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APRIL  
2025

**THE HOWLER**  
**At 5 Dogs**  
**Latest News, Updates & More**

5 Dogs  
Creek  
PO Box  
20051  
Bakersfield,  
CA 93390

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2024 - 2025 Town

Council

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Territorial Governor:

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**The Mayor's Anvil:**  
**Forging Understanding**  
**By Mayor Fordyce Beals**

I have had several people talk to me about starting to reload. Pistol caliber straight wall cases are what we need for Cowboy action so some of these steps for rifle shaped cases are not needed but are included for completeness. Safety for yourself and others requires 100% concentration on all steps, so some shooters are better off buying ammo.

**1. Reloading ammunition** involves several steps, including resizing used brass, ejecting old primers, measuring and adding powder, and seating new bullets. Beginners often start with a single stage press for precision and simplicity. Essential tools include a reloading manual, a scale for measuring powder, and dies specific to your cartridge.

**2. Safety First:**

- \* Learn about handling and storing powders and primers safely.
- \* Understand pressure signs in cartridges to avoid overloading.
- \* Follow strict guidelines to prevent accidents during the reloading process.

**3. Equipment Basics:**

- \* Familiarize yourself with the tools you'll need: presses, dies, shell holders, scales, calipers, and case prep tools.
- \* Research the differences between single-stage, turret, and progressive presses to choose the one that fits your needs.

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#### **4. Components and Measurements:**

- \* Study the anatomy of a cartridge (brass, primer, powder, and bullet).
- \* Understand bullet types, weights, and uses for your intended purpose (e.g., steel target, hunting,).
- \* Learn to measure and prepare brass, including resizing, trimming, and deburring.

#### **5. Powder Selection and Loading Data:**

- \* Read and follow reloading manuals, which include load data for various calibers and powders.
- \* Start with recommended powder charges and work your way up cautiously.

#### **6. Process and Techniques:**

- \* Practice each reloading step: resizing cases, seating primers, measuring powder, and seating bullets.
- \* Be meticulous about consistency and accuracy for optimal performance.

#### **7. Quality Control:**

- \* Inspect your cartridges for defects or irregularities.
- \* Test your reloads at the range and make notes to adjust for better accuracy and performance.

As a beginner in reloading, it's best to start with essential, user-friendly equipment to learn the basics. Here's a prioritized list to guide you:

**1. Reloading Manual:** Your most important tool! A manual provides safety guidelines, load data, and detailed instructions to guide you through the process.

#### **2. Reloading Press:**

- \* A **single-stage press** is ideal for beginners due to its simplicity and precision.
- \* Popular brands offer reliable options to suit your needs.

**3. Dies and Shell Holders:** These are caliber-specific tools used in your press for resizing, de-priming, and seating bullets.

#### **4. Powder Scale:**

- \* Invest in a precise scale (digital or beam) to measure powder charges accurately.
- \* Consistency is key to safety and performance.

**5. Powder Measure/Dispenser:** Speeds up the process of adding powder while maintaining consistency.

**6. Calipers:** Used to measure cartridge overall length (OAL) and ensure your reloads meet specifications.

#### **7. Case Prep Tools:**

- \* A **case trimmer** for resizing brass.
- \* **Deburring and chamfering tools** to smooth out case edges.
- \* A **primer pocket cleaner** for thorough brass preparation.

**8. Priming Tool:** You can choose between press-mounted or hand-held tools to seat primers efficiently.

**9. Loading Block:** Keeps your cartridges organized during the reloading process.

#### **10. Safety Gear:**

- \* Safety glasses to protect your eyes.
- \* A sturdy workbench with good ventilation is also crucial.

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Once you've mastered the basics, you can expand your toolkit to include case tumblers, chronographs, and other advanced tools. Starting simple allows you to learn the process carefully and build confidence.

Single-stage and progressive presses serve different purposes and cater to varying skill levels and reloading needs. Here's a comparison to help you understand their differences:

### Single-Stage Press

- \* **Operation:** Performs one reloading step (e.g., resizing, priming, or bullet seating) at a time. You must manually change dies and handle each cartridge individually.
- \* **Speed:** Slower but more precise. Produces fewer rounds per hour, making it ideal for small batches.
- \* **Complexity:** Simple and easy to use. Great for beginners who want to learn the process thoroughly.
- \* **Precision:** High level of precision and consistency, making it popular for rifle cartridges and accuracy-focused reloaders.
- \* **Cost:** Generally, more affordable than progressive presses.
- \* **Maintenance:** Fewer moving parts, so it's easier to maintain and lasts a long time.

### Progressive Press

- \* **Operation:** Performs multiple reloading steps simultaneously at different stations. For example, one station sizes a case, another adds powder, another seats a bullet, etc.
- \* **Speed:** Much faster, producing hundreds of rounds per hour, which is ideal for high volume reloaders (e.g., competitive shooters).
- \* **Complexity:** More complex with many moving parts. Requires attention to detail and experience to set up and operate.
- \* **Precision:** While still accurate, there may be slightly less control compared to single stage presses, which may not appeal to those seeking maximum precision.
- \* **Cost:** Higher initial investment, as progressive presses are more advanced machines.
- \* **Maintenance:** Requires regular maintenance due to its complexity and many moving components.

### Which Should You Choose?

If you're just starting out, a **single-stage press** is the best choice. It allows you to focus on safety, precision, and mastering the basics. If you're an experienced reloader or need to produce a large volume of ammunition quickly, a **progressive press** will save you time and effort.

Your AI assistant can answer reloading questions and mine wrote the above!



## **THE SHERIFF'S LOG**

Howdy All,

Well...March definitely came in like a lion and might just leave as a lamb! It was cold, windy and there were a few sprinkles during the March match. But maybe those sprinkles were tears from all the misses? All kidding aside, Fordyce Beals wrote some great scenarios, and everyone had a good time. Two new shooters joined us in March, Iridescent Iris and Johnny Ringworm. Welcome to the both of them and everyone at 5 Dogs Creek looks forward to seeing them at our monthly matches.

Fordyce Beals will be putting on the match for April. He is hoping to get everyone ready for the Kings River Regulators "Fort Miller" in April and the California State Championship at the end of April. So, if you're thinking of going to either, or both matches, the April match at 5 Dogs Creek is a great chance to make sure those guns are in good working order. Check their websites as there may still be some room available for a couple more shooters.

**Don't forget our late start on Saturday, the office opens at 9:30, the shooter meeting is at 10:15.** Sunday is a regular start time with the shooter meeting at 9:00.

**In May all the start times go back to the Office Opening at 8:00, the Shooter Meeting 8:30, and the Match Starts at 9:00, BOTH DAYS.**

A really big thank you to Sam Ootie for spraying the weeds and putting pre-emergent down. Hopefully that will curtail the weeds that will be popping up from all the rain.

Friday night appetizers are back! If you're camping join us around the fire pit at 5:30 for appetizers and a good conversation on Friday night. And of course, there's always the famous 5 Dogs Creek potluck on Saturday night!

Last but not least, I'm looking for stage writers so let me know what month you, or a group of you, would like!

See you at the range,

Lap Dog

[sheriff@5dogscreek.com](mailto:sheriff@5dogscreek.com)

PS...The town Council met and voted to sponsor a Bay (\$100) at Fort Miller's upcoming match.

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# **Territorial Governor's News:**

(Watch for the Professor's wise words of wisdom here again soon.)



**Professor Cubby Bear**

[cubbybear29521@aol.com](mailto:cubbybear29521@aol.com)

## **Range Wrangler News**

Currently there is not a Range Wrangler. If anyone would like to take over that position, please talk to any member of the Town Council. In the absence of a Range Wrangler, I (Sheriff, Lap Dog) will handle some of those responsibilities.

One of the things that makes 5 Dogs Creek a great Cowboy Range are all the great members. Our members are willing to step up and help out when needed. And at this time your help is needed. At the range there are Bay Proprietors, shooters who maintain a bay. Currently we have a few bays that don't have a proprietor due to a move (Lucky Lu to greener pastures-Oregon), distance makes it hard (Miss Foxi Schoolmarm), or it was just an unclaimed bay. Below are the proprietors' responsibilities, or actions that the Town Council would like the proprietors to do to maintain the bay. Maintenance on a bay can happen on the day of a match or any day you choose to drive out to the range, the choice is yours. Please let us know what bay you would like.

Also, plans are in place to do some repairs or maintenance. Panhandle Red is planning on bringing his riding lawnmower out to cut the grass, just not sure of the day. If you can help, please let us know. DB Hawk is planning on rebuilding the awning on Bay 3, talk to him about how you can help. I've talked Bull McFearson into helping me and Miss Foxi Schoolmarm into rebuilding the roof over the cookshack. You might have noticed it's caving in, not much protection when it's raining! Any help would be appreciated.

Please let me know if you can help with any of the above projects.

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## **Bay Proprietorship Responsibilities:**

- Maintain the Bay by raking, hoeing, and picking up weeds.
- Raking and picking up shotgun wads.
- Filling in the 'divots' on the bay.
- Reviewing maintenance needs of the Bay and repairing when possible (such as hammering down loose nails).
- Informing the Range Wrangler or the Town Council of repairs needed on your Bay.
- The use of weed killer (such as Roundup) is allowed on the Bay. However, it may not be used on the berms or around the trees.
- Please notify the Range Wrangler or the Town Council if you are applying weed killer so we can be aware of it.

If you would like the Range Wrangler to apply weed killer, please let the Range Wrangler know so that it can be taken care of.

## **Not Allowed on the Bays**

- Painting is not allowed on the Bays. Some props may be painted but please talk to the Town Council before any painting is done.
- No construction of any kind is allowed without Town Council permission.
- All changes to the Bay must be approved by the Town Council.



If you have enjoyed the fabulous photos from recent matches posted on Facebook, be sure to thank Hildie! She has done an awesome job!

Thank You Hildie!

Domino

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# APRIL

## Shooting Schedule:

### 4/5, SATURDAY ONLY

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

### 4/6, SUNDAY

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



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

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## COME JOIN US FOR SOME CAMPING FUN!



**Friday Evening (5:00-ish)**

**Appetizers (Hot or cold)**

**Saturday Evening, (6:00-ish)**

**Bring your favorite potluck grub to share.**

**Plates & utensils provided**



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# SATURDAY CLEAN SHOOTERS



*(3/1/25)*

Jailer, Utah Blaine, Coal Cart Rob

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# SUNDAY CLEAN SHOOTERS



*(3/2/25)*

Fordyce Beals, Utah Blaine, Bull McFearson

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# WANDERING AROUND with Utah Blaine

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## Some Thoughts About Hats

When we think of the “old west” the image in our heads is often the cowboy in “denim jeans with fringed chaps, boots with spurs & a plaid shirt” As is noted very clearly, “the cowboys of [this] Hollywood legend aren’t true” What’s more there are other images we tend to carry around with us that are also not true:

“1. They rarely fought Indians. 2. They were more likely to die from falling off a horse than in a gunfight. 3. They didn’t wear those tall wide-brimmed hats you see in” western movies (The Hatterist, pp. 1-2).

The hat we know as the Stetson came on the market in “1849 but it wasn’t popular until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century” (The Hatterist, p. 1) Many cowboys, as well as outlaws, from the years 1865 to 1900 preferred so-called bowler hats. These hats were the “casual counterpart to the more formal derby hat, the bowler was designed by London ... hardened by shellac ... [it] was reliable and sturdy ....” (<https://historyfacts.com/>, p. 1)

And guess what he “bowler became a natural choice for life in the American West: The hats didn’t fly off in the wind, their durability withstood the elements, and they could be worn for almost any occasion (<https://historyfacts.com/>, p. 1).

Stetson took over in the west. The wider brim had the advantage of helping to block the sun on bright sunshiny days. And equally important, Buffalo Bill Cody gave the Stetson a significant boost after wearing it in his Wild West shows. The so called “Boss of the Plains” replaced the bowler by the end of the 19th century, as noted earlier, and became the hat “commonly associated with the Old West today” (<https://historyfacts.com/>, p. 3). So, below is a photo depicting the derby hat. It is one of the “Wild Bunch from 1892 and 1900 clearly show the gang—Harry A. Longabaugh (the Sundance Kid), Ben Kilpatrick (the Tall Texan), Robert Leroy Parker (Butch Cassidy), Harvey Logan (Kid Curry), and Will Carver—donning derby hats” (The Hatterist, p. 4).

Of course, those who lived on the frontier typically wore a type of hat that was connected with the type of job they had. “In addition to the Derby, men wore flat wool caps, Mexican sombreros, or old Civil War hats (such as the kepi)” (The Hatterist, p. 5)



The photo below there is one of Jesse James and the type of hat he wore during his time in this world. You will note the type of hat he is wearing is different. He seems always to be depicted in this hat when there is a discussion of his Civil War involvement. Jesse's brother Frank was already in the war riding with Quantrill's Raiders. Jesse entered the war after Union soldiers "beat Jesse and tortured his father" looking for Frank. So Jesse joined up with his brother at age 16 and got "his first taste for violence as a [Civil War guerrilla](#) fighting for the Confederates" (Brooks 2011, p. 1).



And then there is the 10-gallon hat! It is argued by the “experts” that the “10-gallon hat” name is actually an import from south of the border.” Apparently, ranchers in Texas and the Southwest “often crossed paths with Mexican vaqueros who sported braided hatbands—called ‘galóns’ in Spanish. A “10 ‘galón’ sombrero was a hat with a tall enough crown that it could hold 10 hatbands, but American cowboys likely anglicized the word to ‘gallon’ and started referring to their own sombrero-inspired headgear as ‘10-gallon hats” (The Hatterist, p. 15).



However an alternative “linguistic theory argues that the name is a corruption of the Spanish phrase ‘tan galán’ —roughly translated as ‘very gallant’ or ‘really handsome’ —which may have been used to describe the majestic image of a hat-wearing cowboy in the saddle” (The Hatterist, p. 15).

So, there you have it, a little history of the western hat, not quite what we have been led to believe in the western movies that many of us grew up watching! And if we imagine ourselves as cowboy and cowgirl action shooters and think of ourselves in the mid-to later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, we should be wearing derbies or bowlers. Just as in a similar way we cowboy action shooters should be wearing button up jeans since zippers on jeans did come into existence until the early 1940s. Just saying!

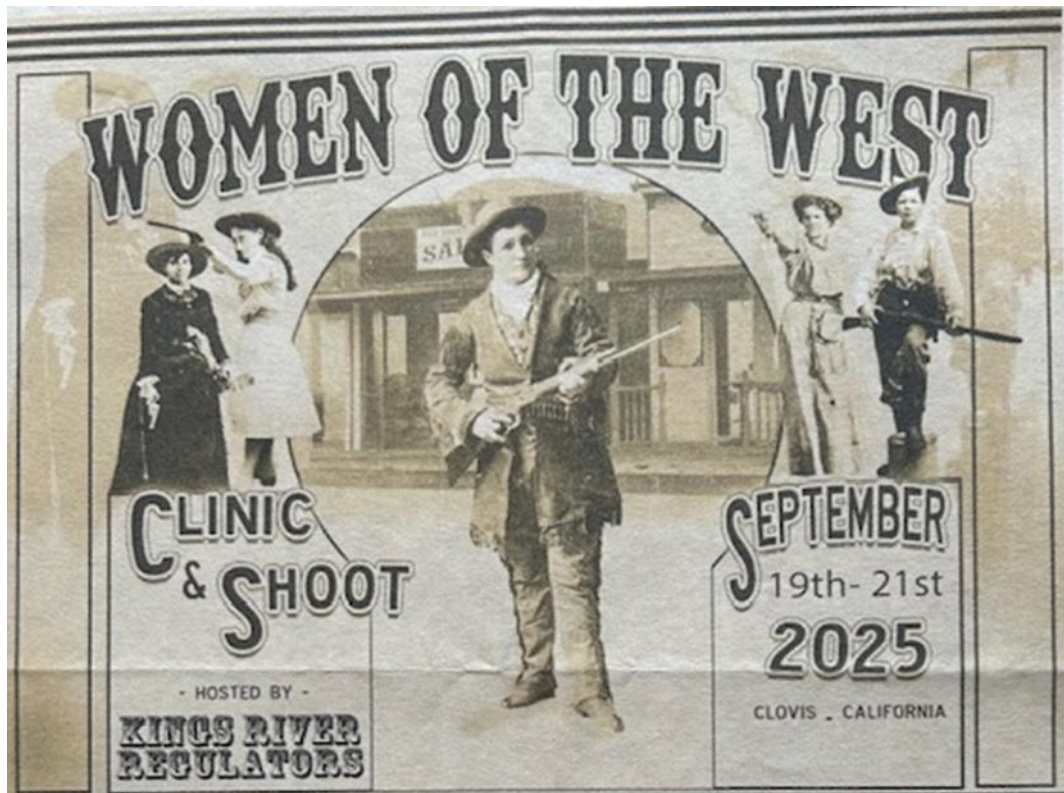
### References

Rebecca Patrice Brooks, “Jesse James the Confederate Guerrilla,” History of the Civil War, Civil War Saga, 2011.

The Hatterist, “History of the Cowboy Hat,” Hat Knowledge, <https://www.hatterist.com/>

Written by [Staff](#) November 2023, “Old West cowboys and outlaws often preferred bowler hats,” <https://historyfacts.com/>

**DON'T FORGET TO ADD THIS TO YOUR CALENDARS!**



**WOMEN OF THE WEST**

**CLINIC & SHOOT**

• HOSTED BY •  
**KINGS RIVER REGULATORS**

**SEPTEMBER**  
19th- 21st  
**2025**

CLOVIS . CALIFORNIA

THE WOMEN OF THE WEST - CLINIC & SHOOT EVENT IS A CHANCE FOR WOMEN OF COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING TO WORK ON THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE OF OUR SPORT. WITH CLASSES TO TEACH YOU HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR STAGE TIME, TIPS & TRICKS ON HOW TO PREP FOR A STAGE, AND WAYS WE'VE LEARNED TO ADJUST CAS TO HOW WOMEN SHOOT - WE WANT EVERYONE TO BENEFIT FROM JOINING US. THE MENFOLK JOINING IN WILL HAVE THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES AND SHOOT ON THEIR OWN POSSES.

HOSTED BY THE KINGS RIVER REGULATORS, IN CLOVIS CALIFORNIA WITH DRY CAMPING AVAILABLE. STAY TUNED AS WE GET THIS UP AND RUNNING BY FOLLOWING ALONG ON THE FACEBOOK GROUP OR YOU CAN EMAIL US AT [WOMENOFTHWESTCAS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WOMENOFTHWESTCAS@GMAIL.COM)

**SAVE THE DATE SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025!**

