

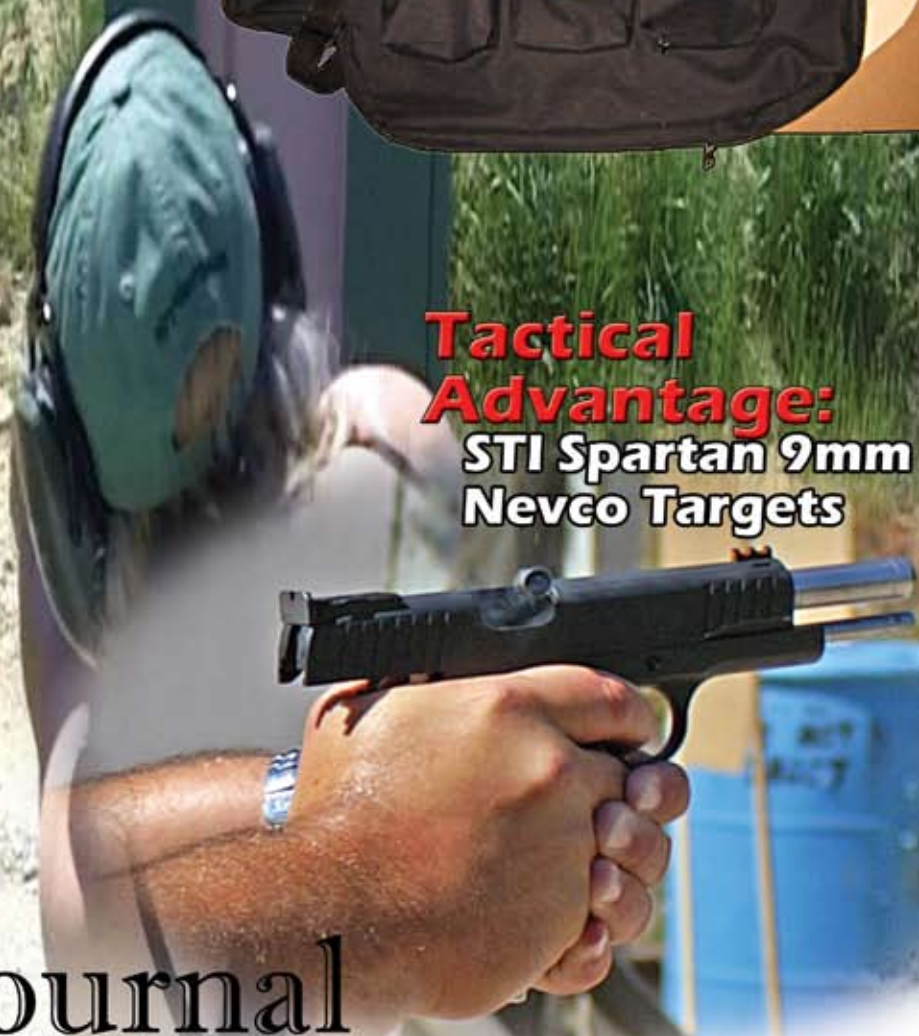
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# Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

First Quarter 2011  
Volume 15 - Issue 1

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# ***"Shooter Ready"***

## **Letters to the *Tactical Journal***

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

### **Mainstream BUG**

I have been shooting I.D.P.A for over a year now and I have had a lot of fun and met some great people. I do have somewhat of a dilemma.

The firearm I use in competition is a Glock 17, but the firearm I carry is a five shot J Frame Smith and Wesson. The dilemma is; I can't be competitive shooting it in SSR because it only holds five rounds and has a 2 1/2" barrel. There is a B.U.G. category but only at the local level and then very rarely. The main reason is that some people carry their back-up guns in some strange places that could cause some major safety problems. So, here is my idea: open up a B.U.G. category all the way to the Nationals and make the rules for it the same as for ESR, SSR or SSP with maybe some slight changes like letting B.U.G. shooters carry an extra speed loader or magazine. Limit the round capacity to five and lower the power factor a little to compensate for the shorter barrels. It could get more people into the sport. So, what do you all think?  
Robert Jennings A35381

*I am afraid that there are no plans to expand BUG as you suggest at this time. It may be that we do expand it in the future but when we might look at that possibility I cannot say. However, you can shoot your J frame revolver in SSR right now. You would be at a slight disadvantage on reloads but it is possible to compete this way. I know of several people that have done this*

*and one that shot his J frame in a sanctioned match. All of those that did enjoyed the change of pace that doing so provided. I suggest you give it a chance and I hope you have a good time with it.*

*Editor*

### **Shorter Shots**

I shoot IDPA and greatly appreciate the opportunities for competition provided by the Association; however, in Florida, one would have a tough time defending the self defense shooting of a person threatening one's life at a distance of more than 10 feet. Certainly, 21 feet would be an outside maximum. So, why do we compete at distances of greater than 21 feet. If I shoot a person because I fear for my life at a distance of greater than 10 feet, I'll be in court defending my actions at a cost of \$20,000 or more and face jail time.

Please reconsider allowing so many courses in competition that require shooting at more than 10 feet or so. I am concerned that allowing such distance competition gives the wrong impression to those who compete for the purpose of practicing their self defense skills.

Frank Darden A38875

*There are a number of different reasons that IDPA has rules allowing for longer distances than you suggest. One is that although IDPA is based on defensive shooting, it is a game. IDPA is not tactical training. Leaving that aside, there are good reasons to shoot at longer distances*

*from a defensive standpoint. One is that you never know what distance you may be threatened from. By shooting at the longer distances you have increased confidence and greater skill set for shoots at a shorter distance. One other major reason is because of the work of Sergeant Dennis Tueller of the Salt Lake City police department. If you have never heard of this man or the Tueller drill I highly recommend reading up on him on the internet. The short version is that Sgt. Tueller determined that a man with a knife or a blunt object could cover the space of 21 feet in 1.5 seconds. I am not sure what your skill at drawing and getting off and accurate shot might be, but a good average is about 1.5 seconds as well. What does this mean? It sounds like at 21 feet there is a good chance you're going to get cut. I really encourage all of our readers to look at Sgt. Tueller's work as not only will it impart some eye opening knowledge on safe distances from a perceived threat but the knowledge of this is usable in court as part of your defense. If you find yourself in front of a court trying to explain that you were in fact not safe from the guy with a knife twenty feet away, this knowledge will come in handy. Last but not least, always remember to train for the worst that can happen. If you do you will always have an edge.*

*Editor*

**Letters should be typewritten but legible handwriting is acceptable. Letters must be less than 350 words. We reserve the right to edit all published letters for clarity and length.**

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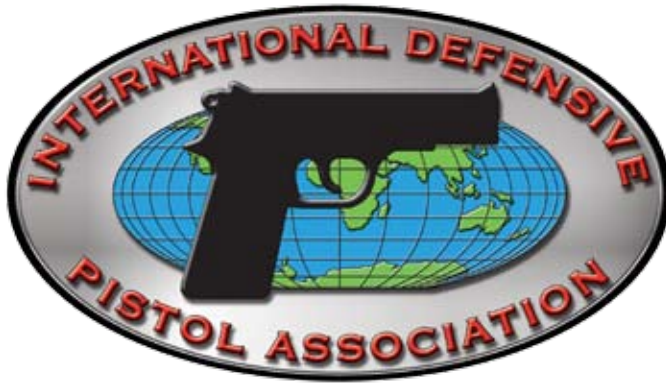


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February 2011

Volume 15 Issue 1

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

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## IN THIS ISSUE

IDPA has grown so much over the years that sometimes it's hard to remember what the beginning of our journey was like. Remember your first sanctioned match while reading about Tammy Kaufman's experience at hers.

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. DN

# Run a Better Match

## Build a Better Club



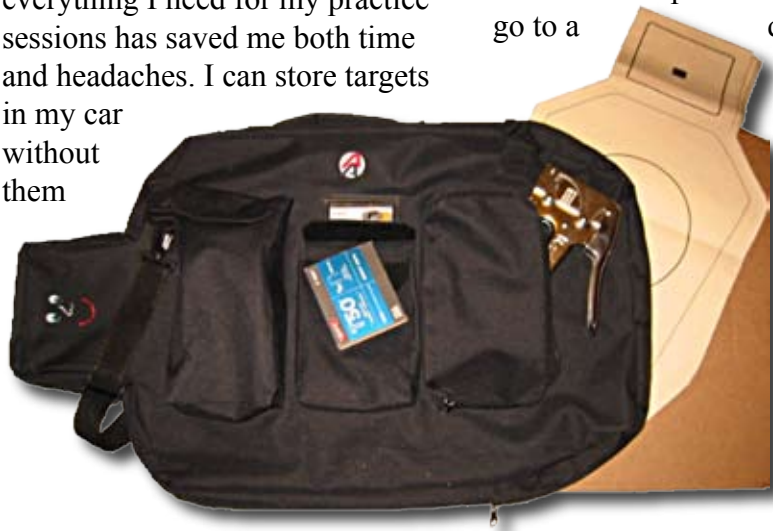
by Ted Murphy A02127

It is 2011 and the 100th Anniversary of the 1911 pistol! I hope a lot of shooters are thinking about shooting a 1911 in CDP and ESP this year. My wife Melissa loves her 1911's, and this year will be doing her best in both 1911-friendly divisions.

### Shooting:

It is not too late to make some shooting goals for 2011. It really does help to develop a plan and a goal. Lay out a reasonable practice schedule for both live and dry fire, and try to stick with it. Goals could be improving your points down, getting a class bump, or shooting a new division. Whatever your goal may be, the only way to achieve it is to outline your dreams and then work towards them.

I found a great product in the Competitive Edge Dynamics' DAA Target bag. This bag holds 12 IDPA and/or USPSA targets and has pouches to hold a stapler, pasters, and other accessories. Having one bag to hold my targets and everything I need for my practice sessions has saved me both time and headaches. I can store targets in my car without them



The CED Target Bag is well thought out and handy.

getting bent, stained, or otherwise mutilated. I no longer forget to pack my stapler, target clips, pasters, and spray adhesive. Check out the DAA target bag at IDPA sponsor CED's web page: <http://www.cedhk.com>. For under \$30.00, you will love it.

### Officiating:

Wintertime is a tough time for working a match. It is important to dress for the elements. I have seen enough SO's hobbling about on sore feet to know that foot care is often overlooked. Shooters and Safety Officers seem to spend less money on their feet than they do on the rest of their gear. For winter use you want an insulated, waterproof boot. Cheap boots are not your friend. You need a good pair of boots that is both well-fitting and broken in. Going to a big box store is not the place for a good boot. There you may well end up with the guy from automotive helping you with your boots, and the boots themselves will not be the best available product. I prefer to go to a

quality shoe store like Red Wing Shoes or some of the larger Police Supply stores. There you will find people who are trained in fitting shoes

and who know the product. Do not cheap out on your feet.

You will need to purchase quality socks. One way to go is a combination of silk inner socks with wool outer socks. This works great as the silk socks will keep your feet dry if you start sweating or if your boot leaks a little. Another option is to wear two-ply synthetic socks. These socks will keep your feet warm and wick away moisture like the wool/silk combo, but are easier to care for. A shoe store or online outlet will offer these socks, and your feet will thank you.

Even waterproof boots get damp on the inside, either from sweat or seepage. There are boot dryers that will dry your footwear. Drying helps prolong the life of your boot and will keep your feet warm. A portable shoe dryer is available for when you travel to matches. The shoe dryer is also a great idea in the summer, as dry shoes and socks will help keep fungus and blisters from ruining your match. Try this and you will find less foot pain when you spend all day on your feet.

### Match Directing:

Winter matches can be tough. Remember to make sure things are safe on your range. Ice and snow are a hazard to be concerned about. Know when it is time to do all stand-and-deliver stages and when to limit movement.

You might want to look into some specialized equipment. Masking tape will stick better in

## ***Run a Better Match***

the cold than the pasters will. Many ball-point pens stop working in the cold. Have a supply of pencils on hand or higher quality ink pens like the “space” pen. Hand warmers will help keep your SO’s happy.

Keep an eye on your shooters and Safety Officers. Make sure that your staff and shooters have dressed warmly and are staying warm. Know the signs of hypothermia. These include shivering, clumsiness or lack of coordination, slurred speech or mumbling, stumbling, confusion or difficulty thinking, poor decision making, drowsiness or lack of energy, apathy, progressive loss of consciousness, weak pulse, and/or shallow breathing. If someone appears to be suffering from hypothermia, get him somewhere warm and call 911.

No one likes to cancel a match, especially once it starts. If things get to the point that everyone is getting soaked by freezing rain and people are cold and tired; you may want to consider ending the match. Talk it over with your staff as it may well be the safe option.

One of the Internet Forum subjects of recent interest is cover as it pertains to IDPA. There are a few shooters who want the rulebook to address the use of

cover and to “concretely” define it. It is certainly not my place to be the one to define cover and to be frank; I am not so sure that a definition is necessary. I think about matches like the Carolina Cup where the philosophy is “here is the problem, now go solve it”. Never once did I see someone need to debate the definition of cover at that match.

From reading the posts, I can see that some want a definition of cover so firm that they can find ways around the rulebook, or because they desire to make the sport less scripted and more “freestyle”. Others simply want things defined, as they prefer all things to have a tidy label.

One of my concerns is that someone would attempt to use a real world definition of cover for IDPA. If this definition were to be applied to IDPA I can see where competitive minded individuals would try to rationalize why



**Judging from the bullet hits, this wall in Philadelphia IS cover.**

something was not legally cover and try to circumvent the intent of the stage by not using cover at all. Automobile fenders, interior and exterior walls, 55 gal barrels, and mailboxes are not always cover per the tactical definition, but they are seen on match day. It would open things up to more debate than I think is needed.

Other attempts at defining cover would likely become very cumbersome and complicated. I suppose it is not impossible to define “IDPA” cover but it seems like a waste of time to define something already used successfully in IDPA for 15 plus years. A better solution is the one that is already in use, and that is to point out the cover in the Course of Fire description and the match briefing. Creating more rules is not the solution, communication is.

How can a Match Director better communicate to the shooters and staff? A good place to start would be to write a solid Course of Fire (CoF) description. The stage drawing does not have to be perfect; a hand drawn diagram will suffice. In the verbiage there are important facts to outline. Detail

(Continued on page 38)



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# Random Shots

## "Fit to Shoot"

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

**by Thomas Pinney A24541**

One of the great pleasures of shooting IDPA is the fact that anyone can shoot and even compete against their peers without spending a lot of money. Our club has regular participants who are in their teens and others who are over 60. They range in size from 5 feet to 6'8" with equally wide variations in weight, all enjoying our sport. That said, all of us who participate in IDPA events need to recognize that we are participating in a physical sport. Simply put, you need to be in shape to shoot your best.

Shooting involves the operation of a wonderful system. Most of us are aware of the obvious parts of that system – our gun, holster, magazines, and ammunition. Those are the things we pay attention to and spend time and money on. We may have even given some thought to other subcomponents of the system such as sights and ejectors – sometimes choosing to modify them to the limits of IDPA rules. Yet we too often overlook the most important part of the shooting system – our own bodies. We might notice elements of our physical condition such as when our impaired vision, but most of the time we are so used to living in our bodies that we forget that our physical readiness impacts how we shoot in ways both subtle and significant. Chess Grand Masters have long known this; they exercise regularly not only for the confidence that fitness promotes but to ensure the system

that provides blood to their brains is working well.

IDPA competitions may not be as athletic as many sports, but they are definitely athletic. The IDPA rule book says shooter movement should be limited to 10 yards between firing points and no more than 15 yards of total movement in a stage. That limitation does not mean that a shooter who is physically fit doesn't have significant advantages. It is much more than the ability to move quickly between firing points – think about the number of stages, especially at major matches, that require shooters to exit vehicles, take low cover, and move through a variety of other props. A physically fit shooter has other significant advantages that go far beyond the seconds gained in more rapid movement. All of us have finished stages with our heart rate and breathing elevated – both make shooting accurately more challenging. Fitness is also related to resisting fatigue; anyone who has shot a major match will testify that shooting nine or more stages will wear you out. As you become tired your performance will begin to degrade, even if you are not aware of the subtle impacts of that fatigue. You might notice the gun seems a bit heavier, you are slower to get on target, and you lose half a step in getting from one firing point to the next. A major match should be fun; trying to compete at your best is no fun if you are approaching exhaustion. There are also well-documented studies that

show being tired can negatively affect your judgment. To avoid all this, shooters need to realize that regular exercise should be part of their total training regime.

Taking care of your body also has a positive effect on other more subtle aspects of shooting. Being in better physical condition leads to greater self confidence, something every shooter needs when they come to the line. Fitness can help you with difficult weather conditions. This past summer was one of the hottest on record; almost all major matches are shot outdoors and it gets hot out there! It is far easier to withstand inclement weather when you are in good shape. Many a shooter has had to withdraw from a midsummer match as heat and humidity resulted in near heat exhaustion.

Obviously, for maximum performance in a major match you also need to get your rest. Once again, studies indicate that a good night's rest helps improve performance on the following day. This is not always possible since many of us have to travel to reach a match, and often that means leaving after work on a Friday, sometimes arriving late in the evening before an early shooter's meeting the next morning. The effects of this can be mitigated by making sure that at least you get a good night's rest the night before you have to leave. And of course, as most of us learned long ago, going 'out on the town' the night before any athletic event is likely to have a negative impact on



## ***Random Shots - "Fit to Shoot"***

performance the following day.

Another related element of taking care of the physical element of competitive shooting is proper hydration and nutrition. Getting enough water may seem simple, but all too often we take too little water too late. Most of us know to begin drinking in the heat before we are thirsty. Some top competitors believe that before matches in hot weather it is necessary to begin serious hydration one or even two days in advance and then drink as much as they can hold throughout the match.

As to eating, you need to do better than the old-time fighter pilot's breakfast (a cigarette, doughnut and a cup of coffee) before a major match. The idea of a hearty breakfast is repugnant to some but you are going to need energy during the next few hours and your brain needs protein. It is a bad idea to think that some of the sugary energy drinks on the market can be a substitute for proper food. Remember, your body needs to be energized but calm for peak shooting performance. So, if you have the chance, have a good, protein-rich breakfast before a match because that meal will need to sustain you for hours. Most importantly, your brain needs to be hydrated. Drink plenty of water. Just a bit of dehydration can impede your cognition and your motor reflexes lowering your scores and perhaps even causing a lapse in safety.

Most major matches will provide a lunch on the range, sometimes as part of the match price, sometimes not. Most experienced shooters will tell you: 'do not eat lunch until you have finished the match.' Taking a break to eat lunch, especially when

you are hungry seems like a small thing but there are many anecdotes about the dangers of eating a big lunch during competition. I personally succumbed to a delicious bowl of gumbo at the Louisiana State Championships one year. It was superb. Then I went out and completely blew the next stage. Ask around and you will hear many stories like that. Maybe it is like the old adage 'don't go swimming for two hours after you eat'. If you do eat lunch, eat a small portion of low-fat high-protein food and don't forget to hydrate with water not carbonated drinks. (Carbonated drinks will blow up your stomach to a size that can be uncomfortable and will cause you to overeat.)

Obtaining a light lunch can be a real problem for the shooter – often the Match Director will go to considerable effort to provide a big lunch full of tasty fat and sugar for the participants. Providing a nutritious box meal as simple as a sandwich with lean meat, veggies, fruit for snacks and plenty of non-carbonated water is best. You can carry a couple of protein bars or nut snacks in their pockets to munch throughout the competition. My favorite snack for energy and focus is a mixture of walnuts, dried cranberries, raisins, pecans, and cashews. Remember these important dietary tips:

1. Hydrate! (48-64 oz. of water per day minimum)
2. Eat protein first
3. Don't drink carbonated drinks or carbonated water
4. Limit sweets, artificial sweets and fatty foods.

Your shooting scores will improve as well as your overall health.

The value of being 'fit to shoot' goes beyond competition. Some

IDPA members shoot primarily to keep themselves better prepared to defend themselves. Physical fitness has obvious advantages here as well; not the least of which is that criminals are less likely to attack someone who appears fit, alert, and confident.

IDPA competition is not and never will be purely an athletic contest. However, you do not need to be a personal trainer or have a spouse with a PhD in Nutrition to know that being physically fit, eating and drinking right, will give you an edge in IDPA contests. The benefits of diet and exercise have been known and extolled since the ancient Greeks. Working out regularly may not be as much fun as buying a gun, but we all know it is good for you and, more to the point will help you shoot better.

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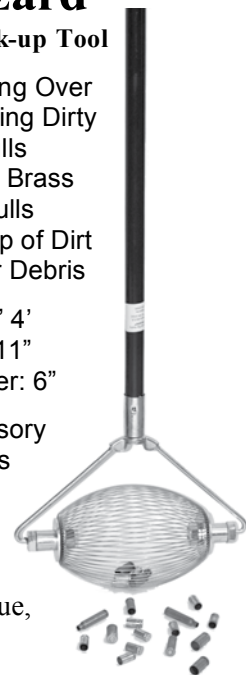
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# My Gunfight

by Joshua Scott A37564

While I have heard it said many times that the greatest attribute of IDPA is to allow one to increase their ability to manipulate their weapon under stress, I would assert that a strength at least on par with that declaration is allowing the shooter to avail themselves of opportunities to experience situations they had not yet planned for nor even imagined. Varied scenarios, including those that allow the participant to shoot from awkward positions at multiple targets from numerous distances in settings that mimic the dynamics of actual situations, provide experiences that should be but are not often replicated during individual practice sessions.

I'm sure we have all heard someone utter words to the effect of, "That's not how things are going to happen in a gunfight." You are likely to hear that you will be taken by surprise and barely have time to react. Others will tell you that as long as you are aware of your surroundings that you should be able to see a gunfight coming. Regardless of the basis for such assertions, it seems that everyone has an

opinion as to how a potential aggressor is going to act when in reality lethal force situations are very unpredictable. What's worse, all too many people who genuinely care about training and practice unwittingly prepare themselves only for what may be termed, "My Gunfight."

"My Gunfight" is a scenario that we replay in our minds time and again. It may go something like this: I'm walking down the street as a vehicle slowly passes then comes to a stop in front of me. Two thugs get out, weapons in hand, and demand my money. They won't be happy with the measly four dollars in my pocket.

With such a situation in mind, you may find yourself practicing in a manner that allows for seeing a vehicle drive up, watching it slow, and readying yourself as a couple of assailants exit. What happens when your gunfight does not unfold the way you imagined? What do you

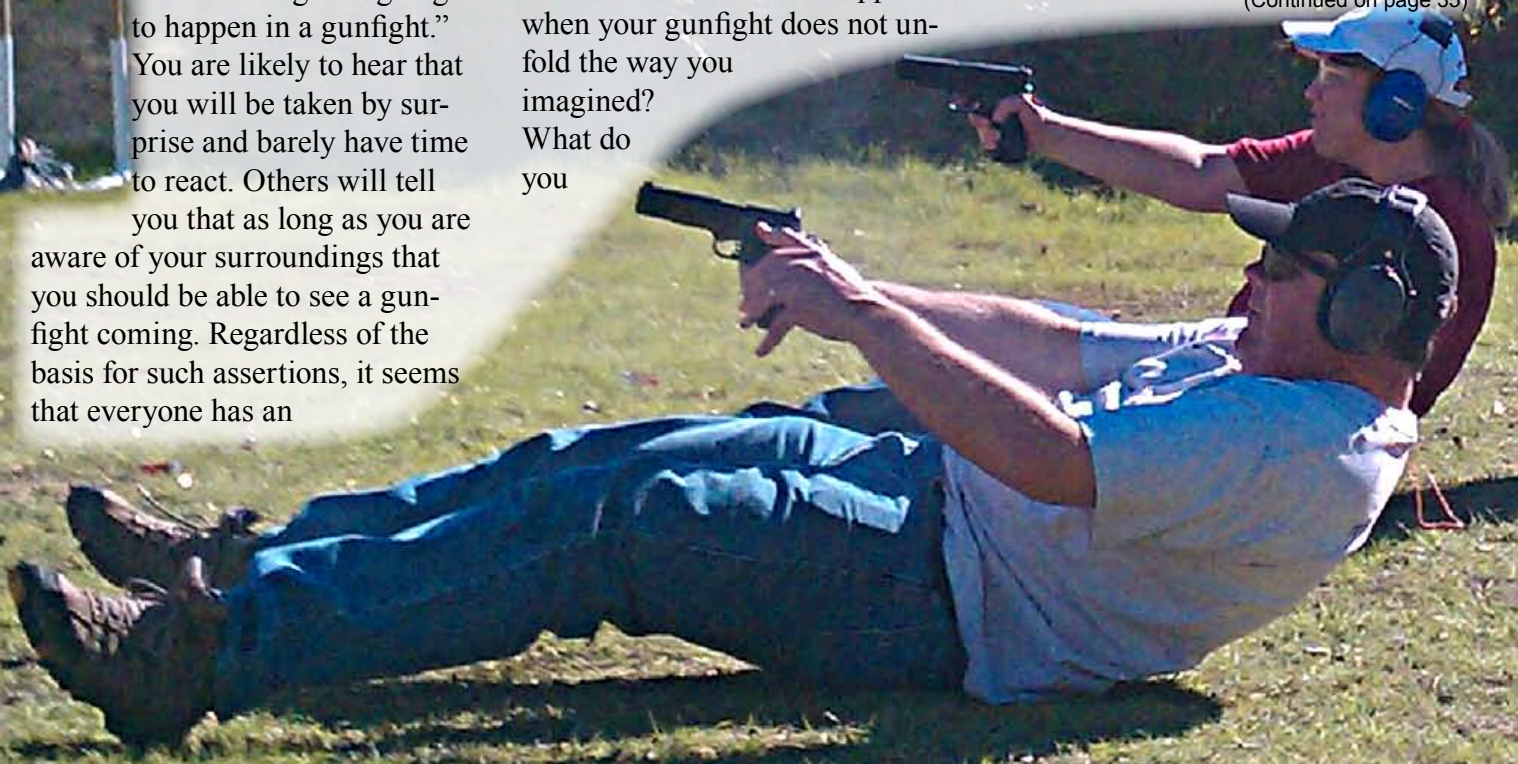


The author crouches behind an end table used as a hasty barricade while calling 911, forcing him to manipulate his weapon with one hand.

do when your first indication of a problem is being forcefully struck down from behind? Have you planned for the possibility that you may be shot?

Don't mistake what I am telling you. It is a very good thing to "what if" potential scenarios in your mind and ponder what you would do. It is a very bad thing to conduct your practice with limited scenarios in mind or to design stages based only upon your notions of how a gunfight is

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Established in 1937, the Phoenix Rod & Gun Club sits at the foot of South Mountain, which has some of the most spectacular desert scenery Arizona has to offer. It was natural that they would name their IDPA Regional Championship the South Mountain Showdown.

The club is extremely active in IDPA with six matches a month that encompass weeknight shoots every Tuesday, two weekend matches per month, and regular classifiers. Turnout is good, and the friendly and enthusiastic manner in which first-time shooters are greeted keeps the new blood flowing.

One thing that impressed this writer, a longtime IDPA shooter and a past match director, was that the club was able to run a nine-stage regional without having to call on outside clubs for reinforcements as Safety Officers and support staff. Virtually all the SOs, and the rest of the crew, were PRGC members. The few who were not were either past members who came back to Phoenix to help with the match, or “regulars” who shoot IDPA there but had never felt a need to join the host club.

Match Director Bill Barron and Assistant Match Director George Lyle supervised a well-trained range staff. Without exception, the Safety Officers were even-handed, cheerful, and welcoming to all. “Range Nazis” were

conspicuous by their absence. “Down the Hall,” a hallway room-clearing stage, was absolutely merciless about cover, but the SOs who ran it made it clear to all comers during the walk-through that this would be the case, and fair warning is fair warning. Moreover, Procedural Errors were called consistently no matter whether the shooter was a fellow club member or an outsider, a new shooter or a Master, and that kept the playing field level. PEs abounded there, but those of us who gathered them had nothing to beef about, so we snuffled back our sniveling, hiked our Big Kids underpants back up, and moved on to our next stages.

South Mountain Showdown employed a “shotgun start” instead of regular squadding and kicked off promptly at the promised start time. When herding cats, letting the felines follow their own noses seems to be a very effective approach. The nine bays encompassed a broad area, but there was little climbing and it was easy walking; those with injuries or other ambulation problems were free to drive to the farther reaches of the layout, which weren’t really that far. Like water finding its own level, the shotgun start allowed shooters to flow to whatever stage had the fewest competitors waiting to shoot. The overall result was remarkable efficiency and minimal waiting time.

(Continued on page 33)

**South Mountain Showdown was a model of careful planning and smooth execution.**

Shooter throws blanket from over head at start of "Street Fight," must strike down flanking Pepper Poppers before drawing handgun.



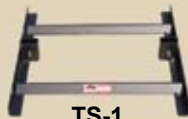
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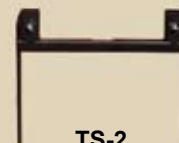
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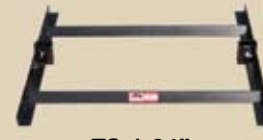
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# The Chronographer's Bench

**by Steve Sager A05264**  
**Equipment check! - 2010 Florida IDPA State Championship Match. Gun weight and ammunition performance can be overlooked items!!!**

The Florida West Coast Defensive Pistol Club ([www.wacactionshooting.com](http://www.wacactionshooting.com)) hosted the 2010 Florida IDPA State Championship Match the last weekend of February, 26th thru the 28th. The club operates out of the Wyoming Antelope Club in Pinellas Park, Fl. They are a fine group of shooting enthusiasts who manage to run a smooth event for all.

Setup began on Thursday and gave the match staff on hand time to assemble all of the movers and turners while working out all of the kinks. The match staff and early birds were scheduled to shoot on Friday in splendid sunshine of which our beautiful state is known for. On Saturday the weather was as miserable as it could have been. Most people come to Florida for the sun and fun; however it was just the opposite for all of the shooters. My hat goes off to the diehards who endured the harsh conditions.

In all, 12 stages, well... 11 anyway, comprising all manners of conditions which would test even the most stalwart competitors were ready and waiting. However, the one single stage which gave pause to most was Stage #12 to which I had the pleasure of working all weekend.

Equipment checks you say? Of course!... Our gear includes ammunition as well. We checked all firearms for the items you would

think were necessary, such as the trigger, thumb and grip safeties and all other manners of wear and tear which had the potential to render a firearm unsafe. To the credit of IDPA shooters everywhere we did not encounter one handgun which proved to be mechanically unsafe in all of the 250+ contestants. Please keep in mind that no one who participated in the match did so without cycling through Stage 12. Our objective was to help all who came through Stage 12 to be in compliance with IDPA rules.

Weight, ammunition power floors, mechanical condition and the IDPA gun test box were all cataloged for every shooter and his/her weapon on the Stage 12 score sheet. Another thought to keep in mind is that it is not always a sure thing whether or not firearms will be tested and examined for IDPA specs at a major match like this. Last weekend they were. Let me explain...

IDPA has set maximum unloaded weights for each pistol in their respective division. Unfortunately there were several shooters (4 actually) who were disqualified due to overweight guns. In all instances they were shooting single stack 1911 types made by a certain gun maker. I won't divulge the particular brand here in order to avoid the sure-to-follow ugly controversy. The main issue here was the over-indulgence with the bells and whistles. These shooters discovered too late, much to their chagrin that the hefty one piece magwell/backstrap combined with ambidextrous thumb safety, custom grips

and full length guide rods served only to push the gun over its legal weight. The look on their faces was one of dumbfounded surprise and extreme letdown. Any competitor whose scores were disallowed due to equipment deficiencies were still permitted to shoot the rest of the match – after all they did come all the way to Tampa Bay to shoot.

The point I'm making here, if you've already guessed it is this... please, before you make all your plans and board that plane to fly all the way to a major match, check ALL of your gear for compliance. The only exceptions permitted were whether or not Stage 12 was their first stop of the day and that they had not shot any stages at that point. There was still time to go back to their vehicle and swap out that full length guide rod for the plug & recoil spring or changing something else at that point.

Stage 12 was open on Thursday till 7pm and all day Friday in order for anyone who wished to do so could make the necessary changes. In order to reinforce our weight measurements we had two electronic scales with two check weights. All firearms in question were weighed at least three times on each scale in front of the gun's owner. We also had a smaller electronic scale and a beam scale for backup in order to weigh bullets when it became necessary to do so. Bullet weight was checked when the shooter could not state with confidence how much the bullets weighed in at. We had a few.

The other screening detail was

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# Through A Newcomer's Eyes

by Tammy "spydernmom" Kaufman A37313

"I think you should shoot the match and not worry about it. It is what it is." True to his teaching style, Dean's response to my question "Should I compete in the *State IDPA Match*?" was matter-of-fact, straightforward and to the point. Although my competitive shooting in the weeks leading up to this past weekend's North Carolina State Championship at *Caswell Ranch* had been nothing if not frustrating and discouraging, I elected to take Dean's advice, pull on my big girl panties, and give it a go. After all, what better opportunity than to shoot my first *BIG match* at a familiar local range where I'm comfortable?



I had volunteered to work at this event, entering scores on the day of the match, so I was scheduled to shoot the day prior along with the other staff and Safety Officers. This was a mixed blessing; while it was comforting to be among familiar faces, I'd have no place to hide in a sea of strangers if my performance went south. We arrived at the range bright and early Friday morning and Mother Nature was already promising a scorching hot day, so I was glad to be tackling the Hotel stage first.

**Stage 1 – Hotel Service Tunnel.** Transitioning from the start position in the bright sunlight into a darkened and sharply angled tunnel with targets at every corner proved rather challenging, but I managed to get all the way to the end doorway when I heard

the dreaded "COVER!" call. At first, I couldn't figure out from what target I was seeking cover, until I noticed the one RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME! This target was somewhat hidden behind a non-threat, so I had forgotten about it. I quickly moved behind a corner before firing to engage the remaining targets, fortunately avoiding a procedural error; but had already lost a significant



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amount of time. Oh well, on to Stage Two.

**Stage 2 – Campground.** From lying on a picnic bench with a towel over my eyes, I had to transition behind a tent which held a bag containing my empty gun and spare magazines. From there, I had 18 targets to engage from either side of the tent. I managed to escape with two Failures to Neutralize. The only difficulties here were dragging my thigh across the wooden bench leaving a nice red scrape, and the sudden burning pain where apparently some insect had bitten me on the ankle after the first stage. Thank goodness for those “After-Bite” wipe thingies.

**Stage 3 – Power Plant.** Shooting targets of varying heights interwoven among giant “spools” is always a challenge, but somehow I managed to keep track of where I had and had not fired, and I was able to get through this deceptively difficult stage without too many problems, even making my head shots.

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# The Tactical Advantage

By: Robert Ray



## STI International Spartan 9

As 2011 gets underway it is only right we turn our attentions to the venerable John M. Browning design, the model 1911 pistol. Entering its one hundredth year, the 1911 design still enjoys tremendous popularity. John created what many consider the perfect handgun but that did not stop people from trying to improve it. One of the most successful companies to do so is STI International.

STI is known for their custom pistols and their domination of the IPSC shooting market. What not everyone knows is that they have several models that are perfect for use in IDPA as well. The problem for me is that there is a custom price tag affixed to that custom gun. Luckily STI has a gun that combines a lot of their

custom features and parts but with a very affordable price. That gun is the Spartan.

The Spartan comes in either .45 ACP or 9x19. With .45 ammo being what it is I elected to go with the 9x19. The fact that I am a SS in ESP and an EX in CDP had nothing to do with it, really... I promise. The Spartan is built on a steel frame with a five inch top end with an adjustable rear sight and a bright orange fiber optic front sight. The Spartan's frame and slide are imported from the Philippines, which is part of what helps keep the cost down. The single sided grip safety and high rise grip safety are standard STI International parts. The internals are STI International parts and include a full length guide rod, match grade fitted bushing, polymer trigger and a STI sear and dis-



connector.

The gun wears a simple parkerized finish which contrasts nicely with the Philippine Mahogany set of double diamond checkered grips. Crisp, clean cuts on the front and rear cocking serrations with the overall classic lines make this a very good looking pistol.

I was able to spend a good deal of time with the Spartan and found it to be a fantastic shooter. Besides several local club matches, I was able to shoot it in a

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# The 2010 Masters Championship: From "Steaming Hot" to "Streaming Wet"

by Robert Moore A28363

August is hot in Alabama. Now, that isn't exactly news. Still, the Alabama August of 2010 was one for the record books—literally. During the week leading up to the 2010 Masters IDPA Championship,

held at Brock's Gap Training Center just outside Birmingham, the area's record for the most consecutive days with temperatures above 90 degrees was approached, then broken, then extended. On Wednes-

day, August 11, three days before the match, the temperature topped 90 degrees for the 38th consecutive day, breaking a record dating back to 1937. And, in reality, just saying "topped 90 degrees" doesn't tell the



whole story. On most of those days, the heat index, if not the temperature itself, exceeded the century mark. Baby, it was hot outside. And rain? Fugetaboutit. Except for an occasional brief thunderstorm, it was as dry as Texas toast.

The harsh conditions caused Match Director Mike Lunsford, Assistant Match Director Jimmy Duke, and the rest of the match staff (including the author) to spend much of our planning time worrying about how we were going to protect shooters from the heat. This had not been a significant concern in previous Masters Championship matches, which had been held

in September or, in 2009, on a bright, beautifully crisp day in November. But this time, it was going to be hot, and we would be ready for it with pallets of water, hundreds of pounds of ice, and supplies of shop towels that could be dipped into cold water and used to keep body temperatures in check. Portable canopies would provide shelter from the sun in each shooting bay, and staff on 4-wheelers would keep coolers filled and shooters supplied with individual bottles of water. Everything was prepared.

On the morning of the match, the ever-evolving forecast called for a 60-percent chance of precipitation in the form of scattered showers or thunderstorms with a projected high of 89 degrees. Match staff could be forgiven for thinking this wasn't a bad forecast. The string of 90+ degree days would be stopped at 40, and a shower or thunderstorm, if it appeared at all, would be brief and would present only a minor inconvenience for the shooters.

As the Safety Officers (SOs) and staff showed up about 7:30 a.m. on match day, it was already beginning to rain. And the rain

(Continued on page 25)

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perfect for most people and I rarely noticed it while shooting.

There were a couple of things that I would have to do to this gun to make

couple of sanctioned matches including the 2010 IDPA National Championship in Tulsa. To give it a little more exercise I also allowed one of our good friends from England to run it at the Nationals as well. The gun performed near flawlessly with everything I feed it. Walmart value pack and a mixed bag of reloaded FMJ's and hollow points ammo all went down the pipe without problems. The only thing that gave it pause was some reloaded 124 grain HP's with a truncated cone profile. It tended to fail to feed these but that was the only bullet design out of several it did not like.

it my regular shooter. They are really small items over all. The first thing is that I would have to install a magazine funnel of some sort.



The gun is easy to shoot and I like the weight of an all steel gun over a polymer. It does not weigh that much more than a plastic framed gun but it has a more solid feel that I enjoy. Being all steel and in 9mm, the Spartan's felt recoil is negligible with almost no muzzle rise. Double taps were extremely fast as was transitions from target to target. The orange fiber optic front sight is incredibly bright and easy to acquire making getting on target a breeze. The trigger is crisp and clean with a break at about four pounds. This is a little bit heavy for my personal tastes but

The inner edges of the mag well are nicely beveled but coming off of shooting a double stack gun made me miss that big hole while trying to insert a magazine. The next thing is just a personal preference. The Spartan comes with 9 round magazines. These maga-

zines worked flawlessly with the gun but I do like using 10 rounders to play IDPA. A trip next door to my friendly neighborhood gun shop produced some 10 round magazines to finish out my IDPA gear.

The 1911 platform just feels right in my hand and the Spartan only re-enforced this feeling. The gun locks up in my hand and becomes an extension of my arm. If I could only get my arm to work with my eyes it would help improve my scores. My failings aside, the Spartan is a great gun and at an MSRP of \$698 it is well worth the money. I highly recommend it to anyone wanting to give the 1911 platform a try. I don't think you will be able to go back to anything else once you do. For more information on the STI Spartan or any of their fine products you can go to [www.stiguns.com](http://www.stiguns.com) or call 512-819-0656.

### **Nevco Long Range Rifle Target**

Not to long ago I received a call from our friend Nevitt Morton. He said that he had shipped out something for me to take a look at and to let him know what I thought. Needless to say I was eagerly awaiting





the orange plate to become visible to let you know you scored a hit. Both plates are made out of 3/8 inch AR500 steel. If you ever wear one plate out, this is very unlikely, you can just switch them out and re-paint.

The target is incredibly easy to set up. Stick the hanging rod in the hole on the legs and you're done. Less than one minute from the time I stepped out of my truck at the end of the rifle range. I must say I was a little skeptical

its arrival. Nevitt is the owner of a target company that produces some very nice steel products. It was sort of like I was 8 again and impatiently waiting on Christmas to arrive.

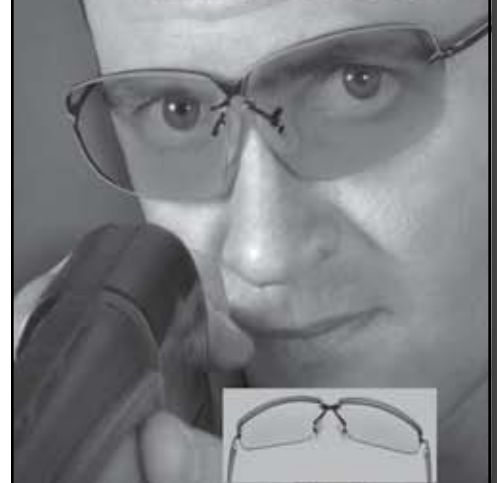
Luckily for me Nevitt as always was quick to ship and before I knew it a box was on my doorstep. I quickly opened it up and found his Long Range Rifle Target (LRRT) inside. How about that, the timing could not have been better. Deer season was just around the corner so off to the range I went. This was made very easy considering the LRRT is comprised of only 3 major components, two legs and the target arm with plates attached.

The target is a flash target with two 8 inch steel plates attached to a rod at a 90 degree angle from each other. A weight provides the counter balance allowing you to only see the white plate at rest. When you hit the white plate, it forces

at first. I did not have any stakes to help hold down the target and I was sure my .308 would push it round. Needless to say, I was pleasantly surprised when the target just sat there absorbing round after round. I should have remembered who sent me the product. Those guys at Nevco know what they are doing. The orange plate is easy to see at 100 yards although if you stretch out past 150 I would recommend a spotter for matches.

This is a great target for a club or an individual. Set up is easy and it keeps you from having to walk to far to score a target. For clubs putting on Defensive Multi Gun matches this target is a must have target. At \$150.00 it is worth adding to your personal or club's inventory. To find out more about the LRRT or any of Nevcos's great targets you can go to [www.nevco-targets.com](http://www.nevco-targets.com) or call 804-994-9195.

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for what had become a torrential downpour. Nobody was going to be shooting for a while yet. For the better part of an hour, SOs and staff sat watching it rain, believing it couldn't rain any harder,

tioned from the level of frog-strangler/gulley washer to just a steady (cold) rain, we started the match. The conditions were far from pleasant. To preserve the targets, we kept them covered and shot through the bags. This made it difficult for shooters to see their hits and for the SOs to score the targets. The bags

quickly proved to be much more than a mere passing shower. In hopes of getting the match started on time, staff decided to put up the targets and immediately cover them with plastic dry-cleaning bags. That worked fine—until we ran out of bags. We learned that we are all



also made it difficult to paste the targets, since the pasters were much more attracted to the bags than to the damp paper. But the shooters didn't seem to be put off at all by the inconvenience. Indeed, they showed no reluctance to leave the relative comfort of the shelter-



only to be shown that, yes, in fact, it could—and did—rain harder. Many of us, drenched and chilled, reflected on the fact that we had prepared well for the

ing canopies as soon as a shooter had finished his run. Rain dripping from their hat brims, they sloped through mud and squinted through fogged glasses to get targets pasted and reset. It was immediately clear that this group of IDPA folks was determined to have a good match no matter what the weather. That attitude made things a lot easier for the SOs.

really bad at estimating how many bags are left on a partially used roll.

threat of heat prostration only to find ourselves facing the prospect of drowning. Ah, the irony.

That temporary setback didn't matter that much as it turned out, because by the time the bag shortage was discovered, the sky had opened up, and now thunder and lightning provided the backdrop

Our real concern, as always, was for our shooters. We had promised them an interesting, challenging, fun match, and we were determined to make good on that promise. Once the rain finally transi-

The rain continued until lunchtime, eventually lowering the temperature to a chilly (if you're soaked to the skin) 77 degrees. After lunch, the sun came out, the bags came off the targets, and the match concluded under conditions more in line with what we had expected. By the afternoon, the temperature had warmed up again, and it was almost possible to forget the misery of the morning. One shoot house stage had to be dropped from the match because it would have created a bottleneck if shot in the rain; otherwise, the match was pretty much completed as designed.

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## The 2010 Masters Championship:

This was the 4th annual Masters Championship, which was originated by Brock's Gap IDPA (formerly known as Steel City IDPA). Despite its name, which has caused some confusion among local shooters, the Masters Championship is not just for Master-level shooters. We do make an effort to give better shooters the opportunity to shine, but only so long as that can be done within IDPA rules and without disadvantaging the Marksmen and Sharpshooters that are the heart of our sport.

For example, Stage 5, "Backyard Ambush," gave shooters the choice of either engaging two targets through a narrow opening at 15 yards or moving to another position and engaging the same targets from about 8 yards. Moving to the other position, of course, took additional time.

Stage 6, "Television Interruptus," had shooters begin in a relaxed position as if at home watching TV. At the first shooting position, the shooter had to engage a popper, which activated a quickly disappearing runner, and a static target. The popper had to be engaged first. The shooter could then either wait for the popper to fall and activate the runner or engage the static target and return to the runner. Waiting for the runner to activate gave a much better chance of getting good hits on the moving target, but it cost time. On the other hand, transitioning quickly from the popper to the static target and back to the runner could cost time in additional points down, or it could require makeup shots.

Probably the most interesting

("frustrating," "challenging," "infuriating" could also apply) stage in this year's match was Stage 7, "A Courier's Job Is Never Done." This stage included a Texas Star, which is rarely seen



tions on the percentage of shots allowed on steel in a stage. One of the four remaining plates was supported with a prop that was pulled away when the shooter deposited a bag of "sensitive documents" into a bin. This meant that the

star was rotating before the shooter had even engaged it. As might be expected, the stage had the widest disparity in scores. Only two shooters finished the 16-round stage in less than 20 seconds, and times in the 30s, 40s, and beyond were not uncommon. This stage will no doubt be particularly remembered, fondly or not, by all those who attempted it.

After all stages were completed, shooters headed to the pavilion to sit in front of a fan in the shade while they added up scores and waited on the official results



begin to spin, making it a devilish challenge.

In this case, one plate of the star had been removed to meet IDPA limita-



## ***The 2010 Masters Championship:***

It was then time to hit the prize table which, thanks to the efforts of Sponsorship Coordinator Dave Horn, offered enough goodies to make sure every shooter went home a winner. Our thanks go out to our great sponsors, including Hoover Tactical Firearms, Alabama Defensive Pistol Academy, Montana Gold Bullets, Benchmade Knives, Blackhawk!, Brownells, Mudtown Eat and Drink, Simmons Sporting Goods, Magnus Bullets, Ergo Grips, Midway USA, Storm Lake Barrels, Sierra Bullets, Bear and Son Cutlery, Hogue Grips, Target Master, Atlanta Arms and Ammo, Wilson Combat, Gun Video, and TAPCO.

Two of our sponsors, J Supply Company and Hassler Machine, are local companies with no direct connection to the shooting sports. But that didn't stop Masters staff

member Jeff Phillips from using his business connections to approach them about supporting the Masters Championship. Jeff persuaded both these local companies, as well as national industrial gas and equipment supplier Airgas, to support the match. Their cash contributions made it possible to provide generous gift certificates that were among the first prizes selected from the abundant prize table. The lesson here is that match directors should think "outside the box" when it comes to sponsorship and not limit their efforts to the nationally known firearm-related concerns. Many small businesses actively support and promote sports and recreational activities in their local communities, and there's no reason that a major IDPA match can't qualify. You won't know until you ask.

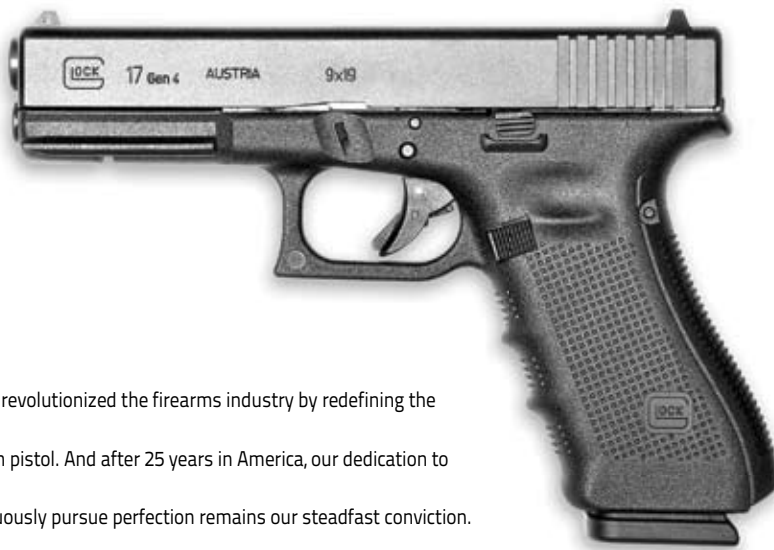
After the prize table was cleared, it was time for the presentation of trophies to the winners. It was also time for Mother Nature to subject the 2010 Masters Championship to one last blow—literally. Whereas the rain earlier in the day had been quite heavy at times, it had not been accompanied by a great deal of wind. That was not the case with the storm that crashed over the range as the awards were being handed out. This one brought thunder, lightning, torrential rains, and ferocious winds that took down temporary walls and targets and destroyed two of the canopies that had helped shelter shooters earlier in the day. We had indeed come full circle, but, thankfully, the shooting was done.

During the post-match festivi-

(Continued on page 30)

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# UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

**February 19, 2011**

## **2011 West TX Regional Championship**

Lubbock, TX  
Brian Morris  
806-790-3115 h  
806-796-2858 w  
806-796-2859 fax  
patriotfiresarms@door.net  
Rick Mosley  
806-796-2858 h & w  
806-796-2859 fax  
patriotfiresarms@door.net  
www.patriotfirearms.com  
Some Low and No light stages

## **February 24 - 26, 2011 2011 Smith and Wesson IDPA Indoor National Championship**

S&W Shooting Sports Center  
Springfield, MA  
Jay BathGate  
800-331-0852 w  
www.matchreg.com/sw/

## **March 5, 2011 Nighthawk Custom Indoor Challenge**

Ozark Sportsman Supply  
Tontitown, AR  
Jon Hodoway  
813-334-7324 h & w  
jehodoway@yahoo.com  
Fred Norwood  
479-409-4473 w  
frederick.norwood@stocksupply.com



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This will be an indoor match with some low/no light stages.

## **March 11 - 13, 2011 2011 IDPA FL State Championship**

Pinellas Park, FL  
Dan Bernard  
813-340-7707 h  
bernardd@baytobay.org  
Larry Gilbert  
larryglbrt@yahoo.com  
www.wacactions shooting.com

## **March 20, 2011 Friends of Wounded War- rior Project - Gateway Clas- sic**

Sparta, IL  
John Abbott  
618-912-4715 h & w  
abbott51@charter.net  
gunlovingjohn.com/fwwp.htm

## **April 3, 2011 2011 IDPA Coastal Bend Challenge**

Corpus Christi, TX  
Phil Day  
361-288-2147 h  
webmaster@cbshooters.com  
Don Critari  
361-668-0768 h & w  
critari@intcomm.net  
www.cbshooters.com

## **April 16, 2011 AL 2011 IDPA State Championship**

Montgomery, AL  
David Rawlinson  
334-324-3257 h  
866-724-9829 fax  
deadidave43@aol.com  
Joe Peel  
334-548-2625 h  
centralalabamagunclub.com

## **April 16 - 17, 2011 Badlands Regional / OK State Championship**

Oil Capital Rod and Gun Club

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

## **April 29 - 30, 2011 MD State IDPA Championship**

Sanners Lake Sportsman Club  
Lexington Park, MD  
Royce Grumbles  
301-863-7420 h  
240-434-2245 w  
rgrumbles@md.metrocast.net  
Rick Boswell  
301-863-6113 h  
301-757-3190 w  
301-863-0259 fax  
sportingsupplies@verizon.net  
sannerslake.us  
Fri., 4/29 will be for Staff shoot through

## **April 30, 2011 AZ State Championship 2011**

Phoenix, AZ  
Trey Billingsley  
480-254-0237 h & w  
pvgeltz@aol.com  
Bill Barron  
623-505-8100 h & w  
www.phoenixrodandgun.org

## **May 7, 2011 2011 NC State IDPA Championship**

Prospect Hill, NC  
Dean Brevit  
919-805-0370 h  
caswellranch@embarqmail.com  
www.caswellranch.com

## **May 14, 2011 The Masters 2011 IDPA Championship**

Birmingham, AL  
Mike Lunsford  
205-504-3315 h & w  
alabamaidpa@charter.net  
Jimmy Duke  
205-504-3315 h

## ***Upcoming Major Matches***

---

shootaglock23@yahoo.com  
www.brocksgapidpa.com

### **May 14, 2011 2011 AR State IDPA Championship**

Berryville, AR  
Carroll Lawrence  
870-423-2338 h  
cap1911@cox.net  
John May  
870-545-3275 h  
870-545-3635 w  
johnmay@wilsoncombat.com  
www.acpl.net

### **May 20 - 22, 2011 Golden Gate Regional IDPA Championships**

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

### **May 20 - 22, 2011 Great Lakes Regional**

Munger, MI  
Gary Cuttitta  
989-846-4473 h  
989-928-2796 w  
cheetahs1963@gmail.com  
David Alexander  
989-329-0257 h  
dwalex14127@att.net  
www.linwoodbaysportsmans.com

### **May 21, 2011 Cherokee IDPA Wheelgun Championship**

Gainesville, GA  
Tod Rieger  
404-274-6106 (after 7 PM) h  
www.cherokeegunclub.org

### **May 21, 2011 2011 Colorado State Championship**

Montrose, CO  
Greg Brose  
662-423-8355 h  
bxstidpa@gmail.com

Gregory Brose  
970-274-8056 h  
970-947-9376 fax  
bxstidpa@gmail.com  
bxstidpa.com

### **May 28, 2011 Southren 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

### **May 29, 2011 Central TX IDPA Challenge**

Austin, TX  
Michael Webb  
210-317-9554 h  
texastactical@yahoo.com  
www.texastactical.net

### **June 5, 2011 II State IDPA Championship**

Sparta, IL  
John Abbott  
618-912-4715 h & w  
abbott51@charter.net

### **June 16 - 18, 2011 Carolina Cup**

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

### **June 25, 2011 VA State Match at Kettle- foot**

Kettlefoot Rod and Gun Club  
Bristol, TN  
Mark Riehl  
423-764-6945 h  
423-764-2428 w  
423-764-9070 fax  
Meraub@aol.com  
Mike Yeck  
423-534-5426 h  
meyeck@earthlink.net  
www.animalmedclinic.  
com/188211.html

### **July 30, 2011 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 20, 2011 Mountaineer IDPA Classic**

Boone, NC  
Robert Niemi, Jr.  
828-446-8778 h & w  
celticmith@yahoo.com  
Gary Hoyle  
828-963-6307 h  
828-963-3995 w  
828-262-2796 fax  
garyh@wgc-idpa.com  
www.wgc-idpa.org

### **August 20 - 21, 2011 2011 WA State IDPA Championship**

Renton, WA  
Richard Breneman  
206-365-1674 h  
206-428-0538 w  
rick45x8@yahoo.com  
Robb Wolfe  
425-255-0643 h  
562-795-7186 fax  
robbwolfe@comcast.net

### **August 26 - 27, 2011 IDPA European Cup 2011**

Divaca, Slovenia  
Frank Glover  
919-693-6313 h  
919-691-7686 w  
therange@gloryroad.net  
Toni (Honeybunny) Dandreamat-  
teo  
954-306-0288 h  
954-608-8482 w  
toni.dandreamatteo@gmail.com  
www.idpainurope.eu

### **September 10, 2011 Tri-State Regional Championship**

Arlington, TN  
Larry Hill  
901-233-7557 h & w

## Upcoming Major Matches

ljhill3@comcast.net  
tri-state-regional.com

### September 17 - 18, 2011

#### MI State IDPA Match

Romulus, MI  
Jack Allen  
734-528-4258 h  
248-633-4600 w  
734-544-1054 fax  
bailagents@aol.com  
Chris Kuzara  
313-477-0181 w  
313-382-4924 fax  
chriskuzara@wowway.com  
www.raccoonhunters.org

### September 21 - 24, 2011

#### 2011 IDPA World Championship

Frostproof FL  
870-545-3886  
870-545-3894 fax  
info@idpa.com  
www.idpa.com

### October 1, 2011 IDPA IN 200 State Championship

Atlanta, IN  
Jeff Brown  
317-984-1758 h  
317-645-5068 w  
idpashooter1@hotmail.com  
Joe Tyson  
317-804-9597 h  
Blainepoe@gmail.com  
www.indyidpa.com

### October 8, 2011 MS State Match

Salttillo, MS

Nicky Carter  
662-871-3346 h & w  
ndcarter61@gmail.com  
DeDe Carter  
662-871-1723 h & w  
tansu@prodigy.net  
www.ridgecrossingshootingclub.com

### October 14 - 15, 2011

#### East Coast IDPA Championship

Prospect Hill, NC  
Dean Brevit  
919-805-0370 h  
caswellranch@embarqmail.com  
www.caswellranch.com

### October 15, 2011 Fall Brawl

CASA  
Little Rock, AR  
Goose Changose  
501-690-6656 h  
501-367-8012 w  
501-320-4889 fax  
wchangose@aol.com  
Jeff Melton  
501-804-8927 h & w  
jqmelton@att.net  
www.casorange.com  
GPS Coordinates: N34 52.2 W92 43.4

### October 15 - 16, 2011

#### NM 2001 IDPA Championship

Las Cruces, NM  
Bill Weed  
575-644-4286 h & w  
xd40\_shooter@comcast.net  
Anthony Trejo  
575-649-1829 w  
amtremo@q.com  
www.test-lc.com

### October 22, 2011 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 22 - 23, 2011

#### 2011 Blackwater Shootout

U.S. Training Center  
Moyock, NC  
Ron Reiner  
Dave Cloutier  
www.defensiveshootersconfederation.com

### November 5, 2011

#### Music City Cup

Dickson, TN  
Michael Bresson  
615-641-6631 h  
615-332-5206 w  
President@mctsclub.com  
Greg Bell  
615-333-1425 h  
615-403-4186 w  
VicePresident@mctsclub.com   
www.mctsclub.com

### *The 2010 Masters Champ...*

(Continued from page 27)

ties, the match director expressed appreciation to all those who braved the inhospitable conditions to make the 2010 Masters IDPA Championship match a success. The enthusiasm and positive attitude they displayed, despite the challenges, reflect the best of IDPA and are deeply gratifying to those who worked so hard to make this match possible. We hope to see all our shooters, and many others, at the 2011 Masters Championship, which, by the way, will be held in May, not August. For more information, visit our website at [www.brocksgapidpa.com](http://www.brocksgapidpa.com).

Oh, and by the way, after a low of 77 degrees at 1:00 p.m. on match day, the temperature at 4:00 p.m. was up to 90—for the 41st day in a row.

#### 2010 Masters Championship Division Champions

CDP – Matt Sims  
ESP – Wes Nelson  
SSP – Dustin McKinney  
ESR – Joe Peel  
SSR – Justin Kilburn 

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shooterbob27@yahoo.com



**Stage 4 – Bank Teller.** This was a match killer for me. My vision requires the use of corrective (magnifying) lenses. So when the swinger was activated, it appeared to me to dart right into my face every time it swung across in front of me. I must have looked pretty silly to the spectators as I tried to dodge the swinger every time it came by!

**Stage 5 – Transporter.** This stage offered the opportunity to combine shooting strong-hand while advancing. Despite the long first pull on my firearm, I did reasonably well here. The trouble arose with the two far targets where I had to engage the headlights of a car prior to engaging the targets in the car. While my first shots were center of mass, the follow-ups

dropped just low enough to leave me with two Down 5s.

**Stage 6 and 7 – El Prez with a Twist and Weak Hand from Barricade.**

These two stages were essentially standards, so no real problems there other than just being a lot slower than I should have been.

**Stage 8 – Bad Town.**

Things were going well here until I lost count of my targets and almost missed the last one! Fortunately, I remembered in time and made the hit, but the time it cost was too great at that point to give me a good score, despite the very low points down.

After the lunch break, it was out to the “golf course” for the next two stages.



**Stage 11 – Off Road.** Exiting a truck and engaging targets from low cover proved to be no real problem. Must have been that soft, comfortable straw “patch” we had to kneel on!

**Stage 12 – Cutting Grass.**

Shooting while advancing to cover is always slow for me, but I was making my hits. That is, until I got into what I thought was a good position to engage the last far target. Unfortunately, that was also



**Stage 9 – Protection Detail.**

I used to laugh at folks riding around in carts on golf courses. That is, until I had to heft one of those heavy and awkward golf bags onto my shoulder (yes, with golf clubs in it) and carry it while advancing and engaging targets! Now I understand...



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## Through A Newcomer's Eyes

an excellent position from which to engage a no-shoot located almost in front of the threat target, thus earning me my one and only Hit on a Non-Threat for this match.

I finished up in 9th place out of 11 in Stock Service Pistol Marksman, but I had great fun and learned a lot. There's nothing like a big match with top competitors to hold the microscope over all your weaknesses. That's the bad news. The good news is now I know what I need to work on for next time.

One of the main things I learned about myself at this event was what's really important to me. While congratulations are definitely in order for all the winners and their hard-earned victories, I must admit I don't remember who won or even who placed. It was the little things that left the greatest impression on me. The people who

stood out in my mind at this event are the ones who probably aren't even aware how much their small gestures meant to a newcomer to this sport like me. The Safety Officer who made sure the towel I had to place over my eyes on Stage Two was clean and folded; the people who helped bandage my bloodied thumb after Stage Ten; the Safety Officer on Stage One who retrieved my dropped magazine and even wiped the dirt off before handing it back to me; the guys who videotaped me with my camera so I could use the footage later as a learning tool (for what not to do!); the young man with his nickname embroidered on his vest; and the gentleman who called me "Ma'am"! These are the people I remember – the ones who transcend competition and make us all feel like family, the ones who

remind me why I love this sport and hope to continue participating in it for years to come.

I couldn't end this post, however, without expressing my heartfelt gratitude to all the staff, Safety Officers, volunteers, spectators, vendors and other shooters – all of whom made the *NC State IDPA Championship* a match that makes me smile every time I think about it. Special thanks to Dean and Beverly Brevit of Caswell Ranch for putting on a top-notch event. I'm already looking forward to the next one...

## The Chronographer's Bench

(Continued from page 15)

to ensure all ammunition being used was up to snuff, as far as the IDPA rules are concerned. Monitoring the power floors, 125,000 & 165,000, became a learning experience for more than one competitor, indeed.

Our standard process was to retrieve 6 rounds from everyone at varying stages along the way. The IDPA rule book calls for 2 out of three rounds to meet the minimum power floor standards in the respective firearm divisions. As I stated earlier, it is relatively apparent to determine bullet weight after decades of reloading and ammunition handling experience. The instances when we insisted on pulling bullets were when the shooter could not identify the bullet weight or we encountered ammo which was performing too close to the minimum standard. Just to be sure, we found two batches which the bullet weight had been mislabeled! The bullets were heavier than what the shooter(s) thought so they were good to go! We encountered one very experienced competitor who

(Continued on page 38)



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Sun, just peeking over the mountain, flares the camera and backlights the gunsmoke as the first shots of the morning ring out on prompt start schedule.

The host club had planned for a hundred contestants at the one-day shoot. They maxed out on entries, though a very few turned out to be no-shows at the last minute. Most of us were done between one and two PM. The scorers – the invisible, unsung heroes of any IDPA match – worked tirelessly in the clubhouse, and things proceeded on schedule. No one waited long enough to grumble about it. Most took the time to have a leisurely on-site lunch, examine the many tables of products donated as prizes, and to chat with sponsors at their display tables.

Major sponsors included, in alphabetical order, Bear Creek Supply, brianenos.com, Cameron’s

Custom Guns, Competitive Edge Dynamics, Derby Guns of Scottsdale, Dillon Precision, MGM Targets, Predator Tactical, Springfield Armory, and Wilson Combat. A rich prize table done with random drawings of prize tickets included in the match fee package, allowed

every single shooter leave with something of value.



Florida/Georgia Regional Woman Champ Gail Pepin negotiates “Warehouse Invasion” with Springfield XD(m) 9mm. Note heavy use of hard cover shielding threat targets.

The exquisite smoothness with which this regional championship ran was due to remarkably

detailed planning by Bill Barron and his team. They had carefully studied years of Phoenix area weather history, and determined the weekend of November 6 was the best bet. After one of the city’s worst three-digit autumn heat waves, the weather broke just a few days before the shoot. Temperature at the match felt like being in Hawaii: “just right,” with the thermostat set on “Paradise,” and a gentle breeze to blow the gunsmoke away beneath the kind of blue desert sky that you see in *Arizona Highways* magazine.

### The Shooting

The event program had promised “a straightforward match,” and the host team most certainly delivered that. “Down the Hall,” as noted, was an apparently much-due reminder to some of us that such tactics as cover are what IDPA is all about. “PRG Standards” was done Limited Vickers, and ran as far as ten yards. It encompassed strong hand only, weak hand only, and free-style shooting skills. All other stages were Vickers

Count.

In “Bank Teller,” the shooter had that job title, and had to engage through teller’s bars on multiple angles. “Bank rules” held that while the employee couldn’t have the gun on their person, they could have it and spare ammo in a nearby drawer. Many a hand reflexively flashed to an empty ammunition pouch before remembering where the magazines or speedloaders were.

“Preacher Man” reflected the very real spate of mass shootings in houses of worship over the last

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## South Mountain Showdown



Anthony Alterio shows the control that won him First Expert, SSP with S&W M&P. Arrows show brass from double tap, muzzle still level, in “Bank Teller” stage.

few years. The shooter began at an elevated pulpit, and on signal had to draw and use that pulpit as cover while engaging threat targets at multiple angles. Some of those targets were in the “far back pews,” and all were to some degree obscured by innocent church-goer targets. This stage definitely reminded the shooter that in IDPA, as in the real world, accuracy is at a premium when defensive gunfire becomes necessary.

“BBQ Invasion” was a fascinating study in shooting angles against multiple targets from different points of cover, and finding the fastest “angle of attack” that would not expose the shooter to

hostile gunfire. Ditto “Warehouse Invasion”, where all the targets had one or another form of hard cover and were sometimes ducking behind piles of tires. “Fast & Accurate” was a deceptively simple six-round stage that required two shots each on three threat targets that were all using the same “no-shoot” as a “human shield.”



Firing one of his own custom 9mm 1911s, ace pistolsmith and ESP Master Bob Hostetter shoots from behind pulpit in “Preacher Man.” Note the distance, and challenging closeness of no-shoot targets.

In “Campfire,” the shooter began on a knee, roasting marshmallows on a stick, when it became

necessary to draw against a pack of approaching wolves. This stage challenged the shooter’s flexibility and ingenuity for rapid engagement. My personal favorite stage was “Street Fight,” where the shooter had to start with a blanket over the head, then slap down two Pepper Poppers before engaging with their firearm. It demanded “out of the box” thinking of the “What the heck do I do now” kind, and had some funny moments.

### Prompt Awards

The awards ceremony went off on schedule, testimony to a match run with wonderful efficiency.

Col. Laura Torres-Reyes, USAF – sponsored in IDPA by Team S&W – won High Woman, High Military, and High Industry, thus giving a positive new meaning to the term “military/industrial complex.” Troy Henley captured both High Senior and High Military Veteran, while Bruce Funk was High Distinguished Senior and Jacob Hetherington, High Junior. Kyle Schmidt took High Law Enforcement, and Mark Pixler, High Press.

With only 18 points down, Rick

(Continued on page 36)



Dust puff from bullet rises behind “wolf” target as an SSR competitor shoots “Campfire” with S&W 686.



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**Strive to create realistic scenarios, such as confronting a threat while exiting your vehicle.**

going to occur. You must strive to come up with as many what if situations in your mind as possible. Take those scenarios and plan for practice sessions to include what you have imagined. Picture in your mind, and incorporate into your exercises the possibility of a violent situation unfolding in a manner diametrically opposed to the way

you had imagined.

It is perfectly fine to practice a flawless draw and precise shot placement on a static range. The importance of sound fundamentals cannot be overstated. Just remember that the incorporation of movement, barriers, one-handed shooting, and awkward positions into your practice regimen is equally important.

This must be recognized because it is all too easy to become ingrained in a standard practice session at the range, focusing ones attention on the same drills over and over while neglecting the realities that may be faced on the street.

While it should never be construed as a replacement for quality training, the integration of varied scenarios is just one area in which IDPA stages excel. Reality based scenarios, or at least scenarios that challenge us to respond and shoot in a manner that we are not accustomed to, have a direct correlation to the uncertain and dynamic challenges we will face when our lives are on the line.

As a police officer I would often patrol my beat and take special note of natural or man-made barriers outside of convenience stores, fast food restaurants, apartment complexes, in parking lots, and the like. I would quickly ask myself what I would do and how I would move if something was to happen here or there. Frequenting the same

areas of my beat on a regular basis, I strived to become intimately familiar with my surroundings. Knowing I wouldn't be able to control the time or place of a gunfight, I knew that imagining as many different scenarios in as many different locations as I could may very well be one of the few advantages I had. That proved to be the case when I was forced to confront and shoot an armed robber outside of one of those very businesses.

Whether you are a police officer, military operative, or private citizen, you can do the same thing. We tend to go to the same places on a regular basis, frequent the same supermarkets, and visit the same shopping plazas. Have you considered that you may only have one hand available while calling 911 or opening your car door? Have you thought about how you would handle an aggressor while strapping your kids in the car seat? Perhaps you have never practiced with the consideration that your family would even be with you. Do not let opportunities to assess your surroundings and your life while playing out potential scenarios pass you by.

Remember that you do not have to be on the range to increase your



**The value of shooting from awkward positions is just one virtue of participating in IDPA matches.**

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**You will not always be able to shoot from a comfortable position at a target squarely facing you.**

tactical awareness, mind set, and level of preparedness. As you go through your daily life traveling to and from work, walking your dog, enjoying your favorite pastime (after shooting of course), frequenting the shopping plaza, or just relaxing at home, take the opportunity to what if situations. Get out to the next IDPA match and avail yourself of the opportunity to shoot a scenario you had not yet dreamed up. This will go a long way to helping you become mentally and physically prepared for any number of scenarios that could become “My Gunfight.”

*An IDPA Master Class competitor, Joshua Scott has over 10 years of experience as a police officer, federal agent, military officer, firearms instructor, and court recognized use of force expert. He may be reached at [joshua.q.scott@gmail.com](mailto:joshua.q.scott@gmail.com) or through his website at [www.OsageCombatives.com](http://www.OsageCombatives.com).*



**You may be forced to shoot from a crouched or other awkward position at an adversary who is partially obscured by hard cover.**

Continued from page 34)



**Plaques were nicely done, and promptly awarded. This one, held by Tim Forshey, proclaims him First Expert, ESP.**

Yost was the Most Accurate shooter overall.

In the division scoring, Division Champion in CDP was Steve Horseman. Yataka Yokomacki took the ESP division title with the fastest aggregate time of the match. DC honors in SSP went Brian Bakke. Revolver DCs were Jon Antrim in ESR and myself in SSR.

**Bottom Line**

From planning through execution, the 2010 South Mountain Regional was a model any new Match Director could use as a template for administering a major IDPA event. Kudos to Bill Barron and George Lyle for coordinating a team that ran like a Swiss watch, and proving that “straightforward” courses of fire don’t have to be a boring or non-challenging.



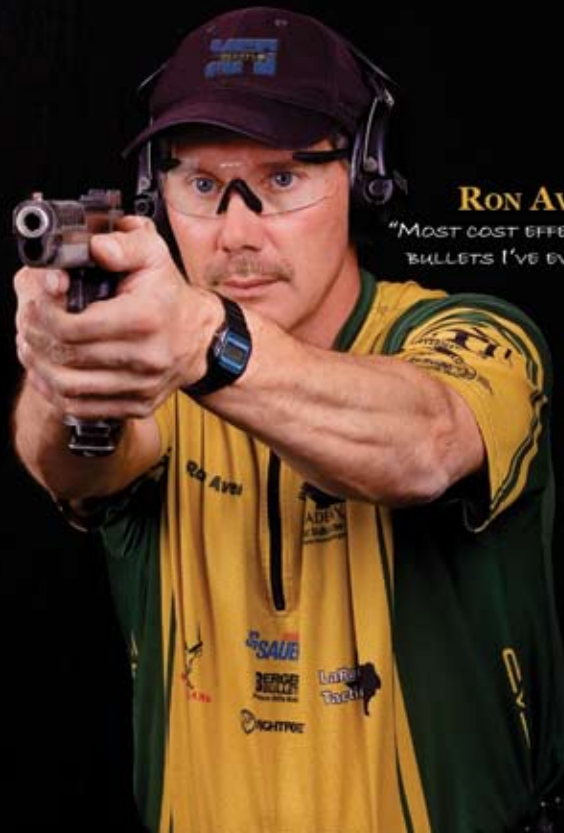
**Bill Barron, shown at right with author, was the hard-working Match Director.**

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**The writer thinks it is the CoF that should determine this as cover the scoring method used (Limited Vickers or Vickers). State the round count. Make sure the props are described, and points of cover are highlighted. The procedure should be simple and easy to understand. If there are multiple strings, be sure to give a procedure for each string. Including a scenario is a good idea; it often explains why a stage is being shot a certain way.**



Give credit to the stage designer, that individual earned it. Taking the time to make a CoF description saves a lot of trouble and is an easy way to make your IDPA program look good.

Match Directors should also take the time to communicate their desires to the Safety Officers.

I have been to matches where the MD simply turns the squads loose to figure out how the stages work. This often creates confusion and inconsistency between squads. The MD needs to schedule a staff meeting before the match starts. Take the time to explain the CoF's to the staff and point out how things should be run. This will give better consistency between squads and put the SO's in a better position to understand the stages. If the SO's understand the stages they will spend less time figuring it out. This will translate to a faster start time and less down time between stages.

An important thing to do is monitor the match. In my previous article I referred to this as "controlling". Take the time to watch each squad, particularly during the match briefing. Make sure they are doing things as written and that nothing odd has crept in. Make yourself available to answer questions. When a match is running well, you can then put it on autopilot and enjoy your own shooting. And remember to keep communication open. You must be available via cell phone or two-way radio for when questions arise.

Enjoy the winter shooting season. Remember to dress warmly, have spare clothing, and keep them in the -0.



**A well-written CoF diagram will answer many questions from the shooters and SO's.**

***The Chronographer's Bench***

was using more than two bullet types and weight!!!!!! Apparently he grabbed a few handfuls of cast-offs before he left home.

One group of shooters had procured their 9mm fodder from a reloader whom they all knew well and had been purchasing from him for quite some time. You guessed it - their ammo did not make the grade. We even tried testing out of

a longer barreled Glock 34 which would produce greater muzzle velocities. Needless to say, a few long faces evidenced their disbelief. Another gentleman, unrelated to this group, had completed all 11 stages beforehand only to fail the chronograph testing as Stage 12 was his last scheduled stop of the day.

In all fairness, we always tested doubtful ammo with the longest

(Continued from page 32)  
barrel gun available in its particular division. I stress here that our intention was to assist the shooter and ensure he was up to IDPA standards. As I have stated earlier, there cannot be anything left to chance when it comes to firearm weight compliance and ammunition performance. We hope that all attended will be back next year.

Be safe.

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