



Wolverine Rangers Epitaph



Volume 24, Issue 1

May, 2021

Howdy Pard,

It's been a long and busy winter, but now that spring is here it seems like it was over so quickly. I hope you are all doing well and have stayed happy and healthy. Covid challenges still affect most everyone in one way or another every day. Vaccines are readily available in most areas if you are inclined to get one. While some restrictions in Michigan are ongoing, many have relaxed and allow us to go out and feel a little bit back to normal.

In December we had our annual Board of Directors elections. Carolina Belle (Secretary) and I (Captain) were re-elected for a two-year term. We also elected our board of directors members at large for 2021: Doc Noper, Hey Sugar, hOOt Hamilton, J.C. Wade, Sarge and Steady Eddie were re-elected. We welcomed two new board members this year in J.J. Hunter and Shiloh Red. Members at large are elected to a one-year term.

On February 13th we held a Board Meeting at Saginaw. It was a cold snowy day, but it was warm inside the clubhouse. We discussed many topics from membership, marketing, treasurer's report, to the 2021 Rangers and Ranger War budgets. Our next board meeting will be held on May 15th after the shoot in Breckenridge. We will stay in the pavilion after lunch and the results to conduct the meeting. Any Wolverine Rangers member is welcome to stay and attend the meeting.

This past winter we were able to attend a couple of winter shoots at Lapeer. This was a first for us and it was really fun. It's sort of an indoor/outdoor experience. They have a great set up and outdoor heaters to keep it comfortable. I highly recommend giving it a try next winter if you can make it. Here are a couple of pictures: one of Horse Whisperer George Metis, another where he is shooting while Bad Brass is timing, and one of the targets out in the deep snow we had in February.



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WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



★ Captain's Corner ★

We also made the trip up to shoot an indoor match at Hillman in March. We drove up Friday night and camped with Sarge at his cabin. It made for a short drive to the range Saturday morning. Thank you Sarge for the hospitality, we had a lot of fun. Faygo Kid and Eleanor Jewel put on a fun shoot. Indoor shoots don't allow shotgun rounds so dummy shells can be used; or if you choose to you can shoot another rifle or pistol instead. Shooting cardboard inside instead of steel sure makes spotting easier. Here are a couple of photos from that day: Faygo timing Eleanor, JC Wade timing for Faygo and Hey Sugar running dummy shells thru her '97.



Now we are into April the start of the new Wolverine Rangers cowboy year. Membership packets, Range War 2021 applications and the 2021-2022 Rangers calendars were sent out to all Rangers members. Of course, with the current state of the postal service there were a few that were returned to us, but these have been mailed back out. If you renewed your membership and didn't get your packet yet please let me know. We tried to add some flair to the calendars this year. I hope you like the content and quality. (Sorry to Saginaw for missing the listing for their May shoot). We have a few new members this year and with all the current renewals we are right where we were last year in April with 185 current members. Don't forget to renew if you haven't done so already.

JC Wade and I were able to make it to a few Rangers shoots in April. Lapeer, Fenton and Sturgis. The best part of each shoot could be summed up into one same sentence. "It was great to get out and see our cowboy family."

Here are a few pictures from each shoot. Lapeer: Don't forget that Lapeer has added a wild bunch 3 stage match after most of their cowboy shoots this year.

Sarge showing us how Gunfighter is done.



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Old Doc Potter, timed by Flat Water Johnny



Fenton
Leadfoot Luke watching Bad Brass burndown a stage.



Wildcat Maverick timed by Bad Brass and the new mine prop wall.



Sturgis
Match Director Johnny Rebel and his 1866, Cayuse Jack timing him.



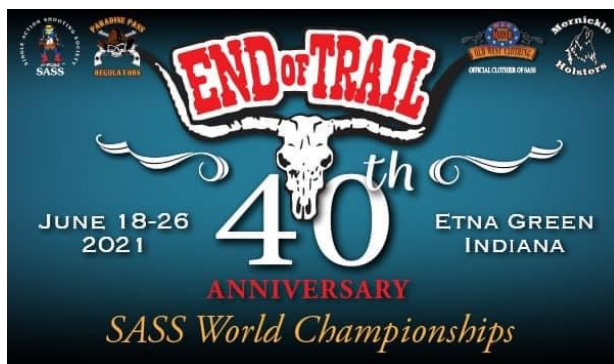
While not all the targets were smiling at us, the pistol and rifle targets really stood out with the bright paint jobs.



Last weekend we made the trek down to Middletown, Ohio for "Smoke in the Woods." This annual two-day match is the SASS Northeast Territorial Black Powder Championship. This is a challenging 12 stage match that Lassiter presents. The amount of smoke throughout the weekend is amazing. I bring up this shoot as I want to recognize two Wolverine Rangers who excelled and made us proud. Crazy Mingo won his category and was one of only a few Clean shooters. 12 stages of black powder and clean is very impressive. I also want to say how proud of JC Wade I am. Although he hasn't shot black powder in the last couple of years, he placed in the top ten, in eighth place overall. With the class of shooters at this event this is a fantastic finish for this young man.

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End of Trail, the SASS World Championship is being held, for one year only, in Etna Green, Indiana at Paradise Pass. The Cowboy match filled up in less than an hour once the applications went live. 500 shooters in that short time. Currently we have 37 shooters from Michigan that will be attending, many more on the wait list. Note: although the cowboy match is at capacity, the Wild Bunch Championship is still open if you would like to sign up and shoot. We currently have seven Michigan shooters signed up for Wild Bunch. Even if you can't make it to shoot, think about coming to watch and shop all of the vendors that will be there, some 40 plus cowboy vendors. JJ Hunter will be there as an official EOT vendor this year, ask her about what custom EOT items she can make for you.



Another great event that was held this spring was a new shooter clinic and practice day at the Johnson's Creek Regulators in Plymouth. This event was held to promote new shooters to come and see what cowboy action is all about and give it try. The cowboys at Plymouth are doing a very good job of recruiting new shooters. For more info about how it was setup and why it was so successful contact Sarge. It was a little late and some had already left, but here is a picture of the happy bunch at the end of the day.



This picture is of Rainmaker Ray and Not Dead Ed helping a new Buckaroo through his first stage



Our annual Wolverine Rangers Free Membership shoot will be held at Saginaw on July 10th. All Rangers members shoot for free. After lunch and the results, we will hold our annual meeting in the clubhouse. We will be giving away a free entry to our 2021 SASS Regional in Minnesota, a free entry to Range War 2021 and a few other fun giveaways we are working on. Hope to see everyone there.

Range War 2021:

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages, we are updating the information often for Range War. I will have a longer report in the June Epitaph, but I want to touch on some key items. Three Gun Cole, our Match Director, is writing the stages early this year. We will be reviewing them the first of June, I can't wait.

For the last 20+ years we have held Range War at the Bluewater Sportsman's Association. Bluewater has one of the largest memberships, if not the most members of any shooting club in Michigan. We only have a few cowboy shooters who are members there. Bordertown Hombre and Wildcat Maverick have done a great job over these years as our liaisons to Bluewater.

Due to declining cowboy monthly match attendance, Bluewater will not be hosting any monthly matches this year. The only cowboy event will be Range War. In order to keep Range War at Bluewater, Bad Brass, Lead-foot Luke and I went to Bluewater and met with their board of directors. We were able to come to an agreement that benefits both the Wolverine Rangers and Bluewater Sportsman's Association. We have signed a three-year contract that will allow us to continue Range War as we know it for 2021, 2022 and 2023. Please let me know if you are interested in any of the details of the agreement.

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As a final Range War note I want to let everyone know that we have signed a contract with a new golf cart vendor for 2021. The information for the cart rental is on our website on the Range War page. The cost this year is about half of what it was last year. Please contact me to reserve a cart or for any further info. A special thank you to Carolina Belle for finding this new vendor and getting the contract signed. I am sure our golf cart users will appreciate the lower cost this year.

I look forward to seeing you all this season,

Sinola Kid

★ Shooting News ★

Rocky River Regulators of DSC (Utica)

The 2021 Cowboy Action shooting season started with a bang. Twenty competitors and picture-perfect Michigan weather contributed to a fun and fast April match. Although DSC has a Covid protocol on all of its outdoor ranges, wearing a mask and staying six feet apart did not slow down the Cowboys. After the dust was cleared from the shootin' irons and the scores were calculated "old school" (with paper and pencil) the top gun award went to J.J. Longley, followed closely by Rifle Rick and Beaver Creek Boy. Shooting clean matches were Bad Brass, Jack Holladay, and John Weston.

By the time this goes to print the first Wild Bunch match at DSC will be in the books.

Coming events on the DSC range include...

Sunday, May 2, 2021 Service Rifle Match

Saturday, May 8, 2021 3- Gun Match

Sunday, May 16, 2021 Cowboy Action Match

Sunday, May 23, 2021 Wild Bunch Match

So, you can see there is plenty of shootin' at DSC. Just wear a mask and come out and join the fun.

See you on the range.

J.J. Longley



Hidden Valley Cowboys - Sturgis

The Valley had 26 shooters for our season opener on Sunday and the weather was perfect for Cowboy Shooting, and great to see all the visitors stop in and ask questions.

This match we had 5 Clean shooters, Keelhaul, Rover, Sarge, Sauk Valley Stubby and Triple Threat, Congratulations!

I would like to thank Cayuse Jack for helping me out with posse duties great Cowboy always willing to help out when needed.

We had a Birthday Sunday... Happy Birthday Ms Blazin!

Krista and Tommy did a fantastic job as always with Coffee and Donuts, and our lunch.

I have a great posse that helps set up on the Sunday before our shoot thank you, Mike, Triple Threat, Stubby, Ya Big Tree, Tommy Two Fingers, and Ka Adik Krista.

Our next shoot will be May 16, 2021. 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.

Johnny Rebel
574-349-3764



Straight Shots from Saginaw

Spring in Saginaw has been jumping from warm days to cool days to even a few flakey days tossed in. But, the weather did not stop us from starting our Wednesday night practices on April 14th.

Our first match for 2021 is Saturday, May 8th, with the rest of our Saturday shoots as follows: June 12th, July 10th, August 28th and October 9th. Our shoots will be pretty much like last year: same entry fees, same times, will serve lunches, and any pandemic rules that must be followed, will be. We'll offer a mini-Wild Bunch shoot after the main match. We're looking forward to seeing many of our pards, and hopefully, some new shooters will be joining in or coming to watch.

Saginaw will also be hosting the Wolverine Ranger's free membership shoot and meeting on the July 10th shoot date. We hope to have a fun shoot, good food, and great fellowship that day and sure hope you can join in.

The construction of new bays in Saginaw is progressing right along. Last year a large number of trees were cut

down and in the following months, they have been removed and berms are in place, and more work continues. We hope to have electricity in our pistol building sometime in early summer (June???) but us cowboys always make-do so we can shoot. If you are interested, you can check out some aerial photos of the progress being made by visiting the Field & Stream club website. <https://saginawfieldandstream.com/events-photos/>

There are two special days in May coming up where we like to honor some very special people. Mother's Day is on May 9th and we hope you are able to let those wonderful gals in your life know how much they mean to you. And...Memorial Day is Monday, May 31st. It's a time to recognize the fallen who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms this country treasures and continues to fight for. God bless America!!

We hope to see you all real soon. Until then.... remember to live life. Give it your best shot.

Bad River Marty & Katie Callahan

Johnson Creek Regulators - Plymouth

It's been a busy Spring for the Cowboys of the Johnson Creek Regulator's. Last fall, Sarge was elected Sheriff and Wild Dogie was elected Deputy. We've made an effort to make our monthly meetings more educational with informational seminars. We've also made an effort to attract new shooters. As a result, we've had as many as twelve new shooters contact us inquiring about Cowboy Action Shooting.

As a club, we made a decision to allow adult competitors to compete with .22 caliber firearms. In addition, we will allow shooters to compete with only one handgun. Adults competing with .22 caliber firearms will be placed in the Shepherd category. They will be eligible for overall match winner. Those competing with one handgun will be placed in the Sodbuster category. Sodbuster is considered to be an exhibition category and will not be eligible for overall match winner. The current ammunition shortage and an effort to entice new shooters into the game were our reasons for these changes.

On April 24th, 1885 Nate Salsbury hired Little Miss Sure Shot, Annie Oakley, to be a part of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. 136 years later, 28 sharpshooters arrived on the shore of Johnson Creek to try their hand at a bit of Cowboy Action Shooting.



Rain threatened, but the JCR crew put a wet weather package in place, with Will Henry writing the stages. Seven new shooters introduced

themselves at the safety briefing. Welcomed were William Belmont, Dutch Schutter, Doc June, Josh 2 Gun, Boot Hill, Morgan Lane and Doc Brandel. We also welcomed back some faces we had not seen in a while including Beaver Creek Boy, Rogues Pierre, and Major Frank North. Iron Jennie was the lucky winner of the 50-50 drawing.

First up was our side match with a free match as the prize. The side match consisted of 5 pistol targets and 5 rifle targets spaced at 20 yards. Shooter to place one rifle and one pistol round on each target. Will Henry won the side match, with accuracy being the key to his win. Each month, JCR will run a side match, with the winner, winning a free match good for either the 2021 or 2022 seasons (limited to one free match in a season). The match was a spirited affair. Sarge took first place

overall with an adjusted time of 120.52. Wolverine Regulator placed second overall and first in the Wrangler class. Broke N West was third overall and first in the Elder Statesman Category. In his first match, Dutch Schutter placed ninth overall and first in the 49er category. J. Bird Regulator was top Buckaroo with Josh 2 Gun second. Top Junior Cowboy was Pancho Amigo. Other category winners were Rainmaker Ray (B-Western), Beaver Creek Boy (Cattle Baron), Doc June (Cowboy, in his first match), Marshall C Lawless (Gunfighter), Kerfuffle Katie (Lady 49er), Iron Jennie (Lady Senior), Slow Gin Ricky (Senior), Single Barrel Bob (Silver Senior) and Rogues Pierre (Silver Senior Duelist).

Our next club meeting is Wednesday May 12 at 6:30 pm. Slow Gin Ricky and Deadwood Denise will be presenting a short seminar on costuming. Our May match will be on the 22nd. In addition to our Side Match and Main Match, we will host a Swap Meet. There is no charge to put out a table. With all of the new shooters attending, they will be looking for gear. As always, we expect sales of any firearms to be in compliance with all State and Federal Statutes.

"Aim for the high mark and you will hit it. No, not the first time, not the second time and maybe not the third time. But keep on aiming and keep on shooting for only practice will make you perfect. Finally, you'll hit the bull's-eye of success." (Annie Oakley)



☆ WHO TO CONTACT ☆

CAPTAIN

- Any Wolverine Ranger or Range War Concerns
- Vendor Registration and Information

RANGE WAR MATCH DIRECTOR

- Volunteer to help with Range War

WOLVERINE RANGER 'S 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

☆ 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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