

Wolverine Rangers' Epitaph



Volume 12, Issue 5

October 2009

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Howdy Pard,

Congratulations to the 2009 Range War Overall Winner and Michigan State Men's Champion Colt McAllister, and to Michigan State Ladies Champion K.J. Stevens!! Congratulations also to all of the other category winners!! Another Range War is in the can and every one seemed to have a great time. The weather was perfect and we had 240 shooters. We were very pleased with the turnout especially in this economy.

Multiple Classic Cowboy World Champion T-Bone Dooley put on a shooting school for 14 shooters. He was helped by Ringo Fire and Fish Creek Charlie and everyone seemed to enjoy it. Colt McAllister has agreed to put on a shooting school next year for anyone who would like to improve their shooting skills. I would highly recommend this for anyone who is interested in getting better than their pard. If you don't improve you will be left behind.

We tried something new this year for the Saturday night dinner. Dinner was catered by Janet and Missy of the Angry Bull and they did a great job. The food was excellent and we had many compliments. The dinner was served buffet style and it was handled in a very efficient manner.

On Saturday night The Dooley Gang put on a karaoke show and it was a lot of fun for all who got up to sing or just came to watch. Seeing Deuce get in front of the microphone and sing several songs was worth the price of admission. My only regret was that I missed Lassiter sing Riders in the Sky.

Deuce did another great job of designing the stages and serving as Match Director. The stages were well thought out and different but not difficult. I would also like to take this time to thank all of the volunteers who made 2009 Range War a big

success. I am not going to try to name everyone because I might miss someone. Our sport does not work without volunteers willing to do the bulk of the work. Thanks to those who worked in registration, match set-up and take down, making sure that there was enough water for everyone, running side matches, being posse marshals, those working on the Shooter's Handbook, soliciting vendors, working with vendors and doing all of the other jobs that make a state championship match work. Thanks to each and every one of you for your time and effort. I would like to say a special thanks to Camptown for doing all of the scoring.

The Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation was also able to raise \$3,351.00 through the Charity Raffle. This will be enough to purchase 2 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and training for 2 Michigan high schools. Cody Billings was given this year's Charity Spirit Award and he will be able to select the Michigan high schools who will receive the AEDs and training. The Lady and I would like to thank all of the shooters who donated items for the Charity Raffle. We are amazed every year by the donations from our shooting family to help in our mission of making sure that all of the high schools in Michigan have an AED and staff members trained in CPR and the use of an AED. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We are in need of an Epitaph Editor. Cherokee Maddog has done an excellent job but is now living and working out of state. See the abbreviated job description on Page 6 and the website for a full description. Contact Cherokee Maddog and myself if you are willing to fill the position.

Best regards,

R.J. Law

R.J. Law - Captain



Wolverine Rangers Club News

A. P. Goodrich

Well buckos, in this issue I'm going to go into detail about how to shoot. WHOA HOSS! You say....I already know how to shoot! Yeah, I know that, but remember, we're not gonna be shooting at a target that is only 30 feet away and we're not shooting against the clock. Long range is a different game and requires different technique. Let's start with the offhand [standing] position. In black powder ctg. [B.P.C.] silhouette, the first stage is chickens, offhand, at 200 meters. Your form must be as steady as possible. LIKE A ROCK! The key is BONE SUPPORT. Your rifle probably weighs 9 or 10 pounds. Trying to use something that heavy in the "traditional" rifleman's stance will quickly tire you. By quickly I mean 5 or 6 seconds. You'll start to wobble so much you won't be able to keep the chicken in the front aperture. Try this. Pick up the rifle and point it at the target. Tuck your left elbow snugly up into your body [if you're a right hander]...pull your left hand back so it is ON the trigger guard or JUST in front of it. Some people balance the rifle on their fingertips, others have the rifle in the palm of their hand. Take your pick which way is the most comfortable. The entire weight of the rifle is now transmitted through your forearm to a point on your body just above your hip bone. Now relax, get as comfortable as possible, and close your eyes for a few seconds with your rifle pointed at the target. Open your eyes. If the rifle has moved off target, SHIFT YOUR FEET SLIGHTLY to get back on target. What you are doing is finding your NATURAL POINT OF AIM. You don't move your arms to get on the target, YOU MOVE YOUR BODY. Now all you have to do is keep the target in the front aperture [ha! Easier said than done!] Here is when you may find out that you have too small an aperture installed in your front sight. Put one in that's large enough to keep the target inside of it the whole time you are aiming. You will find that over time, as you get steadier, you will be able to shrink the size of the aperture a little. Almost everybody I know uses an aperture insert, NOT a post insert.

Your eye naturally centers the target in the center of the aperture. You'll learn to love them once you get used to them. If you have a set trigger, set it when the rifle is pointed at the target. NOT BEFORE! It's REAL easy to have an accidental discharge if your finger touches a prematurely set trigger. If you have a single trigger, put some pressure on it as you are aiming at the target. [it's called "loading the trigger"] When the target is centered in the aperture, apply that last little bit of pressure to the trigger to "break" the shot. The whole secret is in the timing. Your eyes send a signal to the brain, your brain sends the signal to your trigger finger. You must PRACTICE enough to know the right time to SQUEEZE the trigger. Oh yeah. You can't flinch either. All I can tell you is that the more you practice at shooting at SMALL targets [100 yards.. 6 inch bullseye.. 200 yards..12 inch bullseye] the better you'll get. Nobody ever got good shooting at big, close targets. You get good shooting at small, distant targets. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

OK. Now that you've mastered the offhand position, let's concentrate on shooting from X-sticks. In Black Powder Target Rifle mid and long range prone events, there is no offhand stage. All shooting is done from either sitting or prone X-sticks. Now listen up Bub. Hardly anybody shoots these events from the sitting position unless they have some kind of physical reason for not being able to shoot prone [usually back problems]. Shooting from prone X-sticks is MUCH steadier than shooting from sitting X-sticks. [The only catch is you have more felt recoil... but that can be dealt with]. Stick your X-sticks firmly in the ground on the firing line. Have the pivot point of the sticks about 8 or 10 inches above the ground for starters. Lay down behind the sticks with your body at a slight angle to the target. Rest the barrel of your rifle on the sticks about 6 or 8 inches from the muzzle. Get comfy and aim your rifle toward the target. Scoot your body right or left to fine tune

Continued on next page

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your aim. You will notice that your sticks probably have to be adjusted a little higher or lower. Go ahead and adjust them and get back into shooting position. Your left hand should grasp the very back end of the rifle butt to hold and support it against your shoulder. Everything is adjusted correctly when your cheek position on the stock and your body position when holding the rifle feel PERFECTLY comfortable. No straining anywhere. Your sights are perfectly aligned on target. It's a good idea to measure how high the pivot point of the sticks is above the ground. Write it down so the next time you shoot you can put your sticks in the ground at the right height without having to adjust them several times. When shooting prone you have a natural point of aim too. If you have to strain or don't feel comfortable, you increase your chances of a crossfire [shooting at the wrong target.] Trust me on this....there are only two kinds of shooters.....those who have crossfired and those who are going to crossfire!

While I'm at it I might as well go over some of the other equipment you'll be using. A roll-up ground cloth or shooting mat will keep you out of the dirt and dew. Your spotting scope [the best you can afford] will be on your left. This allows you to lean slightly to your left after you shoot to see where the pit crew marks your hit on the target and to observe the mirage condition before your next shot. In the shooting box on your right within comfortable reach you will have your ammo, wiping rod and patches or blow tube, sight inserts, shooting glasses, ear muffs, sight settings and open action indicator.

I hope these tips will help you. I know that once you get confident that you can hit a target that is waaaaay out there, those close-in targets will be a lot easier to hit.

EL GUANO

AH... AUTUMN

How's the autumn been treatin' you fine folks? Pretty good, I hope. We finished our August Monthly Match on the 16th and had 49 shooters come play with us on such a hot sunny day. The results are as follows: First Place Overall was the **Faygo Kid**. As for the DSC members our 2nd Senior **J. J. Longley**, 1st Cowboy **Camptown**, 1st Young Gun **Apache Wolf**, 1st Duelist **Nevada Gambler**, 2nd Cowboy **Shotgun Willy**, 6th Silver Senior **Horse Keeper**, 7th Silver Senior **Cold Coffee Jack? No!**, 1st Grand Dame **Kanab Kitty**, 4th Cowboy **Canyon Jack**, 3rd Frontier Cartridge **Goatlips**, 2nd Senior Gunfighter **Huron Ranger**, 1st Lady Wrangler **Chiricahua Mama** and 2nd Senior Duelist **Fraser Fox**. We also had a handful of Clean Match cowboys: **Faygo Kid, Dakota Doc, Horse Keeper** and **Goatlips**. Hats off to you gentlemen!

Our September 20th Monthly Match brought about 41 cowpokes out on the range for our shoot. Thanks to the folks that made the trek, which made the match fun. Those results are as follows: First Place Overall was the **Faygo Kid** (I don't know about you folks, but I'm starting to notice a trend here). Congrats again! As for the DSC members that braved the humidity kudos go to 1st Cowboy **Dar B Shureshot**, 2nd Cowboy **Camptown**, 1st Senior **J. J. Longley**, 1st Senior Duelist **Fraser Fox**, 3rd Cowboy **Shotgun Willy**, 2nd Senior Duelist **Nine Finger Bob**, 6th Cowboy **Canyon Jack**, 8th Silver Senior **Cold Coffee Jack? No!**, 1st Lady 49er **Lady Vixen**, 1st Senior Gunfighter **Huron Ranger**, 8th Cowboy **Red Dog** and finally 1st Grand Dame **Kanab Kitty**. Our Clean Match cowboys deserve a pat on the back also: **Bad Brass, Eleanor Jewel, Faygo Kid, Moe Gunns** and **Grubby Hardrock**.

** Don't forget to mark your calendar for the DSC 2-Day Shoot on October 17th-18th, 2009. We have an information link on the Wolverine Rangers website, under the "calendar" section. Hope to see you there!

Wolverine Rangers Club News

Straight Shots From Saginaw

Autumn has arrived and here we are watching summer gallop off into the sunset, but not without leaving us with some mighty fine memories. OK, all except those gun problems that plagued a few of us. But looking back, the fun times did outweigh them all.

Our August 29th shoot was based upon stage scenarios from the upcoming Range War and everyone enjoyed getting some extra practice in before that shoot. We had 17 clean match winners out of a total 67 shooters. Top five ladies were: Tessa Two Gunner, Ruby Red Jo, Laporte Lil, Cactus Kay and Lainey Mae. Top five gents were: Three Gun Cole (Overall Winner), Lightning Wayne, Doc Noper, Bad River Marty and Slo Mo. Our pards also contributed \$110 towards an automated external defibrillator from the Gillary Charity. Thank ya kindly, pards!

During the awards ceremony, a special presentation was made to Onyx, now dubbed by the Lady Walkers as "Scary Bear". He received a special poem, written and read by Katie Callahan, detailing the frightful events of a bear-scaring incident involving innocent, YOUNG ladies, out on a walk during our July "Freedom Days" shoot. Also, Laporte Lil presented him with a personalized "Scary Bear" shooter's bag, highlighted with an embroidered bear's head. For those not familiar with all the details on how this legend was begun, you could ask Onyx. But in case he acts like a bear about it, you can always get the real story from the ladies. It just goes to show what cowboy action shooting is all about...good friends havin' grrrrreat fun. Right, Scary Bear???

The shooting fun carried right over to Range War. A personal thank you goes to Coffin Nail Bob for his talented artwork he surprised Katie with and which now hangs proudly on her wall. Deuce did

a fine job with the stage scenarios and all the volunteers can be congratulated for their efforts in making this shoot another grand event. We'd also like to extend a special thanks to Emily (Gillary) Kucinich for the great job she did. If you couldn't attend this year, we sure hope Range War 2010 will see you there. Really, it's more fun than should be allowed!

As the days grow shorter, there's still time to get out and enjoy yourself. Remember to live life...give it your best shot. God bless ya, pards!

Bad River Marty & Katie Callahan

Epitaph Editor Needed

Our Editor, Cherokee Maddog, is now employed and living in North Carolina. With all the chaos of moving, taking on a new job and trying to buy/sell houses his plate runneth over. So the Wolverine Rangers are in need of an Epitaph Editor. Read through the job description on Page 6 which is a current description except for the secretary position has changed or view the complete description on the website. If you have moderate computer skills and would like to fill a much needed position with the Rangers contact Cherokee Maddog (traildoggy@aol.com) and R.J. Law (rgillary@gillarylaw.com). They would really like to hear from you soon.

Website Update

There will be no updates or changes made to the website October 24-31. If you have anything that needs to be posted, please get it to me by October 23 (or sooner). Updates during the first week of November could be sporadic, but should be back to normal sometime during the second week.

Regards,
Laporte Lil

Wolverine Rangers Club News

HIDDEN VALLEY COWBOYS

What a great day for shooting, not too hot, not too cold, just right. This month's stages were designed by Three Gun Cole and they were "Fast & Furious." I'd like to thank Three Gun Cole, Mike E the Blaster and their gang for all their hard work setting up the stages!

I would also like to thank Triple Threat, Sauk Trail Mike, Naughty Nellie, Sniffen Cricket, Rusty Bedsprings, Mule Skinner, Grampaw Willie, Lily of the Valley, Boot Hill Bert and Ms. Blazin for all your hard work setting up and working the shoot. Thanks to our Posse Leaders, Grampaw Willie, Three Gun Cole and J. D. Spence!

We are now affiliated with the Wolverine Rangers, Sauk Trail Mike and I have joined the Rangers and will be part of the Board. I would like to point out the following:

April shoot: 32 shooters
 June shoot: 29 shooters
 July shoot: 34 shooters
 Mentioned in the Rangers Epitaph
 August shoot: 37 shooters
 Joined the Wolverine Rangers
 Sept. shoot: 44 shooters

All match scores can be found on the Wolverine Rangers website, www.wolverinerangers.org if you are having trouble receiving them in email they can be viewed there.

I want to thank everyone again, and I hope to see you all next month, October 18th, for the next shoot. I will be in touch about a work party.

Sauk Valley Stubby

THE DOUBLE BARREL GANG

HASTINGS, MICHIGAN

Aug. 8th match started a little wet and finished even wetter. We had 18 shooters show up but only 9 brave souls finished the match. The match winner was Snare Man. Clean shooters were Dakota Fats, Antietam Kid, Steve the Gun Guru, and Lue Dee Kriss. The guys had had their Sat bath by match end. Thanks to all who attended and braved the weather again.

Aug. 30th we finally got it right. 41 shooters enjoyed a wonderful day of shooting. Three Gun won the match. Clean shooters were Three Gun, No Buck Chuck, Slippery Pete, Lucky Lennie, Sgt. Dynamite, Tessa Two Gunner, Double Back Dakota, Ledge Lady, No Cattle, Dakota Fats, Trooper John, and Lue Dee Kriss.

We shot some of the stages from Range War and some of the new sweeps. The Double Barrel Gang would like to thank Duce and RJ and all the volunteers who made Range War a great success. Great stages, a great banquet, good food, and lots of fun.

The Gang would all so like to welcome Hidden Valley into the Wolverine Rangers.

The Double Barrel Gang will shoot on October 11, with November and December TBA.

The Double Barrel Gang has purchased 8 more large targets. So along with Tiny and his 4 brothers we have the largest targets in most of Michigan.

Have fun, shoot straight and keep your powder dry and we will see ya down the trail.

Dakota Fats said all that.

CLASSIFIED:

1873 Winchester/Uberti Deluxe with pistol grip. Colt McAllister action job. Aluminum carrier. Modified sights, 24 inch barrel. Contact Nunica Kid at 231-557-2408





WOLVERINE RANGERS
Emily Kucinich
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Troy, MI 48084

Epitaph Editor Needed

Epitaph Editor Job Description (abbreviated description)

Bi-Monthly publication

Published the first of every **even** month.

Job Requirements;

- Moderate Computer skills
- Moderate typing skills
- Some copyright skills: checking for typos, spelling and grammatical errors, etc.
- Computer with Microsoft Publisher software and a PDF writer/converter.
- Active E-mail address; (suggest using Microsoft Outlook)
- All article submissions, correspondence and other communication is via email.
- Yahoo and other e-mail programs do not always support formatting required
- Editor is also a Wolverine Rangers Board Member position; it is recommended to attend most board meetings and Range War.

See the website for a complete description.

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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