

# Wolverine Rangers' Epitaph



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February 2004

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Hola Amigos. I hope this upcoming year will be safe and prosperous for you and your love ones. Like most of you I've just about recovered from the holidays.

It's great that we still have matches going on to help pass the time. From the number of people clubs are getting at their outdoor matches we sure have some die-hard shooters out there. If you have never been to a winter outdoor shoot go ahead and give it a try. Dress codes are relaxed so don't worry so much about what you look like just dress warm, especially your hands and feet and get out there. Speaking of winter shoots, I had the pleasure to shoot under the roof at Lapeer in December and I can say that it was very nice. They have a new range building with a porch. The overhang of the porch has propane heaters under it and it made for a very comfortable shoot. Well done guys!

I would like to welcome another new Wolverine Rangers club to our family. The Walker City Rangers will be hosting shoots at the West Walker Sportsman's Club near Grand Rapids. They will be shooting on the first Sunday of the month in June, July and August. For more information contact Lucky Lennie.

I would also like to welcome Scholfield Ranger and Diewalker to the WR board. Paul Lape will be representing the Durand club this year, and Luke Barksdale will be representing Rockford along with Mike Green. I would also like to thank Table Top Tom and Tucson Stu for their contributions to the Ranger Board. Great job guys, thank you!

Plans for the 2004 Range War are well under way and we will be having another Board meeting in February to update and discuss progress. If you have any thoughts on Range War or the Ranger

email at [Chili\\_pepper917@hotmail.com](mailto:Chili_pepper917@hotmail.com) or call me at 586-201-2778.

The 2004 schedule has been posted on the website as well as directions to all the clubs. The Rangers and its affiliated clubs really worked hard at trying to minimize the overlap of shoots. We feel that this is very important to both the clubs and the shooters. We hope that in this upcoming year shooters try to get out and see some of the clubs they have not shot at before. All I can tell you is that the Michigan clubs are doing a stellar job and we the shooters are the beneficiaries of their hard work.

That's about all I have for now, so till next time remember - There is no normal life, there's only life, so go out and live it."

*Chili Pepper Pete*

## Lapeer Wranglers

Howdy all. In our first extensive use of our new pistol building, our December match proved to be a great addition to our ever improving facilities here at the L.C.S.C. We had 33 shooters which consisted of 31 adults and 2 juniors (juniors always shoot for free at our monthly matches). Tenderfoot Tess and her able assistants were able to set up tables for lunch and serve all those attending without everyone feeling overly crowded and pressured to hurry up and get out of someone's way. Quite a welcome change from the old pistol building! The new building has drywall in place, working heat inside and outside, and no worries regarding lead contamination. The next big projects are getting the bathrooms operational. Not to fear though, we still have the two "big blue" porta johns within steps of the building.

We shot the first six stages of our 12 stage Winter League and the following shooters make up the

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first 10 places on the pecking order at this point. (Remember you must shoot all 12 stages to be considered our "overall champion" plus you must attend the banquet).

1. Son of a Stinkweed
2. Ruff Trax
3. Raisin River Ron
4. Dodge City Dick
5. Beerbelly Willie
6. Dodge City Duke
7. Dangerous Dave
8. Bushy Mills
9. Larado Van
10. Wall-Man

Our next match is scheduled for February 8. Come out and get the cobwebs out of your barrels! We'll be glad to see ya!

**Wall-Man**

### Straight Shots from Saginaw

Winter greetings from the Saginaw Six-Shooters. Hope everyone had a good Christmas with lots of new cowboy guns and equipment found under your tree. And if Santa forgot you, don't pout and stomp on your Stetson. Instead, maybe you can find that special gun you've been hankerin' for at the Midland Gun Show held April 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. And while you're there, you can stop and say howdy to the Saginaw Six-Shooters. We'll be there at our table promoting Cowboy Action Shooting. We'll give you another reminder in the next Epitaph as we get closer to April.

It's been pretty quiet on the shooting range...more snowballs flying than bullets. Our next scheduled match is set for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, giving us plenty of time to think up some rootin', tootin' stages that should give everyone lots of shooting fun. We'll also be starting our practice nights every Wednesday night, beginning May 5<sup>th</sup>.

And speaking of snow.... some of our pards decided to partake of them warmer climates. You remember that saying.... "Have gun, Will travel"? Well, that's just what they did. We're keeping in

touch with them and in the next Epitaph we'll let you know how our Michigan cowboys and cowgals faired at those out-of-state shoots they attended this winter.

Until then, keep the snow out of your boots, and keep warm and dry by the fire. And remember... Live Life!.... Give it your best shot!

**Katie Callahan and Bad River Marty**

### Shoot Straight Cattle Company - Ionia

Howdy pards! Well, it's been a lovely winter so far, not quite enough snow for me yet but we're getting close. I hope everybody had a chance to rest up over the winter, work on your gear and get ready for a new season.

Our 1st (and last) annual black powder shoot and 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Darksider Challenge in October was a hoot. We had twelve brave shooters come out to test their skills and patience at our last shoot of the season. There was a lot of good shooting and lots of excuses for missing. High Maintenance did a bang up job with lunch. She made roast beef with all the fixings and it was delicious. I also want to thank Mike E the Blaster for the donations to the prize table as well as the Ionia County Sheriff's Department for donating gun locks for all our shooters. Our match winner was R.J. Law, congratulations R.J. Yours truly won the Darksider Challenge and I will keep the trophy company until the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Darksider Challenge this coming October. We won't be having an all black powder match because of lack of participation but we will continue with the Darksider Challenge at a regular match, so mark your calendar.

For those of you that haven't heard we have moved the Ionia match dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. We had to move the dates because of conflicts at the club and Hastings moved their shoot dates so we slid into their old slot. If you can come on over and make a weekend of it, Hastings shoots on Saturday and we shoot on Sunday. I have some limited camping available at the club

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and there are several campgrounds in the area.

Our first shoot is March 14<sup>th</sup> and we hope to see you all there. I have some good pards who have promised me some new props for this year and we're working on some new target stands and targets.

Shoot Safe, Shoot Well and Shoot Straight,  
Texas John Critter

### DSC Rocky River Regulators

The DSC will be hosting shooting clinics on February 14 & 28, and March 13 & 27. Clinics/practice will be \$5.00 running 10:00am until noon. Don't forget our next shoot on Sunday, February 15. We will not have a shoot in March but will start again on April 18.

Our New Year's Eve shoot was well attended with 52 shooters. The temperatures were in the low 40's. Check the Wolverine Rangers website for the match results.

We would like to thank Palamino Sue for bringing cheesy potatoes, Lavender Lou for the great BBQ pork, and to all the people who came to help setup.

On December 31, the DSC black powder committee hosted a special long arm event. Many cowboys showed up totin' their lever action pistol caliber rifles to compete. Everyone had a great time and the cowboys showed what they could do with their long guns (contrary to some people's opinion, we don't just shoot fast at big targets).

We had 20 participants for the RO1 class on December 7. To those of you who attended you should be receiving your pins soon. I spoke with Doc Tea Ford at SASS and be apologized for losing the paperwork. New paperwork has been faxed. Sorry for the delay. (You know how it is with the holidays, everyone's mind takes a vacation.)

We're looking forward to another great shooting year. With my position as First Lieutenant, I hope to do as well as Micky Lobe and No Buk Chuck.

I'll do the very best I can do to follow in their footsteps.

Remember that cowboys respect the land, respect the animals and respect themselves. Shoot safe. Be safe.

**Mackinaw Kid and Lavender Lou**

### SASS Convention 2003

"What happens in Las Vegas, stays in Las Vegas". Don't believe it for a moment! After five days of SASS, seminars and shopping, the credit card bills are showing up!

All in all, SASS No. 2 was better than I had expected. I had one complaint -- it was minor, and I will address that at the end of this article.

This year, the Riviera Hotel and Casino pulled out all the stops when it came to welcoming the cowboy and cowgirls. I dare say none of them went home disappointed. Perhaps having to stand in line at Kady's Restaurant for some time was a bit disheartening, but it was good food. Besides, the conversations with other cowboys during the wait made up for it. Those cowboy shooting fellows and ladies sure know how to entertain each other when the time must pass.

I participated in a number of seminars presented by some cowboys who really knew their stuff. I learned quite a bit. I always wanted to know how to disassemble my Winchester 73 and be able to put it all back together without any leftover parts -- now I know how. The seminar on "Shooting Buffalo Guns" brought me one step closer in the decision of shooting my Quigley Sharps this next year. "Reloading Smokeless" was a seminar well worth going to. It explained some things I had never given a thought to. The SASS ROII class should be a given for all SASS shooters. New rules and regulations, as well as re-familiarizing oneself with old information, made this seminar one that I will have on the agenda each time I visit.

A visit to D Bar J Hat Company in Las Vegas shed

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some new light on an old myth regarding X-ratings for cowboy hats. I now know a 100 percent beaver hat is just that, no matter how many X's you put in the sweat band. Workmanship that goes in the hat blank is another issue. It can make a great hat or just plain mess it up. D Bar J Hat Company not only had a number of SASS show specials on great cowboy hats, but also showed us how they were made. My credit card started to glow at their booth.

That brings me to a most unusual event during the Evil Roy Shooting School. I have to mention that I took this class at the first SASS convention and again prior to Range War 2003 which kind of set the stage for the event that took place during his seminar. Someone during this seminar brought up the subject of fast shotgun shooting with 87 and 97 Winchesters. At this point one of our Michigan cowboys was named one of the fastest Evil Roy had ever seen. Evil Roy let the audience know that without question, our own Fireball was the fastest he ever saw. Perhaps Fireball should make Las Vegas and offer a seminar on 87's????

The SASS hospitality room was filled to capacity each and every night. Cowboys and cowgirls -- yes, there were some of the most beautiful cowgirls this cowboy ever saw -- were entertained by old-fashioned song and friendly folks from around the country.

The hospitality social hour was a terrific event. The costumes were spectacular, and the atmosphere could not have been topped, had it not been for the Yesteryear Ball. Some of the most fantastic couples and single cowboys and cowgirls in their finest showed up for this formal event. The food was great, although I care little for large buffet style eating, and nobody left hungry.

Each day the cowboy orientated vendors at the Riviera, and at the same time, the Wild West Christmas show at the Las Vegas Convention Center, offered plenty of opportunities to shop or just browse around. If your seminar schedule allowed it, you could spend, spend and spend. I

don't think any cowboy-supplying vendors were missing, although Oglesby and Oglesby of Ruger fame made it there late. If you signed up for that seminar, you were disappointed.

That brings me to the complaint I mentioned at the beginning. Since the event and all the seminars took place in various rooms and halls throughout the hotel -- a very large hotel -- the directions given with the seminar schedule were confusing at best. After figuring out what number seminar you signed up for, you had to go to another booklet to find the room that corresponded with the number of the seminar. Not a big deal you say? Come to SASS No. 3, sign up for 3 or 4 seminars per day, and talk to me. All of the information could have been in the center foldout page of the SASS handbook, and all would have been well. I have a feeling that it will next year.

One thing is for sure, I will be there in 2004. So if you're looking for a fun time for cowboys and cowgirls, be there. Just don't show up as TG -- they don't have much time for fun while sitting around and arguing about missed bullets and the size and shape of shotgun belts.

Sincerely,  
Sunvale Pete

### **Mike's Gun Shop**

**Cowboy Guns for Cowboys, Sold by Cowboys  
WE SHOOT WHAT WE SELL!**

**Mike E The Blaster, proprietor, SASS #26949  
31 N. Arnold St., Quincy, MI 49082  
517-639-7191  
mikesgunshop@frontiernet.net**

#### **Upcoming Matches**

February 7	Saturday	Rockford
February 8	Sunday	Lapeer
February 15	Sunday	Utica
March 6	Saturday	Rockford
March 14	Sunday	Ionia
March 14	Sunday	Lapeer

## Wolverine Rangers—Articles of Interest

### Epitaph Articles

We're always glad to receive articles of interest to publish in the Epitaph. If your article is not time sensitive, I'll keep it in my tickler file to publish when space permits. So, with time on your hands during these long winter nights you have plenty of time to get writing!

This month I had a full page to fill and because I didn't have an additional article in my file, I'm going to start a column called "From the Covered Wagon". From time-to-time and as space permits, I'll write about places of interest to the cowboy community. I hope you will enjoy it. Lil

### From the Covered Wagon

Southeast Arizona in the 1870's was a desolate area inhabited by fierce Apaches. Silver prospector Edward Schieffelin was told the only thing he would find there was his tombstone. And so he named his first claim the "Tombstone" and the second the "Graveyard". Word spread of the silver strike, prospectors and speculators flocked to the area and the town of Tombstone, Arizona Territory was born.

It's like taking a step back in time when you visit Tombstone. Stroll the wooden sidewalks of Allen Street just as notables like the Earp brothers, Doc Holliday, Bat Masterson and Johnny Ringo did in the 1880's, and visit some of the well preserved original buildings from that era.



A self-guided tour of the Bird Cage Theatre (for a fee) located at Allen and 6th Street, houses many interesting artifacts. View the "bird cages" hanging from the ceiling on either side of the theatre. In today's movies, the theatre looks relatively large but in reality it's quite a narrow building.

The Crystal Palace, corner of Allen and 5th Street, is authentically restored to its 1880's appearance



when it was Tombstone's most popular meeting spot. The Oriental, located across 5th street from the Crystal Palace, no longer serves whiskey nor houses gaming tables for Faro. Instead, an array of western wear and saloon girl duds are for sale.

Make a stop at the original Campbell and Hatch Saloon and Billiards (now a clothing store) where Morgan Earp met his fate, Big Nose Kate's Saloon, or "walk where they fell" at the infamous O.K. Corral (for a fee). Visit the Tombstone Epitaph to view original equipment and presses of the West's most famous newspaper. Make a stop at Boothill, the final resting place of outlaws and heroes, a few blocks north of town (no cost) or visit the County Courthouse for an additional lesson in history.

Don't forget to stop by G.F. Spangenberg Pioneer Gun Shop. They've been located in Tombstone for well over a hundred years and can outfit you with some mighty fine equipment. The next time you're in Arizona make a stop in Tombstone—"The town too tough to die".



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**Safety is a matter of attitude**

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Rady Delgado	Grand Rapids	616-735-2915
Lucky Lennie	Hastings	616-891-8376
Texas John Critter	Ionia	269-506-7325
Wall-Man	Lapeer	248-628-7424
Border Town Hombre	Port Huron	519-336-1690
Diewalker	Rockford	616-837-0428
Bad River Marty	Saginaw	989-585-3292
Yooper Fred	Sault Ste. Marie	906-635-9700
Mackinaw Kid	Utica	248-852-0351

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