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Regional Championship**

**NC State IDPA
Match 2009**



**I thought it didn't rain in Vegas...
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Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

First Quarter 2010
Volume 14 - Issue 1

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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

Down with Swingers!

I have never sent in an article, but I thought I would give it a shot. My name is Anthony Moore I am a Deputy Sheriff for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. I have been shooting IDPA for three years. The thing I like best about IDPA is that the shooting stages are set up to be a "This could happen in real life shooting situation." Unfortunately, a trend has begun at my local shooting park. Almost every match, there is a no-shoot target attached to the front of a swinging target. The area to score hits on the target is very small, usually just the head and a sliver of the middle five zone. I really have a problem with this scenario! I would never take a shot in this situation, not even with a sniper rifle! Also, I have never in twenty years of law enforcement, seen or heard of shooting situation where a suspect moved like a swinger. Every time I shoot these types of stages, I feel like I am at a carnival shooting for stuffed animals. I shoot IDPA because I want to practice shooting in situations that are realistic and could possibly happen to me at work or off duty. I do like moving targets like sliders and steel poppers, but in my humble opinion swingers have got to go, especially no shoot swingers! Thank you for letting me rant.

Detective Anthony Moore A31261
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Detective Moore, I understand where you are coming from. Unfortunately, it seems like the use of swinging non-threats has become the newest trend in IDPA. I agree with you on their use to some degree. I don't really feel that placing a non-threat and a threat together on a swinger or even a non-threat directly in front of a threat is realistic. Swinger themselves are not representative of real life movement but neither is a field of "frozen" or static threats and non-threats. Recreating realistic movement with targets is very difficult. Sliders are great but

home built ones can be temperamental to operate and professional built ones can be significant investment of club funds. Swingers at least offer some movement and an extra degree of challenge for very little investment. The big thing to keep in mind is although IDPA is based on defensive shooting, it is still a game and not true training. I encourage you to talk to your match director with your concerns but also to keep an eye on the parts you do enjoy. As a peace officer, I do applaud your commitment to getting the extra trigger time and I hope that at the end of the day that you and your brothers come home safe. Thank you for your service. Editor

BUG Fever

Being a new comer to IDPA and receiving my first issue of the Tactical Journal I agree with the article Bigger Bug. The majority of people that carry concealed carry permits are carrying small automatics and five shot snub nose revolvers in the .380, .38 special and 9mm calibers. When I go to the local range, I see more men and women shooting the smaller concealed pistols at the seven yard range. I know very few individuals who carry full size autos or revolvers that are not in law enforcement. I use to carry a full size revolver in the line of duty on a duty belt, however now I prefer my five shot snubby as a daily carry concealed weapon.
Dennis Mount A38054

I would like to repond to last issue's "Bigger BUG" letter (Fourth Quarter 2009, Volume 13 - Issue 4).

Creating a new Division for BUG or "Concealed Carry Pistols" is an AWE-SOME idea! (Or BUG Class in each existing Division?) Many of my co-competitors don't carry their competition guns, or rarely do so. Many own a Ruger LCP/LCR, Kel-Tec, Kahr, Berreta Tomcat, or J-Frame. Since BUG competitions are rare in these parts, allowing them in regular

matches is an excellent way to give legal carriers a chance to practice under pressure. And doing so, in my understanding, meets the "spirit" of IDPA -- defensive principles in a competitive environment.

I think a new CCP Division will be met with enthusiasm! People will actually get to use their lint-gathering pocket pistols. There is no better way to test function and reliability than in competition! It can only improve the industry!! And I believe there will be many good ideas out there on how to run this Division.

A new CCP division just needs a little time and experience to make it a success. "Start it and they will come."
Noah Teal, A28733

I just read Mr. Cantrell's letter in the TJ Vol.13 issue 4, my first impulse is to reach over and thump him on the head however since he is armed that may not be a good idea! I have several suggestions for him and people that have the same ideology, that is the "I shoot a pooblaster and you don't have a category for it, you need to make one so I can be competitive" mentality.

First, you need to decide what your reasons for shooting are. Do you want to improve your skill level with your chosen self defense weapon or do you want to play the game? If you chose to play the game then get the equipment, if you chose to improve your shooting skills with your self defense weapon then do that.

Second, I have noticed that many people complain about not having the type of matches that are pooblaster friendly and why doesn't someone do one. Well sir why don't you?? At my club we shoot an IDPA league that generally has about 20 weekly matches over the summer months. I volunteer to do several BUG matches

(Continued on page 38)

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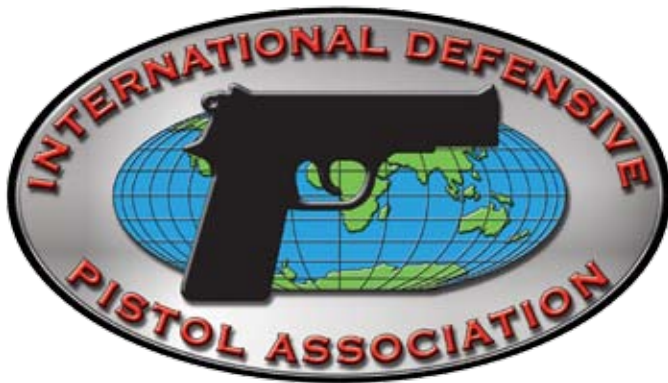
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Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

February 2010

Volume 14 Issue 1

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

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Run a Better Match Build a Better Club



by Ted Murphy A02127

Since this is my first column I would like to start by introducing myself. My name is Ted Murphy, A02127. I am the Area Coordinator for Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. I am currently the Match Director for Delco IDPA in Yeadon Pennsylvania. I have run the Pennsylvania State IDPA Championship 2004-2006, The IDPA National Championships 2007-2008, and the 2009 IDPA Postal Match. I shoot as often as I can, and am classified Expert in all divisions.

Now that we have gotten the introduction out of the way, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of John May, who did an excellent job writing this column. I know I benefitted from his advice and ideas, and I hope you did too.

If you are new to the job or have run matches for years, I hope that you will find some useful information in this column. I am going to focus on running the club match for a while, and we will be looking into issues as it pertains to the local club.

A new year brings about



Keeping your plans and thoughts in a notebook is a good idea.

change, and many times this means a change in leadership at the local IDPA club. When new Match Directors take over, they do have to take stock of what all they need to do. This is an exciting time, as there is a wonderful thrill to be experienced when you see a match you planned and designed come to be. With any new job there is a learning curve, and being a match director is no exception to this rule. Take the time to think things through, do not be too bold or complicated in stage design, follow the IDPA rules, and do what you think is right.

A good match is not just about the stages. The work behind the scenes is just as important. The job of match director entails many roles. A match director may do anything for setup, to prop building, to stats keeping, to being a good friend and tutor to your shooters.

With all that, match directors need to know at the center of all this, the MD is also a manager. Successful match directors will find they share many similar traits with successful managers in the business world. As anyone with business training will tell you, the Principles of Management are Planning, Organizing, Leading, and



Organizing your equipment and tools will save time and trouble on matchday and in an emergency.

Controlling. While the concept may initially seem a bit deep for a weekend shooting event, I submit that all MD's use these principles in their labors - even if they do not realize it. Many clubs have great stage designs and great people, but they can fall a little short when it comes to these principles. When this happens, the match will suffer. An honest evaluation will go along way towards improving your club match. This month we will look into the first two principles on the list.

“When people fail to plan, they plan to fail”. This adage rings true more often than not. A Match Director needs to be a solid planner. When a situation occurs, the Match Director better have a quick solution. Think about the issues, emergencies, problems, and situations you have seen occur at matches. Think about what needed to be done to resolve those issues. Start keeping notes so you can work your contingencies into a firm plan.

Run a Better Match



Planning for bad weather and organizing your gear will help your match run smoothly regardless of weather.

Other issues to plan for are: Medical emergencies, (including making sure Emergency Services can find your range) Communication on the range, (a simple wireless phone tree or radio system works well) Contingencies for bad weather, (planning for rain bags and/or coated targets) Handling a broken or malfunctioning prop, The training and supervision of new shooters, Talking to annoyed Club members who want to shoot during match time, How the matches will be set up and tore down, and How the match results will be submit-

ted to the shooters. This is hardly an inclusive list, merely a list of situations you should be ready for. Experience running matches will reduce the amount a Match Director may feel the need to plan for, but taking the time to be prepared for contingencies is still a smart move for the MD. Match Directors with little or no experience, will benefit greatly from taking the time to have a plan.

Some match directors just make mental preparations for these items;

others go so far as to set up a notebook so the information can be easily referenced. However you organize things, being ready to handle problems when they arrive is worth taking the time to make your plans.

In order to take the plans and put them into action, the Match Director needs to be organized. Organization may take more work than the planning, but it is necessary. Having the best response to a problem means nothing, if you cannot find the tools to solve it. Take a look at your plans and see what is needed to accomplish them. Once you get those items ready, make sure they are stored in a manner where they can be found easily. Items that are needed together should be stored

together. Plastic drywall buckets and Hefty Big Sack Ziploc bags are great ways to organize items for the range.

Organization is not just for your contingency plans. Take the time to organize all your basic match supplies. I have been to more than one match where the staff cannot find important items like scoresheets, pasters, or batteries. If you spend some time making sure there is a place for everything and then put everything in its place, then you will save yourself time and frustration come match day. Shooters have been amused at how meticulously



Are you ready when a prop malfunctions? Kevin Schlier of BRCV-IDPA is.

our supplies are put away after a match. It may seem borderline obsessive-compulsive, but we do not want for supplies or tools.

Be sure you have a means to have a written “want list” for future equipment purchases or for supplies that are exhausted. Be sure the list is not buried until the next match. It is a terrible thing to set up for the next month’s match only then to be reminded you are out of a critical supply item.

Organizing your shooter’s information is also a good idea.

(Continued on page 20)

The logo for TK Custom features the text "TK CUSTOM" in large, stylized letters. Below it is a circular emblem with "AMERICAN PISTOLSMITHS GUILD" around the top and "AMERICAN HANDGUNNER CLUB 1938" around the bottom. The emblem contains several smaller circular icons representing different types of firearms and accessories. Below the logo, the text reads: "Moonclips, Tools, & Accessories S&W Revolvers (217)893-1035 · fax (217)893-3838 On-Line Store @ www.moonclips.com tom@tkcustom.com".



Women's Perspective

by Julie Golob A19366

Overcoming Obstacles – The Short of It

After taking some time off to become a mom, I was very excited to shoot this year's IDPA National Championships. It certainly did not disappoint, from the warm welcome at the shooters meeting, the friendly safety officers, dynamic courses of fire, all the way through the last shots fired. I went in with the mindset that I wanted to have fun, and I thoroughly enjoyed the competition and the wonderful people in our sport. In fact, the only negative thing I could say about the entire match pertained to courses of fire that forced shorter competitors into tough situations. For the majority of shooters, the height issue wasn't a problem. Despite the best of intentions from the talented match staff and stage designers, vertically challenged competitors found themselves on stages that presented problems for them.

I can't stress enough that this article is not meant to attack specific stages or any of our fine volunteers who work so hard to provide opportunities for us to shoot. It's my hope rather to bring light to a situation, so that match directors and designers can keep it in mind for future courses and provide tips to those who face these challenges. When this happens in a stage, it is certainly not intentional, and more often than not a matter of simple oversight, especially with everything going on to produce matches from the local level all the way up to the national championships. There's the saying that you can't make everyone happy. That may be, but I'd like to think that it's a good thing to try.

IDPA courses often require competitors to take a knee behind cover to shoot over an obstacle or through a low port. Because "air gunning" is specifically not allowed, shorter competitors usually don't have the opportunity to see if they can actually shoot over certain props. The stress of figuring out what to do in a short amount of time, knowing that fellow competitors within the shooter's class may not have to deal with this issue, can be a recipe for a bad performance. So what do you do if you find yourself in this situation?

1. Don't get upset.
2. Focus on the solution not the problem.

3. Be creative and talk with the safety officers to see if there are different options to shoot the stage.
4. After the stage is over, accept it and understand that you did the best you could in the situation you were given.
5. Let it go. Work on keeping a positive outlook to help you perform well for the rest of your match.

Specific Shooter Tips:

- Sometimes safety officers will let you shoot around props instead of over them. If the prop isn't very wide and you don't have to move too far from one side to the other, this can be a great option. It may also give you access to more of the down zero zone on some targets.



Photo courtesy of Yamil Sued.

Women's Perspective

- If you know you will need to move around a lot while on a knee behind low cover, consider going down on one knee instead of two. You can use your other leg for balance to help you lean further around props. You can also use it to push off and move more easily over to your next position.
- If possible, try not to crowd a prop. Staying back won't force the gun so high and will make it easier to get a sight picture. This can be very useful when shooting over the hood of cars or higher ports and props. Make sure that you don't expose yourself to additional threats though. Talk your plan over with the safety officers to make sure you stay penalty free.
- Let the staff know where there are problems. I can't remember a single match I have attended where the crew wasn't open to suggestions on how to make their event even better. There's a time and place for it though, and as Mary Poppins would say, "a spoon full of sugar makes the medicine go down." Getting upset at a match won't help your case, but consider sending a courteous email or have a friendly offline chat with the match director. Take the time to give polite, constructive feedback.

Things for Stage Designers and Match Directors to Keep in Mind:

- Safety! Tall targets and shorter shooters firing from a knee can spell **D I S A S T E R** if bullets leave the range.

- Planning on designing a low prop? Think of the shortest and tallest shooters and make it accessible for all.
- If you can't change prop height, provide fair options that will not affect a shooter's score by requiring additional movement and set ups. Account for space behind an obstacle for a shorter competitor to avoid crowding a prop. This can help give them a chance to get a proper sight picture on each target.
- Just as you consider round count and capacity for different divisions for each stage, add shooter stature and build to your checklist to make sure stages provide equal opportunities for all. One stage that poses an issue for a specific type of shooter is one thing. Several stages with this same problem can really take the joy out of competition and the ultimate goal, for everyone to have a **SAFE and FUN** time.

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First Quarter 2010
Circulation 15000

TACTICAL JOURNAL

Volume 14 - Issue 1

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

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

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

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

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Publisher: Joyce Wilson

Printing/Distribution: Print Group, Inc.

Production Editor: Dru Nichols

Advertising Sales: Robert Ray

Editor In Chief: Robert Ray

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Behind the Badge

by Rob Haught CL068



January always seems to be the month that I rekindle my shooting desire. It usually starts with the trip to the SHOT Show. I've been attending these trade shows for several years now and have seen many changes in the firearms industry. In particular is the huge rise in popularity of the "Tactical" side of the house. In the beginning the show sponsors would not even allow Colt to display an AR-15 rifle at their booth. Now it seems that the LE/Tactical section is almost half the show. Everything that you can think of pertaining to Law Enforcement is there to be looked over and handled. The only thing I can think of that isn't there is radio equipment. The newest in firearms, holsters, ammunition, optics, less lethal, K-9 gear, clothing can be found in abundance. Did I mention clothing? EOTAC, 5.11, Blackhawk, Woolrich, Arc'teryx, Vertx, and many others all are making a full line of tactical wear. Several companies like Arc'teryx and Otte Gear are making high tech solutions to hard use clothing that offers great improvement over older fabrics and styles. This sure beats anything we had when I first started in Police work.

Gun wise, there were several new things that caught my eye. Glock is introducing a Generation 4 model that offers interchangeable backstraps to fit a


wider range of hand sizes. This is a trend that started with Walther and Smith & Wesson and has spread all through the Industry with Sig now getting into the game with the new line of 229 and 226 models that offer a modular grip as well. In my opinion, this puts them back in the race as far as service pistols go. For those that regularly carry a small snubnose 38, there is a new model from S&W chambered in 22mag. This should have great appeal to the ladies and guys who now can practice without the pain of lightweight guns with full power ammo.

The AR-15 continues to be king. It seems there were a hundred variations at the show and many more vendors offering accessories. The piston driven guns seem to be gaining in popularity with manufacturers. The number of rail systems, optics, mounts, slings and stocks that are available is mind boggling.

In the world of flashlights and

weapon mounted lights, Surefire continues to rule, but this year there were several more potential contenders to the throne in evidence. There are many good lights out there but Surefire is the gold standard.

It's no secret that I'm a knife nut. There are several good vendors who attend SHOT that I make a point to visit each year such as Emerson, Strider, Rat Cutlery and Chris Reeve. I think this year I managed to pick one up from each of them.

The SHOT show is a great place to interface with factory representatives and handle new products and make contacts that will pay off all year long when you make equipment choices. Over the years, I've made many friends that I only get to see at the show and look forward to seeing them and catching up. If you get the chance, I recommend that you give it a try. You won't find more neat stuff under one roof anywhere else in the world. 

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NC State IDPA Match 2009

by Charlene Rogers A10417

The 10th annual NC State IDPA Match at the Watauga Gun Club in Boone, NC is now in the books and what a wonderful match it was. August 15th started out cool and foggy and warmed up to a beautiful 84 degrees and sunny with a soft breeze blowing across the mountains. We started shooting at 8am and progressed smoothly through 10 stages of fun and excitement with the final score sheet hitting the stats office at 4pm. Not bad for 127 (out of a total of 183 since staff shot the day before) shooters and ten stages. Let me walk

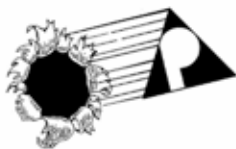
you through how the day looked.

Stage 1 found you having car troubles. You are forced to engage three bad guys looking to do you harm while you are working under the hood. One of them is using an innocent bystander for cover. Tactical sequence is the call of the day for this one.

Stage 2 comes up and your car just seems to be drawing trouble for you

today. This time you are getting out of your car with one hand on the wheel and the other on the door frame. Six guys decide they like your car more than you do. As you exit the vehicle and take out your most eminent threat, a pepper popper, this activates your next target. You better be quick because he is going to duck behind cover. The last 4 are easy targets after they see what you did to their first two buddies. Your car is safe for today but the carjackers are a bit worse for the experience.

Stage 3; nothing like getting caught with your pants down. While enjoying the morning paper on the throne you realize some bad guys have decided to relieve you of some of your pos-



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sessions. Good thing you have your gun sitting on the toilet paper holder (just in case). You have a house full of 9 would be thieves and your spouse. Do what you have to in order to protect your family.

Stage 4 is right out of a James Bond movie. You have a briefcase with sensitive documents that the 6 guys coming toward you really want. With three points of cover you must take out the bad guys without stopping or you will lose your valuable cargo. These guys are pretty big and hyped up on something so you better put two to the body and one to the head to make sure they stay down. Good luck getting that promotion.

Phew! You made it back to the office (Stage 5) with those precious documents and you are relaxing at your desk dreaming about the promotion when 7 more guys find you. You are not out of the woods yet. These guys are all over the office and moving so keep your wits about you and take 'em down.

With all these problems you decide you better check out the warehouse and make sure they have not found the prototype (Stage 6). As you approach the door, you hear a lot more voices than you should this late in the afternoon. You reload and go in quietly to find 8 more bad guys frantically searching the warehouse. Use cover and take them down as safely and efficiently as possible.

After a hard day at the office it is time to take out the trash (Stage 7). What a day it has been but your secrets are safe...right? With a bucket of trash in your hands you come across 3 more bad guys looking to ruin your day. You better add an extra shot to the head before you turn your back, these guys are still moving.

Stage 8 finally finds you at your boss' home to fill him in on the troubles of the day but apparently these guys know where he lives and are waiting for you. You do not know how many, where they are or even the layout of the house so clear the

(Continued on page 15)



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Since you have already killed a number of bad guys today the police have asked you to act as a decoy down the road (Stage 9). This puts you in the shoes of the police serving a warrant at a local crack house. You knock on the door with your strong hand holding the warrant in the other. When you open the door you find four bad guys who really do not want to



be served today and one zoned out hostage being used as a shield (see where doing drugs can lead you?).

Clear the house and get the job done but make sure you (and the hostage) come out alive.

The wife insists on you being environmentally friendly these days so you can't go home until you take out the recycling (Stage 10). Three guys pop out once you get to the recycling center. You get out of your vehicle and engage these guys while moving toward cover. Once you neutralize those attackers you realize that it is not over. Coming toward you are 7 more that really want your truck, recycling and all. You got poppers and movers so don't miss anyone or it could cost you your life.

What a day, I think it is time for a nap.

The match went out off as smooth as ever. Every year this group just keeps getting better and better. The stats crew did it

again, seven minutes after the last scoresheet was turned in they were posting the final results. Two folks questioned their time but no errors were found. Score another 100% for the stats team. For a full list of results including division and sub division breakdowns take a look at the Watauga Gun Club IDPA website (www.wgc-idpa.org). There were minimal log jams at the stages and everyone was very happy with the stage designs and overall organization of the match. Two Sisters Catering handled breakfast and lunch as well as dinner the night before for the safety officers and staff (360 meals in 24 hours is pretty impressive). Smokey Mountain Barbeque took care of dinner after the match. Many thanks to all the sponsors that made this match possible, please check them out on the website as well.



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2009 Tri-State Regional Championship

by A. C. Nohsey A28263

In the Memphis Metropolitan area, there is a group of shooters who call themselves “the Memphis Mafia.” More often than not, Mafia members can be found posing with their plaques for a group photograph after a sanctioned match. This is no accident. These guys and gals know how to handle a gun. Many have joked that this is inevitable, because Memphians have to be able to shoot, due to the crime rate in the area. This Mafia member begs to differ. The skill, talent, wisdom, and competitiveness of these shooters are at least partly due to the efforts of their local Match Director, Larry Hill.

Larry has been involved in matches at Memphis Sport Shooting Association (MSSA), Rangemaster, and RangeUSA since 2006. In late 2007, Larry



took over as the IDPA Match Director at MSSA. Club matches were immediately scheduled for twice a month, instead of once. Participants noticed that stages gradually became more challenging. Procedural

Penalties became more numerous. Non-threats were hit more often. Something was going on, and it wasn't a case of the shooters get-

ting worse. They were actually getting better, not only because they were shooting more often, but also because they were being challenged on a new level. There probably aren't many IDPA members who travel to sanctioned matches as much as Larry and his wife, Roxanne. The Hills are exposed to all kinds of clubs, shooters, stages, and ideas. Combine this experience with Larry's near obsession with improving the quality of stages and offering challenge-seekers their money's worth, and the result is a local club match with stages that rival many sanctioned matches in variety, difficulty, and skill required. When shooters are exposed to these types of stages twice a month, First Place, Second Place, and Division Championship



plaques are the often the result after the Mafia hits the road.

Larry Hill was the Match Director for the 2009 Tri-State Regional Championship. The event took place at MSSA, in Arlington, TN.

The facility includes a 600 yard

rifle range, covered 50 and 100 yard rifle ranges, covered 7 and 25 yard pistol ranges, Skeet, Trap, and Sporting Clays ranges, and, of course, the Action Pistol range, playground for the Memphis Mafia. After a disastrous thunderstorm cut the 2008 TSR short, Larry and Roxanne were thrilled to secure a date in September for the 2009

match. It was widely believed that Memphis weather in September would be more reliable than in March, and this belief later proved true. The match was set for September 12, just two weeks before the IDPA Nation-

als. Such proximity in time to the Nationals, combined with Larry's stage designing skill, resulted in a special match. This match, several would later agree, was one of the toughest, yet most enjoyable sanctioned matches they had ever shot.

Larry's goal was simple: host a match that will prepare those bound for the Nationals. Quality, as usual, was Larry's primary concern, and he wanted to test every aspect of each shooter's game. A secondary concern

(Continued on page 34)



The Tactical Advantage

By: Robert Ray



The Tactical Advantage column will be featuring a guest writer in this issue. Ted Murphy is the new writer for the "Run a Better Match" column starting this year and is replacing John May at that post. Ted will be covering a very neat piece of equipment from MGM Targets. I have had the opportunity to shoot at this very challenging target system. It was used to great effect at the MVSA Regional last March in Arkansas. Ted, however, has spent a great deal of time not only shooting at it but setting it up and operating it. I believe his work with it gives him a better perspective on this fun and unique piece of equipment. It is a great and versatile target and would be great addition to any IDPA match. Robert Ray

MGM Attack Target

In 1983 Sergeant Dennis Tueller of the Salt Lake City Utah Police Department penned an article in SWAT magazine that raised awareness of just how far away an individual armed with a blunt or edged weapon can be while still remaining a deadly threat. Realizing that people of average physical fitness can still close a 21-foot distance in under 1.5 seconds, Sergeant Tueller helped people realize the importance of the "Danger Zone" and the necessity of a prepared response. The principle evolved into the "Tueller Drill", which is typically a "get off the X" response to the target by retreating, drawing and engaging the target. This drill is regularly encountered at Academies, Shooting Schools, and IDPA Clubs.

The Tueller Drill is often set up on a static target with some kind of motion behind the shooter to create the feeling of a time crunch, or by using a non-disappearing charging target. While these are workable solutions, having an aggressive and disappearing charging target will create a much better effect and challenge. The MGM Attack target offers a range-ready solution to this situation. And while other target systems will work as a charger, I have yet to see a charging target that gives the same adrenal rush and shooting challenge provided by the MGM Attack Target.



The MGM Attack target has a track running 25 feet, giving 21 feet of movement. The target runs on a light-weight aluminum trolley and is propelled by a spring-loaded wire coil. To activate the Attack Target, the shooter presses firmly down on the activator paddle. This paddle is located on its own stand and has a 30' long cable attached to the unit. Once pressed, the trolley moves rapidly down the track in under 1.5 seconds, and the target drops at the end of its run. The trolley is cushioned by a piece of foam and dual shock absorbers. This protects the trolley and lessens the jar to the target and sticks. I have seen several movers from other manufacturers that stopped so violently the target was torn from its holder. The system in place by MGM helps keep the mechanism running smoothly with a minimum of fuss.

The angle of the target engagement helps ensure hits will go into the berm and not elsewhere. This makes it equally useful at an indoor or outdoor range. If a shooter makes an error and hits the MGM Attack Target, the mechanism is solidly armored and will withstand the hit. The track itself is durable enough to take the stray bullet, as we learned at a local match where a shooter did not shoot the target very well. The device is easy to set up, requiring only one socket or end wrench. After the track is laid, the mechanism is bolted on and the wire pulled out from the reel. It is best to pull out a foot or so of cable and hand wrap it around the coil. This helps

ensure it is tight. After that, the cable is attached to the trolley and you are ready to go! Resetting the MGM Attack target is simple. The paddle is reset, and the trolley is pushed to the end of its travel. It helps to use a 4-foot piece of wood to save your back. Broken down, the MGM Attack target will fit into most vehicles including my small Dodge Caliber.

(Continued on page 33)



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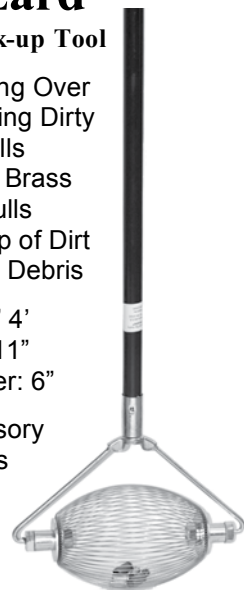
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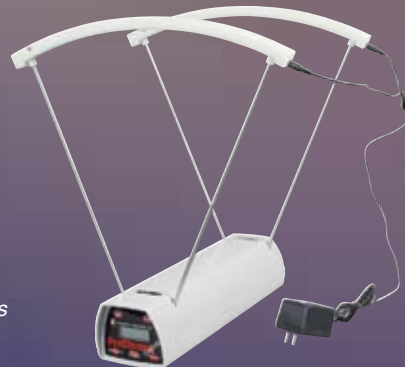
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Run a Better Match

(Continued from page 7)

Using a program like ForScore will keep shooter's information organized and easy to access. However you organize your shooter's information, remember there is personal information on sign-in sheets and score sheets so they should be destroyed instead of just thrown out.

Do not forget that much of this can be delegated or shared with others. IDPA shooters are a helpful bunch and Match Directors should be sure to reach out to the shooters and ask for volunteer help.

I have loved being a match director. I have made some great friends and have had many enjoyable days on the range. I hope that all of you out there who run and help run IDPA matches get the same fun and satisfaction out of running your matches. Try to learn something at every match you shoot and bring it home to your club.



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"Not Just a Game"

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

by **Thomas Pinney A24541**

The IDPA offers a fun way to engage in competitive pistol shooting. That competitive angle is one we tend to focus on. But the IDPA is more than just a game; the skills you are developing in matches may be needed in a literal life and death situation.

There are a number of different pistol-based target shooting events including some in the Olympic Games. Target shooters are more than precise — their sport requires specialized firearms and lots and lots of practice to achieve the amazing accuracy they can produce for round after round of slow deliberate firing.

There are several types of pistol competition: Cowboy Action shooters use period type handguns (and shotguns, and lever action carbines) in a form of recreational shooting recreating an image of the American West. Cowboy Action is much more than just shooting. It is also a form of recreation similar to the Civil War recreation events incorporating period clothing as part of the competition. Though a lot of fun you really have to love to do Cowboy action or have lots of surplus cash to support your hobby

The International Confederation of Revolver Enthusiasts, ICORE, is limited, as you would expect from the name, to revolver shooters. They use a system which rewards both accuracy and time, with penalties for engaging no-shoot targets. They use Bianchi 'tombstone' paper targets. There

is no requirement in ICORE for concealment, and they make no real effort to provide any real-world application for their sport. It is just good fun shooting competition.

Another form of pistol competition is offered by the International Practical Shooting Confederation, IPSC. Matches here in the US are usually under the auspice of the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA). IPSC is the 'extreme sport' edge of pistol competition. Matches are high speed and though scoring does incorporate accuracy there is a definite emphasis on speed; most scenarios require more rounds down range than an IDPA match. One of the features often associated with IPSC are the fancy 'race guns' with compensators, optical sights, and high tech "blaster" type holsters. Top end IPSC gear can set you back some serious money. There is a Production Class in IPSC which allows competitors to use more or less stock guns and gear similar to your IDPA gear. You will also need lots of magazines or speedloaders; IPSC has stages with up to 32 rounds required.

There are other forms of pistol competition such as the NRA's Bianchi Cup and Bowling Pin/Second Chance competitions which involve (what else) knocking down bowling pins. These are all fun competitions. None of them claim to be anything more than that.

That is one of the major differences between the IDPA and other pistol shooting sports. IDPA is a

'shooting sport that bases shooting scenarios on self-defense scenarios and real life encounters'. Another basic tenant is that 'practical gear and practical guns may be used competitively. An interested person can spend a minimal amount on equipment and still be competitive.' Practical gear means we can shoot what we really carry— more about that later.

In addition to using practical guns, we are required to conceal our handguns just as those of us who have a Concealed Carry License do. Not all stages have this requirement, but those exceptions always have a reasonable alternative, such as having the gun on a night stand or are standard stages. The idea is to create situations which might reasonably result in a requirement to defend your life with a handgun. Major matches always have an attached written scenario that provides the 'background story' for the stage. It is not just a matter of snatching out your gun and blazing away. We are required to take cover as though the targets we are engaging might actually shoot back.

There are long running discussions about the efficacy of using IDPA scenarios for 'tactical training'. In my mind there is no debate at all. IDPA shooting is not tactical training. It does, however, provide some of the best possible handgun operating experience possible. It also meets two essential points.

The first point is Hunnicutts's Dictum – **Make sure your gun**

(Continued on page 32)

IDPA in the Middle East

by Giorgio Acerboni IT0053

A beginning for IDPA in the Middle East???

By now I'm thinking on my summery vacations, when I receive an email, requesting an S.O. course in... KUWAIT!! Surprised by this unusual request, I ask confirmation from HQ for IDPA in the US, who confirms for me that they are in fact working with that country to introduce IDPA and that I was contacted as the European Ambassador for this Shooting Sport.

I started right away to organize the trip (from August 13 to the 17th) and the collection of all necessary equipment. The main obstacle was the IDPA targets, which cannot be found on location and take too much space in my luggage.

Here I am on a plane to Qatar on this so called "working vacation" with an extremely reduced luggage for my personal items but with the rest of the space occupied by the majority of the articles, including some targets, needed for the class hoping, once there, to find the rest of the missing stuff.

I did try to ship directly from our official distributors; the Italian Opizzi or the American Target Barn but even though they were extremely cooperative, shipping cost were too much.

The barrel used in the classifier, I thought it would been easy to find in country that "floats in oil" but our friends in Kuwait promptly reminded me that ones they use over there, are



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actually hundreds of gallons drums and would not really fit well with the shooting range or with the classifier regulations.

Once arrived, I was expecting to find a typical open range like the ones in the USA or Europe with enough reach for long guns but instead we ended up in the only available range; indoor with air conditioning with the possibility to only engage frontal targets and with the space to set up only one “maybe” the time. To make marked

two stages at things faster I the location on the floor for targets and barricades so we could easily go from one stage to the next.

The range is open during the day for



police and military while the access for civilians is allowed only late afternoon till the evening. The entrance to all civilians, even foreigners, is permitted after the approval of the kind and very efficient Director. Firearms are very hard to possess and requires an almost impossible permit to get, however they were many available and in good condition that we could use.

During the class (2/3 hours x evening) I shared the range with some local IPCS shooters who showed interest in our shooting sport.

Due to the limited hours available at the range we did the “non-shooting” part of the class indoors at the hotel where I was able to teach all the basic techniques of the IDPA shooting sport; reloading, barricade approach, cover, and of course the different terminology of our beautiful sport. During this time I was also able to certify some local S.O.

The weather was extremely hot, (at midnight was 104F) and too get the full spectrum of the local climate, a sand storm hit me while crossing the street and fill up my mouth with native desert sand.

Luckily my new friends had some time to show me around the evenings and took me out to try the great local food and to learn about the culture and habits. The only thing missing, especially to an Italian like me, was the wine and beer (we are in a Muslim country after all) and was substituted by lemon flavored water.

I'd like to thank and congratulate to the new A.C. Mr. Emad Alansari and the new S.O. Mr Mohammed Khaldi, Mr. Waleed Al Shehab and Mr. Bader Qali.

Also I'd like to thank Robert Ray, from IDPA HQ for the opportunity given.

I thought it never rained in Vegas...

by Robert Ray A05118

The 2010 Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show has come and gone and what a show. For those members that have never been, it is a visual and mental overload of all those items that we really would like to see adorning our walls and gun vaults.

This show, besides being in Las Vegas, had additional elements of interest. The FBI made a number of arrests at the show. These arrests were the result of several years' worth of investigation resulting in the sting operations in which the dealers were approached by an undercover FBI agents posing as representatives of an African country's minister of defense. The agents told the sales representatives that in order to win a contract, they had to add a 20 percent "commission" to price quotes, half of which would go to the purported minister of defense and the rest would be split between the others.

The dealers are accused of violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, or FCPA, and conspiracy to commit money laundering tied to the sale of guns, body armor and other law enforcement equipment. The FCPA prohibits the payment of bribes to foreign officials in order to secure business contracts. The FBI states that the show was only an easy way to secure the arrests all at one time but it does make me wonder if this also might be precursor of other

anti-gun movements by the current elected officials. Lets hope it is not.

Another aspect of the show was the unseasonable cold and rain that it seems is following me around. I left Arkansas with some of the

2010 SHOT Show

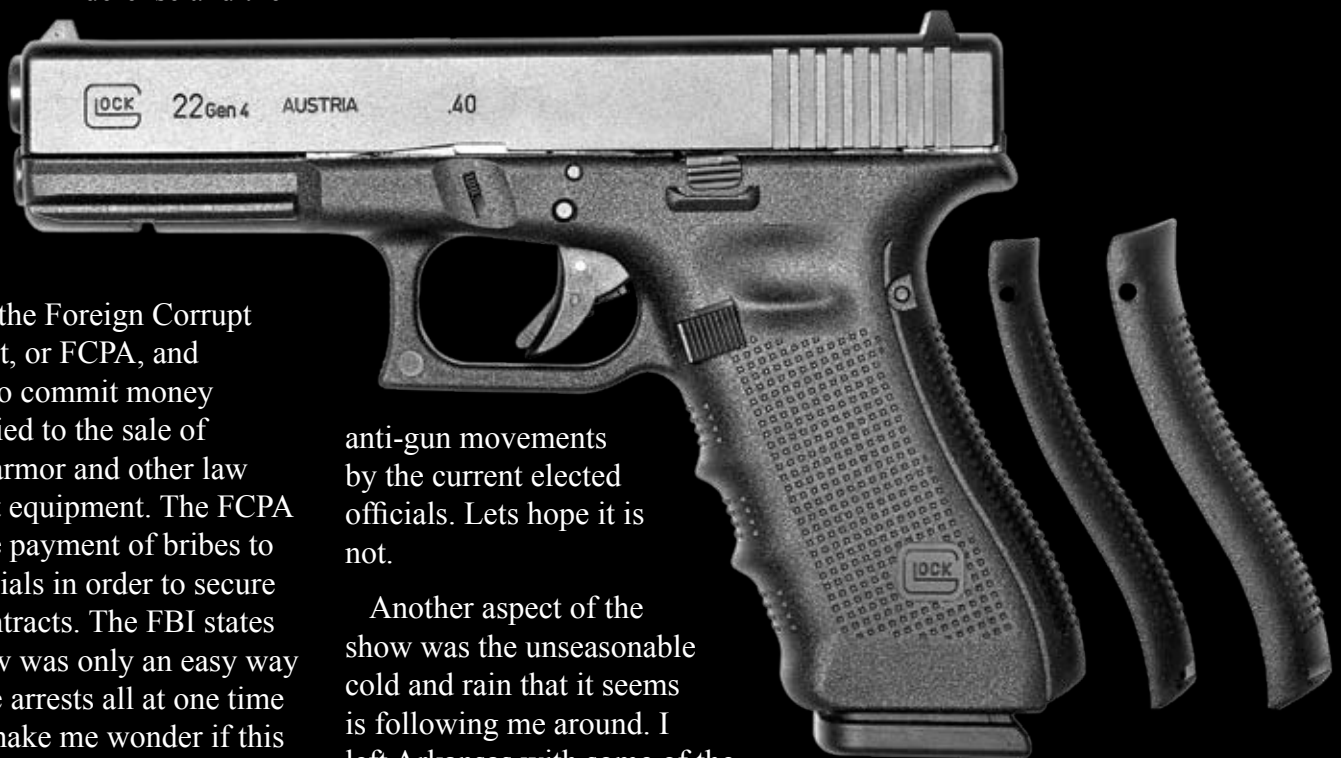


Photo Courtesy of Glock

coldest temperatures (highs in the teens) and frozen precipitation we seen in a long time to go to sunny Las Vegas and see the same thing. Media Day at the range was cold and spitting rain. Later in the week, Las Vegas received enough rain to equal the combined total for all of 2009. From my room on the 11th floor of the Imperial Palace I was able to take a snap shot of the water running though the lower level of the parking deck. No back in Arkansas as I write this, we are looking at more low temperatures and freezing rain and snow for later this week. Let's hope it is not as bad as the record breaking ice storm we had last year.

Glock

Well enough of that, I know what you really are looking for, what's new from the show? I have got to say that the most interesting thing I found that effects IDPA in the upcoming year is the new Generation 4 Glock pistols. As most of you know, I am a 1911 platform fan but I have been gamely banging away with various Glocks for the last several months. As reliable and accurate as they were, I just could not get comfortable with them. I think that is about to change.

The new Gen 4's are continuing an industry trend to make guns more modular and user friendly. The first Generation 4's available will be the Models 22 and 19. They come with the Rough texture finish and three sizes of interchangeable back strap. It also comes with a larger and reversible magazine release as well as a dual spring recoil assembly and it is shipping with three magazines.

The new styling and features are a great advantage to IDPA members and shooters in general. During live fire at the Media Day and later



handling at the show, the gun felt good in the hand and, as expected, shot well. The new Generation 4's are shipping now and have been deemed legal for use in SSP and ESP categories. Keep an eye open for a future, more in-depth coverage of this gun from me.

Smith and Wesson

Another big hit at the show came from Smith & Wesson with their introduction of the new Bodyguard line. Granted, these new guns don't quite fit in the most common divisions but they do fit into the BUG category and what most of us seem to carry daily.



The new Bodyguards come in two flavors, a J frame sized .38 +P revolver and a semi-auto in .380. Both come standard with integral Insight lasers with constant on or pulsing on settings. Both are just right for dropping in a pants pocket when carrying a larger gun is not desirable or as backup to a larger gun.

I did not get to live fire these but in dry firing them at the show, both had a nice consistent trigger pull that was a little lighter and smoother than what I would have expected from such a small gun. To often other gun companies seem to equate super heavy and gritty with pocket guns but both of these offerings felt just right. The controls on the .380 were easy to find and actuate and the sights were quick to pick up. The laser is located in the dust cover just forward of the trigger guard and is actuated by push button switches located on either

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I thought it never rained in Vegas... 2010 SHOT Show

side of the gun.

The .38 was a little different in that the cylinder release was not in the expected location. Smith has made a great step forward in

relocating the cylinder release to the middle of the frame just under the rear sight. This makes this a truly ambidextrous revolver. The cylinder is released by pushing

forward on the latch.

CCW Breakaways

Keeping in time with the pocket





pistol theme, a new offering in pant design caught my eye at the show. The pant comes from CCW Breakaways and as the name implies, it is aimed (so to speak) at the pocket carry market.

The premise behind the design is that under stress we may not be able to quickly get our big hand and itty bitty gun out of a usually tight pocket opening. The

Breakaway pant solves this issue by cleverly hiding a set of snaps that will pop open allowing the pocket opening to expand in size allowing for a quick, easier draw. The pants are available in a denim jean, a non-tactical looking cargo and business casual pleated chinos. Each pant pocket is designed with carry in mind as well. The pockets are designed to fall more inline with the inside line of your leg and the pockets also have Velcro strips that allow you to fold over the pocket to shorten it for smaller guns or unfold it for full sized

models. These are good looking pants with out the “tactical” look that some concealed carry people don’t want. They also come with no stitched or printed exterior logo to identify



them as a “concealed carry” piece of clothing. If you are serious about concealing your gun, these pants are absolutely worth a look.

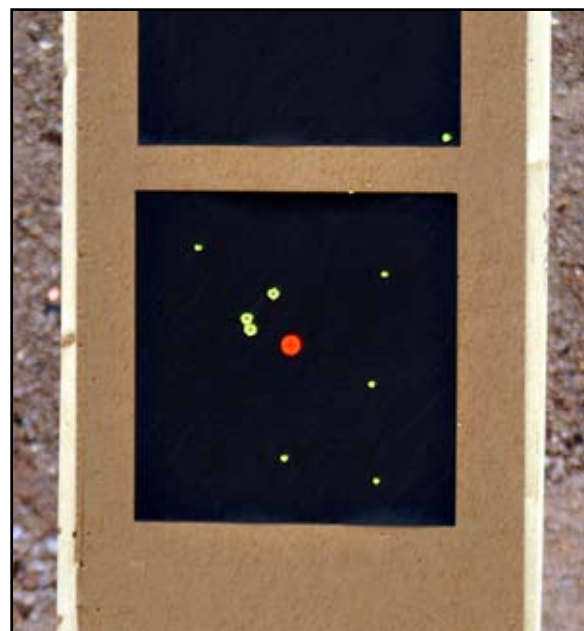
Winchester and Taurus

Winchester has a couple of new offerings for home and personal defense. They are the new Supreme Elite PDX1 offerings in .410 and 12 gauge. The .410 round was specifically designed

with the Taurus Judge in mind. The Judge is a 5 shot revolver chambered to accept the .410 or .45 Colt loads. The new .410 PDX load is 2 ½ inches so it will work the older Judges or the newer 3 inch models. The round consists of three (3) plated defense rounds in .410 caliber over 12 BB sized shot. The 12 gauge round is a one ounce slug with three 00 plated buckshot nested on top.

I did not get a chance to shoot the 12 gauge round but I did fire the .410 round. Recoil was sharp but not unmanageable for a smaller

framed person. The three .410 sized projectiles were pretty accurate at 7 yards as they do catch the rifling in the barrel. In the test rounds I fired, they consistently struck the target with two of the holes touching and one a little farther out. The BB’s struck as you would think out of





a two inch barreled shotgun. Still, they remained well within a man sized target. Inside a house, I think your typical bad guy would be in a world of hurt and almost certainly not a threat after getting hit with one. I know that 7 yards is very far in our usual accuracy testing but still it is well within range at which most deadly encounters happen. I have to say that swinging a Judge around in the house is going to be a little easier that a long barreled,

or even an 18 ½ inch barreled, 12 gauge would be.

Essential Gear

The last product I will cover is the Spotlight by Essential Gear. Unlike what its name conjures to mind, the Spotlight is not a bulky handful of blinding light. It measures only two inches long and designed to plug into your cars 12 volt power (cigarette lighter) outlet.

The Spotlight is designed to do what we usually end up doing with our expensive tactical lights, provide illumination to find that dropped set of keys, change a tire or any number of other non-tactical uses. The Spotlight charges off your car battery so it is always ready to go and it does not eat those expensive 123 batteries. It puts out 25+ lumens of light and comes with a number of other accessories that can be purchased such as Universal Adaptor/Super

Socket; Lanyard; Fender Friend and Wall Charger.

The Spotlight is a LED light source and also has a small red LED light that comes on to let you know that it is charging. It is Submersible to three feet of water for up to 30 minutes and has a 180 Minute run time per charge with a charge time of 5 hours.

It is a neat little light and with a price of only \$19.95 you can afford to put one in everything you own. It is not a “tactical” light but I think you would find yourself using it for its intended purpose a lot more frequently than your combat light and saving on that battery cost to boot. Besides the big names such as Surefire, Streamlight and others, it seems everyone and their brother is putting out some type of combat or tactical light. There are literally hundreds of lights and manufactures to choose from so I picked what I though I would use the most.

I wish I had the space to relate all that I saw at the show. Unfortunately I do not but I am sure you will be able to catch all the other great items as they are covered by other media outlets. I hope you enjoyed this small bite of the show and I look forward to seeing you on the range in the near future. Until then, be safe and have a good shooting season.

For more information on the products featured here, please check out;
www.glock.com
www.smith-wesson.com
www.ccwbreakaways.com
www.taurususa.com
www.winchester.com
www.essentialgear.com



**Here is a picture of my Colt Gold Cup and Wilsonized Springfield .45's bracketing my Chevy Xtreme's plate.
Tony Huffman #A29052**

The Birth of a Range

by Delia Carter A28728

After being introduced to the shooting sports in 2005, we decided to go to the next level by building a range of our own. What could be better than walking across the backyard and popping off a few rounds whenever the notion strikes? Thus was born Ridge Crossing Shooting Club (RCSC) Saltillo, Mississippi in 2005 under bare bones circumstances and it continues to be a work in progress.

The winter months of late 2005 and early 2006 were spent in frantic preparation getting ready for the Spring Kickoff in April 2006. The Range consisted of one big bay with a small berm and a dried up pond area that was home to a large population of world class chiggers. We were lucky to start with a group of regular shooters who have consistently come back month after month. The numbers consistently grew thanks to everyone's recruitment of shooters - new and old - to come out and join in the fun at the monthly matches. Between matches, 2006 was spent building props, designing stages, getting the club affiliated with International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA), and making plans for bigger and better events. Keeping our budget constraints in mind, we developed a flair for what we jokingly call "dumpster diving". We turned into shameless scavengers with a talent for spotting homes undergoing improvement projects that would produce a treasure trove of leftovers for props and range supplies.

The original bay was revamped in 2007 with dozer work and the place started to take on the look of an honest to goodness range. The possibilities of Ridge Crossing Shooting Club becoming a permanent fixture were starting to come into focus. That same year Mississippi's Safety Officer Instructor, Tim Bishop, trained and certified six of us as IDPA Safety Officers. Any range owner/operator can tell you there are never too many Safety Officers on hand to

keep things rolling.

2008 was an explosive year of growth for Ridge Crossing. Two sponsors – Grenada Gold-n-Gun and Competitive Shooting Concepts – came on board and funded more dozer work. The end result gave the Range two more bay areas and completely changed the lay of the land. Thanks to the generosity of some of our regular shooters making anonymous donations, enough gravel was purchased to rock the floor of one bay. This enabled us to shoot throughout the winter for the first time since



the Range was established. In addition to the monthly matches, classes were added to the schedule. The calendar was rounded out to include: an Intro to IDPA class, Range sponsor Competitive Shooting Concepts held 2 training classes, Ridge Crossing hosted the local portion of the world-wide 2008 IDPA Postal Match, three Classifiers were held, and Ridge Crossing was a sponsor of the CrimeStoppers Annual Blue Steel Law Enforcement Challenge. Our biggest undertaking yet was hosting the 2008 Mississippi State

The Birth of a Range


IDPA Championship Match in November.

The 2008 MS State IDPA Championship Match had been scheduled at another range, but due to a conflict was cancelled. Eight weeks prior to the Championship the opportunity to host the match presented itself. Due to preliminary planning having been done for "a future Regional match", we were able to take the ball and run with it. Our crew of Safety Officers and volunteers pulled together and the State Match became a reality November 1st, 2008. Ten states were represented at the match that day; shooters came from as far as Texas and Colorado. Five courses of fire were run in the morning. While the shooters relaxed for lunch, the remaining four stages and a bonus stage were set up for the after-

noon. The bonus stage was a speed course of five steel coffin poppers. This was a fund raiser stage and the scores were not reflected in the final scores – this was strictly for fun and bragging rights for the fastest time for those who took a shot at it. The day's attendance was around 100 folks counting the 70 shooters, the spectators, and the local TV and newspaper reporters covering the event. The day wrapped up around 3 p.m. with the awards given out and folks visiting a bit before hitting the road to their respective destinations.

Before Christmas, a new schedule for 2009 was outlined and the planning started for the new season. Ridge Crossing will be breaking new ground in 2009. We continue to be a work in progress on facility improvement and in the

focus on future goals for the Range. In addition to the monthly IDPA matches, three scheduled Classifiers, training classes, and the 2009 MS State IDPA Championship, this year we are adding Law Enforcement and Military Matches to the Range schedule.

2009 continues to be one of growth and realization of goals. We moved into the 21st century with the creation of a website – www.ridgecrossingshootingclub.com. Another portion of dozer work has been completed. We set a goal to bring shooters to the sport and have been signing shooters up as IDPA members through our Club. Fall will be here before you know it and Ridge Crossing will be hosting the 2009 MS State IDPA Championship Match. Then, the Lord willing, we'll do it all again in 2010!! 

So you have gun handling skills...

Now show us your artistic skills.

Calling all artistic and imaginative members

We're looking for a logo for the 2010 IDPA National Championship being held in Tulsa, OK.

Winners will receive a free entry into the match and a shirt (M-2XL).

Send electronic version only.

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- ▶ CMYK
- ▶ Minimum 300 DPI

Email to: editor@idpa.com or

Mail disk to:

IDPA Attn.: 2010 IDPA Nat. Champ. Logo
2232 CR 719
Berryville, AR 72616

Send no later than March 31st.



UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

February 20, 2010

AR Winter Classic

Sturm's Range
Springdale, AR
Steve Sturm
479-927-2244 h & w
steve@sturmsrange.com
sturmsrange.com

February 20, 2010

2010 West TX IDPA Regional Championship

Lubbock, TX
Mike Carter
806-789-8748 h & w
806-863-5341 fax
mrcarter@sptc.net
Rick Mosely
806-796-2858 w
806-796-2859 fax
www.patriotfirearms.com

February 25 - 27, 2010

2010 S and W IDPA Indoor National Championship

Smith & Wesson Shooting Sports Center
Springfield, MA
Paul Pluff
413-747-3252 w
413-747-3677 fax
ppluff@smith-wesson.com
www.matchreg.com/sw/

February 26 - 28, 2010

2010 FL IDPA State Championship

Clearwater, FL
Dan Bernard
813-340-7707 w
bernardd@baytobay.org
Larry Gilbert
727-460-8911 w

larryglbrt@yahoo.com
www.wacactions shooting.com

March 13, 2010

LA State Championship

Princeton, LA
Brandon Edens
318-539-4115 h
318-539-9706 w
817-549-9706 fax
texbran@cmaaccess.com
Kyle O'Glee
318-680-4781 h & w
www.miculeksidpa.com

March 14, 2010

Friends of Wounded Warrior Project Gateway Classic

Barnhart, MO
John Abbott
618-541-8762 h & w
gunloveingjohn@yahoo.com
Mark Goede
314-225-7640 h
636-821-1338 w
markgoede@charter.net
www.arpc-idpa.com/wounded-warrior.html

March 27, 2010

Mountain Valley Regional

Hot Springs, AR
Larry Powell
501-939-2788 h
501-984-2228 w
501-922-6217 fax
ldpowell@wildblue.net
Steve Freeman
501-545-9939 w
danafreeman@cablelynx.com
mvsaonline.com

April 2 - 4, 2010

1st Costa Rica IDPA International Match

Heredia, Costa Rica
Alberto Soto
506-22-44-51-80 h
506-88-85-89-15 w
506-22-44-51-80 fax
albertosoto19@hotmail.com
Jorge Suarez
58-414-6765522 h
58-414-6765522 w
58-265-6412585 fax
jorgesuarez@ateca.com.ve
www.ateca.com.ve/acsi.htm

April 11, 2010

Coastal Bend Challenge

Corpus Christi, TX
Mark Woerner
361-813-3902 h & w
cmdrmk8@aol.com
Don Critari
361-668-0768 h & w
critari@intcomm.net
cbshooters.com

April 17, 2010

AL IDPA State Championship 2010

Montgomery, AL
David Rawlinson
334-324-3257 h & w
866-724-9829 fax
deadidave43@aol.com
www.centralalabamagunclub.org

April 24, 2010

SC State Match

Gaston, SC
Phillip Folkers
803-414-1324 h & w
mrcridpa@earthlink.net
Roy Johnson
803-917-3925 h & w
royj4443@msn.com
www.midcarolinarifleclub.com

April 24 - 25, 2010

Badlands Regional and OK State Championship

Tulsa, OK
Jack Ostendorf
918-438-2669 h, w & fax
jack38@att.net
www.badlandssidpa.com

April 30 - May 2, 2010

2010 IDPA AZ State Championship

Tucson, AZ
Bob Lee
925-786-6360 h
520-825-1092 w
520-825-1094 fax
idpa_aznev_ac@yahoo.com
Jo Anne Linneman
520-825-2406 h
jolinjaz@msn.com
www.pimapistol.org

May 8, 2010

NC State IDPA Championship

Prospect Hill, NC
Dean Brevit
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919-805-0370 w



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(Continued on page 36)

works.

This may sound obvious but the fact is that a pistol is a machine and machines need to be cared for and operated from time to time. Even a revolver, a very simple and reliable machine, will not operate if it is clogged with dirt and rust. Semiautomatics have more moving parts and are even more prone to failure if left uncared for long periods of time. The only thing worse than having gun go 'bang' instead of 'click' is the opposite when you are facing an armed enemy. It is possible your life may depend on your firearm functioning reliably. There should be no doubt that it will fire. The only way to be sure of that is to periodically shoot the gun. That can be done alone at any range. However, the best and most enjoyable way to do that is to bring your carry gun to a local match and shoot it. A club match will let you test all aspects of your gun, including reloading and firing multiple rounds rapidly. You should do this at least once a year as an absolute minimum for firearm maintenance.

The other point is Vandermoden's Corollary to Hunnicutt's Dictum — **Make sure you know how to work your gun.**

This does not mean tactical

training; it refers to the administrative aspects of shooting— loading the gun, drawing the weapon, releasing safeties (if applicable), obtaining a good sight picture, safely discharging the pistol, clearing malfunctions, reloading, and safely reholstering after shooting. Remember, if you are ever in a gunfight you are going to be under extreme stress. You may have to shoot sitting down, or while moving, or with one hand. These are all good things to be familiar with should you have to defend yourself. Your body may have to do these things without your conscious mind having to do more than recognizing a life or death situation.

I can think of no way to become familiar with your pistol than by shooting IDPA matches. In this case, familiarity breeds safety. Knowing how to shoot will make you a faster and more accurate shooter, reducing the risk to bystanders as well as yourself. On a subtler level, if you are confident with your weapon, it will show. There is a lot of evidence showing that aggressors are often deterred by a competent response. Most of us have heard stories of fellow IDPA members who have demonstrated armed resolve and prevented a dangerous situation from escalating. The grip of your carry weapon should be familiar to your hand. If you are prepared to use your gun, the bad guys can see it, and may think better of harming you and yours.

The best way to be ready to use your weapon is use your competition gun as your carry gun or visa versa. IDPA rules are designed to support this. My friend Steve always carries whatever class pistol he is com-

peting in, CDP, ESR, SSR, SSP, ESP whatever he is shooting that month, that is what he carries. This is the optimum situation; however, regular participation with any pistol similar to what you carry is going to help you be more comfortable and confident should you need to use it.

There is yet another self defense aspect to IDPA competition that makes it more than just a game — situational awareness. A central element of stage design is to create constantly changing situations that challenge the shooter to think and shoot. This is a learnable skill. IDPA shooters are far less likely to fall back onto inappropriate static training habits. They are far less likely to be flummoxed at moving targets, at engaging threat targets in the presence of non-threat targets, remaining in cover while shooting, hanging on to extra ammunition, and to my mind, the most valuable skill of all — staying in the fight. Too often people in a real world gunfight have a malfunction. Their status then goes from active self defense to that of a victim. IDPA members should view jams, stovepipes, failures to lock back, and all the infuriating things that ruin a perfectly good run as 'learning experiences'. Think about how hard it would be to clear a jam if someone was trying to kill you. Learn to clear the problem and get back in the fight.

The primary focus of IDPA is fun competition. That is why we come out to shoot matches with our friends. We should never forget, however, that it is also practice that might come in to play in the event we ever get into a situation which will require us to use our weapons in self defense.



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The latest version of the MGM Attack Target has a second set of target holders so that it may be used as a horizontal “running man” target as well as a charging target. With this addition, Match Directors armed with the MGM Attack Target not only have an exceptional charging target, but they also have the option to turn it into a 15 foot per second lateral mover. All this in a package that stores easily, can be transported in most vehicles, and can be set up by one person.

the 2008 Nationals we misunderstood how to set up the device and caused a failure. If the paddle is not pushed all the way down, the device will only go a few feet. If the paddle is hit a second time without resetting the mechanism, the spool will again take off, but since there now is slack in the cable, a mess will ensue, not unlike a fishing reel. We did not have time to learn how to reset the device, so highly embarrassed; we set aside the unit for the match.

After the dust settled, I had time to read the manual and watch the provided instructional video. I then learned that correcting this situ-



We originally obtained our MGM Attack Target for the 2008 IDPA Nationals. Unfortunately, the system arrived the day of match set-up and there was not enough time to learn how to properly set up and maintain the unit. The MGM Attack Target is highly rugged and reliable, but like all man-made things, it runs better when the operator understands what to do. At

ation is very easy on the Attack Target. In fact, major repairs of the target require only a few hand tools and a scant few minutes of time. Since then we have used the Attack Target at a number of local matches and then at the 2009 Independence Match. At this IDPA Sanctioned event Match Director

Jerry Greg incorporated the MGM Attack Target into a challenging 12 round stage incorporating rearward movement. The stage was a blast to SO and all the shooters enjoyed trying to hit the rapidly charging target on the move.

It is also a great prop for clubs to loan out to Local Law Enforcement as a training aid. We have had several local Law Enforcement officers show great interest in the MGM attack target, and those that have tried it, believe it to be an effective training aid. We took some of our local LE shooters and let them use the MGM Attack target for exercises. They had an officer face the target and verbalize with the “threat” at some undetermined point, the instructor activated the



Attack Target, and the officer had to respond. Those that tried it all were out of breath from the stress of the exercise.

We have been using the MGM Attack Target for over a year now and have yet to tap all its potential. In the hands of a Match Director there are many uses for this ingenious device. To learn more about the MGM Attack target please go online to MGMtargets.com or 1 (888) 767-7371.





was cost. During 2008, when gas reached \$4 per gallon and the economy really began to suffer, sanctioned match attendance dwindled. After much thought and shooter input, Larry decided to forego the prize table in order to keep the match fee low. Even with sponsors, not all prizes are donated. The result was a \$55 match fee. This member has never personally seen match fees that low.

What the 2009 TSR offered shooters was a chance to shoot 10 Nationals level stages, right before the Nationals, for an attractive fee. Shooters returning from the Oklahoma State Championship, at USSA in Tulsa, noted the accuracy required to be competitive. "If you are going back to USSA to the Nationals in September," one shooter commented, "you had better make friends with your front sight." Besides the accuracy requirement, Larry also wanted shooters to have to think while they shot. This was not a "hosers" match; blaze through these stages, and you would likely turn around and see a Safety Officer with a finger or two pointing upward, or a hole in an NT's forehead. There were plenty of opportunities for gamblers to score if they succeeded; if their risks failed, they were severely penalized. Shooters plotted

and planned before each stage, but all too often, the buzzer seemed to degrade the shooter's IQ and the "plan" was quickly forgotten. Instinct was all that remained. Isn't that what IDPA stages are supposed to represent? Some may discount longer, more

complicated stages as "unrealistic." I disagree. In this shooter's opinion, an individual is better prepared if the basics are mastered to the point that they are second nature; instinct is what takes over when there's no time to sit back and dissect a deadly situation. The "doing" part should be automatic once the "thinking" part has decided what to do. Complicated stages can be an excellent test of one's instinct. Artificially simulated stress is just that, but if one can't handle artificial stress when shooting a few paper targets, how will that person handle a serious situation? But I digress.

Several stages required tasks that many had never before contemplated. Stage one involved one paper target at 15 yards partially covered by an NT. The shooter started at high ready with finger on the trigger, waiting for the buzzer. After engaging the target with two shots, the shooter then dropped to prone and shot a clay pigeon through an opening slightly smaller than the head on an IDPA target (also at 15 yards). It was a technical stage that could be accomplished with three shots, but maga-

zine after magazine was emptied trying to hit that clay. Those who had made friends with the front sight had a definite advantage.

Stage three, "Port of Call," involved dealing with terrorists on the high seas. Shooters had to remain on a "plank," which looked suspiciously like a treated 2X10. Stepping off the plank into the "water" earned a Procedural Penalty. After engaging two targets in Tactical Sequence on the retreat, shooters were required to shoot four poppers and two popper-activated swingers through the ship's "port," which was a 55 gallon drum surrounded by a wall. Listening for hits on steel was a no-go; shots through the port sounded like someone was beating on a bass drum. Also, MSSA's poppers are forward-falling; waiting to see them fall burned lots of time. Shooters simply had to call their shots on the steel in order to succeed. Shooters could easily engage all the "port" targets with one magazine if they first handled the four poppers smoothly. If they didn't, things got ugly. How I discovered this is not one of my favorite sub-



2009 Tri-State Regional Championship

jects.

After initially dealing with two targets shot from Retention, Stage seven required shooters to activate a Maxtrap-rigged Non-Threat, which momentarily exposed a steel popper. Four more targets followed. Shooters were given the option to shoot the popper while advancing toward it, and lots of them took the bait. This popper was also an activator for a swinger. Miss the popper, and you don't even get the chance to shoot at the swinger. A 15 point mistake would be the result. The "flash" picture of the popper proved daunting for many, especially if they attempted it on the move.

Stage eight involved weak-handed shooting while moving. I helped run this stage, and while I saw many competently deal with the targets, I was alarmed at how many weak-hand gun malfunctions I witnessed. Unfortunately, weak-handed shooting is a very real possibility in a life and death encounter, and I hope those who experienced the malfunctions keep that in mind.

Stage nine required shooters to start with only three rounds in the gun. They started facing a paper target and a popper. The popper was an activator for a drop-turner.

Do the math--two on the paper, one for the popper, then slide lock? What about that drop-turner that's just been activated? Shooters had to reload and THEN hit the drop-turner, which, by the way, had hard cover. Shooters were allowed to run downrange and engage the drop-turner from cover if needed. If round three missed the popper, shooters had to reload from slide lock, hit the popper, and then perform a Tactical reload before going downrange and engaging the drop-turner. "Sadistic" was how one shooter described Stage nine.

At the end of the day, there was much good-natured grumbling about the difficulty of the match. Several agreed that, if you did well in this match, you were prepared for the Nationals in two weeks. John Abbot, an SSP-EX from O'Fallon, IL, offered his opinion: "Challenging was the word of the day. I EARNED the procedurals I received, much as I could have earned a trophy if I had brought a better skill set." Laura Torres-Reyes, an SSP-EX from Baltimore, MD, observed that, "this match showed me what I need to work on. It is really a great prep for the Nationals." Jeff Brown, a CDP-SS from Cicero, IN, commented that "it is crazy; I liked three stages I

messed up on, but I really like the challenge and the opportunity to learn from mistakes I'll likely never repeat. I never did any competitive shooting until five years ago,

and I think I learned more in this match than I learned in the last two years."

Larry Hill had accomplished his mission. He orchestrated a thoroughly planned match that offered extremely challenging tests for every skill needed to compete in IDPA, and with a low match fee to boot. Although there is doubtfully a more dedicated Match Director in the country, Larry could not have accomplished this by himself. Larry is quick to give credit to Myrin Young, the former Area Coordinator for the Tri-State area. Myrin was the one who convinced Larry that club matches should be as difficult as legally possible. They shared the goal of preparing shooters for any sanctioned match they wanted to enter. Also, more often than not, good men have great women nearby. Larry is no exception. Roxanne, an ESP-MM herself, is not simply supportive of her husband and IDPA; she actively participates in the planning, organizing, setting up, and executing of club matches, as well as the TSR. Following the match, Larry told the participants, "Those of you who know me know who is behind me, who motivates me and supports me. Without her, I could not do any of this." The Hills' goals involve not only traveling to other venues, offering challenging matches, and giving shooters their money's worth, but also promoting the sport of IDPA. Their love for the sport is unmatched; the friendships they have created while participating in it are priceless. The Hills are an asset to MSSA and IDPA, and the Memphis Mafia is thankful for them. Tri-State Regional participants who went to the Nationals should be, too.



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www.caswellranch.embarqspace.com

May 14 - 16, 2010

2010 MO State
Wright City, MO
Charles Parisi
636-745-0616 h
636-262-6237 w
636-745-0613 fax
brrcidpamatchdirector@yahoo.com
benchrestidpa.com

May 14 - 16, 2010

Great Lakes Regional
Munger, MI
Gary Cuttitta
989-846-4473 h
989-928-2796 w
cheetahs@hotmail.com
David Alexander
989-329-0257 h & w
dwalex14127@att.net
www.linwoodbaysportsmans.com

May 22, 2010

AR State IDPA Championship
Little Rock, AR
Matt McArthur
501-753-2219 h
501-920-5732 w
501-202-1349 fax
matthewlmcArthur@gmail.com
Don Baker
501-472-1765 h & w
rainmag@conwaycorp.net
www.casarange.com

May 29, 2010

Southern Regional Championship
Manchester, TN
Kurt Glick
931-455-7056 h
931-455-1121 w
931-454-1767 fax
Kglick@tullahoma-tn.com
www.midtnshooters.com

June 5, 2010

IDPA IN 2010 State Championship
Atlanta, IN
Jeff Brown
317-984-1758 h
317-645-5068 w
idpashooter1@hotmail.com
Joe Tyson
765-807-0431 h & w
blainepoe@gmail.com
www.atlantacc.net

June 11 - 13, 2010

NY State IDPA Championship Match

Pine City, NY
Toni Dragotta
607-738-9509 h & w
tonidragotta@pinecityidpa.org
www.nepaidpascores.net/nys_state/ny_match_01.html

June 12, 2010

2010 TX State IDPA Championship
Greenville, TX
Cody Ray
214-232-8267 h & w
delta1cody@tx.rr.com
Don Perkins
214-435-9503 h & w
donperk@tx.rr.com
www.ccidpa.org

June 17 - 19, 2010

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

June 26, 2010

VA State Match
Bristol, VA
Mark Riehl
423-764-6945 h
423-764-2428 w
423-764-9070 fax
meraub@aol.com
Mike Yeck
423-534-5426 h
michael.yeck@sungardps.com
www.animalmedclinic.com/188211.html

July 11, 2010

2010 IL State Championship
Plainfield, IL

Scott Baron
815-341-8092 w
scott@opscdp.com
Bob Bruining
815-592-8302 w
www.opscdp.com/IL_State_championship.html

July 18, 2010

NH State IDPA Championship
Dunbarton, NH
Chris Currier
603-321-6292 h & w
psishooter@comcast.net
Jim Dunham
603-249-9085 h
603-249-9085 w
james.dunham@yahoo.com
www.pioneersportsmen.org

July 24, 2010

B. C. IDPA Provincial Championship
Terrace, British Columbia
Dave Bjorkman
250-635-6028 h
250-635-6028 w
t6028@citywest.ca
Bob Bonenfant
250-635-0654 h & w
rbb@citywest.ca
rodandgun.net

July 31, 2010

Summer Sizzler
Manchester, TN
Kurt Glick
931-455-7056 h
931-455-1121 w
931-454-1767 fax
Kglick@tullahoma-tn.com
www.midtnshooters.com

August 5 - 7, 2010

U.S. East Coast IDPA Championship



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August 20 - 21, 2010 The Midwest Regional - Backstopper Challenge

Barnhart, MO
 Mark Goede
 314-225-7640 h
 636-821-1338 w
 markgoede@charter.net
 Jere Wilmering
 314-603-8839 h & w
 like1ski@gmail.com
 www.arpc-idpa.com/backstoppers.html

September 11, 2010 Tri-State Regional Championship

Arlington, TN
 Larry Hill
 901-233-7557 h & w
 ljhill3@comcast.net
 Tom Ross
 901-850-9677 h & w
 a6gator@comcast.net
 www.tri-state-regional.com

October 9, 2010
MS State IDPA Championship
 Saltillo, MS
 Nicky Carter
 662-869-1417 h
 662-871-3346 w
 tansu@prodigy.net
 DeDe Carter
 662-869-1417 h
 662-871-1723 w
 tansu@prodigy.net
 www.ridgecrossingshootingclub.com

October 16, 2010 Mountaineer IDPA Classic

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

October 16, 2010 2010 NM IDPA Championship

Las Cruces, NM
 Anthony Trejo
 575-649-1829 h & w
 amtrepo@q.com

Bill Weed
 575-644-4286 h & w
 xd40_shooter@comcast.net
 groups.yahoo.com/group/2010_
 NM_IDPA_Championship

October 23, 2010 TN State Championship

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where the stages are designed to be BUG friendly, encouraging people to bring out the J frame or Kal-Tec to get some practice. Also IDPA is a volunteer sport and most match directors I know are happy to have someone pitch in a put on a match. Do your share to support your club.

Thirdly, if you come to the line prepared, that is with magazines/speed loaders ready and make sure you have an understanding of the COF, the time it takes to shoot a pooblaster is not all that much longer than a game gun.

Last of all if you want to be competitive it would be a good idea to practice, because it isn't what you shoot, it is only how you shoot!

Rex Hanson, A37749

I have read with interest the comments regarding the term BUG Gun for smaller concealed carry pieces. I am in TOTAL agreement that this a totally inappropriate term/acronym for this situation. It is demeaning and in no way describes the stature and/or importance of this carry option. It also sounds and looks terrible in descriptive literature printed by Clubs announcing events using these guns. A simple change to BAC or BACC gun which represents the option of a smaller carry piece... for "Back up Carry"... or "Back up Concealed"... or "Back up Concealed Carry" more nearly represents the intent and spirit of this Self defense option.

"Deep six" the BUG gun term... ASAP, before the general public begins to pick it up and deride it like in their attitude to the "gun nut" term.

Frank Covie A38603

I simply wanted to express an opinion regarding the naming of any new division that might be proposed for IDPA that would accommodate smaller-than-average handguns.

Recent articles and comments that I've seen regarding proposals to add a 'BUG' or 'Concealed Carry' division have focused on which of those two names makes sense, and to me, neither name makes any sense at all.

Both 'BUG' and 'Concealed Carry' names attempt to describe the primary or common use that would normally be made of the weapons each division would accommodate. That's a departure from all of the current division names

I'm just suggesting that if we want any

new division to have a descriptive name, it should describe the weapon itself, and not make any assumption or suggestion about application. 'Compact Pistol' might make more sense.

As for 'BUG' and 'Concealed Carry' names, specifically, all weapons for all divisions are supposed to be suitable for concealed carry, so it certainly would make no sense to designate a new division for concealed carry weapons. The entire game is intended for that class of weapon already. Plus, it's certainly not uncommon for folks to carry full-sized automatics as daily CCW. A BUG division at least suggests weapons limited in size and capacity, but again, let's not assume no one carries a 6+1 sub-compact as their primary daily carry. Who cares anyway?

I believe the spirit of proposing a new division is to allow shooters to gain experience, confidence and enjoyment from competing using weapons of limited size and capacity, because such weapons are commonly used for personal defense. I think that's a great idea and support it. A bigger problem with how to name such a division, though, might be finding a reasonable way to define it.

Anyway, I'm asking that IDPA consider what such a division would accomplish and not simply discount it outright, and I'm casting big NO votes for naming the division anything that tries to describe the application or target market of the weapons it would accommodate... sort of in accordance with the current naming style.

Kirk Fleming A35633

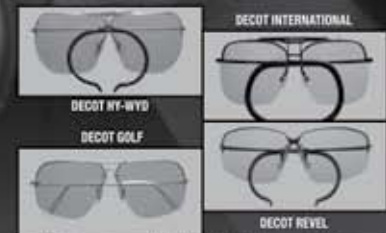
Well Mr. Cantrell's letter combined with the article by Thomas Pinney really got our members to write in with their thoughts. These are just a small representation of the letters we received. Unfortunately we did not have room to place them all. As I mentioned, I like these compact pocket pistols and encourage our match directors to take good look at the demand for a BUG match in your area. It does not have to be elaborate, you might even consider running it after your regular match and just use parts of your regular match stages. In the meantime, IDPA HQ will put these ideas on the plate for further consideration. Editor

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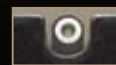
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