

 *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
February, 2017

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Words from the Judge



Hello the Camp:

Thanks for coming out to the match in February, as most of you know I did not shoot February, due to be being under the weather. Getting better but we still have a way to go.

CD is fast approaching and there is still a lot of work to be done on the range, please try to come and help when you can. Work days are listed in the calendar.

We will be working on Hi Noon, The Fort, Dentist Office, Blazing Saddles, Boot Hill, the road and other projects. Lunch will be provided for the coming work days. Please bring your woodworking tools and lawn equipment.

See you at the next work day.

This year's Comacheria Days is going to be the best one ever. I hope you sign up to shoot but if you don't come out anyway to support the vendors.

See you in March.

Judge GeePee

16th Annual Tejeda Middle School History Faire & Culture Fest By Charlie Reynolds



On Saturday, April 1st, Tejeda Middle School is hosting their 16th Annual History Faire & Culture Fest. This is a free community event sponsored by the Tejeda Young Historian Club to promote cultural understanding and "living history." Cultural, historical and performing groups from all over the city and state participate; not to mention there's plenty of food. Although it's put on for the students of Tejeda Middle School, it's open to everyone; and best of all, admission is free.

For at least the last 14 years, SASS cowboys have had a display at the Faire. Initially the Alamo Area Moderators sponsored the display. For the past few years, the Texican Rangers have been the sponsors. Our display consists of historic rifles, pistols & shotguns, from flintlock, to cap & ball, to cartridge. We also have western memorabilia displays and a Frontier Life display.

Those of us who have participated explain the items on display as well as western culture and SASS to both the

students and adults. Sometimes it's hard to tell who has more fun, the visitors or us. The school provides breakfast, lunch and water to the participants...not a bad deal. They've even built us a display area. We dress in our cowboy clothes, to include our cowboy guns; just no live ammo. The school police frown on that. The Faire runs from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. We begin setting up at 8:00a.m. Participant parking is at the school (2909 E. Evans Rd), with remote parking at Encino Park Elementary or Roan Forest Elementary.

If you'd like to participate, let Dutch Van Horn know. You don't have to come for the whole day. But, once you start, you just can't stop.



The Texas State Match/Comancheria Days 2017

By Shooting Iron Miller

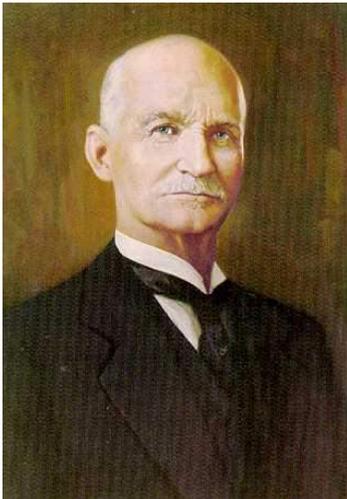


It's really exciting to help plan for The Texas State Match/Comancheria Days 2017. Sheriff Robert Love and I are busy visiting and emailing possible vendors to add to Sutter's Row this year. We'd really like to offer a good mix for you. As we traveled to Ruidoso for "Billy the Kid Breakout," Regionals in Oklahoma, and this past week to Winter Range, we've made it a point to touch base with several vendors, creating hype among them about our upcoming match.

The Match Committee is preparing to host 300 shooters at the beautiful Stieler Ranch in April. There will be 10 great stages, good food and fun side matches. If you have an idea for a particular vendor you'd like to see there, please pass the contact information to us and we will be glad to contact them. Or, feel free to give them my email aimee.fite@gmail.com or phone number 210.416.3913, and they can contact me. We are compiling a comprehensive list of vendors to share with you soon so you know who to expect and plan for before you arrive at the shoot.

We welcome spectators so be sure to encourage family and friends to join you sometime during the week of the match. Of course, we will ask them to sign a waiver and remind them to use proper eye and ear protection. This match will be a great place for them to see what Cowboy Action Shooting is all about, as well as shop and support our vendors so they will want to come back next year!

1911 Colt (106 Years Old and Still Going Strong) By Dutch Van Horn



Why does everyone love the 1911? Well it was patented on Valentine's Day, 14 February, 1911.

For more than a hundred years, one weapon has travelled with American troops into almost every crisis, hot spot and war the United States has participated in.

Developed as a response to Washington's first overseas insurgency, the 1911 pistol still accompanies some U.S. forces today around the world. It is one of the 10 most important handguns ever invented, and one of the most recognizable guns in the world.

The 1911 semiautomatic pistol was invented by John Moses Browning, one of the most successful—and some would say, legendary—inventors of firearms who ever lived. Between 1879 and 1926 the prolific Browning invented some of the most successful firearms ever made, including the 1911 pistol, the Browning Hi-Power pistol, the Browning Automatic Rifle and the M2 Browning heavy machine gun. Invented in 1921, the M2 still serves as the standard heavy machine gun of the U.S. armed forces,

The 1911 was designed with a new

handgun cartridge, .45 ACP, in mind. The .45 Automatic Colt Pistol round, also designed by John Browning, was developed in response to the ineffectiveness of the U.S. Army's then sidearm, the Colt M1892 revolver. U.S. troops sent to the Philippines during the Philippine-American War (1899–1902) discovered the revolver's .38 Long Colt cartridge lacked the ability to reliably incapacitate Moro warriors in combat. The Muslim warriors tied off their limbs to prevent blood loss. They were still able to get within striking distance of U.S. soldiers with melee weapons, even after being shot,



After the war, the Army decided it needed a heavier round with greater killing power. The .45 ACP and 1911 pistol were developed with America's experience in the Philippines in mind. The U.S. Army formally adopted the 1911 just in time for World War I. The 1911 proved a powerful and effective handgun in the hands of the American Expeditionary Forces. Army Sergeant Alvin C. York used his 1911 pistol to single-handedly kill six German soldiers charging him with fixed bayonets. He earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery and expert shooting.



After the war, the 1911 experienced a series of modifications designed to make the pistol easier to shoot. The new pistol was designated 1911A1 and changes included scalloping of the trigger housing, a longer safety spur and wider sights. The interwar period also saw the handgun popular with celebrity gangsters of the time—notorious bank robber John Dillinger carried a 1911A1 modified into a machine pistol by a San

Antonio-based gunsmith. Outfitted with a barrel compensator and a grooved foregrip, the so-called Lebman Machine Pistol could shoot a thousand rounds a minute.

During World War II, the United States transformed itself into the “arsenal of democracy,” converting hundreds of civilian factories into war-production facilities. Contracts for production of 1911A1 pistols were doled out to civilian gun companies, including Colt, Remington Rand, and the Ithaca Gun Company, as well as civilian companies like Union Switch and Signal, and even the Singer company, famous for sewing machines. The small batch of five hundred sample 1911A1s built by Singer were famously well made, but ultimately the company decided it was better suited to making artillery fire-control directors. Overall, more than 1.9 million 1911A1s were produced during World War II.

In 1996 the United States military adopted the Beretta M9 pistol as its standard side arm but that doesn't mean the 1911 is still not going strong. Many military and law enforcement organizations in the United States and other countries continue to use (often modified) M1911A1 pistols including Marine Corps Special Operations Command, Los Angeles Police Department SWAT and S.I.S., the FBI Hostage Rescue Team, FBI regional SWAT teams and 1st Special Forces Operations Detachment-Delta (Delta Force).



Today in Cowboy action shooting we mainly shoot the 1911 in Wild Bunch matches. We got the idea from a 1969 Sam Peckinpah movie called "The Wild Bunch". It starred William Holden, Ernest Borgnine, Robert Ryan, and a host of Cowboy Movie supporting actors.

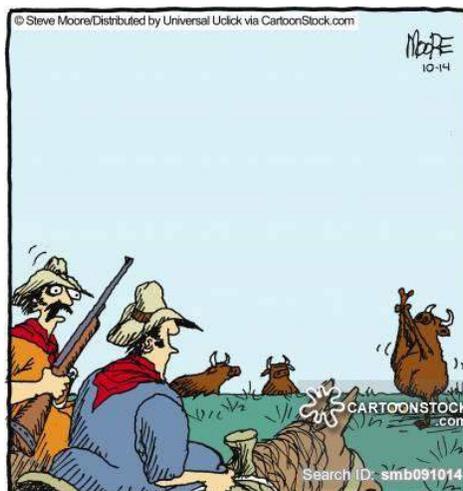
After a botched robbery attempt in Texas, Pike Bishop and his gang head south across the Rio Grande and into Mexico.



They are being pursued by Deke Thornton and his men, made up of bounty hunters. They had been hired by the railroad to stop Bishop and his gang from robbing the rail depot and now have 30 days to track them down and kill them. Bishop and his men plan to spend only a short time in Mexico and then cross back into Texas to continue plying their trade. Their stay is

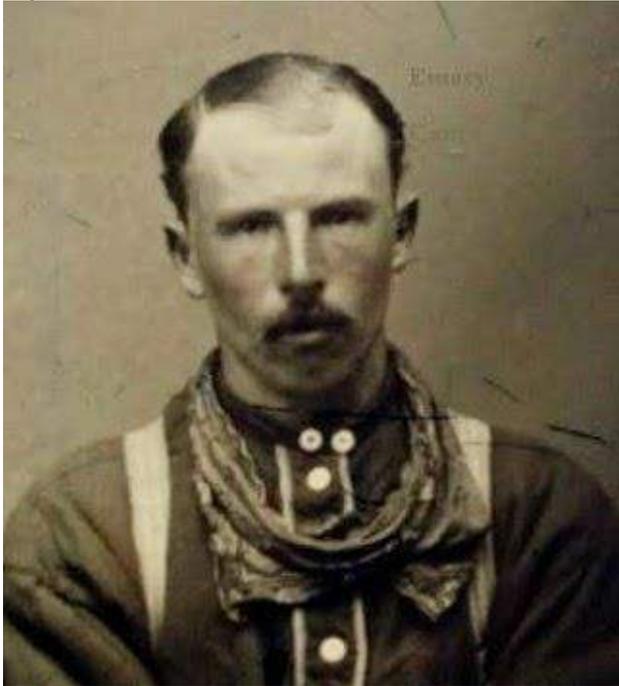
lengthened however when they meet a violent Mexican general who wants them to rob a U.S. train carrying arms. They do so, but it leads to a violent and bloody final confrontation. The film was controversial because of its graphic violence and its portrayal of crude men attempting to survive by any available means. The Wild Bunch is noted for intricate, multi-angle, quick-cut editing, using normal and slow motion images, a revolutionary cinema technique in 1969.

The movie was considered almost too violent at the time but it is mild when compared with modern movies. In 1999, the U.S. National Film Registry selected it for preservation in the Library of Congress as culturally, historically, and aesthetically significant. The film was ranked 80th in the American Film Institute's 100 best American films.



"Pilates. Yoga. Maybe a new strain of tai chi. Whatever! We've got to end it before the entire herd is infected."

Thomas “Tom” Horn By Dutch Van Horn



1860 – 1903

Hero of Hired Assassin

Thomas Horn, Jr. was an American Old West scout, who carried out varied roles as hired gunman, Pinkerton, range detective, cowboy, and soldier.

He was tried, convicted and hanged in 1903 in Cheyenne for a murder he almost certainly did not commit, Tom Horn was an enigmatic range detective in the employ of ranchers who controlled large tracts of land in southeastern Wyoming and northwestern Colorado.

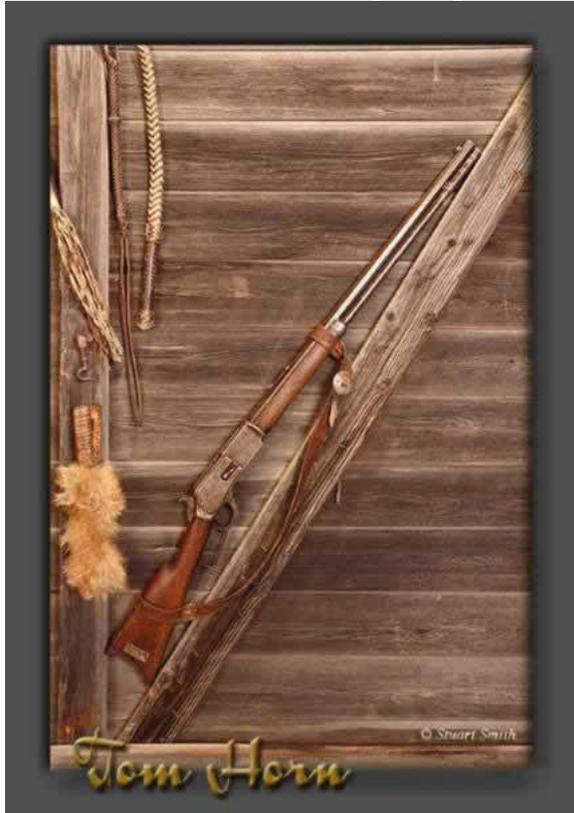
Even today, he has a reputation as a killer hired to exterminate cattle rustlers, but in his own words his work was “that of a detective”—to patrol the range and look for cattle that were out of place—that is, away from the customary ranges of their owners.

Horn remains controversial for two reasons: first, because of doubts that he killed 14-year-old Willie Nickell at Iron Mountain, northwest of Cheyenne, on July 18, 1901, and second, because of the questionable nature of his trial. By then, he already had led an eventful life in a West that was evolving from frontier territory to a place more settled and economically developed.

Born in Scotland County, Missouri, in 1860. Horn left home at the age of 14, according to his own account, and ended up in Arizona Territory by way of various livestock and stage-driving jobs, in Kansas and drifted for two years; working on the railroad and driving freight wagons and stagecoaches, then signed on as a scout for the US Army at the age of 16 and spent a decade involved in several military campaigns, eventually replacing the well-known Al Sieber as chief of scouts in the Southwest. It was Tom Horn, in 1886, who tracked Geronimo and his tribe to their hideout in the Sierra Gordo area outside of Sonora, Mexico, and it was Tom Horn who rode into the Indian camp alone to negotiate their surrender, which ended the last great Indian war in America.

After leaving his position as chief of scouts, Horn wandered through the gold fields and was hired on as a ranch hand. He had a flair for cowboying and it showed when he won the world championship in steer roping at a rodeo in Globe, Arizona, in 1888. In 1890, Tom Horn joined the Pinkerton Detective Agency, and, working out of the Denver office, he pursued bank and train robbers successfully throughout Colorado and Wyoming. Horn was known to be fearless and proved it on several occasions such as the day he rode into the famous Hole in The Wall outlaw stronghold and single-handedly captured the notorious Peg-Leg Watson, who was wanted for a recent train robbery. Horn called Watson out of a cabin, Watson emerged with a pistol in each hand, and watched open mouthed as Horn walked steadily toward him across an open field with his Winchester held loosely at his side. Watson never fired a shot, Horn took him to jail without a struggle, and the incident helped make Tom Horn a living legend in the West.

Horn tired of being a Pinkerton man after reportedly killing 17 men as an agent, but soon appeared as a hired gun for the Wyoming Cattle Grower's Association in 1892. His job initially was to recruit other gunmen for the association and he helped assemble a formidable private army which later attacked homesteaders in the bloody Johnson County War, although there's no indication that Horn himself participated directly in the fighting.



In 1894, Horn worked for the Swan Land and Cattle Company, ostensibly as a horse breaker. His real job was tracking down rustlers, for which he demanded (and got) \$600 for each rustler shot and killed. During this period, Horn's tactics switched from a straight face-to-face standup confrontation to a methodical long range ambush, Horn killed from hiding and, using a long-range rifle, he killed often. More than a dozen dead "rustlers" were credited to Horn during this period. Each found with a large rock, under his head, Horn's trademark.

At this time, Tom Horn's favorite rifle was a Winchester 76 model in 45-60. A rifle has recently surfaced that came from the Bosler ranch of John Coble, Tom Horn's chief benefactor. Now in private hands, it was acquired by the owner's father from a Laramie County museum. The rifle has a crude leather sling with "John C. Coble, Bosler, WY" carved on it.

Horn left the open range when the Spanish American War broke out in 1898 and joined the cavalry but saw little action himself when placed in charge of Teddy Roosevelt's pack trains.



After the war, Horn returned to Wyoming, working once again as a hunter of rustlers, this time for cattle baron John Cable. For whatever reason Tom Horn, had switched to carrying a Winchester 94 in 30 WCF. In 1900, Horn orchestrated two more of his typical ambushes with the usual deadly results.

It was during this time that 14-year-old Willie Nickell was shot at long range at Iron Mountain by a 45-60 round and a rock was found under his head.

The killing was immediately attributed to Horn, but couldn't be proved, so lawman Joe Lefors resolved to bring Horn to justice. Lefors rode to Denver, got Horn drunk in a small saloon, and had deputies hidden where they could write down anything Horn said. Although Horn did not directly admit to the killing, he did say "It was the best shot that I ever made and the dirtiest trick I ever done." Lefors arrested him for it, and during his subsequent trial back in Cheyenne, Horn's own words were sufficient to result in a guilty verdict and a death sentence.

Facing a hanging, Horn escaped from jail briefly with another prisoner by beating Deputy Richard Proctor. The other prisoner leaped on the only horse nearby and rode out of town, leaving Horn to run on foot. One citizen followed, firing on Horn as they both ran. Other residents joined in and knocked Horn to the ground as he struggled to fire the pistol he had seized along the way, allegedly a German Luger, which he was completely unfamiliar with.



Horn was returned to his cell, where he spent his remaining time quietly weaving the rope used to hang him on November 20, 1903.

Horn was hanged at the Cheyenne jail on Nov. 20, 1903. Although he might have murdered Willie Nickell, he probably did not. There was no direct material or testimonial evidence to prove that he did commit the crime.

The confession he gave to LeFors was given while he was drunk, Horn was a known boaster, and neither LeFors nor any other authorities tried to investigate anyone

else. (The Nickells, for example, had been feuding for years with their neighbors the Millers. A strong case can be made that Jim Miller mistook Willie Nickell for his father, Kels, that morning in 1901, and shot him to settle old scores.) Horn, it seems clear, was convicted because his reputation made him an easy target for the prosecution.

Horn remains an enigma because of the lingering controversies over whether he killed Willie Nickell and over the nature of the trial. One of the most notorious characters in the Old West, Tom Horn can still provoke a fight today in certain parts of Wyoming when the question is raised of his guilt or innocence in the Willie Nickell Killing.

Home on the Range By A.D. Texaz, Rangemaster



Howdy Rangers:

The February match allowed the Rangers to shoot the north end of the range. It was good to get back out on the range and start knocking off the rust from last year and to start looking forward to shooting the State Championship / CD 2017.

We were able to integrate more of the new targets and try some new sweeps. Both the target and the new sweeps were met with good reviews.

There have been some substantial changes to a couple of stages on the range. The façade has been removed from the High Noon stage. Originally, the board voted to separate the façade and leave an area in the middle for the shotgun targets. Unfortunately, this plan really was not possible. The revolver and rifle sections proved to be too wide to allow the shotgun targets to be placed in the middle.

A plan to dismantle the current façade, and reuse the lumber to build appropriate sized fronts for the stage was put into place. As soon as we get past the State Championship/CD 2017 we will begin building the new fronts.

Changes also have been started on the Oriental. The bar on the left side is too tall and the shooting line is forward of both the loading table and the unloading table. We expect to have a new bar constructed in the appropriate place very soon.

For the March shoot you will see more of the new targets put into action. Maybe a new sweep as well!

I look forward to seeing you at the set-up and match days.

AD

Tombstone Mary, Secretary Regulator/Life #19524



The weather is beautiful and Comancheria Days 2017 is right around the corner. If you have not signed up, please do so quickly we are filling up fast and we do not want you to miss out. The quicker we get your applications in the easier it is to plan for food, awards and posses.

We are offering Stage Sponsors for \$50.00 again this year. If you would like to sponsor a stage, please contact myself or Madam Ella Moon at Texicanrangers@yahoo.com.

ROI, ROII and Wild Bunch RO will be offered at Comancheria Days 2017. Even if you are not shooting the match you can still take the classes. If you are interested or

would like to sign up please contact me at Texicanrangers@yahoo.com.

If I can answer any questions or help in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact me at maryn58@sbcglobal.net

GREEN/YELLOW/RED FLAGS

Tombstone Mary, Secretary

Regulator/Life #19524

What do the Green, Yellow and Red flags mean at each stage? At the February match, there was some confusion when a down range was called and a posse held up a red flag. We feel it is important to explain the meaning and use for each color of flag.

Yellow: This flag is held up after a down range is called, all shooting has ceased and all guns are on the loading or unloading table. If a shooter is in the process of shooting a stage you must wait until they are done shooting and have moved their guns to the unloading table before you put up the yellow flag.

Green: This flag is held up after the posse who called the down range is back behind the shooting line and all clear.

Red: This flag is only used to call an immediate cease fire of all shooting due to an emergency.

If you have any questions about any of these procedures, please don't hesitate to ask your posse leader or any club officer.

Famous Quotes

“A gun is just a tool. No better and no worse than any other tool, a shovel- or an axe or a saddle or a stove or anything.

Think of it always that way. A gun is as good- and as bad- as the man who carries it.

Remember that.”

Jack Schaefer

Do not go where the path may lead,
go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

Unknown

Pain and rodeo go hand in hand.

Unknown

Hey matthew...real cowboys don't need to correct people. They just smile, nod their head, and say yep. Each to his own.

That's the cowboy way.

Unknown

I'm thirty years older than you are. I had my back broke once, and my hip twice. And on my worst day I could beat the hell out of you.

John Wayne

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop digging.

Will Rogers

Texican Rangers Regulators

Tombstone Mary	2003
A.D. Texaz	2004
Dusty Lone Star	2008
Handlebar Bob	2010
Dusty Chambers	2010
Sheriff Robert Love	2012
Grouchy Spike	2013
Agarita Annie	2016
Nueces Slim	2016
Skinny	2016



February Birthdays

Doc O'Bay	2/1
Mr. Outback	2/3
Newt Ritter	2/3
Two Spurs	2/5
Shooting Iron Miller	2/7
Charlie Reynolds	2/9
Yuma Jack	2/9
Dirty Sally	2/11
Major Samuel Clayton	2/11
Long Juan	2/19
Charlie Valentine	2/20
Quigley McCoy	2/20
Col. Callan	2/21
El Patron	2/21
Doc Smiley	2/22
Dusty Lone Star	2/27
Sobrero Negro	2/29



Spencer Model 1865 Rifle

Key Links

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

TEXICAN RANGERS 2017

January 14-15	Monthly Match
February 11-12	Monthly Match
March 11-12	Monthly Match
April 6-9	COMANCHERIA DAYS
April 29	Wild Bunch, BAMM, Long Range
May 13-14	Monthly Match
June 10-11	Monthly Match
July 8-9	Monthly Match
July 29	Wild Bunch, BAMM, Long Range
August 12-13	Monthly Match
September 9	SHINDIG 2017
September 10	Monthly Match
September 30	Wild Bunch, BAMM, Long Range
October 14	Final Match of 2017
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 (TX Republic Ranch)
4th Saturday (Cowboy) and 4th Sunday (Long Range)	Green Mountain Regulators (Marble Falls)

2017

Feb 10-12	Jail Break	Oakwood Outlaws
Feb 20-26	Winter Range	Phoenix
Mar 10-12	Bayou Blast	Lake Charles, LA
Mar	Trailhead	THSS
April 6-9	Comancheria Days	Texican Ranger (Comfort)
May ?	Battle of Plum Creek	Plum Creek
June 15-25	End of Trail	Founders Ranch, NM
Oct 12-14	SASS Southwest Regional Red Dirt	Oklahoma

Photo Gallery





