



## ALAMO MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB

www.amlgc.org

# SMOKE SIGNAL

## NEWSLETTER

20

MAY

19



May silhouette shoot on Sunday 5 May 2019, 9am-4pm. Courtesy of Ian Straus.

### *Range News—*

Our private range has been looking great of late! Thanks to all for helping with the upkeep, and a big thank you to our volunteers and to Gary Quandt and other officers for organizing grounds keeping.

Rain—We've had lots of rain lately, so there could be additional brush and high grass issues. Consider bringing out a trimmer with your shooting gear just in case. If there are issues that require amelioration, please contact Gary Quandt

210-248-8182 is Gary Quandt's telephone number, or you can contact the club via email through the Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club website.

### *Have you bought your raffle tickets?!*

Some very lucky person is going to win a very nice Henry Golden Boy™ .22lr lever action rifle! *It could be you!*

We interrupt your bullet casting to announce a forthcoming Civil War skirmish event this forthcoming Saturday 25 May 2019—Memorial Day Weekend.

Skirmish events: For those interested in the arms of the Civil War-era, there are three more skirmish matches this year: <http://www.amlgc.com/events/>

Saturday 25 May

Saturday 27 July (dress appropriately! Bring lots and lots of water!)

A 24 August re-enactors' shoot—not skirmish, but along the lines of 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Civil War-era arms.

26 October

The last three Civil War skirmishes hosted by the Texas Skirmishers Assn. and the AMLGC will be *Saturday only events*. It was too onerous to hold a two-day event on the entire weekend. So now, we'll have the team rifle musket match on Saturday morning, starting in the morning. (first shots downrange at 9am, so come early to help set up and so on). After lunch, if there are enough smooth bore shooters, we'll have a team smooth bore match in the afternoon. There won't be any individual scorings for the time being.

*Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July family outing and 4<sup>th</sup> of July—19<sup>th</sup>-Century style!*

We often see so little of members outside the yearly business meeting and awards banquet, that it was decided to hold a nice social meet up at the Club range in LaCoste on Saturday 6 July. There will be fun events, a BB-gun or pellet gun match for kids, chaperoned displays of various things related to muzzle loading, and a "shooting of anvils" -improvised firework!

### **1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY 5 MAY 40-RD. SILHOUETTE SHOOT**

The match was very well attended, and we had some people trying their hand at the first silhouette match they'd competed at. Thanks one and all! Great seeing everyone out there and the weather was beautiful. Thanks very much to Donna Straus for fixing lunch!

#### **Shoot results for 5-5-19 / cross-stick silhouette match**

Class A – 1 <sup>st</sup> Bill Knipscher 170	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dennis Rich 170	3 <sup>rd</sup> Clif Denny 135
Class B - 1 <sup>st</sup> Rich Beardsley 155	2 <sup>nd</sup> John Burke Sr 135	3 <sup>rd</sup> Greg Delk 130

#### **Top 10 Rifle Totals**

1. Dennis Rich 665-6x
2. Bill Knipscher 657-4x
3. Clif Denny 569-2x
4. John Burke Sr. 518-2x
5. Rich Beardsley 506-x
6. Greg Delk 495 -x
7. Gary Quandt 477
8. John Burke Jr. 444-x
9. Ian Straus 291
10. John Moore 267

- **May 25<sup>th</sup> Saturday** – Civil War Skirmish: Team rifle musket (morning, 9am) Smoothbore skirmish afternoon
  - **June 2nd** – Blanket Shoot ( \$10.00 prize for entry ) nightmare and squirrel at 25 yds, Deer and Bear at 50 yds ; 25 yd Pistol
  - **June 4th-9th** – *Brady State Shoot\**
  - **June 16th** – Black powder cartridge
  - \*July 6<sup>th</sup>—Saturday—19<sup>th</sup>-century 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Club Social
  - **July 7th** – Watermelon shoot, varied targets ( 25 – 50 yds ), 25 pistol shoot
  - **July 21st** – Black Powder Cartridge
  - **July 27<sup>th</sup> Saturday** – Civil War Skirmish: team rifle musket skirmish (9am morning), smooth-bore match in afternoon
  - **August 4th** – Bench shoot, 50 & 100 yards, round bulls
  - **August 11th** – 25 & 50 yard silhouette
  - **August 18th** – Black Powder Cartridge
  - **August 24th** – Re-enactors shoot 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM
  - **September 1st** – Animal targets, 25 & 50 yards, 25 yard pistol
  - **September 15th** – Black Powder Cartridge
  - **October 6th** – 25 and 50 yard surprise targets, 25 yard pistol
  - **October 2nd-6th** – *Brady State Shoot/ N-SSA Nationals*
  - **October 20th** – Black powder cartridge
  - **October 26th** – **\*\*\*Update: Civil War Skirmish will be Saturday only\*\*\*** Civil War Skirmish
- Question: “Why, after shooting rifle muskets in a team competition in the morning, would you have a *smooth bore* match in the afternoon?” Weren’t smooth bore muskets utterly, hopelessly obsolete by the 1860s?

Answer: According to Earl J. Hess, *The Rifle Musket in Civil War Combat: Reality and Myth* (Kansas, 2008), 35, when the American Civil War began warehouses and armories stored some 35,335 rifled or retrofitted muskets. 422,325 older smoothbores and rifles were clearly the preponderant number of arms, and the U.S. would not be able to supply rifles to all units until 1863 the year of Vicksburg and Gettysburg. The situation was even more dire. 160,000 older arms stored in armories fell in states that seceded.

At the war’s start, there was an attitude that rifles should go to regulars, while haphazardly trained volunteers should make do with smoothbores. In the first two years, the Union states and Federal government’s purchasing agents acquired fully 1,165,000 arms in Europe. Fewer than 10 percent were smoothbores. Almost ½ a million were Enfields, generally of the P53 type. Almost a ¼ of a million were Austrian Model 1854 rifles.

Illinois—Ken Baumann asserted that the State of Illinois raised 150 infantry regiments. These had to “make do” with an assortment of weapons ranging from the flintlock-altered-to-percussion smoothbore, to more modern weapons. Some volunteers were offered weapons like the Colt revolving rifle as a signing bonus, and never saw one. Men from western states tended to complain more about their issued weapons than those from the east.

In Western Confederate states, hunting guns, shotguns, antique ordnance, all was collected. The 7<sup>th</sup> Texas showed up in Tennessee with 750 men but only 123 shotguns—25 in need of repair—150 miscellaneous rifles—48 of those in poor condition—and 104 percussion muskets given them while they marched through Louisiana for a total of 377 arms. As for Tennessee, by August 1861 the state had raised 17,541 infantry for the confederacy, 69 percent armed with flintlocks, approximately 20 percent with smoothbore percussion muskets, and 11 percent with rifles.

The delivery of pikes to the 31<sup>st</sup> Georgia to replace shotguns and squirrel rifles nearly provoked mutiny. Following Shiloh, Brig. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart (CSA) inspected the brigade and found 53% of men were using smoothbores, and there were still 103 flintlocks in use. The 47<sup>th</sup> TN (CSA) possessed 10 different makes and models of guns. Given the sheer lack of universal, rigorous marksmanship training, most soldiers couldn’t take advantage of the rifle’s superior range and accuracy. Some conservative-minded officers accordingly held out on the virtues as they saw them of the smoothbore.