

Wolverine Rangers' Epitaph



Volume 4, Issue 3

June 2001

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

Kim Denny aka
Nitro Nellie

K.C. Fahrni aka
Texas John Critter

Wally Liley aka
Wall-Man

Rick Lewis aka
Micky Lobe

Clarence Rossell aka
No Buk Chuck

Rick Stover aka
Mackinaw Kid

CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Howdy Y'all!

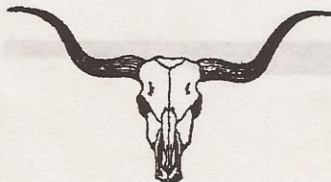
It's great to be home and back in the saddle again with the Wolverine Rangers. Speaking of which, I want to thank all who were involved in the nomination and acceptance into the SASS Regulator status. This was a total surprise, one which Cactus Kay knew something was afoot for me and kept quiet about, and who fell out of her chair when she heard her name announced. That was **really** great and well deserved. She works long hours and is meticulous in her service to the Wolverine Rangers. Thanks again to all responsible. We were both pleased to think our friends would honor us in such a way.

In case you didn't know, Chili Pepper Pete was awarded the coveted, first time presented, annual, Texas, Spirit of the Game Award. He took Trailhead by storm and presented himself very well as our representative from the Michigan cowboy action shooting organization. They loved his cheerfulness and vitality. Congratulations to Pepper.

We saw Bill Oglesby at End of Trail. As usual he put on a fine performance and is looking forward to doing the same at our Range War State Championship. We pinned him down as to the requirements for the class he is going to teach at the Range War. The class is scheduled for two hours of classwork and two hours on the range. You will need your cowboy rifle and pistols, with 250 pistol rounds and 100 rifle rounds, minimum, if you decide to enroll in the class.

Cactus Kay and I are drumming up shooters who would be able to attend the Regional shoot at Barry, IL, on October 11-14, 2001. There is no camping at the facility, however, there is a limited campground at the range entrance. We had a good time at Trailhead with our MI posse and would like to have another fun outing at the Regional. The travel distance is less than 400 miles and I understand the dinner will be a river boat cruise on the Mark Twain river boat. We also have the phone number of the Ice House Inn, which is located at Barry. The room rates are approximately \$55.00 for two. We are going to have Tex and Cat Ballou at the Range War this year. As you know, they are the editor and assistant editor of the Cowboy Chronicle. Sometimes it's hard to tell their roles apart. They are both shooters and will represent SASS at our shoot. I hope you will enjoy meeting and shooting with a part of the Wild Bunch.

Continued.....



SAFETY IS A MATTER OF ATTITUDE

CAPTAIN'S CORNER CONTINUED

It seems like every year Cactus Kay and I come home to some disturbing news. It was the same way during our teaching careers. No matter what you did somebody was unhappy. I know one thing for certain. Changes cannot come about from afar. Unless a person is willing to become interested, informed, and then involved in the process, positive results will not happen. There is a process for bringing your concerns to the board. The best way is to talk with any board member when you see them. Most of the board members travel to a lot of shoots and would welcome your feedback concerning our shooting sport.

This is a fine time to mention our annual membership meeting and All Around Champion Wolverine Ranger shoot. In talking impromptu with a couple of board members we are looking at the following schedule: 9:30am – 11:00am membership meeting, 11:00am membership shoot, 3:00pm membership skeet shoot. This will give us a better opportunity for members concerns and a better schedule for Durand Sportsman members. Pepper has suggested moving this meeting to other clubs to acquaint W. R. members with different facilities. How say you?

Until later I'll close with a little cowboy wisdom. "If you ride for the brand, stand with the brand".

Dakota Doc

R.J. LAW HAS EXTRA GUNS FOR SALE

1886 Winchester sporting rifle 45-90, excellent restored condition

2 – Ruger Vaqueros – 4 3/4 barrel stainless steel – 45 LC with holster by Philip Hawk

Model 92 Rossi customized by Ogelsby & Ogelsby – Bad Land Bill's personal rifle purchased at the Range War 2 years ago

Call R.J. Law (Randy Gillary) for further info at (248) 528-0440

TIDBITS by Cactus Kay

- It is great to be home. There are no substitutes for our Michigan cowboy friends.
- Welcome new Wolverine Rangers! We hope you enjoy your membership. Just so you know, we borrowed our name from a group of people that left Marshall, MI in 1849(the date on our badge) to head west to the gold fields to make their fortunes.
- We kept up with phone messages and paperwork as best we could on the road. We apologize for any delay. Now that we are home responses should be more timely.
- We have picked up a few new ideas for monthly matches and hope to give them a try soon.
- We have 25 entries for the Wolverine Ranger Range War already! The conformation paperwork is in progress. I expect to start sending it out early in June.
- If you plan on attending the Bill Ogelsby Cowboy Action Shooting Class at Port Huron on Friday, August 31, 2:00 – 6:00pm call (810-733-8454) or e-mail your name for registration and then send your check for \$100.00 when you are able.
- Lucky Lennie, Dakota Doc and myself are qualified to teach the Range Officer 2 Class. We qualified so we could teach the class in Michigan to our own shooters and not have to bring someone else in at our expense. Let us know if you are interested in taking this class.



Wolverine Rangers Posse Up at Trailhead 2001

The 10th annual THSS Trailhead "2001" sponsored by Marlin Firearms, was held at Gunsmoke. Gunsmoke is located on the Brune ranch five miles north of Columbus, TX and 70 miles east of Houston.

The shoot was a four day event. The 13 stage main match was shot on Friday and Saturday. Thursday was used mostly for Shooter Check-in and a couple of side matches. On Sunday, finishing up the weekend, there were the Master Gunfighter, Couples, and Team shoots. The members of Texas Historical Shootist Society over the years have built a very nice replica of an old west town, known as Gunsmoke. The town actually has buildings on both sides of the street, complete with boardwalks, handrails, and hitching posts. One side was used for shooting from and the other for vendors, check in, and shoot headquarters.

Eleanor Jewel and I arrived at our hotel, in Columbus, Wednesday afternoon and met up with Micky Lobe and Chili Pepper Pete. We then went out to Gunsmoke where Cactus Kay, Dakota Doc, and Legend were camping. While at the range we were able to check in and pick up our shooter packages. After a short wander through the vendors' area, most were still setting up; we went back to Kay and Doc's camp. We enjoyed some of Kay's chili and visited for a while before retiring back to our hotel for the evening.

On Thursday, after a hearty breakfast, Eleanor, Micky, Chili and I mounted our trusty steeds (Geo and Buick) and headed out for Gunsmoke. While having coffee at Doc and Kay's camp, Red Eye Lil and Led Foulin rode in. When all the howdys were said, with greenbacks in hand, we attacked the Vendors' area. Pard's let me tell you, this was not a vendors' row, it was a vendors' **AREA!** You could purchase any goods that a cowboy or cowgirl would need. Later on, many greenbacks lighter, we grabbed up our main match rifles and headed out to shoot the long range match. While standing in line, a couple more of our posse members, Laporte Lil and Showdown Jack, arrived to shoot. The rest of the day was spent shooting a .22 side match, revisiting the vendors, and a "Dark Thirty" night shoot.

We awoke Friday to a cool and foggy morning. Eleanor and I met several other members of our posse for the continental breakfast in the hotel. Everyone seemed rarin' to get a shootin'. By 8:00 AM the temperature had risen, the fog had burned off and all 315 shooters had gathered on the main street in front of the Marlin Building for the Opening Ceremony and Mandatory Shooters Meeting. It was at this time that R. J. Law and his clan consisting of The Lady, K. C. Kate, Emily and Jennifer rode in. Thus finishing up the arrival of the Wolverine Rangers. At the finish of the shooters meeting our posse (#7) gathered at our first stage, Lonesome Dove. All the main stages had themes based on Westerns from the silver screen, big and small. Each stage had two stage marshals from THSS that went through each stage with the posse to ensure that all posses shot the stage the same. In

every stage you had a line to say that pertained to the theme of that stage. On this first day of shooting we shot Wagon Train, John Wayne Town Movies (Rio Lobo and El Dorado), The Good, The Bad and The Ugly, Young Guns, Dances with Wolves, and Hang 'em High. Our shooting finished up around 3:00 PM, which left us plenty of time to visit the vendors, relax, have a nice dinner and clean guns.

The final day of the main match started out cloudy and on the cool side. After a short safety meeting, we proceeded to our first stage of the day. Stage themes for today were Gunsmoke, High Noon, Big Jake, Stagecoach, Tombstone at the OK Corral, and Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid. These stages were all innovative and fun. Our youngest shooter, K. C. Kate, who had got to feeling poorly the first day of shooting and only shot one stage, rounded up all her strength and ended up shooting 12 stages on this day. The main stage shooting was finished up around 2:00 PM and, you guessed it, more time for the vendors area, with plenty of time left to rest up and dress in our fancy duds for a night of carousing, drink, wild women and dancing at the Long Branch. Oh, and they gave out some awards too. Eleanor, Lucky Lennie and I arrived at the Long Branch around 6:00 PM and reserved a table, right up front of course, for our whole party (17). The Long Branch had plenty of gaming tables for our enjoyment (well Chili's anyway). Dinner was served around 7:00 PM (this was the only bad part of the weekend). A lot of door prizes were given out; a few in our group were lucky enough to win. There were several Marlin Rifles and some pistols raffled off. None of us Michiganders were that lucky.

The night was full of laughter and fun. Some of our cowboys and cowgirls even shot well enough to receive awards. K. C. Kate was the Junior Girl Champion, Red Eye Lil, Led Foulin, and Chili Pepper Pete all placed in their shooting categories. Chili Pepper also received a very special award from the THSS. He was awarded, out of 300+ shooters, the first annual "Jim Perry Spirit of the Game" award.

Sunday dawned another beautiful day. R. J. Law and his clan left early for the trip back home, the rest of us met back up at Gunsmoke. The shootin' wasn't done yet. Some of us shot the One on One, Team, and Couples shoots. Oh yes, on a last visit to the vendors area, Micky Lobe got hisself a new hat.

There was talk of doing a shoot again next year. Keep your ears open and watch the Wolverine Rangers' Epitaph. Make plans to get together as a group again. I don't think you'll regret it. Eleanor and I had an awful lot of fun.

Thanks to everyone in Posse #7.

Shoot Safe,
Faygo Kid



BLACKPOWDER CARTRIDGE RELOADING

In a previous article I have written, I have received comments that I have been too technical. If anyone out there has had a problem understanding what I am saying, let me know. You can email me at r.stover@juno.com and let me know. We have gotten a lot of responses from people with good questions. It is funny because they always start out with "This is a stupid question but...." You know the only question that I have every thought of was the unasked one. Like my Grandma used to say "If you don't know, ask! If they don't have an answer, they are the stupid one."

We have to make our attorney proofing disclaimer. Make sure you have your gun checked out by a competent. Especially if it is an early one and you are not sure if it is a blackpowder frame or not.

In this article, we will be using blackpowder and it's substitutes. Blackpowder is a highly explosive substance and should be handled with the utmost care. Try not to use any plastics due to static electricity and please always store it in it's original container. Do not smoke, or consume alcohol while reloading, always wash your hands when you are finished and remember practice good common sense when handling any primer, powder, loaded cartridges and firearms. SAFETY FIRST! I am sure that there are a bunch of other things I forgot to mention here. Like we are not responsible for your screw-up, I mean mistakes.

Let's get on with research I have been working on for years. As I have said in other articles, I am not the final word on this subject, nor do I claim to be an expert. I'll do the best I can to steer you in the right direction. My pet caliber is the 45 Colt, so most of my research has been on this caliber. A lot of people have asked me about primers, so that is where I will start. You don't need magnum primers for blackpowder. The old large pistol primer, as well as the small, were a very light mixture of foaminated mercury with a light copper or brass domed cup and a brass anvil. This is what we call the boxer primer. This primer was invented in Europe. The Berdan was invented here in the USA. Even when the black-

powder substitute in compressed to 40 psi a standard primer will ignite it. Depending on the action of your gun, will regulate which primer you use. Remember CCI's are hard, Winchesters are right in there at medium and Federals are soft. In this article, when I say primers I will be referring to Winchester primers.

Now that we have discussed primers, lets go on to powders. There are several different blackpowder and blackpowder substitutes on the market. The good old mixtures of charcoal (willow is preferred), sulfur (the old brimstone variety), and potassium nitrate (salt peter). Yes I have experimented with mixing my own, and actually have gotten it to work without blowing myself up. The old timers would take each one of these ingredients, pulverize them individually into fine powders then mix them together using stale urine making a creamy, black paste. Yes I said urine. Remember the Chinese came up with this idea, not me. Roll this out on a cookie sheet, dry it in the sun, and crush it in a spark free mortar and pestle. Boom! You have blackpowder. As time went by this formula was refined and set into the different granular sizes we know today. 4F is for priming flintlocks. 3F is used in 45 caliber and under. 2F is used in 45 caliber and larger. 1F is used for large bore guns such as 69 caliber and up. "C" is for cannons with 1 inch bore or larger and then you have cartridge grades. Today's manufacturers are Goex, Elephant, and Swiss Blackpowder these are the only brands that I have worked with. I know there are others being imported, but I haven't tried them so I can't talk about them.

Blackpowder substitutes are Pyrodex by Hodgdon, Clear Shot by Goex, and Clean Shot. I prefer blackpowder. I have been using it for years. In blackpowder long range single shot rifles, as well as, in handgun cartridges, shot gun and muzzleloaders. I have found it to be more consistent, easier to clean, and I understand how it works. I am comfortable with it like an old friend that I have trusted for years. However, it is getting harder to find. Shooters Service in Livonia and Ye Old Blackpowder Shoppe in Auburn, MI are a couple places that I know that carry all grades of blackpowder.

Continued.....

**BLACKPOWDER CARTRIDGE
RELOADING** continued

Well enough about powder let's get into my old favorite, lubes. We have talked about this one over and over. Everyone has a favorite or has come up with their own mystical concoction. I have tried multiple concoction:

- 50/50 beeswax and japan wax (it didn't work)
- 90/10 paraffin and STP (nope)
- 75/25 beeswax and Crisco (bad)
- 75/25 beeswax and mother tuckers cooking grease (smelled bad, didn't work)
- 50/50 nutmeg butter and myrtle wax (bad news messed up the bore)

I found Crisco is great for frying chicken, paraffin is good for sealing jelly, STP lubes your car engine and some of the others may smell pretty, but are lousy when it comes to lubricating a bore. I found the best formula -so far- bar none is 50% beeswax and 50% petroleum jelly. Now once in a while, if I have some on hand, I'll melt in a little wonder lube. Which smells a lot like Bengay . This has been a old standby. It makes great bullet lube, and grease cookie lube. It helps keep the blackpowder fouling soft and have had no problems with leading when using this mixture. I don't know if it has anything to do with bee pee pee or the petroleum jelly but the two together really do a great job. A lot of people say to keep petroleum products away from blackpowder because it causes more fouling, but I have not had any problem with it.

Next Epitaph I will be discussing lead bullets, the arguments about soft vs. hard, wax cookies, grease cookies, and we are going to start building some loads with all the components. I will cover pistol cartridges, long range rifle, and also talk about loads for pocket pistols.

Remember the cowboy wisdom: A man who is honest with himself, will be honest with others.

Thanks,
Mackinaw Kid

THE PEPPER POT

Well folks, There were 2 really surprised people at End of Trail when they called Dakota Doc and Cactus Kay up to be accepted as SASS Regulators. From the way it sounded you could have bowled them over with a feather when their names were announced. Wished I could have been there to have seen the look on their faces. Congratulations to the both of them and many thanks to all of you that supported this effort.

It is with a heavy heart that I report that Ricochet Bill and Tenderfoot Tess (Bill and Phyllis Felice) have resigned from the Wolverine Ranger Board of Directors due to personal reasons. As Charter members of the Wolverine Rangers I feel we owe them a great debt for all their sacrifices and hard work in getting the Rangers started. 3 Cheers to you both and Thank You!

The 2001 shooting season is under way with shoots almost every weekend. All the clubs have been working hard over the winter with lots of new props and targets. Please be sure to let the men and women that put these shoots on know how much you appreciate their effort. Also be aware that there are WR board members at just about every shoot.

If you have any suggestions or comments about the Wolverine Rangers lasso one of us and let us know what's on your mind.

You may also contact me anytime at Chili_Pepper 917@ Hotmail.Com or 810-228-8339.

Best Regards,
Chili

CLUB CONTACTS

Bordertown Hombre	Port Huron	519-336-1690
Dakota Doc	Flint/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
Yoopers Fred	Sault Ste. Marie	906-635-9700

WOLVERINE RANGER CLUB NEWS

LAPEER

Howdy--

The news from Lapeer mainly concerns our 40 new larger targets which can and are used for pistol, rifle, and shotgun. Thanks to Chili Pepper for making them available, Saddle Tramp for preparing them, and Ricochet Bill and Shooten Old Coot for putting them together. These new targets have caused many good comments to be given to the Wranglers. Come out and get in a few shots whenever you can!

Don't forget our three day shoot June 29th, 30th, and July 1st. Prices had to be increased this year, but being a member of SASS and the Wolverine Rangers will get you \$10 off the total price. We will have side events on Friday the 29th from 12 noon to 6:00 PM. June 30 and July 1st we will have five stages each day and times will follow our monthly match times of registration at 8:30 am and shooters meeting at 9:15 am. Then we'll "blast away" at 9:30 am and hopefully finish by 3:00 PM at the latest. On Saturday the 30th, we will have our traditional steak dinner with all the trimmings plus the costume contest and "who knows what?" after all the above is completed. Mealtime is 6:00 PM and where else can you get a Tenderfoot Tess steak dinner for only \$15? We have decided to add an additional category that doesn't appear on your entry blank this year. The category of "Black Powder" will be available for those of you who would like to compete. Just add it to your entry form or see WALL-MAN when you pickup your shooters packet if you have already sent in your form.

Regards

WALL-MAN

ROCKY RIVER REGULATORS OF THE DSC

We would like to start this article off by thanking all the people who came to the first shoot of the season. The weather was beautiful, sunny and a pleasant temperature. Continued.....

I feel that all 68 shooters had a great time. The participants found themselves in the growing metropolis of Rocky River. A new bank, volunteer fire department and many new props.

Our top shooter over all was Billy Dick shooting traditional. Second place went to Keeweenaw Kid shooting traditional and third place went to Kid Dick a junior.

Our next shoot is June 17, 2001 and don't forget the Pig out of Luck on July 21 and 22. Tickets are on sale for the dinner on July 21 and will be available until July 5. The cost is \$10.00 per adult and \$5.00 for children (13 and under). Dinner will be at 5 p.m. on Saturday. All shooting on Saturday is free. Sunday will be our regular shoot.

We are hoping to have our new covered wagon (circa 1882) ready to go by June's shoot. 44 Slim's family donated it to us and it is great. Once again, thanks 44. This wagon belonged to his Grandfather and will be used with pride at the DSC.

Shoot safe and true!

Mackinaw Kid

STRAIGHT SHOTS FROM SAGINAW

On April 28th the good Lord blessed us with a beautiful day for shooting. Forty-six shooters each sent 122 rounds down range, while blasting their way through 6 action-packed stages. When the smoke cleared Fireball, Bad River Marty, The Original Red Leg, and Ted Stokich had shot perfect matches (no misses!).

Match results were: Men's: 1. Fireball

2. Bad River Marty

3. Led Foulin

4. Faygo Kid

5. Doc Roy L. Pain

Ladie's: 1. Katie Callahan

2. LaPorte Lil

Long-Range Rifle Match: Faygo Kid shot perfect and made out like a bandit. \$\$\$ continued.....

WOLVERINE RANGER CLUB NEWS

STRAIGHT SHOTS FROM SAGINAW continued

Our next shoot is June 2nd. Cost is \$15.00 and, as always, grub will be provided. We will be shooting Cowboy Action every Wednesday evening throughout the summer. Cost is \$5 and shooting starts at 6 pm til dark. Special thanks to those who made our April shoot a success. As always, safety first and lots of FUN!!!

Cowboy Contacts: Marty Bell (Bad River Marty)
(989) 585-3292
mnbell@yahoo.com

And remember...Live life. Give it your best shot!

DOUBLE BARREL GANG, HASTINGS

Well, I can't believe the season is in full swing already. We have two shoots under our belt already and summer is just getting started.

Our April shoot turned out to be our largest yet with 67 shooters shaking out the cobwebs and enjoying the beautiful day we were given. We had several new shooters and a lot of old friends back. We added several classes this year and it seemed to go over well. Winners in their classes were:

<p>Mens Traditional</p> <p>1st Seven 2nd Lucky Lennie 3rd Faygo Kid</p> <p>Ladies Modern</p> <p>1st Nitro Nellie 2nd Eleanor Jewel 3rd Palamino Sue</p> <p>Duelist</p> <p>1st Led Foulin' 2nd Cayuse Jack 3rd The Original Redleg</p>	<p>Mens Modern</p> <p>1st Doc Roy L. Pain 2nd Sawgrass 3rd Uncle Wiggley</p> <p>Ladies Traditional</p> <p>1st Wildcat Ellie 2nd Pick Pocket Penny 3rd High Maintenance</p> <p>Senior-</p> <p>1st Ringo Wiguns 2nd Dead Eye Midge</p>
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continued.....

HASTINGS continued

<p>Junior</p> <p>1st Tim West</p>	<p>Frontier Cartridge</p> <p>1st Texas John Critter 2nd Chili Pepper 3rd Barry County Kid</p>
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<p>Frontiersman</p> <p>1st Mike Fink</p>

Our May shoot was on Mothers Day as it has been as long as we've had a shoot. High Maintenance made corsages for all the mothers who attended the shoot. It was also Slow Jo's last shoot with us as he and his wife Sara are moving to sunny Florida. They will both be missed around the shoots. Our turnout was a little lower as would be expected on Mothers Day. I had a first for me, I managed to drop a loaded handgun and earn myself a match DQ. Luckily the gun didn't go off when it hit the ground (Thank you Bill Ruger). In 6 seasons of CAS I have never even had a minor safety violation called on me, so don't think it can't happen to you. SAFETY FIRST, LAST, AND ALWAYS! Anyway we had good weather and an enjoyable shoot. The winners are as follows:

<p>Mens Modern</p> <p>1st Catlow 2nd Slow Jo 3rd Uncle Wiggley</p> <p>Ladies Modern</p> <p>1st Nitro Nellie 2nd Cactus Kay 3rd Annabelle Crow</p> <p>Senior</p> <p>1st Buckshot Jerry 2nd Lue Dee Kriss 3rd Pistol Pete</p>	<p>Mens Traditional</p> <p>1st Seven 2nd Lucky Lennie 3rd Tres Hombres</p> <p>Duelist</p> <p>1st Coop-D-Graw 2nd Table Top Tom 3rd Cayuse Jack</p> <p>Senior Duelist</p> <p>1st Dakota Doc</p> <p>Frontier Cartridge</p> <p>1st Barry County Kid</p>
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continued.....

CLUB NEW HASTINGS continued....

The .22 man on man side event was won by Catlow. I want to thank Uncle Wiggley for donating a trailer for us to haul all the steel around on, Lucky Lennie for the new targets and props and everyone else who has been helping out with the shoot. We couldn't do it without you.

Shoot Straight
Texas John Critter

PORT HURON

Bluewater Sportsmen's Club was once again converted to Westworld on Saturday May 5. The weather was co-operative, the targets were co-operative, and even the shooters were co-operative. Hope y'all had a great time.

Some of the scores were very interesting. There was quite a competitive spirit between a father and son team. Can you guess who they were?

First place overall went to a traditional shooter, Billy Dick, with a score of 310.15. Second place overall went to a junior shooter with a score of 314.42. It was his son, Kid Dick. Look's like your days are numbered Billy!

We will be having another shoot on Saturday July 14th. See ya then!

Wiiwan

END OF TRAIL, CA

This is not a shoot we had ever seriously considered attending. It is too far away. It costs too much money in entry fees. It is a circus with lots of things going on at the same time. Shooting is not the focal point. California is not gun friendly. Gas is too expensive for a motorcycle. We had a long list of reasons for not going. Then we got a phone call asking if we would teach the R.O. One course at EOT. On top of that I knew Doc might be up for induction as a Regulator, done at EOT also. This looked like the year we were meant to go.

We changed our schedule and checked with friends who told us to go to Cajon, the weekend before, to a three-day shoot to warm up for EOT. These are some serious shooters. I thought that was hysterical but we had the time so we went. It did actually turn out to be a good idea. Doc decided to try to shoot Senior Duelist and was able to practice for three days. I liked his new class because it slowed him down a little and put him within my reach. I got him the first day, but went to pieces and he got me the next two.

We arrived at EOT shortly after passing a feed lot!

I'm a city girl and I'll never get used to that kind of smell. We were directed to a field with tons of other campers in the 95-degree heat, with high sun and not a tree in sight. We were sure we had made a mistake by coming. Luckily things improved. The weather cooled and turned out to be the best they had had in the past five years. A slight wind kept the bugs away, thank goodness and no rain.

As we walked around we were amazed by the size of this undertaking. We were even more shocked by the schedule of events, meetings, seminars and entertainment. Multiple things were going on every minute of every day. I had to make out a schedule for us, for each day, so we wouldn't miss out on something. Our main shoot schedule was to shoot four stages, each day, for three days. One day we shot in the morning. One day was midday and one day was in the afternoon. I liked the varied schedule and enjoyed not having to be ready so early every day. It also helped to have other people there, we knew, who had been before. They knew the ropes and could guide us along.

At the opening ceremony meeting Doc was surprised when they called his name as a new Regulator. He headed for the stage and I was a ways behind him, with my camera in hand, to take his picture. When I heard my name called next, as a new Regulator, I was absolutely shocked. I don't ever in my life remember being caught so off guard. (That was the most well guarded secret I know of!)

As you can tell, the shoot went well for us. In addition to the new Regulator status Doc went on to place fourth in Senior Duelist and won a coveted End of Trail belt buckle. I, on the other hand, do not have a prayer of winning anything in Ladies Modern. Doc says we are never going back. I say we are going back when I can shoot Senior Ladies. I want one of those belt buckles!

To those of you who had a part in the Regulator nominations we want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It is a great honor because it came from our friends at home.

Dakota Doc and Cactus Kay

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