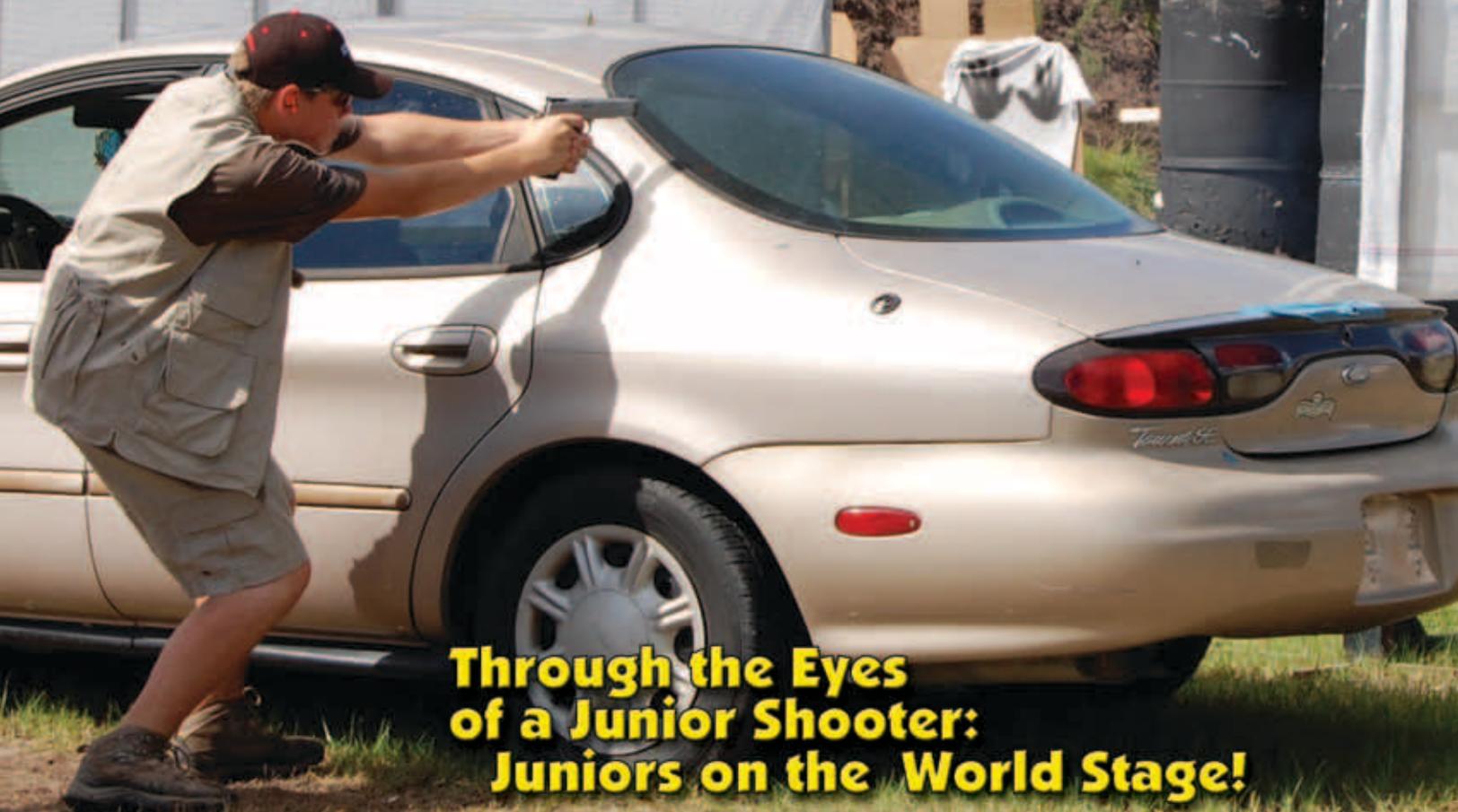


**Random Shots  
Why Clubs Fail**



**Through the Eyes  
of a Junior Shooter:  
Juniors on the World Stage!**

# Tactical Journal

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

First Quarter 2012  
Volume 16 - Issue 1

# HARRIS PUBLICATIONS



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# "Shooter Ready"

## Letters to the *Tactical Journal*

The Tactical Journal welcomes letters to the editor for "Shooter Ready". Send your letters to "Shooter Ready" IDPA 2232 CR 719 Berryville, AR 72616 Email: editor@idpa.com

### Tiger Talk

I participated at IDPA matches for many years but have only been a member for 3 years. Joyce Wilson's "Tiger Teams" approach appears to use team members with lots of experience. I suggest obtaining input from relatively new members or including one on each of the 9 teams.

Two areas where IDPA can improve is to formulate a mentoring process for those new to IDPA and list matches on the IDPA web site. Shooters new to IDPA and matches in general but with training need an explanation of the process. Those with a new pistol and no formal firearms training require extra assistance to assure that they and we are safe. It would also be of great help if IDPA matches or IDPA club web sites were listed on the IDPA web.

Ulo Pulles A39113

*You have a point on the makeup of the teams. Sometimes it is important to get the view point of someone that is new to something. They often have a different perspective on things than a person that has been deeply involved for a number of years. Some of the teams are already set but some of the latter teams have yet to be finalized. I know that Terry and Kitty will make a note of your suggestion and give it some serious thought.*

*As for your improvement ideas, I know that new shooter orientation is an area that one of the later Tiger teams will address. There are some clubs that do a great job of taking care of new shooters and some clubs that are not so good. And on the club subject, we do put that information on the website, if it is given to us. Granted we can't put the calendar dates on there for each club but most clubs have matches on "the second Saturday of each month" or some version of that. I encourage all of the contacts for the clubs to go online and see what is listed for your club. Make sure the information is complete and accurate. With the new shooting season just around the corner*

*now is a perfect time to take care of this important task.*

It is admirable that the Tiger Teams are looking at improvements. This is the front end of the beast. The growth is fantastic and great for the sport but there is a serious downside.

When I joined, you could shoot 8 stages by 1PM. As the participants grew, it now takes to 3:30 or 4:00 PM. As the growth continues, anyone can extrapolate the obvious. New shooters are slow and need a lot of coaching which safety dictates and which makes the sport a great teaching experience. When it takes 8-10 hours to shoot for 20 minutes, the sport will choke itself out. The IDPA organization needs to be proactive with the clubs to seek solutions.

Bruce Jordan A38594

*I feel your pain! My home club started with matches of around 15 to 20 competitors and grew to at one point of over 100 people for a regular club match. What happened that took the pressure off us was that several other IDPA programs got started in the general area. This eased the matches back down to the 45 to 50 person range which was much easier on the match staff. I encourage you to look around and see if another shooting range in the area is not doing IDPA. Maybe a trip there to talk to them about getting IDPA started would be productive. Sure, our club lost a little revenue but we were ultimately happier with the easier match day and the ability to have somewhere to shoot without having to work a match. Ultimately it worked out where you could shoot a match on any weekend of the month and that made everyone happy.*

I've been an IDPA member since its early days and want it to grow. Its membership numbers are far from keeping up with the number of new CCW licensees in this fortunate country of ours. IDPA ought to modify its rules to accommodate the many licensees who do not carry

1911s, N-Frame S&W revolvers, or long-slide Glocks on their belts daily, and who do not ever wear photographers' vests. The vast majority of licensees carry J-Frame-type revolvers or pocket autopistols in pocket holsters, fanny packs, purses, and the like. If we accommodated their weapons and carry methods, we'd open up IDPA to many thousands more potential members. Some rule changes would be necessary, and some course and safety standards redesigning would have to be done, but it can be done. I've already seen local clubs accommodate these regular daily carry handguns and methods in their matches. It just takes a little adaptation and extra care on the part of the match organizers and safety officers. At its founding, IDPA promised to be a sport where participants could use their real daily carry equipment. Let's live up to that founding promise!  
Mack Rudisill A00420

*The Tiger Teams will be wrestling with a number of questions on how to move IDPA forward and reach the ever growing CCW market. You are correct that a number of these people are carrying small frame "pocket guns". There is currently a place for these guns in IDPA at BUG (Back Up Gun) matches. Unfortunately these matches are very under utilized by match directors. I would like to see this area grow and we have to find a way to make this happen. There are a number of obstacles to overcome though. Theses small frame guns are nice to carry but difficult to handle and shoot compared to their larger siblings. Shooting a long stage or even a match can be punishing if you are using a lightweight, big bore gun.*

(Continued on page 38)

**Letters should be typewritten but legible handwriting is acceptable.**  
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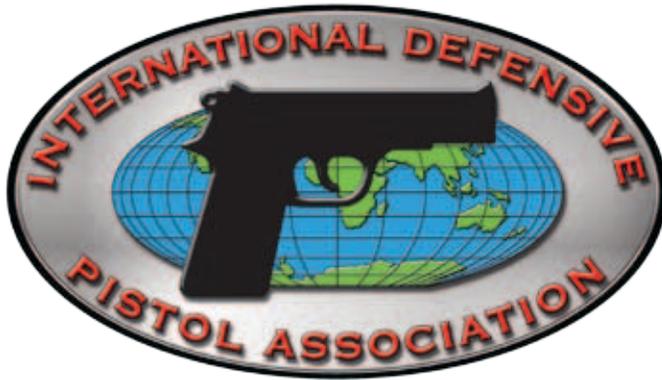
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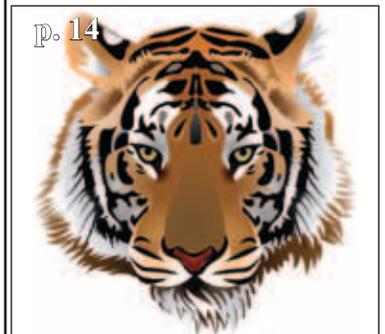
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# Run a Better Match

## Build a Better Club



I am really excited for it to be 2012. There is a new location for the Nationals in North Carolina, and I know it will be a blast. There are many other quality major matches this year. The numbers of local clubs are growing, and IDPA membership is at an all time high. This will be a great year for the sport.

### Shooting:

One of the first training classes I attended was a handgun class at the Chapman Academy in 1999. The Chapman Academy was founded by Ray Chapman in 1979. Ray Chapman was one of the founders of IPSC as well as the 1975 IPSC World Champion. Ray was a WWII Marine Veteran, a police officer, and a Professional Engineer. Ray also was one of the innovators who helped develop the Modern Technique of the Pistol, and has been cited, quoted, and discussed in countless books and magazine articles.

The training at the Chapman Academy included the marksmanship and gun handling training I wanted; including shooting at moving targets and plate rack training. Going there turned out to be a great decision. I had a great time, made some good friends, and came home with a better set of shooting skills.

Following the passing of Ray Chapman in 2008, the school was closed. I believed the Chapman Academy was lost to the past. This week I received some good news from Missouri. The

Chapman Academy has reopened its doors and will be offering two-day classes for 2012. Previous instructor Rich Greiner will be holding three classes this year. Interested shooters can contact Rich by telephone at 573-696-3738 or email at [DIRECTOR@CHAPMANACADEMYOFPRATICALSHOOTING.COM](mailto:DIRECTOR@CHAPMANACADEMYOFPRATICALSHOOTING.COM).

### Officiating:

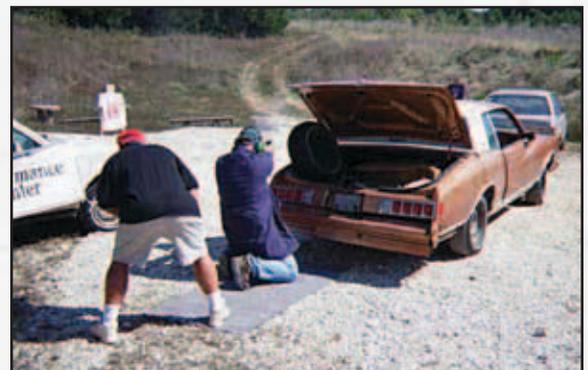
This is a great time of year to get your supplies ready to work your matches. Please think about protecting yourself from the Sun. You really do need to take care of your skin and now is a great time to get some sun hats and clothing that will protect you from the sun's rays. A great source for sun hats is [www.sundayafternoons.com](http://www.sundayafternoons.com). They have a large selection of hats that have a true SPF rating.

I would caution the reader about SPF rated clothing. They work very well but as I found the hard way the World Shoot, they may not be a good choice for very hot environments. After two hours in my Columbia SPF shirt I felt like I was wearing a trash bag and quickly succumbed to the heat. I do believe that SPF rated clothing is a good idea, but you need to make sure it will work with where you are shooting and working matches. If all else fails, consider wearing long sleeves, even in the heat. Take care of your skin now, and save yourself the future trips to the Dermatologist.

Wintertime is a great time to brush up on the IDPA Rule Book. Please take some time and really get to know this book. The more you read it the easier you will be able to reference it. Do not be afraid to take notes, use a highlighter, and dog ear a page or two. Be able to use that book when it is needed.

The Rule Book is what makes IDPA unique. The rules have been adopted by the Board of Directors and are to be used at all IDPA matches. Please take the rules and treat them with respect. This sport will only go forward when all those that work matches decide to follow those rules.

If you go to the various web forums that cover IDPA, you may read posters talking about "rules of the day" or some other kind of nonsense. This is when a club decides to handle a situation differently than it is normally handled at other IDPA clubs. There are times when this is because they do not know how to apply the rules. Usually however, this is caused by a club that decides to



**You don't have to dress like this fellow to beat the sun but sun gear is still a good idea.**

## Run a Better Match



**Problems such as unexpected concrete on a range can be overcome if you work at it."**

become a little independent.

This may be done if the club dislikes a rule or thinks it is not well conceived. It could be done because the club is more competitive minded and wants to make their matches more "run and gun". Or if the club is more tactical minded, and wants to punish the "gamers". Whatever rationalization is being applied to modifying the Rule Book, it is neither correct nor fair to the shooters. When shooters travel to shoot an IDPA match they expect to shoot an IDPA match, not some Match Directors "Director's Cut" of the IDPA rules. The rules must be held up high and followed. Please let your Area Coordinator know when you encounter this. He will help correct the problem.

The rules must be followed for club matches and major matches alike. Try not to think small when you SO a club match. If you keep making exceptions for shooter's equipment and actions because it is a "local match", they will eventually go somewhere else and get procedures and DQ's piled on. You may think you are cutting the shooter a break but you are setting him up to fail.

### Match Directing:

For most parts of the country, the winter time is the "off-season". This is a great time to schedule a work party to clean out your shed/barn/shipping box as well as work on some props. Set up meetings to help develop new volunteers and solicit new stage designers and other helpers.

Winter is a good time to make your goals as an MD. Take a look



**Winter time is a great time to build new props.**

at what kinds of stages you want to do, or if you want to make an investment in a complicated or expensive prop. Planning is very

important to running a better match. Take some time this winter to plan.

So far I have written on how to make your match better. But how does one handle a match when things are going badly?

My grandfather was a plumber and had a lot of smart sayings. He was fond of saying that one of the major differences between an amateur and a professional was the difference in how he handles and solves mistakes. A pro will keep his head as best he can and will not give up. A pro's mistakes once corrected will often not be noticed or will have minimal impact to

the job at hand. A Match Director who is a pro can take mistakes and use them to his advantage, minimize the damage, or fix them smartly.

Your experience level as a match director will help you to be able to handle issues as they arise. Planning and preparation will be a big aid for bad times. If you have taken the time to have a plan for bad weather, medical emergencies and the like, you should be able to react quickly to the problem. Sometimes you

(Continued on page 36)



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# Women's Perspective

**"Lady Shooters Have Class"**

**by Kitty Richards A18564**

I had the privilege of shooting a few matches at the Thunder Tactical range in Houston over the new year. One of our squads was comprised of eight men and four awesome women from the southeast Texas area. When I asked the ladies what their shooting goals were for 2012, they all had the same answers: first was more dry fire practice, and second was to take a training class to improve their IDPA competition skills. A



few of them asked me what to look for when selecting a class or instructor. While I shared with them what I look for, I also wanted to get a different perspective. At the IDPA World Championship match last September, one well-known instructor had eight students who earned trophies – some of them bumps to the next classification – from among the >400 shooters who participated. Who better to discuss how to choose a class that will benefit them than that instructor, Gordon Carrell?

Carrell is well known in the IDPA Arena as a member of the inaugural class of Distinguished Masters and the 2011 IDPA Indoor National

Champion. He was also sponsored by Team Beretta from 2003 – 2006, sponsored by Smith & Wesson from 2007 – 2011 and is currently sponsored by Comp-Tac Victory Gear. An instructor since 2006, he is also a USPSA Production Master. This DM came to shooting later than many competitors, as he started shooting handguns in 2000 and shot his first sanctioned IDPA match in 2002.

Gordon has taught both all-women and coed classes in the US and internationally. He shared some thoughts about what a female shooter should look for in shopping for a class. The first thing a woman should evaluate is to, "Pick an instructor who has experience in the type of shooting you are interested. In our case, someone who competes in the sport (IDPA, USPSA, Steel Challenge, etc.) she is interested in and has experience teaching that sport." While you may have an opportunity to take a class from a famous shooter, do they concentrate on the same sport you want?

A second consideration is the student teacher ratio. "The ratio should never be less than 1 instructor for every 9 students", Carrell says, "otherwise it is hard to receive personalized instruction during the class."

The third most important thing to discover is what post-class resources the student will receive. "Ask what materials will be provided, if any, for the class. I think it is very important to give students handouts on all of the information provided in the class. This will help prevent and deal with information overload."

Some women feel intimidated in a shooting class, especially if they are newer shooters. What strengths does a woman bring to shooting is unique from their male counterparts? "Women typically have a better natural point of aim and a lower center of gravity than men. They also are great listeners and therefore will try to execute techniques exactly as demonstrated rather than letting their ego get in the way of learning", Carrell asserts. Additionally, "women have a lower center of gravity that helps them achieve and maintain an aggressive stance, especially when moving from one shooting position into the next as we often do in IDPA." The biggest



## ***Women's Perspective***

advantage lady shooters have is their mental preparation. "Mentally, I think women do a better job of "letting things go" than men do. For example, when women have a bad stage in a match, they are more likely to forget about that stage and focus on the next stage. Men have more of a tendency to beat themselves up during the remainder of the match."

With all this said, Carrell is objective about the opportunities that face women in a class. "Women do have a few issues to overcome: Lack of upper body



strength can make manipulating the gun more difficult. For example, when manipulating the slide, (to either chamber an round or while unloading) they need to bring the gun in closer to their body. This allows more muscle groups to be utilized in pulling the slide back. In addition, they need the ability to hold the gun up, out, and on target, as long as a man. Again, due to the lack of upper body strength, this presents challenge for most women. Many women are cross dominant (right-handed, left eye dominant or vice versa)

and never realize it. We have to discover this and make adjustments for it. By nature, women are not as competitive as men. While you might choose to shoot the sport for fun, embracing a competitive spirit is a great way to improve your skills. Most importantly, a woman's gear, particularly their holster and magazine pouches, need to accommodate for their figure. Using an offset or drop and offset holster can make drawing the gun more efficient and comfortable. Comp-Tac Victory Gear ([www.comp-tac.com](http://www.comp-tac.com)) makes the "Diva" holster and magazine pouches that address these issues."

When training female shooters, are there issues common to most women that he sees? "The most common issue I see for women is finding a gun that fits their hand. This is crucial in several areas: being able to pull the trigger straight back while not disturbing the sight picture, manipulating the gun, and the ability to control recoil." Carrell says the best way to do this is to watch what other shooters are using, then try several guns before purchasing one.

In his classes, he has found that generally, women have a very different learning style than men. "Women are very literal learners. For example, when told to line up the sights and press the trigger, a man will line up the sights; continue to keep the sights lined up while pressing the trigger until the shot breaks. A woman will do exactly as I say; she will line the sights up, and then pull the trigger, and then wonder why she is not getting better even though she is doing exactly what I'm telling her." What about couples that sign up for the class together? "I have

seen many couples do well in class together, but generally I encourage husbands and wives not to pair up for drills in class; that elevates the potential for conflict and self-induced stress."

There are some recommendations Carrell has for women seeking competition training. "I recommend Lanny Bassham's book "With Winning In Mind" to all my students. 90% of shooting competitively is mental, and this book helps you examine that aspect." There are also some suggestions he gives prospective students regarding equipment and guns. "The most important recommendation I can make to a female shooter is to find a gun that fits her hand. Pick one that has different size back straps to help fit it to her hand size. For competition, I always recommend 5 inch guns (for the longer sight radius), Warren Tactical Sights (competition and defense) and Comp-Tac Victory Gear holsters and magazine pouches for a better fit for a female body."

Prior to his classes, this instructor gives female shooters some counsel, including:

Shirts without v-necks are recommended. This will prevent hot brass from going down their shirts. Comfortable clothing to move and be physical should also be taken into consideration.

(Continued on page 35)



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# Through the Eyes of a Junior Shooter

by Austin Proulx  
A39722



## Juniors on the World Stage

About the author

My name is Austin Proulx, I shoot IDPA in the CDP division; I'm 15 years old and have been competing in IDPA for almost 2 years now. This column is for new shooters, written from a junior shooter's perspective. Topics will include ideas on gear selection, behavior on the range, what to expect as a new shooter and many other subjects specific to people new to the sport (with emphasis on younger shooters).

In this article I would like to focus on the junior shooters who competed at the inaugural IDPA World Championships held at the Universal Shooting Academy in Frostproof, Florida. That match was a very special and new experience for all in attendance. I have collaborated with the five other juniors from around the world to compile thoughts for this article. The following is a description of their individual experiences at the world match.

Gino Lanzoni is a 16 year old shooter from Costa Rica. Gino



competes with an S&W M&P9 Pro in the SSP division. At the World Championship Gino was classified as a Marksman, but after that he shot the classifier and moved up to Sharpshooter. Gino shoots with IDPA Costa Rica / ACSI, and has been shooting IDPA for 7 months. The person Gino credits with inspiring him to start shooting IDPA is Alberto Soto, a CDP Expert. "The World Championship was my first major match. I will be shooting the Florida State Match next March. My experience in Florida was amazing. It was the first international match to which I went. In the beginning I was very nervous, but after my first stage all that nervousness went away and I became more excited to do more stages. I had a great week in Florida with my team and with all the shooters I met at that great Florida match that I enjoyed so much. I'm very happy with the work I did and I hope I will get better and better while I increase my experience in IDPA. My goal is to become an SSP Master and after that move to CDP and also to be a great Master in both. I'm a new junior competitor to IDPA, but I can tell all the juniors that shooting IDPA is a very fun and interesting sport you can practice. And I can tell you that I have grown and learned a lot of things these 6



months that I started shooting a pistol and shooting IDPA. So I challenge all new juniors to join IDPA and I guarantee you wouldn't be sorry about it and that you will have fun in this awesome sport."

Jorge Sleiman is very excited and grateful for the opportunity to be featured in the IDPA Tactical Journal, and I am thrilled at the opportunity to give him and all the other juniors that chance. Jorge is 16 years old, and lives in his home town of Caracas Venezuela where, in early in 2011, he started shooting IDPA with his father as a member of "Avetide," which is a Venezuelan shooting organization that hosts IDPA events. He says he is thankful to receive the terrific guidance of senior shooters in that group. Jorge competed at the World Championships as an SSP Marksman; with a Caracal model F 9mm. For those of you who didn't know, Caracal pistols are manufactured in the United Arab Emirates. Other than the world shoot Jorge has competed in three other major sanctioned events, most recently, the IDPA Triple Crown

(Continued on page 33)

# Random Shots

## "Why Clubs Fail"

Thought provoking ideas to stimulate discussion on the continued growth of IDPA

by Thomas Pinney A24541

Although the IDPA has been growing steadily for almost a decade not all of our clubs have been successful. There are clubs that have withered and disappeared and other clubs that are moribund. There are some common factors that differentiate between those clubs that thrive and those that fall apart.

Successful clubs welcome newcomers and treat them with respect and consideration. Everyone who is qualified and wants to shoot an IDPA match is welcomed with open arms. Usually newcomers are nervous and uncertain; they need to be

greeted and told how much they are appreciated. It is incumbent upon club members to go out of their way to bring in new people. Failing clubs are sometimes seen as cliquish; new shooters are left to their own devices and made to feel like outsiders.

Some shooters are unable to resist the tendency to win at any cost. We have multiple skill level classifications for a reason – so that shooters compete against their peers. Instead of helping newbies, some of our members treat them as opponents to be outshot by the highest possible score. It is no fun being crushed, especially when the people who are besting you are not shy about letting you know how inferior you are to them. New shooters should be encouraged and frequently reminded that they are primarily competing against themselves, and secondarily against their shooting peers.

Local club matches are not major matches and novice shooters are not the same as experts. All too often experienced IDPA shooters forget that not everyone is familiar with all the IDPA rules or with shooting in a competitive environment for that matter. No matter how well briefed newcomers will incur penalties: engaging non-threats, failing to neutralize, and a variety of procedurals such as loading too many rounds in a magazine and the always popular 'shooting targets out of order' penalty. The SO should be 'tender' in awarding these penalties to a new shooter, emphasizing what was not correct

using calm manner and good humor. A practice match at a club is not the same as a sanctioned match, and a new shooter is not going really competing against anyone when they first start shooting IDPA matches; emphasizing penalties is not a good way to bring new shooters back.

Clubs must share the workload. No matter how dedicated, how enthusiastic, how energetic someone might be, keeping a club going is simply too much work if it not shared. It is incumbent upon club officers, match directors, and safety officers as they can and to engage everyone to pitch in and help. One of the first signs of trouble in a club is when participants begin sneaking away as soon as they have finished shooting instead of remaining behind to help put away the equipment. Allowing relatively inexperienced people to be match director means that sometimes matches will not be run as smoothly as possible; people learn by making mistakes. It means that those in charge must be willing to allow someone else to take over and understanding (and allowing) them to do things differently. Clubs where the same people find themselves doing all the work are in trouble. Leaders usually just need to ask other club members to help out; most people are willing to help. Never forget that the fewer people there are doing the work in the club, the shorter the club will last. Conversely, the more people who are involved in the work required the healthier the club.

(Continued on page 32)

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# IDPA Off to a Great First Footing in 2012

## A Message from Joyce Wilson, IDPA Executive Director

I recently learned of an old Celtic tradition called “**First Footing**”. This custom indicates that the first person to cross the threshold and walk through your door on New Year’s sets the tone for the rest of the year, especially if the visitor comes bearing a present. I couldn’t help but relate this to the exciting things we have in store for our sport – thanks to an active membership, grass roots leadership and committed shooters, we will see plenty of gifts this year.

Our Tiger Team initiative got off to a great start in the fall, and the **Infrastructure Team** completed their mission just days before Christmas. Some of the “gifts” we received from them were:

- Compilation of hundreds of suggestions from our members that came in via email and the IDPA forum, guaranteeing that our members’ suggestions would be considered by the appropriate team
- A more streamlined/ refined Principles section of our rulebook, clarifying the principles that have made IDPA strong
- A completed Work

Breakdown Structure (WBS) that put into place a formal outline of our rulebook and defined upcoming Tiger Teams

- A timeline for the identified work of all of the teams

Although completing their mission and leading us over the threshold, these Tigers will not be retiring, but will be providing continued leadership and continuity for successive teams.

The **Social Media Tiger Team** completed their work in late January with delivery of a list of recommendations regarding opportunities for IDPA to increase our footprint in this space. I am continually amazed at the depth of our members’ expertise and knowledge in this field! Caleb Giddings, our partner from Gun Nuts Media, will work with us to implement some of these recommendations as we increase our visibility through technology.

The **Rules Tiger Team** held their kick off in late January and under the guidance of Terry Burba and Kitty Richards as facilitators, they have a lot of work ahead of them. You may recall that we will be “staggering” the teams as they work on areas of rulebook

refinement: our Rules Tigers will work from January through April on their portion of the rulebook, while the **Safety/Scoring/ Classifier Tiger Team** will kick off in March.

Another large effort will be required by the **Equipment Tiger Team**. Their work, tentatively scheduled for May – July, will complete our labor for the first half of 2012. Yes, this schedule is aggressive, especially considering the length of time since our rulebook has been refined. I am confident that with the quality of, and commitment from, all of our team members, we will deliver a more consistent product for our members.

The second half of 2012 will see the formation of Tiger Teams studying areas including Sanctioned Matches, a documented Rule Change Process, Marketing, SO Education, and Administration. Expect an update on our progress each quarter on this program.

If IDPA’s First Footing included Frank Glover as this year’s inaugural guest, his gift to us would be hosting the 2012 IDPA National Championship Match at The Range in Oxford, NC. I am particularly excited about

this, as my recent participation in the Day/Night/Day Match in Oxford reminded me of the quality of his staff and facility.

We will again be utilizing the points system for registration for Nationals, so I encourage you to take advantage of the many sanctioned matches that our talented Match Directors work so hard to make available to our shooters. Points will be totaled from June 1st, 2011 to May 31st, 2012 and will be tracked at IDPA headquarters from the match results received from the match directors of those sanctioned matches. Shooters should check the match results on [www.idpa.com](http://www.idpa.com) to ensure their results are shown. If not, I encourage you to contact your Match Director regarding those results.

As with any New Year,

not all of the news can be good. It is with regret that I accepted the resignation of Toni "Honeybunny" Dandreamatteo, our International Area Coordinator. Honeybunny worked tirelessly to promote our sport and his contributions will be sorely missed.

In other global news, effective January 1st, all Safety Officer (SO) classes involving members outside of the US and Canada must be pre-approved by IDPA HQ. Our concern for our international brothers and sisters is paramount, and with the redesign of our rulebook and possible revamping of our SO Education area, we need to have the updated rulebook and training process in place before asking our international shooters to fight the language and financial barriers involved

in training outside of the US. All new Safety Officer Instructor nominations, nationally and internationally, are hereby suspended unless approved by HQ on an extenuating case by case situation to align with these same concerns.

As we prepare for the gifts and opportunities of the New Year, I want to recognize IDPA's greatest strength – our members. I am grateful for our Tiger Team members who are working so hard on this labor of love; thank you to those of you who called or emailed Kitty or Terry with offers of help, suggestions and support. Thank you for participating in and strengthening this sport that we all love.

Happy New Year!

Joyce



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# MAKE READY WITH THE EXPERTS

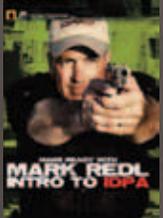
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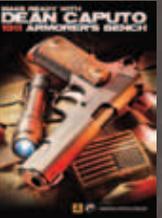
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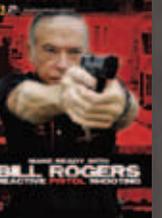
**Mark Redl**  
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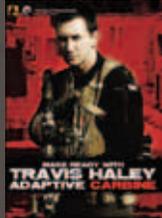
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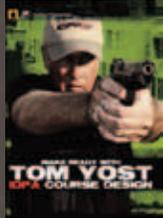
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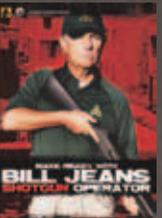
**Bill Rogers**  
Reactive Pistol



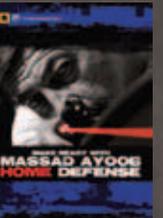
**Travis Haley**  
Adaptive Course



**Tom Yost**  
IDPA Course Design



**Bill Jeans**  
Shotgun Operator



**Massad Ayoob**  
Home Defense



**Jessie Abbate**  
A Woman's Guide to IDPA

**SELECT TITLES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE IDPA PROSHOP**

# Shooter Powered Moving Target

by Ken Reed A10886

Would your IDPA matches be more fun if your club had an inexpensive, easy to build, moving target or maybe several? If so, then I have a deal for you, a Shooter Powered Mover.

Here is a typical stage where the shooter will retreat and the mover will chase the shooter using two pulleys and a rope to provide the movement.

A Shooter Powered Mover is a simple target stand on wheels. The target stand is pulled along by a rope which is run through a series of pulleys and attaches to the shooter's belt with a large carabiner. For retreating the rope is attached to the shooter's belt in the front. For advancing the rope is attached to the shooter's belt in the back.

Thus, when the shooter moves, the target moves at the same speed. There is no special track required, the mover rolls along the bay floor pulled by a rope. The target is light weight with big wheels and pulls easily so it does not interfere with the shooter. The target stand on the mover can be turned to face any direction, so the target can move one direction and face another.

Depending on the positioning and number of pulleys the target can charge the shooter, retreat, move left to right, or right to left. The shooter decides how fast to move and therefore how fast the target moves. This is a particularly wonderful feature because the shooter

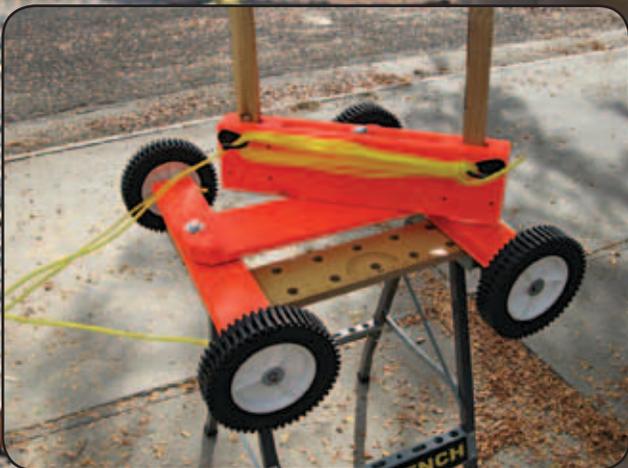


decides how much risk/reward to take in a particular stage. The result is that the target can always move just the right speed for any shooter skill level.

Free plans and video of the mover in action are available for the Shooter Powered Mover at [www.parmarng.org/freeidaho](http://www.parmarng.org/freeidaho) on

the second screen. Materials can be purchased at a hardware store for approximately \$60. The build time is approximately four hours, using common hand tools.

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# What's in a Course Description?

by Steve Koski A01608

There are many ways to write a bad course of fire (COF) description, but only a few ways to write a good one. The COF description is used by the stage setup team, SOs, MD, and shooters. Write a bad one and you'll have the SO's scratching their heads and some upset shooters. Write a good one and you'll probably never hear anything, you'll just have a smoother match.

By my estimation, five sections are needed in a COF description:

- ◇ Scenario
- ◇ Start position
- ◇ Procedure
- ◇ Scoring
- ◇ A sketch

Stage 1: Pit: Parking Lot	
Scenario:	Several miscreants close in on you in parking lot brandishing weapons. As you engage the leader, the others move behind cover but refuse to break off the attack.
Start Position:	•P1, concealed
Procedure:	•Engage T1 with 3 rounds strong hand only from retention (forearm or elbow against rib cage). Then •Engage the remaining targets with 3 rounds each.  Squad wait outside of bay during firing.
Scoring/Rounds:	Vickers, 15 rounds minimum

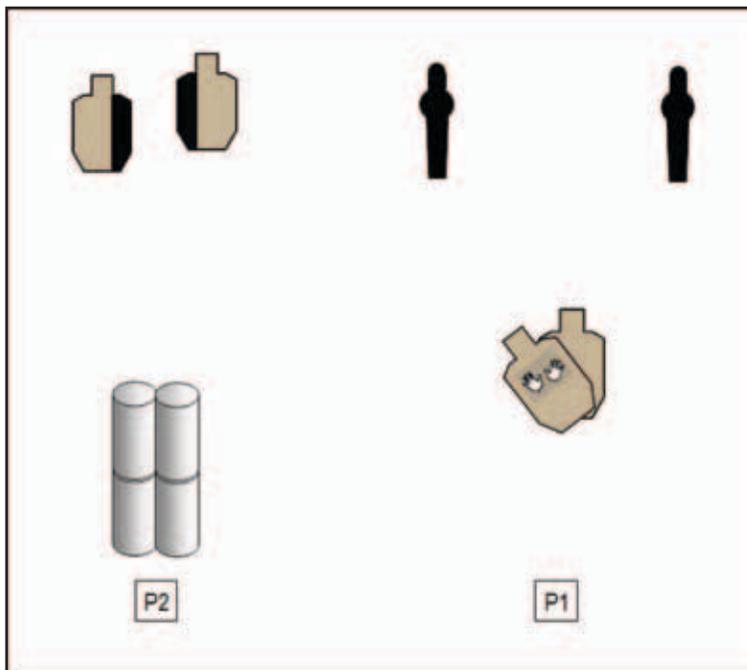
In the Scenario section, set up a defensive shooting situation for scenario type stages. This is important to some shooters, and sets the context for the props and procedure. Put “skills test” or “standards” in this section for standards type stages.

In the Start Position section lay out the details of the starting condition. Go ahead and be specific if you like, but don't state the obvious. The default start position in IDPA is standing, facing targets, hands naturally at your sides, loaded to division capacity, unconcealed. Just tell us what differs from this, such as:

- ◇ P1 back to targets, concealed
- ◇ Kneeling at P1, concealed, fingers fully interlaced on top of head
- ◇ Seated at P1, palms on knees, concealed, gun loaded with 6 rounds maximum
- ◇ Lying flat on your back in bed, unloaded gun (slide forward hammer down) and all ammunition in the closed nightstand drawer
- ◇ P1, concealed, heels against marker, blanket over shooter's head with front edge of blanket covering shooter's belt

## What's in a Course Description?

The Procedure section is the most critical. Some COF designers have a “minimalist” style and really conserve toner. Be prepared for arguments over different interpretations. Example:



“Description: Neutralize all targets, 8 rounds minimum.” Can you shoot the hostage taker and the poppers from P1 or does the shooter need to run to cover at P2 before firing? Can the partial hardcover targets be shot while moving to cover? What if a shooter puts one round on each paper target and has some misses on the poppers, firing a total of 8 rounds? Is that wrong?

Most SOs will try to infer what the COF designer really wanted and then add verbal requirements during the walk through. This can be frustrating for the shooter. Unclear descriptions are especially bad news if you have “traveling SO’s” at the match. One SO might require a much slower procedure than the next. Not good for the club’s mental health.

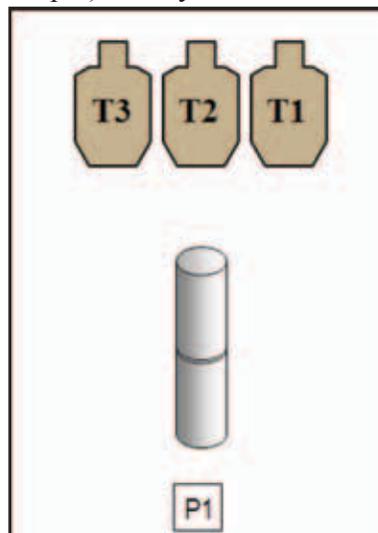
A better description for this stage might read: “From P1 engage the hostage taker with 2 rounds and the poppers. From P2 engage the final two targets with 2 rounds each around either side of the barrels.”

Another problematic style is “the mixer.” “You come out of the restaurant with your significant other and are accosted, engage T1 and T2 with two rounds each from P1, then while retreating to P2 to call 911 from the pay phone engage T3 and T4 with two rounds each while moving.” Avoid mixing the scenario in with the description. Mixing is confusing.

The other end of the spectrum is the COF designer

that writes down a lot, perhaps too much.

“Procedure: At the buzzer draw and engage T1, T2, and T3 with 3 rounds each in tactical priority from cover (slice the pie) freestyle.” Is all of that necessary?



We all know to start at the buzzer, and if the gun is holstered we’ll need to draw it before shooting. Tactical priority and freestyle are the default shooting methods in IDPA, and we’re starting behind cover, so it clearly must be used. So without losing any meaning we can trim it like this: “Procedure: Engage T1-T3 with 3 rounds each.” Trimming the fluff out of the description works fine for simple situations, but details are sometimes helpful, or downright necessary.

Here are a few things to consider putting in the COF

## What's in a Course Description?

description:

◇ Low cover: If you want the shooter to put a knee down you should specify low cover. In theory, you could just say “Engage T6-T7 from low cover at P3.” The “from low cover” should clue the shooter in to the requirement to put at least one knee down. However, I find that many folks don’t put “low cover” and “at least one knee down” together, so I’ll spell this out. “Engage T6-T7 from low cover (at least one knee down) at P3.” Maybe someday we can leave this out. If your club has this down pat, maybe you can skip it.

◇ Tactical sequence: Tactical sequence and tactical priority sound remarkably similar to all but the most salty IDPA souls. I spell this out since the alternative is to hand out a lot of PE’s to new shooters. “Engage T1-T3 with 2 rounds each in tactical sequence (1,1,2,1,1).”

◇ Mozambique: If you want 2 shots to the body and 1 to the head, you had better not say it like that. Sooner or later some wise guy will put 3 in the head and claim that the head is part of the body, and the wise guy’s girlfriend will shoot the head first then the body. Better is to say “engage each target with 2 rounds to the torso and then 1 to the head.”

◇ What to do if you run empty in the open: Many stages start in the open, firing at a few targets while moving to cover. If you’re shooting a revolver or have a couple misses, you could run empty in the open. Unless reminded, many shooters will stand flat footed and reload, or reload while moving to cover – neither are allowed. It’s a good idea to clear this up with wording such as:

\* While moving to cover at P2, engage T1-T3 with 2 rounds each. If you run empty, move to cover at P2, reload, and engage targets from cover.

\* If necessary, seek cover at P2 to reload and finish T1-T3 before advancing to P3.

\* Make up shots may only be made from positions of cover. Reload behind cover only.

◇ Acceptable reloading positions on complex COFs: Some COFs with movement and props give the shooter a chance to reload while not exposed to targets, but not really behind cover in the classic sense. Can the shooter reload while going down a hall? Can they reload while advancing from P2 to P3? This is up to the COF designer. If you want to allow it, fine, say so. If you don’t want to allow it, fine too, but please

say so. “Reloading in the hall is acceptable.” “No reloading between P2 and P3.”

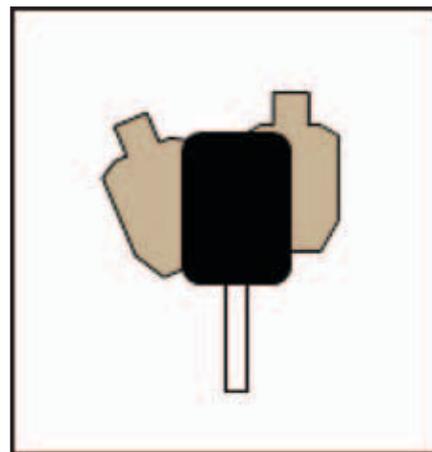
◇ Options: If you are allowing the shooter to decide which order to move, or which side to shoot around cover, or to shoot on the move, etc. consider letting them know.

◇ Required shooting on the move: Example; “Engage T1-T4 with one round each while moving to P2.”

◇ Strong hand only, weak hand only, (freestyle): Make sure your descriptions specify strong hand only or weak hand only in the text. Freestyle is the default shooting method, and there is normally no need to specify it, however, it is helpful to add “freestyle” on stages where there are a mix of freestyle, strong hand only, and weak hand only. For example: “Engage T1 with 3 rounds freestyle, then engage T2 with 3 rounds strong hand only, then engage T3 with 3 rounds weak hand only.”

◇ Firing from retention: The rulebook doesn’t define this. Consider “Engage T1 with 2 rounds strong hand only from retention (forearm or elbow against rib cage).”

◇ Dealing with true hard cover: If you are using steel as hard cover to block cardboard targets, some bullets will hit the edge of the steel and splatter into the target. Your club should decide in advance how to score these targets, and lay it out in the COF description. One method is “Only full round bullet holes count as hits on the targets. Holes caused by partial bullets, ricochets, and bullet splatter are misses.”



Here are some phrases you can put in or leave out. These are generally understood IDPA rules, but occasionally it may be helpful to repeat them.

◇ Poppers must fall, each popper left is 5 down plus

**What's in a Course Description?**



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a FTN

- ◇ FTN does not apply for T4, disappearing target
- ◇ FTNs do not apply, Limited Vickers stage
- ◇ All reloads must start and end behind cover
- ◇ Do not expose yourself to unengaged targets
- ◇ Tactical priority (near to far)
- ◇ Tactical priority (slice the pie)

in the marked area, ready to tape.

- ◇ Due to the amount of forward movement this stage uses a 180° rule, not muzzle safe points.
- ◇ Only shooter, score keeper, and SO may be inside the bay during firing. Squad must remain behind the marked line.
- ◇ Be careful entering the building. There are tripping hazards and sharp surfaces.
- ◇ (Supine stage) Be careful not to muzzle your legs and feet. The shooter is free to move (sit up, stand up, etc.) after the buzzer.
- ◇ Make up shots must be from the initial place of engagement only.

The scoring section is usually brief. Indicate Vickers and the minimum round count, or Limited Vickers and the round count. “Scoring: Limited Vickers, 12 rounds only”, or “Scoring: Vickers, 8+ rounds”

The Sketch can be as simple or fancy as you like, but provide some clue to the positions of targets, cover, props, and the various shooting positions. Distances can be helpful. Fully dimensioning a stage is distracting and largely unnecessary, perhaps just include important distances.

A well written COF description will help the match run smoothly, the scoring fairer, and the shooters and SO’s happier. Take time to write it well.

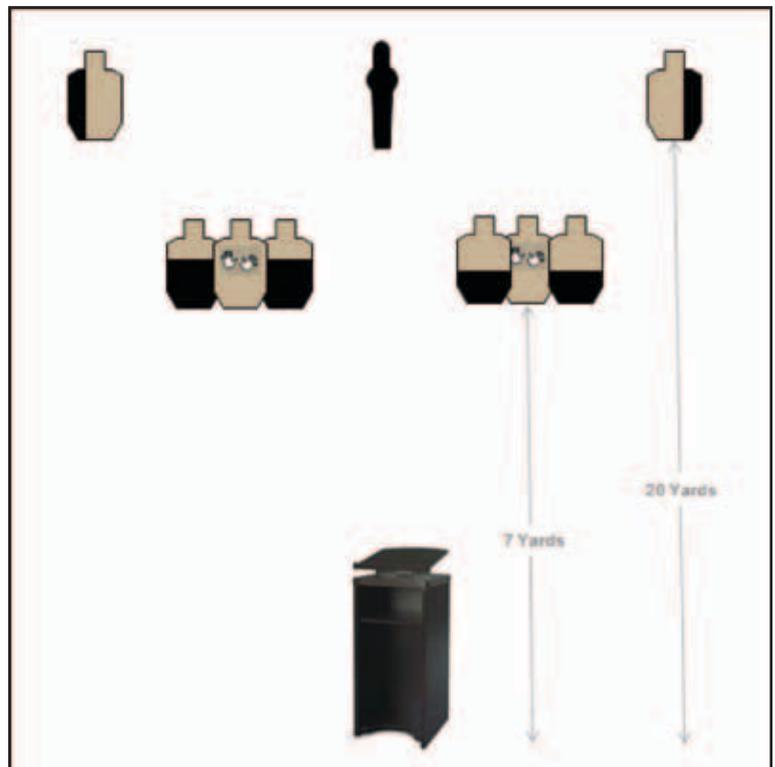
- ◇ Shots must be fired from cover if available
- ◇ Do not cross openings while reloading or with an empty gun

Use your judgment on which phrases to include. If you plug in every possible rule, you will have a painfully long COF description. If you have complex issues, address them, and don’t repeat the more common rules. You aren’t required to repeat every rule. Personally, I’m not a fan of repeating the common/simple rules in the COF description.

The SO’s should read the description word-for-word to each squad. If your COF is super long or written poorly, the SO is more likely to offer his own summary instead of reading your gobbledygook. A good check is to read it out loud to a non-shooter. Does it make sense? Are you using complete sentences? Would you want to read it to 12 squads?

At the end of the Description section I highlight any special safety concerns. This is often blank.

- ◇ Only shooter and SO may enter the building during firing. The rest of the squad should remain



# The Tactical Advantage

By: Robert Ray



## Nevco Target Stands

The new year has arrived and the new shooting season will be ramping up before you know it. I realize that some lucky clubs in the deep south and a few hardy souls in colder climates shoot year round but the majority of the country takes some time off during the winter months. It is a time to catch up on reloading, dry fire practice and most importantly make plans for the next shooting season. This is true for the individual shooter and the club as well. One area that needs a good look is target stands.

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## ***Tactical Advantage***

A lot of clubs use wood target stands but the problem with them is that they always seem to need to be repaired or replaced. Wood rots, screws rust out and they can generally be a pain in the butt to keep up. Steel target stands cost a little more on the front end but they pay big dividends in the long term with longevity and ease of use. One such source of steel targets is our friends at Nevco Target.

I wrote a while back about a nice like portable rifle target and since then I have had the opportunity to use several of their steel target stands. Nevco makes a quality product and their steel target stands are no exception. The first stand is called their Standard IDPA/IPSC Target Stand. It is a standard I shape with the top and bottom of the I making the feet. Each foot has a hole drilled on each end allowing you to stake the target stand down on all four corners in case of high wind or like most clubs do during a sanctioned match. Most other stands I have used only have two holes if any. The uprights are built to fit a standard 1x2 inch target stake. Nevco again goes the extra step of adding tightening screws to ensure your target stakes stay secure in their holders. Although a great club stand, it is still compact enough for an individual to throw in the trunk when heading to the local gravel pit for a little informal practice.



The next stand is the Folding Target Stand. It is designed to be as compact as possible for the individual shooter. This target stand has a heavy central base to which the target stake holders are welded. It has two stake holes drilled into this portion. In the center is a nylon locking nut that holds a folding foot. This part pivots from the closed position to an open “X” shape to provide

a stable base. This folding design makes it easy to throw this stand in a car trunk or behind the seat of the truck so you can stop and practice whenever the opportunity arises.



The last target frame is my personal favorite and is called the Drive In Target Stand. It does take a little more muscle to set up but to me it provides the most versatile target presentations. Like the previous folding stand it has a heavy central base that holds the target stake pockets. Instead of a standard foot, this target stand has a pointed steel spike. This allows you to drive the stand into the ground at whatever angle you choose. I personally like to see more targets at various angles rather than a stage with all the threats straight up and down. The top of the spike also has a strike plate welded in place so you have a nice flat spot for the hammer to strike. The only issue that you have to be aware of with this stand is that if you have very rocky ground it may be tough to impossible to set this stand. However if you have softer, sandy soil,

## Tactical Advantage



you don't even need a hammer to set this target stand. Another great feature is there is no need to come back and stake it down once set.

All of these target stands are well made and will provide years of great service. Another nice feature is that they all are only \$40 each but if you give them a call they will talk to you about LE or club pricing. Nevco has a number of other great targets and stands and it is well worth your while to go to their website and check them



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### **Gun Fun IDPA Practice Targets**

IDPA has partnered with Gun Fun to offer a new option for your practice sessions. Gun Fun is the only authorized producer of  $\frac{3}{4}$  sized IDPA targets. These targets are not legal for use in any local club or sanctioned match but strictly manufactured for practice only. The plus to using the smaller targets is after spending time getting your hits on these slightly smaller targets, it makes it easier to get your hits faster and more accurately on match day.



These targets are printed on heavy stock paper with the IDPA target scaled down the  $\frac{3}{4}$  size. This target can easily be used in a number of ways, clipped to indoor range target carriers, stapled to range target boards or clipped to old IDPA cardboard targets. Gun Fun will sell them to you by the single target or by the hundreds and everything in between so you can get exactly what you need. Of course ordering multiple targets drives down the price.

Gun Fun also produces a practice pack that includes 12 IDPA practice targets, corrugated plastic target backer with integrated stand legs and spring paper clips to hold the targets on. They also include a few bonus targets in the

pack including one hostage taker, one zombie and one silhouette target.

This is a great way to get out and practice for your next match whether it is a National level event or just a local club match. You can go to [www.gunfun.com](http://www.gunfun.com) to check out the IDPA targets but be sure to take a look around their website. Not only do they offer the IDPA target but they offer hundreds of other targets as well, silhouettes, hostage takes, zombies, game animals, all manner of bullseye type, shooting games and many others to numerous



to list here. What ever you are looking for, they probably have it. You can also give them a call at 1-877-7GUNFUN (1-877-748-6386). 

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# What a Difference a Year Makes

by Tammy "Spydersmom" Kaufman A37313

Last year I wrote of my experience shooting at my first ever major sanctioned IDPA match, the North Carolina State Championship at Caswell Ranch. During the intervening 12 months, my IDPA experience has evolved and morphed in a direction I never expected as I headed into the 2011 NC State match, held once again at Caswell.

To give a little background, let's first look back a year ago. Dissatisfied and frustrated with my results last year, right after that match I sought the advice of Dean Brevit, who had a suggestion that caught me totally off-guard. "I think you should try revolver." What?? Use an old-fashioned cowboy gun for competition? I could barely manage racking a slide and working a magazine release button, and Dean wanted me to learn the complexities of using a speedloader, and in a gun which only lets you know it's empty by clicking when you expect a bang.

## What a Difference a Year Makes

But, me being the stubborn old fool that I am, and certainly not one to fear embarrassment in public – heck, for years I raced a leopard print mountain bike wearing matching leopard print attire... – I naively said “Sure!”, and proceeded to purchase a Smith & Wesson 686 which I promptly brought to Dean for tuning and customizing.

The very first day the gun was ready, I went to Dean for a lesson with it and after that first frustrating hour, he set up some targets and ran me through a Classifier. I won't go into detail, but let's just say if there was a division below Novice, I would have been in it. I worked hard to learn the intricacies of revolver skills and practiced every single day for weeks on end, taking lessons intermittently. Then four months later I reclassified. This time I made Marksman, barely missing Sharpshooter by a handful of seconds.

As the months passed, I slowly transitioned from “I HATE this gun” to “I LOVE this gun”, and it wasn't long before the reload procedure was as natural to me as breathing. The wheelgun began to just feel “right” and after a year of shooting local club

matches with it, I felt ready for this year's NC State match.

Being familiar with Dean's stage design, I fully expected the match to be challenging and fun, and I was not disappointed. I squadded with three great guys who regularly shoot with us and we set out on the course after the safety briefing.

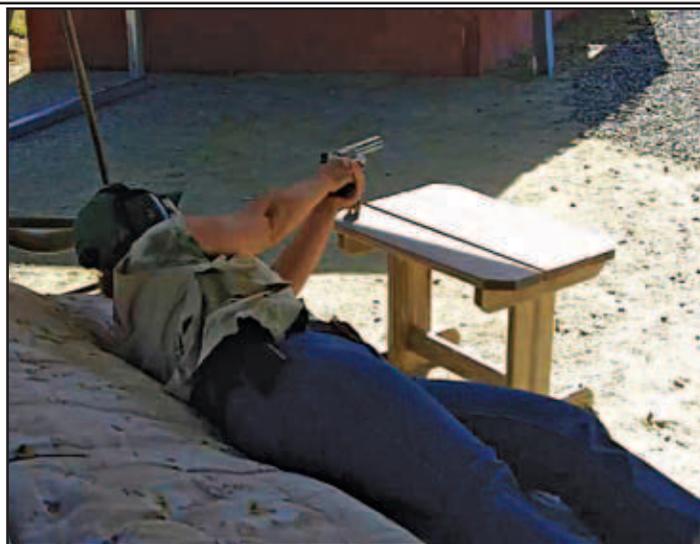
As it was a shotgun start, we elected to begin on Stage Three



– Shooting four targets around a picnic table with three rounds each while advancing. Simple enough, right? Well, I started out okay, but somehow managed to completely miss T2!!! That was good enough for down-15 and a Fail. Yikes.

### Stage 3

Trying to be an optimist – completely out of character for me – I chalked that up to shooting so early in the morning, and proceeded to Stage Four, the shoot



house. I had shot in the shoot house in previous weeks, but for this match, it was beyond dark in there. In fact, a fellow shooter described the moment the SO closed the door as feeling like “the gates of hell slamming shut behind you!” and Dean had painted some disorienting red and black pattern on the door right in front of your face at the start position, which really gave an eerie feel to the house. This stage had five targets requiring two to the body and one to the head. Despite having never shot a revolver with a flashlight before, I felt like I did okay – until I heard my time called out at 53 and change! At least I had no fails or no-shoots, and even managed to hit the target covered with a black tee-shirt.

Stage Five was a stage I was actually quite comfortable with, where three targets were engaged with two shots each from a supine position on a swinging patio couch. Not screaming fast, but I was okay with my down-3 total.

### Stage 5

Stage Six involved the dreaded shooting-from-the-truck scenario with a twist. We had to turn around,

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## What a Difference a Year Makes



retrieve our gun from the dummy-driver's lap and shoot through the back window which was covered with lattice-work, while a no-shoot swinger waved back and forth across the sight line. My time was okay, but those points down pretty much ate my lunch.

### Stage 6

I skipped ahead to Stage Eight for the standards and except for placing a beautiful figure-eight double high on the upside-down 30-yard target in the down-3 zone, had an acceptable run.

### Stage 8

By this time, my calculations showed my points down were horrendous and pushing my score to scary-to-calculate levels, so I



was rather nervous as I approached Stage Seven, the house-clearing stage. Fortunately, several of my shooting buddies, some of whom regularly work as SOs at the club

matches, were at this stage when I arrived and gave me a much-needed pep talk. I managed to slow my shooting down just a bit here, as I worked my way down the various hallways and shot this stage clean,

despite having some very tight shooting angles through windows and doorways.

### Stage 7



It wasn't quite lunch time at this point, so our little group decided to head over to the "back side" of the range to shoot Stage Nine. This was a simple three-target triangular array at an ATM, which I managed to clean as well.

### Stage 9

Stage Ten was set up as a restaurant scenario – complete with dinnerware nailed to the table! – shot seated, with three targets in tactical sequence and then three

farther targets in any order. Getting in a bit too much of a hurry cost me a couple of points, but I felt okay with that stage overall.

### Stage 10



### Stage 12

Down in the field next to the pond, the golf cart was parked and ready for Stage Twelve. For this one, the gun and reloads would be placed in separate pockets in the golf bag in the back of the cart, and on the signal, I had to get out of the cart, retrieve my gun and handle six fairly distant targets while using the golf cart for cover. I probably shot this one a little faster than my abilities as well, since my points down were a bit more than they should have been, although not terrible.

### Stage 12

Since we still had time before lunch, we decided to go ahead and shoot Stage Eleven, the one most folks dreaded but with my vision being so weird anyway, didn't really bother me. For this one, we had to wear safety glasses with the dominant eye side blacked out. Three targets were shot through a "tunnel", and the remaining four were shot around a couple of walls, using the walls as cover. This was actually probably my best stage so far, both in time and points down, surprisingly enough.

After lunch, we finished up with  
(Continued on page 38)

# UPCOMING MAJOR MATCHES

**February 11, 2012**

**West TX IDPA Regional - 10th Annual**

Lubbock, TX  
Michael Murphy  
806-893-2944 h  
806-796-2859 fax  
mike\_m624@hotmail.com  
Rick Mosley  
806-796-2858 w  
806-796-2859 fax  
patriotfirearms@door.net  
www.patriotfirearms.com

**February 11, 2012**

**NC Ironman IDPA Championship**

Caswell Ranch  
Prospect, NC  
Dean Brevit  
919-805-0370 h  
caswellranch@embarqmail.com  
www.caswellranch.com  
Outdoor cold weather match

**February 18 - 19, 2012**

**Winter Match**

Bergamo, Italy  
Giorgio Acerboni  
39-335-600165 w  
39-035-26064 fax  
giorgio@idpa.it  
Emanuele Gaddi  
39-338-6048788 w  
www.idpa.it

**February 23 - 25, 2012**

**2012 Smith and Wesson IDPA Indoor Nationals**

S & W Shooting Sports Center

Springfield, MA  
Tom Yost  
860-573-0415 w  
tom356tsw@yahoo.com  
Mike Critser  
203-339-0082 w  
mtcritser@sbcglobal.net  
www.matchreg.com/sw/

**March 3, 2012**

**First National Championship of IDPA Puerto Rico 2012**

Caguas, Puerto Rico  
Eliut Flores  
787-744-5686 h  
787-249-4444 w  
787-746-2745 fax  
eflores@idpapr.com  
Toni Dandreamatteo  
idpapr.com  
http://idpapr.com

**March 9 - 11, 2012**

**2012 FL State IDPA Championship**

Clearwater, FL  
Dan Bernard  
813-340-7707 w  
bernardd@baytobay.org  
www.wacactions shooting.com

**March 18, 2012**

**Friends of Wounded Warrior Project - Sparta Classic**

Sparta, IL  
John Abbott  
618-912-4715 h

**March 18, 2012**

**2012 ATECA IDPA Regional**

**Match**

Poligono de Tiro de Cabimas, Zulia, Venezuela  
Jorge Suarez  
58-414-6765522 h  
58-265-6412585 fax  
jorgesuarez@ateca.com.ve  
www.ateca.com.ve

**April 21, 2012**

**Nighthawk Custom IDPA Challenge**

Centerton, AR  
Jon Hodoway  
479-631-1321 h  
jehodoway@yahoo.com  
www.nighthawkcustomtraining.com

**April 21, 2012**

**AL 2012 IDPA State Championship**

Montgomery, AL  
David Rawlinson  
334-324-3257 h  
866-724-9829 fax  
DeadIDave43@aol.com  
Kevin Collins  
334-322-9942 w  
mkc7908@gmail.com  
centralalabamagunclub.com

**May 12, 2012**

**The Masters 2012**

Birmingham, AL  
Mike Lunsford  
205-504-3315 w  
alabamaidpa@charter.net  
Dave Horn  
205-908-5628 w  
davidhorn@mudtownalabama.com  
www.brocksgapidpa.com

**May 18 - 20, 2012**

**Great Lakes Regional**

Munger, MI  
Gary Cuttitta  
989-928-2796 h  
cheetahs1963@gmail.com  
David Alexander  
989-329-0257 h  
acwelding1@gmail.com  
www.linwoodbaysportsmans.com



## ***Upcoming Major Matches***

**May 19, 2012**

### **AR State Championship**

Little Rock, AR  
Goose Changose  
501-690-6656 w  
wchangose@aol.com  
Jeff Melton  
501-804-8927 w  
jqmelton@att.net  
www.casarange.com

**June 2, 2012**

### **IL State Championship**

Sparta, IL  
Jeff Duckworth  
618-210-7357 h  
litchfield-idpa@hotmail.com

**June 2 - 3, 2012**

### **2012 IDPA MA State Championship**

Dartmouth, MA  
Chuck Zaniboni  
508-317-0974 h  
508-759-3894 w & fax  
powderhorn308@live.com  
Doug Barresi  
508-990-2549 h  
508-491-8333 w  
dougby1@verizon.net  
www.rodgun-nb.org

**June 9, 2012**

### **MO State IDPA Championship - BackStoppers Challenge**

St. Louis, MO  
Mark Goede  
314-225-7640 h  
636-821-1338 w  
mark@arpc-idpa.com  
Jere Wilmering  
314-603-8839 h  
jere@arpc-idpa.com  
www.arpc-idpa.com/MoState12

**June 14 - 16, 2012**

### **The Carolina Cup**

Oxford, NC  
Frank Glover  
919-693-6313 h  
919-691-7686 w  
therange@gloryroad.net  
the-range.com

**June 23, 2012**

### **TX State IDPA Championship**

Greenville, TX  
Cody Ray  
214-232-8267 h  
Delta1Cody@tx.rr.com

Don Perkins  
214-435-9503 h  
donperk@tx.rr.com  
www.ccidpa.org

**June 23, 2012**

### **2012 CO State Championship**

Montrose, CO  
Greg Brose  
662-423-8355 h  
bxstidpa@gmail.com  
bxstidpa.com

**August 11, 2012**

### **NC State IDPA Championship**

Boone, NC  
Robert Niemi, Jr.  
828-446-8778 h  
celticmith@yahoo.com  
Gary Hoyle  
828-963-6307 h  
828-963-3995 w  
828-262-2796 fax  
garyh@wgc-idpa.org  
www.WGC-IDPA.org

**September 8 - 8, 2012**

### **Tri State Regional Championship**

Arlington, TN  
Chandler La Frain  
731-343-4001 h  
2012tristateregional@gmail.com  
Tad Nohsey  
901-494-4740 h  
tn3putler@bellsouth.net  
www.memphis-ssa.com

**September 19 – 22, 2012**

### **IDPA National Championship**

Oxford, NC  
870-545-3886  
870-545-3894 fax  
info@idpa.com

www.idpa.com

**October 6, 2012**

### **KY-TN Regional IDPA Championship**

Puryear, TN  
Steve Vaughn  
731-796-0848 h  
s\_vaughn@bellsouth.net  
www.henrycountygunclub.com

**October 13, 2012**

### **MS State Match**

Saltillo, MS  
Nicky Carter  
662-871-3346 h  
ndcarter61@gmail.com  
DeDe Carter  
662-871-1723 h & w  
662-377-3323 fax  
delia@ridgecrossingshootingclub.com  
ridgecrossingshootingclub.com

**October 20, 2012**

### **Lone Star IDPA Championship**

Jacksboro, TX  
Brian Ehrler  
817-704-0155 h  
817-975-0315 w  
brian@txdft.com  
James Lenaburg  
817-431-2407 h  
817-521-7934 w  
extremist@verizon.net  
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**November 3, 2012**

### **Music City Cup**

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Our more successful clubs shoot regularly. That means they shoot more often than once a month. This is a lot of work if the same people try to do everything themselves. Even small clubs can support a two events a month, weather permitting. Club matches are the cornerstone of the IDPA; active clubs tend to be healthy clubs – clubs that seldom shoot seldom survive.

IDPA events should be more than just a competition. Competition is very important, but a surprising number of participants at local club matches are people who only attend two or three events a year just to keep their self defense skills sharp. Clubs where members emphasize winning sanctioned competitions soon turn into a group of individuals who are all about winning for themselves. No club can thrive when it consists primarily of people who treat club matches as nothing but practice sessions to improve their personal skills for the next major match. There must be a place in IDPA shooting for people who want to shoot for something other than a trophy. Club matches should be social as well as competitive practice.

Matches are the primary reason for the IDPA; those matches should be fun. Some match directors seem to fall in love with difficult stages. Perhaps it is because they are almost always successful competitors; they want to provide club members the same level of exciting challenges they faced at their last state championship. Experts are able to handle a drop turner, clamshell targets and sliders all on the same stage. They might have no problem with making head shots at 20 yards – on swingers;

novices and newcomers are simply unable to make those shots. They may leave feeling overwhelmed and inadequate. On the other extreme some clubs focus on short simplistic stages with perhaps only 30 or 40 scored shots for the entire match. These very short matches can leave you wondering why you even bothered to come out to the match. There is a happy medium between short and overly simplistic matches and excessively complicated and extremely difficult ones. A well designed course of fire should be challenging to a Master level shooter and yet a Novice should reasonably expect to at least complete the stage. Match directors should strive to also provide variation and fresh challenges to club participants.

Successful clubs have a good relationship with their range. Some clubs are fortunate enough to have a secure, long term relationship with the entity that owns the place where they shoot matches, such as a membership-type gun club. This is not always possible, especially if the club holds events that are commercial enterprises. The owner of the range is not in business to support IDPA shooters – they are in business to make money. That means that the club may have to work around other shooting events, or risk losing permission to hold events at all. It is very difficult to set up suitable stages without the full cooperation of the range. Fortunately, most commercial ranges recognize the value of bringing in a crop of new shooters into their establishments; however, a breakdown in relations between an IDPA club and their range can leave them with nowhere to shoot. An IDPA club that has conflict with the people who control where they shoot is in a precarious position.

Successful clubs communicate well. Despite the IDPA's substantial growth and the growing number of people who are enjoying shooting sports few people really know about the IDPA. Successful clubs get the word out about who they are, where they shoot, and include the message that new shooters are welcome to come out. There is no excuse for a club not to have a web page. That page does not have to be fancy; what it needs is to be updated frequently so that it acts as both an advertisement for the club and an internal communication vehicle for club members. Good clubs also get out the word about their organization by promoting the clubs at CHL classes, with paper notices pinned to bulletin boards, and above all through word of mouth. Clubs that simply count on 'the regulars' to show up once a month will eventually fail.

Finally all clubs must stress safety first, safety last, and safety in between. People at a match are discharging firearms - there is a real potential for danger if we do not follow safety protocols. Every single IDPA event should end with participants leaving the match with the same number of holes in their bodies that they came with. No matter how perfectly a match is run it is a failure if someone is injured. A club can be destroyed by allowing a lapse in safety. There are not only legal implications but psychological ones as well. We all have an obligation to keep our shooters safe.

In summary, clubs that do not make newcomers welcome, have the same small group of people doing all the work, are not active, do not emphasize safety and are not having fun are clubs that will likely fail.

event in December, at which he did well enough to get bumped up to Sharpshooter. Another item worthy of mention, Jorge took High Junior in all three “Triple Crown” events during 2011. Congratulations Jorge! Jorge has taken support & direction from everybody’s friend, Mr. Tony “Honey Bunny” Dandreamatteo, the friendliest guy in the northern hemisphere. Jorge took 11th place as an SSP Marksman at Frostproof, and had the following to say about his experiences. Jorge’s time at the world shoot was an adventure full of lessons. He says that he learned a great deal from the organization of such a large match. Also, the quality of competitors, the technical skills represented and the overall combined level of talent and experience present. Jorge says he was delighted to be amongst all of the great shooters from all around the world. In particular, Jorge enjoyed taking instruction from world champion Bob Vogel. Jorge would like to thank god for having blessed him with his family,

his father for his unconditional support and starting him on the path to begin competing in IDPA. He is also grateful for the support of the members of “Avetide” and the safety officers who take him seriously as a junior shooter and member of their group. To paraphrase a quote from Jorge Sleiman, he wants to invite all parents to encourage their children to partake in our wonderful character building sport. Defensive shooting sports are an activity for the entire family that promotes camaraderie, trust, responsibility and safety.



Blair Duroy is a 15 year old from Houston, Texas. Blair competes with a Smith and Wesson 9mm M&P Pro. She says she prefers to compete in SSP, but will sometimes go to ESP. Blair is classified as a Sharpshooter, and shoots with the Thunder Tactical Shooters, commonly known as TTS, and says she has been shooting IDPA for about a year. “All the inspiration I have received in regards to starting IDPA has come from my dad, he never pressured me to do it and let me join on my own,” says Blair.

The major sanctioned matches Blair has competed in include the Florida State match, Alabama State match, Arkansas State match, MVSA, Texas State match, Virginia State match, the Carolina Cup and of course, the Inaugural IDPA World Championship. “At the World Shoot in Florida, I had an amazing time shooting the match. The match was very diverse and provided stages that would let you show how skilled you are

at determining your own way to shoot the stage. I was surrounded by dedicated SOs who went above and beyond for the shooters and I loved my squad mom who was my friend, Phil Torres aka The Colonel. I also saw the many friends I have made in IDPA there and got to spend time with all of them. My long term goals for IDPA are to become a member of Team Smith and Wesson and to become a Distinguished Master. I also want to become a safety officer so I can show new shooters how fun it is at

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## ***Through the Eyes of a Junior Shooter***

a match while being safe. My piece of advice for new or junior shooters is to do this for yourself and to have fun while being safe.”

Jordan Hall is 18 years old, and lives in Madera, California, a small town north of Fresno. Jordan shoots the Glock 34, which is the 9mm Competition model. Jordan shot at Frostproof as an expert in the SSP division. Jordan’s IDPA Classification is now Master. He shoots at many clubs in his area as they are only a few minutes away. Jordan has been shooting IDPA for around 8 years, and started shooting in general just a few years before that. “My father is the one who got me into this sport so I guess all credit goes to him. I have competed in every west coast state championship at least once in the past few years. I also competed in the 2010 IDPA Nationals. My

overall experience at the World Championship was exciting and wet at the same time... The weather wasn’t what I expected but the shooting was amazing. Our squad was comprised of the full spectrum of the IDPA world. People were using everything from Revolvers, to 1911’s and Glocks, and there were people from around the world. We also had two Jr. shooters on our squad, myself and Austin Proulx. The days were long sticky and wet...but we all kept going and finished somewhat early. I did make a few mistakes throughout



the day, but didn’t really mind them as I was just there to have fun and compete with the best of IDPA. I ended up winning the High Jr. award in the end which surprised me more than anything. The competition in the Jr. Class was pretty good, so I had no idea that I would wind up in front. Overall it was an amazing shoot.” Jordan says that he has accomplished his long-term goals in IDPA. He classified as an SSP master and won the high junior award at the inaugural IDPA World shoot. Jordan also says that a good friend of his whom he met at Frostproof has inspired him to shoot in the SSR division and that he is slowly turning down that path. Jordan has decided to pursue other shooting sports for a while. “My best advice for any shooter especially a Jr. shooter, would be to listen to those who know what they are doing. You can learn more from them than anybody else.”

Tell Stout was 17 when he competed at the World Championship, he was born in North Dakota and raised in Arkansas. He shoots a Glock 34 in



## Through the Eyes of a Junior Shooter



9mm as an ESP Expert. Tell kills cardboard at Sturms Range, with the guys at Ozark Sportsman Club, and at the East Grand Forks ND Rod and Gun Club; and has been doing so for 8 years. "I've been out at the range with my dad since I was in diapers. He ran the IDPA matches in ND and I just grew up in it." Tell has competed in several Arkansas state matches, and says that his goal is to become Master in all divisions like his dad. "World Shoot - it was fun, a good match and a bit hot, but fun. Also it was good to see all the people I've met at other matches in the past. For the junior shooter - I'd tell them, just get out there and shoot as much as you can. Meet and talk with the guys that have been doing this a long time and take as much advice from them as you can. And just have fun with it!" -Tell decided to sign on and serve his country, he ships out July 16th for Fort Benning, Georgia.

I'm Austin Proulx, a 15 year old living in Fruita, Colorado. I compete with a Kimber Team Match II .45 ACP as a Sharpshooter in the CDP division. I have been shooting IDPA for almost 2 years now, and I shoot with the Action Pistol Group in Grand Junction, Montrose IDPA, and Hotchkiss

IDPA. I have to credit the late Joe Olt with inspiring me to start shooting IDPA. Were it not for him, I would not be enjoying this unique & wonderful sport today.

My goals for IDPA are to reach Master in CDP by the time I am 17, and to eventually brandish the Wilson Combat team jersey. I have competed in the Western Slope Regional two years in a row, and also in the 2011 Arkansas State match at IDPA club #1. If I could offer any advice to new/or junior shooters, it would be this: earn the respect of the more experienced shooters & pick their brains for wisdom, have fun, and be safe.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the junior shooters who competed at the IDPA World Championships for their cooperation and contributions to this article. Also, a huge round of thanks should go out to the people who organized and ran the match, in particular, my friends



Joyce Wilson, Curt Nichols, John May, Tony "Honey Bunny" Dandreamatteo, and all the rest of the safety officers, squad moms and support staff who worked tirelessly to ensure the match would be such a huge success for IDPA and all who competed.

- "If I could only have one gun... I would."

AP

### Women's Perspective

(Continued from page 9)



Bring a notebook to take notes.

Be sure to bring plenty of water, sports drinks, snacks and a chair, depending on the length of class.

Be as familiar as possible with all your gear and how to operate it.

Based on his experience, Carrell had no hesitation when asked what three things he would like to see female shooters practice. "Aggressive grip and stance, trigger control and development of aggressive movements (moving from position to position, aggressive movements during reloads, draws and transitions)".

Have questions for this DM about selecting the right training for you? Contact Carrell at [gordon@glcshootingacademy.com](mailto:gordon@glcshootingacademy.com).



**SOs need to follow the rules and not create their own rules.** simply have more trouble than you could possibly have prepared for. Your level of experience as well as your desire to solve the problem and keep the match going will see you through.

This Summer I ran a non-IDPA match that was one of the most trying times I ever had on the range. All the planning was done long distance and over the telephone and internet. I had to trust people I had never met to do much of the preparation work and who in the end, missed a few details.

I had to deal with a deeply entrenched bureaucracy and with far too many last minute changes by the range management, such as resurfacing the gravel range with concrete two days before match day without letting us know.

To make sure it was not too terribly boring, we also had to deal with a Hurricane that shut the whole city down, shortened our set up time to only one day, and cost us a day of shooting but with only a small reduction in the total number of shooters. On match day we dealt with a myriad of other problems such as losing 80% of our range staff, a lack of interpreters for foreign shooters, as well as a stats person who inadvertently erased

the scoring computer and lost all the registration documents.

This was a pretty bad situation but I did have two very talented volunteers who were nice enough to team up with me. The first volunteer was Smith and Wesson's Tom Yost. He is the New England Area Coordinator and star of several Panteo Productions Videos. The second volunteer was Karl McKeever from GT Targets, one of the best fabricators of range equipment in the business. ([www.gttargets.com](http://www.gttargets.com)) These two never gave up and were the most helpful and supportive people I



**SOs must be professional and have respect for the rule book.**

have ever met on the range. My wife Melissa and Tom Yost's wife Louise helped with set-up and stats during the match. And I have never seen two people handle such tough job with such a positive attitude. Problems are easier to face when you have a great team like this.

When you encounter problems such as these you have to take a hard look at the situation and try very hard to leave your ego at home. It is likely you may have to make decisions that will change the match in ways you will not like. In the case of this match, we had to take a hard look at the stages and try to simplify a few of them as

well as cut some of them out.

When faced with problems, you take care of them just as you would eat the proverbial elephant; one bite at a time. Work it out and move on. If you cannot think of a solution, move to another problem then return to it. Do not spend too much time on something you have no answer to. Remember that the people helping you will have ideas too. Only a fool would not ask for their counsel.

As each problem presents itself you have to take a deep breath and respond to the problem. Try very hard to not become emotionally attached and keep your temper in check. Getting mad will not help the situation. This can be difficult at times and I myself have not mastered this particular tip yet.

Some people really love to "multi-task". I recommend if time is not a critical factor, you address each problem in turn. Give it your full attention then move on. I have seen MD's start to jump from problem to problem without resolving any of them. Try not to do this.

Remember that a match in trouble will begin to stress out the shooters. They will likely want to vent to someone. Try to make sure they complain to you about it and leave the Safety Officers to do their job, which is to run the shooter through a Course of Fire. Handling the complaint department is part of the Match Director's job. Sometimes they may say things that are not flattering and may well hurt a little. Even if this happens, try to treat the shooter with courtesy and respect. An apology

(Continued on page 38)

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Also, some of the methods of carry that you describe are just not feasible from a safety stand point. Pocket carry, purses, fanny packs and the like can be carried safely but maybe are not the safest to draw from at a match. The safety of not only the competitor but also the SOs and other competitors must be thought about. Many of these have the same issues as a shoulder holster, that a hot gun is always pointing at someone and it is difficult to draw from without sweeping yourself. We need to highlight this area and I believe the Tiger Teams will have an interesting time in working on this area. I look forward to what they may come up with. 

**What a Difference a Year Makes**

(Continued from page 29)

the last two remaining stages of the match. Stage One was a gas station scenario that required shooting while retreating, while squatting and from behind cover. I was fairly happy with my hits with the exception of the one makeup shot I took during the entire match, which unfortunately resulted in making up a down-5 with another down-5!

## Stage 1

I did manage to finish out the match on a good note with Stage Two. This stage had a 1-3-2 tactical sequence on two targets which would have been fairly simple except revolver shooters like me had to then reload and put a head shot in each target, first addressing the target opposite the one just engaged. Surprisingly enough, I actually made a plan and stuck with it, shooting this stage clean and in the proper order.

## Stage 2

When the results were posted, I finished a disappointing second out of two SSR Marksmen, losing by 45 seconds. Despite this, though, I feel the match was a tremendous success for me. Do you want to know why? Because I pushed myself. I stepped

outside my comfort zone and shot faster than I felt like I could. Granted, my version of shooting “fast” is still painfully slow for most people, but I’m the epitome of cautious. I don’t take chances. I don’t face challenges courageously. So for me, even though my points down were bad – really bad – and my final score reflected that, I know I challenged myself to do what I didn’t think I could. I pulled the trigger as soon as the target crossed my sights. And I did it every time, on every stage and every target. Many times it didn’t work and there were plenty of down-3s and down-5s to prove it, but sometimes it did and I got a down-0. I didn’t hit any no-shoots and only had two Fails. And I did it all in what a lot of folks consider one of the most difficult divisions – in fact, I was the only woman shooting revolver at the match at all.

Many thanks to Dean and Beverly Brevit and all the amazing Safety Officers, volunteers and staff for all their tireless work putting on yet another outstanding match. Also thanks to all my shooting friends for pushing me to try harder, for encouraging me, for making me laugh when I wanted to cry, and most of all, for believing in and inspiring me. 

**Run a Better Match**

(Continued from page 36)

goes a long way to smoothing the waters here.

A lot of MD’s will say that a Match Director is “only as good as his last match”. There is some truth to this. A poorly run match will be remembered by the shooters. If it is however, one bad match in a long line of very good ones, the shooters will be very forgiving. If a badly run match starts to be the normal situation for an IDPA club, membership will drop off. As Area Coordinator I do get to hear grievances by shooters who are swearing off this club or that club due to real or perceived issues. It has been my experience that the shooters will forgive most things except consistently unfair calls and consistently bad stages. Try to keep it in mind.

Lastly, remember that the only limitations to problem solving are your levels of patience and ingenuity. Remember, a multi-tool can be your best friend in an emergency and that Duct Tape truly has 1001 uses. But above all, whatever happens during a match, never give up and never quit. 

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