



GIVE 'ER A SHOT

The Phoenix Police Athletic Club Shooting Team Newsletter

**JUNE,
2007**

We're Back!!

After a couple months off, to get us through the busy time of our year, we are going to start up with the monthly team shoots.

We are starting up in time to hold the *PPAC 3rd Annual Bowling Pin Shoot*.

This sounds fancy doesn't it?

Well, it is not that big and fancy but it is a pretty popular type of shooting match, and the first time we did it folks were asking us to do this more often. The problem with anything fun is if you do it too much it loses something, so we are doing it only one time per year, hence the Annual part, and July is our month.

Who knows maybe it will be something big someday.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PPD PERSONNEL

MIKE LIN FOR PLACING 23RD AT THE 2007 USPSA SINGLE STACK NATIONALS. THIS IS THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR SHOOTING 1911 SINGLE STACK PISTOLS, SO THIS IS AN EXCELLENT PLACING AT A NATIONAL MATCH (ALTHOUGH MIKE WILL PROBABLY NOT ADMIT THIS AND POINT TO THE PLACES HE FUMBLER IN THE MATCH AND SAY HE WILL DO BETTER NEXT YEAR).

JOHN HARMA WITH A 2ND PLACE OVERALL IN LIMITED CLASS, WITH A 1ST PLACE IN MASTER CLASS, AT THE NEW MEXICO STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS.

AND, A FEW WEEKS AGO 5 OF US WENT DOWN TO YUMA TO SHOOT A CHARITY MATCH. JOHN HARMA, MARK NELSON, PAT CROUSE, JACK VILLA, AND BRET DRAUGHN WENT SOUTH AND SHOT THE 9 STAGE MATCH. OTHER THAN IT BEING REALLY REALLY HOT, WE HAD A GOOD TIME. SHOOTING IS A HECK OF A LOT OF FUN, SHOOTING MATCHES ARE EVEN MORE FUN, BUT GOING WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS TO SHOOT A MATCH IS HOW IT IS MEANT TO BE.

WHO ARE WE???

Who are they, & what is the PPAC Shooting Team?

Once in a while I have to throw this out in order to explain what we do, who can play, and how to join.

The PPAC Shooting Team is a subsection of Phoenix Police Athletic Club. We hold monthly shooting matches at the range, put out this newsletter, and give those interested some ideas on where and how to attend other matches.

Our goal is to build the overall shooting abilities of Phoenix Police Officers.

We believe that if people get involved in shooting our matches they will get in some good shooting practice, and they will have fun shooting. When we have fun doing something we do it more and tend to be or get better at it.

Everyone is invited to join us at our monthly matches. You don't have to go through some qualification process to "make" the team, everyone can play no matter the skill level. Its about getting all of our officers better, not just a special few good ole boys.

We work with the PPAC and if you would like more info go to their website at <http://ppaconline.com/> and check out some of our old newsletters, a couple videos, and some pictures.

If you would like to join the PPAC contact Sgt Draughn at the Armory.

Upcoming Monthly Team Shoots

- Saturday, July 14, 2007, 0800-1100 hours – This is going to be our Annual Bowling Pin Shoot. Everyone enjoys these so this is our 3rd year of doing it. It will be hot, but this type of match is an easy set up, an easy take down, can run pretty quick (as long as we want to be there), and a hoot to shoot.
- Wednesday, August 29, 2007, 1700-2000 hours – Since it will still be a little on the warm side we are going to do an all steel match. Although the steel will be a little hot to handle we won't have a lot of set up, resetting the targets, and take down. Just show up, shoot and leave, we are not going to do squads, its a shoot and leave.

SHOOTING TIP OF THE MONTH – “Learn to Shoot First”

When shooting it is easy to get caught up in shooting fast rapid fire shots, and there are several reasons for this.

- 1) It is just a lot more fun to let the gun rock and roll
- 2) We have the *mistaken* belief that in order to win a gunfight we have to learn to shoot a lot and really fast
- 3) We see the good shooters shoot real fast so believe that in order to keep up we have to do the same
- 4) When the timer beeps and that clock starts running we start pushing to get the lowest time possible.
- 5) Did I mention it is just fun???

The majority of folks found that learning to shoot accurately is the most important skill to learn and should be learned first.

Shooting accurately requires the front sight focus, holding the gun on the spot you want to hit. This is followed by a trigger press that moves the trigger to the point that the shot breaks without moving your sight off target.

Learning to do this over and over with good shooting techniques that make for good groups builds your skills.

Shooting speed is dictated by the shooter's ability and the difficulty of the shot (distance and size of the target). On any target we all have the same difficulty of a shot, so it comes down to the shooter's ability.

The shooter with the greater ability has mastered the basics and can perform them faster than the rest of us. They get/see the sight on the target faster and press the trigger more efficiently to get the hit.

IT ALWAYS COMES BACK TO THE BASICS.

The first thing we have to do is get the discipline to practice accuracy. Fast is fun, but accuracy wins.

When shooting a match, or trying to get the most speed we can (like maybe in a gunfight), we have to develop the discipline to shoot at a speed that is within ourselves. Going too fast means we are shooting faster than our ability, which equates to more misses, which costs us valuable time.

Anyone can learn to shoot fast or point the gun in that direction and yank the trigger really fast, but good shooters learn to shoot and hit what they shoot at.

Once we build the ability to get a hit, we then do it a little faster until we get it, and then a little faster until we get it, and so on.