

 *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  
March, 2017

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### Words from the Judge



#### Hello the Camp:

Thanks for coming out to the match in March, we had over 100 shooters for the Saturday and Sunday Match.

The SASS Texas State Match at Comancheria Days is just around the corner. Our volunteers have made a lot of progress on the range; they have rebuilt the fort, changed HI Noon, replaced the façade on the Dentist office and shored up the Barn, with many small changes. The range really looks good and as Members of the Texican Rangers you can be proud of your club and the range.

The board is going to try new things to enhance your enjoyment of the range. We will be monitoring how these changes go before we make them permanent.

Beginning with the May Match, Long Range will be open from 9 to 3 on Saturday and from 9 to Noon on Sunday. Whoever decides to shoot Long Range and not the match must have a partner to spot and for safety reasons. We are also opening up Sunday for practice on the stages shot Saturday from 9 to end of the match. Same criteria as Long Range must have partner for safety reasons. Practicing must be with Cowboy guns or 1911 with

lead ammo, although if you want to shoot only your pistols, rifle, shotgun or 1911 on all targets you will be able to do so. Practice after the Saturday match will remain the same.

On Saturday, you can still practice after match or shoot Long Range for no additional cost, if you shot the match.

If you have a friend who wants to shoot your guns, they must sign a waiver and pay the fee, we have to pay the landowner for every person who puts a round or rounds downrange. Shooter fee for Long Range only or Sunday practice will be match fee.

See you at Comancheria Days.

Judge GeePee

## Who Hit John By Dutch Van Horn



I am sure you all know drinking was popular in the old west. Who drank the most is impossible to say.

Grant was one of the top Union generals during the Civil War, serving with great distinction at the Battles of Shiloh, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga. Eventually he took command of the Army of the Potomac. He was renowned for his fierce and dogged fighting style. "I cannot spare this man," Abraham Lincoln was reported to have said. "He fights!"

Fight he did. And when he wasn't, he drank like the proverbial fish. Grant was reported to have consumed entire bottles of whisky in one evening when duty did not call. Of course, being in the middle of the frontier during the Civil War period meant there wasn't a great deal to do during your downtime. Also, some think that many men during this period guzzled so much booze because they thought it was healthy and nutritious. Per capita consumption of liquor in 1830 was over six gallons per year



## The Buffalo Hunt (that almost bankrupt Smith & Wesson) By Dutch Van Horn



Grand Duke Alexie Alexandrovich of Russia was born on 14 January 1850. He was the fifth child of Alexander II, the Emperor of Russia. By the age of 20 he had been appointed Lieutenant of the Imperial Russian Navy, and in 1871 he was sent as a goodwill ambassador to the United States.

After calling on President Grant, where he received a cold reception due to a diplomatic dispute regarding a request of the U.S. for Russia to withdraw its ambassador in Washington, the Grand Duke toured the eastern states, took a trip into Canada and then to Chicago.

During this time, massive hunting parties began to arrive in the West by train, with thousands of men packing .50 caliber rifles, and leaving a trail of buffalo carnage in their wake. Unlike the Native Americans or Buffalo Bill, who killed for food, clothing and shelter, the hunters from the East killed mostly for sport. Hunting Buffalo became

the sport of Kings, or in this case, Grand Dukes.

So not surprising, Grand Duke Alexie requested as part of American experience that he be taken on a buffalo hunt on the western plains. It didn't take long for the hunt to be planned.



By mid-January the Grand Duke had made his way to central Nebraska for his much-anticipated participation in a buffalo hunt that would take place on his twenty-second birthday. Buffalo Bill Cody was to be his guide. The hunting party also included General Philip Sheridan and Colonel George Custer.

Buffalo Bill wrote, "At last, on the morning of the 12th of January, 1872, the Grand Duke and party arrived at North Platte by special train; in charge of a Mr. Francis Thompson, Captain Hays and myself, with five or six ambulances, fifteen or twenty extra saddle-horses and a company of cavalry under Captain Egan, were at the depot in time to receive them. Presently General Sheridan and a large, fine-looking young man, whom we at once

concluded to be the Grand Duke came out of the cars and approached us. General Sheridan at once introduced me to the Grand Duke as Buffalo Bill, and said that I was to take charge of him and show him how to kill buffalo.

In less than half an hour the whole party were dashing away towards the south, across the South Platte and towards the Medicine; upon reaching which point we halted for a change of horses and a lunch. Resuming our ride, we reached Camp Alexis in the afternoon. General Sheridan was well pleased with the arrangements that had been made and was delighted to find that Spotted Tail and his Indians had arrived on time. They were objects of great curiosity to the Grand Duke, who spent considerable time in looking at them, and watching their exhibitions of horsemanship, sham fights, etc. That evening the Indians gave the grand war dance, which I had arranged for.

General Custer, who was one of the hunting party, carried on a mild flirtation with one of Spotted Tail's daughters, who had accompanied her father, and it was noticed also that the Duke Alexis paid considerable attention to another handsome Indian maiden. The night passed pleasantly, and all retired with great expectations of having a most enjoyable and successful buffalo hunt. The Duke Alexis asked me a great many questions as to how we shot buffaloes, and what kind of a rifle or pistol we used, and if he was going to have a good horse. I told him that he was to have my celebrated buffalo horse Buckskin Joe, and when we went into a buffalo herd all he would have to do was to sit on the horse's back and fire away.



At nine o'clock next morning we were all in our saddles, and in a few minutes, were galloping over the prairies in search of a buffalo herd. We had not gone far before we observed a herd some distance ahead of us crossing our way; after that we proceeded cautiously, to keep out of sight until we were ready to make a charge.

Of course, the main thing was to give Alexis the first chance and the best shot at the buffaloes, and when all was in readiness we dashed over a little knoll that had hidden us from view, and in a few minutes, we were

among them. Alexis at first preferred to use his pistol instead of a rifle. He fired six shots from this weapon at buffaloes only twenty feet away from him, but as he shot wildly, not one of his bullets took effect. Riding up to his side and seeing that his weapon was empty, I exchanged pistols with him. He again fired six shots, without dropping a buffalo.



Seeing that the animals were bound to make their escape without his killing one of them, unless he had a better weapon, I rode up to him, gave him my old reliable rifle 'Lucretia,' and told him to urge his horse close to the buffaloes, and I would then give him the word when to shoot. At the same time, I gave old Buckskin Joe a blow with my whip, and with a few jumps the horse carried the Grand Duke to within about ten feet of a big buffalo bull.

'Now is your time,' said I. He fired, and down went the buffalo.

The Grand Duke stopped his horse, dropped his gun on the ground, and commenced waving his hat. When his suite came galloping up, he began talking to them in a tongue which I could not understand. Presently General Sheridan joined the group, and the ambulances were brought up. Very soon the corks began to fly from the champagne bottles, in honor of the Grand Duke Alexis, who had killed the first buffalo."



What has this to do with Smith & Wesson? The Grand Duke was impressed by the experience. He was impressed with Buffalo Bill, but he was most impressed with Buffalo Bill's brace of 1870 Smith & Wesson Model 3 pistols. Bill was carrying the first Model 3 which was later known as the American.

It was a Smith & Wesson Model 3 American that Bill loaned to the Grand Duke to try and kill a buffalo. The Model 3 American was Smith & Wesson's first successful big bore revolver to fire the new metallic cartridges.

The Grand Duke liked the pistols so much he contracted with Smith & Wesson to make a modified version for the Russian military. He wanted a plow handle grip and requested a unique trigger spur to be added. The new pistol was named the Russian Model and was chambered for the new Smith & Wesson .44 Russian cartridge. The Russian military ordered 41,000 pistols with a promise to order more.

Smith & Wesson nearly went bankrupt because of their Russian contract. The

Russians assigned many their best engineers and gunsmiths to reverse engineer the Smith & Wesson design, and then began to produce their own copies of the revolver in their own arsenal and by contracting other manufactures in Europe.

The Russian and European copies of the Smith & Wesson Model 3 revolver were generally of very high quality, but considerably cheaper than the Smith & Wesson produced revolvers. This led to the Imperial government cancelling the order for significant quantities of Smith & Wesson-made revolvers (which Smith & Wesson had already produced), and delaying (or refusing) payment for the handguns that had already been delivered.

Smith & Wesson survived the storm this created but this put them at a serious disadvantage in competing for the American revolver market. The Russians went on to do the same dirty trick to another American gun manufacturer called Hopkins and Allen.

## Guns with Wells Fargo in the Name By Dutch Van Horn



In 1852, Henry Wells and William Fargo founded Wells, Fargo and Company to serve the West. The new company offered banking (buying gold and selling paper bank drafts as good as gold) and express (rapid delivery of the gold and anything else valuable). Wells Fargo opened for business in the gold rush port of San Francisco, and soon Wells Fargo's agents opened offices in the other new cities and mining camps of the West.

I found three guns that bore the name of Wells Fargo. Let's take a look at all three.

The first was the Colt 1849 Wells Fargo. Encouraged by an ongoing military contract, Colt turned his eye toward the civilian market in 1848. Civilian pocket revolvers, such as the Wells Fargo or 1849 Pocket, were .31 caliber pistols that fit easily in a coat pocket.



This gun had no affiliation with Wells Fargo. It was simply the marketing name. Wells Fargo records show no .31 caliber revolvers were ever purchased by that company. All variations included, it was the single largest selling of the Colt revolvers until well into the 20th century.



What made this gun so popular? A combination of price and timing. The gun sold \$8.00 in 1849 and was marketed right before the California gold rush. Most any picture of the 49ers show the gold rush hopefuls holding 1849 Colt Pocket Pistols.



The second gun to carry the name Wells Fargo was the Parker Brothers Wells Fargo Coach Gun. The terms "cut-down shotgun" or messenger's gun" were coined in the 1860s. When Wells Fargo and company assigned shotgun messengers to guard its shipments on stagecoaches. The company issued shotguns to its guards for defense. The guard was called a shotgun messenger although the phrase riding shotgun was not coined until 1919.

The term "coach gun" came into use because of Wells Fargo. In 1858, they opened a stage coach route between Tipton, Missouri and the fast-growing city of San Francisco, California. Not only did they transport passengers on this route, they also transported mail for the U.S. post office, as well as large sums of paper money and gold. The route was 2800 miles long and passed through some of the wildest parts of the United States.

Naturally, this attracted the attention of bandits and highwaymen and so these stage coaches were pretty heavily guarded. The driver of the stage-coach was at a disadvantage, because he had to concentrate on driving the horses, hence they would put a person next to him with a coach gun, to defend the two of them as needed, and there were additional guards inside the stage coach as well. Since it is difficult to hit a moving target from a bouncing stage coach, which is also moving at speed, the guards preferred a coach gun to a rifle, since all one needed to do was point the gun in the general direction and pull the trigger.



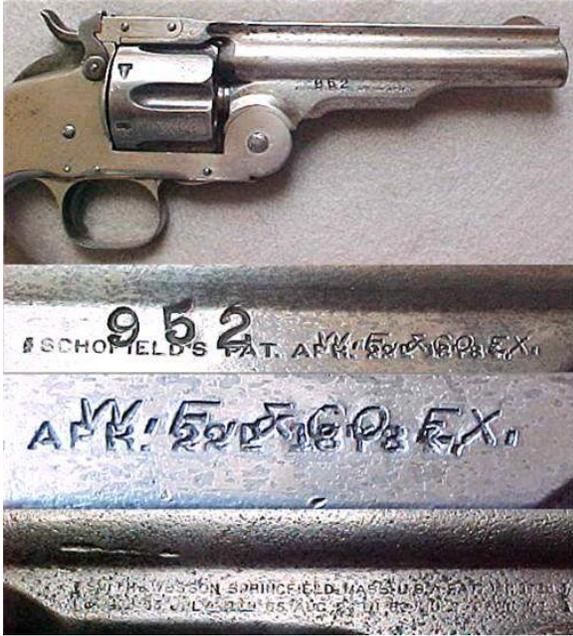
The third gun that bore the name Wells Fargo was the Smith & Wesson Model 3 Schofield Revolver. How did this happen?

First in 1870, the U.S. Army adopted the .44 S&W American, making Model 3 revolver the first standard-issue cartridge-firing revolver in U.S. service. Most military pistols until that point were black

powder cap and ball revolvers, which were (by comparison) slow, complicated, and susceptible to the effects of wet weather.

In 1875 the US Ordnance Board granted Smith & Wesson a contract to outfit the military with Model 3 revolvers incorporating the design improvements of Major George W. Schofield (known as the "Schofield revolver"), if they could make the revolvers fire the .45 Long Colt ammunition already in use by the U.S. military. Smith & Wesson instead developed their own, slightly shorter .45 caliber round, the .45 Schofield, otherwise known as the .45 S&W.

When it became obvious in the field that the two cartridges would not work interchangeably in the Schofield (although they both worked in the Colt), the U.S. Government adopted the shorter .45 Schofield cartridge as the standard cartridge. Despite the change, old stocks of the longer .45 Colt rounds in the supply line caused the Army to drop most of the Schofields and continue with the Colt.



While the standard barrel length was 7", many Schofields were purchased as surplus by distributors, and had the barrels shortened to 5", and were refinished in nickel.

Of the most notable purchasers of these reconditioned model 3 Schofield revolvers was Wells Fargo and Company, who purchased the revolvers for use by Wells Fargo Road Agents and had the barrels shortened to a more concealable 5-inch length. These revolvers were then inspected by the Wells Fargo armorer and uniquely stamped "W.F. & Co" or "Wells Fargo & Co", along with the original Smith & Wesson serial number re-stamped alongside the Wells Fargo stamping on the flat part of the barrel just forward of the barrel pivot as

well as re-stamping any part of each revolver which had not originally been stamped or stamped in a location that would be difficult to view the serial number, when needed.



The above is a picture of Wells Fargo Agents guarding the Deadwood Treasure Wagon loaded with \$250,000 in gold bullion from the Great Homestake Mine, Deadwood, South Dakota, 1890. You can count on the fact they were well armed.

## Famous Quotes

“Life isn’t divided into genres. It’s a Horrifying, Romantic, Tragic, Comical, Science-Fiction, Cowboy, Detective Novel.”

Alan Moore

If you watch Godzilla backwards, it is about a giant lizard who helps rebuild a half burnt down city then moonwalks back into the ocean.

Unknown

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.”

Winston Churchill

“Courage is being scared to death and Saddling up anyway!”

John Wayne

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it back in your pocket.

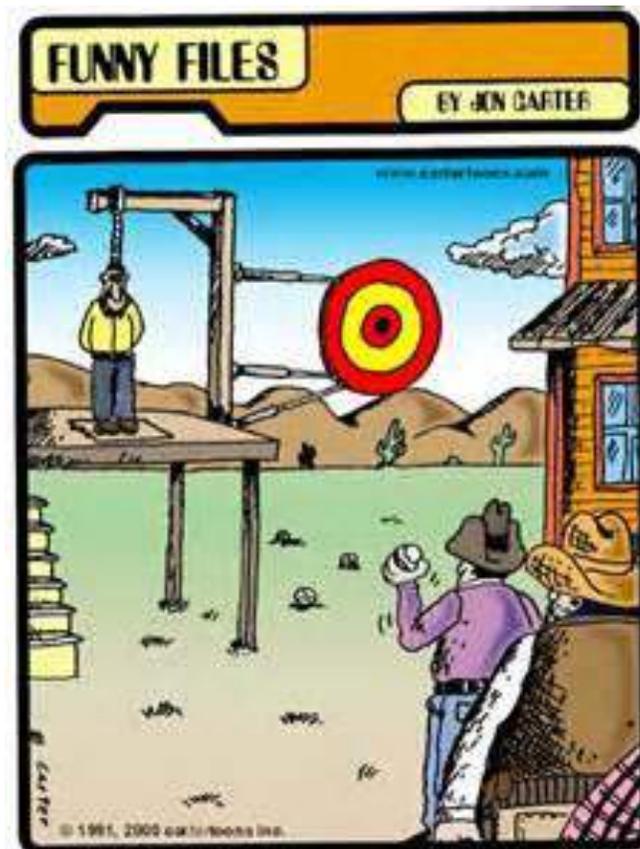
Unknown

“A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.”

Albert Einstein

“Wisdom is learning to let go when you want to hang on. Courage is learning to hang on when you want to let go.”

Mark Amend



**A poor attempt at making hangings more fun.**

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



Howdy Rangers:

The Texas State Championship / Comancheria Days 2017 is in its final stages of preparation. It is overwhelming to see the amount of time the members have put into the range's preparation. I appreciate everyone's time and effort.

There will be a new look to the Jail, the Barn and the Fort. You will see 2 new shooting positions at the Bank, structural reinforcement at the barn and bigger windows at the Fort. All of these

improvements should increase the shooters enjoyment.

The remaining new targets have been put out on the stages. They look great. Many layers of paint are being removed from the old targets. We expect the removal of the old paint to restore the ring in the old targets.

A new item for the tournament is the printing of a posse marshal book for both the main match and the wild bunch side match. This book will have the stage description on one page and a list of stage clarifications on the other. This information, along with a miss flow chart and a summary of the SASS penalties will help in the consistent explanation of the stages and the posse administration.

I look forward to seeing you at at Comancheria Days 2017!

AD

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



Reminder: We will not have a monthly match in April due to Comancheria Days our SASS Texas State Championship.

We only have May, June, July and August matches that will count towards this year's annual awards. You must shoot 5 matches in one category to qualify.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at:

Texicanrangers@yahoo.com

## 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



## March Birthdays

Sunny Spurs	3/3
Aiyana Kay	3/17
Tombstone Mary	3/17
Will Tinker	3/19
Marshall Brooks	3/22
Maverick McCoy	3/29
Choctaw Chase	3/30
Hopalong Herbert	3/31



**Our Friendly Staff is here to help!**

### 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.stxpistoleros.com](http://www.stxpistoleros.com)  
[www.tejasballeros.org](http://www.tejasballeros.org)  
[www.darbyroughregulators.com](http://www.darbyroughregulators.com)  
[www.trpistoleros.com](http://www.trpistoleros.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 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**

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

**Photo Gallery**







