



# South Texas Pistoraros Newsletter



**Match Info:**

A Place To Shoot

13250 Pleasanton Rd.

San Antonio Texas

78221

**Monthly Match Schedule for February 1, 2025**

- Range gate opens at 9:00 AM
- Match Registration from 9:00 to 9:30 AM.
- Mandatory Shooters Safety Meeting at 9:30 AM.



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to all you Pistoraros. I made a resolution to shoot a clean match in January. That resolution didn't make it past the first stage. Well there's always next year. I am forecasting good weather for the February match. This will be my first match

in my new age category - Elder Statesman. Why is it whenever you move up to the next category the competition just gets tougher?

Last month I gave you an excerpt from the Introduction in the book titled *Texas Gunslingers* (Bill O'Neal, 2014). This month is Chapter 1, *The Cradle of Old West Gunfighting*.

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"Anglo pioneers first encountered horseback warriors in Texas. Comanche and Kiowa warriors were at their most dangerous as mounted archers, guiding their war ponies with their knees while firing arrows from three-foot bows. A quiver could hold 20 or more arrows, which gave the mounted, mobile warriors a repeating weapon against their Spanish, Mexican, or Texan adversaries. The bowman could fire 20 arrows at the gallop, while his enemy desperately tried to reload his single-shot rifle or pistol.

By the 1840s, a few of Sam Colt's new revolving pistols reached Texas. Captain Jack Hays of the Texas Rangers, desperately battling mounted warriors armed with repeating weapons - bows and arrows - realized that Colt's small, awkward handguns could give his men repeating tactics for employing them in combat. After using these

weapons effectively against horseback warriors, Texas Rangers suggested various improvements. Sam Colt's early five-shooters evolved by the 1850s into larger six-shooters with plow grip handles and hinged loaders, which rammed powder and shot into each of the six chambers in the revolving cylinder. Nipples behind each chamber were capped with fulminate of mercury percussion caps. An extra cylinder, already loaded with powder, shot, and caps, rapidly increased the speed of re-loading. In Texas, these handguns evolved into powerful six-shooters - the iconic weapon of Old West gunfighters. Of course, these improved weapons could be used by Texans against each other."

Now I'll give you a bit of Chapter Two, The Deadliest Trio. The deadliest Texas gunfighters were Ben Thompson, John Wesley Hardin, and James B. "Killin' Jim" Miller. Thompson was the first Texas gunfighter of note, Born in England in 1842, he migrated with his family to Austin, Texas, in 1851. Following a quarrel with another teenager in 1858, Ben ran home, then chased his adversary with a single-barrel shotgun, peppering the fleeing youth with birdshot. The next year, an angry clash while geese hunting brought another adolescent face-off, this time with shotguns at 40 paces. Ben and his opponent were both wounded. Soon, Ben Thompson would be trading .45 slugs in his confrontations.

Ben Thompson was 19 when the Civil War began. He joined the Confederate Army and served the duration of the war in Texas, New Mexico, and Louisiana. During an off-duty monte game in Laredo, trouble erupted, and Thompson shot two Mexicans to death. He injured a leg when his horse fell on him while he was smuggling whiskey, but while on medical furlough, he married Catherine Moore, daughter of a well-to-do Austin family. After the war Thompson was jailed in Austin following gun play with occupation troops. In 1868, he wounded his brother-in-law for striking his wife. During a saloon fight in 1876 in Austin, saloonkeeper Mark Wilson fired a shotgun at Thompson, who killed Wilson with three pistol shots, then wounded bartender Charles Matthews in the mouth.

By the 1880s, Ben Thompson was well-regarded in Austin, where he quietly supported orphans and dressed well around town. In 1881 he was elected Austin's city marshal. The next year, he ventured into the Vaudeville Theatre and Gambling Saloon, the most notorious night spot in San Antonio. The Vaudeville was owned by Jack Harris, who for two

years had nursed a grudge against Thompson over a gambling dispute. When told that Thompson had entered his building, Harris seized a shotgun and concealed himself behind venetian blinds. Spotted by Thompson, Harris raised the shotgun. But Thompson palmed a revolver and triggered a fatal round. Thompson surrendered himself, resigned as city marshal, and, following acquittal, was met in Austin with a spontaneous parade by well-wishers.

On March 11, 1884, Ben Thompson met his friend King Fisher, deputy sheriff from Uvalde, who was in Austin on official business. The two men had several drinks, then Thompson decided to travel by train with Fisher as far as San Antonio. On the train, the men continued to drink and were quite rowdy. In San Antonio, they saw a play in the evening, and at 10:30, they went to the theater where Jack Harris had been killed two years earlier. Thompson and Fisher had a drink, then were attacked by several friends of Harris. Thompson managed to get off one shot before dying with nine wounds. Fisher was struck 13 times. Most of the wounds were caused by shotgun and rifle fire, and there were powder burns on their faces."

Next month I'll cover James B. "Killin' Jim" Miller and John Wesley Hardin. See you on the firing line.

*Colonel Colt Winchester*

Colonel Colt Winchester



## Match Starting Time And Range Rules

Access to the Cowboy Action Shooting Range will be available only after A Place To Shoot opens at 9:00 AM.

Please do not attempt to enter the range parking lot via the dirt bypass road.

Please enter the CAS range through the side gates by the pistol range or around the right side of the building,

### Matches start at 9:45 AM.

Registration will close by 9:30, With the shooter' Safety Meeting to follow.

Please, present no bills larger than \$20 at registration.

**Guest shooters must read and sign a liability waiver before the match.**

The gate to the CAS range should be closed during a Match. Be aware that visitors may come on to the CAS range who are not familiar with CAS safety protocols.

Members having concerns or complaints about range issues shall communicate those issues to the Pistoleros club officers.

## South Texas Pistoleros Guest Shooter Policy

Visiting shooters unknown to club members but possessing a valid SASS Membership who wish to register as a competitor will be assigned a Pistoleros Officer or member as a "shooting buddy" for at least one stage. New-to-CAS individuals or guest without a valid SASS membership but with a **documented** knowledge of safe firearms hand skills (LTC, NRA certification, etc.) who desire to participate in a club match will be referred to the Range Master, or other designated Officer, for on-site orientation. If time permits, the orientation will be held before the match. If the Range Master and Match Director concur, the individuals will be assigned a mentor and permitted to register as a competitor.

Any person who have not completed any type of formal firearms training but wish to participate in CAS will be referred to a formal CAS orientation session to be provided by the club. The orientation session will use a classroom setting to address basic firearms safety, handling CAS firearms safely, **SASS** match protocols, and range and club safety rules. Upon successful completion of the classroom session, attendees will have the opportunity to shoot in a controlled setting on the CAS range. Cost per students has yet to be determined, but a range fee of \$11.00 per person plus the cost of suitable ammunition is to be expected.

## Guest Shooter Liability Waiver Policy

Any contestant at a match who is not currently a member of the South Texas Pistoleros must first read and sign a liability waiver before competing.

## JANUARY 2025 TREASURER' REPORT

### Beginning Balance

Deposit	\$129.00	
Range fees	(-\$157.68)	
Supplies	(-\$25.98)	

### Ending Balance

**\$5,589.70**

\$5,718.70

\$5,561.02

\$5,535.04

**\$5,535.04**

*Tabasco Kid*

**Tabasco Kid**





## NOTES FROM THE RANGE MASTER - DOWN RANGE!

The January shoot turned out really nice. We had 18 shooters: just enough to form two posses which Hadn't happened in a while. Special welcome to Harmony Belle and Kincade. Was also great to see Canyon Jim and Doc Trinity back shooting after their absences. While he didn't shoot on Saturday, we did have a confirmed sighting of Monterrey Plainsman at set up on Friday.

Shooting Iron Miller easily won the match with a score of 115.83 averaging 1.21 seconds-a-shot and she shot it clean! (The swinger on Stage 2 ate up time on everyone so averages were a little higher than usual.) Picoso Kid came in second at 141.46. After stripping M and P's, his average was 1.27 per shot. Sheriff Robert Love closed out the top three with 142.68 averaging 1.49 a shot. The remaining sub 2.0 a shot were Kincade (1.52), PJ Mugwump (1.60) and Newt Ritter (1.96). Besides shooting sub-2.0, Newt also shot a clean match. Yours truly also shot a clean match, but I was just a hair over 2.0 with a 2.03.

Unfortunately, I will not be at set up for the February match or the match (possibly March as well), but I'm sure you will all pitch in. Have fun without me!

'Nough said...brass is up, targets are up, shooter up. STAND BY - BEEP - click - BANG. You might want to double check you are indexed on an empty chamber to start with next time cowboy.



To pre-register for the **February 1, 2025** match, you can go to **PRACTISCORE**

and sign up for the match using the instructions attached, or you can

email [STXPMatch@gmail.com](mailto:STXPMatch@gmail.com) with the following information:

Name, Alias, Category, **SASS** number, and if you are a  
**South Texas Pistoleros** member or not.

If you experience difficulties with registration, please contact

Caprock Kid at [STXPMatch@gmail.com](mailto:STXPMatch@gmail.com)

# The Bean Pot.....



## A Champagne Bath

A correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat was in San Antonio to cover the Cattlemen's Convention. He determined to write a story about a "real Texas cowboy" and began making inquiries among some of the cattlemen in town for the Convention. He was given the names of Captain King and Sam Wolcott.

The writer created a fictional narrator of the tale, naming him "Jim Gregory." The main character in the tale was to be rancher Sam Wolcott.

"In them days we felt a good time was a-comin' to us when we got to the end of our trip. Every cow represented a big bunch of money, and we were not troubled about grazin' on some other feller's land or made to pay back lease money to the state like we are now. The railroads killed the cattle business, there ain't no two ways about it. It brought the farmers and land men and they brought the wire fences, and the wire fences stopped free grazin'.

In those early times every day was like a cowman's convention in San Antonio. They were gathered here from all over the Southwest an' they was rollin' in money, I'm here to tell you. I was nothin' but a cowpuncher myself, but I saw some high rollin' times along with the "cow barons," as the newspapers used to call 'em. Champagne flowed like water when such men as King and Maverick and a hundred others of the same kind got into town.

I remember I was loafin' around the Menger Hotel one hot day in summer. I'd been in town for three or four days and was about through with my spree when the stage from Laredo rolled up and out falls old man Wolcott-we called everyone old man-he wasn't more than 30 I guess. He hadn't been in from his Rio Grande ranch for six months or more. It had been a hot and dusty ride for 150 miles, and he felt the need of bein' invigorated.

'Come on boys,' he sang out as he greeted the dozen or more cowmen lounging in the shade of the hackberry trees in front of the hotel. We all knew that meant an invitation to take a drink. 'Give me the best room you got in the house' he yelled to the clerk as we filed past the desk into the barroom. 'And don't forget I want one with a big bathtub.'

"I've been down in the God-forsaken country makin' money and I ain't had a bath in six months,' he told us as we lined up waiting to have our poison set before us. 'I've been a-thinkin' about it on my ride up here and have decided to take a bath that is a bath.

'I've heard that San Antonio water does first rate for bathing purposes,'" said someone in the crowd. 'Water hell!' Wolcott exclaimed. 'I'm a-goin' to bathe in champagne!'

He meant just what he said. When we had finished takin' our drinks he ordered enough champagne to fill up one of them big old-fashioned bathtubs up to within two or three inches from the top. I don't know how many bottles it took...

When the tub was full, Walcott stripped-off and got in. He sent out and bought a whole outfit of new clothes. He wallowed around in that champagne for an hour or two and then dressed up in his new clothes. He told us fellers it was the finest bath he ever had an' we agreed it ought to be good for it had cost enough."

- Source: San Antonio Express News, May 18, 1908
- San Antonio Legacy Donald E. Everett
- Beans Ahgin

# **GUN SHOW SCHEDULE**

## **Local Shows**



Jan 31st – Feb 2nd, 2025  
Feb 28th – Mar 2nd, 2025  
The San Antonio Gun Show  
Alzafar Shriners  
901 N Loop 1604 W  
San Antonio, TX 78258



## **Area Gun Shows**

Feb 1st – 2nd, 2025  
The Al Amin Shrine Gun Show  
Al Amin Shrine Pavilion  
2001 Suntide Road  
Corpus Christi, TX 78409  
(361) 696-1585

Feb 8th – 9th, 2025  
The Fredericksburg Gun & Knife Show  
Gillespie County Fairgrounds  
530 Fair Drive  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
(830) 285-0575

Feb 15th – 16th, 2025  
The Saxet Corpus Christi Gun Show  
Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds  
1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd  
Corpus Christi, TX 78380  
(361) 289-2256

Feb 22nd – 23rd, 2025  
The New Braunfels Gun Show  
New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center  
375 S Castell Ave  
New Braunfels, TX 78130  
(817) 732-1194

Feb 22nd – 23rd, 2025  
The Kerrville Gun & Knife Show  
Happy State Bank  
Expo Hall  
3785 Highway 27  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
(830) 285-0575



Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change,  
so please contact the show before travel





## The AED Gang

On January 26th, I attended a AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) class with fellow club members Shooting Iron Miller, Sheriff Robert Love, Beans Ahgin, Maid Jalaff and others.

The instructor suggested that we ought to have emergency info readily available.

Below are some suggestions on having info available.

Long John Beard



## WHAT'S IN YOUR GUN CART?



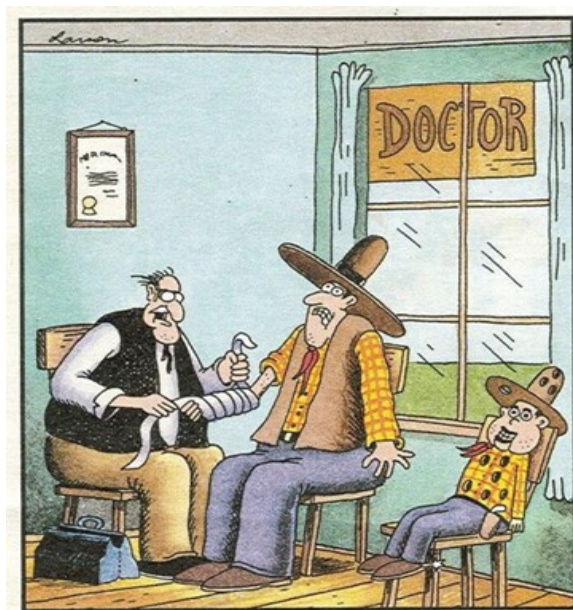
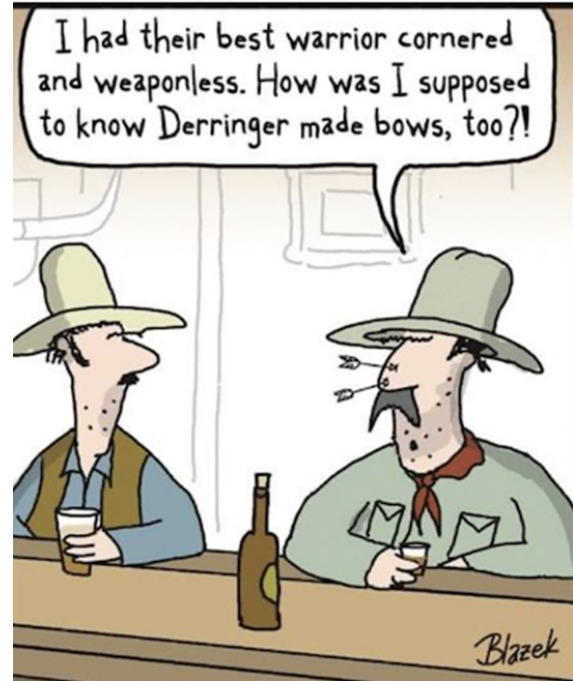
Have you ever thought about adding to your Gun Cart a water proof container (a small washed out peanut butter jar is what I have in my Gun Cart) with emergency information that can be easily obtained in an emergency? Information I have gathered includes My real name, an emergency contact with a phone number, a list of medications including what I'm being treated for and the name of my primary Physician .

Another thought that comes to mind is a simple first aid kit with added items so I am capable of responding to a shooting injury. The essentials of a kit should include a tourniquet, bandages, gauze, a nasopharyngeal airway tube, nitrile gloves, surgical tape, a face shield and trauma shears. In my first aid kit I have included a CAT tourniquet, a blood clotting gauze, nitrile gloves and EMT shears. (It will probably be quicker to have these available instead of heading to the shed for the club's first aid kit.)



# THE FUN GALLERY

What do you call a retired cowboy?



"You're gonna be OK, mister, but I can't say the same for your little buddy over there. ...The way I hear it, he's the one that mouthed off to them gunfighters in the first place."

