



# GIVE 'ER A SHOT

The Phoenix Police Athletic Club Shooting Team Newsletter

Nov.,  
2006

## The Desert Classic

Some of us just spent 3 days shooting the Desert Classic - Area 2 Championship. Whew! What a challenge.

This is a tough one to get into because it is such a popular match, and just about all of the really good shooters from around the country attend (350 shooters in all). What this means is that not only do the stages humble you but where you end up in the match is kind of humbling as well.

They had 11 stages and all of them were pretty cool, but challenging. There were several stages where I was glad I shot them, but I was really glad I didn't have to shoot them again. One stage that was the talk of the match was called "Temple of Doom."

This one had you climb a ladder to get up to about 12-15 feet high where you loaded and sat in a type of roller coaster cart. On the start signal you rode the cart as it went down range and you had to shoot at least 32 rounds on paper and steel targets as you went.

Another one that beat me down was called "Window Service" where you were opening ports in a wall by pulling ropes and pushing doors in so you could see and shoot a variety of challenging targets. I was shooting 10 round magazines and had to do 5 reloads on this single 32 round stage, because of how the target arrays were set up. Some stages required only about 16 rounds while several required a minimum of 32 rounds. In other words there was a lot of shooting going on.

Phoenix PD had 5 folks at the match, which was a good showing, and we didn't make Phx. PD look too bad.

## PRESERVING THE PERSONALITY

I forgot, but in the September issues of Give 'er a Shot, at the end of the Shooting Tip of the Month section, I mentioned something about covering a topic called Preserving the Personality. So I will hit it here.

In September's Tip of the Month we were talking about Shooting and Thinking and how in a shooting it is possible for the mind to run quicker than the body can perform. One suggestion was to practice shooting to be able to shoot closer to the speed the mind will be working during a deadly force encounter. Another, or additional, approach is to Preserve the Personality.

I know it is easier to say than to do, but preserving the personality means instead of letting the mind run at the high speed it wants to, during a deadly encounter, figure out how to slow it down so you can think your way through things. Things like tactics and marksmanship.

I have a quote I use in recruit training where Bat Masterson says: "...the least important thing is speed, second least is accuracy. The most important aspect in winning a gunfight is the ability to preserve the personality."

A quote from Wild Bill Hickok is, "Whenever you get into a row be sure and not shoot too quick. Take time. I've known many a fellow slip up for shooting in a hurry."

## Upcoming Monthly Team Shoots

- **Tuesday, December 18, 2006, from 1700-2000 hours** – This is going to be an all steel match, in order for us to run through it quickly. We are going to be fighting darkness so be prepared to start on time, wear clear eye protection, get done fast, and expect to have a tough time seeing the targets and your sights. ☺
- **Saturday, January 13, 2007, from 0900-1200 hours** – This was going to be a multi-gun match (handgun, shotgun and rifle) but with our rifle ammo issues here we are holding off on that for a couple months so we will do a standard handgun combat match with a variety of complicated targets and other props.

## SHOOTING TIP OF THE MONTH - "Training without Shooting" Part 2

Last month we talked about dry-fire training and how it can really improve your shooting and hit on how to make the best of it. In this issue we are going to talk a little more about dry-fire training, building endurance and shooting while moving.

Before I do, I must qualify myself so you understand I am not covering this because I'm a great shooter who knows what he is doing. I am apparently a horrific shooter as evident when comparing my shooting to the world class shooters that beat me in the Desert Classic. You know what they say, "Those who can, do, and those who can't teach." So I read a lot and then try to pass along what I learned from those who can.

### More on Dry-Fire Training:

When talking about choosing a target I forgot to mention something I frequently do, and that is dry-fire on a blank wall/safe area.

If I am not worried about the target I focus harder on the front sight to make sure I see what it looks like when I am clearly focusing on it. I can better see the slightest front sight movement when pressing the trigger.

### Building Endurance:

Hold on now, don't throw this out, we ain't talking about running 5 miles a day.

We are talking about endurance when it comes to holding the gun steadier plus focusing on the sights better and longer.

This is stuff I read and it makes sense, if you would like to see how it works for you.

Put a small spot on your dry-fire target and hold the front sight on the spot as long as possible. The first goal is to hold it steady as possible to teach the muscles how to limit the amount movement in the sights.

Another possible benefit would be to teach the eyes to really focus on the front sight, and

for the mind to learn to concentrate better and longer.

Keeping a real clear eye focus on the front sight and concentrate on the sight, hold it on the small target as steady as possible and for as long as possible.

### Dry-Fire Shooting While Moving:

You can use your empty weapon and point at your target while moving forward and back, or side to side while trying to keep the sights on the target.

Another technique is using a glass or bottle of water about ¾ full and hold it up like a gun in your hands while practicing your movement.

You will notice that there are certain points in your movement that makes the water slosh more than other points. As you practice, you can learn to move smoother, with less sloshing, and in live-fire you might find the times where there it isn't sloshing are good points to shoot.

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## Results of November Team Shoot

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### Duty Gear Class (regular cop/duty gear):

Joel Ring..... 146.83  
Rick Sue..... 179.53

### Challenge Class (limited capacity guns):

Rich Brethour..... 99.39  
Mark Nelson..... 116.24

### Gamer Class (the class for the players, or gamers):

Bret Draughn..... 90.57  
Troy Hill..... 94.95

### Stage Winners:

#### Stage 1 – 686:

Duty Gear Class – Rick Sue  
Challenge Class – Rich Brethour  
Gamer Class – Troy Hill

#### Stage 2 – Open the Doors:

Duty Gear Class – Joel Ring  
Challenge Class – Jay Dempsey  
Gamer Class – Bret Draughn

#### Stage 3 – Testing Our Skills:

Duty Gear Class – Joel Ring  
Challenge Class – Rich Brethour  
Gamer Class – Bret Draughn

#### Stage 4 – Shooting Through Walls:

Duty Gear Class – Joel Ring  
Challenge Class – Rich Brethour  
Gamer Class – Troy Hill

If interested in reading through old Give 'er a Shot Newsletters, several are still on the PPAC website, as are a couple videos and photos. I hope to get a couple more videos in there, including a couple of the real cool stages at the Desert Classic Area 2 Championships. Go to <http://ppaconline.com/> for their website.

## Congratulations to our folks at other matches

Over the last month or so there are been a couple of matches where team members did some good shooting.

### DESERT CLASSIC AREA 2 CHAMPIONSHIPS:

Although everyone one listed below is probably a little disappointed in their performance, and the end result, the fact is that there was a lot of tough competition in this match (but we all had fun and talked about next year).

Mike Lin placed 4<sup>th</sup> in Single Stack class, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> in A division

John Harma placed 5<sup>th</sup> in Master-Limited class, with a top 20 finish in Limited division

Rich Hartson placed 1<sup>st</sup> among all unclassified shooters in Production class and had a top 20 finish in Production

Keith Crouse placed 4<sup>th</sup> in C-Limited class

Bret Draughn placed 5<sup>th</sup> in B – Production class, with a top 20 finish in Production class

And the biggest heartbreaker, for me, Rich beat me for the match!

### 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CACTUS COMBAT MATCH LEAGUE, COMBAT SHOTGUN CLASSIC:

Several team members shot in this 1<sup>st</sup> Annual event and did well, but more importantly we had fun – translation, most of us got spanked. A couple folks stood out though, and they were:

Mike Lin took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Pump Shotgun class

Richard Brethour took 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Pump Shotgun class

**Bat Masterson:** “A man who essays to arbitrate a difference with a pistol... may possess both courage and experience and still fail if he lacks deliberation... I have known men in the West whose courage could not be questioned and whose experience with the pistol was simply marvelous, who fell easy victims before men who added deliberation to the other two qualities.”

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

We have extra Shooting Team T-shirts and hats and they are for sale. They come in long-sleeve and short-sleeve and in blue and gray. Some shirts come with a silk-screened logo while others are embroidered, and the blue shirts are only for those who have shot with the Shooting Team, while the gray shirts and the hats are for anyone.

Silk-screened shirts are \$8.00 each, while hats and embroidered shirts are \$10.00 each.

If interested contact Bret Draughn or Rich Hartson down at the Armory, or you come shoot a monthly match and we can take care of any purchases after the match.



## Join the PPAC

Although we don't require it, and I don't want to really pressure anyone, it would be cool to see everyone who is coming to our Shooting Team Matches join the PPAC. It would benefit the Shooting Team for when we ask for some money (like when they fronted the money for our team uniforms, and have not come close to recovering those costs) because they see us putting into the PPAC. But, it is a good organization.

They will reimburse you for going to things like the Police Games, they hold picnics and other things for their members and their families, and if you take full advantage of it, you will actually come out ahead. It's only \$2.00 per check and you can get out more than what you put in.

Contact Bret at the Armory for forms to sign up.

## FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW US

We started the Shooting Team to get more PPD officers into shooting to improve their firearms skills through competition.

We change up what we are doing as much as we can, keep it fun, help everyone learn, and most importantly we improve our shooting abilities.

We have no limits on the number of folks on the team. We call it a team, but you don't have to earn a spot and you don't have to commit to anything other than showing up.

Come on out and Give 'er a Shot, everyone is invited.

## A couple pictures from the Desert Classic, Area 2 Championship



These two photos are of John Harma Shooting a stage called "Saving Private Sabia"



"I THINK THIS WAS A MISS"



These two photos are of Bret Draughn Shooting the stage, "Saving Private Sabia"

## Pictures from the Cactus Combat Match's Shotgun Match



Rich Brethour shooting falling targets



Mike Lin a little farther along on the same stage



Rich Hartson is a speeding blur shooting the falling targets