

September 1, 2010

DeVault Industries LLC

Custom Engineered Shooting Solutions



I hate to say the word but the end of summer is fast approaching. When I ride to work in the morning the geese fill the sky and the days are getting shorter. The Northern part of this great country will soon be starting to hibernate. Time to reflect back on the years accomplishments and begin to set new goals for next year. Look back at the past newsletters and form a plan to do your guns lifts and don't wait too long to work on the eye exercises. Congratulations to **Mr. Devon Harris 99 x 100 to qualify and 50 x 50 in the shoot off for the winner** of the \$ 100,000.00 Top Gun Shoot Out at the 2010 Grand American last month. I think that we all owe a round of thanks to Bill and LeeAnn Martin for their tremendous support of a sport that they truly love. It will take individuals like this now and in the future to keep our sport alive. Also even though I live in Ohio (no hate mail) I wish the ATA and Sparta, Illinois continued success and may the world shooting complex continue to provide an excellent place for everyone to enjoy. If you haven't been there it is sight to behold and if possible it should be a must travel plan to attend an event in the future.

On a local note: North Lawrence Trap Club is throwing a weekend event **September 11th & 12th, 2010**. This is the Annual Fall Invitational Trophy Shoot. Saturday 200 Singles & 100 Handicap. Sunday 50 pair Doubles & 100 Handicap. Review of guns Special Event on both Handicaps. The club is located in North Lawrence, Ohio. They have cable TV, Wi-Fi, full kitchen. Contact is **Scott Powell for Details 330-416-9710** this number will work during the shoot. Web site www.nlfg.org. Camping is available with 30 amp hook-ups, fishing, Sporting Clays, Rifle, & Pistol are available during the shoot.

The World According to Me ~ "Dennis DeVault"

I want to make a clarification from last month's newsletter on exercising your eyes. I thought I had listed a ceiling fan in the letter but I did not state the fan I was referring to. A ceiling fan at low speed, about one revolution per second, should be used when attempting to focus as the letter described. My apologies.

I have been speaking with Fred this month. Fred is a family member and he is a retired brain surgeon. We have been discussing a topic that I don't know if anyone has ever addressed. Fred is a shooter, Sporting Clays and Trap, and Fred asked me if I can hold off shooting a target if the target suddenly changes its flight path. I replied that I have done that before and it is what we call controlling the trigger. Fred asked how I did it. I asked why and he replied that several targets he missed he knew he didn't want to shoot at them because the "sight picture" wasn't quite right, but he let the trigger go anyhow.

At the Double D Shooting Clinics Dean and I talk all the time about trigger control and though difficult it is possible to do. Something else Fred and I discussed is the brain being hard wired to make a response. This hard wiring is millions of years old. Back in the stone ages a person had to react to any rapid movement. If the reaction was not automatic the person was eaten by a bigger predator. That hard wiring is in all of us today, however some of us have a greater sense of the reaction than others. I have been in a room where there may be flies buzzing around and some people will pick up the movement right away and others will never see the flies moving. We all have been hard wired to react to movement but in this area not everyone is equal. However, practice and experience can make us much more aware of noticing and reacting to movements.

There is an interesting difference I see when I compare younger or less experienced shooters to older or more experienced shooters. The less experienced shooter methodically tracks each target until they see the correct sight picture and then fires. They have the strength, stamina and determination to do this for a couple of hundred targets at a time. More experienced shooters, having seen tens of thousands more targets, seem to know where the target is going to go very early in its flight, move the gun barrel to where they think the target is going to be and then almost automatically fire. This lets the more experienced shooter break targets in what looks like a fast and effortless fashion. But, it can put the experienced shooter in a position to miss one or two targets per round when the target is not quite where he or she expected it to be.

One year the Western Grand was at the Las Vegas Gun Club. I remember that the wind blew very hard all week. It gusted to 75 MPH at times with a steady 45MPH wind all day long. I won the Singles event that day with a lone 199 x 200. I remember after the shoot ended I was physically and mentally drained. I went back to the hotel after the shoot and only lasted about two hours before I was sound asleep. What I remember that day was really working on reading the target and there were several targets that day that changed elevation three or four times and I just waited until they settled before I pulled the trigger. It took a tremendous amount of self control not to just pop the target as soon as it left the house. I had to mentally override the mind's desire to take the shot out of instinct. I guess another way to help understand is that I had to take everything off of auto pilot. This is where the mind has to be turned on and the hard wire response has to be controlled. I would really like to know how to teach this in our classes. But for me, it has to come from time just shooting targets in many different situations. Over the years I have found for myself that the need to shoot about 10,000 targets per year to remain at the top of my game is very necessary. So, the answer to Fred's question, of how I controlled the shot is I, do not put myself in a position to allow the brain to go on auto pilot for that type of shooting condition. That morning when I saw the wind I went out to watch targets as others shot. One thing that I noticed right away was the quarter angles and the left angles were being blown so hard that they kind of hung in the air and if missed they turned and came back in toward the front of the trap house. Some broken pieces would land on the other side of the house in front of the 16yd line. The rights were the unstable target and the

one that I needed to pay particular attention to. When it was my call I just watched the target but did not move the gun to the target until I felt the target was stable, then make the move and take the shot, with nothing on auto pilot. I have video taped many shooters and what happens to the head when they get to a target and do not pull or release the trigger. The brain becomes confused; we have been programmed to take a shot when you get to a target. When you get to the target and do not shoot the head comes off the stock immediately and the movement of the gun stops at the same time. When you raise your head and the sight picture changes the barrel will appear like a thumb sticking up in front of you and the illusion is created that you are over the target but in reality you are under the target because the movement of the barrel has stopped.

Many coaches teach how to look out into the field at a distance. The reason for this is that the eyes only have muscles that constrict; the muscles have to relax to allow the eyes to focus out. So the thought is the eyes focus faster out to in than they do in reverse. If the target you are shooting is not moving I would agree with this. The problem is that the target leaves the house and is moving away so you have to draw the eyes back and then continue to relax the muscles to focus. This creates too many moves for the eyes to make and too many signals for the brain to analyze and process. If the eyes are trying to focus with all this going on how can the mind pay attention to a change in target flight path. All of this is why Dean and I teach and advocate looking for the target under the gun at the front lip or slightly over the front lip of the trap house. This method also helps to eliminate backgrounds that may be difficult to see a target in. Many times in twilight shoot-offs it is hard to see targets if you do not catch it as it leaves the house. There have been many evenings shooting at home that this situation has presented itself. I have broken targets that I did not see when they broke but if you saw them leave the house your eyes will follow a line that the brain has established as the target goes out of the house. I suspect that everyone has done this but you have to trust what you saw and allow the brain to do its job. A better explanation is to get out of the way and use what was given to you, rely on that hard wired response that exist in everyone. The mind is a very powerful tool but as humans often we can't trust what we don't see or understand. Call it faith or whatever you want but it will work if you give it a chance.

With teaching comes varying degrees of success. We work with many types of shooters, beginning, old, young and the most experienced. What Dean and I find in this sport is the desire to have instant success and that more often than not does not happen. Shooting a target is a difficult task to do on a consistent level. When I was younger my peaks and valleys were frustrating. I would break a 99 one day and go out the very next day and break an 89. When I finally learned more about the dynamics of how everything worked I started to improve. In 1992 I went into a slump and worked with a coach for about two years. Within 3 weeks of working with the coach I started to break some really good scores. Then after a month it was back in the hole again. The coach told my father that this would happen and he said what I did next would determine if the coach ever worked with me again. The determining point was whether I would revert back to my old ways or stick with what I was taught and tough it out until I understood what happened and why it happened. I stuck with the method for over 4 months and one day it was like the light came on and it has been great ever since. I have very little time to shoot these days but I still get out there and shoot a respectable score now and then. It takes a ton of dedication and time to excel at anything we do and the success does not always come over night. Find a plan that works for you and stick to it until it works out or you have determined that a change is needed.

In conclusion we have discussed two types of the mental control to shooting a target. The trick is to have the experience to determine when you need to put things on cruise control and when to disengage the hard wire response and shoot a more deliberate style.

Until next month,

Rodeo Man Out

Preparing for a Clinic or Private lessons

Well the Grand is over, and for most that means you are about finished with serious competition for this season. With the exception of those who plan to attend the Fall Handicap in Missouri. If you have not ever been there before, do yourself a favor and go if you can. It is a good shoot to finish the year with.

Now, I would like to talk to you about an experience I had at the Grand.

All 4 days I was there were spent on the practice traps with some wonderful people. Some I had met previously and some were new clients. All said and done, it was a very productive 4 days; except for the storm. But even the weather had lessons to teach us such as hydration.

The third day I saw a previous client shooting practice. Then noticed he had traded guns. He was still struggling; still using his old method and stance. He had a new gun, but as with his previous gun, it still was not shooting where he was looking. Watching him, I felt the need to explain what taking a clinic is about.

Dennis and I have talked, about how he and I take things for granted, and we do. So here goes.

Before signing up, make sure you have all of the equipment you will need. If you are not sure, please ask. The person or persons you are involved with, or taking the lessons from would much rather help you prepare, than be handicapped at their job because of something like this. If you wear prescription glasses get this taken care of before the class. For example, if you think your prescription might have changed don't wait until after the clinic to have it checked. If you do not have a custom fitted stock, get an adjustable comb and butt plate installed on your gun with some different length pads, 1 inch, ¾" and a 5/8". If you shoot in the winter, you will need two of them anyway. Changes are going to be necessary or at least tried during two days of the clinic.

Very few people can shoot an out of the box piece of wood, and a factory length of pull is in most cases too long. Most people try to shoot a stock that is too long any way. The biggest secret in this game or any other like it is, there is no big secret. Getting your equipment to work for you is the best money you can spend.

Recently, I was introduced to a very nice man. He wanted help taking his game to the next level. However, he was experiencing problems with his gun and it was affecting his shooting. After a brief phone conversation, we discovered the problem. It was the hulls he was reloading. They are not designed to be reloaded. Most all hulls with a steel base should be discarded.

These are a few of the things that a person should not cut corners on. Once you feel you have accomplished all you can do to prepare, then if you so desire to sign up for a clinic, do so.

Be prepared, so you can get more focus on helping you with your shooting, instead of working on your gun. Once you have completed the clinic it is up to you to go set things in motion.

Dedication and hard work is the true Big secret! You will get back what you put into it. Just like every other thing in life. Sure, it is a tremendous help to have someone, who knows what to look for, standing behind you with the knowledge to make suggestions on how to improve your game, using your given style of shooting. Give your muscle memory time to adjust.

There are many different ways to shoot. There are many people with physical conditions and that limits the number of ways to approach a target from any given post. So be realistic and give yourself time to adjust, there are no short cuts.

I wish you the best. It was very gratifying to watch one of our students in a shoot off, or getting their picture taken with a trophy.

Many ask how can you come to the Grand, and not shoot a single event.

My reply, "I watch the scoreboard every evening and have not missed an event yet".

Next year I hope to once again play the game, we all love so much.

Remember there is a Champion in each and one of you.

Until next month,

Dean DeBow





We have clinic dates 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 Contact Dean @ 270-886-2095 or Dennis @ 330-456-6070. We look forward to seeing everyone this year.

Upcoming clinics for 2010, go to our web site, fill out the profile sheet, submit it and pay your deposit on-line

Spanish Forks, Utah ~ [September 11th & 12th, 2010](#)

Redlands Trap & Skeet, Redlands, California refresher Course for past Clinic Attendees Friday [September 17th, 2010](#)

Redlands Trap & Skeet, Ca. ~ [September 18th & 19th, 2010](#)

“DeVault Industries & Double D Winners Box”

Todd Kilcus ~ Krieghoff K-80 Trap Special, Devault Custom stock, New York State Shoot Non-Resident Doubles Champion **99 x 100** Non Resident Handicap Champion 3rd. Place **94 x 100** Grand American Handicap Event # 8 26 yd. Champion **94 x 100**

Bobby Ray Fowler ~ Browning BT-99 ~ Double D Shooting Clinic ~ Grand American Handicap Preliminary Handicap Championship for yardage **96 x 100** in shoot-off. **100 x 100** ~ Event # 14 Class D 3rd. **194 x 200**

Mark Richmond ~ Browning XT O/U ~ Double D Shooting Clinic ~ Grand American Handicap Championship Runner-up **97 x 100** lost in shoot-off

Bill McGuire ~ Blaser O/U ~ DeVault Custom Wood & Rib ~ US Western Open Sporting Clays Championship Main Event Champion **98 x 100** & **97 x 100** Total **195**

Don Weeks ~ Silver Seitz ~ DeVault Custom Wood ~ Texas State Shoot Event # 8 Lone Star Hdcp. SVT Champion **94 x 100** Event # 13 State Hdcp. Championship SVT Runner-up **93 x 100**

Joe Miller ~ Double D Shooting Clinic ~ Maryland State Shoot ~ State Yardage Handicap Champion **96 x 100** **25 x 25** in shoot off

George Dyll ~ MachOne ~ Double D Shooting Clinic ~ Event # 2 Grand American 21-22 yd. Champion ~ **96 x 100** ~ Event# 6 Doubles Class B Runner-up **94 x 100** ~ Prelim HOA 3rd. **917 x 1000** ~ 23-24 yd. Event # 21 Handicap 3rd. **95 x 100**

One Correction: Last month we reported that **Bill Carver** broke a **100 x 100** in Handicap at the Kentucky it was his twin brother **Bob** that did the fine shooting sorry for the miss-print



DeVault Industries LLC

3500 12th. Street NW

Canton, Ohio 44708

Voice 330-456-6070

Fax 330-456-5742

e-mail: dennisdevault@sbcglobal.net

on the web: <http://www.devaultind.com>

on the web: <http://www.ddshooting.com>