

# 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  
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## HOWDY FELLOW RANGERS!

Can you believe it? Christmas and New Year's Day are history, and the Rangers have already had their first match of 2026. And as those of you who were in attendance know, Saturday was colder than a tin toilet seat in Alaska in February. Kudos to those hearty souls who braved the weather and put lead downrange. It is going to be an exciting and busy year for our club with the 2026 SASS State Championship, in conjunction with Comancheria Days and the American Semiquincentennial (yes, I had to ask Siri for help spelling it).

Our usual dedicated corps of volunteers have already begun range work and preparation for these challenging events, and I want to extend heartfelt thanks to all for their dedication, commitment and sacrifices, and remind everyone that we can always use more help.

As the calendar turned to January in the American Old West, folks welcomed the New Year with a blend of hope and hearty celebration. Communities gathered for dances and socials, often in local saloons or town halls, where music and laughter echoed late into the night. Neighbors exchanged homemade treats like pies and preserves, and some families marked the occasion by shooting off their rifles at midnight—a raucous way to announce the arrival of a new year. Not much has changed there in the big cities like Houston, anyway, except there, it's AK-47s and semi-auto pistols.

Despite the harsh winter conditions, these festivities brought people together, offering a rare chance for camaraderie and reflection. Traditions varied from one frontier town to another, but most shared a spirit of optimism, with resolutions for prosperity and good health. In the rugged landscape

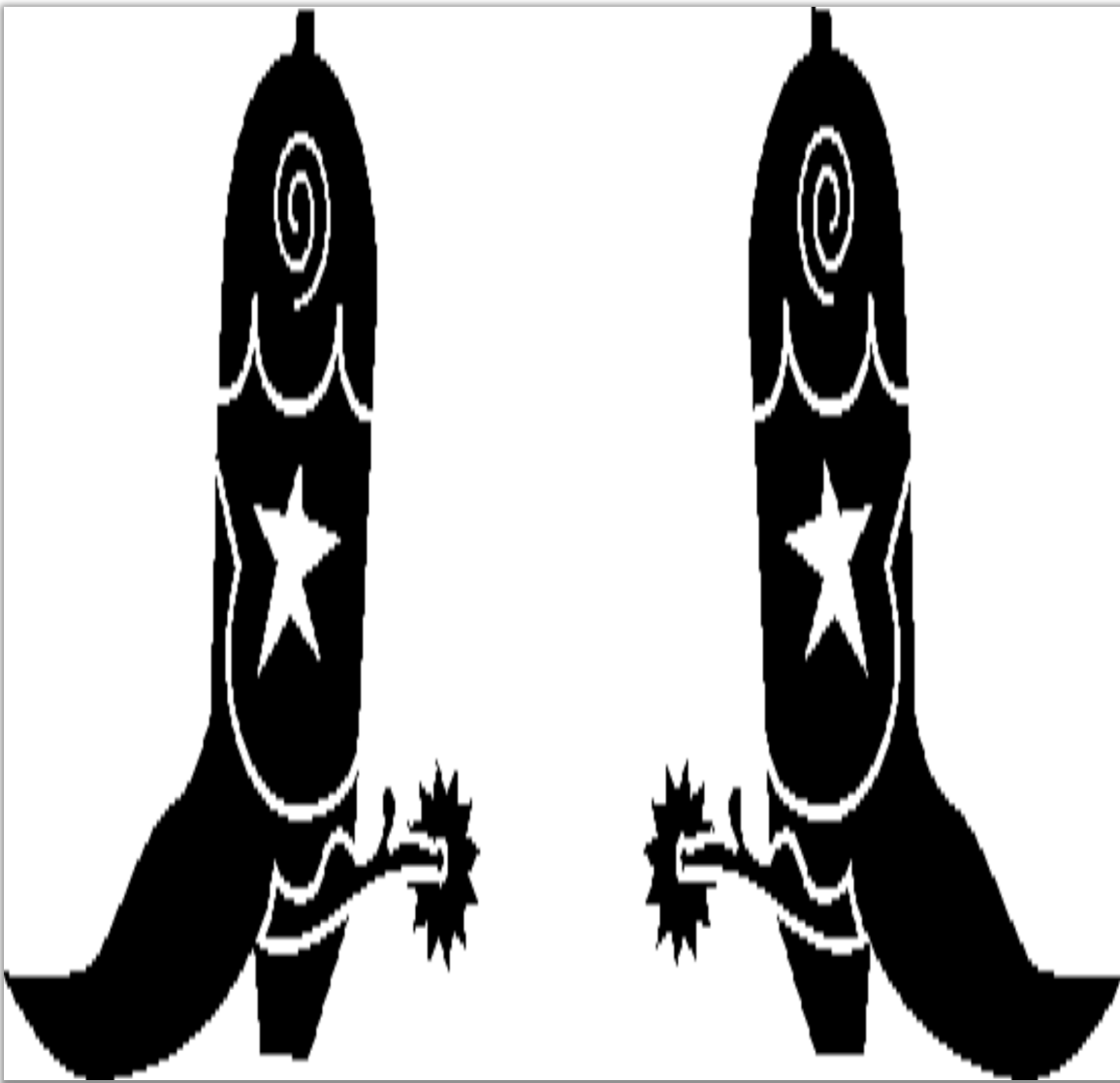
of the Old West, New Year's celebrations were a cherished reminder of resilience and community. Here's hoping that Santa was kind to you, and that this New Year will bring prosperity, health, happiness, and peace to you all.

Our next workday is February 10th, and we still have a lot of range setup to accomplish. The February match will be the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have two additional workdays at the end of the month on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup>, all in preparation for the upcoming events.

That's all from me for now. In this New Year, may your boots never get dusty and may your pistols never get rusty.

Happy Trails, Y'all!

San Saba Slim  
President, Texican Rangers



## Smith & Wesson Baby Russian By Dutch Van Horn



Like its big brother the .44 Russian, the .38 Single Action was a hinged-frame, top-break revolver with automatic ejection. The resemblance pretty much stops there, however. Whereas the .44 was a six-shooter, the Baby Russian was a five-shooter. The .44 had a trigger guard; the .38 had a spur trigger. There were also numerous differences in the number and placement of sideplate and frame screws, in the grips, and in the angle of the grip frame.

But no matter: The “Baby Russian” it was called and the “Baby Russian” it would remain. To be entirely accurate, and with all due deference to serious S&W collectors, only the .38 Single Action 1st Model (1876 – 1877) is properly termed the Baby Russian; the 2nd Model (1877 – 1891) and 3rd Model (1891 – 1911) are called the plain old .38 Single Action, 2nd and 3rd Models. (The 3rd Model is the only one of the three to have a trigger guard.) Yet another variant, the rare Mexican Model, was basically a 3rd Model but had a spurred trigger guard and no half-cock notch.

The first model of the .38 Single Action can be identified by its smooth barrel (lacking fluting), and the long extractor shroud similar to the Smith & Wesson Model 3 Russian pistol, which lent it the nickname “Baby Russian.” It had a spur trigger and lacked a trigger guard.

After the popularity of the Colt 1849, Smith and Wesson recognized a need for a concealed carry revolver. In 1876, S&W put a new medium-sized revolver into production, one that shared so many of the Model 3 Russian’s features that it has been known ever since as the “Baby Russian.” Its actual designation was the .38 Single Action 1st Model.

Models were available in blued or nickel-plated finishes, and the majority were produced with 3 1/2-inch or 4-inch barrels, although barrels as long as 7 inches were sold. To show how popular this gun was it was only made between 1876 and 1877 but it became the official



handgun of the Baltimore Police Department.

The second model of the 38 Single Action used a shorter and more efficient ejection and extraction system and lack the shroud of the 1st model. It was produced in blued steel and nickel-plated versions, with most models having a 3 1/2-inch or 4 1/2-inch barrel. Rare versions had barrels of 6, 8 and 10 inches in length.



The third model of the .38 Single Action was made from 1891 to 1911 and is often known as the 1891 Model, Model 01 or the Model of 91, as the latter is stamped on the top of the barrel. This version used a standard trigger and a trigger guard, but 2000 of these revolvers were made for the Mexican government with the spur trigger and no guard and are referred to as the "Mexican Model."

In 1911, S&W finally bade goodbye to its single-action line. The total production exceeded 223,000 guns. Various Lemon Squeezers and Hand Ejectors had finally rendered the .38 Single Action quite obsolete, and it would be 50 years before Smith & Wesson produced another single action, the special-order K-38 Target Masterpiece Single Action of 1961.





## **Train Smash in Texas**

**By Dutch Van Horn/Regulator 51153**

Entertainment in the old west was very different and sometimes dangerous. People considered lectures, hangings, and political debates as high entertainment. Why wouldn't they get excited to see an organized train wreck?

William Crush (yes, that was really his name) was a railway man who had an idea of dubious brilliance in 1894. The idea was to create such a massive public spectacle it would secure the future of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company, more popularly called the Katy. Crush decided to set up the temporary city of Crush, featuring a carnival and the main attraction, which was two 35-ton train engines smashing together. Yes, we are talking about real entertainment.

How did this come about? The Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad had first reached the Crush area in the 1880s, during the construction of a route between Dallas and Houston. As the railroad expanded, the Katy replaced its 30-ton steam engines with newer, more powerful 60-ton engines, and subsequently a stockpile of the older units, for which the railroad now had no use, began to accumulate.

A locomotive crash staged by the Columbus and Hocking Valley Railroad near Cleveland, Ohio several months earlier had been a huge success, and Crush imagined a similar spectacle for which Katy could advertise to thousands of potential passengers. Crush's superiors agreed to his proposal and put him in charge of the project.

Two water wells were drilled at the site and a circus tent from Ringling Brothers was erected, as well as a grandstand, three speakers' stands, a platform for reporters, two telegraph offices, and a special train depot, over which a giant sign proclaimed the new town as "Crush, Texas." Events from the Midway Plaisance, including lemonade stands, carnival games, medicine shows, cigar vendors and other sideshows were highly anticipated, with a construction foreman saying that "This feature alone will be worth going to Crush [City] to see." A separate four-mile segment of track was built for the event alongside the Katy railroad so that there was no chance a runaway train could end up on the main line, after all you must be safe when you have an organized train wreck. The trains toured the state for months in advance, advertising the event.

This was a huge deal at the time. According to newspaper accounts, conversation about everything else took a back seat to the train smash. No admission was charged, and train fares to the crash site were offered at the reduced rate of \$2.00 from any location in Texas. When the big day finally came, Crush became the second-largest city in the state as around 40,000 people came flooding in. The epic event went off somewhat as planned, but if you were wondering whether boiler-driven steam trains would explode on impact ... they do.

The crash was delayed for an hour because police officers working for security couldn't move the onlookers back to what they considered a safe distance. The trains were each going about 50 mph when they hit, and according to reports, there was a heartbeat of silence before they exploded in a shower of hot debris. The safe distance didn't prove to be safe; At least two people were killed and no one's sure how many were injured. One survivor, local photographer J.C. Deane, got \$10,000 and a lifetime railway pass for his lost eye. Crush was fired, then immediately re-hired when they realized how popular he'd made the railroad. You know, among people who hadn't lost eyeballs.



**Sheriff Robert Love**  
**Vice President/Regulator/Life**



**THE PEACE MAKER**

**By Jim Williams - Cowboy Poet — June 1996**

In the spring of 1946, my uncle, Carl Williams, my mother, my father, my little sister, Rhonda and I left the Coldwater Cattle company, in Sherman, Texas and went to western Kansas to look after a bunch of yearlings for Morris Freeman of Texhoma, Oklahoma and Paul Portwood of Seymour, Texas. My mother went along to do the cooking. My father was suffering from Parkinson's disease and was unable to work. Rhonda was nearing her sixth birthday. We were in charge of three thousand steer and heifer yearlings, two hundred old canner cows and fifty old baloney bulls.

We placed the heifers, 800 head, in a pasture that lay on both sides of the Smokey Hill River, east of the small town of Wallace, Kansas. Adjoining the heifer pasture was a small ranch, owned by an old man by the name of Burnt. About a hundred yards south of Mr. Burnt's fence was one of the best springs I'd ever seen. The water gushed from a two-inch pipe, driven into an outcropping of sandstone. Mr. Burnt claimed the spring was on his land and that the big ranch had cheated him out of it. Government surveyors proved him wrong, but he never got over the loss of "his" spring.

Mr. Burnt owned a good polled Hereford bull that he kept in a small pasture next to our heifer pasture. There was no other stock with the bull, so he was by himself, with nothing much to do but graze and paw dirt once in a while, along with a lot of bellerin'. So, of course he lost no time in crawlin' through the fence to where there was plenty of work to do and for which he was well qualified. I came across him one day while prowlin' through the heifers. I chased him back

to where he belonged and found a length of old wire and made a stay and tied a rock on it to tighten the fence a little. I didn't go to Burnt's house. We had been told the old man had threatened to shoot anyone from the ranch he caught on his property.

A few days later the bull was back in with the heifers. We didn't want them bred because they were scheduled to go to a feedlot in the fall. I drove the bull to Burnt's house and put him in a small pen out back. I decided to find the old man and have a little talk with him. I rode around to the front and found the old gentleman sitting in the shade of a cottonwood, drinking a glass of iced tea. I introduced myself and told him I had penned the bull back of the house. He looked at me for a minute or two, eyeball to eyeball. I was beginning to think maybe it was a mistake coming here and wondering how close he was to a gun. Finally, he spoke and asked if I were a republican or democrat. I had heard most of the folks in that part of the country were republican, so I told him that was what I was, although at the time I was registered as a democrat. He got real friendly and invited me to step down and have a glass of tea. We had a nice visit and he promised to keep his bull at home until the heifers were shipped in the fall. We shook hands and I rode back to our camp.

A few days later Carl and I were riding together and found the bull in with the heifers again. We decided to "borrow" the bull and put him where he could follow his natural instincts without doing any further damage. We drove him several miles until he got sore footed and left him with the old cows in the river bottom, near our camp.

About ten days passed before we realized we could be in real trouble. We were at the corrals when a bobtailed truck with stock racks pulled in and two men got out of it and approached us. These guys were the biggest, meanest, roughest looking farmers I had ever seen and they were plenty mad. They said they had been lookin' for their dad's bull for a week and had just now seen him across the river from where we were. One of them said that as soon as one of us went across and fetched him, they were going to beat the hell out of the two of us and take the bull home. We tried to explain why we had taken the bull, but the more we talked, the madder they got. I don't mind admitting I was getting a little worried. Carl was too old to fight these guys and they each outweighed me by about seventy pounds. The situation was about to come to a boil when my little sister, Rhonda came along. She walked right up to one of the farmers and

invited the two of them to come to her birthday party the next day. The man was so surprised he looked like he had been slapped in the face with a green cow chip. He stood there for a minute with his big mouth wide open and then he broke into a grin and started laughin'. The other laughed and bellered too. I saddled a horse and fetched the bull and helped them load 'im. We apologized for the trouble we had

caused and the Burnts departed in a much better mood than when they came. My sister was twenty-three years younger than I. When I think of that incident of fifty years ago, I'm reminded of some words in Isaiah, chapter 11, verse 6, "and a little child shall lead them."

Sheriff Robert Love  
Vice President

## **Shooting Iron Miller, Secretary Regulator/Life**



Hi Fellow Shooters! The year has started off pretty busy as we get ready for our April State Match. We have almost 170 shooters signed up so far. Now that the holidays are behind us, we anticipate more applications coming in as we pursue our goal of 300 shooters. Here are a couple of reminders I'd like to leave with you. The Schedule of Events is posted on our Texican Rangers website - [Texican Rangers - second oldest Cowboy Action Shooting Club™](#) - so be sure to check it out. You can also find a Vendor Form and Sponsorship Form

online for your convenience. If you'd like to vend or know someone who might be interested, please pass the form along.

Newt Ritter will be organizing our volunteers for the event. We will need lots of folks to help out. We thank those of you who have already offered your services. We can always use more, so please email me if you would like to assist in any way.

We will offer the Range Officer Basic Safety Course (ROBS) and Wild Bunch Range Officer course, if we have enough interest. We like to secure at least 5 people before we offer either course, so please let me know if you'd like to sign up for it and I'll ensure you are on the schedule. The courses will be offered on Wednesday, April 8.

Starting in February, after our monthly match workday, February 10, we will have workdays each Tuesday thereafter, in an effort to get everything done before the State Match. We hope you will check your schedule and see if you might be able to set aside a couple of those Tuesday mornings to help us at the range. There will be plenty of work to do, so your help will be greatly appreciated. We won't waste your time! Thanks so much to Fister Bo and Tombstone Mary for all their hard work revamping much of the signage on the range that has been in disrepair. A few signs have yet to be addressed while some of the new signage has already been put in place. The rest will be done on a future workday.

We hope to see you on the range soon!

# BOOYAH BULLETS

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Dodge City Mike 512.801.8424

Price List effective 11.01.25

Caliber	Weight	Config.	Price/500	Price/1000
.38	100	RNFP	44	88
	105	FP	45	90
	125	RNFP	54	108
	125	FP	54	108
	130	RNFP	55	110
	158	RNFP	67	134
	158	FP	67	134
	158	SWC	67	134
.380	100	RNFP	44	88
.38-55	245	RNFP	104	208
.41	215	SWC	91	182
.44	180	RNFP	76	152
	240	SWC	102	204
.44-40	200	RNFP	85	170
.45 COLT	160	RNFP	76	153
	180	RNFP	76	153
	200	RNFP	85	170
	250	RNFP	106	212
9MM	124	RN	53	106
	125	CN	53	106
40 S&W	180	FP	76	153
.45ACP	200	SWC	85	170
	200	RN	85	170
	230	RN	98	196
45-70	405	FPT	90 (250)	360 (1K)
COATED 10.00 PLUS 1000 pcs.			180 (500)	



# Parting Shots

## NCIS Gibbs's Rules

1. Never let suspects stay together
2. Always wear gloves at a crime scene
3. Don't believe what you're told
4. Never be unreachable
5. The best way to keep a secret? Keep it to yourself
6. You don't waste good
7. "Never say you're sorry. It's a sign of weakness
8. Always be specific when you lie
9. Never take anything for granted
10. Never go anywhere without a knife
11. Never get personally involved in a case
12. When the job is done, walk away
13. Never date a co-worker
14. Never, ever involve lawyers
15. Bend the line, don't break it
16. Always work as a team
17. Never, ever interrupt Gibbs
18. It's better to seek forgiveness than ask permission
19. Unknown
20. Always look under
21. Unknown
22. Never ever bother Gibbs in interrogation
23. Never mess with a Marine's coffee



## 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
- Beans Ahgin 2022
- Colorado Horseshoe 2024



## January Birthdays

Blacky Vela – 1/7  
Deadlast – 1/10  
Panhandle Cowgirl-1/11  
Hawkeye – 1/12  
Skyhawk Hans – 1/12  
Colonel Colt Winchester – 1/14  
Stony Lane – 1/18  
Big Tex – 1/19  
Brazos Bo-1/19  
Big John Mesquite – 1/23



## February Birthdays

Doc O'Bay 2/1  
Fister Bo 2/2  
Newt Ritter 2/3  
Shooting Iron Miller 2/7  
Major Samuel Clayton 2/11  
Col. Callan 2/21

## March Birthdays

Texas Pearl 3/10  
Whiskey Strait 3/11  
Uncle Law 3/16  
Tombstone Mary 3/17  
Marshall Brooks 3/22  
Maverick McCoy 3/29



## 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.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)

## CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING SCHEDULES

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

### Photo Album









