



ALAMO MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB

www.amlgc.org

SMOKE SIGNAL

20

August

18



.22 rifle raffle winner! Congratulations to Rollin Mangold, the winning ticket at July's raffle.

Range News

AMLG Club expands range by 11.79 acres

The size of our gun range recently expanded by approximately a third with the acquisition of close to 12 acres of land directly behind the south end of our existing range property. Many of you noticed that the land directly west of us had come up for sale. The land under offer also contained a parcel directly behind our range. The board of directors faced the concern that the land could have

been acquired for development of houses or buildings, which would create all kinds of repercussions and potential problems down the road. It also might entail the best chance to acquire the parcel and help preserve an improved range facility for future members and generations of muzzle-loaders, target shooters, hunters, and enthusiasts of the shooting sports. There are any number of gun ranges that have been shut down when development, re-zoning, subdivision, and house building has resulted in noise complaints, legal actions, lawsuits, and fees that ranges are often ill-disposed to pay.

The board of directors voted unanimously to attempt to purchase the land immediately behind the range as a buffer zone for the range. After months of negotiations, the BoD and the land owners came to an agreement to divide the property into different tracts or parcels, one of which would be 11.79 acres directly behind the range. Offers and counter offers were made, and a raft of issues arose dealing with surveys, appraisals, etc. Finally, at the end of June, the deal was made and the land deal closed. The size of the range has gone from 31 acres to almost 43 acres.

The full details of the cost and financing will not be included here in the newsletter, but of course any club member wishing to know more about the details can certainly contact a member of the board for that information. In this *Smoke Signal* the board can tell you that an appraisal by the financing institution completed after the sale valued the land's property value 23% higher than the final purchase price. If you would like to see how much the range has expanded, just head south on CR 583 to the end of our range property. That is where the tree line ends and cornfields begin. Go down the road past two telephone poles, and look out for a 4" metal pipe sticking out of the ground right by the edge of the road. That is the southern end of our Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club range property.



Safety and security

This month's scolding concerns our **range's front gate**. Keep it locked. Always. The gate is unlocked during monthly matches and special events or shoots. That's when we've got enough folks on hand to welcome visitors, be social with newcomers, introduce curious onlookers and future friends and club members. The rest of the time, it is important to keep it closed and locked. An open gate is an invitation to trespassers and mischief, and so we have to keep it closed behind us at all other times. Thank you for your understanding!

Center-fire match at the Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club

SATURDAY 18 August 2018

Where: Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club range in LaCoste, Texas.

Sign-in: 8:30am **Practice:** 9am

First shots for score downrange: 9:30 am

fee: \$ 10.00 All members and their guests welcome!

Categories:

Youth 100 yards

Ladies 100 yards 200 yards

Hunter Class (i.e. manually operated repeating rifle, bolt-action, lever-action, etc.)

 100 yards 200 yards

Military Service Rifle/ Equivalent, e.g. self-loading rifles

 100 yards 200 yards

Open Rifle (telescopic sights, bipods, etc. fired from bench)

 300 yards 400 yards

Bring (items underlined or ya can't shoot! Others might be nice): Rifle ✓ Ammunition

 A camp stool spotting scope Scope stand hat/cap

Eyes/safety glasses Ears/ear plugs

 Magazines (if appropriate to your rifle) Sun block bug repellent

Snack foods/lunch Towel/rag Water and/or drinks

 Equipment for your rifle, such as tool kit, cleaning supplies, patches, jags, spare parts if necessary, defogger, etc. Chamber flags are nice, but there may be extras.

 Stapler/extra staples Wet wipes

Center fire match FAQs (frequently asked questions):

“Can guests come to this match as participants?” Yep. You bet!

“Do I have to have a telescopic sight, or can I use iron sights?” Either one.

“Muh AR?” Yep, you bet!

“Muh Barret .50 BMG?” Nope. Can’t bring it. Anti-materiel rifles would damage our berms!

Do also remember: On the 100 yard line, there can be no shooters on lanes 1 through 7!

Upcoming Events:

- **NEW!!!! August 18th** – Center fire shoot – See above.
- **August 25th** – Civil War 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 rifle
- **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 rifle
- **December 2nd** – Holiday shoot, round bull targets, 25 & 50 yards, Knife shoot, 25 yard pistol
- **December 9th** – Black powder cartridge rifle—last official match of the year before our January 2019 business meeting.



Back position is allowed by the National Rifle Assn. in Military Competition

August scores rifle:

A Class

1 st	Dennis Rich	164
2 nd	Rich Beardsley	162 1x
3 rd	Bill Knipscher	156 2x

B Class

1 st	Mike Lowe	142
2 nd	John Burke Sr.	137
3 rd	John Burke Jr.	104

No C Class

Pistol--

A Class

1 st	Clif Denny	80
2 nd	Dennis Rich	79
3 rd	Mike Lowe	74

B class

1 st	Greg Delk	73
2 nd	John Moore	69
3 rd	Jon Burke Sr.	66 1x

Top Gun Scores 2018

Total of rounds shot to date

Rifle:

1 st	Dennis Rich	1226	5x
2 nd	Clif Denny	937	4x
3 rd	John Burke Sr.	866	3x
4 th	Mike Lowe	803	
5 th	Rich Beardsley	733	2x

Pistol:

1 st	Clif Denny	408	2x
2 nd	Dennis Rich	373	
3 rd	Ian Straus	334	
4 th	Greg Delk	298	
5 th	John Burke Sr.	297	

14 and 15 July Skirmish:

On Saturday 14 July there was a smooth bore musket match. There were two teams, evenly divided between Model 1842 U.S. muskets in .69 cal. and Model 1809/39 Potsdam muskets in .71 cal. Frank

Collins' team won handily by 90 seconds! Frank's performance with his Potsdam musket was outstanding. Congratulations!

On Sunday 15 July there was a rifle musket match.

Team 1: Ian, Frank C, Bill K, Steve, and Greg D

Team 2: Gary, Doug, Wes, Tim, and Dave

Pigeon board 5 minutes:	1. 465	2. 435	
Hanging pigeons 5 min:	1. 723	2. 667	
Hanging tiles 5 min:	1. 977	2. 811	
Sheetrock 3 min:	1. 1157	2. 1027	
Cannon and cannoneers 5 min:	1. 188	2. 273	
TOTAL	1. 1345	2. 1360	Congratulations Team 2 on a close match!



Source: *Track of the Wolf*—a Catalan-stocked, *llave de patilla o española*/ miquelet lock *escopeta*, many times repaired, showing the characteristic features of the type.

This single-shot, muzzle loading, flintlock smooth bore weapon fired single lead balls or multiple projectiles like a musket or shotgun. While inaccurate, it was versatile. Three elements are distinctive: i) the so-called *llave de patilla* or miquelet lock, which was a robust, sturdy flint-lock mechanism, but with the operating spring on the *exterior* of the lock plate, ii) the Catalan stock, with its characteristic long toe at the bottom of the butt, and with a half butt-plate, usually of iron, that covered only the heel of the stock, and iii) the long trigger guard that formed a grip beneath the wooden wrist of the stock. The large vice jaws of the “cat’s paw”—as the cock was called—could hold flints of various types and sizes, which was an important consideration on the frontier. The frizzen or battery had vertical lines along its face, which improved the spark. The action could be adjusted or tuned too, such that it battered the flint less than other flint lock mechanisms, and thus conserve scarce gun flints of differing quality. In the miquelet lock, the trigger moves a sear and

half-cock notch *horizontally* from slots through the lock plate. First the half-cock is withdrawn, and then the sear supporting the toe of the “cat’s paw” comes out of engagement. The exterior spring then acts on the heel, forcing it sharply forward to strike the frizzen and fire the piece.

In the early 1700s, this was simply the first pattern of Spanish infantry fusil, a regulation arm that was issued to virtually all troops in New Spain. Caliber ranged typically from 12 to-the-pound to 16 to-the-pound (12 gauge or .72 caliber/18.5mm to 16 gauge, .69/17mm). The octagon-to-round barrel was 39 inches long, and the overall length was 54-1/2 inches long. However, over time, these became cut down for ease of use on horseback, and presidial armorers repeatedly repaired them, and crudely re-stocked them. Some exhibited repairs like Indian weapons, with rawhide shrunk around a split or break to hold the pieces together.

A typical *escopeta* carried in a “*funda*” or “*ord*” gun-sack across the saddle bow would vary in length from approximately 48-1/2in. to 46-1/2in. long, with a 33 to 33-1/2 inch barrel, weighing about 7lbs. Some shorter models had belt hooks so they could be worn at the waist much like a brace of pistols, held up by a belt or sash. Many soldiers and even more settlers subject to militia service carried the *Trabuco* or blunderbuss. This common frontier weapon resembled the *escopeta* in most Catalunya-pattern characteristics—Catalan stock, finger grip and trigger guard, miquelet lock, but with a barrel flared at the muzzle, and approximately 23-1/8 inches long, for an overall length of 37-1/4inches, weighing about six pounds. The bell-shaped muzzle was often about 1-1/3rd inches across the .72 to .69 caliber smooth bore. By the late 18th century, French pattern firearms such as the Model 1752 *fusil* with a French flintlock mechanism became much more in evidence, although the older miquelet pattern remained in use, and was actually favored as more robustly built and thus more reliable. At the turn of the 19th century, the miquelet lock was even reintroduced on regulation muskets for a time. During the Napoleonic period, when Spanish forces in Europe fought in the Peninsular War, most Spaniards used imported British Tower muskets, and so it is debatable just how many later model, post 1752 pattern and 1752/89 Spanish-manufactured weapons made it to the New World during the 1810-1821 Wars of Independence period.

Cartuchera or ventral cartridge box—The soldier wore a broad leather belt that held a curved cartridge box across his midriff over his uniform or leather *cuera* body armor designed to offer some protection of the five to ten or so arrows a skilled Apache or Comanche archer could loose while the *escopeta* was reloaded. Most were constructed of wood, with appropriate sized holes for the cartridge tubes bored in the top, with a leather flap covering the top. The smallest had only nine holes for nine cartridges, and was approximately 9 ¼-in long x 3-3/8 inches high x 1-in. in depth. Far more common were cartridge boxes with 21 holes, about 11-in. to 1 ft. across, x 3-1/2in. high x 2-1/2inches in depth. The exteriors of the cartridge box flap were decorated, sometimes with dye or pigment, and at other times embossed, typically with the castles and lions of the Spanish coat of arms.