

North Carolina Cowboys Inc. Top Hand Award Guidelines

The NC Top Hand Award program was started in 1999 by Old North State Posse as a way to recognize NC cowboys/cowgirls who had made major contributions to cowboy action shooting in North Carolina. This program was subsequently turned over to NCCI which was established in 2006 to run and promote the 2006 and subsequent SASS NC State Championship matches.

The following process was developed over time for how the NC Top Hand Award process currently works.

- This was intended to be an annual program with the announcement of the recipient(s) occurring at the awards ceremony for the main SASS NC State Championship match. There is no requirement that there is an award recipient each year.
- A nomination can be made by any active cowboy action shooting club in NC. In addition, any active NC SASS member may also submit a nomination as well. Notification to submit nominations is posted in both the Carolina Cowboys web site and the SASS NC State Championship match web site - usually two or three months prior to the annual main SASS NC State Championship match.
- Each nomination must be accompanied by documentation on why the cowboy/cowgirl is deserving of this recognition. This should include documentation of the major cowboy action shooting related activities in which the individual has been involved. A sample nomination form is at the end of this document. This form can be used with some expanded verbiage detailing the key reasons for nominating the cowboy/cowgirl.
- The award voting members are the previous Top Hand Award recipients who are still active in cowboy action shooting activities in NC. The previous Top Hand Award recipients will then review the nominees, discuss among themselves and then vote on those they feel qualify for recognition. The actual award voting list may not include all of the nominees if the voting members feel a nominee(s) does not meet the award criteria.
- The nominee(s) with the top vote count is the award winner for that year.

The following are some of some key criteria that should be considered when nominating a cowboy/cowgirl for the Top Hand Award:

- The body of work should reflect their contributions over a number of years (3 or more) of participation in cowboy action shooting. This award was not intended to reflect an outstanding contribution for a particular event or a short period of time.
- A leader in running a local club(s) is cause for consideration - administrative duties and/or writing stages and running matches counts.
- They are knowledgeable on SASS match rules – have their RO I and probably RO II certification. RO training certification is a real plus.
- They support activities that help with the promotion of cowboy action shooting and the recruiting and educating of new shooters at the club level are very positive contributors.
- They support cowboy action shooting activities via participation on the various web sites and associated discussion forums in other venues via positive contributions. They keep up with SASS activities.
- They show up at multiple NC club matches and state matches and helping with match activities in a positive manner with both new and experienced participants is a positive contribution. The contributions to be considered are not about competitive results and associated awards.
- They participate in the acquisition and maintenance of the equipment and materials to enhance cowboy action shooting matches.
- They are noted for presenting a positive and friendly personality during cowboy action shooting activities – they make it fun.

Note: This list of criteria is intended to be suggested points for consideration and is not intended to exclude other points for consideration.

The following are the previous recipients of the NC Top Hand Award:

- 1999 - Cajun Kid & Firestick
- 2000 - Marshal Harland Wolff & Lone Scout
- 2001 - Oklahoma Charlie & Royal Barnes
- 2002 - Stinky Jim & Buckshot Bowers
- 2003 - Layden Payde & Splinter Hauser
- 2004 - Marshal Nate Tyler & Lobo Mac
- 2005 - Red Cent
- 2006 - Sliphammer & Whithair Trigger
- 2007 - Camille Enoich & JM Brown
- 2008 - Carolina Jack & Wicked Wanda
- 2009 - Wireman
- 2010 - Tracker Mike
- 2011 - Dingo Dave & Huckleberry Mike
- 2012 - No award
- 2013 - No award
- 2014 - KTown
- 2015 - RJ Gatling
- 2016 - Sandhills Slim & Payden Emmett Cobb
- 2017 - Three Cut
- 2018 - Penelope Petticoat
- 2019 - Red River Ray
- 2020 - No award
- 2021 - Brown Summit Kid & Rubicon Ryder
- 2022 - Candice B Real & Noah Fitz
- 2023 - Duc McCandless

Sample Nomination Form

___/___/___

Nomination for NC Top Hand Award

Nominating Club or Cowboy/Cowgirl: _____

Nominator Contact Information: _____

Nominated Cowboy/Cowgirl: Alias: _____

Name: _____

Local Club Activities:

How long has the nominee been participating in the CAS (3+ years min)	# Years _____
Is the nominee active in supporting monthly match activities	yes/no
Does the nominee write or assist with writing match stages	yes/no
Does the nominee help attract new shooters to monthly matches	yes/no
Does the nominee work with "new shooters" to advance their skills	yes/no
Does the nominee support range work/maintenance activities – props, targets, facilities, materials	yes/no

SASS RO Certification Activities:

SASS ROI certified	yes/no when _____
SASS ROII certified	yes/no when _____
SASS WB certified	yes/no when _____
SASS RO Instructor Certified	yes/no when _____
Does the nominee RO at local matches on a regular basis – comfortable ROing	yes/no
Does the nominee RO at other club matches when visiting	yes/no
Does the nominee keep current on SASS rules and act as a rules source	yes/no
Does the nominee posse marshal/RO at state and higher level matches	yes/no

Annual, State Regional Match Participation:

Does the nominee travel/shoot at some of the other NC clubs	yes/no
Does the nominee travel to other annual, state, or regional matches	yes/no
Recent examples _____	

Does the nominee shoot the SASS NC State Championship match	yes/no
Does the nominee volunteer help at larger matches	yes/no
Recent examples _____	

Personality:

Does the nominee always have a positive/constructive attitude at matches	yes/no
Does the nominee greet, start discussions with match visitors to make them feel welcome	yes/no

Is the nominee active on the local/national web sites promoting their local club and SASS yes/no

Additional Information: (Attach detailed verbiage to document the reason for the nomination.)

The previous form questions were simply some cowboy related criteria to consider. Please feel free to offer any additional comments that would help understand the body of work the nominee has contributed to shooting sports and SASS cowboy action shooting in particular. The body of work should reflect their contributions over a number of years. The award was not intended to reflect an outstanding contribution for a particular event or a short period of time.

Send all nominations to NCCI or whoever NCCI may have designated.