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2008 Indoor National
Championship**

**New Column:
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2007 National Championship



Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

Fourth Quarter 2007
Volume 11 - Issue 4

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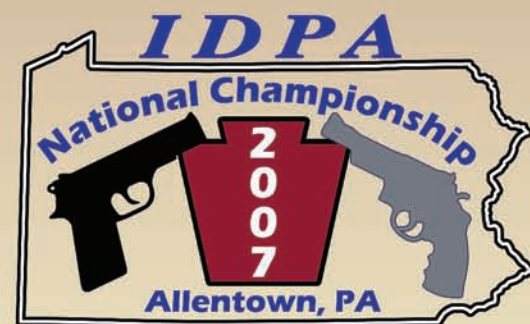
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Letters to the *Tactical Journal*

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

More Details

I just received and finished reading my Q3 2007 Tactical Journal. Interesting as usual, but lately I've been thinking that the Journal could be that much better if the articles were more practical than just informational. For example, there are often articles about state or other matches. It is interesting, but not overly practical to other IDPA members. What if articles about matches described in detail the makeup of one of their more challenging stages? That way other IDPA clubs could use the stage in their matches. Rob Reid did an interesting article on creative stage design and building target stands. Why not include some pictures or designs? That way, we could leverage on his ideas. In each Journal, why not take one of the more complicated rules and explain it in layman's terms (with examples). For example, FTN is often confusing for new shooters (and sometimes long-time shooters too!) Maybe the Journal could run a contest where members submitted stage makeups based on real-world scenarios and one was chosen for publication in each Journal. I think implementing some or all of these ideas would make our Tactical Journal that much better for us all. Steve Milz A25499 Niceville, FL

We are glad that you like the TJ and I appreciate your input on possible improvements. You have some interesting ideas; a couple that we have been playing with already. I especially like the Course of Fire (CoF) idea. So to all you MD's out there, when you write in to the TJ about your sanctioned matches, please think about including a lay out of one or two of your most interesting stages. We will see if we can't get them in the TJ and share the fun. Thanks, Steve and we will look at the other ideas you wrote about. Editor

Building a Shooter Base

I'd like to volunteer a few additional suggestions to Steven Vanderمولen's excellent article "Building Match Attendance" in the recent TJ.

1. Web Community...Our club has found that maintaining a web bulletin board allows the shooters to get questions answered quickly while providing the match staff a great venue in which to disseminate information. We started with Yahoo! Groups and migrated to a proprietary forum.

2. Attend other clubs' matches...Most every match has a shooters' meeting which provides an opportunity to tell the assembled competitors of your club's upcoming matches.

3. Use the rulebook...I'm amazed at the number of shooters who attend our matches and tell of stories regarding how they almost gave up on IDPA competition, because their club ran IDPA-lite matches (read: "outlaw") and the shooters were tired of lousy stage design, safety issues, poor officiating & sportsmanship, etc. If you want shooters to return, use the rulebook. All the time.

4. Host a sanctioned event...Little draws as much attention to a club as a sanctioned match. It provides validation that the club is doing things the right way and the staff & officials care about the "product." Using these strategies above, our monthly club match attendance grew from less than 10 shooters to our current 60 to 80. Jon Gilbert A06062 Seattle, WA

These are some great additional suggestions. IDPA has been growing by leaps and bounds this year. Ideas like this and your hard work are what makes your club and the sport grow. Thank you for your hard work. Editor

More on SOs

Thank you for pointing out the overgeneralization in the last paragraph of Chris Christian's letter in the Third quarter 2007 issue of "Tactical Journal". It also lacked objectivity. All members and prospective members who come to a match can shoot, even the Unclassifieds and the Novices who took a classifier and did not make Marksman. Setting arbitrary and subjective lines about who "can shoot" and "can't shoot" does nothing for unity.

There is something Chris could do to address the surprisingly few experts and masters serving as SO's. (I assume he is one of the two). Get trained as an SO and serve and show by example how he thinks it should be done. It also might inspire some empathy for those doing a difficult job and perhaps appreciation for the invaluable service they give.

Sincerely, Richard Rosa A23704

Chris made a number of good points and I hope people are thinking about what he said. I believe he was referencing skill levels and not whether or not to allow someone to shoot. The big reason I included this letter though, was to cover the last part. Chris's status as an SO and his shooting level is not the issue. The issue is that we do need to respect those that work as SO's but they have to earn that respect. It is hard to be a top competitor and an SO at the same time. Nobody likes a bad SO but there are some that are just a little out of their league. Sometimes it is just because they don't have any help or even just experience from higher level shooters. If you see a SO that is struggling, give a hand. If you approach with the intent to help and not just embarrass or belittle, most SOs will appreciate the input. Everyone should help where they can and I think Chris is doing his part as well. Editor

Realism versus Round Count

I'm not sure to whom to direct this, but if someone can send me an answer, I'd appreciate it.

I belong to the Thurmont Conservation & Sportsmans Club in Thurmont, MD, which has a local IDPA club. I have been asked to be the Match Director for the 2008 season, and I have agreed, but I've

(Continued on page 36)

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.

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IN THIS ISSUE

This issue has some really great coverage of the 2007 IDPA Nationals, so much so that we had to cut the Tactical Advantage column for this one issue. Fear not, the column will return in the next issue with new and interesting items. We are also proud to announce the first IDPA Indoor National Championship. Smith & Wesson will host this event at the Smith & Wesson Sport Shooting Complex in Springfield, MA. Smith & Wesson has been a long time supporter of IDPA and we are excited about partnering with them on this new match. We have also added a new column in this issue. It will be written by various authors and it will be designed to provoke new ideas and discussion about growth opportunities for IDPA. This article will be about shooting teams in IDPA. We hope you enjoy this issue and like always, we would like to hear your thoughts. 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

First let me say that I sure missed seeing you all at this year's Nationals. Since the birth of our daughter in August and Lisa's return to work for the same week, I thought it best I stay home with the family. I will be at next year's, God willing. Congratulations to Teddy and staff for a great match! By all accounts, Teddy did just as I expected and made this year's Nationals better than the ones that preceded it. That is the goal and I knew Ted was the man for the job. Good job, Teddy!!

There are several rules to follow for a successful match. The first 10 are:

Rule #1: Follow the rules.

There is a rule book, follow the rules in it! If you are not prepared to follow them all, do not think you can run a match. I know this sounds goofy, but think about it. How many times you have seen guys that would just overlook some rule they didn't agree with or ignore someone's infraction for whatever reason. Every time this is allowed, someone else gets the idea that it is ok. A new shooter that comes in for the first time and later reads the rule book wonders, "What the Hell"? The guy that travels all over to shoot sees yet another club doing it to suit themselves. This has to stop. When you run a match, it is your obligation to make sure you follow the rules. Do it for yourself, do it for the shooters, do it for the sport, hell I don't care, just do it!

Rule #2: Always remember that this is entertainment.

While some of the competitors are there because their livelihood

requires it, most are there to enjoy the experience. Everyone wants to compete, but rank and file just want to have a good time. After the scores are long forgotten, the good times and good friends will remain. Yes, it is about challenging shooting skills, but it is also a show. I used to always look at the CoFs after they were first drawn to make sure there was some of the "show" clear enough for all to see. The more realistic and detailed the props, the better the show will be. Make sure the shooting is good enough that is it not lost in the show, but make sure it has some flash to make it work.

Rule #3: The CoF has to make sense.

It has to be clear what to do after the buzzer goes off. We have all shot CoFs that made no sense. Early on, I figured out that everyone not only shot better, but had a better time if they could make their way through after the buzzer. I once shot a stage that seemed more like a math test than a stage of fire. We used to laugh that it required a calculator to do well. Some like to vary the number of hits required on targets in a single CoF. That's fine if there is a clear reason for the difference. Keep those to a minimum. I have seen some that started 2 round per, changed to 3, then back to 2, only to change again to 4 rounds per target. I was lost and knew that others were as well. What do you think would happen to a new shooter? The use of threat identifiers is good, but they must be clear and easily understood. One thing that our sport holds as a standard in CoFs is that it must be something that could happen. I

have used the news, stories from Law Enforcement and personal experiences to get ideas for courses of fire.

Rule #4: Gimmicks must be kept to a minimum.

The more complicated you make it the more likely it is to fail. As a guy who has spent most of his career running matches with some kind of a mover, I know from experience. Make sure it works! Test it over and over again. There is no such thing as over-tested. I am not sure what the limit of gimmicks to a match is, but the more you put in the more headaches you will have. I have heard of entire matches made up of movers and actuated targets. As I recall, they worked most of the time, but I like to have a good time too. I don't think, after all these years, I could sleep if I had an entire match of gimmicks. Make sure you have far more extra parts than you think you will need to fix anything that can break. I used to have a guy whose job was to keep that stuff working (Thanks Glen). Find one of those if you can!

Rule #5: Do not let the standards over power your match.

In my humble opinion, there should be a standards CoF in a sanctioned match. It serves several purposes, but most importantly, it is a test. A series of drills to test the shooter's ability to perform tasks related to our sport. It is a great way to test manipulation skills and accuracy in a compressed form. Some say that it tends to level the playing field; I can say from experience that a great shooter will shoot great no matter the CoF. Do not make the round count so high that it overpowers the match. Find

a balance that works and stay with it. It offers you a place to add to the number of rounds in a match and, if done properly, can be very efficient. Make sure you have enough staff and they are experienced enough to do a good job. Some are so good that is all they do!

Rule #6: Think it all through!

Make sure that all of it works together. Do the different bays work efficiently and not create more problems that they should? Make sure that your staff knows what to expect. Make it clear what will be expected of them and give them everything they need to accomplish the task you have given them. Pick the correct staff for the CoFs that best fit them and their abilities. Make sure you have support staff adequate to keep everyone supplied with all their needs. I once worked a match where we (the staff) had to access to any refreshment we wanted as long as we bought it or brought it with us. I used to carry tape and batteries with me everywhere I went. I learned this the hard way. Make sure you supply the match staff with all that they need! Make sure your staff knows they have your support. If they make a bad call you are obligated to correct the problem. Use this as an opportunity to correct a misunderstanding of the rules. If they will not follow your lead, get rid of them. Your success or failure will be in the details.

Rule #7: Fill out the score card.

Make sure everyone understands the importance of recording the scores correctly and completely. There is one thing worse than having a stage that does not work well; having to constantly do it again because someone forgot to write something down. Some of the best Safety Officers I have ever seen are the worst at little details like writ-

ing down the time. Identify these weaknesses and make sure they have guys who will write down the scores. Some are better suited to run shooters, others to keeping score. Find this out and make it happen. Great thing to remember, as competitors we shoot for accuracy, as safety officers we should strive for perfection. Or at least, just write down the scores.

Rule #8: FTDR and disqualifications have their place.

I have never met anyone who enjoyed giving either. I broke some new ground in both in my career. Sometimes, it becomes necessary to take these actions to penalize a competitor for infractions of the rules and sometimes even unsportsmanlike behavior calls for one or both of these to be used. As the match director or safety officer, you might find yourself in the place where this becomes necessary. Make sure you explain to everyone involved why you are taking this action. Most everyone, myself included, who have had to use these methods of penalty gave it a great deal of thought before and after taking the action. Sometimes, you just have to do the right thing even if it is difficult to do. We have rules and they must be followed.

Rule #9: Remember to have some fun.

I have enjoyed most all of the matches I have attended. Some because I shot well, some because I was working a fun stage and all because I got to spend time with old friends and made some new friends as well. Everyone at a match should have some fun. We used to, as safety officers, enjoy the squad change and adding our own brand of humor to preparing them to shoot our CoF.

I've seen some guys who lived to work matches as a group because they had so much fun together. The Nationals Standards crew is a good example. Curtis and those guys continue to request to work together to enjoy the friendship they have developed and are very good at making sure the standards go well year after year.

Rule #10: Remember you are representing IDPA.

While a competitor, safety officer or match director, you are representing this sport. I have always tried to keep in mind that when others watched my conduct on the range, they saw me, my club, my sport and shooting sports in general. I like others have always had a good time shooting and during matches, I always kept in mind what others were seeing. When you represent IDPA and your club you should be polite, courteous, fair, and try to be as efficient as you can be in getting them through the CoF. They are there to compete and have a good time and you should do your part in making sure that happens. Make sure they are welcome and at least tell them to have a nice day when they leave. Remind others to do the same.

Till next time:

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

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Women's Perspective

by Julie Goloski A19366

Safety Issues for the Range and Home

You can never be too careful when it comes to range safety. Safety officers have the job of ensuring that we enjoy courses of fire safely, but as responsible shooters, we owe it to ourselves to make sure that we do everything we can to avoid accidents and to protect ourselves from potential danger on the range.

The first thing you can do to make the range safer is to use proper eye and ear protection. Make sure eye protection is just that, protection. You don't get extra points for being a fashionista at a match, but having adequate eye protection that completely covers your eyes and the delicate tissue around them is a must. Ricochets, shrapnel and dusty conditions can cause serious eye injury and even blindness. Look for lenses rated by the American National Safety Institute (ANSI). Shooting glasses should be rated at ANSI Z87.1 or higher. Remember, you only have two eyes and you need them to shoot to the best of your ability.

The same goes for your hearing. It's a good idea to invest in a pair of quality ear muffs and even consider coupling them with foam plugs. Many people invest in a pair of molded ear plugs that greatly reduce the impact of loud gunfire. I still suggest wearing double hearing protection when you can, especially at indoor ranges. It has particular benefits for shooters who

have acquired a flinch. I often suggest that shooters who seem to be more susceptible to muzzle blast use double hearing protection as a tool to help them control their response to the blast much better.

Now that we've touched on the most obvious of the safety gear, it's also important to understand that there are other dangers to keep in mind. Probably what most shooters do not realize is the fact that even when shooting jacketed bullets, we are exposed to lead on the range. Indoor ranges especially carry a higher risk for lead exposure. Get in the habit of always washing your hands and face (particularly around your mouth and lips) with cold water and soap after shooting. There are even special soaps made to remove lead more efficiently. It's also

a good idea to pack wet wipes in your shooters bag to use before you eat or drink. Avoid foods that don't have a wrapper or fruits where you eat the skin that have been exposed to lead in your range bag. You can still have them but make sure they are stored in clean, lead free plastic bags.

According to WebMD.com, the symptoms aren't apparent until the level of lead in your blood is very high. In most cases lead poisoning results from consistent exposure to low levels of lead over an extended period of time. When you do have

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Julie Goloski

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Behind the Badge

by Rob Haught CL068



Now that we've decided to take the plunge and have decided which sidearm and holster combination to use, the only other items needed to compete safely are good quality eye protection and hearing protection. There are many brands of each available that will do the job. When it comes to eye protection, please don't skimp. Many years ago, before the popularity of polycarbonate shooting glasses, a friend almost lost an eye due to a bullet coming back from a bowling pin and shattering his prescription glasses and entering his eye. Surgery saved his eyesight and he shoots at a national level to this day. This event was one of the catalysts for the use of impact resistant shooting glasses at major matches. Many brands are serviceable, including Oakley, Wiley-X, etc. Get the wraparound style to give you the most coverage and interchangeable lenses to get the most versatility in daylight and low-light scenarios.

Hearing protection can be as simple as soft foam earplugs or as hi-tech as electronic earmuff style units. As soon as I was able to afford them, I moved to the electronic muffs. They allow you to clearly hear range commands and, when engaging steel targets, give instant audio feedback on hits. Again, several good models are out there in a variety of price ranges. Dillon, Pro Ear, Sordin and Peltor all will do the job.

As was previously mentioned, you will need a minimum of three

serviceable magazines for your blaster. Six is even better as it will allow more time between stages to top off. You will only use three at a time in most cases. A small range bag to carry your kit is also useful. This doesn't have to be fancy; there are dozens out there that will work fine. Just remember; the bigger the bag the more junk it will ultimately accumulate and soon you will need wheels to move it around. The small stage bags from I-Shot are very popular and you will find it just about perfect for IDPA matches. You can carry everything you need in one and I have been using this setup for the past several years.

Now that you have all your ducks lined up in regards to gear, what can you expect when you arrive at your first match? The first thing that will catch your eye when you pull into the lot is the diverse group of shooters present. You will see all ages of men and women from every walk of life. It's kind of neat, all these different types with a common hobby. You will need to register at the stat shack and they will typically ask you to sign a waiver, (we know all about the attorneys!) and will ask in which division you wish to shoot. Most likely, I'm assuming, it will be in Stock Service Pistol. You will then tell the nice person that this is your first match and you are a Novice. They may ask you if you wish to join the IDPA organization. You will need to after a few matches if you want to continue anyway, so now might be a good time.

In other sports you must shoot several matches then an average is determined to give you a classification. In IDPA, there is a standard Classifier course of fire that is offered by most local clubs a few times a season that can classify you on the spot. After shooting it, you will be placed in Master, Expert, Sharpshooter or Marksman class. Then you will only compete within your class in your division. This system allows a new shooter to feel better about competing with others of his skill level rather than seeing the big dogs and getting discouraged thinking he will never be able to compete with them. That is a natural feeling, but most forget the big dogs all started the same place he is standing right now and put in the hard work and effort to get to the Master level.

You are given a score sheet and you step out to start your match. I would recommend watching a few shooters go through each stage before stepping up. Each stage usually has the course description posted for you to read which explains the scenario and rationale for it. It will tell you what type of stage it is; standards or scenario and whether it is scored Vickers or Limited Vickers and any other detail specific to that stage. If that just sounded like Greek to you, don't fret. When your name is called, simply tell the Safety Officer that this is your first time and he will be very happy to walk you through it. I don't know any SO who does the job because he hates it. They are typical of

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2007 IDPA National Championship



by Robert Ray A05188

The 11th annual IDPA National Championship has gone into the record books and it could not have been a better cap for an impressive year of growth for IDPA. Earlier this year, IDPA surged through the 12,000 member mark with record numbers of new members. Just this week, we broke through the 13,000 member mark. Besides the record growth, this year saw the IDPA National Championship move outside of the central US and up to the northeast; a first for the Championship.

For the last 10 years, IDPA has hosted the Championship in the Mid South. We decided that it was time to stretch our legs and Pennsylvania was just the place to go. Besides being the birthplace of our country, PA is central to a huge crescent of IDPA activity. Imagine a line stretching down from Michigan, through Ohio, dipping into Virginia and back up through Massachusetts. This region is a regular paradise of IDPA shooting opportunities. This made Pennsylvania a natural selection and Ted Murphy was just the man to bring it all together.

The match was held at the Guthsville Rod and Gun Club just outside of Allentown, PA, and what a beautiful place. This range was a total departure from the

previous year's host. This is not a knock against Central Arkansas Shooters Association; it is a great place and my home range. The difference is in the age of the ranges. CASA is just 15 years old in its current location. The range is still primarily raw dirt floored bays with a decided lack of trees, but a highly functional and effective range. Guthsville, on the other hand, has been around since the mid 1940's. Grass covered bays, asphalt drive along the bays and a plethora of tall trees

for shade sure made for a welcome addition to the match. Another nice thing about this area was being further north than Arkansas, we had some cooler weather. As a matter of fact, the only bad thing I have to say about the range is it could be a little bigger and that is just me nitpicking.

On Tuesday night, the Safety Officers signed in at the match hotel. That is when they received the gear donated by Backyard Outfitter. Each SO received three shirts, a vest, two pants, one short and a hat from the Woolrich "Elite" series of tactical clothing. This is the second year that Backyard Outfitter has stepped up and made this donation. In retail

dollars, we are talking about almost \$300 of clothing per SO. I think this is an exceptional show of support of our sport and the guys (and gals) that help make it possible. I hope that you take a moment to thank your SO next time you are on a range. They do an awful lot, usually for a little of nothing. It is nice to have a sponsor recognize their hard work.

Wednesday saw a high of about 85 degrees and high humidity, but still a great day of shooting. The SO's and staff shot all 15 stages spread over 8 bays and what a challenging set of stages. I will cover the stages here, but for a full, detailed diagram of the stages, please go to www.idpa.com. Bay 1 held two stages, a speed shoot and the longest scenario of the match. **Stage 1** was sponsored by **Brownells** and required the shooter

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

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to engage six targets with one round each. This was made tougher by cutting the three-zone off the target. Revolver shooters really had to pay attention to the front sight on this one.

Stage 2 was sponsored by the good folks at **W. C. Wolff**. This is one of the two stages that utilized Newbold's fantastic shoot through, self sealing plates.

These plates are great for up close use as the bullet passes through and knocks the plate off the stand. No problem with splatter using these like you get with steel. This was the longest stage of the match with a total of 10 paper targets, two Newbolds and two pepper poppers. Broken into two strings, this stage used the maximum movement allowed in IDPA. Two



was sponsored by **Guns & Weapons for Law Enforcement**. You started facing a spring-loaded curtain that

simulated an elevator door. You only had one round in your gun and started at low ready. The start signal was the curtain opening and this exposed one threat target hidden behind a non-threat. All you could see of the threat was a portion of the head. This was a Vickers Count stage so you could reload if you had to, but I would not advise it. It was a tough shot combined

with not hearing the beep to start. I would like to see more of these types of starts in IDPA. Fred Rios had the fastest time for that stage with an impressive 0.54,



a smoking reaction time. **Stage 5** was sponsored by **King Shooter Supply** and involved a lot of movement. It just was not by the competitor! You started by taking low cover behind a life sized coffin and engaged a Reed Reactor (Vol. 9 Issue 1). This activated a peep out target from behind a non-threat and a swinger from behind some hard cover, real hard cover, a steel plate!

Bay 3 had stages 6 and 7. **Stage 6**, sponsored by **Handguns** magazine, was also drawn from the life of Walt Rauch. You engage two targets to

(Continued on page 15)

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the left of a car and then go prone and engage two more targets. Going prone is hard enough (especially on a fat guy like me) but before you engaged the second two targets, you had to shoot their “legs” out from under them. The targets were built by Ken Reed, of Reed Reactor fame, and designed to expose a target after knocking down a 4 inch by 12 inch steel plate. This made for some hard thinking by the revolver guys. Do a reload lying on the ground or do a tac-load before you hit the ground and hope you don’t miss!

Stage 7 was sponsored by **Action Target** it really could not be any other way as we were using their exceptional portable target system. This system is just as advertised, user friendly and reliable. It sets up in just 10 minutes and it performed flawlessly all week. There were a lot of hits on the right side of the mover target (the direction of travel) from competitors over leading it. The mover required three hits and not a lot of time to get them. This was made more challenging as you were moving parallel to the direction of travel on the mover target.

Stages 8 and 9 were together on bay 5. **Stage 8** was a quick and dirty stage sponsored by **Ajax Custom Grips**. The stage was titled “Stoppage Drill” this was most appropriate as you started bent over an actual toi-



let with a plunger in your hands working out a “stoppage”. On signal, you engaged three targets with 2 rounds apiece; just watch out for the non-threat. There was some tight shooting to avoid that non-threat. **Stage 9** was borrowed from the 2007 S&W Winter Championship. It was sponsored by **Tactical Kydex Weaponry**. This was a fast little stage with a peep out target and a popper set behind a paper target. A hit to the zero zones on the paper knocked over the popper and set off the peep out target. You started in front of a counter with your gun in an IDPA box. On signal, you engaged T1 & T2 with 2 rounds each (the pepper popper was behind T2). This activated the peep out target, T3, and you had very little time to put two on it. You then move to cover and engage three more targets with 2 rounds each using cover.

On bay 6 **Stage 10**, you started kneeling at the back wheel of a car holding the lug wrench. Pretty straight forward here, you shoot one target to the left with 2 rounds and, using the back of the car for cover, engage two more threats with 2 rounds each. This stage was sponsored by **Smith & Alexander**. Also on bay 6, **Stage 11** involved a fair amount of movement as well. Broken into two strings, you en-

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(Continued on page 21)

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Random Shots Team Competition

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

by Tom Pinney A24541

One of the primary attractions of the IDPA is a chance to compete against other shooters in a fun environment. Up to now, this competition has always been individual. As more and more clubs are attracting and maintaining healthy numbers of shooters it is inevitable that some clubs will want to compete as a group against other clubs.

There are some good reasons to hold team competition.

First, team competition can strengthen clubs. Group competition is a great way to bond groups. If a new shooter understands that his contributions to the club are just as important as the expert shooters, it will encourage him or her to participate in, and enjoy matches.

Team competition might spark clubs to seek out

new members since even a new shooter can help a club by competing in the lower divisions of a match.

Finally, it can be a lot of fun. Since IDPA already has a successful policy limiting prizes, team competition should remain (relatively) light-hearted and will only add another layer to the enjoyment of a match.

There are three basic tenants to any IDPA team competition.

First and foremost, team competition must follow the spirit of competition now listed in the Rule Book. It should be "geared toward the average shooter, yet be fun, challenging and rewarding for the experienced shooter." Any team competition must provide a "level playing field for all competitors." The main goal will remain "to test the skill and ability of the individual." Any IDPA team competition should not in any way conflict with these fundamental tenants of the IDPA as detailed in the Rule Book.



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Random Shots - Team Competition

Second, team competition should be concurrent and not interfere with individual competition at a match; that is, it should not change the way non-team matches are conducted. A shooter should be able to participate in a team match (or not) and be unable to tell any difference in how the match is run. All elements of matches will continue as they do now. The only things that will make a match also a team competition will occur before the match begins and after all individual scoring is completed.

Third, team competition should also be simple and as possible; additional work for the Match Directors should be minimized.

There are some team sports based on individual competition. Bowling and medal play golf are examples of sports where team scores come from the participant's combined scores, that is, the scores of the team members are added up and the team with the best combined scores is the victor. I do not think this model fits our IDPA model.

A better fit is the model used by wrestling, track meets, or match play golf. In those models, competitors are divided into events, skill levels or flights so that

individuals compete against others of similar abilities and the teams are only judged on the success of individuals within their group. The margins of victory or actual scores are not combined; only the success of the team members in comparison to similarly equipped and skilled competitors. This is much closer to the IDPA model which divides shooters into division/classification categories based on both equipment and skill.

Any IDPA team competition should be held "on top of" an existing IDPA match; the match will be organized and run like any other IDPA match, with existing individual competition and awards. The only change would that teams must submit a list of team members and the division and classification of each member of the team before the match. Upon completion of the event, after all scores have been entered and verified, the match director then notes the relative positions of team members in each of the competing divisions and classifications. The team which has the best relative positions in the combined divisions and classifications is declared the winner.

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Random Shots - Team Competition

impact on the team score for as a Master-level shooter. A competitor who dominates his division by 30 seconds earns the same number of points for his team as one who ekes out a win by .01. That is the way scores are done now. The only change is in combining the finishes of recognized teams so that groups can share a prize won by individual performances.

There are two requirements for Team IDPA competition - determining teams, and measuring success.

•Determining Teams

Teams will consist of any group of classified IDPA members. Smaller clubs and even individuals may form ad hoc teams for the purpose of competing in a match, but there should be a common factor linking team members.

A team must have a designated captain. The Team Captain is responsible for providing to the Match Director the team members and in which division/classification the team members will be competing. Team captains will have to do a nice bit of calculation to try to determine which division/classification they want to assign their shooters (assuming the team members are classified in multiple divisions). Who will the other team assign in the various categories? Who do they want their shooters to match up against? How can a team maximize its chances for points?

The Match Directors will stipulate any limits of team sizes in advance for their match. The Match Director may limit the total number of team members, may specify only one shooter per division/classification, or may limit the competing division/classifications. For example, the competition may be limited to CDP, ESP, SSP, and SSR; or only Sharpshooters and Marksman level shooter are counted for team competition. It is up to the Match Director to determine this important part of the team competition of the match and to notify team captains of the limits.

Assignment of one team's shooters to division/classification category should not be known to other teams until all teams have registered.

•Measuring Success

At the end of the match after all scores are entered, the Match director will review the team lists and award Match Points for the relative placement of each shooter.

There are two systems of assigning Match Points. One is based on the number of competitors in a given

division/classification, the other is based on the number of team competing. The Match Director should publish which format that will be used before team members are assigned.

Below is a matrix for assigning Team Match Points based on the number of competitors in the match. This rewards shooters who are shooting against a lot of other people in their category.

Competitor-Based Matrix

Number of division/ classification competitors	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
Four or more	10	6	3	1
Three	6	3	1	
Two	3	1		
One	1			

Based on the number of clubs participating, the match director may want a team based matrix. This would be a boon to the divisions that have fewer shooters, specifically, revolver shooters. Using this model it does not matter how many shooters are in a specific division/class.


Here is an example matrix for assigning team match points based on the number of teams in the match.

Team-Based Matrix

Number of teams competing	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Four or more	10	6	2
Three or fewer	6	2	0

By overlaying team competition on top of our existing scores, the workload for the Match Director is minimal. It should only take a minute or two to assign Team Match Points for the division/classifications for the teams and determine team positions.

What will the teams win? Perhaps the match might award a team trophy, perhaps a certificate, but announcing the results of the team competition will certainly grant 'bragging rights' for the top team.

Team competition will simply provide another venue of fun competition. It should also spur interest in sanctioned matches, boost club membership and may well convince shooters to classify in more than one division. Most of all it should be a lot of fun for relatively little overhead. That should be enough. 



a little more distracting sight picture and some tough shooting. After exiting the bus you still had to move down range and engage four more paper targets while using cover. This stage was sponsored by **Ballistics Research**, the maker of those great bullet stopping blocks.

Bay 9 only had one stage on it, **Stage 14**, the feared Nationals Standards. Comprising of four strings, the standards was a great mix of strong and support hand only shooting, kneeling, reloads and the use of cover. As usual, Curt Nichols and his crew did a great job of making sure everything ran on time. With four starts and 39 rounds to complete, this is no small matter. We used the new CED 7000 timer in conjunction with the billboard display on this stage. This great set up allows us to get through with maximum speed. We were proud to have **Competitive Edge Dynamics**

gaged a total of nine threat targets while avoiding the three non-threats. You engage targets from a doorway, move forward through a room and engage more threats from a second doorway. This was a straight forward test of the use of cover and target engagement. This stage was sponsored by high performance ammunition manufacturer **Cor-bon**.

Bay 7 also housed two stages, 12 and 13. **Stage 12** paid respect to a modern day gunfighter, Jim Cirillo. On his first shift in the famed NYPD Stake Out Squad, Jim was forced into shooting three thugs who came into a convenience store with the intent to rob it. That event started a long and well decorated career. In the stage, the competitor starts at a counter. There are two threats with a non-threat between them, fifteen yards away. There is another threat just to the right of the first two, but it is mostly hidden behind a steel plate representing hard cover. Each target gets two rounds apiece to complete the stage. Jim passed away earlier this year in an automobile accident and we were proud to remember him in this year's championship with help of stage sponsor **American Handgunner**. On **Stage 13**, you started inside a 24 foot mock up of a city bus. After engaging three targets from inside the bus, you moved to the doorway and engaged a paper target and two pepper poppers 25 yards away. The poppers were also behind a section of orange snow/ construction fencing. This made for



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sponsor this stage.

The last stage of the match occurred in the indoor range, bay 10. For **Stage 15**, the competitor started with very little light available. You were facing an external flash from a camera. The flash going off in your face was your start signal. There was no audible start beep for this stage. You negotiated, from left to right, a series of three aisles. At the back of each were two threat targets and a Newbold plate. Using cover, you engaged each paper with two rounds each and the Newbolds. This was made very difficult by the almost nonexistent ambient light and the addition of small fire alarm strobes on the floor of each aisle. To stop the timer, you had to slap a stop button at the far edge of the last aisle. This was probably the most challenging stage of the match. There was just enough light to shoot it with no flashlight, but a Surefire or Streamlight sure made things easier. We were happy to have **Blackwater USA** on board as the sponsor of this stage.

That ended the day for the Safety Officers and by the number of smiling faces, Ted had done a great job with the CoF's. Next it was off to the hotel for sign-in and a great layout of hors d' oeuvres, soda and beer.

The hospitality rooms were sponsored by Wilson Combat and everybody really enjoyed themselves while catching up with friends and getting their shooting bag after signing in. This year's bag sponsor was Harris Publications, but you might be more familiar with their great line on gun magazines such as *Combat Handguns*, *Guns and Weapons for Law Enforcement* and their newest, *Tactical Weapons*. The bags had the championship logo on the side as well as Harris' logo. Harris also sponsored the shirt logo for the match. Their logo was included on the great looking commemorative Polo's and T-Shirts available.

Thursday dawned looking great for shooting with mild temperatures and mostly clear skies. The day did heat up a little later on but it was still nice outside. Those that were feeling a little hot could grab a cool drink off the beverage cart. It was sponsored on Thursday by TK Custom and it was a welcome sight



when it rolled around. The cart was sponsored on Friday by Wilson Combat and on Saturday by Smith & Alexander. Harris Publications, already a huge sponsor of the match, stepped up again by donating all of the water used. Each bottle was custom labeled with one of Harris' publications, *Combat Handguns*, *Guns and Weapons for Law Enforcement* or *Tactical Weapons*. We really appreciate all that Harris does in supporting IDPA.

If you were not shooting that day, there were still plenty of things to do. You could step into the 40'



2007 IDPA National Championship



by 100' tent and look at all the vendors merchandise on display. There were a lot of items being bought through out the day from guys such as Woolrich Elite series, Target Barn, King Shooter Supply, Competitive Edge Dynamics, IDPA Pro Shop, Millennium Custom, SKD Tactical, Warren Tactical Sights, Tactical Kydex Weaponry and Blackheart International. If you wanted a little more "hands on", you could wonder over to the Expo bays where you could not only look at some great guns, you could shoot them as well. We had CZ USA, Para Ordnance, Wilson Combat, Glock and Smith and Wesson displaying their great guns this year. It is always nice to get to play with a new gun and not even have to buy the ammo for it. As an added bonus on the Smith and Wesson bay, you could shoot a Back Up Gun side match with either a J frame revolver or the new compact M&P or you could do both. S&W gave away a gun to the winner of each run (semi-auto and revolver) and another two by random drawing of all BUG entrants. Smith and Wesson has been a supporter of IDPA since its inception and this year was no different. Cor-bon was also a sponsor of the BUG match and donated all the ammo for the S&W bay as well as giving the gun winners 500 rounds of premium Cor-bon ammo. The winners of those guns were lucky people indeed.



to have final score out no later than 10 minutes after the last shot fired. I think the slow printer caused most of that time! One more time off to the hotel, this time with final scores in hand. Everyone was awaiting their arrival, one eye open for the scores and one eye open for the food being laid out for the match dinner.

Everyone was in a celebratory mood. The match was over and everyone was telling stories about their shining moments and the inevitable crash and burns. It was even better if you could tell one about a shooting buddy's crash and burn. We do like to give each other a good natured hard time. Everyone was feeling loose





staff. There was one more thing to do and then we would be off on our separate ways. This was the moment that everyone was waiting for, the Awards Ceremony. IDPA President Bill Wilson opened the ceremony with a few words and then turned the stage over to Match Director Ted Murphy. Ted said a few words but one thing stuck with me and a number of other people and I am glad he said it. What you may not know is that Guthsville is not an IDPA Affiliated club itself. They allow another affiliated club to use its range. It does however, have an USPSA affiliation. Ted thanked the local USPSA guys for their help with the pre-match setup. Proof positive that the two sports can get along and I appreciate their work as well. IDPA Vice President John Sayle was up next for the actual awards presentation. Each competitor that placed received a handsome mahogany finished plaque with place of finish engraved on a metal plate. A beautiful disk with the IDPA logo topped each one. Congratulations to each of the winners in this years Championship. The top winners are:

CDP Champion:	David Olhasso	173.42	(16)
ESP Champion:	Donnie Burton	163.76	(16)
SSP Champion:	Bob Vogel	177.02	(28)
ESR Champion:	Jerry Miculek	217.11	(49)
SSR Champion:	Curt Nichols	259.49	(36)
BUG Champion:	Eric Fuson	2.73	(0) revolver
BUG Champion:	Gary Byerly	1.88	(0) semi-auto

and happy, partly because the end of the match and partly because of the huge dinner being sponsored by Smith and Wesson. Having already been a huge sponsor of the match, S&W stepped up and sponsored the dinner again for this year. Thank you again Smith and Wesson.

Sunday dawned and greeted a tired but happy



I would like to thank again all of the people that helped make this match happen. We would not be able to do this without your help. I would also like to thank

Michael Bane and his crew from the Shooting Gallery. Michael came and covered the match on Friday and we should see that episode air hopefully some time in February. Keep an eye on his website, www.downrange.tv, for developing information. It also has a lot of other interesting information and items to keep you busy. I also recommend checking out the link to his blog and podcast.

I hope to see you again next year and until then, stay safe, get out and shoot, and have a great time.



it, it affects the central nervous system, gastrointestinal (digestive) tract, and the renal system (urinary tract). High lead levels can affect blood cell development and the body's ability to form hemoglobin (a protein that carries oxygen from the lungs). High levels can cause high blood pressure, kidney failure, and can also affect the reproductive system.

Some chronic lead exposure symptoms include:

- Stomach-aches, cramping, constipation, or diarrhea
- Nausea, vomiting
- Persistent, unexplained fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle weakness
- Higher rates of tooth decay

There are also some behavioral signs that you may have lead poisoning. They include:

- Irritability
- Unexplained changes in mood or personality
- Changes in sleep patterns
- Inability to concentrate
- Memory loss

It's a good idea to have your lead levels regularly checked even if you think you are within safe levels. It is even more important if you

shoot at indoor ranges. Testing for lead involves a simple blood test. Your doctor can help you analyze your results to make sure you stay within safe limits.

Lead awareness doesn't stop after you're done shooting for the day. Keep in mind you have lead residue on your clothes and shoes. It's a good idea to take off your shoes and range clothes when you get home and immediately wash your hands. In a perfect world, it would be ideal to wash your range clothes in a separate washer and dryer than the rest of the family clothing. Obviously, most people will not be able to do this, but at least jump in the shower to get rid of residue left on your skin and hair. Keep shoes that have been to the range separate from other shoes in the mud room or garage. This is especially important if you have young children at home. You will want to keep their exposure to an absolute minimum. You aren't just tracking in dirt from the range, you are bringing lead into your home as well.


Lead is particularly dangerous to children and especially harmful to a child's developing brain. They are more easily affected than adults. Keep children away from your range clothes and shoes to reduce their exposure and avoid tracking lead throughout the house. If you bring kids to the range be aware that they like to play in the dirt and with empty brass. Try to discourage this as children tend to touch their mouths, noses and eyes throughout the day. Wash their hands and face frequently and always before they eat or drink. Coming home, make sure to wash their clothing and march them to the shower immediately to cut

down on their exposure.

WebMD.com advises that children should be tested, no matter what their age, if they have been exposed to lead or if they have symptoms that could be caused by lead poisoning. Chronic exposure may also cause behavioral problems in children. Some behavioral signs to watch for in kids are:

- Irritability or aggressiveness
- Hyperactivity, being easily distracted, impulsiveness
- Learning problems
- Lack of interest in play
- Loss of appetite

Pregnant women should also avoid lead exposure. High lead levels can cause miscarriage or still-birth. Children who were exposed to lead before they were born may be underweight, have lower IQ and have problems with their attention span.

Sometimes we underestimate how serious lead poisoning can be. Very simple steps to reduce your exposure and that of your family can keep you within safe levels. Just as we have incorporated eye and ear protection into our common range safety rules, get in the habit of becoming aware of the hazards of lead exposure and how you can minimize the affect it has on you and your family. There is no "lead blast" to hear as we shoot. We don't see the affect as obviously as we see holes appear in the target. By the time you realize you have it, it's already become a serious problem. Consult your family doctor for any specific questions you have and keep in mind the internet can be an excellent source for additional information about eye and ear protection, as well as lead poisoning. 



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volunteers in any endeavor in that they enjoy helping others and new shooters are especially valued people. Most importantly, don't be afraid to ask questions.

A lot of buddies kind of form up into a group and move from stage to stage. Don't be afraid to ask a group if you can join them and tag along. You will learn a lot and make some new friends. Shooters as a species, regardless of shooting sport, are the friendliest folks I have ever met.

The stages will likely be one of three types. The first is what we call a Standard Exercise. This will resemble a normal LE Qualification course with several individual start signals and is a test of gunhandling and marksmanship skill. It could involve one or more targets and can be from arms length to thirty yards or so. Skills such as strong hand, support hand, reloading and pivots and turns are tested in Standard Exercises. These are scored either Limited Vickers, where only a set number of rounds are allowed to be fired per string and the time is recorded for each string and .50 seconds added for each point dropped, or each shooter is given a par time for each string of fire and the total points down calculated as above. A word about this Vickers count, it was named after Larry Vickers, an IDPA founder. Get him to tell you the inside scoop if you see him as to how it came about. It's a funny story. It has proven to be a very simple and effective scoring system that places a premium on time without sacrificing accuracy. In other words, it is very difficult to miss fast enough to win.

The second type of stage and

the most fun for most folks is the scenario stage. These courses of fire are designed to reflect situations where you might reasonably be required to use a sidearm for self-defense. Carjackings, Robberies, Home Invasions, Street Muggings are all food for thought for the course designers. What makes IDPA so realistic are the props used in these scenario stages and the rules that keep course design from getting out of hand. This is where the LEO can gain much needed familiarity with use of cover and gunhandling skill in a wide variety of situations. These types of stages are typically scored with the Vickers Count method. This is simply your raw time plus .50 seconds added for each point dropped, plus time added for any penalties incurred. The system is very simple and lowest time wins. Easy to remember and work with.

The third type of stage seen often is called a Skill Drill. This is simply a test of a particular skill that doesn't utilize a scenario to test. Something like 20 yd. head shots comes to mind!

You may see all of these types at any given match. At the local level, it is smart to bring about 100-150 rds. of ammo. My rule of

thumb was always to bring enough to shoot through at least twice in case there was time and there was a really neat stage I wanted a second shot at, so to speak. Most clubs offer re-shoots for a reduced price so why not take advantage of it?

At the end of the match you will have your scoresheet in your hand and, as most places are on the honor system, you will turn it into the stat shack. In a few days most clubs either post the scores on line or send out the results snail mail so you can see how you fared overall. Regardless of how you did the biggest question is "Did I have fun?", next is "Did I learn anything useful?" Hopefully you will be able to say yes to both.

In closing I would say again don't be afraid to ask questions and don't think you will look any worse than anyone else who is shooting their first match. Some local clubs offer something like a "New Shooters Clinic" taught by older shooters that is designed to help prepare you for match participation. If you local club does this be sure to take advantage of it. Good Luck!

As always I look forward to your thoughts. www.syntac@yahoo.com



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2007 Championship Equipment Survey

Guns Used

Amadini Custom 1		
Sentry 1911	.45 ACP	1
Beretta 11		
92FS Vertec	9 mm	1
92G Elite II	9 mm	6
96 Brigadier INOX	.40 S&W	1
96D Brigadier	.40 S&W	1
PX4	9 mm	1
Steel 1	9 mm	1
Browning 5		
Hi-Power	.40 S&W	2
Hi-Power	9 mm	3
Caspian 6		
1911	.45 ACP	3
1911	9 mm	3
Cline Trigger Shop 1		
1911	.45 ACP	1
Colt 9		
1911	.45 ACP	3
1911	9 mm	1
1911 National Match	.45 ACP	1
Combat Commander	.45 ACP	1
Python	.357 mag	1
Series 70	.45 ACP	1
Series 80	.45 ACP	1
CZ 4		
75 B	9 mm	2
85	9 mm	1
P01	9 mm	1
Dan Wesson 2		
1911	.45 ACP	1
Pointman Seven	.45 ACP	1
EAA 1		
Witness	9 mm	1
EGW / Caspian 1		
1911	.45 ACP	1
Glock 106		
17	9 mm	30
19	9 mm	2
21	.45 ACP	7

22	.40 S&W	3
23	.40 S&W	2
34	9 mm	54
35	.40 S&W	8
H&K 2		
USP	.40 S&W	1
USP Expert	9 mm	1
Kimber 22		
1911	.40 S&W	1
1911	.45 ACP	2
BP Ten II	.45 ACP	1
Classic	.45 ACP	1
Classic Custom	.45 ACP	2
Custom	.45 ACP	4
Eclipse	.45 ACP	1
Gold Combat Stainless II	.45 ACP	1
Pro Tactical II	9 mm	1
Raptor	.45 ACP	2
Stainless Target II	.38 Super	1
Super Match	.45 ACP	4
Target II	.38 Super	1
Les Baer 6		
Concept VI	.45 ACP	1
Extreme Tactical	.45 ACP	1
Premier II	.45 ACP	2
Super Tac	.45 ACP	1
Thunder Ranch	.45 ACP	1
Nighthawk Custom 2		
Talon	.45 ACP	1
Talon	9 mm	1
Nowlin 2		
1911	9 mm	1
Match Classic	9 mm	1
Para Ordnance 8		
14.45	.45 ACP	2
16.4	.40 S&W	3
18.9	9 mm	1
PXT	.45 ACP	1
Todd Jarrett USPSA	.45 ACP	1
Rock River 1		
1911	.38 Super	1

Sig Sauer 10		
P220 ST	.45 ACP	1
P226	.40 S&W	2
P226	9 mm	1
P226 Elite	9 mm	1
P226 Navy	9 mm	1
P229	.40 S&W	1
P229 DAK	.357 SIG	1
P239	9 mm	1
Revolution	.45 ACP	1
Smith & Wesson 68		
15	.38 Special	1
19	.357 mag	3
19	.38 Special	1
1911	.38 Super	1
1911	.45 ACP	5
1911 DK	.38 su. cm.	1
1911 DK	.45 ACP	2
22 (Thunder Ranch)	.45 ACP	1
329 PD	.44 mag	1
3566	9 mm	1
5906 PC	9 mm	4
625	.45 ACP	14
646	.40 S&W	1
65	.357 mag	1
66	.357 mag	2
67-6	.38 Special	1
686	.357 mag	9
945	.45 ACP	1
M&P	.40 S&W	3
M&P	.45 ACP	1
M&P	9 mm	14
Springfield 39		
1911A1	.40 S&W	1
1911A1	.45 ACP	3
1911A1	9 mm	9
Loaded	9 mm	1
Mil-Spec	.45 ACP	2
Trophy Match	.45 ACP	1
TRP	.45 ACP	1
XD	.40 S&W	2

(Continued on page 30)

After Thoughts

The 11th IDPA Nationals is now in the books and now it is time to look back at the match, and discuss the Match Director's "After Thoughts".

I started planning this match with the idea that we would be hosting a party for 350 of our closest friends and I think that attitude was prevalent throughout the shooters' match experience. We wanted the shooters to feel at home at our nicely wooded range and shoot 15 very fun and challenging stages. The stages were picked with an emphasis on marksmanship and gun-handling, and we tried to integrate a little local culture and history in their design.

The match was blessed with an exceptional crew of Safety Officers, Stats Crunchers, and Support Staff and they certainly delivered! I cannot tell you all how much I appreciate your help and dedication to the Sport. Many of the Safety Officers were returning experienced hands, but we also introduced several new people to working the event, and I hope their experience was rewarding for them.

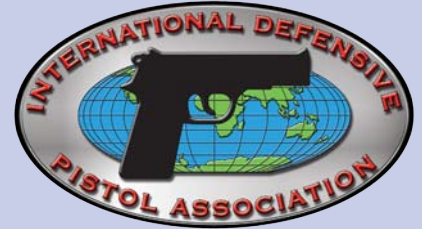
This event was personally rewarding in several ways. First, it allowed me to once again see the nationals through the eyes of a new shooter. This was my tenth nationals but this year I got to see a very large group of new shooters who had never been to the event before.



To see the excitement and wonder in their faces was very rewarding and made me think back to my first nationals in 1998 and how I took it all in. Second, as I sat at the awards banquet and watched people get their trophies, I saw many first timers collect a plaque. For many of these shooters I remembered their first match, their first classifier, or when they attended a SO seminar I taught. It was a good feeling for me to see their hard work pay off at the national level.

Lastly, this event made me feel highly positive about the shooting sports. This match would not have been possible without the hard work of Eric Budd and his gang from Guthsville Practical Shooters, USPSA club MID 19. Yes, I said a USPSA club. Eric helped me get this idea off the ground, and he and his friends helped with set up and take down of the match. It may be fun to point out our differences, but when we set them aside and work together to better the shooting sports, there really is no end to what we can do.

Ted Murphy
Match Director
2007
IDPA National Championship



Bill Wilson,
on behalf of the
Board of Directors
and staff of IDPA
HQ, wishes to give a
big

THANK YOU

to
Ted Murphy
and his staff for an
outstanding
2007 IDPA
National
Championship.



XD	.45 ACP	4	Eagle 5.0	9 mm	4	Taurus	1
XD	9 mm	8	Trojan	.38 Super	2	PT92	9 mm 1
XD Sub Compact	9 mm	1	Trojan	.45 ACP	2	Wilson Combat	6
XD Tactical	.40 S&W	3	Trojan	9 mm	4	Model Not Specified	.45 ACP 1
XD Tactical	9 mm	3	SVI		3	Classic	.45 ACP 1
STI		18	GOUT	9 mm	1	CQB	.45 ACP 3
2011	.45 ACP	1	Infinity	.40 S&W	1	Protector	.45 ACP 1
Eagle 5.0	.38 Super	1	Infinity	.45 ACP	1		
Eagle 5.0	.40 S&W	3	Tanfoglio		1		
Eagle 5.0	.45 ACP	1	Match	.45 ACP	1		

Gunsmiths

Advanced Combat Pistols - Brian Bilby	1
Agostini Fasteners	3
Andy Horvath	2
Bill Nesbitt	2
Bits Of Pieces	1
Bladetech	1
Bone Stock	1
Bow Techie	1
Bruce Gray	1
Buddy Visser	1
Burwell Gunsmithing	1
Canyon Creek	3
Charlie Vanek	1
Chuck Lutz	2
CLR Custom Glock	1
Corey Murphy	1
Cusinelli Custom	1
Cylinder & Slide	1
D. Lawrence, SSK IND.	1
Dale Brown / Dan Mc Kinney	1
Dan Burwell	1
Daniel Cook	1
Dave Berry - Powderhorn	1
Dave Cloutier	2
Dave Mc Call	1
Dave O	1
Dave Olhasso	1
Dave Williams	2
David Dumeah	1
David Maglio	1
Dawson Precision	2
Dean Brevit	3
Dean Francisco	1
Dick Divitorrio	1
Dick Lichon	1
Duane Hemphill	1



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E. Langdon	4	Robert P. Kinne Jr. (Kinne Kustom)	1	1911	2
Ed Brown	1	Rodney Waisner	2	22	1
EGE (George Smith)	1	Ron & Jeff Phillips	1	Belt	18
EGW	1	S & W	1	Belt Slide	1
Filko	2	S&W Performance Center	8	Drop Offset	13
Fletcher Custom Pistols, LLC	1	Sandy Garrett, N. VA Gun Works	1	FBI Carry	1
Frank Glenn - Accuracy Unlimited	1	SDM Fabricating	2	G17	1
Frederick Wolf; Wolf Gun Works	1	Self	37	G34	2
Gun Toters - Eynon PA	1	Shupps Gunsmithing	1	HIP	1
Harrison Custom	1	Sig Arms	2	IDPA	1
Houda	1	Smith & Wesson	1	IWB	2
Impact Pro Shop	4	Speed Shooter Specialties	1	Kydex	4
J. Dalton	1	Springfield Armory	1	M&P	1
Jack Wiegand	1	Steve Cline	1	N	1
Jane Fleming	1	STI	2	OWB	1
Jardine Custom / Russell's Gunsmithing	1	Ted Murphy	1	Paddle	1
Jason Knowles	1	Ted Ulmer	1	Revolution	1
Jay Eller	1	Terry Collins, Hayden Oliver	1	S&W 625	1
Jeff Thomas	1	Terry Tussey	1	Scabbard	1
Jerry Biggs	1	The Handgunner Shop	1	SRB	3
Jim Garthwaite	2	TK Custom	1	Stingray	8
Joe Bonar	1	Tom Krowak	1	STIYM	1
Joe Mc Ginty	1	Tom Novak	1	Tek-Lok	1
Joe Zannoni	1	Tommy Abernathy / Tommy Guns	2	Bulman Gunleather	1
JRS Custom	1	Tooltech	1	Custom	1
Ken Ortbach	1	Tripp Research	1	Buls Tech	1
Kevin Toothman	2	Warren Kmetz	1	Belt	1
Kimber Custom Shop	1	Werner Custom	1	Cendex	1
Larry Leutenegger	1	Werner Custom	1	SW1911	1
Marc Mc Cord	2	Wilson Combat	3	Comp-Tac	62
Mark Redl	1	Yost Bomitz	1	Model Not Specified	10
Matthew Mink	1	ZM Weapons	2	1911	1
Mellenium	1	Holsters Used		2	1
Mike Hardison	1	Alex Nossar	1	21	1
MRE	2	Belt Slide	1	Belt	14
Ned Christiansen	1	Bianchi	1	Belt Loop	1
Northern Virginia Gun Works	1	#52	1	Belt Slide	3
Novak	1	Blackhawk	10	Diva	2
Novaks Handgunner Outlet	1	Model Not Specified	3	FBI Paddle	1
Nowlin	1	CQC	5	Gurkha	1
Peter Fuller	1	Serpa	1	Kydex	1
Phil Asheo Custom	1	Serpa Duty	1	Kytac	1
Pinnacle High Performance	5	Blade-Tech	105	Locking Paddle	8
Predator	1	Model Not Specified	37		
Robar Industries	1	1500	1		

2007 Championship Equipment Survey

Offset	1	Home made	1	5183	1
Paddle	12	IWB	1	5186	1
R H Loop	1	J. S. Holster	1	5188	1
Speed Belt	1	Model Not Specified	1	560	5
Speed Paddle	1	Kramer	2	561	2
XD 40 TAC	1	329	1	586	1
DeSantis	6	IWB #3	1	Belt	1
Model Not Specified	1	Kydex	2	C91	1
002 K3	1	Model Not Specified	2	Shado Leather	1
Jackyl	1	Kytac	3	XD-40 5"	1
Pro Fed	1	Belt Locker	1	Sherrick	1
Speed Scabbard	1	IDPA	1	Rangemaster SPL	1
Tac Pro	1	Super Hooper	1	Side Armor	4
Dillon	2	Little Feather Leather	1	Belt	1
Model Not Specified	1	LFL	1	Kydex	2
Master	1	Milt Sparks	1	Non Modular	1
Don Hume	2	55BN	1	Smith & Wesson	1
Model Not Specified	1	Mitch Rosen	2	Model Not Specified	1
H724 NO. 30 C	1	Model Not Specified	1	Sparks	1
El Paso Saddlery	1	SPT	1	55BN	1
Street Combat	1	OLG	1	Stingray	1
Fobus	17	El Viejo	1	F	1
Model Not Specified	4	Predator	1	SVI	1
Belt	2	Paddle	1	IDPA	1
C-21	2	Ready Tactical Products	16	Tac Pro	1
GL2	4	Model Not Specified	3	Paddle	1
LH-GL2	1	Belt Loop	6	TKW	11
Paddle	3	Custom	2	Model Not Specified	3
SP-11	1	Female	1	1911	3
Galco	5	G22	1	G17	1
Armortec	1	Paddle	3	OWB	2
CON 250 B	1	Rob Groseclose	1	Revolver	1
Cop Series Armor Tek	1	Custom	1	SW4K	1
Kydex	1	Rocketman	1	Tom Maddox Special	1
Master 7	1	Paddle	1	Model Not Specified	1
G-Code	2	Rossi	1	TRW	1
Model Not Specified	1	1911	1	Model Not Specified	1
G-A002	1	Safariland	28	Uncle Mike's	9
Hillsman Holsters	2	Model Not Specified	11	Model Not Specified	2
Model Not Specified	1	1506	1	1911	1
IDPA	1	50	1	Kydex	1
Hoffner	1	5000	1	Paddle	4
Ultrux Speed Pro Belt Slide	1	518	1	Slide	1

2007 Championship Equipment Survey

Wilson Combat	8	Titegroup	49	Winchester	24
Adjuster Paddle	1	Universal	1	Bullet Used	
Practical	3	IMR	2	Jacketed	137
Practical Tactical	1	4756	1	Lead	42
T11A1	1	7625	1	Plated	15
Tactical	1	RAMSHOT	1	Primer Used	
Tactical Assault	1	True Blue	1	CCI	15
Ammo Used		REX 0	1	Federal	81
Factory	158	Type Not Specified	1	Remington	2
Handloads	169	REX II	1	Winchester	94
Reloading		Type Not Specified	1	Wolf	1
Presses Used		REX RED	1	Eye Protection	
Dillon	181	Type Not Specified	1	Used	
1050	22	SR7625	1	AO Safety	5
RL 1000	1	Type Not Specified	1		
RL 550B	76	Vectan	1		
Square Deal B	17	Ba10	1		
XL 650	63	Vihta Vuora	23		
Hornady	5	Type Not Specified	4		
Lock-N-Load	4	3N37	2		
Pro-7	1	N310	4		
Lee	10	N320	11		
Classic Turret	1	N340	2		
Load Master	2	Winchester	36		
Pro 1000	6	Type Not Specified	6		
RCBS	6	231	23		
Junior 3	1	Super Target	1		
Pro 2000	2	WSF	1		
Rock Chucker	3	WST	5		
Powder Used		Brass Used			
Accurate	5	Armscore	1		
#2	3	Brassman	2		
#5	1	CCI	1		
#7	1	Cor-Bon	1		
Alliant	18	Factory	2		
Type Not Specified	2	Federal	6		
Bullseye	16	Mag-Tec	2		
Hodgdon	101	Mixed	101		
Type Not Specified	12	PMC	1		
Clays	39	R-P	11		
		S & B	1		
		Speer	5		
		Starline	24		

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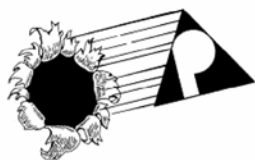
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Beretta	1	Radians	5	AO Safety	2
Blackwater	1	Randolph Engineering	2	Model Not Specified	1
Bolle	7	Ray Ban	1	Ultimate 10	1
Bushnell	1	Remington	7	Beretta	1
Cabellas	1	Revision	2	Model Not Specified	1
Crews	3	Revo	1	Browning	1
Crossfire	1	Rudy Project	14	Model Not Specified	1
D. O. C.	1	RX	63	Cabellas	1
Decot Hy-Wyd	7	Saf.T.Vision	1	Electronic	1
Dillon	2	Saroy	1	Caldwell	2
ESS	21	Smith & Wesson	26	E-85	2
Gargoyles	4	Sting-Ray	1	Decot Hy-Wyd	1
Generic	3	Sunbuster	1	Model Not Specified	1
Harley Davidson	1	Sunlock	1	Dillon	35
HD	1	Tifosi	1	Model Not Specified	10
Hi Def Spex	1	Tremis Wear	1	E-2	1
HOS	1	Uvex	7	Electronic	6
Lazor	1	Wal-Mart	2	HP-1	18
Lens Crafters	1	Wiley-X	12	Ear, Inc. Custom	6
Lexa	1	Wilson	1	Model Not Specified	4
Native	2	Winchester	1	Pro Dimension	1
Nike	3	Wydol	1	Pro Dimension II	1
Nikon	1	Zeiss	2	ESP	2
Oakley	54			Model Not Specified	1
Peltor	1			Elite	1
Plestor	1			Gander Mtn.	1
Pretolam	1			Model Not Specified	1
R. L. Hunt	1			Howard Leight	2
				L33	1
				Sport	1
				Kustom Ears	1
				Model Not Specified	1
				Lightning	1
				Non-Electric	1
				Midway	1
				Model Not Specified	1
				Mil Spec	1
				Model Not Specified	1
				MSA	2
				Model Not Specified	2
				North	1
				Model Not Specified	1
				NRA	1

Ear Protection Used

3M	1
Model Not Specified	1



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Model Not Specified	1	Radians	6	Blackhawk	5
Peltor	116	Model Not Specified	2	Brownell's	2
Model Not Specified	28	Electronic	1	Browning	2
ComTac	7	Hunter	1	Bulldog	3
ComTac 2	1	Pro Amp	2	Camelbak	1
Electronic	2	Remington	5	CED	24
Gel Ears	1	EM-77	1	Dillon	30
Magnum	2	Muffs	1	Eagle Ind.	2
Military	1	R-2000	3	Galati International	1
Shotgunner	1	Safariland	1	Generic	21
Sonic	1	Model Not Specified	1	Glock	4
Tactical 6	38	Sens Gard	2	Green Mountain	3
Tactical 7	19	Zems	2	Gunmate	1
Tactical Electronic	3	Silencio	5	Hafner	3
Tactical Pro	8	Model Not Specified	4	Hatch	1
Tactical Sport	2	W17	1	I Bag	1
Trapper	2	Smith & Wesson	3	IDPA	6
Plugs	28	Model Not Specified	3	I-Shot	81
Model Not Specified	11	Sonic	1	Kimber	1
& Electronic Ears	1	Model Not Specified	1	Kolpin	1
& Peltor CE	1	Sordin	3	Lawman	1
Custom	3	MSA	2	Maxpedition	4
Disposable	8	MSP Pro	1	Midway USA	9
Howard Leight	1	Sport Ear	1	Mil-Tech	1
Smith & Wesson	1	Model Not Specified	1	MPI Outdoors	1
Sonic	1	Surefire	1	MTM	1
US Military Surplus	1	Model Not Specified	1	NJ State Police	1
Pro Ears	37	UK Military	1	Northeast Outfitters	1
Model Not Specified	13	Model Not Specified	1	NRA	1
200	1	Walker	3	Pelican 1610	1
Browning	1	Model Not Specified	1	Quantaray	1
Dimension	14	Game Ear	1	Radian	1
Magnums	1	Game Ear Quad Muff	1	Range Master	1
Precision	1	Winchester	1	Shooter Choice	1
Predator	3	Model Not Specified	1	Shooter's Connection	9
Pro Mag	1	Wolf Ears	6	Shooter's Tournament Series	4
Slim	2	Model Not Specified	6	Sig Sauer	1
ProLine	2	Range Bags Used			
Model Not Specified	2	5.11	12	Smith & Wesson	8
Quiet	1	501	1	Tactical Tailor	1
NRR26	1	Allen	1	Target Barn	7
Radian	1	Bagmaster	16	Uncle Mike's	6
Pro Amp	1			Viper Pro Bag	1
				Waller	2
				Western Pack	1
				Wilson	1
				WRB	1

UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

November 17, 2007

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Nathan Hendrix
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662-287-4402 w
crssa@earthlink.net
www.crssa.com

March 22, 2008

LA State Championship

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318-455-8812 w
louis_wagner@bellsouth.net
Bill Young
318-426-2002 h
318-455-0861 w
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March 29, 2008

2008 Tri-States Regional Championship

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twoalpha@comcast.net
Larry Hill
901-757-3960 h

901-233-7557 w
ljhill3@comcast.net
www.memphis-ssa.com

March 30, 2008

Coastal Bend Challenge

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"Shooter Ready" - Letters to the Tactical Journal

(Continued from page 3)

stepped into the middle of an "argument" that maybe you can help me settle.

The issue is this: The current Match Director has been unhappy with the stages that our course designer has been doing lately, the complaint falling under the rubric of the stages "not being realistic" and the chief components of the complaints are that the targets are too far away and the round count is too high.

We can address the other issues. The round count is the difficult one. The argument of the current MD is that IDPA's stated goal of maintaining "realism" requires that round counts be low, since seldom in actual situations are a lot of rounds expended. He's used the anal-

ogy of having a chess club at which the members decide to start playing checkers with the pieces (the analogy being IDPA to IPSC). What practically this translates out to is matches that will have a round count of between 12-25 rounds. To quote his email:

"IDPA is not about round count; it is about challenging some of your self-defense skills. I can shoot as many rounds as I want to in practice. I don't need to drive a long ways to shoot a lot of rounds. If they are interested in IDPA then they are interested in challenges to their skills, under pressure, with scenarios/situations that are different than what they have come up with to practice. They come for the chal-

lenge. If they are coming solely/mostly for a high round count, then they are in the wrong sport. IPSC should be just what they want. I'm not putting down IPSC, or checkers, or anything anyone wants to do. If people want to do IPSC, then set up a club. If they want to play checkers, then set up a club... but don't call it chess if you're going to play checkers."

On the other hand, the course designer is of the opinion (and has sent me emails to show that he is not alone) that people will not give up an afternoon and drive 60 miles one way (as some of our shooters do) to shoot one to two dozen rounds. In fact, his conclusion is that having a season of matches that only require a dozen-plus

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"Shooter Ready" - Letters to the Tactical Journal

rounds will kill off the club. This is one of the (edited) emails he forwarded to me: "Here's the bottom line for me: I will not drive a 120-mile round trip through DC metro traffic to shoot a five-stage match having a round count of less than two dozen rounds. I shoot regional club level matches for the following reasons:

1. To shoot.
2. To use basic handgun self defense skills while shooting.
3. To do #1 enough during the club level matches to develop #2 so that I may better compete in IDPA sanctioned matches and classifiers."

What I'm asking for here is a "ruling" from someone at HQ. Does maintaining realism mean having low round count? Thanks for your help,
Chip Hammond A01482

There is no "ruling" from HQ to solve this problem. HQ lets each club find what works best for the club as each club's make-up and capabilities are different. There is a fine line that you have to walk on keeping things both realistic and entertaining. That being said, I know of several clubs that have died because of

low round counts for matches. With gas and life in general being so expensive, people want "to get their money's worth" when going to matches. The key thing to remember is that this is a sport based on realism. Are you ever going to be attacked by nine bad guys, statistics say no. You are probably not going to be attacked by even one or two even if that is slightly more likely. But shooting lots of rounds is fun; you just have to keep it in perspective. One option is to have those long stages, but break them up into a couple of strings. Or if you have the space and people, you can run spread of different round count stages, say one 18, two 12, and three or four 6 round stages. You can usually put several 6 round stages on one bay and still keep the match running evenly with no bottlenecks. Long round count stages are important to test skill that may not come out in short stages. Movement and position changes are an important skill to have and it is easier to do on a longer stage. I hope you can work things out and strike to balance you need with these tips. Editor



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

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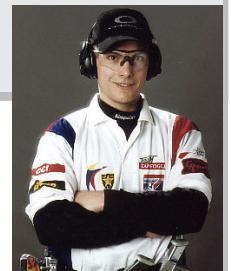
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