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# "Shooter Ready"

#### **Letters to the** *Tagtical 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

#### **Club Match Date**

Jon Wolfe A37022

Is there anyway to encourage IDPA clubs to post their match dates on the IDPA forum? I must not be the only person who travels frequently for my job, and I find it difficult to find matches around the country if I happen to be on the road over the weekend. It usually requires extensive web searches, then phone calls, e-mails etc. Could you post something on the main IDPA website, in the Journal, or other areas encouraging clubs to post their match info on the main IDPA Forum so there would be a central dissemination point for local matches info as well as the State matches.

Jon, you have a great point. It is easier to make decisions on where to shoot if you know when a club is having a match. A quick look under the Club List page on the IDPA website (www.idpa.com/clubs.asp) show that while a number of clubs do list that information, there are several that do not. Club contacts, please take a moment to review your information on the IDPA website and consider adding you match days. Most clubs list something like "third Saturday" or "4th Sunday". This makes it a lot easier for potential competitors to make it to you matches. You can contact IDPA HO for help in getting that info

#### **Revolvers Respond**

listed.

I agree that it is difficult for a revolver shooter to advance in classification by winning or placing high in a major match due to the relatively low number of revolver shooters. Mr. Pinney seems to suggest that the answer to this "problem" is to do away with the revolver divisions all together.

How about simply lowering the number of competitors in each revolver division that would be required for the top finishers to advance? Maybe one of each three revolver division competitors should advance. Just a thought. Let's not drive our revolver shooters out of our sport. Larry Wilbanks A03465

In his recent article, "Divisions and Classifications" (Volume 15, Issue 2), Thomas Pinney describes the problem caused by low participation in the revolver divisions. Pinney concludes that the most obvious solution is to drop the revolver divisions. But I have a counter proposal: replace them with a division for revolvers actually carried for self defense -- the five-shot snubby. Ed Lovette, in his book, The Snubby Revolver, believed that "... it is possible that the mainstay revolver - the one most purchased, most carried, and most used - will become the snubby." I believe that Ed's supposition is now true, so why not create a division for these very practical guns, allowing them to compete equally. Barrel length could be up to 2.5 inches and division capacity five rounds. The division name might be something like Snubby Revolver(SR), Snub-Nosed Revolver (SNR), or Short-Barreled Revolver (SBR).

Dennis Cantrell (A37594)

I disagree with Mr Pinney on more than one issue pertaining to revolver shooters in IDPA. First, I believe that eliminating the revolver divisions would be a huge mistake. I don't believe that the revolver participation is down, but the contrary. Each sanctioned match I go to, there seems to be a couple more revolver shooters then there was at the previous. I also disagree that the reason why there aren't many revolver shooters is because there are less people carrying revolvers in real life. He makes it sound like revolvers are obsolete. In my experience, in ten years of shooting IDPA, the main reason is the final scores at the end of the match. Everyone wants to be competitive and many people come out to their first match with a revolver. When their first match is over, they look at the final scores and go out and buy an auto pistol. Let's face it, it is much harder to be competitive with a revolver, and it definitely takes more practice. It seems like the majority of revolver shooters are experienced shooters wanting the challenge. We should spend more time promoting revolver shooting in

our sport and less time complaining about it. I have been to several matches at local clubs where everyone was encouraged to bring a revolver and shoot a very revolver friendly match. Many people showed up with their auto pistols, but there was a much larger group of revolver shooters there too. Funny at the last two revolver rallys, the fastest times of the day, belonged to revolver shooters. Several of the top shooters in our club all went out in SSR one year and we ended up with several matches with more than 35% of shooters shooting revolvers. The competition was fierce and it was one of the most fun years I have had in this sport. I would encourage everyone to try shooting a year in SSR or ESR. If nothing else, it may be a reason to go out and buy a new gun and some new gear.

Ken Dexter A11772

Well this article sure provoked a re sponse! We received multiple emails and calls asking us why we are doing away with revolvers. The IDPA Forum was just afire with posts. Not one contact was in agreement with Thomas that the venerable round guns should be dropped. While IDPA HQ never had any intent to drop those divisions, (the header on Thomas's article does say "thought provoking ideas to stimulate discussion on the continued growth of IDPA") it did stimulate a number of responses. Some good and some not. I think most will agree that the revolver divisions needed some help and we started that with the drop in the power factor for SSR. We appreciate all of your responses and we hope that you continue to think of ways that the two "round" divisions can be improved. I hope to see you on the range with a revolver in your hand in the near future.

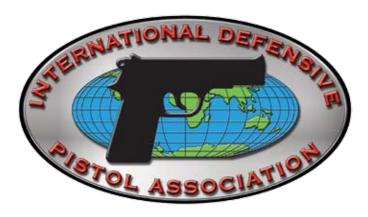
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# Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

August 2011 Volume 15 Issue 3















#### IN THIS ISSUE

It is with regret that I report that Womens Perspective columnist Julie Goloski Golob has informed us that she will have to retire from writing for the TJ. If you follow Julie's career you know that she leads ands incredibly busy life. With all that she does, she felt the need to pass the column over to someone that could devote more time to it. We are sorry to see her go and wish her well. However, Julie and I agreed on who we thought would be a perfect replacement. Please welcome Kitty Richards to the TJ. Kitty is a long time IDPA shooter and gun enthusiast. What I have read of Kitty's work so far is impressive and I think you will like it too. Kitty, welcome aboard! Julie, best wishes!

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

#### PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

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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.

**Upcoming Major Matches** 

# Run a Better Match Build a Better Glub

by Ted Murphy A02127

It is now officially Summer time. I hope you all are able to get out to as many matches as you wish. I know this can be hard with the high gas prices we are experiencing. It may be a good time to look into carpooling to matches.

South Jersey IDPA (SJIDPA. com) is one of the local clubs I shoot at. They were faced with emergent need to raise some money for their club. They decided to hold a fundraiser match, and several companies came on board to help out. I would like to extend my gratitude to some sponsors who pitched in at the very last minute and helped out this club and their cause. Those companies are Comp-Tac holsters (www. comp-tac.com) 10-8 Performance (www.10-8performance.com/), Ready Aim Fire (www.rafire.com ), Smith and Wesson (www.smithwesson.com), Glock (www.Glock. com), and Streamlight (www. streamlight.com), Target Barn

(www.targetbarn.com/) and others. Thank you all so much for your generosity!

#### **Shooting:**

This summer has been rather dry in quite a few parts of the country. The dry dust that gets kicked up on the range is hard on your magazines. Magazines need cleaning and TLC just as your gun does. Be sure to clean your magazines. A good nylon magazine brush is worth picking up. A good product to use for magazine cleaning is Krunch Product's Mag Slick. It is a magazine treatment that uses a liquid suspension to wash out dirt and debris. The liquid suspension then dries and leaves a dry lube behind. You can get both of these products from Brownells (www.brownells.com).

#### Officiating:

Problems can and will happen at matches. Safety Officers need to know how to handle shooters who experience jams, breakages,

and squibs. If a shooter experiences a bad jam or a broken gun, be sure to keep your eye on the gun and shooter's trigger finger. You want to make sure the muzzle is pointed downrange at all times and the shooter's finger

stays off the trigger. If the shooter is unable to clear the jam, you will have to take charge and make the gun safe. If you cannot make the gun safe, find someone who knows how and get that person to take over. If the gun cannot be made safe, secure the gun in a case or bag and instruct the shooter to take it to a gunsmith.

You need to know what a squib sounds like. It is a muffled "pop!" and the slide usually does not cycle. If you suspect a squib, shout "stop!", and get the gun unloaded. Do not let the shooter try to fire again, or he may damage his gun and himself. If for some reason your suspicions were wrong, the shooter gets a reshoot. This is worth it to keep things safe on the range. Some S.O.'s like to keep a squib rod handy. This is a good idea and an inexpensive item to buy.

If a shooter has a broken or squibbed gun that requires attention, make sure the shooter goes to the safe area before working on the gun. It is often a good idea to send an S.O. with the shooter to keep an eye on things. This is mandatory if the gun is still loaded. Shooters can and will do silly things after a problem arises. Just this week I saw a shooter standing on the range behind his squad mates. He was actively trying to drive out a squib with a hammer and an Allen wrench. He figured a gun with a bullet stuck in the barrel was safe and he did not need to go to the safe table. Keep a



Magazine brushes and squib rods are important tools for the shooter and Safety Officer.



Keeping an eye on the shooter's hand and gun is important both here AND when there is a malfunction.

wary eye on stressed out shooters when they have gun troubles.

Dealing with a shooter who is

having gun problems can be stressful, but if you have a plan it will be simple to resolve. Remember to be prepared and be in control of the situation.

#### **Match Directing:**

Low light matches are great fun. They are wonderful tests of shooting skill and gun handling. They do have equipment requirements that are not fully covered by the rulebook.

One such issue is the subject of flashlights. Some MD's require the light to be concealed, while others do not. In this world a flashlight is an often-carried and innocuous piece of equipment. Seeing a flashlight clipped to a pocket or hanging on the belt is no more alarming than seeing a wireless phone or PDA. With that in mind, does requiring the concealment of a flashlight pass the reality test? Think about this when you draft your lowlight stages.

When shooters discuss matches they often bring up the issue of consistency. As match director vou have the responsibility of insuring things are consistent throughout the match. You need to make sure that each squad is run though every stage as consistently as possible.

One of the sources for confusion and discrepancies in a stage is the



At a major match like the NJ State Championship, it pays to have fixed SOs.

stage itself. If a SO is faced with a poorly documented stage he will have to use his best judgment as to how the stage should be run. If the

stage is simple and straightforward, then odds are the SO will run the stage consistent with the other SO's. If the stage is complex, then there will be differences between the different squads. These differences will be rather obvious in the overall results. In either situation, a well-written course of fire (CoF) description is a must have first step.

Another thing to consider is there is often more than one way to shoot a stage. If the SO of one squad lets his shooters shoot the stage as they like (within the rules of course) and another SO limits his squad to only one way to shoot the stage, then there will be trouble. The

more "freestyle" squad will likely have better scores and the other squad will be at a disadvantage. My personal style is I am only rigid on how a stage is run when safety is an issue. Otherwise, the shooter is free to shoot the stage within IDPA rules. Decide how you want this handled and communicate it with your staff. Give the SO's the tools they need to do their job right.

Right about now the reader is probably thinking the answer is to

(Continued on page 38)



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# Women's Perspective

by Kitty Richards A18564



Julianna Crowder begins her Concealed Handgun License (CHL) class in Cedar Park, TX, with the question "why do people own guns?" The dynamic blonde asks the class, "How many of you have heard of IDPA or Action Pistol Shooting?" In the class of nearly 30 students, two hands tentatively rise. Crowder, a six year veteran of IDPA shooting says, "That is going to change right now." She vividly explains how much fun the sport is, and how vital IDPA is for citizens who conceal carry to have realistic practice that goes beyond dry fire exercises at home or static target practice at the range. She shows pictures featuring her and husband John shooting IDPA stages. At the end of the 4 minute verbal love fest, attendees are eagerly asking questions about where they can find an IDPA match, what they need, and can they please shoot with Julianna and John.

The Texan-by-way-of-California

instructor is 51%-owner of JJBM, LLC making it a female owned corporation. The initials stand for John, Julianna, Blake, Matthew – the owners and their two sons. Including their boys in their shooting endeavors is important to mom and dad. "We believe that we are all responsible for our personal safety, but we work together as a family to take care of each other."

In 2007, the Crowder's created Capitol Area Practical Shooting (CAPS), teaching Co-Ed Concealed Handgun License and Firearms Training. Julianna explains, "John made me get my CHL and I wasn't really that interested at the time. While I was sitting in class watching the instructor teach and his wife sitting in the back doing admin work, I thought to myself that John and I could totally do this. Teaching anything about guns was not my talent, but John is a natural teacher, and very good at it. My talent is developing the business. After a year, John encouraged me to get my CHL instructors license since I had sat through his class at least 12 times and was beginning to pick up an interest. I was very interested in the legal issues of gun ownership and use of force. By the end of 2009 I was teaching on my own and found my talent for teaching novice shooters." Husband John has nothing but praise for his wife's ability to captivate students. "Julianna can relate to what it feels like to be a new shooter, and understands the stress, excitement and sometimes fear that comes with learning a new skill, especially shooting. Julianna didn't grow up hunting or shooting as a family activity, so she can relate to the transition a woman makes when learning to shoot for fun or for self defense"

Based on the success of CAPS, JJBM initiated the Women's Safety Academy of Texas (WSAT). In her classes, Crowder says they meet many women who want to learn to defend themselves, but don't sign up for class because they think they are fine; the women who are turned in and want to take a class do not allow themselves time to actually do it. "John and I keep telling the scary truth, that we are faced with violence in our community. Since so many of the clients coming through our CHL classes were women, I decided to have a section of our company be completely women-focused to encourage more women to seek training. As I was developing the ladies-only program, it was clear that not all women are comfortable with guns or even wanted to accept the idea that they should be in charge of their own personal safety. I met Vicky Kawelmacher, owner of Women's Shooting Academy, in Reno NV. She has gun, knife, pepper spray courses and created a course called the WARRIOR in Every Woman. I flew to Reno to get certified in her WARRIOR program, and observed her business model. I began my search for other women instructors that could contribute their talents, and Women's Safety Academy

of Texas was born in September 2010. I know that women don't generally take time for themselves to take a class, and it may not be high on their priority list with kids, husbands and jobs competing for their time. But what we have found is that whatever information we can share with them on that one day could save their life or inspire them to continue on with additional training. We developed clinics that are meant to give the most important and basic information for each self defense tool. We encourage everyone to continue some sort of training or set time aside to practice the skills they learned. We understand that only a small percent of people will continue to train, or take a series of classes. But we have been able to reach women that would have never walked into other various

self defense studios, give them a sense of empowerment, taken away the scary factor and know that we made a difference!"

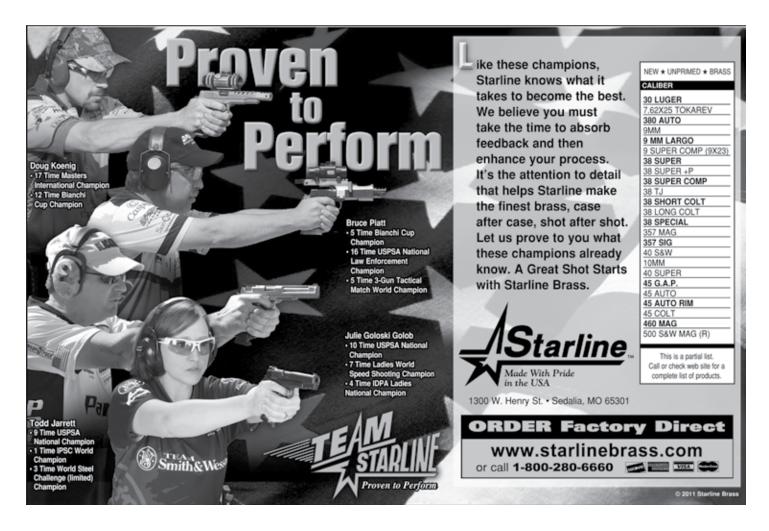
Two other female instructors have joined Crowder in the ladies-only arena: Auristela Moctezuma teaches the basic knife and hand-to-hand clinics, and Rhonda Esakov is the Hunters Education Instructor.

This goal-oriented shooter's efforts don't end there. "Because I enjoy teaching the firearms classes, and wanted to have way for my clients to practice and get introduced to the world of shooting sports, I was led to develop A Girl and A Gun Women's Shooting League. I started with a goal to have a shooting club for our clients, a way to find more women interested in getting involved, and also a vehicle for them to desire

more education. It has turned into umbrella organization of support. We are still in the initial stages but the grand picture we have now is offering support to local clubs by planned activities and matches, providing membership perks which includes insurance for "chapter" events, discounts on venders that range from accessories, gear, clothing, even restaurants for dinner after our Girl's Night Out, and special classes and clinics."

A Girl and a Gun (AGAG), cofounded with Renee Blaine of
Austin Hotshots, was formed to
educate and encourage women
about the opportunities of
recreational and sport shooting,
and to promote women's interest
and participation in the competitive
shooting sports. AGAG also
wanted to create an environment
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# **Random Shots**

"That's the Drill"

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

#### by Thomas Pinney A24541

The heart of the International Defensive Pistol Association is competition. Sure, we value the practical shooting skills we develop, and the fellowship with other shooters is well worthwhile, but ultimately the glue that binds our organization together is pistol competition.

Competition implies that you will be compared against others - most of us would prefer to have that comparison be favorable; that is, we want to do better than the other people competing against us. Almost everyone knows the best way to improve skill is to practice. After all, one of the cornerstones of the IDPA is that a person can spend a minimal amount on equipment and still be competitive. Fortunately this is still true. It is the skill of the individual, not the equipment that usually determines who has the best scores.

Although competitive shooting is an individual sport, it very difficult to significantly improve your shooting all by yourself. An additional 'set of eyes' is really necessary to see what you are actually doing when you shoot. Some shooters take videos of themselves to observe their technique. Most of us rely on the observations and advice from fellow shooters. Simply having a knowledgeable observer watch you shoot can pick up errors that creep into our shooting techniques over time. This is helpful, assuming of course that you and your friends

actually know the most effective ways to get rounds downrange on target.

Spending the money for a professional shooting instructor is the best single thing you can do to improve your competitive shooting skills. A session with a professional instructor will almost always result in faster and more accurate shooting which means better scores. Some of the advantages of getting professional help include:

- A competent professional can actually save you money on your journey along the road to better shooting. Instead of wasting time and ammunition repeating your same mistakes over and over, an instructor can improve your shooting faster and with less frustration
- It is very valuable to have a really experienced set of eyes watching you shoot. Having a qualified expert look at your shooting will help you identify bad shooting habits that creep into all our technique.
- If you are new to the sport, working with an expert will help get you started right. Setting a firm foundation at the beginning means you will not only get better faster, but you will not need to unlearn all the bad habits shooters develop when they try to learn on their own.
- If you are a more experienced shooter looking to improve your game, instructors know the best ways to make you a better shooter. They have taken the time to investigate both new and time-

tested exercises to help you shoot better. A good instructor will know why you are not shooting accurately and how to fix the problem. They can pass on tips and tricks not only on shooting mechanics but also how to shoot stages faster, some of which are simply not understood by amateur shooters. Is that gaming? It most certainly is; after all, when you get down to it that is what a competitive match is – a game.

- Not only will your shooting immediately get better you will also learn drills to practice with on your own. One of the things you will do under professional guidance is to do a series of drills. After class is over you will be encouraged to keep on doing these drills as your 'homework'. The training you receive is a lifetime gift which you can continue to use as long as you continue to shoot.
- Working with a professional is more fun. A good instructor will make learning an enjoyable experience; not only that, making a dramatic improvement in your shooting (and that is typical result) is a hoot.

Picking an instructor is very important. Remember that there are no certifications for teaching IDPA-type shooting; a person who does IDPA training for money should have insurance and credentials to prove that they are going to be able to provide good instruction to you. The most common and probably the best way is through word of mouth - the recommendation

(Continued on page 32)

# Through the Eyes of a Junior Shooter



#### How do I behave at the range?

So the other day, my dad and I were at the local outdoor retail Megastore on our weekly pilgrimage to check out the pretties (guns) at the gun counter. We walked up and began our examination of their products. when I saw something that made me squirm. A salesman was helping the couple next to us, and handed the lady a Glock. When it touched her hands, she immediately stuck her booger hook on the bang switch (borrowed that from Mas), took aim at the salesman's head, and asked about the pistols features! The salesman just stood there smiling, and began his often

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repeated speech about the plastic fantastic, completely unphased! Well, my eyes got big and my jaw sort of hung open in amazement, as I backed away like I had been confronted by a bear. My dad and I exchanged a knowing glance that meant we should probably relocate to another section of the store. When the irritation wore off, we asked one of the gun salesmen how they could stand it when people did that sort of thing. He shrugged and said, "Eh... you get used to it." Sorry, but I don't think that would be possible for me to do. The amazing thing is, nearly every time I go to a gun store this happens, and I simply will not tolerate someone pointing a gun at me. When people do, I ask them not to, and usually they are upset, saying something like, "What?... it's not loaded." My first thought is, "How would you know? You didn't even check the chamber!" but that doesn't even really matter. does it? In some states, this is illegal, in all states, it is annoying (and down right ignorant). Please everybody, the four rules of gun safety always apply! Conduct yourself accordingly both on and off the range.

If you've spent any time around people and guns, (at gun shops, at gun shows, at your local range, while hunting etc.) then like me, you have probably taken note of both the good and bad behavior. I will attempt to classify the types of people who exhibit these behaviors into three familiar categories; the good, the bad and the ugly. For

the three classifications of conduct around firearms, I have created (mostly) fictional characters, and each will exhibit examples of safety related behavior I have witnessed...

Since IDPA matches are held at organized ranges, I will focus on safety at the range. If you have not spent much time at a shooting range, pay close attention to the examples that I describe here. If you haven't seen them for yourself yet, you soon will. It is in everybody's best interest to pay close attention to mistakes made by ourselves and others, and to learn from them (hopefully not the hard way). The following are examples of safety issues pertaining to time spent in a group setting during shooting events. I will discuss safety issues associated with gear, attitude, behavior, experience, physical limitations and more.

Attitude; what makes this a safety issue? I'll give some examples. I once noticed a shooter new to our range with a loaded magazine in his holstered pistol. We operate on a "cold range" (no ammo in the chamber or cylinder, no mag in the well) so I asked him to step aside with me and quietly reminded him about our rule, and asked him to please go to his vehicle and unload. He got upset and started making irrelevant excuses like, "There isn't one in the chamber," or, "I've been shooting for (however many) years." Since he still refused to abide by the range rules, I notified one of the Safety Officers (which (Continued on page 28)

# 50 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

For fifty years, the National Shooting Sports Foundation—trade association for the firearms and ammunition industry—has served its member companies by promoting, protecting and preserving hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF's history is a story of the challenges industry has faced and the achievements your industry's trade association had made. These include...

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- Protecting industry and the shooting sports through government relations
- Preserving firearms and hunting freedoms through voter education
- Promoting the use of hunter orange
- Don't Lie for the Other Guy
- The SHOT® Show
- Safety and conservation education programs for schools
- Project ChildSafe®







IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2011



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#### A Case for Knee Pads

#### by Ted Murphy A02127

Recently I was competing in a large non-IDPA match when I ran across an old friend who used to be an avid IDPA shooter. He is an exceptional shooter, gifted stage designer, and a very hard working range staff member. A few years ago he stopped shooting IDPA to focus on a different discipline. For some time I had wanted to know why he had left IDPA behind so I finally asked him. While he did give me several reasons as to why he had moved on, one of the major factors was that his knees could no longer take the abuse from all the kneeling stages in IDPA.

While I do not yet have major knee problems, I can sympathize with my friend. Crashing down onto your knees several times during a match does take its toll. Some times after hitting the ground hard at a match Sunday, I had a bad Monday at work when the resulting knee pain made doing my job difficult. At times like this I do find myself wondering when exactly I will find shooting IDPA to be too hard on my knees, and when I will be forced to give IDPA up and find something else to shoot.

It is true that IDPA does



permit you to wear soft kneepads under your pants. When I experienced a work related knee injury four years ago I tried a pair myself. I found the soft pads did soften the blow some: but it did not offer even a fraction of the protection that a hardshelled kneepad will. In the end, I had to take most of the summer off from shooting IDPA, and shot sports that let me stay standing or be able to use a better grade (hard-shelled) of kneepad.

If the reader does not have any knee problems he will likely think this is a non-issue. I disagree as I have seen this problem affect quite a few shooters, and likely will see more of this in the future.

So what can be done about this issue? The simplest solution would be to permit the use of hard-shelled kneepads. After all, we require the use of safety equipment like eye protection, ear protection, and at some ranges, billed hats. These are items we do not typically wear on the street either. But while they are not "street" they all do their part to allow us to come home from the range with no more damage we had when we started.

Many things are prohibited in IDPA due to the issues with reducing the costs to compete. This particular issue does not have an attendant high cost. While



Is this shooter a Gamer, or a 58 year old trying to preserve what knees he has left?

there are expensive 'tacticool' and competition oriented kneepads that cost a small fortune, they are not necessary. My \$11.00 pads from a home center work wonderfully and are very comfortable to wear all day long.

I am not unaware that the "gofast" competitive minded shooters will jump at the chance to use these pads. I believe however, that permitting the use of hard-shelled kneepads will help to even the field between the middle-aged shooters who need to be able to get up for work Monday morning and the "go-fast" crowd who are less afraid to take the risks associated in taking a hard knee while shooting a course of fire. I simply do not see why penalizing those that really do need the protection out of a desire to deny something to the "go-fast" shooters is productive in this case.

It is at this point if not sooner

(Continued on page 27)

# 2011 IDPA Massachusetts State Championship

by David Bold A00494

On the weekend of June 4th & 5th, 2011, The Rod and Gun Club of New Bedford hosted the 2011 Massachusetts State Championship for the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA). This is the 15th consecutive year the club has hosted this match, making it one of, if not the longest, continuous running state matches in IDPA history. More than 100 competitors from all over New England converged in Dartmouth, MA for 10 stages of shooting challenges to test their abilities.

This year's match was made possible in part to our generous sponsors: Montana Gold Bullets, Hogue Grips, XS Sights, HiViz, Brownell's, 5.11 Tactical, Kahr Arms, D-Lead, Birchwood Casey, Four Seasons Firearms, Starline Brass, Hornady, Zero Bullets, Lee Precision, Midway USA, Wilson Combat, Redding Reloading, Vertical Dimensions, East Coast Screen Printing and MGM Targets.

Unlike our typical luck for weather, this year Mother Nature was extremely nice to us – sunny and seventies with a very slight breeze. You couldn't order better weather for an outdoor event, which was great for us as all stages were shot outdoors. While this took away the challenge of shooting indoors in the dark with a flash light, it allowed us to add 2 more stages to the match. Much positive feedback was received about this change. Not sure if that's because people like shooting more, or are happy to avoid what's historically been the most difficult stages of the match.



Stage 7: Engaging the targets in the room to the right while not exposing yourself to the targets in the room on the left, visible down the hall on the left.

This year had great variety between the stages, with many different ways to start, different shooting positions and choices on different ways to shoot them. There was nothing boring or routine about the match.

The first stage had you sitting at a card game with your gun hidden under a magazine. You had to retrieve your unloaded gun, put it into action and neutralize 5 threat targets with 2 shots each in tactical sequence (shooting 1 round to each target before re-engaging with an additional round per target) while avoiding the innocent no-shoot target.



The second stage had you start sitting at a bench. Upon the start signal you had to get up, retrieve your unloaded firearm, load it and engage targets behinds walls on the left and right, move and take two steel pepper poppers down a hallway each of which activated swinging targets, and finishing off by running down the hallway to engage the last three targets.

You're holding a baby basket in one hand and your briefcase in the other when you are attacked. For stage three you had to carry your baby to the safety of cover while engaging 2 bad guys on the move, 2 more from cover after putting the baby down safely, and the last two targets at the end of the hall, one of which was a disappearing target.

(Continued on page 24)



# The Tactical Advantage

## By: Robert Ray

#### **Panteao Productions**

We all lead busy lives and although we know that true instruction would benefit our shooting skills, we normally just rely on our monthly trip to the IDPA match. Beside the time, it is hard to turn loose the money needed to attend a training class. Well Panteao Productions has helped make your life easier by bringing a line of top flight instructors into your home via their expanding line of "Make Ready" training videos.

Panteao has started with some very well know names in the shooting world and worked with them to produce a great series of videos to increase your personal skill set and knowledge base. Their videos cover multiple areas such as Tactical Weapons, Competitive Shooting, Armorer Skills and Home Defense and include



instructors such as Bill Rogers, Robert Vogel, Dean Caputo, Dave Harrington and Massad Ayoob as well as several other great instructors. Panteao is also constantly working to expand the number of instructors and areas that they cover. The cost of taking one of these great classes, after you factor time, travel and class price, can easily run over a thousand dollars but by purchasing the video you can receive this high level instruction in the comfort of your own home at a small fraction of that price.

Not only do they have top tier instructors but they have top tier production values as well. Panteao's camera team is not just some random guys with a camera. They have done work in both TV and film. The production team is lead by Rick Bravo who is an industry veteran and worked on Michael Mann's "Miami Vice"

television show.

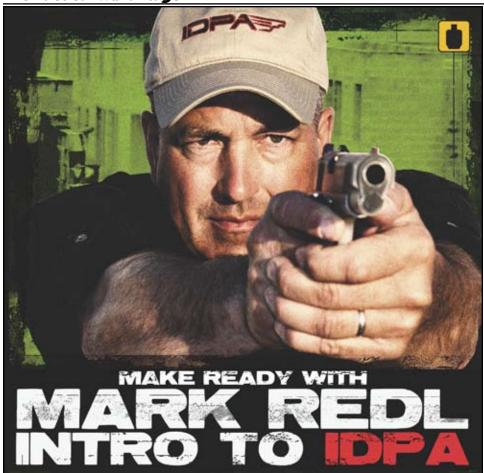
Whatever you are looking for, I am sure that Panteao will have a video that will fit your needs. Panteao also has a subscription available on their website that grants you access to their entire library streamed to you in high definition, 24/7 on demand. High quality, high value and high tech are all what you get with Panteao Productions. We like the products so much we have included select titles in the IDPA Pro Shop. The MSRP on the videos are \$49.99 and the streaming video is only \$17.95 a month. To see their

full line of videos go to www. panteaoproductions.com. As a special offer if you by any two videos directly from the Panteao website, Panteao will send you a gift certificate good for one free year of membership to IDPA. It's an offer that is hard to turn down.

Not only has Panteao stepped up to make you a great offer on IDPA membership, they also have teamed with IDPA to produce a video for the new or beginning member. The video is titled "Make Ready with Mark Redl. Intro to IDPA" Mark is a very gifted Master Class shooter and he takes you through everything you need to know to shoot your first IDPA match. The video not only covers safety, range commands, scoring and penalties, it also covers important areas such as moving and shooting, draws and presentation, using cover and what to bring to a match. Mark also takes you through a complete classifier. All of this is perfect for that person that is just getting into IDPA and competitive shooting. This video, a \$49.99 value, now comes free with all new memberships. Be sure to thank Mark for his work next time you see him on the range and thank Panteao for their support of IDPA. Fernando Coelho is the owner of Panteao and has been a tireless supporter of IDPA for many years. We appreciate your support and all you do for the sport.

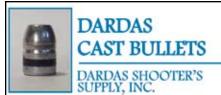
#### CamelBak

As the hot part of the shooting season is upon us, my mind turns to some of the problems that I



see at matches across the country. We all take great care in making sure we have our safety products like eye and ear protection but we sometimes forget or overlook other things. One of those that I would like to cover today is staying properly hydrated.

While attending matches across the country one of the most common things I see is competitors getting dehydrated



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NRA Life Member

123 E. Hampton Road Essexville, Michigan 48732 Bus.: (989) 450-5396 Fax: (866) 325-6525 on the range. These instances range from simple degradation in shooting performance to calling an ambulance. Camelbak has been

a long time leader in the hydration market and their catch phrase says everything you need to know, "Hydrate or Die". Sounds a little over the top but there is a lot of truth there. When you start getting dehydrated your performance suffers and as you get further and further dehydrated the adverse effects get more pronounced. Camelback has whole line of different products to help fight this problem

Camelbak is most well known for their high quality line of backpacks and while a great product I personally don't like carrying it around the range all day. That is why I prefer their bottle line. This is a 24 ounce/750 ml reusable bottle. The bottle is BPA free and it is spill proof. They incorporate a bite and sip top that keeps the liquid in the bottle until you want it out. The bite valve cap also keeps dust and bugs out of your drink. By going this route you save a ton of dough on buying bottled water and the greenies like that you're not putting all those empty bottles in the landfills.

The lid also has a simple loop that you can hook a carabineer into that allows you to attach it to a belt loop or a range bag. The bottle fits in most cup holders and it is easy to clean up. Just unscrew the top and drop in on the top rack of your dishwasher.

Best of all the bottle comes with a CamelBak® Got Your Bak™ lifetime guarantee and the MSRP is only \$14.00. You can find out more about all the great CamelBak products by visiting their

(Continued on page 21)



# Hot Stuff!

# by Dr. Laura Torres-Reyes, MD A23213

There I was, enjoying a beautiful day at the range for a competition training class. The sky was clear blue, the sun was shining high. It was a motivated group with outstanding instruction, pushing hard, working on the skills I really needed. I came prepared, was sucking down water every chance I got, had my chilly towel draped around my neck, had my sun shade chair up and ready. Yup, I was good to go! Suddenly, like a bolt of lightning, I couldn't quite catch my breath, my front site got blurry, my peripheral vision dimmed to grey. When I bent over to pick up a magazine, I was gripped with a gut wrenching wave of nausea and lightheadedness. I couldn't believe it! In the blink of an eye; I had dropped into the danger zone of heat exhaustion.

Heat related illnesses are probably the most preventable, yet common hazards of our shooting sport. They range in severity from heat rash, heat cramps, to heat syncope, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Most of us are familiar with the signs and symptoms of heat stress, but there is individual variability that may not be recognized, or ignored, until it is too late. Shooters are at higher risk when wearing our protective equipment of caps, electronic hearing muffs, and concealment

garment that affects our body's ability to release heat.

A healthy body maintains a normal temperature through transferring body heat by controlling sweat glands and altering blood flow to the skin. This requires enough fluid in your body to sweat, a low enough humidity and air circulating across the skin for sweat to evaporate, and a nervous system that isn't impaired by medication. Problems occur when we engage in activities in hot environments that overwhelm our body's ability to transfer enough heat to keep us cool. Symptoms of heat related illness vary, but can include loss of mental alertness, confusion, dizziness, light headedness, fast and shallow breathing, pale or flushed complexion, weakness, nausea, muscle cramps, fatigue, profuse sweating and fainting. If activity continues, or the individual does not take measures to properly cool down, symptoms can progress to a life threatening condition called heat stroke that can include chills, throbbing headache, slurred speech, hallucinations, rapid pulse rate, sweating (although skin may be hot or dry at time of collapse), loss of consciousness and seizures.

The first step in adequately treating a heat related illness is to recognize the condition. At the range, it is common that the individual is so focused on shooting activities that they are unaware of the changes in their status. Also, early signs of lack of mental alertness, confusion, or slow decision making and unusual stage errors, may only be picked-up on from observations by a friend or shooting buddy. The key to treatment is immediate movement

to a cool place, preferably in a shaded, air-conditioned area. Have them drink plenty of water or other cool, non-alcoholic beverages. If symptoms of heat stroke are evident, the body temperature can rise to over 106 degrees Fahrenheit within 10-15 minutes. Heat stroke is a life threatening emergency that can lead to death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not provided. Call 911 immediately and move the individual to a cool, shaded area. Aggressively cool the individual by soaking their clothing in water or use cold packs around exposed areas of their neck and/or underarms. Depending on EMS response time, you may have to transport them to an emergency medical facility as quickly and safely as possible.

Individuals at higher risk of heat related illnesses include those who are over age 65, are overweight, have heart disease or high blood pressure, and are taking medications such as antidepressants, antipsychotics, tranquilizers or antihistamines that impair the ability of the body to sweat. Consumption of alcohol, caffeine, and being at a prior level of dehydration also increases risk. The good news is that prevention is possible, but requires awareness and good discipline by the individual. One of the best strategies is acclimating to the heat by exposing yourself to hot environments gradually over time. It doesn't have to be complicated, and you can tailor it to your shooting activities. The National Athletic Trainers' Association recommends progressively increasing intensity and duration of strenuous interval training and continuous exercise gradually over a period of 10-14

days. This allows the body to make physiologic changes that allow it to cool more efficiently by improving sweating, increasing blood flow to the skin, and expanding blood volume allowing the heart to more efficiently pump blood to muscles, organs and skin when needed.

Other things you can do to improve heat tolerance are to wear light-colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing that are breathable and wick moisture to promote cooling. Using a portable water carrier like the Camel Back brand is also useful when frozen overnight and worn on the back for cooling and easy access sipping when not engaged in shooting. Drink fluids frequently.

Whether it's a sports drink, water, or a mixture of the two (which is recommended) the most important thing is to drink enough noncaffeinated fluid to maintain a pale yellow, urine output. Don't fall victim to the practice of limiting your fluid intake to prevent trips to the porta-potty. Get over it, and drink enough fluids! Most importantly, watch your friends and monitor those in your squad for signs of being heat stressed. Encourage them to take a break and get under shade, inside a cool place, or even go to a car and turn on the air conditioning for awhile. If the range has a medical person on-site, ask them to check vital signs and assess to determine if

more urgent care is needed.

Fortunately for me, quick action from an EMT on staff at the training center knew exactly what to do to get me safely back in the cool zone. Of course, it will be a while before I stop getting comments from friends like "What's up doc! Can't heal thyself?", but, that's okay as long as sharing my experience can prevent even one person from having a heat related incident. Be cool this summer and enjoy safe shooting!

Laura Torres-Reyes is an Active duty Air Force officer, and Board certified physician in Occupational Medicine.

#### The Tactical Advantage



website at www.camelbak.com.

#### **Bottle-Eze**

While we are on the subject of hydration I want to tell you about one other great little product. This is the IDPA Bottle-Eze and it can be found at the IDPA Pro Shop. This is an ingenious little product that makes keeping up with your water bottle on the range a little easier. If you are tired of setting your water bottle down and leaving

it behind or standing around with it in your hand, the Bottle-Eze is the product you are looking for to make your life easier.

The Bottle Eze's clip slides into your pocket or behind your belt and securely holds most sized bottles allowing your hands to be (Continued from page 19)

free. The design allows for the bottle to rotate so it is always at a convenient, comfortable angle. This also makes it easy to take off when you get ready to shoot. By taking a permanent marker and putting your name on the Bottle-Eze you also insure that you never (Continued on page 31)







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# UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

#### August 6, 2011 11th Annual WI State IDPA Championship

Ripon, WI Tom Ropers 847-331-1752 h idpa\_tom@comcast.net www.wisconsinidpa.com

#### August 6 - 7, 2011 CT State IDPA Championship

East Granby, CT
Mike Critser
208-459-2783 h
203-339-0085 w
mtcritser@sbcglobal.net
Mike Burek
203-254-5684 h
swmp1925@yahoo.com
www.matchreg.com

# August 8 - 9, 2011 2011 IDPA Africa Championship

Pretoria, South Africa Deon Storm 27833108844 h & w 277866791712 fax deon@hailstorm3a.com Adrian Rosslee 27-84-606-3647 w 27866124356 fax www.sadpa.co.za

#### August 19 - 21, 2011 2011 New England Regional IDPA Championship

Harvard, MA
Dave Solimini
978-621-0609 h
dsolimini@yahoo.com
Bob Bielit
978-399-9036 h
malidictus@hotmail.com
www.metrowesttactical.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.wqc-idpa.org

August 20, 2011 Midwest Regional - Back Stop-

#### pers Challenge

St. Louis, MO
Mark Goede
636-821-1338 h
314-225-7640 w
mark@arpc-idpa.com
Jere Wilmering
314-603-8839 h
jere@arpc-idpa.com
www.arpc-idpa.com/BS11.htm

#### August 20, 2011 Ontario Provincial Championship

Kingston, Ontario Geoff Mulligan 613-354-0692 h idpa@bell.net www.frpc.ca/index.php/idpa\_2011 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 northwestsection.org/waidpac11

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

Calvisano, BS, Italy
Frank Glover
919-693-6313 h
919-691-7686 w
therange@gloryroad.net
Toni (Honeybunny) Dandreamatteo
+1-954-306-0288 h
+1-954-608-8482 w
toni.dandreamatteo@gmail.com

## August 27 - 28, 2011 Alberta Provincial Championship

www.idpaeuropeancup.com

Calgary, Alberta
Lindsay Greene
403-585-4454 h
780-699-0603 w
403-730-2032 fax
gforceconcrete@gmail.com
Candice Jensen
403-730-2032 h & fax
403-477-0008 w
candybanana@hotmail.com

#### www.myathl.com

#### August 27 - 28, 2011 Patriot Match

Lewistown, PA
Patrick Cronin
814-353-1703 h
814-404-6933 w
pcronin@gmail.com
Chris Shade
717-248-9726 h
717-242-1105 w
www.lewistownpistolclub.com

# September 4, 2011 TX State IDPA Championship

Hempstead, TX Al Liczwek 281-288-7522 h 281-355-7467 w 281-288-1366 fax liczwek@sbcglobal.net

Eric Cooper 936-273-9547 h coop1911@comcast.net www.tts-idpa.com

## September 10, 2011 Tri-State Regional Championship

Arlington, TN Larry Hill 901-233-7557 h & w ljhill3@comcast.net tri-state-regional.com

# September 10, 2011 ID State IDPA Championship

Parma, ID Aaron Goodfellow www.parmarng.org

#### 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 IDPA World Championship

Frostproof, FL 870-545-3886

#### **Upcoming Major Matches**

870-545-3894 fax info@idpa.com www.idpa.com September 30 - Octobe

September 30 - October 1, 2011

#### 2011 KY-TN Regional IDPA Championship Puryear, TN

Terry Riley
919-816-7457 h & w
trcubed@earthlink.net
Steve Vaughn
731-796-0848 w
s\_vaughn@bellsouth.net
www.henrycountygunclub.com

#### October 1, 2011 IDPA 2011 Indiana 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 1, 2011 SC State Match

Anderson, SC
Jerry James
864-226-7613 h
864-617-2759 w
shipjrange@charter.net
Terry Candler
864-287-5557 h
864-940-6276 w
terrycandler@bellsouth.net
skipjrange.com

#### October 1 - 2, 2011 IDPA Triple Crown II

Frostproof, FL
Toni Dandreamatteo
954-306-0288 h
954-608-8482 w
ic@idpa.com
Rick Lund
954-907-0228 w
rlund@srtrl.com
www.idpatriplecrown.com

#### October 7 - 8, 2011 PA State Match

Sciota, PA Kevin Schlier 570-429-2012 w match@brcv-gun.org Walt Jones wn3lif@gmail.com

#### www.nepaidpascores.net

## October 8, 2011 MS State Match

Saltillo, 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 14 - 16, 2011 2011 IDPA European Championship

Frassinoro, Italy Fabio Guerra 3683154448 h & w 0305531277 fax info@idpaitalia.it www.idpaitalia.it

(Continued on page 25)



Stage four simulated you getting jumped by 3 bad guys. On the start signal you turned around and sprinted up-range 7 yards to cover before drawing your sidearm and engaging them from cover, Mozambique style – two to the body and one to the head.

A home invasion is the basis for stage five. Your unloaded sidearm is in your briefcase on the table but you're not. You are being held with a shotgun at your back. All you have is a knife. You start with a turn and burn move that knocks the shotgun away with one hand

while you stab him with the knife – then you can get to your gun and put it into action. There were targets on both sides of a wall, one of which was an out-n-back disappearing target that gave you about 1 second to put two rounds on it.

Another home invasion setup provides the basis for stage 6. Taking the first 2 steel popper targets from cover; the first activated a swinging no-shoot that bobbed back and forth behind the next pop-up shoot target which was activated by the second popper. The two paper targets were taken on the move as you went down the hallway, two more targets in the

room to the right and finally the last three at the end of the hall. Lots of action packed in a small package.

Stage 7 had you start seated at a table. On the start signal you engaged two 8 inch steel plates just over the shoulders of two no-shoot targets at a distance of about 15 yards. Moving down the hallway you engaged targets on the right and left. Depending on which side of the hallway you went down determined which targets you had to engage first. The first one on the right was a disappearing target.

You're at work at the jewelry



Stage 7: The first two targets to engage are the 8" round steel plates over the shoulders of two no-shoots at a distance of 15 yards.

store when 4 armed men announce a hold-up was the scenario for stage 8. You drew your sidearm from under the counter and engaged the first two at contact distance. After a reload you moved to the

side of the counter to get the last two – the first target had a steel activator behind it which when hit tripped the disappearing second target.

Stage 9 simulated an ATM attack in which you were knocked to the ground. You started on the ground lying on your back. You had to engage 5 targets while lying sideways on the ground.

The last stage had you at work when the proverbial fecal matter hits the oscillating device. You started on the right side of the hallway only to find 2 bad guys blocking your way. You try the left side and find 2 more bad guys. Finally you open the door in the middle only to find more bad guys, including a swinging target at the end hidden by barrels. That's what you call a bad day at work!

All together across the 10 stages each competitor shot a minimum of 138 rounds, but most shot much more. There were 9 moving and disappearing targets to contend with. Combined, shooters earned 90 procedural penalties, hit 71 non-threat targets and acquired 61 'failure to neutralize' penalties. There were a total of 4,969 'points down'. When the dust settled and the scores tallied,

the champions for 2011 are:

CDP: Mark Redl (Defending Champion from 2010) SSP: Edward Stettmeier

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Engaging targets during the last half of stage 5, after retrieving your sidearm from the briefcase.

#### 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 igmelton@att.net www.casarange.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 amtrejo@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 29, 2011 2011 IDPA GA State Championship

Conyers, GA Capel English 770-346-7771 h 678-324-2005 w 678-324-2095 fax cenglish@sanpsinc.com **Brett Hanus** 404-936-7166 h bretthanus@gmail.com

www.gadpa.com

#### October 29 - 30, 2011 2011 Blackwater Shootout

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

#### November 5, 2011 South Mountain Showdown

Phoenix, AZ Bill Barron

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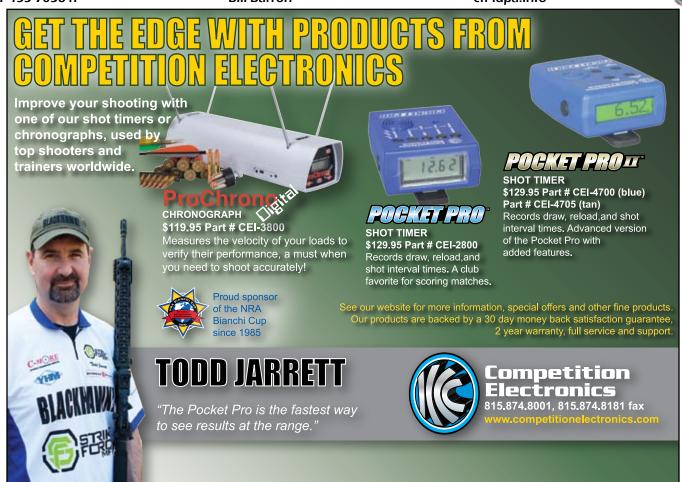
#### November 5, 2011 **Music City Cup**

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

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#### **November 12, 2011 Citrus Challenge**

Orlando, FL **Daniel Corriveau** 407-812-6763 h 703-868-9532 w cfdpa@cfl.rr.com **Ernest Myers** 407-325-5801 h & w emyers@hotmail.com cfl-idpa.info





The doorway at the end of the stage10 with the swinging target in the background.

ESP: Scott Botelho (Defending Champion from 2010)

ESR: Jerry Richard

SSR: Frank Palka (Defending

Champion from 2010)

Returning this year was the sidematch based on the Steel Challenge favorite of 'Smoke and Hope'. This was done as a fund-raiser to benefit The NRA Foundation and The GOAL Heritage Grant Foundation. Both organizations have provided us with grant funds to help build our action pistol program at the Rod & Gun Club of New Bedford. This was a small way for us to give back. For those not familiar with Steel Challenge there are 4 'primary' steel targets and 1 final 'stop' steel target. The competitor shoots the first 4 targets and stops the timer when they hit the stop plate. You get 5 separate runs and

**Custom Competition** rop-in Triggers for Glocks ı.glocktriggers.com vour time is based on your best 4 of the 5 runs - lowest total time wins. The stage called 'Smoke and Hope' has 4 big steel plates between 7 and 9 yard that are hard to miss (hence the 'smoke'), but the small round stop plate (the 'hope' part) at 14 yards is a challenge when you're in

hose-mode. This was very popular and raised funds for two great organizations. The grant from the NRA Foundation allowed the club to acquire the necessary supplies to affiliate with, and start hosting Steel Challenge matches in 2010.

Winners of the side match are:

CDP: Kevin Wagner SSP: Jerry Tetreau ESP: Fred Rios SSR: Kris Sines

New this year, with great support from Mike Gibson Manufacturing (a.k.a MGM Targets – www. mgmtargets.com) who donated one of their 'standard auto poppers' for us to raffle off, we raised \$1,400 to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Jim from MGM was truly supportive of this effort and my thanks to him for his help with this great cause.

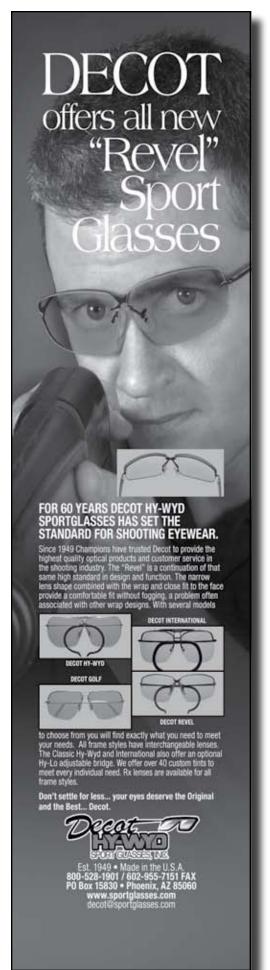
Many thanks to the greatest staff and volunteers who made this match possible. These folks are truly among the best, providing a safe and friendly but fair atmosphere for competitors. The folks give up a lot, many taking vacation time, to put the stages together, run them, enter the scores, run the kitchen, etc. There are countless ways these folks give of themselves and I am truly blessed to be part of such a great crew.

Come see us in June 2012 for the 2012 Championship. Applications will be available on the club's website at www.rodgun-nb.org around the first of the year.



Back row: Dave Clough, Gary Langley, Darren Almeida, Rich Netinho, Fred Viverios, Chuck Zaniboni, Bob Frade, Scott Botelho, Jay Litchfield, Aaron Haines, David Bold, John Catterall, Doug Barresi.

Front row: Paul Drapeau, Lucky Medeiros, Tim Pandiscio, Dale Hutchinson and Gaby. Missing: Steve Piche, Tom Orlowski, Ward Benner, Art Benner, Travis Rebello, Buzz DeMailly. Stats: Ria Clough, Lucy Medeiros, Nicole Medeiros, Cat Zaniboni. Kitchen: Ray Pellitier, Wayne Junier, David Junier, Cynthia Langley, Timi Junier.



(Continued from page 15)

that some readers will think what I am proposing is the beginning of a slippery slope towards
Velcro inner belts and (dare I say) raceguns. While I think it alarmist and not true, let us assume this is the case. The people with the knee problems are real enough and this is a problem that still should be addressed. So what other solutions can we offer?

We can also help these shooters through proposing changes in the rulebook. Two very easy solutions would be accomplished by amending the CoF rules.

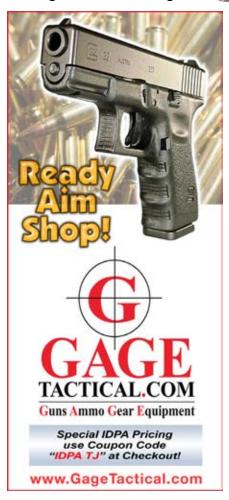
The first suggestion is to have a maximum ratio of kneeling stages to non-kneeling stages for IDPA matches. While I do not have an exact ratio in mind, an example of this would be 1 kneeling stage for every 3 non-kneeling stages. This would limit the number of times a shooter had to kneel during a match.

The second suggestion is to require that there be no required movement in a stage after a shooter takes a knee. For many shooters, getting on the knee is not as bad as getting up, as the getting down gets help from gravity. Many shooters have difficulty getting up from kneeling and often lose a lot of time getting up. Sometimes they have to ground the gun so they can get up using two hands. When this is on the clock those shooters are at a great competitive disadvantage. Writing a Course of Fire rule to make kneeling the last position would be very helpful for these shooters.

A third and even simpler suggestion is to rewrite the rules

so they are clearer regarding the placement padding for kneeling positions. If we specified a thickness of closed cell foam to be used at all places where shooters kneeled, we would make a considerable difference to a lot of shooters. Clubs can and should do this now and on their own, and I hope some Match Directors do exactly this.

My personal view is that we simply allow the kneepads and take a long hard look at things before we change the CoF rules. But I bring up all of these suggestions in the hope that it will spark a debate and that will help the members open up a dialogue with HQ on this subject. Together we can help to help improve our sport and help people keep shooting IDPA for the long haul.



I was not at the time) of the issue. The safety officer handled the situation and the problem got resolved, but it left several people (me included) irritated and distracted. My point being, a bad attitude can become a safety issue when someone thinks that they are somehow above "the law". This is not only dangerous because of the safety violation itself, but because of the distraction and of the tense atmosphere that it creates. In this game it is imperative that we keep ourselves focused and engaged at all times. If a person is cooperative and appreciative of constructive criticism from a new or younger shooter pertaining to a safety issue, it says a lot about their character. Attitudes of others can mean the difference between a great day at the range or a lousy one. This is particularly true for the

younger or beginning shooter as we are new to all of this and more easily rattled by someone being rude or disrespectful. Attitude related safety issues are the most bothersome as they are deliberate and completely controllable.

Gear, what could possibly be unsafe about the gear someone uses? I had to ask myself this question, but when I thought about it, I realized that this can be one of the biggest and most common safety issues on the range. If only I had I penny for every time I have seen someone fumble with their cover garment. I have seen every combination of drawing and re-holstering of cover garments along with the gun (never very graceful and always dangerous). I have seen people use so many different types of holsters, belts, magazine pouches, cover garments and other gear, that they could use their supply to stock an entire store. Having lots of cool gear is great, but it is imperative that you be very familiar and well practiced with each item before you use it at the range. Unfamiliarity leads to fumbling, and fumbling leads to disaster. This even goes for something as simple as your range bag. If you use a different bag every time you practice or go to the range, you will likely not be able to keep track of where you keep things in each one. This will get you flustered (usually at the last second) and that is not how you want to be when you arrive at the firing line. Again, using different gear can be safe, as long as you practice with it and become proficient long before you use it at the range in a pressure situation. For beginners the best advice for

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those who want to be gear nuts (not a bad trait), is don't! Keep it simple, keep it the same, and practice with it a lot. Be a gear nut later on when you have more experience under pressure at the range.

Probably the most common, and one of the most potentially catastrophic gear related safety issues is improperly loaded ammunition. I have seen people have all kinds of different malfunctions of their gun, because they had bad hand loads. Improperly loaded ammunition can result in a number of hazardous situations; loads too hot, loads too light, jams, squibs, and the dreaded "stuck in the barrel" scenario. All of these malfunctions can cause the shooter to lose their focus and become unnerved (particularly inexperienced shooters), a few of them can cause immediate physical injury! Lack of experience and or familiarity with your gun can also be a significant gear related safety issue. Too often people show up at the range and have trouble with their firearm, maybe because they have just switched from a 9mm. Glock to a .45 ACP 1911 without practicing. Different controls, different recoil, different everything for the most part. To

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sum up, when it comes to gear, please be consistent, proficient, simple, smart and safe for the sake of the sport.

Physical limitations can present possible safety risks but those can usually be overcome with some relaxing of the rules in a course of fire. Some of the people I shoot with have bad knees or hips, so if a course of fire calls for kneeling or shooting around low cover. we allow the shooter to remain standing or crouch to whatever level they can. In some cases they are allowed to skip a particular obstacle altogether. More often than not, at local club matches we allow some leeway on the course of fire to accommodate physical issues as long as no one takes advantage of it (as yet no one ever has). I remember one of our local club matches where a fellow came to shoot who was missing his left arm from the elbow down. He was completely safe in all regards, until he had to reload. His technique involved placing the gun under his left arm and doing the reload with his right. We totally supported him in his right to protect himself and practice for it, but after much discussion, it was decided that this was too much risk for our group environment. There are some situations for which there just is no happy solution which can make it safe.

Experience, usually makes a range safer, but unfortunately, sometimes that is not the case. I have seen seasoned shooters ignore rules and instruction, thinking they could do so BECAUSE of their experience. This can present an even greater problem when and if they are confronted with the issue by a younger or less experienced



shooter. Once again I will refer to my experience with the seasoned shooter that had a loaded gun on a cold range. Newer or younger shooters need to know to expect some people to have that kind of attitude, and know also that most of them mellow out considerably over time. Just know that this is common on all ranges, so do your best to not allow it to upset you.

Lack of experience can present safety concerns as well and for obvious reasons, nervousness, lack of confidence, information overload, confusion etc. etc. This is where the experienced shooters should be good role models, lead by example, and help the newer shooters overcome these challenges. If an experienced shooter respects new/junior shooters as well as shooters of every other experience level, that is a plus for everybody. My biggest pet peeve is when someone finishes a course of fire and immediately goes about unloading their gun. Racking the slide, catching the airborne round and having their firearm holstered before the

SO has given a single word of instruction. That can be somewhat overwhelming for a safety officer and very irritating. When you do something that worries the person who is supposed to be in control, that is a problem. I realize that many safety officers are probably totally fine when people do that sort of thing, but not me. Please, new shooters, let your SO walk you through the unload and re-holster process (experienced shooters too please)!

My point here is that just because someone is more experienced than the majority of shooters, does not mean that if they violate safety rules it is any less unsafe, and it does not matter the age or experience level of the person who calls them on it.

Behavior is probably the most referred to category of safety issue. It only seems right to start off this topic with the four rules of gun safety: 1) the gun is always loaded 2) never point a gun at anything you are not prepared to destroy 3) always be sure of your target and what is behind it 4) keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target. That seems pretty straight forward and simple, but we all know that nobody is perfect, shooters of every type

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Robert Wyse 419-583-0590 737 N. Fulton St., Wauseon, Oh 43567 shooterbob27@yahoo.com screw up, including me. One thing to keep in mind is safety off of the firing line, moving to and from your vehicle, moving between courses of fire, and any other time you may be at the range and not actively shooting. If someone brings spectators, the spectators must know basic range etiquette and safety. The person who brings the spectator is responsible for them. If a spectator brings children that don't know range safety, and does not keep them under control at all times that is an issue. When children are at a shooting range, the goal should be to educate and spark or feed an interest in shooting. A shooting range is not the place to bring a pet of any type!! I mention this because I have actually seen this happen and it was a wreck. In my opinion, behavioral issues are the most common, and most easily corrected safety issues on the range, so if you notice one, or are notified of one you have caused, please work to correct it.

Now that I have extensively listed many of the safety issues I have experienced, I will get back to the three characters I talked about earlier. representing the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The bad, Pompous Pete. In pompous Pete's mind, he is the best shooter around, and can do no wrong. Pete is the kind of guy who is always acting as if he is above the law at the range. He simply will not change what he does just because some "safety officer" said he committed an unsafe act. Even when given some polite advice to avoid fumbling with his cover garment while drawing or re-holstering he brushes it off as unimportant. Pompous Pete does not help set up stages, pick up

brass, tape targets, reset stages, or tear down at the end of the day. Pete is a walking safety hazard because of his blatant disregard of rules. He brings his wife, "Snooty Sally," their three children and their dog to the range, even though none of them know basic range safety or etiquette. Unfortunately, sometimes people like Pompous Pete have to be disqualified from a match. If Pompous Pete is disqualified, he will get irritated and leave instead of hanging around, helping out, and maybe learning a thing or two. Overall, everybody can learn from Pompous Pete by being aware of what he does wrong. In order to avoid becoming a pompous Pete, try to be more like Carl the dentist, who you will learn about later on.

The ugly, Shaky Jake. Shaky Jake is a friendly, helpful guy. Off of the firing line he is generally safe and confident. A person new to the club would expect to seem him run through every course of fire smoothly, safely and have no problems. When Jake walks up to the firing line and gets ready, he seems focused and acts very professional. However, when the timer buzzer goes off, everything falls apart. He begins to shake nervously, when he draws it is awkward and he fumbles a little, but manages to continue. He runs into barriers, sweeps his own body and can't seem to get a loaded magazine into his gun during reloads. He looses track of the course of fire, and gets even more nervous. When he is done he immediately starts to nervously unload his gun at warp speed, still shaking vigorously and fumbling as if it was his first time looking at a pistol. Shaky Jake is unsafe on the line, but he can't help it, and is otherwise a nice guy. Jake could learn to become more relaxed with help from other shooters, experienced or not, young or old. We all need to do our best to help shaky Jake calm down for his sanity and our own.

The good, Carl the dentist. Carl is the ideal range participant. He uses lots of different gear, but is very proficient with it, keeps everything organized the same way, and since he practices a lot, he has straightened out pretty much all the kinks as far as gear goes. Carl helps pick up brass and reset courses of fire after each shooter, and offers helpful advice to everyone around him. He participates in all work parties involved with the range, and volunteers his time at almost every match. Carl the dentist is a good role model to new shooters, he is respectful and humble about

his skilled shooting. He remains calm and relaxed at all times and does not cause any issues on or off the firing line. Carl the dentist is the poster child for safety, conduct & sportsmanship. He's the guy you want to be shooting with and learning from.

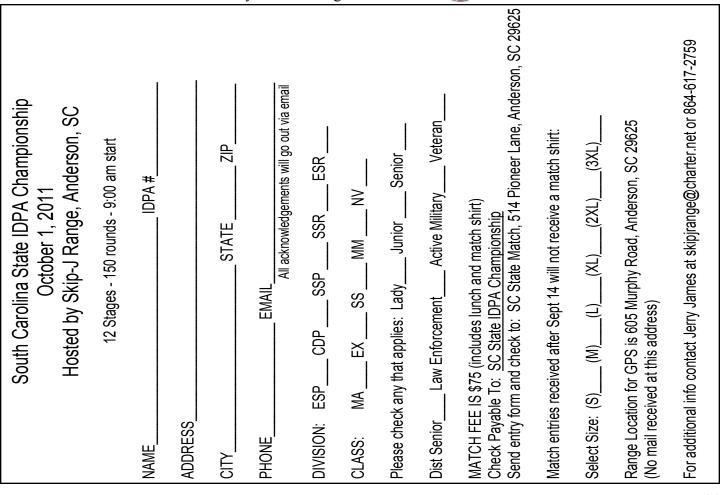
To conclude the good the bad and the ugly, I'm sure every range has some Carl's, Pete's and some Jakes. These are the kind of people you should try to learn from. Talk with the people you shoot with about what you need to do to change the Pompous Pete's, and help the Shaky Jakes relax.

More than anything though, always do your best to be like Carl the dentist. The more you can learn from each type of person on the range, (whether you are noticing something good or bad) will benefit you in the long run.

(Continued from page 21)

pick up some one else's bottle and drink out of it. I am not sure how much water I have wasted because I set a bottle down and later when I went back to pick it up there were several bottles there. I had no way of knowing which was mine so I would get a new one to avoid the possibility of drinking someone else's.

The Bottle-Eze is a simple little product that makes your life easier while simultaneously encouraging you to remain hydrated. Two great things for a very small investment. The Bottle-Eze comes in yellow with the IDPA logo printed on the side. The cost is only \$3.95 and it can be ordered at the IDPA Pro Shop at www.idpa.com or by calling 870-545-3886.



of someone who has attended a session from an instructor. Check on the instructor's bona fides: has he or she been a trainer for long? What are their qualifications? What are their IDPA classifications? Good trainers do not necessarily have to be five gun masters in order to provide good instruction – just because someone is a good shot does not mean they will be able to show others how to shoot. This is especially true for beginning shooters where an instructor needs a lot of patience, and will focusing on the basics. Not all great coaches were outstanding in their sports just as not all highly successful athletes are able to coach others to be successful. That said, anyone who aspires to help shooters be more successful in IDPA competitions should have participated successfully in major IDPA competitions.

Some shooters think that participating regularly in local club matches is a good form of practice. Although it may help, it is not the best way to improve your shooting. Noncompetitive, organized, and disciplined practice will do far more. This does not mean simply firing a few rounds at a target. In order for practice to be effective it needs to be structured and focused. A planned series of repeatable

drills will do far more to improve shooting skills than any number of club match stages. Drills are (or should be) designed to improve a specific aspect of shooting. The purpose of this article is not to recommend a particular specific set of drills. Those who want to learn which drills are best for them can attend a professional course of instruction, learn from other local shooters on your local range, or hit the internet. There is a plethora of drills listed online – try searching for IDPA drills.

There are two main types of drills: live fire and dry fire. Actually shooting at the range is of course the best option. Bring a timer so that you can measure the results of your various drills. Focused repetition is the soul of improvement. One especially valuable element is long range slow fire. Shooting a string of rounds at a target +20 yards away will show any tendency you have to 'push', 'yank', 'slap', or do any of the other things that disturb your sight picture.

Live fire drills are better than dry drills, but they have a few disadvantages: they take more time and money since dry fire drills can be done almost anywhere and are free. Safety is still a requirement in dry fire exercises. First and foremost make absolutely certain that there is no ammunition in the gun, in any or the magazines, or even in the general area where you plan to dry fire. Second, build safety into handling guns even when you are certain they are unloaded; you do not ever want to do anything that might lead to bad safety habits. Finally, if you are pointing your weapon as part of the drill, aim the weapon so that in the event of an accidental discharge the worst thing you will have is a small hole in something safe and inconsequential. We have all heard stories of the vahoo who used images on his big screen TV as aiming points for his 'dry firing' – with predictably expensive results. Remember, dry drills not imply dry firing. It is possible to develop important muscle memory in drawing with a good grip and reloading right in your home. Another valuable and often neglected skill is improving sight transitions; you can expect to draw and reload at most once in a stage – you will usually have anywhere from three to ten transitions in every stage. Shaving even a tenth of a second from each transition will result in significant improvements in speed. Once again, there are examples of useful dry drills to be found online.

The final element in conducting drills is to do them. If you really want to improve your shooting skills it is necessary to practice. Any athlete, even professionals at the top of their game, spends hours of time doing simple repetitive drills and practicing. Finally, when you do practice, do it right. Practice does not make perfect – perfect practice does.



that supports women shooters and generate opportunities for women and girls in the shooting sports. AGAG members frequently attend IDPA matches in the Austin/San Antonio/Leander area under the tutelage of Julianna, as do some of the male students from the CHL classes. She also uses social media to reach out to women regarding shooting. "I utilize FaceBook and Meetup.com to connect with my clients, and potential female shooters. The month of May was shooter lingo month. I was inspired by the GSSF magazine and decided to post that info on A Girl and A Gun Women's Shooting League FaceBook page to see if that would spark interest in our league, at the same time giving out nuggets of information to help new shooters be familiar with our sport. "A Girl and A Gun Women's

Shooting League, LLC is in the process of applying for an 501(c)7 Not For Profit status, and will be a member owned organization with satellite chapters. She explains the goal of this new organization in relation to other shooting sports. "We don't want to segregate ourselves from the mainstream competitive organizations. We just want something that is a launching pad for female shooters. It is also important for women to spend time together in an empowering activity. It changes lives when a woman finds her power in one skill set, then she can apply that empowerment to many other aspects of her life.'

With all of these shooting-related efforts aimed at female shooters, one would think Julianna had been shooting all of her life. "My dad took me out a few times as a kid,

bought me a BB gun, let me shoot the real guns on camping trips and outdoor events. But it was my husband John who introduced me to the sport of IDPA over a decade ago, and encouraged me to learn to shoot for the purpose of self defense and hunting." She admits being "... fascinated by the shooting community. The respect and friendship we share is wonderful, and reaches from club to club, state to state. I also enjoy the moments when I can put a gun into a woman's hand and watch her fear melt away into accomplishment."

Why does Crowder shoot and carry a gun? "At first it was to spend time with John sharing his hobby. Over the last 4 years I have become comfortable with the gun as one of my tools for self defense. So now I shoot as much as I can so that I have confidence in the self defense plan I have incorporated, and it has become my hobby, too!"

This hobby has led Crowder to become an IDPA evangelist. She has, "...dabbled in USPSA, but for the most part my experience is IDPA-style matches for pistol and carbine. There are other opportunities for almost every type of competitive shooting in Central Texas, but time and distance affect what we actually participate in. John came to me one day and invited me to go with him to Texas Tactical and try out this thing called IDPA. I was like 'ok, whatever... do we get to eat somewhere special?' Yeah, not so glamorous the first time out. We had to leave at the crack of dawn, drove to the middle of nowhere. used a homemade outhouse... and I had no idea what was happening while I was shooting, just was told





draw from your holster (which I had never worn before) shoot accurate and go as fast as you can, don't hit the non-threat... WHAT! I think we had to get home because of the babysitters, so no fun meal afterwards. But through all of that I had a lot of fun and then understood why my husband was shooting EVERY WEEKEND — and now I wanted to join him, too!"

The Glock Girl (her nickname among her networking friends) is quick to point out she is not the only woman in the country trying to start a ladies-only shooting club. "There are others further along in the process of establishing clubs and they inspired the vision of what I would like to accomplish. What I

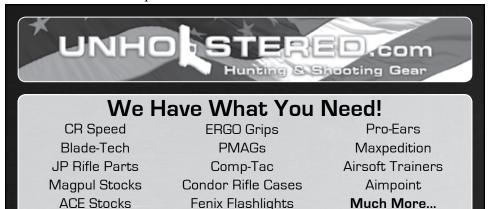
first noticed is that the ladies clubs are either for hunting, trap/skeet, with a small emphasis on NRAstyle pistol leagues; social groups that aim to bring glamour and style to casual get-togethers at the gun range; local leagues that encourage the sense of community; or gun clubs with a ladies program run by men. All better than nothing, but there is room for one more! Our goal is to create an organization that focuses on education, makes it fun with a certain amount of glam, but ultimately brings women into the competitive shooting world and sponsors special events just for them."

She points to previous work experience as a building block for her shooting and business efforts. "Beginning at age 15, I have been a fast food rock star, retail wonder-woman, and call center life saver. I opened my dance studio in 2000 where I learned how to be a business owner. In 2007 I sold my studio to move into my current business teaching Concealed Handgun License and Firearms Training. What I learned from my other jobs and dance studio is that customer service and providing a quality product is just as important as the skills and techniques that we teach our clients. John and

I decided in the beginning that we didn't want to be "weekend instructors" but to establish our company as my full time job and develop it to grow beyond Saturday classes, and establish a network to get people involved in shooting sports and become safer gun owners." Although she spends much of her time in front of a class or audience, she admits to being uncomfortable in the spotlight, but tempers that with, "I appreciate the recognition of a job well done, but don't like the pressure of competition. I enjoy working behind the scenes and would rather create opportunities for others to excel. It is like being a proud mama, getting to watch and be proud knowing that I helped someone achieve a goal or accomplishment."

As an IDPA competitor, Crowder finds being a woman shooter a minor advantage, as the men are so surprised to see a female shooter, their expectations are put on hold. This alleviates a lot of the stress and she can learn and grow at her own pace. "I have also discovered in a training course I can ask questions and get very detailed answers, which then the other dudes in class are gathering around to hear the answers, too!"

She hesitates briefly when asked what challenges in the shooting sports she has had specific to being a woman. "Professionally speaking, there is no gentle way to say this except I have learned that being firm and aggressive is sometimes considered being an overbearing, pushy woman. When my male counterparts are firm and aggressive it is un-noticed. Having the tough meetings, asking the questions, negotiating the deals, I



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have to remember when and how to use my "war face". The personal challenges are how to participate in the sport and still keep my female edge. Finding gear and clothing designed for the female figure is the biggest challenge."

This Texan answers immediately regarding who her mentors have been. "My husband has been my main mentor. He is always teaching me, sharing a strategy, keeping me up on the best techniques, making opportunities for us to shoot, and, most importantly, encouraging me to keep trying even when I am not progressing as fast as I would like too. Through John and his friends in the shooting community I have had the opportunity to meet and befriend many wonderful people that have become mentors in different ways. Terry Burba, a perennial CSO at Nationals and Safety Officer Instructor in Texas, has mentored me to be a leader in the organization and development of new shooter programs to help get our clients into the sport. He also took time to encourage me as a woman in this sport and remind me that I can play in this boy's club and do just fine! And I am inspired by all the other gals out there teaching classes and leading others to participate."

While Crowder wants to travel around the country taking classes and learning different styles and techniques, she also has hobbies aside from IDPA. She loves to cook big family meals and spend family time with John, Blake and Matthew.

As a competitor and instructor, she likes many types of guns. "I really enjoy shooting my Glock. I just got a Glock 34 and have been training with that as

my competition gun. I got the nick name The Glock Girl at a networking event. I love shooting my AR-15; John spent the time to customize it and duracoated it lavender so I stand out in the crowd and it always makes for good conversation," she laughs. She also has named her family of Glocks: Helga the 34, Gretel the 19, and when the baby Glock 26 arrives she will be called Gretchen.

On a serious note, Crowder is thoughtful about how to bring more women into the shooting sports. She is convinced that it takes having a sense of community among female shooters. "Women come together to encourage and support each other in many ways, and there is usually an established group or organization they all want to join and participate in. I also think having a role model that is the "everyday woman" is the key. Walking into any competitive sport automatically sets expectations on us that we may or may not be able to achieve based on time, talent, passion and monetary factors. We can redirect the focus to not compare ourselves to master class shooters or other shooters with different goals, but just to get out there and have fun, and only challenge ourselves to be better than the last time. Being content and comfortable with the idea that every time we step up to the line. we are improving ourselves as the "everyday woman", is a big step. I think we would see more women coming out if we could promote that idea." She also believes that male shooters have an effect on women's participation, as well. "As with any sport, there is the idea that if you want to participate you either have to excel or you

are disposable. That is what I love about our shooting community. Everyone is accepted and I can speak from experience that everyone has an interest to see me grow as a shooter, but maybe a different reason... to win a prize, a title or creditability as an instructor. The men in a female shooter's life just need to be interested in seeing them win with their self esteem." Julianna feels that, "The number of female shooters is low because it is perceived as a man's sport and only the tough gals participate. There are plenty of wives that watch, but don't feel comfortable participating. If there was an organization separate from IDPA, USPSA, IMG that encouraged them, trained them, and most importantly validated their skill level, I think we would see those women stepping out."





This shooter credits a Pistol 1 class with providing her with the best shooting advice she ever received. "Take up the slack in the trigger before your press it to the rear' - I really like the word press over squeeze. I tend to squeeze my grip when I squeeze the trigger. By reassigning the word press, I can isolate my trigger finger from my hand with a mental image." She also shares some advice with other female shooters about what may NOT help them on the range. "Don't put yourself down or think you can't participate. Also, don't expect special treatment. That will put you in the wrong mindset if the guys are doing everything for you; you won't find your empowerment by loading your own magazines and taking charge of your own gear."

What one or two things does Julianna currently do in training that are keys to her success? "I work on my mental game all the time. It is one thing to understand all the shooting fundamentals; it is a very different story getting your trigger finger to behave and your brain not to check out! I also have to keep the blinders on, meaning there are so many techniques and schools of thought that I get bogged down wondering if I should learn that style too! Pick one method of training and stick with it until you feel you have mastered it. Then if you want to move on to learn another one you have a base knowledge to compare it to."

A giggle escapes her lips when asked what it is like to teach with her spouse. "We have a good time teaching together. It is very easy to run our comedy act off of our life with each other. The CHL course is very little about guns themselves, but more knowledge, mindset and awareness. We are very relatable in the sense that we are common people and give examples how to appreciate/respect guns and use them for self defense. We talk about how we incorporate our strategies as a couple, family, etc." Former US Marine and husband John gives some perspective on that, as well, as he relates, "Her personality is fun and light hearted. To be able to get up in front of a group of people, especially in a male dominated environment, to teach and offer different perspectives in training, is very brave. She puts a lot of thought into how to reach people and lots of time and effort into researching information for our students; she works really hard to educate herself so she can be a better resource. Julianna has a drive to do well and practice what we preach to our clients. She has the gift of being able to connect with people. She always makes an effort to learn as much as she can about the people she meets, wants to know how she can help them personally or professionally. A fellow IDPA shooter once called her a beacon,

she is good at drawing people in

and making them feel welcomed."

Perhaps most important to many shooters reading this is learning how this beacon balances a job, kids, and all the shooting work she does. Again, the tinkling laugh escapes as she says, "I wonder that, too! I work on the business as much as I can while everyone is at school and work. I am guilty of working on the computer during evening family time. When a good idea or creative thought comes to me, I want to work on it right away! We teach our classes on the weekends, so we have help from our parents with our boys. We try to bring them to club matches, but until recently they were not really that interested in shooting with us. Now that they are 12 & 14 and they have an interest in want we do, we are busy getting them up to speed. Plus, when you love what you do, it doesn't always seem like work."

What future plans does this entrepreneurial shooter have for the future? "We have tried three times to set up an IDPA club, but each time had a strange set of challenges. The approach that seems the most logical for us is to set up an education program about competitive shooting, kind of like a New Shooter Day that lasts for 6 weeks at a time. There are many people out there that have no clue about competitive shooting. We meet 60-100 new people per month in our CHL classes and on average 2 people are familiar with the sport. I think that is vital to attract and keep new shooters in the sport. It will also allow the new shooters to learn and practice in a lower stress environment, making them better safer shooters when they participate in other club events."





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Run a Better Match (Continued from page 7)

have fixed SO's who simply stay at an assigned bay for the duration of the match. It is a highly effective system as the calls will be the same. Each squad gets the same briefing and the same officiating. Many clubs use this system, and these are the reasons why major matches are run this way. It is however, often difficult to do for most local matches.

Staffing your match with fixed

Safety Officers will make for very

consistent officiation but it is not without its faults. Many volunteer SO's will want to shoot with their friends. Being posted on a single bay may frustrate and bore them. This may reduce their enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer. You also need to figure out when your staff will shoot. Some clubs will have the SO's shoot before the shooters, either that day or the day before. If you have the time and facilities, this is very effective. Having the SO's shoot at the end of the day does not work well as they will be tired and

match without any help.

If you have the SO's shoot during the match you need to have a plan to do this without slowing down the match. Does the stage sit idle when the SO's leave to shoot? If not, who runs the stage while the SO is away? There is time lost while you shuffle the SO's about. This can adversely affect the match. Communication and planning is absolutely vital here, or this will bog the match down. You also need to make sure all your staff shoots before the stages are torn down. You do not need to frustrate a volunteer with a "DNF" on his score.

Because of the above-mentioned complexities and issues, most clubs just assign an SO or two to each squad. This will work well provided the stages are documented as described above AND you take the time to discuss the stages with your staff. Have a meeting before the match starts. Take the SO's around and show them the stages. Discuss what you have in mind. Listen to your SO's, they likely will have a contribution to make. If set up runs late and you do not have the time to have a meeting, you may have to individually brief your SO's. This is not easy to do but the match will be better as a result.



Not all shooters are dummies like our friend in the then will have to tear down the middle, but they may act dumb after experiencing the at the shooting order. When stress of a malfunction.

When it comes to going over the stages with the staff, I prefer to discuss the stages with just the staff. Some MD's will do this with the staff and competitors. I am not a fan of this method. The increased number of participants contributes to a longer discussion time. Some of the competitors will try to selfishly change a stage to suit their tastes and strengths. Others will pick nits with everything. All in all, the combined meetings often take on a certain Lord Of The Flies vibe that I find counterproductive and time consuming.

In a previous column, I mentioned the concept of controlling the output of a match. This is a fine example of when controlling is needed. In this case the desired output is a consistent match. As MD, you control this by preparing your staff beforehand and checking in on the match in progress. Take the time to walk around and see how stages are being run. Listen to the stage briefings the SO's give. Make sure it is the same from squad to squad. If you see an error, take the SO aside and politely make corrections. You may end up having a reshoot or two but the results are worth it.

Some MD's hate to take the time

to keep an eve on the match. This is mostly out of fears it will affect their shooting, or because they want to hang out with friends. While I prefer to be free floating during a match, I understand some MD's still want their match experience. This is okay; you just need to pop your head up every now and then to keep an eye on things. Take a look you see you are down in the

order, go check things out. Appoint a deputy; this may be a good time to delegate. However you do it, you need to keep your finger on the pulse of the match and keep an eye out for inconsistencies and irregularities.

Planning and preparation makes for better set up stages. Coordination and communication will make your stages run smoother and more consistently. Controlling how things are run will make the whole match better and will keep your shooters happy and coming back. Put these principles into practice and both you and your shooters will love the results.



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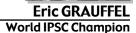






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