



Hi there my little chuck wagon chasers and stagecoach Johnnies, yes the day had finally come when our guests, the Authentic Western Society (AWS) came over by ferry to sit a spell and enjoy some Cowboy Action Shooting fun. It was over the Easter holiday, Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> to be precise.

Their coach arrived at the club just after 10am, and they were raring to “rock 'n' roll”. Half of their number (male) alighted said coach fully attired in western garb to the cry of “have gun will travel” while the other half (female) stayed on the coach and jeered “have credit card will shop”. This motley band of border brigands was led by the steely eyed “AJ” no name just initials. Where upon the coach left in a cloud of blue exhaust fumes and sped off to Belfast and would not return until the witching hour of 4pm, Beware female alert! (Only joking girls).

After a welcome by the “The Kells County Regulators” plus tea, coffee and biscuits they were given a briefing on safety by “Independence Carroll”. Then it was off to the range to do what they had come for, to shuck some shells and bang some steel with lead, yes sireee bub, yer darn tootin’.

The firearms were laid out on tables so that our visitors could pick and choose what they wanted to shoot. Their choice of of firepower in hoglegs included such brand names as Uberti, Ruger, Beretta, Schofield, and Pietta. In lever action rifles there were Rossis, Marlins, even the legendary Winchester. The selection of scatter guns was interesting too, side by sides, some mule ears, a Norinco clone of an 1897 pump action plus an original Winchester 1897 pump. As an added bonus, they all got the chance of blasting away with a 45-70 Sharps buffalo rifle. Mind you, we don't get many buffalo in Antrim .....that could be the reason why.



Meanwhile my little apple dumpling gang, back at the regulators range, the fun proceeded in earnest (but Ernest wasn't too pleased). The AWS really entered into the spirit of the day in spite of the of the wind chill factor whistling around ones exposed extremities, ( well whatever your personal proclivities may be). The Kells County Regulators were kept busy all day with one to one tuition with likes of tight lipped “Tennessee”, bashful “Blaine” winsome “Weaver” these miscreants kept us on our toes. I personally was run ragged all day long (is this a cue for a song) “run ragged run ragged run run run”, no !!! I'm sure I've heard that before, ah well not to worry. As far as I could ascertain the AWS crew had a bang and a clang with all the firepower on offer.

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We broke for lunch (sorry, chow) at 12.30 Cold Steels' good lady wife, Stainless Steel, was an absolute angel for organizing not only the tea and coffee provided, but she also drove the buckboard for the "fish n' chip" run. So three cheers for her welcomed input!



Now there is a fly in the proverbial ointment, someone had not taken my luncheon request. When pangs of hunger set in I had only my ego to chew on. And the only thing to drink was the empty froth of my personality..... But daring rescue was at hand in the young virile form of The Sloane Ranger. This stalwart buckaroo braved the elements and rode hell bent for leather to the nearest "chippie" to bring me much needed sustenance of cod and chips. Thank you o loyal and true friend. (For which I still owe him 70p.).

Once chow and tea had been consumed it was back to the friendly insults and lead slinging. During the course of the afternoon activities, we held a mini cowboy action competition for our guests. Which I add they entered into with enthusiasm. The winner was a pistoleero by name of Weaver, congratulations my boisterous bold buckaroo. The afternoon came to a close all too soon with the arrival of the AWS coach to pick them up at 4pm. However their day was not yet over.....

## PART II.



They had ahead of them an evening packed with dining, drinking, dancing, and dare I say delinquency, and debauchery. I tell you, I really could not keep up with these guys. I don't know what medication some of them are on, but I wish I had some. While they were out boogieing the night away I was slumped in front of the tele in a drunken stupor totally "cream crackered".

Meanwhile back at "Chimney Corner" a number of the Kells RPC members were guests of the Authentic Western Society, and were now on their turf.

The evening included live music, line dancing, skits and comedy sketches, a shotgun wedding, a buffet including hot chillie and wait for it .....a fast draw competition. Members of Kells RPC were invited to participate in this, which they readily agreed to. But to no avail. While everyone who competed against our guys would be considered the "Earp" faction our guys would be .....how can I put this ..... the "Clanton" clan, yes dear reader we were annihilated. But as Clint says "a man's got to know his limitations".

A Kells rpc member suggested we should introduce fast draw to our club with ordinary gun leather. Let's not bother with wimpy poofster steel plates behind the holster in case of accidents. Have you never heard of "Bob Munden".....Oh deary deary me, or words to that effect!

All that said a very enjoyable evening was had by one and all. Everyone was attired in period costume including Indy's good lady wife and mother who I might add was garbed in a dress with "leg of mutton sleeves" both were looking rather chic. The "Tart 'n' Terror" was there giving it some Victorian wellie.

During the course of the evenings festivities the "Authentic Western Society" presented "Kells County Regulators" with a token of the appreciation of their day at Kells. Thanks guys, glad you all enjoyed yourselves



All in all it was a great day and a fun filled evening. The AWS were off on Easter Sunday to perform "the shoot out at the OK corral" at the Ulster American Folk Museum.

On behalf of "The Kells County Regulators" may I wish the "Authentic Western Society" all the very best for the future. Don't forget to come back you'll and set a spell .

Happy trails

The Cool Rain Kid.....or "Kid Cool" for short.

P.S I don't know about them but I must go and have a lie down after writing and reading all of this. Phew!!!!