

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 January 2021 PO Box 782261 San Antonio, TX 78278-2261

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Hello Texican Rangers



The New Year started off with the plan to kill the dreaded COVID, and we had great success. One third of our shooters were able to complete the massacre with clean matches. Congrats to Whiskey Kid for Top Gun with an average stage time of 25.9 seconds. Congrats to our Top Gun Lady - Tombstone Mary. Way to go!

With an early Saturday morning poll of shooters present, the board did suspend the Sunday portion of our January shoot. So, we intend to finish the job started in January at our February match on Saturday and Sunday.

We will have Cowboy Church at the February match. Twenty minutes immediately prior to the shooters meeting at the Train Station benches. Everyone is welcome.

In January, we had four successful graduates of the Wild Bunch 101 class. They all had a good time, got some valuable safe 1911 handling skills and a few gamer tips as well. For those who were deterred by the weather, there will be a repeat of the class the second Saturday in March.

Most of you received a notice about the new shooter category of Rimfire Cowboy/Cowgirl. Starting in February you can compete with 22 pistols and rifles (lead bullets only) in this fully recognized category for a Year end award. This should help carry us through the current ammunition shortage and allow us to shoot cowboy action.

Comancheria Days is just around the corner. We are limited to 180 shooter and are about half filled. We still need 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.

Workdays are extremely important and we need your support for the success of the club. An early start means an early finish, so the gate opens at 8 with work at 9. The next workday is Tuesday the 9th of February.

Dirty Dog Dale will repair targets and needs four volunteers for his team. If you have a grinder, please bring it.

Colorado Horseshoe will be setting stages and needs four-six able bodied members to set steel. (Gloves and strong backs preferred).

Sheriff Robert Love has a stage construction crew, so carpenters are needed for his team.

We need a landscaping crew and team leader for the grass trimming and shotgun wad pickup. (Keep the brass you find!)

We need artistic painters to freshen up our murals, props and signs. Some of this work could be done at your home/shop locations.

If you can commit now to work on any of these teams in February, please drop me a note <u>Asupsleeve@yahoo.com</u> 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.

I look forward to seeing you at the February workday and match!

Asup Sleeve

President, Texican Rangers

1st United States Sharpshooters (Berdan Sharpshooters) By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



At the time of the Civil War the U. S. military had no officially designated elite units such as the Navy Seals or Army Green Berets that are so celebrated today. But there was one branch of the service on both sides of the conflict that came close to that elite status: the Sharpshooters.

Sharpshooters were riflemen of extraordinary skill at the business of killing enemy troops. Man for man, they may have had a bigger impact on the course of the war than any other set of combatants. Yet today, when every facet of the Civil War experience is widely discussed, the sharpshooters to a large extent remain unknown.

They were known as the 1st United States Sharpshooters and they were an infantry regiment that served in the Union Army during the American Civil War. During battle, the mission of the sharpshooter was to kill enemy targets of importance (i.e., officers and NCOs) from long range. The Sharpshooters were known for two things, their distinctive green uniforms and their extreme skill at shooting long range.

The first regiment of volunteers began service in late November 1861. During their service, they fought in every Eastern battle up until autumn of 1864. During their tour, the Sharpshooters were noted for efficient service in the battles of Yorktown, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Spotsylvania and Petersburg.

Hiram C. Berdan was the founder of the Sharpshooters. Berdan was born in the town of Phelps, New York, on September 6, 1824. Not only was Berdan a military officer in the Civil War and creator of the Sharpshooters regiment, he was also an American mechanical engineer and creative inventor. Some of Berdan's inventions included the Berdan rifle (a repeating rifle) and the Berdan center fire primer, and a range finder torpedo boat

for evading torpedo nets during and after the Civil War. Berdan also developed the first commercial gold amalgamation machine to separate gold from ore.

Berdan was also known for being an amateur champion marksman in the United States. Berdan's interest in rifles and shooting led him to the idea of creating a regiment full of men who all had notable shooting skills: the Sharpshooters. On November 30, 1861, Berdan was named colonel of both the first and second Sharpshooter regiments.



Berdan began recruiting men for the first Sharpshooter regiment in 1861. He recruited men from New York City and Albany and from the states of New Hampshire, Vermont, Michigan and Wisconsin. The volunteer recruits had to pass a rifle test in order to qualify to be a member of the Sharpshooters; each man had to be able to place ten shots in a 10 inch circle from 200 yards away. They were able to choose a rifle and position of their preference for the test. A man eligible to be a Sharpshooter had to possess a keen eye, steady hands and a great deal of training and skill with a rifle. In addition to that, for a man to be a Sharpshooter, it took cool nerves in order to be able to estimate their target carefully, determine the high trajectory needed and to take in consideration the effect that any current wind may have.

The men of the Sharpshooters regiment were armed with various types of rifles, including the Sharps rifle, the Whitworth rifle, sporting arms, and various other custom-made privately owned target weapons. Some of these rifles weighed up to 30 pounds because they contained the first breed of telescope sights. At first, many of the Sharpshooter riflemen used their own weapons, but this began leading to problems when it came to ammunition supply. As a result, Berdan made a request to receive issuance of 1858 Sharps rifles to his men. That is how they got their name of Sharpshooters.



Leave it to the Army to scuttle a great idea. Berdan chose the Sharps rifle mainly because of its fast breech loading and outstanding accuracy from long-range distances. Unfortunately, though, Lieutenant General Winfield Scott denied Berdan's request because he feared the issuance of Sharps rifles would lead to a waste of ammunition. Lt. General Scott insisted that Berdan's men use a standard Springfield rifle.

Berdan was not at all satisfied with Scott's ruling, so he took his request for Sharps rifles directly to President Abraham Lincoln. After Lincoln watched Berdan perform a demonstration of the Sharps rifle's extreme speed and accuracy he was so impressed that he ordered them to be immediately issued to both Sharpshooter regiments. Nevertheless, many of the men still continued to use their own rifles, no matter how heavy and bulky they were, probably because that is what they had training and experience with. The sharpshooters were finally issued their Sharps rifles on May 8, 1862.

The most notable aspect of the Berdan Sharpshooter uniform is the green color, rather than the standard Union blue. They were one of only a few regiments that went outside the typical Potomac Army's uniform. The green uniform gave the sharpshooters the clear advantage of camouflage, but also sometimes was a disadvantage because they were easy to distinguish against the rest of the Union soldiers for Confederate

marksmen to spot and target. Sharpshooters were high-priority kills amongst the Confederate army, because they had such high skills and good salvageable equipment.

Sharpshooters used more guerrilla warfare battle tactics than the rest of the Union infantry. Along with the green uniform, a soldier was to have no brass on any of their buttons. Their shoes were standard Union issue, but their pants were made of green wool just like the frock coats, with a pair of gaiters. Furthermore, Sharpshooter knapsacks were a Prussian-style fur sack fitted over a wooden frame, as opposed to the usual tarred canvas. However, as the war went on the men were not reissued this clothing and many of the men received standard federal clothing making them harder for rebel troops to notice their elite capabilities. By the Gettysburg campaign most of the men were wearing modified blue uniforms.

Jack Hinson: A Civil War Sniper Hell Bent on Revenge By Shahan Russell



John W. "Jack" Hinson, better known as "Old Jack" to his family, was a prosperous farmer in Stewart County, Tennessee. A non-political man, he opposed secession from the Union even though he owned slaves. Friends and neighbors described him as a peaceable man, yet despite all this, he would end up going on a one-man killing spree, the likes of which had not been seen before.

Jack's plantation was called Bubbling

Springs, where he lived with his wife and ten children. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, he was fiercely determined to remain neutral.

When Union Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant arrived in the area in February 1862, the Hinsons hosted the man at their home. The general was so pleased with the plantation that he even turned it into his temporary headquarters.

Even when one of their sons joined the Confederate Army, while another joined a militia group, Jack remained strictly neutral. They were content to manage their plantation despite the ongoing conflict.

Grant had stayed at the Hinson estate after capturing Fort Henry and Fort Donelson. In taking the last, he secured a vital gateway to the rest of the Confederacy. The Union's victory at the Battle of Fort Donelson was also its first major one since the start of the Civil War.

His victory also meant that Union troops became a permanent fixture in the Kentucky-Tennessee border where the Hinsons lived. While the family had no problem with that, others did – and the Hinsons would pay dearly for it. In the end, so would many Union soldiers.

Since many in the region were sympathetic to the Confederacy, some turned to guerrilla tactics to deal with the better armed and trained Union soldiers. These were called bushwhackers, because they hid in the woods where they could attack Union troops before fading back into the wild.

It wasn't just soldiers they went after, however. There were many cases where they'd target Unionist farmers and sympathizers, as well. Still others were not so politically motivated. Some bushwhackers were bandits who took advantage of the deteriorating law-and-order situation to prey on isolated homesteads. In some cases, they even attacked entire communities.

After the fall of Fort Donelson to Union troops, guerrilla attacks on Union soldiers and their supporters increased. As a result, it became policy to torture and execute any suspected bushwhackers without a trial.

In the fall of 1862, Jack's 22-year-old son George Hinson, and his 17-year-old brother, Jack, went deer hunting about a mile from their home as they always did. Unfortunately, they came across a Union patrol who suspected them of being bushwhackers.

The boys were tied to a tree then shot, after which their bodies were dragged back to town. There the corpses were paraded around the Dover courthouse square as an example of the Union's zero-tolerance policy

toward resistance. The remains were then decapitated and left there, while the heads were brought to the Hinson plantation.

Before the entire family, the heads were stuck on two gate posts as an example of Union justice. The lieutenant in charge wanted to arrest the Hinsons for their relationship to the two alleged bushwhackers but was informed about Grant's stay on the property. He was also told that the major general would not take kindly to any mistreatment of the surviving Hinsons, so they were left alone.

That was the lieutenant's second mistake of the day. Of Scottish-Irish descent, Jack could not let the murders of his sons go unpunished. He buried his children's remains, then sent the rest of his family and slaves to West Tennessee to stay with relatives.



He then commissioned a special .50 caliber rifle with a percussion-cap muzzle-loader. Besides its lack of decorative brass ornamentation, this rifle was also unique because it had a 41" long octagonal barrel that weighed 17 pounds. The length of the barrel ensured that he could accurately hit targets from half a mile away.

As to the octagonal shape, it was based on the Whitworth Rifle. With its hexagonal barrel, it could shoot farther (2,000 yards) and more accurately than the Pattern 1853 Enfield (1,400 yards) with its traditional round rifled barrel.

Moving into a cave above the Tennessee River, Jack became a bushwhacker at the age of 57. His first target was the lieutenant who ordered his sons shot and beheaded. The man was killed as he rode in front of his column. The second target was the soldier who placed the heads on the gateposts. It didn't take the Union long to connect the dots, so they burned down the abandoned Hinson plantation.

The Tennessee and Cumberland rivers were major transport hubs, so he frequented both. From his higher vantage points, he targeted Union boats, picking off captains and officers, as well as disrupting the flow of river traffic.

The most spectacular story of his sniping career was when an entire boat of Union soldiers surrendered to him. After Jack fired on the boat, the captain thought he was being attacked by Confederate soldiers. To avoid further bloodshed, the captain beached his boat, raised a white tablecloth, and waited to be captured. But Jack couldn't possibly handle them all, so he retreated and let them wait.

Though he remained apolitical, he began helping the Confederate Army. In November 1864, for example, he guided Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest to Johnsonville to attack its Union supply center.

With help from the locals and by constantly staying on the move, he avoided capture despite the massive manhunt for him. His family was not so lucky, however. Two of his younger children had died of disease, while the son who joined the army also died, as did another during a guerrilla raid.

Jack survived the war and cut 36 circles in the barrel of his rifle to mark the number of Union officers he killed. Union records, however, blame him for over 130 kills – though it's believed that he may have killed "only" a little more than 100.

Jack died on 28 April 1874 and lies buried in the family plot in Cane Creek Cemetery.



Ed McGivern By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



Since revolvers were introduced in the late 1830s, many famous lawmen, soldiers, shootists, hunters and competitors have performed feats of marksmanship with them that have changed, improved and perfected handgun shooting. History is rife with legends of how folks such as Wyatt Earp and Bill Hickock performed prestigious feats with revolvers. As shooters, we have all heard of Elmer Keith, and Jerry Miculek. These were expedition shooters beyond compare. But who was their hero, the shooter they looked up to?

Ed McGivern was born in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1874. He was a short (only 5'5"), stocky man whose appearance earned him the nickname

"Stumpy," and he worked as a sign painter in Montana.

As a youth, he developed a fascination with firearms and uncanny skill at combining speed and accuracy with handguns. Experimentation revealed he could fire double-action revolvers faster than semi-auto pistols, and it was with revolvers he performed his most famous feats. As McGivern's fame spread, he gave up sign painting for exhibition shooting, and he pursued that career until severe arthritis in his hands later forced him to retire.

McGivern specialized in hitting aerial targets as well as hitting two targets while firing two different revolvers simultaneously. As the number of targets increased, so did his need for speed, to which he devoted most of his career.

According to "The Guinness Book of World Records," McGivern's crowning achievement occurred on September 13, 1932, when he fired five shots two times from 15 feet, and the groups could be covered by a 50-cent piece. He did that in 0.45 seconds.

McGivern could hit a dime on the fly, drive a tack or nail into wood with bullets, hit six simultaneously hand-thrown skeet targets before they hit the ground, hit a tin can hand-thrown 20 feet in the air six times before it hit the ground, and shoot the spots out of playing cards or even split a playing card edge. He was also ambidextrous and fired all of his revolvers in double-action mode.



In his book "Burning Powder," McGivern revealed his favorite revolver: "The double-action .38 S&W Special Target revolver, with a 6-inch barrel, having a gold bead front sight, is the best all-around gun to be had for this work. The McGivern gold bead front sight is...standard equipment on all my revolvers." He did not use ergonomic target-type grips but fitted his revolvers with factory checkered walnut grips.

McGivern was also heavily involved in writing, training police officers, developing revolver sights

and, with his friend Elmer Keith, revolver cartridges and long-range handgun shooting.

Tombstone Mary, Secretary Regulator/Life #19524



We still have members who need to pay their dues and sign a waiver. You can find the waiver on our website at www.texicanrangers.org.join. Remember you must sign a waiver before you shoot a match for 2021.

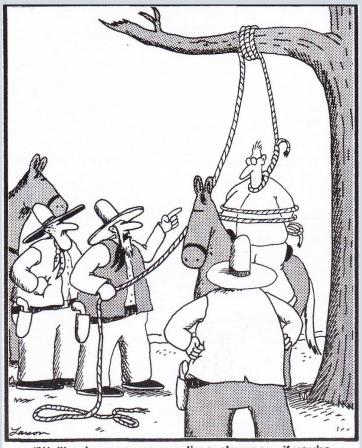
Comancheria Days will be April 8-10, 2021. You do not have to be a SASS member to shoot this match. If you would like to support the club and have some fun you can find the application on our website at www.texicanrangers.org/events.

If you do not want to shoot the match but would like to help out, we could use your help! Contact me at textcanrangers@yahoo.com and we will find you a spot.

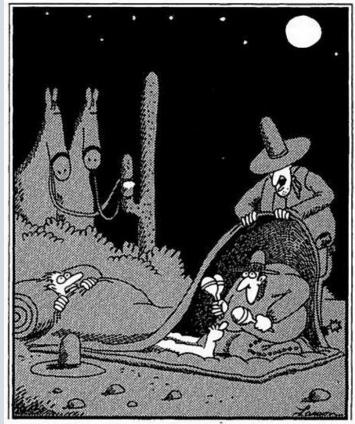
If I can answer any questions or help in any way please do not hesitate to contact me.

Texicanrangers@yahoo.com

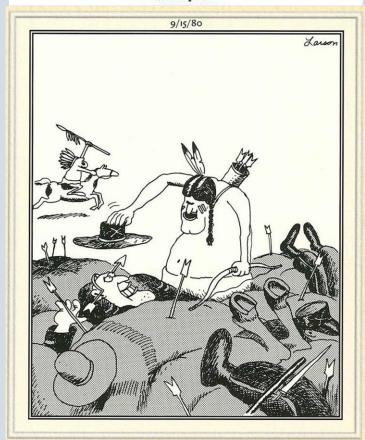
Tombstone Mary, Secretary



"We'll ask you one more time, stranger—if you're really a cowboy from the Rio Grande, then why ain't your legs bowed or your cheeks tan?"



"Hal Ain't a rattler, Jake. You got one of them maraca players down your bag—and he's probably more scared than you."



"Nice try."

BOOYAH BULLETS

email your order: 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. Port Arthur to El Paso: 889 miles. Port Arthur to Chicago: 770 miles. Texarkana, Texas is closer to the capital cities of sixteen states than to El Paso.
- 2. Brownsville to Texline (north of Amarillo): 956 miles. Texline to Canada: 960 miles.
- 3. El Paso is closer to California than to Dallas.
- 4. World's first rodeo was in Pecos, TX July 4, 1883.
- 5. The Flagship Hotel in Galveston was the only hotel in North America built over water. Destroyed by Hurricane Ike 2008!
- 6. The Heisman Trophy was named after John William Heisman who was the first full-time coach at Rice University in Houston, Texas.
- 7. Brazoria County has more species of birds than any other area in North America.
- 8. Aransas Wildlife Refuge is the winter home of North America's only remaining flock of whooping cranes.
- 9. Jalapeno jelly originated in Lake Jackson in 1978
- 10. The worst natural disaster in US history was in 1900, caused by a hurricane in which over 8,000 lives were lost on Galveston Island. Larson's book, Isaac's Storm
- 11. The first word spoken from the moon, July 20, 1969, was "Houston" but the Space Center was actually in Clear Lake City at the time.
- 12. The King Ranch in South Texas is larger than Rhode Island.
- 13. Tropical Storm Claudette brought a US rainfall record of 43" in 24 hours in and around Alvin in July of 1979.
- 14. Texas is the only state to enter the US by TREATY, (known as the Constitution of 1845 by the Republic of Texas to enter the Union) instead of by annexation. This allows the Texas Flag to fly at the same height as the US Flag, and Texas may choose to divide into 5 states.
- 15. A Live Oak tree near Fulton is estimated to be 1500 years old.
- 16. Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.
- 17. Dr Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. There is no period in Dr. Pepper.
- 18. Texas has had six capital cities: Washington-onthe Brazos, Harrisburg, Galveston, Velasco, West Columbia and Austin
- 19. The Capitol Dome in Austin is the only dome in the US which is taller than the Capitol Building in Washington, DC (by 7 feet).

- 20. The San Jacinto Monument is the tallest free standing monument in the world and it is taller than the Washington Monument.
- 21. The name 'Texas' comes from the Hasini Indian word 'tejas' meaning "friends". Tejas is NOT Spanish for Texas.
- 22. The State Mascot is the Armadillo. An interesting bit of trivia about the armadillo is they always have four babies. They have one egg, which splits into four, and they either have four males or four females.
- 23. The first domed stadium in the US was the Astrodome in Houston
- 24. The Beck family ranch land grant is one days ride by horse (25 miles) in each direction from the headquarters.
- 25. The name of the XIT ranch in Dalhart Texas stands for "ten in texas". That means 10 counties in Texas!
- 26. Dr Pepper was invented in Texas in 1885.
- 27. The first frozen margarita machine was invented in Dallas.
- 28. Texas uses its own power grid, separate from the rest of the United States.
- 29. Texas is larger than any country in Europe.
- 30. Because it was its own independent nation, Texas is the only state in the United States to join via treaty instead of annexation.

Cowboy Ten Commandments posted on the wall at Cross Trails Church in Farlie, Texas:

- (1) Just one God.
- (2) Honor yer Ma & Pa.
- (3) No telling tales or gossipin'.
- (4) Git yourself to church meeting.
- (5) Put nothin' before God.
- (6) No foolin' around with another fellow's gal.
- (7) No killin'.
- (8) Watch yer mouth
- (9) Don't take what ain't yers.
- (10) Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff. Did y'all git all that?

Our Liberty is insured by 4 Boxes!

The Ballot Box.

The Jury Box.

The Soap Box.

The Cartridge Box.

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
-	



January Birthdays

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Tombstone Terry	1/3
Blacky Vela	1/7
Panhandle Cowgirl	1/11
Hawkeye	1/12
Skyhawk Hans	1/12
Brazos Bo	1/19
Big John Mesquite	1/23
Dawgtooth Dave	1/31
bruary Birthdays:	

Fe

Dawgtooth Dave	1/31
ebruary 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





Key Links

www.sassnet.com www.texicanrangers.org

www.greenmountainregulators.org

www.pccss.org

www.stxpistolaros.com

www.tejascaballeros.org

www.trpistoleros.com

www.texasjacks.com

www.cimarron-firearms.com

www.tsra.com

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

August 29-31 TSRA TX State Championship
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 Pistaleros (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	Winter Range
Mar 25-28	SASS Texas State Championship
April 8-10	Comancheria Days
April 21-24	SASS Southwest Regional Land Run
June 17-27	End of Trail
	SASS Texas State Wild Bunch
Sep 3-5	Championship
Sep 22-25	Comin' At Cha
Oct 23-24	SASS Texas State Black Powder
	Championship

