

 *The Texas Star* 
Newsletter for the Texican Rangers

A Publication of the Texican Rangers
An Authentic Cowboy Action Shooting Club
That Treasures & Respects the Cowboy Tradition

SASS Affiliated
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Words from the Judge



Hello the Camp:

February is now history, our Saturday match in February was excellent, Sunny, warm and little wind. Bisbee Jackson and I decided the man upstairs blessed us with wonderful weather on Saturday. Sunday was cloudy, windy, and a little drizzle, not knowing the chill factor we know it was miserable, however it seems everyone had a great time. Since this is Texas we all know that the weather can change in a heartbeat. When I complained about the weather to my grandfather, he would always tell me wait about an hour it will change, boy was he correct most times. Thanks to all who braved the great weather on Saturday and the not so great weather on Sunday.

Congratulations to Two Spurs for 1st overall on Saturday and to Alamo Andy for 1st overall on Sunday. We had 13 clean match shooters on Saturday and 8 on Sunday. Remember all the names are listed on our website; please use the website, lots of good information there.

During our match on Sunday, there was confusion about the 1911M and the 1911T classes. For clarification: You can substitute the 1911 with 2 magazines loaded with 5 rounds each for your cowboy revolvers. All other cowboy rules apply for the shotgun and rifle. If you have any questions the rules are posted on the website.

March starts our regular schedule with lunch, BAM Side Match, Long Range and practice on designated stages. Would you like to have training

by a great shooter after the match? I would like to have other side matches after the main match, let me know if you have any suggestions for these. March will be our "Welcome Back" Match. We would like to invite all

alumni and any new shooters to come try out Cowboy Action Shooting at the Texican Rangers. For this match there will be no visitor fees. Save \$5.00 and come out for a great time. See you March 12th.

Comancheria Days is fast approaching and it looks like it is going to be a great one. We have 104 registered shooters already. . If you have already registered, thanks, if not please do so as soon as possible. Early registration helps us plan with the number of awards needed as well as what we can spend on shooter, raffle and Friday night prizes. Our Match Director, Shooting Iron Miller has a stellar schedule of events planned for your pleasure.

Judge GeePee
President

William “Bigfoot” Wallace **By Dutch Van Horn**



1817 - 1899

William A. Wallace was born 3 April 1817 in Lexington, Virginia. He was a descendant of the Scottish Highlanders William Wallace and Robert Bruce. He was more-than-six-feet, and weighed in at 240-pounds. After learning that a brother and a cousin had been killed in the Goliad Massacre, Wallace went to Texas looking for payback. He tried farming near La Grange, but soon tired of that occupation. He found Austin too populated for his tastes and eventually moved to San Antonio.

After joining the Texan Army to repulse a Mexican invasion in 1842, he was captured and spent two years in a notoriously brutal prison at Vera Cruz. Upon his return to Texas, Wallace joined the Rangers, and would serve under Captain Jack Hays.

In them days, Texas was as wild as the west could get. There was danger from the south from the Mexicans, danger to the wet and north from the wild frontier filled with Indians and desperados, and to the east the settlements still had problems with the Cherokee Nation. General Sam Houston himself had appointed young Captain Hays, a hero from the battle of Plum Creek, to raise a company of Rangers to defend San Antonio. Hayes had high standards for his men. They were the best fighters in the west, and they had to be, considerin' the fact that they were often outnumbered fifty to one. A man had to have courage, good character, good riding and shooting skills and a horse worth a hundred dollars to be considered for the job. Captain Hayes knew all about Bigfoot Wallace and signed him on the spot.



So armed with a Colt pistol and a Bowie knife, Texas Ranger Bigfoot Wallace once more took on the Wild West, and quickly made his mark on Texas folklore. In them days, the Rangers tended to handle stock theft at the end of the rope, so to speak, stringing up the bandits, forcing a confession out of them, and then leaving the bodies swaying in the wind to deter other outlaws. Only it didn't work,

and the bandits kept right on stealing, sometimes passing right under the bodies of their fellow outlaws to do it.

Now Bigfoot's fellow Ranger, Creed Taylor, had a big spread lay west of San Antonio, in the cedar hills clear on the edge of Comanche territory, and he was constantly losing stock to bandits and Indian raids. The last straw came for Taylor the day famous Mexican raider and cattle thief Vidal and his gang rounded up a bunch of horses from his ranch and took them south toward Mexico. Most of the Rangers were heading north to pursue some Comanche's out on a raid, but Taylor and a friend went immediately in pursuit of the thief, and when they bumped into Wallace just below Uvalde, he joined them.

Bigfoot was always ready to hunt horse thieves and desperados, especially those of Mexican descent, never forgetting what happened to his brother at Goliad. Bigfoot decided it was time to put an end to Vidal's gang once and for all. He would track the wiry Mexican bandit to earth. The three men located the camp where the horse thief and his gang lay sleeping, and snuck in from downwind, so as not to alert the horses. Vidal was wanted dead or alive, so all the thieves were shot and killed in the gunfight that followed.

That was when Wallace got an idea. Obviously, hanging horse thieves hadn't gotten the message across to the outlaws raiding the ranches of the good folk of Texas. Perhaps a more drastic example of frontier justice would do the trick. Severing Vidal's head from his body, Bigfoot and his fellow Ranger tied the body to the saddle of the wildest mustang in the stolen herd and secured the severed head to the saddle horn so that it would bounce and flop around with every step taken by the mustang. Then Wallace gave a shout and sent the horse running away with its headless, dead rider, hoping the gruesome sight would deter future cattle thieves.

What he managed to do was frighten everyone in South Texas. Folks would be peacefully walking down the road of an evening when a terrible headless rider would gallop pass on a midnight black stallion with serape blowing in the wind and severed head bounding on the saddle horn beneath its sombrero. Nothing could deter the terrible specter – not bullets, not arrows, not spears. It was years before a posse of cowboys finally grew brave enough to bushwhack the horse and release the withered corpse from its back.

But on moonless nights, the ghost of El Muerto continues to ride across South Texas to this day with his long black serape blowing in the wind and his severed head bumping on the saddle beside him.

Turns out, the rough and tumble life of a Texas Ranger wasn't enough to satisfy Bigfoot Wallace. No sir! He hungered for adventure, and he found it. First he fought against Mexican General Adrian Woll's invasion of Texas in 1842, then he volunteered for the retaliatory raid across the Rio Grande. When the raid ended, he joined the Mier Expedition organized to penetrate further into Mexico. Got himself into a mess of trouble then. The Texans in the expedition were surrounded and captured by a force ten times their size. They managed to escape a short while later, but were rounded up in the desert and Santa Ana ordered a decimation of the escaped prisoners – meanin' that one man in ten would be executed. The Mexican soldiers put a mess of beans into a covered crock -- 159 white and 17 black -- and each Texan had to draw a bean in alphabetical order, starting with the Texan officers. Anyone who got a black bean was shot, and the ones who got a white bean went to prison. 'Course Wallace had to draw near the end of the line, not good odds. And being a rebel, he ended up with a gray bean. Lucky for him the officer in charge decided the bean was white, so he didn't get shot with the rest. Spent a couple years afterward doing hard labor in a Mexican prison before being released.

You'd think ol' Bigfoot would have settled down after that last episode, but not him. He joined the other Texans in the Mexican-American War and fought with gusto, since he had so many scores to settle with the Mexicans who'd killed his brother and treated him so bad. At one point, he came face-to-face with that ornery coyote who held the crock from which the Texas Prisoners had drawn the white and black beans. Unfortunately, he was under a white surrender flag at the time, but it still took several fellows to restrain Wallace from shooting the man.

Well now, Bigfoot Wallace was jest about the roughest, toughest Texas Ranger that ever rode west of the Pecos. Came to Texas bent on avenging the death of a brother and cousin who'd been massacred at Goliad by Santa Ana's army, but by the time he got here the Revolution was won and Texas was a Republic. He might've gone home then, but Wallace discovered Texas was a hunter's paradise, so he made his way to the extreme edge of the frontier, where he hunted the abundant game that he sold to the settlements.

Wallace soon learned that Austin was the place to be if you wanted to earn some good money. So he packed up and went north to Austin, which was the new capital of the Republic. Seems there was plenty of work with high wages for a man who could do construction, and Bigfoot was an expert with a broad-ax. Earned himself two hundred bucks a month plus board hewing logs for the buildings being put up along Congress Ave. Bigfoot partnered up with a fellow named Leggett who was as brave and crazy as he was. They head out into hostile Indian territory to get cedar and other lumber, and then they'd raft down to town. The native tribesmen in that area were so fierce most folks refused to leave the settlement, and forty men were killed in the short time Wallace lived there.

It was during this time that Wallace earned himself a nickname. There was a bloodthirsty Waco warrior living in the area, who stood six foot eight inches in his moccasin feet and weighed over three hundred pounds. Folks called him Chief Bigfoot because his moccasin tracks measured over fourteen inches in length with the right toe protruding from the moccasin. He'd been terrorizing the settlement for nearly twenty years, raiding the good people's homes, stealing horses and killing any soul he encountered.

Well, one fine day Wallace's neighbor came home to find his kitchen a mess and large moccasin tracks leading from his house next door to Wallace's place that he shared with William Fox. Fellow came running over to accuse Wallace of entering his cabin since he knew the hunter always wore moccasins. Wallace had to drag the old coot over to the nearest tracks and put his much smaller moccasin foot inside the track before the feller would believe he hadn't gone inside his cabin. William Fox was so amused by the incident he started calling Wallace "Bigfoot", and the name stuck.

Sad to say, it was that same Waco chief who killed and scalped Fox a year later. Bigfoot Wallace tracked down Chief Bigfoot and shot him, but somehow the warrior survived. It was Westfall, a great friend of Bigfoot's who managed to kill the huge chief in a ferocious hand-to-hand combat on the Llano.

In the 1850s, he led a Ranger company of his own. An opponent of secession, Wallace stayed in Texas during the Civil War, continuing his defense of the frontier against attacks by Comanches, Union soldiers and deserters. In his later years (he died in 1899), Wallace regaled friends and neighbors in South Texas with tales of his wild frontier life, earning a reputation as a Texan folk hero.



Famous Quotes

"Talk low, talk slow, and don't say too much."

John Wayne

"It is not the violence that sets men apart, all right,
it is the distance that he is prepared to go."

Forrest Bodurant

"Move a little strange, you're gonna get a bullet.

Not a warning, not a questions... a bullet."

Major Marquis Warren from The Hateful Eight

"For a one-leg rancher... He's one tough son of a bitch."

Charlie Prince from 3:10 to Yuma

"Boot Hill is full of fellows who pulled their
triggers without aiming."

Unknown

"Don't squat with your spurs on."

Unknown

"It's better to be a has-been than a never was."

Unknown



Cowboy Horse's Names

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Adam Cartwright | Beauty | Little Joe Cartwright | Cochise |
| Allen "Rocky" Lane | Black Jack | Lone Ranger | Silver |
| Andy Devine ("Jingles") | Joker | Marshall Dillon | Buck |
| Annie Oakley | Target | Maverick | El Loaner |
| Bat Masterson | Stardust | Monte Hale | Lightnin' |
| Ben Cartwright | Buck | Pancho | Loco |
| Bill Cody | Chico | Pecos Bill | Widow Maker |
| Bob Baker | Apache | Rex Allen | Ko-Ko |
| Bob Steele | Brownie | Richard Boone | Rafter |
| Cooper Smith | Gambler | "Little Beaver" | Papoose |
| Dale Evans | Buttermilk | Robert Fuller | Hoot |
| Gene Autry | Champion | Rowdy Yates | Midnight |
| General Philip Sheridan | Winchester | Roy Rogers | Trigger |
| General Robert Lee | Traveller | Sunset Carson | Cactus |
| George Armstrong Custer | Vic (died at LBH) | Tex Ritter | White Flash |
| George O'Brian | Mike | The Cisco Kid | Diablo |
| Hopalong Cassidy | Topper | Tim Holt | Sheik |
| Hoss Cartwright | Chubb | Tom Keene | Rusty |
| Jay "Tonto" Silverheels | Scout | Tom Mix | Tony |
| Johnny Mack Brown | Rebel | Tom Tyler | Ace |
| Johnny Ringo | Bingo | Tonto | Scout |
| Josh Randall | Ringo | Wally Wales | Silver King |
| Ken Maynard | Tarzan | Wild Bill Hickok | Buckshot |
| Kermit Maynard | Rocky | William S. Hart | Fritz |
| Lash LaRue | Black Diamond | Zorro | Tornado |

Shooting Iron Miller



Since the New Year began, I find that time is passing me by. It's really hard to believe that Comancheria Days 2016 is just around the corner. We are really excited to have over 100 shooters signed up for our event (ahead of last year's numbers at this same timeframe), and we look forward to having many more join us before April. If you haven't signed up yet, please be sure to send in your registration form as soon as possible, since we are beginning to assign posses. Give a nudge to your fellow shooters, so they can get a move on!

This month I would like to put a spotlight on a couple of folks - Les Newcomb (aka "Six Wire"), our entertainment for Friday night, and El Patron – our chuck wagon master - by providing you with a little background on each.

First, Six Wire came to SASS shooting sort of through the back door. He attended "End of Trail" for several years as a Waddie for the Legendary Longhorns who would bring the riding steers for display to the event. His father-in-law, Fred Balmer (aka "Folsom Man") kept asking if he was interested in competing, and while he was interested, he could tell that he was going to have to "save up" to get started. When Six Wire's wife got a promotion and a bonus, she said "go for it," and he hasn't looked back since! He currently shoots the Seniors category and is having a great time. His other passion is singing and he has a 3 man folk group that sings at retirement centers and events throughout central Texas.



If you haven't had the opportunity to hear Six Wire perform, then you've really missed out! Sheriff Robert Love and I had the fortune of hearing them play at the banquet during The Battle of Plum Creek in 2015. Now's *your* chance to listen to Six Wire live. If you come to Comancheria Days, you can sit under the trees, relax, sip a libation or two, enjoy some salsa and chips before dinner, and listen to the sweet sounds of Six Wire. They are planning their music repertoire as we speak. Now doesn't that sound like something you'd be up for this coming April?

Second, I'd like to remind everyone that El Patron and his chuck wagon will be joining us once again at Comancheria Days. I can taste those juicy fajitas already! For those of you who participated in the Friday night dinner last year, I bet you were glad you did since the meal we had was simply delicious. I crossed my fingers and held my breath when I contacted El Patron to ask him if he'd oblige us yet again. I was pleasantly surprised when he said yes, he'd love to cook for us.



El Patron has been a wagon cook for about 12 years or so. His wagon was built in the 1880's and has Springfield running gear. It was very common to combine boxes and running gear from different brands of wagons. Serial numbers and parts were not standardized back in those days. It was originally sold by a wagon shop in Fredericksburg, as it is stenciled on the original seat back. He restored his wagon to be historically accurate and built many of the accessories. It is quite a site to see. Just one more thing to look forward to this year at Comancheria Days! We sincerely hope you will join us.



Words from the Range Master

By A.D. Texaz

Looking forward to a couple of busy Months ahead.... The March match emphasis will be an Alumni shoot. We will be sending out emails to Texican Ranger members encouraging them to bring a guest to the March match. Also there will be an email sent to past guests to attend the March match. The guest fee will be waived and everyone will shoot for the member's price, \$15.00. Watch your email for more information.

For the March set-up we will be emphasizing securing the shotgun targets. They seem to be wandering a bit in the February match. We will get them under control.

I am pleased with the number of clean shooters for the January and February shoots! Hittable targets and clear scenarios are a good thing!

If you ever have any questions, issues, or comments about the match, target placement or anything regarding the range - I am interested in your feedback. It's best to reach me at my email address: jn1897@me.com.

Comancheria Days 2016 Volunteers Needed!

By Culebra Blaze

Well, Texican Rangers, it's getting' to be that time of year again – Comancheria Days, 7-10 April 2016 is fast approaching! And just like previous years, the success of this year's annual match will be the direct result of the numerous Texican Rangers that volunteer their time and energy to helping out. Assistant Match Director Culebra Blaze (who will definitely be checking in to the State Psychiatric Hospital for tests after this year's match) is again looking for folks to assist with Thursday and Friday Side Matches, parking, Friday night meal preparation, Saturday night banquet set up, and various administrative duties. If you want to help out this year, please contact Culebra Blaze at 210-618-5551 or e-mail at wilebiker@yahoo.com. Thanks in advance!

Merwin & Hulbert

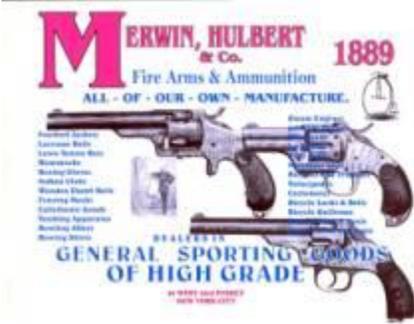
A true Ugly Duckling

By Dutch Van Horn



Have you ever wondered what Kurt Russell was carrying in the movie "Tombstone" when he told Ike Clanton "You die first, you get me, your friends might get me in a rush but not before I turn your head in to a canoe." Well he was carrying a Merwin & Hulbert. It was the fourth most popular revolver in the old west but it was a gun before its time.

Merwin, Hulbert & Co. was one of the top four quality revolver manufacturers from 1876 to 1891, along with their famous counterparts, Colt, Smith & Wesson, and Remington. Though Merwin, Hulbert pistols were never manufactured in the large numbers of the other major manufacturers, the outstanding quality of their fit and finish made them desirable firearms in their day, and today as well.



Merwin, Hulbert, and Co. or Merwin Hulbert was an American firearms designer and marketer based in New York City which produced revolvers. Their firearms were manufactured by a subsidiary company, Hopkins & Allen of Norwich, Connecticut. Merwin Hulbert's designs had influenced other gun makers of the time, such as Meriden Firearms Co, Harrington & Richardson, Forehand & Wadsworth, and Iver Johnson.

During the late 19th century, Merwin Hulbert

revolvers were used by police departments of many cities in the eastern United States. Joseph Merwin was involved with marketing revolvers as early as 1856 and first formed an arms company known as Merwin & Bray. This company was folded by 1874. In 1876 Merwin formed a partnership with William and Milan Hulbert, who owned 50% interest in Hopkins & Allen. After Merwin's death in 1888, the company became known as "Hulbert Brothers & Company". Hulbert Brothers declared bankruptcy in 1894 and in 1896 it was liquidated. Hopkins & Allen continued to manufacture Merwin Hulbert marked guns until 1916 when it went bankrupt and was bought the following year by Marlin Firearms.



Merwin Hulbert manufactured both single action and double action revolvers. Merwin Hulbert's innovation was a rotating barrel design which allowed the user to rotate the barrel 90 degrees in order to pull the barrel and cylinder forward to remove the fired cartridge cases. All six ejected at once, then you twisted back and loaded the gun one chamber at a time just like a Colt or Remington revolver of its time.

The rotating barrel design also enabled the company to make interchangeable barrels that could be quickly changed for the same gun.



The Merwin Hulbert revolvers were considered to be the strongest made revolvers during the time period in which they were made, but they had a problem. They didn't shoot black powder well, too many moving parts, and were known to jam after a few shots were fired.

Their earlier models were open top like this Merwin & Hulbert SA First Model Frontier Army .44MH caliber with early "humpback" hammer and shortened barrel.



Merwin, Hulbert & Co. made several models of revolvers. The large frame revolvers, models one through four, were chambered for the proprietary .44 Merwin Hulbert, .44 Russian and .44-40 WCF (Winchester Center Fire) cartridges. The square butt versions were known as the "Frontier Army" model. The crested butt (also known as the "birds head" or "skull crusher" butt) versions, models two through

four, were known as the "Pocket Army" model. Several single and double action medium and small frame pocket revolvers were chambered in .38MH (also fired .38 S&W) and .32MH (also fired .32 S&W) calibers. A seven shot .22 Short Rim fire caliber Derringer, which was identical to the Smith & Wesson Model One-Number Three derringer, was marketed by Merwin, Hulbert for a short time.



This is a Merwin Hulbert & Co. Pocket Revolver - .32 caliber. Notice the fold down hammer. This is so there is less chance it would catch on your clothing if you were carrying it concealed.



This is a Merwin Hulbert & Co. Pocket Army, 3rd Model - .44/40 WCF. Notice the skull crusher grip. Merwin & Hulbert primarily made nickel plated guns and often offered engraved models.



This is a Merwin & Hulbert Large Frame Double Action Revolver in .44/40 WFC.



This is the actual Hero Merwin & Hulbert revolver used by Buck Taylor in "Rough Riders". It is .45 Colt.

Now for the surprise, the Merwin & Hulbert revolvers didn't shoot black powder well and the company went bankrupt. It went bankrupt about the time smokeless powder became available. Smokeless powder eliminated the jamming problem. Firing a Merwin & Hulbert with smokeless powder was flawless. So with smokeless powder the ugly duckling became a swan. When the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in 1934 were finally able to carry firearms (yes then went 26 years without being able to carry guns), their new agents were looking for big bore snub nosed revolver for concealment and power. Merwin & Hulberts were a perfect match for them and they paid top dollar to buy used revolvers.

February Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Howdy Nabor | 2/3 |
| Newt Ritter | 2/3 |
| Shooting Iron Miller | 2/7 |
| Charlie Reynolds | 2/9 |
| Yuma Jack | 2/9 |
| Major Samuel Clayton | 2/11 |
| Long Juan | 2/19 |
| El Patron | 2/21 |
| Col Callan | 2/21 |
| Doc Smiley | 2/22 |
| Bar Diamond Rider | 2/25 |
| Sombrero Negro | 2/29 |

Key Links

www.sassnet.com
www.texicanrangers.org
www.greenmountainregulators.org
www.pccss.org
www.stxpistoleros.com
www.tejascaballeros.org
www.traviscountyregulators.com
www.trpistoleros.com
www.texasjacks.com
www.cimarron-firearms.com
www.tsra.com
www.wildwestmercantile.com



TEXICAN RANGERS

2016

March 12-13 Monthly Match
 April 7-10 COMANCHERIA DAYS
 May 14-15 Monthly Match
 June 11-12 Monthly Match
 July 9-10 Monthly Match
 August 13-14 Monthly Match
 September 10 SHINDIG 2016
 September 11 Monthly Match
 October 8 Final Match of 2016
 November/December Range Closed

CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING SCHEDULES

| | |
|---|--|
| 1st Saturday | Plum Creek (Lockhart) |
| 1st Saturday | South Texas Pistoleros (San Antonio) |
| 2nd Saturday | Texas Riviera Pistoleros (George West) |
| 2nd Saturday | Travis County Regulators (Smithville) |
| 2nd Sunday | Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros (Pharr) |
| 2nd Weekend | Texican Rangers (Comfort) |
| 3rd Saturday | Tejas Caballeros (Dripping Springs) |
| 4th Saturday (Cowboy) and 4th Sunday (Long Range) | Green Mountain Regulators (Marble Falls) |

2016

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Jan 30 | TSRA Regional Match | THSS |
| Feb 22-28 | Winter Range (25th Anniversary) | Phoenix |
| Mar 11-13 Mar 17-20 | Bayou Blast Trailhead (25th Anniversary) | Lake Charles, LA THSS |
| April 7-9 | Land Run | Oklahoma City |
| May 5-8 May 13-15 May 19-22 | Battle of Plum Creek Jail Break Fall of the Fort (SASS TX State Championship) | Plum Creek Oakwood Outlaws Ft. Parker |

