

IDPA

**IDPA Pro Tips Column
Featuring Dave Harington**

**IDPA - Giving Back by
Hosting a Benefit Match**

Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

Third Quarter 2013
Volume 17 - Issue 3



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Shooter Ready

Letters to the *Tactical Journal*

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A TALE OF TWO HANDS

What are right-handed, left-eye dominant shooters to do if they want to improve their IDPA scores? Nearly every basic shooting course teaches the shooter to identify his or her dominant eye. When the shooter's dominant eye doesn't line up with the "strong" hand, the search begins for ways to compensate. Add to that a minor physical disability to the strong hand and the choices are narrowed down to just one...switch shooting hands. Can a good shooter really be successful starting over? One shooter that we know has done just that.

Bernard "Chuck" Limpert, 55, A47097, is a member of the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club in Bridgeville, Delaware, and lives nearby in Magnolia with Lyn, his wife of 28 years. They have three grown children. Like many life-long shooters, Chuck starting shooting small-bore rifles at age 10. At 18 he purchased his first handgun, a Ruger Security Six with a 6" barrel and shot bullseye for about 3 years. It wasn't until just two years ago that he discovered IDPA. For Chuck participating in IDPA is addictive. Relatively new to the Bridgeville Club, his leadership and enthusiasm earned him the title of Match Director for this fledgling IDPA group. Chuck's occupation as an auto mechanic of 40 years left him with an arthritic right wrist that causes considerable discomfort for several days after each match. Coupled with a cross-dominant left-eye/right-hand shooting combination, Chuck felt that he needed to do something about changing his shooting technique.

In May of this past year Chuck made his switch to left-handed shooting. At first, he faced the normal problems common to new shooters, overcoming the natural awkwardness of a different hand, and encountering courses of fire that seemed to favor right-handers. Even finding suitable left-handed holsters proved a challenge. But Chuck sees a bright side to the change...no bad habits to "unlearn." He saw this as his opportunity to revisit the basics, presentation, grip, target acqui-

sition, trigger press, etc. Chuck says he's not yet a true "lefty," but he's getting more comfortable with it as time and practice go on.

Not satisfied with this achievement, Chuck decided to classify in all five divisions...as both a right-handed and left-handed shooter. He was already classified as Sharpshooter in Stock Service Pistol with his Ruger SR40.

In November, faced with pending surgery that would preclude shooting for up to a month, Chuck needed to accelerate his schedule for achieving his goal. Under the tutelage of fellow-shooter Jeff Harrison, also a 5-Gun Sharpshooter, Chuck stayed after Bridgeville's regular practice matches to shoot, and reshoot, Classifiers. First, the SSP, left-handed, using Jeff's Glock 17, then Enhanced Service Pistol with both hands using his Springfield XDM 5.25, 9mm. Borrowing a Springfield 1911, .45 ACP, Chuck earned his Sharpshooter classification in the Custom Defense Pistol division with both hands the following week. Next, Chuck dusted off his Ruger GP100, and using .357 Magnum ammo, he successfully earned his Enhanced Service Revolver classification as "rightie" and "lefty." Finally, to round off the 5-Gun achievement, after a couple of attempts, Chuck was classified Sharpshooter in the Stock Service Revolver division. Between November 12 and December 19 he had succeeded in achieving his classification of Sharpshooter in all five divisions, with both right and left hands. He plans to continue to shoot left-handed full-time.

Chuck Limpert's experience is a great lesson in what the average shooter can achieve with determination (and a lot of ammunition). At the next match, when the Match Director describes a Course of Fire using "weak hand," simply go back to the basics, review presentation, target acquisition, trigger press, and a hard focus on the front sight, and thank Chuck Limpert for this lesson.

Joe Juknelis A37401

Joe, thank you for writing in about Mr.

Limpert. I like to hear about the drive of our members to compete in this sport. It sounds like Chuck was not going to let obstacles get in the way of enjoying shooting and especially IDPA. In a lot of IDPA matches, you see a stage that requires you to shoot with your non-dominant or "weak" hand. Almost all of them reference that you were injured in the fight and had to use your weak hand. This illustrates an alternate (and more likely) reason why it is so important to be proficient with both hands when shooting. You never know what life is going to throw at you. Way to go Chuck! Thank you for the inspiration

Editor

An email from one of our authors

Here's my thanks for a job well done! Just beautiful and perfect!!!! I've been receiving several great emails, and I'd like to share one of them with you, read on.

Thank you again so much!!!! Keep up the great work on Tactical Journal!

Regards, Al

Al,

Your article and photos in THE IDPA TACTICAL JOURNAL are excellent. The editors did the best layout I've ever seen in the publication. There is lots of white space which makes the piece open and inviting to the readers, not a wall of words like opening a dictionary or a phone book. The well chosen and clear photos provide fast message delivery.

In my former life, I worked in a print shop (briefly) and was an editor of two newspapers, photo editor on one of the papers. I know good writing and layout when I see it.

Al, we appreciate your writing in about tips on working with deaf or hard of hearing competitors (Tactical Journal V17 Issue 1). There are more of us in that situation as damage and age increases our numbers. Your article was very helpful and we also appreciate you sending us the positive feedback you received. We try very hard to provide a great magazine. We hope all our readers continue to enjoy and benefit from it.

Editor



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

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Upcoming Major Matches



PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING:

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. If you'd like to submit an article, please send it to TacticalJournal@idpa.com.

Run a Better Match Build a Better Club

by Ted Murphy A02127



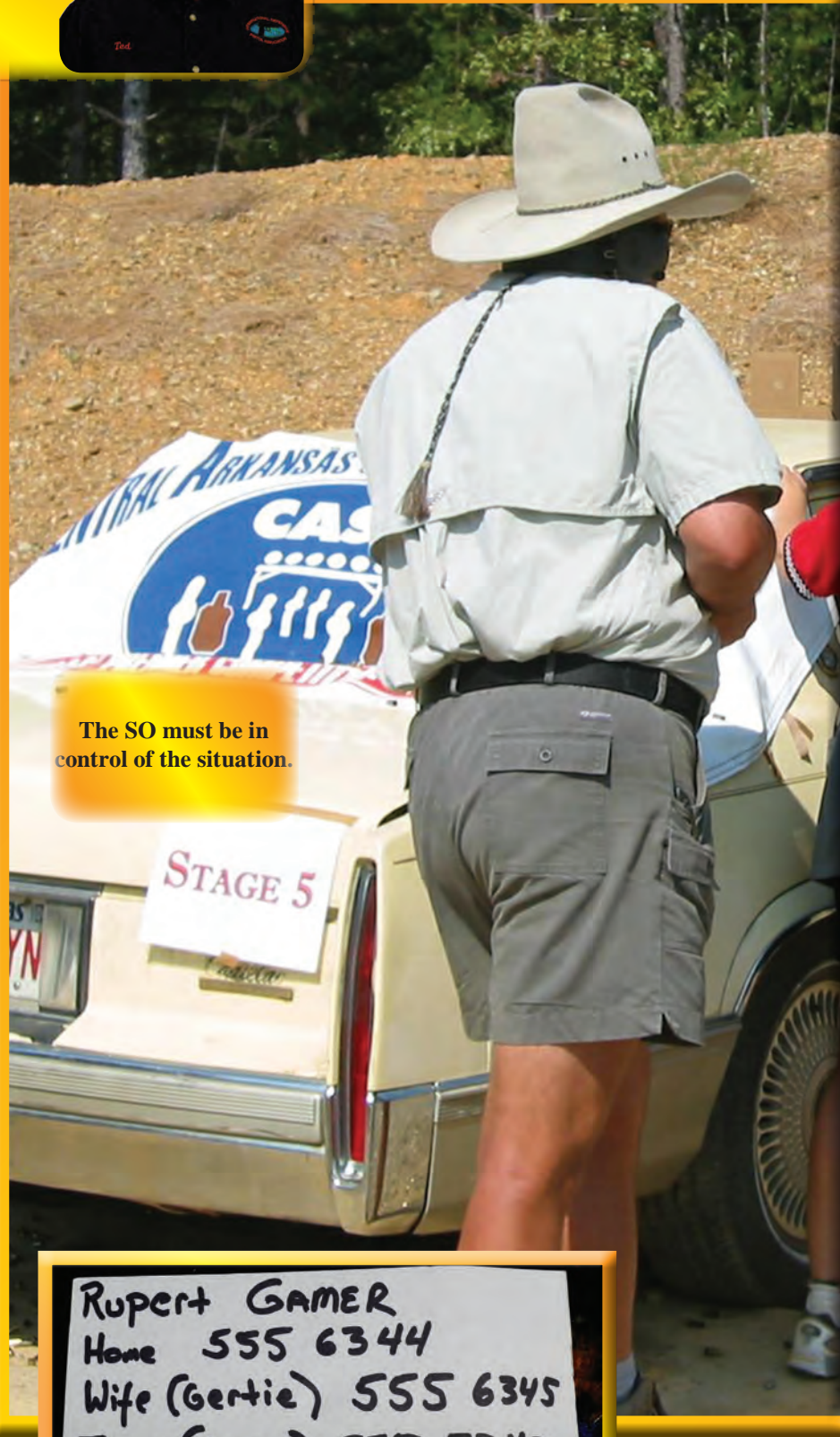
It is summer again and I hope you all are surviving the hot weather and components shortages. I have been playing with every permutation of caliber, bullet, and primer just to have stuff to shoot. This year I have switched divisions more often than a NHL team... I have even experimented with casting and coating my bullets. It has worked very well, but it is a laborious process.

Things seem to be getting better and I can again get some of my beloved Federal Primers. Rifle ammunition is again available so the Zombies had better watch out. I am finally dusting off my revolvers and cannot wait to shoot one at the Nationals this year. Summer may be hot and nasty, but the prospect of a fun time at USSA is keeping my spirits high.

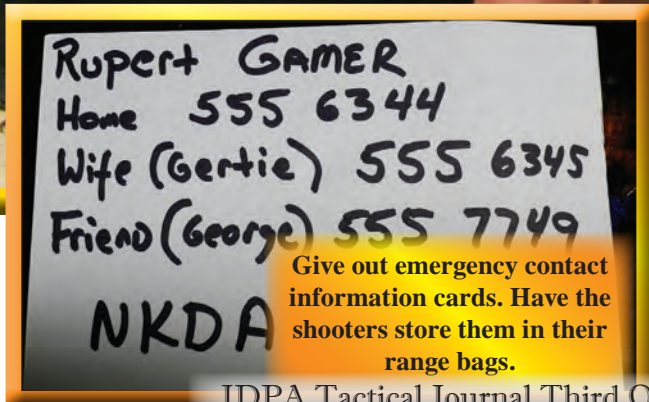
Shooting:

Most people do not like to think about it but sometimes emergencies and accidents happen. If you were on the range and something happened to you, would it be easy for the match staff to contact your loved ones? Some cell phones have an ICE (in case of emergency) function but they are often behind the lock on the phone screen. There are lower tech 20th Century options available to make sure you can contact loved ones in case of an emergency.

I have a dog tag made by ROAD ID. My tag has personal information to identify myself as well as telephone numbers for my wife, sister, and friend. There is room on the other side for artwork but I left mine blank as I plan to have more information engraved on my tag. This tag was less than \$30.00 and I wear it when I go out on my bike and when I am at the range by myself. You can get more



The SO must be in control of the situation.



Give out emergency contact information cards. Have the shooters store them in their range bags.

information on ROAD ID at their web page: www.roadid.com.

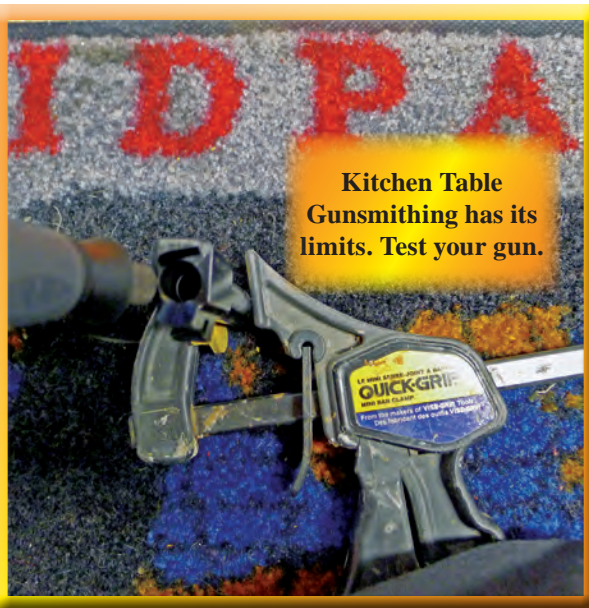
A less expensive version is the old school 3"x 5" card. You can fill out all the necessary information on the card and put it in your range bag. That way if there is trouble, you can direct people to the card or the responders can find it on their own if they have to.

When it comes to working on guns or other objects, there is something built into our psyche that makes us want to do it ourselves. It could be about saving money, an issue of pride, or because you believe it can be done better. As a plumber, I made a pile of cash on people who thought they could do it themselves. With pipes the worst you can physically experience is being wet. With the repair of objects such as a handgun, the hazards are much higher.

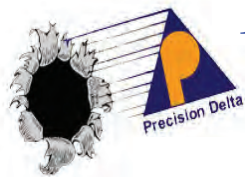
There are several reasons why gun accessory manufacturers recommend gunsmith installation. This statement of course addresses some liability concerns, but often times they really do mean it. Take the time to look over the task at hand. Make sure you really can do it before you start. And if in the middle you realize you are over your head, stop and seek professional help.

Guns that have been repaired must be tested. They must be tested in a controlled area. This must not be done at match time. Start from the beginning. When working with semi auto handguns, you must make sure that a slam

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From a Woman's Perspective

by Kitty Richards A18564

Female Junior Shooters: Predicting the Future for IDPA – Part 2

Last month, we met two young women from Virginia and New York; this month we talk to two more in the second installment of the young women in our sport.



effectively and encouragingly. Because of their lessons I am able to become a better shooter. Also, Julie Golob is one of my biggest inspirations for shooting. She is a woman that started shooting at a young age and she has kept on shooting to this very day. But more than that, she is not just amazing at shooting in IDPA but also other shooting sports. She exemplifies to me that if you work hard and persevere, you can do whatever you put your mind to.” She lists her biggest fans as “... the Colonel (Phil Torres), but I would have to say that my Dad is the biggest supporter that I have. He lets me make my own decisions and is always there for me no matter what.”

This red-headed beauty believes that more young women don't shoot competitively because they are scared of how society will view them. “If I were a Match Director, this is what I would do to attract more young women to our sport: I would make sure that when women were put in squads that there would be at least another woman in that squad. Also, I would make sure that all of the stages were not geared to just men.

On a humid Tuesday night in The Woodlands, TX, Blair Duroy shoots at Thunder Gun Range as an SSP SS. She became involved in IDPA as part of a shooting family. “I started shooting when I was fourteen years old, when my dad started to get more involved with IDPA. I had always been interested in guns and when my Dad went to his first competition, I made the decision that I also wanted to be a competitive shooter like him. Soon I started practicing more and more with him and my Granddad, and later I joined them at competitions.”

The family connection also provides a tutoring opportunity to the 16-year-old's game. “My mentors are (IDPA Distinguished Master) Gordon Carrell, my Dad, and my Granddad. I am learning from them how to be a smooth shooter that uses every opportunity available. My mentors are special not only because of who they are, but because they were able to teach me





Each stage would have its own set of obstacles, challenging both the men and women differently and yet sometimes the same. While some stages would replicate what would happen to a man, some of the stages would better reflect what would more likely happen to a woman.”

Duroy was drawn to IDPA for a variety of reasons. She says the best part of shooting, “... is the confidence that I have gained from handling guns. Knowing that I can adequately defend not only myself, but also those that I love, is something that I am proud of. Along with that the people that I know from shooting and the friendships that I have formed are important to me. I shoot because it gives me confidence but also because of the memories I gain from it. Whenever I go shooting, I am always with my Dad and Granddad so the memories that I have are ones that I always treasure.”

When asked if she had any advice for other female shooter, she replies, “Find yourself a good group of

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A Message from Joyce Wilson, IDPA Executive Director



I think I have this summer thing all wrong. Summer is a time, I have heard, that we slow down because of the heat; we relax, lounge near the pool with an umbrella drink in our hand and just chill out. Obviously, no one shared this info with many of our members and our HQ staff, as they are busy as bees with all of our current and upcoming projects underway.

Our new rulebook is finalized and posted for all of our members. It will take effect on Oct. 1st of this year. Thanks to all of you who took the time to read, process and comment on this endeavor. As had been forecast, and as is true for many of us, there are new rules and updates that we love and some that we do not. This is a first for our organization – we have never solicited and had so much member-input in a rulebook, and this new paradigm is a source of pride for me. I am very proud of this effort and am grateful to those Tiger Team members who were willing to shoulder the work to get it done and to be faithful to our Founding Principles.

If you are wondering about the input from our membership, here are some numbers that we collected. A total of 1,470 comments were made from a total of 354 individual submitters, out of 21,239 active members. Although less than 1.67% of our total membership, these comments provided opportunities for additional fine tuning of the rulebook.

The staff in Berryville is also a buzzing hive of activity, gearing up with all of the work that goes into putting on a national match. We are excited about our return to the USSA

facility in Tulsa. MD John May has exciting stages in store for us, so bring your “A” game! I anticipate seeing and greeting many of you there.

Our partners at RangeLog have also been working hard. They have been busy adding new features and improvements to the IDPA public and member sites. Over 500 IDPA members submitted rules questions and suggestions through the IDPA member site, allowing the Tiger Teams to handle nearly 1,500 submissions regarding the proposed rules in just 3 weeks. And, on June 25th competitors chosen to compete at the IDPA Nationals event in September began selecting their own squad assignments online through the member site. “The IDPA site has been customized to meet the needs of IDPA’s clubs and members,” said Rob Tate, RangeLog’s Director of Shooting Sports and IDPA competitor. “This announcement just confirms RangeLog’s commitment to advance technology for competitors worldwide.” I am pleased with RangeLog’s work and commitment to serve IDPA and look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with them.

I hope your summer provides you with opportunities for shooting, supporting our Second Amendment, taking a new shooter to the range and, yes, even relaxing!

Joyce



Random Shots

"Safety Officer"

by Thomas Pinney A24541



A key component of IDPA shooting is the Safety Officer or SO. A Safety Officer is absolutely required for all competition not only for safety but to observe the shooter and assign penalties as incurred. The question must be asked - is this too much to ask of any individual, especially in major matches?

The primary function of an SO must be safety; for themselves, the shooter, and others. This goes well beyond merely standing behind the shooter and giving commands. Every SO must be prepared for the person with the gun to do something stupid and unsafe from the moment

the command is given to 'load and make ready' until the firearm is verified safe and reholstered. The SO has to concentrate not only where the contestant's gun is pointed but where it is going to be pointed, not only horizontally but vertically as well. Shooting over the berm is an under appreciated hazard to others and it can be hard to detect in the heat of a rapidly fired string. SO duties go well beyond merely watching the gun muzzle; the SO must be aware of the entire stage as well. There have been cases of videographers wandering up to the line while the stage is actually being shot, so involved in filming that they do not recognize the danger. It is a good and prudent practice for the SO to

take a good look around behind before telling the participant 'load and make ready' and again just before the final 'standby'.

Another often overlooked safety hazard is that of shooters sweeping themselves with a loaded weapon. Most obviously this can occur when a stage requires the participant to push open a door or reach to pick up an object. The sweep can be very rapid but anytime a portion of your body is in front of the muzzle of a loaded

A Safety Officer is absolutely required for all competition not only for safety but to observe the shooter and assign penalties as incurred.

gun there is danger, and too often that body part (usually a hand) is not only in front of the muzzle it is also in line with the bore. That is not the only way shooters point their guns at themselves. Some leather holsters present a real danger, especially for new shooters. When a holster closes up a bit, inexperienced shooters will take their support hand and reach around to open the holster so that the pistol can fit in it, almost inevitably putting their hand directly in front of the muzzle of the gun. Even hard holsters do not prevent us from unsafe actions; too often when we holster our guns we feel for the holster with the end of our gun; watch a shooter do it and you will see that the gun is

pointed in right at the shooter's hip or thigh. It is true that by that point the gun should have been unloaded and shown clear. That is not the point; gun safety is all about maintaining safe habits. If you do not always keep your muzzle clear of things you do not want to shoot (like your leg) you must take care when holstering your pistol. Otherwise when you are practicing drawing you may find yourself sweeping your own leg with a loaded weapon – or doing more than merely sweeping.

One of the standard commands for a Safety Officer is 'Finger'. This safety command is too seldom given, perhaps because it is sometimes difficult to see the shooter's grip from behind the shooter, especially when the shooter is on the move, the very time when having a straight safe finger is most important. New shooters are the worst about this, but even very experienced competitors can fall into bad habits. One way to help reduce the unsafe practice of having a finger on the trigger before the shooter is ready to fire is remind people before the stage begins. Further, emphasize that having a straight safe finger does not mean just having the finger off the trigger – it means having your finger above the trigger guard and up on the slide on semi-automatics not just outside the trigger guard. If you have your finger on the trigger guard and have the misfortune to fall you may instinctively clench your fingers. If your hand is on the trigger guard instead of higher on the frame, that involuntary contraction can result in an inadvertent discharge.

One final concern is to be serious immediately before and during the shooting of a stage. There is often a fair amount of jocular by-play before a shooter begins. That must stop as soon as the SO calls for the shooter to 'Load and make ready.' Further, those not shooting should respect the shooter during the run. The only person who should address any comments to the participant between loading and safely reholstering the gun is the SO, and the only thing the SO should say are the standard commands. Perhaps there is a place for gamesmanship in sport, but not shooting sports – at least not when there are rounds in the chamber.

There are many other safety concerns to engage the SO. In addition to keeping the shooter, bystanders, and Safety Officer safe, the SO must also look for any procedurals during the shooting stage. Remember, this is a sport where the judges are pure amateurs with widely varying experience in the intricacies of IDPA rules. Adding to the problem are the participants, some of whom enjoy looking to win using everything element they can, parsing every rule and wrangling about the intent and specifics of every line the rulebook.

One of the simplest ways to keep an IDPA stage safe is simply to brief each group of shooters before they shoot about safety concerns. Remember, do not phase your concerns in negatives terms; that is do not tell shooters "Do not break the 180 with your muzzle when you turn." Rather phase it as "Keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction when you turn." It is astounding how often some people will unconsciously do exactly what


you tell them not to do. [This is not limited to teenagers.] Remind shooters of safety concerns such as sweeping useful body parts with the muzzles of their guns and keep their fingers high on the side of the gun when not actually shooting.

Sayre's law states: "In any dispute the intensity of feeling is inversely proportional to the value of the issues at stake." This is to say, the smaller the reward, the more vicious the disputes. There are no cash prizes in IDPA, no media coverage, and little interest in the results outside the IDPA community. Even so, there are competitors who will dispute calls, question stages, and take every advantage to win. That is to be expected. Sadly, there are even people who will deliberate set out to cheat the system using carefully calculated tricks to pull a fast one on the SO.

How can a Safety Officer hope to keep up with the primary function of keeping a potentially dangerous activity safe and still watch for rules violations, both accidental and deliberate during a high speed stage? One additional resource is the Scorekeeper. This person can do much more than merely repeat back and record the results. The scorekeeper should be farther back from the shooter and SO. This gives a different and wider perspective. Further, because there is less immediate urgency in observing for safety violations the scorekeeper can be alert for procedural violations. We have all shot a stage and been absolutely unaware of some of our actions, such as shooting a target out of sequence. That can happen to and SO as well. Although the scorekeeper may

not be in position to observe 'cover' calls the scorekeeper who is less directly involved with the shooter can notice proscribed round counts, sequence of shots, and other high-speed procedurals that might escape the attention of an SO who is also watching for unsafe actions. The Safety Officer should feel free to ask the scorekeepers immediately after the stage has been declared 'safe' if there are any potential penalties that were observed. This keeps the scorekeeper's head in the game. Of course, the SO will be the arbiter on whether or not to award any penalties; however asking the question shifts the emphasis from safety to scoring.

Our sport has a good record for safety. That is a testament to the success of the Safety Officer system. Even so, we are only as safe as the last successful match. All of us must, Match Directors, Safety Officers, Scorekeepers, and most of all, shooters, have a continuous and conscientious attention to safety. As soon as we take safety for granted we are on the road to a serious accident.

So, shoot fast, shoot accurately, and above all, shoot safely. 



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Through the Eyes of a Junior Shooter

by Austin Proulx
A39722

Your First Major Match

“I’m not good enough to shoot a major match,” how many times do I have to hear that? Over the past three years, that’s a common reason I’ve heard people give as to why they refrain from shooting major (state, regional, etc.) matches. Unless you’re ‘The Vogel’, or your initials are JM, is anybody really “good enough”? There are so many good reasons to shoot a sanctioned match, and I think that all some people need is a little guidance (and maybe a swift kick). No matter how hard I try to convince people how frigging awesome it is to shoot a major match; I seem to make little progress. So, here is my attempt on a grander scale.

Some people may be intimidated by major matches, but there is no reason to be. You will, after all, be competing against people of a like skill level; this is why we shoot classifiers. Shooting a major match may not be as expensive as some people might think. This is especially true if you stick to matches close to where you live. Carpooling is a great way to save loads of cash as well. I’ve heard some people state that they simply don’t have enough vacation days to take time off for a match. In some cases this may be true, but

more often than not, the solution to this problem is simply to plan to take time off well in advance, and it’s usually not more than a day or two.

Shooting a sanctioned match is so much more than just showing up and running through some stages.



It’s an experience. All other things being equal, the cool people that I’ve met at these matches would be enough to make me want to do it again. Not to mention that when we travel it is always an adventure. For example, I once failed to notice that I had a loaded cartridge floating around in my range bag, (which I also use as my carry-on luggage) after my dad told me to double check for that exact thing. That one was interesting trying to explain to airport security. Shooting a major match really gives a greater

perspective of what IDPA is all about. It gives one the opportunity to experience and participate in a more prestigious event. It gives a feeling of accomplishment; not necessarily in the sense of having won, but in having moved up to the next level.

There are some things every IDPA shooter should know in terms of what to expect at a major match, and how it will differ from most local club matches. When my dad and I attended our first state match, we arrived at the sign up table and were given individual manila envelopes containing these bright yellow carbon-copy pieces of paper. We soon figured out that those were our score sheets, and I for one learned very quickly that it is a good idea not to lose them. That was the first time I had ever seen score sheets formatted that way, and every major-match I’ve shot since then has had similar score sheets. It was at the Inaugural World Championships that I was introduced to the wonderful angels that are “squad moms”. A squad

mom is basically what the name implies, an SO who travels with your squad and makes sure things run smoothly. They facilitate, doing things like maintaining the shooting order and -in some cases- translating for foreign shooters. I feel that I must emphasize the strict adherence to the rule book at sanctioned matches. My best advice is to practice (local matches) how you play (major matches) and to know the rules of the game by the book. Also I must note that at sanctioned matches there

is a more regimented schedule. Everything should run like a well-oiled machine. This means you need to show up on time, break for lunch when you're told to, be ready to start back up after lunch when everybody else does, and generally avoid lollygagging. Get the lead out!

If an IDPA member simply didn't know how to go about getting into a match; when and where they are, how to get signed up, etc. there are a few places I would suggest they go for guidance. The first would be the IDPA website. The site is easy to navigate, and provides the date, place, and range information for every sanctioned match for the year. The website will usually have accommodations to register online once you locate a match you'd like to attend. However, if all else fails one can call the range where the



match will be held and they will provide you with any information you need. The IDPA forum would be another good source of information. If you don't own a computer or a smartphone, you can crawl out from under that rock and talk to your local MD, some fellow sanctioned-match-savvy-shooters, or your area coordinator.

Preparing for a sanctioned match can seem daunting. I like to think of it as nothing more than a large local club match. I recommend bringing at least a hundred more rounds than the minimum total round count for the match. That way, if you end up re-shooting a stage or two, you should still be left with enough rounds to finish out the event. Assuming that all of your gear is IDPA legal, I would only ask that you are very familiar with it. It is not a good idea to go buy new magazines right before a sanctioned match. That may seem pretty blatantly obvious, but trust me; I've seen untested gear fail before. Make sure that you shoot regularly in the months leading up to a sanctioned match. Regularly doesn't necessarily mean

increased frequency, but don't skip three or four matches before state. Nobody wants to be rusty at their first sanctioned match. And please, for the love of all that is holy, make sure you're up to date on your classifier (within the year before the date of the match).

Timing is paramount when it comes to shooting a sanctioned match. Just because your hotel is ten minutes from the range, does not make it a good idea to leave for the match ten minutes before the thunder rolls. You should depart early enough to accommodate life's unexpected surprises; such as a flat tire, a dead battery, being kidnapped by a drug cartel or anything of the sort. If you are traveling to a match, it is best (when possible) to arrive a couple of days before you will be shooting. This way you won't be worn out from traveling when you shoot, and it will give you a chance to visit and become familiar with the range (or allow your luggage to catch up with you and accompany you to the match....it happens).

Traveling with firearms and ammunition; yes it can be done, but there

(Continued on page 32)

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IDPA – Giving Back by Hosting a Benefit Match

by Ron Singer A32785

After this year's "Think of the Children" benefit match at Lewistown Pistol Club (LPC), it was suggested to me that I write a "how to" article. I'm still learning, but would like to share what I've learned so far.

In my mind, the first and most important thing is to decide what organization or cause your match will

benefit. It should be something that's both important to you, and would have a connection with other competitors to help get them to the match. If it's a charity that's important to you, you'll put more effort into it, and the match will be more successful because of it. I chose to support the Prayer Child Foundation. (www.prayerchild.org) They donate money directly



to families of children who, through no fault of their own, have physical or emotional challenges.

The second step is to work with the benefiting organization and get their permission to use their name, logo and any other resources they may offer. We explained briefly to them what IDPA was about and made sure they were comfortable with the idea of a match as a fund raiser for them. As I'm sure you know, not all charities are interested in accepting donations or being associated with firearms related event.

The next step is to decide what level match you want to hold. Both local matches and sanctioned matches have their advantages and their disadvantages. We've run one of each at LPC for the Prayer Child Foundation. A local match is

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simpler to plan, and will have less expenses than a sanctioned match. It will also likely have a lower turnout and correspondingly, will possibly raise less money. A sanctioned match is going to draw in shooters from a much wider area, but will require much more planning and work to be successful. For example, our "local" level benefit match drew in 25 shooters. This year as a sanctioned match, we were able to host 95 competitors. If it helps you to decide which way you want to go with your match, our local level match raised \$550. This year we were able to donate \$3300 from hosting a sanctioned match

A big consideration is how you're going to handle the donation. Our first year as a local match, the club agreed to cover the cost of targets, etc. and we donated 100% of the entry fees. With a sanctioned match that isn't likely to be possible, and we instead donated the profits, after the necessary expenses. Whether you choose to donate 100% or do



The Prayer Child Foundation logo and web address were included in all the match awards.



some sort of split between the host club and the charity is up to you and your club to decide. It's something that should be decided before you start advertising the match, and should be included in your match announcements.

If you're going to run a sanctioned match, you're going to have multiple expenses. Make sure to let the businesses you're dealing with know that you're running a benefit match. Some may be willing to donate

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(Continued on page 27)

IDPA Pro Tips

“Home Defense Planning”

by Dave Harrington A03103

Hello, Dave Harrington of the Pantao Gun Team here.

I was asked (and consider it a privilege) by Mr. Robert Ray to write an article for the Tactical Journal that would reflect what I thought to be an absolute strength of participating in IDPA competitions for the body of the membership. Based on my experience with IDPA, what immediately came to mind was “Home Defense Planning”.

The mere use of the phrase “home defense plan” conjures up the typical thoughts of past and present external security measures such as “no man’s land”, electric fences, active & passive detection systems, alarm systems, search and/or flood lights, motion detectors, video capture, Lexan (bullet resistant) windows, window locks, solid core doors, dead bolts, miles of barbed wire, razor tape, firing ports, punji stakes, a moat, boiling oil pots (ha, ha) etc.

Physical security measures are simple mechanisms employed to delay immediate access to your home and/or to make your home appear to be a less desirable target.

The fact remains, regardless of how elaborate your physical security measures are, understand that they are simply time delay mechanisms that can be readily analyzed and defeated by those

properly prepared and willing to do so.

We will begin by placing emphasis on the fact that every decision you make in respect to your home defense plan should include the influence of every possible lighting condition that can occur in and/or around your home during any time of the day or night. The purpose of which is to ensure that you are fully prepared and capable under any circumstance (at any time of the day or night) to physically locate and/or recognize family members as well as you can locate, isolate, and eliminate any number of assailants that are attempting to, or have gained unauthorized access to your home.

This includes the evaluation of any light source that can actively (or passively) work to your advantage (or disadvantage). As an example; it’s always best to attack out of the sun!

Do not expect to rely on the active lighting within your home, it can be readily disabled. Do not rely on ambient light to make a Fire/No Fire decision. Have a combat light source in your possession regardless of the time of day! You will need it if you don’t have it!

Your home defense plan is exactly that; yours! The “nuts and bolts” of your home defense plan should not be discussed outside of the responsible family members that are of age and possess the maturity to understand the

responsibility of guarding their knowledge of the plan.

There are many facets to a home defense plan, and this article is not intended to be used as a guide to develop a complete plan, but to expand your awareness in respect to being better prepared to “manage” the firearm(s) you select to use in support of your home defense plan instead of just “having” a firearm in your home or vehicle.

There are many other source materials for developing a comprehensive home defense plan, I do encourage you to expand your plan to include the preparation and use of the family vehicles. I encourage you to do your homework and develop a good plan for yourself and/or your family.

Before we (Continued on page 20)

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focus on “managing” a single (or multiple) firearm(s) in support of defending your family and home, lets first look at “security” and “safety” for exactly what they are, or more importantly, what they are not.

Physical safety is a necessity. Physical security is an illusion.

If you have reason to employ external physical security measures, consider doing so in layers that mutually support each other and get the maximum delay time for your money. Also, make sure that you can get out when you want to.

By dividing and prioritizing the security and safety considerations of your home defense plan into the “external” and “internal” measures, you will be better organized to focus on the critical issues of both,

and clearly identify those that must stand alone and/or can mutually support each other and in some cases overlap.

The home owner that chooses to be self reliant for the immediate physical security and safety of their family members and their home must consider the legal and practical responsibilities of; what type of firearm do you need/want (pistol, revolver, shotgun, rifle)? What caliber? What type and/or kind of ammunition?

What knowledge and level of expertise should be acquired and maintained? How should the firearm(s) and ammunition be stored? Where should the firearm(s) be located for use? How should the firearm(s) be securely stored for use? How should the firearm(s) be prepared for use? Who is authorized to use the firearm(s)?

What is required to physically access the firearm(s)? What are the criteria or “trigger” for the firearm(s) to be used or employed? What constitutes “alert criteria”? Do you have a single or multistory home? Where is the master bedroom located in respect to the other bedrooms? For multistory homes, where are the bedrooms in respect to the stairwell? Do you have an internal communication plan? Do you have a “hard room” or “hard point” within your home? Do you have an accountability plan for multiple family members? Do you have an “out”?

If you have a home alarm system, do you use/activate it? Do you test it periodically to see if it actually functions as designed? Does the monitoring service call the house phone, your cell phone, and/or your local law

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(Continued from page 20)

enforcement? Do you know the actual response time of your local law enforcement to your specific location upon notification by the monitoring service?

Do the authorized users of the home defense firearm(s) have the maturity and discipline to train and practice to have the confidence and skill to get the firearm into action safely and efficiently under the duress of a potential hostile situation within your own home regardless of the time of day or night?

More importantly, are the authorized users of the firearm capable of making the appropriate tactical decisions with limited information?

The homeowner is responsible for the health and wellbeing of each and every person given permission to be on the property and/or entry into the home. This responsibility also extends out to the maximum range or distance of any specific cartridge, caliber, and bullet weight combination if their firearm is negligently discharged inside of or out into the surrounding area of the home.

This is where the “management” aspect of your home defense firearm(s) is critical! The manner in which the firearm(s) may be kept and prepared for use under a specific set of circumstances will not always support the various possibilities or combinations of activity that can happen (number of people, age groups, time and types of activity) in and around the home on a daily basis, let alone special occasions or holidays.

Constant vigilance is a necessity if you are to ensure the physical safety of everyone in, and around



Author in full kit, firing while on the move.

your home. Never hesitate to change the “ready condition”, location, or the physical security level of your firearm(s) to protect yourself and everyone else from unauthorized access and/or use.

Responsibly demands that you

do the right thing, at the right time, every time. If you are required by your employment, or have reason to maintain a specific “security posture” regardless of the number of people and physical activity in or around your home, maintain

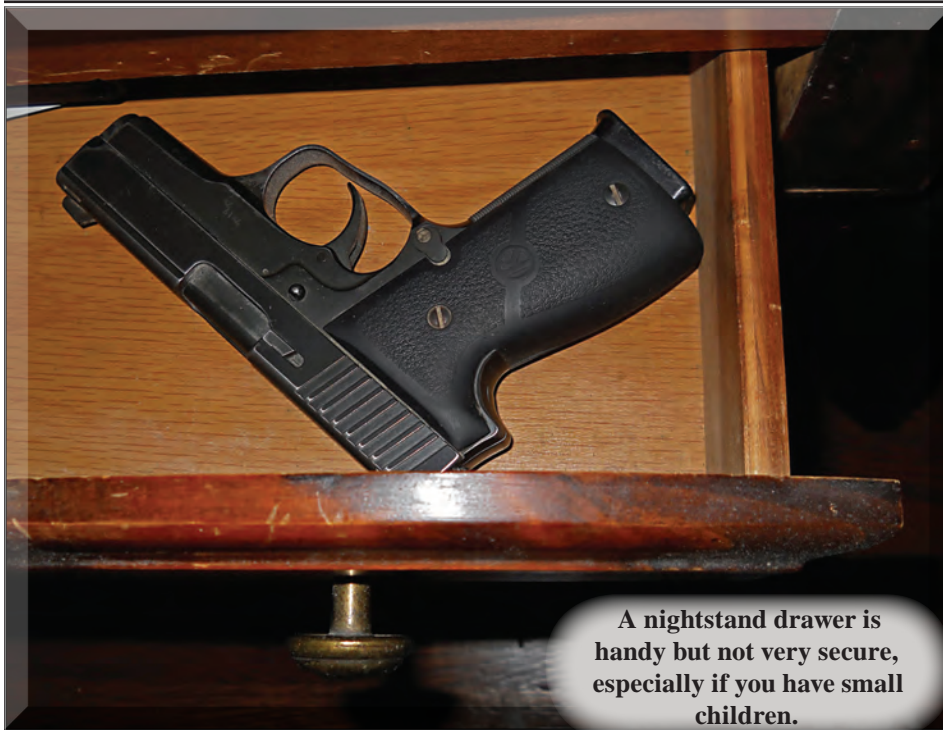
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A nightstand drawer is handy but not very secure, especially if you have small children.

positive control of the firearm on your person or within your immediate physical reach/control.

For those that have young children, teach them to how conduct themselves responsibly whenever they are in the presence of firearms. When you determine your children are an appropriate age, teach them how to use firearms responsibly for recreation and sport. Teach them to respect firearms out of knowledge and not to fear them out of ignorance.

The respect for firearms that your children gain through knowledge and experience should enable them to conduct themselves responsibly whenever and where ever they are in the presence of firearms. Above all else, they should strive to gain your trust to earn the privilege to use firearms for recreation and sport under your guidance or on their own when they are of the appropriate age.

Only qualified users should possess the knowledge of the firearms location, and the manner

in which it is prepared for use. Revolvers are simple when compared to semi-automatic pistols. If you choose to keep the revolver “unloaded”, I strongly recommend you use “speed loaders” for loading the cylinder, and have at least one additional “speed loader” in reserve. Loading one cartridge at a time into a revolver’s cylinder is simply inviting disaster under the time sensitive circumstances of responding to a possible home invader.

Having a plan is half the battle; you must rehearse all aspects of the plan in order to execute the plan well. You will respond to a violent confrontation based on your level of mental & physical preparedness. Above all else, you must condition yourself for rapid and flexible decision making.

The safest storage method is to keep the firearm unloaded and the ammunition separated, but each must be securely stored. In doing so, realize this will require the most physical action and time to prepare the firearm for use. The amount of time is relative to your confidence, training and the condition you choose to store the firearm(s).

The firearm can be loaded with an empty chamber, and will require the action of chambering a cartridge before use (the type of firearm you choose to employ may require decocking or placing the safety on etc. after chambering a cartridge). Storing the firearm in this manner offers an additional level of safety and requires less time to get the firearm into action.

When using any physical technique for chambering a cartridge, do not try to maintain



A locking box is most secure but increases the time needed to access your gun. Seconds can be crucial.

noise discipline! Fully “action” the pistols slide, otherwise you run the risk of inducing a malfunction. Visually observe (if lighting conditions allow) and listen for the proper audible and kinesthetic (feel) inputs to ensure a cartridge is chambered and the slide is fully forward in battery, and/or use your light source and visually verify the pistol has a chambered cartridge. These actions do violate noise and light discipline, and you should always consider risk versus gain.

The user may sacrifice noise & light discipline getting the firearm into action, and despite any Hollywood influence, you should never rely on the audible effect of loading the firearm to intimidate an intruder.

The firearm(s) can be fully loaded and pre-positioned throughout the



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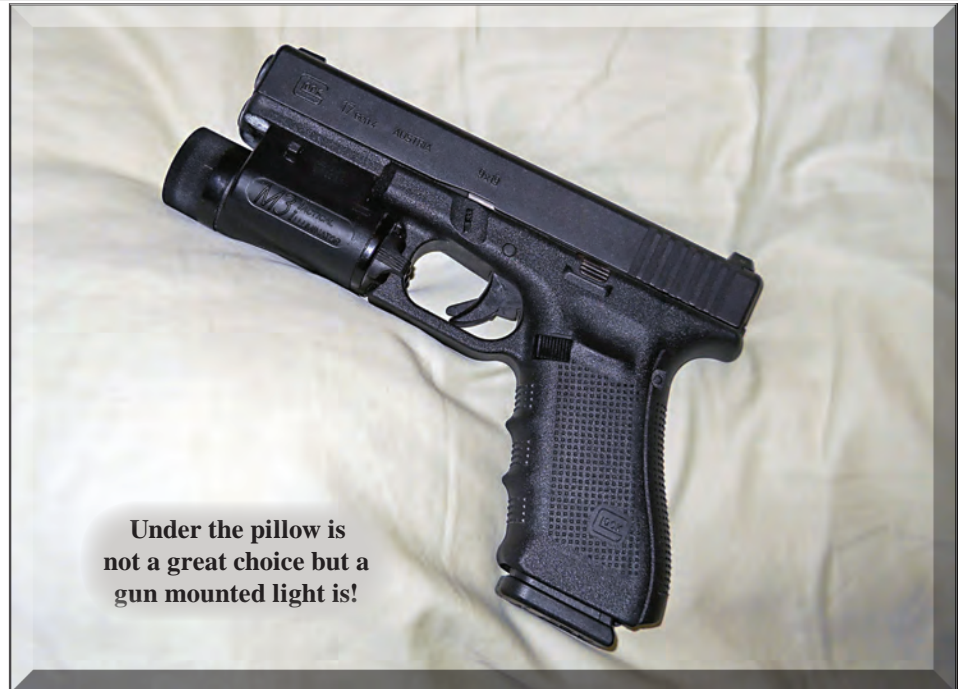
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residence but they will absolutely need to be physically secured to prevent unauthorized access.

Regardless of how you prepare the firearm(s) for use and practice getting the firearm(s) into action, you must first “detect” the threat, (based on the time of day or night sufficiently “wake up”) and determine if getting your chosen firearm into action is necessary, and continue your decision making process accordingly!

Let’s look at the recommended support equipment for use in conjunction with the firearm(s) for home/personal defense. For the revolver of choice you should have a minimum of two fully loaded speed loaders, and for the pistol, two fully loaded magazines (the one that is “loaded” or will be the “initial load” magazine for the pistol, and one reserve magazine). Speaking directly to the issue of providing yourself with reserve ammunition; “It’s better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it”

You should have a primary and

secondary combat light source for the recognition of family members and/or positive threat identification.

Based on the circumstances of “an alert situation”, if you sense you have the time to do so, secure your “reserve items” first (so you don’t forget them), and then get your handgun/primary combat light source into action. If you sense you don’t have the time to secure your “reserve items” first, get your handgun/primary combat light source into action! This is a time sensitive decision you will have to make on the spot based on the information that you have at the time. Make a decision! Don’t hem and haw about what needs to be done. Securing your reserve items first allows both hands free to get your handgun/primary combat light source into action. If you get your handgun/primary combat light source in action first, and then decide you want to secure your reserve items, you now have to put down one, the other, or both, to secure your reserve items.

Based on your specific activity any time during the day or night,



A spare light and magazine are good to have but can be tough to carry if you sleep "au naturale".

you may or may not be adequately dressed to have a way of carrying your reserve ammunition and secondary combat light source. In

the event your clothing (or lack of) does not allow you to carry these support items with you, or you decide that you don't have the time to muck with them, understand that is a definite risk versus gain

decision point.

You may also fashion a home defense/personal protection "bandoleer" that can easily be "slung" over/around your upper body that carries your reserve ammunition and secondary combat light source and securely retains the items but allows immediate access for use. There are many types of affordable body armor set-ups that answer the call nicely.

In closing, consider this; your home defense plan should be flexible enough to allow you to handle any number of possible scenarios, but the reality is your preparedness coupled with your "skill at arms" will allow you to "accomplish the mission". See you at the range.....DH

To contact Dave regarding this article, email him at martialgun@aol.com.



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their services, others may discount their services. In our case, our awards provider contacted their supplier and let them know it was a benefit. Their supplier gave them a discount, which they passed along to us. Don't forget sponsors, we got our targets and pasters discounted as part of a sponsorship package with Shooter's Connection. Other sponsors sent gift certificates or product as door prizes.

With this year's sanctioned match we basically ran it the same way we do our Patriot Match, which is also a sanctioned match. We did try to watch our budget somewhat and didn't purchase as many prizes, and cut back a bit on the lunch menu. We didn't eliminate anything, most of the prizes were donated, we still had match t-shirts, thank you gifts for the staff, etc. While you may be able to get away with eliminating some of these things for a benefit match, I feel it's important to offer them, especially considering the price people are paying to shoot a sanctioned match. In addition to the entry fee, they have travel expenses and quite a few will be spending at least one night in a hotel.

Getting the word out about your



match is important, as well. You know how to reach your regular shooters, but for a benefit match you also want to reach a wider audience. Take advantage of the redesigned IDPA website (www.idpa.com) and list your match there. Another resource that comes to mind is the official IDPA forum (www.idpaforum.com). It has sections for both "Major" and "club" match announcements. You probably have several firearms owner's forums in your region. Don't forget about social media like Facebook and traditional media

like your local newspaper and radio stations. Make use of all of these to reach out to competitors who maybe haven't been to your club before. We're lucky in PA to have a great site www.nepaidpascores.net that lists many matches for the region. The website also handles registration and squad selection for many of the sanctioned matches in the region. The webmaster, Walt, does a lot of work to make things easier on match directors in the region. He also sends out a weekly match announcements email that reaches a large number of competitors in the region. If you're lucky enough to have something like this available, make sure to utilize it as well. All your match announcements should list not only what the match is benefiting, but how you're determining the amount of the donation.

You also want to make sure you're potential competitors see a local connection, if there is one. In our case the Prayer Child Foundation is based in Phoenix, Arizona. We didn't want people to skip the match thinking all the money was



(Continued on page 29)

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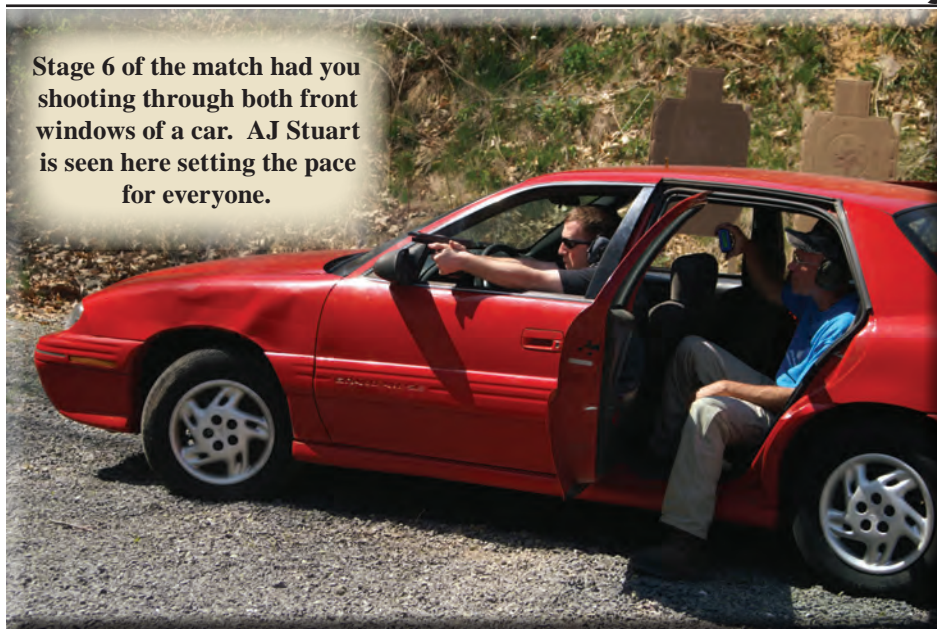


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Stage 6 of the match had you shooting through both front windows of a car. AJ Stuart is seen here setting the pace for everyone.



heading out of our area. We talked with two local families who had benefited from the Prayer Child Foundation, and were willing to share their story. We put their stories on our club's website, and in the forums where I had made match announcements. Several competitors commented to me that they really appreciated seeing the local connection.

You certainly need to focus on the match itself. You want the match to flow smoothly. There's more to this than just balancing the number of rounds fired in each shooting bay. Take into consideration what props are going to be used in each stage. A low round count stage, with multiple props that need to be reset can take more total time than a high round count stage that's all paper. You want each shooting area finishing at roughly the same time, to avoid a backlog where squads are sitting waiting on the squad ahead of them to finish. If you're running multiple shooting sessions in a day, you also need to take into account squad sizes, to make sure the first session finishes on time, so the staff can

have a bit of a break before the second session starts. Stage count and round count are considerations as well. When planning our local level match, we ran it just like we do a monthly club match. When planning for the sanctioned match,

we looked at the minimum counts and made sure that stage and round counts were high enough that if for some reason a stage got eliminated from the match, the match would still meet the minimums. You know the competitors in your area best, and also know what facilities you have available to you. Design your match based on what will draw in competitors from your area, working with the limitations of your range.

Another consideration for match administration is your props and activators. Things need to perform the same way, every time, for every shooter. This isn't the time for untested equipment. Try stuff out at practice sessions or local matches, to make sure it works. It's also a good idea to have a backup for anything that moves. If you're using cables to activate something,



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expect that someone will shoot the cable, make sure the staff knows where backups are located and how to change them.

Match staff and sponsors are essential. Make sure to treat both respectfully and to thank both for all they do to make your match a success. I would also recommend that after all your expenses are finalized and you know how much you were able to donate, that you share that information through all the areas you advertised your match. I feel it is also a good idea to include the information in a follow up thank you to your sponsors. Let them know you appreciated their help in raising the funds.

One thing we've learned at Lewistown, good food is a must for a sanctioned match. Remember,




Kitty Richards keeps score while Frank Glover shoots the stage that became known as “Lefty’s Revenge”

you want this year’s competitors to not only come back next year, but hopefully bring a friend or two. An excellent meal can win you some forgiveness from the competitors if you happen to have a problem somewhere else in the match.

I’ve been asked if there was anything that I would do differently than we did this year. A few things come to mind. One thing I wanted to do this year, but didn’t was to work with a local hotel on a discount for competitors and staff. It was also suggested to me that we consider adding a side match as an extra revenue source. Perhaps next year’s match will include a steel plate match, where competitors can shoot as many runs as we have time to allow. I would also like to have some industry related vendors who agree to make a donation to the charity.

I want to work with local businesses on sponsorship deals like a restaurant catering the meals, a business paying for awards or t-shirts or any other match expenses.

Overall, I think we had a great match this year. I had a wonderful staff that did a fantastic job all weekend. I’m already starting to think about next year’s match and hope to pick up a presenting sponsor. The biggest thing I’m hoping to do differently next year is to have a sold out event. 



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www.bxstidpa.com

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Racine IDPA
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September 28, 2013

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Fairfield, Utah
www.udpl.net

October 4 - 5, 2013

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Sacramento Defensive Pistol Shoot-
ers
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fornia 95683
www.sdps-idpa.org

October 5, 2013

2013 IN State Championship

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ana 46031-9749
www.IndyIDPA.com

October 5, 2013

MS State IDPA Championship

Ridge Crossing Shooting Club
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Mississippi 38866
www.ridgecrossingshootingclub.com

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chester, Tennessee 37388
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are some things you should know before you head out. There is abundant false information and assumptions floating around about this subject, and I want to give a clear-cut guide to help you get through this experience with as little trouble as possible. I want you to learn from my and my dad's experiences (and mistakes) over the past few years. As for traveling by car, the process is fairly simple. The most important thing is to familiarize yourself with the laws of the states you will be traveling in or through regarding the transport of guns and ammo. There are many sources for this information, but one that we've found to be a reliable and frequently updated source is the book, "Traveler's Guide to the Firearm Laws of the Fifty States" researched and written by J. Scott Kappas, Esq. It's easily

found online and usually costs around fifteen bucks.

Traveling by plane is a whole other animal, and to really do the topic justice would require an entire article itself. That being said, my dad has a pretty good handle on this and shared some advice and a few pointers on how to make the process go smoothly. First of all, go to the TSA website and the website of the specific carrier you'll be flying with to familiarize yourself with their regulations. You should also print off both sets of regulations and have them with you when you go to the airport. Plan to be at the airport at least an hour early, and when you get to the counter to check your luggage, be sure to tell them right away that you'll need a firearms declaration card. They'll help you through the rest of it. It is at this point where

it will be important to have your copies of the regulations to help settle any disagreements. After checking your luggage containing your firearms and ammunition, be sure to hang around long enough to see that they clear the TSA scanner before going through security. If you don't, and TSA ends up having an issue and calls you back, you will have to go through security all over again (ask me how I know).

Shooting your first sanctioned match is a great experience, don't let it intimidate you. There is plenty of information right here to get you started in that direction. I hope I convinced some of you to go out and do it, and hope to see and shoot with all of you in the future.

-“If I could only have one gun... I would.”

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people to shoot with. Make sure that you have the opportunity to know them outside of shooting because that way, you have a group of people who can always be there to support you (even when you don't do so well). For me one of the biggest bonuses about shooting with a great squad is that they will stick up for you. If there is anything you shouldn't do, I would say never make yourself look unfriendly. I have never met a person who was rude to me, and that way you can always make some new shooting friends." She says her group provided her with the best advice she ever received: "Never remember a stage after you shoot it, always move past it and devote your mind to the next one."

The 10th grader uses every opportunity to enhance her skills on and off the range. She says, "There are some skills that I learned from shooting that help me with school. The skills that I gained from the sport come from learning how to break down a stage. I learned how to efficiently take apart a problem one bite at a time. At school this has helped me with studying, figuring new material, and projects because I am able to figure out how to break them down so that it is easier." Duroy has no career plans yet, but is looking at colleges including Texas A&M and Rice University. Her 4.0 GPA and college-level classes keep her busy, and her 5 year plan for shooting includes making Master and joining a shooting team in college.



The Central Carolinas Shooting Club is home to 14-year-old Ashley Rheuark from York, SC. This high school freshman shoots "mostly IDPA, but some USPSA and Steel Challenge."

Rheuark says, "My dad bought a handgun for self-defense. We went to a Basic Pistol Safety Class and found out about Central Carolinas Shooting Club. We went to some matches, loved it and now we shoot every weekend. My dad first introduced me to deer hunting at 10 years old, and then we were both introduced to IDPA when I was 13

years old." Having taken the IDPA scene by storm, this young woman was bumped to SSP Expert in early June at The Carolina Cup and took High Lady at the VA State Match on June 23rd.

What attracts her to the shooting sports? "The friendships that I have made at my local club and at all the other matches, and the fun that competitive shooting brings and," she confides, "I like to shoot because I get to shoot with my dad."

Ashley gives lots of props to her family for their support. "My biggest supporter in shooting is my family. My family supports me 100% in my shooting. My mentors are my Dad, Shayne Rheuark, and Morgan Allen. I have learned many things from them and am still learning from them about my technique, how to read and look at stages, and what I need to work on. These two are very special because they actually took the time to help me out with my shooting. Randi Rogers also, because she is the best female shooter in the sport, and I want to be where she is one day."

When asked to describe herself, she says she is, "happy, competitive, and determined."

IDPA is credited by this young shooter as giving her "my self-confidence, discipline, and learning



to safely handle firearms. This sport is not about how fast you can shoot, it is about how fast you can shoot zeros." As for being a young woman in a male-dominated sport, she declares,

(Continued on page 35)

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promote a father-daughter match.”

When she isn't on the range, Ashley plays the piano and is very involved in her church youth group, and her favorite scripture verse is John 3:16 *For God so loved the world that He gave His*


“Just because it is a male dominant sport, doesn't mean females can't rock it too, and maybe better!” She says, “Before I started shooting IDPA, I wish someone had told me how much fun it was to shoot. If I was a Match director trying to attract more young women to the shooting sport, I would advertise more so to the female public, and

only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Although having shot for only about a year, IDPA features in her future plans. “I am still unsure on what career path I will choose, but I hope to get a shooting scholarship for college. My shooting goal for this year is to try to make Master.

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For the future, I want to be one of the top female junior shooters in the sport and after I finish school, I plan to go to college and continue in the shooting sports”.

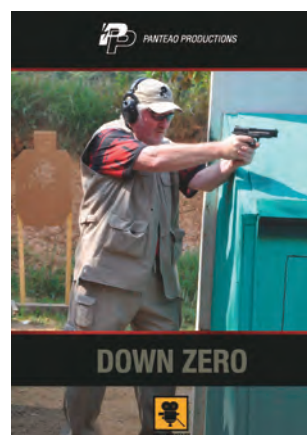
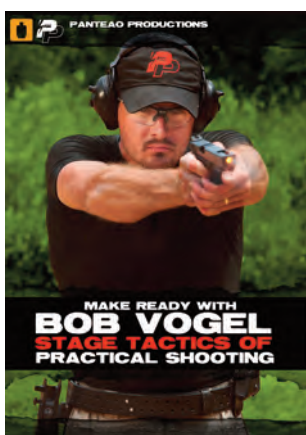
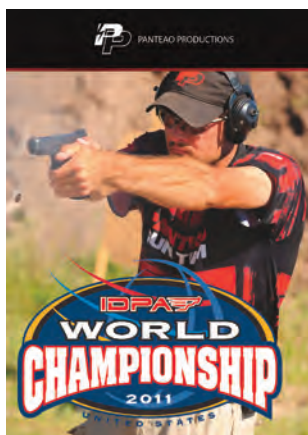
If you see this happy, determined young woman on the range this year, look carefully at her hand; it will like have a trophy in it. 

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fire is not an issue. Load a single round into the gun. Chamber that round and then fire. Next item of concern is a gun that may go full auto. Load only two rounds into the magazine. Chamber a cartridge and fire two rounds. If the gun were to go full auto, better there be only two rounds in the gun. Finally load a full magazine and slowly fire the gun. Make sure it cycles and fires reliably. Test and check the gun for damage or other issues. Then and only then can you take this handgun to a range or a match.

Remember every bullet has a lawyer attached to it. Do not skip a step and cause damage to yourself or anyone else.

Officiating:

There is a solemn responsibility to being a Safety Officer that many either do not or fear to recognize. You are the person on that bay who is in charge. When you are the SO you need to be the person controlling the shooter. The shooter is responsible for his actions, but the SO will try to keep control of the situation.

Controlling the shooter is important during a match. When you have a handle on the shooting order you can direct the on deck shooter to be at the start position. This will save a lot of time during

the match. You can make sure the shooter does not spend too much time picking up brass after shooting. You can make sure that people are resetting the stage and not loafing about in the rear. You need to keep an eye on things to make sure props are reset. This is a lot to focus on, which is why it is great to have help when you are working a match. Remember though, that the SO who is running the shooter ends up having the responsibility of the shooter himself. Keep your eye on the shooter, his hand and gun. Make sure you can do your best to control the shooter through range commands as required. Stay on the balls of your feet and be ready to react to a shooter who does something stupid.

When you are working as an SO, you need to be able to yell "STOP!" on demand. Yelling something confusing or just hollering will not be as well understood as saying "STOP!" will. There are times when I am working a match my mouth is constantly puckered, ready to make the sounds. It is better than yelling "whoa!", or "augh!" or a curse word.

You also need to be confident enough to step in and handle the

shooter if something happens. I have seen people fall, get hurt, etc where the SO may need to take control of the firearm. Be ready to do so. Clear the gun and then assist the shooter with his difficulties. When guns are dropped, or if a shooter falls or does something stupid, make sure the gun is safe FIRST, before worrying about anything else. You need to control that shooter, and his handgun.

Match Directing:

Earlier in my column, I made mention about how shooters should prepare a contact list in case of an emergency. I am going to look at this situation from the Match Director's side of things. It is very important that you consider how you would handle dealing with a person who had an emergency. It is extremely difficult to get contact information from a shooter who is in shock and being put into an ambulance. It would be a lot easier if you had access to some information on the shooter prior to the accident or medical emergency.

I certainly do not have the best answer for this, and I hate being in possession of other people's private information. I do think it may be a good idea for MD's to hand out those 3"x5" cards for people to fill out and put in their range bag. If all the shooters do this, you can have easy access to important information when you need it. Just put the cards out at sign in.

In keeping with this theme of range safety, take the time to think about what effect an accident would have on your range. Do you have a response plan? Do you know what to do? Do you have a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, trauma kit? Do you have water for people

(Continued on page 38)

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down with the heat? People like to think happy thoughts but sometimes accidents do happen, and you need to be ready.

If an emergency happens, the odds are that your plan will not work as well as you had hoped, but it will work. Things will however, go much, much more smoothly if you have a plan than if you had simply hoped for the best. It is similar to training. You WILL revert to your level of your training. If you fail to plan, you will plan to fail. The time to have a plan and to be prepared is now. It is not the time to plan when you see a reddish brown puddle growing on the range floor. And if it happens, it will test you and your staff.

I think it is time to change the subject to something less grim, but important nonetheless. That subject is Money. Clubs need money to survive and to build. Match fees provide most if not all of the money to do this. As with personal finances, we need to be smart with our money. It does not go as far as you would like.

One of the things you should know is what the cost is per shooter

to run a match. Take your variable costs such as the targets you use, the score sheets you have printed, the staples and pasters you use, the batteries for timers, range fees per shooter, (if any) fuel, water, meals for staff, etc. Add them up. Take your fixed costs such as a flat yearly or per match range fee, IDPA affiliation fee, insurance, etc. You may have to divide annual fees such as the IDPA affiliation fee or insurance by the number of matches you hold in a year. The sum of this is the cost of the match. Divide that by the number of shooters and you have a rough idea as to your cost per shooter. You can be far more accurate when figuring out the cost for a single match such as a Tier 2, but you can determine an average cost per shooter for a match. This is a good number to know as it will help you make decisions regarding things like free match fees for people or when it is time to raise the match fee.

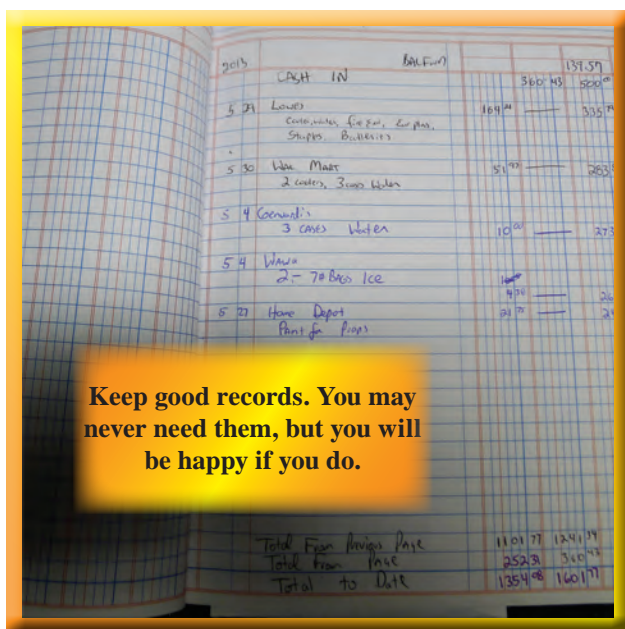


A cashbox from an office supply will help you keep your money straight.

and a checking ledger. These are combined into a general ledger, and we prepare a statement at the end of the season. This may sound excessive to some, but there is no questioning as to where the money went as it is well documented.

Older clubs tend to have nearly everything they want. They often are able to build up some cash reserves. Newer clubs often need everything, and it is a constant balance between getting new props and keeping some money in the bank. Try to plan your expenses well and do not over extend yourself. Nothing hurts more than an unexpected expense when your cash is low. Props are nice but they are not necessary to a match. Make sure they do not put you in the poorhouse. I spent \$2500.00 on steel this year and it was a lean two months afterwards. I do not regret the purchase but it did cause me some pain and worry.

Do not forget to plan for the unexpected. Make plans for on the range and in your checkbook. Keep good records, and you will be ready for when the unexpected happens.



Keep good records. You may never need them, but you will be happy if you do.

You do not need to prepare books suitable for an audit but some decent bookkeeping is a good idea. It will help you keep track of things and will help you defend yourself if someone makes false claims. Years ago I simply kept copies of receipts and felt that was enough. These days we keep two ledgers. We keep a petty cash ledger

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