



# 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  
June 2021

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### Howdy Texican Rangers



Its official, summer is here! The June matches were a huge success thanks to the work of the loyal Texicans who came out to maintain our club range.

The June matches continued and improved on the fast pace stages set in May. With 50 competitors on Saturday, Alamo Andy bested the field with a stage average of 18.4 seconds while taking the honor of Top Overall Cowboy. Panhandle Cowgirl came in second place overall and Top Lady Shooter for the day.

Sunday saw the Top Overall shooter position go to Brazos Bo with an average stage time under 20 seconds. Talk about consistency, Panhandle Cowgirl reigned in the Top Lady honors on Sunday as well, for a back-to-back sweep of the Lady category.

Other notable awards were the 15 shooters who completed all five stages perfectly clean on Saturday and one on Sunday. Yee haw to all the shooters with a fast paced and fun two days of shooting. To see a complete listing of all main match and side match scores and final standings visit our website.

The Texas sunshine is heating up and so is the 2021 shooting season. Registration is open for the **State Wild Bunch Championship** which is only two months away! Major sponsors and supporters have already ponied up gun leather, accessories, reloading components and much more. A card raffle for a SASS Wild Bunch Commemorative Pistol gives everyone a chance to own a special handgun which was worked on by the late Goat Neck Clem.

Don't forget that **Shindig** is the weekend following the Wild Bunch Championships September 11th. Food, fun, fellowship, all provided as our member appreciation shoot unfolds.

Remember, if you wanted to dip your toe into Wild Bunch competition, we have an option for those wanting to wade before you take the plunge. Shoot the **Mild Bunch** category. Shoot any caliber (e.g. .22, 9mm) semi-automatic in lieu of the .45 ACP. Then shoot any cowboy rifle and shotgun. You get to experience the stages, the transitions, and excitement with no additional equipment investment.

Attention Cowboy shooters who are experiencing an ammo shortage. Change gears and shoot the **Rimfire Cowboy** category. If you lack the equipment, true to the cowboy spirit, some Texican shooters have offered to loan what you lack.

Our next workday is Tuesday 6 July with regular Cowboy matches on Saturday the 10th & Sunday the 11th. Wild Bunch shoot on Sunday the 11th with the additional fifth Saturday shoot on 31 July. Hope to see y'all then.

Looking forward to making noise outta gunpowder with ya.  
Asup Sleeve  
President, Texican Rangers

## What Gun Really Won the West? By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



Ask a dozen different western firearms aficionados, which gun won the west and you are likely to get half a dozen different answers. There are of course those that will say the Winchester 1873 rifle—perhaps the most popular long arm of the westward minded pioneers (or at least in movies).

Then there are those who will cast their vote for the Colt Single Action Army—worn indiscriminately on a great many hips, from lawmen to outlaws alike. Yet there is a gun, or at least a type of gun, that was much more widely available to consumers, used by just as many folks if not more than any other gun of the period, and generally considered to be the go-to, general purpose firearm.

And that gun was the shotgun. Much of shotguns popularity throughout the old West is owed to the fact that these guns, unlike the Winchester 1873 or the Colt SAA, existed at the very beginning of the period, carried by the first

souls hearing the siren call of Manifest Destiny. The earliest of these were percussion, muzzle loading firearms of both the single and double-barreled variety, and ammunition varied widely. One such scattergun was found at the Alamo after Santa Anna's forces over ran the garrison.

When the Civil War broke out, cavalry units on both sides favored the shotgun as it was devastating in close quarters. It was much easier to hit a moving target on horseback with a shotgun than a musket or even a revolver.

A shotgun even played a major role in one of the most famous gunfights in history. Doc Holliday emptied his shotgun into Tom McLaury's chest during the gunfight at the O.K. Corral. And who has not heard the term "riding shotgun" referring to the days when an armed guard rode beside the driver on stagecoaches?



Still it wasn't just personal defense that helped the shotgun earn its keep. For the farmer who could only afford one firearm, there was simply not a more versatile tool in existence. He could take small animals like rabbits and birds, then load up with buckshot to take down a deer.

It's also no wonder early market hunters used shotguns religiously to bring in game that would later be sold in the small towns dotting western trails. Some larger versions, known as punt guns, were too heavy to hold and were mounted to small boats. These big guns could kill up to fifty birds with a single shot and were in service right up until 1900 when the Lacey Act banned the transportation of wild game across state lines.

So when asked which gun tamed the west, try not to linger too long on Winchester rifles or Colt revolvers, but instead consider the shotgun, which took many forms and was tendered in untold variations of gauges and lengths—used on the farm, in the towns and for nearly every purpose our pioneer forefathers could think of.

Who could have guessed that the lowly single barreled shotgun hanging over the farmer's mantle would lead to the most advanced shotguns of today?

Those early shotguns gave rise to the pump action and semi auto shotguns that are now still being used for hunting, personal defense and in law enforcement. They truly were the guns that won the west, (and everywhere else for that matter).

## **Dance Hall Girls of the American West By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



Saloons and Dance Halls hired young women, whose job was to brighten the evenings of lonely men starved for female companionship. Contrary to what many might think, the saloon girl was very rarely a prostitute – this tended to occur only in the very shabbiest class of saloons. Though the "respectable" ladies considered the saloon girls "fallen", most of the girls wouldn't be caught dead associating with an actual prostitute. Their job was to entertain the guests, sing for them, dance with them, talk to them and perhaps flirt with them a bit – inducing them to others in the bar, buying drinks, and patronizing the games.

Not all saloons employed saloon girls,

such as in Dodge City's north side of Front Street, which was the "respectable" side, where guns, saloon girls, and gambling were barred. Instead, music and billiards were featured as the chief amusements to accompany drinking.

Most girls were refugees from farms or mills, lured by posters and handbills advertising high wages, easy work, and fine clothing. Many were widows or needy women of good morals, forced to earn a living in an era that offered few means for women to do so.

Earning as much as \$10 per week, most saloon girls also made a commission from the drinks that they sold. Whiskey sold to the customer was marked up 30-60% over its wholesale price. Commonly drinks bought for the girls would only be cold tea or colored sugar water served in a shot glass; however, the customer was charged the full price of whiskey, which could range from ten to seventy-five cents a shot.

In most places, the proprieties of treating the saloon girls as ladies were strictly observed, as much because Western men tended to revere all women, and because the women or the saloon-keeper demanded it. Any man who mistreated these women would quickly become a social outcast, and if he insulted one he would very likely be killed.

While they might have been scorned by the "proper" ladies, the saloon girl could count on respect from the males. And as for the "respectable women", the saloon girls were rarely interested in the opinions of the drab, hard-working women who set themselves up to judge them. In fact, they were hard-pressed to understand why those women didn't have sense enough to avoid working themselves to death by having babies, tending animals, and helping their husbands try to bring in a crop or tend the cattle.

In the early California Gold Rush of 1849, dance halls began to appear and spread throughout the boomtowns. While these saloons usually offered games of chance, their chief attraction was dancing. The customer generally paid 75¢ to \$1.00 for a ticket to dance, with the proceeds being split between the dance hall girl and the saloon owner. After the dance, the girl would steer the gentleman to the bar, where she would make an additional commission from the sale of a drink.

Even today, don't we still see the vestige remains of the Old West Saloon as the professional woman may peer down upon the bar waitress, who may peer down upon today's prostitute? And though the gaming tables and spittoons may be long gone, the tavern or bar remains an establishment that is apparently free from the effects of the economy and will, no doubt, always remain a place where business people continue to make deals and people frequent to chase away their cares.

## **Elmer McCurdy, the Embalmed Bandit** **By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



In 1911, Elmer McCurdy mistakenly robbed a passenger train he thought contained thousands of dollars. The disappointed outlaw made off with just \$46 and was shot by lawmen shortly thereafter. McCurdy's unclaimed corpse was then embalmed with an arsenic preparation, after a while sold by the undertaker to a traveling carnival and exhibited as a sideshow curiosity. For about 60 years, McCurdy's body was bought and sold by various haunted houses and wax museums for use as a prop or attraction. His corpse finally wound up in a Long Beach, California, amusement park funhouse. During filming there in 1976 for the television show "*The Six Million Dollar Man*," the prop's finger (or arm, depending on the account) broke off, revealing human tissue. Subsequent testing by the Los Angeles coroner's office revealed the prop was actually McCurdy. He was buried at the famous Boot Hill cemetery in Dodge City, Kansas, 66 years after his death.

## Hope Emerson, the tough lady in Westerns By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



Copyright 1956, Columbia Pictures Corp.  
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COLUMBIA PICTURES presents AUDIE MURPHY in  
**THE GUNS OF FORT PETTICOAT**  
with Kathryn Grant, Hope Emerson, Jeff Donnell, Ivanhoe Robbin,  
Sessie McClary, Enidette Wade. A BUDY MURPHY PRODUCTION. TECHNICOLOR

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It is sometimes said that in Westerns women were only either saintly schoolteacher types who redeemed the good-badman hero or soiled dove-with-a-heart-of-gold who provided the racier element. The Western was a male genre which projected its binary fantasies onto its movies. The pioneers were a hardy stock and to survive they had to be strong. I want to talk about woman who embodied strength.

If you are a fan of Westerns, they I guarantee you have seen one that had a tough lady character played to the hilt by an actress like Hope Emerson. She could shoot and she was strong and didn't need a man to get by.

Hope Emerson was an American actress, vaudeville and nightclub performer, and strongwoman. An imposing person physically, she weighed between 190 and 230 pounds and stood 6 feet 2 inches tall in her prime.

When the call went out for an actress to play a circus strongwoman capable of lifting both a chair and Spencer Tracy in 1949's *Adam's Rib*, there was but one performer who could logically fit the bill: character actress Hope Emerson. Emerson made her Broadway debut as the leader of the Amazons in

*Lysistrata*. Her performance in the Fred Stone musical *Smiling Faces* led to her screen bow in the 1932 film version of that property. During the 1940s, Emerson gained fame as the radio voice of Borden's Elsie the Cow. After years in vaudeville and the legitimate stage, Emerson returned to films as a homicidal masseuse in the New York-filmed *Cry of the City* (1948). She went on to play the feuding Mrs. Hatfield in Goldwyn's *Roseanna McCoy* (1948), and the implicitly lesbian prison matron in *Caged* (1950), an assignment which earned her an Oscar nomination. In 1958, Emerson was cast as Mother, owner of the nightclub where the beautiful Lola Albright was featured songstress, on the popular TV private eye series *Peter Gunn*. She left this series in 1959 to take a larger role as a housekeeper named "Sarge" on the weekly sitcom *The Dennis O'Keefe Show*.

I knew who she was by her memorable Westerns. The most famous is an interesting portrayals of women in a group come in the absolutely great Western directed by William a Wellman, *Westward the Women* (1951) and the less-great Audie Murphy oater *The Guns of Fort Petticoat* (1957). The first is quite a feminist movie for the early 50s in the sense that most of the protagonists are women, strong women, and they do everything the men can do and sometimes better. True, the instigator and leader of the wagon train (the women are mail-order brides going West) are dominant men but these men come gradually to appreciate and admire the women's grit. The film is a sort of hymn to the virtues of frontier woman, her heroism and endurance, her courage and her desire for freedom. In my opinion it's a fine film.

*Fort Petticoat* is an altogether lighter-weight affair. It's a siege Western with brave whites fighting off generic and nameless Indians, as in countless old-style Westerns of old. The twist is that the defenders are women. Lt. Audie takes it upon himself to train them up, making the best of a bad job as it were (there are no men around). The hostility on both sides turns to grudging respect, then outright loyalty and admiration, as they all face danger together. That's the plot. There's 1950s humor as Lt. Audie rallies his lady troops, shouting,

“Come on, men!” and the women hitch up their skirts and fight. Actually, Hope Emerson, the most entertaining member of the cast was superb in both Petticoat and Westward.

I always wondered what happened to her. Emerson died of liver disease in 1960 at age 62 in Hollywood. This was just one week after the filming of her last episode on The Dennis O'Keefe Show. She is buried in Grace Hill Cemetery in her hometown of Hawarden, Iowa. She never married or had children.

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



I will not be seeking the position of Secretary for 2022. I have decided after many years of being an officer of one or more clubs that I will be stepping down effective December 31, 2021. If you are interested in running for this position and would like to know more about it send me an email to [Texicanrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:Texicanrangers@yahoo.com) and I will give you a call.

Our July and August matches are your last 4 opportunities to get your 5 matches in one category for annual awards. If you have any questions about how many times you have shot in one category, please email me at [Texicanrangers@yahoo.com](mailto:Texicanrangers@yahoo.com).

Tombstone Mary  
Texican Rangers Secretary

## **SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR TEXICAN RANGERS' OFFICERS**

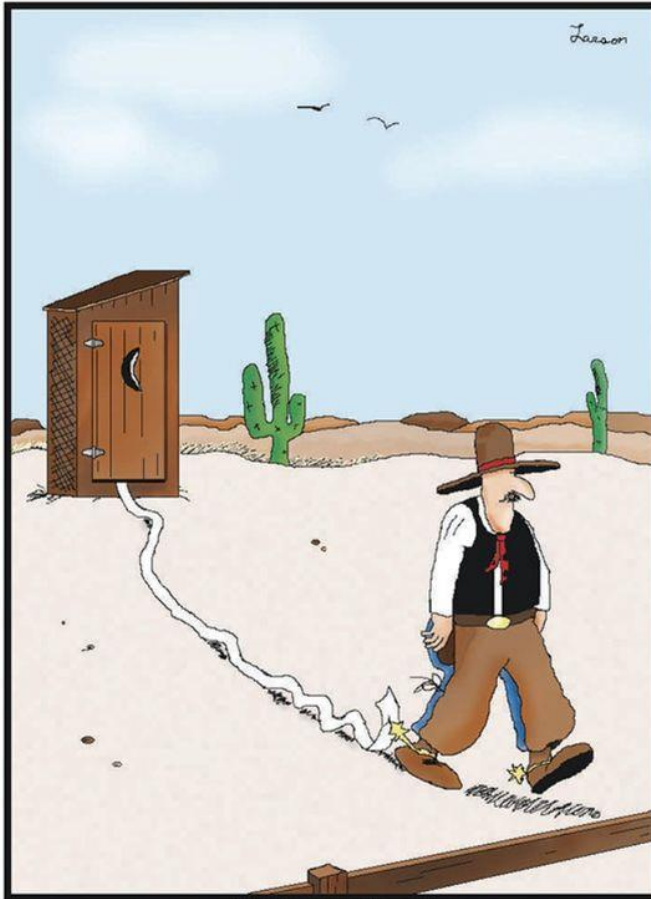
According to our By-Laws here are the requirements for seeking a nomination:

- I. *Nomination Process:*
  - a. *Members in good standing may self-nominate or nominate other members as candidates for offices.*
  - b. *Nominees must meet the requirements for the intended office.*
  - c. *Nominations must be submitted to the Executive Committee by the last day of June.*
  - d. *Candidates shall be announced in the July and August newsletters and announced at Shooter's Meetings.*
  - e. *A candidate withdrawal must be submitted to the Executive Committee within two (2) weeks of the first announcement.*
  - f. *Candidates are encouraged to write an article for the July and/or August newsletter stating their qualifications and goals.*

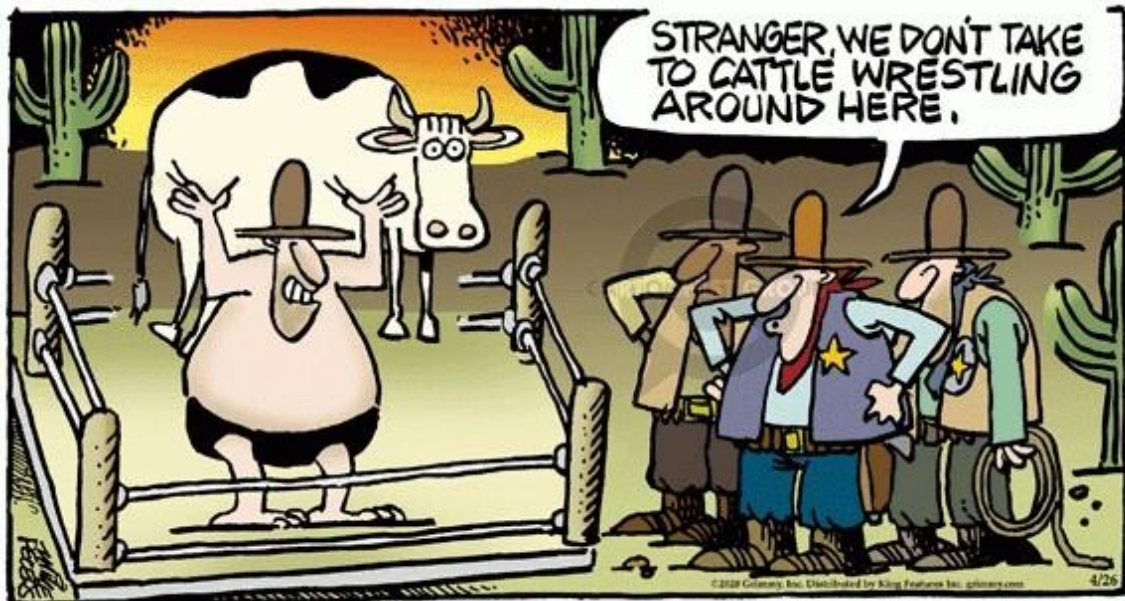
We will have the following Officer positions for election this year:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary (2-year Term)  
Range Master

If you are interested in serving as an Officer of the Texican Rangers, please let a member of the Executive Committee know. All interested candidates must notify a member of the Executive Committee no later than August 9th.



"Nerds of the old west"



4/7/87



In the Old West, vegetarians were often shot with little provocation.

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Price List effective 03.01.21

Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/500	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	42	83
	105	FP	43	85
	125	RNFP	47	94
	125	FP	47	94
	130	RNFP	49	97
	158	RNFP	54	106
	158	FP	54	106
	158	SWC	54	106
	.380	100	RNFP	42
.38-55	245	RNFP	82	162
.41	215	SWC	70	139
.44	180	RNFP	58	115
	240	SWC	75	149
.44-40	200	RNFP	64	127
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	61	121
	180	RNFP	58	115
	200	RNFP	64	127
	250	RNFP	76	152
9MM	124	RN	47	94
	125	CN	47	94
40 S&W	180	FP	58	115
.45ACP	200	SWC	64	127
	200	RN	64	127
	230	RN	73	144
45-70	405	FPT	75 (250)	300 (1K)
			150 (500)	

## Parting Shots

### Top 50 Westerns according to Rotten Tomatoes

Rank	Rating	Title
1.	100%	The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948)
2.	97%	High Noon (1952)
3.	97%	The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966)
4.	100%	Stagecoach (1939)
5.	100%	Rio Bravo (1959)
6.	96%	Unforgiven (1992)
7.	95%	True Grit (2010)
8.	98%	A Fistful of Dollars (1964)
9.	96%	The Searchers (1956)
10.	95%	Once Upon a Time in the West (1968)
11.	98%	Deadwood: The Movie (2019)
12.	89%	The Ballad of Buster Scruggs (2018)
13.	93%	Giant (1956)
14.	94%	The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance (1962)
15.	97%	Sweetgrass (2009)
16.	87%	Django Unchained (2012)
17.	90%	The Wild Bunch (1969)
18.	93%	Johnny Guitar (1954)
19.	89%	3:10 to Yuma (2007)
20.	94%	Lone Star (1996)
21.	89%	True Grit (1969)
22.	88%	Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969)
23.	88%	Blazing Saddles (1974)
24.	89%	The Magnificent Seven (1960)
25.	91%	Bone Tomahawk (2015)
26.	90%	The Outlaw Josey Wales (1976)
27.	90%	City Slickers (1991)
28.	88%	Westworld (1973)
29.	85%	The Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada (2006)
30.	84%	McCabe & Mrs. Miller (1971)
31.	86%	Meek's Cutoff (2011)
32.	88%	Prospect (2018)
33.	85%	The Proposition (2005)
34.	83%	Dances With Wolves (1990)
35.	74%	The Hateful Eight (2015)
36.	82%	Near Dark (1987)
37.	80%	The Homesman (2014)
38.	79%	Open Range (2003)
39.	79%	Shanghai Noon (2000)
40.	82%	The Good, the Bad, the Weird (2010)
41.	76%	Appaloosa (2008)
42.	76%	The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007)
43.	79%	Red Hill (2010)
44.	76%	The Ballad of Little Jo (1993)
45.	70%	Hostiles (2018)
46.	77%	In a Valley of Violence (2016)
47.	74%	Tombstone (1993)
48.	75%	Blackthorn (2011)
49.	74%	The Horse Whisperer (1998)
50.	74%	The Keeping Room (2015)

## 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



### June Birthdays

Leon Springs Bill	6/2
Rusty Bang Stick	6/4
La Sombra	6/6
T.H. Boland	6/8
Thunder Mountain	6/9
Gypsy Soul	6/12
Circuit Judge	6/13
Quintana	6/18
Skinny	6/21
Doc Holloman	6/25
Colorado Horseshoe	6/27
Burly Bill Brocius	6/30

### July Birthdays

Ruby Redheart	7/1
Texas Terror	7/5
Squaw Man	7/9
Sheriff Robert Love	7/10
July Smith	7/10
Dirty Dog Dale	7/11
Picosa Kid	7/15
Bisbee Jackson	7/25
August	7/26
Little Bit Sassy	7/31



### 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)
- [www.trpistolaros.com](http://www.trpistolaros.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 2021

January 9	Monthly Match
January 10	Monthly Match
February 13	Monthly Match
February 14	Monthly Match
March 13	Monthly Match
March 14	Monthly Match
April 8 – 10	Comancheria Days
May 8	Monthly Match
May 9	Monthly Match
May 29	Wild Bunch/BAMM
June 12	Monthly Match
June 13	Monthly Match
July 10	Monthly Match
July 11	Monthly Match
July 31	Wild Bunch/BAMM
August 14	Monthly Match
August 15	Monthly Match
September 3-5	TX State Wild Bunch Championship
September 11	Monthly Match (Shindig)
September 12	Monthly Match
October 9	Monthly Match & Final Tear Down
November/December	Range Closed

### CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING SCHEDULES

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

**2021**

**Canceled**  
**Mar 25-28**  
**April 8-10**  
**April 21-24**  
**June 17-27**

**Sep 3-5**  
**Sep 22-25**  
**Oct 23-24**

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

**Photo Album**





