

SMOKIN' GUNS AT RABBIT RIDGE 2024 SASS MISSISSIPPI STATE CHAMPIONSHIP A MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TO REMEMBER

BY DEANNA CASWELL

This past Memorial Day weekend, the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) Mississippi State Championship treated attendees to an unforgettable blend of action, relaxation, and camaraderie. Nestled in a beautiful hundred-acre farm in Byhalia, Mississippi, shooters made memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

A COWBOY ADVENTURE FROM THE FAR SIDE

Each stage featured its own western-themed Far Side cartoon. It wasn't uncommon to hear a Cowboy yelling a Gary Larson line like "Cattle shark!" or "Bad guy comin' in Arnie, minor key!"

But there was even more fun to be had than the main match. Spectators cheered on their fellow Cowboys and Cowgirls as they took their turns on the range in more wild west shenanigans. Competitors participated in Wild Bunch, Long Range, and the ever-popular Night Shoot, hosted by our own Justified (SASS #108968). The best part about the Night Shoot is the Fireball Trophy awarded to the Cowboy with the biggest boom!

"Cowboy matches are usually during the day and if you think watching black powder shooters is fun when it's light out," said Justified, "then you've got to come to a night match. Every competitor puts on their own fireworks display. Everybody wants to shoot fast, but at night, you're looking for the biggest boom."

UNMATCHED HOSPITALITY

Participants left their chuck wagons at home and enjoyed a variety of "meals on the range." Everything except breakfast was provided, but what self-respecting Cowboy needs a continental breakfast anyway, right? From Firehouse



MISSISSIPPI STATE CHAMPIONS TASKA JIM AND SUNNY GIRL



OVERALL MATCH WINNERS FIRED UP FANNIE SUE AND PICKET

Subs and crispy Popeye's Chicken, to authentic Mexican street tacos and smokey barbecue prepared by our resident Memphis in May competitor, Loco Perro (SASS #57890), the food was second to none. Free snacks and beverages were readily available throughout the day, keeping everyone fueled and quick on the draw.

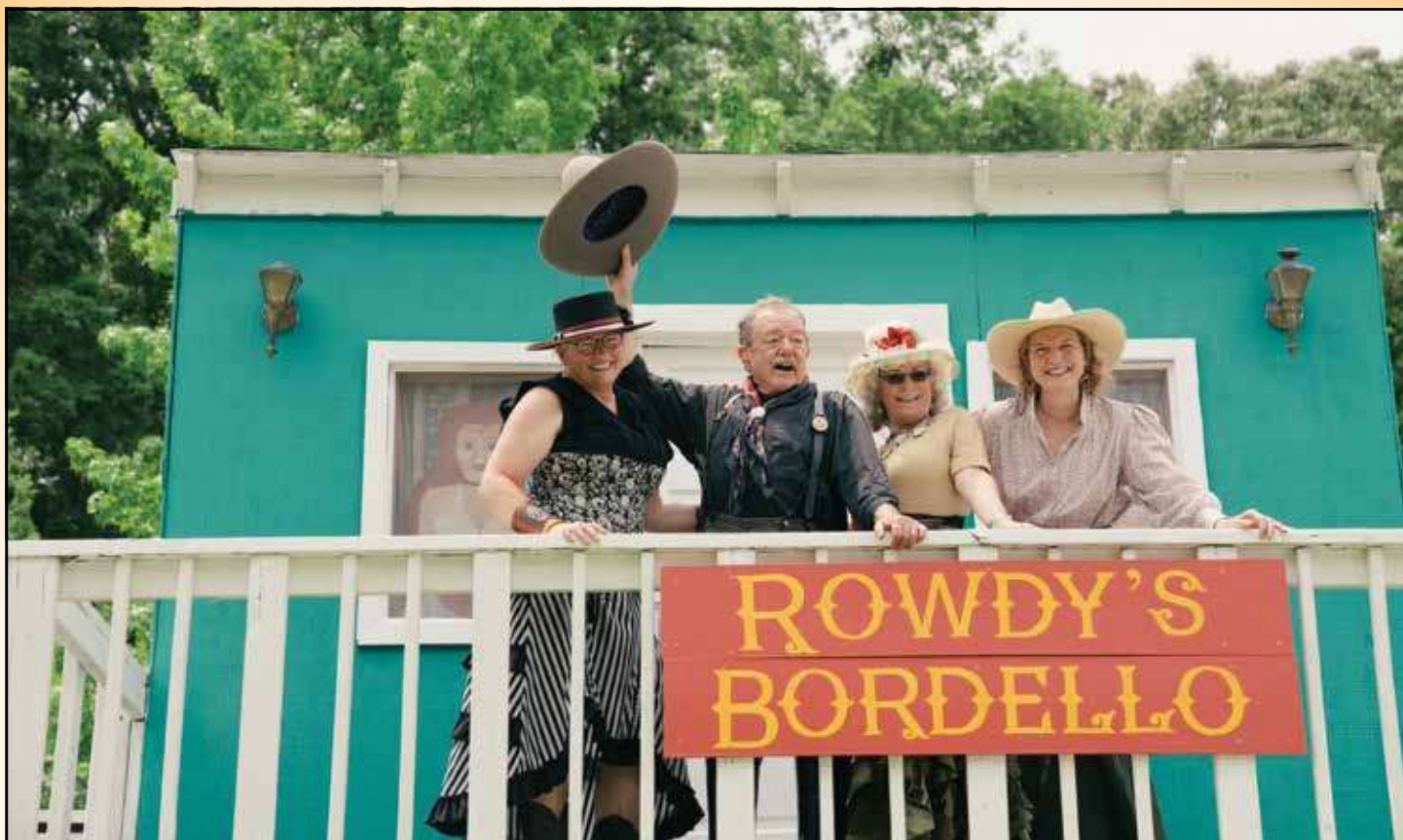
"Well, I've been shooting cowboy for many, many years in many state and regional matches. In the southeast, I've shot every state. Mississippi is my favorite one," says annual participant, Preacherman (SASS #20408). "Why? It is the nicest range of them all with the

best people. You're treated like royalty. It's just the best and if you haven't been there, you need to go!"

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Non-shooting spouses and family members were immediately absorbed into the bustling atmosphere. Many became active volunteers, finding plenty to do and making new friends along the way.

When the competitions wound down, the fun was far from over. Everyone gathered in rocking chairs on the clubhouse porch, or at picnic tables in the pavilion, with old friends and new



WITCHY WOMAN (SASS #112471), SHORTCAKE, BRONCO BELLE (SASS #107012) AND ROWDY BURKE (SASS #77985) ENJOYING THE VIEW FROM HIS BORDELLO BALCONY.

for stories, laughter, and music.

“The best way to describe the experience, as new shooters to the match, was welcoming. We didn’t know any of the match officials but the usual issues that crop up during a state match and any questions or concerns were quickly handled, typically with a handshake and a smile. And the food was nothing short of incredible. We had never seen so much good food that seemed unlimited,” said Shortcake (SASS #105517) and Lawdog Dago Dom SASS #105516). “We were especially happy to see Shortcake inducted into Rowdy’s Bordello, the pinnacle of female achievement in Mississippi!”

COST-EFFECTIVE FUN

In addition to the unforgettable experience, the SASS Mississippi State Championship offers exceptional value. This event provides a cost-effective option for participants, with affordable registration fees and inclusive amenities. From delicious meals on the range to a wide array of activities and entertainment, every aspect of the event is designed to maximize enjoyment without breaking the bank.

PARTY AFTER THE PARTY

The grand finale of the event was the “party after the party” — a potluck dinner event on Sunday night after all the trophies had been awarded. People stayed long into the night, reminiscing about the weekend’s adventures and making plans for next year’s championship. It was a time of laughter, friendship, and shared memories, truly encapsulating the spirit of the SASS Mississippi State Championship.



SHORTCAKE FINDS HER PATRIOTIC TWIN.

“When the smoke dies down and the guns have been cleaned, it’s time to share some time around the campfire with those that have put their heart and soul into the match,” says Loco Perro. “This includes the guests and volunteers that have come together to enjoy meeting both new and old friends. A good meal and soothing beverage along with good conversation only solidifies our celebration of times well spent together.”

Overall Match Winners were Picket (SASS #108967) and Fired Up Fannie Sue (SASS #106650). Mississippi State Champions were Taska Jim (SASS #) and Sunny Girl (SASS #) Go to mississippiriverrangers.org/2024-smokin-guns-at-rabbit-ridge-xxvii for complete scores.

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

If you missed out on this year’s SASS Mississippi State Championship, don’t worry — we’re already gearing up for next year! Visit mississippiriverrangers.org to find out more.

Spaces are limited, so don’t wait— saddle up and prepare to ride into another weekend of wild west fun and camaraderie!

We can’t wait to see you next year, partner!

