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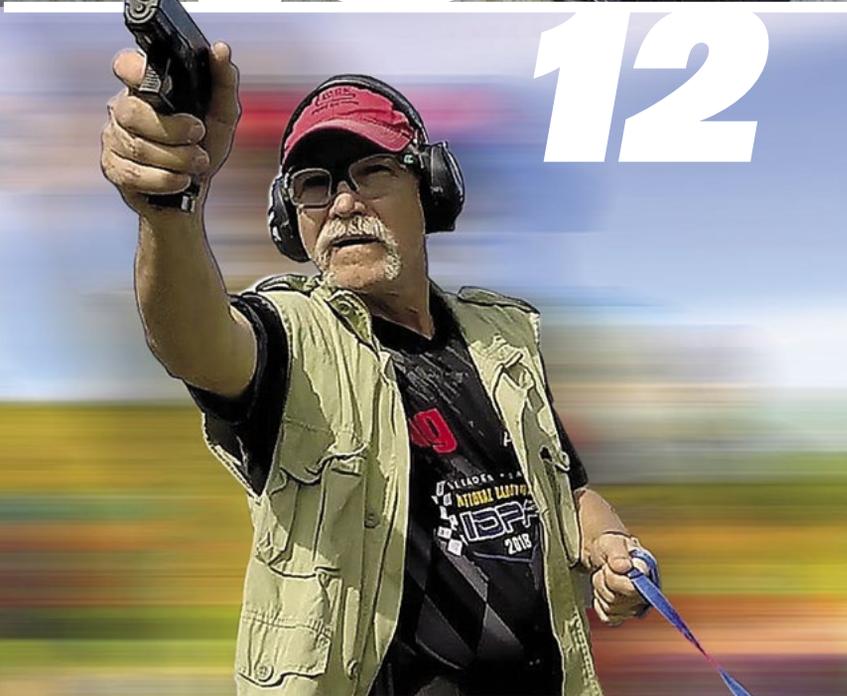
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SPD TOOL RANGE ROD

The multifunction, compact range rod you need for your bag.

WORDS + PHOTOS ROBERT RAY

IT HAS OFTEN BEEN SAID THAT THE TWO LOUDEST, AND MOST STARTLING, THINGS YOU HEAR when using a gun is “BANG” when you expect “click” and “click” when you expect “BANG.” While not as loud, but certainly startling, I would suggest that those two situations are closely followed by “pftttt” when you expect “BANG.” Ahhh, the dreaded squib, certainly an issue during practice but it can be a match killer if it happens in the middle of a stage. Either way, you are going to have to deal with it if it if a round is stuck in the barrel. When that happens, I turn to my Range Rod by SPD Tool.

The Range Rod by SPD Tool is a compact tool with a number of additional features that make it handy to have in your range bag. First off, it is made from T6061 Aluminum so it will not damage

your barrel if you have to use it to drive out a stuck bullet or case. Not having a rod to drive out a barrel obstruction can be incredibly frustrating and end and otherwise great day on the range. Many have been the times I have heard the question “Hey man, do you have a squib rod?” while at the range.

The Range Rods usefulness does not stop at driving out barrel obstructions. The body of the rod is grooved at predetermined intervals so you can measure groups during practice. Once practice is over, it still proves useful as one end is threaded to accept standard cleaning brushes (#8-32). The thread protector also does double duty as a magnetic tip to pick up those small springs, screws or other parts that like to go skittering off the table during a thorough takedown and cleaning.

Finally, the Range Rod is drilled on one end so that you can put it on a key ring. Can't make it much more handy than that if you wanted too. The Range Rod by SPD Tool is a great piece of gear and well thought out and built. It is even made in the USA. It comes in multiple colors and can be picked up at Brownells or the IDPA online store, The Range Bag. Buying it won't hurt your wallet either, with prices ranging from \$19.95 at IDPA to \$22.99 at Brownells. Do yourself, and ultimately your range friends, a favor and pick one up today. 



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SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR IDPA FAMILY!

We hope you have a great holiday season and Santa brings you everything you need to start next year off with a bang.

A Message from **Joyce Wilson** IDPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU! FOR SOME OF OUR MEMBERS, ALL THEY WANT FROM SANTA IS A CHANCE TO REST.

Right now, Rick Lund and his crew - Brian Ehrler, Dede and Nicky Carter and Seth Hayden - are recovering from the very successful 2019 IDP SIG SAUER World Championship and inaugural 2019 IDP SIG SAUER PCC National Championship. I am grateful for their hard work to put together this event. Very few people know how much work, time and coordination it takes to present a large match and these folks make it look so easy!

Since the World Championship took place so late in the year, you'll notice that the coverage of that event is not included in the Q4 issue of the Tactical Journal. Look for coverage and the equipment survey results in the first issue of 2020.

A few of the 2019 AMD crew will not get

to rest much before our first meeting for the 2020 IDPA nationals events in mid-December. As announced at the awards banquet, Seth Hayden will take on the role of MD for next year, with Frank Strong, Ken Reed and Marty Johnson assisting him as AMDs. The folks at the Cameo Shooting Complex in Grand Junction, Colorado, will be hosting us at their new and state-of-the-art range. If you haven't been there, check it out at <https://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/cameo-shooting-complex.aspx>. I think you will like it as much as I do!

This year, for the first year ever, we included Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC) and Carry Optics (CO) in Talladega. We were hoping to get some level of participation for both, and we were excited that both divisions proved to be very popular. Armed with that knowledge, we changed our model for nationals. From Sept. 23-26, 2020, we

will be offering two national events: Sept. 23 and 24th will be the Optics National Championship for PCC and CO, and Sept. 25th and 26th will be the Iron Sights National Championship for all other pistol divisions.

As we have for the past 10 years, we will continue to use our current points system. That process was developed in the beginning of 2010 when we realized that we would have a much larger than normal response to the first World Championship that we held. We decided then that we wanted to reward the most active shooters in the sport. We felt that giving those individuals who had spent their hard-earned money and time to attend more and higher-level matches, and who support the sport, was the best way to achieve that. At that time, we excluded our International shooters from the points system as there



From Sept. 23-26, 2020, we will be offering two national events: Sept. 23 and 24th will be the Optics National Championship for PCC and CO, and Sept. 25th and 26th will be the Iron Sights National Championship for all other pistol divisions.

were so few sanctioned matches that they could attend and randomly awarded slots for those shooters.

A big area of opportunity for us in recent years has been the abundance of sanctioned matches outside the US. With this growth, we have elected to use the points system for all members of the sport, both

domestic and international, beginning with the 2020 national events. As you will read in the website update, in August we released the ability to see how many points you have accrued toward the next year's event on your dashboard as you login to the website.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention our Event Sponsor for 2019, SIG SAUER, and all of our sponsors. Please take every opportunity to show appreciation with your wallet, as we could not hold our championships without the support of these companies.

Each quarter I share with all of you the updates we have made to the website and future plans. Some of the updates are not mentioned as they are "behind the scenes" improvements that may not be visible to our membership, but they add to the usability of the website.

▶ As you may have noticed, there is a new "Road to Nationals 2020" points tracker in your Shooting History tab of your member dashboard. This will calculate your shooting points based on matches you have shot so that you can keep updated on how many points you have earned toward 2020 Nationals.

▶ We have made improvements to the geo-location data for club search, basing the search on shooting location instead of mailing address, so that it is easier to find the club for which you are looking.

▶ Overall, we have improved all search functions across the site, with the goal of giving members the ability to find information quickly and easily.

▶ The ability to print your own SO certificate was added in September, so that you don't have to wait for Headquarters to snail mail that to you. There are some major reporting features that should be launched, or nearly so, by the time you read this for our wonderful ACs, IPOCs and SCs, that will allow them to help their membership even more.

I hope this Christmas and New Year bring you all peace and joy.

Joyce Wilson, #CL087

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

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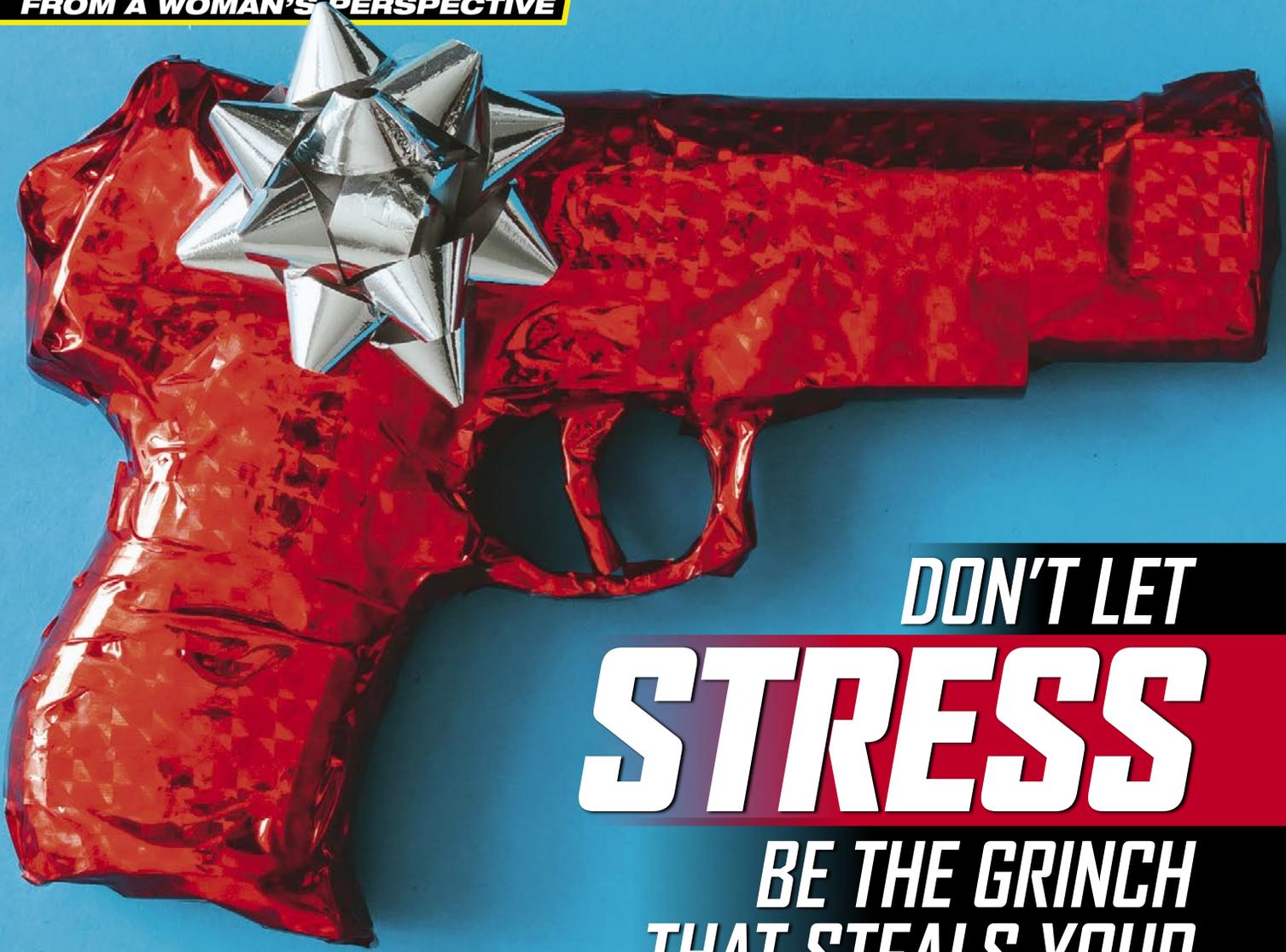
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FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE



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**CHRISTMAS
CHEER**

Let us help you pick that perfect gift for the lady shooter in your life.

WORDS KITTY RICHARDS, LM18564



Jamie Lenberg



CHRISTMAS IS A WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR, BUT IT CAN BE STRESSFUL, TOO. TOO MUCH TO DO, TOO MANY

parties, not enough time, money or ideas. While you may not be under pressure to come up with gift ideas for every shooter in your life, it's hard not to succumb to the desire to please the people you care about most. After all, it feels good to make someone else happy with a thoughtful gift, especially when that someone else is one of the wonderful ladies in your life. Whether it's your wife, mother, sister, or best friend, you want to pick out a present that is worthy of her greatness. With that in mind, FAWP has queried a few of our lady shooters to help you out with ideas.

Jamie Lenberg, a recent transplant from New Mexico to Phoenix, AZ, is an ESP Sharpshooter and was introduced to the sport by her squeeze, IDPA Master Jay Koller. She has been shooting IDPA for 2 years at Del Norte Gun Club in Rio Rancho, NM, and also enjoys USPSA and IPSC. She has been a small animal veterinarian for 7 years and works primarily with dogs and cats. What attracts Lenberg to IDPA? "The camaraderie among fellow shooters is absolutely remarkable and is what makes this sport so much fun!"

Lenberg begins by telling us her favorite product that she has received in the past. "I love my double Kydex layer Red Hill Tactical holster! It has adjustable retention and a very smooth draw. Plus, I can get a custom order to match my rig!" Gifts for 2019 that she might enjoy are added to her list. "A new compact traveling gun case that holds 2 guns and 10 magazines. I really need to improve my accuracy on swingers, so I would love a swinger target stand."

What will Lenberg be purchasing for others as a gift this year? "I can't disclose



Custom double Kydex layer Red Hill Tactical holster.

FROM A WOMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

that information”, she laughs. “Jay Koller reads this magazine.”

Ermelo, Mpumalanga, South Africa is home for Christelle Whatley. The IDPA Revolver Sharpshooter shoots at Ermelo Defensive pistol Club (EDPC) and also participates in IPSC and the Laeveld Jagters Association, a hunting and game conservation association.

Having participated in IDPA for 5 years, Christelle describes herself as “... an accountant, horse rider (free time) and Lady of the House.” She says what keeps her in IDPA is “Mainly the DISCIPLINE and to compete against myself.” Her favorite drills are engaging a combination of IDPA paper targets and steel.

Christelle gives us her Christmas list as a jumping off point for gift suggestions. “Safariland Comp II speed loaders for Colt Python 4-inch revolver and a set of proper eye protection from Rudy Project.”

And what is on her list for her husband, Africa’s International Point of Contact Vivian Whatley? “A proper concealment garment, likely an Armadillo vest.”

Finally, Schenectady, NY SSP Marks-



Christelle Whatley knows the value of a good set of shooting glasses.

man/BUG Sharpshooter Jessica Braun talks to FAWP. Braun is a CPA and the Director of Finance for an international manufacturing company and has been shooting IDPA for 5 years, and also travels a lot to shoot all of her favorite sports, including USPSA, ICORE, Steel Challenge and Bullseye.



What will Len-berg be purchasing for others as a gift this year? “I can’t disclose that information”, she laughs. “Jay Koller reads this magazine.”

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She comes back to IDPA for, “The unique stages and, most of all, the people. IDPA was my first step into the world of shooting sports and if it hadn’t been for the people there, I would never have ventured into other disciplines. I owe my entire shooting career and the many friends I’ve met along the way and to the 4 or 5 guys at the local club (no longer in operation) who took it upon themselves to help me get hooked on defensive pistol. Those men, all passionate about seeing people get better at defending themselves, were my enablers. I couldn’t have asked for a better experience.”

What drills does she use to keep her game sharp? “I try to vary my practice, but I find that magazine exchanges from concealment helped the most with IDPA. A shot timer is an indispensable tool no matter what you’re doing. It gets you used to the “beep!””

With her travel to matches all over the country, Jessica has a mental list of tools that will help her game. “I would love a Red Hill Tactical OWB holster with two matching mag pouches in their bacon print to go with my BUG gun, the Sig P938. There’s just something so fun about the bacon print! Additionally, I’ve been doing my own reloading for about a year now and a Hundo Chamber Checker Case Gauge in



Jessica Braun

9mm would be awesome as well as a Mr. Bulletfeeder. Of course, just some Federal primers, Zero Bullet 124 grain round nose projectiles, 9mm brass, and 16 pounds of CFE Pistol powder would be perfectly acceptable, too. I’m not picky!”

She also has some ideas about what she will be buying as a gift for a special shooter in her life. “My oldest nephew/godson, age 15, is a great shooter and archer in his own right and he loves exploding targets, anything with zombies, and any target that gives him a chance to compete with his brothers or me! I would love to see him take his deer with my 10mm hunting pistol this fall, so maybe I’ll buy one of his deer tags with the stipulation he takes it with my handgun.”

Whatever is on your list, the Tactical Journal wishes you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and safe and plentiful shooting in 2020. **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.



Adding a Mr. Bulletfeeder means more time on the range and less in the reloading room.



FROM SHEEP PUP TO SHEEPDOG:

THE STORY OF THE IDPA SHEEPDOG CCP CHAMPIONSHIP

Every dog has its day but you won't find one better than at the Sheepdog Championship.

WORDS + PHOTOS RICK DENNY, A905838

It takes vision and dedication to build a good match.

EVERY YEAR I LOVE TO SHOOT IN AS MANY IDPA MATCHES AS I CAN IN AS MANY STATES AS I CAN AND I LOVE meeting the people that make up IDPA. One thing that almost always comes up as I talk to new friends, no matter when or where, is our Sheepdog all CCP match that we host every December.

I have been told things like, "I wish we could do something like that here" or "I hope someone around here will do something like that!" They are often shocked when my response is this: "Mobilize your IDPA friends and make it happen!" Seriously, that is all it takes!

About four years ago, I got this idea of a sanctioned match format that I just could not get out of my head. Over one hundred competitors, all in one division competing for a single division championship trophy. And since my favorite division was CCP, that had to be the division. Oh, and the proceeds would go to charity.

First, I told some friends. Most thought it was a cool idea, but a few looked at me like I just committed a flagrant penalty. After all, I was only a Chief Safety Officer and had only filled in as a match director at a couple of local matches when official match directors could not be there.

Second, I told my IDPA leadership in Florida and they provided very encouraging input about the concept. "Give it a shot. If the CCP registrations do not fill up, you can always open it up to other divisions," my Area Coordinator at the time, Rick Lund, told me.

Of course, that is how the Florida IDPA CCP Sheepdog Trials was born and the rest was history. Now, I write this in amazement as we prepare to host our third annual match as a tier 4 under our new name: The IDPA Sheepdog CCP Championship. Every year since our inception, we have hosted shooters from 12 or more states, have provided dozens of CCP division/class

promotions from Master to Marksman and raised over \$10,000 for charity each year!

That fact is, if my IDPA friends and I can build an incredible match experience like the Sheepdog, you can too! The basics are simple: organization, time, commitment and a host range. IDPA has great match administration resources to help get that far. When you have that down, then all you need are the little touches that make a match a great experience. To encourage you with ideas, here is a list of suggestions that have made the Sheepdog a wildly popular match:

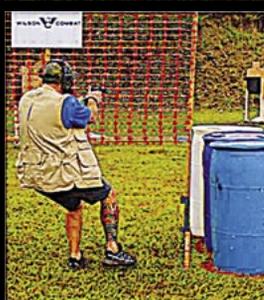
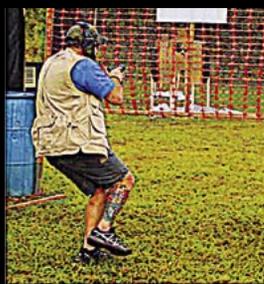
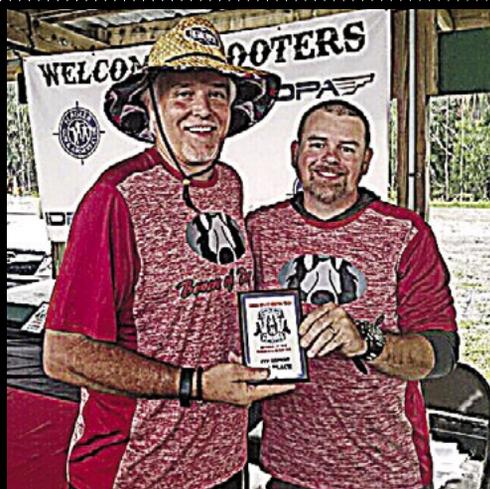
Have a Match Brand and Identity

The Sheepdog match was born with a theme that centers around the conceal carry lifestyle and thus the CCP Division. The theme comes from the often used quote attributed to Marine LTC David Grossman which basically says: There are



The one thing that a match cannot live without is a Safety Officer crew willing to give their time and effort for others.





The Sheepdog has grown to be one of the "must attend" matches in the county.



three types of people in this world: the sheep who go about their business, the wolf who feeds on the sheep, and the sheepdog who protects the flock.

Our goal for the Sheepdog match experience is to allow the competitor to identify as the Sheepdog in protecting the flock from the wolves. Our match logo prominently features our match mascot, Gadsden the Sheepdog. It is on our signage, on our challenge coins and on our shirts. I have seen a Sheepdog match shirt at every single IDPA sanctioned match I have attended, from coast to coast, since our first match in 2017. Many of our competitors buy extra shirts! Create a brand people love identify with!

Let Your IDPA Friends Co-Own the Event

You have to have a great network of IDPA friends to make any sanctioned match work, and most of them will bring great ideas as to how to make the match more fun and memorable. The Sheepdog is not just known for our cool Sheepdog theme. It is known for the crazy socks that people started wearing to shoot and work matches. It is known for the "Most Outstanding Safety Officer Team" awards that competitors themselves vote for with poker chips. It is known for SOs setting up a snack station for the competitors. All of these special experience touches never would have happened if we were determined to only

set up targets, shoot them and tally the scores. All of these ideas were from the minds of IDPA friends who said, "Let's do this!" My advice to you is that if it is legal and conforms to the spirit of IDPA, then just say, "YES!"

Social Media is Your Friend

Social media is a platform that allows friends to communicate. It is exceptionally convenient for friends who live in different states. In fact, I have dozens of IDPA friends in other states that I connect with daily just by checking Facebook. A huge factor in the rapid growth of the Sheepdog is social media exposure.

Also, having a respectful social media following also gives your match sponsors

That fact is, if my IDPA friends and I can build an incredible match experience like the Sheepdog, you can too! The basics are simple: organization, time, commitment and a host range.

more value. Traditional match sponsorships are only being exposed to the shooters at the match in person and just 2 or 3 times on the day of the event. With an established social media platform, your sponsors can give you video commercials, pictures and sales brochures that can run all year, not just on match day. This allows you to give the sponsors more value for what they donate and can increase both the amount of what they give and frequency in which they come back in future match years.

I cannot overstate the principle that any sanctioned match looking to grow and

sustain itself in the future should have a dedicated, branded Facebook page that communicates with shooters and interested persons throughout the year so that they do not forget you and a yearly match Facebook event page where shooters can state interest, commit to registering and follow match news up to the kickoff of the current match this year. I would also highly recommend connecting with as many shooters as possible through Instagram too.

Now, I know that some do not like social media and that is ok. But you likely

have someone in your IDPA network of friends who can take this on as a staff role and it is well worth comping them a shooting spot just as you would for a safety officer, scoring official or stage tech.

Be Generous

There is no doubt in my mind that part of the success of our Sheepdog match is due to our commitment to raise money for a great cause while we shoot, compete and have fun. I understand that not every match is in a situation where this is possible, but when it is possible it adds a sense of comradery and "feel good" to the experience. This is not to say that you should execute the match on the cheap. Raffle guns, extra shirt sales, challenge coins, side matches and donation jars are all easy ways to support a good cause! At the 2018 Sheepdog, we gave away a challenge coin (featuring our popular mascot) to every competitor that spent \$20 or more on our Glock 45 raffle. We raised around \$8,000 for a \$685 raffle gun!

Again, these are just ideas but they are things that have made the IDPA

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MATCH REVIEW



Besides a match full of great stages, you will find a match full of great laughs.



Sheepdog CCP Championship not just a great match, but an experience that people love and talk about all year long. By using these tips and some new ideas of your own, you can build one of those matches where people are asking, "when can we sign up for next year?" before you get through the awards ceremony! Good luck!

Not too long after Compact Carry Pistol was created I was approached by Rick Denny in north Florida about his idea for a specialty match that would benefit a charity. To make this a unique event, it was his idea to have a single division event with CCP pistols since this division has been considered to be very close to the origins of IDPA. I instantly loved the idea and jumped in lending my full support to both have the match approved by HQ, and to help work with him since even though I knew Rick to be a conscientious safety officer, this was his first attempt at directing a sanctioned match.

I have been saying to people for a few years that there are two very different components to running a successful match.

The first part is operations. This consists of finding dates, designing the stages, handling approval and getting the match

online, procuring props and match supplies which are consumables, recruiting and managing the staff, managing set up and getting it right, managing the registration and stats and officiating.

The second part, and in many ways the most important part is the 'event planner'. I call them the Wedding planner actually.

This person or crew organize the graphic designs, markets the match, finds event sponsors, orders awards, finds a place (or tents) to host the awards ceremony, finds a sound system, organizes a photographer and media, organizes food and beverages, finds signs, banners & prizes, decorates, runs raffles, and sells next years match.

What I discovered with Rick Denny is a person that put together a good team for all of these tasks, and successfully executed the plan for his first major match. I remember feeling that this single division match had a different feel to it from the other larger matches I had been around because of the simplicity of the event. As a tier 2 event with a single division, it brought about other elements that simplified running shooters and officiating which was nice since this was a one-day event.

The results of this and the efforts he

described in his article, were that this match has been branded now with a national reputation and has outgrown the range facility where it was first held.

The next Sheepdog match will be a Tier 4 and hosted with Little River Sportsmans Association in Valdosta, GA. Having seen the stages, I can say the next match will be a well-balanced match for compact guns and has a few different stage ideas that I thought were innovative. I respect the way Rick has gone about building this brand and sharing his lessons with the membership. He represents the best of everything IDPA represents and is a great friend and mentor to many of our members.

-Rick Lund, A27521
Eastern Region AC Lead, IDPA

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rick Denny, A905838

Rick has been the Match Director for the Sheepdog CCP Championship since 2017. The 2018 match sold out in 21 hours after registration opened and match raised money for Trinity Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter in 2017 and 2018. The 2019 edition of the match will be a three day event at LRSA IDPA in Valdosta, Georgia on December 6, 7 and 8 of 2019.



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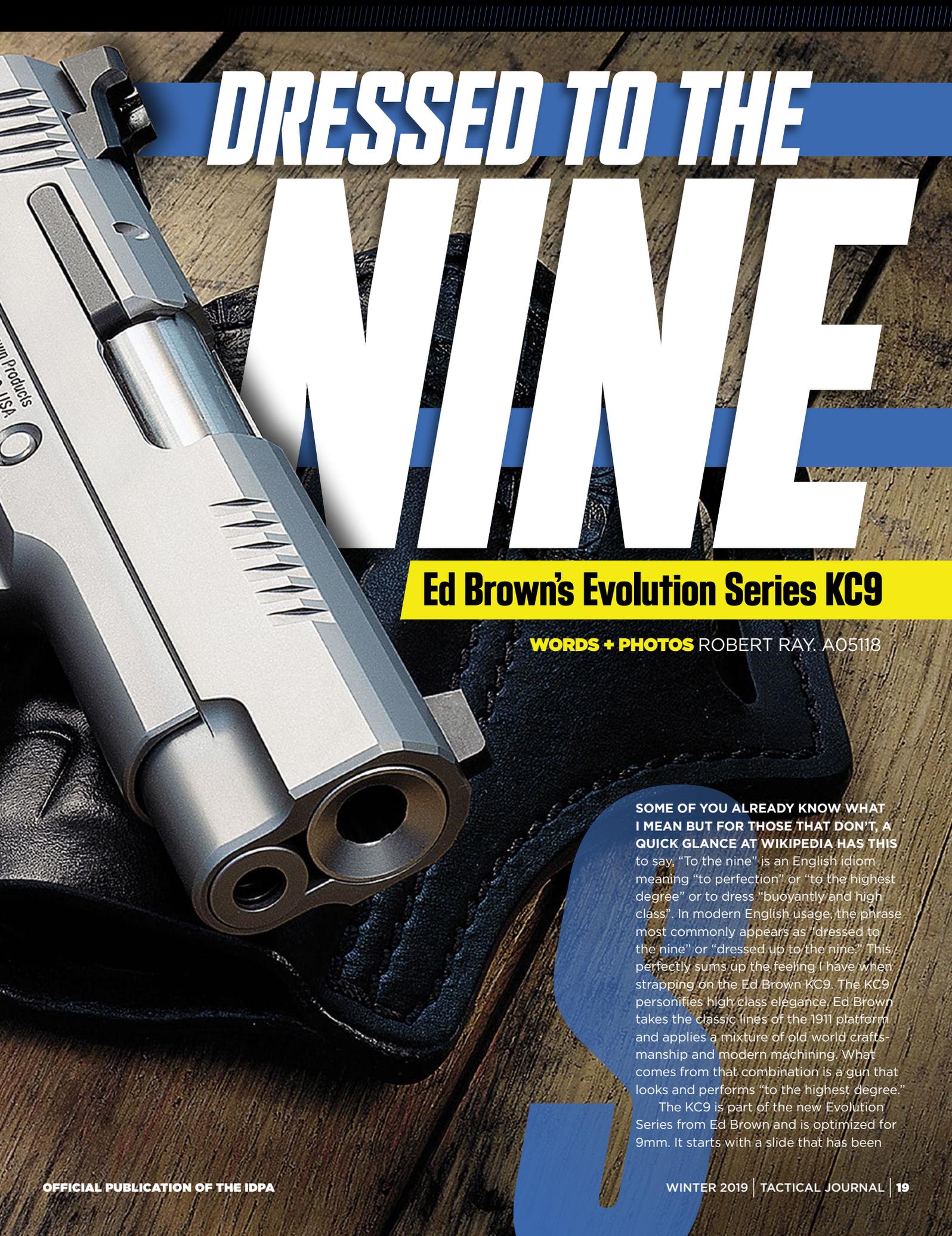
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DRESSED TO THE NINE

Ed Brown's Evolution Series KC9

WORDS + PHOTOS ROBERT RAY, A05118

SOME OF YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT I MEAN BUT FOR THOSE THAT DON'T, A QUICK GLANCE AT WIKIPEDIA HAS THIS to say, "To the nine" is an English idiom meaning "to perfection" or "to the highest degree" or to dress "buoyantly and high class". In modern English usage, the phrase most commonly appears as "dressed to the nine" or "dressed up to the nine." This perfectly sums up the feeling I have when strapping on the Ed Brown KC9. The KC9 personifies high class elegance, Ed Brown takes the classic lines of the 1911 platform and applies a mixture of old world craftsmanship and modern machining. What comes from that combination is a gun that looks and performs "to the highest degree."

The KC9 is part of the new Evolution Series from Ed Brown and is optimized for 9mm. It starts with a slide that has been



I spent time shooting the KC9 from OWB gear from S&S leather and IWB gear from HAWG holsters. Both are great pieces of gear.



Ed Brown takes the classic lines of the 1911 platform and applies a mixture of old world craftsmanship and modern machining. What comes from that combination is a gun that looks and performs “to the highest degree.”

slimmed and lightened as well as an uncommon 7 top custom cut. Special, subdued yet functional front and rear slide cuts provide positive gripping points while still leaving the slide with a clean, uncluttered look. The slide also includes a new external extractor and flat wire recoil spring system for improved and consistent feeding and ejection. Another great feature is the front sight, which is simple to change out to other styles. This allows the user to adjust it to his or her preferences or changing needs. The rear sight is a new, smaller “Tactical Edge” U notch. I have grown very fond of a U notch rear sight on my guns and this sight arrangement provided me exceptional speed in target acquisition and tracking. The barrel is a true 4 inch coned, bull barrel that is fluted to reduce weight. The barrel crown has also been recessed adding to the overall unique good looks of the KC9.

The single stack frame features Browns extraordinary Bobtail cut, a feature that is now being utilized by many other manufacturers due to its comfort and enhanced concealed carry characteristics. The frame also features Browns unique “Snakeskin” treatment to the front strap and Bobtail providing excellent lockup and grip to wet or slick hands. The slide stop has also been



Muzzle rise with the KC9 is negligible.

recessed to give the frame that smooth, complete look. The KC9 frame uses standard 1911 controls and magazines although ones built to Ed Browns exacting, high standards.

The KC9 is a true joy to shoot and carry. Even though it is an all steel frame, the KC9 only weighs in at 34 ounces with an empty magazine. The KC9 has a 9+1 capacity and even fully loaded the weight is still easy to manage for every day continuous carry. One of the other great features of the Evolution series is the way they are produced. Ed Brown wanted to give people the ability to buy a high end gun without the high end price tag to go with it. So they decided to produce set runs in specific configurations.

This allows Ed Brown gunsmiths to streamline the build process and keep the price down. They vary the configuration from batch to batch so that there are still different options available. The MSRP is \$1895 which is really a heck of a bargain considering the amount of custom features and work put into each KC9. All of this is backed by Browns Lifetime Warranty.

Ed Brown has been in business for over 50 years and is known as an innovator in the industry with numerous advancements including the Bobtail and Snakeskin treatments. More recently, Ed Brown shook up the industry with its "Trade up" program that allows individuals to trade in certain 1911's to trade up to a new Ed Brown pistol.

You fill out a form about the gun you want to trade in and choose the gun you want to trade up too and Ed Brown sends you an estimated trade up price. If you like the offer, well you're on your way to owning a new Ed Brown pistol. They also pioneered a magazine trade in program. Fill out the form and send them your 1911 magazines and they will send you new Ed Brown mags for only \$10 each up to the number of mags you send in for exchange.

In all, you can't go wrong with Ed Brown. They are committed to their customers and to providing the very best in products and service. Take a little time to check them out on their website and social media channels. You can find out more about what they have to offer by going to www.edbrown.com. Be safe and we will see you on the range. 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert Ray, A05118

Robert is a lifelong hunter and recreational shooter He has competed in IDPA for over 22 years. He resides in Berryville with his wife and 2 sons and can be reached at idparob@gmail.com.

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Overhead imagery shows the newly expanded footprint of the range.

EVOLUTION OF AN IDPA CLUB

How to Plan your First Sanctioned/State Match.

WORDS + PHOTOS BRENT PACK, A52155

“Our club name is kind of long, so we often refer to Twin Cities Action Shooting as TCAS (T-cas).”

When I first discovered this club, they were hosting matches at a Gun Club (Beaverbrook Tri-County Sportsmen’s Club) which I joined in 2012. I was immediately impressed with how friendly everyone was. I am talking about going out of their way to greet people and help them understand what the club was about and how a person interested in defensive pistol shooting can enjoy our sport. I was immediately hooked. After retiring from Law Enforcement, I wished I would have found them years earlier. Here were 40 or more people getting together once or twice a month to put on local matches to include Defense Multi-Gun matches. It was amazing how much these matches generated renewed excitement and purpose in my life.

After two years of participating in matches with TCAS and enjoying Beaverbrook’s shooting opportunities like Trap Leagues, I was invited to be on the Board of Directors for both clubs at the same time. I really don’t want this story to be just about me, but if you are interested on influencing how a well-established gun range and well established shooting club can work together to make it mutually beneficial for both clubs, I need to tell you how we made it work.

Beaverbrook was initially founded by a bunch of Trap Shooters and 160 acres of property that is land locked by marshland on three sides. But, it had good potential for expansion within. They had 3 small pistol/rifle bays and a 100-yard rifle range. This was enough for continued local IDPA matches but with four stages, we were always going to be limited on what we can

do. Beaverbrook was interested in expanding their rifle and pistol ranges but didn’t want to spend the money it would take to demolish their current rifle/pistol range and build something their members would really enjoy. This is what the range looked like when we started on this endeavor.

Since I was on the Board for both clubs, I began to design our expansion plan, and I will admit, I was very biased on the needs of our IDPA club. The initial plan called for eight shooting bays in the hopes of TCAS and Beaverbrook hosting a Sanctioned Match, but we had to initially settle for six bays. In two years this plan went into effect.

Once these bays were built, everyone was amazed on how well it benefited both clubs. We didn’t have any scheduling problems. Members from both clubs were enjoying the expansion and what it meant



There are a number of moving pieces that have to come together by match day. Lucky for TCAS, they have the people to make it happen.

2019 IDPA NORTHERN CHALLENGE

MINNESOTA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



to everyone's shooting experience. Beaverbrook spent \$65K on this project. It resulted in an immediate increase in membership which paid for the expansion in about three years. But we were not ready to host a Sanctioned IDPA match yet, even though we had a total of 10 bays to use. TCAS needed more equipment and Beaverbrook was still understanding the gem they were creating.

Fast forward now to 2017. Both clubs are working in unison to improve the facility and make it operationally efficient. Beaverbrook wanted longer rifle ranges to support their members and with the influx of capital from Beaverbrook's membership increase we started planning again. This is no easy task as there are several hurdles to jump, but with the help of the MN DNR Grant program and support of the Beaverbrook Board of Directors, we moved forward on the project and added three new rifle ranges.

So here we are in 2018 with a facility that has the number of bays and parking

to handle a Sanctioned Match. There was no holding back now. We had to either commit or just enjoy our local club matches without all the hassle of hosting a big match. What the hell, why not do it? We obtained Board approval from both clubs and started our plan. Even though we had some people in TCAS who have attended Sanctioned Matches and even worked several Sanctioned Matches, no one in the club was ever responsible for planning and administering a Sanctioned Match. We were also fortunate to have a sister IDPA club, not far from us, with some great people we have worked with and shot with over the years in Minnetonka Game and Fish Club (MGFC) IDPA. Their Match Director, Brian Autry, was on the Board of Directors for MGFC as well which, once again, proved to be a key factor in gaining cooperation from all clubs involved.

However, these things were only a part of what made this a success. I have to tell you about our Equipment Director, Chris Vandenburg. This guy joined our TCAS Board of Directors and immediately went

to work. We were obviously growing as a club and we went from a single 20' storage container to two 20' storage containers and a 40' container. Beaverbrook was kind enough to let us store these containers at the end of the range which made setup and take down as easy as possible. You can imagine after a long hot day, putting the equipment away was haphazard at best. Chris wasn't going to stand for this. He started organizing the storage containers and he even built an equipment trailer that he was able to load all the walls, wall stands, target stands, fault lines, squad boxes, paster buckets, and stake buckets. One 20' container was designated for Steel, one for props, targets and sticks, and the 40' container was for solid walls, dropboxes, and at the end of the day, he drove his trailer and ATV right into the container.

We decided on Co-Hosting the MN State IDPA Match and called it the Northern Challenge. We were going to share in the Match Administration responsibilities as much as possible. The Co-Match Directors dug into their collection of stages and

MATCH REVIEW



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picked the best ones they could find with minimum possibility of stage equipment failure yet still be challenging. We agreed there would be no “Gotcha Stages” in this match. The Match Committee reviewed our best 16 stages and agreed upon eight and two backups. We spent the next 6 months planning and executing on everything we could think of that was needed for the match. Dividing up these responsibilities among our committee and staff, we covered all the areas that needed attention like, Equipment Management, SO/Scorer Roster, Sponsorship, Registration/Scoring, Match Book, Awards and Prizes, Match Administration, and Stage Administration. We had Stewart Thompson who managed the sign up and scoring. Scot Benneweis, TCAS President, along with Jim Maxa, Membership Director, oversaw sponsorship recruitment and Christy Autry was our Secretary/Treasurer who managed the finances, shirt order, food, and just about everything else that was not stage related. Jeff Ashland was in charge of the Awards and he managed to create 65 awards in time for the match.

We developed a task tracking list and held regular meetings to discuss our progress. Almost all our club Safety Officers stepped up and agreed to work the match. We also organized Training on “Stop the Bleed”, where we put half of our staff through this incredibly necessary training so they would know how to respond to medical emergencies. Our Sponsors like Federal, Range Tactical Gear, ShootSteel.com, Walther, Glock and Magnum Research all made this event a success. Our coordination with our Area Coordinator, Mike Herro, was amazingly easy and enjoyable. Mike’s support and guidance throughout the process was awesome. His friend John Alexander was also kind enough to join our staff and was such a good person to know and shoot with. John and Mike’s confirmation on our plan and match communica-

tions really helped us feel like we were on the right track to make this event a success.

I won’t try to kid you; this process was scary and nerve wracking over the four months prior to the match. All I can say is, I had such euphoria just sitting there on Match Day and watching everyone doing a great job and enjoying what is meant to be a fun and friendly day. We also had Match Directors from Iowa (Brad Poland) and Wisconsin (John Bordeau Jr.) who each brought their young adults (Connor Poland and Jennifer Bordeau) with them to shoot in the match.

I would love to give a shout out to all of our club members and friends who helped make this match such a success. But there are too many to list. We built of staff of 43 people and everyone stepped up and did a fantastic job. Here are just a few photos from Match day

Right now, it is the day after the match. All the work is done, gear put away, range cleaned up as if we were never there, and I am enjoying the adult beverages that I have missed over the last four days. I would not have survived this without the love and support of my family and the great friends I have made over the last seven years of IDPA shooting. Thank you to all who attended the match and gave up their personal time to work the match with us. I think we can all say it was worth it and hope you will join us next year. 📷

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Brent Pack, A52155

Brent is a retired CWO3/US Army CID Special Agent who is in the last quarter of his second career working in Information Security for a Fortune 50 Retail Company. He Joined IDPA in 2012 and is an IDPA Safety Officer. He also manages the Match Director - Stage Designers - Midwest Facebook Page. He has been married to his wife Shari for 30 years and has two kids, Lauren and Donald.



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MASTERING THE DRAW

3 KEY INDEX POINTS

Finding Speed Through Consistency and Economy of Motion.

WORDS MICHAEL SEEKLANDER, A31187



AS I WRITE THIS I AM AT 8567 FEET ELEVATION IN THE BIGHORN MOUNTAINS STARING AT A BEAUTIFUL MEADOW AND a peak called Hazelton Peak near Buffalo, Wyoming. While my location is irrelevant

to the concepts in this article, I thought it might be fun for you to visualize me typing away on my laptop in such a scenic place in hopes to give my fellow IDPA shooters some tips that will help them improve!

So let me start by asking you what technique we use in competition on almost every stage that has dramatic effects on your speed *and* accuracy on the stage? If you answered “the draw,” then you would

be right! Of course the title of this article probably gave that away. So my goal in this article is to give you some tips that will really help you improve your draw process. I am going to give you some key principles, and three specific index points that will help you align the gun on target before the sights are ever in front of your face. Let's start with the principles.

Principle One When the buzzer goes off and you begin your draw process, both hands need to move at the same time. This is one of the biggest losses of time I see with my students because often times when the strong hand goes for the gun the other hand stays at their side, and as the gun hand brings the gun out of the holster, the support hand then has to chase it. This makes it harder to build a good grip early and results in what I call a "hope" grip. You know...you "hope" you get a good grip, but often times don't.

Principle Two When the hands move, they go to very specific spots in an exact manner. Let's talk strong hand first. The strong hand indexes the gun from behind it, with the hand sliding up the backstop of the gun. This should be done with the thumb flagged high, and when it makes contact with the gun we get to feel index point one (discussed below). The support hand goes to a place on the centerline of the body at a height where when the gun comes out of the holster and "drives" by the support hand it can easily index under the trigger guard (index point two discussed below). The fingers of the support hand should be together, not spread apart simply because that is how we place them on the gun. Might as well have them ready before the gun passes by.

Okay, so now you have a couple principles to follow, let me give you three specific index points that you need to pay attention to to begin to *feel* the guns alignment as it moves toward full extension. These points are happening right now as you draw the gun, but it is possible you are not paying attention to what they are telling you by feel, or even understand the specifics of what you are doing. Let's fix that.

Index Point One Happens the moment you drive the strong hand up the backstrap of the gun and make contact with the web of your hand. As discussed above, each index point has a proper feel if done correctly, and that sensation begins to give



When the buzzer goes off and you begin your draw process, both hands need to move at the same time.



PRO TIPS

you feedback on whether or not you need to make slight adjustments of the gun in your hand. The beavertail or tang of the firearm should line up with a specific spot in your hand to begin the gun's alignment. This spot might be slightly different for each person, but generally speaking the gun should be aligned in the middle of the web of the hand versus toward the thumb or index finger.

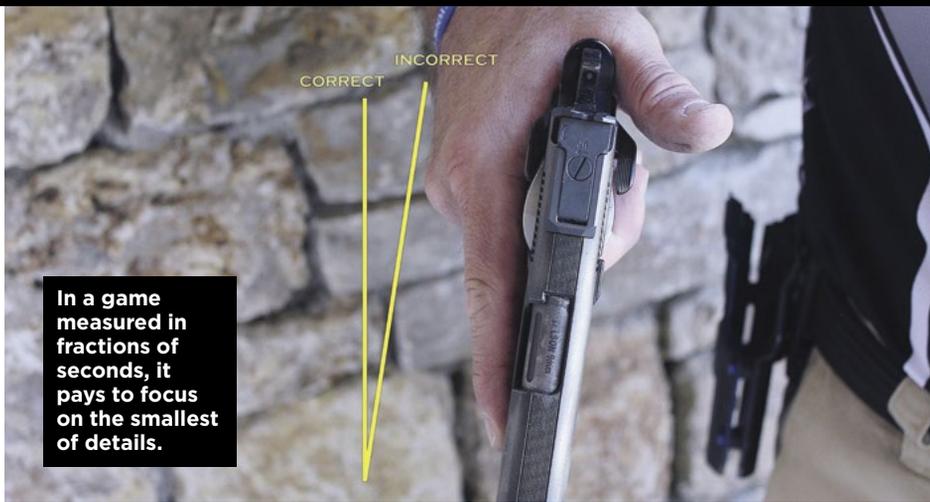
Index Point Two This index point is critical in building a good grip. This is where the two hands come together. During index point one we establish the alignment of the gun in the strong hand, and start drawing the gun out of the holster. The gun should be moving in a straight line toward the target once the holster releases the gun. As the gun "drives" by the support hand (which is patiently waiting on the centerline with the four fingers together), the support hand indexes in a chopping motion making contact with the underside of the trigger guard and strong hand finger. Where you make contact with your support hand index



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In a game measured in fractions of seconds, it pays to focus on the smallest of details.

finger and the direction of the chopping motion is very specific, so check out the picture and make sure you get this right. The best way to figure out where you should be contacting the support hand index finger is to build a perfect grip on the handgun where both hands are fitting together like pieces of a puzzle, and each hand is in the right spot, and then unwrap the grip and pay attention to where you are touching your index finger under the trigger guard.

Index Point Three So you have grabbed the gun properly in the holster, then as the strong hand drove by the support hand (that was strategically placed) the support hand indexed under the trigger guard and begins wrapping around to form the grip. Index point three is a subtle spot where the thumb on the support hand rotates back and up to touch the thumb on the strong hand fitting together like pieces of a puzzle. One mistake I often see is shooters wrapping the support hand straight back versus back and up, which allows the support hand to be too low on the grip of the handgun, and also leaves a small gap between the thumbs. If you do this properly, the thumbs should touch and fit together like perfect puzzle pieces. My thumbs begin to touch as I extend the gun around 3/4 of the way to the target, and are my last indication that things are going well in the draw.

And there you have it. A couple key principles, and three specific index points that will help you align the gun faster and even before the sights are in front of your eye. As you practice your draw, pay attention to feeling the index points as you make contact with them. They give you a touch sensation that immediately feed you information about how the draw is going and where the gun is pointing so you can make micro adjustments if needed during



the motion. When you master this skill you will find that you already know where the gun is pointed as the sights enter your vision, allowing you to shoot much sooner on that first shot, and faster on the rest of the stage if you have build that perfect grip.

Take the time to deliberately practice the draw with specific attention to what you are feeling. Remember, shooting well is not just about seeing (aiming), but often very much about the feeling the contact points of the gun as well. Use these steps to maximize your draw consistency and thus speed!

Until Then - Train Hard!
Mike S. 

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Michael Seeklander, A31187

Currently Mike Seeklander is owner of Shooting-Performance LLC (www.shooting-performance.com), a full service training company and the American Warrior Society (www.americanwarriorsociety.com). Mike is also the co-host of The Best Defense and Rapid Fire featured on the Outdoor Channel.



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Sin's passion to compete keeps her moving up the ladder.



SIN NG

Dedicated Ninja

WORDS WALT KLOEPEL, A56663

THERE ARE ROUGHLY 22,000 IDPA MEMBERS. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE MEMBERS ARE MARKSMEN, THE BASE OF the IDPA pyramid. We've been overdue to recognize those shooters who make up our masses, so let's spotlight one very determined Marksman, who has the passion and drive to get her ranking up, and a no-quit dedication to try, and try again. In fact, so much dedication that this Marksman racked up 20 points this past year, enough to get her into the 2019 IDPA World Championship.

Meet Sin Ng, a Detroit police officer, who lives in Sterling Heights, Michigan. She is currently assigned to the Detroit Police Department's Crime Intelligence Unit.

Sin emigrated from her native Hong Kong, China, in 1990, where she was a product designer. She wanted to be near family members living in Michigan, so with her background and education, she qualified through her embassy to take the big step to immigration and becoming

an American citizen. She continued her education in the U.S. - attending college to study architecture, earning a Master's degree. She later earned an MBA in business administration. After college, she worked for several architectural and construction companies in Michigan. However, it just wasn't exactly what she had in mind for a satisfying career.

"It was boring," said Sin. "I wanted to help people, so I started volunteering my time. I learned that my city had a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), so I took the training and became a member of the team."

Not long after, Sin trained and got certified as an EMT. She felt as though she found her niche in the community. But fate ... may have been written long before. When Sin was a little girl, she was asked what she wanted to be when she grew up. She pondered that thought one day in her home and - being quite the artist - drew on her wall the Chinese characters for archi-

tect and police officer with a very good cartoon image below police officer of her in a skirt, wearing a ball cap, and holding a gun in her right hand.

So, she took it a step further and became a Police Reserve Officer (non-paid) with the Detroit Police Department. Within her first year, she was accepted into the academy, and after 6 months of intensive training, she graduated as a full time Detroit Police Officer. Fate works in wondrous ways.

One of my standard interview questions is always asking when/how were you introduced to firearms? It's usually pretty typical ... my dad, uncle, Boy Scouts ... usually starting out with a BB gun or .22, but Sin lived in a country that does not allow their citizens to own firearms.

"My first time I ever shot a gun was during training at the academy. It surprised me when I pulled the trigger. I did not like the kick," said Sin. But she was determined to conquer her intimidation of shooting.

She admitted that she was one of the lowest scoring officers during the department's marksmanship qualification test. She needed some help.

Enter Corporal Shawn Stallard and Corporal Jeff Thompson, instructors for the Detroit Police Pistol Team - who also happen to both be IDPA Masters. Stallard and Thompson convinced their brothers and sisters in blue that it would benefit their weapon handling skills by adding some extra-curricular training - volunteered by Stallard and Thompson. The training also included the commitment that those officers would shoot a local IDPA match once a month to test their skills. Sin was first in line and ready to go.

"I remember the first two days of the first pistol course we had," said Stallard. "She came in with bandages all over her hands, with blisters and raw spots from firing her weapon so much. I asked her if she was okay, and told her she didn't have to do this. She said "No, I'm doing this." I felt bad, but she wouldn't stop, she's just that dedicated to it."

Sin took the training seriously and by her next classification for the department, she raised her score from marksman to expert, the highest department level.

"I feel shooting IDPA improved my shooting skills for my department firearm qualification, because IDPA focuses more on accuracy," said Sin. "Since qualifying expert for my department duty firearm (S&W M&P 40), I also qualified expert in M&P AR 15."

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BARRERA

Sin not only found out that, indeed, it did help her weapon handling and marksmanship, but that she actually enjoyed the competition part as well. She joined a local gun range, the Wayne County Raccoon Hunters Association in Romulus, MI, and has become one of the regulars. By becoming one of the “regulars,” she found that many of them had nicknames. So not to be left out, she let her fellow shooters know that she was known as “Ninja” in her department because she wore all black, with a black balaclava covering her face during those cold Michigan winters, so “Ninja” became her chosen name, which she wears proudly embroidered on the back of her black ball cap.

“I met so many nice people shooting competition. I enjoy it. Soon I was going to matches all over,” said Sin.

Sin has a secondary passion to shooting, which is traveling and exploring the culture of each state, which has worked out to the perfect scenario for an IDPA competitor.

“She shoots now more than me,” laughed Stallard. “I thought I shot a lot, but she travels all over, shooting all these matches. No doubt, she just really, really loves it.”

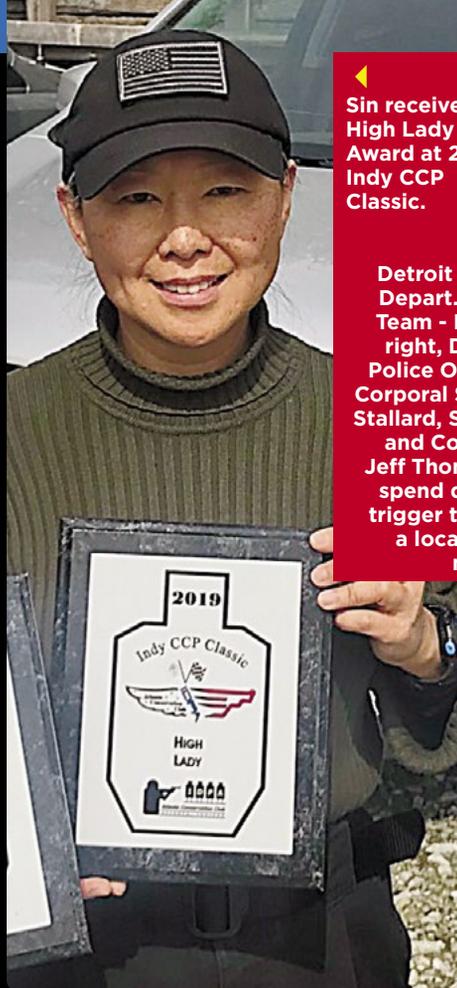
Sin met Michigan IDPA State Coordinator Michael Barrera in August 2018 at the local club match. He told her about the upcoming 2018 IDPA Nationals in Alabama.

“I wanted to see the best shooters first hand, so I flew to Alabama to watch them competing in the match,” said Sin. “I stayed with my local squad for two days, but because the times were split up, I was also able to watch the China squad as well. It was supposed to be my vacation, but I ended up getting busy by helping paste targets for both squads and taking videos for the other shooters.”

“I also met Joyce Wilson, the IDPA Executive Director, at the match. To me, this was an honor to meet the person at the top of the organization.”

Sin left the Nationals knowing that she'd have to bump her initial Novice classification if she wanted to compete in the higher tier matches, and make it into the IDPA World Championship the following year. When she got home and could not find a classifier being held in her local area, she drove 4 ½ hours to Pennsylvania to shoot a classifier. She made Marksman and was now official and ready to hit all the tier level matches. From August 2018 to May of 2019, Sin shot in 12 major matches, racking up 20 points for the IDPA World Championship. During those matches she managed taking High Lady at the Indy CCP Classic.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SIN NG



◀ Sin receives High Lady Award at 2019 Indy CCP Classic.

▶ Detroit Police Dept. Pistol Team - Left to right, Detroit Police Officers Corporal Shawn Stallard, Sin Ng, and Corporal Jeff Thompson spend quality trigger time at a local IDPA match.



“I wanted to help people, so I started volunteering my time. I learned that my city had a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), so I took the training and became a member of the team.”

Shooting Sport as my Passion

“Whenever I am off- unless I have other priorities- I am practicing at the range. Sometimes I will stop on my way to work, even if I only have 15 minutes. I try to get in all the live fire I can. I’m always happy when I’m headed to the range. To me, it’s not just a hobby, it is my passion,” said Sin.

Her dedication to succeed shows by her attending training classes offered by National, World, and local champions Elias Frangoulis, Jeffrey Gerak, Robert Vogel and JJ Racaza. This girl is serious.

Sin enjoys shooting matches in other states. She says she will continue to compete in as many matches as possible based on her work schedule and budget. She says she wants to learn how to reload to save money and practice more live fire drills. She does dry fire every day.

“I enjoy meeting new IDPA shooters in other states. They are very friendly and I’ve made many new friends traveling to these matches. My goal is to advance to Master. I know it will be hard work, but I am very dedicated, or so I’ve been told,” laughed Sin.

“I thank Shawn and Jeff for introducing me to IDPA and helping me set up my guns,” said Sin. “I also thank our state

director Mike Barrera for introducing me to the safety officers at the Nationals. By observing them, I now want to pursue becoming a safety officer myself and give back to the IDPA. My goal is to one day work for the Nationals.

While this interview took place and went to print before the IDPA World Championship, I’d bet Sin made her best showing yet at the World. So, if you’re still wrestling to climb your classification level (like myself) and you need some motivation to succeed, keep an eye out for that “Ninja” in black and say hello. You’ll be glad you did. And then watch her go. **TJ**

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.

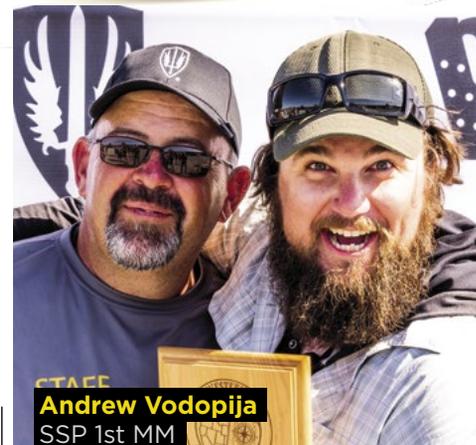
WINNER'S CIRCLE



While California doesn't have the best reputation for gun ownership, it does have a great reputation for premier pistol matches and *The Western*, sponsored by Archangel, is one of those great matches. We want to congratulate all the competitors and staff on a great match. Awesome job everyone!



Adam Daruvala
High Junior



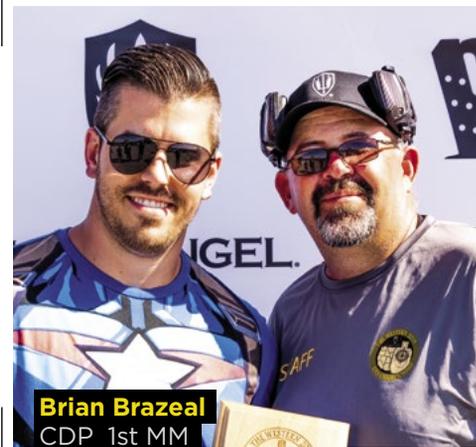
Andrew Vodopija
SSP 1st MM



Anthony Cuomo
High Military



Austin Proulx
CCP Division Champion



Brian Brazeal
CDP 1st MM



Brian Buller
High LEO



Darren Hillberg
SSP 2nd MM



David Orr
CCP 1st MD





Duane Chinnow
PCC Division Champion



Elias Frangoulis
CDP Division Champion



Eric Fuson
ESP Division Champion



Fred Mowrey
REV Division Champion



Jason Miyashiro
CO Division Champion



Jeff Johnson
High Distinguished Senior



Joe Truesdale
SSP Division Champion



Joey Russo
ESP 1sp EX



Justin Ringgold-Lockhar
ESP 2nd EX



Martin Johnson
BUG Division Champion



Mary-Grace McMahon
High Lady



Sonya Slezak
SSP 3rd MM

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2019 UPCOMING MATCHES

Visit idpa.com/matches to find a match near you.

START DATE	EVENT NAME	HOST CLUB
November 2	JDPC League Match at JMPD Shooting Range (South Africa)	South African Defensive Pistol Association
November 2	2019 New Mexico IDPA Blue Line ProAm	Del Norte Defensive Shooters
November 23	PPL IDPA Championship #3 Winter	Phumpailin IDPA
December 6	The Sheepdog CCP Championship presented by Walther Arms-Tier 4	Little River Sportsman's Association IDPA
January 31	Siam International IDPA Championship	Bangkok IDPA
February 7	Castle Pistol Club Winter Classic	Castle Pistol Club
February 8	2020 South Florida Defensive Challenge	Tropical Sport Shooting Association
February 29	LRSA IDPA Rollin' on the River Championship	Little River Sportsman's Association IDPA
March 28	2020 Arizona State IDPA Pistol Championship	Pima Pistol Club
March 28	Tri-State Border Disorder	Capital City IDPA
April 24	2020 Georgia State Championship - Sponsored by Sig Sauer	17 South Practical Shooters Club
May 15	2020 Space Coast Challenge sponsored by Ruger	Port Malabar Rifle and Pistol Club
May 23	TRUGLO 2020 Texas State Championship	Collin County IDPA
May 23	2020 Rocky Mountain Regional	Action Pistol Group
May 23	2020 Iowa State IDPA Championship	Ankeny Ikes Practical Shooters
May 30	2020 Tennessee State Match	Chattanooga Practical Shooting IDPA
June 27	2020 Illinois State IDPA Championship	Bloomington IDPA
July 13	2020 Kentucky State IDPA Championship	Blue Grass Sportsmen's League
August 8	2020 IDPA Southern Scorcher	Dead Zero IDPA
September 12	Old Dominion Classic	Fairfax Rod and Gun Club, Inc.

PARTING SHOT

PRESENTED BY



IDPA 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

I'm calling multiple "FTL" (failure to tan legs) penalties!
—Lee Smith, A00991

Second Place

Down 0 - Too Sexy For These Socks!!
—Allen Arnold, A1004427

Third Place

Dudes, put your OTHER right foot in...
—Greg Morgoglione, A862681



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