



WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



Volume 17, Issue 2

April, 2014

★ Captain's Corner ★

Howdy Pard,

As I write this version of the Captain's Letter it is 23 degrees at the farm and we are looking at two days this coming week in the low single digits in the morning. Enough already!! Hopefully we will be getting some warm weather soon so we can get out and shoot.

Cosmopolitan Christine is finishing the shooting calendar for this shooting season. We are hoping that all Wolverine Rangers will get their copy of the calendar in early April. Our shooting calendar is one of the very few calendars that I actually look forward to getting and then using.

Our Wolverine Rangers shooters performed very well at Winter Range, the SASS National Championship of Cowboy Action Shooting. Range War Match Director, Deuce Stevens, finished in 2nd place in Cowboy and in 3rd place overall out of 761 shooters. Doc Noper finished 1st place in Senior and 14th overall. Congratulations to Deuce and to Doc for their excellent performance. Two Rig A Tony finished 6th in Silver Senior; Laurie L'Amour finished 12th in Lady Duelist; Crazy Mingo finished 14th in Frontier Cartridge; and Rancher Roy finished 32nd in Elder Statesman. Congratulations to all of the Wolverine Rangers who made the trip to Arizona for our National Championship. I am sure that they all had a great time. Maybe next year for the Lady and me.

Deuce has now received his RO Instructor Certification and he will be teaching RO classes in Michigan. Feel free to contact Deuce for more information.

Nothing much else to report on right now. Stay warm while we all look forward to more pleasant weather and for the shooting season to begin.

Thanks again to all of our members who are veterans of our armed forces who have sacrificed to make this the greatest country in the history of the world. Please remember that freedom is not free.

In closing, please be sure to give your kids and grandkids a hug and a kiss and tell them that you love them every day.

Best regards,

R.J. Law

R.J. Law – Captain
Wolverine Rangers



★ Shooting News ★

Rocky River Regulators of DSC (Utica)

The town of Rocky River is finally starting to show some life as the snow starts to melt and we are able to see our boardwalks. Now we are working very hard to drain the enormous amount of water that is left by the snow melt.

Our first monthly Cowboy Action match was scheduled on Sunday, March 16, 2014. The overall winner of that match was a new cowboy shooter named Mother Nature. Mother Nature overpowered our range and we were forced to cancel our first match of the season.

Depending on when this article is published, we may have held our first Wild Bunch match of the season. April 6, 2014 is our first Wild Bunch match. We will shoot 4 or 5 Wild Bunch stages (depending on range conditions) followed by a light lunch and we invite all to come out and try this shooting sport.

We do have the SASS sanctioned Wild Bunch classes, but if you don't have all the Wild Bunch gear, no problem. We have an open class where you can shoot any caliber CAS lever action rifle and any CAS shotgun you may own. All you need is ANY semi automatic pistol that shoots LEAD bullets and you are ready for a Wild Bunch experience. A typical wild bunch stage could be 20 pistol, 10 rifle, and 6 shotgun. So if you want plenty of shooting and action, this might just be "your cup of tea".

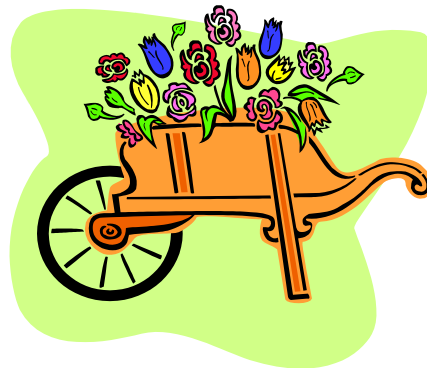
On April 13, 2014 we are holding a Bolt Action Military Rifle match. This is a different type of match than Cowboy Action, but growing in popularity with many shooters.

On April 26, 2014 at noon, we are hosting a Silhouette match on our 50 yard range. We shoot everything from .22 rifles to our Cowboy lever action rifles. Come and join us, we will have a class for almost any firearm that you bring.

For more information regarding either the Bolt Action Military Rifle match or the Silhouette match please contact Terrebonne Bud (Jim Estes) at 248-709-5254.

On April 27, 2014, one week later than normal because of Easter Sunday, we will have our first monthly Cowboy match of the season. Registration starts at 8:30 am followed by the safety meeting at 9:30 am and then 5 fast and furious stages.

See you on the range.
J.J. Longley



Sucker Creek Peacemakers - Breckenridge



It has certainly been a long, cold winter and we are sure anxious to start shooting again. We had our General Membership Meeting in February where we laid out our plans for improvements to the range and announced some improvements to our match awards. Starting this year, our top shooters will be given the Sucker Creek custom poker chips instead of the usual printed certificates that we have handed out in the past years. Our "Clean Shooter" awards will now be a specially designed pin instead of the certificate. I'm sure that you will want one of these collectables.

We kick off the 2014 season with a match on April 19th (weather permitting). This match is open to everyone. Sucker Creek Saddle & Gun Club 2014 members will shoot free. Our regular monthly matches will start in May and continue thru October except for July when we will be hosting the Wolverine Rangers Membership Shoot on July 19th.

As with many clubs across the nation, there is a shortage of volunteers to help with the management, set-up, construction and general duties required to keep a club running. It usually boils

down to 3 or 4 people doing all the work. The Sucker Creek Saddle & Gun Club is no different. It is a self-supporting, not-for-profit club that has a land use agreement with the property owners. As the Board of Directors get older and less able to handle matters, we need "younger blood" to carry on the work or Sucker Creek will soon become a ghost town. We have some openings on the Board of Directors that need to be filled. If you would like to donate some of your talents, ideas, time and energy please contact our President: Kid Al Fred at 989-832-8426. The work is not that difficult and the pay is non-existent.

Check our web site at www.SuckerCreek.org for new items that have been posted "for sale". You can also print out a membership form to be sent in with your 2014 dues. Thanks to all that have joined or renewed their membership!

We hope to see you down at the Creek this year!



Regards,
Wolverine
Wrangler

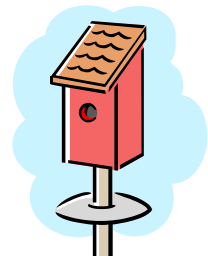
Huron River Raiders - Commerce

Need a little extra practice with your cowboy shootin'? Not a member of a club? Know somebody you'd like to get involved but they are not familiar with cowboy shooting? No problem!

The Huron River Raiders at Multi-Lakes Conservation Club in Commerce Twp., are hosting practice sessions for experienced cowpokes as well as new shooters who want to learn how to shoot the "Guns of the Old West". Appropriate guns and a limited supply of ammo are available for use. Range fees: Club member \$5, non member \$7.

The practice sessions will take place on:
April 26, May 10, June 14, July 19, August 16,
September 20, October 25 from 10:00 am-noon at
Multi-Lakes Conservation Club 3860 Newton Rd.
Commerce Twp.

Contact:
Cool Hand Carl
248-318-3463
1873cowboy45@sbcglobal.net



Straight Shots from Saginaw



I jokingly wanted to name this article “The Winter of Our Discontent” but Bad River Marty reminded me that title had already been taken by John Steinbeck.

Well, doesn’t the word “discontent” describe how many of us felt this winter? It sure does for me. Many a day I found myself wanting the long, cold winter to leave. I do confess to enjoying those early winter flurries in December. It made for a pretty, white Christmas. But somewhere between January and February, my happy mood left me. I’d had enough bitter cold, wind and snow, and by the time March roared in like a lion, I was roaring just as loudly. I had developed a most cantankerous attitude. Bad River Marty will agree to that, I’m sure.

Thankfully, spring has arrived to relieve my cabin fever. Along with that, on April 16th, our Wednesday night practices will begin. We start at 5:00 pm and shoot until the last pard says “quit”. If your trail leads you in this direction, come join in the fun.

Our 2014 match dates are: May 31st, 2-day event July 12th-13th, and August 23rd. Following each match, we’ll again have our mini Wild Bunch match. The 2-day shoots (July 12th-13th) will be treated as they have in the past, two separate days of shooting with separate scoring. Come one day or both. Free camping is available. We look forward to seeing old and new pards this year. There’s always good food, great fellowship and more fun than should be allowed. We sure hope you can be a part of it.

From the cowboys at Saginaw, we want to wish everyone a blessed Easter. Please keep our country and our troops in your prayers. God bless ya’ll and remember to live life. Give it your best shot.

Almost forgot... What do you call a rabbit with fleas? Bugs Bunny



Happy Easter from Katie Callahan & Bad River Marty

Johnson Creek Regulators - Plymouth

Howdy the Ranch,

With Old Man Winter ruining our March fun, we will be extending our “free match for 6 cards and/ or poker chips” through the May match.

After the May match, EVERY shooter PRESENT during the reading of the match results may draw a period playing card. One of the available cards will be for a free match. Save your “non-free match” playing cards and bring them to the Octo-

ber match, because the winning poker hand will receive a free match.

Hope ya’ all are keepin’ warm and dry. Hope to see you at our next match.

Happy Trails,
Panhead Pete



Rockford Regulators



Well, here it is the end of March and it is still snowing. We were hoping to get an early start on spring clean-up on the range but that's not going to happen.

We are looking forward to the 2014 season and shooting and catching up with all of you fellow shooters. It has been a long winter and I am sure everyone is ready to start shooting again with warm hands and bodies.

Thanks to all that came to our winter shoots. They were cold and snowy but we had a lot of fun.

Your Pard,
Card Shark Charlie



L.C.S.C. Wranglers - Lapeer

A COLD STORMY NIGHT IN WRANGLERVILLE

Well folks, there I was sitting with the sheriff in his office trying to warm up after my check around town that night. The wind was blowing louder than a freight train going through town non-stop. We heard what we thought was a fight going on out on the boardwalk out front. When the sheriff opened the door there stood seven of the coldest cowboys I'd ever seen. They was all bumping into each other and falling down. Sheriff and I figured they was so cold they could hardly stand up, or so we thought.

The sheriff said, "Come on in boys and warm up". As they walked in they was a mumbling about how they had lost their cow herd and couldn't find them damn cows anywhere. We offered them hot coffee and a pull on the bottle, their trail boss Clint Chisum accepted with a nod.

After they got their coats and hats off, the sheriff and I looked at each other and almost started to laugh staring at the faces of all seven cowmen. These fellers couldn't have seen a herd of cattle, let alone drive them anywhere. They all wore specs with glass in them as thick as whisky bottle bottoms. We let them boys stay overnight right in the sheriff's office. Didn't want to lose any of them fellers!

Next morning we took pictures of them all and sent out posters to all the town sheriffs in three states to see if any rancher had lost a cattle herd and seven cowmen. My oh my! They was the sorriest bunch of cowboys I'd ever seen.

Horse Whisperer George Metis
L.C.S.C. WINTER SHOOT 2-9-2014

LOST AND FOUND SEVEN COWMEN



The Shooter's Stance

Rangers On The Run

The end of January found 4 of us (Big Bad Jim, Sassy Sue, Dakota Doc and Cactus Kay) in Texas at the TSRA (Texas State Rifle Association) Annual Cowboy Shoot. We had to join, to qualify for awards, so we are members for the year. I believe this is the first time we have ever bought our plaques, specifically!

The weather will be mentioned, and we know it was nothing like Michigan weather so bear with us, but it was unusual for Texas. Friday, side match day, was near 80 and very warm. Saturday morning at the shooters meeting someone suggested that we shoot all 10 stages in one day, as the weather for Sunday didn't look good. Most of us old folks shook our heads at that idea. We couldn't possibly do all 10 at once.

Well, it turned out we should have done just that! Sunday, the weather hovered just above freezing with high winds and light rain blowing straight sideways. We were wet, frozen and shaking by the time we finished. Now can you guess which one of us came to Texas without hand warmers thinking they wouldn't be needed??? Luckily we had extras and the shoot organizers came around passing out more. None of us shot clean, needless to say. We did, however, each get a first place in our respective categories!!

The end of February found the same four of us near Houston, Texas, at "The Last Stand at Thunder River", put on by the Thunder River Renegades. The only problem was the many days of rain that preceded the shoot. The range was high and dry, but the parking for RVs was questionable. People couldn't tell the soft areas. I guess they pulled many out of the mud before we got there!

The weather on Friday for side matches was perfect, although none of us shot.

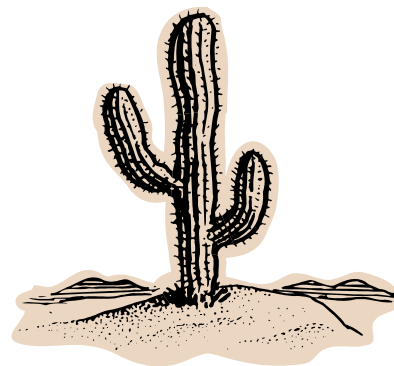
The buildings were quite new looking and had been extremely well painted. Targets were color coded for the firearm sequences and also rimmed in black. It made it very easy for the shooters to know what to do. Scenarios were easy to understand and well written. You could tell that by the fact that there were almost no questions!

Saturday morning at the meeting, someone suggested we shoot 6 stages on Saturday and only 4 on Sunday because Sunday afternoon's weather forecast was heavy rain. The suggestion was turned down. Again, we should have listened!

On Sunday, by the time we finished an outdoor lunch, started on prizes and awards, the sky was darkening and a cold wind blew through. Then the rain started. We were huddled under 5 canopies, randomly placed around the area.

The announcers stood out in the rain. If you won a prize or got an award, you had to go out in the rain to receive it! Were we lucky (or unlucky?), as the four of us gathered two firsts and two seconds. Dakota Doc also won Best Dressed Cowboy, but by that time he was freezing cold and had gone back to the motorhome. Unlucky Kay had to go get it!

Cactus Kay



The Shooter's Stance

Shootin' With The Dogs

I had made plans to visit my son, daughter-in-law and their family in the Los Angeles area during late February and early March. On a whim, I took a look at the SASS website to see if there were any clubs in the vicinity. I was pleased to find that there is a club in Bakersfield, which is a mere 90 minute drive from my son's home.

Also from the SASS web site I found who to contact for information and was able to see the club's shooting schedule. I was thrilled to find that they would be having a monthly match during my visit. I e-mailed the contact, Utah Blaine, and asked if it would be okay for my son and me to visit the club and watch the match. The response I got back from him was that I wouldn't only be watching--I would be competing!

Utah indicated that if I couldn't bring my own equipment, that I should let him know what I usually use and that the folks at the club would be able to set me up with what I needed.

Fast forward to March 2. After an early rise for me and my son, we made the trek to 5 Dogs Creek where we were welcomed like long lost friends. Since Utah had described himself to me, I had no problem finding him. He introduced us to several folks. As match time grew near, I was given my equipment and was pleasantly surprised to find that they had even provided me with my own gun cart.

I had been concerned about the weather, as much of southern California had been experiencing heavy rain after a long drought. The day was warm and sunny--a perfect day for shooting.



We shot six stages for the match and I had a couple new experiences along the way. The rig I was given to use was a cross-draw and I normally use a double strong side. I very much enjoyed the experience of trying it. Also, in one of the stages, it was necessary to shoot two shotgun targets which were poppers (hitting the target launched a small clay). I managed to shoot one of the two clays. That was a lot of fun and quite a challenge.

Continued on next page.



The Shooter's Stance

Shootin' With The Dogs - Continued

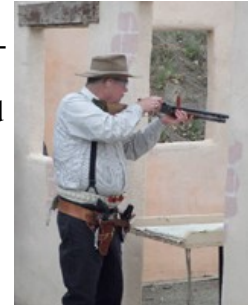
There were two posses for a total of 33 competitors that day. In my posse there were 12 men, 3 women and 2 young guns. There was also a new shooter in the posse. I was able to share a couple tips with him that he might find useful.

After the match, my son, who doesn't shoot cowboy, had the opportunity to shoot one of the stages a couple times and he enjoyed it immensely.

While we were having lunch, one the competitors invited my son to stay with her and her husband at their home if he wanted to do more shooting in the future. We were both "wowed" by that invitation, although I guess I shouldn't have been, knowing how friendly cowboy shooters are.

I had a wonderful time shooting and visiting with this friendly group and would not hesitate to do it again in the future. My son was also impressed with how friendly and welcoming they all were.

If you are planning out of state trips, make it a point to check the SASS web site to see if there are clubs near the area you will be visiting. It was almost an after-thought on my part and I'm glad I took the time to look and to e-mail the contact person listed. It was also a great opportunity for some one-on-one time with my son--making memories!



A special thanks to Utah Blaine for the invitation to shoot the match, to Bo Bean for the use of his equipment and ammo, and to Calgary Kate and Mescalero for their hospitality in offering to open their home to my son (a complete stranger) if he wanted to return to shoot sometime. I'd also like to extend my sincerest thanks to all the shooters at 5 Dogs Creek for the warm welcome we received and for treating us like we were part of the family.

Outrider Outlaw



Editor's Corner

Great Lakes Annual Match

The Lapeer Wranglers are hosting the Great Lakes Annual match on May 24, 25 & 26. The event will feature a 5 stage match on Saturday, a 6 stage match on Sunday and a Wild Bunch match on Monday. Side matches will be on Saturday afternoon. A man-on-man contest will benefit the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation.

For details and contact information, please visit:
<http://www.wolverinerangers.org/pdf/2014GreatLakesMatchInfo.pdf>

Wild Bunch RO Training

Wild Bunch Range Officer class will be offered on August 28, 2014 (Thursday before Range War) from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Blue Water Sportsmen's Association (4866 Ravenswood, Kimball, MI 48074). The cost is \$30.00 and is payable at the door.

The course consists of a PowerPoint presentation, a 25 question written test, and a range oriented practical test. All the test answers are in the WBAS Handbook

Prerequisites for course attendance are:

- Current SASS member
- RO-II Certification
- Familiarization with the SASS WB Handbook
- Understanding of the function and operation of all SASS WB legal firearms



Upon successful completion of the course, participants will receive the WBAS RO Pin.

For more information or to register, contact:
Smokin' Iron or Honey B. Quick
740-974-7007 or 740-974-7329
smokiehbq@gmail.com

RO-I & RO-II Classes

RO-I (1:30 pm) and RO-II (6:00 pm) classes will be conducted on the Friday of Range War (August 29) in the clubhouse at Blue Water Sportsmen's Association (4866 Ravenswood, Kimball, MI 48074).

The RO-I class is \$10.00 or FREE to Wolverine Rangers and the RO-II class is \$25.00 for all participants. Payment is due at the time of class.

For more information or to register, contact:
Dakota Doc or Cactus Kay
817-371-6600
docandkay@yahoo.com

Get Yer RO On!

Dakota Doc and Cactus Kay, our RO-II Instructors, are available to teach the RO-I and RO-II classes at any club in Michigan. Their contact information has been permanently added to the "Who to Contact" page at the end of each Epitaph issue. If your club is interested in hosting a class, please contact them to schedule a date.



★ Epitaph Survey ★

Late last year, a survey was posted for Wolverine Rangers. Various questions were asked. The results of one of the questions will be posted here with each issue. It's not too late to join in on the survey! Please visit www.outrideroutlaw.com/epitaphsurvey.htm to participate!

Survey Question:

What ideas might you have to help recruit new shooters to the sport of Cowboy Action Shooting?

- Several people suggested variations of the following: Set up booths/vendor tables and/or have brochures at: gun stores, outdoor stores (Cabela's, Dick's, Bass Pro, Jay's, Gander Mtn, etc.), heritage events/festivals, expos (RV/camper, fishing, hunting, gun/knife, etc.), western stores.
- Media. Match Directors should be putting press releases out. We had a writer for M-live do a story about the Rockford Regulators last summer. After it ran there was an increase in visitors at our matches. In the last year we at RSC have gained a couple of new shooters. If you gain a couple a year and don't lose any you are doing quite well.
- Open house at gun clubs with advertising for people to come out and try it! Have a couple of stages set up. Make sure you have enough cowboy shooters show up in costume to explain the sport. Also, have them all bring their guns and plenty of ammo so people may try it!
- ... Have demo days at the various clubs. Have a demo stage at Range War for spectators/visitors to "try it". This could possibly be done on Friday, and/or after the stages have been completed on Saturday.
- Our group Lapeer County Sportsmen's Club Wranglers has been contacted by a group from Oxford, MI. They have a parade each year, The Lone Ranger Parade. We will be participating and have passed the information along to R.J. Law. Hopefully we can get more Cowboy Shooters involved. We could do this in other communities around the area, do a float of some kind with banners and such.
- ...Participate in city, town or village: parades, special weekend events and give show and tell weekends at clubs etc. Also at events we should remember how we present ourselves is how people see us, appearance, how we talk and act, we are on display all the time, every day. One more item GUN SHOWS, get a table show pictures, movies and hand out literature. Remember if you want to attract people to cowboy shooting you have to convince the Wolverine Ranger membership that we all have to work together to ensure that this great sport will grow for us and for future generations...
- Ask gun/sportsman's clubs or other outdoor-enthusiast groups (Boy/Girl Scouts?) that do NOT already host Cowboy Action Shooting matches if they would like to host a group of volunteer instructors (experienced Cowboy shooters, dressed in their finest) and have an "open house" type event, where members of their club and their surrounding community are welcome to come and see what Cowboy Action Shooting is all about and how wonderful and friendly our members are. Get the guns into the hands of those who might not even know about our sport, or those that are on the fence about giving it a try. Get 'em hooked! Who knows, maybe doing something like this might even get a couple more clubs hosting regular Cowboy matches!
- Invite friends, coworkers, acquaintances who might be interested to watch a match or come to a practice. Be sure to put a gun in their hand when they attend. Try to get some sort of write-up in newspapers where there is a club nearby. Also, a write up in club newsletters, etc.

☆ 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

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

CHIEF RO INSTRUCTORS, MIDEAST REGION

- Scheduling SASS RO-I and RO-II classes at any club in Michigan

☆ 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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248-528-0440 rgillary@gillarylaw.com

RANGE WAR MATCH DIRECTOR—DEUCE STEVENS

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WOLVERINE RANGERS SECRETARY—COSMOPOLITAN CHRISTINE

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