

WHAT IS CAS?

Cowboy Action Shooting is one of the fastest growing shooting sports. The sport is an attempt to re-live the time of the “Old West”, whether real or fantasy. Dressing Cowboy is a requirement. Each cowpoke is required to adopt a shooting alias appropriate to a character or profession of the late 19th century or a Hollywood western star and develop a costume accordingly. The shooting competition utilizes reactive steel targets and live ammunition. Shooters negotiate scenarios based on real or imagined incidents from the history of the 19th century West or the silver screen of the Saturday matinee. Although the shooting is competitive, the primary focus is on having some fun

Props, aliases, and period clothing are all utilized to help establish the feel of the American West of over 100 years ago. You’ll often see such props as a Conestoga wagon, stagecoach, buckboard, wooden horse, locomotive or jail cell used in a scenario. Each shooter is expected to adopt a particular “alias”, such as *Calico Kid*, *Rotten Rich*, *Judge Zaney Gray*, *Dakota Wild Bill*, *Travis Spencer*, *M.T. Shotgun*, *Rowdy Bill* or *Bog Water Mary*. They then dress in clothing appropriate for the persona they have chosen -- whether it be a cowboy, schoolmarm, blacksmith, gambler, saloon girl, banker, Indian, or lawman. Ya won’t find baseball caps, sneakers or T-shirts at a CAS event! Minimum dress requirements are a cowboy hat and boots, a long-sleeved shirt and jeans.

Cowboys (and Cowgirls) shoot in several three gun stages (courses of fire) in which they engage reactive steel targets. Scoring is based on accuracy and speed. Handguns are single action revolvers, lever action rifles, double barrel shotguns or pre 1898 pump shotguns.

CAS is an activity for the entire family. It is much more than just another shooting event. The social aspects of the sport are as important as the shooting aspects for many people. There are a number of women and juniors involved in the sport. And friends and family members who do not shoot frequently attend the events, oftentimes dressed in period attire just like their shooting counterparts. This is an opportunity to make friends and to share an appreciation for the lore and legend of the most well known and unique period in American history, its equipment, dress and lifestyle. So git yer shootin iron and come’n down fer some Cowboy Action Shooting.

REQUIRED GEAR:

- Eye and Ear protection.
- Cowboy dress. At least a cowboy hat, long sleeve work shirt, jeans (plain not designer), and boots.
- Any pair of single action revolvers, lever action rifle in a “pistol” caliber and a shotgun without automatic ejectors in a style available prior to 1898. Any lever action or pump shotgun with an exposed hammer (e.g., Winchester Model 1887 or 1897 or Marlin Model 1898). Extractors are ok shotguns, with ejectors are not.
- Holsters and belts for your revolvers
- Ammunition is lead bullet only with a velocity under 1000 fps for revolver and under 1400 fps for rifle.
- Shotgun shells loaded with #4 lead shot or smaller.



MAIN MATCH FIREARMS

Revolvers: The handguns used in CAS must be single-action revolvers. Original “Old West” pistols are seldom seen, due to their value as collectors items, but many modern reproductions of “period” handguns are available at reasonable cost. Uberti and Pietta are two manufacturers providing these reproductions. Ruger’s Vaquero Model is very popular, and even the Blackhawk is a good choice, but with its adjustable sights, it will affect your shooter category. Another main requirement is appropriate holsters capable of safely retaining the revolvers through the full range of activity encountered in the sport.



Rifle: You will also require a lever-action or pump-action rifle with exposed hammer, chambered for a pistol caliber cartridge, such as .44-40, .45 Colt, .38Spl/.357Mag or .44/.44Mag. Again, while it is possible to use an original rifle or carbine, most shooters opt for the more affordable and numerous reproductions of “period” rifles being made today, or a suitable rifle from the current production of manufacturers like Marlin.



Shotgun: To complete your battery of shootin’ irons, you’ll need a suitable shotgun of no less than 16 gauge. It can be a double-barrel, either hammerless or with external hammers, but cannot have operational ejectors. In other words, it can push the empty hulls partly out of the chamber (as all doubles do) but cannot throw the hulls clear. Your other alternative can be a “period” lever-action or pump-action shotgun, as long as it has an external hammer. This includes such guns as the Winchester models of 1887, 1893 or 1897, all of which are currently reproduced. You’ll probably see more original shotguns in use at shoots than rifles or pistols, due to the numbers available and their affordability.

