



# GIVE 'ER A SHOT

FEB / MAR  
2005

*The Phoenix Police Athletic Club Shooting Team Newsletter*

## I'm late, but our uniforms are in!

I apologize for this coming late. Between the February shoot being less than 3-weeks before the March shoot, the uniforms coming in any day, and life, I am combining February and March newsletters into one issue.

The results of both the team shoots are included in this issue.

**Good News!** The team uniforms are in, well almost. They forgot to include some shirts, so we have to go back and order those that were left out. We do want you to come and get what has come in.

Some of you will get all of your order, some will get most of your order, and a couple of us will get part of it.

A copy of your order form is included, so take a look at it and come to the Armory with cash (I will likely not have change), or checks made out to the Phoenix Police Athletic Club.

They look great and I was fired up when I saw how good they turned out. We do have extra t-shirts and hats if you want some, so bring extra money incase you get the urge to buy more. ☺

Photos on page 3.

## POINT SYSTEM

In the last issue, we talked about having a point system where we could earn points at our monthly matches and when a big match comes those with the highest points are on one team and so on.

We only heard back from one person on this one and they had a good point, one we considered ourselves. "Let's just leave it as it is."

If (and I hope that is not a big "if" for too long) we have several shooters at one match we will figure it out then.

We had this dilemma at the last Police/Fire Games, and the top 3 shooters for the day were on one team, and the next three were on another team. We're grown ups and can figure it out.

Why make it more difficult, and more work for us?

## GSSF Match

In April, the GSSF Match (Glock Match) is coming to the valley. There are 3 stages and they are the same 3 every year. You can shoot up to 3 guns during the match and by the time you are done you have essentially shot 9 stages.

The match is at Rio Salado and you can win money and even a gun at the match. I have broke even (registration vs. prize money) each of the last 3 years, while Bob and Hartson have won a Glock for taking first.

You don't have to be good to win, because you can place 20<sup>th</sup> (out of 30) and win a gun. They break it up by the number of shooters, and first in the top bracket gets one, and if they have enough for two brackets, or three, the first in each bracket wins a gun.

Check the website, ([www.gssfonline.com](http://www.gssfonline.com)), or check with Bret or Rich. We are going to practice their stages at April shoot.

## Upcoming Team Shooting Sessions

- Monday, 4/11/2005 from 1700-2100 at the Training Bureau, but should be done a little early. We are going to practice the GSSF Match stages, to give everyone who plans on doing some practice, and to let those considering going a chance to see it, decide, and practice it. If you don't go, it will be good practice.
- Saturday, 5/7/2005, from 0800-1100 at the Training Bureau, and we are going to do a variety of qualification courses. Rich has collected several qualification courses are we are going to see how we do on some of the qualification courses used by the Feds and other groups.

## SHOOTING TIP OF THE MONTH – Moving in and out of shooting boxes

I'm not smart enough to figure this all out, but I try to learn about shooting from those who are.

A lot of time is lost moving in and out of boxes, and I see this every monthly shoot.

In order to lower your times, one thing to remember is that the clock is always running so anytime you are not doing something you are losing time (Rob Latham said that, I didn't come up with it. See? I'm not that smart).

Most folks lose time because they are not doing a good job entering and/or exiting a box. After shooting, there is a tendency to pause, hesitate, and stutter

step before actually exiting a box, losing ½ a second.

The key is to be ready to move as soon as you finish shooting, so you can just go.

Now, you don't want to start moving while you are shooting, or you will miss and have to jump back in the box to shoot, and then miss again as you are moving while shooting, and jump back in. You will begin to look like you are doing the shooting box 2-step.

Depending on the difficulty of the shot, your foot that will be lifting first does not necessarily have to have 50% of your weight on it, but you don't want to start leaning or you will miss that shot.

When moving into a box, a lot of us tend to still be reloading once we get into the box **or** don't have the gun up and on target until after we get in the box.

Start your reloads as soon as you leave the last box and try to get it done before you get to the next one.

As you enter the box, try to have the gun up on target, and beginning to align the sights. So that once you get in the box, you can start shooting right off the bat.

There is more info on footwork and how to exit and enter a box, but it would take too long to put in here – plus I'm not real good at it, and I am still working on it myself.

**Remember, the clock's always running.**

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## Results of February Shoot

Wednesday, February 23, 2005

### Overall:

John Harma.....	46.12
Bret Draughn.....	47.76
James Smith.....	63.36
Pete Tuchalski.....	74.11
Troy Hill.....	84.42
Chuck Keith.....	84.56
Joel Ring.....	95.71

### Plates, Plates, and More Plates:

Bret Draughn.....	13.23
John Harma.....	15.87
James Smith.....	18.73

### Problem Solving 101:

Bret Draughn.....	-1.7
John Harma.....	2.45
Troy Hill.....	4.76

### Strong Side / Weak Side:

John Harma.....	7.08
Bret Draughn.....	11.41
Pete Tuchalski.....	15.57

### Seemed Like a Good Idea...at the Time:

John Harma.....	20.72
James Smith.....	21.72
Bret Draughn.....	24.82

## **Team Members Making a Showing in other Matches Spring Steel @ Rio Salado**

Three PPAC Shooting Team members showed, Rich Brethour, Rich Hartson, and Bret Draughn

- Rich Brethour shot a 6-shot revolver and this was a tough to do with revolver. Unfortunately, due to the number of revolver shooters, they clumped all limited revolvers together against each other and he could not place against the 7-8 shot revolvers

- Rich Hartson got 1<sup>st</sup> in D-Limited Division (winning some cash)

- Bret Draughn got 1<sup>st</sup> in C-Limited Division (winning some cash)

This match was a good time and we shot 8 stages and it went fast and furious. A lot of the steel was big and relatively close so we were able to just cut loose and hose (except, Rich B. because with a revolver, that will kill you, because you only have 6 in your gun and you will be doing a lot more reloading, and he had to do a lot as it was).

## The Phoenix Police Athletic Club

I want to thank the Athletic Club for fronting the money for our team uniforms. They paid out a pretty big chunk of change to front the money and are not going to be getting it all back right off the bat. We are still playing catch up, and eventually they will get ahead. This was not a money making endeavor for PPAC. But we hope to put some back. If you are not a member, do me a favor and consider joining.

PPAC provides reimbursement for participating in the Police Olympics and other things, they help support the shooting team with money for props, targets, and other needs, and have numerous other activities to going on. Cost is only \$2.00 per paycheck, so it is absolutely worth it.

Contact me, Bret Draughn (at the Academy), for a signup packet. I can send you a packet through the Department mail or get one from me at the monthly shoot.

## Results of March Shoot

Saturday, March 12, 2005

### Overall:

Dave Norman.....	129.30
Bob Wamsley.....	134.55
Mike Burns.....	141.25
Pat Crouse.....	160.26
Troy Hill.....	161.36
Bret Draughn.....	163.23
Rich Hartson.....	169.24

### Bring 'em on - Shotgun:

Rich Brethour.....	37.61
Vern Brink.....	38.11
Mike Burns.....	39.49

### Rich wanted boxes, So (handgun only):

Dave Norman.....	26.96
Bret Draughn.....	28.41
Vern Brink.....	28.73

### Your Choice (shotgun and handgun):

Dave Norman.....	34.21
Robert Wamsley.....	38.32
Vern Brink.....	38.97

### Bring 'em on - Handgun:

Mike Burns.....	21.20
Dave Norman.....	23.88
Bret Draughn.....	24.79

## **ARIZONA COMBAT CLASSIC UPDATE**

“Update” makes it sound good and sound like I have some news on when the match will be..

Sorry to say, I don't see us getting the Combat Classic going this spring.

The biggest challenge right now is insurance for the match. I was told we need to find and obtain some insurance for the match, and that's not going well. This match will involve people shooting guns and that seems to make insurance companies a little nervous.

Last year the insurance I found was too expensive, and this year, the person I have been dealing with does not seem too reliable and is not doing a very good job.

My plate had been a little full lately, but I should have started looking for someone else earlier.

I hope to get an early start for next year. Maybe we can work on something for the fall; I figure you all don't want to do it in June or July... do you?.

If anyone knows someone who sells insurance and is reliable, let me know, I think I have to start looking elsewhere. If we ever get this match going, it will be a great match.

By the way we will need some help from team members with stage setup when, and if, the time comes.

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This picture to the right is printed in black and white and does not do the uniforms justice, but I put a photo in here so you can get an idea of how the team uniforms turned out.

Included in the picture are the blue polo, the blue t-shirt, the gray t-shirt, and the hat.

The hat and polo have the team logo embroidered on them, while the t-shirts have the logo silk-screened.

Like I said, we do have extra t-shirts and hats on hand if you would like to purchase some more.

We do still have to order some sizes of the t-shirts that we did not get in.



Looking for a shooting match to try out? Here are some suggestions.

The Cactus Combat Match League holds matches on most Thursdays and Sundays up at Ben Avery. This is a good place to cut your teeth. Their shooters range from new shooters to real good shooters.

<http://www.cactusmatch.com/>

Rio Salado is east of Mesa, at Usery Pass Shooting Range. They have great shooters out there and if you start shooting there you will be in good company and learn a whole lot about shooting from some of the best.

They have matches on Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesday nights. <http://www.riosaladosportsmans.com/>

The Phoenix Rod and Gun Club is down next to the Training Bureau. Their matches are low stress matches and you can start out shooting around more average shooters. I have only shot one match there and had a good time. Tempe range staff has told me they hold pretty fun matches, hold IDPA matches (a little more realistic to our job), and are getting lights put up to start holding Thursday night matches.

<http://www.phoenixrodandgun.org/>

The Police and Fire Games (Police Olympics) are held two times per year. They will be holding the next one down in Tucson in April. It is a good chance to get out of town and spend a couple days down south. They will have competitions for snipers, combat handgun, PPC, and 3-gun. They generally also have some other shooting events including high power. <http://www.azpolicegames.com/>

### **Website Favorites (some websites for shooters):**

[www.roblatham.com](http://www.roblatham.com) – Rob Latham (The Great One) started a website. You will find a lot of information on his site, and if you join his membership, you will have access to more information and stages he has designed, along with stage tips. Plus you can go out and shoot with him once a month.

[www.brianenos.com](http://www.brianenos.com) – Brian is quite a thinker when it comes to shooting, and he will get you thinking a little too although it might cause your brain to hurt while trying to keep up.

[www.mattburkett.com](http://www.mattburkett.com) – Matt is a local grand master shooter that is making a lot of money because he does a good job of passing along information on how to improve your shooting.

[www.dillonprecision.com](http://www.dillonprecision.com) – Dillon Precision is a good place to find shooting supplies, equipment, and information sources on shooting.

[www.uspsa.com](http://www.uspsa.com) - United States Practical Shooting Association is where the competition guys live (well one of the many places).

There are a ton of sites out there, this is just a start.

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**Here are some pictures from the Spring Steel, so you all can see what you missed!!!**



Rich Brethour shooting all of the steel you see to the right



A lot of steel here.  
This is why they call it Spring Steel.



Rich Hartson: Down the bore, through the barrel, nothin' but steel. Shooting through a barrel and trying to hit these while the star is spinning...Tough!!!



It's all fun and games, until you have to stop and reload your 6-shot..... 40 times.....In one match!!

## **SPRING STEEL** FEBRUARY 27, 2005 RIO SALADO NEXT YEAR WE NEED MORE OF YOU OUT THERE



One stage had 4 paper targets, and everything else was steel. And the paper only required 2 hits each anywhere on the paper.



Plates look familiar? We had two plate racks stacked, after shooting a bunch of other stuff



I figure there was a reason we went to the semi-auto - reloads made quick



Looks easy, don't it?



Bret in Shoot-off, and I LOST! I lost to Dustin Stapp, the son of Tempe PD Range Master Craig Stapp. I lost to a kid!!! (He got 2<sup>nd</sup> place, so I feel better)



Rich Hartson is in the Shoot-off. He is on the left and winning! He won a couple of matches before getting beat out – by an adult.