



# The Texas Star



## Newsletter for the Texican Rangers

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

SASS Affiliated  
March 2019

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### Hello Texican Rangers



We had a great turnout for March; 97 shooters which included 21 guests on Saturday and 43 shooters which included 9 guests on Sunday. There were 27 total clean matches Saturday and Sunday.

Our April match will be Comancheria Days the SASS Texas State Championship. We have 319 shooters registered.

Burly Bill Brocius has agreed to head up the Side Match Volunteers on Thursday. If you have not signed up to work and would like to do so, please send an email to [Bexarbillbrocius@gmail.com](mailto:Bexarbillbrocius@gmail.com) and we will get you signed up.

We have 12 vendors and 16 stage sponsors signed up. Buzzie's Barbeque and Alex's Tacos and Burgers will provide lunch. We have Buzzie's catering the Friday night event and Don Strange Ranch providing the meal on Saturday.

We have made great progress on the range projects and things are looking great. We have re-painted stages, repaired stages and cleared out trailers full of dead trees and brush and it all could not have been completed without our great volunteers.

We have a couple more work days to finish up before the campers and vendors pull in to the ranch so if you can help out it would be appreciated. They are scheduled for March 26th, April 2nd, and April 8th.

Good Shooting

A.D.

President

## **A Short Duel in 1887**

**By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**



Luke L. Short was an American Old west gunfighter, cowboy, U.S. Army scout, dispatch rider, gambler, boxing promoter and saloon owner. He survived numerous gunfights, the most famous of which were against Charlie Storms in Tombstone, Arizona Territory and against Jim Courtright in Fort Worth, Texas. Short had business interests in three of the best-known saloons in the Old West: the Oriental in Tombstone, the Long Branch Saloon in Dodge City and the White Elephant in Fort Worth. He was close friends with Bat Masterson and Wyatt Earp.



In 1887, Timothy Isaiah "Longhair Jim" Courtright was running the T.I.C. Commercial agency in Fort Worth, Texas, which provided "protection" to gambling dens and saloons in return for a portion of their profits. At the same time, Luke Short, a former friend of Courtright's, was running the White Elephant Saloon and Jim was trying to get Short to use his services. But the Dodge City gunfighter told Courtright to "go to hell," he could do any gunslinging that was necessary to take care of his business.

Longhair Jim stormed from the saloon, but later returned with two pistols visibly holstered in his pockets. He yelled for Luke Short to come out but Jake Johnson, a friend of both men, tried to calm Courtright down. Short met with the two men outside and talked about their dispute as they walked through the street. The group however, suddenly stopped at Ella Blackwell's Shooting Gallery. Luke Short was facing Courtright three to four feet away when the latter suddenly went for his pistol, making the former draw his own in return. In the celebrated gunfight that followed, Short was the last man standing. In his own words, Short described what happened:

Early in the evening ... I was at the bar with a couple of friends when someone called me. I went out into the vestibule and saw Jim Courtright and Jake Johnson ... I walked out with them upon the sidewalk, and we had some quiet talk on private affairs. I reminded him of some past transactions, not in an abusive or reproachful manner, to which he assented, but not in a very cordial way. I was standing with my thumbs in the armholes of vest and had dropped them in front of me to adjust my clothing, when he remarked 'Well, you needn't reach for your gun,' and immediately put his hand in his hip-pocket and pulled his. When I saw him do that, I pulled my pistol and began shooting, for I knew that his action meant death. He must have misconstrued my intention in dropping my hands before me. I was merely adjusting my clothing, and never carry a pistol in that part of my dress.

The showdown was also witnessed by Bat Masterson who was with Luke Short at the time. In 1907, Masterson published his own account of the events where he stated that it was Jim Courtright, carrying a "brace of pistols", who challenged Luke Short to a duel:

No time was wasted in the exchange of words once the men faced each other. Both drew their pistols at the same time, but, as usual, Short's spoke first and a bullet from a Colt's 45-calibre pistol went crashing through Courtright's body. The shock caused him to reel backward; then he got another and still another, and by the time his lifeless form had reached the floor, Luke had succeeded in shooting him five times.

Investigations of the gunfight concluded that while it was Courtright who went for his pistol first, it was Short who ultimately outdrew and killed him. Courtright's inability to fire off a shot was due to a number of possible reasons; one was that his pistol broke when one of Short's bullets struck it and his thumb, or that his pistol got caught on his watch chain for a second as he drew it, which some experts consider to be unlikely or a "feeble excuse".

The gunfight became well known due to the notoriety of both men. Courtright's funeral was attended by hundreds of Fort Worth residents. Short was arrested for the shooting and though he was almost lynched after the shootout, he was never brought to trial. Finally, Short was able to settle his legal problems with the court in Dallas. All the cases against him were dismissed with no explanation.

## Bit Coins Are Nothing New

By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153



You have all heard the saying, "shave and a haircut, two-bits" but what were they talking about? In the old west there were not enough coins, so a common practice was to cut silver dollars into eight equal slices or bits. Two bits would be  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a dollar or 25 cents. One bit would be approximately 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  cents. People would price things for one bit, for example a shot of whisky or a meal would cost one bit.

The "bit" as a designation for money dates from the colonial period, when the most common unit of currency used was the Spanish dollar, also known as "piece of eight", which was worth 8 Spanish silver reales. One eighth of a dollar or one silver real was one "bit".

With the adoption of the decimal U.S. currency in 1794, there was no longer a U.S. coin worth  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a dollar but "two bits" remained in the language with the meaning of one quarter dollar. Because there was no one-bit coin, a dime (10¢) was sometimes called a short bit and 15¢ a long bit. (The picayune, which was originally  $\frac{1}{2}$  real or  $\frac{1}{2}$  bit (6  $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢), was similarly transferred to the US 5¢-piece.)

In addition, Spanish coinage, like other foreign coins, continued to be widely used and allowed as legal tender by Chapter XXII of the Act of April 10, 1806 until the Coinage Act of 1857 discontinued the practice.

Robert Louis Stevenson describes his experience with bits in *Across the Plains*

In the Pacific States they have made a bolder push for complexity and settle their affairs by a coin that no longer exists – the BIT, or old Mexican real. The supposed value of the bit is twelve and a half cents, eight to the dollar. When it comes to two bits, the quarter-dollar stands for the required amount. But how about an odd bit? The nearest coin to it is a dime, which is, short by a fifth. That, then, is called a Short bit. If you have one, you lay it triumphantly down, and save two and a half cents. But if you have not, and lay down a quarter, the bar-keeper or shop owner calmly tenders you a dime by way of change; and so, you have paid what is called a Long bit, and lost two and a half cents, or even, by comparison with a short bit, five cents. Shop owners would often try to make up for the difference in a Long bit by giving something to the buyer, like a bag of candy.



"Two bits" or "two bit" continues in general use as a colloquial expression, for 25 cents, or a quarter dollar as in the song catchphrase "Shave and a Haircut, two bits." As an adjective, "two-bit" describes something cheap or unworthy.

## 18th Annual Tejeda Middle School History Faire & Culture Fest By Charley Reynolds



On Saturday, April 6th, Tejeda Middle School is hosting their 18th Annual History Faire & Culture Fest. **Come out and join us.** This is a free community event sponsored by the Tejeda Young Historian Club to promote cultural understanding and "living history." Cultural, historical and performing groups from all over the city and state participate; not to mention there's plenty of food. Although it's put on for the students of Tejeda Middle School, it's open to everyone; and best of all, admission is free.

For at least the last 16 years, SASS cowboys have had a display at the Faire. Initially the Alamo Area Moderators sponsored the display. For the past few years, the Texican Rangers have been the sponsors. Our display consists of historic rifles, pistols & shotguns, from flintlock, to cap & ball, to cartridge. We also have western memorabilia displays and a Frontier Life display.

Those of us who have participated explain the items on display as well as western culture and SASS to both the students and adults. Sometimes it's hard to tell who has more fun, the visitors or us. The school provides breakfast, lunch and water to the participants....not a bad deal. They've even built us a display area.

We dress in our cowboy clothes, to include our cowboy guns; just no live ammo. The school police frown on that. The Faire runs from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. We begin setting up at 8:00a.m. Participant parking is at the school (2909 E. Evans Rd), with remote parking at Encino Park Elementary or Roan Forest Elementary.

Let Dutch Van Horn or me know if you are interested in joining us for this event. You could volunteer for an hour or the day, your choice.



## **GAMM at the Texican Rangers**

### **By Grouchy Spike**



The Texicans hosted their first Garand Action Military Match (GAMM) on 9 March 2019. Yep, the Garand is the U.S. Rifle Caliber .30 M1 of WW2 fame. GAMM was shot concurrently with BAMB (Bolt Action Military Match) on the Oriental and Train stages.

The Sniper scenario called for eight shots at six targets ranging from 77 yards to 125 yards. These snipers were clanging the steel and the old war horses (the Garands, that is) were launching spent brass and then the 8-round en bloc clip after the eighth round. Shades of a battle – what a sight to watch! Record time was 16.91 seconds and clean.

Future Military Rifle matches could feature more Garand Action; perhaps a 16-round or 24-round scenario with reloads OFF the clock in the interest of safety while reloading. Many have heard of ‘M1 Thumb’ which is an injury of the right thumb caused by the closing of the bolt before the thumb is withdrawn from the receiver after inserting the en bloc clip. Slowing down the reload, off the clock, allows the shooter to concentrate on safe reloads without risk of injury.

Garands are available through the Civilian Marksmanship Program (TheCMP.org) to members of CMP-affiliated clubs. TSRA just happens to be an affiliated club, and the requirement for participation in firearms shooting can be satisfied by military experience, a letter from the Texicans, or a CHL or LTC. There is a recipe available to reload 30-06 with cast bullets with sufficient velocity to operate the gas system of the Garand. Commercial reloads are available too from a cowboy in North Texas.

GAMM is catching on! For more information contact Burly Bill Brocius, Vice President of the Texicans.

## **Tombstone Mary, Secretary**

### **Regulator/Life #19524**



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

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

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

Maryn58@sbcglobal.net  
Tombstone Mary

## Parting Shots

1. I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not too sure.
2. They told me I was gullible, and I believed them.
3. I didn't use to finish sentences, but now I
4. Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.
5. Dyslexics have more nuf.
6. To make a long story short, don't tell it!
7. A man who mixes poison ivy with a four-leaf clover will have rash of good luck.
8. If Fed Ex and UPS were to merge, would they call it Fed UP?
9. I asked God for a bike, but I know God doesn't work that way. So, I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness.
10. The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list.
11. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
12. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of payments.
13. How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole darn box to start a campfire?
14. A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kick boxing.
15. Whenever I fill out an application, in the part that says, "If an emergency, notify:" I put "DOCTOR". What's my mother going to do?



In the Old West, cowboy show-offs often fell victim to the old whoopie saddle gag.



## 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

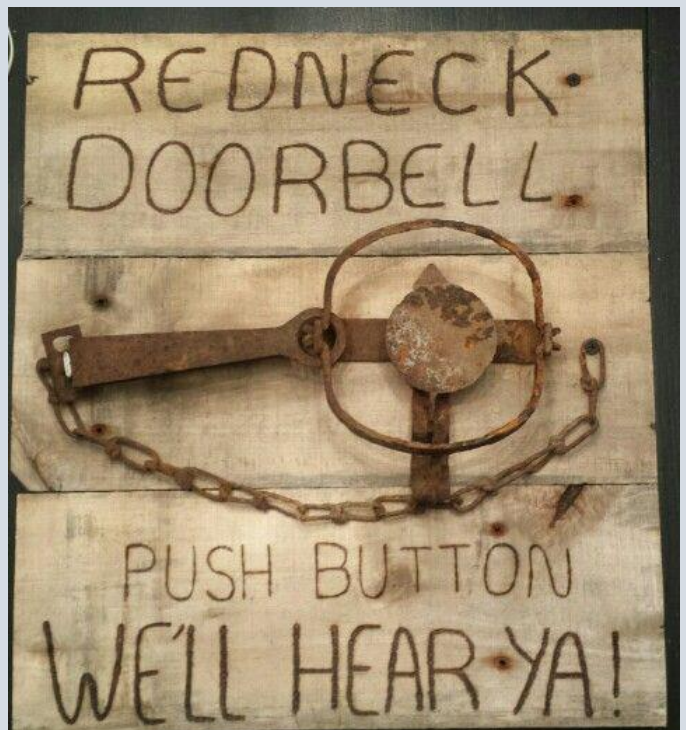


### March Birthdays:

Aiyana Kay	3/17
Tombstone Mary	3/17
Will Tinker	3/19
Marshall Brooks	3/22
Maverick McCoy	3/29
Hopalong Herbert	3/31

### April Birthdays:

Bama Sue	4/2
Moonshine Bill	4/4
Handlebar Bob	4/6
Engin Wrangler	4/17
Frank Longshot	4/17
South Texas Willie	4/17
Madam Ella Moon	4/18
Miz Ella	4/19
Pepper Jacq	4/23
Jake Jones	4/28
Wild Bill McMasters	4/28



### Key Links

[www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com)  
[www.texicanrangers.org](http://www.texicanrangers.org)  
[www.greenmountainregulators.org](http://www.greenmountainregulators.org)  
[www.pccss.org](http://www.pccss.org)  
[www.stxpistoleros.com](http://www.stxpistoleros.com)  
[www.tejascaballeros.org](http://www.tejascaballeros.org)  
[www.darbyroughregulators.com](http://www.darbyroughregulators.com)  
[www.trpistoleros.com](http://www.trpistoleros.com)  
[www.texasjacks.com](http://www.texasjacks.com)  
[www.cimarron-firearms.com](http://www.cimarron-firearms.com)  
[www.tsra.com](http://www.tsra.com)  
[www.wildwestmercantile.com](http://www.wildwestmercantile.com)

## TEXICAN RANGERS

2019

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



Feb 8-10	2019 Jail Break	Oakwood Outlaws
Feb 18-24	Winter Range	Phoenix
Mar 21-24	Trailhead	THSS
April 11-14	Comancheria Days	Texican Ranger (Comfort)
April 25-27	SASS Southwest Regional Land Run	Oklahoma
June 13-23	End of Trail	Founders Ranch, NM
Oct 19-20	SASS Texas State Black Powder Championship	Groesbeck, TX
Oct 18-20	SASS Texas State Wild Bunch Championship	Cleburne, TX

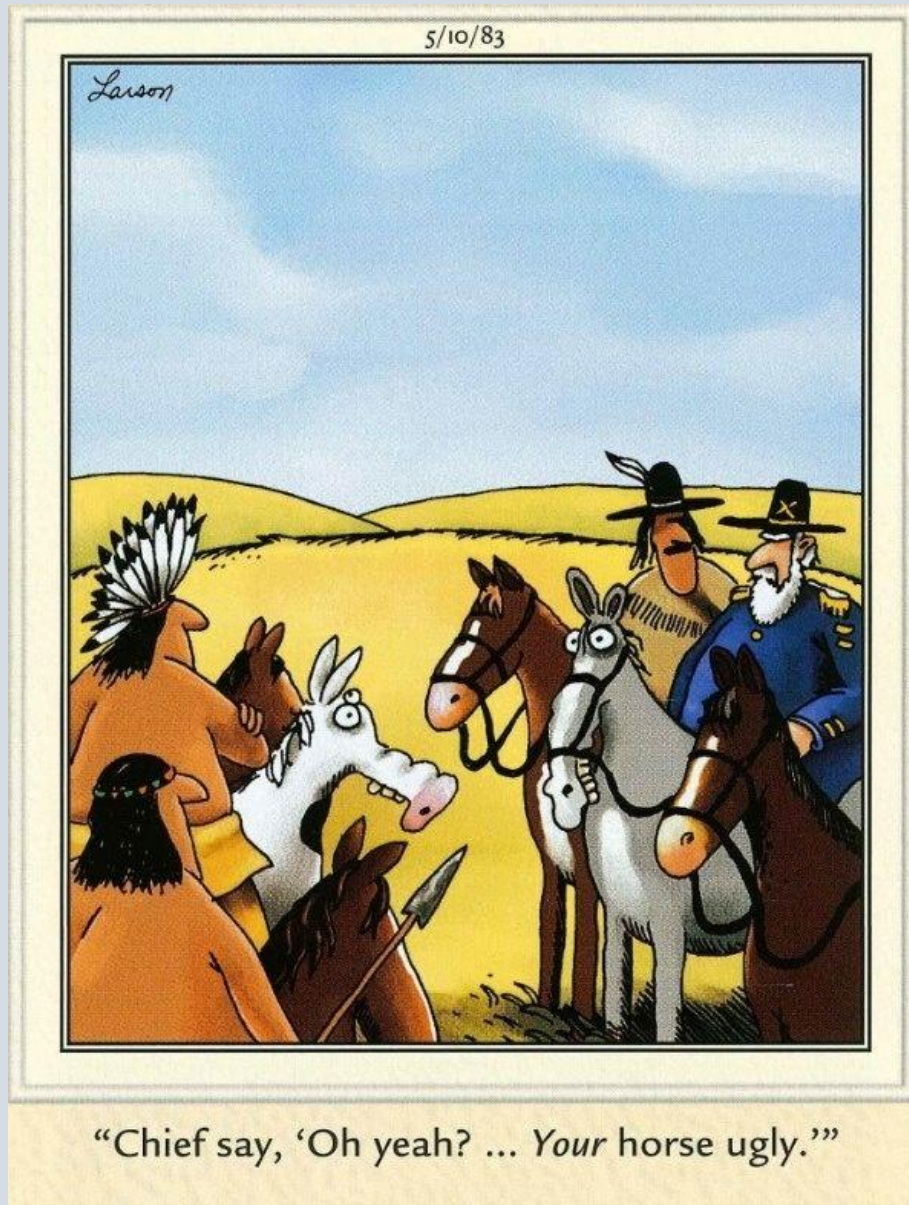




Photo Album





