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OUTDOOR

Cowboys Shoot It Out In Pike

By Pat Connor

WESTFALL TOWNSHIP

The Matamoras Rod & Gun Club hosted a "cowboy action club" competitive shoot Sunday with the "Matamoras Mavericks" on Rod & Gun Club Road in Westfall.

Club members come from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and they compete in different locations, explained club spokesperson and action shooter Ed "Hammerin Steel" Patrone of Dingmans Township. "Some of us even travel to shoots all over the country - Florida, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania's state championships."

Some members travel and some just stick to local matches," said Patrone.

Patrone explained that folks who take part in cowboy action shooting events do so all in period clothing while using period gear and tackle.

"Guns that were around in the late 1800s," said Patrone. "Minimum dress requirements are a cowboy hat, cowboy boots,

jeans, long-sleeve shirt and a holster.

Most shooters use a pair of pistols, a rifle and a shotgun, some do the same but with only one pistol."

Patrone explained that even the guns are all authentic period calibers.

All the rifles are chambered in handgun calibers to match the shorter single action revolver.

This "matching" was common in the old west when ammunition was harder to come by and having a rifle that used the same cartridges as your revolver was made life easier and even safer for the cowboys.

"We use calibers like the .45 Colt, the .44-40, 38-40 which were common to the period."

The Mavericks, according to Patrone, are affiliated with the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS - <http://www.sassnet.com/>).

Also visit <http://matamoras-rodandgunclub.org> and click on the "cowboy" for a look at the Maverick's shoot schedule.



Cowboy action shooters during a competition at Matamoras Rod & Gun Club.

(Photo by Pat Connor)



Matamoras Mavericks shoot 'em up in Westfall.

(Photo by Pat Connor)



Shooters compete with single-action revolvers, matching rifles and shotguns.

(Photo by Pat Connor)



Cowboy action shooters compete in period clothing.

(Photo by Pat Connor)