

**Operation  
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**2009 IDPA GA  
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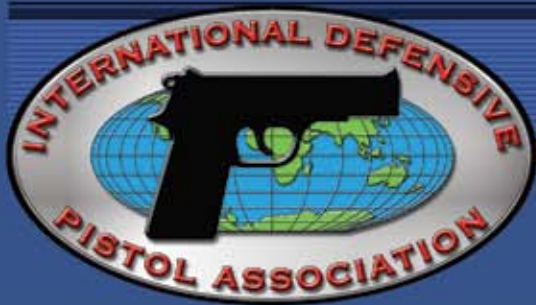
**NY State -  
This Ain't Manhattan!**



# Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

Third Quarter 2010  
Volume 14 - Issue 3



# THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

## The 4 rules of gun safety

The 1st Law of Gun Safety -  
The Gun Is Always Loaded!

The 2nd Law of Gun Safety -  
Never Point A Gun At  
Something You're Not  
Prepared To Destroy!

The 3rd Law of Gun Safety -  
Always Be Sure Of Your  
Target And What Is Behind It!

The 4th Law of Gun Safety -  
Keep Your Finger Off The  
Trigger Until Your Sights  
Are On The Target!

## Greetings Members,

IDPA is very happy to announce the addition of a discussion forum to the IDPA website. This forum has been in existence for several years and hosted by past National Match Director Ted Murphy. Ted's unofficial IDPA forum has consistently been one of the best places to discuss IDPA. After entering into discussions with Ted, we have forged an agreement to add this existing forum to the IDPA website and make it an official part of the IDPA community. You can reach this forum via the IDPA website or [www.idpaforum.com](http://www.idpaforum.com). We believe this forum will be of great benefit to our members and guests in exchanging ideas, announcing upcoming local and sanctioned matches as well as discussing rules. This brings us to the second announcement.

We have created an addendum to the IDPA rule book. These rule addendums are an important part in clarifying the rule book and help in keeping IDPA headed in the right direction. Some of what is listed is simple clarifications but there are several rule changes as well. Most of these items will be of real benefit to our members such as increased weight limits for CDP and additions to the inclusive list of permitted modifications. The addendum can be found on the IDPA website or on the new forum. The forum will be a great place to let us know how you feel about this addendum. This rule addendum will go into effect on August 1st.

The last announcement we have for you is also a big one. IDPA is very pleased to announce IDPA Defensive Multi Gun. IDPA was created around the defensive use of a handgun. However, we realize there are a lot of rifles and shotguns placed in closets, trunks, bedsides, etc. as defensive tools as well. In an effort to include the use of these tools, IDPA Defensive Multi Gun (DMG) was created. DMG was not created to replace existing IDPA matches. It is simply another format that clubs can use in addition to their regular IDPA matches. IDPA DMG is a stand alone match format that could be run after regular club matches or on different weekends for an extra challenge and fun. It is designed to be adaptable to the club's capabilities and you can incorporate any combination of pistols, shotguns and rifles.

There are 4 divisions for DMG. There is an iron sight and optic sight division for major caliber rifles and there are iron sight and optic sight divisions for pistol caliber carbines only. We feel that the pistol caliber divisions will bring out a whole new level of challenge and fun to an already exciting format.

These rules are currently provisional. IDPA intends on allowing clubs to look these over and try them out over the course of the next several months. At the end of the year we will make any adjustments that are deemed necessary before finalizing them before the shooting season starts up for next year. The rules can be found at the IDPA website or on the official IDPA forum. We hope that you take the opportunity to give this exciting new sport a try and tell us about it on the IDPA forum.

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Editor? Send it to  
[editor@idpa.com](mailto:editor@idpa.com)

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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

### Your .22 cents worth

Here are my 2 and a half cents worth.

IDPA is a great sport, with a lot of really dedicated shooters. However, it can be very intimidating for new shooters, and, most especially, women shooters.

By the very nature of "Defensive" shooting, it is a very good training venue for anyone who has a Concealed Handgun License. Not to say that we shoot in order to be a "Gunslinger", but the skills developed by IDPA participation are directly related to defensive situations (heaven forbid we ever encounter a threat).

Additionally, females are much more likely to encounter a threat situation than men.

Therefore, we believe that encouraging and supporting female participation would enhance our sport, and certainly enhance their capabilities. We believe that this would be a great move, to be less intimidating, and encourage more female participation. The final factor is cost. Ammo components and factory load costs continue to escalate. As one who shoots multiple matches monthly, accompanied by a son who also shoots, 2000 rounds per month is not inexpensive. Lower costs could also have a positive effect on growing IDPA membership, and overall participation.

Added members can produce stronger local clubs, which could open the door for financial stability, and enhanced range acquisition and availability.

Sam Jones A25058

Like so many others, I am feeling the cost of ammunition components to compete in IDPA. I would love to be able to compete from time to

time using a rimfire conversion for my centerfire pistols. I would suggest using the same classification process and rules as currently in place for the centerfires. i.e.: 1911 conversions, CDPRF. Glock conversions, SSPRF. ect.

I believe it would be good for our sport by allowing many of us to shoot more matches without the concern over ammo costs. We only have to look as far as the Steel Challenge to see how successful a rimfire division would be!

Ray Roberts A04039

I do not see a need for inclusion of .22 into IDPA in any format other than a side match, same as BUG.

I believe allowing .22 would be against the principles that IDPA stands for. Before long we would just be an Airsoft match, of course if the targets shot back we would really learn the meaning of "Cover".

All hobbies have some expense to them and most monthly matches are 100 rounds or less, even if you shoot two every month, it is cheaper than playing Golf.

Frank Wright A23679

No. Absolutely not! IDPA is a sport using serious defensive firearms. Anything smaller than 9mm has no place whatsoever. Power factor is already diluted down to the level of USPSA. Don't dilute the sport any more.

Steve Jolly A17557

*As you can see, there is a real difference of opinion on whether IDPA should include .22 caliber shooting within the sport. Although I placed two responses from each side, the overwhelming majority that responded (90%) thought IDPA should include a .22 division. Of course after the "Yes you should", the*

*ideas on how to implement it varied. The initial response is encouraging and we will take a closer look at the possibility of a .22 division for IDPA and seek a wider response from our membership. If you have comments on .22, please send them to surveyApril2010@idpa.com*

*Editor*

### The Coolest Thing

Just finished reading The Coolest Thing Ever in "The Tactical Journal". I really enjoyed the article because it was well written. Austin's dad should be very proud of him. I had many enjoyable times with my dad but unfortunately IDPA wasn't one of them. I'm 63 and dad passed away a number of years ago. My thanks to Austin.

Richard Ellis A00686

PS: Almost makes me want to go out and break my wrist so I can have a "COOL" cast...ALMOST!!! LOL

*Richard, you are exactly right. Austin wrote a great article and we are very happy to have a junior shooter like him in the sport. I am sure Austin's dad is a proud father.*

*I am sorry that you could not enjoy IDPA with your dad but I hope you enjoyed many other opportunities to spend time with you dad. It reminds me that fall is right around the corner and makes me look forward to the time I will be spending with my dad at deer camp. Good times.*

*Oh yeah, I think Austin's cast is cool as well but like you, I will pass on the broken wrist.*

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# Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

August 2010

Volume 14 Issue 3

<b>Shooter Ready</b>	<b>Members' Letters</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Run a Better Match</b>	<b>Ted Murphy</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Women's Perspective</b>	<b>Julie Golob</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Behind the Badge</b>	<b>Rob Haught</b>	<b>9</b>
 <b>Operation Freedom</b>	<b>Gary W. Burris</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Simplified Instruction for Stage Management, Flow and Briefings</b>	<b>Ron Rhoden</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Introducing IDPA Shooting to New Shooters</b>	<b>Ed Johnson</b>	<b>15</b>
 <b>The NY State IDPA Championship Match – This Ain't Manhattan!</b>	<b>Kitty Richards</b>	<b>16</b>
 <b>2009 IDPA GA State Championship</b>	<b>Chuck Brothers</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Random Shots</b>	<b>Thomas Pinney</b>	<b>21</b>
 <b>The Tactical Advantage</b>	<b>Robert Ray</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Upcoming Major Matches</b>		<b>27</b>

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p. 6



p. 8



p. 9



p. 11



p. 15



p. 16



p. 18



p. 21



## IN THIS ISSUE

We hope you enjoy this issue. There is only one more issue before the shooting season's over. That issue will have all the coverage of our largest IDPA National Championship to date.

As always, if you would like to write, please do so at [editor@idpa.com](mailto:editor@idpa.com). Letters to the editor may be edited for brevity and clarity. RR

# Run a Better Match

## Build a Better Club

by Ted Murphy A02127



Here it is July and we are deep into the 2010 shooting season. I hope you all are getting enough range time, and that you are enjoying your time spent working and running matches. I hope you earned a plaque or trophy (or two) this summer. It is easy to get so tied up in running matches that you forget to budget time for shooting. Try to take the time to go to the range and get some quality practice. Remember to enjoy shooting and to enjoy the time on the range. Taking the time to dent primers and relax on the range will help fight burnout and keep you in the game.

Out here on the East Coast, we are dealing with some absolutely horrible heat conditions. I recently shot a match that went long and nearly everyone there ran out of fluids. If you find on match day that you are faced with a heat advisory warning or it simply is an oven out there, you may want to consider simplifying the match or cutting out a stage or two. It may take a bit away from the



**We can't always have a drink cart like this one, but it is important to make fluids available - and make sure you don't run out.**

match but people will enjoy the match more if they are able to enjoy it and not just survive it.

Learn the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Many times people who fall to heat stroke or heat exhaustion will not realize they are ill until they fall over. One resource to look over is [www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/faq.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/faq.asp). Remember to cool the person down, take him out of the sun, and get the fluids flowing.

By the time of this printing there will be a new Rule Book addendum. I think most of the changes will be well received and make things easier both on the shooter and for all to understand. This is the first change in the Rules since 2005 and reflect many of the clarifications that IDPA HQ have issued since then. Please take the time to read this over and understand the changes.

The new Three Gun rules are a welcome addition to IDPA and one I find very exciting. If your club is interested in running three gun matches these rules are going to be very welcome. Many IDPA clubs run their own version of IDPA 3-Gun, but with the official rules, we can now standardize matches so shooters will not be worried about different calls or equipment rules as they go from club to club. The rules are pretty straightforward but still require study. Please take the time to get



**Make sure you get plenty of fun time on the range. Don't just run matches.**

to know these rules before you start doing IDPA 3-Gun.

If your club is going to do a 3-Gun match for the first time, be sure to become very familiar with the Safety Rules and keep the initial stages simple. Long guns are not covered in the "how to run a match video," but if you exercise some common sense you will be able to take what you have learned running IDPA handgun matches and bring that experience over to the 3-Gun side. If you keep the stages simple until your comfort level and experience grows, then you will have a much more enjoyable time running and shooting 3-Gun matches.

In previous articles, I discussed the Principles of Management which are Planning, Organizing, Leading, and Controlling. In this article we will look at Controlling. The concept of Controlling is not about the Match Director being a control freak; it is about controlling certain aspects of the match.

What kind of aspects should the

## Run a Better Match



IDPA DMG and the M1 Garand in this picture are both a Blast!

Match Director want to control? First would be the general flow of the match. Match Directors should keep an eye on how the match is progressing. Are the stages working as planned? Are they moving in a timely fashion? Is there any one stage/bay that is slowing things down? The MD has to keep an eye on these things and make sure they are going as planned. If they are not, the MD needs to focus attention on the matter and try to speed things up. Ways to do that would be to look how the staff is running the stage and see if a more efficient way can be found. You can see if you need to shift staff to a stage that may need extra. If things are going very badly you may need to see if something needs to be dropped from the match. This

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last solution is not to be taken lightly or done often; but sometimes it must be done.

Another aspect to monitor is how the stages are being run. Please keep in mind that good MDs trust their Safety Officers and there will be some difference in how the SOs run the stage and what the MD had in mind. If you feel you need to step in and change how they are doing things, be sure that it is really necessary and that it will not change things for those who already shot the stage. If you feel you need to intervene with how the SO is running the stage, be sure to be tactful in how you do it. It is a better idea to briefly discuss the problem with your staff and suggest a solution than it is to simply tell them, though in certain cases it may be necessary to be firm.

Check out the targets and the props. Make sure that the targets are not a tattered shred of cardboard that is difficult to score. Targets are to be changed every 50 rounds, and it does make it easier on the shooters and SOs when this is done.

See to the fluid intake of the staff and shooters. It is a smart and responsible thing to put out water and liquids for the shooters and staff. Make sure that people are partaking of the fluids. Also, make

sure you do not run out. Keep an eye on the jugs or coolers. If you run out, try to replenish them. If you are unable to, make a note of it and bring extra to the next match.

The last (and arguably most important) aspect to monitor is the match results. Shooters will remember the timeliness of the match results more than any other. When I first started running matches we mailed out the match results as the internet was not very prevalent in shooter's homes. Sometimes the match results would show up a day or two before the next match. This was never well received and did hurt match attendance. With the use of the internet for posting scores and better scoring programs, there really is no excuse for the results to not be up in just a few days, if not the next day. Keep the troops happy and make sure the results are put out fast.

I hope you all beat the heat, have fun, and get to try out our new 3-Gun. This was a long time coming and I believe it will be well received. IDPA will have a new home on the internet, as you can now access the IDPA forum through the IDPA.com web page. Stop by and say hello.



MD's control the end result, not all the details. Let the SO's do their jobs too.



# Women's Perspective

by Julie Golob A19366

## Pregnancy and Shooting

I have received a number of emails recently from women asking me about shooting while pregnant. Unfortunately there just isn't a wealth of information on the subject. In fact, when I learned that I was expecting, I asked my doctor about it. She was just as unsure as I was.

Can you shoot when you are pregnant? I know several women who competed when they were 5-6 months pregnant. They felt fine and were comfortable with their decision to keep shooting. I chose to stop shooting right around 7-8 weeks. After discussing it with my doctor and scouring the internet, I was very concerned about noise and lead. Exposure to these by-products of shooting might affect a baby's development and it wasn't a risk I was comfortable taking.

So what can you do to keep your skills up once you decide to stop shooting? Number one on the list is dry-fire. You can build an excellent foundation of skills with a dedicated dry-fire regimen. When you can no longer draw or reload from the belt, work on pick-ups from a table, inside a briefcase or even borrow your club's IDPA box. Focus on acquiring your sights on a variety of targets and working on your trigger control.

You may be able to find a safe and suitable place to shoot an Airsoft gun. Foreign shooters like Tatsuya Sakai, compete and train with Airsoft in Japan where they are not allowed to shoot live rounds.

Tatsuya regularly shoots in Airsoft Steel Challenge matches, and a short time before the World Speed Shooting Championships, he trains in the United States with the guns he uses at the Steel Challenge. He was able to win the coveted world title in 2004 by shooting a fraction of the live fire rounds that most competitors shoot in preparation for the match.

You can also build your grip and hand strength. Some women find it a challenge to control recoil because they haven't developed enough strength in their hands. There are a variety of grip exercisers on the market that can help you build a stronger grip. You might also consider dry-firing with a revolver that has a heavy trigger. Jerry Miculek has incredibly strong hands. With years of shooting revolvers under his belt, he can shoot heavy, long trigger pulls with ease. Building hand strength during your pregnancy can help you deal better with recoil when you are able to shoot once again.

Hand/eye speed and coordination, as well as working on your reflexes are also skills you can improve. Some video games, or even something as simple as bouncing a ball against a wall can help build dexterity and hand/eye coordination. Training yourself to react to the initial sound of a buzzer or any sort of start signal will be a benefit when you can compete again. Be creative. You'd be surprised how you can use simple toys or trans-

form every day experiences into training tools.

Will your significant other still be shooting? If so, consider buying a video camera. Chances are you'll probably want to capture all the moments of your new bundle of joy anyway. Even when you can no longer safely go to the range, ask your loved one to film themselves and friends competing. Have them take it one step further and after they shoot, record walking through the courses of fire with the camera to give you a first person view of the stage. This is a great way for you to be able to still share shooting with each other and your shooting friends.

At what point you decide to stop shooting is a decision you will have to make as parents. Having a baby doesn't necessarily mean you can't enjoy the sport. A little creativity and work will help you keep the interest alive and make the transition back into competition easier. For all those parents to be, I wish you the best in bringing a new shooter into the world!

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# Behind the Badge

by Rob Haught CL068



Seldom is there any earth shattering news to report. This time however there is some very good news in store for our LE shooters.

IDPA has just announced officially that it is sanctioning Multi Gun competition! This is great news for law enforcement members. Now there is a place to go to get trigger time with our support weapons. Now there is a good reason to dust off that shotgun and get your AR-15 out of the trunk and practice with it.

This has been coming on for several years. Much discussion

has gone into the decision to incorporate Rifle and Shotgun into the match format. Pioneered in South Africa as a means for members there to have a legitimate reason to own these firearms, it was a given that it would eventually be done here.

In keeping with the core values of IDPA competition, the divisions are set up to allow a Stock and an Enhanced division that are pretty well thought out in terms of modifications that make sense and replicate real world equipment. I'm sure there will be the normal amount of growing

pains until it gets sorted out but I'm excited about the prospect of getting to shoot my other support weapons at the local matches.

If you don't have a personally owned AR-15 or Defensive Shotgun, now is the time to dust off some of your moldy money and get one. All joking aside, this is the excuse you have been waiting for, go for it. It's the perfect excuse to start polishing your long gun skills.

Speaking of South Africa, I'm counting down the days as I type this until I'm back on a

(Continued on page 36)



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• 9 Time USPSA National Champion  
• 1 Time IPSC World Champion  
• 3 Time World Steel Challenge (limited) Champion

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## NOTICE

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# Operation Freedom

by Gary W. Burris A01202

Many of you know that I'm very active with IDPA in Italy. They call me the "Father of IDPA Italy" but I've only served to help them along due to my passion for the sport and for the people's God given right of self-preservation including the right to keep and bear arms. My Italian friends are fighting an uphill battle trying to get new shooters and specifically young shooters involved in our sport.

In Italy, a Ministry of Interior police official signed a proclamation saying that any form of shooting is to be considered a military activity and is forbidden for minors unless authorized by him with specific types of guns and in specific shooting disciplines (Olympic style shooting).

This proclamation was publicly derided by Dr. Silvia Gentile, legal counsel for IDPA Italy. Silvia has found an old law that the Ministry of Interior official didn't know about specifically authorizing shooting training for minors starting at age 12. The fact that they needed a law for this is incredible, but understandable because they don't have anything like our Second Amendment. This law supersedes any proclamation from the Ministry of Interior and is a major coup de grace for gun rights advocates in Italy.

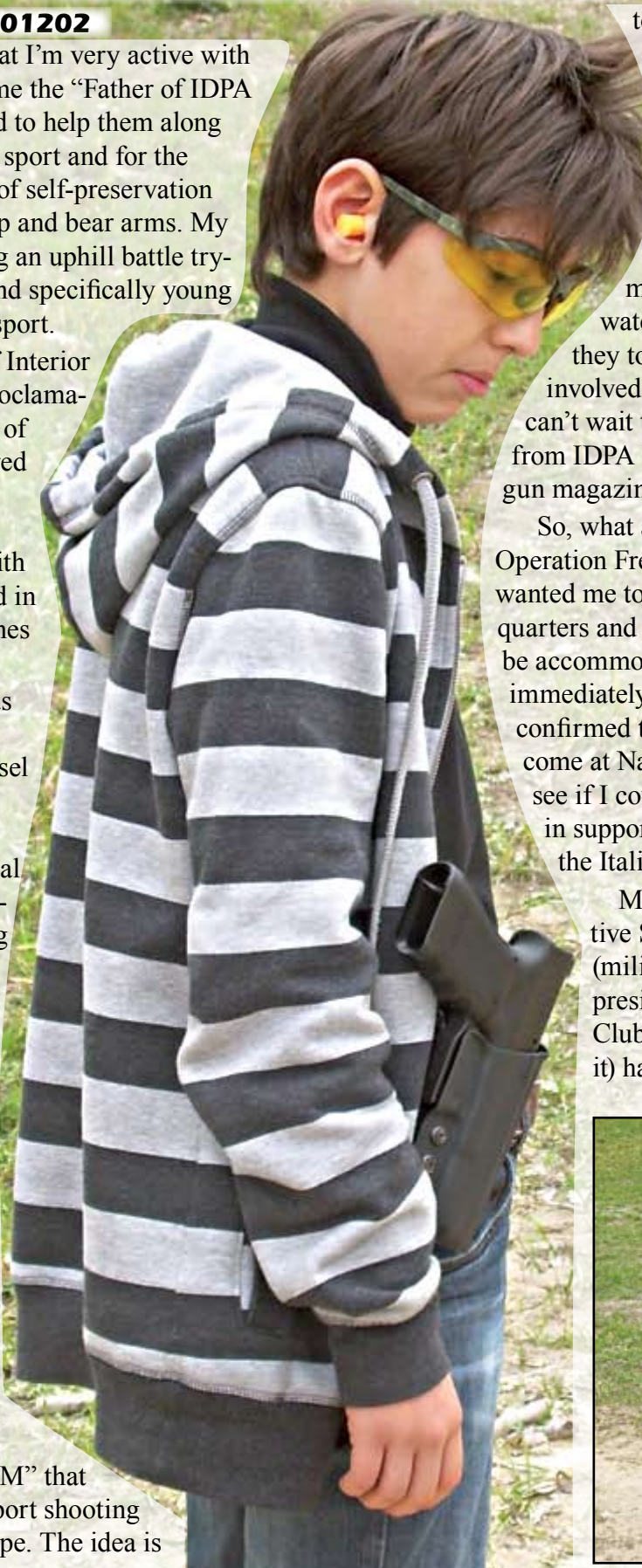
We have put together a plan that we call "OPERATION FREEDOM" that we hope will excite the sport shooting community in all of Europe. The idea is

to sponsor an Italian Youth Team that will shoot the IDPA Nationals this year. The major gun magazines in Europe will surely cover this event and write in great detail about the Italian Youth Team. Germany and Austria will be watching very closely because they too need to get young people involved in the shooting sports. I can't wait to see the kid's photographs from IDPA Nationals in the European gun magazines.

So, what are people doing to facilitate Operation Freedom? My friends in Italy wanted me to check with IDPA Headquarters and see if this youth team could be accommodated at the Nationals. I immediately contacted Robert Ray who confirmed that the boys would be welcome at Nationals. So I went to work to see if I could get more people involved in supporting Operation Freedom and the Italian Youth Team.

Mr. Simone Ciucchi a Detective Sergeant in the Carabinieri (militarized police of Italy) and president of the Tactical Shooters Club of Bologna, Italy (tiroidpa.it) has put together a team of

(Continued on page 34)



# Simplified Instruction for Stage Management, Flow and Briefings

by Ron Rhoden A00831

*The following article is part two of a two part article. Part one may be found in the May 2010 issue of the Tactical Journal. 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.*

## 4. Stage Flow

·Controlling the stage flow is the responsibility of the CSO/SO. How you do that is varied. At large matches the CSO really decides if he has a sufficient experienced group with him or her, who holds the timer, clip board, etc. How do we get really good people to run stages? Experience is the only way. At the local level, if you are the one with experience, help the inexperienced SOs. This is really the function of the match director that wants good SO's, not just button pushers.

·Once the stage brief is worked out, run it through someone to get feedback and practice; a dry run.

·Get your group that is helping to understand what you need done to make things flow smoothly and efficiently.

· Generally speaking, if it takes more than 1 minute to read a brief,

that's too long. If it takes 2 minutes to demonstrate a stage that is also too long. How many 120 second stages have you seen in IDPA? Be direct, concise and simple.

## 5. Score Keeper

·The most important person you can work with is the score keeper. The score keeper has the responsibility of first and foremost collecting the time, points down, procedural, etc. and documenting them accurately. Their function is the administration of the stage; CSO/SO sets the briefing, sets the shooter up to succeed, and focuses on safety. Your score keeper makes sure that re-shoots, time arguments, and procedural arguments are kept to a minimum. They are your team mate and really good ones are hard to find, make them as happy as you can. (Backing up your score keeper on close calls is something that should be done too.)

·Good score keepers work as hard and are on their feet as much as anyone at a match. They follow you around, write down the scores, or if you are lucky they score the targets in a fair manner on their own, only asking you to step in as a CSO/SO if there is an issue.

·As a rule, we all know or should know, that once the shooter loads, shoots, unloads and shows all clear, the person with the timer is in control. Once the shooter is complete, holstered and the clear is called, the score keeper is really in control. As the targets are called, you can only go as fast as the scorekeeper can keep up. Good scorekeepers control that with their communications and presence. Ever see 3 people paste 3 different targets and call out each target at

the same time? Really good score keeper will stop the 3, point each target, look at each target, write down the score of each target and then tell them to paste said targets. And those scorekeepers do it seamlessly and quickly; controlling the flow.

·If the scorekeeper is calling the target scores and there is a problem, then the CSO gets involved.

·Score keepers should focus on getting the time, capturing the points down per target, approving the pasting of the targets, get the shooter off the stage, complete the administration (signing, shooter copy, etc), and get the next shooter ready to go and the "on deck" shooter ready.

·Knowledgeable scorekeepers



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## ***Simplified Instruction for Stage Management,...***

also work as a second set of eyes. They can, from a little distance away, catch which targets are shot and in which order, i.e. slicing the pie problems, cover issues, etc. You as the CSO/SO cannot catch everything; you are supposed to focus on the gun, not the targets. Decide before the stage has accepted the first shooter if the scorekeeper is comfortable with this. It is not always necessary for the scorekeeper to make cover calls, etc; it is the stage design that will dictate the process.

### **6. "The Crew"**

If you are lucky enough to be able to choose your crew to work with, make sure you use your crew to their potential. At large matches, some, if not all, of the time there is a crew of dedicated, hard working people who set the props, paste the targets, take scores and generally do all the things that are least enjoyable. Make sure as the CSO/SO you take care of the crew.

Make sure that they have water, food, a place to sit down (all before yourself), and are comfortable with what needs to be done. Remember to say thank you! You cannot get through this by yourself. You are supposed to be the leader; not the slave driver with no feelings. Good leaders lead and do not push from behind; hence the word leadership.

### **7. Equipment**

Make sure that you have sufficient amount of pasters, decent timer that you are familiar with, spare battery for timer, backup timer, several writing pens, clip board(s), spare targets, staple gun(s) and staples (right size) to run a stage. Boxes of pasters always seem to disappear, pens walk away, and finding a stapler with staples always seems to be a problem. Have what you need and verify you

have it as the CSO/SO.

### **8. Health**

As an organization we pay a lot of attention to shooter and spectator safety; as we should. We pay almost no attention to the safety and health of our CSO/SO, scorekeepers and crew.

Hydration for most people is a few drinks of water. De-hydration can kill you or at the very least make you mentally "sluggish" and not as alert as you would be normally. Drink often and plenty days before a match and during a match. Pop, carbonated drinks and alcoholic drinks DON'T count! If anything they make dehydration worse! For those of us in the southern or western part of the country, summers are hot. Winter and indoor ranges can dry you out just as fast. Drink and make sure everyone you are working with is drinking, or at least try to get them to drink.

In warm weather, make sure your folks have access to sunscreen, cover/places to sit during down time, and wear a billed cap.

Make sure your SOs are keeping their blood sugar level consistent by eating every two hours or every 2 squads. Low blood sugar levels that result from not eating can make you feel weak, faint or tired, and your mental abilities may be affected as well, making you slower to react.

Good ear protection is a must. It needs to be comfortable and suitable for all day wear. Make sure the hearing protection is correct, remember the squib load. Sometimes we can wear so much protection that we cannot hear anything. Whatever it takes to protect your hearing and be able to hear enough to function is important.

Eye protection is also a must.

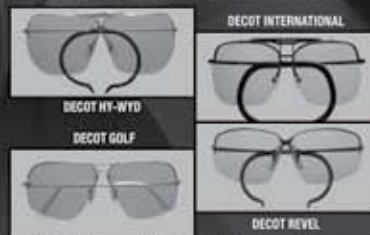
(Continued on page 36)

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# Introducing IDPA Shooting to New Shooters

by Ed Johnson A22610

Millions of Americans own firearms—many with self-defense in mind—but only a few thousand ever regularly practice using them. Many seem to view their weapons as little more than good luck charms.

We all know someone who could benefit from learning and practicing the basics of IDPA shooting. For example, one of my friends purchased a handgun when several homes in his neighborhood were broken into, but he's never discharged it. Another friend

everyone would benefit if other clubs did the same thing. For that reason, I share with you here what's worked for me.

Most recently I had four business students from Campbell University who were interested in IDPA shooting. One had never previously discharged any firearm. Another had never fired a handgun. All were eager to learn about IDPA shooting.

Fortunately I have a generous neighbor who often allows me to use his backyard



After shooting his stage, Ian shows the SO his weapon is clear.

inherited a Colt .38 his parents bought in the 1960s. He's now considering having it for home defense.

Such people need more than the basic conceal carry course. They need an introduction to the fundamentals of tactical shooting. For that reason I've developed a course to introduce new shooters to IDPA shooting—an IDPA light match, if you will. Ever since I recently got my IDPA Safety Officer's card, almost every month I've run a simplified IDPA match for new shooters, and have had good success. I'm convinced

firing range for new shooters. Shier people prefer that more secluded location. This time, though, I took these four new shooters to a new location—Range 37 ([www.range37.com](http://www.range37.com))—located halfway between Raleigh, N.C. and Ft. Bragg. The owner, Frankie McRae, is enthusiastic about helping new people get involved with the shooting sports. He has special rates available for students one night a week, and he has a variety of courses to help them with the shooting sports.

(Continued on page 32)

# The NY State IDPA Championship Match – This Ain't Manhattan!

by Kitty Richards A18564

Saturday, June 12th dawned bright in Pine City, New York, as the first wave of shooters lined up to fire downrange at the inaugural New York State IDPA Championship Match, held at Pine City Sportsman's Club (PCSC). The club, located west of Elmira, New York, in south central New York State, not only volunteered for the Herculean task of hosting a state match, they also were introducing shooters from the area to their new digs. Match Director Toni Dragotta (A01217), also Vice-President of the PCSC Board of Directors, was a Friends of the NRA grant recipient. The grant provided monies for 5 new pistol bays, and Dragotta contacted the state, township and county highway departments who donated clean fill to help with the bays. Hosting the State Match was the culmination of this effort, according to Dragotta.

Starting early in 2009, Dragotta, compared by her staff to the Energizer Bunny, began soliciting input and volunteers for a state match. When enough interest was garnered, she went into overdrive, getting club members certified as SOs, selecting Assistant Match Director Jon Unruh as Sponsorship Coordinator, and acquiring the premier scoring staff on the East Coast to assist. In the following months, she coordinated twelve courses of fire from easy, stand-and-deliver stages to more complex "clear the airplane of terrorists" efforts. Why would anyone want to do something as work intensive as host a state match? "Simple", says Dragotta, a NYS Environmental Conservation Officer with a no-nonsense approach, "Our club is committed to IDPA – we wanted to give back to the sport that gives so much to us". CSO Bill Phillips agreed and

added, "We wanted people to realize that New York is not just The Big Apple, where guns are outlawed. Those of us from upstate enjoy shooting, hunting and the outdoors, and we cherish our Second Amendment rights. This ain't Manhattan!" That sentiment was manifested in stages involving fishing boats, duck decoys, and Finger Lakes Wine Tours.

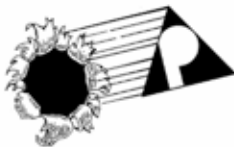
It seems that the shooters agreed with Phillips by voting with their attendance. One hundred and thirty five shooters from area states and two foreign countries attended the match. Bob Dwyer, an IDPA CDP Expert from Lower Providence, PA, was delighted. "I never thought I would be shooting a state match in New York", he said. "And having a great time doing



it!” One of the most rewarding aspects for the Match Staff was the turnout of some of the more under-represented groups in IDPA. Sixteen women, 12% of the total competitor population, competed in the match. What drew ladies like Leigh Ann Jeter from as far away as Louisville, KY, for this match? “It gave me the rare opportunity to support a sanctioned match run by another female match director”, she reported. Jeter’s travels were rewarded – she won 2nd place in SSP Marksman and was selected by random drawing to receive a Springfield pistol.

Another group strongly represented was that of Seniors (44) and Distinguished Seniors (7). A whopping 38% of the shooters were in this category. Jon Unruh, Assistant Match Director, is encouraged by that turnout. “I recently pondered this at a local match and found myself very encouraged when I considered the average age of those around me. I often think that most sports are in my past as I “mature”, but IDPA is one that hopefully I will be involved with for years.”

(Continued on page 26)



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# 2009 IDPA GA State Championship

by Chuck Brothers

I have been waiting to shoot my first sanctioned IDPA match since I joined the organization last year and I finally got my chance with the 2009 Georgia IDPA Championship sponsored by the Greater Atlanta Defensive Pistol Association (GADPA). I was asked to work as one of the Safety Officers by Capel English, the Match Director and Georgia's Area Coordinator.

I got to my hotel room in McDonough the night before the SO's were to shoot. It was after dark but I chose to ride out to the range anyway. The GPS unit that came with my rental car was a true asset.



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The Safety Officers for this match met the next morning for a short briefing and then we were off. We did a rolling start with the SO's for Stage 1 working the Stage 2 SO's and on down the line in numerical order. The Safety Officers at this match came from as far as Florida, Alabama, and North Carolina and are all professional and experienced people.

Stage 1 was a Standards stage which got me off to a bad start because weak handed shooting has always been a weakness for me, no pun intended. Stage 2 was called "Pick-Up Gun" where the shooter starts in a kneeling position behind a refrigerator and a full size dummy lying on the ground. We had to place our weapon under the dummy, retrieve it at the buzzer and engage 5 targets, some behind non-threat targets and steel plates.

Stage 3 was called "Gym Trouble" where the shooter was accosted while leaving a gym and had to engage moving targets from behind a car, shooting from the sides and through the open windows. Stage 4, named "The Alley" began with the shooter

(Continued on page 30)

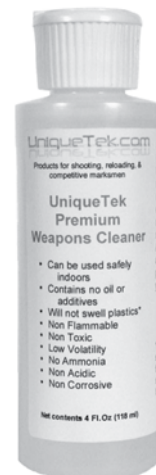


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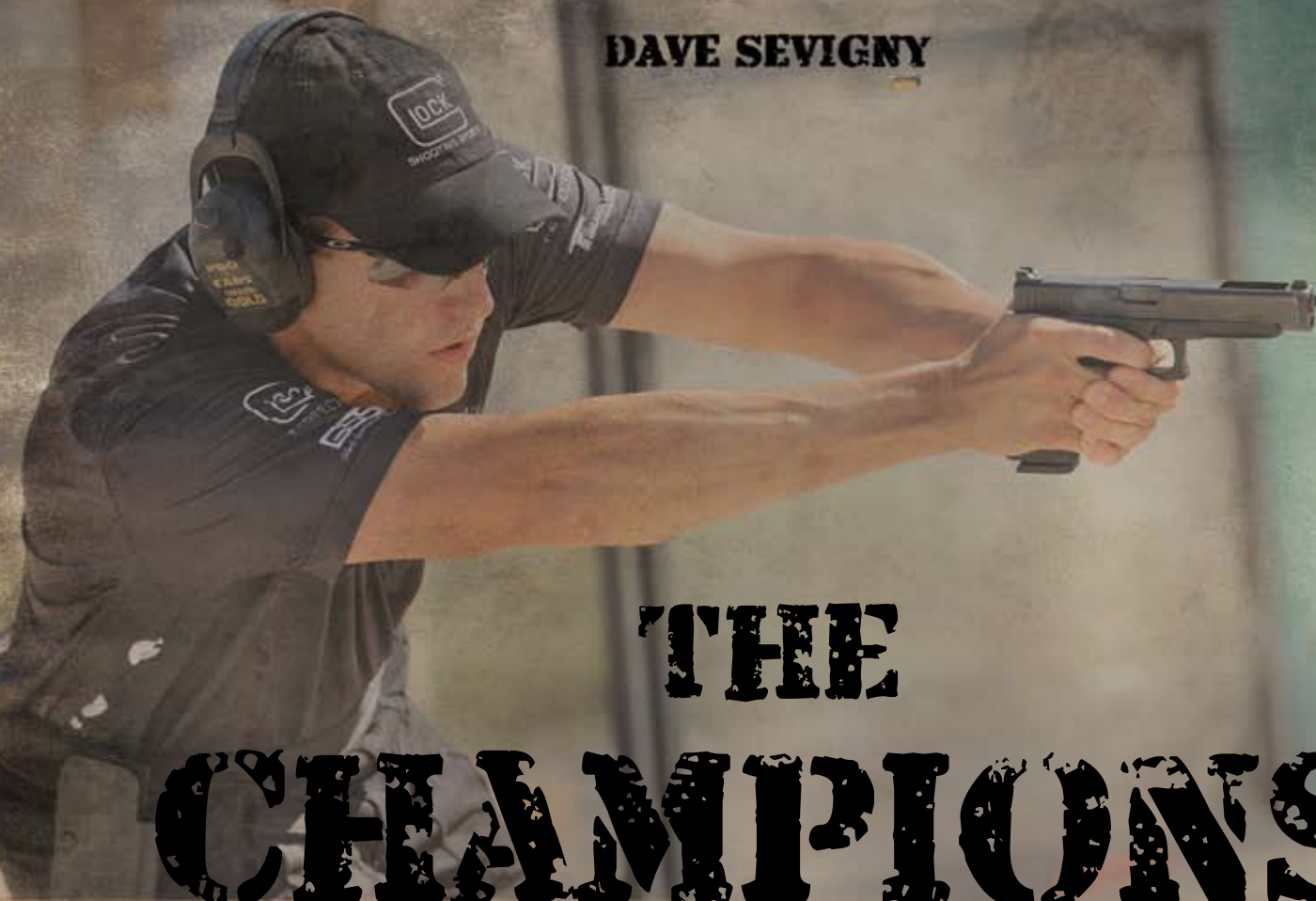
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# Random Shots

## "Is the shooter ready?"

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

by **Thomas Pinney A24541**

"Is the shooter ready?"

Anyone who has shot an IDPA course of fire should be familiar with that spoken range command. We all give an acknowledgement that we are ready before the Safety Officer gives the next command.

"Standby"

But is the shooter really ready? Far too many shooters are not only unready, but have already penalized themselves even before their first shot. As we all know, once the bullet is out of the muzzle there is nothing that we can do about it. But there is a great deal we can do to improve our shooting that happens

before the trigger is pressed.

Competitive shooting is often compared to golf or tennis. It is an individual sport, requiring considerable physical precision taken at some speed. There are many components to an accurate shot, for example proper grip, maintaining a proper sight picture, trigger activation, and recoil management. Yet it is virtually impossible to think about all these things when you are doing them. Tennis great Arthur Ashe offered these words of wisdom that go well beyond athletic competition — "One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation." Preparation includes everything you do right up until the round leaves the gun.

All too often shooters are unprepared to begin a successful stage, and that shows as shabby scores. Perhaps, as many say, conscious thought is turned off by the sound of the timer's buzzer. If so, there is a lot of thinking a shooter can do to improve their performance before they come up to the line. Practicing at home without any ammunition is simple and effective. Almost every scenario requires you to draw your weapon from a holster that is concealed. Getting a good grip on your pistol when you draw is critical for accuracy, speed, and safety. Spend time at home practicing your draw until your muscle memory remembers exactly how to bring your pistol to bear without any conscious thought.

Is your equipment ready? Equipment is much more than your

pistol — it includes your holster, magazines, concealment garments, magazine holders, ammunition, personal protective equipment, and anything else you will need for a match. All of these things need to be ready to go before you leave home. Not only are you ensuring that you have your gear (and almost everyone has stories of arriving at a match only to realize they left their gun at home) but that all is in proper working order. This is important not only because it needs to function reliably but you should also not have to worry about it. If you are concerned about whether or not those reloads your friend gave you are going to actually work then you are thinking about something other than shooting a good match. Once you get to the range, don't forget about loading your magazines to division capacity. There is no sillier procedure than the one awarded for having the wrong number of rounds in a magazine. You need to have a system or procedure you follow every time you load your magazines. The little vision ports most magazines have are very handy, but it is all too easy to see what you expect to see. Before you come to the line it is best to carefully count the rounds as you load them and then check small view holes in the magazine to be certain. Of course, counting the rounds out loud as you are loading them always invites a good friend to stand next to you and give you what for about what you ate at the tent last Tuesday.

Are you mentally prepared?

(Continued on page 29)



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# The Tactical Advantage

By: Robert Ray

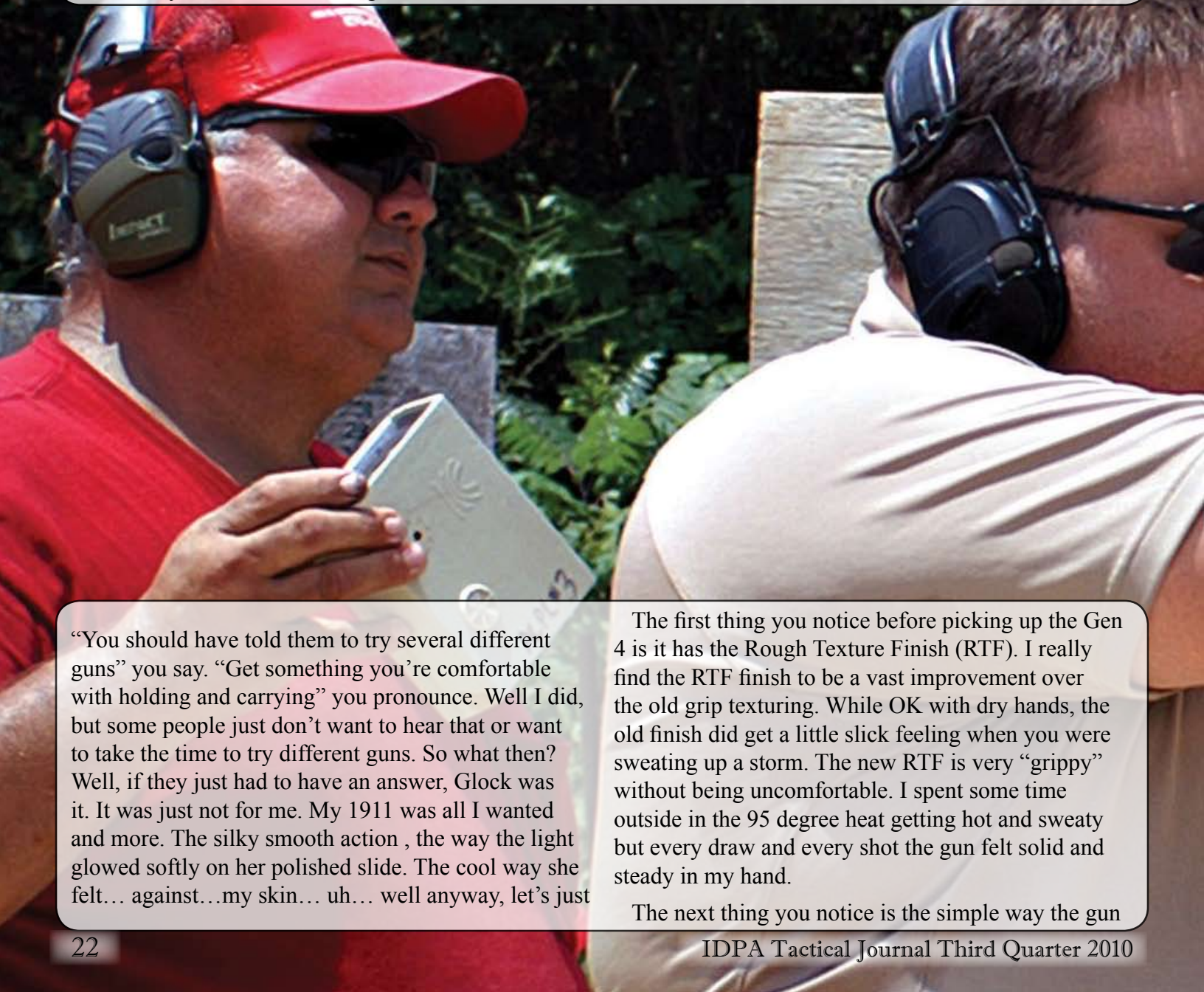


Well, I have gone and done it, I bought my first Glock. I know... I know some one will soon be around to take my 1911 Elitist Club member card but I had to do it. After picking up the new Generation 4 Model 17 I was hooked.

I want to make it clear that I have never had anything against a Glock, far from it. As a matter of fact when I was working at an indoor range in the evening and running IDPA matches on the weekends I advised hundreds of people to buy a Glock. I can see several of you out there foaming at the mouth now.

say I liked my 1911. I just never took the time to get comfortable with the feel of a Glock. It just didn't fit my hand right. Now with the new Gen 4, I don't have to change. Well not as much.

The Gen 4 is different from it's predecessors in a number of different ways but it still retains the same old reliability, durability and ease of use not to mention it's "Safe Action" trigger system. The changes are not truly glaring until you pick up the gun and really start using it.



"You should have told them to try several different guns" you say. "Get something you're comfortable with holding and carrying" you pronounce. Well I did, but some people just don't want to hear that or want to take the time to try different guns. So what then? Well, if they just had to have an answer, Glock was it. It was just not for me. My 1911 was all I wanted and more. The silky smooth action, the way the light glowed softly on her polished slide. The cool way she felt... against... my skin... uh... well anyway, let's just

The first thing you notice before picking up the Gen 4 is it has the Rough Texture Finish (RTF). I really find the RTF finish to be a vast improvement over the old grip texturing. While OK with dry hands, the old finish did get a little slick feeling when you were sweating up a storm. The new RTF is very "grippy" without being uncomfortable. I spent some time outside in the 95 degree heat getting hot and sweaty but every draw and every shot the gun felt solid and steady in my hand.

The next thing you notice is the simple way the gun

fits the hand. The Gen 4 feels smaller in the hand. This is due to the new Multiple Back Strap system coupled with the short frame trigger system. The MBS frame allows the shooter to adjust the frame to fit his or her hand size. The gun comes in the small format. You don't actually change out the backstraps. The medium or the large backstrap fit directly over the small and is secured with a single pin. This allows for very easy changes when you are trying to decide what fits you best. The addition of the medium backstrap gives you the same grip as a the older Gen 1 through 3. The larger backstrap adds 2 mm which does not seem like much but can make a huge difference to some one with large hands.

Another new and welcome feature is the larger and reversible magazine release. The new release has twice the surface area as the old one allowing for a more positive feel when ejecting a magazine under

pressure. The new Gen 4 magazines are also cut with notches on both sides as well. This allows them to work with all types of existing magazine catches.

The last new feature is the addition of a duel spring recoil system. A number of manufactures are moving to this type of system. These types of dual spring systems used to be found only in short barreled guns but their ability to help soften recoil has made them an attractive new feature to many "standard" sized guns. One other item of note on the new recoil system; because of the duel spring, the Gen 4 uses a larger guide rod. One thing I know for certain is that IDPA members like to tinker with their guns. That means that you need to be sure of which rod you are ordering if you purchase and aftermarket recoil system.

Well I have said a lot but the question is "how did it shoot"? It performed extremely well. I had the

(Continued on page 25)





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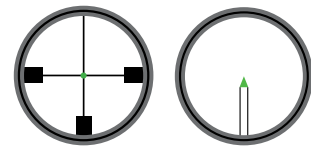
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opportunity to shoot this in two sanctioned matches and two club matches. The very first time I shot this gun was at the MVSA Regional in Hot Springs, AR in late

larger surface area of the magazine release. I did have a few failures to extract but as I said before, I was running a mixed bag of “range brass” reloads. In the 500 or 600 rounds I put through it, there was not more than 4 or so FTE’s.

My increased comfort with the

walk away with a 3rd place finish in the SSP SS class. It actually kind of scared me a little as there were 25 competitors in that class. Preliminary results had me in 2nd place (with the accompanying class bump) until the last 30 minutes of the match. I was not sure I was ready to swim with the sharks in Expert class. The other sanction match brought similar results with a 5th place finish in SSP SS. We all know the phrase “it’s the Indian, not the arrow” but the Indian has to have a straight shooting arrow to perform to the best of his ability. The Gen 4 Glock was my straight arrow.

The new Generation 4 Glock are currently available in the Model 17 and 22. If you are looking to buy your first gun or if you just want a

March. The gun ran like a top. I was feeding it a mixed bag of 115 grain jacketed reloads. Due to the smaller grip size the gun felt comfortable in my hand and the rough texture finish made for a positive grip lockup. Both matches were warm days and over the course of both events the RTF texture consistently allowed for positive control without leaving me with a tender hand like some aggressive texturing can do. I was able to drive the gun better than I have older generation guns. I really enjoyed shooting the Gen 4 gun. Muzzle rise was very minimal allowing for quick follow up shots and the light weight of the gun made for speedy target transitions.



gun lead to increased confidence and therefore increased performance. Until that match, I had not fired a round since the Nationals in 2009, almost six months earlier. Yet I was able to



great new blaster I encourage you to give them a look. The MSRP is \$649.00 but I am sure you can find one for a little less if you look. Making it an even better deal is that it comes with 3 magazines. For more information on Glock firearms you can visit [www.glock.com](http://www.glock.com) or visit your local gun store. Be safe and have a great shooting season.

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guns earned them a “bonus” of nine seconds.

Full results are available at: <http://www.pinecityidpa.org>. In addition to personalized awards to be mailed by Pro-Tech Co., Inc., four Springfield

What was the most popular stage that the New York crew offered their customers? By far, the most compliments came by way of Stage 5 “Airplane High jacking”. After drawing their gun from an air marshal’s universal holster, the shooter engages a terrorist, disarms another, then collects reloads from the steward cabin. Shooters were instructed to clear the economy cabin, first class, and the cockpit, engaging terrorists with 2 shots to paper, while disarming three downed terrorist dummies of their bright orange guns. Each dummy not disarmed cost the shooter a 3 second penalty. Shooters next door on Stage 4 assumed that they would be moving to a bay that required a verbal start, as many shouts of “Oh, darn!” - in one form or another – were overheard as competitors realized they turned in a smoking time, but neglecting to kick away the three

XD guns were awarded by random drawing to recipients Jim Conklin, Leigh Ann Jeter, Richard Baum and Michael Bass.

Will Dragotta and the Pine City crew do a New York State

**Some of the winners included:**

<b>CDP Champion:</b>	Scott Shalter
<b>ESP Champion:</b>	Danial A. Burwell II
<b>SSP Champion:</b>	Joe Linskey
<b>ESR Champion:</b>	Joseph Pitha
<b>SSR Champion:</b>	Craig Buckland

<b>High Senior:</b>	Tom Yost
<b>High Lady:</b>	Cindy Bowser
<b>High LE:</b>	Joe Linskey
<b>High Industry:</b>	Joe Linskey
<b>High International:</b>	Mathew C. Robertson
<b>High Military:</b>	Jeffrey A. DeFosse
<b>High Military Vet.:</b>	Richard L. Barker
<b>High Dist. Senior:</b>	Peter Hoffman
<b>Most Accurate:</b>	Craig Buckland

Match next year? After surveying the match staff an hour after tear-down, the MD got her answer – a unanimous “yes!”. Dragotta notes that she had many people who helped with the event. “I would like to thank the shooters and non-shooters who helped to make this match a success. Without the workers, there would be no match for the



competitors. In particular, I would like to thank the Match Registrar and Scorekeepers who stayed on top of the scores all weekend long and we had final results on the web by Sunday night - great job! Our match booklet was amazing thanks to the efforts of Mark Nichols. The booklet was done in color with ads and stage designs that wowed the reader. Next, I would like to thank the competitors for joining us. We had 12 stages with a 152 minimum round count that kept everyone on their toes. And finally, I would like to thank the sponsors for their generous donations. Their efforts helped to make the match a success.”

See you next year in beautiful central New York!

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# UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

**August 5 - 7, 2010**

## **U.S. East Coast IDPA**

### **Championship**

Prospect Hill, NC

Dean Brevit

336-562-2628 h

919-805-0370 w

caswellranch@embarqmail.com

www.caswellranch.embarqspace.com

**August 7, 2010**

## **10th Annual WI State IDPA**

### **Championship**

Muskego, WI

Tom Ropers

847-331-1752 h & w

idpa\_tom@comcast.net

James Williams

920-229-5079 h & w

acwiscidpa@live.com

wisconsinshooters.com/joomla/index.

php?option=com\_content&view=articl

e&id=74&Itemid=85

**August 8 - 9, 2010**

## **2010 IDPA Africa Championship**

Eufees Shooting Range

Pretoria, South Africa

Nicholas van der Nest

+27829038787 h

+27116678290 w

+27116678413 fax

nicholasvdn@nedbank.co.za

Adrian Rosslee

0866063647 h

0846063647 w

0865658354 fax

adrian@tacticaldefense.co.za

www.sadpa.co.za

**August 14, 2010**

## **2010 Ontario Provincial**

### **Championship Match**

Chatham, Ontario, Canada

Connie Doe Burgess

519-919-9547 h & w

cburgess11@cogeco.ca

www.idpawindsor.com

Check website for updates and forms

for crossing border with firearms

**August 14, 2010**

## **AGP IDPA Western Slope Regional**

Montrose, CO

Greg Brose

662-423-8355 h & w

662-287-8630 fax

bxstidpa@gmail.com

Gregory Brose

970-274-8056 h & w

westernsloperregional2010@gmail.com

bxstidpa.com

**August 14, 2010**

## **The Masters 2010**

Birmingham, AL

Mike Lunsford

205-504-3315 h

Alabamaidpa@charter.net

Jimmy Duke

205-281-3603 h

shootaglock23@yahoo.com

www.scssa.org

**August 14 - 15, 2010**

## **New England Regional IDPA**

### **Championship**

Harvard, MA

John T. Catterall

508-400-7488 h & w

jtcatterall@yahoo.com

David Solimini

978-621-0609 h & w

soliminis@comcast.net

www.metrowesttactical.com

**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 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 - 22, 2010**

## **2010 Alberta IDPA Provincials**

Olds, Alberta

Mike Johnson

403-284-3068 h

403-818-0348 w

moosanah@telus.net

Duane Sniezek

403-503-0909 w

duane@sniezek.ca

myathl.com

**August 28, 2010**

## **2010 Shoot, Rattle and Roll**

Hot Springs, AR

Larry Powell

501-984-2228 h & w

501-922-6217 fax

ldpowell@wildblue.net

Steve Freeman

501-620-4374 h

501-545-9939 w

danafreeman@cablelynx.com

www.mvsaonline.com

**August 28 - 29, 2010**

## **2010 MI State IDPA**

### **Championship**

Dorr, MI

Tom Tiethoff

616-644-2573 h

616-644-0369 w

tom@tiethoff.com

Mike Visser

616-399-6696 h

616-218-9576 w

mrvisser@charter.net

www.tacticalblasters.com

**September 5, 2010**

## **TX Labor Day Annual Regional**

Hempstead, TX

Garry Newton

713-206-2559 h & w

281-341-8223 fax

solari@prodigy.net

Said M. Abou Merhi

713-459-9981 h

713-984-7600 w

713-984-7601 fax

said@awbusiness-solutions.com

whidpa.com

**September 10 - 12, 2010**

## **Lewistown Pistol Club's Patriot Match**

Lewistown, PA

Chris Shade

717-248-9726 h

717-242-1105 w

717-248-2907 fax

president@lewistownpistolclub.com

Patrick Cronin

814-404-6933 h & w

pcronin@gmail.com

www.lewistownpistolclub.com

**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

(Continued on page 28)

## Upcoming Major Matches

(Continued from page 27)

**September 11, 2010**

### 2010 ID State IDPA Championship

Parma, ID

Aaron Goodfellow

208-454-6518 h

aarongoodfellow@hotmail.com

www.parmarng.org

**September 18, 2010**

### Commonwealth Cup 2010

Charlottesville, VA

Dave White

434-985-8299 h & fax

434-962-6601 w

dvwhite@mindspring.com

Dave Schullery

540-942-9664 h

540-649-3925 w

sicsempertyrannis@hotmail.com

www.rrpc.org

**September 18, 2010**

### Patriot Cup

Greenville, SC

Randy Ohlrogge

864-878-1811 h & w

Lynn Keaton

864-306-6121 h

864-306-1963 w

864-306-8840 fax

lkeaton@keatonkompany.com/

www.keatonkompany.com/patriotCup/

**September 22 – 25, 2010**

### IDPA National Championship

Tulsa, OK

870-545-3886

870-545-3894 fax

info@idpa.com

www.idpa.com

**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 2 - 3, 2010**

### 2010 CT State IDPA

#### Championship

East Granby, CT

Mike Critser

203-459-2783 h

203-339-0082 w

mtcritser@sbcglobal.net

Vladimir Mashkovich

860-305-2752 w

odessabd@sbcglobal.net

www.matchreg.com

**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

Salttillo, 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 9, 2010**

### CA State Championship

Bakersfield, CA

Wayde Shimoda

661-588-3677 w

waydeshimoda@att.net

www.kernidpa.com/

castatechampionship.html

**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

www.test-lc.com/apps.html

**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 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



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(Continued on page 31)

Before you are called to the line by the Safety Officer you need to have a plan on how to conduct the course of fire. Start by really listening to the course description. How many shots in each target? How many targets are there? Are there non-threats or props to be negotiated? Being ready to compete in each course of fire is more than knowing what you are required to do — it also includes how you are going to do it. That means deciding which targets you will engage and when; where and when you plan to reload; if there is movement involved where your steps will take you? It is said that no plan of battle survives the first shot, but that does not mean you should not have a plan; quite the contrary. Any plan you have for shooting a stage must be flexible enough to accommodate little things like needing to take more shots than planned on a given target. No experienced shooter should ever be surprised to find themselves at slide lock. Likewise there should be no hesitation in a stage where the muzzle moves uncertainly back and forth between targets. We have all made mistakes like this, sometimes repeatedly. The best single way to avoid or at least reduce the number of costly errors is to take time to think the stage through before coming up to the line. That is, of course, one of the advantages of shooter later in a squad — you have the opportunity to observe other shooters complete the course of fire before you. However, it is not always best to shoot a stage the same way others do. A Master level shooter can reliably do things that are well beyond a mere Marksman. Each shooter must understand his or her capabilities. One shooter may be more accurate,

another is comfortable engaging targets while moving rapidly. There are also risk/reward factors to consider — is saving a half second worth the risk of completely missing a target? How confident or conservative a shooter are you? In short, each and every stage in a competition needs to be evaluated and a plan of action clear in your mind before you step up to 'load and make ready.' Although 'air gunning', that is pointing toward targets as you move through a stage before a run, is specifically considered an unfair action, walking the stage after the course description and before the scenario begins to get a good feel for sight lines and course layout is a wise and prudent measure.

Once called to the line by the Safety Officer a shooter's preparations should continue. Too often contestants act as though they want to 'get it over with' as quickly as possible. The time they save with by immediately indicating their readiness to go is often lost as soon as the buzzer sounds. Virtually every shooter is tense before the buzzer sounds — your body knows that you are about to discharge a firearm at a variety of challenging targets and that your performance will be evaluated and compared against others. No matter how often you practice, coming to the line is a time of tension, and that tension can be an impediment. When you are tense your body tightens up, adrenaline increases your heart rate, and a variety of other physiological processes automatically begin. Unless you know how to control these reactions they can make your movements tight and jerky. There are a lot of ways to manage these normal reactions

and turn them to your advantage. Watch experienced athletes before they perform any unhurried repetitive part of their sport such as a golf swing or free throw. Typically they will have a standard routine that gets them into a rhythm. Performing a standard pattern before you tell the SO that you are 'ready' helps in several ways. A routine set of actions will help make you less tense before the action, and calmer is better, just as smoother is faster. Each shooter will have a slightly different set of these ritual checks before starting. Some of the observed actions good shooters take include reaching back and taking a deliberate grip on the handle of their gun, ensuring that the spare magazines are in place and ready for reloads, verifying that their shirt is not bunched up and caught between their gun and holster, and physically confirming that everything is as it should be. Some top shooters recommend a variety of other small actions such as bending your knees slightly, taking a calming breath, or if there is a target in view at the start of the stage, concentrating on the spot where the first round will go.

At that point, clear your mind of all the worries and frustrations of the day; what you are about to do will require your full attention. (Perhaps that is why after a practice match so many of us are so relaxed: all our other problems were temporarily relegated to the back burner.) Once you have completed your pre-shooting steps, assume the required position for the start of the stage with nothing else on your mind. And smile, because you are about to have some fun.

Now you really are 'shooter ready'.



breaking an infrared beam which activated one sliding target and one turner. The amount of moving targets in this match was amazing and very challenging.

Stage 5 was next. I was assigned to work this stage along with Howard Beers and Wally Kravarik. Both of these guys are members of GADPA and are true professionals. This stage was called “Container Yard” which started with the shooter on the move from P1 to P2, in turn stepping on two pressure pads. The first pressure pad activated a target moving right to left and the second activated another moving left to right. After these were engaged, three static targets were then engaged down range behind cover with the final target engaged behind cover to the right. This stage gave shooters fits. At least five SO’s did not engage one of the targets, including me. I had a malfunction, which I cleared quickly. In the meantime, my mental preparation poured from my left ear onto the ground. I forgot to engage T4 and went on to T5, hitting a non-threat target on the way. There were also several

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shooters that missed the second pressure pad entirely.

Stage 6 “Back Porch Problems” and Stage 7 “What A Cook Out” were similar stages with the shooter activating swinging targets by breaking an infrared beam.



**Match Director Capel English and his staff.**

Stage 7 had the added challenge of having the shooter engage static targets from a prone position. Next was the Cowboy Town bay for Stages 8 and 9. Stage 8 was “Bank Heist” with the shooter activating a runner by stepping on a pressure pad. After the runner was engaged, three more static targets were engaged behind low cover and shooting

through windows. Stage 9 called “Lead Poisoning” had no moving targets but was challenging because T3 was behind barrels and a steel plate. Stage 10 called “Inside Out” was done inside of the Shoot House. Five rooms were cleared with a sliding target outside the back window being activated by a pressure plate.

“High Cost Of Postage” was Stage 11. It had a very challenging target called a diver. When the shooter broke an infrared beam, the target fell over to the left on a downward angle and slid back behind cover. You had to be quick to hit this

one. Stage 12 was “The Kitchen Surprise” where the shooter opened a door, broke yet another infrared beam, and engaged various moving and static targets from behind major kitchen appliances.

By the time we walked up the hill to lucky number 13, we were getting a bit fatigued. Having to start Stage 13, called “Kidnapped”, from an easy chair with our feet propped up, didn’t help one bit. The steel plates down range covered by T-shirts set at 18 yards down range were a bit tough too.

There were 188 shooters from as far away as Canada and The





Philippines.

I admit to not shooting this match to my best ability. That being said, this was the most fun I have had on a range in a long time. Each of the stages was challenging. The staff was professional and friendly. The venue at the South River Gun Club is top rate. The barbecue served was delicious. With the exception of my shooting, I cannot think of anything bad about this match and I will be back next year.

**Upcoming Major Matches**

(Continued from page 31)

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

**November 11 - 13, 2010  
The 3rd IDPA Philippine Nationals**

Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, Philippines  
Roman R. Buenafe  
632-645-1347 w  
632-682-8314 fax  
roman82@pltdt.net  
Jerome T. Lim  
0918-979-5578 w  
032-345-1769 fax  
jeromelim\_2006@yahoo.com  
cpa.ph

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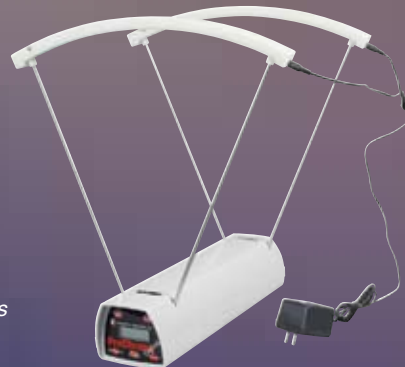
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Below is a summary of the training I gave these four new shooters and the stages I used for them.

## An Introduction to Basic Shooting Principles

Because we're dealing with new shooters, I spent more time reviewing basic principles before we go to the firing line. We first discussed the following eight topics:

1) **The decision to use deadly force.** I first shared the best advice I've ever received. In college a Vietnam vet told me never to have a weapon in my house for self defense unless I had made up my mind to use it if need be. The last thing a person should do is pull out a weapon and then begin to ponder whether to use it.

2) **Stress and our reptilian**

**brain.** I told these new shooters that it's important to realize how stress distorts our sense of time, sight, sound. It also affects our ability to think rationally. I know of more than one person in a stressful situation who was unable to dial 911.

In a bad situation, we don't rise to the occasion; we sink to the level of our training. I told these new shooters they'd need to draw and fire a handgun at least 2,000 times before it becomes part of their muscle memory.

3) **Legal concerns.** I told these new shooters there's a lawyer attached to every bullet. For that reason I encouraged them all to get the NRA's liability insurance.

4) **Attitude.** I told them that their most valuable weapon is their will to survive and win. The goal of every IDPA stage is to defeat the threat. Never give your subconscious even an opportunity to consider you might lose.

5) **Basic gun safety.** I reviewed Jeff Cooper's four rules of gun safety:

- Treat all guns as though they were always loaded.
- Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.
- Identify



After shooting his stage, David shows the SO his weapon is clear.

your target and what is behind it.

## 6) Handling the weapon.

Beyond basic safety, I covered the basics of operating a handgun. For example, I encouraged these new shooters to focus on their front sights. I also explained the importance of locking their wrists so their pistols can properly cycle each round. But should that fail, I explained how to "tap and rack" to clear a jammed round. These new shooters have yet to purchase a holster, so I had them start from the low ready position. Typically I let new shooters use whichever handgun they may possess. If they've yet to purchase a handgun, I encourage them to consider getting a revolver if they can't commit themselves to regular practice. For these four new shooters, I lent them my Glock



Ian fires at his targets using only his support hand.



## ***Introducing IDPA Shooting to New Shooters***

because of its simplicity. For the last stage I introduced them to a 1911.

7) **IDPA rules.** Only after I cover those first six principles do I introduce shooters to the basic rules of IDPA shooting. We examined the score sheets and the target and discussed how the stages are scored. We then reviewed the Safety Officer's (SO's) basic IDPA safety commands.

8) **Equipment.** For new shooters I'm lenient about equipment. A vest or other concealment apparel is optional. But I make sure everyone has eye and ear protection and a cap. Their own ammo is usually all I require new shooters to bring.

### **Safety Brief**

After I've reviewed the basic principles of shooting, I then gave these new shooters a standard safety briefing. I reviewed the standard IDPA instructions and commands. I explained that I run a cold range. They each had to wait for instructions from me as the S.O. before loading their handgun. I also reviewed basic



**Ian watches Martin paste a target.**

range safety rules, such as no shooting over the burn, always keeping your muzzle down range, keeping your finger off the trigger while moving, never trying to catch a dropped weapon, and waiting for the S.O. to declare the range is safe before moving toward the targets.

### **Stage Brief**

Once we cover the rules and principles, we went to the firing line. If someone has never fired



**From left to right: Ian Davis, David Feilds, Martin Lucas, and Ethan Armentrout.**

his/her handgun before, I give each shooter a turn to fire six rounds at a target. Once everyone has a sense of what's happening, we begin a series of stages, ranging from simple to more involved. Most are limited to six rounds each. That means they're at slide lock at the end of each stage, making it easier for new shooters to show that their weapon is safe. By the end of eight stages, these new shooters encountered the basic elements of most typical IDPA matches. Because these are new shooters, most of the targets were positioned relatively close—usually three to



**Ethan fires at targets in tactical order, hitting the nearest threat first, seven yards away.**

After each shooter is through shooting a stage and the S.O. declares the range safe, I scored each shooter. Those who were not involved in scoring either pasted the targets or policed up the brass. At the end of the match, I give each shooter her/his score sheet as a souvenir. The event lasted about three hours, which is typical.

I've done this introduction to IDPA shooting about a half dozen times now, and everyone has enjoyed their experiences. The responses of these four new shooters were typical. One of the new shooters, Ethan Armentrout, said,

"The hardest part was learning to cope with the recoil and the noise. I was flinching consistently through the first rounds. Shooting while moving wasn't nearly as difficult. I enjoyed the event, and will be participating in the future if an organization could be formed at the school."

Another new shooter, David Field, said,

"Before Saturday, I'd never even handled a real firearm, so it was definitely a new experience. I enjoyed working through the different stages and felt like I had improved at least a bit by the end. Beyond enjoying myself though, I also feel like I would be better prepared to defend myself if it became necessary."

Finally a third new shooter, Ian Davis, said,

(Continued on page 35)



boys. Some of them are children of Italian police officers, and he has taken on the task of helping to train them at his shooting range.

The Italian Youth Team has already started training for the event. Mr. Andrea Simoni, former Italian paratrooper and owner of Armeria Zanotti ([renatozanottiarmiti.it](http://renatozanottiarmiti.it)) a gun shop in Bologna, Italy, has been teaching the boys the fundamentals

of shooting.

I met with Gregg Garrett owner of Comp-Tac ([comp-tac.com](http://comp-tac.com)) and he offered to supply holsters and magazine carriers for the team. He threw in some Comp-Tac ball hats for the boys as well.

Mr. Fabio Guerra, IDPA Area Coordinator for Italy and president of the Robin Shooting Academy ([robinacademy.it](http://robinacademy.it)) convinced the Italian Clay Shooting Association (FITAV) to sponsor the youth team. And he contacted D-Shoot ([d-shoot.it](http://d-shoot.it)), a sport clothing manufacturer that has agreed to provide team uniforms for the boys. The shirts will have the logos of all those who help to sponsor the team.

Next, I spoke with Dale Hunicutt owner of Grip Reductions ([gripreductions.com](http://gripreductions.com)) to see what could be done to supply the boys with guns that had his grip reductions. My thought was that the boys would have an easier time borrowing guns here rather than trying to import them for the match. And guns with grip reductions would be much easier for the boys to handle.

My company, Lone Star Tactical Supply ([lonestartacticalsupply.com](http://lonestartacticalsupply.com)), will supply the guns. The boys practice with Glock's in Italy that are chambered in 9

x 21mm. That caliber is difficult to find here so it was decided that we would supply 9 x 19 mm parabelum Glock's for them to use while here at the Nationals.

I contacted Advanced Engineering & Design ([speedsights.com](http://speedsights.com)) and they offered to donate their new Diamond Speed Sights for the boys to use on their guns.

Mitchell Custom Guns and Bulletworks, LLC ([bulletworks.com](http://bulletworks.com)) has agreed to provide the Italian Youth Team with practice ammunition as well as match ammunition.

Gordon Carrell ([glcshootingacademy.com](http://glcshootingacademy.com)) is a world class shooter sponsored by Smith & Wesson and he has agreed to give the boys some warm-up training before the nationals.

Phil Oxley, owner of the Impact Zone Shooting Range ([theimpactzonerange.com](http://theimpactzonerange.com)) has offered his facility for use by the Freedom Team to practice prior to the National Match.

The Italian Youth Team will shoot on Thursday. I invite you to come and watch the boys shoot. It would be great to have a large group IDPA shooters cheering for this team and demonstrating their support for Operation Freedom.

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**Martin shoots a "failure drill."**

"What I most took away from the event was familiarity with handguns—the little details like safeties, magazine loading, and working the slide. Nothing too advanced and technical, but just the basics. I never shoot more than once or twice a year, and it's amazing how quickly you forget how to operate a gun.

Considering we're all college-age guys, we're very familiar with guns in the abstract, whether through movies, games, or the Nerf guns from our youth. Going out onto the range and actually handling one of these fabled devices helps to bring

guns into the real world. It gives you respect for guns. These aren't toys."

It's obvious that after this experience, these new shooters had gained an understanding of what they'd encounter at a typical IDPA match. But even if they chose not to compete, they'd come away being a more familiar with the tactical use of handguns.

I'm convinced every one of us would benefit if more IDPA clubs across the country offered new shooters like these similar introductory courses. We would then have not only a nation of gun owners, but of fellow citizens who are competent shooters.

Many of our Founding Fathers distrusted standing armies. They had seen what King George III had done with his. Instead they believed in a new republic

protected by armed citizens (i.e., militia). Here in North Carolina, a 1787 enactment declared, "that all Freemen and indentured Servants within the State, from 15 to 50 years of age, shall compose the militia thereof." Most other states had similar provisions.

I'd be glad to do whatever I can to help your club introduce more new shooters to IDPA shooting. Just drop me a line at [Johnsone@campbell.edu](mailto:Johnsone@campbell.edu) or phone me at (910) 814-4329 if I can help you in any way.



**Ethan takes cover and pies out his targets.**

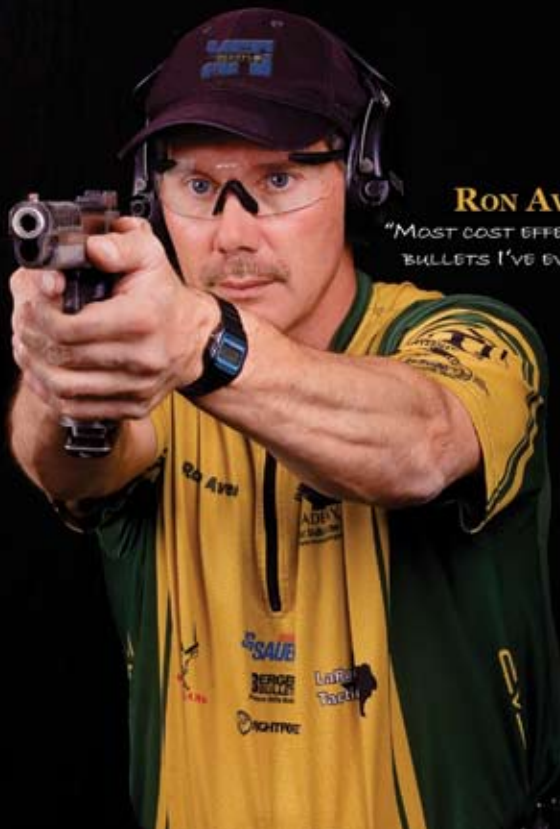
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With the large amount of inexpensive, industrial eye protection available today, there is really no reason to purchase \$100 plus, high speed sunglasses. Local hardware stores (Lowe's, Home Depot, and Ace) all have decent quality eye wear. I do recommend "wrap style" eye wear for maximum eye protection. Make sure they fit correctly as to not continually slide down the nose, exposing the eyes to frags, etc.

It is the CSO/SO responsibility to make sure that the shooter has both eye/ear protection and is wearing them, along with everyone else. Safety is the responsibility of all, but yours by title.

### Rules for the efficient CSO/SO

1. Know the stage and safety features of the stage, i.e. muzzle safe points, etc.
2. Know the brief you are going to give.
3. Read the brief (if you have one), 30 second max. Demonstrate the brief, 60 seconds max.
4. Watch the gun while the shooter is in contact with it. Focus

on the gun. Do not be a spectator, be a safety officer. Be ready for the squib, dud or whatever could go wrong and hurt someone.

5. Never ask are there any question to the group of shooters. There always will be.

6. Be polite but direct, concise, simple and business like in your presentation. Make sure every squad gets the same thing.

7. Remember your Primary Purpose for running a stage. The primary purpose is "To safely and efficiently get a shooter through the course of fire."

8. Never set up a shooter to fail because of your brief or lack of communications. They will have plenty of time to do that for themselves once the buzzer goes off. If a shooter does something different than you briefed and it still is within the IDPA rules, and course design intent, what's the problem? Be flexible. Course design will decide if it is correct or not.

9. Always be fair to the shooter, "just because" is not a reason.

10. Never let the shooter think you are not in charge. Your pres-

ence and professionalism are there for others to judge. If you make a mistake, it is OK. You are going to make them and at the most inconvenient times. Correct them, apologize and move forward. Nobody is perfect.

You can meet these suggestions and be polite at the same time. You set the management of the stage and the flow with the briefing.

### The Golden Rule of a Stage Management:

**It is all about the stage brief, always has been, always will be.**



### Behind the Badge

(Continued from page 9)

plane headed back over. I will be shooting with local IDPA members there again and look forward to getting some range time with friends there and participating in club matches. We take our rights to buy and own firearms way too lightly. After a visit abroad, you will come to appreciate what we have much more. For instance, how would you like the Gov't. to tell you that you could only have one .45 caliber handgun? Only one of any caliber and only if you managed to convince someone in power that you have a "good" reason to have it in the first place. Reloading components are also tightly controlled. Try telling one of your friends there that you can walk into a store and pick out the gun you like and pay and walk out with it most places with minimal paperwork and they are green with envy. In many places the Law Enforcement Officer must lock his firearm up at the station and go home at the end of his/her shift unarmed! Be glad you live where you do.



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