. After about a year of riding the quad he started racing it once a year at the Stanislaus County Fair. At approximately four years of age he started riding a 50 cc dirt bike and raced it at the fair also. For about three years in a row he won first place in the quad race and around fourth or fifth on the dirt bike.

At eight years old Colby decided that he would like to try BMX. His Dad bought him a used bike and took him to a few races in Riverbank. Colby won his first eight races in BMX so a few people suggested he go try the Nationals in Bakersfield Calif. There were hundreds of riders and thousands of spectators at the Nationals, enough to make anyone a little nervous. There was a race Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Colby won two firsts and a second.

When Colby was about four years old he started shooting "Action Pistol" matches that his Grandpa helped put on. He won his first "Junior" trophy in "Action pistol" at four years of age. In



2004, he shot C Class Adult Division in Action Pistol using his Grandpa's Strayer Voight .40 caliber Infinity (iron sights.) Beginning in 2005 Colby got a Glock .40 caliber to compete in "C" class.

During these times Colby also played and received trophies in baseball and golf.

Around 2003, Colby started learning to shoot World Fast Draw with his Grandpa. At age seven he started shooting club matches at the local fast draw club which dubbed itself the Desperados. He started shooting with the likes of Jay & Linda Faughn, Mark Hullen, Don Mowery, Wendell Walheen & family, and of course Grandpa Dan Qualls. In 2003, Colby went to Montana with Grandpa and Grammy where he competed in the balloon championship Junior Division. In 2004 Colby traveled with Grandpa Dan to Arizona and Canada where he shot Fast Draw in the Junior Division.

In 2005, Colby went to Arizona to compete in the Wild West World Championship at Gary & Joyce Tryon's Gunrunner Ranch. There he competed against the adults. At the five foot target he hit every shot. Colby shot double balloon targets head-to-head with Bob Franks of Canada. Colby shot .87 and .81 times in the double balloons.

As you may have guessed by now he is his Grandpa's pride and joy. He is a terrific traveling and shooting partner.

In between doing all of these things, when he is bored, Colby sometimes goes boating, fishing, and inner tubing with Grandpa.

Now don't get the idea that Colby is just another great jock. He is also a super student in school. Now in third grade, Colby has brought home numerous awards during his short educational career. He has many student of the month, perfect attendance, and other acknowledgements.

Colby also is a great little worker around Grandpa and Grammy's house. He works to help pay for things like a new Glock, new golf clubs, and other new toys. He mows the lawn, washes the car and other little chores to help pay for them.

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# My Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette



By: Andy Alexander

My dad said that he had shot High-Power silhouette before and decided to try BPCRS, and fixed up a rifle and gave it a try. He then said it was a family sport so we all loaded up and went with him. My mom wasn't really impressed with the location of all the ranges, or the dust, or the smell of black powder smoke, but I like it. I started off by following my dad around and watching him shoot, and carrying things to and from the firing line for him. It wasn't until the second or third match that I wanted to give it a try.

My first shooting match was in Baker City, Oregon. I was shooting a Remington Rolling Block in the caliber of .40-60 Maynard

My dad built it with a Badger Barrel and stocked it with a piece of wood he had for years. I don't know what the action was originally chambered for but it had a small firing pin and a sliding extractor rather than a rotary one. It has performed very well for my time shooting.

I was about twelve years old when I started and have been shooting for about four years. Besides the shooting I get to spend a lot of quality time with my dad.

In the summer of 2005, my dad won a model 1874 Shiloh Sharps in a drawing at the Idaho State Championship. On the way home from the match that night, he told me it was mine. When he received it at the Montana State Shoot he gave it to me, and I got to pet it all that night. As I write this, we have just

ordered a long-range buffalo Sole #113 front sight from Montana Vintage Arms and 200 new Remington cases.

Ready for spring - and looking forward to it!

As far as travel goes, I don't think I would have ever traveled as far from my home in Southwest Washington to such places as Baker City, Oregon, Vale, Oregon, Bend, Oregon, Boise, Idaho, Butte, Montana, and hopefully soon Missoula, Montana, and Raton, New Mexico for any other sport or hobby. We recently went from a small RV to a trailer, so now my mom is back in it. Another great thing about the travel is the sights along the way and the history of different locations.

Shooting in BPCRS competitions has taught me a lot about gun safety, and that is not only beneficial to me but I can pass what I learn from it on to my friends, I've also learned a lot of personal conduct, self-control, and constant observation even while distracted.

On two or three day matches, I like the campout after the match and especially the food from the caterer at the state match in Boise.

My favorite part of shooting, or what I look forward to the most, is the adrenaline rush. When you're laying down with 25 or 30seconds on the clock, with a good string going for you and two shots to go, those last two targets could make you or break you.





# Playing Out My Fantasy

By: Austin Black

Four years ago, the movie *Tombstone* changed my life. It introduced me to an exciting era in history that I dreamed to be a part of; little did I know there was a shooting sport called Western 3 Gun. In this sport you get to dress up like a 19<sup>th</sup> century cowboy and compete with the same firearms that gunfighters of the Old West used. Each cowboy is required to have two single-action revolvers, one lever-action rifle, and a double-barrel shotgun or an 1897 pump shotgun. Oh yeah, and you get to make up a nick name for yourself or take the name of a famous historical figure. Last fall my dad and I joined Western 3 Gun, we received a gold membership badge imprinted with our personal alias. My alias is Holster Holiday. At least once a month we are invited to join other cowboys in a shooting competition.

For me, Western 3 Gun is a taste of living in the 1800s. Strapping on pistols, loading your rifle, and grabbing your shotgun all in hopes of shooting each target with the speed and accuracy of a famous or infamous gunfighter; it gives me the thrill and adrenaline rush of cowboy shooting. The competition is comprised of six to 12 different shooting courses. Each stage has a different theme or scenario. Every stage has anywhere from one to 20 reactionary steel targets. The rules of shooting the courses are very simple and designed to shoot the targets as you see them while moving through a three dimensional façade. To add to the realism of being in an Old west movie, shooters are allowed to “move and shoot” or “stand and shoot.” In my opinion moving and shooting is what makes Western 3 Gun so exciting.

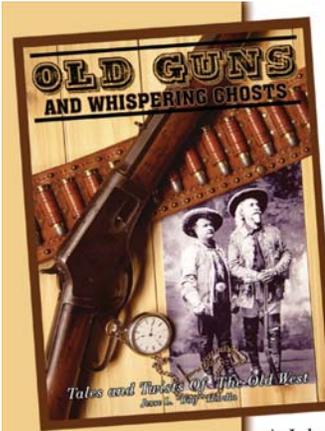
As a new shooter, this sport has taught me great respect for firearms, and that safety is paramount! As a competitor, action



shooting has honed my skills in focus, discipline, following directions, and self-confidence. The level of sportsmanship displayed by all the cowboys is of the highest standard.

Finally, as a 14 year-old, I am surrounded by adults who are anxious to give me advice they have already acquired in both the sport and life. My life has been greatly blessed with these friendships. Western 3 Gun is a great sport, for both entry level and advanced level; I guarantee it will trigger a passion for shooting that cannot be surpassed.





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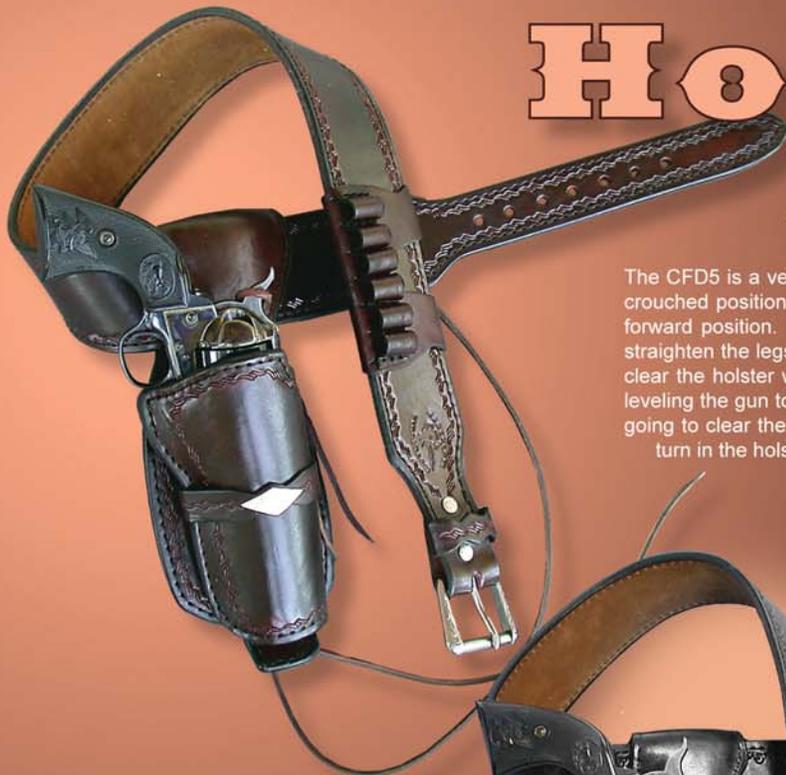
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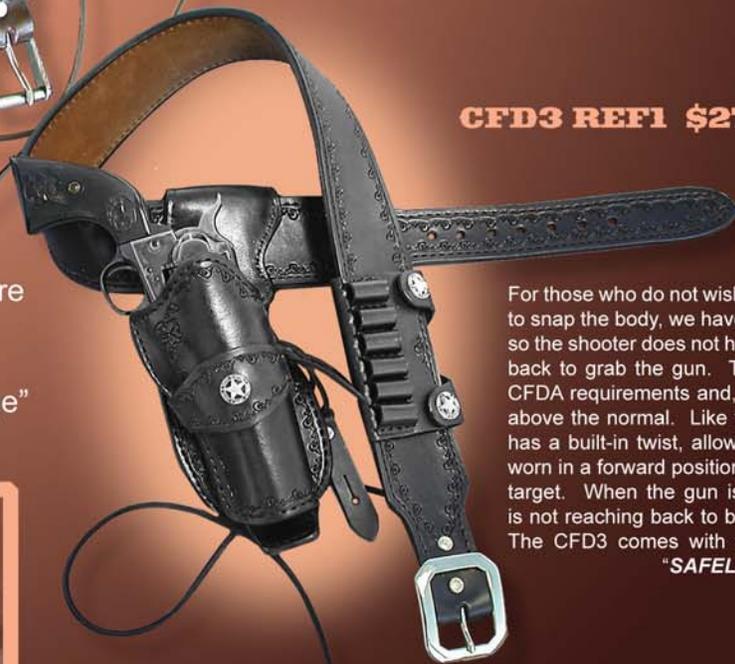
# Mernickle

# Holsters



**CFD5 REF1 \$279.95**

The CFD5 is a vertical holster system that allows the shooter to get into a slightly crouched position. With a built-in twist in the shank, the holster can be worn in a forward position. When the light comes on, the shooter can lift the upper body, straighten the legs, and draw the gun. This is called leverage, allowing the gun to clear the holster without even drawing it, focusing the shooter's concentration on leveling the gun to target. The more snap in body movement, the faster the gun is going to clear the leather. The CFD5 is non-collapsing and allows the cylinder to turn in the holster. The CFD5 comes with our CFDA approved "SAFELEG".



**CFD3 REF1 \$279.95**

For those who do not wish to, or lack the ability to snap the body, we have designed the CFD3 so the shooter does not have to break the wrist back to grab the gun. The holster meets all CFDA requirements and, simply said, is a cut above the normal. Like the CFD5, the shank has a built-in twist, allowing the holster to be worn in a forward position, aligning the gun on target. When the gun is drawn, the shooter is not reaching back to bring the gun forward. The CFD3 comes with our CFDA approved "SAFELEG".

Check our website for more variations of these rigs. Mernickle Holsters - "always on the cutting edge"



Bob is no newcomer to the shooting world. Over the past 30 years, he has won State, US Nationals, Canadian and World Championships in Fast Draw. Using this experience, he created a holster company that was based primarily on speed and accuracy, but also with a touch of elegance added to the designs. When Cowboy Fast Draw became a new sport in the shooting world, it caught Bob's interest big time. Bob and wife, Sherrie, were so excited about shooting in this new medium, they became LIFE members of the CFDA (Bob is No. 10 and Sherrie is No. 11).

Being a holster maker, and working with CFDA in order to comply with the rules, Bob created some cutting edge holsters, reminiscent of the past but allowing the gun to come out faster than anything a shooter might have used in the past.

Bob and Sherrie hope you like the holsters presented here and invite you to join them shooting in this fast growing "fun" sport



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