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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

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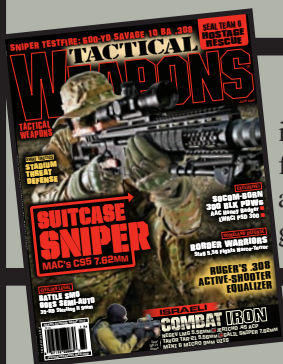


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Shooter Ready

Letters to the *Tactical Journal*

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Classifier Confusion

In your second quarter, Volume 16 - 2 issue of the tactical Journal Ted Murphy speaks about running a better match. An example regarding the classifier tells us that it was set up in 4 bays, with Stage 1 in two bays, Stage 2 in one bay, and Stage 3 in one bay. Shooters proceeded from one bay to the next and waited their turn. I do not understand how this is following the rule that the classifier is supposed to be shot in 90 continuous shots. When I run a classifier each shooter goes through all three stages in succession.

John Apuzzo A07690

The "continuous 90 rounds" has been defined as completing the classifier in one day. Most people do not have enough magazines to make it through all 90 rounds without loading mags at some point. By breaking it into the three bays or the component stages you considerably speed up the process while allowing people to reset, score and replenish their magazines. All the shooting gets done and everyone classified but it makes things go faster, smoother and easier while still meeting the purpose of the rule. I think if you try this at your local club, you will really appreciate the benefits of doing it this way.

Editor

Driving the Point Home

For several years I was barely able to shoot in any action pistol sport. Now I'm able to get back into the 'games' and my newest Tac Journal took me right back to the beginnings of IDPA and the acrimonious debates we had online where threats of doom and imminent expulsion from chat lists was as common as the requests for knowledge from newbies. Was it play and was it practical was a common thread and I suspect it still is if these two opposing points of concern are an indication.

My sage advice? Sage is an indication of wisdom or at least being "archaic, serious & solemn" (guilty). Mr. Envy, I carry a G19 daily and compete with it. I may use my G17 during a match but the extra inch or so of barrel makes less difference

than my skills and abilities. A decade of divorce does make me an expert in marriage however so whatever is legal, moral and allowed under common law is fine with when talking her into a new 'toy'. I would suggest you spend a bit more effort in bringing her into the fold and turn the 'groveling' into a discussion of fine technical points and what do WE need as the next best home protection and competition tool.

Mr. Questions, I was a Marine and taught the joy of the .45, but the Sheriff won't let us carry them as it scares the civilians when 'cocked & locked' thus we rock with a Glock. So I suggest you analyze, adapt & overcome, buy a good quality strong side holster for the Sig and get into the sport. And remember, it's a game. Preparedness and mindset are critical to winning but so is practice, with equipment being the lesser part of the equation. Besides, I wouldn't want you hammering our steel with your 44mag anyway.

D. Garren A05929

Dave, I think you hit the nail right on the head. It is good to see you back into shooting and I hope to see all of you on the range in the future.

Editor

Holster Help

I understand IDPA leadership is considering a ban on a holster manufactured by Blackhawk; specifically, the SERPA II. The potential ban is the result a three separate accidental discharges. This may just be unfounded rumor, or such a ban may actually be under consideration. In either case, I feel strongly enough to express my views on a proposed ban, and the safety of these particular holsters.

In short, I have used the SERPA II holster for years. If Blackhawk offers this type of holster, I own one for every sidearm I own. I have used them for many years and never experienced an accidental discharge. I recommend them without hesitation to my friends, and find them to be one of the safest holsters available. These same holsters are used by numerous law enforcement agencies throughout

this country. I recently visited my son as he was preparing to deploy to Afghanistan and noticed the USMC issues the SERPA II holster.

I am convinced banning this holster is a mistake, and such a ban will not improve safety. Furthermore, if we blame the holster for the accidental discharge, why not also ban the particular firearm involved? No question accidental discharges are a serious safety issue. It is clear to me that the solution lies with the individual shooters involved, not the holster, or even the firearm they were using.

I ask that you consider so many shooters who use these holsters every day without incident. Please consider a response to this issue that does not ban a well proven and perfectly safe holster.

Tom Morris A29762

I am afraid that this is one of those things that has started out as a rumor somewhere and then taken on a life of its own with the help of the internet and particularly one video on Youtube. At this time IDPA has not had any discussion from a Headquarters level on banning the Serpa II holster or others like it. The Serpa has gained what I believe is an unfair reputation in some circles. I think part of this is because the holster is so distinctive and easily identifiable. Thus it makes it easy to point fingers at when the owner uses it improperly.

This brings up an important point. If you buy ANY piece of equipment or gear for IDPA or CCW, it is imperative that you spend the time becoming familiar and comfortable with the gear before actually relying or using it under stress. This means for holsters it is a good idea that you wear it around the house some and do a little dry fire practice. From there try some range practice time and then move on to using it in a match.

Remember folks, the shooting sports is safer than many other sports you can be involved with but it takes all of our efforts to keep it that way. Take a little time to test your new or even old equipment and become familiar with it before showing up at the next match.

Editor



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Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

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Kenneth J. Ortbach



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On the Cover: Remington RI Enhanced
by Yamil Sued
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Run a Better Match

Build a Better Club



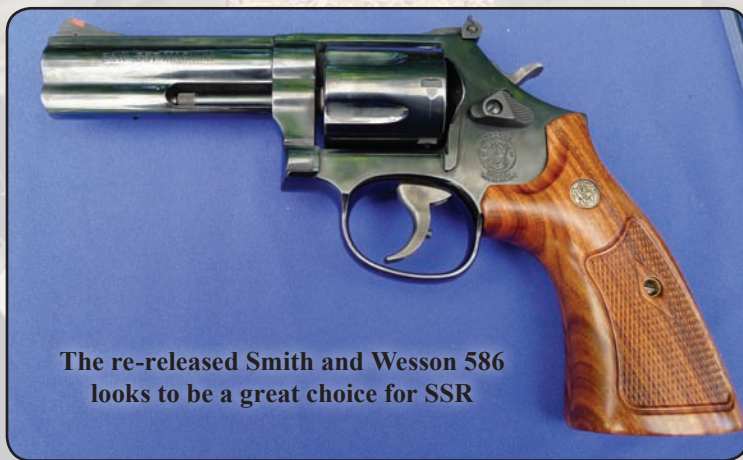
by Ted Murphy A02127



The summer shooting season is up and it is rather hot. I hope you all have your hot weather gear ready and are having as much fun on the range as you can bear. There are a lot of great matches still to be shot, and the Nationals will be upon us sooner than you think.

Earlier this month I competed in the Carolina Cup, which was a great match as always. The match was its usual mix of challenging stages along with some jaw dropping moving targets, and quite a few unique stage designs. I had a good time and survived the match with only one major brain fade, which is a personal Carolina Cup record. Smith and Wesson had a demonstration bay staffed by Jim Dalton and Mike Critser. They had a wonderful assortment of S&W handguns, including their new Shield. One revolver caught

my eye, the re-released 586. I have always been fond of blued revolvers and this gun is gorgeous and with a nice action to boot. I will have to see about picking one up before next season.



The re-released Smith and Wesson 586 looks to be a great choice for SSR

Shooting:

One of the great things about IDPA is how we shoot from so many different positions. This is a welcome change from simply shooting static in a lane at the local gun club. An IDPA shooter needs to be able to shoot from both

conventional and unconventional positions. One position that is often overlooked is prone shooting. Shooters need to be able to get into prone safely, and to achieve good hits.

Practicing prone is one of many shooting skills that can be accomplished during a dry-fire practice session. Take your gun and make sure it is unloaded. All ammunition is to be in a different room. Pick an area where you have a safe backstop. For prone practice, a mat or piece of carpet is a good idea. Practice

dry firing from the prone position, and practice getting into the prone position. After you have become comfortable with the process, then it is time to try it on the range.

Most people go prone by first kneeling, then falling forward onto the support hand, followed by



dropping to the stomach or side. Some use the “flying squirrel” technique, which is a Pete Rose styled forward dive to the ground. This latter technique is fast, but can cause injury and is best done after receiving training, if then.

A few tips for you. If you lie on your side you will keep weight off your diaphragm. This will make it much easier to breathe. If you lie on your strong side, it will be easier to access your spare magazines. Of course if you shoot revolver with your reloads on your strong side, you will then want to lie on your weak side. Remove your hat or push the brim to the rear. When you go prone the brim will most likely block your view of the targets. Lastly, empty your pockets before the stage. You will be more comfortable and will reduce the pain factor.

The best means to learn prone shooting is under the eyes of an experienced instructor. There are also a wide range of instructional videos available to the shooter, as well as many books. IDPA has sponsors who provide these products, they are worth looking into. You may also have a local club shooter who can help you with some basic instruction. However you choose to learn, make sure you have done this in a dry fire setting several times before you try it out on the range with a loaded gun. Dry and live fire prone practice will change prone stages from an annoyance to a means to gain an advantage over your competition.



Here is an SO focused on the shooter's firing hand and gun.

Officiating:

One of the more important jobs of the SO is to give a stage briefing. You need to make it clear and easy to understand. Remember that shooters need the information to be delivered in a concise and fair manner. By concise I mean that you give the briefing without too much extraneous information which may confuse the shooter or overcomplicate the stage procedure. Try to limit the chatting that may drive the briefing off course. By fair I mean that you do not change the briefing in such a way that gives a later squad an advantage over the earlier squads. There may be times you improve the briefing, (such as “watch the hole in the ground over there”) but you do not want to give later squads a clear advantage. It does not hurt to make up a crib

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From a Woman's Perspective

"Ladies: Carry On!"

by Kitty Richards A18564

Each quarter, IDPA Executive Director Joyce Wilson gives the members an update on the state of our sport. One of the most exciting aspects of her update, for me, includes the amount of growth each quarter. Much of this growth can be attributed to the Concealed Carry laws in many states. How does this increase in CCW Holders affect the women in our sport? Are we carrying? When? How? What role does IDPA play in our skills? *From a Woman's Perspective* asked a sample of our female shooters at The Carolina Cup to discuss this trend.

Meg Rogers is a 3 gun Sharpshooter and a Revolver MM. The Orange, VA, resident carries her Glock 26 (9 MM) with Truglo sights every day. "My favorite holster is a Blade-Tech", Rogers says, "but usually I carry in a Coronado concealment purse or a Maxpedition bag."

How does IDPA fit into her



CC regimen? "I think the basic skills learned for IDPA are a good foundation to fall back on for all situations involving gun handling including concealed carry. Shooting scenario-based stages make you more aware of situations that can happen (even if some are unlikely) therefore making you more confident in carrying concealed. Almost

all matches have stages that make you think about how things should be done "in the real world".



Revolver Sharpshooter **Tammy (spydernmom) Kaufman** carries, "Regularly, where legal". Her choice of carry weapons are a "Smith & Wesson Model 642 .38 caliber air weight revolver, and for back country hiking, Smith & Wesson 686 .357 caliber or Smith & Wesson 625 .45 caliber revolvers". The Wake Forrest, NC resident carries, "Strong side inside the waistband holster, or strong side belt holster (for back country hiking, strong side belt holster)". Based on activity, she has a number of holsters she likes, including "Don Hume, DeSantis, Galco, Bianchi, Blackhawk, Crossbreed, Comp-Tac or Safariland - generally most well made, stiff, supportive, safe, reliable holsters that completely cover the trigger/trigger guard and allow one-handed reholstering".

Kaufman feels that, "Competitive shooting has primarily assisted in making me more comfortable handling my firearms safely, quickly and accurately under high stress conditions, as well as handling mechanical issues or jams immediately and efficiently. In addition,



it has taught me how to make the correct decisions under pressure regarding threat versus non-threat assessments and allowed me to develop more awareness of not only my target but what is behind and around it, as well as determining threat priority quickly and maintaining awareness of potential multiple threats. Specific to my choice of firearms - revolvers with their more limited ammunition capacity - competitive shooting has also greatly increased the speed of my ability to reload when necessary and improved my accuracy with those limited rounds."

Does she shoot what she carries? "Although I generally compete with full size revolvers, I have competed with my actual carry gun as well, and would carry the larger firearms when hiking in desolate back country. Finally, since my usual carry gun operates identically to my competition guns, the motor skills necessary to use each are the same and competition helps reinforce those skills under high stress which is something static range firing simply cannot do".



In Statesville, NC, **Zoe Williams** has an obstacle in carrying a concealed firearm. As a teacher, she is prohibited from taking her gun onto school property, so she carries, "Only in the summer, about 4 times a year". Her carry gun is "whatever little five shot revolver is handy". She uses a large summer shoulder bag as her carry



medium, and for competition uses a left-handed offset/drop holster. Since she can carry only occasionally, does IDPA help her? The answer from the SSP Novice is yes. "IDPA is the only shooting practice I get, so I use all my IDPA training for CC."



Perky **Missy Griffin** is a familiar face at The Carolina Cup and other matches throughout the southeast. The NC native carries "practically every day". Her firearm of choice is a Springfield XD subcompact in 9mm. "I usually carry in my purse", said Missy. "I don't own a concealed carry purse, but I always select a new purse with my carry gun in mind. I have



found that there are a lot of "regular" purses that are wonderful for concealed carry. I also practice getting my gun out of my purse. I will also sometimes carry in the back waistband of my jeans, but mostly in my purse. If I carry in a holster, I usually use the kit holster that came with my sub compact". How has IDPA helped this experienced

shooter and SO? "Shooting IDPA has taught me the importance of the proper use of cover, speed, accuracy, and distinguishing between a threat and a non threat target. God forbid I ever have to use my gun to defend myself, I believe a lot of the skills I have developed in IDPA will help me".



"I usually carry on the weekends while traveling and occasionally in the evenings, says **Cathy Ash**. "I work at a government-type job and can't carry at work". Ash feels that IDPA has helped her with her carry skills. "Although I don't compete with my carry gun, IDPA competition allows me to practice gun handling skills such as drawing from a holster, target acquisition, shooting at various distances, shooting and retreating, shooting from cover in various positions and all under a variety of stressors including the timer, heat, cold, with gloves, without gloves, while moving, etc. The gun handling skills that I use in IDPA have helped me develop a confidence in my skills that I hope to never have to rely upon in a self defense situation. On



occasion, I can totally remove myself from practicing for a competition and work on my self-defense mindset, off the clock, of course."

Her usual carry gun is a Smith

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and Wesson 642 with Crimson Trace grips and factory sights, reports the SSP SS. "I usually carry in a holster. On occasion, I'll slip the gun in that holster in my purse. Both are on the head of my bed when I'm sleeping." The Vincent, OH, shooter's preferred holster is a custom made Raven Concealment kydex paddle holster.



IDPA's very first female 5-gun Master, **Michelle Wood**, carries every day. Wood says, "The gun I carry depends on how I'm dressed. I carry either a Glock 22 40 cal. with Warren Tactical sights or a Kahr PM9 9mm with factory night sights."

The Greensboro, NC firearms



trainer says she carries, "... 90% of the time in an inside the waistband holster made by Crossbreed. Occasionally, I

(Continued on page 33)

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Blue skies and tailwinds all the way!

A Message from Joyce Wilson, IDPA Executive Director

“Wishing you blue skies and tailwinds all the way!” This was a common sentiment as my partner and I competed in our third annual Air Race Classic in June. Team Bionics (named as such since Janet and I both have had knee replacements!) climbed into the Cessna 182 and flew >2400 statute miles in this women-only competition. The salutation we heard reminds me a little of our quest for improvements in IDPA; we aim for blue skies and fast tailwinds in our efforts to make our sport even better as our growth continues unabated. As of the beginning of July, our total membership was 20,672, and our work on the IDPA Rulebook continues with unprecedented input from our members, and hard work by our representative Tiger Teams.

While our Tiger Teams are working on the “front end” of this effort, we have some very exciting events planned for our “back office” area. A new IDPA website will be unveiled this fall, powered by RangeLog,

with a phased roll out that will begin with a new design, an updated database and a new IDPA club area for club news and information. Once we have implemented the new public site, we will continue to roll out updates. Phase I features, tentatively planned for Q4, 2012, include:

- Club Detail Pages: Clubs can



manage their individual club page, which can be made public or viewed by IDPA members-only, to include club news, information and contact details.

- IDPA Event Calendar: With an updated IDPA events calendar, clubs can begin promoting all of their IDPA events, regardless of the size.
- IDPA Score Management: New and improved import process features will be

available for uploading classifier and match scores from Beach Bunny software, or simply use an IDPA provided template.

The new website will include a tutorial, access to some webinars to introduce it, and other helpful hints along the way. Watch the current website, www.idpa.com, for more information about future

enhancements as it becomes available.

To keep everyone up to date, our [Equipment Rules Tiger Team](#) is working hard and is about mid-way through their list of member suggestions and review. The [Safety,](#)

[Scoring and Classification Rules Tiger Team](#) also continues their work on that portion of the Rulebook. In late Q3 or early Q4, the [Match Administration Tiger Team](#) will be selected and will kick off their work.

In the meantime, that tailwind has our Headquarters (HQ) staff flying. Those of you who will act as Safety Officers for our National Championship will be

(Continued on page 32)

Random Shots

"Starting a New Club"

by Thomas Pinney A24541



The International Defensive Pistol Association continues to grow rapidly. This means that more people have joined IDPA clubs around the world. It also means more clubs are forming. There are probably any number of people who read the Tactical Journal who have wondered just how you start an IDPA club.

The vast majority of the readers of the Tactical Journal are already members of an accredited IDPA club. However, there are a number of reasons why a group of IDPA members may want to form their own club. Most often

it is because there is not an IDPA club that shoots in their area. Or there may not be a club shooting at a preferred range; for example a group of shooters may want to be able to shoot at an indoor range so that they can participate in matches during inclement weather. Or their local club may not shoot matches that are convenient for a people who want to participate in events either more often or on a different schedule than their current club.

Establishing a new club is a major decision; not only is there a fair amount of work required, it will cost money –

more than the \$100 fee to become affiliated with the International Defensive Pistol Association. There will be expenditures for targets, target stands, props, and possibly insurance and financial arrangements with a suitable range. Some of those expenses, like target stands and props, can be mitigated by building your own.

So, what are the advantages of forming a new IDPA club? Why should you go to all that effort? Why not simply get some targets and arrange to shoot with some of your buddies? First, establishing a club will formalize the group. It is indeed possible to shoot an IDPA-type match a time or two without much organization, but is another thing altogether to do so on a regular basis. If you intend to shoot on a recurring basis you will need to organize and that means forming a club. By forming a club and affiliating with IDPA it allows you to use the IDPA name and logo to host IDPA matches and interest new members. Without affiliation to IDPA you open yourself and your club to the possibility of copyright and trademark lawsuits which could cost your club big money. Just by calling your match IDPA or "IDPA like" in any way or referencing IDPA on your website and not affiliating you open your club up to a huge liability. Furthermore, the people who set the club up have a much greater say in club activities; by making the effort to form a club, the founders can ensure that the club is run to meet the wants and needs of their members.

The most important element in creating a successful club is people. You can start a club with as little as one person but the more

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people you have that can help is essential. With ten or more people who will regularly shoot with the club and be willing to volunteer the time to do the work associated with a club including setting up IDPA matches, you have the best possible scenario for a first rate club with out overloading any one person . This means someone has to understand gun safety standards and the IDPA rules; knowing the rules is very important – knowing gun safety procedures is critical. You must be a certified IDPA Safety Officer (SO) to start a club. You can do it with one but it is better if there are two. You can have two club contacts listed on the IDPA website but they both have to be certified SO's.

If the club is going to hold matches at a commercial range (as most clubs do) they will need to have a good working relationship with the management of the range including signed contracts specifying costs. Once those arrangements are in place you will need some equipment. Not much is needed to start; elaborate props such as swingers and pop –up targets are not necessary. You will need IDPA targets; these can be found on the IDPA website. Target stands are available commercially but you can make your own from PVC piping or wood available at a improvement store where you can also purchase sticks, materials for simple barricades such as stiff plastic sheeting supported by more PVC, a means of indicating non-threats and hard cover (spray paint) and staplers with lots of staples. There will be a need for paperwork: there are standard IDPA score sheets available or you can make up your

own. You will need membership enrollment sheets, waiver sheets, and multiple shot timers; you do not want to be unable to complete a match because your only timer malfunctioned. All this equipment must be stored in a secure location, whether it is someone's house, in a special room at the range, or in a shed somewhere. Finally, the club will have to have insurance of some sort, either from the shooting

facility or for the club. The NRA offers several good options for club insurance.

Now you are ready to apply to IDPA HQ for an IDPA club number. While you are waiting for that you will need to develop bylaws and select club officers. The bylaws are easy – there is an example provided on the IDPA webpage. You can use that as a format. (Continued on page 30)



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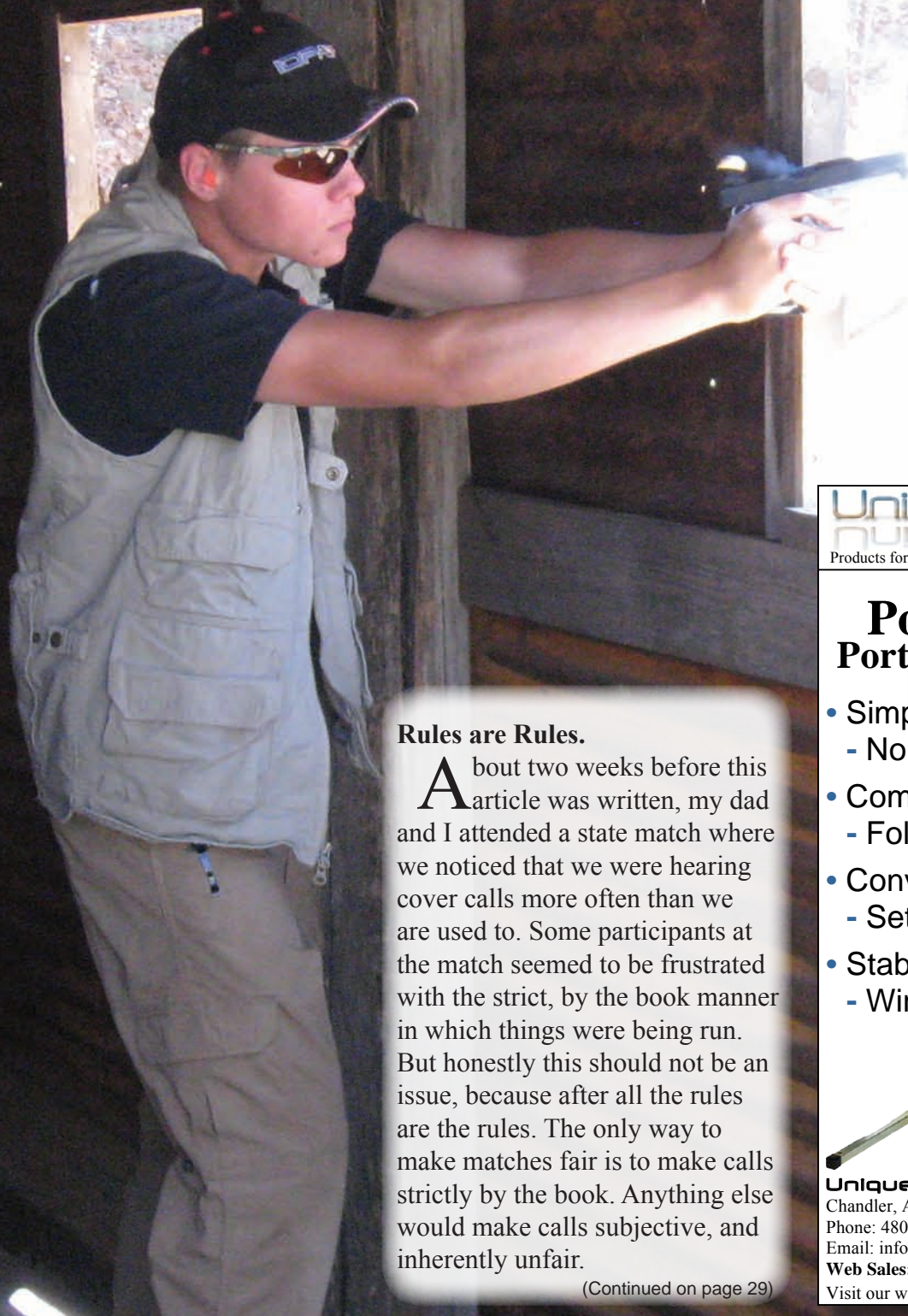




Through the Eyes of a Junior Shooter

by Austin Proulx
A39722

The author shooting at the 2012 Colorado State Championships



Rules are Rules.

About two weeks before this article was written, my dad and I attended a state match where we noticed that we were hearing cover calls more often than we are used to. Some participants at the match seemed to be frustrated with the strict, by the book manner in which things were being run. But honestly this should not be an issue, because after all the rules are the rules. The only way to make matches fair is to make calls strictly by the book. Anything else would make calls subjective, and inherently unfair.

(Continued on page 29)

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The Tactical Advantage

By: Robert Ray



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Remington Model 1911 R1 Enhanced

As with most things, IDPA and shooting in general is cyclic. Right now IDPA is enjoying a huge upswing in interest and participation. However for a time the CDP division was a little down in terms of participation. The biggest factor that contributed to this was the ammunition and primer shortage several years ago and the attached higher prices. With the ease of the shortage and the 100 year anniversary last year of the venerable 1911, CDP has made a huge comeback. More people became interested in buying 1911's

IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2012

and more people started building them including a company that had not built one in about 70 years, Remington.

Remington built 1911's during both World Wars and after a few hiccups at the beginning of WWII achieved a good reputation for building a reliable fighting gun. I am sure that they had their reasons for stopping production after the war but those are unknown to me. Luckily with the anniversary of 1911 they decided to get back into production and turned

(Continued on page 27)

2012 Polish National IDPA Championship

by **Kenneth J. Ortbach A22530**

Having just returned from Poland, where I was the match director for the 2012 Polish National IDPA Championship, I would like to share some of my experiences. But first, we need to start at the beginning of the story.

The Beginning

Some of you may have read the article about Joanna Lenczewska, “The Polish Pistolera”, on the Women of USPSA blog. <http://womenofuspsa.com/wp/?p=3366>

In the article, written by our very own Kitty Richards, Joanna professes to have a desire to shoot a sanctioned IDPA match in Poland. With Joanna and I being a couple, there was a very high probability that I would also be shooting a match in Poland! When registration was announced for the 2012 Polish National Championship, we signed on and started to plan our trip. When Kitty learned that we were going to Poland, she subtly expressed her desire to join us. (And anyone familiar with Kitty will know how subtle she is.) It seems that growing up in a Polish neighborhood, north of Pittsburgh, had instilled in Kitty a wanderlust for Poland. The trip planning continued with three travelers instead of two.

I am sure that every IDPA shooter knows that Kitty is “quite” involved with the Tiger Teams and has frequent contact with IDPA headquarters. I can only assume that Kitty may have quietly mentioned something about our trip to Poland while at headquarters. Quietly, because we all know how Kitty tends to keep to herself. To get to the point, when it was discovered that the match organizers in Poland may need a little bit of help, and that I was going to the match anyway, and that I have run three sanctioned matches



as well as 4 club matches each month, I received a phone call. At some point during that phone conversation, I became the match director of the Polish Nationals.

My point of contact was Leszek Sokolowski. Leszek was organizing many aspects of the match, and he has a great command of English, which was quite fortunate as my command of Polish is IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2012



not so much. This was a different match director situation for me. With the 2009 PA State match and the 2010 and 2011 Hard as Hellertown sanctioned matches, I was the type of match director who was responsible for all aspects of the match. I did not do this alone, as John Plum was the co-match IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2012

director for the PA State match, and Joanna was the co-match director for the Hard as Hellertown matches, and there were several people that all had important roles in each of these matches. Still, I was responsible for the success of these matches and ensuring that all of the details were attended to.

With the Polish Nationals, I was only responsible for stage design and running the match on the two match days.

Stage Design

Leszek had six stages that he had been working on, and I offered five more stages. Together, we worked out

(Continued on page 21)

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On the Ground in Poland

Arriving in Olsztyn on Thursday May 17, we checked into the hotel and then found our way to the range. We found a small crew headed by Jacek and Tomasz Bajerowski hard at work building the stages.

We made plans to meet on Friday and went back to the hotel. After a good day of setup on Friday, there were basically only targets to hang on Saturday

the details of the stages, while Leszek was in contact with Jacek Ostrzycki, who would actually be building the stages. The match would be held in the city of Olsztyn, and Leszek lived a few hours away in Krakow. I ended up creating the stages with Google Sketchup, which is an excellent, and free, program. Using Sketchup for the local matches I help run in Hellertown PA, Easton PA and Phillipsburg NJ, I have scale templates for each range and scale targets and props as well. I can be confident that a stage on paper will “fit” in a real bay. I produce the stage diagrams with a one-yard square grid on the diagram, which allows fairly precise placement of props with minimal adjustment. With the Polish National stages created in Sketchup, the crew in Olsztyn would be sure that the stages would work in the actual bays.

When our stage designs were finalized, I submitted the stages for approval, and paid the match sanction fee. Other than booking our flights, car and hotels, and applying for permits to bring our guns into Poland, there was not much more to do until we arrived in Olsztyn.



morning, the “pre-match” as they called it, or the staff shoot day as I call it.

The pre-match was stressful, but in each match that I have run, the day in which the staff shoots is always stressful. This is usually the day that I wonder what I have got myself into! We finished shooting into the early evening, but all of the stages were ready for the main match on Sunday.

Match Day

The sun was shining and there was a slight breeze as the competitors arrived for the main match. It was quite an international affair with shooters from Poland,

Lithuania, Austria, Italy, Finland and USA. The team had done quite a good job for the match. There was both TV and radio coverage of the event. A local collector brought in military vehicles for display. There were two armored personnel carriers, artillery, a motorcycle with a sidecar-mounted machine gun, an ambulance, staff truck and a police paddy wagon. There were also two cannons with appropriately dressed crews. Jacek gave the match briefing, with English translation by Joanna, and then the cannons were fired to signal the start of the match.

The match ran very well. During the staff shoot day, the SOs of each bay ran the other staff members so that one team ran every shooter in their bay. I really had nothing to do other than help collect score sheets for the scoring team. Everyone was finished by mid afternoon, and the catered lunch arrived on cue. After eating, the shooters gathered for the awards. First, the prize

table was emptied, and what a prize table it was! Every shooter took home one or more prizes, and two shooters each won a gun. The trophies were spectacular, and were awarded after the prizes.





not show up for the match. At the beginning, I asked if we were going to require the match fee to be paid at the time of registration, and I was informed that it would not be necessary. It is necessary, unfortunately. Without a monetary investment in the

match, people can easily decide that they may have something better to do.

I have been brief in my description of the match as I put together a video of the match that will give you a great idea of just what the match was like. The video can be viewed at http://youtube/g7q_IpHUpl. To skip the opening driving segment, start at 3:45.

Lessons Learned

What is more important is what I learned from the experience. The first thing is to ask lots of questions! I believe that I did ask Leszek lots of questions and we had many email messages back and forth regarding the stage design. Looking back, I would have liked to have been in direct contact with Jacek as well as Leszek regarding the stages. Everything worked out well, but I think that having everyone involved from the beginning would have worked out even better. I learned at the match setup, for example, that the range was actually being rented for the event, the effect of which was that we had less leeway in making changes to the bays.

Something that I already know was re-enforced, and that has to do with match fees. There were many people registered who did



It became apparent that people in other cultures might not share the same sense of urgency in getting things done that we usually have in North America. I was quite surprised with the starting time and quitting time of the set up crew and the general relaxed attitude of everyone. Once again, everything worked out well, but I would not have been as relaxed! A case in point

is when we were finished the staff shoot and I asked what time the match would start the next morning. They replied, "Sometime around 10, or 10:20." I said, "how about exactly 10?"

We had the usual last minute compromises during the setup. Jacek used purchased sections of fencing for the walls required. I had talked to Leszek about using snow fence (safety fence in the south?) or black plastic vapor barrier film for the walls as we utilize those materials frequently at my local clubs. Using these materials allows us to make any length walls required. Using the fence sections changed some wall dimensions and shot angles and we had some to do some maneuvering in order to complete the stages.

One compromise that worked out very well was with stage 11, which simulated a defensive situation in a home with a hall way and four rooms. The bay was a 100-yard rifle bay with three rifle shooting positions. A bullet trap had been erected 20 yards from the benches, with three ports to allow the shooters to see their targets



downrange, yet stop any bullets from leaving the bay. There were rows of bushes that ran along the range, beyond the bullet trap. The space between the bushes was aligned with the shooting ports. With fence sections running low, Jacek asked about using the rows of bushes as the walls between the rooms. The problem with this was that the spacing between the rows of bushes was about two yards, and this would make for some very small rooms and very close targets.

I offered another option. We could use two rows of bushes as the stage hallway, cut a few openings for doorways and use the remaining walls to separate the rooms. The cutting of the bushes did not go over well, so looking at the bushes, I noticed that there were natural gaps. We ended up opening the natural gaps by tying

the bushes back and using the walls to hold the bushes back. The stage turned out very well with an actual hallway and deep doorways from which to shoot.

I also was impressed with some of the props. The target stick holders were quite novel and I had never seen anything like them before. The stick holder is a piece of rectangular steel tubing about six inches long. The opening of the tube accepts a 1x2 stick. An eight-inch spike is welded to the tube in the center of one of the long sides. In use, one sets the spike in the ground, slides in a stick and then measures for the



next holder. These holders allowed a lot of flexibility in setting up targets, they take up little room to store, and if one is shot, it does not render the other piece useless.

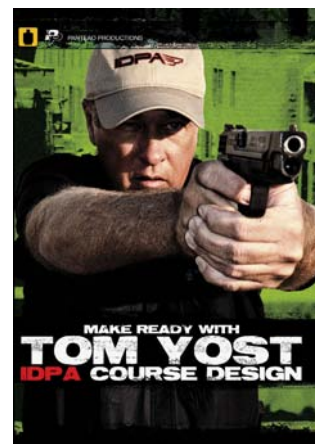
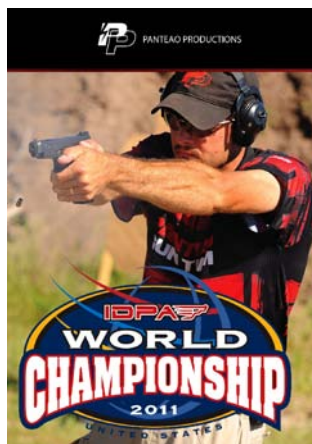
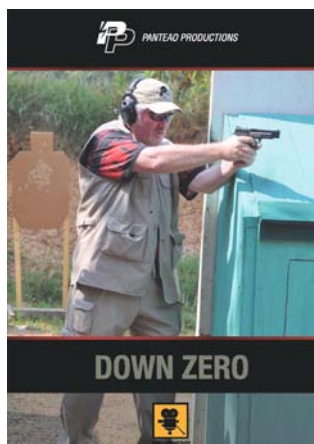
Lost in Translation

Although Leszek's English was excellent, when he added Polish to the stage descriptions, I asked Joanna if she would check the Polish text. Most Europeans are



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2012 Polish National IDPA Championship

taught British English which is somewhat different from American English. There was some confusion over the word “prone”. Stage one was shot in the prone position and we needed to clarify that prone meant lying on the ground, not standing very straight!

I was also reminded that the descriptions must be very precise. I wrote the descriptions the way I would for my local shooters. As an example, the first target engaged in stage 4 could be shot on the move to cover or from cover in my mind. However, the way that I wrote the description, and the subsequent Polish translation, required the shooter to move to cover first and then engage the target. In future, the descriptions will list exactly what is required. In this case, the description would be “ At the

signal, engage target T1 on the move to and/or from cover at position P2. All shots must be on the move or from cover”.

Disco Fever

One other new experience was at the match hotel. Our hotel, unbeknownst to us, had a disco every Friday and Saturday night. The disco, which lasted until 3am, was quite easily heard throughout the entire hotel. The happy disco dancers laughed and carried on up and down the hotel hallways most of the night. We even had a group of people try to get into our room and then yell and pound on the door when their



key would not work. Joanna and I did not sleep much and our match performance suffered accordingly. Using this as a learning experience, as it could happen anywhere, I will now ask before booking my rooms if there are any events scheduled at the hotel. Otherwise, the hotel was fine. Breakfast and dinner were included and were quite good.

In the End

All in all, it was a great experience and I am glad that I could help. After the match, we traveled to several cities in northern Poland including stopping in Joanna’s hometown to visit her family. Joanna and Kitty have already started talking about which parts of Poland we will visit after the 2013 Polish National Championship!



2012 Polish National IDPA Championship Stage 11 – Bay 6 Home

Scenario: You hear noises while lying in bed. Opening your eyes, you see intruders in your room. Protect yourself and your family.

Scenariusz: Słyszysz hałasy, gdy leżysz w łóżku. PO otwarciu oczy zwidzisz intruzów w swoim domu. Chroń siebie i swoją rodzinę.

Concealment/Broń ukryta: Required/Wymagana
Scoring/Punktacja: Vickers

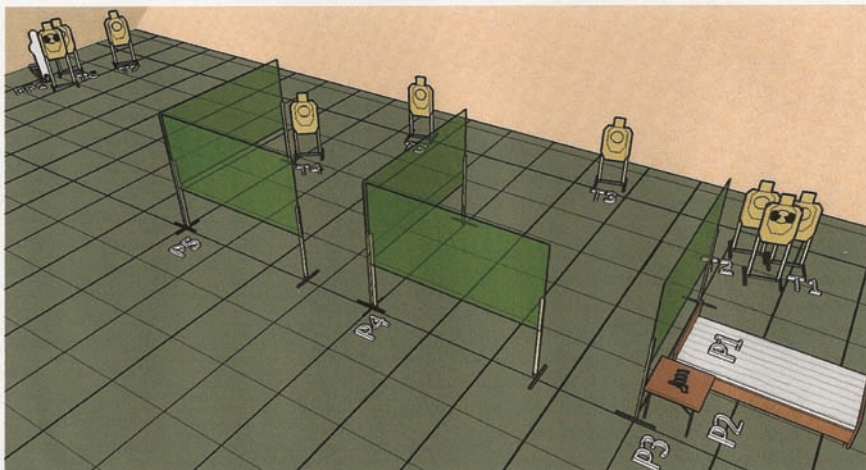
Min. Rounds/Min. ilość strzałów: 15
Reload/Dofadowanie: As required/w razie konieczności

Start Position: Lying in the bed, unloaded gun and all ammunition in the night stand drawer.
Pozycja startowa: Zawodnik leży na łóżku. Całkowicie rozładowana broń oraz cała amunicja znajdują się w szufladzie.

Description: On the signal, get out of bed, load the gun, stow any ammunition required, and engage the targets in the room. Move down the hall and engage the targets in the rooms.

Opis: Po sygnale startowym należy wstać z łóżka, załadować broń, pobrać niezbędną amunicję oraz ostrzelać wszystkie tarcze.

Notes: All targets to be engaged in tactical priority with two shots each, and the steel must fall.
Uwagi: Wszystkie tarcze wymagają dwóch przestrzelin, a popery musza upaść.



UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

August 17 - 19, 2012

MI State Match

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

August 18 - 19, 2012

**New England Regional
Championship**

Harvard, MA
Michael Joffe
617-803-1307 h
253-322-6675 fax
michaelj@metrowesttactical.com
Dave Ritchie
781-354-6640 h
daver@metrowesttactical.com
www.metrowesttactical.com

August 25, 2012

**U. S. East Coast IDPA
Championship**

Prospect Hill, NC
Dean Brevit
919-805-0370 h
caswellranch@embarqmail.com
www.caswellranch.com

August 25, 2012

**2012 NM State IDPA
Championship**

Farmington, NM
Thomas Maddox
505-325-2889 h
505-793-6513 w
sjdpa@q.com
Harley Lavine
505-330-2598 h
505-330-8141 w
justicegunsales@gmail.com
sjwf.org/idpa.htm

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
Entry Form available on ACPL
website.

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, 2012

**2012 ID State IDPA
Championship**

Parma, ID
Aaron Goodfellow
208-724-0595 h
aarongoodfellow@hotmail.com
www.parmavng.org

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

September 28 - 30, 2012

Patriot Match

Lewistown, PA
Pat Cronin
814-404-6933 Cell
pcronin@gmail.com
Chris Shade
717-363-3858 Cell
cshade@co.mifflin.pa.us
www.lewistownpistolclub.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

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Upcoming Major Matches

idpashooter1@hotmail.com
Joe Tyson
317-804-9597 h
blainepoe@gmail.com
www.indyidpa.com

October 13, 2012

MS State Match

Saltillo, 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 19 - 21, 2012

2012 PA IDPA State Championship

Hollidaysburg, PA
Corey Murphy
814-330-3812 h
shooting@coreymurphy.net
Aaron Parr
814-251-2614 h
ap@apractical.com
www.hollidaysburgsportsmen-sclub.com

October 20, 2012

IDPA TN State 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

October 20, 2012

Lone Star IDPA Championship

Jacksboro, TX
Brian Ehrler
817-704-0155 h
817-975-0315 w
brian@txdft.com
James Lenaburg
817-431-2407 h
817-521-7934 w
extremist@verizon.net
www.lonestarchampionship.com

October 26 - 27, 2012

Liberty Match at Valley Forge

Audubon, PA
Martin Acker

610-310-2747 h
eagles274@hotmail.com
Mike Keefe
215-679-9028 h
484-300-2743 w
penumbra@comcast.net
lprgc.org/?page_id=647

October 27, 2012

2012 IDPA GA State Championship

Conyers, GA
Rhett Cretchfield
404-316-6664 h & w
678-324-2095 fax
rcrutch8585@gmail.com
Capel English
770-346-7771 h
678-324-2005 w
678-324-2095 fax
cenglish@snapsinc.com
www.gadpa.com

October 27 - 28, 2012

Blackwater Shoothouse Shoot-out

Moyock, NC
Dave Cloutier
301-351-8070 w
dccloutier@earthlink.net
Ron Reiner
757-672-4971 w
spindrifter@cox.net
www.defensiveshootersconfederation.com

November 3, 2012

2012 Citrus Challenge

Orlando, FL
Daniel Corriveau
703-868-9532 w
Karl Redinger
402-461-3193 w
cfdpa.matchdirector@gmail.com
www.cfrpc.com/idpa-citruschallenge.html

November 3, 2012

Music City Cup

Dickson, TN
Michael Bresson
615-332-5206 h
president@mctsclub.com
www.mctsclub.com

November 3, 2012

South Mountain Showdown

Phoenix, AZ
Bill Barron
623-505-8100 h
showdown@prgcpractical.com

Erick VanHaaster
602-524-4389 h
evanhaas@prgcpractical.com
www.prgcpractical.com

January 12 - 13, 2013

2013 International Cup

Caguas, Puerto Rico
Toni Dandreamatteo
954-608-8482 h
toni.dandreamatteo@gmail.com
Frank Glover
919-691-7686 h
therange@gloryroad.net
www.idpainternationalcup.com

February 1 - 2, 2013

Costa Rican National Championship

Heredia, Costa Rica
Rodrigo Carvajal
703-831-3211 h
rodcarvajal@gmail.com
www.idpacostarica.com

February 9, 2013

11th Annual West TX IDPA Regional

Lubbock, TX
Michael Murphy
806-893-2944 h
806-796-2858 w
806-796-2859 fax
mike_m624@hotmail.com
Rick Mosley
806-796-2858 h
806-796-2859 fax
rick.h.mosley@gmail.com
www.patriotfirearms.com

February 9, 2013

Caswell Ranch IDPA Ironman

Prospect Hill, NC
Dean Brevit
919-805-0370 h
caswellranch@embarqmail.com
www.caswellranch.com

May 18, 2013

AR State Championship

Hot Springs, AR
Ted Smethers
501-620-0601 h
501-262-5620 fax
tsmethe@entergy.com
Steve Freeman
501-620-4374 h
501-545-9939 w
danafreeman@cablelynx.com
www.mvsaidpa.com



out a nice version of that WWII era gun. If you are nostalgic I encourage you to take a look at the Model 1911 R1. It is a great gun only slightly updated from the model that a WWII soldier would be familiar with although built with better tolerances and materials. While great for those nostalgic for the old style or those wanting a platform to build a “custom” gun, the standard R1 is not really what I ideally would want to carry as a competition/CCW gun. The people at Remington were already on the ball and quickly released the Model 1911 R1 Enhanced. Dear friends, now we are talking!

The R1 Enhanced arrived in a hard plastic carry case in Remington’s easily recognizable green color. Opening the box I found my first impressions were along the lines of “Wow”. The first

thing I noticed was the finish. It is a satin black oxide with a feel of depth like if you touched it your finger would pass into the gun. This black really made the orange fiber optic front sight stand out. It was glowing like a tiny sun. The silver of the anodized aluminum trigger and stainless barrel and bushing also made for a nice contrast. It is just enough to add something to the gun in the way of looks without compromising what I like in a carry gun. For carry, I like a dark gun that easily hides in the shadows under my coat or cover shirt.

When I first picked the R1 up I was immediately impressed with the way it felt. The 20 LPI checkering on the mainspring housing is also extended to the memory bump on the grip safety. The stocks are checkered as well with a small, smooth thumb grove

that aids in reaching the magazine catch for reloads. The front strap is not checkered but it does have serrations. I found these extremely comfortable but still added an extra degree of increased grip. The people at Remington placed just the right amount of checkering in just the right way to make this gun feel extremely solid in the hand. Shooting it in several IDPA club matches and one sanctioned match helped prove that out. I also liked the wide thumb safety that was easy to manipulate under match conditions.

In all, the R1 was extremely comfortable in the hand and the sights were fast to pick up while doing a little dry fire practice. The fiber optic front sight with the low profile adjustable rear sight made for quick transitions as well once I went to live fire practice. Using

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I was able to achieve groups of around two inches shooting off a rest. I consider this to be very good as my match score will show I am not the most accurate of shooters.

The only real issue that I had with the

R1 was the loss of the fiber optic front sight. Those of you that use them know that they can be



the factory supplied magazines I encountered only one stoppage in the approximately 1,000 rounds I put through the gun; a failure to eject that was the result of a light reload. I fed it a mixed diet of lead, hollowpoints and jacketed hardball and the R1 digested it all with ease. The action was smooth and the lock up was nice and solid. Breaking at around 4 pounds, the trigger was just a tad heavier than my normal desire but it was very crisp. I shot a number of different loads thought the gun for accuracy, including factory and hand loads. At 25 yards



finicky and prone to breakage if there is play in the rod when it's inserted. Luckily I like plain black

front sights as well so the loss of the rod in the match did not slow me down. I was able to pick up a replacement rod next door at Wilson Combat and was back up and running for the next match.

In all the Remington

R1 Enhanced was a solid performer with a number of very nice features for the money. It has a suggested retail of \$940 which is bargain but with a little looking around you are certain to find one a little cheaper than the MSRP. If you are like most IDPA shooters, you are constantly on the look out for a new blaster and the R1 is well worth the look. Lay that plastic SSP/ESP gun down and step over to the CDP division. You'll be glad you did.



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Eric Fuson assisting in resetting a stage at the 2012 Colorado State Championship.

because they are using noncompliant gear, even though they may have been getting away with it at local matches.

In my opinion it is fine to allow some leeway with new shooters (who have only shot one or two local matches,) because they are just learning the game, and should be more focused on safety than anything else. However,

Many local club matches seem to have a laid back nature to them. SO's may tend to give the shooters some leeway because honestly, not much is on the line. However, when members of a club will be attending a sanctioned match, the potential issues caused by this casual way of doing things are made clear. When club matches are run in such a laid back nature, it creates bad habits for the members, and ultimately does them and the sport a disservice. It is always a good idea to practice how you intend to compete.



Glenn Shelby displaying proper use of cover at the 2012 Colorado State Championship.

one good way for clubs to avoid possible disqualification of one of their members at a sanctioned match. One area where leniency on the part of SO's is evident, is in enforcing the participation of all the shooters in resetting stages. At a state match my dad and I attended about a year ago, one of the SO's made it clear immediately upon our squad's arrival that if someone repeatedly neglected to assist in taping targets and resetting the stage, that they would receive an FTDR penalty. Needless to say, the period of time between shooters on that stage was quite small.

In the end, the goal of running all local matches by the rule book is to avoid shooter frustration by adequately and properly preparing them. Once shooters are accustomed to the more strict nature of their local matches, they will enjoy participating in sanctioned matches more. In the end, the sport as a whole will benefit.

If local matches allow shooters to get away with using noncompliant gear, or to do things that would ordinarily result in procedural, without penalizing them, then the shooters will become accustomed to this. If the shooter's habits follow them to a sanctioned match where everything is done by the book (as it should be), they are likely to receive more procedural than they would if their club matches were run like sanctioned matches. In some cases, they may even be disqualified

at a certain point the new shooters need to begin being treated as everyone else is, and start playing strictly by the rules. If all local matches are run strictly by the book, then shooters will be pre-programmed to perform better in a sanctioned match.

In my opinion, regular and thorough gear checks are

**-"If I could only have one gun... I would."
AP**



The author beginning a stage at the 2012 Colorado State Championship.

changing elements to fit and as desired. Typically there are at three to five officers in a club: President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer with some clubs also having a Chief Instructor and a Range Master. These individuals acting together form the Executive Committee. How these members are chosen is up to the club. In the case of a small club just forming up, the initial group of officers may be evident: the only guys with the willingness, experience and time necessary to get the club going. Of these resources, willingness is by far the most important one; time to devote to the club is also critical because experience can be created - time cannot. Determining how the club officers are selected is very important. Even people who enjoy shooting sports can get political. The by-laws should have clearly spelled out terms of office and how they are selected. The club needs to set up a bank account and have a crystal clear process for collecting and handling the club's money. Fiscal issues have wrecked more than one club. Some clubs charge annual membership fees and some only collect from participants, but there must be a method for dealing with the 'filthy euchre.'


Once the club is affiliated with the International Defensive Pistol Association, has an established place to shoot, has a board of directors, has insurance, and has adequate equipment, the nascent club is ready to start holding events. The first match is always the most challenging as you discover all the theoretical ideas become physical and you discover all the unexpected problems. Your first match should be a classifier match. There is no better way to

set the baseline for a new club than to let everyone shoot a standard match. The additional advantage of beginning with a classifier is that it is relatively simple to set up and run.

Once a club has done a classifier match then they can begin to hold small club practice matches. How small depends primarily on time. Whereas a major sanctioned match is expected to take up most of a day, most of us do not have that much time in our schedules to devote to a simple club practice match. The limiting factor is time; for club practices matches should last no more than two hours. On the other hand, you want to give the participants their money's worth; coming out to the range and spending hard-earned money for an event lasting less than an hour with a round count of only a couple of dozen scored shots is hardly worth it. The balance between these extremes usually translates to between three and six stages, depending upon the complexity of the stages and number of participants. People seem to appreciate variety in the stages, some relatively simple, a few more complex, remembering that if the participants are divided up into squads there will be a tendency for the squads to back up at the longer stages. Waiting for more than a few minutes for another squad to finish is a bad thing. As a reminder, a new club can expect a higher than average number of new and inexperienced shooters. That means the stages should not be too challenging; a novice shooter should be able to at least finish the stage.

After the club begins holding regular matches it will move

into the next stage: building and establishing the club. The club will have to shoot regularly, at least once a month, and preferably more often than that; weekly if possible. It is very important to arrange the effort so that more than a few people are doing all the work. Three or four people can do everything necessary to run a club - for a while. Unless the load is shared those people doing all the work will burn out and the club will die. That means getting the word out about the club so that new people can participate - and help with the work. A group of guys who want to form a club just so the 'gang' can practice together to prepare for major matches can count on their club drying up and dying within a year or two. A successful club has to have new blood in order to thrive. That means getting the word out about the new club. It also means providing a genuinely welcoming environment for new and visiting shooters.

Building a new club can be extremely satisfying. Ask anyone who has started a club - it is also a lot of work but then so is almost anything worth doing. 

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HE SAID IT

“Strong vision translates to confidence during competition.”

Robert Vogel, IPSC and IDPA world champion, after being asked whether Claroxan might have helped him win a championship.



OH

Make Ready



Champion shooter and law enforcement officer shares secrets of success

BY ROBERT VOGEL

Robert Vogel is a law enforcement officer, competitive shooting champion and combat handgun instructor. He has won over sixty matches and is the current USPSA and IDPA World and National Champion. Robert has been featured on The Outdoor Channel's Shooting USA and as an expert on The History Channel's Top Shot.

I'm a fierce competitor. I am constantly looking for anything to up my game as a competitive shooter. I have a rigorous, regimented practice schedule. I exercise regularly to keep my body in top shape for competitions, and to perform my best on the job. I maintain a healthy diet and nutrition program

to fuel myself for maximum performance.

A few years ago, I read about the vision product Claroxan in a hunting magazine. A once-a-day tablet designed to nourish, maintain and strengthen eye health seemed right up my alley. I figured it could give me an edge over the competition, and after trying Claroxan in 2006, I haven't looked back.

As a competitive combat handgun shooter, I need excellent speed of vision that allows me to scan a field of targets and make quick, accurate shots. A few seconds' time over a full day of shooting can be the difference between victory and second place.

Claroxan gives me an edge: it's the final piece of a puzzle that includes practice, exercise, nutrition and supplementation.

I've also benefitted from improved low-light vision. I've won the Smith & Wesson IDPA Indoor National Championships five years running, in part because Claroxan helps me make rapid, precise shots in the dim indoor lighting. It also helps me on the job. As a law enforcement officer, I typically work nights. It's hard to put a price on the benefit I get from being able to focus on a license plate from a little farther away than normal, or glimpsing a person in a dark alley out of the corner of my eye.

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Vogel Can't Be Stopped

and Corduzin. Claroxan has been trusted for years by people who rely on clear, healthy vision to succeed: hunters, competitive shooters, pilots and law enforcement officers. I frequently recommend Claroxan to trainees in my combat handgun courses.

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Robert Vogel
Wapakoneta, OH



the first to receive the **SO Code of Conduct**, something that has been on our to-do list for years; this code will become part of the requirements for becoming a Safety Officer. Late this year, the HQ staff will begin working on an **Appeals Process for Sanctioned Matches**, new **Criteria and Responsibilities for Area Coordinators** and a **Rules Review and Change Process**, and I will update you as those are more defined.

The SO Education Tiger Team has kicked off and has a lot of work ahead of them. Our goal is to restructure the SO and SOI programs to include new curriculum, a length of service requirement, and some form of recertification. Based on those goals, we have terminated all SO classes outside of the United States and will not approve any SO classes after Sept. 1st within the US, as all SOs and SOIs will be required to recertify after the new rulebook is approved and released. In the meantime, all

SOs will continue to officiate as they have before; this is a multi-staged process that will continue through 2013 and we will keep you informed as decisions are made regarding this process to update the skills and knowledge of the folks who serve us in this capacity.

Our plan for deployment is underway. After all of our teams have met and we have internally reviewed the book, we will begin our final approval/deployment efforts. They include:

1. Presenting the Rulebook updates and changes to the IDPA Board of Directors. Any suggestions or concerns they have will be incorporated into the first draft.
2. Posting the new Rulebook for membership input. The document will be posted on the IDPA website, and members will have 30 days to comment and make suggestions. As I type, we have folks working on an electronic form that will be used to log

suggestions and route them to the appropriate Tiger Team. Please note that the on-line area will be the **ONLY** method accepted for input. Due to the amount of traffic we anticipate, no comments posted on forums or through personal email will be considered.

3. After the membership comment period is closed, we will reconvene each Tiger Team to assess the suggestions and make any updates. We estimate this may take >30 days.

4. After all updates are completed, we will post the final Rulebook and the date that it will be in effect. The effective date will be dependent upon completion date so that we can give everyone ample time to become acquainted with the book.

Will all of our efforts be filled with “blue skies”? Absolutely not! Like any project of this size, it is filled with complexity. Will the Rulebook be perfect? Absolutely not! It will, however, be a better, more updated handbook than we have today – there will be some things folks will love, and some that folks will hate, and that goes with the territory of serving any large group. Knowing that we will not make everyone completely happy does not discourage us from working toward a better tomorrow. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche said, “The higher we soar, the smaller we appear to those who cannot fly.” I invite you to soar with IDPA as we work toward an even brighter future!

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will carry my Kahr and spare mags in a purse or day bag.”

As a 5-gun Master, how does IDPA help her? “Handgun self-defense and IDPA matches both require well-developed shooting fundamentals. Training for IDPA has allowed me to become completely comfortable with manipulating my gun to the point that everything is subconscious. I no longer have to think about the simple things like drawing from concealment, getting the gun on target, or pressing the trigger. I just let my eyes do the work. It really comes down to where is it?am I on it?if the answer is in the affirmative the trigger is getting pressed. Once you have achieved this level of competency, you can deploy your weapon under quickly and efficiently under the stress and time constraints of a real life encounter”.



Sherry Lyons Briley from Richmond, KY, says she carries a pistol “...when I am travelling long distances by myself or if I am travelling at night when my husband is out of town. I will usually conceal in my purse, but I also have a fanny pack”.

Briley has two carry pistols. “I have a Smith and Wesson J frame



revolver 9mm and I have recently been given a Springfield XDM 9mm Semi Auto which was a birthday present from my husband and family. I use a Blade Tech Dropped & Offset Holster w/SRB Loop holster for my Springfield and am currently looking for a concealed carry holster for my Smith and Wesson”. She came to IDPA by way of her husband, James. “My husband has shot IDPA for years and I have gone with him to most of his matches. In going with him, I have observed the benefits of shooting IDPA because of the real life scenarios that you are put into. I am employed by our local police department and have watched the growth of crime in our area over the past few years and because of that I feel that I need to better my skills in order to be better prepared. I also feel that the sport gives my husband and I something we can enjoy together”.

Lisa Marie Judy says “Not only do I carry daily, I also teach CWP classes in South Carolina”. The owner of B.E.L.T. Training, LLC, says, “I view my handgun as an extension of my body and feel naked without it on me”.

Her Glock 19 9mm with Truglo TFO sights is carried “OWB, modified appendix carry. Due to the fact that I am a large framed and large busted lady, that helps with concealability”. Her favorite holster? “My Palmetto Tactical Gear kydex holster/ I have one in hot pink and one in black (can't get away with the hot pink one if I am wearing white)”.

Lisa, who lives in Reevesville,



SC, attended The Carolina Cup for the first time this year and had the chance to meet many of the ladies who shoot the sport. "I just started shooting IDPA" she said, "and I was so impressed with the practicality of this venue that I am planning to start hosting matches in the fall".



The prettiest Zombie hunter in IDPA, **Melinda "Mel" Zaczek**, carries concealed every day. Her

Ruger LCP .380 is with her all the time in a Kydex inside the waist band holster. Mel, from Clayton, NC, plans to purchase an M&P Shield very soon.

This SSP MM, who is also a North Carolina Concealed Carry Instructor, NRA Certified Pistol Instructor, IDPA Safety Officer and USPSA Range Officer, says, "My belief is that IDPA helps to fill in some of the different aspects of concealed carry that other games and unstructured practice do not provide. I feel IDPA can prove highly beneficial to concealed carry



holders when used in conjunction with other types of training and professional instruction. IDPA is great conditioning for learning critical thinking skills, developing safe gun handling habits, understanding how to draw while wearing concealment, shooting under simulated stress (i.e. - the timer), and learning to react in various scenarios. As a female competitor and instructor, IDPA has definitely helped me become a more confident and empowered shooter!"

This random sample of lady shooters indicates that skills learned in IDPA have an effect on our daily carry skills. As we attract more members from the ranks of the CCW population, we may see more shooters striving to practice these skills at local and sanctioned matches – and to all of these shooters, we say, "Well done, ladies. Carry on!"

A large advertisement for Trijicon. It features a close-up of a man, Taran Butler, wearing a red Trijicon cap and aiming a rifle with a Trijicon scope. The background is dark and textured. The text 'SHOOT BIG. SHOOT TRIJICON.' is prominently displayed in white. Below it, the name 'Taran Butler, Trijicon Pro Staffer' and his achievements are listed. A QR code is in the bottom right, and the Trijicon logo and tagline 'Brilliant Aiming Solutions™' are in the bottom left. The website 'www.trijicon.com' is at the bottom right.

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Stage briefing at the Carolina Cup done by one of The Range's Pros

a lot for the SO to look out for. There are several ways for shooters to go prone, so the SO will not always know how the shooter will approach the stage, or what steps will be taken. As with all IDPA stages, the SO must watch out for the muzzle and the shooter's trigger finger. This can be a challenge as the shooter

Some shooters will break muzzle safe points or sweep themselves when going prone. Shooters with poor trigger finger discipline will make things very bad if they have poor muzzle discipline as well. SO's should mention safety concerns such as these in the stage briefing and be watchful of the issues. I once witnessed a shooter try to dive head first into the prone position. Instead of keeping his arms extended and level to the ground, his elbows were low. When his elbows hit the ground the shooter was stopped cold, his arms bent upwards until the muzzle was under his chin. This was very frightening for the Safety Officer and the bystanders. It was fortunate that the shooter did not

sheet for the briefing or to practice it before the first squad arrives.

will be moving quickly and the

The walk through and the stage briefing can consume a lot of time, make those minutes count and try to keep it timely.

If your stage has a complicated prop, mover, or other type of gizmo that must be demonstrated to the shooters, you need to notify shooters of the shooting order before demonstrating the prop.

This way the first shooter can be afforded the opportunity to see the props at work. Other shooters will have the opportunity and luxury of seeing repeated activations of the prop. The first shooter will only have this one chance. The Safety Officer should take the time to make sure the first shooter is given a fair chance to prepare for the stage.

Earlier in my column I discussed shooting from prone. It can be very challenging to work a prone stage. There is a lot going on and quite



SO's need to position themselves so they can watch the shooter's firing hand and gun. Note the finger in the trigger guard.

shooter's body may be blocking the SO's view of the shooting hand.

SO's should be ready to issue any range command when necessary. Match staff should

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SO's need to be able to issue range commands when the shooter's actions require them

make sure all shooters know how to respond to “Muzzle”, “Finger” and “Stop” commands. Try to use these commands when required, instead speaking in a sentence such as, “Watch your Muzzle!” The single word will be more easily recognized to the shooter. In these types of instances, the less you say the more the shooter will understand.

Match Directing:

One of the more useful tools for running the match is the IDPA score sheet. I love how the Vickers Count score sheet can be used for almost any match, without needing to customize it for the stage. It is well conceived and handy sheet to use.

There will always be someone who thinks he can build a better mousetrap. I have seen several homemade versions of the Vickers Count score sheets. Some are very nice, and others are annoying to use. Before you decide to reinvent the wheel and come up with a new score sheet, please consider this. Most of your SO's work other

matches. It can be a bit hard on the volunteers to use a score sheet that has its input boxes in places that are contrary to the standard Vickers Count score sheet design. What you may find is those SO's will end up putting the string times and points down in the locations they are used to, which will not align with

your boxes. This will make life very hard on the person entering the scores. Please look at the score sheets that are in general use. Think twice before making something

that will end up being a problem for your regular volunteers. This is a good thing to standardize, and not a good place to stand out from the crowd. Remember that our web page, www.idpa.com has excellent score sheets you can download. Innovation is usually good, but there are times when it pays to swim with the current.

Match Directors are always looking out for a new stage or two. There are times when you are busy or otherwise could not come up with stages. The internet is a great source for borrowed stages. You can get stages from major matches, or from another local club. Search engines are your friend here, and you can find a wealth of Courses of Fire from the internet.

You must be aware of a few things. There are a lot of illegal

(Continued on page 38)

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stages out there. They may be so dated that they were originally legal, but were made illegal by a newer rulebook. They may have been written by someone who does not understand (or care to understand) the rules. They may be from a different sport and “modified”, with no regard to the rules. No matter where you download a stage, you need to make sure they are within the IDPA rules. Do not take the web site’s word for it. Take the time to look through the IDPA Course of Fire rules in the rulebook, and make sure things are right. Common errors are using Limited Vickers for scenario stages, too much steel, too many non threats, strong or weak hand shooting at too far a distance, or head shots at too far a distance. Keep the CoF rules in mind when you go over a potential stage. It

will lower the stress factor for your shooters and Safety Officers.

Be aware, that a Course of Fire that is legal on paper can become illegal once you set it up. Be sure of your target distances, distances between firing points and total movement in the stage. You should do a “reality check” before you start the match. While you are checking the stages, check your targets and what is behind them. All hits should hit where intended. Make sure there are no targets to be shot while kneeling or prone that will send a bullet over the berm. Make sure shots taken at an angle will not do anything you are not prepared for. Give it a good once over.

As an Area Coordinator, one of the more common shooter complaints I receive is that a local club does not have legal stages. These rules issues can really anger a shooter, and it is one of the leading reasons a shooter will stop coming to your match. You can stop these problems by taking the time to check your stages for rules legality. Your match will be better for your efforts.

I would like to end my column this issue with a goodbye to a good friend and a good friend to IDPA. Bert Schaffer was the Match Director of Guthsville IDPA and he passed away from Pancreatic Cancer this past May.

Bert was the president of Guthsville Rod and Gun Club and through his guidance and leadership, started up a great IDPA club there. I got to shoot with Bert one last time at Guthsville, at their April IDPA match. He had been recently diagnosed with his illness, but



Left The Range, Guthsville IDPA MD Bert Schaffer

on that day was more interested in discussing the IDPA program at Guthsville and the well being of the shooters than he was his own issues.

Bert was one of the nicest people I have ever met. He was very thoughtful, caring, and dedicated to IDPA and the shooting sports. He was a tremendous help in helping organize and run several of the Pa State matches, as well as a great help for the 2007 and 2008 IDPA Nationals. He once even took some time to help me with my Statistics homework, as he was a part time professor at the local College. I am glad to have met Bert and to have been his friend. People like him do not come around often, and I was truly blessed to have gotten to know him.

The more I shoot IDPA the more I realize that the greatness of the sport lies not with the shooting, the Courses of Fire, or the trophies you can win. This sport is great because of the people who are involved in it. Our lives are all enriched by the people we shoot with. I hope we all can take the time to appreciate this and to spend all the time with our friends that we can.



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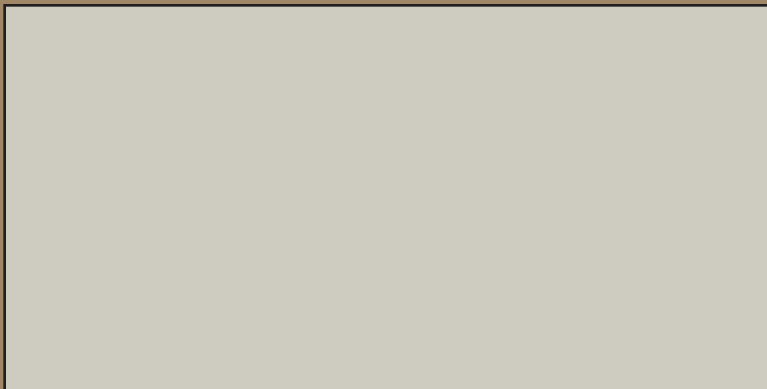
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