



GIVE 'ER A SHOT

**AUGUST
2009**

The Phoenix Police Athletic Club Shooting Team Newsletter

Fifth Year Special Edition

It has been five years, when you get this please make some copies and give them to co-workers and/or post at your worksite. Maybe you can help get more people involved.

How the Shooting Team Started

Back in about 2001-2002 three of us got to talking about how there were not many Phoenix Police officers involved in shooting sports, particularly combat handgun competitions. Three of us (Robert Wamsley, RV Hartson, and Bret Draughn) would regularly go to the AZ Police and Fire Games and find we were the only three Phoenix officers there at the shooting matches.

We were talking and wanted to do things to develop more interest in shooting among Phoenix officers but at that point all we could do was invite people to shoot, and that was a hit and miss endeavor.

In 2003 Draughn and Hartson transferred to the Firearms Training Detail and found ourselves talking about it again and believed we might be in a position to do something.

We talked and we believed that if officers could just come down and have fun doing little competitions they would return and bring friends. As they came they would realize that it was fun stuff and in the process they would be improving their gun handling skills which would help them in a gunfight.

I contacted Angela Kwan to see if the Phoenix Police Athletic Club would be interested in having a shooting team and then it started.

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Details about the Team

- You don't have to try out for the Shooting Team, you just have to show up, it is open to all Phoenix Officers
- There are no dues to the Shooting Team and no costs to participate
- We have our monthly newsletter "Give 'er a Shot" where the name signifies what we are trying to do and that is to get officers to just try it out
- The newsletter frequently has information about our monthly matches and some upcoming matches you can attend
- If you want to be put on the mailing list for our newsletter you just have to come out to a match and ask to be put on the list, or at least contact Sgt. Draughn
- There are some blue shooting team shirts available for purchase if you attend a match
- For those who regularly compete at bigger matches we have started working to get *official* fancy shirts to wear
- Our goal is to have fun, work on shooting skills, and develop more interest in shooting among Phoenix Officers
- To join, going to a monthly match or send an email to Bret Draughn asking to be placed on the mailing list

About Our Team Logo

- Designed by Bret Draughn and Rich Hartson and developed by Sgt. Dave Otanez
- We left off anything saying police so you can wear it without being recognized as a police officer
- Our target is a standard competition target because we are doing competition
- All three of the guns (carbine, shotgun and handgun) are the three standard guns in police work and we have shot all three in our matches
- PPAC is listed on it as we are part of the Athletic Club

Upcoming Monthly Team Shoots

- **Tuesday, September 8, 2009, 1700-1900** – This will be a mix of paper and steel targets and for some of us it is practice for bigger upcoming matches. October, no monthly as we are holding the Combat Classic.

Scheduled Matches for Team Members

Some Shooting Team members are planning on attending some bigger matches, and the one I know about right now include:

2009 USPSA Nationals

Rich Brethour, Patrick Crouse, Bret Draughn, John Harma, Rich Hartson, Mark Nelson and maybe Mike Lin

2009 Area 2 Championships

Rich Brethour, Patrick Crouse, Jay Dempsey, Bret Draughn, Sara Dunivin, John Harma, Rich Hartson, Mark Nelson, and we are working on some others if it isn't full.

The Phoenix Combat Classic

Each year we hold a combat shooting match at the Training Bureau that is open to law enforcement personnel and we get officers from local, state and federal agencies from around the state.

This match is geared for the average cop (you don't have to be good to win stuff) and we believe the best way to get cops involved in shooting is to have fun and give away free stuff. Sign up soon!

GIVE 'ER A SHOT – AUGUST, 2009

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You Don't have to be Good

A lot of folks have mentioned that they are not good enough to be on the Shooting Team and I want to dispel that right off.

You don't have to be good to come out and shoot with us, the whole purpose is to get better and the only way to get better at something is to get involved, practice and shoot with others you can learn from and we are big on helping the learning process.

You don't need expensive gear, you can wear your duty gear as we have a class that is for folks wearing duty gear. Yea, some of us might have expensive competition guns but you won't be shooting against us.

Remember, we are doing this to get officers involved and better skills.

Who knows you might get hooked, buy cool stuff, and get real good.

How the Team Started, *Continued from Page 1*

We worked out the details of using the Training Bureau's Range, we got insurance for the Shooting Team, and started planning.

We advertised that we were going to put together a shooting team and hold monthly matches, and in July 2004 we held our first monthly team shoot and had 14 shooters.

In 2007 we brought back the Phoenix Combat Classic that in three years has become immensely popular, and brings shooters in from around the state to participate in this 'cops only' match.

Now after five years and we are still plugging along and trying to get more officers interested in shooting to better their skills. And we are more convinced now than ever before that shooting competition will absolutely help your skills. Some people still argue that it builds bad habits but over the years, this train of thought has had a lot of holes shot in it.

Join the Phoenix Police Athletic Club

PPAC provides reimbursement for participating in the Police Olympics and other events, they help support the Shooting Team with money for props, targets, and other needs, and have numerous other activities going on. Cost is only \$2.00 per paycheck, so it is absolutely worth it.

Contact me, Bret Draughn (at the Academy), if you have questions.

Extra Team Shirts and Past Combat Classic Shirts for Sale

We have too many shirts left over and we have to off-load some of them to make room. We are selling gray Shooting Team Shirts and past Combat Classic Shirts for \$5.00 each. If you need some email Sgt. Draughn at the Training Bureau and he can bring them in to sell you. There isn't room here.

Looking for a shooting match to try out? Here are some suggestions.

LOCATION TO SHOOT: The Cactus Combat Match League holds matches on most Thursdays and Sundays up at Ben Avery. A good place to Give 'er a Shot. <http://www.cactusmatch.com>

LOCATION TO SHOOT: Rio Salado is a range out east of Mesa. They have great shooters out there and if you start shooting there you will be in good company and learn a whole lot about shooting from some of the best. They have matches on Saturdays, Sundays, and Tuesday nights. <http://www.riosaladosportsmans.com>

LOCATION TO SHOOT: Down next to the Training Bureau, this range is low stress and you can start out shooting around more average shooters. I have only shot one match there and had a good time. Tempe range staff has told me they hold pretty fun matches and do IDPA matches (a little more realistic to our job). <http://www.phoenixrodandgun.org>

A MATCH: Police and Fire Games (Olympics) are annually, sometimes down in Tucson and times up here in the valley. They generally hold competitions for snipers, combat handgun, PPC, and 3-gun. They usually also have some other shooting events including high power. <http://www.azpolicegames.com>

A MATCH: At the end of February the Spring Steel match will be at Rio Salado. This is an all steel match and one of the most fun matches of the year. They put out a ton of steel and a lot of it is big and close so you can just hose. Not great for building your accuracy skills, but you practice shooting fast and it is a lot of fun <http://www.riopractical.com/>

I have included website information so you can look into them and Give 'er a Shot.

