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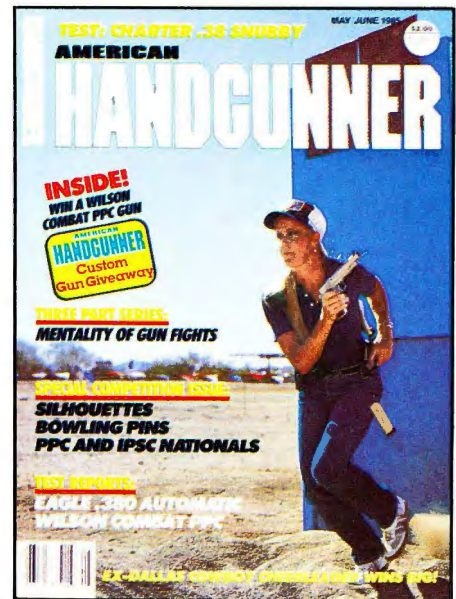
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# COP TALK

MASSAD AYOOB

## SUBCONSCIOUS MIND TAKES OVER IN A DEADLY ASSAULT FROM ATTACKERS

At the end of Ayoob's Jan/Feb '85 column, he said, "If you wish to learn more about mental conditioning for violent encounters, let the editors know. They're receptive. So am I."

Consequently, a flood of letters deluged the Handgunner's offices asking for more from Ayoob on mental aspects of gunfighting.

Here is the first of a three part series Ayoob prepared in response to our readers' requests.

*We hear, and we obey!*

The two officers were perhaps a car length apart when the younger one accosted the suspect. The punk reached under his jacket and came out with a Heckler & Koch 9mm. He shot the first cop in the side, and as the officer lay supine, fired two more shots that struck the lower body.

The older officer looked on in horror as the shots were fired. The suspect turned and fired several shots, striking the second cop in both legs. Some survival instinct forced the wounded legs to work and the officer managed to hide behind the patrol car. The assailant walked up to him, put the 9mm to his head, and pulled the trigger.

Both officers died with their service revolvers still strapped into their holsters.

The tragedy underscored a great need in combat firearms training for Good Guys: *drawing the defensive handgun in the face of deadly danger should be an automatic, reflexive response!* Faced with the awesome enormity of a night erupting into gunfire, someone trying to take your life, and perhaps a partner cut down before your unbelieving eyes, the conscious mind may be too overwhelmed to tell your gunhand what to do.

At that terrible moment, in the gravest

extreme of lethal danger, your consciousness has no time to think. "Hand clears jacket and takes firm grip on sidearm. Thumb releases safety strap. Gun comes up into target, finger going onto trigger when muzzle reaches 45° angle . . ." No way. That kind of response has to be reflexive.

Ask any cop who has survived on the street for a while, and he can tell you of nights when his gun was in his hand but he didn't remember drawing it. For those men, good training held. Speaking for myself, I know the fastest draw I ever made was not at any match, but a night on the street when a gunshot exploded behind my partner and I. One second I was standing beside the patrol car in the bank parking lot, the next I was in a kneeling position looking behind me over the slide of a .45 service auto I had no recollection of reaching for.

Training isn't merely knowledge. That's education. *Training* is physical programming, and training for emergencies like gunfights requires instilling the programming so deep that the subconscious will automatically order 'Response A' when the conscious mind becomes aware of 'Stimulus A'. The slower conscious mind is thus bypassed, and the appropriate response is carried out far more quickly.

Does this mean we should turn our police officers and holders of carry permits into killer robots? Not at all, and this is one of the reasons I oppose teaching the gunfighting technique called 'the Stroke.' The Stroke is a

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single movement in which the gun is drawn and instantly fired as it comes in line with the target. *That* is programming the gun's wearer to kill whenever the weapon is drawn under stress, and we know from real life that this is not always necessary. One California study indicated that 13 times out of 14 when a civilian gun owner drew on a criminal suspect, they did not find it necessary to shoot the person. A Florida study puts the figure higher, some 33 to 1. In law enforcement, most ten-year cops in tough precincts have lost count of the number of suspects they've drawn guns on, but have rarely if ever had to actually shoot the offender.

Drawing the gun is another matter. We'll never know how many good guys are alive because they drew down on the suspect before the latter could attempt to deliver his killing stroke to *them*, and made the malefactor realize that surrender was his only hope for survival, thus ending the encounter without bloodshed. The draw *should* be reflexive, a trained response to the presence of lethal danger.

Quite apart from creating killer robots, this will enhance survival for both the Good Guys, and the Bad Guys who endanger them. When my hand draws my gun automatically, it has left my conscious mind completely free to make the most critical decision: "Must I shoot this human being?"

If, instead, my conscious mind has to walk my untrained hand through the process of unsnapping the safety strap and freeing my

service pistol, the ability of the conscious mind to analyze the situation and make that life or death choice is slowed and impaired. By the time the gun is clear, I may have no choice but to shoot down the man who threatens me . . . and I may already have stopped a bullet or a knife thrust myself.

The trained protector does not *kill* by reflex, he *draws* by reflex. If, in the fraction of a second between when the hand fell to the holster and when the muzzle came on target the Good Guy has realized that defensive gunfire is the indicated response, he will fire every bit as rapidly as he would have if he'd executed a mindless, killing 'Stroke,' yet he now knows beyond doubt that his use of this ultimate force is absolutely justified.

Prosecutors and civil attorneys who try to destroy cops and armed citizens who shot criminals in self defense like to portray the defendants as 'trained killers' if they had been trained to use guns in self-defense. If the training was right, we can successfully argue that the man or woman trained in reflexive quick draw is *less* likely to kill when they don't absolutely have to.


One of the most influential instructors in my own career was Charlie Smith, the former head of nationwide FBI training who went on to create and direct the Smith & Wesson Academy. Throughout his career as a master instructor, Charlie kept a running, informal survey of the instructors who came to him. He asked, "Who in your department is doing the bad (poor judgement)

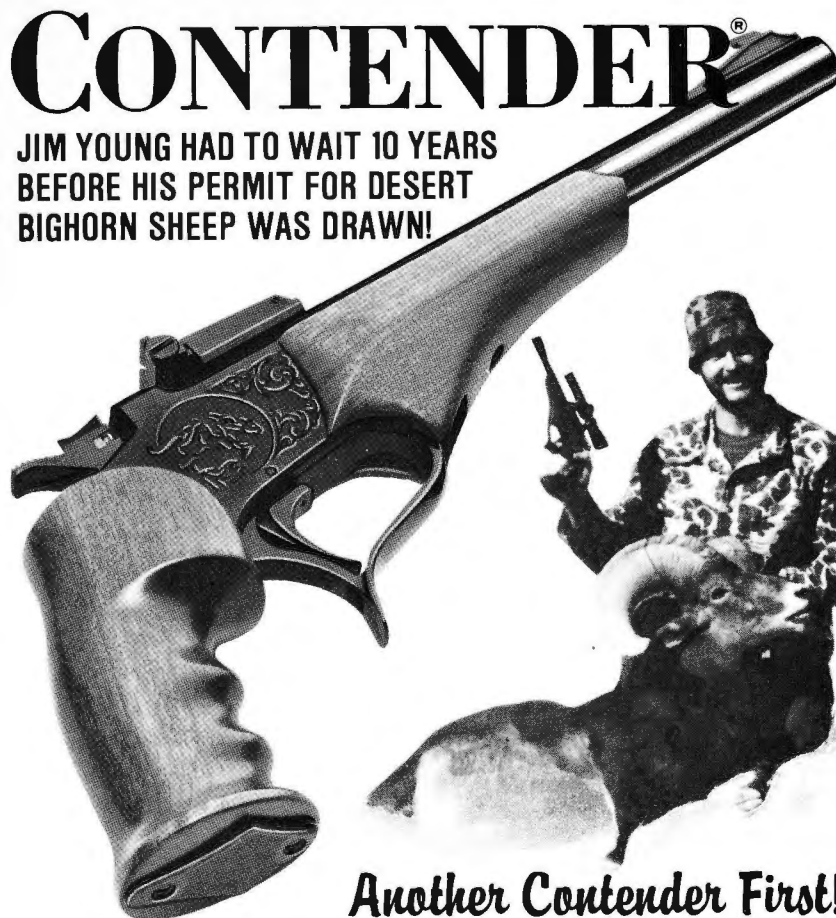
shootings?"

While many chiefs had feared that a highly trained gun expert would become a killing machine behind a badge, Charlie's research proved just the opposite. The cops who fired before it was necessary were almost invariably the ones who shot so poorly that they had no confidence, and when a suspect made a suspicious move in the shadows, they fired as a desperate pre-emptive strike because they knew they could not survive an 'equal' gun battle. The experts, on the other hand, were so confident in their ability to outshoot and outdraw street punks, that they could afford to wait the extra fraction of a second to make sure that deadly force was absolutely justified before they unleashed a police bullet they could never call back.

This aspect of defensive firearms training is perhaps the least understood. I think of it in moments like last March, when the *Miami Herald* referred to me as a 'quick-draw gunman.' Their reporter didn't know the difference, apparently, between drawing to kill and drawing to intimidate, nor the difference between termination and deterrence.

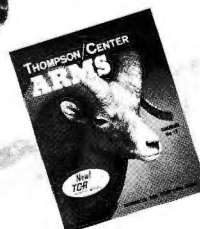
Once the Good Guy has learned to make the gun come into his hand reflexively, he faces the most awesome decision of all; "Must I use deadly force against this human being I face, and if I must, can I bring myself to do it?"

We shall discuss this vital aspect of mental conditioning for combat in the next issue. 



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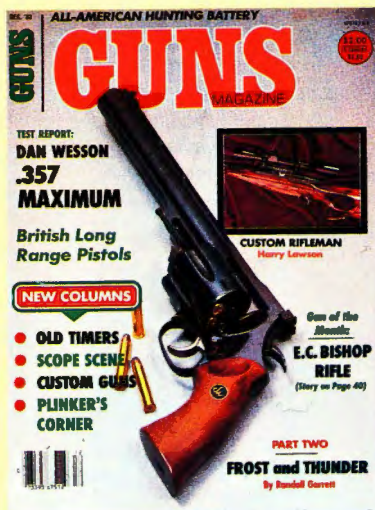
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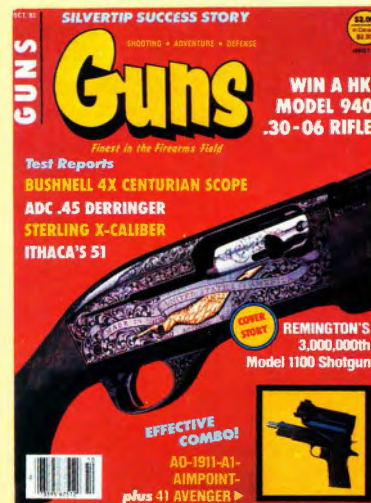
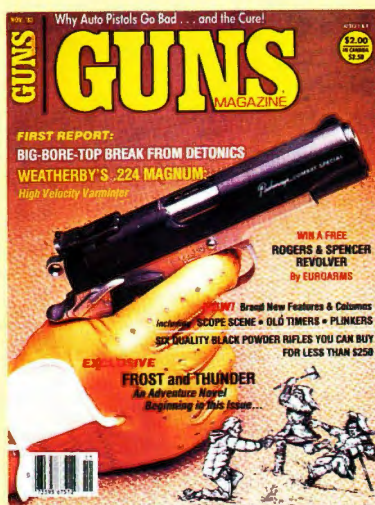
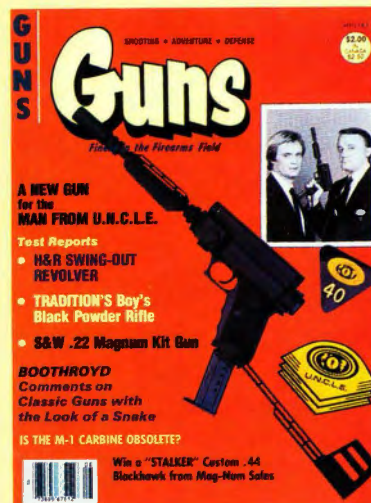
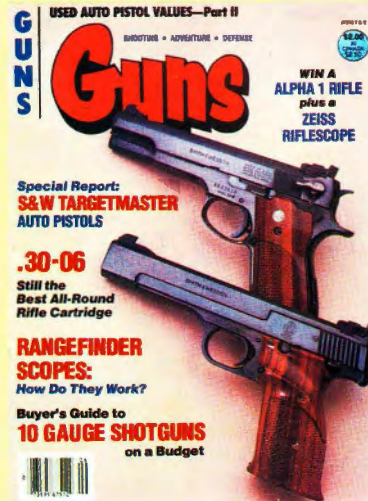
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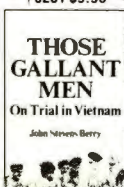
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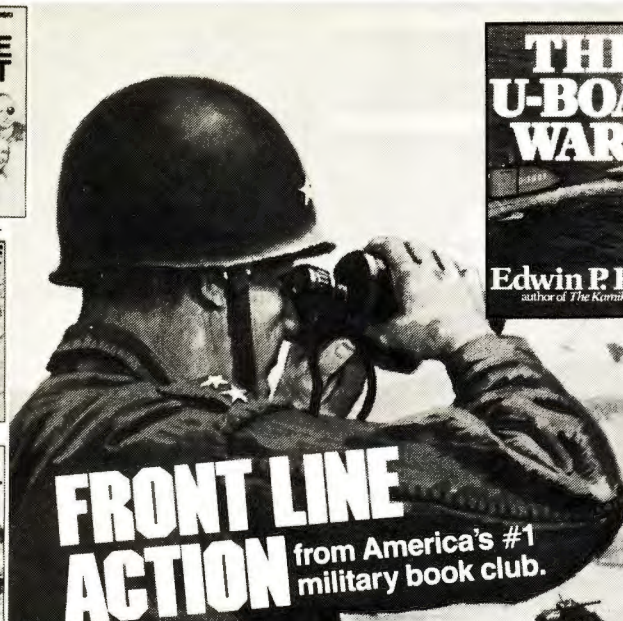
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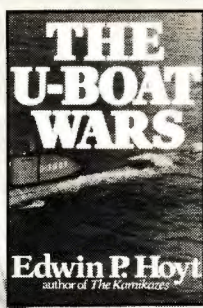
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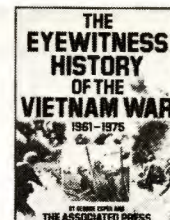
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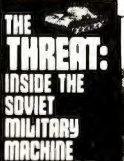
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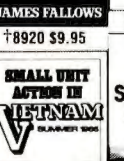
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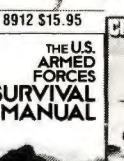
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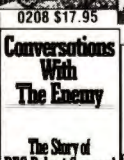
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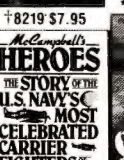
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# COMBAT SHOOTING

**WILLIAM H. BISH**

## BIANCHI CUP UNITES WITH THE NRA, ANNOUNCES A NEW COURSE OF FIRE

*The American Handgunner is pleased to announce the opening of the Combat Shooting column to guest writers.*

*Look for a wide variety of topics in Combat Shooting ranging from discussions of the latest shooting equipment to in-depth reports on major matches authored by leading authorities.*

*The first guest columnist is William H. Bish, a staff writer for the National Rifle Association and Press Director of the NRA Bianchi Cup National Action Shooting Pistol Championship.*

*Now, over to Bill for an exclusive Handgunner report on the new NRA Bianchi Cup.*

After nurturing the Bianchi Cup International Pistol Tournament from its inception seven years ago to its current status as one of the most prestigious shooting events in the world, Bianchi International has announced that it will turn Bianchi Cup operations over to the National Rifle Association.

The NRA and Bianchi International jointly announced that NRA will assume sponsorship of the Bianchi Cup tournament effective January 1, 1985.

"I know the tournament will prosper under the NRA's care," said Richard Nichols, president of the non-profit Bianchi Cup corporation.

"The tournament is an ambitious project that has more than met expectations over the last seven years."

"Now it is time for the next quantum leap in the growth of professional shooting. The NRA, with its large national base and strong emphasis on all types of firearms competition, has come forward to make that happen," Nichols said.

James Davis, manager of the NRA's Action Shooting Program, said, "As the national governing body of shooting sports in America, we are pleased and excited about assuming operation of the Bianchi Cup matches."

Davis, who will succeed Nichols as tour-

nament coordinator of the Bianchi Cup, went on to say, "The NRA will strive to carry on the traditions of Bianchi Cup and, with the continued support of industry and the shooting fraternity, we will endeavor to maintain the tournament's prestige and its reputation as the richest prize in the shooting sports."

Both Davis and Nichols agreed that the transfer of operations is a natural progression for the Bianchi Cup tournament, which has been sanctioned by the NRA for the past three years and served as the vehicle by which the NRA introduced its own action shooting program in 1982.

Last year, the NRA designated the Bianchi Cup VI as its inaugural National Action Shooting Pistol Championship.

"The Bianchi Cup and the NRA's Action Shooting Pistol Program have evolved together," said Davis. "The Bianchi Cup tournament helped the NRA's program to grow, and now it's time for us to help the Cup to prosper and achieve its full potential."

Nichols is optimistic about the future of the Bianchi Cup tournament and confident that the NRA will maximize the tournament's positive influence on the shooting sports.

"We have successfully taken the first steps in establishing a new pro sport," said Nichols. "Sportsmanship and professionalism are at new highs, and the tournament's regular exposure on national television is enhancing a positive image for handguns and competitive shooting. The NRA contributed sig-

*Continued on page 33*

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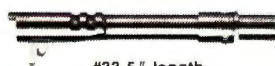
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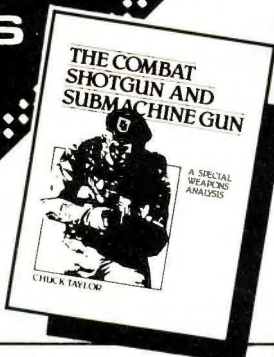
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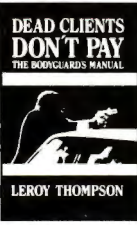
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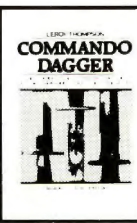
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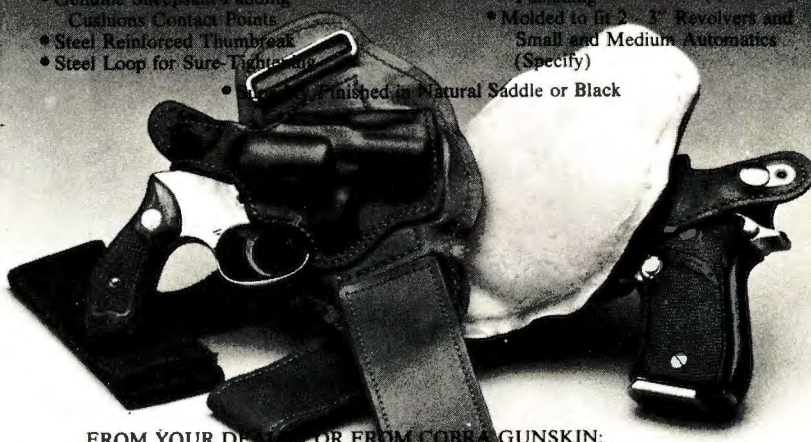
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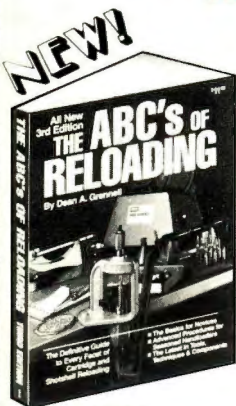


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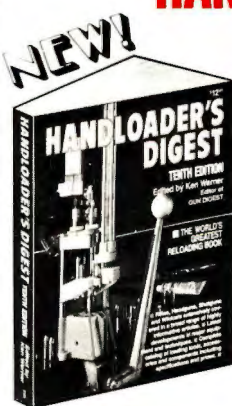


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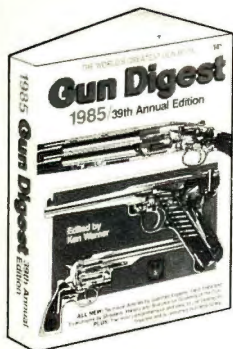


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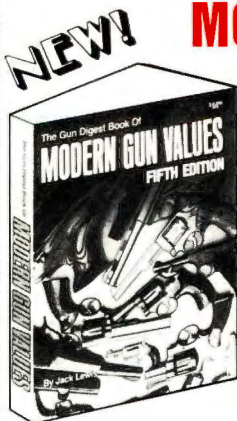


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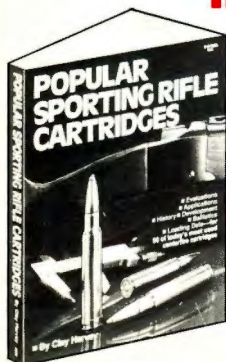


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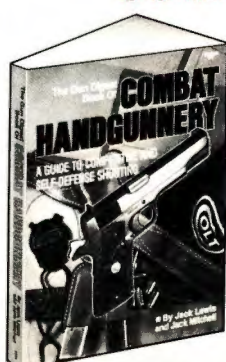


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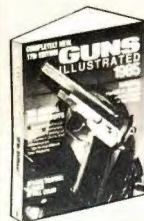


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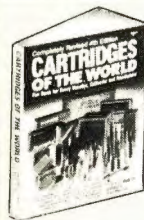
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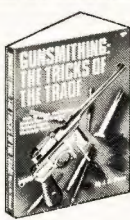
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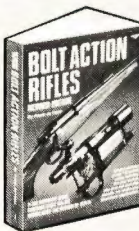
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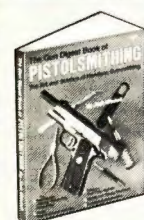
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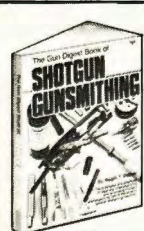
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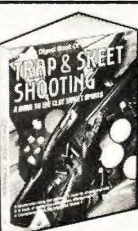
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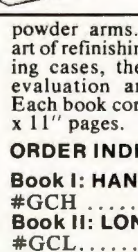
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# CROSSFIRE

A Debate Forum  
Featuring Experts

## IS PPC PRACTICAL?

### PRO

Handgun training is one of those subjects that always seems to generate a lot of debate, especially in the police sector. On the one hand, you have the proponents



By Fred Romero

of the 'hose and spray' school who will tell you that speed and firepower are the desired traits of a qualified shooter. On the other side, you have what I call the 'fundamentalists', those individuals who believe that good trigger control and sight alignment are the keys to success.

In support of these two divergent philosophies, distinctly separate views of police training and shooting have evolved. Each has a healthy argument in its favor, usually to the exclusion of the other. Throw in the legions of civilian marksmen, who feel they too have a corner on the market, and you begin to understand just how complicated—and emotional—this whole debate has become.

Gamesmanship notwithstanding, it would appear that somewhere along the way the real reasons for firearms training in law enforcement may have become lost in the shuffle. If the purpose of training is to instill a thorough knowledge of the fundamentals of marksmanship, as well as a sense of confidence in one's ability to use that knowledge in a time of crises, then perhaps we should be taking a closer look at those courses of fire which allow the average shooter a chance to learn both.

For the record, PPC has proven itself to be a mainstay of the law enforcement community. For over four decades, many of America's police officers have used the PPC course as a basic training aid, a challenging refresher, and a job-related shooting sport. More importantly, PPC has been the incentive for many officers who have made the transition into other more demanding styles of shooting.

Unlike some of my other learned colleagues who maintain that all handgun courses should be hot and furious from day-one, I believe that better, more lasting results are achieved by first establishing a firm foundation of the basics of marksmanship before venturing off into more progressive courses. Too much too soon can sometimes ruin incentive.

In PPC, the course of fire is set up so that a beginning shooter will be exposed to a variety of basic challenges with marksmanship being the main factor. As an example: distances vary from 7, 15, 25 and 50 yards and four different positions are used in conjunction with mandatory weak-hand shooting. Reloading under a timed condition is required throughout the course, and all this is done while still paying tribute to a target with a six-inch by four-inch 10-ring.

Granted, some of the more experienced shooters can make it look easy, especially up close, but for the majority of shooters who try their hand at PPC, the course offers a sufficient balance of marksmanship and difficulty to be of serious benefit.

In order to fairly evaluate PPC as a training course, the arguments

*"PPC is still the best choice for the officer who must rely on his sidearm for his life."*

vs.

*"The tactical failures of PPC should be glaringly obvious."*



By Evan Marshall

### CON

In the 1930s PPC was introduced in an attempt to upgrade law enforcement weapons training. First adopted by the FBI, it was gradually ab-

sorbed by police agencies. That adoption was gradual in some areas. Detroit's PD was still qualifying on bullseye targets when I went through the police academy in 1969.

Originally, PPC included rather heavy emphasis on longer ranges. Departments that continue to use PPC as part of their training programs, however, have all but eliminated any shooting beyond 25 yards. Why? Well, they like to tell us that shots at ranges longer than 25 yards are impractical, but the truth of the matter is that few cops can qualify with a handgun at 50 yards.

PPC broadened from basically a training tool to a sport in the 1960s. Once National Championships became available, sharp competitors soon began to take the rules to the limit in order to give them a winning edge. Even worse, changes in the rules were lobbied for until the officer showing up at these matches with his duty weapon had no chance of winning.

Today, of course, the weapons used by top competitors bear only faint resemblance to the weapons carried daily by cops.

Heavy, bull-barrels with full-length ribs abound, as do trigger pulls so light that they probably won't ignite service ammo. Speed loaders are used that sacrifice durability for speed. Holsters and ammo pouches are designed for rapid removal, and it's a common sight to see PPC competitors holding on to both holstered weapon and speed loaders as they walk to the firing line.

The tactical failures of PPC should be glaringly obvious. First, the time limits at the various stages are ridiculously long. The seven-yard-line stage is so easy that shooting a perfect score at this stage is not uncommon, and in fact, the X-ring was added to the silhouette because so many perfect scores were being fired at this distance.

Furthermore, the addition of the X-ring has developed the dangerous tendency to slow down and shoot the maximum number of X's. Such habits, of course, can get us killed on the street.

Another glaring failure of PPC is that it prepares us to deal only with one opponent directly in front of us. Life, of course, is rarely so kind. Bad guys can be anywhere, and are rarely alone. PPC programs us to acquire the same tunnel vision that so many of us teaching officer survival warn against.

In fact, PPC competitors routinely wear blinders to avoid any distraction from either side.

The barricade position, at one time, probably possessed some training value, but has been so prostituted that it no longer offers any usable survival skills. It offers nothing that we can use in the vertical cover positions in which we might find ourselves on the street.

The sitting position also borders on the totally useless. There are

*Continued on page 65*

*Continued on page 64*



# HANDGUN LEATHER

AL PICKLES

## RICK BACHMAN'S OLD WEST HOLSTERS; HIDEOUT HOLSTER FOR CAR, HOME, WORK

Rick M. Bachman of Kalispell, Mont., is probably one of the most astute students of Old West artifacts in the country today.

Here and there you may notice on the bulletin boards of gun shops and saddle making establishments a "Wanted" poster put out by Bachman offering to buy any manner of old western gear made between 1860 and 1930. His interests range from saddles and tack, to photos, badges, hats, spurs, and of course—holsters.

Actually Bachman is interested in anything and everything pertaining to the cowboy and the thundering hoofbeats of the days of yesteryear.

As a result of his studies and his occupational interests in leather crafting, Bachman makes and sells some of the most truly authentic looking reproductions of Old West cowboy holsters available today.

Unlike some makes of reproduction holsters, Bachman handcrafts each holster with the same methods and materials used to make the originals. He does not use modern, oil-tanned harness leather or nylon thread for stitching. These items and processes were not available when the original items were made to house the popular 1873 Colt and other handguns of the period. They were made, without exceptions, of skirting leather and stitched with hand waxed linen thread—and that is exactly how Bachman makes his reproductions.

Yes, the more modern materials and processes do make a better holster, but "better" is not a true reproduction.

In any event, many of the authentic old rigs in the Bachman collection are from 50 to 100 years old and had been used heavily in the everyday routine of the cow poke.

Leather is remarkable stuff. I have mentioned before that I still possess, and use, leather that was purchased second hand over 33 years ago and it still does the job and looks good. With proper care, Bachman's reproductions will last as long as the original samples from which he copies.

It would seem to me that if a gun collector wishes to display an old Colt Single Action Army or Frontier Six Shooter that was made at the turn of the century, he would certainly want to include an Old West holster rig in his display. Of course it would be nice to have an original but, since they are quite hard to find, a reproduction from Bachman would quite adequately round off the display.

In this respect, however, I find my only complaint about Bachman's work. While his holsters are an exact copy of the originals,

they do have stampings such as "R.M. Bachman, Maker, Kalispell, Mont."

Of course without the stamping an unscrupulous individual could pass them off as originals and there would be no way even an expert could tell the difference. Bachman's work is that good.

Bachman puts out a little \$3 catalog showing a variety of holsters, belts, spur straps, wrist cuffs, saddle scabbards, and other superb reproductions. He does business as Old West Reproductions, 1840 Stag Lane, Kalispell, MT 59901.

### HIDEOUT HOLSTER

Moving out of the past and into the present we find that crime and lawlessness has not changed all that much since the Old West and we still need adequate means of self protection.

Business places have always been prime targets for criminals because they know money, or drugs, or valuable commodities are often kept on premises. While many police jurisdictions forbid citizens to carry concealed handguns on their persons in public, most do allow a citizen to keep a defensive firearm at home or in their place of business.

For those who wish the option of self-defense, the big question has always been where and how to keep the gun. Popular locations, allowing for the absence of small children, have been bedside drawers, closet shelves, desk drawers, cupboards, between the mattresses, and in the case of our first lady—under the pillow.

Those guns kept in various drawers have always presented something of a problem in that you have to open the drawer to get to them, and if you are sitting behind your desk at the bank or clinic and some hood is brandishing a knife only a few feet away, then opening a drawer might just be your last act.

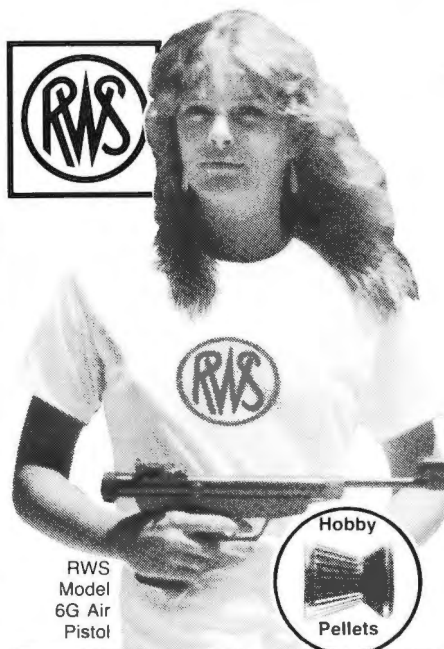
I used to solve this problem by screwing an old holster underneath my desk top and keeping a .45 autoloader there even when I was wearing a shoulder rig with a loaded Star PD.

Anything can, and usually does, happen in a busy police station. I even kept an extra gun under the dash of my car in the same manner.

Well, if you want and need to stash a gun where it is quick to reach, be you at home, office, or car, then you should look at the inexpensive attachment rigs offered by Security Holster of P.O. Box 75065, Birmingham, AL 35253.

Their attachment rigs are really simple consisting of a triangle of leather with three

*Continued on page 28*



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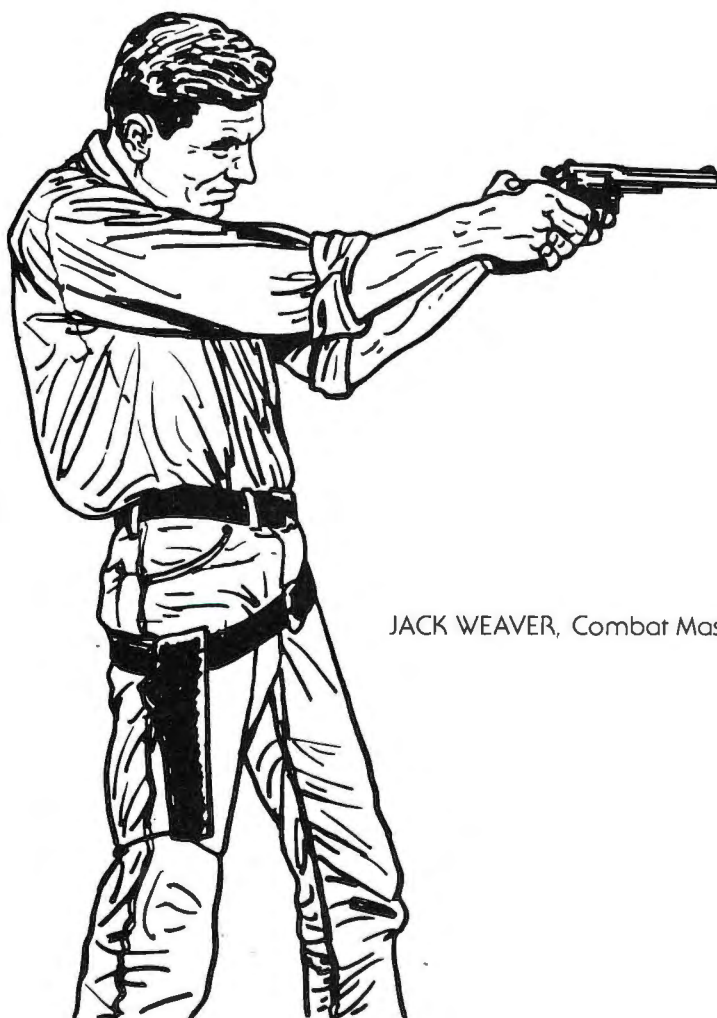


# MASTER TIPS

Collected by Jon Winokur

## The Weaver Stance

I developed my two-handed shooting stance in 1958 for a Southwest Pistol League Match called the Leatherslap. The match was a man on man competition in which you had to draw and hit a twelve-inch target at a distance of seven yards. Everyone shot from the hip in those days, and after a poor performance in the 1957 shoot, I began to look for something better. I figured a fairly fast hit was better than a lightning fast miss. I settled on a two-hand hold described below, and it worked well enough to enable me to win the Leatherslap in 1959. It took a while to convert the other competitors, but eventually everyone began using some version of the two-hand stance.



JACK WEAVER, Combat Master

I stand erect with my knees and arms slightly bent, and I bring my head down slightly to the sights. I hold the gun hard, pushing forward with the strong hand and pulling back with the weak hand. Everyone is a little different, so experiment with the stance to find a version that's comfortable for you.

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*"If you combined every other shooting timer on the market into one it would still not contain all the features of the PACT Championship Timer. Working with the PACT timer has measurably improved my basic shooting skills." ...Brian Enos*

## WHAT DOES THE CHAMPIONSHIP TIMER DO?

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## EASY TO USE

The Championship Timer is as about as easy to use as your pocket calculator. For example, to enter a time limit of 1.5 seconds, you would push "limit", "1.5", "set". Want to change it to 2.56? Push "limit", "2.56", "set"...it's that simple.

## GIVE ME AN EXAMPLE:

Let's say you fire six shots, reload and fire six more shots. Here is an example of what the Timer will display:

```
#012 .27 6.67
FIND SHOT: 7
```

- You have fired 12 shots
- Your twelfth shot came .27 seconds after your eleventh shot.
- Your total time was 6.67 seconds



\*Patent Pending

Now you are curious about how long your reload took, so you tell the Timer to "FIND SHOT #7" and you see that your reload took you 1.54 seconds. (The time between your sixth and seventh shot.)

```
#007 1.54 4.07
FIND SHOT:
```

*"The PACT Championship Timer adds a whole new dimension to practice sessions. It's like having your own shooting coach. I recommend it without hesitation."*

*...Mickey Fowler*

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*...Rob Leatham I.P.S.C. World Champion*

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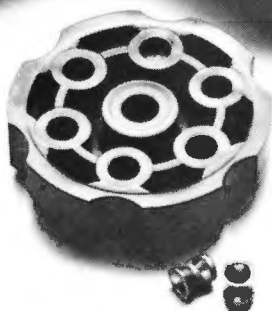


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# INSIGHTS INTO IPSC

CAMERON HOPKINS

## IPSC NATIONALS TESTS NEW TARGET, NEW LEADER, NEW .38 SUPER PISTOL

The 1984 IPSC National Championships saw the first official use on the national level of a proposed new target, the *Florida 8*, and yielded the first change of leadership in the organization in four years.

The other big news item is that a .38 Super won the Nationals for the first time.

The new target is the brainchild of Dave Churilla, director of the National Range Officers Institute. The target features a smaller 'A' zone (eight inches in diameter as opposed to 10 inches on the Milpark) and a greatly expanded 'B' zone. The *Florida 8* target, according to USPSA board member Dave Arnold, is "more anatomically correct."

The *Florida 8* target forces shooters to place their shots more accurately. "We felt like some of the scoring areas on the present target (Milpark) were kinda large," Arnold said. Accordingly, the 'A' zone shrunk, but the 'B' zone expanded.

The *Florida 8* should meet with the approval of those who advocate realism in the sport because a 'neck' shot is now worth four points instead of the minimal two points on a Milpark.

The *Florida 8* is more forgiving of vertical dispersement of shots than the Milpark, but less forgiving of horizontal dispersement. On standard exercise drills, the *Florida 8* is definitely tougher. But up-close-and-personal 'hose' exercises should yield about the same scores on either a *Florida 8* or a Milpark due to the expanded 'B' zone worth four points.

Bill Wilson, who won the standard exercise portion of the Nationals, said he would have dropped only two points on a Milpark as opposed to the three points he dropped on the *Florida 8*.

The *Florida 8* is currently on a provisional trial for a year. If the target receives favorable responses—and all indications are that it will—then it will be adopted as an official

IPSC target at the 1985 IPSC Nationals.

### .38 SUPER WINS

Rob Leatham fired a .38 Super Wilson Accu-Comp into first place at the Nationals. Other .38 Supers took third (Bill Wilson) and fifth (Bill Rogers) in the Nationals, and took first and second in the Shoot Off (Leatham, Brian Enos).

In *Conversation With A Champion*, Leatham discusses the .38 Super in some detail, so I won't bore you with reiterating his comments.

But allow me to stress one point Leatham mentions—the expense of shooting a .38 Super.

Most of the reloading components are more expensive than those of the .45 ACP. Add to that the reduced barrel life and, for that matter, gun life due to the higher pressures of the .38 Super, and you'll see that you need to own the Chase Manhattan Bank before considering a .38 Super for IPSC.

But if money is no object, then a .38 Super might be for you. Leatham said firing a .38 Super in IPSC adds roughly 10 percent to his overall scores. Considering that Leatham won the National Championships by roughly five percent, it could be deduced that the .38 Super provided the winning edge.

Then again, there are so many intangible factors to consider before one can emphatically state that Leatham won the Nationals because of a .38 Super. Remember, he won the 1983 Nationals and the 1983 World Shoot with a .45 ACP.

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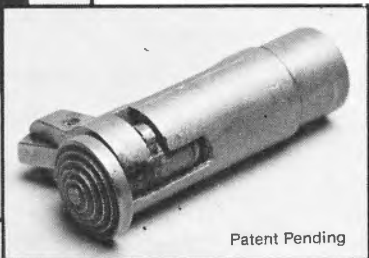
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And don't forget that Jo Anne Hall won the Ladies Championship with a .45 ACP over second place finisher Christie Rogers whose .38 Super failed to provide the winning edge.

### SURVEY RESULTS

I extend sincerest thanks to the 106 individuals who took the time to complete the *American Handgunner Special Survey* distributed to competitors at the IPSC Nationals.

To the others who couldn't be bothered with the survey, may your guns jam during a big match.

The survey asked 10 questions to gain a profile of an average competitor at the National Championship. Let's meet *John Q. IPSC*:

### SURVEY AVERAGES

Age: 34.8

Sex Ratio: 1 female for every 6.6 males (14 females, 92 males)

Amount Spent at Nationals: \$1,236.13

(entry fee, lost wages, expenses)

Distance Travelled to Compete: 1222.4 miles (one way)

Number of Nationals Shot: 2.34 Championships

One question asked the competitors if they use their IPSC guns for self-defense purposes. Only 42.5 percent said they use their IPSC guns for self-defense.

The other 57.5 percent (61 out of 106) said they use other guns. Here is a representative selection of the guns the majority use for self-defense:

### IPSC SHOOTERS' DEFENSE GUNS

unmodified Colt .45s, mostly Commanders

12 gauge shotguns

three-inch Smith M-65, .357 Magnum

four-inch Smith M-29, .44 Magnum

Uzi carbine, 9 mm Luger

Charter Arms, .44 Special

two-inch Smith M-66, .357 Magnum

Colt Agent, .38 Special

Another question sought to determine the preponderance of "martial artists" or "gamesmen" as the terms are used in IPSC circles. The overwhelming majority classified themselves as "gamesmen" with many writing in "sportsman."

One individual wrote in, "I want to win, not kill."

### MISSING PERSONS

Several top competitors—two former National Champions and a former World Champion—did not attend the 1984 IPSC Nationals. In my opinion, only one had a valid excuse—he was hunting!

Ross Seyfried was stalking through the bush on the Dark Continent. Seyfried is the 1981 IPSC World Champion, a title he won, ironically, in Africa.

Mickey Fowler, 1979 IPSC National Champion, also had good reason to miss the



Nationals although not quite as exciting as Seyfried's excuse. Fowler was sick.

John Shaw, 1980 and 1981 National Champion, missed the Nationals because he was involved with training a branch of the federal government. (He was the trainer, not the trainee.)

All of these top competitors were missed by their fellow competitors. Let's hope they will all be back for the 1985 Nationals.

One other individual missed most of the show, although he did pop in for a brief visit on the last day of the match. Col. Jeff Cooper, the 'Father of Practical Pistol Shooting,' lives on a ranch only a hop, skip and a jump away from the site of the Nationals and virtually every competitor I spoke with asked, "When is Colonel Cooper coming?"

Sadly, his busy schedule permitted only a brief visit. Perhaps the good Colonel can arrange his schedule around the 1985 Nationals which will again be held in his backyard, Phoenix, Ariz.

#### NEW LEADERSHIP

A retired 20-year-veteran police officer is the newly elected United States Regional Director of IPSC. Dave Stanford won a hotly contested election over his opponent Walt Rauch.

The nation's Sectional Coordinators met in executive session and elected Stanford. His margin of victory was slim, according to one of the SCs.

The press was barred from the meeting by outgoing RD Jake Jatras, so I cannot report an exact vote total. But Jatras' tabloid, *CSR*, reports Stanford won by 800 votes out of 40,000 total votes.

Stanford plans to incorporate IPSC/USPSA into a cohesive organization, and it appears he has the support of everyone, including his former opponent, Walt Rauch. Whatever differences the two may have had during the election were wiped away after the vote. For the good of the sport, all persons involved have closed ranks and united.

Under Stanford's leadership the future of IPSC is bright. He nominated a board of directors, and they were elected. Stanford said his number one priority is "to bring in financial accountability and to unite all the factions."

He's off to a great start already, and soon you, the participants in IPSC, will be able to see the results.

#### SHOOTERS TO BE CLASSSED

By the time you read this, a national classification of IPSC shooters will have been worked out by the powers-that-be in IPSC, Dave Stanford and the newly elected board of directors.

Stanford said a meeting will be held in conjunction with the 1985 SHOT Show and a classification system will be adopted. A full report about the new classification system will appear in the July/August *Insights Into IPSC* column.

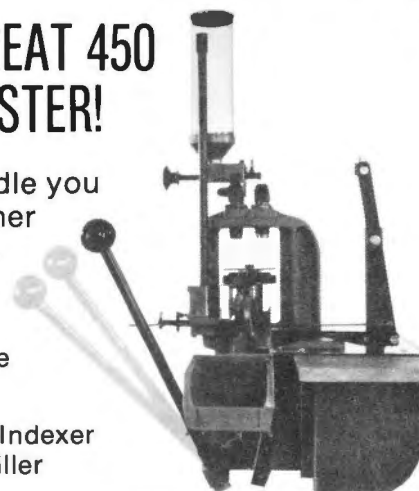
The new classification system will allow shooters to compete against others with compatible skill. Some, if not most, local IPSC clubs already have classified their shooters, but the problem must be solved on a national

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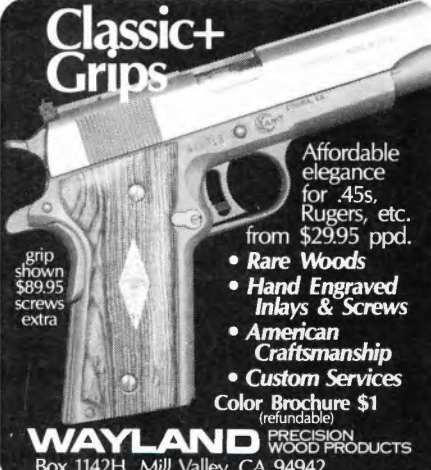
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basis. Under the current quilt of classifications, a C class shooter in Idaho, for example, may be considered an A class shooter in Utah, or vice versa.

And the new classification system will allow competitors at the Nationals to compete equally against their peers.

As things stood at the 1984 Nationals, about 50 shooters out of 281 had a prayer of winning. The rest of us competed for fun and experience.

The 1985 Nationals should offer us all a chance at glory in our own class while maintaining the integrity of the National Champion honor which will rightfully go to the individual who shoots the highest score, regardless of class.

#### READER'S QUESTION RESPONSE

Here are a couple of representative answers to last issue's question, "What do you think of assault courses requiring three or more reloads and a good deal of running (more than 50 meters)? Do such assault courses represent practical shooting, or are they a physical endurance test with no practical applications?"

Your reader question in principle has two answers. Those answers are based on perceptions of the practical shooting sport itself. To answer the question on the basis of two premises, you need to first ask two questions:

- (1) Is practical shooting strictly a sport?
- (2) Or is practical shooting less a sport and more training?

From a psychological and psychopolitical standpoint, to allow our sport to be touted as tactical handgun training under the guise of practicality opens us to the political lower cuts of the dark side of the handgun issue and unnecessarily endangers the sport itself.

For these reasons, we must obviously address your question from a positive answer to the first question and a negative answer to the second, that is—this is a sport based on shooting skills, and that is all it is.

To cap a match with an assault stage is to logically bring together all skills previously used in the match and inject them into a single stage. The more interesting aspect of the assault is competitor rhythm disruption. This is not to say that it is intended by the long assault to flabbergast or overwhelm a competitor. Nothing is served by turning a series of shooting problems into a track meet. The assault, however, causes the competitor to think out his situation, adjust his equipment to match a number of problems, and then to present the problems in such a way as to cause the competitor to use all his skills, but in a new thinking sequence.

Ben Selman  
Waco, TX

Assault courses seek to solve with the pistol problems better handled with long arms—shotgun, SMG or rifle—if not light machineguns and squad tactics.

Anyone caught in such a situation armed only with a handgun would do well to get away without engaging, or being engaged by, the bad guys.

The purpose of the pistol is to keep you alive, not to kill the enemy. It is a reactive defensive instrument. It is rarely the weapon of choice for offensive action.

Michael O. Brady  
Minneapolis, MN

The running, reloading course favors the shooter who is equipped in terms of physical condition as well as accessories.

That tends to discriminate against the shooter who may be older, or even handicapped, or, who doesn't want, or can't afford the extra magazines, pouches, speed loaders, etc.

Poor boys, and old, and crippled boys like to shoot too.

If the match can't be won with an unaltered model 10, or lightweight Commander, then the course is not practical (writer's emphasis).

Hugh Green  
Santo, TX

#### READER'S QUESTION

What is your favorite type of course of fire in IPSC? Explain why.

- Assault courses
- Standard exercise drills
- Speed contests

Send your answers to 'Insights Into IPSC', Suite 200, 591 Camino de la Reina, San Diego, CA 92108. Limit your response to 250 words. Answers must be either typewritten or clearly handwritten. The editor reserves the right to edit published answers for clarity or length.



# PISTOLSMITHING

JOHN G. LAWSON

## THE IMPOSSIBLE IS POSSIBLE WITH COLT .45 DUE TO TOLERANCE STACK-UP

The letter from a reader and an IPSC competitor who deals with the .45 Gov't. rather rapidly, had an uneasy undertone of deep concern: "I learned, recently, of a phenomenon that can occur called 'Tolerance Stack-up,' producing a discharge AS SOON AS THE SAFETY IS RELEASED, WITHOUT TOUCHING THE TRIGGER OR ENGAGING THE GRIP SAFETY. Is this possible?"

"The impossible has occurred to me before, the letter went on, 'I've had a GM go full automatic, a condition which I'd understood was impossible due to the disconnecter.'"

These phenomena, the term being used in the secondary scientific sense of a rare fact or event of unique significance, do occur and they are always the end result of poorly fitted parts.

How can this be when the mechanism is foolproof? The sad fact is that there are a good many more fools than proofs.

Let's take it from the top. You buy a GM pistol, take it to the range and on the first string detect a rough trigger pull. You live with this for a few boxes of reloads, then you take ole slab sides to that pistolsmith you do business with over in the next town. You explain the problem and he nods and acts profound. Two weeks later you have your pistol back in your hands with an improved letoff.

### WHAT, NO SANTA CLAUS?

Sorry, Virginia, there is no Santa Claus. You paid your pistolsmith for trigger work that resulted in a smooth, clean, crisp 'breaking glass rod' release that is now the envy of your shooting buddies. But, you'll have to pay again for that nice trigger break according to the dictates of Physical Laws that govern us all.

In order to achieve a crisp letoff, it is necessary to change the dimensions of the parts involved to a slight degree; a necessary compromise, but adding compromise to compromise results in the tolerance buildup that puts the weapon in the yellow caution zone. Let's talk about that trigger work for a moment.

Right out of the box, the trigger pull is usually off the scale at over five pounds. An examination with a magnifying glass shows rough surfaces on the hammer hooks and sear nose. The usual solution is to stone the mating parts either freehand or using a sear stoning fixture. Each pistolsmith has his own method of reducing pull and eliminating creep. They usually consist of stoning the

hammer hooks, reducing depth of engagement by stoning the points of the hooks and stoning a different shape on the sear nose.

Here, one can find more weird and wonderful shapes than one ever imagined. Faults usually condense into three categories: point contact, linear contact or radial contact. The point contact is at one side or the other of the hammer hooks. The other side just hangs out of contact. It gives a nice light letoff, but the dangers are obvious. The linear contact, as performed by one of America's leading pistolsmiths, consists of contact on the leading edge of the sear. As soon as the sear moves, it slides out of the hammer notch, resulting in a beautiful, clean break—and an imminent susceptibility to 'hammer follow,' especially when the slide is dropped on an empty chamber.

Finally, radial contact, or rounding the sear nose, results in a smooth letoff, but an insecure hammer stand. All of the evils of these contact faults have been discussed ad nauseum in standard works on Gunsmithing and even recently in Brownell's *Newsletter*.

Still, the 'smiths involved feel they know better. Each one of the faults delineated can be classified as 'partial sear contact' and more especially if the hammer hooks have been cut down for a nice crisp letoff.

What will happen, gentlemen, if your customer retrofits a heavier recoil spring to his pistol? Let's look up the answer, written 35 years ago by Roy Dunlap in his book *Gunsmithing* published in 1950. Page 277: "The jar of a falling slide will trip a too-slight sear engagement..."

And there is the explanation of how the 1911 can go full auto. And, the explanation for all of my trigger jobs having a very slight creep. None has ever followed under combat conditions during the past two wars. And, none of my own collection of combat converted 1911's has failed, although they have all received rough treatment from hundreds of students who borrowed them during class or range sessions.

Handguns often outlast their owners. Some 40 or 50 years down the line, the grandson of the original owner may have the pistol, but not the alibi sheet. He won't understand your motivations. He'll think that because the pistol malfunctions, the joker who stamped his name on the slide didn't do a good job.

### TOLERANCE STACK-UP

Now, the sticky wicket effect of stacking tolerances. If the mating surfaces of the ham-

*Continued on page 58*



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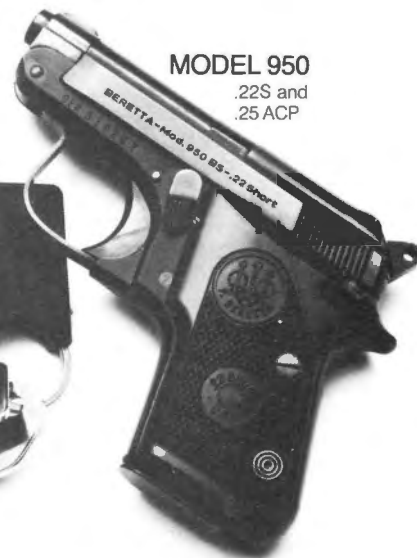
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# HANDLOADING

DAN COTTERMAN

## READER OUT TO MODERNIZE RELOADING INDUSTRY THAT LANGUISHES IN PAST

Open discussions with my readers in my column are bound to kick up an argument every now and then.

That's what happened when Luther Walker, of Midwest City, Okla., read pistolsmith Gaylord Gorham's comments in my column in the November/December 1984 *Handgunner*. Gorham referred to loading 120-grain hardcast bullets ahead of 7.0 to 9.0 grains of SR-4756 in the .38 Super.

"This lead bullet," he said, "is sized to .357" diameter for my particular Colt .38 Super . . . These charges should *not* be used in any of the older .38 autos, or re-chambered Lugers . . . also, don't use .357" diameter bullets, because of the smallish bore and groove diameters often encountered in these older and somewhat questionable guns."

Note the reference to smallish bores. That's what determined Walker to have his say. He's owned 27 Pistole 08s (Lugers), bearing dates that range from 1911 to 1942, and he says he's slugged the barrels on all of them. Reflecting this experience he writes, "I have never found a barrel smaller than .3575", and most run .358" to .3585". The P-38s I slugged ran .358" to .359".

"One thought on bullet diameter in the P-08. In my collection of German-manufactured military cartridges, from 1908 to 1945, all bullets have some type of ferrous metal in the jackets. It is my opinion that the barrels were made with sufficient groove diameter to provide acceptable accuracy and safe pressures, considering the hardness of jacket composition. Hence, a .355" bullet and a .3575" minimum groove diameter."

Now, does anyone care to argue with Mr. Walker. If not, there may be cause to dispute the words of another reader, a veteran handloader, who says revolver cases don't stretch and so never have to be trimmed. I'll withhold my comment on this because it'll be much more interesting to wait and see what other handloaders have to say.

### ON POWDER SCALES

Bob Smith, of Summerland, British Columbia, was especially interested in our comments on the importance of having an accurate powder scale (January/February 1985 *Handgunner*). He's had a set of checkweights for several years and regularly monitors the accuracy of scales owned by members of his own gun club.

So doing, he's found that most scales are off .3 to .9-grain at ten grains. Realizing that such inaccuracies are common, he keeps a close watch on his own scale.

"Still," he writes, "I made mistakes on two occasions. With the .38 Special, I loaded 3.8

grains and later found that I'd loaded 2.8 grains. The next week, I did it again, loading 2.7 instead of 3.7. I'm not the only one in our club to have done this, and I've learned that a lot of other people in Canada and the United States have had the same problem."

Smith says he uses a magnifying glass when he's weighing charges, that he works under good light, and that he never allows himself to be in a hurry when he's reloading.

Such precautions, however, do nothing to preserve handloaders from the tediousness of weighing powder charges. Even with good eyesight, the tiny lines on scale beams, which are quite narrowly separated from each other, evince confusion and invite operator error.

The difficulty is amplified when, as is the case with an Ohaus 505 I have, the pointer on the five-grain poise has been factory-adjusted to point between the lines. Thankfully, and by the infinite munificence of that great industrial monolith, the errant pointer is set a few thousandths of an inch closer to being right than wrong, so I've been able to live with it.

Smith hopes to drag the reloading industry a little closer to the 21st century; closer, that is, than it now languishes. He has set himself upon a campaign of urging RCBS, Lyman, Bonanza, et al, to incorporate liquid-crystal displays on the powder scales they sell.

"We find digital readouts on everything from ballpoint pens to calculators to wrist watches to stereo amplifiers to specialized testing equipment," the man writes.

Why, then, the reasoning persists, can't we have a powder scale that offers as much? It could happen, provided that there were a sufficient number of handloaders willing to bear the cost of such a scale.

### MANSTOPPER SNUBBY LOADS

Dale Honer, of Yucaipa, Calif., responds to our request for good snubby loads. "I'm comfortable with 2.8 grains of Bullseye and a 148-grain wadcutter. I seat the wadcutter inverted. This load is light and easy to handle, plus it flattens on impact, which makes it a safer load because it won't penetrate most walls. Yet it is quite effective when it comes to shocking power. It works well in my Colt Detective Special, two-inch revolver."

Honer has provided an excellent tip. I know, because over 20 years ago I began testing Northridge 147-grain hollow-based wadcutters, seated backwards, in the .38 Special. Expansion, even at relatively low velocities, is almost always equal to two calibers.

Texas reader Lannie Dietle suggests dial-

*Continued on page 56*

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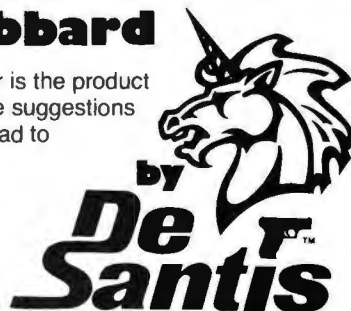


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## HANDGUN LEATHER

Continued from page 17

attaching screws, one at each point. Stitched to the base leather is another triangle of super heavy duty elastic with an open top to form a pocket. You could actually buy a dozen for the price of a good holster—and attach them wherever you want to secure your gun unobtrusively.

The security holsters come in three sizes to accommodate almost every handgun save those with longer barrels.

The idea is so simple it certainly cannot be a really new one. The next time I see Rick Bachman of Old West Reproductions I'll have to ask him where and how "Cookie" kept his hideout gun in the old chuck wagon.



## WHAT'S NEW

### Hogue Monogrip Now For Redhawk

Hogue Combat Grips now offers their unsurpassed *Monogrip* for the Ruger Redhawk revolver.

The *Monogrip* for the Redhawk, like all *Monogrips*, carries a full lifetime guarantee.

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For more information, contact Hogue Combat Grips, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 2038, Atascadero, CA, 93423, (805) 466-6266.

Dealer inquiries are welcome.



### Versatile New Ankle Holster

Strong Holster Co. introduces a new ankle



holster, the Ambush Ankle System, that will accommodate a wide variety of handguns.

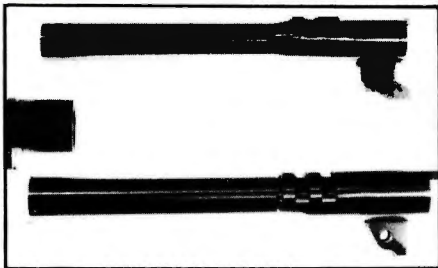
Any of the fine line of Strong holsters suitable for ankle carry can be attached to the Ambush Ankle System. Also, other brands of holsters will fit the new system.

Lined with thick, natural lamb's wool fleece, the Ambush System is easily adjustable with velcro calf and ankle straps. It is also convertible for right or left hand (ankle?) use.

Available in full-grain tan leather (#927) for \$24.95 or in natural suede (#927-1) for \$19.95, the Ambush holster is a real bargain for top-quality leather. Furthermore, you never have to worry about buying separate holsters for your various back-up guns—a wide range of holsters snap onto the Ambush Ankle System.

For more information, write Strong Holster Co., Dan Donahue, Dept. AH, 105 Maplewood Ave., Gloucester, MA 01930, or call (617) 281-3300.

Dealer inquiries are invited.



## New .45 Match Barrels

Ordnance Improvement announces their new Match Grade .45 ACP barrel. This barrel delivers superb accuracy from its precise rifling.

Made from Rockwell 35C hard steel, the barrel is oversize in the tube and undersize in the bushing to allow for a tight fit to the individual pistol.

The barrel fits all Colt Gov't Model pistols and the various clones of this famous Browning design.

The barrel retails for \$93.50 from Ordnance Improvement, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 3356, Northridge, CA, 91323.

## Ambidextrous Mag Release For Colt Autos

Right-handers can now enjoy the advantage of hitting the mag release on Colt Gov't Models with their trigger finger, an advantage which has been reserved for southpaws until now.

Smith and Alexander proudly announce their patented mag release button which will fit all Colt Gov't. Model pistols and the various clones.

The ambidextrous mag release will soon be the factory standard button on the LAR Grizzly .45 Win Mag pistol.

Col. Jeff Cooper, the "Father of Practical Shooting," has long maintained that the best way to release the magazine from Colt pistols is with the trigger finger.

However, only lefties have been able to realize this advantage of not having to shift the firing grip to hit the button.

Jo Anne Hall used a Smith and Alexander ambidextrous mag release to win the 1984 IPSC Ladies National Championship title.

The mag button retails for \$49.95.

For more information and dealer prices, contact Smith and Alexander, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 835790, Richardson, TX, 75235, (214) 343-7203.

Dealer inquiries are welcome.



## Custom Gun Cases

Now you can display your pet handgun in a gorgeous presentation case, and then close the case and tote it to the range.

Targa Presentation Cases offer a unique alternative to the traditional 'utility' case and the ornate 'display' case.

Targa's handmade leather cases are both beautiful and functional making them the ideal choice for discriminating handgunners who want to both exhibit their handguns, and use their handguns.

Made from hand selected, choice pieces of leather wrapped around solid wood, the cases will accommodate revolvers and semi-autos.

Targa specializes in leather cases for the .45 ACP 1911 Colt models.

Targa can make a custom case to a client's specifications.

Leather available for the cases includes elk, elephant, Cape buffalo, gazelle and, of course, cow hide.

The cases feature combination locks and can be fitted with individual brass nameplates.

The cases come with leather carrying straps.

The .45 auto case measures 2½" deep by 10" wide by 14" long. The thick leather outer covering is ¾" thick.

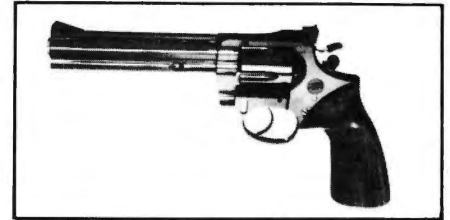
The .45 auto case accommodates any Colt auto, even compensated custom autos, as well as 29-rounds of ammunition and a hidden compartment for extra magazines and cleaning gear.

Retail prices start at \$275 and go up with the exotic leathers like elephant.

Targa will make any custom case a client orders with compartments and accessories made to order.

Each case is numbered with a serial number to prove that the cases are individually handmade.

For further information about the fine Targa Cases, write Targa Presentation Cases, Dept. AH, 2424 San Diego Ave., San Diego, CA 92110. Or call (619) 298-0089.



## Rolls Royce Revolver

Beeman Precision Arms is pleased to announce its prestigious line of German-made revolvers, the Korth line.

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Korth revolvers feature perfect timing, phenomenal triggers and superb accuracy. They are a usable work of art. The Korth revolver is for the discriminating handgunner who wants only the very best.

Test guns fired 100,000 rounds and showed no appreciable wear.

The Korth is available in .22 LR, .357 Magnum, .22 LR/.22 Magnum, and .357 Magnum/9mm.

The Korth retails for between \$1,595 and \$2,195.

For further information, write Beeman, Dept. AH, 47 Paul Drive, San Rafael, CA, 94303.



## Custom Snubby L-Frame Round Butt

The Lew Horton Distributing Company's latest offering of a special edition handgun is a snubby L-frame Smith and Wesson Model 686.

The first round butt L-frame, the 686 Compact provides the shooter with "L-frame strength" and round butt concealability. Other features include a 2½-inch barrel, stainless steel construction, adjustable rear sight, a red ramp front sight and smooth combat grips.

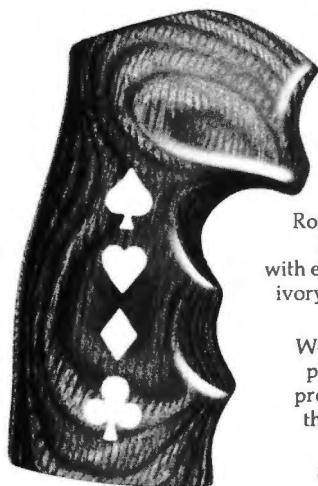
The 686 Compact comes with a black, body hugging, thumb break holster from Smith and Wesson available in right or left handed configuration.

The 686 Compact sells for \$279.82 direct from Horton (FFL required.) Write to the manufacturer for further details at 175 Boston Road, Southborough, MA, 01772.

*Continued on page 76*



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# SILUETAS

PHILIP C. BRIGGS

## 1984 IHMSA INTERNATIONALS: A NEW PERMANENT RANGE HERALDS NEW ERA

The IHMSA 1984 Internationals, the eighth for the organization, was the first to be held at the new permanent range in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Fittingly for an inaugural, the attendance set a new record. And, as an indication that the sport and the organization are maturing, the winning guns and scores followed trends established in the past years.

The Internationals have, in years past, been held in various locations about the country, as the organization strove to give all of its members an opportunity to participate without traveling great distances. But as the event grew in size, the concept became less and less viable as the effort involved reached daunting proportions for volunteers and local clubs. The failure of the approach occurred in 1982 when the hosts of the event in Fortville, Ind., totally underestimated the task at hand and weren't ready when competitors began arriving. Fortunately the early arrivals were able to dig in and finish the range in time and through everyone's extra efforts the match went on—but the lesson was learned. The sport had grown up and it was time to make some changes.

The seed for the permanent range was formed then and this summer it had grown to full flower. No easy task, creating a 100 acre, 20 bank shooting facility but by the effort of a lot of people, principally IHMSA President Elgin Gates and the Idaho Falls club members, the range was done in time. And from all reports it's quite a site.

The range is located in a natural amphitheater, a bowl formed by one of a series of giant sand dunes that lie along the banks of an ancient river, the prehistoric predecessor to the current Snake. Set down on loamier soils, the dunes are surrounded by farm land and as Idaho Falls isn't a large city, this dune is but three and one-half miles from IHMSA's headquarters.

Twenty banks of targets, set side-by-side take up a lot of space, as those of you who were at Black Canyon in 1983 know. To fit the firing line into the bowl the banks were overlapped somewhat, but it's still over 900 feet long and paved with a concrete slab and covered for its entire length. There's park benches and shade trees spaced out along behind the firing line for spectators and cheering sections.

To make sure that no errant bullet could clear the top of the dune and settle down in some farmyard, the firing points sport baffles to deflect bullets accidentally fired at too high an angle back down into the ground in front of the guilty shooter.

Behind the firing line lies another covered

slab, this one about half as long as the line and intended for displays by the manufacturers that attend the Internationals.

Behind that are 20 acres of parking and camping area.

There's a stat house to be sure, but this one is three stories tall and located in the middle and behind the raised firing line. Two stories high on the firing line side, the stat house contains space for the computerized stat operation as well as concessions, meeting rooms, offices, restrooms, and range control. All and all, an impressive installation.

Attendance was up again this year, with over 1600 entries from all over the US and Canada. Idaho Falls isn't what you would call centrally located in the US, but it is in the midst of some of the Rocky Mountain west's

### CLASS WINNERS 1984 IHMSA Internationals

CLASS	SHOOTER	STATE	PISTOL	SCORE
PRODUCTION				
P-INT	Peter Ruggles	CA	TC7	80
P-AAA	Greg Bartlett	UT	TC7	77
P-AA	Walter F. Ram, Jr	AZ	TC7	71
P-A	Jane M. Flint	UT	TC357	56
P-B	Virginia Phillips	GA	TC7	44
P-C	Craig Owen	ID	TC7	35
REVOLVER				
R-INT	Lon Pennington	CO	DW357sm	79
R-AAA	David Logosz	ND	DW44	77
R-AA	Gary Sant	ID	DW357sm	67
R-A	Joe Kilbourn, Jr.	CO	44mag	58
R-B	Marilyn Miller	KY	DW357sm	47
R-C	Ralph G. Gentile	MI	DW357sm	21
STANDING				
S-INT	Robert Wilke	MT	TC7	61
S-AAA	Bill Ladd	CA	TC7	56
S-AA	Craig Kirchhoff	NE	TC30-30	48
S-A	Michael Holt	KS	TC7	42
S-B	Dan Lindley	UT	R-44	21
UNLIMITED				
U-INT	Lon Pennington	CO	XP7mm	80
U-AAA	Robert Rousseau	NV	X7INT	80
U-AA	David Meserve	WY	TC30-30	75
U-A	Paul DeFrancesco	UT	TC7	66
U-B	Marilyn Miller	KY	XP7INT	59
U-C	Ron Christensen	ID	TC357sm	47

most spectacular scenery—and the match was scheduled to allow summer vacation stopovers.

Overall, scores were down some from last year, but the winning scores in the higher classes were about the same. Lon Pennington won Revolver International last year with an 80 (!), and repeated the feat this year with a 79 (damn turkey); Lon used a Dan Wesson .357 Super Mag both years.

Both Production and Unlimited International were won with 80's—but there were fewer of them in the classes. Lon, by the way, not only stood everyone on their ear with a repeat win in Rev-Int, he also came out on top in Un-Int!

*Continued on page 59*



# WILSON PPC COMBAT WHEELGUN

*Master pistolsmith Bill Wilson's .45 autos abound in IPSC. Now he's set his sights on PPC conversions.*

**By Seth R. Nadel**

**M**ention Bill Wilson and the Wilson Gun Shop, and most shooters' memory banks bring up images of top-of-the-line, compensated semi-autos in the hands of IPSC and pin shooting champions.

This is an image due for an addition.



**The Wilson PPC (see Gun Giveaway) accommodates speed loaders easily.**

Wilson has started production of a top-of-the-line PPC style revolver, one that is fully capable of winning any PPC match in the country.

PPC shooting is a far cry from IPSC, where Wilson's work is renowned for excel-

lence. Speed and moderate accuracy are the requirements of most IPSC matches since the maximum scoring ring is a generous 8 inches on the smallest of targets, the Florida 8. In PPC, the 10-ring is only a 4 inch by 6 inch oval, and most matches are decided by hits in the X-ring, a mere 2 inches by 3 inches.

To put this in real terms, pin a 3x5 card to a wall, and take 50 large paces away. A proper PPC gun must place all of its shots inside this tiny X-ring from 7, 25, and 50 yards.

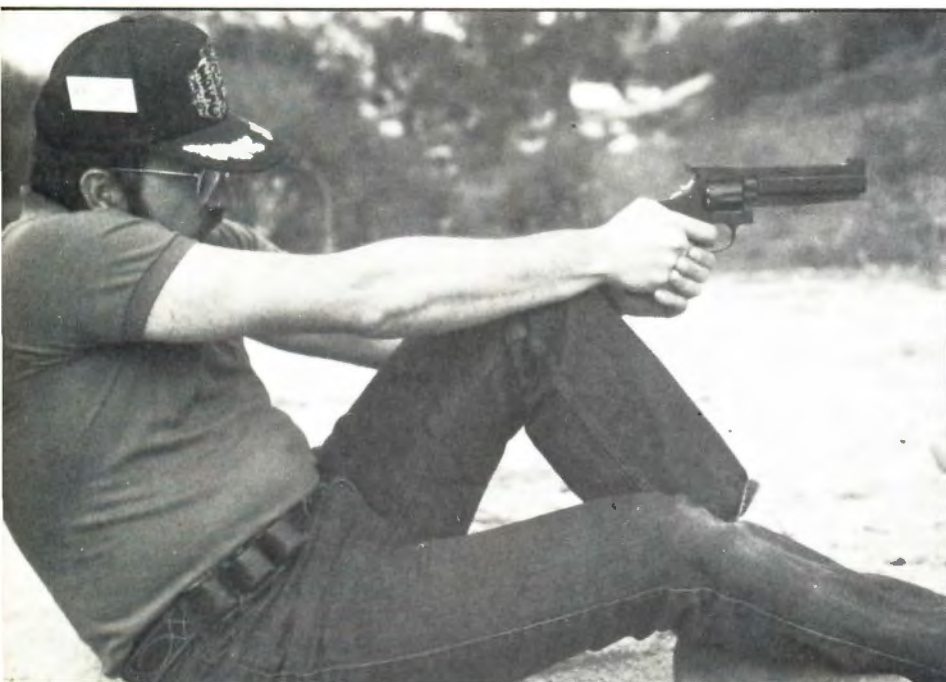
The Wilson Combat PPC is more than capable of such precise accuracy.

When I first received the Wilson revolver to test, I was impressed by the balance of the piece and its no-nonsense finish. Equipped with a barrel underlug which tapers from a thin front to a heavy rear, the balance is much closer to the hand than on most PPC revolvers, which are muzzle heavy.

I wasn't quite sure at first how well the Wilson Combat PPC would compare with my usual PPC gun, which is very muzzle heavy, with an extra wide underlug. The Wilson Combat PPC felt more like an IPSC auto than a PPC revolver in terms of balance.

The finish is a non-glare, bead blasted black oxide finish everywhere except the hammer. The spur of the hammer has been removed and polished bright.

I am pleased with this oxide type of finish, as my teammates spend too much time after a



**The author, a top PPC shooter, was impressed by the balance of Wilson PPC.**

*Continued on page 69*



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## CONVERSATION WITH A CHAMPION

By Jon Winokur

*On the eve of the 1984 IPSC National Championships, I questioned defending IPSC World and National Champ Rob Leatham about the IPSC program and about practical shooting in general:*



**JW:** Do you do anything differently to prepare for the Nationals as opposed to other matches?

**RL:** The major difference is the gun I'll be using. In matches like the Steel Challenge or the Bianchi Cup, the power factor is negligible, but at the Nationals it's significant. In an effort to compromise between power and recoil reduction, I'm shooting a .38 Super this year. I've spent a lot of time working up different loads to find out which ones are the most accurate and kick the least. So most of my practice is tied up in that aspect as opposed to specialized work on particular courses of fire.

**JW:** Have you come up with a load yet?

**RL:** We've come up with several. The .38 Super is a very forgiving cartridge if you obey what I called the "Three Commandments for .38 Super": use light springs in the gun, heavy bullets, and slow-burning powder. The classic .45 ACP powders like Bullseye and Winchester 231 don't seem to perform well in .38 Super, so we've used Dupont 800X, with excellent results. We use a 158 grain bullet as opposed to 130 or 124 that most people shoot in .38 Auto or 9mm.

**JW:** What about the gun itself?

**RL:** The Bill Wilson .38 Super Accu-Comp I shoot is a relatively simple gun. It weighs about four ounces more than my .45, but I'm working on making it lighter. It's an inch longer, which reduces recoil considerably. I would guess it gives me 20 to 30 percent less muzzle lift than a .45. The gun cycles very fast and doesn't twist in the hand nearly as much as the .45.

**JW:** Do you think the .38 Super is the "wave of the future" for practical shooting.

**RL:** It has advantages in some areas, but I don't think it will ever gain the popularity of the .45. It's something for those of us who like to tinker. And it has some disadvantages—it's very loud for one thing. And the brass is scarce and expensive; there's no cheap mili-

tary brass available in .38 Super. The guns themselves aren't quite as reliable as the .45's.

**JW:** Who do you expect to see in the top ten at this year's Nationals?

**RL:** Based on past performances, the people that immediately come to mind are Brian [Enos], Mickey [Fowler], Mike [Dalton], Bill Wilson, former National Champs Mike Plaxco, John Shaw, and Ross Seyfried. And I'd have to include Tommy Campbell, John Sayle, Chip McCormack, and several others. Nick Pruitt has been in top form lately. Rick Castelow is rising star, and if he can put it all together I don't think anyone can beat him.

[Editor's note: Unfortunately, Seyfried, Shaw, Fowler, Pruitt and McCormack were unable to attend the National Championships. However, the other top shooters Leatham predicted to make the top ten all fared well in the match, but not necessarily in the top ten.]

**JW:** Does luck enter into it?

**RL:** Basically, I think you create your own luck, but luck can affect your ability to perform on a given day. One day you'll shoot better than on another day—you might be 10 percent sharper and attribute it to luck. But luck isn't really the right word. I prefer to think of it in terms of what you can get away with.

**JW:** What determines what you can get away with?

**RL:** Preparation. You can train yourself to perform at or near your upper limits most of the time. I like to think that anything I can do once, I can do again and again. If I can do an *El Presidente* in four seconds once, I've proven to myself that I'm capable of doing it and I should be able to do it in four seconds on demand. But I'm not that good. When you're running on the edge, there are too many things that can jump up and bite you.

When everything's right you can do some pretty amazing stuff. We don't create the correct situation often enough; we don't allow ourselves to give our best performance. I know I have a tendency to create an unfavorable situation when I go to the line.

**JW:** Are you referring to pressure?

**RL:** Pressure doesn't exist except in your mind. You control whether it affects you. You shouldn't feel any differently in a match than you feel in practice. Pressure is self-imposed. It's not out there, it's something you bring with you.

**JW:** How do you get rid of it?

**RL:** Leave it somewhere else. The more match experience you have, the more times you feel the adrenalin rush, the easier it becomes to relax. But don't get me wrong; to a degree, the match tension makes you sharper, so you don't want to eliminate it completely. I'm convinced you need it to achieve your ultimate performance. It gives you a boost. Call it being "up" if you want.

**JW:** Aside from wringing out the gun and developing loads, what else are you doing to prepare for the National Championship?

**RL:** Well, of course, you can't set anything up because it's a semi-surprise match. All you can do is practice the basic shooting tech-

*Continued on page 61*



## COMBAT SHOOTING

Continued from page 10

nificantly to past TV and print media coverage of the event and I'm sure they will continue in that vein. Of equal significance is the record-level industry participation and the growing dialogue between manufacturers and consumers, both of which the NRA is in a position to foster," Nichols said.

Stressing Bianchi International's continued involvement with the event, Nichols added, "We, as tournament founders, will remain active during the transition and in the future operation of the Bianchi Cup tournament."

The event will operate under a license from the non-profit Bianchi Cup International Pistol Tournament foundation and with the title, "The National Rifle Association's Bianchi Cup National Action Shooting Pistol Championships."

NRA and Bianchi staff have already begun planning for the seventh annual Bianchi Cup event, scheduled for May 22-25 at the Ray Chapman Academy of Practical Shooting in Columbia, MO, and have announced the following changes in the shooting program:

The NRA Action Shooting Committee, in order to make the Bianchi Cup program more challenging, decided to designate one of the four events that constitute the Bianchi Cup championship aggregate as a "rotating match" that will change each year.

Therefore, in addition to the three permanent matches (the Barricade Event, the Moving Target (Modified) Event and the Falling Plate Event) the fourth match (previously the Practical Event) will change from year to year.

The "rotating match" selected for each Bianchi Cup championship aggregate will be selected from any of the NRA-approved courses listed in the most current NRA Action Pistol Rule Book.

The 1985 Bianchi Cup national championship aggregate will consist of 1) the Barricade Event, 2) the Moving Target (Modified) Event, 3) the Falling Plate Event and 4) the International Rapid Fire Modified Event (twice over the course for a total of 60 shots).

Therefore, the championship aggregate will be increased from 1920 points possible to 2040 points possible.

The following course changes will be affected:

**BARRICADE EVENT:** Time limits for the Barricade Event will be reduced by one second per stage for all stages of fire.

**MOVING TARGET EVENTS:** The number of shots fired at the 15 and 25 yard lines will be changed.

**FALLING PLATE EVENT:** Competitors who "clean" the Falling Plate Event will have a maximum score of 480-48X attributed to their national championship aggregate score. Subsequent felled plates will count toward match results and

national records ONLY, not toward the overall championship.

**Ammunition Rule:** There has also been a change in Rule 3.17, Ammunition, and all ammunition fired in a tournament, including the NRA Bianchi Cup National Action Shooting Pistol Championship, must meet or exceed the power floor as described when checked by chronograph using the formula: bullet weight x muzzle velocity = not less than 120,000.

All of these changes will appear in the new NRA Action Pistol Rule Book. NRA and Bianchi staff hope these rule changes will present a new challenge to competitors at the championships.

For additional information about the championships, or details on the NRA Action Shooting Program, contact Mr. James Davis, NRA Competitions Division, 1600 Rhode Island Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, or phone (202) 828-6168.



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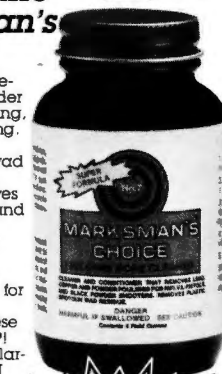
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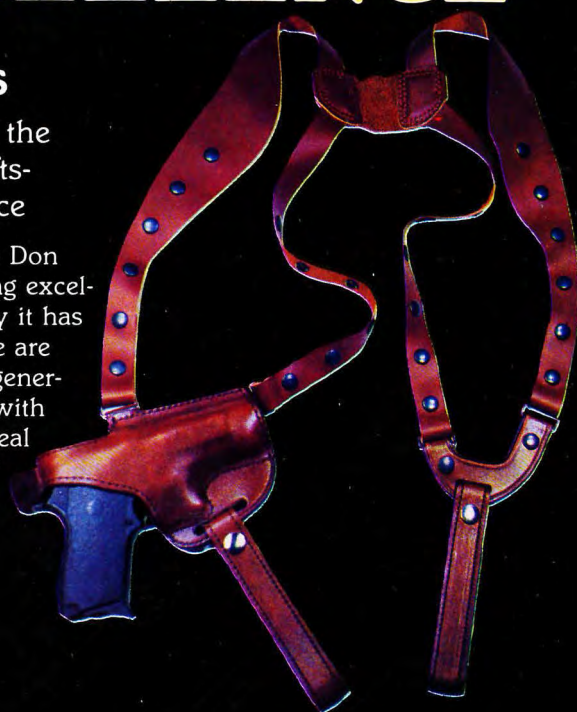
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# 1984 IPSC



**Brian Enos (Left) and Rob Leatham squared off in the Men's Shoot-Off final bout which Leatham won. They tied for the single fastest run, 3.33 seconds.**

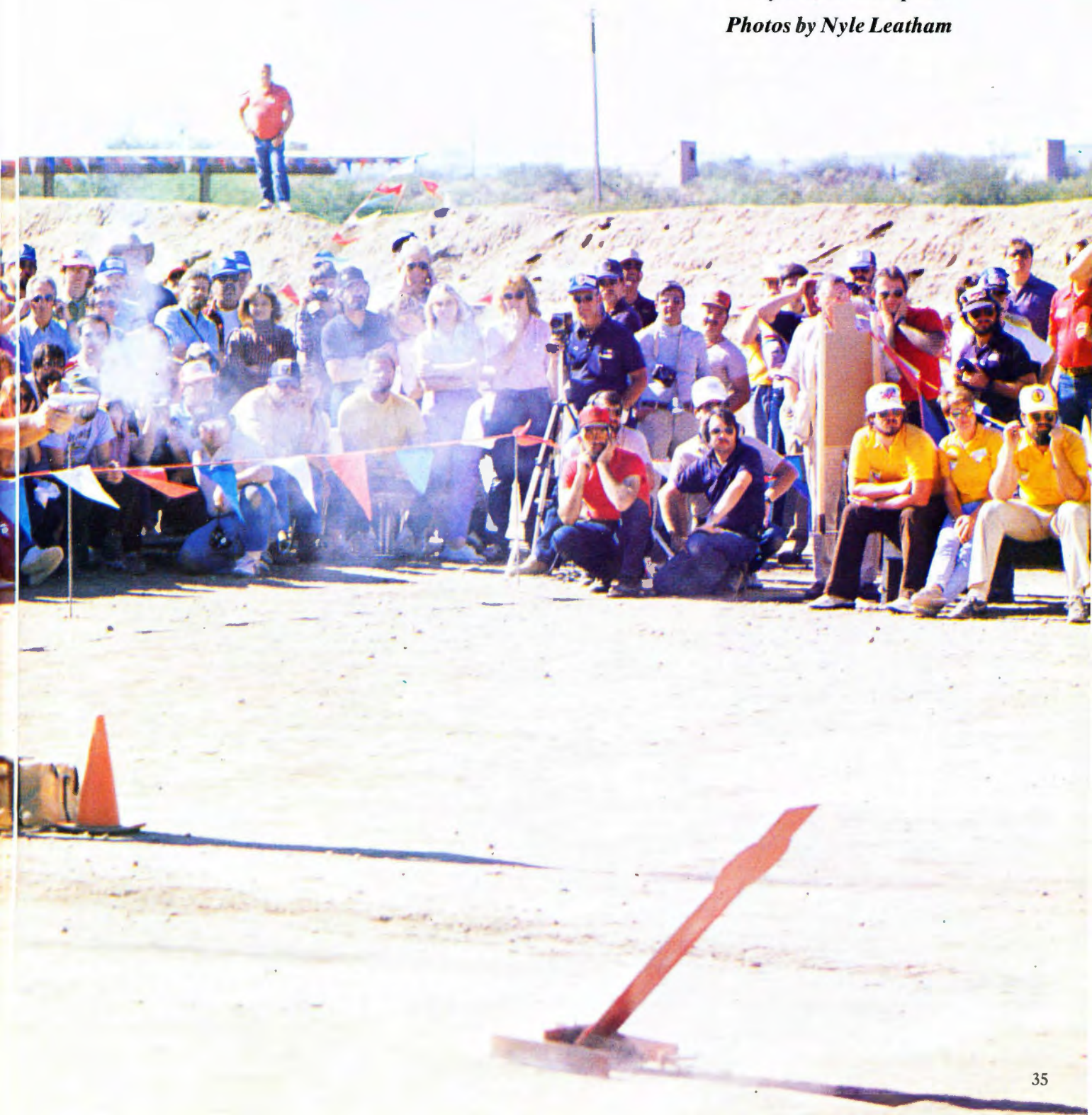


# NATIONALS

## THE YEAR OF THE .38 SUPER

*By Cameron Hopkins*

*Photos by Nyle Leatham*





# '84 NATIONALS

**R**ob Leatham, IPSC World Champion, won the 1984 IPSC United States National Championship firing a .38 Super. In Leatham's skilled hands, his Wilson Accu-Comp in .38 Super blasted its way into IPSC history by becoming the first .38 Super to win the national crown.

Leatham's legacy continued as he has now captured back-to-back national titles (1983-1984) and the World Championship in 1983. Leatham is the only person ever to hold the World Championship and win back-to-back national titles.

But Leatham shared the champion's spotlight with the 1984 Ladies Champion, Jo Anne Hall of Dallas, Texas.

A former Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader, Jo Anne proved that a 'dark horse' can win a national title. With barely one year of experience in IPSC competition, Jo Anne bested a field of veteran IPSC Ladies competitors with her ported Clark Bowling Pin Model in .45 ACP.

Jo Anne's winning performance seemed to



**Rob Leatham ignored the briefcase, and just fired with one hand.**



**Mike Plaxco, 1982 Champion, had trouble with the briefcase.**

tickle the men's runner-up, Mike Plaxco, more than his own second place finish. "I'm two for two now," beamed Plaxco with his characteristic warm smile. Plaxco referred to the fact that he trained the 1983 IPSC Ladies Champion, Lee Cole, and the 1984 Champion, Jo Anne Hall.

The national championship match, held at the spacious and beautiful Black Canyon Shooting Range in Phoenix, Ariz., attracted 281 competitors of whom 31 were women. Representatives from Canada, France, Belgium and the Republic of South Africa also attended.

The lion's share of the shooters fired .45 ACP autos, but 14 mavericks tried the .38 Super and three lone wolves fired revolvers.

All the competitors used iron sights except Jerry Usher of California who used a 'Game-point' (Aimpoint). The pros and cons of an Aimpoint in IPSC could not be judged from Usher's performance as he suffered gun problems (try clearing a stove-pipe with an Aimpoint mounted above the ejection port!).

## THE COURSE OF FIRE

The match consisted of six courses of fire:



**Ladies Champ Jo Anne Hall was the only gal to place in top 100.**



**Brian Enos tackles The Wall. Note the lack of muzzle flip (center) from the Wilson Accu-Comp in .38 Super.**



# GUNS *of the* NATIONALS



**A. Spagnoli's Colt .45;**  
gunsmithing by B. Gray



**B. Enos' Colt .38 Super;**  
gunsmithing by B. Wilson



**R. Leatham's Colt .38 Super from B. Wilson**



**J. Page's Colt .45; gunsmithing by D. Guthrie (S. Africa)**



**J. Breskovich's Colt longslide; gunsmithing by J. Hoag**



**G. McKinney's Colt .45; gunsmithing by E. Jimenea**



**M. Henry's .357 revolver; gunsmithing by M. Henry**



a standard exercise, three speed events and two assault courses. The scoring of the match was based on the Match Factor system. This is a complicated scoring system, but suffice it to say that the more rounds fired on any given course, the greater the course counted in the final scoring.

The standard exercise consisted of a modified version of the bullseye event, *International Rapid Fire*. The times were identical as those in the bullseye game, but the distances varied. Five of the new Florida 8 targets (see the *Insights Into IPSC* column for a description of this new target) faced the shooter at 25 and 30 yards. Fired in strings of five shots, one per target, the shooter had eight seconds from 30 yards, and then eight, six and four seconds from 25 yards to fire five rounds.

Each string of fire was repeated once for a total of 40 rounds and 200 points. The winner of this stage, which carried the most weight in the match, was Bill Wilson. Wilson fired one of his Wilson Accu-Comps in .38 Super, and displayed phenomenal marksmanship. He dropped only three points for a 197 out of a possible 200. He fired the eight and six second strings from the prone position, and the four second string from the standing position. Shooters began each string standing, gun holstered, so Wilson had to drop to prone and fire five rounds within the time limits.

One of the speed shoots, dubbed *Coffee House Hassle*, offered the shooter nine no-shoot targets and only six 'shoot' targets scattered randomly among tables and chairs in a cafe facsimile. This stage was deceptive—it looked so easy, but proved to be the undoing of a number of competitors. For instance, John Dixon of Houston, Texas, was cruising in first place after three stages of the match until the *Coffee House Hassle*. He nailed three 'no-shoots' and dropped a couple of shots which caused him to plummet from first to 14th.

The range officials reported at one point that out of 18 shooters there were 26 hits on 'no-shoot' targets. Rob Leatham won the *Coffee House Hassle* stage.

The next speed stage, *The Wall*, featured a wall with four narrow, vertical openings through which eight targets were visible, two per opening. The openings were a mere 18 inches apart, but shooters nonetheless had to move laterally from opening to opening to engage the targets. This was the only course of fire, besides the standards, in which there were not any 'no-shoots.' John Dixon won this stage.

Several competitors voiced complaints about *The Wall* because the course design demanded certain equipment, Devel eight round magazines, in order to be competitive.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

*Most Improved Shooter*, Stan Kozlowski  
*Most Practical Shooter*, Marc A. Halcon  
*Median Shooters*, Kent Vollmer; Mike Hargeaves  
*High International Shooter*, Jim Page (S. Africa)  
*High Overall Revolver*, Ralph Arbogast



**Marc Halcon overcame handicap.**



**Brad Butler during Shoot-off.**

## TOP 16 MEN, 1984 IPSC US NATIONALS

COMPETITOR	SCORE	HANDGUN	PISTOLSMITH	LEATHER
1. Rob Leatham (AZ)	704.63	Colt .38 Super	Wilson	Davis
2. J. Michael Plaxco (AR)	670.14	Colt .45 ACP	Plaxco	Rogers
3. Bill Wilson (AR)	663.10	Colt .38 Super	Wilson	Rogers
4. Thomas Campbell (MA)	652.13	S&W .45 ACP	S&W prototype	Rogers
5. William H. Rogers (FL)	652.08	Colt .38 Super	Wilson	Rogers
6. Brad Butler (TX)	640.16	Colt .45 ACP	Brown	Rogers
7. Jerry Barnhart (PA)	638.72	Colt .45 ACP	Nastoff	Rogers
8. Brian Enos (AZ)	637.63	Colt .38 Super	Wilson	Davis
9. Rick Byfield (KS)	633.02	Colt .45 ACP	Fisher	Blocker
10. Tim Knutson (AZ)	624.91	Colt .45 ACP	Knutson	Davis
11. Bruce Gray (CA)	623.37	Colt .38 Super	Gray	Rogers
12. Jim McCaig (KS)	622.23	Colt .45 ACP	stock Gold Cup	Bianchi
13. John G. Sayle (OH)	620.98	Colt .45 ACP	Nastoff	Davis
14. John Dixon (TX)	620.72	Colt .45 ACP	Dixon	Davis
15. Vance A. Schmid (IL)	620.13	Colt .45 ACP	Wilson	Rogers
16. Bob Looker (AZ)	620.10	Colt .45 ACP	Wilson	Davis



**Always fiercely competitive, Bill Rogers fired a Wilson .38 Super.**



Without Devels, shooters had to reload twice as opposed to once with Devels. This was the only course of fire which drew criticism from the participants.

The third speed contest involved 'quick and dirty' shooting at four static targets and a moving target at ranges of from four yards to 10 yards. Starting from behind a waist-high wall, competitors engaged a Pepper Popper and four static targets interspersed between four 'no-shoot' targets. The moving target appeared 2.5 seconds after the start signal and was visible for about 2.5 seconds. Mike Plaxco won this stage, *Where's The Beef*.

The first of two assault courses, *Bubba's Rolaid Ramble*, called for a lot of movement, climbing stairs, jumping from a platform and engaging reaction targets. Two types of reaction targets, the *Flopper* and the *McKaig Dropper*, were part of the course. These popping, flopping targets drew widespread praise from the competitors as they offered a challenging target as well as excellent spectator appeal.

The *Flopper* consisted of a target laying flat on the ground attached to a steel plate which, when hit, caused the prone target to flop 180 degrees and land back on the ground. The target was exposed for about 1.2 seconds after the plate was hit. The best two hits on the *Flopper* earned bonus points.

The *McKaig Dropper* was a Milpark target with a steel plate substituted for the 'A' zone. Hitting the *Dropper* did not score any

points, but failing to hit the *Dropper* resulted in a 10 point penalty. If the 10-inch steel 'A' zone was hit, the *Dropper* dropped. A shooter did not receive a penalty if he dropped the *Dropper* or if he placed two hits on the paper surrounding the steel 'A' zone.

Before getting on with the rest of *Bubba's Rolaid Ramble*, let's take a minute to discuss the use of reaction targets in IPSC. IPSC World President Jean-Pierre Denis praised these reaction targets as did USPSA Director Dave Arnold and IPSC USA Regional Director Dave Stanford. But the compliments did not just emanate from IPSC officials; the competitors were ecstatic about these fun and challenging targets.

According to IPSC officials, the use of reaction targets will increase in the future. In conjunction, steel targets will begin to play a greater role in IPSC course designs. Why? Because of spectator appeal as well as response to the competitors' enthusiasm for such targets.

The willingness of IPSC officials to adapt to new course designs incorporating reaction targets is indicative of the dynamic and responsive nature of practical pistol shooting. While silhouette shooters will be quite content with the same steel critters for time immemorial, IPSC shooters demand new and differing challenges. Typically, the IPSC officials will respond to the promptings of the participants. Such is the nature of this

*Continued on page 53*



**1983 Ladies Champ Lee Cole displays safe gun handling while running.**

## TOP TEN WOMEN, 1984 IPSC US NATIONALS

PLACE		SCORE	WEAPON	BULLET-POWDER	LEATHER
1st	Jo Anne Hall (TX)	510.89	Clark Pin Gun .45	H&G 68-5.1 Bullseye	Rogers
2nd	Christie Rogers (FL)	483.90	Devel 38 Super	158 gr RN-5.6 800X	Rogers
3rd	Sally van Valzah (GA)	458.75	Clark Pin Gun .45	H&G 68-5.9 WW231	Bianchi
4th	Kerry Lathwell (Canada)	449.92	Hoag 6½" bbl .45	H&G 68-5.7 WW231	Davis
5th	Joanna Fichman (CA)	449.53	Hoag Long Slide .45	H&G 68-5.5 WW231	Blocker
6th	Lee Cole (AR)	447.50	Wilson 38 Super	160 gr RN-7 Blue Dot	Rogers
7th	Pamela Morris (AZ)	444.59	Hammond .45	H&G 68-5.7 WW231	Davis
8th	Shanti Khalsa (NM)	429.24	Wilson Comp .45	H&G 68-5.9 WW231	Rogers
10th	Roberta Geer (OH)	419.59	Nastoff Comp .45	H&G 68-5.9 WW231	Davis

## FEMMES FATALES IN PHOENIX

Two days before the 1984 IPSC United States Nationals, 40 women paid \$50 apiece to compete in the second annual Ladies Qualifying Match.

The United States Practical Shooting Association and the National Range Officer's Institute arranged this mini-competition at the Black Canyon Shooting Range near Phoenix, Arizona, as a way to award shooting slots in the upcoming Nationals to ten of the best female practical shooters.

The courses of fire were challenging, and included unusual starting positions, strong-hand and weak-hand shooting, hostage situations, a tiny assault course, and firing at distances of up to 50 yards. The American girls shot well, but they didn't outshoot Canadian Kerry Lathwell. Kerry and nine others earned refunds of their entry fees and a place in the big event, the Nationals.



**Jo Anne Hall, Champion**

Thirty-one women shot in the IPSC Nationals, but only one finished in the top 100. Jo Anne Hall finished 98th overall and first in the women's division.

Jo Anne is fairly new to the IPSC shooting scene (she's only been shooting for a year) and is a very tough, very active competitor.

In the women's divisions, she's already earned a fifth place finish at the Bianchi Cup VI and a third place at the Steel Challenge.

Now she's the United States Women's Practical Shooting Champion on her first try.

A crowd gathered whenever Jo Anne shot, and for good reasons. Some were there to watch Jo Anne, and some were there to watch her shooting. Either one was a pretty sight, and the combination was unbeatable.

Jo Anne shot the high women's score in the *International Rapid Fire* (despite a five point late shot penalty) and in the *Coffee House Hassle*. But she likes shooting assault courses best and shows

*Continued on page 54*



# You can win this **WILSON COMBAT** from Wilson's Gun Shop



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# PPC



## ***A World Record-holding revolver built by a world champion shooter.***

**A** Wilson Combat PPC revolver, identical to the *Custom Gun Giveaway*, holds the World Record for the NRA's Action Shooting Course. This record of 1914-139X was established May 5, 1984, at a registered NRA Tournament in Robertsville, Mo.

Now you can win a gun that set a World Record.

Painstaking attention to detail and workmanship is the trademark of all of master pistolsmith Bill Wilson's custom guns.

The Wilson Combat PPC revolver is a classic example of Wilson's supreme dedication to quality.

Built on the time honored Smith and Wesson Model 10, the Wilson Combat PPC features a slab-sided Douglas Premium barrel six-inches long.

An Aristocrat rib with elevation click adjustments for PPC shooting is mounted securely atop the Douglas barrel.

The Wilson Combat PPC revolver is also available with a Jarvis Aimpoint mount and Aimpoint III sight for use in the NRA Action Shooting Program (Bianchi Cup).

To aid in providing the shooter with a perfectly balanced revolver, Wilson installs an underlug beneath the Douglas barrel. The underlug adds weight to the barrel thereby improving the "feel" of the revolver.

At the heart of the Wilson Combat PPC revolver is a mirror smooth action honed to provide a crisp, light trigger pull in the double action mode.

Pachmayr neoprene grips adorn the Wilson Combat PPC revolver.

The chambers of the cylinder are chamfered to facilitate rapid reloading with speed loaders.

The polished trigger features an over-travel screw precisely adjusted.

The hammer is tastefully bobbed and polished.

The Wilson Combat PPC revolver features a durable black oxide finish to reduce glare from the sun and facilitate easy cleaning. The matte black finish is attractive and appealing.

Perhaps the best thing about the Wilson Combat PPC revolver is that if you're not the lucky winner of the *Giveaway*, you can still own one of these superb wheelguns.

For complete information, send a SASE or \$2.50 to Wilson's Gun Shop, Rt. 3, Box 211-D, Dept. AH, Berryville, Ark. 72616. Wilson will rush you out a color catalog and answer all your questions promptly.

The Wilson Combat PPC revolver retails for \$695 as shown or \$615 with the Jarvis Aimpoint mount or \$720 for the Jarvis mount with an Aimpoint III attached.



# 1984 PPC CHAMPIONSHIPS

*There's more to PPC than just 'gimmick guns.' Snubby and service revolver categories make the sport diverse and challenging.*



**Kerry Hile (center) raked in the goodies with his third title.**

*By Fred Romero*

For the third time in as many years, Officer Kerry Hile of the Columbus, Ohio, Police Department, won the 1984 NRA National Police Revolver Championships in Des Moines, Iowa. Beating back a field of over 700 shooters representing all segments of law enforcement from across the country, Hile proved once and for all that he is a *champion* in every sense of the word.

Of the 15 police shooters who have won this prestigious award since 1962, only six have managed to do it twice. Until this year, only one other shooter—Jerry Jackson of the U.S. Border Patrol—has ever claimed the national title an amazing three times ('68, '71 & '72). Not only did Hile equal this amazing record, but he also did it three years in a row in weather conditions that are now famous for holding down scores and destroying 'sunshine only' shooters.

After a brief opening ceremony under questionable skies, the match got under way as the first drops of rain began to fall. Depending on what relay was on the line, some shooters might have fared better with snorkels and fins. If there was anything to be grateful for, it was the fact that there was little or no wind to add to the misery. By the end of the first day matches one to four were com-



**Hile used gear like this to win.**

pleted, and Hile's near-perfect match-three score of 240-15X left some people scratching their heads in bewilderment.

To the surprise of many, shooting conditions improved on the second day. But with only one more match to fire for the Individual Championship, many shooters were trying in vain to play catch-up ball. At the end of the last shot for match-five, Hile found himself on top of the pack with Clifton Dunlap of the Mississippi Highway Patrol a close second.

Firing shoulder-to-shoulder with the men, Elizabeth Callahan of the Washington, D.C., Police Department, regained her position as the top lady police shooter. Callahan, who was also the '82 lady champion, lost her bid for the title last year to Barbara Critchelow of California, who came in second this year.

In conjunction with the standard 1500 aggregate course that's fired at the NPREC, there are several other courses that are also fired. Included in these are the Distinguished Match (un-modified gun, factory ball ammo), a four-inch service revolver match, and a two-inch off-duty revolver match. And to be sure that all the bases are covered, there is even a shotgun match that tests a shooter's skill with a 12 gauge police-type shotgun on a

*Continued on page 68*



## FINAL STANDINGS NPRC CHAMPIONSHIPS

### OVERALL MATCH WINNER:

First: Kerry Hile, Columbus Police Department—1494-115X  
Second: Clifton Dunlap, Mississippi Highway Patrol—1494-104X  
Third: Aranzo Milbourne, U.S. Secret Service—1491-107X

### INDIVIDUAL MATCH WINNERS:

Match-1: Mark Thompson, Madison County Sheriffs—240-24X  
Match-2: Clifton Dunlap, Mississippi Highway Patrol—180-17X  
Match-3: Kerry Hile, Columbus Police Department—240-15X  
Match-4: James Nelson, Los Angeles Police Department—240-22X  
Match-5: Jay Southam, Salt Lake County Sheriffs—599-44X

### CATEGORY AWARDS:

Federal: Stanley Pruszenski, U.S. Border Patrol—1486-86X  
State: Frank Glenn, Arizona Department of Public Safety—1486-96X  
County: Jay Southam, Salt Lake County Sheriffs—1490-104X  
Municipal: Ralph Mowder, Bismarck Police Department—1489-94X  
Industrial: Stein Johansen, Embassy of Norway—1484-93X

### CLASSIFICATION AWARDS:

Master: John Lee, Orange City Sheriffs—1484-89X  
Expert: Jim Meyerdirk, Dickenson City Sheriffs—1476-65X  
Sharpshooter: Alan Wammack, Dallas Police Department—1443-64X  
Marksman: Michael Dowd, Montrose Police Department—1435-53X  
Unclassified: Rex Skinner, Orem Police Department—1462-71X

### SPECIAL AWARDS:

High Retired: Tony Borgese, New York City Transit—1473-87X  
High Conservation Officer: Bruce Burkett, North Dakota Fish & Game—1479-88X  
High Sheriff: Jay Southam, Salt Lake Sheriffs—1490-104X

### HIGH OVERALL WOMAN:

Elizabeth Callahan, Washington, D.C. Police Department—1481-95X

### SERVICE REVOLVER MATCH WINNER:

J.W. Whitmarsh, Los Angeles Sheriffs—420-31X

### OFF-DUTY MATCH:

James Gilleland, U.S. Secret Service—400-30X

### INDIVIDUAL SERVICE REVOLVER CHAMPIONSHIP:

First: James Tapocsi, Porter County Sheriffs—1405-87X  
Second: Jerry Eason, Sacramento County Sheriffs—1405-95X  
Third: Dale Holmes, U.S. Secret Service—1404-88X  
Women: Elizabeth Callahan, Washington, D.C. Police—1382-68X

### DISTINGUISHED MATCH WINNER:

Ralph Gamberdella, New York Police Department—591-31X

## SERVICE REVOLVER MATCHES—COURSE OF FIRE

### DISTINGUISHED MATCH: (NRA NATIONAL POLICE COURSE)

Stage 1—7 yards, double-action, 12 shots from standing without support. 25 seconds, time starts with loaded gun in holster and includes reloading for second 6 shot string.

Stage 2—25 yards, double-action, 6 shots kneeling, 6 shots standing left hand from behind the barricade, 6 shots standing right hand from behind the barricade. 90 seconds, includes reloading for second 6 shot strings.

Stage 3—50 yards, single or double-action, 6 shot kneeling, 6 shots prone, 6 shots standing left hand barricade, and 6 shots standing right hand barricade. Two minutes and 45 seconds, includes reloading for all 6 shot strings.

Stage 4—25 yards, double-action, 6 shots standing without support. 12 seconds, time starts with loaded gun in holster. No barricade or other support is used.

### SERVICE REVOLVER MATCH:

Stage 1—3 yards, double-action, 6 shots one hand from standing without support position, 8 seconds.

Stage 2—7 yards, double-action, 12 shots from standing without support position, 25 seconds, includes loading for second 6 shot string.

Stage 3—15 yards, double-action, 6 shots from standing without support position, 12 seconds.

*Continued on page 68*



## THE PRACTICAL PART OF PPC

It's not uncommon for some outsiders to view PPC as being impractical and unrealistic. One of the main reasons cited is the use of elaborate 'gimmick' guns: big barrels, heavy under-ribs and large custom sights. These Star Wars guns are used—with some restrictions—for the "1500" course of fire, but that's not the whole story at the NPRM. In spite of opinions to the contrary, there is still hope for the purist in PPC.

Because of its close association with the police sector, PPC followers—as well as the NRA—have incorporated several courses of fire that require the use of *unaltered* duty-type weapons. The first course to be developed many years ago was the NRA's Police Distinguished Match.

The rules allow for the use of a gun capable of "chambering and firing the standard 158 grain lead .38 Special service load." The rules also state, "It must be a factory manufactured revolver with no external modifications." In addition,

*Continued on page 68*



# OFF-DUTY .38 SPECIAL SNUBBY

By Al Pickles

Unquestionably the most popular off-duty pocket handgun in America is the five-shot .38 Special snubby revolver.

Despite the grave limitations of this caliber, it has enjoyed popularity with policemen and civilian alike and, undoubtedly, will continue to do so for decades to come. Its desirability is forever assured because the snubby five-shot is concealable and relatively safe, as well as being easy for almost anyone to shoot.

Gun writers, like myself, can rant and rave about adequate stopping power from cover to cover of your favorite gun magazine, but we can't beat the odds that the average shooter abhors recoil, muzzle flash, and noise. Rather than fight it any longer, it may be prudent to simply recommend what I consider the best buy in this type of gun and caliber.

Charter Arms is out with a new variation of the small, five-shot .38 Special which they have very appropriately named the Off-Duty. The little gun weighs in at a pound and is small enough to be swallowed up by your back pocket. Overall length is 6¼ inches, height is 4¼ inches and barrel length is a hair under two-inches.

It is, in two words, a 'pocket revolver.' But I recognize, of course, that most cops carry it in a holster or simply slipped behind the waist band.

The Charter Off-Duty model differs from their highly popular Undercover model on several counts, two of which are cosmetic. The front sight of the Off-Duty sports a new fluorescent red dot which definitely aids in aiming under dim light conditions. The rear sight is the same fixed groove through the top strap giving, as an end result, the square post and notch effect. This red dot on the rear face of the front sight is worth its weight in gold when applied to a light colored, stainless steel sighting system.

The Charter Arms Off-Duty is available in stainless steel throughout except the indestructible beryllium copper firing pin, or in all carbon steel with a new matte black finish.

There are no alloys in either option which is definitely a very big plus over similar offerings from other manufacturers. Alloys may have their place in this space age but, for long lasting functional reliability, that place is not in a pocket handgun.

Of the two finishes, I prefer the matte black all-steel over the stainless for tactical reasons such as light reflection. The sample sent for test and evaluation, however, is stainless and I'll not deny its advantages in easy maintenance and corrosion resistance. What I'd really like to have is a stainless steel

gun with a matte black finish.

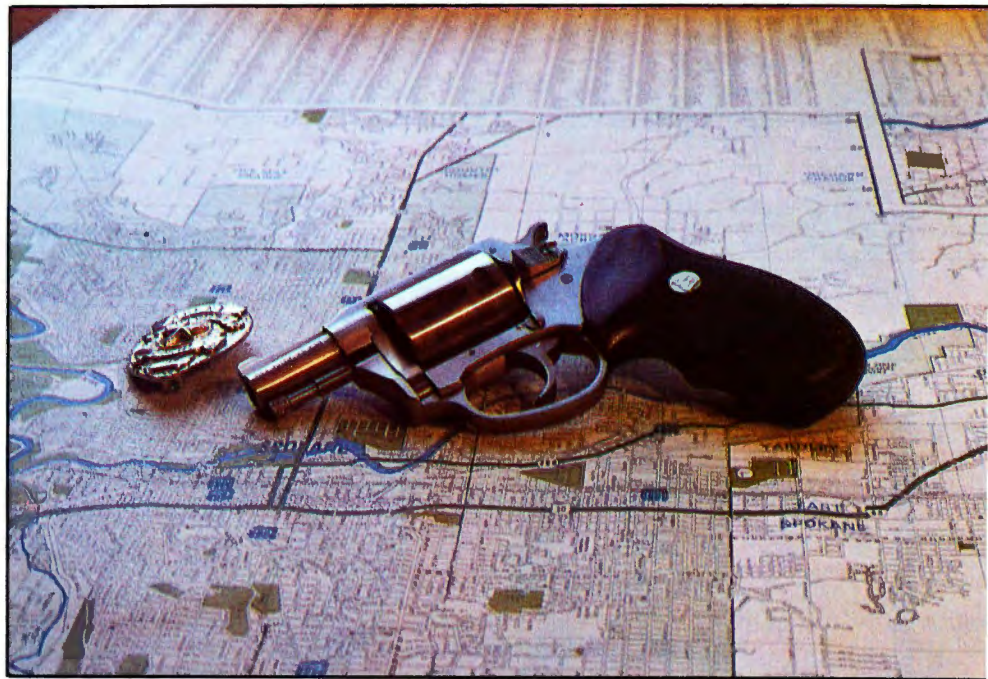
There are three options to be had on the grips, more correctly referred to as 'stocks' even on handguns. You may order smooth walnut panel stocks, checkered walnut, or a nice set of black checkered neoprene stocks

*A pocketful of equalizer, the Charter Arms Off-Duty fills the bill as a small, lightweight back-up revolver.*

with combat-style finger grooves. The choice is something more than cosmetic because one will feel better than the others, so you should actually try them all at your dealer.

Internally, the working parts are the same as the well known Undercover model. If you haven't tried a Charter Arms within the past few years you are definitely in for a very pleasant surprise. Single action is crisp with no creep or take-up whatsoever. Double action is as smooth as you could ask for from a small pocket revolver. Charter Arms is not moribund by ancient production techniques and plant equipment.

They presently make the most modern double action pocket revolvers in the market.



**The Charter Arms Off-Duty Model is the perfect pocket companion for both civilians and police officers. It fits well in the hand (below) and 'feels' good.**



Test firing a new model gun almost always has some surprises and this proved the case with the Charter Arms Off-Duty. I have one particular test load that I favor for any .38 Special revolver with up to a four-inch barrel. That load is 2.8 grains of Bullseye behind a 148 grain wadcutter. While it is an excellent test load for accuracy potential, it is not necessarily the best load for whatever purpose you purchase a gun. While I could not have asked for a better 15 yard double action group, which measured only an inch, it was printing several inches high and to the right. This load has never performed in that manner before, and since the gun does not have adjustable sights I was afraid there might

*Continued on page 71*





**Pepper Poppers, moving targets and Weaver stance have replaced outmoded PPC training in Orlando PD.**

## ORLANDO POLICE ADOPTS IPSC

*Finding PPC unrealistic, Orlando PD now uses IPSC to train officers.*

**By Michael Bane**

**T**here is a sign on the door to the firing range in the basement of the Orlando, Fla., police building that sums it all up:

**"WHY DO WE SHOOT IPSC TYPE FIRING COURSES AND NOT PPC COURSES? NATIONAL AVERAGE PER GUNFIGHT!"**

Time — Less than 3 seconds

Shots Fired — 2.5 rounds TOTAL

Light — 75% are in darkness

Distance — 85% occur at closer than 7 yards  
50% are at 5 feet or less

Subjects — 40% of the time there are multiple assailants  
**THINK ABOUT IT!**

**DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THE PPC?"**

The answer to the last question from the cops, is a definite "no".

For over a year now the 450-person Orlando Police Department, located smack-dab in the heart of DisneyWorld Land, has gone from qualifying on PPC-type courses to IPSC-style combat courses, complete with Comstock scoring and Pepper Popper targets.

"This is a little bit more like real life," says Rangemaster Frank Repass, the officer responsible for the change. "The clock is there ticking away. We tell our officers it's a *life clock* ticking away. They've got to get it together or else. Just like on the street."

Instead of the usual 60-round PPC course, with its fixed times and distances, Orlando officers face a variety of street scenarios, including car stops, barricaded subjects and objects with hostages. Time starts when the buzzer sounds and ends when the last shot is fired, just like during IPSC competition.

*Continued on page 62*



**Officer uses cover properly with new training.**



*Somethin' strange...  
hangin' 'round the range...  
Who ya gonna call?*



*Mike Deffen (foreground) had Mickey Fowler belted up in the room eventually. Anyone got dais on all that brass?*



# PIN BUSTERS

at the

Coors

## PIN BUSTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Cameron Hopkins

They bobble and bounce, spinning and skipping across the table. They have a personality all their own, sometimes cooperative, sometimes stubborn. They're unpredictable, unforgiving and unnerving. But most of all, they're fun.

They're bowling pins, and they were the focus of attention at the *Coors Pin Busters World Championship* pistol match. Busting bowling pins is a thrilling afternoon of fun, and the World Championship event proved how much fun it is to blast away at bowling pins by attracting a large, diverse crowd of shooters.

With cash and prizes totaling over \$25,000, Pin Busters drew 77 shooters ranging from 15-year-old Wendy Dalton to 74-year-old Art Benjamin. That, friends, is the mark of a sport with wide appeal.

The key is simplicity. A shooter faces four bowling pins and a pin-shaped stop plate set equidistantly apart atop a table from a range of 25 feet. On the start signal the shooter must clear the four pins from the table and hit the stop plate. A shooter gets four runs at the pins, and his total time is his score. The shooter starts with his gun in his hands held at waist level.

Another key is diversity. Separate categories allowed wheelgunners and semi-auto aficionados to compete. Pin Busters did not rig the rules to favor any particular action type. The match format accommodated everyone, including a lone black powder shooter.

Also, the match allowed the competitors to enter each of the events twice, and the event for the single fastest run could be entered as many times as one liked. The 77 shooters combined for 168 entries.

"It's not like an IPSC match at your local club where you shoot only one gun. Here you



Angelo Spagnoli's Warp Drive runs were fast.



Roy Chu topples his first pin with his .45 ACP.



Wendy Dalton, 15, placed third among the ladies.



Rob Leatham and Brian Enos won the team event.

PHOTOS: BRUCE THOMPSON



shoot four different guns," said IPSC World Champion Rob Leatham.

The four guns to which Leatham referred each had separate categories and separate prizes: Detonic's *Power Alley* for any center-fire gun, but .45 autos prevailed; Smith and Wesson's *Pin Wheeler* for double-action revolvers; Ted Blocker's *Crank and Yank* for single-action revolvers; and Winchester's *Seven For Nine* for 9mm handguns.

Add to that two more categories, Pony Express Sports' *Rolling Pin*, an event open only to ladies, and Rogers Holsters' *Blast For Cash*, a two-person team event.

And then there was B&B Sales' *Slick and Quick*. Added at the last moment by course designers Gary Garrow and Mike Dalton, this event was the hit of the day with the many spectators. *Slick and Quick* offered a Valmet Model 78 assault rifle as a prize for the single fastest run on the pins. Competitors could enter as many times as they liked in *Slick and Quick*.

*Slick and Quick* boiled down to a two-man contest from the early going between two-time Bianchi Cup champion Brian Enos and Angelo Spagnoli of San Francisco. Fast times were also posted by three-time Bianchi Cup champion Mickey Fowler and 1984 IPSC National Champion Rob Leatham. But the Enos/Spagnoli duel drew the crowd's attention with their sizzling runs.

Spagnoli tossed down the gauntlet on the first day of the two-day match with a blazing run of 2.53 seconds. Up until that point, people had been wondering if a sub-three second run was possible. Spagnoli proved it was indeed possible.



**Mickey Fowler and single action.**

Then Enos stepped to the line. His gaze riveted on the pins, Enos left three pins sailing in the air when he hit the stop plate for a time of 2.44 seconds.

And the race was on. Spagnoli responded to the challenge and came back the second day of the match with a 'hosemaster deluxe' run of 2.42 seconds, a scant .02 faster than Enos.

The ball back in his court, Enos decided to display his credentials as an *Arizona Hosemaster*. He stepped to the line and checked his Wilson Accu-Comp, inserting a fresh magazine. From the bleachers his close friend and shooting partner Rob Leatham offered a word of advice. "Hose 'em, Brian," he yelled.

Even a super slow-motion TV camera would have only captured a blurred image. Appearing calm, Enos "hosed 'em." All four of the pins were dancing in the air when Enos hit the stop plate. Time: a phenomenal 2.19 seconds.

*Slick and Quick* brought out the fastest

## SOME PIN BUSTERS GUNS AND LOADS

Brian Enos and Rob Leatham:  
*Power Alley* Wilson Accu-comp LE and .45 auto

*Slick and Quick*: 230 grain flat nose, H&G #292

7.3 grains Unique  
*Pin Wheeler*: Smith and Wesson Model 29, 8 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch 240 grain semi-wadcutter (unknown make)\*\*

7 grains 700X  
*Crank and Yank*: Ruger Super Blackhawk, 44 Magnum, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$  inch 240 grain semi-wadcutter (unknown make)\*\*

7 grains 700X  
*Seven for Nine*: Wilson Accu-comp LE, 38 Super auto 158 grain round nose (unknown make)\*\*

5.1 grains 800X  
\*Western-Winchester brass and primers in all loads

\*\*Leatham and Enos have their ammo custom loaded, and they did not recall the brand of bullet.



## SUPPORT THESE PIN BUSTERS SPONSORS

All sponsors contributed generously, but these six sponsors dug down deep into their pockets and sponsored individual stages: SMITH AND WESSON, *Pinwheeler*; PONY EXPRESS, *Rolling Pin*; B&B Sales, *Slick and Quick*; BLOCKER HOLSTERS, *Crank and Yank*; WINCHESTER *Seven for Nine*; and ROGERS HOLSTERS, *Blast for Cash*. COORS beer was the over-all match sponsor supplying delicious suds after all guns were stored. GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA sanctioned and sponsored the match as well.

Ammunition	Custom Pistolsmiths	Holsters	Gun Shops	Gun Makers
Hornady	James E. Clark	Blocker	B&B Sales	Beretta
Nevins	Bill Davis	Davis	Kings Gun Works	Browning
Omark	Pachmayr Gun Works	Rogers	Pony Express	Colt
Winchester	Irv Stone (Bar-Sto)			Detonics
				Heckler & Koch
				Interarms
				Randall
				Smith & Wesson
				Springfield Arm.
				Thompson Center

Gun Cleaning	Miscellaneous
Hoppes	Advanced 45 Tech.
Rig Products	Aimpoint
Zip Aerosol	J. Breskovich
	Carrion Safes
	Cold Steel
	Condor Sport Knives
	Coors
	Doskocil
	Hogue Combat Grips
	Kolpin
	Millett Sights
	Pacific Cutlery
	Second Chance
	Silencio, Inc.



**Enos' Accu-Comp.**



**Spagnoli's Gray Custom.**



**Leatham's Accu-Comp.**



times, but didn't force shooters to exercise the strategy necessary in the other events. Because shooters were trying for the single fastest run, and they could enter as many times as they wished, they ignored the reaction of the pins and simply hosed 'em. This was the only way to get a sub-three second run.

Such a strategy in the other events, where your total time for four runs determined your final score, would place you neatly at the bottom of the list.

In all the other events, the shooter had to clear the four pins from the table before engaging the stop plate. If any pin remained on the table, a five second penalty. Here enters strategy.

A shooter had to watch those pins to be sure they were swept from the table. And the pins did everything imaginable to keep from falling off the table. They cartwheeled and danced, caromed and rolled, spun in circles. They bounced in every direction—except off the table.

So the shooter had to make sure of center-of-mass hits, or, as Massad Ayoob says, "Hit the White Part." Only center hits guaranteed the pins would be driven straight back off the table. Hit a pin slightly off center, and watch it bounce but not fall. Hit a pin high, and it just topples over presenting the most difficult follow-up shot, edge-on facing the shooter. Hit a pin low, and the same thing happens.

Shooters seemed to favor two strategies to deal with those irascible pins—fan the pins and then go back and pick up any stragglers, or deliberately shoot each pin once and be certain of good hits. Both methods seemed to fare equally well.

The unstated theme of the match was 'enjoy thyself.' Mike Dalton said he instructed the range officers to cooperate with the shooters and not to intimidate any shooter with nit-picky details. If a shooter's big toe was three centimeters over the firing line, the range officers did not quibble. The ROs were polite and helpful, and were in large part responsible for the friendly atmosphere. Only major safety violations would have prompted a harsh response from the ROs. None occurred.

Such an atmosphere of friendly competition trickled down to the shooters. The usual 'match nerves' were not evident in most shooters. No trembling hands and quaking legs. People were having fun, and they were relaxed.

What is it that makes pin busting fun?

"It's nice to have a target react if you hit it. And the big variety of events makes it fun," Mickey Fowler said.

"I haven't done this before. It's harder than IPSC because you're shooting hotter loads. It's a lot more fun to watch," Rob Leatham said.

Indeed, the spectator appeal of bowling pins whizzing through the air and bouncing around the table surpasses any other form of 'action shooting,' including steel plates. A steel plate reacts in only one way—falling over—but bowling pins react in an infinite number of ways. Those darn pins sail

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Please include exact waist measurement, gun make and model. Barrel length and all other modifications. California residents add 6 1/2% sales tax. All orders must add 5% for shipping and handling. Send check or money order. Mastercard, Visa, or American Express are welcomed. Please include card number and expiration date.

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everywhere!

Pin Busters was billed as the 'World Championship' of bowling pin shooting. "We sent hundreds of letters out all over the world, so the world was invited. Until someone comes up with something bigger and better, this is it (the world championship)," Dalton said.

Ah-ha, you say, but what about the *Second Chance* bowling pin shoot? Well, the *Second Chance* is a multi-discipline event for handguns, machine guns, shotguns and rifles. Pin Busters is strictly for handguns. And, by the way, Richard Davis of *Second Chance* supported Pin Busters with generous donations of prizes. There is no rivalry between the *Second Chance* and Pin Busters—both matches seek to offer the shooting public a unique and challenging match for enjoyment.

Pin Busters was a roaring success. It was fun, pure and simple, and that was the whole idea. But you ain't seen nothin' yet. Rumor—and I emphasize that term—has it that *Coors* wants to take the *Coors Pin Busters World Championship* into the big leagues this year with prizes totaling a staggering \$125,000. In a world seemingly full of liberal anti-gunners, *Coors* has long been a stalwart supporter of shooting events (*Coors Schutzenfest*). Let's hope the rumor pans out so that 1985 will bring all the fun of bowling pin shooting plus some nice prizes.

### HOST YOUR OWN PIN BUSTERS

Does this exciting sport of shooting bowling pins appeal to you? Would your club like to host a *Pin Busters* match?

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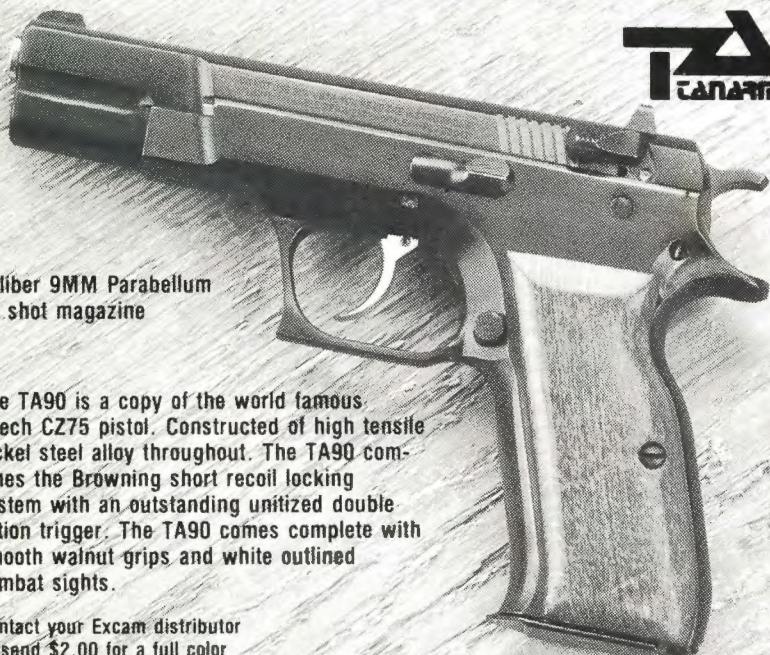
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Try shooting bowling pins at your local club. They're fun. Or, as Rob Leatham puts it, "The pins are either there or they aren't."



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# PISTOLSMITH PROFILE

## Mike La Rocca

By Stanley W. Trzoniec

I guess the first time I met Mike LaRocca was at a monthly meeting of our gun club where he showed his wares to the membership on hand. Right off the bat my impression of his work was excellent. But more than that, his guns had a quality that literally jumped out at you as you handled his .45s.

A family man, competitive shooter and professional gunsmith, Mike's formal education started at the Colorado School of Trades, then on to Pachmayr Guns Works in California where he worked in the custom operation.

Now Mike has set up house in Worcester, Mass., right in the center of 'gun valley' in central New England. His well equipped machine shop is built to handle all custom work with either autos or revolvers and some rifle work if time permits.

He also offers some unique products aimed at the match shooter. Let's hit those first.

The first is what Mike calls the 'Rock-Well MagFunnel'. This neat little device is incorporated into a checkered arched or flat main-spring housing (your choice) and makes loading a snap. Tentative cost on this little unit—after the patent is approved—is going to be around \$85. In case you're wondering, yes it does add a dash of weight to the gun overall, but being located at the base of the grip actually puts the mass of this attachment in the palm of your hand offering not only more stability to the gun, but also lengthening the grip to make a better purchase on the gun during heated matches.

Next is a barrel compensator that Mike fits onto your existing gun carrying the standard five inch barrel. While I am not at liberty to discuss how he does it, he says that because of his special fitting techniques, the gun is not altered in any way nor is the slide chopped or shortened. The compensator lists for \$175.

While customizing .45s is the mainstay of



**La Rocca fires his compensator.**

his operation, he stresses his is not a production line shop. Each gun is built to your individual tastes or needs, not his. And to prove his point he will call you if clarification is needed on any specific parts of the order. Can't beat that for personalized service!

While he admits everyone does not need everything on his 'shopping list', trigger jobs and sights go hand-in-hand for the most requested options. If not specified, he will adjust the trigger limits to around four pounds on the average. If specified, Mike can, with no 'following' problems, bring the sear release to lower limits—in fact to about 2.5 pounds of pull. He only recommends this if you are a very serious and accurate competition shooter. Sights include standard fixed sight options and melted or radiused Bo-Mar sights. On the guns I examined, the rear Bo-Mar in concert with a MMC front ramped sight gave a super sight picture.

When sending Mike a gun to work on, his requirements dictate "Colt automatics in good condition." Although he has no particular say on what the owner should do or not do on the gun, he did mention that the bare necessities on any Colt should include some work on the feed ramp for reliability, the extractor, and a good, clean trigger job before sights.

In the accuracy department, Mike leans towards outfitting a gun with a Bar-Sto or Kart barrel. Here he customizes the barrel to your particular gun. As these barrels come into the shop oversized, he can work everything down to minimum tolerances for good accuracy potentials. With this comes a tightening of the slide to the frame. Lateral move-

*Continued on page 70*



**Mike La Rocca's basic conversions feature practical modifications.**



# HIGH SOARING EAGLE .380 UPHOLDS PROUD HERITAGE

*This Walther look-alike allows you a PPK clone that is superior to the James Bond spy pistol.*

**By J.B. Wood**

From Ian Fleming's James Bond to the real-life police detective, everyone liked the Walther PPK.

After it failed to meet the U.S. importation requirements by one silly tenth of an inch, collectors and those who wanted it for more practical purposes snapped up the few that were already in the country, and within a few years the PPK was rarely seen. The designers at Walther soon mated a PP frame to a PPK slide and barrel, creating the importable PPK/S. It's a fine pistol, but it doesn't have the same feel as the old PPK.

In 1977, the Indian Arms Corp. of Detroit, Michigan began production of a close copy of the PPK, in stainless steel, and chambered for the .380 Auto cartridge. This pistol was very much like the PPK in its mechanism, dimensions, and operational features, but there were important differences.

One of the most obvious differences was the extension of the frame to the front, and a heavier, more squared muzzle. At the rear of the slide, a straight slant replaced the curved profile of the Walther pistols. The safety lever was slightly longer than the one on the Walthers, and there was a raised and ventilated rib on the top of the slide.

There was another feature which may have been optional, a lock on the right side of the slide with a removable key. With this, the manual safety could be locked in on-safe position, and the key removed. The loaded-chamber indicator was not used in the Indian design. I examined one of these pistols sev-

eral years ago, and it seemed to be well-made. With its combination of stainless steel, compact size, Walther-ish look, and .380 chambering, it should have been a success. For some reason, though, the company didn't stay in business. Production ceased at the end of 1978.

As has been demonstrated by several other 'resurrections' in recent years, good designs may lie dormant for a while, but they seldom die. This one came back in 1982 as the 'Guardian' by Michigan Armament. The

key-lock was not offered, but otherwise the gun seemed to be exactly the same as the original Indian Arms version. I said "seemed to be", because I've never actually examined one—I've seen it only in photos. The manufacturer moved from Michigan to the West Coast about two years ago, and since then, I've seen no mention of the 'Guardian.'

More recently, a new company has brought out an improved and slightly redesigned .380 Automatic that is based on the

*Continued on page 72*



**American Arms Eagle displays remarkably good accuracy for a short auto.**



## IPSC NATIONALS

Continued from page 39

exciting sport.

But back to *Bubba's Rolaid Ramble*.

To begin this assault course, the shooter faced a *McKaig Dropper* hidden behind two 'no-shoot' targets at 25 yards, a Milpark at 15 yards and a *Flopper* at 10 yards. After engaging these targets in any order, the shooter then dashed to a wall with a two-foot square opening. Through the opening were three Milparks butted together at 10 yards. Shooters kicked into 'hose mode' for this series of three targets.

Having engaged the targets through the window, the shooter then ran to a stairway leading to a platform four feet high. From atop the platform, the shooter engaged another *McKaig Dropper* at 25 yards and two Milparks at 10 and 15 yards.

Leaping from the platform, the shooter then charged to another wall with a hinged window. Opening the spring tensioned window, the shooter faced a Milpark at 15 yards. After dispatching that Milpark, the shooter then dropped to prone to shoot through another opening in the wall at a Pepper Popper and a steel stop plate at 25 and seven yards respectively.

Par time for *Bubba's Rolaid Ramble* was roughly 34 seconds with all the Master Blasters running the course in under 30 seconds. The fastest time posted was 26 seconds and change. Bill Rogers won this stage.

The other assault stage, the *Courier Service*, simulated a scenario in which the competitor would be carrying valuable documents in a briefcase handcuffed to his wrist. Thus, this stage was fired with a briefcase dangling from the shooter's weak-hand wrist. Try shooting with a three pound object swinging wildly from your wrist—not conducive to good trigger control.

Competitors faced five targets at ranges of from eight yards to 20 yards with one of the targets partially obscured by a 'no-shoot' target. Shooters had to run to a wall after engaging three targets and then engage the last two targets and a stop plate.

Running while reloading can be tricky, but imagine the complications of having a briefcase flopping around at the same time. Yes, the encumbering briefcase caused Excedrin headache #502 for many shooters. Bruce Gray won this stage.

Competitors tried in vain to master the most 'gamey' method of running with the briefcase. Some tried tossing the case over their shoulder. Because the cord attaching the briefcase to the weak-hand wrist was about two-feet long, this was possible. (The cord simulated handcuffs.) However, this method proved futile. As soon as the shooter dashed to the wall, the briefcase invariably fell from his shoulder. Leatham tried this method only to have the briefcase fall from his shoulder, jerk his wrist, and cause him to drop a shot.

The other method of dealing with the briefcase, discovered by a clever 'gamesman,' was to hook the handle of the briefcase onto a magazine in a mag pouch on the belt. This worked, like the shoulder carry, until the shooter ran to the wall whereupon the case fell off the magazine.

Shooters finally gave up on trying to find the ultimate 'gamey' technique; they just lugged the case along in their weak hands.

### MURPHY SHOOTS IPSC

Murphy—whatever can go wrong, will—attended the IPSC National Championship. Leatham met Murphy a couple of days before the match when Murphy helped him to re-injure his bad knee. Leatham shot the entire match with his right knee in an orthopedic brace.

Despite torn ligaments and bone chips floating around his patella (knee bone), Leatham still posted sizzling times on assault courses. He said his injury cost him about one second on each of the assaults. He said the injury would have hampered him further if there had been more running in the match.

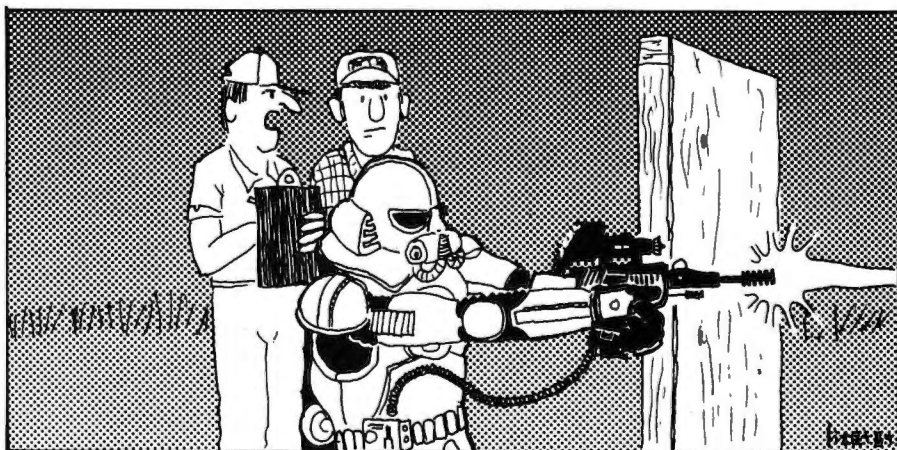
reports the Ladies Shoot-Off.

The shoot-off consisted of five Pepper Popper targets and a six-inch square stop plate at ranges of from five yards to 15 yards. Shooters had to knock down the Pepper Poppers in any order and then hit the stop plate. This shoot-off was as much fun for the spectators as for the competitors.

The ground rules called for any results which varied by less than .05 seconds to be re-run as a tie. Several man-against-mans resulted in time differences of only .02 seconds and were re-fired.

The professional timer capable of detecting such milli-second time differences was the PACT timer. The PACT timer performed flawlessly during the Shoot-Off and detected several time differences of less than .05 seconds. Without the PACT timer to determine the winner, several competitors would have been cheated with a lesser timer incapable of such micro-second precision. (PACT, Dept. AH, P.O. Box 35682, Dallas, TX, 75235).

Bouts were best two out of three except the final bout which was the best four out of



### First the .38 Super, now this. These Space Guns are too much!

If you doubt that Leatham will establish a dynasty in IPSC, note that he, a partial 'cripple', won the World Shoot in 1983 and last year's Nationals with a bum knee. And, of course, the 1984 Nationals.

Jerry Barnhart of Pennsylvania also met with Murphy during the match. While enjoying a leisurely swim in a hotel pool, he smacked his foot against the edge of the pool, and broke it. Barnhart too overcame his injury and finished seventh.

Hordes of competitors will attest that Murphy sneaked into their hotel rooms late at night and tampered with their equipment. Guns that had performed flawlessly for thousands upon thousands of practice rounds suddenly began to jam during the match.

### THE SHOOT-OFF

The top 16 men and top eight ladies met for a man-against-man (person-against-person?) shoot-off after the six stage championship match.

Beverly Champan's accompanying story

seven runs.

Slowly, methodically, the shooters eliminated each other. Bill Rogers, of Rogers Holsters, fell by the wayside; then Bill Wilson, Mike Plaxco and John Sayle. Barnhart (the guy who broke his foot in the pool) looked strong, but fell to Leatham's blazing .38 Super.

Two Texans, Brad Butler and John Dixon, faced off, and Dixon won. He was later eliminated.

As the man-on-man progressed, Leatham and Enos slowly climbed to the top. The two Arizonians, longtime friends and shooting partners, stepped to the line for the best of seven bout. Both fired Wilson Accu-Comps in .38 Super. Unlike the other competitors in the shoot-off who stared at the Pepper Poppers and ignored each other, Leatham and Enos appeared relaxed as they chatted on the firing line.

They cracked jokes while the range officers scampered to re-set the Poppers.



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Enos took both the first two bouts. "Enough playing around," Leatham must have thought. He took the next four bouts in a row, and won the shoot-off.

### CLOSING CEREMONIES

When the IPSC National Championships ended the competitors enjoyed a sumptuous banquet while various awards were presented. The talk centered around the future of IPSC (see *Insights Into IPSC* column for more details) and the newly elected RD, Dave Stanford.

The .38 Super drew lots of comments. Chambered in Wilson Accu-Comps, the .38 Super took first and second in the shoot-off and first, third and fifth in the Nationals. Will more .38 Supers show up next year? Is the .45 ACP now obsolete?

In a nut shell, no. The .45 will continue to dominate. The costs of shooting a .38 Super loaded to make major caliber are astronomical. The brass is only good for one loading due to the pressures that swell the web. The beating the gun takes drastically reduces gun life compared to that of a .45. (See *Conversation With A Champion* for further details.)

Will the 1985 IPSC National Championships see more .38 Supers? The answer is—wait a minute, my crystal ball is going foggy. I guess we'll have to wait and see at Phoenix later this year.



## FEMMES FATALES

*Continued from page 39*

it. She outran and outshot all other girls on *Bubba's Rolaid Ramble*, neatly winning that event too.

Jo Anne shoots a Colt .45 ported six-inch Clark Bowling Pin gun. Her reloaded ammunition is 5.1 grains of Bullseye with a 200 grain Hensley & Gibbs bullet. She wears Rogers leather and shoots from her strong side. Jo Anne and her husband Carl shoot two outdoor matches each month at their home club, the Dallas Pistol and Revolver Club, and shoot an indoor match once a week.

She's had to trade her hunting, fishing and boating time for practice time, but for Jo Anne it's paid off. During the awards ceremony she was presented with a gorgeous gold necklace and a beautiful bracelet (valued at over \$1300) donated by the M. Hatter Trading Company of New York City.

Jo Anne wasn't the only gal to take home the gold. Christie Rogers won a \$700 necklace for her second place finish. Showing us how she earned the Florida State Ladies Championship, Christie shot her Devel .38 Super expertly throughout the match.

Christie won *The Wall* event and made it look easy, but it was her steady performance throughout the contest that earned her the number two spot, up five places from her finish in the 1983 Nationals.

Christie and her husband Bill shoot with the Southeast Practical Shooting Association



in Jacksonville, Florida. They don't have a permanent range facility, but Christie still manages to practice three times a week when she isn't working at an art gallery, managing two kids or playing tennis. And she shoots in monthly league matches.

Her load is 5.6 grains of 600X powder and a 158 grain bullet.

Of course she wears Rogers leather.

Sally van Valzah, the cute cop from Georgia, was the winner of last year's qualifying match. She had a little bit of trouble on *The Courier* stage but a strong third place finish and won a \$600 necklace for her fine shooting.

Sally has been shooting for five years, starting out in PPC shooting and lately moving into IPSC shooting. She won the Ladies Match of the Bianchi Cup in 1983, and placed second in 1984.

She shoots her six inch Colt .45 Clark ported Bowling Pin gun at home with the Atlanta Practical Shooting Association, and is the Georgia Women's State Champ. Sally shoots Atlanta Arms Shaw Match ammunition.

Kerry Lathwell placed fourth after coming back from a disastrous shoot the first morning out on the assault course. Kerry had a fantastic run on the *Where's the Beef* stage, and won that match with her Hoag Colt .45 with a 6½ inch barrel. She crossdraws from a Davis Usher holster and shoots a 200 grain H&G bullet with 5.7 grains of WW231 powder.

She shoots with the Coast Mountain Practical Shooters in British Columbia and she shoots very well indeed. Kerry took third place woman at last year's nationals and second place woman at the World Shoot.

Fifth place finisher (less than one percentage point behind Kerry) Linda Zubiena won *The Courier* stage shooting her Colt Commander pin gun (with 6¼" BarSto barrel) from Mac's 45 Shop out of a Ted Blocker crossdraw holster.

Linda and her husband Jim are active shooters in the Southwest Pistol League. Linda has a ladies first and a ladies second place finish at the Steel Challenge to her credit.

Both Kerry and Linda were presented with matching bracelets and necklaces from the good people at the Hatter Trading Company.

Joanna Fichman, also a Southwest Pistol League Shooter, finished a close sixth. She did it with a Blocker Speedmaster holster, loads of 5.5 grains of WW231 powder with 200 grain H&G bullets, and a borrowed Hoag long slide.

Lee Cole of Arkansas was getting used to being in first place (she won the 1982 and 1983 Women's Nationals) but couldn't quite get it together this year. First she skipped a target on the *Courier* stage, then she had problems on the assault course. It was her second place finish in the standard exercises and her command of the basic shooting skills that kept her where she belongs, in the top ten.

Lee and her husband Jason shoot with the Tulsa Practical Shooters and the Arkansas Combat League.

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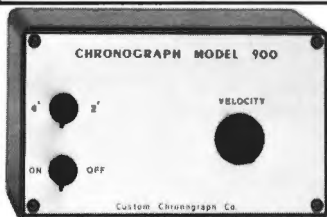
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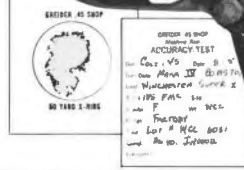
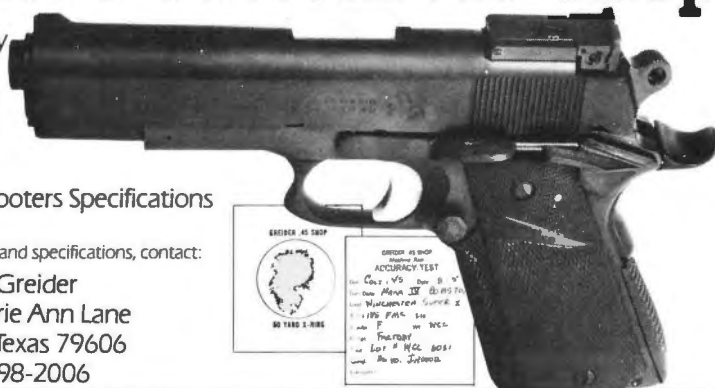
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A local favorite, Pamela Morris of the Cactus League, placed eighth. Pamela didn't do at all well in the qualifying match so I was surprised to see her in Saturday morning's shoot-off between the top eight women.

When I asked her why she shot so much better in the Nationals than in the qualifier she replied simply, "I shoot better under pressure."

She really does. Shooting her Hammond 5 inch Colt .45 from Davis leather, Pamela took Lee Cole two in a row in the women's shoot-off. Then she did the same thing to Sally van Valzah and to Jo Anne Hall.

Pamela was just warming up. When she met Christie Rogers they were shooting for a nickel Colt .380 (made available to the prize committee by Colt Firearms Division). It was to be three out of five. Christie took the first bout. Pamela took the next three, the shoot-off and the Colt.

As Pamela was putting away her gear after the shoot-out she summed up the performance of the women's shooting in the Nationals with three words: "We're good, girls!"  
—BEVERLY GORE CHAPMAN

## HANDLOADING

*Continued from page 27*

ing a 7/8thsx14x3-inch hexhead bolt into your reloading press to facilitate determining desired seating depth.

"Ordinarily," says Dietle, "this adjustment is a trial-and-error process, performed with the use of the seating die. The disadvantage of using the seating die is inherent in the fact that the operation can't be observed. One must proceed in small increments, checking constantly, until the proper seating depth is discovered.

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### MORE FROM READERS

Letters continue to hail hereward. Like the one from Scott McCann, of Annapolis, Md. He recommends using freon to dissolve lubricant from sized cases, not combustible ether, which was suggested earlier, by another reader.

Meanwhile, whether you're a beginner or a journeyman handloader, or a manufacturer of handloading tools, be assured that your contributions will be welcomed.

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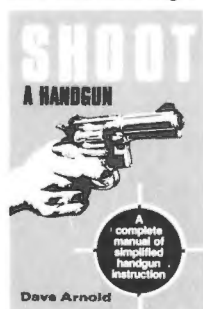
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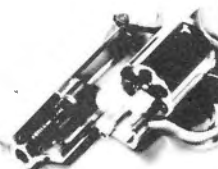
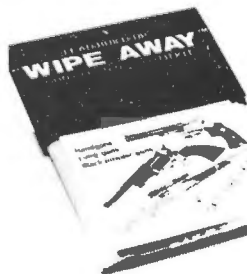
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## PISTOLSMITHING

Continued from page 25

mer and sear are changed to a measurable degree, the hammer comes to rest a bit further forward than normal. The thumb safety will not engage unless the mating surface on its face is stoned to engage and lock the hammer in its new standing position. The grip safety may still function, but often it has to be stoned to engage and lock an after-market trigger or to allow it to move enough to release the sear.

In each of these cases, the parts involved are now sub-standard and no longer interchangeable with stock dimension parts.

If stoning was excessive, or if subsequently a new stock tolerance hammer, sear and trigger are fitted, the pistol will, in severe cases, fire by a pull on the trigger with the thumb safety disengaged and no pressure on the grip safety. In other severe cases of tolerance stacking, when the pistol is loaded and locked and the trigger is pulled, the sear will partially release. Left in this condition, the hammer will drop to half cock when the thumb safety is released without touching the trigger or grip safety. The pistol might conceivably fire under these conditions if the half cock notch were defective, spring tension wrong or something of this nature, but I have never been able to induce anything but a drop to half cock during extensive testing.

I have induced all of the effects listed by altering parts on a new Series 70 Combat Commander. The first listed condition is a common fault in poorly executed trigger jobs. Test your pistol by cocking the hammer on an empty chamber, then pulling the trigger without depressing the grip safety. The second condition can be detected in some seemingly excellent trigger jobs by a method I've named the YARF test. (Yank and Retain Function Test.)

### 'YARF' TEST

To perform a YARF test, cock and lock the pistol on an empty chamber. Pull sharply and hard on the trigger, with the grip safety depressed. You have to apply some 50 pounds of pressure at peak, about the level that might be applied in convulsive gripping of the pistol during the Fight or Flight Syndrome.

Next, hold the pistol with the rear of the slide near your ear and pull the hammer back toward full cock. If you hear a very slight 'tick' sound, the sear was moved into shallow engagement by the pull, due to tolerance stack-up.

This situation, in a Series 70 or earlier pistol, could, obviously, result in the hammer falling to half cock when the thumb safety is released.

Results of these tests may indicate the need for a new sear, hammer, thumb safety, grip safety, sear or hammer pin, sear spring, disconnector, trigger or possibly a new frame with normal size pin holes properly spaced.



What purpose does allowing for tolerance or a slight difference in part size serve? Without a slight allowance, no mass production of mechanical objects would be possible. The same materials, machined or cast in an identical manner will always result in parts of a slightly different size, under realistic manufacturing conditions. This is not a problem if the size range is kept within manufacturing tolerances allowed by the engineers, who have calculated to provide a range of latitude that still results in proper operation of the pistol or other finished product.

For instance, no gear train would operate without clearance between the gear teeth. Similarly, a sear would not swing out of engagement if it were frozen on an oversize sear pin that was jammed into the frame. So, allowable tolerances are necessary for proper operation of the pistol.

Excessive tolerances could result in malfunctions, the severity of which would be in direct proportion to the excesses. The YARF test will quickly detect any potential problems, and now that you understand how to apply it and what it signifies, you should have more confidence in your combat pistols.



Continued from page 30

Without sponsorships or heavy tournament bread, the sport has remained the domain of the average man; enthusiasts to be sure, but still amateurs in it for the fun. Because of this there isn't a cadre of perpetual winners—but there are quite a few dedicated shooters who are always in contention.

Always nice-guy Dave Whitman, who has probably trophied at every Internationals ever held, shot another 80 in Prod-Int (as he did in 1983) and weathered the shoot-offs to end up second. Mike Averre tagged two targets less than Lon in 1983 and 1984 in Rev-Int to finish fourth and sixth respectively. Jim Jonassen went straight in Un-Int both years, but drew a fourth and a tenth out of the shoot offs.

Places, to a large extent, are determined by shootoff scores, and as these are often trick-shot events the really top shooters don't always end up on top. But the aggregate competition does indeed separate the shooters from the shoe clerks; Mike finished first with 292X320, Lon second with 291 and Jim third with another 291. Top shooting indeed.

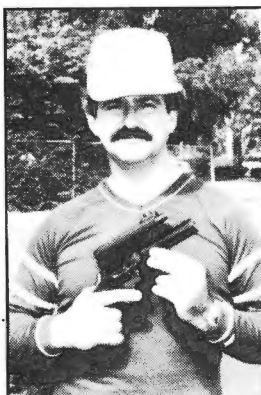
(Not to be picky, but it seems to me that the shootoffs for the top places ought to really measure a shooter's prowess, not just their luck in some trick shot shoot. I'd like to see the best lay down to a 40 target match on the half-size silhouettes; that'd settle it and well and truly test a shooter's mettle.)

The guns that won and were used in the top classes are the same ones that have been winning in the last year or two.

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T/C Contender in 7mm TCU. There was a scattering of Merrills and last year's newcomer, the Wichita International (about one in 10).

Like last year, the Revolver classes have gone from Ruger Super B's to Dan Wesson's. The double action is just easier to control (and hence shoot more accurately) due to greater weight and better grip angle than the single action, and the sights and triggers seem to be better, out-of-the box, on the big Dans. The only question seems to be whether the .44 mag or the .357 Super Mag is the best; last year the latter dominated the Rev-Int class—this year it was the former. The .375 Super Mag, the hot item this past year, was nowhere to be found on the results sheets. Too much of a good thing, the cartridge doesn't seem to live up to its promise.

Unlimited, for the umpteenth year, continues to be the province of the custom-built XP-100. Remington's own silhouette pistol just hasn't caught on due, no doubt, to the hassle involved in forming brass as the gun shoots better out-of-the-box than most shooters. There was a scattering of Wichita unlimiteds, and the occasional custom-built T/C. The specially-built XP-100 dominates even in the lower classes, where a good shooting T/C Super 14 in 7mm TCU (to match your Production gun) would be plenty. Peer pressure I guess.

In Standing it's more the shooter than the pistol, but most everyone sticks with their single-shot for the event; and as that's the one they use in Production, it's nearly always a T/C 7mm TCU.

The IHMSA long range silhouette game has had a substantial effect on the firearms industry, and come Internationals time they remember. There's a growing interest in the event by the non-firearms industry too, as more and more businesses realize that shooters spend money too. In any event the business community was generous this year, providing over \$50,000 in prizes to be distributed to the participants. As the IHMSA doesn't shoot for loot, this largess went into entry packets, door prizes and special awards; not bad odds of winning something worthwhile when there was only 1600 entrants to divide it up among!

The member's delegates met one evening to hear the officers report on the year gone by and to discuss and consider potential changes to the sport's rules. The IHMSA originated only a year after the sport informally began, and their rules were the first to be promulgated. They've been refined over the ensuing years, but have never changed much from the first adoption. Change in the past has been small, with this year no exception. All were minor enough (most were in the way of clarification) that you would have to be a pretty careful student of the existing rules to catch the modifications. The only one of any real significance is the allowance of auxiliary lenses or lopes, as long as they are attached to the eyeglass frame. This change was made to allow optical help for failing eyes; only time will tell if this rule is taken advantage of by those that don't need vision correction, but



are looking for any edge.

That the organization has done a lot for shooters is amply demonstrated by the advances in equipment and components—and the number of shooters that turn out to shoot their matches. That the group is not going to rest on its laurels is shown by the fact that they are right now working to build an eastern home range to host next year's event.



## CONVERSATION

*Continued from page 32*

niques that you know you're going to need.

**JW:** What if you knew the layout beforehand?

**RL:** I still wouldn't set it up. I like to break my practice down into the most basic aspects of shooting.

For example, if I'm practicing for an assault stage in which I have to shoot three targets through a window, re-holster and run to the next shooting area, [Editor's note: *Precisely! One stage in the Nationals included exactly this scenario.*] I only practice shooting the three targets. I don't practice the run because I know how to run.

**JW:** You never string them together and run the complete course?

**RL:** No, because when I do, I get too involved with the total scheme at the expense of the discrete shooting problems that require intense concentration. The next thing I know, I've finished the match but can't remember shooting it, and that's bad.

The *El Presidente* is another example. It's too complicated to practice all in one piece and get any real benefit. You do a turning draw, shoot two shots each at three different targets, reload, and put two more shots on each of the three targets. It involves a lot of target acquisition, a lot of multiple-shot targets, a draw, a turn and a reload. This all happens in five to ten seconds. You can't do any one of the segments with care. Instead, you should practice the elements: practice the turn and draw, practice shooting and reloading, and practice shooting multiple targets. Break it down and do them separately.

**JW:** Do you think the limited amount of prize money given at the Nationals is appropriate?

**RL:** I don't care if IPSC gives prize money or not. It's not a money shoot and was never meant to be. I think people are getting too tied up in the money question. Yes, it would be nice to be able to make expenses at every match you shoot, but that's where I draw the line. I don't want to get rich off shooting—that's never been a factor with me—but I would like to be able to afford to go to all the matches I'd like to. It's always nice to win something, but it's a lot nicer to shoot well.

**JW:** You've won the IPSC World and National Championships in the same year, which has never been done before. Has the success changed your life in any way?

**RL:** Winning big tournaments hasn't changed my attitude about shooting or about

my own ability, it just confirmed that I had the ability to win. But I don't think much about the titles as such. I don't concern myself with what's already happened; I'm more interested in what I'm doing now or going to do in the future. Now, I can't say that I'm not enjoying it—it's a lot more fun to win than it is to lose. And success in competition is an ego gratification, but I don't think the winner of a given championship is necessarily the best shooter. The way I look at it, the best shooter is the guy who consistently places high in the big matches over the course of the season.

**JW:** Who does well by that yardstick?

**RL:** According to my informal rating system, whoever has the best average in the Big Four matches—Bianchi Cup, IPSC Nationals, IPSC World Shoot and Steel Challenge—he's your best shot. It eliminates the specialists. For the record, Brian [Enos] wins it every year.

**JW:** Where would your career have gone without your friendship and shooting partnership with Brian?

**RL:** Down the tubes. I'd have lost interest a long time ago. I'd have lost interest the first time I went to a match and didn't do well. Brian keeps me going—he makes me work. And he makes all the travel arrangements and I kind of just go along for the ride. Even now, on the days we're scheduled to practice, if I don't feel like going, he makes me. He's much more conscientious than I am.

**JW:** Do you help him?

**RL:** I keep him from getting sloppy. If he gets sloppy, I win. If I get sloppy, he wins. We learn a lot from each other. We don't give each other much slack, and it keeps both of us on line.

**JW:** What's your opinion on the IPSC holster controversy?

**RL:** Personally, I'm using what I would use if there were no rules at all—strong side, hip carry, gun straight up-and-down. I move it around for different matches. If I know I don't have to run an assault course or shoot from a car where I need it out of the way, I move it slightly forward. But normally I keep it right on the side of the hip.

**JW:** How do you feel about rules which mandate a given holster position or eliminate certain holsters or other equipment?

**RL:** I'm dead against outlawing anything. In this sport, the shooting problems are so varied, any equipment that's too specialized is going to come back to haunt you. Even something as popular as a cross draw holster is going to be a disadvantage somewhere. I try to use what I've found to be the best all-around equipment—the best stuff for the wide range of shooting we're required to do.

**JW:** Is that your definition of "practical?"

**RL:** I don't like to use the term "practical" because I think it's over-used. I like to have equipment that works well for every conceivable thing I'm going to have to do in a match.

Anything that helps you in one aspect of a match is going to hurt you somewhere else. If you push the limits too far in one direction, it's going to be too specialized. I want equipment that isn't a disadvantage *anywhere*, but I want to be the judge of that. There shouldn't

be any rules on equipment.

Look, if you want to shoot a five-inch gun, fine. If that's your definition of "practical," fine. Just don't drag me down with you. Don't try to outlaw something just because you're afraid my equipment gives me an advantage over you.

**JW:** How many practice rounds do you fire in a year?

**RL:** Oh, 20,000 or so. That's less than most other top competitors. I'm careful not to over-drill myself, because if I take the approach that, "By golly, I'm going to shoot until I get it right," I'll never get it right. The mental aspects are much more important. You have to shoot in order to have the confidence, but when you reach a certain level of proficiency, you can cut way back on the number of rounds fired in practice.

**JW:** Is there one single talent or aptitude that's been crucial to your success?

**RL:** If I have a gift, it's the ability to learn quickly. For example, I'd never shot a bowling pin in my life until I participated recently in the Coor's Pin Busters World Championship in Los Angeles. I figured shooting is shooting, so I shot a few tables the day before the match and was able to do pretty well in the tournament. [Editor's note: *Read about the Pin Busters match on page 46.*] That's where the "P" for Practical comes in. It's the ability to cope with any shooting situation you encounter. The ultimate practical shooter is not defined by his equipment, but rather by his ability to show up and do whatever the problem requires, right now, on demand.

That's why I think the surprise and semi-surprise match format gives me an advantage over a shooter who needs to reinforce things in his mind by doing them. He wants to experience it before he goes to the line in a match. I just look out there, see what I've got to do, and do it.

**JW:** What's your advice to aspiring champions?

**RL:** The single most important thing is go out and enjoy yourself. Keep in mind why you're doing it—don't get caught up in less important aspects—don't forget to have fun.



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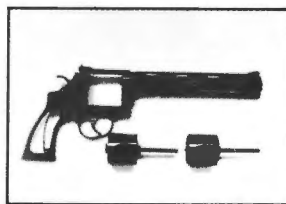
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Continued from page 45

The trick here is the scoring. Such courses are usually scored 'Comstock,' which means that the total number of points is divided by the time it took to run the course. This is fine for competition, but police qualifications are 'pass-fail'; in PPC qualifications, an officer must score at least 75 percent of a perfect score to qualify.

Repass solved the scoring problem by working out a series of scoring tables for each course, figuring the score for the best possible run, then working the percentages back from that.

"We can get a lot more training in with 12 rounds in these types of courses than with 60 rounds in a PPC type course," Repass says. "The courses run faster, and we can get people through two or three times. We can teach them something as well as qualifying them."

Orlando officers are required to qualify with their duty guns, S&W .38 revolvers, four times a year. High qualifying officers get an extra benefit—extra money on their paycheck, which gives an added incentive to practice combat shooting. Officers who fail to qualify find themselves saddled to a desk until they can go through eight hours of training and a requalification.

Repass, a 10-year veteran who also serves on Orlando's SWAT team, hadn't given much thought to altering the tried and true methods of police firearms training until a couple of years back. IPSC veterans Bill Rogers and David Churilla—now World IPSC vice-president—came to Orlando to demonstrate the 'new' way of shooting for the SWAT team.

"To be fair, my first response was, 'These civilians are going to show me how to shoot?'" Repass says, laughing at the memory. Rogers set up an *El Presidente* exercise—three targets 10 meters away spaced one meter apart. A 'no-shoot' target partially obscured two of the targets.

Beginning with his back to the targets, Rogers turned, drew from a concealed carry holster, fired six shots, reloaded and fired six more, all in a little over six seconds.

"My second thought," Repass says, "was I was supposed to be protecting them?"

Repass quickly became involved in IPSC competition, so involved, in fact, that he served a one-year stint as IPSC Sectional Coordinator. He encourages all his officers to shoot in IPSC matches, and the central Florida matches all have a high level of police involvement.

Although it's become fashionable to discount IPSC as only slightly more practical than PPC or bullseye shooting, Repass found something entirely different.

"The more involved I became," he says, "the more I found IPSC to be a vast reservoir of knowledge and enthusiasm."

Repass found a number of points that he felt IPSC could give to police training,



including realistic courses of fire, movement with the weapon, a lack of standardized courses that officers could memorize and practice, anatomically correct targets, multiple targets, full-house loads and the IPSC equal emphasis on speed, accuracy and power.

As he became more involved with IPSC, Repass began considering a major change in police firearms training. It took a year of preparation

"At first, there was a lot of bitching and moaning," Says Officer Mike Holloway, who works with Repass. "Now the officers want to do it more. It's fun."

Also, Repass adds, the realistic courses tend to scare officers when they realize that their chances of surviving a similar 'real' encounter would be close to zero. For the first time they can see a relationship between their scores and their chances of making it through a gunfight alive.

"We still do a modified 60-round PPC course," Repass adds, "but our emphasis is on quick, close-in shooting."

Another change in Orlando's training procedure is the inclusion of their issue pump shotgun in qualifying. Until the change, shotguns had been sort of the stepchildren of firearms training. The guns—usually battered Remington 870s—were issued and never thought of again until they were needed.

"We took every shotgun out of every car and tore them down," says Officer Mike Holloway. "Roughly one-third could have failed during the firefight. Three percent would have failed."

The most recent qualifying course, which I attended, the 'Shotgun Scramble,' including both shotgun and pistol against metal targets, including a mover. Repass is a great believer in metal targets for police training.

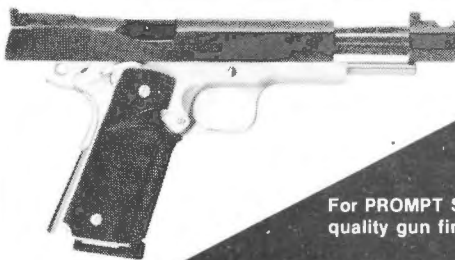
"Metal targets train the subconscious, like shooting tin cans when you where a kid," Repass says. "On paper targets, you don't see your mistakes or your successes. With a metal target, your subconscious knows and records when you do something correctly. We've found that using metal targets, we can train people in one-third the time as with paper targets."

On the 'Shotgun Scramble,' the officer starts seated in a patrol car with both hands on the steering wheel and the shotgun locked in its rack between the two seats. On the start signal, the officer releases the shotgun and exits the car, then engages four Pepper Poppers with the shotgun at ranges of from 10 to 15 yards from the rear of the patrol car. The officer lays the shotgun on the trunk of the car, draws his or her duty weapon and moves to the front of the car, taking cover and engaging a Pepper Popper at 10 yards and a moving target at 20 yards. If the shooter has two rounds or less at that point, a reload is mandatory before moving to the next barricade position, where there are Poppers at 10 and 15 yards and a stop plate at 10 yards.

If the officer finishes the course in less than 50 seconds, he or she qualifies.

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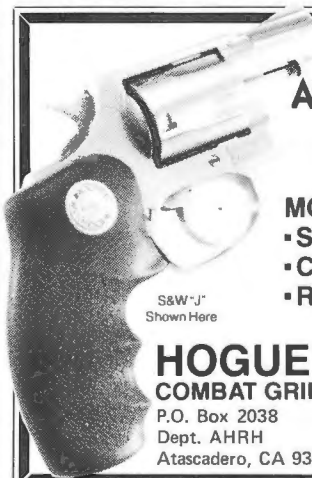
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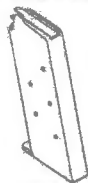
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with probably the rattiest 870 pump I've ever seen (although, I was told, new shotguns are in the offing) and a stainless S&W in a duty rig. The run was uneventful except for the seconds lost while I waited for the shotgun to cycle itself. The range officer, quickly recognizing a case of "Automatic Shotgun Syndrome," shouted "It's a pump!" Thanks. My time was 26 seconds, giving me a percentage score of 89.

Most of the officers I saw run the course seemed to enjoy it, and most times ran in the 30-40 second region. Fifteen seconds, by the way, is considered a perfect score, although Repass has run the course in considerably less.

I saw two failures to qualify, including a reserve officer and a detective who came to the line with his gun unloaded. After he clicked through all five cylinders of the little S&W, he held up his hand and asked to start over. Repass, running the range, said, "Reload!" The detective argued for a while, then reloaded and finished the course. Needless to say, he was not a happy man.

"Old style training," Repass says, "teaches bad habits, and bad habits can get you killed. IPSC-style courses teach good habits—proper use of barricades, double-tapping rather than emptying your gun, fast reloads, things like that."

In a tactical situation, he adds, the subconscious mind takes over.

"In condition red, Repass says, "you'll do what you're trained to do."

While he is quick to admit that every type of training has its limitations, he is convinced that IPSC-style training will help to keep his officers alive.

For departments interested in Orlando's training methods, Repass has prepared a package of course descriptions, scoring charts and other helpful materials. Contact him at:

Frank Repass  
Range Officer  
Orlando Police Department  
100 S. Hughey Ave.  
Orlando, FL  
(305) 849-2468

His advice to departments changing over is to start out simple—"The change is going to be hard enough"—and to keep explaining the reasons for changing over.

IPSC isn't just for civilians. Talk to your chief and your training officer. Explain that you would very much like to survive a gun-fight. And point out that the best way to train for survival is IPSC.



## CROSSFIRE CON

Continued from page 44

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matches rarely if ever include any night shooting and flashlight techniques. Most shootings take place under low light settings, and to ignore reality is inexcusable.

Ammunition is another sore spot. The loads used are target loads, and, coupled with the heavy bull-barrel guns, produce recoil that cannot be intelligently compared with the recoil of service ammo. Furthermore, a great deal is being done these days in the area of law suits targeted against police training. Qualifying with light loads, while carrying +P or Magnum loads is fraught with legal peril.

Often, we see departments substitute service ammo for light loads without changing the course time limits substantially. While this is a tiny step in the right direction, it is not enough.

In order to approach acceptability, PPC would have to undergo radical surgery. Time limits on the various stages would have to at least be halved. Multiple targets, and the proper use of cover would have to be included. Duty holsters and ammo carriers would be required instead of all the trick gear currently in vogue.

The chances of this happening are extremely slight. Why? Well, first of all, the current form of PPC is easy to run and allows a large number of officers to qualify quickly. Setting up a course using multiple targets in front and in other places would, of course, require much greater investment of time and money to train officers.

Secondly, all too often such courses are chosen because they are convenient for the range crews. All too often, unfortunately, those working in such settings are there for a variety of reasons that have little to do with a dedication to helping officers survive.

Thirdly, it's extremely difficult to buck tradition. Police executives don't like being told they're wrong, and for someone to point out the program they endorsed in the past is inadequate is an extremely difficult pill to swallow. Range officers who do so will probably find themselves replaced with more pliable individuals.

PPC was introduced by the FBI almost 50 years ago. It's illogical to believe that a country that has put a man on the moon in the ensuing years could not offer us a better way to train officers.

The FBI, of course, has radically changed their qualifying course to incorporate the Weaver stance and the .357 Magnum. Realizing that their program was not meeting the survival needs of their agents, they changed it. If only more agencies possessed their foresight and commitment.

Now, I realize that most of the police departments have embraced PPC, but 'might has never made right.' Police firearms training in this country is generally inadequate, regardless of the size and location of the department. I routinely travel the length and breadth of this country on magazine assignments and after a first-hand examination of many such programs, I am deeply concerned about the state of such affairs.

Frankly, I've always been concerned about

people who try to justify their activities as 'practical.' I don't care if they want to study ESP as a method of catching drunk drivers, but don't waste my time trying to convince me such an activity is practical.

I guess it all depends on whether you want to be a 'Wadcutter Warrior' or a cop prepared to survive a lethal confrontation. The former will fill your shelves with trophies, while the latter will allow you to be around long enough to see your kids grow up.



## CROSSFIRE PRO

*Continued from page 44*

against it must be dealt with on a one-to-one basis. Without belaboring the issue, here are some of the more frequently heard complaints:

*The time-limits are too long.* When compared to some other fast and fancy combat courses, the times in PPC are slow. But as I stated before, good and lasting firearms training is a gradual process; you must learn to crawl before you can walk, and walk before you run. PPC is where the novice shooter is given the time to experiment with his equipment and technique, and at the same time, develop sound habits of marksmanship that will carry over into other shooting endeavors. Also, keep in mind that firing 12 rounds in 25 seconds at a stationary target at 7-yards may be child's play for some, but for others it can be an immensely difficult task until their skills improve. The difficulty factor of a timed course is relative.

*The equipment used in PPC is not practical.* This is a common complaint based on misconception. Although it's true that bull-barrels and heavy ribs are used, that's only part of the story. At most PPC matches there are also provisions made for the use of stock guns and ammo. In fact, one of the NRA's highest PPC awards is the coveted gold Distinguished Badge—given to police shooters who have satisfactorily demonstrated their abilities with an unaltered gun using factory ball ammo. In addition to the Distinguished six-inch match, there is also a stock four-inch and two-inch revolver match at the National Police Revolver Championships held annually. This revelation may pop a few bubbles, but, contrary to popular opinion, PPC tries to offer a balanced program of shooting for the police officer.

*PPC encourages the use of gimmicks.* As for the assumption that all the gimmicks used in PPC are worthless gadgets, I submit the lowly speedloader for your consideration. Thought to be just another 'trick' item a few years ago by the purists, speed-loaders proved their worth in the mid-70s at numerous PPC matches around the country before being accepted by a few forward-thinking law enforcement agencies. Now, it's rare not to see speed-loaders on the Sam Browns of uniformed officers no matter where or whom they work for. This is a classic example of PPC

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having a positive effect on police firearms and equipment.

*The 50-yard stage is impractical.* All the recorded statistics on officer-involved shootings show that most of them occur at ridiculously close distances. That doesn't mean that an officer shouldn't learn how to use his sidearm from 15, 25 or even 50 yards. The idea behind this may be lost to some table-pounding combat experts, but no one is going to hit a six-inch by four-inch 10-ring at 50 yards unless they exercise good trigger control and sight alignment—basics which will do more to keep an officer alive than all the 'snap and giggle' courses combined. There are no easy paths to learning how to shoot well.

*The positions used in PPC are unrealistic.* Who is to say what's realistic or not? If a tactical situation calls for standing on your head to get a shot off before you get dusted, then that's what you'll use and the position becomes very realistic. The stances and positions used in PPC are only meant as an exercise to develop confidence in firing from other than the classic 'combat squat.' They may not be the best way or the only way to fire a gun, but they do teach the novice that a gun can be fired from several different basic positions. With this experience under his belt, it won't seem so unnatural to a PPC shooter if he really does have to bend like a pretzel someday to fire his weapon in order to stay alive.

*PPC is too static, not enough pressure.* This argument comes from the mouths of people who have never tried PPC or were never in a position to do well in a PPC match. As in all other competitions, the desire to excel, to win, is just as fierce in PPC.

There are few things in life that can match the surge of adrenalin that one feels in actual combat. Outside of walking into a robbery in progress and confronting an armed suspect head-on, there's not much you can do to simulate that feeling. On the other hand, shoulder-to-shoulder competition can really get the ole heart to pump. It's amazing how a little match pressure can effect even the coolest shooter.

The nature of training is such that it must always be subject to change to be valid; there's never an end to new ideas, new methods and equipment, or the motivated people to pursue them.


I'll be the first to admit that the times in PPC may appear to be too liberal, the distances too long, and some of the positions a little unrealistic at first glance. But these drawbacks are far outweighed by the fact that for many police officers, the occasional PPC match in which they participate from time to time may very well be all the firearms training they get after they leave their basic training facility.

If a shooter becomes motivated enough, there are many other courses out there to challenge speed, accuracy and agility. But unless he is ready for these courses, and he has the time to master them, PPC is still the best choice for the officer who must rely on his sidearm for his life.



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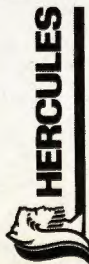


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# INDUSTRY INSIDER

**JERRY RAKUSAN**

## BERETTA WINS MILITARY CONTRACT; MORE NEWS FROM 1985 SHOT SHOW

The 1985 S.H.O.T. Show is history, and while there were some new products shown, the big news at the show, as far as handguns are concerned, was the announcement that the military had chosen a replacement for the Colt .45 auto pistol. To quote from the Beretta press release:

"The United States Army announced on January 14, 1985 that the Beretta 92SB-F 9mm parabellum automatic pistol has been selected to replace the Colt .45 as the issue sidearm for the American Armed Forces.

"The \$56.4 million five-year contract was awarded to Beretta USA Corporation, headquartered at Accokeek, MD . . . to produce 315,930 units for the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard . . .

"The contract calls for 52,930 guns of Italian manufacture to be produced the first year, followed by 65,750 units the second year with U.S. assembly and testing and parts made in Italy."

The final three years will see Beretta USA producing all parts, components and assembly.

Beretta officials indicated that civilian sales of the 92SB-F will begin shortly. The Model 92SB-F differs from the currently available 92SB only in a slightly different configuration of the stocks and frame.

Although the contract award was announced on January 14, the contract is expected to be signed some 30 days after that date.

At the same time, the Army should also announce a contract for a holster for the new 9mm, and John Bianchi appears at this time to be the frontrunner.

### BITS AND PIECES

There appeared to be fewer handgun and handgun accessory firms exhibiting at this SHOT Show, though my perception may have been altered by the sheer vastness of the Show. The more than 925 exhibits covered two gigantic halls.

Here are a few of the things that caught our attention, items which we will be covering in depth in future issues of the *American Handgunner*.

The Aimpoint sight has a smaller brother which should find favor among pistol shooters.

Detonics was showing their new 8-round magazine for the .45 auto.

Pachmayr had their new bolt action single shot conversion unit for the .45 auto frame which will turn it into a silhouette or long range hunting gun.

Thompson/Center had samples of their carbine stock for the Contender pistol.

Ruger did not show their 9mm auto pistol

as was rumored, but they did surprise all with the Blackhawk and Single Six revolvers with Bisley grip frames.



All of the firms named above should be familiar to our readers. There were, however some new faces in the crowd, such as N. Gary Cohen (P.O. Box 99635, San Francisco, CA 94109). His firm was showing the renowned CZ-75 9mm auto; not the Czech-made version however, but one made in Switzerland; available in either blue or nickel finish.

Century Products, (Century Park, Waterbury, CT 06720) exhibited their new line of .45 auto replacement magazines which feature a seamless unweld bottom plate and a 5-year warranty. Both 7- and 8-round sizes are offered, in blue or stainless.

There were, of course, many other items of interest, and we will be covering these in this column and in special features.



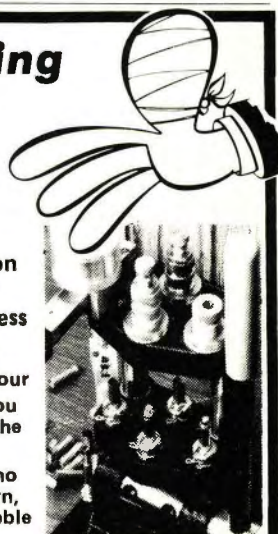
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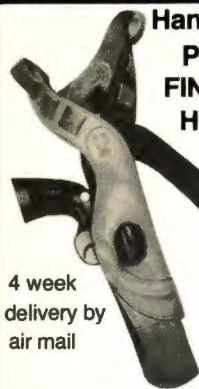
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## PPC NATIONALS

*Continued from page 43*

course of fire that utilizes both clay pigeons and silhouette targets.

All in all, the 1984 Police Championships proved that America's police officers are serious about their shooting, and they're more than willing to prove it. *American Handgunner* tips its hat to the dedicated men and women who took part in this year's tournament.



## PPC SIDEBAR

*Continued from page 43*

Stage 4—25 yards, double-action, 6 shots kneeling using barricade for cover and support, either left or right side. 6 shots standing left hand barricade position and 6 shots standing right hand barricade position, 90 seconds, includes all reloading time.

All times start with loaded gun in holster.

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Stage 2—7 yards, double-action, 10 shots, one or two hands, from standing without support position, 20 seconds, includes time to reload.

Stage 3—15 yards, double-action, 10 shots, one or two hands, standing without support, includes time to reload.

Stage 4—25 yards, double-action, 15 shots, one or two hands, 5 shots kneeling strong side using the barricade for cover and support, 5 shots standing left hand barricade position, and 5 shots standing right hand barricade position, 90 seconds, includes time to reload.

## PPC IS PRACTICAL!

*Continued from page 43*

the single-action trigger pull cannot be less than 2½ pounds, sights may be factory fixed or adjustable, and the barrel length may not exceed six-inches.

Along with restrictions on the gun, the ammo used is also controlled. For the-Distinguished Match, the shooter is issued the exact amount (60 rounds) while on the line. Anyone using anything other than the issued ammo, or carrying extra ammo, will be disqualified. As we said before, this is a stock service-revolver match using factory service 'ball' ammo. No alibis, no throw-away scores, and no gimmicks; just hard-core shooting using standard equipment.

As might be expected, competition is



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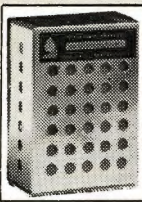


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tioned polished hammer. I found that on every trigger pull the sun would glint off the hammer and back into my eyes. A quick application of some sight blackener solved that problem, and I understand that later editions of the revolver will have bead blasted hammers and will not be left bright.

Other than the usual hitches and glitches of getting used to a new handgun with a slightly different feel, I am impressed with Wilson's first effort in the revolver field.

As I packed up my sizable pile of empty brass and collected the tattered remains of targets with the centers shot out, I was convinced that the Wilson Gun Shop will advance and perfect that form of handgun known as the PPC revolver.



## GUNS OF LA ROCCA

Continued from page 51

ment is held to a minimum with the tight barrel work accounting for the additional closeness of the whole system.

Other services listed on his current price list include ejection ports, bushing work, checkering, ambidextrous safeties, beveled magazine chutes, polishing feed ramps, squaring the trigger guard, beavertail safeties and gun refinishing. All work is done in the shop with the final finish—blue or industrial hard chrome—done locally under his personal supervision.

Revolver work accounts for about 15 percent of the total work load. This includes PPC guns or carry pieces whose owners want an action job. For police duty, exotically customized guns should never be used, Mike adds, with the total effort here going towards complete reliability. No one should ever fool around with the internal parts of a duty gun.

After our discussion, I asked Mike for a couple of guns for photography and examination before formal range testing. He obliged by producing a Government Model plus a neat-looking Combat Commander. Both had extensive work done, his workmanship could be gauged by actual product samples. I wasn't disappointed.

The GM was a two-tone job, bright blue over industrial hard chrome. All polishing was done in a very professional manner with care given to all flat as well as square edges. No dished holes here. The top strap was reduced from Colt's sand blasted effect to a satin finish that's both easy on the eyes and sighting picture. The slide was topped off with the standard Bo-Mar sights and, completing the picture, the ejection port was lowered. Other niceties on this gun included a polished feed ramp, ambidextrous thumb safeties, semi-bobbed hammer, long trigger, extended magazine release, streamlined grip safety and checkering on the front strap, trigger guard and arched mainspring housing.

The Commander was a slightly different story. Although this model carried most of

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the features mentioned above, it did come to me minus the beveled magazine add-on just so I could feel the difference between the two. The gun, however, had its well beveled in the conventional manner. Like the GM, workmanship was top flight with trigger pulls breaking at 3 $\frac{3}{4}$  and four pounds respectively. After the initial take-up of roughly an  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch, both sears broke like the proverbial glass rod. With anxieties forming in me like the nervous husband waiting for his first born, we headed to the range for casual shooting.

All shooting went off without a hitch. We used three guns, the two mentioned above, plus Mike's personal .45 complete with his compensator. We used everything we could find in the way of ammo; handloads and factory ammo from Remington, Federal and Smith and Wesson (remember them?). From lead to jacketed hollow points to hardball to target wadcutters, they all went through the guns with no problems. Since we were shooting offhand, combat style, groups were not measured. When the pace slowed down I tried some deliberate shots and all came in extremely tight.

When talking to someone about *their* work, I try to sense a certain feeling in them when they talk about *their* product; a certain glint in their eyes, if you will. Some have it, some don't. Mike LaRocca has it.

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## CHARTER ARMS SNUBBY

*Continued from page 44*

prove to be no way to make the sight correction.

The first experimenting any shooter should consider when confronted with a point of aim/point of impact problem with a fixed sight gun is to try out a variety of ammunition types and brands. Lighter bullets print lower at modest ranges so I knew I could solve that part of the problem. Some brands/types will impact to the right or left of others, for various internal ballistic and bullet construction reasons.

Fortunately, there are umpteen brands and types of .38 Special ammunition to experiment with before resorting to the ugly file and fire, file and fire technique. Unfortunately, I had to go through the expense of trying almost all of them before finding the perfect individual round for this individual gun. What I'm getting at with the term "individual" is that you may never experience this problem; but if you do, you should know how to correct it—and all that shooting is good practice anyway.

To make a long story short, and it was a very long shooting session, the last brand/

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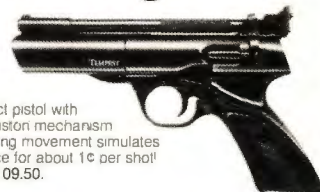
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type I tried shot 15 yard 1/4 inch groups dead center on target. That ammo was a batch of the brand new Federal Nyclad 125 grain SWCHP (Index #N38M). The really nice bonus is that this Federal cartridge is an excellent personal defense load for the .38 Special snubby.

I have saved the best feature of the Charter Arms Off-Duty .38 Special revolver for last, and that feature is the price. The Charter Arms people have, through modern technology, found a way to actually cut production costs. With computerized machinery, the newer companies in almost any field have a definite advantage. They can even afford to be daring and innovative in the design field. Couple this modern technology with some bargain purchases of materials, and Charter is passing on savings to you, the consumer, a rare feat in today's marketplace. The Charter Arms Off-Duty is a top grade gun at a rock bottom price.



## EAGLE .380

Continued from page 52

Indian Arms pistol. American Arms of Garden Grove, California calls it the 'Eagle', and when I examined the prototypes at the SHOT Show in January, 1984, I could tell they were doing it right. A short time later, I had an early regular-production gun for testing. The first impression could hardly have been better: You get the pistol in a nicely-made carrying case of heavy plastic, with the 'Eagle' logo embossed on the lid, and a folding handle. Inside, recessed in foam rubber, is the pistol, its magazine, and a handsome, heavy belt buckle with a 'Right To Bear Arms' motif.

The pistol is a beauty. The sides of the slide, trigger guard, trigger, and hammer are done in a semi-bright brushed finish, and the rest of the surfaces are in matte stainless. The flat areas are perfectly flat, and every line is straight and perfectly cornered. This attention to detail is also apparent on the inside, where hand-polishing is evident. The entire chamber entrance is chamfered and polished, and this pistol will not need to be throated to feed hollow-point rounds.

I welcomed one change from the Indian design—there is no raised vent rib. Instead, there is a low flat sighting plane, 11/32 of an inch wide, extending the full length of the slide. The rear sight is dovetail-mounted, and below its square notch is a vertical white rectangle. The integral front sight has an orange-red dot recessed into its rear face. I found the sights to be perfect for quick eye pick-up, especially in late afternoon at my between-hills range.

The hammer is a ring-type, with good serrations for single action cocking, and minimal protrusion to prevent snagging. The vertical grooving on the trigger is a little too deep for my taste, but then, I actually prefer a completely smooth surface on a trigger.

Some may like the grooving. The double action trigger pull is Walther-like, medium-heavy but quick, and no 'loading' at the end. Single action on my gun is especially nice, a crisp and even four pounds. There is about a sixteenth of an inch of pre-movement, and absolutely no over-travel—outstanding.

The slightly extended length of the safety gives good leverage for easy operation, and it snicks positively into place in both positions. When the safety is turned downward to on-safe, it shields the firing pin and locks it against any movement. And, the designers be praised, it does not drop the hammer. When the lever is moved to off-safe, it exposes a large orange-red dot. The magazine release is a push-button type, finely-checked, and it is located at the top front corner of the left grip. It is protected by the grip and the edge of the slide against accidental release, but it is easy to operate.

The only non-stainless major part of the gun, the magazine, is of regular steel, nickel-plated, and it has a steel-mounted plastic finger-rest on the floorplate. It holds six rounds. I tried a Walther PPK/S magazine in the Eagle, and it worked perfectly, a useful thing to know if you want a spare with one extra round, and don't mind a slight protrusion at the bottom. An internal latch holds the slide open when the last shot is fired. Those with fleshy hands will be glad to know that the lower rear edges of the slide are rounded, to prevent any bite during recoil.

My early gun has seven-groove rifling, but current production pieces have eight grooves. In both cases, left-hand twist. The takedown for routine cleaning is the same as for a Walther, but the guard doesn't have to be moved as far, only 5/16 of an inch, to clear the slide for removal.

I tried the Eagle with several .380 rounds, including cast-bullet reloads, and it handled all of them perfectly. The pistol has, in effect, factory throating, so its reliability with different cartridges was no surprise. The obligatory 'on paper' firing was done at 25 yards, one-hand hold, and from an accuracy standpoint, the Eagle didn't like the heavy cast-bullet SWC load at all. It did better with the Super Vel 88-grain HP, and best of all with the Winchester Silvertip HP. One seven-round group was well-centered, all in the 10-ring and X-ring, and it measured 1 3/8 inches horizontally, 3-inches vertically.

The pistol will be offered by American Arms in four styles in regular stainless or dark Teflon, with either walnut or rubber grips. They are working on a .22LR version of the Eagle, with possible availability sometime in 1985. This one would be great for shooters who like to have a .22 counterpart to their larger-caliber centerfire. This arrangement allows a lot of economical practice, with a pistol that is identical to the serious-carry piece.

Meanwhile, the .380 version of the Eagle is perfect for law-enforcement back-up and personal protection or home defense. It's a high-quality pistol, it looks good, and it works. I'd rather have it than a vintage PPK.





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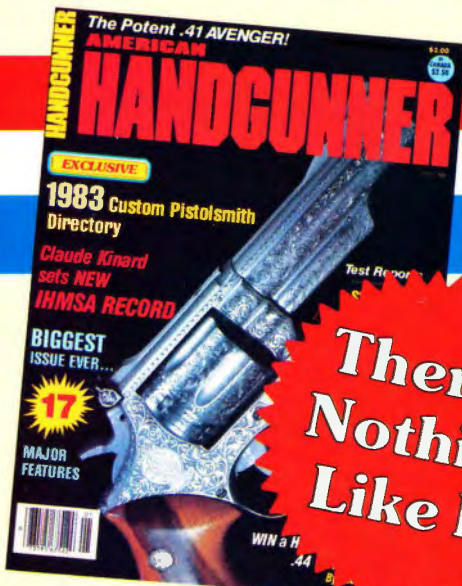
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## WHAT'S NEW

Continued from page 29



### Rogers Cup Challenge

Rogers Holsters proudly introduces the Cup Challenge holster designed for bull-barreled revolvers with Aimpoint sights like those which have won the NRA Action Shooting Championship.

The holster is made of an engineering grade thermo-plastic with a suede liner and a leather outer covering. The holster is molded for a snug fit of the revolver. A tension screw retains the weapon in the open-front design.

The holster is also available in Porvair, a synthetic leather-like material. The holster comes in black or brown, basket-weave or plain. It's available for Smith K, L and N frames as well as the Colt Python.

The standard holster rides nearly straight up and down on the hip, but a version with a radical muzzle forward tilt is also available.

For those who appreciate fine leather, the Cup Challenge can be special ordered with a shark skin leather outer layer over the durable, strong, plastic inner shell.

The Cup Challenge is designed to accommodate Aimpoint and other optical sights as well as iron sights.

The Cup Challenge accommodates bull-barreled revolvers only with diameters of from one-inch to 1 1/4 inches.

This holster is ideal for any action shooting with revolvers. It's extremely fast, yet highly reliable in retaining the revolver.

For further information on the Cup Challenge, which retails for \$68.95, write Rogers Holsters, Dept. AH, 1736 St. John's Bluff Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32216.

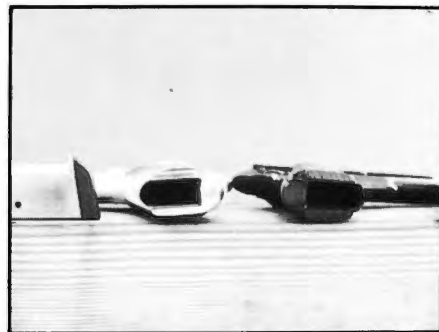
Dealer inquiries are welcomed.

### Another 32 H&R Magnum Load From Federal

Federal Cartridge Corp. announces the introduction of a new loading in 32 H&R Magnum, an 85 grain jacketed hollow point.

From a 4 3/8 inch revolver, the load travels at 1100 fps generating 230 ft./lbs. of energy.

This new load, which comes packaged 50 to a box, supplements Federal's 95 grain semi-wad lead load for the 32 H&R Magnum.



### New Mag Funnel, Slam Pad

Combat Master John Shaw introduces two new products designed for the competitive practical pistol shooter.

The Shaw Mag Funnel and Shaw bumper pad for magazines are top quality products that will benefit every IPSC shooter. These products compliment Shaw's already full line of competitive accessories like his excellent Shaw Pro Shooters Bag.

The magazine bumper pads are patterned after a similar South African design, and are the best magazine slam pads.

The Shaw Mag Funnel is made of stainless steel and attaches to the bottom of the frame around the grip screws. It widens the mag opening considerably and allows for much faster reloads.

Shaw advertises that the Mag Funnel needs no fitting, but you'll find you can make the mag opening a tad wider with a Dremel tool and a grinding bit.

The Mag Funnel, indeed, requires no fitting, but a bit of Dremel tooling improves an already good thing.

The Mag Funnel retails for \$29.95. For further information about these two fine Shaw products, write John Shaw Products, Dept. AH, 503 Stonewall, Memphis, TN 38112.

### Sierra Updates Reloading Manual

Sierra Bullets has compiled a supplement to their famous black and green reloading manual. However, this is not "planned obsolescence" on the part of some slick ad agency—the supplementary pages offer the handloader valuable new information.

And the updated information can now be separated into two loose-leaf binders, one for rifle and one for handgun. The original manual becomes Volume I, Rifle, to which one adds the supplementary rifle data. Volume II, Handgun, comes with the 450 pages of supplementary data to which one adds the handgun data from the original manual (now Volume I, Rifle.)

With this new data, the pair of Sierra manuals contains 1,100 pages of information for the 120 bullets Sierra makes in 90 calibers. Furthermore, as new and updated material becomes available, the handloader need only purchase the new pages and add them to the manuals.

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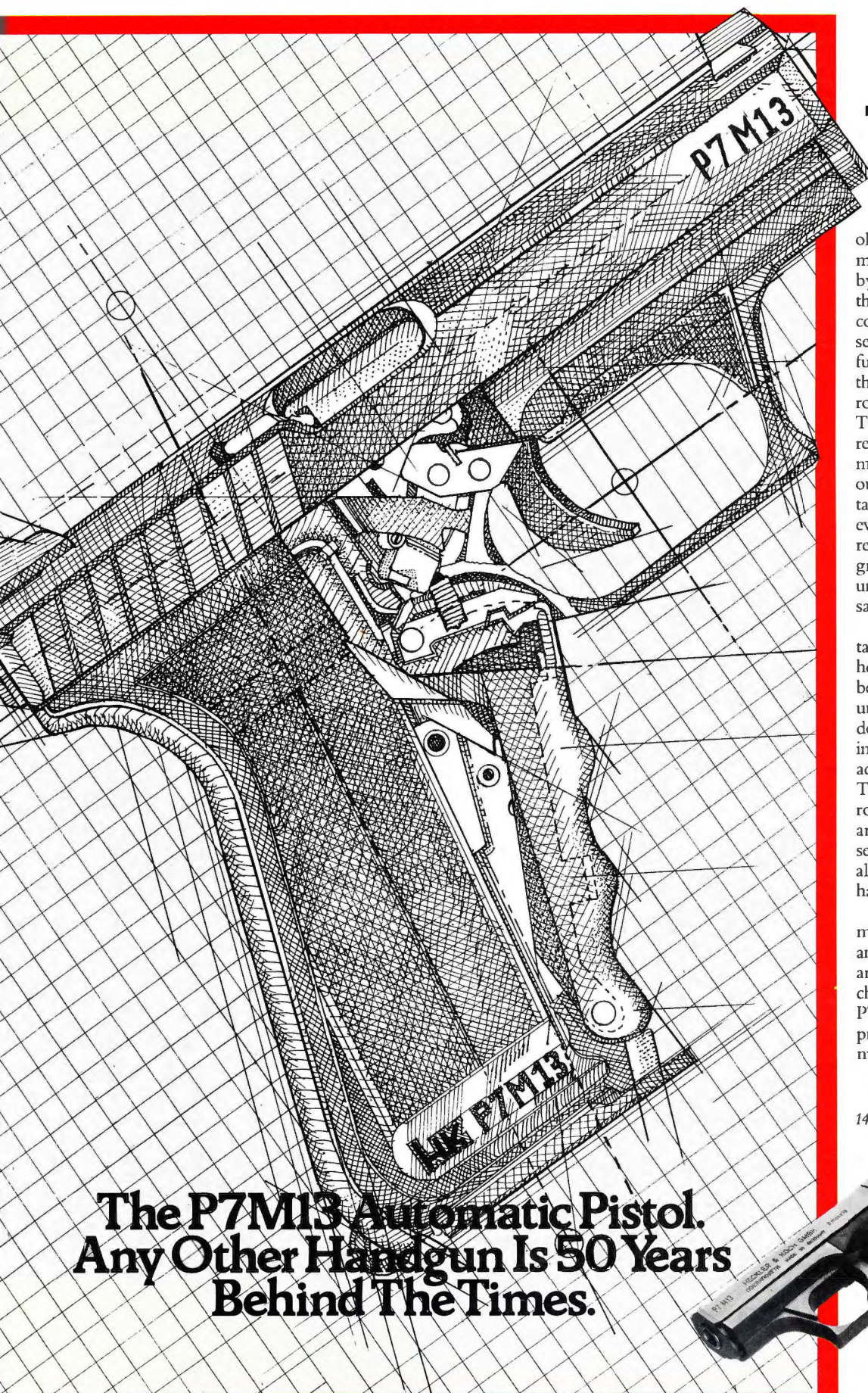
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