
MAY
2025

THE HOWLER At 5

Dogs Latest News, Updates & More

5 Dogs
Creek
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2024 - 2025 Town

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The Mayor's Anvil:

Forging Understanding

By Mayor Fordyce Beals

Clearing 73 jams on the firing line with a screw knife

The Winchester 1873 rifle is a SASS first choice classic, but like any firearm, it can experience jams. On the firing line a screw knife can unjam the rifle and save stage time added for unfired rounds and save your clean match. The most common jams include the short round jam, the failure to extract spent cartridges jam or round won't chamber jam. We have all seen people at the unloading table totally disassembling their rifle to clear a jammed '73. With a screw knife you don't need to do that.

The most common jam is the short round jam. The overall length of the round is too short because the bullet moves into the case from a split case or too little neck tension and recoil, or the magazine spring shortens the round. The lever will start to open but then stop before the lifter moves all the way to the top. Close the lever. Pull out your screw knife and shove the blade at the left rear of the short round while

pushing the loading gate open with your fingers and pry the round out of the loading gate. The magazine pressure of the next round in the magazine will help push the short round out of the gun. Pull the screw knife out of the gun and holster it while releasing the loading gate and lever the next round into the chamber, fire the rest of the magazine empty then load a 10th round to finish. The same technique can empty the magazine for any reason, the last round in the magazine will have no spring tension so the muzzle is pointed up so the last round can exit the loading gate.

The next common jam is the failure to extract jam where the next cartridge can not enter the chamber because the previous fired round is filling the chamber. The lever will not close fully as the chamber obstruction stops the next round. Pull out the screw knife and free the extractor from the rim of the unfired round in the lifter. Do not pry the extractor more than a tiny amount or you will bend the extractor. Now the lifter is pushed down with your fingers as you push the screw knife in at the front of the unfired round and pry the magazines next cartridge back into the magazine, so the lifter can be pushed fully down opening the lever. Pull out the screw knife and use it to pry the chamber obstructing case out of the chamber and gun. Holster the screw knife and lever the gun to finish the string.

The 3rd common jam is the bad ammo jam where the cartridge will not enter the chamber because it is flared and uncrimped or miss resized. The lever will open but not close as the bad cartridge will not enter the chamber. Pull out the screw knife and free the extractor from the rim of the unfired round in the lifter. Do not pry the extractor more than a tiny amount or you will bend the extractor. Now the lifter is pushed down with your fingers as you push the screw knife in at the front of the unfired round and pry the magazines next cartridge back into the magazine, so the lifter can be pushed fully down opening the lever. Shove the blade at the left rear of the bad ammo round while holding the loading gate open and pry the round out the loading gate. The magazine pressure of the next round in the magazine will help push the bad ammo round out of the gun. Pull the screw knife out of the gun, holster it while releasing the loading gate and lever the next round into the chamber, fire the rest of the magazine empty then load a 10th round to finish.

Do not use the screw knife to tighten screws tight, only snug, it has to be thin and will twist if abused.

Next time you see me at the range I will be happy to show you how to clear these jams. If you like YouTube you can find information in video from there.



Home crafted screw knife by Fordyce for Leia



THE SHERIFF'S LOG

Howdy All,

It has been a busy April. There was the 5 Dogs Creek Match, Fort Miller and the California State Championship at the end of the month. A lot of lead going down range! I missed the April match, but I heard there was lots of laughter, good weather and a great potluck. Thank you to Fordyce Beals for writing the scenarios and keeping everything on track.

I've talked Utah Blaine into writing the stages for May so if you're not at the California State Championship come and shoot with us. The weather will still be good and as always there is the famous 5 Dogs Creek potluck.

I'm looking for stage writers so let me know what month you'd like.

Appetizers on Friday at the firepit for a chance to visit with friends before the shooting part of the weekend starts. Join us just for the conversation if you'd like.

We are back to regular hours on Saturday, the shooter meeting at 8:30 and start shooting after so make sure you are at the range early enough to sign in and we can start on time.

See you on the range,
Lap Dog

Territorial Governor's News:

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



Professor Cubby Bear
(cubbybear29521@aol.com)

Range Wrangler Reminder

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.

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). page 6 of 9
- 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.
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MAY

Shooting Schedule:

5/3, SATURDAY
Office opens 8:00
Shooter's Mtg. 8:30
Match Starts: 9:00

5/4, SUNDAY
Office opens 8:00
Shooter's mtg. 8:30
Match Starts: 9:00



2025 MATCH
CALENDAR 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

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

SATURDAY CLEAN SHOOTERS



(4/5/25)

Big Bad Blaine, Chick Ma, Daisy Crocket, Dustbowl Debbie, Panhandle
Red, Rebecca West, Ruthless Rodg, Strait Shot Owen

SUNDAY CLEAN SHOOTERS



(4/6/25)

Chick Ma, Dirty Hands, Leia Tombstone & First time
Clean Shooter, Miss Chievous (holding Miss Kate)

WANDERING AROUND with Utah Blaine



Since recently recovering from a bout with pneumonia, Utah's "Wanderings ..." will return soon.

(Sure am thankful you're feeling better!

Domino)

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

SAVE THE DATE SEPTEMBER 19-21, 2025!

(...and don't forget May 11th)

