



GIVE 'ER A SHOT

The Phoenix Police Athletic Club Shooting Team Newsletter

OCTOBER,
2005

Phoenix Police Athletic Club

I went to a meeting today with the Board of the PPAC, and the sub-committee chairs. I just want to pass on to everyone that it was enlightening.

The PPAC is interested in using the Club to help everyone use their hobbies in a manner that will help us succeed in our profession and assist the sub-committees, like the Shooting Team, in organizing events.

So, anyone on the Shooting Team, who are members of the PPAC, they are doing a good job and expressed an interest in helping us get some things going with the Shooting Team, like the Phoenix Combat Classic (which as a result of this meeting now has some new life).

Those not members of the PPAC, join it. The membership dues go towards sub-committees holding events and other expenses. If you go to the annual picnic, you will pretty much recover your cost for the year (I went this last year and figured I recovered my \$48.00 for the year), and anything else beyond that is a bonus.

The PPAC has a new website at www.ppaonline.com, and the Shooting Team's monthly newsletter gets posted on it, along with other events you may not be aware of.

If you are interested in joining, I have some signup information and cards, just get with me at a monthly match or you can email me or leave me a message at work and I will ship the paperwork out to you.

Bret Draughn

Mesa Police/Fire Games

This last week the Mesa Police/Fire Games were held in various locations throughout the valley and most of the shooting was held at Rio Salado in east Mesa, but the PPC Match was held at our range.

I want to congratulate everyone from the Shooting Team who participated; they did a good job and represented the Team and the Phoenix Police Department very well.

Some key points:

Mike Lim (800) – 1st place and high overall in the Combat Handgun Match

Tim Lantz (800) – 4th overall in Combat Handgun Match, and 2nd overall in Duty Class

Steve Proctor – First in revolver and auto expert class at the PPC match with some good scores

The PPAC Shooting Team's representatives won first place at the Combat Handgun Match. This is no easy feat because there are some good shooters from other agencies and they tend to stack teams with a bunch of aces so they increase their chances of winning. Congratulations Rich Hartson, Tim Lantz, and Mark Nelson.

They also placed 2nd on the team shoot in the 3-Gun Match the next day, and included on that team were Rich Hartson and Mark Nelson.

Upcoming Monthly Team Shoots

- Friday, November 4, 2005, 1700-2100 hrs. – Time for a Friday night match for those who can't make the others. We did a PPC and a 3-gun the previous two months so we are going to go back to a simple combat handgun this month. I am putting this date down almost two months ahead so we have no idea what the stages are going to be.
- Thursday, December 15, 2005, 1700-2100 hrs. – I am borrowing some drills from Rob Leatham's DMSC (<http://www.robleatham.com/>) and we will run through several drills that they used over the last year. How we are going to run these drills will allow us to run more stages in the same time frame, like 6-8 drills. This will be a lot of fun and some good practice. I know holidays are coming but our schedule didn't allow other options.

SHOOTING TIP OF THE MONTH – “Competition shooting, it's just a game!”

From the time I started shooting competition matches, I heard a lot of folks say that it was just a game, and useless in a real gunfight. I heard how those “good shooters” at matches could not shoot a “real gun,” and they only shot well because their guns are “tricked out.” I also heard how competition just builds bad habits that will get you killed.

Well, to a small point some of this may have some truth, however, those who make these claims are missing the point – likely because they have not tried it, or did poorly when they tried it and this is their excuse.

Yea, it's a game, but by playing this “game” you learn to push your abilities to the next level. You shoot under the stress of

competition and often times with tight time constraints. You learn you can shoot at a much higher level than you ever thought possible.

Frankly, in my first few years of doing competition, I learned more about shooting from the good shooters than any other source. The guys who were doing competition were actually pushing their limits, so this led to them having a much better understanding of what was going on in the shooting process.

I will give you that some of those shooters who shoot with “high-speed gear” would find it difficult to shoot a “real gun.” But this isn't because of the “game” it is because of the individual. They never put

the time in to properly learn the basics of shooting, but these folks are not the good competition shooters and will not go too far.

And, if you don't pay attention, **YES** you can learn some bad habits by doing a lot of competition. However, to a point this can be countered by the positive learning that you will experience in competition.

Additionally, just because you may have the opportunity to learn bad habits in competition (this is generally in regards to tactics), doesn't mean you have to. By being aware of this possibility and supplementing your competition shooting with good tactics training, and sound firearms practice, this will not be an issue.

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Results of October Shoot

Saturday, October 1, 2005

Unlimited Class Overall

Bret Draughn	104.49
Mark Nelson	135.36
Tim Lantz	136.79

Living on the Edge

Bret Draughn	8.00
Mark Nelson	29.00

Plates and Paper

Bob Wamsley	29.64
Vern Brink	32.18

You Only Need Two

Bob Wamsley	15.73
Tim Lantz	16.03

3-Gun El Prez

Bret Draughn	40.12
Vern Brink	40.60

Duty Class Overall

Rich Brethour	144.06
Jay Dempsey	145.51
Robert Whiteman	172.42

Living on the Edge

Jay Dempsey	38.00
Rich Brethour	57.00

Plates and Paper

Rich Brethour	26.77
Jay Dempsey	37.10

You Only Need Two

Troy Hill	17.27
Rich Brethour	19.07

3-Gun El Prez

Rich Brethour	41.22
Troy Hill	46.50

“Competition shooting, it’s just a game!” *Cont'd from pg. 1*

I have noticed a lot of the team members who have been coming to our monthly matches on a regular basis, and through watching them, I have seen most make some huge improvements in their shooting abilities.

Some things to watch for in competitions are:

- Don't get too wrapped up in the clock and forget how to do a quality trigger pull. Misses hurt us in competition, but they really hurt us in a gunfight. So make sure you keep going back to the basics and keep working on the fundamentals.
- Remember that in competition, cover is an obstacle, but on the street it is a good thing.
- In competition, they have you stand in boxes for shooting, but on the street you need to move.

I just went to a 5-day class by Dr. Larry Blum who is a well known police psychologist (wrote books and does seminars on police involved shootings), and he points out that in order to survive a lethal force encounter, we need to practice working under stress and doing things that challenge us. By entering the world of competition shooting, we are constantly being challenged by the timers, ourselves, the stages, the competition from other shooters (and our buddies), and we are also shooting at combat speeds and it can become almost second nature to us. Imagine the psychological benefits of this when it comes down to confronting that guy with a gun in his waistband.

When I was working the street, I did notice a higher level of confidence when dealing with potentially armed subjects because I had much greater confidence in my abilities to shoot quickly and get my hits. Now that doesn't mean I was stupid and stuck my head out when I should not have, or took a shortcut on my tactics, but the higher confidence level was a nice feeling to have.

The bottom line is, we can build confidence and improve our skills in competition, and we can avoid any possible pitfalls by being smart (realistic in our approach to competition) and supplementing our shooting by attending quality training to ensure we are practicing sound tactics. Anything we do is only what we make of it, this can be positive or negative

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.



TEAM MEMBERS MAKING A SHOWING IN OTHER MATCHES

Mesa Police/Fire Games

Mike Lin - Gold at Combat Handgun and high overall shooter

Tim Lantz - Silver at Combat Handgun and 4th overall shooter at Combat Handgun

Rich Hartson - Silver in "A Limited" and 6th overall at Combat Handgun, Bronze in Iron sight class at 3-gun, and 6 medals at the PPC Match in Auto, revolver, and in team shoots

Mark Nelson - Gold in "B Limited" at Combat Handgun

Steve Proctor - Silver in Single Stack Class at Combat Handgun, and at least 5 medals at PPC match with the revolver and auto

Robert Whiteman - Silver in Revolver Class at Combat Handgun, and 3 medals in revolver class at PPC match

And of course the team performances at the Combat Handgun and 3-Gun matches by Rich, Mark, and Tim.

Congratulations to John Harma for moving up to USPSA Master Class in Limited

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW US

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

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

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.

