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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

Third Quarter 2009
Volume 13 - Issue 3

HARRIS PUBLICATIONS



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"Shooter Ready"

Letters to the *Tactical Journal*

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

A Super Senior

Hi,
I've been regularly shooting IDPA for over four years, under the excellent direction of Jim Till, North Whidbey Sportsmen's Association, Whidbey Island, WA. I recently turned 82 years of age, and got to wondering how many older IDPA members we have who are regularly involved in our tactical sport? At each match I continue to learn more about tactics and defense shooting. Understandably, with slower reflexes my times are usually not competitive with many younger shooters. Nonetheless, I enjoy the training and competition. If there are a significant number of IDPA members over 70 or 75 years of age I wondered if perhaps IDPA might consider a classification for these "ancient" ones - perhaps a "Super Senior" category? Regards,
Roy Van Riper A24704
ESP MM

Mr. Riper,
Thank you for writing. IDPA has a number of members such as yourself and I appreciate your continuing to participate in and enjoy IDPA. We do recognize our older members with a Seniors sub division. That is any member that is ages 50 - 64. We also have a Distinguished Senior sub division that is for members that are 65 and older. We do not force clubs to recognize any sub division at local matches or sanctioned matches. This allows the clubs to modify what sub categories that will work best for them. We do recognize all sub categories in the National Championship. A list of those can be found on page 64 in your rule book. We hope that you are able enjoy shooting IDPA for many more years and maybe we will meet on the range

one day.

Editor

New Logo

It looks very nice. I will be buying a shirt for my wife (who is a school teacher) when they become available. I have no problem wearing the other logo, but the new one is a little more conservative and would go well on a polo shirt I could wear to church without drawing too much attention. Keep up the great work!
Karl H. Decker A34623

Karl,

I am glad you liked the new logo. Most people liked the new logo but a few did not. A few letters we received were even down right ugly. I guess it is true, like momma used to say "you can't please everyone." We hope that our members enjoy the opportunity to be able to choose which logo works best for their needs. We feel the new logo helps provide that choice. Keep an eye on the Pro Shop as new shirts will be showing up soon.

Editor

Winning Spirit

I have a question about shooting in IDPA with an ambulatory disability. In my particular situation, moving requires the use of both hands to propel my wheelchair. In an IDPA scenario, this necessitates a safe re-holstering, movement, stopping, and then drawing and shooting. This adds a lot of clock time, but I've "won" if I've addressed the scenario to the extent possible within my limits and shot safely and accurately. My personal challenge is to adapt to CoF's to the extent possible and to shoot safely and well. To be clear, I want to adapt to the CoF's, not have the CoF's adapted to accom-

modate me.

This brings me to a question about Strings 1 and 2 in Stage Two of the Classification Match. Has anything similar to my situation come up? If so, is there a standard approach?

I recently shot in a classification match. I advanced one-half way to the forward fault line in String 1, then drew and fired. Then in String 2, I retreated one-half way from the 5 yd. line to the 10 yd. line, then drew and fired. This seemed a reasonable means of addressing the scenario.

I'd appreciate your sharing any thoughts or experience you've had in this or any related matter.

Warm regards,

Glenn Friar A36671

Glenn,

We have several members that find themselves facing the same challenges that you do. As each case varies, it is difficult to give a hard and fast rule on what each person should do. I think that the manner that you describe in completing the string of fire is completely reasonable. All match directors should be aware that sometimes what they want a shooter to do in a CoF may not be possible. In these situations a quick talk with the competitor will usually result in a method that will work. The shooting sports are one of the few sports around that is truly open to everyone. Good luck in your next match and I hope you have a great shooting season.

Editor

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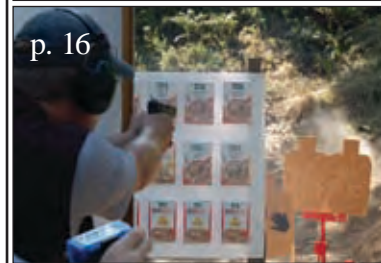
Tactical Journal

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August 2009

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As always, 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 Club



by John L. May A03563

This morning after reading the Shooting Wire and learning of the passing of Joe Bowman the “Straight Shooter”, I looked back to a time that I have only seen on video. Mr. Bowman was a hold-out from the days where shooting demonstrations were used to sell product in this industry. He was a real live cowboy. Recently, I have been reading about the greats in the firearms community that have passed and those that still remain; but for how long? Time is a fickle mistress and she is not always fair. I recently caught a bit on the tube about the Showmen Shooters. What a cool time it must have been watching those guys do what they did best. If you ever get a chance to see video

of Herb Parsons, Ad Topperwein, Ed McGivern, Bill Jordan or Elmer Keith: do it. You will be able find some clips on the internet of most of them listed but some of them you will have to just read about. Those men had the gift to do great feats with firearms. Today, we have some modern day greats such as: Bob Munden, Tom Knapp, and of course Jerry Miculek wondering the ranges around the world. Another guy that bears mentioning is Rob Leatham. His list of match wins looks like match attendance for the rest of us. I have heard him called a cyborg, for no other reason than that he is the most consistent shooter on the planet. That explains his winning. I have had the good fortune to meet

some of these gentlemen listed above, at least most of the current crop of greats. Go see them if the chance comes your way. They will amaze you with their abilities to do what we all wish we could.

One of the things that seem to get lost in competitive shooting is fun. I can remember when I started how much fun it was, shooting my first match made me smile for days. I’ll bet you all remember your first national shooting event, I know that I felt like a kid going to the County Fair. I miss those days, and I’ll bet there are others that miss it too. So this time, let’s talk about how to have fun.

Ever filled up a bunch of water bottles and took them to the range for testing your favorite carry ammo. That is a blast. Good fun for the summer when it is hot and everyone needs a cool down. I have some really nasty ammo that I would always give to the new guy to shoot and get him real close so he would get soaked. Now that is fun. How about host a fun shoot? Allow anyone that shows up with whatever they bring to shoot something. Steel matches are a load of fun, easy to set up, fast to run and can accommodate a variety of different skill levels and assorted caliber firearms. Let them shoot! We used to always slip in an IDPA course or two to give someone who had never seen it a chance to try it out. Get them shooting and then help them get ready for the real thing.

When I first came to Berryville, we used to shoot twice or three times a week. I can still remember



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Run a Better Match

the sting from Bill putting it on us and showing us why he is a world champion. Seems like he always knows exactly what the sight picture should be before he presses the trigger. I wish I had always taken the time to do the same. Fast is not always best. I spent a fair amount of time studying him and how he shoots only to find that while I can shoot, I did not share his “greatness”. I find in all of the top shooters that I have had the good fortune to shoot with a few common qualities. They carefully watch the front sight, each of them have their own style of trigger control, and they practice. Most of the top competitors shoot thousands and thousands of rounds. It takes practice to remain at the top of your game. Practice can become work if you are not careful. I always mixed in some fun drills after the serious work was done. I don't know about you, but I have to be entertained. I guess my attention span is too short to just focus on practice alone. Be careful not to let the entertainment get in the way of the work.

My best advice to a new shooter that wants to improve their skill is to try to shoot with the most experienced shooters at your club. Shooting with higher skilled shooters will drive your own shooting to a higher level. I have always found that I shoot much better when grouped with the very best shooters. Same is true for practice, if you can spend time on the range with top level guys you will see your own shooting improve. Another way to get some real increase in skill is to take some shooting classes. Firearms instruction is available in many different venues, from how best to compete, to best use of your firearm for self-defense. Both have their places and both can show

you improvement. Several years ago, I started on a training agenda to try to get firearms instruction and found there is a host of things available. From the simple “this is a firearm”, to the most complex self-defense based courses. You may have to travel a bit or arrange a class at your local club. Some of the very best instructors travel and will come see you if you can put together enough students to make it worth their while. Look to the net, ask others and do a little research to make sure that the training style fits what you want to accomplish. For years there have been guys that specialize in competition training. If that is your goal, look to one of them to fill the bill.

This year has pretty much been a crazy time in the gun business. It seems like everyone on the planet wanted an AR15, a new pistol and several cases of ammo to go with each. I hope that the lack of free flowing ammo has not put a crimp in your shooting this summer. I had planned for some time to start shooting a 9mm when I get a chance to drop in on an IDPA match. I could not believe what had happened to the price I had to pay for a thousand rounds for practice. When told what it was going to cost me, I asked how much I would have to buy to get better pricing only to find out that was all I could have, at least for a while. Many in our business have never seen it like this. I guess that the rumors of restrictions created a panic. Good luck trying to pull one over on us now. I guess every adult in America now owns at least two guns? The good news in all of this is more people shooting is good for us all

and one day ammo will be available again. We need to work together to make sure our neighbors who have now entered into gun ownership, a freedom most of us have already been enjoying, find the right path to make the most of the experience. This is the perfect time to share your positive experiences with others. Share the good time you have on the range, introduce them to others that make your shooting enjoyable.

As I am writing this, all Americans are preparing to celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. I truly enjoy the holiday for a couple of reasons: first because we are celebrating our freedoms, our overthrow of tyranny to continue the pursuit of happiness, and secondly, cause lots of stuff gets blown up. The kid in me always enjoys a good firework! Making stuff explode is better than going to the circus. Imagine a holiday where it is completely acceptable to go outside and shoot things up in the air and watch them explode. Do you see the theme yet and why I like to shoot? Please have a wonderful summer and may every day you spend be like a day on the range. Every round goes bang and every hit is where you want it to be.



2009 Florida State Championship

by Massad Ayoob A04115

With a heady mix of pluck and preparation, a new venue debuts in IDPA with a state championship...and pulls it off spectacularly.

My first thought was, "Let me get this straight: we're gonna shoot the Florida State IDPA Championship at someplace called the Wyoming Antelope Club?"

Yup. It turned out I did have it straight. And so, bless 'em, did the host organization, which set ambitiously high standards for their first big IDPA match...and succeeded brilliantly.



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The incongruous name for the venue in St. Petersburg, Florida came from a couple of well-to-do local hunters who, many years ago, decided their annual trek to the namesake state to hunt pronghorn would go better if they had their very own rifle range on which to practice. The range took on a life of its own, morphing into a gun club with a huge membership and hosting many disciplines.

Florida is a narrow state, but a long one, about 350 miles from Jacksonville to Miami, and few IDPA clubs there have large enough a membership base to staff a really large sanctioned match. It's necessary to pull in volunteers from other clubs elsewhere in the Sunshine State and even Georgia, and given the geographic spread, this proved to be a daunting task for even the famously capable state coordinator, Lance Biddle. The last State Championship had been run – successfully – at the Central Florida Rifle & Pistol Club in Orlando, but manpower shortages had kept that club from bidding the following year, and another club that hoped to run the event couldn't gather enough personnel, either. As a result, there had been no 2008 Florida

Author vainly attempts to retain his FL State SSR championship with S&W 686 and Remington +P .38 ammo, but that title was earned by Cliff Walsh. Outside, torrential rain is pouring unnoticed



onto a sheltering roof.

State IDPA Championship.

Interest in IDPA had developed at Wyoming Antelope Club, and the organization had approached IDPA with a proposal to sponsor a 2009 state shoot. After a thorough review, Biddle and National HQ gave their approval, and the newly minted host club immediately



Stages were devious and challenging. Synthetic "head" of bomb-vest wearing "terrorist" has popped back up after being shot down at close range, as shooter engages more distant Pepper Poppers.

Most stages involved imperfect light. Note muzzle flash of Blazer .45 hardball round as Five-Gun Master Jon Strayer shoots his Springfield TGO 1911 from behind replicated cover.



kicked into gear to make it happen.

The Club Prepares

Prior to the match, the club spent half a million dollars in range upgrades. This included roofing the outdoor shooting bays, enough for a dozen courses of fire. A couple of months before the shoot, Bidle ran an SO course for about two dozen new safety officers. They were joined by members

of the Florida West Coast Defensive Pistol Club, one of the first groups chartered by IDPA, and now headquartered at the Antelope Club. Several SO-qualified shooters from

other clubs volunteered to help. Contingents from other disciplines at Wyoming Antelope Club volunteered to help with traffic control, parking, and food preparation. Bidle estimates that some sixty personnel were involved in making the State Championship run like clockwork. Charles Kibert was named match director, Dan Bernard was chief safety officer, and Brian Boyer was appointed as

The host club welcomed shooters enthusiastically.



chief stat officer. By the time the calendar rolled around to match weekend, the whole crew was working like a well-oiled machine.

CoEs

For a first-time major match, these fledgling hosts sure put together some challenging courses of fire. The overhead protection gave a stark light-and-shadow effect when the sun was shining, and cast some degree of darkness over most of the targets during the wet weather that predominated over the weekend of the match. Well, no one had ever promised us a rose garden, or a “gunfight at high noon.”

The courses of fire were brilliantly laid out, demanding, and relevant. In one long house-clearing, the shooter finished taking cover at a door leading outside to a large, open atrium, with some relatively long shots at what looked like awfully small steel targets to finish up. In another stage, we opened a “hotel door” to face a Mumbai-style massacre in progress

(Continued on page 34)

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Behind the Badge

by Rob Haught CL068



In the last couple of columns, I talked about the ammo crunch and what shooters are doing to try to alleviate the pain of the high prices that came about as a result, I believe, of the panic buying that is occurring. People are stockpiling and it is depleting the inventory of local merchants and causing the old rule of supply and demand to kick in.

Many have turned to reloading for the first time, others have switched to 9mm from 45 acp in order to buy bulk ammo at a cheaper rate. A visit to your local range will find shooters picking up brass like never before.

Law enforcement agencies have also felt the bite in the form of long waiting periods to get training ammo. As the trainer for my agency, I was told by our usual vendor that there would be a six month back order on .223 reloads that we use for training. I decided to check around first and found nothing better and called back a week later and the wait was now eight months! I now have a standing order that they ship as available.

One of the things I am looking at both personally and for my agency is the use of 22lr conversion kits. With the price difference between 22lr and .223 it's a no-brainer to get

the most out of the technology. The only obstacle is finding out just how much real training value there is in shooting 22lr as opposed to the full power round. And finding one that is reliable enough for this purpose.

Recently, both Colt and Smith&Wesson have introduced rifles on the AR platform chambered in 22lr. They have recognized the demand is there and we are waiting for the rifles to become available, which, by the time this goes to print, should be about there. I am looking forward to trying these two out as the price point is right and they can be configured just like your duty rifle. I have been using a dedicated 22lr upper from Tactical Solutions for about a month now with great results. At our Sunday "Study Group" sessions, as we refer to our shooting day, several of us have started trying to see just how realistic we can make training with these little rifles and handguns. There are several good conversion kits on the market for duty handguns as well and we have a cross section of manufactures at the range. We have made up some lighter steel targets and have been running some drills and IDPA type stages with them.

What we have discovered is that

shooting fundamentals are the same regardless of the caliber you are shooting. Sight picture and alignment, trigger control and the other basics can be practiced just as with your full power loads. In essence, shooting is shooting!

Training skills such as draw stroke, pivots and turns, shooting on the move, use of cover can be practiced just as easily with a 22lr as a .45acp. There are some limitations. Such as reloads can be damaging to some of the magazines. The rifles don't all lock back on the last round completely etc. And you are limited on range with the rifles to around 50 yds. or so. I have been using an upper for my Glock from Advantage Arms that has proven very reliable and accurate for a couple years now and I have an older Colt 1911 conversion kit so I have most of the bases covered already. With the addition of the AR15, I am good to go. In talking with other trainers, there seems to be a movement towards allowing these into Carbine classes to do certain portions of the program along with a full power rifle to help ease the cost of taking formal training. I am going to give it a little longer then if I am still happy with the performance, I plan on incorporating them into my Dept. training program. For those who would scoff at the idea of training with a 22lr., remember shooting is shooting and I would certainly rather be at the range throwing rocks than sitting around wishing I was at the range. This is also a great way to introduce a new shooter to the fundamentals. If anyone has any experiences or suggestions on this concept and would like to share them please feel free to drop me an email. I'd love to hear from you.

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Women's Perspective

by Julie Goloski A19366

Skills Specifically for Women

Ladies, have you ever noticed on some stages you can hang right in there with your fellow male competitors while on others you find that you are down in the standings? It may be that these stages pose an easier challenge for the men. Generally, we have less body mass and upper body strength. Courses of fire that require props or hard leans can have a significant affect on how we are able to control recoil.

We've all shot stages where we have had to carry or drag something to cover. These props can be a reasonable weight for every competitor – juniors, women, seniors, etc. Sometimes however, they are not. I remember the first time I had to drag a dummy in a stage. I had never done it before and simply adopted a technique I saw from another shooter. I finished the stage and never shot with a dummy again until the next match that had one. Did I truly know the best technique for me? Not at all. Practicing how to drag a prop like a dummy can help you perform your best on stages that call for it.

Skill: Dragging/carrying a dummy

How to train: This is skill you can do at home dry firing. Borrow the dummy from your local IDPA club or try to simulate with pillows at home. Practice how to move both safely and efficiently. Work on moving the dummy to a specific location to simulate cover



Although this photo was taken from another action shooting sport, this image shows the benefits of extending the trail foot for balance and not crowding the wall to better control recoil.

in a stage. Pay special attention to your muzzle direction. Just like in driving, when you turn your head and shoulders to look at something to the right or left, you can inadvertently turn the wheel in that direction. Dragging an object while shooting can affect where your muzzle points in much the same

way. Be sure to focus on keeping your muzzle in a safe direction at all times. Practicing this skill will help you face this specific challenge next time.

What about those stages where you have had to shoot while holding a dummy or carrying a

weighted briefcase? Any little bit of weight or bulk can prevent you from getting into a good shooting stance. Where you would normally be able to control recoil without an issue, dealing with props like these while shooting can affect you more than you would think. Being just a little off balance has a significant affect on how fast you can recover your sights, especially if you are smaller and lighter.

Photo courtesy of Yamil Sued.

Skill: Holding/carrying an object while shooting

How to train:

Practice shooting while holding bulky items

and weighted cases. Unlike shooting with just the strong or support hand, these props may require you to compensate for their weight and size. You may find that you are able to shoot faster and more accurately by adjusting your stance. Start by shooting in your normal shooting stance. Then modify your

Women's Perspective

foot and arm position. Take note of how you lean into the gun as well. Pay close attention to how fast you can recover your sights as you vary your stance to find what works best for you.

A significant number of stages in IDPA require you to shoot around cover. This means that a majority of your shooting will happen while leaning left or right around a prop. In some cases a lean may be slight and other times it can be severe. Remember that the harder the lean the less direct body mass you have behind the gun. For women this can mean that the gun seems to kick a lot more.

Skill: Shooting around props

How to train: Use a wall or barricade to shoot around. You can also use a target on a target stand to simulate a barricade. Set up targets so that you have different degrees of lean. Experiment with how close you position yourself to the barricade or wall. Crowding a wall can put you in a very

awkward shooting stance for some target positions. It can also prevent you from extending your arms out while forcing you to lean back instead of into the gun. Also experiment with varying how far apart your feet are for different levels of lean. I find if the position allows it, the harder the lean the further out I place my trailing foot for balance.

Finally one way to improve all of these skills is to increase you grip, upper body and core strengths. Stronger hands allow you to grip the gun harder without straining. Working on your grip strength can also help you with those stages where you do have to drag or carry props. Like grip strength, the stronger your upper body is, the better you are able to control recoil and manage difficult props. Building up your core by strengthening your back and abdominal muscles will help you maintain position when you have to lean and engage targets.





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Gunning for Gifts

by Tony Collins A17104

At the beginning of December, I was wanting to do something to help the kids in the area that weren't going to have the Christmas they deserved due to family set backs. After all, Christmas is for kids in our family. What could I do to make a difference?

There are a lot of events and groups that hold activities such as "Toys for Tots" and motorcycle fun rides. Being president of a local IDPA Club it hit me; have a match where shooters bring toys for a match fee instead of money. But hold on, this is for the kids; let's not limit the opportunity for shooters to help the community. I invited a local USPSA to get involved.

Things just kept getting better from there. Before we all knew it, we had five clubs who couldn't wait to make a kid's Christmas an uplifting one.

On December 20, 2008, at 9 am the stages were set, four IDPA and two USPSA for a total of six. IDPA targets and scoring and gear was the theme. At the sign in table, you put the gift or gifts down, got your squad and waited for the safety briefing. The shooters kept coming. Every gift set down made my heart warmer and proud of these shooters for not caring about scores



or which discipline they believe in. All of the stages were as challenging as any state match I have attended.

We divided up into four squads and headed out to have fun and give it our best. We started off a little late due to the outstanding turnout. We started out with perfect weather that soon changed.

But with the help of the Las Cruces USPSA club, we got everything wind-proofed. There was little to no complaining when transitioning from IDPA to USPSA.

It was good for both disciplines. At the end of the match, everyone gathered for lunch provided by DRATS and prepared by TCs Chuck Wagon and crew (me and my helpful family). There was home made chili, about 5 gallons, smoked sausage, hot links, hot dogs and all the fixings. After lunch we gave out small gifts of thanks and a turkey in the spirit of Christmas.

After all was said and done,

(Continued on page 35)



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2008 Washington State IDPA Championship

by Rick Breneman A07876

photos by Ed Leavitt A09267

As I write this, it's been over four months since the match was held, so I decided to print a copy of the match booklet to refresh my memory. Flipping open the cover, I'm reminded by the first page of the great match staff that was assembled. Talented and experienced people at every position, from the Assistant MD, to Range Master, stats, and an additional seventeen certified SOs. As MD, this was "my match", but there's no way it would have come off successfully without this great bunch of guys (and gals, as my twin girls again served as stats runners). Over the years that our club, the North West Practical Pistol As-



sociation (NWPPA), has hosted the Washington State IDPA Championship (WASIDPAC), I think we've developed a reputation for two things; at least one big "circus stage", with lots of movement, various forms of mechanical and electrical activators of targets and port covers, etc., and The Long Range Stage. We have access to the Pistol Range with its 50-yard berm, next to the action bays at Renton Fish & Game Club, and always put it to arguably good use. For the '08 match, I consciously tried to go in a somewhat different direction, and focus on short, quick-and-dirty stages, while still providing variety and that Long Range Stage.

Welcoming Committee, was an 8-round Vickers scenario, that started with the competitor seated

in a car. I would have liked a holstered start, as the scenario involved an ambush/home invasion, developing as the car is being parked in the garage, but in-car draws create safety issues so we did a "ready" start. With no cover at the open-door start position, the first two threats are engaged in Tactical Sequence, exit the car for the cover of the garage, then engage two more. The last two targets were close, and spaced fairly far apart, so a very obvious pieing was required; a lot of people were caught out, and either set up too deep and got cover calls, or set-up too shallow, and had to make a dramatic reposition to get the last target. After a retention reload was performed, the competitor moved to stage two, set up in the same shooting bay.

Left, Right, or Center, was the first of the "choice"

IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2009



The array consisted of three targets, about ten yards downrange in a roughly El Presidente-style arrangement. A short wall was set up about halfway between the counter and two of the targets. If engaged through the port, only head shots were available. By going to the sides of the counter, the change in perspective exposed the targets entirely; take the head shots, or take the time to reposition for easier shots? Those confident in their ability to make the head shots fired everything through the port. As a shooter, competing in ESR, I didn't want to risk reload-inducing make-up shots,

stages. Generally, NWPPA matches feature stages with very specific procedures, designated reloading areas, engagement sequences, etc., and they can be shot only one way. This is both a matter of equity, and one of safety, as the SO should be able to anticipate the actions of the shooter. For WASIDPAC08, we had a number of stages that gave the shooter a choice or choices. Left, Right, or Center was a 6-round, mini-mart hold-up stage, the main prop being a long counter with a low, wide port above it. As the name implies, the competitor could shoot everything through that central port, or go to either or both ends of the counter.



but didn't want to have to go to both ends of an 8' counter, either. Being a southpaw, I ducked left on the draw, engaged the completely-exposed T1 around the end of the counter, then rose up slightly, engaged the head of T2 and the full T3 through the central port, and got my hits.

Stage three was contributed by our neighbors at the North Whidbey Sportsmen's Association. This stage was a fairly complex home-invasion scenario. The competitor started in a seated position, and then had to negotiate some window treatments (we

(Continued on page 32)

The Man with the Dark Glasses

by John Flyum A23001

The wind was cool that day but not cold. The bike & road felt good beneath me. Smooth & fast, like the planes I liked to fly. My thoughts flashed back to my beloved Pitts Special S2B and aerobatic training. I felt exhilarated thinking of my future with the Marines or Navy after college. I wondered what type of attack aircraft I would be flying...an F18? Maybe a Stealth or the new Joint Strike Fighter? I had it all planned out. I was going to be a shooting star.

They tell me I was in a coma for a month. I never knew what hit me. They told me later it was a drunk driver. The physicians said they didn't know if I'd live, be a vegetable or be blind. I lived. I wasn't a vegetable. I was blind. I'd never fly again. I'd never ride my bike again. I'd never be a Marine or a Navy fighter pilot. I tried to focus on the present but I was 95% blind & all I could focus on was about the size of a 3x5 card in front of me...the doctors said my tunnel vision was as good as it was going to get. My future didn't look so bright all of a sudden. The surgeons operated on my feet & ankles leaving me with a permanent limp. They weren't sure if I'd walk again. In the blink of an eye everything had changed. I traded in my bike & planes for a white cane at the age of 29.

Recovering at home, I was flying through the TV channels & came across Shooting USA by accident. I was fascinated. I made a decision to try my hand at shooting. Folks thought I had lost my mind. A blind man shoot? But they supported me.

I bought a SIG 226 in .40S&W. I shot that for awhile but had some issues seeing the standard stock sight. After talking with a few of the fellow shooters I placed XS Sights on it. I could focus on the front sight reliably and found I

I met Mike in Paris, TX in August of 2007. I walked up to him with a grin on my face and said, "I forgot to tell you I'm blind. Still okay if I shoot with you guys?" He thought it was a joke & started looking around for the cameras. It finally dawned on him that I was serious. I asked him if it was going to be a problem. He stated as long as I was safe there would not be any issues. Mike briefed me on IDPA safety rules and invited me onto his squad.

He was amazed that I could hit the targets. We've become good friends since that day. He and the other shooters haven't treated me any differently and the only bias is that they ensure I know where all the targets are. I don't win any matches or stages.

But I don't come in last either.

Folks who don't know me question my safety habits. They're pleasantly surprised when they learn that I shoot nearly as well as sighted individuals. My greatest challenge is not shooting targets I didn't know were there. Mike could relate several funny times when he had to tell me "Left. Left. Uh, more left. Now up." Then I found the target.

I've even taken some training classes from world class shooters. I managed my way into Todd Jarrett's class last year. I shot with

"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will."

Gandhi

could hit a target if I concentrated on the front sight and followed through with my trigger pull. I became pretty good at it.

I competed in my first IDPA match in June 2007 at the Snow Shoe Gun Club in Palmer, Alaska. I live on the OK & TX border now. I'm within driving distance of a couple of places to shoot IDPA. I don't miss many matches.

I contacted the match director for the Paris, TX IDPA match & asked if I could come shoot with them. He was very accommodating & encouraged me to show up.

2009 IDPA Postal Match

Aug. 15 - Oct. 31, 2009

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 2009 Postal Match will allow you to see how you compare with other shooters not only from the US but also from around the world.

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

Set it up at your club!

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



IDPA Postal Match
2232 CR 719
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PostalMatch09@idpa.com

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.

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.

The Man with the Dark Glasses

folks who weren't sure about me but by the end of the two days were comfortable around me.

I've found shooters to be very safety oriented. In shooting sports or with any sport like Golf, Tennis, or Ping-Pong it is as safe as the organizers and players make it. I believe all shooting sports are far safer than the others. Not all ball players care if they hit another player with the ball, but shooters pay extra attention where their shots go and where their muzzles are pointed.

IDPA is a safe sport. It's a sport I've come to love and appreciate. I enjoy the fellowship, the skill involved and the challenge of the game. It is a light at the end of my

tunnel.

I would say just about anyone can shoot IDPA. Younger, older, less vision, less mobility; I don't think there are many limitations in IDPA for those that want to participate. I would urge any that are interested in the shooting sports to at least try IDPA. It turned out to be a true joy for me.

The next time you come across someone clamoring about how dangerous guns and gun owners are, inform them they are wrong. Follow the safety rules, practice, never give up, never say die...and even a blind man can shoot IDPA.

John at Red River Firearms range in Sherman, TX.



Photo by Jason Webb

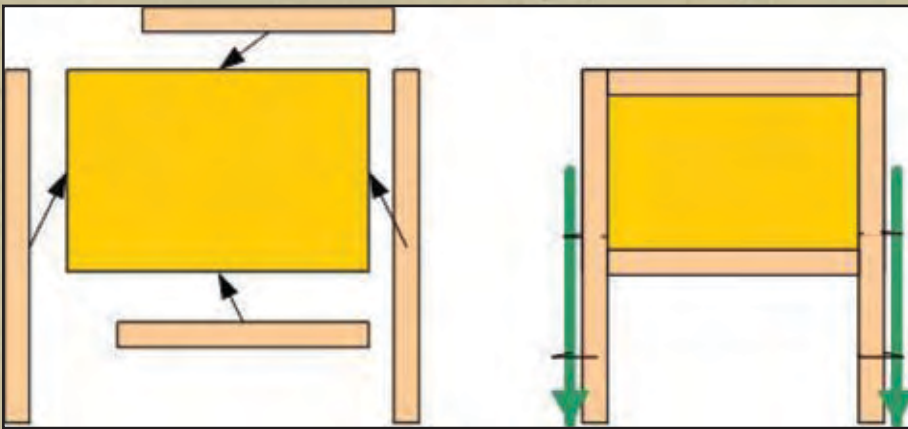
Wall System

by Bruce Bates A18727

One of the challenges of putting on fun, realistic matches is



putting up the walls we need to simulate the multitude of hallways and rooms we dream up in our scenarios. We have lined up several



Bianchi barricades to make walls. We've made frames with support legs and even used hinges and hasps to try and make good reliable walls. At our first State IDPA match, we had all of the walls blow down the night before the match(!). Besides the wind, using barricades or walls with "feet" makes maneuvering through the course of fire



more difficult and increases the chance of someone tripping. A solution we came up with at our club was to make walls out of full 4x8 sheets of building material using fence "T" posts for support.

We started by ripping 2x4s into 2x2s to save money. We were fortunate to have a construction company donate unwanted sheet material they had used for signs and temporary walls at construction sites. Starting with a full 4x8 sheet we added an 8' 2x2 to both of

the four foot sides. The 4 feet that extend off the plywood will become the legs. We then completed a box frame around the plywood by adding top and bottom 2x2s to the 8' side. We drilled through the 2x2 legs at about 5' height to allow for attachment points. We painted the completed panels to provide some weatherproofing and then stenciled "do not shoot" so non-IDPA folks would know they weren't target stands!

In the bay, we drive fence "T" posts into the ground at the desired location then wire tie the wall to the post using the holes we drilled in the leg. With a number of these

panels, the COF designer can make some pretty interesting room configurations. When erected, the wall stands 8' high and extends to 4'



above the ground. This prevents even the tallest shooter from seeing over the wall and still allows the SO a final check under the wall to be sure the COF is clear for the next shooter.

By making some 4'x4' versions of the walls you can really add to the variety of rooms you can configure. Also the 4 foot walls can be inverted between two 8' walls to simulate a window. Add a top cross piece and some curtains and your stage will really be set. When the match is done, untie the walls, pull the fence posts and dream up more stages with your new wall system for next time.



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Random Shots

"Major Matches - Major Irritations"

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

by **Thomas Pinney A24541**

Major Matches are one of the key elements of IDPA competition. We are required to periodically participate in Classifier Matches, we enjoy regular club matches, and many clubs sponsor regular practice matches. Major sanctioned IDPA matches are the pinnacle of IDPA competition; such matches must be approved by IDPA headquarters. The specifics for getting such an approval are detailed in the Rule Book. All the details of a Major Match are pretty much cut and dried. This does not mean all such matches are equally successful. In fact some of them have elements that are just terrible.

Many experienced shooters have gone to matches that were no fun. A brief solicitation quickly developed as a list of things that leave match participants dissatisfied.

Setting up the Match

First, things can go wrong from the beginning. There are things match committees and match directors do that cause problems before the match even starts. Putting on a successful sanctioned match requires lots of planning and teamwork.

► Not providing for logistical support— This means that the details such as water for the shooters, bathrooms, and parking are all considered and planned out in advance.

► Boring and repetitious stages— Variety is the spice of matches. Too often the stages are so similar that they tend to blur together. Not only are dull stages less fun, they do not provide a well rounded challenge for all shooters

► Mistaking high round counts for

interesting stages— According to the rules, a sanctioned match must have at least eight stages of fire with a minimum of 100 scored shots. Some Match Directors mistake quantity for quality. It is not necessary that every stage have 18 rounds; in fact there should be a variety of round counts helping to keep each course of fire different

► Failing to account for the enormous variety of shooters— A major match with at least 75 shooters can expect a variation of 18" in height, 200 pounds in weight and 60 years of age. Stage design needs to take differences in physical abilities into account. Do you require shooters to fire over high barriers that a tall man can easily see over but requires women or younger shooters to stand on tiptoe? And above all, to not expect older, full-figured men to have to get up for a prone or kneeling position to complete a stage. All stages should allow Marksman level shooters to have a reasonable way to successfully complete the scenario.

► Novelty props that slow the match— A novelty prop is something that is weird, has no benefit in a "defensive" situation, and causes significant delays in the operation of the match. Novelty props are often lots of fun, but they must not impede the flow of the match.

► Shotguns and carbines— There is a place for 3 Gun Matches, just not in sanctioned IDPA matches, which are pistol only competitions.

Running the Match

Most of us have run an IDPA club match. Some things about running any match are similar. That said, there are things that can ruin

even a well-planned match. Some things that cause problems include the following.

► Closed Squading— This means that shooters are required to remain with the squad they are assigned with for the entire match. Forcing shooters to stay in the same squads and move together as a group has two major drawbacks. First, not all squads will shoot at the same rate. This means entire squads will naturally back up behind the slower ones, making everyone slower. Second, it is more enjoyable to shoot with friends. It is also much more enjoyable for the shooters to pick the own order of scenarios after the first stage. The only exception to this is for very large matches where the flow of shooters needs to be closely regulated.

► Using different procedures for sign in at different stages— There are a number of ways to organize stages for shooters to move through stages. What is very confusing is having a different process for each stage, one asks shooters to hold their sign in sheets and sign a list, another to hand over their score sheets to the SO. This leads to confusion and misunderstandings. Almost any system will work as long as it is the same for all stages. The match director needs to let the stage SO's and scorekeepers know what that procedure is.

► Safety Officers who interpret the rules 'their way' instead of in accordance with the rule book— It does not matter if the stage SO announces in the course walk-through that he will call shooters out of cover if more than their head and hand is exposed; the IDPA rule book defines

Random Shots - "Major Matches - Major Irritations"

cover as 50% of the upper torso.

Match Directors need to be aware of how SOs will be calling each stage before the match begins. Sanctioned matches must be run strictly by the IDPA Rule Book.

► **Inconsistent calls by Safety Officers**— Each stage must be judged the same way for each and every shooter. The way it is called in the morning must be the way it is called in the afternoon. Friends, rivals, and strangers must all have the same enforcement of the rules.

► **Not making provisions for the relief for Safety Officers and scorers**— Acting as an SO or score keeper at a sanctioned match is a long, tiring job. Ideally there should be two qualified SO's available at each stage, one acting as SO the other as score keeper. Having Safety Officers remain at the same stage all day reduces inconsistencies in how the stage is run. The SO working as the scorekeeper can be relieved by a floating scorekeeper to allow them to get a meal or take a bio break while maintaining a consistent stage. Allowing for a break keeps the SO's fresh and prevents slowing down the match because a stage is shut down for the convenience of the SO's.

Treating Match Participants Right

Some clubs seem to consider sponsoring a sanctioned match as primarily a fund raiser for the club; once their checks have cleared, participants are viewed as an inconvenience. Sanctioned matches should be approached as a way to give back to our sport; a way to allow other shooters to participate in higher levels of competition. There is nothing wrong with a club turning a profit for sponsoring a sanctioned match; putting on a major match is a lot of work. However, the sponsoring club should make the match a pleasurable experience for the shooters. If you do not treat your customers right, they

will not come back. The same thing applies to participants in a sanctioned match.

► **Cancelling a match**— Once a match is scheduled the club should do everything possible to hold the event. Participants often have associated out of pocket expenses such as airfare that cannot be recovered. If a club is has to cancel a match for any reason all match fees must be refunded. Cancelling a match and not refunding the money is inexcusable. Actually it can be considered fraud.

► **Refunds**— There should be a clear policy for refunding the money when a participant has to cancel for unavoidable events like a death in the family or a hurricane after the announced refund cut off date. This must, of course, be handled on a case by case basis. Remember, we are all in the same community; clubs should consider the needs of individuals who are faced by situations beyond their control.

► **Long delays in posting the results**— Sanctioned matches bring in shooters from a large geographical area. That means many participants will have a long way to go after the match. Major matches need to complete scoring and post the scores as quickly as possible after the shooters have finished. With modern software and good organization, some events have posted scores 15 minutes after the last shot. Others have taken over two hours, while tired shooters watch the sun go down, facing long drives home in the darkness.

► **Requiring participants to tear down stages**— It may be standard procedure for participants to pitch in and tear down stages after club matches— it should not be when your shooters have paid >\$90 for the privilege of shooting the match. Part of that money can be used to hire a couple of guys to help break stages down. What is especially galling is,

after a long hard day, being verbally abused for not doing the breakdowns fast enough to suit the match director.

► **Prize Tables**— There is absolutely no requirement for a prize table. In fact, the IDPA does not approve any type of incentive program based on shooter performance. That said, many clubs take advantage of sponsors to offer prizes at a raffle after a match. This is a very good thing. A poor Prize Table is a lost opportunity to generate customer satisfaction. We have all seen a shooter who had a bad day shooting suddenly have a Great Match when he gets lucky at the drawing. Shooters should have an idea before the match begins as to the level of the prizes that will be given out. Setting expectations is critical to customer satisfaction. Further the club needs to ensure sure prizes are awarded promptly and fairly.

So in summary, sponsoring a Sanctioned Match is a way for an IDPA club to encourage our sport, bring the club together, and even help fatten a club's treasury. It can also enhance a club's reputation. Just remember, to do a through job of planning, run the match fairly and in accordance with IDPA rules, and above all, **treat participants like paying customers.**



The Tactical Advantage

By: Robert Ray



We have several products to cover this month. Unfortunately it is difficult to give each product all the space they truly deserve. Each of these products has performed well and given truly great service. I think that our members will find each of these useful and a great product should you decide to pick up one for yourself.

Standard trigger from Glockworx

The first product is from Glockworx and it is their innovative drop in trigger for, of course, the Glock line of pistols. Glockworx actually offers two different lines of triggers, one is legal for SSP and the other is legal for ESP. The one we are cover-



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ing today is the Standard trigger which is legal for SSP. The Standard trigger comes in several different configurations to meet the needs of the individual. You can purchase the trigger in Tactical or Competition variants with different degrees of customization. The Tactical trim, there is a little more pre-travel than in the Competition. The Competition trim is reduced as much as much as possible while still allowing the trigger to reliably reset. The Competition also has a feature that slightly lightens the trigger pull weight. I was using the base model with the custom trigger and trigger bar but you can also opt for the next step up that replaces complete trigger assembly along with springs or the top end Deluxe model that includes a ZEV Tech Lightened Stainless Steel Striker.

I have to say that I don't currently own a Glock pistol, but this trigger system has changed my mind somewhat. I borrowed a friend's fac-

tory Model 19 and installed the Standard trigger. The difference was immediate. The Standard trigger has a nice smooth feel when pressed. It completely cleared up the slightly gritty feel the factory trigger came with. It was also lighter than the factory but not so much that I would be uncomfortable carrying this on the range or the street. I was able to run this trigger in both the Arkansas State Championship as well as the Carolina Cup. It has been a while since I ran a Glock in a match but I managed to pull off a 2nd place SSP Sharpshooter finish at the AR match and a 7th place finish at the Cup. In both matches and the one

local match I have shot this in, I have had zero problems or malfunctions with the trigger system. All the dropped points and such were once again a result of my lack of practice.

Overall I was very pleased with the Standard trigger and would recommend it to anyone looking to smooth up their Glock. The Standard trigger is offered for a variety of models and with a price of only \$79.99 for their base unit, it is a very attractive alternative to sending you favorite blaster to a custom gunsmith. You can reach the fine people at Glockworx via the web at www.glockwarehouse.com or by calling 877-387-0329.

“Evil Roy” Practice target from Action Target

I mentioned earlier my embarrassing lack of practice. Usually when I do get a little in, it is a spur of the moment kind of thing where I grab a few moments where I can. One item that helps me immensely in squeezing out those random practice sessions is the “Evil Roy” Portable Practice Target from Action Target. For those of you that may be unfamiliar with “Evil Roy”, he is a top ranked Cowboy action shooter. You may be more familiar with his granddaughter, another top Cowboy action and IDPA crossover shooter, Randi Rogers, aka “Holy

Terror.” Randi is also a team shooter for Glock. This is a family that knows how to shoot!

Although the target was developed by a Cowboy action shooter, it is perfect for an IDPA or USPSA shooter as well. The target is well constructed from hardened 500 Brinell steel. The target face is angled down to deflect splatter into the floor of the range. The target head also comes in a variety of circle sizes from 6” to 12”. If you cross over to SASS, it is also available with cowboy action shapes. The target is engineered to be able to fold up into a package less than 3 feet long and be erected in just a few seconds. It is also height adjustable with two different settings. It even has a carry slot for your hand, making transport a breeze. This



is a huge bonus to me as I have lost track of the times my fingers have been abused and smashed by carrying other steel targets.

It is a perfect tool for practicing on the range. Quick to set up, quick to take down and no paper, tape or cardboard to dispose of or carry around. You can usually find mine in the back of my truck patiently wait-

The Tactical Advantage

ing for me to drag it out and use it. Using steel to practice is very rewarding as you have instant feedback if you are on target and a humbling lack of if you miss. It really forces you to watch the front sight. I use mine to really work on draws, reloads and shooting while moving. Target transitions would require the purchase of a second target which would be money well spent. With proper care, these targets will give years of great service. Action target has a number of great targets, but I really like this one for the individual. The targets are only \$115 each. You can find out more about these target and all of Action Targets great offerings by going to www.actiontarget.com or calling 801-377-8033.

Blackhawk Holsters and Demo guns

Blackhawk offers a multitude



of fine products. I could spend a great deal of time covering their various offerings but today I am concentrating on just two products. The first is their leather line of holsters, specifically the Compact Askins for a 1911. Blackhawk has

a number of very fine holsters and in our community are most known for their SERPA line of molded polymer holsters. They also offer a number of leather holsters as well. I am currently using their Compact Akins holster for daily

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The Tactical Advantage

carry. I know that a lot of you have one holster, and even a different gun, for match use and another for carry. I am a big believer if making my equipment do double duty and frequently shoot what I carry out of my carry holster. That is part of what the sport was founded on. I will admit that I do slip into the slick embrace of Kydex on occasion. It's just human nature I guess.

The Askins pattern has been around for a long time but Blackhawk has put their own quality stamp on this offering. Blackhawk has improved on this venerable old pattern by including an injection molded site track inside the holster allowing for a snag free draw even with a tall front sight. They have also included a tensioning screw to allow the user to adjust the holster to better fit their personal tastes. Constructed out of quality leather and stitches, this holster will give you a lifetime of use if properly cared for. I personally believe you just can't beat leather for daily carry and the Blackhawk leather holsters fit that bill perfectly. Daily carry or match use, these holsters will fit your needs and at a reason-

able price of \$61.99. The Askins model is available for several different guns and can be purchased in left or right handed variants.

Another great product offered by Blackhawk should be a part of every new shooters briefing or Safety Officer Instructors training kit. It is their Demonstrator guns. I know that there are some people out there that still perform safety demonstrations with operable guns. Granted, I have done this myself in years past. We always had several people check that it was unloaded first, but accidents do happen. Most ND's happen with "unloaded" guns. Why take a chance?

The Blackhawk Demo gun has found a permanent home with me in my instruction bag. I use in when I teach SO classes and any other time that requires the use of a gun for training, instructional or safety issues. The guns are available in grey or safety orange so that everyone knows it is a demonstration gun. They are very tough, made out of injection molded polymer that will resist breaking, bending or cracking. This is perfect for those that teach retention and

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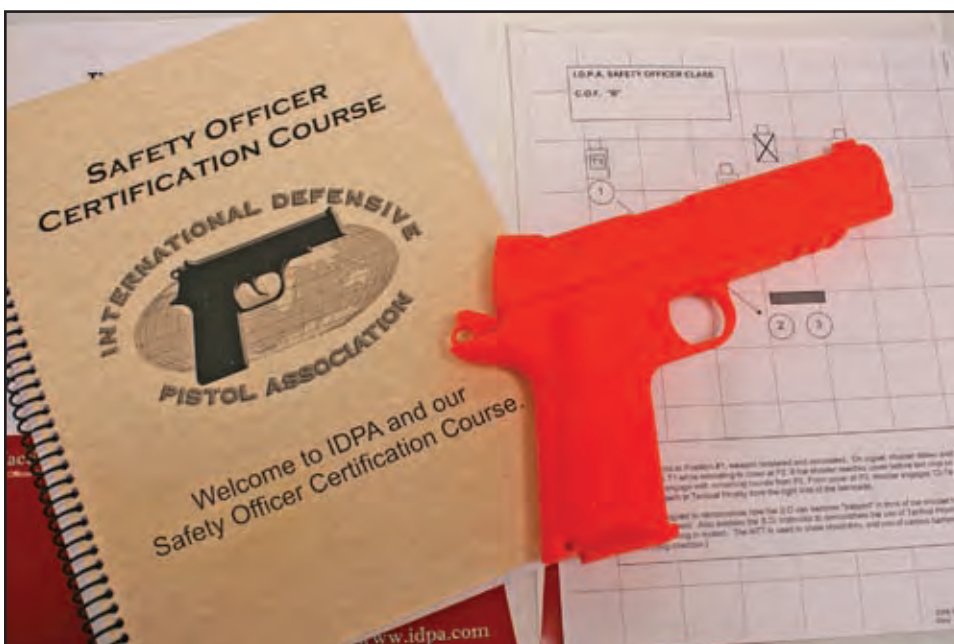
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disarming techniques that usually resulting a gun hitting the floor at some point. This also makes it perfect for the whole "what do you do when a competitor drops a loaded gun" part of the SO class. I tell you, even dropping a demo gun is unsettling to a new SO recruit and it's good training for if it happens to them on the range for real. These guns are life sized so they will also lock up in your holster just like your favorite blaster.

The Demonstrator guns are available in a Beretta, 1911, Glock and Sig profiles. The cost is only \$30.99 each but the comfort factor for using a demo gun is beyond price. You can purchase both of these great products directly from Blackhawk at their website www.blackhawk.com or by calling toll free 800-694-5263.

If At First You DO Succeed

by Kent "KB" Bayer A07471



Once in awhile, despite Mr. Murphy, bad Karma, or any number of other factors, we "get it right the first time." Fortunately, that was true for a number of new ideas I incorporated into this year's Coastal Bend Challenge and I would like to tell you about the match and the "firsts" that worked for me.

I have been heavily involved with most of our previous CBC matches but this was my first time wearing the Match Director's hat

and as you might imagine, I wanted to experiment with some of my own ideas. Breaking new ground though meant I would have to do my homework in order to avoid any problems that might arise on match day.

My goals were to provide each shooter with a safe, enjoyable, and challenging shooting experience. "Safe" needs no explanation other than to acknowledge that the SO's carry the full weight of that responsibility and as Match Directors, it is our job to ensure that they have the necessary skills, knowledge, and support to perform this all-important task.

"Challenging" is most often associated with level of difficulty



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but in fact, can be achieved by requiring skillful thought as well as skillful shooting.

“Enjoyable” will vary widely from person to person but for me, an enjoyable IDPA match is one where the courses of fire adhere to the core concepts of IDPA and are designed to be short, fast, and as realistic as possible. Unfortunately, achieving this last goal turned out to be a bit more difficult than I thought.

SIDE-BY-SIDE STAGES

All previous CBC matches have

had the Rulebook minimum 8 courses of fire and for many clubs, that is the maximum number of stages that can be supported with available personnel and range bays. However, in order to achieve the minimum round count for sanctioned matches, one or more of the courses of fire quite often requires the use of multiple strings.

Personally, I’ve never been a fan of multiple strings so if I wanted short, fast, single-string courses of fire, I was going to have to do it with more than 8 stages. Two other factors complicated the problem; the range only has 6 suitable bays for a match such as ours and, as-



If At First You DO Succeed

sembling 9 or 10 Safety Officer teams from a small club membership in order to utilize open squadding was going to be nearly impossible.

The answer was to have two sets of side-by-side courses of fire using one SO team for each set. We put up vinyl vision barriers between each pair of stages to avoid visual confusion and both stages were only scored after the shooter finished the second course of fire. The SO's briefed both during their walk-throughs and with fairly low round counts, shooters didn't need to come to the line with their pockets full of mags or speedloaders.

The only minor problem was breaking the habit of clearing the pistol after the first stage. But, once the SO's got in the groove, the process ran smoothly, took no more time to shoot than a multiple-string stage, and gave everyone two completely different courses of fire instead of having them shoot the same one twice. Plus, it solved the manning problem by requiring only two SO teams to run four stages and in the end, the match was comprised of 10 stages with a total round count of 127.

PULLEY BLOCK GRAVITY MOVER:

This was not an original idea and actually came about after some of our club members saw a mover using this concept at a match last year in another city. But when I heard about it, I knew I wanted to see if we could build one ourselves. Fortunately, my close friend, Terry Panknin, (who must be kin to Thomas Edison,) took the challenge and together, after much trial and error with different pulleys, carriers, weights

etc., we eventually had a working model.

But that wasn't good enough for Terry, no sir. He decided we should add a second moving target with a delayed release triggered by the first target! This was accomplished by adding a third support point for the cable equal distance from each main cable tower, and then mounting a pulley horizontally as a pivot point for the cable. This resulted in an inverted "V" which

made it possible for both target carriers to charge the center shooting position at about a 20 degree angle.

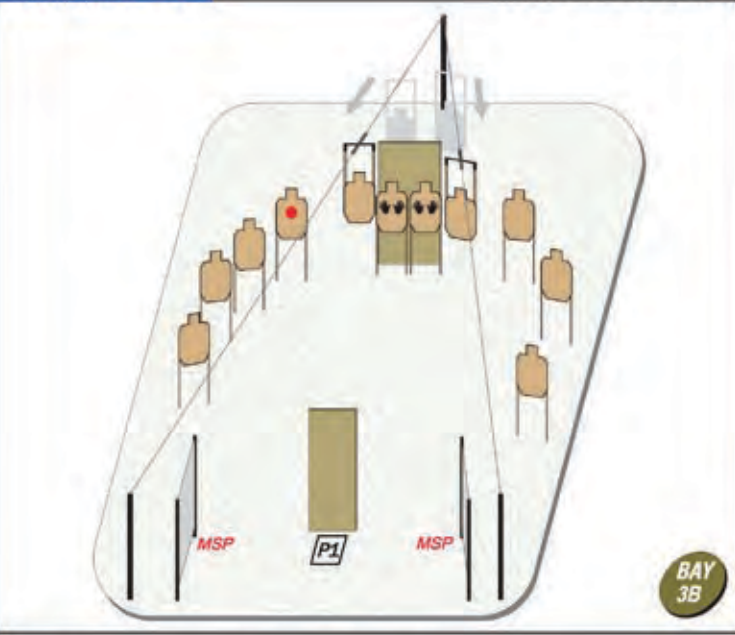
We used falling steel plates behind the center mass area of a target as activators for all four of the match stages with moving props and in this case, the falling plate pulled a pin which released the first target. Another line and pin combination was secured to the first carrier and the time delay for the second target release was determined by the length of this line.

Having had experience with both types of gravity-driven mover designs, it is my opinion that the pulley block and weight is by far the best method. It is much better than an inclined ramp or cable because it yields nearly constant speed, the target height

is realistic and, the target remains the same height throughout its travel.

It took a good bit of testing and multiple modifications over three or four months but in the end, Terry's ingenuity and hard work resulted in a great prop that provided us with a very challenging and realistic double mover stage.

STAGE 5 *Right Back Atcha*



Scenario: You are a counselor at a camp for troubled teenagers and are out by the latrine when you see a group of these "troubled campers" approaching. As they come into the light, you see they are armed and when one of them begins firing at you, you are forced to take cover and defend yourself.

Concealment: Required **Min Rounds:** 18
Scoring: Vickers **Reloads:** As Necessary

Start Position: Standing at P1, hands at sides, gun loaded to max capacity.

Description: On the signal, draw and engage all threat targets with 2 rounds each in tactical priority.

Activator plate behind red dot target must be knocked down and may require more than one center mass hit to do this. Muzzle safe points are forward T-Post of vinyl partitions, exercise caution.

ROUNDS INTO VINYL PARTITIONS OR T-POSTS WILL BE A DQ.

SO TEAM: Terry Panknin & JK Rowzee **AUTHORS:** Terry Panknin
SCOREKEEPERS: Steve Mann **KB Bayer**



DEDICATED MATCH WEBSITE Obviously, not every club will have someone who can do this but the benefits of a registered domain name for a recurring annual match are substantial, especially in terms of search engine optimization. It is also a “one stop shopping” experience for potential match customers and I think it worked out extremely well. Not surprisingly, the link to the site is: www.coastalbendchallenge.com and if you’re interested, the full match booklet as well as all the match photos and scores are available there.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM We have all been to matches where it was difficult to hear what was being said during the shooters’ meeting or award ceremony and I decided to see if a PA system was feasible. I didn’t want the noise of a generator so the only other available power source was from a golf cart or a vehicle. The solution was to use a car stereo amplifier, a couple outdoor speakers, and a wireless microphone. We’ve all been next to a booming car audio system so lack of volume was not an issue and the ability to move about freely thanks to the wireless microphone really made for a great little



portable PA system. Highly recommended.

CATERING SPONSORSHIP. Our club has used the same caterer for most of our annual IDPA and Carbine matches and it has always been good Texas barbeque, but this year I wanted to investigate the possibility of trying something different.

On Sundays after our local matches we frequently go to one of a handful of local restaurants for a late lunch and Jason’s Deli is a favorite for many of us. Coincidentally, I had met one of the owners, Pat O’Boyle, through a coworker of mine and decided to ask him about catering and possibly being a sponsor for the Coastal Bend Challenge. Long story short, not only does Jason’s have a large catering business, but the franchise is also very enthusiastic about supporting the community and generously offered to give us a large discount as a sponsorship. My wife, Jennifer, volunteered as our Catering Coordina-



tor and after picking up the meals, tea, and coolers at the restaurant on match day, she had high praise for the Jason’s employees who were extremely helpful.

Best of all, the boxed lunches were excellent.

There were a few other “firsts” for this match including trying a different shirt vendor, providing the SO’s and Staff with polo shirts instead of the usual T-shirts, and a new match booklet layout. These too worked out well and I was very happy with the end products.

So, for all you future Match Directors, don’t be shy about thinking “outside the box” and trying new ideas at your local matches. Who knows, you may be fortunate enough to get it right the first time as well.

used to call 'em curtains) to engage the first array, then open and move through a door, engage a swinging target activated by the door, then a Pepper Popper that activated a clamshell, then a bit of movement to get to the last array.

Little Red Corvette was another stage that offered choices. Two walls provided cover. The competi-



tor could engage everything from the first wall, including a 15 yd. head shot, or they could maneuver downrange, cutting the head shots, and those on a target covered by a non-threat, to seven yards. I spent a half-hour painting a red and white, two-dimensional '57 Corvette in which the last two targets were "seated". Since most of the stages were very simple, we spent a lot of energy on the presentation, with construction and window-dressing to enhance the realism. It sort of bit me on the next stage, Refueling.

The scenario, set when gasoline prices were creeping toward \$5.00/gallon in the Seattle area, involved some Bad Men trying to steal gas from a motorist filling-up at the



station. A club member contributed some large boxes that represented a gas pump, dressed with a donated nozzle and hose, and an ATM complete with keypad. Viewing pictures of the match, a friend asked why we'd use a gas pump as cover in a shoot-out? In retrospect, I should have swapped the two props, but since I didn't think of the implications in the weeks leading up to the match, would I think of it if such a scenario were to play-out on the street?

Car Impound Carnage: Dope dealers have traced their stolen car, and the junk that's in the trunk, to the impound yard. They're not going to let a security guard and attendant prevent them from recovering their illicit prop-



erty. This stage was set up in the only permanent structure in any of the bays, "Fort Runamuck". Three narrow windows in one wall served as ports, and the deep table set underneath prevented competitors from being able to pie any one port to engage all targets. Following a retention reload, it was on to Pipe Dream.

Stage seven came courtesy of the 2008 Nevada State IDPA Championship. I had asked fellow club members for stage ideas, and got a hold of the match booklet from the Nevada match as a result. Oh, boy, another "choices" stage! This was



shot through a barrel, open on both ends, set at waist height. Three targets were arrayed El Prez-style, and the distance proved very important, as the choice presented was, either engage the bodies of the targets with two-each, or the heads with one-each. I ran this by a number of shooting buddies, inquiring as to the tipping point; when would they take the head shots? Seven yards? Three? One surprised me by saying he'd take the body shots, no matter the distance. Finally, I think the targets were set at about six yards. Being something of a dabbler in the revolver arts myself, I decided to take the three head shots as I usually take extreme care with every shot; three vs. six was a no-brainer. Others hosed the six body shots, and plenty of those folks beat me.

Convenience Store Holdup was the most elaborate stage, if not quite equaling the complexity of some stages at past matches. This one not only featured the toughest shooting challenges, but some truly beautiful stage dressing. The scenario has the disarmed com-



2008 Washington State IDPA Championship

petitor hostage in the back room of the convenience store, with one of the imaginary hold-up men wiring the safe with explosives. A locksmith/staff member provided a floor safe (available for purchase during the match) for the start position. Getting the drop on the safecracker started the action, then opening a door activated a swinger mounted with two targets. Moving through the door revealed the store's "aisles", in this case walls decorated with dozens of food packages, carefully hot-glued in place. Moving past the soy milk and Tofurkey to the first port, the competitor was presented with a popper that activated a "flopper" (similar to the clamshell, except the pop-up target does not stop at vertical, but continues through 180 degrees). This stage required three-each per target, and even getting-off three aimed shots at the flopper was more than some shooters could manage. Ask me how I know. This was followed, past the frozen foods, by a popper-activated drop-turner that featured an awful lot of painted-on hard cover. As I made my rounds on match day, I'd often stop to watch this stage, and there was usually much exulting when there were three scoring hits on both flopper and turner.

At the Park featured soft cover provided by a large camo net. The bay in which this stage was set is surround by trees, and there are more in the bay itself, so as the sun moved across the sky, it provided varying amounts of light and shadow, and with the addition of a bit of gun smoke, the targets could be hard to find through the cover.

Next came Sgt. York. I've wanted to do this stage for years. If realism is a goal in our scenarios,



then there's nothing more real than an actual historical event. Look up the story of Alvin C. York's exploits, if they're not familiar. The procedure required that seven targets, at distances from three to fifteen yards, be engaged one-each in REVERSE Tactical Priority. A club member provided a non-functional M1903 Springfield rifle as a prop, and another delivered some sandbags to further the Great War ambience. Luckily, the Tennessee sharpshooter was a better marksman than I.

Barbershop Troubles utilized an actual barber chair as a prop. There was a "High Plains Drifter" ambience to this stage, with the



sheet-draped competitor seated in the chair for the start. Retrieve gun from the coat stand, then use the cover of the chair to engage the bad guys. This stage initially consisted only of chair, coat stand, and three targets. Looking more like Barber Chair on the Prairie than a barber shop, I added a low table, chairs, and some wall sections to make it look more like the inside of a room. The last two

targets were engaged strong-hand only, simulating a wound from incoming fire.

While everyone loves to shoot scenarios, we've always included a couple of skills drills, to keep people honest. One side of our Pistol Range has the aforementioned 50-yard berm, while the other is close, about fifteen yards. We usually use



the latter for a strong/weak/reload stage of some sort. This year, it consisted of three targets in line, at distances of six, nine, and twelve yards. Start with gun downloaded to six rounds. Engage T1 with six, slidelock reload; engage T2 with six, strong-hand, retention reload; engage T3 with six, weak-hand. Fun.

Occasional Targets Out to 35 Yards was last. While the intent of the annual long-range stage is to provide the Master class shooters a chance to show their prowess, it's always the case that a Marksman comes through to push them for the stage win. For the staff, there's also

(Continued on page 37)



Airborne spent brass is visible as Chris Christian attacks the Standards with S&W M&P .45. He took 1st Expert in CDP.



in the “hotel lobby.” Another had us performing a head-shot on the plastic, safe-for-close-range knock-down “head” of a target wearing a bomb vest, and then immediately transitioning to moving, ducking, and distance bad guy accomplices. In what some considered the most inventive stage, we were cast as air marshals having coffee back in the galley when an airplane hijacking went down, and had to roll a “beverage cart” in front of us as we shot our way down the aisle of the “jetliner,” making our way to a cabin door which we had to open and then quickly neutralize the last two targets. A carryover from a previous Florida State Championship put the shooter in a rocking boat, from which platform he or she had to retrieve gun and ammo out of a tackle box and engage alligator targets among elaborate props including trees and, yes, pink flamingoes.

Creative use was made throughout of gravity turners, movers, and knockdowns. Our hosts had invested money as well as time and ingenuity in setting up the stages they put before us. There

were a couple of challenging Standard Exercises, one involving bank lobby-like distances and another requiring both dominant hand only and non-dominant hand only shooting.

Through it all, the shooters appreciated the fact that the “over-heads” had kept the torrential rain off them. They were also grateful the unsung heroes among the host club members who had stood out there unprotected during what seemed at times like monsoons to guide them to the parking lots as they drove between stages on the many Wyoming Antelope Club bays.

Attendee Appreciation

When it was over and the 153 shooters were all chowing down on the excellent food at the awards



Hard-working IDPA area coordinator Lance Biddle also earned 1st Sharpshooter in SSR.

ceremony, all anyone seemed to talk about was how much they had enjoyed the match. No “Range Nazis,” for one thing. The range staff had all lived up to what might be called “the three Fs” for such an event: they were Firm, but Fair, and Friendly.

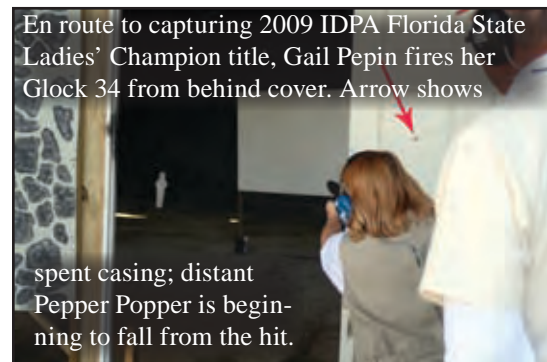
The competition was intense, and some splendid shooting was recorded. Jeff DeGracia won ESP, and also had the best overall final score of the match...and captured the Most Accurate Shooter plaque with only 32 points

down over an extremely tough twelve-stage course. That’s something worth remembering the next time you hear someone say, “You can’t shoot IDPA for accuracy and still be fast enough to win.”

Deon Martin won SSP, and also High Law Enforcement. Shannon Smith captured the CDP championship. IPSC grandmaster Cliff Walsh handily won SSR (yes, Virginia, there is such a thing as crossover) and Robert Briggs emerged as ESR Champion. The State Champion Lady was Gail Pepin, with Jose Garcia winning the title for Senior, Stef Hobson taking Distinguished Senior, and Andrew Casavant capturing the Junior Championship.

The 2009 Florida State IDPA Championship was, quite simply, a splendid match. It wrote a chapter into the history of the International Defensive Pistol Association which proved that a determined and committed club, even one fairly new to this sport, can go from standing start to high speed in a short time if it has the organizational skills and, above all, the dedicated members who are serious about Making It Happen.

Kudos to all involved. This writer for one hopes to be at their next sanctioned match. The same group has bid to sponsor it next year, and seems to be on a fast track. Stay tuned for dates, etc. at www.idpa.com.



En route to capturing 2009 IDPA Florida State Ladies’ Champion title, Gail Pepin fires her Glock 34 from behind cover. Arrow shows

spent casing; distant Pepper Popper is beginning to fall from the hit.



we had about 40 shooters. We got about 140 gifts and a little cash; not very shabby. When "Toys for Tots" came to accept the donations, they informed me we made the Christmas for an outlying elementary school's needs. The pride for what I started and my fellow shooters pushed for warmed me more than I can express. They asked me to make it an annual event; I commit-

ted. Maybe in the future this could be a yearly IDPA major event drawing shooters from across the nation.

Special thanks to the following clubs:
 DRATS for helping me as the president and giving me all the backing needed.
 Tac Team of Las Cruces for supplying equipment I couldn't have done without.

DTAP of El Paso, TX for SO's and taking scores and posting results.
 Hole in the Wall Gang, Silver City, NM for taking the almost 2 hour drive coming and going.

My family, who

helped with food, score keeping, sign in and shooting. And most of all, the shooters it would not have been possible without you.

Tony Collins
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danafreeman@cablelynx.com
www.mvsaonline.com

August 29 - 30, 2009

**2009 10th Annual MI
State IDPA Championship**

Dorr, MI
Tom Tiethoff
616-644-2573 h
616-644-0369 w

tom@tiethoff.com
Mike Visser
616-218-9576 h
616-249-1911 w
mrvisser@charter.net
www.tacticalblasters.com
1 day match, you choose which
day you shoot; 13 stages;
175 rounds; limited to 100
shooters/day

September 6, 2009

**TX State IDPA
Championship**

Hempstead, TX
Al Liczwek
281-288-7522 h
281-355-7467 w
281-288-1366 (call ahead) fax
liczwek@sbcglobal.net
Ricky Gilbert
936-271-4890 h
832-813-4187 w
rgilbert7@comcast.net
www.tts-idpa.net

September 12, 2009

**Tri-State Regional
Championship**

Arlington, TN
Larry Hill
901-233-7557 h
901-233-7557 w
ljhill3@comcast.net
Myrin Young
901-826-3300 h
901-826-3300 w
twoalpha@comcast.net
www.tri-state-regional.com

September 19, 2009

**2009 ID State IDPA
Championship**

Parma, ID
Aaron Goodfellow
208-454-6578 h
208-724-0595 w
aarongoodfellow@hotmail.com
www.parmarn.org

(Continued on page 38)

2008 Washington State IDPA Championship

(Continued from page 33)

NOTICE

The editorial staff of the Tactical Journal is always interested in articles from the membership pertaining to IDPA, guns or other relevant topics.

Pictures with articles are encouraged and welcomed.

Submission or editorial information should be sent to:

**IDPA HQ • Attn.: T.J.
2232 CR 719**

**Berryville, AR 72616
or**

e-mail: TacticalJournal@idpa.com

Submissions can be sent as:

#1 WORD Via e-mail

#2 Word on disc Via Snail mail.

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

the fear that a shooter will “game” this stage. Vickers scoring is at its best on stages in which the vast majority of the time is spent shooting, but when there’s lots of movement, slow splits, or perhaps, lots of extra shots, anomalies are introduced. The stage consisted of three Pepper Poppers at 35 yards, and two IDPA targets, engaged four-each, at 30 yards. The best shooters were doing this stage in about twenty seconds. It was possible to finish mid-pack by shooting the

minimum number of rounds - 11 - as quickly as possible and getting only a couple of hits, or having a “gun problem” that would result in application of alternate DNF scoring method. Even though we’ve had concerns every year, there’s never been a shooter who didn’t make a legitimate attempt to get all the hits, even if it meant their score would suffer. Hmmm; maybe every stage involves choices?

WASIDPAC also featured great weather, a good lunch catered by a local BBQ, and a healthy prize table. A few weeks later, the match staff got together for a little celebration of another successful championship. Acquaintances were renewed, stories told, and discussions of a 2009 match were begun. It’s on the calendar now.



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(Continued from page 36)

September 19, 2009 2009 OH IDPA State Championship

Ashland, OH
Tony Lavalle
440-476-7433 h & w
tlavalle@zoominternet.net
Rod Cabbage
419-588-2612 w
www.ashlandlakegunclub.org

September 23 – 26, 2009 IDPA National Championship

Tulsa, OK
870-545-3886
870-545-3894 fax
info@idpa.com
www.idpa.com

October 3, 2009 2009 KY-TN Regional IDPA Championship

Puryear, TN
Jerry Hunt
731-782-3940 h
731-782-3940 w
vhunt@wk.net
George Rob
270-354-8263 h
270-354-8263 w
grob@wk.net
www.hcgc.net

October 3 - 4, 2009 CT State IDPA Championship

East Granby, CT
Mike Critser
203-459-2783 h
203-339-0082 w
mtcritser@sbcglobal.net
Vladimir Mashkovich
860-305-2752 h
odessabd@sbcglobal.net
www.matchreg.com

October 9 - 11, 2009

CA State IDPA Championship

Richmond, CA
Jim Griffiths
510-329-1139 h
510-329-1139 w
510-588-4543 fax
jim@california-idpa.com
Steve Cachia
650-872-2265 h
650-238-4003 w
510-588-4543 fax
steve@california-idpa.com
www.california-idpa.com

October 10, 2009 2009 MS State IDPA Championship

Salttillo, MS
Nicky Carter
662-869-1417 h
662-871-3346 w
662-337-3323 fax
tansu@prodigy.net
De De Carter
662-869-1417 h
662-871-1723 w
662-377-3323 fax
tansu@prodigy.net
ridgecrossingshootingclub.com

October 17, 2009 TN State Championship

Manchester, TN
Kurt Glick
931-455-7056 h
931-455-1121 w
931-454-1767 fax
kglick@tullahoma-tn.com
Tom Foster
931-596-3662 h
www.midtnshooters.com

October 24, 2009 2009 IDPA GA State Championship

Conyers, GA
Capel English
770-346-7771 h

678-324-2005 w
770-953-8917 fax
cenglish@snapsinc.com
Brett Hanus
404-936-7166 h
justcallmebrett@juno.com
www.gadpa.com

October 24 - 25, 2009 Blackwater Shootout

Moyock, NC
Jim Wilson
804-347-6790 h
turbomarine@yahoo.com
Ron Reiner
757-351-3478 w

October 31, 2009 IDPA 2009 IN State Championship

Atlanta, IN
Jeff Brown
317-984-1758 h
317-645-5068 w
idpashooter1@hotmail.com
Benny Dukes
317-679-2935 h
317-679-2935 w
benny.dukes@unitedpetgroup.com
www.eteamz.com/
AtlantaConservationClub/
handouts/index.
cfm?cat=176308&id=765081
please click on IDPA scores
and details to reach the match
entry form

November 14, 2009 The Masters Championship 2009

Birmingham, AL
Mike Lundsford
205-655-9606 h
205-504-3315 w
alabamaidpa@charter.net
Rick Albright
205-780-1671 h
ricka12257@charter.net
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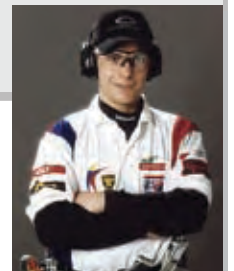
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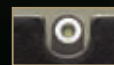
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