



# 5 DOGS CREEK HOWLER

## A SUCCESSFUL SHOOTOUT

From side matches and movie night on Thursday through the Deadly Duo shootoff and awards ceremony on Sunday, the Shootout at 5 Dogs Creek was an incredible success. Big smiles could be seen up and down the range, and laughter often eclipsed the sound of gunfire.

May thanks to the main event organizers who have worked non-stop for months to be sure no detail was overlooked: Almost Dangerous and his wife Micki (now known as Madam Woo), Portugee Phillips, Ida Mistum and Miss Becky. Many volunteers also helped in advance of the match making sure the range looked great...and it did! Throughout the weekend, amazing volunteers pitched-in to help with dozens of tasks to keep things running smoothly. This match could not have happened without them. Hats off and massive kudos to:

Belle Brannon	Emma Pistol	Mudhen Millie
Bones Brannon	Even Dozen	Nugget Nellie
Bull McFearson	Goofy Gunman	Quick Justice
Burly Bear Fred	Hoss	Rum Runner
Chama Bill	Ida Mistum	Saddle Soap Sally
Chase Wright	Kaweah Kid	Scrap n Good
Cockeyed Slim	Kentucky Woman	Shenandoah Sherm
Delaware Slim	Maggie Thom	Sometimes Red
Dirt McFearson	Mescalero	<i>(and anyone accidentally</i>
Doll Maker	Missouri Thom	<i>left off the list!)</i>

Many of our club members shot the match for the first time...and given the big smiles, there is little doubt they have already marked their calendar for next year. Mark yours as well: Shootout at 5 Dogs Creek, May 4-7, 2006.



*Club mayor and match director Almost Dangerous thanks shooters for coming to 5 Dogs Creek.*

## COMING UP...

★ **Saturday, June 4:**  
**Fun match and dinner**  
**Shooters' meeting - 8:30 a.m.**  
 Portugee Phillips is putting together a five stage fun match. Cost is \$10.  
  
 Almost Dangerous will be cooking dinner. RSVP to him at 760-376-4493 no later than June 1. Cost is \$8.

★ **Sunday, June 5:**  
**Regular monthly match and voting on club rule**  
**Shooters' meeting - 8:30 a.m.**  
 Quick Draw Granpa will have five stages of fun and frivolity. He says to be ready for a little extra shotgun and a bonus shot or two.

**Summer  
hours start  
in June!!**

**Shooters' meeting  
at 8:30 a.m.**

**Please register by 8 a.m.**

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# WORLD CHAMPIONS: LITTLE FAWN AND POWDER BAGS

Congratulations to two of our own who achieved World Champion status at End of Trail. Little Fawn is the Young Gun Girls World Champion and Powder Bags is the Frontier Cartridge Duelist World Champion. We're proud of you both...and all the 5 Dogs Creek members who competed at End of Trail. *We can't wait to see those new belt buckles. Yee-haw!!!*



## PROPOSED CLUB RULE TO BE VOTED ON IN JUNE

BY MESCALERO

In the December issue of the Cowboy Chronicle an article by Quick Cal has prompted several club members to ask about certain match rules. The rules in question deal with moving with a loaded gun and loading a shotgun. The ONLY official rule states: "When changing locations during a stage, all firearms being carried must either have the hammer down on an empty chamber or a spent case or have the action open."

Many clubs (5 Dogs Creek included) have been enforcing what they widely believed to be an official SASS rule. We have treated drawing a pistol on the move or inserting rounds in your shotgun before you are stationary as moving with a loaded gun.

Despite our past club norm, there is in fact no official SASS rule that prevents drawing or re-holstering a handgun on the move, *provided* the hammer is down on an empty chamber *or* a spent round. It is not against any official SASS rule to put shells in the chamber of a double or carrier of a '97 – so long as the action stays OPEN until stationary at firing position.

In response, several club members have requested we create a club rule formalizing our past practice. The Town Council feels that this issue can only be resolved by a formal vote of the club membership.

We are communicating the proposed rule now so that you can think it over. There will be a formal balloting process at the June 5 match. The proposed rule is:

**"For club-level matches, 5 Dogs Creek has adopted a more stringent safety standard than SASS. Shooters may not draw their pistols until one foot is stationary at the designated firing position. Shotgun shells may not enter the chamber of a double, nor be placed on the carrier of a pump shotgun, until one foot is stationary at the designated firing position. Drawing a pistol or placing a shell into a shotgun, while moving, will be penalized as moving with a loaded gun."**

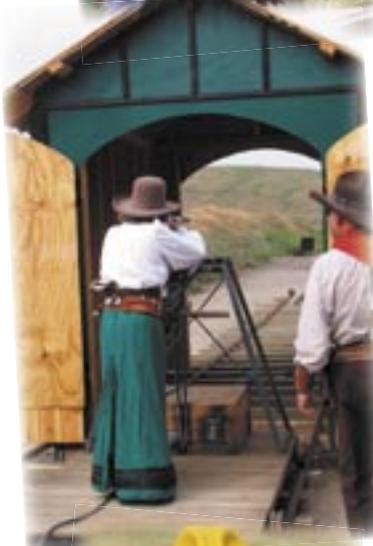
There are strong arguments for and against such a club rule. A quick summary would include:

**FOR:** "This is not a new rule. It merely puts in writing the standard we have followed for the past 10 years."

**AGAINST:** "SASS rules already require a stage DQ for any shooter breaking the 170 plane or closing a shotgun with a round in the chamber. Let shooters be responsible for when they load or draw, recognizing there is a strong penalty to discourage any unsafe gun handling."

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# VISIONS OF A SHOOTOUT...AND COMMENTS FROM THOSE WHO WERE THERE



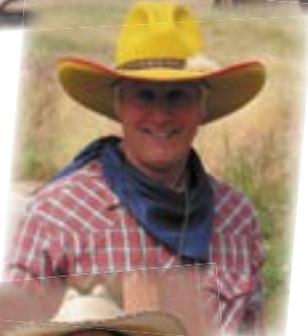
"We had a great time. We really enjoyed watching the movie on Thursday evening and then the entire match was based on scenes from the movie. What fun and very inventive. Thanks to the Five Dogs crew. I know that you all worked hard on this match. We sure appreciated it."  
 – Rio Big, SASS #29095

"Polly and I had an excellent time. The weather was beautiful and the range, WOW! What a set-up. Mighty challenging stages. It was our first time up there but I can tell you it won't be our last."  
 – Chickamauga Charlie, SASS #47963

"Good folks and good times had by all. A priority repeat experience, without a doubt. Thanks to all who made it happen."  
 – Bad Bascomb, SASS #47494

"I want to add my compliments to 5 Dogs Creek for the great match they put on. It was challenging yet fun. I had the pleasure of leading Posse 11 and they were all great. We laughed our way through the weekend. Thanks to the 5 Dogs crew and I'll be back next year!"  
 – Marshal Law, SASS #854

This was one of the best shoots that Frisco and I have ever attended---friendly people, great stages, great food, great band---can't say enough. We're talking it up here in Arizona so you may see a lot more of us from Arizona next year--we'll be back.  
 – Cicada, SASS# 21345



"Many funny lines to say and Percy Halen singing My Little Buttercup and adding kisses at the end. Four cowboys shooting the Holy Black, and going through the Train Depot. Whew. Cough, cough, hack, hack. Thanks to the Town Council of Five Dogs for another great shoot. When are the entry forms coming out for next year? I don't want to be left out."  
 – Flying W Ramrod, SASS #40559



# PROPOSED CLUB RULE

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

**FOR:** “If we ever have an accident on the range, it will be a significant legal liability that we stopped enforcing a safety standard that had been normal practice for 10 years.”

**AGAINST:** “A revolver with the hammer down on an empty chamber, or a shotgun with the action OPEN, is in a safe condition. Only if the hammer is cocked, or the action closed, is there a safety issue...and SASS rules already call for a stage DQ for cocking the revolver or closing the shotgun”

**AGAINST:** “Don’t penalize the best, most competitive shooters by creating additional rules that slow them down.”

**FOR:** “If nobody is allowed to draw their handgun until at the firing position, it is a level playing field. Likewise...if everybody is required to load shotguns at the same location, it is a level playing field for all competitors.”

**AGAINST:** “Only the most experienced, safest shooters will be competing at a level where they will choose to draw or load on the move. The standard SASS penalties for unsafe gun handling will discourage any shooter from pushing the envelope beyond their skill level.”

**FOR:** “It’s not the most experienced, safest shooters we are worried about. It’s the less experienced shooters who will be tempted to sacrifice safe gun handling to shave a second off their time.”

**AGAINST:** “This is unfair and a procedural trap for any visiting shooters, who expect to compete under consistent SASS rules when they visit a SASS-affiliated club. It will mean we have to notify EVERY visiting shooter of a club-specific rule. And any visiting shooter who is DQ’d for following accepted SASS norms has a right to feel they have not been treated fairly.”

**FOR:** “The proposed rule is for club-level matches only. IF we ever host a state, regional or national SASS event, we will be required to follow standard

## WON'T BE AT THE JUNE MATCH AND WANT TO VOTE?

Contact Almost Dangerous for an absentee ballot. He will mail you the ballot and you will need to return it to him **no later than June 3.**

Almost Dangerous can be reached at [dangerous@westernfiresupport.com](mailto:dangerous@westernfiresupport.com) or (760) 376-4493.

SASS rules. On those rare occasions, we can avoid confusion by designing stages that inherently would not call for drawing or loading on the move.”

**AGAINST:** “Nobody wants to have any more rules than necessary to ensure a safe, fair, consistent and fun match. A special club rule is not necessary. Standard SASS rules are designed to provide a safe, fair, fun and consistent match.”

**FOR:** “Nobody wants to have any more rules than necessary to ensure a safe, fair, consistent and fun match. And individual clubs have the right to enact rules for their range. This has virtually BEEN our club rule for the past 10 years. This is no different than some clubs that prohibit tie-down or cross-draw holsters.”

As I said, there really are legitimate arguments on each side of this question. Think it over carefully. Discuss it with your pards. Then cast your vote on June 5. There will be an absentee ballot available for those of us unable to attend the June 5 match in person.

Be safe...have fun.

— Mescalero

