

Wolverine Rangers' Epitaph



Volume 8, Issue 1

February 2005

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Howdy Rangers, first things first. HAPPY NEW YEAR. I hope that everyone had a pleasant and safe holiday season. Mail Order Annie and I want to wish each of you the very best for the New Year.

Well, I never thought that it would get so cold that I would miss a local match and **Admit** that the temperature was the reason. Those who shot the January 15th match at West Walker are all better cowboys and cowgirls than I.

The Wolverine Rangers Board is already hard at work preparing for WRRW 2005. We have formed a Wolverine Rangers Range War Committee beginning with the following members with the Captain as Chairman: Three Gun Cole, Chili Pepper Pete, Katie Callahan, Laporte Lil, Allegan Dan, Diewalker, Deuce Stevens, Bad River Marty, Mackinaw Kid, Mail Order Annie, No Buk Chuck and Old Sy. Each of these individuals will take on at least one area of WRRW for which they will be responsible. Once the assignments have been made y'all will know who to contact when you wish to volunteer.

All of us will be soliciting help to assist in the many tasks that must be performed in order to make WRRW a success. Be prepared to hear from me in every Captain's Corner Epitaph article that we need volunteers for various activities. We will need help in setting up and running side matches. We will surely need posse leaders and deputy posse leaders.

If you have not taken the RO1 class I encourage you to do so. Ask the match directors of your local clubs if they have plans to hold the class and watch the Epitaph and Wolverine Rangers website for further information.

In another article in this issue Chili Pepper Pete will be asking for your input regarding a shooting school at WRRW 2005. If there is enough interest

we will need to begin setting this up ASAP.

Lainie May has volunteered to assist Mail Order Annie with secretarial duties for membership. Letters for membership renewals will go out sometime in February with Lainie May's contact information. Please send all renewals to her. Thanks, Lainie for your help.

Boy Howdy, I will sure be glad when the weather improves, clubs start shooting more, and I can go on and on about shooting rather than administrative stuff.

Happy Trails, No Cattle

Hastings Double Barrel Gang

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas and New Year. I am looking forward to a great shooting season in Hastings in 2005.

Here are a few of the things that are in the works: at recent BCCC Board meetings we discussed adding new bays for the cowboy shoots and berms for safety purposes. These are issues the Board agrees need to be addressed. However, there is no specific timeframe for completion as of yet.

I've also been to a few restaurants in town to find one that would be willing to bring lunch to us. Vitale's has indicated that they would be happy to bring pizza or hamburger/sub baskets to us. I will be creating a sign-up sheet to be completed at registration time for those who would be interested in purchasing lunch. Vitale's will then deliver at a specified time. If we are done shooting prior to delivery, we'll just shoot some side matches until the food arrives. It might take a couple of times to make it run smoothly but I hope it works out for us.

Thanks to all those who have supported the Hastings shoot in the past, I look forward to seeing you at our next match on March 26!

Slippery Pete

Wolverine Rangers Club News

Lapeer County Wranglers

We have had two of our four Winter League shoots so far and are averaging about 25 shooters per match. The setup we have this winter with the new rifle racks and two posse format seems to be working quite well. At least we have enough room to not have to "go outside to change our minds." The weather has been a problem for some of our shooters especially the December shoot when we were lucky to have 21 people show up after taking their lives in their hands on the roads. It took me an hour to drive from Oxford which normally is a thirty minute drive at most. If you get a chance, ask Son of a Stinkweed for an account of his drive from Goodrich! I believe if it had been me I would of turned around and went home.

The following shooters are currently in the top ten in the standings after two shoots (in no particular order): Old Doc Potter, Dodge City Duke, Rodent, A.J. Peacock, Son of a Stinkweed, Ricochet Bill, Deadwood Steve, Beerbelly Willie, Marshal Cooper, and Wall-Man. Bet you can't guess who is first! There are still two shoots to go and who knows maybe some of these people will not be able to make all of the shoots which is a requirement along with attending the banquet at Lennie Miller's.

The Lapeer Wranglers are starting to plan for Great Lakes Match #8 on June 25 & 26, 2005. We hope to come up with some new targets for the match in addition to our large round circles and Dodge City Dick's favorite 1/2 of a round target for rifle. We plan to do some switching as far as the order of stages is concerned. We will start in the woods on Saturday and finish Sunday with the stages in back of the clubhouse. Shooters will not have to move their carts, etc. as far on either day to complete the stages. Take care and keep warm!

Wall-Man

Timbertown Marshals

Fellow cowboys, to make it easier to remember what to bring and when to our matches, we have standardized as many items about our shoots as

possible. From now on, you will need the same ammo count every match and you will only load on the clock in odd months and on just one stage.

We began offering lunch in January 2005 at a cost of \$3. We really don't like making changes if we can help it—so individuals who are not Wolverine Rangers shoot and eat for \$10. Water is always available in bulk—please bring your own cup. We have tried a variety of awards for winners and have decided on a medal for first place overall and certificates for first, second, third, and fourth high in classes, high man or woman (if not first overall), and any clean matches. Free shoot certificates will be given to high cowboy, high lady and MIS (Most Important Shooter... last place).

We had a shooters tent set up September and October which worked pretty well and will have it set up in 2005 if the weather threatens. We'll shoot indoors (no shotgun) November thru February, timing individual shooters November and December; and pair shooting January and February using a handicap system to help level the playing field.

November match winner was Beerbelly Willie, in December Cousin Gary. Warren Draves won the "Name The Marshall" contest and received three free shoot certificates for "Marshal Sure Shot".

Our club is growing, not by leaps and bounds, but by a new member about every month. In the beginning it was difficult because there was all of two of us to do all the work. We two are still there lifting them weights and toting them bales, but it's easier with help. We owe an unpayable debt of gratitude to all the cowboys who came to our still-wet-behind-the-ears club and shot during 2004. We learned so much from all of you. It should be engraved in stone somewhere that COWBOYS CARE. Everyone bent down to help us as we struggled to learn how everything was done. No one called us stupid or sheep lovers as they quietly and patiently lent a hand. I suppose because they knew what they were really doing was teaching us how to patiently lend a hand to the new shooters we will encounter in the future.

Dakota Duchess

Wolverine Rangers Club News

Johnson Creek Regulators

Howdy all. It's now January of this New Year 2005 and all of us in Johnson Creek (Plymouth) are breathing a lot easier. Our first shoot was a great success thanks to the hard work of the JCR and WWCCA members that helped put on the shoot and most importantly to the 47 cowboys and cowgirls that came out to shoot.

Following are the top shooters: **Overall and 49er** Doc Roy L Pain, **Traditional Shotgun Willy**, **Traditional Lady Miss Misery**, **Modern Three Deuces McKee**, **Modern Lady Palamino Sue**, **Duelist R.J. Law**, **Gunfighter Andy Horshurodinon**, **Frontier Cartridge and Clean Match Goatlips**, **Frontiersman Mike Fink**, **Junior Cowboy and Clean Match Dirt Bag Devon**, **Junior Cowgirl Wee Willy**, **Classic Cowboy Cheyenne Raider** (yea, yea I know, but really just because Shakey Puddin, my wife, was keeping score doesn't mean it was rigged) and last but not least **Senior Moe Gunns**. Congratulation to all and thanks again for making our first shoot a great success.

We have already set this year's shooting schedule and are planning to shoot on the fourth Saturday of the month, March thru September. Please check our club page on the Wolverine Rangers website and also the Wolverine Rangers hardcopy calendar.

I would also like to mention a couple of other events coming up this year. Outdoorama will take place February 23rd thru the 27th at the Novi Expo Center where the Johnson Creek Regulators will have a 15' table setup on the afternoon of Feb 24th if anyone would like to come out and join us. On September 24th (our last scheduled shoot) our parent club, Western Wayne County Conservation Association, will be holding our annual Western Beef Cook-Out and as you can guess the theme is right up our alley. Last year's cookout had almost 200 attendees and no one went home hungry. We also had a DJ and cash bar. Ticket will go on sale soon and I will keep you updated as the summer progresses. Our club is also trying to plan a chili cook-off and from some of the chili I tasted at

Utica's cook-off we could really bring in some great competition.

I am also proud to announce that the Johnson Creek Regulators will be the host for this year's Wolverine Rangers Annual Membership Shoot which will be held on July 31. If we can swing it we may try to plan some side matches either that day or the day before. Stay tuned for more to come. Until our next shoot on March 26, stay warm and keep your powder dry.

Cheyenne Raider

Saginaw Six-Shooters

Well, Pard. Are you keepin' warm this winter? Our wood stove sure has been a trusty and welcome friend when those temperatures drop and the cold wind blows. But even with nasty old winter nipping at us, our thoughts are on Cowboy Action Shooting.

We've been busy snuggled up to the fire, thinkin' up new stages for this year. As the Six-Shooters boast the "biggest & closest" targets around, we continue to look for new and exciting ways to use them. And it looks like 2005 will again be lots of fun with challenging new targets and props.

This may be a little early, but then, maybe not for those who like to plan ahead. The Saginaw Six-Shooters will be having a Cowboy Action Shooting display at the Midland Gun Show on Saturday and Sunday, April 2 & 3. Our cowboy volunteers met a lot of prospective shooters last year at this gun show and the way Cowboy Action Shooting has been growing, we again envision a lot of interested people stopping by with their questions.

This is one great gun show so if you happen to be there, stop in at our display and say "howdy". We're planning on having an actual building prop set-up along the wall. We'll also be dressed in our cowboy duds and have some shooting videos playing. We should make a colorful impression.

WHEN: Saturday, April 2nd 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday, April 3rd 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Wolverine Rangers Club News, etc.

WHERE: Midland Civic Arena
 515 E. Collins in Midland
 COST: Admission is \$7 per day.
 Catered food is available for purchase both days.

As our club representative, Bad River Marty has been attending the Wolverine Rangers Board Meetings and it looks like Range War 2005 will be another great shoot. Plans are moving right along under the guidance of our Captain, No Cattle, and his faithful sidekick (and current Secretary/Treasurer), Mail Order Annie. It is a big job and they are doing a fine job. A Range War Committee has been formed and is looking for volunteers willing to put their talents to work at Range War. Don't miss out on giving it YOUR best shot. I can guarantee your help will be appreciated.

Okay, gents. Just a little reminder. February 14th is Valentine's Day and I'm certain your little cowgal would love to be remembered. If not with chocolate, perhaps a new gun or gun leather would be sufficient? Or a new outfit or ball gown??? Just some ideas.....

Ratiz Callahan and Bad River Marty

Sucker Creek Saddle and Gun Club

Well, winter is upon us. Sucker Creek is frozen solid and my fingers are too stiff to load ammo in my guns. While waiting for the spring thaw, we are already planning for our matches on the second Saturday of the month starting in May. Two new stages are in the works.

Also, we have a new Territorial Governor and Sucker Creek Saddle and Gun Club Board member. He is Dave Labeau better know as "Cree Vicar Dave" and sometimes referred to as "Preacher". We welcome him and know that he will be a great asset to our club.

We hope everyone had a very Happy Holiday and that there was a lot of cowboy stuff under the Christmas tree.

Wolverine Wrangler

Clean!!!

Or, "kleeeeen!" as we've all heard it said after one shoots a stage with no misses.

Speed and accuracy is what this sport is all about, but honestly, speed is the dominant factor. Ever hear someone say, "He shoots fast enough to make up for any misses?" Sure you have!

Isn't it time an award was given to the shooter who is consistently accurate? The Wolverine Rangers Board thought so, and we've set up a program to award the shooter who shoots the most "clean" matches in a year. We'll begin counting this year at the first of January, starting with the Rockford Regulators held on New Year's Day.

Laporte Lil will add a new "button" for Clean Match to the other buttons on the website to keep track of those that have shot at least one clean match. Aliases will be listed alphabetically on the left side with an X signifying a clean match in a column headed with the club name and date of the match. As additional clean match information is received, the website will be updated. That way it will be easy for each shooter to keep track of their own record and they can let me know if one gets missed. We're all human, right? So come July we may have some real fun competition as two or three shooters try to get to as many matches as they can to shoot "clean" and win the award!

If all the match directors will please e-mail me (allegandan@charter.net) the aliases of those who shoot clean, I'll keep the tally up-to-date.

Good shooting, and remember — "You can't shoot faster than "clean!"... quoted from Evil Roy at WRRW 2003.

Allegan Dan

Pickin' Up Pard

Welcome to new members Justin, Gunnin' Garry, James Pepper, Black Irish Brian, Corny Jeb, and Justice Hunter. We are pleased you have joined the Wolverine Rangers!

Wolverine Rangers—Articles of Interest

Shooting School at Range War

As mentioned in the Captain's Corner, I am asking anyone interested in attending Handlebar Doc's shooting school the two days prior to Range War 2005 to contact me at 586-201-2778 or e-mail me at chili_pepper917@hotmail.com. If there is enough interest, we'll need twelve paid participants, I will firm up the plans. **PLEASE CONTACT ME BY APRIL 1st.**

Chili Pepper Pete

Shootin' in the Southwest

A few of the Wolverine Rangers are in Arizona again this winter and shot the Territorial Prison Breakout January 14-16 in Yuma. Two hundred and eighteen shooters participated and what a heck of a deal for \$50 per shooter—free dry camping, side matches on Friday, seven stages on Saturday, Saturday evening dinner on the range, the final three stages on Sunday morning, man-on-man and woman-on-woman while the scores were being tallied, followed by the awards ceremony.

They were very generous with their awards in each category. First place received a huge statue of a horse and rider, and second through basically tenth place received wood plaques. The Wolverine Rangers fared well: 1st Senior Duelist—Lucky Lennie, 2nd Senior Lady—Cactus Kay, 4th Lady Duelist—Laporte Lil and 6th Senior Duelist—Dakota Doc. The competition was tough. These western cowboys and cowgirls are fine shooters as they shoot a lot more frequently than most of us Michiganders. You can check out the scores at www.yumamatchmasters.com

The weeks ahead will see the Wolverine Rangers shooting The Gunfight at Bawley Wash at Three Points, Fire and Ice at Casa Grande, Winter Range at Phoenix, and Gathering of the Posses again at Casa Grande. We'll try our darndest for Michigan. Look for an update in the April Epitaph.

Regards,
Laporte Lil

Territorial Governors Summit Meeting

We'll have to say this was the most civilized and orderly convention to date. No shouting, no arguing as in past years. This is a large group of 200 plus people that said what they wanted to say and then voted.

We considered this convention very successful for us in two areas. First of all, at the State Championship Meeting we brought up SASS representation at shoots. How is it decided, how often, procedure for getting someone to come, etc. We explained that we have not had SASS representation at our state championship since 2001 even though we had sent a letter 10 months in advance for each of the last two years and rarely did we even get a response. The Chiseler was very forthright in his response. He acknowledged lack of organization on their part. He told us to ask a particular person in the Wild Bunch to attend our shoot, not just send a letter to the group as a whole. A personal letter most likely would elicit a response. Better yet, invite someone in person to attend our shoot. Well, that is just what we did. We made a beeline for him on the convention floor, when we saw him talking to a vendor. He saw us coming and started laughing. He said he knew right off what was on our minds. As a result of the conversation that followed he acknowledged that we were due a visitor. He said he would try to attend. If he had a conflict then he would get someone else to represent SASS at the Michigan State Championship. He is a marketing director, and a smooth talker, but we think he will follow through (as confirmed later by No Cattle, Hipshot plans to attend RW2005 instead of Chiseler). We did all we could do and considered that a success.

We also were responsible for eliminating the minimum age requirement for the Buckaroo category. You probably know by now they broke the Junior category into two separate ones. Ages 14 – 16 will be called the Young Guns and 13 and under will be the Buckaroos. Buckaroos were going to be 10-13 year olds but we said why not

Wolverine Rangers—Articles of Interest

eliminate the minimum age requirement? Ten-year olds will have to be closely supervised, as would anyone younger, so why have an arbitrary cutoff age? It should be left to the discretion of the parents and rules of the individual clubs. As it is now, many youngsters around the country are participating at younger ages in shoots, but are just not scored. Why not let them be a part of the shoot if they are shooting? The suggestion to drop the minimum age requirement didn't draw any negative comments and passed easily.

By now the results of the 12 items on the agenda are common knowledge. 1) Additional information would be that if boots look correct from above they are okay. Soles are not an issue at this time. 2) Use another method to raise money for charity at upper level matches rather than the "buy a miss", which may change the outcome of a match. Some suggestions were to raise the fee by \$5 to cover the loss of the "buy a miss" money for charity, auction a firearm, or donate a weekend shoot to the charity. Local matches could continue to offer the "buy a miss" to raise money. Some local matches let you donate your miss to someone else if you "buy a miss" and don't need to use it. Interesting suggestion. 3) Classic Cowboy increased the number of required dress items. The trend eventually will probably be to end up with only cowboy dress in the Classic category. Classic train conductor, bartender, etc. will have to shoot in other categories and look to the costume contest for recognition of their dress. 5) In addition, it will be on the agenda next year to allow all single action rifles, 44 cal. and above in the Classic Cowboy category. 6) They tabled the Dunn Lyon Single Shot Rifle because the owner did not provide a rifle for inspection as others do at the convention.

Additional Information: 1) Governors who spoke on the Junior issue also have Juniors shoot free and do not charge them for dinners. 2) There will be new applications for RO II instructors. They are trying to tighten up and limit how many are in each area. There will be refresher courses also for instructors. 3) SASS will provide standardized

safety meeting sheet for shoots. 4) Coyote Calhoun is a new Wild Bunch member. He will be in charge of State Championships and we should expect much improved paperwork, help and direction. He can be e-mailed at coyote@sassnet.com 5) SASS would like 100% of shooters to be RO I certified. 6) They are pushing black powder special events at state championships and mounted shooting. 7) Consensus at the meeting was that all Territorial Governors should be represented at the convention, with a proxy, if they are not able to attend. A special thanks to Wall-Man and Dakota Duchess for allowing Doc to vote their proxies. This was important. Opinion is that it is part of the governor's responsibility to represent his/her clubs. This will probably be pushed in the future. SASS published a list of clubs that were represented in the January *Chronicle*, page 6.

It was really great to see so many familiar faces from Michigan—Mustache Kid, Sunvale Pete, Two Gun Troll, Rogues Pierre, Remington McDraw, Maggie McDraw, Poco Loco, Hazel Miner, Kid Al Fred, Lady Lightning, Wolverine Wrangler, Lady Bluebird, Secondhand Jack and Laporte Lil. Hope I didn't miss anyone. It made the trip more enjoyable and personable. Didn't realize it would make such a difference, but it did.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Dakota Doc & Cactus Kay

The Cowboy's Prayer

Oh, Lord, I reckon I'm not much just by myself.
I fail to do a lot of things I ought to do.
But Lord, when trails are steep and passes high,
Help me to ride it straight the whole way through.
And when in the falling dusk I get the final call,
I do not care how many flowers they send —
Above all else the happiest trail would be
For You to say to me, "Let's ride, my friend."

Amen,
Roy Rogers

Wolverine Rangers—Articles of Interest, etc.

Guns of August

Applications for Guns of August, the Midwest Regional, have been sent to those that participated in 2004. If you did not participate last year but are interested in attending this year you'll want to visit their website at www.bigirons.com to download an application which will be available in the near future, e-mail wilburrose@aol.com, or phone 513-422-5112. Match date is August 11-14 at the Middletown Sportsman's Club in Middletown, Ohio. It fills up fast so get movin', pard.

Member Owned Businesses, etc.

A new member owned business has been added to the "Merchants" page of the Wolverine Rangers website. The business is R Double C, reproduction gun leather and accessories. Panhead Pete is the proprietor. You can reach him at 734-812-5679, rdoublec@earthlink.net, or checkout his website at www.rdoublec.com Orders placed with Panhead might have to wait for a short while as he departs soon for a 60-70 day assignment with the Air Guard in Iraq. We wish Panhead the best of luck and will await his safe return.

Please be sure to patronize all of our fine Wolverine Rangers member owned businesses.

Also, at the bottom of the Merchants webpage you will find website links to products and services that may be of interest to Cowboy Action Shooters. We currently have only two links but more will be placed there as requests are received.

Note: The Wolverine Rangers do not endorse the businesses linked at the bottom of the Merchants page, they are listed only as a courtesy.

Classified Ads

There are no new classified ads for this time frame, however, one of the recent ads is no longer "firm" on the prices. Check the Classified Ads in the December Epitaph for the original ad or the website for the update. There are also a number of other great items still listed for sale on the website and were listed in past Epitaph's.

CLUB CONTACTS

Rodeo Rode	Breckenridge	989-205-0096
One Son of a Gun	Central Lake	231-544-2461
Scholfield Ranger	Durand	810-629-6494
Lucky Lennie	Grand Rapids	616-891-8376
Slippery Pete	Hastings	269-838-6944
Texas John Critter	Ionia	269-506-7325
Wall-Man	Lapeer	248-628-7424
Dakota Duchess	Midland	989-689-3891
Cheyenne Raider	Plymouth	734-564-8391
Border Town Hombre	Port Huron	519-336-1690
Diewalker	Rockford	616-837-0428
Bad River Marty	Saginaw	989-585-3292
Yoooper Fred	Sault Ste. Marie	906-635-9700
Mackinaw Kid	Utica	248-852-0351

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**Any horse looks tall
in a short herd.....**

**** Wanted ****

I can see my “term” as Epitaph Editor slowly coming to an end. I have truly enjoyed bringing the Epitaph to you every other month for the past four years but think that it is time for some “new blood” to take over.

All it takes is one person to volunteer for the position and I’ll provide the training. I plan to continue on as Webmaster and feel that these two positions can be split and still work very well. If you are interested in taking over as Editor, please e-mail me at laportelil@msn.com or call me at 989-573-0633. Thank you in advance. Laporte Lil