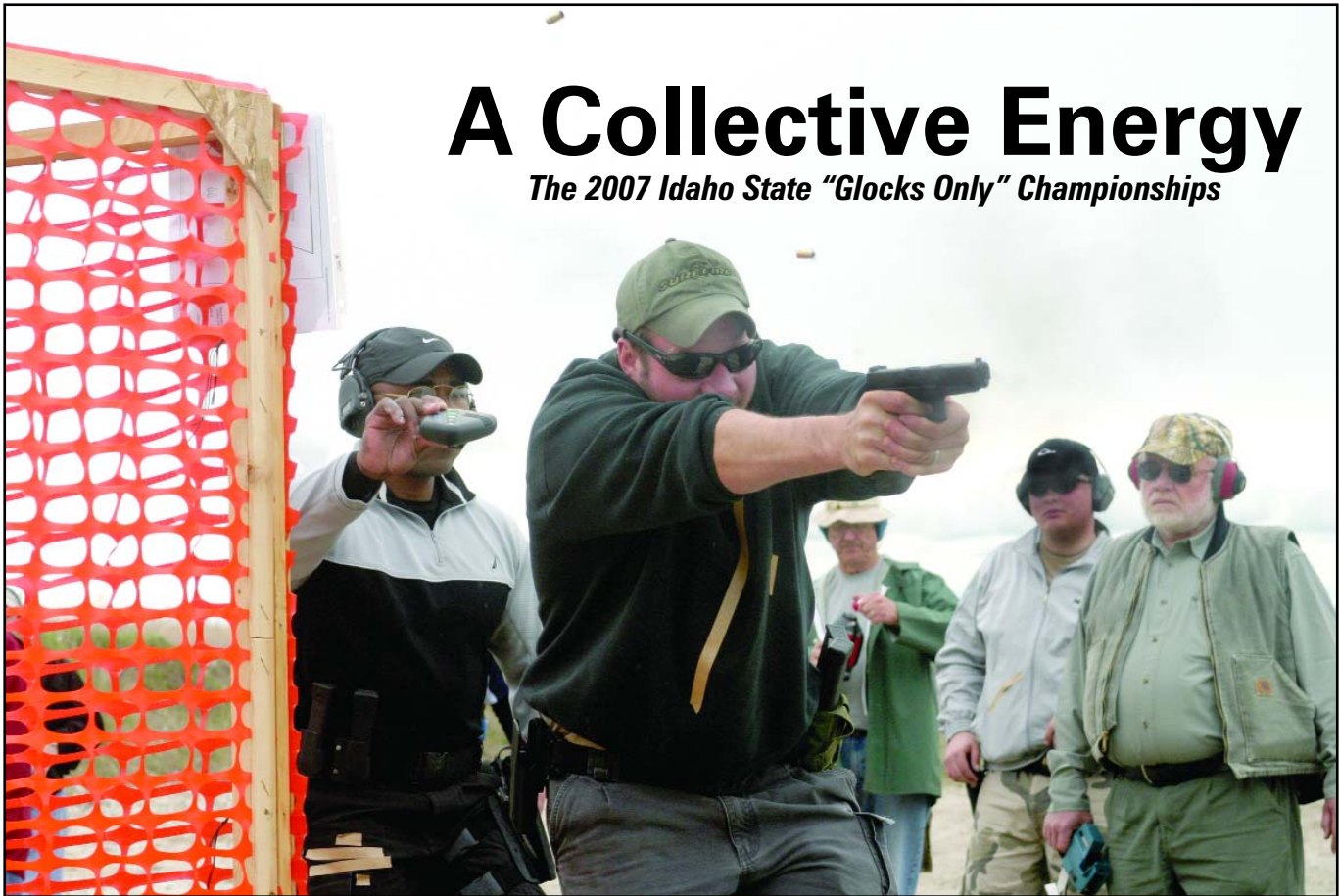


A Collective Energy

The 2007 Idaho State "Glocks Only" Championships



BY PATRICK KELLEY, TY-14401

“I’m never doing this again,” I muttered to my wife at the lunch break at this year’s Idaho State Glocks Only Championships. “What?” she replied, “I thought you were having a great time!” “Errr...aaa.. yes, I am, kinda, but I should have taken a cue from Robin.” I’d spoken with Front Sight’s assistant editor Robin Taylor weeks earlier. He knew sacrifices would have to be made if I was going to cover and shoot this match. How right he was.

Sleep was the first casualty. I had finished the Ephrata Sportsmen 3-Gun Challenge 18 hours before. I found my bed too late and my alarm clock too early, followed by the 6-hour predawn drive to Emmett, Idaho. Shooting prowess was the second as I arrived at the match a little late and already “on deck” as the final shooter on my first stage, picking up two mikes and a FTE **A Cooper Tunnel with curtains? What would the Colonel say! That’s Darrion Holiwell ducking through the drapery.**

in my foggy execution. This shooting pattern was repeated all too often over the 268 round, 9-stage match. To top that, Mother Nature showered us on and off during the day, making us shoot and tape through those darned plastic bags! My desire to play outside was waning fast.

Despite my inner-self wanting to bag it and sleep, I stayed and shot both my G34 and a camera. Somehow this

Cases fly as Jessup Davidson drills his shots into a target.

group of Glock enthusiasts kept me going — or maybe it was our CRO Mike McCarter’s booming voice keeping me awake as he ran us through the stages, or the high-speed staccatos that poured from Darrion Holiwell’s and Tom Dean’s pistols, or maybe it was the effortless draws that I witnessed the cops on our squad make from their





USPSA's oldest teenager placed well enough to earn his match fee back. Note the fistful of 20s that Carrie Redovian is giving out.

Level 3 retention holsters. Whatever it was, stay and shoot I did.

Of the 93 competitors, all but a few were running and gunning with Gaston's creation. Approved by and run under USPSA's banner, rules, and course design, this "Glocks Only" match was an IPSC match in every way except equipment. Instead of "Limited" and "Open," the divisions were based on frame size. At the top was Full Size division (G17 and larger frame sizes), followed by Compact division (G19, 23 etc.) and then the demanding Sub-Compact division where G26's and 27's barked in the shooters' hands. All calibers were scored minor and magazine length was held to 140mm. Scopes and compensators were allowed, but relatively few shooters used them.

The stages were the brainchildren of the "oldest teenager" in the USPSA, Rich "Rocket Man" Redovian. I have known Rich since I first met him at the 10th anniversary of the Area 1 championships in Nampa, Idaho roughly 15 years ago. He is just as fast, fun, friendly and fit now as he was then, only now he qualifies for the senior division! He and his lovely wife Carrie, along with an energetic crew, set up and ran this one day \$20 match at the Gem County Rod and Gun Club. This match had an energy that was palpable.

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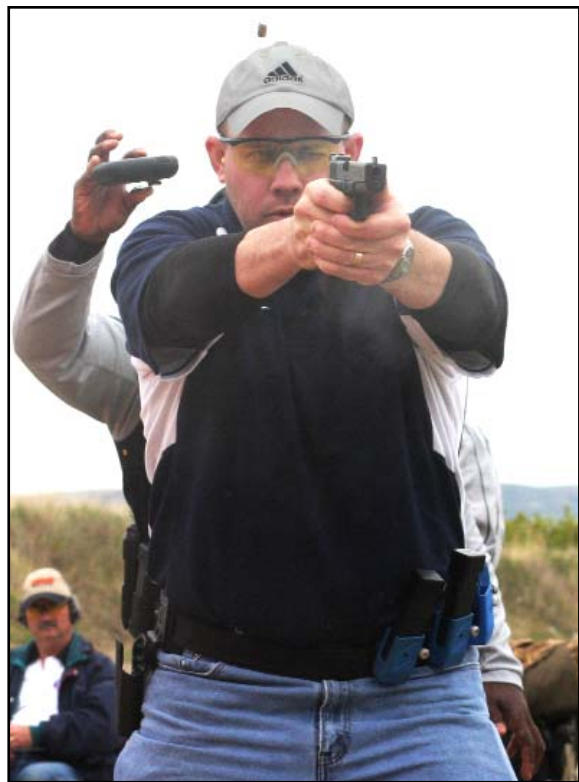
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Between Rich's "always on the go" attitude and the warm greeting by the staff and stats this match made you feel good that you were there.

Redovian's stages turned you "every which way but loose" over the course of the day. Stage #1 made use of a Cooper tunnel, forcing shooters to get low. Shooting while standing four feet in height tempted many to raise their head up to get a better view of the low targets – knocking off the penalty sticks as they did. Match director Rich Redovian flew the 32-round low-level strafing run in 14.81 seconds to pick up one of his three stage wins.

Stage #2 had shooters turn to enter a single shooting area, picking their way around the tightly spaced targets, no-shoots, and walls to place their 26 rounds accurately. Tom Dean was the most precise on this stage.

Stage #3 really taxed the shooters' ability to maintain a fluid transition between shooting ports. After retrieving one's blaster from the table, the ports came up faster than all but the best-choreographed plan. Brad Holt danced his way to victory here.



Match winner Tom Dean shoots past the remote camera. Although scopes/comps are allowed in "full size" division, Dean didn't use either.

Stage #4 humbled many with a precise first shot. At the signal competitors had to engage a single plate through a hole in a guard plate to open a trap door exposing four paper targets. Having completed this initial barrage we were to move quickly downrange and engage a mixture of below-ground (dug into foxholes) paper targets and steel plates, making our way to the end where a combination of bobbing and weaving targets were activated via a pressure plate. Tom Dean shot the quickest while on the move to claim top billing on the longest field course of the match.

Stage #5 was an exercise in speed management with transitions from the up-close paper to the deviously-placed no-shoot targets behind U.S. and standard Pepper poppers at better than 20 yards. King County SWAT officer Darriion Holiwell showed no fear here with a winning time of 19.63. (King County includes Seattle, Wash.)

Stage #6 gave the competitor an opportunity to demonstrate their strong- and weak-hand-only gun handling skills. Stage #6 used three strings of fire on three separate arrays of four paper and one steel target. All strings started with the gun on a table and all shots were fired through a port.

String one: pick up the unloaded gun, charge it and engage the targets required through the port. String two: pick up the loaded gun from table and engage strong hand only. String three: you guessed it, pick up and engage weak hand only. I personally like to see these stages in major matches as they balance the skill set. Again, Mr. Redovian had his skills together on this one.

Stage #7 did not look as quick as the top shooters made it. Starting 10 yards uprange of your unloaded pistol, on signal retrieve pistol from the table, charge it



The match owes a great deal to its volunteers and its range officers.

and engage targets as visible. This is one of a couple of stages where I thought someone must have slipped an Open gun into Tom Dean's hands. Some of his transitions and splits were amazing!

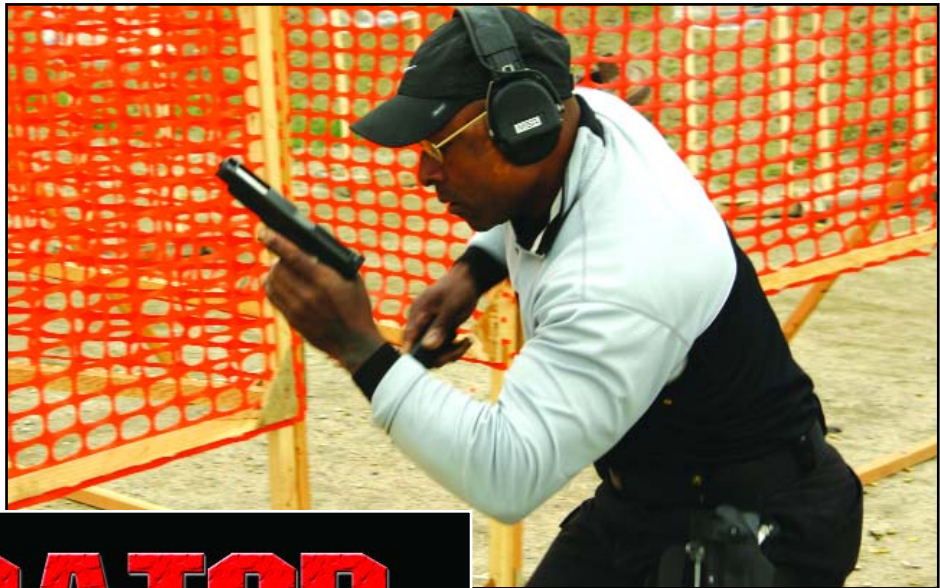
Mr. Dean's speed paid off with his third stage win.

Stage #8 was where I began my match by picking up the FTE and two (or was it three?) misses as I moved past a target that was hiding behind a 55-gallon drum. I know it was laughing at me! This stage had the shooter moving retrograde to begin and then advancing downrange engaging the mirror image arrays. Idaho state Trooper and "all around good guy" David Neth moved the best here, getting the last laugh.

To finish the match stage #9 again tested our less-used skill sets with three strings Virginia count on two partial targets at 13 yards and one full target at 25. String one required two rounds on each target freestyle with a mandatory reload. String #2 required two rounds on each target kneeling. String

#3 required two on each target prone to complete the 32-round stage. Once again, Rocket Man Redovian had little problem with this stage picking up his third stage victory.

A good group of shooters stayed to the end to offer thanks for the hard work of the cast and crew that make this match possible and applaud their fellow competitor's achievements. Ok, maybe it was the cash pay back to a goodly portion of the competitors or the really cool stainless steel custom trophies the division winners received, but stay and applaud they did!



Darrion Holiwell in motion. A well-known Production Division competitor from the Seattle area, Holiwell is a force to be reckoned with at a "Glocks Only" match.

Tom Dean trumped the field of 70 in the full size frame division. David Neth grabbed second at 97.4% and Brad Holt held onto third with 95.9%

Compact division garnered 12 entrants with Kepa Zubizarreta on top with Bruce Blair in second and Rex Hanson third. Note: in an overall combined match Mr. Zubizarreta would have placed sixth overall! Fine shooting to be sure.

The Sub-Compact division found seven brave souls battling torque and recoil rather than each other for top honors. Mike Gibson, Russ Huneywell and Tom Neth were the top three respectively.

This was my first time at this match and I must say that I ended up having a great time. I may not have conveyed that feeling to my squad mates as at the time I felt like I should bag it and head home. Why did I stay? In reflection it was some kind of "collective energy" that radiates from people that find their way to the Idaho State "Glocks Only" Championships. Had it not been for them I may have missed out on a well-run, well-attended match, bagged my gun and slept. Thanks to you all!



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