
October
2025

THE HOWLER

At 5 Dogs

Latest News, Updates & More

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2025 - 2026 Town

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The Mayor's Anvil:

Forging Understanding

By Mayor Fordyce Beals

Were 19th century cowboys accurate pistol shooters?

The best summary of just how good the average cowboy was told by the famous old Texas cattleman, Charles Goodnight, who came right out and said: "He couldn't hit the broadside of a barn! I've known hundreds of the best and worst cowpunchers in the business, and the number of real working cowboys who could hit a man at fifty feet with a 44 or 45 you could count on your fingers and toes! But most of them were pretty fair shots with a rifle -and some were damn good! The best shots in the cow country certainly were not the cowboys-they were the ones who usually got shot! It was the professional gunslingers who spent their time learning to draw fast and shoot straight while the honest cowpoke was busy branding, driving up the drags, repairing fence, or busting steers out of the brush."

"After all," commented Fred G. S. Hesse, famed Wyoming cowman and a pretty good shot himself with a six-gun, "everyone had to ride a horse in those days, but everyone who rode horses or punched cows wasn't a cowboy! And everyone who carried a gun wasn't an expert gunman ! "

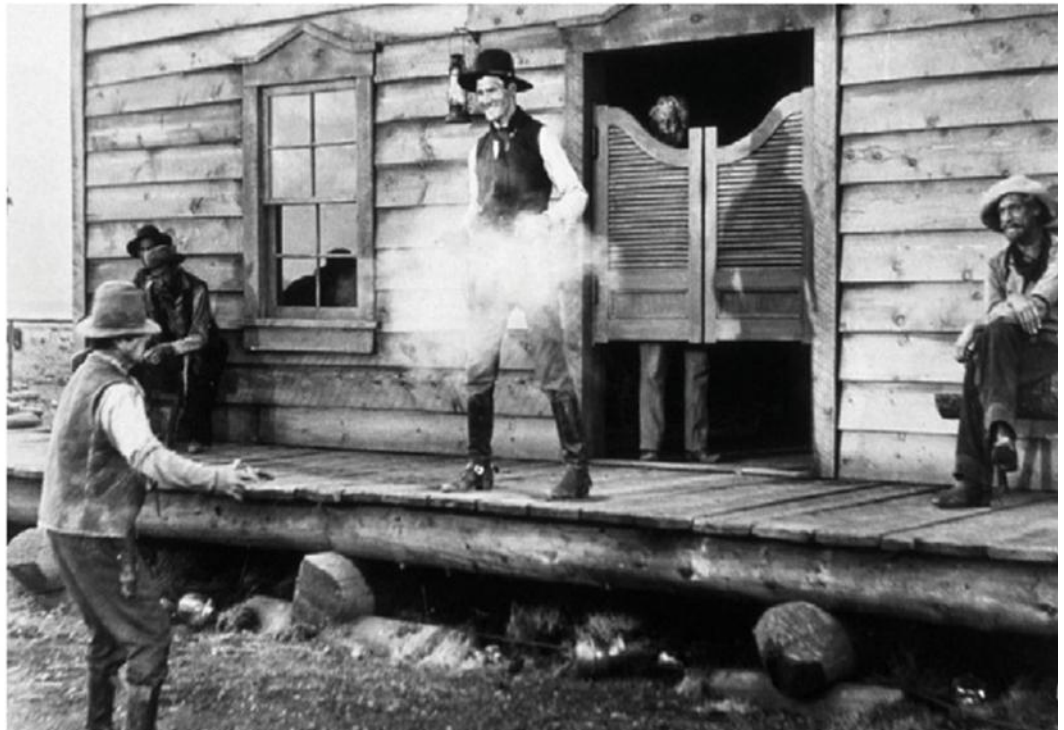
The cowboy didn't fare too well in his gunbattles in the cow towns that lived off the range trade and trail traffic. Even when he did a lot of shooting, he did very little hitting. Examples are legion, but one of the best is R. J. Jennings' eye-witness description of the free-for-all in Tom Shurman's Bar in Dodge City in 1881. Two trail outfits, each with 3,000 head of long horns, arrived at Dodge on the same day and camped on the grasslands surrounding the clapboard town. Three months on the monotonous trail had left both crews irritable, dry and ready for a toot. Both hit the saloons at the same time. Some 40 crowded into Shurman's and bar whiskey flowed like water. Within a few minutes some of the boys were carrying quite a head of steam. One thing led to another and suddenly a M Bar rider began to pistol whip a cowboy from the Texas City outfit. This sport quickly ended when one of the friends of the latter whipped out his six-gun and took a shot at the M Bar cowboy. Guns flashed out of holsters and the din, according to Jennings, sounded like a replay of the Battle of Shiloh. More than a hundred shots were fired before the room was cleared-by way of both the back as well as front doors. When the mess was surveyed, the results were astonishing. Not one rider had been killed or wounded! A cat sitting near the piano had forfeited even its ninth life, and there wasn't a fixture or mirror left intact in the whole place. The managers of both outfits split the bill the next morning to avoid a mass arrest of their crews.

BOX SCORE ON COWBOY SHOOTING

Cowtown Capitals	Shooting Incidents	Cowboys Vs. Cowboys		Cowboys Vs. Non-Cowboys	
		Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded
Abilene, Kans.	143	9	14	34	47
Dodge City, Kans.	173	11	21	40	?
Ellsworth, Kans.	86	6	12	19	?
Cheyenne, Wyo.	98	7	?	18	?
Julesburg, Neb.	48	4	11	16	22
Ogallala, Neb.	51	6	?	13	?
Newton, Kans.	67	5	14	20	?
Wichita, Kans.	76	8	26	24	?
Miles City, Mont.	46	3	?	15	?
Trail City, Colo.	53	5	?	21	?
Winnemucca, Nev.	62	6	16	11	12
Las Vegas, Nev.	69	8	?	13	?
Tucson, Ariz.	48	5	?	22	?
Total	1020	83	—	266	—

These figures represent the highest total of shooting incidents in any single year from 1870 to 1890.

the box score of cowboy shooting uses the highest incidents year between 1870 to 1890 to show for every 3 gunfights 1 person was killed



Jack Palance's evil smile got him an Academy Award nomination as a gunfighter shooting a cowboy in "Shane"



THE SHERIFF'S LOG

Howdy All,

It sounds like Utah, and I missed a great match and as WTF Bottles said, everyone deserves an 'A'. Thank you to Gunpowder N Grace for writing the stages that were challenging and creative. As someone said to me, if you shoot outside of 5 Dogs Creek these are types of stages you encounter. Thank you, again Gunpowder N Grace! (Hopefully she will write stages for us in the future.)

The October match is being written by Buddy Love and is his 'Gunfighter Throwdown'. Buddy designs the stages for those who have never shot gunfighter before and want to give it a try. It's a lot of fun so here is your opportunity to try it for the first time. Always lots of laughs but mostly support! And if you're not into shooting gunfighter, shoot whatever style you are comfortable with. Just come out and join us. Don't forget the She-Bang is our monthly match in November and the charity we are sponsoring will be the Ronald McDonald House. It's a great charity that benefits the families of kids in the hospital. There is a Ronald McDonald house right here in Bakersfield and the ladies of She-Bang decided they are worth our support. Read "The Howler" for more information.

The Rough Riders from Atascadero will be hosting the California State Wild Bunch Match (CSWBM) at 5 Dogs Creek November 20-22.

There will be a cowboy match at the same time for those who don't shoot Wild Bunch but would like to shoot for the fun of it. Mark your calendars!

Thank you to Brandin' Iron for the new, good-looking unloading table! Thank you, Miss Barah Lee Misditt and myself for six new staging tables. Nice to see so many, much needed upgrades.

There will be a work party on Saturday, October 11 on the range.

Time to knock down some pesky weeds and whatever else is needed to get the range ready for the She-Bang and the CSWBM.

See you at the range,

Lap Dog

SHE-BANG

The ladies of 5 Dogs Creek would like to invite all you cowboys and cowgirls (and those that come out to be supportive) to the 18th annual She-Bang on November 1-2. For those of you who are not familiar with the She-Bang, the ladies put together a fun weekend with the stages written by different ladies, a great team shoot, and any other shooting you would like to try (.22s, BB guns and so on). Traditionally all the funds raised, through the sale of Dog-Nabbits and raffle tickets go to the charity the ladies pick out. This year it is the Ronald McDonald House, and the ladies of 5 Dogs Creek are excited to partner up with them this year.

Dog-Nabbits are sold to erase pesky misses so if you shoot 'clean', you are awarded a special dog. Dog-Nabbits sell for \$10 for 5 tickets and those tickets are only good for one day. You can buy 5 tickets the next day. If you don't want to use a Dog-Nabbit or are one of the fortunate shooters who shoot clean, all the unused Dog-Nabbits can be used for the raffle! Everyone who comes out, shooters and non-shooters, are given a raffle ticket and additional raffle tickets will be sold. All the prizes are donated by the ladies, and a cowboy or two.

This year, 5 Dogs Creek will be selling stage sponsorship for \$100 for each stage. Please contact Miss Barah Lee Missditt at 661-747-4936 or Lap Dog at 661-301-8288. Call or text us for more information.

All money raised through the sale of stages sponsorships, raffle tickets and Dog-Nabbits goes directly to the Ronald McDonald House.

Checks for raffle tickets, Dog-Nabbits or Stage Sponsorship that are made out to the Ronald McDonald House are tax deductible.

Look for more information regarding the round count and starting times for the meals in the November Howler.

The Ladies of 5 Dogs Creek look forward to seeing all of you at the range for the 18th Annual She-Bang November 1-2!!!



OCTOBER

Shooting Schedule:

10/4, SATURDAY

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

10/5, SUNDAY

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



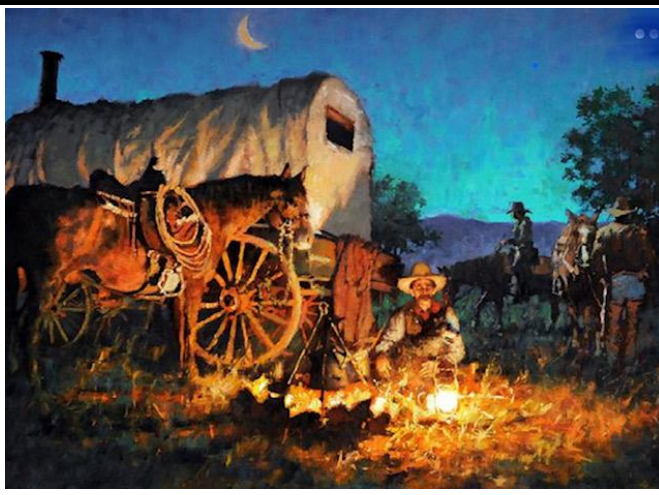
2025 MATCH CALENDAR

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



(9/6/25) SHATTERHAND & BIG BAD BLAINE)

(Note the Dog AND the APPLE from the teacher!)

SUNDAY CLEAN SHOOTER



(9/7/25) BADMAN BOB

(Note the Dog AND the APPLE from the teacher!)

Territorial Governor's News:

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



Professor Cubby Bear
cubbybear29521@aol.com

Range Wranglers' Notes:

(Brandin Iron's News here soon.)



Mayor Fordyce's Range Notes:

The SASS Shooter's Handbook Review:

Link to Shooters Handbook

<https://sassnet.com/uploads/downloads/Shooters%20Handbooks%20-%20CAS/CAS%202025%20SHB%20-%20%20Vers%2027.9%20-%20May%202025%20%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

“HOLSTERS, CARTRIDGE BELTS, & BANDOLEERS, HOLSTERS”



“All handguns must be carried in a safe holster capable of retaining the firearm throughout a normal range of motion. - Main match holsters must be located one on each side of the belly button and separated by at least the width of two fists at the belt. (Note: Pocket pistol and derringer holsters are not “main match” holsters) - Holsters may not depart from the vertical by more than 30° when worn. - Although cross draw and shoulder holsters are legal, extreme care must be exercised when drawing a firearm from a cross draw or shoulder holster or returning the firearm to leather. The user must “twist” their body, if necessary, to ensure the muzzle never breaks the 170° safety rule during the process. - When drawing a revolver, the muzzle may be oriented into the straight down (180°) as it clears leather; but must then go immediately into the downrange 170°. When re-holstering a revolver, the muzzle may be oriented into the straight down (180°). These restrictions against breaking the downrange 180° angle apply to all holsters and methods of draw/re-holster. This allowance applies to all types/styles of holsters, from canted double strong side to cross draw, to shoulder/Huckleberry rigs. - During the course of fire, the shooter must be given the ability to draw and holster revolvers from approved/legal holsters and the ability to retrieve and return vertically staged double-barreled shotguns without penalty. - Any firearm that breaks the 170° safety rule will result in a Stage Disqualification.”

Cartridge Belts, Bandoleers, and Pouches

Bandoleers, cartridge belts, and pouches must be of traditional design (e.g., bandoleers must be loose and not secured in any way to prevent movement). Modern drop pouches, combat style shotgun loops, wrist or forearm bandoleers, and such are not allowed. - Ammo loops on bandoleers may not be oriented vertically (up and down) when/as worn. - Pouches shall have a flap and must carry their contents loose, with no special provisions to organize the contents for rapid retrieval. - Cartridge loops must not have a metal or plastic liner. However, the entire loop may be made of metal.

Ammunition Belts and Loops

Ammunition required for loading/reloading during the course of any stage must be carried on the shooter's person, in a bandoleer, cartridge/shot shell belt loop, holster cartridge loop, pouch, pocket, or be safely staged as required by stage instructions. - Use of ammo from cartridge loops mounted on a firearm's stock or forearm is not allowed. - No ammunition may be carried in the mouth, ears, nose, cleavage, or any other bodily orifice. - Leather belt slide ammo loops are acceptable; however, shotgun shell slides may not be worn over shotgun loops on an ammo belt. Ammunition belts must be worn so all ammo is positioned at or below the belly button. - Shotgun ammo loops may not accommodate more than two rounds per loop, and rifle/revolver ammo loops shall accommodate only one round per loop. - Shotgun Ammo loops must conform to the shooter's contour (i.e., not tilt out from the belt). - Shotgun loops must be in a single row. - Rifle/Revolver loops cannot be affixed to shotgun loops. - Rifle/Revolver ammunition may not be carried in a shotgun/shotshell loop. - Laterally angled cartridge loops on belts and ammo slides are allowed. Note: Any ammo carried to the stage in an illegal/unapproved manner that is actually used for stage reloads falls under the "Use of illegally acquired ammunition" penalties."

See more next month.

Also available:

SASS® RANGE OPERATIONS BASIC SAFETY COURSE

<https://sassnet.com/uploads/downloads/RO%20Materials%20-%20ROBS/ROBS%20Student%20Handbook%202025%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING™

<https://sassnet.com/uploads/downloads/RO%20Materials%20-%20CAS/CAS%20RO%20Student%20HB%202025%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

WILD BUNCH ACTION SHOOTING™

<https://sassnet.com/uploads/downloads/RO%20Materials%20-%20WBAS/WBAS%20RO%20Student%20HB%202025%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

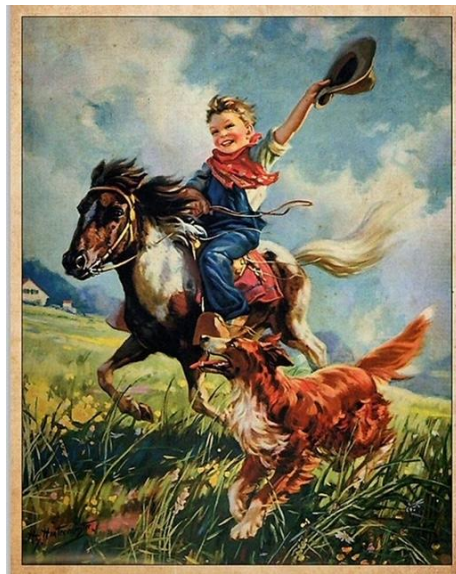
Page with all three links:

<https://sassnet.com/student-course-materials>

News from the SASS Wire:

“The Magnificent 7 of Classic Cowboy Action Shooting has come to a decision to name the Classic Cowboy of the Year for 2025. We compiled all of the nominations and information from the Wire, Facebook and personal correspondence with the Magnificent 7. With much discussion, it was no small undertaking as there are many deserving Cowboys out there but one name continued to rise to the top. The Classic Cowboy of the Year for 2025 is Ambs Aces SASS #103511. His credentials, accomplishments and support for the Classic Category and Cowboy Action Shooting in general are lengthy and noteworthy. The award will be presented at a meeting of all interested Classics (actually everyone is invited to honor him) will be held during Land Run at a location to be determined. Unfortunately, due to the lack of nominations and information submitted for Classic Cowgirl, we were unable to name an honoree for 2025. We truly regret this but we had no choice.

Congratulations to our Classic Cowboy of the Year, Ambs Aces.”



WANDERIN' AROUND with Utah Blaine

Horses and the American Wild West

The importance of **horses** in the American Wild West cannot be overstated. They were used for a variety of purposes. They were **instrumental in the mining industry**, transporting miners and their supplies to remote mining locations and supporting not only the miners but **horses** also were **instrumental in the development of towns** (Aspin, no date:1).

Of course, **horses** were also very present in the life of cowboys and pioneers. They were very much “symbols of freedom and strength.” For many of those we consider settlers in the old west, owning a horse “was a mark of social status.” In stories and songs, these creatures embodied the spirit of the West. And naturally an old west cowboys had a deep and abiding bond with their horse (Aspin, no date:3).

Not surprisingly, Native American tribes also had “deep connections” to **horses**, which for many “symbolized strength and freedom.” For some native American tribes, for example the Lakota, viewed horses as sacred beings (Aspin, no date:5) It is the Native Americans and the Spanish who “are responsible for horses thriving in North America.” In fact, the Spanish brought them “here in the early 1500s but the Native Americans helped to breed them to what they are today (Rees, 2018:1).

Horses are also represented in “paintings and sculptures.” And we find folktales with **horses** as central figures. And “poems and songs also portray how the “spirit of frontier” wove its way into “the fabric of daily life” (Aspin, no date:4).

There are many different breeds of horses, but there were only a handful that were significant in the shaping of the Wild West.

The **Palomino** was brought over from Spain. (Rees, 2018:2).



The horse with a simple look is the **Buckskin**. This horse has “become a symbol of life on the American Frontier,” with its beautiful tan skin and dark legs and mane/tail. Buckskins coloring is a hair coat color referring to a color that resembles certain shades of tanned deerskin. The horse has a tan or gold colored coat with black points (mane, tail, and lower legs) (Wikipedia).



Suited for war and hunting, the **Appaloosas** were found among the Nez Perce Indians of the Pacific Northwest. Appaloosas were “practical, hardy, and versatile with the additional advantage of tractability, good sense, and almost endless stamina.” These horses are either spotted all over or only in the hindquarters, giving them a very distinct look. Unfortunately, in 1877, a war occurred, and the herds were dispersed and did not appear again until the late 1800s and early 1900s (Rees 2018:3).



America's first recognized horse breed was the **Morgan**. The Morgan horse breed traces its roots back to a single stallion named Figure, later known as Justin Morgan, who was born in 1789. It is recognized as one of the first American horse breeds. Morgans were significant in 19th century history as coach horses and cavalry mounts during the Civil War. Morgans were officially recognized by the American Morgan Horse Association in 1909 (Copilot Search).



Clearly the bond between humans and horses defined an era. The dusty trails to the thundering hooves that echoed through canyons, the spirit of the Wild West was part of everyday life. Daring cowboys, vast ranches, and frontier towns captivate our imagination. The legacy of the mounted cowboy is part our nation's history (Aspin, no date:6)

Without a horse, the Wild West, of course, wouldn't have thrived like it did. Palominos, Appaloosas, and Morgans all helped to herd cattle, fight in wars, and hunt. They certainly improved the cowboy's way of life. Cowboys simply would not have been able to handle many daily tasks as easily and help shape the West as we know it to be today. But they also rode horses of several different breeds: American Saddlebred, Missouri Fox Trotter, Morgan, American Quarter Horse, and even Arabian (Rees 2018:3).

Sources

Aspin, Peter. Horse Life: The Role Of Horses In The Economy Of The American Wild West. No date.

Copilot Search. The Morgan Horse.

Rees, Mark. Wild West Living: Horses of the Wild West. June 22, 2018

Wikipedia. The Buckskin.

5 Dogs Creek presents the 18th annual

SHE-BANG!

KEEPING FAMILIES CLOSE

November 1-2, 2025

The ladies of 5 Dog Creek in Bakersfield are back again for another 'shenanigan' filled weekend of shooting! Cowgirls and cowboys, y'all join us as we take our monthly match up a notch, or **two!**

SHE-BANG!

- 5 stages each day (two separate matches) *Come for one day or stay all weekend!*
- **On Saturday the office opens at 7:45 a.m., sign in by 8:30 a.m. and the shooters meeting at 8:45a.m.**
- **On Sunday the office opens at 7:45 a.m., sign in by 8:30 a.m. and the shooters meeting at 8:45 a.m.**
- Regular daily match rate: Members \$20; Non-members \$25.
- Everyone - shooters and non - shooters - will be able to enter into drawings for treasured items donated by the ladies of 5 Dog Creek.

We will be selling 'dog-nabbits' to erase some of those pesky misses and extra raffle tickets with the proceeds going to **The Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House.**

SHE-NANIGANS!

- Hot dog it's Friday and appetizers! The ladies will be providing the hot dogs and fixings, bring an appetizer to share if you would like.
- Team shoot after the match on Saturday, and other fun so bring some extra ammunition!
- Saturday night's potluck is legendary, and this year's theme is **FAST FOOD!**
- Cowboy swap meet! All weekend, sell, buy, trade or barter your extra cowboy duds, gear or whatever.



Free camping on the range Friday-Monday.
No pre-registration. No party poopers!
For more information contact Lap Dog at djhansen70@outlook.com