

Volume 21, Issue 4

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Photo courtesy of Gunner Gatlin



WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



★ Captain's Corner ★

Howdy pards,

We are in preparation mode for the 20th Anniversary of Range War. I know that there are a few people who have shot every Range War. Please let me know who you are and I will include your name in my Captain's Letter after Range War. I am expecting Range War this year to be one of our best. Please try to attend.

As of the preparation of this letter, we have 143 Shooters signed up for Range War. This number is far ahead of the 90 registered shooters that we had at the same time last year. We even have 37 new shooters signed up who have never shot Range War before. We have shooters signed up from 13 different states including Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin. We also have 13 shooters signed up from Ontario. We are planning on a very good turnout and we will try to make sure that everyone has a great time.

As noted in last month's Epitaph, we are using a new golf cart vendor for Range War this year. Our previous vendor is no longer renting golf carts. We are using Pifer, Inc., a well-known golf cart dealer. Please see the flyer in this month's Epitaph for the details. One of the big differences this year is that our shooters will be paying the Rangers and we will write one check to Pifer. This will make it easier for our golf cart vendor.

For those of you who would like to take either ROI or ROII training and certification this year at Range War, please see the flyer in this month's Epitaph.

I hope that everyone is enjoying the summer and that you have been able to get out and shoot with your pards regularly. I would like to thank the Lapeer Wranglers again for hosting our Annual Meeting/Free Shoot in June.

That is about all that I have for now. Please take a minute and say a prayer for all of our service men and women who have given the ultimate sacrifice. Also, be sure to give your kids and grandkids a hug and a kiss and tell them that you love them every day.

D. J. Law

Best regards,

R.J. Law – Captain Wolverine Rangers

Golf Cart Rental for Range War 2018



We are renting our Golf Carts from Pifer, Inc. this year for Range War. The company that we had been using is no longer doing rentals. Golf Carts are \$180 for the weekend and must be reserved and paid for in advance of delivery. The carts will be delivered to the range on Thursday, August 30th in the afternoon.

To reserve a cart, please send a check in the amount of \$180 made payable to the Wolverine Rangers to 201 West Big Beaver Road, Ste. 1020, Troy, Michigan 48084. Please include your name, alias, email address and phone number.

You may also reserve a cart and pay online at the following link: https://WolverineRangers.formstack.com/forms/golfcartrental

Please contact Cosmopolitan Christine at (248) 528-0440 or <u>egillary@gillarylaw.com</u> if you have any questions.





WOLVERINE RANGERS RANGE WAR 2018 RANGE OFFICER CERTIFICATION TRAINING

WHEN	ROI Thursday, August 30 th & ROII Friday, August 31 st Wolverine Rangers Range War 2018
WHERE	Blue Water Sportsman's Association 4866 Ravenswood, Kimball, MI 48074
TIME	Thursday from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Friday from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
COST	ROI – FREE for Wolverine Rangers and \$10 for non-members ROII - \$25 everyone; payment is due at the time of class Refresher classes are \$5 each if you want a new pin
CONTACT	Cheyenne Culpepper (440) 452-0129 or gunfighter1952@msn.com

Please bring printed copies of the handbook and ROI or ROII booklets. The books can be found on the SASS website - https://www.sassnet.com/Shooters-Handbook-001A.php.

Please also feel free to bring any drinks or snacks that you may want during the training.

Please contact me with any questions and to sign up for the ROI or ROII class. You must be a current SASS Member to take ROI and a current SASS member for at least 6 months to take ROII.

Thank you and I look forward to seeing you in class.

Cheyenne Culpepper Gunfighter1952@msn.com

★ Shooting News ★

Rocky River Regulators of DSC (Utica)

On July 15th we had 26 cowboys and cowgirls brave the 90+ degree heat for the second month in a row and shoot our regular monthly cowboy match. Once again that WRRW T-shirt was perfect cowboy attire. In fact, some of us even came in shorts to try to stay cool from the oppressive heat. After shooting 5 stages from this year's End of Trail and after lunch was served; Camptown read the scores. J.J. Longley was the overall winner followed closely by Camptown and Catlow. Shooting the only clean match was J.J. Longley.

Our next Cowboy Action Match is scheduled for Sunday, August 19th. This is a Cowboy T-shirt match.

I know it has been way too "hot" to think about your best chili recipe but once again the DSC Rocky River Regulators are going to award a \$100 Cabela's gift certificate for the



overall best chili at our October 21st Cowboy match. So start planning and dust off the recipe and bring a small sample of it to the October Chili Cook Off match.

See you on the range. J.J. Longley

The Eagleville Cowboys - Central Lake

The Eagleville Cowboys of Central Lake Michigan July shoot was held under perfect weather. We even had a couple of pards from down state who had not been to Eagleville before, it's always nice to shoot with some new pards. Our stage writer wrote some interesting stages this month, even tho he wasn't able to make the shoot. This was the most shooters we have had this year...

The following pards came out on top of their categories.

Silver Sr. - Faygo Kid, 49er - Spartan Johnny, L.Sil. Sr. - T.N. Tina, Eldr Stsmn -Mohawk Scout, Wranglr - Smokin Joe Suggs, Sr. - Atlanta Sharp, Ctl Brn - Thummper John, Gr.Ptrn - One Son of a Gun, Sr. Dlst -Petoskey Pete, L Sil Sr - Eleanor Jewel, F Crt GF -Scotty Two Shotty, L. 49er - Trail Wench, Dlst - Nevada Slim, Gr. Dame - Mercantile Annie.

Clean shooters were: Mohawk Scout, Atlanta Sharp, and Marlin Matt.

Y'll come on up to NW Michigan on the 4th Saturday, yer all welcome here. CU down the Trail, One Son of a Gun

Butcher Butte Bunch - Fenton

For our match at Butcher Butte on July 8, we had a nice group of 20 friends join us!

Spartan Johnny won first place honors with a commanding lead over Leadfoot Luke and J.J. Longley, who came in second and third place respectively.

Clean shooters were Wildcat Maverick, Laredo Van, Grubby Hardrock and Soaring Red Hawk.

Before our match at the safety meeting, Wildcat Maverick held the winning ticket for our drawing for a free match certificate. A delicious lunch, prepared for us by Hey Sugar, awaited us at the top of the hill after the match.

Our next match at Butcher Butte is on August 12, and was written by Outrider Outlaw and myself. We'll be trying out a new bonus target for this match that hopefully will prove to be fun and a bit different than what we usually shoot. Come on out and join us!





Stage calls for 10 pistol, 10 rifle plus 1 rifle reload, and 4+ shotgun. Order of firearms is pistol, rifle, shotgun. The stage does not state whether the reload can be staged on a prop or not. Shooter stages guns, then takes a rifle reload out of a legally placed rifle loop off the shotgun belt and places it at the rifle position. The shooter then takes 2 shotgun shells out of legal shotgun loops off the shotgun belt and places it at the shotgun position.

ATB, shooter engages pistol sequence correctly, moves to rifle and shoots all 10 rounds correctly, then picks up the 11th round where staged at the rifle position and shoots the last target correctly. Shooter then shoots 3 shotgun targets, misses the 4th target with 4th round, then picks up one of the previously staged shotgun shells and knocks down the last shotgun target.

What's the Call?

Procedural and 2 Misses

- In this scenario, the shooter picked up and "used" the staged rifle round and a staged shotgun shell. The stage instructions did not state the shooter could stage the ammo and it was also not stated in the scenario that it was a "match convention." So using both staged rounds was considered illegally acquired ammo in which the shooter is penalized with a Procedural and since the shooter "used" 2 illegally acquired rounds, then 2 Misses.

Hidden Valley Cowboys - Sturgis

Well, we dodged the rain today. Got a little sprinkle before we started shooting, but we were able to get out of Dodge before the heavy rain started! We had 21 shooters today, some we haven't seen in quite a while. Welcome back Mustache Kid, Two Rig A Tony and Horserider Blue!

Like to thank everyone who helped Sauk Trail Mike and me set up the Valley and helped today: Blackthorne Billy, D.K. Tracker, Diamond Jim, Grampaw Willy, Ka Adik Krista, Naughty Nelli, Tommy Two Fingers and Triple Threat.

We had four Clean shooters today, Juste' Badshot, Mike E the Blaster, Sauk Trail Mike and Sauk Valley Stubby! Congratulations!!! Thank you also to Ka Adik Krista and Tommy Two Fingers for bringing and serving lunch today. They made Cowboy Beans, rolls & butter, cookies and Krista's/Tommy's own home grown pickled cucumbers. Tasty!!

Our next shoot will be August 19th. Registration opens at 8:15 AM, side shoots start at 8:30 AM, and the mandatory safety meeting starts at 9:45 AM, preceding the main match. God willing, with no scoring or printing issues!!



Blue Water Gunslingers-Port Huron

Did we shoot in the rain? On June 23, Saturday, we set up a match for Sunday, at Port Huron. When Sunday came it was a complete rain out. On July 21, we again set up for Sunday's match. On Sunday morning, it was raining just a sprinkle at my house.

I live about 36 miles south of Port Huron. On the drive up, several times I thought about turning around and going back to bed. When I got to 26 mile and I-94, it was really raining. I thought I would continue to the range, and at least help Wildcat Maverick help take down the targets and store them.

Upon arrival, J.D, Michigander, Hey Sugar, Lead foot Luke, and Wildcat Maverick were already at the range, sitting under the storage building roof, talking, protected from the now steady rain.

When I walked up, Hey Sugar said, "I thought you don't shoot in the rain." I replied, "I don't, I am here for the prop take down."

We all sat around for a time talking, and Luke and Wildcat came up with an idea: move one stage closer to the shed and we could shoot five stages from under the protection of the shed roof. All we had to do was to drop some targets and rewrite the stages.

Everyone thought it was a good idea, we were already on site and we could get some trigger time. I especially liked that idea, if you know me, I don't shoot in the rain or in cold weather. Technically I shot in the rain, but I didn't get wet, and my guns stayed dry...I was a happy cowboy.

The posse was able to adapt to the situation, and I think everyone had a good time.

Keep your powder dry and watch your top knot.

Attica Jack

Sucker Creek Peacemakers - Breckenridge

It's been a wet shooting season here at Sucker Creek!

We've had 3 shoots this year so far, but the weather has kept a lot of shooters at home. We still managed to have some great shooting between the rain drops!

We are planning something special for our August Shoot...

This will be our Pig Roast shoot on Saturday August 18, hope that you can all join us, we'll have a fun shoot and some mighty fine eats to go with it!

Also as an added bonus:

Anyone that can show up Friday (August 17th) afternoon, bring your camper, RV, etc...

We are planning a late afternoon shoot, probably around 5pm, this will be an Old School Shoot.

Lots of the stuff that used to be done years past, it definitely won't be a speed shoot, but promises to be a blast!

So come on out, there will be a bunch of us camping out at the range.

We'll supply Burgers and Brats: bring something to pass and we'll have a feast!

I can't wait, this will be a great time for all... see you all then!

Remember: Smooth is Fast!

Riverview Rattler



Huron River Raiders - Commerce

The Huron River Raiders of Multi Lakes Conservation Association in Commerce, Michigan invite anyone who is interested in learning about Cowboy Action Shooting to a hands on information session. The cost is \$5.00 which covers use of the range. Guns and ammo will be provided. It is suggested that participants provide their own eye and hearing protection, but those items will be available at the information session. There is one more session for this year which is September 15. The session will be from 10:00 am to noon. It is not neces-

sary for interested parties to arrive promptly at 10 nor do they have to stay for the full 2 hours.

For more information contact Cool Hand Carl at carl_sundberg@sbcglobal.net

Straight Shots from Saginaw

Whew! This summer is flyin' as fast as some of our bullets are! On July 14 & 15, the Saginaw Cowboys held our 2 days of cowboy action shooting. The weather gave us some authentic western temps, hot enough to make our shooters almost sweat bullets. But they were ready to give it their best shot, and shoot, they did!

Saturday, with 30 shooters present, 15 shot the match clean. Sunday was another repeat of hot weather and more accurate shooting with 17, of the 29, shooting it clean. Our camping shooters enjoyed lakeside camping and everyone enjoyed some mighty fine tasting grub prepared by our cooks, Julie, Michele and Sally.

Be sure to check out our Face Book page https://www.facebook.com/saginawcowboys under photos. We have albums of past shoots filled with great pictures of our pards who come and shoot at Saginaw. And if you're not there yet, you still can be.

We're looking forward to making more memories at our Saturday, August 25th match. It's a great time to warm-up and familiarize yourself with 6 stages based on scenarios from the upcoming Michigan State Shoot.

We hope many will be attending the State Shoot this year as this is the 20th anniversary, celebrated on Aug. 31 & Sept. 1-2. Deuce always does a good job as our Match Director and it's the perfect place to add more great memories to your 2018 shooting season.

On a personal note: Bad River Marty (and Katie) want to thank all the pards who have been praying for Marty's recovery over his latest cancer. Prayer is powerful, as the doctors and oncologists are scratching their heads over the tumor that is now "missing-in-action"! He will be getting some additional chemotherapy for prevention and making sure no residual cancer is lurking nearby. He'll be starting this sometime in September. Again, we appreciate your continued prayers and hope to see you all at Range War. Yee Haw...God is Good!!!

Until next time, live life. Give it your best shot!

Happy Trails from Bad River Marty & Katie Callahan





Johnson Creek Regulators - Plymouth

July 28th was a busy day at the ranch. In addition to our monthly Cowboy Match, the Johnson Creek Regulator's helped out our home club, Western Wayne County Conservation Association (WWCCA), celebrate their 80 year anniversary.

Rainmaker Ray wrote the stages for this month's match. His inspiration? Mongo from the classic Blazing Saddles. Twenty-five Cowboys and girls belched, punched and farted their way through the match... Well, not really but a good time was still had by all.

Representing Silver Seniors, Doc Roy L. Pain was top gun with an impressive adjusted time of 118.42. 49er Three Gun Cole placed at 124.60. Mustache Kid was a close third with a 127.41. Clean matches were turned in by Snuffy Dave Edwards (top Elder Statesman) and Mishomis. JC Wade competed in his final match as a Buckaroo, turning in an impressive time of 190.20.

WWCCA asked us to set up a CAS demonstration later in the day. Rainmaker Ray and Sarge set up a stage on the 25 yard range. We welcomed a large number of interested shooters. Sarge provided an effective demonstration on how to shoot a stage. Interested individuals were invited to step up and try an assortment of Cowboy guns. There was much interest in the sport including a couple of youngsters.

Then it was time for dinner. WWCCA members and guests were treated to a great barbeque chicken dinner. Kids enjoyed games, bounce house, while adults tried a bit of square dancing.

As dusk creeped in, everyone settled into their lawn chairs in anticipation of the celebratory fireworks. We were not disappointed.

We'd like to take a moment to thank Fenton Lakes Sportmen's Club and Outrider Outlaw for their efforts in presenting RO1 and RO2 classes in July. The classes were very informative. Cheyenne Culpepper provided an excellent learning experience. Job well done.

Our next match in Plymouth will be Saturday August 25th. Rainmaker Ray announced this will be a "clothing optional event" (Yes he really said that). We quickly asked him to reconsider. Ray agreed that his statement should be amended to mean dress code for this event should be relaxed in anticipation of hot humid August weather. Short sleeve shirts and shorts are acceptable. Cowboy hats and other safety clothing are still required.

"True cowboys are the ones who aren't afraid to get dirty."

Lane Frost



The Shooter's Stance

Expense and Reward?

I'm troubled. I have agonized for some time now over a comment that was made to me by another cowboy shooter and whether I should post this or not.

Earlier this year I competed in another state's championship match. I've been to this match several times previously and have enjoyed myself immensely. This club puts on a terrific match and this year was no different.

I am not a champion grade shooter and never will be. However, I did do better at this match than at any major match than I have ever done previously. I didn't place first nor did I even place first in my category. Heck I wasn't even in the top 100 of those competing. But I was quite proud of my placement and I did receive an award for placement in my category.

I posted on Facebook about how much fun I had and that I was proud of my results. Many of my Facebook friends congratulated me.

So, what am I troubled about? One of my Facebook friends made a comment about my post. The comment was: "It is a lot of work and expense to attend matches, with little reward!" And yes, that is a quote.

That person is correct in one sense. It is a lot of work and expense to attend matches. There is the work of planning the trip, putting together the ammo, putting together the food (if camping), packing for the trip, making sure that all the guns are in working order and that the vehicle is ready for the trip... I'm sure there is more, but you get the idea.

There is also the expense of buying and maintaining the guns. Also, buying and maintaining the backups. Paying the entry fee and purchasing fuel for the trip. Sure these all add up and yes, it is expensive.

What bothers me? It is the "...with little reward" comment. Sure, I didn't win the match. I didn't even come close to winning the match. But there is plenty of reward. I knew going into this game that it would be expensive. I knew that there wasn't a brand new luxury car or \$100,000.00 prize money for the winner. I knew that the only "reward" would be to say "I did it."

For this particular match I was able to say that I had my best finish ever and that I had actually shot it clean to boot. I was and am proud of that.

The person who made the comment, as I said, is a fellow Cowboy Action shooter. But I guess it is fair to say that he is a Cowboy Action shooter in name only. This person gave me my first opportunity to shoot a cowboy gun at a practice that was being conducted at his home club. I was received with open arms by the group of people at the practice and I think it is fair to say that I was hooked on the game from the very first shot.

He purports to be a proponent of our game and is in charge of CAS at his home club. There is an event that takes place a few times a year at his club that allows a person to experience several different shooting styles... archery, handgun, rifle, trap, skeet and Cowboy. I have helped at this event for the last several years and I take great pleasure in introducing folks to this great game of ours. He talks up the game to all those who attend. And this from a man who, to the best of my knowledge, hasn't attended even a local match since 2012. I have asked him numerous times to join me at one of the local clubs I shoot at and each time he has turned me down. He has stated that he is responsible for getting CAS started at another club where he is a member and that has monthly matches. And yet he doesn't even attend there.

As to his comment "with little reward", I have to differ. I have made numerous friendships as a result of participating in the game. Some of those friendships feel more like family than casual acquaintances. I have been able to challenge myself to improve and have done so, not only in my shooting, but also in my personal life. As a result of my affiliation with CAS and with the Wolverine Rangers I have taken on several new tasks and not all of them have anything to do with CAS. I have seen the generosity and friendship of almost every cowboy shooter no matter where I compete whether it is in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio or California.

So, is there "little reward" to be had? My answer is: it depends on what kind of reward you are seeking. If you are looking for financial gain or any notoriety other than by your peers in this game then you are never going to find it. On the other hand, if you are looking for friendship, encouragement and camaraderie as your reward, then you don't have to look very hard to find it.

Name withheld by request.

Editor's Corner

Thoughts from the July RO class

On July 21 RO I and RO II classes were conducted in Fenton. Below are some of the reactions from those who participated.

My experience with my first RO class By Gunner Gatlin, SASS# 10274

Just want to thank the Wolverine Rangers for the RO class they put on at the Fenton Lake Sportsmen Club on July 21st. This class was put on by Outrider Outlaw and taught by Cheyenne Culpepper. Although I have been participating with cowboy action shooting off and on since 1996 I had not taken an RO class before. Shame on me.

It cannot be expressed enough the importance of such a course/training in our sport. As a shooter, as a member of SASS, and the Wolverine Rangers it really is a responsibility to know safety, the rules, and having a positive attitude in this sport we are blessed to enjoy. Safety is paramount as we all want to make it home in one piece after a match. A number of scenarios were brought up in regards to assessment and awareness of the shooter at the loading table, firing line, and unloading table including discussion on the 170° rule. Mental state and attitude to costuming and hardware were discussed at length. Reviewed certain stage safety awareness like target placement along with T.O., spotter, and spectator positioning. Really much more than I can write. With rules there needs to be consistency in that application to make the sport fair to all competitors. This was emphasized with not only making a shooter and others safe, but helping condition a shooter from the local match to the big league events like state, regional, national, and world championship matches. Whether it be how the rules are applied or cadence of "Shooter Ready...Stand By...'beep' "it's designed to make matches consistent from one event to another no matter where you go state to state or abroad. That certainly helps a shooter know what to expect, feel more comfortable, and even confident when visiting other venues knowing that variances will be minimal when it comes to rules and how a match is run. The rules are the rules and they are to be respected and applied fairly for the competition of sport and safety in our community.

Attitude is key to, well...everything! SASS is no exception. From shooter to Match Director a positive attitude truly makes for an experience that keep people coming back. The course really opened my eyes to the various responsibilities our timing operators, spotters, posse leaders, score keepers, and expeditors have in working a stage as smoothly as possible, as safely as possible, and all while dealing with the various nuances each shooter brings with them to the firing line. It also gave me an understanding of the depth of the work that goes into coordinating and the effort that goes into the jobs of Range Director and Match Director. Coordinating the right people, with the right competency, and with the right attitude. It's an incredible responsibility they all have in making us enjoy our day.

In a nutshell it's highly recommended you take time to attend an RO class – maybe attend a couple times every year or so. There were some folks there like myself attending our first class, but there were quite a few others taking this as a refresher. It definitely will help you up your game while also being in a position to give a little back to the sport in helping others. Looking forward to applying what I have learned.



I attended RO1 and RO2 for the first time this year when it was offered in Fenton. I attended to learn more about the rules and calls so that I can be a better shooter, better participant, and as safe as possible at SASS events. I certainly gained information to help with all of those goals. I found the instructor to not only be very knowledgeable with the rules, but also truly cared to make the sport as fun and fair as possible for everyone. Also, the facility was definitely very nice for this type of class.

—-The Lost Egg

The RO classes that I attended on July 21st served as a great refresher to SASS RO Operations. The training helped me through some grey areas and updated me on rules and disciplines associated with safely assisting Shooters through their course of fire. Although sitting through two RO classes made for a long day, Cheyenne Culpepper's upbeat manner, examples he used and overall manner in which he conducted the training made for an interesting and informative day.

—-High Chin Bob

Had a great time and learned about the new changes. Also gave my memory a good jolt. The instructor did a terrific job enjoyed him allot. Thank you for hosting us at your club.

—-Old Doc Potter

I took the two classes for the first time at the old Gander Mountain store on Miller road while I was still working there...18 years ago. The refresher courses were good as much has changed. The instructor was outstanding.

—-Andy Horshurodinon

My experience was great. I learned a lot about the rules. It was definitely a class I recommend if you want to be more involved in the sport. It is a great time and everyone should end up doing it once if they can. It was definitely worth the time.

---J. C. Wade

NEW MEMBERS:

Prospector Dale from Linwood, MI

★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

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

CHIEF RO INSTRUCTORS, MIDEAST REGION

Scheduling SASS RO-I and RO-II classes at any club in Michigan

★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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SASS RO-I & RO-II CLASSES—POSITION OPEN



