

---

**JULY**  
**2026**

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

5 Dogs  
Creek  
PO Box  
20051  
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:

**OPEN**

blacksmith@5dogscreek.com

Storekeeper:

Bull McFearson  
storekeeper@5dogscreek.com

News Editor:

Domino Blaze  
editor@5dogscreek.com

Range Wrangler:

Brandin Iron  
rangewrangler@5dogscreek.com

Telegraph Operator:

Whiskey TF Bottles  
telegraph@5dogscreek.com

Territorial Governor:

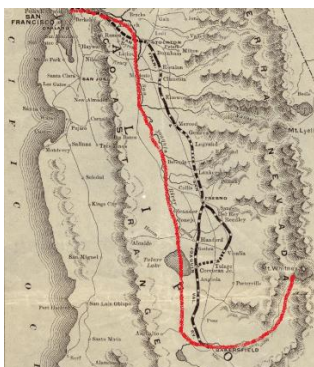
Professor Cubby Bear  
governor@5dogscreek.com



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

**How did Golden Trout get to the slopes of Mount Whitney?**

During the Pleistocene epoch 70,000+ years ago coastal rainbow (steel head) and Sacramento red band trout migrated from the Pacific Ocean through the San Joaquin Valley to the Kern River via the Kern Canyon Fault. In the interim the changing landscape created waterfalls, steep cascades and lava flows that isolated the high Sierra head waters of the eastern Kern water shed. Safe from the downstream rainbow trout populations this isolation and natural selection created three distinct subspecies of Golden Trout.



Red line is probable route from Pacific Ocean to Mount Whitney

#1. The Golden Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*) is the California state fish and is one of the most colorful trout in the world. It is endemic to the Golden Trout Creek, Volcano Creek and South Fork Kern River. Over this vast time the fish evolved its signature dazzling coloration of vivid red to orange bellies and lateral lines – brilliant gold flanks and deep olive-green backs.



GOLDEN TROUT OF VOLCANO CREEK, SALMO ROOSEVELTI EVERMANN  
(DRAWN FROM LIFE BY CHARLES B. HUDSON FROM THE  
TYPE, A SPECIMEN 11 1/2 INCHES LONG.)

From a 1905 Bureau of Fisheries Field expedition Report Note scientific name is changed from presidential honor



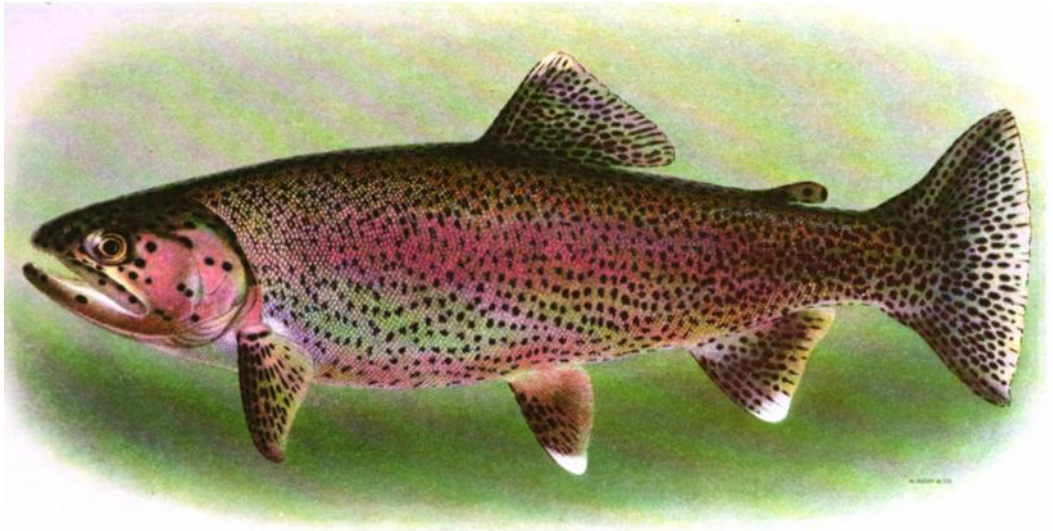
#2. The Little Kern Golden Trout (*O.M. whitei*) is endemic strictly to the Little Kern River basin and tributary creeks. Compared to the California golden trout, the brilliance of coloration in the Little Kern golden trout is usually a bit more subdued. Little Kern goldens tend to have more black spots along its back, especially anterior to the caudal peduncle, and onto its head in comparison to California golden trout.



GOLDEN TROUT OF SODA CREEK, SALMO WHITEI EVERMANN  
(DRAWN FROM LIFE BY CHARLES B. HUDSON FROM THE  
TYPE, A SPECIMEN 7½ INCHES LONG.)



#3. The Kern River Rainbow is native to the main stem of the upper Kern River and its immediate deep-water tributaries. Kern River Rainbow trout looks similar to Coastal Rainbow trout but have a slight gold hint. They have many fine, irregular spots all over their bodies, and larger fish may have a rosy streak along their sides. Kern River Rainbow trout are a distinct subspecies of Rainbow trout that likely resulted from natural hybridization of Coastal Rainbow trout with Little Kern Golden trout several thousand years ago. They are more genetically similar to California Golden trout and Little Kern Golden trout than they are to present-day Coastal Rainbow trout.



KERN RIVER TROUT, SALMO GILBERTI (JORDAN)  
(DRAWN FROM LIFE BY CHARLES B. HUDSON FROM A SPECIMEN  
16 1/2 INCHES LONG.)



The effort to save these unique species has been under way since the first transport and stocking of fishless lakes and streams in 1876. In 1960 a program was started to isolate non-native fish from the native fish habitat and is still ongoing today. You can take a horse pack train trip or hike to the current range of the Golden Trout and fish for some today and I hope for all time in the future. They are the living California Gold.





## **THE SHERIFF'S LOG**

Howdy All,

Well, we are heading into summer for sure. The June match was a little warm, just a reminder of what might lie ahead in the next few months at the range. Utah Blaine wrote some stages that had shooters realizing what that piece of iron on the end of their guns is used for. Those tiny targets were out there dancing, but the spotters still called misses! Each day two shooters shot clean, so we knew it could be done.

Sam Ootie is writing the stages for July and August and he is using the stages with the most shade for both months. Come out and join us, we should be finished before it starts getting too hot.

Plan ahead for September and October as Buddy Love is putting pencil to paper to come up with some fun, and gunfighter friendly, stages.

On Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> there was a Town Council meeting for nominations for the 2027 Town Council. The nominations are:

Mayor - Ambs Aces

Sheriff - Dutch Longhorn

Banker - Gunpowder N Grace

Storekeeper - Lap Dog

Newsletter Editor - Domino Blaze

Telegraph Operator - Whiskey TF Bottles

Range Wrangler - Brandin' Iron

Black Smith - Open

Territorial Governor - Open

Because there is only one person running for each office they get the position through 'acclimation', meaning there is no need to do a secret paper ballot. They will officially be voted on at the July meeting. Feel free to nominate yourself for an Open position. Sounds like the making of another great Town Council!

And don't forget, there is camping on the range this 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend! No fireworks though, except those during the match.

See you at the range,

Lap Dog

# JULY

## Shooting Schedule:

### 7/4 SATURDAY

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

### 7/5, SUNDAY

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



## 2026 MATCH CALENDAR

JULY: 4-5

AUG: 1-2

SEPT: 5-6

OCT: 3-4

NOV: 10/31 &

11/1

DEC: 5-6

---

## COME JOIN US FOR SOME CAMPING FUN!



**Friday "Appetizers" - Saturday Evening Potluck (6:00-ish)**

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

**Plates & utensils provided**

# SATURDAY, 6/6 CLEAN SHOOTERS



*Panhandle Red, Stampede Steve*

# SUNDAY, 6/7 CLEAN SHOOTERS



*Jailer, Stampede Steve*

# **Territorial Governor's News:**

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



**Professor Cubby Bear**  
[\(\[cubbybear29521@aol.com\]\(mailto:cubbybear29521@aol.com\)\)](mailto:cubbybear29521@aol.com)

# **Range Wranglers' Notes:**

---

(Brandin Iron's News here soon.)





# Mayor Fordyce's Range Notes:

## Sass Pocket Range Officers Card

Print and cut out for range use

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

SASS® Range Operations Basic Safety Course	Pocket RO Card — <b>Current as of January 2024</b> "MSV" Minor Safety Violation = 10 Second penalty "SDQ" = Stage Disqualification; "MDQ" = Match Disqualification		M	S	M
			S	D	D
			V	Q	Q
Empty or live round in magazine, action, or on the carrier of the long gun in which it was loaded, or an empty in the chamber of a long gun- after the next firearm is fired, or if last firearm, put down on the unloading table.			X		
Empty long guns that slip and fall but don't break 170 or sweep anyone			X		
Cocking a revolver before it reaches 45 degrees downrange			X		
Leaving the stage anytime between when the first and last shots have been fired on the stage				X	
Leaving the firing line after stage has begun before all firearms have been verified as clear				X	
Loading at other than designated location				X	
Holstering or staging revolver with hammer cocked (not fully down) or down (on a live round)				X	
Any dropped unloaded firearm on the firing line				X	
Discharge impacting 5-10 feet from shooter, while on the firing line				X	
Cocked revolver leaving shooter's hand				X	
Changing location or leaving the designated loading area with a live round chambered in a long gun with the action closed				X	
Unsafe gun handling (fanning, etc.)				X	
Use of illegal or illegally-modified firearm				X	
Dry firing at the loading or unloading table(s)				X	
Violation of 170 rule (without sweeping anyone)				X	
Sweeping anyone with unloaded firearm				X	
Arriving at the designated loading area with uncleared firearms after completing a stage within the same day (assessed on the previously completed stage)				X	
De-cocking to avoid a penalty if cocked at the wrong time, position or location				X	
Not adhering to loading or unloading procedures				X	

SASS® Range Operations Basic Safety Course	Pocket RO Card — Current as of January 2024 "MSV" Minor Safety Violation = 10 Second penalty "SDQ" = Stage Disqualification; "MDQ" = Match Disqualification		M	S	M
			S	D	D
			V	Q	Q
Shooting on the move (shooting multiple shots during continuous movement)				X	
Leaving the designated loading area with a RIFLE having a live round under a cocked hammer/hammer down on a live round				X	
Staging or discarding a long gun containing a live round in the chamber (once it leaves the shooter's hands)				X	
Use or presence of outlawed/illegal items				X	
Dropped gun (loaded)					X
Discharge impacting within 5 feet from shooter, while on the firing line or any discharge away from the firing line. Any discharge in the loading or unloading areas.					X
Sweeping anyone with loaded firearm					X
Willful failure to comply with a "cease fire" or "Stop" command given by, and while under the positive control of, the CRO/TO					X
Any two (2) stage DQ penalties or 2 F.T.E./S.O.G.'s during the course of a match					X
Belligerent attitude/unsportsmanlike conduct					X
Shooting under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or impairing medications					X
Leaving the firing line with a malfunctioning firearm unless under direct supervision of a match official					X
Shooting out of category. e.g., Not wearing the correct items in Classic Cowboy or not making enough smoke in B/P Categories 1st violation is a procedure, 2nd violation is SDQ, 3rd violation is MDQ			P	2	3
<p><b>Procedural:</b> Unintentional errors caused by confusion or mistakes. 10 seconds; no more than one procedural penalty may be assessed per stage.</p> <p><b>Failure to Engage/Spirit of the Game:</b> Willfully shooting a stage other than the way it was intended in order to gain a competitive advantage, not meeting the Ammunition Power Factor or willfully disregarding a non-shooting procedure. <b>30 seconds.</b></p> <p><b>Reshoots</b> are granted for failure of props/match equipment; Range Officer impeding shooter progress; or timer failure.</p> <p><b>Reshoots for failure</b> of shooter equipment or firearms may be granted at the discretion of the Match Director (except at annual or state/regional championships and above). Only safety penalties carry over. Restarts shall be allowed for a competitor to achieve a "clean" start, up to the point at which the first round goes down range. Multiple restarts by the same shooter, that in the judgment of the R.O. are seen to be taking advantage, will not be entertained as they are not in the spirit of the game.</p>					

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>



## **WANDERIN' AROUND with Utah Blaine**

### **Sally Skull (Skull)**

Sarah Jane Newman was born c. 1818 in Pennsylvania to parents Joseph Newman and Rachel Rabb Newman (Wikipedia:2)

Skull's (or Scull's) family moved from Pennsylvania down towards Texas, from the Arkansas Territory to modern-day East Oklahoma until Skull's family joined Rachel's father, William Rabb, in the Spanish Province of Texas in 1820 (Wikipedia:3).

The combined Rabb and Newman families were among the earliest settlers in Moses and Stephen F. Austin's Texas Colony. Rabb received the largest land grant in the Texas colony, which was given in exchange for Rabb's commitment to build a gristmill and sawmill on the Colorado River (Wikipedia:3).

Jesse Robinson had migrated to Texas in 1822, and in the spring of 1823 joined a volunteer company, which were the predecessors of the Texas Rangers. This volunteer company was charged with protecting settlers in Austin's Colony. And in 1824, Robinson and several other company members rescued the Rabb and Newman families from one-hundred-and-eighty Waco and Tawakoni Native American Indians. They had surrounded their properties, slaughtered their livestock, and set fire to their crops. This was likely Robinson and Skull's introduction. At the time Robinson was 24 and Skull was six or seven years old (Wikipedia:3).

Skull and Robinson were married from 1833 to 1847, which ended in divorce. The pair had two children together, Nancy (Robinson) Barber and Alfred Robinson (Wikipedia:4).

Up to this point in time everything seems reasonably normal, but the story now changes rather dramatically. It is said that second only to becoming famous as one of Jack the Ripper's victims would be gaining celebrity as one of Sally Skull's husbands. A man would be joining the ranks of a now defunct and exclusive club of five fellows who would in turn marry Sally. Some say Sally didn't always wait to get a divorce and perhaps took the easy way out. She killed them (Van Ostrand:1-2).

"I don't give a d... about the body, but I would like to have the \$40 in that money belt around it," she muttered loud enough to be heard, referring to the drowned remains of her husband (Van Ostrand:2).

Such sentiments were not uncommon with Sally. She was known throughout Texas as a woman who could shoot, trade horses, ride, and lasso as well as any man. She could also shoot flawlessly and cuss like a muleskinner (Van Ostrand:2).

It was well known that Sally loved men. She had five husband-notches in her gun belt. All her husband's experienced her dominance. "Dogmatic and determined, she possessed so much strength that none of her husbands could stand living with her for very long," states the book, *Outlaws in Petticoats* (Van Ostrand:2).

An excerpt from the memoirs of the legendary Texas Ranger Colonel John S. "Rip" Ford certainly lends credence to the legend that Sally would around the corner become:

"The last incident attracting the writer's attention occurred while he was at Kinney's Tank, wending his way homewards from Corpus Christi Fair, 1852. He heard the report of a pistol, raised his eyes, saw a man falling to the ground, and a woman not far from him in the act of lowering a six-shooter. She was a noted character named Sally Scull. She was famed as a rough fighter, and prudent men did not willingly provoke her into a row. It was understood that she was justifiable in what she did on this occasion, having acted in self-defense."

It wasn't only self-defense that got Sally riled up enough to shoot. She was described as "a merciless killer when aroused." Some said it didn't take much to arouse her. She decided who needed killing and obliged those hapless men who fell into that unfortunate category (Van Ostrand:3-4).

Jesse Robinson divorced Sally in 1843 [recall the Wikipedia article said they divorced in 1847] , calling her "a great scold, a termagant, and an adulterer," naming as her lover a man called Brown, a fellow who, according to court records, Sally had been harboring in an outbuilding. Gossip suggests "Brown" might have been Sally's next husband, George Scull (Van Ostrand:5).

When they moved, George and Sally sold everything, the last 400 acres of her inheritance, George's gunsmithing equipment, and all the farm equipment. On December 30, 1844, she petitioned for custody of 9-year-old Nancy. However custody was refused, so George and Sally did what they thought best at least at the time. They kidnapped Nancy and headed for New Orleans. There, Sally placed both children in a convent (Van Ostrand:5).

"In a rage, Jesse sniffed out their trail and followed their tracks..." He pulled them out of the convent and placed them in a different New Orleans convent, but he didn't reckon on Sally's tenacity. She abducted them yet again and placed them in a third school (Van Ostrand:5-6)

George Scull disappeared around 1849, and when asked, Sally answered tersely, "He's dead." People were more afraid of Sally than inquisitive about George and stopped asking. In 1852, Sally Skull (Sally herself changed the spelling from Scull to Skull because she liked it better) then bought a 150-acre ranch in Banquete, Nueces County, and married John Doyle (Van Ostrand:6).

However, records indicate that like husband Scull, husband Doyle disappeared, leaving two speculative and colorful versions of what happened. 1) He ambushed and tried to kill his viper-tongued wife, but she got to him first. 2) Sally and Doyle were doing a drunken fandango in Corpus Christi and stayed overnight in a hotel. Unable to awaken her next morning, Doyle resorted to pouring a pitcher of cold water on her head. Waking up instantly but still hungover, she grabbed a pistol and plugged him dead, by accidents she said (Van Ostrand 7).

A third version for those who don't believe either of the first two versions is that one night, Sally caught her drunken husband swilling whiskey from an open barrel, so she pushed his head down into the barrel and shouted, "There! Drink your fill!" Some say this is how George really died (Van Ostrand:7).

And the fourth version is that Sally, Doyle, and a group of vaqueros on a freighting trip came upon a swollen river. Doyle attempted to stop the oxen and wagon from sliding down the deep bank and into the surging water; however, he could not stop the oxen and wagon, and all slid down, taking Doyle with them. It was a losing battle with the raging river and Doyle and the oxen drowned (Van Ostrand:7).

Obviously, no one really knows how it was John Doyle disappeared and that he was never heard from again.

In about 1855, Sally married her fourth husband, Isaiah Wadkins, but left him after only five months because, according to court records, he beat and dragged her nearly 200 yards. He must've been pretty darned strong, or else maybe he had her tied to the leg of a horse. The records don't say. Sally also proved he was living with a woman named Juanita. Her divorce was granted on the grounds of cruelty and adultery (Van Ostrand:8).

Sally was at her "peak of notoriety" when she met and married her fifth husband, a man who was half her age named Christoph Hordsdorff, nicknamed "Horse Trough." One old-timer who knew 21-year-old Horse Trough characterized him as being "... not much good, mostly just stood around" (Van Ostrand:11).

As the story goes, Horse Trough and Sally rode out of town together one day. Only one rode back. Horse Trough returned alone to Banquete. "She simply disappeared," was all he said, which probably aroused more gossip than if he had simply said outright that he plugged her. Speculation abounded that he "blew off the top of her head with a shotgun" for the gold in her saddlebag. But come on, he is 21 to her 43, and good-looking enough to have to "stand around." She would've probably simply handed the gold over to him (Legends of America Van Ostrand:11)

Trough didn't kill Sally Scull. Records indicate that Sally faced perjury charges and was a defendant in a lawsuit brought by Jose Maria Garcia. However the San Patricio County Courthouse burned down, and official records of the case were destroyed, there was one document relating to the lawsuit survived and written across the bottom was the mysterious notation "death of Defendant suggested" (Van Ostrand:11)

In 1964, a historical marker in her honor was erected two miles north of Refugio, Texas, at the intersection of U.S. Highway 138 and State Highway 202 (Van Ostrand:1).



## Sally Scull

“Woman rancher, horse trader, champion “Cusser.” Ranched NW of here. In Civil War Texas, Sally Scull (or Skull) freight wagons took cotton to Mexico to swap for guns, ammunition, medicines, coffee, shoes, clothing, and other goods vital to the Confederacy. Dressed in trousers, Mrs. Scull bossed armed employees. Was sure shot with the rifle, carried on her saddle or the two pistols strapped to her waist. Of good family, she had children cared for in a New Orleans school. Often visited them. Loved dancing. Yet during the war, did extremely hazardous “man’s work.” (van Ostrand:2025).

## Sally Scull's Husband's and Children

<b>Spouses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jesse Robinson, 1833-1847</li><li>• George H. Scull, 1847-1849</li><li>• John Doyle, 1852-1855</li><li>• Isaiah Wadkins, 1855-1858</li><li>• Christoph Horsdorff, 1860-1866</li></ul>
<b>Children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nancy Robinson</li><li>• Alfred Robinson</li></ul>

### References

Van Ostrand, Maggie. August 2007, updated November 2025, . **Legends of America: Traveling through American history, destinations & legends since 2003. Sally Skull - The Scariest Siren in Texas.** *About the Author:* Maggie Van Ostrand's articles have appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Boston Globe*, and various magazines; monthly in the Mexican publication *El Ojo Del Lago* and mexconnect.com, and numerous contributions to *Texas Escapes Online Magazine*, from which this article was provided.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Sally Scull

HAPPY  
INDEPENDENCE  
DAY  
EVERYONE!



