

Western Shooting Horse publisher, Ken Amoroso, joined Colt mounted shooting spokespersons, Andra Olson and Jim Hanson, in the Colt Booth at the 2011 SHOT Show in Las Vegas.



# SHOT Show Las Vegas 2011

An important showing for Cowboy Mounted Shooting.

By Ken Amoroso

The Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade Show and Conference (SHOT Show) is the largest and most comprehensive trade show for professionals involved with the shooting sports and hunting industries. It is the world's premier exposition of combined firearms and outdoor related products and services. The SHOT Show attracts buyers from all 50 states and more than 100 countries.

The show filled the Sands Expo and Convention Center in Las Vegas to capacity this past January. The numbers were staggering: 1,600 exhibiting companies covering 660,000 square feet. Record

buyer attendance of 31,769; media attendance at 2,074, with an overall attendance (buyers, exhibitors, media and guests) of 57,390.

Many companies use SHOT Show to announce new products and services--and this is where Western Shooting Horse likes to poke around looking for the newest and the best.

Western Shooting Horse was honored to pass out magazines from the Colt booth right in the middle of the



Colt 100th Anniversary 1911 auctioned for \$107,550.



Colt Mustang

action. Introducing the sport to thousands of firearm industry professionals is one of the ways we promote the sport and the magazine. Colt spokespersons (and top shooters) Andra Olson and Jim Hanson also worked the booth each day. Visitors saw a video loop of runs from the Mounted Shooting All-Stars.

A number of new products were introduced at the Colt booth, including the return of the Mustang, a compact semi-auto in .380 designed for concealed carry. Colt also donated a commemorative 100th anniversary 1911 to the Hunting Heritage Trust that brought in \$107,550 after being auctioned during the show on gunbroker.com.

Even more exciting: Colt's announcement that they are in the process of delivering the first



Uberti El Patron



Rossi Ranch Hand

ever Colt Single Action in a stainless steel model.

Another highlight from the show was the introduction of the Uberti 1873 Cattleman El Patron Cowboy Mounted Shooter. Designed specifically for our sport, the El Patron features shorter barrel options and a low profile hammer (See article on page 28).

The Ranch Hand from Rossi is a pretty nice reproduction of the lever action Mare's Leg used by Steve McQueen in the television series "Wanted - Dead or Alive." Although not legal for CMSA competition, the Ranch Hand looks like a lot of fun and comes in three popular pistol rounds- .38 Spl./ .357 Mag., .44 Mag. and .45 Colt.



S&W Governor

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Smith & Wesson introduced a new self-defense revolver they call the Governor. Offering multiple caliber options along with a lightweight scandium alloy frame, the Governor is capable of chambering a mixture of .45 Colt, .45 ACP and .410 gauge 2 1/2-inch shotshells. It's not cowboy, but it's very cool.

Not many firearm models today can boast of having had over one million produced. The Winchester Model 1892, very similar in construction to the Winchester Model 1886, is one of these famous lever-action rifles.

It's great to see Winchester back in production with this venerable rifle. Several versions of the famous carbine were on display including a takedown model in .357 magnum and a Trapper model with a 16" barrel in .45 Colt, perfect for the mounted rifle shooter. Also very cool was a '92 carbine with a large loop lever and 16" barrel reminiscent of the old Westerns.

Winchester has gone back to its roots and it is well worth a look on their website ([winchesterguns.com](http://winchesterguns.com)) for the many new offerings that would peak the interest of any cowboy shooter.



Winchester 1892 Carbines.

For those who like to load their own ammo, Oregon Trail Bullet Company showed us a bullet unlike any other in the market. The inclusion of silver in conjunction with a proprietary blend of seven other elements produces the exclusive Laser-Cast Silver Bearing Alloy bullets.



Laser-Cast.

The company tells us the slick silver bearing alloy yields high velocities and extreme accuracy with no leading issues. The bullets come in a variety of calibers in a multitude of bullet weights.

We also ran into Alessandro Pietta of Italy's F.LLI Pietta. They manufacture single action firearms of the cowboy era including cap & ball and the 1873 Single Action Army. He told us about how the company took a page out of history books and reintroduced the 1873, paired with the



Pietta Alchimista.

1860 Army grip frame. He calls it the "Alchimista" and adds that it has a competition trigger that is wider and set back.

The 1860 grip is longer and slimmer than the traditional 1873 Single Action Army grip. While not quite the 90-degree angle of the Bisley model Colts, it definitely has a different feel worth looking into. EMF Company carries the pistol in America.

American Legacy Firearms, one of the leaders in custom engraved and laser engraved limited edition firearms, displayed a 100th Anniversary of the 1911 that is a sight to see. Heavily engraved with depictions of America's greatest conflicts, the gun is also dedicated to the NRA and is limited to the production of 100 in each state.



Kenda Lenseigne in the Cimarron Firearms booth.

CMSA announcer and "Top Shots" television competitor Denny Chapman also represented mounted shooting. He worked the Taylor's & Company Firearms booth during the show. Denny introduced buyers and media to the company's Runnin' Iron pistols and Runnin' Comanchero rifles for mounted shooting.



American Legacy 1911.

Kenda Lenseigne worked the Cimarron Firearms booth where she signed posters and promoted her new line of mounted shooting Thunderstorm pistols. Kenda also spent time as a new member of Team Safariland, which is designing a line of mounted shooting holsters with her name attached.

2010 CMSA World Champion Melissa Dragoo signed posters at the Ruger booth; the gunmaker is one of her major sponsors.

The 2011 SHOT Show was an enormous event that showed vigorous activity for all firearm and outdoor interests. If the huge number of attendees was any indication of a robust economy for this industry, this show certainly proved it. We'll be back next year. 🐾



Ken Amorosano and Denny Chapman in the Taylor's & Company booth.

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