



South Texas Pistolaros Newsletter



Match Info:

A Place To Shoot

13250 Pleasanton Rd.

San Antonio Texas 78221

Monthly Match Schedule for April 6, 2024

Range gate opens at 9:00 AM

Match Registration from 9:00 to 9:30 AM.

Mandatory Shooters Safety Meeting at 9:30 AM.

Match Starts at 9:45 AM

Pre-register with PRACTISCORE

The President's Message



I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we have been having. We had a great shoot to start the month hope everyone had as much fun as I did. We really missed you Caprock hope you're healing fast and will be coming around again soon. The stages were great so big thumbs up to the creator.

I had mentioned in my last letter how we need to come up with new ideas on how to advertise our club and try to get new members. We had several good ideas presented however in my absent mindedness I forgot to bring up the subject for group involvement. As this was not my intention I will try again in April to bring it up at the start of the morning so we can make some decisions and move on them. Please don't let me forget.

We end this month with the celebration of Easter I hope everyone is safe and around family and friends. For those members dealing with health issues we hope and pray for you and hope you come around soon. Stay safe and stress free, and I look forward to seeing you all in April. God Bless.

PJ Mugwump

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Notes from the Range Master.....Down Range!

!!'m back! Did ya' miss me? Doctors and therapists (physical!) said I could come out to play but I was not allowed to lift more than five pounds. I prepped stages but I will need all the help I can get for set up and tear down. Special thanks to Tabasco Kid for filling in for stage writing. Appears everyone had a good time.

Sorry, I have no play-by-play for last month's shoot but "Cowboy Cosell" will be back to make the call on this coming match.

If you need to limber up some firearms for Comancheria Days, I will hang around after the April match. Won't be able to do much but observe (and laugh if needed) but wanted you to have the opportunity.

On a sad note, for those who remember Italian Jack (a.k.a. John Garbelotti); he passed away unexpectedly recently. Italian Jack only shot with us one season before his health prevented him from continuing to shoot. He thoroughly enjoyed CAS and was hoping to get to where he could come back and shoot, but it was not to be.

Wow....'Nough said...brass is up, targets are up, shooter up! Where's my shooter?
I need some loaders!

March 2024 Treasurer's Report

	Beginning Balance		\$3,944.53
03/02/2024	Deposit (Match Fees)	\$213.00	\$4,157.53
03/02/2024	Debit (A Place to Shoot – Range Fees)	\$(122,64)	\$4,034.89
03/03/2024	Service Charge	\$16.00	\$4,018.89
	Ending Balance		\$4,018.89

With dues payable in May, we should see our balance rise above the level where service fees are waived.

Happy Easter and shoot fast and don't suck at the April Shoot and Comancheria Days!

Regards,

Monterey Plainsman

Treasurer
South Texas Pistoraros



Match Start 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 gate by the pistol range or around the right side of the building.

Matches start at 9:45 AM. Registration will closed by 9:30 AM. 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.

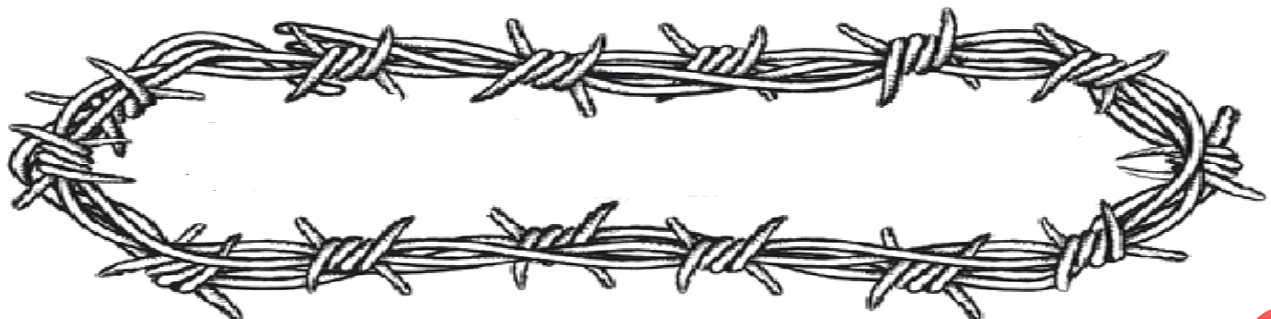
Members having concerns or complaints about range issues shall communicate those issues to the Pistoleros officers.

South Texas Pistoleros Guest Shooter And Liability Waiver Policy

Visiting shooters unknown to club members but 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 has not completed any type of formal firearms training but wishes 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 student has yet to be determined, but a range fee of \$12.95 per person plus the cost of suitable ammunition is to be expected.

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,



The Bean Pot....



Captain Leander H. McNelly Texas Ranger

Jack Coffee Hays is perhaps the most celebrated Texas Ranger Captain for his heroic exploits against the Comanche and the introduction of Colt's Revolving Pistol to the fight. But there were other Ranger Captains that "made a difference" in Texas.

In the years after the Civil War, Texas was beset by a variety of threats, both domestic and foreign. Cross-border raiding, murder, and cattle rustling along the Mexican border was almost a daily, or rather nightly, occurrence. Ranches were burned, and people killed openly. Closer to home, the long-simmering Taylor-Sutton Feud had become a violent, open conflict. Local law enforcement, whether from the hated "Davis Police" or local sheriffs, was powerless to intervene. In the spring of 1874, Captain Leander McNelly was appointed Captain of the newly reconstituted Texas Rangers. His first task was to raise a company and go to DeWitt County to bring order to the chaos. He did that.

McNelly had a long history in Texas. During the Civil War, and at a young age, he served as a "partisan soldier." He later served with the Davis Police. It is a testament to his character and "efficiency" that he moved from the Davis Police to the Texas Rangers with the rank of Captain. He would earn a reputation for his courage, audacity, and cunning in dealing with what was essentially organized crime along the Mexican border.

McNelly had been described as a tall man with a "quietish manner" and the soft voice of a Methodist minister. He developed his Ranger Company into a loyal force capable of taking the fight to the enemy. Prior to his arrival in Brownsville, the small regular force of Negro Infantry were helpless against the fast-moving bandits and rustlers. Formal law enforcement capable of dealing with the situation simply did not exist. The thriving market for beef cattle destined for the Cuban market was the driving force behind the cattle thefts. There was money to be made, with ships waiting just offshore to take the "beeves" to Cuba.

McNelly had long ago learned the value of intelligence. He developed a small cadre of "scouts," to spy on his adversaries. He was not a "lawman," but

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The Bean Pot.....Continued

rather a guerilla soldier thrust into a situation rife with anarchy and terror. It is telling that much of what transpired along the border did not appear in official Ranger activity reports. He dealt with thieves and murderers the same way the Frontier Battalion had dealt with Indians. He was empowered to kill any rustler caught north of the Rio Grande, and no prisoners would be taken.

One of McNelly's most valued "spy" was a Texas-Mexican named Jesus Sandoval, also known as "Casuse." Sandoval had years of experience hanging cattle rustlers and had a price on his head from the Mexican "cartels" of the time. Sandoval could not visit his own home and family for fear of "la venganza." He knew the country, and virtually every inhabitant. McNelly put him on the rolls at \$40.00 per month. And issued him a Colt .45 pistol and a rifle.

On June 5, 1875, McNelly got word of a party of cow thieves who had crossed the river below Brownsville. McNelly took 22 Rangers on patrol to intercept the thieves. He sent out pickets with orders to bring in any suspicious Mexicans for interrogation. It was the practice of the organized cattle thieves to have scouts trail the Rangers, and then report their whereabouts to their bosses. McNelly was determined to beat them at their own game.

"Casuse" was often the chief interrogator. Casuse would make a noose and "stretch" the prisoner a few times to get him to talk. When all of the information was given, Casuse would make a proper hangman's knot, place the prisoner on his horse, and then give the horse's rump a smart whack with the predictable results for the prisoner.

McNelly did not like the hanging of prisoners, even with the violence he had witnessed over the years, but Casuse did. His reasoning was that if the "spy" got loose, he would spread the word and the cattle thieves would retreat across the border. Casuse dealt with a good number of "spies" that year, all of whom received the gift of some good hemp rope.

McNelly learned that a group of seventeen Mexicans and one white man were taking a stolen herd of cattle across the Palo Alto prairie near Brownsville. The raiding party was supposedly composed of notorious crime boss ("General") Cortinas' picked men who had boasted they could best any Rangers they encountered. McNelly was determined to teach them a lesson.

McNelly intended to form his men into line of battle and instructed them to not

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The Bean Pot.....Continued

go forward of the line lest they be hit by “friendly fire.” If the thieves stampeded the herd, each Ranger was to focus on one man. “It makes no difference in what direction he goes, stay with him to a finish. That is all I have to say. Ready! Form in twos. Forward, march!”

McNelly did overtake the bandits, who apparently believed them to be US soldiers and they would easily stand them off as they had done before. Each bandit soon had at least one Ranger on his tail as the fight swirled through the brush for some six miles. The fleeing Mexicans met their end from the Ranger’s six-shooters, and a trail of bodies littered the Palo Alto plain.

At one point, McNelly had chased a bandit who hid himself in the brush. McNelly had one charge left in his pistol. McNelly called for help as his pistol was empty. Hearing this, the Mexican charged McNelly with a large knife only to be met by McNelly’s last shot.

The Rangers lost one man, a young fellow by the name of Berry Smith. He had enlisted so he could be with his father in McNelly’s company. McNelly ensured that Berry Smith was given full military honors upon their return to Brownsville. He forbade the Rangers “a drop of anything” until after the funeral. He had one Ranger wear a captured sombrero as “a fair warning to all that bandits should not cross the Rio Grande.”

The Rangers recovered twelve horses, guns, gear, and 216 head of cattle with different brands. McNelly returned the branded cattle to their rightful owners.

**Source: Lone Star – T.R. Feherenbach
Beans Ahgin**



Gun show Schedule

Local Shows

No Gun Shows Scheduled

Area Shows

Apr 6th – 7th, 2024
Belton Gun Show
Cadence Bank Center
formerly Bell County Expo Center
301 West Loop 121
Belton, TX 76513
(817) 732-119

Apr 13th – 14th, 2024
Hill Country Gun Show
Hill Country Veterans Center
411 Meadow View Lane
Kerrville, TX 78028
(830) 315-3100

Area Shows

Apr 20th – 21st, 2024
Dripping Springs Gun Show
Dripping Springs Ranch Park
1042 Event Center Drive
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
(512) 293-6663

Apr 27th – 28th, 2024
Kerrville Gun & Knife Show
Happy State Bank Expo Hall
3785 Highway 27
Kerrville, TX 7802
(830) 285-0575

Apr 27th – 28th, 2024
The Real Belton Gun Show Bell
County Expo Center
301 W Loop 121
Belton, TX 76513
(713) 724-8881



To pre-register for the **April 6, 2024** match, you can go to **PRACTISCORE** and sign up for the match using the instructions attached, or you can email 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

6/7/85



"Well, there it goes again. ... Every night when we bed down, that confounded harmonica starts in."

**WE DON'T STOP PLAYING BECAUSE WE GROW OLD;
WE GROW OLD BECAUSE WE STOP PLAYING.**



EVANS STACHEVICH ANA & IO ARTIST



**Check out the club's
revised website
@
www.stxpistoleros.net
Or scan here**



HAPPY EASTER