



GIVE 'ER A SHOT

The Phoenix Police Athletic Club Shooting Team Newsletter

APRIL,
2005

What is the PPAC Shooting Team?

We started the PPAC Shooting Team to improve the firearms skills of Department personnel, and we are doing it in a manner that anyone on the Department can participate. You don't have to be good, buy expensive gear, qualify for the team, or spend a lot of money on ammunition. You just have to show up.

Shooting is a proficiency skill that is directly related to your job and the more practice you get, the better you will perform during a lethal force confrontation, and that is a fight for your life.

We meet one time per month and mix up the days and times we shoot to give everyone a chance to participate, around their work schedules.

Bring your duty gear, gun, magazines, a hat, and if you don't want to wear the community eye and ear protection, bring yours.

We set up a variety of drills, and try to keep it different and fun, while giving everyone new shooting experiences. We hope that with the experiences you get here, you will start shooting more, try out a real competition, and get better. You can even purchase team uniforms.

We want you to try it out, or, "**Give 'er a Shot.**"

Members, help us out, help you out

The purpose of us starting the PPAC Shooting Team is get our officers more interested in shooting, and give everyone more chances to improve their firearms skills.

For the most part our Department is hovering around 30 police involved shootings per year, and several have more than one officer firing their weapon to save a life, usually their own.

If 40 officers get into a shooting each year (we frequently have more than one officer shooting), isn't practicing under the added stress of competition going to help you win when the real life encounter occurs?

You are receiving this newsletter because you have attended at least one monthly match, experienced what the Shooting Team is about, and hopefully are a better shooter.

You have had the chances to shoot in competition against other officers. You have engaged multiple targets, with multiple rounds, under time constraints. You have felt the experience of the increase in your heart rate while shooting as everyone was watching you perform.

The difference has been that you were not receiving incoming rounds, your life was not on the line (your ego may have been), but you were having fun.

After shooting a few matches, have things seemed to get a little easier? Have you improved your hit ratio while learning to shoot a little faster? Has it helped your confidence if you find yourself in a gunfight?

Please post this issue at your worksite and invite your squad members, and other officers, to a monthly match. Help get more involved, because they will be helping you win your gunfight.

Upcoming Team Shooting Sessions

- Saturday, **May 21, 2005**, from 0800-1100 hours, the monthly shoot will be at the Training Bureau, and we will do a variety of qualification courses. Rich Hartson has collected several qualification courses, so we are going to see how we do on some of the qualification courses used by the Feds and some others (**note: change of date**).
- Thursday, June 16, 2005 from 1700-2100 hours. We will have some real competition (IDPA) targets and will use these targets, along with no-shoot targets, hard cover targets, and will have a swinging target or two. Just some new stuff for us to work with. We have been using qualification targets a lot, but are making a change.

SHOOTING TIP OF THE MONTH – Why we miss

Sometimes when shooting we have some misses and just blow off the fact that we had a few misses because we made up our misses and we ended up with enough satisfactory hits.

Have you ever stopped to take the time to analyze why you had those misses? Or did you just blow them off as part of the shooting process?

Never accept your misses, they cost you valuable time/points in a match, but in real life they are a lot more critical. Misses give the bad guy more time to shoot at you and fellow officers, and increases your liability for striking innocent people. Yea, officers have been

indicted for accidentally striking innocent people during a gunfight.

We usually miss for three main reasons:

1) The biggest reason for most misses is because our trigger pull is pulling the weapon off target. The faster we pull the trigger, or the farther from the target, the larger the error.

2) We are not looking at the front sight as hard as we should have been, and when we broke the shot, we were unable to verify the weapon was properly aligned.

3) We were looking at the front sight and the trigger pull was fine, but we were visually impatient. We let the shot go before the sight was where it needed to be.

On #1, we have not learned the trigger pull well enough, or at least well enough to shoot accurately at the speed we are shooting.

On #2, we are getting a little lazy, and not bringing the eye back to the front sight.

On #3, we are pushing too fast, faster than we can visually process the information and keep up. We must slow down to a speed we can process the data, and get hits.

Through practice we can improve all three areas.

When you miss, don't accept your misses. Analyze why you missed (or ask for help) and practice what you need to do to improve your shooting.

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Results of April Shoot

Monday, April 11, 2005

Overall:

- 1) Tim Lantz.....78.21
- 2) Richard Brethour.....82.17
- 3) Bret Draughn.....85.31
- 4) Vern Brink.....88.10
- 5) Steve Pilcher.....105.94
- 6) Bob Whiteman108.38
- 7) Patrick Crouse.....108.75

Glock the Plates:

- 1) Bret Draughn.....22.25
- 2) Rich Brethour.....22.96
- 3) Patrick Crouse.....23.63
- 4) Tim Lantz.....24.25

Five to Glock:

- 1) Tim Lantz.....28.13
- 2) Bret Draughn.....32.42
- 3) James Ireland.....33.25
- 4) Rich Brethour.....34.72

Glock M:

- 1) Rich Brethour.....24.49
- 2) Tim Lantz.....25.83
- 3) Vern Brink.....26.30
- 4) Patrick Crouse.....26.62

Team Members Making a Showing in other Matches Spring Steel @ Rio Salado

John Harma placed 1st in Limited Class, A Division at the Dust Devil Classic in Tucson, and high practical shooter at the 2004 Yuma Match Masters. Good job John

BY THE WAY... WE ARE SHORT ON .45 AMMUNITION SO ANYONE WANTING TO COME TO A MONTHLY TEAM SHOOT, BE SURE TO BRING A .40, OR OTHER CALIBER HANDGUN FOR THE MATCHES. THANKS

The Phoenix Police Athletic Club

Although there is no requirement for Shooting Team members to be members of the Athletic Club, we do recommend it. They help us out with shooting supplies and fronted the money for our team uniforms, and the cost benefits are worth it to you (\$2.00 per check).

Contact me, Bret Draughn (at the Academy), for a signup packet. I can send you a packet through the Department mail or get one from me at the monthly shoot.

****** Retired PPD Sergeant Chris Pollack fell off his horse and broke his arm real bad. While in the hospital infection set in and he has taken a turn for the worse. He has participated in some of our matches and really enjoyed it. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. ******

WE HAVE EXTRA TEAM T-SHIRT AND HATS FOR SALE

We ordered extra t-shirts and hats so if anyone has decided they wanted extra shirts and hats we have them. Team members can purchase blue or gray t-shirts and the hat, while non-team members may purchase only gray.

What does it take to purchase the "team members only" blue? Come out to a monthly match shoot with us.

We did order some of the 5.11 Tactical polo shirts (like you see here), 5.11 Tactical pants, and 5.11 vests, but we only purchased what was ordered by team members, and do not have extras for sale.

We are going to make more purchases, but would like to sell more of the clothing we have on hand so we can put the money back before purchasing more.

There are a few sizes we still need to order in the t-shirts because of a mix-up in the order, but will take care of that soon.



**Our winner, Tim Lantz
doing "Glock M"**

Here are photos of our stages and the Shooting Team in action.



Rich Brethour shooting "Glock the Plates"



Vern Brink showing us "5 to Glock"