



The Single Action Shooting Society Proudly Presents

# Thunder Valley Days XXIV

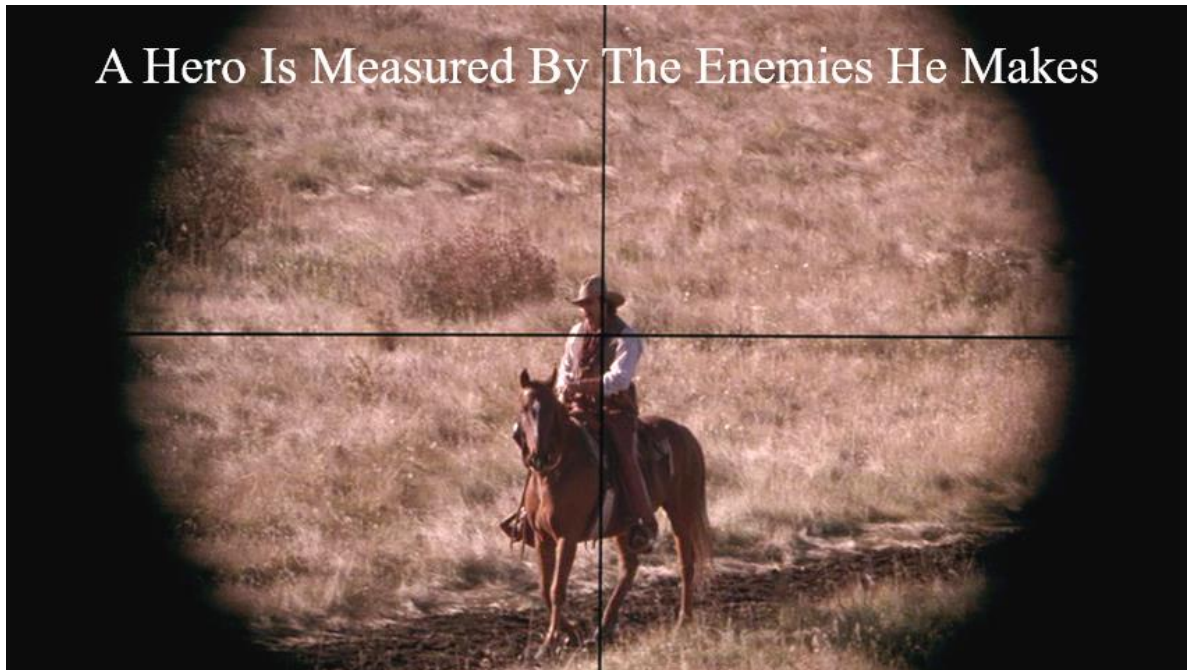
S.A.S.S. Maryland State Championship

*June 07<sup>th</sup> – June 09<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

Presented by the Single Action Shooting Society,  
Atlantic Guns, and the Damascus Wildlife Rangers



**Come Join Us** as we celebrate the **24th Anniversary Thunder Valley Days**, the S.A.S.S. Maryland State Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting! For 2024 we will be following the tale of Rafe Covington in the timeless, 1954 Loius L'Amour classic, **Crossfire Trail**. Released to film in 2001, and starring Tom Selleck in the lead role, we hope you will join us as we follow Rafe's struggles to protect a widow and save a ranch, all while battling an unscrupulous land grabber and his gunmen. Who knows, maybe he will even get the girl!



## ***About The Match For 2024:***

**Match Schedule:** The tentative Match Schedule can be viewed here, [TVD 2024 Match Schedule](#). We will endeavor to keep everyone informed, but keep an eye on the link above for any changes.

**Big & Close:** Once again, we will be dragging out all of our Big Targets, and borrowing a few others, just to make sure that everything is, Big and Close, and easily hittable! Last year, in 2023, 28% of our shooters shot the match Clean and an additional 10% only had 1 miss! Let's beat that in 2024!

**10 Stages:** The match will consist of 10 stages, 5 shot on Saturday and 5 shot on Sunday. This format allows for earlier end times for each shooting day, more time in the Saloon on Saturday, and an earlier departure time on Sunday for those with longer drives.

**Free Side Matches:** Again **FREE**, all day, Speed Event Side Matches, are included with your Main Match Entry. Bring as much ammo as your vehicle will hold and blast away, all day, for FREE!

We do charge an entry fee for the 3 Stage Blast of \$10.00 with pre-registration requested, but not required. **All proceeds from the 3 Stage Blast will be donated to the SASS Scholarship Fund.**

**Saloon:** The Wildlife Rangers Saloon will once again be open for service after the shooting is done for the day, so put your guns away and join us in the Saloon to relax and reminisce about the exploits of the day. And while you are there, enjoying a Free Chili-Dog Lunch prepared by the Boy Scouts and a Free Beverages provided by the Wildlife Rangers (Fat Tire Ale anyone?), so stop in and Join Us!

**Saloon and Banquet Venue:** Once again, both the Saloon and Banquet/Awards Ceremony will be held in the upstairs meeting hall of the chapter house of the Wildlife Achievement Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America. We are blessed to have this facility available to us, so please join us, in the Air Conditioning, for both of these events.

**Categories:** All of the SASS Base Categories are listed on the match application for you to choose from. On the final page of this announcement, there is a discussion concerning the “Unofficial” SASS Categories and the minimum requirements in order for those to be offered. Please read that carefully.

If you want to sign up for one of the “Unofficial” SASS Categories, you may do so using one of the blank spots on the Match Application. Check the box for one of those two categories and write-in the category of your choice. All of the allowed categories are shown on the chart found at the following link, [Category Matrix](#). As long as there are sufficient participants in that category, it will be offered. If there are not sufficient participants, you will be given the opportunity to make a change to another category that does meet the requirements. **The Categories Will Be Locked on 17 May 2024 so we have sufficient time to get awards made.**

The only exception to that is the Deuces Wild Category (Open and Ladies) that allows for the use of 22 Caliber Revolvers and/or rifles. This is NOT a SASS approved category, but we permit it at our match with the understanding that participants of this category are ineligible to win the State Championship.

## ***Match Applications & Details***

**Shooter Limit:** *The match attendance at Thunder Valley Days is limited to 100 registered shooters.* Do yourself a favor and Do Not Wait until the Last Minute!

**Registration:** *Please note that no applications will be accepted that are postmarked after 05/28/24.* Please see the Match Application for additional information and “*The Fine Print*”.

**Categories:** *The Categories Will Be Locked on 05/17/2024 so we have time to get awards made.*

Match Applications are available by following the links below. If you have specific questions, email the match officials using the contact information on the appropriate applications.

[Shooter Application](#)

[Sponsor Application](#)

[Vendor Application](#)

Thanks and I Certainly Hope To See You At Thunder Valley Days 2024!

Dogmeat Dad, SASS 48563

## **Un-Official Categories: [A special note on SASS BASE Categories and SASS Un-Official Categories...](#)**

If you take a moment to scan the list of Categories on the Match Application, you may notice a few Categories that have historically been there are now missing. In accordance with SASS Guidelines, the Match Application now only lists those categories that are considered the “Base Categories” as defined in the most recent Shooters Handbook, [SASS Handbook, Ver. 27.4, January 30, 2023](#). Valid Categories outside of the “Base Categories” are considered “Recognized” or “Optional” Categories, although we often refer to them as *Un-Official* Categories. At SASS Sanctioned Matches, those at the State or above level, Categories above the Base Categories may be “Offered”, but they are only to be Honored (i.e., given an award) if the number of participants for that category exceeds a minimum level. From the above linked SASS Handbook Ver 27.4, page 10...

### **MINIMUM ENTRANT CATEGORY MANDATES**

*In the interest of ensuring and promoting a true competitive environment at the SASS Sanctioned Championship level of competition (State, Regional, National, and World Championships), all possible category breakdowns may be offered, however, categories above the base categories will only be honored if they meet the minimum entry mandates decreed by SASS and the Championship agreements.*

*World & National Championship level: 10 entrants minimum for all open categories, 5 entrants minimum for ladies categories.*

*Regional & State Championship level: 3 entrants minimum in all categories.*

*Exceptions to the category mandate include protected age-based categories: Buckaroo/Buckarette, Junior, Elder Statesman/Grand Dame, Cattle Baron/Cattle Baroness, El Patron/La Patrona, and El Rey/La Reina.*

*If an offered category does not meet the minimum mandates, the entrant(s) will be entered into the next category down as the categories collapse toward the base categories until the minimum mandate is fulfilled.*

*\*Shooting categories offered at any match are ultimately at the discretion of the Match Officials to ensure the success and viability of each match individually unless the individual contract indicates otherwise.*

I have compiled the information from those sections of the Handbook into a [Category Matrix](#) chart that visually shows which categories are the BASE Categories, which categories are the Recognized “Optional” Categories, and which Categories are Not Allowed.

If you would like to register for a Recognized “Optional” Category that is not shown on the application, you may still do so. Simply select one of the check boxes next to a blank space and then enter your desired category in the available space next to the box you checked. If there are sufficient additional competitors that want to join you, we will be excited to Honor that Category with an award. If there are not enough competitors, you will have the opportunity to either switch to a different Category that has enough participants, or shoot your desired Category anyway, but it will not be honored with an award.

Please note that in the above quoted section of the SASS Handbook it states:

*Regional & State Championship level: 3 entrants minimum in all categories.*

As that is an unrealistic number for our match, we have set our threshold for **“Optional”** Categories such that for the Open Categories (Mens/Ladies) there must be a **Minimum of 3 Competitors** and for any of the Ladies Categories there must be a **Minimum of 2 Competitors** in order to be honored with an award.

**NOTE:** This Minimum Requirement only applies to the **“Optional”** SASS Recognized Categories; **All SASS Base Categories will be honored with an award.**