



WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



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★ CAPTAIN'S CORNER ★

Howdy Pardes,

I have been thinking about the rank scoring system utilized by SASS in major matches and I thought that I would share some of my thoughts. Rank scoring assigns a rank number for each shooter based on where he or she finished in relation to the other shooters for each stage shot in a major match. It is my opinion that Rank Scoring is in effect a handicap system used to reward the consistent shooter at the expense of a faster but perhaps less consistent shooter. I am under no illusions that SASS will discontinue Rank Scoring but I decided to offer my 2 cents on this for whatever it is worth. The main problem that I have with it is that it is different from just about any other competition that I am familiar with. I will state that I am not an IPSC shooter and the only shooting competition I have ever been involved in is Cowboy Action Shooting. I therefore do not know how this fits in with the other shooting disciplines.

If we were to look at other typical athletic competitions such as track and field, swimming, baseball, football, golf, etc., the competitor with the fastest time or the highest score or the lowest score (golf) is the winner. No one cares which competitor was the most consistent if he or she did not cross the finish line ahead of all of the other competitors. I realize that we participate in a fantasy game which is based on the theory

that we are, in effect, reenacting gun fights from the Old West. One may say that it doesn't matter who is the fastest in a gunfight if he or she doesn't shoot the other person in the gunfight. That may be true but if one shooter gets off 2 shots and the second one hits the other shooter before the slower shooter hits with his first shot then the faster shooter wins.

One of my favorite past times is golf. (In fact I would be a better shooter if I practiced shooting as much as I practice golf. I am okay with that.) If one golfer shoots all pars and another shooter shoots some bogies but also has some birdies and maybe an eagle, the par shooter doesn't win unless he has the lowest score or won the most holes if it is match play. Why should Cowboy Action Shooting be any different? To me, rank scoring is a way for someone who is not the fastest shooter to be able to beat the faster shooter. What is the policy reason for rewarding the slower but more consistent shooter? I have not been able to figure that one out.

We have penalties for missing. If the faster shooter can finish with a faster overall time then the slower shooter even if he or she has a miss or two, then I think that faster shooter should win. Maybe it is a little bit of ageism at work. We older guys have a hard time keeping up with the young whippersnappers. Maybe rank scoring is a way

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for the old guys to have a more level playing field with the younger guys? This, however, seems to go against our goal of getting more younger shooters involved in our sport. Speed is good. I wish I had more of it.

I would say that I have no personal investment in this one way or the other because I hardly ever win anything. Rank Scoring versus Total Time probably doesn't result in much of a difference in who wins a match in most cases. Why not let our shooters let it all hang out and go for broke or "FREESTYLE" as the notorious Fireball sometimes calls it? It is fun to watch someone go all out. Rank Scoring tends to force some shooters to dial it back somewhat because they get penalized for mistakes. Again, I don't understand the policy reason for that. I think that we should let the shooters loose and let them have at it. If someone can miss and still be the fastest shooter then why shouldn't they win?

Anyway, those are the musings of a Cowboy Action Shooter.

Best regards,

R.J. Law

R.J. Law – Captain
Wolverine Rangers



SUCKER CREEK SADDLE & GUN CLUB

We will start off the shooting season with a Free Members Only Match on April 28th (lunch included). After that we will begin our regular shooting season on the third Saturday of the month starting on May 19th. Also new this year will be our two one-day matches on the weekend of July 21st-22nd. We hope that you all will attend and camp out with us. A pig roast is being planned so the food should be abundant.

We have several improvements planned for our range this year so we will be having a work day on April 21st. A new stage is in the works and other improvements are on the to-do list. All help is appreciated!

The shooting season should be a lot of fun this year. We hope to.....
See you down at the creek!

The Vicar's Wife



★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

ROCKFORD REGULATORS

Salutations fellow Cowboy and Cowgirls.

On the behalf of the Rockford Regulators, I would like to wish you a happy Spring. I hope you have had a chance to enjoy the warm weather as Tessa Two Gunner and I have.

I just received a report from the Mayor of Liberty, hOOt Hamilton, he informs me that he and several other members have tuned up the grounds at RSC for our Spring matches. Thanks guys!

I would like to remind everyone about our clean match program at Liberty. If you and others shoot clean at this month's match we will put your name in a hat at the next monthly match. If your name is drawn you get your match fee back.

In February we had forty shooters out. The weather was on our side that day. Four shooters were clean; Deuce Stevens, Doc Noper, Kentucky Drifter and Split Aces. At the March monthly match Deuce Steven's name was picked. Congrats Deuce.

The March match was fun but our weather wasn't all that pretty. We had ice on the ground in the morning. Fortunately the roads were pretty good none the less.

We did have fifteen shooters on that day and of those five were clean. They were; Deuce Stevens, myself (Ketchum Quick), Lightning Wayne, hOOt Hamilton, and Split Aces. Great job guys! It was cold that day and I know my hands felt like blocks of ice!

I hope to see some of you soon at one of our shoots and would like to remind you to mark your calender for our up and coming two day shoot on the first weekend in June.

Wishing you all the best

Best regards,
Ketchum Quick



RO I Class

RO I (Range Operations Basic Safety Course) will be offered on Sunday, April 29, 2012. This will take place at Gander Mountain, Flint Township, at 11:00a.m. We encourage all shooters to take this class if you haven't already. It is free to Wolverine Rangers. All others pay \$10.00. We also welcome shooters who have taken the class in the past, to audit the class for SASS updates. Phone 810-733-8454 or e-mail docandkay@yahoo.com for registration, details and questions. Please register as soon as possible and no later than 2 days before the class.

Thanks,
Dakota Doc & Cactus Kay

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

ROCKY RIVER REGULATORS

The DSC Rocky River Regulators started the 2012 shooting season with a twilight shoot on March 10, 2012. This was a three stage cowboy match that started at dusk and continued into darkness. The range was illuminated with candles but due to the wind the candles were hard to keep lit. The candles were supplemented with cowboy torches (flashlights). The white targets were easy to see but the gun sights were a bit more challenging. Some of the cowboys and cowgirls shot straight without seeing the sights. Congratulations to Bad Brass who was the overall top finisher and to Sassy Sue and DSC's Dar B Shureshot, Camptown, Nine Finger Bob, and Coyote Claxton for shooting clean matches in the twilight and darkness.

On March 18th DSC hosted its first monthly cowboy match. The weather was perfect with a temperature in the low 70's, a slight breeze, and blue skies. The competition however was even hotter. Thirty five cowboys and cowgirls dusted off their firearms and took on the town of Rocky River in some fierce competition. When the smoke settled the top shooter was Deuce Stevens, followed closely by young gun Apache Wolf. Shooting clean matches were DSC's J.J. Longley and Nine Finger Bob as well as Moe Guns.

Wild Bunch came to the town of Rocky River on April 1st (no kidding). Fifteen hearty cowboys came out and shot 5 fast and furious stages. There were multiple magazine changes, varying size targets at different distances, and we shot it like the SASS rules, no shotgun make-ups. The group liked it and

we will do it again on the first Sunday in June (June 3rd). When the last magazine was shot DSC's Coyote Claxton won the Modern division and was the top finisher, DSC's Nine Finger Bob won the Traditional division, and Schofield Ranger won the Open division. The only clean match was awarded to DSC's Terrebbonne Bud.



Although we are trying to drum up support for the SASS version of this activity, at all of our monthly matches we have an OPEN category where you can shoot ANY semi automatic hand gun (with lead bullets) and ANY cowboy rifle and shotgun. So if you don't have all the "right" equipment you can still come out and have fun at our monthly matches. See you in June.

The next monthly cowboy match is April 15, 2012.

See you on the range.

J.J. Longley

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

STRAIGHT SHOTS FROM SAGINAW

Well, pards! Spring is here, along with another great shooting season in Saginaw. Things may seem troubling in our world today, but we know that when we're surrounded by friends, having fun cowboy action shooting, life is purty good!

As you'll see on the Wolverine Ranger schedule, Saginaw's shoot dates are May 26th, June 30th & July 1st (Wolverine Ranger Free Membership Shoot), and August 25th. We'll also be having our Mini-Wild Bunch Matches after our shoots. The 2-day shoots (June 30-July 1) will be treated as they have



in the past: two separate days of shooting with separate scoring. Come one day or both. Camping is free and it's a fun time relaxing with our pards. Also, more details will appear on the Wolverine Ranger Webpage in the next month regarding the Membership Shoot.

We hope you'll be able to attend one or all of our matches this season.

Saginaw's Wednesday night practices are right around the corner...we start April 18th. at 5 p.m. and run until the last pard says "quit". Cost is \$3. We practice down in our cowboy lower range. Any cowboy shooter is more than welcome to stop in any Wednesday night.

Saginaw will again have our cowboy/Field & Stream display at the Midland Gun Show, Saturday, April 28th. 9 am-4 pm at the Midland Fairgrounds. Cost is \$5 entry with free parking.

From the cowboys at Saginaw, we want to wish everyone a blessed Easter as we celebrate this most important day for many of us...the love and sacrifice of Christ. God bless ya'll and remember to live life. Give it your best shot.

Bad River Marty & Katie Callahan

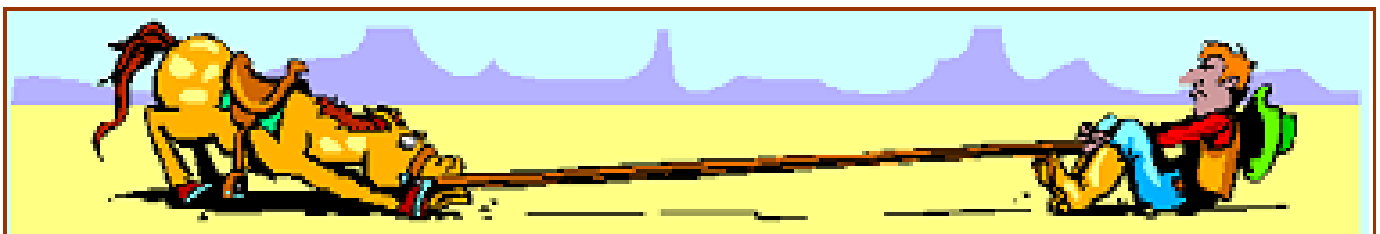
★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

UPCOMING SHOOTS

<u>April</u>		
1	Port Huron	Monthly
1	Fenton	Monthly
1	Utica	Wild Bunch Match
7	Bellaire	Monthly **CANCELLED**
7	Lapeer	Fun & Silhouette
7	Rockford	Monthly
7	Utica	.22 Rifle Silhouette
14	Hillman	Monthly **CANCELLED**
14	Hastings	Monthly
14/15	Middletown,OH	Smoke in the Woods (Reg. BP Championship)
15	Sturgis	Monthly
15	Utica	Monthly
21	Plymouth	Practice
21	Lapeer	Long Range
22	Lapeer	Monthly
22	Rockford	Bare Bones Shoot
25	Rockford	Old Coot Shoot
28	Central Lake	Monthly
28	Plymouth	Monthly
28	Scottville	Monthly
28	Breckenridge	Members Only Shoot

<u>May</u>		
5	Bellaire	Monthly
5	Rockford	Monthly
6	Port Huron	Monthly
12	Hillman	Monthly
12	Hastings	Monthly
12	Lapeer	Fun & Silhouette
13	Fenton	Monthly
19	Breckenridge	Monthly
19	Sault Ste. Marie	Monthly
19	Plymouth	Monthly
20	Sturgis	Monthly
20	Utica	Monthly
24	Rockford	Old Coot Shoot
26	Central Lake	Monthly
26	Saginaw	Monthly
26	Scottville	Monthly
26	Lapeer	Great Lakes Match #15
27	Lapeer	Great Lakes Match #15
28	Lapeer	Great Lakes Match #15 Wild Bunch

<u>June</u>		
2	Bellaire	Monthly
2	Rockford	Annual Two-Day Shoot
3	Rockford	Annual Two-Day Shoot
3	Utica	Wild Bunch Match



★ THE OK CHORALE ★

Secondhand Jack and I had the pleasure of attending a performance of Bob "Boze" Bell and the OK Chorale on January 19. The OK Chorale has performed at Winter Range the past three years but will not be there in 2012 due to a prior commitment. The group is comprised of three singers.....Tumbleweed Tony, a guitar player and retired maintenance supervisor for United Airlines; Yodel'n Al, a harmonica player and retired 30-year computer geek; and Jingel'n Jud, a bass player and retired Navy man. They were excellent, singing songs of the old west from Cool Water to Riders in the Sky to Peace in the Valley and adding some history lessons along the way.

Bob "Boze" Bell, a native of Arizona and historian, gave us even more history from the very beginning of Tombstone founded in 1877 by prospector Ed Shieffelin who was staying at what was then called Camp Huachuca (now Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, AZ) as part of a scouting expedition against the Chiricahua Apaches. Ed actually traveled around Arizona for months....all on foot....before learning in an assay office in Prescott that the rock he was carrying with him from Tombstone contained silver. Bob also talked about the Earp brothers, Wyatt's common-law wife Mattie who is buried near Globe, AZ, the Clanton's, and Doc Holliday.

This year is the 100th anniversary of Arizona statehood and we learned that "*Arizona*" has been designated as the centennial song written and recorded by Rex Allen, Jr., son of B-Western movie star, Rex Allen (1920-1999).

It was a great evening for those of us that are cowpokes to be able to meet Bob....and it was a great senior citizen price....\$5 a person!

(<http://www.truewestmagazine.com/jcontent/>)

(<http://sites.google.com/site/fossenkemper/theokchoralequartet>)

<http://www.az100years.org/>

<http://www.rexallenmuseum.org/>

Regards,
Laporte Lil





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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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