



Wolverine Rangers Epitaph



Volume 20, Issue 6

October 2017



Photo courtesy of Rocky River Regulators, Utica, Michigan



WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



★ Captain's Corner ★

Howdy pards,

Range War for 2017 is in the can and it was a very good one. Congratulations to the Overall Winners Skeeter Lee and Two Sons, both from Ohio. Congratulations also to Michigan State Champions Three Gun Cole and KJ Stevens and to all of the category winners. We had a total of 187 contestants shoot the match and a great time was had by all in very pleasant Michigan weather. Please check out the Wolverine Rangers website at www.wolverinerangers.org for the complete results.

Deuce Stevens did another great job as Match Director with Straight Arrow Hombre helping to shoulder much of the load. As far as I am concerned, Deuce is the best Match Director in SASS and we are lucky to have him. We had many compliments on the Match and the stages. We continued our relatively recent tradition of having a Cowboy Mini Match and Wild Bunch Mini Match on Friday along with our standard side matches, including long range. Thanks to Straight Arrow Hombre for being in charge of the side matches and the Cowboy Mini Match and to hOOt Hamilton for being in charge of the Wild Bunch Mini-Match. Thanks also to our daughter Cosmopolitan Christine for handling all of the administrative work for Range War. It is a huge job. Thanks also to Camptown for being in charge of the scoring. Thanks also to the men and women of the work crew who did the heavy lifting in setting up the stages and taking them down. It is a lot of work and we really appreciate their work. Thanks also to Longshot Lillian and Wild Cat Rose for photographing Range War. We will let you know when the pictures are posted on the website. Thanks to all of the other countless volunteers who make Range War work.

The Blue Water Sportsman's Association is a great venue for Range War with plenty of large shooting bays and the best camping set-up in pretty much all of SASS for a State Championship. Every Range War was shot at Blue Water and we are lucky to be able to

use that great venue.

This year our theme again was Honoring our Servicemen and Service Women. Please see the photo included in this edition of the Epitaph of the Service Men and Service Women who competed in Range War this year. Please also see the photo of all of the women who attended the banquet. Both photos are courtesy of Major Photography. We love it when we are able to compete with our wives, daughters, mothers and sisters. It makes the game more enjoyable.

Next year will be the 20th Anniversary of Range War. I am honored to say that I have attended each and every one. Range War has always been the highlight of the Cowboy Action Shooting season for me.

We are in the process of scheduling our annual post-Range War Board of Directors meeting to de-brief Range War and to try to determine what we can improve upon for next year. We will keep you in the loop.

That is about all that I have for now. Thanks to all of our veterans who have fought and sacrificed for all of the rest of us so that we can enjoy the freedom in the greatest country in the history of the world.

That is about all that I have for now. Have fun, shoot clean, stay safe and enjoy the colors of the fall season.

Best regards,

R.J. Law – Captain
Wolverine Rangers

The Ladies of Range War



Service Men and Women—Range War 2017



★ Shooting News ★

Rocky River Regulators of DSC (Utica)

The 2017 Wolverine Ranger's Range War is in the books and Deuce Stevens set the match to be fast and furious and it lived up to its billing. Congratulations to all the Michigan State Category Champions and a special salute to our Michigan State Champions K.J. Stevens and Three Gun Cole.

D.S.C. had four cowboys compete at Range War and we had a blast. Jack Holladay was 4th in Frontier Cartridge, J.J. Longley was 5th in Silver Senior, Camptown was 8th in Senior (plus a clean match), and Coyote Claxton was 12th in Elder Statesman.

September in Michigan was supposed to be cooler but on match day at DSC it was sunny and hot. Hot is the way to describe the shooting action as thirty cowboys and cowgirls competed for top honors at this match. Finishing first overall was J.J. Longley as he edged out Dodge City Dick and Camptown. Shooting clean matches were Attica Jack and J.J. Longley.



Sunday, October 8th is our 3rd Wild Bunch match for 2017. Registration starts at 8:30 AM and the shooting starts at 9:30 AM.

Coyote Claxton, DSC Wild Bunch guru sets up a true Wild Bunch match NOT a Cowboy Action match with a 1911. Every one needs to come out

and give this a try. If you don't have all the right guns; no problem, just bring any semi-auto that shoots lead bullets and your cowboy rifle and shotgun. Give it a try!



Sunday, October 15th is the date for our monthly Cowboy Match in October. Besides having some wonderful cowboy stages this is our annual Chili Cook Off Match. This is an opportunity for all the competitors to bring a pot of their best chili to wow our judges. We have chili that

is the hottest, no bean, best bean chili, no beef chili, and best overall. Bring a pot and throw your hat into the ring to be crowned chili champion.

There still is plenty of shooting at DSC this fall, so come out and have some fun.

See you on the range.
J.J. Longley

Butcher Butte Bunch - Fenton

A crisp fall-like morning greeted visitors to Butcher Butte on September 10 and saw several of the 16 attending shooters wearing jackets and sweatshirts. By the end of stage 2, many of those extra layers were shed as the temperature warmed and the sunshine shone down on the shooting bays.

Clean shooting J.J. Longley edged out Leadfoot Luke by a mere 1.3 seconds to take first place honors. Other clean match honors go to Cactus Kay, Andy Horshurodinon and Horse Whisperer. Congratulations to you all!

It was also wonderful to welcome Fenton Lakes member Wayward Walrus back to the firing lines after a long hiatus from shooting.

After the match, we enjoyed a choice of two varieties of delicious chili along with brownies prepared by Big Bad Jim, and Hey Sugar brought additional yummy desserts to share.

Congratulations to Mr. Beer Belly Willie, who was our free-match drawing winner for September!

Remember that the shooting season isn't quite over at Butcher Butte. We still have a match on the schedule for October 8. Come on out and join us!

*Longshot
Lillian*

Hidden Valley Cowboys - Sturgis

What a nice warm day to shoot at the Valley. We had 38 shooters, three of which were new to the Valley, Ace Derringer, Ruby Quinn and Tacoma Kid. Welcome to Hidden Valley! Thanks to everyone who joined us!!

Like to thank everyone who helped Sauk Trail Mike and me set up and helped today: Triple Threat and Tommy Two Fingers. I'd also like to thank Money Bags Mathias and h00t Hamilton for their help running the Posse today. Thank you also to Ka Adik Krista and Tommy Two Fingers for bringing and serving lunch today. Krista made a homemade Shepard's Pie and an Apple Crumble from her own apples and chips! It was MM MM GOOD!

Our next and last shoot for 2017 will be October 15th, registration opens at 8:15 AM, side shoots start at 8:30 AM, and the mandatory safety meeting starts at 9:45 AM, preceding the main match.



The Eagleville Cowboys - Central Lake

The Eagleville Cowboys annual match, the "Eagles Revenge" for 2017 is a Wrap. Sept 23 & 24 two day shoot was the hottest on record, it was in the 90's both days in September, when it was only in the 60's for our July and August shoots. Go figure, I guess that's just Michigan type weather. We had two separate shoots, for those that could not make it for both days. We had some shooters that usually come quite a ways for our 'Revenge', it's nice to see some pards that we may only see once a year.

We again had our popular 'beer can roll', with pistols and rifles, and also our 'Shoot the S***' where all the riflemen and pistoleros decimated two toilets that way out there, there were some 'yee haas' as the pieces flew..

The first days shooters that were on top of their category were:

Silver Sr. - Riverview Rattler, Sr. - Card Shark Charlie, Ladies Sr. - TNTina, Eldr Stsmn - Thummpier John, Sr. GF - Andy Horsurodion, Ladies Sr. - Lainey May, Sr. Dlst - Petoskey Pete, Wrangler - Bar Gun Hunter, FtrCrtGF - Marlin Matt, CtlBrn - Trusty Rusty, Ladies49er - Laurie L'Amour, Grand Patron - One Son of a Gun, Cowboy - Nevada Slim, Gr.Dame - Mercantile Annie, and Buckaroo - Big I. Shooting clean was Andy H., and Bar Gun Hunter.

The Sunday shoot winners were: Sil.Sr. - Riverview Rattler, Sr. - Card Shark Charlie, Ladies Sr. - TNTina. Eld.Stsmn - Thummpier John, Ladies 49er - Lainey Mae, Sr.GF - Andy Horsurodion, Grand Patron, One Son of a Gun, Ladies - Laurie L'Amour, Ctl.Brn - Trusty Rusty, Wrangler - Bar Gun Hunter, Ladies SS - Chica, FtrCtGF - Marlin Matt, LadiesFtrCrtDlst - Senora Vaquera, Buckaroo - Big I, Ladies FtrCrt - P.K.Brimstone. Shooting clean were : Bar Gun Hunter, Marlin Matt, and Big I.

Birdshot Betty's grub got praise both days, and all shooters got their pick of the many door prizes, but the biggest grin of all had to be Card Shark Charlie, when his half of a playing card was drawn from a cowboy hat and he was the winner of a really nice handgun from Rock Island Armory.

For two years in a row now, Andy H. has brought the .22 cal Gatling Gun that he has made, and everybody got to crank off a bunch of rounds prior to shooting one of the stages. It was a blast.

'Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.
'Helen Keller.'

Sooo, getting to have fun with our cowboy guns, is a daring adventure. Y'all keep it up as long as possible. CU down the trail -

One Son of a Gun.

Johnson Creek Regulators - Plymouth



September 23 was a notable day in history. On September 23, 1875 Billy the Kid was arrested for the first time while stealing a bag of laundry. On September 23, 2017 the Metro Detroit area set a record temperature of 90 degree and Long-shot Lillian bested twenty-one other competitors with 132.73 seconds at the Johnson Creek Regulators match. Snuffy Dave Edwards was second with a respectable adjusted time of 158.76.

The heat took it's toll. Some shooters suffered brain fade, while others suffered equipment failure. In all, only Gus McCall, Slow Lightning and Billy Dixon scored clean matches.

In what has become an expectation, Panhead Pete came up with five outstanding stages. With our regular scorekeeping crew unavailable, Rainmaker Ray and Dead Eye Deska stepped up and did an excellent job with those duties. Special thanks to those brave souls who stayed around in the heat to help pack up after the match.

Our last match of the year is scheduled for Saturday October 28th. As many of you will recall, our final match of year is always a Punkin Bashin good time. Hope to see you there.

"I'm outlawed and it wasn't long since I was a law and old Pat an outlaw. Funny thing, the law."

Billy the Kid to Heiskell Jones, 1880

Straight Shots from Saginaw

Speaking for the Saginaw cowboys and cowgirls, Range War 2017 was another great weekend and we all had a “Yee Haw” good time! The patriotic theme for the match gave us a chance to recognize and honor the heroes who have fought and died, and of those serving and fighting today to protect our people and our freedoms.

We would like to acknowledge the Gillary family and their endless efforts and countless hours put into this event every year. This match just doesn't come together instantaneously. There are so many aspects involved to make it a success. Many come to shoot and expect everything to run perfectly. We think the Gillary family has worked hard to give you the best-of-the-best, and from Saginaw, (and we're sure many of you will join in) we tip our hats to a job well-done.

We also compliment Match Director, Deuce Stevens, on well-designed stages and great target placement, and a big THANK YOU to ALL OTHERS involved in making this an awesome event. When the last shot of the match was fired, Posse 10 lined up for a grand finale shotgun salute. It was a great (and loud!) “Yee Haw” moment.

Until next time, remember to live life and give it your best shot. We hope you have many “Yee Haws” in your future.

Happy Trails from

Bad River Marty & Katie Callahan



The Shooter's Stance

Range War...behind the scenes: Insights into scoring. By Longshot Lillian

Range War is an exciting time of shooting, celebrating and visiting with friends. It's also a time when many of us put on our serious game faces and try to shoot clean and fast. Have you ever wondered though, what goes on behind the scenes?

I wanted to give the spotlight to someone who often goes without notice at Range War, yet performs a very important role for the match. That person is our scoring guru, Camptown.



Camptown began scoring Range War way back in 2001, and has been in charge of scoring every year since, with the exception of 2004. I asked Camptown how he became involved with scoring Range

War. “When I first started Cowboy Action in 1999 at DSC I wanted to get involved with the club and do something. At that time scoring and registration was all pencil and paper. I was semi-computer literate so I offered to build a program to assist with scoring. My oldest son Scott was attending Kettering (GMI at the time) and was looking for a computer project. So together we built a scoring program in MS Access, a program that would allow fast registration and tracking of categories and scores as well as a history per shooter. I have all scores by alias for every shoot I have scored and can print for anyone that asks. Rick Stover (Mackinaw Kid) was Captain of the Rangers then and saw how fast the scoring was and asked Scott and me to score Range War.” Camptown spends a good amount of time prior to and after the match making sure that the scoring goes off without a hitch. With the use of the ACES program, it is now much less of a time burden, but there is still a good amount of time involved.

Prior to ACES: “[I] spent about 8 hours on Friday entering all participants. During the match there were posse sheet runners that would pick up the posse sheets after every stage and bring them to the club house for input. I tried to shoot and score in 2002, 2003 and was a posse marshal. It was just too much to do. I had Lou Stover [Lavender Lou] assist me and she would be entering scores while I shot. Then I would enter that last couple of stages. After Lou stopped coming to Range War it was too much to do. Even then, we were entering every score on every stage twice for every shooter to eliminate typo's. So when the match was over I usually had two stages for every shooter (180-200) to enter. That took about another hour to hour and a half before calculations could be run and prints made. With that it took at least until 4:30 or 5:00 each day to post scores. A lot more labor intensive.”

Continued next page

Range War...behind the scenes: Insights into scoring, continued

“Today with ACES, I spend about 2 hours with the iPads a few days before the match to make sure that they are fully charged and have the latest versions of the Shooter Handbook and RO1 and RO2 installed on them. On the Friday of the match I get the registrations file from Emily [Cosmopolitan Christine] and load the iPad data on the master iPad and get the iPads for the Wild Bunch match ready. The rest of Friday is spent checking data to ensure that all will go well on Saturday. This takes probably about 2 or 3 hours. Scoring the Wild Bunch match takes about 15 minutes including printing time after the iPads are returned to the club house. Printing all of the posse sheets for Range War takes about 30 minutes and setting up the posse books another 30 minutes. All the iPads used that day are re-charged.”

“Saturday I arrive at 7:00am, get the posse books and iPads with timers, make any last minute posse or category changes and get to the opening ceremony with equipment. After the shooting, I collect all iPads, transfer data (15 minutes) and check all posse sheets for any changes and make changes on the master. Then I check the data on the master iPad. If everything appears OK, I transfer data to the Roundup program for reporting. I print and post the day's scores. All together this takes about 45 minutes. Then I start charging all the iPads for Sunday. Sunday is a repeat of Saturday.”

“The last couple of years I have been done with all scoring, printing and verification of scores by 2:30pm. That is only about an hour after last shot. All reporting has been completed and emailed to the webmaster for posting just as the banquet is over.”



Emily [Cosmopolitan Christine] registers the shooters in the Round Up program from registration forms that are submitted on the web or mailed in. Deuce Stevens is responsible for assigning shooters to each posse and provides that information to Emily to enter into Round Up. The information from Round Up is then exported and the resulting file is then sent via e-mail to Camptown so that he can import the data into the master iPad to start the process. Friday morning Emily provides a thumb drive with all of the data on it to maintain until the match is over.

Camptown later scans all of the handwritten sheets of the scores that we initial at each stage into a file so they can be referenced later if needed, and they have been needed in the past!

Everything to do with the scoring and reporting is done by Camptown. To help make his job a little easier, it's important for those who are entering scores on the iPad at the match, to double check each person's entered time with what is on the timer, and for the time written on the hard copy to be checked with what is on the iPad. All three of those times (and any penalties) should be exactly the same. Also conserving the battery is important, so iPads should be put into sleep mode between shooters, and especially between stages. Turning down the brightness of the screen also helps conserve the battery. Those iPads still have a job to do once they leave the range so conserving the battery is important. It's also important to keep the iPad out of the hot sun, as they will shut down if they over heat.

Continued next page

Range War...behind the scenes: Insights into scoring, continued

So, what happens once the shooting is over and the iPads are collected and returned to the clubhouse? The clubhouse has a network which allows the data to be extracted from each posse iPad and sent to the master iPad. The scores are calculated on the master iPad in order to verify that everything has transferred. The data is then exported from the master iPad to iTunes so that the file can be imported into Round Up for reporting. A second calculation is then performed in Round Up which is then compared to the iPad calculation for verification. The reports are then printed and manually viewed to be sure there are no duplicates, everyone is listed and that there are no unusual times in the scores. All of the reports are then converted to .PDF format. Reports for the awards ceremony are high-lighted to facilitate the distribution of awards.

Technology is wonderful, and it sure is a time saver, but what happens when that technology doesn't quite work as you plan? I asked Camptown if he's ever had a technology breakdown, and if so, what happened and how was it resolved?

"Do you mean other than the time that we had a computer / printer incompatibility issue? Or the time that we burned up a laser printer by overheating it trying to print 180 copies of the final scores to pass out at the banquet?"

The compatibility issue was resolved using some clever ingenuity. The computer needed a driver to operate correctly. Camptown used his phone as a hot spot to get to the web and get a driver.

After the printer was ruined by trying to print so many copies of the results, it was decided that we did not need to print every person a results sheet since the results are on the Wolverine Rangers website that same evening.

When asked if he had any wishes for the future of Range War with regards to the scoring, Camptown had this to say: "I think I would like to see technology that would use the "cloud". Timers that you could say the shooters name and then the time would be sent to the "cloud" and then misses / safeties / procedurals could be added. This would cut down on the number of people "touching" the score."

I hope that this little peek into the behind the scenes world of major match scoring has been enlightening. I know it was for me, and I want to personally thank Camptown for his dedication to ensuring that the scoring for Range War is quick and accurate for us! Thank you also to Emily for all she does in getting us all registered.

☆ 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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