

Cowboy Action Shooting continues to attract new members at an astonishing pace. The Single Action Shooting Society, SASS, now has well over 90,000 members. This growth is worldwide with Europe alone having clubs in 18 countries. In the United States, there are clubs in all 50 states, 9 of which are in Montana.

I believe our sport continues to grow because it has something for everybody. Cowboy Action Shooting has introduced thousands of people to shooting thanks to our emphasis on safety and the prevalence of large, close targets. The use of old West guns, props and costumes makes the game fun for competitors and spectators alike. The policies and rules governing SASS clubs provide sufficient latitude for each club to develop its own style, to experiment and evolve.

This year at the Montana Territory Peacemakers we are trying a few new things we believe will pique your interest and enhance the shooting skills of our members and guests. We are offering open practice sessions on the Friday before each monthly match from about 6-7:30 P.M. There will be a different match director/scenario writer for each monthly match which should increase the variety of our shooting stages. You can bet each Match Director will learn a lot about the game; there's nothing like being in charge to broaden one's knowledge and understanding. Finally, we are offering to people that shoot with our club a place on our website where they can swap, buy or sell Cowboy Action Shooting guns and equipment which they no longer use.

There are many things we can all do to keep Cowboy Action Shooting fresh and interesting. You might try some of the following this year. Introduce a friend or family member to the game or take a greenhorn under your wing. Try shooting in a different classification, use a new gun or change your costume. Set a goal for the number of clean stages or matches you hope to complete this year. Write a scenario or build a new prop. Take a road trip, invite a friend to come along and experience how other clubs play the game. Attend the state championship at Simms in July and take a Range Officer class while you are there. It is no wonder why Cowboy Action Shooting continues to attract new members and keep old hands coming back – there is always something new to try!

I'll see you at the range,

Backstrap Bill, Territorial Governor