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IDPA



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# GOZENTA MULTI TOOL

## Making your next car trip a little easier

WORDS + PHOTOS ROBERT RAY



Be prepared to hit the road in comfort.



### WE SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF TIME IN OUR AUTOMOBILES.

Going to work, the store, on vacation. According to the AAA, Americans spend 17,600 minutes a year on the road. That is an average of 48 minutes a day! And that is just the average, I know a number of people that spend way more time that in a car for work purposes. So what does that mean for carrying your gun? I don't know about you but for me it means being uncomfortable. Well, HAWG Holsters has something to help ease that pain, it's called the "Gozenta."

"The what?" I hear you say. This product is called the Gozenta because it goes into the unused seat-belt slot in your car. But let us stop right here for a moment and say something. WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT. We wear a gun for that slight chance we need to "protect" ourselves or another, right? So use the

same reasoning and wear your seat belt to "protect" yourself in an accident. Now, that being said, most of us travel daily with an empty passenger seat or we have a bench seat with that "middle" seat that is usually empty. So use one of those buckle spots.

"Ok, ok," you say, "so what exactly does this product do?" The Gozenta locks into the female buckle side of a seat belt. Once locked into place it is designed so that your HAWG Holster, or any holster using a Ulti Clip, can be clamped onto the Gozenta using the holsters Ulti Clip or Ulti Clip XL. This allows you to have your gun close by but without the hassle or discomfort of having it on your belt. And if you don't live in an open carry state, just drop a shop towel or old shirt over it

and it is now concealed. Simple, effective and comfortable. Yes, I know. Some of you macho gunslingers out there never take the gun off your belt, even in the car. But some folks do and this is a nice option.

The Gozenta also includes a handy bottle opener, ruler, and hex driver slots. In all, it is a handy piece of equipment to have around and it makes your life a little more comfortable. To see the Gozenta in action you can watch the video on [www.hawgholsters.com](http://www.hawgholsters.com) or by searching on YouTube. The Gozenta retails for \$19.00 and can be ordered from [www.hawgholsters.com](http://www.hawgholsters.com). You'll be glad you did. 

International Defensive Pistol Association's

## TACTICAL JOURNAL

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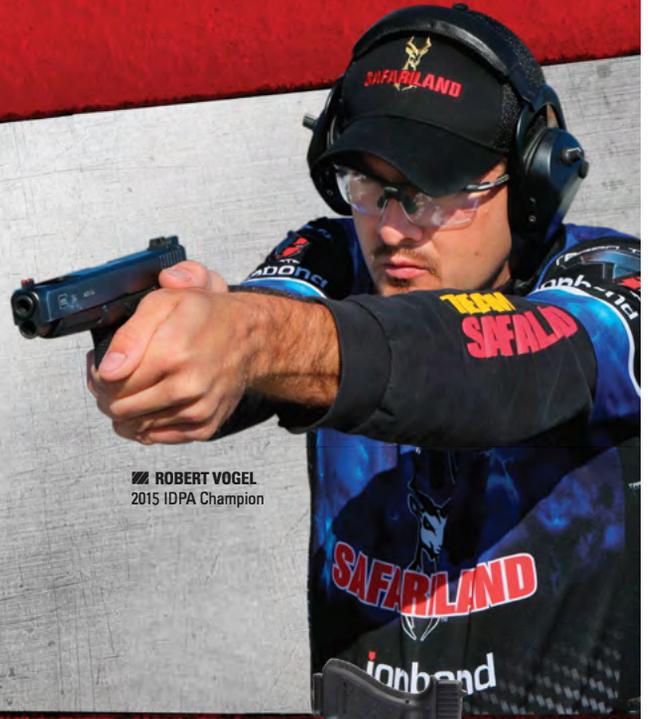
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# WELCOME TO YOUR

## Looking forward to the second half of 2018

### A MESSAGE FROM **Joyce Wilson** IDPA Executive Director

**AS WE HEAD INTO THE 3RD QUARTER OF 2018 AND FALL APPROACHES, IT IS A GOOD TIME TO REFLECT ON THE** previous months of the year and what we can learn from them, personally and professionally. As I look back on this year, I see that there is much to celebrate in our sport. Often, we focus on the shortcomings, problems or the negative attitudes on the latest Internet post we've read. I hope, as you read this, you will take a moment and contemplate the positive people and things surrounding us.

A few months ago we mentioned that we would be consolidating the areas of many of our Area Coordinators (ACs) in the US, and that process continues to happens. When changes are made, they are announced in

the Tactical Brief that is published every Tuesday. As the areas of responsibility grows larger, we have rolled out the State Coordinator (SC) program, which allows

members in that state and representing the needs of the members to the AC. As of this writing, we have nearly a half dozen SCs in the country with more to follow. Our Area

Coordinators work hard to keep in touch with their club contacts, usually through a quarterly or monthly email update. If you are looking to get more information or find out what your AC has to say, ask your club contact or your AC if you can be put on their email list. For all their hard work and dedication, I say to the ACs, IPOCs and SCs —you rock!

Our upcoming IDPA National Championship is another reason to celebrate. This will be our first experience at the CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park in Talladega, AL and we are very excited to visit it. There are many interesting things to do in the area, so if



an AC to appoint a person in one of their remote states to be their eyes and ears. The SCs will assist in working with and visiting clubs, building relationships with



# ROCK!

you have a free day or want to bring the family, you can find something for everyone. This link will get you started: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g30870-Activities-Talladega\\_Alabama.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g30870-Activities-Talladega_Alabama.html)

While our shooters may be out sight-seeing, MD Chad Barber and his AMDs, Nicky and Dede Carter will be working hard as they preside over the challenging stages they have prepared for you. Rick Lund will welcome you to the 4 stages of the PCC side match, as well. Their theme is "Southern Hospitality" and they plan to live up to that motto. Our Nationals staff rocks!

In October, on the 27th, the US will recognize National Make a Difference Day. This day was begun during a Leap Year and peo-

ple were encouraged to use the extra day in the year to do something good for their communities. We see this every day in our sport: MDs who provide matches for their clubs; members who show up early and stay late to help build and tear down stages; SOs who stand out in weather of all kinds to officiate at matches so fellow shooters can have a good time; SOIs who mentor their colleagues on all aspects of the sport. To those dedicated volunteers who make a difference in our sport, I say You Rock!

Our sport continues to evolve and grow, and our future looks bright, indeed. To all who support our changes, who make suggestions and help us build and grow and change - you rock!



*Joyce L. Wilson*

**Joyce Wilson, #CL087**

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

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FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

# CONTEMPLATING

# IDPA

Finding the Fix between Females and  
the Fear of Competitive Shooting!

WORDS PATRICIA TJARK REISS, A47047

PHOTOS PATRICIA TJARK REISS

**IN MY EXPERIENCE, RECRUITING CAN BE BOTH CHALLENGING AND REWARDING. FOR SOME IT GOES SOMETHING LIKE**

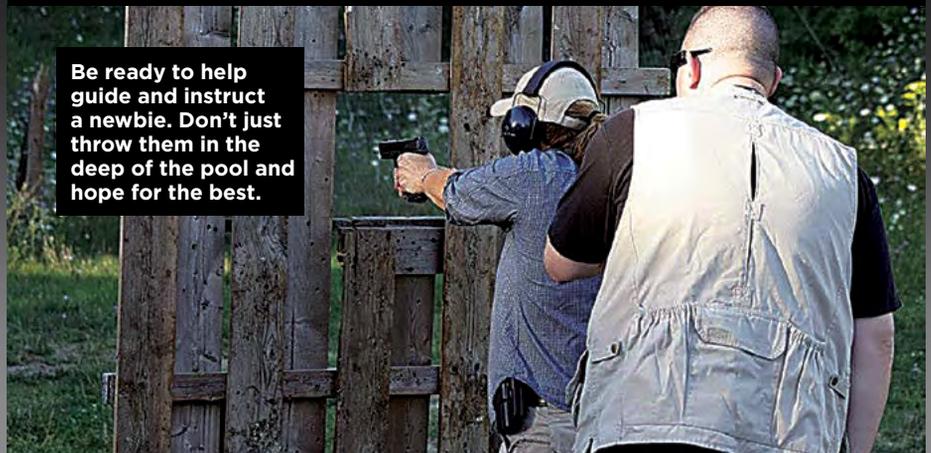
this...you know of some ladies that have recently taken a basic pistol course, plus another class or two, and you are waiting to meet a couple of them for coffee at your usual cafe. We will call one such potential recruit, Ms. Newbie and the other, Miss Flinch.

First off, as Ms. Newbie approaches your table, you notice the obvious printing above her waistband and I'm not talking floral or plaid prints (although both are good choices for helping with concealment). I'm talking about the obvious large protrusion from a poorly fitted holster. This prompts you to watch for the "elbow grip" used by many new concealed carriers to confirm, to themselves, that their gun is still there. Ms. Newbie slides into the booth guiding her "concealed firearm" with the now modified "telbow" grip so it doesn't bump the table or fall out of the nylon pouch she is wearing since the Velcro is now stuck to her sweater. For anyone playing the game, "Spot Their Carry" this is a pretty dead giveaway to a supposedly hidden firearm as the elbow tells you the exact spot in which their gun is being worn. (Hence, the telbow grip!) Next enters Miss Flinch. Her shifty eyes are moving like she's watching the U.S. Open as she walks past some patrons while clutching her purse to her chest, only it's not a clutch bag she is holding. You can tell she is not comfortable at all with her concealed firearm. She chides as she is seated and asks for the seat facing the door and whispers to you across the table, "You know, I want to be prepared, just in case!" as her purse is now buried in the corner with layers of coats stacked on top of it. It's a concealed purse, alright!

You see the awkwardness in their body language and hope and pray that this will not be "That day!" because you don't want either person on your six if things go down. What should you do? You should take a deep breath and remember that this was once you across the table with the unpolished skillset. So many forget that they, too, were once new. Ironically, with the right attitude, eagerness and desire, possessed by both Ms. Newbie and Miss Flinch, they can become an asset rather than a liability if we invest a little time in them. If we lead them in the ways of this new dimension in their lives, it is a win-win situation for all. This is where the door of opportunity



**Getting a non gun owner to the range may be as simple as inviting them.**



**Be ready to help guide and instruct a newbie. Don't just throw them in the deep of the pool and hope for the best.**

## **You should take a deep breath and remember that this was once you across the table with the unpolished skillset.**

opens. Do you offer to guide them into this new world with direction and mentorship? How do you set the tone without coming across as sounding condescending to them about their newly acquired responsibility and the need to "Train BEFORE you carry!" Does your entry way say, "Welcome?" or "Go Away!"

Maybe you don't think you have what it takes to be a mentor. There is still plenty that you can do from the sidelines. As a fellow shooter, you certainly play an important role in growing a community of safe and responsible shooters, in this case, female IDPA participants. It may help you understand that there is a serious problem when only

1,600 shooters out of 26,000 total members of IDPA are women. Most are aware that the demographics of women who own firearms is, and has been, the largest growing for the past few years. Female participation in obtaining concealed carry permits, hunting, and some shooting sports has dramatically increased. The surge continues, and the numbers are there. They have the right mindset, the capability and the support. We know that shooting sports such as IDPA is a means by which to learn, hone, and maintain highly perishable skills while having fun with great people. It seems like a no brainer. So, why the huge gap when it comes to female membership for IDPA?

## FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

There is a stigma that is preventing the female shooter from taking that next step into what is still a male dominated community. We need to find the fix between the female and the fear of competitive shooting.

A recent poll was taken by a female firearms instructor. Over 200 women across the 50 states who are currently handgun owners and participate in some form of shooting activity a minimum of one day per month were asked to reply to the question, "Why do you feel more women do NOT participate in competitive shooting sports?" The results were not really all that surprising to me as a female instructor, 40% did not participate in any type of shooting sports because of time and expense, 5% due to lack of knowledge about availability of IDPA and of the rules, 51% simply said FEAR. FEAR was the number 1 reason. Many said the fear was because of embarrassment of not being good enough or making mistakes, while others expressed a very strong sense of not being accepted or being intimidated by the male dominated community. Less than 1% said they did not participate be-

Covering the basic rules before hitting the range.



cause they are not competitive people. Unfortunately, we cannot add more hours to the day. When people fall in love with something, they tend to find more time to do that which they love. I remember my first "gun love" and how I used my lunch hours to run over to the range.

We cannot do a great deal about the affordability, i.e. guns, gear, ammo, match fees and transportation, but we can sometimes mitigate it by hosting special clinics, having reduced rates at club matches, finding sponsors willing to offer discounts on gear

and related products. Offering rental or loaned equipment is also a possibility in some instances to help defray costs. When people fall in love with something, they often find the financial means to support that which they love. You could even wear a t-shirt that says, "I'll work for ammo!" Bartering often works well.

The area where we can easily make a difference is in the awareness that a problem exists and why it exists. The problems are fear and a lack of education. Education can help overcome fear. Have you ever noticed

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what happens when you take the time to mentor a shooter in their basic shooting fundamentals? They become putty in your hands.

**Mentoring can:**

- **Foster good habits that will prevent the fear of embarrassment**
  - **Raise the bar and help them grow**
  - **Help prepare them for their first match by coaching them on what is to be expected**
  - **Allows you to answer their questions without judgment**
  - **Allow you to encourage by communicating your faith and trust in them**
  - **Inspire them by living what you teach and showing you are not afraid to fail**
- Inspiring others is the epitome of perpetual motivation.**

Reinforce that with stick-to-itiveness, they too can be successful shooting competitively. Reward them with praise for a job well done. Be sure to ask them often, "Are you having fun?" Most importantly, by mentoring, you can assure the new shooter of a welcoming environment.

It is a productive team effort to grow the female sector of IDPA by both the males and females on the team. Each person plays an important role in a lasting first impressions. When there is a welcoming environment, the feeling of judgment dissipates, whether it is real or not. Many women have had a history of being treated in a less than acceptable way by more experienced counterparts. Awareness, however, can go a long way in deterring any behavior that may initiate a negative response resulting in unsuccessful recruitment of female shooters who want to overcome past experiences and enjoy some of the simple pleasures of life in a mixed environment without any worries or emotional discomfort.

Remember back when, in your first NRA basic pistol course, one of the very first things you were taught was having the proper attitude necessary for owning and using a pistol safely. Well, Ms. Newbie and Miss Flinch are reading the same book, but they are in different chapters. They haven't gotten to the chapter yet where it says it's time to put the book down and practice what you've learned so far. There is always more to learn! Yes, always, more resources to deepen one's knowledge by reading and reviewing; and, you must also train and practice and continue to train and practice as you learn. Reaching out to ladies like Ms. Newbie and Miss Flinch can make all the difference in world. By narrowing the focus

to recruit women individually or in small groups we will begin to see consistency in hitting our target. Investing some time in them, mentoring them, until they can walk on their own, will create a bond and cause them to stick around. Soon, they will begin recruiting by bringing a friend and the friend will bring a friend and so on. What is the fix and where is it found? Mentoring in small groups. In the words from "The Patriot", Aim small, miss small! It works! 

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**Tjark Reiss, A47047**

Trish is currently a firearms instructor with Montana Tactical Firearms Instruction, Inc. primarily working with the female clientele. She is dedicated to the concept of "TRAIN before you carry". Trish is looking forward to implementing the Introduction to IDPA Course to the women of the Gallatin Valley and throughout Montana while promoting the many benefits of competitive shooting sports. Her motto has always been to "Get the unarmed women off the streets, one by one!" She enjoys instructing women and is a Chapter Leader and Certified The Well Armed Woman Instructor as well as an NRA Instructor.



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Running out to the range is a little tougher when you are in Iraq.

# BAGHDAD PRACTICAL SHOOTERS

**A peek at the IDPA club behind the walls of the US embassy in Iraq.**

**WORDS + PHOTOS** SCOTT MCGRATH, A37169 **INTRODUCTION BY** CODY CLAXTON, A48040

**"I FIRST MET SCOTT MCGRATH IN NOVEMBER 2012 WHEN HE MOVED TO THE DC METRO AREA FOR WORK. HE** had been a member of IDPA but not very active until he came here. He earned his first match bump to Master in September 2013 at the Virginia Commonwealth Cup.

Funny story is at the end of the match he was convinced he wouldn't place very well for the match, he didn't want to wait around for the scores to post or plaques to be handed out. It turned out he was 1st Place EX and received a match bump to Master. I picked up the trophy for him and handed it

to him at our next local match at the NRA Range. He became certified as an SO and became a regular at our NRA and Thurmont IDPA Matches. In 2017 Scott was transferred to Baghdad and as soon as he was there asked me about starting an IDPA club. He has already had three matches, and the club



**Keeping their shooting skills sharp has a higher than average importance here.**



is growing as more people hear about it. One interesting issue he faced was finding cans of black paint for hard cover. They had to traverse the back alleys of Baghdad to finally purchase them. We could not ask for a better Match Director and Safety Officer than Scott for our Baghdad club. I thank him for his service every chance I get and pray that he will go home safe to his family. Thanks for all you do for IDPA, Scott."

the security teams of the U.S. Mission to Iraq and include federal law enforcement agents, locally employed bodyguards and everyone in between. Anyone who is able to use the U.S. government ranges is invited to participate - and we have our fair share of top-notch shooters, including competitors from other Counter-ISIS Coalition countries and anyone who may be in country on temporary duty.

Monthly matches that bring the community together provide for relationship building that aids in the overall effort to keep Americans safe in Iraq. Logistical difficulties with obtaining spray paint, pasters, and official targets are always present, but we have a very resilient cadre of safety officers that strive to ensure all stages are shot fairly and vary from the rules only as much as needed

## **Shooters actively participating in this club come mainly from the security teams of the U.S. Mission to Iraq and include federal law enforcement agents, locally employed bodyguards and everyone in between.**

Baghdad's first and only IDPA club spawned from an initial interest in USPSA matches at the U.S. Embassy. Previous Embassy Baghdad staff began holding USPSA-style shooting matches and getting the entire security community involved in competitive shooting. A natural transition to IDPA led to forming the Baghdad Practical Shooters IDPA club.

The club shoots at the U.S. Embassy ranges in Baghdad, home of many Department of Defense and Department of State personnel. Shooters actively participating in this club come mainly from

Due to range limitations, stages of fire are limited in depth, as the backstop to the range is completely square to the shooting line. To broaden the experience, stages that involve props and stipulate unorthodox shooting positions are in full usage. With a group of 25 shooters, we can shoot 5 stages in about 4 hours. The ability of security personnel to depart from shooting only qualifications and expand their experience shooting under pressure and with various constraints improves the overall readiness of the U.S. government missions in Iraq.

to conform to range restrictions. Future plans include putting on a safety officer certification course, and expanding our target capabilities to include swingers and turners.

The bottom line is that we have a lot of talented shooters who remain flexible and come out to have a good time and improve their shooting game. While our range is limited, and may not be the best for competitive shooting, we have some of the greatest people America has to offer coming out to test their mettle every month. **TJ**

**BUILDING THE**

# **SHOOTING PLATFORM**

**FOR THE CHALLENGED SHOOTER**

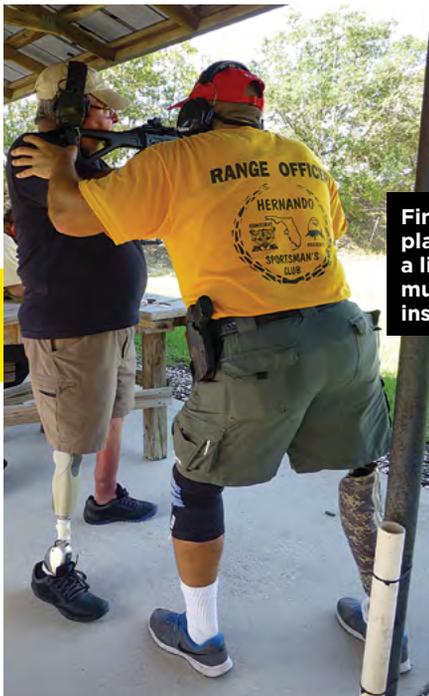
The importance of creating a stable shooting foundation for an adaptive shooter.

**I HAVE A UNIQUE PATH, TRANSITIONING FROM AN ACCOMPLISHED SHOOTER AND INSTRUCTOR TO A “CRIPPLE” OVERNIGHT.** I have been fortunate to use this transition as the best education of my life. I have learned to shoot with one hand, with prosthetic devices, in a chair, with a cane, with crutches, with a walker, and now

with my new bionic devices. As my life continues to shift, I am constantly living to “Learn To Shoot Again.”

As shooters, we all know what have been classified as the “Fundamentals,” including stance. We refer to this as a foundation; just as with building a structure, that foundation which helps it survive nature helps the

shooter overcome the challenges they face. Many instructors tell me this is not a “critical” or even “important” matter and my response is because you can do it so easily. For those of us who stand or sit differently, this offers a host of new challenges we face every day and in every task. The greatest failure of instructors who have limited experience with shooters like us is to not understand how differently our bodies function with limited mobility. Consider the wheelchair user’s level of physical ability, the skills required just to continue training regularly are critical to determine if they can even conceal carry. Today, we have



Finding a stable platform may take a little extra communication with the instructor.



that by having the student square their feet at shoulder width on a straight line and bending their knees to place their hands on their knees. This shows the instructor and student which is the more stable side, without being distracted by braces or prosthetic devices. Dependent on their stability, we move that stable foot to the rear to the optimal point of balance. This is not controlled by their primary hand. Rather, by squaring the hips to the target we use natural point of aim to overcome this obstacle.

This leads to the feet, which are often overlooked, but have a great impact on us

surface mitigates this greatly and increases the surface area contacting the ground. The other natural benefit of this positioning is the stabilization of the ankle, knee, and hip joints. This is huge for those with assistive devices and soft tissue concerns, even arthritis.

Comfort is key. Each of our students hurt as part of daily living; we must avoid causing further aggravation. Only they know what fits them best. So, work with

**“The greatest failure of instructors who have limited experience with shooters like us is to not understand how differently our bodies function with limited mobility.”**

more “handy-able” people than ever and as I work towards becoming the Bionic Man it exemplifies how to help them thrive.

What is the student’s level of function? What can they physically do? Are there any paralysis, prosthetic use, partial mobility, or assistive devices to consider? Whether the student stands or remains seated, we first need to create a stable “foundation” which presents the shoulders and hips square to the target.

For the standing student, finding the stable side is the first point; we each have one regardless of our health. We evaluate

and how our devices work. The able-bodied shooter will likely find that their feet pointed at the target increases stability, but those of us with assistive devices must shift. This shift is determined by the device and the effected side(s). If the prosthetic or braced side is the lead foot, the toe will be best turned in, even though the rear foot may be oriented more forward. If the braced side is to the rear, the foot should likely be turned out. This orientation is due to the rigid 90-degree ankle aspect that will force a “toe or heel load” that is inherently unstable, and, in shooting, unsafe. Flattening the foot to the

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## ADAPTIVE SHOOTING TECHNIQUES



No matter the situation, there is a way to get out on the range.

them to find their best position. Once comfortable, we can move on to the shoulders and arms, which must fit them and their abilities. Many of our shooters have upper extremity issues as well as lower. Traditionally, we seek shoulders squared to the target for a natural point of aim. In some instances, we modify this, but the basis remains the same starting with the hands centered in the chest and the shoulders slightly forward of the hips, but not raising the shoulders. Simply establishing the bilateral grip with the hands centered in the

chest, present the hands and arms out to a full comfortable presentation. This should not be a forced, locked elbow position or an inconsistent accordion elbow posture; consistency is crucial in putting this final portion together.

For the shooter with an effected support arm/hand they may find this drill shifts their natural point of aim toward the effected side due to unequal length at presentation. At this point, the feet are adjusted forward, back, or out to keep the hips and shoulders square to the target. Thus it reinforces the natural point of aim and facilitates movement as their skills advance.

These aspects in a chair are as critical as they are for the standing shooter; orientation of the hips, shoulders, hands and feet impact comfort, stability and effectiveness greatly. First we must consider why they are in the chair. Never assume but rather focus on what they can do and let them show you. Many chair users have very good core stability but don't take advantage of it. Others have paralysis which impacts their core strength but they have learned to control this by positioning. Also ensure they know the functions of the chair,



including the strong support points and the importance of functional brakes and why they must be used initially for the safety of everyone. They will show you if you let them.

Squaring hips to the target is where we start. The stable base builds comfort and helps manage recoil for subsequent shots. Those with partial mobility will find that pushing their hips deep in the seat while positioning the foot/feet firmly on the platform(s) works well.

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Another option is to scoot forward to the edge of the seat to plant the foot/feet on the ground for better stability. The foot and hip orientation in these instances should resemble that of our standing student; even sitting we have a stronger side and should be positioned accordingly. Shoulder placement completes the balance; some may find bracing against parts of the chair enhance this. Others are able to place their shoulders over their hips, while some can obtain a truly aggressive posture with shoulders forward of the hips and feet on the ground.

Being paralyzed from the waist down determines how the shooter must use the chair's structure to assist them. While some can lean into the firearm a bit, others collapse if their shoulders are over their hips. Dependent on the shooter, positioning a hip in the corner of the chair with the hip against the arm rest/fender, the back against the seat bar and knees against the opposite foot rest bar create a true stabilized foundation for the most challenged of shooters. From this point we address the hands and arms as we did with the standing shooter to develop

consistency and exploit their natural point of aim. Do not change the shooter's position in the chair to center them on target; shift the chair position as we would shift the feet. This offers the shooter that repeated position to maintain and a recognizable position to park the chair in as other shooters address the target while standing.

The most overlooked group of students use cane, crutches, and walkers for mobility. These items often create questions in the shooter's mind rather than options. We approach those using these devices similarly to the standing student, but keep the support device in use until the shooter asks, "Where do I put this?" Dependent on their comfort and need, most cane users transition it under their buttocks or hip on the support side. Those with crutches often use them as legs and find their confident position.

Those with walkers are best used as a "seat or bench" for support. We combine the efforts of the standing and seated shooter to offer the most comfortable and stable positions. These are the most challenging of students for all of the best

reasons; they constantly evolve as they improve personally. Most of our walker students transition to free standing students by their own success and confidence. Growing with them and offering continued improvement builds them greatly.

I can't describe the feelings that the growth of our students from this process over the years gives me. To see the amputee get up on their prosthetic leg(s), canes and crutches set to the side. Weight loss and activity growth are just the start of the story. The best success was the student who couldn't shoot without a bench rest from a chair, who now walks, stands, and shoots anything and anyway he chooses. **TJ**

#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

#### **Rick Cicero, A444645**

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

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# SUICIDE PREVENTION BENEFIT



## *Shooters making a*

**WORDS**  
RON HARDEE,  
A09851

**PHOTOGRAPHS**  
CLAY GROSS

**THE SUICIDE PREVENTION BENEFIT MATCH HELD AT THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY SPORTSMAN ASSOCIATION (MVSA) range in Hot Springs, Arkansas on March 31st 2018 was a tremendous success! I measure success on this by it not only raised money, but more importantly it raised awareness which is priceless.**

There were volunteers there all day to answer questions about the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). Shooters interacted with the volunteers. We had several volunteers and board members from AFSP to come spend half the day there also. They were ready to help tape or help the caterer dish out food in the food line as well as helping get prizes passed out. The AFSP board members got to see who we are; professionals, business owners, lawyers, nurses, retirees, law enforcement, military, etc. I could go on, but you know what

**IDPA members lined up to help support this worthy cause.**

# PREVENTION FIT MATCH

*difference in the world...*

I'm talking about. Shooters or gun owners are people, not extremists. It's important for the public to realize this.

The match coverage went even better than I could have imagined. We invited THV-11 News, a local station, to get a photo of us giving a big check (\$7,000.00) to AFSP. I had no idea it would go even farther. Erika Ferrando, the journalist, wanted to know more about me and my reasons for putting together this event. It's been a long time since a pretty girl followed me home, but she did! Long story short, she did a two minute segment on how a local gun enthusiast turns tragedy into something positive by using his passion for shooting sports. It was on TV that evening, late night and the next morning as well. My wife put it on Facebook for those that missed it.

So we win on two points, shooters doing something positive and getting the word

out about training available to help prevent suicides. Firearms are used in 50% of all suicides. My dad did it in 1979 and my brother in 2000, both used firearms. When I retired a couple years ago I wanted to do something worthwhile with my time. I read an article about how NSSF was partnering with AFSP to help reduce the number of suicides. It seemed obvious to me this was what I needed to do, so I volunteer with AFSP. I've taken four days of classes to be a trainer for SafeTalk. SafeTALK is a half-day training program that teaches participants to recognize and engage persons who might be having thoughts of suicide and to connect them with community resources trained in suicide intervention. I am now certified to teach the 3 hour training session with small handbook and videos to help deliver the training. It is required for some LE and other first responders but it

is also good for anyone wanting to make a difference and potentially help save a life. I have taught the course to firemen, a church security team, and some of the University staff, just to name a few.

Along with being a certified SafeTalk instructor, I am also involved with safe firearm storage initiatives, one of which is with the local Children's Hospital. Generally speaking, parents lock up their alcohol but not their firearms. Because of this, one thing I would like to suggest is to have metal storage lock boxes as prizes at your matches. We were fortunate enough to have Ft. Thompson Gun Shop donate a lock box along with \$300 of other prizes to our match. Remember, your audience is always changing and as shooters we are looked at as resources and leaders in all things firearms related, whether we know it or not. What is good for you may or may not be

A huge "thank you" to Ron and MVSA for making this match happen.



good for your neighbor who may or may not shoot. Encourage safe firearm storage where it is appropriate.

The AFSP Charity Match was a Tier 3 IDPA match. It was my first one as far as being the organizer. MVSA had an opening in their schedule and volunteered to have the match at their location. When I scheduled it I didn't realize it was Easter Weekend. The last time April 1st and Easter was same day was 1945. I guess that's why I didn't think about it. We still had about 138 shooters from all over to come, support it, and have fun. We had the Cross-Eyed Pig cater the event and the food was great! So many people came up to me and said they would be back and that they really enjoyed the match.

I picked all 11 stages, including the warm up stage, from previous sanctioned matches. My thinking was I wanted to make accuracy stand out on these stages. I also thought that stages that have been done before would be easy to redo. Wrong. Rule changes made some stages very different or illegal. I had to make the moving and fault line adjustments but all went well. A little highlight of some of the stages is worth mentioning though. Stage one was from Gulf Coast, a TX match I went to last year. Twilight Zone had nothing but head shots from one side of a wall on four targets, while the other side required body

shots on four targets, 8 total targets, 16 rounds and unlimited. Head shots at nine yards don't sound too hard, but it proved to be, especially when you go fast! Cuffed, stage 9 was from a previous National match. No shoots and hard cover made it a challenge. The hand cuffs were training hand cuffs; we had a local LE as CSO on that stage so he had a lot of experience

using them. Stage seven had eighteen dog like targets as far out as 15 yards with No-Shoots in there as well. Competitors were shooting from a trailer with one shot required on each target; miss one and that's 5 down. It was called the "Mutual of Omaha stage". A middle aged person asked "who is Marlin Perkins and where did this Mutual of Omaha come from?" I guess some of us



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**Morning prayer and the pledge of allegiance started a great day with friends.**



**The AFSP board members got to see who we are; professionals, business owners, lawyers, nurses, retirees, law enforcement, military, etc. I could go on, but you know what I'm talking about. Shooters or gun owners are people, not extremists. It's important for the public to realize this.**

are older than we realized! Another one of the stages was "Horror Movie" and it was very easy to forget where you were at in the array if not paying attention. It was one of those stages a lot of folks said they would like to shoot again.

It was a big eye opener to see what it takes to bring a match like this to a reality. I spent a lot of time sending emails, on the phone, hitting the pavement etc. It is a lot for one person to do, getting sponsors and prizes, answering shooter questions and surveying the area for a host hotel that would be nice, reasonably priced and within a reasonable distance from range. MVSA was a huge help in making this event happen. We had some learning on a couple of stages and scoring, but as long as we learn from it we will overcome future problems.

After safety and fun, scoring is paramount. We definitely will do some additional things there next time. The electronic scoring can be successful obviously, look at last year's Nationals, but it takes planning and the proper procedures and equipment to make this happen. Also, training in how to use this new scoring technology is a priority. I would not do it again without a backup, at least until we are more comfortable and have a "proven" track record.

Wilson Combat, Blue Bullets, Westrock Coffee, Comptac Holsters, MVSA, Starline Brass, Walther Firearms, Glock, Ft Thompson (local gun shop), and other local clubs were some of our sponsors plus a great many more. I even went to our local clubs and got certificates from them for free entries into their sanctioned matches.

Something all clubs could do to reciprocate and get this, if you get one guy or gal to come to your match, it's likely they will get someone else to come too.

Again, I would like to thank everyone that helped make this match a success, the great volunteers, the range, the sponsors and especially the IDPA competitors that came in on a holiday weekend to help support this worthy cause. If you would like to learn more about AFSP and the incredible work they do, please check out their website at <https://afsp.org>. Consider doing a benefit match for your local chapter of AFSP. I hope to see you on the range when we do it again next year. 

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR  
Ron Hardee, A09851**

Retired 2 years now, Ron is a member of Central Arkansas Shooters Association (CASA). He is a CSO, Glock Armorer, NRA instructor in basic Pistol, Rifle, Shotgun, Home Firearm safety. After retiring, he wanted to give back to the community and contribute something positive with some of his new found time so started volunteering with AFSP.



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## The never ending journey to shooting mastery.

WORDS + PHOTOS DUANE THOMAS, A01127

### THE BEDROCK ON WHICH “COMBAT” PISTOL MATCHES REST IN THE CONCEPT OF PERFORMANCE ON DEMAND.

I call this “what you have in the bank.” So many shooters, when practicing, will try to perform a particular skill to a certain level, time-after-time, and fail, time-after-time. Then they’ll succeed ONCE and count that as their skill level. “Okay, I can do this.” No. It’s not enough to be able to “do”

something. You have to be able to do it on demand, under stress.

This is why, in matches - whether it’s IPSC or USPSA or IDPA, it doesn’t matter - absent extraordinary circumstances we don’t allow reshoots. “Performance on demand” doesn’t mean, “What happens when you get multiple tries, then we’ll only count your best one?” It means, “What happens when you have to grab the gun and go, and what

you can do right then, on demand, under stress, is what counts?” It should be obvious how this translates over into self-defense.

### AVOID SELF-DELUSION

Let’s say your goal is to be able to do a sub-second draw, and hit, at close range. You try, you can’t make the speed. You push, you make the speed but you miss the A-zone/down-zero circle. You do it

20 times in a row, until finally you turn in a .99 with a good, solid center hit. I'm not putting that down, that's how improvement happens. But it's important to realize, this is where you start, it doesn't mean you're done. Because at that point, your skill level is not "I can do this." At that level, you really can't do a sub-second draw and hit at close range, not on demand. That's not what you have in the bank. Instead your skill level is "If I want to hit, I'm slow; when I try to be fast, I miss." So you keep at it, over and over again. Until finally your skill level becomes "I can do this, every time, on demand."

## **NORMAL HUMAN PERFORMANCE VS. THE LIMITS OF HUMAN PERFORMANCE**

Grand Master Brian Enos differentiates between what he calls Normal Human Performance (NHP) and the Limits of Human Performance (LHP). NHP is what we have in the bank, it's the skill level we carry around with us constantly. It's what we can

do cold, if we step up to the line and shoot. Or draw the gun from under our concealing garment in a real fight, if we wanted to get all handgun martial artsy about it. LHP is what we can do when we're shooting our absolute best. For many people, that occurs half an hour or so into a practice session, when they're all warmed up mentally, but haven't been doing it long enough yet to get tired.

Years ago, Grand Master Robbie Leatham was asked, "If there's one thing about Master class shooters that normal shooters don't understand, what would it be?" This was before the creation of Grand Master, when Master was as high as you could go. Robbie's reply: "We're not as good as you think. We're just more consistent."

At the lower skill levels, there is a huge gap between a shooter's NHP and LHP. Over time, once you reach a certain level, you find your LHP doesn't really change that much. It becomes harder and harder to drive your skill level, that absolute limit of

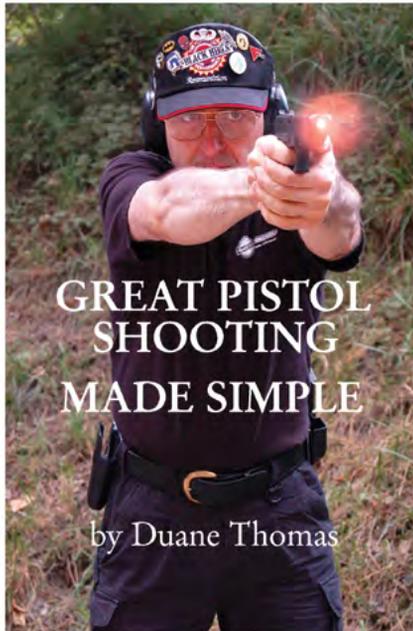
what you can do, higher. It'll get a little better, occasionally, not much. What DOES happen is the gap between your NHP and LHP starts to close up, to the point you can step up to the line at a match and shoot pretty close to as well as you possibly can.

To get to that point, we need to maintain a realistic understanding of our skill level. So many people count their LHP as their NHP. And while the moments we excel are certainly nice, we CANNOT begin kidding ourselves they're what we have in the bank. That sort of self-delusion is a massive roadblock to improvement. Because when there's a huge differential between what you can do once, and what you can do on demand, but you believe that one, perfect performance IS what you can do on demand, you have no motivation to improve. This all leads to bitter disappointment when the time comes you need the skill level you thought you had on-tap, and instead you discover, to your shock, that your hands can't deliver on your mind's self-image.



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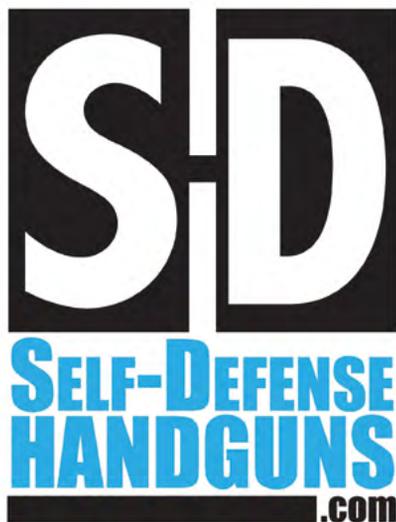


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Don't forget to add swingers, clam shells and other movers to your practice routine.

## EGO IS THE ENEMY

Remain humble. Okay, let's not kid ourselves, this gets more difficult to do, the better you become, especially if you spend a lot of time shooting with people significantly less-skilled than you are. It's great ego strokes when people murmur appreciatively, applaud, tell you, "Wow, you're GOOD," when they watch you shoot. Enjoy that, because you worked hard to be that good. There's nothing wrong with enjoying your skill level. Good shooters enjoy being good. We GLORY in being good.

Just don't start believing your great press to the point you think you're Mr./Ms./Mrs. Wonderful. Know your skill level. Know how good you are. Know how good you aren't. Because only when you know how good you aren't does the path to self-improvement remain open ahead.

One big difference between good shooters and not-so-good shooters is that not-so-good shooters tend to fixate, really early-on in the process, on one way of doing things. One way of gripping the gun. One stance. One way of pulling the trigger. One way of looking at the sights. (Also one gun, one caliber, one sort of ammunition.) One everything. Then they hold onto that like grim death until you absolutely prove to them something else works better. Generally this takes 20 to 30 years, if it's possible at all. Whereas for good shooters, their skill level is a constant process of experimentation and improvement, of dumping techniques they've spent years perfecting, the moment they see a better way.

## SUMMARY

Grand Master Jerry Miculek has said, and I paraphrase, "If you want to be as good as you can possibly be, you have to be willing to change. When I'm at a match, I'm constantly watching the other shooters, asking myself, 'Are they doing anything different than the way I do it? And if they are, does it appear to be working better?' Because if it is, I guarantee you that's what I'm going to try, during my very next practice session. The moment you start thinking, 'I couldn't possibly be any better than I already am,' you're right. That's when people who are, not necessarily younger, but who still have open, questing minds, will pass you by. And that's not going to happen to me."

Don't let it happen to you, either. Stay humble. Keep an open mind. Be willing to change. Know how good you are. Know how good you aren't. Make your self-image, and your ability to perform on demand, absolutely consistent. **TJ**

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR Duane Thomas, A01127

Duane spent ten years on active duty in the United States Army, the first three as an Airborne paratrooper. While in the Army, he was rated an Expert, the Army's highest rank for shooting skill, with the M16A1 rifle and Colt 1911A1 .45 caliber pistol. He was also a graduate of the Fort Bragg RECONDO course. He sold his first nationally published gun magazine article in 1989 while still an active duty soldier, and has made his living as a gunwriter since 1992 when he exited the Army. He is a Master class IDPA shooter, and a former Washington State IDPA Champion. His website is [www.Self-Defense-Handguns.com](http://www.Self-Defense-Handguns.com).

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**WORDS** ROB WELCH, A41549 **ALL PHOTOS** COURTESY IDPA HQ

**YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING THAT VOLUNTEERING TO BE A SAFETY OFFICER (SO) IS A THANKLESS TASK WHERE YOU** get to give up your day and shooting score to make sure everyone else is shooting safely, having fun and focused on being blazing fast with zero points down on each stage. The reality of it is that being an SO does have a lot of rewards compared to the very few drawbacks. And those few drawbacks pale in comparison to the often funny, sometimes impressive, occasionally exciting and infrequently (happily so) downright terrifying moments being a SO.

## **NEW SHOOTERS**

It's often said at our intro match briefing and it bears repeating here: New shooters are the life blood of our sport, so one of the





**If you don't have a Safety Officer you don't have a match.**

most important and critical jobs of the SO is to make sure each new shooter completes the stage safely while managing to put at least a few holes in the correct target. The challenging part for the SO is to remember that there is a first time for everyone. Rewarding the new shooter with half a dozen procedurals while yelling "FINGER!!" and "MUZZLE!!" doesn't help anyone. Instead I take what I hope is a common attitude among all SOs which is to offer more guidance than punishment to a new shooter. Now don't get me wrong here, I'm not saying that it's the SOs job to teach new shooters how to compete in IDPA but it should be the SO's goal that at the end of the match the new shooter says (s)he can't wait for the next match.

Both new and experienced shooters can and do add quite a bit of excitement to a match for the SO. I see it quite often at our matches where the new shooter struggles

with the re-holster at the end of the shooting string, mainly due to the adrenalin rush let down after the stage (it's okay, take your time because I'm pretty sure every target including the hostage is dead now) and/or unfamiliarity with concealment holsters (uh, excuse me but you're trying to holster your weapon in your undies instead of the holster and thank you for sharing your color coordinated ensemble with me). I've passed along some of my experiences as a new shooter to first timers to help them relax and realize that what they are feeling is natural. My personal experience as a new shooter includes wondering why I bothered upgrading the sights on my gun before my first match because I sure don't remember using them. Another is having my SO tell me after I finished a stage that while he admired my technique to get zero points down, just because the stage was an unlimited round count doesn't mean I should

keep shooting until I ran out of ammo. Oh, and the other shooters took a vote and said I had to tape my own targets. I think he was kidding about that last part...

### **ALL YOU DO IS PUSH THE BUTTON ON THE TIMER, RIGHT?**

Before you get to be an SO there is a training class that you have to take that includes both classroom and scenario/hands-on training. The classroom training is what you would expect with emphasis on safety, the rules of IDPA, how to score the target, stage construction, equipment rules, etc. Then you get to take a test to prove you were paying attention. Yep, a test and believe me it does test your memory and I must admit I learned a lot more about how to shoot an IDPA match than I thought I would. After that comes the easy part, right? Head out to the bay, get the shooter loaded up and push the timer button.

I can only relate my experiences in the SO training class I took but if the rest of the SO instructors are anything like my instruc-

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## MATCH REVIEW

tor they should all be both admired for their acting skills and feared for their ability to change from teacher to novice shooter at the drop of a hat. My instructor got us out to the bay and said calmly that he would be conducting a role playing exercise where we each will be presented with a different type of problem shooter. He wasn't kidding and either he has seen everything or he really should give up his day job and get into the acting business. He then proceeded to run us through different experiences like dropped guns, muzzle sweeps, crowding the SO and my favorite, twenty questions between the SO saying Shooter Ready and Stand By.

## STAGE BRIEFINGS AND LAWYERS

First off let me say I don't have a problem with lawyers having watched many from the confines of the jury box or the living room couch. However (you knew that was coming) you must admit that they are known for their skills in converting the obvious into obfuscation, memorizing laws/rules and



Be sure to thank the crew that makes the match happen.

focusing on the minute details. The fun comes when the shooter takes all the best skills of the lawyer and translates your stage briefing into what quickly becomes another "learning experience" for the SO. Personally I think some of them were used to write that SO test I mentioned earlier.

The SO walk through, stage briefing and then actually running the shooter through the stage is where an SO really gets to show his/her skills. During the SO walk through I'm looking for things like how my positioning needs to be in relation to the shooter so I can see the muzzle and trigger finger, am I

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that with a straight face. I sure couldn't and had to make sure the Match Director was acknowledged for his creativity. Oh, and I did warn the shooters that kicking the door open too energetically is subject to the usual laws of physics where the door wants to return to the closed position in spite of where you are standing.

### **SHOOTER READY?**

And finally it's time to have some fun and let them shoot something! This is the part I like to think of as my cardio-vascular exercise period. But exercise isn't the only thing that raises your heart rate. There's also that moment when shortly after saying "Stand By" and hitting the timer button you realize your shooter might have been an Olympic sprinter because she is now at P2 while you're still standing back at P1 admiring her first string of shots. Or when during a stage the shooter has to run 15 feet (reminder to self, thank the Match Director for the chance to run over and over again) and slips in the mud because it rained the day before the match, comes sliding into the targets feet first and engages the targets because by golly (s)he isn't going to take two misses. And somehow in all of that sliding the shooter remembered the mantra "Drop your gun and it's nothing personal but it is match over for you" and my particular favorite "don't shoot your weapon at or near the SO". So during the slide, you are both trying your best to combine the skills of a major league baseball player sliding into home plate and the umpire (you) is trying to not get hit by the runner and in a brief moment of clarity you remember that this base runner has a loaded weapon in their hand.

going to be able to observe fault lines, what will I have to do differently if the shooter is left handed instead of right handed, where shoot through's may occur, etc. We also discuss (among ourselves of course) what questions could arise during the stage briefing from those always challenging but lovable shooters who seem to delight in helping me define the difference between shooting "from P1" and shooting "at P1". Yes, there is a difference and I'm a much better SO for learning that lesson from a shooter who just happened to also be a lawyer. Really.

The stage briefing is where the Match Director/stage designer gets even and I get to practice my acting skills. How so you might ask? Well, each of our stage briefings start with a "real world" explanation along the lines of "you're at the ATM and bad guys surround you" or "you're cleaning your gun when a pack of rabid dogs attack" or my all-time favorite one where "you're sitting in the port-a-potty and hear a cry for help." No, really. We actually had a mock-up of a port-a-potty where you started by sitting on the throne and at the buzzer you stand up (clothing all assumed to be in the socially correct position), kick the door open, draw your weapon, exit the port-a-potty and start taking out the bad guys. Try explaining

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

So after all of that, why the heck do you want to be an SO? Some of the things I haven't talked about are the opportunity to watch some really good shooters close up, meeting a lot of great people who share a common sport and enjoy it and of course just the fun of shooting. I've had the opportunity to be an SO for some master shooters that not only inspire me to shoot better and were eager to share their approach to shooting the stage with me. And I've watched new shooters grow from coming in last to always placing in the top. I've also been an SO for quite a few LEO's who shoot at our matches and hope that one day when the blue lights are flashing in my mirror they will remember that while scoring their target I was fair and reasonable. And finally there is the thank you offered by the shooter at the end of the match that lets me know that I was there for them. Oh, and I don't want to forget to mention the scorekeepers. Having to chase the SO around, trying to see the timer that the SO insists on holding upside down, yelling out the points down like (s)he was speed reading binary code and constantly demanding who the next shooter is are just a few of the challenges a scorekeeper faces each match. Now that's a job I wouldn't volunteer for. **TJ**

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

#### **John Markwell, A00556**

John has been shooting "practical pistol" since 1977. He pursues prairie dogs with a passion every Spring and, although slower than he used to be, still competes in IDPA somewhat regularly. Currently he is occupied with a Blue Heeler Pup in training.

**. . .13 Prototypes, six months, one patent application:**

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# KING DRUMMOND

## The Eyes Have It

**WORDS**

WALT KLOEPEL, A56663

**PHOTOS COURTESY**

OF KING DRUMMOND

### WILLIAM KING DRUMMOND, BETTER KNOWN AS KING TO ALL HIS FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES, GREW UP ON

the Hillsborough River in Temple Terrace, Florida. Growing up on the water influenced the obvious, King was a fisherman and a river rat. He had his own jon boat. But he didn't have any exposure to guns or shooting. That is, until he was 12 years old when his uncle got him his first Daisy BB gun.

"I loved it. I lived on a river at the time. I'd set up my little army men on the river bank, built up a little fort around them and then laid havoc. I had lots of fun with that," said King, with the same mischievous grin he displays as he's about to hose a stage down ... zero down.

But that's getting ahead of the story. King fished ... a lot. He never hunted and never shot any guns during his teenage years. That BB gun was the closest thing to a firearm he owned until he turned 21. By that time, he was on his own and living in Georgia.

"I thought well, I'm legal now so I'm going to go get myself a pistol. I purchased a little .380 handgun ... it was a piece of crap," laughed King. He soon traded in the .380 for

**King Drummond competes at the Master level despite a restricting vision problem.**



WALT KLOEPEL

a revolver, which got stolen when his house got burglarized.

"That was that," said King. "I didn't have any desire really for another firearm."

While making a living in life, a financial opportunity popped up in the form of an old farmhouse in Georgia, so he made the purchase and moved in. He bought it in the dead of winter and used his spare time renovating it, to include some attic work. When spring time rolled around he discovered a problem with the house ... bats.

"I saw all these bats coming out in spring time after hibernation, sure enough, I had a colony of about 250 living in the attic," said King. He thought it was best to call an animal control professional.

"I saw when the technician came out and put his respirator on before crawling into the attic, this might be something I should be leery of."

But it was too late. The months of crawling about the house unknowingly exposed him to a fungus found in bat droppings, known as *Histoplasma capsulatum*. As these fungus spores dry, they become airborne, often during demolition projects. Inhaling these spores can cause an infection known as Histoplasmosis. King's concerns became reality when shortly after, in 2008, he lost his vision in his right eye. Ophthalmologists quickly concluded that King had Ocular Histoplasmosis Syndrome and started a regiment of monthly eye injections of Avastin, a drug commonly used to fight cancer. The right eye's vision was lost, except for some peripheral vision, but they were able to save his left eye with no central vision loss.

"Thank God I was left eye dominant," said King.

King's strength of character shows how he rolled with a bad situation and remained positive throughout. He continued to shoot sporting clays in spite of the loss of vision in one eye and continued to do well.

"You can't look back with regret, I learned my lesson and will try not to do that again!" said King. He is now down to an injection every four months.

While visiting his parents in Georgia, King came across an old used Remington 870 Wingmaster in a general store in the North Georgia Mountains. "I saw it and it hit me, I never owned a shotgun before. I think I'll buy it." Soon after, he started shooting skeet, trap and sporting clays and found he was pretty good at it despite his vision loss.

Still, King felt the itch to try another handgun, so he bought a Springfield Mil Spec 1911 and started practicing. By this time, he had moved to the Chattanooga area. There, he met Chris Edwards (IDPA#



**THE RIGHT EYE'S VISION WAS LOST, EXCEPT FOR SOME PERIPHERAL VISION, BUT THEY WERE ABLE TO SAVE HIS LEFT EYE WITH NO CENTRAL VISION LOSS. "THANK GOD I WAS LEFT EYE DOMINANT."**

A34228) at a local gun store where they got into a conversation about competitive shooting. Chris was already active in IDPA, and invited King to the Cleveland Rod and Gun club for an intro to the sport.

"It took that one club match and I was hooked," said King. "From that point forward, every third Saturday I was there."

King joined IDPA and it didn't take long for him to start filling in the classes - CDP, SSP, REV. But he says he really didn't get serious about it until he moved to the Nashville area in 2012. There he found choice, so many ranges and opportunities to shoot every weekend.

"I got to shoot with some really good shooters - Master level shooters that I was able to learn so much from so quickly, that my progress really took off from there. If I look back at it, it was really 2014 when the lightbulb went off. So after a couple years of shooting I really started to ramp up my progression in my shooting skills."

With one eye and poor depth perception, unbeknownst to most (until now), King pressed the challenge with the big boys and started shooting majors - testing himself against the best in the Southeast. Today he is a five gun Master, four of those from Match Bumps.

A blue Dillon Precision Super 1050 reloading press is shown. It has a large blue hopper at the top for powder, a central mechanism for loading rounds, and a blue tray at the bottom for finished rounds. The machine is mounted on a sturdy metal frame.

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**King gives back to the sport as an IDPA Chief Safety Officer.**

A better natured competitor you'll not meet anywhere ... period. Ask his fellow competitors. No ego, no thumping of the chest, and always smiling. But watch the

timer go and he's all business, running the stage like a boss. Well, a funny boss at that. You never know what you'll get from King at a gun malfunction. It won't be a red face and a cussing for sure. More like "Really?", "Seriously?", "Arrrrghhh!" and a laugh ... with plenty of volume for those behind the line to hear and laugh back. Many funny moments who many folks remember. A legendary favorite - during a club match, he drew his revolver with the holster still attached (broken belt clasp). No problem, the first shot blew off the holster, he hit the threat and never skipping a beat, continued to finish nicely - though the safety officer did have an awkward moment when it came time to "holster" at the end (A quick youtube search for "king kong gallatin" will entertain you with a video version of this).

King has given back to the sport as well. He is a Chief Safety Officer and volunteers to SO at many major matches in the Southeast. He stays active with local clubs as well near his home in Kingston Springs, TN., where he resides with his girlfriend, Sandy, and their three dogs.

"Part of why I got serious about shoot-

ing, is that I wanted to see how good I can get before I can't," says King. "I know I got started late in life. I saw a lot of guys who started in their younger years and how good they'd gotten in their older years and I was like, I don't know if I'm going to have a lot of time left. I don't know when this eye could go, so let's see how good I can get before I can't do this anymore. I think that's been the motivator for me to say you know, I'm on a clock. We all are. And whether we chose to understand that or not ... for me, it was put into more of a focus ... for a bad pun."

So if you happen to recognize King at a match, be sure to introduce yourself. You'll be glad you did, for he is a man of vision ... sort of ... okay, enough of the bad eye puns. **TJ**

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR** **Walt Kloeppel, A56663**

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

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# WINNER'S CIRCLE

Indoor matches can provide a great new set of challenges for competitors with the ability to adjust and lower the lighting. Congratulations to the members that took on that challenge at the Springfield Armory Missouri State Indoor Carry Championship.



**Jeff Buchner**  
BUG\_MM 3rd



**John Stein**  
BUG,MM 2nd



**Dean Pluth**  
CCP, NV 2nd



**Scott Hurt**  
CCP,EX 2nd\_High First Responder



**Jim Calzone**  
CCP,EX 3rd



**Jacob Yarnell**  
CCP,MM 1st



**William Casey**  
CCP,SS 3rd



**David Williamson**  
High Senior

# 2018 UPCOMING MATCHES

Visit [IDPA.com/compete](http://IDPA.com/compete) to find a club match near you.

DATE	EVENT NAME	LOCATION
Aug 4, 2018	<b>Delaware State Championship (Tier 3)</b>	Bridgeville Rifle & Pistol Club, Bridgeville, Delaware
Aug 9, 2018	<b>IDPA AFRICA CHAMPIONSHIPS</b>	Vlakfontein Shooting Range, Ermelo, Mpumalanga, SOUTH AFRICA
Aug 10, 2018	<b>Michigan State IDPA Championship</b>	Livingston Conservation And Sports Association, Brighton, Michigan
Aug 11, 2018	<b>Washington State IDPA Championship (Tier 3)</b>	Firearms Academy of Seattle, Washington
Aug 17, 2018	<b>SIG SAUER New England Regional Championship (Tier 4)</b>	Harvard Sportsmens Club, Harvard, Massachusetts
Aug 24, 2018	<b>Colorado State IDPA Championship at Cameo (Tier 3)</b>	Cameo Shooting and Education Complex, Grand Junction, Colorado
Sep 2, 2018	<b>Walking in Memphis Regional Shootout</b>	Memphis Sport Shooting Association, Lakeland, Tennessee
Sep 7, 2018	<b>Mountain Valley Regional (Tier 3)</b>	MVSA Action Shooting Range, Hot Springs, Arkansas
Sep 7, 2018	<b>Pa State Rustbelt Championship (Tier 3)</b>	Lawrence County Spts. Association, Wampum, Pennsylvania
Sep 13, 2018	<b>US National Championship (Tier 5)</b>	CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park, Talladega, Alabama
Sep 22, 2018	<b>Prairie Dell Shootout 2018</b>	Brittany SHooting Park, Bunker Hill, Illinois
Sep 22, 2018	<b>Tri-County Sportsmen Challenge (Tier 2)</b>	Tri-County Sportsmans League, Saline, Michigan
Sep 28, 2018	<b>Miss'ippi Showdown, Presented by The Blue Bullets (Tier 3)</b>	Desoto Rifle & Pistol Club, Como, Mississippi
Oct 5, 2018	<b>Brownell's New Mexico State IDPA Championship</b>	San Juan Wildlife Federation, Farmington, New Mexico
Oct 6, 2018	<b>TruGlo 2018 North Texas Regional (Tier 3)</b>	M160, Whitewright, Texas
Oct 13, 2018	<b>Lone Star IDPA Championship 2018 (Tier 4)</b>	Triple C Tactical Training (CCCS), Cresson, Texas
Oct 13, 2018	<b>Space Coast Challenge</b>	Port Malabar Rifle & Pistol Club, Palm Bay, Florida
Oct 13, 2018	<b>Comp-Tac Presents The Western IDPA Regional Championship</b>	Sacramento Valley Shooting Center, Sloughhouse, California
Oct 13, 2018	<b>Ruger LFO State Match</b>	Pioneer IDPA - Pioneer Sportsmen, Inc., Dunbarton, New Hampshire
Oct 20, 2018	<b>Holiday Havoc 2018 (Tier 3)</b>	Westside sportsmans club, Evansville, Indiana
Oct 20, 2018	<b>Fall Brawl 2018 (Tier 3)</b>	Central Arkansas Shooters' Association, Perryville, Arkansas
Nov 2, 2018	<b>The Inaugural New Mexico IDPA Blue Line Pro Am</b>	Del Norte Gun Club, Rio Rancho, New Mexico
Dec 1, 2018	<b>Florida IDPA CCP Sheepdog Trials</b>	Flagler Sports & Conservation Association, Bunnell, Florida
Dec 7, 2018	<b>Battle at the Boondocks</b>	Boondocks Firearms Training Academy, Raymond, Mississippi
Jan 19, 2019	<b>South Florida Defensive Challenge</b>	Homestead Training Center, Homestead, Florida

# PARTING SHOT

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### 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

The new targets for those who only shoot bunny fart loads...

—Warren Moore, A02606

### Second Place

“Not a peep...or the bunny gets it!”

—Alan Finkel, A41079

### Third Place

These new target pasters are “sweet”!

—Tim Hartman, A646799



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