SHOOTING TIPS: THE IDPA CLASSIFIER;
Get your gear sorted out before shooting the classifier. This is not the time to be fighting your equipment. When making IDPA Stock Service Pistol Master, Thomas used the same straight drop Blade-Tech Standard Belt Holster and double mag pouch, Kramer black shark-skin-and-horsehide dress gunbelt, and Glock 34 he carried every day.

By Duane Thomas

An IDPA Master Tells You How to Do It, Too!

I will be doing within the pages of The Blue Press a series of articles giving tips on how to improve your performance on the IDPA classifier. The info in these articles will not by itself make you an IDPA Master. But if you’re close to moving up, whether a Marksman dreaming of Sharpshooter, or an Expert wanting Master, if you’re willing to practice what I preach here, these tips can push you up and over the edge.

“Rank” in IDPA comes from firing a 90-round classification course on three cardboard IDPA targets, set up with six feet between targets edge-to-edge, and target heights from left to right of six, four and five feet. Your score is the total time to complete all strings of fire, with a half second added for every point down from possible, and three seconds per procedural penalty (of course, we’ll have none of THOSE). The lower the score, the better you did. Ranks go, from lowest to highest, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert, and at the top, Master.

A Master score in IDPA Stock Service Pistol division is 98.41 seconds or faster. When shooters push themselves up to the next level and finally make that new rank, it tends to be by the skin of their teeth; that was certainly the case for me. I am going to give you, within these articles, the times I posted for each string of fire (and at the end of each stage also my points down), all coming from the classifier run where I actually earned my SSP Master rank, not because I want to brag (there are certainly many people in the world who can post...)

Learning to shoot with both eyes open allows better depth perception, faster focal shifts, and a wider field of view.

While Thomas recommends prepping the trigger during the draw, this does NOT mean safety will be sacrificed. Note in this photo, though the gun is at about 45 degrees during the draw and the support hand is coming in to meet the master hand, the index finger is still clear of the trigger guard.

Here is a good example of what trigger prep looks like: the trigger has the slack taken out, it’s hard up against “the link” resistance point, and almost enough pressure to fire the gun (but not quite) is applied.