



Wolverine Rangers Epitaph



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WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



★ Captain's Corner ★

Howdy pards,

Thanks to all of the Wolverine Rangers who attended the 20th Anniversary of Range War over Labor Day weekend at the Blue Water Sportsman's Association in Kimball near Port Huron. We had a total of 225 shooters compete in the match. This is the most shooters we have had since 2012 when we had 249. The most we had were 281 in 2005. By the way, thanks to Laporte Lil for rounding up the score sheets from almost all of the Range Wars going back to 1999. Apparently we are only missing 1998 and 2000. It is interesting to look at some of the old score sheets and compare the times to our most recent matches. It is also fun to see the names of some of our pards from years past.

Congratulations to Cowboy Carty from Illinois, the Overall Winner; to Little Red Sure Shot from Indiana, the Overall Ladies Winner; to our Match Director Deuce Stevens the Michigan State Men's Champion; to K.J. Stevens the Michigan State Ladies Champion; and to all of the Category Winners! We seemed to luck out with the weather again this year. We had a little bit of drizzle on Sunday morning but it was over by the time everyone started shooting. It was beautiful the rest of the day.

Range War is rather unique compared to most other SASS State Championships that have permanent props. We have to pull all of the targets and props out of our Conex boxes and

then Deuce and his crew set everything up from scratch. Needless to say this is very labor intensive. There are advantages and disadvantages to both methods. The advantage of permanent stages is that it takes much less effort to set up the match. The advantage of our system is that Deuce has more freedom and we are not shooting the same stages with the same props each year. We also have several large shooting bays which allows for more movement than at many ranges. We had many great comments about the job that Deuce and K.J. did in designing the stages and in setting up the match.

I would like to express my personal thanks and appreciation for all of those who helped to make Range War a success this year. There are too many people to thank to list them here. Some of the volunteer jobs including the heavy work of moving steel and props for set-up and take-down; clean-up before we shoot; clean-up after we shoot; organizing everything including registration prior to Range War; handling the registration process at Range War including putting all of the packets together; running the posses; running the side matches and mini-matches; handling the scoring; photographing the shooters; photographing the winners at the banquet; and many others. We would not have Range War if we did not have the help and support of everyone who makes Range War a success.

One of our standard things that we do each year is to have comment cards on all of the

tables at the banquet. Incidentally, we have the best banquet of just about any other SASS State Championship. The food is excellent and the banquet facility at Alexander's in Marysville is first class. After Range War Cosmopolitan Christine our Secretary assembles all of the comment cards and prepares an email for the Board of Directors with a summary of all of the comments and ratings. We then prepare an email to all of the shooters who competed at Range War and provide feedback to them addressing the comments and suggestions. We also address the fixes that will be made the following year. This seems to go over well and we have gotten several positive comments about our process. Our primary mission at Range War is to provide a SASS State Championship match which is focused on our shooters and in providing the best overall experience that we can for them.

If any Wolverine Ranger member is interested in seeing the comments and the email that we sent to all shooters then please contact me and I will email them to you.

That is about all that I have for now. Please take a minute and say a prayer for all of our service men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice. We were lucky enough again this year to have the Travelling Wall from Amvets Post 29 in Mount Clemens at Range War. The Travelling Wall is an Honor Wall in memory and in honor of our Michigan fallen soldiers who fought in Desert Shield/ Desert Storm; Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF); and in Operation Iraq Freedom (OEF).

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

Captain

Hidden Valley Cowboys - Sturgis

Sure was a nice day to be shooting. Like last month didn't get hot until mid-afternoon. We had 21 shooters today!

Like to thank everyone who helped Sauk Trail Mike and me set up the Valley and helped today: Blackthorne Billy, D.K. Tracker, Diamond Jim, Ka Adik Krista, Naughty Nelli, Tommy Two Fingers, and Triple Threat.

We had six Clean shooters today, Juste' Badshot, Ka Adik Krista, Mike E the Blaster, Rover, Sauk Valley Stubby and Triple Threat!!

Congratulations!!!

Thank you also to Ka Adik Krista and Tommy Two Fingers for bringing and serving lunch today. They brought fried chicken, baked beans, homemade potato salad, fresh fruit and frosted brownies. Heard lots of great compliments!

Our next shoot will be October 16th. 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.



★ Shooting News ★

Rocky River Regulators of DSC (Utica)

The 20th anniversary of the Michigan State SASS Championship is complete and the scores have been calculated. DSC had 5 cowboy action shooters compete in a Cowboy mini-match warm up and/or a 4-stage SASS Wild Bunch match on Friday. Then all the 225 competitors shot a 10-stage “run and gun” Cowboy Action match on Saturday and Sunday. When the results were tallied this is how the DSC Cowboy Action shooters finished.

Jack Holladay
3rd Place Frontier Cartridge

J.J. Longley
5th Place Silver Senior Category
Clean Match

Camptown
6th Place Senior Category
Clean Match

Coyote Claxton
10th Place Elder Statesman Category
3rd Place SASS Modern Wild Bunch
6th Overall SASS Wild Bunch
Clean Match Cowboy and Wild Bunch

Shelby Kid
15th Place Forty Niner Category
19th Place SASS Modern Wild Bunch
33rd Overall SASS Wild Bunch

Congratulations to all the Cowboy Action shooters from DSC.

On Sunday, September 16th we shot another cowboy match in the heat and humidity. The good news was that it didn't rain but it was hot. Eighteen competitors braved the heat and shot 5 complete stages. When the dust settled and Camptown

calculated the scores, Apache Wolfe was the overall winner edging out J.J. Longley and Rifle Rick. Shooting clean matches were Apache Wolfe, J.J. Longley, Camptown, Soaring Red Hawk, and Wildcat Maverick.

Our next Cowboy Action match is the Chili Cook Off match on Sunday, October 21st.

Want to try something different... Cowboy Action with modern firearms! The Rocky River Regulators are putting on a 4 stage 3-Gun match on Saturday, October 6th on our range. Firearms used in this match are a semi automatic pistol, AR style rifle, and a pump or semi auto shotgun. Yes there are multiple targets per stage. We had a very positive turn out at our first match (sold out) so we are limiting the shoot to 36 competitors. If you are interested in shooting please send me your email so that I can send you the pre-registration information. You MUST be pre-registered to shoot this event. We DO NOT take any walk up competitors on the day of the match. If you want to shoot this match please email Chris VonWormer at cvwormer@comcast.net to reserve a spot.

I know it has been way too “hot” to think about your best chili recipe but once again the DSC Rocky River Regulators are going to award a \$100 gift certificate to Cabela's for the overall best chili at our October 21st Cowboy match. So start planning and dust off the recipe and bring a small sample of it to the October Chili Cook Off match.

Hope to see you on our range.
J.J. Longley

The Eagleville Cowboys - Central Lake

The Eagleville Cowboys two day Annual 'Eagles Revenge' shoot was held on Sept. 22 and 23, 2018, at Eagleville, near Central Lake in northwest Michigan to cool but nice weather. We had more shooters than usual, and several from down state, and had some folks camping in several places in the vicinity. It was nice to see some folks who had not been here before.. The two day shoots were separate because some folks could not make both days. At the end of the first day, the following Cowboys/Cowgirls who came out on top of their categories were:

Sil.Sr. - Riverview Rattler, - G.F. -Leadfoot Luke, - L.49er - Hey Sugar, - L.Sil. Sr. - T.N.Tina, - E.Stsmn - Mohawk Scout, - Sr.G.Ftr - Andy Horshurodinon , - Sr. - Atlanta Sharp, - Sr.Dlst - Wildcat Maverick, - 49er - Bar Gun Hunter, - Catl.Baron - Thummpet John, - Gr. Patron, - One Son of a Gun, - Sr.Dulst - Petoskey Pete, - L.Frt.Crt.Dulst - Mama Vaquera, - Wrglr - Rowdy Rusk, - Dulst - Nevada Slim, - Sil.Sr. - Tin Pan Sam, - Frt.Cart.G.F. - Scotty Two Shotty, - L.Frt.Cart. - P.K. Brimstone, - Buckaroo - Big I. Clean shooters were: Mohawk Scout, Bar Gun Hunter, and Big I.

The annual "Toilet Shoot" did not stand a chance when all the riflemen lined up and cut loose all at the same time. It was a sight to see..

On Sunday, the second day of the 'Revenge', we started all over again, with different scenarios of course, and a few different shooters. And, some different results. To her surprise, 'Hey Sugar', a fast cowgirl came out on top!

L.49er - Hey Sugar - Sil.Sr. - Riverview Rattler, - G.F. - Leadfoot Luke, - L.Sil.Sr. - TNTina - Sr.Dulst - "Wildcat Maverick, - Sil.Sr.G.F- Andyhorsurodinon, - Wglr - Marlin Matt, - Eldr.Stsm - Mohawk Scout, - Sr. - Bulldog Jim, - Gr.Patron - One Son of a Gun, - 49er - Bar Gun Hunter, - Catl.Brn.- Thummpet John, - Cw.Boy - Slim Ken, - Cla.Cboy - Scotty Two Shotty, - Buckaroo - Big I, -Frt.Cart - Tin Pan Sam, - G.Dame - Mercantile Annie. Clean shooters were Andy Horshurodinon , and Mercantile Annie. We again blasted the crap out of the toilet..

After the awards were given, all shooters had a chance to pick up from the 'door prize table', and there were 'lots' of door prizes. Then came the drawing for the Grand Prize, a nice Cowboy Gun. Each shooter got 1/2 of a playing card at registration, and the other half went into a cowboy hat. When the other half was called, 'Big I' let out a whoop as he held the other half. This young man may now be 'hooked' on Cowboy Action Shooting!! But the gun had to be put in Grandpa - Tin Pan Sam's name until he gits older.

That's it for this years' shoot, we hope to see y'all next year. Stay safe, and we'll see ya down the trail.

One Son of a Gun..

Johnson Creek Regulators - Plymouth

242

No, that is not a round count. It was 242 years ago on September 22, 1776 that Nathan Hale uttered the words "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my Country." The Patriot uttered these words on a smoldering hazy day shortly before he was hanged by the British in New York.

Jump forward 242 years and unlike Nathan Hale, the Johnson Creek Regulators and company enjoyed a glorious September day. Temperature was in the mid 60s with bright sun.

Snuffy Dave Edwards shined the brightest of all on five stages designed by Carson City Slick. Snuffy Dave turned in one of only two clean matches on his way to a time of 174.55. Wolverine Regulator finished second. Rain-maker Ray had the second clean match.

Among the twenty participants was new shooter Kansas City Kimmy. Kansas City Kimmy enjoyed the match and shot stage four clean.

Changes are a coming in 2019. We have a plan for dealing with inclement weather that will allow us to use the covered firing line. We plan to have three setups that can each be used for multiple stages. With the new plan in place, we should not have any rain outs next year.

Also under consideration is a plan to offer side matches before the start of the main match. The side match would be included in the cost of the main match.

Don't miss our October Pumpkin Bash on Saturday October 27th. As is our tradition, Three Deuce Tom is the creative force behind the Halloween match. We're sure he'll have something ghoulish planned.

"If a guy hits .300 every year, what does he have to look forward to? I always tried to stay around .190, with three or four RBI. And I tried to get them all in September. That way I always had something to talk about during the winter." Bob Uecker

The Shooter's Stance

A Primer for Range War First Timers

Range War 2018

In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Range War, **RJ Law** offered a prize of a paid entry to Range War for one lucky winner who had not previously been to Range War. I was that lucky winner.

When I was initially contacted, I had a lot of questions. **Cosmopolitan Christine** was my contact. She had plenty to keep her busy with Range War planning but she found time to answer a million questions from me. She directed me to the Wolverine Ranger's web site for registration. The registration form can be printed out and mailed or registration can be done online.

After **RJ Law** announced the prize winner, I was contacted by **Outrider Outlaw**. **Outrider Outlaw** asked if I would consider writing an article about my experience for the **Epitaph**. I readily agreed, and thought it might be a good primer for others who might consider attending in the future.

WHERE TO STAY

After registering, my first challenge was to find a place to stay. Camping is available on the premises at the **Blue Water Sportsman's Club**

Not being a camper, I started down the list of hotels. The **Baymont Inn** is the closest hotel to the range and a sponsor of **Range War**. I strongly believe in supporting our sponsors and they were my first call. A room was available and a friendly staff member quickly took my reservation.

SARGE'S TIPS:

If you are a camper, stay on site. You are close to the range and golf carts are available for rental.

If you stay at the **Baymont Inn**, consider asking for a ground level room as they don't have an elevator.

WHAT TO PACK

My next consideration was what to pack. The week before, I broke one of my main match pistols, my main match rifle and my gun cart. Yes it was one of those days with so many train wrecks the entire transportation system in southeast Michigan was in danger. A lesson learned. You have a lot of opportunity to break stuff at Range War.

In addition to my match rifle, two match shotguns (normally shoot a 97, but put a SXS on my cart for some stages) and a pair of main match pistols, I also packed a backup 97, a backup match rifle, a backup pistol, a Winchester 94 for the big bore rifle and a Springfield for the long range match. A portable cleaning kit and Windex TM to clean up holy black made the trip. I keep a tool kit in my range box.

Although there are popup canopies at each stage, an umbrella that attaches to my gun cart came in handy during a morning rain. A small folding stool lets me take pressure off my back and legs.

The Range War flyer suggests bringing 120 pistol rounds, 120 rifle rounds and 60 shotgun shells for the Main match. If you take part in side matches and Mini matches, I would at

least double that amount. A minimum of eight rounds for each long range event you want to shoot (BP single shot, smokeless single shot, BP big bore lever gun, smokeless big bore lever gun) and extra shotgun shells for Cowboy trap.

I wore an outfit to the range on Friday, packed one outfit for Saturday and two for Sunday (a separate outfit for the banquet). This worked out perfect.

SARGE'S TIPS:

If you think you might possibly need it once in a hundred years, bring it.

If your category requires particular props, check twice to make sure they are packed.

Take care of your feet. Extra socks and dry boots can be very important.

Check the advanced weather forecast before you select your outfits for the weekend.

CHECK IN

Match check in begins on Thursday, with an RO1 class held that afternoon. Check in continues Friday which also offers a full calendar of events. **Cosmopolitan Christine** was handling check in when I arrived Friday morning. She handed out a packet that included a copy of the Shooter's Handbook.

If you haven't made a request to shoot with particular posse members, you will be assigned a posse. You will start on the same stage as your posse number on Saturday.

SARGE'S TIPS:

Don't print the Shooter's Handbook, you will get a copy at Check in.

If you haven't been to RO School I urge you to

take this opportunity to attend.

Write your Posse number down on your Shooter's Handbook.

Signup for at least one of the Mini-matches to be held on Friday.

FRIDAY

Friday is a full day of events. You can sign up for a variety of matches on Friday including Wild Bunch and Plainsmen. An RO2 class is held in the afternoon.

Two Mini matches are held. One in the morning and the second in the afternoon. Each Mini match consists of four stages.

Speed events and long range side matches take place Friday. You can run rifle, pistol and shotgun side matches as many times as you want as long as no one is waiting. Each stage with rifle and pistol is ten rounds. Each stage with shotgun is four rounds. After speed rifle, pistol and shotgun, I managed to get to the derringer/pocket pistol, but only had a couple of chances to shoot the derringer. If you don't have your own, no worries, they have one you can borrow.

Doc Noper and his crew did a great job staging the long range events. Two steel targets are placed at 175 yards. One is a large square plate. The second one is a smaller silhouette plate. The competitor must first engage and hit the larger plate. Once the large plate is hit, the competitor engages the smaller silhouette. The event counts both time and hits. First time through the course counts. Shooter gets three warmup rounds and five rounds for score. I used an old Winchester 94 that belonged to my grandfather and my Springfield .45-70. If you see me, ask me the story about the Winchester.

Don't worry about food for lunch on Friday. Free pizza is served near the gates to the range at noon.

In addition to the shooting events, there is a vendor and swap and sell area set up. Bring cash. You will find everything from match guns to outfits to reloading equipment for sale.

You are on your own for dinner. We ate at **Theo's Family Restaurant** which is near the entrance to the **Baymont Inn**. Theo's is reasonably priced. I can vouch for their prime rib dinner.

SARGE'S TIPS:

Participate in at least one of the Mini matches. They give you some experience with the more interesting parts of the Main Match.

Try the Speed events. They provide you with an idea of how you compare to other shooters and are great warm up drills for the Main match.

SATURDAY

The Main match starts on Saturday morning at the gated entrance to the range. An opening ceremony and shooters safety meeting is held promptly at 8:30 am.

This is probably a good time to bring up mentors. So important in our sport when you are first starting out, but also helpful having someone show you the ropes at your first big match. In my case, **Outrider Outlaw** and **Longshot Lillian** took me under their wings, asking me to shoot with them on their relay. Before the match, they answered my many question and informed me about some of the nuances of the match such as signing the score card and picking up dessert at the banquet with your meal. Whoddathunk.

The range was divided in half with stages 1-5 on the north side and stages 6-10 on the south side. Poses 1-5 rotate through stages 1-5 on Saturday and moves over to 6-10 on Sunday. Poses 6-10 were on the opposite side.

Each Posse had a Posse Marshall, a Deputy Posse Marshall, and a couple more Timing Operators. Match Director **Deuce Stevens** did an excellent job selecting the Posse Marshall and Deputy. **Sauk Valley Stubby** was our PM and **DK Tracker** was Deputy Posse Marshall. **Sauk Trail Mike** and **Smokin Iron** assisted as TOs. I found these folks to be very knowledgeable and eager to help each participant. On one occasion, I asked for a rule clarification on my own equipment and on another I asked him to provide specific coaching on my final stage. He willingly provided accurate information and coaching. The coaching probably saved me from a dreaded procedural and saved my clean match (on my last set of targets on my last stage).

Our Posse had two official scorers. One entered the times and penalties into the score book, which the participant was required to sign. The second scorekeeper entered the data into a tablet. I didn't catch the names of these two ladies, but they seemed to enjoy the match and were a pleasure to be around. These volunteers deserve a big thank you from all the competitors.

In the evening, there are several Cowboy Trap side events. I didn't take part, but those who did seemed to enjoy themselves.

Lassiter put on a quick draw demonstration before dinner. The demonstration included a wee bit of humor. Those of us in attendance enjoyed Lassiter's show and the knowledge that he shared.

Saturday night there is an optional dinner served at the Clubhouse.

Reservations were in advance and cost of tickets was very reasonable. Food was excellent and there was plenty of it. After dinner, a camp fire and sing along takes place in the campground. Bring your guitar if you play.

SARGE'S TIPS:

On your first day, and especially the first stage or two, step back and observe. This is your first time at a major match. It's OK to have jitters and take a breath. After the first stage, jitters were gone and it was easier to work into Posse job rotations.

Don't be afraid to ask for coaching or rule clarification from the PM. In a discussion with **Sauk Valley Stubby**, he told me as a TO, he feels it is part of his job to provide coaching, especially when asked.

I noticed the stages were written a bit different than I was used to seeing. Pay attention during explanation of the stages. Don't be afraid to ask questions.

Bring something to eat to the range. There was a food truck, but it was almost impossible to get near it.

SUNDAY

Cowboy Church is at 8:00 am. The Main match starts promptly at 9:00.

Sunday morning the Posses meet at 9:00 am at their first scheduled stage. I found everything seemed to go much smoother on Sunday. The Posse work rotation became more natural. The stages progressed much faster. The only issue on Sunday really seemed to be the weather. We enjoyed bit of steady rain for the first stage of the day. Fortunately, **Silent Cal** came prepared with eyeglass wipes and towels. He readily shared his supplies with the entire Posse.

After the last stage of the match, each Posse fires a shotgun volley. The shotgun volley honors our service members past, present and future who have given of themselves to help make us free.

After the Main Match ends you will have several hours of free time. If you camped, you can go back to your camper and kick back for a bit. If you were at a hotel, you had to check out (unless you paid for an extra night). After cooling down a bit, I made use of a temporary shower at the clubhouse, and changed clothes for the banquet.

The banquet doors open promptly at 5:00 pm. Our banquet was held at Alexanders, a nearby Banquet Hall. Food was excellent. Staff was outstanding.

There are literally hundreds of awards handed out for all of the side matches, categories, Cowboy Trap events, and clean matches. A number of raffle prizes are handed out. Throughout the evening, **RJ Law** keeps things running smoothly.

SARGE'S TIPS:

Set a personal goal for yourself. You can compete, but understand this match brings in some of the best shooters from across the country.

Take advantage of shooting next to these top shooters. Watch them. Approach them and talk with them. Everybody is extremely friendly and willing to share.

If your significant other is a non-shooter and they don't want to sit at the range all day, there are plenty of things to do in Port Huron. My wife spent time at Lakeport State Park and beach, Thomas Edison Museum, , Fort Gratiot Light house, The Bluewater Riverwalk and shopping. Port Huron also boasts the Carnegie Center and Huron Lightship museums.

The Gateway Casino is available just across the Bluewater Bridge in Point Edward, Ontario.

At the banquet, you will see people wearing everything from blue jeans and banded collar shirt to period correct evening wear.

Pick up dessert when you pick up your meal at

the banquet.

HAVE FUN!!!!!!!!!!

See you next year.

Sarge

SASS# 99895

☆ 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*

WOLVERINE RANGERS CAPTAIN—R. J. LAW

248-528-0440 Captain@wolverinerangers.org

RANGE WAR MATCH DIRECTOR—DEUCE STEVENS

616-677-5275 MatchDirector@wolverinerangers.org

WOLVERINE RANGERS SECRETARY—COSMOPOLITAN CHRISTINE

248-528-0440 Secretary@wolverinerangers.org

MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATORS — HORSEMAN TWEED AND HORSEMAN'S TROUBLE

616-890-9335 Memberservices@wolverinerangers.org

WEBMASTER—LAPORTE LIL

SeniorWebLady@wolverinerangers.org

EPITAPH EDITOR—OUTRIDER OUTLAW

epitapheditor@wolverinerangers.org

MARKETING DIRECTOR—POSITION OPEN

SASS RO-I & RO-II CLASSES—POSITION OPEN



WOLVERINE RANGERS

Dave & Karen Silvis

821 Tanner Lake Road

Hastings, MI 49058