



The Howler

at 5 Dogs Creek

• September 2014

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From the 46 Connected Ranch

by Utah Blaine

The dates for the She Bang are October 3-5. The following information about this annual event appeared in the September issue of *The Howler*; however, it bears repeating here.

The theme is **Bar Maids, Bullets, and Bacon!** For dinner Friday evening the cowgirls will provide hot dogs and chips; bring your side-dish or dessert. 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 up to five "Dog-Nabits" at \$2 each.** 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.** Bring your check book if you need a receipt for tax deduction purposes.

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. Put participation in the She Bang night shoot in your schedule! So, bring your guns and ammunition for all of these side-matches.

There are a few things that need to be done on the range before the She Bang. The major item on the agenda is repair of one of the beams over the "awning" in the area where the tables are located; where we have lunch and have the potlucks. This beam seems to have developed "a crack" and is "hanging down" a couple of inches. Another repair that is under way is to the board walk around the office where a few of the boards are "sagging." Arrangements have already been made to take care of both of these, and the repairs will most likely be done by the time you are reading this newsletter.

There will be a **work party on Saturday, September 27,** to do some clean-up around the range, again in preparation for the She Bang. I would like to get the accumulation of wads raked up in the bays, fill in some of the deeper "trenches" in a few of the bays, and take care of a few "weed infestations" around some of the bays. If several people show up to help at a reasonable hour in the morning of September 27, it shouldn't take more than a few hours to get most of these tasks accomplished.

Finally, I don't know exactly what arrangements are being made to get "position numbers" up and "opening lines" posted, and the stage targets painted for She Bang, but Lap Dog and I plan to be out at the range on Friday morning to help take care of any of this that needs to be done. I do know that some of the targets will need to be painted pink, and that those painted black will need to have a pink ribbon painted in the middle; we have a stencil for this. The assistance of any of you that can spare a couple of hours on Friday of October 3 will be greatly appreciated.

Until we meet again, keep your horse shod, your guns clean, and your powder dry. We look forward to seeing you all the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of October 3, 4, and 5.

Our official address:

5 Dogs Creek

P. O. Box 22305

Bakersfield, CA 93311



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by Fordyce Beals

Mayor Utah Blain and Queen Lap Dog put on the monthly 5 dogs Creek match September 6th and 7th. Both matches were fun and the better shooters shot it fast. On one stage I had the perfect storm when I lost count, left 2 shots in the revolvers, had the rifle clean the Texas Star then jam with 2 cartridges unfired on a no miss bonus dump target, at the end of the last shotgun targets the RO told me I had 2 shots left in the revolvers, shot the two, and was scored the trifecta of procedural, 2 rifle not fired (2 @ 5 second penalty) and 2 pistol misses with a stage time equal to the total time for all 5 stages shot by the fastest shooter. Thank you Lap dog and Utah Blaine for a fun time!



Load up the RV for the 5 Dogs Creek Ladies produced match Shebang, October 4th and 5. Don't miss the smokeless and black powder night shoot on Saturday night.

Clean Shooters

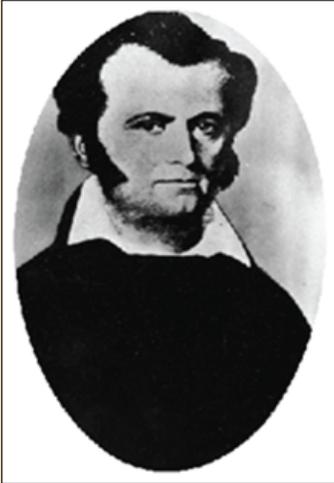


Clean Shooters Saturday, from left to right:
Bones Brannon, Miss Ann Laughitoff,
Rusty Shotgun, and Deadly Ames.



Clean Shooters Sunday, from left to right:
Kaweah Kid, Hawkeye O'Riley,
Bones Brannon, Lap Dog,
and Tomahawk Ty.
Not shown: Badman Bob.

★ Historical Note ★



Jim Bowie

"They say my bowie knife is keen to sliver into halves
The carcass of my enemy, as butchers slay their calves."

These two lines, bloodthirsty as they are, appear in the "American Ballads" section of the British Book of Ballads published in 1885. The American attachment to the bowie knife appears in nine rhymes in this section of Ballads. The "bowie" was considered an essential part of 19th Century attire; however, the origin of this iconic fighting knife is shrouded in controversy (True West 2014:31).*

Some students of "edged weapons" believe the bowie knife can be any sheath knife of any size with a clipped point. Others say it can be any knife, regardless of the blade's shape, and still others hold that any knife produced from around 1830 to the end of the 19th Century constitutes a bowie knife. Adding to the controversy, historians argue whether James Bowie, his older brother Rezin, or knife maker James Black is the one who actually produced the first "true bowie" blade. But there is no doubt that James deserves the credit for bringing this edged weapon to the forefront of the western frontier (p. 32).

It was the Sandbar Fight on September 19, 1827 along the Mississippi River that catapulted James and his knife into the American consciousness. It started as a duel between two men and ended up a bloody brawl between them, their seconds, and comrades. James killed one man and badly wounded another, in spite of being wounded himself in the chest, thigh, and head. This murderous fight was picked up by local papers, spread to papers throughout the country, and became known as far away as Great Britain. It wasn't long before James' name and the heavy bladed weapon he had used (a single-edged knife with sharp, false edge on the back of the point, allowing for an effective backstroke) became known as the fighting knife of the West (p. 32).

The Sandbar Fight was just one of countless violent incidents involving edged weapons both before and after this "fight." Most frontiersmen packed some kind of knife because of the lack of reliability of the firearms of the day. But the "bowie" became the edged weapon of choice among those who traveled the antebellum frontier. Violent incidents involving knives were, however, not confined to the frontier, to back country campfires, saloons, or river boats. Knife fights also occurred in state legislatures and the halls of Congress (pp. 32-33).

Today, the "bowie," whether it is a vintage knife or newly made, remains a captivating and collectable edged weapon. Rare and fine examples of this knife will go at auction or arms collector's shows for five and six figures. The "bowie" to this day remains an "American classic," along with such firearms as the "Kentucky rifle" and the "Colt revolver."

*The full title of the article is: "Fighting Blades of the Frontier" by Phil Spangenberg.

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.