



## ALAMO MUZZLE LOADING GUN CLUB

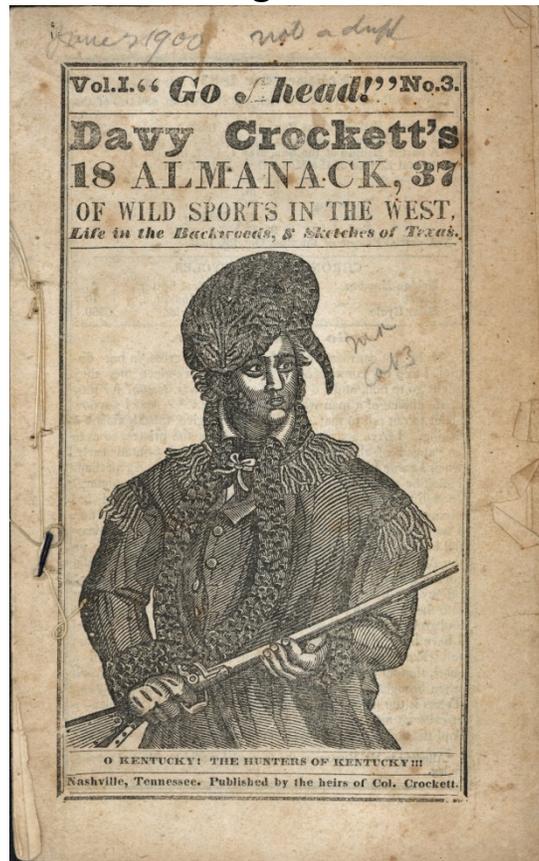
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# SMOKE SIGNAL

20

August

19



David Crockett's birthday: 17 Aug. 1786. Above, actor James Hackett as "Nimrod Wildfire" *The Lion of the West*. Two-term Tennessee Congressman Crockett was much more popular as a prolific bear hunter and trickster, describing himself once as "half horse, half alligator with a little touch of snapping turtle." Crockett attended James Hackett's performance in the James Kirk Paulding play in 1833. Col. Nimrod Wildfire doffed his fur hat, and bowed deeply in acknowledgement to Crockett. Crockett stood and bowed back to thunderous cheers from the audience. Upon being defeated electorally by wooden-peg-legged Adam Huntsman, Crockett made his farewell address in Memphis: "Since you have chosen to elect a man with a timber toe to succeed me, you may all go to hell and I will go to Texas!" "High private" of Tennessee Volunteers died in the defense of the Alamo, 6 March 1836.

### Range News:

Many thanks to Gary Quandt and our outstanding volunteers for all of the work going into the gate improvements! Paul and Gary set the new gateposts. The trash dumpster had to be moved, which will be evident when you visited the range facility last.

Flouting the rules... As the past newsletter made evident, and as a posted sign with bold red lettering on a white background reinforced, the set up and situation of the pistol range for the time being *does not permit use of shotguns on the pistol range*. Not too long ago, the ATFE ruled that if a smooth-bore firearm never had a stock affixed to it at the factory, and the overall length and dimensions remained over 26-inches, then the resultant firearm was neither a *short-barreled shotgun* (e.g. a stocked shotgun with a barrel length under 18-in.) *nor an "AoW"* (viz. "any other weapon" like firearms similar in every other regard except less than the overall length). As a result, a 1930s-era 25-inch long Remington 31R 20-gauge "whippet" gun with a 15-in. barrel as used by many urban police departments, including that in St. Louis, MO, remains an NFA short-barrel shotgun, but a new Mossberg Model 590 "Shockwave" 20-gauge with a *14-in. barrel* occupies a place in this new category of firearm because its overall length is an inch longer than the old specialized Remington 31R, even though the barrel length is longer on the older piece. In a saturated firearms market, sales of such novel "firearms" have been brisk. In addition, various two-handed pistols with or without stabilizing arm braces have proliferated, many in rifle calibers.

The spread of shot from cylinder bores is not as great as is often assumed. Spread is typically about an inch per yard, although certainly some shot shell loads vary, and there are many variables between shotgun bores and ammunition types. Ammunition manufacturers assure consumers that it is utterly vital and necessary to pattern a given shotgun or smooth bore "firearm" with loads intended for use. The companies sell more ammunition that way! And while the spread of shot is typically not as great as sometimes assumed, the spread of shot is often great enough to *break the target frames provided by the AMLG Club to members!*

Just such a wanton breakage of frames occurred at the pistol range. Piles of shot shells left no doubt that a shotgun or smooth bore "firearm" had been used on the pistol range in spite of the posted sign and the notice about it in past newsletters. So either a) the person in question is unable to read, or b) *deliberately* violated the posted rule? Deliberate defiance of the posted rule might be gratifying to the person who thereby imagines he's "giving the finger" to rule-bound killjoys who make the rules, and thus is "sticking it to the man" but the fact remains that the rule was made to protect the club's property and resources, and out of respect for the time and labor donated by the volunteers who repairs the frames. If a Club member disapproves of a rule, the Board of Directors expects that that member would let us know, and offer either a rationalization of why it is a bad rule, or a recommendation for how we might accommodate one or another style of shooting sport. Flagrantly flouting the posted rule is not the type of conduct members of our club expect from fellow members. Please adhere to the posted rules. They are not there out of capriciousness. They are intended to preserve, protect, and defend the range facility and make it available to all of the members. If, at a later

date, some sort of arrangement can be made whereby stockless “firearms” or shotgun patterning can be accommodated, we’ll be sure to let everyone know.

For sale: The Alamo Muzzle Loading Gun Club intends to sell a 2-3/4-in. mountain rifle. This is the tube only. It was manufactured by Steene, and is a nifty piece of Civil War-era artillery. Please contact Bill Knipscher the Vice President if interested.

Interested in a particular match, type of shoot, or target for 2020?

Please contact Clif Denny or another Director if you’ve got an idea of a particular match in mind that you’d like to see in the coming year!



A rifleman firing a .62 Baker rifle from the supine back position, ca. 1810s.

## *August MATCH SCORES*

### **Scores for August 4<sup>th</sup> Bench Shoot**

50 yd 1 Bull      50 yd 6 Bull      100 yd 3 Bull      100 yd 1 Bull

#### **Class A**

1. Bill Knipscher 48xx    1. Bill Knipscher 43    1. Bill Knipscher 42    1. Dennis Rich 44  
2. Dennis Rich 46        2. Dennis Rich 43     2. Dennis Rich 41x    2. Bill Knipscher 42  
3. Clif Denny 45x        3. Clif Denny 39       3. Clif Denny 31       3. Clif Denny 30x

Class A Agg : 1. Bill Knipscher 175xx    2. Dennis Rich 174x    3. Clif Denny 145xx

#### **Class B** 1. John Burke Jr 47xx    1. Rich Beardsley 41    1. Rich Beardsley 42    1. Rich Beardsley 37

2. Rich Beardsley 47x    2. Greg Delk 39       2. Greg Delk 38       2. Gary Quandt 34

3. John Burke Sr. 46x    3. John Burke Jr. 30    3. Gary Quandt 22    3. John Burke Jr. 32x

Class B Agg : 1. Rich Beardsley 167 x    2. Gary Quandt 131x    3. Greg Delk 126x

**Rifle Top 10 :** 1. Bill Knipscher 1102 -6x

2. Dennis Rich 1045-8x

3. Clif Denny 942-8x

4. Rich Beardsley 887-3x

5. John Burke Sr. 842-3x

6. Greg Delk 821-4x

7. Gary Quandt 799 x

8. John Burke 758 – 6x

9. Ian Straus 551

10. John Moore 412

**Pistol Top 10:** 1. Clif Denny 321xx    2. John Burke Sr. 284x    3. Greg Delk 221    4. Ian Straus 221    5. Gary Quandt, 6. Dennis Rich 127    7. John Moore 54    8. Ken Rupkalvis 35

--Antelopes play...

Capt. Randolph B. Marcy, *The Prairie Traveler*, p. 243-5: "The Antelope... It is the most timid, wary, and fleet animal that inhabits the plains. ... The antelope possesses a greater degree of curiosity than any other animal I know of, and will often approach very near a strange object. The experienced hunter, taking advantage of this peculiarity, lies down and secretes himself in the grass, after which he raises his handkerchief, hand, or foot, so as to attract the attention of the animal, and thus often succeeds in beguiling him within shooting distance."