



South Texas Pistolaros Newsletter



Match Info:

A Place To
Shoot

13250
Pleasanton
Rd.

San Antonio
Texas

78221

Monthly Match Schedule for September 5, 2026

- Range gate opens at 9:00 AM
- Match Registration from 9:00 to 9:30 AM.
- Mandatory Shooters Safety Meeting at 9:30 AM.
- Match Starts at 9:45 AM

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Howdy all you Pistolaros. I'm hoping it will be less than 100 degrees for our match and welcome this month's newsletter. Have any of you ever been the Menger Hotel? I used to frequent the bar at the hotel and heard the stories of how the Rough Riders were recruited there. So, for your reading enjoyment is a little San Antonio history.

The Menger Hotel in San Antonio, Texas (near the Alamo), is historically significant as a key recruitment and gathering site in May 1898 for Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders (the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry) during the Spanish-American War.

Opened in 1859 by German immigrants William and Mary Menger, it is the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi. It has long been a prominent San Antonio landmark that hosted figures such as Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, and other presidents and notables.

Recruitment of the Rough Riders

After the sinking of the USS Maine and the U.S. declaration of war on Spain, Congress authorized volunteer cavalry regiments drawn especially from the "wild riders and riflemen" of the West and Great Plains. Leonard Wood (an Army doctor and Medal of Honor recipient) was appointed colonel of the 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry, with Theodore Roosevelt (then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, who resigned to serve) as lieutenant colonel.

- Wood arrived in San Antonio around May 5, 1898, and set up a recruiting station on the patio of the Menger Hotel, adjacent to its bar.
- Roosevelt arrived about ten days later (around May 15).
- Volunteers—cowboys, ranchers, Texas Rangers, Native Americans, miners, hunters, lawmen, Ivy League athletes/college men, Eastern "swells," and others—gathered there and in the surrounding area. Many signed up in or near the hotel; some enlistment activity is linked to tables in the bar. The unit drew heavily from New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma/Indian Territory, and Texas, with additional Eastern recruits.

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The regiment (initially limited, then expanded toward roughly 1,000–1,250 men) trained at the International Fair Grounds south of downtown (later Roosevelt Park). It became popularly known as the “Rough Riders” (also “Teddy’s Terrors,” “Cowboy Cavalry,” etc.). The Menger Bar (an 1887 addition modeled after a London pub) served as a social hub; the hotel later commemorated the association with memorabilia, uniforms, photos, and the “Roosevelt Bar” nickname.

Some colorful local legends (Roosevelt recruiting entirely from inside the bar while buying rounds, or firing shots that left bullet holes) are exaggerated or unconfirmed by historians; the official station was on the patio, though the bar and hotel were central meeting places.

Broader Historical Importance

The Rough Riders went on to fight in Cuba (notably at Las Guasimas and the charge up Kettle Hill/San Juan Heights). Their fame, mixed composition (frontier Westerners alongside Eastern elites), and Roosevelt’s leadership helped propel him to the governorship of New York, the vice presidency, and the presidency. The Menger connection ties a major Texas landmark and the Alamo area to this pivotal episode of American expansion, volunteer military tradition, and Roosevelt’s rise. The hotel and its bar remain tourist attractions that highlight this history.

In short, the Menger Hotel marks the practical and symbolic birthplace of the Rough Riders in San Antonio, linking local Texas history to a nationally transformative war and political career.

There are several amusing anecdotes and legends tied to the Rough Riders’ time in San Antonio and the Menger Hotel (and its bar). Some are well-documented; others are colorful local myths that the hotel has leaned into for visitors.

The “Damnedest Ass” Beer Incident

One of the best-attested (and funniest) stories involves Theodore Roosevelt’s freewheeling style with the troops. After a long, hot drill in the dusty mesquite around San Antonio, Roosevelt halted the regiment near a beer garden (or bought kegs) and treated the men to as much beer as they wanted—on him—while warning them not to overdo it or he’d “cinch” them.

Colonel Leonard Wood (the more by-the-book commander) was not amused. That evening he remarked pointedly in front of other officers that an officer who goes out and drinks with a large batch of enlisted men is “quite unfit to hold a commission.” There was dead silence. A short time later Roosevelt appeared at Wood’s tent, stood at attention, and said something like: “Sir, I consider myself the damnedest ass within ten miles of this camp. Good night, sir!”

Wood appreciated the self-deprecating honesty. The episode highlights the contrast between the formal Army officer and the exuberant volunteer lieutenant colonel who preferred bonding with his “bully” bunch of cowboys and college men.

The Bullet-Hole Legend at the Menger Bar

Tourists still ask to see the “bullet holes” in the Menger Bar that supposedly came from Roosevelt. One popular version claims that during recruiting he (or a recruit trying to outshoot him) fired shots to prove marksmanship—placing bullets near a mirror or in the woodwork without shattering glass. Another version has him firing during a recruitment speech.

Hotel staff and historians note that the marks are almost certainly nail or drill holes that don’t match any period bullet caliber. It’s a classic tourist tall tale that keeps the story lively, even if

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the official recruiting station was on the patio outside the bar rather than a full shootout inside. The bar still displays tables linked to enlistment papers and Roosevelt memorabilia, so the legend fits the atmosphere.

Eastern “Millionaires” and Cowboy Cosplay

Many of the Ivy League and New York “swell” recruits first checked into the Menger (or dined there) before heading to the fairgrounds camp. They arrived in brand-new sombreros and blue flannel shirts, trying to look the part of Westerners. Local papers joked that from a few blocks away they could pass for genuine cowboys—and speculated that their valises also contained clean linens, choice cigarettes, and “a few hand mirrors.”

The Western troopers largely took it in good humor and welcomed the “college boys,” though the cultural clash provided plenty of comic material as the two groups mixed.

Other Light Touches

- Some volunteers reportedly signed up under pseudonyms so past scrapes with the law wouldn’t follow them.
- Bartenders at the Menger (modeled after a London House of Lords pub) sometimes handed out free whiskey shots in solidarity with the volunteers.
- The regiment’s early nickname evolution and the sheer mix of cowboys, miners, athletes, and aristocrats produced endless camp banter that carried over from the San Antonio mustering period.

The beer-apology story is the most reliably documented and genuinely funny, while the bullet-hole tale is the one that still gets told (and gently corrected) at the bar today. Together they capture the lively, slightly chaotic spirit of the Rough Riders’ brief stay in San Antonio before they shipped out for Cuba.

I hope you enjoyed this bit of history and humor about one of San Antonio’s great landmarks. I have been known to stop by the bar for a drink or two on occasion. In the meantime, see you on the firing line.

Colonel Col Winchester

Colonel Colt Winchester



AUGUST 2026 TREASURER REPORT

Beginning Balance		\$2,945.54
Rage Fee	(-\$140.16)	\$2,805.28
Total Deposit	\$392.00	\$3,197.38
Ending Balance		\$3,197.38

Tabasco Kid

**Tabasco Kid
Treasurer**



CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING MATCHES

1st Saturday Plum Creek (Lockhart)	1000 Pin Oak Road Lockhart , TX 78644 USA	Brazos Bo 210-303-6996
1st Saturday South Texas Pistoleros (San Antonio)	13250 Pleasanton Road San Antonio , TX 78221 USA	Colonel Colt Winchester 210-788-4422
2nd & 5th Saturday Texas Riviera Pistoleros (George West) 5th Sunday Cowboy & Long Range	157 County Road 332 George West , TX 78022 USA	Tocayo 361-648-1680
2nd Sunday Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros (Pharr)	600 East Javelina Drive Pharr , TX 78501 USA	Dream Chaser 956-648-7364
2nd Weekend Saturday & Sunday (Cowboy/1911) Texican Rangers (Comfort)	130 Adolf Stieler Ranch Road Comfort , TX 78013 USA	San Saba Slim 832-691-7998
3rd Saturday (Cowboy) & 3rd Sunday (Long Range) Tejas Caballeros (TX Republic Ranch)	8545 Ranch Road 1623 Blanco , TX 78606 USA	Farr Ranger 512-657-2491
4th Saturday (Cowboy) and 4th Sunday (Long Range) Green Mountain Regulators (Marble Falls)	14230 South FM 1174 Marble Falls , TX 78654 USA	Bessie James 210-385-3348



NOTES FROM THE RANGE MASTER.....DOWN RANGE!

August's match was a hot one, and I don't just mean temperatures. Beauregard Beard won the match with a time of 102.44. While he had a couple of M/P's, he averaged 0.75 seconds a shot. Shooting Iron Miller brought in second place with 117.57 (averaging 1.07 seconds) and she shot it clean!

Picosa Kid rounded out the top three with a 118.75. While he averaged 0.99 seconds, he had a couple of pesky misses that added to his time. Only one other clean shooter, me. Thunder Mountain was 'oh so close' in the "One Away Club". He got down to the last stage and hit every target, but brain fogged the sweep and ended up with a P!

Beau's 0.75 seconds/shot for a 10-10-4 sounds impressive but remember that includes movement and transitioning between firearms. Several people have asked about Beau's splits, so I secretly captured them. His fastest pistol split was 0.28 seconds; averaging 0.32 seconds. His fastest rifle split was once again 0.28; averaging 0.36 seconds. Not including transitions, his "longest" split was 0.50 seconds! Big thank you to Beans Ahgin who sat and wrote down all the splits for me. If you would like to get your splits and transition times, we can have a second timer. I can show you how to capture split times, but it will be up to you to record them. Please be aware that this will take you away from posse duties and we need your help.

I appreciate the setup crew covering for me last month; will see ya'll at set up on 5 September. Thank you once more to Beans Ahgin who once 'ahgin' brought drinks. I want to remind everyone to bring their own beverages as backups.

'Nough said... "brass is up, targets are up, shooter up." BEEP! Twenty-four bangs and clangs later,,,, Shooter: "I shot a clean match!" TO: "Counters say clean ...and a P; sorry Thunder."

To pre-register for the **September 5, 2026** match , you can reply to this Newsletter and sign up for the match , or you can email STXPMatch@gmail.com with the following information:

Name, Alias, Category, **SASS** number, and if you are a South Texas Pistoleros member or not.

If you experience difficulties with registration, please contact

Caprock Kid at STXPMatch@gmail.com

Match Starting Time And Range Rules

Access to the Cowboy Action Shooting Range will be available only after A Place To Shoot opens at 9:00 AM.

Please do not attempt to enter the range parking lot via the dirt bypass road.

Please enter the CAS range through the side gates by the pistol range or around the right side of the building,

Matches start at 9:45 AM.

Registration will close by 9:30, With the shooter' Safety Meeting to follow.

Please, present no bills larger than \$20 at registration.

Guest shooters must read and sign a liability waiver before the match.

The gate to the CAS range should be closed during a Match. Be aware that visitors may come on to the CAS range who are not familiar with CAS safety protocols.

Members having concerns or complaints about range issues shall communicate those issues to the Pistoleros club officers.

South Texas Pistoleros Guest Shooter Policy

Visiting shooters unknown to club members but possessing a valid SASS Membership who wish to register as a competitor will be assigned a Pistoleros Officer or member as a "shooting buddy" for at least one stage. New-to-CAS individuals or guest without a valid SASS membership but with a **documented** knowledge of safe firearms hand skills (LTC, NRA certification, etc.) who desire to participate in a club match will be referred to the Range Master, or other designated Officer, for on-site orientation. If time permits, the orientation will be held before the match. If the Range Master and Match Director concur, the individuals will be assigned a mentor and permitted to register as a competitor.

Any person who have not completed any type of formal firearms training but wish to participate in CAS will be referred to a formal CAS orientation session to be provided by the club. The orientation session will use a classroom setting to address basic firearms safety, handling CAS firearms safely, **SASS** match protocols, and range and club safety rules. Upon successful completion of the classroom session, attendees will have the opportunity to shoot in a controlled setting on the CAS range. Cost per students has yet to be determined, but a range fee of \$11.00 per person plus the cost of suitable ammunition is to be expected.

Guest Shooter Liability Waiver Policy

Any contestant at a match who is not currently a member of the South Texas Pistoleros must first read and sign a liability waiver before competing.



Check out the
club's revised website

@

www.stxpistoleros.net

Or scan here



The Bean Pot.....

A Little Cowboy Trivia



Life on the Great Plains in the early 1800's was difficult with few resources available to the rancher and homesteader. Water was hard to find, and deadly feuds over "water rights" were common. The absence of substantial trees meant that homes were constructed of sod "bricks" cut from the soil. Firewood was a rarity. "Buffalo chips" (dried dung) became known as "the anthracite of the Plains."

Enter the Windmill.

By 1850 a Connecticut mechanic had developed a "wind machine" that could draw water from below ground using just wind power. Daniel Halliday crafted a "governor" which would limit how many revolutions the blades on a "wind mill" would turn. The blades could not turn fast enough in high winds to tear the machine apart. The winds on the Plains typically ran from 12 to 14 miles per hour every day.

Well-drillers on the Plains charged \$1.25 to \$2.00 per foot to drill a well. Some shafts were quite shallow, while others might need to be drilled to a depth of 500 feet. The windmill itself could cost upwards of \$100. For some, the cost was too much to bear. For those able to pay for the well and windmill, their ranches and farms flourished.

"The wind draws the water, and the cows cut the wood."

One extreme example of a successful windmill was located on the Yellow House Division of the XIT Ranch in the Texas Panhandle. Water was found just 40 feet below the surface. As the headquarters compound was located in a sheltered canyon, the mill's tower had to be built an astonishing 130 ft. high to catch the prevailing winds.

Barbed Wire.

The rock walls and wooden fences common in the East were simply not practical in the Great Plains. It was impossible to settle a piece of land without some effective way of keeping out what wasn't yours. A field of crops could disappear overnight should hungry cattle or bison decide to come to supper.

Planting thorny shrubs as fencing was tried, but hungry cattle and bison would either plow through it or simply eat it. Plain wire proved to be no obstacle. Wire with barbs proved effective but expensive to use. Then, in 1874 near DeKalb, Illinois, Joseph Glidden found a way to manufacture cost-effective "barb wire" by twisting two lengths of plain wire around pointed barbs at regular intervals

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Glidden patented his process, rented a small factory in DeKalb, and began manufacturing "barbed wire." Sales exploded almost immediately. The first year, Glidden sold some 3 million pounds of barbed wire. By 1876, he was selling 12 million pounds. By the next year, 1877, sales soared to 50 million pounds, and 80 million pounds by the following year.

Settlers learned how to fabricate fence posts from hard sediments deposited a few inches deep eons ago. During the winter, they would drill a double line of holes the desired length of the posts they needed. When precipitation froze in the holes, the expansion produced a "perforation" effect. The resulting "rock" posts could be lifted up and put into place. Some of those posts still stand to this day

- Source: Best of the West - Bill O'Neil
Beans Ahgin



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026

HAVA

Honored American Veterans Afield

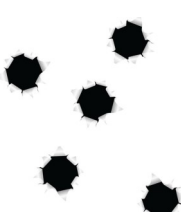
HAVA Event Coordinator Eva Carwhile has let it be known that the 2026 HAVA Family Field Day will once again be held at the San Antonio Police Academy. No further details have been provided.

For those unfamiliar with the HAVA Family Field Day, it is a day-long event which gives disabled Veterans and their families the opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities. BB guns, archery, fishing and camping skills, Dutch Van Horn's "Guns of the West" display, an "Old West" Photo Booth and the like are held in the morning. HAVA provides both lunch and dinner meals. The afternoon sees participants "squadded" before moving along the firing line and shooting a variety of antique and modern firearms. "The Cowboys" are among the most popular activity. Volunteers are needed!

Caprock Kid will reprise his role as "Ramrod," and **Beans Ahgin** will again serve as "Communications Cowboy." Questions may be directed to **Beans** via TEXT message at 210-639-8450 or by email at: saltrifle@gmail.com.

GUN SHOW SCHEDULE

Local Shows



Sep 4th – 6th, 2026
The San Antonio Gun Show
Alzafar Shriners
901 N Loop 1604 W
San Antonio, TX 78258
(210) 844-959

Sep 11th – 13th, 2026
The Schertz Gun Show
MIKULSKI HALL KC HALL
509 Schertz Pkwy.
Schertz, TX 78154
(830) 399-5955



Sep 25th – 27th, 2026
The Live Oak San Antonio Gun Show
Hilton Garden Inn San Antonio
Live Oak Conference Center
8101 Pat Booker Rd
Live Oak, TX 78233
(830) 399-5955

Area Gun Shows

Sep 11th – 13th, 2026
The Victoria Gun Show
VFW Post 4146
2001 Lova Dr.
Victoria, TX 77901
(713) 474-3900

Sep 12th – 13th, 2026
The Kerrville Expo Hall Guns & Gifts Show
Hill Country Youth Event Center
The Ag Barn
3785 Highway 27
Kerrville, TX 78028

Sep 18th – 20th, 2026
The Aransas Pass Gun Show
ARANSAS PASS CIVIC CENTER
700 W. WHEELER AVE.
ARANSAS PASS, TX 78336

Sep 25th – 27th, 2026
The Belton Gun Show
Bell County Expo Center
301 W Loop 121
Belton, TX 76513
(713) 474-3900

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change,
so please contact the show before traveling.

