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by Fordyce Beals

Bo Bean and Fordyce Beals, with support from Leia Tombstone, put on the February 28 and March 1 matches. Lots of fast shooting was done between a few rain drops. I thank Bo and Leia for helping to put on this match.

Mad Trapper of Rat River and Wandern' Rose are putting together the match for April 4; we will only be shooting this one day, as Easter is the first Sunday, April 5, and all of the 5 Dogs Range will be closed. Bring 6 stages of ammunition to take full advantage of the 5 stage instructions. Be sure to schedule extra time April 4 to join in on the work party preceded by a hot dog feast.

Let me know if you are interested in sponsoring a match in 2015. fordyceleia@live.com

Clean Shooters



Saturday Clean Shooters
(left to right):
Harry Morse, El Alacran Del Norte, Mudhen Millie, Buddy Love, Mad Dog Draper, and Chama Bill.
Not shown: Shorty James.



Sunday Clean Shooters(left to right):
Chama Bill, Mudhen Millie,
Mad Dog Draper, and Sam Ootie.
Not shown: Harry Morse.

★ Historical Note ★

Of the repeating rifles produced circa 1860 to 1875, which one had the highest magazine capacity? It was not the Henry rifle, it was not the Winchester 1866, nor was it the \Winchester 1873. It was the Evans, produced from 1873 until 1879 (Lofgren 2015:43)/

In its first iteration, released in 1873 in .44 caliber with barrels running from 26 to 30 inches and in the carbine with a 22 inch barrel, it could hold 34 rounds of ammunition in reserve (Lofgren 2015:43). A later version, called the Evans New Model held 26 rounds of a slightly longer and more powerful cartridge (p. 44).



Evans Repeating Rifle in carbine configuration with 22 inch barrel

The Evans was developed by two brothers: Warren and George Evans, a dentist and a self-taught mechanic. The Evans rifle used a butt-stock fed magazine that operated with an Archimedean screw-type arrangement; a system that dates back to at least the 3rd Century B. C.

Although the Evans was designed as a military rifle, there was little interest in it either in the United States or abroad. Unfortunately, the Evans had a rather weak action and “a propensity to jam when subjected to the dusty conditions often encountered in the world of the 1880s.” (Lofgren 2015:44).



An Apache Native American holding an Evans Repeating Rifle, circa 1880

*Lofgren, Todd G. “New Model Evans .44: Revolutionary 1880s Repeating Rifle Held the Most Rounds of Its Class,” *Guns of the Old West*. Spring 2015: 42-47.

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