

# 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  
August 2021

PO Box 782261  
San Antonio, TX 78278-2261

## Officers

### President

**Asup Sleeve**

(954) 632-3621

[asupsleeve@yahoo.com](mailto:asupsleeve@yahoo.com)

### Vice President

**Burly Bill Brocius**

210-310-9090

[Bexarbillbrocius@gmail.com](mailto:Bexarbillbrocius@gmail.com)

### Secretary

**Tombstone Mary**

210-262-7464

[maryn58@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryn58@sbcglobal.net)

### Treasurer

**A.D.**

210-862-7464

[jn1897@me.com](mailto:jn1897@me.com)

### Range Master

**Colorado Horseshoe**

719-231-6109

[george.coles0627@gmail.com](mailto:george.coles0627@gmail.com)

### [Communications](#)

**Dutch Van Horn**

210-823-6058

[dvh@satx.rr.com](mailto:dvh@satx.rr.com)

## Howdy Texican Rangers



The August matches were faster than a Talladega minute. With 40 competitors on Saturday, Alamo Andy bested the field with a stage average of 20.05 seconds while taking the honor of Top Overall Cowboy. Brazos Bo was a photo finish just .35 second average behind. Shooting Iron Miller claimed the overall Top Lady Shooter for the day.

Sunday saw the Top Overall shooter honors go to Sheriff Robert Love. Talk about consistency, Brazos Bo finished the day just a whisker later to claim second. Bessie James garnered the Lady overall Top Lady category.

Sunday also featured the Wild Bunch shooters quickly piling up the brass. The dual threat Alamo Andy put down his revolvers and with his trust 1911 bested the field with an average of 1.4 seconds per round for each of the 42 round stages. The Top Lady Wild Bunch shooter was Shooting Iron Miller once again showing her skill with both a wheel gun and 1911.

Other notable awards were the seven shooters who completed all five stages perfectly clean on Saturday and three on Sunday. Congrats to all the shooters with a fast paced and fun two days of shooting. To see a complete listing of all main match and side match scores and final standings visit our website.

Remember in conjunction with the State Wild Bunch Championship there will be a SASS equipment swap meet on Friday the 3rd of September starting at 9:00 am and all Texicans are welcome to participate. So why not gather up your excess cowboy gear and come out? You could volunteer to run a side match and enjoy a two fer' with the club and you both benefitting.

Next up on the calendar is Shindig on Saturday the 11th September. Food, Fun, Fellowship and it's all FREE for our loyal members. Plan ahead, and make sure you put this on your calendar.

Our next workday is Tuesday September 7th..

Looking forward to making noise outta gunpowder with ya.

Asup Sleeve

President, Texican Rangers

## **Diedrick Dutchover By Big John Mesquite**



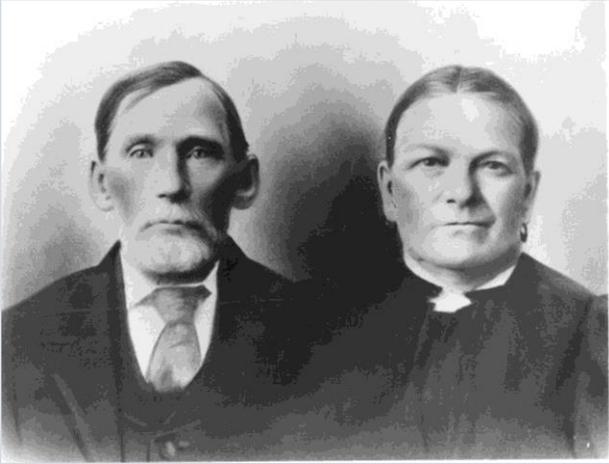
On a vacation trip to Big Bend and the Davis Mountains, my wife and I toured historic Fort Davis. What a wonderful job they are doing restoring it to its original condition. On our travels, we always try to find an old cemetery and spend some time walking through and looking at names and dates on the headstones. It gets you in touch with your own mortality. On our trip, it wasn't easy to find or get to but we managed to find the Pioneer Cemetery, which allowed us to explore some local history. One of the better marked headstones was for Diedrick Dutchover. Upon

returning home, we did some research about this "Early Texan."

Diedrick Dutchover's story began in 1842 in Antwerp, Belgium. As a 13-year-old young man named Anton Diedrick, he was walking along a pier one evening and witnessed a cold-blooded murder. The killers, fearing exposure, shanghaied the youngster and took him to their ship. When he awoke Diedrick found himself a prisoner on board a tramp windjammer, a sailing vessel carrying nondescript cargoes from one port to another. For three years he remained a prisoner on the ship. During that time he sailed the high seas and made many ports. When the windjammer reached the port of Galveston in 1845, Diedrick either escaped or was set free.

As he explored Galveston, the Flemish-speaking Diedrick could not understand the English-speaking people he encountered. He found it difficult to find work, a place to stay or much to eat. Perhaps fortunately for Diedrick, the struggle between the United States and Mexico had just begun. All able-bodied men who could fight were being urged to enlist in the army. Propelled by curiosity and wondering at the commotion all around him, Diedrick found himself outside a recruiting station. A man in a blue uniform grabbed him by the arm and began speaking to him rapidly in English. He told Diedrick that all he needed to do was to make his mark and he would be cared for; food to eat, a place to stay and a job that paid. When asked for his name, he managed to mutter "Diedrick" and then stood there with a blank look on his face, not understanding what else the recruiting officer wanted. The frustrated officer exclaimed, "Aw, he's Dutch all over. We'll call him that! Thus Anton Diedrick was "reborn" and enlisted in the U.S. Army as Diedrick Dutchallover.

Dutchallover served with honor as a U.S. soldier. While he was in the army, he dropped the "all" from his name because it was "too cumbersome," Later, as Diedrick Dutchover, he applied for the small pension to which he was entitled as a veteran of the Mexican War. He had considerable trouble explaining that he was Anton Diedrick, Diedrick Dutchallover and Diedrick Dutchover.



After the War, Dutchover lived in San Antonio for a few years. He gained experience as a frontier scout and soon settle at La Limpia in the Davis Mountains. In 1850 he was approached by Big Foot Wallace, a Texas Ranger, to ride shotgun on the dangerous stage run from San Antonio to El Paso. He worked for the stage line for two years and married Refugia Salcedo. When not working for the stage line, he operated a small sheep ranch in Limpia Canyon. Later he expanded his ranch and added cattle. After Fort Davis was established in 1854, he sold milk to the post.

Indian attacks were constant threat in the Davis Mountains. When the Union 8th Infantry left for the Civil War in 1861, Dutchover was left in charge and took refuge in the fort with other Texans to await the arrival of Confederate troops. When they arrived, there were not enough of them to man the post so they also left, again leaving Dutchover in charge. Almost immediately the Mescalero Apache Chief Nicolas attacked the fort. The Dutchovers, a Mexican woman with two children, and four Americans hid on a roof for three days while the Apaches looted the fort. On the third night Dutchover and the others, except one of the Americans who had fallen ill, slipped out and began the long trek to Presidio, 80-miles away. One day later a stage arrived to find a ravaged fort and the American who remained behind, dead on the roof, apparently of natural causes. Dutchover and the others staggered into Presidio four days later.

When federal troops returned to Fort Davis in 1867, Dutchover was employed to haul timber from Sawmill Canyon for use in rebuilding the fort. Even with a heavy guard he often lost oxen at night to Apaches, who were still in the area.



Dutchover spent the rest of his days near Fort Davis. He was there when the last soldiers left in 1891. Diedrick Dutchover died in 1904 and the Dutchover name remains prominent in far west Texas, where numerous descendants still reside today.

By the time he died, Diedrick Dutchover had sailed the high seas, fought as a U.S. soldier in the Mexican War, ridden shotgun of the Overland Trail mail route, fought Indians and established himself as the first white settler in the Fort Davis/La Limpia area. What a life!

## **The Most Famous Gun that Never Was By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



I grew up watching Western movies and TV shows. The Networks and directors tried to come up with a new idea for western stories and plots. One of the ways they made westerns different was to have the hero carry and use a unique type of gun, such as Jim Bowie's knife or John Wayne's large loop 1892 Winchester.

The distinctive look of the Winchester 1892 large loop carbine rifle was the dream of many young boys and old men who watched the gun being used on TV shows and in movies for over 82

Years. Watching their favorite actor handle the rifle with one hand was the envy of every want-to-be cowboy.

Believe it or not, large loop-levered Winchesters were never part of the Old West. Rather, it was Hollywood that made them popular. The first loop-levered Winchester appeared in the 1939 film "*Stagecoach*," starring John Wayne, and director John Ford wanted his star's entrance in this epic Western to be dramatic.

"I want you to spin that rifle like a pistol," Ford told his rising young star. Wayne and stuntman Yakima Canutt came up with a rounded lever that enabled Wayne to spin-cock the Model 1892 saddle-ring Trapper, 16-inch barrel — one of two used in the movie.

But Wayne discovered the lever was prone to bending during action scenes. Thus, by the 1950s it had evolved into an oval-shaped lever, seen in other John Wayne movies such as *Rio Bravo*, *Circus World*, *El Dorado*, *Rio Lobo*, *True Grit*, *Big Jake*, and *Rooster Cogburn*. While not as adept for spinning, you can see why it became one of Wayne's trademarks.

The loop-levered Model 92 gained greater popularity with Chuck Connors in "*The Rifleman*," a half-hour TV series that ran from 1958 to 1963. Initially the director wanted Chuck Connors to use an 1873 Single Action Army revolver, but when they saw him handle an 1892 Winchester well that sold them. Using a much wider loop than Wayne's, the 6'5" Connors could spin his 20-inch barreled carbine with ease, and he could do it with either hand. In one famous scene, Connors switched hands right in the middle of a gunfight, for no apparent reason other than to show off. Additionally, a trip screw could be set to fire the carbine each time the lever closed, enabling Chuck to crank off multiple shots less than a second apart. Steve McQueen, in "*Wanted Dead or Alive*," also favored a loop lever on his chopped Winchester 92 Mare's Leg.

In 1973, then leader of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, was visiting the United States. After all official meetings with President Nixon were done, they asked Brezhnev what he would like to do? As it turns out, he was a big western fan, especially *The Rifleman*, and asked to meet Chuck Connors. They met at Richard Nixon's San Clemente home. At the meeting Brezhnev was star struck and was overjoyed when Connors presented him with pair of matching Colt .45 revolvers. It was nice since Chuck wasn't about to give up one of his large loop Winchesters.

One of the things they never told you was that you had to use a short barreled 1892 or have extremely long arms. If an averaged sized person tied to do the famous spin they would either hit themselves in the head or shoulder with the barrel as it came around.

But aside from some commemoratives, few gun companies got on the loop-levered bandwagon until recently. Today, firms such as Cimarron, Chiappa and even Winchester all produce variations of loop-levered guns. Considering that in June 2007 one of the originals used in "*Stagecoach*" was sold by Little John's Auctions for \$113,000, these modern versions are bargains.

## **The Merrill Carbine**

**By Doc Holloman**



Forty years ago, I used to make the drive down US Highway 29 from Fairfax, Virginia to Charlottesville, Virginia on an almost weekly basis. What would have been a rather monotonous two-hour drive was made more interesting by the fact that Route 29 passes through significant Civil War

sites. Most important of these is the Manassas (Bull Run) battlefield, just south of Fairfax. I confess to stopping several times at the various points of interest that were right on the highway, such as the McLean House and the Stone Bridge.

About a half hour further south, just outside Culpepper (a town first surveyed by George Washington) is the Brandy Station. As with Manassas, the highway goes through the middle of the historic battlefield, although in those days there was little to mark the site of the largest cavalry battle ever fought in the western hemisphere (a deficiency that has been partially rectified in recent years). But I would occasionally pull over and imagine the movement of troopers led by officers such as John Buford, Judson Kilpatrick, Fitzhugh Lee and Wade Hampton.

Route 29 goes through several small towns that were full of antique shops. In some cases “antique” was synonymous with “old junk,” but there were a few places along the route well worth a stop. One of these was a shop, just north of Charlottesville that specialized in Civil War arms and military equipment. Racks of rifled-muskets and carbines lined one wall, while another held one of the widest variety of swords and sabers that I had seen outside of a museum. The display cases contained numerous Colt, Remington, and Manhattan revolvers, along with their much more expensive Confederate copies. Other cabinets displayed cap badges, shoulder boards, canteens, powder flasks, and personal items.



On one visit, a particular item caught my eye. It was the rusty remains of what was obviously a cavalry carbine of some sort, obviously dug up after spending a century in the ground. The stock was long gone, but the metal remains were basically intact. Now I was familiar with a variety of Civil War carbines: Sharps, Spencer, Smith and Burnside, but this was clearly not one of those. The Shop owner told me it was a Merrill. Frankly, I had never

heard of a Merrill Carbine but was intrigued. I was even more intrigued when he told me that this relic had been dug on the Brandy Station battlefield (which in those days was mostly in private hands, meaning the property owners could dig up whatever they wanted to.) The owner showed me a preserved Merrill carbine that he did not have on display, as it had already been purchased but not yet picked up. I was impressed by the way the top lever opened and closed the breach plug, much like a modern rifle bolt.

I pondered the dug Merrill for a couple of weeks. On the one hand, it was just a rusty relic. On the other the connection to the Battle of Brandy Station was almost irresistible. On the other hand, the \$400 that the dealer wanted for it was a lot of money in those days for a just married law student. In the end, the decision was taken out of my hands because it sold soon after I saw it. As a consolation, I bought a metal stirrup that was also dug at Brandy Station.

The Merrill carbine was one of the numerous firearms spawned by the need to arm the rapidly expanding Federal forces following the beginning of the Civil War. Like most East Coast cities, Baltimore Maryland had a gun making industry, which before the outbreak of hostilities had concentrated on personal and sporting firearms. Ironically, Baltimore’s gun making district was located where the current University of Maryland Hospital and Medical School, including the famous Shock-Trauma center, currently sits.

James Merrill was a Baltimore gunsmith who had been experimenting with the breech loading design in the late 1850s, and whose top lever design had come to the attention of the War Department. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, Merrill obtained a contract to supply arms for the Federal forces, ultimately delivering around 1500 .54 caliber carbines to his top lever design, along with 800 muskets using the carbine action. Merrill also converted 3-400 US Navy Jenks carbines to his action. The first carbines were delivered in November 1861 with production and deliveries continuing until November 1864. This means pretty much all surviving Merrill carbines saw some sort of Civil War service.

The Merrill was produced in two models, the first models being easily distinguished by the brass patch box in the stock, which was deleted in the second model. The Merrill had an elegant, and for its day, technologically advanced design, which in some ways resembled the bolt action rifles that would follow in the next decade. However, the design was not without its flaws. As typical for military equipment, particularly firearms, soldiers either loved or hated the Merrill. Soldiers loved it for the ease and speed of loading, the light weight (6.5 pounds, compared to almost 8 pounds for the Sharps,) the easy to use sights, and its perceived accuracy. On the other hand, soldiers found the stock to be fragile, the sights easily lost, and parts to be not interchangeable in some cases. Some of the issues, such as a failure of the breach to seal completely, were improved during production of the first model or with the second model, and none appear to have been design showstoppers that could not have been rectified in time. But by far, the Merrill’s biggest issue was the ammunition.



The Merrill paper cartridges contained a 400gr conical bullet in front of 40 grains of black powder. They were ignited from the side which led to unreliable ignition. Further, the paper cases were fragile and easily damaged in a cavalry trooper's cartridge box.

At least 12 Federal Cavalry regiments were issued Merrill Carbines with the Rifles going to Sharpshooters and at least one Infantry regiment, the 21st Indiana. Confederate Cavalry thought enough of captured Merrill carbines that manufacture of ammunition for it was set up at the Richmond Arsenal.

As mentioned above, a number of improvements were made in the Merrill during production, particularly with the introduction of the Second Model. The remaining issues probably would have been addressed with further development. Wartime exigencies have a tendency to push equipment into service before the bugs have been worked out. But in the Merrill's case, there was no need to develop it further. As the war progressed, Merrills began to be withdrawn from active service and replaced with Sharps, Smith, and Spencer carbines, and with the end of hostilities, they were among the hundreds of thousands of excess firearms to be sold as surplus.

I have not personally seen any references to Merrill carbines in use in the Old West. Did any make the trip west? With 15000 produced: probably. But the lack of ammunition availability would probably have led to their use after the war being very short-lived. Also, there were plentiful surplus Sharps and other design carbines available.

I eventually did acquire a first model Merrill on Gunbroker, and paid a Gunbroker price for it. It is the oldest long arm in my collection, and being a first model, made in 1862, I am fairly confident that it saw Civil War service, perhaps at Brandy Station.

## Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA) Event Saturday, October 9th, 2021



Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA) National Family Day for 2021 will be Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. This will be the 12th annual event held at the San Antonio Police Training Academy. HAVA and the Veterans feel you can't have an event like this without SASS cowboys. I agree with them.

These American military families will enjoy a day of shooting, air soft, laser games, food, great gifts, an impressive raffle table and good fellowship among others who are trying to re-build their lives after being wounded in service to our country. Many of these families have never shot a cowboy gun.

There will also be demonstrations from some of the fastest shotgun, rifle and pistol shooters in various shooting sports today.

This is a joint effort with the South Texas Pistoleros and the Texican Rangers. Half will help wounded warriors shoot, the others will talk about guns of the old west.

We are looking for volunteers. Now I know it is the date of our last shoot for the Texican Rangers but you could come after the shoot. You would be welcome. If interested call Dutch at 210-823-6058.

**Tombstone Mary, Secretary  
Regulator/Life #19524**



Our next match will be Shindig! This is our member appreciation shoot and will be free to all members and it includes lunch. Guests will be \$20.00 and if they want to eat lunch it will be \$5.00. This shoot does not count toward annual club awards.

We are still looking for some of our members to step up and be club officers. Please consider helping the Texican Rangers continue to be a great place to shoot.

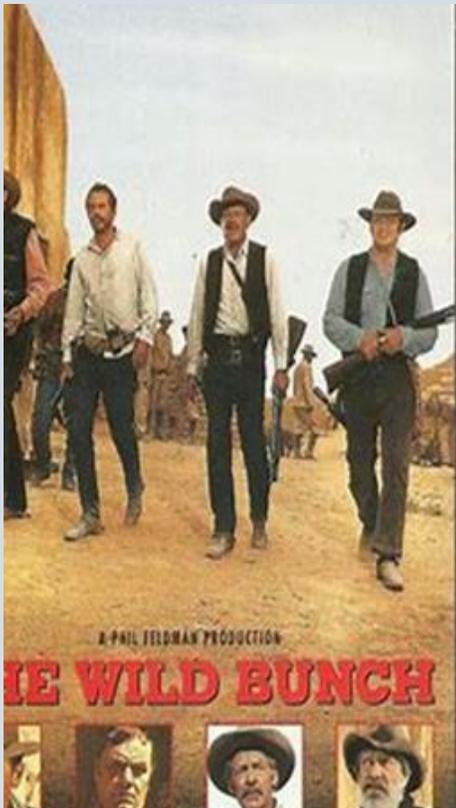
Club Awards will start with your October 9th match. We do not shoot on Sunday in October.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me at

[Texicanrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:Texicanrangers@yahoo.com).

Tombstone Mary

Texican Rangers Secretary



# **WILD BUNCH RO CLASS**

**Thursday 3 September**

**At historic Stieler Ranch in Comfort Texas**

**In conjunction with the**

**2021 Texas State Wild Bunch Championship**

**Registration at 8:30 Class starts at 9:00  
\$25 for initial certification \$10 for re-certification**

**Please bring a 3 inch ring binder with:  
SASS Wild Bunch Hand Book Version 15 2021  
SASS Wild Bunch Match Director Guide Version 12 2021  
SASS Wild Bunch RO Manual Version 15 2021  
Download from SASS website**

**Additional handout will be provided in class**

**No guns or ammunition in classroom**

**The Texican Rangers Want You!**



**To Assist With The Texas State Wild Bunch  
Championship Side Matches, September 3 & 4.  
No Wild Bunch Experience Needed. If You Can Count  
Or Read A Timer, We Can Use You!**

**Please contact Burly Bill Brocius To Volunteer or  
For More Information at :burlybillbrocius@gmail.com.**





**off the mark**.com by Mark Parisi



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Dodge City Mike 512.801.8424

Price List effective 03.01.21

Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/500	Price/1000	
.38	100	RNFP	42	83	
	105	FP	43	85	
	125	RNFP	47	94	
	125	FP	47	94	
	130	RNFP	49	97	
	158	RNFP	54	106	
	158	FP	54	106	
.380	158	SWC	54	106	
	100	RNFP	42	83	
.38-55	245	RNFP	82	162	
	.41	215	SWC	70	139
	.44	180	RNFP	58	115
	.44-40	240	SWC	75	149
	.45 COLT	200	RNFP	64	127
	.45 COLT	160	RNFP	61	121
	.45 COLT	180	RNFP	58	115
	.45 COLT	200	RNFP	64	127
	.45 COLT	250	RNFP	76	152
	9MM	124	RN	47	94
	9MM	125	CN	47	94
	40 S&W	180	FP	58	115
.45ACP	200	SWC	64	127	
	200	RN	64	127	
	230	RN	73	144	
45-70	405	FPT	75 (250)	300 (1K)	
			150 (500)		

## Parting Shots

Winston Churchill loved parapodia's, figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. War does not determine who is right - only who is left.
6. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
7. They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I thought I wanted a career. Turns out, I just wanted pay checks.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put "DOCTOR."
11. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
12. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street...with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
13. Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.
14. A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.
15. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
16. Money can't buy happiness, but it sure makes misery easier to live with.
17. There's a fine line between cuddling and...holding someone down so they can't get away.
18. I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.
19. You're never too old to learn something stupid.
20. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
21. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.
22. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
23. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.



## Texican Rangers Regulators

Tombstone Mary	2003
A.D.	2004
Dusty Lone Star	2008
Handlebar Bob	2010
Dusty Chambers	2010
Sheriff Robert Love	2012
Grouchy Spike	2013
Agarita Annie	2016
Joe Darter	2016
Nueces Slim	2016
Skinny	2016
Dirty Dog Dale	2017
Dutch Van Horn	2017
Shooting Iron Miller	2017



### August Birthdays

Crooked Creek Sam	8/7
Shootin Star	8/12
Texas McD	8/24
Scooter	8/27

### September Birthdays

Abilene	9/4
Uncle Nick Wilson	9/7
A.D.	9/15
T Bone Paul	9/16
L.W. Hannabass	9/21



### Key Links

- [www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com)
- [www.texicanrangers.org](http://www.texicanrangers.org)
- [www.greenmountainregulators.org](http://www.greenmountainregulators.org)
- [www.pccss.org](http://www.pccss.org)
- [www.stxpistolaros.com](http://www.stxpistolaros.com)
- [www.tejasballeros.org](http://www.tejasballeros.org)
- [www.trpistolaros.com](http://www.trpistolaros.com)
- [www.texasjacks.com](http://www.texasjacks.com)
- [www.cimarron-firearms.com](http://www.cimarron-firearms.com)
- [www.tsra.com](http://www.tsra.com)
- [www.wildwestmercantile.com](http://www.wildwestmercantile.com)

## TEXICAN RANGERS

2021

January 9	Monthly Match
January 10	Monthly Match
February 13	Monthly Match
February 14	Monthly Match
March 13	Monthly Match
March 14	Monthly Match
April 8 – 10	Comancheria Days
May 8	Monthly Match
May 9	Monthly Match
May 29	Wild Bunch/BAMM
June 12	Monthly Match
June 13	Monthly Match
July 10	Monthly Match
July 11	Monthly Match
July 31	Wild Bunch/BAMM
August 14	Monthly Match
August 15	Monthly Match
September 3-5	TX State Wild Bunch Championship
September 11	Monthly Match (Shindig)
September 12	Monthly Match
October 9	Monthly Match & Final Tear Down
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 Sunday	Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros (Pharr)
2nd Weekend	Texican Rangers (Comfort)
3rd Saturday	Tejas Caballeros (TX Republic Ranch)
4th Saturday (Cowboy) and 4th Sunday (Long Range)	Green Mountain Regulators (Marble Falls)

2021

**Canceled**

**Mar 25-28**

**April 8-10**

**April 21-24**

**June 17-27**

**Sep 2-5**

**Sep 22-25**

**Oct 15-17**

**Oct 23-24**

**Nov 5-7**

**Dec 10-12**

**Winter Range**

**SASS Texas State Championship**

**Comancheria Days**

**SASS Southwest Regional Land Run**

**End of Trail**

**SASS Texas State Wild Bunch**

**Championship**

**Comin' At Cha**

**Whoopin' Ass (Tejas Caballeros)**

**SASS Texas State Black Powder**

**Championship**

**Battle of Plum Creek (Plum Creek Shooting**

**Society)**

**Gunfight at the Gulch (Tejas Riviera**

**Pistoleros)**

# Photo Album



