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Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

Second Quarter 2010
Volume 14 - Issue 2

UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

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 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 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 28 - 30, 2010

HARD as HELLertown 2010

Hellertown, PA
Kenneth J. Ortbach
908-310-2079 h
kjoinc@aol.com
Joanna Lenczewska
jlenczewska@yahoo.com
www.nepaidpascores.net/hah/hah_ match_01.html

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 5 - 6, 2010

14th Annual - 2010 IDPA MA State Championship

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

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 & w
james.dunham@yahoo.com
www.pioneersportsmen.org

July 24, 2010

B. C. IDPA Provincial Championship

Terrace, British Columbia, Canada
Dave Bjorkman
250-635-6028 h & 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

Prospect Hill, NC
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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

Dear IDPA MEMBERS and Headquarters Staff.

After reading Rob Haight's article in the volume 13 issue 3 (August 13) issue of IDPA tactical journal, he has brought up an interesting idea. I have been asking for our local club to start a .22 Rimfire class, first as a beginners and youth class, but now for anyone who wants to shoot cheaper. I have a Ceinier conversion for a 1911, and they now are available for a lot of other frame, maybe it time to look at this idea.

Eugene Jones A13954

Dear Editor

In regard to the article that Rob Haight wrote in his "Behind the Badge" column in the volume 13 issue 3 issue of the IDPA Tactical Journal:

I first got into the use of sub caliber practice guns years ago back when I was a poor student. My Colt Combat Commander & M1911A1 are paired with a Colt Ace. My S&W 15 Combat Masterpiece is paired with an S&W 18. My S&W 36 & 60 (both in 3 inch) are paired with a S&W 650. My AR-15 has a .22 conversion unit (an old Atchisson conversion tuned by John Norrell in 1985). I have a .22 conversion unit for my Glock 19 (Ciener) and Beretta 92F (both a Ciener and a Beretta factory "practice kit"). (One of my shooting buddies just got one of the Colt M4 clones in .22 cal, but I haven't shot it yet)

My issue gun is a Sig 226R-DAK in .40 cal and that's what I usually compete with, in stock service pistol division in IDPA and in production class in IPSC. Last June (2008) I bought a Sig factory .22 conversion unit to go with my Sig 226s pistols.

I find the use of the sub-caliber guns to be very helpful in skill maintenance at low cost. 20+ years ago I was a Security Policeman for the Department of Military Affairs, as well as an SP in the local ANG unit. (In both places I was issued the S&W 15.) We had access to a 50 foot range at a nearby ARNG armory. The backstop was mild steel, and we were limited to shooting .22s and .38 wad

cutters.

About once a month I'd go over in the morning after work and shoot about 250 rounds through my personal model 18 and then finish off the practice session with a box of wad cutters through my personal model 15. Once in a while I'd shoot my own AR-15 with the .22 conversion unit. This practice regimen kept my basic skills at a pretty high level and it didn't cost very much.

When I transferred to the ARNG as an MP, I did more practice with the Colt Ace. A few years later I was back in the ANG again, and we were issued the M9 Beretta and I got a .22 conversion from Jonathan Arthur Ciener for it. (I subsequently got a Beretta factory .22 conversion unit, which is much superior).

I didn't have the option of a .22 conversion unit for my police issue gun until Sig came out with their conversion unit in 2008. I run about 500 rounds a month through the Sig conversion unit. They recommend CCI mini-mags for best function and I've found that to be true in all of my .22 conversion units. (Obviously, the .22 revolvers are not ammo sensitive). I do lots of shooting with the .22s, particularly if I'm going to the local commercial range at a time when it will be busy and brass recovery might pose a problem.

With a .22 I usually practice accuracy based exercises on a B34 (1/2 scale) or B29 (1/3rd scale) target at 50 feet. IMHO doing lots of rapid fire practice with the .22 doesn't accomplish much because the recoil is so low, but sights are sights and the trigger is still the trigger. Use of the smaller guns, AS LONG AS THE CONFIGURATION IS THE SAME OR VERY SIMILAR TO YOUR SERVICE WEAPON can be quite a benefit.

PO Jeff Loud A11629

Firearms Instructor

Wisconsin Capitol Police

The use of .22 caliber pistols in practice for IDPA matches has always had its proponents but it has

gained new popularity in the last several years. The lack of available ammunition and the high cost of what was available have driven renewed interest in the use of .22 in IDPA for matches and practice. It most certainly helps that more and more companies are releasing .22 conversions for commonly used IDPA guns.

We at HQ would like to hear more on your thoughts for adding .22 caliber shooting to IDPA. We know that several clubs put on different types of .22 matches. Please go to SurveyApril2010@idpa.com and let us know what you think. We would like to hear;

- 1. Should we create a .22 division?*
- 2. Should it be a stand alone match?*
- 3. Should it be a side match option only?*
- 4. Should there be a separate division for revolvers and semi autos?*
- 5. Should we allow reduced sized targets in .22 matches.*
- 6. Should we allow starts from the low ready or holsters only?*
- 7. Should we disallow reloads?*

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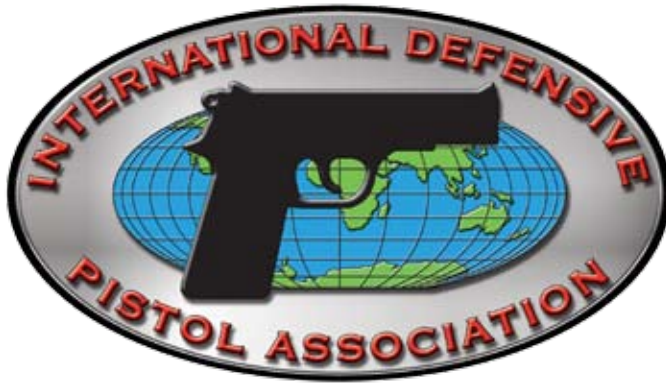
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May 2010

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IN THIS ISSUE

This issue is just full of great information to help get the shooting season started on the right foot. We hope that you put all the great tips to good use and they help improve your shooting as well as make your matches run smoother. The Tactical Advantage will return in the next issue with coverage on some great new guns. We here at IDPA headquarters wish you a safe and fun shooting season.

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

Run a Better Match

Build a Better Club



Spring is a good time to get your gear in order, both for you personally and for your IDPA club. Make sure your timers are functional, the batteries are good to go, and you have the tools and gear you need. Make sure you get fresh sunscreen and bug spray for your range bag, and get your other gear in order. Top off your first aid supplies, and make sure you have springs and parts for your gun. If you are in the market for a shooting cart, I recommend the cart from Rugged Gear. This company makes an excellent shooting cart that is very versatile and well thought out. They have demonstrated a passion for customer service that should be the model of the industry, and went above and beyond in helping me when I had an issue with my cart. Their website can be found at ruggedgear.com or you can call them at 800-784-4331.

Spring would also appear to be a popular time for clubs to run the Classifier, and many clubs in my area are doing just this. Keep in mind that the classifier needs to be set up EXACTLY as the course of fire (CoF) description is written. A common omission is the laying out of the fault lines on the barricade for Stage 3. Please do not forget this.

Recently I worked as the Stats Person for the fun and challenging New Holland Spring Shootout. This was a first time for me to run stats at a major match and it was a solid learning experience. I learned that a good piece of equipment to

have is a stand-alone keypad. This is especially useful if you are using a laptop. I also got to see firsthand the stress laid upon the stats staff by poor penmanship and eccentric writing styles. Remember to write on scoresheets clearly and in Plain Numerals.

Now is a good time for clubs to try to expand the ranks of your volunteers. Reach out to your active shooters and ask for help. See who is willing to help with set up, tear down, scoring, and officiating.

Your volunteers for officiating will need some training. Your best choice is a Safety Officer Seminar given by a Safety Officer Instructor (SOI). An SOI will help bring a group of volunteers up to speed and will help them learn to be exceptional Safety Officers. If you are unable to get a seminar scheduled or time is an issue, consider giving a club level Safety Officer class. Remember that the requirement for a Club Level Safety Officer is for them to watch the “How to Run a Match” video tape. If you supplement this with a short lecture you will enhance the training experience. Take some time to make a short syllabus going over safety issues and other points to cover. This can be done in a classroom setting and it would be wise to keep live guns out of your lecture.

Points to cover: The Four Rules of Gun Safety. Range

Commands. Describe the load and make ready process. Describe the Unload and Show Clear process. Discuss the Safety Rules and cover calls. After you have finished your lecture it is time to pop in the “How to Run a Match” video tape. If you take this program and throw in a couple of pizzas you have turned a night of training into a fun night at the range.

For some handouts and ideas about having a training night, please check out my web page at pennjerseyidpa.com/idpainformation.html.

In my last article I introduced the Principles of Management which are: Planning, Organizing, Leading, and Controlling. Planning and Organizing were covered in the last article, so in this one I am going to discuss Leading.

Leadership styles do vary by the Match Director and there is no one style that sits above all others. When you are in a leadership position in a volunteer organization such as an IDPA club,



A Safety Officer Seminar is the best way to train up your staff.



Women's Perspective

by Julie Golob A19366

Five Easy Ways to Improve and Stay Motivated

Bernie and Brenda are your average American couple. They both work hard to provide for their two children. Three years ago, Bernie decided to give IDPA a try at their local shooting range. After his first match, he was hooked. Brenda was supportive of the new hobby and after some encouragement and just a little bit of prodding, she decided to shoot her first match too.

In the beginning they both felt like they were really improving. Brenda used to feel like she could be timed with an hourglass, but now she's placed in her class a few

times. Bernie has excelled so much that he has all the skills of Master Class shooter. Shooting began as a hobby, but now it has become something they really look forward to sharing together.

Recently though, they have fallen into a shooting rut. Bernie is frustrated because he knows he is good enough to be at the top but can't seem to put it together in a match. Brenda is motivated when she is at the range, but when she gets home being a wife and mother take priority.

can do to help you improve your shooting and stay motivated.

Dry fire

Yep, those two dreaded little words. It's so easy to cave in to all the distractions. We say we will do it, but then the kids need to get to practice, something came up at work that kept you late, or you are just plain exhausted at the end of the day. A vicious cycle begins. We want to do better, but find we don't have the time. We become frustrated and that translates to a negative attitude or self doubt at a match.

Here are five simple things you

Let's face it, few can dry fire an



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Women's Perspective

hour each day. That doesn't mean that dry fire can't be a part of a daily routine. The fix? Maybe an hour is just too much. Instead set a goal of doing just 50 draws first thing in the morning, three times a week. By starting your day with dry fire, you don't face the challenge of being too tired or too busy after you've met the obligations of the day.

Have a pair of pants with your holster and mag pouches ready to go so all you need to do is grab your gun, make sure you have no ammunition and get to drawing. The next week, practice a type of reload. The following week do strong hand draws. Work on basic skills and it won't be long before you see the results at the range.

Organize Your Gear

Just digging around my "gun room" gets me excited to shoot. Once a year I go through all my gear. I inspect it for wear and tear and to make sure nothing is broken. I sort my ammunition, magazines and spare parts so that I can literally grab and go when I need them.

Even when I plan range time, sometimes it just doesn't happen. Whether it's work, a family obligation, or something beyond my control, having my gear organized and ready makes it easy to hit the range whenever the opportunity presents itself. After a practice session or a match, take the extra five minutes to return everything to its rightful place. You'll be able to take advantage of shooting more often.

Try Something New

There's a lot to be said for cross training. Last year I shot revolver in competition. It was an eye opener and I had to learn a whole new way to pull the trigger. When I switched

back to my M&P, it was like coming back to an old friend. It felt easier, like I was flying through courses of fire.


Make a plan to try a new division for a few matches. Consider swapping with a shooting buddy if you don't have the gear. Learning to shoot guns with different trigger pulls, capacity and overall feel can help you prepare for matches with pick up guns. New challenges can also shine the spotlight on skills that will help you become a better shooter.

Virtual Motivation

What would we do without the Internet? It's a huge resource for shooters, from forums to shooting sport websites. There are also plenty of ways to connect with your fellow shooters beyond your home club. Facebook, Twitter and blogs are just some of the ways you can stay in touch with other competitors. Shoot a great stage at a match? Share it through social media websites. Have a rough day at the range? Your online friends may know just the right thing to say to raise your spirits.

Timer, Camera, ACTION!

Photos and videos are great ways to analyze your technique. A photo capturing your hand and gun position during a reload can show you how you can shave extra seconds. You can use video to become your own coach or even post to Facebook, You-Tube or Vimeo; just some of the websites that allow you to upload your own videos.

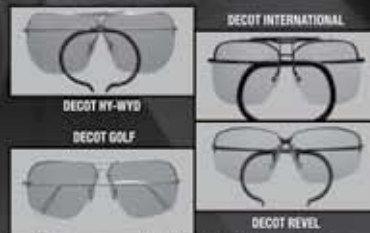
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TACTICAL JOURNAL

Volume 14 - Issue 2

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Behind the Badge

by Rob Haught CL068



In the constantly evolving field of firearms training for Law Enforcement great advancements have been made in the last decade. One of the biggest departures from conventional wisdom is the emphasis on shooting while moving versus the more traditional square range mindset. A decade or so of studying video from Stop and Rob's and In-Car cameras have told trainers that very few encounters are against stationary opponents. What isn't widely known is that much of what we teach now is a direct result of competitive shooting techniques.

If you take the time to research your combat pistol shooting history you will find an old course of fire from the early IPSC days called the "Mexican Defense Course".

In this old course of fire lies hidden the Genesis of all we now know about shooting on the move. Who would have known that this simple 36 round stage would be so important to our current law enforcement and military training?

I give credit to Ken Hackathorn for my interest in the "Mex" as we call it today. Starting several years ago, Ken would set this course up during our weekly range sessions, despite grumbling from everyone who shot so poorly on it, including me. However, over time I found that my mobile shooting skills had improved greatly. Early IPSC shooters, in order to shoot the "Mex" well, experimented with several techniques of walking forward and shooting that resulted

in the now standard "Groucho" walk; and learned how to best minimize upper body bounce that resulted in more accurate shooting. IPSC Champion Ray Chapman is credited with developing this technique that is still taught today to LE and Military tactical shooters.

IDPA courses place a lot of emphasis on shooting while moving. Whether it involves retreating from a threat or moving to cover, the basics are there to be learned and practiced. Innovative match directors have found ways to invent moving target systems that challenge shooters and add stress to stages that have a direct benefit to our training as Law Enforcement Officers. Those of us who are tasked with training in our agencies can take these ideas back to work and use them in our in-house training. Every match you shoot will give you the opportunity to practice your movement skills under the stress of competition where the price of failure isn't quite as severe as on the street.

Mobile shooting is difficult and we have a tendency to only practice those things we do well. This is why I thank Ken for making me shoot the "Mex" so many times over the years. It's helped me better understand shooting on the move. One of my favorite "Ken" stories is from when I was fortunate to work with him doing SWAT firearms training for a prestigious federal agency. About midway in the week Ken would tell the cocky shooters

to bring an extra box of ammo and a dollar bill the next day. When asked about the dollar, Ken would tell them we were each going to put a dollar in a hat and shoot a little drill from the 60's; and then afterwards Rob and Ken were going to eat for free that night! It never failed to humble even the best pistol shots on the first try.

The Mexican Defense Course was first shot by members of the old Southwest Pistol League in southern California in the late 60's. Later, when IPSC was formed it was a standard course of fire in the early years. Like the "El Presidente" it developed a near cult following in the day. Because it was so difficult it fell out of favor with many clubs and has all but faded into the past. It is still as challenging today as it was then.

Originally shot on the large black International Rapid Fire targets from a flap holster with the pistol in condition three, the par times were almost impossible to do. Col. Jeff Cooper modified it to allow a standard holster and condition one pistol. Later it was shot on the first IPSC Option targets which had a generous 10" scoring ring that was used to break any ties. World Champion shooter Ray Chapman held the early records for a long time. With the smaller scoring ring on IDPA targets it is much harder to shoot this course today; but with the skill level today being higher than those of the past, I think it evens out.

(Continued on page 36)

The Coolest Thing Ever

by Austin Proulx A39722

My name is Austin Proulx, I am 13 years old, and I live in Fruita, Colorado. I have always been into hunting and the shooting sports. Ever since we moved here four years ago, my dad and I have been looking for an organized shooting sport we could both participate in. We heard about the IDPA through the Action Pistol Group website and brochures. We learned that they hold scheduled matches the first Saturday of every month, and that new shooters were invited to attend. We read up on what the IDPA was all about, and really liked the concept, so we decided to go watch.

We showed up at the Saturday, February 6th match intending to watch and further learn what it was all about.

We got out there and found ourselves talking with some of the best guys you will ever meet. To our surprise, the people running the match encouraged us to shoot even though I was just 13! They were very gracious and helped me out especially. Their number one priority was safety. They encouraged me to take my time and I had a fantastic experience. It was a little awkward because my father had only brought one gun, (a stainless Sig 220) just in case he decided to go ahead and shoot. As a result, since we were both invited to shoot, we were constantly swapping gear during stages.



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It was hectic, but we had a great time and by the end of the day we were both hooked!

The following Tuesday started off just like usual: I lumber out of bed, drag myself to school, blah, blah, blah. It all changed during a basketball game in P.E. when I broke my



right arm. I went to the doctor and got a cast put on. The cast wouldn't allow me to shoot, so the doctor offered to allow my dad to bring in the pistol I would use, and put on a new cast that would be custom formed to the grip. We weren't able to get the new cast on my arm before the next shoot, which was that Saturday in Hotchkiss. I was disappointed with not being able to shoot, but I got to watch my

dad shoot his new Kimber stainless Raptor. Once again, the people putting on the event were a real treat to be around.

Thursday, February 18th, Dad picked me up after school to go see Dr. Quack-enbush ("Quack," as his staff calls him)

again. Only this time we had the stainless Sig Sauer P220 with us. That's right, in the doctors office, how cool is that!? That's got to be



pushing about a 9.5 right? Quack clearly didn't have much experience with firearms, but had formed numerous casts to fit ski poles during his time as a doctor at Copper



Mountain ski area. Well, for me his experience paid off, because when he was done my cast fit that Sig Sauer like a glove. The next day of course we were off to the Frog King, an airbrush artist, to have the Sig Sauer logo painted on. That's right, I got bling

on my custom cast, it even had a blue flame job on the edges! Now we've gone clear past a 10 on the cool scale. This was now officially (for this 13 year old) the coolest thing ever.



The very next morning, we got up early, and drove to Rifle

(Continued on page 34)

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Simplified Instruction for Stage Management, Flow and Briefings

by Ron Rhoden A00831

The following article is part one of a two part article. We had to break it up due to its length. I encourage everyone to pay close attention to what Ron has to say even if you are not a MD or SO. Ron has been a long time SO and Frank Glover, of Carolina Cup fame, has called Ron one of the best SO's he has ever worked with. Ron has graciously taken the time to write down what has worked best for him and share that here. His dissection of stage management should be a model for all SO's. Ron also offered to allow his email to be posted here should you have questions. You may contact Ron at rgrhoden@aol.com.

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this instruction is to suggest methods for SOs to improve clarity of stage briefs and control of stage flow during IDPA matches. This instruction should be considered as a supporting document for the IDPA SO training class.

2. Responsibilities:

The responsibilities of the CSO/SO are to maintain safe conditions on the range and to provide an efficient and precise set of instructions that allows the shooter to safely and successfully complete a stage or course of fire.

When you volunteer to be an SO, you are helping the match director sell entertainment. The best way that you can contribute is to safely and efficiently keep the flow of the match going. Ever been to a great match with great stages and have to wait 2 hours to shoot each stage? How did it make you feel?

What did you remember about the match?

3. Methods of Stage Flow Management:

The following is a discussion on the three methods of stage flow management; Verbal Instruction, Physical Demonstration, and Stage Presence. It is not intended to be a full and complete set of instructions. Stage design dictates the methods of verbal instruction or physical demonstration OR a combination of the two.

3.1 Verbal Instruction:

A simple rule of verbal instruction is "tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them, and then tell them what you told them". It is very important that you know what you are going to say, in the fewest possible words, in a business like manner and maintain your primary purpose. Primary purpose? To safely and efficiently get a shooter through the course of fire, period. This may be a combination of reading the description or "just telling" them what the scenario is or a combination of both. I find that the combo method works best, but unless you can communicate quickly and precisely OR it is a blind stage, questions can become a problem. Know what you are going to say and say it in a direct business-like manner.

Pre-match communications with the match director/range master is important. Their perspective on the intent of the stage should guide your instructions. Some Match directors/Range masters demand that the scenario sets the "mood", i.e. the bank hold up, car jack, etc. Many dedicated people

volunteer their time and efforts into designing and placing these stages. While the scenario may not be important to you as the CSO/SO, it is to the designer. Important: if you start with it you finish with it, every shooter gets the same briefing.

Use clear, precise words and try to get into a cadence of instruction. People learn best in different ways. It will be beneficial to use both verbal and visual instructions. Whether you read it off the page or from memory get it straight in your head and say it the same way each time. Yes it is boring, yes it is direct, but say it in a rhythm, say it clearly, say it directly and say the same thing to everyone. Do not leave a shooter with indecision. You are there to help the shooter be successful, not guess what you want so you can assess procedurals when they get it wrong. The worst thing a CSO/SO can do is assess a penalty for a procedural brought about by your own failure to provide clear instructions.

We also need to talk about CSO/SO presence. Some have called it command presence, stage presence, etc. Simply stated, it is a "listen to me, I am here to get you through this, and I control the flow" attitude. This can be accomplished by being confident, straight forward and accessible to the shooter. Notice I did not say loud, obnoxious, belligerent, nazi-like or rude. Nothing wrong with being friendly, joking, clowning around, whatever you want to call it, BEFORE the brief. I found that a simple statement before the brief of "OK, lets get our head into the game, I am going to tell you how

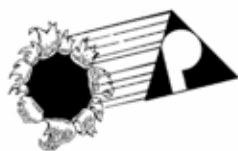
(Continued on page 33)

2010 Mountain Valley Regional

by Ryan Reed A25482

Mountain Valley Sportsman's Association hosted their annual Regional match on March 27, 2010. MVSA is an IDPA affiliated club, located in a beautiful wooded area, just outside of Hot Springs, Arkansas. In addition to two monthly club matches, they host two sanctioned matches each year – one in the spring and another at the end of the summer. Larry Powell and Steve Freeman have been match directors there for some time and always have a challenging match planned for their competitors. This year would not be an exception. The time and effort put into this match was shown in the creativity displayed with each of its 10 stages. This year's theme was "Natural Disasters." Each stage represented some aspect of "man vs. nature," in one form or another.

Stage 1, "Mudslide," placed the shooter trying to avoid kidnapping in the middle of a mudslide. Starting position was seated in a chair that rolled on a track attached to a skateboard ramp. The chair was placed at the highest point on the right side of the ramp and was released at the buzzer.



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The shooter then engaged multiple partially obscured targets while riding back and fourth on the ramp.

Stage 2, "Victory to the Pot," was injected with creativity and humor. Upon arriving home, the shooter was struck with the sensation of an impending bowel movement. Bad news is the home is being robbed! While keeping the weak had on their bottom, the shooter moved through the house, engaging targets strong hand only. Once the commode was reached, there was no relief, as sitting on the commode triggered a door to open, revealing three targets that were to be engaged in tactical sequence, freestyle.



Stage 3 and 4 were taken straight out of a Stephen King novel/movie. "The Shining Maze" had the shooter move through a maze mixed with threats and non-threats during a blizzard. Each threat was to be engaged with two to the body and one to the head. There was actually artificial snow on this stage, provided by a snow machine that worked quite well. "Here's Johnny" was taken from that famous "ax to the door" scene from the same movie. The shooter started facing a closed door with a small portion of the center cut out. An ax was also protruding from it, obscuring some of the view. The shooter engaged three targets through the small opening and around the ax handle.

(Continued on page 30)



2010 S&W IDPA Indoor National Championship

by Tricia Kennedy A38924

Dear Dad-

Well, I survived the biggest shoot-out of my life: the 2010 IDPA Indoor National Championships at Smith & Wesson. Amid a February Nor'easter blizzard, shooters from all over the world traveled through half a foot of snow to challenge their ability to defend themselves.

IDPA was created in 1996 to offer self-defense and real-life encounters to test an individual's skill and ability with practical handguns, drawn from concealment. There are over 13,500 members who compete in 5 divisions: Custom Defensive Pistol (CDP) is .45ACP semi-auto, Enhanced Service Pistol (ESP) is 9mm or higher caliber semi-auto, Stock Service Pistol (SSP) is 9mm or higher caliber double-action, Stock Service Revolver (SSR) is .38 or higher caliber revolver, and Enhanced Service Revolver (ESR) is .38 or higher caliber double-action.

You must compete in a classifier match to get ranked as Novice, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert or Master (I classified as a Marksman with my few months experience as an IPSC shooter).

The Smith & Wesson IDPA National Championship is the most premiere match for IDPA, think Olympics, so I have no idea how I ended up there! There were 260 competitors, including 10 women of which I was one, competing over 3 days. There were military, coast guard, law enforcement, pros, and of course, us civilians. The most interesting character I saw was an older



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gentleman wearing a digitized-military-camo-print KILT. Who says a man can't defend himself in a skirt?!

Smith & Wesson's indoor facility has thousands of square feet in which to play. There were 12 stages (two with 2 strings of fire), all decorated with props for real-life scenarios. You are squadded in groups of 12, I was lucky to be squadded with Larry Schiffman, my friend from my local range, who convinced me I should shoot IDPA. So, I had my Wilson .45ACP with my Bladotech holster and double magazine pouch, Gunsite webbed belt, Surefire flashlight, 511

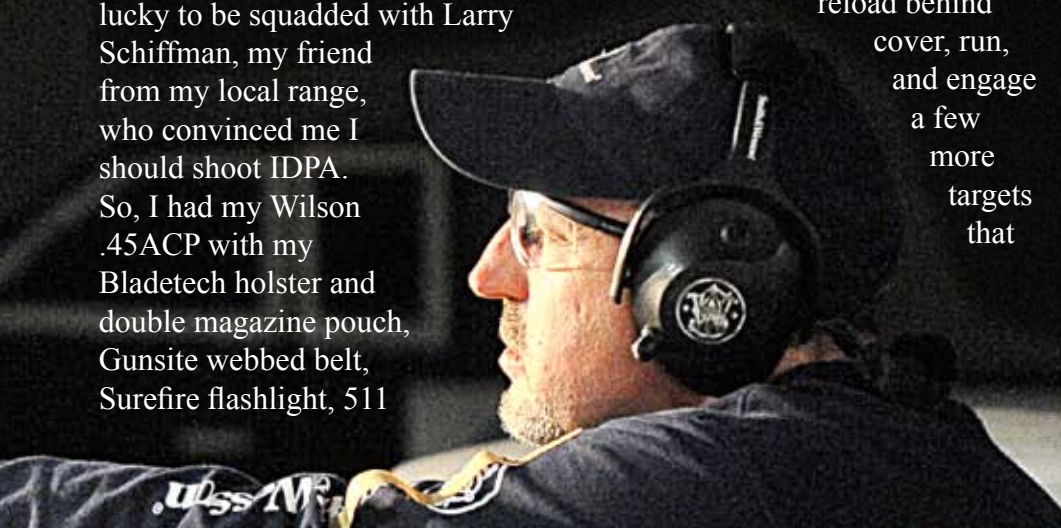
match is unique, because half the match is conducted in the dark, low light, and/or bright lights shining in your eyes. This first scenario was *Witness Unprotected*: you are on your way to court to testify when confronted by friends of the defendant. You must use the courthouse column for cover-engage three targets with 2 rounds to the body, 1 to the head, reload behind

cover, run, and engage a few more targets that

don't want you to testify. Only thing is that it was dark and your field of vision in between the columns was only 4" wide. And now I know it was recommended for shooters to use copper-jacketed bullets... that lead I was shooting was so smoky, I felt like I was shooting through a fireplace. Lesson learned: use copper-jacketed bullets for major indoor matches with low-light/no-light stages and save yourself 50 points down in actually being able to see what you are shooting at. Low and below, after the smoke cleared, I actually got all my hits! I was ecstatic-first stage down, no mikes, go the shakes out. Little did I know what was still ahead of me...

(Continued on page 25)

Photo courtesy of Yamil Sued.



tactical pants with extra pockets for storage, Cabela's concealment vest, my S&W Military Police baseball cap, and I was ready to defend myself.

We get to the first stage... and it was dark! This Smith & Wesson



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2010 IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY INFORMATION

September 22 - 25, Tulsa, OK

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

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

Participants: Limited to 250 entries on a first come/first served basis. All applicants must be current IDPA members with a classification of Marksman or higher and have shot TWO sanctioned IDPA matches between June 1, 2009 and June 1, 2010.

Entries must be POSTMARKED (NOT RECEIVED) NO EARLIER than June 1, 2010. Fed Ex and UPS entries must sent no earlier than June 1, also. Any entries received prior to this date will be squadded after July 1, 2010, only if there are openings left. **Exception: Safety Officers. Please see SO Application for details.**

If you wish to be squadded with another person or persons, your applications and fees must be mailed together. Squad size will be limited to 12 people per squad. We will not be able to change squadding once the match is full. We will make every attempt to place you in your first choice of shooting dates and squadding requests, however, we obviously cannot guarantee all requests.

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

Entry Fee:

\$165 until July 1, 2010. \$185 after July 1, 2010.

(Entry fees for Foreign Members are to be paid by credit card only.)

Includes the match and all festivities.

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

Make checks payable to IDPA.

Events:

Wed., Sep. 22	7-9 pm	Competitor Sign-in / Hospitality Room open
Thu., Sep. 23	7-9 pm	Competitor Sign-in / Hospitality Room open
Fri., Sep. 24	On your own	
Sat., Sep. 25	7-10 pm	Dinner & Awards Ceremony

(Events listed above are located at the Match Headquarters Hotel)

Location: United States Shooting Academy, Tulsa, OK

www.usshootingacademy.com

Match Headquarters Hotel:

Hilton Tulsa Southern Hills

7900 S. Lewis Ave.

Tulsa, OK 74136

Phone: 918-492-5000

Fax: 918-492-7256

Website: to be posted on our
championship info page

The group rate is \$79.00/night.

Match Director: Curt Nichols

The talented winner of the IDPA National Championship Logo contest is Bob Bruining. We want to thank all of the members that sent in their great ideas. It was hard narrowing it down to just one choice. We hope everyone enjoys Bob's work.



2010 IDPA Championship Entry Form

September 22 - 25, Tulsa, OK

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

NAME _____ IDPA # _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____

By applying for entry into the IDPA National Championship, I hereby irrevocably consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA), or anyone authorized by IDPA, of any and all photographs which IDPA has taken during the IDPA National Championship and all associated functions of me, negative or positive, for any purpose whatsoever, without any compensation to me. All negatives and positives together with all prints shall constitute IDPA's property, solely and completely. And/or I hereby give my consent for IDPA to use any written quote I have given IDPA and/or my name and title in any and all of IDPA's advertising, magazines, catalog (whether printed or website) and etc. without any compensation to me.

SHOOTING DAY: There is no guarantee that you will receive your first choice, nor is there an option to shoot the entire match on Friday or Saturday. **Making the same choice could mean that you won't be able to get a slot.** (Circle either "Thursday" or "Friday/Saturday" for each choice only.)

ONE LUNCH is included in your entry fee. Please designate which day you will be eating at the range. (Additional Lunches are available for purchase at \$8 each.)

CHOICE	SHOOTING DAY(S)		LUNCH DAY		
First	Thursday	Friday/Saturday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Second	Thursday	Friday/Saturday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

NUMBER ATTENDING DINNER SATURDAY EVENING: _____

DIVISION
 _____ CDP
 _____ ESP
 _____ SSP
 _____ ESR
 _____ SSR

CLASSIFICATION
 _____ MA
 _____ EX
 _____ SS
 _____ MM

Entry Fee: \$165 (before 7/1/10) or _____
 \$185 (after 7/1/10)

Additional Lunches: Thursday _____ x \$8 _____
 Friday _____ x \$8 _____
 Saturday _____ x \$8 _____

Total: _____

SUB-CATEGORY (SELECT ONLY ONE)

_____ Senior (50 - 64)	_____ Lady	_____ Law Enforcement	_____ International
_____ Dist. Senior (65 +)	_____ Military	_____ Industry	_____ Press
_____ Junior (12 - 18)	_____ Military Veteran		

Sanctioned Matches shot between June 1, 2009, and June 1, 2010:

Include copies of 2 scoresheets as proof. **Without proof, your entry form is considered incomplete and will not be accepted.** Please ONLY include 2 matches. If the match name is not printed on score sheet, please include the match name.

No match fee refunds will be made for any reason after September 1st.
 Make checks payable to IDPA.

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

SAFETY OFFICER APPLICATION

2010 IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP

September 22 - 25, Tulsa, OK

Safety Officer, please send your entry form and SO application in starting May 18.

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

NAME _____ MEMBER # _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE # _____ E-MAIL _____

SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING CLASS DATE: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

YEARS OF COMPETITIVE SHOOTING: _____

YEAR/S PREVIOUSLY WORKED CHAMPIONSHIP: 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09

(Circle all that apply)

HAVE ORGANIZED OR SO'd STATE LEVEL MATCHES: YES NO

(Circle one)

HAVE ORGANIZED OR SO'd CLUB LEVEL MATCHES: YES NO

(Circle one)

GENERAL ITINERARY FOR SAFETY OFFICERS:

Wednesday	September 22	Safety Officers Shoot Match
Thursday	September 23	Work Match
Friday	September 24	Work Match
Saturday	September 25	Work Match & Awards Ceremony

Random Shots

"New Shooter Intro to IDPA"

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

by **Thomas Pinney A24541**

Every successful IDPA club welcomes new shooters. The question is how do you welcome them? IDPA HQ strongly recommends that clubs appoint an experienced shooter to administer a basic safety program for shooters new to IDPA. The rule book lists eleven items that should be covered in this training. All of these items are good and useful things to cover with new shooters. The problem is, often new shooters show up a half hour before the match is scheduled to begin and there is no time for a lengthy training session.

We at Thunder Tactical Shooters have a standard program we use to indoctrinate new shooters so that they can shoot safely, have fun, and are more likely to come back to enjoy IDPA events again. New shooter orientation is just as faithfully followed as the Safety Officer walk through.

New shooters are identified, brought to a quiet area, and given a more or less standard briefing by one of our recognized New Shooter Guides. After mutual

introductions, the first question asked is "Do you have your gun with you?" This gives the Guide an opportunity to see the new shooter's holster and pistol and verify that they are IDPA safe. The next question asked is "Is your gun loaded?" We explain that we run a 'cold range'; no one is to load a firearm at any time until they have been called up to the line and specifically instructed to 'load and

make ready'. The Guide emphasizes that although ammunition can be handled any time during the match, all pistols must remain holstered and unloaded until the shooter is specifically directed to load. If anyone does have a loaded weapon (which is rare) we go to the safe area right then and unload them.

After safe firearm handling rules are covered, the Guide talks a little bit about what we are going to do during the match. New shooters are told that the priorities in their first match should be to 1) shoot safely and 2) have fun. While this is a competition they should not worry about competing with other shooters, many of whom have been competing for years. Instead new shooters need to be safe and shoot within their abilities. We explain they can expect to engage multiple targets, shoot while moving, engage targets in specific sequence, and reload all while being timed. The Guide stresses again it is best to go slow and steady the first time out.

New shooters sometimes ask if this is 'tactical training'. We assure them it is not. For one thing we are keeping score, and most importantly no one is shooting back.

The next steps cover the four cardinal rules of gun safety and how those are applied in the upcoming match.

1) Treat all guns as if they are loaded
You must keep the gun safely holstered until you are called to the line and instructed by the Safety Officer to "load and make ready." After the end of each stage you will be instructed to "unload and show clear". Even after an SO has looked into the open action of your gun and verified that it is clear, continue to treat the gun as though it will go off when you pull the trigger. That means point it at the berm; not up in the air and not at their feet.

2) Never point a gun that something you are not prepared to shoot
That will be the IDPA targets that do not have black surrender hands painted on them. It does not mean barricades, props, and it especially does not mean the SO!

3) Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot
This is by far the hardest part of the safety rules to follow during a match. We demonstrate with our hands what a 'straight safe' finger looks like. The new shooters are informed that when they are moving they



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must have their fingers out of the trigger guard until their sights are on the target. If the SO sees that finger inside the trigger guard he will call out 'Finger'. That means to immediately assume a 'straight safe' finger until sights are back on the target.

4) Always be sure of your target and what is behind it. The stages will always have a safe backstop or berm behind targets. If you engage the targets and only the targets you will be fine. If you do discharge a round that goes over or somewhere other than the berm or goes into the ground within six feet of you, you will be disqualified from the rest of the match.

Once the safety rules are reviewed the guide goes over what will happen when they are called up to the line. The Guide assures them that they will be nervous; even highly experienced shooters get the flutters just before they shoot-it is part of the charm of our sport. We tell them that 'the main thing you have to remember is to stay within yourself and shoot safely. Do not try to go as fast as the other shooters. If you keep the muzzle downrange and hit the targets you will do fine.' The next thing they will hear are the commands to 'Face Downrange, Load and Make ready'. At this point in the briefing we explain what the concept of Division Capacity means. Most people these days have high capacity magazines and so will have to download the magazines to meet the requirements. The next command is 'Shooter Ready'. They are told how to indicate when they are ready. The next command is 'standby'. Sometimes we will set off a timer for them so they hear what a timer sounds like. Newbies are assured that the timer buzz has been known to erase memory and temporarily subtract IQ points. We discuss how to use barricades for cover and the safe way to move with a gun. When they have completed the stage the new shooter will simply stop shooting and point the gun at the berm with a safe straight finger. The SO will ask the shooter to 'unload and show a clear gun'. The new shooters are reminded to remove the magazine first, then rack the slide and leave it open so the SO can look into the chamber to confirm it is empty. He will say, 'Slide

Down', telling the shooter to release the slide, 'Hammer', meaning drop the hammer by pointing the gun at the berm and pulling the trigger, and 'Holster'. That is the command to safely stow the

pistol until called up for the next run.

Now that the first-time shooters understand what and how the stages are conducted the Guide goes over the other calls the Safety Officer may make during the run besides 'Finger'. 'Cover' means that the shooter needs to move farther behind available cover until at least half the body is behind cover. The other two commands are more urgent. 'Muzzle', usually spoken as "MUZZLE!" means the shooter's muzzle is pointing in an unsafe direction. Safety Officers become very excited and unhappy when they see the black hole of the business end of gun muzzle pointed their way. New shooters are informed that pointing a muzzle in an unsafe direction is a disqualification violation, and are given tips how to avoid this embarrassment. The other dramatic SO call is 'Stop'. This command means immediately cease fire and point the gun in a safe direction, meaning at the berm or backstop. The SO will either ask the shooter to unload and show clear, or will come over and take the gun from the shooter to clear and return it. Stop can be called for a variety of issues. A prop may have failed, the shooter's gun may have a serious malfunction, or there may have been an unsafe action such as someone wandering into the stage.

There are several things that can go wrong during a run. The most common problem relates to the pistol not firing. Should this happen during a stage, the new shooters are told 'don't panic'. A jammed pistol is an opportunity not a disaster. Part of any firearms training should include what to do when the darned things don't work. Learning to clear malfunctions may be one of the most underrated skills learned in IDPA shooting.

Another 'bad thing' is falling down. We teach that if you fall, stop shooting, concentrate on keeping the muzzle downrange, and have a 'safe straight' finger off the trigger; the SO will help as necessary to keep everyone safe. Falling is not necessarily a disqualifying event. It is, however always embarrassing. Don't try to go too fast.

Dropping a loaded firearm is a Very Bad Thing. The first thing we tell shooters is that if you drop your gun, **LET IT GO**. Modern firearms have drop safeties and most likely will not discharge if dropped, even loaded. They will, however go off if you reach for them and grab the trigger by mistake. Dropping a loaded gun will cause a disqualification from the rest of the match which is embarrassing. Trying to catch a gun in midair can have fatal consequences.

Finally we tell the new shooters to relax and enjoy their first event. We will score their round but tell them not worry about how they shoot; just shoot within their abilities and have fun. We remind them that after this match they will be far more familiar with how to operate their gun and will be vastly better able to defend themselves if it comes to that. And they may discover an exciting new hobby.



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Next stage, believe it or not, was even darker. In fact, all the lights were OFF. I began wondering how safe it actually was for all these strangers to be in the pitch black with firearms, but I guess that's what makes America and this sport so great- the freedom to shoot in the dark and have a blast doing it. **Home From the Range:** while putting away equipment in your shop, the lights go out and you have to get some bad guys. You start at the table, empty gun, magazine next to the gun, and flashlight on the table. Then it went black. I could feel my heart beating so hard in my chest I thought I wouldn't hear the timer. "Shooter ready?" I hear from somewhere far behind me. "I'm ready," I say, then thinking, "what if I can't find that flashlight, how will I load my gun and get all those targets?" My thoughts were jolted by beeeeeep! Luckily I found the light, pointed it on target while it was still on the table, in dim light threw my mag into the gun, chambered a round, and was off. I blasted 3 rounds to that target, ran, knelt, then held the light with my weak hand and shot strong-handed for two more targets, 3 rounds to the body, one to they head, all in the dark.

In between these stages, one of the Range Officers retrieved one of my magazines to chronograph my ammunition. They weighed my Wilson .45 with magazine and performed their scientific experiment to confirm I was shooting with equipment and ammo within the rules. I got a big smile and I was off to continue shooting.

Wrong Floor: After concluding your business at your local bank,



your elevator opens into the garage level where you walk into a holdup of local patrons. As the elevator door opens, two assailants charge you while others are holding hostages. So the key here is drawn like the Wild West, because those bad guys are flying down the rails at you, then drop out of sight right before your very eyes. The guy who went right before me warned me to draw and shoot really fast, since his bullet holes were observed as elongated, meaning he engaged the targets as they were already falling, so the SO decided those shots didn't count. I begin by standing in front of the closed elevator door, waiting to push the buttons and begin my quick draw dual. Beep! I pushed the button, threw my vest back, drew my weapon like Annie Oakley, got 3 shots on both before they dropped, shot at another behind cover, reloaded, then, ran ahead to finish the stage. Unfortunately, only two shots of those six fired at the bank holdup guys made it. However, my consoling thought was that at least I put 1 hole in each of them before they disappeared.

Next, we found ourselves amid a verdant green golf course scenario, complete with golf bag, clubs, palm trees concealing targets, and

even green grass, which was a nice visual relief from all the snow outside. These next two stages were designed and run by the Coast Guard Combat Team. **Terror on the Green:** you are serving undercover protection detail for a foreign dignitary. While your client is enjoying a round of golf, things go bad for you and your team. After dropping your golf club, fight your

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for moving like a turtle.

No matter, I was off to the next challenge, **ATM**

Holdup: you are attacked while stopping at an ATM machine at

full-auto Uzi. I transitioned to the beaming headlights, went for the engine block to stop the car coming at me (which was 3 steel plates), then engaged the driver. Reloaded behind cover of the car, then dashed over to engage a mover flying at me like the Bionic Man, and finished by shooting at another disappearing act.

At this point, I'm wondering when we would break for lunch, not so much because I was hungry, but because my mind needed a rest from all this self-defense! But, we had one more stage before break-time. It was a trip to the **Barber**

way through the green, dropping assailants as fast as possible, while shooting continuously on the move. Now, what seems straightforward at first sight, is actually much more difficult as you fight through it. I start fighting my way through targets, engaging the immediate threat of the close ones first, activate steel that send off a swinger (not my favorite), as I slowly creep along the green. I felt good about the way I protected my foreign dignitary, especially since I myself have lived all over the world and knew I would do a good job. However, this stage was being SO-ed by the Coast Guard Combat Team and the militaristic SO gave me a procedural for advancing too slowly with robotic-steps. Lesson learned: practice stealthy Ninja step to avoid another 5-point procedural

night, **IN YOUR CAR.** Yes, you begin seated in a real car, left hand stretched out straight like you are pushing buttons on the machine, right hand out the window holding a wallet, and the door is locked. I'm not sure why we didn't have to buckle-up as well, but I wasn't going to make it any more

difficult! On signal, I dropped that wallet, jumped out of the car, my feet hit the ground, and I drew my gun to start firing. Oh, did I mention this stage was very low light, except for the middle part where headlights blinded you straight on. As I'm blastin' away, 3 rounds each, I begin hedging my head through the billowing smoke from those lead bullets. Lesson learned: even if you can't see your target, but you know roughly where it is and you know it's going to disappear quickly, shoot like you've got a



Photo courtesy of Yamil Sued.

Shop: while getting a haircut you are accosted by local thug 'Big Al' demanding his tribute. I start seated in the barber chair "getting a hair cut," complete with barbershop cape, hands on knees under the cape. At the beep, I whipped my hands out to pick up a loaded S&W J-frame for 4 shots to the body, 1 to the head. However, I've only shot a revolver a couple times in my life and had no idea that this J-frame had a 50lb. trigger-pull. I squeezed with my little hand and nothing happened. I took a precious second to stare at the gun

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in amazement, wondering how this thing worked and where that laser was they said was on it. Then, with several profanities running through my head as the timer ticked away, I muscled that revolver with all my might, sans laser, and my shots rang through the barrel! Then I jumped up, drew my own weapon, and continued to engage Big Al's mob amid parked cars. No record-setting time on that one, but down just a few points, and targets neutralized.

After breaking for lunch, ironically enough, we were on to **Dinner Dash**: while having dinner at a friend's restaurant, you hear screaming and gunfire. Thugs from a local gang have come to "shake down" your friend. Protect him and the other staff. (I'm quietly thinking to myself why I would have chosen such a bad part of town in which to have dinner.) You begin seated at the dinner table, complete with table settings and menus, holding cutlery in both hands, wrists touching table. I whipped out my .45, slicing the pie right to left, engaging three targets, 2 shots each. My brain must have still been out to lunch, for I did a tac reload while seated, before running to the buffet to take out some more thugs. Another

reload was needed, but this one I did on the move behind a brick wall and finished off the last three targets. I did shoot through a two handed-printed no-shoot, but luckily it was on the outer edge and didn't break the perf, so I was spared more points down. Lesson learned: unlike in IPSC, where you never want to be in slide-lock, in IDPA this saves you time

from performing a tactical reload of retaining the partially loaded magazine. Shame on me for trying to eat and shoot at the same time.

On to **Another Home Invasion**: while holding a cleaning supplies box, run to the table, get your unloaded gun out of a closed box, retrieve your mag from the table, load it, chamber a round, and get to protecting your abode. Luckily, before I began this stage, one of the nice Range Officers whispered in my ear that the disappearing target vanished in a flash. So, if I actually wanted to hit it, I better point and shoot and forget about lining up my pretty sights. After shooting the first target, which activated that disappearing one, I did my best to hit it, ending up with only 1 out of 2 shots on paper. I went on to reload behind cover of a house wall, then engaged three more



Photo courtesy of Yamil Sued.



a loaded S&W M&P with mounted light, flip light on with trigger finger, and get going. I'm standing there, in the dark, ready to go, shoulders

targets, while a snake-like swinger intermittently covered all three targets.

Finally, we approached the last three stages of the match, which were in complete darkness. The shooters were to complete these stages, one after another, with a 19 round minimum. The first state, in utter darkness, was to pick up

slightly slouched to keep myself relaxed and slouched because it had been a long day of shooting. Suddenly, I hear from behind me, "Stand up straight!" "What?" I'm

thinking, "how did my mom get in here?!?" This SO was ex-military and somehow, in the pitch-black, he surmised me trying

to game the stage by slouching. Immediately respecting his orders, I straightened up and tried not to laugh at myself in the dark. The next stage had the added attraction of glaring headlights right before your eyes. *Blinded By The Light* (my favorite song by The Hit Crew) was three targets to be engaged in tactical sequence 1-1-2-1-1. The last stage, also in complete darkness, began with strong hand on rope that activated swinger, weak hand by your side. Upon

signal, locate your flashlight, turn it on, pick up weapon, chamber a round, and engage 1 round to the body, 1 round to the head in tactical priority. Again, I was chastised in the pitch black for slouching (he must have been wearing infrared goggles), so I straightened up and started shooting. I finished the last stage of twelve stage, strongly, very happy I had successfully completed such a huge match without Hits on Non-Threats, Failures to Neutralize, Failures to Do Right, Zeroing a stage, DNFin, DQing, or generally shooting anything that didn't need to be shot.

At the conclusion of the match, the results were as follows:



CDP Champion: David Olhasso, ESP Champion: Robert Vogel, SSP Champion: Dave Sevigny, ESR Champion: Jerry Miculek, SSR Champion: Josh Lentz, High Senior: Scott Warren, High Lady: Randi Rogers.

In my classification of CDP Marksman and the only female shooting a .45, I finished 7th out of 15 competitors. It was an amazing experience of challenging and innovative stages and I'm already looking at the calendar for when to

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shoot my next IDPA match.

Driving through a snow-globe winter storm back to Connecticut that afternoon, Larry and I did what shooters do best: we re-hashed each stage in excruciating detail, trying to figure out what we could have done better and what needs work. My biggest take-away was ACCURACY. Unlike in IPSC, where I was always happy my hits were on the paper, IDPA is all about accuracy. Even though I have all my hits on some stages, much to my chagrin my hits were on the fringe, therefore adding more points to my score. Note to self: work on calling my shots with eyes open, watching front sight track back to where it started from, all without flinching. There were a plethora of other notes to myself, including practicing quick draws and table draws, shooting from behind cover, strong/weak hand, those lovely swingers and disappearing targets, reloads, and faster movement altogether. Overall, more time on the range practicing!

I would not have been able to

compete in this even without the fantastic support of some great people. A BIG THANK YOU to: Smith & Wesson, Match Staff, and the Range and Safety Officers who ran a safe match; Larry Schiffman, for believing I was up to the challenge; Bill Judice, for getting me to join the range in the first place and for being the best practice buddy; Jules Magyari, Jr., for coaching me to hold on tightly to that .45 and for reminding me to keep my eyes open after each blast; Paul Kohloff, for being my reloader (copper heads on order!); Brian O'Donnell (retired Greenwich Police Lieutenant), for cheering me on to go after the big

boys; The Monday night gang, for telling me to "man-up"; Matt at Wilson, for expediting work on my .45, which ran like a charm; Julie Goloski-Golob, for somehow remembering who I was and sending me a good luck message on Facebook; and finally, a huge thank you to you, Dad, for letting your little girl shoot a .45 at age 9, so that she could pick it up thirty years later and be able to defend herself successfully.

Your gunslinger girl,
Tricia

Tricia began shooting at age 9 with her father, Peter Sherwood, a former Naval Officer. Her father believed that firearm education and
(Continued on page 36)



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Stage 5, "Hurricane Kim," had the shooter fending off looters during landfall of Hurricane Kim. This stage required the shooter to engage two targets through a waterfall from the end of a hallway, move down the hallway and engage two more targets. The shooter then activated an MGM charging target, setup to move right to left through a 10 ft. opening behind the waterfall. The target crossed the gap in 1.5 seconds and required 3 rounds, which proved to be quite challenging. To add another degree of difficulty, two leaf blowers were directed down the hallway, simulating hurricane strength winds.

Stage 6, "Earthquake", placed the shooter up against angry looters during an earthquake. Three seesaw style walkways gave the



shooter unsteady ground in which to engage multiple targets through windows. The movement of the walkways also made using proper cover a challenge. An additional bonus was an R&R Targets pressure pad, which activated a swinger waiting at the end of the hallway.

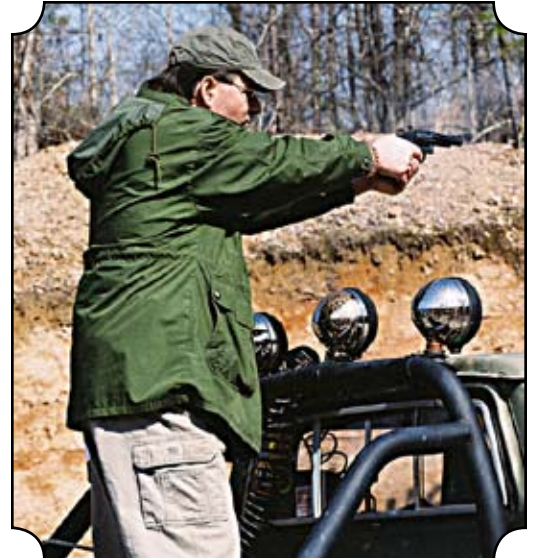
Stage 7 and 8 shared one of the larger bays offered at MVSA. "Wildfire" left the shooter dazed from smoke inhalation during a wildfire.

Starting prone with the pistol resting on the mat, the shooter retrieved the pistol and engaged three targets from underneath a truck. To add a level of difficulty,



engagement was required in tactical priority, strong hand only. A fog machine projected smoke underneath the truck, reducing visibility. "Wreck Wrath" featured a mangled mess of vehicles, simulating an interstate pile-up. The shooter engaged two targets from the cab of a van, then exited the vehicle and engaged four more through a window at the rear of the van. Another fog machine filled the van with smoke, making target acquisition a challenge.

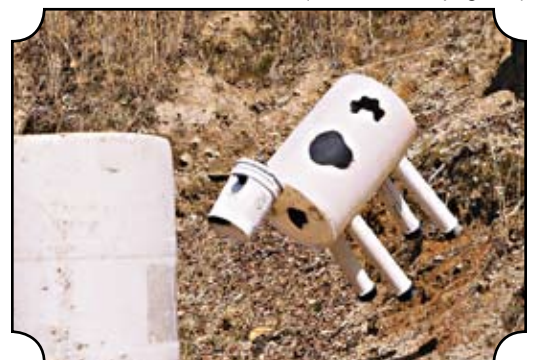
Stage 9, "National Guard," placed the shooter



as a member of the National Guard deployed during a natural disaster. The shooter was manning an M60, which jams when the convoy runs into a hostile roadblock. The shooter was given the opportunity to fire an air powered BB machine gun from the turret, off the clock. After the fun, 6 targets were engaged from the turret of the Humvee in tactical priority. "Real" hard cover, including a wooden fence and a vehicle, added a level of difficulty.

Stage 10, "Twister," brought another movie to life. While deploying some weather monitoring equipment during a tornado, the shooter is forced to repel a rival group of tornado chasers. Starting at the weather equipment, two targets were engaged while retreating to the truck – one from retention and the second freestyle. At the

(Continued on page 31)





truck, opening the door activated exactly what you expect to see during a tornado, a FLYING COW. The swinging cow partially obstructed the three remaining targets as they were engaged from the door of the truck.

This was one of the most creative matches I have ever participated in. It was challenging as a shooter and equally rewarding as a Safety Officer. The stage design included things I never dreamed of seeing in an IDPA match. Larry and Steve did a wonderful job of putting this together. Being the gentlemen they are, refused to take all of the credit. They credited the hard work of their Safety Officers on the setup day and match day as the reasons things went so well. I must also mention Kim Powell, who did an amazing job compiling the scores. Once again, scores were posted minutes after the final shots were fired. The match lunch was BBQ and was excellent – I have yet to find a better baked potato salad! Larry, Steve and the other guys and gals at MVSA put on another exceptional match for us this year. I can't wait to see what they have planned for us at their "Shoot, Rattle and Roll" match this August. Information on this club and its matches can be found at www.MVSAonline.com.

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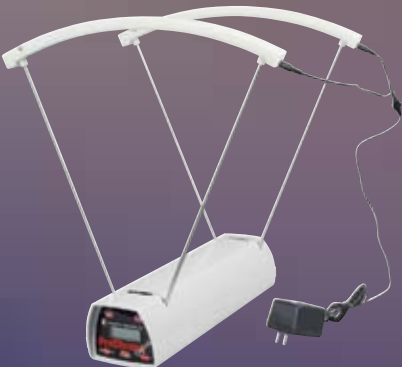
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westernslopearegional2010@gmail.com
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August 14, 2010**2010 Ontario Provincial
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Chatham, Ontario, Canada
Ken Soucie
519-250-9829 h
519-250-8048 w
ksoucie@cogeco.ca
Connie Doe Burgess
519-919-9547 h & w
cburgess11@cogeco.ca
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Harvard, MA
John T. Catterall
508-400-7488 h
508-400-7488 w
jtcatterall@yahoo.com
David Solimini
978-621-0609 h & w
soliminis@comcast.net
www.metrowesttactical.com

August 21, 2010**WA State IDPA Championship**

Renton, WA

Richard Breneman
206-365-1674 h
206-428-0538 w
rick45x8@yahoo.com
Dan Michels
206-931-3073 w
425-251-8405 fax
northwestsection.org/waidpac10

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

St. Louis, 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

August 28 - 29, 2010**2010 MI State IDPA
Championship**

Dorr, MI
Tom Tiethoff
616-644-2573 h
616-644-0369 w
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Mike Visser
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September 5, 2010**TX Labor Day Annual Regional**

Hempstead, TX
Garry Newton
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281-341-8223 fax
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Said M. Abou Merhi
713-459-9981 h
713-984-7600 w
713-984-7601 fax
said@awbusiness-solutions.com
whidpa.com

September 11, 2010**Tri-State Regional
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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

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Parma, ID
Aaron Goodfellow
208-454-6518 h
aarongoodfellow@hotmail.com
www.parmarnrg.org

September 18, 2010**Commonwealth Cup 2010**

Charlottesville, VA
Dave White
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5434-962-6601 w
dvwhite@mindspring.com
Dave Schullery
540-942-9664 h
540-649-3925 w
sicsempertyrannis@hotmail.com
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September 22 - 25, 2010**IDPA National Championship**

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870-545-3894 fax
info@idpa.com
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October 1 - 2, 2010**KY - TN Regional
Championship**

Puryear, TN
Terry Riley
919-217-8356 h
919-816-7457 w
trcubed@earthlink.net
Jerry Hunt
731-782-3940 h
731-707-0070 w
vhunt@wk.net
www.hcgc.net

October 8 - 9, 2010**2010 PA State Match**

Sciota, PA
Kevin Schlier
570-619-5063 h
570-656-5292 w
kevin@brcv-gun.org
Walt Jones
wn31if@gmail.com
www.brcv-gun.org/2010Pastate.htm

October 9, 2010**MS State IDPA Championship**

Saltillo, MS
Nicky Carter
662-869-1417 h
662-871-3346 w
tansu@prodigy.net

this is supposed to be shot, we need to be serious.” Then you get into the game and accomplish your primary purpose. What is your primary purpose? See section 2. You set the tone, you set the pace, and you set them up for success.

·Maybe the most important rule for a CSO/SO during the briefing time is... never, ever, ever ask “Are there any questions?”, after you give the brief. If you brief correctly, there should be no questions. Example: Course of fire is a Vickers count of 6 rounds to 3 targets, concealment garment required. 2 rounds slicing the pie from the right side of a wall, shoot them as you see them. Each target must receive 2 rounds before moving to the next shoot target. Are there any questions? Can I shoot them from the left side? Can I shoot the first target 6 times if I do not like my hits? After I shoot each target again after I have finished? Can I shoot each target 1 time then move to the next? Obviously, you have some new shooters. This is where the ‘read the instructions then show them what you want done’ comes into effect; do not try to answer everyone’s question individually. Demonstrate quickly what you want, you start in the starting position, you go “beep”, you get behind cover, you hold out your right hand and say, “shoot them as they come in view”, from cover (tap the edge of the wall with your hand), shoot a minimum of 2 rounds on the first target, then move to the second, etc. If they are new, take that extra time to explain. Also keep in mind, everyone has an off day, and may just not be on their “A” game. It can be completed quickly. Answering every question at once may help a group of new shooters understand and meet your primary purpose.

3.2 Physical Demonstration

·This method uses simplified verbal instructions while you, the CSO/SO, demonstrate the stage clearly, pointing to the targets with your hand or laser pointer, getting into the correct positions, moving to the next position, etc.

·This is the simplest method of course briefing there is, but the trickiest. The CSO/SO has to know the stage, has to be precise, has to be correct and has to give the exact same brief each time. There can be no deviations, no joking around, this is all on the CSO/SO. If you and the match director/range master agree to use this method, you have to be competent enough to give the briefing verbatim to each squad, each time.

·Simply tell them and show them what the course of fire is, step by step. Demonstrate quickly what you want. You start in the starting position, you go “beep”, you get behind cover, you hold out your right hand and say, “shoot them as they come in view”, from cover (tap the edge of the wall with your hand), shoot a minimum of 2 rounds on the first target, then move to the second, etc. If they are new, take that extra time to explain. This can be completed quickly.

·A confident presence is the most tangible asset you have when you use this method. The CSO/SO has to know the stage and what is required to complete the stage.

3.3 Stage Presence

·In the author’s opinion, this is the most significant factor in the success of a stage, match and shooter enjoyment.

·Some people are born with presences, some learn it, some accept leadership, and some do not. In any of these cases it’s about management of people, confidence, basic knowledge, average physical

level, and agility of mind. How a CSO/SO chooses to manage a stage is up to the match director/range master and the CSO/SO. How the stage is presented, is the key. If you know what you are doing, and you know the stage, and you can successfully communicate to the shooters, then you can be successful. You do not have to be loud, negative, or rude, but you have to be prepared to be direct and fair.

·Grab the attention of the audience. First impressions mean everything. Get their attention, be that by voice (loud or soft, but not screaming at them), holding up your hand, whatever works for you. Once you have their attention, start with a grabber statement, for example “OK, let’s get our head into the game, I am going to tell you how this is supposed to be shot, we need to be serious.” You have set the tone, they will listen.

·Speak clearly, directly and simply but in a business-like manner. Present your stage brief that you have worked out before-hand concisely.

·Standard shooter commands are given while you look at nothing but the gun. The IDPA rule book and SO training program sufficiently cover load and un-load commands. Only IDPA commands should be used.

·Awareness of what is going on around you is very important. Keep spectators back, out of shooter’s line of site. Picture takers can and will crowd the line, placing them in a fairly un-safe position for the sake of a picture. Be aware that safety is primary.

·There should be no doubt who is in control, who knows what is going on.

(To be continued in the Summer Issue of Volume 14.)





few mobility checks that involved me drawing and re-holstering, the safety officers cleared me and I was good to go. The group at Rifle was amazing;



Colorado for yet another match. The weather gods were frowning that day, because we had blizzard conditions at the range. Everybody got a huge kick out of my shiny new custom cast, but there was some initial concern about my ability to safely handle a firearm. After a



I've had a very unusual and exciting introduction to my favorite new sport, the IDPA, and hope that all of the matches we go to, (Dad promises to take me to a bunch) have such great people running and participating in them. This sport and the IDPA are truly awesome!

Thank you all so very much.

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they were very professional and gracious to the shooters new to the range. The stages had numerous moving targets and lots of action, including the infamous House Of Death, which the designers, known as, "The Giggle Boys," assured us no one would survive, (they were right). Despite the ugly weather, we had a great time and look forward to our next match at that range.



Upcoming Major Matches

(Continued from page 32)

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

October 17, 2010 ME State IDPA Championship

Scarborough, ME
Jamie Blow
207-286-6924 h & w
jamiethesquid@gmail.com
Clinton Staples
207-636-1597 h & w
clinton@gwi.net
www.scarfg.org

October 23, 2010 TN State Championship

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

October 23 - 24, 2010 Blackwater Shootout

Moyock, NC
Ron Reiner
757-351-3478 h
Jim Wilson
804-347-6790 h & w
804-288-7759 fax
turbomarine@yahoo.com
www.

defensiveshootersconfederation.com

October 30, 2010 2010 IDPA GA State Championship

Conyers, GA
Capel English
770-346-7771 h
678-324-2005 w
678-324-2095 fax
cenglish@snapsinc.com
Brett Hanus
404-936-7166 h
justcallmebrett@juno.com
www.gadpa.com

November 5 - 6, 2010 South Mountain Showdown

Phoenix, AZ
Bill Barron
623-505-8100 h & w
wilinaz1911@yahoo.com
George Lyle
480-704-7453 h
glyle@ix.netcom.com
phoenixrodandgun.
org/Divisions/Practical/
2010SouthMountainShowdown/
2010SouthMountainShowdown.htm



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The advertisement features a central image of a man, Ron Avery, wearing a dark cap, safety glasses, and a yellow and green shirt, aiming a handgun. To his left is a blue box of 'Preferred Plated Bullets' with a pile of gold-colored bullets in front of it. The background is dark with white and gold text.

Run a Better Match

(Continued from page 7)



Match Director Neil Glausier (right) uses leadership skills learned as a Staff Sergeant in the National Guard.

accordingly, as people will be watching and listening. Taking a procedural or scoring call with grace will have an effect down the line, as you will set the standard your shooters will follow. Treating people with courtesy and respect will be returned to both you and your staff. Congratulate the winners, even if you have lost. Be helpful to the new shooters, at your club and on the road. Paste and Reset on the stage. Be the IDPA shooter you hope to have on your range.

I think 2010 will be a great year for IDPA shooting. Ammo prices have returned slightly from the stratosphere, and ammo and primers are more available. New shooters are coming to the range in solid numbers. Clubs are growing and major matches are going strong. Plan your matches, be prepared, be responsive, and enjoy running your match.



At the end of the day, the Match Director is the one in charge. Be sure you are ready for the challenge.

Behind the Badge

(Continued from page 11)

It's hard for us today to imagine just how big a quantum leap the very notion of shooting on the move would have been to the shooters of the day when the "Mex" was introduced. The very thought of allowing shooters to move or run with a loaded gun was considered suicidal. Today, thanks to those pioneers, it is common practice to train in these essential skills. I like to compare firearms training with other athletic endeavors.

Remember, at one time a two-handed set shot was state of the art in NBA; but when was the last time you saw one in a basketball game? I'm sure 20 years from now they will look back on how we do things now and think how backward we were. In order to move forward, it's sometimes necessary to look to the past. That's why I think it's important to recognize the significance of the Mexican Defense Course and those early combat shooters who pushed the envelope to allow us to move into the future; and those contemporary greats like Ken Hackathorn who are still paving the way.

2010 S&W IDPA Indoor National Championship

(Continued from page 29)

experience would enable his two daughters' freedom and independence to pursue their lives with the ability to defend themselves, if ever necessary.

Tricia's interest in firearms resurfaced thirty years later when there was an attempted break-in at her home in Greenwich, CT. Her neighbor called her at 2am to inform her that 911 was on the way and that someone was in-progress of vandalizing her home. She was not prepared to defend herself or her family. This prompted Tricia to find a local range to re-familiarize herself with the 1911 Colt .45 her father had bought for her thirty years earlier. She started shooting Bullseye night at her local range, then progressed to IPSC night, and was encouraged to compete in matches. Tricia is the only female member of the Cos Cob Rifle & Revolver Shooting Team and has been competing USPSA (C class Ltd 10) for 11 months and IDPA (Marksman CDP) for 4 months. She earned Marksman certification at Gunsite Academy in Arizona in combat defensive pistol and attended Matt Burkett's IPSC course in Maine in 2009. She has had instruction at Smith & Wesson in tactical handgun and assault rifle, and shotgun at the Orvis Sandanona Shooting Center. She is a member of the NRA, IDPA, USPSA, and Women of USPSA.

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