



# Smoke Signal

Newsletter of the Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club, est. 1964

20

February/ March

20



Today, as of this writing, is International Women's Day, and February was Black History Month, and in a few weeks 21 March 2020 we'll be having our first Civil War skirmish event... So, fortuitously the Smithsonian Institute digitized a few million images, including this one of Harriet Tubman (aka. Araminta "Minty" Ross, 1822-1913) who embodies all three, seen here with her Hawken rifle and a tarred haversack in front of an army camp when she served as a spy. She suffered a traumatic head injury when she was struck in the head with a heavy piece of metal that an angry slaveholder had intended for another slave. The head injury induced visions, premonitions she ascribed to God, dizziness, frequent pain, and hypersomnia, but also left her without fear. Escaping in 1849 to Philadelphia a few years after slavery ended in 1847 (although SCOTUS case Prigg v. Pennsylvania in 1842 held that while federal law is superior to state law, states did not have to use their resources to enforce federal law), she acquired a revolver and began to guide fugitives out of slavery as "Moses" on the underground railroad. During the Civil War she was a scout and spy. She was also an early advocate of women being able to vote, or women's suffrage.

Here is a reward notice from when she first ran away, absconding from Dorchester, Maryland:

**THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS  
REWARD.**

**R**ANAWAY from the subscriber on Monday the 17th ult., three negroes, named as fol-



lows: **HARRY**, aged about 19 years, has on one side of his neck a wen, just under the ear, he is of a dark chestnut color, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high; **BEN**, aged about 25 years, is very quick to speak when spoken to, he is of a chestnut color, about six feet high; **MINTY**, aged about 27 years, is of a chestnut color, fine looking, and about 5 feet high. One hundred dollars reward will be given for each of the above named negroes, if taken out of the State, and \$50 each if taken in the State. They must be lodged in Baltimore, Easton or Cambridge Jail, in Maryland.

**ELIZA ANN BRODESH.**

Near Bucktown, Dorchester county, Md.

Oct. 3d, 1849.

The Delaware Gazette will please copy the above three weeks, and charge this office.

Range News :

Please be advised that the monthly first-Sunday Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club shoot on Sunday 5 April is going to be the 40-round club *silhouette shoot* and that we are also going to be shooting off cross-sticks! So bring plenty of powder and bullets and cross-sticks! If you were hoping to do some shooting that day with modern center-fire firearms, the silhouette match is blocked out to last from 9am to 4pm, although at 100 yards and up there should be lanes available. Thank you!

*Brady State Shoot—13-15 March [Friday 13<sup>th</sup>—Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March] at the Kenneth Medlock Range in Brady, TX not too far from the Lake Brady Reservoir in Brady, McCulloch County, Texas, between Llano and San Angelo, about 2-1/2 hours Northeast on I-10 West and US-87 North, just take the US-87 exit in Comfort. Here's a Google Map for the range in Brady:*

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?msa=0&mid=1bNuK9OHqrhHNnuZKpqGBn7\\_h5B4&ll=31.134150000000023%2C-99.37502899999998&z=17](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?msa=0&mid=1bNuK9OHqrhHNnuZKpqGBn7_h5B4&ll=31.134150000000023%2C-99.37502899999998&z=17)

**Work Party: Saturday 18 April--** Call Gary Quandt for a better idea of what kinds of tools and equipment for specific jobs are needed! Here is what was accomplished in January, and what needs to be done in addition to the light construction jobs our Range Officer envisions:

Jan. 11 work party:

Eight club members turned out. We had to prioritize the work to for the available hands, so divided in two:

Four of us (Ian Straus, David Doss, David Carlson, John Burke Jr.) put up “no trespassing” signs. *More need to go up! In addition, we'll need to drive in some T-bars for signage, and apply purple paint to various trees along our perimeter to indicate where our property line is. We may have to string wire fencing here and there if there are conspicuous gaps.*

Another four (Bill Knipscher, John Burke Sr., Jarrett Krieger, Rich Beardsley) moved the old shower so as to repurpose it for storage, in accord with the plan to change the range house to provide more meeting room as described at the general membership meeting.

The old shower has been moved next to the range house and had the plumbing removed. It will take more workdays to repair the floor, seal the eaves, and remodel it for storage. We are thankful to Jarrett for bringing his truck with a boom, which made it much easier to move the portable building.



The fence line group picked up some fallen trees off of the fence on the east, south, and west sides and pulled up fence wire and secured it to handy post and trees; stretched one strand of new wire on the west side behind the firing line; and hung “no trespassing” signs on all four sides of the range. This included restoring the wire and sign where the bulldozer came in for our most recent berm work.







Some more fence and sign work remains to be done in future work parties: Stapling wire to fence posts (we had no staples), putting in some steel fence posts (Some are in the ground but we need to get some), cutting brush to get to the fence line in many places, stretching more wire near the SE corner and on the south and west sides, and putting up more signs and cutting brush so signs will be seen. Most of this should be done before the hot weather comes back and the leaves grow. It's easier to do without pushing through mesquite thorns, and easier to cut limbs than move or remove whole trees, so we will need to bring chain saws, tree pruning shears, and machetes to do a good job.

T-posts! A post driver!

We've got to repair the shed, expand the club house to provide new room, etc.

The gate is starting to scrape, so that will have to be leveled, and we've got to make sure that there is enough space so that a trailer can be brought into the range, which might entail moving the gate some.

Anyone with a bulldozer? We will have to reinforce the long-range berm/ bullet stop at the long range firing line, and we should bring some dirt where it is needed.

The Brierfield Skirmish at Brierfield, Alabama—at the old Ironworks Park, just south of Birmingham, 25 and 26 April 2020.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL—Q: "How am I supposed to renew my membership, if I cannot find out where to send my drivers license copy, signed lien release, and my check or money order?"

A: "First, go to the amlgc.com website. You'll see a small menu from left to right: "HOME—ABOUT—RANGE—NEWS—CONTACT—and the 'Facebook' icon." Click on "ABOUT" and four options will appear underneath. Click on the second one down, namely, "membership." You'll see all of the information and instructions for joining or for renewal. On the PDF form at <https://www.amlgc.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AMLGC-application-2020.pdf>

You will see two mail addresses—one for the editor of the newsletter and secretary, Dave Carlson of San Antonio, TX, and another for the Treasurer, John Burke, Sr. of Elmendorf. You can send your materials to either one. Eventually, all of the paperwork goes to the Secretary, the author of this *Smoke Signal* while your check gets cashed by the Treasurer. We try to make sure the information is shared, and if I get the check, I'll be sure to let John know to mail out your card, while he'll be sure to give me anything I need that turns up in his mail."

In addition, while it is very small and hard to read, I think that the Secretary's mailing address should appear on the "Mail-Chimp" email link for the newsletter.

GATE ACCESS CODE—By now, actually, in mid-February, we turned off the old gate access code, in favor of the new personalized gate code on your membership card. There were a handful of glitches, where digits were transposed or something like that, but for the most part it has gone relatively smoothly. If you encounter a problem, please be sure to contact Gary Quandt by phone. We have had a few people try to contact the club's Board of Directors via the "Contact" form on the amlgc.com website where the message has gotten ensnared in the "Spam" filter—not the eatin' kind either! In such cases, the message was ultimately found, but we'll try to ensure that all of the addresses we've got are not effected. That said, we've had some issues that we are trying to rectify.

SPONSORS for MEMBERSHIP: Remember that in order to join the Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club, you do not have to be a muzzle loader. Those of us who do muzzle loading hope to introduce newcomers to the sports, and we do remain a club that prioritizes the muzzle loading and black powder shooting sports, but we are not an exclusive organization. While newcomers don't have to shoot muzzle loaders, they do have to have sponsorship. To clarify: Every member needs a sponsor. Every member in good standing, who has been a member for a year, can sponsor *three new members a year*. If you do not know anyone in the AMLGC, consider coming down to the first-Sunday shoot, wait until there is a pause, and ask about joining. Members are approachable, and amenable to sponsoring new members.

#### SCHEDULE:

- **May 3rd** – Cross sticks – Buffalo targets (50 & 100 yds), 25 yd pistol shoot.
- **May 13th-17th** – N/SSA Spring Nationals\*
- **June 7th** – Blanket Shoot ( \$10.00 prize for entry ) night-mare and squirrel at 25 yds, Deer and Bear at 50 yds ; 25 yd pistol shoot.

- **June 9th-14th** – TMLRA Brady State Shoot\*
- **June 27th** – Civil War Skirmish
- **July 7th** – Watermelon shoot. Silhouettes (25 & 50 yds)
- **August 2nd** – Bench Shoot, 50 & 100 yds; round bull targets
- **August 22nd** – Reenactors shoot (8:00 am to 1:00 pm)
- **September 6th** – Animal targets, 25 & 50 yards, 25 yard pistol
- **September 19th** – Civil War Skirmish
- **September 30th – October 4th** – N/SSA Fall Nationals\*
- **October 6th** – Cross stick silhouettes (50 & 100 yds)
- **October 1st-4th** – TMLRA Brady Shoot\*
- **November 3rd** – Cross Sticks, Turkey Shoot, Buffalo targets ( 50 & 100 yds ), 25 yd pistol shoot
- **December 6th** – Holiday Shoot, Knife shoot, Round bull targets ( 25 & 50 yds ), 25 yd pistol shoot



Long term readers of the *Smoke Signal* newsletter will recall that we looked at using a boarding and fire axe as the “stock” and fitting a flint “lock” and barrel to it in the Swedish navy in the Baltic during the age of fighting sail and rowed warships. This

elicited the 1837 U.S. Navy Elgin cutlass pistol, a .54 caliber smoothbore pistol with a knuckle guard and 11-in. clip pointed Bowie knife blade. Well, along the same design of a bladed weapon or tool with a firearm added, there was the 1846 Postf rerverge of the Norwegian postal service. This was an enormous hunting dagger or short sword with two firearm barrels on either side of the blade. Apparently delivering the mail in Norway between 1846 and 1854 was mighty dangerous, and rather than carry irritant spray like our USPS mail carriers for use against vicious dogs, there was a perceived need for a big knife and at least two loaded cap-lock pistols... Trolls? Must be... By 1864, a version was adopted as the m/1864 Carl Gustaf Granberg prison guard combination weapon for use by Swedish prison guards, which is pictured above. Delivering the mail in Norway, guarding prisoners in Sweden apparently necessitated the same design of a really, really big knife and two .40 caliber single-shot pistols!



**TEXAS FREE TRAPPERS PILGRIM'S RENDEZVOUS**  
**SHINER, TEXAS**  
**April 16 - 19, 2020**



- **This is a Pilgrims Rendezvous for newcomers who want to participate.**
- **Invite your friends who may be interested. Send them this flyer.**
- **See the attached map for directions to the site.**
- Period dress and camping is not required for newcomers.
- Buckskinners will provide equipment and help the newcomers participate.
- Period Camping and dress for skinners – separate modern camping/no hookups.
- Bring water, firewood is available for gathering.
- All shooting will be out of the pouch, using traditional weapons.

**THURSDAY (4/16)**

Gate opens at 1:00 PM for early camp and target setup. Help will be appreciated.

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 4/17-18 (events run both days)**

- 🦋 Rifle Walk   🦋 Rifle Match   🦋 Pistol Match   🦋 Knife & Hawk Match
- 🦋 Flint and Steel Fire Starting   🦋 Period Archery Match

**SATURDAY EVENING 4/18**

- 🦋 Campfire dinner will provided, take part in the feast and fellowship
- 🦋 Council Fire   🦋 Awards, News & Announcements   🦋 Period Tales welcome   🦋 Music

**SUNDAY 4/19**

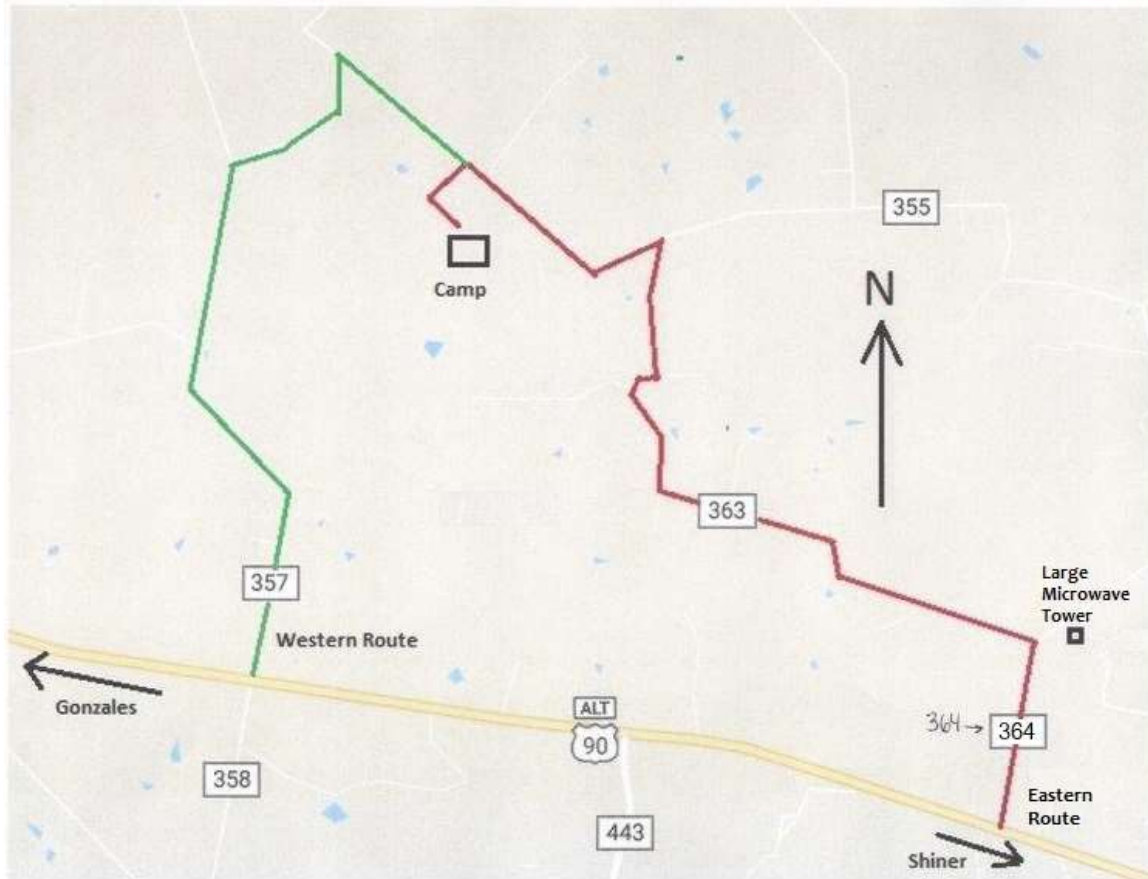
Break camp and clean up the site before heading home.

Cost is \$10.00 per person, which includes the Saturday dinner, camping, and competition. All participants must sign a liability release. No additional fee for traders, but period or related items only.

For more info contact Booshway Joe Wolf (Grey Wolf) 830-935-3121, [32wolfbear@gmail.com](mailto:32wolfbear@gmail.com)  
or Glenn Darilek (Iron Burner) 210-400-4073, [gtदारलेक@gmail.com](mailto:gtदारलेक@gmail.com)

Facebook Group: Texas Free Trappers

Please R.S.V.P to Glenn Darilek [gtदारलेक@gmail.com](mailto:gtदारलेक@gmail.com) if you will be attending. Entry into site is controlled and you must call one of the above upon arrival so they can open up the gate. If there is any threat of cancellation due to weather, call before leaving home!



Leap year special! Three months of match scores!  
 SCORES—  
 January 2020

Class A  
 25 YD

CLASS A	Squirrel		Place		Raccoon		Place
Frank Collins	41		1	Marty Kayter	44		1
Marty Kayter	35		2	Rich Beardsley	41		2
Bill Knipscher	35		3	Dennis Rich	35	x	3

50 YD

	Buffalo		Place		Bear		Place
Marty Kayter	41	x	1	Bill Knipscher	34	x	1
Dennis Rich	40		2	Frank Collins	34		2
Bill Knipscher	38		3	Clif Denny	32		3

### Aggregate

	AGGREGATE		Place
Bill Knipscher	136	2x	1
Marty Kayter	133	x	2
Rich Beardsley	126		3

### Class B

#### 25 YD

Class B	Squirrel		Place		Raccoon		Place
Gary Quandt	32		1	John Burke Sr	47	x	1
John Burke Sr	10		2	Gary Quandt	29		2
Ian Straus	0		3	Ian Straus	10		3

#### 50 YD

	Buffalo		Place		Bear		Place
Gary Quandt	25		1	Gary Quandt	27		1
John Burke Sr	18		2	Ian Straus	19		2
Ian Straus	12		3	John Burke Sr	10		3

### Aggregate

	AGGREGATE		Place
Gary Quandt	113		1
John Burke Sr	85	x	2
Ian Straus	41		3

### Pistol

CLASS A	Pistol	Place
Clif Denny	75	1
Dennis Rich	70	2
John Burke Sr	66	3
CLASS B	Pistol	Place
Gary Quandt	68	1
Ian Straus	57	2

### February 2020

### Class A

#### 50 YD

CLASS A	1 Bull		Place		6 Bull		Place
Rick Repovsch	48	x	1	Rick Repovsch	47		1
Dennis Rich	46		2	Dennis Rich	47		2
Rich Beardsley	45		3	Rich Beardsley	45		3

### 100 YD

	1 Bull		Place		3 Bull		Place
Rich Beardsley	48		1	Rich Beardsley	42		1
Dennis Rich	48		2	Dennis Rich	37	x	2
Rick Repovsch	46		3	Rick Repovsch	35		3

### Aggregate

	AGGREGATE		Place
Rich Beardsley	180		1
Dennis Rich	178	x	2
Rick Repovsch	176	x	3

### Class B

#### 50 YD

CLASS B	1 Bull		Place		6 Bull		Place
Gary Quandt	41		1	John Burke Jr	36		1
John Burke Jr	40		2	Gary Quandt	27		2
Mike Lowe	37		3	Ian Straus	24		3

### 100 YD

	1 Bull		Place		3 Bull		Place
Gary Quandt	40		1	Mike Lowe	33	x	1
John Burke Jr	32		2	Gary Quandt	26		2
John Burke Sr	25		3	John Burke Jr	14		3

### Aggregate

	AGGREGATE		Place
Gary Quandt	134		1
John Burke Jr	122		2
Mike Lowe	100	x	3

### March 2020

### Class A

#### 25 YD

CLASS A	Groundhog		Place	6-Bull	Raccoon		Place
Bill Knipscher	43	X	1	Bill Knipscher	48	2X	1
Rich Beardsley	38		2	Clif Denny	28		2
Clif Denny	37		3	Rich Beardsley	25	X	3

### 50 YD

	Bear		Place		3-Bull		Place
Bill Knipscher	31	2X	1		Gary Quandt	45X	1
Dennis Rich	28		2		Rich Beardsley	45	2
Clif Denny	25		3		Bill Knipscher	43	3

### Aggregate

	AGGREGATE		Place
Bill Knipscher	165	5X	1
Rich Beardsley	152		2
Clif Denny	142	2X	3

### Class B

#### 25 YD

Class B	Groundhog		Place		6-Bull		Place
John Burke, Sr	38		1	John Burke, Sr	47	X	1
Ian Straus	34		2	Dave Carlson	46		2
John Burke, Jr	30		3	Ian Straus	45		3

### 50 YD

	Bear		Place		3-Bull		Place
John Burke, Jr	33		1		John Burke, Jr	41	1
John Burke, Sr	27		2		Ian Straus	29	2
Dave Carlson	17		3		John Burke, Sr	25	3

### Aggregate

	AGGREGATE		Place
John Burke, Jr	147		1
John Burke, Sr	137	X	2
Ian Straus	123		3

### Pistol

CLASS A	Pistol	Place
Clif Denny	83	1
Dennis Rich	70	2
Gary Quandt	55	3
CLASS B	Pistol	Place
John Burke, Sr	71	1
Ian Straus	58	2
Dave Carlson	20	3