

# Wolverine Rangers' Epitaph



Volume 12, Issue 3

June 2009

## CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Howdy Pards,

The first thing that I would like to do in this Captain's Letter is to say that Case Harden, who has been the Editor for The Epitaph for the past several years, is turning over his printing press, green visor and sleeve garters to Cherokee Maddog. Case did a great job and I would like to express the thanks and appreciation of The Wolverine Rangers to Case for a job well done. Please tell him "thanks" next time you see him. This organization does not run without volunteers and it is important for us to let Case know that we all appreciate his work and time.

By the same token, I would like to welcome Cherokee Maddog as our new Editor of The Epitaph. I look forward to working with him. He has some big cowboy boots to fill but I have no doubt that he will be up to the task. Cherokee was a big help at Range War last year and he is not afraid to roll up his sleeves and work hard. Plus, he is a man after my own heart: He shoots Classic Cowboy.

It is now June and we are in the midst of our shooting season. I hope that all of you are able to get out and shoot with your cowboy and cowgirl shooting buddies and enjoy the freedoms that we have in this country to play cowboy and cowgirl with our firearms. There is no question but that we are having some difficult times in Michigan. We are already seeing some historic changes in our economy and the way we do business. As far as I am concerned, little if any of it is for the better. I never thought that I would see the day in this country where we would be having government ownership of banks and of our largest automobile company. I guess that we just need to hunker down and focus on those things that we can control and try to make sure that we let our elected officials know what we think and hold them accountable at

election time. Well, I guess that is enough sermonizing.

Please get out and support your local Wolverine Ranger member shooting clubs this shooting season. Your clubs work hard to put on nice shoots that not only provide some good natured competition where we can shoot with (or against) our pards, but it is also relatively inexpensive entertainment and cowboy fellowship. The Board of Directors has also voted this year to support our member shooting clubs by contributing financially to any club who attends any gun or related shows in the state to promote their club and Cowboy Action Shooting in Michigan. Please contact our new Marketing Manager Chili Pepper Pete if you would like additional information.

The plans for Range War are coming together. Like last year, our member clubs will be running side matches. This will be an opportunity for the clubs to promote their local shoots and to do a little showing off. If your club has not yet signed up to run one of the side matches, please contact either me, [rgillary@gillarylaw.com](mailto:rgillary@gillarylaw.com), or our Match Director, Deuce Stevens, [deucestevens45@yahoo.com](mailto:deucestevens45@yahoo.com).

Range War is widely considered to be one of the best SASS State Championships in the Midwest and we plan to carry on that tradition in 2009. As in past years, we will need plenty of volunteers. If you have some time and would like to help out at Range War, please drop a line to either Deuce or me . Thanks in advance for your help in making Range War a success.

I would like to apologize to those of you who may have your calendars delayed. We had a few snafus but I believe that they are now all fixed. Additionally, it has come to my attention that we have not been mailing the Epitaph to those of you who wanted a hard copy mailed. We will be mailing

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## Wolverine Rangers Club News

this edition to all members. The mailed copy will be in black and white. Color versions will be available for downloading from our website at [www.wolverinerangers.org](http://www.wolverinerangers.org).

Please keep in mind that mailing is more costly and if you are able to print your own it will help our organization. If you receive a mailed copy and are willing to download and print your own copy, please let me know and we will take you off the mailing list.

Well that is about all that I have for now. Please have fun and be safe this shooting season. I will look forward to seeing all of you down the trail.

As usual, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Vaya Con Dios,

R.J. Law - Captain

### A.P. Goodrich

Well Bub, now that you've got a rifle and mounted a decent set of sights, it's probably time to talk about what to feed it. I'll confine myself to Black and Smokeless powder. I don't really know [or care] about "black powder substitutes". If you've been using one and it works for you, great. Since most of you probably use smokeless already I'll start with that. The big straight wall cases were designed to hold a case FULL of black powder. There was and is no possibility of overcharging a case with black powder. However, you can easily double charge a big case using some types of smokeless powder. NO SECOND CHANCE! Ka-boom...goodbye rifle, goodbye fingers, goodbye face. If you reload using smokeless powder, visually inspect EVERY charged case. I don't care how careful you are, just do it!

Consult your reloading manual for the correct bullet weight/powder charge. The velocity should be somewhere in the 1100-1300 ft. per second range depending on bullet weight. The idea is to duplicate the original black powder loading, not see how slow you can get a bullet to leave the muzzle so you don't feel any recoil. Slow just doesn't cut it when hunting or in a Mid or Long Range match. On the other hand, there is absolutely NO reason to use a load that goes much over 1300 fps. Recoil and pressure increase dramatically and if used in an old original rifle, it might wind up in pieces. You too. Also, the faster you push a lead bullet without a gas check, the more likely you are to get lead deposits in the barrel. When your barrel leads up accuracy goes south in a hurry. Leading can also be caused by too hard an alloy, ineffective bullet lube, bullet too small, or a rough bore.

Try to use a "bulky" smokeless powder to fill up as much volume in the case as possible. Why? Light powder charges "slosh" around inside the case. Powder position affects how the powder ignites inside the case, which in turn affects the velocity.

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## Wolverine Rangers Club News

Variations in velocity affect group size, usual showing up as vertical stringing at the target. If you eject a freshly fired case and see a dark sooty smear on the exterior of the case it indicates that the charge didn't have enough pressure to expand the case into the chamber. This allows gas to blow back between the case and the chamber. The soot could also be caused by brass cases that are too hard and need annealing. That's something we'll cover at a later time.

Unlike black powder loads, most smokeless loads require a crimp to get uniform ignition. Also, to the best of my knowledge, an over powder wad is not used with smokeless loads, whereas with black powder a .030 or .060 card or poly wad is used ALL the time to protect the base of the bullet from hot gas.

As most of you already know, the only way to get the best accuracy out of your rifle is to experiment with different powders and charge weights, primers, and bullet weight/styles. Oh yeah, keep a log of all the different combinations you try, otherwise you'll forget what you've done.

I'll bet that most of you haven't tried black powder yet. It isn't the booger that you think it is. Now listen up pilgrims! It only takes about a dozen patches to get that big single shot of yours SPOTLESS. No big deal. The only catch is that you have to clean the cartridge cases too. If you de-prime, rinse them in hot water, and tumble them in your favorite media, it's really no big deal. Just remember, your rifle has to be cleaned BEFORE you hit the bunkhouse or you will most certainly find out what black powder fouling will do to metal overnight! The cases can wait a day or two if necessary but no longer. I de-prime my cases with a hand de-priming tool because if you de-prime your fired black powder cases in a die, you must take the die apart and clean it to avoid rusting up the inside.

If you decide to go black, you should use either Goex FF or Goex Ctg. grade powder simply because they are commonly available. If not available locally, go in with a couple of your buddies

and order up a case of 25 lbs. Most suppliers will let you mix and match grades. Don't get less than a case because you have to pay a haz-mat shipping fee of \$25.00 regardless if you order a pound or a case.

'Till next time, keep 'em in the black.

### ***El Guano***

### DSC Rocky River Regulators

#### COWPOKES...

Howdy from the DSC Rocky River Regulators. Hope all you folks are out shooting now that's its spring (so I'm told). We just finished our May Monthly Match on the 17th and the results are in (drum roll please): First Place Overall was the infamous big hat dude, **Faygo Kid!** As for the DSC members our 2nd Senior **J.J. Longley** was 6th overall, 1st Duelist **Nevada Gambler** was 8th overall, 1st Buckaroo **Apache Wolf** was 12th overall, 1st Senior Duelist **Nine Finger Bob** was 17th overall, and 1st Classic Cowboy **Horse Keeper** was 37th overall. We had many Clean Match cowboys: **Faygo Kid, Catlow, Apache Wolf, Rodent, Bushwhacker Rob, Grubby Hardrock, Coyote Claxton and Dodge City Duke.** Congrats men (so THAT'S what the sights are for!)

As mentioned on the Wolverine Rangers website we've now started to have 6 stages, yes SIX stages per shoot. (Everyone knows that we need to have "a little more for the money" and we are trying to deliver here at DSC). The sixth stage is usually something fast and fun. This past shoot it was 6 shotgun and a 2 pistol dump. So if you're planning to come this year, bring extra ammo! Soon, there will be a link on the Wolverine Rangers website, or you can go directly to our website at <http://www.d-s-c.org> regarding our annual 2 day shoot on Oct 17-18th for all the fun and info!

### **CHIRICAHUA MAMA**

## Wolverine Rangers Club News

### Straight Shots From Saginaw

Well, it was a yee haw day May 30<sup>th</sup> as Saginaw Six-Shooter's kicked off their shooting season. We were blessed with one beautiful shooting day and greeted many new folks to our club. We had 79 pards try their luck at our BIG & UP CLOSE targets and by golly! We had 16 shooters clean the match! The rest of us (yup, Marty & myself, included) will have to take revenge at our next shoots. We also raised \$122 for the Gillary Foundation.

#### Top five ladies:

1. K.J. Stevens
2. Katie Callahan
3. Ruby Red Jo
4. Tessa Two Gunner
5. Laporte Lil

#### Top five gents:

1. Deuce Stevens
2. Bad River Marty
3. Doc Noper
4. Lightning Wayne
5. J.R. Hammer

Speaking of our next shoots, Saginaw is hosting its **FREEDOM DAYS**, Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Shoot one day or both. You have the FREEDOM to choose. These are 2 separate shoots, back-to-back. Scores & awards will be handed out each day. Registration is each morning, 8:30-9:30 a.m. \$15 each day, 16 & under are free. Grub included.

We're offering free primitive camping, Thursday night through Sunday morning. We'd appreciate a call ahead. 989-585-3292 or [mnbell@yahoo.com](mailto:mnbell@yahoo.com) If you're not traveling over the holiday, why not come and shoot some targets. Then, shoot the breeze and relax with friends. Take a walk around our lake or bring your kayak for an evening paddle. Pot luck Friday night if you want to join in, but it's not mandatory.

We're working on a little Wild Bunch Match for our outlaw pards after Friday's shoot. (3 quick stages in the woods!) We'll have more details about that on the Ranger's website soon. Come and spend your Independence Days with your friends, celebrating that great freedom to keep and bear arms.

We are also having our weekly Wednesday night practices, 5:00 pm until dark. We have new shooters getting involved and learning a lot from our more seasoned shooters. We usually get in at least 5 stages a night. You're more than welcome to join us.

And remember... live life. Give it your best shot. Hope to see you at our Freedom Days in July.

**Katie Callahan & Bad River Marty**

### News from Sucker Creek

Where does time fly, it seems just yesterday we were complaining about the long winter and now we are into June and getting ready for our 2<sup>nd</sup> shoot of the 2009 year.

The Town of Sucker Creek continues to grow, the Sucker Creek & Sterling Railroad is up and running, the loading/unloading tables are almost complete and by June 20, our next shoot date, the jail will be open for business. The last time I was out to The Creek I noticed a herd of buffalo stampeding right through town. At our May Match we had 43 shooters, Colt McAlister was overall top shooter. We had several new shooters and also some seasoned shooters for the 1<sup>st</sup> time at Sucker Creek.

We will be having a SASS Scholarship shoot-off before the match, starting at 8am for any early shooters wanting to come out and support a good cause and win some nice prizes.

You might want to check out our website, [www.suckercreek.org](http://www.suckercreek.org), for pictures and updates on the new construction.

Hope to see you all on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

God Bless

Secretary SCS&GC

***The Vicar's Wife***



## Wolverine Rangers Club News

### HURON RIVER RAIDERS

(The Multi-Lakes Conservation Association  
Cowboy Action Shooting Group)



#### 2009 Cowboy Action Shooting At MLCA Second Match - June 6th

Our first match was held on May 9th. We had 21 paid shooters participate. The weather was not kind to us as we could only complete 3 of the 5 stages. I think everyone had a good time until the rain got to bad to continue. So far we have had one match rained out, and the second match partially rained out. Hopefully this next match will be the charm and good weather will prevail. I would like to thank everyone that has supported us so far.

The Huron River Raiders will hold four more Cowboy Action Shooting Matches on Saturday mornings this year. The dates are June 6th, August 8th, September 12th, and October 10th. Registration will start at 8:30 AM. The mandatory Safety Meeting will be at 9:15AM and shooting will start at 9:30AM. We will end shooting about 1:30PM. No food will be served after these shoots. We are still working on that. The shooting scenarios (stages) will be set up on Outdoor Range #2, just follow the signs.

The cost will be \$13.00. A discount of \$1.00 will apply for SASS Members, Wolverine Ranger Members, and Multi-Lakes Members, for a total of \$3.00, if you belong to all three. Cowboy attire is strongly encouraged. Observers and helpers are welcome.

A practice session is planned for Saturday, August 1st. It will run from 10:00AM till 1:00PM. Cost will be \$5.00.

Come on out and join us for a fun morning of making guns go bang and targets clang. For more

information about Multi-Lakes, go to our Web Page at [www.multilakes.com](http://www.multilakes.com). For more information about the shoots contact Dan Campau (aka The Baja Kid) at 734-261-9786, Dan Wiseley (aka Quiet Ranger Dan) at 248-202-0058 or Ron Davis (aka Boss Wheelwright) at 248-685-1206.

Hope to see you on the range, partner.

### THE DOUBLE BARREL GANG HASTINGS, MICHIGAN

May started a little wet but finished in sunshine. We had 29 hardy souls shoot the match. The match winner was Duce Stevens. Clean shooters were Lightning Wayne and Lue Dee Kriss. Thanks to all who attended and braved the weather.

The Double Barrel Gang will shoot the second Sat. thru Nov. with July and Dec. TBA.

This week the gang completed stage six by adding the marshals office to the jail. We had some good help from Gun Slinger and Shoulda Dun Gun.

Have fun, shoot straight and keep your powder dry and we will see ya down the trail **Dakota Fats** said all that.



## Wolverine Rangers Club News

### JOHNSON CREEK REGULATORS

Howdy Partners!! The JCR gang will be straying from the norm for the June 27<sup>th</sup> match with a "Jimmy Buffet" theme. We are inviting all that would like (that means optional) to dress for the occasion. What's that you may ask?

Well think Cheeseburger in Paradise or Margaretville songs and dress as if you were in the Keys. Yep Flowery Shirts, Shorts, Parrots, Parrot hats, sneakers (no flip flops please). We promise you won't have to sing the lines. And keeping with the theme – lunch will feature cheeseburgers (naturally). Stages will be standard cowboy but with themed scenarios – should be fun.

As you know, we are hosting the Wolverine Ranger Membership Shoot and Convention on July 11<sup>th</sup>. We expect a great turnout but would really like to get an idea of how many to expect. Please call me on 313 618 2577 or send an email to [ray1047@hotmail.com](mailto:ray1047@hotmail.com). It wouldn't be good to have a lot of folks with iron strapped to their hips and not have enough grub (makes 'em mean).

Till then – Happy Trails

Rainmaker Ray



### ***IMPORTANT NOTICE*** **Rockford Cancels Two Day Shoot!**

It wasn't an easy decision, but we have taken the decision to cancel the Rockford two day Cowboy Match for June 6 & 7.

As some of you already know, Northland Drive is under major renovation. This project created a need for a large amount of sand, which we happen to have. The problem is, part of it runs right through the cowboy area and they are in the middle of removing it. There is precious little time left to prepare for such a major match and we really do not know the entire excavation/grading plan at this time nor do we know what the time table is for completion. This leaves us no way of being confidant that we could be ready to put on a match at all, let alone the type we are accustomed to offering.

As a result, instead of having to cancel at the last minute, or scrambling to throw together a shoot with the grounds in a complete state of chaos, we had to call it based on today's conditions.

We will concentrate on putting as much back together by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July shoot as we can and we hope to see you then.

### **SWEEPS**

- \* Amigo's Sweep (all) – Whole stage set up with one target.
- \* Arizona Sweep (10) – Progressive hit each target 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4.
- \* Arkansas Shuffle (5) – Five shots on three targets 1, 1, 2, 3, 3
- \* Bad Jack Sweep (9) – 1, 1, 4, 2, 2, 4, 3, 3, 4,
- \* Badger Sweep (10) – Successive Sweeps, reducing shots by 1. 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 1
- \* Brat Sweep (5) – 1, 3, 2, 3, 1
- \* Cactus Buck Sweep (10) – 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3, 4, 4, 4
- \* California Sweep (8) – Every other shot must be on the first target. 1, 2, 1, 3, 1, 4, 1, 5

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## Wolverine Rangers Club News

- \* Chatanika Sweep (5) – 3,2,4,1,5
- \* Continuous Nevada Sweep (10) 10 shots on 4 targets. 1,2,3,4,3,2,1,2,3,4
- \* Doc's Sweep aka "P" Sweep (5) – 1,4,2,5,3
- \* Double Tap Sweep – Any 5 target sweep with double taps at each, 1,1,2,2,3,3,2,2,1,1
- \* Five on Three Sweep (5) – 1,2,3,3,3, or 3,2,1,1,1
- \* Fort White Sweep (5) – Starting and ending on center of three targets 2,1,2,3,2
- \* Gorilla Sweep (9) – Nine shots on 6 targets. 1,1,2,3,3,4,5,5,6
- \* Hermit Joe Sweep (10) – Ten shots on 6 targets. 1,2,1,3,1,4,1,5,1,6
- \* Hopscotch Sweep (5 or 10) – 5 or 10 on 5. 1,5,2,4,3 then 1,5,2,4,3
- \* John Wayne Sweep (10) – Ten shots on 3 targets. 1,2,3,3,2,1,1,2,3,3

Send your favorites to Cherokee Maddog at  
[traildoggy@aol.com](mailto:traildoggy@aol.com)

Howdy all!

After almost 4 years of being the Epitaph Editor I am stepping down due to personal time constraints and passing the reins over to Cherokee Maddog, SASS 48430 Life & Wolverine Rangers 676, aka Don Easterling.

I am sure he will do a fine job! Please welcome him and be ready to help him out as he gets used to sittin' in a new saddle.

Also, please make sure that if you are not writing articles for your club and someone else is, forward their contact info to Cherokee Maddog.

Thanks y'all & hopefully I'll see ya on down the trail!

### ***Case Harden***

### ***From the Editor's Desk***

#### **Hello the camp!**

The name's Cherokee Maddog and I have volunteered to try and fill the mighty big boots of some folks who have gone before me. As usual I have to question the smarts of an outfit that would bring on an ol' cowpoke as editor, but here I am anyway.

For those of you who may not have met me yet, I have been a shootist my entire life and was completely burnt-out in all the traditional disciplines when I became interested in CAS about nine years ago. Ultimately I fell in love with the sport, the fellowship and overall atmosphere, eventually joining SASS. I jumped in with both feet and am, or have been, a RO I, RO II, RO Instructor, Territorial Governor, Match Director, Assistant Match Director, Shoot Organizer, and will fill any position on a posse or in a club that needs help. I enjoy the sport, consider it one of the best combinations of competition and a social function ever, and am always willing to help out any way I can.

I just moved to Southwestern Michigan (Stevensville) from the greater Chattanooga, Tennessee area last year (Go SEC), and survived the winter, some what more mentally rattled than usual, but none the worse for wear. I just started shooting again this Spring, as I found it impossible to shoot in my improvised "try to survive the winter shooting outfit." For one thing, the extension cords I had for my electric blanket were never long enough and the portable, heated hut was just too much trouble to drag from stage to stage.

The only other things I ask is feedback on the newsletter and patience as I become familiar with each club. I consider myself and peripheral visionary and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can at local, state and regional shoots, making new friends I haven't met yet.

Cherokee Maddog, SASS #48430 Life  
Aka, Don Easterling  
[traildoggy@aol.com](mailto:traildoggy@aol.com)



**WOLVERINE RANGERS**  
Kelin Prokurat  
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# More tips from El Guano!

## CLASSIFIED ADDS:

Matching pair of New Model Ruger Vaqueros, color-case hardened, 5 1/2" barrels, .357 caliber. Never fired, NIB. \$1,000 for the pair.

**Contact Bad River Marty at 989-585-3292 or [mnbbell@yahoo.com](mailto:mnbbell@yahoo.com)**

1874 Armi-Sport Sharps, 32" barrel, double trigger, Pedersoli long range rear sight, Pedersoli globe front sight w/inserts. New never fired.

**Contact Nunica Kid at 231-557-2408**

2 holsters to fit a .45 caliber 7 1/2" barrel, both are right-hand draw, both black leather, and will fit a 38-40" waist. \$75 and \$100

**Contact Bushwhack Bandit at [cowboy-guns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cowboy-guns@sbcglobal.net) or [corvettelilly@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corvettelilly@sbcglobal.net) with any questions or call 810-659-1575**

Covered Wagon Gun Cart - Beautifully hand-crafted, 36" wooden wheels, breaks down easily.  
**Contact Desert Horse at 517-645-2827 or [deserthorse.jchall@gmail.com](mailto:deserthorse.jchall@gmail.com)**

## CLUBS & CONTACTS

*Check the website for club contact e-mail addresses  
Please keep your e-mail address current with the Secretary*

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