
FEBRUARY
2025

THE HOWLER At 5
Dogs Latest News, Updates &
More

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CA 93390

2024 - 2025 Town

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Territorial Governor:

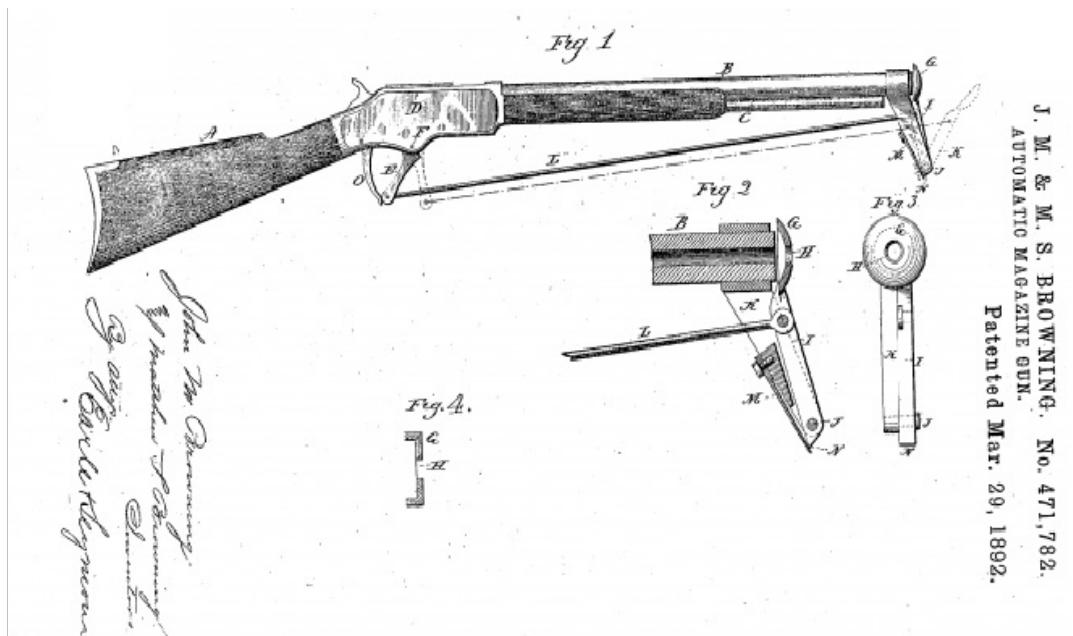
Professor Cubby Bear
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The Mayor's Anvil:
Forging Understanding
By Mayor Fordyce Beals

Modified 1873 Rifle by J.M. Browning

Often referred to as the Browning “flapper” rifle, the design of US patent No. 471782 was the first evolutionary step of gas-operated small arms. In early 1890, famed Ogden gunmaker John Moses Browning was out sport shooting with his brother, Matthew. He noticed that as he fired his rifle, the nearby salt brush, bulrushes and assorted weeds moved. Realizing that the energy from this blast of muzzle gases could be harnessed, Browning and his brother headed back to the family’s Ogden gun making shop. Over the course of the next couple of days, they designed the “Flapper”.



The patent is for a rifle conversion utilizing a piston assembly added at the muzzle with an operating rod connecting it to the lever. The piston is formed as an arm extending from the muzzle to a pivot point, with the operating rod being connected between the two ends. The barrel end of the piston is shaped as a cup covering the muzzle with a hole in line with the bore to allow the passage of the bullet. The piston is forced forward by the expanding gases of a fired cartridge and rearward by a spring.

The rifle modified by Browning for the prototype was a Winchester 1873, presumably chambered for 44-40 WCF. The lever is shortened and reshaped. The trigger is lengthened such that it is in contact with the rear of the lever when the action is closed, no other internal parts were changed. Despite the modifications for and description of fully automatic fire, no claim is made in the patent relating to those features.

The functional life of this rifle is a mystery. There are no known records of the rifle being demonstrated either in Ogden or abroad. The patent was never purchased or involved in litigation. There is no evidence to suggest the design saw development by anyone other than John Browning or that more than one rifle was ever made.

What is known is that the prototype turned up in the hands of the Rock Island Arsenal Museum. The rifle, as found, was missing many of its parts. Gunsmith David Clark of Richmond, UT was commissioned to restore the rifle. Due to the lack of any photos or

descriptions, the rifle was configured as in the patent drawings.



A copy made on a rifle



The prototype restored looks like a saddle ring carbine

The Mayor's comments: "This is an external modification and is not SASS legal for match use."



THE SHERIFF'S LOG

Howdy All,

I hope everyone is doing well in the new year. Professor Cubby Bear did a great job of writing the stages for the January match, with really cool 'cat' related sayings. I guess you could say the match was "the cat's meow"! What a great way to start the new year.

Thank you, Professor Cubby Bear.

Chick Ma is taking on the task of writing the stages for February. She's headed to End of Trail and wants to get in a little practice at the 5 Dogs Creek February match so her stages will have End of Trail in mind. Come join us for that match, even if you're not going to End of Trail. Fordyce Beals is taking on the task of writing the stages for March and April since he and Leia Tombstone are thinking of shooting the California State match at the Cajon Cowboys. Mark your calendars for all those matches.

On January 12th a Wild Bunch match was held at the range. The stages were written for Wild Bunch and cowboy shooters, so it didn't matter what you were shooting. The weather was perfect, and all the shooters had a good time. It's so much fun watching those Wild Bunch shooters! Keep an eye on the 5 Dogs Creek newsletter and Facebook for the next Wild Bunch match, even if you are a cowboy shooter. At the Town Council meeting on January 4th a member brought up starting the Saturday match to a later time to accommodate shooters from out-of-town. The Town Council decided that for the months of February, March and April the Saturday start time will be 10:30 a.m. with the office opening at 9:30 a.m. and the shooters meeting at 10:15 a.m. The Sunday match start time will remain the same at 9:00 a.m. (The office will open at 8:00, and 8:30 for the shooter meeting.) Hopefully this later start time on Saturday will be helpful for shooters from out-of-town.

See you on the range,

Lap Dog

Territorial Governor's News:

Territorial Governor's Report for 5 Dogs
By Professor Cubby Bear

For 2025 SASS has invited an early start to discussions of potential rule or policy changes. A set of three Rule Clarifications and four Discussion Items for Wild Bunch Action Shooting (WBAS) have been published. Clarifications and discussions for regular Cowboy Action Shooting are to follow.

The first clarification is that target size and round count suggestions for WBAS stages in the WBAS Shooters' Handbook are, in fact, suggestions. Local tournaments may vary. That said, Match Directors are urged to make WBAS shooting a difference experience from CAS shooting. This includes a suggestion of a standard 28 pistol shots (4 magazines of seven cartridges) in addition to rifle shooting and shot gunning. This does create a different experience from 10/10/4+ CAS shooting. I could be wrong, but it appears that SASS disapproves of matches wherein WBAS shooters load two magazines with five rounds each, stoke the shotgun with four shells and then shoot CAS-style 10/10/4+ stages.

The second clarification is that the use of the term "lying flat" as a description of staged weapons was not intended to ban vertical staging. That said, horizontal staging has become almost universal in both CAS and WBAS, primarily because of the real advantage of having a flat surface in front of the shooter onto which a malfunctioning firearm can be "grounded" with relative safety. Pulling a long gun from a scabbard or leaning it against a wall is pretty rare these days.

The third clarification indicates that leaving an expended cartridge on the carrier of a long gun is not a safety violation in WBAS. Maybe this "no call" is a good idea or maybe not, but it does avoid literally decades of controversy in CAS.

The first discussion item is to invite consideration of whether a “power factor” for rifle cartridges is now needed. 1911 pistols have a “built in” power factor minimum. If the ammo is not generating enough energy to run the action, the shooter has a problem. Likewise, the shotgun ammo must be strong enough to take down knock down targets. However, with the “mild bunch” reforms allowing any SASS legal CAS rifle to be used, there is concern that smaller caliber rifles with light loads may generate timing and scoring problems. It seems worth noting that the “power factor” rules for CAS are almost universally ignored everywhere except End of Trail. I am unaware of any time that Power Factor was even tested at 5 Dogs.

The second invited discussion item is “Categories and Growth” including creating a “WB Classic Division” with the pre-Mild Bunch rules enforced and/or age-based Senior Divisions starting at age 65 and going up in 10-year increments. It is worth remembering that once a category is created, we are pretty much stuck with it. SASS has not eliminated a shooting category since the death of Modern circa 2004.

The third invited discussion is shotgun make-ups (sometimes called “Comstock Rules.”) The classic rules banned them, many clubs are now allowing them. I think market forces will prevail long before there is a SASS-wide determination.

The final invited discussion topic is to beat the dead horse ...ah... reflect on the on-going challenges of appropriate awards. I boldly predict that yet another year of discussion on this shop-worn question will not reveal a global consensus that satisfies everyone. We should be getting the CAS clarifications and proposed discussion items soon. I will report further when we do.



Professor Cubby Bear
(cubbybear29521@aol.com)

Bon voyage, lucky Lu!



You'll be missed!



Saturday's Large Posse Party!



More Saturday Fun...



FEBRUARY

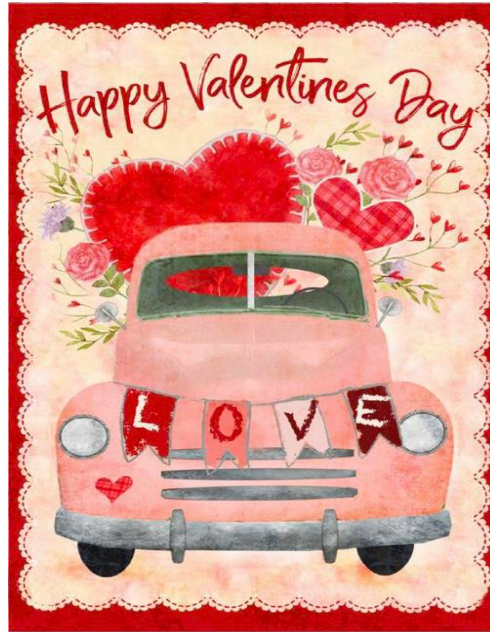
Shooting Schedule:

2/1, SATURDAY ONLY

Office opens at 9:30
Shooter's Mtg. 10:15
Match Starts: 10:30

2/2, SUNDAY

Office opens 8:00
Shooter's mtg. 8:30
Match Starts: 9:00



**2025 MATCH
CALENDAR FEB 1-2
MAR 1-2 APR 5-6
MAY 3-4 JUNE 5/31-
6/1 JULY 5-6 AUG
2-3 SEPT 6-7 OCT
4-5**

COME JOIN US FOR SOME CAMPING FUN!



**Saturday Evening, (6:00-ish):
Bring your favorite potluck grub to share.
Plates & utensils provided**

SATURDAY CLEAN SHOOTERS



Whiskey TF Bottles, Badman Bob, Lap Dog, Shatterhand



SUNDAY CLEAN SHOOTERS



Alphabetical listing:

*Arizona Quicksand, Badman Bob, Boots Stimboli, Bull McFearson, Coyote Carson, Domino Blaze, Dustbowl Debbie,
Lap Dog, Panhandle Red, Utah Blaine*



Thank You Bull Mc Fearson for the lovely bench!



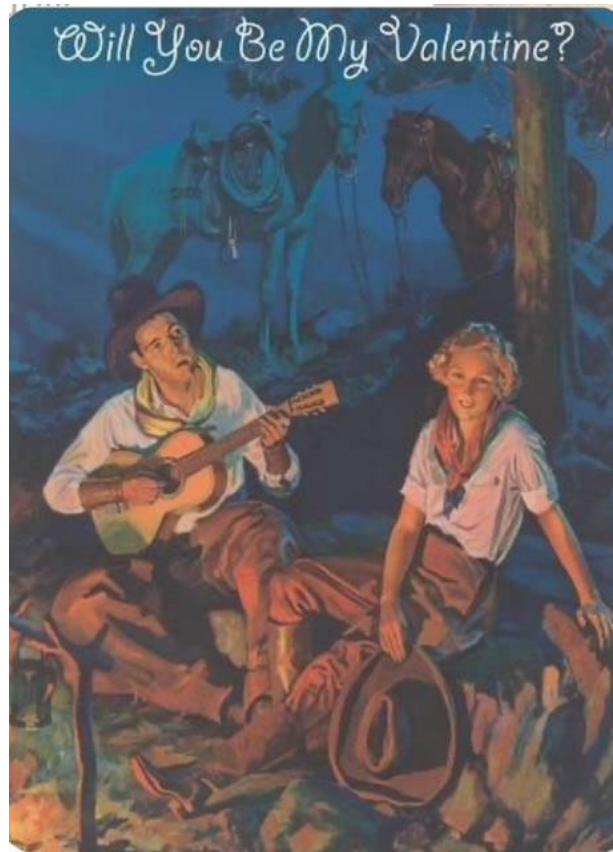
WANDERING AROUND

Cowboy Quotes

by Jepit Sandal

“It has been estimated that, between 1867 and 1890, approximately 10,000,000 cattle went up the various trails. Each year there were from 150-200 herds of about 2500 head each. A herd required 12 men, at least six saddle horses for each man, and a mess wagon and team. The cattle traveled on an average of 15 or more miles per day, or 450-500 miles per month. Each year the cattle movement up the trail required an army of 2400 cowboys and 14,000 saddle horses. From first to last, between 45,000-50,000 cowboys using almost 300,000 saddle horses took part in the drives. The cost of operating a trail unit was about \$500 a month. It cost the driver between fifty and sixty cents to transport a cow from Southern Texas to the Kansas railroad stations.”





Be mine?



Got ammo?

Hope you have
the most
Rootinest
Tootinest
Valentine's
Day!

