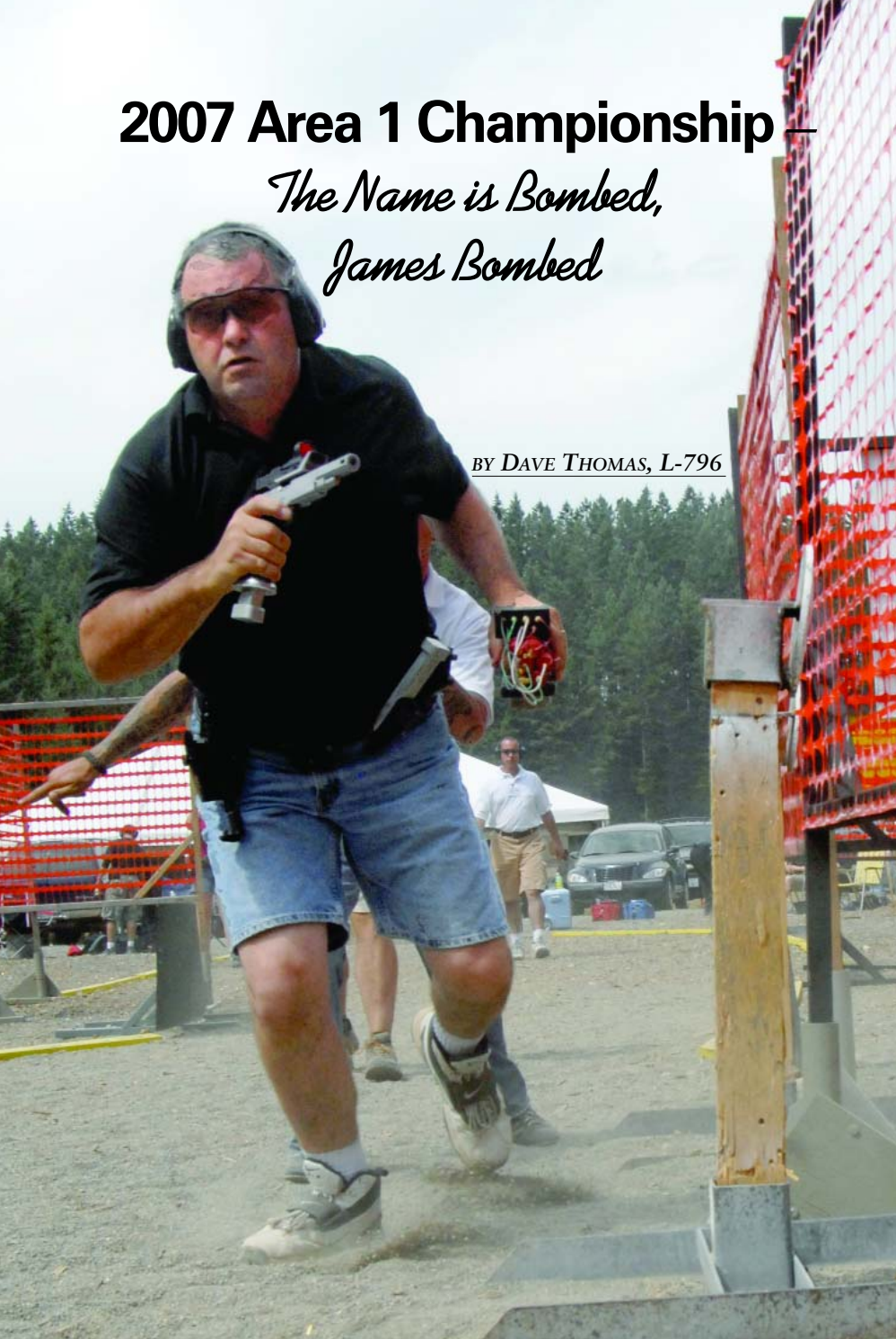


# 2007 Area 1 Championship

*The Name is Bombed,  
James Bombed*

BY DAVE THOMAS, L-796



Floyd Shoemaker is something of a renaissance man and the driving force behind the themes, from logo design to web site (<http://northwestsection.org/2007Area1/index.html>), to the match book. He also served as range master. Floyd has never met a pun he didn't like and the 2007 Area 1 Championship provided fertile ground for his equally fertile imagination. Shoemaker and his predecessor John Wells have built a history of producing theme matches with humor and just pure fun as their centerpieces. Who can ever forget 2001's Area 1, "A Space Idiocy?" This year was almost too easy. The 007 theme resulted in stage names such as, "BoldFinger" "The Spy Who Loved Me!," and "Ever Say...Never Again."

Despite their frivolous names, the 12-stage match offered an excellent balance of accuracy, speed and reasonable athletic demands, as well as requiring use of the brain muscle if you hoped to do well. For an example, stage 5, "For Your Thighs Only," designed by Bob Loo and Match Director David Farrow, provided several procedural options and included three steel targets available only through a low port in the middle of the stage. Getting down in a hurry to shoot those targets revealed the value of those yoga exercises... if you have been doing them... most of us haven't. Ouch!

Even the Virginia Count standard exercise, "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Casino" was faithful to the theme with targets showing hard cover painted to represent tuxedos complete with bow ties. It takes a seriously sick mind to envision something like that, and the Shoemaker-led Area 1 production team was up to the task. It is also amazingly easy to shoot misses when the hard cover is in such unexpected places. Most of us are conditioned to shoot at zones rather than placing shots precisely. A good course of fire will reveal what skills needed to be practiced, and this one accomplished that.

One of the more memorable scenes from the movie Goldfinger has Mr. Bond tied to a table, threatened by a

**T**he 2007 Area 1 Championship drew 252 competitors to the Paul Bunyan Range in Puyallup, Wash., Aug. 8-12 for 12 stages constructed with a decidedly 007 theme. Glenn Higdon traveled from the gamblers' paradise of Las Vegas, winning his gamble by winning Open. Emanuel Bragg was in the area after shooting the Canadian National Championship in British Columbia, so he extended his stay long enough to shoot through this match with the staff. Finishing all the stages in one day

## Dennis Fuller packs the "Bomb" into action at the Area 1 Championship.

sounds like an insurmountable task, but Manny did it, winning Limited in the process. Canadian Randy Fisher took the Limited 10 title and Oregonian Trevor Ott won Single Stack. Mike Hughes and James Austin saved the honor of the host state by winning Production and Revolver respectively.

If you haven't experienced a "Team Northwest" theme production, you don't know what you're missing.

laser beam about to split his personality in a very real sense. Stage 8, "BoldFinger" was constructed around that scene. CRO Marcus Carter's father, Houston Carter, built a table with a brass bar intended to represent the laser angling from a frame at the downrange end to a slot in the table. The start position had the competitor on his back, rod between his legs, and hands folded behind his head. On the start signal the shooter rolled to one side or the other and in the process disengaging the board holding the bar in place. From there he was faced with a dizzying series of target arrays consisting in total of eight IPSC paper, 10 plates, and two poppers.



**Bowtie hard cover? That's odd.**

two poppers. One of the paper targets on each side was an appearing target (bobber) activated by a steel target on the opposite side. The result was that no matter which side you choose to shoot first, you were going to have to return to that side after shooting the other side. The stage, designed by Joe Ocken, was adopted from one shot at the Open-Limited 10 Nationals in June in Missoula, Mont., so the concept was familiar to those who shot that match.

In the movie, Bond asks Goldfinger if he expects him to talk, to which Goldfinger replies "Why no, Mr. Bond, I expect you to die." CRO Marcus Carter argued that that line should be incorporated into the range commands, but more rules-oriented thinking prevailed.

Another interesting stage trait is one that presents a procedure you may not have seen before, or at least not often. Stage 3, "Diamonds are for Never," was like that. The shooter began in the center of the stage facing a segmented wall, the left side of which was further down range than was the right. Both featured covered ports hinged at the bottom, behind each of which were three paper targets and

The 2007 version of the Area 1 Championship departed from recent tradition and featured a prize table. The course book contained 10 pages devoted to sponsors, obviously too many to mention here. However, we do have space to note match sponsors Schuemann Barrels, Springfield Armory, Rainier Ballistics, and Front Sight Firearms Training Institute (hmmm... that name has a ring to it) as well as Gold Sponsors Montana Gold Bullets, Competitive Edge Dynamics, SV Infinity, C-More Systems, and JPL Precision.



**Front Sight's camera's caught Calvin Luke's muzzle blast.**

The 2008 Area 1 Championship is scheduled to return to the Portland, Ore., area, dates to be announced. Watch the web site match calendar and the pages of this magazine for more details.



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