

Why should anyone participate in the CMP activities, such as the ladder system, monthly defensive challenge or the team event?

A good question.

There are many reasons why a person carries or participates in shooting past time. Only you can determine the exact reason.

For some individuals, all the little pops and bangs of the firing range just got boring after a while and that so many trips to the range began to feel repetitive. Some individuals feel that shooting routine was simply not as fun nor as stressful as what it would be like to be in a real gunfight. Realizing that at an indoor range like Riverside, a shooter is somewhat limited in what can be done. But fear not, there is a way to help anyone prepare for a possible confrontation.

Some individuals might shoot better under pressure, but others might be so nervous they shoot watermelon-sized groups at five yards. Some shooters can step up and be surprised how well they can shoot with some pressure being applied. While others, well, just do not especially when the pressure of being timed is involved. Remember that with any competition, with additional pressure, everyone starts with the possible same pressure, and it becomes anyone's game.

With these events, individuals are finding what works and what does not. For example, trigger control, with one competitor struggling to pull the trigger smoothly and reacquire the target after each shot, especially during recoil. Some shooters realize how quickly accuracy fell off beyond further distances, while others saw their trigger pull inconsistency rear its head under pressure.

Shooter will push the limits of their firearm platforms and may find that they could not be reloaded quickly or magazines that simply didn't want to function. It becomes clear that having the right tools can make all the difference in high-stakes scenarios. These types of mistakes to have in a competition, are helpful because having them happen in a real firefight would be catastrophic.

No amount of reading articles, watching videos, or practicing target shooting on an indoor range will truly prepare you for the real thing. Planning was another important lesson—having a strategy for each scenario and sticking to it can make a big difference.

If there is a huge difference in your ability in practice and a match, then consider this an indication that you might not be as strong mentally as you need to be.

Failure is inevitable, but that's part of the process.

"It has been my observation, over the years, that folks generally find the time and means to do the things that they really want to do. The serious defensive shooter makes the time to practice, period."*

One thing individuals have completely agreed on: don't wait until you're "ready" because you'll never feel fully prepared. Just jump in and learn on the go.

Mike Seeklander** once said in regards to shooting, We are all student of the game.

* Quotes from Sheriff Jim Wilson - Sheriff Jim Wilson was a Texas peace officer. He's contributed to every major firearms magazine, is a country western performer, and a legend of the great American southwest. ** M. Seeklander - Mike Seeklander is the owner of Shooting-Performance LLC (www.shootingperformance.com), a full-service training company and co-owner of the American Warrior Society. Mike was Chief Operating Officer, Director of Training, and a Senior Instructor at the U.S. Shooting Academy in Tulsa, Ok. Served as the Branch Chief and Lead Instructor for the Firearms division with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC).