

September 1, 2009



The sunlight is filtering through the brightly colored leaves. Morning dew is being burned off by the low hanging sun. If you stand and listen you will hear the clatter of little feet from the chipmunks playing in the leaves and scurrying around to gather food for the coming of colder weather. Yes, it is the beginning of Fall in the northern part of the United States. Soon you will hear the bugle sounds of the Elk out West, bow season for deer is just around the corner and Trapshooting for the North is about to wind down. Out comes the camo gear and it time to get acquainted with your favorite hunting partner, your trusty dog. As trapshooting season winds down please don't forget the lessons that we discussed in previous letters this past year. Keep up on your exercises so the Spring will not be a tremendous learning curve again. If you are a hunter enjoy the season at hand. If you are just a person that appreciates nature then take a moment to enjoy the change of seasons. Take in all of God's splendor that we call Fall and enjoy the canvas of bright colors and the dawn of a new season that is just around the corner.



DeVault's Winners Box !!!

Brian VonGunten– Gun Kolar Max Trap– Double D Shooting Clinic– Winner Jacques Flag City Short Yardage Champion 96 x 100

Dan Wagner– Browning XT combo– Double D Shooting Clinic– Grand American Handicap Preliminary Sunday Runner-up 20 –22yd group 97 x 100

Ed Grubbs– Kreighoff Trap Special- Custom Stock by DeVault Industries– First 100 x 100 at the Grand once in Class singles and again in the Clay Target Championship his second 100 x 100 Ed has gotten 4 yardage punches since his new stock set-up two months ago. Runner-up on Class B HAA at the Grand. Finished 3rd on HOA class B for the Grand.

Scott Norris– MachOne, Perazzi MX-2000 with DeVault Industries Custom Stock– Indiana State Shoot Handicap champion 97 x 100

Bill McGuire– Sporting clays– Blazer w/DeVault custom stock and Delrin add-on rib. Mississippi State Shoot. Champion in all the events for the week. At this time Bill is only one point behind George Digweed for the world cup championship that will end in Australia in November. We hope Bill can go and pull-off a win for the United States.

George Rezabek– Kolar Max Trap Combo– DeVault Custom Stock- Indiana State Shoot Class AA singles champion 200x200

Ondrea Weikum– A special congratulations to Ondrea. I had the privilege to shoot with Ondrea at the Grand when she broke her first ever 100 straight and then she also broke a 200 x 200 in the Clay Target Championship Wednesday. Great shooting and it was a pleasure to be there for her first 100.

Please remember if you have shot a winning score, call or send me an e-mail so we can share with all the group on your accomplishments.



Just a little teaser. This is some old stuff just laying around

The World According to Me ~ "Dennis DeVault"

The high rib craze! It is the newest thing on the market and all the rave, but is it the correct choice? I want to examine this new trend and question are the becoming to high? I have been watching the top shooters, who have chosen the new high rib concept and have not seen the great scores that they used to shoot. Oh they still shoot great scores but not as **consistently** as before. And **consistency** is the key. Winning the All-Around or the HOA requires consistent performance each and every day. What I have observed is that the eyes seem to have a disconnect when the rib is too high above the barrel muzzle. The mind needs something to reference from. It requires mass for the peripheral vision to key off of. Another problem that I am seeing is the gunstocks that come with new guns. When you have a rib this high and try and shoot it with a straight back stock you are going to be in trouble. The higher and more erect your head becomes the need for more offset plays a major roll. I have seen photos of two of the top shooters in the country that are shooting these new high ribs. Their head is cranked sideways and their nose is into the comb. With this head position the non-dominant eye is now way in front of the shooting eye. With the non-dominant eye being in a position to have a better view of the target, cross firing is going to occur. At the Ohio State Shoot this year I watched one of the top shooters miss three handicap targets from post one on one trap. At each miss the barrel was going to the target and all of a sudden the barrel went past the target and made a loop move to try and recover. That, my friends, is a cross fire in the purest form. That move happened so fast that the shooter was totally unaware of what just happened to him. You may be a seasoned shooter but if you do not understand how the dynamics work, the end result will be lost targets.

I hate to say this but this new concept is just a gimmick to sell to shooters. I have heard more than one comment that high ribs look cool. The majority of shooters want the wow factor or the cool effect. That is called marketing and how to sell a product that doesn't necessarily work or have the consumers best interest in mind. I am not condemning the high rib concept. DeVault Industries started using this concept back in 1991. The problem with the current design is the distance of the rib from the top of the muzzle. Some of these new ribs are 2-1/2 to 3" away from the muzzle. This is too far away from the muzzle for the eyes to function properly, especially in varying light conditions. There is a right way and a wrong way to go about most things. The high rib design on some guns shows that many manufacturers don't understand the dynamics necessary to break targets consistently.

Yet another problem, that is becoming evident is canting of the barrel. When you shoot a gun with a high rib, coupled with a high POI, canting is the kiss of death. If you roll the gun to the left your shot will be high and to the left of the target that you are shooting at. If you roll to the right the shot has the opposite effect. The canting problem will be more pronounced in Handicap than in Singles because of the distance away from the target. The further away from the target you are the more you have to compensate when pointing at the target. This is another example of how important it is to understand the dynamics involved in consistently breaking targets and posting winning scores.

Now more than ever the need for a proper stock fitting is necessary to shoot these high rib guns with any kind of consistency. That is providing that you are able to handle the high rib to begin with. When considering the purchase of one of these new guns, do your research and demo the one you are considering before you make your purchase. After you select the gun that you want ask about having the stock made to fit you. Look at yourself in a mirror when mounting the gun to see if the gun is being held in the vertical position. If you are canting the gun that is an indication that you need a custom stock. There are very few manufacturers that do custom fitting, but if they do, make sure that they do the entire job themselves. If they rough out the stock and then send it somewhere else to be finished be cautious of this type of arrangement. I have seen serious problems when stocks that were fitted in one location are sent somewhere else to be finished. Depending on how deep the scratches are that need to be removed, the stock may come back and be a totally different fit than when you first started. Until next month enjoy life and take a friend out to shoot a round of clays, remember our sport depends on increased membership.

Rodeo Man Out!!!

From the Mind of ~ Dean DeBow

The Grand is over.

Congratulations to all of you who, won trophies, or accomplished a personal goal. Winter is just around the corner. It is time to start working on next year, yes next year. At every shoot, people talk about scores that are broken, as if it were a miracle. The fact is they have prepared to break a good score. Do not wait until it gets warm again to start thinking about shooting. When I was shooting all the time, it was not unusual to go to the club to practice, and have to shovel snow from the walkways to see the yardage markers. In many areas of the country it is just too cold to practice. However, there are many things you can do to practice without firing a shot.

For example eye exercises and gun lifts. Let's talk about some simple eye exercises you can do. While driving, move your eyes to the license plate on the vehicle in front of you, then to the green mile marker on your right, back to the plate, then to the license plate on the car passing you. Please pay attention and do not have an accident! The eye movement is very quick, just enough time to focus and then move to another object, which is very similar in trying to acquire a target. You can do the same thing looking out of your window at home, or at work using different objects at different distances. There are also wall charts for this on the market. Your eyes are muscles, so the more you exercise them the less fatigued they will become when you start shooting.

Now let's move on to the physical part of shooting. The group of muscles you use to shoot a shotgun you do not use for anything else. Joining the YMCA or any other exercise routine you like is great! The legs are very important muscles to exercise, if they get tired look out! However other than exercises for your legs, nothing will take the place of mounting your gun one hundred times a day.

Most of us cannot shoot all winter; we have other responsibilities in life. Sit on the edge of a chair in a room with a big window. Mount your gun, move your eyes to the right, then swing as if you were moving to a target. When the gun gets to the end snap the trigger and follow through just as if you were shooting. Bring the gun down and repeat this to the left. Do not forget about the quarter angles! One set of twenty-five at a time will probably be enough for fifteen minutes or so.

Start out at your own pace. I use a 2 lb. barrel weight with a snap cap that inserts into the barrel. Give yourself time to recover so you do not start practicing a bad mount. Do not rush this process! Bad habits can develop when you get tired, you will start short stroking your mount. Many times when you start out shooting good that is exactly what happens. Fatigue starts to get to you, then you start shallow breathing from the stress, and there you are, watching the shoot offs again, instead of being in them. You get to the last twenty-five or thirty-five targets and end up breaking less than you want. This is probably the only sport, where no matter how much experience a shooter has or how much we do or do not shoot, everyone competes against each other. It is an average based system instead of level of experience. So do what you can do to give yourself a fighting chance.

Now let us talk about stress and the body. The human body does not like stress,; Fact! The most overlooked thing in coaching is breathing. When you get upset, or nervous you will automatically start to shallow breath. This cuts off the oxygen to the muscles and most importantly the brain. Lack of oxygen, and the buildup of carbon monoxide will cause us to make mistakes, then we hear lost! To the body the word Lost can mean, "Thank You, now the stressful situation you put me in is over!" How many times have you, or someone you know missed a target on the first post, and then broke the rest of them. I have watched it happen countless times. The reduced stress improves performance, but there are better ways to relieve stress than by missing a target. If you decide to do these dry fire exercises, please do not forget to use your mental set up routine in this process. We are, after all trying to build a good foundation and improve your form. The miss usually happens before your call for the target! Good habits and good form produce better scores. Do not wait for the Butter Cups to start blooming to start preparing for the up and coming season. Winning is not luck! It is preparation and hard work. As always, practice safely by making sure your firearm is unloaded.

Until next month remember,

There is a Champion in each and every one of you.

Dean DeBow



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

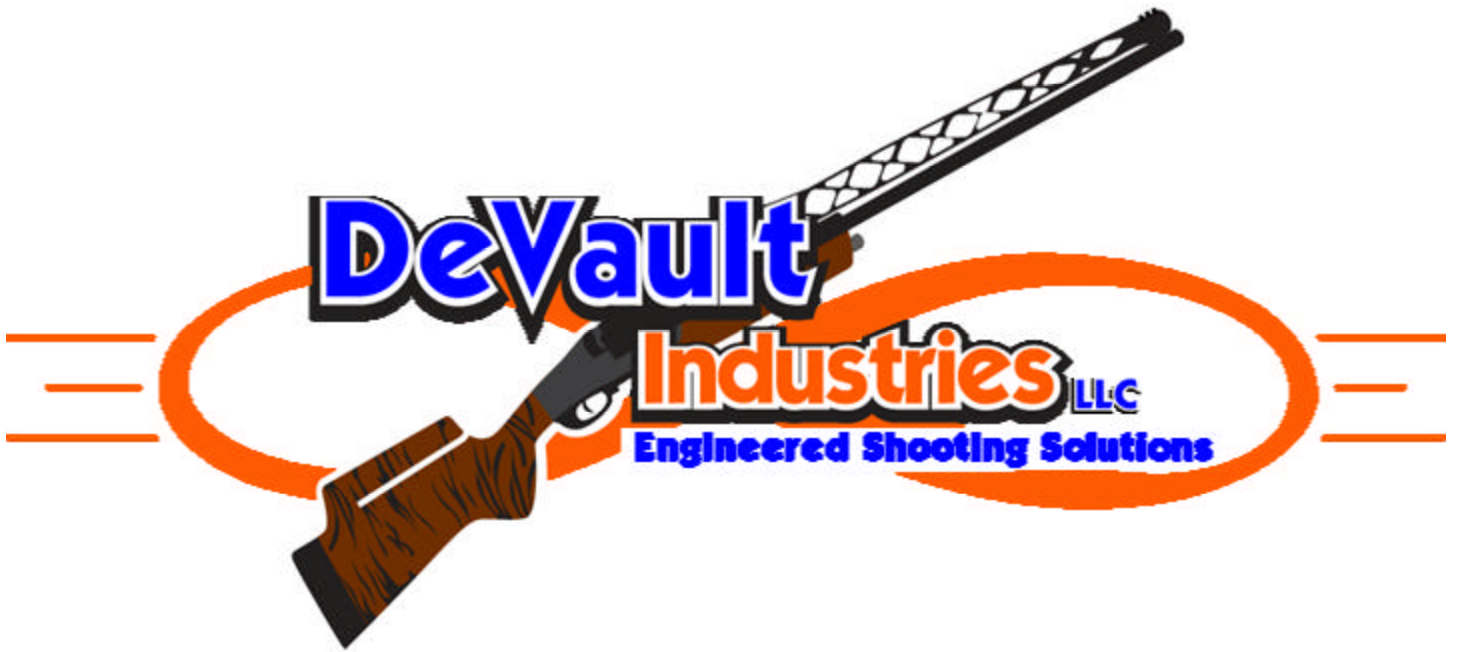
If you have a group of 10 shooters we can arrange for a
clinic to be held at your local gun club.

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

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



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