



ALAMO MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB

www.amlgc.org

SMOKE SIGNAL NEWSLETTER

20 June-July 18

Happy INDEPENDENCE DAY 4th of JULY!

Range News

Rifle Raffle—Congratulations to the Margold family! Sunday 1 July 2018 the raffle drawing for a Ruger 10/.22 self-loading rifle, the take-down model, and its carrying pack resulted in Roblin Margold holding the winning ticket! Thank you very much to all participants. Photos will be forthcoming in the August Smoke Signal newsletter.

Complaints department:

A print version of the *Smoke Signal* newsletter is long overdue to those members who refuse to get the electronic version, or consult the PDF on the AMLGC website. My apologies. As secretary, and thus in charge of that, I will strive to get the mail out much more promptly, and ensure it goes out monthly.

It has been brought to the attention of the Board of Directors (BoD) that several club members object to the \$10 dollar guest fee. As AMLGC members know, this measure began in discussions this time last year among the BoD, and after passage of a motion introduced by the Vice President to revamp the guest policy in light of increasing expenses at the range, was implemented at the start of this year, January 2018. The quandary is members have paid their dues already, completed the *lien release* for insurance purposes, and understand that membership in the club includes bringing two guests. These guests, in turn, are required to sign an insurance *lien release* indicating who the member who brought them is, sign it, and then *pay an additional fee* of ten dollars. This additional fee is assessed because the BoD has to pay something like \$5k to replace the bullet stop/berms, cover costs like garbage removal, maintenance, water, and so on, even as the club relies on generous and unremunerated volunteer labor. The Board does not consider a \$10 fee onerous, but it rankles several AMLGC members who have long been in the club because there is no provision for a target or other amenities included. So, for example, *A Place to Shoot* charges \$10.95 for adults, and ½ price for children/minors, for which a target and a loaner of “eyes and ears” protection are provided too. As a profit-seeking business, *P2S* boasts 72 rifle bays, pistol, rifle, archery, and shotgun facilities, a full service gun shop, competitively priced classes, and rental guns to boot. *Lone Star* in Converse is similar, albeit with shooting on steel plates, and charges the same fee for adults and \$6.95 for youth/youngsters. *Bracken* charges \$6 per target (4-bulls-eyes) and \$4 per firearm. *Bullet Hole* has a five dollar card and \$11 per person, plus extra for additional targets. The argument brought to the BoD’s attention appears to be that there is no added value for the ten dollar fee. Target frames are often missing or broken. At least one member reported being unable to find even a target backer that was in usable condition. The Board simply wants to ensure the upkeep of the range facility we all share, and expects a

contribution from non-members who are brought out as guests. Costs keep going up. Development is encroaching. Ours is a private club for members and does not operate a public range, but the security, safety, and maintenance requirements are certainly the same as the bigger public ranges in the locality.

Obituary—The Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club extends its membership’s condolences to the family of Thomas E. McCord (* A: 19 Nov 1933 Robstown, TX—Ω: 7 June 2018 Lytle, TX) of Somerset Texas, who passed away Thursday 7 June 2018:

http://www.hurleyfuneralhome.com/memsol.cgi?user_id=2111416

http://www.memorialsolutions.com/sitemaker/memsol_data/1968/2111416/2111416_1968.pdf

Tom did a tremendous amount of work and generated much support for the AMLGC over the years, and his loss is greatly mourned. He was a good friend, solid and reliable sustainer, and highly knowledgeable organizer of events, shoots, and competitions over many years. Speaking personally, if I may, long before I was on the AMLGC Board and just starting out, he really helped me and my wife with muzzle-loading and other shooting sports. I first found out about the sad news of his passing from a message by Mr. Benavides, a long-time AMLGC member.

From the Hurley Funeral Home obituary: “Thomas is survived by his wife of 32 and a half years, Rita Ann McCord; Sister, Maxine Barnes of Tallahassee, Florida; Sons, Thomas E. McCord, Jr. of San Antonio Texas; John Carson McCord of Houston, Texas; James Lawrence McCord of Somerset, Texas; Bradley Gus McCord of Dallas, Texas; Step-Sons Curtis Jackson of Buda, Texas; Paul Jackson of Huntsville, Texas; Allen Reid of Peachtree City, Georgia; Step-Daughters, Kathy Jackson Brient of Missouri City, Texas, Melissa Willis of La Coste, Texas; Twenty-Two Grandchildren and Fourteen Great-Grandchildren.”

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8 April 2018 Rifle Scores

Rich Beardsley 110	1 st place A class
Clif Denny 75	2 nd place A class
Ian Straus 90	1 st place B class
John Burke, Sr. 80	2 nd place B class
Gary Quandt 65	3 rd place B class

June Scores

Rifle

A Class

1 st Bill Knipscher	178 1x
2 nd Dennis Rich	155
3 rd Clif Denny	145

B Class

1 st Leo Broesche	159
2 nd Greg Delk	119
3 rd John Moore	115

No C Class

Pistol

A Class

1st Clif Denny 84

B class

1st John Burke Sr. 66

2nd Rich Beardsley 64

3rd Ian Straus 61

Top Gun Scores 2018

Rifle

1st Dennis Rich 937 5x

2nd Clif Denny 792 3x

3rd Mike Lowe 661 1x

4th John Burke Sr. 621

5th Rich Beardsley 571 1x

Pistol

1st Clif Denny 328 2x

2nd Ian Straus 228

3rd John Burke Sr. 226

July Scores

July 1, 2018

Rifle Match

A Class

1st Frank Collins 155

2nd Leo Broesche 130

3rd Dennis Rich 125

B Class

1st John Burke Jr. 136

2nd Greg Delk 112

3rd John Burke Sr. 108

No C Class

Pistol Match

A Class

1st Clif Denny 60

B Class

1st Greg Delk 76

2nd John Burke Sr. 65

3rd John Burke Jr. 60

Top Gun Rifle (total of matches shot no drops)

1st Dennis Rich 1062 5x

2nd Clif Denny 792 3x

3rd John Burke Sr. 729 2x

4th Mike Lowe 661 1x

4th Ian Straaus 616 3x

Top Gun Pistol (no drops)

1st Clif Denny 328

2nd Dennis Rich 294

3rd John Burk Sr. 291

4th Ian Straus 225

5th Greg Delk 225

Upcoming AMLGC shoots and matches:

- **July 1st** – Watermelon shoot, animal targets, 25 and 50 yards, 25 yard pistol, 4H Shoot 2PM
- **Thanks for a tasty tuna salad sandwich, salad, and succotash lunch to Donna and Ian Straus!** And the watermelons were very welcome in the triple-digit heat!
- **July 14th & 15th** – Civil War Skirmish—get your skirmish on! Saturday 14th 9am-10am individual scores. 10-10:30am range prep for smooth-bore team match. 10:30 to noon(ish)—smooth-bore match. Sunday 15th July team rifle musket 9am to noon—pigeon boards, flower pots/bells, tiles at 50 yards, sheet rock/dry wall and cannon/cannoneer steel targets @ 100 yards. Note: due to the anticipated heat, bring plenty of water and stay hydrated. Neither uniforms nor jaguar-skin pants (see Captain Samuel J. Richardson, Co. F, 2nd Partisan Rangers/Texas Cavalry/Texas Mounted Rifles below) need be worn.



Capt. Samuel J. Richardson, Co.F 2nd TX Cav/ Partisan rangers. With spectacles, carbine, and jaguar-skin trousers with matching holsters.

- **July 22nd** – Black powder cartridge match
- **August 5th** – Bench shoot, 50 & 100 yards, round bulls, 25 yard Pistol, 4H Shoot 2PM
- **August 11th** – 25 & 50 yard silhouette
- **SATURDAY 18th AUGUST**—Center-fire match open to guests and members:
 - 8:30am sign-up and set-up. 9am: practice begins. 9:30am: match begins!
 - **Categories**—1) hunting rifles, of the general type you carry afield; 2) Modern service-rifle equivalent, e.g. AR 15 5.56mm/.223”; 3) “unlimited rifles” within AMLGC caliber restrictions with targets at 300 and 400 yards. Entry fee is \$10.1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize ribbons to be awarded in each category.
- **August 25th** – U.S. CW Reenactors shoot 9AM to 1PM



- **August 26th** – Black powder cartridge match
- **September 2nd** – Animal targets, 25 & 50 yards, 25 yard pistol
- **September 9th** – Out-of-the-pouch shoot
- **September 23rd** – Black powder cartridge
- **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

- **October 4th thru 7th** – Brady Fall Prize shoot
- **November 4th** – Turkey shoot, cross sticks, animal targets, 50 and 100 yards, 25 yard Pistol
- **November 18th** – Black powder cartridge
- **December 2nd** – Holiday shoot, round bull targets, 25 & 50 yards, Knife shoot, 25 yard pistol
- **December 9th** – Black powder cartridge



Henry Howe, *The Great West: Containing Narratives of the Most Important and Interesting Events in Western History—Remarkable Individual Adventures—Sketches of Frontier Life—Descriptions of Natural Curiosities* Vol. 1 (Cincinnati: H.H., 1859), “Kentucky Sports” 273-274:

Barking of squirrels is delightful sport, and in my opinion, requires a greater degree of accuracy than any other. I first witnessed this manner of procuring squirrels while near the town of Frankfort. The performer was the celebrated Daniel Boone. We walked out together and followed the rocky margins of the Kentucky River, until we reached a piece of flat land, thickly covered with black walnuts, oaks, and hickories. As the general *mast* was a good one that year, squirrels were seen gamboling on every tree around us. My companion, a stout, hale, athletic man, dressed in a homespun hunting-shirt, bare legged and moccasined, carried a long and heavy rifle, which, as he was loading it, he said had proved efficient in all of his former undertakings, and which he hoped would not fail on this occasion, as he felt proud to show me his skill. The gun was wiped, the powder measured, the ball patched with six hundred thread linen, and a charge sent home with a hickory rod. We moved not a step from the place, for the squirrels were so thick that it was unnecessary to go after them. Boone pointed to one of these animals, which had observed us and was crouched on a tree about fifty paces distant, and bade me mark well where the ball should hit. He raised his piece gradually until the *bead* or sight of the barrel was brought to a line with the spot he intended to hit. The whiplike report resounded through the woods and along the hills in repeated echoes. Judge of my surprise, when I perceived that the ball had hit the piece of bark immediately underneath the squirrel and shivered it into splinters; the concussion produced by which had killed the animal and sent it whirling through the air, as if it had been blown up by the explosion of a powder magazine. Boone kept up his firing, and before many hours had elapsed, we had procured as many squirrels as we wished. Since that first interview with the veteran Boone, I have seen many other individuals perform the same feat.





Source: The Adriana and Edwin W. Bitter Family Collection

http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_438557

Readers of the March-April issue noted that Sweden's navy and coastal armed forces were not alone in uniting a firearm with bladed weapons. Above: The Smithsonian Nat'l. Museum of American History notes the .54 caliber U.S. Navy Elgin patent percussion "cutlass pistol" made by C.B. Allen of Springfield, MA (pictured) and the Morrill, Mossman and Blair firm produced about 150 of these arms, making it the first percussion handgun ever officially used by the U.S. armed forces, and also the only such knife-pistol used in U.S. service. Some of these apparently were with the Wilkes South Sea Expedition. Folk hero James Bowie's "Sandbar Fight" of 1827, the Texas Revolution of 1835-1836, and Bowie's death among the Alamo's defenders did much to popularize such "Bowie knives." At the Smithsonian website above, the combination scabbard for the 11-in. blade and holster for the 5-in. barrel may be viewed. The ramrod of the handgun was attached to the scabbard.