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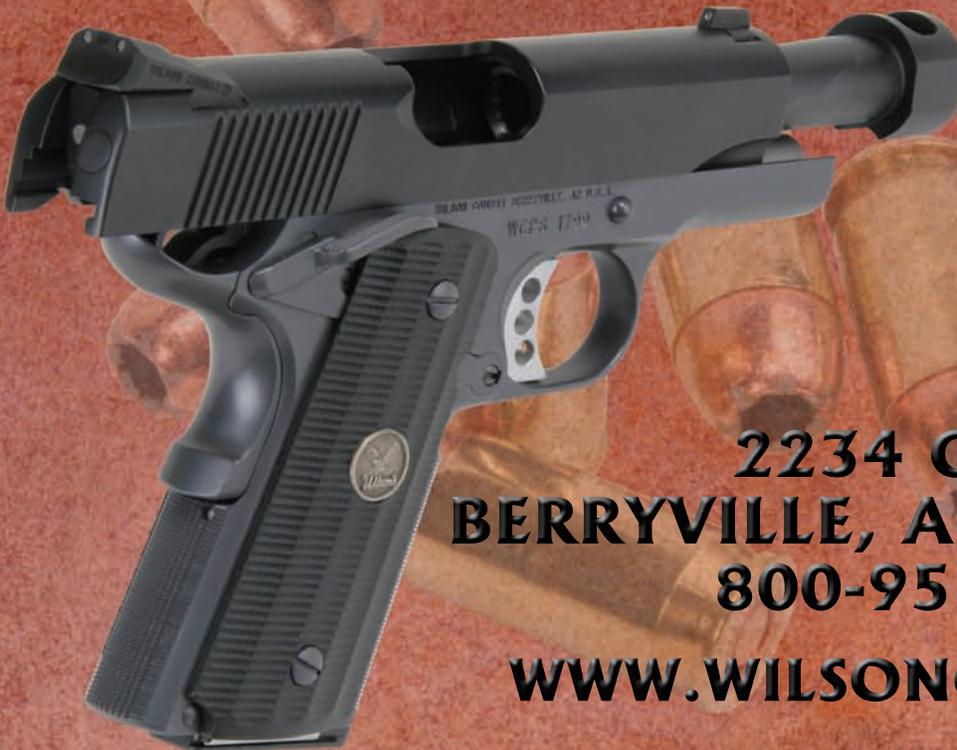
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Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

May 2007

Volume 11 Issue 2

	Tactical Advantage	Robert Ray	6
	Women's Perspective	Julie Goloski	8
	Behind the Badge	Rob Haught	9
	WHIDPA Year End Party	Gary W. Burris	10
	Getting New Members	Thomas Pinney	13
	Why Not a Laser?	John Knoff	17
	New Online Services		19
	2007 IDPA Championship Entry Information		20
	2007 IDPA Championship Entry Form		21
	2007 Safety Officer Application		22
	2006 MI State IDPA Match	Chris Polk	24
	IDPA Pro Shop Order Form		27
	Is IDPA Training...or not?	Christo Strumpfer	34
	Upcoming Major Matches		35

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p. 6



p. 8



p. 9



p. 10



p. 24

IN THIS ISSUE

Here at the Tactical Journal, we are always looking for ways to better our magazine to the benefit of our readers. In this issue you will find a number of improvements starting with the addition of two new columnists. We are very proud to announce that Ladies Champion and Smith & Wesson team shooter Julie Goloski will be writing about women's issues in IDPA and what we can do to attract more ladies to the sport in the Women's Perspective. Long time Law Enforcement Officer and former S&W and Beretta team shooter Rob Haught will be writing about the unique issues surrounding LEO's in IDPA in Behind the Badge. We are also proud to announce the addition of online memberships and renewals at www.idpa.com. As always, we like to hear from our readers. If you would like to write me, please do so at robert@idpa.com. Letters to the editor may be edited for brevity and clarity. RR

The Tactical Advantage

By: Robert Ray



One of the questions that I receive a lot here at headquarters is “How do I get more people involved in shooting”. Notice I did not say ‘shooting IDPA’. I get that most of the time but, with a pretty fair regularity, I get asked how to get people involved in shooting in general and not necessarily competition. I know this magazine is about IDPA but the road to all things begins with one small step and that step is getting a non gun person to shoot.

If you think about it, it is a pretty wide step for some people to go from ‘don’t own a gun or shoot’ to shooting an IDPA match. It can be fairly intimidating if you don’t already have a background in general shooting (plinking) or hunting. Even if they own a handgun, it does not mean that it has ever done more than sit in a closet or nightstand. We have done a pretty good job reaching out to those that you would call ‘gun people’. There is always room for improvement but generally speaking, we are doing well. The problem is that more and more people are showing an interest in gun ownership, but we are not reaching those people.

“What do you mean?” you say, “If they are interested, those are now gun people; we will bring them in to the fold”. I say maybe some of them, but we are missing so many more. There are a huge number of people that are interested in gun ownership, but are not sure

how to go about finding out more information. We gun owners are not always easy to spot. We have been demonized by the media and politicians to the point that we sometimes hide our status as gun owners like you would if you were a heroine addict. In some places, you would be more accepted if you actually were a heroin addict rather than a gun owner. These attitudes also make it hard for a new person to show an interest in gun ownership. So what do we do?

Most of us already do it to some degree. We try to be good people and responsible firearms owners. When we come across someone that seems open to firearms, we talk to them about it. We invite them to the range for some informal plinking or to a match. That gets us back to where we started though. That is just not enough. How many people do you come in contact with on a daily basis and of those people, how many do you really have time to talk to? I am not saying to stop doing that; I am saying we need to do more. We need to reach those people that you do not bump into or work with. We need to reach a larger crowd than one on one.

One way of doing that is having an open house at the range. I know a number of clubs that have done this with great results. A number of people within the club bring out various guns, and the ammo for each, to the club and allow the public, under Safety Officer supervision, to try them

out. Sometimes lunch is provided and sometimes local businesses provide door prizes to give away. There is usually a small fee to cover the cost of ammo and lunch. Hey, now we are getting somewhere. This reaches a bigger crowd. It reaches out to more people that come out and take their first shots with a firearm. To those clubs and individuals that have done this, I say “Thank you” and “Well done”. I want to stop here and admit something though; I am greedy, and I want more.

I want more people to get involved and become gun owners. I want to reach an even bigger number of people and you should too. I want more people to know what it felt like when your dad or brother or uncle or friend or what ever first put a gun in your hand. I want them to be able to experience the same mix of emotions that you and I had when taking those first shots. A sense of accomplishment, confidence, power, trepidation, surprise, giddiness, satisfaction and a host of other emotions were wrapped into those first few shots. I think you remember those feelings. Some other good people remember those feelings too and they want to help.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the voice of the shooting industry and power behind the SHOT show, remembers the awesome feeling of those first shots and wants to spread it around. They have developed a new program to bring that experience

The Tactical Advantage

to as many people as they can and have named it, appropriately enough, "First Shots".

To explain a little better than I can, I will let Cynthia Dalena, Director of the First Shots program tell you a little more. "First Shots is designed to assist ranges in increasing participation and developing new customers/shooters. For many interested newcomers, rules, regulations and how to get started create a barrier that prevents them from pursuing handgun shooting activities. During 2006-2007, over 30 pilot seminars were held in 11 states, reaching nearly 1,000 individuals." Cyndi goes on to tell us that "The program is approximately 3 hours long. The seminar consists of classroom time followed by hands-on range time. The course closely follows the stages of participation necessary to move from interest to active participation. Each element of the program is designed to lead to future steps. From cooperative funding for advertising to raise awareness and enhance seminar attendance and provide initial trial, to range time and formal classes that provide additional trial opportunity and increased knowledge, to activities for social support and pro shops/retail partners that meet equipment needs, the beginner's questions are answered with concrete "next step" opportunities and they develop a relationship with range staff. This unique trial is provided without any large commitment to the prospective new handgun shooter."

The program follows up with the attendees with a survey that has yielded some very interesting

results. Of those people surveyed, 39% have returned to the range in the six months following First Shots.

5 visits (or nearly once a month) is the average number of return visits.

21% complete a formal training class within those six months following First Shots.

43% have purchased handgun-related equipment in those six months spending an average of \$432.00

As you can see, the program is a huge success and is doing a great deal to bring new people to the shooting world and this is only its first year. With your help, the help of your club and the NSSF, we can make great strides in bringing more people into the shooting sports. For more information about how to host a First Shots event at your club please go to www.firstshots.org. You can email firstshots@nssf.org or call 203-426-1320 for more information as well.

Another one of the things I see in our sport is the large number of member and clubs that want to do something to make a difference. I don't mean just a difference in the shooting world either; I am talking about making a difference in individuals' lives all over the world. There are a number of clubs that have hosted matches to benefit

charities. Unfortunately they are in the minority. The sad fact is that I have been witness to a number of clubs that had their contribution turned away because it is politically incorrect to associate with anything that has to do with guns. I find that attitude to be abominable. Luckily, there is an organization that would be happy to work with you to help fight pediatric cancer. The Isabella de Bethencourt Memorial POSA Cops4Kids Match Against Cancer Program.

I am going to invite Ralph Mroz to share my column in this issue to let you know more about this program and its debut at the Smith & Wesson IDPA Winter Championship. I think you will like what you see in the program. Another aspect to being involved in this charity is the possibility to work closer with your local law enforcement agencies if they do not have a program in place. A closer, friendly relationship with the local law in not a bad thing to have for a club or its members.

Continued on page 32





Women's Perspective

by Julie Goloski A19366

The shooting world is known to be a traditionally male dominated environment. After all, guns are considered ultimate guy toys aside from fast cars, motorcycles and anything with a remote control, right? There may be a few of you out there who covet the range as the final frontier for freedom from femininity, the last true testosterone zone where men can be men, shoot guns, the bull and “escape.” I find though that many men approach me, a woman who covets range time and shooting just as much as anyone, with their questions on how to get their wives, girlfriends or female friends involved in shooting. But what can we do collectively as a group of shooters? How do we encourage more women to come and participate? How do we make them feel welcome? How do we get them to conquer their inhibitions about shooting for the first time or taking the plunge into competition? Plenty of us make an individual effort, but how can increase our success rate at the local club level?

First things first, make your club female friendly. Most guys are happy with the barest of necessities on the range, but a few minor changes to your club can work wonders to make women feel welcome. Major retail chains have spent millions of dollars on the appearance and layout in their stores, especially those that carry products

that women will buy. For many women, shopping is an experience. When they walk into a store, they take everything in, from the lighting to how the store is laid out to whether or not they are greeted. Men, however, have a tendency to beeline straight to what they need to buy. Sure they may stop and mosey around the tackle gear section or hunting rifles, but chances are they would probably go there anyway. Taking a lesson from these retailers, work on making your range more appealing to women.



Keep things as clean and neat as possible. Try to have a dedicated restroom for women and a safe area near outdoor bathrooms to make it more convenient for women to use them. Now, that doesn't mean you need to paint the clubhouse pink and have fresh cut flowers on match day, but a neat and clean environment helps to show that you are women friendly.

Think about a new concept for your club for free entries and charity events. I know a number of clubs that have a policy where

women shoot for free all the time or their first few times in order to encourage more women to come. If this is not something your club can do throughout the season, consider making one month in your club match schedule “Women's Day” where women shoot a stage for free. Encourage your club members and local shooter base to bring at least one woman to the range with them for a special women's event. You can also host a benefit match for a charity like breast cancer awareness or a local battered women's shelter with some of the proceeds going toward a donation. Research has shown that women are more likely to experiment with something they would never normally try if it benefits a cause they believe in. It allows them to justify taking a personal risk in trying something new to serve a cause.

Maybe the woman feels that she isn't ready to compete but she has taken the steps to come with a husband, friend or on her own and is interested in shooting for defensive purposes and learning safe gun handling skills. This is a great opportunity to have her shoot through a stage at the end of a match before tear down. Always be sure to go over the basic rules of firearm safety, explain muzzle safe points, keeping the finger off the trigger whenever not firing on targets and other important safety rules for the range. She should also

Continued on page 31

Behind the Badge

by Rob Haught CL068



Sometime back, IDPA staff member Robert Ray approached me with the idea of writing a column in the Tactical Journal from the viewpoint of a Law Enforcement officer who also shoots IDPA. As someone who has been involved with IDPA since the inception, I have witnessed its amazing growth and popularity among competitive shooters from all sorts of different shooting disciplines. One of the original goals of the IDPA Founders was to attract LE officers to this sport as no other before it. Stock Service Pistol Division was to be an ideal place for officers to utilize the tools of the job on an even playing field. Now some ten years later we have seen some interesting things take place.

Some quick background information may be in order. I have been a full time LEO for twenty years now. I shot my first competitive pistol match in 1982. My first Nationals in 1983. I was the SSP Division winner at the IDPA Invitational Conference at Columbia, Missouri and won the SSP Championship at the first IDPA Nationals. I have



been a member of the Smith & Wesson Performance Center Team and later Team Beretta. I have been fortunate to have traveled across the United States shooting state and regional matches and have made many lifelong friends along the way.

I would like to use this column as a way to encourage my fellow LEO's to participate in this great sport and to help smooth the way for them to become involved in an activity which directly benefits their job as well as providing recreation and stress relief.

I have often heard fellow shooters ask why more LEO's don't come to the local matches and shoot. It seems on the outside like a no-brainer for them to want to do it. That's because they don't understand the Police mindset. As LEO's, we get up everyday and put on a uniform that makes us stand out from the general public. We wear a shiny badge of office proudly over our heart and the symbol of our authority on our hip. The public perception is that we are competent and skilled with all the tools of our profession and we don't want to do anything to give up that edge in dealing with the bad guys.

It was said by a good friend that the "American Male" would rather shed blood than ego! It goes double for Cops! So for the average LEO to give up his day off to come out to the range and be surrounded by strangers

with guns who can play this game better than he can is asking a lot. What can IDPA do to overcome that huge reluctance? It's mostly already done.

The rules recognize the LEO's need to train in his duty gear and have given division and classifications to ensure a more level playing field. The score results recognize the high LEO in the match. (We are a highly competitive species!) What is left is for the competitors to take time to mentor the LEO like any other new shooter and make sure the rules are explained. At our local club we have used classes called "New Shooters Clinics" to teach proper safety and match procedures to newcomers. This is a great way to get LEO's interested. (We like to have a plan.) Also, Match Directors, please take the time to understand that the rules allow LEO's to compete with their duty gear as they wear it. I've witnessed Safety Officers who were unaware of this telling LEO's that they needed to adjust the position of mag pouches on duty belts to conform with the standard behind the seam position and insisting that they wear concealment garments when wearing a full duty belt. Trust me, working from this gear offers no competitive advantage to the shooter. IDPA offers the opportunity to find the weaknesses in your choice of equipment and its placement in a controlled environment before more than a trophy is on the line. It also gives us a chance to evaluate our off duty gear as well. One

Continued on page 26

WHIDPA Year End Party

by Gary W. Burris A01202

The West Houston IDPA (WHIDPA) club holds several matches each month. They shoot IDPA matches the first Saturday of each month as well as every Wednesday evening. They also hold a three gun match on the second Saturday of the month.

WHIDPA started out the year collecting an extra dollar from par-

ticipants each time they shot a match. The money was placed in a fund that is used to purchase awards and guns that are given away at a year end party. And that dollar is matched by the club and the Impact



Zone shooting range. Each time someone participated in one of the club events he was given a ticket for the gun drawing. The final tally was 143 different shooters in the drawing. Some had only one ticket and others had over 30 tickets. And by the end of the year there was

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WHIDPA Year End Party



enough money to purchase nine handguns and one shotgun.

The year end party was held after the match on December 9th at Repka's, a restaurant about three miles from the range. The party was well attended and a great time was had by all. Awards were given in each division and classification

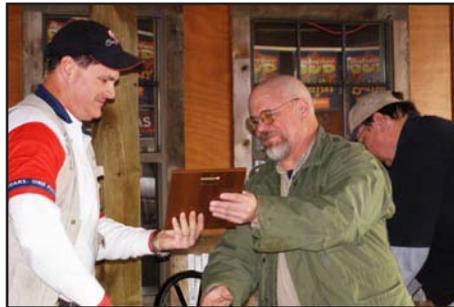


for performance over the entire year. A number of gag awards were presented that added to the enjoyment of the event. But the most fun was when they called a winning ticket number for a gun and everyone looked at their tickets in hopes of finding a match. Samantha Newton's ticket number was the first one called at the year end party, way to go Sam.

I wanted to mention a few of the



people who worked so hard over the last year to make WHIDPA one of the most successful IDPA clubs in the Houston area. First is Mike D'Elia founder of the club and considered as an example for those who follow in his footsteps. Garry Newton worked tirelessly to come up with the scenarios and set up the match events. Steve Gates does so much for the club and is the go to guy when you need something done. Bob Wolff runs the 3-gun match almost by himself. Phil Oxley is the range owner



and a huge supporter of IDPA and WHIDPA. There are many others I could mention like Samantha who helps her dad set up the match. To everyone else who contributed to the success of the club I want to extend a heart felt THANK YOU on behalf of the officers and members of the West Houston IDPA club.

What's ahead for WHIDPA in 2007? It is impossible to predict the future, but if 2006 is any indication, it should be one of the best years yet. Keep up the good work WHIDPA.



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Getting New Members

by Thomas Pinney A24541

Members of the IDPA by virtue of their membership enjoy competitive shooting. It is normal for many of us to want to share that enjoyment with others. Our sport is growing fast, as anyone involved in the sport can attest. But if we expect IDPA and other shooting sports to thrive we need to continuously bring in new shooters.

Not all IDPA clubs seem to want new members to shoot with them. Many people are quite content to shoot once or twice a month with the same group of regulars and the occasional visiting shooter. They are uncomfortable talking with outsiders about competitive pistol shooting and are unwilling to expend the effort it takes to get new people involved. Not coincidentally, these are the clubs that pop up for a while and then fade away when the regulars move on or when it just gets to be too much effort to do all the required work for every match.

This might be fine for those shooters but if we want our sport to continue healthy growth we need to bring in new people and introduce them to our sport. Not only do new members make for a healthier club, but it also strengthens our sport as a whole. We have to acknowledge our sport is prone to being misunderstood and miscategorized. Exposing more people to the fun of IDPA helps broaden our base and promote understanding of our basic principles. That is vital to our sport's continued existence.

The first principle of IDPA is to "promote safe and proficient use

of guns". And the second and third principles detail ways to "provide a level playing field" and to allow "people with similar skills to compete". That specifically means the IDPA expects some participants to be less skilled than others; it is not intended for expert and master level shooters. IDPA clubs have an obligation to welcome new and inexperienced shooters into our events and let them learn how to use firearms safely and proficiently; it is one of our core philosophies.

There are two components to bringing in new shooters: getting them to come out once, and making that experience so enjoyable that they will return. The two elements are linked but have a different set of strategies, so, in the interest of brevity, we are going to break these two components into two articles; this article will focus on getting new shooters to come out the first time and try IDPA shooting.

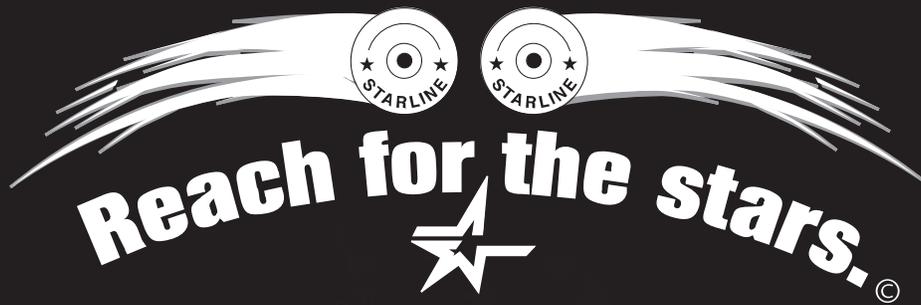
In general people's attitudes toward competitive pistol shooting can be said to fall into four broad categories. There are those people who have no interest in ever going to an IDPA event. They may have an anti-gun bias, be afraid of shooting, or just are not interested in our sport. The second group of people might have an interest (or at least a curiosity) in shooting but are 'too busy'; they don't have the time or resources to get involved. The third group of potential members are interested enough to try shooting at least on a trial basis. They are often people who have gotten a concealed carry permit, or have recently pur-

chased a pistol and would like to learn how to handle it safely and more effectively. The fourth group consists of people who are familiar with shooting firearms of one sort or another and will often leap at the chance to participate in our activities.

Obviously there is no point in trying to persuade anyone who is not interested to participate in our sport to participate any more than it worth trying to convince a person who is afraid of the water to go kayaking. The second group of 'busy people' is not also likely to get involved in IDPA activities. Trying to get someone to rearrange their whole life just to participate in our sport is unrealistic. The people in the fourth category often comprise the 'the regulars' at IDPA events. They will often find you, so it does not take much effort to bring folks like this into the fold. But there are not that many of them in the general population. The third category is where we need to be actively seeking out new members. A lot of people would really like to have a safe and fun place to shoot their pistols. And these folks are the ones who can make our sport truly successful

There are three relatively simple things we can do to get the word out about IDPA shooting.

- 1) Tell people about IDPA. It has been said that shooters today form a kind of "secret society". Shooters often do not discuss their sport with those they do not know well. One way to get people to try



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Submissions can be sent as:

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- #2 Word on disc Via Snail mail.**

**Include high resolution photos too if possible
 (COLOR Digital is preferred but B&W is OK).**

Getting New Members

IDPA is by talking about it. It is well known that the strongest form of advertising is word of mouth. That does not mean you should approach strangers and begin chatting about shooting. But if you are asked you should not be shy about telling your friends and acquaintances about our sport. It should quickly become obvious if the other person is interested in shooting or not. If they are not interested, it is probably not worth the effort to try to get them enthused about the IDPA.

In general people who are interested in shooting either want to know more about firearms in general or sometimes are interested in competitive shooting. In either case, if they ask questions, answer them. We all need to 'de-mystify' shooting and shooting sports. IDPA shooting is much like many other individual social sports such as golf or bowling. We should let people who are interested know that shooting an IDPA course of fire is a wonderful way to learn to safely and effectively handle a firearm. And also let them know that it is "more fun than a barrel of monkeys."

2) Post information on your club's web site. Every club of any size needs to have a website; almost all of them do. That website should specifically include instructions on how strangers can shoot with the club. 'Frequently Asked Questions' include: Where do you shoot? When do you shoot? Who can shoot? How much does it cost? What equipment is required? Is it safe? And who can I contact about this? It is easy to put together a page that answers those questions. A link that provides directions to

the range will also be appreciated by people who would like to start shooting with you.

You may think you have all that sort of information on your website, but try a simple experiment. Ask a friend to see how easy it is to find out how to shoot with your club just using your website. If someone who is not familiar with your website has any problem finding answers to their questions, you probably need to modify your site to make it more new user-friendly.

3) Post signs at shooting ranges. This is the easiest way of all to publicize our sport. See if the range where you hold your matches will let you put up simple information flyers. They could say something like:

IDPA Practice Matches Held Here
With Thunder Tactical Shooters
Every Wednesday evening at 6:00
New shooters and spectators are welcome
For more information visit our web at
www.TTS-IDPA.net

If you are shooting at a commercial range you should make sure the people there know about your organization and can give good information to people who ask about IDPA. Keeping a good relationship with range employees is important for many reasons. It is certainly worth your time to at the very least write up a one page note about IDPA and your club and make it available at the front desk so that if a range employee is asked about IDPA they have a simple way to provide information.

There are other ways to boost your membership, limited only by your imagination, budget, and desire to bring in new shooters. The most important thing your club members can do is to wel-

come questions about our sport and even more importantly, provide a welcoming environment to IDPA events.

It is not enough to just get people to come to your matches, you need to make sure the experience is a pleasurable one for them. Welcoming new shooters will be the subject of our next article. 

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 2234 CR 719
 Berryville, AR 72616

Why Not a Laser?

by John Knoff A22947

One of the things that I like best about IDPA is that I could show up to a match with a gun that I already owned, a leather holster that I already owned and shoot a match without being pushed to the side of the road by the race gun phenomena.

This is not to say that the rules and equipment used for IDPA must be stagnant.

As technology changes so do firearms and accessories. As these firearms and products become practical to shooters the IDPA needs to re-evaluate the equipment approved for use. There are two products that come to my mind. Both do the same thing but in slightly different ways.

The Crimson Trace grips and LaserMax guide rods project a red laser dot where the gun is pointed. Both products are not all that new, but both are making significant inroads with shooters. Crimson Trace grips can now be found on a significant number of Smith and Wesson J frame revolvers, as well some 1911's and other Smith and Wesson models. These grips are also made for many other makes and models. They also have been working directly with Kimber, Beretta and Sig. LaserMax guide rods are made for many manufacturers guns: Sig, Beretta, Glock, Taurus, and Springfield. Both the Crimson Trace grips and LaserMax guide rods are easily installed without need of a gunsmith.

I know that one of the goals of IDPA is for competitors to use the same guns in competition that they would use for CCW. One of the pitfalls that IDPA wanted to steer clear of was the ever faster, ever evolving, race gun. I can understand why a red dot scope is not legal for IDPA. Aside from making the gun dimensionally "out of the box," they are not practical to the carrying of a CCW gun day in and day out. The same could be said of compensators and weighted frames and slides. All these innovations make a gun more efficient, but I do not know of any jewelry shop owners, off duty LEO's, private investigators or body guards that would carry a gun with such a bulky features.

Much the same can be said to one of the newest innovations in handguns and long guns, the tactical light. Finding a new semi-automatic handgun without a rail can be a challenge these days. Again there is the added

dimensional aspect with these lights. Added weight is also a factor. These lights are not really practical for those who carry a handgun day in and day out. It important to make clear that what is "tactical" is not always practical for everyday use.

How the Crimson Trace and LaserMax differ from the red dot optic and tactical light is in how they are incorporated in the firearm. The Crimson Trace adds only slightly to the overall gun dimension. The LaserMax adds nothing to the overall dimensions. Neither product adds much in the way of weight, a real concern for those who CCW. There is no challenge in getting the gun into the box. Both products are proven and practical. These products work for military, police and civilians alike. Both products are finding their way into and onto more and more handguns.

While a Master or Expert may doubt the practicality of these lasers, they do offer desired feature to many shooters. It is important to note that the majority of those who shoot IDPA are in the ranks of marksman and sharp shooter. These shooters may benefit by using such a product. Many may already own handguns that have this feature. They are a popular and desired feature for many BUGs.

These are two examples of new technologies and innovative products that have become evolved enough to be user-friendly in their practical aspects. It is now time for the governing body of the IDPA to evaluate their practicality and relevance to IDPA Competition. Clearly Crimson Trace grips and LaserMax guide rods have met that threshold.



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As featured in the Shot Show Review, IDPA Tactical Journal, First Quarter 2007

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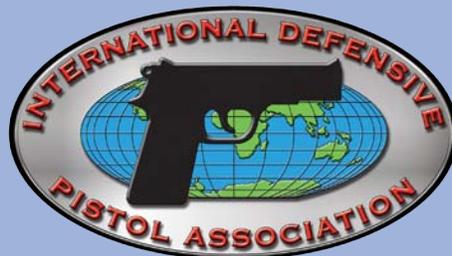
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2007 IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY INFORMATION

September 26 - 30, Allentown, PA

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Your application must be completed **ENTIRELY** and **CORRECTLY** in order to be processed.

Participants: Limited to 250 entries on a first come/first served basis. All applicants must be current IDPA members with a classification of Marksman or higher and have shot **TWO sanctioned IDPA** matches between June 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007.

Entries must be POSTMARKED (NOT RECEIVED) NO EARLIER than June 11, 2007. Fed Ex and UPS entries must sent no earlier than June 11 also. Any entries received prior to this date will be squadded after July 1, 2007 only if there are openings left. If you wish to be squadded with another person or persons, your applications and fees must be mailed together. We will not be able to change squadding once the match is full. We will make every attempt to place you in your first choice of shooting dates and squadding requests, however, we obviously cannot guarantee all requests.

Match Stages/ Round count: 15-18 stages/ 200 rounds minimum

Entry Fee: \$165 until July 1, 2007. \$185 after July 1, 2007. Includes the match and all festivities.

(NOTE: No match fee refunds will be made for any reason after September 1st.)

Events: Wednesday, September 26 7-9pm Competitor Sign-in/ Hospitality Room open
Thursday, September 27 7-9pm Competitor Sign-in/ Hospitality Room open
Friday, September 28 On your own
Saturday, September 29 6-10pm BBQ
Sunday, September 30 9am Awards Ceremony
(Events listed above are located at the Match Headquarters Hotel)

Location: Guthsville Rod & Gun Club, Allentown, PA
www.guthsville.com

Match Headquarters Hotel: Crown Plaza, 904 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA, 18101
Phone: 610-433-2221
Fax: 610-433-1077
www.allentownpahotel.com

Match Director: Ted Murphy

2007 IDPA Championship Entry Form

September 26 - 30, Allentown, PA

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the large number of entries, your entry form must be completed **ENTIRELY AND CORRECTLY** or it will not be accepted, even if sent with a group. NO EXEMPTIONS. So please check thoroughly before mailing.

NAME _____ IDPA # _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____

By applying for entry into the IDPA 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 which IDPA has taken during the IDPA 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.

SHOOTING DAY: There is no guarantee that you will receive your first choice, nor is there an option to shoot the entire match on Friday or Saturday. **Making the same choice could mean that you won't be able to get a slot.** (Circle either "Thursday" or "Friday/Saturday" for each choice only.)

ONE LUNCH is included in your entry fee. Please designate which day you will be eating at the range. (Additional Lunches are available for purchase at \$6 each.)

CHOICE	SHOOTING DAY(S)		LUNCH DAY		
	Thursday	Friday/Saturday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First	Thursday	Friday/Saturday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Second	Thursday	Friday/Saturday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUETTE SATURDAY EVENING: _____

DIVISION
 _____ CDP
 _____ ESP
 _____ SSP
 _____ ESR
 _____ SSR

CLASSIFICATION
 _____ MA
 _____ EX
 _____ SS
 _____ MM

Entry Fee: \$165 (before 7/1/07) or _____
 \$185 (after 7/1/07)

Additional Lunches: Thursday _____ x \$6 _____

Friday _____ x \$6 _____

Saturday _____ x \$6 _____

Total: _____

SUB-CATEGORY (SELECT ONLY ONE)

____ Senior (50 - 64)	____ Law Enforcement	____ Industry
____ Dist. Senior (65 +)	____ Military	____ International
____ Junior (12 - 18)	____ Military Veteran	____ Press
____ Lady		

Sanctioned Matches shot between June 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007:

Include copies of 2 scoresheets as proof. **Without proof, your entry form is considered incomplete and will not be accepted.** Please only include 2 matches.

ENTRY FEE: \$165.00 until July 1st, \$185.00 after July 1st. Event is strictly limited to 250 competitors. (NOTE: No match fee refunds will be made for any reason after September 1st.)

MAIL ENTRIES TO: IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP, 2232 CR 719, Berryville, AR 72616

SAFETY OFFICER APPLICATION

2007 IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP

September 26 - 30, Allentown, PA

PLEASE NOTE: You must complete the regular entry form in order to shoot this match. Any application received without the regular entry will not be accepted.

NAME _____ MEMBER # _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE # _____ E-MAIL _____

SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING CLASS DATE: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

YEARS OF COMPETITIVE SHOOTING: _____

YEAR/S PREVIOUSLY WORKED CHAMPIONSHIP: 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06
 (Circle all that apply)

HAVE ORGANIZED OR SO'd STATE LEVEL MATCHES: YES NO
 (Circle one)

HAVE ORGANIZED OR SO'd CLUB LEVEL MATCHES: YES NO
 (Circle one)

GENERAL ITINERARY FOR SAFETY OFFICERS:

Wednesday	September 26	Safety Officers Shoot Match
Thursday	September 27	Work Match
Friday	September 28	Work Match
Saturday	September 29	Work Match
Sunday	September 30	Awards Ceremony

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2006 MI State IDPA Match

by Chris Polk A23772



Over 170 shooters attended the Michigan State IDPA Match held at Wayne County Raccoon Hunters Club in Romulus, Michigan on September 16-17, 2006. A team effort, IDPA clubs from Michigan and Northern Ohio assisted Raccoon Hunters in pulling off the first-ever event by providing stage designs, targets, props and safety officers.

Ten stages were provided for shooters, each with a diverse set of situations. No-shoots, hard cover, swingers, drop-turns, and other types of targets were all in abundance and carefully placed to make shooters earn their scores. A



View of part of Stage 6, replicating a cluttered basement.

simulated “airplane” stage, fully enclosed low-light/dark stage and lots of other props added realism to each scenario.

While each stage provided its own special challenges, the most novel stage was provided by Advanced Target Systems of Troy, Michigan. This stage was a computer controlled, pneumatically driven set of targets in a setup called “Automation Alley”. On

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2006 MI State IDPA Match



The safety officers and match staff of the 2006 MI State IDPA Match.



targets were made to appear and/or disappear based on the sensors that had been tripped. This proved to be very educational to some shooters regarding the proper use of cover! Sensors were carefully set up to ensure that shooters were using cover correctly – using cover incorrectly meant targets would disappear before they could be engaged, adding points down.

Raccoon Hunters would like to thank again the clubs, safety officers, workers and shooters that made the event so successful. For more information about the Wayne County Raccoon Hunters Club and its activities, visit <http://www.raccoonhunters.org>



Shooter engaging targets on Stage 9.

the start signal, the shooter would trigger, as he walked the “alley”, various optical sensors. Based on a program in the computer controller,



View from the port on Stage 9.

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of the biggest issues I have with trainees is getting them to carry spare ammo when off duty. Its common to see an officer with his off duty weapon but no spare ammo on his/her person. Shooting frequent matches gets you comfortable with working with your gear and promotes confidence in it.



So having said all the above, what other benefits are there for LEO's participating in an IDPA match? IDPA by and large tends to provide a more realistic test of handgun skills as they relate to law enforcement shooting situations. The rules call for the strict use of cover when available, concealed carry, the use of vehicles as props and judicious use of non-threat targets. All of which makes this attractive to LEO's who want to sharpen their skills.

Does IDPA replace tactical training? Absolutely not! Does it offer a venue for individual practice of survival related skills? Yes! The sport of IDPA offers the chance to get what you want out of it. If you approach it as a game with the intent to win a trophy there is a place for you. If you approach it as a vehicle to sharpen tactical skills and practice with duty equipment there is also a place for you. Any chance you get to shoot is a plus. At a recent seminar by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman, author of the best selling book "On Killing", he talked about how our world has changed since 9/11. He remarked that we as LEO's no longer have the luxury of hobbies that are not job related.

One of my favorite sayings is that a golf course is a terrible waste of a rifle range. Take up a shooting sport, buy a gym membership. Give IDPA a shot.

These were some rambling thoughts that popped up when Robert asked me to write this column. In the future we will talk

about specifics regarding equipment, rules and what to expect from your first match. If anyone has anything they would like to see included or has any questions or comments, please email me at wsok9mauser@yahoo.com.

See you at the range



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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Order Date: _____

Credit Card: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Item #	Item	Description	Size or Amount	Price	Quantity	Extended Price
DPT	Official IDPA Targets	Cardboard Targets. 50 per box.	1 - 4 boxes, ea.	\$27.50		
			5 or more boxes, ea.	\$25.50		
PPT	Practice Targets	Paper Targets. 100 per box.		\$33.00		
TPT	Target Pasting Tape	Natural Cardboard Color. 10% Case Discount. 48 rolls / case.	60 yd. Roll	\$1.95		
			Case	\$84.24		
TPP	Target Pastors	Natural Cardboard Color. 10% Case Discount. 60 rolls / case.	1000 per box	\$2.95		
			Case	\$159.30		

For targets and cases of either pasters or tape listed above, please call or email IDPA HQ for exact shipping. We can be reached at 870-545-3886 or info@idpa.com.

CW	IDPA Ball Cap	Embroidered. 2¾" unstructured crown. Available in white only.		\$9.95		
CNV	IDPA Ball Caps	Embroidered. 3¾" crown. Solid back, plastic snap. Available in navy only.		\$6.95		
C	Summer Mesh Cap	Embroidered. 3¾" crown. Plastic snap. Specify light gray or tan.		\$6.95		
CKM	IDPA Membership Cap	Embroidered. 6 panel, semi-structured crown. Cotton twill. Brass buckle closure. Khaki. This cap sent to all NEW members		\$6.95		
CSO	Safety Officer Cap	Embroidered. 3¾" crown. Solid back, plastic snap. Red.		\$9.95		
CSOM	SO Cap Mesh	Embroidered. 6 panel, medium crown. Velcro size adjustment. Red		\$9.95		
T	IDPA T-Shirt	Embroidered T-shirt. Specify navy or natural.	M, L or XL	\$17.95		
			XXL	\$19.95		
P	IDPA Polo Shirt	Embroidered Polo Style. Short Sleeve. Specify grey, natural, navy or green.	M, L or XL	\$19.95		
			XXL	\$22.95		
CIT	Columbia Invitational VCR Tape	Tournament and Conference. 90 minute VCR tape. Great for recruiting.		\$19.95		
VCT	Official Vickers Count Timer	Pro-Timer IV SUPER that computes Vickers Count Final Score. Manufacturer guarantee.		\$199.95		
RUG	IDPA Gun Cleaning Rug	Easy to clean and care for; just throw it in the washer. Great for protecting furniture from solvents and soil.		\$23.00		

Item #	Item	Description	Size or Amount	Price	Quantity	Extended Price
RB	IDPA Rule Book			\$2.00		
Items in previous section will ship for \$7.00 plus \$1.00 for each additional item.						
HP	Hat Pin	Antique Silver Finish		\$2.95		
EP	Embroidered Patch	May be sewn or pressed on Shipping is \$1 for every 10 patches		\$2.00		
WD	IDPA Window Decal	Four Color Decal Shipping is \$1 for every 10 decals.		\$1.00		
Items in previous section will ship for \$1 for every 10 items.						
ES	"Elite" Series S/S Shirt	Specify with or without 10th Anniversary Logo. Specify Khaki or Sage	M, L, XL, or XXL	\$47.00		
EV	"Elite" Series Vest	Specify with or without 10th Anniversary Logo. Specify Khaki or Black.	M, L, XL, or XXL	\$70.00		
Items in previous and next sections will ship for \$7.00 plus \$1.00 for each additional item.						
<i>Limited Time Only! While supplies last for items listed below.</i>						
T10	10th Anniversary T-Shirt	IDPA Rapid Dry™ Tee with moisture wicking capability. 60/40 cotton/poly fabrication. Light moss.	M, L, XL, or XXL	\$19.95		
EP10	10th Anniversary Embroidered Patch	May be sewn or pressed on		\$3.00		
10RB	10th Anniversary Range Bag	10th Anniversary Commemorative Range Bag. Overall Size; 14.5"(L) x 4" (W) x 9.5" (H). Dark Green.		\$50.00		
PI	Personal Illuminator System	Has IDPA 10th Anniversary Logo on back		\$9.95		
XB	Tactical Flashlight 1000XB	70 Lumen Output; Push button on; Laser Engraved with IDPA 10th Anniversary Logo		\$29.95		
06C	Championship Cap	2006 Championship Cap		\$15.00		
06ES	2006 Championship 'Elite' Shirt	'Elite' Series Shirt with 2006 Championship logo. Sage.	S, L, XL, or XXL	\$38.00		
06EV	2006 Championship 'Elite' Vest	'Elite' Series Vest with 2006 Championship logo. Khaki.	S, M, or XXXL	\$56.00		
TLX	LED 70 Lumen Tactical Flashlight	3-watt Luxeon™ LED Tactical Flashlight. Only 15 of 75 left of a specially numbered run for the 2006 IDPA National Championship.		\$69.95		
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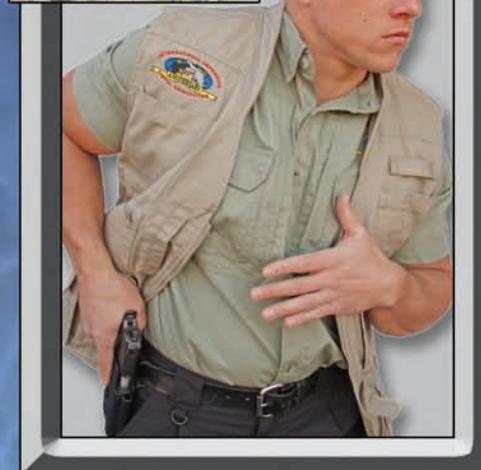
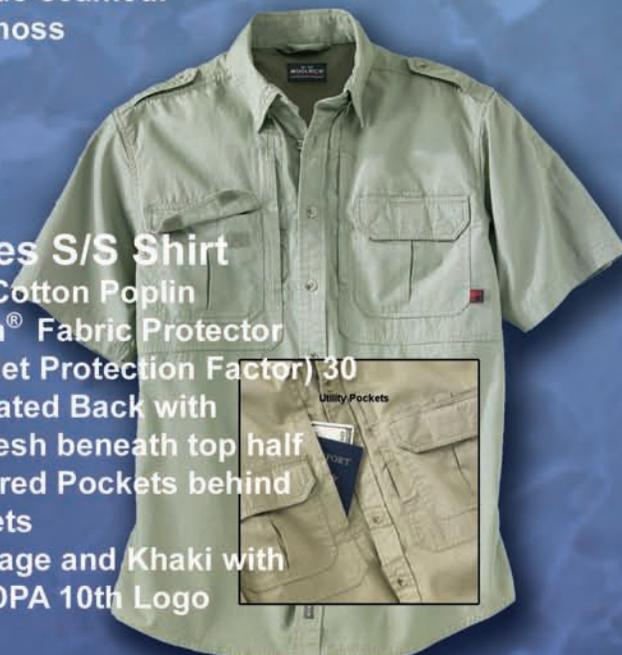


This shirt combines the simple, classic styling of a quality crew with high-performance. The Rapid Dry™ moisture wicking capability is perfect for hot weather and active wear. Rapid dry fabric wicks moisture away from the body to the surface of the fabric where it evaporates. Inner fabric surface is extremely soft and comfortable. 60/40 cotton poly fabrication allows for wash and wear and this champion shirt travels well, too.

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have an understanding of sight alignment, trigger control, grip and stance as a foundation before shooting her first stage in order for her to get the most out of the experience.

Encouragement goes much farther than negative comments or feedback. Talking a woman through her first stage in a calm, nurturing way will make her feel accomplished after her last shot is fired. Try not to yell commands and don't get caught up in things like procedurals or cover calls. For example, if she isn't behind cover, tell her to go behind cover but try to avoid barking these types of commands. The goal is to avoid a negative experience. Taking the time the first few stages to be patient and help someone through is one of the best things you can do to get them to come back. As they learn more about shooting and the sport, they will better understand what is expected of them for a specific course of fire.

IDPA has a formula for people from all ability levels to compete against people of the same ability level, from novice to master. I have heard from a number of women who have decided to take the plunge and shoot their first competition that they prefer IDPA over other action shooting sports because they feel less intimidated, the targets are closer and they see people of all shapes and sizes, speed and ability competing with one another, having fun. They also know that what they need to do on each stage will be explained to them with less pressure to have to go and figure out an elaborate, choreographed plan when they may not

feel confident to do so.

Now that she has bitten the bug, keep her coming back. Do your best to avoid making assumptions. Don't just assume she is "one of the guys" because she now shoots with you. Yes, that means try to curb the swearing or crude comments, or if you do apologize. She might just say, "hey, its ok" but never assume that it is. Try hard to avoid situations that may make a woman feel uncomfortable. If you aren't sure, then it's just not worth it. If you say or do something that causes a woman takes offense, apologize and let her know you will do your best not to let it happen again. Help



police each other. We often times don't realize that the things we say can have an undesired affect. Following the Golden Rule, do unto others, is a way for each of us to make the range an environment everyone can enjoy.

One comment I hear from women shooters is that often veteran competitors can be overzealous to help a woman over another new, male shooter. The intentions are good, but it may make her feel singled out. Be helpful but do not bombard her with a to do list on how to get better. Try to avoid so much guidance that she feels like

she is in information overload. There is only so much a person can retain and work on at any given time. Try to think back when you first started out. Make the offer to assist but also give her the opportunity to ask you for your help when she feels ready.

We all have our own reasons for shooting IDPA that span from working on personal shooting goals to striving for competitive achievement. It's no different for women or for men. There's an even bigger picture here, not just at the individual club level or even IDPA. Ask yourself how much do you spend on guns, gear, ammo, match fees, shooting magazines, etc. throughout the year? Having the support of your wives and girlfriends to make shooting something you share together is a benefit to both partners. With women representing roughly half the population, think about who is voting on gun issues and how important it is that this large number is educated

about the importance of the right to bear arms. Think about the future and the rising number of single mothers raising children today. Will those children have the opportunity to go to the range and learn about firearms safety and recreational shooting? If those children have been taught that guns are bad all their young lives, the probability that they will continue with those beliefs in their adult voting life is high. Bottom line, the more women we have supporting lawful firearm purchases, shooting sports, and second amendment rights the better it is for all us to enjoy them. 

New England Cops4Kids Match Now a National Program Ideal Way for Clubs or Agencies to Make a Difference

by Ralph Mroz

The inaugural event of the Isabella de Bethencourt Memorial POSA Cops4Kids Match Against Cancer Program was held at the IDPA Winter Championships, held at the Smith&Wesson Shooting Sports Center on February 22-25, 2007. It was a huge success, raising \$5000 for the new program. We want to thank all of the participants, with special thanks to Julie Goloski who initiated and pulled the whole thing together.

The Isabella de Bethencourt Memorial POSA Cops4Kids Match Against Cancer program is a way for shooting competitors, enthusiasts and law enforcement officers to raise contributions from the shooting community to the most worthy of causes: finding a cure for pediatric cancer. The beneficiary of the program is The Jimmy Fund/Dana Farber Cancer Institute, an affiliate of Harvard Medical School and a Comprehensive Cancer Center designated by the National Cancer Institute. It is one of the leading pediatric cancer research organizations in the world. The program is named after well-known police trainer Michael de Bethencourt's daughter Isabella, who died of cancer at 11 months of age.

This program is a national expansion of the POSA Cops4Kids pistol matches run in New England by the non-profit Police Officers Safety Association, Inc. (www.posai.org) in 2005 and 2006 which raised over \$48,000 to help children with cancer.

other event (such as a picnic, BBQ, bake sale, or whatever), charge whatever amount they choose to for participation, and send a check for the proceeds to the program. This program is a natural complement for IDPA, ISPC, Cowboy and police competition, as well as any other organized shooting sports or law enforcement agency events. Proceeds can be generated from shooting fees, donations, raffles, or any other method.

Secondly, organizations may choose to run a special type of fun and educational action shooting match designed by the Police Officers Safety Association specifically for this program—the POSA Street Action Match, in which all stages are shot without seeing them ahead of time, photo-realistic targets are used with threat/no-threat overlays attached, and a street-realistic scoring rules are employed. The suggested targets are the Split-Second Decision-Making targets from Law Enforcement Targets (www.letargets.com), although similar targets

can be substituted. Judgment and street-realistic decisions are highly emphasized in the POSA Street Action match format. IDPA and IPSC shooters who participated in the matches have all reported that



This poster at Stage 1 pretty much explains it all.

The program works in one of two ways. First, any gun club, shooting league, law enforcement agency, any organization, or any group of shooters can hold a match, a single stage at a match, or any

The Tactical Advantage

the difference in format was a great deal of fun, and was a challenging change-up. Some law enforcement officers who have participated said that it was the best training they have ever had. Everyone agreed that helping out a great cause made the experience meaningful. All program details and examples of previous stages can be found on the program website, www.posacops4kids.com

Why would a club, agency or organization donate to pediatric cancer research through the POSA Cops4Kids program, rather than simply send a check to the Jimmy Fund themselves? The main reason is that by donating to this worthy cause with a large combined donation, the extraordinary generosity of the shooting and law enforcement community is clearly demonstrated. Additionally, a national program such as this will encourage more fund-raising events than would otherwise occur.

The way Smith&Wesson choose to participate at the Winter Championships is as follows. Stage 1 of the match was designated the Cops4Kids stage. For a donation of \$10, each shooter got to compete for a Taylor Custom knife, and one was awarded to the top Stage 1 scorer in each shooting class. The results were:

SSP - Dave Sevigny

ESP & Junior - Donnie Burton

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SSR - Frank Palka

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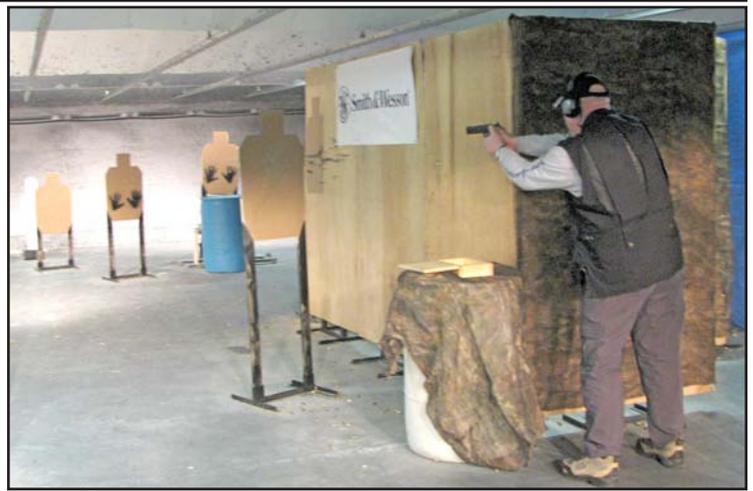
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Additionally, there were raffle tick-

ets for sale, and some pretty amazing prizes were raffled off, including a \$1000 Para Ordinance gift certificate, a \$500 Marshall Gun gift certificate, a free slot to the NRA Bianchi Cup, an M3X Insight light, an M6X Insight light, two \$150 Safariland gift certificates, a \$140 Millenium Gunworks gift certificate, three Surefire lights, and an Otis LE Elite cleaning kit. Thanks so much to all of these great companies for contributing the prizes!

“We are extremely pleased with the wonderful contribution from the IDPA community,” said David Kenik, POSA’s Executive Director. “It really shows the generosity of the shooting community, and we are very grateful to Smith&Wesson, Julie, and the prize donators. But we also want to make clear that you don’t have to contribute at this level to participate in the Cops4Kids Program. If you raise \$50, we’ll be delighted. So please, do whatever you can.” The program is described in detail at the



In the first part of Stage 1, you had to draw from a closed box and negotiate lanes of fire.

POSA Cops4Kids website, www.posacops4kids.com.

About the Police Officers Safety Association

POSA is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization. Its mission is to increase the safety and effectiveness of law enforcement officers by providing free and low-cost advanced education and training. All POSA material is distributed either free or for nominal cost to any verified police officer. Currently, more than 10,000 officers a month make use of POSA training programs.



In the second part of Stage 1, you had to remain seated on a motorcycle and deal with unexpected opening doors that revealed new targets.

Is IDPA training...or not?

by **Christo Strumpfer** **SADPA 17**

Quite often we will hear people refer to taking part in IDPA as training. Regarding it in this sense as training to actually prepare for real life encounters

When we have rules and keep score it is called a game...

We may reason that scenarios simulate real life situations...we shoot on the move etc. etc. and thus perhaps regard it as training... Well we are shooting at paper targets and these targets are most of the time all static, we know where they are or where they will be coming from if not static and...they are not shooting back at us.

No shooting sport will ever prepare you for a real life encounter. Some perceptions created by the shooting sports may work pretty well on the street while others may be very dangerous. So don't rely on sport shooting to save the day. In any conflict situation your adversary does have brains (even though it may not be much). You will have to outsmart him and time will most probably be the one commodity of which not much will be available... any mistake will not be ruled a PE.

How then can you prepare yourself for a real life confrontation? A good call will probably be to attend a CQB course. There are numerous training providers for this type of course. Picking the best one dare I say may be quite an accomplishment as they do not all share the same way of thought. This type of training goes beyond the use of a firearm only and may include the use of knives, impact weapons, unarmed fighting techniques etc. etc. Being proficient in the use of a firearm may just not be enough, even

though some people may think so. Keeping your newly acquired skills honed after such a course... That is up to you and yourself. You will probably have to do another or repeat the course in a couple years...

In IDPA we have rules to protect, in a life threatening situation there are none. The only requirement is to stay alive with preferably no injuries. Yes the possibility of injury or death is real in this type of confrontation and it is something you will have to come to terms with for yourself. No classes, training, reading or sport shooting to prepare you for this.

On the flip side of the coin you may kill or badly injure your adversary. There may be some consequence like the psychological effect on your self for killing someone. Court actions taken against you... I am mentioning just a few. Have you considered handling it, are you prepared? Not that this should stop you from protecting yourself your family or your property.

Physical fitness may also play an important role in handling a real life encounter. A situation can develop where you simply do not have the time to access your firearm. A friend once ended up in a situation where he had to beat his adversaries of with a torch he had in hand. I asked him why he didn't shoot. He replied: "There was no time". Fortunately it ended quickly. The responsibility of keeping fit is something you will have to take care of yourself. Soldiers also have to keep fit...wonder why? Perhaps some encounters do not end quickly?

Again offensive or defensive training goes beyond proficiency

with a firearm. From a Civilian point of view you may think: "I don't need all that ". If one day you should need some of "that" and don't have it you will answer only to yourself...if you are lucky...

Are we then wasting our time taking part in IDPA? To keep a long story short ... Taking part in IDPA regularly will improve on your marksmanship with a handgun. (If it does not you are doing something seriously wrong). If it does not improve your marksmanship for whatever reason it should at least help retaining your current level. On a more personal level... I regard taking part in IDPA as very good shooting practice. If not taking part in organized sport shooting like IDPA I most probably would have spent far less time on the shooting range. Apart from the above there are lots of positives from taking part in IDPA on which I am not going to elaborate. If you don't know them yet keep on taking part in time you will catch up...

In a military / law enforcement environment you may find encouragement from commanders to take part in shooting sports. It will however never be a replacement for training. So yes partaking in sport shooting may be some addition to you training program.

This was only mentioning some of the aspects involved in preparation for real life encounters, there are more.

We should not think IDPA to be something which it was probably never intended to be. It was started as a sport. Enjoy it as a sport, learn from it what you can and appreciate it for what it is.



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570-722-0017 fax
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June 9 - 10, 2007 Carolina Cup

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June 15 - 17, 2007 11th IDPA MA State Championship

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508-984-9589 w
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August 17 - 19, 2007 New England Regional IDPA Championship

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203-207-7284 fax
craig_buckland@gillette.com
David Bold
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781-774-4303 w
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September 15 - 16, 2007 MI State 2007 (Shooter's Dream)

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Competitive Edge Dynamics	39	Smith & Wesson	40
Decot Hy-Wyd	15	Speed Shooter Specialties	17
Harris Publications	3	Springfield Armory USA	12
IDPA Pro Shop	29	Starline Brass	14
Insight Technology	2	T K Custom	7
JR's Hearing Muff Sweats	24	Target Barn, Inc.	19
Khumba Safaris	16	Trijicon	18
MLE / iShot	26	Waller and Son	23
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Precision Delta	24		

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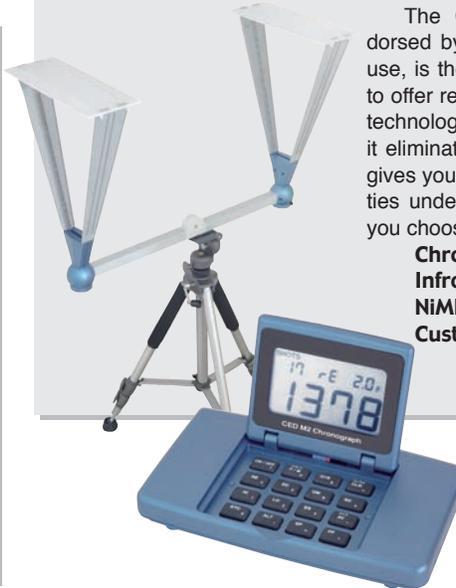
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