
December
2025

THE HOWLER

At 5 Dogs

Latest News, Updates & More

5 Dogs
Creek
PO Box
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Bakersfield,
CA 93390

2025 - 2026 Town

Council

Mayor:

Fordyce Beals
mayor@5dogscreek.com

Sheriff:

Lap Dog
sheriff@5dogscreek.com

Banker:

Leia Tombstone
banker@5dogscreek.com

Blacksmith:

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blacksmith@5dogscreek.com

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storekeeper@5dogscreek.com

News Editor:

Domino Blaze
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Range Wrangler:

Brandin Iron
rangewrangler@5dogscreek.com

Telegraph Operator:

Whiskey TF Bottles
telegraph@5dogscreek.com

Territorial Governor:

Professor Cubby Bear
governor@5dogscreek.com



The Mayor's Anvil:

Forging Understanding

By Mayor Fordyce Beals

Instant Communications Coast to Coast Achieved In 1861

On July 4, 1861, work began on the transcontinental telegraph. The first transcontinental telegraph line construction was completed on October 24, 1861, which connected Omaha, Nebraska, to Carson City, Nevada, via Salt Lake City, Utah, following the route of the Oregon-California trail, allowing for near-instantaneous communication across the country. This development marked a significant milestone in electrical engineering and communication history.

In 1861, Benjamin Tyler Henry had perfected the 1860 Henry lever action rifle, but the Colt 1873 Single Action Army revolver was over a decade in the future.



Link to full sized map:

<https://www.telegraph-history.org/transcontinental-telegraph/trscon1.htm>

James Gamble, an experienced telegraph builder in California, was put in charge of the western crew, and Edward Creighton was responsible for the eastern crew. From Salt Lake City, a crew in charge of James Street advanced westward, and W.H. Stebbins's crew eastward towards Fort Kearny. When the project was completed in October 1861, they had planted 27,500 poles holding 2,000 miles of single-strand iron wire over a terrain that was not always inviting



The Pony Express bridged the gap between the East and West sections during construction. In this illustration from Harper's Weekly, a Pony Express rider gallops past workers building the new line. Note the bison skeleton at lower right.

California Chief Justice Stephen Field sent one of the first messages from San Francisco to Abraham Lincoln, using the occasion to assure the president of California's allegiance to the Union (sent at 7:40 PM on October 24 and was received by President Lincoln at 11:30 the following morning):

TO ABRAHAM LINCOLN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:
IN THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE I
AM REQUESTED TO SEND YOU THE FIRST MESSAGE WHICH WILL
BE TRANSMITTED OVER THE WIRES OF THE TELEGRAPH LINE
WHICH CONNECTS THE PACIFIC WITH THE ATLANTIC STATES.
THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA DESIRE TO CONGRATULATE YOU
UPON THE COMPLETION OF THE GREAT WORK.

THEY BELIEVE THAT IT WILL BE THE MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THE ATTACHMENT WHICH BINDS BOTH THE EAST AND THE WEST TO THE UNION, AND THEY DESIRE IN THIS--THE FIRST MESSAGE ACROSS THE CONTINENT--TO EXPRESS THEIR LOYALTY TO THE UNION AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO STAND BY ITS GOVERNMENT ON THIS ITS DAY OF TRIAL. THEY REGARD THAT GOVERNMENT WITH AFFECTION AND WILL ADHERE TO IT UNDER ALL FORTUNES. STEPHEN J. FIELD

The construction coincided with Civil War combat to the southeast. The entire cost of the system was half a million dollars (equivalent to \$19 million in 2025).

The telegraph line immediately made the Pony Express obsolete, which officially ceased operations two days later. The overland telegraph line was operated until the transcontinental railroad was completed, on May 10, 1869

The lines of the California State Telegraph Company had already been extended as far as Virginia City after the consolidation of the lines, and it was decided that the work of extending the overland telegraph was to commence at Carson City. Part of the wire and insulators had in the meantime been ordered from the East and were shipped round by Cape Horn. The next most important item of material was the poles. These had to be hauled on wagons and distributed along the route from Carson City to Salt Lake.

The line was strung up at the rate of from three to eight miles a day. An advance telegraph station was kept up with the head of the line, and the progress of the work reported each day.



Salt Lake City Telegraph Station, East side of Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah

Construction details:

The wire was made from pure Swedish charcoal iron and was galvanized to protect it from rust. The most usual sizes are No. 9, weighing 323 lbs. to the mile, and No. 8, weighing 389 lbs. to the mile. (roughly 5/32-inch diameter) In jointing, the end of each wire is closely turned around the other four or five times and then cut off short. The joint is finished by dipping in melted solder.

Poles - Timber is used for poles. Chestnut, white and red cedar, and redwood are chiefly utilized. Poles are seldom less than 26 ft. long by 6 in. in diameter at the top.

Insulators - Iron holders embedded in glass and enclosed in wooden forms, kept the wires off the ground.

Batteries, needed to power the signal, were shipped as powder in containers with electrodes. Water was added later to bring the batteries to charge. Racks of Daniell cells or gravity cells would comprise a main line terminal telegraph battery. About one hundred cells would be all connected in series.

The transcontinental telegraph utilized relay stations every twenty miles. Often signals received over long lines were too weak to operate the receiving instruments directly so the relay station served as an extremely sensitive switch to connect a local battery to the receiving instruments. Thus, it could take multiple operators several hours for the message to go coast to coast.

**The following quote by James Gamble forged understanding for Fordyce:
containing what still makes America great - A new idea implemented that improves
Americans lives, makes a profit, and results in pride of accomplishment:**

“Probably no line of the same length in the world made so much money as the old California State Telegraph Company, nor was any line of so much practical utility as the first wire stretched across the continent. I had the honor to assist in the making of both.”.....James Gamble



THE SHERIFF'S LOG

Howdy All,

As I write this it is cold and rainy. I am thankful I'm not in a covered wagon crossing the mountains or in a one-room house with cracks in the walls. They were truly hardy people, and I appreciate my modern conveniences!

We had a great She-Bang for the November match. The ladies of 5 Dogs Creek did a terrific job of writing stages, decorating, leading posses and getting together all those prizes that were given away. I want to thank Miss Barah Misditt and Dominio Blaze for all the work they did behind the scenes!

This year the charity for the She-Bang was the Ronald McDonald house in Bakersfield. With stage sponsorships, the selling of Dog-Nabbits and raffle prizes over \$2,100 was raised. It would not have been possible without all of you coming out to shoot and participate. Well done everyone!

The December match is being written by Utah Blaine and Lucky Lu. I hear there may be a bell ringing on one of the stages! It should be lots of fun so come out and join us.

The Rough Riders are hosting the California State Wild Bunch Match at the 5 Dogs Range November 21-23. I'm hoping it goes well and a club member or two shows up with a buckle!

As a reminder, the club voted to have winter hours on Saturdays from December to April. The office will open at 9:30, shooter meeting at 10:00 and start shooting at 10:15.

Looking ahead to the New Year, bring out your .22's for Friday January 2nd. We will drag out some targets and have a little competition, just for fun of course! How about some hot dogs and appetizers for Friday night? The club will provide the hot dogs so bring an appetizer or dessert to share. It should be cold enough to get a fire going!

Keep your powder dry so every bullet hits a target down range. If they don't you can always ask Santa for some new powder!

Happy Holidays and see you at the range,

Lap Dog

DECEMBER

Shooting Schedule:

12/6, SATURDAY

Office opens 9:30
Shooter's Mtg. 10:00
Match Starts: 10:15

12/7, SUNDAY

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



2025 MATCH

CALENDAR

DEC 6-7

2026 MATCH

CALENDAR

JAN 3-4

FEB: JAN 31-

FEB 1

MAR: FEB 28-

MAR 1

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 SHE-BANG CLEAN & "CLEAN" SHOOTERS



WTF Bottles, AMBS Aces, Badman Bob, Bella Coola, Big Bad Blaine, Brandin Iron, Coyote Carson, Daisey Crockett, Dutch Longhorn, Fannie Oakley, Hildie, Miss Bara Lee Misditt, Miss Chievous, Old Yeller, Panhandle Red, Rebecca West, Sam Ootie, Shotgun Lynn, Utah Blaine

SUNDAY SHE-BANG CLEAN & "CLEAN" SHOOTERS



WTF Bottles. Bella Coola, Big Bad Blaine, Bonny Kate, Boots Stimboli, Bull McFearson, Coal Train, Coyote Carson, Daisy Crockett, Dutch Longhorn, Gunpowder N Grace, Jailer, Josie Albuquerque, Limpin' Leroy, Lucky Lu, Miss Bara Lee Misditt, Miss Chievious, Old Yeller, Panhandle Red, Rebecca West, Sam Ootie, Shatterhand

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>

“TIMER OPERATOR”



TO - The role of the **Timer Operator (TO)** is to safely assist the shooter through the course of fire. Coaching and constraining the shooter from unsafe acts are expected when appropriate, minimizing procedural and safety penalties whenever possible. Proper coaching or no coaching at all is **NOT** considered **RO** interference and will never be grounds for a re-shoot. Failure to stage firearms or ammunition at the designated position(s)/location(s) is the fault of the competitor and scored as a procedural unless the competitor can correct the situation unassisted, while in the process of completing the stage under time. The penalty of using “illegally acquired” ammunition (i.e., **NOT** carried to the line/staged by the shooter in an approved manner) is a **PROCEDURAL**. Any targets hit using that ammo are scored as **MISSES**. **NO** adjustments will be made to the stage raw time. It is expected the Timer Operator will be the responsible party for resolving all safety related matters occurring in the loading, unloading, and firing line areas. However, as all shooters are considered Safety Officers, any shooter who observes a safety infraction not witnessed by the TO should call the infraction to a TO's attention, at which time the matter will be resolved.

Range Commands Standard Range Commands are the most efficient way to run a shooting line and are used in almost every established shooting sport. As a matter of safety, all shooters are required to obey all range commands given by the TO. For a more in-depth understanding of range commands, schedule your SASS RO 1 Course today.

IMPORTANT COMMON RANGE COMMANDS -

“Cease Fire!” or “STOP!” - The command called out by the TO or any witnessing Range Officer/Match Official at any time an unsafe condition develops. The shooter must stop shooting and stop moving immediately. Willful failure to comply to a Cease Fire or Stop command given by, and while under the control of the TO will result in a Match Disqualification penalty assessment.

“Muzzle!” – This command quickly and efficiently warns the shooter their muzzle is getting close to the 170° and should be pointed in a safe direction (back down range). –

“Down Range!” – This command is announced prior to anyone proceeding down range for any reason, including to reset or repair targets. When a “Down Range” command is announced, all participants at both the loading and unloading areas should cease firearm loading/unloading. Common practice is to raise hands in the air as a visual confirmation that no firearms are being handled while someone is down range. (This applies primarily when the loading tables and/or the unloading tables are oriented facing down range.)

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>



WANDERIN' AROUND with Utah Blaine

(Watch for the “Top Hand’s return here soon.)

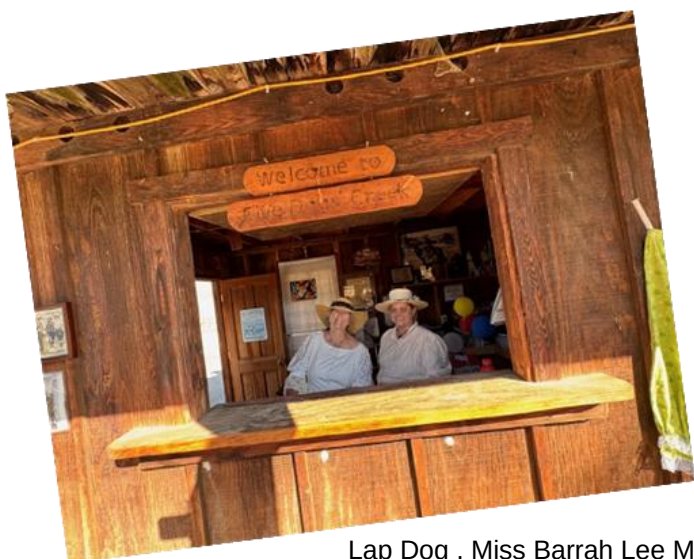
2025 SHE – BANG MEMORIES (THANK YOU HILDIE!)



Friday night appetizers



“Trick or Treat” – you pick.



Lap Dog , Miss Barrah Lee Misditt, & Domino Blaze



Terra Bella Terror & Brandon Iron Keeping the rafle items safe from bandits



Lap Dog prepares everyone for a great match.



Miss Chievous having her wardrobe expertly adjusted.



Whiskey T.F. Bottles , no caption needed.



Lap Dog leading the posse



Kilted Bull McFearson "Timer Operator Extraordinaire"



Snakebite is looking for the Johnson Family picnic



Rebecca West found a creepy crawly friend



Miss Barrah Lee Misditt proving duelist is the coolest



WTF Gunfighting his way through the stage.



Boots Stimboli takes aim.



Big Bad Blaine & Gunhilda (Hildie)



The posse looks on as Rebecca West TO's for Snakebite



Jailer having himself a spelling contest - S.P.O.O.L.S Spools

Gunfighter TO's Gunfighter, what could possibly go wrong...



The one and only Dutch Longhorn having himself a little "Shotgun Time"



Coal Cart Rob picking them off one at a time from the gallows platform



Jailer



Dutch Longhorn



Matches are much better when followed by a cowboy potluck

Welcome to Cowboy Action Shooting, Miss Scarlett!



Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House Director, Scarlett Sabin, (and friend),
say "Thank You!"

