



Wolverine Rangers Epitaph



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WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



★ Captain's Corner ★

Howdy Pard,

Well, I should have a lot to say this month about what a wonderful match Range War was this year, but it isn't all positive. Overall Range War was a successful shoot. We ended up with 125 shooters. By all accounts everyone really enjoyed the match, and the feedback was better than any year. The changes made were well received. I want to congratulate **Hey Sugar** as she was named "Top Hand" and both **Broke N West** and **Black River Bill** were named as "Range Warriors." These are the top awards in my mind that **Bad Brass** and I get to award each year.

We had an issue with scoring this year. Which I have already sent out a separate letter speaking about that. After more research and testing, we have determined the timer that was used was not functioning properly. Although it was rebuilt last year, it is definitely not picking up all shots. And as it turns out it may have affected more scores than just my own. But we just don't know. Unfortunately for me I was the only one that was targeted for the issue.

The hardest thing for me about the whole situation is that this is supposed to be an entertainment business. This sport is supposed to be fun and have the friendliest shooters in all of the shooting sports. Or as we call it "THE COWBOY WAY." What I was subjected to Sunday night, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday until I removed myself from the match was anything but the cowboy way. I was accused of cheating, score tampering, etc., etc... etc.... Even so much so that I was accused of changing the scores as a personal attack against another shooter. I think anyone that knows me would know this is not the case. I am sickened by the result and the fact I shot one of my best matches to date, only to have my entire match removed. Anyone on my posse would tell you there was no question during the match that I was smooth, fast, and shooting at the top of my game.

Our Timer Operator, and Posse Marshals were also questioned, thinking that they would gain some kind of evidence to back their position. When no evidence was found they attacked our match photographer, demanding that he pull the championship pictures he had posted on Facebook down as the scores in their mind "were tainted." I am completely sickened by the level of shooters that took to this kind of behavior.



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I will again state that all SASS rules were followed, and that I did not need to step down from the match. I did so to end the continued badgering by those who were unhappy and clearly unstable with the results. We will continue to discuss internally with our board about the next steps, and what we can do next year to avoid something that can happen at any match, at any level, anytime where timers are used. This kind of behavior is not sanctioned by SASS, nor will we put up with it as The Wolverine Rangers.

We will continue to put on a fantastic match that has been and will continue to be a destination match and an outstanding, top of the line, State Championship.

Lastly some more positives, we had shooters from all over the country, 10 States (MI, TX, PA, OH, IN, NC, FL, MT, IA, KY) and Canada again this year. We had 125 shooters. For which 72 shooters shot the side matches on Friday, 49 in the Cowboy Mini Match and 23 in the Wild Bunch Mini Match. The Saturday night side match awards and ice cream social brought in 74 shooters and guests for the event and was very successful. The lunches in the clubhouse on Friday and Saturday were well attended. Thank you to everyone that helped with food donations and cooking.

The Team vs. Team event that we did after the match on Sunday, had 36 shooters battle it out in teams of three, which is just shy of 30% of the total competitors. Add to that the 30+ non shooters there watching the teams battle it out. The turnout was awesome. Hearing everyone cheer the teams on is the type of fun that this sport is all about. We will definitely have this event again next year.

Lastly, I think the buckles turned out amazing this year. By far the sharpest and brightest we have ever had. I saw a few shooters wearing them on the range yesterday and they just sparkled in the sun. I hope everyone liked them.



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★ Captain's Corner ★

Shootout at Bloody Porch/Wild Bunch Action Shooting:

The Wild Bunch State Championship is October 19th-20th at Utica. We currently have the same number of shooters that shot last year signed up. We'd love to get enough shooters to have two posse's this year.

There is still plenty of time to sign up. But just like last year we will have a hard deadline for applications, and we have decided to extend this to **October 1st**. Anyone that wants to apply after October 1st needs to call or email me as we need the notice for how we handle the arrangements at the range and order awards in time.

If you're looking for some practice, there are still some wild bunch practice matches at Saginaw, Lapeer, Utica, and Washtenaw before Bloody Porch gets here. Check the calendar on our website for dates.

See you on the range,

Sinola Kid

Sinola Kid





WOLVERINE RANGERS

An Organization of Cowboy Action Shooters in the State of Michigan

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September 4, 2024

Dear Wolverine Rangers Range War participants and Wolverine Rangers members,

I am reaching out to address a scoring issue that was found at Range War this year. I will explain the timeline, the review procedure and steps taken to resolve the issue.

First there was no fault or maliciousness by anyone. All SASS rules were followed, no scores were entered, written down or finalized fictitiously. There were two stages in question, stages 3 and 5. On both stages the times were clearly read out by the timer operator and shown to both the iPad and paper backup scorekeepers. Those times were then shown back to the TO. Which was the procedure the posse used all weekend, and the proper procedure. At no time on those stages did anyone, including the TO, score keepers, spotters or any other member of the posse question the times recorded. Again, all SASS procedures were followed without question.

The scores were compiled by Camptown, our official match scorekeeper. Unknown to me at the time, when compiled the anomaly was found that showed on stages 3 & 5 my time was ~4 seconds faster than anyone else. Camptown brought this up to Bad Brass (Range Master for the match and First Lieutenant of the Wolverine Rangers) and Carolina Belle (Secretary of the Wolverine Rangers). Upon review it was determined that the paper copies and the iPad matched. There was no evidence of scores being changed, and that the signed scores were locked into the iPad with no history of changes. (The software tracks any and all changes). At that time the scores were to the best of everyone's knowledge correct. Upon further review it showed that the only two anomalies were with my scores on stages 3 & 5.

When I arrived later at the clubhouse, after the team vs. team event I was given the full awards breakdown and scores for the awards presentation. Upon review I saw the anomaly and that it was my scores. I was informed that the review had already taken place. I also recalled that those were the times that were read by the TO and I did sign for both times. Please also consider how long of a week that is for our team and I and that I had only 30 minutes to review the awards breakdown, change clothes and get to the banquet facility.

Immediately after the awards presentation and the naming of the men's top ten, Michigan State and Overall, Champions we placed the overall scores on the awards table.

On Monday we started to receive questions on the scores. As these were questions regarding my scores, I forwarded all the information to Bad Brass, as it is the Range Masters role to review any protests or challenges. It is necessary to note that at no time were any formal protests made, no challenges were formally made, and no official request made to review the scores any further. On Tuesday when Bad Brass continued his review, he was provided contact info for the posse's TO, posse marshal and posse deputy. I provided this info when I got home from work. Bad Brass spoke directly with the parties, and they all reported that no issues were observed with the timer during the match, and that no issues were noted with the posse reporting the scores.

After all this investigation was complete. The following was found: All SASS rules were followed. At no time did anyone on the posse make a mistake in the scores as announced. There were no changes to the scores as announced and entered. At no time did any posse member state any concern or issue over my times.

So, this is where it gets difficult. Everything was completed properly and on the up and up. But there is still this anomaly. I have the utmost respect for this sport and wouldn't do anything that would shed a bad light on it. Those that know me well know the time and effort I put into this match. The hours are endless, year-round. Nothing should overshadow the fantastic match that this was. Everything went so well; we received nothing but tremendous compliments throughout the weekend. This was a top-notch event all around.

As Match Director, I hold myself to the highest possible standard. I am the territorial governor for the Wolverine Rangers, Captain of the Wolverine Rangers and a SASS appointed Black Pin RO instructor. All of these show my commitment to SASS and cowboy action shooting in Michigan. It is with a heavy heart that I have decided to make the decision to recuse myself from the match entirely. My scores across the board will be removed from the main match. Soon the revised scores will be posted on our website. This is the only way I can see to address the issue to provide a resolution for all parties.

With that being said: Deuce Stevens is now the Overall Match Champion, Three Gun Cole will be the Michigan State Champion, and Mountain Man Jim will be the Wrangler category Michigan State Champion.

After I made the decision to be removed from the match, Bad Brass discussed this resolution directly with SASS HQ. They fully support this resolution and agree that all SASS rules were followed, including the review process. I don't know what we could have done differently during the match, or during the review process, but we will take some time to review all procedures and discuss within the executive board of the Wolverine Rangers organization.

Again, in no way should this overshadow an amazing event.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sinola Kid".

Sinola Kid, Captain



COSTUME WINNERS

**Bad River Marty
Working Cowboy**



**Laurie L'Amour
Best Dressed Lady**



**Isabella Bird
Working Cowgirl**





COSTUME WINNERS

T.N. Tina
Ladies Silver Screen



Rogues Pierre
Military



Faygo Kid
Mens Silver Screen



Photos by Paparazzi Pahl



COSTUME WINNERS

**Colt Persnickety and
Long Barrel Cheryl
Best Dressed Couple**



**Diabla
Saloon Girl**



**Rude Dude
Best Dressed Man**





Photos by Paparazzi Pahl



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Congratulations Michigan State Champions !!

49'r	Three Gun Cole
B Western	Todd All In
Buckaroo	Bad Blood Barrett
Cattle Baron	JJ Longley
Cattle Baron Duelist	Outrider Outlaw
Cattle Baroness	Katie Callahan
Classic Cowboy	Ethan Callahan
Cowboy	JC Wade
Cowgirl	C. W. Shadow
Duelist	The Hysham Kid
El Patron	H00t Hamilton
El Ray	Cactus Lawman
Elderstatesman	Riverview Rattler
ES Duelist	Joe Quick
ES Gunfighter	Bad River Marty
Frontier Cartridge	Truckee
FC Gunfighter	Flat Water Johnny
Grand Dame	T.N. Tina
Gunfighter	Leadfoot Luke
Josey Wales	Horseman Tweed
Lady 49'r	Diabla
Lady Gunfighter	Isabella Bird
Lady Senior	Hey Sugar
Lady Silver Senior	Lainey Mae
Senior	Rifle Rick
Senior B-Western	Faygo Kid
Silver Senior	Mustache Kid
SS Duelist	Duke Dakota
SS Gunfighter	Sarge
Wrangler	Mountain Man Jim
Young Guns	J-Bird Regulator





Team Event at Range War

New this year was the 3 person team shoot-off on Sunday afternoon. Thirty-three shooters submitted their names to be drawn randomly into teams. Two teams compete head to head in a tag-team relay with each person shoots one gun type. The team with the fewest misses wins the round, with the tie breaker being determined by the first team to knock down the overlapping final shotgun targets. Each winning team advances to the next round of elimination until only one is left.

For many people, this is their first experience with a head to head competition, and it really gets the adrenaline going. Nearly every round of elimination came down to a very close finish on the shotgun, sometimes with fumbled shells being wracked out or dropped during the frantic final moments of the stage. When the dust settled, the winning team included **Duelin' Dylan, Riverview Rattler, and Leadfoot Luke.**





Huron River Regulators — Washtenaw

Well, if you haven't been to shoot at HRR yet you're missing out. We have been continuing to add props, targets and spread out through the range. For our September match we welcomed 24 shooters. Nine of which shot clean! We shot five of the stages that will be used at Gun-smoke next week as a prep for anyone going to the shoot. Or as a way for the rest of us to shoot the stages of the regional we will not be attending. When the dust cleared after the match **Leadfoot Luke** just narrowly edged out **Hey Sugar** for first place. We ended the day with a tasty lunch prepared by **Carolina Belle**. The cookies were outstanding.

In October we will have a six-stage Cowboy match on Saturday, October 5th followed by a five-stage Wild Bunch match on Sunday October 6th. Stages will be posted on the HRR, WSC and Wolverine Regulators Facebook pages. A week or so ahead of time. We plan on having fresh cider and donuts out before the match and at lunch.

It's a good time to get some last-minute Wild Bunch practice in before the State Championship two weeks later. We have space for camping, but we will need notice to get it set up. If you would like to shoot both matches and camp overnight, please give me a call. Come out and join us.

Hope to see you at our range,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sinola Kid". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Sinola Kid



☆ 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

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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Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Wolverine Rangers.



WOLVERINE RANGERS

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