



5 DOGS CREEK HOWLER

ALL SHOOTERS CLEAN AT DECEMBER MATCH!!

Every cowboy and cowgirl who braved the December match was clean for the day! Of course, it might have been the rain that cleaned everyone up. *Showers all around!*

The soggy weather created slippery ground and unsafe shooting conditions resulting in cancellation of the December match. This was the first time a 5 Dogs Creek match has been cancelled in many years.

The rain didn't seem to dampen spirits too much as the socializing continued under cover for a

couple of hours. Maybe it was just hope the rain would stop.

The fun match designed by Dutch Bill — Waddies in Wonderland — will be carried over to January.

The first match of the new year is always a crowd pleaser as everyone is decked out in new rigs and clothes and testing new guns that Cowboy Santa dropped off his gun cart. Hope he's good to you!

See you in January...and let's hope for a clean match without all the rain.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE IN JANUARY

It's time to renew your membership to 5 Dogs Creek. You can renew your membership at the January match or send your dues to Miss Becky.

Membership dues for 2004 are unchanged:

Individual — \$25

Family — \$35

(family members must be living in same household)

NEXT MONTH

★ **Saturday, January 3 —
Fun shoot, camp out and dinner**

Afternoon shoot starting about Noon. This informal fun shoot is something new and if there is interest, we'll do it each month. Kids are welcome. Call Cathouse Clark at 559-636-9789 for details.

Almost Dangerous is cooking dinner on Saturday night. RSVP to him at 760-376-4493 by December 31.

★ **Sunday, January 4 —
Monthly match**

Waddies in Wonderland

Shooters' meeting 9:30 a.m.

Five stages designed by Dutch Bill and themed on working cowboy chores. *Come ready for a good time!*

MAYOR PORTUGEE PHILLIPS HONORED BY CLUB, REELECTED FOR 2004

There are many individuals who work hard to make 5 Dogs Creek a successful and thriving club, but there is no argument that Portugee Phillips tops the list. He has served as the club mayor for the last three years and, at times, seems to actually live at the range. There never seems to be a project that is too large, a job that is too difficult, or a detail that is too trivial for Portugee Phillips.

He has successfully led 5 Dogs Creek to achieve tremendous recognition among cowboy action shooters. Three years ago our annual shoot evolved into the California State Championships, and Portugee Phillips was at the front of the pack helping make the match better each year. Shooters throughout the country know of 5 Dogs Creek and our hospitable reputation.

At the December match, Portugee Phillips was awarded with a token of appreciation by the club. He was presented with a framed, limited edition print of the historical Portugee Phillips arriving at Old Bedlam, Fort



Above: 5 Dogs Creek Mayor Portugee Phillips with his print of Portugee Phillips in 1866.

Right: The “corrected” version of the print.



Laramie on December 25, 1866. The frame included a brass plaque with the inscription: To Mayor Portugee Phillips, From 5 Dogs Creek, “Lest We Forget.”

A historian also provided a more historically accurate version of the print that included a Coors Light in the hand of Portugee Phillips. Who knew our Portugee Phillips was so true to his

character? A set of John Wayne DVDs was also part of the gift made possible by the contributions of generous club members.

Surprised and speechless, Portugee Phillips thanked the group. His humble acceptance is typical of this cowboys spirit.

At a separate point during announcements, cheers resounded when it was reported that Portugee Phillips would be serving a fourth term as mayor. All members of the town council will continue for another year, with the addition of Ida Mistum as the new storekeeper.

SUPPORT TROOPS - AND SASS COWBOYS - IN IRAQ

Remember last spring when we were collecting goods that were shipped to troops serving in Iraq? Well, we're at it again. Only this time, we're also helping a fellow cowboy.

We've been in touch with Cyrus Cassidy, SASS #45437, who happens to be a lieutenant in the 4th Infantry Division stationed in Balad, Iraq. (*Yes, this is the division that captured Saddam!*) When asked about sending him a care package, he immediately replied, "as an officer, it is my responsibility, I believe, to take care of the troops before myself — everything you send me will go to the soldiers."

His selfless comments got us thinking and we've decided to "adopt" him and his soldiers. He doesn't know it, but we plan to send over a couple shipments of care packages during the next several months. He is our built-in distribution network to reach beyond a single soldier. Not to leave others out, we also have addresses for two other SASS cowboys serving in Iraq and we'll send them a care package as well.

We'd like to send a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone at the December match who generously donated for postage to send care packages to our troops in Iraq. An impressive \$226.75 was collected! Special thanks as well to Kaweah Kid who brought a big bag of items for the care packages. *That's the cowboy spirit!*

Many have asked how long we'll be collecting items and what is needed. Truth is, as long as we continue to have donations, we'll continue sending care packages. A first shipment was sent in December and another is planned for early January.

SOME OF THE ITEMS THAT WILL BE WELCOMED BY SOLDIERS: nuts, sunflower seeds, energy bars, hard candy, trail mix, dried fruit, gum, Dewar's chews, beef jerky, other candy (not chocolate as it will melt!) such as hot tamales, skittles, starburst, tootsie rolls, chapstick, q-tips, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Donations for postage are always welcome as it costs about \$20-\$25 to ship one box.

Recent issues of the Cowboy Chronicle, American Rifleman, Sports Illustrated, other sports magazines (racing, shooting, hunting etc.) would also be appreciated.

IMPORTANT – For security reasons home-baked goods or items that are not in sealed packages CANNOT be sent. Also, the weight of the boxes is an issue so stick with small, individually wrapped items. It's far better to buy several smaller packages of an item than one big one. Be wary of items that may crush easily or are breakable. Nothing that is pressurized (i.e. shaving cream) can be sent.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS, PLEASE BRING ITEMS FOR CARE PACKAGES TO THE JANUARY MATCH. Be sure to include a Valentine (which will be when the next shipment of boxes are opened) or other note. They love to receive cards and letters! If you can't make the match or if you need help with your items, just call and we'll try to come to you! Home: (661) 588-8978 or Kate's Cell: (661) 809-5445.

Thank you for your generosity and support. Our troops will be grateful...

— Mescalero and Calgary Kate

2003 FINANCIAL REPORT

Our club is fortunate to be in good financial condition. The State shoot brings in considerable income and allows for continued range improvements.

Hats off to Miss Becky for paying bills and keeping track of income and expenses. If you have any questions about this report or would like more detail, please ask Miss Becky or Portugee Phillips.

INCOME:

Club membership dues	\$ 2,500.00
Monthly match fees	\$ 6,034.00
State match & camping fees	\$31,371.00
State match raffle	\$ 1,363.00
Other (badges, refreshments, R.O. class)	\$ 895.57
Total income:	\$42,163.57

EXPENSES:

Monthly match fees (paid to David Olds)	\$ 3,619.00
State match fees (paid to David Olds)	\$ 5,176.00
Event expenses (meals, entertainment, awards etc.)	\$23,928.03
Range improvements	\$ 7,126.98
Other (insurance, newsletter, R.O. class fees etc.)	\$ 2,112.80
Total expenses:	\$41,962.81

MEMORIAL PLANNED FOR BEANPOT

Many 5 Dogs Creek members will never forget Beanpot, a shooter and contributor to our range from the time it was just getting started. He was also a longtime and active member of the Kings River Regulators in Fresno.

Sadly, Beanpot passed away in September. The Kings River Regulators will be holding a memorial for Beanpot prior to the shoot on January 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Club members have made a bean pot that will be filled with mementos, sealed and placed on the range. For details, contact Portugee Phillips or KRR Mayor Cole Chance at 559-673-7416.

SEND GOOD THOUGHTS TO DOC JAMES

Doc James is continuing to recover from a stroke he suffered in October. He is definitely a fighter and committed to a full recovery. While he recently moved to a new facility, he may soon be heading home!

You can send him your good thoughts to his home at the address below. *He'd love to hear from his cowboy friends!*

22601 Avenue 18
Madera, CA 93637

COOKING UP FUN ON THE RANGE. WANT TO COME?

The first Saturday of each month (the evening prior to the match) Almost Dangerous cooks up some dynamite grub for hungry cowpokes. He just needs to know you're coming ahead of time in order to plan the meal.

If you want to come, and want to eat, RSVP to Almost Dangerous the Wednesday prior to the match. He can be reached by calling 760-376-4493 or e-mailing to dangerous@westernfiresupport.com. Miss Becky is no longer taking reservations.

Weather you're camping out or just looking for a good meal, come out and join the fun!

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor	— Albert "Portugee Phillips" Pimentel (559) 583-7967 - donovan007@comcast.net
Sheriff	— Gary "Cathouse Clark" Clark (559) 636-9789 - gclark@inreach.com
Banker	— Becky "Miss Becky" Jennings (661) 323-5737 - becky@etcrier.net
Storekeeper	— Debbie "Ida Mistum" Jones (559) 739-8511 - donovan007@comcast.net
Editor	— Kathy "Calgary Kate" Miller (661) 588-8978 - kathymiller3@aol.com
Blacksmith & Territorial Governor	— Tony "Ten Bears" Iafrati (661) 589-6838 - a.iafrati@att.net