

February 1, 2010

# DeVault Industries LLC

## Custom Engineered Shooting Solutions

The innocence and the inquisitive nature of a child is awesome. To have a mind to create works of art like this is priceless. Not sure who the artist was but what a great photo.



### *“DeVault Winners Box”*

**Jean McCord** ~ DeVault Custom shotgun, Dixie Grand Preliminary Handicap Ladies Champion, **93 x 100**

**Patricia Clute** ~ DeVault Elite Beretta Conversion, Champion E class Sporting Clays tournament Indian River Trap & Skeet Club, Florida. This was win was (1) week after receiving her new gun.

**Barry Turner** ~ DeVault Custom Stock on K-80 Trap Special, Dixie Grand Preliminary Doubles Class A winner – **95 x 100** Championship Doubles Class A runner-up **94 x 100**

**Van Seagrave** ~ DeVault Elite Beretta Conversion, Dixie Grand ~ Preliminary Singles Class B winner **100 x 100** ~ Singles Championship Class A Runner-Up **193 x 200** ~ Doubles, Class C tied for first ~ Class C, **HAA** Tied for first, lost coin toss.

**John Malcolm** ~ DeVault Custom Stock and Delrin Rib on Beretta DT-10, Redlands California New Years Day Handicap Championship Shoot, Handicap Champion **97 x 100** and John received a one yard punch.

Remember if you have taken a shooting clinic, custom stock, custom shotgun or rib work and you shoot a winning score e-mail so that we can list your accomplishments to share with everyone. There is nothing wrong with showing off a little bit!!

## *The World According to Me ~ "Dennis DeVault"*

Last month I was out in the Chicago area and had a chance to visit with a customer and friend who shoots a fair amount of trap. We discussed many different topics but there was one subject that really got my attention, "Rhythm." As we talked it occurred to me that everyone has some sort of rhythm. Some of us have better rhythm than others but we all have it. We move to music, sounds and sight. Inside of our head we all have a little internal metronome that sets up a timing that we use to do certain tasks. How does this relate to shooting? As Dean and I have been doing more teaching over the past year this subject has come up without really using the term rhythm. I have watched many shooters and it is very apparent what happens when their natural timing or rhythm is thrown out of sequence. Let me give you a personal example.

About 5 years ago I went to a little club to shoot some practice one Sunday afternoon..Inside the club house several of the guys were trying to get enough people to shoot a 100 bird event with a little jackpot that would pay three places. They rounded up 4 squads and got me to throw in on the deal. The event was 50 Singles and 50 Handicap. The Handicap yardage was figured off of your Singles score so the furthest yardage you had to go back was the 25 yard line and no closer than 22 yards. I was on the last squad. I ran the first 90 targets straight and missed 6 out of the last 10 targets for a 94. I was very upset with myself. I did not understand what went wrong. A friend came up to me and asked, "What the hell were you doing"? "You shot the last 10 targets so slow it wasn't funny." At the time I did not know what I had done but on the way home I replayed the shoot in my head and it finally hit me. I started to slow down and tried not to miss. I was really trying to point the targets out and what I did was screw up the entire rhythm I had set for myself on the previous 90 targets. I also realized that I choked and did not handle the little bit of pressure very well. I played that day over and over in my head for weeks. About 4 weeks later I went back to that club and shot the same program. This time around I broke a 98 and won the shoot. What changed? I concentrated and made myself shoot the same speed on all my targets. I focused my eyes in advance of it being my turn and when the gun came up to my shoulder within a couple seconds I called and shot the target. I had a friend watch me and ask if he would let me know if my timing varied or if it remained the same. After the shoot was over he told me that he had never seen me shoot more smoothly or consistent than I did that day.

A very good friend has been struggling with this same issue. He will go out one week and shoot a great score and the next week come back and make it look like it was his first time out. He has even told me that he can tell when he slips into that mode. He sees the target but wants to be real careful and try not to miss. Every time you do that you mess with that little clock in your head that knows you have changed your normal rhythm. The more careful you become the tougher it becomes to break a target. If it helps, shoot with music to drown the background noise and distractions that may pull your attention away from the task at hand. Pick something that suits your style and rhythm. On afternoon I was shooting with a squad and one fellow, who was wearing headphones, went to the restroom 7 times before we took the line for the first sub-event. I inquired about this and his answer, "The sounds of waves crashing on the beach are very relaxing but it makes me pee a lot." He offered the tape to me but I declined and told him the rock music was more to my liking. Also don't get into the music so much that you start singing out loud and send targets flying. This does tend to un-nerve your squad mates. One tip though that works well is to moon walk from station 5 to 1 during a shoot-off. That move works wonders on the other shooters you are competing against. So to wrap this up my new word for the month is, you guessed it "Rhythm."

Until next month, take a friend shooting and make your time enjoyable,

Do it for the love of the game.

Rodeo Man Out

# *DeVault Industries LLC*

## Engineered Shooting Solutions

*DeVault Industries LLC* Announces its Customer Appreciation Tour. We are going to sell “120 Tickets” at \$ 50.00 per ticket for some very great custom products & services. This will be a wonderful opportunity for a great deal at a fraction of the original cost.

*DeVault Championship Package 1st ticket drawn:*

A custom stock and for-end for your gun, this package will include (1) round trip air fare from anywhere in the continental United States to our shop in Canton, Ohio. You will also have two nights accommodations at the McKinley Grand Hotel in downtown Canton, Ohio. A shuttle service will greet you at the airport and take you to the hotel and they will deliver you to our door the next morning. The stock can be made for most any shotgun from your choice of English or Turkish Walnut. Your personalized checkering will be developed by working with Cindy DeVault

*This package is valued at \$ 5,200.00*

*Second Prize 2nd ticket drawn:*

A complete stock and for-end refinish on your favorite shotgun. This package includes stripping off old finish, repairing any dents, re-cutting all checkering, & applying our high gloss deluxe epoxy finish to bring out the beauty in your wood!

*Package valued at \$ 500.00*

*Third Prize 3rd ticket drawn:*

A custom fitting for a new custom stock and for-end from DeVault Industries LLC. This is for the fitting only.

*Package valued at \$ 400.00*

*Fourth Prize 4th ticket drawn:*

A Delrin Add-On rib installed on any barrel which will help the shooter with a more heads-up style of shooting. We can adjust and personalize the rib to your specifications.

*Package valued at \$ 375.00*

All items will have to be claimed and services performed on or before September 15, 2010.

## *From the Mind of ~ Dean DeBow*

# Concentration and Handling Pressure

This month let's touch on a couple of subjects that come up quite often. Problems with Concentration and Pressure are in most profiles we receive. Concentration is like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. When I first started shooting competition I would stay in a mind set as if I was getting ready to shoot all day. There could not have been a worse approach to the game: and was it ever tiring. The only reason, I was winning was that I was young and did not know any better.

The first year of shooting for me was a gift indeed. Making Co-Rookie of the year in 1985 allowed me to meet many people, that if had not happened, I may have never met. Two of which were Pete McCall and Nora (Martin) Ross. After shooting a season with them, Pete McCall told me, "You are going to fly into 5000 pieces one day if you keep this up" He was correct. I thought this was the way to stay focused while at a tournament. I didn't have someone to tell me any different. Pete asked me if I would like to shoot with him and Nora. There could not be two, more different approaches to the game. After watching and learning, I realized, early on that no one does the same thing exactly like the other. Pete was left handed and used two eyes and Nora was right handed and shot with one eye. The only common thread was the scores they broke.

Now to the point of concentration; it takes a total of 3 to 10 seconds depending on the person, to get ready and shoot a target. When the people before you are shooting you should start getting yourself ready mentally. Set your eyes, mount the gun, then point and shoot the target. The old saying of "One target at a time" could not be more direct and to the point! Breaking 100x100 is a matter of breaking the target you are getting ready to shoot and doing it the same 100 times.

I know you have heard this all may times before, but take it to heart, because it is correct. The rhythm of the squad, the person next to you moving around, a fly on the rib of your gun can all effect your concentration. It is a matter of controlling yourself and your emotions for those 3 to 10 seconds until you have completed the job of breaking targets "one at a time".

I have missed my first target out and run the rest, or missed the last target, for a 199 in Singles, a 99 Handicap or a 99 in Doubles. Do not hold onto the one you missed mentally and turn it into another miss. Always move on to the next job at hand, the next target! It is gone and you do not get a do over! Concentration and handling pressure are really one in the same. Just two different names for the same end result, a winning score. Work at breaking targets every time you pick up your shotgun, whether it is practice, games, a small registered shoot, or the Grand American. Do you ever wonder how certain people seem to break scores when they need to? It is not an accident. This is the way they always shoot, intensely at practice or otherwise. They still break bad scores, just as anyone does, you just do not hear about them. When I was shooting all the time, as the gun hit my shoulder, I knew if it was correct or not. If it was, and I did what I knew how to do, there was going to be a good score by my name on the scoreboard. So many people take their shot even if something feels wrong in their mental set up. If it doesn't feel right then that thought is in your mind and becomes a distraction. So stop and start again, clearing your mind of any negative thought before calling for the target.

Breaking a good score is very stressful. Stress is something your body does not like. Learn to deal with stress. Many shooters only feel intense stress when at a tournament. They wonder what goes wrong because they had been shooting practice so well. Nothing really went wrong they were just not prepared to shoot a good score. Their score reflects the preparation put into it. When practicing, change the setting of the targets, change fields, do not just stand there and learn how to do to break that particular target on that particular field.

Just because you may not have been born with perfect hand eye coordination, or perfect eyesight, does not mean you cannot be a good shooter. It really comes down to how much you are willing to put into shooting to obtain the goals you have set for yourself.

Practice hard, learn from your mistakes, and strive for perfection.

Because there is a Champion in each and every one of you.

Until next month,

**Dean DeBow**

**For next month if there is a subject that you would like for Dean or myself to write about ,drop us a line and request a certain topic. Thank you for your help, we want this to be a newsletter about the things that interest everyone.**

**This is an awesome photo but I think I would be finding another place to swim!!**





We have clinic dates already scheduled for 2010. Go to the web site below and see if there are openings at a clinic near you. If anyone wants to schedule a clinic at their favorite club let Dean or Dennis know so we can set you in the schedule. Watch the web site for the dates and locations as we post the schedule [www.ddshooting.com](http://www.ddshooting.com) Contact Dean @ 270-886-2095 or Dennis @ 330-456-6070. We look forward to seeing everyone this year.

### *North Lawrence Fish & Game Club, North Lawrence, Ohio*

I wanted to put in a little plug for North Lawrence Fish & Game. Scott Powell has taken over the club this year and has been working hard to make a go of a very nice club. The club has not been open in the past during the winter months but Scott has wanted to stay open all winter long. This year they have started a 100 bird program shoot that is opposite the shoot at Monroe Gun Club. I was there for the last shoot and the crowds are growing but it takes time to build a good shoot. If you are looking for a place to shoot a program during the winter months give Scott a call or send him an e-mail. If you can, go to their web site:<http://www.nlfg.org> it will list all the information on how to contact Scott and you can view their schedule of up-coming shoots. It is a great facility and a fun place to shoot. North Lawrence will be hosting a **Double D Shooting Clinic** there this spring and you can go to our web site to check the dates and sign up.



**May your sky always be blue. May your waters always be clear and run deep.  
Enjoy life and all the splendor that it has to offer.**

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