

Tri-County Special:

Area 1 2006

BY DAVE THOMAS, L-796, USPSA ED

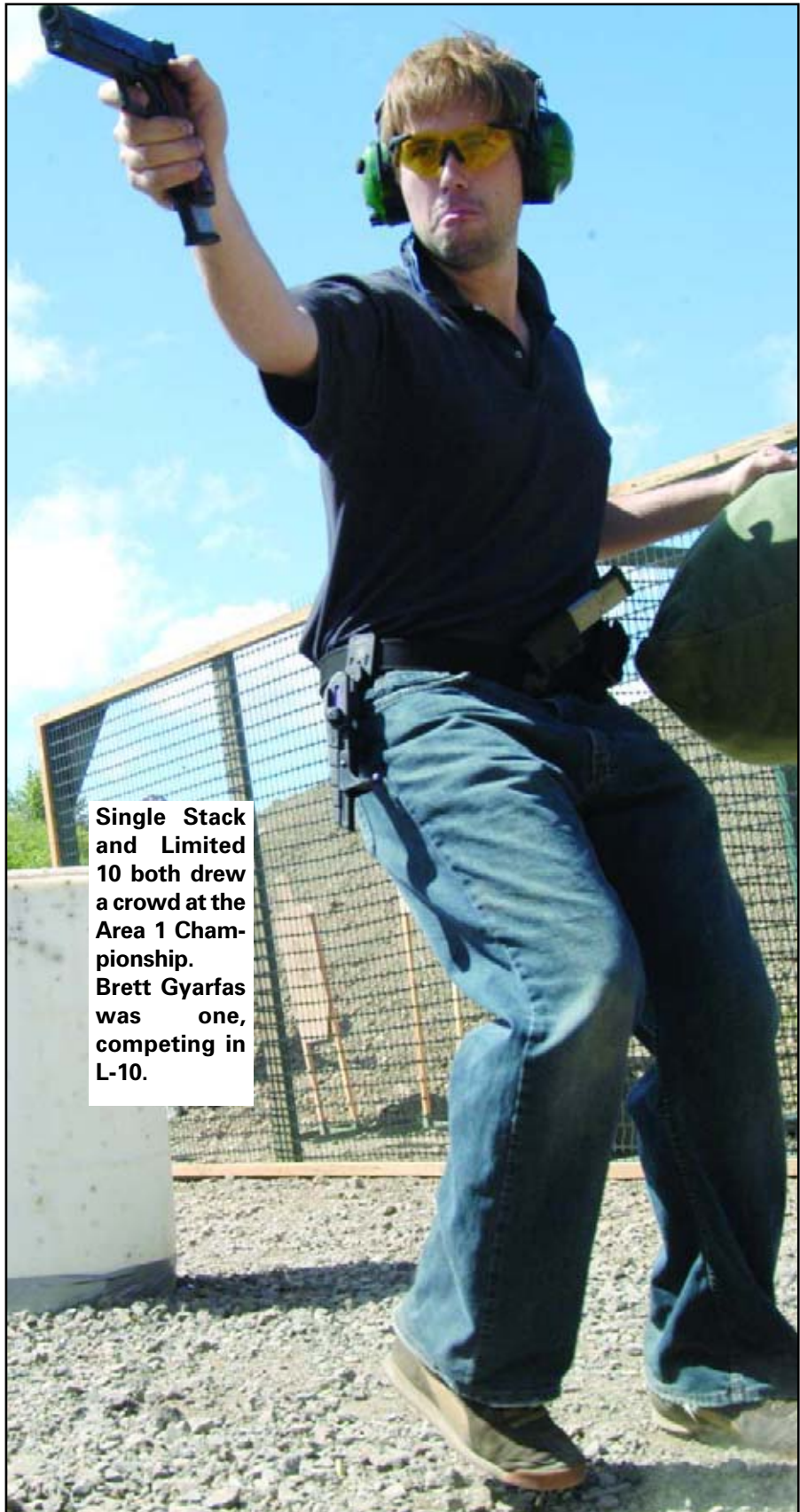
More than 300 USPSA members gathered at the Tri-County Gun Range in Wilsonville, Ore., June 15-11 to compete for Area 1 division and category titles. Range Master Tom Chambers put together 12 stages, each testing essential practical shooting skills, some of which are not tested often enough. Match Director Everett Mastrich had the event organized so that everything flowed smoothly and logically — from the Bruce-Gary-supervised registration and stats to the final awards and prize distribution where competitors divvied up a prize table valued at more than \$100,000 thanks to Prize Master Chuck Anderson.

Area 1 is usually an international affair, and this one was no exception. Most members of the area are accustomed to shooting side by side with our Canadian brethren (former Canadian champion Murray Gardner was in attendance, among others), but it is not every day we have the privilege of competing with Norwegians. Oslo police officer Lars Syversen contacted Mastrich during the spring asking about the match. He and his family were planning to visit the states and he was looking for a shooting opportunity during his tour of this country. He eventually competed in Limited Division and did well, finishing twelfth overall.

Further division match results may be found at the end of this article.

Facility

Host Tri-County Gun Club is one of the oldest organized shooting facilities in the Northwest, having been founded in 1947. It currently boasts



Single Stack and Limited 10 both drew a crowd at the Area 1 Championship. Brett Gyarfas was one, competing in L-10.

approximately 3,000 members and hosts almost all of the shooting disciplines. Approximately one year ago the club embarked on an expansion pro-

ject that resulted in 14 usable pistol bays for this match (as compared to the previous six with two chrono-sized pits). The club also expanded parking

and built permanent safety areas.

Future plans call for continued expansion of the facility with an eventual goal of 30 bays, a revamped clubhouse, and increased storage.

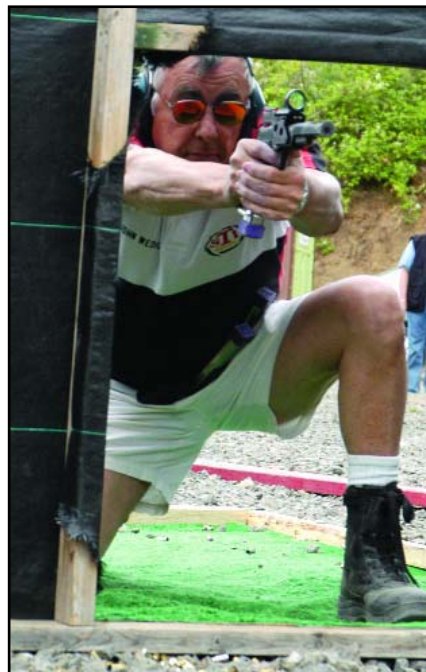
Stages

Tom Chamber's stages were balanced to test both the competitors' "hose quotient" and their ability to control the trigger while maintaining a working relationship with the front sight or dot. They also, on several occasions, reminded us that unaccustomed body positions combined with poor follow-through leads to a change in point of impact.

For example, a large number of people had penalty points on stage 7, "Shoot 'till it Hurts." This was a simple, straightforward stage with a lot of no-shoots (typical for this match). The penalties were, for the most part, on four targets located 25 yards down range. There were no-shoots close to them, but they were essentially full targets. Should be no problem, right? Right, except that they had to be en-

gaged through a low port that required the shooter to kneel or go prone. When was the last time you shot targets at that range from one of those positions? Evidently the answer was "not recently" for many competitors. Across the divisions competitors averaged over 20 penalty points on the stage.

Body position wasn't the only challenge; some stages simply required accuracy. An example was stage 5, "Sack 'O Shooting." The stage was peppered with targets partially covered by no-shoots, many of which had to be engaged while holding a heavy sack in the weak hand. Most of the problems, however, came from four (count them, four!) bobbing and weaving targets some 20 or 25 yards down range. They were activated by placing the sack in a box, and they really did "bob and weave." The RAW Industries target operators caused the targets to move both up and down, AND back and forth. These gave many shooters fits with an average of 15 penalty points per shooter.



Can you say, "awkward?" Accuracy and follow-through mattered tremendously on stage 7. John Wedig makes his run above.

The accuracy testing didn't stop there. Stage 8, "Melancholy Lane," presented shooters with a couple of upper panel targets and a third with a

SOFT RUBBER MONOGRIP™ EXOTIC HARDWOODS, FULL LENGTH BED BLOCK

www.getgrip.com

COMPETITION ACCESSORIES

Race gun grips that fit revolver & semi-auto's made from exotic hardwoods & soft rubber plus the popular HandAll® grip sleeves.

The PowerSpeed™ holster, one of the fastest - most versatile holsters ever made, fits virtually any semi-auto.

OverMolded™ Rifle and Shotgun stocks available with pillar bedding or a full length bedding block also AR-15/M-16 grip and free floating non-slip forend tube.

HOGUE®

Call for a Free Catalog
1-800-GetGrip
PO Box 1138
Paso Robles, CA 93447

POWERSPEED™ HOLSTER HANDALL™ BANTAM GRIPS

OVERMOLDED™ RIFLE & SHOTGUN STOCKS, SLINGS

LESS LETHAL ORANGE STOCKS EZG™ RECOIL PADS AR-15 STYLE GRIP & FOREND



ON LINE COLT 1911/2011 SYSTEM

HIGH CAPACITY MAGAZINE (Stainless steel)



\$ 54,00

129 mm magazine:
cal.38/9: capacity **20+1**
cal. 40S&W: capacity **18+1**
cal. 45ACP: capacity **14+1**

\$ 54,00

140 mm magazine:
cal.38/9: capacity **22+1**
cal. 40S&W: capacity **19+1**

\$ 69,00

170 mm magazine:
cal.38/9: capacity **27+1**

High capacity magazine kit (2 pieces)

\$ 26,00

K005

M120
cal. 40: cap. 16+1

M140
cal. 40: cap. 19+1

M120
cal. 38/9: cap. 18+1

M140
cal. 38/9: cap. 22+1

M170
cal. 38/9: cap. 27+1



Visit our web site

www.sps-dc.com

* \$ prices as per Oanda currency converter.



Match Sponsors

- Howard Leight
- Electronic Shooters
- Protection
- Smith & Wesson
- Schuemann Barrels

Staff Match Sponsors

- UniqueTek.com
- Heckler & Koch
- Front Sight Firearms

larger engagement area, but still partially covered by hard cover. Shooters found more hard cover- and no-shoot-covered targets to follow, culminating with two U.S. poppers and three swinging targets at roughly 15 yards. If you didn't bring your 'A' game for accuracy, you could expect disaster. Competitors averaged 17 penalty points.

Don't think the match was just about accuracy. The keynote was variety. All skills were well-tested, including run-and-gun. What stood out were the "old time practical" stages that required positions and accuracy not frequently seen these days. Those of us who are carrying more weight than is essential for survival (read "fat") and are chronologically challenged (read "old") were especially impressed with the fact that we haven't been practicing enough or the right things. We are, after all, supposed to be the sport that tests the ability to shoot accurately while shooting fast. As practical shooters we are supposed to be able to shoot standing, kneeling, prone, off-balance,

and stressed. This match tested all of those skills. As USPSA President Michael Voigt said, "Tom did a fantastic job of course design with a good variety of stages that recognized accuracy and did a good job of covering skills."

Sevigny's favorite stage was four. He said, "This was one of the more technical stages. It had hard cover targets, steel, activators and you had to be smart about your set-ups and when to shoot. It was a great stage".

Unfortunately not every stage came off as planned. Stage 10, "Dummy Enough," was the victim of communication errors between match staff and competitors. The result was that most of the people shooting it on the first day of non-staff competition would have been required to reshoot the stage for it to have remained in the match. The decision was obvious. The only solution was to remove the stage from competition.

Prize Table

In 1999 former Area 1 Director