Newsletter for the Texican Rangers

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

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Howdy Fellow Rangers!



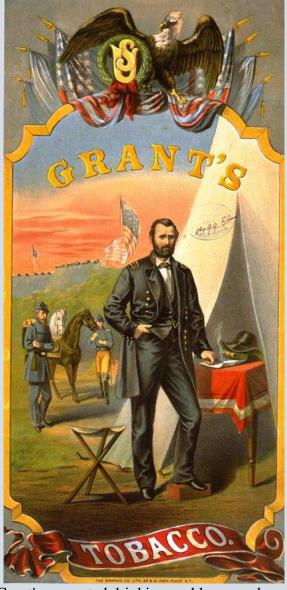
Looks like we are winding down for the year with just one match left before we say good-bye to Stieler Ranch until January. We really appreciate everyone who came out for Shindig. We enjoyed hosting you and handing out the annual awards. We can't thank you enough for your loyalty to the club, your help when we need it, and most importantly, your friendship. I would bet that one thing we can all agree on is that cowboy shooters are some of the best friends we will ever come to know. They are folks we can depend on, have fun with, and would do anything for us when the need arises. I hope you will come out on Saturday, October 11 for one last match, one last hoorah. If you have a little time after the match, we could really use your help bringing in targets and tables, as we close down the range for the season. For those of you competing at Land Run, I wish you the very best of luck.

Happy Trails,

San Saba Slim

President, Texican Rangers

Did Ulysses S. Grant really have a Drinking Problem? By Bob Boze Bell



Why anyone cares that Grant drank is an interesting question in itself. As has been said, he was a successful, even brilliant soldier. If he did that while drinking, or maybe because he was drinking, then Lincoln's alleged anecdote might even be a sound strategy.

Actually, in those days everybody drank a lot more than we do today. "In 1825, Americans over the age of 15 consumed on average seven gallons of alcohol — generally whiskey or hard cider — each year (today that figure is about two gallons, mostly of beer and wine)."

More likely, according to most sources, is that he was (at least early in his career) a binge drinker who mostly drank when separated from his family or out of boredom. According to his friend Lt. Henry Hodges, "He would perhaps go on two or three sprees a year, but was always open to reason." Reports that he drank to inebriation during or before his Civil War battles seem entirely fanciful.

So, where did the claims that Grant routinely drank to excess come from? According to Civil War historian and archivist Michael B. Ballard, "Almost all, if not all, the stories about various drunken states are doubtful, although widely circulated as being true."

Grant's purported drinking problems are largely the result of a smear campaign against him by his rivals and political enemies – both "Lost Cause" Southerners still smarting from their defeat in the Civil War and his political opposition – that began after his two terms as Commander in Chief. In part they were upset over his attempts to enforce Reconstruction and protect the freedmen's rights. In particular, his use of federal troops to enforce the 14th and 15th amendments and confront the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacists was seen as tyrannical and imposing "black domination."

Then there are those who find it romantic to consider Grant (as one website article dubs him) "a drunken fighting machine from American History."

And finally there are the journalists, who in those days were far more willing to invent things than journalists in the present. Sylvanus Cadwallader, a newspaper reporter, wrote down one such story (though not printed until after his death three decades after the war), claiming that Grant had a barrel of whiskey in his tent for his exclusive use. No one else ever mentioned it.

It would be foolish to state that Grant never drank, or never drank to excess, but the myth of his being either a pathetic drunk or a hard-drinking man of action isn't borne out by the evidence.

The Dodge City Peace Commission By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



On 21 July, 1883 the National Police Gazette ran a picture which has become one of the most famous photographs of the western frontier. It depicts some of the members of the Dodge City Peace Commission who were involved in the Dodge City (Kansas) War of 1883, a war that was settled with any shots being fired.

From the front, left to right we have; Charlie Bassett, Wyatt Earp, Frank McLain, and Neil Brown. From the back, left to right we have; W.H. Harris, Luke Short, Bat Masterson and W.F. Petillon.

Now everyone knows Wyatt and Bat but who were the others?

Like Earp and Masterson the others are of a type; at various times lawmen, gamblers, gunfighters, miners, buffalo hunters, miscreants and wanderers. All were well known and for the most part feared.

Luke Short (1854-93) was a cowboy and gambler who had sold whiskey to the Indians and murdered several Sioux in the process. He met Wyatt and Bat in Dodge and in 1881 was hired as a faro dealer by Earp in Tombstone where in a notorious incident he shot Charlies Storms outside the Oriental Hotel. After the 1883 Dodge City War he migrated to Fort Worth, Texas where he shot and killed Longhair Jim Courtwright, the town's former marshal. Short was acquitted of murder charges and died peacefully a few years later.

Charlie Bassett (1847-96) was the former Dodge City Marshal who had hired Wyatt Earp as a Deputy. After leaving Dodge, Charlie went to New Mexico and then to mine gold in Montana before returning to Dodge for the 1883 War.

Neal Brown (dates unknown) was a half-Cherokee lawman in Dodge while W.H. Harris was another friend of Earp, a gambler in Tombstone and, at the time of the war, Vice President of the Dodge City Bank. He committed suicide in 1895.

Frank McLain (spelling varies) has never been convincingly identified.

W.F. Petillon is the joker in the deck. He was court clerk of Ford County and later editor of the Dodge City Democrat. The story is that he was not a member of the Commission and merely asked to be part of the picture because of the presence of so many famous (and/or notorious) characters.

Now that is a lot of western firepower. What would cause a group like this to come together and who were they up against? Was it rustlers, outlaws, or vigilantes? No, it was worse than that. It was a politician, and I haven't even told you about the group's most famous member.

In another photo of the Commission taken at the same session, Petillon is replaced with Bill Tilghman (1854-1924).



During the late 19th and early 20th centuries Tilghman may have been the most famous of all the Dodge War participants. Born in Iowa and starting as a buffalo hunter he moved to Dodge in 1875 where, though a teetotaler, he opened a saloon and met Earp and Masterson. Leaving Dodge to become a scout for the US Cavalry in 1878 Masterson hired him as a Deputy Sheriff. By the late 1880s he'd become one of three Marshals in the Oklahoma Territory where he was responsible for apprehending hundreds of outlaws and participating in high profile incidents such as the 1889 Battle of Cimarron and managing to capture the notorious

Doolin Gang in 1895. Retiring in 1910 he was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate and a year later became Police Chief of Oklahoma City. After retiring from that job, he was persuaded at the age of 70 to become Marshal of Cromwell, Oklahoma a lawless, violent town. It was there that Tilghman was shot and killed by a corrupt Prohibition Agent. A month later the entire town was burned down by unidentified arsonists. Bat Masterson said of Tilghman "he was the greatest of us all."

So what were they all doing in Dodge in 1883?

It was because of Luke Short, the friend of Wyatt and Bat. What follows is primarily based upon the well-documented account of Casey Tefertiller in Wyatt Earp: The Life Behind the Legend.

Dodge City was founded in 1872 and for its first decade was the rowdy terminus for Texas cattle drives. Cowboys would bring the cattle into town where they could be loaded onto railroad cars and shipped to the slaughterhouses in Chicago, and when they arrived those cowboys were ready for a good time, and it seems like just about every famous Western lawman and outlaw passed through there at one time or another. Its wildest days were in the 1870s when Earp, Masterson, Bassett, Tilghman and Short were in town and met each other.



In 1883 Short returned to Dodge City where he became part-owner of the Long Branch Saloon. Yes, that Long Branch, it's the name of the saloon operated by Miss Kitty in Gunsmoke, the longest running series in TV history.

Short's co-owner was W.H. Harris.

For several years there had been a political battle for control of the city between a group known as the Dodge City Gang, led by Bat Masterson, and another

faction led by Ab Webster, the current mayor and owner of the rival Alamo Saloon. It was located next to the Long Branch. In early 1883 a mayoral election occurred in which the Gang's candidate was W.H. Harris and Webster's handpicked choice was Larry Deger, a former city marshal, who won the election by a vote of 214 to143.



In the next month, the new mayor and town council enacted ordinances banning prostitution and policeman (and Deger ally) Lou Hartman went to the Long Branch and roughly arrested several women. Realizing that the prostitutes at the Alamo and other saloons had not been arrested, Short strapped on his guns and went to the jail where Hartman, recognizing him, fired and missed. Short fired back, narrowly missing Hartman who tripped and fell, but thinking he had killed the policeman, Short returned to the Long Branch where he barricaded himself until surrendering the next morning after being persuaded Hartman was unharmed. Short and several associates were charged with assault, denied counsel and marched to the train station, told they were undesirables and given their choice of trains and destinations to leave Dodge. Short chose to go to Topeka and wired his friend Bat Masterson. Bat returned from

Colorado to join Short and they proceeded to Kansas City where they met with Kansas Governor Glick, another of Bat's many friends. Called to the state capital by the Governor, W.F. Petillon supported Short's charges and

Glick engaged in several angry telegraph exchanges with Mayor Deger and Sheriff George Hinkle. Short later said the Governor advised him to return to Dodge but afraid to do so alone, Bat Masterson returned to Colorado to persuade his old friend, Wyatt Earp to come to Dodge. Wyatt agreed and started pulling together his friends to accompany him.

The confrontation at Dodge and Earp's looming approach created a newspaper sensation. On May 15th, the Kansas City Journal reported Masterson's return which it said would soon be followed by: ""a few other unpleasant gentlemen who are on their way to the tea party at Dodge. One of them is Wyatt Earp, the famous marshal of Dodge, another is Joe Lowe, otherwise known as "Rowdy Joe;" and still another is "Shotgun Collins;" but worse than all is another ex-citizen and officer of Dodge, the famous Doc Holliday."

This, like many other newspaper reports, was inaccurate; Doc Holliday and other notorious characters did not come to Dodge. But Earp, with his friends Charlie Bassett, Neal Brown and several others, including Texas Jack Vermillion who accompanied Wyatt on the Vendetta Ride near Tombstone in 1882, did show up. Getting off the train fully armed and marching up the main street of Dodge to the Long Branch they were sworn in as deputies by constable Prairie Dog Dave Morrow, a supporter of Short, thereby legitimizing their continued carrying of weapons in town.

Earp met with Webster and Deger, whom he knew from his earlier Dodge days, along with the town council, announcing that his purpose was to ensure that Short and Masterson could return and stay as long as they liked if they obeyed the law. The council offered to allow Short to return for ten days to complete his business but refused to allow Masterson back. Earp left without saying a word.

Wyatt wired Short and Masterson to come to Dodge and both arrived fully armed and refused efforts by a deputy sheriff to get them to surrender their guns. By this time Webster, Deger and the council members were worried that events had run out of their control and completely intimidated by Earp. Wyatt arranged for his friends to meet Webster and Deger in the street and to shake hands. With that, Short and Masterson were welcomed back to town to stay as long as they desired and the Dodge City War ended.

Soon afterwards, the anti-prostitution ordinance was repealed and life returned to normal. By the end of the year Masterson and Short had left Dodge for good. The ending is just like the opening scene of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, when, to avert a gunfight, Butch asks a gambler who's accused Sundance of cheating to ask both of them to stay and continue the game. The gambler finally does so and Butch thanks him but says they have to be going and he and Sundance leave without bloodshed.

A Poem by Jim Williams, Cowboy Poet Submitted by Sheriff Robert Love

OLD DICK

Old Dick Shepard was a foxy old soul. If you dealt with him you might go in the hole.

If he borrowed from you, you'd not get it back, He'd forget to pay and stuff it in his sack.

If you borrowed from him, it was the very same way,

He would make the loan and expect no repay.

It seems he lived by different rules, Than the ones that guide us ordinary fools.

He rode many horses and roped lots of stock. Ate three squares a day and stayed outa hock. Could shoe a horse and roach a mule. He gathered cow chips for his cookin' fuel.

He could take the wagon and cook for the crew. Could make sourdough biscuits and sonofagun stew,

Juicy roast beef and fruit cobbler too, And he could always find time to jaw with you.

Old Dick's gone now, to eternal rest. If you needed a friend, he was the best.

He was always ready with a helping hand. He feared no man, he had true grit and sand. Last Guns of Wild Bill Hickok By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



Everyone knows Wild Bill Hickok was one of the greatest gunmen of the American West. He was the "Prince of Pistoleers" and one of the most exciting Americans ever to carry a firearm. Hickok's advice about shooting: "Whenever you get into a row, be sure not to shoot too quick. Take time. I've known many a feller to slip up for shootin' in a hurry." He didn't believe in shooting people in the back or unnecessarily: "I never killed one man without good cause." Few men embody the brazen spirit of the frontier like James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok. Back when Hickok was a lawman in Abilene, Kansas, it's reported that he spent most of his time at the poker table. Like many of the romantic personalities of the Wild West, Hickok's life (and legacy) is clouded by half-truths and fairy tales.

The truth is that Hickok was a professional gambler who liked to stack his tall tales alongside his chips. He had plenty

of genuine escapades, but he loved to embellish. Even respected newspaper reporter Henry M. Stanley took the bait. He once wrote that Wild Bill "is endowed with extraordinary power and agility. He seems naturally fitted to perform daring actions." As for his appearance, *Harper's Monthly* (February 1867) described him: "6'2", long flowing hair, chest like a barrel, thin waist adorned by twin Colts, graceful, dignified bearing..." Hickok's choice of guns? His former commanding officer, General George Armstrong Custer, said: "Wild Bill always carried two handsome ivory-handled revolvers... he was never seen without them."



Yes—his favorite gun was the Colt .36-caliber, six-shot, 1851 Navy revolver. They had ivory grips and silver plating and were ornately engraved with "J.B. Hickok—1869" on the backstrap. He wore his revolvers butt-forward in a belt or sash (when wearing city clothes or buckskins, respectively), and seldom used holsters per se; he drew the pistols using a "reverse", "twist" or cavalry draw, as would a cavalryman.

The 1851 Colt's smoothness of operation, terrific balance and natural aiming quality were never equaled in its

time. Even after cartridge revolvers came along, many gunslingers continued to prefer the Colt Model 1851, and many experts consider it to be the most famous handgun ever made. It was the most popular firearm of its day among military men, peace officers and civilians.

On March 5, 1876, Hickok married Agnes Thatcher Lake, a 50-year-old circus proprietor in Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory. Hickok left his new bride a few months later, joining Carlie Utter's wagon train to seek his fortune in the gold fields of South Dakota. He sold his famous 1851 Colts to pay for the trip and he switched from Cap and Ball to metallic cartridges.



So, on the way to Deadwood Wild Bill carried an 1860 Colt Richards Type II conversion pistol. This was his trail gun. The caliber was the .44 Colt and the loading lever was replaced by an ejector rod. This conversion added a breechplate with a firing pin and a rear sight mounted on the breechplate. Colt manufactured 9000 of these revolvers between 1873 and 1878. They typically sold for about \$12.00 at that time.



At the time of his death Hickok was reported as wearing a Smith & Wesson Model 2 Army Revolver. It was a five-shot single-action .32 rimfire with a six-inch barrel, blued finish and varnished rosewood grips. Bill may have first encountered this type pistol during the Civil War. Many of Bill's Union Army counterparts would carry this gun as their back up. It is possible that Bill had acquired his Smith & Wesson during the war and carried it as a backup gun. The gun is expected to fetch up to \$500,000 at an upcoming auction.

Sheriff Robert Love, Vice President Regulator/Life



I want to thank the Texican Rangers for reelecting me as Vice-President of the club for 2026. I promise to do my best to help maintain the standards that make The Texican Rangers one of the best Cowboy Action Shooting clubs in Texas and Comancheria Days as one of the premier SASS shooting events.

Sheriff Robert Love Vice President **Shooting Iron Miller, Secretary Regulator/Life**



Hello Fellow Shooters! It's really hard to believe we are already into the month of October. The summer seemed to fly by. I hope you enjoy the October match if you are able to attend. Some of us will be at Land Run, so we will miss seeing you. It will be the last match of the year. We will resume shooting in January 2026.

Congratulations to everyone who received an annual award during Shindig this year. Thanks so very much for being an integral part of the Texican Rangers, and for helping to keep our club alive and well, offering the sport we all love.

Shooting Iron Miller Secretary

Results for 2025

1st Skyhawk Hans Cattle Baron
2nd Sheriff Robert Love Cattle Baron
3rd Captain George Baylor Cattle Baron

1st Uncle Law Classic Cowboy

1st Blacky Vela Cody Dixon Single Shot
2nd Doc Holloman Cody Dixon Single Shot

1st Beauregard Beard Cowboy
2nd Alamo Andy Cowboy

1st Yakima Jim Tombaugh Duelist

1st Doc O'Bay Duelist Senior
2nd Newt Ritter Duelist Senior

1st Hoolihan Duelist Silver Senior

1st Frank LongshotEl Patron2nd ScooterEl Patron

1st T Bone Paul Elder Statesman
2nd Dutch Van Horn Elder Statesman
3rd Abilene Elder Statesman
4th Skinny Elder Statesman
5th Hawkeye Elder Statesman
6th Dirty Dog Dale Elder Statesman
7th Marshall Brooks Elder Statesman

1st Mad Dog McCoy FC Duelist Senior

1st Whiskey Kid FC Gunfighter

1st L.W. Hannabass Frontiersman

1st Henly Gunfighter
2nd San Saba Slim Gunfighter

1st Fister Bo Senior

1st Shooting Iron Miller Senior Lady

1st Squaw Man Sharpshooter

1st Rogue Heeler Silver Senior
2nd Kincade Silver Senior
3rd Marshal Jamison Silver Senior
4th Colorado Horseshoe Silver Senior
5th A.D. Silver Senior

1st Tombstone Mary Silver Senior Lady
2nd Box S Spicy Silver Senior Lady

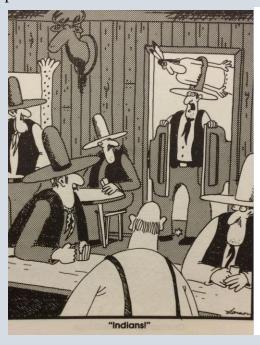
Overall Cowgirl Shooting Iron Miller
Overall Cowboy Beauregard Beard

Clean Match Cowboy Dirty Dog Dale

Newt Ritter

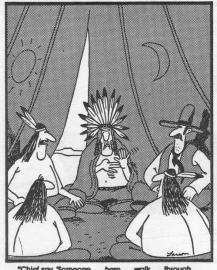
Clean Match Cowgirl Tombstone Mary

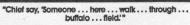
Spirit of the Game Newt Ritter





Although he knew it was madness, Wilbur felt his hand move towards the rubber squirter bulb.







"Henry! Hurry or you're gonna miss itghost riders in the kitchen!"

BOOYAH BULLETS

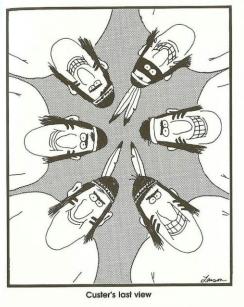
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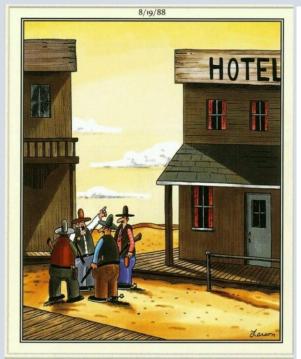
Price List effective 02.01.25

Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/500	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	44	87
	105	FP	45	90
	125	RNFP	49	98
	125	FP	49	98
	130	RNFP	51	101
	158	RNFP	56	110
	158	FP	56	110
	158	SWC	56	110
.380	100	RNFP	44	87
.38-55	245	RNFP	84	166
.41	215	SWC	72	133
.44	180	RNFP	60	119
	240	SWC	77	153
.44-40	200	RNFP	66	131
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	65	125
	180	RNFP	60	119
	200	RNFP	66	131
	250	RNFP	78	156
9MM	124	RN	49	98
	125	CN	49	98
40 S&W	180	FP	60	119
.45ACP	200	SWC	66	131
	200	RN	66	131

	230	RN	75	148
45-70	405	FPT	85 (250)	310 (1K)
COATED 10.00	PLUS 500 pcs.		160 (500)	







"Roy, you get up on the hotel roof there. And for godsakes, if you are plugged, don't just slump over and die—put some drama into it and throw yourself screaming from the edge."



Parting Shots Funny Signs

- 1. I'm not superstitious, but I am a little stitious.
- 2. I'm sick of following my dreams, man. I'm just going to ask where they're going and hook up them later.
- 3. Gentlemen, you can't fight here in the Pentagon. This is the war room.
- 4. My mother always used to say: The older you get, the better you get, unless you're a banana.
- 5. Halloween is the beginning of the holiday shopping season. That's for women. The beginning of the holiday shopping season for men is Christmas Eve.
- 6. Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence in society.
- 7. Before you marry a person, you should first make them use a computer with slow Internet to see who they really are.
- 8. I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.
- 9. When your mother asks, 'Do you want a piece of advice?' it is a mere formality. It doesn't matter if you answer yes or no. You're going to get it anyway.
- 10. I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.
- 11. Never follow anyone else's path. Unless you're in the woods and you're lost and you see a path. Then by all means follow that path.
- 12. Insomnia sharpens your math skills because you spend all night calculating how much sleep you'll get if you're able to 'fall asleep right now.
- 13. Breaking up is like knocking over a Coke machine. You can't do it in one push; you got to rock it back and forth a few times, and then it goes over.

- 14. I walk around like everything's fine, but deep down, inside my shoe, my sock is sliding off.
- 15. I used to sell furniture for a living. The trouble was, it was my own.
- 16. There's nothing wrong with you that an expensive operation can't prolong.
- 17. Someone asked me, if I were stranded on a desert island what book would I bring: 'How to Build a Boat.
- 18. You know you've reached middle age when you're cautioned to slow down by your doctor, instead of by the police.
- 19. Truth hurts. Maybe not as much as jumping on a bicycle with a seat missing, but it hurts.
- 20. My Mama says that alligators are ornery because they got all those teeth and no toothbrush.
- 21. I never feel more alone than when I'm trying to put sunscreen on my back.
- 22. Being a mom means never buying the right amount of produce. Either everyone suddenly loves grapes and a week's worth are eaten in one afternoon, or fruit flies are congregating around my rotting bananas.
- 23. I saw a study that said speaking in front of a crowd is considered the number one fear of the average person. Number two was death. This means to the average person, if you have to be at a funeral, you would rather be in the casket than doing the eulogy.
- 24. Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it most never use it.
- 25. The only thing that separates us from the animals is our ability to accessorize.
- 26. I'm at a place in my life when errands are starting to count as going out."
- 27. A good rule to remember for life is that when it comes to plastic surgery and sushi, never be attracted by a bargain.

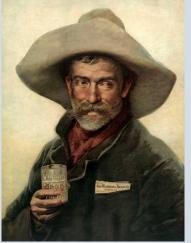
Texican Rangers Regulators

	0 0	
•	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



August Crooked Creek Sam 8/09 Moose McCoy 8/09 Yakima Jim Tombaugh 8/20 Scooter 8/27 Farr Ranger 8/28 Harmony Bell 8/29 Llano Leadslinger 8/29 September Abilene 9/4 Uncle Nick Wilson 9/7 Sam McDermott 9/10 A.D. 9/15 T Bone Paul 9/16 Kit Carson 9/21 9/21 L.W. Hannabass Holly Pena 9/24 October 10/2 Sweet Anne Kettleman 10/4 Captain George Baylor 10/5 San Saba Slim 10/5 Culebra Blaze 10/6 Crazy Clyde 10/8 Marshal Jamison 10/13 Maid Jalaff 10/17





Key Links

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CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING SCHEDULES

1st Saturday	Plum Creek (Lockhart)	
1st Saturday	South Texas Pistolaros (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

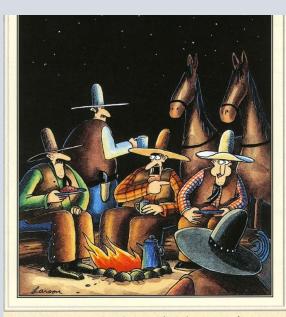
Land Run Oct 4-11, 2025

Regulators Revenge 2025

(Green Mountain Regulators) Nov 7 – 9, 2025

Gunfight at Gamble Gulch

(Texas Riviera Pistoleros) Dec 12 – 14, 2025



"Hey, everyone! Simmons here just uttered a discouraging word!"



