

Sheepdog!

This CCP only match helps highlight the true every day carry guns in IDPA.

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IDPA CAN BE DEFINED AS “THE CONCEALED CARRY SPORT.” SOME PEOPLE DO INDEED CARRY FULL-SIZE DEFENSIVE HANDGUNS IN concealment daily, and have learned to do so comfortably and discreetly. However, many more find it easier to “EDC” something a bit smaller and lighter.

An IDPA survey at a major match a few years ago found out that among members who do practice everyday carry outside of the range, the single pistol most commonly chosen was the compact Glock 19.

From this was born CCP, the Concealed Carry Pistol division.

And that, in turn, began the now famous Sheepdog IDPA match.

Genesis

Rick Denny is the man who gets the credit for founding the all-CCP Sheepdog match. “It was my idea, but so many great people worked so hard to make it a reality,” he recalls modestly.

The first match, says Rick, was held in Bunnell, Florida. “CCP is my favorite

division,” he told *Tactical Journal*, “and I became frustrated when I started in IDPA in 2015 because no one ever seemed to shoot CCP in a sanctioned match. At one event, I won a plaque solely because I was the only Marksman there, out of three or four people total who were shooting CCP.”

The concept of CCP being the only division made Sheepdog a “Specialty” event in IDPA. In 2017 that first event was “a Tier 2 match with Tier 3 attendance,” says Rick. “It sold out in three weeks, with 130 participants. The 2018 match, also in Florida, sold out in 21 hours with 150 shooters, the maximum the range in Bunnell could accommodate.”

It was clear that interest in Sheepdog was growing, and it was necessary to search for a larger venue. The entity that won that honor was the Little River Sportsman’s Association in Valdosta, Georgia which has wholeheartedly adopted multiple action shooting disciplines, most notably IDPA.

Lee Turner, head of IDPA there, ramrodded the Sheepdog from the Valdosta end

of things. He assembled a staff of 25. In addition, Lee told *Tactical Journal*, “We had 30 Valdosta State University USAF Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) cadets that are part of the leadership development arm called the Arnold Air Society. They received community service credit for the hours they helped with The Sheepdog.”

Denny and Turner were strongly supported by Rick Lund, who had been very helpful to the early Sheepdog event when he was Florida State Coordinator for IDPA, later becoming Area Coordinator and IDPA’s East Coast Coordinator and Advisor. Both were present for the match, of course, along with new Area Coordinator Nicky Carter.

Behind the Scenes, 2019

252 shooters registered for the Tier 4 Sheepdog 2019 match. Setup began the weekend before the shoot, with the volunteer work crew setting up a dozen stages. Shooting began on Thursday with some of the workers. On Friday, five squads shot the match, some staff and some regular competitors. The weekend, of course, saw the heaviest days.

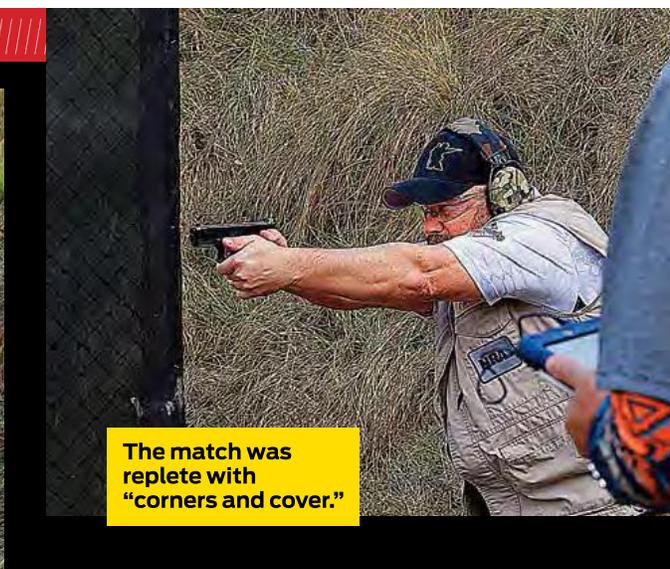
The event ran as smoothly as the proverbial clockwork. On both days, shooting began at 8 AM and was complete before 3 in the afternoon.

Sheepdog Guns

Surveys of the attendees at earlier Sheepdog matches showed that Glocks were overwhelmingly the most popular pistols brought to the match. This held true at the 2019 event: a poll of 151 shooters via surveymonkey.com found almost 48% Glock users, not quite 15% S&W, and single digit percent-



Ken Kelly from VA shoots what may have been the only .40 at the match, an HK USP Compact.



The match was replete with "corners and cover."



Some found the "car stage" particularly challenging.



All shooters' ammo was chrono'd. Yes, there were DQs.



The Prime Movers of Sheepdog Challenge 2019. L-R: Rick Denny, Nicky Carter, and Lee Turner.



Dominant hand on an obscured target, which Dave has cleaned with his Glock 19.



MATCH REVIEW

ages for Walther, SIG, CZ, Wilson Combat, etc. Almost all were 9mms; I know of only a single .40 in play, in the hands of Dr. Ken Kelly who came all the way from Northern Virginia, shooting an HK USP .40 Compact, his choice for daily CCW.

Shooting the Match

Brother Denny created some challenging stages at Sheepdog 2019. The stages were replete with obscured targets, their scoring areas partially blocked by black paint, replicated body armor, or actual steel. On one stage, a low hit knocked over a steel plate that triggered the complete disappearance of the target in question. Most stages comprised the maximum 18 hits or close to it. The 18 round Limited Vickers Standards stage had six non-dominant hand, reload from slidelock, six more dominant hand only, and six (including another reload) free style, the latter requiring head shots. Only the center strip of the IDPA target was not obscured. Needless to say, few competitors

shot it clean. To give you an idea how tough it was, the winner's score included some 37 points down from possible. <https://s3.amazonaws.com/ps-meta/71820/documents/1574985610FINAL%20Matchbook%2011-5-19.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2wxodlieh-KYccBsbfAXP850db7zYr6iSyI91-LJwqc-nE-zw5LtszeDFo>.

And that winner is someone you really want to hear from.

Meet the Man to Beat

Before the match, Rick Denny made a predictive statement to *Tactical Journal*. "Brandon Reynolds of Alabama won the first two Sheepdogs," he said. "The first year, Brandon won it as an Expert, with a .40 caliber Glock 23. Of course, he got a 'match bump' to master, and won it again a year later, this time with a 9mm."

Well, guess who won Sheepdog 2019? Brandon Reynolds later told *Tactical Journal*, "I've been hunting and shooting most of my life, but didn't get into competition until late

2014." Reynolds, 36, competes in both IDPA and USPSA -- Carry Optics and Production, respectively, usually with a CZ Shadow 2. "I used a Glock 23 with downloaded .40 ammo in the first Sheepdog, because it was the only pistol I had at the time that fit the CCP specifications. That G23 was my very first handgun. I've used a Glock 19 since with 9mm handloads: 124 grain Blue Bullets over Titegroup. Sheepdog is the only match where I shoot Glock's."

At this writing, the next Sheepdog is scheduled for the first weekend in December 2020 at the same Valdosta venue. **TJ**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Massad Ayoob, A04115

Massad Ayoob is an American firearms and self-defense instructor. He has taught police techniques and civilian self-defense to both law enforcement officers and private citizens since 1974. He was the director of the Lethal Force Institute and has appeared as an expert witness in several trials.

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