Every year since 2002, the Northwest Practical Pistol Association, at the Renton Fish & Game Club in Washington state, has hosted the annual Washington State IDPA Championships. This year, 83 shooters attended the day-long, 14-stage contest.

This was a prop-rich match. For instance, on Stage 12, “Barber Shop Troubles,” shooters began seated in an honest-to-God barber’s chair. At the start signal, they flung back the covering barber sheet, retrieved their gun from the pocket of a coat across the “room” (where we all keep our guns, natch) engaged one target while moving to the cover of the barber chair, and finished up the stage master hand only (the off-hand having been “injured” while moving to cover). On Stage 8, “Convenience Store Holdup,” simulating a robbery taking place inside a grocery store, prop builders hot glued numerous cans, bottles, cardboard containers, etc., to the plastic sheets we use for walls at NWPPA matches, simulating shelves of grocery store items. The amount of time and work that must have taken was awesome to contemplate – and the final product looked great!

Believing the ability to successfully engage targets at long range is one thing that really separates