

July 1st, 2009

This issue marks the one year anniversary that this newsletter was started. I wasn't sure how long it would last but thanks to all that receive this, I hope it has made a difference.



It's early morning. The sun is coming up in the Eastern sky and the birds are chirping. The dew is heavy on the grass and a light fog is being burned off by the sun. You awake and start to collect your thoughts as you begin your morning routine and prepare for another day of breaking clay targets. I don't know about anyone else but this is what I call a perfect day. The office phones are not ringing, no employees to yell at, and problems if only for a little while have gone away. I know that when I return home there will be bills to pay; but for this moment, however brief, there is a peace that is never present at any time like when I am attending a trapshooting tournament. I encourage everyone that reads these letters each month to set back and close your eyes. Think of the freedoms that we have living in this country. We take this all for granted and if we are not careful it could all go away in a single day! Regardless of whether you like our current leaders or not, we elected them into office and must put up with them for the next four years. If you have never written a letter to an elected official; make it a point to write one this month. Write your State and Congressional Senator letting them know you are watching and keeping a close eye on how they make decisions. Some may think that a single letter cannot do anything but remember the squeaky wheel gets the grease. The more we band together and speak with one voice the more Washington will hear. I want my children to grow up and feel the peace that is given to free men and women. I want them to know what it feels like to have sunshine in their face, and if only for a brief moment, be able to feel at peace and in control of their world. If you can read this thank a teacher, if you can receive this thank the soldiers who fought to make us free, and thank God that you live in a place where words like this do not get you thrown in jail.

Dennis R. DeVault



“The road to success is often difficult and a lonely place. There are times that the road ahead looks impossible. The human spirit is capable of great sacrifice; which is the price of success. If we greet each day with a positive mindset, and are willing to try, nothing is impossible”.

DeVault's Winners Box

Scott Syme - Gun– Browning XT Combo– Double D Shooting Clinic Utah State Handicap Champion 100 x 100 from 27 yds. His first 100 from the back fence.

Kevin Snyder- Gun - DeVault Custom Shotgun Buckeye Classic first ever 100 x 100 in an ATA event.

Mark Stevens – Gun-Browning XLT Combo, Double D Shooting Clinic thus past May. Mark reaches 27 yd. line for first time with a 97 Mark has received two punches in the past 4 weeks!

Matt Nichol-Gun – MachOne 100 straight Williams County Trap Club Near Toledo, Ohio

Tal Seger-Gun- Infinity & Beretta for Doubles w/DeVault Custom Stock & Delrin Rib, Illinois State Shoot, State Doubles Championship 3rd. 97 x 100, 79 x 80 in shoot-off Kentucky State Class Doubles Champion 99x100

Sally Stevens-Gun- Browning XT Combo Double D Shooting Clinic, Northern Zone Ladies Champion.

Ed Grubbs– Gun– Kreighoff K-80 Combo DeVault Custom Stock, Nebraska Class D Doubles Champion



The World According to Me ~ "Dennis DeVault"

Shooting should now be in full swing. The Grand is just around the corner. Pitch and recoil; they are related and one has a drastic effect on the other. First "What is pitch?" It is the angle, at the back of the butt stock where the recoil pad bolts on. Notice that the pad, in the photo below, is at an angle and is thicker at the top of the stock and thinner on

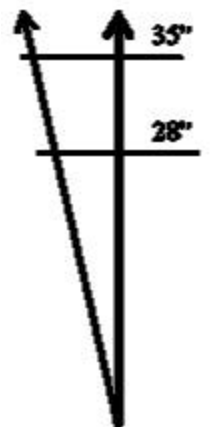


the bottom of the pad. This is commonly referred to as negative or down pitch. Pitch is nothing more than matching the angle of the pad to the angle

of the pocket in your shoulder. I hear many shooters talking about having "0" pitch. Zero pitch is when the pad is neutral, straight up and down. This works for some shooters but if you are a person with a large chest or if you shoot a more straight up style, "0" pitch will not work for you. The result of too little pitch is a sharp slap in the face and a sore cheek bone. I have had shooters come into my shop and tell me to not put pitch in their stock. I always ask "Why"? Usually their answer is; "It will make my gun shoot lower." This is going to meet with a lot of bad e-mails; but here goes. Putting an angle cut or creating down pitch in the stock DOES NOT CHANGE YOUR POI. The true POI of a gun barrel will not change by altering the pitch. What it will do is change the dynamics of how the gun moves. If you have a gap at the top of the shoulder the gun will move up very quickly. I had a customer several years ago who wanted the face slap taken away from his gun. I suggested we change

the pitch of the stock and he refused. He said "It will make my gun shoot to low." Personally, I am a fairly large person and I require negative pitch in my stock. The customer explained that he read an article in a magazine that had an illustration. This photo had a straight edge lying vertical with two guns; one with negative pitch in the stock and the other with "0" pitch. The author explained that the top gun, the stock with zero "0" pitch lay parallel with the straight edge with the barrel pointing level. In contrast, the bottom gun with negative pitch was pointing down toward the ground. The author went on to explain that the gun on the bottom shot a lower POI because the barrel was pointing lower. Now the fun part; we took both guns (the customer and mine) to the pattern board. I let the customer shoot his gun first and it shot about 3 to 4 inches high. Next I set up another clean sheet of paper. Following the author's theory I told the customer that we should move the dot up on the paper because my gun was going to shoot a lot lower than his due negative pitch. He agreed that this was a correct assumption. With the first two shots the customer missed the entire pattern board by shooting over it. He was now totally amazed. He realized that the author was incorrect in his views and yet could not believe what had happened. We put negative pitch in his stock and he now shoots in total comfort. No more abusive recoil to his face. Plus he can hit low targets that he could not come close to hitting before. A gun with no pitch will move vertically very quickly. Out West when I used to shoot in Vegas, there always seemed to be a head wind that took the targets very high. I would shim the bottom of my recoil pad out so that when I put it to my shoulder it would dig into the bottom of my chest and create a gap at the top of my shoulder. With that set-up I could move the

gun very quickly and get to the high targets and break them. On one occasion we had a head wind on Friday and I forgot to remove the shim for Saturday. The wind had switched around and was now blowing from behind us pushing the targets down. On the first trap I missed 5 targets because I could not get the gun down low enough to keep from shooting over the targets. I removed the shim and broke the remaining 95 targets. Most of the guns that come out of Italy are sent with '0' pitch. The game that is most common in Italy is Olympic Bunker. For years the bunker shooters all leaned over and bent at the waist. This causes the shoulder pocket angle to be more vertical and pitch was not required. Here in the USA we shoot a more upright style and the angle of the shoulder pocket increases. As the angle increases so does the need for negative pitch. The last key point is how pitch should be measured. It should be measured in degrees off of the barrel bore center line; not by leaning the barrel away from the wall. To understand this draw a vertical line and then starting at the bottom draw an angle line. The further away from the point of origin the wider the spread becomes. If you bring in your favorite 35" barrel gun and have the stock cut with a 2" negative pitch in the stock. The next day you bring in your hunting gun with 28" barrels and we cut the negative pitch using the same 2" measurement the angle of pitch in the stock will be more than the 35" barrel gun to achieve the same two inch dimension. See example to the right. Hope that this clears things up about pitch and recoil.



Until next month,
Rodeo Man Out

From the Mind of ~ Dean DeBow

Fellow shooters,

Most of you are well into the shooting season and it is hot and muggy!

That being said, I would like to discuss hydration. “That may be obvious; but hydration is not, which is why I’d like to discuss it.”

There are many, so called, solutions on the market for rehydration of the body. Unfortunately they are for a different application than what Shooters use them for. The thing that sets apart what Shooters need and what a different type of athlete may need is sodium! Unless you are a distance runner or do a lot of physical exercise you need much less sodium for shooting a shotgun. Most of us get enough or too much in our daily diet. We sure do not need to add more in what we drink! Even though we are sweating profusely, too much sodium will still make us swell and retain fluids. One of the first places you will notice it is in your face and hands. Those are the two main areas that affect us as shooters. As we swell the stock no longer fits as well and we become less comfortable using it. In fact, a gentleman who was the head of cardiology in Chattanooga Tn., Walter Puckett told me, “If you are going to drink high sodium drinks such as Gatorade, dilute it by two thirds with water”! Many of us do perspire considerably, and we need to replenish our body with water, electrolytes, vitamins, and minerals, especially potassium, to keep our body functioning properly. There are several drinks on the market and there is a

debate about the ingredients in some of them. I personally tried a verity of them and have found that Vitamin Water made by Glaceau works well. Sobe just came out with a couple of sugar free drinks for those who need to watch your sugar intake. Vitamin water has some interesting drinks, and they seem to be available at most any store. One with a +Lutein, another with potassium, and all of them have plenty of the vitamin B family, and vitamins C. There may be some better choices; it depends on where you live as to what is available.

So go shopping, read the labels and you can choose your own favorites. Please, if you know of, or find something, let us know. We are always looking for new and better things to help our readers. So stay in the shade when you can and get off your feet. Save your energy for the events. Drink plenty of the correct fluids, there is no substitute for plain old water! Eat light and stay away from caffeine and sugary snacks. I hope you all have a great July, whether you are out shooting, or home with family and or friends. Until next month, “remember there is a Champion in each and every one of you”.

Dean DeBow



For those of us that take the road less traveled



Private **One-on-One** instruction Contact Dean DeBow @
270-348-2223

If you have a group of 10 shooters we can arrange for a clinic to be held at your local gun club.

Check out our web site at www.ddshooting.com for all the details

Clinic dates are listed on this page and up-dated as we fill these clinics.

Shooting lessons, video work, stock fitting and the mental game to help you become the best that you can be!

Reach us on the web or call the number above for Dean and for Dennis DeVault **330-456-6070**

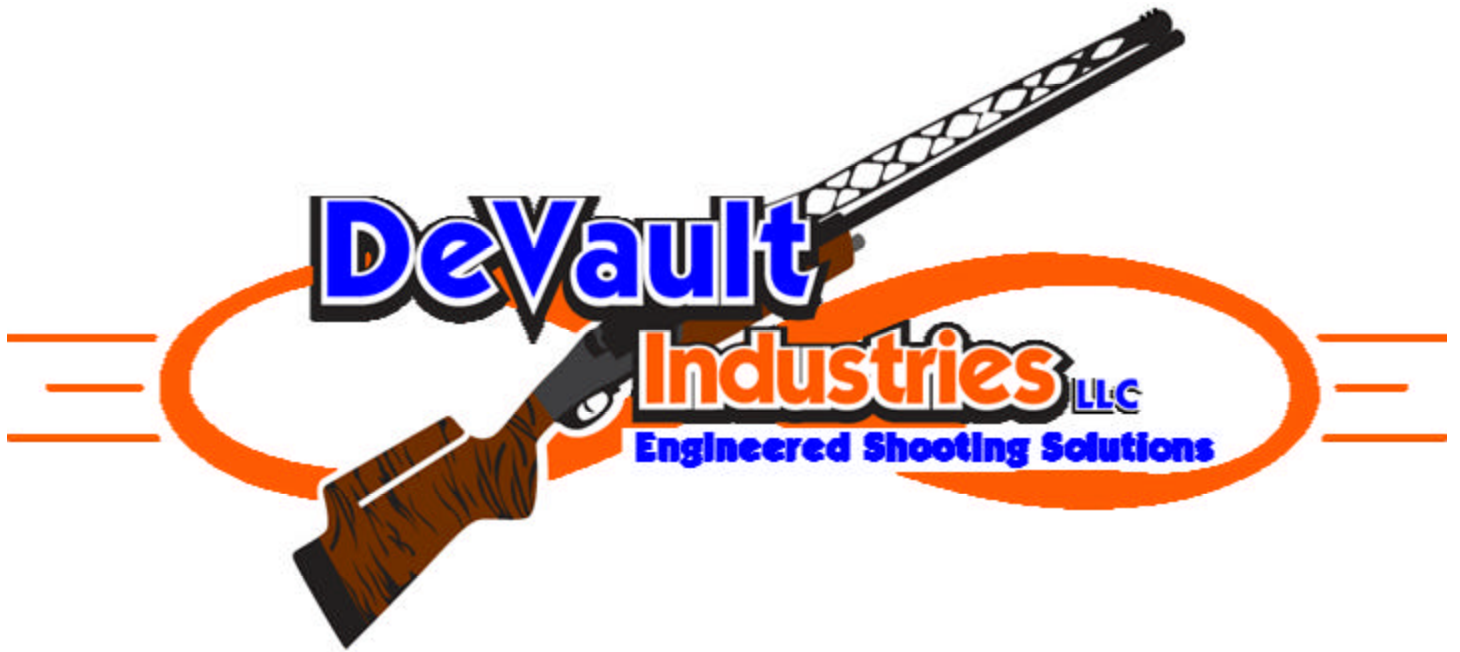
Thank you and let us know how we can be of service!



Stop by and See Cory and Kitty from Windy City Shooting Sports. They carry many brands of clothing for the top manufacturers in the country!! Look for them at many of the major shoots in the

USA this year.

My compliments to Cory for a beautiful layout and graphics design on their new trailer.



DeVault Industries LLC

3500 12th. Street NW Canton, Ohio 44708

330-456-6070

www.devaultind.com E-mail: dennisdevault@sbcglobal.net

