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# COMP-TAC

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ROBERT RAY



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## ONE MISTAKE THAT I SEE A LOT OF NEW MEMBERS AND GUN OWNERS

make is not buying quality gear, especially holsters. They spend a good deal of money on the gun extra mags and ammo put it in a \$19.99 nylon sock of a holster, usually hanging off of a skinny dress belt. This causes them all sorts of frustration and issues when they hit the range. There are a number of good holster manufacturers out there but one that I find myself going back to time and time again is Comp-Tac Victory Gear.


Comp-Tac makes and sells a quality product at an affordable price, period. There is really not

any more that I really have to say... but you know I am gonna. First, the people that run Comp-Tac are shooters. Not just any shooters but world champion, talented, professional shooters. So they know what it takes for a holster to allow them to compete at the top of the game. They design, build and test until they have a solid working product. They don't rest on their laurels though. They continually seek to improve what they have done and devise new products. There is truth to the second half of their name, Victory Gear.

I generally prefer to use their International holster for IDPA matches. It also does double duty as a carry holster. From the factory it comes standard in a straight drop belt attachment. However, Comp-Tac also includes an optional paddle and drop offset attachments. The holster has different pre-positioned mounting points for adjusting the cant and is also adjustable for either a 1.5 or 2 inch belt. The International is available in a left or right

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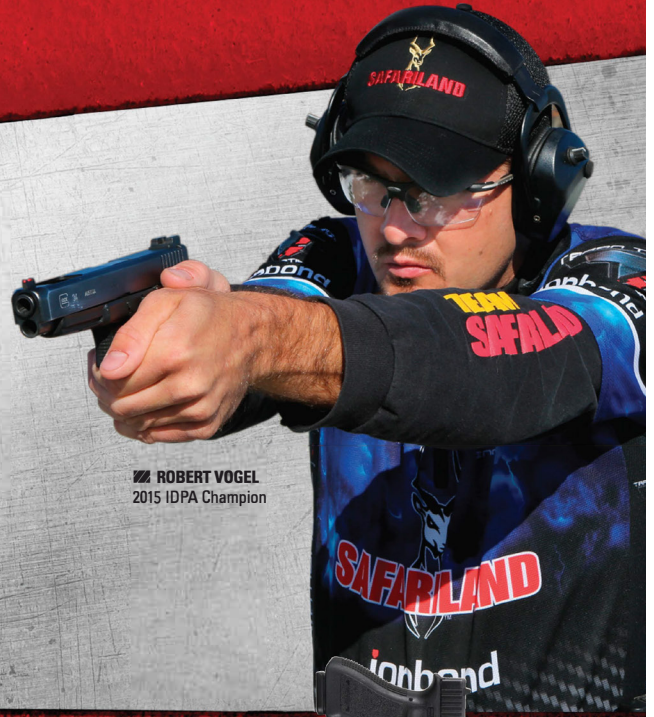
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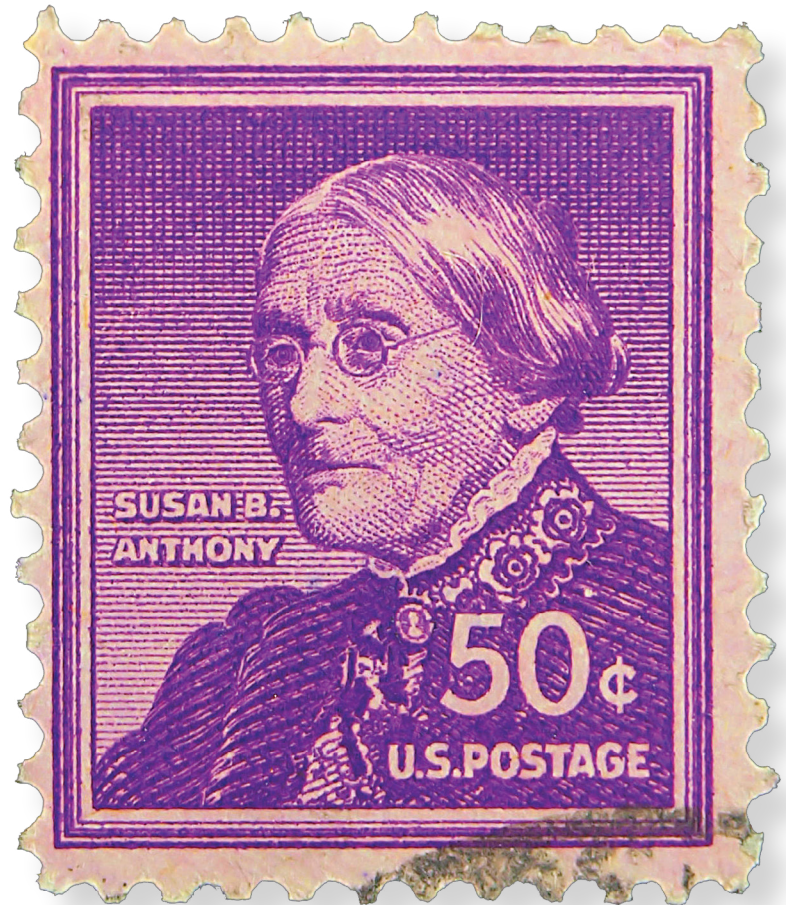
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# SPRING MUSINGS

## A Message from Joyce Wilson, IDPA Executive Director

**HAPPY 2018! YOU ARE PROBABLY READING THIS EDITION OF THE TACTICAL JOURNAL IN FEBRUARY, AND THAT IS** great timing to discuss the role of women - just in time for National Women's Month in a few weeks. This month includes a celebration of some famous and influential women in national and international history, including the birthdays of activist Rosa Parks; women's suffrage advocate Susan B. Anthony; and Jadwiga Pilsudska-Jaraczewska, one of the first female Spitfire pilots in World War II. What did these women have in common? They were pioneers in their chosen fields; they persevered to excel and achieve their goals;

and they were in organizations/roles that were more densely populated by men. The percentage of women in our sport is about 6%. With women making up the majority of new-gun buyers, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to attract and retain them not only in IDPA but in all shooting sports. Last month, a Tiger Team headed by Mandy Bachman focused on Women's Issues kicked off. This team will examine methods to attract women to the sport and how to share their insights with Area Coordinators, International Points of Contact and Match Directors all over the world. Our goal is to increase our female membership and provide a safe and en-

tertaining place for everyone to hone their skills. We will keep you posted as the team progresses.

It is never too early to start working on the IDPA National Championship, and that work began a few months ago in November. You are invited to join us at the Civilian Marksmanship Program Talladega Park on Sept. 11-16, 2018 in Talladega, AL, for the 2018 championship. MD Chad Barber and AMDs Nicky and Dede Carter and Sam Henderson will share with you some southern hospitality. *For more information on the venue, check out their website at <http://thecmp.org/competitions/talladega-marksmanship-park/>.*



I am very pleased with the stability of our rulebook since its introduction in early 2017. The end-of-year update was very small, which underscores the hard work of our rules team and also of our ACs and IPOCs as they work to assist clubs in their understanding of the rules. Our goal is no


You may have also noticed some preliminary work on a rule set for Carry Optics. We are introducing this as a provisional division at the request of our membership. We will closely monitor the degree of participation in this division and will more fully develop it if the need

***“As we begin our journey into spring, I encourage you to get out and shoot. Our sport boasts a record number of matches, both club level and sanctioned, and they are a perfect opportunity to practice your skills and have fun.”***

changes to the rule set for 3-5 years, and I think we are well on our way to achieving that objective. While questions still arise, the ACs and IPOCs have done an admirable job in addressing them and assisting the members in their areas.

Our Continuing Education Team has contributed to the rules education through the production of several educational videos. *Those videos are housed on <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-zjnJ4AcLEh1NH37Q0wgvQ>* Keep watching this site as more videos are added.

presents. If it really is popular enough to motivate MDs to embrace it, watch for updates on equipment and shooting rules surrounding CO.

As we begin our journey into spring, I encourage you to get out and shoot. Our sport boasts a record number of matches, both club level and sanctioned, and they are a perfect opportunity to practice your skills and have fun. And when you go, please take a non-member with you and introduce them to the exciting world of shooting sports! 



*Joyce L. Wilson*

**Joyce Wilson, #CL087**

Joyce Wilson is the Executive Director of IDPA. Members can contact her at [joyce@idpa.com](mailto:joyce@idpa.com)

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# LADY LAW

## A talk with our female LEOs in IDPA

WORDS KITTY RICHARDS, LM18564

THE 4TH QUARTER TACTICAL JOURNAL FEATURED AN ARTICLE BY SHAWN STALLARD, A DETROIT POLICE OFFICER, about his experiences as an IDPA shooter. This quarter, let's take a look at the relationship between IDPA and female Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs), from a woman's perspective.

Patrol Sergeant **KAT SILVIA** has been on the Dallas, TX police force for 13 years. She is also an SSP Marksman at the Collin County IDPA club in North Texas. What attracted this perky brunette to the world of law enforcement? "It was a calling. I've always felt drawn to police work. When I

was confirmed into the Catholic Church, I chose St. Michael the Archangel as my patron saint. When I wrote a paper in high school about saints, I chose St. Michael. When I was in college, I had the urge to work for the Sam Houston State University Police Department. When I was working with them, I was a dispatcher and worked night foot patrol (escorted students from academic buildings to their cars or dorms and reported suspicious activity). While working for them, I would do several ride outs with one of my best friends and she showed me that police work was right up my alley."

In 2012, Kat's husband, Sgt. Bill Silvia of the Dallas PD, took her to an IDPA match, and she says, "I have enjoyed it ever since!" Although this LEO shoots some USPSA, she shoots IDPA frequently and keeps coming back to this sport because, "It is fun! I enjoy meeting new people at the different matches. It gives me a chance to stay up to date on my shooting skills."

Her goal in the sport is to enhance her moving and shooting skills. She has a favorite product and some practice situations to work toward that goal. "I love my Sig Saur P320 X5! Shooting steel and moving and shooting are one of my favorite things to



**When involved in a shooting, please remember that when officers arrive, we do not know who is a good guy and who is a bad guy. We see a person with a gun. Please comply with our demands!**



**Corporal JESS CARTER's many roles in the department keeps her busy but still finds time to help run a gun range.**



Guntown, MS, sounds like a place that should produce a pretty amazing LEO, and it delivers! Ridge Crossing Shooting Club boasts SSP Master Jess Carter as its resident lady officer.

Currently, Carter works on a fugitive task force. This task force, she explains, "...is designed to apprehend violent felons. Once my time with the task force is complete I will return to our patrol division. I spent the first ten years of my career on patrol and that's where my heart lies. I have and still do many roles within our department: Field Training Officer, Accident Investigator, DUI Officer, & Firearms Instructor".

Jess's feelings about why she entered into law enforcement echo those of Sgt. Silvia. "I wanted to make a difference in my community, which is what you hear anytime you ask one of us this question. This isn't a job or just something you do to make a living. Being in law enforcement is a calling and I believe that God made it all happen. Another aspect of this job is the family that I've gained. It's one of those things you never really understand until you are actually a part of it."

Parents Nicky Carter, an IDPA Area Coordinator, and wife and range owner **DEDE CARTER**, got Jess shooting IDPA in 2005. "We have all continued to shoot and compete together as well as run our family owned range." She keeps coming back to shoot because, "IDPA is a great sport. I enjoy shooting and competing, but it's the friendships that I've gain because of IDPA that keep me coming back. I have great friends from all over the United States and a few abroad."

The Tupelo police department corporal has no hesitation when asked about her

do at a match. I'm not one that likes to be stationary to shoot. In my line of work, if you are stationary, you are a target. If you are moving, you are shooting; if you are not shooting, you are reloading; if you are not reloading, you are calling for help. **BUT NEVER STAY STATIONARY!**", she admonishes.

She is also adamant that many LEO's could be helped on the job by IDPA shooting. "Moving and shooting are skills that need to be refined by officers that do not practice". Sgt. Silvia feels that as a result of shooting our sport, she has enhanced some of her gun-handling skills including, "Drawing my weapon faster, reloading faster, and knowing that I can shoot fast and hit my target accurately if the situation calls for it."

When asked what she wishes other shooters knew about you or about de-

fensive shooting when you shoot with them, she recommends, "When involved in a shooting, please remember that when officers arrive, we do not know who is a good guy and who is a bad guy. We see a person with a gun. Please comply with our demands!" And when shooting with her? "When shooting with me at a club match or sanctioned match, bring me tacos and call me pretty!", she laughs.

FAWP asked Silvia how Match Directors (MDs) could attract more LEOs, female and male, to our sport. "To attract more female LEOs, offer a High Lady Law Enforcement award. We don't mind shooting against the men but having our own award makes us practice more! To get more LEOs overall, make more shoot house type scenarios, more scenarios that we would find ourselves in. Maybe even offer a discounted match fee for LEOs", she suggests.

**JACKIE RUSSO** believes that competition can be beneficial to her LEO brothers and sisters.



favorite product or drill that has helped her with her shooting. "It's a corny answer, but dry fire is the most beneficial way to practice and improve my skills. Plus, you can do it anytime and just about anywhere." It is also related to the skill learned in IDPA that helps her most on the job. "Practice, practice, practice. If you don't practice, you'll lose. You'll lose in a match, but most importantly you might lose in the street and that is NOT an option. Shooting monthly local matches are probably my favorite way to practice. Especially if it is a match that Nicky Carter has come up with. He definitely keeps all of us on our toes!"

Carter's goals are firmly etched in her mind. "I want to continue to shoot, compete, and improve my skills. But most importantly, I want to help more and more women to become involved in IDPA and to enjoy it just as much as I do."

How can MDs attract more LEOs to matches? Corporal Carter ponders this. "I don't know that it would ultimately be up to just Match Directors. I think anyone involved in IDPA could help attract more LEOs to the sport. If you know or are friends with a LEO tell them about IDPA. I know most of the time you'll get the, "I don't have time, or maybe later", response. But keep asking



Jackie burning down the "coaster" stage at the 2017 IDPA National Championship.

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## FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

and trying. Even make a friendly wager to see if they can out shoot you. LEOs love a challenge!”

IDPA Sharpshooter **JACKIE RUSSO**, from Federal Way, WA, shoots at the Paul Bunyan club in Puyallup. She has been participating in IDPA since 2015.

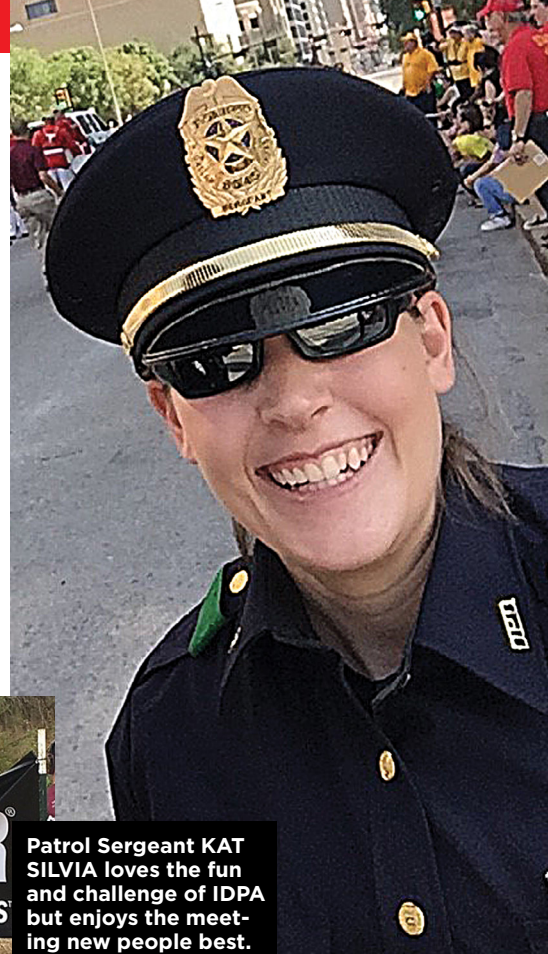
Russo spent 3 decades in policing with the Port of Seattle Police Department. “I was fortunate enough to work patrol (my favorite assignment), detectives and retired as a patrol sergeant leading a squad of six patrol officers. My special assignments included hostage negotiator and SWAT operator, one of the few women in our state at the time.”

Jackie was inspired to become an LEO in an unusual way. “Believe it or not - it was a book in the library titled “Patrol Procedures”. I read the book and became interested in policing, and coincidentally, at around the same time women were given the right to work patrol in police departments. Yes - there was a time where women were assigned to juvenile cases or detectives only and weren't allowed to serve in

patrol roles. Non-traditional work always interested me, so I pursued policing academically, and eventually vocationally.”

Husband Joey Russo, also an LEO, enticed Jackie to begin shooting IDPA. “He began competing and prodded me to join him a few years later, after I retired in 2013. He's the Department Range Master, Armorer and Master Instructor for the State, so his expertise is invaluable to my successes as a competitive pistol shooter. Also, it doesn't hurt that he's a certified armorer for Glocks, Sigs, 1911s, shotguns, and AR platform rifles. He really “sexys up” my pistols”, she laughs.

“I really missed the camaraderie of a squad”, she explains as she discusses what keeps her coming back to IDPA. “I spent a lot of years with police officers, and when



Patrol Sergeant **KAT SILVIA** loves the fun and challenge of IDPA but enjoys the meeting new people best.

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I retired I missed that aspect: the joking, sharing stage management strategy and good-natured chatter.”

She also likes the stage scenarios. “I like a good story to set the stage. In IDPA it means more than just shooting and moving. In policing you must account for every bullet, so being accurate and fast matters. Hitting no-shoots is not just ‘collateral damage’. I may not be the fastest, but hitting a ‘no-shoot’ is unacceptable for me.”

Russo says, “I wish I had known about IDPA when I was ‘on-the-job’. Currently, I use my skills to supplement my concealed carry preparation. My husband remarks that some cops carry their guns like they pull on their pants – not prepping for ‘The Event’. So, when I conceal-carry – I am in the mind-set for defensive pistol action.”

She feels that LEOs could benefit from shooting IDPA. “In my experience, most department qualifications and firearms training tend to be static and unimaginative. IDPA provides a unique training style environment. Use of cover, movement and target identification blends many aspects of police firearms training with competition. In my opinion there’s nothing like competition in replicating stressors. That wee bit of adrenalin rush at a match, could help one manage stress in a real world lethal encounter situation.”

The former patrol sergeant says her goal is, “Consistency in CCP. I would like to get a match bump to Expert, but need to be more committed to dry firing and practice than I currently do.”

A reflective pause follows the question of what she wishes other shooters know about her, followed by the comment that looks can be deceiving. “My pink ear pro has Hello Kitty decals; I’ve competed with a pink, Hello Kitty motif Sig P320, placing first in CCP MM with it; and my Glock 19 has engraved and red cerakote running corgi and paw prints. Yes, I know how to shoot and shoot well. I’m an active member of the local A Girl and a Gun in Puyallup. We discuss concealed carry options and situations, and of course, guns! I promote IDPA and competition, too. I share articles from the Tactical Journal and encourage members to try a match.”

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR


##### Kitty Richards, LM18564

Kitty Richards is an SOI in New York and resides in northwestern Pennsylvania. She has been shooting IDPA since 2002 and works many sanctioned matches each year. Members can contact her at [kitty@idpa.com](mailto:kitty@idpa.com).

Russo has several suggestions for Match Directors to attract LEOs to matches.

“Word of mouth tends to be the most reliable method of getting the word out. Like most disciplines, mentoring other shooters really helps. The term “competitive” shooting can be intimidating to many, so selling IDPA as something more is important. Match directors may want to offer a two for the price of one fee at times or have LEOs

shoot at the same rate as SOs. Recruitment for quality officers is always a challenge. IDPA matches maybe a new place for Departments to find them; Match Directors could provide the opportunity for local agencies to recruit at sponsored matches.”

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# WISCONSIN 2017 STATE IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP

**Rain or Shine, we were prepared.**

**WORDS** MIKE HERRO, A27815 **PHOTOS** MIKE HERRO AND ED SENDELE

**IGNORING LESS THAN FAVORABLE WEATHER FORECASTS, OVER 150 SHOOTERS TESTED THEIR SKILLS AT THE WISCONSIN IDPA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.**

The tier 3 match was held at Schultz's Resort Rod and Gun Club in Muskego, Wisconsin on June 17th. The early arrivers were met with much staff activity and gray threatening skies of the predicted rain-

storms. But by first shots, the skies were clear and sunshine was plentiful.

This match has grown considerably in both attendance and stages in the past 10 years. Evolving from 82 competitors shooting 8 stages in 2007 to over 150 competitors showcasing their shooting skills over 11 challenging stages this year with over 24,000 rounds fired. The legalization in

Wisconsin of Concealed Carry appears to have had a major impact in attendance and stage design for IDPA. This year's stages had competitors encountering threats: in an alley, outside their kitchen window, on horseback, while refueling their Harley, at the campground, awakened from their bed and even seated on "the throne". The match stages tested each shooter's accura-





A wide variety of fun and challenging states almost guarantees that competitors will return for next years match.



**THIS YEAR'S MATCH WAS "HOSTED" BY BADGER IDPA WITH INVOLVEMENT OF ALL IDPA CLUBS IN WISCONSIN.**



## MATCH REVIEW



Great planning and preparation ensured the WI State match went off without a hitch.



cy and speed on the trigger. It also required some “support hand only, strong hand only” strings that reminded a few of the competitors to practice those skills a bit more. The Wilson Combat shooting team provided an impressive demonstration of how to attack these challenging stages.

This year’s match was “hosted” by

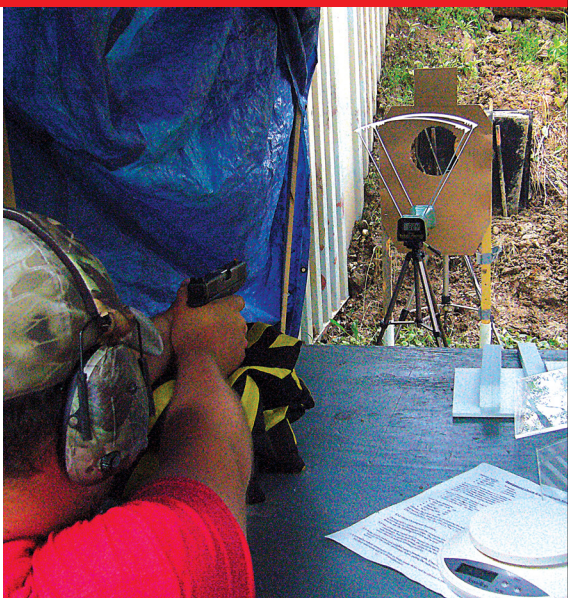
Badger IDPA with involvement of all IDPA clubs in Wisconsin. Rather than one club providing all the stages, equipment and manpower, each club submitted stages; set them up and staffed them. One of the other reasons for why this match has grown to record breaking levels is the “one for all and all for one” style match was spear-

headed by the Area Coordinator, Mike Herro. Under Match Director Ed Sendele’s leadership, each IDPA club; Badger IDPA, Ripon Defensive Pistol Shooters, Holmen Rod and Gun Club, Hollow Point Defensive Shooters, Door County Rod and Gun Club, and Robbie’s Club joined forces for a total state effort and put on a great match.

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Fortunately Mother Nature gave them a break and let the shooting portion of the match take place rain free. But when the last shot was fired, the rain would wait no longer. Starting as a light rain, it developed into a full rainstorm complete with lightning. Fortunately, competitors were under the tents, discussing the match and reaping the harvest of a great Prize Table.

Over \$6000 worth of donations were present for all attendees to take home. The Match Sponsors; Acme Bullets, Anderson Home Inspection, Montana Bullet, 5-0, Springfield Armory, the USCCA and Wilson Combat gave competitors a chance to take home a firearm or optic, boxes of bullets and every shooting accessory one may need.

.....  
**On the competitive end of the match, division winners were:**

- REV - Mike Herro**
- SSP - Josh Eernise**
- CDP - Austin Proulx**
- CCP - Greg Martin**
- BUG - Tom Ropers**
- ESP - John Devere**

.....  
Next year's match is slated for the same June weekend. The host range will be Ripon Rod and Gun Club. If the current trend in Wisconsin IDPA State Championship matches continues, the match will be fun, challenging and a great experience for even more participants. 

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Mike Herro, A27815**

Mike has been a member of IDPA since 2007 and he is the Area Coordinator for WI, ND, SD and MN. He also competes in the Cowboy shooting sports and is a very avid pheasant hunter.

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**WORDS**  
ROBERT RAY, A05118

**STUDIO  
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STEVE WOODS





The X-Five straight trigger is one of the best factory triggers in the industry.

**LET'S FACE IT, WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR THAT NEXT, NEW, GREAT THING. RARELY DO WE SETTLE FOR WHAT**

we have right in front of us. Most of the time what we find is not necessarily better, it's just new. That sometimes is enough, just having something new. It makes us happy. However, that happiness usually is a fleeting feeling. What we really want is something better. I think I have found that in the Sig

Sauer P320 X-Five.

The X-Five is a striker fired 9mm built to be competition ready right out of the box and includes many of the usual aftermarket upgrades that competitors like to perform on their guns. The X-Five is built on the P320 platform and still retains its modular abilities. Once the match is over, if you don't want to carry the full sized grip module, you can pull the fire control group and

barrel and put it into a compact module. Sure, you still have a 5 inch barrel but is still more compact overall. The X-Five's polymer grip module has the trigger guard slightly more undercut allowing for a higher grip. This helps reduce the felt recoil. Sig has also extended the beaver tail. This allows a very solid lock up when your hand grips the gun. The grip is nicely textured providing a positive grip surface without feeling like

The X-Five comes ready to make that jump to Carry Optics.



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That gaping maw of a mag well quickly gobbles up reloads. You will need to buy or modify the base pads though.



you grabbed a running belt sander. Also standard is the extended and ambidextrous slide release.

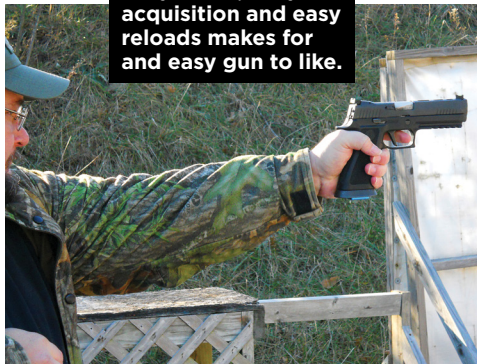
An additional feature, which is usually added aftermarket, is the removable magazine well. The mag well does fit the IDPA box but you would have to remove it to compete in SSP. This is easily accomplished as it is only attached by a single set screw. I have to say, I am very impressed with the ease of hitting that gaping maw of a mag well. Until the X-Five, I have never spent much time shooting a double stack gun with a mag well. I was quickly spoiled. It was

easier than dropping a pebble in a 5 gallon bucket.

The front sight is a Dawson Precision fiber optic and an adjustable rear. The rear notch is wide and the narrow front sight allows for quick sight acquisition but still retains the ability to make accurate distance shots. The rear sight plate is also easily removable allowing for the installation of the Sig Romeo1 optic if you are interested in competing in the new provisional IDPA Carry Optics division.

The one thing that really gave me an initial pause was the straight trigger. After

Easy recoil, easy site acquisition and easy reloads makes for and easy gun to like.



## **THE MAG WELL DOES FIT THE IDPA BOX BUT YOU WOULD HAVE TO REMOVE IT TO COMPETE IN SSP. THIS IS EASILY ACCOMPLISHED AS IT IS ONLY ATTACHED BY A SINGLE SET SCREW.**

years of shooting curved trigger guns, I was not really interested in a straight trigger gun. I mean really, triggers should resemble the women I like and have curves. However, much to my surprise, I really like the straight trigger. It took very little adjustment to get used too. My wife liked it too but suggested her curves had better be the only ones I really liked. As she said that while holding the Sig, and with a stern look in her eyes, I readily agreed that she was correct. The straight trigger is also a little more forgiving if you don't hit that "perfect" grip. The trigger feels much the same even if you're a little higher or lower on the trigger. The trigger has a little take up and breaks cleanly at the 90 degree mark giving it a nice straight back feel much like a good 1911 trigger. It is really one of the best "out of the box" triggers on the market. Another nice feature is that although the X-Five does not have a true double strike capability, the trigger does return to its forward most position after releasing the striker and allows you to press the trigger again and hear and feel a distinct "click". This trigger pull is slightly lighter than when releasing the striker. It does allow for better dry fire practice without the need for continuously racking the slide to reset the trigger.


During test fire and various matches I included a mix of ball and hollow points in varying bullet weights. The X-Five digested everything I threw at it and never missed a lick. The only feed issues that occurred was with some hand loads that had a few high primers. We also used this X-Five in the 2017 National Championship in a side match to raise funds for Learn To Shoot Again. The gun was well received by all the competi-

tors and continued to run with no issues for the whole match.

Overall, the gun is a champ. The gun feels great in the hand and recoil is barely noticeable during match conditions. The sight and trigger combo allows for super accurate and fast shooting when I did my part. If you have not ever shot a double stack gun with a mag well you are really missing out, reloads are like cheating they are so easy. If you are looking to jump into the high end of ESP without dropping a lot on aftermarket parts and gunsmith work, you really need to take a look at the X-Five.

There is only one down side that I have found. The X-Five ships with four magazines which would normally be a great thing. Unfortunately Sig was also aiming this gun

at USPSA, so the four mags are 21 rounder's. It's great if you shoot USPSA but the 21 rounders are too long to fit the IDPA box. This means you will have to pick up some 17's (or 10 depending on your state). To add a little more to that, the baseplates on the 17 and 10's will not lock up in the X-Five without a little sanding due to the mag well. This is really a small price to pay on what is otherwise an outstanding gun. Besides, don't we all need some 21 round mags laying around?

So step up your ESP game (or SSP) and go take a look at the Sig X-Five. The MSRP is \$1005 but the street price is going to be a little lower. Check your local gun store or find out more by going to [www.sigsauer.com](http://www.sigsauer.com). 



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# DAILY DRY FIRE CHALLENGE

## Your Secret Weapon for 2018

**WORDS** MICHAEL SEEKLANDER, A31187 **PHOTOS** ROBERT RAY

**OKAY, SO YOU ARE GOING TO HATE ME. OR MAYBE YOU WILL END UP LOVING ME...BUT EITHER WAY I AM GOING TO** challenge you to do something that will dramatically improve your shooting skill this year. So what's the catch? There isn't one! This concept is A. Free, B. Can be done almost anywhere C. Costs nothing and D. Is guaranteed to dramatically improve your overall shooting skill. So what is this secret weapon uncovered from a hidden scroll found high in the mountains written on silk from some previous master? It's dry fire!

Now, **DO NOT** even think about skipping to the next article....I know you are thinking it. But don't do it. How do I know you had that thought for a micro-second, because I get it. Dry fire doesn't sound exciting and cool right?? And it's certainly not as fun as live fire practice, but I promise you if you give this article a read and actually **DO WHAT I TELL YOU**, then you will see dramatic results.

So now that you are still reading, let's analyze what the sport of IDPA (or our evil sister sport USPSA) actually is in terms of shooting a stage. Once the buzzer goes off, what percentage of the time we spend on a stage is doing something we can improve with dry fire. If you do the math on a simple stage where you have to draw, shoot several targets twice, transition to several other targets, repeating and then maybe move to the other side of a wall or port and re-engage three more targets we can very quickly see that the large majority of the time on the stage is spent on: A. Drawing, B. Moving the gun, C. Reloading the gun, and D. Moving our bodies to the next shooting position and rebuilding our firing grip.

So the question is, can we improve those



PHOTO BY ERINN O'DONNELL

**SO THE QUESTION IS, CAN WE IMPROVE THOSE SKILLS WITHOUT EVER GOING TO THE RANGE AND FIRING A LIVE ROUND? OBVIOUSLY THE ANSWER IS YES.**

skills without ever going to the range and firing a live round? Obviously the answer is yes, so maybe the real question is how we set up a dry fire system that we will actually do, that is skill producing, fun and will fit

within our daily lives (no one has extra time). And that, my fellow shooters is exactly what I hope to give you. So let me tell you about the Daily Dry-fire Challenge aka the DDC. The DDC is something I decided to





**Dry fire can be most anywhere. Just make sure you are facing a safe direction. Your neighbors may appreciate it.**



do online via free live video (On Facebook here: facebook.com/shootingperformance) with anyone who would commit to do it with me. I decided to put my money where my mouth was and actually lead people through daily drills rather than just tell them to do them, but the principles of the DDC are what you need to pay attention to. Let's break them down:

**Principle One:** We have to commit to something. My DDC started with me committing to get up an hour earlier each day to prepare and lead shooters through a dry fire drill. This took commitment on my part. The shooters who get on each morning also had to commit. This is the first key. You MUST commit to something, right now. Don't wait. Commit now.

**Principle Two:** Steal the time. The dry-fire practice sessions must occur during a timeframe where nothing else can interfere with them. This for me, meant early a.m. way before anything else could get in the way. So, go ahead and find where you are going to steal the time that you committed to and get at it. If you want to join me in the a.m. you can find me live at 6:30 central time.

**Principle Three:** Focus on ONE thing (skill). This was important and I realized very quickly that focusing on more than one skill to work on was a bad idea. Think about it like this, if you had one thing on your to do list, you would jump all over it and get it done right? But if you had twenty things on your list you would never get started....see how that works?

**Principle Four:** Make it challenging and fun, and measure improvement along the way. The key to making dry-fire fun is to make it challenging. This requires the use of an electronic timer and PAR time (start and stop beep) goals to challenge yourself. The simple way to do this is to do three separate sets of your individual drill, 1. First set is no PAR time, just very deliberate repetitions of

the skill 2. The second set should be done at a challenging PAR time where you can still accomplish the drill technically correct, and 3. The third set is the money set, where you will start reducing the PAR time lower and lower and trying to beat the second beep. This is the set where you will push your pace and find your limitations. After you reach your maximum technical training speed time (MTTS), write that down so you can try to beat it in the next session.

So now you know about the key principles we have to start with to make our dry fire program work, now I want to give you the details to set your own sessions up. If you choose to jump on with me on the DDC, great! But if you would rather do your own daily dry-fire challenges, that's fine as well, just remember principle number One: Commit to something. Here are your key steps:

1. **Commit (no excuses and I suggest something like daily for 30 days, or weekdays for 8 weeks)**
2. **Find a timeframe to steal (early morning might be best)**
3. **Find a suitable dry-fire area (safe back-stop, etc.)**
4. **Break down the skills you wish to work on and prioritize them. Remember the 80/20 rule, which means 80% of the results are driven from 20% of the work. This means that you need to figure out what we do most and work on those skills first!**
5. **Pick a start date**
6. **Begin!**

Each session should be simple, and set a time limit of ten minutes to start and be done. ANYONE can commit to ten minutes! Even if you can't do ten, then to five minutes a day for 30 days. Your session will be simple and look like this:

**A. TWO MINUTES TO SET UP,** gear up, and remove all live ammunition

**B. FIRST WORKING SET:** Two minute set, no PAR time done by starting out

perfectly and increasing speed for each repetition. Try to go a little bit faster each repetition but don't go so fast you aren't paying attention to the key details.

**C. REST** for 30 seconds and get your PAR time set in your timer

**D. SECOND WORKING SET:** Two minute set repeating the skill you are practicing in a PAR time. The time is based on your skill but should be as fast as you can go and still do perfect repetitions. I call this the MTTs (Maximum Technical Training Speed)

**E. REST** for 30 seconds

**F. THIRD WORKING SET:** Two minute set starting at your MTTs, and then reducing the time by .05 or .10 every third correct repetition. This means if you hit three repetitions and the skill is done correctly, reduce the time on the timer. Keep reducing the time until you start to mess the technique up or you hit two minutes.

**G. CLEAN UP,** end session and go about your day (one minute)

**H. TOTAL TIME USED:** Ten minutes

**I. BONUS:** If you are having fun, keep pushing the time down!

And there you have it, your Daily Dry Fire challenge. Whether you decide to join me in the a.m. (I would love that) or do your own, either way you will dramatically increase your skill. Just make sure you pay attention to the details and practice proper technique during your drills, because remember drills build programs, and they can be good programs or bad. Make sure you do it right!

Until Then - Train Hard! **TJ** —Mike S.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**  
**Michael 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.

# WORKING WITH PCC SHOOTERS

*Or, How I learned to stop worrying and love the PCC.*

WORDS + PHOTOS

RICK LUND, A27521



**Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC)** was introduced to IDPA as a provisional Division in the 2017 Rules to allow for members and clubs to open up their events to the growing number of gun owners purchasing these firearms for home and personal defense. The division also props open the door for clubs and match directors to also include two gun stages in their matches.

The mere thought of introducing a rifle into IDPA stages has sent many members running to the medicine cabinet to calm their stomachs before they have even dared handle one of these firearms.

The fact is, these guns are fun to shoot for many of the same reasons that cause indigestion.

Rifles are easier to shoot than pistols. They have optics on them. They can have lasers and flashlights mounted on them. They can have up to 30 round magazines reducing reloads on the clock. Cover garments are optional by default.

While many clubs are wrestling with one or two shooters bringing these guns out to their matches, everyone hears this uncomfortable mumbling about this long gun with accessories at their pistol match.

This is even more painful when a shooter, previously a marksman, turn in the best

times of the day because they didn't have to reload. Ultimately we still only compete against those in our division so if you do really care about high over all, you can just disregard the PCC scores. See, nothing to get worked up about.

Sometimes it is great to try something new and fun. This can actually help you if you feel you have hit a plateau and can't seem to progress with your handgun. This is because in one fell swoop, so many of shooters personal frustrations with pistol evaporate by moving to PCC. And that my friend is called FUN.

So having gotten past the reason WHY and accepting these guns are here to stay, it

is time we discuss one of the other friction points that have MD's and SO's working matches mumbling.

## **Safety.**

In short, PCC guns need to be bagged with a chamber flag clearly visible in an empty chamber when you come to the range. There are several types of bags to choose from that range from simple to elegant. Pick one that works for you.

Although most competitors are not using them for competition, slings are also allowed provided that the muzzle is always in a vertical orientation. Up or down. Your range may have a preference. We don't.



Because of the quiet nature of PPC's it is crucial to get close for the timer to pick the competitors last shot.



## RUN A BETTER MATCH



Working with PCC's shooters does require a little change in SO strategy but not as much as you might think.

It is not OK to sling a rifle across your back so the muzzle angles sideways. Don't use the chamber flag excuse if you are singled out for flagging someone. Rule one, Rule two and all that.

If you elect to sling your rifle, keep it in front of you with positive control of your muzzle. Positive control is maintaining at least one hand to control your muzzle.

### When it is time to shoot.

When you are the on deck shooter, a best practice is to carry your bag to the on deck location and unzip it so you can pull your rifle out. Wait for the Safety officer to invite you up to the start position.

Pulling out your firearm uprange before you are under the control and supervision of a Safety officer is often times cause for concern so stay focused on your shooting plan and wait for a SO instruction to come forward. By doing this, the shooters that are downrange resetting will not become hysterical because you are prepping your rifle while they are downrange.

### Load and Make Ready

Rifle is removed from the bag; adjust your

stock if necessary and it is time to remove the chamber flag so the gun may be loaded.

Depending on the style of rifle you are using, the Safety Officer may assist by removing and holding the flag while you are shooting. Or you can place it in a pocket until you are done.

Your optic goes on and it is acceptable to look through the optic to insure your dot is at the correct intensity. In IDPA it is not ok to use this as an opportunity for a dry run on your stage. Verify the dot is visible, then insert your magazine and charge the gun.

### Assume the start position.

The default start position for PCC is low ready. This is your rifle is on your shoulder and your muzzle is oriented downward at a 45 degree angle or towards a mark designated by the MD as the start position.

The best practice is to include a mark for every shooter to use in order to avoid creative interpretations by shooters.

Another alternative that is widely used is requiring the stock of the gun to rest on the shooters belt near where a belt buckle is generally worn. In this start position the gun is horizontal and may be oriented at the

first target to engage when possible.

Uprange starts are not permitted for PCC so stages with alternate starts need to allow for this fact. Same is the case for table starts.

Vehicle scenarios. If a gun is in a glove box, or placed in a bag on the floor, the PCC is muzzle down on floor and the stock is against the seat with the safety on.

Each stage requires a simple comment for how the stage will safely start with PCC.

### Magazine capacity.

The maximum magazine capacity for PCC is 30 rounds. This has been the industry default magazine capacity for decades. There are a number of states with magazine restrictions and the MD publishes this fact when matches are announced. In these instances, the local law governs how their match runs. Other than that, a MD may not require 10 round magazines for PCC in states that permit higher capacity magazines.

It is permissible for a stage to require all competitors to start with a downloaded magazine for instance 6 rounds only in the gun. But these starts are not for every

# THE MERE THOUGHT OF INTRODUCING A RIFLE INTO IDPA STAGES HAS SENT MANY MEMBERS RUNNING TO THE MEDICINE CABINET TO CALM THEIR STOMACHS BEFORE THEY HAVE EVEN DARED HANDLE ONE OF THESE FIREARMS.

stage. The same holds true for empty starts. For instance empty gun on and all mags on the table.

In starts where a gun is placed in a box or a case of some sort, the PCC simply goes down next to the same location or on top.

## Timer issues.

PCC guns are often quiet due to the muzzle

distance away from a timer. Often it is necessary for the primary SO to bring the timer up to the ejection port of a shooter's gun in order to record the last shots fired. PCC shooters need to be prepared for this and know this is not SO interference. They are just trying to record your moment of greatness.

Bearing in mind the timer, running a

shooter through a stage with a PCC is not any different than running a pistol competitor until it is time to unload the shooter.

## IF you are finished, Unload and Show Clear.

Shooter drops the mag, clears the chamber and everyone gawks at the ejection port.

## IF Clear, Insert Flag and Muzzle Down.

One of the confusing issues for Safety Officers is what to do after the chamber is cleared. Pulling the trigger is redundant since immediately after, it is necessary to cock the gun and reopen the bolt to insert a chamber flag. Save yourself the grief and use the above commands. It is the same reason we don't require revolver shooters to pull the trigger on an empty and closed cylinder.

After flagging your gun, *get the muzzle down* so the SO can call the range Clear and everyone can run down to see your awesome results. If you have your bag nearby, it is NOT necessary for the SO to wait for you to repack your gun. Simply collect everything and move to the designated safe area after you have reviewed your score.

These best practices are based on the



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## RUN A BETTER MATCH

PCC is a new and fun dimension for your local club matches and is quickly becoming popular.



division has done has been to serve as a gateway for the growing body of shooters who participate in all of the shooting sports allowing PCC as a division. We are experiencing new crossover shooters who love shooting their new guns. PCC has challenged the firearms industry to meet the demand with the improvement of optics, accessories and magazine design.

The addition of PCC as a pick up gun or two gun match is also something which offers our sport new opportunities. It is our hope that the division continues to take hold at your local matches and one day you will pick up one of these guns at your local range and give it a try.

I am sure that eventually training classes will catch up and include the new division in their offerings.

I know I will.

Shoot straight and see you at the range. **TJ**

need to keep the time between shooters on schedule for the match. It is incumbent on both the shooter and safety officers to prepare for this need to keep things moving.

Remember your muzzle and keep moving.

PCC has been a surprise from its inception and a learning experience for everyone involved in several sports. One thing this

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

#### Rick Lund, A27521

Rick is the Florida Area Coordinator and assistant MD for the Nationals and World Championship from 2015 - 2017. He has been part of the development team for PCC along with the rules, continuing education and infrastructure support teams.

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# CHAD BARBER

## Above and Beyond...

WORDS WALT KLOEPEL, A56663

**CHAD BARBER, DOES IT RING A BELL? IF YOU KNOW HIM, IT DOES. BUT WITH 25,000 ACTIVE MEMBERS IN IDPA,** unfortunately, many don't. But you should, as Chad has been named the 2018 IDPA National Championship match director. You should also know and appreciate him for all he's done for country, IDPA and the shooting sports in general.

Chad served his country with 29 years of service with the U.S. Coast Guard as a Gunner's Mate (Weapons Specialist), being commissioned as a Chief Warrant Officer his last 9 years. He retired in 2017 as a CWO4 and the Senior Firearms Instructor with a total of 26 years of running the firing line. His duties ran from firearms instructor for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT., to Law Enforcement Officer/Weapons Division in the Bahamas. Yes, read that again - BAHAMAS.

"I know, rough duty but someone has to do it," said Chad, with a grin - or as his colleagues call him ... "Gunner."

His certifications include: USCG, NRA, FLETC (Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers) SIG Academy, Rangemaster, USA Shooting Coach (Rifle/Pistol/Highpower), as well as Multiple Factory Armorer certifications.

But let's back up a couple decades and see where this firearm instructor/competitor/enthusiast got his start.

"I still have vivid memories of duck hunting ... growing up in Michigan ... seeing my five-year-old reflection looking down into the marsh waters," reflect Chad. "The untold number of miles my Dad pushed me through flooded cornfields in a john boat before I was big enough for my own waders and my first shotgun filled my early lifetime."

Chad, like most of us, went through the normal progression of childhood toys to "BB" guns but it was that first shotgun that set the stage in the Great Lakes Region he lived in. "I remember busting through early morning layers of ice heading out to

the potholes. A single shot, of course, as marksmanship with the focus on a clean ethical harvest was a paramount lesson from Dad. Crippling ducks wasn't allowed - Dad's teaching paid off as in all my years - I only lost one."

Chad's Dad was an Army veteran and knew his son was interested in joining as well. But he also thought there was a better option for his son to serve his country. Being an avid fisherman, Chad's Dad would take Chad out on Lake Huron. Often they'd see the Coast Guard on patrol.

"He'd always hint that's the smart move

Chad runs a stage in revolver class.



PHOTO BY PAUL ERHARDT

for a job," said Chad. "At the young age of 14 I knew that was the plan."

Chad continued his skills for shooting and hunting. Small game and deer hunting kept him eager, and his aim true.

"My first .22lr that I bought from working my first job mowing lawns at the church,

Chad Barber about to give a stage brief at the Indoor Nationals.



was always next to the sliding back door to crack a shot just about any time of day," said Chad. "Those early experiences solidified my passion of shooting and working on firearms. I never dreamed it would end up as a lifetime career choice."

Chad finished boot camp between his junior and senior year of high school. From there, Chad didn't climb the ladder, he hurdled it. From 2008 thru 2015 he served as the Chief of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Weapon Section. The three-member section supported and trained the following competitive shooting programs: NCAA Varsity Rifle Team, Varsity Pistol Team, Combat Arms Team, Highpower Rifle Team, Bullseye Pistol Team and small arms training for Sandhurst qualifications.

"Along with coaching the shooting teams, my staff and I conducted the service weapon training (Basic and Practical) for the entire corps of Cadets and all USCG Officer accession programs on two indoor ranges at the Academy," said Chad. "Both ranges featured the MegaLink electronic target system, this is the same system in use at the Olympic Training Center and the CMP North air range (Camp Perry, OH)."

Chad's shooting achievements include Double Distinguished, Presidents Hundred, multiple IDPA "High Military" wins, but Chad says his most favored are the "Most Accurate" awards.

"For me, IDPA isn't about being the fastest as a law enforcement firearms or defensive firearms instructor," said Chad. "Dad's early marksmanship lessons still ring true. We are responsible for every shot we discharge. A good match for me meant no procedural for cover and certainly no hits on a non-threat. Finishing near the top of



the most accurate list was always the goal. If I got beat by one or two of the pros, it didn't crush me as I was already spent designing and building the stages of the match.

### **INTRO TO COMPETITION SHOOTING THROUGH IDPA**

"My first rounds down range under the timer for IDPA was at NCRR in the Tidewater Virginia area while stationed there in 2000. As a deployable Law Enforcement Instructor on a training team I often sought out local matches all over the country showing up with just a few boxes of factory ammo. I loved the type of people that IDPA attracted, they were always ready to support new or visiting shooters with holsters and firearms," said Chad.

From that point on, it didn't take Chad long to become fully involved with the "work side" of the IDPA house. He became a certified safety officer at the Palmetto Gun Club while stationed in South Carolina.

From there Chad and his wife, Angie, transferred to Connecticut in 2008 where Chad was introduced to sanctioned matches.

"While in New England, the preconceived land of horrible gun laws, I can tell you that competitive shooting is alive and well," said Chad. "I was overwhelmed with large sanctioned matches with the short drive times from state to state. The community quickly

brought me into the fold and gave me a shot. My second year there I was asked by Smith and Wesson to CSO the large public bay. Being naïve, I jumped in without any pressure and did what I was asked. Each year we observed and grew with success after success. I say "we" because for sure it wasn't a Chad show. The Weapons Branch staff from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy had some highly talented and dedicated members over the years that laid a trustworthy foundation of delivering challenging stages that not only displayed well during the event but shined in televised segments."

In 2013 Chad was asked again to be the CSO for S&W's marquee bay by then MD Robert Stonehill.

"I thought my reply of it's time to step aside would have shocked him but it was me who got the shock. I hadn't realized my impact to the match and the sport as a whole. He informed me that stepping aside wasn't an option as the level of design we brought has been spilling over, not just during the Indoor Nationals but the region and the sport as a whole. It was then I realized I was in the marquee bay and the importance of it. That next year I designed Mike's Blind. It's still my favorite stage. It was truly an honor and a blessing to design, build and run those stages. Anyone could find me on Friday evenings sitting in the booth alone with just a few of the stage lights on spending one last moment with my stages knowing the next day would be filled with the last few squads of competitors before it was rapidly torn down. I wasn't sad, I was just taking it all in and yes .... already planning the "House of Barber" for next year," said Chad. "This dedication lead to S&W's choice as MD for

PHOTO BY PAUL ERHARDT



**“I loved the type of people that IDPA attracted, they were always ready to support new or visiting shooters with holsters and firearms.”**

the 2016 Indoor Nationals, having been mentored and supported by Tom Yost and Mike Critser, they knew it would be smooth event.”

Chad not only had the backing from a lot of great “gun people,” on pulling off the neat stages, family pitched in as well.

“I’m blessed to have a wife that not only puts up with my passion but is at my side through it. She’s aided in many stage design concepts and supports the logistics from start to finish with several truck and trailer loads of supplies she’s resourced on the cheap. Premier Night was her idea, I made it work. The Hatfield’s wedding stage - we were planning our oldest daughter’s wedding at the same time. In a Moment of Time was an all hands-on deck event with the entire family turning Smith & Wesson’s range into a fine dining restaurant from center pieces to whiskey bottles with sponsor logo’s - no detail was too small.”

It was a somber farewell to Chad’s friends at Smith & Wesson, and the rest of the IDPA crew he had worked so hard with. But Uncle Sam needed him in Kings Bay, Georgia so in 2015, he and his wife transferred. But his support for IDPA wasn’t over yet, as wouldn’t you know there was a need for a new IDPA Area Coordinator to support Georgia and Alabama.

“I immediately supported the area and the IDPA booths during the 2016 USCCA Expo and the 2017 NRA conventions both held in Atlanta,” said Chad. Within a year under Chad’s watchful eye, Georgia had its first sanctioned match in a few years - the Sand Gnat Challenge-Regional BUG Championships in Savannah. In 2017, Chad was the Assistant Match Director for the IDPA U.S. National Championship in Texas. Obviously headquarters took note, naming Chad Match Director for the 2018 IDPA U.S. National Championship.

So we can see Chad sure is a busy guy in a supportive role. But can he shoot? Well, he is a three gun Expert, with a wheel gun



**Chad Barber and his wife, Angie, at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy**


being one of those. So I asked him about his practice techniques.

“Did you really ask for “Practice techniques?” laughed Chad. “I often heard IDPA stood for I Don’t Practice Anymore and sadly I followed it for years. I was far too busy teaching and coaching to ever really concentrate on getting off the plateau I was on. For me, it is and always will be, ensuring others are safely introduced and growing in skills within the sport. My choice of gear includes S&W revolvers. The challenge just brings an incredible enjoyment to the match. Comp-Tac holsters and belts, because Gordon and Randy make quality gear and support the sport.”

And supporting the sport is what keeps

us - the IDPA - rolling along. You’re an active member if you’re reading this article and as an active member, you need to think about the “Chads” who keep the ball rolling every time you go to a match to compete. They don’t run by themselves. It takes a lot of support by those volunteers who step up to the plate to bring it all together. We need to tip our hats to all those volunteers and maybe push ourselves to give a little back to help out as well.

Chad summed it up at the end of our conversation best. “More people should volunteer to work these majors. Think about it - if everybody just gave a little bit to do their part - what major matches we could have.”

We can’t wait to see what Chad has in store for us at the 2018 National Championship. By past performance, we only know it’s going to be a good one. Stay tuned. 

#### **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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# WHEELCHAIR CONCEALED CARRY

Tips and techniques for everyday carry.

WORDS RICK CICERO, A444645 & TREVOR BAUCOM, A50370 PHOTOS LYNN LA ROE

**Trevor:** When I woke up on June 22nd, 2010 I struggled to get my bearings. I was in a fog, everything seemed slow. A blurry figure was next to the bed, but I couldn't make out the words they were saying. As the fog started to clear I could make out a rhythmic beeping. My nurse was in my room and introduced herself, she said, "You're at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. You were in a helicopter crash and you're paralyzed from the waist down."

It was probably the drugs but those words didn't really bring much reaction and I didn't really think about what that meant for my life. After a few days at Landstuhl, I was sent to Walter Reed and started what would turn out to be a couple months of rehabilitation.

Rehab consisted of physical therapy and occupational therapy. The physical side is to heal the body; the occupational side is to teach one how to live within the confines of their injury. Learning the simple task of sitting up now required me to push myself up rocking from arm to arm. There was no standing up and simply stepping into a pair of pants one leg at a time anymore. Learning to sit up, put the pants over my feet and pull them up while rocking side to side to get them up became the new way of dressing and approaching living now. When I was able to take a course learning how to drive a vehicle with hand controls is what got me out of the hospital on Labor Day weekend. Now I was able to go out on my own!

Perhaps I was naive, but I never felt the need to carry a firearm prior to my injury. After reading an article around that time about an elderly woman with a walker being assaulted and robbed, I began thinking that

Trevor Baucum



my wheelchair might as well be a target. Predators target those that are or appear to be easy targets. The cheetah is the fastest land animal, but it still picks out the gazelle with the limp to target for a meal. I decided that I needed to get my carry permit. At this point, my career with Smith & Wesson was just starting out so I had a choice of carry guns. All I needed to do now was figure out how to carry in my wheelchair.

**Rick:** Over the seven years since my injuries, I experienced the same considerations, but I have carried for most

Rick Cicero



of my adult life. Now I find myself back in a wheelchair like so many of our students. With mobility issues affecting much of our society, it doesn't limit us from living full lives while not "becoming the prey."

This has prompted many of us to continue to carry and for others to learn. It is important to note, as with any able-bodied person, deadly use of force is only permissible in the face of deadly force, serious physical injury, or grave bodily harm. Even though an assault on a physically handicapped person is a felony, in most states it doesn't rise to deadly force.

**Trevor:** Considering the difficulties of self-defense from a wheelchair, “Fight or flight”, flight isn’t really an option. On an optimum surface, a wheelchair doesn’t go much faster than a brisk walk and it doesn’t sustain speed for long. Hitting a bump or crack in the pavement can quickly put you on the ground.

The 21-foot rule is a factor. The standard 1.5 seconds to cover that distance between you and an attacker or to draw a pistol and fire one round accurately changes greatly for a wheelchair user. We don’t have the ability to step back or to the side to create space between ourselves and an attacker. Anything that involves hand-to-hand or grappling is automatically against the wheelchair user. Imagine sitting in a wheelchair and trying to grapple with someone and retaining control of your concealed pistol. If the brakes are unlocked then the chair user is going for a ride and the attacker is driving. If the brakes are locked then the chair is going over and the chair user is on the ground. This may become the fight for your life.

community is folks placing their pistol in a pouch or under a pillow attached to the chair. This is never a good option since so often in violent confrontations we are separated from the chair.

This leads us to training. The standard remains 2500-3000 repetitions just to draw and reholster. The re-holstering aspect becomes an issue with many in-the-waist or shoulder rigs which may collapse once the pistol is drawn. The holster’s ability to



(L) Appendix carry. (R) Pocket carry.

## **PREDATORS TARGET THOSE THAT ARE OR APPEAR TO BE EASY TARGETS. THE CHEETAH IS THE FASTEST LAND ANIMAL, BUT IT STILL PICKS OUT THE GAZELLE WITH THE LIMP TO TARGET FOR A MEAL.**

**Rick:** Like everything else, training and planning must be balanced with comfort, function and practicality.

The first consideration is access. Can you always reach your pistol? Selecting a holster you can operate and access may move you from a traditional in-the-pants holster, ankle or lower back carry which may not be practical anymore. Use of shoulder rigs, appendix draws or even modified “fanny pack” designs may be more appropriate.

The most common error in our

maintain its form and the user’s ability to index is key on re-holstering.

Within that holster is a need for retention, whether it be passive by design or an active snap. Falls from the chair are a fact we must always consider and balance.

The options I commonly prefer as a one handed shooter are on the hip, waist band pouch, appendix, and in the cargo pocket (I will only use a revolver for this option).

All of these options can be securely re-holstered with one hand and have positive retention.

This leads us to the needs of each individual. In the next issue we will address more of our detailed choices for equipment, training, techniques, and opportunities that have come to our community for now and the future. **TJ**

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** This is the first of a two part article on carrying concealed while in a wheel chair. The second part will be published in the next issue, Summer 2018.



(L) Hip holster. (R) Waist pouch.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR Rick Cicero, A444645**

I am a former Army Paratrooper and was blessed to be in the SOF community. This is what truly created the heart that helped me survive and now thrive. After service, I was a police officer, firearms instructor and canine handler until I retired due to an injury. I became a military contractor. In Afghanistan, I encountered an IED which took my right arm and leg. Now I am the Lead Instructor for HAVA’s Learn to Shoot Again Program.

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# WINNER'S CIRCLE



Great job on your finish at the Florida CCP Sheepdog Trials in December. This was the last sanctioned match of 2017. No better way to end a year than on the range with friends. We look forward to seeing you on the range in 2018!



**Aaron Brulc**  
2nd Expert



**Brandon Reynolds**  
Division Champion



**Christopher Schatz**  
High Industry



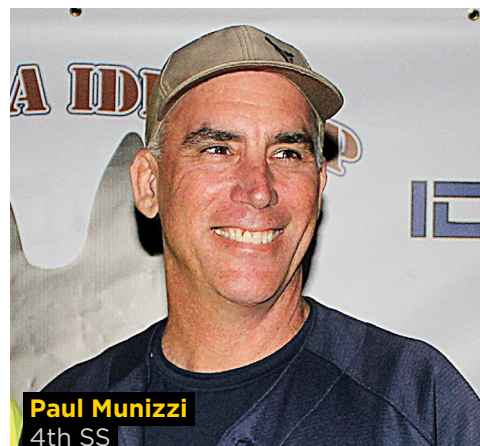
**Cole Yorio**  
High Junior



**Mark Few**  
3rd SS



**Natasja Brant**  
High Lady



**Paul Munizzi**  
4th SS



**Sean Griffith**  
1st SS

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START DATE	EVENT NAME	LOCATION
1/20/2018	<b>Healy ArmsSouth Mountain Showdown</b>	Phoenix Rod & Gun Club, Phoenix, Arizona
2/3/2018	<b>Carneval Cup</b>	Gemini range, Gyal, Pest Megye, HUNGARY
2/10/2018	<b>Chesapeake Cup</b>	Sanner's Lake Sportsman Club, Lexington Park, Maryland
2/24/2018	<b>Moscow Open IDPA 2018 (Tier 2)</b>	NSA KALIBR, Mytishy, Moskovskaya, RUSSIAN FEDERATION
3/4/2018	<b>Florida State IDPA Championship</b>	Homestead Training Center, Homestead, Florida
3/3/2018	<b>LA State Champ. Presented by Lucas Oil (Tier 3)</b>	Southern Shooting Center, Thibodaux, LA
3/31/2018	<b>AFSP Charity Match (Tier 3)</b>	MVSA Action Shooting Range, Hot Springs, Arkansas
4/8/2018	<b>Virginia Indoor Regional (Tier 2)</b>	Norfolk County Rifle Range, Chesapeake, Virginia
4/21/2018	<b>Razorback Shootout 2018</b>	Central Arkansas Shooters' Association, Perryville, Arkansas
4/29/2018	<b>Battle of Saratoga (Tier 3)</b>	Sara Spa Rod and Gun Club, Inc., Greenfield Center, New York
4/28/2018	<b>Safariland IDPA AZ State Championship (Tier 3)</b>	Pima Pistol Club, Tucson, Arizona
4/28/2018	<b>The Silver Dollar Championship (Tier 4)</b>	Double Tap Ranch, Wichita Falls, Texas
5/5/2018	<b>Maryland IDPA Championship</b>	Sanner's Lake Sportsman Club, Lexington Park, Maryland
5/12/2018	<b>The BackStoppers Challenge (Tier 4)</b>	Arnold Rifle and Pistol Club, Barnhart, Missouri
5/20/2018	<b>Russian Cup (Selfdefence Extrim)</b>	Antei, Nizny Novgorod, Nizhegorodskaya, Russian Federation
6/2/2018	<b>Arkansas State Championship (Tier 3)</b>	Luther Owens Memorial Park, Berryville, Arkansas
6/2/2018	<b>Tennessee State IDPA Championship (Tier 3)</b>	ORSA IDPA, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
6/9/2018	<b>New Mexico Scorcher (Tier 3)</b>	Del Norte Gun Club, Rio Rancho, New Mexico
6/16/2018	<b>Wisconsin IDPA Championship (Tier 4)</b>	Ripon Rifle and Pistol Club, Ripon, Wisconsin
7/21/2018	<b>Iowa State IDPA Championship (Tier 2)</b>	Dragoon Trail Chapter, Izaak Walton League, Elkhart, Iowa
9/2/2018	<b>Walking in Memphis Regional Shootout</b>	Memphis Sport Shooting Association, Lakeland, Tennessee
9/15/2018	<b>US National Championship (Tier 5)</b>	CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park, Talladega, Alabama



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Think of something funny to caption the photo above.

### Step #2:

Email your (hopefully) funny caption to [partingshot@idpa.com](mailto: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

**TAKE THAT BACK!!!  
Mom, Tommy says I aim  
like a Stormtrooper.**

—Geoff Skorupa, A628514

### Second Place

**I know! I should have practiced  
more this week! But, this typically  
worked for me in school.**

—Kory Hicks, A908886

### Third Place

**Luke: Master Yoda I shot the last  
stage using only the Force. Yoda:  
180 points down you were, your  
arm give me!** —Gene Mastro, A642144



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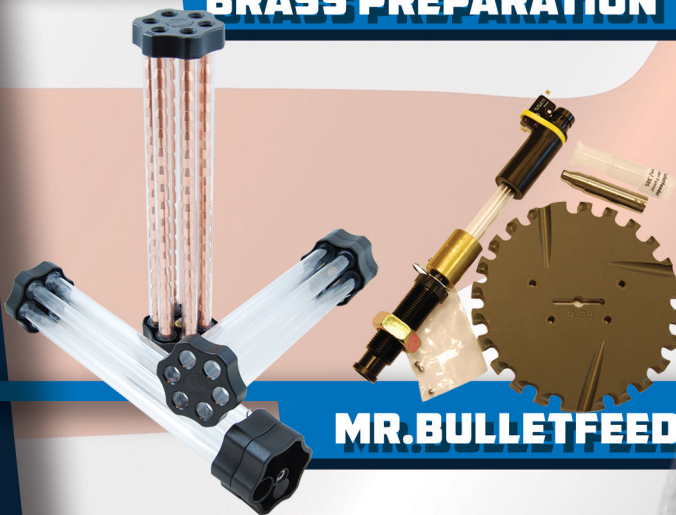
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