



# 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  
January 2020

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### Hello Texican Rangers



There was a great turnout for the January matches, despite the cold temperatures and steady breezes. On Saturday we had 63 shooters and 12 clean matches. Panhandle Cowgirl won the overall match. On Sunday we had 26 shooters and 6 clean matches. Whiskey Kid won the overall match. It was great to be back shooting again after our 2-month layoff.

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help set up the range for our first shoot. This club could not continue without all of your support and help.

For the workday on February 4th we will be setting up the north stages for the February shoot. It would be great to see a similar turn out as last month. In addition to the stage set up there are 3 construction projects to start, some electrical maintenance on the main building and stage painting. I will be sending out an email with specifics and a list of equipment we will need.

Comancheria Days our SASS Texas State Championship will be here before

you know it. I will serve as your Match Director and Burly Bill Brocius and Newt Ritter will be our Assistant Match Directors. If you have already registered thanks if not, please do so as soon as possible. We have 220 registered shooters and our maximum is 300. Get your application and check to Tombstone Mary before we fill up.

Volunteers are needed for several positions for Comancheria Days. If you would like to help, please contact Tombstone Mary and she will get you signed up.

Your current slate of Officers look forward to a great 2020, if you have any suggestions to make your club better please let us know.

A.D.

President

## **What Makes a Good Cowboy Hat? By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



Some would say that what makes a good cowboy hat is a good cowboy. Others would say the amount of beaver fur makes a good cowboy hat. Cowboy hats have been around for a long time and a rating or X factor was designed to rate hat grades.

X Factor Hat Rating was originally determined by the density and shape of the material and ranged in grade from a

low of 1X to a high of 10X. Hats made of material rated below 5X generally contained a poorer grade of fur or felt and little to no beaver fur. A 10X hat was made of 100% beaver fur. In the past, the X-factor was also a reliable price guide, with a 3X hat costing \$30 and a 4X hat costing \$40 and a 5X hat costing \$50 and so on. Fifty years ago, a 10X Stetson cost \$100, was made of 100% pure beaver fur and was the finest hat available.

Today, however, the X Factor Hat Rating is rather subjective. Manufacturers and dealers are not only rating hats differently, each according to its own criteria, but they are also using the X as a price plateau rather than an actual quality rating system. In general, today's X-factor works out like this: a 2X beaver will cost under \$100; a 10X beaver about \$250; a 30X, \$450; and 100X beaver hats generally cost upwards of \$1,000. A 1000X hat would need to be kept in a vault, you get the idea. One company's 5X beaver might actually be better than another's 10X – it's a tricky system.

Prospective hat buyers are advised to discuss the material's X-factor with the hat maker or dealer in detail to ascertain the true X-rating. The real test, ultimately, is the look and feel: a good hat is soft and silky.

Today, hats are marketed with ratings from 1X to 10,000X, felt and straw alike. Although the X Factor seems to be more of an advertising tool than any real indication of the percentage of beaver (for felt) or natural fiber and the tightness of weave (for straw). There is no standardized system in place, and hat makers vary significantly in their use of the X's—with higher X Factors sometimes describing the hatband quality instead of the hat material itself.

Beaver fur felt is dense and virtually waterproof. It consists of beaver and/or rabbit/hare fur blended with felt to produce a material that lasts 5-10 times longer than wool-felt.

A fine beaver and beaver blend fur-felt hat can be re-worked and shaped numerous times, with just a steam iron and a bit of patience. And is one of the finest materials from which to manufacture quality hats.

As a general rule of thumb if a hat maker just describes their hat bodies as fur-felt, chances are it's rabbit or hare.

For an all-weather hat you can't beat a pure beaver cowboy hat. Light, stiff and fabulous looking it'll shed whatever comes its way. And consider this if you want a water-resistant material: beavers live in the water, rabbits in the dirt.

Fur trading was one of our earliest industries and it played an important role in developing North America and Canada.

In the early 1500's, French explorers arrived at what we know today as Eastern Canada. These French explorers traded various items like knives and kettles with the local Indians to promote a friendly relationship with them.

To return the favor, the Indians gave the French explorers pelts. This exchange of fur between the French explorers and the Indians helped develop a strong demand for furs in Europe....especially for beaver.

In the early 1600's the fur industry was flourishing, and many European men were later wearing fashionable hats produced from beaver pelts.

The demand for beaver pelts continued until its eventual decline in the 1830's due to the introduction of silk hats which replaced the fur. In the old west, beaver for hats mainly came from the United States or Canada and it was high quality. What a trapper would call prime pelts.

Today beaver from hats mainly comes from Russia. It is not nearly as high a quality. So, a modern hat that is 100X is not as good in quality as an older, say pre 1930 100X hat.

### **John Coffee Hays, Devil Jack By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



The most feared Indian fighter in Texas stood 5 feet 9 inches tall and weighed in about 140 pounds soaking wet and by all accounts was considered mild mannered and even tempered. However, his comrades also described him as "absolutely fearless in battle and a brilliant tactician." His name was John Coffee Hays. His men called him Captain Jack but to the frontier Indians and bandits he was known as Devil Jack.

John Coffee Hays was born in Tennessee in 1817. His Father fought

with Andrew Jackson and Sam Houston in the war of 1812. Hays immigrated to Texas in 1836. He planned to get work as a surveyor. Instead he took part in the Texas Revolution. Joining up with other volunteers he served under another famous Texan, Erastus “Deaf” Smith. Hays distinguished himself in his military serve.

After Texas independence, the Texas Army was disbanded, and it went back to the Rangers to defend its people from Indians, bandits, and other attacks by the Mexican military. Hays joined the Texas Rangers out of patriotism and a desire to defend Texas.

When Hays moved to Texas the Comanche Nation numbered around 60,000 and they completely controlled an area from Kansas all the way down to what is now Austin.



The Comanche were the best light Cavalry in the world at that time. Fighting on horseback with lance, shield, and bow and arrow. The early Texas settlers fought Dragoon style. They would ride to a fight get off their horses and fight on foot. They would leave a few men guarding the horses and the rest would advance on the mounted Comanche warriors. The Comanche would ride at a full gallop passed the ground forces. They used their horses as shields and fired arrows or threw lances from this protected position. At the end of the line of settlers the warrior would whirl around switch sides of their horse and ride back down the line and do it again.

An Indian could launch six arrows from a quiver by the time someone could reload a single shot pistol or rifle. The early Texas settlers had no idea how to fight against tactics like that.

If the Comanche were not able to overrun the settlers in their defensive position, they would simply ride around them and kill the guards holding the horses and ride off leaving the ground forces stranded on the prairie. It got to the point when the settlers would leave half their numbers guarding the horses and the other half to attack the mounted warriors.

Between the Comanches and bandits, the advancement of civilization was brought to a standstill. Along came Captain Jack and all that changed. He was appointed Captain of a Ranger Company in San Antonio and was responsible for patrolling the entire southern part of Texas. He formed his unit with a combination of Anglo colonists, Hispanic settlers and friendly Indians. He recognized that the old methods of fighting the Comanche didn't work and he thought outside of the box to develop tactics that would.

So how did John Hays and the Texas Rangers step up to the challenge? He basically copied the Comanche, used Indian scouts, developed new tactics, had extreme courage, and most importantly, he embraced new technologies.

He developed the Rangers horsemanship skills and tried to copy the Comanche style. They would hang off a saddle and shoot their pistols from under the neck of the horse—all while it was moving! The Rangers would train at shooting their rifle at one target, then switch to their pistol for another, all while on horseback. He would use old school transition drills to develop these skills. In one of his drills he would have his rangers ride by at gallop and he would throw silver dollars on the ground and the ranger could keep what he could pick up without demounting or slowing. They also did the same things to the Comanches as the Comanche did to others. One tactic was to stampede the enemy's horses so they would be without mounts. Another was to target leadership. If you could kill the opposing chief the battle was over.



In a truly historical move, Captain Hays arranged for each one of his Rangers to replace their heavy single shot horse pistols with two five shot; yet to be field-tested, Colt Patterson Revolvers. These weapons fired five rounds each, before they needed to be reloaded.

While paused at Walker's Creek on June 8, 1844 one of Hays' Rangers climbing a tree after some honey, suddenly shouted, "Captain! Yonder comes a thousand Indians." The number was closer to 80 and Captain

Jack formed a plan instantly, realizing that the Comanche were charging to trigger a volley. The Comanche expected the Texans to be armed with their single shot weapons so the Comanche planned to charge through that volley then overwhelm and kill every Texan before they could reload.

Captain Hays was always calm and deadly in combat and through selection, training and example he had molded the 15 Rangers in his troop into his own image. Hays mounted them in formation and gave them their orders. "We're going to charge them." Hays explained that the Rangers were not to fire until they were among the Comanche. During the advance he shouted, "Crowd them! Powder-burn them boys!"

The disciplined Rangers charged into the surprised Comanche and opened a deadly fire. One of the Comanche survivors later said each Ranger, "Had a shot for every finger on the hand." Historians surmise the Rangers had practiced to quickly exchange unloaded cylinders with pre-loaded extra cylinders while on horseback. As the shocked Comanche turned to flee the Rangers pursued them and continued to thin their ranks.

In desperation Chief Yellow Wolf tried to rally his band for a counterattack, but Hays' keen eye spotted the leader and shouted, "Any man with a load left, Kill that Chief!" Instantly, Ranger Robert Gillespie rode forward, took aim, fired and Yellow Wolf fell from his pony with a gunshot wound to the head.

In spite of being outnumbered four to one the Rangers decimated these skilled warriors. The new Colt revolver became "The Great Equalizer."

Hays was requested at all Indian Treaty meetings until the time he left Texas. Indians had great respect for Hays and treated him like a celebrity.

## **Dealing with the Deaths at the battle of Gettysburg**

### **By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



The Battle of Gettysburg was fought on July 1–3, 1863. It was the deadliest battle of the Civil War and is often described as the war's turning point. Nearly one-third of the total forces engaged at Gettysburg became casualties. George Gordon Meade's Army of the Potomac lost 28 percent of the men involved; Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia suffered over 37 percent.

Of these casualties, 7,058 were fatalities (3,155 Union, 3,903 Confederate). Another 33,264 had been wounded (14,529 Union, 18,735 Confederate)

and 10,790 were missing (5,365 Union, 5,425 Confederate).

At field hospitals around Gettysburg, amputated limbs lay in heaps and were buried together. Bodies were collected at various points on the field and interred near where they fell; Elizabeth Thorn, wife of the manager of the town's largest cemetery, reportedly dug over 100 graves herself, despite being pregnant. Among the corpses found near the west side of the stonewall on Cemetery Ridge was a woman who had disguised her gender to fight for the Confederacy. Reportedly, another disguised Southern woman lost a leg during the charge up Cemetery Ridge.

Homes, churches, any suitable building was pressed into service as a hospital. Donations of food and clothing were solicited. Lydia Smith, a black woman, used what little money she had to hire a wagon and team, which she used to gather donated goods throughout the area—goods she delivered to both Union and Confederate wounded.

Dealing with that many bodies to bury decomposing in the July heat was a nightmare. Since this was Union territory, most Confederate soldiers were buried in mass graves. Union soldiers had individual graves. Gravediggers were paid \$1.58 for each grave dug. One problem was telling the Confederate soldiers from the Union soldiers. You see some Confederate units wore blue uniforms and some Union units Gray. Others still wore green, brown, and in some cases red uniforms.

Apart from the human carnage, some 5,000 horses and mules died in the battle. They, too, had to be collected and burned in great pyres, replacing the stench of rotting horseflesh with the smell of burning horseflesh that that hung over the area for weeks.

Even in a nation that had already seen too many reports of great battles and long casualty lists, Gettysburg set a new standard of suffering and death.

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



We still have a few members who need to pay their dues and sign a waiver. You can find the waiver on our website at [www.texicanrangers.org](http://www.texicanrangers.org). Remember you must sign a waiver before you shoot a match for 2020.

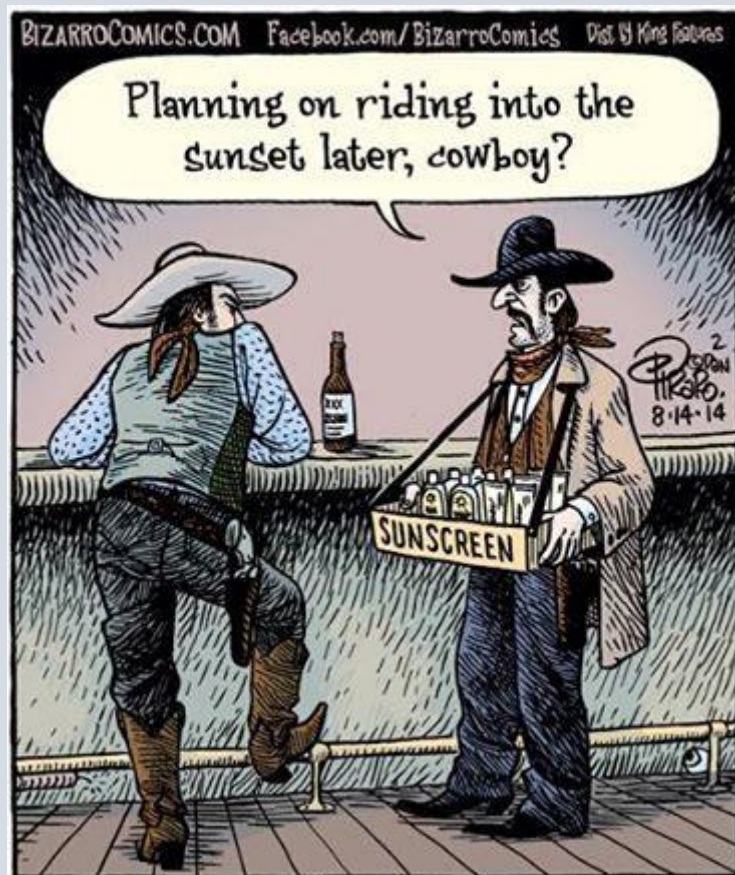
Comancheria Days our SASS Texas State Championship is right around the corner. We really need help with the Banquet, Parking and Side Matches. If you can volunteer, please contact me at [texicanrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:texicanrangers@yahoo.com) and we will find you a spot.

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

[Texicanrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:Texicanrangers@yahoo.com)

Secretary

Tombstone Mary





Cattle drive quartets

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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. Stealing someone's coffee is called a mugging.
2. The other day I held the door open for a clown. It was a nice Jester.
3. Pasteurize: Too far to see.
4. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
5. Whoever invented "knock-knock" jokes should get a No-Bell Prize.
6. Energizer Bunny arrested: Charged with battery.
7. I put my grandma on speed dial. I call that Instagram.
8. Dear Algebra, please stop asking us to find your X. She is not coming back.
9. Sometimes I wish I was an Octopus so I could slap eight people at once.
10. Is Irony the opposite of Wrinkly?
11. My wife asked me whether I experimented with sex and drugs when I was in high school, and I said yes but unfortunately, I was part of the control group.
12. My friend is getting rich by taking pictures of salmon dressed in human clothes. It's like shooting fish in apparel.
13. Why would a pig dressed in black never get bullied? Because Batman has sworn to protect goth ham.
14. If you ever lock yourself out of your house, just talk to the lock calmly, because communication is the key.
15. I once told a hammer joke. I nailed it.
16. Scientist have invented artificial vocal cords. The results speak for themselves.
17. If I hit someone with a pepper mill would it still be assault?
18. If I'm the night guard at the Samsung store, does that make me a... guardian of the galaxy?
19. My sister thinks she's so smart, she said onions are the only food that makes you cry, so I threw a coconut at her.
20. I lost my job at the bank on my very first day. – A woman asked me to check her balance, so I pushed her over.
21. I was wondering why the frisbee was getting bigger, then it hit me.
22. I went for a job interview today and the manager said, "We're looking for someone who is responsible." "Well, I'm your man." I replied, "In my last job, whenever anything went wrong, they said I was responsible."
23. I named my dog 5-Miles so now I tell people I walk 5-Miles every day.
24. What is the best thing about living in Switzerland? – Well, the flag is a big plus.
25. The past, the present, and the future walk into a bar...It was tense.

## 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
Joe Darter	2016
Nueces Slim	2016
Skinny	2016
Dirty Dog Dale	2017
Dutch Van Horn	2017
Shooting Iron Miller	2017



### January Birthdays

Blacky Vela	1/7
Panhandle Cowgirl	1/11
Hawkeye	1/12
Skyhawk Hans	1/12
Brazos Bo	1/19
Three Fingered Dutchman	1/21
Big John Mesquite	1/23
Paisley	1/29

### February Birthdays

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



### Key Links

[www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com)  
[www.texicanrangers.org](http://www.texicanrangers.org)  
[www.greenmountainregulators.org](http://www.greenmountainregulators.org)  
[www.pccss.org](http://www.pccss.org)  
[www.stxpistolaros.com](http://www.stxpistolaros.com)  
[www.tejascaballeros.org](http://www.tejascaballeros.org)  
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[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

2020

January 11	Monthly Match
January 12	Monthly Match
February 8	Monthly Match
February 9	Monthly Match
March 14	Monthly Match
March 15	Monthly Match
April 1 – 5	Comancheria Days
May 9	Monthly Match
May 10	Monthly Match
May 29-31	TSRA State Championship
June 13	Monthly Match
June 14	Monthly Match
July 11	Monthly Match
July 12	Monthly Match
August 8	Monthly Match
August 9	Monthly Match
August 29	Wild Bunch, BAMM, Long Range
September 12	Shindig
September 13	Monthly Match
October 10	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)

**Feb 24-Mar 1**  
**Mar 14-15**  
**Mar 19-22**  
**April 1-5**  
**April 22-25**  
**May 30**

**June 18-28**  
**Sep 23-26**  
**Oct 24-25**

**2020**  
**Winter Range**  
**Round Up**  
**Trailhead**  
**Comancheria Days**  
**SASS Southwest Regional Land Run**  
**SASS Texas State Wild Bunch**  
**Championship**  
**End of Trail**  
**Comin' At Cha**  
**SASS Texas State Black Powder**  
**Championship**

**Photo Album**





