

# Wolverine Rangers' Epitaph



Volume 3, Issue 6

December 2000

## **Wolverine Rangers Officers and Board of Directors**

Captain Ed Smith aka  
*Dakota Doc*

Sec/Tres Paula Smith aka  
*Cactus Kay*

First Lieutenant Mike Carnaghi  
*Chili Pepper Pete*

Marty Bell aka  
*Bad River Marty*

Carmen Bryan aka  
*Wiiwan*

David Bryan aka  
*Border Town Hombre*

K.C. Fahrmi aka  
*Texas John Critter*

Bill Felice aka  
*Ricochet Bill*

Phyllis Felice aka  
*Tenderfoot Tess*

Wally Liley aka  
*Wall-Man*

Rick Lewis aka  
*Micky Lobe*

Len Nanzer aka  
*Lucky Lenny*

Clarence Rossell aka  
*No Buk Chuck*

Rick Stover aka  
*Mackinaw Kid*

## **CAPTAIN'S CORNER...**

*Howdy boy's! I know I'm in Texas because I went into a restroom the other day and all the graffiti was in Spanish. Needless to say the stop wasn't very educational*

*Cactus Kay and I went to the shoot at Fredericksburg last weekend. The grounds looked great with all the buildings constructed out of native stone and tin roofs. Any wood used was made to look old and very period looking. Inside the front half of the walls were lined with quarter inch, four by eight sheets to prevent accidental sideways discharge of firearms. The construction of the Alamo was about half complete. All in all this is going to be some place when completed. The only drawback would be from a spectators point of view. You can't see. The buildings are so close together, like a real western town you've seen, nobody but the shooters can see what is going on, and only if you are inside the building, which gets rather noisy and crowded. Irregardless, it was a fine performance and Cactus Kay did the Wolverine Rangers justice by finishing Second in her division. I ended up with a burn on the back of my neck, because she was breathing down my neck so hard. I think I'm going to have to follow Chili Pepper's advice and resort to cheating to stay ahead of her.*

*We have been promoting our shoot wherever we go. We are talking to vendors constantly and have given Larry Hopewell our Wolverine Rangers stainless steel Ruger Vaquero for engraving to be presented to a lucky shooter at the 2001 range war, August 31 - September 3, 2001. Mark your calendars now. We will be back at Port Huron at the Blue Water Sportsman Club. The board is meeting regularly throughout the winter regarding the Range War.*  
*Continued pg. 2*

**SAFETY IS A MATTER OF ATTITUDE**

**CAPTAINS CORNER** continued

*Call your board member with suggestions while there is still time to act. No Buk Chuck is in charge of the side events this year and offered the following program for operation. Each shooting club is going to undertake two side events, and provide the targets and manpower. For instance, Mickey Lobe and Dakota Doc are responsible for Long Range Rifle and Pistol. We are looking for volunteers to man these events in two hour shifts in order to prevent anyone from having to work all afternoon. Please call any board member and plan on helping with the side events this year. It takes a lot of manpower to put on a shoot of this magnitude and we appreciate your help.*

*Went to the Texas Hatters the other day. Had a hat that didn't fit as it should. These boys can put a hat together for fit and comfort. While I was there, I found the following quote on the wall: Quality is like buying oats, if you want clean oats you have to pay a fair price. If you want oats already run through the horse, that's a little cheaper. With that I'll close and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*

*Dakota Doc*

**CLUB CONTACTS**

Bordertown Hombre	Port Huron	519-336-1690
Dakota Doc	Davison	810-733-8454
Bad River Marty	Saginaw	517-585-3292
Mackinaw Kid	DSC	248-852-0351
Micky Lobe	Durand	810-629-9709
Texas John Critter	Hastings	616-374-7106
Wall-Man	Lapeer	248-628-7424

**TIDBITS**

*By Cactus Kay*

*\*Send corrections on e-mail addresses, etc to wolverinerangers@yahoo.com. I haven't been inundated yet so maybe they weren't too bad. Hope you enjoyed your member list.*

*\*Remember to give the Wolverine Rangers credit if you join SASS or the NRA.*

*\*If you read the Captains Corner you know what a story teller Doc is. If I could beat him on any stage I would be thrilled. I got close a couple of times and made him real nervous! I'll keep trying.*

*\*It was great to see Secondhand Jack and Laporte Lil observing in Texas at the Tin Star Regional. We opted to go to dinner with them instead of spending \$30.00 per person to go to the shoot dinner. We heard the next day that Doc's name was drawn for a handgun, but he had to be present to win. Seems we had a very expensive dinner anyway. Oh well, we didn't need another gun anyway, did we?*

*\*We are working on revising paperwork for next year. Renewal forms will come with the February news letter.*

*\*Wolverine Ranger decals are available in a 4-inch size for \$5.00, your alias to match is \$4.00 in red, gray, or black. Send a check to the regular Wolverine Ranger address if you are interested. Larger decals are available upon request.*

*\*Shotgun Bill gave me some prunes at a shoot this spring. (I believe he and Doc were having a little fun.) Well I brought those prunes with me to Texas, stewed them, and used them as a breakfast food before the big shoot. I made that mistake only the first day. I was a quick learner. Thanks Bill, I thought of you often that weekend.*

*\*We're hoping to have a posse of Wolverine Rangers at Trailhead in March. If you are able to travel come on down. Contact Chili Pepper, Led Foulin' or us for information.*

**BLACKPOWDER 12 GA. SHOTSHELL RELOADING PART I  
BY MACKINAW KID**

Everyone has an opinion on loading blackpowder cartridge or shotgun shells. I will be writing this article based on my research and experimentation in loading for the old scatterguns. You have to remember that many of these earlier guns were designed purely for blackpowder and even have the old chambering. 12 ga. came in many lengths from 2 3/8" to 2 5/8". The 2 3/4" didn't come about until 1893, when smokeless powder was introduced for shotshells in the US. Enough about history, let's get into the meat of this article....Loading.

First off you have to determine what length chamber your shotgun is. Many of you sidewinders are using modern made shot throwers so you don't have to worry about whether it is a short chamber or the more modern 2 3/4". If you have one of the older guns and you are not sure take it to a competent gunsmith and have him check old Betsy out. Make sure it is shootable and measure the chamber. It is easy to take plastic shells and cut them down or even paper. Federal still makes their paper champions in 12 ga. Don't forget many of these old guns are not designed to take the pressures of modern smokeless powder and I cannot recommend anything but blackpowder or one of its substitutes.

In this first installment, we are going to discuss using brass 2 5/8" shotgun shells. I have been using many different brand names... CBC made in Brazil, UMC, Remington, Alcan, Redhead and Winchester. Some are new manufacture and some are from the 1800's. I prefer to use new old manufactured shells. These shells use large pistol primers. Alcan's can be altered by taking a "C" size reamer, a drill press and opening the primer pocket to fit a modern 209 primer. CBC shells use Berdan primer that are expensive and hard to find. Old West Scrounger sells both shells and primers. You need to check with them on pricing and availability. I have heard many people say that you need magnum primers for blackpowder. This is not true. It is true for Pyrodex and some of the blackpowder substitutes. But blackpowder ignites with a wisp of warm air and really needs no extra help.

Tools! It is not recommended to use a powder measure and drop like a Lyman, RCBS, or any of the modern powder measures. It is better to use the dip and pour method. Dip the powder out of a container, preferably metal because plastic can cause static electricity, which may cause the powder to ignite, using a measure of a predetermined charge and pour it into a casing.

Remember we are trying to do Dram equivalents. One dram equals 27.3 grains of 2F blackpowder measured on a scale, which is equal to 30.6 grains in a volume measurement. Most of the loads that I use are 3 drams, which is equal to 92 grains volume measurement or 82 grains measured on a scale. What this all breaks down to is you will need a powder measure like the muzzleloaders use or one of the old measures that do both drams and shot in ounces. Most of the time you can find these measures at gun shows and I have even found them at yard sales. Look around, I'm sure you Granddad used one and maybe it is just lying around somewhere just collecting dust. I use two, one for shot and one for powder. These can be used with blackpowder substitutes as well. You are going to need some kind of tool to seat your wads. I searched high and low and found straight line wad setters at gun shows. Some are brass tubes some are nickel plated but basically all it is is a tube with a funnel on one end that will fit over a 12 ga. shotgun shell, with a wooden dowel to push the wads down inside. I have seen it done with just a wooden dowel and a cardboard tube that will fit over the outside of the shell snugly.

I started looking for just the tools I needed for loading brass shotgun shells and it has ended up becoming a whole new hobby (obsession). I have what started from 5 or 6 tools to a 4' x 5' cabinet that now houses my collection. Just when I think I have enough I find one more piece that I just can't live without. Okay lets get on with loading this shotgun shell.

First we start with a primer. I am going to use a UMC brass 12 ga. 2 5/8" shotgun shell that takes a standard large pistol primer. I don't use rifle primers because some of the old guns have tired springs in them. A Winchester or Federal primer works just fine. Some of the old casing you will find with an old copper domed primer. In many cases these are contaminated and will not work, but just for safety sake put it in your shotgun and fires the primer before you try to remove it from the shell. Inspect the casing for any cracks or heavy corrosion before you reload. Once you have deprimed the shell, clean the primer pocket, prime with a new boxer primer. Now you are ready to put new components in the shotshell. Measure out 3 drams or 92 grains of 2F blackpowder and pour into shotshell. Next you will need a wax cookie. This is made from bee's wax. Use can use what beekeepers call foundation. This will go over the powder and protect it from our next wad, which is called a grease cookie. This can be made from felt. I have been using old wool army blankets. (Make sure there are no synthetics woven into the blanket.) I get my wife to wash it for me in hot water and dry it on high heat in the dryer. This shrinks the wool to the maximum. For grease I use either Wonder Lube or a secret formula that I have found though talking to people and trial and error have come up with. 50% petroleum jelly and 50% bees wax. You can add Wonder Lube, Crisco it doesn't matter. What does matter is that you need this lubricant to keep the fowling soft. It also helps keep the barrel from leading up as badly. Take your wads after you have cut them or if you don't have

**CONTINUED-**

**IT IS WITH DEEPEST REGRETS  
WE AT THE EPITAPH ANNOUNCE  
THE PASSING OF ONE OF OUR  
FRIENDS. AVALANCHE JACK AKA  
JACK PASSAGE HAS GONE  
AHEAD OF US ON THE COWBOY  
TRAIL. HE WILL BE MISSED.**

**WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN?**

**By Wiiwan**

- Paula Peltan is her name
- from Center line MI
- has been shooting C.A.S for over 2 years
- use to be on the Warren Women's rifle team
- she's a teacher
- married for 33 years
- has 3 sons and looks way too young to be a grand mother of 8
- she likes to do some leather work
- also likes to cook and eat, not necessarily in that order
- We know her as "Little Mama"
  
- David Peltan is Paula's husband
- he's also a teacher
- he has the same 3 sons and 8 grandchildren
- his alias is "YeeHaw"
  
- Lorn Yaros
- has been shooting Cowboy action for 1 year now
- he also shoots autos, skeet and trap and likes to fish
- he is from Lake Orion
- married with 2 children
- he works for the road commission but he doesn't want you to hold that against him
  
- Did you guess "Kid Orion"

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**WOLVERINE RANGERS  
4345 SOUTH LINDEN RD**

**FLINT, MI 48507**

**(810)733-8454**

**FAX (810)733-8468**

**wolverinerangers@yahoo.com**

**EPITAPH**

**TEXAS JOHN CRITTER**

**307 1/2 W KNOLL RD**

**PORTLAND, MI 49875**

**(616)374-7106**

**texasjohncritter@hotmail.com**

**BLACKPOWDER SHOTSHELL CONTINUED**

...cutter you can use Ox-Yoke wads and place them in a plastic container with enough lubricant to saturate the wads and place them in the microwave. Nuke them long enough to melt all the lube into the wads. You want them so that they feel wet to the touch. Place one of these wads over the grease cookie. Now we are ready for the over powder card. The over powder card is a 1/8" thick hard cardboard wad. Place this on top of the grease cookie. So far we have powder, wax cookie, grease cookie and over powder card. This protects our next wad, a cushion wad. The cushion wad is placed on top of the over powder card and helps to keep the shot from deforming when the powder gases expand. Once we have built this column you are ready for the shot. I've been using 1 1/8 oz. of No. 6 shot. I found that the heavier shot sizes work better with blackpowder. The 1 to 1 1/8 oz. loads have been working well at taking down poppers and moving swingers. Now we need something to keep the shot from falling out. With the 2 5/8" brass shell I've had to make up about 1/2" before I could insert the overshot card. I've used a cushion wad for filler. Then the overshot card. At this point you need something to hold the card in. I am lucky I was able to find a crimping tool, which rounds the edge of the brass holding in the card. You also can use...Elmers school glue, fingernail polish, water base enamel paint. I prefer the Elmers glue but make sure there is no grease around the mouth of the case or the glue will not stick to it. You could use the polish, just think of all the funky colors out there. You would have the ability to color code each of your shot loads. (Red looks good with brass.) There are many tools you can find for crimping 12 ga. brass shells. The Old West Scrounger has crimping and full length sizing dies that fit into the RCBS Rockchucker. Remove the 7/8 nut and the threads are 1 1/2, which fit the sizing and crimping dies. Don't forget to ask for a shell holder if you order these.

Next issue we will discuss plastic and paper hulls as well as modern plastic shot cups. We will also give you a list of suppliers for wads and other components.

Until then keep your nose to the wind,  
Mackinaw

**Range Operations Course**

January 27th, 2001 7:00 p.m.

DSC

Contact Mackinaw Kid for details

Remember: Range Operations Course 2 is coming soon!

## **Last Frontier Charity Shootout SASS Midwestern Regional**

Oglesby and Oglesby Gunmakers was the primary sponsor of this shoot. Bill Oglesby, AKA Badlands Bill", isn't quite the auctioneer that our own Dakota Doc is, but then Doc has a little catching up to do when it comes to handling them six shooters.

We woke Thursday morning October 5 to a rainy blustery day. Registration and side matches started at noon. Moe and Noe Gunns, Miss E. Gan and myself arrived at Pasa Park around 11 am and were able to pick up our shooters packets and find out what posse we were on. Scheduled for the afternoon were Long Range Rifle and Speed Pistol matches.

All of a cowboys and cowgirls wants and needs (just about) could be met on Vendors Row by the over one dozen sutlers on hand. Everything from boots, clothing and hats, to having your shooting irons engraved or your picture taken with your favorite companion. (horse, dog or ??)

Woke Friday morning to a temperature of 45 degrees and a wind chill factor of 29. We arrived at Pasa Park at 7:30 in plenty of time for the 8:00 shooters' meeting. The meeting was short and sweet and included a little fancy gun handling by Badlands Bill. The shooters proceeded to their first stage of six for the day and met up with fellow posse members. All stages were made up with store fronts, the targets were SASS recommended sizes and at SASS recommended distances, kind of up close and personal. The procedures were simple and easy for all levels of shooters to follow. After our first three stages we broke for lunch. This was served at the club's well-equipped and large hall. We were entertained by historian Jim Dunham and quick draw artist Joe Bowman while we ate. After lunch the posses regrouped and finished shooting the last three stages for the day. Some cowpokes hurried back to their campsites to change into their fancy duds for evening dinner and the Costume and Liars Contests.

Saturday dawned clear and sunny. The only problem was the temperature. It was 30 degrees with a wind chill of 20! Nippy to say the least. No shooters meeting this morning so we got an extra hour of sleep. After a hearty breakfast we were raring to go. The posse met up at our first assigned stage of the four we were shooting that day. We moved right along and finished before lunch. There were more side matches and the finals for Speed Pistol during the afternoon.

The main event of the weekend, other than the main shoot itself, was the Saturday night riverboat ride on the "Mark Twain". The main features of the evening were dinner, live entertainment and a lively auction, run by, as mentioned earlier, Badlands Bill. The entertainment for the evening was songs by L. A. Suess and a presentation by Jim Dunham as Mark Twain.

The final day started at 9:00 am with the "Top Ten Shoot Off" followed by a nine-man team event. There was time for more shopping on the Vendor's trail and lunch. After lunch, the raffle winners were drawn. Raffle prizes included a "Mother Lode" \$4000 worth of merchandise, a custom Ruger by Oglesby and Oglesby Gunmakers and a ladies only draw for a Navy Arms 1892 Winchester. The final shooting event for the weekend was "The Magnificent Seven".

As the name of this shoot implies, all proceeds go to the Two Rivers Regional Council Foundation. This organization serves the needy families of Pike County, Illinois.

Since there was only a handful of Wolverine Rangers that attended this shoot, ourselves, Dakota Doc and Cactus Kay, I feel that there are a lot of good people missing a good shoot and a chance to contribute to a worthy cause while having an enjoyable weekend.

Shoot Safe,  
Dodge Park Kidd

For Sale  
Ruger Vaquero,  
SS, .44/40, 5 1/2 " barrel, NIB \$300  
Guncart  
16" wheels, you finish, \$150  
Contact Attica Jack (810)463-7973

**WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER!**

Lucky Lenny- Hastings  
He is filling in for Nitro Nellie while she gets  
herself an education

**Ode to the greatest campfire lie I  
ever heard.**

**By Sawgrass**

It was a sunny Montana morning, I broke camp and was  
quickly on my way.  
At streamside I gathered fire wood, and began to start my day.  
The coffee boiling nicely, as the eggs and bacon began to  
cook,  
I had just finished tying off my pony, when all around me all  
but shook!  
I rubbed my eyes o' blurry, cause I still wasn't sure what  
caused this shake,  
It sure looked like a giant grizzly, getting whipped by a rattle  
snake.  
Long before I could get my gun, or cuz I was frozen by what I  
saw,  
The meanest looking hombre rode up on a grizzly ten foot  
tall.  
Now I never spoke no words as he punched that grizzly out,  
He knocked it clean a dozen yards, to say the least this dude  
was stout!  
He bit the head right off that rattler, then threw its twisting  
carcass on the ground,  
He then grabbed the sizzling bacon from the pan, and quickly  
ate it down.  
The frying eggs were on the menu next, with the popping  
grease not far behind,  
He drank the boiling coffee too, along with anything else he'd  
find.  
I still stood there like a statue, hoping he wouldn't look too  
close at me,  
I was shaking and almost crying, and I really had to pee!  
He reached into the fire and grabbed out a burning log to pick  
his teeth,  
He then flipped over this huge boulder, and grabbed the rattler  
underneath.  
He then ran over to the grizzly, and slapped it two or three  
good smacks,  
The grizz just started growling as this dude got on his back.  
He whipped that six foot rattler, on that poor grizzly's sore  
behind,  
he said son your a dandy cook, and you've sure been mighty  
kind.  
I'd sure like to stay and visit, but I just have to go you see,  
Cuz there is one tough and ugly hombre, that's chasing after  
me!

*This Poem is an adaptation of a lie that Texas John Critter  
told around the "campfire" at this years Range War.*

**Safety First, Last, and Always**

**CLUB NEWS**

**DSC**

November 19 dawned cloudy and crisp. Well maybe closer  
to down right cold. The shoot was a go and we were glad that  
at least it wasn't raining or snowing. We had 28 true cowboys  
join us for a good round of shooting. We broke up into two  
posses and the fun was on. Special thanks to Gerry Levy for  
making cheesy potatoes for our lunch. We sure have a won-  
derful group of people who are always ready and willing to  
volunteer and donate their talents. Thanks Gerry.  
Don't forget about our New Year's Eve shoot during the day.  
We will start registration at 8:30 a.m. and it will be like our  
regular shoot as far as times. We should be done in a timely  
fashion and you should be home in time to take a nap and take  
your best gal (or guy) out for the evening. (Remember if  
momma ain't happy, ain't no one happy!!!!) Lunch will be  
served in the building so everyone will have an opportunity  
to warm up a little. Remember cowboy clothing and footwear  
will be optional at this shoot. You need to dress warm so that  
you can enjoy yourself. If you don't have good warm boots,  
put on your sock followed by a plastic bag. This will keep the  
wet and dampness away from your feet and then they will stay  
warmer.  
Billy Bob Digwell is looking for pictures from the Range  
War. If you are willing to share please contact him to make  
arrangements.  
We are looking forward to seeing all of you in December.  
Keep your collar up and your backside to the fire.

**Lapeer**

Howdy--

The Lapeer "Wranglers" had 33 cowboys on hand for their  
last outdoor match of the year on Nov. 5th. Certainly was  
nice to see more friendly faces than the 8 that turned out for  
the Oct. match! Of course, weather plays a large part in deter-  
mining match attendance. Led Foulin was our Nov. match  
winner with everyone else finishing second. Prizes were  
awarded to all who attended. We are hoping to see some of  
you at our indoor shoots which begin on Dec. 10 and con-  
tinue on Jan. 14, Feb. 11, and ending March 11. As usual,  
there will be a banquet at Lenny Millers in Dryden on March  
17. Shooters attending will have \$3 per shoot attended re-  
funded to them and prizes will be awarded to all in attendance  
at the banquet. Costs are \$18 for each shoot which includes  
lunch.

See ya on Dec. 10--  
WALL-MAN