

## PRACTICAL PISTOL NEWS



**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
S&W 44 Mag Pistol Raffle  
\$20 per entry, Contact Jamie**

Practical Pistol at Tri City Gun Club was started 30 years ago by Al Sanderson. Originally the sport was set-up as IPSC. There are still 3 of the TCGC founding members active in the sport.

You may remember that in the original Dirty Harry movie, Clint Eastwood's character visits a training center and walks down the street of a mock city engaging hostile targets and while identifying and sparing innocents. A lot of us saw it too, and thought, "cool!" It looked like too much fun to be just the law enforcement work of qualifying with a handgun.

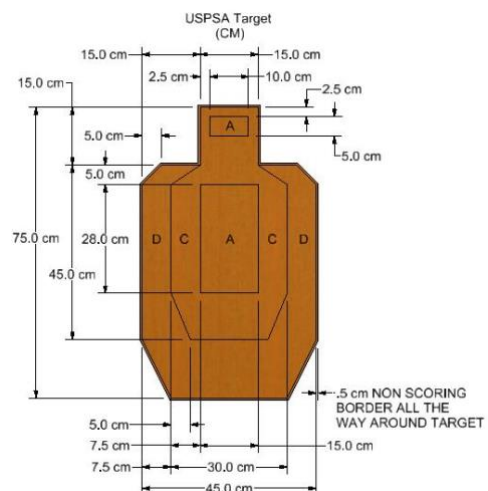
Competition had begun with the "leather slap" quick draw events of the 1950's, which had grown out of America's love affair with the TV westerns of that era. However, many wished for a forum that would more directly test the results of the experimentation that had been going on in Big Bear, California and many other places. Competitions evolved to test what had been learned, and just for the pure fun presented by what quickly became a sport requiring competitors to deal with constantly changing scenarios while shooting rapidly and accurately with full power handguns.

In 1976 an international group of enthusiasts interested in what had become known as "practical" shooting met in Columbia, Missouri. From that meeting came the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC). In 1984 USPSA was incorporated as the US Region of IPSC. Membership in USPSA automatically includes membership in IPSC. (cite: [www.uspsa.org](http://www.uspsa.org) history)

Tri-City Gun Club has people from all over come to enjoy the sport. The matches are not sanctioned and therefore not bound by all the regulations that are in the lengthy manual, as that covers a lot of administrative rules as well as minute details in regards to separating out the various classes of firearms. Courses are randomly set-up by volunteers at each event. Three different courses are set-up and vary widely. Generally, 100-150 rounds of ammunition will be sufficient to complete the course. How good a shot are you? Most of the competitors use 9mm, 45 and 40. Some use PCC. Magazine sizes vary widely. Minimal equipment required is a holster which covers the trigger guard area. Hip holsters and thigh rigs only. No cross drawing. A minimum of two large capacity magazines recommended, with a third recommended. 20-30 round magazines have a distinct advantage.

USPSA Safety Rules. <https://uspsa.org> In its simplest form, you'll start out standing in a shooter's box marked out on the ground, draw your firearm when the timer sounds, engage both half silhouette paper targets and steel. When you're "off the clock" you'll make your firearm safe and return it to your holster. There are three bays at the end of the Long Rifle Range with three different courses of fire, with typically each course of fire requiring the shooter to move from one shooter's box to the other. Paper targets have an A through D zone, so the scorekeeping software will factor in your time and accuracy.

It's a very laid back and friendly atmosphere, with everyone there willing to help you out and talk you through it, and a very diverse range of skill levels. However, TCGC is not as stringent on pistol classes. Come on out!



Shawn Sanderson (Pictured) continues in his father's footsteps organizing the Practical Pistol Event monthly. Check out the website for videos of the January Practical Pistol Match. There were 50 participants!