



# South Texas Pistolaros Newsletter



## Match Info:

A Place To  
Shoot

13250  
Pleasanton  
Rd.

San Antonio  
Texas

78221

## Monthly Match Schedule for December 6, 2025

- 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



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howdy all you Pistolaros, November isn't quite over yet. We still have a Wild Bunch match this Saturday, 29 November, if we get enough shooters. Caprock Kid will have more details in the Range Master's article. Don't forget to sign up. Many of us had a great time supporting the Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA) event on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Beans Aghin should have a complete report. And don't forget to sign-up for the last Cowboy match of the year on 6 December.

April 16, 1881: Bat Masterson's Last Gun Fight. I found this article on Bat Masterson written by Daniel Zar for *History and Headlines*, April 16, 2017 and updated on July 4, 2025. I'm always amazed at the colorful lives many of our old west heroes and outlaws lived. We all know about Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday but I never knew much about Bat Masterson other than the TV show many of us watched as kids. So just in case you were wondering, here's a short version of the life and times of Bat Masterson.

On April 16, 1881, Legend of the Old West and buddy of Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, fought his last gun fight in Dodge City, Kansas. This archetypical macho man of the Wild West was a renowned gunfighter, lawman, scout, Indian fighter, and buffalo hunter, yet he is best remembered for wearing a suit jacket and a Derby hat!

Born in 1853 in Quebec, Canada, you may be surprised to know Bat was not even a native born American. Of Irish stock, the Masterson family were farmers in Canada, New York, and Illinois before ending up in Kansas.

Bat and his brothers went to work as buffalo hunters in 1872, and after being stiffed out of his wages, Bat tracked down his former boss a year later and collected his wages at gunpoint, already showing his proficiency with a hand gun. This incident was witnessed by a crowd on a train that actually applauded Bat's derring-do. While still working as a buffalo hunter, Masterson was involved in a celebrated battle with Comanche Indians, the Battle of Adobe Walls. Bat's first one on one gun fight happened in 1876 at Sweetwater, Texas, when he shot and killed a man that attacked him over a girl. Bat was wounded in the pelvis in that fight, an injury allegedly responsible for Bat carrying his trademark brass topped cane (made of bull penis!) as part of his dapper ensemble.

Bat moved to Dodge City in 1877, where he was both a rowdy and a lawman. Becoming Sheriff of Ford County (by only 3 votes) and then his brother Ed became Marshall of Dodge City. Bat successfully rounded up robbers, but Ed was killed in a gunfight in 1878, causing Bat to gun

## Inside this issue:

President Message	1-3
Treasurer Report	3
Down Range	4-5
Area Matches	5
Guest Policy	6
The Bean Pot	7-9
Gun Shows	10
Ben Milam	11
Shoot Registration	11

Continue next page



Bat Masterson in 1879, age 26

down his brother's killer. Also in 1878 Bat teamed up with Wyatt Earp and others to mount a posse after a murderer, whom Bat shot and captured. In 1879 Bat enlisted a small army to fight in the Colorado Royal Gorge Railroad War as mercenaries, including notable gunmen Ben Thompson, John Webb, Doc Holliday, and "Mysterious Dave" Mather. Back in Kansas, this foray to Colorado was not exactly appreciated, and Bat lost the 1879 election for county sheriff.

Bat's adventures took him to Nebraska to rescue the brother of Ben Thompson, a successful exploit in which he was aided by Buffalo Bill Cody. (*"The"* Buffalo Bill.) In 1880 Bat moved to Tombstone and hooked up with his pal, Wyatt Earp, the two gunmen working for a saloon. When called back to Dodge City by his brother Jim, Bat found a business partnership of his brother's in dispute, a dispute settled by gunfire on April 16, 1881, what was to be Bat's last gunfight, known as The Battle of the Plaza. One of the 2 opponents of Bat and his allies was wounded, and Bat was fined \$8, with Bat and Jim advised to *"Get out of Dodge!"*

By now Bat was famous from the dime novels written about the Wild West back East. He worked as a lawman in Trinidad, Colorado and had further adventures with Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday. Bat, Wyatt Earp, and Luke Short (another gun totin' buddy of Bat's) descended on Dodge City with a large group of gunmen in 1883 to forcibly return Short to Dodge where he had been kicked out by the mayor, none other than the guy unseated by Bat when he won his first term as sheriff.

Bat began an eclectic period in 1884 by starting a newspaper in Dodge, his first foray into journalism, and traveling over the country involved in boxing matches, gambling, chasing women and getting into fights. Bat even rode his fame to work as a bodyguard for a millionaire in New York in 1895. In 1897, Masterson went back to Denver, Colorado and again worked as a lawman, soon going back to working with boxers. By 1902 Bat was unceremoniously eased out of Denver, perhaps over being a drunk or perhaps after being belted by an umbrella wielding woman! He went back to New York where he was arrested for cheating a man out of his money (charges dropped) and then arrested again for carrying a concealed weapon.



Photograph of the interior of the Long Branch Saloon in Dodge City, Kansas, taken between 1870 and 1885



The grave of Bat Masterson

Masterson then turned to his final career as a journalist, writing for New York Morning Telegraph, mostly about sports. President Teddy Roosevelt appointed Bat a US Marshall (1905-1909) and Roosevelt's successor, William Howard Taft, saw to it that Bat was fired in 1909.

Bat continued to write for the newspaper, especially about boxing, until his death in 1921 from a heart attack at the age of 67. Bat Masterson was buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, with sportswriter Damon Runyon delivering the eulogy. His epitaph says, "Loved by Everyone."



Gene Barry as Masterson in *Bat Masterson* (1959)

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Bat Masterson was famous in life, and perhaps even more famous in death, with innumerable cultural references to him, in books, movies, television, video games and even theater. The most memorable reference to me is the 1958-1961 television show, *Bat Masterson*, starring debonair Gene Barry as the well-groomed James Bond like gentleman that bopped bad guys on the head with his cane. Kids of the era bought up jillions of replica canes and Derby hats to be like Bat. Even the song from the TV show is memorable!

Well I hope that kept you entertained for a few moments.

See you on the firing line

*Colonel Colt Winchester*

Colonel Colt Winchester



## NOVEMBER 2025 TREASURER' REPORT

**Beginning Balance**

Deposit

Range Fees

**Ending Balance**

\$450.00

-\$131.40

**\$4,175.30**

\$4,625.30

\$4,493.40

**\$4,493.40**

*Tabasco Kid*

**Tabasco Kid  
Treasurer**



*A Reminder*

November 29. 2025 a Wild Bunch  
match is schedule, Polish up your  
1911 and get ready.





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

'We had 15 shooters at our Veterans and First Responder Shoot. While it was a big posse, things rolled along fast. PJ Mugwamp took top honors shooting a 145.35 averaging 1.34 seconds a shot. If it hadn't been for that one pesky miss, it would have been a clean match. Charro B. Eans took second with a 205.66. Stripping a few M&Ps, Charro averaged 1.57 a shot. Newt Ritter rounded out the top three with a 217.34 averaging 1.94 AND he shot it clean – imagine that! And as if Newt didn't do enough, he also did this while retaining his Pistoleros All Around Cowboy title. (All Around means you shoot one stage standard two-hand, one duelist, one double duelist, and one gunfighter.) We had two other clean shooters – yours truly and Totuskey Pete which remarkably, both of us were shooting the multi style All Around Cowboy as well. Pete shared another honor with PJ as the only two shooters to get both of the bonuses (boni?). We had nine shooters compete in the All Around this year. Everyone needs to take a few minutes to dry fire in the other styles this coming year and maybe we will give Newt a run for his money next year.



Many thanks to the Wooden Nickel set up crew pictured here (except for Doc Trinity who made a fast getaway before we could take the picture). I really appreciate your help in getting these matches set up and running. What really helps is your recommendations during the shadow shoot of each stage after setup. It's then that I realize that some of the things that sounded really good in my head don't translate into real life. You'll notice a couple of uniformed individuals in the picture.

Totuskey Pete shanghaied a couple of his crew to help. Please pass along our thanks.

I know Beans Ahgin will write about HAVA, but I wanted to thank each and every one of you for taking the time to make the Cowboy stage and the Guns of the Old West a rousing success. It was a long day, but the veterans really appreciated it. We will be looking for more volunteers again next year.

I also serve as the club's Wild Bunch Territorial Governor and there are a lot of changes coming to Wild Bunch Action Shooting (WBAS) next year. I will discuss the

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changes at the 29 Nov Wild Bunch shoot and will outline the changes in the December newsletter, but one of the biggest change is the creation of the *Classic Wild Bunch* category. In 2025, WBAS opened participation to shooters allowing the use of any SASS approved rifles and shotguns alleviating the need to procure a .40- caliber or larger rifle and an 1897 or Model 12 shotgun. Wild Bunch purists were not happy, so WBAS created a *Classic Wild Bunch* category where the hard core WBAS shooters can compete using the original arming requirements.

There is a fifth Saturday in November so we will host a Wild Bunch and Cowboy Action shoot on 29 November; will be a chance to work off that extra helping of stuffing you had. Set up on Friday, 28 Nov would be a great excuse to skip Black Friday shopping – just trying to help. I know it's a bit early in the month, but quick reminder that the 6 December shoot serves our Christmas match. See you there with jingle bells on!

'Nough said...brass is up, targets are up, shooter up. Stage begins with shotgun. BEEP! BANG, "UP!" BANG "UP!" BANG "UP!" Shooter, did you put any shot in those loads?!?!?!?

## CENTRAL TEXAS MONTHLY CLUB SHOOTING MATCHES

1st Saturday Plum Creek (Lockhart)	1000 Pin Oak Road Lockhart , TX 78644 USA	<a href="#">Brazos Bo</a> 210-303-6996
1st Saturday South Texas Pistoleros (San Antonio)	13250 Pleasanton Road San Antonio , TX 78221 USA	<a href="#">Colonel Colt Winchester</a> 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	<a href="#">Tocayo</a> 361-648-1680
2nd Sunday Rio Grande Valley Vaqueros (Pharr)	600 East Javelina Drive Pharr , TX 78501 USA	<a href="#">Dream Chaser</a> 956-648-7364
2nd Weekend Saturday & Sunday (Cowboy/1911) Texican Rangers (Comfort)	130 Adolf Stieler Ranch Road Comfort , TX 78013 USA	<a href="#">San Saba Slim</a> 832-691-7998
3rd Saturday (Cowboy) & 3rd Sunday (Long Range) Tejas Caballeros (TX Republic Ranch)	8545 Ranch Road 1623 Blanco , TX 78606 USA	<a href="#">Farr Ranger</a> 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	<a href="#">Bessie James</a> 210-385-3348



## 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](http://www.stxpistoleros.net)

Or scan here



# The Bean Pot.....



## HAVA

### HAVA 2025 Report by *Beans Ahgin*, SASS# 65626

Once again, the Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA) Field Day on Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at the San Antonio Police Academy was a great success due in no small part to the efforts of the Cowboy Action Shooting community.

The goal of the Field Day event is to get veterans and their families involved in outdoor activities. HAVA excels at showing families that there are ways to involve even disabled veterans in camping, fishing, hunting, shooting, archery, and other outdoor pursuits even if they are confined to mobility aids such as scooters, wheelchairs, or power chairs.



The *Caprock Kid* was once again the Ramrod for the Cowboy Group. He writes the Operations Plan, hauls targets, stands, tables, blankets, chairs, target paint and Lord only knows what else to the San Antonio Police Academy...and back.



“Caprock’s Angels” insured that he didn’t stray too far from the script. (L.-R: *Maid Jalaff*, *Caprock Kid*, *Shooting Iron Miller*, and *Alamo Rose*)

Volunteers from the South Texas Pistoleros and the Texican Rangers spent the day staffing *Dutch Van Horns’* Guns of the



Old West and Photo Booth and, on the SAPD shooting range, helping several hundred veterans and their family members shoot Cowboy lever-action rifles and six-

shooters throughout the day.

*Dutch Van Horn*, *Fister Bo*, *Newt Ritter*, *Mad Dog McCoy*, and *Three-Fingered Dutchman* had the Guns of the Old West display set up near the Headquarters Tent

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before 9:00 AM, and were finally able to break things down just before supper. To give you a sense of how busy the Guns of the Old West volunteers were, *Dutch Van Horn*, known for “taking photos with one hand while shooting a clean match with the other” fame did not have time to take one photo...not one.

One measure of how popular “the Cowboys” are is how many disabled vets and their families leave their “squad” to return to “the Cowboys” for another round...or three...of shooting the rifles and pistols.

HAVA supplied 3,000 rounds of Cowboy ammunition for the event, and there was not much left over at the end of the day.



The young lady in the wheelchair pictured at left has limited strength in her hands. She came back three times to work with *Shooting Iron Miller* shooting “the buffalo’s eye” with an 1873 lever-action rifle.

Thank You *Caprock Kid*, *Beans Ahgin*, *San Saba Slim*, *Dutch Van Horn*, *Fister Bo*, *Newt Ritter*, *Mad Dog McCoy*, *Three-Fingered Dutchman*, *Long John Beard*, *Colonel Colt Winchester*, *Tabasco Kid*, *Big Tex*, *Maid Jalaff*, *Latigo Lee*, *Alamo Rose*, *Beauregard Beard*, *Sheriff Robert Love*, *Shooting Iron Miller*, and *Sauk Valley Sam*, for making HAVA 2025 such a memorable day for so many military veterans and their families.



*Latigo Lee* Coaching a shooter while *Beauregard Beard* works with a young guest on the rifle “dry fire” instruction station. *San Saba Slim* served as the RSO.



*Colonel Colt Winchester* teaching a guest how to handle a (dummy) six-

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*Sheriff Robert Love* coaching a guest firing a six-shooter while *Shooting Iron Miller* checks the next Vaquero in the rotation. *Big Tex* was a “Loader.”

“Charlie,” the HAVA Range Safety Officer, couldn’t stand just watching any longer. Here he is shooting “the buffalo eye” swinger rifle target with a pistol.



(At Left:) Near the end of the day, *Shooting Iron Miller* found herself coaching a few of the HAVA volunteer staffers as they tried their hand at the “Cowboy Guns.”

Between the guests and the staff, “The Cowboys” went through almost 3,000 rounds of .38S&W Cowboy Ammo.

*Caprock Kid* and *Beans Ahgin* then had the unenviable task of cleaning the Uberti ’73 rifles and carbines and the Ruger Vaquero pistols the next day!

# **GUN SHOW SCHEDULE**



## **No Local Shows**



## **Area Gun Shows**

**Dec 5th – 7th, 2025  
The Belton Gun Show  
Bell County Expo Center  
301 W Loop 121  
Belton, TX 76513  
(713) 474-3900**

**Dec 5th – 7th, 2025  
The Wimberley Gun Show  
Wimberley Community Center  
14068 RANCH ROAD 12  
Wimberley, TX 78676  
(830) 399-5955**

**Dec 6th – 7th, 2025  
The Al Amin Shrine Gun Show  
Al Amin Shrine Pavilion  
2001 Suntide Road  
Corpus Christi, TX 78409  
(361) 696-1585**

**Dec 6th – 7th, 2025  
Hill Country Gun Show  
Hill Country Veterans Center  
411 Meadow View Lane  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
(830) 315-3100**

**Dec 12th – 14th, 2025  
The The Sealy Gun & Knife Show  
Sealy American Legion 442  
1630 Meyer St  
Sealy, TX 77474  
(713) 474-3900**

**Dec 12th – 14th, 2025  
The Seguin 3-Day Gun Show  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
1015S AUSTIN ST  
Seguin, TX 78155  
(830) 399-5955**

**Dec 19th – 21st, 2025  
The Schertz Gun Show  
MIKULSKI HALL KC HALL  
509 Schertz Pkwy.  
Schertz, TX 78154  
(830) 399-5955**

**Dec 20th – 21st, 2025  
The Saxet Corpus Christi Gun Show  
Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds  
1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd  
Corpus Christi, TX 78380  
(361) 289-2256**

**Dec 20th – 21st, 2025  
The Hondo Gun Show  
Hondo Fairgrounds  
733 FM 462 N  
Hondo, TX 78861  
(210) 844-9599**

**Dec 20th – 21st, 2025  
The Kerrville Gun & Knife Show  
Happy State Bank  
Expo Hall  
3785 Highway 27  
Kerrville, TX 78028  
(830) 285-0575**

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

## Benjamin Rush Milam



Benjamin Rush Milam

Benjamin Rush Milam was born in 1788 in Frankfort, Kentucky. He served in the War of 1812, and in 1818, along with other Anglos, he went to Texas, and as was necessary for land ownership there, became a Mexican citizen. During this time, Mexico both welcomed and feared the Anglos coming to Texas. Eventually, Mexico started imposing unfair regulations on the Anglos. And, in 1835, when Santa Ana established himself as dictator, Milam renounced his Mexican citizenship and joined the rag-tag army of Anglos fighting for the independence of Texas.

Following the Texas army's capture of Goliad in which he participated, Milam was sent on a scouting trip to the southwest. When he returned, the Texas army was on the outskirts of San Antonio. But, to Milam's disappointment, the Texas generals had decided to postpone the attack on San Antonio until spring. Milam was aware that Santa Ana's forces were heading toward Texas with enough troops to suppress the rebellion, and he worried that to hesitate meant defeat. So, he went before the troops and made an impassioned plea asking: "Who will go with old Ben Milam into San Antonio?"

Three hundred men volunteered. And on December 5, they started their attack on San Antonio. The fighting took place house-to-house and hand-to-hand. Four days later, on December 9, with 200 Mexican soldiers dead and as many injured, the commanding general surrendered the city to the Texans.

Unfortunately, Benjamin Milam wasn't there to celebrate. He had been shot by a sniper two days into the battle. Incidentally, had he survived, he would have probably been one of the Texans defending the Alamo from Santa Ana the following March.

### Courtesy Chronicle of the Old West and Long John Beard

To pre-register for the December 6, 2025 match  
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**