



## ALAMO MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB **SMOKE SIGNAL**



### Boo! Happy Halloween! OCTOBER 2018 Newsletter

[Photo source: *Martha Stewart* and the Robbie Burns birthplace museum] Demonstration of the original Irish/ Scots turnip-based “tumshie” or “neep lantren” for the ancient pagan “Samhain” that became “Alhallows Eve” and after Christianization of tribal Europe and Central Mexico, the All Saints Day or *Día de los muertos*. Where in ancient times large bonfires were lit and dancers in “guise” warded off evil spirits, venerated the dead, and thwarted death itself, today children “trick or treat” by the light of pumpkin-based jack-o’-lanterns, visit grave sites with family, visit parties, build *ofrendas* or altars in memory of loved ones, and exchange treats. While carving pumpkins into funny or spooky faces with small knives is the frequent North American custom, the Scots language centre urges people to give “howkin a neep” a try, using a spoon, knife, or even chisel by the light of the full moon. The “howkit flesh” of the turnip can be reserved for use in “stovies” — as stew is called in Lowland Scots from the Spanish word “*estofado*,” in soup, or for pelting unwanted “guisers” (from disguised) trick-or-treaters! Have a safe and fun Halloween!

#### *Range News:*

We had a very, very sodden, damp September and October, that is for sure! The ample rain was good news for the aquifers, creeks, and vegetation, but unfortunately also resulted in considerable flooding in Central Texas and the attendant damage and destruction. Our range saw a great increase in brush, shrubbery, grasses and other

plants to the degree that the range was nigh unusable for a good part of the month. After receipt of some complaints, there were a few volunteers who very graciously and kindly went out and cleared portions of the range. This is the sort of thankless task that volunteers often do, receiving a credit or work chit for a lot of labor and grief. Live cartridges pop off, damaging mowers and other equipment! The matter was discussed by your Board of Directors, and if things get away from us, we will certainly entertain actually hiring someone in to do the yard and landscaping. For now, we continue to rely on the work of volunteers.

Two work parties were organized, the first of these took place during the perfect Fall weather of Saturday 27 Oct. Unfortunately, word went out late, so it remains to be seen how many volunteers showed. That first work party was for the landscaping. The second work party, scheduled for 8 December, will focus primarily on fixing the roofs of the range out buildings, woodwork, etc. If you decide to come help out with maintenance, please be sure to bring out appropriate tools, work gloves, water, protective gear or eyewear, etc.

Recall that this is the time of the year when you should receive a mail out invitation for the AMLG Club's yearly/ annual business meeting! It'll be held this year, which is to say, next year, on 5 January 2019 at the Grady's Barbecue on Bandera Road. Plan to show up about 6pm or so to get your food ordered—if you plan to have dinner—since the President will call the meeting to order at about 7pm. Last year we kept things to just an hour, concluding the meeting at a bit after 8pm.

#### October scores Rifle, Pistol, and Top Gun

##### A class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Clif Denny	132	1x
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Frank Collins	116	

##### B Class

1 <sup>st</sup>	John Burke Jr.	133	1x
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Burke Sr.	133	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Gary Quandt	133	[No kidding! All three B-class shooters

scored 133 points! Disentanglement and disaggregation of the scores so that one could be proclaimed "1<sup>st</sup>" was made by the "X." The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions was settled with fisticuffs... Naw! The tightest group is the method for determining the "tie breaker."

No C Class

#### Pistol

##### A Class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Clif Deny	86
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### B class

1 <sup>st</sup>	Jon Burke Sr.	74	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Moore	68	1x
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ian Straus		62

### Top Gun Scores 2018

Total of all matches shot to date

#### Rifle

1 <sup>st</sup>	Dennis Rich	1226	5x
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Clif Denny	1190	6x
3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Burke Sr.	1093	4x
4 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Quandt	948	4x
5 <sup>th</sup>	Rich Beardsley	858	2x

#### Pistol

1 <sup>st</sup>	Clif Denny	578	3x
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ian Straus	456	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dennis Rich	448	
4 <sup>th</sup>	John Burke Sr.	424	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Greg Delk	355	

In addition, some members went up to Brady for the Fall Prize shoot! Kudos and Congratulations!

There was also a Civil War skirmish held the weekend of 20 and 21 October. The smooth-bore portion on Saturday was scrubbed due to low turnout. Instead, the smooth bore shooters shot a few practice rounds, and then got to work making up target materials for the next day's *rifle musket* team match. Team A: Bill K, Dennis R, Greg D, Gary Q. Team B: Frank Collins, Doug Collins, Dave C., Alan. Some folks came out to watch too. Team B won!

Absent the Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Shoot today, that the secretary stayed home from to get out the October newsletter, here are the remaining

#### 2018 Shooting meets and club matches for the year:

- **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

5 Jan 2019: The yearly business meeting.

#### Black powder firearms and Texas History:

As folks know, the newsletter recently reviewed the early colonial-era firearms used on the Texas frontier. The Texas Revolution was primarily fought with flintlock, muzzle-loading firearms, smooth bore and rifled. The development of firearm

technology and Texas are closely intertwined and long have been. Early settlers and pioneers had to have firearms for hunting and protection of live stock.

One of the first “shots fired in anger” of multi-shot firearms was the so-called Battle of Medina Pass where Texas Rangers used .36 and .40 caliber five-shot Colt Paterson revolvers in battle with Shoshonean-speaking Nermernuh/ Comanche warriors, armed with the lance, bow, and single-shot trade guns or captured earlier-model firearms. Some of the Colt Paterson revolvers, in turn, were issued out to the Texian Navy, and used in naval actions in the Gulf of Campeche by officers and naval boarding parties. News of the Texian use of the inventions back in New England stimulated Samuel Colt to design his .36 cal. six-shooter, the Model 1851 Colt Navy, with a roll engraving on the cylinder showing the clash of the Texian and Mexican Centralist fleets.

Here are some images of the Colt Paterson revolver:



Note that as a single-action revolver, when the hammer was cocked, a notch at the front served as the rear sight—a feature retained by Colt revolvers well through the War of the Rebellion/ War between the States—and absent a trigger guard, when the revolver was cocked, the trigger would fall into place so the hand gun could be fired.



*Colt Texas Paterson .40 cal. 1836*

Colt Texas Paterson .40 cal. 1836



Early revolvers offered by Colt tended to fit into the pattern of .31 (or even .28!) caliber for “pocket” models, .36 for “belt” and “Navy” models, .44 for “belt” and “Army” models, and as we’ll see in November’s newsletter, a huge “Walker” “Dragoon” model for carriage on the pommel of a saddle by mounted troopers.