

AGARITA GAZETTE



A Chronicle of the Plum Creek Shooting Society



Agarita Ranch

February 2013

Lockhart, Texas

“Cibolo” by Long Juan

Cibolo is a town in Guadalupe County near Randolph AFB, in San Antonio. Cibolo Creek is a stream that runs approximately 96 miles from its source in the Texas Hill Country near Boerne to its intersection with the San Antonio River in Karnes County southeast of San Antonio. “Cibolo” is also an Indian word meaning “buffalo” or “bison.” Both names have a similar meaning. “Bison” is a Greek word meaning an ox-like animal. The word “buffalo” originated with French fur trappers in America who called the American bison *boeufs*, meaning ox or bullock. The American bison is only distantly related to either of the two “true buffalo” - the Asian water buffalo and the African buffalo. In this



article, *American bison* will be referred to as *American buffalo* or simply *buffalo*.

No animal is more synonymous with the Old West than the American buffalo. They were strong, fierce, rugged and able to withstand nearly anything Mother Nature could dish out. A migratory grazer that originated in Eurasia and migrated over the Bering Strait to North America, buffalo were a force that shaped the ecology of the Great Plains as strongly as periodic prairie fires.



The historic range of the buffalo covered roughly a triangle from far northwest Canada and Alaska, south to the Mexican states of Durango and Nuevo Leon and east along the western boundary of the Appalachian Mountains. The buffalo has a shaggy, long, dark brown winter coat and a lighter weight, lighter brown summer coat. Buffalo calves are lighter in color than mature buffalo. Once roaming the prairie grasslands of North

What's Inside:

Austin Light Artillery Info	15-16
Evil Roy School Info	14
Find Delta Raider	7
Long Juan Here	2
Match Photos	9
President's Word	2
Western Movie Wisdom	7



Continued page 3.

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www.pccss.org

The President's Word

by Dragon Hill Dave



One of the great advantages cowboy action shooters have in Central Texas is that even during the winter months we can continue to shoot. This is confirmed by so many of our winter Texans who come down and join us while their home clubs are snowed in. Our shoot this last weekend was a perfect example of the way winter can treat us here. While we started with cool temperatures in the 40s, we quickly shed our coats and shot in the kind of comfortable temperatures that make our cowboy clothes just right. We were blessed by a great turnout with 63 shooters joining us on the range. With the state match coming, we expect even more next month as folks come out to become familiar with our venue. We also had several folks from the really old days of Plum Creek come back to see all the changes. We hope to see them shooting with us again next month.

Progress on the state match proceeds, with your State Match Committee meeting, planning, working and meeting again to assure that this will be a smooth and enjoyable match. We can only hope that we are blessed with the same cool, dry temperatures when we host the state match. Every Friday we have a work day from 9:00-12:00 at the range, and every Sunday before our first Saturday of the month shoot

Continued page 6.

Long Juan Here!

The State Match, *Ride with Pancho Villa*, is almost here (May 1-5). Much has already been accomplished, but there is still lots of work to be done. Please come to scheduled workdays whenever you can (see Calendar page on website for schedule) and volunteer to be a waddie, both before the match and during. Contact Assistant Match Director

Continued page 7.



America in massive herds numbering 50-60 million, by the mid-1800's their numbers had been reduced to about 30 million. Over the latter half of the 19th century, record numbers of buffalo were killed. Their



hides were used for robes or coats, stagecoach siding and belts. The buffalo tongue was considered a dining delicacy. Cattle needed room, as ranchers moved westward. Hunting parties traveled west by railroad to engage in the sport of hunting buffalo. For the American Indian, buffalo were a source of almost everything – clothing, shelter, tools, toys, jewelry, spiritual inspiration and, of course, food. Eliminating the buffalo was a way to eliminate the Indians, who relied on the buffalo for their survival. By the end of the 19th century, the American buffalo were nearly extinct, with fewer than a thousand surviving.

Before introduction of the horse, Indians herded buffalo into large chutes made of rocks and willow branches and then stampeded them over cliffs. Large quantities of meat were obtained from these “buffalo jumps.” The Indians made optimum use of the buffalo. First they skinned down the animal’s back to get at and remove the tender meat just beneath the surface. Then the front legs were cut off, as well as the shoulder blades, exposing the hump meat, the meat of the ribs and the buffalo's



inner organs. After everything was exposed, the spine was severed and the pelvis and hind legs were removed. Finally, the neck and head were removed as one. Much of the meat was dried until it was hard and brittle. Then it was pounded into very small pieces, almost powder-like in consistency, using stones. The pounded meat was mixed with melted tallow (fat). Occasionally, dried fruit was pounded into powder and added to the meat/fat mixture. The resulting *pemmican* was packed into rawhide pouches for storage and later consumption.



Spanish explorers introduced the horse to North America. The Plains Indians soon found that a few good horsemen could easily lance or shoot enough buffalo to keep a tribe fed as long as a herd was nearby. The buffalo provided the Indians with meat, leather, sinew (tendons) for bows, grease and dried dung for fires. The hooves could be boiled to make glue. Buffalo were consumed by the Indians down to the last bit of marrow.

Beginning in the mid-19th century, there was a huge export trade of buffalo hides from North America to Europe. A good hide brought \$3 in Dodge City, Kansas, and a very good heavy winter coat sold for as much as \$50 in an era when a laborer would be lucky to make a dollar a day. To

meet demand, buffalo hunting in the Old West became a large commercial enterprise, involving organized teams of one or two professional hunters backed by a team of skinners, gun-cleaners, cartridge re-loaders, cooks, wranglers, blacksmiths, security guards, teamsters and numerous horses and wagons. Men were even employed to recover and recast lead bullets taken from the buffalo carcasses (precursors to the “brass pickers” in cowboy action shooting).

The buffalo hunter would locate a herd in early morning and station himself about 100 yards downwind. From there, he would shoot the buffalo broadside through the lungs. Head shots were avoided because the soft lead bullets would often flatten and fail to penetrate the skull. The shooting continued until the herd sensed danger and stampeded or otherwise dispersed. If done properly, a large number of buffalo could be felled during a single “stand.” The skinners were next. They would drive a spike through the nose of each dead animal with a sledgehammer, hook up a horse team and pull the hide from the carcass. Others in the hunting party dressed, prepared and stacked the hides on the wagons for transportation to a railhead. Dodge City saw railroad cars sent East filled with stacked hides. The rest of the carcass was left behind to decay on the ground. Later the bones were collected and shipped back East in large quantities for use in manufacturing fertilizer.



For a decade, from 1873 on, there were several hundred, perhaps more than a

thousand commercial hunting outfits “harvesting” buffalo at any one time, vastly exceeding the take by American Indians or individual meat hunters. The commercial take was reportedly anywhere from 2,000 to 100,000



animals per day, depending on the season. Many of the professional hunters, like Buffalo Bill Cody, killed more than 100 buffalo during a single stand and many thousands in their career. One professional hunter reported that he alone killed

20,000 buffalo during his career. During a buffalo stand, “Big Fifties” were fired so frequently that hunters needed at least two rifles to let the barrels cool. *Look for more about the “Big 50” in the March issue.* The Plains Indians also contributed to the near extinction of the American buffalo. By the 1830’s, the Comanche and their allies on the southern plains were killing about 280,000 buffalo a year, which was near the limit of sustainability for the region.

The U.S. Army wanted the number of buffalo reduced as a means of controlling the Indians. The railroad industry also wanted buffalo herds reduced or eliminated. Herds of buffalo on tracks could damage locomotives when the trains failed to stop in time. Herds often took shelter in the artificial cuts formed by the grade of the track winding through hills and mountains in harsh winter conditions. As a result, buffalo herds could delay a train for days. The building of the railroads through

Colorado and Kansas split the buffalo herd in two parts, the southern herd and the northern herd. The last refuge of the southern herd was in the Texas Panhandle.

As the great herds began to wane, proposals to protect the buffalo were discussed. Buffalo Bill, among others, spoke in favor of protecting the buffalo because he saw that pressure on the species was too great. These proposals were discouraged, however, because the Plains Indians, often at war with the United States, depended on buffalo for their way of life. In 1874, President Ulysses S. Grant "pocket vetoed" a Federal bill to protect the dwindling buffalo herds. In 1875, General Philip Sheridan pleaded to a joint session of Congress to slaughter the herds to deprive the Indians of their food source.

Interesting facts about or relating to the American buffalo include:

- The rare white buffalo is considered sacred by many Native Americans.
- A buffalo wallow is a shallow depression in the soil, which is used either wet or dry. Buffalos roll in these depressions, covering themselves with dust or mud. With rainfall, buffalo wallows often become temporary



ponds, holding water that supports other species and vegetation.

- The American buffalo is used in official seals, flags and logos throughout North

America. Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming have adopted the buffalo as their official state mammal. There is a buffalo on the Wyoming flag.



Many sports teams have chosen the buffalo as their mascot. In Canada, the buffalo is the official animal of the province of Manitoba and appears on the Manitoba flag. It is also used in the official coat of arms of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



- The buffalo or Indianhead nickel was a copper-nickel 5¢ piece featuring an American buffalo.



It was produced from 1913 to 1938. In 2005, the United States Mint coined a nickel

with a new depiction of the buffalo as part of its "Westward Journey" series. The Kansas and North Dakota state quarters, part of the 50-State Quarter series, each feature a buffalo. The Yellowstone National Park Quarter features a buffalo standing next to a geyser. The American buffalo also appeared on the 1901 \$10 bill.



- The first postage stamp with an image of a buffalo was issued in the United States in 1898 – a 4¢ "Indian Hunting Buffalo."



The last of the remaining "southern herd" in Texas was saved from extinction when Charles Goodnight's wife, Molly, encouraged him to

save some of the last remaining buffalo that had taken refuge in the Texas Panhandle. By saving these Plains buffalo, the Goodnights were able to establish a buffalo herd near the Palo Duro Canyon. Peaking at 250 in 1933, the last of the southern buffalo would become known as the Goodnight herd. In 1998, the descendants of this herd were moved to Caprock Canyons State Park, approximately 100 miles southeast of Amarillo. Today, as a result of buffalo preservation efforts by many groups, there are more than 500,000 buffalo in North America and their numbers are growing. Efforts have been so successful that buffalo

or bison meat, which is considered nutritious (high in protein and low in fat) is readily available for consumption. And it tastes great. You can try some at the Thunder Heart Bison trailer, 1104 E. 6th Street and other venues in Austin. They serve bison burgers, chili, tacos and more.



The President's Word *(continued from page 2)*

(except for Easter, when we will be here the Sunday before, March 24) we have a work day from 9:00-2:00.

Next month our shoot is on March 2, **Texas Independence Day**. We intend to have a blast as the cannon will be here to help us celebrate. As we announced at the February match, **Delta Raider** has agreed with **Artiman** and **Lefty Leo** for them to permanently house "Patience" at Agarita Ranch. But even bigger doings than that are in store for March. Lone Star Beer, KOKE Radio, Texas Hatters and the Agarita Ranch are having a party. After our monthly match the aforementioned sponsors, together with the Spoiled Doves and several others, will be putting on a TEXAS size party. Besides the good lookin' gals, there will be at least four bands, a BBQ cook off, dancing, historical readings, and cheap beer. We will only be shooting 5 stages so we can finish early and enjoy the party.

April 4-7, the **Texican Rangers** are hosting *Comancheria Days*. Many of our Plum Creek shooters will be participating. Particularly if you have not shot CD before, we strongly encourage you to try it out. The **Texican Rangers** put on a very good shoot at an historic range. If I didn't have to work on Friday, I would be there.

Comancheria Days this year will be on the first weekend in April. We considered the possibility of moving our monthly shoot to another weekend, but we realized that if we did so we would intrude on some of our sister clubs. Ultimately we decided to shoot our regular weekend. I know a banjo player and have convinced him to come out and play songs from *Cat Ballou* to accompany us as we shoot *Cat Ballou* stages. If you can't make *Comancheria Days* in April, I hope you will join us.



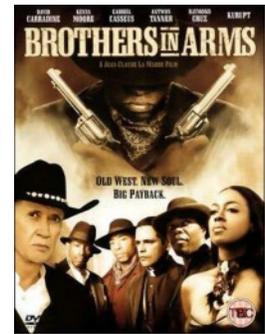
Find Delta Raider

Last month **Delta Raider** was a reflection in the lens of Duke's shades. Seven readers found him. Hereby mentioned in the dispatches are: **Boon Doggle, Artiman, Manassas Jack, Leo's Lady, Lefty Leo, Six Goin' South** and **Lincoln Drifter**. **Delta Raider** appears again in this month's issue. Find him and you will be mentioned in the dispatches next month.

Plum Creek Shooting Society

Western Movie Wisdom

"Excuses are a dime-a-dozen and not worth a plugged nickel."
Driscoll played by David Carradine in Brothers in Arms (2005)



Long Juan Here (continued from page 2)

Agarita Annie or Match Director **Dragon Hill Dave** to volunteer or for more information.

We had an all-time match turn-out (63 shooters, of which 10 were women) for the February match. We shot in four posses and enjoyed pizza for lunch in the pavilion after the match. We had fourteen shoot a clean match. There were shooters in 24 categories, 16 of which had more than one shooter. The category with the greatest number of shooters was Cody-Dixon Lever, closely followed by Elder Statesman. Fifteen shot long distance (Cody-Dixon - lever and single-action; Grand Army of the Frontier - repeater and single-action). Congratulations to top man, **Kickshot** and top woman,

Dream Chaser. Complete scores are available on the Scores page at www.pccss.org.

Please remember that everyone on each posse needs to help during the match. In addition to the timer operator (RO), each posse needs three spotters, a scorekeeper and at least one brass picker. If no one is assigned to the loading and unloading tables, please remain at the unloading table after you unload to check the next shooter. At the loading table, ask the person in front or behind you to be sure you have hammer down on an empty chamber after loading. See photos on the next page and on the Photos page at www.pccss.org to see examples of those doing a good job helping.

Continued next page

If you are not loading, unloading or shooting, you need to be helping. If you aren't, you're not doing your part. Please do. Thanks

We know it took a while to register in February. We had a large number of shooters, including several who have not shot with us before or recently. That may continue to be the case until the State Match as shooters want to try out the range before shooting the big match. We have also been collecting annual dues and State Match registrations. To help us keep proper track of the money and to expedite the registration

process, if you are going to use checks, please write separate checks for the State Match and everything else (club dues, match fee and lunch). Please also fill out and sign your check(s) before you get to the registration table. You can fill out the amount when you pay if you do not know the correct amount. Finally, if you need to fill out a new waiver/application form, please complete it before you get in line to register. Thanks.



Posse Help

Kettleman timing



Gold Dog reading the stage scenario to his posse



Tequila Diamond pickin' and Bunk Stagner scorekeeping



PCSS President Dragon Hill Dave and Mesquite Creek Mike pickin' brass



Agarita Annie entering match scores



Jarhead Jake countin' misses



Kickshot 'splainin'" what it's all about to some visitors



Deputy Bloodhound, Dragon Hill Dave & Mesquite Creek Mike

Six Goin' South & Kickshot



Reflections of Loose Cannon Lou



Maybe not completely authentic, but darn good lookin'!



Texas Trinity Kid goes after those pesky bells



Colorful
Joe Darter

Tequila Diamond, Deputy Bloodhound &
Texas Blue Eyes



Sheriff Robert Love in his "Plum" Creek shirt



Texas Josey Wales' Galveston Wells Fargo medallion

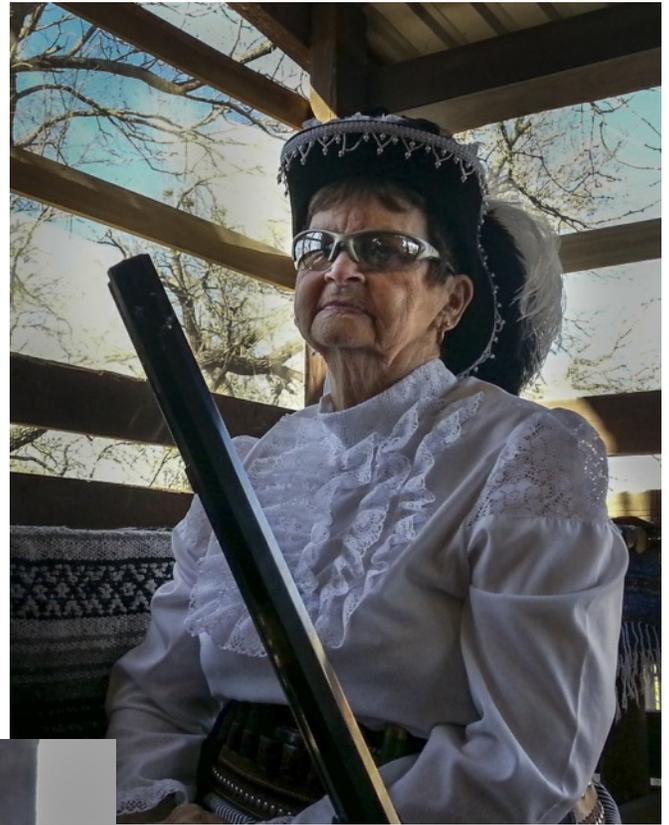




Sunrise at the *Agarita Ranch*



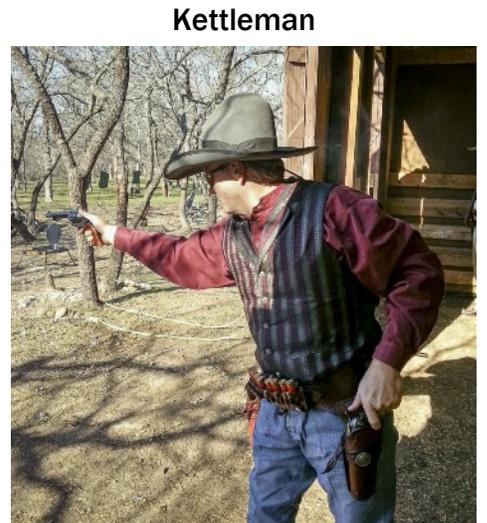
Bunkhouse Bob
And God said, "Let there be light!"



Boosey Babe



Tell me again, Bronco, what kind of cowboy hat that is?



Kettleman



Nueces Ranger



**Rowdy
"Tex"
Yates**



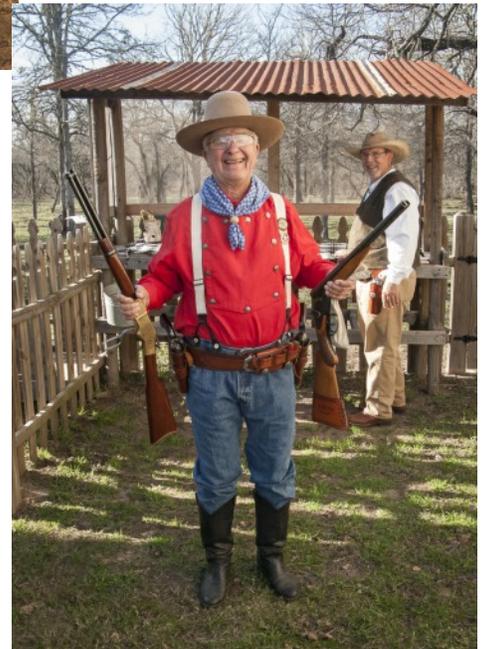
**Enjoying some time
in the sun!**



**Tequila Diamond &
Dream Chaser**



**Six Goin' South & Texas Two Step
We're sure happy to have TTS back shooting with us!**

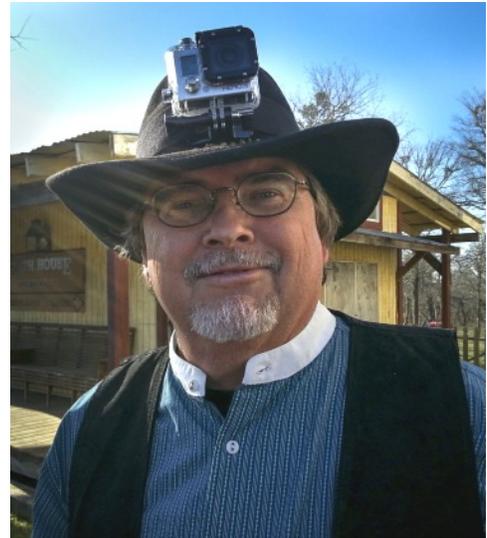


Bunk Stagner & General Burlson



Cowboy Action Video in the Making

Farr Ranger, Blake the Snake and Chuck Joseph are co-producing and co-directing a documentary focused on people who participate in Cowboy Action Shooting. At the February match they were “shooting” action scenes, crowd scenes and cutaways. They will be shooting at the next three matches, including the State Match. They will be interviewing shooters on and off the range, including **Dragon Hill Dave** and others. Look good and you may find yourself in the movies. Then again, you may find yourself on the cutting room floor.



Farr Ranger equipped with his videocam

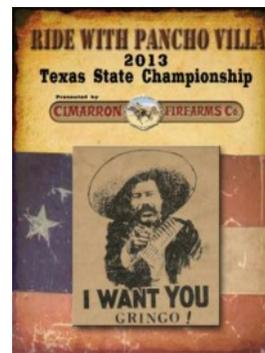
Loose Cannon Lou & Son



The video crew - Blake the Snake, Farr Ranger & Joe Hessmiller



Hold'em or Fold'em-Pancho Villa Want YOU!



We just keep adding more fun stuff to do at the 2013 SASS Texas State Championship-Ride with Pancho Villa.

Do you know when to hold'em and when to fold'em? If you answered yes, then come and join us for Texas Hold'em. On Friday night while we are enjoying the bar-b-que cooking competition you can enjoy a little Texas Hold'em. We are looking for players and dealers. We will seat five players per table so get your group together now! 1st and 2nd place will get a plaque crowning you as the Winners of the Pancho Villa Texas Hold'em Tournament.

If you are interested in either playing or dealing, please send an email to agarita_a@yahoo.com (that's agarita underscore a) so we can get a count of the number of players. If you want to play with someone in particular, please let us know in the email.

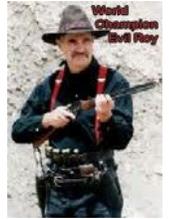
Cost: \$20

You Get: \$50,000 in chips soft drinks, water and munchies (BYOB) an evening of FUN!!!

Evil Roy Shooting School

April 27-28, 2013

The Tejas Caballeros are proud to announce an **Evil Roy Shooting School**



at the Caballeros' Flat Creek Shooting Range west of Dripping Springs, Texas.

Evil Roy, a past World Champion, National Wild Bunch Champion and Silver Senior Cowboy Action Champion and trainer for many other World Champions, will be in central Texas **April 27-28** to share his insights, skills, and tricks of the trade that can make you a better shooter. This **2-day school on Saturday the 27th and Sunday the 28th** will teach you how to be a smarter and better shooter. This is the same school offered at Winter Range, in Phoenix AZ.

Some of the best shooters in the world have taken this class to improve their shooting, transitions, and stage management. Even if you don't want to be a world champion contender, you can learn a lot of tricks and techniques that will improve your game.

Has your shooting plateaued? Want to move to the next level? Evil Roy's school can give you tips and procedures that can help you shave seconds and misses from your time.

EVIL ROY IS MAKING A SPECIAL TRIP TO HOST THIS SCHOOL. WE NEED TO GET A MINIMUM OF 20 SHOOTERS ENROLLED TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET A WORLD-CLASS COWBOY ACTION EDUCATION WITH HANDS-ON TRAINING CLOSE TO HOME FROM ONE OF THE PREMIER TEACHERS IN OUR SPORT.

The price per person for the 2-day school is \$250.00. Additional immediate family members are \$150.00 and SASS juniors shoot free with a paid adult.

Payment terms are cash, Visa, or Master Card.

Contact the **Shooting School** through Wicked Felina (aka Karen Pearcey) to register.

Phone: 970-247-1234

fax: 970-259-6111

email: evilroy@evilroyshootingschool.com

website: www.evilroyshootingschool.com"

For **Cabins and Rooms** available separately from Flat Creek Ranch: <http://www.txsranch.com/pictures.htm>.

Rick Gambino:

512 426-9691

rgambino@childinc.org

Austin Light Artillery Battery
352 Pecan Acres Rd.
Bastrop, TX 78602
512-468-8811

For Immediate Release:

The Austin Light Artillery Battery announced on Saturday, February 02, 2013 that we will be permanently headquartering at Agarita Ranch outside of Lockhart, Texas. The battery has gratefully accepted the invitation of the Plum Creek Shooting Society to permanently base the battery's cannon at the shooting range, and will be designing and building a headquarters at Agarita Ranch.

The Austin Light Artillery Battery is a nickname for the 6th Texas Field Artillery. It was also known as Willke's Texas Battery for its first commander Captain Herman Willke.

During the course of the Civil War, the battery served mainly in Texas. The battery saw action in several minor battles. The most important and major battle was the Siege of Corpus Christi on August 27, 1862. At that time the battery consisted of two 24 pound howitzers, and four 12 pound howitzers.

The Battery Commander is Jay Davis (Artyman), and the Adjutant is Leo Bush (Lefty Leo). There are several regular shooters at Plum Creek who are trained in the operation of the battery's cannon, which is named Patience. Now that we have a permanent home the battery is accepting membership applications from anyone interested in the safe continuation of our love for historically recreating and presenting the challenges that our ancestors faced on a daily basis to give us all the freedom to live our current lifestyles.

Attached is a copy of our membership signup form. Please feel free to copy and share it with anyone that might be interested in joining us. The membership fees will be used to finance and build our headquarters, and towards the upkeep of the headquarters and the cannon.

Respectfully Submitted
Leo R. Bush
Adjutant

Austin Light Artillery Battery
Headquarters: Fort Agarita on Plum Creek
Agarita Ranch Lockhart, Texas

I hereby request membership in the Austin Light Artillery Battery, Headquartered at Fort Agarita on Plum Creek, Agarita Ranch, Lockhart, Texas

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership:

1 Year: \$25.00 _____

2 Year: \$40.00 _____

3 Year: \$50.00 _____

Life: \$150.00 _____

Mail Form to:
Austin Light Artillery Battery
352 Pecan Acres Rd
Bastrop, TX 78602
Phone: 512-468-8811
Lefty Leo: Adjutant

Make checks out to:
Austin Light Artillery Battery