



South Texas Pistolaros Newsletter



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Merry Christmas to all you cowboys and cow-girls. I hope Santa brings you all the cowboy gear you wanted. I did pretty well last year so I didn't ask for much this year. Thanks to all you brave souls who came out to the December match. The day began cold and rainy but did start to clear up in the afternoon.

Last month I gave you excerpt from the last chapter of the book titled Texas Gunslingers (Bill O'Neal, 2014). I received favorable feedback on that so this month is an excerpt from the Introduction.

"Texas made an enormous contribution to gunfighter lore. The revolving pistol, key weapon of gunfighters, evolved in Texas. Early Texas Rangers were desperate for a repeating weapon that could be used from horseback against mounted Comanche warriors, adapted Samuel Colt's little five shooter revolvers. Soon Texas Rangers secured improvements for Colt's pistols, which became larger, more powerful six-runs. Armed with at least two of these six-shooters, mounted Rangers could fire 12 rounds without reloading. In Texas, the US Army learned from Ranger tactics how to combat horseback warriors. In the 1850s, a US cavalry regiment was organized and stationed in Texas, and each trooper carried a cap-and-ball six-shooter, Soon, these tactics and weapons would be utilized by cavalry units against horseback warriors all over the West.

During the 1850s, these same six-shooters began to be used by Texans against each other. Ben Thompson of Austin became the first gunfighter of note, and many more Texas men began to blaze away at each other with deadly intent and increasing skill. Most Western states and territories saw widespread gunplay for only a brief number of years before law and order prevailed: Kansas, for example, during the cattle-town era; New Mexico during the murderous Lincoln County War; and Oklahoma during its lawless heyday as an outlaw refuge. But in Texas, gunslingers first unlimbered six-shooters against each other during the 1850s and continued to blaze away until past the turn of the century.

Match Info:

A Place To Shoot

13250 Pleasanton Rd.

San Antonio Texas

78221

Monthly Match Schedule for January 4, 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.

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A survey of 256 Western gunfighters and 589 shootouts in which they participated (Encyclopedia of Western Gunfighters, University of Oklahoma Press, 1979) reveals that Texans dominated the tally sheet of frontier pistoleers. More of these gunfights—nearly 160—occurred in Texas than in any other state or territory. No other Western state or territory was the arena of even half as many shootings. In rating gunfighters according to the number of killings each, as well as the total shootouts participated in, 10 of the deadliest 15 spent most of their careers in Texas. The top 15, with those from Texas talicized, were Jim Miller, John Wesley Hardin, Harvey Logan, Wild Bill Hickok, John Selman, Dallas Stoudenmire, and King Fisher, Billy the Kid, Ben Thompson, Henry Brown, John Slaughter, Cullen Baker, Clay Allison, Jim Courtright, and John Hughes. More gunfighters were born in Texas than in any other state or territory, and more died in Texas.”

Next month I'll begin to highlight those from Texas. See you on the firing line, next year.

Colonel Colt Winchester
Colonel Colt Winchester



DECEMBER 2024 TREASURER' REPORT

Beginning Balance		\$5,333.15
WB Deposit	\$195.00	
WB Range Fees	(-\$113.79)	
Deposit	\$30.00	
Range fees	(-\$61.32)	
Ending Balance		\$5,425.13

Tabasco Kid
Tabasco Kid
Treasurer





NOTES FROM THE RANGE MASTER - DOWN RANGE!

Can you believe that 2024 has come and gone? Don't know about you but I think 2025 is going to be an interesting time for us all. I hope that it brings good times and good luck to us all. I also hope Santa Claus was good to you. I can remember as a young 'un, one of my favorite Christmas presents was a brick of .22LR. A new batch of .22 ammo meant the prairie dogs in the south pasture had better look out. One of my most enjoyable afternoons growing up was spent dispatching pasture poodles (as we affectionately referred to the little vermin). How times change - now I hope that Santa brings me a brick of small pistol primers! I promise to leave the prairie dogs alone! I would ask for a couple of pounds of Trail Boss, but I think that's out of the grasp of even the Jolly Old Elf. Maybe next Christmas.

We had eight shooters brave the unpredictable weather and shoot in December. We had a suggestion by Newt Ritter to give shooters an option on the bonus on Stage 2 - shoot the horse for 5 second bonus or the little buffalo for a ten second bonus. (This will come into play later...but you will have to wait.) -

Beauregard Beard won the match with a score of 128.44 averaging 1.06 seconds-a-shot after stripping bonuses, misses and procedural. He could have taken a nap and still won the match since the second-place shooter, yours truly, came in at a blistering 244.08 (234.08 without the bonus...again this will come in later...don't you love the suspense!). My average was 2.10 - a full second more per shot than BB! The only bragging rights I have is that I shot clean and that no other faster shooters showed up (thank you!). The real interesting fight was for third and fourth (and possibly second). On the books, Latigo Lee took third with 264.73 (averaging 2.24 a shot) and Colonel Colt Winchester ended up in fourth with a 269.59 -because M and P's (and bonus choices) count. Poor Colonel Colt had a rough time and had several misses. Had he had one less miss; he could have snuck into third with a 264.59 (by 0.014 seconds). Now for the rest of the story. CCW did get a bonus but chose the horse. If he had chosen to shoot the buffalo instead of the horse and hit it (told you it was coming); he could have taken third with the same 264.59.

Should da, could da, would da's. Now to sprinkle a little salt on the wound. Stripping CCW's B, M, and P's would have given him a score of 239.59 seconds - only five seconds behind me - averaging 2.16 seconds a shot. (.006 seconds a shot difference than me!) ...and that's why accuracy still plays an important part in our game.

Thank you so much to Colonel Colt Winchester, Thunder Mountain, Newt Ritter, Latigo Lee, Tabasco Kid and Long John Beard for the help with set up. You guys are worth every penny I pay you.

'Nough said...brass is up, targets are up,...hey, where did you come from? Shooter, please wait to come forward until you are called....okay, guess is shooter up!



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.

To pre-register for the **January 4, 2025** 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

GUN SHOW SCHEDULE

Local Gun Shows

NO GUN SHOWS SCHEDULE

Area Gun Shows

**Jan 3rd – 5th, 2025
Round Rock Gun Show
Round Rock Embassy Suites
Conference Center
270 Bass Pro Dr
Round Rock, TX 78665
(210) 844-9599**

**Jan 4th – 5th, 2025
The Hallettsville Gun and Knife Show
Knights of Columbus
321 US Highway 77 S,
Hallettsville, TX 77964
(713) 474-3900**

**Jan 4th – 5th, 2025
The Austin – Leander Gun Show
BIGGEST GUN SHOW IN AUSTIN!
Premier Athletic Complex
8220 183A Toll Rd
Leander, TX 7864
(774) 486-7469 ext. 774-GUN-SHOW**

**Jan 4th – 5th, 2025
The Bastrop Gun Show
Bastrop Convention & Exhibit Center
1408 Chestnut St
Bastrop, TX 78602
(325) 205-2688**

**Jan 11th – 12th, 2025
The Floresville Gun Show
Floresville Event Center
600 TX-97
Floresville, TX 78114
(774) 486-7469 ext. 774-GUN-SHOW**

**Jan 11th – 12th, 2025
The Belton Gun Show
Cadence Bank Center
formerly Bell County Expo Center
301 West Loop 121
Belton, TX 76513
(817) 732-1194**



**Jan 11th – 12th, 2025
The Dripping Springs Gun Show
Dripping Springs Ranch Park
1042 Event Center Drive
Dripping Springs, TX 78620
(325) 205-2688**



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

The Bean Pot.....



Party City

Prior to the intervention of such luminaries as General John Pershing, San Antonio had a well-deserved reputation as the host to gambling and prostitution. Famous outlaws often sought refuge and entertainment at places like Fanny Porter's bordello. It was not until the 1920's that San Antonio's civic leadership decided to change that perception. It helped that General Pershing placed the city "off limits" to the thousands of military personnel at Ft. Sam Houston due to the soldiers being targeted by robbers, prostitutes, and gaming houses.

There were many establishments in downtown San Antonio dedicated to relieving people of their earnings. There was even a "Gentleman's Guide" published annually to aid those new to the city. A special train ran from Austin to San Antonio which brought people to San Antonio with the return trip guaranteed to get you back to Austin in time for Church with the family.

On the corner of Main Plaza and Soledad Street was the Jack Harris Vaudeville Theater and gambling hall. It was most famous as the place where Ben Thompson and King Fisher were ambushed and killed. Adjoining the Jack Harris property was the Plaza House operated by "Rowdy Joe" Lowe, Kate Lowe, and Joel Collins. The Plaza House offered a salon, variety theater, and gambling house.

Next to the Plaza House was the Crystal Saloon and gambling house. Adjoining it was the White Elephant, not to be confused with yet another gambling hall known as the Black Elephant. The Black Elephant was located on the northwest corner of West Nueva and South Flores Street. At the corner of Military Plaza and Trevino Street was an establishment known as The Arlington. Nearby was the Blue Front, home of one of the famous tragedies of the day. The actresses Georgia Drake was acknowledged as one of the most beautiful women who ever came to San Antonio. She was killed during an exchange of gunfire among the patrons with a badly wounded soldier as the sole survivor.

There were more gambling houses along what was then known as Acquia Street. Near Houston Street was the Silver King which replaced the Fashion Theater on the west side of Military Plaza. The Silver King was likely the last such establishment of its kind to be demolished during the so-called Reformation. Also on the west side of Military Plaza near North Flores Street was the Occidental which was owned by Tom Comerford.

On the other side of "The Creek" (San Pedro Creek) was The Star on the north side of Commerce Street midway between the creek and Laredo Street. The Washington was on the northeast corner of Laredo and Commerce Street. The Bella Union was on the northeast corner of Dolorosa and Laredo Street. There was even a "house open to negroes, The Grey Mule, on the northwest corner of Commerce and Laredo. All are now long gone.

- Source: San Antonio Express files.
- Beans Ahgin

OUR LAST SHOOT FOR THE YEAR



OUR LAST SHOOT FOR THE YEAR



SEE YA IN 2025