



## ALAMO MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB

www.amlgc.org

# SMOKE SIGNAL

NEWSLETTER

20

November

18



U.S. Army photo of 353<sup>rd</sup> 'All-Kansas' infantry of the 89<sup>th</sup> "Rolling W" Division manning a street barricade near a church in Stenay, Meuse France at 10:58am —two minutes 'til 11am—

Armistice on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month November 1918

11 Nov 1918—11 Nov 2018 Centennial of the end of WWI...At least in Western Europe.

[source: <https://www.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>] From 26 September through 11 November, over 47 days, 1.2 million U.S. troops waged the Meuse-Argonne offensive, alongside allied troops, which broke the "Siegfried Stellung" or Hindenburg Line and helped defeat the German army at the cost of 26,277 American lives.

## Range News:

The 27<sup>th</sup> of October work party to do yard maintenance and landscaping produced seven club members and five 4-H club volunteers. The grass has been mowed, the trees and brush pruned, and everything is looking quite nice. On Saturday 8 December at 9am, there will be some construction work requiring another volunteer work party. Please bring tools, equipment, ladders, and safety gear to do some carpentry and light construction type jobs. Gary Quandt will obtain some construction materials so we can tear down wood that has rotted out, replace it, give it a lick of paint, and so on. Some actual roofing work may be required after determination of a few places. Hopefully a caterpillar can be had to help build up the current bullet stops/ berms, and eventually separate out the long range firing lanes from the 100 yard line.

**Turkey shoot**— The Sunday 4 November turkey shoot—where turkeys were the grand prizes for the top scorers of the match—was not well attended, with participation limited to members of the Board of Directors and their kin. In keeping with the commemoration of the centennial of the end of WWI, the secretary prepared “stew, el Rancho” from the U.S. Army cookbook of 1912 and a British home front “trench cake” desert.

**Safety alert**—Some members expressed a concern that they’ve seen members and their guests getting a bit crowded together in the shooting lanes. Please do keep in mind that it is desirable to have ample space and room between shooters using the firing benches or separate lanes, and in cases where several people are going to use a single lane, to keep a good distance from the person actually shooting. In cases of instruction to newer shooters, the space will help instructors see what the novice is doing. Certain firearms often provoke a small crowd to come over and check it out, but be mindful of whether said firearm is actually in use, and exercise caution and courtesy when examining it. If a firearm is displayed on a table, be sure to carry out basic, standard safety and unload it first, e.g. magazine out, safety on, action open or bolt all the way back. A chamber flag is a great tool to show there is nothing in the chamber of a breech loader, and serves as a tactile safety too. These can be readily constructed from any number of materials like a zip-tie, or purchased, or taken from a recent firearm purchase that had one included.

Maintain distance, please. Avoid bunching up. Exercise muzzle discipline at all times.

**Raffle for 2019**—As a fund-raiser for the club, next year’s raffle will consist of a Henry “golden boy” lever-action .22lr rifle. These are a lot of fun for plinking and introducing youngsters to the shooting sports, and have a lot of Western appeal. Watch for announcements of the raffle prize drawing in the 2019 *Smoke Signal* newsletters. Congratulations, again, to the winner of this year’s Ruger 10/.22 self-loading carbine.

**Muzzle loading cannon salute for Veterans Day 11 November**—Gary Quandt advises that at a museum this coming Sunday, along with USAF ROTC cadets, the club’s mountain howitzer will fire a salute. Please contact him for details.

**Yearly meeting:** Members will shortly find an invitation and announcement of the Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club yearly/annual general membership and business meeting in the mailbox. It will be held at the Grady’s Barbecue at 7400 Bandera Road on Saturday 5 January 2019. Plan to arrive about six o’clock if you would like to eat before we call the meeting to order at 7pm. For members who attended last year’s meeting, recall that there were two changes proposed for election at this meeting. First, it was urged that the by-laws be altered so that actual practice of having BoD meetings on Sundays after the first Sunday matches be entered into them. Second, it was proposed that the two-year term for the AMLG

Club's secretary be eliminated. Four positions are coming to an end, and so if you would like to stand for election to the Board, please consider it. Some currently serving officers may wish to stand for re-election, others may not.

**Dues for 2019**

It's time to think about sending in your dues for 2019. Membership dues will remain the same as 2018, that is, \$125.00 for the year. In order to renew your membership, please go to the website, download and sign a lien release and send it along with your dues to our Treasurer, John Burke.

[http://www.amlgc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/AMLGC\\_application-2018.pdf](http://www.amlgc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/AMLGC_application-2018.pdf)

[http://www.amlgc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/AMLGC\\_Lien-Release.pdf](http://www.amlgc.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/AMLGC_Lien-Release.pdf)

He must have a signed lien release *before* he will process your membership. Dues must come in by January 5, 2019 ( the date of our annual business meeting) and the gate combination changes February 1, 2019. If you want to continue to receive your newsletter via the mail, you will also need to include 12 self-addressed, stamped envelopes along with your dues and lien release. If you are receiving your newsletter via email, please confirm we have the correct email address for you when you send in your dues.

The AMLG Club Treasurer's address is:

John Burke  
4306 Waterwood Pass Drive  
Elmendorf, Texas, 78112

**Annual Business Meeting**

The AMLGC annual business meeting will be held Saturday January 5, 2019 ay Grady's Barbecue. Information as to time and location will be included in the Notification that will be mailed to every member in December.

The Board of Directors urges every member who can to attend this meeting. The yearly reports from the various committees and officers are given. Four Board member seats are up for election and this year two amendments to the by-laws are to be voted on.

**Guest Lien Releases**

The Board would like to thank all of you who are having your guests sign a lien release each time they come to the range and pay the \$10.00 per visit fee. As a reminder to those unfamiliar with the guest policy: A guest is considered anyone not residing under your roof. A member may bring up to 2 guests per visit to the range. Per our liability insurance carrier, each guest must sign a liability lien release and the sponsoring member must also sign the lien release. The guest fee is \$10.00 per guest per visit. The lien release and fee should be placed in the white box on the front of the office. Without the guest lien release and paid fee, someone you bring to the range is technically trespassing and if anything bad were to happen, both the guest and the club member who brought them could be held liable. Let's not let it happen!

**2019 Event Calendar**

The 2019 calendar is being put together now and we urge anyone who has an idea for an event or special activity to contact the board as soon as possible with your suggestion. We would particularly like to see more events that would attract a larger group of shooters and also those that would attract younger participants. For example, we will be hosting another 4 H group this coming year. Perhaps you would like to host a Scout troop, or a historical group, etc. Please contact the Board with your ideas.

**November scores rifle, pistol, and "top gun" aggregate scores**

**A class**

1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Rich 178 2x

2<sup>nd</sup> Rich Beardsley 158 1x

3<sup>rd</sup> Cliff Denny 154 3x

**B Class**

1<sup>st</sup> Greg Delk 115 1x

2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Quandt 114 1x

3<sup>rd</sup> John Burke Jr. 110

#### No C Class

#### Pistol

##### A Class

1<sup>st</sup> Clif Denny 74

2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Rich 72

##### B class

1<sup>st</sup> Greg Delk 57

2<sup>nd</sup> Ian Straus 51

3<sup>rd</sup> John Burke Sr, 19

#### **Top Gun Scores 2018**

Total of all matches shot to date:

#### Rifle

1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Rich 1404 7x

2<sup>nd</sup> Clif Denny 1344 9x

3<sup>rd</sup> John Burke Sr. 1190 4x

4<sup>th</sup> Rich Beardsley 1138 3x

5<sup>th</sup> Gary Quandt 1062 5x

#### Pistol

1<sup>st</sup> Clif Denny 712 4x

2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Rich 520

3<sup>rd</sup> Ian Straus 507

4<sup>th</sup> John Burke, Sr. 458 2x

5<sup>th</sup> Greg Delk 412

**WISHING EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING** filled with family, fellowship, faith, fun and friendship! [And for you sports fans—football!]

Last matches of 2018:

- **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

...oo0oo...

WWI Centenary 1914-1918/ 2014-2018 concludes Sunday 11am 11/11/ '18



1921, Washington Navy Yard—the Unknown soldier from the Great War is prepared for burial upon arrival from France, 1921. Colorized photo E. Thompson, Washington DC public library.

Excerpt from “The Body of an American,” concluding chapter of 1919 by John Dos Passos, written in 1932 as second part of the trilogy, USA.

"In a tarpaper morgue at Châlons-sur-Marne in the reek of chloride of lime and the dead, they picked out the pine box that held all that was left of

enie menie minie moe plenty other pine boxes stacked up there containing what they'd scraped up of Richard Roe

and other person or persons unknown. Only one can go. How did they pick John Doe?

make sure he aint a dinge, boys,

make sure he aint a guinea or a kike,

how can you tell a guy's a hundredpercent when all you've got's a gunnysack full of bones, bronze buttons stamped with the screaming eagle and a pair of roll puttees?

...and the gagging chloride and the puky dirtstench of the yearold dead...

[...] John Doe was born

And raised in Brooklyn, in Memphis, near the lakefront in Cleveland, Ohio, in the stench of the stockyards in Chi, on Beacon Hill, in an old brick house in Alexandria Virginia, on Telegraph Hill, in a halftimbered Tudor cottage in Portland the city of roses,

In the Lying-In Hospital old Morgan endowed on Stuyvesant Square,

Across the railroad tracks, out near the country club, in a shack cabin tenement apartmenthouse excusive residential suburb;

[...] –busboy harveststiff hogcaller boyscout champeen cornshucker of Western Kansas bellhop at the United States Hotel at Saratoga Springs office boy callboy fruiter telephone lineman longshoreman lumberjack plumber's helper,

worked for an exterminating company in Union City, filled pipes in an opium joint in Trenton, N.J.

Y.M.C.A. secretary, express agent, truckdriver, fordmechanic, sold books in Denver Colorado: Madam would you be willing to help a young man work his way through college?

[...] they took to Chalons-sur-Marne

And laid it out neat in a pine coffin

And took it home to God's Country on a battleship

and buried it in a sarcophagus in the Memorial Amphitheater in the Arlington National Cemetery

and draped the Old Glory over it

and the bugler played taps

and Mr. Harding prayed to God and the diplomats and the generals and the admirals and the brasshats and the politicians and the handsomely dressed ladies out of the society column of the *Washington Post* stood up solemn

and thought how beautiful sad Old Glory God's Country it was to have the bugler play taps and the three volleys made their ears ring.

Where his chest ought to have been they pinned

The Congressional Medal, the D.S.C., the *Medaille Militaire*, the Belgian *Croix de Guerre*, the Italian gold medal, the *Vitutea Militara* sent by Queen Marie of Rumania, the Czechoslovak war cross, the *Virtuti*

*Militari* of the Poles, a wreath sent by Hamilton Fish Jr., of New York, and a little wampum presented by a deputation of Arizona redskins in warpaint and feathers. All the Washingtonians brought flowers.

Woodrow Wilson brought a bouquet of poppies.”