



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 2017

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Words from the Judge



Hello the Camp:

Another great cowboy match weekend is history; we had great weather, with a total of 82 shooters for the weekend.

Congratulations to Rusty Shackelford for his 1st place overall win on Saturday and to Preacher Kid for his 1st place overall win on Sunday.

Kudos to our Range Master, AD Texaz for his stage writing, he is getting it down to a science. We had 26 Clean Shooters for both days a testament to his writing skills.

This is not my club it is a club of many members who work at making it great, to stay in the forefront we need officers who will listen to the members and forge a vision to go forward. Please consider running for one of the officer positions, will it be easy, no, however it is very rewarding with the chance to make many more cowboy friends.

If you are interested in being an officer, contact a board member and we will forward a description of the position to you. We will also need a short bio on you, stating your experience and any unique

qualifications you may have. Please forward these to a board member and we will include in a future newsletter.

See you in July,
Judge GeePee

Big Boomer By Grouchy Spike



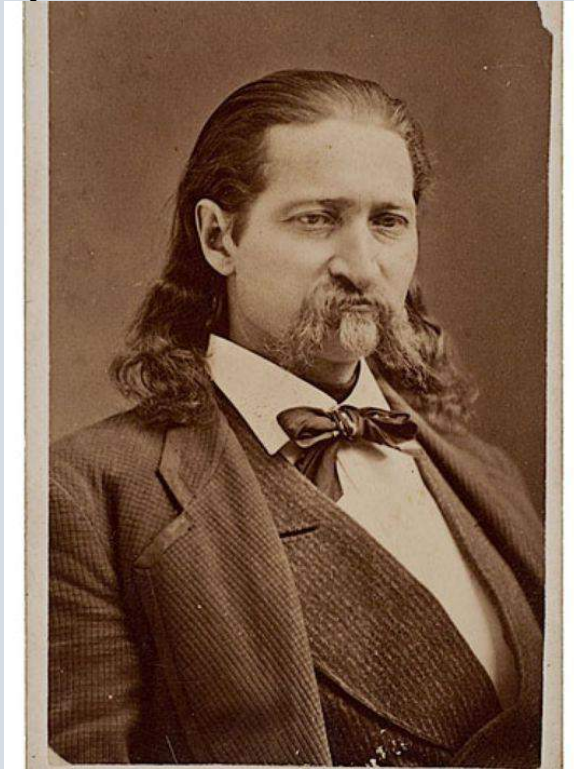
The Big Boomer was a gift to the Texican Rangers from Captain Gimp and Alamo Annie Jett (a.k.a. T J and Annie Yancey). Captain Gimp is quite the creator. He originally constructed a cannon from spare parts to tow behind his 1903 Oldsmobile replica. He loaned that cannon to the Texicans Rangers to celebrate the opening day of Comancheria Days 2014 with a big boom, hence the name. That display of noise and smoke was so well-received that he constructed other cannons using parts from his local supply – referred to by Annie as the junk pile. One of those cannons – the Big Boomer – was an output from Captain Gimp’s Cannon Works.



The ashes from several of our cowboy friends who have passed away have made a journey down range from the bore of the Big Boomer at opening ceremonies at Comancheria Days, accompanied by smoke and flame. Old Reed, Meadow Biscuit Slim, and Bad Hand have joined each other in the Eternal Posse at the Texican Rangers on Stieler Ranch.

Thanks to Captain Gimp and Alamo Annie Jett for their memorable contribution to the Texican Rangers!

Last Guns of Wild Bill Hickok By Dutch Van Horn



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 Charlie 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. You can see this gun in the museum at Deadwood.



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. of the summer season.



BAMM – Cranking the Old Bolts

By Grouchy Spike



BAMM is growing! It's an offshoot of competitive military and civilian rifle matches. Bolt Action Military Match (BAMM) has increased in popularity since it was introduced to the Texicans in early 2015. I was watching a BAM Rifle Side Match at the Texas State Wild Bunch Match in 2014 when Dusty Boddams put a rifle in my hand and said "Shoot!" I was immediately infected with the BAM bug

and brought the game home to the Texicans. Yuma Jack as president of the club gave enthusiastic support to creating a new side match. Marshal Willy and Texas Tony soon caught the bug, and then Marshall Brooks and Firefly Judd succumbed to it. Since February 2015, monthly BAM Side Matches have been conducted after the Saturday Main Match. As many as sixteen 'cranks' will shoot the side match at various monthly matches, including Judge Hangin Knott, Yuma Jack, Leather Lung, Bexar Bill Brocius, Sauk Valley Sam, Skinny and Bootstrap Richard. We average about eight shooters at a monthly match. BAM Side Matches have also been included in Comancheria Days in 2016 and 2017 schedules.

Dusty Boddams and Captain Jarrett began this game at Comanche Valley Vigilantes. Goatneck Clem and Evil Roy gave it their enthusiastic support and now BAM Side Matches have been included in Winter Range and End of Trail matches. BAM Side Matches are not only featured in the Texas State Wild Bunch Match but the 2017 Oklahoma State Wild Bunch Match too as those Okies caught the bug from Dusty Boddams. Both Dusty Boddams and Goatneck Clem participated in the BAM Side Match at CD 2017 and enjoyed meeting many of their 'disciples'.

During CD 2016 I talked to Wildcat Bob about hosting a BAM Side Match at the Green Mountain Regulators. Bob was at the time the president of the GMRs. He referred me to Circuit Judge who was running the Sunday Long Range Matches. CJ liked the idea and included BAMM rifles in the next long-range competition, so Marshal Willy, Firefly Judd, Marshall Brooks, Judge Hangin Knott, and I showed up to shoot BAMM Rifles. Gold Dog soon rolled out an old bolt, Wildcat Bob succumbed to the itch, and the game was on! Having all the experience shooting 45-70 and 38-55 in precision rifle matches, that pair is formidable competition – fast and accurate. Soon Crack Shot and his dad Kyle Moon unlimbered a 30-40 Krag to add some new competition. At one long-range match, the BAMM rifles outnumbered the Precision rifles 7 to 6.

If you are wondering how you might join this newest SASS game, wonder no more and wander over to the Oriental stage at the Texicans after the Saturday Main Match or contact me or any of the BAMM shooters. A bolt-action military rifle is required, as issued by a government to a military organization up through the end of WW2, in the military caliber, unmodified externally, with issued iron sights. Clones and WW2 rifles that continued to be manufactured after WW2 are allowed too. Popular rifles include but not limited to the US. Models 1903, 03A3, 1917, and Krag-Jorgenson; German Mausers and their siblings from other countries including Sweden, Spain, Argentina and Chile; British Enfields, Japanese Arisakas, Russian

Mosin Nagants; and Swiss Vetterli, and Models 1896, 1911, and K31 rifles. If a military used it through WW2 and you can find and reload brass, you can shoot it!



The BAM Match emphasizes marksmanship and reloads on-the-clock. A typical match at the Texicans would include a ten-round scenario and a 15-round scenario. If time allows a third scenario is included with another ten rounds, and might add a Model 1911 pistol or Model 1917 revolver, and a Model 1897 or Model 12 shotgun. Target distances vary from 55 yards to 130 yards at the Texicans. Other clubs may offer longer target distances such as Green Mountain Regulators at distances of 100, 150, and 200 yards. Scoring is usually done the most Hits with time as the tie-breaker but Green Mountain scores on points for Hits and Bullseyes, with a shoot-off as tie-breaker.

Reloading rifle cartridges is similar to our cowboy cartridge techniques, with case length as an additional consideration in the process. Velocities are lower too, ranging from about 1200 fps to 1750 fps, so recoil is relatively easy on the shoulder. Good and inexpensive cast bullets are available, as most ranges require their use. Dies are available for most military calibers, but occasionally unusual brass must be machined or fire-formed. Some progressive presses will load rifle cartridges as will turret presses and single stage presses, so if you are already reloading for cowboy guns the additional investment is minimal.

Join the game, crank your bolt, and have some fun!

Jack McCall, the man that killed Wild Bill Hickok **By Dutch Van Horn**



Jack (John) McCall, also known as "Crooked Nose" Jack, would probably have never been remembered in history if he hadn't shot Wild Bill Hickok. Not specifically an "outlaw," McCall was more notorious for his drunkenness and stupidity, and perhaps as a scoundrel. However, as he utilized several aliases throughout his lifetime, there may very well have been more dastardly deeds in his past of which we are unaware.

Born around 1850 in Jefferson County, Kentucky, he was raised there along with his three sisters. McCall drifted west as a young adult and was working in the Kansas – Nebraska border country with a group of buffalo hunters by about 1869. Later he was known to have been in Wyoming before arriving in Deadwood, South Dakota in 1876, going by the name of Bill Sutherland.

Soon after his arrival in Deadwood, he was drinking at the bar at Nuttall and Mann's No. 10 Saloon on August 1, 1876. Getting steadily drunk, he watched as Wild Bill Hickok played poker at a full table. When one of the players dropped out, McCall quickly took his place. Drunk and overmatched, McCall lost hand after hand until he had not a dime left in his pocket. Hickok then

gave McCall some money to buy himself something to eat and advised him not to play again until he could cover his losses. Though McCall accepted the money, he felt insulted.

The next afternoon when Wild Bill entered Nuttall & Mann's Saloon he found Charlie Rich sitting in his preferred seat. After some hesitation, Wild Bill joined the game, reluctantly seating himself with his back to the door and the bar---a fatal mistake. Jack McCall, drinking heavily at the bar, saw Hickok enter the saloon, taking a seat at his regular table in the corner near the door. Seeing an opportunity to avenge himself of the insult, and perhaps to make a name for himself, McCall came up behind Hickok, pointed his .45 caliber revolver at the back of his head and pulled the trigger as he shouted, "Damn you, take that!" Hickok, holding two pair, Aces over Eights (now called the Dead Man's Hand), fell instantly dead to the floor.

Afterwards, the cowardly McCall ran immediately from the saloon and attempted to escape on someone else's horse that was tethered nearby. However, because the saddle had been loosened, he fell to the ground. He then ran down the dusty street and hid in a butcher's shop, but within minutes, he was found by a large crowd.

The very next day, the mining camp assembled a miners' court, convening at the McDaniels/Langrishe Theater. Though the City of Deadwood had no legal jurisdiction, they went about appointing a defense attorney, prosecutor, and judge and began McCall's trial for murder.

McCall claimed he had shot Wild Bill in revenge for killing his brother back in Abilene, Kansas and maintained that he would do it all over again given the chance. In less than two hours the jury returned a "not guilty" verdict that evoked this comment in the *Black Hills Pioneer*: "Should it ever be our misfortune to kill a man ... we would simply ask that our trial may take place in some of the mining camps of these hills."

McCall lingered about Deadwood for several days, until a man called California Joe strongly suggested the air might be bad for McCall's health. McCall got the message and believing he'd escaped punishment for his crime, headed to Wyoming bragging to anyone who would listen that he had killed the famous Wild Bill Hickok. Less than a month later, the trial held in Deadwood was found to have had no legal basis, because Deadwood was in Indian Territory.

McCall's boasting would literally be the death of him when a U.S. Deputy Marshal in Laramie, Wyoming heard his bragging and arrested him on August 29th. Charged with murder, he was taken to Yankton, South Dakota to stand trial.



Lorenzo Butler Hickok traveled from Illinois to attend the trial of his brother's murderer which began on December 4, 1876 and was gratified when McCall was found guilty on December 6th.

On March 1, 1877, Jack McCall was marched up the platform where he kneeled with a priest with his arms and legs tied. When he stood up the black hood was drawn over his head and McCall asked the marshal for just one more moment of prayer.

Afterwards, the noose was placed around his neck and McCall allegedly said, "Draw it tighter, Marshal." At 10:10 a.m. the trap

was sprung and McCall was hanged, the first to be legally executed in Dakota Territory.

As to McCall's earlier claim of having shot Hickok out of revenge for his brother, it was discovered that Jack McCall never had a brother.

McCall was buried in the southwest corner of Yankton's Catholic cemetery. In 1881, when the cemetery was moved to make room for the Territorial Insane Hospital, his body was exhumed and it was discovered that he had been buried with the noose still around his neck. Though his remains were reburied in an unmarked grave in the Yankton Cemetery, the exact location was lost over time and remains unknown today.

Tombstone Mary, Secretary Regulator/Life #19524



There are only 4 matches left for 2017. Many of you have not met your 5 matches in one category requirement for an annual award. If you have any questions about how many times you have shot in one category please email me at Maryn58@sbcglobal.net.

Please remember to write legibly when filling out the scoresheet and please do not fill in zeros for all the empty spaces it makes the sheet hard to read.
Tombstone Mary

Famous Quotes

“Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.”

Chill Davis

“We should all start to live before we get too old.”

Marilyn Monroe

“We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing.”

George Bernard Shaw

“You know your're getting old when you get that one candle on the cake. It's like, See if you can blow this out.”

Jerry Seinfeld

“You know you must be doing something right if old people like you.”

Dave Chappelle

“I stayed in a really old hotel last night. They sent me a wake-up letter.”

Steven Wright

“I intend to live forever. So far, so good.”

Steven Wright

“Be nice to your children. After all, they are going to choose your nursing home.”

Steven Wright

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 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
Communications

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 June 30th.

Home on the Range

By A.D. Texaz, Rangemaster



Howdy Rangers:

The June match went off without a hitch, received very positive feedback on the new sweeps, different target placement, and increased shooter options.

The lunch, ramrodded by Aunt T and her crew was awesome. There is nothing better than a cheeseburger with all the fixins after a match. It was good to see the number of shooters who stayed for lunch. Also, quite a few shooters stayed and shot long range and practiced. Preacher Kid brought out his flintlock for a few rounds. Let me tell you – it's a bad idea to shoot a flintlock left-

handed with the action on the right side of the gun. My eyebrows are singed!

Speaking of Preacher Kid... 82 seconds for 5 stages on Sunday was simply awesome. As far as I can tell it's the lowest total time score ever shot in the history of the Rangers. It was a pleasure to see him shoot this great score.

Finally, I hope all the Rangers attending EOT shoot to their ability and bring some hardware back to Texas....

See you down the line!

AD

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



June Birthdays

Rusty Bang Stick	6/4
T.H. Boland	6/8
Thunder Mountain	6/9
Nueces Slim	6/16/17
Quintana	6/18
Mad Dog McCoy	6/19
Skinny	6/21
Colorado Horseshoe	6/27
Bexar Bill Brocius	6/30



Our Friendly Staff is here to help!

Key Links

www.sassnet.com
www.texicanrangers.org
www.greenmountainregulators.org
www.pccss.org
www.stxpistoleros.com
www.tejascaballeros.org
www.darbyroughregulators.com
www.trpistoleros.com
www.texasjacks.com
www.cimarron-firearms.com
www.tsra.com
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	Darby Rough Regulators (West Point)
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

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

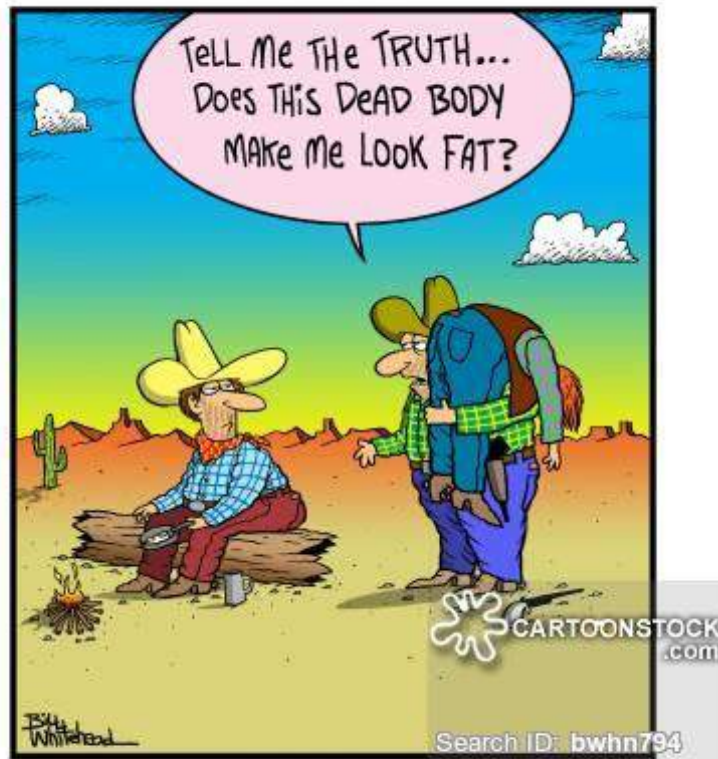


Photo Gallery





















