



## ALAMO MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB

[www.amlgc.org](http://www.amlgc.org)

# SMOKE SIGNAL

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MAY NEWSLETTER

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### Observing Memorial Day 28 May 2018

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, Arlington VA.

#### *Range News:*

After a fresh Spring and some rain, we are now fully encountering Texas early-onset Summer, to be shortly followed by Texas Super Summer. First week of June promises temperatures in the triple digits.

Hydration is mighty important, so do bring enough water with you during range visits. Drinking more water will help with the heat, and if yer eyes are moist, your eyesight will be that much better and improve accuracy. Be sure to take breaks and rest to avoid excess fatigue.

To repeat last month's safety precaution, there are venomous reptiles underfoot, namely, rattlesnakes. As long term residents of Texas might have told you, or you may have observed first hand, these critters can *lose* their rattle! They can also slither into under slung spare tires on trucks and sports utility vehicles and "hitch a ride." So do be careful about the snakes. It's not just our private range, it's a bit of a wildlife refuge!

\*There will be a **skirmish** event in **mid-July**—Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup>—that does not appear on our itemized list of events! Given the expected heat, full uniforms need not be worn.

Recall as well that there will be another center-fire, smokeless or black powder cartridge breech loader and/or repeater event, viz., a “Center-fire Match!” in *August*. This one will start a bit earlier, and it is open to guests of club members! Details of both these events will be forthcoming, and also go up on the AMLGC.com website soon!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mark your calendars!

- **June 3rd** – Cross-sticks match, targets: 2 bull, 5 bull, 50 yards; 1 bull cut up buffalo, 100 yards, 25 yard pistol, 4H Shoot 2PM Sunday
- **June 10th** – 22 fun shoot!
- **June 24th** – Black powder cartridge rifle match
- **June 5th thru 10th** – State Muzzle Loading Championships
- **July 1st** – Watermelon shoot (watermelons are prizes!), animal targets, 25 and 50 yards, 25 yard pistol, 4H Shoot 2PM.
- **July 22nd** – Black powder cartridge rifle match
- **August 5th** – Bench shoot, 50 & 100 yards, round bulls, 25 yard Pistol, 4H Shoot 2PM
- **August 11th** – 25 & 50 yard silhouette
- **August 25th** – ACW Re-enactors shoot 9AM to 1PM
- **August 26th** – Black powder cartridge rifle
- **September 2nd** – Animal targets, 25 & 50 yards, 25 yard pistol
- **September 9th** – Out of the pouch shoot
- **September 23rd** – Black powder cartridge rifle
- **October 7th** – 25 and 50 yard surprise targets, 25 yard pistol
- **October 13th** – 22 shoot, rifle and pistol, any sights
- **October 20th & 21st** – Civil War Skirmish
- **October 28th** – Black powder cartridge

## May monthly match scores

### Rifle

#### A Class

1st Dennis Rich	144	
2nd Clif Denny	102	
3rd Leo Broesche	100	First time shooter!

#### B Class

1st John Burke, Jr.	102 1x
2nd John Burke, Sr.	83 1x
3rd Ian Straus	65

No C Class

### Black Powder Cartridge Rifle

March	No April Shoot
Dennis Rich	12 of 40, 3 @200, 5 @ 300, and 4 @

385 meters

Rich Beardsley	7 of 40, all 7 at 385 m
Ron Ijans	7 of 40, all 7 at 200 & 300m
Wes Learma	6 of 40, 3 at 200, 3 at 300m
Jim Tondry	4 of 40, 3 at 200, 1 at 385m
Ed Meeting	4 of 40, 3 at 200, 1 at 385m
Mike Lowe	2 of 40, 1 at 200, 1 at 300m

No one showed up for the May 12 fun shoot

### Pistol

#### A Class

1st Clif Denny 86 1x  
2nd Dennis Rich 80 1x

B Class

1st Rich Beardsley 66  
2nd Greg Delk 44  
3rd John Burke, Sr. 27

[Source: images in public domain. Info from blog *Firearms History, Technology & Development* Thurs. 8 Mar 2012 accessed 26 May 2018]

“There are some other variations of the back position, such as the Fulton position, invented by a Henry Fulton, who was a civil engineer and later served in the Civil War as a lieutenant of the 12th Regiment New York National Guard, rising up in the ranks to become a Major.



MAJOR HENRY FULTON IN POSITION.

The Fulton Position.

[Source: Henry Hall, Ottmar Mergenthaler, *The Tribune Book of Open Air Sports* (NY: The Tribune Assn., 1887), 387]: “At the long ranges for target practice (for instance at 800 to 1,000 yards) the best results are obtained by lying upon the back, crossing the legs in front, sometimes putting the gun-sling under the left leg and resting the barrel of the piece across one leg or in the place where the legs cross. The hands can grasp the piece about in the same manner as in the standing position, but as the butt cannot be placed against the shoulder it rests over and upon it.

In the ‘Texas Grip’ invented by Sergeant Tabler, of the 22d U. S. Infantry, the gun sling is under the left leg above the knee, that leg resting on the right, the right hand so placed that the trigger is pressed with the thumb, the left arm behind the head and the hand grasping the top of the butt. The head is raised and takes an excellent and steady sight along the barrel. ‘The Texas Grip.’”

“In the Fulton position, the shooter lies on his back and draws his knees in a V-shape and crosses his legs. This allows him to position his rifle barrel between the crossed legs. The left arm is then positioned behind the shooter's neck, thus allowing him to support his head; and the left hand grabs the butt of the rifle. While this looks a bit unusual, bear in mind that this gentleman won the first Wimbledon Cup in 1875 and was part of the US team that won the first international rifle shooting match ever (the original Palma match) in 1876. The National Rifle Association also awards the Henry Fulton trophy, named after the man, annually since 1987 to the highest scorer of the team match in the World Long Range Shooting Championship.”



Left: “Feliz cumpleaños San Antonio de Béxar!”  
1 through 5 May 1718—1 through 5 May 2018

A previously identified site watered by the San Pedro arroyo/creek and the Yanaguana/San Antonio River was at long last settled by presidial soldiers from New Spain and Franciscan friars intent on building Missions among the local Indians. The Presidio, built around what is now San Antonio’s Military Plaza began as a series of thatched huts.

Mounted troopers on the frontier of New Spain would have used a lance, a model 1728 broadsword or a shorter espada ancha, and carried a Moorish-derived *adarga* or targe made of leather, useless against firearms, but protective against arrows. A heavy leather *cuera* or protective sleeveless jerkin or buff coat could also be worn.

A ventral cartridge box of leather or wood and leather held paper cartridges for the smooth-bore, flint *llave de patilla*, muzzle-loading carbine called an *escopeta* or *escopetón*. Such carbines often had an unusually shaped Catalan stock. In addition, a pair of pistols was also frequently issued and carried. Permanent settlement of Bexar turned 300 years old this May.

*Canvassing opinion*—Did you acquire an ex-Soviet 1891/30 Mosin-Nagant rifle in 7.62x54mm rimmed Russian caliber that has windage adjustment issues? These decidedly antiquated 19<sup>th</sup>-century magazine rifles constituted the “last WWII surplus” arms sold here in the United States, because these obsolete rifles had been stockpiled by the USSR until collapse in 1991. These obsolete-when-manufactured repeating rifles have several idiosyncrasies including no easy windage-adjustment, the semi-permanently fixed-bayonet that now no longer fits, and some other vexing issues.

Secretary and editor Dave Carlson now finds himself in possession of an actual Moscow-produced armorer’s windage adjustment tool. If anyone wants to correct windage on the M91/30 *vintovka* perhaps we might arrange a “clinic” for members and their guests on an appropriate windless day at the range? If interested, please contact the Secretary directly via email using the subject heading “Mosin clinic.” On the appointed clinic day, you’ll need a rest, the quirky Mosin-in-question, four or five cartridges for the initial group, and an additional four or five to inspect the clinicians’s handiwork, plus additional rimmed Russian ammunition for any additional shooting at positions 8 through 13 on the 100 yard range, or further out. Thank you for your interest.