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## IDPA Championskip

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# **Tactical Journal**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

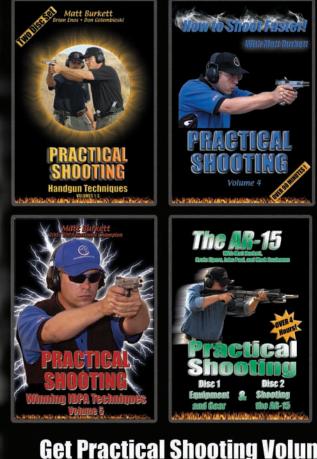
Third Quarter 2005 Volume 9 - Issue 3



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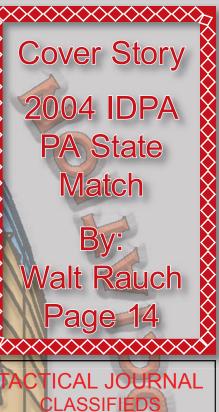
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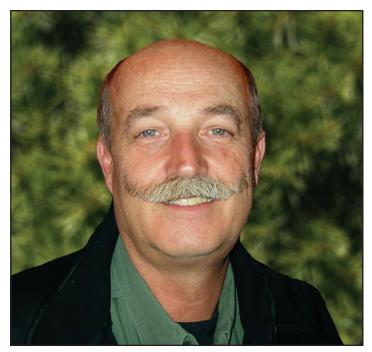
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## KEN'S CORNER By Ken Hackathorn

Of late, I have had a number of new IDPA members ask me what gun is best for IDPA. I have always assumed that those new shooters coming into the IDPA arena will use whatever they already own for self defense. The truth of the matter is that, if they own a .380 auto or 2" five shot .38 special, they are really behind the power curve for IDPA 'competition'. While anyone owning a popular handgun in 9X19mm, .40 S&W, or .45 ACP can compete with those calibers quite easily, some shooters choose to shoot large amounts of ammo for practice; this will force most into either reloading or purchase of low cost promotional ammo. By now we have all noted the love affair that IDPA shooters have with Winchester's 100 bulk pack of 9X19mm at Wal-Mart.

One of the most interesting things that I have noted is that in the 1970s when IPSC began, everyone reloaded. When you finished a stage of fire, if you did not pick up your brass instantly, it would be gone. One of the great changes in time has been the low cost of ammo compared to what we paid for it 30 years ago. On my club's ranges, after our monthly IDPA match, you can pick up hundreds and hundreds of fired cases if you so desire. Few shooters reload, hence little interest in picking up brass.

Since it has been noted that not many IDPA shooters reload, and brass pick-up is not a



popular pastime, what does this mean for caliber selection? Well, when I start looking at the brass people are picking up, I notice that the .45 ACP shooters are the likely group to bend over and hustle brass. When you consider that good once fired .45ACP cases are worth a nickel each, I must admit that I struggle to leave nice once fired .45 ACP cases behind.

When it comes to 9X19mm, few people can justify picking up nine...I refuse to pick up 9X19mm brass, and I plan to never pick up nine brass the rest of my life.

.40 S&W is another cartridge case that doesn't get much recovery. Some folks reload for it. Be careful if it has been fired in a Glock .40 caliber pistol, as the brass is often stressed at the web and weakened. .40 S&W is another caliber that I plan not to pick-up ever. Unfortunately, it is often picked up by mistake when policing .45ACP. There was a time when .38 Special was so common that you could let it lay and never be concerned about running short on .38. Those days have passed and now .38 Special brass is worth recovery. Others include .357, .44 Spec., & .44 Mag., but, these rounds aren't common in IDPA.

If you look at ammo from a purely economy issue, the most logical answer is 9X19mm. For a hundred bucks, give or take ten dollars, you can purchase a 1,000 round case of 9X19mm ball ammo. Whether Winchester's 100 Range pack purchased in case lots, or Wolf 115 ball, great results are the norm. Is this the best ammo in the world? Maybe not, but it is just fine for IDPA. You can afford to shoot lots of rounds and not go broke. There are superb match grade rounds like the CorBon Performance Match, and excellent self defense rounds like the CorBon, Gold Dot +P and +P+ 115 and 127 grain JHP loads.

So, if I were looking for a gun to use in IDPA that was not going to cost a fortune to feed, and I did not reload, my choice would be a 9X19mm. It is easy to see this fact at any IDPA match. In SSP, the Glock 17, 19, & 34 rule. Beretta, Sig, and S&W have a strong presence as well. In ESP, the 9X19mm M1911 is a favorite, and the new XD 9mm is really catching on. Browning P-35s were popular pistols in the early days of IDPA, however, I do not see HiPowers being used all that much now.

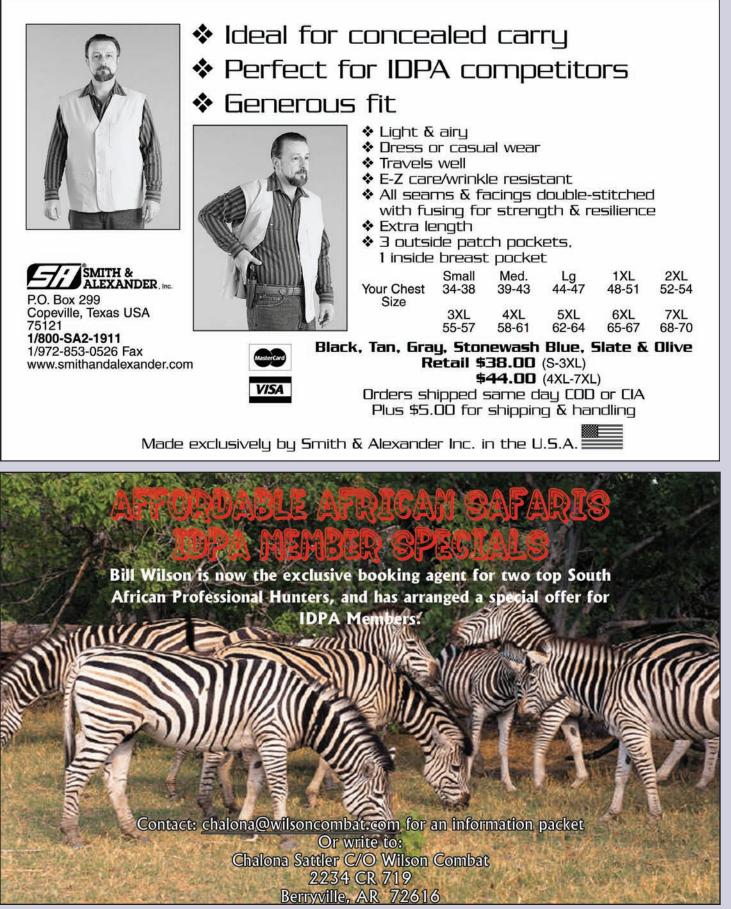
I would have expected the CDP division to be the big hold out for reloaders considering the cost of .45ACP ammo. I would guess that more .45 ACP reloads are shot in IDPA than any other caliber. Yet, the number of folks shooting .45 ACP factory ammo is surprising, and most of these folks don't reload. Wolf 230 ball ammo is popular, can be purchased for about \$135 a thousand, and is used a lot in IDPA events. My experience with factory 230 grain ball ammo is that the best is Winchester white box.

The facts are that in order to become skilled with a handgun you must practice. How good you wish to become depends upon good training and the volume of how much you shoot. Most talented shooters shoot up 250 to 300 rounds in each practice session. Assuming you practice once a week, this means a minimum of 1000 rounds a month. Cost is an issue for most of us. and 9X19mm is about as good as it gets. Remember, under Republican administrations gun control rarely is an issue. When the Democrats come into power, this will change. Ammo availability and cost will be an issue. If you think you want a good supply of cheap practice ammo, either start stocking up now, or start picking up your brass and stocking primers. History has a way of repeating itself.

Remember the past...shoot well.



## E LIGHT WEIGHT COVER-UP



## From the Editor:

Yes it's been an interesting and fairly stressful year so far with all the hoopla over the new rule book. Change is never easy even if it's necessary. I think that most of our membership appreciated the changes to bring the sport back towards it's original intentions. Obviously we can't please everyone. It's amazing how many suggestions we got from some members that were in direct opposition of other members suggestions. So who do you please? We took the path that we felt would keep the organization true to it's founding principals. And it must be OK, as memberships are increasing and we only lost a few disgruntled members that thought that we killed the sport.

We had a couple of complaints about including the Front Sight DVD with the rulebook in the Tactical Journal. They (the complainers) wanted to know if IDPA is affiliated with the Church of Scientology like Front Sight (and I don't know if Front Sight is or isn't affiliated with that religion). I don't check the religious affiliations of our advertisers. I don't see the need to. I sure don't think the membership would like it if we asked those kinds of questions of them – so why should our advertisers or vendors. IDPA as an organization doesn't have a religious affiliation. We who work here may, but that isn't something that should be under public scrutiny. It doesn't affect our jobs or the way we deal with members.

And, we got a couple of complaints about David Tom's parody on 'The Different Types of IDPA Shooters". Have we as a society gotten so stressed out over every day life that we can't look in the mirror and make a little fun of ourselves? Since I took over the position of Editor of the magazine, I've tried to print just about everything I receive from the membership. Granted I've gotten a couple of articles that were just a little too far over the edge to print, but only a couple. I see this organization as pretty much a grassroots association by and for the members. Sure the Nationals are important, but no more or less important than every club match held in every town. I've heard it said that everyone has 10 minutes of fame in their life, so if I can help give someone theirs by printing an article that they took their precious time to write, then I'm gonna do it! We here at HQ, all read the article and thought it was hilarious. And at that time there was just Dru, Sandra and myself – all women. So if we offended someone by printing the article, I am truly sorry. I sure hope that I never get to the point that I take offense at something that blatantly satirical.

Finally, on a really positive note, we're really pleased that Robert Ray of Little Rock, AR has joined the IDPA Headquarters staff. Those of you who have shot the Nationals in Little Rock will recognize him. He has been part of the driving force of the Central Arkansas Shooters Association. He knows the sport as a shooter and match administrator. He brings a wealth of information to us. He'll be a direct liaison between Headquarters and the Area Coordinators and Match Directors along with a host of other duties. We graciously welcome him!

## 2004 West Texas Regional IDPA Championship – Second Verse

## By: Brian Q. Morris A14916

When the Patriot Defensive Pistol Association (PDPA)in Lubbock, Texas stepped up to the plate in 2003 and decided to host a regional match at its indoor facility, there were a number of unanswered, and frankly intimidating questions. Could it be done? Would shooters come? Would they enjoy themselves? Would any sponsors step forward with desirable raffle prizes? The inaugural event in November 2003 proved the answers to all of those questions to be a resounding "YES!" Fast-forward to Halloween weekend 2004. The Second Annual West Texas Regional IDPA Championship came off without at hitch! Once again, the aforementioned questions were all answered in the affirmative. Seventy-six shooters participated (some traveling from as far away as Arkansas, New Mexico, and Arizona), they enjoyed themselves, and a raffle table worth over \$16,000 (retail value) put the proverbial icing on the cake! When it comes to putting on an IDPA match, indoor ranges face a number of unique challenges, not the least of which are the directional limitations which require all shots to made essentially straight ahead or "down range," and a general lack of space. By the same token, indoor ranges typically enjoy a number

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## TACTICAL JOURNAL

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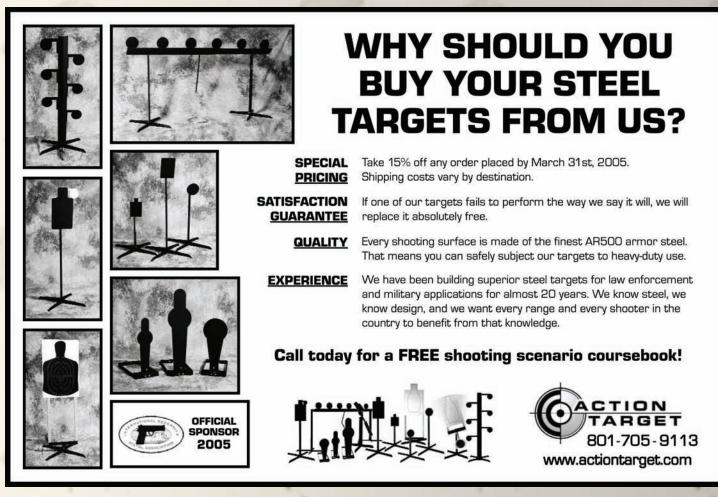
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of distinct advantages, chief among them are absolute control over lighting conditions and easy access to the power sources (electric, pneumatic, etc.) necessary to run a myriad of moving, turning, and otherwise frustrating target arrays.

It was upon these strengths that Match Director Tony Mollhagen devised a series of nine outstanding stages. Tony also took full advantage of the Halloween weekend to incorporate some truly wicked elements into his stage design...everything from charging ghosts to a gang of hoodlums dressed in Halloween costumes holding up a convenience store...an innovative twist on the old drape a t-shirt over a target routine.

Stage 1, entitled Stored in the Briefcase, was an exercise in maintaining cover while simultaneously moving and shooting. In a time when the lack of consistent cover calls has become a popular topic of discussion around every range water cooler, this stage proved to be a daunting challenge. At the signal the shooter, seated at a table, had to retrieve their weapon from a briefcase resting on the table along with any additional mags. From there the shooter had to engage three targets straight ahead in tactical sequence while engaging the remaining four targets (not visible from the starting position) in tactical priority. The trick was that not all targets could be seen from any single position and the shooter had to exercise extreme caution in moving to positions of opportunity not to expose him or herself to any of the remaining threats. And by the way, here's a note for anyone who believes that the SO's and staff members who shoot a match in advance of the actual event receive some sort of "home field advantage." Of the PDPA SO's and staffers who shot the match in advance - a whopping 68% of them suffered cover-call procedurals on this stage, including the Match

Director! That percentage was about three times higher than it turned out to be among the population of shooters who shot the match on the day of the event.

Stage 2, entitled Watch Out for the Witch, made extensive use of mechanical devices and caused the shooter to do some pretty fancy footwork as well. The scenario placed the shooter in a convenience store where an armed gang wearing Halloween costumes was wreaking havoc. An electronically activated target (the thug in the Witch costume) darted out from behind cover, hid behind a non-threat, then darted back and forth between cover, the non-threat, and exposure. Targets that could not be seen from the starting position required the shooter to move rapidly to a second position on the opposite side of the bay to neutralize all threats.

Stage 3, entitled Save Your Friend, incorporated pneumatically powered turning target arrays and dragging a 50-pound dummy. At the signal the shooter began advancing toward a downed comrade (dummy) down range and had to engage three targets in tactical sequence while advancing. Once the dummy had been reached a reload (tactical or with retention) was required. Now grab the dummy. Unfortunately, moving the dummy activated the already-engaged targets to turn and reveal some frustration and a few isolated ammo deficiencies...primarily among the CDP and SSR folks.

Stage 4, entitled Don't Shoot the Wrong Ones (Odds and Evens), really made shooters think back to elementary math...literally. (Let's see, which numbers are even and which numbers are odd?) The start position had the shooter standing behind a shopping cart with hands on the cart handle. At the signal, the shooter had to engage a steel popper downrange. Once the first shot had been fired (whether or not the popper had been hit) the shooter could then advance toward cover while still attempting to hit the popper or, if the popper had been downed, a clamshell target device (activated by the popper). When the non-threat portion of the clamshell came up, it displayed an odd or an even number. This odd or even number served as a "non-threat designator" for four of the seven remaining targets to be engaged from cover (a Bianchi barricade). The targets downrange bore either correspondingly odd or even numbers. While many found this stage somewhat intimidating for its mental element, only two shooters completely confused the odds and evens and thus, totally hosed themselves (multiple FTNs, Hits on Non-Threats, etc.).

Stage 5, entitled Some Real Hard Cover, *Continued on page 20* 

three fresh targets which also had to be engaged in tactical sequence while retreating back to cover. The most common mistake on this stage was shooters getting in a hurry and re-engaging the targets they had already engaged and not waiting for the fresh threats. It was not limited Vickers but expending unnecessary rounds on already dead targets caused 12



## THE LAST MATCH

When the last round has been fired And the range is "cold" once more. And all the shooters have vanished, After viewing their final score.

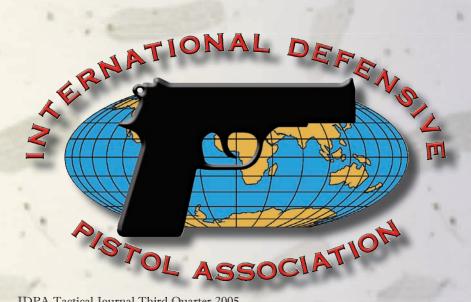
Some, of course, were excited, Others somewhat distressed. But at the next match, one will be missing, It will be me, if you haven't guessed.

My eyes have dimmed and the sights are blurred, Speed is a thing of the past. I've had my fun and now I'm done, This match will be my last.

> But I hope I'll be remembered, As one whe played the game; In a way that brought it honor, Unblemished by any shame.

So, friends and fellow shooters, Here is my last good-bye: 'Til we meet once more on a distant shore, At that Big Range in the Sky.

by Lester A. Metz A03326





Every once in a while a match comes along that has no faults (almost none, anyway) and the 2004 PA state match was just such a contest. Match Director Ted Murphy was well served by help and input from the host club, Ontelaunee Rod & Gun Club, New Tripoli, PA, as well as Easton Fish and Game, Blue Ridge/Cherry Valley and Lower Providence Rod & Gun Clubs, which all contributed both stage designs and staffing, supplemented by Safety Officers from up and down the East Coast.

A match is good or not, for me, if the contest offers a fair and balanced challenge. The benchmark for me is simply that after firing a stage, do I find myself wanting to do it again, or am I just glad to have gotten through it. For this match,

I'd happily reshoot it in three other divisions. (And it would have been "doable" and fun to shoot it with a Back-Up Gun as well.)

The eleven selected stages, requiring 114 rounds minimum to complete, were "just right," in my opinion. They were an excellent and accurate reflection of what we, the founders, wanted IDPA shooting contests to be: "The test of defensive skills in a sporting environment."

Most stages didn't have targets past ten yards or so, but there were two at twenty yards (four shots) and three – two paper and two steel (six shots) – at twelve and fifteen yards. Some of these had hard

By: Walt Rauch

cover while the close targets, also some with hard cover, required one, two or three rounds in both body and head to neutralize. The level of difficulty varied, with some targets out in the open for the "stand and deliver" solution, while others had to be shot from behind both high and low cover.

The obligatory car stages were here but not overdone, with one having the almost-obligatory "IDPA Dummy" to drag about while either shooting or going from one location to another to shoot. The cars were real (two of them, anyway) and required threat engagement from front, rear and over the top as well as the also nowalmost-obligatory shot between driver door and car body.



The almost-obligatory IDPA ''shoot from the car door'' position.

One-handed work was mandated by the contestant being required to pull two ropes to open opposing trap doors over the shooting windows with his off hand to disclose the targets. And, since the club

> **Continued on page 16** IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2005

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One-handed (and off-hand) shooting is forced by having to hold the rope!

does have an indoor range, a low-light, "use the supplied flashlight or not" stage was also presented.

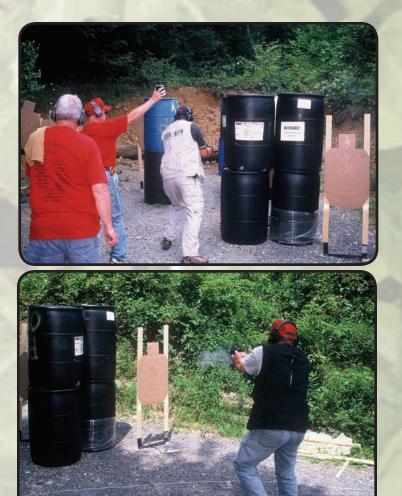
All in all, there were very few "debates"

and the rain gods held off until Sunday (causing one stage to be tossed due to unsafe footing). Both the contestants and staff enjoyed the random prize drawing, with lots of good donated "stuff" on the prize table. Smith & Wesson was the match sponsor (and donated guns!), supplemented by thirty-two other sponsors.

DIVISION WINNERS were as follows (numbers in parenthesis () are target points down):

CUSTOM DEFENSIVE PISTOL (CDP) Master: David Lew, 117.29 (5); Expert: Scott Shalter,140.53 (15); Sharpshooter: Steven Sherman, 185.72 (25); Marksman: James Weaver, 204.40 (28); Novice: Steve Webber, 201.21 (24).

> **Continued on page 18** IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2005





# Shoot, scoot and shoot again.

## NOTICE

The editorial staff of the Tactical Journal is always interested in articles from the membership pertaining to IDPA, guns or other relevant topics. **Pictures with articles are encouraged and welcomed.** Submission or editorial information should be sent to:

IDPA HQ • Attn: T.J. 2232 CR 719 • Berryville, AR 72616 or

e-mail: joyce@idpa.com

Submissions can be sent as:

#1 WORD Via e-mail

#2 Word on disc Via Snail mail.

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

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Small "poppers" and hard cover increased the shooting challenge.

ENHANCED SERVICE PISTOL (ESP) Master: David Olhasso, 109.47 (7); Expert: Gregg Garrett, 133.68 (16); Sharpshooter: Richard Verdi, 151.71 (24); Marksman: Ted Picard, 161.38 (53); Novice: Nick Weidhaas Jr., 305.71 (59).

STOCK SERVICE PISTOL (SSP) Master: Todd Redl, 122.31 (30); Expert: David Streichert, 127.71 (20); Sharpshooter: David Crockett, 146.19 (32); Marksman: Rob Packett, 181.62 (35); Novice: Chuck Jordan, 201.49 (46).

STOCK SERVICE REVOLVER (SSR) Master: Dave Jackson, 184.63 (18); Expert: Kurt Nelson, 169.73 (9); Sharpshooter: Walt Schneck, 230.53 (31); Marksman: Tom Olewine, 214.87 (39); Novice: (none).

SPECIALTY AWARDS went to the following: High Senior: Scott Warren, ESP - Master, 114.83 (6) High Lady: Judith Lafreniere, ESP - Sharpshooter, 167.75 (39) High Law Enforcement: Scott Warren, ESP - Master, 114.83 (6)

High Junior: James Dalton III, ESP - Sharpshooter, 168.04 (49)

High Military: Dan Trembula, CDP - Novice, 243.02 (50) Most Accurate: David Lew, CDP - Master, 117.29 (5)

#### SHOOTER STATISTICS:

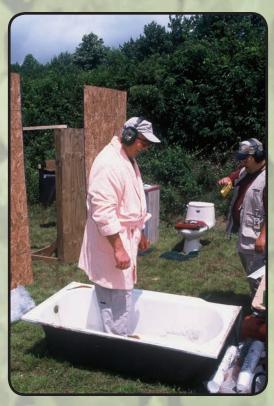
By Division: CDP – 39, ESP – 46, SSP – 66, SSR – 17 By Classification: Master – 25, Expert – 32, Sharpshooter – 57, Marksman – 43, Novice – 11



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## Continued from page 12

placed the shooter in a confrontation with a band of armed hoodlums at an auto impound lot. Once again the first shot activated a popper which in turn triggered two targets bobbing up and down from behind hard cover...an actual sheet of solid steel (ostensibly, a dumpster). The shooter ultimately had to shoot through a fence and neutralize the two "bobbers" and a series of five additional targets partially obscured by cover.

Stage 6, Whirling Dervishes, was an excellent example of a stage that was not particularly complex in its design, but difficult to complete in a timely and accurate fashion. From a distance of seven yards, the shooter had to engage three pneumatically powered turning targets with two shots each. Almost immediately following the signal, the targets began turning back and forth. Shooters were provided with multiple opportunities to neutralize the threats, but the time taken by waiting for those opportunities became costly in a hurry.

Stage 7, Charging Ghost and Mag Change, was a multi-tasking extravaganza. Shooters began by placing one loaded mag on a table

at the rear of the bay, then handed two additional mags loaded with three rounds each to the SO who would scramble the contents of the two three-rounders (i.e. five in one, one in the other, two in one, four in the other, etc.) before returning them to the shooter. The start position was roughly in the middle of the bay - 10 yards downrange from the table and 10 yards up range from the backstop. At the signal the shooter had to draw and fire six rounds into an advancing bad guy wearing a ghost costume,

while the shooter was moving backwards. The bad guy in the ghost costume was an IDPA target with a sheet draped over it, attached to an overhead target retrieval dolly which began advancing toward the shooter immediately on the start signal. Because the "charging ghost" required six shots, a rapid slide-lock reload, while retreating, was required. After the six rounds in the two three-round magazines had been expended, the shooter had to continue rearward until reaching the table at the rear of the bay where the full mag could then be inserted to complete the stage. Following the reload the shooter had to then move laterally along a wall (which ran parallel to the backstop) to a point where four additional threat targets surrounding a non-threat could be seen at the opposite end of the bay (approximately 22 yards downrange). Many shooters did not transition effectively from the frantic pace with which this stage began to the more deliberate pace required to make the long shots at the end and left this stage mumbling to themselves.

Stage 8, entitled Out The Garage Door, re-IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2005 quired the shooter to start seated at a table with their firearm in a closed box (conveniently, an IDPA box). From this position, at the signal, the shooter had to retrieve his weapon and engage a popper at the opposite end of the bay (approximately 20-25 yards) which activated an adjacent turning target. Once the popper and the turner were engaged the

shooter had to move laterally to a free-standing doorway. Opening the door activated a fast-moving swinger with two targets. After engaging the swinger while advancing through the door, the shooter had to move diagonally downrange to a porthole through which four additional threat targets surrounding a nonthreat had be neutralized from a distance of approximately 12 yards.

Stage 9, entitled Man Behind the Pole, placed the shooter in complete dark (except for a rotating red light and flashing strobe.) At the signal, the shooter had to lean out from behind cover and place five scoreable hits on an IDPA target seven yards away. No big deal, eh? Except for the fact that 90% of the A-zone (torso and head) were obscured by a solid steel vertical beam placed directly in front of the target. Talk about variety of performances. The best run was slightly under five seconds with zero down (we're all still wondering how he -James White from Amarillo- did that)...with other shooters emptying entire magazines and never hitting the paper. This stage didn't actually save anybody's chances at a trophy...but it certainly killed a few.

All of the stage descriptions are still available on the PDPA (or Patriot) web site: patriotfirearms.com

In the final analysis, a good time was had by IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2005



all. And the final results looked like this: SSP MA – Guy Hawkins SSP SS -Justin Smiley SSP EX – Stan McCabe Jason Hosaka Paul Kazmarek Steve Ratliff Stephen D. Lee SSP MM -**Daniel Ramirez** SSP NO -**Connie Sexton Bob Radecki** John P. Schmitz CDP EX -Duane Cillessen CDP SS -**Tim Williams** James White Khan Schwanhauser John P. LeVick **Rick Mosely** CDP MM - Charles Kendrick CDP NO -**Brent Rose** Steve Azzinaro Gail Rutledge **Bill Hailey** ESP SS -Kevin Crawford ESP MM -Matt Yankuskie Gregg Kratochvil Brian Q. Morris Tom Sexton **Roger Lisenbey** ESP NO -Jakob Daude Hal Langston

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Dina SchlotterbeckSSR MA -Roger ReidSSR EX -Bill DaerSSR MM -Robert MullanHigh Youth -Jakob DaudeHigh Lady -Teresa JohnstonHigh Senior -Paul KazmarekHigh LE -Paul Kazmarek

Finally, it would be inappropriate not to mention the generous support of the primary sponsors of the Second Annual West Texas Regional IDPA Championship: Springfield Armory, Para Ordnance, Taurus, i-Shot, Peden Energy, McCabe Industries, B&B Enterprises, Front Sight, and last but certainly not least Wilson Combat.

Next year's match is gonna be even better. So be sure to put the Third Annual West Texas Regional IDPA Championship, Fall 2005, on your list of matches to attend.

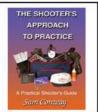
#### **Continued from page 24**

fairly easy. I retrieved my "charging magazine" with the left hand (my sweatshirt had pockets in the front) and loaded the handgun.

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Then I removed the charging magazine and stored it in my sweatshirt pocket and retrieved my first fully loaded magazine. I brought the handgun to my belt buckle and loaded the magazine, holstered and re-concealed the handgun. I nodded to the SO that I was ready. The key here was bringing the handgun to my belt buckle since I was having trouble reaching across my body with my left arm. That is, I brought the handgun to the ammo, not the other way around.

Racking the slide was slightly abnormal. Since I still had the use of my left hand, and could grasp with it, I simply brought the handgun to the belt buckle area. I held the slide with my left hand, and pushed the frame forward (instead of pulling the slide back) with enough force to pull the slide out of my left hand.

The match went well although my times were longer than they would have been had I not been "wounded". But it was worth shooting the match this way since it provided practice of techniques that would not normally be practiced. It is one thing to shoot a particular stage "strong hand only" because of the stage description requirement. It is something else to shoot an entire match strong hand only, contending with the related issues of reloads, concealment, re-holstering, etc.

Don't let a disability prevent you from enjoying shooting matches at your local club or practicing different life saving techniques. Try it sometime at your local club.

## Shooting an IDPA Match as a "WOUNDED SHOOTER" By Gary Hoff A09404

November 10, 2004 found me in an out patient surgical facility awaiting surgery on my (non dominant) left shoulder for A/C joint decompression. The doctor told me that after the surgery, I would be in a sling for about a day while the shoulder block (local anesthetic to block pain in the shoulder and arm) wore off, then I could get rid of the sling and start "range of motion" exercises. I wondered: would I be able to shoot the last match of the year at our local club at the I.W.L.A Oxford Lodge in Oxford Ohio?

The match was on Sunday, November 14. By Saturday I had been out of the sling for 24 hours. Practice with my shooting gear quickly (and painfully) told me that I would not be able to fully extend my left arm to shoot (I shoot isosceles style). Further, I would not be able to raise my left arm high enough, nor reach around behind my left hip far enough, to get to the spare magazines. So, I was forced to

use my right hand to shoot and retrieve magazines. I could bring my left hand up to my belt buckle but could not reach fully across the front of my body. I had no problem grasping with my left hand so I could hold on to things like magazines.

Since I have had the good fortune to attend many excellent handgun training courses (at Tactical Defense Institute in Ohio -TDI), I wanted to put some of my training to good use. So I decided to shoot the match as a "wounded shooter". I started trying different techniques to see which ones would fit within the confines of the safety requirements of the IDPA match and within the range of motion that I had at the time. I came up with an acceptable level of techniques and decided to go to the match and try them out.

At the match, I contacted the Match Director and the Safety Officer of my squad and explained my condition and requested permission to shoot the match as a wounded shooter. They readily agreed and it was off to the races (or is that throwing lead down range?).

The match was set up in four shooting bays with seven stages. The round count was about 100. The only stage that affected me shooting strong hand only was the first one which required one string to be shot weak hand only. My friends at the club took pity on me and allowed me to shoot this string strong hand only since I was shooting the rest of the match that way. Most of the stages were shot from concealment. Several stages had target ranges of up to 20 yards. There were plenty of "good guys" scattered throughout the "bad guys" and even a "hostage" situation. There was also a stage with a car, where the shooter was in the car at the start buzzer, had to exit the car, and deal with the stage scenario. Various stages were set up for engaging in tactical order, tactical sequence, with reloads and around barricades. It turned out to

be a good test of "wounded shooter" skills. I shot the match with my Glock 30, Blade Tech Paddle Holster and Magazine Carrier.

I mentioned that most of the stages were set up drawing from concealment. I was wearing a sweatshirt because of the cooler temperatures of that day. The Hackathorn Rip technique that I learned at TDI was out because my left arm didn't have the range of motion needed to clear the garment. I used a technique that has been dubbed the "Bowie Sweep", also learned at TDI. It simply involves curling the

strong hand fingers inward toward the body, coming up and under the cover garment (or garments; it also works with two different type of garments, say a sweat shirt and a vest), and sweeping the garments up and back over the top of the handgun. At that time, the strong hand simply drops to the handgun and draws. The technique worked very well. The point here was that my injury prevented me from using one technique but I had another at hand. It pays to have plenty of "tools" in your tool box (of skills)! Re-holstering was a bit



of a trick. To re-holster with one hand, I had to catch the cover garment with a "flagged" (or out stretched) thumb or little finger to clear the garment from the holster. I had some trouble with this, especially under the stress of the match for reloads, but nothing that couldn't be worked out with more practice.

For reloads, whether slide lock or tactical reload, I first holstered the handgun. Then I reached across my body with my right hand, retrieved a fresh magazine and placed the magazine in my left hand. Re-drawing the handgun, I brought the handgun to my belt buckle and swapped the partial magazine for the fresh one when doing the tactical reload. When in slide lock, I simply dropped the magazine to the ground before holstering. From there it was "on with the match". I did not use any of the "catch the sight or the slide on the holster / belt / shoe" techniques because of the potential for poor muzzle direction. These are viable techniques for the real world but not necessarily for the safety considerations required at a club match.

"Face down range, load and make ready" was

**Continued on page 22** IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2005

Let's Be Honest

## By: Chip Hammond A01482

The new Rule Book is out, and the onerous "holster list" is gone. Most of us are glad for that. The question that I, and many others, have asked in the past is, "Why can't we just have criteria, instead of approving this holster and that holster?"

With the 2005 Rule Book, that became a reality. But for many shooters, the change to a list of criteria rather than a list of holsters did not bring ballistic bliss. Many of the holsters that had formerly been approved now fall <u>outside</u> the criteria. This has brought talk of open rebellion, and mutiny within the ranks!

Some of us have invested some serious money in holsters that were once approved, but no longer are (myself included). For some of us, the new criteria list represents a financial hardship, and the steam coming from your ears is understandable. But if you can cool off for just a moment, I'd like to defend and make a case for the BoD's decision.

Let me remind you first of all of the purpose of IDPA: "Defensive Pistol shooting as a sport is quite simply the use of practical equipment including full charge service ammunition to solve simulated 'real world' self-defense scenarios. Shooters competing in Defensive Pistol events are required to use practical handguns and holsters that are truly suitable for self-defense use. No 'competition only' equipment is permitted in Defensive Pistol matches . . . ."

I joined IDPA right at its inception in '96. At that time most of the gear was leather, and most of

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124 gr. FMJ	\$ 46.00	\$ 42.00				
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it could be carried concealed - in fact, guys would show up at the matches from work, ask an RO to supervise them while they unloaded their gun of the hollow points they were carrying, and tucked it right back in their carry gear. In other words, practical holsters that were not only *suitable* for daily carry, but were actually *used* for daily carry, were what you saw.

As time went by, this changed. Many of the people who carried would *take off* their "carry gear" and put

on their "IDPA gear." It was evident that they did so because they would never actually use their "IDPA gear" for daily carry.

Now let's be painfully honest (at least it's painful for me). A lot of the problem occurred when kydex holsters were introduced. There is no question that kydex is much faster than leather. However, speaking for myself, if the truth be told, the only kydex *carry* holster I have is an IWB - the *outside* carry holster I use is a leather pancake holster. But the holsters I use for IDPA are all kydex. I do not use them for daily carry because frankly they don't conceal well enough. The one I use almost exclusively for IDPA now has a Tek-lok on it, and guess what? It sets the gun out just a little further from by body, so I don't have to squeeze my thumb between the side of my body and grip of the gun.

So I'm in a bind that I don't like. I have a bin full of holsters that are specifically for IDPA, many of which are no longer permitted. The holsters I actually use for daily carry are <u>slower</u>, and so I don't use them for IDPA (hmmmm . . . what part of "no competition-only equipment" didn't I understand?).

Because our matches are outside, I am <u>not</u> going to use my Mitch Rosen 5JR for fear that I'll scuff this beautiful and expensive holster to ruin. I can use my older Bladetech Belt Slide with a leather belt, as this would fulfill the criteria, but the truth is (here's the painfully honest part) I'd never actually use this holster for daily carry – doesn't conceal well enough.

Are you willing to be really honest? The question we should ask if we truly want to maintain the spirit of IDPA is not, "Could <u>someone</u> actually use this holster for daily carry?" but "Do <u>I</u> use this holster (or this type of holster) for daily carry?"

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			5 or more boxes, ea.	\$25.50		
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AG1	AG1 AlumaGrips with IDPA logo. AG1 AlumaGrips AlumaGrips AlumaGrips AlumaGrips AlumaGrips AlumaGrips AlumaGrips AlumaGrips.		light- weight or standard	\$67.50		
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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		

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IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2005

# Introducing

## Robert Ray IDPA Headquarters



Id faces in new places, I guess that describes me. I am the newest person to join the staff at IDPA Headquarters but I have worked closely with these fine people for some time. I have meet a good number of you at matches but for those people that I have not had the pleasure to meet let me give you a little background information.

I have had a life long interest in guns and shooting but it was not until mid 1999 that I started shooting IDPA. Since that time I have worked as an S.O. in several local, regional, state and national matches. I have been the match director for local, regional and state level matches and worked closely with the MD for the last two Nationals. I have had the pleasure of working with a dedicated group of individuals to help build a small club into the host of the IDPA Nationals for the last 2 years and hosting it again this year. I have been on the Board of Directors at Central Arkansas Shooters Association for 5 years holding the IDPA director slot for three of those years and President for one.

All of that brings me to now and what I will be doing for IDPA.

I was brought on board to help with the interaction and communications between our Area Coordinators, Match Directors and Headquarters. I will be the point of contact for our AC's and MD's for answering questions, addressing concerns, and a whole host of things that these hard working people sometimes need a little help with. These people have a big job to do and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

IDPA has done a lot for me. It has provided me a better avenue to enjoy my 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. It has made me a better shooter. But the biggest thing IDPA has done for me is to allow me to work with and make friends with some really great people. I know I will continue to do so here at headquarters and look forward to working with you.



## Continued from page 26

The BoD made a tough choice and whether you like it or not, I think they deserve a lot

of credit. Many shooters and holster makers are going to be PO'd at them. But IDPA is supposed to be about using "real world" carry guns and gear, and after a proliferation of holsters designs which were frankly made to fulfill the letter of the IDPA rules while circumventing the spirit of them, the new criteria brings the organization back to its roots.

The BoD's decision may prove somewhat financially uncomfortable for some of us. The benefits of "IDPA-only" gear that many of us have come to use and enjoy have been curtained by the new criteria. But if you look at the stated purpose of IDPA, honesty demands the conclusion that the BoD's rationale in implementing these criteria is sound. TARGET DECALS Take the Shot?? Maybe Not!

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It is my privilege to serve as an SO at our IDPA club, and to teach the introductory class for new shooters. This class covers not only the rules of the game, but some qun handling basics. One of those basics is reholstering, which is the subject of this article.

It's easy to form bad habits when it comes to reholstering. but a few simple considerations and some attention to detail can overcome these bad habits, and reprogram your habitual responses to ones that are more tactically sound.

The chief bad habit in reholstering is doing it too fast. There are a number of reasons why people do this. Old cowboy movies model aunslingers reholstering their hoglegs at the same blinding speed they drew them. IPSC shooters tend to follow this pattern – they shove the gun back into (or more accurately "on to") their holsters as fast as they presented them. And at the range during a practice session when multiple presentations are being executed, the faster you can get the gun back in the holster, the sooner you can take it out to shoot again.

Chip Hammond A01482 In a real confrontation, as well as in By IDPA competition, there is every incentive to get the gun out of the holster and into play as quickly as is responsibly possible. But in neither situation is there any need for or benefit to reholstering the gun quickly. In a self-defense situation it could be positively dangerous to do so. There could be other assailants that you didn't pick up on because of the tunnel vision brought on by your body's physical response to serious threat.

A good procedure for reholstering is as follows: After you have shot the stage, drop your gun to low ready (low enough to be able to see hands, waistbands, and pockets) and scan the area (see Photo 1).



Photo 1

When you are satisfied that there are no unneutralized targets, pull the gun back into the manipulation position and perform a tactical reload to top off your gun (if you compete at a club that runs a hot range) (see Photo 2). Pull your gun back into a two handed



Photo 2 retention position, and scan one last time (See Photo 3). Then slip your



Photo 3 weak hand off the gun and slide it up to come to rest in the middle of your chest (this step will prevent you from ever inadvertently muzzling your off hand) (see Photo 4),



Photo 4

and reholster (see Photo 5).



Photo 5

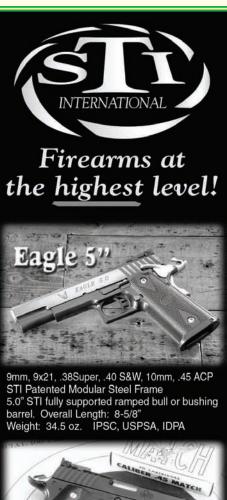
Doing it slowly and deliberately, the whole exercise will take little more than five additional seconds, and so will not slow down the match, but it will instill a good, tactically sound practice.

With a little thought. those who design the stages for IDPA matches can come up with creative ways to encourage slow and deliberate reholstering. A few years ago, I shot a match that contained a stage that took place in a "dark alley" (which only one shooter got to see at a time – no walk through). There were two no-shoot targets, two steel plates, and several threat targets. The shooter was walked into the stage with a bag over his head.

When my name was called by the SO, I stepped up to the line, put the bag on my head, and was walked into the stage. At the beep, I pulled the bag off. I turned, looked for, found, and moved to cover as I presented the gun. Carefully avoiding the no-shoots. I neutralized the threat targets and the steel plates. When I was done I scanned the area, and to my stunned surprise found a target not three paces away that had not yet been neutralized! A quick "taptap" took care of that, but I thought it had really killed my time, and I said to the SO "I can't believe I didn't see that."

That's when he showed me why no one got to see this stage before he or she actually shot it. There were two no-shoot targets, but one of them was in a track held up by a pin attached to one of the poppers. When the steel fell and pulled the pin, the no-shoot fell to reveal a threat target behind it. But by that time the shooter's attention was focused away from that sector and I would have never seen it had I not scanned the area before slowly and deliberately reholstering.

Remember, there is every good reason to get the gun out and into play quickly – there is absolutely <u>no</u> good reason to holster it up quickly, so train yourself to take your time.





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## Where is the IDPA Going?

#### By Gary Burris A01202

In my opinion the IDPA is slowly moving away from its stated goals. And I'll admit that I'm as guilty as any of my fellow shooters for not living up to the goals of the IDPA. Don't misunderstand, change is good and to be expected in an organization like the IDPA. We just need to be very careful that we do not stray far from the original goals that were established when the IDPA was formed. I'd like to look at some of these and try to discover where we have gone off course and what it might take to get back on track. Basically, this is an introspective article that might inspire others to evaluate their motivations for shooting competitively.

In order to understand where the IDPA is going, we must first know where it started and what goals were established. Here are the goals as stated on the IDPA web site:

What are the goals of Defensive Pistol?

• The goal of Defensive Pistol is to create a level playing field for all competitors to test the skill and ability of the individual, not their equipment or gamesmanship.

• To promote safe and proficient use of guns and equipment suitable for self-defense use.

• To offer a competition forum for standard factory produced service pistols such as the Beretta 92F, Glock 17, etc. (STOCK SERVICE PISTOL Division), for popular single action 9mm/.40 pistols which have been modified for carry (ENHANCED SERVICE PISTOL Division), for 1911 style single stack .45's which have been modified for carry, not competition (CUSTOM DEFENSIVE PISTOL Division) and for service revolvers such as the popular Smith & Wesson 686 (STOCK SER-VICE REVOLVER Division).

• To provide the shooters with practical and realistic courses of fire that simulates potentially life threatening encounters or tests skills that would be required to survive life-threatening encounters.

• To offer a practical shooting sport that is responsive to the shooters and sponsors, with unprecedented stability of equipment rules.

• To offer a practical shooting sport that allows competitors to concentrate on the development of their shooting skills and fellowship with other like-minded shooters.

First let me say that no system is perfect. No matter what we do, no matter how hard we try, we can never create a perfectly level playing field for all competitors. For example: scenario design will almost always favor a right-handed shooter over a left-handed shooter or visa versa. Then there are the over 50 shooters that compete against the under 30 shooters. Is it a level playing field if you have to wear bifocals and are not as fit physically as you were 20 plus years ago? I'm not complaining just because I'm in the over 50 bunch. That's life and we have to play the hand we've been dealt. The point is that there is no such thing as a level playing field.

There are a few things we can do to help level the playing field. Design matches so that they are balanced for left and right-hand shooters. Follow IDPA course of fire design guidelines that require scenarios that do not disadvantage the senior or mobility challenged shooter.

Gamesmanship is rampant in our sport. Come on, admit it, many of us use Kydex holsters and magazine carriers because it is faster in competition and not because we like the feel of Kydex over leather. A lot of us have special concealment garments or vests that are designed for competition. We attend training classes that are intended to improve competitive shooting skills not just marksmanship or survival skills.

Shooters do a number of things to their equipment in order to be more competitive. Many factory sights are replaced with colorful ones that are easier to see, we put skateboard tape on grips and a

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#### Continued from page 32

number of other subtle modifications. We work long and hard to get just the right formula for reloading ammunition that just makes the minimum power floor. Question, do you carry the same ammunition you compete with?

And what about equipment that is suitable for self-defense? Do you compete with the gun you carry? Good, most of us do. However, there are a lot of shooters that compete with one gun and carry another. Case in point, I don't carry my S&W 625. Actually, that's not exactly right, I did try carrying the revolver but found that it was difficult to conceal in public with it on my hip. I ended up carrying it in a shoulder rig but after a couple of hours it became uncomfortable and I switched back to my Glock.

All of these things we do are within the rules established by the IDPA and are done so that we will do well in competition. I find no fault with this as long as we understand that the competition is a game and it is fun to do our best to win the game. Problems arise when we abandon the IDPA goals, and winning becomes our focus and motivation for shooting IDPA.



### By Gary Burris A01202

I think, and most would agree, that the IDPA is starting to smell pretty gamey and we need to do something to reign this in before it gets completely out of hand.

Here are some of the things I noticed at this year's IDPA National Championship match that really bug me.

Most courses of fire require that the shooter start standing with his hands naturally at his side. From what I have observed, many shooters have some gorilla in their ancestry. I've seen shooters with their shoulders hunched forward and their hands in front like a gorilla. Some curl their fingers under the hem of their concealment. Many assume a fighting stance with feet spaced greater than shoulder width apart. None of this seems "natural" to me and I'd like to see a lot less of it in our sport. Perhaps a few Failure-to-do-Right penalties would help to curtail this activity.

I saw a lot of "gun slingers" at this match. Their guns were in a low-slung holster or their pants were low on the hips. The grip was canted outward and I wonder if they carried their guns in this configuration on the street. I doubt that it could be considered concealed and would be a violation of concealed carry laws in states that have such laws.

I know there are plans to adopt new holster and magazine carrier rules that will be something that is measurable vs. a list of approved designs. Perhaps this will eliminate the "gun slinger" from competition.

I listened to the questions that a lot of shooters asked and wondered to myself if they had ever read the rulebook. It seemed to my mind that they were seeking ways to circumnavigate the rules to gain a tactical advantage. I encourage shooters to ask for clarification of the course of fire description. But what part of reload behind cover if cover is available don't they understand? Is tactical order that difficult a concept to comprehend?

I don't expect to see any major changes to the 27 rules we currently have when the new rulebook is published. You'll probably see some clarification to these rules. I do expect that we will be required to enforce the rules a little more stringently. I'm only guessing because I don't have any insider information.

## **UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES**

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Brighton, MI Dave Johnson 517-552-9551 h 248-624-4545 w daj1911@yahoo.com www.lcsa.info

## August 20, 2005 NC State IDPA Championship

Boone, NC Robert Niemi 828-446-8778 h & w celticmith@yahoo.com William Davis 252-244-5976 h 252-675-3065 w wadjud@allwaysoline.com www.wgc-idpa.org

## August 20, 2005 2005 WA State IDPA Championship

Renton, WA Rick Breneman 206-365-1674 h 206-623-1900 x 1379 w rick45x8@yahoo.com Robb Wolfe Robbwolfe@aineo.com northwestsection.org/waidpac05/

## September 10, 2005 KY - TN Regional Championship Puryear, TN

Puryear, TN Terry Riley 270-527-0747 h 270-928-2342 w 270-928-2355 fax trcubed@peoplepc.com www.hcgc.net

## September 10, 2005 ID State IDPA Championship

Parma, ID Aaron Goodfellow 208-465-7322 h 208-724-0595 w 208-466-4783 fax aarongoodfellow@hotmail.com Neill Goodfellow 208-452-4183 h 541-889-3165 w 541-889-6146 fax njg308@fmtc.com www.parmarng.org

## September 10, 2005 OH State IDPA Championship

Ashland, OH John Moson 330-273-9868 h & w idpaohiostatematch@ashlandlakegunclub. org

www.ashlandlakegunclub.org

## September 10, 2005 Sno Shoe Gun Club IDPA Championship Kenai, AK Pat Rose 970-398-0963 (cell) 907-262-1224 w

For the most up to date information regarding Upcoming Major Matches, please visit www.idpa.com

## **MORE UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES**

pat.rose@acsalaska.net Bob Rose 907-244-1193 (cell) 907-696-3369 w bobrose@mtaonline.net

## September 18, 2005 2005 Midwest Fall Regional IDPA Championship

Havana, IL Tom Skuse 309-647-6637 h 309-645-5326 w 309-647-8983 fax tomskuse@starband.net Jon Poler 309-543-2856 h & w polbear@grics.net

## September 21 - 25, 2005 2005 IDPA Championship

CASA Little Rock, AR 870-545-3886 870-545-3894 fax info@idpa.com www.idpa.com

## September 24, 2005 IDPA Indiana Midwest Regional

Atlanta, IN Jeff Brown 317-410-2500 h 317-338-1456 w idpashooter1@hotmail.com Jim Barbour 317-258-5545 h



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## October 8, 2005 2005 GA State Championship

Conyers, GA Capel C. English 770-346-7771 h 678-324-2005 w 770-953-8917 fax cenglish@snapsinc.com Mark Mayo 678-644-3081 h 678-644-3081 w mgmayo@bellsouth.net www.gadpa.com

## October 15, 2005 TN State Championship

Manchester, TN Kurt Glick 931-455-7059 h 931-455-1121 w 931-454-1767 fax kglick@tullahoma\_tn.com John Forsyth www.midtnshooters.com

## October 22 - 23, 2005 South Mountain Showdown

Phoenix Rod & Gun Club Phoenix, AZ Don Reed 602-978-5613 h 602-978-5613 w dreed11696@aol.com Jim Edwards 602-957-3421 h 602-957-3421 w va-jimedws-37@worldnet.att.net www.phoenixrodandgun.org IDPA Tactical Journal Third Quarter 2005

## October 29 - 30, 2005 CA State Championship

Chino, CA Ron Long 714-377-7899 h 562-944-0661 x 2349 w rlong4@socal.rr.com Van Duncan 714-713-7979 h 714-713-7979 w www.prado-idpa.com

## November 12, 2005 MS IDPA Championship

Glen, MS Greg Brose 662-423-1690 h 662-286-6006 w 662-287-8730 fax idpa04dir@hotmail.com Nathan Hendrix 662-287-3235 h 662-287-4402 w crssa@earthlink.net www.crssa.com

## November 12, 2005 West TX Regional IDPA Championship

Lubbock, TX Tony Mollhagen 806-787-0161 h 806-787-0161 w 806-796-2859 fax matchdirector@partiotfirearms.com Rick Mosley 806-796-2858 w 806-796-2859 fax patriotfirearms@door.net www.patriotfirearms.com

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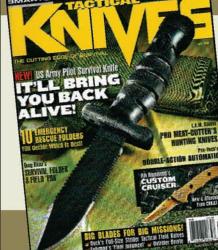




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