



The Howler

at 5 Dogs Creek

August 2014

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From the 46 Connected Ranch

by Utah Blaine

We are now past the half-way mark in 2014! As of this writing the She Bang is less than a month and a-half away. More about this event a little further down in this column. Beginning in November we will be turning our attention to the planning for the Shootout at 5 Dogs Creek/SASS California State Championships.

As I have mentioned in each issue of The Howler for the past couple of months, 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, and possibly Range Wrangler. I urge you to start giving some serious thought to who might be willing to assume these positions for 2015-2016.

The dates for the She Bang are October 4-5. The theme is Bar Maids, Bullets, and Bacon! For dinner Friday evening, October 3, the cowgirls will provide hot dogs and chips. After dinner on Friday there will be a movie shown after it is sufficiently dark.

For the main match event for the She Bang on Saturday and Sunday you may purchase five "Dog-Nabits" each day for \$10. One "Dog-Nabit" can be used to "erase" one miss; however, you cannot use a Dog-Nabit purchased on Saturday for the Sunday stages. To "erase" misses on Sunday you must use Dog-Nabits specifically purchased for the Sunday stages. Dog Nabits that are not used will be placed in a special Dog-Nabit raffle. Shooters will also receive five raffle tickets that will be used for additional raffle items. All money collected from the sale of Dog-Nabits will go to the ASI Cancer Center at San Joaquin Hospital.

Saturday afternoon of the She Bang, after the main match stages have been finished, there will be several side matches: a team shoot, a BB gun shooting gallery, and .22 caliber rifle Arcade. On Saturday evening there will be a potluck featuring a bacon theme. Folks are encouraged to bring dishes that include in some way bacon for the potluck. Following the potluck, and after it is sufficiently dark, there will be a night shoot. Both smokeless and black-powder are acceptable for the night shoot. The Club will be testing a possible "lighting scheme" we may be able to use for the black-powder night shoot at our annual event in May. So, put participation in the She Bang night shoot in your schedule!

At the recently completed Western Regional Championships, 5 Dogs Creek members walked away with a number of awards! Congratulations to our SASS Western Regional Champions: Calgary Kate, Mescalero, Badmann Bob, and Leia Tombstone! Also, congratulations to our members who placed among the top shooters in their category or in a side match: Coyote Carson, Lap Dog, Sam Oattie, Miss Barah Lee Misditt, Miss Ann Laughitoff, Mad Dog Draper, Fordyce Beals, Poison Oakley, Skywalker, Twilight Moon, and Painting Wolf. And congratulations to Harry Morse for shooting a clean match!

The September match at 5 Dogs Creek will be on Saturday, September 6, and Sunday, September 7. There will be the usual potluck on Saturday evening, and since it will be getting dark a little earlier by then, we will be having a movie following the potluck dinner.

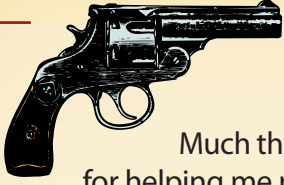
All you cowboys and cowgirls out there keep your horse shod, your guns clean, and your powder dry. We look forward to seeing you all Saturday September 6 and Sunday September 7. A word of caution: as you are riding toward 5 Dogs Creek from some distance away watch out for bandits lurking in the shadows along the trail! Or, if you are driving one of those new fangled, noisy, motorized contraptions, make sure you carry extra-fuel; we don't want you to get yourself stranded on your way to 5 Dogs Creek! It's doubtful you could even out run a mounted horseman, and we all know bandits don't care a whit about your mode of transportation!

Our official address:

5 Dogs Creek

P. O. Box 22305

Bakersfield, CA 93311



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by Fordyce Beals

Much thanks go to Tomahawk Ty and his family Painting Wolf, Skywalker and Twilight Moon for helping me put on the August 2nd and 3rd match. On Saturday a high haze in the sky moderated the sun and on Sunday clouds and drops of hot humid rain made shooting conditions better than was the expectation for mid summer in the San Joaquin Valley.

The Western Regional Championships on August 6 to 10 at 5 Dogs Creek sister club the Chorro Valley Regulators showed how different the weather can be in just a 2 hour drive from Bakersfield. Cool ocean breezes soothed the shooters and campers. If you shot all the matches available you would have needed over 750 rounds of ammunition. Feedback on the SASS Wire categorized the club's achievement as one of the premier matches in cowboy action shooting. Be sure to put the 21st annual match on your schedule for August 2015.

Mayor Utah Blain and Queen Lap Dog are putting on the monthly 5 Dogs Creek match September 6th and 7th. On Saturday after lunch and the scores are read, 2 side matches of .22 stage shooting and wild bunch stages are planned. Because these side matches are just for fun strict equipment rules are relaxed, just be ready for normal safety rules and lots of fun. Long range, practice stages and testing are also expected to take place if the shooters don't run out of energy.

Wash and iron your pink accoutrement for the 5 Dogs Creek Ladies produced match She-Bang, October 4 - 5.

Clean Shooters

Clean Shooters Saturday, from left to right and right to left: Bo Bean



Clean Shooters Sunday, from left to right: Badman Bob, Kaweah Kid, and Coyote Carson



★ Historical Note ★

In the mid-1880s “a full-blown roller skating mania swept through the country, including the West” (J. R. Sanders*, Wild West, October 2014:28). For years clunky, wooden wheeled roller skates had been around. But in 1884 ball-bearing wheels were patented, and roller skating soared to new heights.

Young ladies of all social strata glided across floors with wheels on their feet. Parents and politicians were concerned that such activity would foster too much familiarity between the sexes. Doctors were divided as to whether it was a healthy activity or much too dangerous. There were those among the clergy who saw it as a sure route to hell. Now, with all of this going for it, how could any red-blooded cowboy resist (p. 28)!

At its peak, that well known cow town and Gomorrah of the West, Dodge City, Kansas, had a roller skating rink. And there were roller skating rinks in Cheyenne and Omaha. Montana Territory was ahead of the times by constructing a 65 by 100 foot, maple floored Pavilion in 1883. “One account of 1885 life in Medora, Dakota Territory, noted, ‘A roller skating rink, whose equipment was more to be feared by a cowboy than the hurricane-deck of a cow pony, was doing big business among the cattlemen” (p. 28). In Las Cruces, New Mexico, the sheriff of one county patronized the local rink most every night, and enjoyed being on wheels so much that in 1885 he built a competing roller skating rink (p. 29).

The rink owners of the West made their money and then the skating craze died, not to become popular again for 70 years. When Hopalong Cassidy moved from the film of the silver screen to the small black and white TVs of the time, some merchants tried to link cowboys and roller skating. The “Hoppy” skate, which had detachable spurs, was a hit with the kids, as they “rolled” around with their hat and six-shooter (p. 29).

Almost all western movies have ignored the old West’s roller skating era, with one exception. Those of you who managed to sit through the “box office bomb” Heaven’s Gate may recall that there was a scene “depicting ranchers and townies on the Wyoming frontier enjoying a raucous roller-skating dance at its eponymous rink” (p. 29). The old style roller skating rinks are going the way “the way of buggy whips, drive-in-theaters, and print newspapers” (p. 29). Those of you who may still want to roll around on skates may have to content yourselves with singing the theme song to Rawhide: “Rollin’, rollin’, rollin’” (p. 29).



*The full title of the article is: “Hell on Wheels: When Roller-Skating took Western Towns by Storm.” Incidentally, there are still a couple of roller skating rinks in Bakersfield.

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.