



# FRONT SIGHT

2017 ANNUAL VOL. 34 | NO. 1A



↓  
**LEARNING  
THE RULES**

**FOCUS ON THE  
DIVISIONS**

**BIG  
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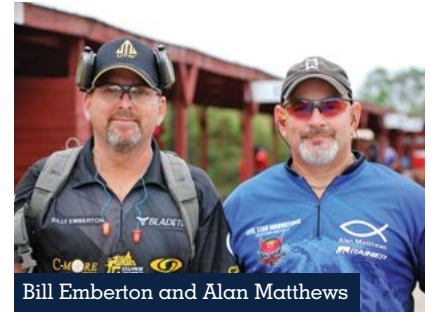
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# FRONTSIGHT

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By Mike Foley, USPSA PRESIDENT  
 president@uspsa.org

# INTERESTED IN USPSA SHOOTING?

**W**elcome to the most fun you can have with firearms! Inside this Annual Issue, our welcoming publication for new members, you will find everything you need to know to get started competing in USPSA! Our sport was born in 1976 from a collection of combat shooting matches around the world. Today we are approximately 25,000 members strong in the US alone! We have over 400 local clubs where

you can test your skill on an unlimited number of courses of fire with many different types of guns in our 6 USPSA sports divisions, our new provisional divisions, our USPSA multi-gun divisions, and Steel Challenge. We have the fastest and safest shooting sport in the world, with something for everyone. One thing that sets us apart from the others is our classification system. You can see where you rank among the best shooters in the world, and track your own improvement

as you progress through the system. Again, welcome to USPSA.

Hope to see you on the range,



Mike Foley,  
 USPSA President



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**USPSA =  
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PHOTO BY JAKE MATTHEWS

**Matt Hopkins**

**B**lend those three elements, and you have got the most dynamic shooting sport ever devised – USPSA! Practical shooting was established as IPSC in 1976 to organize the various independent efforts to build shooting skills and train for self-defense. The early days of the sport can be traced back to the 1950's, with the quick-draw “leather slap” matches popular in the desert southwest. USPSA was incorporated in 1983, and has grown to 27,000 members in 2016.

Early practical shooting challenged the standards of technique, training practices, and equipment. IPSC pioneers developed scenario-based competitions to accurately measure the effectiveness of their own shooting techniques and equipment. The rapid, shooting-on-the-move stages gave birth to the term “run and gun” so commonly used to describe the sport today.

In keeping with its roots, USPSA strives to offer divisions that use state-of-the-art firearms and support equipment. Everything from revolvers to the classic 1911 auto pistol, modern service pistols, custom race guns, rifles, shotguns, and carbines can be found in the hands of USPSA competitors.

### SCORING

USPSA shooting revolves around a “points per second” concept called “hit factor.” To get a hit factor, we take into account three factors: Speed, Power, and Accuracy.

Each competitor shoots the course of fire against the clock. When finished, the range officers record the shooter's time (speed), and record where the shots impacted on the targets (accuracy). They record any penalties and then forward that information up to the stats shack, where points are as-

SCORING

USPSA shooting revolves around a “points per second” concept called “Hit Factor”. Here is how to determine your Hit Factor in competition.

•••••
⊕
🕒

Hit Factor = Points ÷ Time

example:  
20 points / 10 seconds = 2.0 Hit Factor



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Justine Williams



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signed to the hits based on your ammunition (power). (.40 S&W and larger scores as “major,” 9mm, .38 Special, and some light .40 S&W loads score as “minor.”) The resulting point total is divided by the time, and voila! We have a points per second score, or “hit factor.”

Most local club matches involve from four to six short courses called “stages,” and a shooter will end up with a separate “hit factor” for each one.

Scoring officials will later compare the hit factors on each course, and give the maximum points to the shooter with the highest “hit factor.” Other shooters are awarded points based on how their hit factor compares to the highest one. (90 percent of the top hit factor earns 90 percent of the points, for example.) All the points for each stage are added up, and the shooter with the most total “match points” wins! The math sounds more complicated than it really is, and USPSA provides our clubs with a PC-based scoring program to help keep it all straight.

### DON'T MISS!

While it may sound like speed is everything, USPSA shooters’ favorite cliché declares: “You can’t miss fast enough to win.”

Should you leave a miss, or hit a penalty target, you will lose points rapidly. An

“A” hit on the target (we score A, B, C, D) earns 5 points. For each MISS, you will be penalized 10 points. So not only do you not get the 5 points possible, you LOSE a further 10. Hits on penalty targets are worth a further 10-point penalty. Do the math, and you will see that the need for accuracy in USPSA shooting is very real.

### MUCH MORE THAN “SHOOTING”

USPSA competition involves more than just “shooting.” Shooters are required to draw, move, reload, negotiate obstacles, analyze the course AND shoot. The timer doesn’t stop until you’ve finished doing all those things, AND fired your last shot. If your gun malfunctions, it’s up to you to fix it safely — and fast. If you need to reload, same problem. There are no breaks or “alibis” for anything short of range equipment failure and safety. USPSA competition stresses gun handling just as heavily as it stresses shooting, and our courses will force you to do a lot of it. It’s thrilling, and something we’re sure you’ll enjoy.

### WHAT ABOUT SAFETY?

USPSA shooters are sticklers for safety — much more so than in many other shooting sports. For example, when you attend a match and aren’t either shooting, or working on your pistol in the “safety area,”

your pistol must remain in the holster, unloaded, the entire time. Breaking this rule leads to immediate disqualification. Pointing a firearm (empty or not) at yourself, at another person, or anywhere uprange of the firing line also leads to immediate disqualification, and two range officers watch you as you shoot. The same applies to a half-dozen other safety rules, all of which work in concert to give USPSA its exemplary safety record.

As a rule, USPSA shooters are intolerant of unsafe gun handling — they expect to be able to compete in a safe environment, and sloppy gun handling puts everyone at risk.

That said, don’t worry about getting disqualified. Before you shoot your first match, the host club will show you the ropes. They’ll run you through a “safety orientation” or “safety check” to acquaint you with their range and all the necessary rules, check your gear, and walk you through some shooting exercises. We all want you to succeed, and to have a good time doing it.

To find a club near you, go to the USPSA website ([www.USPSA.org](http://www.USPSA.org)), or give us a call here in Burlington, Wash., at (360) 855-2245. We’ll be happy to put you together with a handful of local club contacts. We currently have over 410 clubs across the United States, and in several countries around the world. ■

# CR SPEED

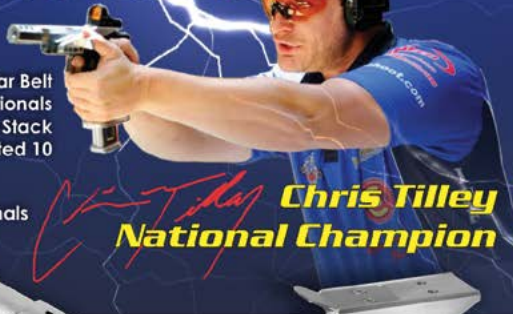
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# LEARNING THE RULES

By Troy McManus, NROI DIRECTOR  
dnroi@uspsa.org

USPSA matches challenge you mentally and physically. Figuring the fastest, easiest way to complete a course is a big part of the game.

**R**ules are the backbone of any game, and as Director of the National Range Officer Institute (NROI), it's my job to interpret those rules for USPSA, and to assist in the training of range officers at all levels.

Since this article is limited for space, I can't discuss many details of our rules here, but I will mention that the majority of them deal with safety on the range. USPSA is a dynamic sport that requires competitors to use full power handguns (and rifles and shotguns at times), to solve a competitive shooting problem under the clock. Movement is often required, as is reloading your gun on the move, so safe



gun handling skills are paramount.

The National Range Officer Institute trains and certifies range officials for USPSA sanctioned events. NROI-certified range officers will be seen in uniform at the larger Area- and National-level events,

## HIERARCHY OF OFFICIALS

USPSA's volunteer officials come in several flavors, all of which are trained and certified by NROI.

### 1. RANGE OFFICERS

Certified by NROI, Range Officers perform most of the "refereeing" seen at a USPSA match. They carry the timer, check equipment, score targets, and help make sure the competitor plays in a safe manner.

### 2. CHIEF RANGE OFFICERS

CROs are the Sergeants of the Range Officer corps. They have supplemental training in course design and range operations. They normally serve as the chief range officer on a stage, overseeing the activities of the range officers under them.

### 3. RANGE MASTERS

Have extensive supplemental training in range operations, arbitrations, staff management, squadding, and the various fine points of the rules. RM candidates are assigned a mentor, and over the course of a year they will complete an extensive program of correspondence and on-the-job training.

RMs oversee the officials at major matches. The nationals, for example, employ two — each assigned to one half of the match.

### 4. RANGE MASTER INSTRUCTOR

The top of the RO hierarchy, the RMIs travel the United States to instruct range officers and certified range officers, and also mentor Range Master Candidates.

## SAFE GUN HANDLING | THE 4 RULES TO REMEMBER

Most of our safety rules are derived from **4 basic rules** of safe gun handling:

- Treat every gun as if it were loaded.
- Never point your muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Be sure of your target and what's behind it.



Doug Hartley, Rick Schmalz, John Title and Ed Pierce

PHOTO BY CARL SCHMIDT

PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.



Mike Nobis, Paul Brenkman, Kim Brenkman

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Betty Wilson, Evans Kuo, Rodney May

safely assisting competitors in their endeavors. The entire RO cadre also competes actively but at times they put aside their guns to help run events. The range officer corps forms the backbone of the volunteer infrastructure at a great many clubs, where you will see them competing and officiating at the same event. The best ones are often asked to travel to major events, and our people are frequently tapped by IROA, the International Range Officer Association, to officiate at major matches worldwide (including the world championship matches held every three years). NROI certification carries a certain cachet within the USPSA/IPSC world, particularly if the RO develops a reputation for being calm, knowledgeable, and fair.

To become a range officer, we ask that you compete actively in USPSA matches for a period of time, enough to get comfortable with the basics of the sport and its terms. Prospective ROs then attend a level 1 certification class (usually over a weekend) where they are taught the nuts and bolts of being an official, and are tested on their knowledge of the rules. CRO or Chief Range Officer status can be gained by attending a level 2 seminar at a later date, and all officials at all levels are tested on the rules annually.

#### MULTIGUN CERTIFICATION

If your interest lies in the complex world of Multigun, don't despair. The MG rules have recently been revised, and NROI has

the means to certify range officials in this fast-growing aspect of our sport. If you already hold a certification, (RO, CRO, RM), inquire about getting your Multigun endorsement. If you are coordinating a seminar, and Multigun is an interest in your area, ask about adding the multigun module into the seminar.

#### RESPECT AND PROFESSIONALISM

Overall, USPSA's officials are some of the most highly-respected in the shooting sports, and because of this are often sought out to help orchestrate non-USPSA events.

Their success, diligence, and professionalism as officials are a major part of what makes USPSA one of the safest, most professional shooting sports available anywhere.

USPSA sends a copy of the rulebook to all new members, or it can be purchased for a nominal fee from USPSA. The rulebook can also be downloaded from the USPSA web page, [www.uspsa.org](http://www.uspsa.org).

I encourage you to take a look at the rules if you are interested in playing our game, and ask questions of Range Officials whenever you need additional help.

Taking a level one seminar will not only help you become a certified Range Officer, it will help you be a better competitor, knowledgeable in our rules, and more aware of the safety aspects of our game.

We look forward to showing you what we mean! Come and see us in action at a local match, and remember, shoot safe! ■

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# ASSOCIATION OF CLUBS



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PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS. Rob Leatham

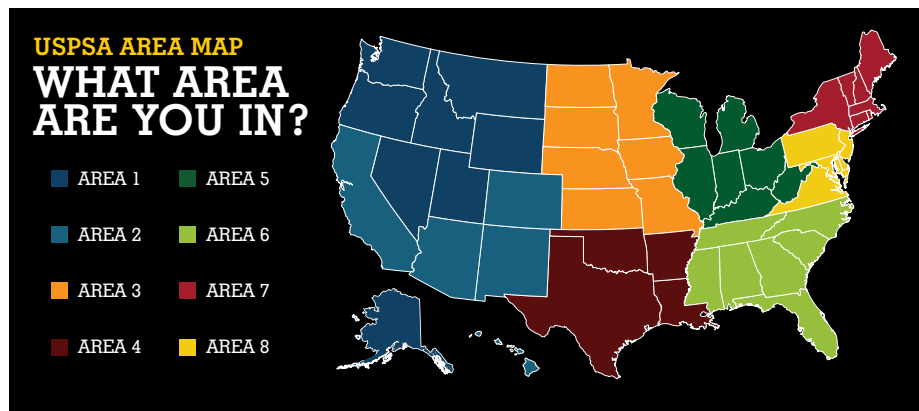
**I**f you're considering taking a closer look at USPSA competition, I can't urge you strongly enough to contact a local club representative and spend time on the range. They can show you and tell you more in half an hour at a match than we can tell you in this entire publication.

USPSA competition is marvelously diverse, with many subtleties that a local person can show you fairly easily. USPSA shooters are a very friendly bunch, willing and eager to help out the new shooters, so don't be bashful about asking questions.

## AN ASSOCIATION OF CLUBS

USPSA is an "association" of independent clubs as well as individuals. They all use the same rule book, but the clubs themselves are groups of local volunteers who like to shoot.

Each affiliated club has a slate of officers, and they typically appoint a contact person or two to welcome newcomers. It's the volunteers in the clubs who make it all happen, and that's why we put such an emphasis on getting people connected with a good



club near them. To find a club near you, go to [www.uspsa.org](http://www.uspsa.org) and click on the "Find Clubs" tab at the top. Enter your ZIP code in the box and the club finder will show you every affiliated club within 90 miles of your zip code, including the section coordinator (see below) and any retail "partner" stores. You can also enter your state abbreviation to find all the clubs in your state.

Currently we have some 410 clubs formally affiliated with USPSA. Together, they offer the level playing field that USPSA shooters value so much — one that allows for fair competition throughout our national ladder.

## USPSA STRUCTURE

Affiliated clubs are typically grouped into what we call "sections." The USPSA headquarters is located in the Northwest section, while USPSA's current president lives in another part of the country. Each section has a "section coordinator" who helps orchestrate things like section championships and such joint club activities as staffing booths at local gun shows. If you asked for information from us, you should find a list of section coordinators in the packet we sent you. They can easily explain the local match schedule, and will likely invite you to attend a match with them or put



Chris License, Andrea Cook, Rob Cook

you in touch with a club near you.

The various sections are grouped into multi-state “Areas” numbered 1 through 8. For example, the New Mexico and Arizona sections are part of Area 2, while Indiana, Illinois and Ohio sections are part of Area 5.

Every three years on a rotating basis, members of the various Areas elect an Area Director who sits on the board of directors for USPSA. They are the ones who orchestrate the Area-level championships and vote on USPSA’s major policy decisions.

The Board of Directors is made up of each of the eight Area Directors and the President. The President of USPSA is elected to a four-year term by the members of the organization. It is the president’s responsibility, with the help of the home office and remote staff, to orchestrate the national championship. Along with the small office staff, USPSA employees include a Director of Operations & Finance, a Director of the National Range Officer Institute, a Director of Media and Events, and a Director of Information Technology.

Local volunteers are the engine that makes USPSA shooting happen, and when you start shooting, you will be expected to help out. All of our matches, including the national championships, are run by volunteers. Our volunteers are the backbone of this organization; without them (particularly the officials, the ones who run the registration, who mentor new shooters, who check on range safety and who do the stats) there would be no matches, no competition – and no fun! ■

Dave Sevigny shooting at the USPSA Production Nationals



# FOCUS ON: DIVISIONS



## WHICH GUNS DO WE SHOOT, AND WHY?

BY TROY McMANUS

**U**SPSA shooting represents the most demanding form of **PRACTICAL** pistol competition on the planet. Manufacturers know that if their products fare well here, people notice. Problems with their designs will be exposed, studied, and repaired. If a particular firearm earns a good reputation in our sport, that opinion gets carried home by the many trainers, buyers, and officers that compete at all levels of our sport.

But what division should YOU compete in? The reasons why people pick one division over another relate to why they shoot pistols in the first place. Some are polishing their shooting skills because they might need them for self-defense. Others thrive in divisions that encourage tinkering with

the guns. Still others are focused on the experience, and learn to shoot each style of pistol in turn.

As I've often told shooters who call USPSA looking for advice, the best gun to use at your first match is the gun you already have. Unless your pistol looks like it would be at home on a Western movie set, forget about new equipment until you've got an idea how the game is played. Many of the world's top pro shooters focus on Production Division, one of the least-fancy, least expensive divisions, while others shoot space-age guns that look like race cars with a scope. The division for you is the one that puts a smile on your face — there really isn't a "best gun" for USPSA.

People choose one style over the other because they get more enjoyment out of

doing it, and shooting USPSA-style is all about fun with your gun.

### ■ PRODUCTION DIVISION

Production division is limited to the use of production handguns with double- or safe-action triggers, and nicely accommodates owners of double-action 9mm or .40 S&W firearms. Glocks are popular, as are Smith & Wesson autos, SIGs, Springfields, CZ, and a host of others. Stock revolvers may also be used, including 8-shot versions.

As you might imagine, the Production title has a lot of marketing cachet, so you'll see many of the World's top shooters shooting Production on behalf of corporate sponsors.

Other shooting sports, such as the In-

# THE DIVISIONS

## PRODUCTION DIVISION

- Double-action 9mm or .40 S&W firearms that appear on the "approved list." (See [uspsa.org](http://uspsa.org).)
- Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Other external changes not allowed.
- Max 10 rounds in the magazine
- All guns scored "Minor" (like a 9mm) – no matter how powerful the load actually used.
- Holsters and equipment must be "non-race-type" and be worn behind the hip.

## SINGLE STACK 1911 DIVISION

- Single-stack Government model pistols are the only guns allowed.
- Standard-capacity magazines only (8 rounds for "major calibers, 10 rounds for "minor").
- Holsters and equipment must be "non-race-type" and be worn behind the hip.
- Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Shooters may change grips, slide stops, magazine releases, mainspring housings, triggers, etc.
- No optics, no porting, no compensators, or "devices to control recoil," such as weights.
- Guns can be scored "minor" (9mm and light .40) or "major" (full-power .40 and larger).

## LIMITED 10 DIVISION

- Single-action autoloaders
- Max 10 rounds in magazine
- Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Shooters may change grips, slide stops, magazine releases, mainspring housings, triggers, etc.
- No optics, no porting, no compensators, or "devices to control recoil," such as weights.
- Guns can be scored "minor" (9mm, and light .40) or "major" (full-power .40 and larger).

## LIMITED DIVISION

- Same as "Limited 10" except high-capacity magazines up to 140mm overall may be used (170mm for single-stack guns).
- Any gun without a compensator or optic sights fits this division; DA and Safe Action guns, along with Single Action autoloaders.
- Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun.
- Shooters may change grips, slide stops, magazine releases, mainspring housings, triggers, etc.
- No optics, no porting, no compensators.
- Guns can be scored "minor" (9mm, and light .40) or "major" (full-power .40 and larger).

## REVOLVER DIVISION

- Eight rounds (only) between reloads for "minor", six rounds (only) between reloads for "major".
- No optical sights, porting, or recoil compensation.
- May change grips, enlarge the cylinder release, change sights, chamfer cylinders, and tune the action.
- May score "major" using any bullet .355" or larger.

## OPEN DIVISION

- High-capacity magazines no longer than 170mm overall
- Optics allowed
- "Devices to control recoil" allowed.
- Guns may score "major" with any bullet .355" or larger.

David Johnson shooting at the USPSA Revolver Nationals



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.

## CARRY OPTICS DIVISION / PROVISIONAL

This division is provisional as of the end of 2016. Most of the Production Division rules apply, with a 45 ounce maximum weight, which includes the optic and an empty magazine. The rules about stippling and grip tape are relaxed somewhat from Production rules, but most other Production rules apply.

All guns used in this division must have an optic mounted on the slide. Competitors wishing to compete in this division using an optic mounted on their Production legal guns should be aware that while milling the slide to mount the optic is allowed in Carry Optics and carries over into Production, that some CO-legal modifications may render the gun illegal for Production Division. Iron sights may be mounted on the slide in addition to the Optic. Some guns that aren't legal for Production are legal for Carry Optics, if the manufacturer supplies NROI with a document stating that at least 500 of the specific model have been manufactured and made available to the general public.

## PISTOL CALIBER CARBINE DIVISION / PROVISIONAL

Pistol Caliber Carbine, or PCC, was provisionally added to the list of USPSA divisions in 2016. This allows USPSA competitors to shoot a rifle chambered for common pistol calibers: 9mm, .357 Sig, 10mm, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP, in pistol matches.

All carbines must be fitted with a stock and a forearm, and be capable of being legally fired from the shoulder. SBR's, regular carbines, and carbine conversions (kits that convert a handgun frame into a carbine by adding a barrel and stock) are legal in this division, as long as all legal requirements are met. Optics and large-capacity magazines are allowed, but all carbines are scored Minor, much like Production, regardless of caliber.

There is a maximum allowed velocity of 1600 fps as well. Carbines chambered in rifle calibers are not allowed, and all guns must be transported with a chamber flag in place for safety. PCC Division has seen good growth in the latter part of 2016.

ternational Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) have similar divisions called “Stock Service Pistol”, or something similar. Many shooters compete in a USPSA match one weekend, an IDPA match the next, and other shooting sports throughout the year.

Shooters may change the sights, add skate tape, and tune the internal parts of the gun, but externally-visible changes are not legal.

Shooters may only load 10 rounds into their magazines, and all Production guns are scored as though they fired a “Minor” caliber cartridge (9mm) — no matter how powerful the load actually used. Holsters and allied equipment must be “non-race-type” and be worn behind the hip.

Most shooters use a standard outside-the-belt holster intended for daily wear, such as the Blade-Tech or Ky-Tac lines.

#### ■ SINGLE STACK

Look through any pistol-oriented magazine, and you’re guaranteed to see pictures and articles dedicated to John Browning’s signature pistol.

USPSA introduced a provisional 1911 Single Stack division in 2006, making it a full-fledged division in 2008. Single-stack Government model pistols (such as those made by Kimber, Springfield Armory, and others) are the only guns allowed.

Shooters may use standard-capacity magazines only (8 rounds for “major” calibers — .40, 10mm, and .45 ACP, 10 rounds for “minor” — 9mm and .38 Super.) For holsters, Single-Stack shooters must adhere to the Single Stack division guidelines—here the gun rides higher on the belt, a traditional method of carry for the venerable 1911.

#### ■ LIMITED 10 DIVISION

“Here in Hawaii, we’re limited to 10-round magazines by law,” says Honolulu’s Richard Abe.

Single-action autoloaders in .40 S&W and .45 ACP rule the roost here. Competitors can make various minor changes to make the gun more shootable (change

Chris Jaronsky at the USPSA Single Stack Nationals



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS.



Dianna Muller 2016 Multi-Gun Nationals Open Division High Lady

PHOTO BY CORA MACGLAYA.

USPSA President Mike Foley awarding the 2016 Carry Optics Nationals champion Max Michel Jr.



Elias Frangoulis at the USPSA Limited Nationals



JW Aguirre shooting the 2016 USPSA Revolver Nationals

sights, grips, slide stops, magazine releases, mainspring housings, etc.), but they MAY NOT add optical sights, porting (such as Mag-na-porting), or a recoil compensator. The rules do a fine job of leveling out the equipment, so check the rule book for complete details.

Calibers can be either “minor” (9mm, .38 Super, and light-loaded .40S&W, for example) or “major” (full-power .40 S&W and larger).

#### ■ LIMITED DIVISION

Most Limited competitors shoot wide-body 1911's (STI, SV, Para-Ordnance), a Glock, or one of various CZ/TZ 75 variants.

“Limited lets me make the most of my equipment and skills,” says Lisa Munson, multi-year ladies Limited champion. “It lets you use the technology available today, without going all the way into driving a ‘race gun.’”

Allowable changes include all those listed for “Limited 10,” plus shooters may use high-capacity magazines no longer than 141mm overall.

#### ■ REVOLVER DIVISION

“I love the challenge of it,” says Patrick Sweeney, hand gun editor for Guns & Ammo, and gold medal winner at World Shoot XIV. “We’re the ‘Limited-6’ division.”

Designed for stock revolvers, Revolver Division is dominated by the Smith & Wesson 625 and its ilk. Shooters may only fire six rounds between reloads, and modifications are limited. No optical sights, porting, or recoil compensation is allowed. However, shooters may change grips, enlarge the cylinder release, change sights, chamfer cylinders, and tune the action as they desire.

Revolver shooters may score “major” using any cartridge firing a bullet .355” or larger, with a restriction of only 6 rounds being fired before reloading. USPSA recently changed the division rules in revolver to allow for 8 shots being fired before reloading, but competitors choosing to shoot here will be scored “minor”, which makes a significant point difference for other than A zone hits.

#### ■ OPEN DIVISION

Dominated by cutting-edge high-capacity

1911's, but with many other makes holding their own, Open is the top-fuel drag racing division within USPSA.

“If you can roll it up to the line, odds are you can shoot it,” says former USPSA President Michael Voigt.

Shooters can make all the modifications allowed for Limited, and add several more. Magazines may extend to 171mm overall, optical sights may be used, and recoil compensators are practically required.

Shooters may use any caliber that fires a .355 or larger bullet, including the 9x19 (carefully hand loaded). The most popular cartridge at this writing is one of several variations of the .38 Super.

Experimenting with equipment and technique has always been a part of USPSA, since the days of Jeff Cooper and the Southwest Pistol League in the 1950s. That experimental flavor is a big part of what keeps them coming back, there's always some new sight setup, some new scope, some new idea to try.

I encourage you to take whatever pistol you already have, and go shoot a match or two. Odds are you'll see someone shooting in a division appealing to you. Enjoy! ■

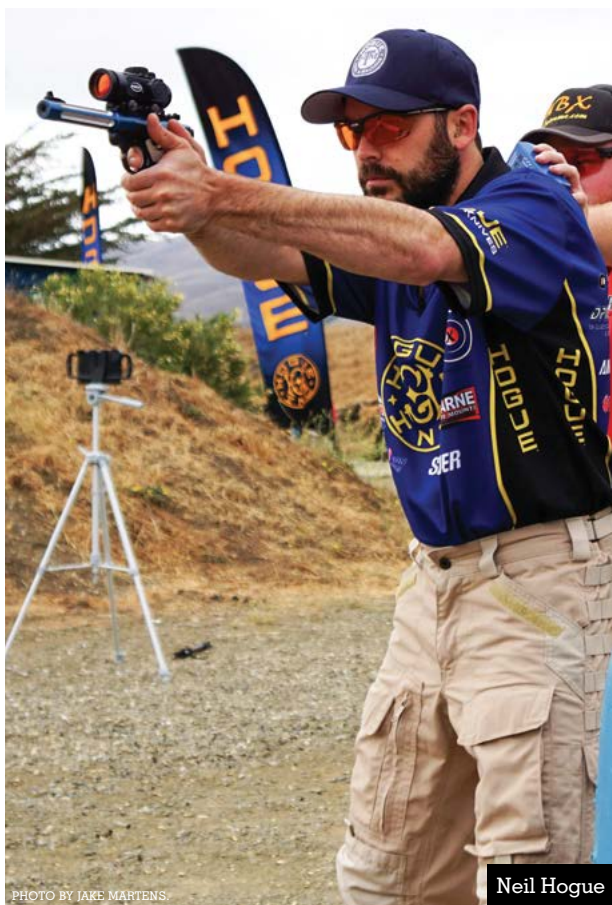
# STEEL CHALLENGE

Collin Cogdill



**ARE YOU  
READY?  
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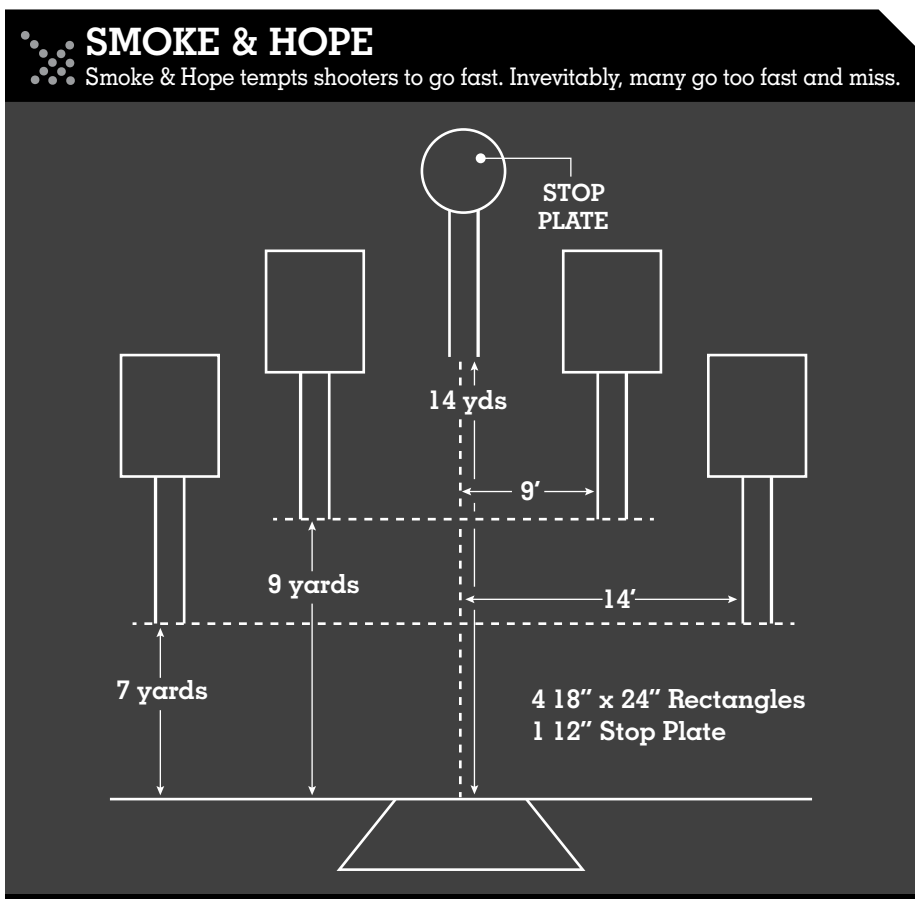
BY ZACK JONES  
NATIONAL SCSA PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
ZACK@USPSA.ORG



**D**ing, ding, ding, ding, ding!  
 The ringing of steel plates as fast as you possibly can is what Steel Challenge is all about. Imagine hitting five plates ranging in size from 10-inch circles to 18x24-inch rectangles in under two seconds; that's what some of the fastest competitors in the world can do. Don't worry if you can't shoot that fast – there's plenty of fun to be had by competitors of all ages and skill levels!

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

A Steel Challenge match is comprised of up to eight official stages. Many club matches run four to six of the eight stages during their monthly match. For State, Regional, and World Championship matches, all eight official stages must be used in the match. When it's your turn to complete the course of fire, you step into the shooting box. A range official will issue a series of commands for you to prepare your firearm; once you're ready, the timer will beep and you'll shoot the five steel plates. Four of the plates can be shot in any



Kurt Grimes



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS

order you choose. The last plate, known as the “stop plate”, must be shot last. The post for the stop plate is usually painted red or some other color so that new competitors can remember which plate to shoot last. After shooting the five plates your time is recorded either on paper or on the scoring tablet. You repeat this process five times; each run is known as a string. After the final string is completed your worst time is thrown out and the total time for your four fastest strings is your time for the stage. The competitor with the lowest total time for all stages is the winner.

The match is divided into four separate matches. All centerfire pistols compete in the main match. Rimfire pistol irons and Rimfire pistol open compete in the Rimfire pistol match. Rimfire rifle irons and Rimfire rifle open compete in the Rimfire rifle match. Finally, Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC) Irons and PCC Optics compete in the PCC match.

### PICK A DIVISION

Equipment needs are minimal for Steel

Challenge. You can compete with any rimfire pistol or rifle, a centerfire firearm, or in our most recently added division, PCC. Having five magazines is best, but you can get by with less when you are first starting out. All centerfire firearms start from the surrender position (wrists above shoulders), so you will need a holster for your firearm. All Rimfire and PCC competitors start from the low ready position; in front of each shooting box is an aiming flag or cone which you aim at while you wait for the timer to beep signifying the start of your run.

### EARN A CLASSIFICATION

USPSA members are eligible to earn a classification ranging from D (lowest) through Grand Master (highest) in each of the thirteen divisions used in Steel Challenge. To become classified a competitor must be a current USPSA member, and must shoot a minimum of four of the eight official stages. It does not matter which four of the eight you shoot and you don't have to shoot all four at

the same match. The classification system keeps track of the official stages you have shot and calculates your classification once you've shot four stages. Classifications are updated weekly on Wednesday, so you can track your progress from match to match. As you shoot each stage faster you'll earn a higher classification.

### GETTING STARTED

Getting started in Steel Challenge is very easy. On the site [steelchallenge.com](http://steelchallenge.com) you can find a list of matches; hopefully, one is close to you. Once you've found a match, it would be a good idea to contact the match director in advance and let him know you want to shoot the match. Some ranges may require an orientation prior to competing in the match. The match director can answer any questions that you have in advance of match day. Once you've found the match, you'll want to decide which division to shoot. As previously stated, we have thirteen divisions in Steel Challenge. The centerfire pistol divisions align with the pistol divisions used in

USPSA Handgun matches; the rimfire and PCC divisions are based on whether the firearm has an optic installed or not. Once you determine the firearm you want to shoot, you need to make sure to bring ammo, lots of ammo! A typical five-stage club match requires a minimum of 125 rounds per firearm, and you should seriously consider bringing twice the minimum. You just never know when you may need to take an extra shot. If you will be shooting a centerfire pistol, you'll need a holster and for Rimfire/PCC, you'll need a suitable bag or case for transporting your firearm between stages.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

If you would like to know more about Steel Challenge or have questions not answered in this article, please contact the National SCSA Program Coordinator, Zack Jones, at [zack@uspsa.org](mailto:zack@uspsa.org) and he'll be happy to help in any way he can. ■



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Wyatt Gibson



PHOTO BY CORA MAGLAYA

# MULTI-GUN BASICS

BY TROY McMANUS



Taran Butler

PHOTO BY CORA MAGLAYA

**U**SPSA has included long guns in its catalog of competition almost since the organization began. Originally called 3-Gun competition, each gun was shot separately on a course of fire designed for that gun, with barely any overlap between guns. Many participants wanted to be able to shoot all three guns in one stage, however, so due to customer demand and pressure from many so-called (but exemplary) “outlaw” matches, USPSA has embraced Multi-Gun competition. This basically means that a competitor could be called upon to solve a given shooting problem using a rifle, shotgun, and handgun, or any combination of those three. Occasionally, a stage gun is thrown into the mix for even more excitement! A few years ago, the USPSA Multi-Gun Nationals employed a full auto, belt-fed .308 caliber machine gun as part of the challenge on a stage. There were many smiling faces leaving the range each day!

Multi-gun competition is varied and intense, using the same basic principles of USPSA handgun competition, namely accuracy combined with speed.



Maggie Reese

As you might imagine, different skill sets and equipment are needed to compete with all three guns, and this is what keeps multi-gun growth on the rise—the challenge of mastering three guns in one stage. Over the years, many changes have been made to the design and use of the modern sporting rifle, but one of the chief uses of the AR-15 and its variants is in multi gun competition. Likewise, many semi-auto shotguns that were once the *ne plus ultra* of 3-gun competition have been replaced by new, faster-actioned, purpose-built scatterguns. Equipment for loading and reloading the rifles and shotguns used in multi-gun competition has likewise evolved to meet the ever-increasing demand for speed and precision in reloading while on the move. It's not unusual to see a multi-gun competitor wearing an assortment

of high-tech magazine and shotshell holders, all designed to provide speed and ease on high round count stages requiring all three guns.

As with all USPSA competitions, safety is paramount, and Multi-Gun competitions have their own set of rules, most of which emulate the USPSA Handgun rules with regard to safe gun handling. A copy of the recently revised MG rules is available at: [www.uspsa.org/uspsa-rules](http://www.uspsa.org/uspsa-rules).

USPSA Multi-Gun competitions are divided into five divisions, based on type of gun used. Here are the basic requirements for each division. While major and minor power factor is still listed for each division, most multi-gun matches these days use Time Plus scoring, which depends less on power factor and emphasizes speed while shooting at the targets. This is explained further in the box below.

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Jalise Williams



PHOTO BY CORA MAGLAYA

**OPEN DIVISION**

Anything goes, with the exception of full-auto guns. Competitors can use compensators to limit recoil and muzzle rise, any combination of scopes and electronic sight on any or all three guns. Bipods, flashlights, lasers—all legal here. Shotguns may have unlimited ammo capacity and may be loaded fully; speedloader tubes and magazines are allowed on the shotgun.

**TACTICAL DIVISION**

While your handgun must comply with the USPSA Limited Division rules (no compensator, barrel ports, or optics), the rifle may have a single optic installed, along with a small compensator, but no bipods, flashlights, or lasers. Restrictions on the shotgun include loading to a max of nine shells to start, and shotgun speedloaders and magazines are not allowed.

**LIMITED DIVISION**

Same as Tactical for the handgun and

shotgun. The main difference here is that only one non-magnifying optic is allowed on the rifle. That means you can use a 1X red dot sight on your rifle, but no telescopic sights.

**HEAVY METAL TACTICAL DIVISION**

Here the USPSA Limited 10 rules apply for handguns, with a .40 caliber minimum also required. Rifles must be .308 caliber and shotguns 12 gauge. There are limits on loaded capacity in all three guns. Rifles and shotguns follow the same compensator and optic rules as Tactical division.

**HEAVY METAL LIMITED DIVISION**

The same requirements as for Heavy Metal Tactical, but rifles cannot have optics of any kind and you must use a pump-action shotgun, 12 gauge or larger. You can however, use a compensator on your rifle, with size restrictions. ■

Daniel Horner



PHOTO BY CORA MAGLAYA

**HIT FACTOR VS. TIME PLUS SCORING**

Some matches still use traditional USPSA hit factor scoring, but this is proving more difficult to do, since considerations for major pistol, minor rifle, and major shotgun (or a different combination of all three) must be taken into account. The more popular method of scoring multi-gun matches is called Time Plus, so named because misses and failure to shoot at penalties are simply added into your score as additional time, not points. This scoring method uses your time as your score, as long as all targets are neutralized. Missed, failure to shoot at, or poorly hit targets are penalized with additional time added. In this type of scoring, as in golf, low score wins. It's pretty simple and the courses of fire are much easier to score and reset. One A/B hit on a target or two hits anywhere on the target are enough to "neutralize" that target and not cost any penalty seconds. Don't shoot at one, or miss one, and that will add considerable time to your final score.

Multi-Gun matches are gaining in popularity, and growing across the country. Check your local club for the opportunity to shoot your AR and combat shotgun in competition.



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I hereby make application to join the USPSA under the terms noted. I certify that I will use the skills and knowledge gained in practical shooting only in lawful sporting activities and self-defense and that I will conduct myself in such a manner as to not bring the sport of practical shooting into disrepute.

SIGN \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Please sign and date; enclose check or Credit Card info and mail to:

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1639 Lindamood Lane  
Burlington, WA 98233

Doug Keonig



PHOTO BY JAKE MARTENS

# USPSA INTRODUCES AN UPDATED CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

This past September, USPSA rolled out a new classification system that is updated weekly instead of monthly. The engine driving this new system, rather than using a two-file system of classifier scores and match scores, is now a single-file system using the match results uploaded by the clubs.

By using a single file, USPSA members benefit from having all their match scores and classifier scores available on the web site as soon as the club uploads them to the USPSA web site.

Your initial classification still requires only four valid scores in the system, but those new classifications are calculated each week, early Wednesday morning. There are caveats to this, of course, and the most important is that the clubs not only have to upload their match results no later than Tuesday, they also have to pay the activity fees before the classification program begins the process. Classifier scores that the club has not paid for will not be included in the calculations and will await payment by the club.

Once you are classified, the next time the program runs, the classification program will look at the best six valid scores of your most recent eight scores. If your average is in a higher class than your current class, you will be promoted to that class. At the same time, your classes in other divisions will be evaluated to determine whether a

board policy requires promotion in them as well. Remember that this policy states you can't have a classification in one division that is more than one class below your highest classification.

Because of this more frequent web-based calculation, USPSA no longer prints and mails new classification cards. However, you can print your own classification card by going to the Member Support page of the USPSA web site. There you will find a link labeled Membership Cards.

Also note that if you see an error in one of your scores or your member number, you must let the club know of the problem so they can fix it in the scoring program and upload a corrected set of results. The USPSA office does not have the ability to correct scores or member numbers on the website.

## A ROBUST, DYNAMIC SYSTEM

Someone once said that "changes aren't permanent, but change is." Over the last 25 years, practical shooters have turned the shooting world on its ear, re-inventing the way we shoot, the way guns are built, the way holsters are made, and even what bullets we shoot in them.

Like a schoolteacher's bell curve, as the top end of our sport improves, the "high hit factor" required to achieve a "Grand Master" score improves as well. By continuously adjusting for change, our classification system has become the one

### CLASSIFICATION BRACKET PERCENTAGES



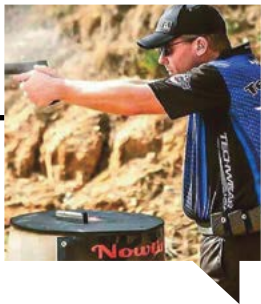
GRAND MASTER	95 TO 100%
MASTER	85 TO 94.9%
A	75 TO 84.9%
B	60 TO 74.9%
C	40 TO 59.9%
D	2 TO 40%

universally-recognized benchmark within the practical shooting world.

Today's practical shooter wields a level of technique and technology that outpaces the very best shooters of the mid-1980s. Thankfully, our system's ability to continuously re-set the standard of achievement has maintained the integrity of a USPSA classification.

In the same way a golfer must complete many rounds of golf on courses with a known "par" to earn a "handicap," USPSA shooters must complete several courses with a known "high hit factor" to earn a classification. Once they've done so, other shooters (like golfers) can use that classification to judge their abilities, and arrange competitive classes where shooters compete against others of like ability.

That's the gist of the USPSA system. It's a robust system, and one that has served USPSA well. ■



# CLUB CONNECTIONS

By Jake Martens, A52987  
 Front Sight Magazine Editor /  
 Director of Media & Events  
 jake@uspsa.org

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

### BEING PREPARED IN 2017 PROMOTING YOUR MATCHES

The 2017 shooting season is here and the Major Match calendar is already very full. Many of the matches listed on there are filled or close to capacity. If you are like me, you have your calendar out and trying to figure out which ones you already signed up for and which ones you are still trying to get into. It is going to be a very busy year.

If you are hosting a Level 2 or higher match and want to get it listed on the Calendar, please remember that you need to go to the USPSA website under "Find Matches" and there on the right-hand side of the screen is the "Add/Edit Match Listing". This is where you can add your match to the calendar. You will also need to submit the Form C that can be found under

the "Club Support" tab; click on the "Form C" link to download and fill out the form. Instructions on what you need to do and where to send it are listed on the paperwork.

As a Match Director, you can also have an ad run in this magazine.

### PROMOTING YOUR MATCHES ON FACEBOOK

The USPSA Facebook page is a great tool for match promotion. Whether you're holding a club, state, sectional or area match, we can share the details to our page for maximum exposure. If you'd like to share photos, videos, promote sponsors supporting the event or solicit for staff, we've got you covered! Email me, (jake@uspsa.org) and I'll get it out on the wire for your club or section.

What are you waiting for? Take advantage of this awesome affiliated club benefit today!

### TIME TO GET YOUR CLUB RE-AFFILIATED

We hope that your 2017 has started off to be a great New Year and that you got all the new shooting gear you wanted under the tree; but please do not forget that in order to wrap up 2016, your club needs to get all of your activities submitted and paid for. Along with that, the club needs to make sure that they have completed and submitted their re-affiliation paperwork. If for some reason your club was unable to host the required eight activities in the 2016 calendar year, you will need to have your Section Coordinator contact us to set



Sara Taylor



Ryan Stinar

### MATCH DIRECTORS: RUN AN AD TO PROMOTE YOUR MATCH

**USPSA/SCSA MATCH ADS:** Qualifying ads must contain the USPSA or SCSA logo, and refer to it as a USPSA or SCSA match.

- **Level III** (Major Tournaments, Area Championships) may run one half-page ad free, and a second ad at half price; full price thereafter.
- **Level II** (State and Sectional USPSA or SCSA championships) may run one half page ad at half-price, full price thereafter. Note: State and Sectional USPSA championships must be Level II or higher.
- **Level I** (USPSA approved or recognized) may run one match ad at 25 percent off, full price thereafter.

up a waiver for your re-affiliation. If you need assistance with any of your paperwork, please contact me or Heather at the USPSA office; we are here to assist you.

### NRA SHOW

USPSA will be set up at the 146th NRA Annual Meeting and Exhibits this April, from the 27th to 30th in Atlanta, Georgia. If you are interested in helping to represent our organization during the event, please reach out to me by email at jake@uspsa.org.

# > WOMEN OF USPSA

Tracy Self



PHOTO BY STANLEY LEE

## HOW TO GET STARTED IN USPSA

**M**any times we receive emails and Facebook messages from people all over the country, asking how to get started shooting competitively, and many of those messages are from women. Are you one of those ladies? Not sure where to begin? Here are a few tips to help you get started:

### LOOK AT THE USPSA "FIND CLUBS" PAGE

- Find what Area your state is in, go to that Area page, then find a match being held near you and go watch it. Observe. Take it all in.
- If there isn't one in your area that you can find, contact the Area Director or Section

Coordinator to see if they know of any upcoming matches that are close to you.

- Most of the Areas have Facebook group pages or separate web pages. If you're on Facebook, see if you can find one of those Area group pages and join them. They're a great forum to ask questions and get support.

### MEET PEOPLE, ASK QUESTIONS.

- Don't be intimidated by the people attending a match. They won't bite (usually). Walk up to someone and start asking questions. Ask about their gear, how long they've been shooting, etc. You might be surprised at just how friendly they are and how willing they



Carole Bryant



Svetlana Paegel

are to help new shooters. Female shooters are especially helpful when a new lady shows up and expresses an interest in learning how to compete. We tend to get excited about more women wanting to get involved in competitive shooting.

➤ Watch videos of top shooters on YouTube and Instagram, like Lisa Munson, Jessie Duff, Athena Lee, Julie Golob, Randi Rogers, etc. They are a great resource to observe and they will usually have an abundance of videos to watch and learn from. Some will have also put out instructional videos and/or books.

## LEARN THE RULES. LOOK FOR A MENTOR TO GUIDE YOU.

➤ Find someone who will take you under their wing and mentor you. They can help



Susan Carmical

answer questions about rules, protocols, best practices, tips on how to avoid getting DQed – anything and everything you will need to know to begin competing.

➤ A mentor or mentors can be local, or you can communicate with them via electronic correspondence. Local is best, since they can observe you while you're shooting and give you feedback.

➤ Even if you aren't lucky enough to find an "official" mentor, nearly everyone at matches will be more than willing to help a newbie with rules, understanding courses of fire, etc.

## MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT GEAR

➤ This does NOT mean you have to go out and spend thousands and thousands of dollars before you even shoot your first match. Most of the basics are affordable:

OWB holsters, belt, mags and mag pouches for production and single stack guns are well within a beginner's reach. That's the beauty of USPSA – you can start competing without any fancy gear.

➤ If you don't already have a gun to compete with, be sure you TRY several before running out and buying one on impulse. Gun purchases are an investment, and you want to be sure you're comfortable and happy with that investment, especially if it will be your competition gun, potentially for years to come.

If you have more questions than we've hit here, feel free to contact us directly at [ladies@uspsa.org](mailto:ladies@uspsa.org). We'll try to help you find a club, establish contacts, and give you encouragement and support. We'd love to hear from you ladies out there who are starting to compete. Most importantly: Be safe and have fun! ■



PHOTO BY TESS NASH.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY RHEUARK.

**2016 LADY'S LIMITED NATIONAL CHAMPION**

# ASHLEY RHEUARK

BY CORA MAGLAYA, PT, ATC, CSCS, A75214

**T**his 18-year-old A-Class Limited shooter from York, South Carolina has had a trailblazing competition season; in 2016 alone, she claimed the following titles: USPSA Ladies' Limited National Champion, USPSA Ladies' Production National Champion, USPSA Multi-Gun Ladies' Tactical National Champion, US IPSC Standard Lady National Champion, and 3 Gun Nation National Lady Champion. With all those titles, she is still one of the most humble shooters you will meet on the range.

Rheuark has been shooting for eight years and specializes in Multigun. At the 2014 Pro-Am Shooting Championships, Rheuark, sponsored by RANGELOG, won High Lady with a remarkable match performance. Taran Butler, owner of Taran Tactical Innovations (TTI), quickly recognized her raw talent and has been sponsoring her since then. TTI is her current Title Sponsor. She shoots local matches with the Spartanburg Practical Shooting Association and has a demanding training schedule: five days of live fire, fitness workouts, rehabilitation treatments, administrative duties for her sponsors, and dry firing at home. Her father, a national go-kart champion, instilled in her the core values of what it takes to be a national champion: self-motivation, discipline, and focus. Since graduating from high school in the spring of 2016,

PHOTO BY PAUL HYLAND

Rheuark has become a full-time professional shooter and continues to amaze the shooting community, capturing one National title after another across multiple disciplines.

#### **COMPETITION FIREARM & GEAR:**

5 inch 9mm Infinity Sight Tracker, custom built to my specifications; very light trigger, Infinity sights, all pieces made in-house by Infinity. Grip surface has skater terrain grip tape. What I love about my gun is that it is custom-built for me. The size of the grip and the trigger are personalized to fit my shooting needs. Every part of my gun is built in-house at Infinity too, so I know I am getting a quality product from the sights, to the slide, to the firing pin, etc. My gun has some weight to it, which I love because it allows me to control recoil better and has a very light trigger, so it makes making precision shots easier.

#### **MY GUN ARMORER:**

Infinity Firearms ([www.svguns.com](http://www.svguns.com))

#### **LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY OF THE NATIONALS MATCH:**

This was a very difficult match, with some hard target presentations, and a lot of points were at stake. Shooting minor meant that I couldn't drop a lot of points, which I did lose more than I would have liked. There were a lot of movers and a lot of targets at a great distance, which gave a lot of room for error.

**ABOUT MY TRAINING:** In a week I shoot about 1200 to 1500 rounds between my pistol, rifle and shotgun. On weekends when I'm at home I will compete mostly in local USPSA pistol matches. I don't get as much dry fire in as I do live fire. I'll dry fire a couple times a week. My schedule changes a little leading up to Nationals. I'm trying to shoot as much as possible and get in a few extra dry fire sessions to make sure I stay on top of the fundamentals.

I am fortunate enough to have one of the best practice ranges I could ask for. I practice at my friend Rick Porter's range, which is behind his house. He has long range rifle targets, bays, and more steel than you can imagine. With anything I'd like to practice or any problems I have, he is always there to help. He has been a big part of my success.



PHOTO BY PAUL HYLAND

#### **ABOUT MY NATIONAL PERFORMANCE:**

Based on the standards I set for myself, I did not shoot up to par. I kept making mental mistakes like running by a whole array of targets and having to go back. I dropped too many points for shooting Minor.

#### **WHAT CONTRIBUTED TO MY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS WIN:**

I kept my head up and just tried to shoot each stage the way I trained. Going into the last day, I was behind, but I knew that I had a lot more points up for grabs on my last day as well. So I just tried to get myself together and pull off solid stages to win this match. I probably could have relaxed a little more. I felt too tense throughout the match.

#### **WHAT ELEVATED MY GAME TO A HIGHER LEVEL:**

I started really paying attention to the pros. My dad helped me with this. He taught me to study the guys who are finishing in the top five and learn how they shoot their stages. He said to watch their match videos, compare my performance to theirs, and look for my areas of weakness so I know what to work on in training.

#### **HOW I AM GOING TO CHANGE MY TRAINING AFTER EXPERIENCING NATIONALS:**

The changes I'm making are to relax a little more at major matches. Sometimes I get too intense and focused on the end that I forget to enjoy the ride to the finish.

**MY ROLE MODELS:** Morgan Allen took me under his wing when I first started

competitive shooting (IDPA). Nick Yanutola is a local production shooter that I shoot with regularly and is a great friend. He has so much knowledge when it comes to stage plans and why he does what he does. One day I'll beat him! Bill Drummond is a competition shooter I took some classes with to help further my pistol skills in USPSA. This was a great help. Bill is also my teammate for Infinity Firearms. Nils Jonasson, "The Phenom," is a great friend and is always willing to help me out. Randi Rogers, Julie Golob, Jessie Duff and Lena Miculek are some of the successful women that I have looked up to throughout my shooting career.

**SPONSORS:** Title sponsor Taran Tactical Innovations. Infinity Firearms, ASYM Precision Ammunition, RANGELOG, Blade-Tech Industries, Turn-Key Tactical Solutions Range and Training, Swarovski Optik, Hornady, Pure Gold Shotgun Chokes, Hiperfire, J Dewey Rods, 5.11 Tactical, Patriot Cases, Weapon Shield.

**AWARDS:** 2016 USPSA Ladies' Limited National Champion; 2016 USPSA Ladies' Production National Champion; 2016 USPSA Multi-Gun Ladies' Tactical National Champion; 2016 US IPSC Ladies' Standard Nationals Champion; IDPA Lady World Champion; two-time 3 Gun Nation Lady National Champion; US National Steel Rimfire Iron Sights National Champion; 2016 IDPA Lady National Champion. ■

# YOUNG GUNS

BY STEVE THOMAS

**I**t truly is amazing how fast time flies. It seems like just a few days ago I was typing up last year's Area 8 Junior Camp article, and here I am again, one last time.

What's a camp without a little pizza and some pool time? Friday night kicked the camp off with a little meet and greet. We had sausage, cheese and pepperoni pizzas, a cool pool and lots of smiles and laughter. This was a great chance for the juniors to

## AREA 8 JUNIOR CAMP



Max Friedman and Vincenza Grilletto - Camp buddies for 3 years!

reunite and welcome the new ones too.

*USPSA hint #682,952 – when traveling away from home, ordering 10 pizzas from a hotel pool...you may want to let your credit card company know beforehand.*

July 9th, 2016, a dark and gloomy day, a day that will live.... Okay, so maybe it wasn't quite that dramatic, but we are back at the beautiful Lower Providence Rod and Gun Club. We have been very fortunate to make friends with these fine folks. My first year here I helped with a camp that Mr. Harry Foltz, former Area 8 director, set up, and I was super-impressed then. As the current AD, we have followed up with three camps of our own. It truly has been special, as the club staff and members went all-out to make us feel so welcome.

We kicked off the camp by recognizing the true heroes behind the scene – Mr. Ted Murphy and his wonderful wife Melissa, Jayson Younes, Mike Gottlieb and Club

President William Cassidy. Without these fine folks, we simply couldn't have the success we are known for. Later in the day we presented them with a gift as a token of our appreciation, a framed Techwear camp shirt with an engraved plate listing the years

they have hosted us. Before we left, the trophy was already displayed in their new clubhouse!

Todd Jarrett (TJ) was back, one last time! He brings the enthusiasm of a new shooter, the experience of a seasoned multi-



time champion and the class of a true ambassador. We were very lucky to have him back, especially with the schedule he keeps. I simply don't know how he does it. For three years now he has said "yes" without hesitation. Our Area 8 Juniors are so very fortunate.

Carrie Carlson was back, too! Who could miss that smile and spirit? This year Carrie was multi-tasking – filming, helping coach and, of course, providing oversight with safety. Each year Carrie has burned up her leave to help with the camps, always cheerful and ready to go. Her contributions have been priceless. She has a gift with teaching the young shooters.

It's always interesting seeing the returning juniors. Having Travis "Monkey" Thomas alongside, I am familiar with the change that takes place within a year – but now, seeing the other juniors, it really hit home. It was a pretty remarkable, bitter-sweet time, and it provided proud moments of pause. Little Max, Cameron, Libby, Andrew and Tyler....well, they're not so little anymore. In years past they were the "little ones" that Zach Matish, Tyler Coke and Jake Degenshein watched over and mentored. Now they were the ones showing the new shooters the ropes and setting the example to emulate.

We had new juniors, too! They were excited and a little apprehensive. The look on their faces is always interesting; they are not sure what to expect. It's always great to see our future, great to see the parents take the time to get their young ones involved and trained. It's an honor to be trusted by them.

It's go time! TJ assembled the campers together and began to talk with the juniors about safety, practice and match preparation, hydration, mindset, proper form and a host of other topics. He shared some interesting stories of his life; most importantly, he shared some of the highs and lows he has experienced in his 30-year shooting career. He offered his thoughts on what it takes not only to be successful but



perhaps become a National Champion. As always, Todd's passion comes through, especially with the juniors.

Before long, the overcast weather turned into a sprinkle and we moved everyone inside. Luckily, the club had room for all of us to gather around while Todd continued with his instruction, training our campers and establishing the safety theme for the rest of the camp. Everything we did was preceded with a performance brief/detail and possible safety concerns.

The lecture was finished, the rain had stopped and the juniors were fired up; now it was time to send some bullets downrange! We started off firing 10-shot groups at 15 yards. This re-established fundamental marksmanship and gave Todd a chance to ensure that all guns were sighted in and in

good working order. Trigger control and sight alignment were key as the campers were getting back into the groove.

As the day continued, we worked on drawing from the holster, footwork/movement and shooting on the move. Detailed discussion was provided with each and every topic. Todd's years of experience and championship mindset not only benefited the campers, but had parents paying close attention. Even at 50-something, the man can still move!

Sunday morning started off with a bang (see what I did there). TJ had the juniors lined up in groups as we coached them during reload training. The campers went through many mags, reload after reload, developing the proper technique. Most of the juniors were doing very well, making

Bill Duda and Abigail Duda



us adults a little nervous for the next competition. After all, there's nothing quite so special as being beat by your kid!

After reloads and a little more shooting on the move we came to the big finale – THE STAGE!

We had set up the stage Saturday evening after the first day was over and most of the families had left. TJ designed the course of fire (COF) with an attempt to showcase the disciplines we had covered during the camp. The stage captured distance shots, movement, reloads, steel, paper, shooting on the move – and, of course, strategy!

As in years past, the campers discovered the stage first thing Sunday morning and we saw the “gaming” taking place immediately. It is fun to watch, especially when we add a no-shoot or add/remove another target at the last minute and watch



Todd Jarrett and Travis "Monkey" Thomas

the juniors squirm. Hey....gotta keep it interesting! Todd ran the course first, setting the standard for accuracy and speed. Several of the shooters took a special interest as I read the timer aloud. Game on!

One by one the campers got a chance

at the stage. For us this was the highlight, watching it all come together; seeing the juniors cheer each other on and compete against each other is very rewarding. The friendships and camaraderie are very apparent, even during the heat of competition. Of course the parents were enjoying all of this, too.

By mid-afternoon, the last junior has run the course. That's it! The camp is over. Then it's time for goodbyes, autographs and pictures. Another successful camp made us all feel proud. The juniors once again have shown us nothing but promise. They were attentive, respectful, understanding, patient, eager, and most importantly, SAFE! They showed us real maturity and class.

Our sponsors for this year were: Jim Macort of EGW, Alexis Lasser and Joe Procopio from Techwear, Strikeforce, Chuck Bradley of Shooter's Connection, Scott Warren with Warren Tactical, George Fennell - Weapon Shield, King Shooters Supply and Flatbroke Shooters. Other major contributors were Joseph Roberts and his son Sean, who generated \$900 during the Mid-Atlantic Sectional going towards gifts for the juniors. Thank you very much to all!

We simply could not have held these camps without great people and sponsors over the years. Todd, Carrie, Dan Burwell, Rod Satterwhite, Bill, Mike, Ted and Melissa, Jayson and, of course, my patient wife Cindi! Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

As mentioned earlier, this is my last camp. It truly has been a pleasure and I have memories that will last a lifetime. I can honestly say these camps have been the highlight of my term as the Area 8 Director. Nothing has given me more satisfaction than spending the weekends with the juniors (mini-adults) and their families. I thank each and every one of you for your patience and trust.

Our juniors are the future of our sport. Enjoy them, mentor them, and set the example. Simply pay it forward....you will not be disappointed.

It's been a blast! ■



Steve Thomas presents William Cassidy, Lower Providence Rod and Gun Club President, an award for for hosting the Area 8 camp for 3 years.



Todd Jarrett teaching a class.

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