THE 5 Dogs Creek Howler

Latest News, Updates, & More from the 5 Dogs Creek Range

Introducing the 2026–2027 5 Dogs Creek Town Council

Mayor	Ambs Aces	mayor@5dogscreek.com
Sheriff	Dutch Longhorn	sheriff@5dogscreek.com
Banker	Gunpowder N Grace	banker@5dogscreek.com
Blacksmith	Fordyce Beals	blacksmith@5dogscreek.com
Storekeeper	Lap Dog	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	Leia Tombstone	governor@5dogscreek.com



(Front row)
Sheriff: Dutch Longhorn
Banker: Gunpowder N Grace
Telegraph Operator: Whiskey TF Bottles
Territorial Governor: Leia Tombstone
(Back row)
Mayor: Ambs Aces
Shopkeeper: Lap Dog
Blacksmith: Fordyce Beals
Newsletter: Domino Blaze.
(Not pictured, **Range Wrangler:** Brandin' Iron)



The Mayor's Anvil: Introduction

Howdy Pards,

November's Roundup

Brace yourselves folks. Lots of big things happened on the range in October & November!

A big thank you to everyone who rode in for the October 31 – November 1, 2026, matches. We enjoyed a great set of stages from our 2026 Top Hand, Bull McFearson. The weather held, and fun was had by all.

I also want to personally thank Bull McFearson, Brandon Iron, and Johnny Ringworm for going the extra mile to repair the roof on the Cook Shack. Mighty fine work, boys!



Starlink:

Quick update on Starlink: all equipment is on site, and we are moving forward with onboarding and activation. We will have the system up and running by She-Bang. This improvement will make everyone safer by providing cellular service on the range in the event of an emergency, and it will also improve our accounting and match operations.

Target Coral:

Our Blacksmith, Fordyce Beals, provided an inventory of the targets on the range. With that in hand, myself, Dutch Longhorn, Whiskey T. F. Bottles, Buddy Love, Bull McFearson, Lucky Lu, Gunpowder N' Grace, High Dollar, Josie Albuquerque, and Sister Sangria went to work and cleared every unused, damaged, or obsolete target off every bay. We then moved the viable targets to an easily accessible area for future use. Damaged targets were set aside for repair, and any targets deemed unsafe were set aside for further assessment.

I'm sure y'all will agree this is a giant leap forward in improving the overall appearance of the range and enhancing safety.
Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to 5 Dogs Creek. That's the Cowboy Way!









FRESH & CLEAN BAYS









2027 California State Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting:

We are moving forward at full speed with planning for the 2027 California State Championship. The match will be held at 5 Dogs Creek on April 28 – May 2, 2027, and it will be titled the Wild West Extravaganza, a throwback to an event 5 Dogs hosted in 2001. Keep a sharp lookout for the applications.

2027 California State Wild Bunch Championship:

It's official!! 5 Dogs Creek will once again partner with the Rough Riders for the 2027 California State Wild Bunch Championship. The dates are April 23–25, 2027. We are looking forward to another fun-filled, successful event. As always, we will offer a separate Cowboy match for our Pards who do not shoot Wild Bunch.

October 20–25, 2026: Bordertown, the Arizona State Cowboy Action Shooting Championship Summary:

The match filled up and did not disappoint. The spirit of Bordertown, Close and Fast, was on full display as participants from near and far saddled up and made the annual migration to the fastest match in the west. It was great to see folks I only get to see a couple of times a year. I pulled off 3rd in Classic Cowboy, missing 2nd by 1.36 seconds. Now for the excuses: I earned 1 miss, 1 P, and 1 shotgun makeup, while the 2 Classic Cowboys ahead of me shot clean. Them's the breaks. High Dollar rode off with 4th in Cowgirl.

Here's how our 5 Dogs Creek Pards fared overall:

72 Ambs Aces

100 Stampede Steve

102 Sam Ootie

136 Dirty Hands

173 Jailer

202 Buddy Love

220 High Dollar

226 Sister Sangria

240 Chick Ma

254 Leia Tombstone

268 Fordyce Beals

278 El Patron

297 Miss Barah Lee Misditt

314 Lap Dog

316 Utah Blaine

If I missed anybody, my apologies. We are already looking forward to Bordertown 2027. Hope to see you there!

Informational Update from the 2026 Bordertown TG Meeting:

I attended the 2026 Bordertown TG Meeting representing the Rough Riders with Buddy Love at my side to observe. Buddy was able to step in and represent 5 Dogs Creek at the last minute.
Thank you, Buddy Love, for filling in.

Below are the items as presented:

Land Run 2026 – Territorial Governor's Meeting - MINUTES October 6, 2026 4PM Attendance: SASS

Advisory Board: CC Moonshine, Flat Top Okie, Santa Fe River Stan SASS: Misty Moonshine, Ruby Ruthless

Territorial Governors: In person: 51 – Via Zoom: 31 RO Committee: Roy's Creek Dan, Rusty Remington

(via Zoom) RO Instructors: 3 Agenda items: 1. Update – "Shadow Shooting" at the Loading Table The Range Officers Committee (ROC) is currently drafting official handbook verbiage to eliminate the practice of "shadow shooting" at the loading table. "Shadow shooting" is defined as when a competitor physically picks up a firearm, shoulders it (in the case of a long gun), and mimics the shooting sequence at the loading table, regardless of whether the firearm is loaded or unloaded. The primary purpose of this rule change is to eliminate critical safety variables and stop competitors from developing hazardous habits. Once the specific verbiage is finalized, it will be officially integrated into the upcoming editions of the shooter's handbooks. 2. Update- Junior Category Age Parameters The upper age limit for the Junior category will be modified from "16 and under" to "17 and under." At age 18, competitors no longer qualify for the Junior category. This category parameter change is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2027, and will be updated in

the shooter's handbook. 3. Update- Proposed “Young Gun” Category (Ages 18-25) A proposal was introduced to establish a "young gun" category to bridge the existing 20-year age gap between the junior and wrangler categories (where 18-year-olds currently transition immediately into the general Cowboy category). Key concerns raised by members focused on category bloat and the risk of further blurring the distinctions of the base Cowboy and Cowgirl categories. *As the year comes to a close on this discussion, we are landing on a NO for this discussion, based on numerous conversations surrounding this topic throughout the year. 4. Update- SASS Training Modules & Member Portal Integration Video-Based Timer Operator (TO) Training Module Member Portal and "Iron Horse" Software

Integration Overhaul of the Match Director's Guide NEW BUSINESS 5. NEW ITEM: Martini-Henry Rifle Review for legality for Long Range Events Proposed by Hoss- See supporting document for pros/cons This item was sent to the TG Wire Forum for further discussion; a more suitable forum for consideration and discussion. 6. NEW ITEM: .444 Marlin review for legality for Long Range Events Proposed by Lassiter- The .444 Marlin is currently classified as illegal for big bore long-range rifle, despite there being no known historical rationale for its exclusion. The cartridge is a .44 caliber, resembles a slightly slender .45-70 cartridge, and is chambered in lever-action firearms. Its ballistics are noted to be highly comparable to the historically accurate .44-77 cartridge. See supporting document for pros/cons This item was sent to the TG Wire Forum for further discussion; a more suitable forum for consideration and discussion. Additional Clarification Items: 1. Junior Shooters vying for the Overall: Over a decade ago, a clarification was provided regarding a Buckaroo/ette competing for the Overall title. IF a Buckaroo/ette is vying for Overall, category handicaps are not allowed (knockdowns must go down, firearm must shoot .32 cal or greater, etc.). The competitor must declare their OA intention. There are numerous ways individual matches can manage this with minimal burden on the event officials. 2. Period correct attire- Misty presented the following statement regarding cultural diversity in Period correct attire, following some expressed concerns/complaints: SASS Cowboy Action Shooting has always celebrated the history, character, and spirit of the Old West and the broader historical period we represent. An important part of that experience is the clothing and personas our members choose to portray. Period-correct attire is not limited to one culture, nationality, region, or interpretation of the American West. The people who lived, worked, traveled, settled, fought, and built communities during the period represented in Cowboy Action Shooting came from a tremendous variety of cultural and national backgrounds. Their clothing naturally reflected those backgrounds, traditions, occupations, and circumstances. Accordingly, historically appropriate cultural attire—including period-correct kilts—is welcome in SASS Cowboy Action Shooting. The standard should be whether an article of clothing or style of dress is reasonably appropriate to the historical period represented by SASS—not whether it conforms to a stereotypical image of an American cowboy. Our game is richer when members thoughtfully explore the history of the era and develop personas and attire that reflect the many people and cultures that were part of it. SASS encourages authenticity, creativity, historical interest, and, above all, the enjoyment and

fellowship that have always been at the heart of Cowboy Action Shooting. Period correct means period correct—and history was wonderfully diverse. 3. “Revolver in Hand” clarification/DISCUSSION. The ROC provided an official clarification re: the confusion on regarding a revolver leaving the shooter's hand and how this affects the procedural penalty for shooting out of category. The statement did not clear up the confusion, additional discussion ensued. A suggestion was made by Texas Jack Daniels to change the verbiage to “gun in play” rather than “in hand” in appropriate scenarios. This seems to be the most logical and simple way to clear up the confusion. SASS & the ROC will work together on that updated verbiage, and it will be published in the Jan 2027 SHB edits. 4. Blackjack Belle asked (via Zoom chat) about the rule that Scorekeepers had to be SASS members. It was clarified that they don’t have to be, that it is quite common for non-SASS participant spectators to assist by taking care of scoring. Further clarification on the subject included that common sense should dictate that they should not be allowed to spot/be spotters on the posse- nor any other “safety o icer” type role. 5. A competitor shooting a match (2x) in different categories is NOT ALLOWED. 6. Oak Creek Martin (proxy for Blackjack Ketchum) presented wanting the ability to move with the shotgun closed: Shoot 2, open shotgun, shuck the empty shells, close the shotgun, pull the triggers (TO would have to listen for clicks) – THEN move. There was discussion about the gun being cocked and the burden on the TO. It was then presented to just leave it closed on spent shells; don’t open until you’re at your next position. Some in Zoom chat didn’t realize that was legal. This proposal gained no traction for further discussion. 7. Judge Gardner (via Zoom) presented wanting Event coordinators hosting Long Range side matches to be required to communicate specific details about the Long-Range matches in advance of the event. (ie: Distances, Target spacing, etc.) This question was raised after a motion and second to adjourn. It was clarified the topic wasn’t really a TG matter, but more of a MD Guide/Resource. Ruby Ruthless will follow up with Judge Gardner on this. Meeting adjourned at 5PM CT. **The meeting minutes app FAILED to record this meeting. I compiled these minutes from memory. If I missed anything, please feel free to notify me and I’ll get it added to the minutes. – Misty Moonshine (misty@sassnet.com)

Looking Ahead:

I remain committed to making sure 5 Dogs continues to be financially attractive to the owners while remaining a top-notch, safe, and enjoyable facility for our sport well into the future.

We have a great team assembled, but there is always room for more helping hands. With several action-packed, fun-filled matches coming up, it will take a strong team effort to keep the wagon rolling smoothly. Please lend a hand whenever you can.

Upcoming 2026 / 2027 Match Dates:

In addition to our great local matches, here are a few key dates to keep in mind for matches down the trail:

- August 15, 2026: EOT applications became available and are still being accepted. Be sure to get yours in before the match fills up. This will be the last time EOT is in Arizona for the next 5 years.
- January 15–17, 2027: Yuma Territorial Prison Breakout applications are currently available.

Looking forward to seeing y'all down the trail,

Ambs Aces



The Sheriff's Log:

Howdy All,

What a great match we had in November! Thanks to Bull McFearson for writing some great stages for us. He went way back in the archives and brought back some stages from some California State matches of long ago :) We had 27 shooters on Saturday, and 10 of us managed to shoot clean! The heavens opened up and the rains came down Saturday night, but we still managed to rustle up 10 shooters who weren't afraid of a little water from the sky! Thanks Bull for bringing us such a fun match!

Just a reminder, we have moved to winter hours for Saturday matches. That means the office will open at 9:30 with the shooters meeting at 10:15. Sunday the office will open at 8:00, with the shooters meeting at 8:30,

Get ready for the 5 Dogs Creek event of the year! SheBang is coming the first weekend of December. Once again, the proceeds will be going to the Ronald McDonald House of

Bakersfield. The ladies are putting together an excellent program of shooting fun, two days of raffles, DogNabbits and loads of food! I've already seen some of the stages, and we are in for a great event again this year. Thanks ladies!

Get those 1911's ready to go, the California State Wild Bunch Championships are coming to 5 Dogs Creek November 20-22. The match is being put on by the Rough Riders out of Atascadero. There will be a day of side match fun on Friday the 20th, followed by two days of Wild Bunch on Saturday and Sunday. It will be a great time, and for those of us who don't shoot Wild Bunch, there will be a cowboy match run in conjunction the same weekend.

Looking ahead to New Year's weekend, a three-day event is being planned! Get yourself ready for a fun event with some new and unusual side matches. This three-day match will start on Friday with a cowboy match followed by some side matches. Have you ever wanted to try outlaw, Josey Wales or Pike? Friday is your chance! On Saturday, we will be having Dutch-a-Palooza (I'm a little sheepish about the name)! This match will have you on your toes for sure! After the stage is read, you will pick from a hat your shooting style (traditional, duelist or gunfighter) and what shotgun you will use! It's a lot of fun and a great time to try something new! For those of us who aren't as excited about trying all of the shooting styles (like, for example, my wife) you can shoot your regular cowboy categories. Saturday night there will be a night shoot! Sunday will conclude our extravaganza with another 5 stages of cowboy fun

As always, plenty of free camping is available at the range

Shoot fast, and shoot safe!

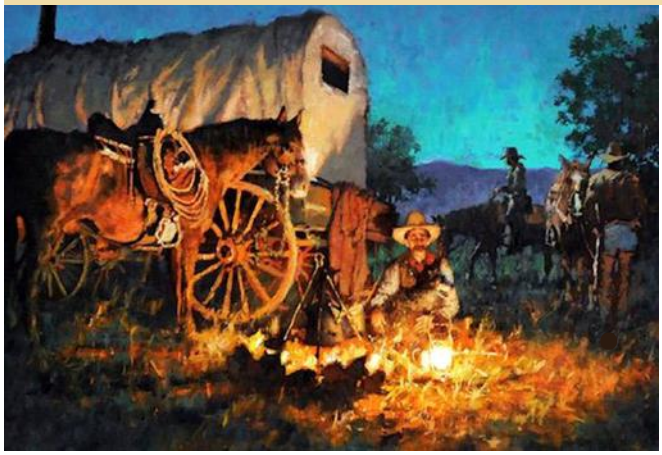
Dutch Longhorn

2026/2027 Match Calendar

- DECEMBER: 5th & 6th 2026 Ladies Annual "SHE-BANG" & Fund Raiser for the Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House – (Please see their "Wish List" below)

- **2027**, JANUARY: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd (Dutch-A-Palooza, 3 days of fun and excitement)
- FEBRUARY: 6TH & 7TH
- MARCH: 6TH & 7TH
- April: 3rd & 4th

COME JOIN US FOR SOME CAMPING FUN!



Saturday Evening Potluck

(6:00-ish)

Bring your favorite dish to share.
Plates & utensils provided



Who is the Beauty with 2 Beasts? Happy Halloween!

Clean Shooters

Saturday October 31st



(left to right - Brandin Iron, Sam Ootie, Coyote Carson, Ambs Aces, Badman Bob, Dustbowl Debbie, Boots Stimboli, Dutch Longhorn, Buddy Love, Gunpowder 'N Grace

Sunday November 1st

Clean shooters Bull Mcfearson & Ambs Aces pictured left and the entire "we aint afriad of no rain posse " on the right





(Special Thanks to Sunshine Kid (not pictured) for keeping score and taking pictures this weekend)

SHE-BANG 2026

DECEMBER 5 & 6

5 DOGS CREEK

COWGIRLS & Christmas Carols

SUPPORTING THE
BAKERSFIELD RONALD McDONALD HOUSE
COWBOYS AND COWGIRLS HELPING FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING
NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
REGULAR SHOOTING FEES EACH DAY:
$25 NON-MEMBERS
$20 MEMBERS

FREE CAMPING
FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY ON THE RANGE

FRIDAY NIGHT HOT DOG DINNER
INCLUDED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

SATURDAY NIGHT POTLUCK
"Yule Love This Dish"
MEAT PROVIDED
BRING YOUR FAVORITE SIDE DISH OR DESSERT



SPECIAL EVENTS

SPIRIT OF SHE-BANG BUCKLE
Awarded at the conclusion of the weekend to a deserving cowgirl as selected with input from fellow shooters.

DAILY RAFFLES
Raffles held each day!

TEAM SHOOT
Saturday after the main match

PLAYING CARD RAFFLE
Win a .22 WINCHESTER WILDCAT RIFLE

DOG-NABBITS DOUBLE-DUTY MAGIC
Make your misses disappear while supporting our charity

COWBOY SWAP MEET
Buy, Sell, or Trade Fine Cowboy & Cowgirl Attire, Gear, and Sundries

CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE!

COWBOYS,
JOIN THE FUN BY WEARING YOUR FAVORITE
RED UNION SUIT
SATURDAY (OPTIONAL)

STAGE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

LIMITED NUMBER OF STAGE SPONSORSHIPS REMAINING!

FOR STAGE SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION CONTACT:
HIGH DOLLAR
(805) 712-4032

FOR MORE INFORMATION TALK TO ANY LADY OF 5 DOGS CREEK

Ronald McDonald House®
Bakersfield

COMMUNITY WISH LIST

Small gifts. Big comfort.

Help us make the House feel a little more like home for families who need us most.

♥ Individually packaged snacks and grab-and-go items	♥ Gift cards for various grocery stores, Uber, and restaurants
♥ Drinks: Coffee and tea, drink mixes, bottled water	♥ Breakfast items such as cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, and granola bars
♥ Freezer items: Hot Pockets, waffles, burritos	♥ Travel-size toiletries and personal care items
♥ Bathroom items: Clorox wands and refills	♥ Laundry detergent and household cleaning supplies
♥ Postage stamps	♥ Blank thank you cards and envelopes
♥ New, unopened children's toys	♥ Small LEGO sets
♥ Art supplies for kids: markers, paint, paper, etc.	♥ Kitchen: Lysol wipes, dishwasher detergent pods, liquid hand soap, all sizes of Ziploc bags
♥ Family comfort: New adult pajamas/sweats, socks, slippers, phone chargers (iPhone/USB-C), reusable water bottles, journals/notebooks, adult coloring books and puzzle books	♥ House operations: Batteries (AA/AAA), light bulbs, basic tools, storage containers/bins, food-storage containers, aluminum pans

Every donation helps provide comfort, care, and support to families during one of the most difficult times in their lives.
Thank you for being part of our House family!

Bakersfield Ronald McDonald House
☎ (661) 437-4130

Amber Rose Senior Program Coordinator arose@rmhcsc.org	**Christina Sloan** Development Coordinator csloan@rmhcsc.org

Thank you for helping families stay close when they need it most! ♥

Range Wranglers Notes:

Brandin Iron has been busy with several projects and much needed repairs. When you're at the range next, be sure to notice the beautiful new roof on the Cook Shack he and a couple of pardners just completed. In the meantime, take a look –





Brandin' Iron & Johnny Ringworm & Bull McFearson



A gift from the Chorro Valley Regulators



Territorial Governor's Report

(Leia Tombstone's updates go here when available.)

Also Happening at 5 Dogs

Cowboys and Cowgirls havin' fun!



(Thank You Sunshine)



Wandering Around with Utah Blaine

(Watch for Utah's Wanderings here.)



Under a spreading chestnut-tree

Blacksmith Fordyce Beals

Illuminating the Coast: The Physics and Brilliance of the Fresnel Lens

In his 1840 memoir Two Years Before the Mast, Richard Henry Dana Jr. portrayed navigation along the 1830s California coast as a deeply primitive, solitary, and high-stakes endeavor. Operating during the Mexican era long before modern navigation aids existed, Dana vividly describes the constant anxiety of the watch, staring into pitch-black nights. Before the era of GPS your author sailing his yawl from San Diego to New Zealand was highly appreciative of the loom of a light signal on the horizon.

In the early 1800s, lighthouses used standard curved glass lenses or metal reflectors to project light. However, these traditional designs suffered from a massive physical limitation: spherical and chromatic aberration, coupled with severe light absorption. To collect and focus light from a central oil lamp across a wide horizon, a conventional glass lens had to be extraordinarily thick and heavy. In 1822 Augustin-Jean Fresnel designed a lens that retained the curved, light-bending exterior profile of a massive lens, but sliced it down into a concentric ring-like sections, Fresnel realized that light only bends (refracts) at the surfaces where it enters and exits a medium. The massive, bulky interior of a solid glass lens served no optical purpose other than holding the front and back surfaces apart. At the

core of the array is a central magnifying lens that captures direct forward light into a tight, parallel beam. Surrounding the center are a series of annular (ring-shaped) prisms. Each ring is independently angled to catch light radiating outward from the lamp and bend it forward into the main beam. The lens resembles a giant, stepped beehive or faceted diamond made of glass. It achieves the optical power of a massive, heavy lens ten times its thickness while being remarkably thin, lightweight, and transparent.

While modern lighthouses have largely transitioned to automated electric beacons and LEDs, surviving historic Fresnel lenses remain monuments of optical science, blending pure physics with breathtaking artistry. Although Augustin-Jean Fresnel's life was cut tragically short by tuberculosis at age 39, his contributions redefined optics. By mathematically proving that light behaves as a transverse wave and engineering a revolutionary way to manipulate those waves, Fresnel bridged abstract wave theory with industrial-age application. The first-order Fresnel lens used at Piedras Blancas Light Station was constructed in France by Henri Lapaute in 1872.



The original lens and clockwork mechanism are on display next to the Cambria Ca Veteran's Memorial Building. The lens, on loan from the Coast Guard to the Cambria Lion's Club, is maintained by the non-profit Friends of the Piedras Blancas Light Station Lens. In 1990, a glass enclosure was built by the Friends to protect the historic artifact.



Piedras Blancas lens in glass enclosure at Cambria CA



Piedras Blancas lighthouse with top 2 stories removed and modern LED light on top

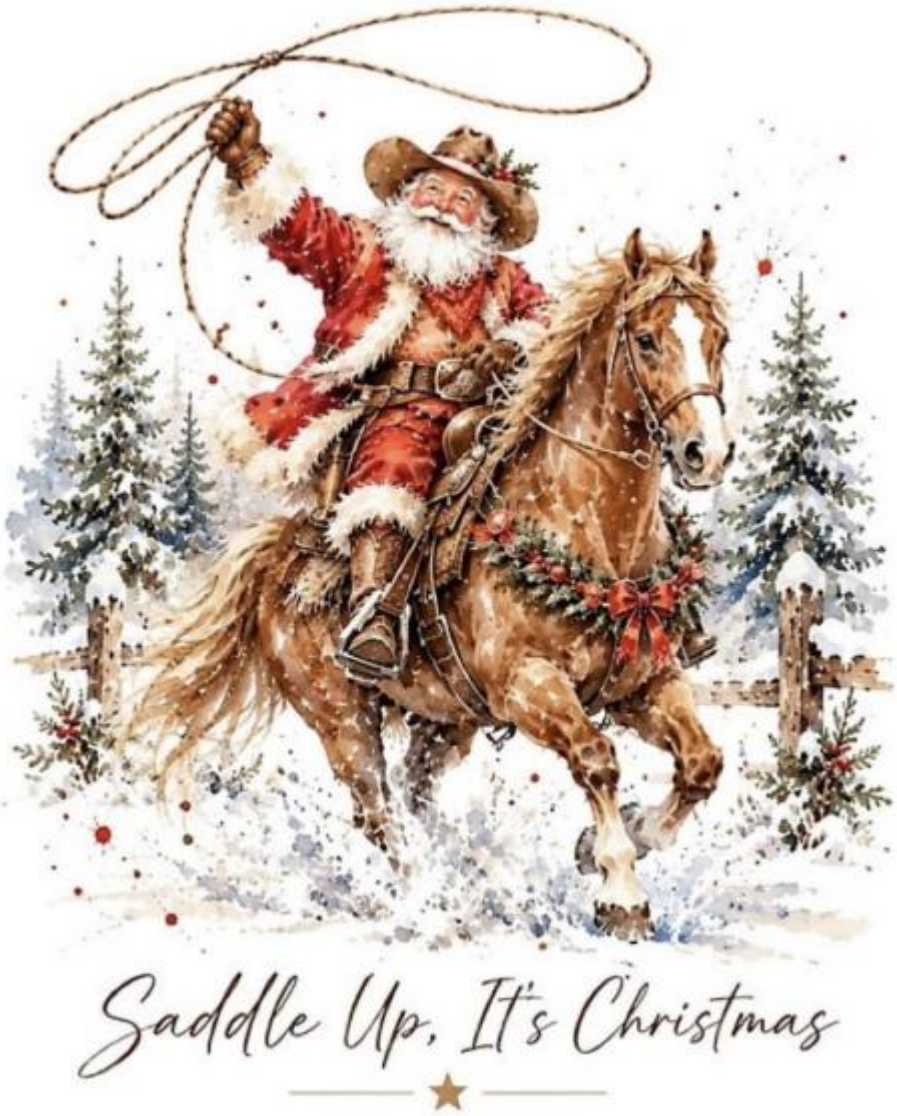




Elephant seal females molting on the beach at Piedras Blancas light house.



You can walk right up close if you dare!


Saddle Up, It's Christmas