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SHOT Show 2007

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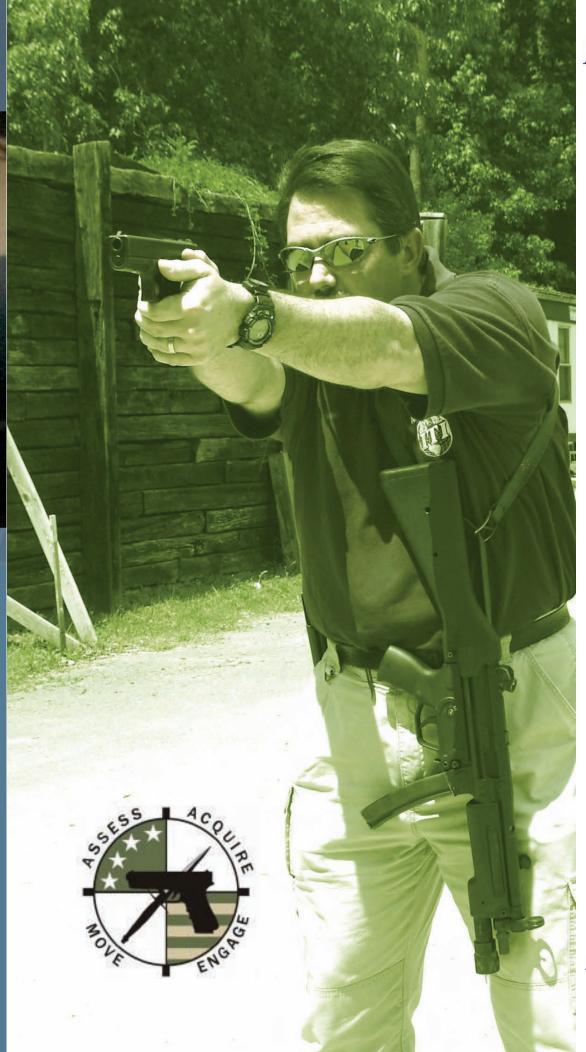
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By:
Robert Ray
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Upcoming Major Matches

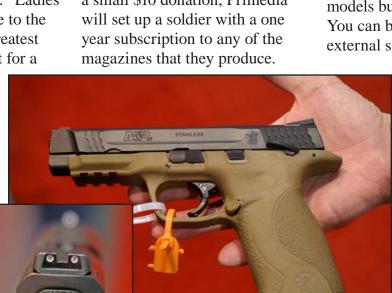
The Tactical Advantage By: Robert Ray

As I stand just inside the entrance to the show, I can't help but hear in my mind words from my past. They come from the Ring master at the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus saying "Welcome to the greatest show on earth". I believed him at the time, but now I believe him to be wrong, so let me make a small change. "Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the 2007 SHOT show, the greatest show on earth"... at least for a gun enthusiast, anyway.

The 2007 SHOT show was held in Orlando, Florida, this year, which was real handy for those people wanting to get away from the cold gripping most of the rest of the country. This year's show was the largest ever with 1,870 companies exhibiting their products. The total floor space for the show was 1.3

million square feet including the aisles. That is a lot of walking and a lot of product to see. I will try to tell you about some of the products that were there, some new, some redesigned and some I have never seen in person before.

Before
I get
to deep in this
article, I want
to tell you
about a really great program
from Primedia, producers of
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These are standard 1st run issues, not old mags or "whatever is

left". Of that \$10, two dollars goes to the Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors (TAPS). This is a program to help the families of fallen soldiers. I think that we all can agree that these men and women deserve all the support that we can give them. For more information please see



the ad in this issue of the TJ.

First off, I was able to spend a little time with the new Smith & Wesson M&P in .45 acp. This gun comes with all of the great features built into the earlier models but with one extra option. You can buy the M&P45 with an external safety. This model comes

with a frame mounted, ambidextrous safety. I was really impressed with the way this felt in hand. They were easy to use and locate due to the fact that the paddles of the safety felt very, very close to the ambi safety on my 1911. At a ten round mag capacity, you can play in SSP, ESP and CDP. The M&P45 comes with or

without the external safety and in your choice of black or dark earth brown for frame colors.

On the subject of the M&P line, Crimson
Trace lasers are adding a model to fit the 9mm and .40 calibers.
This is very new and not yet available but is coming soon.
The prototypes that I handled at the show took the place of the

interchangeable back strap. It locked into place very well and activation of the laser was easy and intuitive. The great people at Crimson Trace are constantly adding new styles to their line up. Though it does not fit into IDPA, these lasers are great additions to a defensive weapon.

Glock has listened to what shooters want and released a redesigned model 21 named the G21 SF. This new design has reduced approximately ¼ inch at the mag well and 1/8 inch at the base of the slide where the web of the hand contacts. You can really see the difference when you hold the G21 and the



G21FS next to each other and look at the mag well. This makes for a gun that feels smaller and more comfortable in the hand for me. I also found that it does not





point high for me, which is a problem I have going from a 1911 to the Glock. The G21 FS also comes with a true ambidextrous

magazine release and the option of choosing their standard light rail or a picatinny rail system.



For

you guys that like compact guns, I have a couple of offerings for you. The first is the new CZ2075

RAMI P. This slick little compact gun has traded in its aluminum frame from the original Rami for a light weight polymer. This new lighter gun combined with the ability to carry hammer down double action style or "cocked and locked" single action and adjustable sights, makes for a very versatile carry gun.

and now they have added to their line up with a chambering

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LOOKING FORWARD – LOOKING BACK Ten Years for IDPA

Article and photos by Walt Rauch

Who would have given a new handgun action shooting sport any chance of succeeding in 1996, what with the anti-gun political climate of the time? And if that wasn't bad enough, the Grand Dame of action shooting, the United States Practical Shooting Association's (USPSA) membership growth had gone stagnant...and was even decreasing? Who would have thought this new organization, the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) would, in ten years, number around 11,800 members? (After the first full year – 1997 – we had about 1950 members.)

Who would have thought such a new group, which did not offer – indeed prohibited – the awarding of valuable prizes or cash to winners, would gather much interest, let alone develop and maintain a solid core of members...and continue to increase its membership?

Who would have thought such a group, arguably originally a splinter movement away from USPSA, would become responsible for renewed interest and increasing membership in USPSA? (Think USPSA Production Gun Class, whose holster rules follow those for IDPA SSP, as well as an experimental 1911 Single Stack Class, which mirrors CDP.)

Tho would have thought the long-maligned and unusedin-competition traditional Double Action/Single Action autos would be shown to be able to hold their own with the hitherto sacrosanct 1911 pistol? Who would have thought there were so many shooters who owned 9mm-chambered pistols and were ready and eager for a venue in which to use them? And, speaking of neglected action types, the revival of interest in revolvers is best shown by this action type now having two Divisions in IDPA – SSR and ESR. (And both continue to grow, as



Ken Hackathorn in a "house clearing" stage at an IPDA National Championship

this current generation of shooters rediscover wheel guns.)

Who would have thought that a shooting organization which was founded on such concepts as "Simply the use of practical equipment, including full-charge service ammunition to solve simulated 'real-world' self-defense scenarios," "No 'competition-only' equipment is permitted," "The main goal is to test the skill and ability of the individual, not



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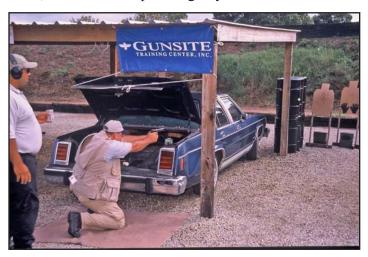


The author, shooting the IDPA Classifier during the IDPA Invitational Tournament back in 1997.

their equipment or gamesmanship," as well as, "Test defensive handgun skills in a sporting environment," would be able to withstand the collective and inevitable pressure of both highly-competitive shooters (both sponsored and not) and the firearms industry, looking for new markets?

Truth be told, no one did – not in entirety; not the founders nor the first wave of members. (This is as good as place as any to state that what I've written here are my observations, opinions and conclusions alone.)

The man to praise or blame for IDPA is Bill Wilson. He had the vision and the guts to back it up, bluntly putting his money (and his good name) where his mouth was. He corralled five of us to get IDPA started. As the leader, he never once looked back; never once expressing any reservations about



Cars are always good props.

what he was attempting to do.

Bill invited five of us to a meeting in Marietta, Ohio in August 1996 to form IDPA. Invited were John Sayle, Larry Vickers, Dick Thomas, Ken Hackathorn and myself. Four were present. Larry Vickers was not, for he had been given an ultimatum by his superiors in the U.S. military: Choose to continue in his specialty or be an active, visible and official participant of a very public endeavor. (He did contribute, though, thanks to calls to him as well as Bill, foresightedly, having covered many of the topics on the agenda with him long prior to our August get-together. As but one example, we adopted the excellent "Vickers Count" for scoring.)

B ack to the founding meeting. Without going into specifics, I think (and the following can be read as a bit self-serving) Bill did a good job selecting us, for we collectively had the advantage of wide and varied participation in many shooting disciplines, both competing and officiating. We also had the life



A "Lazy Boy" start is very realistic!

experience of using defensive firearms off the range. We were a bit naive, though, what with thinking that the resulting rule book would suffice. (The rule book dated 2-15-97 had but twelve written pages. The current one, dated 4-15-05, has eighty-two pages!)

Imust also note that Bill, as well as the rest of us, were, to put an edge on this, reluctant visionaries, since we all had been founders of, or Directors of, USPSA, as well as long-time competitors in the sport. We all, at one time or another, made strong suggestions to USPSA for course corrections we thought to be necessary.

First Annual E-Classic of Greenport Tackenl

by Karen Karl A01268

We could not have ordered a better day for shooting an IDPA match -- considering the day before was a comfortable 82° with horrendously uncomfortable humidity of 93%. The perfect weather contributed to a memorable first 'E-Classic' at Greenport Tactical Association (GTA) near Canton, Ohio. I'll explain the "E" shortly. If you're not from the Midwest, you might not appreciate a day with a high of 74° and humidity 30 percentage points less than the day before. Okay, back to the e-thing. it started as a friendly challenge that occurred during the running of our second annual Single Stack Classic (.45s only) back in June. One of the female club members looked around, saw all the support we were giving the men at this match, and said we (meaning the ladies) could put on a match just as well. Almost. We don't have the female membership to run nine stages, but we could run four stages so that's what

we designed. Hence, the 'E-Classic' was born. Still confused? E for *estrogen*!

We five women set up the stages on Saturday with the help of four of our spouses. We quickly learned that a course of fire on paper does not perfectly translate to the reality of the range environment. Let's walk through the stages...

Stage One used a folding chair to mimic a commode (!) with your loaded gun on the ground. Originally a bungee cord around the ankles was going to be used to simulate dropped drawers, but safety became an issue so that aspect of the scenario was scrapped. Our club has reusable corrugated plastic panels which function as vision barriers. These 'walls' kept four of the five targets hidden from the shooters. The first target was engaged strong-hand only, while sitting

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and holding a roll of duct tape/TP. A no-shoot added some difficultly. For the second string, the first string was repeated, then a door had to be opened, corners 'pied,' and surprise -- a threat target in 'body armor'! The black hard cover 'vest' forced the shooter to aim for the head -- the only way to avoid a Failure to Neutralize penalty.

The concept for the first string of Stage Two was borrowed from GTA's very successful .45 match held back in June. Three targets, two of which were partially behind hard cover, had to be engaged in tactical sequence (1-1-2-1-1 really throws some shooters!). That time was recorded by the SO with the clipboard, and the shooter then took aim at the head of a fourth 'bad guy holding your spouse at knifepoint' With much yelling and taunting by the SOs and other shooters, the shooter had to stay on target (the threat head), verbalizing something to the hostage-taker, while waiting for the beep (20 to



30 seconds does seem really long to keep the gun extended without using support). You either made the head shot or you didn't. Best time for a successful head shot was an impressive .14 sec! The next string, just to add some variety and interest, consisted of



an array of twelve steel targets. You came to the line with only three mags, six rounds each. Seems easy, 18 rounds for 12 pieces of steel. But the first six rounds were shot strong-hand only -- while holding a cell phone in your nondominant hand. After the slide-lock reload, the shooter could continue freestyle. Very few shooters got all 12 targets with only 12 rounds. The steel was spray-painted with a variety of colors to add to the visual interest, and there was a white stop plate that had to be shot last.



Stage Three was three separate strings of fire involving purses, a 'child' (aka a stuffed rabbit) and groceries. Retrieve your unloaded gun along with the



USPSA Nationals, the Bianchi Cup, IDPA Nationals & the Single Stack Classic ... in the same year?

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A HUSBAND'S STORY

by Ron Rasey, IDPA A14334

Like a lot of today's IDPA shooters, my roots are in IPSC. I started competing in 1997 before the advent of IDPA, when there were only two shooting divisions, Limited and Open. I used my favorite gun for my first match, Beretta 92FS, and was disappointed to learn that I was penalized for using a 9mm. Consequently, I ran out and purchased a new single action, Para Ordinance P16-40, so I could compete without being penalized (I suspect I'm not the only shooter who ever did this.). Although I shot well with the Para, it never really felt right in my hands and I missed shooting the Beretta. However, IPSC was the only game in town and I liked having a good score as much as the next guy.

My wife, Marlaine, occasionally accompanied me to the matches, although she never competed. She was



uncomfortable with the concussion of a handgun, but didn't mind watching from a distance. She became a familiar face at the local matches and always had to answer the question "As long as

you're here, why aren't you shooting?"

Unfortunately, my local IPSC club in Toledo, the Northwest Ohio Combat Pistol Club, had its range sold out from underneath it and it was several years before we relocated to the Fulton County Sportsman's Club (FCSC) in Wauseon, Ohio. But, in the mean time, I needed to find another place to compete and there were no places locally. Since I had to look outside my area anyway and IDPA had subsequently evolved, I decided to give it a try. I found an IDPA club in Findlay, Ohio, the United Conservation and Outdoor Association of Hancock County (UCOA). The club is run by Jon Nelson who does an outstanding job of hosting matches. Initially, I continued to use my Para in the ESP division. Then at a Classifier match, I decided to qualify with both my Para and my

Beretta. Not surprisingly, I really smoked with my old friend Beretta, and retired my Para from IDPA. Now I'm back to competing with my favorite gun. And since the action on my Beretta is the same as my duty gun (I'm a reserve police officer.) IDPA competition enhances my shooting ability while on-duty, in more ways than one.

I won't go into the embarrassing details of the level of "shrewd negotiating" that occurred trying to convince my wife to compete in IDPA (mostly begging and groveling), but eventually she caved in and agreed to try a match. It was an indoor match, which compared to an outdoor match, is cramped, loud, and smelly. This worked in my favor, though, because I kept promising her how much better the summer matches would be and by then, SHE WAS HOOKED.

The next obstacle to overcome was how to make the outdoor shooting experience more comfortable for her (No standing in the sun all day and groping on your knees in the mud to reload.). To be honest, I was getting to the point where I wouldn't mind a little comfort myself. The answer to this problem was what I call my "Shooting Winnebago". It's a wheeled Stanley tool box (Not unlike many that we've all seen on the range.), but I've modified mine with all the bells and whistles that make a day at the range more fun. It has a removable tray that rests on the extended tow handle. This tray has four compartments, two, with covers, that hold 13 each of our magazines and two deeper compartments for bulk ammo, holsters, mag pouches, small tools, and munchies. This tray can be

left on the towing handle while moving from stage to stage. The box lid is equipped with two, 360° swivel, padded, fold-down seats. A beach umbrella can be mounted and the box interior can still be accessed with the umbrella in place. Vertical mounts for our two AR-15's are



Continued on page 15



NOTICE

The editorial staff of the Tactical Journal is always interested in articles from the membership pertaining to IDPA, guns or other relevant topics. **Pictures with articles are encouraged and welcomed.**

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Include high resolution photos too if possible (COLOR Digital is preferred but B&W is OK).

located behind the seats. The interior is compartmentalized to contain the following: Cooler big enough for eight 20 oz. bottles, pistols, rain coats, hats, gun belts, timer, staple gun, tape measure, eyes & ears, rule book, bug spray, and miscellaneous small items. Two 20 oz. insulated drink bottles, pink for her and blue for me, hang from the exterior side to facilitate access to the interior without toppling bottles. A trash bag for the empty bottles hangs behind the seat.

Initially, Marlaine and I shared my Beretta and she shot it well without much trouble. However, the gun was a little big for her

hands and occasionally she would get stressed over the condition of the exposed hammer and decock/safety lever. To simplify things, we purchased a Glock 17 for her. No hammer, no decock/safety, and a lighter more comfortable fit. Since the Glock was lighter than the Beretta, Marlaine initially encountered misfeeding problems during one-handed shooting, due to limp wristing. This was quickly overcome by concentrating more on her grip during one-handed scenarios. After Marlaine grew accustomed to her Glock 17, we

purchased a NAA Guardian .380 for her as a CCW gun and she competes with it at BUG stages. She also owns a Bushmaster Carbon15 AR-15 which she shoots at Tactical Carbine matches. Now she shoots in the MM/SSP division and was awarded the 2005 Female



Shooter of the Year distinction at our club banquet. Her best shooting asset is her ability to maintain focus and not allow stress to force her to shoot faster than she is capable. In my opinion, that is the most important, and difficult, shooting skill to master.

Now that Marlaine has embraced the shooting sports, I compete more than ever. Marlaine, or "Dirty Harriet" as she has been nicknamed at the range, urges me to go to as many matches as our schedules allow. We routinely compete at both UCOA and FCSC, where world-class IDPA matches are the rule rather than the exception. The only down side to her shooting is that I naturally assumed that once she became a shooter, she would lose her appetite for new clothes and jewelry and only want to spend money on "gun stuff". HOW STUPID WAS I? Of course, now she wants all three. But luckily, she looks as good in a designer suit as she does in a "Peace Through Superior Firepower" T-shirt. Oh well, it's a small price to pay to have a well dressed, good looking wife and a built in shooting partner. In addition, all kidding aside, I would trust her to cover my back any day.





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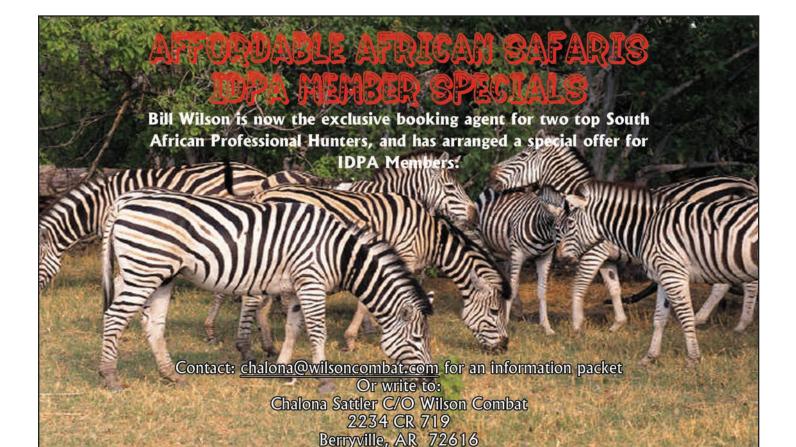
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Improving our IDPA Clubs

By Thos. Pinney (A24541) & Steve Vandermolen (A08637)

The International Defensive Pistol Association as an organization consists primarily of groups of affiliated shooting clubs. There is of course, a headquarters for the national organization, but the backbone and skeleton of the IDPA rests with the many local shooting clubs located all around the world. There are now more than two hundred and fifty clubs with over 11,000 dues-paying members; many thousands more who participate in IDPA events and those numbers are growing.

Some clubs are larger and more active than others. This is to be expected since some clubs are located in gun-friendly states or near major metropolitan areas whereas others are in states with a limited acceptance of firearms or are in rural areas with many fewer people. But it does not matter whether it is a club in Houston, Texas with hundreds of shooters or one in Medford, Oregon with only a handful of members, every IDPA affiliated club can provide a wonderful opportunity for people to get together and enjoy safe shooting. If we want our sport to continue to grow it is up to our clubs to provide shooters, and those who are interested in becoming shooters, places where they can have an opportunity to shoot their pistols. These opportunities depend on high quality local clubs. So it is in all our best interests to have not just hundreds of clubs affiliated with the IDPA but hundreds of really successful, high quality clubs.

What defines a high quality, successful club?



Thunder Tactical shooters getting ready for a Saturday match

The single most important thing that defines a successful shooting club is safety. It is not enough to say 'well, nobody got shot this year'. A club has a responsibility to do all that it can to make sure every participant shoots safely all the time. There must be an underlying and pervasive emphasis on safe shooting equipment and techniques. Most critically of all, unsafe practices can not be tolerated. This does not necessarily mean that the Safety Officer has to yell at offenders; most unsafe acts are unintentional. But a polite but firm stance is required. Any safety violation such as failure to watch muzzle position should inevitably result in a disqualification. Since a "DQ"



Donna Vandermolen dragging a "victim" to safety while engaging targets

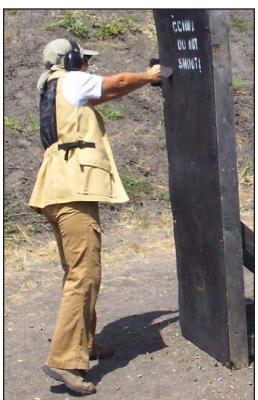
can be a traumatic event, an effective way to keep the shooter engaged is having them keep score for the rest of the match. In those very rare cases of repeated or willful safety violations, an individual should be barred from shooting with the club until they can demonstrate their commitment to safe shooting. We can not afford to allow unsafe shooters to jeopardize everyone at the range.

Another thing that defines a successful club is number of members. This does not mean a small club cannot be a successful club, but at least six to eight

shooters should attend regular events. Since even the most dedicated shooters will miss events occasionally, a club will need about three times that many 'regulars' to keep the organization viable. How do you grow your club? Tell people about IDPA. If you are at range where there are other shooters, talk to them. If there are concealed handgun courses in your state make sure the instructors know about your club and when you have matches so they can tell their pupils were to go for additional defensive handgun shooting.

Of course really big clubs have another set of problems if they have a big crowd show up for every event. There can be too much of a good thing. There should be enough shooting bays so that if more than a dozen participants show up for an event they can be divided into smaller squads to keep the match flowing along.

Successful clubs have a variety of types of members. In general there are three types of shooters who participate in IDPA: competitive shooters, social shooters, and novices. The competitive shooters participate in major matches and shoot thousands and thousands of rounds every year. These 'hard core' shooters often bear the brunt of the work, setting up matches, scoring and reporting the scores, and taking care of the range and range equipment. Social shooters are perhaps less dedicated to the hobby as a



sport, but enjoy shooting. They may participate in events regularly and some are very good shooters, but they are less interested in achieving Master level scores than they are in shooting as much as their time and budgets permit. IDPA

competitive



El Presidente: Al Liczwek showing that even newly-elected club presidents help break down matches

gives these people a great avenue to shoot when they can and have a lot of fun doing it. Novice shooters are typically people are more interested in learning how to better handle their handgun than in competition. They are often those who have gotten, or are about to get their concealed handgun licenses. Sometimes they are law enforcement personnel who are dissatisfied with the abysmal level of firearms training provided by some departments and want to sharpen their skills.



IDPA provides these people with a wonderful venue to learn how to use their weapons safely and effectively. We all know it is necessary to not only practice our shooting skills but to test the firearms that we may someday need for self defense. Remember Hunnicutt's dictum: "Make sure the gun works." We all know of novice shooters come out just to learn the basics and then discovered that IDPA shooting is "more fun than a barrel of monkeys" and become full-fledged active members.

A club needs to have some of each of these types of shooters to be

Continued on page 19

really healthy. A club that consists only of cut throat



Tee shirts: Dennis Hamsher shooting an interesting stage

competitors who are only interested in beating the other shooters at every event will not attract new shooters. The top shooters have an obligation to make new competitors welcome at matches. Fortunately the overwhelming majority of IDPA masters-level shooters are real ambassadors of competitive shooting.

This is one of the few sports where local weekend athletes can compete side by side with nationally ranked contenders. It is a bit like getting to play a round a golf with a PGA pro or having a top PBA bowler in your local bowling league.

Clubs should offer a variety of types of events. Few clubs are big enough to sponsor a major match. It requires a large facility and an enormous amount of work. But almost every club does hold matches, usually once a month. Many clubs also have so-called 'practice' weekly matches in the evenings. These give club members a chance to sharpen their skills in a less formal setting and also engage in some fun shooting. Clubs should try to hold these practice matches, if not every week, then at least as often as the official IDPA matches. A few clubs also sponsor practice days. These are held on non-match weekends and are not scored. Competitive shooters get a chance to run shooting drills and ideally help newer shooters sharpen their skills as they do so. As the old saying goes, if you want to learn something, teach it. These practice days are wonderful way to introduce new shooters to our sport in a safe and relaxed environment.



How hard do you Train?

by Todd Kennedy A22781

I made up my mind that I could no longer keep silent after the latest article reference "curing gaminess" ("tacticals vs. "gamers").

I recently expressed my displeasure with the controversy in IDPA of the "gamers" and the "tacticals" with my shooting partner. I informed him I would express my own opinion to the Tactical Journal if another uninformed article was printed by an IDPA member bashing "gaminess". Why? IDPA is a game. Anytime a shooter shoots for time, score, and a trophy; then it is a game. No one is shooting back at you. The hard truth of the matter is that IDPA matches are a test of your current skill level and thinking ability under stressful situations. This is a hard pill for some folks to swallow. Guess what? This isn't "real life". It is a real match, where people travel hundreds of miles, if not thousands, with intentions to WIN.

Bear Bryant said "the will to win compares little to the will to prepare to win". Jim Cirrillo once said "no one practices harder than to win a trophy". You see, the training isn't on game day. Game day is the day to step up to the plate and win, be it a match or for your life. The training is in the preparation. I have been in law enforcement for the past sixteen years (local and federal) and I have had the opportunity to train with some of the best shooters and tactical experts. To these people, "Self-Defense" and "Street Survival" are terms that invoke images of sheep (i.e. Victims) running from the wolves.

One potential problem facing IDPA is that many clubs are using the IDPA rule book as a "Tactics Training and Instructional Book". I see many clubs forming "new shooter squads" during local club matches. The Match Director and Safety Officers then attempt to take on the role of "Chief Tactical Advisor" to these new shooters. The result is implied liability for that club. Most new shooters I have observed in these squads

struggle with marksmanship and handgun manipulation fundamentals. Yet, the focus remains on these so called "Tactics". The resulting byproducts are IDPA club members and SO's who can't shoot, but label good shooters as "gamers". I have observed diminishing participation at local IDPA matches over the last year and feel the aforementioned by-products are greatly contributing to this. I firmly support nurturing new shooters into the sport, but the all day local matches lasting seven to eight hours to shoot five stages because the Match Director wants to hear himself coach new members on tactics is making it difficult for other members to shoot. And to those who are providing tactical advisement, I ask you, what are your credentials and will they hold up in a civil suit?

Explain the rules and let them be just that.

The truth of the matter is this, there are individuals who are taking the sport to a new level. Some call them "Determined" and others call them "Winners". They understand that gun fights are often over in less than two seconds and occur at distances less than nine feet. They understand speed and accuracy are elements needed to dominate their adversary so they prepare their mind and body for the challenge. They know you can only move and shoot as fast as you practice. To them the object is not to shoot holes in the -0 zone at the expense of time but to shoot holes in the -0 zone as fast as they can. Furthermore, who is this "bad guy" we hear so much about? Does he train? Is he in shape? Is he fast? Does he shoot guns? Don't assume "bad guys" don't train.

Let's face it; if a guy is throwing lead down range with no degree of accuracy, he is just a poor shooter and stands very little chance of dominating his adversary or winning a trophy for that matter. If a guy is shooting the -0 out of the -0 ring, but needs a sun dial to time him on the stage, he could be dead

WHEN I STARTED SHOOTING...

by Mark Mayo A07211

I started shooting IDPA in the fall of 1999. Back then, not only was I new to shooting competition, I was pretty much new to handguns. I happened on an IDPA match one evening after work and watched thinking "this looks pretty cool". I had bought my handgun for home protection and figured that this may be a good way to become more familiar and comfortable with gun handling and improve my skills. I bought a cheap holster, an extra magazine, mag carrier and showed up at the next match. Since that day, I haven't missed too many matches over the last 7 years. And looking back, I was fortunate in a several ways. First, what really appealed to me about IDPA was the purpose and principles. Here's a place where people who carry guns meet, who share the desire to improve their skills and have fun along the way in a competitive environment. Since I had always participated in a variety of competitive sports over the years, this seemed a perfect fit. Secondly, the local match directors and most of the participants at the time fully understood the principles of IDPA and ran their matches that way. The vast majority live the "concealed carry lifestyle". Lastly, everyone was very helpful and welcoming to new shooters like me. I learned a lot from the guys that ran those matches and still do.

Over the last couple of years, I've noticed a change in many IDPA matches. Those who started in IDPA at the beginning and many of us shortly after are considered the "old guys" by many of the newer shooters. Funny, I don't feel old but my kids like to tell me I am now and then. I see a lot of new shooters as well as some who migrate over from other sports to fill an open weekend with shooting. The enthusiasm and willingness to take up the work required to run matches by the new shooters is to be applauded and appreciated. Maybe I'm mistaken, but it seems to me that many don't seem drawn to IDPA for the same reason us "old guys" were. Perhaps the freshness of concealed carry permits around the country is wearing off. But those basic principles outlined in the beginning of the rulebook that drew me to the sport haven't changed. I've seen

a lot of shooters come and go for various reasons, but I'm afraid that too many of the "old guys" have been or are being driven off because of the change toward more "carnival" type courses of fire or disregard for the rules and principles. I see many COF's that really don't follow the guidelines set out in the rulebook. COF's that don't pass what I consider to be the primary, "Can this happen in real life?" IDPA litmus test. What's really disturbing is seeing some of these COF's show up in sanctioned matches. I understand that there's usually some latitude given and expected at local club matches. However, there have been any times I've shot matches that were more about the props, gadgets, and gimmicks that require several mental rehearsals than about solving defensive shooting problems. Stages that I just scratch my head and wonder "How would this ever happen on the street?" There's nothing wrong with that type of shooting. Sure it's fun and challenging, but is it really what IDPA is supposed to be about?

After some of these matches I felt that somewhere, something got lost in translation. Or else someone just chose to ignore things that they felt weren't important. Or they just thought people wouldn't be entertained. I'm of the belief that matches generally reflect what the MD wants out of the sport. They put in most of the work and, to some extent, that should allow them some latitude at their club matches. But being part of an international organization, don't we have a more important, primary obligation? Don't we have a responsibility to adhere to, not just the rules, but more importantly, the purpose and principles of that organization? I learned back in 1999 when I started that if you put on an IDPA match by the principles and rules, people will go out of their way to shoot your match. Following that example, I also learned that you don't need gimmicks, tricks, sponsors, door prizes to attract those "like minded people". Quality gets my vote over quantity every day.

Living in a large metropolitan area, we always had shooters

2006 WA STATE IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP

by Rick Breneman A07876



SO Craig Martin inspects a competitor's gear.

The Northwest Practical Pistol Association (NWPPA) has been hosting the Washington State IDPA Championship since 2002. Earlier state matches were held at other venues, but for the last five years, the match has been in August, at Renton Fish & Game Club, in Renton, Washington. In terms of nuts and bolts, the 2006 match consisted of eleven stages, shot on eight ranges. Nine of the stages were scenario Courses of Fire, and as has become a tradition at "WASIDPAC", one a short-range strong/weak drill, and the other a long-range standards. Virtually every scenario stage included one or more appearing or disappearing targets, and most all stationary targets were partially obscured by hard cover. The stages were designed to be "easy", in the sense that they were not confusing or with designed-in trickery, but requiring



How many shooters and SOs does it take to reset a swinger?



A timely reload on stage 1, for stats guy Kyle.

skill to execute properly. Many of the stages had critical timing issues, and in some cases, only competitors in the higher classifications could complete them without error.

Match attendance has grown with each succeeding year, and one of the major reasons has been the consistency of the staffing and officiating. When NWPPA sought to host that first match in '02, we contacted our then-Area Coordinator about a SO class, so that we would have the necessary personnel to earn sanctioning for the match. We flew him up to the Seattle area, with the understanding that when he left, we would not have only trained SOs, but two of them willing to serve as SO Instructors, and one of those two willing to take on the responsibility of Area Coordinator in the northwest! All we wanted to do was run



Magnus keeps a watchful eye on fellow SO Chuck, on Stage 6, Bait Shop Bailout.



SO Tim goes Strong Then Weak, on stage 10.

a match! Our six "founding fathers" all had years of experience officiating at practical pistol matches, and most had worked state and/or regional championships in the past, so we had a good core group assembled. That first year, we planned big: thirteen stages, shot over two days, with a round count of over 200. It was a lot of work, for a match staff of six. Mulling over, in the aftermath, whether or not to do it again the next year, we decided the one thing we really needed was help. As our monthly match attendance had grown, we had accumulated some very talented and enthusiastic people. Our first SO class was scheduled, with hand-picked invitees. With the match again scheduled for August – the only Summer month in which good weather can usually be counted-upon in the Seattle area – we had a few months to get the new guys up to speed on SOing, and getting them on board to help design stages, create schedules (or, perhaps more importantly, follow schedules . . .), attract sponsors, etc. With about double the staff, we could cut the match back to



SOI Jon Gilbert applies a penalty.



SO Scott keeps an eye out for stacking, on stage 11, El Long Range Presidente.

a one-day event, and still accommodate the growing number of shooters. We've duplicated this blueprint for success each year, bringing in new staff members to supplement the old, adding fresh blood without having to reinvent the wheel.

One of the fun things, in serving as Match Director for the match over the years, has been watching the various people settle into roles that suit them. We have the ex-Microsoft "geek" to crunch numbers, and Boeing guys who can create mechanical and electronic gizmos to move and activate targets or create elaborate spreadsheets and graphics. We have salesmen who can talk you into buying, or selling, just about anything. Others who can weld up special target stands or steel plates, and others still who can construct convincing stage props out of all kinds of odd junk. When this disparate, but kindred, group of guys descend on the range a few days before the match, they can quickly turn eight empty shooting bays into scenes of coffee Continued on page 24 shop shootouts,



The (poker) party's over, for SO Steve.



The MD gets a hit.

garage break-ins, carjackings, poker game crashers, cash machine stick-ups, and just about every other variety of defensive scenario, real or imagined; plus an El Prez shot at 35 yards. This match review is more a tribute to the guys who make such matches run, than a recounting of who shot what, or scored the best. The match results can be seen at the website, for those interested. Here, you can check out "my guys" at work.



SO/Match Registrar Greg gets the better of the BGs on stage 6



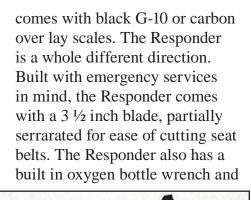
Jon gets busy on stage 2, Extra Shot, Fifty Cents.



in .380. For a true, well made pocket pistol, it would be to your advantage to look at Rohrbaugh.

Chris Lynch at Aluma Grips has introduced a new set of his impressive aluminum grips for the venerable

Hi Power. These grips are a really nice addition to a pistol





glass breaker. The scales are a high visibility blaze orange G-10.

and it's great to now be able to strap a pair on a Hi Power. Chris has also introduced a digital desert camo line for a full size 1911. These are a great looking set of grips and very functional.

Blade-Tech Industries was one of the most widely used holsters in the 2006 IDPA Nationals but they offer more than just great holsters. Blade-tech also offers a great line of knives and other products. This year they are offering two new knife designs sure to get your interest. The first is a Greg Lightfoot design called the Rijbak. The Rijbak is a great folder designed for skinning and hard use. The blade length is 3 ¾ inches and it

Blade-Tech has also offered us a safer solution to our standard dry fire practice sessions. Blade-Tech has introduced a "Training Barrel". These barrels are a highly visible, yellow replacement for the guns actual barrel. Since



they will not allow a round to be chambered, this training barrel allows the use of the actual gun in a variety of situations including, dry fire practice, weapon retention and CQB tactics drills. They will allow the gun to work in a standard holster and are much cheaper and portable than a standard training gun.

While on the subject of safety, our friends



Successful clubs have good facilities. Some are fortunate enough to own their own ranges, but most have to use existing multi-use shooting ranges. Keeping good relations with the owners of private ranges is very important. There are horror stories out there of greedy and short-sighted range owners who tried to take advantage of clubs, and other stories of clubs that abused a range's facilities and found themselves no longer welcome. With continuing urban sprawl, places to shoot are becoming harder and harder to find. Make sure your club provides a good, safe, welcoming shooting environment and work to keep it that way.

Good clubs are well run clubs. There are a sample set of by-laws available on the IDPA website. They list four officers: a president, vice president, secretary treasurer, and chief instructor. These all need to be active, committed individuals who have the time and energy to run the club. But a club has to be more than the officers. An officially designated range master is also a real asset to a club; someone who ensures the club's equipment is maintained and available and keeps good relations up with the club's home shooting range. Really successful clubs have deep leadership; it is not just the same small cadre of devoted folks who do all the work but a broad group of individuals who help share the load and make the club bigger than just one or two overloaded people. The clubs that share responsibilities and pass them around are the ones that last even when the founding fathers (and mothers) are no longer involved.

Good clubs have efficient, well run matches and practices. The shooters tape for each other and take turns keeping score. The match organizers set up scenarios with and eye to keeping things moving and minimizing delays. The participants have an easy time



registering, paying their fees, and are organized into squads of no more than twelve (ten or less is better) so as to reduce time spent waiting for others to shoot. Scenarios are safe, different, of varying difficulty, and fun to shoot. Scheduled matches and results are posted where they are easy to access.

A successful club is a financially solvent club. This is the often hidden part of a well run club. Managing money can be tedious job, but a club that is solvent can afford to have the extra goodies that can really spice up a match such as swingers, sliders, and pop ups.

A successful club considers and addresses the recruiting of new members. This can be done through local outreach programs, publicity campaigns and word of mouth from satisfied members. The most successful clubs focus their efforts on female and junior shooters as these are the fastest growing segments of the shooting population and critical to the continuation of the sport. Remember we should all be promoters of IDPA-type shooting. Talk up our sport.

Finally, people need to have fun. A club should be able to let a variety of types of shooters all have fun at events. Top competitors should have challenging scenarios that allow them to hone their advanced skills. Social shooters should be able to enjoy shooting with their friends in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. Novice shooters should have a welcoming attitude with support and encouragement to help them learn to operate their firearms safely and effectively. Criticism at shooting events should be limited to safety issues and self criticism. We come shooting primarily to enjoy our sport. Members of a successful club look forward to matches with pleasure, not grim determination.

So to summarize, successful clubs need leadership with vision, active members, a friendly and supportive environment and a commitment to help make our sport better for all who participate.



Strong hand Donna: Donna Vandermolen showing the form that made her #1 Lady shooter in Texas

IDPA Pro Shop Order Form

Company and/or Name:	 IDPA #:	
Address:		
City:	Zip:	
Daytime Phone:	Order Date:	
Credit Card:	 Expiration Date:	

Item #	Item	Description	Size or Amount	Price	Quantity	Extend- ed Price
DDT	Official IDPA Targets	Cardboard Targets. 50 per box.	1 - 4 boxes, ea.	\$27.50		
DPT Official IDPA Targets		Cardboard Targets. 30 per box.	5 or more boxes, ea.	\$25.50		
PPT	Paper Practice Targets	Paper Targets. 100 per box.		\$33.00		
TPT	Torget Decting Tone	Natural Cardboard Color.	60 yd. Roll	\$1.95		
TPT Target Pasting Tape		10% Case Discount. 48 rolls / case.	Case	\$84.24		
TPP	Target Pasters	Natural Cardboard Color.	1000 per box	\$2.95		
	-	10% Case Discount. 60 rolls / case.	Case	\$159.30		

For targets and cases of either pasters or tape listed above, please call or email IDPA HQ for exact shipping. We can be reached at 870-545-3886 or info@idpa.com.

CW	IDPA Ball Cap	Embroidered. 2¾" unstructured crown. Available in white only.		\$9.95	
CNV	IDPA Ball Caps	Embroidered. 3¾" crown. Solid back, plastic snap. Available in navy only.		\$6.95	
С	Summer Mesh Cap	Embroidered. 3¾" crown. Plastic snap. Specify light gray or tan.		\$6.95	
CKM	IDPA Membership Cap	Embroidered. 6 panel, semi-structured crown. Cotton twill. Brass buckle closure. Khaki. This cap sent to all NEW members		\$6.95	
CSO	Safety Officer Cap	Embroidered. 3¾" crown. Solid back, plastic snap. Red.		\$9.95	
Т	IDPA T-Shirt	Embroidered T-shirt. Specify navy or natural.	M, L or XL XXL	\$17.95 \$19.95	
Р	IDPA Polo Shirt	Embroidered Polo Style. Short Sleeve. Specify grey, natural, navy or	M, L or XL	\$19.95	
	IDFA FOIO SHIIT	green.	XXL	\$22.95	
CIT	Columbia Invitational VCR Tape	Tournament and Conference. 90 minute VCR tape. Great for recruiting.		\$19.95	
VCT	Official Vickers Count Timer	Pro-Timer IV SUPER that computes Vickers Count Final Score. Manufacturer guarantee.		\$199.95	
RUG	IDPA Gun Cleaning Rug	Easy to clean and care for; just throw it in the washer. Great for protecting furniture from solvents and soil.		\$23.00	

Item #	Item	Description	Size or Amount	Price	Quantity	Extend- ed Price
RB	IDPA Rule Book			\$2.00		
	Items in prev	ious section will ship for \$7.00 plus \$	1.00 for eacl	n addition	al item.	
HP	Hat Pin	Antique Silver Finish		\$2.95		
EP	Embroidered Patch	May be sewn or pressed on Shipping is \$1 for every 10 patches		\$2.00		
WD	IDPA Window Decal	Four Color Decal Shipping is \$1 for every 10 decals.		\$1.00		
	Iten	ns in previous section will ship for \$1	for every 10	items.		
ES	"Elite" Series S/S Shirt	Specify with or without 10th Anniversary Logo. Specify Khaki or Sage	M, L, XL, or XXL	\$47.00		
EV	"Elite" Series Vest	Specify with or without 10th Anniversary Logo. Specify Khaki or Black.	M, L, XL, or XXL	\$70.00		
	Items in previous a	and next sections will ship for \$7.00	olus \$1.00 fo	r each ad	ditional item.	
	Limited Tim	e Only! While supplies las	t for Item	s liste	d below.	
T10	10th Anniversary T-Shirt	IDPA Rapid Dry [™] Tee with moisture wicking capability. 60/40 cotton/poly fabrication. Light moss.	M, L, XL, or XXL	\$19.95		
EP10	10th Anniversary Embroidered Patch	May be sewn or pressed on		\$3.00		
10RB	10th Anniversary Range Bag	10th Anniversary Commemorative Range Bag. Overall Size; 14.5"(L) x 4" (W) x 9.5" (H). Dark Green.		\$50.00		
PI	Personal Illuminator System	Has IDPA 10th Anniversary Logo on back		\$9.95		
ХВ	Tactical Flashlight 1000XB	70 Lumen Output; Push button on; Laser Engraved with IDPA 10th An- niversary Logo		\$29.95		
06C	Championship Cap	2006 Championship Cap		\$15.00		
06ES	2006 Championship 'Elite' Shirt	'Elite' Series Shirt with 2006 Championship logo. Sage.	S, L, XL, or XXL	\$38.00		
06EV	2006 Championship 'Elite' Vest	'Elite' Series Vest with 2006 Championship logo. Khaki.	S, M, L, or XXXL	\$56.00		
TLX	LED 70 Lumen Tactical Flashlight	3-watt Luxeon™ LED Tactical Flashlight. Only 15 of 75 left of a specially numbered run for the 2006 IDPA National Championship.		\$69.95		
NT9	High Pressure Xenon Flashlight	9V Rechargeable Li-Ion Battery Flashlight. Can be recharged or use regular batteries. Only 45 of a specially numbered run for the 2006 IDPA National Championship		\$99.95		

Prices subject to change.
To order, you can call, email, fax or mail IDPA at:

IDPA 2232 CR 719

Berryville, AR 72616 Phone: 870-545-3886 Fax: 870-545-3894 info@idpa.com www.idpa.com

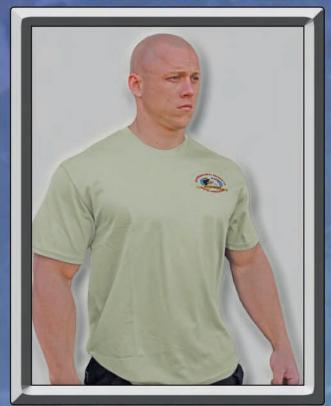
Subtotal: _____

(AR residents add 7.125%) Tax: _____

Shipping: _____

Total: _____

Hot New Item!



This shirt combines the simple, classic styling of a quality crew with high-performance. The Rapid Dry™ moisture wicking capability is perfect for hot weather and active wear. Rapid dry fabric wicks moisture away from the body to the surface of the fabric where it evaporates. Inner fabric surface is extremely soft and comfortable. 60/40 cotton poly fabrication allows for wash and wear and this champion shirt travels well, too.

Fabric/Style: 5.6-ounce, 60/40 cotton/poly baby pique; hemmed sleeves, double-needle stitched and side-seamed.

Color is Light moss

"Elite" Series S/S Shirt

5.5 oz. 100% Cotton Poplin

DuPont Teflon® Fabric Protector UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor) 30

3 Piece Ventilated Back with

Polyester Mesh beneath top half

2 Large Zippered Pockets behind Chest Pockets

Available in Sage and Khaki with or without IDPA 10th Logo



"Elite" Series Vest

DuPont Teflon® Fabric Protector

UPF (Ultraviolet Protection
Factor) 30

Padded Collar for overall comfort

Available in Khaki and Black with

or without IDPA 10th Logo

Personal Illuminator System
Standard with Shown Attachments
Contact On and Flashing Mode



For more information, please go to www.idpa.com

magazine from a jumbled-up purse, load it, pick up the child/rabbit, engage the first target strong-hand only using cover. Put the child down (gently) behind cover, and engage a second hidden target, then continue to the closed door hiding the last target. You get the idea. Next string, engage three targets while keeping a heavy purse on your shoulder. Last string, engage three targets through a car (plywood) window



while carrying groceries, again strong-hand only. The guys coped well with the purse thing.

Stage Four was one continuous string of fire starting with the shooter at an ATM (very realistically drawn). With your hand on the money, turn, draw and engage the first very close threat by 'point shooting' (elbow touching your body). Then engage another threat coming at you. Three targets were positioned to mimic a drug-crazed thug charging you. Shoot the farthest one, then the middle, then the closest one. The idea is that your three shots are not stopping



the threat so the closest target also gets a head shot. While still on the clock, take cover behind the car (again plywood), and finish off the last three targets.



One bad guy is wearing his lucky pocket watch. It stopped a bullet once before and if you hit the black circle/hard cover, it's a miss!

Whew! Sixty-seven rounds later, it's all over, There's a bonus, though...there's plenty of time for reshoots and some shooters took advantage of that.

The day was a huge success. We received a lot of compliments and we've already been put on the schedule for next August. We six women worked hard but we owe a big thank-you to our 'paster brigade' -- the guys in our lives. They made set-up and tear-down a lot easier. We hope to recruit more GTA women next year and make it even bigger. Ladies, if you want to try an E-Classic at your range, here are some wise words of advice. Keep it simple. A stage doesn't have to be complicated to be interesting. If it takes longer to explain the CoF than to shoot it, simplify! Use props! Doors, windows, vision barriers, 'cars,' chairs, purses, bags, cell phones. Have some fun. Bottom line, keep it SAFE. And if you can, set the match up the day before like we did. Then your

SOs can shoot it and tweak it if necessary. The best part is that on the day of the match, all your SOs have to do is run the match and try to make it as enjoyable as possible for all the shooters. So, if you're in the vicinity of northeast Ohio next August, look us up. We promise not to make you wear pink. Or not!

in his next gun fight and certainly will not win a trophy. Who knows? The real question is what are you willing to give up? Me, I am not willing to give up anything, I want to train to win.

It seems that all the rhetoric is focused on stopping "Gamers". I've heard the suggestion; "Let's throw surprise stages in the match to confuse them". Does one really think a good shooter will fail the test? Surprise stages are only surprises if the person setting up the "surprise" stage doesn't shoot it. If he does, someone got a peek at it when others didn't. What about bashing the "racing sport" USPSA? Reading the latest IDPA Tactical Journal issue containing the member's survey reveals close to half (41%) of the folks completing the survey shoot USPSA. Sounds like a good support group to me. If folks would spend more time working on their skills instead of writing articles contributing to the implosion of their sport, they might understand that there are good shooters that win, bad shooters that don't, and some folks that

like to cheat. Besides, of the last three articles printed about "gamers", no one has yet to define that term. I guess you just know it when you see it....or were you really watching good shooting and didn't know what it was?

I think more befitting articles to submit would be "How To Train Better", "Lessons Learned At Matches", and "Good Drills For Improvement". So, before you write your next article bashing "gamers", ask yourself how hard are you training and how does it promote and preserve the shooting sports? I believe in and support the spirit of IDPA, but a friend of mine has a saying, "Trigger time is trigger time, but match pressure can't be duplicated. Shoot more matches".

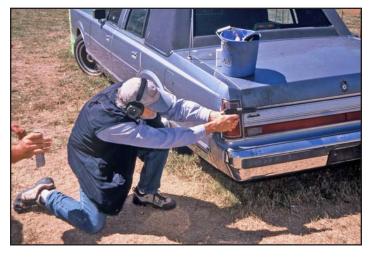
Continued from page 21

showing up who were in town on business or vacation. As the MD, I made sure that the COF's were legal and that we followed the rules. We didn't want shooters going back to their home club and telling their club members "Man those guys run some kinda match. But it's not IDPA." Member clubs have an obligation to run an IDPA match by the rules, not a "Like IDPA" match. The membership truly benefits if the match directors adhere to the purpose, principles, rules and COF guidelines of IDPA. The biggest benefit being that you prepare your local shooters and friends for club and sanctioned matches outside of your own club. Nobody should ever have to hear something like "Well, where we're from we don't do it like that."

Take a few minutes, open the rulebook and re-read the introduction, purpose, principles, and course of fire rationale. I often feel that people skip over these parts to get to the "important" bits. Well folks, those sections are the foundation on which the rules are built.



As one very prescient example of this, Bill, when he was a director of USPSA, submitted a proposal for the creation of Stock Gun Class. He was supported in this by John Sayle and myself, who were also USPSA Board members during this time. Ken and Dick, founders of IPSC, also lent their support, making their views known through their elected USPSA representatives, as well as speaking out where appropriate.

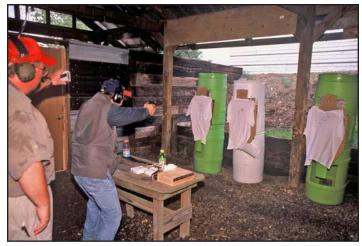


Kerby Smith uses cover correctly here.

For whatever the reasons, none of which really matter now, this proposal and others did not gather sufficient support to be acted upon and adopted. It should be noted, though, that Bill did make one last effort in 1995 by having his representative, Frank Robbins, read a letter from Bill to the USPSA Board, once again laying out the reasons for, and an explanation of, the benefits of establishing a Stock



Perhaps not "PC" (guns and bars), but this stage is from a real-world incident.



T-shirts on targets – IDPA started a trend.

Gun Class. But, again, it met with failure.

The next step after the founding meeting was introducing IDPA to the shooting world and getting feedback on our efforts. The Columbia Invitational Tournament and Conference was held at the Green Valley Rifle and Pistol Club's Chapman Range on April 28-30, 1997. (Match winners were Rob Haught, SSP; Dave Arnold, SSR; Tom Yost, ESP; and Rob Leatham, CDP. Match Director was the late Larry Bullock.) We had already discovered that our first effort at a rule book needed more attention, so a revised edition numbering twenty pages was issued as of 7-7-97. (The listing of IDPA holsters helped the page count go up! In fact, the subject was proving to be what we thought it would be – quite vexatious.)



Standardized threat identifiers (hands) create a level playing field for the shooter.

Isaw that while the rules were working, they did so only if followed by those of a mind set similar to

that of the founders. Otherwise, the rules as written quickly became targets for the secondary sport of range lawyering – the "If I can't win the match, I can win the argument" mentality. The current rule book now numbers eighty-two pages and is not encumbered with specific lists of approved holsters. Also, and sadly, I see what sometimes is euphemistically and mistakenly called "gaming" – which in reality should be called what it is...cheating – becoming more prevalent everywhere other than local club matches. "Round dumping" is probably the offense done the most often – to enable a faster slide lock reload. Do we want a law library of rules, which then requires a supporting staff to interpret what is written? Some might; I don't.

Looking forward, nothing is certain for IDPA nor the very ownership of firearms. In a post 9/11 world, any long-held beliefs about the rights and privileges of living in a free society are open to almost instant modification. Right now, there are about forty states with some form of gun permit; many with "shall issue" gun permit laws. Potentially, all these folks could be members of IDPA. We simply must continue to get the word out, so to speak, both personally and via the media available to us.

At the local level, simply holding well-run, safely-administered matches helps a lot, for other gun club members are sure to come by to watch and listen. When they do, take time to talk to them and make them feel welcome. After all, everyone has been a first timer. Remember how you were received and act accordingly.

There is currently a strong interest in Three Gun Matches, with any number of clubs already run-

ning them using rules picked up from IDPA and USPSA. Since I'm in the Northeastern U.S., with houses nearby most all ranges, rifle shooting has one big problem – noise. And when there's lots of it, the natives get very restless. Neighbors accustomed to the "crump," "crump" of trap and skeet shotguns and the crack of a solitary rifle shooter, will definitely find a way to shut down a range that sounds like downtown Bagh-

dad! (Even local police have lost long-established range use when they changed over from shotguns to patrol rifles. Rapid and full-auto fire was simply not acceptable to the neighbors.) Perhaps a better move would be Defensive Shotgun, if the range backstop



Joyce Wilson, Bill's wife, shoots a dynamic stage at Nationals. (A charging target or two does get the blood pressure up!)

and targets can handle defensive shotgun loads. Actually, I'll be satisfied to just make it down the road with what we already have.

In closing, keep in mind that all the rules and good fellowship will count for nothing if we don't have good course design. The course of fire presented must be realistic and practical. (As in, "It really could happen to you.") Paraphrasing Benjamin Franklin who, when asked by a Mrs. Carroll as to what those who gathered together in Philadelphia had done – writing the Constitution – replied, "Madam, we have given you a Republic – if you can keep it," with IDPA, we have given you a great sport – if you can keep it!



of factors are an analysis of the control of the co

at Safe Direction have added a couple of new products to their line. The first is a new composite armor board rated to stop .223 and .308 rounds. This is a great idea for any long gun user.

The other product is a gun bag

with the Safe Direction pad built in. This is a simple fold down section with a Velcro closure. The added weight is negligible and the interior of the bag is well thought out for the shooter. This is a great idea to have around the home or the range.

That brings us to the thing that we all want,

a range in our own backyard.

Some of us live in rural areas but are hesitant to build a permanent pit and back stop at home. This is where Ballistics Research has stepped up with a great new product. They have a product called Bullet Blocks. These blocks are designed to be portable and easy to use. They are relatively light weight and are designed not to cause ricochets. Built to interlock with other blocks, you can build as big or as small as you want. The material will stop .22 though .45 acp and

is environmentally friendly. Since the block encapsulates the bullet in the block, you don't have a problem with lead in the ground. Once the block reaches the end of its life span, you just take it to the recycler.

For the money, you just can't beat a box of clay targets. They are cheap and fun to shoot but a little tough to do with a hand gun. The people at Sure Site want to help you out. They have designed a clip that will allow us pistol shooters to get in on the fun of busting clays. A hand full of these clips and a rope and you are in business. Sometimes it is great to just do a little plinking with friends and family and this will help double your fun.

Iknow that I have barely touched on these products, but I hope that I have given you enough to want to find out more. For more information about these fine products, please refer to the list at the end of this article. I wish that I could give you more but the show is just too large to fit in here. I hope to see you there next year in Las Vegas.



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Mea Culpa

In my article last issue on the IDPA Nationals, I made a mistake. Those of you that know me will, at this point, be saying "No way, Robert never makes mistakes", but I am human and it happens from time to time. This is one of those times.



When writing about the Division Champions, I left out the winner of the Smith & Wesson/Cor-Bon Back Up Gun Challenge. That person was Tom Yost with an impressive zero points down and a time of 9.90 seconds. That is just .495 seconds a shot with an out of the box S&W J frame revolver; pretty outstanding. Tom beat out 201 other competitors including several Master revolver shooters and the Master of the wheel gun, Jerry Miculek. Tom, I apologize for accidentally leaving you out. Congratulations to you on the win.

UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

February 22 - 24, 2007 S&W IDPA Winter Championship

Springfield, MA Julie Goloski 413-747-3676 w 413-747-3677 fax jgoloski@smith-wesson.com

March 3 - 4, 2007 2007 IDPA FL State Championship

Orlando, FL Brian Demers 407-716-0767 h 407-716-0767 w cfl_idpa@hotmail.com www.midflshootingsports.com

March 10, 2007 LA 2007 State Championship

Princeton, LA
Louis Wagner
318-747-5675 h
318-455-8812 w
318-742-8519 fax
wagner@shreve.net
William Young
318-326-5525 h
318-455-0861 w
byoung725@netzero.net
miculekidpa.com

March 15 - 18, 2007 VA Indoor Regional IDPA Championships

Chesapeake, VA Klaus Jones 757-343-5167 w idpa@cox.net Andy Horner 757-373-9024 w afh@charter.net www.ncrr.net

March 24, 2007

rr.com

Tri States Regional Championship
(suburb of Memphis)
Arlington, TN
Myrin Young
901-826-3300 h
901-826-3300 w
901-722-9155 fax
twoalpha@midsouth.rr.com
Wayne Leggett
901-372-8606 h
901-372-8606 w
WayneLeggett@midsouth.

March 24 - 25, 2007 AZ State IDPA Championship

www.tristateshooters.com

Phoenix, AZ
Don Reed
602-509-7058 h
602-509-7058 w
el_prez@cox.net
Ross Labadie
602-527-0233 h
602-527-0233 w
wrlabadie@hotmail.com
www.phoenixrodandgun.org

March 31, 2007 2007 Mountain Valley Regional

Hot Springs, AR Larry Powell 501-939-2788 h 501-922-1045 w 901-922-6217 fax Idpowell@wildblue.net Tim Boettger 501-627-4057 w twboettger@yahoo.com www.mvsaonline.com

April 1, 2007 Coastal Bend Challenge

Corpus Christi, TX
Michael McKinny
361-991-7215 h
361-877-5521 w
mlm0380@hotmail.com
Mark Woerner
361-992-4197 h
361-813-3902 w
cmdrmk8@aol.com
www.cbshooters.com

April 14, 2007 AL 2007 State Championship

Birmingham, AL Ron Holland 205-601-5400 h 205-995-8870 w ronholland@bellsouth.net Mike Phillips 205-365-3038 w mdp700@aol.com pistolpro/ssidpa/index.shtml

April 21, 2007 SC State Championship IDPA Match

Greenville, SC
Dennis Hardwick
864-292-1885 h
dlh45@bellsouth.net
Hank Cannon
864-286-9364 h & w
www.greenvillegunclub.com

April 28 - 29, 2007 7th Annual Badlands Regional Championship & OK State Match

Tulsa, OK Jack Ostendorf 918-438-2669 h 918-438-2669 w jjo38s@att.net www.tulsashooters.com

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210-653-1277 fax
mosthits@grandecom.net
David Wallace
210-391-4949 h
210-341-4949 w
210-738-3454 fax
dave@brainstorm-inc.com
www.rivercityshooters.com

May 4 - 6, 2007 2007 MD State Championship

Lexington Park, MD James Jackson 301-274-0214 w jamesdjackson@comcast.net Gregory Knapp 301-904-6182 w treerats2@yahoo.com www.sanners-lake.com

May 11 - 13, 2007 Great Lakes Regional

Munger, MI
Gary Cuttitta
989-846-4473 h
989-928-2796 w
cheetahs@hotmail.com
David Alexander
989-846-1836 h
989-329-0257 w
www.linwoodbaysportsmans.
com

May 19, 2007 2007 IDPA AR State Championship

Little Rock, AR
Keith Templeton
214-395-2648 h
214-395-2648 w
ktempleton@cableone.net
Michael Plato
501-351-2195 h
501-351-2195 w
michaelplato@msn.com
www.casarange.com

May 20, 2007 2007 IL State IDPA Championship

Havana, IL Jon Poler 309-543-2856 h & w polbear@grics.net

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Tom Skuse 309-647-6637 h 309-645-5326 w 309-647-8983 fax tskuse@aol.com

June 1 - 3, 2007 2007 Ontelaunee Cup

New Tripoli, PA
Tim Kirkpatrick
484-894-4542 h
570-722-0017 w
570-722-0017 fax
qtrt@ptd.net
Walt Schneck
610-799-4542 h
610-799-5792 w
610-799-2480 fax
hotshotspt@aol.com
www.ontelaunee.org

June 2, 2007 TX State Championship

Greenville, TX
Cody Ray
972-783-0683 h
214-232-8267 w
972-783-8035 fax
delta1cody@comcast.net
Lee Neel
214-789-2493 h
214-789-2493 w
972-527-8952 fax
lee.neel@comcast.net
www.ccidpa.org

June 9 - 10, 2007 Carolina Cup

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

June 15 - 17, 2007 11th IDPA MA State Championship

Dartmouth, MA
David Bold
508-984-9589 h
508-984-9589 w
filthydave@hotmail.com
Jay Litchfield
774-274-0488 h
774-274-0488 w
diver4life@comcast.net
www.rodgun-nb.org

July 28 - 29, 2007 Up North Classic

Cadillac, MI
Dennis Meekhof
231-826-4514 h
231-878-8444 w
dennism@driesenga.com
Tom Tiethoff
616-696-4240 h
616-644-2573 w
tom@tiethoff.com
www.bustincaps.com

August 17 - 19, 2007 2007 New England Regional IDPA Championship

East Granby, CT
Craig Buckland
413-258-4499 h
203-796-4686 w
203-207-7284 fax
craig_buckland@gillette.com
David Bold
508-763-8681 h
781-774-4303 w
fithydave@hotmail.com
www.hartfordgunclub.com

September 15 - 16, 2007 2007 CO State IDPA Championship Pueblo West, CO

Tim Cannon 719-471-2575 h cantimc@earthlink.net www.fridpa.com

September 26 – 30, 2007 IDPA National Championship

Allentown, PA 870-545-3886 870-545-3894 fax info@idpa.com www.idpa.com

October 5 - 7, 2007 2007 CT State IDPA Championship

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Ted Picard
806-818-3363 h
tractorted@hotmail.com
Vladimir Mashkovich
860-305-2752 h & w
860-673-5938 fax
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October 6, 2007 2007 IDPA GA State Championship

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