



# 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 2021

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### Hello Texican Rangers



Hope y'all survived the last weeks without too much stress. Since, we canceled our February shoot, we will finish the job of killing COVID started in January at our March cowboy shoots on Saturday and Sunday.

For those aspiring Wild Bunch competitors who were deterred by the weather in January, there will be a repeat of the Wild Bunch 101 class on Saturday March 13. See the website for all the details. A package deal of the school and a Wild Bunch match on Sunday the 14th is available.

The March shoot will debut the new shooter category of Rimfire Cowboy/Cowgirl. Remember you can compete with 22 pistols and rifles (lead bullets only) in this fully recognized category for a Year end award.

Our twice canceled Cowboy Church will kick off on Sunday March 14th with Colonel Callan presiding. It will begin twenty minutes immediately prior to the shooters meeting at the Train Station benches. Everyone is welcome.

Comancheria Days is less than 45 days away. We are limited to 180 shooter and have 140 registered shooters. So don't delay and get your registration submitted. We have some terrific buckles and shooter gifts. We still need a few volunteers to run side matches. So, if you can commit to a few hours during the shooting day please contact Burly Bill Brocius to sign you up for a side match event.

The last workday was extremely productive with 13 members refinishing targets and beginning the stage remodels at Mercantile and Outhouse. The next several workdays are crucial to prepare for the upcoming season. The next workday is Tuesday the 2nd of March. The gate opens at 8 with work at 9. FYI, we have planned workdays for every Tuesday in March preparing for Comancheria Days. So please check your calendars to schedule when you can come out and help us erase the effects of winter and age on our stages.

**Work Day Tasks:**

- continue repairing targets and document stage target and prop inventories.
- multiple stage remodels so please bring tool belts and carpentry tools.
- landscaping and stage cleanup.
- painting projects if you have a brush or roller please bring them. We do have some brushes and rollers.
- artistic painters to retouch our murals, props and signs. Some of this work could be done at your home locations.

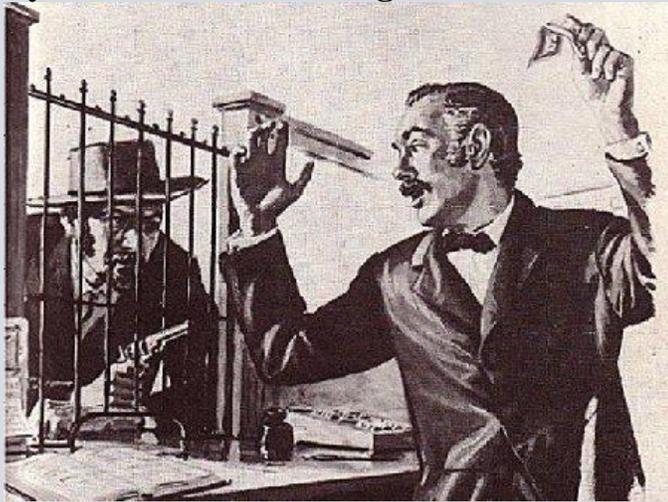
If you can commit now to workdays in March, and prefer a certain crew please drop me a note [Asupsleeve@yahoo.com](mailto:Asupsleeve@yahoo.com) or call to leave a message at 954.632.3621. If you can't commit early, just come out we will find a place for you.

Keep making noise outta gunpowder!

Asup Sleeve

President, Texican Rangers

## **Bank Robberies in the Old West By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



Black Bart, the Dalton Gang, and Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid all were famous for their daring robberies. TV shows and movies make you believe that outlaw gangs could take entire fortunes from banks that had slightly less security than a modern hot dog stand. And why not? Lawlessness ruled, vaults didn't exist, and criminals didn't care. The banks might as well have left their big white bags of gold sitting out on the porch.

This is another western myth. Don't get me wrong, there were bank robberies, however, they weren't everyday occurrences - It was easier for criminals even then to roll drunks and miners, rob travelers in route to towns and cities, rob private

homes, farms and ranches, and even rob one another. Robbing banks meant the threat of a posse, and criminals on horseback weren't going to get that far in a single day.

The reality is that research can find evidence of only about eight true bank robberies, and that's across 15 states in 40 years. Eight. As a point of comparison, there were 5,600 bank robberies in the same western states in 2010. Even if we'd never seen a Western in our lives, eight would seem like a low number.

Why you ask? But there are several things to consider. First, towns back in those days were much smaller, with the sheriff's office, saloon, general store, and bank usually clustered together for convenience. This one-stop social-needs block usually made up the dead center of town. Being that the sheriff's office was usually no more than a few doors down, you were probably pulling your big heist within earshot of the law.

Second, the banks actually weren't that easy to get in and out of. Old West buildings were usually built pretty close together, meaning the bank would be flanked by other buildings, while a reinforced back wall would keep anyone from intruding from behind. When you walk out the front door with the loot, there's the

sheriff waiting for you. Now, the most famous robberies -- the jobs pulled by Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid -- were actually true. But that's the point -- they got famous for a reason. They were doing what nobody else was crazy enough to do.

But for everyday criminals, common targets were often trains and stagecoaches because they were more isolated, easier to get into, and easier to escape. So why bother with a bank, which would be a suicide mission in comparison?

## Writing in the Old West

By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



Have you ever noticed that in school they talk about the major subjects of reading, writing, and arithmetic? So reading and writing were different subjects. It is surprising how many people in the old west that could read but not write. Writing was quite different then. It was more formal. People didn't talk the way they were expected to write. For example the dialog in True Grit was the way someone would write not talk. And the tools they wrote with were unique on their own.

There were no typewriters, so personal writing was handwritten. Commercial writing was handwritten or printed with type on a press. Most people wrote with a quill pen and a bottle of ink.

Quills are pens made from flight feathers of large birds. The hollow shaft of these feathers holds the ink which flows to the tip, which is cut into the shaft, by capillary action.

A quill knife was the original primary tool used for cutting and sharpening quills, known as "dressing". These knives were small, and very sharp. Many people used a small folding knife for this and these knives are referred to this day as "pen knives".

Popularity of quills lasted until 19th century when the first pens with metal nibs appeared (although there were earlier tries of metal pens but they didn't catch on). John Mitchell from Birmingham was the first to mass-produce pens with metal nibs in 1822. These had a handle and a metal point with a split that held a small amount of ink when dipped. They worked the same as quills but lasted much longer, didn't need to be sharpened and could be made to a much finer point. Bartholomew Folsch received a patent in England for a pen with an ink reservoir in 1809. French Government patented a fountain pen in May 1827 which was an invention of Romanian Petrache Poenaru. Ballpoint pen was invented in 1888, by John J. Loud.

The writing itself was also unique. Upper case letters were used to begin nouns as well as to begin sentences. The lower case s was written in elongated form at the beginning of a word, in the middle of a word, and when written twice, as in pass. The elongated s can be mistaken for an f, and ss can look something like a p.

Shortened versions of words were indicated by beginning the word in regular-sized letters and ending with superscript letters, maybe with a line underneath where the missing letters would be. Some writers simply shortened words and left no other indication of the missing letters.

Spelling was not standardized, there were no dictionaries. Writers would spell words differently in different documents or even within the same document. Writers spelled words phonetically, using the way the words sounded as a guide, same way I spell today (thank god for spell check). Although challenging to read, such spelling tells us much about pronunciation before sound recordings existed.

## Sitting Bull's Railway Speech

By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



celebration was planned for the occasion. Five trains carried dignitaries from the east and the west coasts, with over 300 people there to witness the symbolic driving-in of the golden spike. Those in attendance included railroad officials, former U.S. President, Ulysses S. Grant, governors from all of the states that the railroad crossed; bankers and investors, and foreign diplomats from Europe. One of the most notable dignitaries, however, was Sitting Bull, the Hunkpapa Lakota leader who had guided his people in their efforts to resist the U.S. government and the expansion of white settlers into Lakota territory.



The Northern Pacific Railroad was given a charter by Congress in 1864 and the work began in 1870, one year after the Union Pacific and Central Pacific route had been completed with the golden spike ceremony at Promontory Point in Utah. Following the example of the Union and Central Pacific, the northern route was constructed with two crews, one working east to west and the other working west to east.

Fourteen years and 6,800 miles of railroad track later, the two crews met near Gold Creek, Montana (where the first gold in the state was discovered in 1852), about forty miles west of Helena. A lavish

On September 8, 1883, the Sioux leader Sitting Bull made a speech to government officials, railroad barons, and the U.S. military in honor of the completion of the Northern Pacific Railway. And on this one occasion, after a long and bloody attempt to defend his people and their lands from White invaders, Sitting Bull seized the chance to express his opinion of those he had opposed for so long against tremendous odds.

The lands of northern Montana and Idaho had not drawn as many settlers as other parts of the U.S. west, and for good reason. The harsh prairie environment included scalding summer heat, winter temperatures ranging from 10 to 40 degrees below zero, relentless winds without any tree breaks to slow them down, and a lack of water. But to the Sioux, these lands were perfect. The prairie

tableland meant that they could ride their horses during hunting at top speeds. The buffalo provided for most of their food and clothing needs. They were able to hunt at will, and move to fresh hunting grounds when they wished.

Even with a relatively small invasion of Whites, the balance of this life was upset. Sitting Bull summed up the problem, a set of differences that went far beyond culture:

White men like to dig in the ground for their food. My people prefer to hunt the buffalo... White men like to stay in one place. My people want to move their tepees here and there to different hunting grounds. The life of white men is slavery. They are prisoners in their towns or farms. The life my people want is freedom.

But the settlers kept coming. In 1870, there were 5,000 of them, and another 15,000 soldiers at various forts. In 1880, 117,000 Whites lived in territory all around the government-mandated Sioux Reservation, plowing the fields up to plant wheat and destroying buffalo migration paths. By 1885, the number of settlers had doubled to 234,000.

The U.S. government did not just want the Sioux hunting grounds. They also wanted the Black Hills, where gold had been discovered in 1874. These lands are sacred to the Sioux, and when pushed to sell them, the Sioux Nation retaliated. General Custer was sent to drive back the two most important leaders, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse, onto the reservation, leaving other Sioux lands undefended. The resulting Battle of Little Big Horn was a stunning defeat for the United States. This was a culmination of wars between the United States and the Sioux Nation that had been ongoing since 1862, the same year that the Homestead Act was passed.

One of the biggest raids on Indian lands was the confiscation of huge tracts that were transferred to the railroads. After the Battle of Little Big Horn, Sitting Bull led his people north to Canada, remaining there until 1881. By the time of his return, the railroad was close to completion; the containment of Indians on their reservations was ongoing; random raids and massacres of various bands that attempted to move to traditional hunting lands had become a feature of Indian life. And well underway was the systematic starvation of the Sioux through the U.S. government's "Buffalo Harvest" program.

The buffalo, essential to the survival of the Sioux way of life, were being eradicated from the prairies. Hunters were paid a bounty to kill as many as possible. Huge mountains of buffalo skulls were common features on the prairies of the Dakotas and Montana. The purpose of this program was described by an army officer to reporter John F. Finerty: "Better [to] kill the buffalo than have him feed the Sioux." The intention was not only to break the spirit of the Sioux Nation but also to force Indians to subsist on handouts from the government.

And it worked. Sitting Bull, on his return to Montana, watched 300 of his tribespeople starve to death during the winter of 1883 at Fort Peck. Neither the medical treatment nor food rations promised by the government were available to prevent this.

It was in this context that the Northern Pacific Railway, with incredible audacity, decided it would be a nice touch to their railroad completion celebration to have Sitting Bull deliver a speech. In *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, it describes Sitting Bull's surprising acceptance of the offer.

Sitting Bull had submitted a draft of his speech in advance for approval. The remarks had been co-written with a young Army officer who spoke Sioux and made extensive "suggestions" for Sitting Bull's remarks.

Sitting Bull rode at the head of the parade with his army chaperone by his side. But when it was time for him to speak, the audience was surprised when the famous Indian warrior spoke in Sioux, not in English. Sitting Bull looked directly to the U.S. Secretary of State, to Grant, to the generals and railroad barons who sat before him and said: "I hate all White people, you are thieves and liars. You have taken away our land and made us outcasts." He went on to describe all the atrocities that his nation had endured at the hands of the United States. He would stop periodically to smile, and the audience applauded enthusiastically, assuming he was welcoming them and complimenting their great achievement. Sitting Bull would bow in return, then resume his scathing assessment of the White man's corruption and dishonesty. Only the panic-stricken Army officer who had helped Sitting Bull draft the speech could understand him, and knew it was pointless to interrupt. When finally Sitting Bull stopped, the Army officer told the crowd the chief was happy to be there and that he looked forward to peace and prosperity with the white people. Sitting Bull received a standing ovation.

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



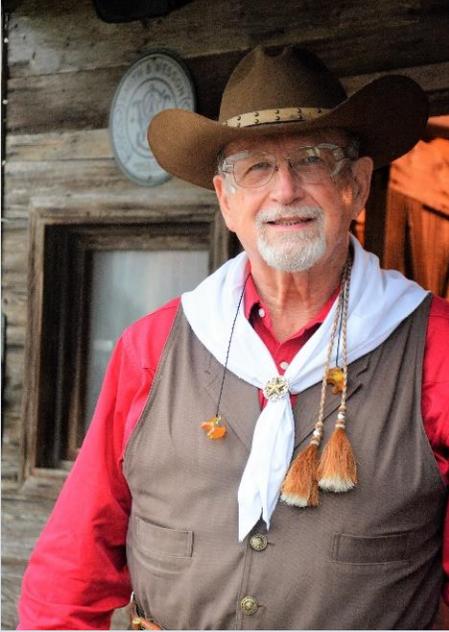
We still have some Cowboys and Cowgirls who have not paid their dues or signed a waiver. Please remember that you must sign a waiver for 2021 before you can shoot in a monthly match.

We have been busy getting ready for Comancheria Days 2021. We still have spots open and you do not have to be a SASS member to participate. You can find an application on our website under Events/Comancheria Days.

Burly Bill Brocius is our Comancheria Days Volunteer Coordinator. If you can help out in any way please send him an email at: [bexarbillbrocius@gmail.com](mailto:bexarbillbrocius@gmail.com) and he will find a place for you. It takes all of us to put on a great match for our guests and members.

If I can help in any way please email me at [Maryn58@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Maryn58@sbcglobal.net).  
Tombstone Mary, Secretary

## When a cowboy trades his spurs for wings



Bison Jim, Dr. James Unruh, lost his battle with Covid-19 and passed away February 8, 2021.

Jim graduated from Wichita State University with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and completed a Masters at Stanford University, before earning his Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. Jim enjoyed his career as an aeronautical engineer for over 37 years at Southwest Research Institute, publishing numerous articles and earning several patents for his work, before retiring in 2009.

Jim was devoted to his family. While working in Seattle, he met his wife Jan, and they later settled in Leon Valley, raising three children. Jim and Jan stayed busy coaching and attending all manner of dance recitals, sports, school events and other extracurricular activities. Jim loved being called “Papa” by his grandchildren, traveling with them and attending their events as well.

Jim was a talented carpenter, and spent many hours crafting fine furniture for his family and friends in his Helotes workshop. He was also an avid sportsman, and for many years enjoyed hunting with a primitive bow, and muzzleloader rifle.

Bison Jim belonged to many Cowboy Clubs including the Alamo Area Moderators, San Antonio Rough Riders, Tin Star Texans, South Texas Pistoleros, Plum Creek Shooting Society, Tejas Caballeros and the Texican Rangers.

Bison Jim along with his running buddies Bandera Kid and Frank Longshot were always at work days for many clubs helping setting up the targets for a match, building rifle/shotgun racks, loading tables and banquet decorations. Bison Jim came up with the design and built the wood splatter guards for the pistol/rifle stands at the Texican Rangers.

Bison Jim will be missed by us all.

When a cowboy trades his spurs for wings

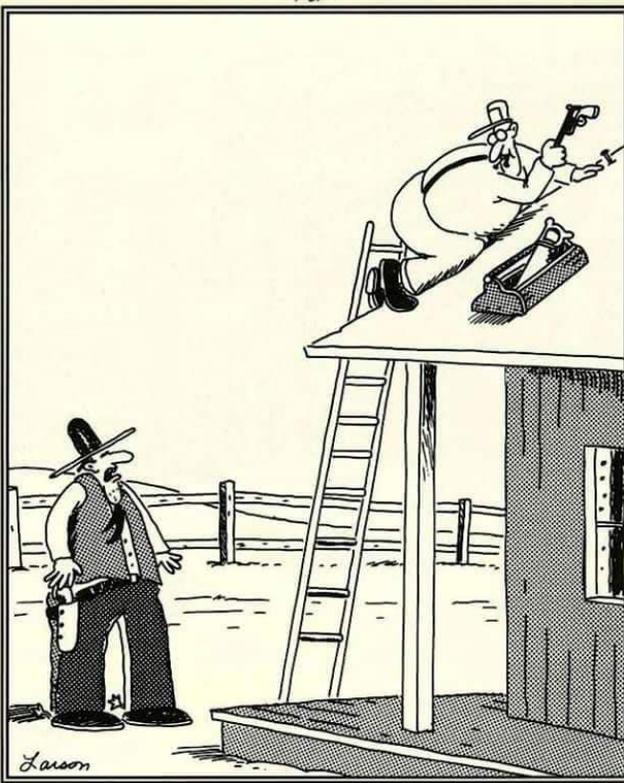
When they wrap my body  
In the thin linen sheet  
And they take my six irons  
Pull the boots from my feet

Unsaddle my pony  
She'll be itching to roam  
I'll be halfway to heaven  
Under horsepower of my own

Yippee-ki-iy-ay  
When the round-up ends  
Yippee-ki-iy-ay  
And the campfire dims

Yippee-ki-iy-ay  
He shouts and he sings  
When a cowboy trades his spurs for wings

6/15/88

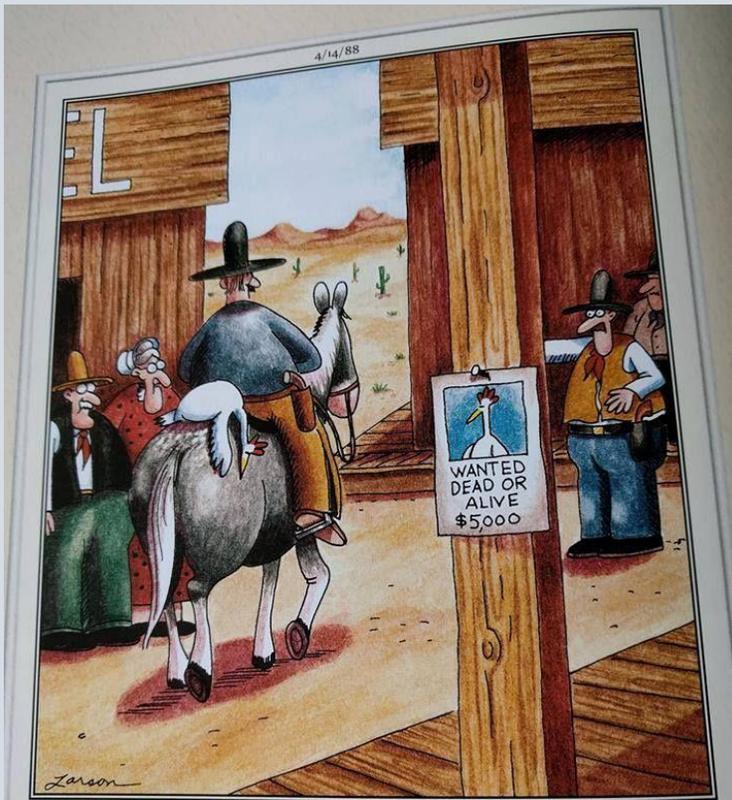


“So ... they tell me you’re pretty handy with a gun.”



Vespara dos

DITTEE



The townsfolk all stopped and stared; they didn't know the tall stranger who rode calmly through their midst, but they did know the reign of terror had ended.



"Hey! I got one! I got one!"

# BOOYAH BULLETS

email your order: [booyahbullets@gmail.com](mailto:booyahbullets@gmail.com) or text it to us @ 512.927.6743

Dodge City Mike 512.801.8424

Price List effective 03.07.19

Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/500	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	34	68
	105	FP	35	70
	125	RNFP	38	76
	125	FP	38	76
	130	RNFP	39	78
	158	RNFP	42	83
	158	FP	42	83
	158	SWC	42	83
.380	100	RNFP	35	69
.38-55	245	RNFP	64	127
.41	215	SWC	54	108
.44	180	RNFP	45	89
	240	SWC	57	114
.44-40	200	RNFP	49	98
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	49	98
	180	RNFP	45	89
	200	RNFP	49	98
	250	RNFP	58	116
9MM	124	RN	38	76
	125	CN	38	76
40 S&W	180	FP	45	89
.45ACP	200	SWC	49	98
	200	RN	49	98
	230	RN	56	111
45-70	405	FPT	120	240

## Parting Shots

1. If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
2. Why did the snowball cross the road? To get to the other size.
3. What would you call a woman who goes out with You? Desperate!
4. Why did Mickey Mouse get hit with a snowball? Because Donald ducked.
5. How did the telephone propose to his girlfriend? He gave her a ring.
6. Why do Eskimos live in igloos? To ice-olate themselves.
7. Grocery store flowers on Valentine's Day: show someone you care slightly more than not at all.
8. Why did the Eskimo wear one boot to town? Because he discovered there would be a 50% chance of snow.
9. If it is not Valentine's Day and you see a man in a flower shop, you can probably start up a conversation by asking, 'What did you do?'
10. Where does a skier keep his money? In a snowbank.
11. I'm gonna spend Valentine's Day with my ex... Box 360.
12. Which one is faster, hot or cold? Hot. You can catch a cold.
13. What's the best part about Valentine's Day? The day after when all the chocolate goes on sale.
14. What do you call twelve rabbits hopping backwards through the snow together? A receding hare line.
15. Get married early in the morning. That way, if it doesn't work out, you haven't wasted a whole day.
16. Grandma's been staring through the window ever since it started to snow. If it gets any worse I'll have to let her in.
17. What do single people call Valentine's Day? Happy Independence Day!
18. What do you get when you cross a snowman and a vampire? Frost bite.
19. I can't wait for Valentine's Day because I get to make cupcakes for a special someone and that special someone is me.
20. What do you call a snowman in July? A puddle.
21. What is the true purpose of Valentine's Day? To remind single people they are single.
22. How do you prevent a Summer cold? Catch it in the Winter!
23. What did the boy octopus sing to the girl octopus? I want to hold your hand, hand.
24. Those who play poker in a snowstorm just carefully shovel their decks.
25. Do you have a date for Valentine's Day? Siri: Yes, February 14th.
26. Do birds know where they're going when they fly south for the winter or do they just wing it every time?
27. What's the difference between a \$20 steak and a \$55 steak? February 14th.
28. Did you hear about the stressed out snowman? He had a meltdown.
29. Valentine's Day: the holiday that reminds you that if you don't have a special someone, you're alone.
30. An avalanche is snow place for you to be.

## 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



### February Birthdays:

Doc O'Bay	2/1
Howdy Nabor	2/3
Newt Ritter	2/3
Shooting Iron Miller	2/7
Yuma Jack	2/9
Dirty Sally	2/11
Major Samuel Clayton	2/11
Tricky Tunes	2/11
Shoot'er Dye	2/12
Col. Callan	2/21

### March Birthdays:

Tombstone Mary	3/17
Will Tinker	3/19
Crooked Bullet	3/21
Marshall Brooks	3/22
Maverick McCoy	3/29
Hopalong Herbert	3/31



### 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 3-5**  
**Sep 22-25**  
**Oct 23-24**

**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**  
**SASS Texas State Black Powder**  
**Championship**

Photo Album



Will work for primers



Pristine snow



Where is everybody?



Snow Angel



When did Texas become Hoth, the Ice Planet?



I Love Snow



Snow Person



Making snow Angels



Snow Zombies



Some cars look their owners



Bronco in the snow



Keeping warm at the lake



Coldest weather in 121 years



You have to watch the big snow drifts



Some dogs loved the snow



Be careful, those ice snakes are deadly



All this weather and you still have to worry about Covid



Schatzi is not too sure about this



Robert E Quintana



A blanket of white



Big flakes



Just a walk in the park





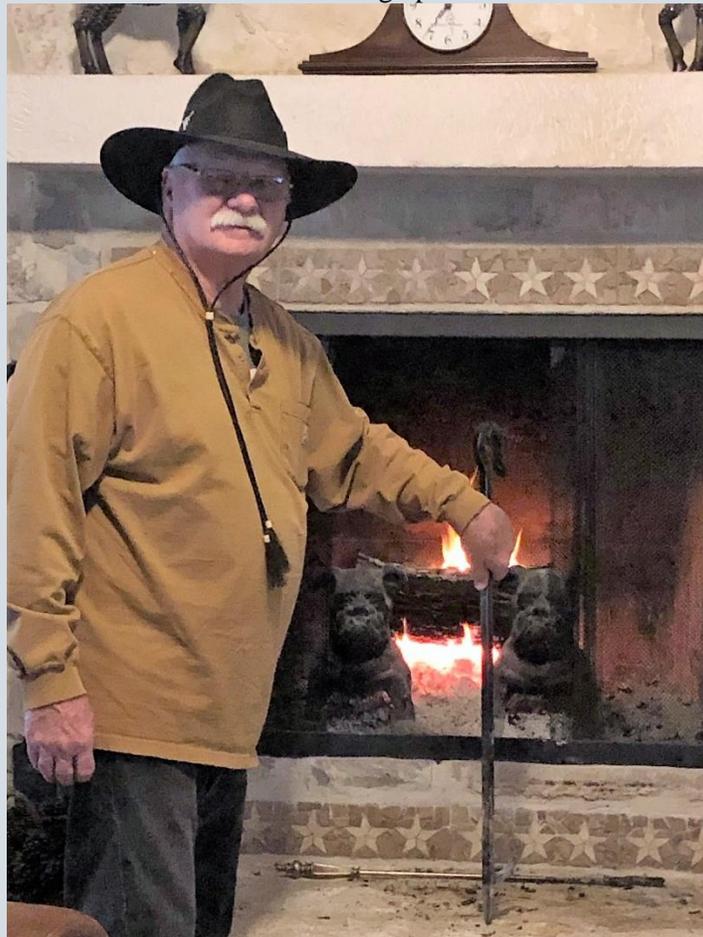
Keeping warm



Animals still got to be fed



Cleaning up



Noting like a roaring fire



Cody Dixon shooter



No power, no water, no worries