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Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

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Volume 16 - Issue 4

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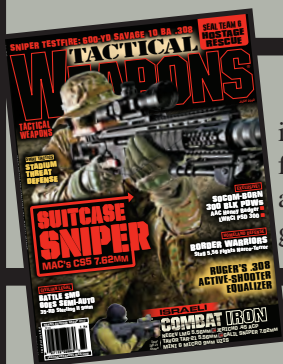


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FEATURED ARTICLE

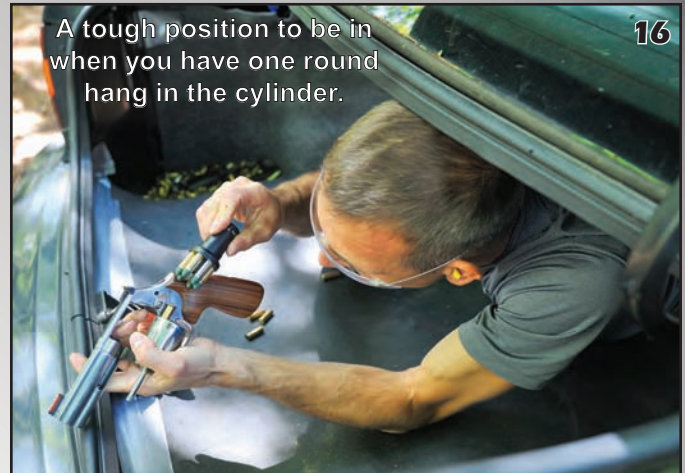
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A tough position to be in when you have one round hang in the cylinder.

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On the Cover: Cornel Osenschi (Ose) at "Room 469" of the IDPA National Championship by Yamil Sued www.hotgunshot.com



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Run a Better Match Build a Better Club

by Ted Murphy A02127



Fall is my favorite part of the year. It is finally cool and the sun is not bearing down so badly. This is the time for the IDPA Nationals, plus the Pennsylvania State match. The shooting is great and the weather is beautiful.

The latter portion of my summer found me receiving my membership badge to middle age; a pair of bifocals. It has been interesting to watch the front sight get more and more difficult to see as this year progressed. I know a

lot of my younger friends think this will not happen to them but consider me your advance scout. You too will learn to shoot by using the fuzzy bumps on the end of your gun.

I am a big fan of holsters with what is called a “sweat guard” or “shirt guard”. This is a piece of leather or kydex that extends behind the gun on the inside of the holster. This stops the gun from rubbing the shirt or body. The premise is that it keeps sweat from going directly onto the pistol, and keeps your shirt clean from contact with the gun and any oil or grease it may have on it. Shirt guards are found on both Inside the Waistband and Outside the Waistband holsters. Sweat



The shirt guard on this G-Code holster keeps the shirt out of the holster. Note the clever screw clamp to keep the holster tight on the belt.

Not all great props are mechanical. Here are some coreplast props made to resemble hanging meat from the Arctic Blast.



guards are great for keeping your gun dry but their best function is to keep your shirt out of your holster. This is an important concern for those that use trigger safety guns like the XD, M&P, and Glock. If a shooter holsters his pistol with a piece of clothing inside the holster, the shirt can come into contact with the trigger and fire the gun. The sweat guard, by extending the back portion above the holster makes it more difficult for clothing to enter the holster. Nothing can guarantee to keep clothing out of your holster but the sweat guard does help.

I have been shopping around for a new belt holster for IDPA. I lost some weight and the holster I was using is very close to being illegal for violating the $\frac{3}{4}$ " rule. Not many holsters offer the sweat guard as an option but I did find a nice holster from a company called G-Code. They offer their OSH standard holster with the shirt guard as an option. The holster can be adjusted for cant and the shooter can choose between a belt piece or paddle attachment. The holster offers an adjustable tension and the fit to the gun is excellent. I purchased an OSH holster for my Glock 21 and my friend John Shuter got one for his 1911 Springfield. They have been working out very well for us. If you are interested in G-Code holsters you can check them out at www.tacticalholsters.com.

Officiating:

The stage briefing is an important part of the Safety Officer's job. The SO needs to be able to convey all the information to the shooter in a concise but clear manner. Try not to waste time on too much unnecessary information such as an elaborate scenario description or a mid-match briefing bull session. Get things done, thank

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From a Woman's Perspective

"Christmas Wish List"

by Kitty Richards A18564

It is that time of year again where many of us are being asked (or are asking!) our favorite shooters, "What do you want for Christmas?" FAWP asked several of our lady shooters at Nationals, so here is a good start for a holiday wish list.

ESP Sharpshooter / CDP Sharpshooter **Rebecca Garvin** lives in Hardwick, NJ, and began shooting IDPA about two and a half years ago. Rebecca is a research librarian in a science library, and she explained how IDPA became part of her life: "My husband and I had been spending a lot of time at our local public range, just shooting groups for fun. We'd only been gun owners for about a year, and never done anything competitive. Two of the range

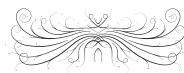


officers had just started shooting IDPA, and said it was a lot more fun than just punching paper, and suggested we come watch a match. We shot the very next match, and were immediately hooked! We're fortunate to live in an area full of IDPA clubs, so we can shoot a match (or two!) almost every weekend. This year was our first Nationals."

If husband Sean is reading this, what would Rebecca like him to know? "In addition to all my gear



and ammo, I tend to carry my range bag stuffed with everything anyone might possibly need, from Handi Wipes and Band-aids, to spare batteries and fiber optic rods. All that stuff makes a disorganized and heavy range bag, so I'd love to find the new CED/DAA RangePack Pro and the very nice RangeCart Pro under the Christmas tree!" (www.ced-hk.com/shop/categories/Shooting-Bags/CED%7B47%7DDAA-RangePack-Pro-Backpack/)



Iris Grimes lives in Bella Vista, Arkansas and competes at the very



first IDPA club in Berryville. This ESP Marksman attended her first Nationals this year after recovering from surgery. She explains how she began shooting IDPA: "After I purchased my first gun, we went to a local indoor range fairly often. Larry, my husband, has been shooting all his life. The range owner approached/informed us about IDPA so we went to the next club match, which is every Tues. evening, to watch. Neither of us had heard anything about it prior to that moment. That was about 4 years ago. I started out slow, then was injured at work with a subsequent right shoulder



surgery that put my shooting on hold for about 8 months. The rest is history." Iris frequently shoots with husband and coach Larry, and keeps fit for moving and shooting as part of her job as a physical therapist. If Larry is as smart as this author thinks he is, he'll be checking out a highly customized Springfield 9 MM ESP gun for the lovely Iris

(www.springfield-armory.com). She may have given the elves a break, as she picked up for herself a CompTac International holster with the drop and offset, making it a stable and better-fitting ladies' holster. (www.comp-tac.com/index.php)



This was the first trip to IDPA Nationals for the perky **Terri Pressley** from Paris, Texas. Her ever-present smile made her very popular at the event, and she can't wait to come back. She and her husband own an



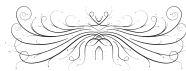
auto repair business, and she is hoping that her husband, son and daughter have a Wilson Combat .458 SOCOM on their shopping list. Pressley loves this gun because of the adjustable stock, making it comfortable for a petite woman with a small reach. As an avid and successful hog hunter, she says, "This gun blows a hole in a hog bigger than daylight!" (wilsoncombat.com/new/458-socom-project.asp)



SSP Sharpshooter **Tara Lyon** lives in Marion, CT and shot her Glock 34 at Nationals. Having shot



for less than a year, she has embarked IDPA, shooting the Carolina Cup, Smith & Wesson Indoor Nationals, and gearing up for the Triple Crown later this year. The effervescent Lyon says, "In terms of Christmas, the practical me would love a new small CED range bag (www.cedhk.com/shop) and a light weight vest, like the Armadillo Concealment vest, that was actually designed for a woman (www.armadilloconcealment.com/). The frivolous me would love to add a Springfield 1911 chambered in .45 to my safe since I don't have a .45 at all! And of course if I have a .45 I will need additional mags, mag pouches and a new holster to go along with it. Let's hope Santa is good to me!" (www.springfield-armory.com)



Enterprise, Alabama, is home to



full-time mom **Sabrina MacHaffie**. Shooting her first National competition after only 8 months of shooting IDPA, MacHaffie didn't hesitate about what she wants under her tree. "I want a cool pink sparkly holster, and a custom Caspian 1911 (www.caspianarmsltd.com/) with a race-ready lower and a Nowlin 5 inch barrel (www.nowlinguns.com/). And I'll need some components, like Montana Gold 200 grain flat-nose .45 ACP bullets, Winchester primers, and some Accurate #5 powder."



GunGoddess may be hearing from Santa's helper in Batavia, NY. **Leanne Jankowski** became an SSP



Sharpshooter this spring after shooting IDPA for about two and a half years. Husband Geno encouraged her to try IDPA after they had been participating in a weekly defensive shooting league. As a partner in a medical billing consulting company, Leanne is looking for some bling in her gear. GunGodess has a concealed carry purse that caught her eye

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Let My Aim Be True and My Hand Fast...

A Message from Joyce Wilson, IDPA Executive Director

As I type this, I am still recovering from a week at IDPA 2012 Nationals in Oxford, NC. Thanks to Frank Glover and crew, we enjoyed 16 stages of fun and challenge! My aim was not always true and my hand was not always fast, but I am delighted with having shot the match and having had the opportunity to meet so many of our members!

It takes more work to host a Nationals than most folks might believe, so please take a moment and thank the Match Director, Stats Crew, Setup folks, and the many SOs from around the world who spent countless days working to make the experience enjoyable. And, most importantly, please patronize our sponsors who donated to this match; without them, we would not have nearly as many opportunities for sanctioned matches as we do today.

Even at the Nationals event, we did not slow down on our other initiatives. Every night, meetings were held to discuss our progress on the Tiger Teams and on our new infrastructure. You may have heard at the Nationals banquet that we are down to our last 2 Tiger Teams! The **SO Education (SOE) Team**

kicked off more than a month ago and they have lots of work on their plate. As you know, all SO classes have been suspended since Sept. 1st of this year, as we anticipate having all SOs recertify on the new rulebook. The SOE Team will be putting together a recommendation for the Board of Directors (BoD) about how this will occur, along



with the proposal for the continued recertification process for all SOs and SOIs. It is our goal that the number of SOIs we currently have on the books will be decreased – more news on that as the Team works through their process. We expect this Team’s work to be complete in Q4.



The **Match Administration Tiger Team** kicked off the week after Nationals; they will provide guidance to running a match at the local and sanctioned level and expect to complete their work in Q4, also. More than 60 Tigers have been or are involved in this effort to make IDPA even better than it is today. These folks have spent in excess of 6000 minutes in conference calls reviewing and updating the rules that govern our sport, and countless more hours updating and researching solutions to issues that face us.

Although the other teams have gathered information to present to the BoD, they continue to monitor the Tiger Team email account where suggestions flow in. This past Tactical Journal outlined the deployment process. While we do not have a specific date yet, we anticipate finishing the initial cut of the Rulebook late this year and taking it to the Board early in 2013. Our goal is to be able to present the FINAL version in Q1 so that SO training can take place and membership can be familiar with the new rulebook by the time the

(Continued on page 20)

Random Shots

"Easier Does It"

by Thomas Pinney A24541



I enjoy IDPA shooting. Our sport is on the right track to continue to grow, bringing enjoyable and affordable shooting to a wider audience. There are, however, a few things about the Courses of Fire at some of matches that have me disturbed.

Keep it Doable

One of the great sins of many course designers is the practice of getting overly complex. The rulebook advises that "complexity is bad in any course or stage of fire." Too often match directors seem to think that a good match has to be really difficult. They

revel in presenting stages that fully challenge our Expert and Master level shooters but which leave our Marksmen and Novices floundering and feeling overwhelmed. Of course, I will be the first to say that stages with lots of exotic props (so called 'circus stages') are fun; at the very least they are memorable. One of the things we enjoy about IDPA shooting is quite literally, the fun of it. On the other hand, the Course of Fire Rules directs that "all CoF must either simulate a possible real life scenario or test skills that might reasonably be used in a real life self-defense

confrontation." Sometimes match directors provide shooters with stages that bear no resemblance to anything remotely possible in the real world, short of a zombie apocalypse.

The Course of Fire Rules state that "Seventy-five percent of all shots required in a match must be fifteen (15) yards or less. Occasional targets out to thirty-five (35) yards are to be encouraged." I fully agree with the idea that **at least** 75% of shots in a match should be less than fifteen yards. After all, one of the stated purposes of the IDPA is "solve real world self-defense scenarios" and real self-defense confrontations rarely require handguns to be used beyond five yards, much less fifteen yards. If we are going to "test skills relevant to self-defense situations" why are we shooting at targets thirty five yards away? Engaging targets at ranges greater than thirty yards is more appropriate to shotguns and carbines, not pistols. Also note the phrase 'self-defense'; I am not as fast as I once was, but thirty five yards gives me a pretty good head start to get away from a bad guy. There is value in 'occasionally' engaging targets at long ranges during major matches; however they are really tests of accuracy, not self-defense shooting. Some major Match Directors seem to interpret the '75% of shots less than 15 yards' guideline to mean at least a quarter of the shots should be 20 yards and sometimes much more. There are even reports of shooters having to take on targets half protected by hard cover or non-threats at those ranges.

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a bit of practice it is quite possible to make hits with standard pistol on an IDPA target at 100 yards. My point is that the IDPA is based upon self-defense shooting, not target matches. There are other types of pistol competition that address the game of target shooting.

Match directors want to give participants their money's worth at a major match. That does not mean exotic or difficult stages. A well-designed stage can be fun and challenging without being overly complicated and beyond the abilities of the average Marksman-level shooter to successfully complete. Expert and Master shooters can demonstrate their competitive skills by shooting the stages faster and more accurately than their opponents. That is really what the IDPA is all about.

What goes up must come down.

The IDPA rule book currently states that "Shooters may not go down in classification except for permanent physical disability or for other irrevocable reasons. IDPA HQ will determine this."

This made sense in the early days of the IDPA. The intent was to prevent shooters from jumping up and down in classification so that they could compete against lesser competition.

Things have changed since then; the IDPA has been around for over 15 years now. To put that into perspective, a member who joined back then at the vigorous age of 35 is now a creaky 50. Of course, one of the pleasures of our sport is that it is possible to continue to compete and compete successfully well past middle age, but there are limits. Sooner or later we all begin to slow down and are not able

shoot as effectively as we once did and more to the point as well as our fellow competitors. Yes, there is a "high senior" recognition provided at some matches but that is not the same as head to head completion.

In addition to issues with age, some of us have to drop out of shooting due to work conflicts, relocation, illness, or other significant life interferences. Although a shooter will not regress completely with an extended layoff, it can take literally years to regain one's previous shooting expertise. That can lead to a very long series of matches where a shooter is quite literally outclassed.

Finally, there are shooters who have that 'one great match' and find themselves totally out of their league in that division, limiting their future status in sanctioned matches to that of a permanent

also-ran. There is nothing wrong with that - provided the shooter is a casual member who does not attend many sanctioned matches. Whatever the reason for a decline in a shooter's ability to shoot, a participant in a competition should have the feeling that he is directly competing against his shooting peers, especially in the case of a big sanctioned match. Shooting as well as you are able and still winding up near the bottom of your division/classification at match after match is disheartening.

The rulebook needs to have additional criteria for allowing a shooter do go down in classification. The most obvious way to do this is to allow shooters to petition IDPA HQ for a reduction in classification for causes other than "permanent physical

(Continued on page 32)

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Through the Eyes of a Junior Shooter

by Austin Proulx
A39722



Livin' On the Plateau

Like many others, when I first started competing in IDPA my shooting skills improved a great amount in very little time. This period of time in which a shooter is improving rapidly can often be one of the most enjoyable in their IDPA career. However, after a while, learning and becoming proficient at basic skills will begin having a smaller impact on your improvement, and you will eventually reach what is known as a plateau.

There are a few different types of plateaus. Plateaus can be related to gear, motivation/

dedication, training and experience, and physical limitations. Some shooters reach a plateau, get comfortable there and happily coast along at that same skill level for years, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Other shooters reach a plateau and blast right through it. Still others get stuck on a plateau and want to improve, but find that they are having trouble doing so.

I reached my plateau after the inaugural IDPA World Championships last year. I hadn't shot any sanctioned matches in a while, and became complacent. It wasn't until I re-shot the classifier that I realized

The author shooting a stage of the 2012 Washington State match.

what was happening. I had stopped improving. Even though I wanted to get better, the desire alone simply wasn't going to do it. My problem was that the only practice I got would be when my dad and I would shoot at local club matches. Granted, we shot them four times a month, but the lack of dry fire practice, formal training, and feedback wasn't conducive to improvement. My dad and my friends at the range taught me the basics, and taught me well, but could only do so much. This was when we started seeking out professional help, a competition specific training course to get us over the hump. Some people utilize books or training DVD's, and while useful, those sources lack the professional input and live

fire experience that comes with an actual course. That in mind, we set out looking for the best in the business, and found what we were searching for with Bob Vogel's IDPA Practical Shooting Course. With his successful record in competition, he was the obvious choice for us. A while after the two-day instructional course from Mr. Vogel, I noticed that I was edging closer and closer to my dad in local matches. I focused on utilizing what I had learned and I could feel that it was helping. Those feelings of mine came to fruition at the Washington State Championships, where I did well enough to place first in CDP Sharpshooter, and bumped up to CDP Expert.

Getting a bump at a match
(Continued on page 31)

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2012 IDPA Nation

by Robert Ray A05118

Another National Championship is behind us and what a great match. I just want to start by saying thank you to all of the people that worked so hard to make this happen. It takes a great deal of work by multiple people to make a match of this size happen. From Frank Glover (our MD) to the set up crew, the SO's and staff as well as the many great sponsors old and new and many others not named here. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to this sport. To see just how many people it takes to put on this match, please check out the National's scores page on the IDPA website: www.idpa.com/2012_match.asp. There you will find a complete list of those that worked so hard on this match.



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National Championship

Can you spot all six targets visible in this photo?

On that page you will also find a list of the sponsors for this year's match. I encourage everyone to take a moment to thank these companies for all that they do as well as remembering them when you are thinking about your next shooting gear purchase. These companies give generously to help support what we do, not only at the national level, but at many of the state and regional matches around the county.

Another great item that can be found on the scores page of the website is a PDF of the match booklet. If you are an avid shooter, a match director or stage designer, I can tell you that the stages in the match book are a great read and a good way to add new ideas to your home club. This year was the hardest year ever for our National Championship. These stages included a plethora of tight shots, difficult shooting positions and the need to really keep your wits about you while applying the fundamentals of "front sight, press". I will be perfectly honest, I did not keep that in mind as much as I should and my scores suffered due to it. I am happy that I finished the match unlike my trip to the Cup earlier this year. More on that in the first issue of the TJ in 2013. I think the photos presented here

(Continued on page 20)

Nothing like a nice cold water to help keep you hydrated. These were provided by the great people at Harris Publications



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2013 shooting season begins in earnest.

In addition, I have approved a **Yearly Rules Review Process** to be presented to the BoD so that we can accept member input and continue to keep pace with our industry. The **SO and Shooter Codes of Conduct** continue to be refined, along with an **Appeals Process for Sanctioned Matches**.

The fabulous folks from RangeLog have been busy on our behalf, having recently rolled out an interim site for IDPA member clubs to provide club details, identify local shooting ranges, as well as add upcoming IDPA matches. In the coming months, the complete Member Services site will be rolled out and all IDPA individual members will be able to easily access account details, classifier and match scores, and much more. IDPA HQ will be alerting members via email as soon as the new site is available.

As we end this year and take stock of our goals, amid economic and political challenges, I want to leave you all with one of my favorite pieces – The Gunfighter’s Prayer.

The Gunfighter’s Prayer

Lord, make me fast and accurate. Let my aim be true and my hand faster than those who would seek to destroy me. Grant me victory over my foes and those that wish harm to me and mine. Let not my last thought be “If only I had my gun”; and Lord if today is truly the day that You call me home, let me die in a pile of brass.

Merry Christmas and wishes for a safe and successful new year!

Joyce



2012 IDPA National Championship

in the TJ will help illuminate just how tough the shooting was in this match. If you can’t get enough in these pages, you can check out the work of professional photographer Yamil Sued by going to photos.idpa.com or by checking out the photos on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ShootIDPA) and blog (www.idpa.com/blog).

However, if a picture is worth a thousand words then a video is worth even more. There are a ton of videos by competitors that are available on YouTube. A simple search will yield great results but if you want the best videos with great commentary you are going to have to wait. At this year’s match, we had both Shooting Gallery with Michael Bane and Shooting USA with John Scoutten in attendance. Both of these shows are fantastic and I know you will enjoy them. Shooting Gallery’s show will have a little bit of a different spin than normal as it will feature actress and stunt woman Katie Rowe shooting the match. This would be Katie’s first IDPA

match ever and highlights that even with a match of this challenging a level, IDPA is still very friendly to the new competitor to get started shooting. Of course Katie did spend some time in intensive training with Master shooter Randi Rogers before the event. Some one-on-one instruction from such a fierce competitor as Randi (but otherwise wonderfully friendly person) would help any of us. Keep an eye on our website and the Outdoor Channel for an announcement when these shows get ready to air.

I would also like to congratulate the Division Champions at this year’s match.

CDP Champion: Glenn Shelby Distinguished Master 248.48 (44)

ESP Champion: Matthew Mink Distinguished Master 238.93 (48)


SSP Champion: Robert Vogel Distinguished Master 206.62 (31)

ESR Champion: Jerry Miculek Distinguished Master 298.14 (75)

SSR Champion: Kirk Crego

Master 338.59 (52)

Although we do not officially recognize a high over-all winner in IDPA, I have to point out that, once again, Robert Vogel finished the match with an astounding time. With a score of 206.62, he finished an amazing 30 plus seconds ahead of the next nearest competitor. One thing often overheard at the match was “How does Robert Vogel shoot that fast?” Well folks, I don’t know, but if Bob happened to have a section of skin pulled off and there was a Terminator-like metal skeleton underneath, I would not be surprised.

I would like to thank all of our competitors for attending the match. We hope that you enjoyed the event and that you all are looking forward to the 2013 Indoor Nationals and the start of a new shooting season. As our minds turns toward the holidays and the end of the year, we wish you and yours a safe year and a great shooting season. 

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Competition Handguns

Beretta		2
92	9 mm	1
Px4	9 mm	1
Caspian		3
1911	.45 ACP	1
1911	9 mm	1
2011	9 mm	1
Colt		3
1911	9 mm	1
Series 80	.45 ACP	2
Cylinder & Slide		1
Peerless Grade	9 mm	1
CZ		5
75 SPO1 Shadow	9 mm	4
75BD	9 mm	1
Dan Wesson		5
1911 (Marksman)	.45 ACP	1
1911 (Pointman Nine)	9 mm	3
Valor	.45 ACP	1
Fusion Firearms		1
1911 Govt	.45 ACP	1
Glock		108
17	9 mm	19
19	9 mm	4
21	.45 ACP	10
34	9 mm	71
35	.40 S&W	3
36	9 mm	1
H&K		2
P7 M10	.40 S&W	1
USP	9 mm	1
Infinity Firearms		1

T.T.I	9 mm	1
Kimber		14
Not Specified		1
1911 RI Team Match II	.45 ACP	1
Custom Eclipse II	.45 ACP	2
Custom Tactical II	.45 ACP	1
Custom Target	9 mm	1
Stainless II	9 mm	1
Tactical	.45 ACP	1
Tactical Entry II	.45 ACP	1
Target II	9 mm	1
Team Match	.45 ACP	2
TLE II	.45 ACP	2
Les Baer		3
Custom Carry	9 mm	1
Premire II	.45 ACP	2
Nighthawk Custom		5
1911 ladyhawk	9 mm	1
GRP	9 mm	1
Talon	.45 ACP	2
Talon	9 mm	1
Nowlin		1
Match Classic	9 mm	1
Para-Ordnance Inc.		4
D189SR LDA	9 mm	1
P-16 Ltd	.40 S&W	1
PX 18-9	9 mm	2
Predator Tactical		1
Scarab	.40 S&W	1
Remington		2
R1 Enhanced	.45 ACP	2
Ruger		2
GP100	.38/.357	2
Sig Sauer		3
P226	9 mm	1
RCS	.45 ACP	1
TAC OPS	.45 ACP	1
Simian Tactical		1
1911	.45 ACP	1
Smith & Wesson		102
1911	.45 ACP	2
1911	9 mm	1
1911 Pro Series	9 mm	2
22	.45 ACP	1
29	0	1
586	.38 special	1

625	.45 ACP	8
625 SPC	.45 ACP	1
646	.40 S&W	2
66	.38 Special	1
24289	.357 mag	1
67	.38 Special	1
24624	.38 special	1
686	.357 mag	6
686 SSR	.38/.357	1
96	9 mm	1
9l	9 mm	1
M & P	.40 S&W	2
M & P	.45 ACP	11
M & P	9 mm	20
M & P 9L	9 mm	3
M & P Pro	9 mm	33
Model 19	.38 Special	1
Springfield Armory		25
1911-A1	.45 ACP	3
1911-A1	9 mm	3
Loaded	.45 ACP	1
Loaded	9 mm	1
TRP	.45 ACP	2
XD	.45 ACP	1
XD	9 mm	1
XDM	.40 S&W	1
XDM	9 mm	5
XDM 5.25	.40 S&W	1
XDM 5.25	.45 ACP	1
XDM 5.25	9 mm	5
STI		13
2011	.40 S&W	1
2011	9 mm	2
Custom 1911	9 mm	1
Eagle 5.0	.40 S&W	2
Eagle 5.0	9 mm	4
Spartan 1911	9 mm	1
Trojan	9 mm	2
SVI		1
2011	.45 ACP	1
Tanfoglio		1
P-23	9 mm	1
Wilson Combat		13
Not Specified	9 mm	1
1911	9 mm	1
1911 Protector	.45 ACP	1
CQB	.45 ACP	7

CQB	9 mm	2
CQB Elite	.40 S&W	1
Competition Holsters		
Alabama Holster		1
OWB		1
Atomic Doc		1
Model Not Specified		1
Blackhawk		10
Model Not Specified		4
CQC		4
Serpa		2
Blade-Tech		87
Model Not Specified		53
Belt Holster		9
Black Ice		1
Competition		2
DOH		4
Nano-IWB		1
Paddle		2
Pro Series		1
Speed Belt		1
Stingray		13

Comp-Tac		107
Model Not Specified		52
Belt Holster		18
Diva		4
International		10
Paddle		18
Pro Competition		5
Custom		1
IWB		1
D & D Custom		18
Model Not Specified		16
Belt		1
Custom		1
Daren Kirts		7
Model Not Specified		3
Custom		1
OWB		2
StraightCant		1
DeSantis		2
Model Not Specified		1
Pro Fed		1
El Paso Saddlery		1
Street		1

Fobus		2
Model Not Specified		2
Garrett Industries		3
Model Not Specified		1
Silent Thunder		2
G-Code		2
OSH		2
Heinie		1
DOJ		1
Kydex		1
Model Not Specified		1
Kytac		1
Model Not Specified		1
Master-Tac		6
Model Not Specified		2
Belt Loop		1
Paddle		2
Revolver		1
Milt Sparks		3
1RT		1
PMK		2
O.L.G.		2
El Vievo		2

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Ready Tactical	7	Blazer	1	Rock Chucker	1
Model Not Specified	6	BVAC	1		
Chris Stewart Special	1	CCI	3	Powder	
Ronsealunt Solution	1	Cor-Bon	1	Accurate	14
Side Windre	1	Crossbones	2	Type Not Specified	3
Safariland	18	DML	1	#5	2
Model Not Specified	8	Factory	1	Solo 1000	9
2011	1	Factory Reloads	1	Alliant	14
5188 Paddle Holster	1	Federal	24	Bullseye	13
5189	1	Fiocchi	4	Unique	1
5198	1	Handloads	185	Hodgdon	101
5198-683-411	1	Hornady Steel Match	1	Type Not Specified	9
5198-851-411	1	Lawman	1	Clays	22
568-12	2	Magtech	1	HP 38	1
ALS	1	Montana Gold	1	International Clays	1
Revolver	1	PMC	1	TiteGroup	61
Springfield Armory	3	Remington	6	Universal Clays	6
Model Not Specified	1	Roger's Reloads	1	WST	1
XDM	2	Sellier & Bellot	1	VihtaVuori	35
Tac-Pro	1	Shonta	1	Type Not Specified	9
Paddle	1	Silver Bear	1	N310	5
Talon Tactical	3	Speer Lawman	1	N320	20
A-10	1	Universal Ammunition	2	N360	1
Paddle	1	Wilson Custom	2	Vittorio	1
talon tactical offset	1	Winchester	10	Type Not Specified	1
Tech	1			Winchester	32
Model Not Specified	1			Type Not Specified	6
TKW	6			231	15
Model Not Specified	3			AA	1
1911	1			AutoComp	1
Belt Holster	1			WSF	5
Revolver	1			WST	4
Tucker Gunleather	1				
HF-1	1			Brass	
Uncle Mike's	2			All C	1
Model Not Specified	2			Berry	1
Wilson Combat	5			Bullseye	1
Model Not Specified	1			Cavim	1
Adjuster Paddle	1			CBC	1
Practical	2			Federal	6
Tactical	1			Fiocchi	1
				Mag Tech	2
				Mixed	120
				Ranae	1
				Remington	6
				Speer	5
				Starline	18
				The Shooter's Source	1
				Wilson Combat	1
Competition Ammo					
AAP	1				
Aguila	5				
Asym Precision	1				
Atlanta Arms & Ammo	31				
Berry's Reloads	1				
Black Hills	1				
		Reloading Press			
		AmmoLoad 1000	1		
		Model Not Specified	1		
		Dillon Precision	189		
		Model Not Specified	5		
		1000	1		
		RL 550B	46		
		Square Deal B	26		
		SSO	1		
		Super 1050	29		
		XL 650	81		
		Hornady	11		
		Model Not Specified	2		
		Lock-N-Load	4		
		Lock-N-Load AP	5		
		Lee Precision	10		
		Model Not Specified	1		
		Classic Turret	3		
		Load-Master	1		
		Pro 1000	5		
		RCBS	2		
		Pro 2000	1		

Winchester	18
Bullet Manufacturer	
Bayou Bullets	10
BBL	1
Bear Creek	2
Berger Bullets	2
Berry's Mfg.	27
Black Bullet International	6
Brimstone	1
Delta Precision	2
Fiocchi	1
Frontier	1
Homemade	1
Hornady	5
J & K Bullets	1
Kilns Better Bullets	1
LRN S&S Casting	1
LSWC	1
Mag Tech	1
Mastercast	5
Missouri	1
Molley C	1
Montana Gold	67
Organ Trail	1
Precision Delta	26
Ranier	2
Remington	2
Rickeys Bullets	1
Rogers Better Bullets	1
SNS Casting	1
Spuz	1
West Coast	1
X Treme	6
Zero	12

Bullet Type

Jacketed	108
Lead	23
Moly Coated	26
Plated	43

Primer

CCI	31
Federal	79
Remington	5
Winchester	46
Wolf	2

Eye Protection

3M	1
5.11 Tactical	2
AO Safety	1
Beretta	1
Bolle	2
Caza	1
Champion	1
Columbia	1
Cordova Bulldog	1
Custom	1
Decot Hy-Wyd	8
Dillon Precision	2
Ear Pro	1
Elvex - Xenon - Light Blue	1
ESS	24
Eysis	1
Fevision	1
Foster Grant	1
Generic	6
Iron Man (target)	1
Liberty Rec Specs	1
Maui Jim	1
Nemesis	4
NYX Eyeware	1
Oakley	66
Peltor	2
Pilla	1
Prescription	26
Pro Ears	1
Pyramex	1
Radians	2
Randolf Ranger	1
Remington	2
Revision	5
Rudy Project	45
Ryders	1
Smith & Wesson	8
Sportman	1
Tifosi	2
Timberland	1
Uver	1
Uvex	2
Wal-Mart	3
Ward Optical	1
Wiley X	10
Winchester	6
Wyatt	1

Zenni Optical	1
Ear Protection	
3M	3
Model Not Specified	1
Electronic	1
Plugs	1
Bilson	1
Old as Dirt	1
Browning	1
Model Not Specified	1
Caldwell	3
Model Not Specified	1
5.11 Tactical	1
Electronic	1
Custom	17
Model Not Specified	17
Decot Hy-Wyd	1
Custom	1
Dillon Precision	12
Model Not Specified	9
HP1	3
E.A.R. Inc.	24

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Model Not Specified	13	Model Not Specified	1	Sensear	1
Custom	6	MSA	4	Model Not Specified	1
Electronic	1	Model Not Specified	1	Sihl	1
Insta-Mold	2	Sordin Supreme	1	Model Not Specified	1
Non Baffled	1	Supreme Pro	2	Silencio	1
Plugs	1	MSR	2	Model Not Specified	1
Ear East	3	Model Not Specified	1	Sport Ear	1
Model Not Specified	1	Professional	1	XP3	1
Custom	2	Oakley	1	Surefire	12
Ear Mold	1	E.A.R	1	Model Not Specified	4
Model Not Specified	1	Peltor	54	EP3	2
Ear Pro	1	Model Not Specified	24	EP4	5
Model Not Specified	1	Competition Co.	1	EPI	1
Ear Protection	1	Comptac II	1	Tactical Command Industries (TCI)	2
Model Not Specified	1	S3	1	DEHP Pro-X	2
Ear Scope	1	Shotgunner	1	Walkers	4
Model Not Specified	1	Sound Trap	1	Game Ear	2
EP3	1	Tactical 6S	11	Power Muff	1
Model Not Specified	1	Tactical 7S	4	Pro Ears	1
ESP	2	Tactical Pro	6	Westone	1
Model Not Specified	1	Tactical Sport	2	Custom	1
Stealth	1	Ultimate 10	2	Wilson Combat	1
Ethomie Research	1	Precision	1	Model Not Specified	1
Model Not Specified	1	Model Not Specified	1	Winchester	1
Generic	16	Predator	1	Model Not Specified	1
Model Not Specified	13	Model Not Specified	1	Competition Concealment Garment	
foam plugs	3	Prem Ear Hearing Protection	1	3M	1
Gentex	3	Custom Molded	1	5.11 Tactical	75
Wolf Ears	3	Pro	1	Armadillo Concealment	22
Hear-Pro	1	Model Not Specified	1	Blackhawk	1
custom	1	Pro 300	1	Boyt	1
Howard Leight	24	Model Not Specified	1	Cabela's	4
Model Not Specified	7	Pro Ears	23	CEW	1
Impact	3	Model Not Specified	14	CMS Inc.	1
Impact Pro	1	Gold 33	1	Columbia	4
Impact Sport	12	Linear Elite	1	Competitive Concealment	10
Max Earplugs	1	Predator	3	Comp-Tac	1
liclic and Stream 1871	1	Pro Tac	3	Concealed Carry Outfitters	1
Model Not Specified	1	Sporting Clays	1	Concealed CarryClothiers	1
LD	1	PureTone	1	Duluth Pack	2
EP-138	1	Model Not Specified	1	Eddie Bauer	1
Lorex	1	Radians	2	Elite	1
Surefire	1	Model Not Specified	1	EOTAC	34
Mack's	2	Pro-Amp	1	Fox Outdoors	2
Ear Seal	2	Remington	1	Gander	1
Magnum Ear	1	Model Not Specified	1	Homemade	7
Electronic	1	Rudy Project	1		
Mebane Ear Plugs	1	Peltor	1		

2012 IDPA National Championship Equipment Survey

Humvee	1	23	.40 S&W	9	Ruger	9
Hunnicut	1	26	9 mm	13	GP101	1
MLA Associates	1	27	.40 S&W	7	LC9	.38 Special 3
Orvis	2	30	.45 ACP	1	LCP	.380 ACP 3
Pistol Packing Company	1	33	.357 Sig	1	Speed Six	.38 Special 1
Polar Fleece Vest	1	34	9 mm	2	SR9L	1
RedHead	1	35	.40 S&W	1	SAA	1
Rothco	4	36	.45 ACP	2	Not Specified	1
Royal Robbins	2	H&K		3	Sig Sauer	9
Sig Sauer	6	P30L	9 mm	1	Not Specified	.45 ACP 1
Sig Tac	4	P7M8	9 mm	1	238	.380 ACP 1
Sill Tactical Series	1	USPc or P2000	9 mm	1	P229	405 1
Smith & Alexander	1	Kahr		13	P230 SL	.380 ACP 1
STW	1	K9	9 mm	2	P238	.38 Special 2
SWS	1	MK9	9 mm	1	P250 Sub-Compact	9 mm 1
Tact Wear	1	P380	.380 ACP	2	P290	9 mm 1
Wilson	1	P40	.40 S&W	1	RCS	.45 ACP 1
Woolrich	39	P45	.45 ACP	1	Siman Tactical	1
		P9	9 mm	1	Commander	.45 ACP 1
Do you have a CCW?		PM45	.45 ACP	1	Smith & Wesson	55
No	28	PM9	9 mm	3	Not Specified	3
Yes	254	SW40	.40 S&W	1	29	0 1
		Keltec		5	340	.357 Mag 1
CCW Handguns		Not Specified	.380 ACP	1	340 PD	.357 Mag 1
AMT	1	P3AT	.380 ACP	2	342-1	.38 Special 1
Hardballer	.45 ACP 1	PF9	9 mm	2	349 PD	.38 Special 1
Beretta	4	Kimber		19	36	.38 Special 1
92FS	9 mm 2	Not Specified	.45 ACP	3	49	.38 Special 1
Nano	9 mm 1	1911	9 mm	1	60	.38 Special 2
Px4 Compact	9 mm 1	CDP Custom	.45 ACP	1	638	.38 Special 2
Colt	1	Custom II	.45 ACP	1	640	.38 Special 1
Defender	.45 ACP 1	Custom Tactical II	.45 ACP	1	640 PD	.357 Mag 1
Custom	1	Ultra			642	.38 Special 9
1911	.45 ACP 1	Eclipse Ultra 3 inch	.45 ACP	1	Bodyguard	.38 Special 2
CZ	2	Pro Carry II	.45 ACP	2	E series 1911 Bob-tail Commander	.45 ACP 1
CZ75D PCR	9mm 1	Pro TLE II	.45 ACP	1	M & P	.40 S&W 3
PO-7 Duty	9 mm 1	Tac II	.45 ACP	1	M & P	.45 ACP 2
Dan Wesson	4	Tactical Entry II	.45 ACP	1	M & P	9 mm 11
Guardian 1911	.45 ACP 1	Tactical Ultra II	.45 ACP	2	M & P Compact	9 mm 6
Guardian 1911	9 mm 1	Ultra Carry II	.45 ACP	3	M & P Shield	9 mm 4
Pm-9	9 mm 1	Ultra CDP II	.45 ACP	1	Stealth	.40 S&W 1
Valor	.45 ACP 1	Les Baer		1	Springfield Armory	13
Diamond Back	2	Concept 10	.45 ACP	1	1911	.45 ACP 1
DB9	9 mm 2	Nighthawk		2	EMP	9 mm 2
Glock	74	Talon	.45 ACP	2	Micro Compact	.45 ACP 1
Not Specified	3	Remington		1	XD	.45 ACP 2
17	9 mm 10	1911 R1	.45 ACP	1	XD 45c	.45 ACP 1
19	9 mm 24	Rhorbaugh		1	XD Subcompact	9 mm 1
21	.45 ACP 1	R9	9 mm	1		

2012 IDPA National Championship Equipment Survey

XD Tactical	9 mm	1	Handmade	1	Model Not Specified	1
XD9	9 mm	1	CBH	1	Belt	1
XDM 5.25	.40 S&W	1	Model Not Specified	1	Don Hume	2
XDM Sub compact	.40 S&W	1	Comp-Tac	30	001 No. 4A Leather Pocket	1
XDS	.45 ACP	1	Model Not Specified	6	Belt Slide	1
Steyr		1	Belt	1	El Paso Saddlery	1
Not Specified	.40 S&W	1	Diva	1	High Slide	1
STI		2	Gurkha	1	Fist	2
Escort	.45 ACP	1	Infidel	4	Model Not Specified	1
Guardian	.45 ACP	1	International	2	IWB	1
Walther		3	IWB	2	Fobus	4
PPS	9 mm	3	Minotaur	7	Model Not Specified	3
Wilson Combat		5	MTAC	4	Paddle	1
CQB	.45 ACP	1	Paddle Holster	1	Galco	12
Professional	.45 ACP	1	Speed	1	Model Not Specified	5
Protector	.45 ACP	1	Concealment Innovations	1	Ankle	1
Stealth	.45 ACP	1	Model Not Specified	1	Concealment	1
X-Tac Compact	.45 ACP	1	Concealment Solutions	1	IWB	2
			Black mamba	1	King Tuck	1
			Coronado	1	Leather	1
			Purse	1	Sum 4408	1
CCW Holsters			Cramer	1	Glock	2
5.11		1	Shellhammer	1	Model Not Specified	1
Model Not Specified		1	Crossbreed	17	Sport	1
A Holster		1	Model Not Specified	7	gunlovingjohn.com	1
Model Not Specified		1	IWB	1	PTAN	1
AKJ		1	SuperTuck Deluxe	9	High Noon	1
Concealco		1	Custom	6	Split Decision	1
AP Tactical		1	Model Not Specified	3	IBE	1
Model Not Specified		1	IWB	3	Model Not Specified	1
Backwoods		1	D&D	4	IWB	1
64		1	Model Not Specified	3	Model Not Specified	1
Bear Creek		1	Custom	1	Kirts Industries	1
Back Pocket		1	Dale Fricke	2	G26	1
Bianchi		3	Archangel	1	Kramer	1
Model Not Specified		1	Seraphim AIWB	1	IWIS	1
Accumold		1	Darin Kirts	2	Little Feather Leather	1
Pro		1	Clip On	1	Model Not Specified	1
Blackhawk		3	IWB	1	Master-Tac	1
IWB		1	DeSantis	12	G26 IWB	1
Pocket Sleeve		1	Model Not Specified	3	Matt Delfatti	1
Serpa		1	Nemesis	2	Model Not Specified	1
Blade-Tech		19	Pocket	3	Meco	1
Model Not Specified		10	Pro-Stealth	1	Front Pocket	1
IWB		5	Speed Scabbard	1	Milt Sparks	11
Nano IWB		1	Summer Heat	1	Heritage	1
OWB		1	Super Fly (pocket)	1	Sumer Special	1
Platinum		1	Dillon	2	Summer Special	3
Stingray		1				
Brigade Gunleather		1				

2012 IDPA National Championship Equipment Survey

Versa Mac II	1	Cover-up	1	Safety Slugs	1
Versa Max	1	HF-1	1	Hornady	33
VersaMax 2	1	Tuckable IWB	1	Model Not Specified	5
VM-2	2	Uncle Mike's	6	Critical Defense	22
Watch Six	1	Model Not Specified	3	Critical Duty	1
n8 tactical	1	Paddle	1	TAP	1
Pro	1	Pocket Holster	1	XTP	3
One Source Tactical	1	Soft Holster	1	Zombie Max	1
Zack	1	Wild Bill's Concealment	2	Ludolph Mfg.	1
Pocket	2	OWB Paddle	1	XTP Hollow Point	1
Model Not Specified	2	Pocket	1	Mix	1
Purse	1	Wilson Combat	3	Model Not Specified	1
Model Not Specified	1	Practical	1	RCBD	1
Raven Concealment	2	SCIBSRI5	1	Model Not Specified	1
OWB	1	Tactical	1	Reloads	8
Phantom Light compatables IWB	1			Model Not Specified	5
Remdra	1			Hornady XTP	1
Model Not Specified	1	CCW Ammo		Montana Gold	2
RM Holster	1	AAA	1	Remington	11
IWB	1	Model Not Specified	1	Model Not Specified	1
SAA	1	American Eagle	1	Golden Saber	10
Model Not Specified	1	Model Not Specified	1	Rozd	1
Safariland	6	Atlanta Arms	1	Model Not Specified	1
Model Not Specified	2	Model Not Specified	1	SAA	1
ALS	1	Black Hils	1	Model Not Specified	1
Model 18 & Bianchi Model 135 & 100T	1	JHP	1	Safariland	1
Pocket	2	Cavim	1	Model Not Specified	1
Side armor	1	Model Not Specified	1	Speer	33
Model Not Specified	1	CCI	2	Model Not Specified	2
Side Kic	1	Gold Dot	2	Blacktalon	1
Model Not Specified	1	CNN	1	Gold Dot	28
Sig Arms	1	Model Not Specified	1	High Power	1
Model Not Specified	1	Cor-Bon	14	Lawman	1
Smith & Wesson	2	Model Not Specified	5	Taurus	1
Model Not Specified	2	DPX	7	Copper Hollow Point	1
Speer	1	PowerBall	2	Wilson Custom Ammo	2
G26 IWB	1	Factory	1	Model Not Specified	2
Springfield Armory	1	Model Not Specified	1	Winchester	26
Lightweight Operator	1	Federal	52	Model Not Specified	7
Sticky Holsters	2	Model Not Specified	11	Lowman	1
Model Not Specified	2	EFMJ	1	PDX1	2
T.T. Gunleather	1	Guard Dog	1	PDX1 Defender	1
Model Not Specified	1	Hollow Point	1	Personal Defense	1
Ted Blocker Holsters	1	HSS	1	Ranger	6
LFI rig	1	HST	13	Ranger SXT	4
Triple K	1	Hydra Shok	22	Silvertip	1
Model Not Specified	1	JHP	2	White Box	2
Tucker Gunleather	3	Personal Defense	1	Wilvertie	1
		Glaser	1		

Upcoming Sanctioned Matches

November 10, 2012

IDPA Triple Crown I

Oxford, NC

Toni Dandreamatteo

954-608-8482 h

toni.dandreamatteo@gmail.com

Frank Glover

919-691-7686 h

therange@gloryroad.net

www.gloryroad.net/~idpa/TripleCrown2012.pdf

November 10, 2012

IDPA Triple Crown II

Oxford, NC

Toni Dandreamatteo

954-608-8482 h

toni.dandreamatteo@gmail.com

Frank Glover

919-691-7686 h

therange@gloryroad.net

www.gloryroad.net/~idpa/TripleC-

rown2012.pdf

Night Match

November 11, 2012

IDPA Triple Crown III

Oxford, NC

Toni Dandreamatteo

954-608-8482 h

toni.dandreamatteo@gmail.com

Frank Glover

919-691-7686 h

therange@gloryroad.net

www.gloryroad.net/~idpa/TripleCrown2012.pdf

February 1 - 2, 2013

Costa Rican National Championship

Heredia, Costa Rica

Rodrigo Carvajal

703-831-3211 h

rodcarvajal@gmail.com

www.idpacostarica.com

February 9, 2013

Caswell Ranch IDPA Ironman

Prospect Hill, NC

Dean Brevit

919-805-0370 h

caswellranch@embarqmail.com

www.caswellranch.com

February 9, 2013

11th Annual West TX IDPA Regional

Lubbock, TX

Michael Murphy

806-893-2944 h

806-796-2858 w

806-796-2859 fax

mike_m624@hotmail.com

Rick Mosley

806-796-2858 h

806-796-2859 fax

rick.h.mosley@gmail.com

www.patriotfirearms.com

February 21 - 23, 2013

2013 Smith & Wesson IDPA Indoor Nationals

S & W Shooting Sports Center

Springfield, MA

Lou Denys

413-250-7442 h

loudenys@hotmail.com

Mike Critser

203-339-0082 h

mtcritser@sbcglobal.net

May 18, 2013

AR State Championship

Hot Springs, AR

Ted Smethers

501-620-0601 h

501-262-5620 fax

tsmethe@entergy.com

Steve Freeman

501-620-4374 h

501-545-9939 w

danafreeman@cablelynx.com

www.mvsaidpa.com

August 10, 2013

NC State IDPA Championship

Boone, NC

Gary Hoyle

828-963-6307 h

828-963-3995 w

828-262-2796 fax

garyh@wgc-idpa.org

Robert Niemi, Jr.

828-446-8778 h

celticmith@yahoo.com

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brings an amazing feeling of accomplishment, and I prefer it to reclassifying to a higher level. Remember however, that once you get bumped you will most likely be stuck at the bottom of the pack for a while. This is what I experienced after my bump in Washington when I shot at the New Mexico State Championships, and at the IDPA National Championships (which I will include a more detailed write up on in a future article).

I explored the subject of plateaus with some of the biggest names in the industry, and the following is some of what they had to say.

Bill Wilson of Wilson Combat:

Bill stated that the first plateau he experienced occurred fairly early on in his shooting career, before he became one of the best shooters on the planet. He explained that his problem was shooting inconsistently. He told me that one day he would go out and shoot great, and then the next day he would go out and not do so well. The key there was sticking with it, never giving up. "I had to practice the basics, sight alignment, trigger control, following through and being able to call my shots. It wasn't until I looked back on it that I realized just how important consistency was to my improvement."



Tom Yost of Smith and Wesson, and captain of the Panteao Shooting Team: Tom Yost explained that when he practices, he prefers to do things that are more difficult than what one would generally expect see in a match. "Things like shooting one-handed on the move at targets with hard cover 15 yards away." He also pointed out that the mental aspect of competition is of great importance, and stated that he always tries to stay excited about a match. Physical ability is also important. Eyesight, grip strength, and mobility are all crucial to improvement.



Bob Vogel, SSP Master World Champion and Panteao Team member: "I've been doing this for about twelve years, and for a while when I first started out, I didn't really do much research on proper grip or stance or anything like that. Then once I got to a certain level I started reading more books and really focusing on the details and trying to apply it to myself. The main thing is to never stop, no matter how good you get or what you win, never stop learning. You have to constantly change things to get better."

Glenn Shelby, CDP Master World Champion: Mr. Shelby stated that if you're stuck on a

plateau it could be because you're making mistakes. When you practice you have to work on what you're not good at, and fixing any specific mistakes you've been making repeatedly. If you can take video of yourself when you practice, you can analyze what you're doing wrong. Many people practice only what they find fun, or fail to practice a broad array of skills. We also talked about how gear can get you stuck. When you start into the sport you might find something cheap to use for a while. Eventually however, your gear might start to hold you back. Some people choose not to switch because they get comfortable with what they've been using, and ignore the reality that other gear could be more conducive to improvement.

Overall, a surprising number of the responses were very similar. In the end, the general consensus was that your practice regimen, competitive mentality, physical health, and gear selection all play an important role in overcoming plateaus. Just remember, if you do get stuck on a plateau, don't become discouraged. Whether you are a new shooter reaching your first plateau, or a seasoned veteran who wants to improve, these tips from the best in the world might be just what you need to get over the hump.

"If I could only have one gun... I would." AP



disability”. For example, we could modify the rules to allow a shooter to request a downgrade from HQ if he or she can provide evidence that they have finished in the bottom quarter of a specific division/ classification in four or more sanctioned matches over a two year period. Perhaps there are some competitors who would be willing to ‘sandbag’ that much in order to be able to compete against easier shooters; if they are willing to endure two years of abject failure merely so they can compete against lesser shooters, they are welcome to it. At the very least they will be participating in big matches and that is a very good thing.

The purpose of using classifications is to allow shooters to compete against their shooting peers. If that is to remain effective we need to find a way to allow our competitors to adjust their classification to accurately reflect their real shooting skills.

What goes down must also eventually get up.

IDPA has been very successful in bringing in all sorts of shooters: young, old, active, sedentary, fit, and those of us who are not so fit. It is true that being fit will give you an edge in competition, especially at the higher classifications; that



does not mean those of us who are older, ‘less athletic’, or who have a few extra pounds should not be unduly penalized when we shoot. Our sport is not intended to be an athletic competition. In particular, it should not be painful to participate. The rulebook does mention this; we are enjoined to “Avoid designing courses of fire that will substantially disadvantage senior and mobility-challenged shooters.”

I submit that the rulebook should emphasize this a bit more. Specifically, it becomes increasingly difficult to rise from a

kneeling position as one becomes ‘creakier’. Match directors should be enjoined to not build stages that require participants to come up from low cover. There are those of us who need a little help (or at least some extra time) to get back up once we are down. Stages that require contestants to go prone are even worse. Match directors can build scenarios where a participant can perhaps have an easier or faster shot by going prone and still allow the less agile competitors to finish the stage with at least some dignity.

Tiger teams are currently reviewing ways to improve how IDPA shooting is conducted. I hope they will consider some of the things I have mentioned above. Some might be addressed by rules changes; others by exhorting Match Directors to more fully consider the complexity of the stages, the demands on numerous long-range precision shots required, and ensuring that all of us can physically meet the requirements of a course of fire.



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(www.gungoddess.com/), along with a pink birch creek compact shell/ammo bag and a Haley Vines small pouch bag (pictured). From BangBang Boutique, Leanne would like a Uplula 9mm magazine loader. (www.bangbangboutique.com/)



The happiest IDPA shooter in Glade Spring, VA, is **Denise Blevins**. Interested in learning to shoot for self-defense, she contacted local IDPA shooter John Duncan and took lessons from him for ~4 months. When he deemed she had mastered her safety and gun-handling skills, she attended her first IDPA match in November, 2009. Blevins says, "I went to my first match in Bristol VA and I've been hooked ever since. My husband supported and cheered me on for about 6 months before he began shooting IDPA. We shoot nearly every match together. It is great family fun and the most practical sport I can think of."

This ESP Marksman has worked in the payroll department of the local school district for 21 years. Blevins says she has already received part of her Christmas gift. "I was blessed to participate in the 2012 IDPA Nationals in Oxford, NC. That was a gift in itself for me. I never thought I'd have that opportunity." What else would she like? "If I could have a wish come true, it would be for the five us who partici-

pated in the Nationals from our local club, Kettlefoot Rod & Gun Club, to have the health and the opportunity to participate in the next Nationals- for the chance to redeem myself!" As for wrappable gifts, she adds, "A custom fit pink vest from Armadillo Concealment would be a nice addition to have for the match, as well." (www.armadilloconcealment.com/)



Last year, I was chastised by family and friends for not including the "**Kitty Christmas Wish List**", so I have a few things in mind. On the whimsical side, I would like to



complete my collection of Combat Gnomes. The painted RPG Gnome, Flamethrower Gnome and Sheriff Gnome with a Pistol are on my list (www.etsy.com/listing/79706730/



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unpainted-combat-garden-gnome).

The practical, concealed-carry me wants to receive (and may give to friends) a subscription to the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network, Inc. (armedcitizensnetwork.com/home). As a CCW Holder, I pray to never have to use my firearm; if I do, I want this organization to help fund my legal defense, help me select an attorney who is familiar with the ramifications of pulling the trigger, and give me access to a journal that will teach me what to do if this occasion arises. The ACLDN will also help educate me on the law related to the use of self defense through educational DVDs which they send to each new member.

And for all of our IDPA friends, we wish you a Merry Christmas and may your new year be filled with down zeros!




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on the stage. Why is that? Because after the match briefing is over, the first shooter is up to go. The first and second shooters have very little time to conceive a plan for this

two or three minutes to look at the stage before the first shooter is fed through the meat grinder. This is of course, not a rule book requirement but I do believe it would be the right thing to do on the more complicated stages. This will have to be planned in advance to make sure those extra minutes do not cause the stage to run late. This is a nice thing to do for the shooters and it will make the match more enjoyable for all in attendance.

the sponsors, and get the shooters moving.

Sometimes the SO has to give a briefing on a complex stage that requires some planning on the part of the shooter. Perhaps this stage is lengthy and requires ammunition management (e.g. planning a tactical reload within the stage). Perhaps the stage has a few complex movers or gizmos that need a plan of attack. These are the types of stages that find shooters praying to not be first

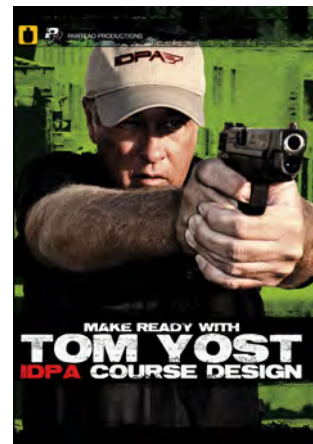
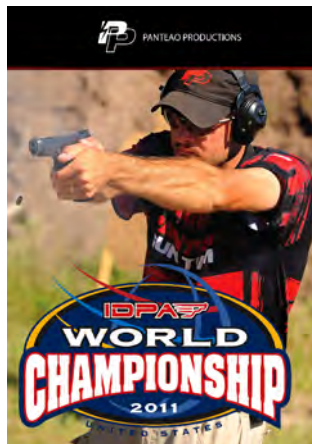
complicated stage.

There are two solutions to this. At major matches, the popular solution today is that most serious competitors try to come a day early to give themselves plenty of time to plan each stage. This is an excellent choice but does not work for all people, especially if they have limited days off or if the range is not open the day before. The second option is for the MD and SO to take a little initiative and give the shooters

Shooters are responsible to get themselves ready to shoot the Course of Fire. This does not mean that the Safety Officer should not take the time to give the shooter a "once over". If a shooter is missing ear protection or has something else wrong, this will only make trouble for both the SO and shooter after the timer beep. When a shooter comes to the line, check the shooter out. Make



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Check out the shooter's condition to make sure he has all his equipment ready to go.



sure his shoelaces are tied. Check out to see if there is any clothing that will hang up in the holster. Make sure the holster's tension screws are not missing. Check to see that his eye and ear protection is in place. If the stage requires concealment, be sure he has his vest with him. This can become part of your SO routine and it will prevent problems before they happen.

When the shooter is finished shooting the Course of Fire, the SO needs to stay focused. I have seen SO's start reading the time off the timer and scoring targets while the shooter still has his gun out. The SO must stay focused on the shooter's firing hand and gun until that gun is put away. Once the gun is safely holstered, then the SO will read the time and score the targets.

Shooters need to be instructed to be mindful of the gun during of the Unload and Show Clear Process. The gun must be cleared and put away before the shooter goes about picking up dropped magazines and ejected rounds. The shooter should not be picking up these things with a gun in his hand. Make the gun safe before policing the range for other items.

Match Directing:

I had a recent discussion with an MD who has an interest in making sure he has stages "for the Master Class Shooters". He wanted to create stages that were challenging to the MA shooters. They were indeed fun for the MA shooters, but I witnessed many SS and MM shooters walking away from the stage very unhappy. What was a tough array for a Master became either a procedural trap or a -20 nightmare for the SS and MM shooters. Several of the MM shooters admitted later they willingly took a PE as it was the only way they could make the hits. What was intended as a fun stage for the MA shooters was instead something the rest of the competitors just had to survive and maybe even cheat their way through.

IDPA Match Directors are in the entertainment business. They need to make stages that are fun for

shooters of all classifications and divisions. So how can you make a stage with a little something for everyone? Try to make a stage with a choice to make. Set up a stage with a disappearing target that has a nearby static target. The MA and EX shooters can take on the static target before the disappearing target activates. The less experienced shooters can take the safe route and wait for the disappearing target to activate, and then move on to the static target. The MA and EX shooters can pick up time (or crash and burn) and the less experienced shooters will not feel robbed.

Another way is to offer a choice is to have a stage with more than one way through it. One choice gives the shooter an opportunity to engage targets from a distance or with a tough Non-Threat target in the way. If the shooter chooses to, he can move about the stage and engage the targets from a closer range and without the Non-Threat in the way. The shooter has to choose between making a tight shot or he must spend more time on the clock moving to the other position.

It is not always easy to make up a stage that offers choices to the shooter. IDPA's Course of Fire rules and 18 shots or less round count can be limiting in this regard. But it can be done and should be attempted. Give the hot dogs a chance to shine while giving the rest of us a fun match to shoot.

In a previous column I discussed the features in a stage that can cost time. These are things added to a stage that will cost time during the reset, or Load and Make Ready portion of the stage. Moving targets, some props, and activators cost time during the reset process. Special instructions such as lying down on

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An all paper stage can help balance another stage that is full of props and mechanical devices.



furniture, placing your gun in a box or on a table, and starting in a car cost time. Each one of these things adds a little time to the rotation of each shooter. The difference between a shooter holstering his gun or placing it in a box along with his magazines may only be fifteen or twenty seconds. Add that fifteen seconds to a ten shooter squad with 5 squads in a day and you have added 12 ½ minutes to the running time of the bay. That does not seem like a lot but if you factor in another stage with a prone start (20 seconds for another 17 minutes) and a climbing into a car (30 seconds for another 25 minutes) you can end up with a day longer than you had wished.

What is worse is when a Match Director has a stage with one or more of these time extensive features in one bay, and has other bays with

very fast stages. Now we have backups. If you have a stage with a briefcase and car start in one bay and the bay feeding this one has two faster holster start stages, you are going to run into problems. That

bay with the briefcase and car start will add 45 seconds a shooter (7 ½ minutes for that 10 shooter squad) that the feeder bay will not have. So you will have a backup on every squad.

Match directors need to learn how to balance the stages. It is completely okay to do both a briefcase and car start in a match. It is all about placing them in the right bays. If the MD has placed ONE car start with a holster start in one bay and ONE briefcase start with the other holster start in another bay, the differences in rotation times would be lessened. The backup would not be as much of a problem.

The same holds true for props and gizmos. If you have bays running two stages each and one bay has two prop intensive stages and the other has two all paper (or some steel)

stages, there will be a measurable difference between reset time. As the day runs on, the disparity will worsen, contributing to longer backups.

I am not saying to limit or do away with more complex stages. What I am saying is that you need to balance everything. Put one prop intensive stage in a bay with an all paper stage. Spread them out to have a similar reset time in each stage. Try to keep the round count in each bay more or less the same. On a prop-intensive stage you may want a lower round count than an all paper stage.

Complexity can also help you round out a match. If you find yourself with a stage that has a lower round count or would appear to run faster than the others, this is a great time to add some spice. Bring out a prop or a complex start position. If you want to add time, it is an easy thing to do. Do not be afraid to consider this.

Match Directors must learn how long it takes to run and reset a stage. Take a stopwatch. When the SO hits the timer, hit your stopwatch. Let it run until the stage is reset. When the SO hits the timer on the next shooter stop your stopwatch. The number on the stopwatch is your rotation time. If there are multiple stages, you add the times up for all the stages in the bay. Your goal is to have rotations on each bay that are roughly the same. My goal is usually 5 minutes per bay (all stages) for a big match, 3-4 for a small one. This number can vary but you need to see what works for your range.

Match Directors make mistakes. I still do. The trick is to learn from your mistakes, learn from others, and never stop trying.



An advertisement for the Vogel Competition Trigger System. It features a close-up photograph of a man wearing a cap, sunglasses, and large ear protection, aiming a handgun. The text 'shoot like a champion' is overlaid at the top. Below that, the 'VOGEL' logo is displayed with 'COMPETITION TRIGGER SYSTEM' and 'Robert D. Vogel' underneath. At the bottom, the website 'www.glocktriggers.com' is prominently displayed. A small credit 'PHOTO BY Yamil Sued' is visible in the bottom right corner of the image area.

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CED & DAA launch the new generation of shooting backpacks and it is bigger and better than ever! No other comes close! One of the largest and most functional backpacks ever, it includes a Hydration Kit, 3-legged stool, rain cover, utility box, mag brush, combination lock, external belt hanger, pistol insert sleeve, and universal pouch. Designed to hold up to 1,000 rounds of ammunition and multiple pistols, along with all the gear one would need for a full day at the range or match.



CED/DAARBPB
\$199.95

Total Dimensions:
22"H x 16"W x 13"D
weighing 7.4 lbs.



CED7000PRO Shot Timer

CED & DAA launch the new CED7000PRO Timer with state-of-the-art technology, engineering, and design! Incorporating color matrix LCD display, USB download / upload PC compatibility, this fully functional match computer will score & view matches, customize training sessions, and includes ROF function, as well as all of the other timer functions you have learned to expect and appreciate from CED timers. 5.4" x 1.85" x 1" weighing only 5.8 oz.

CED7000PRO \$199.95
CED7000PRO RF \$214.95

CED7000 Timer

The smallest, most lightweight shot timer EVER!
* 10 String memory with up to eleven multiple Par settings
* Spy Mode / Stopwatch Mode / Alarm Clock feature
* Combined Comstock / Repetitive / Countdown / & Auto-Start Modes

3.94" x 1.85" x 0.7" weighing only 2.9 oz
CED7000 \$119.95
CED7000RF \$134.95



CED M2 Chronograph

- The fastest, most accurate chronograph & it even talks!
- * Over 1000 shot capacity with up to 500 string permanent memory
- * Records velocities in feet or meters from 50 fps to 7,000 fps.
- * High, Low, Average, & Hi-Average velocity readings
- * Extreme Spread, Standard Deviation, Edit & Omit functions
- * Built-in Calculator & IPSC / IDPA Power Factor Function
- * Voice Chip technology – Results can be heard as well as seen
- * USB interface with new Data Collector Software program included

Chronograph System \$199.00
Infrared Upgrade \$89.00
NiMH Battery Pack \$48.00
Custom Carry Case \$35.95
Full accessory line available!



CED Deluxe Professional Range Bag

The CED Deluxe Professional Range bag, has 25% more storage capacity, two additional zippered pockets have been added, one on each end, includes seven magazine pouches, Ammo Brass Pouch, Zippered Pistol Sleeve, metal hardware, combination cable lock, and the new CED Universal Pouch! Overall Bag 21" L x 11" H x 14" W. Avail. in Black, Royal Blue, Hunter Green, Red, and Navy.

CEDDRG \$89.95

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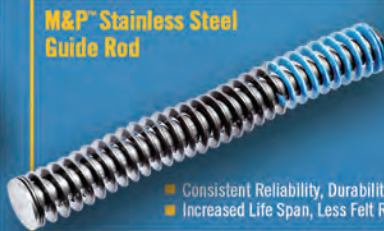
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