

MINI WORLD SHOOT EXPERIENCE-GERMANY INFINITY OPEN 2015



BY ROY NEAL

If you are like me, you would compete at the World Shoot if that was an option. You have read the articles, watched the YouTube videos and maybe even participated in a thread or two on the forums. However, fortune has not smiled on you, as you live in greatest shooting country in the world. That means that our current active USPSA membership is as big as the rest of the world combined, so getting a date with a Sports Illustrated supermodel is easier than getting a slot to participate in the World Shoot. Facing that disappointment, I found a different option that makes you feel as close as possible to the World Shoot environment.

Many of you have heard of the Infinity Open here in the States due to authors David Thompson and Robin Taylor. David passed away last year and Robin has moved

on to other endeavors, so coverage of this match was now open to someone else, such as myself. The trick was in getting a slot, which is not an easy task. The Infinity Open is one of the three major matches on the European Tour, and this year the match sold out in under an hour, with 400 competitors from all over the world (official time was a lot less than that, but that is up for discussion over adult beverages). I talked about this opportunity with two of my friends ("Papa Joe" Rutkowski and Bob Novak), and we decided that we'd go if we could secure slots. Luckily, I know a guy who happens to have a bit of pull with the match directors; I called up Brandon Strayer of Infinity Firearms, told him that we wanted to go and asked him to put us down for his list of shooters attending the match. Okay, I really called and begged,

but that doesn't sound as cool, now does it? Brandon was gracious enough to put us on his list and we waited like all the other shooters to see what would happen. This all happened in December of 2014 and the match would not take place till May 22-24 of 2015, but later that week, I got the email from Brandon confirming that we were registered for the match and that the MDs would follow up with us regarding the additional paperwork needed to travel with firearms.

We were in. Just how hard could this additional paperwork be? I do the majority of the paperwork for Americans going to Canada with guns, so it couldn't be much more difficult than that.....could it?

We started with U.S. Customs, as they have the form 4457 that has to be filled out before you leave the country as proof that