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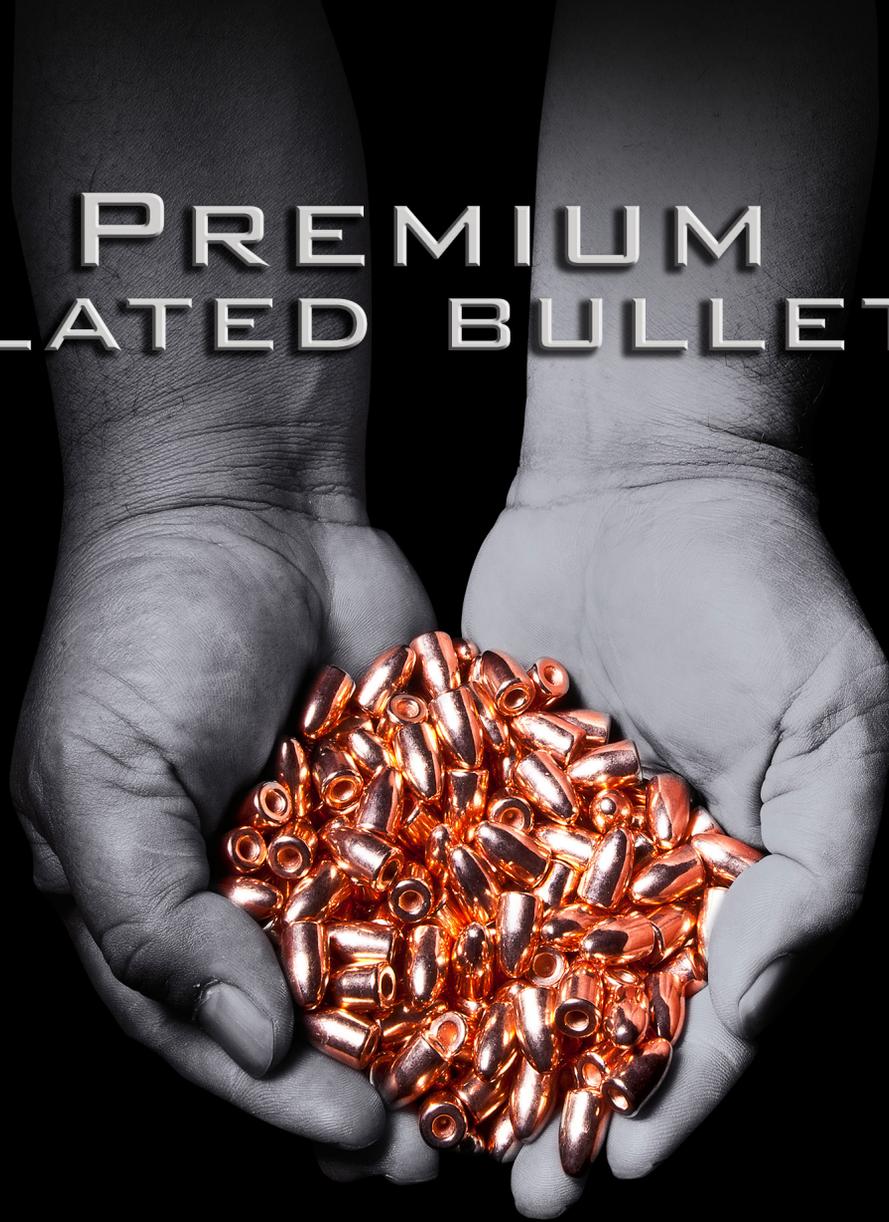
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NEXBELT

The next evolution of the belt.

WORDS + PHOTOS ROBERT RAY



YOU NORMALLY DO NOT THINK “INNOVATION” WHEN THINKING about belts. Heck, most people don’t give their carry or competition belt enough thought at all, much less think about how to make it better. Luckily, the good people at Nexbelt do think about belts and they have made them better.

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However, once you reach the desired tightness, you simply stop pulling on the tip of the belt. This allows the hand to settle into the notch of your choosing. The one way design of the ratchet keeps the hand in place and the belt tight. To release the tension on the belt or to take it off, there is a small lever on the bottom side of the belt buckle. This releases the hand and allows adjustment or removal. This unique ratcheting design allows you to adjust the belt in 1/4 inch increments. This gives you greater flexibility than the old hole type belt that are usually 1 inch apart.

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Another innovation of this belt is its one length design. You buy this belt and cut it to fit you. The buckle securely clamps onto the end of the belt. This allows Nexbelt to ship one size to everyone and allow the end user to adjust it to fit his or her needs. Just unclamp the buckle, cut and re-clamp the buckle, easy peasy.

The belts are available in a 1 7/16 inch width and near 3/16 in thickness and fit up to a 50 inch waist. They come in leather or nylon and they also have several different colors to suit your needs. Different buckle options can be purchased as well, allowing you to mix and match to fit your desires best.

The nylon belt list for \$49.99 on their website and the leather are \$59.99 so pricing is really attractive for your wallet. Different buckles are available as well and those range in price from around \$20 to \$25. 

For more information on their products, including some great video on their operation, go to www.nexbelt.com or on Facebook at: facebook.com/Nexbelt



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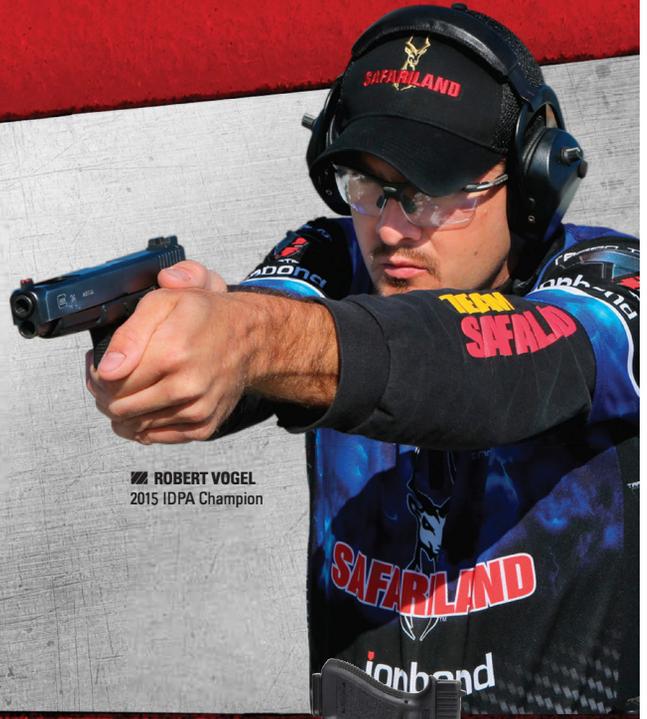
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A Message from Joyce Wilson, IDPA Executive Director

I WANT TO WISH ALL OF YOU A HAPPY SPRING, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THAT GREETING WAS PRECEDED BY THE WEATHER

several weeks ago. The Headquarters staff just returned from the 2017 Smith & Wesson Indoor Nationals and the weather was phenomenally warm and sunny. This year was one of the first times we visited Massachusetts that snow was not covering the ground!

Not only was the weather warm in Springfield, but so was our welcome from our sponsors at Smith & Wesson. The 20th anniversary of this match was everything we dreamed of – great stages, friendly and knowledgeable staff and a wonderful time for shooters and staff alike. We are grateful for our partnership with Smith & Wesson and look forward to working with them again.

This match was the fourth major match held under the 2017 rule book and like the three before it, it ran smoothly. Shooters who chatted with me discussed the use of fault lines and changes in reloading rules and how much easier those changes made competing and SOing. I also had the opportunity to see electronic scoring in action as the match used PractiScore as its scoring solution. The PractiScore (PS) team was on-site to assist and take suggestions, so we are happy to announce that PS is the tool we will be using at the 2017 IDPA National Championship in Texas this September.

Our Nationals team began meeting in



November (they had an entire month off to rest on their laurels!) and they are off to a great start. By the time you read this, staff will have been chosen, the match hotel will have been announced, and stages will be in the process of review and approval. Our theme this year is Great Movie Shootouts, so be prepared for a great time and great shooting.

Our Video Team has come off hiatus now that we have our 2017 rule book in place and we will announce through the Tactical Brief, the Tactical Journal and the official IDPA Facebook page when new videos are posted. Some of our first efforts may include Equipment Check videos (both for firearms and for non-firearm equipment); reloads/reengagement; DQs; fault lines; and some "You Make the Call" scenes. If you have any requests or would like to make a video, please contact SOeducation@idpa.com and the Continuing Education Team will work with you.

Our Continuing Education Team has a very full plate as well. An update to the Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC) rules is in progress. Look for an advanced copy of these rules on idpa.com when released. Additionally, this team will be reworking the Defensive Multigun (DMG) rules in the latter part of this year.

Many of you have noticed that the designation of IDPA Chief Safety Officer (CSO) was eliminated from the profiles of all members in early February. In the future, we will make the CSO designation a combination of experience AND an exam, but until we can get to a point where the population of exam results can automatically update the member profile, we will rely on experience of the member and approval from the MDs and ACs. The new process was implemented in February for attaining the designation of CSO for sanctioned matches. Members meeting the requirements listed in the 2017 rule book/match admin guide (M-13.3 & M-13.4) can submit an application to their local Match Director (MD) who may sign off and forward to the Area Coordinator (AC) or International Point of Contact (IPOC). The AC or IPOC will approve or deny the request, then forward the application to IDPA Headquarters. HQ will add the designation of CSO for sanctioned matches, Tiers 2-5 to the member profile. As always, no CSO designation is required for Tier 1 matches. A future separate testing for CSOs will be initiated after 2017. Based on beta testing in 2015, this system will work well in identifying appropriate candidates or areas of opportunity for the applicant.

I believe that this year holds some very

positive changes for us, both as an organization and as a country. With a new president comes new opportunities for elimination of onerous and unconstitutional restrictions regarding firearms ownership and concealed carry. With these proposed positive changes comes greater responsibility for us as gun owners and shooters. We must continue to train so that we are competent and safe with our firearms. We must share the love of shooting with our friends and family so that the recent years of assault by the media will make gun ownership less extraordinary and more common. And we must not let complacency blind us to the fact that those who oppose our Second Amendment rights continue to work to eliminate them. We must work with our elected officials, stay abreast of pending political legislation and be positive role models in our communities.

Work hard, train harder! 

Joyce L. Wilson

Joyce Wilson, #CL087

Joyce Wilson is the Executive Director of IDPA. Members can contact her at joyce@idpa.com



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FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE



MEET MASTER MANDY

Getting to know IDPA's newest Lady Master.

WORDS KITTY RICHARDS

PHOTO BY STEVE WOODS

THIS YEAR, THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBER FOR IDPA IS MORE THAN 25,000 MEMBERS. ABOUT 6.2% ARE WOMEN. AND in the history of IDPA, only 17 ladies have achieved the rank of Master in any division. The newest lady Master is Mandy Bachman from Clarksville, Texas. Collin County IDPA, a one-and-a-half-hour drive, is her home club for the sport.

Bachman became interested in IDPA through Executive Director Joyce Wilson. "Joyce is actually the person who encouraged me to start shooting IDPA. I loved it right away. I did terrible at my first match but I had so much fun I just couldn't wait to do it again." She cites several factors that attract her to IDPA, "The camaraderie of the sport is a large part of what I love about IDPA. IDPA is also big in the area that I live in. I can pretty much shoot an IDPA match every weekend. I also like the skills that I am working on and improving when shooting."

One of the many things that makes Bachman special is that she earned MA in less than 2 years, a remarkable feat. "I started IDPA in 2015 and classified as a Sharpshooter. I made it to EX at the last match I shot in 2015. When I started the season in 2016 I told myself that I wanted to make Master by the end of the year. I came very close several times in 2016 to becoming a Master but it just didn't happen. I didn't let that discourage me though." She explains her progression toward her goal as, "A lot of practicing and a lot of reloading! Last year I downloaded teammate Mike Seeklander's *Your Competition Handgun Training Program* and really stuck to the program. I feel like that is where a lot of the changes in my shooting started to happen. I also think mindset has a lot to do with it as well. I was very determined to make it happen. She also brought with her some skills from her career that helped in IDPA. "I am currently a high school Family and Consumer Science teacher (Home EC). I think the most important skill that has translated over from teaching to shooting is patience. (Have you ever had 7 classes a day with 20+ teenagers in there?)"

This new Master also has some mentors in her corner. "My shooting mentors have been Bill, Joyce and my Wilson Combat Teammates. I've been very fortunate to have the opportunities to learn from all of them. Bill and Joyce have played a major role in getting me into shooting and competing. Without Joyce, I would have never tried IDPA. Bill has taught me a very large majority when it comes to my shoot-



PHOTO BY ERINN O'DONNELL

“Don't be afraid to go shoot with the guys or to go to a match alone. A majority of every club or sanctioned match I've been to I have been the only female in the squad.

ing and my mindset when shooting. My Wilson Combat teammates have also been so supportive at matches. I learn so much every time I get the opportunity to shoot a match with any of them. Greg Martin has really been a book of knowledge for me. From the very beginning before I was even on the team, he has been so helpful and patient with me." She identifies her biggest supporter in the sport as someone she sees

every day. "My biggest supporter is also my biggest rival, my husband, Cody. We practice together at home a lot and it always turns into a competition between us. Cody has taught me so much over the past couple of years. He is always pushing me to be better. I'm very thankful to have shooting as something that we can both share and enjoy together."

When asked about the 3 skills most

Behind every good man is a Master woman.



needed to make MA, she is very thoughtful. "I think for me a lot of the skills needed to make MA were mental. I needed to be disciplined, focused and positive. When I am disciplined, I practice more and dry fire more. When I am focused, I am more accurate, my footwork is better and I know the stage better. When I am positive, I am able to move on from my mistakes and not dwell on them from stage to stage. For me these are the things that really were keeping me from reaching my goals. Positive thinking is the one I have struggled with the most and still struggle with from time to time."

Mandy, a cheerleader for ladies in the sport, has some advice for other women seeking to reach this level. "Don't give up. You're going to have days where you feel like you aren't getting better, you're going to have days where you don't think it's possible but it is possible and you can do it. Keep pushing your limits." She also mentions her rise to MA and the limitations in shooting competitively. "As a female shooter, I think most of my limitations have been set in my own mind. I started out telling myself that there was no way I could move like that guy or no way that I had the



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Straight

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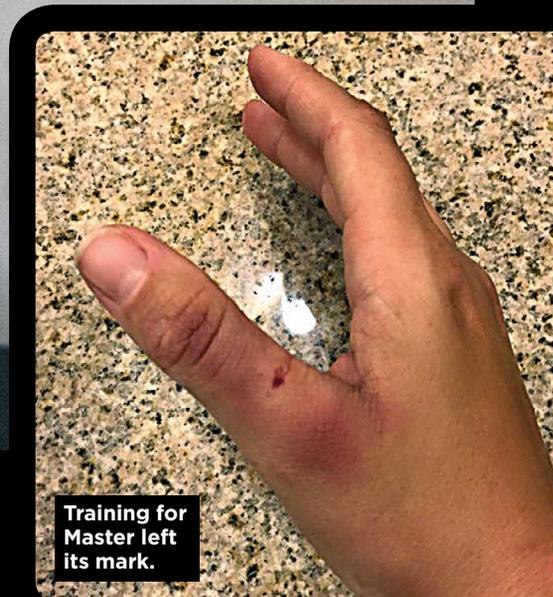


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Mental prep is crucial to becoming a Master shooter.



“Never let the fear of showing up alone stop you from going to a match.”



Training for Master left its mark.

strength to do this or that. I have to train myself to move more aggressively. I've had to work on my grip strength and upper body strength. None of those things were impossible for me to achieve. I just had to adjust my thinking. As far as advantages go, I think being a female in a male dominated sport has driven me to work harder and put more time into improving.” And to the lady shooters, she says, “Don't be afraid to go shoot with the guys or to go to a match alone. A majority of every club or sanctioned match I've been to I have been the only female in the squad. Never let the fear of showing up alone stop you from going to a match. The more match experience you can get the better.” Mandy's personal goals in IDPA are to continue to improve and to rise in the rankings and win MA class titles.

What does Master Mandy believe is the key to bringing more women into the shooting sports? “I think getting the word out there about the shooting sports is really important. I had never even heard of competitive shooting until a few years ago. I also think having introductory classes that go over the rules and provide opportunities for people to ask questions is really helpful.

Get information about your matches out there for people to see. Be nice, friendly and helpful to new shooters. Go out of your way to say hello and welcome people to your range/club. All of those things are reasons why I chose to start shooting with Collin County. Really, all of this this would just get you more shooters in general, including female shooters.”

Our one minute drill with Bachman elicited these answers:

QUESTION Outside of shooting, what are your hobbies?

ANSWERS Oh goodness, I have so many... I recently took up boxing. I also enjoy just being outdoors (fishing, working in my garden, kayaking...)

▶ “If I wasn't a teacher, my dream job would be... To get paid to hang out on a beach all day. (Well, you did say, “dream.”)”

▶ “Three things I would like people to know about me are... I'm a pretty shy person until I get to know you and then I will talk your ear off, I talk really fast, and I hardly ever sit or stand still.”

▶ “Two things people DON'T know about me that would surprise them are... I use to

dive for a Junior Olympic Diving team at SMU and I was a college cheerleader.”

In addition to being the 17th woman to earn MA, Bachman is also gearing up for a career change. At the end of the school year, she is leaving her teaching position and will be joining the IDPA HQ team as Administrative Assistant to Joyce Wilson, Executive Director. Mandy is also a member of the Wilson Combat shooting team and will be working with them in the marketing department as well.

As a competitor who shoots more than 20 events a year, look for Master Mandy at a sanctioned match near you! **TJ**

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Kitty Richards, LM18564**

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

PASQUILE VITETTA

Just like the Boy Scouts, he comes prepared!

WORDS ALLISON LAUNIUS PHOTOS PAT VITETTA

IN PATS OWN WORDS, "WELL YOU HAD THE MINIMALIST NOW YOU HAVE THE opposite" is a perfect way to describe his range bag. In this issue we are bringing you Pasquile Vitetta or Pat as we call him and his range bag. Pat is a mainstay at New England matches including the S&W Indoor Nationals and you may recognize him as one of the Safety Officers and course designers who always manages to bring creative and challenging stages, with a stress on challenging aspect. When I bumped into him this year at Indoor Nationals he was taking a break from working as an SO and trying to do his best impression as a normal non-staff shooter. I briefly had the pleasure of helping him out one year on a bay and I remembered how prepared he was to run that bay. He built the stages by hand at home, set them up at S&W and had all the tools to fix anything that might break down. With efforts like this, it made the stages run flawlessly. Like most of the Indoors staff or any safety officer in our sport, he was as well prepared shooter as he was a safety officer. So, I was curious to see if his range bag was as full as his tool belt. Pat did not let me down. Let's take a dive into what's in his range bag.

For this shooting season Pat is shooting his Glock 34 in the Enhanced Service Pistol division. After doing some work to his Glock like rounding of the grip and shaving on the finger grooves he Dura coated the frame. He has added a Pyramid

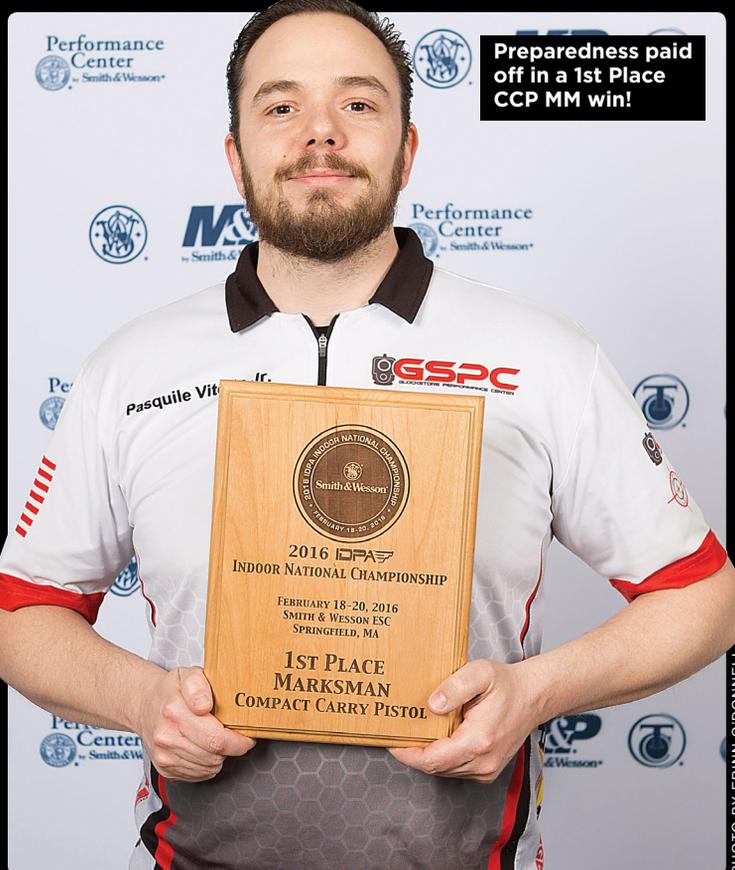


PHOTO BY ERINN O'DONNELL

If this isn't enough, the VERY prepared Pat leaves a second bag in his truck with a holster, belt, spare gun, 200 rounds factory ammo, mag pouch, spare safety glasses, dark and clear, ear plugs and a vest.

Trigger Kit, TruGlo TFO sight, a magwell and Dawson extended base plates.

Pat's holster and mag pouch come from Alien Gear. He enjoys flexibility of their holsters. The holster has many options on

how to mount to your belt and at what angle. With four screws you can swap out shells for a completely different gun and those are the same shells their IWB holster take. Comfortable for all day carry and fast enough for sport shooting. All magazines fit in one of their three or four sizes. His ammo is 147 gr Berry's over 3.8 gr Unique Powder with Federal primers. The vest is made by Armadillo Concealment which has huge pockets, stiff where you want it and it folds where it should for a fast draw. He also uses a Columbia rain coat/wind breaker like at last year's Liberty Match at Valley Forge where it rained all day. He carried two black binder clips and used them to clip the rain coat to the vest where they opened to help keep them together, so when he swept the vest/raincoat out of the way to draw or grab a mag they stay together and he stayed dry.

Like many of us our vision isn't what it used to be. Our vision changes and many of us have issues with seeing that front sight. So to rectify this he had both pairs of his shooting glasses made with his prescription. They are special made so the focal point in the right lens lines up with his front sight. It is far from the normal center area of the lens and a big help.

The red bag in the center is a Glockstore survival parts kit. It comes with most of the needed parts to repair anything that could fail in a Glock. When he put the pyramid trigger in the gun he put the factory trigger



IN THE BAG

1. Armadillo Concealment Vest
2. Alien Gear Mag Pouch
3. Alien Gear Holster
4. Ear protection, Howard Leight
5. Hat
6. Rulebook
7. Glock Survival Parts Kit
8. Hand sanitizer
9. Columbia rain coat/wind breaker
10. Prescription eye protection
11. Glock 34
12. Umbrella
13. Extra pens
14. Ammo box
15. First Aid Kit
16. Magazines

group in the bag making it even more complete. Some of his other additions to the bag are a small bottle of Rand clp, batteries for his ear muffs and flashlight. The factory Glock brush, rod and a TruGlo front sight tool. Pat also carries a pretty inclusive first aid kit. Sun screen, D- lead soap, bug repellent, Aleve, Excedrin, Benadryl, eye drops wet naps, quick clot and the normal basic stuff. Hydrocortisone cream, Neosporin, Band-Aids, alcohol wipes, etcetera. Having Purel hand sanitizer in his bag works great for drying sweaty hands. Umbrella, 2 flashlights, Cliff Bar, (to help keep from being "hangry"), a timer, rule book, and a bandanna to keep the sweat out of my eyes on a hot day. Pat also keeps a fresh pair of socks for just in case.

If this isn't enough, the VERY prepared Pat leaves a second bag in his truck with a holster, belt, spare gun, 200 rounds factory ammo, mag pouch, spare safety glasses, dark and clear, ear plugs and a vest. Pat said, "I know by now you think I'm nuts but my mind is free from worry during the match and I sleep better the night before."

I just want to say thank you, to very prepare for any situation, Pat for opening up his range bag.

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THE 2017 RULEBOOK

DON'T FIGHT IT... MAXIMIZE IT!

Maximize the new rules to your advantage without breaking them.

WORDS GORDON CARRELL

PHOTO BY STEVE SCHIEMANN

THE START OF EVERY NEW YEAR BRINGS WITH IT MANY CHANGES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND CHALLENGES.

2017 is no different with the new rulebook. Opportunities now exist for greater efficiency moving through a course of fire (COF) resulting in a lower raw times. Challenges exist that must be overcome to avoid a higher total time resulting from the new scoring rules.

It does not matter if you agree or disagree with the new rulebook as a whole or in part, they are the rules that govern the sport we want to play. Therefore, rather than fight it, I strive to learn and understand it to maximize the opportunities for a lower time while minimizing the challenges for a higher one. My name is Gordon and yes, I'm a gamer.

For me, "gamer" is not a negative or derogatory word. A gamer is someone who maximizes the rules to their advantage without breaking them. In order to maximize my advantage I must know and understand the rules to effectively assess the risk versus reward of my stage strategy. In addition, it will help evaluate which of my shooting skills need to be developed or improved, to take advantage of opportunities when they are present.

In this article, we will look at a few of the rule changes and how they can affect your shooting strategies. However, to fully maximize your opportunities and minimize your risks, you need to read the rulebook. One piece of advice for longtime members is to read it from a viewpoint of what rules are NOT there or no longer exist. Do not read

anything into it. There are changes that are opposite from rules that were in previous versions.

Most, if not all of us, are aware that 1 point down now equals 1 second. When this change was first proposed there was a lot of discussion that this would have little to no effect in the overall scores. It would mainly affect shooters who were classified as Sharpshooters and Experts. I disagree, so let's take a moment and break down the full impact of this change and how it could affect your strategies for different COFs. Consider this: a down 3 is now the same as a procedural (3 seconds). 5 points down or a miss is the same as a hit on a non-threat (5 seconds). The change in the scoring definitely increases the risk vs. reward in a COF.

Let's compare the difference in score between the old and new scoring rules in the following COF:

- ▶ **3 threat targets - 9 scored shots - Limited. Standing at P1, at start signal, engage T1 - T3 with 2 shots to the body and 1 shot to the head.**
- ▶ **Your raw time is 8.00 seconds, but you missed a head and are down 5.**
- ▶ **Your opponent's raw time is 10.00 seconds, down 1.**

Under the old scoring rules, the stage would be a tie with the total time for each of you at 10.50 seconds. Under the new rules your total time is 13.00 seconds. Your opponent's total time is 11.00 seconds so you just LOST 2 seconds to your opponent. What if you had taken one second longer to shoot the stage and your raw time had been 9.00 seconds, down 0? You would

have just GAINED 2 seconds on your competition. Under the old scoring rules your raw time had to be 2.50 seconds faster to offset a miss. Depending on the COF (stand and deliver versus moving from position to position) the risk could be offset by your raw time. Under the new scoring rules your RAW time would have to be 5 seconds faster to offset a miss or 5 total points down. Even on a large stage with multiple shooting positions, shooting it 5 seconds (or more) faster is almost impossible. The point here is that the risk versus reward "line" has moved and you will need to adjust how you approach different COFs.

In addition to risk versus reward assessments you will need to make adjustments to some of your shooting habits or thought processes. Let's examine the following situation:

Your gun is empty (slide-lock) after

firing the last round on the last target of a stage. However, you realize that your last shot went into the hardcover. Do you perform a reload and make the shot up?

It would depend on your skill level and how fast you could perform a slide-lock reload. Does the new scoring system change anything? Let's do the math and find out using the following reload times for different classifications. (Your results may vary.)

- Marksmen ▶ 4:00 - 4.50 seconds**
- Sharpshooters ▶ 2.50 - 3.00 seconds**
- Experts ▶ 2:00 - 2.50 seconds**
- Masters ▶ 1.50 - 2:00 seconds**

Under the old scoring rules you only had 2.50 seconds to reload and shoot a zero to break even. That leaves out MM, SS, and is border line for the EX shooters. MA will definitely make up the miss and

You don't need any stage wins in order to win the match. You just have to shoot every stage at a high, consistent level, and analyzing the risk versus rewards effectively on a COF is one component of this.

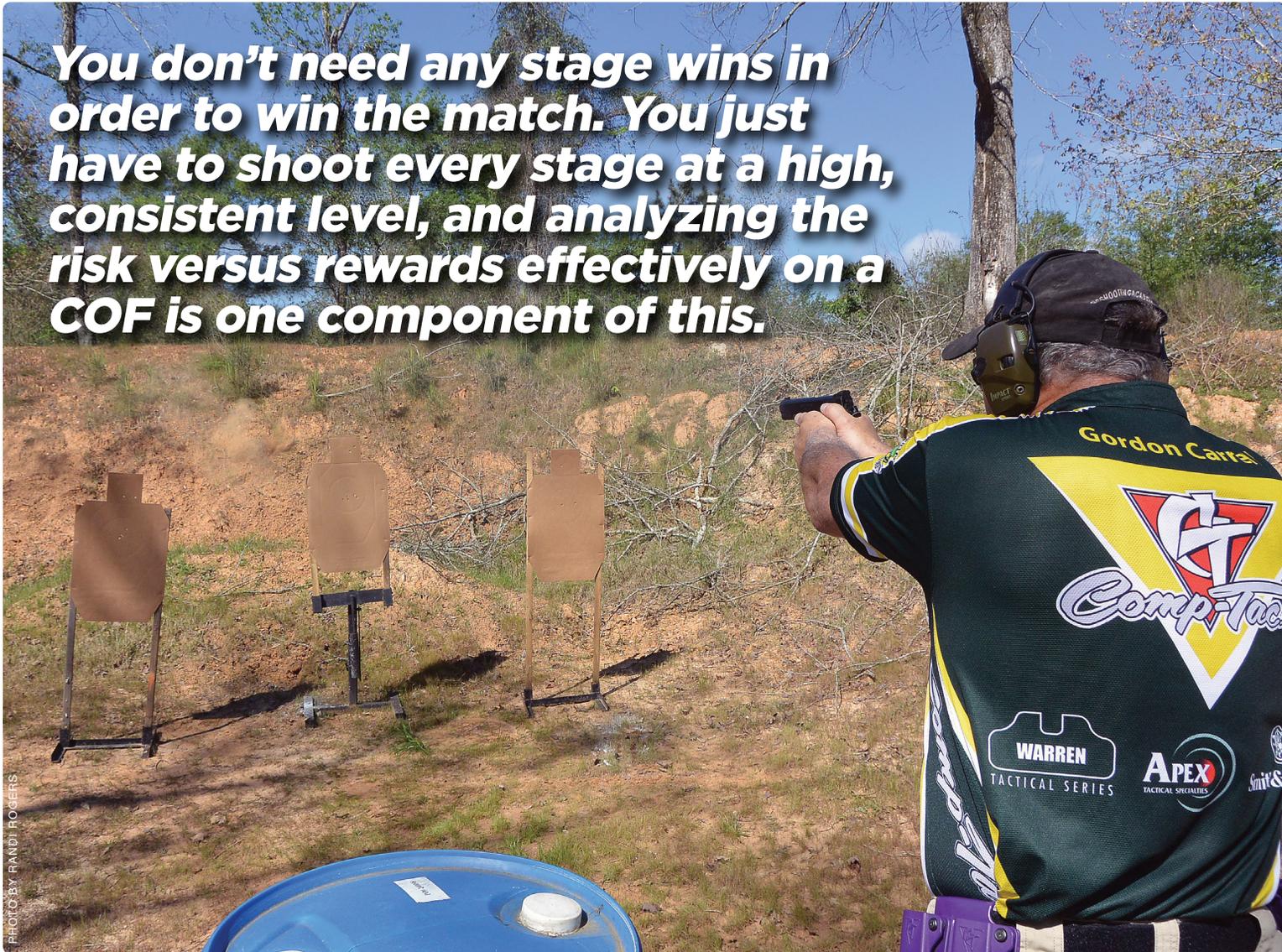


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save anywhere from a half to a full second. Under the new scoring rules, EVERY classification of shooter can save time by making up the miss.

In this same example, after you reloaded, you shot into hardcover again. For those who can reload in 2.00 seconds or less, under the old scoring rules we got one round to make up the miss, otherwise we are just adding time to our score. Under the new scoring rules you can reload and shoot (2 seconds), hit hardcover again, take one second to recognize it hit hardcover (that's a long time) and shoot again only using/taking up 3 seconds. You would still end up saving 2 seconds over a miss.

So based on the new scoring rules, what habits and skills do I need to change/develop?

1) Scanning ▶ After the last shot, I have **5 seconds to scan my targets and make up any misses, 3 seconds to make up a down 3.**

The above does not just apply to the targets engaged at my last shooting position, as rule 3.2.7 states that “targets may be re-engaged from other shooting positions provided it can be done safely.” Under the old rules the stage description could limit where you could or could not re-engage a target.

Example: You engaged T1 from 15 yards and at your last shooting position T1 is only 8 yards away. Can you confirm and make up a hit/miss in 5 seconds or less? Can you make up a down 3 in 3 seconds or less?

2) Strong/Support Hand ▶ Accuracy will

be crucial especially on limited COFs

3) Head shots ▶ According to rule 6.6.21, they are now legal out to 15 yards on standards stages. New scoring circle in head becomes official in September

4) Accuracy at Distance ▶ Per rules 6.6.3 and 6.6.4, Scenario stages may have targets up to 20 yards from the shooter, and Standard stages many have targets up to 50 yards from the shooter

IDPA has always placed a high value on accuracy over speed compared to other shooting sports. The new scoring rules make it more important than ever to find those zeros and make up any misses throughout the entire match. You don't need any stage wins in order to win the match. You just have to shoot every stage at a high, consistent level, and analyzing the risk versus rewards effectively on a COF is one component of this. It's the start of the season, what are you doing to improve your accuracy?



In the next article, we will look at the rule changes that allow for faster raw times. Did you know that if you run the gun dry in the open you may reload in the open and continue engaging targets? (3.5.6A) Did you know that you can now leave cover with an empty gun provided you are not exposed to any un-engaged targets? (3.5.6B) How many changes can you find in the new rulebook? Until next time... GAME ON! 🎯

Want more information on this and other topics? Go to www.glcshootingacademy.com

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Gordon Carrell, A10530

Gordon Carrell holds two Distinguish Master Classifications with over 60 National, Regional and State Championships. Gordon can be reached at: Gordon@glcshootingacademy.com

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THE SMITH & WESSON INDOOR NATIONALS

20 years of Supporting and promoting IDPA.

WORDS PAUL JONES PHOTOS ERINN O'DONNELL

IDPA CELEBRATED 20 YEARS WITH SMITH & WESSON AT THE 2017 S&W IDPA INDOOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP.

340 competitors, Sponsors and Staff from around the world helped celebrate the 20th Anniversary of this great match. 29 competitors earned a match performance promotion with 4 of them achieving Distinguished Master in their division. Our own Executive Director, Joyce Wilson, said, "Since this is the 20th Anniversary of Smith & Wesson signing on as our first corporate sponsor, it seems fitting that we celebrate our evolution this year by testing a new, fully paperless scoring system by PractiScore, and by demonstrating the effectiveness of the latest rule changes. I believe I speak for all of us when I say that we were very impressed with the knowledge of the volunteers."

This match, like all others, only happens because of the volunteers. We were

blessed with an incredible group who loves our sport and loves the excitement of having all you competitors enjoy the stage design and a great match experience. We offered match participants 14 exciting and challenging stages totaling 209 required rounds. Stage 14, a standards stage, was shot by everyone on every bay as their first stage and served as a warm up.

We spent a few months putting the match together and started building the week before the match. As Bob Stonehill, our match director, said: "This year's event kicked into high gear when the first wave of volunteers arrived from Delaware, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Virginia. It was an incredible team effort. Everywhere you looked, someone was building something."

This year, we asked match directors from clubs we knew to have their team design, build and run stages. The idea was well

received and became exciting as it started to come together. Pioneer Sportsman Association from New Hampshire designed, built, and staffed the public bay. The stages were "Let me see your hand", where you could have your fortune read and while doing so things went wrong and "Rising to the occasion", where activating an electrical panel started things moving. Pioneer Sportsman Association holds a Tier 4 match every year near the end of September called "Live Free or Die". This is a match worth traveling to.

On to the Large Training Bay, we had a group from Bridgeville, Delaware representing the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club. They designed and built "Monkey Business" and "Monkey Fervor" where you are on a movie set for the epic film, Escape to Space, when wild monkeys escape from a jungle thriller being filmed next door. Disoriented and confused, they become



Hard work, smiling faces and tons of excitement and fun marked this years match.



Smith & Wesson offered 20 of the new M&P 9mm 2.0 guns to the participants celebrating 20 Years as sponsor and host for the IDPA Indoor National Championship. We gave several of these away every morning at the shooter meeting along with other items offered by our sponsors.



MATCH REVIEW

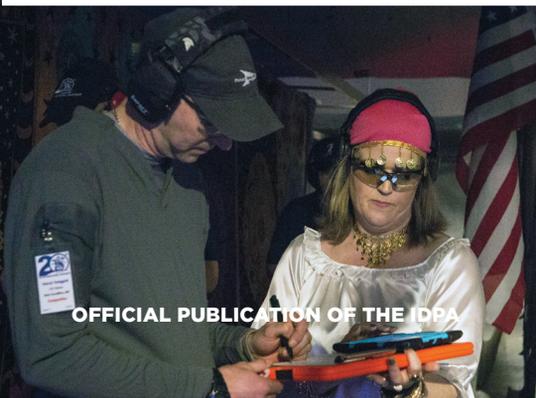


Smith & Wesson along with the Staff and SO's went above and beyond to make this 20th anniversary match better than ever.



Many thanks to the hard working SO's!





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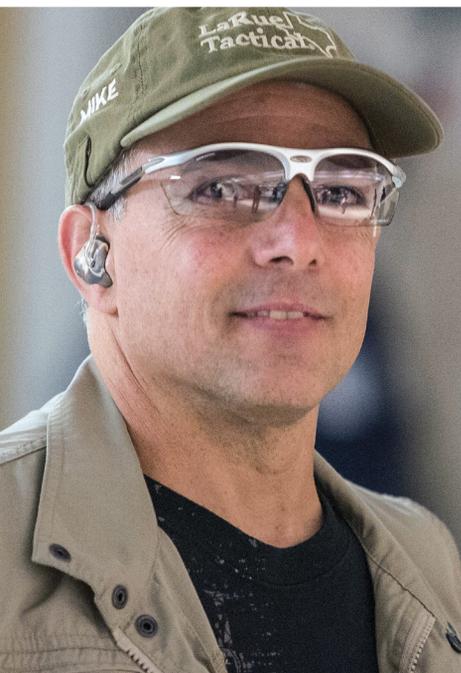


Scan for video

MATCH REVIEW



This years match was super challenging but still great fun to shoot.



very aggressive and threaten harm to the crew. On “Monkey Fervor” you must engage threats before they are transported to safety. The Bridgeville team puts on the Delaware State Match, a great event that happens in the latter part of September every year. The match is listed on the IDPA website.

On H Range, Lower Providence Rod & Gun Club from Audubon, Pennsylvania, brought us two stages, “Book Store Mayhem” where you had an opportunity to relax while reading a book when all hell breaks loose and you had to push books off the shelf to engage threats. You were heading back to your car in “Parking Garage Assault” when threats attack and you are suddenly engaged in a gunfight to save

yourself and others. Lower Providence Rod & Gun Club has a sanctioned match called the “Liberty Match at Valley Forge” every year at the end of October. Details on the IDPA website.

We did something a little different this year. Smith & Wesson offered 20 of the new M&P 9mm 2.0 guns to the participants celebrating 20 Years as sponsor and host for the IDPA Indoor National Championship. We gave several of these away every morning at the shooter meeting along with other items offered by our sponsors. Winners loved starting their match day with a new gun in their range bag.

Robert Vogel proved once again to be the fastest competitor and most accurate, delivering a time of 204.84 seconds. It was

no surprise to see several members of the Smith & Wesson shooting community atop the leader board. Smith & Wesson Law Enforcement salesman, Brandon Wright, had the second fastest time behind Vogel and won Custom Defensive Pistol Champion and achieved Distinguished Master. Additionally, Josh Lentz used his Performance Center Model 625 revolver to win the Revolver Division. Randi Rogers competed in the ESP Division using the new Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0 pistol, and finished as second High Lady.

We used electronic scoring for this match and for the first time at a Tier 5 match. Electronic scoring is now approved for Tier 2-5 matches. PractiScore team Russell Armstrong, Brian Nelson and D. J.



Petrou joined us for the entire match and were available to support us throughout the match. They are re-writing the IDPA part of the program to handle all the things IDPA needs. I would like to thank them for their commitment to the shooting sports and making this incredible scoring software available to all clubs and match directors.

All the photos in this article were taken by Erinn O'Donnell, our photographer. We would like to thank her for all the hard work and talent she brought to us again this year.

I would like to thank Joyce Wilson, Robert Ray, Allison Launius and Brian Ehrler for their support throughout the match.

Last, but not least by any means, we wish

to thank our generous sponsors. We really appreciate all the companies that sponsored this match providing us with guns & product for the competitors and staff. Please support those that support us.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Paul Jones, A34375

Paul Jones has been a member since 2008 and serves as the AC for Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey. He also served as the master of the score shack for this year's SWIN match and was instrumental in PractiScore being approved for use as a paperless scoring alternative for sanction matches.

.....
We would like to thank all of our competitors for attending. Our Match Champions are

- Custom Defensive Pistol**
 - Brandon Wright**
 - Enhanced Service Pistol**
 - Robert Lacroix**
 - Stock Service Pistol**
 - Robert Vogel**
 - Compact Carry Pistol**
 - Zephaniah Thull**
 - Revolver**
 - Josh Lentz**
-

SIG SAUER

MPX

Pistol Caliber Carbine Powerhouse.

WORDS ROBERT RAY PHOTOS STEVE WOODS



**“OHHHHH, PRETTY! IS THAT FOR ME?”
THESE WERE THE FIRST WORDS OUT
OF MY WIFE’S MOUTH WHEN I UNCASSED**

Sig Sauers MPX. Yep, my wife is a keeper. At the time, I did not know if this would be true of the MPX but it quickly proved itself to be a keeper as well.

I will be the first to say that I am not really a rifle guy. I do hunt with an AR in 6.8 SPC and I have shot a few local 3 gun matches, although those were years ago. However, rifles have never really been my thing. That being said, I was excited when IDPA opened up the Specialty Division to Pistol Caliber Carbine. It sounded like a lot of fun and more and more people are moving away from the shotgun in the closet for home defense and setting a rifle in its place. Heck, even though not a rifle guy, I kept one behind the seat in my truck for many years. In that regard, it fits with IDPA’s “defensive” nature though a little at

odds with the “pistol” in the name.

So I picked up the Sig MPX to give PCC a go. The MPX was designed as the next generation of submachine gun and an option to replace the venerable Heckler & Koch MP5. A quick glance shows a passing similarity with the MP5, especially with the sliding stock attached. Those similarities end when looking at the fire control set up, which were designed to match the AR platform. If you are already trained on AR’s, there is no need to retrain as the controls will be in same familiar positions. The mag release, bolt release and safety are all ambidextrous so it is perfect for a righty or lefty. The charging handle is also centrally located like an AR. Even though I am not that tuned up on running an AR, I found the familiarity made the MPX easy to transition to.

The MPX operates from a closed and locking rotating bolt but unlike AR’s, it uses



Even in the 16 barreled variant, the MXP makes for a very compact package.

Although it comes with iron sights, the full length rail cries out for a red dot.



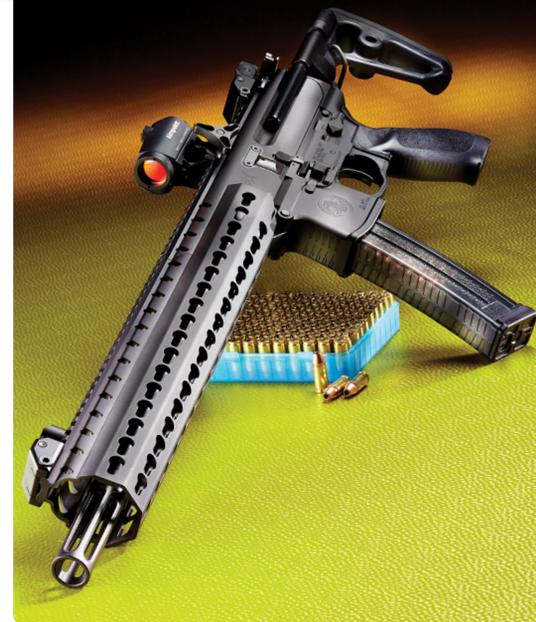


The MPX was great fun to shoot, please overlook my chicken wing though.

My next trip to the range with the MPX will include the wife, although I am afraid that the lack of recoil and ease of shooting will ultimately end up increasing my ammo expenditure.



The true ambi controls were easy to reach and operate without changing my grip.



a short stroke gas piston recoil system. The advantage to this setup is that it allows the MPX to run most brands and weights of 9mm ammo without the end user having to adjust the gas valve. Better reliability and not having to jack with things to make it run is a plus in my book.

The full-length picatinny rail and Key-Mod handguard makes it easy to hang your favorite optic or accessories. It came with flip up front and rear iron sights but I chose to immediately mount red dot on it. I started with an EOTech I had laying around but after trying a single point red dot I decided I like it over the EOTech's circle and dot arrangement. I liked the simplicity of the single dot setup.

The MPX was a joy to run, digesting everything that I threw at it. Several different brands, bullet weights and some odd reloads, all went down range without a hiccup. Recoil was negligible, about on par with my .22 rifle. This combined with the red dot made follow up shots super-fast, even at longer distances. My next trip to the range with the MPX will include the wife, although I am afraid that the lack of recoil and ease of shooting will ultimately end up increasing my ammo expenditure. Especially when I fully stoke the 30 round magazine that comes with it.

I admit, I still have a lot to learn about running it most effectively. I have a bad tendency to chicken wing my dominate arm. (Mental note, revisit Seeklanders article in the last issue of the TJ.) Transitions are faster than I expected and holy smokes, that dot makes staying out of the non-threats super easy. I will also admit that I felt like, and probably looked like, a monkey humping a football when I tried to shoot around the left side of a barricade using



The sliding stock can quickly be swapped out for an M4 AR type stock with the right adapter.

my weak hand. Definitely need to do some practicing there. Shooting from the strong side (right handed) around the left side of a barricade can result in a substantial lean with a wide array of targets.

The MPX is available in a wide array of configurations, the 16 inch barreled carbine that I have, as well as a SBR (short barreled rifle) variant with a 4.5 or 8 inch barrel. In a perfect world, I would take the 8 inch variant but I am currently not wanting to wait that long for the background check and tax stamp. The MPX also comes in a pistol configuration with an 8 inch barrel and

the option of with or without Sig's Pistol Stabilizing Brace. As cool as that model is, keep in mind that it is technically not legal for IDPA and by law you cannot shoulder the Sig PSB. The ATF says that doing so turns the pistol into a short barreled rifle and could result in their attention being turned your way. No one wants that in their life.

Here comes the hard part, the MSRP on the Sig MPX is \$2016 but as always, the going street price is a little lower. I have seen them on Gun Broker for as little as \$1600. I know with prices dropping on AR's

to super lows, this may seem a little had to take but keep in mind the super low cost of feeding the MPX. I personally would prefer having a little more invested in a gun that I can afford to shoot often than an AR that mostly sits in the safe. I can buy a lot more 9mm for that same price than I can .223 ammo.

For more information on the SIG MPX you can visit www.sigsauer.com or visit your local friendly gun shop. I hope that I see you out on the range and I encourage you to give PCC a try. I am sure you will find it as fun I did. Until then, stay safe. 

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2017 USCCA GULF COAST CHAMPIONSHIP

TV favorites come to life on the range. **WORDS** STEVE SCHIEMANN



Mark Stavrakis Sr.

ON MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1, 2017, AT PACLEB RANCH NEAR BELLEVILLE, TX, THE UNITED STATES CONCEALED CARRY Association (among others) sponsored the 2017 Gulf Coast Championship. Proceeds from the match were donated to Homes for our Troops (hfotusa.org). Their mission is to build mortgage-free, specially adapted homes nationwide for severely injured Veterans Post-9/11, to enable them to rebuild their lives. A worthy cause indeed.

This match was well-run, and fun to shoot. Total minimum round count of 193 rounds + crono. Match director Randy Dillman took advantage of a regional drop-turner sale, which accounted for the abundance of such targets. Drop-turners, poppers, head shots, and surprise targets abounded, which added to the interest.

Shooters enjoyed 12 exciting stages with a TV show theme! Stages Included: Twilight Zone, Mash, The Sopranos, Walking

Dead, Gunsmoke, and more of your favorite shows.....even a Roadrunner standards stage! The stage scenarios were hilarious. For example, anyone who remembers Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom and some of that show's questionable safety standards will relate to this: "You are Marlin Perkins and you have sent Jim and the crew out to hand feed a pack of Hyenas. Things go terribly wrong and the hyenas attack the crew. Save Jim and the camera crew."



I distinctly remember watching Jim being chased up a tree by a huge grizzly bear on one show, and he didn't make it with much room to spare.

One of my favorite stages was based on the "MASH" TV series. After engaging several paper targets and a popper, the shooter moved into the "OR" (Operating Room) and took out a North Korean holding Frank as hostage. Then, engage a button on a manikin's chest (to stop the bleeding), which activated a falling panel that exposed three more NVA at close range. Planning reload



Besides a fun and challenging time, the match was happy to benefit Homes For Our Troops.



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MATCH REVIEW



The TV theme of the match made for a great time and plenty of good memories.



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“Shooters enjoyed 12 exciting stages with a TV show theme! Stages Included: Twilight Zone, Mash, The Sopranos, Walking Dead, Gunsmoke, and more of your favorite shows.”

locations was essential in this and all stages.

Another entertaining stage was based on “Cheers”. “You are Cliff seated on your usual bar stool holding a glass of whiskey talking to the bar keep, when Norm gets up and goes to the bathroom, a gang busts in from various locations to perform a take over robbery. Finally after all those years working at the post office you will get to use your sidearm.” From a sitting position, engage paper target while avoiding the no-shoot right in front of you. Then hit the popper that activates drop-turner number one, and don’t forget the paper target partially obscured by hard cover farther down-range. Then, knock over the bar stool next to you on the way across a hallway, and activate a surprise flip-up target that had been hidden behind a barrel, which must be engaged on the move. Then from cover, engage two

more partially covered paper targets and a popper.

I also learned an important lesson after the match. After the protest period, I realized (by looking at scores online) that I had been inadvertently given a substantial penalty, which I did not commit. No one talked about it to me after the stage, which would have been normal and expected. However, I did not carefully check my time/penalties before hitting “Approve” on the Practiscore pad. The sun glare made the score hard to see on the screen, so I just approved. I was not in the running for awards that day, but nonetheless, shame on me for not checking more carefully. I’m sure the penalty was accidental; the Safety Officers and staff did a great job, but everyone makes mistakes.

All in all, it was a very enjoyable yet challenging match to shoot. The weather was

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perfect – cloudy most of the day, and the temperature never hit 90. I’m sure I’m not the only one to look forward to next year’s Gulf Coast Championship! **TJ**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Steve Schiemann, A997361

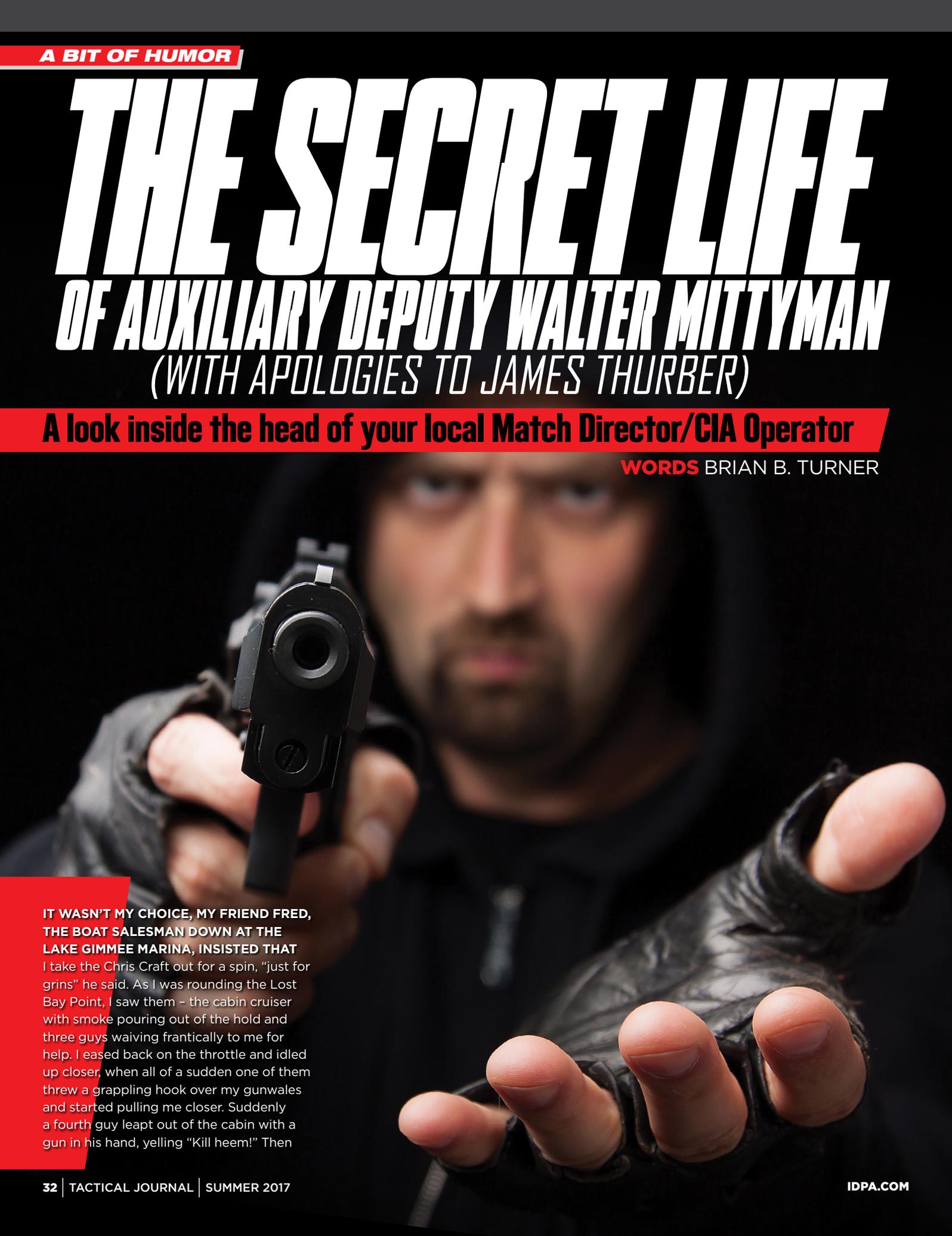
Steve has been an IDPA member since Nov 2014. He enjoys practicing and shooting matches, and since Nationals last year in Cresson, TX, he has also shot the occasional match with a camera.

A BIT OF HUMOR

THE SECRET LIFE **OF AUXILIARY DEPUTY WALTER MITTYMAN** *(WITH APOLOGIES TO JAMES THURBER)*

A look inside the head of your local Match Director/CIA Operator

WORDS BRIAN B. TURNER



IT WASN'T MY CHOICE, MY FRIEND FRED, THE BOAT SALESMAN DOWN AT THE LAKE GIMMEE MARINA, INSISTED THAT I take the Chris Craft out for a spin, "just for grins" he said. As I was rounding the Lost Bay Point, I saw them - the cabin cruiser with smoke pouring out of the hold and three guys waiving frantically to me for help. I eased back on the throttle and idled up closer, when all of a sudden one of them threw a grappling hook over my gunwales and started pulling me closer. Suddenly a fourth guy leapt out of the cabin with a gun in his hand, yelling "Kill heem!" Then

the three guys on deck pulled guns on me too. A small voice in the back of my brain said, "Are you ready? Standby." I yanked my Glock 21 and started firing. Then another bad guy popped up and I shot him too. And then a sixth pirate started leaning out from the cabin door and shooting at me, but I double tapped him. Good God! What a boat ride!

"Walter, are you alright?" asked my wife, Gladys. "Where are you anyway? I just asked you to pull into that rest area, and you sailed right on by. Is your hearing bad or what?" The rain-slicked Interstate with mist from a hundred big rigs made visibility terrible. I lamely excused myself by saying that I didn't see the sign. Pocketa-pocketa-pocketa. It had been a strange day.

I dropped her off at the health spa and decided to go off for a cup of joe and try to unwind. Due to my training in the CIA, I always sat in the back corner of the diner where I could see everyone and who was entering the joint. The table was open, so I sat there. The waitress had just brought my coffee and a sugar donut when it happened. Five thugs burst in the door waving their

"The waitress had just brought my coffee and a sugar donut when it happened. Five thugs burst in the door waiving their guns and shouting that this was a holdup."

guns and shouting that this was a holdup. They wanted everyone to put their wallets and watches on the table or counter while they rifled the cash register. A small voice in the back of my brain said, "Are you ready? Standby." My Glock 21 was suddenly in my hand and speaking loudly. Bad guys were falling, but terrified customers and waitresses were screaming and running, and I had to be careful not to hit them. Then I saw the sixth guy, a seeded backup who had been sent into the diner ahead of the gang to shoot any armed person in the back, guys

like me. But I was in the rear of the room. He didn't have a chance. When my buds from the department showed up, I told them that I would come into the office later and make a full written report, but I had to leave right then. They kinda snickered, but they know my wife.

She was not happy! "Walter, you dumb sonofabeech, I've been standing here waiting for you for a good 15 minutes. You know darn well that I expect you to be punctual. If you don't snap out of it, I'm going to make an appointment with a shrink for you." The



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Just as I was dozing off, a small voice in the back of my brain said, "Are you ready?"

ride home was way too quiet. And it was still raining. Pocketa-pocketa-pocketa. She would not have believed me if I had told her anyway. I dropped her off at the door, knowing that supper was going to be cold and not very appetizing that evening. I drove down to the school to pick up our 7-year old daughter, Matty.

When I got to the school, it was apparent that something was really wrong. Mr. McCalum, the elderly crossing guard was lying face down on the lawn, dead. The main entrance door was hanging wildly to the side on a single hinge. Children were running and screaming. As I cautiously entered the building, there was a stranger with an AK-47 in one hand, wearing an explosive vest, and holding Matty by the other hand. A small voice in the back of my brain said, "Are you ready? Standby." I knew I had to make a head shot to prevent him from detonating the explosives. The Glock spoke. He went down. I grabbed Matty and hustled her into the relative safety of my Hummer. But as a deputy sheriff, I had an obligation to protect the other kids, so back I went into the hell hole. As I progressed down the hall, pie'ing every corner and every door and terminating two more terrorists with extreme prejudice in the process, I finally found what I dreaded the most, a room full of terrorists, children and teachers. Well, there were six terrorists all in all, and they were shooting at me. But I carefully pie'ed the solid concrete doorway, thankful that it provided hard cover, double tapping each bad dude as I saw them. One tried to sneak

up to the door and yank my gun away, but he died violently for all his trouble. And then it was over. By some miracle I was still alive, having some bullet holes in my raincoat, but none in me. I got everyone out of the school ASAP, just as the state police guys and SWAT showed up, leaving them to clean up the mess. I took Matty home before the state guys could corner me. I was in enough trouble with my wife as it was.

"Walter, have you gone stark raving mad!" It was not a question, but an angry statement. "Look at your raincoat, you've forgotten to tuck it all inside the car and the bottom is all frayed and full of holes from dragging on the road! Supper has been ready for a good 20 minutes, and you and Matty have been lollygagging again." I struggled to reply. "But dear, there was an accident that had traffic all backed up, and I had to pay attention to the driving or else I would have called you. You'll read about it in the paper tomorrow. All she said was "Hrrrumph". I knew I was toast. If I knew her, she had warmed up some dog food for me, covered it with crème of mushroom soup, and would tell me that it was a special dish from her grandma's cookbook. No wonder her grandpa died young.

Well, I was really tired from such an exhausting day, so I told her I'd fix myself something to eat later on, but for now, I just needed to catch some sleep. We have a spare bedroom on the ground floor where it's real quiet and you can't hear the TV nor the computer noises, so I slipped down there, put my Glock and spare mags in the

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bedside stand, and got between the sheets. Just as I was dozing off, a small voice in the back of my brain said, "Are you ready? Standby." And just then five thugs burst into my bedroom in a home invasion. I could barely make them out in the low light level of the darkened room, but I did what I had to do. But how was I going to explain this to Gladys? **TJ**

GENE SIMMONS

Gringo Gunner in Panama.

WORDS + PHOTOS
WALT KLOEPPPEL



Gene using his
“solid base” to
his advantage.

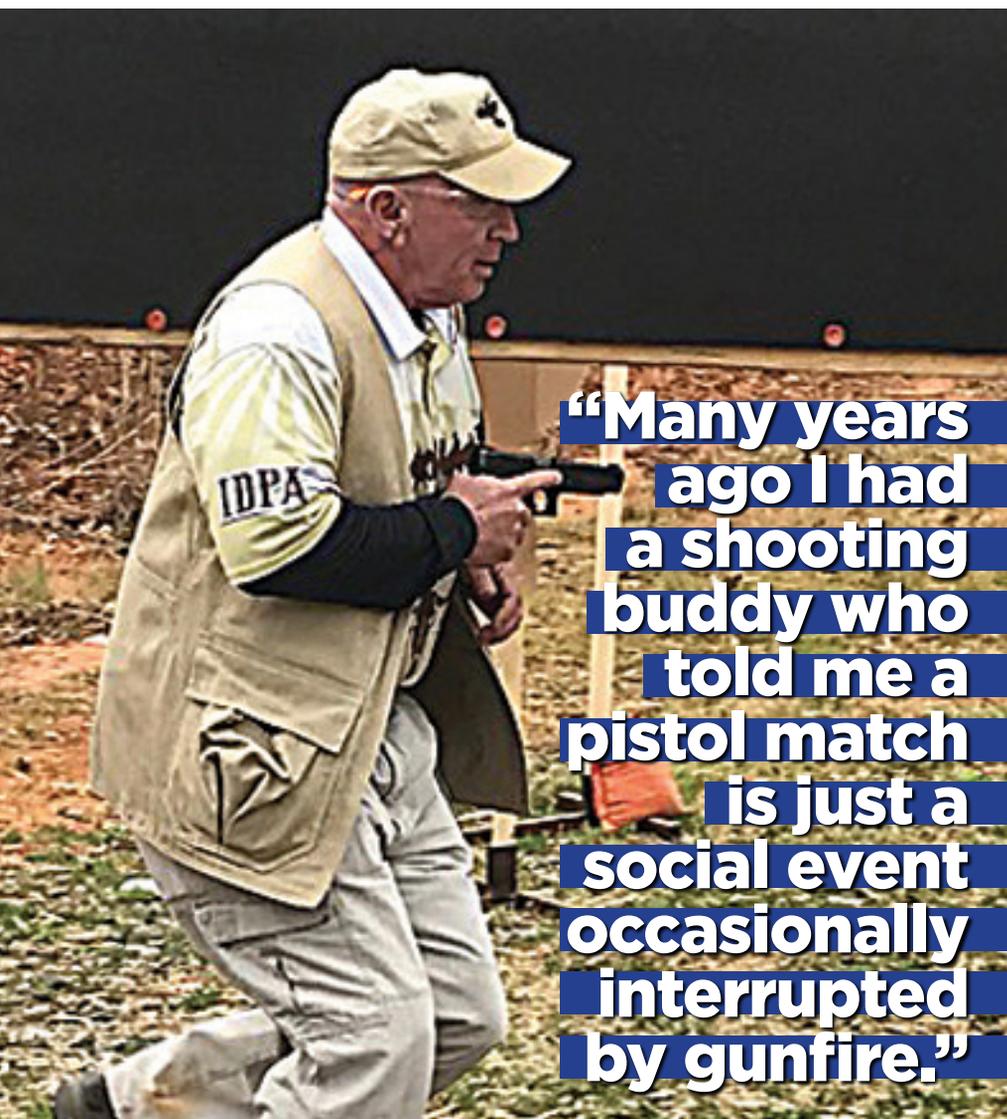
MEET GENE SIMMONS. NO, NOT THE ROCK STAR. BUT HE IS A ROCK STAR BY IDPA GRAY HAIRED STANDARDS (I CAN say that because I am one.) Or as Gene likes to say “Really Old Fat Man” Division. Respectfully ... of course ... he did take High Distinguished Senior at the 2016 Nationals. So let’s see how Gene Talarico Simmons became so distinguished.

Born in 1950 in Tupelo, Mississippi, Gene

grew up in a rural area where his father took him rabbit and squirrel hunting at an early age. When he was ready to deer hunt, he got a British .303 rifle. With no formal fire-arm training, other than from his father, he got his first handgun in grad school when he became a part-time prison guard while working his way through college. It was a Ruger semi-auto.

“As with many young men my age,

I read Guns and Ammo Magazine in the early '70s and read everything Col. Cooper, Skeeter Skelton and Mas Ayoob wrote,” said Gene. “My first semi-auto (center-fire) was a Star PD in .45 as Ayoob said it was a great pistol!” Gene lived in the country and had his own 25-yard range where he shot often. “I had no idea at the time, but I was not just plinking, I was getting ready for pistol matches.”



“Many years ago I had a shooting buddy who told me a pistol match is just a social event occasionally interrupted by gunfire.”

Gene graduated with a bachelor’s degree in education from Delta State College/University in 1973 and a Master of Education in physical education in 1974. He taught Junior High for several years, taught scuba diving for a few more. In 1980, Gene went to work for the American Red Cross as a safety specialist. His travels with the Red Cross were interesting to say the least, taking him to places like Panama, Guam, Spain, Korea, Hungary, Egypt, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. Gene also spent many of those years with the Red Cross stateside, where he had opportunities to compete.

“I shot a Ruger Security Six in my first match. Got spanked. I soon traded a Nikonos underwater camera for a Colt Gold Cup 1911. I moved to Daytona Beach and shot a little but no matches.”

It was a different story in 1984, when Gene moved to Raleigh, North Carolina. “I

shot IPSC, PPC or High Power Rifle every Saturday and Sunday,” he recalled. In 1989, Gene was transferred to Fort Clayton, Panama. After Operation Just Cause (the invasion of Panama) the Balboa Gun Club opened back up and he became a member.

“I had a timer, a chronograph, official targets and knew how to score Comstock. Every Saturday morning at 0700 I would go to the Balboa Gun Club and practice. It didn’t take long for others to show up and shoot. Soon, we were holding pistol matches. The Army, Marines, Air Force and Navy personnel would show up and shoot with us. I loved when the SEALs showed up because they would bring thousands of good 9MM +P ammo and let us shoot it.”

In 1997, Gene was transferred to Guam. They had pistol matches in Guam and Gene took advantage of it especially when it consisted of burning free ammo whenever

possible from the Naval Special Warfare Unit stationed there. One day, one of the Navy SEALs asked, “Mr. Simmons, how can you always beat us shooting pistols? You’re old and fat.” Gene laughed and answered, “Solid base.”

Gene joined IDPA while in Guam. “My IDPA number is A00456. Easy to remember and pretty low,” said Gene. He didn’t shoot his first IDPA match, though, until he transferred to South Carolina in 1999.

“It was very common for me to drive from Sumter, South Carolina to Oxford, North Carolina to shoot an IDPA match at The Range ran by Frank Glover,” said Gene. He had first met Frank in 1985 at matches in North Carolina.

In 1999, Gene shot the Mississippi State IDPA Championship. “Other than the match director, Rob Gardner, no one knew me,” said Gene. “It was cold, wet and windy but somehow I not only won SSP but I was High Over All. Yes, I know there is no HOA but we all know we look to see who beat everyone else,” laughed Gene.

Gene transferred to Spain and again shot on base with the SEALs and Marines. From Spain he went to Fort Riley, Kansas and shot both USPSA and IDPA. From Kansas, he was transferred to Osan AB, Korea. A world traveler no doubt - but after 31+ years, Gene retired.

“Once I retired in 2011, I moved to Texas and got to shoot a lot of IDPA matches. In fact, many more IDPA than USPSA matches.”

He now splits his time and residence between Tyler, Texas, and Panama City, Panama, with his wife Patricia. It’s safe to say no moss grows under Gene’s feet. “My home club in Texas is the East Texas Rifle and Pistol Club and in Panama, it’s the Balboa Gun Club.”

Panama Matches

“We shoot one IDPA match a month here in Panama. IDPA is new to Panama but we are getting bigger and better,” said Gene.

Isaac Brawermann is the president of IDPA Panama. According to Gene, he has done a great job getting it up and running.

“Rodrigo Carvajal came from Costa Rico to teach an SO class so now besides me, we have 10 SOs. We want to have Tier 2 Sanctioned Match next January (2018) and we are hoping to get Rodrigo to come back to teach another SO class.”

According to Gene, IDPA Panama was just recognized as an official shooting sport with the Panama Government, which means shooters from other countries can now



Gene is proud of taking home trophies in several different countries.

bring in their pistols and ammo to shoot a match. Gene hopes U.S. shooters will come to Panama next year to shoot their match.

"You will love our range. If you look to the left (that is break the 180), you can see ships going through the canal," said Gene.

Equipment/Training

Gene has been shooting Glocks exclusively since 1987. "A Glock just fits my hand," said Gene. "I shoot the same G34 in both SSP and ESP. For CDP, I shoot a G21. In the U.S., I use an Armadillo Concealment vest. Here in Panama, I use a Hawaiian shirt."

Gene believes in being "mag poor." "I think you can't have enough mags. I have enough mags to shoot a 12-stage all-day sanctioned match and never have to reload a mag."

Gene tries to dry fire every day for at least 10 minutes. He has a SIRT training gun in both locations for that purpose. Gene also believes in strength training and aerobic training.

"My running days are over but I walk 20 minutes to the gym here in Panama, lift weights for an hour (6 days a week) and then walk back 20 minutes home. In Texas, I ride the stationary bike and lift for an hour each day."

Living with the New Rules

"I hear a lot of people say one second down per point will slow down the sport. I don't think so. And if it does, so what? Many years ago I had a shooting buddy who told me a pistol match is just a social event occasionally interrupted by gunfire," said Gene. "The more time I can spend with friends, the better."

"As far as fault lines not being 'tactical,' I think IDPA is a game. You keep score and keep time. In all the tactical classes I took,

we never went 90 MPH in the clearing houses. The only clock we used was for exercises that use par times. Bottom line for the ones who don't like the new rules, give them a try. Come to find out, you might like them. You might not."

Support the Sport

Gene believes one of the best ways to give back to the sport is to become a Safety Officer. "IDPA is a volunteer sport and we always need volunteers," he said. "It will make you a better shooter. It really will. The class will teach you which rules you can bend but not break."

Gene's advice to new shooters is to watch what the experienced shooters do at a match. See what works and what doesn't work. When asked what pistol to buy, Gene says, "One that works. One that shoots straight and one that fits your hand. Also get a good holster. I hate to see new shooters with a \$600 pistol and a \$6 holster. I also tell them that instead of spending a lot on money on a trigger job, spend the money on ammo to practice."

IDPA Accomplishments

Gene reflected, "My first IDPA highlight was winning the Mississippi IDPA Championship in 1999. Another highlight was Most

Accurate at the Texas State Match a couple of years ago. In the rain/mud, no less. And the best highlight so far was winning "Best Really Old Fat Man" (Distinguished Senior) at the 2016 IDPA Nationals. It was fun winning the 2017 Panama IDPA National Championship also. Of course winning the Panama Championship makes me a big fish in a little ocean, while winning the IDPA Nationals Distinguished Senior makes me a little fish in a big ocean."

Panama, Texas ... doesn't seem to matter - Gene's going to continue to knock 'em down. Or in the words of another old rock star, Tom Petty - "Never slow down, never grow old." **TJ**

.....
Do you know an IDPA member with an interesting story? Let us know by writing us at tacticaljournal@idpa.com. We would love to share their stories.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Walt Kloeppe, A56663

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



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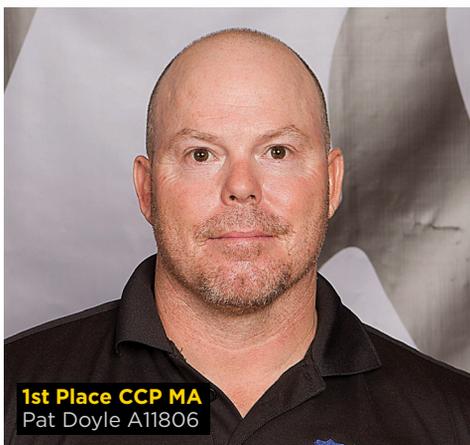
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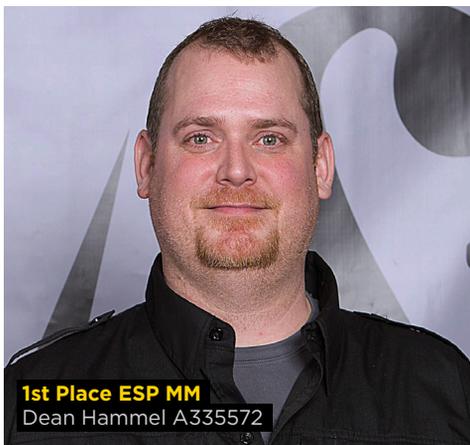
1st Place CCP MA
Pat Doyle A11806



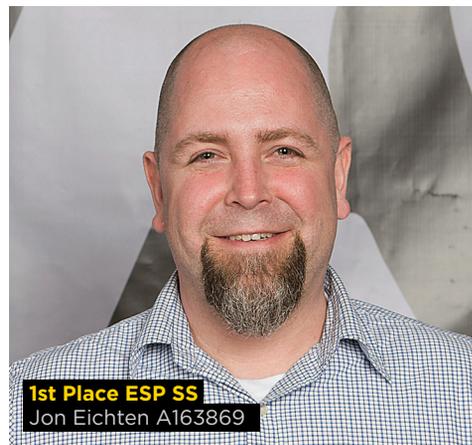
1st Place CCP SS
Pasquile Vitetta



1st Place CDP EX
Blaese Romano A56642



1st Place ESP MM
Dean Hammel A335572



1st Place ESP SS
Jon Eichten A163869



1st Place REV EX
Chuck Limpert A47097



1st Place REV MA
Bill Thorpe A28470



1st Place SSP MA
Jim Meyers A27317



2nd Place CDP MA
Austin Proulx A39722



2nd Place CDP SS
Christian Flemming A48183



2nd Place ESP EX
Mandy Bachman A756748



2nd Place SSP MA
Christopher Shatz A56271



2nd Place SSP SS
Simon Cote A136371



3rd Place ESP EX
Rick Smith A38482



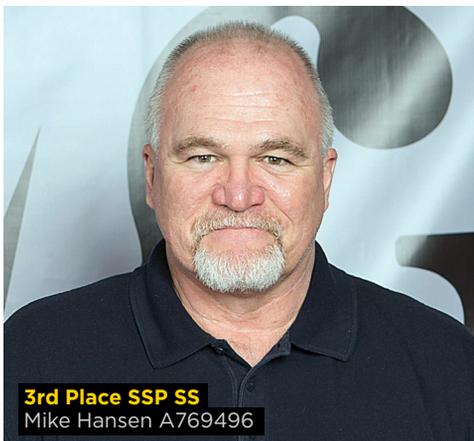
3rd Place ESP MM
Vince McKuhen A120266



3rd Place ESP SS
Christopher Tessier A52115



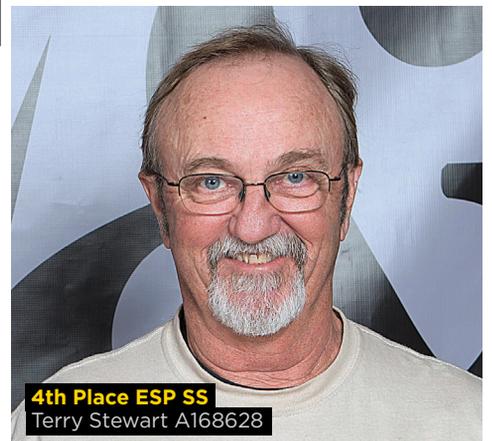
3rd Place SSP MA
Brian Nelson A36233



3rd Place SSP SS
Mike Hansen A769496



4th Place ESP MM
Darrell York A53435



4th Place ESP SS
Terry Stewart A168628

TROPHY ROOM



4th Place SSP MM
Ramon Parraga F01236



5th Place ESP SS
Thomas Dunham A835800



5th Place SSP EX
Wayne Lemond A55487



5th Place SSP MM
Lisa Vanbiene A737934



6th Place SSP SS
Jonathan Wolfe A37022



8th Place SSP SS
Jeff Harrison A40777



9th Place SSP SS
Juan Llabot VE0177



DivisionChampion SSP
Robert Vogel A14080



DivisionChampion CDP
Brandon Wright-2 A26622



High Distinguished Senior
Dan Smith A02174



High Law Enforcement
Pat Doyle 2 A11806



High Senior
Gordon Carrell A10538



September 28 -30, 2017 Triple C Tactical Training Range APPLICATION Cresson, TX

Participants: Entries must be **POSTMARKED OR SHIPPED (NOT RECEIVED) NO EARLIER than May 29, 2017**. Any entries received prior to this date will not be considered for squadding until July 1st and only if there are openings left. **SEND ENTRIES TO: IDPA CHAMPIONSHIP, 2232 CR 719, Berryville, Arkansas 72616**

- All applicants must be current IDPA members with a classification of Marksman or higher.
- **Limited to 290 entries based on accumulated points.** Ask that your match director makes sure to upload results to the IDPA website in the format that includes your IDPA number so you get credit toward the points system to attend the IDPA US National Championship.

Points System:	Points will be accumulated from May 31, 2016 through May 30, 2017. The points will be awarded based on participation at sanctioned matches whose results have been uploaded to IDPA HQ or as noted below. Clubs that hold matches in the last two weeks of May 2017, should have their results uploaded to IDPA HQ no later than June 3, 2017	The Points:	Tier 2 matches are worth 1 point. Tier 3 matches are worth 2 points. Tier 4 matches are worth 3 points. Tier 5 matches (Worlds, US and Indoor Nationals only) are worth 4 points. Match Directors of sanctioned matches in this year or the previous earn 1 point. The club contacts listed on the IDPA website as of May 31, 2017 earn 1 point.
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You will choose your own squad. We will send notification via email to let you know when and where to go for self squadding. To self squad, you will need to sign in using the same user name and password you use to login in to www.idpa.com. Sign up now at www.idpa.com if you plan to submit an entry form for the US National Championship.

How slots will be awarded:	<p>We will fill the first 200 openings using the Points System.</p> <p>50 openings will then be filled by random drawing of all the remaining shooters who did not get a slot using their points. This will allow shooters in areas not featuring frequent sanctioned matches to have an opportunity to attend.</p> <p>30 openings will be reserved for International Shooters and will be awarded by random drawing; any international shooters who do not receive a slot via this method will be entered into the random drawing for the 50 openings mentioned above.</p> <p>These numbers do not include IDPA Staff and SOs as they do not take up any of the slots on Thur, Fri or Sat.</p>
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Entry Fee:	\$175 until July 1. \$225 after July 1, 2017. Entry fees for International Members are to be paid by credit card only. Includes the match and all festivities. (One dinner is included in the entry fee. Extra dinners for guests are \$35.) No match fee refunds will be made for any reason after August 22, 2017. Make checks payable to IDPA.	Location: Triple C Tactical Training Range, Cresson, TX Match Director: Brian Ehrler Assistant Match Directors: Rick Lund, Chad Barber
-------------------	--	---

Events:	Tues., Sept. 26	12:00 pm	Safety Officers and Staff shoot half match
		Evening	On your own
Wed., Sept. 27	8:00 am		Safety Officers and Staff shoot remaining half or full match
	12:00pm		Lunch for Safety Officers shooting full match
	7:00-9:00 pm		Competitor Sign-in/Hospitality Room open
Thurs., Sept. 28	8:00 am		Squads 11-18 shoot 4 bays
	12:00 pm		Lunch at the range for squads 11-18
	1:00 pm		Squads 11-18 shoot remaining 4 bays
	7:00-9:00 pm		Competitor Sign-in/Hospitality Room open
Fri., Sept. 29	7:15 am		Shooter's Meeting at the range for squads 21-28
	7:30 am		Squads 21-28 shoot 5 bays
	12:30 pm		Lunch at the range for squads 21-28
	1:15 pm		Shooter's Meeting at the range for squads 31-38
	1:30 pm		Squads 31-38 shoot 5 bays
Sat., Sept. 30	Evening		On your own
	8:00 am		Squads 31-38 shoot 3 bays
	11:00 am		Lunch at the range for squads 31-38
	12:00 pm		Squads 21-28 shoot 3 bays
	6:00 pm		PreAwards Cocktails
	7:00-10:00 pm		Awards Dinner - Dinner served at 7 PM with Awards Ceremony to follow



**September 28 -30, 2017
APPLICATION**

**Triple C Tactical
Training Range
Cresson, TX**

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the large number of entries, your entry form must be completed **ENTIRELY AND CORRECTLY** or it will not be accepted. NO EXEMPTIONS. So please check thoroughly before mailing. Entry form is not considered complete unless accompanied by payment.

IDPA #: _____ NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____
 STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ COUNTRY: _____
 PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

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

Only ONE Dinner is included with entry. All additional dinners will be \$35 each.

TOTAL number of people attending the awards banquet & dinner Sat. evening (including entrant): _____

Entry Fee: \$175 (before 7/1/17)
 \$225 (after 7/1/17) _____

Additional Dinner: \$35 _____

There will be **NO** Division changes once HQ receives your entry form.
 Classifications **WILL** change based on the latest issue of the rulebook.

Total: _____

Division	Classification	Sub-Category (Circle ONLY ONE)	HQ Office Use Only	
			Date Rec'd	
CCP	Distinguished Master	Senior (50-64)		
CDP	Master	Dist. Senior (65+) Law Enforcement		
ESP	Expert	Junior (12-18) Industry		
SSP	Sharpshooter	Lady International		
REV	Marksman	Military Press		
			Amount	

Sanctioned Match Director of what match?	1 point
Club Contact of what club?	1 point

Sanctioned Matches you have attended

(If you have additional matches beyond the space provided, please include them on a separate sheet of paper):

	point(s)

UPCOMING MATCHES

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

START DATE	EVENT NAME	HOST CLUB
May 11, 2017	Russian Cup 2017	National Shooting Association
May 12, 2017	CAPITAL CUP 2017 - Tier 2	Associazione Di Tiro Roma
May 13, 2017	2017 Missouri State Championship - Backstoppers Challenge - Tier 3	Arnold Rifle And Pistol Club
May 19, 2017	12th Annual Great Lakes Regional - Tier 3	Linwood - Bay Sportsman's Club
May 19, 2017	Arkansas State IDPA Championship - Tier 3	Mountain Valley Sportsman's Association (MVSA)
May 26, 2017	REAL DEFENSE - Tier 2	Defense 360° - Formazione
May 28, 2017	Comp-Tac's 2017 Texas State IDPA Championship-Tier 4	Collin County IDPA
Jun 3, 2017	2017 Illinois IDPA Championship - Tier 3	WSRC IDPA
Jun 10, 2017	2017 Central New Mexico Scorcher Tier 3	Del Norte Defensive Shooters
Jun 10, 2017	2017 OK State IDPA Championship - Tier 3	United States Shooting Academy
Jun 10, 2017	Massachusetts State Championship - Tier 3	Woburn Sportsman's Association
Jun 16, 2017	Vengeance in the Valley - Tier 2	Guthsville Rod And Gun
Jun 17, 2017	2017 Wisconsin State Championship - Tier 3	Badger IDPA
Jun 17, 2017	2017 Snake River Regional IDPA Championship Tier 2	South Eastern Idaho Practical Shooters
Jun 23, 2017	Empire Match 2017 - Tier 4	Empire Match 2017
Jun 24, 2017	2017 Virginia IDPA Match - Tier 3	Kettlefoot Rod and Gun Club
Jun 24, 2017	2017 Nike Challenge - Tier 2	Phalanx Shooting Team
Jul 15, 2017	2017 NC Mountaineer Classic State Match-Tier 2	Watauga Gun Club-IDPA
Jul 15, 2017	Pennsylvania State Championship - Tier 3	Wilkes-Barre Rifle and Pistol Club
Jul 22, 2017	2017 Iowa State IDPA Championship - Tier 2	Ankeny Ikes Practical Shooters
Aug 11, 2017	2017 IDPA Michigan State Championship - Tier 3	Livingston Conservation and Sports Association
Aug 13, 2017	2017 Algonquin Cup Provincial	Eagle Lake Gun Club
Aug 19, 2017	Sig Sauer 2017 New England Regional IDPA Championship - Tier 4	Harvard Sportsmen's Club
Sep 8, 2017	2017 Rust Belt Championship - Tier 2	Lawrence County Sportsmans Association
Sep 9, 2017	2017 Brownells NM State IDPA Championship - Tier 3	San Juan County Defensive Pistol Association
Sep 9, 2017	The Masters 2017 IDPA Championship Presented by Glock - Tier 4	Brock's Gap IDPA
Sep 15, 2017	Commonwealth Cup - Tier 2	Rivanna Rifle and Pistol Club
Sep 23, 2017	Prairie Dell Shootout	Brittany Shooting Park, Ltd.
Sep 28, 2017	2017 IDPA US National Championship - Tier 5	Cross Timbers Action Shooting Association
Oct 7, 2017	The Potomac Grail - Tier 2	Thurmont Conservation and Sportman's Club
Oct 7, 2017	2017 Comp-Tac Mississippi State IDPA Championship - Tier 4	Ridge Crossing Shooting Club
Oct 14, 2017	Lone Star IDPA Championship 2017 - Tier 4	Cross Timbers Action Shooting Association
Oct 21, 2017	Fall Brawl 2017 Tier 3 Match	Central AR Shooters Association (CASA)
Oct 27, 2017	Liberty Match at Valley Forge 2017 - Tier 3	Lower Providence Rod and Gun Club
Oct 28, 2017	The Western IDPA Regional - Tier 4	Sacramento Defensive Pistol Shooters

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



**READY TO
CAPTION THIS?**

HOW TO ENTER

Step #1:

Think of something funny to caption the photo above.

Step #2:

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

Step #3:

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

Step #4:

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



PARTING SHOT WINNERS FROM OUR LAST ISSUE

Winner

"After reviewing the 2017 rules, Harry Potter is disappointed there's no wand division."

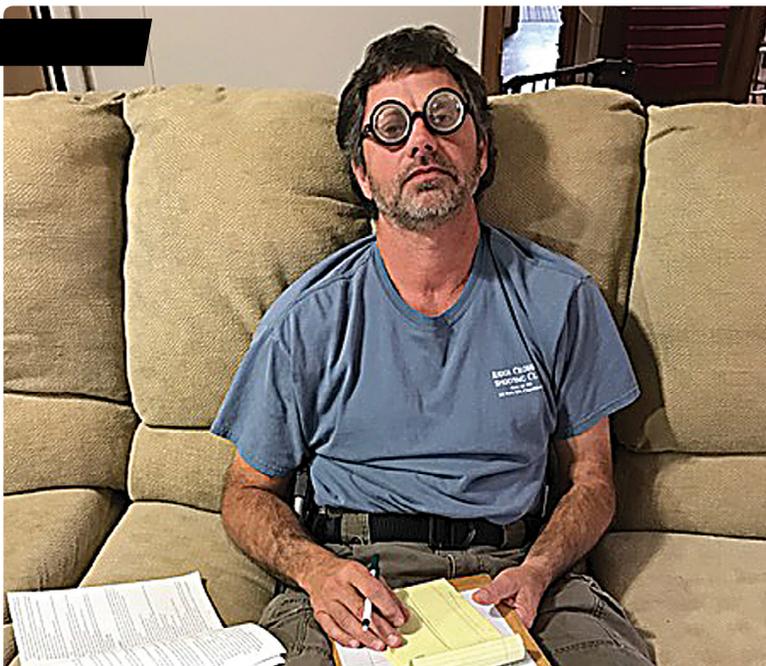
—Allan Dantonio, A264503

Second Place

"So, according to this, I can NOT declare my local gun store as a dependent..." —Joe Hamrick, A57305

Third Place

"I'm sure that was touching the perf. I saw it with my own two eyes." —Todd Bulson, A52548



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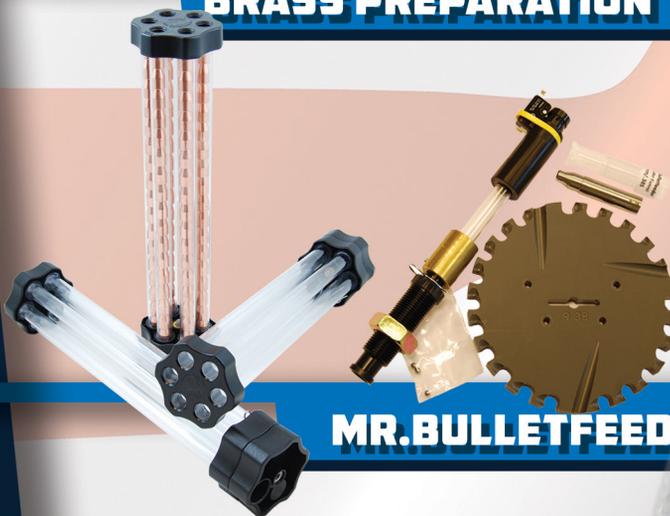
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