



# Wolverine Rangers Epitaph



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# WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



## ★ Captain's Corner ★

Howdy pards,

As I write this from my makeshift home office; I wish I could be writing this Captain's Corner after shooting a few matches and a great start to the 2020 shooting season. Unfortunately, that is not the case this year.

I hope that this Epitaph reaches you happy and healthy during this peculiar time we are facing. The current "COVID-19 – Stay at Home Order" not only pushes us to deal with difficult choices and situations we had never dreamed of, it also pushes us to see the bigger picture. The importance of faith, family, friends as well as our overall safety and well-being. I hope that during these tough times you have been able to reflect on the meaning and importance of these critical aspects of life. I am sure you are all missing your cowboy family as much as I am.

We have quite a challenge moving forward and starting to open up our clubs to start shooting again this month. I have been in contact with some cowboy shooters lately and see that we are all getting that stir-crazy itch to get back to shooting.

In order to open our clubs this month and throughout the summer, there will be varying levels of safety protocols that will need to be followed. These may be different between clubs depending on how each host club's board of directors determines what will be required to allow the shooting public to return

to the range. Please note that these will likely be fluid and adjusted as matches open up and restrictions change.

SASS has published a bulletin this week that outlines their minimum recommended guidelines titled "Best Practices for Conducting Matches in a COVID-19 Environment". This bulletin is printed in this Epitaph, posted on our website and posted on the SASS Wire. Please read it. I urge all of our clubs to adhere to these current SASS guidelines. I know that the upcoming 2020 Wolverine Rangers Range War will follow these guidelines and will review/implement any updates as they are posted.

I do not believe in the marketing scheme that calls this our "new normal". We all can say this is not normal. While wearing masks and gloves is not ideal, we should consider this to be a temporary solution and endure this hindrance for the safety of our members and fellow shooters. I won't choose sides on whether these precautions help or not, but I will suggest we err on the side of caution for now. I would hate to see a scenario where we did not social distance or wear masks and we lost some of our friends because of it.

Please keep your fellow shooters in mind. If you feel sick, have been sick in the last 2-3 weeks, or been in contact with someone that has COVID-19, please do not attend the match.

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Ok, enough of the tough news. Let's talk about the positives of the 2020 season and our upcoming Range War.

I would like to thank Snareman, Bad River Marty, Cosmopolitan Christine, RJ Law and Deuce for their hard work and dedication to the Wolverine Rangers throughout their tenure. With all of their help and guidance over the past year and especially early on this year they have helped us transition smoothly through this changing of the guard. I speak for Lead-foot Luke, Bad Brass, Carolina Belle, Three Gun Cole and myself in saying that we have all welcomed the challenge and are working closely to ensure we continue to have the fun and enjoyable Range War that we have come to expect each year. All of our contact info is on the website and also at the end of this Epitaph under "Who to Contact".

On February 8<sup>th</sup> we had a board of directors meeting, with 20 attendees. We discussed the budget and plan for this year's Range War and the Annual Free Membership Shoot. I read a resignation letter from Bad River Marty and we unanimously voted in Bad Brass to the First Lieutenant position. The Lost Egg was also unanimously voted in as Marketing Director.

This year's membership calendars went out in late March. We utilized a new software and vendor this year, and there is a ton of new and updated information on the pages. If you did not receive a copy of the calendar, please let me know and we will get one out to you. Also, we have a few extras if you would like an additional one for yourself or to hang one up in your club you can contact me. We also sell extra or replacement Wolverine Rangers Badges if you would like one of those

On May 26<sup>th</sup> the executive board convened for a teleconference board meeting. Current safety concerns were discussed, but mainly we focused on the planning items for Range War.

As of May 29<sup>th</sup> our current membership stands at 190 members. This includes life members, 45 spouses, 7 juniors and 6 new members this year. As usual at this time of the year we still have a few members that have not renewed. A full membership report will be shared at the Free Membership Shoot.

Our annual Free Membership Shoot this year will be hosted by the Sucker Creek Saddle & Gun Club in Breckenridge on July 18<sup>th</sup>. More details will be posted on the website and in the July Epitaph.

The planning for Range War 2020 is well underway, and we are seeing applications coming in every week, many of which are from out of state shooters. If you have not looked at the Range War page on the website recently please do so. There is a lot of information posted there for you. The schedule of events is updated, and we have added a BAMB side match that is new to the shoot this year. The Lost Egg has done a fantastic job of posting new information as soon as it becomes available.

We have a couple of new host hotels with discounted rates for our shooters this year. In addition to the Baymont, the Super 8 and the Best Western have agreed to some pretty aggressive discounts to their normal rates. Please give them a try and let us know how they did.

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One thing we are looking to do this year is to support our local cowboy vendors. As this year has been tough on so many of us, we feel that we should try to support as many local cowboys as possible. If you or someone you know makes cowboy gear or cowboy related merchandise, please contact me. I would like to discuss the possibility of purchasing raffle prizes, door prizes, shooter's gifts, etc. from you this year

Finally, there are so many people to keep in your thoughts and prayers, almost too many to list. Please take a few minutes to say a prayer for all of those in need; our fallen heroes as Memorial Day has just passed; our first responders and health care workers; all of our active and retired service men and women; our

cowboy friends that have passed on this year and their families; all of our friends and families that have lost their jobs during the COVID-19 crisis; and all of the people who have been uprooted by the flooding near Midland.

I look forward to seeing you all at the range soon.

Best regards,



Sinola Kid  
Captain-Wolverine Rangers

## Best Practices for Conducting Matches in a COVID-19 Environment

**2**020 has brought a whole new set of

challenges across the globe and as restrictions for gatherings have begun to be eased in many parts of the world, many clubs have begun readying themselves to begin holding matches again. SASS' number one priority has always been the safety of our members. As such, we have composed the below "Best Practices for Safety" guideline. Please understand this is only an outline meant to provide guidance. Above and beyond (or below) what is listed, all local and state mandates and restrictions pertaining to the COVID-19 Pandemic specific to your area take priority and must always be followed.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication as we move forward with a vision of remaining the world's greatest- and safest- shooting sport.

### **Administration & Liability**

Clubs should consult legal counsel regarding an amendment to their general liability waiver to include a release from liability due to exposure to any infectious disease, including COVID-19.

- Sample: *An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 and other infectious disease exists in any public place where people are present. COVID-19 is a contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. By signing this waiver, the individual understands and assumes all risks related to exposure to any infectious disease, including COVID-19.*

### **General Safety**

Do not attend the event/match if any symptoms of COVID-19 exist, if you are feeling unwell in any way, have been exposed yourself, or have had contact with anyone exposed to COVID-19.

If you are 65 years or older and have serious medical conditions, please consider the increased risk prior to participation.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, should be a priority and the responsibility of the individual. Adhere to all local regulations regarding masks. Do not dispose of PPE items on the range. All PPE should be taken with the attendee to be disposed of at home.

Drinking water stations that include cups and water jugs should be eliminated. All competitors should bring their own water and snacks. If the host club/range is providing water, offer individual bottled water.

Whenever possible, the host club/range should have handwashing stations/supplies readily available. Gloves are no substitute for handwashing!

Maintain 6' distancing at all times.

SASS members are friendly! In most cases, our SASS friends are some we have not seen in a while. Avoid the instinct to engage in hugs and handshakes and embraces. Introduce a new (fun) way to engage each other instead. (tap elbows, feet, fist bumps, etc.)

Avoid indoor activities. Whenever possible, keep folks outside in the fresh air. Move any previously indoor interactions to an outdoor location.

Thoroughly clean and disinfect all match supplies and registration/gathering areas prior to and after all activities.

### **Registration/Safety Briefings/Awards**

Set up registration and one-on-one interactions outdoors whenever possible.

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## Best Practices for Conducting Matches in a COVID-19 Environment (continued)

Safety briefings should now include all COVID-19 restrictions, requirements, and guidance to all attendees.

Do not hand off any awards or certificates, including clean match pins to any contestant. Prepare awards prior to the engagement by disinfecting them individually. Awards and pins should be individually bagged whenever possible. Place awards on a table or surface and ask that the individual pick it up.

### Posse Guidelines

Posse Marshals/Posse Leaders should be selected and educated in advance to be prepared for the environment.

Depending on your local restrictions, limit posse size in accordance. (5 people/10 people, etc.)

Posse members must maintain 6' distancing at all times.

Handling of firearms: avoid handling/touching another person's firearms or supplies whenever possible. In the event of a squib or firearm malfunction, modifications in behavior should be made to keep the firearm in the owner's hands only. If a match official needs to handle a competitor's firearm in an assist, all necessary precautions must be taken. (Gloves, handwashing, sanitizer, etc.)

Do not utilize designated spotting sticks or spotting flags for spotters that are handed off. Use a disposable marker of some kind for spotters to be identified.

Scorekeeping, when possible, should be handled by as few people as needed. Fresh gloves are recommended for each hand off scorekeeping equipment. If using electronic scoring tablets, place the tablet in a bag to avoid contamination. Designate pens for paper scorekeeping and eliminate any requirement for the shooter to initial his score at each stage to avoid passing off pens and paper as much as possible. Eliminate individual shooter score cards being completed by the scorekeeper. Shooters should

maintain their own scorecards if desired.

If targets need to be reset, designate as few posse members as possible. Gloves are recommended for each rotation of tasks that require handling any object by any posse member.

### Time to Shoot!

Maintain 6' distance at all times.

The competitor may remove mask when shooting.

No more than 5 people on the firing line. (Shooter, TO, 3 Spotters)

No more than 2 people at the loading/unloading tables- one on each end.

The TO should wear gloves when handling the timer and the timer should be prepared by being freshly wrapped (plastic wrap or plastic bag) or disinfected between hand-offs to/from alternating TOs. Personal timers are recommended if possible to avoid the handing off situation altogether.

Designated Brass pickers should use tools to retrieve brass and generally avoid handling another shooters brass. Gloves worn by brass pickers is recommended.

### SASS RO Training Courses

**All current COVID-19 restrictions for safe practices must always be followed.**

Limit class size in accordance with your local gathering numbers.

Maintain 6' distance at all times.

Observe all guidelines for range time (ROII) as indicated in this document.

# ★ Shooting News ★

## Another of the founders of the Wolverine Rangers has passed

William “Bill” Felice died May 1, 2020 at the age of 75. Bill was a long time member of the Lapeer County Sportsman Club and a member of the old Oxford Sportsman Club, which later moved to Lapeer County when Oxford lost the property they were using to development.

But more importantly to the Wolverine Rangers, Bill Felice, aka “Ricochet Bill”, was one of the original 7 founding members of the Wolverine Rangers.

The organization was started at the Oxford Sportsman Club in 1996, by Ed Smith (Dakota Doc), Paula Smith (Cactus Kay), Bill Felice

(Ricochet Bill), Phillis Felice (Tender Foot Tess), Andy Moir (Rusty Steele), Wallace Liiley (Wall-Man) and myself Jim Malcolm (J.A. Wilder). Oxford was the only place in the state at that time shooting SASS.

Bill and Phillis married in 1966. He retired from the City of Pontiac. Bill was a veteran of the United States Army.

Submitted by Jim Malcolm (aka J. A. Wilder)

## Rocky River Regulators of DSC– Utica

Here is the current news from DSC Utica. The DSC Board of Director’s just voted to open the outdoor ranges according to specific range Covid-19 Protocols and compliance with the current Governor’s Executive Order. The DSC Utica cowboy action range is open ONLY to current DSC members; it is not open to the public (as of May 24<sup>th</sup> when this article was written). As such, I have been cancelling all PUBLIC activities on the Wolverine Rangers

website until the DSC Board position and the Governor’s EO is modified or rescinded. Please check the Wolverine Ranger’s website often to get the most up to date information on our match schedule.

Until then, be safe and I hope to see you all at DSC Utica soon.

J.J. Longley



## Johnson Creek Regulators - Plymouth

This is the most difficult article I've had to write for the Epitaph. Since we last visited, The Johnson Creek Regulator's lost several pard, the country has been shut down by the COVID 19 pandemic and our sport has come to a virtual standstill.

It was with great sadness that we learned club Deputy Bird Dog Jesse passed away in December shortly after having been released from the hospital. In February, long time JCR member Gentleman Gus was taken from us. Other friends that were lost included Poco Loco, Catlow, Colonel Blaze, Big Duke, Nine Finger Bob and Beer Belly Willie.



Bird Dog Jesse on the firing line at Plymouth

As with other clubs, our warm up match scheduled for March and our April and May matches were cancelled. We are expecting to open for our first match in June; however the match is going to be severely limited. Our parent club, Western Wayne County Conservation Association placed severe limits on all events scheduled for June.

Unfortunately, our June match will be **restricted to WWCCA members only**. Other limitations for this match will include a limit of 10 shooters, mandatory wearing of masks and elimination of lunches. Again, these restrictions were placed on us by our parent club, WWCCA, **not** the JCR crew. We are hopeful that it will be back to business as usual for our July match.

In the meantime, in an effort to keep our friends involved, we are going to be offering a **Mail in Match** option for June.

They say plagiarism is the best form of flattery, and we are stealing this idea from the Tennessee Mountain Marauders. Our June match will be shot on a single stage setup with five distinct and separate sets of stage instructions. The match can be shot on paper or steel. Prior to match day, we will send out stage setup instructions and publish it on our Facebook page and the SASS Forum Wire. The day before our match the stages will be published in the same resources. Our friends will have a three day window to shoot the match on their own range or club range and report the scores to us. We will post the scores along with our club scores on the Wolverine Ranger score page. For further information, contact Sarge at [mzsenyuk@aol.com](mailto:mzsenyuk@aol.com).

“Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. Comes into us at midnight very clean. It's perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we've learnt something from yesterday.” John Wayne.



## The Shooter's Stance

### What's the Call?

Here are a couple interesting "What's the Call?" items.

#### #1

Shooter has completed the stage with no misses.

At the unloading table the Rifle and SG have been cleared, first revolver has been cleared and okayed. Shooter goes to holster it and misses holster and drops it on the ground

Is there a call and if so, what is it?

#### #2

Stage instructions are 10 pistol, 10 rifle 4+ shotgun.

ATB Engage the 3 pistol targets in any order placing at least 2 shots on each target. Double taps are okay.

Move to the rifle and engage the 3 rifle targets in any order

Move to the shotgun and engage the 4 shotgun targets in any order. Targets

must fall and may be made up.

ATB the shooter accidentally picks up his rifle and chambers a round. Realizing his mistake before firing the rifle he jacks out the chambered round and sets the action open rifle down onto the table. He then draws his pistols and engages the pistol targets as instructed.

The shooter then picks up the rifle and inserts a round to replace the one that was previously ejected. All targets are hit in the prescribed manner.

He then moves to the shotgun and engages the targets as instructed.

No misses.

The shooter goes to the unloading table and satisfactorily clears all guns.

Is there a call and if so, what is it?

Answers appear on the next page

## Editor's Corner

### What's the Call answers

#### #1 Stage Disqualification

Any dropped unloaded firearm on the firing line."  
SHB p.23 (SDQ)

"Firing line – from first firearm placed on the loading table until all firearms are confirmed as cleared at the unloading table."  
SHB p.45 (Glossary of Terms)

#### #2 Minor Safety

SHB page 16

Safe Conditions During a Course of Fire – Rifles

A rifle is considered SAFE to leave the shooter's hands in the following condition only:

- Empty.
- Hammer fully down on an empty chamber or spent round, action closed (restaged for further use).

SHB page 23

Minor Safety Violation (MSV) infractions include:

- Leaving empty or live round(s) in a magazine, action, or carrier of the long gun in which it was loaded.

## ☆ 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—SINOLA KID**

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



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