



WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



Volume 13, Issue 6

December 2010

★ CAPTAIN'S CORNER ★

Howdy Pards,

It is hard to believe that 2010 is almost over. The Lady and I had a fun year shooting. Fortunately for me, The Lady was pretty much finished with her routine maintenance work and she was able to shoot a full season this year. We were both fortunate enough to have a pretty full shooting season this year. It is definitely more fun when my bride can shoot with me.

The most recent shoot that we were able to make together was Comin At Cha, the SASS Southwest Regional, put on by The Dooley Gang in English, Texas. It was nice to see a bunch of our shooting friends and to shoot again with our daughter Emily's (Cosmopolitan Christine) in-laws, Lefty Wheeler and Crazy Legs Kay and her new brother in law, A Paul Lingshot. By the way, if you happen to be in Clarkesville, Texas be sure to make it to the Italian restaurant there. The owner and chef is from Florence, Italy and he makes the best Italian food in the U.S.

The Wolverine Rangers are financially strong and we keep open books. If you are interested in seeing any financial information please contact Snareman

and he will be happy to provide you with a copy of our current financial statement.

The Christmas season is now upon us. Please take some time to slow down and remember that the birth of Christ is the reason for the season.

My family has received some good news from our nephew Grant. He is a Marine Captain in First Recon. He expects to be home from Afghanistan for Christmas and all of his men are coming home alive. Thank you God. One of the medics said that the men of First Recon are the smartest men at the Special Olympics.

Have a Blessed Christmas and we look forward to seeing all of our shooting pards next year.

Best regards,

R.J. Law

R.J. Law - Captain
Wolverine Rangers



★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

ROCKY RIVER REGULATORS

Fall has come to the town of Rocky River and it has been a very busy time here on the range. On September 25 and 26 we hosted our 5th Annual Ambush at Rocky River. With 36 Cowboys and cowgirls fighting for the top spot, Faygo Kid prevailed and took home a large cowboy trophy for overall match winner. Trophies for 12 category winners were also awarded for their top finish. Shooting 10 clean stages were Camptown and Cody Billings. Congratulations to all who participated.



On October 17, 2010 we hosted our annual Chili Cook Off match. When the dust settled and the lead quit going down range, once again Faygo Kid prevailed as the match overall winner. Shooting clean matches were Moe Gunns, Dodge City Dick, R.J. Law, Andy Horseurodinon, Broke N' West, and Grubby Hardrock. They all deserve a hardy well done!

Once the match concluded the real competition started. We came inside the cowboy range building and sat down to some award winning chili.

Best Bean Chili-Penny Ante
 Best No Bean Chili-Andy Horseurodinon
 Best White Bean Chili-Terrebone Bud
 Hottest Chili-Coffin Nail Bob
 Overall Best Chili-Coffin Nail Bob

If you make great chili or you just like to eat great chili (like me) you need to mark this match on your calendar for next year.

On November 21, 2010 The Rocky River Regulators hosted our annual Thanksgiving match. When the dust settled, Dodge City Dick took top honors and also shot a clean match. Joining Dodge City Dick in shooting clean matches were Clay Creek, J.J. Longley, Nine Finger Bob, Andy Horseurodinon, and Rodent.

Once the match was concluded all the cowboys and cowgirls settled in and enjoyed a delicious traditional Thanksgiving dinner prepared and served by Penny Ante and her family.

Rocky River has one more monthly match scheduled for Sunday, December 19, 2010.

See you on the Range.
 J.J. Longley

BUSHCREEK WRANGLERS

BADWATER LONGHORNS

The **Brushcreek Wranglers** (Hillman Sportsmen Club) will be having their 2011 matches on the second Saturday of the month.

The **Badwaters Longhorns** (Bellare) will have theirs on the first Saturday of the month.

Rancher Boy

COWBOY PASSING

John Wyrwicz aka Canyon Jack of DSC died Wednesday, September 29. Canyon Jack's wife, Penny Ante, has been doing the cooking for the DSC matches for the past couple of years. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.



★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

HURON RIVER RAIDERS

Just want all the Cowboys & Girls to know that we will be having practices in 2011 for the months of May 7, August 6, September 10, and October 1, from 9:30AM - 1:00PM. The range fee is only \$7.00 and a large assortment of guns/calibers/ammo. will be available for kids (.22 & .410) and newbees.

We need to buildup our membership so we can again hold SASS matches, which will benefit all of us.

We have the Taylors 1873 rifle in .357magnum called The Comanchero and came with the action work and short stroke done by Cody Conagher. Anyone at the practice can use it along with either 38spl. or 357 cowboy ammo.

*Regards,
Cool Hand Carl*

Marshall of The Huron River Raiders
248-318-3463
1873cowboy45@sbcglobal.net

THE ROCKFORD REGULATORS

The Rockford Regulators are planning to shake things up in 2011. In October we decided to try on something different, we did a Duelist Challenge at our monthly shoot and it was a hoot! We let it be known on the SASS wire and by word of mouth that we were going to be showcasing the duelist shooting style. Many cowboy shooters, including myself, shoot only with two hands on the pistols and needed to get out of our comfort zone and try something different.

We had over a dozen give it a try and we did have a grand ole time! I personally worked very diligently to get a "P"...just couldn't keep my left hand from trying to cock my Vaqueros!



When it was all said and done Deuce and KJ Stevens were our top Men's and Lady Duelist shooters (100.34 and 160.94). Lucky Lennie was the top Senior Duelist (153.71). Crazy Mingo shot Pale Rider Duelist and had some very loud and smoky loads (184.95). Dakota Doc and Cactus Kay also shot Duelist, he in Elder Statesman Duelist and she in Lady Silver Senior Duelist they both finished at the top of their categories as well (193.80 and 241.12 respectively).

Judging by the feedback of folks that tried this, fun was had by all! Isn't that what it is all about? Check out Tintype Charlie's photos of some of

the Duelists.

<http://rockfordsc.zenfolio.com/p864821378/h417c6bc#h417c6bc>

Speaking of fun, the Regulators have some ideas that we really want to try. In the next year we are hoping to add some side matches to our events. Our plan, so far, is to do some Cowboy Trap and have a Wild Bunch match after some of our shoots. Another side match that we would like to try is long range shooting with cowboy rifles. There are quite a few of us with these types of rifles that rarely get to use them outside of a state or regional shoot so let's dust them off and put them to work. If you guys would like to get another type of side match, just let me know and we will see what we can do.

On another note, we are planning to shoot in December for sure and in January and February we will be shooting baring a big blizzard or other extreme weather. So, make sure you keep your reloading presses going through the holidays and watch the Wolverine Rangers and Rockford Sportsmans Club websites for updated information.

*See ya'll soon,
Ketchum and the Gang*

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

THE EAGLEVILLE COWBOYS

The last Eagleville shootin' match for 2010 is history. Somebody up there likes Cowboy shooters, as we had wonderful weather for the October shoot. When the last shooter was done with stage #6, it started to rain..not hard, and we were eating under cover.



A bunch of helpful cowboys put John Wayne and his horse, Buffalo Billy, and saddle along with some other props in the barn for the

winter, even though we had to do it in a light sprinkle. Attendance was down a little this year, but we still had a great summer of shootin'. And some of us lucky ones will be headed for warmer weather where we can shoot all winter.

Top of the heap this time was: Silver Senior - Thummpier John, 49er - Atlanta Sharp, Elder Statesman - Trusty Rusty, Ladies 49er - Crack Shot Fannie, Frontier Cartridge Duelist - Marlin Matt, Wrangler - Rowdy Rusk, Ladies Frontier Cartridge - Senorita Vaquera, B Western - Wild Zeb Allen. We look forward to seeing all our Pardis in the spring, and surely some of them down the trail in some other states this winter. Y'all have a great winter.

*One Son of a Gun, and all the
Eagleville Cowboys.*

NEWS FROM "OUT AT THE CREEK"

Another successful season of Cowboy Action Shooting™ has finished at Sucker Creek Saddle & Gun Club. The hunters have descended upon our "town" until Spring. We had shooters from near and far and all had a great time from the comments heard around the range.

We made improvements to our "Town"...a pavilion was constructed and underground wire was buried, to name a couple. There is always room for improvement and lots of ideas are being bantered around, so come next shooting season as I'm sure there will be something new to see or do "Out at the Creek". So, as the snow falls over Sucker Creek we wish you all a safe and straight shooting winter if you get the chance. Otherwise, have a safe and toasty winter around the fire.

We hope and pray you all will have a very MERRY and BLESSED CHRISTMAS season. 'Til next Spring, God Bless and straight shooting to you all.

*The Vicar's Wife,
for all the Sucker Creek Gang*

HIDDEN VALLEY COWBOYS

What a beautiful day in October for our final shoot of 2010! We had 41 shooters today, some new faces, some regular faces and some faces we haven't seen in awhile. Thanks to all that came out today. Grampa Willie designed the stages today, we shot "The Merryman Medicine Show", Thanks Grampa!

Thanks to our Posse Members for making our shoot possible: Billy Blackthorne, Boothill Bert, Diamond Jim, Grampa Willie, Horserider Blue, Lily of the Valley, Montana Rex, Ms. Blazin', Mule Skinner, Naughty Nellie, Sauk Trail Mike and Triple Threat!

We had 12 Clean & Smooth Shooters: Antietam Kid, Arkansas Jack, Badshot, Dakota Fats, Grampa Willie, Horserider Blue, Lue Dee Kriss, Mongo J.

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

Flint, Sauk Valley Stubby, Spoon River Sam, The Stranger and Three Gun Cole. Congratulations!

On October 23rd at 10 am the Hidden Valley Posse will be putting the Valley to bed for the winter. If you would like to join the Posse you are more than welcome!

*See ya all in the spring!
Sauk Valley Stubby & Ms. Blazin'*

THE DOUBLE BARREL GANG

Howdy! Well summer is over it don't seem possible. The Double Barrel Gang held its last match on a great November day. We had 19 shooters at our match. Congrats to Slo Mo for winning the match. Lightning Wayne was runner up. Sassy Sue was the top Lady. There were six clean shooters: Slippery Pete, Riverview Rattler, Snareman, Dakota Fats, Lue Dee Kriss, and Sassy Sue.

The Double Barrel Gang will be shooting on the 2nd Saturday next year starting in April. Tiny and his four brothers will be ready to take on all comers.

The Double Barrel Gang would like to thank all that came out and shot with us this season. We hope you enjoyed our efforts. We will do lunch uptown at the Big Boy again next year. Bruce says that if December and March are open (no snow) we might shoot. We'll keep you posted.

Bruce and I would like to thank Dick, Jack, Charlie, and Neil for their help with putting on the matches this season. Have fun, shoot straight and keep your powder dry. Stay warm, and we will see ya down the trail.

Dakota Fats said all that.

STRAIGHT SHOTS FROM SAGINAW

Christmas is just around the corner and a new year awaits us... perhaps with some uncertainty, but one thing's for sure, having great cowboy fun at Saginaw is our continued goal for the new year.

We had our annual meeting and pot luck in late October, and our parads have set some 2011 shoot dates. We will have a shoot in the spring, either in May or June and will have that date finalized soon. Back by popular request is our 2 back-to-back shoots, July 30th -31st . Mark your calendar! They are fun-filled and if you want to stay over and shoot both days, free camping is available, along with a great evening pot luck dinner. We've set August 27th for our late summer shoot. This is a great one to warm up on for the upcoming State Shoot. We also have enlarged a lower-range bay for more shooting fun and, of course, those wickedly big targets will be around to challenge even the best of you parads.



If you've never shot at our Saginaw club, here's your invitation. And, for our parads who keep coming

back, we thank ya kindly and will see ya in the new year! From all the Six-Shooters in Saginaw, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with good health, lots of laughter and straight shooting!

God bless you all and remember to live life...Give it your best shot.

Bad River Marty & Katie Callahan

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

1849 Wolverine Rangers

The Wolverine Rangers of 1849 were a group of people headed west during the Gold Rush to find their fortunes in the California gold fields. Fifty-five men were listed on the starting roster. Women and children were not identified but it must be assumed that many of the men had families. There were probably about 145 people on the wagon train headed west. Six more were picked up before reaching Independence Missouri the starting place of all westward wagon trains.

People were from 13 Michigan counties and two New York counties. Most people came from Calhoun county with the second being Washtenaw. The date they left Michigan is a mystery but it must have been in the first week of March.

They planned to make 12 miles a day and it's 651 miles from Calhoun County to Independence Mo. The Rangers were one of the last groups to leave Missouri for California in 1849 starting on May 16th. The trip to Sacramento Ca is 1732 miles. They were 917 miles into the trip at the South Pass (a mountain pass) in Wyoming on July 31st. They were averaging exactly 12 miles per day although the pace slowed when they got into the mountains.

By September 20th they were in the Warner Mountains on the California-Nevada border. They were in trouble because they were so late. The weather was cold and starting to snow and they were running out of food for the people and live stock. Many would have perished if the army had not sent out a rescue party with food to escort them into Sacramento. They arrived too late to prospect for gold in 1849 so they had to wait for the spring thaw and the rivers to recede before starting in 1850.

The trip was not uneventful, four of the men died from cholera and one from mountain sickness (known today as altitude illness). There was no mention made of women or children deaths. Most accounts make no mention of Indian attacks although part of the time they were in country where the Indians were known to be hostile. One account claimed several deaths of men around a campfire

after the women and children had gone to bed. The trip from Calhoun county Michigan (probably Battle Creek) to Sacramento California was 2383 miles and took 260 days with a two week lay over in Independence Missouri. That's an average speed of 9.2 miles per day. Today we can make the trip in about 5 hours with a 1 hour lay over in an airport!

Terrebonne Bud and High Chin Bob



POSITION AVAILABLE!

The Wolverine Rangers are looking for someone to fill the position of Marketing Manager. Duties include marketing and promoting Range War and Cowboy Action Shooting in the state of Michigan in general. If you are interest please contact R.J. Law.

UPCOMING SHOOTS

December

8 Rockford..... Old Coot Shoot
 9-12 ... Las Vegas, NV SASS Convention
 12 Lapeer..... Winter League Shoot
 19 Utica..... Monthly Match

★ SHOOTING TIPS ★

TIPS FROM EL GUANO

Howdy again pard. As you have probably realized by now, these shooting tips mainly revolve around shooting a big single shot rifle as accurately as possible at long range. I got to thinkin', if I had to condense all this "how to improve your accuracy" stuff I've been writing about into one article, what specific things would I recommend? Well, here goes...not necessarily in the order of importance.

1. Skip the 405 grain cowboy bullets and use something big. .45 caliber 500+ grain bullets, .40 cal. 400+ grain, and .38 cal. 300+ grain bullets. Yup. Big and long bullets are more accurate at long range. Period. Order up several styles and try them. You don't need the "hard cast" ones either. Well maybe.....if you're hunting cape buffalo.
2. Use more powder. No more anemic "pop" when you touch a round off. Your bullets should be going around 1200-1300 feet per second to stabilize those big bullets you're shooting. Yeah, it's going to recoil more, but the idea is to hit your target waaaay out there isn't it? Wear a recoil pad or slip one on your rifle. Recoil. LEARN TO LOVE IT!
3. Try different powders. Real "old time" cast bullet powders that have been around awhile. They haven't been around this long if they didn't work. Your groups can shrink amazingly quickly when you find the right powder and bullet combination.
4. Get a good Vernier tang sight and aperture front sight and learn how to use them. I don't mean just twisting the knobs. You MUST know how to adjust by THE MINUTE and which direction to go. Barrel sights just don't cut the mustard at long range. Never will. Coming close never won a match.
5. Prepare your cases properly. Anneal them. If you are getting a black sooty smear on your cases they are too hard to seal the chamber properly or your load is too weak...or both. See number 2 above. Trim your cases to the proper length AFTER you size them. A case

that is too long will extend past the end of the chamber and deform the bullet as it exits the case. Clean your cases after firing. If the interior of the case mouth is clean and smooth, it will release the bullet uniformly. Don't over bell the case mouths for bullet seating. It shortens case life.

6. Absolutely, positively, forget about "big and close" when testing loads with your single shot. A 6 inch bull at 100 yds. and a 12 inch bull at 200 yds. is what to use. You are not doing yourself a favor by testing loads any closer than that.
7. NEVER FLINCH when shooting. If you can't learn to squееeeze the trigger you'll NEVER get good. Repeat. NEVER. Take up golf instead. You can put a super accurate rifle in the hands of a "flincher" and they'll invariably think something is wrong with the load. Or the rifle. Everybody is an expert shot. [NOT!]
8. Practice. And I don't mean the week before the Range War or any other match you are going to. Practice from the position you will be shooting the match from. Don't expect to waltz in and win a match if you haven't. Offhand, sitting or prone X-sticks. Whatever. Just practice.....A LOT!
9. Start watching the wind. If you don't think the wind can have an effect on a bullet past 100 yards you're dreaming. The ability to "read the wind" separates the men from the boys.

Well, there you have it. How to get good in a nutshell. I see that the single shot event will be returning to the 2011 range war. If you pay attention to details and apply yourself, and PRACTICE, there is no reason why you couldn't win it. Don't forget that there are other mid and long range matches in Michigan with opportunities for you to test yourself at 200-1000 yards. Why don't you work up a load and try running with the big dogs? For info. contact me at spidercontrolinc@aol.com. Keep'em in the black.

El Guano



WOLVERINE RANGERS
Bob & Elaine Drury
7180 Ramsdall Drive NE
Rockford, MI 49341



★ **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

WOLVERINE RANGERS CAPTAIN—R. J. LAW
248-528-0440 rgillary@gillarylaw.com

RANGE WAR MATCH DIRECTOR—DEUCE STEVENS
616-677-5275 deucestevens45@yahoo.com

WOLVERINE RANGERS SECRETARY
248-528-0440 egillary@gillarylaw.com

MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATORS
CARD SHARK CHARLIE & LAINEY MAE
616-874-3406 drury1954@chartermi.net

WEBMASTER—LAPORTE LIL
laportelil@speednetllc.com

EPITAPH EDITOR—MAIL ORDER ANNIE
616-363-2827 mailorderannie@comcast.net

WEBSITE—www.wolverinerangers.org