



SPC Newsletter May - November



Editorial:

Wow what a hectic 6 months! State titles, Nationals, and the World Action Pistol Championship held in Hamilton New Zealand.

Sadly this will be my last newsletter for this Club as I'm moving to Sydney so I'd just like to say a big thanks to everyone that has helped me along the way, because without you all I wouldn't be where I am today. So it's good by but not forever I will come back and visit. And I wish everybody the best for their future endeavors.

So seeing as I'm moving if there is anybody willing to take up this job please let one of the committee members know, as I know that mum is way too busy and won't be able to take up this job also.

I hope that the Christmas and presentation night is filled with joy.

I wish everybody a safe and Merry Christmas, and a happy and fulfilling New Year.

Sam  **Smith & Wesson**



Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well it is that time of year again, can you believe it! And I currently have a gun to my head, in the hands of our lovely news-letter editor, demanding that I put fingers to keys and deliver some pearls of wisdom from the mount. And I don't mean a metaphorical gun either, she really has the S&W up against my temple....sometimes I need a little 'encouragement' to get the job done.

So, anyway, now that the year is almost done, I guess a re-cap is in order, but given that I was away gallivanting around the countryside for most of it, I guess I will just have to make it up, and hope no-one notices.

Firstly, congratulations to all our members who competed in the Olympics! Excellent result....what? Well maybe in a few years then, you never know. Judging by the improvements in the scores of quite a number of our fold, you never know what might happen in the coming years. We continue to do well on



the local and international stage. We have quite a few names in the VAPA Top 10 lists, covering Rapid Fire, Centre Fire, Air Pistol, Black Powder 25, Service 25, and International 1920, both Open and Metallic sights, so congratulations to all those, and remember, it is OK to brag. We also had a couple of lucky guys head off to the Bianchi cup, so well done to Zeljko and Brian.

The ranks have been growing during the year with a good selection of new members joining the fold, so hopefully they will be seeing the success of some of the old timers, and be encouraged to grab some of the glory for themselves. There have been numerous formal coaching sessions, with much thanks to John and Allen for hosting these, as well as plenty of impromptu advice along the way, all of which has helped us bring in a few more VAPA pennants, so more congratulations to those who took part in the Postal competitions throughout the year. For all the new-comers, don't be afraid to put your hands up for being part of the postals, we need all the numbers we can get, and there is always guns available to use if you don't have your own yet.

What else....hmmm....it looks like VAPA has the preliminary calendar up for 2009, so go to http://www.vapa.org.au/open_calender.htm and check it out, so you know what weekends to set aside for a little friendly competition, and swelling the ranks of 'team blue'. Hmmm....maybe I should take some of that advice myself! Talking of competitions, seeing as the plod is continually trying to make it more difficult to participate in our chosen sport; I would suggest that you keep a close eye on your attendances and competitions next year. Make sure you keep the Club Captain, the excellent Mikhail, up to date with any changes to your firearms, and any new purchases, so that the club records are all up to date. And if you are competing make sure to take note of your scores, and provide a copy of them to Mikhail for entering into the club database, so they can be recorded as an attendance/competition. No scores means no comp!

I think that should do for now, the editor seems to have been appeased. So time to wrap it up, and wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! Take it easy over the holiday period, and keep an eye out for the lunatics on the road. We want to see you all back next year, ready to have some fun.

Cheers,

Stuart



There are no stupid questions, just stupid people.



VAPA POSTAL FINALS 2008 - CASTLEMAINE

For those who have not visited the Castlemaine Pistol Club, it is nestled against a near-vertical face of a quarry/mine excavation that provides an ideal back-stop for the ranges. The club rooms are in the protective shade of a number of large trees under and around which the attendee's cars are parked.



Now down to the business my first year in the Postal Finals and, hopefully, not the last. The day presented mild conditions with a mix of sunny bursts and a suggestion of a misty rain. Many of the usual suspects were there - Yarra, Outtrim, Diamond Valley, Ballarat **and Springvale!** This is the venue for the ISSF finals being held over the weekend. Friendly conversations, country-style catering (toasted sandwiches, cakes, pies, pasties, tea coffee - all scrumptious) in a VERY warm club house.

Went through the legal formalities and equipment checks. Had my fingers crossed about the trigger pull since I believed it to be *marginal*. All OK (phew!). "Where is the rest of the SPC crew?" I was asked to which I replied, "Oh they will be here shortly". Certainly Mikhail must get here soon since it was less than an hour 'til our Team 'A' detail shoots. Another cup of tea and Mikhail rocked up. We chatted and 'Tricky' set about the preparation business. A last (nervous) visit to the head, and we headed for Air Range.

Preparation time; I looked along line and see a number of fairly good shooters. Nerves were good, back to focusing on the task ahead.

START! 1 hour and 45 minutes to give it my best. Sighters went well with good grouping starting to show. Unexpectedly my hand started to lurch around and my heart rate went up. The first 20 - 30 shots were abysmal and seemed to be getting worse. I had broken some of the cardinal rules of competition - looking at the targets of the other shooters, and worrying about shots already fired. Had to sit down to think, relax and refocus.

Things improved greatly and strings of tens and nines started to show - a bit late though. By the time shot the last targets I was relaxed, focused and grouping nicely. All over in 1 hour and 15 minutes. Oh well, lesson learned and maybe there will be another chance next year. Have to get competition hardened before that.



Pack up and move quietly to the Club house. Bud and Marek had arrived and so we chatted until it was their turn on the range. Mikhail joined in - he hadn't had a wonderful shoot either, but he can relate that if he wants. Bud and Marek will fill in with their experience and hopefully good results.

Even if it sounds otherwise, it **was** enjoyable day.

See you at the range.



John

Hard work never killed anybody, but why take a chance?

BLACK POWDER OPEN 2008 - PENINSULA PISTOL CLUB

Back to my old stamping ground for a 9:00 am start on Saturday - so much for the request for a later squad! As it turned out, there were significantly fewer entrants this year (the



drought, economic downturn, etc, etc were all discussed as possible reasons). The usual set of campers were not at the Club this year. For the BP 25 event there were only about 15 shooters. Just for fun, I chose to try the International Adjustable Revolver event also (for the first time). After my abysmal performances at the

Club Championship, there was not much optimism.

Briefing & Preparation

But with a bit of 'I don't care' and deep meditation things went sort of OK. Got 45 and 48 on two targets for precision (I won't mention the others). Now down to the business of rapid fire. Two complete misses - don't know where one went and the other was a bit late. Time to pack up and head for the Club rooms.



Pre-Match Nerves

A great lunch was turned on with a variety of sandwiches, great hamburgers, cakes, tea and coffee.

After lunch, the International event was a hoot - it was quick and a bit of relief after the full BP 25m event. Only 13 shots on two targets and the worst 3 are ditched - a piece of cake. And a bit of relaxing fun.



Then it was beer o'clock. The shooting was over, so into the Club rooms for some refreshments and a catch up with some of my old Peninsula Pistol Club acquaintances. Some mention of the 'Springvale mob' and how our club is being noticed around the traps. A friendly relaxing atmosphere while the scorers worked over the day's results - and posted them. At the end of the day, I got first in Grade (D Grade) for BP25 and 6th place in the field for the International event.

I must confess, there were only two competitors in D grade - but don't mention it to anyone. I also shot half way up the C grade list - that feels better! Not my best performance by any means, but as it is often said you can't win anything if you're not in it! How true.



See you at the range.
John



P.S. I would like to publicly thank Sam, our Newsletter Editor for her dedication to the difficult task of whipping up enthusiasm in our members to submit articles. The Newsletter has been largely thanks to her efforts (and those of the contributors) without which the Newsletter would not exist.

We will miss the perky attitude and the willing smile. Thanks Sam, and all the best in 'Sin City'.

Flying is learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss.



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