

SMOKE SIGNAL



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

20

JULY

20



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HENRY GOLDEN BOY RAFFLE WINNER!

Way to go Randy Rimmer! Mr Rimmer won this really nifty lever-action rimfire rifle on the drawing held Sunday 5th July at the LaCoste range. Lucky number!

RANGE NEWS:

Gravel: Gary put some more gravel down on portions of the dirt road inside the LaCoste range, tinkered with the gate, and is going to lay down some more soon to address the mud puddles that form there when it rains.

25-yard range: People continue to use the 25 yard range as a variable range for pistol shooting. The pistol range has variable distances marked out. The 25 yard range is for shooting at 25-yards *only*. Along the covered firing line, please make all shots from the paved concrete slab. *Do not move forward* of the line except during a ceasefire to change your targets. You are welcome to use the 25 yard range, and even the 50 yard range for your pistol, but make the shots at 25 or 50 yards.

SAFETY ALERT: As we move from summer into the Texas super summer months, it is going to get mighty hot and stay that way. Be sure to bring plenty of water with you. Stay hydrated, drink plenty of water, and as a bonus, your moister eyes will show improvements downrange on your group size!

Also: Snakes? Snakes! Most are probably harmless, and they control pests... Others are rather less harmless. Lots of venomous snake bites are actually “dry bites” where venom is not injected into the victim. Others not so much. The current thinking is just to go to the emergency room ASAP and dispense with the hoary old folk remedies like trying to suck out the venom and so on. Under no circumstances should you perform some sort of cutting on the wound.

Shoots: There were eight shooters at the June “blanket shoot.”

Eleven people came out for the July cross-stick silhouette match on Sunday, 5 July, the day after our 244th national birthday party. The club’s muzzle loading mountain howitzer was fired a time or two as a salute!

JULY X-sticks silhouette MATCH SCORES:

Class A:	50 yd Javelina	100 yd Ram
	1. Bill Knipscher 100	1. Bill Knipscher 90
	1. Dennis Rich 100	1. Dennis Rich 90
	2. John Burke, Jr 90	2. Clif Denny 80
	3. Gareth Henderson 80	3. Alan Pinel 60
Class B:		
	1. Rich Beardsley 100	1. Rich Beardsley 90
	2. John Burke, Sr 70	2. John Burke, Sr 30
	3. Ian Straus 60	3. Gary Quandt 10
Class A Rifle Agg:		1. Bill Knipscher 190
		1. Dennis Rich 190
		2. Clif Denny 140
		3. Alan Pinel 130
Class B Rifle Agg:		1. Rich Beardsley 190
		2. John Burke, Sr 100
		3. Ian Straus 60

FOR SALE:

Mr. Cook (210.215.3241) is selling a NIB Dixie Gun Works two-band Enfield that has been defarbed, and including a Lee single-ball mould into the bargain.

"Bargain?," you ask? \$600 USD. See his original receipt in photo. "Say, wasn't the two-band Enfield one of the preferred rifles of Confederate skirmishers and sharp shooters?" Yes, that is my understanding too! Somebody buy this before I do!





D G W, INC.
 REELFOOT AVE. • UNION CITY, TENNESSEE 38261
 ORDERS - 800-236-6785 • INFORMATION - 731-885-0700
 www.dixiegunworks.com • info@dixiegunworks.com

BATCH# 180008
 WHSE# 0100

GAP1000
 * SINGLE *

BILL TO:
 C#000771606 P#210-215-3241
 JOHN COOK JR.
 335 W. ELSMERE PL.
 SAN ANTONIO TX 78212

SHIP TO:
 C#000771606 P#210-215-3241
 JOHN COOK JR.
 335 W. ELSMERE PL.
 SAN ANTONIO TX 78212

SALESPERSON: 51 / JS
 ORDER NUMBER: 2103887
 PAGE: 1
 CUSTOMER NUMBER: 000771606
 ORDER DATE: 04/17/17
 INVOICE NUMBER: 01002630855.01
 INVOICE DATE: 04/17/17
 PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER:
 PHONE NUMBER: 210-215-3241

SHIP INFO		UPS GROUND*	*AMEX*	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	EXTENSION
ORD.	SHIP.	PRODUCT NUMBER				
1	1	PR0106		2 BAND ENFIELD RIFLE DEFARBED	750.00	750.00

Mr. Creasy is selling **two muzzle loaders**:

A Springfield rifle.

A double gun. As this newsletter goes out today, Saturday 11 July 2020 I do not

have a contact for him, or prices and pictures. If interested, contact the Secretary of AMLGC, and I'll gladly send him your message expressing interest.

Excerpt from 1792 U.S. Militia Act

Every free able-bodied male citizen of this republic who is, or shall be, of the age of seventeen years, and under the age of fifty years, shall be enrolled in the militia.

*Every citizen so enrolled shall provide himself with a good musket, a sufficient bayonet and belt, six flints, knapsack and a cartridge box. With twenty-four suitable ball cartridges; or with a good rifle, yauger [sic, jäger], or **shotgun**, knapsack, shot pouch, powder horn, fifty balls suitable to the caliber of his gun, and a half-pound of powder, and shall appear so armed, accoutered, and provided, when called out to exercise, or in service; and that said arms, ammunition, and accouterments, belonging to a citizen so enrolled, shall be exempt from all suits, seizures, or sales.*

Fines assessed for failure to attend a muster were \$5.00 for privates, \$25.00 for Company officers. If the militia was actually going into service, then the fine was \$100 dollars for a no-show private, \$300 for a captain, \$500 for a colonel, and on up to \$1k for an absent major general. There were exemptions for various categories of course, including for postal mail carriers!

And here's how a flintlock musket was loaded—English on the left, Spanish on the right:

Load by twelve commands

Carga en once voces.

1. Load.	1. Carguen armas o <i>Prevenganse para cargar</i> two times: one, feet move from an angle to the right foot at a right angle behind the left heel, with the arch of the right foot some three inches behind the left heel. Left hand is close to the right breast, holding the musket at the stock swell perpendicular about four inches lower than the shoulder, right hand with fingers grasping under trigger guard, with the thumb under the cock. Two the left hand moves toward the battery spring, the muzzle pointing upward at the height of the chin or mouth, the left elbow against the body, and the right thumb against the steel or battery, other fingers closed, and right forearm resting along the
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	top of the buttstock.
2. <i>Open</i> Pan.	2. Abran cazoleta. Uno.
3. <i>Handle</i> CARTRIDGE	3. Saquen cartucho. Uno. / <i>Preparen el cartucho. Uno.</i>
4. <i>Tear</i> CARTRIDGE	4. Rompan cartucho. Uno.
5. PRIME	5. Ceben / <i>Ceven. Uno.</i>
6. <i>Shut</i> PAN	6. Cierren la cazoleta. Uno.
7. <i>Cast</i> ABOUT	
8. <i>Charge</i> CARTRIDGE	7. Cartucho en el cañón. Uno. Dos. Tres.
9. <i>Draw</i> RAMMER	8. Saquen baqueta. Uno. Dos.
10. <i>Ram</i> CARTRIDGE	9. Ataquen. Uno. Dos.
11. <i>Return</i> RAMMER	10. Baqueta en su lugar. Uno. Dos./ <i>Retiren la baqueta. Uno. Baqueta en su lugar. Uno.</i>
12. <i>Shoulder</i> ARMS	11. Tercien las armas. Uno. Dos. / <i>Afianzen las armas. Uno. Dos.</i>

Note: In modern muzzle loading, this historically correct method of loading is no longer considered safe. We always prime after the musket or muzzle loader is loaded, on the line just before firing. One does not put a charge and ball into an already primed muzzle loader these days! But this is how it was done for centuries. Because the powder charge was used to sprinkle some powder into the pan in order to prime it, these cartridges had pretty hefty charges: 120 or 110 grains of rFg (today most people approximate about 80 grains of FFg), with about 100 give or take in the barrel and in U.S. martial muskets, a .643 to a .65 caliber ball in a .69 caliber bore.

See you in August! Stay safe out there!

- **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*
- **September 30th- October 6th** – [TMLRA](#) Brady State Shoot*
- **October 6th** – Cross stick silhouettes (50 & 100 yds)
- **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