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District 19. You will certainly hear more as the race develops.

Another legislative priority is the CHL reciprocity issue. Again we are somewhat at odds with the Department of Public Safety. They have "rule making" authority and manage to put a creative spin on lots of things such as which states are eligible for Texas reciprocity and which are not. I'm using my best lobby-language now but "creative spin" is not what I'm thinking. This, too, will take specific legislation.

At this writing there are no "gun show" or "trigger lock" bills filed but remember it's early.

Doc Brown, Gib Lewis and I work continuously with the NRA lobbyist to develop a plan. Plans are good until the session starts. After that, the session drives the plan. In 1999, Rick Green surprised us with the Manufacturers and Dealers bill to prohibit frivolous lawsuits. That's what I mean about session driving the plan.

Not to be outdone by the TSRA executive director who loves maxims, let me leave you with this thought:

"All the horse power in the world don't matter if you can't get it to the ground."

We have been promised by candidates, now the newly elected, that they are "committed to the Second Amendment and to the rights of all Texas law-abiding gun owners, sport shooters and hunters". It's time to see who can get the "horse power to the ground. "

I also want to mention the very nice man who mailed Doc Brown a check for our Political Action Committee fund (the PAC) and added a note to the check, "Because Alice begged."

You know that Doc Brown is semi-retired but still very much my boss and heaven help me if I forget to "beg" for the PAC. Please do what you can to help. Be ready to make a call or send a letter or an e-mail, but don't forget to send a few dollars to the PAC occasionally. All of it is important and all of it helps.

Best wishes for 2003. Keep the faith.

Shootout in the Panola Wind Tunnel: High Power Long Range Match

By Robert Langham

Eighteen competitors plus range officers gathered at the Panola County Gun Club highpower range for the first match of 2003 on Saturday, Jan. 4. The morning started off crisp but warmed to a beautiful Texas winter day as the match went on.

The Panola Club has the highest number and percentage of High Master classified shooters of the state and several of them were there to start a new year of shooting.



Six contestants shoot from the 200 yard line during rapid fire. Photo by Robert Langham.

Jon Rhynard, a HM and club member from Louisiana was the match winner shooting a 489X20 including a 200X13 at the 600 yard line with his 6mm08 bolt gun.

Match Directors Richard Schultz and Wilburn Spillers called a safe, timely, and precise match.



The author, Robert Langham getting ready to swing into action with "Betsy"...that's the AR that he's holding. Photo by Evan Hess.

The Panola range is known statewide as a "wind tunnel" because of the tall pines and hardwoods lining the range limiting wind effects especially at the 600 yard line. Panola shooters however seem to shoot very competitively on other ranges open to the wind and the target frames run smoother than any other in the mid-south making the club a destination for all serious area highpower shooters.



High Master John Rhynard fires during the match. Photo by Robert Langham