

Newsletter for the Texican Rangers

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

SASS Affiliated
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Hello Rangers



As most of you already know, I am now officially serving as your new club president for 2025. I am very much honored to be able to serve the Texican Rangers as your president and want to thank all of you for putting your trust in me. We have a very challenging and exciting year ahead. This April 10th through the 12th will be the 30th Anniversary of Comancheria Days (CD) and the SASS Texas State Championship 2025. We are anticipating many more shooters than usual and hope to make our anniversary and this championship an event to long remember. Let me ask all or you now to please help us make this Comancheria Days a success. Please share any suggestions, ideas or improvements with me or one of the other officers. My email is hlee.lawrence52@gmail.com.

We had our first shoot the second weekend of January and many thanks to all the shooters who braved the exceptionally wintry weather to come shoot with us. I also want to sincerely thank all the volunteers and staff that came out for our first workday and helped us open the range and set it up.

We have a truly short time to prepare for the April match, so, if you can, please try to come out one of the upcoming workdays. Our next two match workdays are February 4th and March 4th; however, we've scheduled two additional workdays in February and three in March. As you can see, we will earnestly begin preparing for CD shortly after our February match. Any help will be sincerely appreciated. We will also have four workdays in April just before CD on April 1st, 7th, 8th and 9th. Speaking of CD, don't forget to register. The deadline for registration is March 27th.

OK folks, saddle up and get ready for another fun and exciting year with the Rangers! That's all for now, Happy Trails 'til I see y'all on the range.

I look forward to seeing each and every one of you this Saturday, for your BEST SHOOT OF THE YEAR.

San Saba Slim

President Texican Rangers

The American West: Ned Beale — Unsung Hero

By R. B. Miller (Article recommended by Deadlast)



Chances are, the name Ned Beale doesn't roll off your tongue when reciting heroes of the Old West. It should. Beale's accomplishments are many, and many are unmatched.

Edward "Ned" Fitzgerald Beale was born February 4, 1822, in Washington, D.C. Given his family tree, he was destined to join the Navy, where he served from 1837 until 1851.

As a naval officer, and after retirement, he served his country and five presidents — Andrew Jackson appointed him to what would become the United States Naval Academy; Millard Fillmore named him Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California and Nevada, James Buchanan assigned him to build a road, he was Surveyor General of

California under Abraham Lincoln, and Ulysses S. Grant's ambassador to Austria - Hungary.

Over the years he crossed the continent seven times, mostly on horseback, making six of those trips from the far West within a two-year period.

Beale was aboard ship under Commodore Robert Field Stockton during the Bear Flag Revolt in California and was sent east from San Diego to locate General Stephen W. Kearny marching to the coast across the deserts with his troops to assume command.

When Beale found the general, some 40 miles inland, he had sent most of his troops north to deal with a Navajo uprising, keeping only about 100 soldiers and Kit Carson to subdue California.

At San Pasqual, Mexican troops attacked and after a bloody fight, pinned the surviving Americans down atop a hill, surrounded them, and held siege.

Beale, Carson, and an Indian guide named Chemuctah volunteered to sneak past the Mexican lines, travel to San Diego, and bring help from Stockton.

Through the night the three men crawled and crept within inches of sentries. With discovery so close, they emptied their canteens to avoid sloshing and removed their boots.

Beale and Carson made the 25-mile trip to the coast barefoot through rocks, thorns, and cactus. The men parted along the way, believing a man alone had better odds of making it. All three made it, and Kearny's forces were rescued.

There was no rest for Beale and Carson, as they were dispatched to Washington D.C., to inform the government of the situation in California.

Back in California, Beale was again sent to the nation's capital, this time carrying a letter verifying that gold had been discovered. He donned a disguise, mounted up, and traveled south to cross through Mexico in secret, carrying the letter and a sample of California gold.

Beale was summoned yet again to Washington, this time by President Millard Fillmore, who named him Superintendent of Indian Affairs for California and Nevada.

But there was more. On his way west, he was to lead surveyors in finding a route for a transcontinental railroad through Colorado and Utah to Los Angeles.

Later still, he was assigned by President James Buchanan to survey and build a wagon road from Fort Defiance in New Mexico across a thousand miles of arid deserts and mountains to the California border.

Beale wrote, "It is the shortest route from our western frontier by 300 miles, being nearly directly west. It is the most level . . . It is temperate in climate, passing for the most part over an elevated region . . . It is well-grassed . . . It is passable alike in winter and summer."

Beale's Wagon Road, as it came to be known, was used as a livestock trail, by freighters, and by emigrants. The famed Route 66, Interstate 40, and the Santa Fe Railway follow, more or less, the road Beale surveyed and built.

A side note: During road construction, Beale used camels left over from the Army's experiment in Texas, and found the 25 dromedaries more than up to the job. When he built his 270,000-acre Tejon Ranch, near Bakersfield in California, he kept camels as well as cattle.

Beale requested a commission to serve in the Civil War, but President Abraham Lincoln instead appointed him Surveyor General of California. He was called again, this time by President Ulysses Grant, to serve as Minister to Austria-Hungary.

Edward "Ned" Fitzgerald Beale died in Washington D.C. April 22, 1893. Despite his unparalleled life as a frontiersman he does not get the recognition in our history books he deserves.

Fire Arrows

By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



An arrow, the deadly projectile propelled from a bow, could arguably be called the Indians' "bullet." However, unlike the short lead round ball or conical slug fired by a gun, the arrow is a long, stiff, straight shaft with a weighty, sharpened or blunt arrowhead attached to the front end. On the rear are multiple fin-shaped stabilizers called fletchings, mounted along the sides, and a slot, known as the nock, at the back end for attaching the bowstring.

While the firearm's bullets are only a few hundred years old, arrows predate recorded history by an estimated 64,000 years. Although historians debate just when this primitive weapon made its first appearance in North America, it's generally believed to have started spreading from Alaska downward through North America sometime around 2000 BC. Since that time, the bow and arrow reigned as the primary arm the indigenous peoples of our continent relied on for both sustenance and warfare.

As Josiah Gregg, a veteran of many months living in the Southwest, recalled of Native

American weaponry in the 1830s and 1840s, "The arms of the wild Indians are chiefly the bow and arrows, with the use of which they become remarkably expert... While the musketeer will load and fire once, the Bowman will discharge a dozen arrows, and that, at distances under fifty yards, with an accuracy nearly almost equal to the rifle."

As further testimony to the Indian archer's speed and accuracy, an Army surgeon serving in the Southwest in 1862 noted that "an expert bowman can easily discharge six arrows per minute, and a man wounded with one is almost sure to receive several arrows... We have not seen more than one or two men wounded by a single arrow only."

There is no question that the bow and arrow were effective in war.



If you watched many westerns growing up, like I did, you remember the scenes where the Indians attack with Fire Arrows. It would light up the sky like modern day tracer rounds. It was frightening and you always saw the settlers or soldiers stop fighting to have to put the fires out. With the forts and settlements all mostly made of wood, it made you wonder how they ever survived.

Imagine my surprise when I grew up to find that Fire Arrows didn't work like that. You couldn't just wrap a cloth around the end of the arrow, light, and shoot it. The force of the air as the arrow travelled through it would blow the fire out every time. Now it is true that the Greeks and Romans had fire arrows but they used their best alchemist to mix chemicals that would burn hot enough that the air couldn't blow out. Then they would cover the fire source with something to keep the air out, like a ceramic shield. They called this chemical compound Greek Fire. And the mixture was so potent you couldn't even put it out with water.

American Indians didn't have that technology, so the movies got it wrong.

LeMat Revolver

By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



The LeMat revolver was a creation of Jean Alexandre LeMat, a New Orleans-based gunsmith who clearly saw the need for a more modern revolver. LeMat revolvers gained the name Grapeshot revolver because LeMat wasn't satisfied with just one barrel. You'd think a single barrel firing .42 or .36 caliber balls was enough, but no, LeMat installed a 20 gauge single shot shotgun on his revolver. It was one of the most unusual guns carried in the old west and it played a pivotal role in the Civil War.

Revolvers with six fast shots were common during the war and were employed by cavalry and ground troops on both sides. Colt and Remington were the two main manufacturers building popular and reliable revolvers, but there were other revolver designs available as well. One in particular, the LeMat revolver, became a symbol of the Confederate cause.

Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard from the great state of Louisiana carried a handsomely engraved LeMat revolver, and other famous Confederate officers such as Braxton Bragg and Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson were known for carrying them as well.

The LeMat revolver had a certain panache about it. With sweeping good looks that fit the legendary and colorful personalities making up the Confederate Army’s officer corps, the LeMat had an air of sophistication that set it apart from the other sidearms of its day.

The LeMat was designed by Frenchman Jean Alexandre LeMat in 1855 and patented in 1856 while he was living in New Orleans. LeMat, like all arms makers, knew that a government contract would be the most lucrative payout for such an unusual revolver. Fortuitously, LeMat’s wife was the cousin of Major P. G. T. Beauregard of the United States Army.

The partnership formed by LeMat and Beauregard was pivotal in the LeMat revolver becoming a symbol of the Confederacy. Beauregard espoused the virtues of the LeMat revolver while he was a U.S. Army Major, but the U.S. Army was not interested and never put the LeMat through test trials.

Following Louisiana’s secession from the Union, Beauregard resigned from the U.S. Army to become a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army. After this, the Confederacy ordered 8,000 LeMat revolvers, but the contract was never entirely fulfilled and it’s estimated only about 2,900 were ever produced. Even fewer of those ever successfully made it into Confederate hands.

The LeMat was a fairly complicated revolver to design and build.

The barrel assembly featured a ramrod lever affixed to its side that allowed the user to load the cylinder. Remember that this is a percussion revolver, so it required loose powder and a round ball to be loaded into its chambers and percussion caps placed on the nipples. A removable ramrod for the muzzle-loading shotgun barrel was housed inside the ramrod lever assembly. A small lever built into the hammer nose or face had two positions for the hammer face, and when upright it ignited the percussion cap to fire each of the nine chambers of the cylinder and when rotated down it would fire the lower shotgun barrel.

Some later variants of the LeMat were produced in different calibers, but the most common models used .42-caliber projectiles for the revolver portion while the smoothbore shotgun barrel was .63-caliber, roughly equivalent to 18 gauge.

The LeMat was a single-action revolver, meaning the hammer needed to be cocked before each shot. Early LeMat models used a pin as the cylinder stop in conjunction with a hand which aligned a chamber with the barrel. As the hammer is cocked, the pin retracts as the hand rotates the cylinder to align a chamber in the cylinder with the barrel. The pin then springs back to lock the cylinder in place before firing. This complicated system was difficult to manufacture and was prone to jamming after being fouled with black powder residue.

The first prototypes and early-production guns were made by John Krider in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. With the Civil War starting and both sides ratcheting up arms production, LeMat knew he wouldn’t be able to have his revolver built Stateside due to the South’s lack of manufacturing infrastructure, so he took his design to Europe to find a firearms manufacturer that could refine the design and produce the revolvers en masse.

The LeMats did, however, take a curious route to Dixieland via England. The revolvers were made in France and then shipped to England where they received British proof marks. From there the LeMats were slipped through Union naval blockages by gunrunners for the Confederates.



Later an improved version was made, called the Second Model, which incorporated engineering changes that helped ease production time and cost as well as improve reliability. The major differences are the trigger guard does not have a spur, the lanyard loop is fixed, a lever was built into the hammer to more easily rotate the hammer face to its shotgun position, a disassembly plunger pin replaced the takedown latch, and the pin lockup

was changed to a simpler wedge solution. The wedge worked similarly to the pin but was simpler to manufacture and more reliable when faced with fouling. Not all of these changes happened at once, so some Second Pattern LeMats still feature the older pin lockup system.

One might suspect that the legacy of the LeMat revolver would have ended with the connection to the Confederate officers who carried them, but it has not. The iconic LeMat has endured thanks to movies, shows and video games.

A LeMat just made an appearance in the recent film *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*, although a non-firing replica was used for filming. A heavily modified version was also wielded by Ed Harris's character in the TV series *Westworld*, and an impressively detailed rendition of it is usable in the video game *Red Dead Redemption II*, as well.

Shooting Iron Miller, Secretary Regulator/Life



Hello! Welcome Texican Rangers! It's so good to be back in the saddle again, starting a new year on the range, doing what we love most. I hope you have marked your calendar to include the upcoming SASS Texas State Championship/Comancheria Days 2025 match to be held April 10 - 12, 2025. Plans are well underway to make this match a memorable one. We want you to be a part of our Comancheria Days 30th Anniversary celebration at Stielers Ranch. We have lots planned for Friday night - Margarita Party hosted by Hot Tamale, Annie D. Vine and Hawkshaw Fred - along with food, Side Match Awards and music by none other than Blacky Vela & The Hipshots. We will also have a blacksmith with Running Bear Forge that

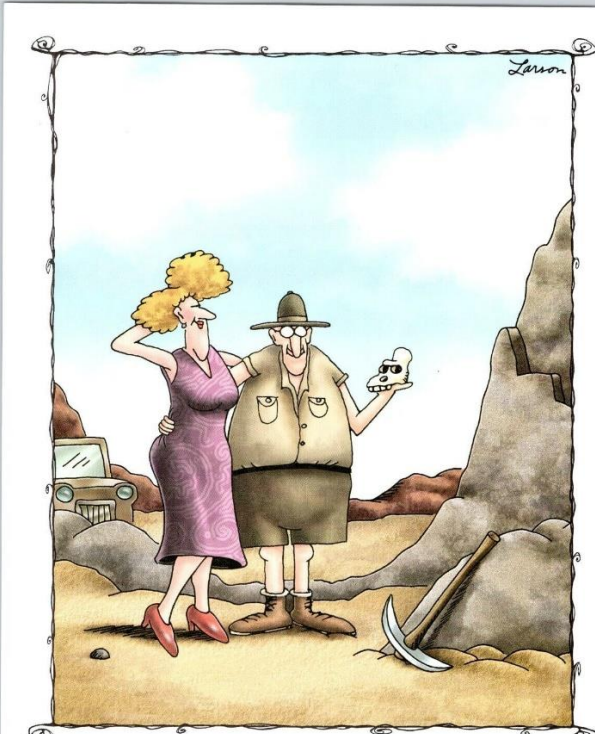
specializes in forging knives and carbon, steel chef pans, who might even rustle up a delicious dessert for us that evening if we're nice to him.

Our other vendors are shaping up nicely too - T-Star Leather, Tells Primers, Lone Star Leatherworks, Traveler's Antiques & Trading, Texas R3 Creations, Miss Patty, Dirty Sally's, Lean Dog Productions, Eagle Grips, Hearpeace, A&B Enterprises, Andrew Welsh specializing in tintype photography and more waiting to be confirmed. If you haven't already done so, visit our website <http://www.texicanrangers.org> and fill out an Entry Form, Waiver, Stage Sponsorship, Vendor Form, or all of the above! You can find our Schedule of Events and Who's Coming on our website. We plan to have a Swap Meet on Thursday, the week of the match, so clean out those closets and plan to get rid of a few things. ROI, ROII and WBRO classes will be offered. If you're thinking about taking a course for the first time or it's time for a refresher, both will be offered. Be sure to let me know if you are interested.

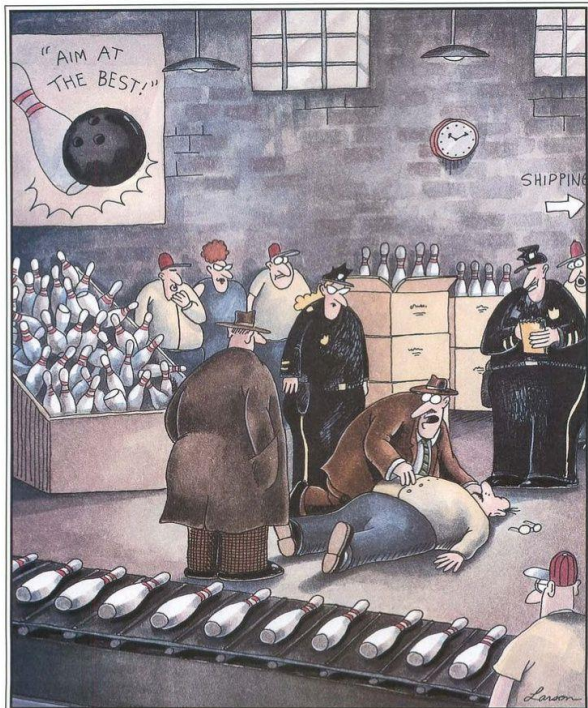
Of course, putting on a great match means tapping into our volunteers to help us get the range ready. We know we can count on you, so please make note of our upcoming workdays on our club calendar on the website. We will have plenty to do and can really use your help. We like to have all the range work completed ahead of time, so we can all relax a little the week of the match, and, only have to wrap up a few last minute "to do's."

We look forward to seeing you soon on the range!

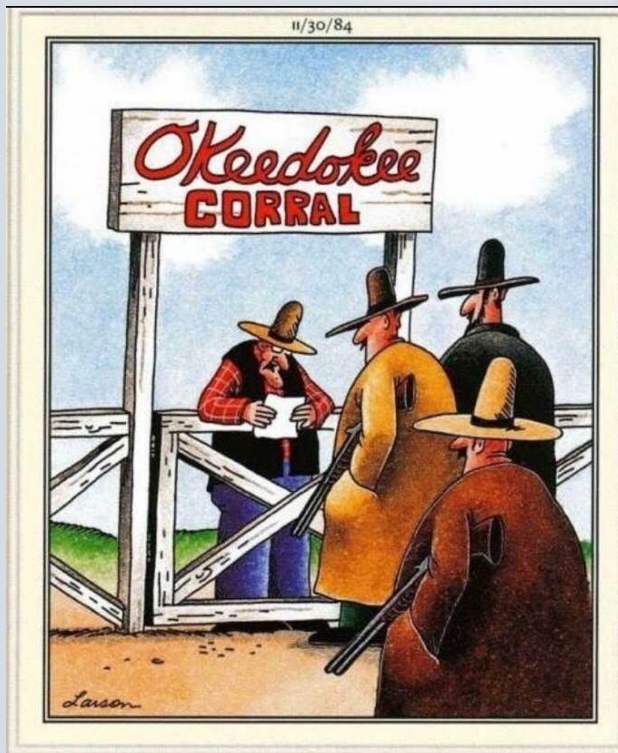
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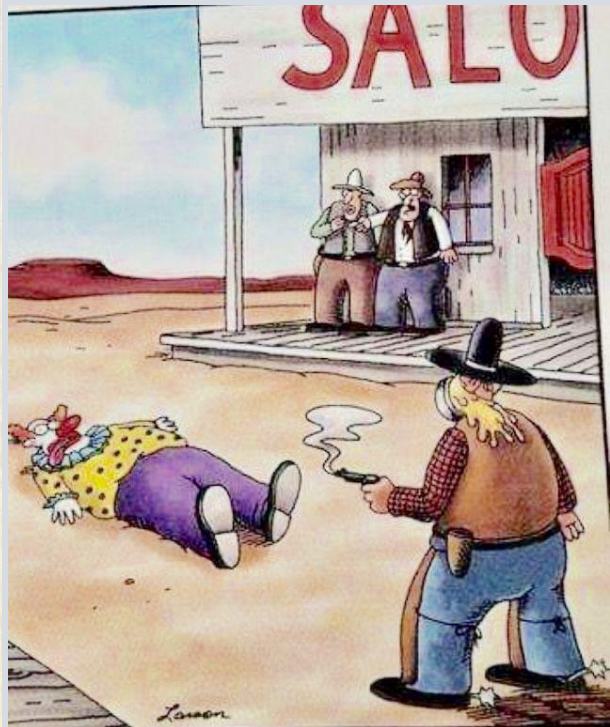
The anthropologist's dream: a beautiful woman in one hand, the fossilized skull of a *Homo habilis* in the other.



"Struck from behind, all right ... and from my first examination of the wound, I'd say this was done by some kind of heavy, blunt object."



"Let's see here. ... Oh! Close, but no cigar. You want the place up the road—same as I told those other fellahs."



It was over. But the way the townsfolk called it, neither man was a clear winner.

Parting Shots
I'D SAY YOU'RE A COWBOY, IF ...

I'd say you're a cowboy if you've passed the test,
of hot summers, cold winters
broken bones,
and all the rest.

If you've done your share of ropin',
far from the rodeo ground,
where there ain't any crowd or ambulance,
and where the badger and dog holes abound.

If you've stayed with your horse,
when he bucked to put you down,
on a hard and rocky place,
where not a soft spot can be found.
to make an easy landin' ,
if he puts you on the ground.

If you've kept the flankers busy,
when you're draggin' calves to the fire,
and done your share of flankin' ,
when the boys begin to tire.

If you've dehorned and castrated,
and run the irons too,
and burned the brands that peel just right,
to show the owner is who.

If you've rode the point and guided the drive,
and kept 'em from runnin' 'till they all arrive,
and where the boss said "take 'em,
and get 'em there alive."

If you can shoe a horse,
and not quick his feet,
and when the job is done,
it is nice and neat.

If you can work the herd,
and take out the cut,
and not brag about it,
there is no reason to strut.

If you can doctor a sick cow,
and pull a breeched calf,
you may be a cowboy ...
or at least half.

If you can tie the hackamore knot,
and the fiddor,
and know how to use them,
and know what they are for.

If you can take the outside circle,
and come out on the point,
right where the boss wants you,
and his nose stays in joint.
because he knows you've done
what real cowboys always do,
you've done your job,
and helped that green hand too.

If you love all of nature,
and the Creator too.

If you love your neighbor,
and your friendship is true.

If you love the Lord Jesus,
and his Golden Rule ...

I'd say you're a cowboy,
and for sure not a fool.

Jim Williams (Working Cowboy)

Submitted by Sheriff Robert Love. The author
was his mother's first cousin.

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
- Beans Ahgin 2022
- Colorado Horseshoe 2024



January

Blacky Vela	1/7
Deadlast	1/10
Panhandle Cowgirl	1/11
Hawkeye	1/12
Skyhawk Hans	1/12
Colonel Colt Winchester	1/14
Stony Lane	1/18
Brazos Bo	1/19
Big John Mesquite	1/23

February

Doc O'Bay	2/1
Fister Bo	2/2
Newt Ritter	2/3
Shooting Iron Miller	2/7
Major Samuel Clayton	2/11
Col. Callan	2/21
Tex Gringo	2/21

March

Texas Pearl	3/10
Whiskey Strait	3/11
Uncle Law	3/16
Natalie Sue	3/17
Tombstone Mary	3/17
Marshall Brooks	3/22



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

CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING SCHEDULES

1st Saturday	Plum Creek (Lockhart)
1st Saturday	South Texas Pistoleros (San Antonio)
2nd & 5th Saturday	Texas Riviera Pistoleros (George West)
2nd Sunday	Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros (Pharr)
2nd Weekend Saturday & Sunday (Cowboy/1911)	Texican Rangers (Comfort)
3rd Saturday (Cowboy) & 3rd Sunday (Long Range)	Tejas Caballeros (TX Republic Ranch)
4th Saturday (Cowboy) and 4th Sunday (Long Range)	Green Mountain Regulators (Marble Falls)
5th Sunday Cowboy & Long Range	Texas Riviera Pistoleros

Important Matches

End of Trail	Feb 24 – Mar 2, 2025
Whoopin' 2025 (Tejas Caballeros)	Mar 14 – 16, 2025
Trailhead (THSS)	Mar 20 – 23, 2025
Texas Riviera Pistoleros Ambush at Gamble Gulch	
(TX State WB Championship)	Mar 28 – 30, 2025
Battle of Plum Creek 2025 (Plum Creek Shooting Society)	May 2 – 4, 2025
Land Run	Oct 4 – 11, 2025
Regulators Revenge 2025 (Green Mountain Regulators)	Pending
Gunfight at Gamble Gulch (Texas Riviera Pistoleros)	Pending

Photo Album

Unfortunately, no photos this month but I will be there taking pictures tomorrow. See you at the Texican Rangers.