

UPRISING AT SWEARING CREEK 2017

SASS NC STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The 22nd annual Uprising at Swearing Creek 2017 was scheduled for the first week in November with a match theme – “Gamblers and Their Games”. There was a rumor out; It’s going to be big. The rumor spread like wildfire. It’s going to be BIG. Cowboys, cowgirls and families came from all around. Shooters from 14 states entered. Like spectators at a public hanging, they began to assemble, from New Mexico, New Jersey, Delaware, Florida and others ‘cause, it was going to be BIG.

The weather was perfect, overcast and cool. The range opened as vendors began to show up. Fifteen vendors signed up bringing bullets, guns and accessories, leather, food, clothes and jewelry. The vendor area was filled like it had not been in years, ‘cause, it was going to be BIG.

The shooters registered on the range with Cotton Tail (SASS# 59475) and Dirty Dead Eye Cotton (SASS# 96276) to get their shooter’s book, range packet and name badge shaped like a hand of cards. They moved to the prize tent where Candice B. Real (SASS# 88872) presented a Ruger box and Klean Bore cleaning kit provided by the Main Match Sponsor, Ruger. A chip was drawn for the over 100 prizes provided by some 35 sponsors this year. A chance was offered to win the 1873 rifle provided by the North Carolina Cowboys and custom tuned by Three Cut (SASS# 58264).

Opportunity was available to place bid on several silent auctions that included a set of EMF tuned pistols and reloader provided by Pearl (SASS# 68593) and Kearny Kid (SASS# 68592), a leather purse and brass provided by Ms. Jewel (SASS# 62556) and Sandhills Slim (SASS# 22998), a knife from Page Knives and pencil drawings by Salvador Dally (SASS# 37299).

The opening day was side match day with the various speed events, long range events, practice stages and a four stage

Wild Bunch match. This year the Wild Bunch match was attended by none other than Tex (SASS# 4) adding spice to the match and a great help running the clock for much of the match.

Side match day concluded with a swap meet under the big tent followed by a Pig Pick’n. Red River Bullet Company provided pulled pork for all on the range and concluded with giveaways that included boxes of Red River Bullets, brass pickers and a double barrel shotgun.

The main match started Friday in early morning as the sun rose with the pledge of allegiance, a prayer by Lash Toru (SASS# 85004) and the usual announcements and safety brief. It was a cool morning and the air was still. The silence gave way to the early morning gun shots and smoke from the gun powder shooters filled the air. It hung low and drifted over the entire range.

The stages were adorned with props that accentuated the theme of “Gamblers and Their Games”. Targets with cowboy outlines and shapes in the fashion of card suites, a poker table top on one stage, and a bar on another. There were two moving targets fashioned like mine cars and a stage with a train to shoot from. It was Big.

The evening of the first match day was graced with a movie. As the sun began to set, an almost full moon rose on the horizon. Even the Moon was Big. Bullets by Scarlett arranged the showing of the world premier movie, *The Golden Gun*, professionally written and produced by R. J. Ricochet. It starred many of the North and South Carolina Shooters. Scarlett Darlin’ (SASS# 96680), the starring heroine, provided door prizes including Bullets by Scarlett.

Saturday concluded the final day of the match with the final five stages. Now it was all done but the celebrating. The Saturday

Night Shindig continued the theme of “Gamblers and Their Games” as folks gathered for hors-d'oeuvres. Food was served by “*An Event to Remember*” consisting of three main meats, vegetables, deserts and more. There was more than enough for all.

Games were provided for all those wishing to participate. The most famous old west game, Faro, was included with Dirty Dead Eye Cotton (SASS# 96276) as expert dealer. In the fashion of the old west where ladies were frequently dealers, High Cotton Kitty (SASS# 101553) dealt one of the Black Jack tables. Needless to say, many lined up to play at her table.

The costume contest conducted during the Shindig had the usual categories. The couple's category also had a theme color, purple, for the best dressed couple adorning the theme color. None other than Cat Ballou (SASS# 55) accompanied Longbranch Lloyd (SASS# 40090) won the theme color couple competition. Special categories and gifts were presented for the best dressed Lady and Gentlemen gambler in keeping with the theme.

Now all that was left was the final day. As the sun rose on Sunday morning, there was one lone cowboy on the range. The minister for Cowboy Church, Lash Toru (SASS# 85004), was found all alone on the range. His head hung low wondering where he went wrong. Poor Lash had forgot the time had changed the night before and forgot to change his watch. He was an hour early and no one seemed to be present on the range. He began to wonder if the rapture had come and he had been left behind. But when the congregation gathered and he realized what had happened, he was so excited. He grabbed his guitar, started off with *The Old Rugged Cross* and delivered the best message of his life.

The awards ceremony started with recognition of the upcoming Veterans day and a quote from President Woodrow Wilson's address on the first anniversary of Armistice Day in 1919. The cowboys proudly stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer from the still exuberant, Lash Toru.

Awards included 28 Clean Match awards. Not to be left out, 22 awards for the one that got away were also given. State and category winners were announced in the usual fashion.

Special awards were provided for the Top Hand Award and Cowgirl Queen Award. These special awards are presented each year to individuals chosen for their tremendous contribution to the Cowboy Action Sport and many years of dedication promoting the sport. This year the Queen Award was received by Cotton Tail (SASS# 59475) and Top Hand Award to Three Cut (SASS# 58264).

Cowboy Spirit awards were also given to an individual on each posse, selected by the posse at the end of the match, for their outstanding contribution and support during the match.

Along with the special awards, The NC State Championship would not be complete without recognizing the LOCAS. The cowgirls gathered to have their first photo at the NC State match. There were 30 ladies that participated in the photo shoot and what an honor it was to have one of the founding cowgirls of cowboy action shooting, Cat Ballou (SASS#55), directly in the middle of the crowd.

Finally, the overall winners were announced. The top lady shooter for the 2017 Uprising at Swearing Creek was Shamrock Sadie (SASS# 78511) with the top North Carolina lady shooter going to Sixgun Sallie (SASS# 38989). Red River Ray (SASS# 33254) was the top cowboy and overall match winner for North Carolina.

The match was big; but, it was not yet complete. The top shooters were poised to shoot it out. The stage was a split pistol ending with a pistol reload. The match commenced with the two buckaroos in a head to head competition. Hot Diggity Dawg (SASS# 96926) and Doc Cotton (SASS# 103878), the youngest in the match, loaded up for the duel. It was close, very close, but Doc Cotton got the edge on the reload and finished the winner.

There was only one Young Gun, Dirty Dead Eye Cotton (SASS# 96276) and he was prepared to shoot against the winning Buckaroo. In true cowboy spirit he was relaxed and determined to let the Buckaroo win. The Buckaroo winner,

Doc Cotton, was no dummy. He called in his Second as is tradition for a duel. Dirty Dead Eye came to the line so relaxed and nonchalant only to look over at his competitor. It was Red River Ray, the NC State Champion. Fear came into his eyes, but he was determined to shoot his best game. Red River Ray is now the one with the true cowboy spirit. He shot the duel in outlaw fashion but kept Dead Eye on the run. It was close but Red River Ray had missed a target or two and Dirty Dead Eye Cotton shot the stage clean emerging as the winner.

The duels began for the Top 16 cowboys and Top 8 ladies. When the dust settled, Shamrock Sadie (SASS# 78511) was the top lady and Cody Maverick (SASS# 93440) was the top Cowboy.

Now it was all done, and everyone began to load up and head out having enjoyed another match, visiting with their friends and enjoying a great time. Apparently, the rumor was true - It Was Big!!!

See all the scores and photos of the match at <http://www.sassncmatch.org/>. Make plans to come to the Uprising at Swearing Creek 2018. It's going to be Big.

Top Gun Shoot off Video's
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.1939583169635689&type=3>