

TACTICAL JOURNAL

IDPA

Official Publication Of The
International Defensive Pistol Association

A Letter From The President Of IDPA

Bill Wilson Discusses Some Of The Rationale Behind The Changes For The 2017 Rule Book

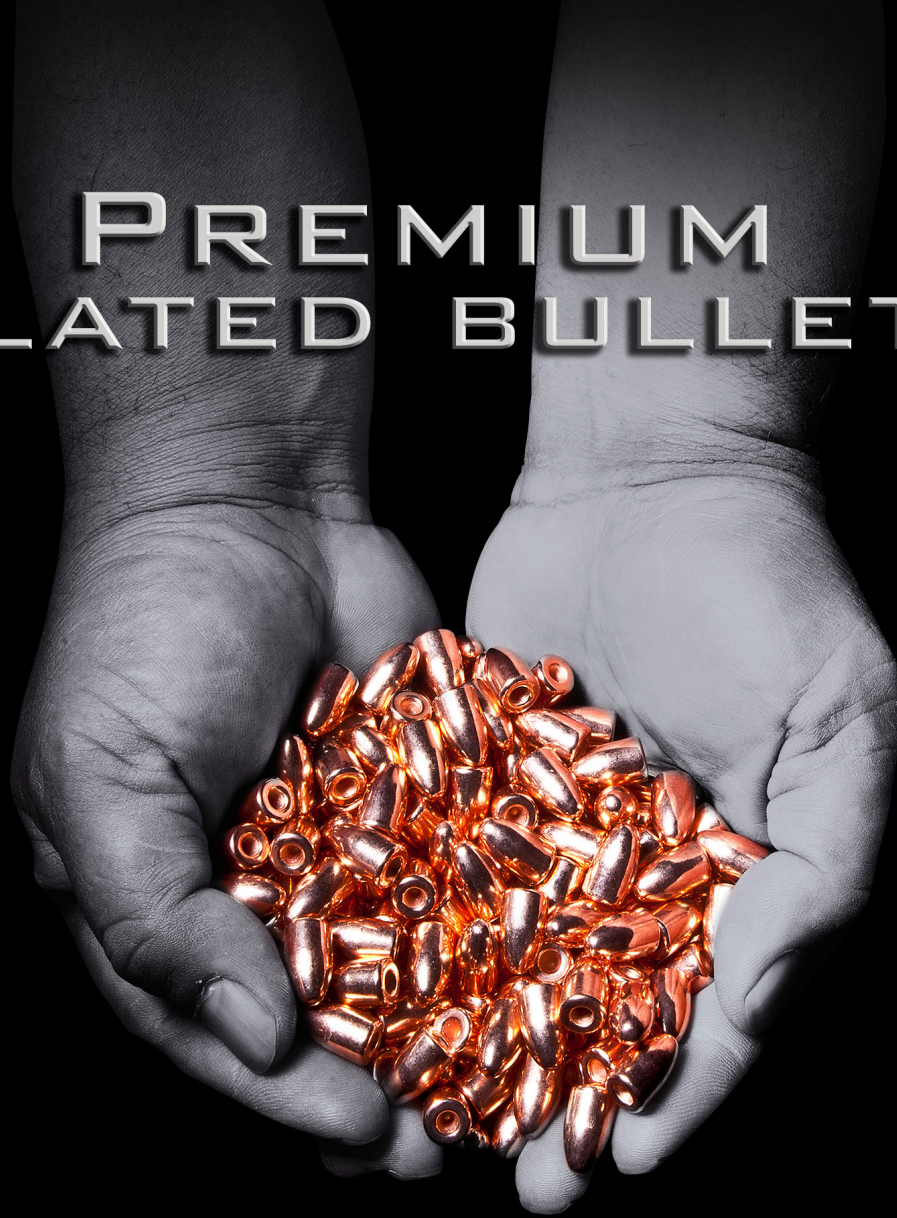
Running Your Pistol Caliber Carbine

Mike Seeklander Covers The Basics For Your First Match

2017

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CONTENTS

SPRING 2017



FEATURES

20 IMPROVE YOUR PCC SKILLS
Control Your Rifle
Getting ready for your first Pistol Caliber Carbine match. *By Mike Seeklander*

30 WRITING A MATCH REVIEW
Getting Your Article In the Tactical Journal
What you need to do to ensure your article makes it into the TJ. *By Robert Ray*

33 IMPROVE YOUR PERFORMANCE
New Year, New You
Starting off the new shooting season with a bang. *By Rowdy Bricco*

DEPARTMENTS

- 39** Trophy Room
- 42** Parting Shot
- 43** Nationals Safety Officer Application
- 42** Match Calendar

COLUMNS

4 GEAR CORNER
HAWG Holsters
Helping America Wear Guns. *By Robert Ray*

6 PRESIDENT'S LETTER
An Exciting New Year For IDPA
A Message from Bill Wilson, IDPA President. *By Joyce Wilson*

8 FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE
Why Not Try Revolvers?
Join the round gun Revolution! *By Joanna Lenczewska*

14 WHAT'S IN YOUR RANGE BAG?
Dede and Nicky Carter
A "couple" of fantastic shooters! *By Allison Launius and Dede Carter*

16 PRO-TIPS
All In The Presentation
There is more to the draw than just pulling out the gun. *By Morgan Allen*

36 SPOTLIGHT
Matt Sims
Walking Tall. *By Walt Kloeppe*

MATCH REPORT

26 The 10th Annual IDPA Masters
Shooting for the Green in Alabama! *By Walt Kloeppe*

28 7th Annual VA State Championship
Watching from the sidelines during a shoot'n in the holler. *By Linda Stanley*

HAWG HOLSTERS

Helping America Wear Guns

WORDS + PHOTO
ROBERT RAY

HELP AMERICA WEAR GUNS. YOU HAVE TO LIKE A MISSION STATEMENT like that, short, simple and to the point. It is right up front on his website. This describes the founder of HAWG Holsters as well. You won't find a better guy and his holsters are hard to beat.

HAWG Holsters was founded by a retired Marine, John Abbott. He has a passion for getting people to wear guns. They are 100% American made with American material, right down to the smallest hardware. I reached out to John after hearing about his holsters and decided to test his IWB model. He does not typically build them for the Kahr K9, my everyday carry gun, but he will custom build. I gave him my gun and got back a really nice product. Well, and my gun.

My initial impressions were great. The molding was very good. All the cut edges were nicely rounded and smooth. I cannot tell you how many "custom" holster makes that I have seen that do not finish the edges. John does it and does it well. John sent me one with a carbon fiber exterior that

America made,
America tough.



just looks sexy as well. I felt kinda guilty putting my 12 year, scuffed, pocket carry pistol in it.

The hardware was well mounted and solid. John uses the Ulti Clip for his belt attachment. This was new to me but I quickly found it easy and secure to use. The Ulti Clip is a spring steel attachment that uses a lever that cams the spring steel clip closed on your belt or pant. That's right, the design offers the option of using this with no belt. The design also allows you to tuck in your shirt over your gun for maximum concealment. I love versatility!

I have to tell you, those that have met me know

that I am a round guy and IWB holsters usually are not the most comfortable for that body shape. I found the HAWG holster comfortable and versatile. John also included a pocket mag pouch. It is designed to keep your mag upright in your pocket and includes a design feature that "hooks" your pocket opening when drawing the mag. This keeps the pouch in your pocket on the draw stroke.

In closing, some great gear at and priced right. You can check all his gear out at hawgholsters.com or on Facebook at [facebook.com/gunlovingjohn](https://www.facebook.com/gunlovingjohn). 

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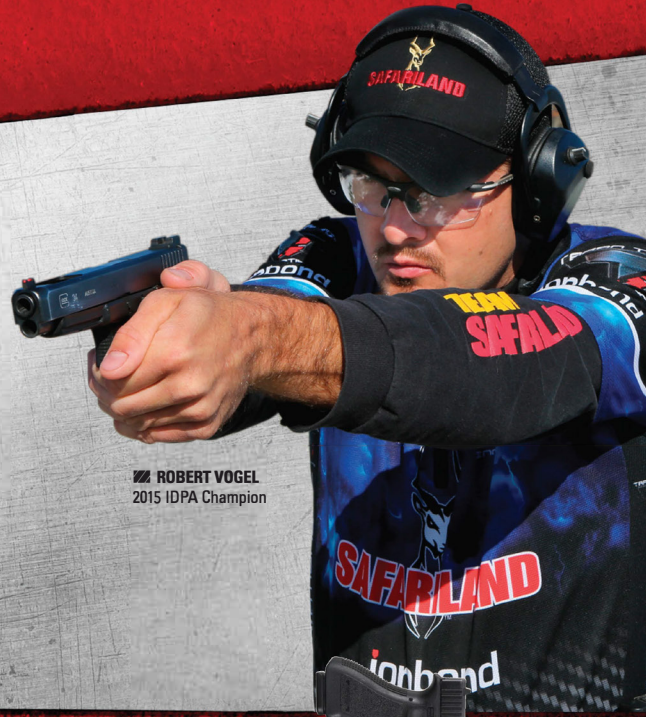
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AN EXCITING NEW YEAR FOR

IDPA

A Message from Bill Wilson, IDPA President

HAPPY 2017 FROM THE IDPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS. WE ARE STARTING A NEW YEAR, A NEW RULEBOOK AND new deas in IDPA. Many folks have asked me what I think of these changes, so I wanted to share my thoughts with all of our 26,000 members.

Almost a year ago, the Rulebook Team asked Joyce and me to meet with them on a video conference call. They wanted to know what our vision was for IDPA, how time had changed the industry and the sport, and if I could change anything, what would it be. That two hour discussion is in print and it is called the 2017 Rulebook.

In response to the comments that came in during the member comment period after the proposed rulebook was posted, I understand there has been a certain amount of pushback from the membership in regards to the changes to the CCP and BUG equipment rules. Its human nature to resist change, no matter what it is, however in this case it was necessary to bring these two divisions to the original intent, which has always been competing with guns the majority of the CCW population actually carries. The original size and weight allowed many of the popular *full size service pistols* to compete in CCP (we already have 3 established divisions for full size service pistols) and many popular *primary carry guns* to compete in BUG. The revisions to CCP are designed around Glock 19/23 and 1911 compact pistols, which are some of the most common pistols actually carried on a daily basis, while BUG changes are based on popular S&W J frame and S&W Shield



size back-up guns. These changes were not made willy-nilly; we tested many different guns in the IDPA box to see what fit and what didn't and the Rulebook Team confirmed these findings in an on-site meeting.

There are those who will be uncomfortable with the new physical barrier/fault line rules. In my personal opinion and in those of many who have talked with me candidly about IDPA, the biggest single problem with our sport has been arbitrary cover calls. There have been many competitors leave a match disgruntled over what they felt were incorrect cover calls and the PEs they

received. While none of us think our solution is perfect, I much prefer it to judgment calls and feel match officiating will be much more consistent because of the changes. In addition and a major positive is that a substantial burden will be removed from MDs and SOs. PE cover calls will be simple now, if your foot isn't over the fault line or you don't move a physical barrier, you don't get a PE, simple as that!!!

One of the other concerns from members was that of adding Pistol Caliber Carbine and the Specialty Division to IDPA. Personally I'm excited about the new PCC

division and think anyone who tries it will find out like I did how much FUN pistol caliber carbines are to shoot. I also hope everyone understands this is a *work in progress provisional division* that is totally separate from any of our pistol divisions. Match directors and course designers are encouraged to implement stages where the competitor shoots the carbine empty and transitions to their handgun to finish the stage therefore making PCC very relevant to IDPA. With literally dozens of pistol caliber carbines on the market now of all price ranges, it's very easy to get started in PCC. Hope you all enjoy it and help this new division flourish.

Again in response to member input during the comment period, the Specialty Division replaces Not for Competition (NFC). In it, we will allow BUG, PCC, Carry Optics, Weapon mounted lights and lasers. Many of our members asked for carry optics as an IDPA option. I believe Specialty Matches can grow the sport in parallel to traditional pistol matches. We are allowing in several opportunities besides PCC that will help introduce new shooters to our sport.

The new official IDPA target that will be phased in by Nationals of this year will support our drive toward accuracy. The smaller

-0 head shot will augment the 1 second per point down rule that was in discussion for nearly two years prior to the rulebook. We own every round that comes through our barrel, so our game needs to represent that. In addition, I'm very impressed with how the overall skill level of IDPA shooters has improved since 1996. Many of you are so good now that you simply outrun .50 second per point down scoring!!! As my good friend Larry Vickers says, "Speed is fine, but accuracy is final."

With the breadth of changes that you see, there will be more responsibility on the shoulders of the Area Coordinators and Match Directors. Headquarters will continue to ensure the MDs and ACs are attentive to the quality of matches and that they offer consistent, legal stages at every Tier.

In addition to the many hours of meetings, phone calls, and emails to get the 2017 Rulebook out, our work culminated in an on-site meeting here in Texas. I feel like a tremendous amount was accomplished in that meeting in regards to finalizing the new IDPA Rulebook and personally I'm confident the changes will all be positive for the future of IDPA. My sincere thanks to the Rulebook Team for all the hard work, testing and brainstorming they did over the past year.

By the time you read this, Joyce and

some of the HQ staff will be preparing to shoot the 20th Smith & Wesson IDPA Indoor Nationals. We are happy this match continues, as S&W has been a good partner with IDPA and we look forward to continuing to work with them in the future.

Another party will be thrown down the road in Cresson, TX, Sept. 28-30, when the 2017 IDPA National Championship occurs. Brian Ehrler will be the MD for us again this year, with AMDs Rick Lund and Chad Barber helping him.

Best wishes and good shooting in this new year,

Bill Wilson

Bill. 

Bill Wilson, CL001

Bill is one of the founders as well as President of IDPA. Originally trained as a watchmaker, he has been in the firearms industry since 1974, starting out with a retail store called Sportsman's Headquarters in Berryville, Arkansas. Since that humble beginning, he has built Wilson Combat into the largest and most successful custom firearms company in America.



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FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

WHY NOT TRY REVOLVERS?

**Join the round
gun Revolution!**

WORDS JOANNA LENCZEWSKA

REVOLVERS ARE FUN. THEY TEACH ABOUT AMMO MANAGEMENT, ACCURACY, TRIGGER MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGY.

Revolvers also allow for realistic dry fire practice.

Because they are made of steel, they are heavier. As a result, they absorb recoil better.

If you are recoil sensitive, you can shoot Stock Revolver with 105 power factor and the resulting felt recoil is almost nonexistent.

Revolvers tend not to jam as much as semi-autos can and to top it all off, it is VERY satisfying to finish ahead of people making fun of you for shooting revolver.

WHO AM I?

My name is Joanna and I've been a competitive shooter for 12 years. I shoot lots of different disciplines with a very broad range of guns, but IDPA is where it all started. I am a 5-gun expert in IDPA and shot Enhanced Service Revolver (ESR) and Stock Service Revolver (SSR) before they were merged into a single revolver division. I am a B class in USPSA revolver, Steel Challenge iron sight revolver, and B class in ICORE Limited and Classic divisions. So yes, I do shoot a lot of revolvers.

I shoot revolvers in many different sports. So "why" you might ask? Because I like to challenge myself with shooting equipment and doing well with it. Shooting revolvers provides me with great satisfaction when I beat people in different divisions. It's empowering. It's different. It is not following the crowd. It is being unique.

And as an added benefit, if you shoot

revolvers, you get most of your brass back. Brass is gold for all of us who make our own ammo.

HOW DID I START WITH REVOLVERS?

When I was shopping for my very first gun, a sales person in a gun store recommended an S&W 686 because it "fit well in my hands." His recommendation was quite

“Revolvers are definitely different and shooting them makes me a little bit different by not doing the same thing everyone else does.”

Shooting big bore (.45ACP) at the 2014 BUG Nationals.



PHOTO BY PAUL ERHARDT

FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

different than regular recommendations by sales people who usually talk women into buying a small handgun. I settled on my very first gun to be a semi-auto but soon after, I went back and picked up that S&W 686. So from the very beginning I was attracted to both, a semi and a revolver.

While shooting IDPA matches, you very quickly hear about the one and only Smith and Wesson IDPA Indoor Nationals. What can be better than shooting a S&W round gun at the very place where it was born? I shot revolver in a lot of local IDPA matches to prepare for the Indoor Nationals. As of today, I have shot 10 Indoor Nationals and half of them were with a revolver.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO GET STARTED IN REVOLVER?

Both stock and enhanced revolvers can only have a 4-inch barrel. You start with 6 rounds in the gun and 18 rounds on your belt. You will need a holster and 3 moon clip or speedloader holders. IDPA rules allow 2 ammunition holders in front of your holster or up to 3 behind your center line. I prefer 2 behind my center line on my support side and 1 in front of the holster. This way, wheth-



er I shoot a revolver or a semi-auto, I always reach to my support side for ammunition holders. The 1 in front of the holster saves having to reach all the way behind my back,

and is usually not used with IDPA stages having a maximum of 18 rounds.

Stock Revolver is 105 power factor and it uses speedloaders. A speedloader holds 6



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is
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Angle?**



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Running a S&W 610 (10mm) at the 08 Indoor Nationals.



The same 610 at a local match.



Revolvers are for more than just IDPA. Joanna at the 16 ICORE Worlds.

cartridges in a secure fashion. It allows the cartridges to drop simultaneously into the cylinder. A mechanism is provided that allows the cartridges to be released from the speedloader when loaded, so that when it is removed, the cartridges remain in the cylinder.

A stock revolver can weigh only up to 43 oz. and similar to Stock Service Pistol there are very few modifications that can be done to the gun. Because you are working with 6 separate cartridges, there are more chances for something to go wrong.

Enhanced Revolver is 155 power factor and it uses moon clips. All 6 cartridges are attached with a moon clip. A moon clip is a ring-shaped piece of metal designed to hold multiple cartridges together as a unit, for simultaneous insertion and extraction from a cylinder. Unlike a speedloader, a moon clip remains in place during firing, and after firing, is used to extract the empty cartridge cases.

There are fewer chances for something to go wrong during reloads and the reloads are slightly faster than with speedloaders.

There are more parts that can be changed on an enhanced revolver and the gun can weigh only up to 50 oz.

WHAT DO I LIKE ABOUT SHOOTING REVOLVERS IN IDPA?

Revolvers are definitely different and shooting them makes me a little bit different by not doing the same thing everyone else does. They require a little bit different skill sets - trigger pull, cylinder opening, reloading, unloading, and ammo management.

Trigger pull is definitely longer than on semi-auto pistol. But that makes it easier to learn how to index, or prep, the trigger - to pull the trigger to the point just before it breaks. You can do that on semi-auto pistols too but it's much easier to learn on revolvers.

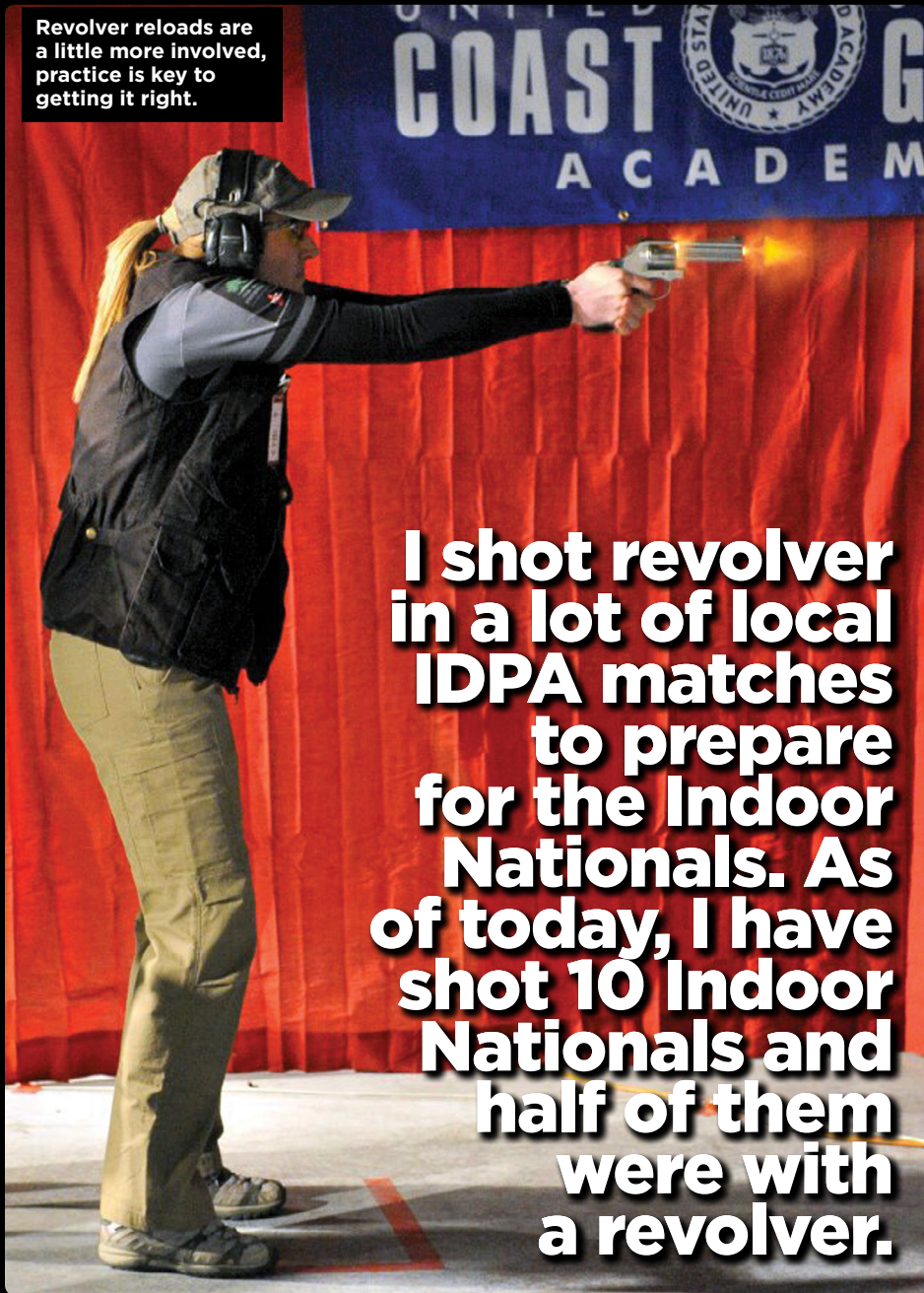
Because you have less ammo in the gun, you will be reloading more. Reloads cost time so you want to ensure that you reload in the least amount of time possible. This forces you to make your shots count.

Shooting revolvers makes you think about where you can shoot extra so you



15 USPSA Revolver Nationals with a S&W 929 (9mm).

Revolver reloads are a little more involved, practice is key to getting it right.



I shot revolver in a lot of local IDPA matches to prepare for the Indoor Nationals. As of today, I have shot 10 Indoor Nationals and half of them were with a revolver.

PHOTO BY YAMIL SUEDE

can take advantage of reloading on the move between positions. One of the other great things is that all this experience will transition to shooting semi-automatic pistols as well.

CHANGES I MAKE TO REVOLVERS.

There are a few things that I change on my revolvers. I have larger hands and I use S&W tamer grips for the model 500. All my revolvers have the same grip so they all feel the same no matter which one I pick up. All my revolvers except for stock have an aftermarket cylinder release. In stock revolver, the cylinder release has to be factory.

All my guns have 6 to 7 lb. double action trigger pull and all have fiber optic front sites. Having the chambers of the cylinder chamfered, cutting the square edge of the chamber to a funnel shape, helps to speed up reloads.

PRACTICE REGIMENT TO BE COMPETITIVE WITH A ROUND GUN.

With a revolver, dry firing is realistic. There is no need to rack the slide after each trigger pull. You can use snap caps or dummy rounds to practice realistic reloads, all from the comfort of your home. I have some small scale IDPA targets on the wall where I



Revolver reloads are a little more involved, practice is key to getting it right.





can practice transitions and front site alignment along with trigger pull.

MAKING REVOLVERS FRIENDLY FOR WOMEN.

First and foremost, a brand new gun should have a trigger job. Most revolvers come from the factory with a very difficult trigger to work with. They come with a 12 lb. double action trigger pull. This is significant for those with smaller hands. Because of hand size and finger strength, some women really struggle with this and it can be discouraging, especially for a new shooter. Most serious competitors will have it down to 6 or 7 lb. which makes a difference in competing.

Also, there are many companies that make custom grips. Revolvers have the most leeway to find grips that will suit most hand sizes.

I love the looks of the revolvers and the way they feel in my hands: solid and comfortable.

The best attribute offered from a revolver - simplicity! Revolvers are easy to load and unload, and they are very simple to operate compared to semi-autos.

Being able to operate many different types of guns is empowering.

Give a revolver a try, you may really like it! **TJ**

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joanna Lenczewska, A23514

Joanna started shooting for the very first time in 2004. Her first shooting discipline was Bulls Eye. The following year she was introduced to IDPA. In 2007 she became an IDPA Marksman in all 5 divisions. Shooting a lot of matches with different handguns soon lead her to be advanced to IDPA Sharpshooter and then to Expert in all 5 division. Since shooting was so much fun she started to compete in USPSA, ICORE and recently in 3GUN.

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DEDE AND NICKY CARTER

A “couple” of fantastic shooters!

WORDS ALLISON LAUNIUS PHOTOS DEDE CARTER

THE DYNAMIC DUO OF MISSISSIPPI, AKA NICKY AND DEDE CARTER, ARE A HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM OF

awesomeness. I asked them to open up their range bags for us and below Dede takes us through them. I would just like to thank the Carters for opening up their bags for our members. As always, the dynamic duo went above and beyond helping make this article great. I will let her take you through their bags, take it away Dede!

Prior to finding IDPA, my husband and I spent most weekends shooting informally with friends. We reached a point where we wanted to participate in a more organized setting. We discovered IDPA in early 2007 and were caught up in the excitement of the sport from the start. We both joined within a few weeks of each other and have been at it ever since. No matter what we have participated in over the years we jump in full bore and get involved in any way we can.

Nicky and I own Ridge Crossing Shooting Club outside Tupelo, MS. As well as range owners and club contacts, we are also Chief Safety Officers for the club. Nicky serves as the Area Coordinator and as an SOI in MS and TN. He is our Match Director and is very creative in putting together challenging local matches that help keep the shooters on their toes and ready for sanctioned matches when they choose to compete. I handle the administrative and stat entry chores for the range.

We were such greenhorns when we first started and our range bags clearly reflected that, it's definitely been a learning curve over the years. In the beginning, we each had very small bags that held the bare necessities: pistol, factory ammo, 3 magazines, eye & ear protection, water & snacks. Clearly the photos show what we now consider to be bare necessities has changed a great deal over the years. Timers, IDPA Rulebooks, squib rod, small



first aid supplies, ink pens, gun oil, hot hands (seasonal), hair brush & pony tail holders, flashlight(s), batteries - for timers, hearing protection & flashlights, Gerber multi-tool, grip gel, extra eye protection, large plastic bag in case of rain, sweat rag, orange luggage tag (Smart Tag) for ID. We have some of the same basic equipment and several different things in our bags to meet our individual needs. For instance, Nicky is the gunsmith, so naturally he has the squib rod, gun oil, and Gerber tool. On the other hand, I have extra ink pens, basic first aid supplies, chewing gum, snacks, pony tail holders and a hairbrush. We cover for each other because what one does not have the other does.

For years, we used the traditional shoulder style range bags until changing over to backpacks this past summer. We have tried carts and wagons to haul our gear

but some ranges are not well suited for either. I found our GPS tactical range bags on Amazon for about \$130 a piece - they fit our needs very well. The bags are very sturdy, well designed with several compartments, and fit comfortably even weighted down. By the way, after putting everything in the photos back into our bags, we weighed them without our pistols and ammo - Nicky's bag weighs 9.6 pounds, mine came in at 15.6 pounds.

Some of the must haves for our bags are: two pairs of glasses (one clear set and one dark tinted set), IDPA rulebook, band aids (someone always needs one or more), flashlight (sometimes matches can run into some failing light conditions), ink pens (someone always needs one). My absolute must have is lots of magazines. I have 3 I-shots to store & carry magazines. One is dedicated to my 11 round magazines



<<<<NICKY'S BAG

1. GPS Backpack
2. Eyewear: SSP Dillon / Blue Press
3. Hearing protection & belt clip: Howard Leight
4. Extra Batteries: Duracell
5. ID Smart tag
6. IDPA Rule Book
7. Power grip gel: Mission
8. Multi-tool: Gerber
9. Plastic bag
10. Cigar & lighter
11. Timer: CED 7000

WEIGHT: 9.6 LBS



DEDE's BAG>>>>>

1. GPS Backpack
2. IDPA Rule Book
3. Contact Solution
4. Hair brush: Goody's
5. Chewing gum
6. Eye protection: Gargoyles & ProTec
7. Hot Hands
8. Vitamin C: Emergen-C
9. Headache remedy: BC Powders
10. Ink pens
11. Plastic rainbags

WEIGHT: 15.6 LBS

and they have blue base plates, the other two have my 10 round magazines and they have orange base plates. That arrangement saves me time & anxiety of how much ammo I have in my mags. 1 blue mag, 2 orange mags and I'm good to go. Nicky's absolute must have is a cigar and lighter.

When asked what we don't need in our bags, Nicky's assessment is that if he doesn't use an item in a season, it comes out of the bag. Some things are also seasonal, for instance hot hands are a must in winter.

Equipment is an investment; good quality is a must and it doesn't pay to cut corners. We use Black Bullet Intl bullets. Depending on what firearm we shoot determines what holster and mag carrier is used. Nicky will compete with a Glock, but his true love is a 1911. When he shoots Glock, his holster & mag carriers are Master-Tac; when he shoots 1911 his holster is Wilson Combat and Master-Tac mag carriers. I also have 1911 pistols but my true love is Glock. My holster and mag carriers are Master-Tac.

The upcoming year is going to be an eventful one for the Carter Clan both personally and in competition. We are both retiring in 2017 and are expecting twin grandchildren in April, a boy and a girl. In addition to those events, our shooting schedule has the following matches in the lineup so far: the TX State Match, TN State Match, the IDPA Nationals, and hosting the MS State Match. We have had a 3 year break from hosting a sanctioned match at Ridge Crossing and plan to get back in that groove in October 2017. **TJ**



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ALL IN THE PRESENTATION

There is more to the draw than just pulling out the gun.

WORDS MORGAN ALLEN **PHOTOS** DAVE GOLDMAN

PRESENT ON MOST COMPETITORS' MINDS IS THE THOUGHT, "HOW DO I GET BETTER?" PRACTICE IS THE ANSWER.

But what someone practices, how they practice, how quickly they attain skills, and so on are all factors that weigh into the equation of how quickly match performance improvement can be realized. If you spend the same amount of time practicing two different skills vs. one, it's reasonable to assume that if you can use just that one skill instead of two different ones, your overall level of improvement in the game will occur faster.

end of your presentation that's key, but rather how soon you can start shooting. So in a way, how fast you push the gun out for those shots is not the limiting factor, but rather the complete package. I'm not suggesting to be lazy in pushing the gun out but instead pointing out that the important part is to achieve that presentation in conjunction with developing a good picture and alignment as quickly as possible. So far, I've not said much you probably don't already know.

There's another facet to consider. Within the second half of your draw, or

it being in immediate view the entire time.

Think of it in another way. If you drop your gun outside of your face box while in route to another position, what's the first thing you will have to do when you approach the new position? Bring the gun right back up. And that costs time. More importantly, you have now created two independent skills to learn: presenting the gun during the draw and presenting the gun at a new shooting position. Maintaining gun position in space after a stage start in a more consistent fashion allows you to only have to learn one form



Shooters who draw their guns at the start signal follow roughly the same path to the end of their presentation and subsequent first shot. While the speed at which the gun travels between those two points may vary a little, the important component of measured value is the time between the start signal and first shot. Looking over videos of top shooters, you'll undoubtedly see a number of different styles such as where in space their support hand mounts the gun. What doesn't change much is their attention to sights while pushing their gun on the way out to the target to gain adequate sight alignment and picture. Naturally close and easy targets deserve far less attention than more difficult ones. It's the difficult targets that highlight improvement opportunities for shooters who want to improve their draw to first shot times.

It's not how fast you get the gun to the

presentation to the target, there's an opportunity to use that skill more than once in a typical stage. After engaging targets at the first position, if the shooter is then required to move to another position, most view the presentation or pushing out of the gun again at the new position as a separate and distinct activity. It's not. It's just a repeat of the second half of the draw again at the new position.

This is why you will see many shooters in the middle of the pack dropping the gun low while moving, somewhat ambivalent to the need to represent the gun shortly thereafter. Top shooters rarely allow the gun to leave their "face box," an area about one foot square around their head with immediate peripheral view of the gun, during the entire course of fire. Essentially they follow their guns around during the stage with

of presentation and increase's on your ability to get better, faster.

Other start positions employ reasonably similar logic. If you are used to placing your support hand and bent index finger near the nose of the first bullet in a magazine when in the process of withdrawing your new magazine while performing reloads, why not set yourself up that way when performing empty gun table pick up starts?

Many shooters position their mags on a table next to their gun for empty gun table pick up starts without bullets facing up which then requires an adjustment at the start signal to orient the mag for insertion. Our hands and arms naturally align to about a forty degree angle when reaching forward to pick up something reasonably center to our bodies. Therefore the gun and magazine should be placed accordingly and close to each other. Finally, positioning



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Table pickups can kill your time but are rarely practiced, add this to your training.

the top of the mag close to your chamber or alignment of housing of your magazine on your gun where the mag will reside once inserted makes a difference. Try picking both up at the same time, rotate each to-

ward each other, and notice how the magazine naturally lines up with your magwell.

Presentations at multiple times during a stage and empty gun table starts are just two examples of the premise to look



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It's not how fast you get the gun to the end of your presentation that's key, but rather how soon you can start shooting.

for and learn one method for performing different skills that can be leveraged multiple times within stage execution. Doing so reduces the number of unique skills to learn and thereby increases the speed with which you are able to improve your match scores. **TJ**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Morgan Allen, A24050

Morgan Allen is the winner of 50+ IDPA Division Championships and 10 top-five division finishes at Nationals events, including 2nd at the Inaugural IDPA World Championship. He can be reached at: morgan_allen@yahoo.com

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PHOTO BY STEVE WOODS

CONTROL YOUR RIFLE

**Getting ready for your first
Pistol Caliber Carbine match.**

WORDS MICHAEL SEEKLANDER

DO YOU CONTROL YOUR RIFLE? MORE SPECIFICALLY, CAN YOU SHOOT IT ACCURATELY, YET VERY RAPIDLY, AT

DISTANCES OF TEN YARDS OR MORE? The goal is to develop a high-performance stance/mount system that will ensure that you can not only shoot accurately with your rifle but also get it on target quickly and shoot it with superior speed. Once the decision has been made to use deadly force, the faster you can neutralize the threat, the greater your chances of survival. This means that you need to get the first hit as fast as possible and follow-up hits even faster.

How do we control recoil? First, let's compare how a rifle recoils in comparison to a handgun. Handguns have a higher axis to bore ratio, which means that the recoil will travel in an upward direction. A rifle's recoil will travel in a more linear path straight backwards because the bore on an M16/4 system is actually in line with the stock, which is mounted on the shoulder. This is one of the reasons that a rifle can be shot so much faster than a handgun in most cases (at distance).

In a situation where life and limb are at stake, speed and accuracy must always be balanced, yet prioritized. This means that while hitting is the first priority, specifically with the first shot, quick follow-up shots are extremely important to ensure that the threat is effectively neutralized quickly. To fire quick follow up shots, recoil control must be maximize, to improve your recoil control, follow these steps:

1. Square the body and weight forward. Most shooters want to blade the body off more than necessary. Squaring up with the strong foot only slightly back allows one to mount the rifle more centered on the chest (see step 4) while staying centered offers the benefit of keeping the pelvic girdle as square as possible to the target improving the stability and mobility of the shooter. "Weight forward" simply means that the nose should be over the toes. To test this, go ahead and stand square to a friend, drop the strong side foot back slightly, unlock the knees, and stand upright. Have your friend push back on the center of your

chest. Now, lean forward (without bending the knees much more) and place your nose just barely in front of your toes. Have your buddy push on you again. You (and he) will find that simply shifting the upper body weight forward of your center of balance offers substantial recoil potential due to the weight shift.

2. Grip the gun high with the strong hand. This is a phrase we often use with a handgun, but it applies to a rifle too. Your shooting hand--the one on the pistol grip that controls the fire systems--should be as high (or forward if using a standard stock) on the pistol grip as possible. Once you find this position, ensure you apply grip pressure and pull the rifle straight back into the chest (where the stock is mounted) when shooting. Simply resting the shooting hand there will not do the trick.

NOTE: A key point with the strong hand position on the AR systems is to ride the safety with that the thumb. If you are shooting with the left hand and do not have an ambidextrous safety on the rifle,



PHOTO BY COREY LACK

Just like your pistol, get high up on the grip.

IMPROVE YOUR PCC SKILLS

you will have to either switch your thumb to the other side of the gun, or use your index finger to manipulate the safety. This ensures that the safety can be clicked off quickly as the rifle is mounted into the shooting position. I have had students fail to disengage the safety many times during training, simply because they did not pay attention to this key point.

3. Grip the hand guard as far forward as feasible with the support hand. This is an area that I often see taught and executed wrong with the biggest mistake being actually moving the support hand back to grasp the magazine well. When mounting the gun, ensure that your support hand is gripping the hand guard as far forward as possible while pulling the rifle straight to the rear. Gripping forward on the hand guard like this will do several things. First, it will increase the recoil control of that hand due to having greater leverage on the front of the gun. Secondly, it offers a better mechanical advantage if one has to snap the gun to a new target, once again due to leverage. Lastly, the shooter will have much more control if they are forced to retain their gun from a surprise close-range attack.

4. Mount the gun as centered as possible. This is a big key to controlling recoil and one that almost everyone I have worked with misses to some extent. I, like many of you, was taught a standard bladed stance (by both my father and the U.S. Marine Corps), which is more traditional and places the stock on the outer portion of the shoulder. The problem is that this placement of the stock allows the gun to turn the body as the rifle pushes backward. This causes the sights (or dot) to cycle high right or left (for a left-handed shooter). To find the proper centered spot on your chest, stand mostly square to the target with head erect and looking forward. Now, grab the stock of the rifle and place it on the center of your chest and drive your chin down onto the stock until you find a good cheek weld spot that allows you to see the sights or through the scope. As you drive your chin down, the rifle will have to move slightly to either the right (for right-handed shooters) or left (for left-handed shooters) but will stay relatively centered on the chest. You might find that this places pressure on your cheek in relationship to the rifle, which is good. Anytime I am shooting a rifle, I focus on “pressuring” my cheek into the stock to



Mounting the gun.



Hand grip.



Handguard grip.

increase my control on the gun and minimize dot movement.

NOTE: Another great side benefit of centering the gun while squaring up is that, while shooting on the move, the gun will move MUCH less compared to mounting it on the outside of the shoulder. Since, the shoulders move while walking, movement translates to the gun, and therefore centering on the chest minimizes the gun's movement a bunch!

5. Drop the strong side elbow and drive the shoulder forward.

Once you have mounted the rifle in the manner described above, your next focus will be to drop the strong side elbow and drive the shoulder forward. This will do a couple things for you. First, it will flex the front deltoid and pectoral muscle on that side of the chest, which will solidify the rifle's position and increase the pressure of the stock mounted to the chest. Go ahead and test that now by placing your hand on your deltoid/pectoral area with the elbow out to the side and dropping it straight down. Secondly, it will keep the elbow low and out of the way so that it is less likely to get hit by bullets when shooting around cover or to bump into obstacles or people when you are moving.

6. Minimize and press.

Now that you have mounted the rifle into a secure "platform," all you will have to do is minimize the movement and press. The pressure on the gun should be substantial, but also neutral in a sense – straight to the rear except for the pressure required to hold the rifle upright. Therefore, be careful not to pull the rifle off to one side or another.

Once you have established this stance/mount, it is imperative that you practice manipulating the trigger while moving NOTHING else. From the ready position the mounting process includes the above steps combined with manipulating the safety and lastly pulling the trigger. If the stance and mount are correct, controlling the rifle will take very little work, but you will have to learn not to "overwork" the recoil. Let your body weight and leverage control the recoil while you focus your attention on managing the sights and trigger.

Focus on the above principles to greatly increase your ability to fire faster while maintaining your "acceptable level of accuracy" with your rifle. Modify the techniques slightly if needed to work around body armor, gear, or position (covered later in



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the technique section), and strive to improve your ability to shooter better in each practice session!

Prone and Kneeling Positions

Once you have mastered the standing position it's time to look at other positions that you need to add to your toolbox. I am not an instructor that teaches classic positions or a huge number of positions simply to teach them, and instead offer simple solutions that work. The more you train

and work your shooting skills in different situations, the better you will be prepared to use a non-standard position if needed. Make sure to keep the principles discussed above (square stance, elbow down, stock relatively centered, etc.) in play as much as possible, and keep the recoil control mechanics consistent. The following positions are useful:

Prone: The prone position is a superior position of stability. It is probably less likely used in a closer range situation that

The goal is to develop a high-performance stance/mount system that will ensure that you can not only shoot accurately with your rifle but also get it on target quickly and shoot it with superior speed.

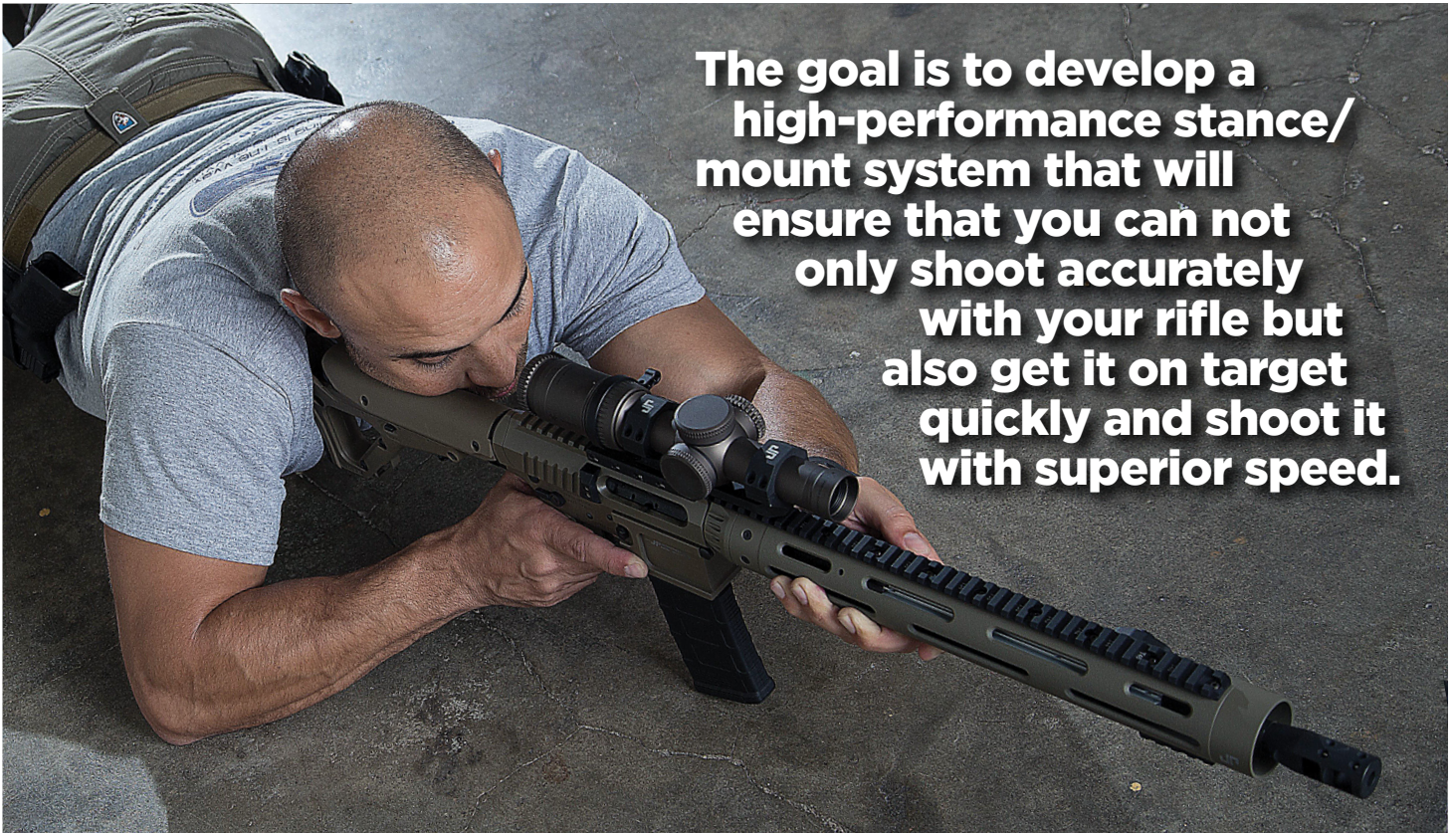
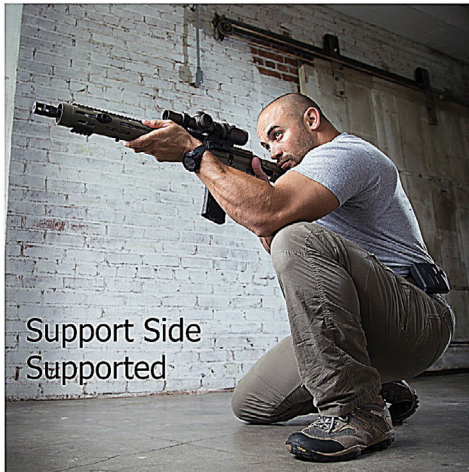
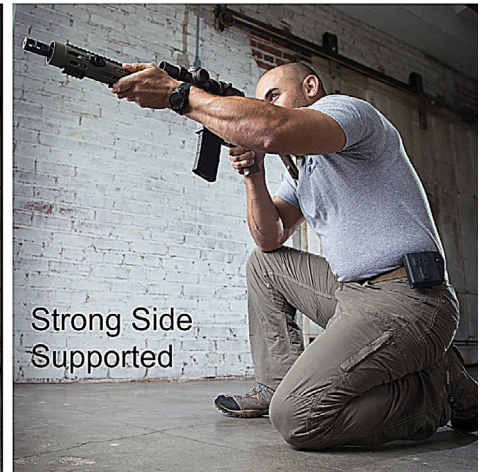


PHOTO BY COREY LACK

most of us will be in, but is a critical position to know if you have to stabilize the rifle as much as possible for a long range or extremely tough shot. Key points, lay flat and spread the legs. Make contact with the rifle on the ground at three points, the strong and support elbows, and magazine. Build a good cheek weld on the rifle and literally lay your face down onto the stock. Breathing will cause the rifle to move, so shoot during a paused portion of the breathing pattern. I suggest breathing in, then out with most of your breath and pausing for the shot. Don't hold your breath for any length of time or the lack of oxygen will distort your vision.



Support Side Supported

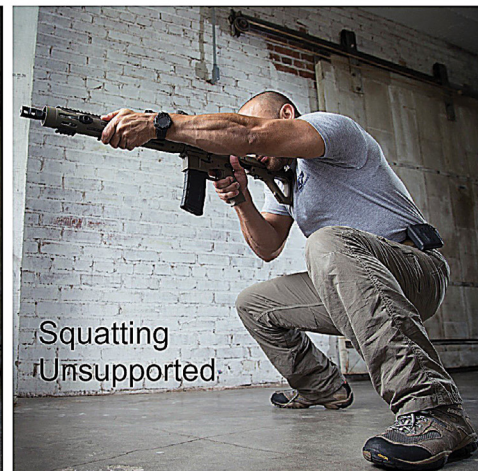


Strong Side Supported

Kneeling: Kneeling positions should primarily be used for increased stability or use of cover. Additionally kneeling might be used to lower your profile and expose yourself around cover from a different position than the enemy expects. Kneeling is simple - maintain the same square stance and simple kneel with attention focuses on keeping your upper body forward and weight behind the gun. You have the option of kneeling down on your support side knee and resting the support side elbow on the knee, or kneeling on the other knee and supporting your gun side on that same knee. Regardless of which you use, make



Kneeling Unsupported




Squatting Unsupported

The fully mounted stance. This is the basic high-performance platform.



sure to make contact with the knee with the upper portion of the elbow versus the elbow tip. The elbow tip will move around and be very unstable. If you feel your arm and run your hand down your triceps toward your elbow, you will find a relatively flat spot where your triceps meets the elbow. This is the position you will want to rest on your knee.

Squatting: Squatting is similar in profile to kneeling, but offers a much faster platform to build, if you are athletic enough to pull it off. Squatting into and out of a position is very fast, and my preferred short term use of low cover technique if I can get low enough. The position is very simple - just squat down maintaining a wide stance and shift your body weight forward. 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Mike Seeklander, #A31187

Currently Mike Seeklander is owner of Shooting-Performance LLC (www.shooting-performance.com), a full service training company and the American Warrior Society (www.americanwarriorsociety.com). Mike is also the co-host of The Best Defense and Rapid Fire featured on the Outdoor Channel.

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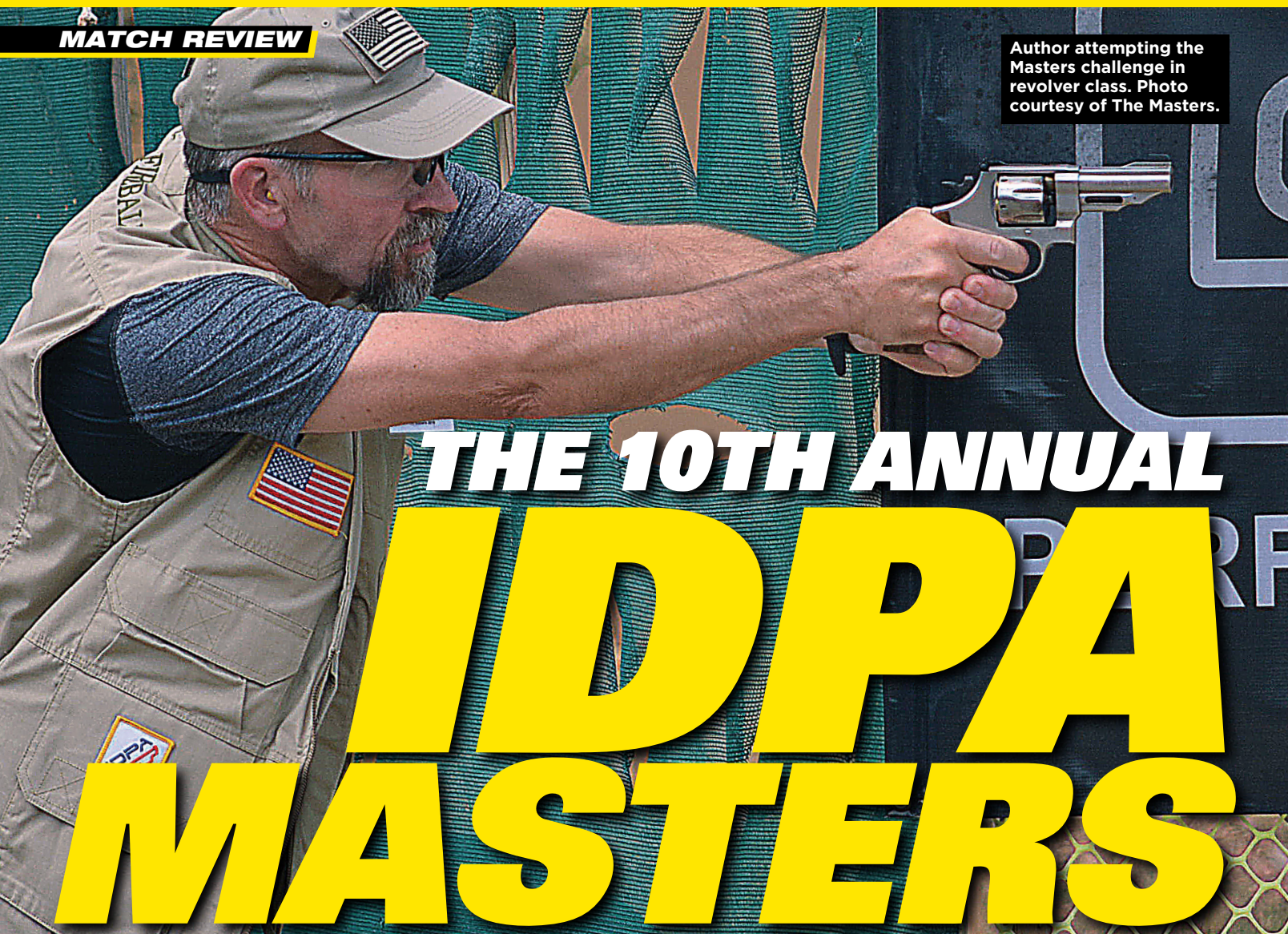
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THE 10TH ANNUAL

IDPA MASTERS

Shooting for the Green in Alabama!

WORDS WALT KLOEPEL

On Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016, Brock's Gap IDPA hosted the 10th Annual Masters IDPA Championship. The clear, sunny morning in Hoover, Alabama, started with a buzz of excitement as more than 150 competitors got ready to rumble in 10 challenging stages with a round count of 150.

The Masters, started in 2007 by Ron Holland, was an idea to create a challenging match for Master shooters while still keeping it within reach for Marksman class shooters as well. This was achieved by designing each stage with shoot options – either a basic approach for the Marksman shooters or some “gaming” twists to make the top shooters work for it.

Matt Sims, a Master shooter and this year's CDP Division Champ, said “... always one of the best and hardest

matches of the year.”

The Masters is a major sanctioned match that is a challenging test for all shooters and continues to grow, drawing shooters as far as California, and even a group from Italy a few years back.

Brock's Gap Training Center is the host range of The Masters. An organization established in 1962, it is dedicated to firearms education and training as well as the promotion and advancement of all shooting sports. Throughout its history, Brock's Gap's facilities have provided training to the Boy Scouts, ROTC units, local police departments, military units, other civic and charitable organizations as well as individual citizens. Many of the first time shooters complimented the facilities and how well the staff ran the match.

“The concept was that a Master class shooter could have choices, he could take risks with rewards. The Marksman could shoot the stage and take the second road and still shoot the stage,” said Mike Lunsford, match director for The Masters. “We tried to stay with that over the years.”

The stage designs are a team effort of several of the club members as well as help from a few other Alabama IDPA clubs, including the Central Alabama Gun Club.

When it comes to award time, The Masters follows a tradition of The Masters golf tournament – well, sort of ... not green jackets, but along with a trophy, division champions receive a green Masters cap as a reward of prestige. Plenty of door prizes went to the rest of the competitors also, including 11 guns – eight to the shooters



Matt Sims - CDP Champion



Doug Jones - ESP Champion

“The concept was that a Master class shooter could have choices, he could take risks with rewards.”

and three to the safety officers.

Lunsford reflected on this year's match. "The two things that made this match special to me was No. 1, it was the 10th anniversary. It was the biggest and the best we've had. And No. 2, it was my retirement match," laughed Lunsford.

Next year's match director will be Sam Henderson, who was the assistant match director with Lunsford this year.

"I've got some big shoes to fill," said Henderson, "but it's my hope to keep the integrity and quality of the match strong."

The Masters is a limited tournament at 160 shooters. First sign ups fill quickly and if you miss that window, you only have a standby option to get on if someone drops out. It is held the second weekend of September so put it on your calendar and watch for the sign up announcement on the IDPA website. Find out why this Alabama match is the one to add to your list of annual tournaments. It's also a great warm-up a week before the Nationals. You will be challenged, no matter where you rank and sure to have a blast - pun intended. **TJ**



Marksman Joel Vallejo found the match to be challenging, but not impossible.

CATEGORY	SHOOTER	DIV / CLASS	SCORE
High CCP	Ken Park	CCP - MA	198.88 (40)
High CDP	Matt Sims	CDP - MA	219.59 (47)
High ESP	Doug Jones Sr	ESP - EX	220.35 (22)
High REV	Daniel Humphreys	REV - MA	278.81 (52)
High SSP	John Brannon	SSP - MA	189.31 (33)
High Distinguished Senior	Gene Simmons	SSP - MA	270.84 (45)
High Industry	Matt Sims	CDP - MA	219.59 (47)
High Junior	William Warriner	SSP - NV	583.31 (179)
High Lady	Dori Hale	ESP - MM	341.73 (77)
High Law Enforcement	Ken Park	CCP - MA	198.88 (40)
High Military	Kyle Adomavicius	ESP - MA	255.67 (64)
High Senior	Matt Sims	CDP - MA	219.59 (47)
Most Accurate	Doug Jones Sr	ESP - EX	220.35 (22)

7TH ANNUAL VA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Watching from the sidelines during a shoot'n in the holler.

WORDS LINDA STANLEY



Members of Squad 18 pose appropriately with non-threats, left to right: Noel Gardner, Mike Henson, David Blackwell, Rob Hodges, John Wallace, Mark Holder, Jared Perdue, Simon LeRay and Gene Defibaugh.

THE THING ABOUT KETTLEFOOT IS, YOU HAVE TO GET THERE FIRST. FINDING IT IN THE HILLS OF RURAL BRISTOL, VA, is worth the effort. The mountains and picture book scenery set the stage for shooting at its best. The 7th annual VA State IDPA Championship on June 25 came off as promised - "challenging and fun."

Sponsored by Springfield Armory and hosted by the Kettlefoot Rod & Gun Club,

technology was at work. They had electronic scoring and the stage booklet was accessible on your cell phone!

If you've been to Kettlefoot, you understand the meaning of "exercise." Match director Mark Riehl saw to it that the steep hills - yes, hills - that led to those stages were properly graveled. One shooter said the only bad thing about the match was the upper stages in the woods - but if he

stepped right out of his truck and onto the stage, the "fun" would be compromised. Ok, one walk up and my "fun" was done.

Humidity in the woods is different from the air/heat/discomfort in the open. I kept thinking monkeys were going to swing from the trees like they do in the jungles. For my part, I had plenty of shade - many cool drinks - and maybe stirred a little fan envy with the battery-operated device hanging



Mark Riehl, the MD, getting in a stage.

ain't your game for the rest of the day. Mike Henson was shooting in tennis shoes (there was some rumbling about his boots that stayed behind in Roanoke) altho' it couldn't be determined if his footwear had any bearing on his shooting. At this Jeep stage, he asked, "Do I look good, cause I sure can't shoot today?"

I wasn't in the judging business so I became absorbed in the cool drink in my hand.

At "A Barbecue Gone Bad" the guys were attending a charity barbecue in a bad section of town and here comes a neighborhood gang. Might want to rethink the next party invite.

"The Meth Head" stage was interesting and required some agility. The shooter started out squatted at his campfire - not just any old squat: this one required a 45-de-

Mike asked "Do I look good, cause I sure can't shoot today?" I wasn't in the judging business so I became absorbed in the cool drink in my hand.

around my neck. If you aren't going to shoot - you might as well be comfortable.

"I think I shot it pretty well," said Range Safety Officer Mike Henson on SO shooting day. "Except for the procedurals." Procedurals aren't to be desired, I quickly learned - but at least you're still shooting. Some of the stages were procedural-prone. Convicts were on the loose for two of them - and one in particular required thought and planning. "Clowns to the Left" - not my shooters, the convicts - scenario involved escaped convicts. Two were in the house to be taken out through a window. Four more around the corner. One of those Clowns had a good guy right in front of him and another very, very close to a good guy. Looked like a hostage situation to me.

This was the first stage shot by the Roanoke Rifle and Revolver Club squad of SOs. The verdict was: "At least we got the first one out of the way." But they came to have fun and they did. (One member, Simon LeRay, did walk away with the Most Accurate award.)

The group of SOs, Squad 18, had lots of laughs at the second convict encounter, "Jokers to the Right", more convicts were on the loose. Two in the house - four outside - six total convicts and I know these had hostages - the good guys were right in front of them.

The squad grunted but seemed to enjoy

climbing in and out of a plywood "Jeep" on the level field. "The Hands at 10 & 2" stage found the shooter lost in an unfamiliar part of town, stopping for directions (remember, these are fictional scenes - stopping for directions...sure). Cardboard thugs show up and you figure how to take 'em out - without shooting thru the nonexistent windshield - and if you shoot any part of the vehicle, your name is DQ and shooting



I showed them convicts, look at this time!

gree angle upper body to legs - ouch. Now I remember why I watch instead of shoot. Strong hand putting a log on the fire. Just beyond the fire were nine cardboard addicts that don't realize you're just fixing S'mores. They think you're cooking up a batch of meth. (Remember, they're on drugs and desperate for a supply.) Two good guys are in the mix, of course. I was impressed that David Blackwell and Noel Gardner didn't wind up in the campfire.

"Know When to Fold 'em" may have been my favorite stage not to shoot. It was fun to watch. You're having a few drinks - pop of course - and playing cards. Drink in your strong hand and cards in your weak hand - elbows on the table - and there you go. A neighborhood gang shows up - stirs up some trouble and leaves with your money. So, you fold them cards and go after 'em.

The other members of SO Squad 18 - who shot it on Friday and SOed the match on Saturday - were: Mark Holder (who was back in action after being laid low with a shoulder ailment for months), Rob Hodges, Gene Defibaugh, Jared Perdue and John Wallace. A fine bunch of fellows who may have lost a collective 3,000 pounds in sweat - wish I'd had a neck fan for all of 'em.

From the sidelines, I realized that any match without a DQ is a good match for a shooter. Squad 18 then, had a good match. **TJ**

GETTING YOUR ARTICLE IN THE TACTICAL JOURNAL

What you need to do to ensure your article makes it into the TJ.

WORDS ROBERT RAY

PARTS OF THIS ARTICLE MAY SEEM FAMILIAR AS I HAVE RUN A PORTION OF THIS BEFORE BUT IT BEARS REPEATING.

Following the basics of this article will greatly increase your chance of being in the Tactical Journal.

You have put together a successful sanctioned match. You have taken care of all the details, large and small, that contribute to making a great match including fun and challenging stages, polite and fair SO's, a great tasting lunch, a nice prize table and awards that everyone loved. The only problem, hardly anyone outside your local area knows about the match. Sure, it was up on the IDPA website and your club website but it is a new match and word of mouth has not gotten around yet on the good job you do. How do you help get the word out faster? Get your match featured in the Tactical Journal.

How do you go about it? Well, it is easier than you think. You write a little something, take some photos, and send it to headquarters. I try to write about some of the matches I attend, but I can't get to every match in the country so the job is going to fall on you. We use a lot of member generated material in the TJ so I want to cover a few things that will help you provide the best coverage of your match possible and entice members to attend your match.

First Things First

Ok, the basics, I need the author's name. Some of you might smirk at this but when the email comes from someone1243@gmail.com, I don't know who this is. So, put this right at the top. Please include your IDPA number as well. Right under that, put the author's bio. This is just a short bit about who wrote the article. "Hi, I live in Albany with two cats and an alpaca. I like soup and kicking jellyfish on the beach. I have been shooting IDPA (badly) for two years." Nothing too long or I will chop it

down, well...if it is not amusing anyway.

Next I need to know who shot the photos if you have included them. We need to credit that person. Right under the photos I need the title of your piece. You don't have to put this in but you know what you are writing about better than me. If left to me, I might just say "2017 Arkansas State Match" but you may know that it is also known as the "Hillbilly Hoe Down" or something else.

The last thing I need is what we call the Deck. The deck is old newspaper lingo for the short article summary that accompanies a headline. It could be a phrase, a sentence or even two if they're very short. So, before you even begin writing, the top of your page should look like this

WORDS: John Doe, future Pulitzer winner
BIO: I spend my days writing prose that makes angles cry and demons turn to good deeds. I live with my cat.
PHOTO: An agitated meth head
TITLE: Getting in the TJ
DECK: All you need to know but didn't know to ask.

Ok, on to the writing.

Writing about the match

This is something you, as the Match Director, can do or ask someone to do for you. It can be most anyone that attended the match. The task does not have to be daunting, but there are a few things to keep in mind.

One of big things is word count. On average, we are looking for an article that runs around 600 or 1,200 words (one or two pages). You don't have to hit this right on the nose, a little over or under is ok but we prefer it to be in this ballpark. However, over is better than under as we can always pare it down if we need to. We can't easily add content.

Tell me and the readers a story. Don't tell me that the food was good. Unless

there is a really good story about the food, we will all assume it was edible. No one makes a decision to attend a match based on the food, except maybe me.

Likewise, unless there is a good story regarding a specific SO, like a guy that had open heart surgery the day before the match then crawled across a field of broken glass to be a SO, we will assume that you think the SOs did a great job. I have never had a MD write me telling me his SOs did a horrible job. Well, there was this one time but that story is too long for here.

Another huge mistake often made is how you write about the stages. This is important as you want to give a glimpse into your stage designs. You can tell me what they are like and how challenging and fun they are, but no one wants to hear "on stage one you shot 6 rounds, on stage two you shot 12 rounds, stage three you shot 15 rounds etc." This will bore a reader to tears. Again, tell me a story. Did you have a stage or two that were really interesting? Did you have a cool new prop or target actuator? Did you design a stage that was substantially different from what is normally seen? Did you have a guy recreate the local cityscape out of toothpicks for a stage? There is usually a story in there somewhere, you just have to let the reader know about it.

You also want to talk about if you had a title or major match sponsor. We really don't have the space to run a list of all your sponsors (you should be thanking them though), but you do want to give a shout out to your key sponsor. More on this in the photo section.

And last, tell the reader about any other interesting facts that happened or maybe a human interest story. Did you have an epic battle between two women for top lady or between two juniors? Did you have a competitor or staff person that just battled back from near death or a debilitating illness and still wanted to compete or help? Was your match benefiting a charity or lo-



One last item on the photos. Please do not embed your photos in the text of your article. This decreases the resolution and makes life tougher for us when laying out the magazine.

cal person in need? We want to hear about it if this was your 15th anniversary for hosting the state championship or if your range is 100 years old. All of these things help tell a good story.

A standard that should not be missed is to make sure that you recognize the Division winners as well as any specialty sub-categories. Be sure that you get this info listed in your article.

There are a number of different, interesting stories in each match. It is just a matter of taking a little time to think about them and get them down. The key is to get the reader to remember your match article in a positive way. It does not have to be all about the shooting. When that member is thinking about their next year match schedule, you want them to think “hey, those guys sounded like they had a great time and maybe we should check them out.”

Photos of the match

We have talked about the writing, now

let’s talk about photos. Humans are very visual creatures and make a lot of decisions based on what we can see. This makes match photos critically important. Good match photos can make up a lot if you happen to be lacking in content. While bad match photos will not kill interest in your match, they certainly are not going to help.

Focus, not on what I am saying (though that is important), but focus your camera. I can’t tell you how many out of focus photos we get. We are not going to use out of focus photos in the TJ and if that is all you send us, we are not going to run your article either. I don’t mean that to sound harsh but blurry photos just look bad for everyone. At least most everyone, I’ve been told that blurry photos make me look handsome. Also you need to remember to shoot high resolution pics. They need to be at least 300dpi and at least 4 inches. We can scale them down if they are bigger but expanding them presents problems. If 300 dpi is beyond your understanding then look at the file size for the photo. If you

right click on the photo and select properties it will tell you the size. If it is not at least 1,000kb or better, it is not going to be a good pic for print.

Keep in mind that we want to see our friend’s faces. This is not a 70’s porno so keep the “back of the head” shots to a minimum, like none if possible. If possible, get pics from down range looking back at the shooter. DO NOT go down range and stand there while the stage is run. That is a great way to get perforated. More and more cameras have a wireless shutter releases for remote pics. This provides a great perspective on the stage. This also allows us to see the odd faces people make while shooting, which is always entertaining. As an alternative, you could use a high end game camera. The nicer ones will shoot hi-res pics and look good.

If you do not have a wireless shutter setup for your camera, try to get over to the side and get profile shots. You will need to work with your SO’s to ensure that your photographer stands in a safe place,

WRITING A MATCH REVIEW

but in most stages there will be at least a couple of positions that you can safely get side shots of the shooter in action.

Remember to take candid shots of the shooters. Pics of people smiling, laughing and having a good time are tons better than stone faced shots of competitors as they concentrate on the stage. Remember, you want to convey that people that attend your match are having a great time.

Also, remember to get photos of the awards ceremony. We have the Trophy Room section in the TJ so if you do nothing else you can get pics of your competitors in there. If your match has a main sponsor, be sure to use their banner as a backdrop. More and more sponsors are asking me about doing this and by taking this extra step, it increases the possibility that they return as a sponsor next year. If possible, get shots where we can see the placement on the trophy so we can identify the competitor or better yet send us a list of the winners identified with your photos. You know them better than we do so it is better if you send the list. You can just rename the pics, like JohnDoeCDP1stSS.jpg

and make all our lives easier.

You may have some captions for your photos and that is great. We call them cutlines and you adding them saves me the hassle of coming up with them. Do not dust off your PhotoShop skills and put them on the actual photo. We will take care of that part. Put them at the end of the article. They should look something like this


Cutline - "PhotoFileName" - John Doe tripping on Stage 3, not sure how he made 1stSS.

Remember, photo captions need to be very short or once again I will bring out the chopping axe.

One last item on the photos. Please do not embed your photos in the text of your article. This decreases the resolution and makes life tougher for us when laying out the magazine. I know that you might have certain photos that you want in certain places in the article, but we also have to deal with the ad layout for the magazine and this affects where they go on the layout. If you have a photo that really needs to go in a specific spot do this [pic JohnDoeCDP1stSS.jpg here] and we will

know you would prefer it in that location.

This covers all the major bases in a match article. I cannot guarantee that a well-executed match article will fill your match but it should help get the word out faster and increase attendance. Once you get all this together, contact me at HQ and we will see what the best way is to get your info to me. Most of the time you can send it to tacticaljournal@idpa.com. If you have a ton of photos, we will use a file transfer service (I use DropBox) and I will send you the link to download the files.

I hope this helps you with the planning of your match this year. This can be just as important as trophies or targets so give it a little thought as well. I look forward to reading your match coverage and getting it in an issue of the Tactical Journal. 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Robert Ray, A05118

A hunter since childhood, I became active in IDPA in early 1998. I went to work for IDPA in 2005. I reside in Arkansas with my wife and two kids. And yes, I enjoy walking on the beach and kicking jellyfish.

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NEW YEAR, NEW YOU

Starting off the new shooting season with a bang.

WORDS ROWDY BRICCO PHOTOS IDPA STAFF



Spending a little on spare parts or replacement springs can make the difference in an enjoyable match and a frustrating one.

WHETHER YOU SHOOT IN IDPA MATCHES FOR FUN, TO SHOOT YOUR CCW GUN, LOVE THE COMPETITION OR THE FACT

that it is just more challenging than the square range, you probably would like to be better at it than you are currently. Historically the New Year is a popular time to reflect on where you were in the previous year and to make plans for improvement in the coming year. Let's apply the same attitudes and ideas to shooting IDPA in the coming year, no matter your reason for doing so.

First let's start off with you, the shooter. As you prepare for the New Year and your increase in shooting ability, first look at yourself and what you might need to do in that area. Do a systems check and see what is in shape and what needs work.

EYES: Do you need new contacts or glasses? Are things blurry enough you should see a vision specialist? Planning on eye surgery but didn't want to have it affect your season?

EARS: Can you still hear things ok? Is your hearing damaged or affected in such a way

you should consider changing how you protect your hearing?

STRENGTH: It only helps to be a little stronger than you are now when it comes to being a stable, secure platform for your pistol and the shooting of it. Don't forget the other side of this coin either, flexibility. Most IDPA stages start with you still and then require some abrupt and quick movement in a short time frame with no warm up.

Gear (the favorite way for many to find improvement). Before you go and spend a bunch of money on new gear, continue the trend we started with looking at yourself physically. Look at your gear and review its performance the previous year. And I define gear as everything you touch that applies to a match and your performance. Gun, gun parts, holster, ammunition, vest, hat, glasses, sunscreen, reloading press and all the rest of it are gear for this purpose.

Without much effort, you can probably remember a time, or times, something let you down in the previous year. Now is the time to do what you can to change it. Replace worn parts; get something more

appropriate if you've been "making do." IDPA doesn't have to be expensive but spending a little money to make sure the items you use work perfectly, add to your performance rather than detract from it. It is worth it!

But what if everything you have works perfectly? Then get spares, refresh springs and continue the course by being prepared. For some the saying, "One is none. Two is one and three is better" is the dictum to follow when it comes to gun parts, gear and shooting equipment.

The last thing to review before moving forward to what you are going to do in the New Year is your match performance. With the popularity of electronic scoring and access to it on the internet there is almost no limit to the way you can crunch the data. To avoid paralysis by analysis, I'd like to give you a few ways to look at your year's match performance from simple to a little more complex. Remember that improvement has to be measured over time, so look at data for a year if possible rather than just the last month. You will want to know these num-

racy seems to be perfectly balanced.

Let us do another example with numbers not so clean. At match DDB my raw time was 121.30. I had 66 points down and 1 hit on a non-threat. This would be a total score of 159.30 and the part of my score from error would be my points down and my non-threat for a value of 38. What percent of 159.30 is 38? We do the math of $38/159.30$ and we get 0.238 or basically rounded to 24%.

Twenty four percent falls in the realm of me having probably shot the match a little too ragged, having more points down than I should. Now review some of your matches from the previous year and you'll quickly see in numbers if you are a person whose score comes from too many points down. Accuracy first.

So now you've checked out yourself and seen if you need to do anything physically to improve. You've checked out your gear and changed anything that's holding you back. You've reviewed many of your matches to get an idea of your average performance and how you came by those scores. Now let's stop looking at the past and towards your future, your goals.

Making goals is smart and every goal is s.m.a.r.t. simply, every goal you make for shooting and improving in IDPA is one that is specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and has a time component. I can't make your goals for you but I can help you make better goals.

SPECIFIC: A goal for the coming year that is "I'm gonna shoot better," is not specific. A goal of "I'm going to shoot my local matches in a way where I never have a non-threat or procedural," is certainly more specific. A goal of "I'm going to win SSP division at my state's IDPA match in June," is also a specific goal.

MEASURABLE: Can you measure if you shot a match with no procedurals? You bet. Can you measure if you won your division or not? Yes. Say your goal is "I'm going to finish the year on average two places higher than I did in 2016," you're definitely specific and measurable in your goal.

ACHIEVABLE REALISTIC: "I'm going to win the SSP division at the 2017 IDPA Nationals," when you're a Sharpshooter is not a realistic goal. "I'm going to dry fire for 1 hour a day, every day for 30 days," is tough but achievable. Make your goal one you can accomplish, even if the work is hard.

Time: The final piece that ties your goal all together is time. Set a deadline for your goal, this gives you some motivation and accountability and of course keeps all the previous criteria in mind as well as you

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decide on its time component. Remember improvement is the effort you put in over time. You need time.

Happy 2017! You've checked yourself out, you've fixed your gear, you've reviewed your past performances and you have some good guidelines in making your goals. It's now on you to use all this information to make the plans and actions to meet your goals. I can tell you how to get started but I can't tell you what to do from there. If this is difficult for you, then seek out competent instruction. Once you've done all the above and as 2017 progresses, I want you remember two important things; growth does

not happen without change and as you are making these changes focus on your actions, not on the outcomes. Welcome to 2017 and the new you, I hope to see you out on the range. **TJ**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Rowdy Bricco, A54426

Rowdy grew up in the rural Pacific Northwest but recently moved to Arkansas. He has a degree in Nuclear Medicine. He is a proud grandfather and when not shooting, likes riding motorcycles and mountain bikes, world travel and his cat. A member of IDPA since 2012, he is a multiple time Division Champion in SSP and shoot a CZ for Automatic Accuracy."

MATT SIMS

Walking Tall

WORDS + PHOTOS
WALT KLOEPEL

AT 6 FEET 2 INCHES AND 240 POUNDS, MATT SIMS IS HARD TO MISS AS HE'S ABOUT TO EXECUTE A COURSE OF

fire during a match. His concentration is evident, as he draws his Nighthawk 1911 in a silky, smooth transition - the same 1911 he carries during his day job. Sims a four gun master - is also an investigator for the Cherokee County Sheriff Department in Centre, Alabama. You would not want to be on the wrong side of the law with him.

Matt grew up with firearms. Not as many as most of us have nowadays, but times were different then so you had the necessities for a little hunting and a little target practice.

"Dad had a shotgun, a .22 rifle and a .22 pistol," said Matt. His father would take them out for "plinking" sessions. When he was around 8-years-old, Matt had his first chance to shoot a pistol.

"Dad had a High Standard Double Nine. I used to love shooting it. Dad would stop by the local hardware store and buy a couple boxes of .22s and we'd go to the woods for a day of shooting."

As he got older, he got his own .22 rifle. "I loved the woods and I loved to shoot. The two really blended well," said Matt. His passion for guns and shooting grew as he did.

After high school, he pursued a degree in computer science and then went to work as an IT specialist. His IT work eventually took him to the law enforcement side as computers came onboard within several local police agencies. Matt worked with the agencies for about two years writing code and devel-

oping software for them. It was during this time that he learned all the facets of police work and became interested. The local sheriff kept asking Matt to come work for the department, but the money was good in the IT field. He finally agreed to come on as a reserve officer. He eventually retired from the IT field and went full time with the sheriff department's narcotics team.

First Competition

One of his law enforcement friends asked him to come to the local range to try his hand at some competition shooting the officers were doing. The range was actually running metallic silhouette competitions but at the end of day, they would take six steel pigs and set them up in a row like a plate rack. The shooter would start in the surrender position and the guy running the range would use a whistle and a stop watch to record the times. After watching the other officers shoot, Matt stepped up to the box with his well-used Colt Gold Cup 1911. When the whistle blew, he drew from his leather Askins Avenger holster and raked down all the pigs in quick time ... in fact, the quickest time of all.

"I had no idea what I was getting into. It was the first pistol competition that I ever shot in and I won. That kind of gave me the fever right there," said Matt.

From that point Matt went on to shoot at local ranges in various venues such as steel challenge, practical pistol and IPSC. But he lost some interest for a couple years as he didn't feel it was all that practical in



It is hard to miss Matt, on the range or the street.

discipline. Then in the late '90s, the Sand Mountain Shooters Club in Boaz, Alabama, became sanctioned for IDPA. Matt decided to give it a try.

"I really liked how practical it was. I liked that you could use guns that you actually carried."

Matt quickly accelerated within the IDPA ranks, classifying as Expert in most divisions right out of the gate. He was recognized by IDPA as the first four gun Master in the state of Alabama. He has won numerous state and regional championships from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Michigan.

IDPA Practicability

"I shot in the nationals in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Masad Ayoob was in our squad. Because Masad shot revolver, some of the other revolver shooters jumped in our squad. I was shooting CDP but had a ball watching these guys shoot their revolvers. The thing I enjoyed the most was the fact that these guys were shooting well-worn blue steel revolvers," said Matt. "Guns like the Model 13. They were shooting the Nationals with guns they carried every day. To me, that was the embodiment of the sport of IDPA. People have asked me why I shoot CDP - because that's what I carry."

Real-life Training through IDPA?

While there is some controversy about whether the IDPA provides real-life training, and Matt believes it does.

“A lot of people want to say it’s a game, not training. Some of that is true. Until someone starts shooting back at you, it is a game,” Matt said. “However there are a lot of benefits to be realized. No. 1, being able to manipulate your weapon under the pressure of a time clock. Even though the pressure is self-imposed, it’s still real pressure. It always amazes me to watch a new shooter. He’ll shoot his course of fire during a match and if you watch his hands, as during a reload, you’ll see his hands tremble a bit. That’s the effects of adrenaline.”

Matt said competitive shooting has helped him on the job, as well.

“Working narcotics, you wind up sitting around - sometimes for hours - waiting for the green light to execute a search warrant. You can wind up letting a lot of pressure build up. Being able to deal with pressure frees your mind to take in and process other valuable information you need during a stressful situation without having to worry about, ‘Can I make this shot if I have to?’ or, ‘Can I reload my gun if I have to?’ All those things slowly become instinctive and reflexive the more you compete.

I remember reading in Jim Cirillo’s book, *Guns, Bullets and Gunfights*, that he felt more pressure in a major competition than in any of his gun fights.”

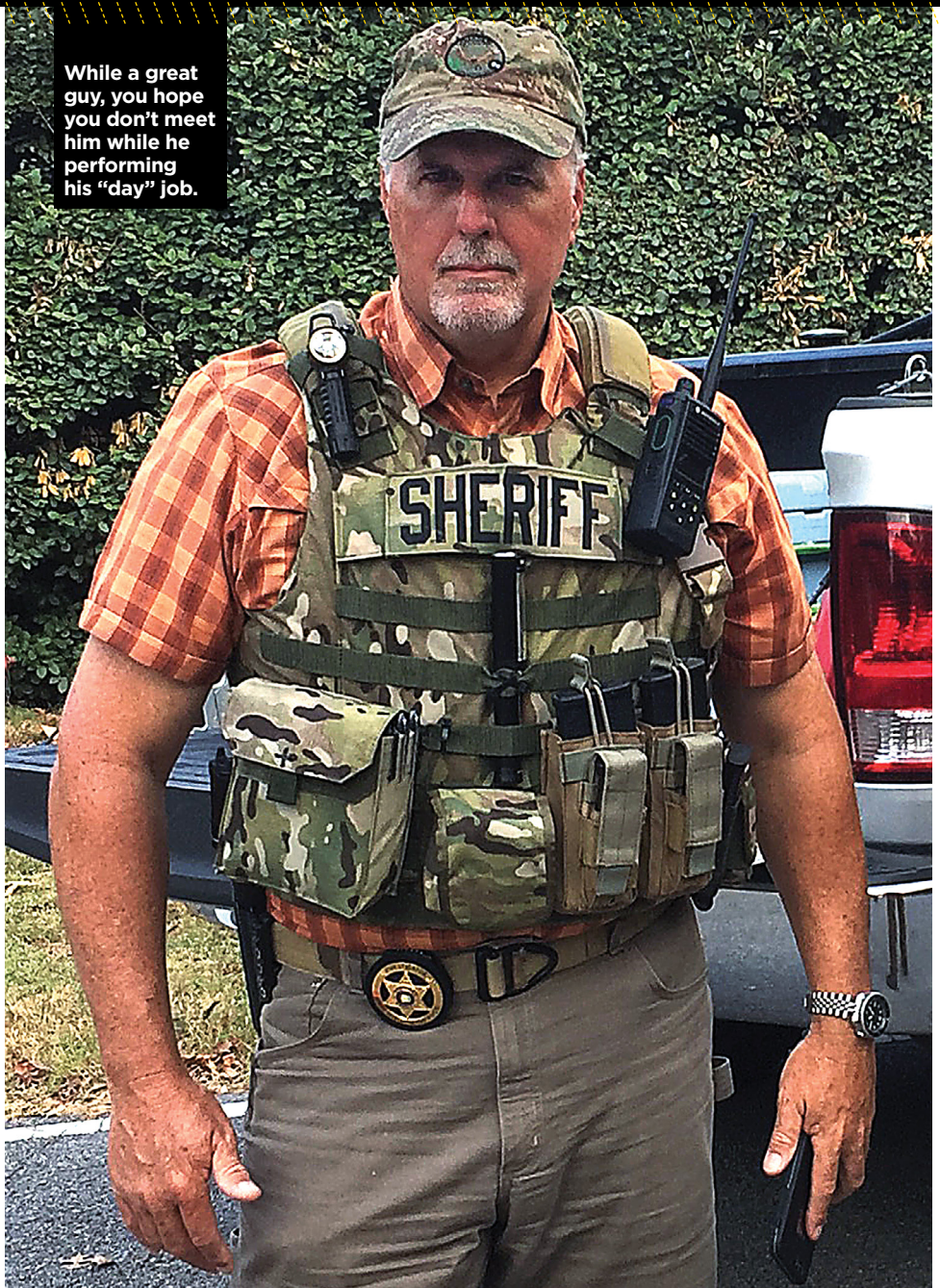
Alabama Defensive Pistol Academy

Matt is instrumental in the success of the Alabama Defensive Pistol Academy located in Gadsden, Alabama. Founded by Stan Smith, the ADPA offers firearms training and instruction to private individuals, law enforcement and members of the legal community. They offer private instruction for the new or advanced shooter, with classes designed for training in concealed carry, weapons manipulation, and home defense. Matt reflected on his involvement with the organization.

“[Founder] Stan Smith told me I had a gift to show people how to shoot. I was glad to get involved. We offered a variety of disciplines in firearm training. Sometimes we would bring in guest instructors. One of the first was Dave Sevigny. He taught a two-day IDPA class.

Stan Smith was a great guy but unfortunately died at a young age of cancer in 2009. I and the other instructors wanted to

While a great guy, you hope you don't meet him while he performing his "day" job.



Until someone starts shooting back at you, it is a game,” Matt said. “However there are a lot of benefits to be realized. No. 1, being able to manipulate your weapon under the pressure of a time clock. Even though the pressure is self-imposed, it’s still real pressure.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

keep the Academy going, and that's what we've done."

Rock'n in GDP

It's the class Matt seems to dominate in almost all the club matches he attends along with a good amount of 1st place wins in the major matches he shoots. He has pretty much swept Alabama's "Masters" tournament as CDP Division Champ over the years that the tournament has ran. He's the one to watch at local matches, but he takes that all the way to the Nationals, as well. Matt has placed in the top five in each of the 14 National Championships he's attended. He placed first in CDP at the S&W Indoor Nationals in 2009, the IDPA Inaugural World Shoot in 2011, and at the IDPA Nationals in 2013.

"I guess I've been shooting IDPA now for about 18 years," said Matt. "I pretty much shoot CDP most of the time. As I mentioned before, because it's what I carry. I started out shooting revolver in the early years because back then, that's what I carried. It was a Ruger Speed Six with a 4-inch barrel.

But CDP is what I consider my class. It's what I've done best in and what I really enjoy shooting. Nowadays, I shoot my Nighthawk. I can't say enough about the

Mat's has long reigned as CDP Champion at The Masters



company - they're a great sponsor, and a great gun maker. I appreciate the support they've given me."

At 54, Matt says he still has a lot of competition left in him, as well as the desire to continue training others. Besides the ADPA Academy, he is an NRA Certified Police Firearms Instructor and Certified FBI Firearms Instructor. He has been involved in training with law enforcement and civilians

in the art of concealed carry for many years. He has worked as an adjunct instructor with the Sig Academy, teaching tactical pistol techniques for the Department of Homeland Security.

He also strongly believes that everyone within the shooting sports community needs to do their best to get young people interested in shooting. "It's the only way for our tradition to live on. It's the future of our sport."


Matt has met fellow IDPA competitors from across the country over the years and he said those friends he's made are one of the best parts to competing.

"Some of the best friends I have ... I met on a shooting range."

Matt emphasized his passion for law enforcement.

"To me, it's my calling. Being able to help out to the betterment of our society makes it all worthwhile. And when a citizen appreciates what you do for them, well ... it doesn't get any more rewarding than that."

Matt lives with his wife, Rena, in Gadsden, Alabama. Married for 29 years, they have three daughters who, by the way, are pretty good shots themselves. Guess we know where they got that from.

If you see Matt at a match, be sure to say hello. You'll not meet a friendlier guy anywhere. 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Walt Kloeppel, A56663

Walt Kloeppel is an Army Veteran and retired as a writer/editor from the U.S. Army Recruiting Command in 2010 after 36 years combined Army/Civil Service time. A former metallic silhouette/bullseye shooter, he joined the IDPA ranks in 2013. He resides with his wife in Nashville, TN.



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WINNER'S CIRCLE

Congratulations to everyone that competed at the Masters, the Western and the Mississippi State. See you on the range later this year!



Keith Bishop
CCP MM 1st



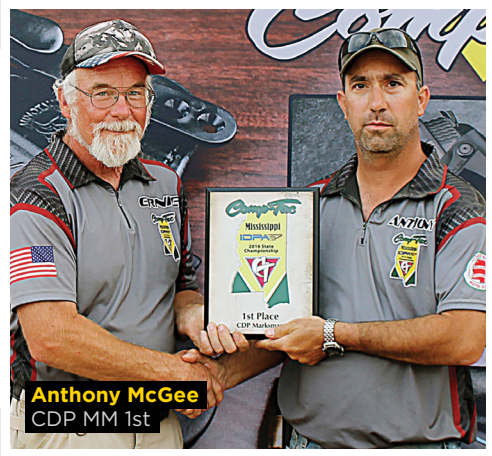
Nicky Carter
CCP SS 1st



Michael Lemmi
CCP SS 2nd



Weston Land
CDP EX 1st



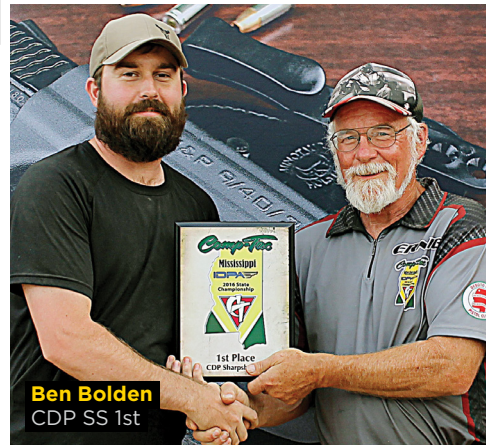
Anthony McGee
CDP MM 1st



Terry Sharp
CDP MM 2nd



Chris Schmied
CDP NV 1st

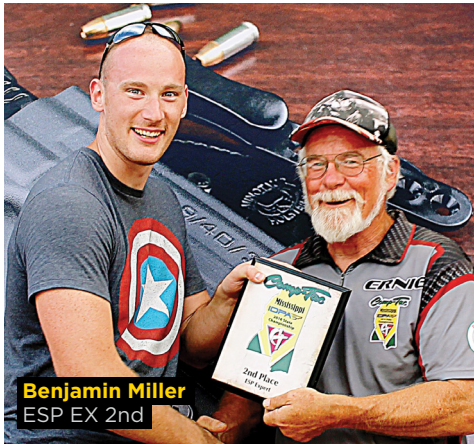


Ben Bolden
CDP SS 1st

TROPHY ROOM



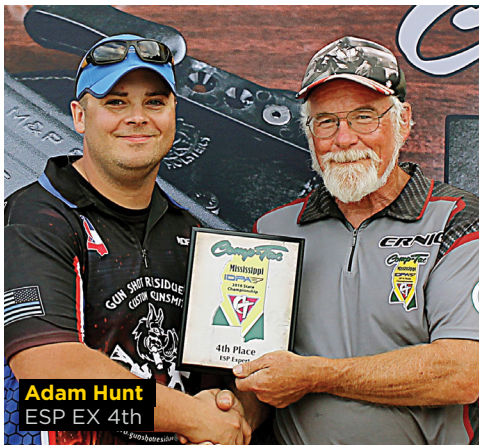
Hannesh Bagga
ESP Division Champion



Benjamin Miller
ESP EX 2nd



Mark Goede
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Gordon Taylor
ESP MM 4th



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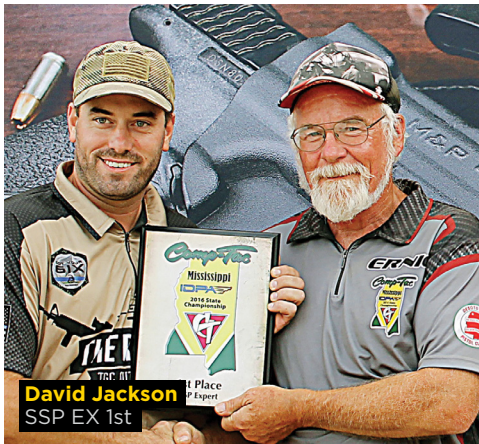
Fran McGee
ESP NV 1st



Michael Smith
ESP SS 1st



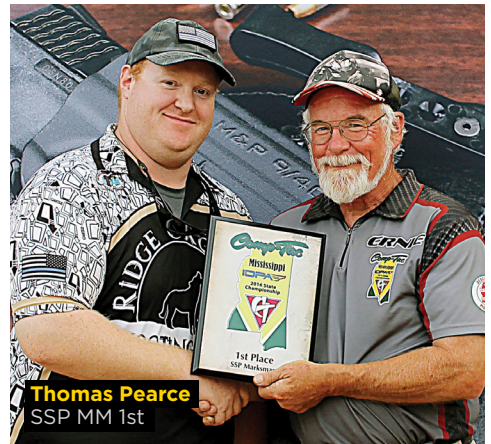
Gary Carr
ESP SS 5th



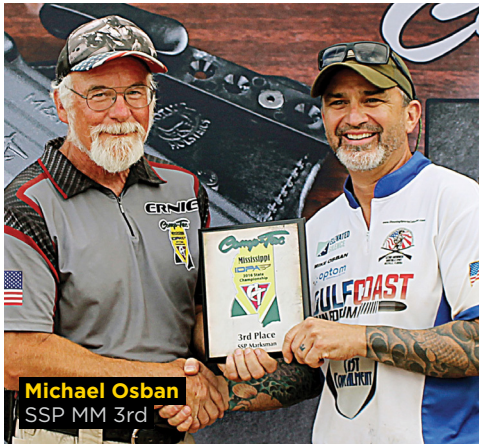
David Jackson
SSP EX 1st



Ernie Heath
SSP EX 2nd



Thomas Pearce
SSP MM 1st



Michael Osban
SSP MM 3rd



Jerry Iseli
SSP MM 4th



Margo Stevens
Jerry Iseli



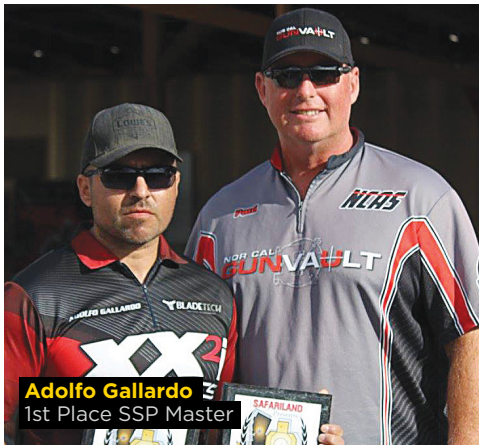
Jonah Moran
SSP NV 1st



John Brannon
SSP DC



Ken Park
CCP DC



Adolfo Gallardo
1st Place SSP Master



Chris Marneus
2nd Place CDP Expert



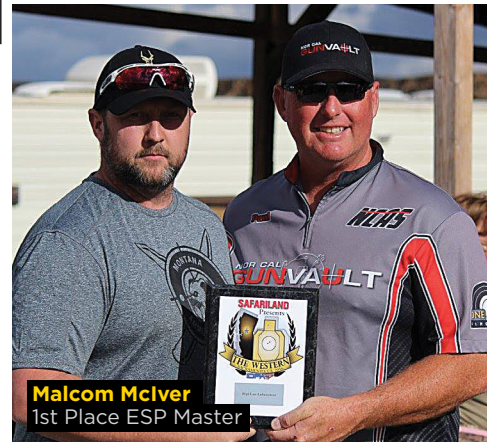
Dave Longcore
3rd Place SSP Marksman



Edward Scheffler
1st Place CCP Marksman



Eric Carillo
2nd Place CCP Marksman

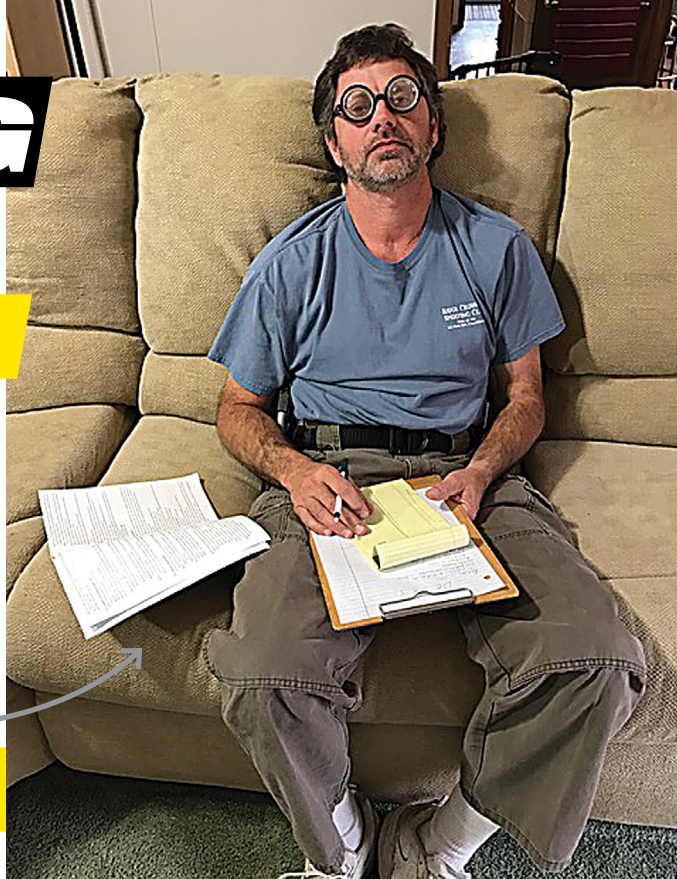


Malcom McIver
1st Place ESP Master

PARTING SHOT

PRESENTED BY
COMP-TAC

Comp-Tac Victory Gear is giving you the opportunity to take a parting shot—but be kind, we don't want to hit you with a Failure To Do Right. Submit your own original caption for the photo below by emailing it to partingshot@IDPA.com. We suggest you don't post your entry on Social Media to keep others from "stealing" your idea. Once your entry is received a super secret panel of judges (think of them as a Trilateral Commission or the Illuminati) will review the entries and select their top three. So bring the funny.



**READY TO
CAPTION THIS?**

HOW TO ENTER

Step #1:

Think of something funny to caption the photo above.

Step #2:

Email your (hopefully) funny caption to partingshot@idpa.com

Step #3:

Sit around waiting to find out if you won, all the while complaining about the whole process being unfair in not recognizing your obvious comedic genius.

Step #4:

Cross your fingers, hope we like your wry sense of humor best.



PARTING SHOT WINNERS FROM OUR LAST ISSUE

Winner

"I am so sorry. I did not mean to offend you. I'll go and get my semi-auto, and I'll be right back."

—Kory Hicks, A908886

Second Place

Uh oh! A revolver...who put a revolver in the box? I don't even know how to hold this thing!

—Don Stinson, A772331

Third Place

I'm not sure I like this... Is this what the old-timers call a wheel gun?

—Skip Bessell, A32496



SAFETY OFFICER APPLICATION

2017 IDPA US NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

September 26th – 30th, Cresson, TX

Safety Officer, please send this SO application in as soon as possible. This form must be returned by March 27th to be considered. SO selection will take place on week of April 14th.

PLEASE NOTE: You must completely fill out this form in order to shoot this match. Incomplete forms will not be considered.

By applying for entry into the IDPA US National Championship, I hereby irrevocably consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA), or anyone authorized by IDPA, of any and all photographs or video which IDPA has taken during the IDPA US National Championship and all associated functions of me, negative or positive, for any purpose whatsoever, without any compensation to me. All negatives and positives together with all prints shall constitute IDPA's property, solely and completely. And/or I hereby give my consent for IDPA to use any written quote I have given IDPA and/or my name and title in any and all of IDPA's advertising, magazines, catalog (whether printed or website) and etc. without any compensation to me.

MEMBER # _____ NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE # _____ E-MAIL _____

Are you a Certified SO? YES NO (Circle One) Years Of Chief SO Experience: _____

Year(s) Worked Championship: 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 (Circle all that apply)

Have Organized or SO'd State Level Matches: YES NO (Circle one) How many _____

Have Organized or SO'd Club Level Matches: YES NO (Circle one) How many _____

Division	Classification	Sub-categories (CIRCLE ONLY ONE)	
CDP _____	Distinguished Master _____	Senior (50 - 64)	Lady
ESP _____	Master _____	Dist. Senior (65 +)	International
SSP _____	Expert _____	Junior (12 - 18)	Law Enforcement
CCP _____	Sharpshooter _____	Military	Industry
REV _____	Marksman _____	Press	
BUG _____			

Will you compete on **Tuesday/Wednesday** or **all day Wednesday** (Circle one)

If you are selected as an SO or staff for this event you will be notified before the general entry open dates. If you are not selected to work this match you will need to complete a regular competitor entry form and send it in on the posted date.

GENERAL ITINERARY FOR SAFETY OFFICERS:

Tuesday September 26 Safety Officers Shoot half of Match
Wednesday September 27 Safety Officers Shoot remaining half of Match or shoot whole match
Thursday September 28 Work Match
Friday September 29 Work Match
Saturday September 30 Work Match & Awards Ceremony

MAIL ENTRIES TO: IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP, 2232 CR 719, Berryville, AR 72616 or email them to robert@idpa.com. You may also fax them to 870-545-3894.

UPCOMING MATCHES

Visit IDPA.com/compete to find a club match near you.

START DATE	EVENT NAME	HOST CLUB
Feb 23, 2017	2017 Smith & Wesson Indoor National Championship - Tier 5	S and W Defensive Pistol League
Mar 1, 2017	2017 Florida State IDPA Championship Sponsored by Glock - Tier 4	Tropical Sport Shooting Association
Mar 3, 2017	Battle On The Bayou - Presented by Lucas Oil Tier 2 Match	South Louisiana IDPA
Mar 25, 2017	Coastal Carolinas Challenge - Tier 2	Ant Hill IDPA Club
Mar 31, 2017	2017 USCCA Gulf Coast Regional Championship - Tier 4	Team Trainwreck
Mar 31, 2017	2017 Virginia Indoor Regional - Tier 2	Norfolk County Rifle Range
Apr 8, 2017	Razorback Shootout - Tier 3	Central AR Shooters Association (CASA)
Apr 9, 2017	Central California IDPA Regional - Tier 2	5 Dogs Action Shooters - IDPA
Apr 29, 2017	The Silver Dollar Championship - Tier 4	Double Tap Ranch Gun Club
May 11, 2017	Russian Cup 2017	National Shooting Association
May 13, 2017	2017 Missouri State Championship - Backstoppers Challenge - Tier 3	Arnold Rifle And Pistol Club
May 19, 2017	12th Annual Great Lakes Regional - Tier 3	Linwood - Bay Sportsman's Club
May 19, 2017	Arkansas State IDPA Championship - Tier 3	Mountain Valley Sportsman's Association (MVSA)
May 28, 2017	Comp-Tac's 2017 Texas State IDPA Championship - Tier 4	Collin County IDPA
Jun 17, 2017	2017 Wisconsin State Championship - Tier 3	Badger IDPA
Jul 15, 2017	2017 NC Mountaineer Classic State Match - Tier 2	Watauga Gun Club - IDPA
Jul 22, 2017	2017 Iowa State IDPA Championship - Tier 2	Ankeny Ikes Practical Shooters
Sep 28, 2017	2017 IDPA US National Championship - Tier 5	Cross Timbers Action Shooting Association
Oct 7, 2017	2017 Mississippi State IDPA Championship - Tier 4	Ridge Crossing Shooting Club
Oct 14, 2017	Lone Star IDPA Championship 2017 - Tier 4	Cross Timbers Action Shooting Association

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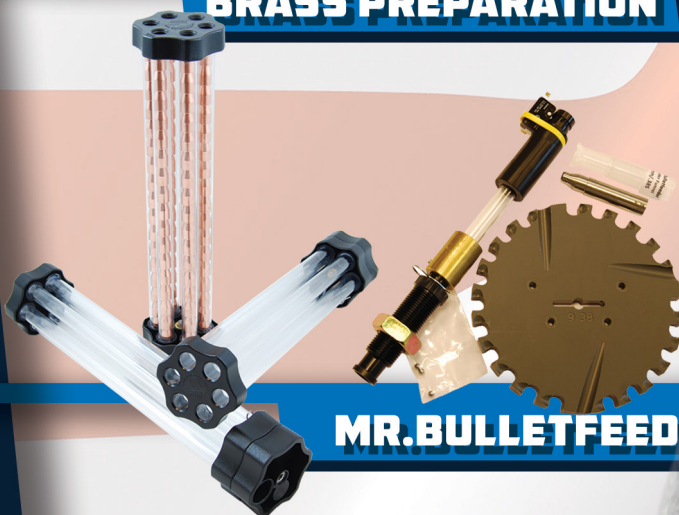
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Hunter, Ambassador & Mom
Captain of
Team Smith & Wesson

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