

2010 IDPA Massachusetts State Championship

By David Bold

On the weekend of June 5th & 6th, 2010, the Rod and Gun Club of New Bedford hosted the 2010 Massachusetts State Championship for the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA). More than 100 competitors from all over New England converged in Dartmouth, MA for 10 stages of shooting challenges to test their abilities.

The International Defensive Pistol Association promotes action shooting competitions that simulate self-defense scenarios and real life encounters, using practical gear and practical guns that most gun owners already have. There are 5 different divisions based on the type of handgun you used: Custom Defensive Pistol (or CDP) for your 1911 style .45s; Stock Service Pistol (SSP) for double action or striker fired pistols; Enhanced Service Pistol (ESP) for single actions (non 45); Enhanced Service Revolver (ESR) for you wheel gun fans with guns that reload with moon clips; and Stock Service Revolver (SSR) for revolvers that do NOT load with moon-clips. Please visit www.idpa.com for more info.

This year's match was made possible in part to our generous sponsors: Smith & Wesson (premier match sponsor), Ruger (match sponsor), Montana Gold bullets, Glock, Wilson Combat, STI International, Birchwood Casey, Midway USA, Brownells, Otis Technologies and East Coast Screen Printing from Providence RI.

Mother Nature teased us Saturday morning during registration with an incredible thunder and lightning storm that threatened the match. Enough rain came down that we briefly considered re-designing one of the stages to be shot from a boat! Competitors and staff waited out the storm in the clubhouse. With a 20 minute delay to the start of the match, the weather passed and the sun returned. After a brief pause to remember our friend John Kelly, a member of our match staff who passed away over the winter, the match got started.

All stages were shot outdoors this year. While this took away the challenge of shooting indoors in the dark with a flash light, it allowed us to add 2 more stages to the match. Much positive feedback was received about this change. Not sure if that's because people like shooting more, or are happy to avoid what's historically been the most difficult stages of our match.

The first stage had you at your local tax office when a shooting occurs. Starting seated behind a desk you had to engage a two targets, including a disappearing target, while moving to cover before finishing the remaining 4 targets. Seemed simple enough until you shot it. The position of the targets and no-shoot placement made this a good challenge.

Picture yourself working in a warehouse when a shooting breaks out. Imagine having to shoot your way out to safety. This was the basis for stage 2. The competitor had to negotiate from cover to cover while shooting threat targets on the move. Once again target placement and the use of a swinging target made for another good stage.

Stage 3 had you start by pushing an innocent bystander to cover and engaging a disappearing target plus three more bad guys while moving. This stage required 3 hits per threat target, and getting 3 good aimed shots on a quick disappearing target was more difficult than you might think.



A squad gets their stage briefing for stage 4 called 'Down the Hall at the Office'.

The next stage had you in an office setting at your computer behind a desk. You had to move down a hallway, engaging threats in the rooms as you went by, finishing with two threats with a moving no-shoot at the end when you go through the last door.

Stage 5 simulated you being tormented by a gang by digging your own grave. Using the shovel you took out the first bad guy then retrieved the gun and took out the rest.

Stage 6 was another office setting with several targets, including another disappearing target. You had to use your desk for cover to start and then move through the cube-farm, using what little cover was available.

The next stage had you engaging threat targets while moving to cover and finishing from cover at the end of a wall. Yet another disappearing target and tough target placement made for another quick, but challenging stage.

Stage 8 was a test of skill with tight target placement and multiple moving targets that had to be engaged from both sides of a long wall.

Next was another skill stage with just 3 targets. You shot 6 rounds to the left target with your left hand, 6 rounds to the right target with your right hand and finally 6 rounds to the center target free style.



Stage 10 – Catchin’ Anything?

Stage 10 had you starting sitting in a canoe holding a fishing pole. You had to get out of the canoe and head to the shore for the cover of some trees, engaging targets as you moved from tree to tree. More disappearing targets were among the mix to make for a very fun and challenging stage.

All together across the 10 stages each competitor had to shoot a minimum of 147 rounds, but most shot much more. There were 10 moving and disappearing targets to contend with. Combined, shooters earned 59 total procedural penalties, hit 56 non-threat targets and acquired 52 ‘failure to neutralize’ penalties. There were a total of 5,436 ‘points down’. When the dust settled and the scores tallied, the champions for 2010 are:

CDP: Mark Redl

SSP: Tom Yost

ESP: Scott Botelho

ESR: Eugene Gelberger

SSR: Frank Palka

This year also featured a side-match based on the Steel Challenge favorite of ‘Smoke and Hope’. This was done as a fund-raiser to benefit The NRA Foundation and The GOAL Heritage Grant Foundation. Both organizations have provided us with grant funds to help build our action pistol program at the Rod & Gun Club of New Bedford. This was a small way for us to give some back. For those not familiar with Steel Challenge there are 4 steel targets and 1 final ‘stop’ steel target. The competitor shoots the first 4 targets and stops

the timer when they hit the stop plate. You get 5 separate runs and your time is based on your best 4 of the 5 runs - lowest total time wins. The stage called 'Smoke and Hope' has 4 big steel plates between 7 and 9 yard that are hard to miss (hence the 'smoke'), but the small round stop plate (the 'hope' part) at 14 yards is a challenge when you're in hose-mode. This was very popular and raised funds for two great organizations. The grant from the NRA Foundation allowed the club to acquire the necessary supplies to affiliate with, and start hosting Steel Challenge matches in 2010.

Winners of the side match are:

CDP: Lewis Gordon

SSP: Ed Stettmeier

ESP: Joe Linskey

ESR: Eugene Gelberger

SSR: Michael Eisenhower

The dates of the 2011 Championship have been announced: June 4 & 5, 2011.

Applications are available on the club's website at www.rodgun-nb.org. Planning so far points to another great match.

If all this sounds like a lot of fun, you'd be correct - IT IS! There are several clubs in the area which are all new-shooter friendly. And you probably have what you need to get started already! What are you waiting for?