



The Howler

at 5 Dogs Creek

June 2014

The Town Council

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From the 46 Connected Ranch

by Utah Blaine

Here we are half-way through 2014! The next event on the horizon is the **She Bang** in October, which is only three months away. All you cowgirls out there in virtual land will be hearing more about this annual event in the coming weeks from Lap Dog. And some of you cowboys may want to lend a hand in helping to get the range cleaned up for the She Bang, especially if a girlfriend, wife, or daughter is involved in the planning of this event; it may help to maintain a feeling of familial harmony.

As I mentioned at our June monthly match, **it is not too early to start thinking about officers for 2015-2016**. We know there will be at least three positions to be filled: mayor, sheriff, and banker. What the Town Council would like to do is to bring on board in January 2015 cowboys or cowgirls who are willing to assume an "in training" position for mayor, sheriff, or banker. This way those "in training" can begin "learning the ropes," so to speak, up to and through the Shootout at 5 Dogs Creek/SASS California State Championships, which will take place April 31 through May 3, 2015. I urge you to start giving some thought to assuming one of these "in-training" positions.

Since it does not even start to get dark until very late for our regularly scheduled match **in July and quite possibly August too, we will not be showing a movie** following the potluck on Saturday evening. As an aside, our projectionist will be vacationing in Chicago with a daughter the first weekend in July. This is probably the best time year to experience the "warmth" and the "humidity" of the Windy City.

July 4, our Independence Day, is the Friday before our regularly scheduled match on July 5 and July 6. I would like to encourage everyone who plans to shoot on these two days to wear some article of clothing that acknowledges the historical significance of this Day in 1776. Untold numbers have been placed in harm's way and a great many have made the ultimate sacrifice to maintain our country's independence. So, a nod to our Independence Day, however small it may seem, is appreciated.

Finally, let us extend our heartiest congratulations to **Sam Ootie** who received this year's **Top Hand Award**. For several years he has worked tirelessly to make our 5 Dogs Creek range a cleaner, safer, and better shooting venue. I cannot recall a single instance where I have asked Fred if he could help with something and he has said no. His only question has been: "When do you want me to help with that?" A more usually response is: "I'll do take care of that right away." This award is overdue and well deserved! From all of us at 5 Dogs Creek, and from me personally, thank you Sam Ootie for all that you done for the Club!

Our official address:

5 Dogs Creek

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All you cowboys and cowgirls out there keep your horse shod, your guns clean, and your powder dry. We look forward to seeing you all Saturday July 5 and Sunday July 6. A word of caution: as you are riding toward 5 Dogs Creek watch out for those new fangled motorized vehicles, which some folks claim will soon replace horses as our main mode of transportation. I hear tell they even have some they are now calling trucks!



• • • • • The Sheriff's Log

by Fordyce Beals

May 21 and June 1 matches were a reprise of the State Match. No pressure and pre knowledge of the stages gave some a license to shoot with abandon. I saw some low teen stage times, I could only move that fast across a balance beam with a grizzly bear behind, over a canyon filled with molten lava.

The July 5 and 6 match is sponsored by Tomahawk Ty backed up by his mentor Bo Bean. I am sure Ty's girls Painting Wolf and Twilight Moon will be helping. I don't have full details of the stages but expect a fun time for all. With play time including single action revolvers, lever action rifles and shotguns banging away and the occasional deluded black powder devotee, summer weather, and a pot luck good times are experienced by all that attend!

We have August to be chosen by volunteer match sponsors. Email me if you want to set up this month: fordyceleia@live.com

Clean Shooters



Clean Shooters Saturday, from left to right: Mescalero, El Alacran Del Norte, Lap Dog, Bones Brannon, and Badmann Bob.



Clean Shooters Sunday, from left to right: Kaizer Creek, Mescalero, El Alacran Del Norte, Lady Gunner, Miss Ann Laughitoff, and Mad Dog Draper. Not shown: Bo Bean, Crusty Jim, Portugee Phillips, and Sinful.

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★ Historical Note ★

Shortly after the June 25-26, 1876 battle of the Little Big Horn some Indian eye witnesses told reporters that the doomed troopers in the five companies of the 7th Cavalry fought heroically and that the fighters on both sides were “dauntless heroes.” But one Hunkpapa Lakota warrior who was in this famous battle was bold enough to tell what he saw and “had no interest in appeasing whites with the hero myth and no remorse for having killed people trying to hide or even surrender. **His name was Rain-in-the Face**” (WildWest 2014:30).

In an 1894 interview Rain-in-the-Face began “by describing his rage against George Custer’s brother Thomas Custer, who in 1874 had arrested him for the murder of an Army veterinarian in Montana Territory a year earlier” (pp. 31-32). He said Thomas Custer had treated him like a “squaw” and had “shackled” him in the guard house at Fort Abraham Lincoln in the Dakota Territory, but he had escaped. The interviewer then showed him a sketch, a rather fanciful one, and asked if it was accurate, whereupon Rain-in-the-Face burst out laughing.

Rain-in-the-Face said “this picture is a lie.” The “long swords never fought us with swords, but with guns....These men are on horses – they fought us on foot, and every fourth man held the others’ horses...These people [the Indians] are not dressed as we dress in a fight. They look like agency Indians – we strip naked and have ourselves and our ponies painted. This picture gives us bows and arrows. We were better armed than the long swords.” Rain-in-the-Face went on to say that their, the trooper’s “guns wouldn’t shoot but once – the thing [Springfield ejector] wouldn’t throw out the empty cartridge shells...When we found out they could not shoot, we saved our bullets by knocking the long swords over with our war clubs – it was like killing sheep. Some of them got on their knees and begged; we spared none...This picture is like all white man’s pictures of Indians, a lie” (p. 32).

Army officers who examined the scene or the evidence from the Little Big Horn were also unimpressed with claims of a “heroic” stand. “ ‘It was a rout, a panic, till the last man was killed,’ battle participant Captain Frederick Benteen said bluntly. ‘There was no line formed.’ Samuel Sturgis, the nominal colonel of the 7th Cavalry...caustically noted that the enlisted men were sprawled all over the field, while the officers seemed concentrated around the Custer brothers and their cronies” (p.30).

An archeological team combed the battlefield with metal detectors in the 1980s, and uncovered a pattern of spent bullets and cartridge cases that pointed to substantial panic. The evidence suggested that some troopers fought to the death, while others died cringing in hopelessness and despair (p. 30). The team’s conclusions bore little resemblance to the “hero myth” of Custer and the five companies of the 7th Cavalry that died with him; however, the archeological team’s conclusions do bear a striking resemblance to the observations of Captain Benteen and Colonel Sturgis, and to the story of the battle told by Rain-in-the Face.

CLUB CLASSIFIED SECTION and NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

If you have guns, boots, or other dry (or not so dry) goods that you would like to list for sale in the newsletter, please contact Kate Barlow at kate.dora@hotmail.com

- **Pictures** should be submitted in one of the following formats: JPG, TIFF, PDF, or PSD.
- **Text** should be submitted in a Word document or sent as plain text in an email message.
- **DEADLINE:** by the 14th of the month for the material to appear in that month’s newsletter.