



WOLVERINE RANGERS EPITAPH



Volume 12, Issue 6

December 2009

★ CAPTAIN'S CORNER ★

Howdy Pards,

Shooting season is pretty well winding down and we are well into the Holiday Season. It is time to reflect on 2009 and look forward to 2010. For me personally, I had some events where I did pretty well and some where the outcomes were less than stellar. I have a tendency to look at the things that I did not do so well and think about ways that I can improve on those for the next time. I have decided that more practice is definitely a good idea.



The Wolverine Rangers are doing well and are financially solid. Our books are open to our membership. If you have any questions or would like to obtain a financial statement, feel free to contact Snareman.

We had a Board of Directors Meeting recently and there were a couple of items that I would like to discuss. First of all, we will be awarding some door prizes at the Free Membership Shoot/Annual Meeting next summer. We have not decided what the prizes will be but we budgeted \$400 for prizes. The purpose is to give something back to our members and to encourage our members to attend the Annual Meeting. I would like to thank Cactus Kay for coming up with this idea. The date of the Free Membership Shoot/Annual Meeting has not been finalized yet but it will be soon and we will let you know.

We also talked about the benefits of being a Wolverine Ranger at the Board meeting. Mail Order Annie probably summarized this best when she said that one of the primary purposes of the Wolverine Rangers is to promote harmony and friendship among the cowboy action shooters and among the cowboy action shooting clubs in Michigan. We have been somewhat spoiled in Michigan because most of us shoot at multiple clubs and all of the clubs get along with each other. In fact, one of the great benefits of cowboy shooting in Michigan is the ability to go to a lot of different clubs in different areas of the state to experience the variety that we have here. No two clubs are the same and no two locations are the same. Some clubs have their own definite personality and we pretty much know what to expect when we go there. That is part of the fun. This is what cowboy action shooting in Michigan is all about.

One of the other benefits of cowboy shooting in Michigan is that the Board of Directors of the Wolverine Rangers is composed of representatives from each club and representatives of the membership at large. If we have a problem then we have a forum to address and resolve the problem in our meetings which are held approximately 4 times per year. Sometimes we have some heated discussions but it is always respectful and geared toward making cowboy shooting in Michigan better.

Being from Michigan we have a tendency to think that things run just as smoothly in the other states between the cowboy clubs. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. In many states there is a lot of animosity between clubs and many shooters will not shoot at clubs other than their own. In some states there are bitter fights over which club will host the state championship and there are often bad feelings that can linger. We don't have that here. That is definitely a blessing and appropriate to think about at this time of year.

We have already done some planning for Range War for 2010. We will be having Juni Fisher back for the entertainment. We will probably have Juni sing in the campground rather than in the Club House. Juni is a multiple Western Music Association award winner and is a great writer and performer. I guarantee that anyone who attends her show will enjoy it.

This is also the time of year where it is a good idea to count our blessings. I am thankful for the love of my family and friends and the fellowship of our cowboy action shooting community. I am also thankful that we live in the greatest country in the history of the world and that we are free to pursue the shooting sports that we love. I would also like to thank this opportunity to thank current soldiers and our veterans for making it possible to enjoy our freedoms and liberty. We are the land of the free because of the brave.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.



R.J. Law


R.J. Law, Captain

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

THE DOUBLE BARREL GANG HASTINGS, MICHIGAN

Our October 11th match started out a little cold and finished great! We had 20 shooters for the match. The match winner was Deuce Stevens and K. J. for the ladies. Clean shooters were Dakota Fats, Card Shark Charlie, and Ketchum Quick. The match was changed to Sunday as Slippery Pete started a new job this week and is working the late shift. Thanks to all who attended!

It was a great match with several very fast times. Card Shark broke 20 seconds, Deuce had two 13 second stages, and Mail Order Annie gave lessons on hip shooting a '97. We had lunch together at the Big Boy and got a break from Slippery's hot dogs.

 The Double Barrel Gang will not shoot in **November**, but might in December if the weather is good. TBA.

The Double Barrel Gang would like to thank all who came and shot with us this season. We hope you had fun and enjoyed our matches.

Have fun, shoot straight and keep your powder dry and we will see ya down the trail.

Dakota Fats said all that.

THANKS TO ALL THE FOLKS THAT ATTENDED OUR MATCHES!

The 2009 shooting season has ended at the Sucker Creek Saddle & Gun Club. We wrapped up the shooting season with 49 shooters attending our October 17th match.

The the top three overall shooters were: Deuce Stevens, Red Beard Bandit and Two Rig A Tony. You can check out all of the scores and several pictures of the match at www.SuckerCreek.org.

During the months until our match next year on May 15th, we will be making changes to existing stages and general improvements to the shooting range. We hope that everyone will enjoy some new challenges instead of shooting the same old stages!



As the holiday season approaches, please remember to give THANKS to our troops overseas. As we all know..."Freedom Isn't Free". The Sucker Creek Saddle & Gun Club Directors hope that each of you enjoys a blessed holiday season.

Wolverine Wrangler

4TH ANNUAL AMBUSH AT ROCKY RIVER

The cowboys and cowgirls of Rocky River put on their 4th Annual Ambush at Rocky River on October 17th and 18th. The shootout had an international flair with numerous shooters from our Canadian neighbors to the north. The weather was cool on Saturday but Sunday warmed up just like the competition. In addition to the fast shooting we had side match winners galore and a team bar bottle shoot that was exciting. If the competition on the range wasn't enough for Saturday we went inside and sampled some of the finest chili our cowboys and cowgirls could make. There were certificates abound for all the winners and plenty of food to fill our stomachs.

On Sunday the competition concluded with the following cowboys shooting a clean match for 10 stages of competition: Andy Horshurodinon - Faygo Kid - J.J. Longley - Rochester Kid - Snuffy Dave Edwards. Congratulations to all of those cowboys who were clean and fast.

When the smoke cleared we had a number of class winners who were awarded trophies and/or certificates in their class, but the overall cowboy statue trophy went to Faygo Kid as the overall winner at the 4th Annual Ambush at Rocky River. Congratulations... Faygo Kid!

The next match at DSC will be Sunday, November 22, 2009. Check out the Wolverine Rangers web site for all the details. Come out and shoot, you will have a fun time.

J.J. Longley

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

ROCKFORD REGULATORS RE-OCCUPY THE TOWN OF LIBERTY!

As some of the regular visitors to the town of Liberty are aware, we had a bit of a stampede that ran rough-shod through our range-land this summer and made things pretty rough going. We almost had to all-but abandon the town until the worst was over. The good news is, those big yellow Tatonkas, (that's buffalos for you easterners, not toys!) have finally moved on to other pastures. As the dust settled from the herd's departure, we still had a lot of loose chips to clean up and set straight, but things are coming along.



The club grounds are looking good overall (what a change from what it was!), we have a great new road all the way back into Liberty, and we even have a nice new practice range up front for pistol shootin' and such. The actual town and the back 40 was still a little rough, and as you know if you've been there, it has been tough work pullin' the gun carts through the sand.

The Liberty Community Action Crew is now able to get back to work making some improvements to the town. We have done some final grading, building up some berms, and laying down topsoil to make things better than they were. Our October shoot was much improved without havin' to pull any gun carts or cowpokes out of a sand bog.

Some of the old hands will remember the dry gulches we had to negotiate to get from the upper side of town to the lower; at least now everything is 'on the level'. There will be 'works in progress' going on through this Fall and early next spring, and we anticipate many other changes to make our shoots as good, or better than they ever were.

By the time you receive the Epitaph, we'll be beyond the Old Coot Shoot on November 11th, and just to remind everyone, we are still planning on having the December 5th shoot and the Old Coot shoot December 9th. January and February will be determined by weather...Stay tuned for more details.

We appreciate all the hard core 'settlers' that have hung in there with us through the drought of '09. It has been a rough ride, but sometimes you gotta fight elements, varmints, and hombres to get a decent spread established. I can say that the Regulators are a bunch of pards to ride the river with, and I am proud to be numbered among their ranks.

We plan on havin' a bunch of shoots next year as per usual, as well as a blow out two-day shoot sometime in the Spring to officially kick things off. We invite all of our folks and friends out there to plan on joining the Regulators for a great ought-10 season! See ya round pards!

Case Harden

See photos courtesy of Tintype Charlie
<http://www.pbase.com/sharon1116/>

A BIG THANK YOU FROM BUTCHER BUTTE

We would like to say a big thank you to Dakota Doc and Cactus Kay for helping us get our club in Fenton going for Cowboy Action. I would also like to thank all the Cowboys and Cowgirls that showed up for our first match in the Spring. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there again next year, as well as at all the other matches we can get to during the winter.



This is the nicest bunch of people that I have ever met, they are all so helpful and friendly, Thanks to Grubby Hardrock for introducing Jim and I to Cowboy Action and Beer Belly for my awesome new Vaquero's...my third set. I think this will be my last, at least Big Bad Jim hopes they will be.

Thanks to all the ladies that prepare the great meal after the shooting is over.

Sassy Sue

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

STRAIGHT SHOTS FROM SAGINAW

Whoa, Pard! Is it our imagination or is this year really flying by that fast?! We sure had fun and are planning more of the same in 2010.

The Saginaw Six-Shooters held their annual planning meeting Nov. 1st. and are looking forward to another exciting year. We've received many positive comments on our back-to-back, two day shooting event so we're doing it again. Be sure to cipher July 31st and August 1st on yer calendars! Ask those who came this year if we had fun...probably more than should be allowed. We'll also be having a shoot on May 29th and August 28th. in 2010. And our tradition of Wednesday night practices lives on, beginning April 14th and running through September 29th. If any of you are hankerin' for some great practice next year, you're more than welcome to stop in any Wednesday night.

At our planning meeting, Duke Dakota volunteered to replace No Buk Chuck as a representative on the Ranger board. No Buk passed the reins over due to his move to Florida. We thank him for his fine representation of Saginaw on the board and know that Duke will be another positive addition.

We can tell winter is here. Some of our pards have headed south and some took the route west, all happy to be in the warm temperatures and sunshine when they shoot. The rest of us will settle for our Michigan winter and the stamina that comes from jumping up and down to keep warm before our turn to shoot! We just have to be careful not to trip over our mukluks.

We're grateful to all the folks who attended our shoots in 2009. We enjoyed having you in Saginaw and look forward to seeing you all in 2010. We missed a few pards due to illnesses and surgeries and are thankful that they will, or have been, able to continue this great sport.

Christmas is peekin' just around the corner. I'm sure Santa is checkin' the list for "good" cowboys & cowgirls, but I doubt he'll have to check it twice. He knows us pards haven't been naughty, right???? (Except maybe for one naughty "Onyx" bear.)

As you open your presents (new guns & cowboy goodies, of course!), let's remember the true Spirit of

Christmas and the reason for His birth. The Saginaw Six-Shooters wish you and yours a very Merry and blessed Christmas. May you find peace and happiness, good health and prosperity. May the Good Lord watch over our military and our country. And, as the New Year rides in, remember to live life...give it your best shot.

Bad River Marty & Katie Callahan



UPCOMING SHOOTS

December Shoots

5 th	Rockford.....	Regular Match
9 th	Rockford.....	Old Coot Shoot
13 th	Lapeer	Winter League
20 th	Utica.....	Regular Match


January Shoots

10 th	Lapeer	Winter League
17 th	Utica.....	CANCELLED
?	Rockford.....	TBA on website

★ NEWS ROUND-UP ★

FROM THE EDITORS DESK

We appreciate Cherokee Maddog serving as our Editor for the past few months. He did a fine job and we wish him well in North Carolina.

 As your new Editor, I will hopefully meet the high standards set by Laporte Lil, Case Harden and Cherokee Maddog. Your suggestions for improving the Epitaph are welcome, so let me know what you think. If you are responsible for sending in your club's article and have not been receiving my emails, please let me know.

Members are encouraged to submit articles on 'Shooting Tips', 'Gunsmith Tips', 'Stage Design Tips', 'Tall Tales', etc. Anything you have learned from others or from your own experience that may be of interest to other shooters or clubs. Submitting these articles for the December, February and April issues would be especially interesting since most clubs will not be hosting shoots during the winter and space will be more available in the newsletter. News from 'Pards on the Trail' would help us stay in touch with how the shooting is going around our great country.

Shooting News from our clubs will have priority and other articles will be published as space permits. Please send these in as early as possible before each issue is published as they will be published in the order received.

I'll be happy to send an email notice to members when the Epitaph has been posted on the website. Please email me with your current email address if you would like to receive a notice. If you are unable to view or download the newsletter from the website, let me know and I will attach a copy to your email notification. If you do not have internet access and need a copy mailed to you, contact Card Shark Charlie and Lainey Mae by calling 616-874-3406.

Have a Merry & Blessed Christmas

Mail Order Annie
Epitaph Editor

MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

Howdy Rangers,

We're looking forward to serving as the Membership Administrators again and now have the files and database to take care of business. We will be sending out 'membership renewal letters' in mid-February. If you've had a change of address since renewing or joining, please let us know.

Contact us with any questions or concerns about Wolverine Ranger Membership.

(616) 874-3406

drury1954@chartermi.net

Please keep your contact information current by contacting us with changes throughout the year. We will update the Epitaph Editor and Web Master with the information they need. We will also be mailing the Epitaph to those without internet access.



Card Shark Charlie & Lainey Mae
Membership

RO-II CLASS

Dakota Doc and Cactus Kay will be teaching an RO-II Class during Rockford's 2-day Gun n' Fun shoot on May 22-23, 2010. If you have questions about the class format and requirements contact them by email:

docandkay@yahoo.com

The day and time for the class will be announced in the February Issue of the Epitaph as soon as the schedule is worked out with them.

★ SHOOTING TIPS ★

HOWDY PARDS!

Last issue we discussed good form when shooting offhand and with X-sticks. Believe me...I know that it's real easy to talk about but much harder to do. Good shots are MADE not BORN. Most of us, me included, don't have easy access to rifle ranges in excess of 200 yards. That's OK. Load refinement and shooting technique can be done on your local 100 or 200 yard range. Shoot the farthest distance you can and just stick to it and practice regularly. Anyway, here are a few really basic tips that should help you to become a master class shooter.

Have you ever heard of SIGHT PICTURE, BREATH HOLD, TRIGGER SQUEEZE? I hope so. If you don't master these, you will NEVER become a better shot. If you are using an aperture front sight or even your standard barrel sight, the sight picture must be EXACTLY the same for each and every shot. It's not as easy as it sounds, especially when the targets get farther away. It is easier on a bullseye target because the human eye naturally tends to center the bull in the front aperture. It is harder to do with a front bead type sight because, depending on the size of your target, the front bead may completely cover up the target. It gets a little more complicated when the target has the shape of an animal as in B.P. ctg., Silhouette or in the long range event at Range War. Remember in the last issue I stressed how important it was to get comfortable when shooting from X-sticks? A comfortable shooting position is a steadier position. Steady is good because the target isn't jumping around in the front sight, which means a consistent sight picture from shot to shot. A consistent sight picture means more hits.

You would be amazed at how many people I have watched who breathe naturally right up through when the shot breaks, or hold their breath for about one second before the shot breaks. You can NEVER do this and become a good long range shot. Breath hold means exactly that. HOLD YOUR BREATH! If you don't, the front sight continuously bobs up and down as you sight on the target and you must time your trigger squeeze to when the front sight passes in front of the target. Here's how to do it right. Settle the front sight on the target and take several fairly deep breaths. If you have a set trigger, SET IT NOW. Take a natural breath on the last breath and hold it. Make the very finest of sight corrections and start to squeeze the trigger when the target is ROCK STEADY in the front aperture. From the time you hold your breath until the shot breaks should be no more than 5 to 8 seconds. NO MORE! Reason? Your vision and sight picture start to degrade after that long and your eyes start to get strained from looking through the sights. If about 8 seconds have passed and you don't like the sight picture, resume breathing while keeping your rifle and body in position and simply look away at the grass a few feet in front of you. TAKE YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER when you do this. We don't want an accidental discharge. This will relax your eyes and get some much needed oxygen back in your brain. When you are ready, resume the firing sequence and break the shot.

Even with a perfect sight picture and breath hold, you still can't yank the trigger and expect a perfect shot. To see what I

mean, all you have to do is to watch your buddy set the trigger on his Sharps, execute a perfect breath hold, get a perfect sight picture, and then yank the trigger. CLICK! OOPS, forgot to cock the hammer. See how much that rifle moved when he pulled the trigger? Don't expect to get many X's shooting like that! Even with a set trigger, that squeeze has to be in slow motion. If you have a single trigger, start applying pressure SLOWLY. It should take a second or two to break the shot. Slowing down the trigger squeeze guarantees that excessive rifle movement from a bad trigger pull will be almost eliminated. I say ALMOST because as long as your heart beats, there will be SOME movement. This happens no matter what shooting position you shoot from. If your sights ever stop moving completely, you better have somebody take your pulse cuz you're probably dead!



Once you get a load developed that you know is accurate when shooting from a BENCHREST, it's time to practice from the sticks and offhand. Suggestion. Use a 25 or 50 yard pistol target with a 6 inch bull and put it at 100 yards. Why a 6 inch bull? This size bullseye will appear to be the same size as the regulation 200, 300 and 600 yard targets...that's why! Now, SHOOT FOR SCORE. Do it with a couple of buddies. Each of you can kick in 25 cents with the "pot" going to the high score. This accomplishes several things:

- First – It's practice and ANY practice is good.
- Second – It's competition. Even if you're shooting for pennies it always seems to make your "focus" a bit sharper and the stress level go up a little. After all, isn't managing stress part of competing?
- Third – you'll begin to learn not to shoot during a wind gust and how to adjust your sights the EXACT amount to get your group centered in the X-ring.
- Fourth – losing the match can be a great motivator to do better because NOBODY likes to lose!

If you stick with it you will find that your scores will gradually start to increase. In any match that you enter, your main goal should be to BEAT THE LAST SCORE that you shot. If you do, you KNOW that you are getting better, and that's what it's all about isn't it? Don't worry about how the next guy is doing. All you should be thinking about is making your next shot perfect.

In 2010 I would like to have you cowpokes out there E-mail me any questions you might have on single shot rifle shooting/bullet casting/reloading. Starting in the February Epitaph, I would like to take at least one question which would have broad general interest and answer it in this column. I've been on the single shot trail for quite a while now and made ALL the mistakes [once!] I'd be plumb happy to help any of you pardos out. My E-mail address is spidercontrolinc@aol.com. Till next time...Hold center

EL GUANO

ITHACA

★ TRADING POST ★

Want To Buy!

I'm looking for a 44-40 cal. 1873 20" barrel rifle. I'd like to find a used one. Contact Crazy Mingo.

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Or call evenings after 6pm 231-893 -0122

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spidercontrolinc@aol.com

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All of the above are Michigan face-to-face sales only.

Contact Nine Finger Bob

bsbrossia@comcast.net or 586 321 1602

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★ **WHO TO CONTACT** ★

CAPTAIN

- Any Wolverine Ranger or Range War Concerns

RANGE WAR MATCH DIRECTOR

- Volunteer to help with Range War
- Vendor Registration and Information

WOLVERINE RANGERS' SECRETARY

- Range War Registration
- Club Information and Pictures for Wall Calendar
- New Shooting Schedule for each year

MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATORS

- Join Wolverine Rangers or Renew Membership
- Change in any contact or membership information
- Badges or Membership Packets
- Requests to receive Epitaph by mail

WEBMASTER

- Club Match Scores
- Notices, Schedule Changes, etc posted on Home Page & Club Page Information
- Classified and Merchant Ads

EPITAPH EDITOR

- Articles or information you want published in the Epitaph
- Requests to receive Epitaph by email or notification that newsletter has been posted on the website

★ **CONTACT INFORMATION** ★

Check the website or back of wall calendar for club contact information

Please keep your e-mail address current with the Membership Secretary

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