



Tactical Advantage:

Woolrich Elite
Lightweight Vest
Section8 Tactical
Tac-Pac



2007 IDPA Badlands
& OK State Match

Italy helps put
the "I" in IDPA



New Column:
Run a Better Match
by John May

Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

Third Quarter 2007
Volume 11 - Issue 3

HARRIS PUBLICATIONS SPECIAL

MONEY \$AVING MAGAZINE ORDER FORM



Tactical Weapons

Harris Publications' new Tactical Weapons is the bi-monthly magazine that lets its readers become virtual "insiders" in the world of tactical operations against terrorism, crime, and aggressive military action on freedom's frontiers.

- 1-1/2 years/8 issues for \$24
- 3 years/16 issues for \$48



Guns of the Old West

This magazine gives attention to shooting matches, wardrobe, holsters, knives and other products and services in demand. In the fastest growing shooting sport, cowboy action shooting, the Old West is as alive today as it ever was.

- 1-1/2 years/6 issues for \$28
- 3 years/12 issues for \$56



Tactical Knives

They're the cutting edge of survival! The hottest blades in the cutlery business now have their own magazine, dedicated to complete coverage of the knives that can handle the toughest jobs and the most dangerous situations.

- 1 year/6 issues for \$24
- 2 years/12 issues for \$48



Special Weapons for Military & Police

Here is a quarterly magazine that gives readers the ultimate "insider" look at today's new high-tech weapons, gear and tactics used by the pros who face the ultimate dangers.

- 1 year/6 issues for \$25
- 2 years/12 issues for \$50



Combat Handguns

The definitive magazine of handguns, loads and tactics for personal, home defense and law enforcement use. Tests and data on new guns and ammo, plus how-to articles on combat survival.

- 1 year/8 issues for \$24
- 2 years/16 issues for \$48



Guns & Weapons for Law Enforcement

The magazine that takes you behind the scenes into the unforgiving world of police work and combat survival. You'll see the latest products tested and reviewed, then see how they're used in action against the bad guys.

- 1 year/8 issues for \$24
- 2 years/16 issues for \$48

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Payment Attached Visa Master Card

Total order amount \$ _____

Card# _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Email: subscriptions@harris-pub.com OR
Mail to: HARRIS PUBLICATIONS, Attn: Subscription
Department, 1115 Broadway, New York, NY 10010

Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery of first issue.
Add 30% Canada and 100% Foreign. U.S. Funds Only.

"Shooter Ready"

Letters to the *Tactical Journal*

The Tactical Journal welcomes letters to the editor for "Shooter Ready". Send your letters to "Shooter Ready" IDPA 2232 CR 719 Berryville, AR 72616 Email: editor@idpa.com

Yea for Lasers

I wholeheartedly agree with writer John Knoff (Why Not a Laser? Vol. 11, Issue 2, Tactical Journal). Such sights are common enough, and non-intrusive enough, to be considered standard equipment, and as such should be allowed in IDPA matches. Jim Doran A00153.

Nay for Lasers

In response to the article in Tactical Journal, "Why not a laser," I submit the following as a comment or use in a future issue of Tactical Journal:

The short answer is no. Lasers are expensive. Inclusion of lasers would mean exclusion of many shooters. Someone who uses different guns to compete in different divisions would need multiple lasers. Also, there are still many guns used in IDPA that lasers which are incorporated into the firearm are not available. Depending upon a laser does little to promote shooting skill, other than the skill of using the laser. Lasers can break down. I've had one of my lasers back twice for repair, and of course batteries can go dead at any time. Lastly, lasers do not show up well in daylight. It requires more time and eye strain to see where the faint red dot is at 10 yards and beyond, than it takes to aim and shoot through the conventional sight. Laser matches kept at the club level only, like the BUG division is, might be something for the IDPA to pursue and set up official rules, or simply leave it up to the individual clubs to use their own criteria and creativity.

Rev. James Hary A25213

While IDPA is not currently looking to change the rule book to accept lasers, we are always looking at where progress is taking us. It may be that sometime in the future, there will be a category for lasers. That time has not reached us quite yet but we appreciate all of the views expressed on the subject and will keep them for future reference. Editor

You've got to follow the rules

I would like to applaud Messer's Todd Kennedy and Mark Mayo for the excellent articles in the [First Quarter 2007] of Tac-

tical Journal. Both articles hit home with fellow shooters and me.

Several of us no longer shoot IDPA for the reasons brought out in these articles. The most important of these, in our opinion, are the rules not being followed and or not applied equally to all shooters. We now drive over 140 miles to compete in a USPSA match held on the same weekend as our local IDPA match for this reason. It is time for the MDs to follow the rules, course design and organize the match to run in an efficient manner. We would much rather support our local club than drive 2 hours to a match and 2 hours home.

Chris Kloeppe A16677

More on the rules

I'd like to commend Todd Kennedy for his recent letter (First Quarter 2007 - "How Hard Do You Train?"). It's something that needed to be said. He made many pertinent points to which I would like to add my 2 cents.

Point 1: An IDPA match is just that - a pistol match. It's not real life.

Point 2: People shoot IDPA for different reasons, and all are valid. Some view it as the best and most varied practice session they can find monthly for \$15-\$20. That is totally valid (and beneficial). There is nothing wrong with that philosophy if quality practice is your goal.

Point 3: Other shooters view it as a MATCH. For them, it's not practice: its competition! As Kennedy pointed out, practice time comes between matches. The match is where you step up to the plate, display your current skill level, and do your best to WIN.

Point 4: What exactly is a gamer? If the rules are the same for everyone, and everyone is called fairly on procedural and violations, then what is gamed?

Point 5: I may step in it here -- but what the heck, I've got high boots -- and this also needs to be said. The IDPA Rule Book specifically states that "Range Nazis" are not allowed. Yet, I have run into more smug, condescending, know-it-all, jerk, SOs in IDPA than I ever have in the brief time I have been shooting IPSC.

Four times out of five it's a Marksman Class shooter that can't shoot, but is quite willing to tell me how to tactically handle the COF. The fifth time out of five it's a Sharpshooter.

Interestingly, every time I have run into a Master or Expert Class SO (there are surprisingly few of them... but I saw some great ones at the Nationals) they just let me shoot and called penalties where needed. They didn't try to "teach me" how to shoot the darned thing.

IDPA is a game - albeit one of the most realistic self-defense games in existence. But, people shoot it for different reasons. If the rules are the same for everybody, then let them shoot it. The cream will rise to the top, while some shooters remain at the bottom. If the latter are so concerned about "gaming", then let them shoot the 1000-3000 rounds between matches required to elevate their performance. If they are not willing to do that, they shouldn't disparage the shooters who are. Chris Christian A23489

Chris makes a number of interesting points but I have to take exception to the last one. I believe he is painting with an overlarge brush there! If you look around, I think you will find a large majority of the SO's in IDPA fall in the MM and SS categories. I would hate to see where we would be if we did not have these guys and gals to help build, officiate, score and tear down matches. Those that take the time to SO are a very small and underappreciated few. Traveling around to different matches in the country, almost all SO's tend to be a friendly and helpful bunch. I agree that sometimes they can be too helpful, but it can be a fine line to walk.

Editor

Letters should be typewritten but legible handwriting is acceptable. Letters must be less than 350 words. We reserve the right to edit all published letters for clarity and length.



THE CHOICE OF PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE
Custom Firearms and Accessories
since 1977



2234 CR 719
BERRYVILLE, AR 72616-4573
800-955-4856
WWW.WILSONCOMBAT.COM



Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

August 2007

Volume 11 Issue 3

Shooter Ready

Members' Letters 3



Run a Better Match

John May 6

Women's Perspective

Julie Goloski 8

Behind the Badge

Rob Haught 9



2007 IDPA Badlands & OK State Match

Robert Ray 11

Building Match Attendance

Steven Vanderمولen 13

2007 Coastal Bend Challenge Experiments in Creative Stage Design

Mike McKinney 16



Italy helps put the "I" in IDPA

Robert Ray 22



Tactical Advantage

Robert Ray 24

IDPA Pro Shop Order Form

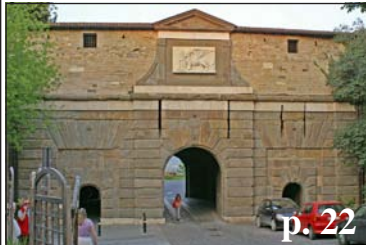
27

Upcoming Major Matches

35

NOTICE:

The Tactical Journal is published as a service for members of the International Defensive Pistol Association. No advertised good or service carries any approval or endorsement from IDPA. All technical data in this publication regarding handloading of ammunition or training techniques, reflect the experience and/or opinion of the individuals using specific tools, products, equipment and components under specific conditions and circumstances not necessarily reported in the article and over which the International Defensive Pistol Association has no control. The data and/or methods have not been tested or otherwise verified by the International Defensive Pistol Association, it's agents, officers or employees. The International Defensive Pistol Association, it's agents, officers or employees accept no responsibility for the results obtained by persons using such data and disclaim all liability for any consequential injuries or damages. No advertised item is intended for sale in those states where local restrictions may limit or prohibit the purchase, carrying or use of certain items. Check local laws before purchasing. Mention of a product or service in text or advertisements does not imply endorsement or approval of that product by the International Defensive Pistol Association.



IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue of the TJ, we would like to introduce a new column by John May. John has been a member of IDPA since 1998 and has given a great deal of his time and heart to this sport. His experience includes everything from Safety Officer to Club President and culminating as Match Director for the National Championship for the last four years. He brings a wealth of information to our magazine and I know that we will all benefit from it. If you would like to write, please do so at editor@idpa.com. Letters to the editor may be edited for brevity and clarity. RR

Run a Better Match

Build a Better Club



by John L. May A03563

For some time now I have been going to write a book on “How to run an IDPA Match / Club” and my related experiences. After some prodding from Robert and an opportunity to put my thoughts in order I will, in a series of articles for the Tactical Journal, share with you the things I have learned. My goal is to possibly save you from some of my mistakes or, at the very least, offer you the occasion to laugh with me about them. Having been involved for some time with our favorite sport at various levels, I have some experience in these topics. Knowing full well that I did not accomplish any of this alone, it did in fact take a large supporting staff; I will be speaking in the first person in these lines you will read here. I say this as to not help continue spreading the rumor that I am an arrogant, egotistical SOB that some friends of mine have started and seem to continue spreading about. They seem to think they are comedians.

First, who is John May and why is he writing about IDPA?

I first heard of IDPA back in 1997 after joining a local gun club while trying to find some sort organized shooting sport in which to compete with my pistol. There was a small group of guys who were trying to get IDPA started and were looking for help. The group of us traveled to another nearby club (Central Arkansas Shooters Association) to see this new sport (IDPA) and to learn what it was about and how to have a match. In short order we ended up joining that club as well. After having matches at both clubs, we were still trying to learn all

the rules and get it all going when we learned about a Safety Officer class in Berryville. Seemed like something we should attend as we only had one certified SO. After all, it couldn't hurt to see what the guys that started it all had in mind. Soon after arriving at the range we discovered that this SO class was going to be taught by none other than Bill Wilson. No surprise here, but he teaches a pretty good Safety Officer class. I still base my SO classes on his class years ago. While there, I met some guys that shared the same interests and I was hooked. It wasn't too long before we held our first sanctioned match (Labor Day Shootout) followed shortly by our first State Championship match; well, at least the first we hosted. I still remember how hot it was that weekend during that Labor Day match.

Somewhere along the way at the club level, I was elected to the Board of Directors as Member at Large, then IDPA Director, later Vice President, and finally President of CASA for the remaining time I was in Little Rock. During all of that, our group had set some lofty goals for our club and for our IDPA group. One of those goals was hosting the IDPA Nationals. We had a lot of work to do and in a few short years we did just that. Aim high and make it happen. You would not believe the core group that had assembled; they would at any minute do whatever was necessary to get a job done. With this group's determination, we were able to take the club from 7 ranges and an outhouse, to 14 ranges, a clubhouse/scoreshack with running

water, a 40X60 foot covered and concrete floored pavilion as well as numerous other amenities that allowed us to make a bid for the Nationals.

In the next years I would serve on the Board of Directors at CASA and run many state, regional, and local matches. Since 1997 I have SO'ed more matches than I can count. In 1999 I attended my first IDPA Nationals, not knowing any better I had signed up to be a Safety Officer. I had a blast and didn't make a complete fool of myself shooting either. I couldn't help but do it again in 2000, followed by being a CSO for 2001 and 2002. I thought in 2001 I must not be making friends because we were way in the back and sometimes it felt that we had been forgotten about. How about the weather that year, it started out hot and ended so cold we had to go buy warmer clothes.

2002 brought a good portion of our core group over to work the shoot-house at Miss. I thought someone was looking out for us. The weather forecast was calling for rain most of the week and we were going to be inside. That weatherman was so wrong! As I recall it was pretty hot in that building and we were getting our shooters from the standards. We worked our butts off. We all ran through as fast as we could to get the targets taped and ready for the next shooter. I learned a valuable lesson that year, standards better move fast, but the stage directly following better run faster.

That last year at MISS (2002) I had hoped to pitch CASA as a place that would be a good home

for IDPA. I guess Bill shared the same idea because we struck a deal at lunch one afternoon. Simple deal really, we want to host the Nationals and we will do whatever you need to get it there. He was expecting demands and I was asking for a favor. I guess it was an easy way to work it out. While the rest of you were shooting, I was seeing the dreams of a group of hard working folks who love this sport come true. I had no idea that it had been decided that I should be the match director. What a great compliment, though I had no idea what would soon come.

Only a few years earlier, my wife and I had closed our shoe repair and boot store and had taken real jobs in the world. Two years after embarking on a new career manufacturing prosthetic breasts, (no kidding) I was going to join the firearms business. Bill had invited me to join his staff at Wilson Combat. After visiting with him and seeing his company, I agreed to come on board. Having grown up reading about him and his company, I was now a member of the management team that helped run the place. Now you know how a guy could leave the prosthetic breast business. I just thought I had the perfect man job until being offered a position at Wilson Combat.

Now that you know a little about me and my past experience, in future articles I hope to be able to offer you some insight as to how you can develop a course of fire, organize a match, and finally streamline running a gun club. I certainly don't know it all, but I did learn a few things along the way. In these upcoming installments I will talk about clubs, matches, people, and how those little printed rule books and match booklets can make some folks so angry and others the best they can be. Please do not hold the staff of IDPA responsible for my


tales of matches right or wrong, and please let them know if there is a particular topic I can cover or at least tell you a funny story about. Maybe through my experience and failures, you can learn to enjoy our sport a little more, or maybe you can just laugh with me. I will try to share with you some stories of matches that are the greatest I have ever seen and some that were not so good. Not only have I attended some of both, I have run some of each as well. Sometimes, not everything goes as planned. Other times, plans look good and well, the idea is just bad. I have written, used, borrowed, and stolen some very good courses of fire over the years, but I have had some experience with some that were not so good as well.

To end this first article I will leave you with the most important tip I know.

Tip one: Never take yourself too serious. Have some fun. Besides being a competition, the shooting sports are supposed to be fun. If you get way too full of yourself, the other guys who are trying to shoot will recognize that you are a J***A** and will point it out to others. This relates to shooters, safety officers, match directors, area coordinators, in fact to everyone. Bill Wilson once said that our rule book was "flexible", a better line I have never heard, but I had to be careful relating this to others because some people take themselves too seriously. After using that quote at an SO class one time a student in attendance asked how you could really run a match or a sport with that thought in mind as guidance. I explained that it was a simple statement showing how honor and common

sense should guide you conducting yourself as an SO and for that matter a human and not just a group of words on a page in a little book. I am sure I expounded a great deal on the answer to his question, but there is little danger we (myself and the fellow that asked) will ever be close friends. Momma always told me I should be more tolerant. I know that top competitors seem to take themselves pretty serious, but as one who has dealt with them at some not so good moments, most of the time they are able to laugh at themselves as well. Try to remember that it is not personal; you are there for your reasons and they are there for their reasons. It can be a difficult balance to determine if the competitor is just wound a little too tight, or he is in need of support. My first year at Nationals (1999), a then IDPA Board member gave me some good advice after a great deal of disagreement over a call that I had made: "Don't take it personal, he is just an ass." You are going to run into that type of overly aggressive person but thankfully they are few and far between. Just make sure that it is not you that people are talking about that way.

Till next time:

Stay safe, shoot well, have fun, and always watch six! 



TK Custom

Moonclips, Tools, & Accessories
S&W Revolvers
(217)893-1035 · fax (217)893-3838
On-Line Store @ www.moonclips.com
tom@tkcustom.com



by Julie Goloski A19366

A Level Playing Field

What is IDPA to you? Whether you are using IDPA as a personal tool for training or if you just enjoy the competitive aspect of IDPA as a sport, IDPA competition is a way to test personal gun handling and shooting skills under the stress of time. Courses of fire are designed to keep stages as realistic as possible. For whatever reason you decide to head to the range on a coveted weekend, IDPA matches are competitions, ultimately evaluating shooting precision and speed. As a shooting sport that has grown to the extent of hosting a prestigious national championship, there should be effort made to ensure all competitors have the opportunity to compete in safe and fair competitions that test their ability to shoot fast and accurately in various scenarios.

There will always be a question

as to who makes a better shooter, male or female. There is the sound argument that we are all equal when it comes to aligning the sights and squeezing the trigger, that a woman can fire as accurately as any man. Here are just a few questions to consider though as they relate to skills in IDPA. What happens when we add the variables of speed and strength into the equation? Who can run a faster 10 yard dash? Who can do more pushups and has more upper body strength to control recoil? Who is tall enough to shoot low targets through a tall window with ease? Who will be able to drag a 50 pound dummy 10 yards with one hand faster? Who will be quicker when negotiating a course of fire with a 20 pound brief case?

Consider how tests of strength will affect different competitors. With more women and juniors involved in IDPA, removing the elements where physical strength plays a significant factor in stage performance helps to level the playing field and make events more fun and fair for all competitors. The next time your local club puts on a match, look at your stages. Do you have any elements in the match that will pose more of a physical challenge for some over others? Is there some way for you to keep the challenge equal without taking away from the intent of the course of fire? If so, you might consider making small changes to the stage so that all have the opportunity to perform well while still maintaining the integrity of the stage.

Women can also make an individual effort to increase their odds of performing well in matches. When I

meet women who are new to action shooting



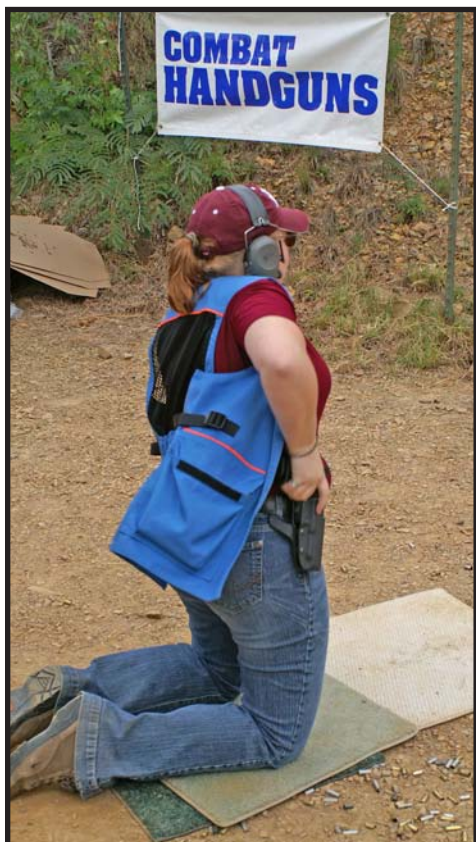
sports most of their questions are equipment based. For a woman, getting started without knowing where to turn to for proper gear in the mainstream retail environment can be quite a challenge.

When it comes to women's clothing lines, stores and designers don't take competitive shooting into consider-

ation. Buying a good sturdy belt, designed for the rigors of shooting, is the first recommendation I make for those wishing to compete. Unfortunately, many gun shops and stores that sell appropriate belts don't always carry sizes small enough for some women. This often causes new shooters to drop into their nearest department store. Women's belts purchased in modern clothing stores are rarely sturdy enough to support a firearm and magazines. If you see a new female shooter with these issues, help her out with suggestions for belts from stores in your area or on the web.

Finding a pair of pants with belt loops wide enough for the belt to thread through is not an easy task for women either. When shopping for competition appropriate clothing, I suggest folding a piece of paper the size of the shooting belt the woman

(Continued on page 31)



Behind the Badge

by Rob Haught CL068



In last month's column we covered some of the benefits of IDPA participation and some of the reasons that LEO's might hesitate to give the sport a try. This month we will assume that you have decided to take the plunge and give it a shot, so to speak. The obvious solution to the choice of sidearms is your issue one. If department regulations allow you to use it, this is the way to get maximum training value out of your match shooting experience. If you are a uniformed LEO, the next decision will be to use your duty rig or shoot from concealment. If it's a local match where there is the ability to do a re-shoot you can do both. The good news is that you already possess all the gear you will need to participate without costing you much money. That's one of the great things about IDPA in that it's not very gear intensive. A serviceable sidearm, holster, three mags and a mag pouch and you are good to go.

While we are touching on holsters please be aware that your holster needs to fit certain criteria in order to be IDPA legal. There are numerous models that have been approved and you can easily find one that fits your needs. Something new on the market from Safariland is the best of both worlds. The new models 6377 Belt

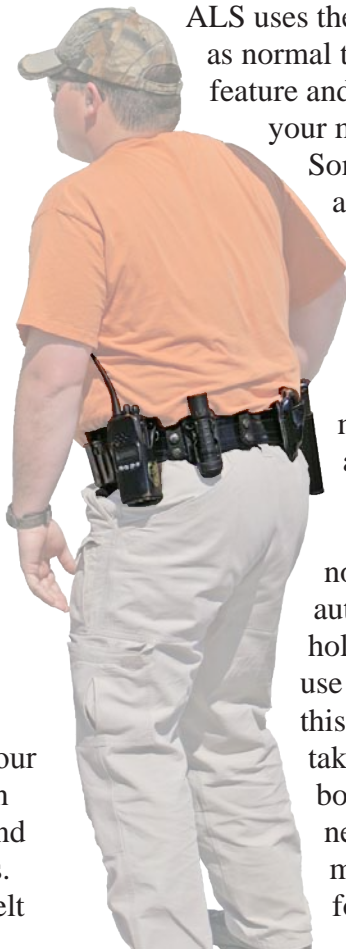
holster and 6378 Paddle holster combine several very desirable features in a very reasonably priced holster suited for both off duty and match use. Constructed of Safari-Laminate material and a suede lining, it offers good concealment design while incorporating the new ALS security system which gives a decent measure of weapon retention that economy priced injection molded holsters don't have. I've been using one since the SHOT show and am very happy with it. It's available in a belt loop or paddle design. I'm not usually a big fan of paddle holsters, but this is the most comfortable one I've used so far. Both are very fast holsters to draw from and the ALS uses the same draw stroke as normal to release the security feature and does not impede your movement at all.

Some agencies require a thumbsnap design for off duty carry because of concerns about retention during strenuous activity, but most match holsters are of an open top design.

As an administrator, I would have no qualms about authorizing the ALS holsters for off duty use by my Deputies. If this is an issue for you, take one of these to the boss for his blessing if needed. Probably the most common holsters found at matches

are Blade-Tech products. They pioneered the Kydex revolution in holster making and have grown to be one of the biggest names in the business. Over the years, I've used more of them than I can count. You can't go wrong with either manufacturer.

Mag pouches can be had from any of the holster makers and the decision to go with a single or double mag design is personal preference. I like to carry two singles so I can position them around whatever belt loop location is on my pants. Also, some double pouches place the mags so close together you can inadvertently grab both during reloads. That's just me. Having the best holster and mag pouch system does you no good if you have a flimsy belt that won't support them. I see this often with new shooters. Do yourself a favor and do it right from the start. I recommend one of the nylon "tactical" style belts that has a plastic reinforcing liner such as the superb one from The Wilderness Company in Arizona. They have the stiffness to hold the weight of the holster and gear without sagging. Get the 1½" model as most holsters have this size belt loop platform and you can wear it with most all pants these days. In the mist shrouded past, we all wore 1¾" heavy leather belts with the fancy gunfighter stitching from Bianchi, Milt Sparks or Gordon Davis made from real, honest-to-God, harness leather, but now no one makes jeans or any other pants that will accept this width and they have faded from use. It's hard to



(Continued on page 26)



LIGHT WEIGHT COVER-UP



- ❖ Ideal for concealed carry
- ❖ Perfect for IDPA competitors
- ❖ Generous fit



- ❖ Light & airy
- ❖ Dress or casual wear
- ❖ Travels well
- ❖ E-Z care/wrinkle resistant
- ❖ All seams & facings double-stitched with fusing for strength & resilience
- ❖ Extra length
- ❖ 3 outside patch pockets, 1 inside breast pocket



SMITH & ALEXANDER, Inc.
 P.O. Box 299
 Copeville, Texas USA
 75121
 1/800-SA2-1911
 1/972-853-0526 Fax
 www.smithandalexander.com

Your Chest Size	Small 34-38	Med. 39-43	Lg 44-47	1XL 48-51	2XL 52-54
	3XL 55-57	4XL 58-61	5XL 62-64	6XL 65-67	7XL 68-70



Black, Tan, Gray, Stonewash Blue, Slate & Olive
Retail \$38.00 (S-3XL) IDPA \$32.00
\$44.00 (4XL-7XL) IDPA \$37.00

Orders shipped same day COD or CIA
 Plus \$5.00 for shipping & handling

Made exclusively by Smith & Alexander Inc. in the U.S.A.



PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

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

Third Quarter 2007
 Circulation 13000

TACTICAL JOURNAL

Volume 11 - Issue 3

NOTICE

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

Viewpoints expressed in **IDPA TACTICAL JOURNAL** are those of their respected authors and are not necessarily held by the Publisher.

Distribution Schedule: Quarterly publication with projected mailing dates of February 1; May 1; August 1; November 1

Closing Dates for Ad Copy: January 1, April 1, July 1 & October 1

Advertising Rates: Contact IDPA Headquarters for an advertising packet and rate schedule

Payment Terms: Prepayment or Net 30 days to approved accounts.

Mechanical Requirements: Advertisement copy is acceptable in any one of the following options:

1) Digital (Please call (870) 545-3886 or e-mail IDPA Headquarters at info@idpa.com for Digital requirements); 2) Black & white slick, separated camera ready art or black & white laser printout; 3) Film. 120 line screen on any halftone.

Note: Ads must be the correct dimensions.

Shipping Instructions: Ads should be sent to: **IDPA TACTICAL JOURNAL**, 2232 CR 719, Berryville, AR 72616

(NOTE: If you are sending ad copy close to the closing date deadline, please call Dru Nichols at 870-545-3833 or e-mail her at dru@idpa.com for shipping instructions.)

Publisher: Joyce Wilson
 Production Editor: Dru Nichols

Printing/Distribution: Print Group, Inc.
 Advertising Sales: Robert Ray

Editor In Chief: Robert Ray

Copyright © 2007 International Defensive Pistol Association, Inc.

2007 IDPA Badlands & OK State Match

by Robert Ray A05118

I know that the “Badlands” is the name of the match, but I have to call BS. All I found was blue skies, great people, a wonderful facility, and a really fun match.

The 7th annual Badlands Championship and Oklahoma State match took place on April 28th & 29th at the beautiful Oil Capital Rod and Gun club outside Tulsa, OK. The match was a two day format with competitors shooting 16 stages spread out over Saturday and Sunday. The SO's shot the match in one day on Friday. The match director was kind enough to allow me to shoot with the SO's so I would have a better opportunity to cover the match.

I arrived at the range early Friday morning thinking I was ready to go. I really was feeling good about my shooting ability. I could not help thinking “My gun fu is strong today.” Ok, so maybe that is a little much. However, it was a nice morning, the sky was partly cloudy and the temperature was just right. It could not have been a better day to be outside, especially outside shooting. The hard working SO's were able to get through the stages at a relaxed pace which was nice. I know from past experience that the SO's at sanctioned matches usually get

the dirty end of the stick when it comes to shooting. Lots of times, they have to contend with setting up and trouble shooting the stages as they go along. This usually is not conducive to shooting well. However, the staff at Oil Capitol had their act together and this allowed the SO's to just shoot like regular competitors.



As usual, I did not shoot well, but that did not stop me from having a good time. The SO's and staff were a great bunch of people, friendly and professional were the orders of the day. The stage designers had done their homework and had provided us with some really fun and challenging courses of fire. The competitors had the option of shooting a half day either Saturday morning or afternoon and then all competitors would finish up on Sunday. I admit, it was a little different arraignment, but hey, it worked. On Saturday you shot stages 1 though 9 and those stages were worthy of being a sanctioned match by themselves. Even better, you were able to get in more shooting on Sunday when you finished the remaining 7 stages.

One of the more visually stimulating and challenging stages on
(Continued on page 20)



A man wearing a blue cap with "Team Springfield" on it, blue ear protection, and a dark vest over a white shirt is aiming a handgun. The background is a blurred green wall.

HAVE YOU EVER WON

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

YOUR SPRINGFIELD HAS.

(Three times.)

In the history of practical shooting, no one has finished on top more than Rob Leatham. But if you want to come close, you can start where he does — with a Loaded Series Springfield Armory 1911. With dozens of manufacturers making a 1911, the world's best practical shooter can choose any one he wants. To learn why Rob Leatham chooses Springfield Armory, call 800-680-6866 or visit springfieldarmory.com



**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY USA®**

Building Match Attendance

by Steven Vandermolén A08637

OK, you and your friends have finally gotten access to a range, acquired some great props and received your club sanction letter from IDPA headquarters. Or...you are an existing club that has a small core group of people who enjoy the sport and your time together. There comes a point when every IDPA club, new or old needs to make a decision. The members need to ask themselves if they want to actively attract new shooters into their club or just see who shows up. If you have a passion for our sport and believe there is a value in having more people enjoying IDPA, you have to actively seek out new shooters and get them involved. Then, you need to make the initial experience such that the new shooter will return.

There are four phases in the effort to accomplish this. They are outreach, welcome/introduction, first match and follow-up.

Active Outreach

Tom Pinney's article in the last issue of Tactical Journal did a great job of covering how to attract people to the sport. The goal of this article is to build on his foundation and offer some strategies on how to expand your outreach and get new shooters to return after their first match.

Posting your club's name, location and contact information on the IDPA web page is important as is having a club web page as parts of an outreach program for new shooters these things, however, are not an active outreach program. The only people who will find your club

through these sources are people who know about IDPA and are looking for a place to participate.

An active outreach program is different. It requires the club go out and find opportunities to inform people about the sport and encourage them to try it.

The most common form that active outreach takes is word-of-mouth. If you have people in the club who are having fun, improving their skills, and enjoy the challenge of IDPA shooting, they will talk about it to their friends and neighbors. In our club, this has proven to be our most effective outreach program. This method is also effective because the new shooter has a "support system" already in place through the member who invited them.

Some other active outreach methods we have found effective are:

Place a listing in the "Activities" or "Organizations" sections of local newspapers. This posting is usually free and broadens your exposure to a wide audience.

Newspaper or magazine articles about the club, its activities, or its members published in local papers are a great opportunity for exposure. We have had numerous articles published in the local paper about our club and what we do. While some of them were general in nature, the most effective ones are articles that focus on a specific notable event. Junior shooters, women shooters, fund-raising events, and major matches are great subjects for articles in the local press. Articles that focus on new shooters and their entry into the

sport are especially effective.

Concealed handgun license holders are a great source of new members. Where it is allowed, a short presentation to a CHL class to discuss how participation in an IDPA event can enhance their gun handling skills can get these people to come to a match.

The ways to reach out to bring new shooters into the game is limited only by your imagination and resources. Be creative and don't depend on one form of outreach, use every method available.

Welcome/Introduction

Getting the shooter interested in IDPA is the easy part. The real challenge is making their initial experience so enjoyable that they want to come back. The welcome and introduction to the club is the place where the foundation is laid. This critical step needs to be done right.

The introduction of new shooters to IDPA is most effective when it is done by a sympathetic experienced shooter who understands how to explain IDPA shooting and is able to ease the new shooter's anxiety.

Conducting an orientation for a new shooter takes some thought. For example, don't overload a new shooter with discussions of how to shoot, or what is the 'best' equipment. Give them information on how to shoot the match safely, within the rules, using the equipment they have available. They will have plenty of time to determine the skills they need and the equipment they want as they gain

(Continued on page 15)

Proven to Perform



Doug Koenig
 • 12 Time Masters International Champion
 • 10 Time Bianchi Cup Champion

Bruce Platt
 • 4 Time Bianchi Cup Champion
 • 16 Time USPSA National Law Enforcement Champion
 • 5 Time 3-Gun Tactical Match World Champion

Todd Jarrett
 • 9 Time USPSA National Champion
 • 4 Time IPSC World Champion

TEAM STARLINE
 Proven to Perform

Like these champions, Starline knows what it takes to become the best. We believe you must take the time to absorb feedback and then enhance your process. It's the attention to detail that helps Starline make the finest brass, case after case, shot after shot. Let us prove to you what these champions already know, a great shot starts with Starline Brass.

Order factory direct on-line at
www.starlinebrass.com
 or call 1-800-280-6660.

NEW ★ UNPRIMED BRASS	
CALIBER	
30 LUGER	
7.62X25 TOKAREV	
380 AUTO	
9MM	
9MM LARGO	
9 SUPER COMP (9X23)	
356 TSW	
38 SUPER	
38 SUPER+P	
38 SUPER COMP	
38 TJ	
38 SHORT COLT	
38 LONG COLT	
38 SPECIAL	
357 MAG	
357 SIG	
40 S&W	
10MM	
40 SUPER	
45 G.A.P.	
45 AUTO	
45 AUTO RIM	
45 COLT	
460 MAG	
500 S&W MAG (R)	

This is a partial list.
 Call or check web site for a complete list of products.
 1-800-280-6660 or www.starlinebrass.com



Starline
 Made With Pride in the USA
 1300 W. Henry St. • Sedalia, MO 65301

© 2007 Starline Brass

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.**

Submission or editorial information should be sent to:

IDPA HQ • Attn: T.J.
2232 CR 719 • Berryville, AR 72616
or
e-mail: TacticalJournal@idpa.com

Submissions can be sent as:

#1 WORD Via e-mail

#2 Word on disc Via Snail mail.

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

experience. Focus on safety and the basic rules. The shooter should be told their goal is to shoot the match at a speed that they can stay safe and in control.

We conduct the new shooter orientation immediately prior to a match and we do not require them to observe a match prior to being allowed to shoot. Everyone today is busy; we all have commitments to family, job, and a multitude of other things. Asking someone to attend an orientation separate from a match can be a deal-breaker. It is far better to give them a basic safety and rule orientation just prior to a match and then let them participate in the match.

New shooters who observe a match prior to shooting rarely remember the performance of the beginner shooters; they remember the performance of the highest level shooters. This can be intimidating to the new shooter. We have had many shooters observe a match and tell us they will return when they have practiced more and feel they are ready. Usually, they don't return. For this reason we encourage new shooters to bring their equipment and plan on shooting rather than requiring them to observe a match. Those who participate usually return.

The First Match

After the orientation and safety briefing is completed, the new shooter needs to be integrated into the group as quickly as possible. The club should identify shooters and Safety Officers who have the desire and talent to develop new shooters. The new shooter should be assigned to a "mentor" who is someone who understands the rules, and is willing to "coach" the

new shooter through the match. This is not a training position, just a friendly, knowledgeable person who is available to answer questions, clarify rules, and make some basic suggestions about shooting a scenario. If the new shooter is a woman, the mentor should, whenever possible, also be a woman. The new shooter should not be overwhelmed with technique and equipment information; they only need to succeed in getting through their first match safely and in a positive manner. The mentor's role is to keep them focused on safety and the rhythm of the match.

The new shooter should be run during their first match by a single, experienced safety officer who has the desire to encourage new shooters. There is no place for ridicule, heavy handedness for any other negatives on the part of this SO. The SO should be able to run the new shooter safely, provide information on potential tricky places in the scenario and encourage them when they are done. If the shooter earns a procedural, the circumstances for the procedural should be discussed with the shooter. We have found that if the shooter earns a procedural, it is best to get the range safe, and ask the score keeper to score the targets while the SO has a quiet discussion with the shooter about the reason for the procedural call. A shooter who is embarrassed or belittled during a match will usually not return.

In those very rare occasions when a new shooter cannot or will not listen to the SOs instructions, or does not shoot in a safe manner, the new shooter must be taken aside and given a calm but pointed reminder of the safety rules and their goals for this match.

The first match for a new shooter is critical. If it is a positive experience, they will find the time to come back. If it is not a positive experience, even if they like the idea of the sport, they will not return.

Follow-up

After the shooter has completed the match it is important to get feedback on their experience for two

(Continued on page 37)

Having Trouble Seeing Your Front Sight?



Decot Hy-Wyd Can Solve Your Problem!

Decot-Hy-Wyd has set the standards for shooting glasses since 1949.

Custom prescription lenses with inverted biofocal of intermediate power to bring that site into perfect focus. Other custom alternatives also available.

Interchangeable lenses of 40+ shades to create superior contrast.

Non-prescription lenses available.



Decot Hy-Wyd

SPORT GLASSES, INC.

P.O. Box 15830, Phoenix, AZ 85060

Call... 800-528-1901 or 602-955-7682

Fax... 602-955-7151

<http://www.sportglasses.com>

E-mail: decot@sportglasses.com

2007 Coastal Bend Challenge

by Mike McKinney A22824

“..on the cover of the Rolling Stone.”

Many of you will probably remember the lyrics above from a popular Dr Hook & the Medicine Show tune of the early ‘70s. In those days, if a band made the cover of Rolling Stone Magazine, it was considered to be a monumental achievement. Today, if an IDPA club has their annual sanctioned match mentioned in Tactical Journal, it may not be monumental, but it is certainly an honor and most assuredly cause for celebration.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Mike McKinney, Vice President, Coastal Bend Shooters, and I have had the pleasure of serving as Match Director for the Coastal Bend Challenge the past two years.

Coastal Bend Shooters is a relatively small club in Corpus Christi, Texas with annual membership typically in the fifty member range. But despite our small size, we still

put on two IDPA matches each month along with USPSA and ICORE matches, quarterly Carbine or Multi-Gun matches, and the annual Coastal Bend Challenge.

CBC 2007, our third sanctioned

mix this year.

Almost seventy shooters, representing nearly every IDPA Division and Class, attended the match. Most of the attendees were from Texas but we also had folks from



match, was held on April 1st this year at the Starry Range here in Corpus. Rain was forecast but fortunately the weather guessers missed the mark with only a light mist in the morning.

The match was comprised of

eight stages, a minimum round count of 120, and a wide assortment of props. Also, thanks to the generosity of one of our longtime members, Ben Crabtree, we were able to add a vehicle to the

Oklahoma and even one shooter from Alaska!

Attracting people from such distances is only possible if a club has a well known track record for putting on safe, challenging, and enjoyable matches. Those of you who have taken the plunge and held popular, successful IDPA sanctioned events, know what it takes to achieve such a reputation. At the top of my personal list of essential ingredients is a core group of intensely-dedicated, knowledgeable, and imaginative club members with a wealth of hands-on experience.

This may seem self-evident to the inexperienced observer but those of you who have been regular Match Directors know all too well how fortunate it is to find individuals with these qualities. I am also certain you are very familiar with



2007 Coastal Bend Challenge



the demanding task of helping these hard-working folks avoid the insidious enemy of all clubs, burn-out.

Fortunately, Coastal Bend Shooters has been able to maintain just such a core group and without their tireless efforts and dedication, there would be no such thing as the Coastal Bend Challenge.

Now, for those who may be future IDPA Match Directors, I would like to concentrate on the lessons learned rather than describe the stages in detail. However, all the CoF descriptions for CBC 2007 are available on our website so if you want to follow along, on the signal, draw your mouse, strong-hand-only, and go to:

www.cbshooters.com/galleries/cbs-cof-library

From there, choose the IDPA section and finally, click on CBC 2007.

Also, for the photo lovers among you, there are over two hundred of them from the match at:

www.cbshooters.com/galleries/match-photos

and as before, choose the IDPA section and then click on CBC 2007.

Stage 1, “The Two Window Blues,” incorporated our stationary “Wall” that offers our CoF designers the flexibility of utilizing multiple open or closed windows and one doorway. This was a fairly quick stage with three shooting positions and the lesson learned here was to ensure that the clamshell popup is triggered a second or so sooner next time so the target is at least halfway through its rotation when the shooter is ready to engage.

Stage 2, “Shortcut Trouble,” was a straightforward yet demanding scenario because it immediately challenged our ingrained double tap habits with the requirement to engage a disappearing swinger with six rounds. No technical problems noted here.

Stage 3, “The Move Up,” did generate some pre-match questions by our club’s only (so far, anyway) Master Class shooter, Benny Hill, concerning moving and engaging threats while in the open but, with cover nearby. We opted for the tried and true K.I.S.S. solution by clearly depicting the defined area for shooting position three which eliminated the ambiguity.

However, Good ol’ Murphy bit us big time on Stage 4, “Backyard Boogie”. During the past few months, we have been steadily

tweaking the operation of a gravity cable mover that was fabricated by another of our hard-working members. Up until the week before the match, it had been working very well but, when we shot the stage for test purposes at our monthly match, out of the blue the pulleys on the mover’s trolley started to bind, slowing it down. Not wanting any problems on match day, we thought we had the perfect solution and installed larger, deeper pulleys.

But you know Mr. Murphy, he doesn’t give up easily and sure enough, when the staff began shooting this stage on Saturday, we discovered that the new pulleys which were slightly wider, caused a different type of binding. So, with no time left to go to Plan C, we had to eliminate the mover and add another stationary threat target. Even so, we still received many compliments on the stage while also learning a valuable lesson.

Stage 5, “Look Out Below,” also included a gravity mover but unlike the previous CoF, this mover utilized a fixed, wooden track. That coupled with good rollers allowed Sir Issac’s Universal Law of Gravitation to work unfettered yielding very reliable and predictable motion. Many positive comments on this CoF as well.

The design of Stage 6,

(Continued on page 34)



Experiments in Creative Stage Design

by Rob Reid A19639

A couple months ago I went out to the club with a shooting buddy. You know the day, you go out for two or three hours, but leave after eight. We got to talking about stage design, and targets. I am fortunate enough to live in an area, central Florida, that has several good IDPA clubs, and there are matches somewhere every weekend. And the general level of the stages has gotten better and better. But not much use of moving targets. Sure, you see the swinger, and occasionally a drop/turner or clamshell, and there is one club with an excellent cable mounted mover, but that's it. I was telling him about moving targets I had seen at some major matches, and how it should be easy to build something like those. My buddy

says, "So, why don't you?"

I saw some really cool up/down targets at, I think, the Carolina Cup. They would come up, and then go back down. I saw they used a weight that would roll off. Then later that year saw some other targets that flipped up and went back down. These were in Georgia, and made of wood and PVC. I figured it would not be too difficult to make something like the up/down targets out of wood and PVC. How hard could it be? And it shouldn't cost much.

I designed a stage that used three of the up/down targets, and one lean-out target. Something I had not yet seen, but how hard could it be. (Note to self: Before

designing a stage with moving targets, know how to make targets move.)

On my next day off, it was two cups of coffee, and off to the local home improvement store. By the time darkness fell I had the first stand. It just needed tuning, i.e. getting the weights right. The following Sunday was my club's IDPA match. I thought I could have it ready. The idea was to hide the stand behind a barrel, and the target would come up, and then disappear. Then I had a thought, how big is a barrel? A quick internet search and, hmmm. (Note to self: When building a stand to hide behind something, find out it's size before building stand.) In a flash of inspi-



Build your own range.

Revolutionary patent-pending Bullet Blocks™ eliminate ricochet and absorb thousands of rounds without degradation of material.

- The only target system that allows you to create your own firing range by stacking and interlocking multiple blocks; make your range as large or small as you need.
- Same design as used in "Military Shoot Houses."
- Lightweight and portable.
- Blocks interlock for a secure fit.
- Encapsulates projectiles inside blocks, trapping lead and protecting the environment.

The Bullet Block™ system is rated for use with handguns and rifles chambered for .17 HMR, .22 short, long and magnum. For handguns in .38 SPL, .45 ACP, 9mm, .40 S&W, 7.62X25 Tok, and the .357 Magnum.

The Bullet Block™ system for rifles is rated for use with rifles chambered for 223, 7mm Rem-Mag, .243, .270 .308, .30-06, 7.62X54R, 7.62X39, 300 Win-Mag, and 300 ultra-mag.

As featured in the Shot Show Review, IDPA Tactical Journal, First Quarter 2007

Ballistics Research INC.

WE STOP BULLETS.

(678) 679-1973

www.BallisticsResearch.com

Experiments in Creative Stage Design

ration I figured all I had to do was make the target sticks shorter.

Night before match decided to finish up stand. I had it working and even took a video. I was about to pack up when realized it worked just fine, as long as I did not mind that one of the PVC pivot pipes was now behind the down one area.

I sent the video to a shooting buddy, and was encouraged enough to correct stand #1, and build a second. We agreed to debut the stands at his club's match the next Sunday.

I have a small station wagon, and the stands needed to break down for easy transport. I had cleverly made them so the uprights would just slip in. This worked perfectly in my backyard. But, in the little shoot house we put them in, the ground was anything but level, and the uprights would slip through, locking the movement. (NTS: Uprights need to be se-

cured.) So, we put them on boards. It took several minutes to run the actuating ropes, and we were just finishing up as the walk-thru got to our stage. I demo'd the targets, and the shooters started milling around. "You get the plans off the internet?"

We had run the targets almost a dozen times successfully before we started shooting the stage. On the first shooter, they failed. Problem, stands moving on the boards. (NTS: Stands need to be staked down.) But we were able to get through the match. And all the comments, made to my face anyway, were very positive.

Next day off, two cups of coffee, and off to Home Depot. By the time the next Sunday rolled around I had three good working up/down target stands. When I went to the match at another local club, I was extremely gratified that my target

stands were a topic of discussion. So, after the match, I enthusiastically began work on the remaining moving target stand, the Lean-out.

The next Sunday was the one I normally take off from doing matches, and had already made plans to take a new IDPA shooter to the club for a practice day. This seemed like the perfect time to test my Lean-out target. I spent most evenings, and my day off trying different ideas, (I think Home Depot is still open.) But late Saturday night, not only was the stand NOT ready, I still had no clue HOW to make it work. Then Sunday night, after a long, but enjoyable day at the range, it hit me. Of course, it hit me at 1:00 am. By the time I went to bed at 3:00, I knew it was all just details.

The next Sunday was the fifth Sunday and my club was doing a

(Continued on page 30)

WIN BIG

Sign up Today With Trijicon's Shooter Rewards Program.

Competitive shooters who are pre-registered, compete and WIN their matches while using any one of Trijicon's self-luminous aiming systems during USPSA, IDPA, or three gun shooting competitions are eligible to use Trijicon Shooter Rewards toward the purchase of future Trijicon products at a special price — thanks to Trijicon's **exclusive** Shooter Rewards Program.

Be sure to sign up with Trijicon's Shooter Rewards Program today and you, too, can WIN BIG! For details, application forms and a complete list of Trijicon awards and sanctioned events go to www.trijicon.com or contact Trijicon (248) 960-7700.



PLATINUM SPONSOR



SILVER SPONSOR



Brilliant Aiming Solutions™
www.trijicon.com

Trijicon, Inc. • 49385 Shafer Avenue • PO Box 930059 • Wixom, Michigan 48393-0059 U.S.A. • (248) 960-7700



Trijicon® Bright & Tough™
Night Sights



Trijicon ACOG®



Trijicon Compact ACOG®



Trijicon TriPower®



Trijicon Reflex™



Trijicon AccuPoint®

C-10H0306



Saturday was “Elk Robbers” designed by Jack Ostendorf. The stage utilized a life size elk archery target. You started facing away from the targets, leaned over and touching the elk with only 6 rounds in your gun. At the signal, you maneuvered around the elk and used the body for cover. After reaching cover, you engaged T1-T3 with 2 rounds each and then reengaged with 2 rounds each. Let me tell you, the various methods used to get around the elk and use it for cover made for a lot of smiling faces.

At noon, the competitors broke for lunch and enjoyed some really great BBQ. This



is usually one of my favorite times of the match. You know I like to eat but lunch usually gives me the time to start laying the ground work as to why I did not shoot well. That’s the key to a good excuse, start early. After lunch on Saturday, a new group of shooters came in and the range came to life again.

On Sunday the competitors shot some more great stages such as “Bus Depot” designed by Jerry Biggs. This stage combined some distance shooting with lots of movement, swinging and steel pepper poppers. You started facing T1 while standing between two buses. On signal, you retreated to the back of the buses while engaging T1 with 4 rounds. You could retreat either to the right or the left, both sides being equal. From



either outside edge of the bus, you engaged a paper target with 2 rounds, then a pepper popper, both at 15 yards. The pepper popper activated a swinger that had to be engaged from the space between the buses. After engaging the swinger, you moved to the opposite outside edge and repeated the earlier sequence. This made for a great heart pumping stage that made precision shooting, that you needed, very difficult.

After the regular shooting was completed, there was even more shooting available. While the stats people were working feverishly to get the scores finished, you could drag out your favorite rifle or street howitzer and shoot a stage of fire as a side match. The fastest run with a rifle and the fastest run with a shotgun would earn a nice plaque. This makes for a great chance to drag out those long arms and knock a little dust out of the barrels. If you are waiting on scores, what better way to wait?

Now a note on the scores, they were a little long in


2007 IDPA Badlands & OK State Match



Good times provided by a great crew. These guys know what they are doing. I really appreciate the efforts they went to make sure that the competitor had a good time. I would like to extend a personal thank you to the match director Jack Ostendorf, the assistant MD Jerry Biggs and all of the SO's and staff at the match. I had a really great time and I hope that I am able

getting out. That was unfortunate, but sometimes you run into unforeseen problems. They did have a little trouble with the computers but they worked hard on the problem and the delay was not too bad. Before I left the match, they were already working on making sure that



to return next year. I expect that next years match will be even better. As I said before, Jack and Jerry are already working hard on it. You'll not want to miss it. 



would not be a problem next year. With the professionalism and attention to detailed displayed throughout the match, I have no trouble believing that this will not be an issue next year.

After scores were posted, they drew names for a pretty nice prize table (including several guns) and then it was time to give out plaques. The Division Champions were as follows.

CDP Champion:	Joe Dwyer	Master	253.06	(60)
ESP Champion:	Scott Stockton	Master	239.27	(72)
SSP Champion:	Paul Barrow	Master	265.51	(68)
ESR Champion:	Roger Reid	Master	353.12	(61)
SSR Champion:	Jerry Biggs	Master	320.16	(60)



Italy Helps put the "I" in IDPA

by Robert Ray A05118

There are a number of countries that have IDPA programs in them. Some are larger than others, but outside of the US, Italy has the largest number of IDPA members in the world. I guess that should come as no real shock given Italy's historic status for the production of fine firearms, but it did shock me a little when I learned how much interest there is for IDPA there.

We as a group (gun owners), are constantly deluged with articles and stories from the NRA and other gun owner rights organizations about how if we are not careful, we will end up like Great Britain, Australia or Canada. I think this, and articles about how we are the only country that has a constitutional right to guns, sometimes narrows our thinking. We end

up thinking like we are all alone in the world and the only ones doing any action pistol shooting. I am not saying the articles are wrong; we do need to watch out for the gun grabbers, I just think it colors our perception of the rest of the world.

When I came to work for IDPA, I knew we had foreign members. I had worked as an SO in the Nationals and meet several there, but they were only a few people in the over all match numbers. I just did not realize there were as many foreign members

as there was nor did I realize the interest from other countries. My first experience with foreign members was the need to reorganize our European Affiliation. The structure that we were using was just not working to the best effects for our member countries. In conjunction with representatives in several European countries, we moved to individual Country Affiliations so to better respond to those countries unique needs. It is at this point that I met Giorgio Ac-

erboni. is actually pretty common for Europe and else where. In Italy, you cannot own a 9X19 (Lugar) caliber gun as it is deemed a military and police only round, but you can own 9X18 (Makarov) and 9X21, go figure. Another problem is that Italy does not have a lot of outdoor ranges designed for action pistol. In spite of these hurdles, Giorgio has been able to grow IDPA in Italy. Currently there are several hundred members in Italy and more joining each day. That is pretty outstanding considering Italy is not much bigger than the state of Arizona.

Earlier this year, Giorgio asked me if I would help teach a Safety Officer class in April. It was his intention to get together all of the current SO's and a large number of people that wanted to become SO's and teach

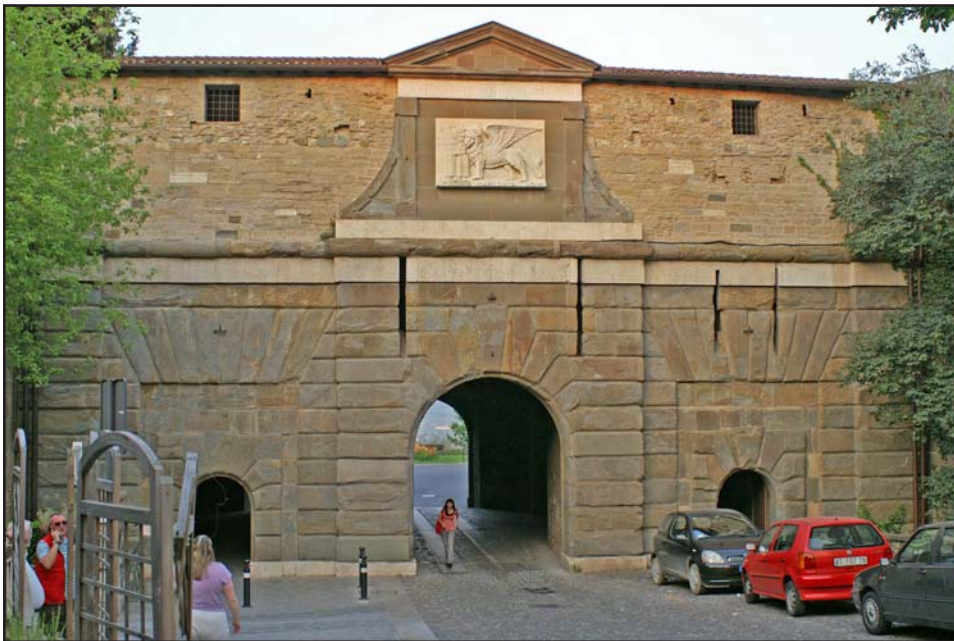
a class using the new SO certification material. I was a little nervous at the idea. Giorgio speaks fairly good English but I do not speak any Italian (at least polite Italian, I could order a drink and start a fight but that's about it). Lucky for me I would not be alone. Giorgio also invited Gary Burriss to attend. Gary had previously been to Italy to observe and shoot the European Nationals. We were very fortunate to have the help of Franco D'Anna who was born in Italy but has spent the last 25 years living in the US. Franco helped kill



Bergamo Old Town Central Square

erboni.

Giorgio stepped forward to help steer IDPA for Italy in the right direction. After talking with him and listening to several recommendations for him, I made Giorgio the Area Coordinator for Italy. I could not have made a better choice. Giorgio has worked tirelessly on the behalf of IDPA and under some pretty tough conditions. In Italy, you can have private ownership of handguns but there are some pretty stiff and sometimes odd restrictions. One of the odd ones (at least to us in the US)



One of the four gates to the walled portion of Old Bergamo.

my concerns about being able to accurately translate the class material.

Gary and I arrived by separate flights in Milan at 9:00am on Thursday, April 19th. Milano is very close to Giorgio's hometown of Bergamo. We relaxed a little from the flight (14 hours in travel time from Northwest Arkansas) and then toured a little of the older upper city. What a beautiful place and steeped in history. The city of Bergamo has an older, walled section that (unlike most cities of any size in Europe) was never overrun or destroyed by major wars. It is truly, extraordinarily beautiful. The upper part of the city (the older walled part) is a real treat to wonder around in and absorb the history or just sit at one of the many restaurants and absorb the great food. Bergamo lies in between Milan and Venice which would have made for an excellent opportunity to visit both places if I had more time.

On Friday, we traveled several hours south to where the class was to be held. The class was held at the Olympic shooting range in the town of Bologna. This relates back to the lack of outdoor shooting ranges. The local club received permission

from the range to use a section of the range to host IDPA matches. It is a little tight but really no different than an indoor range here in the US. All of the students were very attentive to the instructors and full of good questions. Franco taught most of the class with Gary or I interjecting comments or answering questions. The class lasted Saturday and Sunday with over 30 attendees. All of the students were very friendly and outgoing. I regretted only having the two days to try and get to know them.

Sunday night we traveled back to Bergamo. Monday was to be my last full day in Italy and we made the most of it by trying to pack in as much sightseeing as possible. One and a half days is just not

enough time. I really wish that I had more time to truly visit with my new IDPA friends and to see their wonderful country. The one thing that I did get enough of was the food. I really do not know how to describe it, it was just spectacular. Breakfast and lunches were great but dinner was an event. All of the dinners had several courses. One of the nights in Bologna, we started with bread, prosciutto (cured ham) and bologna (way different, and better than here), followed by a mini tortellini soup. The next course was a potato dumpling and pasta. This was followed by steak. There were several other sides that I tried as well as those listed. For dessert, Crème Brûlée followed by caffè (espresso here). All of this was accompanied by wine and water. To look at it listed, you would think you would have to be rolled out of the



The Olympic Range in Bologna

(Continued on page 38)

The Tactical Advantage

By: Robert Ray



Woolrich Elite

Lightweight Vest

If I mention the name Woolrich to someone, they immediately think of the great line of outdoor clothing that company manufactures. Most of us in this sport will think of their fantastic “Elite” series of clothes. The “Elite” line is distributed by the good folks at Backyard Outfitter. They are constantly working to come up with new products to meet the demands of their customers. One of their newer additions to this line is a Lightweight Discreet Carry series of clothing. This was a direct result of requests for a more tropical weight set of clothes. I got my hands on one of the vests and gave it a work out. Before I tell you about what I discovered, I want to bring up something that needs to be addressed.

I have often heard people talk about the IDPA “uniform.” You know, the tactical vest and cargo pants that you see people wearing at a lot of IDPA matches. I think that this is a little broad of a statement to make, but I will grant you that this is the wardrobe of choice for a lot of people. I do see a number of tee shirts, button up shirts, and other cover garments used but they are in the minority. Even if these “tactical” vests and cargo pants are the number one choice for use, why do some people talk about them as though they are a bad thing?

Let’s start with the easy part. Cargo pants are a fact of life. This

is not something just limited to our group. The amount and variety you can find is staggering and they are spread across all age groups and personal styles. So we move to the



vest. The first and loudest thing I here from people is “I’m not wearing that thing anywhere but the range; it screams ‘I’m carrying a gun’ to people.” I am afraid I have to call bulls#%t on that.

You may think that everyone that is wearing a vest like that is carrying a gun but they are not. Sure some are, but there was a fad over these types of vests for a while. I am in particular position of knowing something about this. Prior to going to work for IDPA, I worked for Dillards Department stores. I spent 4 years in their Advertising department and another 2 in their Product Development department. It allowed me a unique perspective on clothing styles, trends and fads. For several years, Dillards carried an “adventure” line of clothes in their stores and it

START WINNING TODAY!

SHOCK YOUR FRIENDS. AWE THE COMPETITION.

INTRODUCING THE **PISTOLGEAR®** BARREL FOR THE **SPRINGFIELD XD®**

Finished to tolerances that will make the most demanding engineer smile, our brand of barrels for the XD reestablishes the mark that determines quality. Made from solid 416 stainless steel bar stock and finished to precise specifications, our barrels will deliver a lifetime of performance you will be proud of.

Expect the best when you purchase a PistolGear barrel — that is our commitment to you. Give our barrel a try and you'll see the difference.

PISTOLGEAR®

In partnership with 

CALIBERS
9x19, 357SIG, 40S&W, 45ACP
XD MODELS
Sub-Compact, Compact, Service, Tactical
FIT
Match, Drop-In, Conversion

Featuring other products by: Blade-Tech • Canyon Creek • Dawson Precision • I-Shot • Safariland • Sevigny Sights • Springfield Armory • Truglo • Warren Tactical

Available at www.pistolgear.com

The Tactical Advantage



included a vest. It may not have had the “tactical” name attached to it but you could not tell the defense. You can be assured they were not the only “major” department store to carry something like this.

Were they responding to the rise in concealed carry? Well, that was a part of it, but only a very small part. The two biggest reasons are that there was, and still is, a real interest in the outdoor, survival and adventure shows on TV. The other is the interest in military clothing. Military clothing has affected civilian clothing styles and trends since time began and still is today. Case in point is the cargo pant. Those that chase clothing fads and trends have finally done something to help us gun owners. They have allowed us to blend in and for a short time, we were even trendy!

It is the same thing with fanny

packs. They were huge for a while and then someone stuck a holster in one. That does not mean everyone with a fanny pack is carrying gun though. One final point on this and I will move on. This may be stretching a little bit but while I was

in Italy it seemed like I was constantly surrounded by men wearing vests. I am not talking about at the range either. I am talking about people walking around town doing their every day things. I would go so far as to say one out of every three men I saw were wearing some type of vest. Of those wearing a vest, at least half would fall into a category I could call a “tactical” vest. Since you can’t carry concealed over there, unless you are police or military, it makes for something interesting to think about. Ok, on the review.

I spent a good deal of time wearing this vest around. The first thing you notice when picking it up is the weight. It is considerably lighter than my regular “Elite” vest. Gee, I guess that is why they call it the Lightweight series. My standard “Elite” vest weighs in at 41 ounces. The new lightweight vest weighs in at only 25 ounces. The vest is constructed of 100% cotton ripstop cloth. It is reactive dyed, washed and treated with DuPont Teflon® Fabric Protector. Like the standard vest, it is also vented down the center of the back. This allows air to



better circulate, helping to keep you cool. This makes it great for those 100 degree days on the range.

This vest also has considerably less pockets. There are two upper chest pockets and two lower pockets. All four have flap closures using hook and loop fasteners to secure them closed. They also have fasteners on the inside to insure that the pocket stays open if you wish. This is really nice if you have ever tried to do a tac-load or RWR and found you vest pocket had accidentally closed. It also has a reinforced shoulder and a padded

(Continued on page 32)

Don't SWEAT IT

Only \$14.95 Per Pair Plus SH www.muffswears.com

JR'S HEARING MUFF SWEATS

- » Fits Most hearing muffs
- » Easy to install - Easy to remove
- » Absorbs perspiration
- » Durable cotton/polyester blend
- » Machine Washable
- » Helps prevent ear fatigue
- » Helps prevent spread of infection
- » Made in USA



warm up to “Space Age Polymer” the way you do to a finely crafted piece of leather, though.

One of the least thought out areas of our training is this business of off duty carry. When I went through the Academy there was zero mention of this very crucial area of our profession. Yet how much time do we spend out of uniform? Hopefully, if you are reading this column I am preaching to the choir about how essential it is to have your weapon with you all the time. How many of you regularly train in deploying your weapon from a concealed carry system? IDPA offers the chance to do just that with most of the stages offering the chance to use concealment. Many matches require it for the majority of the stages. It’s better to find out the weakness of any holster style or concealment garment in a controlled setting like a match than on the street. How many of you carry in a fanny pack these days? I have enjoyed the convenience of one for many years. My son recently took a class specializing in deployment from concealment and used his fanny pack for part of the course. He reported a problem accessing the spare magazine once the pouch was open and the pistol removed. I honestly never tried a reload from the pouch although I have drawn from it many times. This is just the critical information on gear that match participation can show you.

The type of cover garment you use is also very important. It must cover the weapon and magazines from casual observation while allowing smooth rapid access to your draw stroke. Currently in favor are the photographers vests. They do a great job but stand out

like a neon sign on the street to anyone who knows what they are. Luckily, the fashion design folks are swinging back towards loose shirts that go untucked and offer good concealment qualities. Several manufacturers such as Woolrich are offering shirts that are specifically designed for concealed carry. This allows you to carry a full size weapon off duty. Back in the dim past I used to refer to “Rob’s Rule of Caliber”. This meant when the temperature went up, the caliber came down. For creature comfort we carried small weapons like the J frame revolvers or Officers Model size 1911 pistols. When cold weather came back around we went back to real guns. Through experience we learned that if and when we needed



a gun we needed all the qualities of a real gun: big bore caliber, accuracy and the ability to be able to shoot it well under stress. We set about finding ways to carry the full size service pistol full time. IWB holsters, fanny packs and good concealment garments were the result.

Through activities such as IDPA participation we advance the state of the art in our gear and technique. When Col. Jeff Cooper first envisioned IPSC, one of the most important roles it would play was that of a proving ground for guns, gear and technique. Much of the modern day law enforcement firearms training doctrine can be traced to advances made in competition shooting. This brings us to what type of ammunition

should you bring to the match? First and foremost it must work reliably in your sidearm. The rest is easy. For a lot of folks, WalMart is the answer with bulk pack 9mm and .45 ammo reasonably priced. Reasonable is becoming a very relative term with soaring ammo prices. You may want to think about taking up reloading as a parallel hobby to IDPA. If you have no experience reloading, just ask one of the veteran shooters and they will steer you in the right direction to get you started. I hear some folks actually enjoy it. Honestly, I’ve reloaded for many years and when asked for recommendations on what to buy I just say “Dillon” and leave it at that. If reloading is not in your immediate future then a place to look is the same ammo suppliers that your dept. uses to buy its qualification ammo. Most have Individual Officer pricing available that is a bit of a price break over retail and you can buy in bulk. Most offer a line of “Remanufactured” ammo. (Read that ”Reloads“) This is just fine for match participation and training. Better yet, go in with your buds and split the cost of a case or two and drag them out to the match for moral support! If you are truly blessed and can use your duty ammo for matches, then by all means go for it. When you open that ammo can full of Federal Hydra Shok you will be the envy of all the other mere mortals on the range. It may give you just the psychological edge you need over the guy shooting next to you. As always I look forward to your comments and suggestions. Feel free to drop me an email at this address: wcsok9mauser@yahoo.com.

Good Luck and good Shooting. 

IDPA Pro Shop Order Form

Company and/or Name: _____ IDPA #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Order Date: _____

Credit Card: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Item #	Item	Description	Size or Amount	Price	Quantity	Extended Price
DPT	Official IDPA Targets	Cardboard Targets. 50 per box.	1 - 4 boxes, ea.	\$27.50		
			5 or more boxes, ea.	\$25.50		
PPT	Practice Targets	Paper Targets. 100 per box.		\$33.00		
TPT	Target Pasting Tape	Natural Cardboard Color. 10% Case Discount. 48 rolls / case.	60 yd. Roll	\$1.95		
			Case	\$84.24		
TPP	Target Pastors	Natural Cardboard Color. 10% Case Discount. 60 rolls / case.	1000 per box	\$2.95		
			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		
C	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		
CSOM	SO Cap Mesh	Embroidered. 6 panel, medium crown. Velcro size adjustment. Red		\$9.95		
T	IDPA T-Shirt	Embroidered T-shirt. Specify navy or natural.	M, L or XL	\$17.95		
			XXL	\$19.95		
P	IDPA Polo Shirt	Embroidered Polo Style. Short Sleeve. Specify grey, natural, navy or green.	M, L or XL	\$19.95		
			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	Extended Price
RB	IDPA Rule Book			\$2.00		
Items in previous section will ship for \$7.00 plus \$1.00 for each additional 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		
Items 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		
Items in previous and next sections will ship for \$7.00 plus \$1.00 for each additional item.						
<i>Limited Time Only! While supplies last for items listed below.</i>						
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		
XB	Tactical Flashlight 1000XB	70 Lumen Output; Push button on; Laser Engraved with IDPA 10th Anniversary 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, 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.

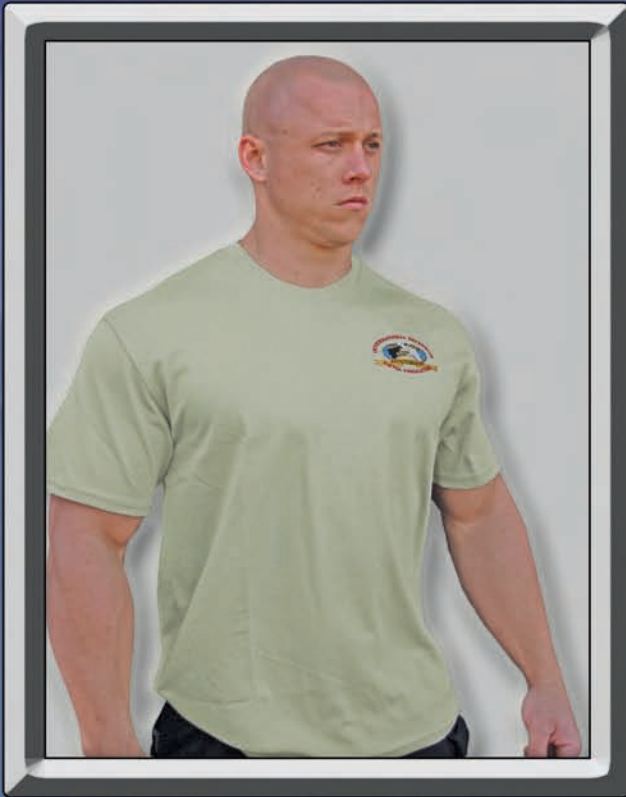
To order, you can call, email, fax or mail IDPA at:
 IDPA
 2232 CR 719
 Berryville, AR 72616
 Phone: 870-545-3886
 Fax: 870-545-3894
 info@idpa.com
 www.idpa.com

Subtotal: _____

(AR residents add 7.125%) Tax: _____

Shipping: _____

Total: _____

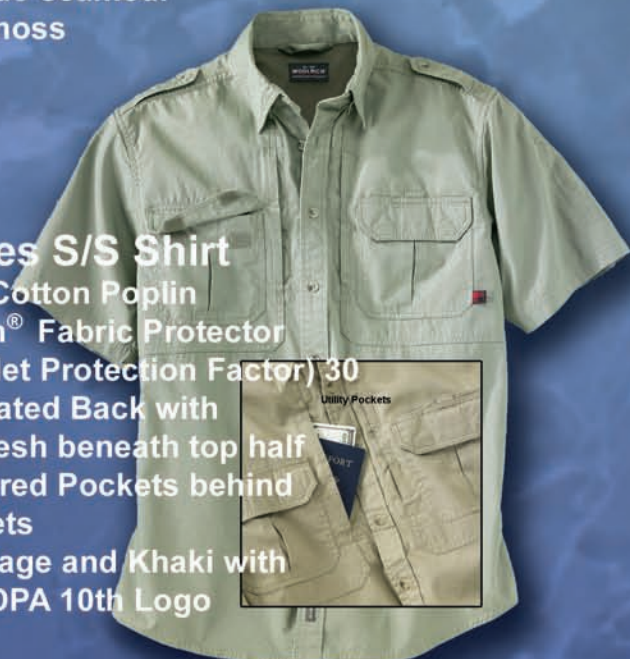


This shirt combines the simple, classic styling of a quality crew with high-performance. The Rapid Dry™ moisture wicking capability is perfect for hot weather and active wear. Rapid dry fabric wicks moisture away from the body to the surface of the fabric where it evaporates. Inner fabric surface is 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

Hot New Item!



Just in time for summer!

Red Mesh Safety Officer Cap
 6 panel, medium crown
 velcro size adjustment
 one size fits most

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

I
D
P
A

P
R
O
S
H
O
P

classifier. I had a chance to finally test the lean-out. I had some help setting up a test stage, and then several people actually came by to shoot it. Of course, the second person to shoot the test stage shot the cable. (NTS: Need better way to do cable.) Good response, but complaints that it was too fast.

My next day off, with the encouragement of my neighbor lady, "You STILL working on those

things!", I finished up all the details. My club match was the upcoming Sunday, and the Friday night before, just to be sure, I set up all the stands as a final test. My son dropped by to see the stands. As I ran them, four hours in the humidity had done it's work, and my lean-out started sticking. (Arghhhhh!) My son, with his unemotional objectivity, said, "Got any sandpaper?" That, and some graph-


ite leftover from the Pinewood Derby days, and all was well with the world.

The day of the match dawns. Every day off, and three or four evenings a week for the last six weeks, but it will be worth it. In a few hours I will be basking in the gratitude, and accolades of my fellow shooters!

I arrived two hours before the start of the match. Only the match director got there before I did. Seemed like I had only been there a couple of minutes when a couple of people come to help me, after setting up their stage. The MD stopped by to offer some encouragement, "You have 10 minutes". But he sent some additional help. Then the MD came by with some more encouragement, "Ok, I'll do the walk-thru backwards".

The crowd of eager shooters arrived just as we finished. I demo'd the stage, and they started milling around. "You get the plans off the internet?"

I was the second shooter to do the stage, and it failed. Uneven ground struck again, but a well placed rock and we were good to go. There were a few issues with the reset, but things ran pretty well. (NTS: Plastic barrels are concealment, not cover.) I could tell from the good natured banter that they were having fun. "How am I supposed to use cover while waiting for the target to come out!" All the comments made, to my face anyway, were positive. I had several shooters say that next time I should spread out the moving targets across different stages. I found the words, "next time", oddly encouraging.

You can see a video of the stage at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0-SNVVWXEK> 



targetbarn.com
 Phone: 419-829-2242
 Fax: 419-829-2107

BLADE-TECH
Free Shipping!
See website for details.
www.targetbarn.com

COMPETITIVE EDGE DYNAMICS
 7000 Timer - M2 Chronograph
 Range Bags & Brass Pouches

COMPETITION ELECTRONICS
 Pocket ProTimer
 Pocket Pro II Timer

GLOCK & SPRINGFIELD XD
 Holsters, Sights, Mags, etc.

LONE WOLF DISTRIBUTORS
 Complete GLOCK Accessories

NATIONAL TARGET COMPANY
 Rifle, Pistol, & Police Training Targets

ZERO BULLET COMPANY

Your full-line, full-time target supplier!

Serving Shooters for 25 Years

PO Box 352454, Toledo, Ohio 43635-2454
 We Accept MasterCard, VISA, Discover & COD

Official Target Supplier
USPSA Nationals
 13 Straight Years
IDPA Nationals
 2006 - 2007

is using and then taking the piece of paper shopping with her to thread through the belt loops of the pants she is considering. I also recommend comfortable but durable pants or shorts that will allow a woman to move freely when she is shooting a course of fire. Many women opt to wear tactical pants in women's sizes, but fit can be an issue especially when it comes to the location of a woman's waist as it relates to her torso.

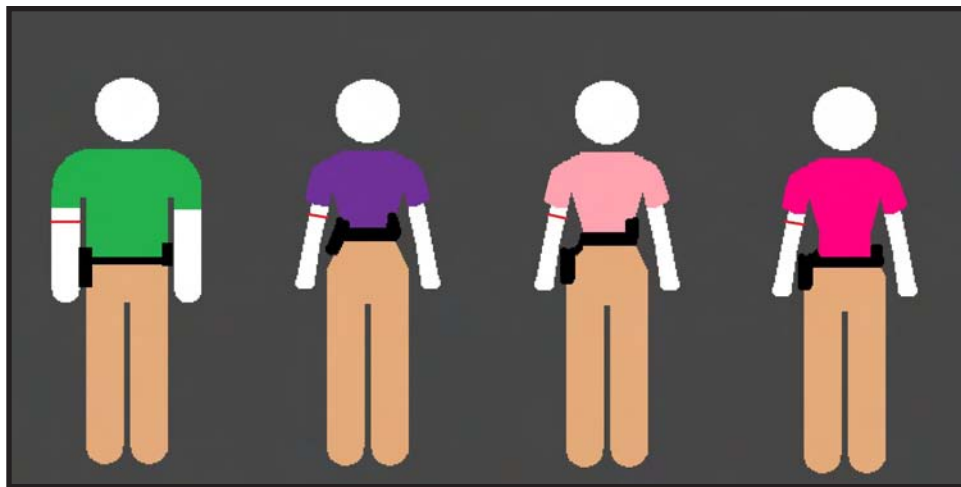
For women who have been shooting for several years, simple changes in their clothing and equipment can make a difference in their performance. When it comes to our anatomies, men and women are obviously very different, yet when we are on the range we tend to all look the same with our vests, caps, safety glasses, hearing protection and even our choice of footgear. The vast majority of this equipment is unisex. Until

recently finding gear designed for women posed a challenge for female competitors, but as more women become involved in shooting sports that is changing.

Many kydex holster companies make a lady's version of their holster that both drops and offsets from the body slightly. Why? Generally women are curvier, have wider hips and the indentation of the waist combined with upper body curves can make draws a challenge, be extremely uncomfortable and even pose safety issues for some women. Considered a "gamer" holster when used by male shooters, these holsters allow women to shoot from similar holster positions as their male counterparts.

How much of a difference can all

this really make? An average male competitor when standing with gun holstered and hands naturally at sides will have his strong arm elbow equal to or above the heel of his firearm. Placing a female with a high waist and shorter torso in the same stance will put her strong arm elbow well below the heel of her firearm and cant it toward the natural curve of the waist. Finding pants that sit lower on the hips can help, but a drop-offset holster allows the firearm to sit mostly up and down in relation to the elbow, much like it would sit on a male competitor while still concealed by an IDPA legal vest.




The competitor in the green shirt represents a male IDPA shooter. The red lines on each figure indicate elbow position. The figure in the purple shirt represents a female with a standard holster at her natural waist. The grip is canted in toward the curve created at the waist and the barrel kicks out at her hip. This competitor will have to both lean and raise her elbow high in order to complete a draw safely, resulting in a slower draw time. The figures in the pink shirts represent female competitors with modified rigs. The light pink shirt represents a female with her belt at her natural waist and a drop-offset holster. The dark pink shirt represents a female wearing pants with belt loops resting on top of her hips instead of at her natural

waist and a holster that is offset to sit straight against her hip. Both pink shirt competitors will only have to raise their elbows to a similar height as their fellow male competitor when required to draw.

Now, how much of this goes along with the intent of IDPA? Given changes to the holster rules in recent years, it will always be a challenge for the organization to restrict holsters and other equipment that do not follow the intent of the rules. Those who consider themselves IDPA purists may be somewhat offended by modified holsters, clothing and changes to courses of fire. Their concerns are valid. Un-

fortunately when it come to women and their varying sizes and shapes a simple holster rule doesn't cover all competitors. Drop-offset holsters are legal for female competitors in IDPA and I think this is a good rule. However, extremes that stretch the rule outside of

its intent to level the playing field for women should not be allowed. Examples would be a female competitor with a drop offset holster that is not properly concealed by her concealment garment or one who has her rig set up in "gunslinger" mode, where the heel of the firearm is canted well past the vertical position as shown in the example above as well one that places the firearm well below her hips.

In the end, leveling the playing field can only benefit the sport and help it continue to grow. While making the sport fun and presenting equal challenges for all competitors, we can still maintain the founding principles of IDPA. In doing so, we encourage men, women and juniors to take part in events that all can enjoy. 



collar. The padded collar does not look very big, but don't let looks fool you. I have worn various other brands of vests with out this feature and by the end of the day I felt as though someone was trying to cut off my head. I never encountered this feeling with the Elite vest.

This is an exceptional vest. I still have and wear my standard Elite vest but as the days get hotter, the new lightweight vest will start getting a lot more action. Both vests are great and I am glad I now have the option on which to wear. These vests are available in Sage, Khaki, Black and OD Green in sizes Small

though 3XL. Retail is \$61.99 (S-2XL) and \$71.99 (3XL). There is also a pant and short available in this lightweight line. For more information on these or any of the Elite products, you can go to www.backyardoutfitter.com or call 800-972-2421.

Section8 Tactical Tac-Pac

Earlier I talked a little about the IDPA "uniform." Like I said, it is a pretty broad generalization of our group, but it is more than just the things we wear. There are a number of other items that can be used to distinguish us.

One of those items is a high powered "tactical" flashlight. Again, I am generalizing here, but most of us have at least one if not several. There is one pretty hard and fast rule about those lights though, they don't run on air. They usually take a 3volt lithium battery and they really like the taste of them. I usually keep several sets around to feed the hungry little monsters. There are various cases designed to

batteries we invariably need. I know that I need AA's for my electronic hearing protectors. The red dot on my rifle takes yet another set of batteries. That really starts to add up to a bunch of batteries. The question becomes "How do I keep up with all of them?" My answer was to call Joe Rankin with Section 8 Tactical.

Joe's solution was originally designed with the needs of the armed forces in mind. Flashlights, dot scopes, night vision and a host of other items that require batteries, created a need to be able to keep the power for these items in one place. Joe's answer to this problem was the Tac-Pac.

The Tac-Pac is designed to help you keep track of all those different batteries you need or just several sets of those that your battery gobbling tactical light needs. The Tac-Pac is an injection molded plastic case with a rubber snap on lid designed to be water tight. The interior holds an EVA foam die cut

inserts. The LE model is pre-cut to hold eight of the common CR-123, three volt lithium batteries used in most



high intensity flashlights.

The MIL insert holds (4) CR-123, either (2) N or (2) AA, and (1) 1/3 N size batteries. The foam keeps them

keep up with those batteries but what about the other

The foam keeps them

Speed Shooter Specialties
 Your Smith & Wesson® Performance Accessories Center
 We have replacement front sights for the M&P!
 tools ▾ range accessories ▾ DVDs
 optic mounts ▾ lubricants ▾ electronics
 books ▾ cleaning supplies
 quality competition accessories
 ... and more!
 VISIT OUR SECURE ONLINE CATALOGUE:
WWW.SPEEDSHOOTERSPECIALTIES.COM




nylon carrying case using hook and loop fasteners to hold the closure flap closed. On the back of the nylon case is a heavy nylon strap also using hook and loop fasteners to allow for easy on and off the belt or other attachment points.

from rattling together and from shorting out. This is not quite the problem for you and me as it is for a combat soldier. The inside housing is about 3.3" wide X 3.5" high (including the housing radius) and .85" deep and will accept parts that fall into that size range. It will easily hold an AR-15 bolt and firing pin. If you want a different arrangement, it also comes with a solid insert that you can cut yourself. This lets you customize the interior to suit your needs, not only putting batteries in there but any small essential part you want.

The case fits securely into a

Anyway you look at it; the Tac-Pac is a very useful, versatile system. It is small enough to go into your range bag and not take up very much room. The ability organize and store your batteries and other small parts (spare ejector, fiber optic rods), more than makes up for the space used. The Tac-Pac retails for only \$29.99

For more information on ordering this or any other of Section 8 Tactical's fine products, go to www.section8tactical.com or call 919-469-2776. 



STI International, Inc.



Off Duty

- *45 ACP
- *STI Single Stack Steel Officer Length, with Integral Tactical (light) Rail
- *3.4" Round Top Slide
- *Overall Length: 7"
- *Weight: 26.9 oz.



Duty CT

- *45 ACP
- *STI Single Stack Steel Government Length, with Integral Tactical (light) Rail
- *4.15" Classic Flat Top Slide
- *Overall Length: 7.75"
- *Weight: 37.2 oz.



Duty One

- *45 ACP
- *STI Single Stack Steel Government Length, with Integral Tactical (light) Rail
- *5" Classic Flat Top Slide
- *Overall Length: 8.5"
- *Weight: 38.0 oz.

www.STIguns.com
(512) 819-0656 (ph)
(512) 819-0465 (fax)



“Baghdad Boulevard Blues,” was the source of much discussion during the planning stages. This was our first vehicle prop and some of the planners who had been to matches with vehicles at other clubs, knew that there were potentially multiple, inherent safety issues involved. One of the smartest things we did was avoid having the shooter draw while seated and instead, designed the scenario so that the stage began from a low ready condition. No surprise this good headwork came from the CoF’s author, Mark Woerner, who also happens to be our IDPA Coordinator.

Another potential gotcha that, to my knowledge was not foreseen during planning, centered around the problem of a big steel truck door swinging open shortly after the buzzer. Obviously, this affected where the SO could be positioned to safely begin the stage while still remaining within reach of the shooter should the need arise. Here, the solution came from the same

member who generously donated the vehicle to the club and that was to lean inside the missing back window with the timer. The net result was a very popular and more importantly, very safe CoF.


Stage 7, “A Pushover,” utilized the nifty idea of pushing a popper down, simulating knocking a BG to the ground. The falling steel then triggered a clamshell threat behind a barrel. No problems here, mechanical or otherwise, and it too was a fun albeit challenging stage. The difficulty factor stemmed from a combination of shooting while moving followed by a rapid change from a single

distant threat to multiple close-in threats. Difficulty increased further with hard cover requiring head shots on one of the last threat targets.

Finally, to round things out we selected “Bad Bus Ride” from the 2005 Nationals as our last CoF. Some very fast times were clocked here and as you might expect considering its origin, no problems were noted by the SOs working this stage.

Speaking of SOs, if you are fortunate to have enough SO/Scorekeeper teams to cover each stage, open squading is the only way to travel because it is much more time efficient than dedicated squads. At this match, the vast majority of shooters were finished by lunch time.

OK, that takes care of the “Lessons Learned” and the only remaining recommendation I have for those of you contemplating your first IDPA sanctioned match is to re-emphasize what other Match Directors have said in previous articles. You absolutely, positively cannot start planning too far in advance and there is one huge incentive to starting early. The sooner you get your package to IDPA HQ, the sooner you’ll be listed in the “Upcoming Major Matches” section of TJ and believe me, there is no better advertising for your match.

Uh oh, I’m bucking up against Dru’s max word count so allow me to close with a big thanks to IDPA National for their top-notch support, my hope that we will see even more of you next year at CBC 2008, and finally, one of my favorite quotes: “It’s better to be right than correct.” 



UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

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

**August 18, 2007
WA State IDPA
Championship**

Renton, WA
Rick Breneman
206-365-1674 h
206-428-0538 w
rick45x8@yahoo.com
northwestsection.org/waidpac07

**August 25, 2007
KY - TN Regional
Championship**

Puryear, TN
Scott Rob
270-493-6077 h
270-493-6077 w
Scott@auteninteractive.com
Ken Cooper
kennyc@aeneas.net
www.hcgc.net
August 25 - 26, 2007

**MT State IDPA
Championship
Logan, MT**

John Mingo
406-686-4280 h
john@johnmingo.com
Greg Rabatin
406-284-3391 h
gregrabatin@gmail.com
www.geocities.com/mt.idpa/

September 2, 2007

**Thunder Tactical 'Labor
Day' Regional**

Conroe, TX
Alan E. Liczwek
281-288-7522 h
281-355-7467 w
281-288-1366 fax
gonetothedogs@msn.com
Eric Cooper
936-273-9547 h
713-408-7990 w
ecooper2@houston.rr.com
www.tts-idpa.net

**September 8, 2007
The Master's
Championship**

Birmingham, AL
Ron Holland
205-601-5400 h
ronholland@bellsouth.net
Randy Robinson
205-515-4532 h
x2grobin@southernco.com
www.scssa.org

**September 8, 2007
NC State IDPA
Championship 2007**

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

**September 8, 2007
2007 ID State IDPA
Championship**

Parma, ID
Aaron Goodfellow
208-454-6518 h
208-724-0595 w
aarongoodfellow@hotmail.com
www.parmarng.org

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 15 - 16, 2007
MI State 2007 (Shooter's
Dream)**

Romulus, MI
Jack Allen
734-528-4258 h
734-904-8699 w
bailagents@aol.com
Karl Andrews
734-481-0686 h
734-645-2655 w
www.raccoonhunters.org

**September 16, 2007
2007 Midwest Fall
Regional Championship**

Havana, IL
Tom Skuse
309-647-6637 h
309-645-5326 w
309-647-8983 fax
tskuse@aol.com
Jon Poler
309-543-2856 w
polbear@grics.net
Email Tom Skuse for Registration
Materials

**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**

East Granby, CT

MORE UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

Ted Picard
806-818-3363 h
tractorted@hotmail.com
Vladimir Mashkovich
860-305-2752 h & w
860-673-5938 fax
odessabld@sbcglobal.net
www.hartfordgunclub.com

October 6, 2007 2007 NM State IDPA Championship

Farmington, NM
Thomas Maddox
505-325-2889 h
505-793-6913 w
TJMaddox@msn.com
Rob Grossheim
505-327-2959 h
505-330-9750 w
robYGrossheim@msn.com
www.sjwf.org/idpa.htm

October 6, 2007 2007 IDPA GA State Championship

Conyers, GA
Capel English
770-346-7771 h
678-324-2005 w
770-953-8917 fax
cenglish@snapsinc.com
Brett Hanus
404-936-7166 h
justcallmebrett@juno.com
www.gadpa.com

October 14, 2007 OR State IDPA Championship

Bend, OR
Michael Boyd
541-416-8416 h
541-447-8330 w
mboyd@webformixair.com
Tom Allen
541-593-7202 w
doublealpha@chamberscable.com

October 20, 2007 West TX Regional

Lubbock, TX
Brian Q. Morris
806-796-2858 h
806-796-2858 w
807-796-2859 fax
brianqm@yahoo.com
Rick Mosley
806-796-2858 h
806-796-2858 w
806-796-2859 fax
patriotfirearms@door.net
www.patriotfirearms.com

October 20, 2007 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
931-596-1855 h
931-455-2846 w
www.midtnshooters.com

October 26 - 28, 2007 2007 European Championship

Bergamo, Italy
Giorgio Acerboni
39-335-600-1650 w
giorgio@idpa.it
Franco D'Anna
franco.danna@gmail.com
www.idpaeurope.eu
For inquires from the USA, please
contact Franco

October 27 - 28, 2007 Blackwater Shootout

Moyock, NC
Jim Wilson
804-779-3850 h
804-347-6790 w
turbomarine@yahoo.com
Ron Reiner
757-545-0572 h
757-672-4971 w

October 27 - 28, 2007 2007 Italian National Championship

Bergamo, Italy
Giorgio Acerboni
39-339-437-2148 w
giorgio@idpa.it
Franco D'Anna
franco.danna@gmail.com
www.idpa.it
For inquires from the USA, please
contact Franco

November 17, 2007 MS IDPA State Championship 2007

Glen, MS
Greg Brose
662-423-8355 h
662-287-8730 fax
idpa04dir@hotmail.com
Nathan Hendrix
662-287-3235 h
662-287-4402 w
crssa@earthlink.net
www.crssa.com

March 30, 2008 Coastal Bend Challenge

Corpus Christi, TX
Don Critari
361-668-0768 h
361-668-0768 w
critari@intcomm.net
Bruce Claunch
361-658-6519 h
361-658-6519 w
bruce@bclaunch.net
www.cbshooters.com

April 11 - 13, 2008 2008 NV State IDPA Championship

Las Vegas, NV
Dennis Hull
702-260-0543 w
homeruns@cox.net
Bob Johnson
702-370-8989 w
bej13@juno.com
www.sincityshooters.com

Advertisers Index:

Ballistics Research	18	Smith & Alexander	10
Competitive Edge Dynamics	39	Smith & Wesson	40
Decot Hy-Wyd	15	Speed Shooter Specialties	32
Harris Publications	2	Springfield Armory USA	12
IDPA Pro Shop	29	Starline Brass	14
JR's Hearing Muff Sweats	25	T K Custom	7
Pistol Gear	24	Target Barn, Inc.	30
Precision Delta	38	Trijicon	19
S T I	33	Wilson Combat	4

IDPA Thanks their advertisers for their generous support!

THANK YOU ADVERTISERS!

Building Match Attendance


(Continued from 15)

reasons. One is to make sure they had a good time, and the other is to validate that the club's program for new shooters is working effectively. Immediate feed back from the new shooter can be obtained by the "mentor" at the end of the match. The mentor should give the shooter constructive and positive feedback on their performance then ask the shooter what they enjoyed and what the club could do to improve the experience.

A couple days after the match, a club officer should send an email or make a phone call to the shooter and let them know how the club appreciated their participation and inviting them to the next club event. The shooter should again be invited to comment on their experience. Information received from the shooter can be used to improve the

club's new shooter program.

Summary

New shooters are critical to the sustained health of our sport. There are numerous ways for a club to actively attract new people into the sport. Getting people is just the first step; giving them a positive and encouraging first match experience is critical to getting them to return for a second match, and hopefully becoming an active participant. The time a club spends on developing a formal process for getting and keeping new shooters is time well spent for the IDPA, the local clubs and the shooting community. 

TACTICAL JOURNAL CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads 25¢ per-word insertion. Including name, address and phone number (20 word minimum). Minimum charge \$5.00. **BOLD WORDS add 25¢ per word.** Copy and rerun orders must be accompanied by **PAYMENT IN ADVANCE.** All ads must be received with advance payment **BY NO LATER THAN THE CLOSING DATE OF EACH QUARTER.** (See page 10 for all closing dates) **EXAMPLE:** Closing date for the Spring issue is April 1st. Ads received after closing will appear in the following issue. Please type or print clearly. **NO PROOFS WILL BE FURNISHED.** Include name, address, post office, city, state and zip code as counted words. Abbreviations count as one word each. Mail to: IDPA Classifieds, 2232 CR 719, Berryville, AR 72616



(Left to right) **Giorgio, Franco, Gary, Robert**

restaurant, but the portions are sized just right and did I mention that we started at 8:30pm and left around 11:45pm. I have never cared much for wine till then, but I drank more wine in that short week than I have the whole rest of my life.

The whole time I was there, I was greeted warmly by not only the IDPA members, but everyone that I met while sightseeing and shopping (and eating). I really look forward to being able to return to Italy and spend a little more time. I count my time there as something very special, something this country boy never expected to do. I know that many of us travel to shoot IDPA matches inside the US, but I encourage you to look beyond our borders when thinking about your next match. This October, Giorgio will be hosting the IDPA Eu-



The range portion of the SO class

ropean National Championship just outside of Bergamo. I invite you to make the trip there and enjoy their hospitality. Take your wife or girlfriend, it would be a great opportunity to go and shoot another sanctioned match AND make points

with the significant other! I am sure that it would be an experience that you won't soon forget.

I would like to thank Giorgio and his beautiful wife Miriam and two wonderful daughters Monica and Claudia for inviting us into their homes and treating us like family. I hope that I may be able to return the favor. I hope to meet you in Italy. 🇮🇹



Precision Delta®

Bullets & Ammunition

Always FREE Shipping on Bullets

CALL or ORDER ONLINE
See our new look at
www.precisiondelta.com

PO Box 128 * Ruleville, MS 38771
662-756-2810 * 800-337-3621

CED8000 Shot Timer

The most advanced shooting timer in the world for IPSC, IDPA, PPC, Bianchi, Cowboy, and Action shooting that is as easy to use as a mobile phone!

With the largest backlit display, high tech programming, memory recall, and a range of features that make all other timers obsolete! Easy to use and so compact and lightweight, that it will fit into your shirt pocket! 95x89x33 mm / 3.75 x 3.5 x 1.35

The first shooting timer ever to offer pre-programmed NRA Bianchi and PPC events, in addition to Sportsman Challenge Countdown, European Field Shooting, Fixed time, Virginia Count, Repetitive, Combined Comstock, & Rapid Fire modes, all at a touch of a button. Storage memory maintains 10 strings in memory at all times allowing easy review of results. Dual forward & reverse Review function and the longest recording capability (999.99 sec.) make the CED8000 perfect for any training or match use. Ideal for long courses of fire as often found in Cowboy & Action shooting venues.

The CED8000 offers private training use with the included custom earphone set and digital sensitivity adjustment for perfect results no matter what the range condition. The advanced PAR setting allows single or multiple Par & interval selections, all programmable. With date & time display, fixed, random, instant, or custom delay settings, low battery indicator & warning, and a custom carry case, the CED8000 is in a league all by itself!

Available in two models:
CED8000 \$149.00 CED8000RF \$165.00*
 *(for use with CED BigBoard & CED Time Keeper)



CED Professional Range Bag

CED has taken the most popular sized range bag on the market today to a new level in design and function!

- * Main compartment locks completely with a "U" shaped top zipper design closure
- * Seven (7) Magazine Holders
- * Designed to hold up to four (4) Pistols
- * Removable Pistol Insert Sleeve & Brass Bag
- * Three (3) additional Zippered Pockets for small items w/ ID Tag Holder
- * Heavy Duty Chrome Hardware with Padded Shoulder Strap
- * Fully stitched Rubber Foot Pads to keep the bag dry
- * Overall Bag - 16.5" x 11" x 14.5"
- * All CED Professional Range Bags come with a combination security lock.



- * Available in Black, Royal Blue, Hunter Green, Red, and Navy Blue
- Complete Bag \$74.95**
Extra Pistol Sleeve \$10.95
Ammo Brass Pouch \$9.95

CED Shooters Back Pack

Designed by shooters for shooters, this "hands free" approach to shooting gear storage is the most functionally unique product to arrive in years!

Features:

* Removable Pistol bag insert

- * Detachable Brass Pouch
- * Removable Seat
- * Water Bottle
- * Adjustable accessory straps
- * Wide padded shoulder straps with rubber backing
- * Detachable shoulder pouches
- * Zippered Ammunition compartment
- * Large magazine storage
- * Rugged heavy duty construction

Specially Priced \$72.95

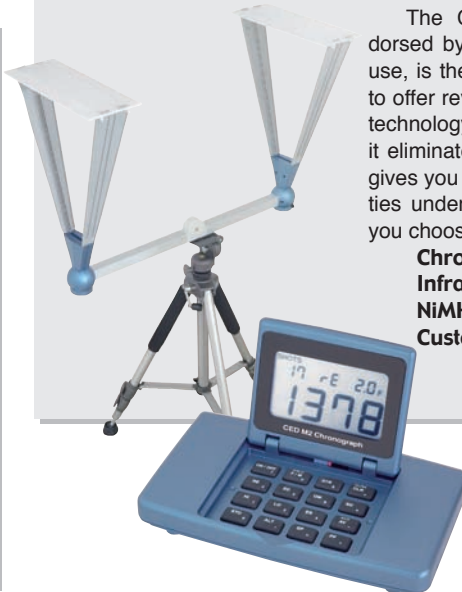


CED M2 Chronograph

The CED M2 Chronograph, endorsed by IPSC & USPSA for Official use, is the ONLY chronograph system to offer revolutionary Patented Infrared technology. With incredible accuracy, it eliminates the need for sunlight and gives you the freedom to record velocities under any lighting condition, or if you choose, no light at all!

- Chronograph System \$199.00**
- Infrared Upgrade \$89.00**
- NiMH Battery Pack \$48.00**
- Custom Carry Case \$35.95**

Full accessory line available!



Competitive Edge Dynamics, USA

Orders: (888) 628-3233
 Information: (610) 366-9752
 Fax: (610) 366-9680
 Email: sales@CEDhk.com
 (Hours: 9am - 5pm EST)

Come visit us online!
WWW.CEDhk.com

Order online 24 hours a day!



*To be the best,
 I train with the best....
 CED Products*



Eric GRAUFFEL
 World IPSC Champion

RELIABILITY FOR LIFE & LIBERTY™



M&P15T
.556mm

M&P40
.40 S&W

**M&P COMPACT
NOW AVAILABLE!**

M&P9C
9mm

INTRODUCING THE M&P COMPACT PISTOL

Smith & Wesson announces the newest member of the M&P Family - the M&P Compact Pistol.

M&P Pistols are available in 40S&W, 9mm and .357 SIG.

M&P15 Series Rifles are available in standard and tactical configuration.



Smith & Wesson®

www.smith-wesson.com 1-800-331-0852 NASDAQ: SWHC MADE IN U.S.A.

Smith & Wesson®
M&P
MILITARY & POLICE

TACTICAL JOURNAL

2232 CR 719

BERRYVILLE, AR 72616

E-mail: info@idpa.com
website: www.idpa.com
Phone: (870) 545-3886
Fax: (870) 545-3894

PRSRT STD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Print Group Inc.