



# GIVE 'ER A SHOT

*The Phoenix Police Athletic Club Shooting Team Newsletter*

DECEMBER,  
2005

## Our Christmas Recap

This December issue marks the last of our "Give 'er a Shot" newsletter for 2005, and we have been holding the shooting team matches for a year and a half now.

In that time, we have seen a lot of new faces come out to the monthly matches and try them out.

Some folks have returned over and over, finding this is a good time and beneficial to their shooting skills. Others have only come out once or twice, and have not returned. There are also a few out there who asked to be put on our mailing list and have not yet made it, but I'll keep hoping to see those who fall into that category.

Our monthly attendance is running at an average of about 15 shooters each match. Some are quite low while a few (like our last on) were higher than we expected. Some folks have talked their entire squad (or at least most of them) into coming out and trying the matches, and we are glad to have them.

I have been shooting matches since 1987 or 88 (although you can't tell by my performance) and have yet to find a match that is such a good deal. We have no match fees, you can't beat the cost of the ammunition, and we are getting better at getting out within about 3 hours (on average). Plus get to shoot with other cops and a lot of people you know.

Keep inviting your friends and squad members and keep on coming out to improve your shooting skills – it might save your life.

*Bret Draughn*

## Drill Master Drills for the January Match

The January monthly shoot is coming up on 1/21/06 at 0900 hours. We will be shooting eight stages and are going to set it up in a manner that we hope to finish by 1300 hours (8 stages in 4 hours).

We are going to be using drills developed by Rob Leatham, easily argued to be the best combat handgun shooter in the world for the last 2+ decades.

Rob started the Drill Masters Shooting Club ([www.robleatham.com](http://www.robleatham.com)) about a year and a half ago, and each month he puts out a new drill for people to shoot. He also holds a monthly shoot at Rio Salado where people who join his club can go out and shoot the drills with Rob. He designs each one to provide an opportunity to shoot drills so you can improve shooting skills.

When I send out the scores, I will include Rob's score on each drill so you can compare your score to Rob's.

It will be a good time shooting these drills and the drills will include several different targets, including: IDPA, IPSC, IPSC Classic, and the Tombstone D-1. If you don't know what these are, come one out and shoot with us, and you will get a chance to see (and shoot) them. And bring a friend, or two.

This will be a little longer but a good match.

## Upcoming Monthly Team Shoots

- Saturday, January 21, 2006, 0900-1300 hrs. – We will borrow drills from Rob Leatham's Drill Master Shooting Club ([www.robleatham.com/](http://www.robleatham.com/)) and run several drills that he designed over the last year. We will run these drills in a way that will allow us to do 6-8 drills/stages. This will be a lot of fun and some good practice. **SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE.**
- Saturday, February 25, 2006, 0900-1300 hours – Due to darkness making it difficult on us in the evenings, we are going to run back to back Saturdays. In March we will hold a weeknight match for those who can't attend Saturdays. This February match will be a PPC match because it has been a few months since we have done one and it is good trigger work practice, and we figure everyone can benefit from it.

## SHOOTING TIP OF THE MONTH – "Practice Suggestions"

We regularly see people come out to the range to practice but the question is, "*Are they practicing to get better, or practicing to get worse?*"

Folks come out to the range and try to sneak 200 rounds out to the range and spend about 15 minutes shooting it.

They believe they are practicing shooting in a manner that will make them better, when in reality they are practicing getting worse – and succeeding.

Whatever you are doing when practicing, it works, you will do it more frequently and get better at it. The problem is that you might be making mistakes while shooting, and after making that mistake 100, 200, or even 300 times you are going to get better at them.

When people come out and shoot 200 rounds with a lot of fast trigger pulling, they unknowingly start jerking that trigger (pulling it hard and fast to the rear in a manner that moves the gun off target and/or makes the other muscles in their hands and arms move).

Pretty soon all of this trigger jerking starts to become a refined skill, and they get good at it. Then they come out to shoot their annual qualification (or in your case maybe shoot a match) and can not shoot accurately when necessary. They point out that they have been coming out to practice regularly and can't figure out why they did not shoot a good score.

There are times to practice fast & furious

shooting but we should not practice shooting fast with a reckless abandoned. We need to work on our speed with a controlled and calculated reckless abandoned

And, when we plan a day of practicing shooting fast, all of the shooting should not be for speed, there needs to be a balance.

Practice speeding up, then slow down and see how your groups are looking, and if they are okay, speed back up.

Finish your shooting with at least one mag. (two is better) going back to accuracy. Shoot as small of a group as you can, 5-rounds at a time. If you need to do some dry-fire go ahead and then go back to live. Finish by bringing your basics back to your shooting, and don't finish shooting with trigger jerking.

# GIVE 'ER A SHOT – DECEMBER, 2005

The Phoenix Police Athletic Club Shooting Team Newsletter

Page 2

## Results of November Shoot

Thursday, Dec. 15, 2005

### Overall scores

John Harma.....	55.07
Patrick Crouse.....	76.99
Bret Draughn.....	78.25
Lane (no last name on score sheet).....	91.23
R.V. Hartson.....	94.93
Mike Burns.....	100.31

### Around & Around

John Harma.....	5
Patrick Crouse.....	5
Lane.....	5

### Two, Support, Primary, & Two

John Harma.....	25.09
James Smith.....	31.07
Mike Burns.....	31.99

### One Target Lots of Shots

Bret Draughn.....	10.19
Jack Villa.....	11.03
John Harma.....	11.22

### 2s + 1s = 10

Bret Draughn.....	8.68
John Harma.....	9.77
Patrick Crouse.....	9.89

### Swing that Gun

John Harma.....	13.99
Bret Draughn.....	14.27
Patrick Crouse.....	15.90

## WE HAVE EXTRA TEAM T-SHIRTS AND HATS FOR SALE

We have extra T-shirts in blue and gray, and hats. We still need to purchase some of the sizes we did not get in the first place and more 5.11 clothing, but want to unload some of what we have on hand before doing so (we still have to order more but I still have a lot of the other stuff on hand). If you are new to the shooting team and would like a team hat or shirt, let us know and we can get you set up. I think they ran about \$9.00 for hats and the shirt.

If interested contact Bret Draughn or Rich Hartson down at the Armory. You can also come to a monthly shoot and we will take care of you after the match.



## BONUS MATCH

If interested, Mark Nelson is setting up a precision rifle match that will take place after our match on January 21, 2006.

After we finish with the monthly match, we are going to take down the stages and Mark is going to take over and start organizing the precision rifle match here at the range. We plan on starting this match at 1400 hours and depending on the number of shooters that show up we plan on being done around 1600 hours.

We do recommend bringing a scoped rifle because there are going to be small targets and some target identification issues at distance and the magnification will help out. However, if you don't have one, but have an iron sight you want to shoot (like an AR15) you can bring it and Give 'er a Shot." You will get bragging rights for the day because of your efforts, even if you get beat.

We won't be able to provide precision ammunition for this match, so you will have to bring some of your own.

Mark said bring it should only take about 25 rounds to get through, but I always like to have extra.

## VIDEO TAPING WEAR YOUR SHOOTING TEAM GEAR IF YOU GOT IT

At the January 21<sup>st</sup> match I am going to bring out a video camera to tape a few stages for the Athletic Club because they want some stuff to put on the PDTV (I'm sure they will see my video taping skills and say, "Thanks, but no thanks").

So, if you're coming out and you purchased any Shooting Team clothing, wear it to the Saturday match. (I was going to ask R.V. to try to clean up and look good for the camera then realized what a futile effort that would be, so I didn't.)

If you don't want to be taped, no problem just let me know. However, due to safety issues I will be standing behind the shooter, so I will be getting the back of the heads, and for many of you, it is your best side. ☺