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Second Quarter 2008 Volume 12 - Issue 2

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Have We Lost Our Grip?

Just received the February issue of the Tactical Journal and dived into it most immediately as I usually do. You've made such great progress in upgrading that publication in the last two years or so, and with a very limited staff, too, I realize. Good work from all of you!

I turned first to Julie Goloski's column as my wife also shoots IDPA and is a CCW holder as well, and Julie's observations are always of interest to her in addition to me. If I don't read the latest issue in a hurry. once she gets her hands on it I may never see it again. At any rate, as I was trying to follow Julie's detailed instructions on the proper grip (so I could work with my wife on same) I initially had a little difficulty with the photos illustrating each major step. Then I realized they appeared to be posed by a left handed shooter while Julie is a right handed shooter (as are my wife and me and most other folks). The original photos were probably digital but, in the old days of film, I'd say you'd reversed the negatives while putting together the layout. No big deal, of course, but it took a little effort to "reverse" my thinking prior to passing on the article to my wife with the caveat to be sure to do the same. On the bright side, several weeks ago at the range, I was working with a female "lefty" on just the same thing - high and strong grip and proper stance. As the afternoon wore on she continued to revert to her previous grip, with her support hand more under the magazine than wrapped around her strong hand. I intend to send her Julie's article as the photos should make sense to her, and may serve as a reminder to keep both hands high on the grip in the future. Hopefully the fact that the photos on pages 8 and 26 show the safety on the 1911 to be on the right side of the gun won't pose a new problem for her however...

Bill Burr A09129

I always enjoy Julie Goloski's approach to the female shooters in our group. In the First Quarter Tactical Journal on page 8 and 26, are my eyes deceiving me or are the images of the 1911 reversed? If the shooter is right handed? It looked funny to me to see the slide-stop lever on the detent in the slide on the right side of the pistol. Bill Savage A27373

Ok, you caught us. The images in Julie's article were accidentally reversed. Several of you sharp eyed readers caught our flub. I mean... our test, yeah that's it. We were testing you. Doesn't everyone believe me? Editor

Vest Veterans Vent

I was reading the 2008 first quarter Tactical Journal, the letter to the editor regarding banning vests caught my attention in a big way. I must say that I have to agree with the editor. Wearing a vest does not scream "gun" to the general public. As a person who wears a gun underneath a vest every single place I go, every single day of my life, I assure you, most people don't even notice that YOU are there, much less what you are wearing. I have been carrying a gun for somewhere around 12 years. I carry it everywhere I go (yes, every single place), and I carry it under a vest. I have never, not once, had anyone even so much as ask me about it, even when I go somewhere I'm not supposed to have it.

When I shoot in IDPA, I carry the exact same gear that I carry every day. Not something "similar" or "almost the same" but the exact same equipment, including the vest. Banning vests is not a good idea, since many of us actually wear them on a daily basis.

Robert "Robbie" Robinson A02943

I have been wearing a vest, light weight in the summer and heavier in the winter, for about twenty years... virtually all of the time. It is excellent cover for my Officer style .45 that I routinely carry.

I have been asked about fly fishing and photography more times than I can remember - usually at least once or twice per week. I have never been asked if I was a shooter or whether I was armed...

The vest is the ideal concealment attire

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for me and anyone who has the ability to wear it. For more dressy times, a blazer or suit coat suffices. Tillman Eddy A01598

One of the good things about IDPA is that people can do what's best for them. Be it wearing the "official" vest or just an untucked shirt, we get to choose what works for ourselves. I don't see the vest disappearing anytime soon, at the range or on the town. Editor

Gamer... why yes, yes I am!

Those Darned Gamers! by Steven Vandermolen (Vol. 12, Issue 1) was right on the money. After years of reading the TJ, I've come to the conclusion that "Gamer" is an empty insulting epithet that simply means, "Someone who doesn't do things the way I do." I was at a match at another club a while back and one of the CoFs called for pieing a corner and shooting targets as they became visible. The problem was that the CoF was set up poorly and the first target visible was not the one we were supposed to shoot first. This was a little confusing, and when I pointed out that the target they wanted us to shoot first was not the target that we could see first, I was called a Gamer! I've observed that most often when a stage can be "gamed" it's the stage designer's fault, not the shooter's.

Chip Hammond A01482

New Name?

Tactical Journal, is it? Over the years many members have stated that IDPA is not tactical training. It was brought up again in the last issue, first quarter 2008, Tactical Journal in the article written by Chip Hammond. He again states that "IDPA is not tactical or self-defense training". This same statement is also (Continued on page 7)

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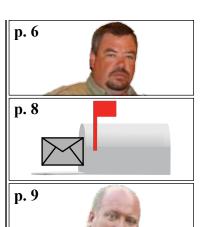
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Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

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IN THIS ISSUE

We have another great issue for you this month. Besides all the great articles, this issue contains the entry form for the IDPA National Championship and information on the 2008 Postal Match. If you did not shoot last year's match, you were really missing out. This match had over 900 competitors by the end of the match. We hope you enjoy this issue. 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

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Run a Better Match Build a Better Glub



On a recent business trip to the land of year round shooting, it became obvious again that we need more lady shooters. I spent some time talking to a fellow who teaches an introduction to IDPA class and he gets a great deal of lady shooters in every class. This range is squared away on offering a venue for anyone who is interested in shooting a way to get involved. We could all take a lesson from them. While some may never want to take an organized class on how to be the greatest shooter who ever lived, most would like to learn how to get through a match. From the safety standpoint, I can see a real gain for us all, not even considering the improved effect on a new competitor's fun meter.

Those of you that attended any of the Nationals in Little Rock probably remember my son (Eoin). Well, now I have a little girl (Patty) and I hope she will be a shooter when the time comes. This all brings it back to mind again. My wife, the most patient woman that ever walked the earth, shot a few matches until we needed a lady shooter on the video for the next gun show. After being on camera and having everyone that came through the gun show see her shoot her early IDPA matches, she was pretty much done with that. My mistake; do not repeat it if you can keep from it. While she has always been supportive of my shooting and even worked as score keeper and all around match support, she has never again shot in a match.

I have always been a believer in the truth that ladies run the world. I know I broke some kind of a man code, but it is time for some truth. If we want to change the hearts and minds of the world, we need momma on board. Take her to the range; make sure that it is a fun experience. Get someone other than you to teach her how to shoot if she doesn't already know. If she does, get someone to teach her how to compete. Compress your practice times to fit the both of you. At the very least, she will get the opportunity to better prepare for defense of the home. Do not pressure her; let her come in on her own. Make sure she has fun and make sure she starts out with a firearm that she is comfortable shooting. Please do not try to convince her to shoot your favorite blaster just because it is your favorite. Get something that is suited to her skill level and ability to manage recoil. Same rules apply to anyone new to shooting.

Here is what happens if we can get our lovely wives or significant others involved. First and foremost, the range will become a nicer place to be. I can remember many times when I looked around and thought we need more ladies here. Besides the obvious benefit their beauty will bring, the place will start to be neater and better kept. I have been to many ranges that even have a potluck kind of thing on match day. Now there is an idea. Years ago, I shot at a range in Oklahoma that made a big event out of match day. They got their whole family involved, potluck dinner, kids running around on a playground and ladies were there to keep us all in line. Your time at the range could be extended when she discovers how much fun you have and she can be a part of it. Maybe, just maybe, the world will be a better place.

I can hear it now, what happened to John? What does this have to do with running a match or a club? EVERYTHING!! I found out early on that with the time needed to be competitive, run a club or a match, you will need all the support you can get. My wife was involved from the start. That helped her to forgive the times I was gone or busy related to shooting. Remember I told you she is the most patient woman in the world. Well she is! Being around the range with me, she is more open to gun purchases, time away for shooting and money spent on my favorite hobby. Can you all say that? Several years ago when I first started making my living in the industry, knowing that I am truly fortunate to work in the business that I have grown to love and have a wife that supports that endeavor, it was a bonus that she accepted the time I spent related to shooting. Early on in my IDPA career I got my family involved. Lisa and Ronda have worked as score keepers, lunch Nazis, support staff, bag stuffers, and all around making sure we could do what had to be done to make it all work.

Where can you find more ladies to get into IDPA? Start at home. Get your wives, daughters, moth-



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ers, neighbors from your neighborhood, from your church, or from work. Get them where you can find them. We used to always get a great deal of interest from the local gun shows. Try to find some video of ladies shooting. It works to attract shooters, both guys and gals. The NRA has several programs that focus on ladies; look there. They are very helpful at finding an audience. Offer some self-defense classes. We offered "ladies only" days where we gave some instruction on self-defense and let anyone who showed up shoot any of the vast collection of guns that the members brought out for them to try. We would offer demos with pepper spray and give pointers on different firearms and their benefits. Talk about ammo and what works best for their situation or gun of choice. There are many things that one can do that will help create an audience. A big crowd pleaser was always the Tueller Drill. We would use air-soft pistols and red guns and knives as the weapons of choice. It would always surprise them to find out how close is too close. (The Tueller Drill is an exercise coined by Sergeant Dennis Tueller to experience the effectiveness of proper defensive tactics. Basically, an attacker starts twenty-one feet away with his weapon of choice. The "Good guy"

waits to react to the action of the attacker and sees how fast one is able to react, draw, and finally, defend themselves against an oncoming attacker. Almost anyone can cover the twenty-one feet in one and a half seconds; how fast can you draw and place a shot? There are many ways to demonstrate this exercise. Take care to make sure all possible safety measures are in place and that everyone is properly protected. For more info, just search "The Tueller Drill" on the net.)

Try some of these events to not only bring ladies into shooting, but to help you grow your club. Next thing you know, you will have families coming to the range. Can't have that can we? :-) The more we get involved, the better it will be

for us all. I look forward to the days when Eoin and Patty can come with dad to the range and enjoy the day, or at least a part of the day, with me. The one sure way I know to make sure that our sport and way of life continues is to get everyone involved. See you on the range.

Stay safe, shoot straight, and always watch six!

"Shooter Ready"

(Continued from page 3)

found on page three of the Safety Officer Instructor Packet printed by IDPA headquarters. The comment has been published by some of the founders of IDPA. Including one that is most qualified as he has taught tactical training courses to the military and law enforcement for years.

My point is this. It is time that we rename our journal to better describe what it really is. We need to loose the name "Tactical". Maybe just call it the IDPA Journal. We need to stop saying one thing and then doing another. Allan Bierlein A13710

Well I personally don't feel that the name is off the mark. Our sport is based on the defensive use of a handgun. My dictionary defines Tactics as 1. The science of maneuvering military and navel forces. 2. Any skillful methods to gain an end. I believe that what we do is tactical in nature. We are trying to attain a specific goal by skillful means. The skillful use of a handgun to save one's own (or another's) life seems to fit that definition. That aside, it does give us the opportunity for a little fun. If you were king for a day, what would you name the Tactical Journal? We will choose two winners, one for the most serious and one for the most outrageous. Each winner will be printed in the next issue of the Tactical Journal and receive a prize. Please send your submissions to editor@idpa.com or snail mail to the 2232 CR 719, Berryville, AR 72616 address. We will only take submission via these two methods. Editor





I guess you are wondering what happened to our column, Women's Perspective, featuring professional shooter Julie Goloski. Her articles have typically occupied this space in the TJ and are eagerly read and looked forward to. Well have no fear, Julie is doing well. She is just a tad bit busy right now. That is because Julie is a new mom! On February 24th at 3:07 am, Madeleine Sara Golob became the newest member of the shooting community. She came into this world at 6 pounds, 5.1 ounces and measured 19.5 inches. I think I can speak for everyone in saying "Congratulations and Best Wishes" to new parents Julie and Simon and to baby Madeleine.

I would also like to point out Julie's dedication to the sport. Julie started having contractions on the final day of shooting at the Indoor Nationals. She was not shooting the match but was a key player in coordinating it. She finished out the day at the range and the awards ceremony before going to the hospital to have Madeleine. I doubt any of us "tough guys" in the sport could have handled that. Good luck Julie, we missed you this month but look forward to your next article and having you back on the range with us.

Editor



2007 Postal Match

by Kenneth J. Ortbach A22530

"Hey, Ken", said Lenny Jacukowicz, my longtime friend and co-match director at the Phillipsburg Pistol Club, "wouldn't it be cool to shoot an IDPA postal match and see how you shoot against people from all over the country, or maybe the world?" So began the 2007 IDPA Postal Match. That was about one year ago, in the beginning of January 2007. Lenny went on to say, "I put up a post on the forum about it." For those of you who do not visit 'the forum', it is an internet message board about IDPA. Although the forum, www. IDPA forum.com, is not an official function of IDPA headquarters, it is a great place to ask questions about, and learn about IDPA. None other than National Match Director Ted Murphy is one of many who run the site.

Although there was some skepticism, for the most part, people responding to Lenny's post were very interested. Of course Phillipsburg Pistol Club, in Phillipsburg New Jersey, was going to take part, but soon there were clubs from Virginia, Missouri and Texas indi-

cating that they would like to try it. By the end of January, W. T. Jones had volunteered to keep score. W. T. spends much of his free time entering and posting IDPA scores from clubs in the north-east Pennsylvania area on his website, www. nepaidpascores.net . Both the results and schedules of clubs in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York can be found on W. T.'s site.

All of the action died down during February and March, and it was not until the middle of April that things sparked up again. Rob, from the South African Defensive Pistol Association, posted the entire course of fire from his country's latest postal match. The stages were quite detailed, but they were like standards as Rob explained that it was easier to keep interpretations out of standards. From the beginning, Lenny and I had hoped to run actual scenarios, simple and easy to set up, but still scenarios. We also were not looking to be the sole suppliers of the stages, and although many people seemed interested, no one volunteered any stages.

Lenny and I decided that we

would run four of our minimum six stages on a Saturday match, as Postal Match stages. We also run a Wednesday night practice and Wednesday night match at P'burg. I designed two stag-



(Continued on page 11)

Behind the Badge

by Rob Haught GL068

It finally looks like winter is in retreat here at home and the cabin fever can start to fade away. Hopefully you have spent the cold months to good advantage and loaded up all the brass you had lying around the loading room. Most local IDPA clubs are getting ready to start the season and should have published match schedules. You can find a club near you by going to the IDPA website and looking up affiliated clubs. Clubs are picking up IDPA affiliation all across the country and there are sure to be new locations close by where you can shoot. In my area, there are enough clubs that you can shoot a match each weekend of the month if you want. You may want to check out a club that is offering some type of New Shooter orientation or training that will help you get started for the 2008 season.

One thing you should think about is what you want to get out of your match experience. I think it's important to set goals for yourself that can be measured as you progress. The Classifier is one of those things that you can see improvement on as the year goes by and you get some experience under your belt. Let's say you start out as a SSP Marksman the first time you shoot it. A realistic goal would be to work towards a Sharpshooter rating by the end of the season. If you start out as a Sharpshooter then work towards Expert level scores and so on.

Shooting the Classifier has become almost an art form in itself.

Many of the older hands had input into this course of fire and I think they did a great job of designing a pretty comprehensive test of handgun shooting and manipulation skills. With three separate 30 round stages covering near, medium and longer range engagement, it covers most of the bases quite well. I have used it for departmental qualification courses in the past and the folks loved it. If you look at the course in its separate parts it's not so intimidating to a new shooter. You can take it stage by stage and practice its individual parts and get a lot from your range day. In the past decade, we have learned a lot about LEO involved shootings from in-car cameras and store surveillance systems and we now know how absolutely crucial the shooting-on-the-move skill is to our survival. The Classifier has that as a key component as well as moving into and using cover properly. The good thing about shooting the Classifier is that if you feel you had a bad day, you can reshoot it to improve your score later on.

Hopefully, one of the things you did over the winter was getting that shooting group together. With gasoline going through the roof, that match day carpool is looking better all the time! It also gives you someone to commiserate with on the ride home in case you had brain drizzle during a stage at the match.

On the subject of match prep, be sure to bring more ammo than you think you will need for the day. There is always the chance you

may need to re-shoot a stage due to some problem with stage props or if your equipment fails. Many clubs also have side shoot type events in which you can participate in addition to the match stages. Be sure to bring some snacks and drinks and a rain jacket in case of spring showers. IDPA matches tend to shoot rain or shine and unless lightning becomes a problem or the range is flooding, plan on shooting. I myself never minded shooting in the rain or snow because I knew I had to work in all weathers so I might as well get used to shooting in it. Also, don't forget to bring some kind of concealment garment if you are not using your duty rig. As mentioned in previous articles the photo type vests are very popular but styles are changing to allow more untucked shirts to be used without attracting stares. Whichever you choose, be sure to dry practice until you are comfortable with your choice.

One area that I haven't mentioned yet is there is another opportunity that IDPA has to help you in your job. How many of you are Dept. Firearms Instructors? I'll bet a fair number of you are. As such you are tasked with the safe conduct of range training and qualification of your people. For many new Instructors, stage fright is an issue when working in front of your peers and can only be overcome through experience. Most of you only get that chance a couple times a year. Consider that

(Continued on page 30)

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TACTICAL JOURNAL

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es, and Lenny designed two stages. This is actually how we run all of our matches, so that no one person knows all of the stages before a match. We wanted to make the postal match stages easy to set up, and to use props that all IDPA clubs would have. We tried to keep the stages small enough so that they could be run in an indoor range. We chose four stages as we had never been to match that had less than four stages.

Other than a chair, a doll, and a table, all of the props were items used in the classifier, and we felt confident that all clubs would have the required materials or be able to procure them easily. I chose to base my stages on the layout of the classifier, while Lenny's stages were set up and then meticulously measured so that a diagram could be produced. On May 8, 2007, I proudly posted in the Postal Match thread, of the Match Chat section of the forum, that the Phillipsburg Pistol Club would be running the postal match stages at our May Saturday match.

The morning of Saturday, May 8, Lenny and I handed the stage descriptions over to the shooters who had gathered for the match and asked them to set up the stages. The point of this was to ensure that it was not too difficult to set up the postal match stages. Our shooters did a great job and we felt that anyone should be able to set up and run the stages. During the week after the match, I made some diagrams to depict what the stages look like. Lenny and I had both written brief stories to go with the stages, and with a little imagination, I made a few changes so that the stories

ended up describing one very tense day in a dangerous neighborhood. I know some people do not feel there is a need for the stories that go along with a stage description, but we like to incorporate into the story some of the reasons why a shooter must shoot in a certain fashion to complete the course of fire. A good example was stage four of the postal match. The course of fire required two body shots in tactical sequence on two targets and then one head shot each. We had some questions asking if the targets could be shot with all head shots, but if the story was read, one would know that the two threats surprise the shooter who fires in tactical sequence and, seeing no effect, assumes the threats are wearing body armor, so the head shots are then taken.

A big turning point for the postal match was when Jane Fleming, from Beach Bunny Software, volunteered her help. For those who do not know, Jane produces ForScore, the IDPA scoring software. This software is used at most major matches and was used at the 2007 National Championship. With ForScore, and the dedicated team of people entering scores at the Nationals, my scores for the day were posted before I reached the clubhouse after shooting my last stage! Jane not only offered to post the stage descriptions on her web site so that the descriptions could be downloaded, but she also sent a notice to all of the clubs that used For Score.

A few more rules came about as Lenny and I fielded questions

(Continued on page 13)



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about the match. It was decided that a shooter could shoot the match as many times as they wished, I shot it three times at three different clubs, but only the first score in each division would be counted. We also put a time limit in place. The last opportunity to shoot the match would be July 31, 2007. We asked W. T. not to release the scores until the end of the match. By the end of May, there were several clubs across the country that had shot the match. When W. T. made the last post of June, there had been 220 shooters take part in the postal match. Besides clubs from all over the United States, some clubs from Canada had shot the postal match as well

In the beginning of July, Lenny and I decided that we would make up some certificates for the winners, as per IDPA rules. We started to get nervous about how many certificates we would be working on, as W. T. kept announcing the number of shooters. By July 7, there were 430 shooters.

By July 14, there were 549 shooters. I have known Lenny for well over ten years and he is an honest guy. Around this time he started to dig around some old posts on the forum and he found that Ted Murphy had suggested a postal match in 2003. Lenny gave Ted credit for suggesting an IDPA postal match first.

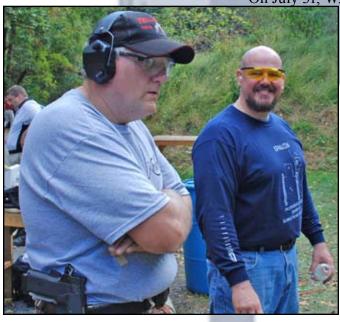
On July 15, there is a post from the Pretoria Defensive Pistol Association, of South Africa, stating that they will be running the postal match stages in their July 21 match! By July 26, there have been 721 shooters. By July 29, there have been 910 shooters in the match, including a club from Slovenia. On July 31, W. T. had entered the

scores for 1002 shooters. The final number was somewhat smaller at 942, as we had stated at the beginning that participants would have to have both an IDPA number and a valid classification. Many shooters had their scores submitted and then received their IDPA numbers or classifications and sent them to W. T. before the July 31 deadline.

With the official results posted at www.nepaidpascores.net, all that was left to do was make the certificates. All!!! Try to imagine how many certificates had to be produced for a match with almost 1000 final shooters. Once again, we had another friend step up and help us out. Lenny and I met Cindy Bowser at the 2007 Frozen Penguin sanctioned match. Picture an outdoor IDPA match at the edge of the Pocono Mountains in the middle of January and you will understand the name of the match. Cindy volunteered to organize and fill out the certificates that Lenny designed. Within a couple of days, Cindy had finished filling out the certificates. Lenny split up the list of winners by clubs and we each took half of the list. By the end of August 2007, we had all of the certificates emailed to the match directors for the clubs that took part. The match directors printed out the certificates and awarded them to the shooters in their clubs

We received some great feed-back from IDPA members on the forum and by email, and both Lenny and I had a great time getting this match going. Once again, I have to say that without all of the efforts of W. T. Jones, Jane Fleming and Cindy Bowser, besides all of the match directors that ran the stages, the 2007 IDPA Postal Match would have never reached the number of IDPA shooters that it did.

Well, it is January once again, so I suppose that it is time to start thinking about the 2008 IDPA Postal Match. How do you compare to the rest of the world?



2008 IDPA

Postal

Match



May 15 - July 31, 2008

IDPA Postal Match 2232 CR 719 Berryville, AR 72616 PostalMatch@idpa.com

How do you compare to the rest of the world?

Sometimes you just can't make it to other clubs to shoot. You still have that urge to see how you stack up against competitors outside your area. Participation in the 2008 Postal Match will allow you to see how you compare with other shooters not only from the US but also from around the world.





Our match designers have come up with four (4) entertaining and challenging scenarios. Each scenario has detailed instructions and measurements on how to lay out and shoot the course of fire. These courses of fire are designed to be revolver neutral as well as left- and right-handed neutral.

Full details and rules can be found on the IDPA website (www.idpa.com) under Upcoming Major Matches.



Set it up at your club!



Scoring software for this match is provided free of charge by Beach Bunny Software (www.beachbunnysoftware.com), author of ForScore software. ForScore is the official scoring software for the IDPA National Championship.

This is not a sanctioned match and classifications will not be advanced based on results from this match. This match cannot be used for Nationals eligibility

Why Do We Need A Medic?

by Clayton Pickett A18770

"Why do we need a medic? We never needed one before."

A shooter snapped that question to his partner while I checked my trauma bag at a three gun event I had been invited to provide medical support. I continued to inventory bandages, splints, blood pressure cuff and other items, as I gave serious thought to that question.

Thousands of people die each year as a result of gunshot wounds. Wounds that may be accidental, self- inflected, or as the result of homicide. Most of us who participate in shooting sports, such as the IDPA, know of or have heard of injuries or deaths that resulted from an accidental shooting at a range.

Anytime a high velocity projectile contacts human flesh the results can be catastrophic. Gun shot wounds can traumatize blood vessels, nerves, bone, muscle and organs to the point of rendering their function ineffective. It can even cause death. Emergency evaluation and treatment of penetrating wounds must be prompt. As with any life threatening medical emergency, call



Taking care of an injury suffered by M. D. Sparks

911 and assess the A, B, Cs. The A, B, Cs stand for airway, breathing, and circulation.

First, make sure the victim has an open airway. Positioning the body and chin lift can be enough to restore breathing. Be cautious of neck injuries. Secondly, make sure the patient is actively breathing. This is evident by the rise and fall of the chest. If the airway is clear and breathing is still absent, start rescue breathing.

The final step is evaluating the flow of oxygenated blood throughout the body. If blood flow is interrupted by profuse bleeding, it is best controlled by direct pressure. Blood flow ceases when the heart stops. If you suspect cardiac arrest, check for a pulse at the wrist, neck or groin. Start chest compressions if a pulse can not be found. If both breathing and heart beat has stopped, start CPR.

The IDPA has rules in place to reduce the chances of shooting injuries during a match. Safety Officers are there to ensure that the rules are adhered to. If the rules aren't followed, sometimes you go home.

As devastating as gunshot wounds may seem, there are other emergent situations that may occur during an IDPA event. The IDPA has a membership that includes men and women of all ages. Some of these members may have high blood pressure, heart problems, diabetes, breathing problems, allergies or other health problems. In addition, most IDPA events are held outside in rural wooded areas. That fact adds to the possibility of encounters with snakes, spiders, stinging insects and poison ivy. There are weather- related problems such as lightning, heat and cold. Also, some stages have moving mechanisms that can smash, pinch and cut. All of these factors could be sources of injury or ailments requiring medical assistance.

Almost every first and second Sunday of the month, and most of the major shooting events, you will find me at The Range in Oxford, North Carolina. A few years ago Frank Glover asked me to be the range medic and I proudly accepted. I've also been asked to provide medical support for the Carolina Cup, the NC state IDPA match, the Carolina Tactical Invitational, the SC IDPA state match and the GA IDPA state match.

My medical experience includes 21 years of Navy medicine in which 17 years were with the US Marines as a combat medic (Fleet Marine Force Hospital Corpsman). After retirement I became a cardiovascular nurse and an emergency room trauma nurse. Presently I'm a tissue recovery specialist. I'm also a proud member of the North Carolina Tactical Medics Association. As a



medical professional, I feel it's my responsibility to be ready to render care wherever and whenever needed.

Many of the emergencies that might occur at a range, I've handled before during my medical career. When I arrive at a match, I'm equipped with my Glocks and two first aid kits. One is a basic kit with mostly band aids, bandages and other items I might need immediately. It's packed in a black back pack that's with me all the time. The other is my orange trauma pack that's available if needed. It contains more bandages, cold packs, cervical collars, blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, manual respirator, assorted airways, two liters of normal saline for irrigation, minor surgery kit, burn gel, oral glucose, a blanket and other items.

At The Range, I try to identify any of our regular shooters who have outstanding medical histories such as strokes, heart attacks or diabetes for example. Many have come to me and told me of conditions they have or have had. I keep an eye on people as I move about and if I see someone that appears to be in discomfort, I'll check on them and provide care if needed.

The US Marine Corps will not fire a round from any weapon without the presence of medical support. Every range has a responsibility to its shooters to insure that if a medical emergency occurs, care will be immediate.

It is important to maintain an organized first aid kit that has at least plenty of band aids, absorbent bandages of various sizes, ace wraps, slings, aspirin, antibiotic ointment, sterile nonporous dressing for chest wounds, roller gauze and a blanket. Have a way to flush eyes and skin. Make sure the SOs know where the first aid kit is located. If you have EMTs, nurses, doctors or other medical personal that attend your range

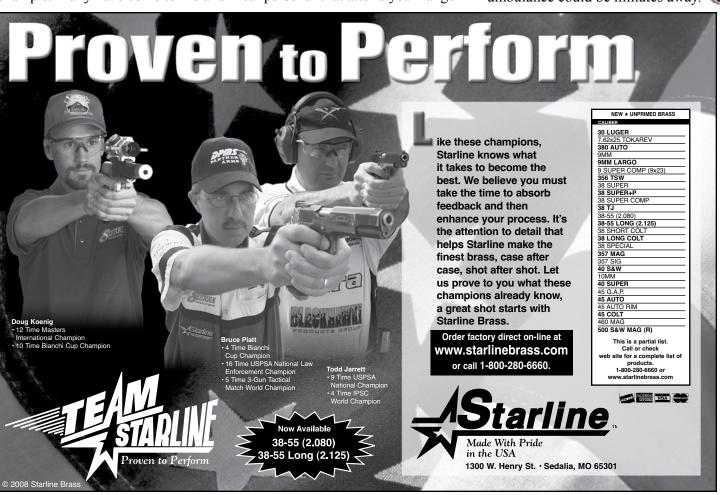


The gear I carry to each shooting event I attend

frequently, let them know that you would like to call on them if the need arises. During major matches it would be ideal to have someone trained in first aid and CPR identified as the event medic.

When the last shot is fired on the last stage and everyone goes home safe, it's a good day. But if my services were needed, I'm glad I was there.

Why do we need a medic? During life threatening emergency where precious seconds count, an ambulance could be minutes away.



Something Old, Something New... at IDPA?

by Mack Rudisill A00420

Florida is an IDPA paradise: ten clubs, from Miami to Orlando to Jacksonville to Pensacola, plenty of good weather for outdoor matches and two of the clubs at well-ventilated indoor ranges. Helping to keep it all running is IDPA Area Coordinator Lance Biddle (A00045), a retired Ohio cop, who also serves as Match Director for the Leesburg club's monthly matches at The Gun Shop.

Lance and his crew are known for their realistic, tactically sound stages, including "blind" stages that you don't get to see till it's your turn to shoot, and dark stages, made possible by the nice indoor range at TGS. At the December 30, 2007 match, Lance added something none of us had experienced at an IDPA match before – he got married. Yep, after the sign-in and before the match briefing, Lance finally married his long time sweetheart, fellow IDPA shooter Margaret "Buzzy" Beach (A19422).

The bride was radiant in her white baseball cap with the word "Bride" embroidered on the front and a short white veil. The happy couple wore matching khaki vests. The groom looked dashing in his blue-gray IDPA golf shirt and color-coordinated IDPA cap. Several dozen guests watched as the officiant conducted a brief but moving ceremony

and pronounced them husband and wife. The women's eyes were teary with joy, the men were appropriately (and uncharacteristi-



cally) solemn. After the ceremony, congratulations and best wishes were the order of the day, and many gag photos were snapped with Gordon, the range owner, posing as the bride's father, holding a shotgun on Lance.

Showing their dedication to the sport, the bride and groom did not depart for a honeymoon, but stayed for the match, a five-stage affair including one of Lance's excellent dark stages. It was a three-bay problem shot in total darkness using your flashlight. You engaged two threats in the first bay while retreating to cover. There was one threat in the second bay that had to be hit center-of-mass to drop. You engaged it from about 30 feet while moving across the mouth of the bay. When it fell, it activated



THE IDPA BRIDE'S REVENGE Designed by: Margaret "Buzzy" Beach/Biddle A19422 15 Rounds – Vickers (Shoot them as much as you want!) T1 T2 T3 T3 T 5 Yds

Scenario

After six years of cohabitation, it's finally your wedding day... and because both you and your new husband are avid IDPA shooters, you've even agreed to the silly idea of being wed at an IDPA match! You're waiting your turn to shoot; behind you is your new husband, surrounded by three of his shooting buddies.

(Hmmm? I wonder which ones?)

For the 573rd, and <u>last</u>, time... you hear them saying... "Dude! Why didn't you listen to us!? If you can drive it, ride it, fly it, float it, or F*%#@ it... don't buy it, just rent it!!!"

ARRRGGGGG!!!! That's it!!! The "GO" buzzer just sounded!!!

Procedure:

Shooter begins standing uprange, weapon holstered and concealed; unloaded and clear by IDPA rules.

(Shooter may have 3 magazines, loaded to IDPA capacity, ie: no 11th "top off round" ..or 4 revolver loaders.)

On the beep, shooter pivots uprange, draws and loads weapon. (S. Carolina Rebel Yell is optional!) T1, T2, T3 are engaged in the following manner:

All targets require 3 rounds to the torso area only, in Tactical Sequence, followed by 2 rounds to the head only, also in Tactical Sequence.

(ie: each target is shot 3 times in the body, then once in the head, and then again in the head! Per the stage designer, additional "make up" shots, even blatant round dumping, is permitted and encouraged! Ammo's cheap, be generous! Don't hit the NTT, or the retirement checks will stop coming!!)

Disclaimer: It's a joke, not to be taken seriously! Right?



a moving non-threat in the third bay that obstructed your engagement of the threats there. The bride did particularly well here, dropping the falling target with the first round she fired at it while moving laterally. Take heed, Lance: this is not a woman to be trifled with!

Buzzy also composed one of the stages for this match, called The IDPA Bride's Revenge. It involved the Area Coordinator as a non-threat and several of his wedding-wisecracking buddies as threats to be neutralized. We all drew the appropriate lesson from it.

It's wonderful to meet really good people through IDPA. It's doubly wonderful when two of those really good people decide to marry each other. Much happiness, Mr. and Mrs. Biddle!



2007 WA State IDPA Championship

by Mark Lisi A19266

It seems that everyone has something to say about IDPA stage design and the "conditions" under which the Defensive Pistol will be employed. I have seen



from my evacuation from Afghanistan in 2005. Like most nimrods, I found there is much more to being an SO than just watching the shooter and knowing the commands. After a year of seasoning, I asked the Match Director for the Washington State Shoot if I could design a bay.

Lacking a stage design program, I went to work with paper and pencil. I did not know which bay I would occupy so I designed the stage with a great

deal of flexibility in mind. Target arrays and distances could be compressed or expanded to fill my assigned space. Not wanting to get behind the power/ design curve, I cranked out a template and shot it off (paper mail) to

stages designed based on actual shoot-outs, stages that are based on the "cool" props and stages designed on high round count. Generally, you can expect to shoot stages based on the match theme, the vision of the stage designer, and the Match Director. So, what is new



see every month. I have learned to simply engage my-

(Continued on page 26)



the Match Director (otherwise know to us Renton shooters as El Prez).

I have my own theories on defensive shooting and they draw me to IDPA. However, some of what I think runs contrary to what I





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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-precription lenses available.



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about this, and why should you keep reading? There

is a way – nay, a productive method to get the stages

you want. Yes, you can have your way! All you have

to do is become a Safety Officer and "do the work".

I went to Safety Officer School after recovering

2008 IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY INFORMATION October 1 - 4, Allentown, PA

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Your application must be completed ENTIRELY and CORRECTLY in order to be processed.

Participants: Limited to 250 entries on a first come/first served basis. All applicants must be current IDPA members with a classification of Marksman or higher and have shot TWO sanctioned IDPA matches between June 1, 2007 and June 1, 2008.

Entries must be POSTMARKED (NOT RECEIVED) NO EARLIER than June 9, 2008. Fed Ex and UPS entries must sent no earlier than June 9 also. Any entries received prior to this date will be squadded after July 1, 2008 only if there are openings left. If you wish to be squadded with another person or persons, your applications and fees must be mailed together. Squad size will be limited to 12 people per squad. We will not be able to change squadding once the match is full. We will make every attempt to place you in your first choice of shooting dates and squadding requests, however, we obviously cannot guarantee all requests.

Match Stages/Round count: 15-18 stages/200 rounds minimum

Entry Fee:

165 until July 1, 2008. 185 after July 1, 2008. (Checks from outside the USA require a 10 (US) surcharge in addition to the match fee.)

Includes the match and all festivities.

No match fee refunds will be made for any reason after September 1st.

Make checks payable to IDPA.

Events:

Wed., Oct. 1	7-9 pm	Competitor Sign-in / Hospitality Room open
Thu., Oct. 2	7-9 pm	Competitor Sign-in / Hospitality Room open
Fri., Oct. 3	On your ov	wn
Sat., Oct. 4	7-10 pm	Dinner & Awards Ceremony
(Events listed	d above are l	ocated at the Match Headquarters Hotel)

Location: Guthsville Rod & Gun Club, Allentown, PA www.guthsville.com

Match Headquarters Hotel: Holiday Inn, I78 & Rt. 100S, Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-391-1000 *Fax:* 610-391-1346

Website: Go to www.idpa.com/champ_info.asp and click on their logo.

The group rate is \$99.95/night. These rooms normally go for \$150. Please make your reservations before Sept. 1. We cannot guarantee these rates after Sept. 1.

Match Director: Ted Murphy

2008 IDPA Championship Entry Form October 1-4, Allentown, PA

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

TTT				OT A TE	710	
'HONE #			EMAIL			
Defensive Pistol Assoc Championship and all nd positives together	ciation (II associate with all p PA and/or	DPA), or anyone authorized functions of me, negatorints shall constitute IDP	nip, I hereby irrevocably consent to ed by IDPA, of any and all photogra- ive or positive, for any purpose wh A's property, solely and completely. or and all of IDPA's advertising, mag	aphs which IDPA has ta atsoever, without any c And/or I hereby give m	ken during the IDPA Nompensation to me. Any consent for IDPA to	National Il negatives use any writte
SHOOTING D	AY: T	here is no guarante	e that you will receive	ONE LUNCH	is included in y	our entry
your first choice	e, nor i	is there an option t	o shoot the entire match	fee. Please desi	gnate which day	y you will
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•			cle either "Thursday" or	available for purch	hase at \$8 each.)	
•	ay" for	each choice only.				
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Junior (12	- 18)	Militar	y veteran			
Sanctioned Mate	ches sh	ot between June 1	, 2007, and June 1, 2008:			
			Without proof, your entry ches. If the match name is			

MAIL ENTRIES TO: IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP, 2232 CR 719, Berryville, AR 72616

No match fee refunds will be made for any reason after September 1st.

the match name.

Make checks payable to IDPA.

NAME

SAFETY OFFICER APPLICATION

2008 IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP October 1 - 4, Allentown, PA

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete the regular entry form in order to shoot this match. Any application received without the regular entry will not be accepted.

NAME	AME MEMBER #					_
ADDRESS						_
CITY		STATE		ZIP		_
PHONE #		E-MAIL				_
SAFETY OFFI	ICER TRAINING CL	ASS DATE:				_
	(GIVEN BY:				_
YEARS OF CO	OMPETITIVE SHOO	TING:				_
YEAR/S PREV (Circle all that a		CHAMPIONSHIP: 00 03	1 02 03	04 05	06	07
HAVE ORGAN (Circle one)	NIZED OR SO'd STA	TE LEVEL MATCHES:	YES	NO		
HAVE ORGAN (Circle one)	NIZED OR SO'd CLU	JB LEVEL MATCHES:	YES	NO		
GENERAL ITI	INERARY FOR SAF	ETY OFFICERS:				
Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	October 1 October 2 October 3 October 4	J				

Random Shots Another Tired Old Argument

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

by Thomas Pinney

A24541

The other day I heard an old law enforcement codger make the comment, "Those gamers are not tactical. They are going to get themselves killed if they ever get into a 'real' shootout."

That seemed like such a silly declaration. How could pistol competitions be considered a bad thing for self defense? I just could not understand his logic. Later, I did some reading and studying up on things and I think I understand how an otherwise reasonable man could think that IDPA shooting would actually make us less effective in an actual armed encounter. The old cop was probably applying his perception that IPSC and IDPA shooters simply blaze away, dashing around, 'filling the air with lead', and not taking proper advantage of cover.

We all hear this sort of objection to IDPA shooting; that it has no real world value. That is what I want to address in this article.

IDPA is "a shooting sport that simulates self-defense scenarios and real life encounters". Note the term self-defense, not offense. That is the key to the objection some people have about our sport; they erroneously confuse offensive and defensive situations.

By defensive, I mean that our scenarios are set up as responses to unexpected situations, not as premeditated assaults. The majority of our scenarios require shooters to begin by drawing a pistol from concealment, just as it would be in an actual self-defense scenario.

Pure competition is represent-

ed by IPSC-style matches. These are primarily all speed and action with no effort to simulate defensive measures. They are intended for fun and they are! The emphasis is on speed and rounds downrange, with safe competition the only other concern.

IDPA-type shooting represents defensive competition. Scenarios are supposed to emphasize possible real-world scenarios. Handguns are supposed to be drawn from concealment or picked up just as they might be in the real world. Shooters are penalized for failing to take 'cover' and there are penalties for hitting 'no-shoot' targets.

Offensive operations are premeditated. As anyone who has studied military operations will tell you, that is the great advantage of the offensive; you decide when, where and with what forces you will conduct an engagement. Law Enforcement (LE) tactical teams use this very effectively. They very much want every operation to allow them to have tactical surprise, overwhelming numbers and superior firepower. Since offensive operations allow you to dictate the pace of the action you have the luxury of being able move to at the speed that suits your needs. Sometimes this means moving deliberately, that is, slowly. The use of cover is emphasized and shooters sometimes work together as a team.

All this is alien to the way we shoot IDPA. IDPA shooting is not intended as tactical training. The Rule Book talks about competition and fun. That is, and should be, the primary focus of our orga-

nization. That does not mean our competition does not have value in a self defense scenario; any safe training with a handgun is valuable. We have all seen the typical results when peace officers come out to IDPA. It is not that they are worse than novices who come out to shoot; it is just that they are no better. There is no doubt that those shooters (including peace officers) who participate regularly with IDPA are far better able to defend themselves than those who do not practice with their handguns.

The improvement can carry over. I have a friend who had attended advanced training in tactical shooting offered by a local law enforcement group. I was confident he would do well in IDPA. He did — eventually. He had pretty good accuracy right from the start but his speed was non-existent. He had never had to shoot with one hand. let alone with his weak hand. After a month or so of shooting IDPA he returned to his tactical shooting class. His instructors were amazed at his dramatic improvement. Not only was he much faster, he was more accurate. I attribute the improvements in part to greater confidence in using his gun.

There is an old saying in the Navy. "You can tell what someone will do when they are under stress. He will do what he is trained to do." Perhaps that reflects the concern of the old police sergeant. It is well known that people under stress are often not aware of what they have done. Think back to how you felt the first time you shot an IDPA scenario and heard the buzzer go off. Heck, think about how

you felt the last time a scenario started. There is something about that buzzer that causes your brain to want to disengage. How many times have you heard a version of the following exchange after a run? SO - "That is a procedural." Competitor - "What for?"

SO - "You shot those targets out of order."

Competitor - "I did not." Chorus from the watching shooters - "Oh, yes you did!"

Stressful situations can cause us to react strangely, and a gun fight is right at the top of the list of stressful situations. We have all heard the stories, or seen the crime camera videos of people trying to get their gun to go "Bang" and hearing instead only a click. Some people think the phrase 'I have a gun' provides some magic protection. In fact, without regular practice it is probably more dangerous to have gun than not.

Our sport goes a long way to counter this problem. You can be confident that anyone who shoots IDPA can discharge their weapon in a safe, confident, and effective manner; also, should it be required, they are far more likely to be able to also reload and effectively clear any malfunctions in their weapon and get 'back into the fight'.

Another advantage of IDPA is being about to shoot fast. Speed is anathema to some 'tactical' shooters who want to make sure they get solid '0' down hits. This is a fallacy in the real world — in an actual gunfight, a "1" now is way better than a "0" one second later. If the other guy is also armed and intends you immediate 'great bodily harm' (and that should be the only time any of us has to shoot another human being) then that one second differential trumps a possible return shot. This is not to advocate a Wild-West quick draw response.

Examinations of actual shootouts indicate that citizens reported that they either had no time to react, that is, the first time they knew they were in trouble was when there was a gun in their face, or they had 'all the time in the world'. They saw a situation developing, heard gunshots, or otherwise recognized the need to defend themselves in ample time to draw their weapon and get ready. That said, once rounds are being fired, the ability to shoot fast and straight is critical for survival.

There is one other boost to self-defense skills acquired in shooting IDPA that may not be fully appreciated – the learned ability to think and shoot at the same time. As I mentioned earlier, people tend to fall back on what they have done in the past when they are under stress. Our sport does not promote rote responses; you need to be able to adjust to a wide variety of

situations since there are so many different IDPA scenarios. The number of rounds required per target, the number and positioning of the targets mixed with no-shoots, scenarios with guns in holsters and guns that must be picked up, and all the other elements that change from match to match require shooters to keep their mind open while shooting. Critical events that are common to all scenarios such as using the front sight, muzzle direction, cover, and finger placement do become automatic. All this helps build a clear awareness, even under stress. Experienced IDPA members learn how to think and shoot at the same time.

Frankly, I can't think of any better way to train to improve our ability to use our weapons effectively. And of course, our 'training' is just "more fun than a barrel of monkeys".



The Tactical Advantage

By: Robert Ray

First Light Tomahawk

Attending this year's SHOT show, I was amazed at the number of new lighting products on the market. It seems like everyone is

making some type of "tactical" light. I like competition, it forces people to think in new directions and make an effort to differentiate themselves from the crowd. This is what the people at First Light have done. Their new Tomahawk light is a great new take on your lighting needs.

The first thing you are reminded of when you see the Tomahawk is the old angle headed light carried by US sol-

diers from WWII up to a few years ago. The Tomahawk is a whole world away from those old lights though. First, the Tomahawk is

much smaller. It only measures 3.25 inches tall by 2.5 inches in length and weighs only 5.6 ounces. At its widest, it is only 1.5 inches. This is much more comfortable for everyday carry than those old GI

lights and I have carried it daily for the last several months.

The model I carry is the GP and it is designed to meet and exceed the needs of our military forces. The body is aerospace grade aluminum and hard anodized in olive green. The light output is 120 lumens and it uses two CR-123 3volt lithium batteries. It also comes with a retention clip designed to be compatible with MOLLE gear. This is pretty handy for military and civilian uses. The clip allows the light to be placed where needed for hands-free usage. The angled head allows the light to face the direction you need, rather that straight at the ground or up in the air. I was lucky enough to also have a prototype of their ingenious belt holster. This holster allows the

Tomahawk to be freely rotated, though a 180 degree arc, on the belt for additional hands free usage. It is securely located on the belt using a Blade-Tech Tek-Lok attachment. This allows the holster to very eas-

ily be removed or put on. The light is securely locked into the holster until needed. The act of drawing the light puts the thumb directly over the release button. The motion is very intuitive and easy to master. Simply apply pressure on the button and the light slides up and out of the holster.

The control features of the light are also intuitive and easy to pick up. While grasping the

body of the light, the thumb is used to activate all controls. The controls are located on top of the light and this not only allows the thumb to activate the controls but aids in maintaining a very secure grip on the light. Looking down on the controls, you see a curved,

(Continued on page 28)



Baghdad Two-Step -Stage 9, Bay 7

Designer: Mark Lisi

Scoring: Vickers, 11 rounds minimum

Scored hits: Best two on T1-T5; steel must fall to

score.

Scenario: King County has become a testing ground for IED's. While on your way to your favorite coffee shop, your vehicle is hit near the rail yard downtown. You are blown out of your car and into the street. Bad Guys are close at hand, and you must egress using available cover.

Start Position: Seated at P1, hands palm-down on ground, fingers pointing up-range. Loaded gun is on carpet at A or B.

Procedure: Engage T1, T2, PP1 from cover of barrel. Engage T3-T5 either from cover of barrel, or from cover of low curb.

Unless otherwise specified, engagement sequence is Tactical Priority

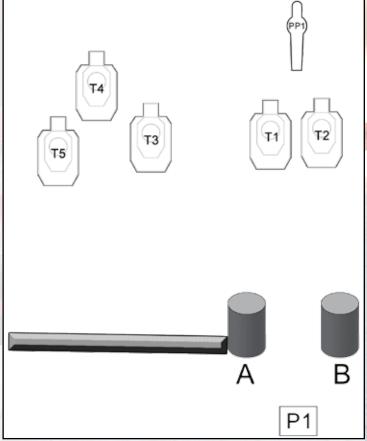
Note: Stage is set up with mirror-image array, so shooter has option of moving left-to-right, or right-to-left.

self in what I know to be a recreational activity and follow the rules. What I think is, IDPA stages should be intimate (close range) and violent (fast, not more than 3 or 4 targets); that is to say - low round count.

I could hear El Prez howl across two Washington counties as he decoded my stage template. He shot me an email and I compressed the stage dimensions and upped the round count. I did make it clear to him that this design was not personal. I was not going to have a fit if things were changed or adjusted for safety, bay dimensions, or just common sense.

I wanted the shooter in positions that one would find in a street shooting, with the cover one would find the street; that is to say - the curb. I also wanted





to get the shooter's heart rate up. One of the first changes the MD made was to run the stage right to left and shorten the distances the shooter moved and change the direction of movement back to left to right. I still get barbed for wanting the shooter to crawl to his right along the curb for 70 feet (again, the first template was just a model); I still get jabbed about those stage dimensions.

After several interesting exchanges, we had a stage that was suitable and made me happy. One learns lots of subtle details as the stage designer that the shooter rarely is exposed to. As time went on, the stage became leaner, less complex and more shooter friendly.

I wanted a real world, real time scenario that challenged the shooter. The stage description is a bit tongue in cheek, given the very liberal nature of Seattle and King County. This proved to be a wildly popular stage that required the shooter to get down into the dirt. It is important to note that I shot the stage during the staff match only 10 weeks after a total knee replacement. I shot the stage sitting and not kneeling and was given a cover procedural because my feet were hanging out around the cover. YIKES!!!!

The stage was simple to build. I am not a plastic barrel fan (kneeling is hard for me), but they are easy to move and easy to set up. The curb was made out of a piece of 4x4 staked into place. I know it is not

2007 WA State IDPA Championship



much cover but when it is all you have you are compelled to use it. As things turned out, I used forward falling steel, and that added an extra dimension to the stage.

As you can see from the diagram, the stage was compressed for safety and shooter comfort. The actual

CoF was a mirror of the diagram to support muzzle safety while crawling along the curb. The last change (not mine) was to allow the shooter to engage all targets from P1. As it made sense, I agreed and we got the stage off the ground.

It was fun to shoot, easy to set up, fast to shoot, and fast to score. There were not down sides to this stage. We all know that no good deed goes unpunished; the MD placed another short stage in my bay and I got to SO two short stages. By managing the throughput and ensuring that the squad members were aggressively taping and prepping the on-deck shooter, there were no bottlenecks in my bay and everything ran smoothly. I even found time to shoot Brian 'The Laser" Vowinkle through as he was shooting on a compressed time schedule.

I am proud to have had the chance to design a stage and SO it at the State Shoot level. I learned as much from this process as I did in SO school. The application of what is learned in the classroom changes in the multi-dimensional shooting bay.





All shooters must consider giving back to the sport they enjoy. We simply cannot rely on the same fellows to do the same work month in and month out. Our children grow up and place other demands on our time, we simply get tired, and some days we just want to be shooters. All of us should be certified as Safety Officers and everyone needs to take a turn at stage design and construction.

Simply because I think shorter and faster stages are best, another SO likes prop intensive stages and vet a third SO likes high round count, does not mean it can't all be brought together on Match day. It is the eclectic mix of ideas that each club brings to the process that keeps the stages fresh. The key to better Safety Officers and even better stage design is doing the work. Be a team Player.

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raised button at the back and two small square buttons at the front.

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setting, the light comes on at that setting each time the constant on button is activated. This is a very handy feature considering that most of us do not need a full 120 lumens

hat most lumens full of the b singl

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of light all that often. I usually use the lowest setting when looking for dropped keys, the door lock or such mundane things. There is on other use of the two square buttons. When pressed simultaneously and held for one second, the light locks it self out. When locked out, if you try to activate the momentary or constant on buttons, a little red LED lights up under a silhouette of a lock on the control face. To unlock, another simulta-

neous press of the two buttons is

TOMANAGE

needed. This time the LED under the control face lights up green. I was also impressed that it took a full one second press and hold of the buttons to lock it out but only a single, quick press to unlock.

The last feature is one that is a real boon to anyone that has ever tried to reload a pistol while holding a flashlight. The Tomahawk also comes with a removable finger ring. This ring not only makes the light more secure to hold, it allows the light to rotate out of the way when you need to manipulate something with that hand. A quick flick of the finger and the light

settles back into place once the mag change is complete. I can't count the number of times I have seen people drop lights, put them in their mouths or just freeze up when trying to do a mag change in a dark stage. This little addition helps cure that problem.

Besides carrying this light, also put it to the test in the Inaugural 2008 IDPA Smith & Wesson Indoor National Championship. Simply put, this light worked. I was able to draw the light and gun at the same time and effectively put the light on the target where I needed it. Too many times have I

seen someone (including myself) use a traditional light and end up with the light pointed off at the ceiling or down on the floor, everywhere but the target. By using this light, I was able to achieve a two handed grip on the gun and still have the light on target. I admit that it was a slight alteration of my normal grip, but very easy to achieve. What I

found that worked best for me was to allow my support hand with the light to ease forward slightly. This allowed me to wrap the index finger around the front of the trigger guard. This created a little pocket for the body of the light to rest and also has the effect of using the gun to help index the light. This allowed a solid shooting grip and the light positioned on target. This allowed me to easily complete the dark stages for the match.

The Tomahawk also comes in several other variants with such features as; strobing light, colored LED auxiliary lights, and IR lights. The price ranges from \$129 for the base model to \$199 for the top end models. You can find out more by going to www.first-light-usa.com or calling toll free 877-454-4450. This is a great light choice and I think you will like it too.

Repel Insect Repellent

IDPA competitors take a great deal of pride in their safety practices and rightly so. The shooting sports in general have a better track record for minimal number of injuries than several other "main stream" sports including football and baseball. We carefully watch what we do and how we do it. We have Safety Officers that watch what we do. We drag safety equipment to the range that includes hearing protectors, safety glasses, Band-Aids, first aid packs and protective clothing of various sorts. But what are you doing to protect yourself from the dreaded Mosquito and his various buggy kindred?

It sounds a little alarmist, doesn't it? Well ok, maybe a little, but I do not see nearly enough people thinking about it. I am sure that some of you do use bug protection of some sort but I always notice a large contingent of people at a match swatting flies, gnats, mosquitoes and such. There is a fair number of "S#@t, I found a tick on me. Now I feel all crawly." being muttered as well. It is not thought of as a safety issue but maybe it should, at least a little bit. Putting aside the concerns of Bird Flu form mosquitoes and tick fever, let's think about gun safety. What do you do when you're high stepping it from one shooting position to another when a gnat gets between your glasses and head. You know it is going straight into your eye. They seem drawn to it. Maybe you're doing a stand and deliver stage when a horsefly delivers a

little bit(e) to you. Swatting, ducking, dancing and generally doing the bug shuck and jive does not seem like a good idea when holding a gun.



I know, I have already admitted that this is a little out there, but I have seen instances where a bug has caused an issue. Maybe not a serious safety issue but I have surely seen one adversely affect a competitor's score. This is a primarily an outdoors sport and is generally in a rural area. Bugs are an issue and I hope that this makes you think a little about that and what you can do about making yourself more comfortable.

One item I have found helps with that face issue. There are very few of us that like the idea of spraying ourselves in the face with a bug repellent. I hate the feel of it hitting my face and I hate the way it tastes (you always get it on your lips). Although you try to avoid it, you end up spraying your eyes as well; hard to do you rest of the face and miss the eyes. The people at Repel had the same issues so they did something about it. They have a product called Mosquito Wipes Sportsmen Formula. This is similar to those wet naps you wash your hands with except the cloth is impregnated with a 30% DEET

solution. This makes it really handy for spot application of bug repellent to your face or any place else you want without having to spray yourself. It also goes well in a shooting bag without the worry of accidental

spraying or leakage.

Another product is Repel Sportsmen Max. This is available in a lotion, aerosol or trigger spray. It contains 40% DEET and is great for combating gnat, mosquitoes, ticks and other little buggers. I like to keep a can of this in the truck when I am traveling to match-

es. It is real handy to have around and does a great job. I normally will hose down my upper and lower body leaving the hands and face for the Wipes. It has been an effective solution to something that has bugged me for years. (You knew that was coming, didn't you?)

The best thing about these products is that you can pick them up at your local Wal-Mart or similar retailer. If you do what more information about Repel Products, you can go to www.repel.com.



(Continued from page 9)

each stage of a match needs Safety Officers and helpers. Safety Officers, after completing an approved course, are responsible for many of the same things any other Instructor needs to be good at. Things like giving instructions to the shooter. making sure the course of fire is safe, supervising the loading and unloading of the firearms. Starting to make sense? I think that working as an SO polishes skills we need to train our people. So, consider volunteering to help out at your local club and get into the SO training course when it becomes available. It's another cred for your packet and will help the club a lot.

That's about it for this issue. The season is starting. Go out and shoot.

See you at the range.



An IDPA member sent us this picture of his personalized license plate on a smoking hot Ford Mustang. It's great to see pride of being an IDPA member displayed to the general population. Send us pictures of you with your IDPA or gun related license plate and we may publish them in the Tactical Journal. Please send to editor@idpa.com.

















UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

May 16 - 18, 2008 3rd Annual Great Lakes Regional

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

May 16 - 18, 2008 2008 PA State IDPA Championship

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

May 24, 2008 Southern Regional Championship

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

May 31, 2008 Texas Multi Club Regional

San Antonio, TX
Jim Beitel
210-857-0847 w
jimbeitel@hotmail.com
www.texastactical.net/
multiclubregional/home.asp

June 1, 2008 IL State Championship

Plainfield, IL
John Serafin
630-655-4325 h
630-655-4325 w
630-655-4592 fax
john-gailserafin@sbcglobal.net
Scott Baron
815-609-6537 h
815-342-2438 w

866-718-2625 fax baronfamily@comcast.net www.opscdp.com/IL_State_ Championship.html

June 6 - 8, 2008 12th Annual 2008 IDPA MA State Championship

Dartmouth, MA
David Bold
508-984-9589 h
filthydave@hotmail.com
Jay Litchfield
774-766-0944 w
diver4life@verizon.net
www.rodgun-nb.org/ap/action.htm

June 7, 2008 2008 TX State IDPA Championship

Greenville, TX
Cody Ray
972-783-0683 h
214-232-8267 w
delta1cody@tx.rr.com
Lee Neel
214-789-2493 h
214-789-2493 w
leeneel@verizon.net
www.ccidpa.org

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

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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).

June 8, 2008 Friends of Wounded Warrior Project Gateway Classic 2008

Barnhart, MO
John Abbott
618-912-4715 h
618-912-4715 w
marine@shootershack.com
www.shootershack.com/wounded.
htm

June 14 - 15, 2008 1st Annual Armed Forces Shoot Off, In Memory Of Those Who Have Served

Central Arkansas Shooters Association Little Rock, AR Mike Plato 501-326-8014 h 501-326-8014 w map1911@yahoo.com www.casarange.com

June 19 - 21, 2008 The Carolina Cup

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

June 22, 2008 MO State Match

Wright City, MO
Charles Parisi
636-745-0616 h
636-262-6237 w
636-745-0616 fax
brrcidpamatchdirector@yahoo.com
Tim Conrey
314-401-2573 h
314-423-5626 w
conrey_t@charter.net
www.benchrestidpa.com

June 28 - 29, 2008 OK State IDPA Championship

United States Shooting Academy
Tulsa, OK
Curt Nichols
918-663-2730 h & w
e.nichols@cox.net
Jerry Biggs
918-625-3619 h & w
jerry.biggs@dhs.gov
www.usshootingacademy.com
SO/Staff will shoot the previous weekend

UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

July 11 - 12, 2008 Golden Gate Regional Championship

Richmond, CA
Jim Griffiths
510-329-1139 h
510-329-1139 w
510-588-4543 fax
jim@goldengate-idpa.com
Jeff Nachmann
650-637-0197 h
650-722-0498 w

jeff@goldengate-idpa.com www.goldengate-IDPA.com

July 19, 2008 2008 British Columbia IDPA Championship

Terrace, British Columbia Robert Bonenfant 250-635-0654 h 250-635-0654 w rbb@monarch.net Dave Bjorkman 250-635-6028 h t6028@monarch.net www.rodandgun.net

July 19, 2008 Independence Match

Muhlenburg, PA
Jerry Greg
570-868-3201 h
570-735-4519 w
570-735-0875 fax
beta1@pa.metrocast.net
Walt Jones
570-561-5500 h
570-561-5500 w
wbrp.org

July 27, 2008 The GOAL Cup Match

Harvard, MA
Jon Green
508-641-0116 h
508-641-0116 w
508-393-5222 fax
jongreen@goal.org
Michael Joffe
617-803-1307 h
617-803-1307 w
253-322-6675 fax
anotherhooya@yahoo.com
www.metrowesttactical.com

August 2, 2008 Summer Sizzler

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

August 2, 2008 WV State IDPA Championship

Morgantown, WV Lew Soccorsi 304-864-2506 h 304-285-2095 w gunner308@frontiernet.net Tom Hlavsa 304-594-2873 h www.mdrc-inc.com



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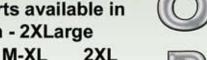
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UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

(Continued from page 32)

August 15 - 17, 2008 2008 New England Regional Championship

Dartmouth, MA
David Bold
508-984-9589 h
filthydave@hotmail.com
Jay Litchfield
774-766-0944 w
diver4life@verizon.net
www.rodgun-nb.org/ap/action.htm

August 16, 2008 NC State IDPA Championship 2008

Boone, NC Robert Niemi, Jr. 828-446-8778 h & w celticmith@yahoo.com Gary Hoyle 828-963-6307 h 828-963-6671 fax gary@wgc-idpa.org www.wgc-idpa.org

August 31, 2008 Thunder Tactical 'Labor Day Regional II'

Conroe, TX
Alan E. Liczwek
281-288-7522 h
281-355-7467 w
281-288-1366 fax
liczwek@sbcglobal.net
Eric Cooper
936-273-9547 h
713-408-7990 w
coop1911@comcast.net
www.tts-idpa.net

August 31, 2008 2008 OH State IDPA Championship

Circleville, OH
Michael Craig
614-348-8436 w
matchdirector@defensivepistol.org
Jon Santini
614-571-5760 - cell
bigbarbyidpa@defensivepistol.org
www.pcsirange.com

September 6, 2008 2008 OR State IDPA Championship

Bend, OR Michael Boyd 541-416-8416 h 541-447-8330 w mboyd@webfoxmixair.com Tom Allen 541-593-7202 h 541-293-7202 w

doublealpha@chamberscable.com www.oregonshooting.com

September 13, 2008 The Masters IDPA Championship

Birmingham, AL Ron Holland 205-601-5400 h 205-995-8870 w ron@dirtyair.com Mike Lunsford 205-655-9606 h 205-369-6859 w mlunsford112@charter.net steelcityidpa.com

September 13 - 14, 2008 MI State Match 2008

Mt. Pleasant, MI
Ed Van Voorst
989-539-2293 h
989-429-6120 w
989-386-4996 fax
doubletap@charter.net
Jeff Myers
989-205-1872 h
989-205-1872 w
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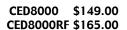
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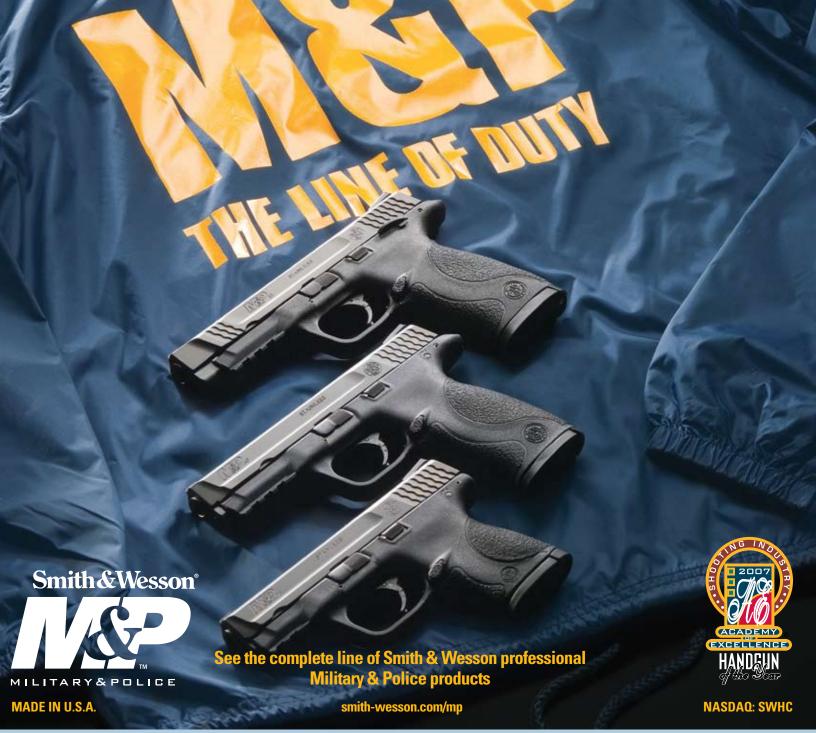


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