

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.
- 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 a 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.
- 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.
- It is not necessary for there to be an award recipient each year.
- 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 & Whitehair 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