Cowboy Pump Guns

(Course is NOT available for credit toward the Gunsmithing Technician Certificate)

This will be a one-week, hands-on course of Colt Lightning pump rifles (manufactured for a brief period from the 1880's to about 1904), their various generations, and the current reproductions. It will consist of repair and restoration for original function, as well as a thorough understanding of the operation and preparation for cowboy action shooting competition. This will include the medium and large frame pump rifles. The medium frames are acceptable for Main Match competition, and the large frames can be used in the long range side match repeater category. Part of the week will also include the operation and preparation of the Winchester 1897 pump shotgun (and their "clones") for cowboy action shooting. Even though these original long guns are many decades old, with proper restoration and upgrades, they are extremely competitive in cowboy action shooting against lever rifles and double shotguns.

Eldon Penner is a Life Member of SASS and the NRA, and has spent nearly 30 years as a gunsmith repairing and restoring Colt Lightning rifles (all calibers), as well as the other cowboy action shooting firearms. Prior to joining SASS 20 years ago, he built IPSC and IDPA 1911-style competition guns. Early in his life, he started as a blacksmith for logging equipment, went to college to study machining and metallurgy, and just recently returned to college to upgrade his knowledge with CAD CAM to manufacture replacement parts for the Colt Lightning rifles and single-shot BPCR rifles. About 10 years ago, he consulted with and worked for several of the current companies who have manufactured the reproduction Lightning pump rifle. Eldon and his wife have traveled extensively and competed in Europe, Canada, and the Western U.S. in various shooting sports.

Eldon Penner

Tools/Supplies

I strongly suggest the student bring an original Colt Lightning medium frame rifle and/or a '97 pump shotgun. Reproductions could be American Western Arms (AWA) or USFA manufacturers. A reproduction '97 shotgun is also okay. There will be originals and
reproductions of all in the classroom provided for demonstration purposes, but the students need to have as many of their own for "hands-on" instructions as possible. Hand tools to assemble and disassemble would include a set of gunsmith screwdrivers, various small punches, and small ballpeen hammer. Because an original Colt Lightning pump rifle usually needs some new or upgraded parts to make it completion ready, I will show examples of some of the parts developed for that purpose.

**************************************************