

# The CASA Bullet

Come Shoot With Us



January 2008  
Vol. 8



Central Arkansas  
Shooters' Association

## IDPA



Mike Plato, our IDPA Director, and his new bride, Vanessa, have been working diligently designing and setting up stages every month at CASA.

Mike wanted to move the Sunday match to a Saturday. Mike and other Board of Directors asked other shooters what they thought and most would not mind the switch. So now the monthly IDPA match is on the third Saturday of every month, or until otherwise stated by email or on CASA's Web site.

Mike and Vanessa would really appreciate some help setting up either early that morning or possibly Friday night. If you would like to help with IDPA, call Mike at 501-326-8014.



CASA will be hosting the Arkansas 1st Annual Armed Forces Shootoff in memory of those who have severed our country. The match will be held on June 14, 2008, and all proceeds from the match will go to the Arkansas Armed Forces Disabled Veterans Association (AFDVA). Until the award ceremony on June 14, 2008, CASA will be selling raffle tickets for a Taurus Model 85 Titanium .38 Special and an AR-15 A4 with a DPMS lower and 16" barrel provided by Greg Calvert of "Greg's Guns."

The Taurus tickets will sell for \$5 each and the AR-15 tickets will sell for \$10 each. All proceeds over the cost of the guns will go to the AFDVA. Tickets will be available at ALL CASA matches.

The exact percentage of money to be donated to the AFDVA will depend on the number of sponsors we have, but we hope to donate ninety to one hundred percent. If you are interested in sponsoring the match in any way, such as a target sponsor or lunch sponsor, etc, CASA would greatly appreciate it. Another way you can help is to buy a large number of raffle tickets.

Again, all proceeds over the cost of the guns will be donated to AFDVA.



## Ladies Day 2008

It has been almost one year since the last Ladies Day. This year's event is planned for April 26, 2008. If you or your wife, girlfriend, mother, or daughter has not participated in Ladies Day, now is the time to introduce them to firearms. All of the women that come to this event always leave "empowered."

The day will start at 9:00 AM with a short introduction and safety briefing, and then off to the ranges for shooting.

We will have stations set up on the lower ranges with tables and an assortment of pistols. Each table will have a seasoned shooter as an instructor who will demonstrate the function of any or all of the pistols that your lady wants to shoot.

The ladies certainly won't be bored shooting all of the firearms that are brought to the range! Here are just some of the goodies that the ladies can shoot this year:

- Plate racks and an E-Z Target that turns green where the bullet strikes the target.
- A shotgun stage with an automatic clay bird thrower run by a champion shotgunner.
- A rifle stage with an assortment of long guns including some exotic looking tactical rifles.
- A machine gun stage with an assortment of noise-makers.
- An Air Soft stage of fire to mimic a home invasion scenario. This stage might also be good for the very timid shooter.

We hope to have the .50 caliber BMG sniper rifle back again this year, but we need to check with its owner.

CASA will also provide a great lunch for everyone who attends. We hope to have an appearance by Ray and John to demonstrate their self-defense skills and how important it is for us to learn the basics.

Men, if you are wondering what you might do to keep yourselves occupied, we will have a range with several guns just for you. We have learned to keep the men and women separated at this event because us men seem to be too bossy to our women when it comes to shooting. So let us leave the instruction up to the instructor.

If you would like to get involved, please email Ron Johnston at [rjohnston@aristotle.net](mailto:rjohnston@aristotle.net), and we will see where we can use ya. If you or your company would like to donate to the club to help defer the costs of food and ammo, I am sure the Treasurer would be happy to take the check. More details to be announced on CASA's home page in the near future.



## Vanessa Plato

Vanessa Plato, formerly Vanessa Jackson, got into shooting through Mike Plato.

It was on one of their first dates that Mike brought Vanessa to the range and set her up with a gun, holster, and mags, and then proceeded to teach her the game of IDPA. I think she was hooked after just a couple of shoots.

Vanessa also does most of the scoring for the IDPA matches.



## USPSA

Hello Shooters,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Bob Houston, your newly elected USPSA Director. I am happy to serve the club in this capacity as I feel that USPSA is one of the finest ways to improve your skill with a handgun, and is just a lot of fun to boot.

We have an active USPSA program at CASA, but I would like to see even more participation by the club membership. We have a very good time not only at the matches but at the match setup and tear down as well. We have

some of the best shooters and great people participating in the USPSA sport here at CASA. We regularly have shooters from other clubs from all over the state who come to our matches and we usually have a contingent of CASA shooters who travel to USPSA matches at other clubs as well. A good time is always had by all.

If you have never tried the USPSA game, come on out to a match and have a blast with us. Your first match is free of charge and that's cheap at twice the price for a really good time. All you need is a mini-

mum of a 9mm pistol, a belt holster, and four to five magazines. For you IDPA shooters, your gear should work just fine, just bring more magazines.

We had our first USPSA match of 2008 on Sunday, January 6 and had twenty-seven shooters participate. This was the CASA annual revolver friendly match and there were several wheel guns at the match.

Our next USPSA match is scheduled for Sunday, February 3, 2008. We will have six stages of fire with approximately 140 rounds minimum required to complete the



match. So come on out and shoot with us, I can guarantee that you will have a great time. I hope to see you on the range...

**For you IDPA shooters, your gear should work just fine, just bring more magazines.**



November 2007 Hillbilly Classic



December 2007- Rain Match  
Yes, we do shoot in the rain at CASA.



## Hangin' with Friends

Member Jimmy Dale "Jay" Smith and his wife, Brandy, were enjoying a day on the plate racks when I stumbled across them. They were entertaining their friend John Hooten. Jay is in the middle, and he just happens to be my business partner's son. It thrills me very much to see people enjoying the range. And that's the honest truth.

Ron Johnston



## Gunsmith Follow-Up

A couple of issues ago in Volume 4, I made reference to a great gunsmith named Hayden Oliver of Oliver Custom in Little Rock.

I had the idea to have a custom gun built for my business partner, Thurman "Dale" Smith, Jr. This would be a Christmas present.

The process of selecting the right parts for the build can be tough. There are lots of options: single stack or double; blue, stainless steel, or hard chrome; caliber, and the sights.

The toughest decision for me was choosing the finish and the grips. You cannot imagine how many 1911 grips are available today on the open market. I stumbled across a pair of carbon-fiber grips from Carbon Creations. Dale had recently purchased a Chopper motorcycle, and he really liked the color of his bike. As luck would have it, the grips are very similar to the bike's color—I had to have them.

Hayden was very instrumental in helping me choose the other finishes, like Stainless Steel for the frame and slide, and he put a really neat swirl design on the controls. Hayden had it engraved on both sides, per my request. Thurman Dale Smith, Jr. 2007 is engraved on the left side and the ejection side reads Oliver Custom. Dale's custom gun turned out to be an one-of-a-kind jewel.

If you would like to talk with Hayden about this project or any other gunsmith work, please call him at 501-888-4448.



- Frame – Caspian Race Ready Stainless Steel
- Slide – Caspian Stainless Steel
- Barrel – Schuemann Bull Barrel .355 9mm
- Grips – Carbon Creations
- Sights – Bomar rear, Dawson F/O front
- Mags – Metalform
- Springs – Wolff
- Extractor – Aftac
- Ejector – Caspian
- Firing Pin – Caspian
- Guide Rod / Reverse Plug – Caspian
- MS Housing – Caspian Race Ready
- Hammer, Sear, Disconnecter – STI
- Trigger – STI
- Mag Catch – Brown
- Ambi-Safety – Brown
- Beavertail – Brown
- Slide Stop - Brown
- Finish – Polish – Blast – Jewell

## Interested in SO/RO Classes?

I am studding the idea of putting together a Safety Officer class for IDPA and a Range Officer class (or CRO) for USPSA sometime in the future.

If you are interested in either or both, please email Ron Johnston at [rjohnston@aristotle.net](mailto:rjohnston@aristotle.net) and let him know so we can find an instructor and set up

a date for the classes.

There are already a few people interested in both disciplines, and it would be great to have more!

# Winter



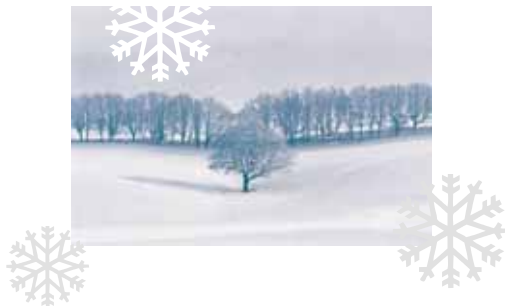
## Newsletter Content Needed

We are looking for content for our upcoming CASA Bullet newsletters, and we need your help! All photos and content should be related to shooting in some way.

Email any pictures to [rjohnston@aristotle.net](mailto:rjohnston@aristotle.net) with a short description of the context of the photo and who appears in the photo. Please size the pictures no smaller than 300k, but the story can be

as long as you would like.

We also need some good Poll ideas for the CASA Web site. Please email any ideas related to shooting to [rjohnston@aristotle.net](mailto:rjohnston@aristotle.net). To view the Poll, go to CASA's home page and look at the upper right side of the screen. You can view past Poll results, too. Be sure to vote every month! We change the Poll question on the 14th of every month.



## Rifle Range Update

As of January 11, the "Dirt Guy" said he would be there in short order. The weather put him a little behind on his other job. So pray for nice, DRY weather for the next few weeks and he should have the rifle range dirt work completed.

Of course, that would still leave building the shooters shed and benches. We will have to build those on a work day. While Mark Bryant (the dirt guy) is out there, he will level the new Prop Shed area and put down some gravel so we can get the shed builder out there shortly after Mark is done.

## Steel Challenge

The popularity of Steel Challenge is slowly increasing at CASA. With ammo costs sharply increasing, .22 rimfire has overtaken the centerfire guns. I broke out my .22 for January's match and had a blast. I usually shoot a 9mm XD, but not Saturday. I dusted off a Ruger Mark II 22/45 rimfire. That is a .22 pistol that has the grip angle and controls like a government-issue .45. And to top it off, a C-more red dot sight speeds things up a little.

If you have never shot Steel Challenge at CASA, come on out for the next Steel Challenge shoot. The match date is always on the second Saturday

of the month unless otherwise stated on our Web site Calendar page. (Sometimes we cancel the match to have a club workday.)

A .22 rimfire does not require a holster, but does require at least three or four magazines to compete. Go to the Gallery page on our Web site and you can view a Steel Challenge stage shot by a competitor. We am working on getting more videos on the site to show the other six stages; we have seven stages total.

If you would like to view the stages, visit <http://www.steelchallenge.com/steelchallenge/2006/stages.htm>. We have all of them except Accelerator.

## Safety

The following four laws of gun control were copied from the USPSA Rule Book.

These rules can and should be applied to regular everyday shooting, too. Please read them.

### THE FOUR LAWS OF GUN CONTROL

If you learn nothing else from practical shooting, learn the four laws that are the foundation of all safe gun handling. Remember...**Someday you will have an accidental discharge\*!** The only questions are when, where, and how. If you are obeying the four laws of gun control when it happens, it will be scary. If you're not, it could be tragic.

#### FIRST LAW...

##### **THE GUN IS ALWAYS LOADED!**

EVERY TIME you pick up or draw a gun, inspect it in a safe manner (control your muzzle) and always treat it as a loaded gun.

#### SECOND LAW...

##### **NEVER POINT THE GUN AT SOMETHING YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO DESTROY!**

The only safe way to operate is to assume the worst case scenario: Pretend that your "empty" gun is going to function perfectly. When you press the trigger it will FIRE! Since you are prepared for that, you only point the gun in a safe direction. This way when brain fade does result in an AD, it will be into a safe impact area and there won't be a tragedy.

#### THIRD LAW...

##### **ALWAYS BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEHIND IT!**

Bullets can penetrate lots of things. Identify your target before firing. If you are not sure, DON'T shoot! Make sure there is a safe impact area behind it before firing. For home practice, find and aim only at a BULLET PROOF BACKSTOP. Plasterboard walls and outer walls are not bulletproof. A .45 bullet will easily travel through several rooms before stopping.

#### FOURTH LAW...

##### **KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOUR SIGHTS ARE ON THE TARGET!**

Almost all of the accidental discharges during a match are caused by placing a finger on the trigger when not ready to fire. Some examples: Finger on trigger during reloading, during movement, during the draw, and during jam clearing have all led to accidental discharges and disqualifications. Finger on the trigger during reloading or movement calls for instant disqualification (you don't have to AD) and two ROs are watching for just that.

## Board of Directors

### President

Ron Johnston

### Vice President

Brett Bolan

### Secretary / Treasurer

Don Baker

### Information Director

Andrea Bolan

### Director at Large

Kevin Walsh

### IDPA Director

Mike Plato

### USPSA Director

Bob Houston

## Special Dates

- April 12, 2008: Work Day for CASA, Range will be CLOSED
- April 26, 2008: Ladies Day, Details TBA
- April 30 - May 4, 2008: Arkansas Section Handgun Championship, Details TBA
- June 14, 2008: IDPA - Arkansas 1st Annual Armed Forces Shootoff, Details TBA
- July 6, 2008: USPSA - Special Classifier Match, \$20
- November 2, 2008: USPSA - Hillbilly Classic, Details TBA

*Come Shoot With Us*

## From the President

If you are interested in being more involved with the club, please contact me via email at [rjohnston@aristotle.net](mailto:rjohnston@aristotle.net).

See you on the range,

Ron Johnston  
CASA President

## Get Involved

- If you don't shoot competitively, then try to start coming to some matches and participate in all of the fun and camaraderely.
- Come to a Board Meeting. The dates and location will be listed on the Web site Calendar.
- Come to a Work Day with an idea on improving the range and implementing that idea with the Board's permission.
- It would be nice to see someone organize a .22 rifle match using paper or steel from Steel Challenge.



**Check out the new CASA poll at [www.casorange.com](http://www.casorange.com).  
A new poll is posted each month. Be sure to vote!**