



WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



Volume 13, Issue 5

October 2010

★ CAPTAIN'S CORNER ★

Howdy Pard,

Well we had our 12th annual Range War this past Labor Day weekend and it was another big success. We had a total of 240 (?) shooters shoot 10 stages designed by Deuce Stevens. We made some changes for side matches this year. We had a Wild Bunch mini match shoot Friday morning and we had good participation with 50 shooters. Regular side matches were in operation from noon to 4:00 pm which worked out well. We have decided to bring back the Long Range side match next year and add a Cowboy mini match of 3 to 4 stages shooting all 3 guns. Some of our shooters would rather shoot a mini match than side matches and we are finally going to give them that opportunity. The Cowboy mini match will be run at the same time as the Wild Bunch mini match so you will have to choose for next year whether you want to be William Borgnine or John Wayne.

On Saturday night Juni Fisher gave a concert in the Club House. She is a great entertainer and put on a great show. Juni is a multiple Western Music Association award winner and one of the best western music writers and performers out there. Unfortunately, we do not seem to get a real good turnout on Saturday nights during Range War. This is understandable due to the fact that many shooters want to focus on shooting and get to bed early.

Next year we will be moving the concert to Sunday night after the awards presentation. We will move the opening of the banquet hall to either 4:30 or 5:00 and start the dinner earlier and awards presentation earlier so that we can start the concert at 7:30 or 8:00. People who want to stay and enjoy the concert can stay and those who want to leave can leave. Hopefully that will work for everyone.

Next year our performer will be Pop Wagner. Pop is a real cowboy and is a picker, fiddler, lasso twirler and apparently a downright funny guy. Juni recommended Pop and her recommendation is good enough for me. We are looking forward to having Pop come to Range War next year. Pop also makes handmade horse cinches in case you either have a horse or want to cinch up something. 😊

Our next scheduled Board Meeting will be on Saturday October 30th at the Gillary Farm in Columbiaville. Please feel free to contact your club representative or Deuce Stevens or me if you have any comments or suggestions for next year's Range War. Feel free to contact our Treasurer Snareman if you would like any financial information about the Rangers or this year's Range War. Our books are open to our membership.

While I am talking about Range War I would like to thank our legion of volunteers who make Range War work. No one gets paid for anything and without volunteers our sport does not work. We had many who cowboied (and cowgirdled) up to make Range War work. I would like to express my personal thanks and appreciation to all of our pards who helped out. We did something a little different this year to say thank you to our volunteers at Deuce's suggestion. We made a list of all the volunteers and put their names in a hat and Deuce picked 2 names that will get a free shoot at Range War for next year. The winners are 3 Gun Cole and Riverview Rattler. These cowboys will get a free entry for Range War next year. We will do a similar drawing next year.

Well, that is about all that I have to say. Please keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers. I would ask for a special prayer for my nephew Grant Gillary a/k/a Navy Bean. Grant is a Marine Captain in First Recon and is getting ready to go out into another engagement in Afghanistan. His men have been in heavy combat and they have suffered some casualties. Please keep Grant and his men and our other service men and women in your prayers. They allow us to do what we do and enjoy our freedom in the greatest country in the history of the world.

Best regards,

R.J. Law

R.J. Law - Captain



★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

ROCKY RIVER REGULATORS

The town of Rocky River has been very busy over the last two months. On July 31, 2010 we hosted our first Wild Bunch match ever. The cowboys shot 5 Wild Bunch stages with some stages requiring multiple magazine reloads as cowboys shot their way through multiple targets. When the dust settled the Men's Traditional winner was Tres Hombres, the Men's Modern winner was J.J. Longley, and the Men's Open winner was Dodge City Dick. All that participated indicated a need for more Wild Bunch matches in the future. Watch our 2011 calendar as we plan more Wild Bunch events for your enjoyment.

On August 8, 2010 DSC hosted its 1st T-shirt match. Boy did we pick the right day to wear T-shirts. It was hot and humid and short sleeves and shorts were a welcome relief. As a tune up for Guns of August we shot some previous GOA stages and had a blast doing so. When the dust settled J.J. Longley was the overall winner with the following DSC cowboys shooting a clean match, Dar B Sureshot, Nine Fingers Bob, and J.J. Longley.

Four cowboys representing DSC were at the SASS Midwest Regional Guns of August and did real well. High Chin Bob shot the MOST clean stages in any personal match to date. Nine Finger Bob had only 2 misses for the entire 12 stage match. Coyote Claxton and J.J. Longley shot a 12 stage CLEAN match. The stages were fast and furious and were contested by some of the very best cowboy action shooters from around the country. Guns of August is a fun match, both on the range and off. We had a great time sharing "stories" and meeting cowboys and cowgirls over some cold beverages after the guns were put away. We even heard Nine Finger Bob say, "I will buy one round for the bar" and "there is always time for one more." Yes, we found out; there is always time for "one more".

August 22, 2010 was our regular monthly match and when the smoke cleared Faygo Kid edged Two Rig A Tony by 2 tenths of a second to claim the top spot. Shooting clean matches were Faygo Kid, Moe

Gunns, Dakota Doc, Cactus Kay, and Goatlips. Congratulations to all.

Ten DSC cowboys and cowgirls participated in the Michigan State Championship "Range War" put on by the Wolverine Rangers in Port Huron over Labor Day weekend. Four shooters finished in the top five in their respective categories:

Coffin Nail Bob...4th Frontiersman
 Lady Vixen...5th Ladies Senior
 J.J. Longley...5th Senior
 Nine Finger Bob...5th Senior Duelist

In addition, DSC cowboys, Goatlips, Nine Finger Bob, and J.J. Longley shot ten clean stages at Range War.

Our next scheduled match at DSCs is October 17, 2010. Plan to attend and enjoy some heated fast shooting in cool fall weather.

See you on the Range.
J.J. Longley

STRAIGHT SHOTS FROM SAGINAW

As summer was winding down, 52 pardes arrived at our August 28th shoot to enjoy the last hurrahs of our 2010 season. With scenarios taken from the upcoming Range War, our shooters could have given Pecos Bill a run fer his money! They were shooting up a storm. When the smoke settled down in the gulch, we counted 10 clean shooters. Everyone enjoyed getting some extra practice in before the state shoot. Top five gents were: Three Gun Cole (Overall Winner), Bad River Marty, Hair Trigger Elden, Avalanche Andy and Red Beard Bandit. Top five ladies were: Katie Callahan, Ruby Red Jo, Cactus Kay, Laporte Lil, and Miss Elaineous. Wild Bunch Winners in Modern Class: Bad Brass and Broke N' West. Traditional Class: Ethan Callahan, B.W. Roe and Flat Water Johnny. Our pardes also contributed \$100 to the Gillary Charity. Thank ya kindly!

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

Although the weather at Range War felt more like autumn than summer, it did nothing to chill the fun our pards had. Posse One was terrific and displayed what teamwork is all about. Thanks to all of you!! R.J. Law is a dedicated Captain and overseer of the match and his efforts behind-the-scenes and at Range War should be commended. Deuce did another fine job with the stage scenarios and ALL the volunteers are to be congratulated for their dedication to this shoot. Each link in the chain is equally important and when connected, you end up with a state match to be proud of. If you couldn't attend this year, we sure hope Range War 2011 will see you there.

Saginaw's regular weekly shooting will resume in the spring, along with our matches. It was a fun year and we look forward to seeing old friends and hopefully, new faces, too, in 2011. Marty & I would like to thank all who came out and participated and especially our dedicated Saginaw pards who help put on our shoots. What an awesome group...full of fun and laughter and who'd help you in a heartbeat. No wonder everyone loves cowboys!!

Remember to live life...give it your best shot. God bless ya, pards!

Bad River Marty & Katie Callahan

L.C.S.C. COWBOYS

Howdy all,

Things at Lapeer are changing for the better during this fall season. We have had the "infamous" hill leading to Wranglerville almost done away with by a local contractor and his earth moving machines. This was part of the work done to the rifle range and road used by all who ventured into the area. The rifle range benches and overhang have all been removed and the dirt taken down about three feet. This is part of our plan to have a brand new overhang and bench area across the entire width of the range complete with new benches etc. Early next year when the snow leaves the area, hopefully before June, we will add additional gravel to the existing graveled road thereby completing our plans to make it much easier

for cowboys and their carts to travel the entire length of Wranglerville. It's been a while coming but the result is worth the wait. Hopefully we'll see quite a few of the folks who were regulars at our shoots returning to shoot with us again. Many thanks to the board members who approved the improvements and you folks who support us with your attendance at our shoots.

Speaking of our shoots, our October shoot on the 24th will be our famous pumpkin side match shoot. Provided that Porters Orchards in Goodrich have the necessary "culls" they always donate to us for the shoot, we should be in business. We'll be checking them out in the not to far distant future and have them ready to go on the 24th.

Wall-Man (Wally Liley)

THE DOUBLE BARREL GANG HASTINGS

Howdy well summer is almost over it don't seem possible. The Double Barrel Gang held its Sept. match and with out rain again. We had 16 shooters at our match. Congrats to Lightning Wayne for winning the match. Slo Mo was runner up. There was just 1 clean shooter Lue Dee Kriss.

Double Barrel Gang will be shooting on Oct. 9th Tiny and his 4 brothers are ready to take on all comers. Note the change we will be shooting on the 2nd Sat from now on with Nov. TBA.

The Double Barrel Gang would like to invite all to came out and shoot with us. We hope it works out for you now that we will be shooting the second Sat. We are still going to do lunch up town at the Big Boy.

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

Dakota Fats said all that.

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

FROM OUT AT THE CREEK

It's hard to believe another shooting season is almost over. We have had a fun filled summer and also a very productive summer. As you saw in the last "Epitaph" we have a new pavilion and it has been very refreshing to be able to get out of the Sun and the rain. We have used it for both reasons and also just for great fellowship around the chuck wagon and catchin' up with the latest news of fellow cowboys & cowgirls.

Last Saturday's shoot was just such an occasion, we had rain, sunshine, and misting but the sunshine prevailed and the 21 shooters who didn't let the clouds chase them away had a good time knocking down them unique "Sucker Creek" targets. We even had visitors from Ohio who plan on returning next month to shoot with us. Our next shoot is October 16, 2010, we are looking forward to seeing you all, registration begins at 8:30am. There is always a cup of coffee and donut and good conversation for you to partake of before the match begins and a tasty lunch to follow, all included in your shooter's fee.

As always keep up to date with us at www.suckercreek.org, there will be news and pictures of our latest improvements to the Wild West Town of Sucker Creek.

God Bless

The Vicar's Wife,

Secretary, SCS&C

Murphy Short Tom holsters
that fit 4 5/8 Blackhawks.
They are new, black with brown trim.
Caliber .38/.357. Both for \$200.
Will e-mail pictures upon request.

Contact: Nunica Kid at
231-557-2408 or
diverdownjb@hotmail.com

UPCOMING SHOTS

October Shoots

2.....Hillman Monthly Match
2.....Rockford Monthly Match
9.....Bellaire Monthly Match
9.....Hastings..... Monthly Match
13.....Rockford Old Coot Shoot
16.....Lapeer Fun Shoot & Silhouette
16.....Utica..... 22 Pistol/Rifle Shoot
16.....Breckenridge Monthly Match
17.....Utica..... Monthly Match
17.....Sturgis Monthly Match
23.....Central Lake Monthly Match
23.....Plymouth Monthly Match
23.....Lapeer Cowboy Long Range
23.....Scottville Monthly Match
24.....Lapeer Monthly Match

November Shoots

TBA...Hastings..... Monthly Match
6.....Lapeer Set-up for Cowboy Shoot
7.....Lapeer Monthly Match
10.....Rockford Old Coot Shoot
21.....Utica..... Monthly Match

December Shoots

2-5.....SASS Convention in Las Vegas, NV
4.....Rockford Monthly Match
8.....Rockford Old Coot Shoot
TBA...Hastings..... Monthly Shoot
12.....Lapeer Winger League Shoot
19.....Utica..... Monthly Match

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bobbeckystorey@comcast.net or
269-962-2469 or 269-275-6968

★ SHOOTING TIPS ★

TIPS FROM EL GUANO

Howdy again, cowpokes. What say we delve into bullet casting this time around? Most of the people I know think that casting bullets is some kind of black art. NOT SO! I realize that most of you shoot "store bought" bullets simply because of the sheer volume of ammo that you need for practice and matches. The cost of buying bullets and then shipping them through the mail is constantly going up. This means that you either pay the piper or reduce the number you shoot. Thankfully, your big single shot rifle doesn't eat up the bullets like your other shootin' irons do. Casting will allow you to use the bullet style you want in the alloy of your choice, not just what the catalog offers. Currently, a box of 50 store bought 500 grain bullets runs between \$15.00 and \$20.00 not including shipping. Once you make a modest investment in casting equipment, you can cast up a couple of hundred bullets for ALMOST NOTHING depending on how you get your lead.

Lets go over the cost of everything you'll need: Lee lead pot: \$60.00 [or Coleman stove.. free], lead ladle: \$15.00 [or homemade ladle.. free], bullet mould, \$60.00, handles for mould, \$30.00, bullet sizer/luber..\$115.00, sizing die..\$20.00, top punch to fit bullet nose.. \$8.00, bullet lube..\$4.00 per stick. Other things you need are a thick pair of leather gloves, a COTTON apron [yup...you will know why you wear one when a drop of molten lead falls in your lap!] an old candle for fluxing the melted lead, safety glasses, long sleeve shirt, an old hammer handle to tap on the mould hinge pin to help the bullet drop out of the mould, and last but not least, pure lead. If all you can get is wheel weights to start with....fine. Later on as you get better at casting, [and shooting] you will want to alloy your bullets with pure tin. A pound of tin mixed with 30 pounds of pure lead will give you 31 pounds of quality bullet alloy....enough to keep you casting and shooting for quite a while.

Alright.. let's cast. If you are using a brand new mould, it MUST have the oil cleaned out of it first. It can be cleaned by scrubbing it with a toothbrush and warm soapy water followed by a warm water rinse and thoroughly drying with a clean towel. Put your lead in the pot and the ladle too. Pre-heat your mould by putting it on top of the pot so it heats up slowly. If you heat up the mould too quickly you run the risk of warping it. If you start to cast into a cold mould, you will reject the first 20-30 bullets because of wrinkles in the bullets caused by the mould not being hot enough. You will notice that there are impurities that come to the surface of the melted lead. Time to flux. Take a small chunk of candle wax the size of your thumbnail and put it in the pot. Stir the melting wax around in the lead. DO NOT BREATHE THE SMOKE! Be careful because it may start on fire [normal..depending on the lead temp.] There will be a grey/brown "dust" appear on the surface of the lead. This is called dross and you should scoop it off. Now take your dipper full of melted lead and GENTLY pour it into your pre-heated mould until it overflows. Leave a puddle of lead on the top of the sprue plate. When the lead solidifies, carefully open the mould by hand [heavy leather gloves, remember!] or by GENTLY tapping the sprue plate open with the old hammer handle. Open the mould over an old cotton

towel folded into quarters to cushion the falling bullet. If the bullet doesn't fall from the mould when it opens, GENTLY tap the hinge pin on the handle with the hammer handle until it drops out. NEVER HIT THE MOULD ITSELF!!! ONLY THE HINGE PIN!!!

Your first bullets will probably come out wrinkled. This is normal. Once your mould comes up to casting temp, and the mould gets "seasoned" a little, your bullets should start coming out perfect. If you cast 10-15 bullets and they are still coming out wrinkled there are several explanations for it. #1 mould not up to casting temp. #2 Lead not up to casting temp. [probably both] ..turn up the heat and keep casting. Bullets will fill out better as the temp gets higher. #3 mould still has trace amounts of oil in it. Keep casting...it will go away. Immediately return all rejected bullets and lead sprue to the pot to be remelted. If the bullets start to come out of the mould looking "frosted", the lead/mould are too hot. Turn down the temp a little. Good bullets shine like new silver with no frosting or wrinkles. Always check the two faces of the mould for specks of lead that will prevent it from completely closing. If you see a speck of lead on the mould face, use a small piece of copper or brass to GENTLY scrape it off. NEVER use anything that will scratch the mould! GENTLY close the mould and cast another bullet.

When you are done casting, let the mould and bullets cool. I like to put the mould in a zip-lock bag while it is still warm and squeeze out as much air as I can before sealing the bag. You DON'T want your mould to rust. Take your brand new match quality bullets and GENTLY put them in the storage container of your choice.

READ THIS AND REMEMBER! NEVER cast bullets inside your home. NEVER breathe the smoke when you flux. ALWAYS wear heavy leather gloves, protective glasses, an apron, and long sleeve shirt. WASH YOUR HANDS when you are done. Keep kids, pets, nagging women etc. away during casting sessions. I do most of my casting in the spring and fall when the thermometer is at 45 degrees or above and cast up enough bullets for the entire match season. 'Till next time, hold center
EL GUANO

El Guano

1874 Shiloh sharps 50-70 - 32 inch #3 heavy octagon barrel - spirit level globe front sight- mid-range vernier rear sight- straight grip- shotgun butt-checked- X fancy wood- set triggers- AS NEW- dies, brass, bullet mould, powder compression die, sizing die, shell holder, 10 lbs. of bullets, shoots 4 inch groups at 200 yds. all for \$2200.00 Don't wait on this one cuz it's sure to move on down the trail fast!

Contact El Guano at spidercontrolinc@aol.com



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Bob & Elaine Drury
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★ **WHO TO CONTACT** ★

CAPTAIN

- Any Wolverine Ranger or Range War Concerns

RANGE WAR MATCH DIRECTOR

- Volunteer to help with Range War
- Vendor Registration and Information

WOLVERINE RANGERS' 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
- Requests to receive Epitaph by mail

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

★ **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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