



Gearing Up for IDPA Nationals



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2012 Smith & Wesson IDPA Indoor Nationals

Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

Second Quarter 2012
Volume 16 - Issue 2



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Pistol Envy or Size Does Matter

I just completed my first season of IDPA, shooting my Glock 19. Yet, all season long I watched as the guys with their long-slide guns easily zeroed the distant shots that I struggled with. Comparing barrel lengths is where my pistol envy started, then frequent trips to the gun shop (just to look) ending with the maddening resolve; "I've got to have a new gun"!

Now trying to convince my wife that a new gun is an "absolute necessity" is another matter, especially with a half-finished bathroom. In a long car ride I tried to enlighten her on why I needed this gun so badly, explaining about barrel length and increased sight radius. I said this gun would be used just for competition because it's too big for concealed carry. My wife who has heard me justify the cost of this sport as a way to prepare in the event I needed to, "protect her" said, I thought the whole idea was to carry it? I muttered all the top guys are shooting the longer guns. My pistol envy was revealed, stuttering, I said, they have a box and if it fits, you can shoot it. She said what box? The box, box, I exasperatedly responded. It occurred to me that I've shot IDPA almost every weekend for the last 9 months and have never seen the illusive box. But the box was my ace in the hole, separating the men from the boys. Finally she gave in and put an end to my groveling.

So here I am standing at counter of my favorite gun shop, an M&P Pro 9, XDM 5.25 and a Glock 34 Gen4 arranged like precious works of art. The excitement was overwhelming as I stared at the objects of my obsession for nearly a year. Now all I had to do was pick one. Yes, I would be the first to admit I have pistol envy and this new gun would likely be a temporary fix but today I'm smiling!
C. Daniel Myers A46654

I understand your dilemma, there are a lot of fine guns out here that I NEED to own but my wife is not so understanding! You would think she would be ok with me getting something for myself. Really, I just bought our two year old a M&P 15-

22 because every boy NEEDS a .22 rifle. Maybe I will try your tactics and tell her I need a gun with a longer sight radius as well. I don't think it will work but I too am good at groveling. Thanks for the tip and I hope you have a great time with your new blaster!

Editor

Whole Lota Questions

I joined the IDPA several months ago but have not been able to participate in any matches due to your equipment rules. I started shooting revolvers and pistols in 1963 as a member of The N.C.T.C. rifle and pistol club in Pensacola FL. My T/O weapon in The USMC was the Service 45 Pistol. Later on, as a Police Officer I carried and became proficient with a variety of revolvers. Part of the training was learning effective trigger control which enables one to effectively shoot a revolver either DA or SA in an actual real world gun fight!

Imagine my disappointment when I discovered that your rules prevent me from competing with my S&W Model 29, 44mag. because it has a six inch barrel. I carried this gun in a shoulder holster and in an IWB belt holster in the line of duty in "The Real World". Both my Colt 2 in. 38 Cal. Detective Special and my S&W 2.5 in Model 19, 357 Combat Magnum are relegated to the category of B.U.G. "ONLY." I find this policy to be both insulting and demeaning. The U.S. Treasury Dep. issued the 2.5 in. model 19 to its agents as their main weapon for many years. Real Life Detectives and plain clothes officers carried Detective Specials as their Main Gun! A person should be able to shoot these weapons in Direct Competition with pistol shooters if they choose to do so.

Finally I am not able to shoot my Sig Sauer 9mm pistol because I carry it in a (very expensive) Mitch Rosen "Tito" Cross Draw Holster. A cross draw holster is also an "Ambidextrous" draw holster and is also very comfortable and concealable for someone who is seated a great deal of the time (think stakeout). Also, in the 1970s I carried my Detective Special

in an Upside Down Shoulder Holster because it could very easily and safely be drawn and fired with the left/weak hand while leaving the right/strong hand free to simultaneously draw and fire a second gun from a holster on the right/strong side hip! This was a Very Common Real World Scenario that we actually practiced and became proficient with!

Who exactly made up the committees that instituted these rules in the first place? What "Real World" experience and Qualifications did they actually possess? Please have your Tiger Teams rethink these "Outrageous" rule restrictions, or stop advertising your selves as a "Real World" Competition Shooting Organization.

Terence Rickert A46923

After reading this I am not really sure if someone isn't pulling my leg but given the large number of people coming into the sport in the last several years I feel it was important to answer this gentleman's questions here.

First let's start with the rules over all. This is a game and not real life. It is based on self defensive principles but it is still a game and not training. It will make you more confident and proficient with your gun as well as other needed self defensive skills but if you are looking for training, I recommend calling Thunder Ranch or some other quality school or instructor. However, if you are like most people and can't take a week off of work and spend a lot of money to take those classes, IDPA can be a great way to get some of the skills you need to effectively defend yourself if you ever have to defend your life. Just keep in mind that to be able to officiate and score the game, sometimes the rules are not in line with some self defensive tactics.

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Letters must be less than 350 words. We reserve the right to edit all published letters for clarity and length.

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The IDPA Tactical Journal welcomes all submissions of press releases and news items of interest to our readers. All material is considered unsolicited and is subject to the approval of the Publisher, Editors and Advisory Board. All submissions imply consent to publish and will not be monetarily compensated or returned.



IN THIS ISSUE

We've got a great issue this month. As always, Ted has some very important points for SOs to consider and Tom has some great ideas for making your match run smoother. This issue also has the entry form for the IDPA National Championship in Oxford, NC. We hope to see you in September at the match. Frank is well known for his fantastic matches and I'm sure you'll have a great time. As always, if you would like to write, please do so at editor@idpa.com. Letters to the editor may be edited for brevity and clarity. RR

Run a Better Match

Build a Better Club



by Ted Murphy A02127

This looks like one of the best years for IDPA shooting. Keep an eye on the matches out there and do not hesitate to send out your match applications. They will all fill up fast.

Shooting:

It is spring and for a lot of clubs this means it is IDPA classifier time. Most of the clubs in my area have run the classifier to the point that there were few matches in the past two months that were not 90 rounds, Limited Vickers, and called the Classifier. I wonder if the Master Class shooters are going to call March the “off season”.

Most shooters are very anxious

to shoot a classifier, and are even more anxious when they actually shoot it. I have always thought it was a product of our education as children. Sometimes I think shooters get flashbacks to their school days when it was standardized test time. The classifier is not something that will influence your future or be on our permanent record. It is not a label to be applied to you as a shooter; it simply is a measure of your skill. Do not build this up to be more than it is. Classifier anxiety will adversely affect your shooting. I have seen solid shooters arrive to shoot the classifier with their hands shaking. They are taking it far too

seriously, and you should not treat the classifier with this level of fear, anxiety, or apprehension.

How do you get better at the classifier? Most of the work can be done at home. There are a lot of draws (fourteen of them) in this match. Practice your draws in a dry fire setting. Pick a place with a safe backstop, lock up all your ammunition, and practice picking up the target. Many people go to the range and try to shoot blindingly fast splits. That may be neat but the real time lost in shooting the classifier is the time you spend finding your front sight on the draw, the time in your transitions, and the time in your reloads. All of these can be practiced at home, and for free by the use of dry-fire.

You also cannot escape the fact that you shoot 18 rounds at 20 yards. That is twenty percent of the rounds you shoot in the match! The classifier is heavily weighted for distance shooting. So if you want to classify well, you need to learn to make those hits. If you practice on a single target at 25 or more yards, those 20 yard shots are going to be simple.

To succeed in the classifier you need to reduce the time you waste finding your sight, the time spent making your transitions, your reloads have to be solid, and you need to get those hits. Get your 20 yard hits and all your head shots and you will soon be moving up through the ranks before you know it.

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A promotional graphic for STI International's 2011 classifier match. It features a central image of a silver and black 1911-style handgun. The background is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. Text elements include 'STIGUNS.COM' at the top left, 'THE STI 2011' in large, bold letters in the center, 'THE 1911-PERFECTED' below it, and 'STI INTERNATIONAL' at the bottom. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, and the website 'CATALOG@STIGUNS.COM' is listed at the bottom right.

Run a Better Match

Officiating:

Safety Officers may notice these days, many shooters are coming to the line with video cameras strapped on. They want to record their shooting so they can evaluate their performance, or simply to show their friends. Not all Safety Officers like this. My personal opinion is that the shooters come here to be entertained, and if they want to create video footage of their fun time on the range, then they are welcome to do so. These videos posted on social media help fuel the desire to experience our sport and I believe filming is a good thing.

My friend Matt Olinchak is one such shooter. He has these safety glasses that have a little internal camera installed. At a match this week I borrowed his glasses. I did not film my shooting, I filmed my officiating. I wondered what a camera mounted on my eyeglasses would show about my officiating. Anytime my eyes wandered off the gun to the target, or to some other distraction will all be there on video and big as life. I have not had time to view the footage, but I will discuss my observations I have in a future column. Perhaps this is something you may want to consider to keep an eye on your performance as a Safety Officer.

While speaking of using your eyes, it is an important part of the SO's duties to make sure the range is clear. One of these hazards is the genus *Rattus Orichalcum*, otherwise known as the American Brass Rat. These shooters tend to crawl on their bellies, kneel behind props, and otherwise obstruct the flow of the match; all the while being

difficult to see as they slither about taking all the brass their greedy little hands can grab. Safety Officers need to be mindful of these folks, and to implement a plan as to when these people can pick brass. Try to see that they take only their personal brass and any unwanted cases out there, leaving the other shooter's brass behind. SO's also need to make sure the brass rats are not behind a prop while you are telling the next shooter to "Load and Make Ready". Consider having a sorting table or brass bucket for any marked brass, and announce to the squad your plan for how the picking of brass will be handled.

Match Directing:

In keeping with my earlier



SO's need to keep an eye out for the Brass Rat- and direct this person when he can pick brass.

Classifier theme, I would like to discuss how Ontelaunee Rod and Gun Club, a club local to me, ran the classifier. They did an excellent job. They had these very clever target stands they made special for the classifier. Each bay had three of these stands, set up for the 5', 3', and 4' heights. The targets sat on a horizontal board and were contained by a robust metal track on one side. On the other side, a simple binder clip held the target to the stand. This system allowed for rapid target changes and no time lost to pasting as the targets were pasted behind the line.

Each shooter was given three targets and a score sheet when they registered. The classifier was setup in 4 bays. There were two bays with Stage 1, one bay with Stage 2, and one bay with stage 3. There were no squads, shooters picked a bay and got in line. When it was their turn, they had their targets clipped to the stands. When the shooter was finished shooting, the targets were quickly replaced and brought behind the shooting line.



This clever target stand helped speed up the classifier.

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Women's Perspective

"Get Your Bling On!"

by Kitty Richards A18564

How three lady shooters are providing choices to women in our sport

Last October, Tracy Hughes of League City, Texas was instructing at four different monthly women's shooting programs and participating in a Halloween Zombie Shoot when inspiration struck. "I wanted to do something fun for the Halloween Match, so I took one of my husband's small M&P back straps and did this orange glittery finish on it. It was novel and kind of a conversation piece so I made a few in different colors to fit my mood. One day Smith & Wesson asked people to post pictures of their guns, so I posted my M&P9 with the Emerald Green back strap. It got a lot of response there, but the attention skyrocketed when folks saw the picture on the S&W site and shared it – it went a little viral on Face Book", she laughs. And thus, a woman-owned business catering to lady shooters was born.

Brilliant Backstraps (www.brilliantbackstraps.com) offers stylish options for owners of guns with removable grips. "I can create grips of different colors", Hughes

says, "but the ones that seem to get the most attention are the glittery ones. It's just a little gun-bling that's not a permanent part of the gun... another way to make it personal. I've focused on the female line so far, but there is a line for men in the works."

This SSP Marksman has been shooting IDPA about 3 years. "After living most of my adult life in California, one of the first things I did when I returned to Texas was get my CHL. After taking a course taught by a woman instructor, I learned so much that I realized



shooting was actually fun." The small business owner is married to an active-duty military member and has an adult son who graduated from USAF Basic Training in March. She found shooting a common interest with her husband and a way to spend time with him. "I love IDPA! For me, there's no better way to "bond" with my

gun, to really learn and become comfortable with what I can do, and also learn my limitations. While I understand that IDPA isn't real life, it has helped me think about real life situations and how fast those scenarios might play out. And I can do all that while having a great time and meeting some amazing people!"

This enthusiasm for the sport helped Hughes identify a demand. "When it comes to parts for guns, there aren't many choices that women can just go buy off the shelf. I'm offering women a choice of colors to perhaps match team colors, or their favorite colors - colors in addition to the usual camo and pink or a combination of the two."

The brilliant, Brilliant Backstraps creator has also made some savvy marketing decisions, including teaming up with Athena Means at gungoddess.com. "FaceBook started the ball rolling. By the end of the first day that I had posted the picture on the S&W site, I set up a FB page for the product with pictures that folks could share and comment on. I followed up with a Twitter post and then the webpage. Athena saw it on FB and contacted me about offering the product on her website. GunGoddess is offering my whole line of M&P back straps and I developed two back straps that are exclusive to her using her logo colors."

Women's Perspective



Hughes wishes she could share the following advice to firearm manufacturers: “Women come in all shapes and sizes... and I don’t mean just physically. Think outside the stereotype.”

Hughes also credits her family with helping her with the business. “They feed me ideas and encourage me to keep at it. But they all know that they will be drafted if the business takes off and I can’t keep up with production.” She also makes her own prototypes in her favorite color – purple – before expanding to other colors and offerings. “It’s weird because I’m not a girly girl. When I first got into shooting, I was put off if a gun store owner wanted to sell me “a pink .22 for the little lady”. So I didn’t want pink ANYTHING! And my first opinion was that pink gun parts made it look like female gun owners were less than serious. But over time, I realized that the particular color didn’t matter as long as women had options about



personalization. We need something to make our gun... OUR gun! So, if a pink gun makes a woman want to shoot more, isn’t that the goal? I have developed a passion for getting women into shooting. I want them to experience the confidence and empowerment that

I felt when I learned to shoot competitively. Now I feel that if a pink gun will make a woman happy and get her to shoot it more, well then isn’t that a good thing? So I just extended that metaphor. If a little glitter will make a women want to get a gun or want to shoot more often or just make her want to have some fun with the whole thing, then let’s do this!”



Athena Means, owner of GunGoddess.com, is from Las Vegas, NV. She learned to shoot from her husband, a retired USAF member. “We had guns at home and he wanted me to be comfortable using them, especially during deployments. Little did he know during that first time he took me to the range, he was about to create a monster!” she laughs. The SSP Sharpshooter discovered IDPA a year ago after having shot USPSA. She now shoots both sports and markets products to shooters from both sports.

“My site (www.gungoddess.com) is somewhat of a marketplace”, says



Means, “Where I bring products from different manufacturers together in one place. I’m looking for anything that would appeal to women who shoot, as well as unusual gift ideas. I want the site to be the one place you can go if you’re buying a gift for a shooter, and know that you’ll definitely find something.”

Frustrated by the lack of goods available, she says, “I just got tired of searching online for the items I wanted. So I thought, why not do the legwork, find them, and offer them on one website?” The Goddess’ original products were her t-shirts, and she is moving in the direction of more private label, GunGoddess exclusives, such as range bags & bullet casing jewelry. The product that holds

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GUN Goddess

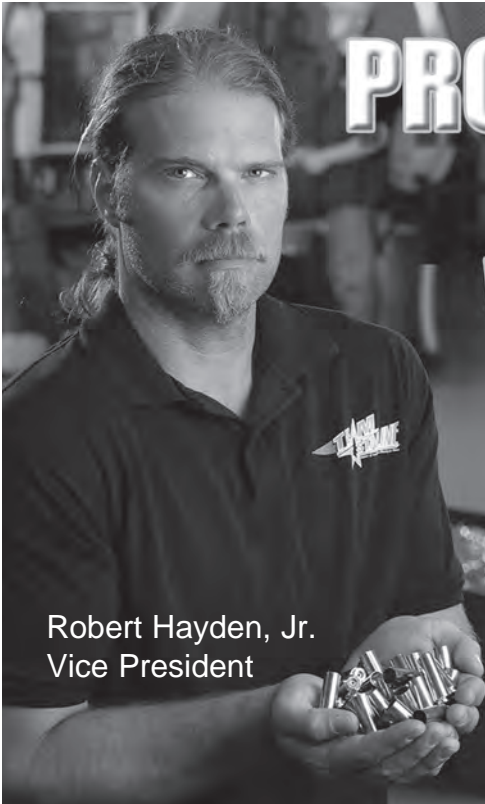
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Gearing Up for IDPA Nationals

A Message from Joyce Wilson, IDPA Executive Director

As the spring flowers are popping up from underground and our members in cooler climates are preparing for outdoor shooting, our Headquarters Staff is gearing up for the 2012 IDPA National Championship. This is always an exciting - and demanding - time of year for us! This year's Championship will be held at The Range in Oxford, NC, and in this issue, you will find the application for the match.

The HQ staff has been very busy with each of the first 3 months of the year breaking previous new membership records. If our growth rate continues, we will have grown to ~25,000 members by the end of 2012! We are thrilled to welcome our new members, many from the Concealed Carry community. One new member in particular stands out – Allison Neil not only joined IDPA as a member, but has joined the staff in Berryville to help us with answering questions, processing applications and serving our growing membership. Read more about Allison later in this issue and welcome her to the fold.

I am still recovering from the Smith & Wesson Indoor

Nationals, which was a wonderful experience. I am so grateful to this company that supports our organization in many areas, including hosting the Nationals event. For the first time ever, I shot the match and enjoyed the demanding courses of fire. Pictures from the match



taken by photographer Yamil Sued are posted on the IDPA.com website under Pro Shop, Match Photos.

Several of our members at the S&W Championship said to me, "This is an exciting time to be in IDPA!", and they were right. We have a lot of irons in the fire and have put into place some processes to help meet your needs faster. One of those is the Rules Clarification

2012 thread on the IDPA forum (www.idpaforum.com) which is currently the official repository for rule clarifications or changes. Here is how the process works:

- Any item that needs an **IMMEDIATE** decision can be requested in the Rulings Requests thread. Our Clarifications Team will discuss and, if it needs a decision, we will post it in the Rules Clarification 2012 thread. Please note that this is for rule clarifications which can not wait until the next rule book; it is not an area to request resolution to pet peeves or get a preview of the updated rulebook.
- To help facilitate submission of rule clarification requests, we have a copy of a request template on the forum. This template will allow you to paste the section of the rule book that needs clarification, the problem the current rule book needs to address, a suggestion on how it might be updated and justification for why this particular problem should be addressed prior to the new rule book.
- Some questions may need further research or discussion before we can give you an

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Random Shots

"Too Much of a Good Thing"

Thought provoking ideas to stimulate discussion on the continued growth of IDPA

by **Thomas Pinney A24541**

Shooting sports in general and the International Defensive Pistol Association in particular have experienced a boom (for want of a better word) over the past few years. This is a wonderful thing, but in some cases it is becoming too much of a wonderful thing. Clubs that used to have nice little practice matches with a dozen or so shooters find themselves overwhelmed with scores of participants. Club matches have so many participants they take five or six hours or even more to complete their weekend matches. With so many people joining IPDA events, logistics can become overwhelming. Longtime members become frustrated, potential new members become disenchanted, and everyone loses. Clubs should be prepared to handle this prosperity of participants. If we run our clubs successfully our sport can continue to thrive.

There is a limit to the number of shooters a club can support. This limit is a function of the facility where the club shoots, the number of members who are willing to participate in managing club activities, and the population of potential shooters within convenient driving distance. Some clubs may have a difficult time supporting more than ten competitors. On the other hand, a club in a large gun-friendly urban area may be able to support many more; for example, Thunder Tactical Shooters located just

outside of Houston, Texas routinely has successful weekly practice matches with over sixty shooters and has monthly club matches on weekends with 80 or more.

Match directors need to plan for efficient flow. Perhaps the biggest problem with 'too many' shooters is the extra time it takes to complete matches. Before a match, even a casual practice match the assigned match director needs to plan the match not just for safety (the primary consideration) but also for efficiency.

Some ranges are very constrained as to space – an indoor range may only have one or two bays to use. Other sites may not have individual bays but only a firing line at the base of the berm. At some ranges it is necessary to run different stages in the same bay, sometimes requiring resets. Such resets need to be very simple; there is no need to completely reposition targets to give a different look and feel to a stage. No more than one or two targets need to be relocated; better yet, change the course description not the layout. A typical technique is to leave the targets as they are and run a stage in the opposite direction, that is go left to right on the first run, then right to left.

Real thought has to go into how to keep the match moving along, minimizing delays between shooters and any required resets. A well-designed match will maximize shooting time with very

little quiet periods while shooters are doing something other than shooting. Matches run long when there are a lot of people standing around waiting.

Wherever possible the participants should be divided into squads of between six and twelve shooters; more than that and people have to wait too long to shoot, fewer than that and there are not enough people to act as Safety Officer, scorer, and still have enough people to quickly tape up the targets. As soon as the stage is taped and everyone except the next shooter is safely behind the SO the range should go hot again for the next participant.

A club should be prepared to accept new shooters. That means that the process for welcoming first time attendees should be in place and well understood. Waivers and any required release forms should be readily available at the check-in site. New shooter orientation should be available any time there is a chance a person might come by to join the match.

Some clubs will tend to group new shooters together in the same squad. There are some advantages to this, especially when friends come in to shoot together; shooting with friends in the same squad is comfortable and reinforces the social aspects of the event. The disadvantages to this are that new shooters might feel they are being segregated with other novices;

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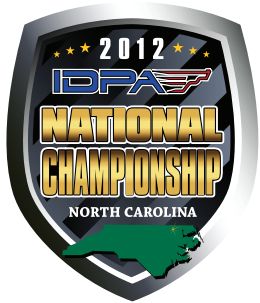


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September 19th - 22nd, Oxford, North Carolina

Participants:

Entries must be POSTMARKED OR SHIPPED (NOT RECEIVED) NO EARLIER than May 18th, 2012. Any entries received prior to this date will not be considered for squadding until July 1st and only if there are openings left. **SEND ENTRIES TO:** IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP, 2232 CR 719, Berryville, Arkansas 72616

Limited to 290 entries **based on accumulated points**. All applicants must be current IDPA members with a classification of Marksman or higher.

- ◇ Match Directors for Sanctioned Matches will receive 1 point.
- ◇ Club Contacts will receive 1 point.
- ◇ Competitors at any National Championship receive 3 points. Competitors at any sanctioned match with 250 competitors or more receive 2 points.
- ◇ Competitors at any sanctioned match with 249 or less competitors receive 1 point.
- ◇ Points will only accumulate for matches attended between May 1, 2011 and May 1, 2012.

We will take squadding requests after notification of acceptance into the match. Squad sizes will be strictly limited to 12 people. Selection of shooting days will be done at that time.

Entry Fee: \$165 until July 1st. \$215 after July 1, 2012.

- ◇ Entry fees for Foreign Members are to be paid **by credit card only**.
- ◇ Includes the match and all festivities.
- ◇ No match fee refunds will be made for any reason after September 1st.
- ◇ Make checks payable to IDPA.

Events:

- ◇ Wed., Sept. 19 7-9pm Competitor Sign-in/Hospitality Room open
 - ◇ Thurs., Sept. 20 7-9pm Competitor Sign-in/Hospitality Room open
 - ◇ Fri., Sept. 21 On your own
 - ◇ Sat., Sept. 22 7-10pm Dinner and Awards Ceremony at Match Hotel
- (Events listed above are located at the Match Headquarters Hotel)

Location: The Range, Oxford, North Carolina. www.the-range.com

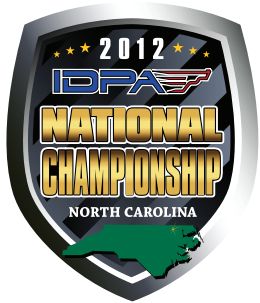
Match Headquarters Hotel:

Jameson Inns
400 N. Cooper Dr.
Henderson, NC 27536
252-430-0247

Other hotels may be found on the IDPA website (www.idpa.com) under Motel Info.

Pricing for accommodations at Jameson Inns starts at \$59.00. You must contact hotel directly to make reservations. The rooms are blocked under IDPA. Please identify yourself as attending the IDPA National Championship.

Match Director: Frank Glover



September 19th - 22nd, Oxford, North Carolina

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the large number of entries, your entry form must be completed **ENTIRELY AND CORRECTLY** or it will not be accepted. NO EXEMPTIONS. So please check thoroughly before mailing.

IDPA # _____ NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____

By applying for entry into the IDPA World Championship, I hereby irrevocably consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA), or anyone authorized by IDPA, of any and all photographs or video which IDPA has taken during the IDPA World Championship and all associated functions of me, negative or positive, for any purpose whatsoever, without any compensation to me. All negatives and positives together with all prints shall constitute IDPA's property, solely and completely. And/or I hereby give my consent for IDPA to use any written quote I have given IDPA and/or my name and title in any and all of IDPA's advertising, magazines, catalog (whether printed or website) and etc. without any compensation to me.

Only ONE Dinner is included with entry. All additional dinners will be \$30 each.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING THE AWARDS BANQUET & DINNER SAT. EVENING: _____

Entry Fee: \$165 (before 7/1/12)

\$215 (after 7/1/12) _____

Additional Dinner: \$30 _____

Division	Classification	Sub-Category <u>(Circle ONLY ONE)</u>	
CDP	Dist. Master	Senior (50 - 64)	Military Veteran
ESP	Master	Dist. Senior (65+)	Law Enforcement
SSP	Expert	Junior (12 - 18)	Industry
ESR	Sharpshooter	Lady	International
SSR	Marksman	Military	Press

Total: _____

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<u>Sanctioned Match Director of what match?</u>	1 point
<u>Club Contact of what club?</u>	1 point
<u>Sanctioned Matches you have attended</u>	
(If you have additional matches beyond the space provided, please include them on a separate sheet of paper):	
	point(s)
	point(s)
	point(s)
	point(s)
	point(s)

Introducing Allison Neil IDPA Headquarters



The majority of you all don't know me but my name is Allison Neil and I'm the newest member to the IDPA HQ staff. I came to work here last fall and quickly fell in love with my job. My job entails filling pro shop orders, new member packets and renewals, plus answering phones and other various things. I'm very new to shooting as well as the IDPA but am quickly becoming hooked to this new world!



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My husband and I moved back to Arkansas around a year in a half ago from eastern North Carolina, where he served in the military for seven years. We have a son who is five and is being introduced to shooting as well!

I hope that everyone has a great shooting season and remembers to have fun and be safe.



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Through the Eyes of a Junior Shooter



by Austin Proulx
A39722

The 15th annual S&W Indoor Nationals, Ballistic Nirvana in New England



Jerry Miculek shooting the infamous "Predators in the Meat Locker" stage

Photos by Yamil Sued

If you participate in IDPA, chances are that you have heard of the Smith & Wesson Indoor Nationals. This competition is held annually in Springfield, Massachusetts at the Smith & Wesson Shooting Sports Center, and is considered one of the premier events of IDPA. This year, my dad and I finally got the opportunity to attend this famous event, which has wowed participants for fifteen consecutive years. With high expectations and butterflies in our stomachs, we began our journey to Springfield. Having never before visited New England, I experienced some slight culture shock. The sheer history of the place was incredible, and I had never been in a state that was only about an hour's drive to get across. One of the most unusual things to me though, was dealing with more restrictive gun laws, particularly while traveling.

(Continued on page 28)

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2012 Smith & Wesson IDPA Indoor Nationals

by Robert Ray A05118
Photos by Yamil Sued



The author in an unfamiliar environment... a gym!

A bloody day of shooting in the meat locker.



There have been a number of companies that have supported IDPA from its very inception. Occupying one of the very top spots on this list is Smith & Wesson. From the very beginning the people at Smith realized that IDPA was a great fit for their company and that the sport was going to be something big.

Not only have Smith & Wesson sponsored us on a corporate level, they have consistently sponsored sanctioned matches around the country. Their belief in IDPA was so strong that from day one they took the step of hosting a major sanctioned match at their shooting center in Springfield, Massachusetts. 2012 marks the 15th Anniversary of S&W hosting a sanctioned IDPA match. This match has grown in size and fame to become one of the top matches in the country. Because of their dedication, stage innovation, quality and growth, in 2008 it was decided this should be renamed the Indoor National Championship and become IDPA's second major National event.

Since 2008 they have continued to excel with the match providing IDPA competitors from around the world with one of the most interesting match experiences that can be found. The stages are always challenging and fun but they also have another great bonus. Because they do not have to worry about wind and weather, they are often more visually realistic and unique than you will find anywhere else. A prime example is the instant match favorite from this year, Premier Night!



Who doesn't like a night at the movies?



Laura Torres-Reyes dealing with the Taliban Attack in a low-light stage

This was one of the stages designed and staffed by the Coast Guard Combat Arms Team made up of cadets from the Coast Guard Academy. These fine young men and women are not only great examples of our armed forces; they are enthusiastic shooters and SO's. Premier Night had you working on a guard detail at a movie premier. You started by engaging a static target and then moved parallel to the back of the range down a row of theater seats.. This activated a fast mover that ran parallel to you forcing you to engage while you both were in motion. You then finished by taking a knee at the end of the row and engaging two more targets while avoiding the non-threats. All targets required 3 hits which was very tough to get on the mover. Although only a 12 round course, you were really challenged by the use of vision barriers and the mover. Add to this that the mover ran in front of a screen that actually had a movie being projected on it and you have a great stage.

Actually they were all great, like stage 3 The Gym. This had you at the local gym trying to work off those holiday pounds when a violent gang enters the place. You

step away from the treadmill and drop to your knees in front of your gym bag where you conveniently left your carry gun. No real wiz bang movers here but a lot of realistic looking (and real) gym

equipment had you hunting for a way to get all your hits on the targets.

Another great but deceptively difficult stage was Predators in the Meat Locker. You started under the bright lights of one room of a slaughter house. Holding a meat cleaver and wearing a blood stained white coat, you hear shouts and gunfire from the cooler. You move the doorway to the other room and engage threats hiding among the hanging beef. Watch out for the sliding side of beef and oh yeah, by the way, the other room is mostly dark and anywhere the shadows from the beef fell on a target they also painted as hard cover. The lighting was the killer though. It was just light enough to make you think you could see the targets well enough to engage them with out a light. Many people found out that they should have used a light. I

know I did and I was very thankful for it.

And what would an indoor match be without 'no light' stages. These absolutely required the use of a light. ATM Withdrawal is a simple, commonly seen IDPA stage centered on an everyday action. However add in complete darkness, manipulating a flashlight while shooting and reloading and you've got something altogether different. There were 5 targets ion this one and they all needed 3 hits each for score. This little stage caused a few choice words when the dreaded "15 down and a FTN" was called out by the SO's.

There were many more great stages at this match but it is far better to go to youtube and search for videos of them there. A picture is worth a thousand words and a video is even better at conveying the intensity of the stages at this match. If your patient you can also catch the match on Shooting USA where you can watch Jim Scoutten and his crew not only film the match but also shot it.

To be honest I had nearly



It's much easier to see the targets when they turn the lights on. Unfortunately, I didn't get to shoot it that way.

2012 Smith & Wesson IDPA Indoor Nationals

forgotten just how much fun actually shooting the match is. For the last several years I had attended the match yet not actually shot it. The perils of working for the sport I guess. However as this was the 15th anniversary year of S&W hosting a sanctioned match and considering how much they support IDPA it was decided that not only were we (IDPA HQ) going to shoot the match, we were going to do it with Smith and Wesson guns! The great people at S&W supplied us with the fantastic M&P Pro's in 9mm for the match. As we needed gear as well, Comp-Tac, another huge supporter of IDPA, stepped forward and offered to outfit us with holsters, mag pouches and light holders. A call to Gemini Custom Appeal and Team IDPA Hq was all set. Team Hq consisted of our Joyce Wilson, Kitty Richards,

Terry Burba and me. Unfortunately despite first rate guns and gear our hopes of sweeping the awards were not realized. I managed to place 5th in SSP SS earning a bump to Expert but our other members were not as lucky. This just means we will have to come back stronger next time and for me that means shooting another division, just saying.

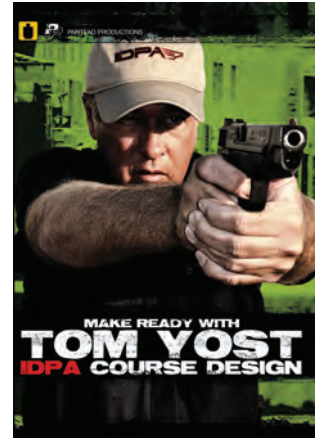
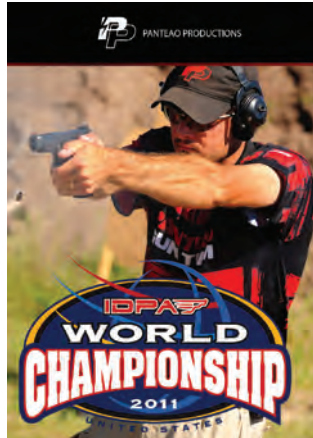
Besides the actual shooting of the match there is one other area that makes this (or any IDPA match) a load of fun. It's the people you meet. I have never had a bad squad of people to shoot with and this year



Trevor Baucom getting ready to start the match.



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Scott McGregor gettin' it done with a wheel gun.

was no exception. I was also lucky enough to be squaded this year with a couple of people you might be familiar with from TV, Caleb Giddings and Michael Talbot. Caleb was a contestant on History Channels Top Shot and Michael played the part of Det. Stanley Switek in the 80's drama Miami Vice as well as other TV roles. However in my opinion the star of our squad was a quiet young guy with a ready smile by the name of Chris Fleming. Chris is no stranger to shooting and is an instructor for training company Academi. He was a funny guy and I enjoyed shooting with him. Chris impressed me with not only his shooting, which he did very well, but also by the fact that he did it on two prosthetics. He lost both legs below the knee to an IED while in Afghanistan. Chris did use a wheel chair some to help ease

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the pressure on his legs but we also had another young soldier at the match that shot the entire event from his wheel chair. Trevor Baucom was paralyzed from the waist down while

flying a Blackhawk in Afghanistan. I was honored to meet both men and appreciative of the sacrifices both have made. All men and women that have served command my respect but these two guys a little more than most.

The match closed out once again with a wonderful awards ceremony at the Basketball hall of Fame. Dinner was excellent and the tales of perfect runs and stage crashes flowed freely. The awards were presented and budding plans for next year were laid. I would once again like to thank Smith & Wesson not only for their continued support but also for setting us up with the awesome M&P Pro's to shoot the match with. The M&P line of guns are outstanding and are one of the easiest guns to pick up and shoot well. Also, my thanks to the fine people at Comp-Tac for putting us in their wonderful gear. If you are in the market for a new gun or holster I highly recommend either of these two companies. Both are huge supporters of IDPA and produce high quality products. For more

information on these companies go to www.smith-wesson.com or www.comp-tac.com.

I also want to congratulate the winners of the 2012 S&W IDPA Indoor Nationals.

CDP Champion:	Glenn Shelby
ESP Champion:	Dan Burwell
SSP Champion:	Robert Vogel
ESR Champion:	Jerry Miculek
SSR Champion:	Joe Linskey

In addition to the Division Champions, I would like to congratulate the three new inductees to the Distinguished Master class. Those are

- Dan Burwell in ESP
- Dean Brevitt in ESP
- Joe Linskey in SSR

I look forward to seeing you on the range in the near future and until then I hope you have a great shooting season.



Chris Fleming (l) and Mike Talbot (r), shopping in the S&W Pro Shop.

UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

May 18 - 20, 2012

Great Lakes Regional

Munger, MI
Gary Cuttitta
989-928-2796 h
cheetahs1963@gmail.com
David Alexander
989-329-0257 h
acwelding1@gmail.com
www.linwoodbaysportsmans.com

May 19, 2012

AR State Championship

Little Rock, AR
Goose Changose
501-690-6656 w
wchangose@aol.com
Jeff Melton
501-804-8927 w
jqmelton@att.net
www.casorange.com

May 19 - 20, 2012

**Polish 2012 National
Championship**

Olsztyn, Poland
Leszek Sokolowski
48604510553 h & 48604510553 w
leszek.sokolowski@gmail.com
Kenneth Ortbach
908-310-2079 w
kjoinc@aol.com
www.idpa2012.strzelnica.org

May 20, 2012

Coastal Bend Challenge

Corpus Christi, TX
Don Critari
361-668-0768 h
critari@intcomm.net
cbshooters.com

May 26, 2012

**IDPA Southern Regional
Championship**

Manchester, TN
Kurt Glick
931-455-7056 h
931-455-1121 w
931-454-1767 fax
kglick@tullahoma-tn.com
Tom Foster
931-455-2846 w
www.midtnshooters.com

June 2 - 3, 2012

**2012 IDPA MA State
Championship**

Dartmouth, MA
Chuck Zaniboni
508-317-0974 h
508-759-3894 w & fax
maidpachamp@yahoo.com
Doug Barresi
508-990-2549 h
508-491-8333 w
maidpachamp@yahoo.com
www.rodgun-nb.org

June 2 - 3, 2012

2012 Summer Cup

Reggio Emilia, Italy
George Varoutsas
393920033673 w
gkvaroutsas@gmail.com
Sergio Magotti
393489016086 w
sergio@niponto.com
www.gualtierishooting.eu

June 3, 2012

IL State Championship

Sparta, IL
Jeff Duckworth
618-210-7357 h
litchfield-idpa@hotmail.com
docs.google.com/viewer?a=
v&pid=sites&srcid=
ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWVpbnxsaXR-
jaGZpZWxkaWRwYXxneDo4MjY
yN2M4NDQ4YWUyMA&pli=1

June 8 - 9, 2012

**Golden Gate Regional IDPA
Championships**

Richmond, CA
Steve Cachia
650-872-2265 h
650-238-4003 w
steve@goldengate-idpa.com
Jim Griffiths
510-329-1139 h
510-588-4543 fax
jim@goldengate-idpa.com
www.goldengate-idpa.com

June 9, 2012

**MO State IDPA Championship
- BackStoppers Challenge**

St. Louis, MO
Mark Goede
314-225-7640 h
636-821-1338 w
mark@arpc-idpa.com
Jere Wilmering
314-603-8839 h

jere@arpc-idpa.com
www.arpc-idpa.com/MoState12

June 9, 2012

**South Carolina State IDPA
Championship**

Anderson, SC
Jerry James
864-226-7613 h
864-617-2759 w
skipjrango@charter.net
skipjrango.com

June 14 - 16, 2012

The Carolina Cup

Oxford, NC
Frank Glover
919-693-6313 h
919-691-7686 w
therange@gloryroad.net
the-range.com

June 23, 2012

2012 CO State Championship

Montrose, CO
Greg Brose
662-423-8355 h

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Upcoming Major Matches

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June 23, 2012 VA State IDPA Match

Bristol, VA
Mark Riehl
423-764-2428 h
423-764-6945 w
423-764-9070 fax
Ron Riggs
276-346-4692 h
423-246-6533 w
www.animalmedclinic.com/188211.html

June 30, 2012 TX State IDPA Championship

Greenville, TX
Cody Ray
214-232-8267 h
Delta1Cody@tx.rr.com
Don Perkins
214-435-9503 h
donperk@tx.rr.com
www.ccidpa.org

July 28, 2012 2012 WA State IDPA

Championship
Puyallup, WA
Dan Kenny
206-595-8148 h
dkenny01@gmail.com
Birney Oxford
253-905-5134 h
birneybigdogoxford@comcast.net
pbrsc.org

**August 4, 2012
2012 WI State IDPA
Championship**
Muskego, WI
Tom Ropers
847-331-1752 h & w
idpa_tom@comcast.net
wisconsinshooters.com/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=74&hemid=85

**August 4, 2012
Summer Sizzler**
Manchester, TN
Kurt Glick
931-455-7056 h
931-455-1121 w
931-454-1767 fax
kglick@tullahoma-tn.com

Tom Foster
931-455-2846 h
www.midtnshooters.com

August 11, 2012 NC State IDPA Championship

Boone, NC
Robert Niemi, Jr.
828-446-8778 h
celticmith@yahoo.com
Gary Hoyle
828-963-6307 h
828-963-3995 w
828-262-2796 fax
garyh@wgc-idpa.org
www.WGC-IDPA.org

**August 18 - 19, 2012
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Harvard, MA
Michael Joffe
617-803-1307 h
253-322-6675 fax
michaelj@metrowesttactical.com
Dave Ritchie
781-354-6640 h
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Upcoming Major Matches

September 1, 2012 IDPA Wilson Combat Single Stack Championship

Berryville, AR
John May
870-480-8030 h
870-545-3635 w
870-545-3310 fax
johnmay@wilsoncombat.com
Carroll Lawrence
870-480-6310 w
Cap1911@cox.net
www.acpl.net

September 7 - 9, 2012 NY State IDPA Championship Match

Pine City, NY
Toni Dragotta
607-738-9509 h
tmdra@yahoo.com
www.pinecitysportsmen.com
Match Registration will be Online
Only

September 8 - 8, 2012 Tri State Regional Championship

Arlington, TN
Chandler La Frain
731-343-4001 h
2012tristateregional@gmail.com
Tad Nohsey
901-494-4740 h
tn3putler@bellsouth.net
www.memphis-ssa.com

September 15, 2012 VA Commonwealth Cup

Charlottesville, VA
Tony Rogers
540-672-1033 h & w
mrogers38rev@aol.com
Dave White
434-985-8299 h
434-962-6601 w
dvwhite@mindspring.com
sites.google.com/site/rivannaap

September 19 - 22, 2012 IDPA National Championship

Oxford, NC
870-545-3886
870-545-3894 fax
info@idpa.com
www.idpa.com

October 6, 2012 KY-TN Regional IDPA Championship

Puryear, TN
Steve Vaughn
731-796-0848 h
s_vaughn@bellsouth.net
www.henrycountygunclub.com

October 6, 2012 IDPA IN 2012 State Championship

Atlanta, IN
Jeff Brown
317-645-5068 h
idpashooter1@hotmail.com
Joe Tyson
317-804-9597 h
blainepoe@gmail.com
www.indyidpa.com

October 13, 2012 MS State Match

Salttillo, MS
Nicky Carter
662-871-3346 h
ndcarter61@gmail.com
DeDe Carter
662-871-1723 h & w
662-377-3323 fax
delia@ridgecrossingshootingclub.com
ridgecrossingshootingclub.com

October 20, 2012 IDPA TN State Championship

Manchester, TN
Kurt Glick
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931-455-1121 w
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Frank Glover, Match Director

Upon arriving at our hotel, we were greeted by Tom Yost of Smith & Wesson, whom we had met at the IDPA World Championships last September. He informed us that there would be a reception and registration area set up in one of the hotel's conference rooms. In the room we found an early registration station with goodie bags for everyone, there were also refreshments and appetizers, but the most unique thing we came across was set up and run by the Coast Guard (who also designed, sponsored and ran two of the stages

at this match). They brought a shooting simulator that offered a broad range stage choices programmed into their software. Your options included everything from dueling trees, to house clearing, or whatever else you can imagine, they probably had it. Another unique feature of their software is that it is set up to use actual firearms, which of course, adds to the realism. At the time, your weapons to choose from included a Sig Sauer DAO pistol (their duty gun), a Sig Sauer replica airsoft gun, and an AR-15, all of which (excepting the airsoft

of those who did the heavy lifting so that we could have fun. It takes so much to put on a match of this magnitude, and those who give so generously of their time deserve our deepest gratitude. Some names in particular worth mentioning are Match director Frank Glover, who is undoubtedly already burning the midnight oil, preparing for the Carolina Cup, Smith & Wesson representative Tom Yost, who graciously extended to us an invitation while at the world championships in Florida (and was cool enough to trust a 15 year old kid to write an article about this match). And let's not forget Mike Critser, the king of the scoring room, the omnipresent



The author shooting the Smith & Wesson Governor pick up gun.

Kitty Richards & Terry "bubba" Burba. Finally, we come to her majesty, my good friend, Joyce Wilson, the executive director and "High Priestess" of IDPA.

The Smith & Wesson Shooting Sports Center is quite the mix of new and old. As we ventured farther away from the main entrance of the facility, it felt like we were stepping back in

time. The bays varied from modern and well lit like you would expect from a conventional indoor range, all the way to very old, rough cast concrete rifle ranges that seemed to go on forever into darkness. I learned that much of the facility dates back to the middle of the last century. The day after we shot the match (competition day 2 of 3), we returned to the range so I could get some ideas for this article. One thing my dad and I noticed while

gun) were to factory specifications. At the hotel, we spoke with many of the people we had met at the IDPA World Championships, further strengthening friendships that have the potential of lasting a lifetime. As for the match itself, first and foremost, I would like to thank the people who coordinated and ran this match. The people in charge of scoring, the safety officers, stage designers... you know, all

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Through the Eyes of a Junior Shooter

watching the “super squad” -the best of the best- is that aside from spectacular shooting performances, they were just like the people we compete with every month. All of them would go forward to help paste targets, reset the stage, and all together they were a great group of people. The talent pool at this match was different from anything we had experienced before at a major competition. The concentration of master class shooters seemed to be much higher than what we had seen previously, including at the Inaugural IDPA World Championships last September in Florida.

We had heard of the notorious low-light to no-light stages, and like most people, that is not something we practice very often. Let me tell you right now, it was a real eye opener. The no-light stages at the match were no less complex or fundamentally challenging than those which were well lit. Everybody seems to have their own way of operating a handheld light with a pistol, and all of them have their pros and cons. Beyond simply shooting with a hand-held flashlight, one had to overcome the challenges of reloading as well. One thing I have taken away from this match is that people assume

that in the heat of the moment, they will be able to competently manipulate a hand-held flashlight in concert with their handgun, when in reality, it just isn't that easy. I know that before we attend this match again, we'll be practicing with flashlights in the dark long beforehand... (hint-hint).

The stages at this match were amazing. We experienced everything from standards courses, to ATM withdrawals in pitch black, to shooting at a runner in a theater while moving sideways. There is a saying about standards courses, “you can't win because of standards, but you can definitely lose because of them.” Unfortunately, the standards didn't exactly help me out too much, and I'll be the first one to say it, I screwed up. But you can bet that I will push to start incorporating standards courses into our local club matches. We faced aggressors



Glenn Shelby shooting stage three, “The Gym”

running at us between swinging sides of beef, all while wearing a butcher's jacket. Left hand only, right hand only, advancing, retreating, pickup guns, narrow slots, swingers, runners.... the diversity that the stage designers were able to incorporate in a dimensionally limited venue was nothing short of spectacular. In reflection, the Smith & Wesson Indoor Nationals was an amazing event and a good educational experience from which my dad and I learned a great deal. One of the best things about attending a match like this, aside from the actual participation, is that one can implement what they learned in their local club.

Our last afternoon in Massachusetts was spent at the awards banquet, which was held at the Basketball Hall of Fame; great food, good people and everlasting memories helped complete an experience that will make me a better shooter in the long run. Overall, this was one of the best IDPA events I have ever attended, and I look forward to returning for many years to come.

“If I could only have one gun... I would.” AP



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answer, so you may get a response of “Deferred”. Please be patient with us – we want to make sure we have looked at each issue from all available angles so that we can make the best decision possible.

- Any items that are deferred will be tracked by the appropriate Tiger Team so that they can discuss and consider before ruling. **I encourage all Area Coordinators and Safety Officer Instructors to make shooters in their areas aware of this section of the forum.** It is each shooter’s responsibility to check there frequently for updates.

- This process will be in place until the updated rulebook has been completed and published – at that time, we will deploy a more formal method of requesting rule changes or reviews.

- Please note that this thread supersedes emails or phone calls to Robert Ray, Terry Burba, Kitty Richards or me; we will refer all calls and emails to this location so that your request is documented.

- If you have a question that does not need to be answered immediately, your first destination should still

be the IDPA forum; there is a plethora of information available under places like Equipment Questions and Rules Questions when using the Search function.

- As always, suggestions or requests for the Tiger Teams can be sent to TigerTeam@idpa.com.

The **Rules Tiger Team** continues to work on this section of the rulebook, with a proposed completion date of April 30th. Since there are many interdependencies on Rules and other areas (Equipment, Scoring, etc.) it is likely we will be reconvening these Tigers several times to make sure these dependencies are consistent in all areas of the rulebook.

The Safety/Scoring/Classifier Tiger Team kicked off in March. The folks who have been tasked to serve encompass more than 80 collective years of IDPA experience and in the United States alone, and include members from all four time zones. Another very large effort will be required by the **Equipment Tiger Team**. Their work, scheduled to begin in May, will complete our labor for the first half of 2012. In mid-July,

the **Sanctioned Matches Tiger Team** will Kick Off, followed by teams for the Rule Change Process, Marketing and, finally, AC/SOI/SO Responsibilities and Education.

Recently, each Area Coordinator received a message from me regarding appointment of Safety Officer Instructors (SOIs). Until the updated rulebook is released, along with new options for SO education, HQ will not be approving any new Instructors. If any area needs the services of an SOI and none is available in that area, I will work with the Area Coordinator to identify other options in surrounding states.

It is heartening to our Tiger Teams, and to me, to see many of our members recognize the efforts to enhance our sport. This number will give you a glimpse into how much work is going into this initiative: as of April 1 more than 500 hours has been logged on collective meetings. This does not include the many emails, assigned research or facilitation tasks associated with this endeavor. I am grateful for our Tiger Team members and their work, and am grateful to all of you for supporting it. I think Vince Lombardi summed up my feelings with his statement:

“We are going to relentlessly chase perfection, knowing full well we will not catch it, because nothing is perfect. But we are going to relentlessly chase it, because in the process we will catch excellence.”

Happy Spring!
Joyce



they also can benefit from having some more experienced shooters to observe; and finally, new shooters naturally take longer to shoot a stage than someone more familiar with the routines of shooting – a squad full of them will slow down the other squads.

Another factor that makes matches run late is that too often they start late. A match is scheduled to begin at 6:30 may not actually begin shooting until 6:45. In addition to the time lost, a tardy start can set a leisurely pace that leaves a match running well past the scheduled end time. In order for a match to start on time, the stages need to be completely set up well before the shooter's meeting. If there is a need for a Safety Officer walk through, time needs to be allowed for that as well. Sign-ins for participants should be organized so that those who show up at the last minute can be quickly processed. Squads should not be held back just to accommodate late-comers. The club must have a procedure for incorporating those who arrive after the match has started; there should be a standing policy to decide whether or not to allow them to join the ongoing fun and if so, how that will be done.

Once the match is underway, it is incumbent upon the leaders of each squad to keep things moving along. The biggest delay in completing matches is the lack of “those large South American ungulates: tapirs”. Too often too many people in matches stand around talking while one or two people go downrange to tape up shots. The squad leaders need to stress that everyone except the next shooter up and the last shooter

(who is reloading magazines) must go down to tape targets just as soon as the Safety Officer announces that the ‘range is safe’. Scoring and taping after a shooter has finished is the biggest single block of time in a match – and the best place to speed up the overall match. This means that the leaders of the squad need to insist that everyone tape up targets after the completion of each run. Some people will actually have to be personally and directly encouraged to do this. This feeling of shared responsibility will usually carry over so that when the match is over there will be plenty of people available to help put up the equipment at the end of the match. To repeat: there should be no ‘privileged characters’ that are considered too important to help with match chores; an IDPA match should be a jointly shared activity. Socialization is an enjoyable part of IDPA matches, but it should not come at the expense of doing the necessary work to keep the match moving along.

If all these measures still result in over-long matches the club has to consider reducing the number of stages shot. It is far better to have fewer well-run stages than to try to cram in so many that the match either becomes over-long or stages have to be abandoned in order to finish before running out of time.

There can reach a point where a club does become so large it can no longer support so many members. Often this is self-limiting – shooters will find another club or even found a new IDPA club themselves. Headquarters will attest to the uptick in new clubs being formed. Other options for clubs blessed with too many people wanting to shoot with them are to offer more opportunities to shoot. That means finding additional times to use the shooting range.

This problem of more shooters signing up is now showing up at major sanctioned matches. Too often big matches fill up in just a few days. Big matches are going

(Continued on page 36)



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a special place in her heart is the t-shirt line, "...because it's my concept, my brand. I love all of our designs so far, and yet with every new one, I love it more than the last! I personally use a lot of the products I sell. The ones that are most "visible" when I'm out on the range are the leopard print and the hot pink range bags (depending on my mood), the engraved Glock slide cover and magazine floor plates, and the custom-painted GunGoddess Pro Ears."

Athena mulled over the idea of a business aimed at female shooters for a while, "...but it didn't take long to know that I was going to take the plunge, so I created a business plan. I am a very analytical, detail-minded person, so I need to have goals and some kind of structure. Before I launched the site, I sponsored USPSA handgun nationals, just to be there



interacting with people and getting the idea out. The response to the idea was phenomenal. After I launched, I just got the word out to friends and on FaceBook, and it grew from there. I do have a marketing plan that I am actively putting into place right now." The business woman has been awed by the power of FaceBook. "I would never have thought - it was always just something I didn't have much time for. Now, I realize how important it is to be visible on FaceBook. Word of mouth is critical to business success - put out a good product and offer great service, and word of mouth will get you there."



With the growth of the business, Means' shooting time has diminished, "My goal is to shoot bigger matches and out of area matches this year, so I need to get out from behind my desk and get my act together, practice and shoot more!"

This shooter credits the variety of her site for its rapid growth. "Whether you're looking for apparel, some bling for your gun, or a case to put it in, it's all there in one place. I am also trying to get beyond "pink", although I DO like that color. I am offering red, purple, orange, yellow, blue, animal prints...anything other than black



& OD green! As a competitive shooter myself, I'm also actively working on finding products that would appeal to women competitors."

A big surprise about her business is that "...a great percentage of my customers are men! I want the site to be the one place to go for shooter gifts, so it makes sense that men would be shopping there for women, but I was just surprised at the numbers." If she could advise manufacturers of women's shooting products, she would tell them, "Consult with women; don't just manufacture what you (a male, in many cases) think women want. A men's style in a smaller size doesn't work. Making a men's product in pink doesn't work. Ask women for their opinions and input, then work with women to design and size your product."



North of Houston, in Conroe, Texas, Becky Sells is running her business from her house and is accommodating orders from both female AND male IDPA shooters. Becky is the owner of Armadillo Concealment (www.armadilloconcealment.com) and makes custom vests.

The SSP Sharpshooter became involved in the sport four years ago. "My son found IDPA and took

Women's Perspective



impact on Armadillo, as well. Her husband and son give advice and support and are testers for prototypes. Her son

me and my husband to our first match. I was scared to death and wanted to just watch, but our son wasn't letting that happen. I shot that night and have been hooked ever since."

A house full of shooters led Sells to her product. "With three of us in the family shooting, we all tried several vests and couldn't find one that fit what we wanted. I decided to make a vest with all the options that we desired." After seeing the Shooting Sells Family's vests, friends began asking Becky to make vests for them. "I made vests for my family, then a few friends, then a few more..."

Becky's family has had an

and maintains the website. The product is special because, "Each vest is custom made to a person's measurements with several options and colors. It was designed with



input from IDPA shooters from Masters to Marksmen", she says proudly.

Sells was surprised that the



need for a good fitting concealment vest was higher than she had expected, and that the business has grown so quickly. "I had figured it would be

a few years before taking off this well." Marketing efforts include, "word of mouth, donation of my product, and we have formed a shooting team that advertises the product with "Team Armadillo" shirts."

The Armadillo mantra is to "Keep our customer in mind and try to look at things from their point of view—it makes a better product." And how does the CEO of Armadillo Concealment feel about products for women that are pink? With a twinkle in her eyes she says, "Well, since I wear pink camo pants, pink hats and my vest is pink—I do believe pink is the new black!"



As new business owners marketing to female IDPA shooters, do Tracy, Athena and Becky have any advice to other women looking to make the same jump into starting their own business? Tracy

advises, "Write everything down! It not only helps you stay organized, but you'll have a journal of the journey."

Athena counsels, "Go for it. You never know whose life you might touch in a positive way. If one product or service you sell helps just one woman discover a love of guns and shooting, and at the same time lead to her empowerment through having the tools and training to be able to defend herself and her family... well, mission accomplished!" Becky echoes this advice with, "Go for it and most of all, just enjoy what you do."



The hard cover on this target was poorly done- and difficult to score.

An SO scored the targets. When scored, the shooter taped the targets and moved on to the next bay.

It was a very fast system. They ran 68 shooters through the classifier, four IDPA stages, and a fun steel stage in just over three hours. Hats off to Dave Blair and the team at Onteluanee IDPA for a well-run match.

March is not only the month of Classifiers up here in PA but it is a month of nasty windy weather. In the week and days before the match, keep an eye on the weather and range conditions. Have a back up plan for what to do if the weather looks threatening or the range conditions are poor. Do not steadfastly stick to your match plan. You will end up with a match that is problem-ridden and runs long.

I recently shot a match that prior to the start time began to experience 50 mile per hour winds. As I drove to the range, I mentioned to my friend that

I hoped they took this into account for set up. Unfortunately they did not. They utilized props and barriers that were lightweight and did not fare well in the wind. They also stuck with their plan and set up several swingers, poppers, droppers, and gizmos that were very sensitive to wind.

It was a reshoot

nightmare and a very long day. This experience could have been saved if the match planners took the time to consider a response to poor range conditions.

After the classifiers are over it is time to return to some fun scenario based IDPA stages. One overlooked tool in the Match Director's kit is hard cover. Hard cover can be used to make the shots more difficult, or to force the shooter to engage the targets from a different location. Hard cover can be a prop that actually stops bullets, or it can be denoted on the target or a on material placed in front of the target.

Using real hard cover is a no-brainer. If the bullet did not go through, it was hard cover. This is ideal but often difficult to implement. You

may not always have that kind of material lying around, or you may be in a situation (like an Indoor Range) that makes the use of real hard cover impractical.

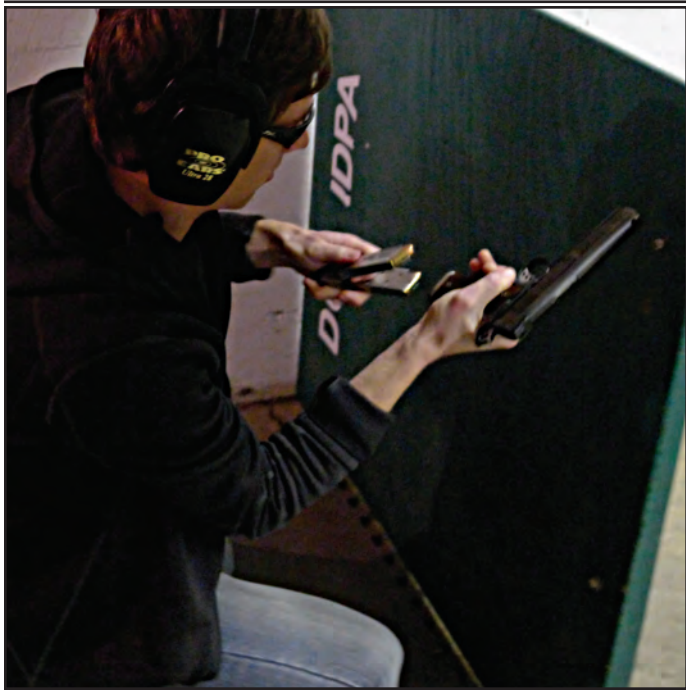
You can put a piece of material in front of the threat target and label it hard cover. If there is a full diameter hit in this "hard cover", you determine which hit on the cardboard target was the shoot-through and count it as a miss. I do not like doing it this way as the SO then has to play "CSI" and try to figure out where the bullet went.

If you cannot use real hard cover I suggest you mark the target itself with paint to denote hard cover. Try to figure out a system that is repeatable in case you need to replace targets. Mark them from corner to corner, have measurements, or use a template. Make sure the shooters all get the same target to engage. It is also important to make sure the target is easy and fair to score. Having an ill-defined paint border as your hard cover makes it difficult to score. If you use target patching



This is a good hard cover target. Nice straight borders!

Run a Better Match



SO's need to keep their eye on the gun. Do you ever make sure you are on the ball?

tape, or black duct tape to create a defined border, you will have a fair target that is easier to score. This is one of those finishing touches that make your match look more professional to your shooters.

There comes a time in a Match Director's career where he or she thinks about running a Sanctioned (often called a Major) Match. This is a great thing as we always need new blood and new perspectives. It is however, important to be ready before taking on such a task. When you take on a sanctioned match you are assuming quite a lot of responsibility. People will be spending money and vacation time to come shoot the match. They are trusting you to not only have a match in place, but to have one that it is run well and in accordance with the IDPA rules. Be sure you are able to cash that check before you write it.

You need to make sure you have the experience and knowledge base before taking on such a match.

You need to have shot a number of sanctioned matches. Without this experience, you will not have much of an understanding as to what a sanctioned match is all about and what it entails.

After you learn the basics of how a major match runs, you then need hands on training. This is not difficult to do, you simply

need to volunteer to work other sanctioned matches in the area.

While you are there, tell the MD what you are planning, and see if you can get mentored. Many match directors will be happy to let you see what is going on, though they may be short on time to actually work with you. While you are working the match, watch how the Match Director handles the logistics. Observe how the MD has set up match flow. See how the MD handles shooter disputes. These are all things that you need to know before you give that first shooter's briefing. If you are not confident in the rules and do not have experience handling shooter's

grievances, the competitors will sense this. Competitors may turn this to their advantage by taking control of the situation if you are not confident, experienced, and knowledgeable.

I believe that before you set your sights on being the Match Director of a Sanctioned match you need to have worked several of them, and at least one as a Chief Safety Officer (CSO). You need to spend a little time in the stats shack learning how they score a match. You need to have knowledge of how the small pieces of the puzzle fit and work together to make a match. These are not difficult things to learn, as matches are always hungry for volunteers- you just need to take the time to learn.

The last thing you need to do as a newbie Sanctioned Match MD is draw upon the experience of others. There will be some Safety Officers in your staff that have worked a lot of matches. Some of them may have even been Match Directors themselves. Do not be afraid or ashamed to ask them for some advice. You do not have to take it, but you would be wise to ask for it.

This is going to be a great year for shooting. I wish you all great luck and fun running your matches.



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Another item to cover is that your Detective Special and your Model 19 are perfectly legal for use in a regular IDPA match. They do also happen to qualify for the BUG division but that does not mean they can't be used in SSR. I know of several people that do this with those guns with those barrel sizes. If you were told different, well that person was wrong. You are correct that your 6 inch .44 in not legal. The max limit for SSR is 4 inches. You might have carried this "in real life" in an IWB (Inside the Waist Band) but I also know people that carry Desert Eagles. Most folks would not opt to carry a gun of that size and so that is how the rule was written.

On your holster complaints, this falls under safety issues. IDPA, and shooting sports in general, has a great safety record. You are more likely to be injured playing football or golfing than in a shooting sport. The shoulder holsters and cross draw holsters you mention are forbidden because they represent a more than acceptable risk to either the shooter or other competitors. Most of the cross draws I have seen point the gun to far to the rear and or the side which means it is pointing at the other competitors. With a shoulder holster it is even worse as it usually either points at the crowd or yourself. As we mentioned, this is a game so we do not allow any holster, fanny pack, or purse draws as they are not as safe as we would like for "game" use. In this sport, safety comes first, every time and always.

As for your last question, I really don't have all of the founders' qualifications but several of them should be familiar to you. Besides Bill Wilson, famous gunsmith and world champion, shooter you have Ken Hackathorn. Ken is a world renown small arms instructor teaching everyone from civilians to military and police in tactics and gun handling. Another is someone you might catch on his TV show, TacTV on the Sportmans Channel. Larry is a retired career special operations soldier. As a longtime 1st


(Continued from page 3)

SFOD- Delta operational member, he was a key player in the small arms marksmanship expertise and weapons selection of that unit. He has 20 years of service under his belt. To keep more on the police side we also had Walt Rauch. Walt is a long time contributor to the gun magazines and for a good reason. He was an Army criminal investigator before entering the Secret Service. After spending time protecting Presidents he spent time serving felony warrants around Philadelphia, PA and lived through a rather exciting career. Lived is the key word there. Unfortunately I don't know the backgrounds of the other founding members but I think the ones mentioned here will suffice to say that the founders had a large degree of "real world" experience. I hope you enjoy IDPA for what it is, a safe, fun and challenging way to get out and play with your guns. Any side benefits that apply to self defense is just icing on the cake.
Editor 

Random Shots

(Continued from page 31)

to have to start considering new ways to fill this growing need. This may include shooting over two days. That means the staff has to devote three full days to the match: one to set up and allow the staff to shoot, and two to allow a large (over 200) number of contestants. This means a club has to have a considerable number of dedicated and qualified people to make this happen. That is the upside of having a lot of people involved in IDPA.

As IDPA shooting continues to grow in popularity our clubs will need to expand and learn how to accommodate the increase in those wanting to share the fun and challenge of our form of competitive defensive pistol shooting. 

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The new DAA Production Division Race (PDR) Holster is the latest word in competition holsters specifically tailored for the special needs of IDPA shooters. The DAA PDR Holster is a quick-draw Kydex holder with an injection molded base for strength and durability. It offers a smooth and uninhibited draw, and a wide range of adjustable features. The Holster has an additional inner suede leather lining to protect your valuable firearm from wear and scratches. The DAA PDR now comes in two models! Low-Ride for USPSA and Belt-Ride for IDPA match use.

DAAPDRH \$69.95



CED Watertight Cases

CED water tight, dust-proof, dent-resistant, shatter-resistant, virtually unbreakable cases are durable, strong and able to withstand some fairly extreme conditions. They are essential for keeping equipment secure and are a prerequisite for transporting or freighting delicate air cargo or protecting your valuable handguns. Each case is packed with multi-layers of eggshell and cubed foam to provide the best of both. Available in three sizes:

- AK-13L (Large Case) \$59.95
- AK-13M (Medium Case) \$49.95
- AK-13S (Small Case) \$39.95



Quick Patch Deluxe Tape Gun

The CED Deluxe Tape Gun patches holes on targets faster and easier than humanly possible by hand. Extremely easy and fun to use! No need to worry about running out of patches while in the middle of a match! The CED Deluxe Tape Gun will handle most brands of full size patches available on the market today. Save time, and have lots of fun.

Price: US\$79.95



Double-Alpha (DAA) Competition Belt

This new Inner & Outer shooting belt offers the best features for serious competition shooters.

The inner belt is designed streamlined and slim-profiled to prevent it from adding too much thickness under the outer belt. This helps to ensure you wear your gear close to your body in the most comfortable way. The outer belt is simply the strongest and stiffest belt on the market today, bar none! It is constructed of a tough, web nylon outer, covering a fiber reinforced polymer core, which gives the belt its impressive rigidity. Available in Black, Blue or Red. Overlap length is already calculated in – so if you are a size 36" pant – you order a size 36" belt. Sizes available from 32" – 50"

DAABLT \$54.95



Competitive Edge Dynamics, USA

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Information: (610) 366-9752
Fax: (610) 366-9680
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CED/DAA RangePack Pro Backpack

CED & DAA launch the new generation of shooting backpacks and it is bigger and better than ever! No other comes close! One of the largest and most functional backpacks ever, it includes a Hydration Kit, 3-legged stool, rain cover, utility box, mag brush, combination lock, external belt hanger, pistol insert sleeve, and universal pouch. Designed to hold up to 1,000 rounds of ammunition and multiple pistols, along with all the gear one would need for a full day at the range or match.



CED/DAARBPB
\$199.95

Total Dimensions:
22"H x 16"W x 13"D
weighing 7.4 lbs.



CED7000PRO Shot Timer

CED & DAA launch the new CED7000PRO Timer with state-of-the-art technology, engineering, and design! Incorporating color matrix LCD display, USB download / upload PC compatibility, this fully functional match computer will score & view matches, customize training sessions, and includes ROF function, as well as all of the other timer functions you have learned to expect and appreciate from CED timers. 5.4" x 1.85" x 1" weighing only 5.8 oz.

CED7000PRO \$199.95
CED7000PRO RF \$214.95

CED7000 Timer

The smallest, most lightweight shot timer EVER!
* 10 String memory with up to eleven multiple Par settings
* Spy Mode / Stopwatch Mode / Alarm Clock feature
* Combined Comstock / Repetitive / Countdown / & Auto-Start Modes

3.94" x 1.85" x 0.7" weighing only 2.9 oz
CED7000 \$119.95
CED7000RF \$134.95



CED M2 Chronograph

- The fastest, most accurate chronograph & it even talks!
- * Over 1000 shot capacity with up to 500 string permanent memory
- * Records velocities in feet or meters from 50 fps to 7,000 fps.
- * High, Low, Average, & Hi-Average velocity readings
- * Extreme Spread, Standard Deviation, Edit & Omit functions
- * Built-in Calculator & IPSC / IDPA Power Factor Function
- * Voice Chip technology – Results can be heard as well as seen
- * USB interface with new Data Collector Software program included

Chronograph System \$199.00
Infrared Upgrade \$89.00
NiMH Battery Pack \$48.00
Custom Carry Case \$35.95
Full accessory line available!



CED Deluxe Professional Range Bag

The CED Deluxe Professional Range bag, has 25% more storage capacity, two additional zippered pockets have been added, one on each end, includes seven magazine pouches, Ammo Brass Pouch, Zippered Pistol Sleeve, metal hardware, combination cable lock, and the new CED Universal Pouch! Overall Bag 21" L x 11" H x 14" W. Avail. in Black, Royal Blue, Hunter Green, Red, and Navy.

CEDDRG \$89.95

Competitive Edge Dynamics, USA

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- Interchangeable Small, Medium & Large
 - Firm Grip Precision Plus Less Felt Recoil
- U.S. Patent 7,506,469



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- Consistent Reliability, Durability
- Increased Life Span, Less Felt Recoil



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- Steel-to-Steel Connected System
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