

THE

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Cowboy CHRONICLE



Shamrock Sadie (SASS#78511) and Half-A-Hand Henri (SASS #9727) show off their championship buckles from Battle at Adobe Walls 2022



MAYHEM ON THE MISSISSIPPI ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP 2022

BY POPCORN KELLY, SASS #108613

Mayhem on the Mississippi was held July 15-17, 2022, and what an event it was. Illowa Irregulars hosted the three-day event at the Milan Rifle Club, Milan, Illinois, in its cowboy town affectionately named Camden Mills (the original 19th Century name of the town now known as Milan, Illinois). Situated in a picturesque area two miles from the Mississippi River and very close to the Quad Cities along I-80 at the border between Illinois and Iowa, the range is conveniently located close to several hotels, campgrounds, and restaurants, making it an ideal location for a large match.

“We had 153 shooters from 16 states, along with 22 on-site camping reservations, which makes this one of the largest events in club history,” Popcorn Kelly, one of the match organizers, said. The event consisted of Friday

Warm-up and Side Matches, followed by a 10-stage Main Match on Saturday and Sunday (six stages were shot on Saturday and four on Sunday). Rev. Willy Dunkum (SASS #61027) hosted Church service on the range prior to beginning Sunday’s activities.

Camden Mills consists of 10 stages, six with building façades. Each stage is individually bermed, is covered to protect shooters from sun and rain, has covered loading and unloading tables,



ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPIONS BILLY THE AVENGER AND TURKEY LEGS

and a central, paved pathway through the entire range making moving from stage to stage very easy. Camden Mills is also heavily shaded by the surrounding trees.

The 10 stages, written by Count Sandor (SASS #74075) included a fair amount of gun motion with target placements within SASS guidelines, on the closer side but not in your face. Illowa Irregulars has a variety of targets, most being about 16 inches square, with a few larger targets, and a few cowboy-shaped targets, and Count Sandor took full advantage of them. He had a something for every style shooter. Interestingly, due to range rules, Stage 8 must always be a shotgun-only stage, requiring some creativity in arranging ten targets. “Stage 8 was quite the site as you walked up the range it came into view as you rounded the last berm,” said Daisy Ann (SASS #103112).

The main match began by calling all veterans to the front. A trumpeter played the National Anthem, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The match kicked off with the firing of two cannons. It was a spectacular and moving way to begin.

One of the most unique events of





LADIES OF COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™



BEST DRESSED LADY, LADY PEARL WITH ARKANSAS LEW



VETERANS GATHER TO HONOR THE FLAG.

the weekend was the Saturday evening Riverboat Dinner Cruise aboard the Celebration Belle, an old-fashioned paddle wheeler. Ninety-three shooters and family members, all dressed in cowboy attire, cruised up and down the river, having a wonderful meal, listening to a band, dancing, and spending time outside on the upper deck. “We couldn’t have asked for nicer weather – the water was smooth, the temps and humidity near perfect, and the scenery great, including some of the decked-out Cowboys and Cowgirls in their fancy dress,” said Mountain Man Champ (SASS #103111).

Illowa Irregulars held its Award Ceremony at the air-conditioned Camden Centre — a welcome respite from the warm July day. “Knowing many people in attendance needed to get on the road after the match, we paid special attention during the planning process to ensure the ceremony ran

as expeditiously as possible, but still gave each award winner their day in the sun,” Popcorn Kelly said. In fact, the event ended 15 minutes ahead of schedule.

Congratulations to Matt Black (SASS #54580) and Turkey Legs (SASS #48384) for being Overall Men’s and Ladies’ winners, and to Billy The Avenger (SASS #92117) and Turkey Legs for taking home the Illinois Champion Men’s and Ladies’ honors and SASS Buckles. In total, we crowned 34 new Illinois Category Champions, and 16 Cowboys and Cowgirls were awarded Clean Shooter pins. Congratulations to everyone!

Illowa Irregulars are already preparing their application to host next year’s Illinois State Championship and we’d love to have you join us. We are conveniently located in the heart of the upper Midwest along I-80, making it very accessible to nearly everyone.



BEST DRESSED GIRL, CLARABELLE WITH HER DAD, DOOLITTLE B. ERNEST



BEST DRESSED MAN JW JAMES (SASS #87439), SECOND FROM THE LEFT, IS FLANKED BY HIS TOMBSTONE BUDDIES, G.I. JAKE (TO HIS LEFT), MOUNTAIN MAN CHAMP, & FOYSTER O’RIPPY