



WOLVERINE RANGERS' EPITAPH



Volume 13, Issue 2

April 2010

★ CAPTAIN'S CORNER ★

Howdy Pards,

Yesterday it was 70 degrees and today it was snowing most of the day. Oh well, I guess that is Michigan. The Lady and I have been tied up in some non-shooting activities lately. About 2 weeks ago our daughter Jennifer got married in Mexico. Then this past week, The Lady had surgery. Both went very well. The Lady is feeling much better and she hopes to be shooting soon. She has missed most of the last 2 shooting seasons due to surgical issues and she is anxious to get back at it. It is more fun for me when my bride is able to shoot with me.

I would like to congratulate Deuce Stevens for winning the SASS National Championship in February. Your Match Director for Range War is one of the premier shooters in the sport. We are lucky to have Deuce designing stages and doing the other jobs to make sure that Range War is one of the premier SASS State Championships in the region.

My daughter Emily has finished the Calendar and we received them from the printer last week. I think that they look great. Please be sure to renew your Wolverine Rangers membership if you have not already done so. We will get a calendar sent to you shortly after your renewal is received. Please let me know if there are any problems with the processing of your membership renewal or the receipt of your calendar.

The Lady and I look forward to seeing all of you at our member club shoots throughout our great state this season. Shoot safe, fast and clean.

Best regards,

R.J. Law

R.J. Law - Captain



BRUSH CREEK WRANGLERS

A hearty welcome to our newest Cowboy Action Shooting Club—The Brush Creek Wranglers shooting at the Hillman Sportsman Club in Hillman, Michigan.

Shoots will be the first Saturday of each month beginning April 3rd through October. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m., Shooters' Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Registration fee is \$15. Additional family members get a \$5 discount with a registration fee of \$10 each. Registration fees include lunch.

For more information contact the cowboys below.
Rancher Roy: 989-785-99 or royturay@gmail.com
Atlanta Sharps: 989-785-4995

The Hillman Sportsman Club
18420 County Road 451
Hillman, Michigan 49746

This will be their second year of hosting cowboy shoots and we are happy to have them join up with the Wolverine Rangers.

Let's give them our support,

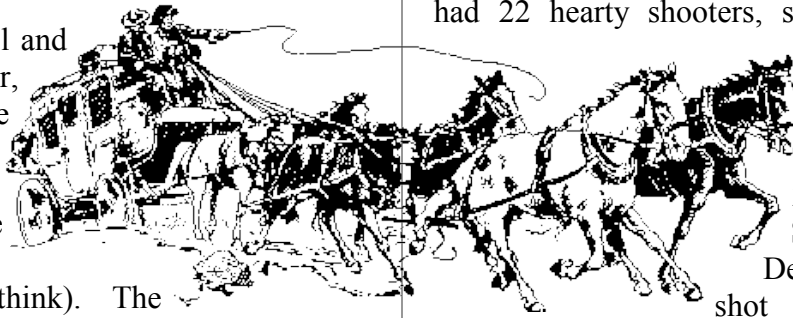
Mail Order Annie

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

JOHNSON CREEK REGULATORS

The gang in Plymouth kicks off the 2010 cowboy season on March 27th. This year we are expanding to 8 monthly matches – March through October. We are developing new stages with some moving (anybody missing a garage door opener) and some old favorites along with new side matches and fun shoots.

There is a new Marshall and Deputy in town this year, Gabby Glenn and Three Deuce Tom have taken over the town and promise big and close targets and clean matches (yeah, do ya think). The March shoot will start with a fun side match at 9am. We are flipping a coin to see if it's the dueling tree or the poker game – weather has a big vote in the decision. Either one will be fun so bring some extra ammo. Shakey Puddin has promised some steamy chilly for the first shoot so come on out – renew ol' friendships and make some new ones.



ROCKY RIVER REGULATORS

The Rocky River Regulators took some well deserved rest this winter but we are ready for an action packed shooting season in 2010. The Regulators closed out the 2009 season with a club committee get-together pot luck dinner at JJ's house that many of the Rocky River crew attended. There was plenty of food, drink, laughter, and preposterous stories to behold.

Part of the festivities included showing appreciation for all the hard work that the committee members did during 2009. All cowboys and cowgirls in attendance received a "cowboy" tee shirt (for the August T-shirt extra match) and some cowboys received acclaim and an award for the most D.S.C. volunteer work hours for 2009. The award winners were Canyon Jack (393 volunteer hours), Terrebone Bud (253 volunteer hours), and Shotgun Willey (127 volunteer hours). When you see them, please thank them for all the range improvements and work behind the scenes.

The Regulators also awarded their D.S.C. Top

Cowboy awards for 2009. These awards went to J.J. Longley (1st), Camptown (2nd), and Fraser Fox (3rd). Congratulations and nice shooting!

The Rocky River Regulators opened the 2010 shooting season on Sunday, March 21st. Rocky River was a little "soggy" and the weather forecasters predicted rain and snow, but at least the shooting area decking was above water and relatively dry. We had 22 hearty shooters, some were "rusty", and some in mid-season form, and when the lead stopped flying our first match winner of 2010 was Deuce Stevens. Not only was Deuce FAST but he also shot a clean match. Other

shooters that distinguished themselves and had clean matches were J.J. Longley, Moe Gunns, Nine Finger Bob, and Goatlips.

If you are looking for Cowboy Action Shooting fun, remember that the DSC Rocky River Regulators shoot regularly the 3rd Sunday of the month (couple of exceptions, so check the Wolverine Rangers web site), so please plan to shoot at our next monthly match on Sunday, April 18, 2010.

If you're looking for something different, we have silhouette shooting that will test your skills and put a smile on your face. We have a Silhouette Match scheduled on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 12 PM. Practice for the Silhouette Match will start at noon with the safety meeting at 12:45pm. The match should take about 2 hours. Any pistol caliber lever or single shot rifle is welcome as well as 22 rim fire rifles. There will be classes for all rifles and ages. Bring out your .22 rifle or your cowboy pistol caliber rifle and try your hand at a fun shooting experience. Remember, standard velocity and lead bullets ONLY, except .22 ammunition can be plated.

Look for the flier on www.d-s-c.org web site. Also this year the cowboys will be hosting three .22 rim fire matches and a Wild Bunch match. Watch the web site for details down the trail.

See you on the range.

J.J.

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

HURON RIVER RAIDERS

We decided last year to eliminate matches until we build up a stronger membership base. For 2010 we will be hosting practice sessions outdoors with 1 or 2 stages. On May 1 we will be giving a demo to the Multi-Lakes Women of Aim group. After they have lunch, they will be encouraged to use our guns and ammo.

Our 2010 practices will be on May 8, June 5, Aug. 7 & 14, Sept. 11 & Oct. 9. Our cowboy group is encouraging new shooters (men, women, children and families) to join in at the practices to see what it is all about.

- * We will be offering coffee & donuts at 9:30 during registration and orientation
- * Practice shooting will be from 10:00 - 1:00
- * Guns and a limited supply of ammo will be furnished
- * Range fee is just \$5.00
- * Experienced shooters will have a stage of their own

So join us and bring the ladies and kids.

Regards,

Cool Hand Carl

Marshal of the Huron River Raiders
Multi-Lakes Conservation Association
248-318-3463

THE ROCKFORD REGULATORS

**Invite you to our
2010 season kick-off!**



April 3rd will be a special FREE shoot.
Open to all Cowboy Shooters
(Lunch is \$5)

**Don't miss this chance to come shoot with the
Regulators and keep yer gold in yer pocket!**

Other highlights for 2010 are:

- ★ ANNUAL TWO-DAY SHOOT ON MAY 22nd-23rd
- ★ WE WILL BE SHOOTING 6 STAGES IN 2010!

As always our regular shoots are on the first Saturday of the month (except November). We will be holding Bare Bones (no lunch) shoots on some Sundays, and again will have Old Coot Shoots on some Wednesdays. Shoot dates for the Bare Bones were not available in time to make the calendar (watch the websites and Epitaph for dates to be posted later.)

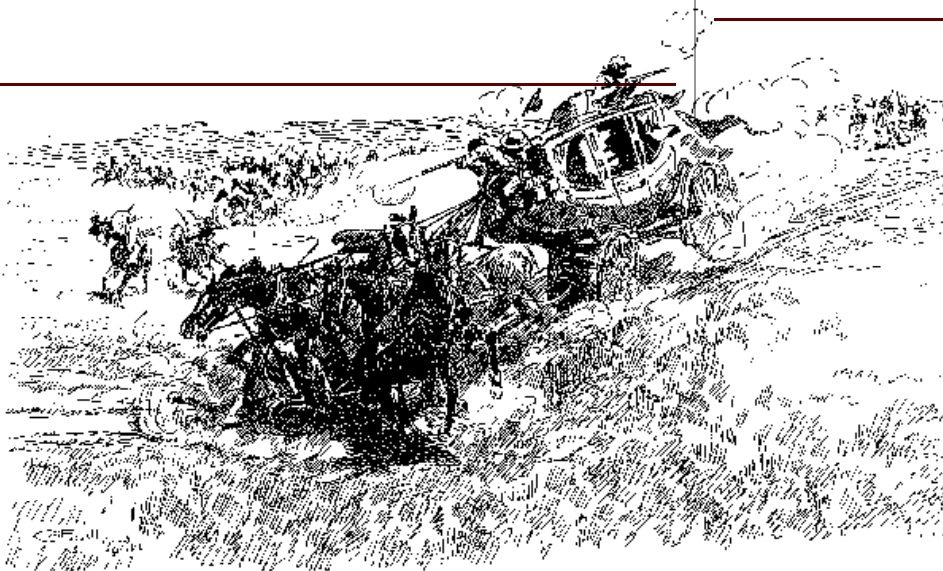
www.rockfordsportsmansclub.com
www.wolverinerangers.org

The weather report looks great for the April shoot. Looking forward to another great shooting season with all the Wolverine Ranger clubs.

NOTICE!!

Rockford's Free Shoot is not the Wolverine Rangers' Annual Free Shoot.

The Wolverine Rangers' Free Shoot and membership Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Hidden Valley Cowboys in Sturgis on July 11th.



★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

STRAIGHT SHOTS FROM SAGINAW

Spring is here and by the looks of things, our cowboy shooters are ready for another fun year. We held a practice day in early March and had a lot of fun all afternoon. We'll be kickin' off our Wednesday night practices on April 14th, starting at 5 p.m. and running until dark or we run out of ammo. Cost is \$5 for non-Field & Stream members, \$3 if you are. Here's your invite...each of you are more than welcome here in Saginaw.

If you pards are interested, on Saturday, April 24th, the Saginaw cowboys will have their shooting display at the Midland Gun Show. Time is 9 am – 4 pm. It is located at the Midland County Fairgrounds and is held in several buildings. Cost is \$4.00, parking is free and grub is available to purchase. This is our seventh year in a row to show the public just what they are missing! Cipher it on yer calendar if you're interested.

We're hearing a lot about "change" in the news these days. Well, Field & Stream will be creating some positive change right here at the club. At the membership meeting on March 18th, plans for a new club building were voted on and passed. This center will be used for education, meetings, membership rental, etc. So now, along with the boom of muzzleloaders, the zing of flying arrows and clay pigeons, and the ping of lead hitting steel, we're going to be hearing the bang of hammers. We're not certain of the starting date, but the directors have had the plans in hand and it shouldn't take too long before the "go ahead". Another change: we have a new webmaster at Field and Stream and are presently in the process of remodeling the web pages, so visit our site when you get a chance. Might jst see yourself on the photo pages. www.saginawfieldandstream.com.

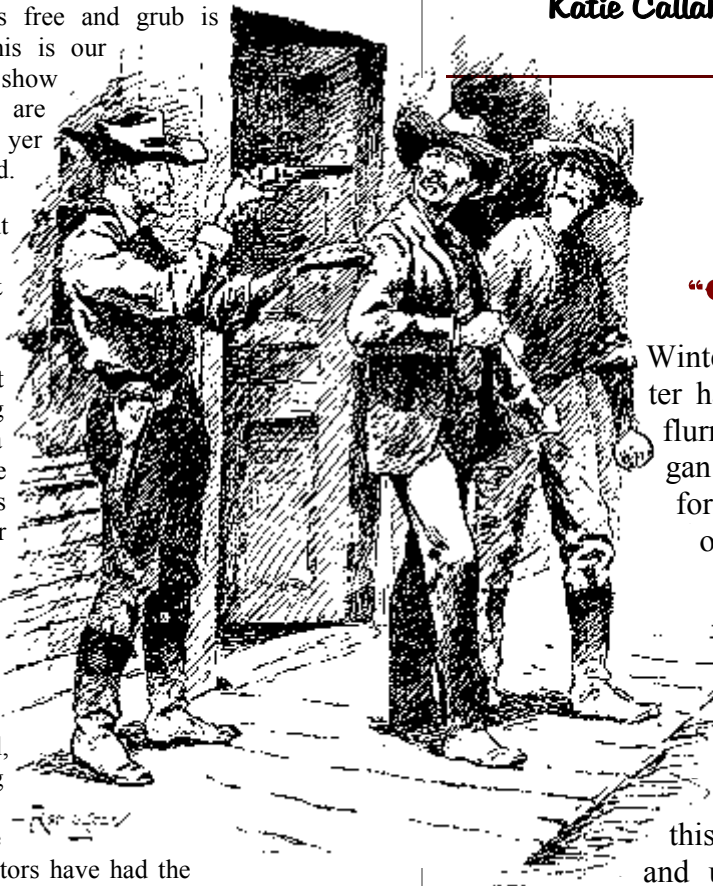
We're looking forward to this year's match shoots: Saturday, May 29th and our two "back-to-back" shoots on July 31st & Aug. 1st. Our final match of the season is set for Aug. 28th and will be a great "warm up" for the upcoming State Shoot. If you've shot Saginaw before, thank ya kindly and we sure hope to see you again this year. For any of you folks who haven't had the opportunity of shooting at our BIG & UP CLOSE targets in the woods, we invite you to jst come and enjoy yourself and all the fine folks that make this sport so much fun.

And pards, bring a friend, a family member, a son or daughter. It's what we must do to keep this sport alive and show others that guns are NOT the culprits of crime!

A couple of our Saginaw pards, Elsie Rose and No Buk Chuck, had the opportunity to attend Winter Range National Championship in Arizona earlier this year. We do believe Elsie is now sporting a very fashionable award buckle. We also heard rumors No Buk has to polish it daily, but now folks, that's only hear-say and cowboys mustn't spread rumors!!

Happy Easter to all. God bless all our pards and our troops. And remember, live life ... give it your best shot.

Katie Callahan and Bad River Marty



NEWS FROM "OUT AT THE CREEK"

Winter has come, and hopefully Winter has gone. We may still have a flurry or two of snow, this is Michigan you know, but, we are anxious for the shooting season to begin out here at the Creek. Our Cowboy Action Shooting Schedule for 2010 will be the 3rd Saturday of each month, May thru October.

We have some exciting plans for the Town of Sucker Creek this year, as always it will be a fun and unique experience to shoot at Sucker Creek. Dry camping is always available and fun, come join us around the campfire.

Check out our website, www.suckercreek.org, for pictures, directions to the Club and a lot of other neat "cowboy" info. Looking forward to seeing you all the 15th of May for our first shoot of 2010. See ya all "Out At the Creek"

God Bless
The Vicar's Wife

★ SHOOTING NEWS ★

DOUBLE BARREL GANG HASTINGS, MICHIGAN

Howdy! I am glad to be back in Michigan from the sunny and cold south. It was two of the coldest months on record in Florida. I was glad for the chance to shoot with other snow birds from Michigan.

Congrats to Deuce Stevens for his win at Winter Range and the Florida State Match. Also, to Shoulda Dun Gun winning the Florida State Senior Championship... Fireball for winning the shoot off... and all others from Michigan who made the trips south and west for the matches.

The Double Barrel Gang will start shooting on April 11th.

Tiny and his four brothers are ready to take on all comers. We would like to invite all to come out and shoot with us this season. We hope it works out for you now that we will be shooting the second Sunday. We are going to try lunch & scores uptown 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.

HIDDEN VALLEY COWBOYS

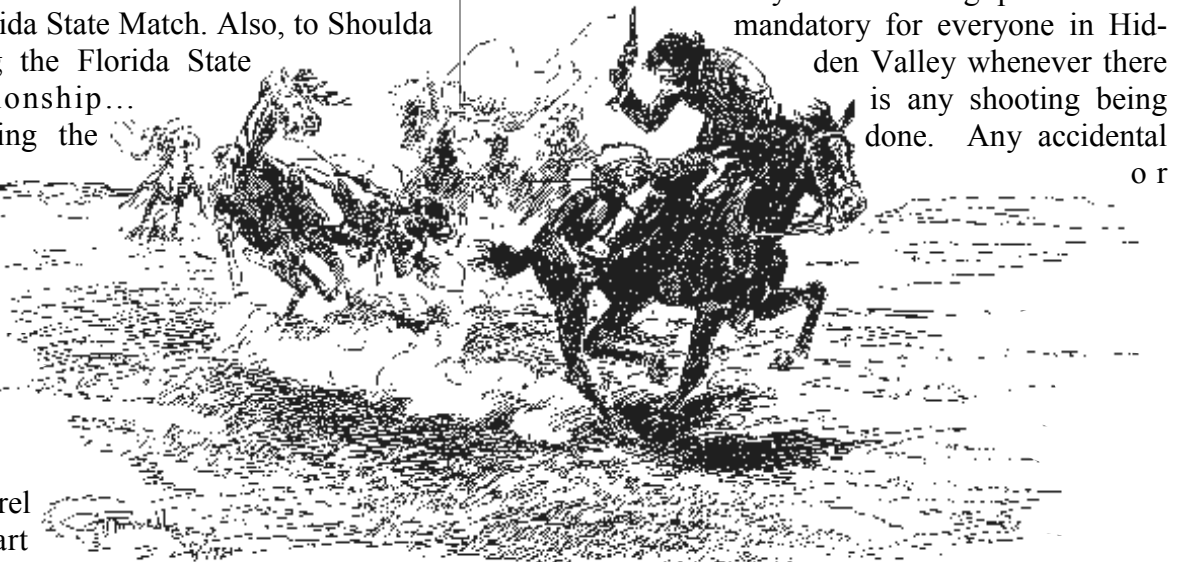
Fellow Wolverine Rangers:

The Wolverine Ranger free shoot for this year is at Hidden Valley Cowboys in Sturgis on Sunday, July 11, 2010 (See map on Wolverine Rangers web page under Clubs). Registration will start at 0900 hours

and side shoots start at 0930 hours, the mandatory safety meeting starts at 1045 hours. Lunch is after the match.

This match will be designed by Three Gun Cole. Many of you may remember Three Gun Cole designed our "Fast & Furious" match last year and we all had a blast!

All SASS rules apply along with the following club rules: eye and hearing protection is mandatory for everyone in Hidden Valley whenever there is any shooting being done. Any accidental



premature discharge of any firearm resulting in a round leaving the rage will result in stage disqualification. A second stage disqualification on the same day shall result in a match disqualification. The maximum size shot for any shotgun target is a # 7 1/2. Lead shot or smaller, no magnum or high-velocity loads allowed

Information for anyone who might be interested in coming the night before the match. There are three motels at I 80/90 and Mi 66, Super 8, Best Western and Hampton Inn (with over 200 rooms combined) all three are within 10 miles of the range and all three allow guns in their rooms.

If anyone needs additional information, please email Sauk Valley Stubby at Johnnsally@charter.net.

Sauk Valley Stubby

★ SCHEDULE & CLASSIFIED ADS ★

UPCOMING SHOOTS

April 2010

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 3rd | Hillman | Regular Shoot |
| 3rd | Rockford | Regular Shoot |
| 10th | Bellaire | Regular Shoot |
| 10th | Lapeer | Fun Shoot & Silhouette |
| 10th-11th | Middleton, OH | Smoke in the Woods |
| 11th | Fenton | Regular Shoot |
| 11th | Hastings | Regular Shoot |
| 14th | Rockford | Old Coot Shoot |
| 17th | Lapeer | Cowboy Long Range |
| 17th-18th | Ithaca | Black Powder Silhouette |
| 18th | Lapeer | Regular Shoot |
| 18th | Sturgis | Regular Shoot |
| 18th | Utica | Regular Shoot |
| 24th | Central Lake | Regular Shoot |
| 24th | Plymouth | Regular Shoot |
| 24th | Scottville | Regular Shoot |

May 2010

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 1st | Hillman | Regular Shoot |
| 1st | Rockford | Regular Shoot |
| 8th | Bellaire | Regular Shoot |
| 8th | Lapeer | Fun Shoot & Silhouette |
| 8th | Commerce | Practice Shoot |
| 9th | Fenton | Regular Shoot |
| 9th | Hastings | Regular Shoot |
| 12th | Rockford | Old Coot Shoot |
| 15th | Breckenridge | Regular Shoot |
| 15th | Utica | Silhouette Shoot |
| 15th-16th | Ithaca | Black Powder Silhouette |
| 16th | Sturgis | Regular Shoot |
| 16th | Utica | Regular Shoot |
| 22nd | Central Lake | Regular Shoot |
| 22nd | Plymouth | Regular Shoot |
| 22nd | Scottville | Regular Shoot |
| 22nd-23rd | Rockford | 2-Day Gun 'n Fun Shoot |
| 29th | Saginaw | Regular Shoot |
| 29th-30th | Lapeer | 2-Day Great Lakes Match #13 |
| 29th | Commerce | Practice Shoot |

Pair of Smith & Wesson Performance Center Scholfield revolvers with 7" barrels, .45 Scholfield, lightly used. Only 2,500 made between 2000-2002. Original factory wooden boxes included as well as several hundred Scholfield brass and K.C. Miles custom made Slim Jim holsters.
\$3,400 for all of the above.

Colt Cowboy in .45 Colt, used with 5 1/2 " barrel.
Has been tuned and shoots well. \$500.

Winchester Model 1886 take down (Miroku) in 45-70, used with Marble rear peep sight. Comes with 100 rounds of unfired brass. \$950.

All of the above are Michigan face-to-face sales only.

Contact Nine Finger Bob at
bsbrossia@comcast.net or 586-321-1602

*** WANT TO BUY ***

1873 44-40, 20" barrel. Prefer a used rifle at a fair price.

Contact Crazy Mingo at
crazy.mingo@yahoo.com or

231-893-0122 after 6 p.m.

Original 1878 Sharps Borchardt military musket, 45-70, 32 inch barrel, good condition, shoots great, all original. The last and best model that Sharps ever made. This is the only rifle you'll ever own that you can shoot all you want and have the value go up! \$1500

Contact El Guano at

spidercontrolinc@aol.com



★ SHOOTING TIPS ★

HOWDY AGAIN,

I sure hope that you single shot shooters are gettin' some useful information out of these articles. Nuthin' would please me more! Now bear with me on this installment because I'm gonna teach you how to roll your own MATCH QUALITY black powder cartridges.

If you go black, you'll quickly find out that the different grades of powder give different results just like different brands of smokeless. Start with Goex FF or Goex ctg. Powder. FFF grade powder is generally for small caliber cartridges up through 38-55. Swiss powder is excellent but more expensive. F grade powder burns the slowest and FFF burns the fastest.

Before we start to reload, I'll tell you how to find out where the rifling starts in your rifle. This is important because this determines the overall case length for EACH black powder bullet/load combination. Just trust me. You need to know this. Take an unprimed cartridge case and full length resize it. Run it up into your expander/belling die. Seat the bullet in the case mouth. Take the seater die and UNSCREW the seater plug about half way. Now run the cartridge up into the seater die so the bullet is only seated in the case about ¼ inch. Place your rifle in a gun cradle, open the action, and very gently chamber the cartridge until it stops. Don't force it. The bullet has just touched the beginning of the rifling. Note how much the cartridge sticks out of the chamber. Screw the expander plug down into the die a little, run the cartridge up into the die again to seat the bullet a little deeper, and gently chamber the round again. Repeat this process until the cartridge enters the chamber fully and JUST BARELY touches the rifling at the same time. This is now the overall cartridge length for this bullet style ONLY. You may have a couple of grease grooves exposed, maybe not, depending on the bullet style. Finding this out will usually allow you to get a few more grains of powder in the case. Remember, we want the case FULL of powder. HUNTING loads should have no grease grooves exposed...you don't want dirt getting in that bullet grease and then going down the barrel! Each style of bullet will engage the rifling in a different place so you must repeat this process for each different bullet style you try. Record the overall length. NOW LISTEN UP! Some rifles like to have the bullet seated up to .060 in back of the rifling, some like the bullet to just touch the rifling, and some rifles like to have the bullet firmly seated into the rifling .030 or so to get MAXIMUM accuracy. It's up to you to find out. CAUTION: if you seat the bullet out too far the cartridge will be hard or impossible to chamber. On the other hand, if the bullet is seated too far away from the rifling and has to "jump" before it engages the rifling, accuracy may suffer.

You should start by either full length sizing or neck sizing your cases. I prefer neck sizing because it "works" the brass less. The only catch with neck sizing is that you have to dedicate this bunch of brass to this rifle ONLY since it might not fit the chamber of another rifle of the same caliber. Now is the time to MEASURE THE CASE LENGTH. Cases grow when sized. If you don't check the length, the cases will "grow" past the length of the chamber. If this occurs, the bullet gets deformed and pressure increases because the case mouth is

bent INWARD past the end of the chamber and digs into the bullet. This is definitely not good for accuracy! Prime the case with the primer of your choice. Run the case up into your expander die. Generally, the expander plug diameter should be about .002 LESS than the bullet diameter. Example: bullet diameter .458, expander plug diameter .456. Set the die to bell the case mouth SLIGHTLY so that the bullet will enter the case only about 1/16th of an inch. Belling the case mouth more than this is not necessary because excessive belling work hardens the case mouth and you start to get split case mouths after only a few reloadings.

Now it's time to charge the case. You can get in a couple of extra grains of powder if you use a drop tube. You can make one out of an old aluminum arrow by flaring one end and gluing a small \$1.00 wal-mart plastic funnel on the end. If you don't want to go to the trouble of making a drop tube, gently tap the charged case lightly on the reloading bench about 20 times to settle the powder. At the MINIMUM, the powder should come up to where the base of the seated bullet will be. You can add another couple of grains of powder to get up to 1/8 inch of compression. More than that isn't generally necessary. NEVER LEAVE AN AIR SPACE BETWEEN THE SEATED BULLET AND THE POWDER. Now you can put a .030 or .060 poly or card wad in the case mouth and push it squarely onto the powder with a pencil. Take the bullet of your choice, place it STRAIGHT UP in the case mouth, and run it up into the seating die which is now adjusted for this bullet style. DO NOT CRIMP THE CASE! If any lead is shaved off the bullet, just bell the case mouth a little more. Most of the big bullets don't have a crimping groove anyway. Adjust the die to take the bell out of the case mouth ONLY. The case neck tension alone should firmly hold the bullet in the case.

All you have to do now is shoot your brand spanking new match grade ammo. After each shot you can either blow 4 or 5 slow breaths down the bore using a blow tube or run a DAMP [NOT WET!] patch down the bore between shots. After using a blow tube for 15 years I have switched over to the damp patch between shots. I will give you several reasons why I did this. First, it's way quicker and you don't hyperventilate between shots. Second, the 10% of the fouling that is left in the bore after wiping is WAY more uniform than ALL the fouling that is left in the bore with a blow tube. Which ever way you use, keep the blow tube or the wiping rod CLEAN! You don't need to be introducing sand and grit into the bore of your prize rifle. Owners of trap door Springfield rifles must use a blow tube because the action will not permit a cleaning rod to be used from the breech end. Stay tuned and hold center.

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

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