



Wolverine Rangers Epitaph



Volume 24, Issue 4

August, 2021



Photo courtesy of Riverview Rattler and Chica



WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



★ Captain's Corner ★

Howdy Pard,

Well, the summer is just flying by. It is already August and Range War is just a month away. I hope you all have been able to get out and shoot at some of our amazing cowboy clubs. Although we all enjoy the same sport, each club has its own charm and appeal. Make sure you take the time to try a new club or two this year, you won't regret it.

Our annual Wolverine Rangers Free Membership shoot was held at Saginaw on July 10th. We had just over 60 shooters and 58 Wolverine Rangers members stayed for the annual meeting.

Here are a few of the topics and highlights of the meeting:

We are looking for side match volunteers for Range War's Friday side matches. Each volunteer that spends an hour working at the event will be entered into a drawing for a special raffle prize.

The swap meet will be set up near the big tents. If you want to set up and don't want to bring a table, you can set up under the tents and use the tables provided. Please return them to the condition you found them in when done. See Sarge for set up on the range.

Reminder that all clubs can and should send in articles to be posted in the Epitaph. As well as any member that wishes to do so. They can be sent to the Epitaph editor or myself for entry. These are usually due in the last week of the month. Please also send in your match results after each shoot to the web administrator.

Clean match awards. This year's winners were Riverview Rattler and Hey Sugar. You can view the info and their pictures with their award buckles on the clean match page of our website.

We also discussed Range War, but I will cover that later.

This year the board decided to award another Wolverine Rangers "Life Member," our 12th. This award is for someone who exemplifies the cowboy spirit, brings joy to everyone they are around at the range, promotes the Wolverine Rangers and tirelessly works to make everyone's shoot a better experience. Please join us in congratulating hOOt Hamilton on this achievement. Although hOOt was not able to be at the meeting, we will present him with his award and certificate at a later date.

Lastly at the end of the meeting we held our raffle. We had quite a few items to raffle off this year. The largest prizes were won by:

Gunsmoke Entry – Cardshark Charlie
Range War Entry – Hey Sugar
Rangers Logo'd custom cornhole board set –
Ethan Callahan

Other prizes included: a free two-day shoot at Breckenridge, a free entry for the Hillman three-day shoot, and some new Rangers logo merchandise.

Range War 2021 will be held at Bluewater Sportsman's Association in Kimball, MI on Sept. 3rd – 5th, 2021. **There are no restrictions this year for the number of entries, we will be fully open to all those who register.** Alexander's banquet facility is excited to have us back for Sunday dinner and awards.

We are excited to be open to all shooters again this year. We hope that the US Border will open to allow our Canadian pards across, but this is still yet to be determined. Any Canadian shooters can reach out to Carolina Belle or myself to discuss their sign-up options.

All our current information about the match is on our website. <https://www.wolverinerangers.org/RW.html>

This includes the informational flyer, golf cart rental information, hotel info and discounts, camping info, the schedule of events, cancellation policy and the Canadian Invitation letter, etc... More info will be posted each week leading up to the match. We just posted our shooters list as of last week and will update it again soon. We will also be posting the vendors list, match stages and more so check the website often.

Of course, the shooter and vendor registration forms are also available on the website; as well as both mail in and online versions. By the time you read this we will be past our registration deadline for the Free T-Shirt or Towel, but that doesn't mean we are closing registration. While we would like to know as soon as possible if you are going to join us for Range War, we will continue to take registrations through August. If you have any questions or concerns about registering contact Carolina Belle or myself.

All registrations received as of 7/28/21 have had confirmations sent via email. If you didn't list an email on the registration form your confirmations have been mailed to you. Please let Carolina Belle know if you need to make any changes.

We will be having a Range Officer class on Thursday September 2nd at Noon in the clubhouse. This class will be led by Lassiter. We have yet to determine if this will be ROI or ROII. This information will be set in the next week and will be posted on the website and Facebook.

All shooters that listed that they were interested in an RO class will be contacted. This class will be open to all Rangers members, even if they are not shooting Range War. Fees will be posted for both new students and those refreshing their knowledge.

Please remember to check our website for changes and updates to the match schedule. This is where the most current information is posted. When we have changes or cancellations you will see them there.

Please note that we have a few golf carts still available for rent. See the flyer on the website for more info. Also, an EMS Ambulance has been scheduled to be on-site again this year during the match. Hopefully we won't need their assistance, but they are there if we do.

I look forward to seeing you all at Range War 2021 it will be here before we know it,

Sinola Kid



★ Shooting News ★

Rocky River Regulators of DSC (Utica)

On Sunday, July 18th the DSC range reopened after some improvements to our berms and drainage field. The weather also cooperated with 27 competitors shooting under blue skies and moderate temperature. The stages were made up of SE Regional and EOT stages that were fast and furious.

The competitors shot well with half the attendees shooting clean. Shooting clean were Attica Jack, Beaver Creek Boy, Camptown, Hey Sugar, J.J. Longley, John Weston, Lead Foot Luke, Nevada Gambler, Old Doc Potter, Rifle Rick, Rodent, Soaring Redhawk, and Wildcat Maverick. Top finishers were Lead Foot

Luke, J.J. Longley, Rifle Rick, and Hey Sugar.

Our next Cowboy match is Sunday, August 15th. We will once again feature some stages from the SE Regional, WRRW, and EOT including (hopefully) our new falling plate rack. Come out and tune your skills prior to the Wolverine Rangers War over Labor Day weekend. This match is a relaxed dress match, so wear your WRRW tee shirt to the match.

See you on the range.
J.J. Longley

Butcher Butte Bunch - Fenton

Sunday, July 11 started out looking rather bleak. The sky was threatening rain. The various weather apps made it seem like maybe, just maybe, we'd be able to run the match though.

Because of the threat of rain and in the interest of a quick set-up and tear-down, Grubby Hardrock had written a match that used only two of the shooting bays at Fenton Lakes Sportsman's Club. But we still shot 5 stages on those two bays.

We had a posse of only 7 competitors but we all pitched in with the required jobs and got it done. While we were shooting stages 4 and 5

the rain started to fall on us. We finished the match and since there were only two bays used tear down went quickly.

The next match (August 8) will be set up on only 2 bays so there won't be as much moving of gun carts, etc. as there has been in the past.

The August match will be the last match at Fenton for 2021. The September match has been cancelled and the entire outdoor range area (except for sporting clays) will be undergoing some much needed maintenance with the berms being completely re-worked. Hoping to see you all next year at our first match of 2022.

Johnson Creek Regulators - Plymouth

Unfortunately, our June match was cancelled because of severe and dangerous thunderstorm warnings. There were concerns that the same fate might befall our July 24 match on the National Day of the Cowboy. Steps were taken to protect the Cowboys and Cowgirls from the weather. Despite the threat, weather held off until later in the evening.

Our Limited Mobility Match was well attended, with 33 shooters taking advantage of the stand/sit and deliver match. We welcomed a number of new shooters including Doc Shatterhand, Boot Hill, Nebraska Nate, Kansas Kenny and Sheriff Winter. Although movement was limited the match was challenging with only Old Doc Potter and Honest Abe earning clean match pins.

In keeping with the idea of limiting movement, our Side Match/ Free Match shoot was combined with Stage 3 of the match. Stage 3 was set up to SASS' specifications for World Record attempts. Wolverine Regulator was the winner of the Side Match, cleaning the stage with a time of 29.36.

A pair of Father/ Son combos took four of the top five spots. Sinola Kid took overall honors with 133.82 edging out his son, JC Wade by 5 seconds. JBird Regulator finished fourth overall, took top Buckaroo and more importantly edged out his Dad, Wolverine Regulator by 3 seconds. Sarge finished third.

After the match, the JCR crew opened up the kitchen for the first time this year. Mrs. Sarge acted as Chief Chef serving the 33 shooters plus the numerous guests who attended our National Day of the Cowboy event.

To celebrate National Day of the Cowboy, the JCR crew invited Western Wayne County Conservation Association members and guests to try Cowboy Action Shooting, roping, Cowboy Fast Draw and listen to a little bit of music. Even though there was a threat of nasty weather, we drew quite a few guests to try the various activities. Slow Gin Ricky, Carson City Slick, Slow Lightning and Sarge kept everybody entertained playing some Cowboy tunes. Slow Gin Ricky and Slow Lightning shared a couple of their original compositions.



Our next club meeting is 6:30 pm, August 11 at the WWCCA Club house. Our next match is August 28th. We hope to see you there.

"Townes Van Zandt is the best songwriter in the whole world and I'll stand on Bob Dylan's coffee table in my cowboy boot and say that,"
Steve Earle

"I've met Bob Dylan's body guards and if Steve Earle thinks he can stand on Bob Dylan's coffee table, he's sadly mistaken." Townes Van Zandt

Hidden Valley Cowboys - Sturgis

The Valley had 32 shooters for our July match, we had 1 new shooter and 2 old friends return to the Valley this month, welcome to CJ Red, Crazy Mingo and Crossfire Dan.

This match we had 5 Clean shooters, Crazy Mingo, Ranger Mike, Sauk Valley Stubby, Snareman, Three Gun Cole, Congratulations.

I would like to thank Short Term, Three Gun Cole and Cayuse Jack for helping me out with posse duties great Cowboy's always willing to help out when needed.

I would also like to thank Krista for helping me with the registration and scoring.

Krista and Tommy did a fantastic job as always with our lunch, Taco's and all the fix-ins to go along with them and Fresh fruit my favorite.

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 August 15, 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

Sucker Creek Peacemakers - Breckenridge

We have had great weather for shooting this year at the Creek!

Our July shoot brought out 33 cowboys and cowgirls to test their shooting skills. When the dust settled, we had 7 clean shooters and Doc Noper squeezed past Three Gun Cole to claim overall cowboy.

The weather was great, and the shooting and camaraderie were the best.

Hard to believe that Range War is just around the corner...every year seems to go by faster! (Hope you're signed up for RangeWar)

Next month will feature our popular OLD School Shoot and Camping Extravaganza... so come on out to the Creek. We'll be there Wednesday thru Sunday...August 18 - 22.

We'll have our usual pot luck on Friday



night...we supply the meat. The Old School Shoot will begin around 3 pm Friday followed by the pot luck.

Saturday will be one of our regular matches...I have some fun stages planned.

The Old School Shoot will feature some crazy and fun new challenges...you won't want to miss it.

If you manage to come out early, we plan to serve breakfast on Thursday and Friday mornings. So hitch up your camper, come on and join us for a great time at the Creek.

Your Hosts,
Riverview & Chica

Straight Shots from Saginaw

Alright...who stole July? And is August going to disappear as fast???

The July 10th Free Shoot & Wolverine Ranger's membership meeting was very well attended. We even had vendor, Dutch Henry, come from North Carolina and set up his "cowboy store". We had 59 shooters with 31 shooting the match clean. Our overall winner was Three Gun Cole.

We had fun having some BIG bear and cowboy targets to shoot at. We then headed to the main club house for some excellent chuck wagon grub.

The membership meeting went well and was followed by drawings for some really nice door prizes. A big thank you to those donors who made it possible.

We have a lot of shoot pictures on the following facebook site. <https://www.facebook.com/Saginaw-six-shooters-cowboy-action-club-101893905026295/>

August is looking to be another busy shooting month. Some of our shooters will head to Ohio for the North-East Regional the middle of the month. A lot of clubs are having their special events this month. We will have our monthly shoot on August 28th and will shoot some sequences from the upcoming Michigan State Shoot, held over Labor Day in Port Huron. It's just a good time to get a better understanding how some of the scenarios go. And, it's looking like we're going to have an outstanding Range War. Hope to see you there!

I'm a thinkin' August is going to fly by even faster than July did. This means we should all get out there and enjoy what we like doing. Remember to live life. Give it your BEST shot.

Happy Trails from Bad River Marty & Katie Callahan

The Shooter's Stance

Interview with Wyatt Earp

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Wyatt Earp. It was posted on Facebook by Gunner Gatlin.

On November 3, 1930, the Saturday Evening Post published Wyatt Earp's comments that he expressed to his biographer Stuart N. Lake about gun fighting. This how it really was information sometimes contrasts with Hollywood's interpretation. The following is an excerpt from that article with Wyatt Earp in his own words:

"I was a fair hand with pistol, rifle, or shotgun, but I learned more about gun fighting from Tom Speer's cronies during the summer of '71 than I had dreamed was in the book. Those old-timers took their gunplay seriously, which was natural under the conditions in which they lived. Shooting, to them, was considerably more than aiming at a mark and pulling a trigger. Models of weapons, methods of wearing them, means of getting them into action and operating them, all to the one end of combining high speed with absolute accuracy, contributed to the frontiersman's shooting skill. The sought-after degree of proficiency was that which could turn to most effective account the split-second between life and death. Hours upon hours of practice, and wide experience in actualities supported their arguments over style. The most important lesson I learned from those proficient gunfighters was the winner of a gunplay usually was the man who took his time. The second was that, if I hoped to live long on the frontier, I would shun flashy trick shooting -- grandstand play -- as I would poison. When I say that I learned to take my time in a gunfight, I do not wish to be misunderstood, for the time to be taken was only that split fraction of a second that means the difference between deadly accuracy with a six-gun and a miss. It is hard to make this clear to a man who has never been in a gunfight. Perhaps I can best describe such time taking as going into action with the greatest speed of which a man's muscles are capable, but mentally unflustered by an urge to hurry or the need for complicated nervous and muscular actions which trick-shooting involves. Mentally deliberate, but muscularly faster than thought, is what I mean. In all my life as a frontier police officer, I did not know a really proficient gunfighter who had anything but contempt for the gun-fanner, or the man who literally shot from the hip. In later years, I read a great deal about this type of gunplay, supposedly employed by men noted for skill with a forty-five. From personal experience and numerous six-gun battles

which I witnessed, I can only support the opinion advanced by the men who gave me my most valuable instruction in fast and accurate shooting, which was that the gun fanner and hip-shooter stood small chance to live against a man who, as old Jack Gallagher always put it, took his time and pulled the trigger once.

Cocking and firing mechanisms on new revolvers were almost invariably altered by their purchasers in the interests of smoother, effortless handling, usually by filing the dog which controlled the hammer, some going so far as to remove triggers entirely or lash them against the guard, in which cases the guns were fired by thumbing the hammer. This is not to be confused with fanning, in which the triggerless gun is held in one hand while the other was brushed rapidly across the hammer to cock the gun, and firing it by the weight of the hammer itself. A skillful gun-fanner could fire five shots from a forty-five so rapidly that the individual reports were indistinguishable, but what could happen to him in a gunfight was pretty close to murder. I saw Jack Gallagher's theory borne out so many times in deadly operation that I was never tempted to forsake the principles of gun fighting as I had them from him and his associates.

That two-gun business is another matter that can stand some truth before the last of the old-time gunfighters has gone on. They wore two guns, most of six-gun toters did, and when the time came for action went after them with both hands. But they didn't shoot them that way. Primarily, two guns made the threat of something in reserve; they were useful as a display of force when a lone man stacked up against a crowd. Some men could shoot equally well with either hand, and in a gunplay might alternate their fire; others exhausted the loads from the gun on the right, or the left, as the case might be, then shifted the reserve weapon to the natural shooting hand if that was necessary and possible. Such a move -- the border shift -- could be made faster than the eye could follow a top-notch gun-thrower, but if the man was as good as that, the shift would seldom be required. Whenever you see a picture of some two-gun man in action with both weapons held closely against his hips and both spitting smoke together, you can put it down that you are looking at the picture of a fool, or a fake. . I remember quite a few of these so-called two-gun men who tried to operate everything at once, but like the fanners, they didn't last long in proficient company. . In the days of which I am talking, among men whom I have in mind, when a man went after his guns, he did so with a single, serious purpose. There was no such thing as a bluff; when a gunfighter reached for his forty-five, every faculty he owned was keyed to shooting as speedily and as accurately as possible, to making his first shot the last of the fight. . He just had to think of his gun solely as something with which to kill another before

he himself could be killed.

The possibility of intimidating an antagonist was remote, although the 'drop' was thoroughly respected, and few men in the West would draw against it. I have seen men so fast and so sure of themselves that they did go after their guns while men who intended to kill them had them covered, and what is more win out in the play. They were rare. It is safe to say, for all general purposes, that anything in gun fighting that smacked of show-off or bluff was left to braggarts who were ignorant or careless of their lives. I might add that I never knew a man who amounted to anything to notch his gun with 'credits,' as they were called, for men he had killed. Outlaws, gunmen of the wild crew who killed for the sake of brag, followed this custom. I have worked with most of the noted peace officers -- Hickok, Billy Tilghman, Pat Sughre, Bat Masterson, Charlie Basset, and others of like caliber -- have handled their weapons many times, but never knew one of them to carry a notched gun.

"I have often been asked why five shots without reloading were all a top-notch gunfighter fired, when his guns were chambered for six cartridges. The answer is, merely, safety. To ensure against accidental discharge of the gun while in the holster, due to hair-trigger adjustment, the hammer rested upon an empty chamber. As widely as this was known and practiced, the number of cartridges a man carried in his six-gun may be taken as an indication of a man's rank with the gunfighters of the old school. Practiced gun wielders had too much respect for their weapons to take unnecessary chances with them; it was only with tyros and would-bes that you heard of accidental discharges or didn't know-it-was-loaded injuries in the country where carrying a Colt's was a man's prerogative."



☆ 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*

WOLVERINE RANGERS CAPTAIN—SINOLA KID

Captain@wolverinerangers.org

RANGE WAR MATCH DIRECTOR—THREE GUN COLE

MatchDirector@wolverinerangers.org

WOLVERINE RANGERS SECRETARY—CAROLINA BELLE

Secretary@wolverinerangers.org

MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATORS — HORSEMAN TWEED AND HORSEMAN'S TROUBLE

Memberservices@wolverinerangers.org

WEBMASTER—THE LOST EGG

webdude@wolverinerangers.org

EPITAPH EDITOR—OUTRIDER OUTLAW

epitapheditor@wolverinerangers.org

MARKETING DIRECTOR—THE LOST EGG

webdude@wolverinerangers.org

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



WOLVERINE RANGERS

Dave & Karen Silvis

821 Tanner Lake Road

Hastings, MI 49058