

Wolverine Rangers' Epitaph



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February 2009

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Howdy pards,

It is hard to believe that the shooting season in Michigan will soon be upon us. In the past few years there have been several shoots during the winter but they seem to have fizzled out this year. Not too many shooters like to shoot in below zero wind chills. Well so much for Global Warming. If I hear one more Global Warming fanatic say that the colder weather is evidence of Global Warming I may have to thaw out my shootin' irons and start getting' Western!

Actually as I am writing this, we are having the first thaw of the year. Hopefully this is an indication that the worst of the weather is now behind us. By the way, I am not inviting gloating comments from our shooting brothers and sisters who winter in the warmer climates.

Anyway, those of us who did not head to warmer climates to shoot will all be dusting off our guns shortly. I understand that we had a passel of Michiganders who headed south to the Florida State Championship including Deuce Stevens, Steady Eddie, Dakota Fats, Ruby Red Jo, Hair Trigger Elden, Lightning Wayne, Two Rig A Tony, Shoulda Dun Gun and Ledge Lady (hopefully I did not miss anyone). Congratulations to Range War Match Director Deuce Stevens who was the overall winner in Florida. I am sure that they all had a great time in the Sunshine State.

We have a Wolverine Rangers Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Saturday February 7th and we will be looking at some cost savings for 2009. We will try to get any decisions posted on the web-site as soon thereafter as possible.

Please support your Wolverine Ranger member shooting clubs. We all know that the economy in Michigan has seen better times but there are few

ways that are better to relax than to put some rounds down-range with your shootin' pards.

It is time to get back to practicing because your competition is already doing it!

Enjoy the rest of the winter. Even though winter can sometimes be a pain in the rear end, it can still be a beautiful time of the year.

Spring is coming.

Shoot straight, fast and clean and stay safe.

R.J. Law



Eagleville Cowboys

I would love to send you an article from Eagleville, but the snow is up over the top of the targets, the cowboys and cowgirls can't find their brass in the deep snow, and the attendance has been extremely low.

Y'all have a great winter.

One Son of a Gun, TG



Wolverine Rangers Club News

The Johnson Creek Gang

Well, Spring isn't far away and the Johnson Creek Regulators are ready to start the new season. Our matches remain on the 4th Saturday of the month starting in March, except for May which will be on the 16th.

This year we plan to put the "action" back in Cowboy Action Shooting. Many of the stages will incorporate non-shooting activities like roping a horse in between rifle and pistols or grabbing a bag of money at the rifle point and depositing in a vault at the shotgun point before shooting the shotgun. No penalties but maybe a bonus or two along the way.

Johnson Creek Officers for the new season were elected last year. Rainmaker Ray remains Sheriff, Gabby Glenn is Marshall and Cool Hand Carl is our Territorial Governor. RO1 classes will be held throughout the year as the need demands and we would like to host an ROII class at the club if we have an ROII that would like to volunteer to teach the class.

A donation by Judge Specs Law will be used to encourage our junior shooters and younger to participate in our sport. They will shoot for free during our monthly matches.

Johnson Creek will be hosting the Wolverine Ranger Members free shoot and convention this July 11th. Although a long way till July we hope to make the event fun for all with interesting stages and a great lunch. For the first time we will be using berm marshals for this event. More information as the time gets closer.

Rainmaker Ray

A.P. Goodrich

Howdy again pards!

I hope that you got some useful information in the last column. This time we'll talk about sights a little. The barrel sights that came on your rifle are adequate for shooting and hunting out to about 100 yards or a little farther. For REALLY FINE shooting you are going to have to upgrade your sights.

A good vernier tang sight can be really expensive but this is one of those things that come under the old saying "you get what you pay for". Here's a tip...if you own more than one single shot rifle [and who can be truly happy with just one?] get a tang sight from Montana Vintage Arms. They sell sight bases to fit different rifles so a single sight staff can be switched from rifle to rifle which is a real money saver. If you think you might try long range [1000 yd.] shooting some day, get the long range sight because the mid-range [600 yd.] staff doesn't have the elevation capability to get to 1000 yds. The instruction sheet that comes with the sight will probably show you how to adjust the sight using MINUTES of windage and elevation. LEARN HOW TO DO IT! You should know how far to adjust your sight to be able to go from a hit at 9:00 in the six ring to the center of the X ring in one shot, not by trial and error. By the way, make sure that your new vernier sight is windage adjustable, otherwise you will have to use "Kentucky Windage" and that just won't cut the mustard in a match. Some matches allow only 4 sighting shots before you must go for score. I know that the instructions seem confusing. If you can get somebody to show you how to adjust your sights by the minute of angle, it only takes a bit to catch on.

The little hole in sight disc that came on your vernier sight may be too small to let enough light through [for your eyes.] Your sight picture will appear dark and the front aperture will appear fuzzy. The hole may be CAREFULLY drilled out and enlarged a few thousandths at a time if you have a set of small drill bits. Even then, it's still a

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compromise, because that sight disc will have to work in ALL light conditions. The way to solve this problem is to spend another 70 bucks and get what is called a Hadley eye cup [buffalo arms.com] The Hadley has a revolving disc with different size holes in it that can be rotated until you get the best sight picture [front aperture appears sharp with a fairly sharp image of target centered in the aperture.] You have to try one of these to really see how much your sight picture can improve just by letting more or less light reach your eye.

If you have decided on which aperture front sight to buy, be sure that it fits the front dovetail cut in the barrel. The two most common are 3/8 and 7/16 inch. The Italian rifles may be metric so make sure before you buy one. The sight card that comes with the sight will usually have a selection of round, post, pinhead, etc. inserts. You may not have ever used one, heck, you may not even like it at first, but **LEARN TO USE THE ROUND ONES**. The post inserts would be my distant second choice. Choose a round one that is big enough to show a "ring" of light around your target. A pinhead or post insert will disappear in a black target. A spirit level on your front sight is nice but not absolutely required out to 600 yards as long as you keep the rifle plumb. A spirit level and windage adjustment are pretty much required on a rifle that will be used for 1000 yard shooting.

Listen up Bub, 'cuz I'm here to tell you; if you are shooting in much more than a breeze at 1000 yards, your rear sight might not have enough windage adjustment to even get you on target. If you have a wind-gauge front sight you make the **BIG** windage adjustment on the front sight and use the windage on your rear sight for fine tuning and for changes in wind velocity and direction. A gentle breeze of 10 miles an hour will drift a bullet about 12 feet at 1000 yds. The same wind at 200 yds. will push your bullet six or eight inches off course.

Write down your sight settings at the different dis-

tances you shoot. Just remember, these will change a little from day to day or even from hour to hour as conditions change.

I s'pose that's enough for now.

Adios till next time!

El Guano



News from out at Sucker Creek

The Creek is frozen, the targets are covered with snow, but ideas are flying and plans being made for the coming Cowboy Action Shooting™ season.

We will be holding our Annual Meeting in February and finalizing some exciting ideas we have for Sucker Creek Saddle & Gun Club. We will be shooting the 3rd Saturday of each month, May thru October 2009.

In June we will be having a "SASS Scholarship Foundation Shoot-Off" before the main match, check our website www.suckercreek.org for more information.

Come on out each month for a fun & exciting day shooting at some of the most unique targets around. We are sure hoping to see you all this year. Until then keep your boots polished and your guns clean and get that ammo loaded.

Remember "Safety first and always."

The Vicar's Wife



Saddle & Gun Club

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Straight Shots From Saginaw

**Here we sit in our cabin,
Lookin' out at all this snow,
Wonderin' how much more,
Before it decides to go!**

Any of you pards sufferin' from cabin fever yet? Guess we may have a touch of it, especially when we hear from our pards winterin' in them sunshine states. We didn't feel quite so bad when we ripped "January" off our calendar and took note that February is a short month.

There seems to be plenty of little jobs to keep us busy while the winter winds howl: work on guns and make ammo; sew a new cowboy shirt; do some club paperwork...which reminds me. Saginaw will be at the Midland Gun Show again this year with our cowboy shooting display (April 25) to promote our favorite sport. We'll give you more particulars in a future article.

Another thing we're lookin' forward to is our shootin' matches and weekly club practices every Wednesday evening, starting on April 15th. Hopefully, our 1st practice will let you relieve some pent up emotions from "tax day". Our May shoot date has changed to May 30th, but our other dates, July 3-4 and August 29 remain unchanged.

One final (and very important) note about cabin fever: don't let it keep you from rememberin' your sweetie on Valentine's Day, Saturday, February 14th. As Katie always reminds Marty: chocolates, flowers and a pretty card are always appreciated....but, so is a new gun or two; new holsters are nice; and....well, you folks got the idea, right?

Stay safe and warm this winter season. And, remember to live life. Give it your best shot!

Katie Callahan & Bad River Marty

Lapeer Wranglers

Things have been quite slow as far as our Winter League is concerned. The January match was canceled by the arrival of 7" of new snow during the afternoon and evening hours before the Sunday shoot. I can't really remember Lapeer canceling a shoot since the time several years ago that we called off a match do to a lighting storm and then once due to an ice storm. Six brave souls shoot our Winter League match in February last year when the high temperature was right around 0* with a wind chill of -25*. We would shoot a stage and then go inside for about 20-25 minutes while we managed to unthaw our hands and faces. Thank God for an endless supply of coffee on that day.

I have just finished putting together and mailing the Wrangler's Shooting Calendar for 2009.

Anyone wishing a copy may contact me at 248-628-7424 or wall_man5009@hotmail.com

We will be having the Saturday night dinner as a catered meal at Great Lakes Match #12. New York Strips with all the trimmings and chicken for those who would rather not have steak. The dinner will cost \$20, but also includes the shooter's lunch on both Saturday & Sunday. Several of Lapeer's other venues have had their banquets catered by the company we will be using. Great reports about the meals etc. prompted us to try the same company...so we're looking forward to Great Lakes Match #12 on the 23 & 24 of May.

Hopefully all the snow and cold weather will be a thing of the past by that time!

Wall-Man

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Editor for State Newsletter; Interested?

Well, you've come to the right place my friend! After several years as the Editor in 'Chief' (also 'Brave, Scout and Squaw') of the Wolverine Ranger state organization newsletter that you are reading, career and schedule limitations have necessitated that I apply my available energies in other areas of my life. So regrettably the job position is open.

I have enjoyed my time as Editor, and only wish that I would have been able to get around to more clubs and shoot with some of the great people in this sport that I have met and gotten to know, some I haven't met yet, and some I haven't met personally other than by e-mail.

The Epitaph is assembled from articles written by representatives of the different Wolverine Ranger Clubs and any individuals that might be interested. The articles are then compiled into the format that you are used to seeing, using Microsoft Publisher. Not too hard to learn if need be. For those that may not know, the Epitaph is a bi-monthly publication.

If you are interested in being the Editor of the Epitaph, please contact me and I can answer any questions that you may have.

Thanks to all that have helped by contributing to the content of the Epitaph.

Case Harden

616-366-3406 or gvanorman@charter.net

Website Update

If you've already downloaded your copy of the February Epitaph from the website you may have noticed some of the following changes:

1. The Rangers Mart link has been removed as we only offer decals for sale. Decals can still be purchased by contacting the Wolverine Rangers secretary. At the time the Rangers Mart was instituted we offered various DVD's for sale. Those are no longer available so the link was no longer needed.

2. All of the links to Range War information have been removed and incorporated into one Range War link, which replaced the Rangers Mart link. By clicking on Range War you will be taken to a webpage where you will find links to all the information offered as before but now separated more efficiently. I made Range War a fun page, using a lot of animated clip art.

3. The Membership Application link is renamed to Join.

4. Officers and Members link is renamed to Members.

5. The information on all pages has been centered to better accommodate all computer screen sizes.

Regards,
Laporte Lil; Webmaster





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**Lessons in long shots
by El Guano inside!**

CLASSIFIED ADDS:

1897 Winchester shotgun, TNT replica, 12 ga. action job. \$300 **Contact Rodent at 248-626-3950**
or dvollm01@comcast.net

1874 Armi-Sport Sharps, 32" barrel, double trigger, Pedersoli long range rear sight, Pedersoli globe front sight w/inserts. New never fired.
Contact Nunica Kid at 231-557-2408

2 holsters to fit a .45 caliber 7 1/2" barrel, both are right-hand draw, both black leather, and will fit a 38-40" waist. \$75 and \$100
Contact Bushwhack Bandit at
cowboyguns@sbcglobal.net or
corvettelilly@sbcglobal.net with any questions
or call 810-659-1575

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*Check the website for club contact e-mail addresses
Please keep your e-mail address current with the Secretary*

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