



# GIVE 'ER A SHOT

*The Phoenix Police Athletic Club Shooting Team Newsletter*

**MARCH,  
2007**

## UPDATE ON THE PHOENIX COMBAT CLASSIC

THE PHOENIX COMBAT CLASSIC, SOMETHING I HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE, WAS AN EXTREMELY POPULAR ANNUAL SHOOTING MATCH THAT WAS HELD AT THE ACADEMY OVER A 12 YEAR PERIOD. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN HELD FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW, I STILL GET QUESTIONS FROM PEOPLE WHO PARTICIPATED IN IT, ASKING IF IT IS GOING TO COME BACK.

WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO OVERCOME SOME OF THE OBSTACLES AND WE MIGHT HAVE FOUND IT, BUT THERE ARE STILL SOME FINER DETAILS FOR US TO WORK OUT.

THE COMBAT CLASSIC WAS PUT TOGETHER BY ARNIE STALLMAN AND STEVE PROCTOR (BOTH NOW RETIRED) AND IT TOOK A LOT OF WORK TO PUT ON THE MATCH EACH YEAR. I HAVE A FEW GUYS AT THE ARMORY WHO ARE WILLING TO HELP OUT SO THERE WILL BE MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE DOING THE WORK TO PUT IT ON, BUT THERE ARE OTHER CHALLENGES WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH.

ONE BIG CHALLENGE WAS OBTAINING INSURANCE FOR THE MATCH, BUT WE MAY HAVE FOUND A WAY TO GET INSURANCE. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PURCHASE AN ANNUAL INSURANCE POLICY FOR THE SHOOTING TEAM BUT NEED TO GET OUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS TO SOMETHING WE CAN TRACK A LITTLE BETTER, COMPARED TO JUST GOING WITH ANYONE WHO HAS EVER SHOT WITH US.

WHEN WE HAVE A CHANCE THERE IS GOING TO BE A LOT OF FOOTWORK FOR US TO DO SO IF THIS HAPPENS WE ARE LOOKING AT DOING IT IN DECEMBER. THAT GIVES US A CHANCE TO GET ALL OF THE WORK DONE AND GET PREPARED FOR IT, AND THERE ARE A LOT OF OTHER THINGS GOING ON IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER SO THEY ARE FULL.

ALL OF THIS PLANNING DOES NOT GUARANTEE WE WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD THE COMBAT CLASSIC, BUT IT IS OUR FIRST STEP IN GETTING THERE. FOLKS STILL ASK ME ABOUT THE COMBAT CLASSIC BECAUSE IT WAS MEMORABLE, AND OUR GOAL IS TO PICK UP AND CARRY ON WITH THE TRADITION ARNIE AND STEVE STARTED YEARS AGO.

## SPRING BREAK

We are going to take a break from the monthly team shoots until around June because April and May are just too busy for those of us working at the Armory.

Not only do we have a mess of recruit classes but with having to finish the in-service annual qualifications, hold shotgun recertification classes, and many other classes we are going to be pushing hard to meet our work demands.

We have to take care of not burning the guys out. Even though we all have fun doing these shoots, when we are really busy at work, the team shoots begin to feel like we are going to work again.

## LIMITING THE SIZE OF THE SHOOTING TEAM

We have to do a little downsizing of the Shooting Team because of our need to obtain insurance in preparation of the Combat Classic.

We are going to have to eliminate the folks who have not been out in a long time and will have to do so now and then. So if you have not been out to a monthly match in over a year but would like to remain with the team let me know and I will keep you on.

If you stop receiving the newsletter it does not mean we don't like you and you are always welcome to come shoot.

## Upcoming Monthly Team Shoots

- **SPRING BREAK** – We are going to take a break from the monthly team shoots until around June because April and May are just too busy here at the Armory. Not only do we have a mess of recruit classes but with having to finish in-service annual qualifications, hold shotgun recertification classes, and host many other classes we are going to be pushing hard to meet our work demands.

## SHOOTING TIP OF THE MONTH - "SIGHT ALIGNMENT"

If you remember anything about firearms training from the academy days, hopefully you remember those two most important fundamentals of marksmanship, sight alignment and trigger control.

Ask any instructor at the Armory, "What is the #1 shooting mistake we see when teaching all personnel from the struggling to the solid shooters?" they would all say it is trigger control.

Last month we talked about trigger control, so this month we are going to talk about #2, sight alignment (there is another one that could arguably fall into the #2 position but we are going with sight alignment here).

With sight alignment, we do have the traditional perfect front sight focus with the tops of the sights lined up, equal lines of light, and centered on the target area.

When using the traditional perfect sight alignment, the key is to hold the sight on target until the shot breaks. Too many people

try to pull the trigger, to make the gun go off, when the sights get aligned but the best approach hold the sight where you want to hit until the gun goes off.

There are other levels of sight alignment that we should be aware of. One is just seeing the front sight on the target but not so worried about the perfect alignment of the front sight within the rear sight.

Depending on the difficulty of the target (size and distance) and your ability, at 5 to 10 yards when you see the sight within the target area you can shoot and get a hit, as long as your trigger control is good enough to not move the gun off target. For some this distance may be 5 yards while others may have the ability to guarantee a hit at distances up to 15 yards (or even farther).

An advanced approach on targets at closer distances, sight alignment may only entail seeing that the weapon is briefly aligned within the target zone, and not losing time

obtaining that perfect sight alignment.

Sights are on the gun to assist us with aligning the weapon so the bullets impact the target where we intend for them to impact.

That said, don't go thinking I am talking about not seeing alignment. I'm saying that as long as our trigger control is sound, perfect alignment is not always necessary, but some type of visual verification of alignment is always necessary.

At closer distances, textbook perfect alignment is not necessary for us to get good centered hits, but we do need to have a visual reference that our weapon is aligned. We have to see our weapon is pointed where we want to shoot.

The next key point to sight alignment is making sure the sights/weapon pause on target before shooting. You must see the weapon pause on target to ensure you get the hit.

No matter the distance you are engaging,

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### Results of March Team Shoot

March 17, 2007 (3-Gun Match)

#### Optical Sights Class:

1 <sup>st</sup> – Vern Brink .....	242.31
2 <sup>nd</sup> – Troy Hill .....	269.84
3 <sup>rd</sup> – Dane Lambert .....	303.93
4 <sup>th</sup> – Chris Ray .....	313.28

#### Open Sights Class:

1 <sup>st</sup> – John Harma .....	244.50
2 <sup>nd</sup> – Pat Crouse .....	260.55
3 <sup>rd</sup> – Mike Burns .....	273.86
4 <sup>th</sup> – Tim Lantz .....	278.43

#### Stage Winners:

##### Stage 1 – What to Do? (Rifle Stage):

Optical Sights Class – Troy Hill .....	23
Open Sights Class – Jack Villa .....	20

##### Stage 2 – Wanted: Ammo Bearer (3-Gun Stage):

Optical Sights Class – Vern Brink .....	100.35
Open Sights Class – Tim Lantz .....	103.79

##### Stage 3 – Bustin' Loose (Shotgun & Handgun Stage):

Optical Sights Class – Vern Brink .....	48.50
Open Sights Class – John Harma .....	54.59

##### Stage 4 – It's About the Reloads (Shotgun Stage):

Optical Sights Class – Vern Brink .....	23.34
Open Sights Class – John Harma .....	27.14

##### Stage 5 – One at a Time (Handgun Stage):

Optical Sights Class – Dane Lamber .....	29.29
Open Sights Class – John Harma .....	16.74

If interested in reading through old Give 'er a Shot Newsletters, several are still on the PPAC website, as are a couple videos. Go to the PPAC website at <http://ppaconline.com>.

### SHOOTING TIP – SIGHT ALIGNMENT

unless your shooting skills are highly tuned it is important to pause on target. I can only think of a couple people on our Department who have the ability to shoot while the gun is moving across a target but even then this can occur only under certain circumstances.

A lot of misses are a result of trying to shoot before we see alignment on target, or moving the gun off target before shooting. This occurs because we are trying to shoot too quickly and shooting before we have alignment, or we are trying to move the gun too quickly to the next target and pull the gun off target before we shoot.

Don't take any target too lightly. Even if a target seems close or easy, see alignment because as soon as we think a target is an easy shot we forget to see the alignment and those are the ones we will miss, and should not (I'm talking from experience on this one).

This takes us back to trigger control. Sight alignment of any kind is pointless unless we have good trigger control, or the ability to move the trigger to the point the shot breaks without moving the gun off target.

At farther distances or on more difficult shots we must have the "on command" ability to use a more precise trigger press, when needed. Yet we must also have the ability to move the trigger quicker for closer easier targets – again without moving the gun off target.

By doing proper dry-fire practice and practicing sound trigger control at all times, you can improve your trigger control so you can spend more time on sight/weapon alignment which will improve your shooting and speed.

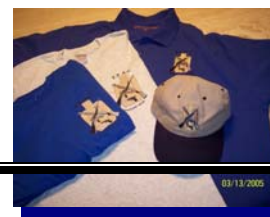
Remember, once skills are up to the task, speed is dictated mostly by how quickly we see.

#### Quote of the Month:

*"Anyone can shoot really fast, but only those serious about their shooting work on hitting what they are shooting at every time they pull the trigger."*

### 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.