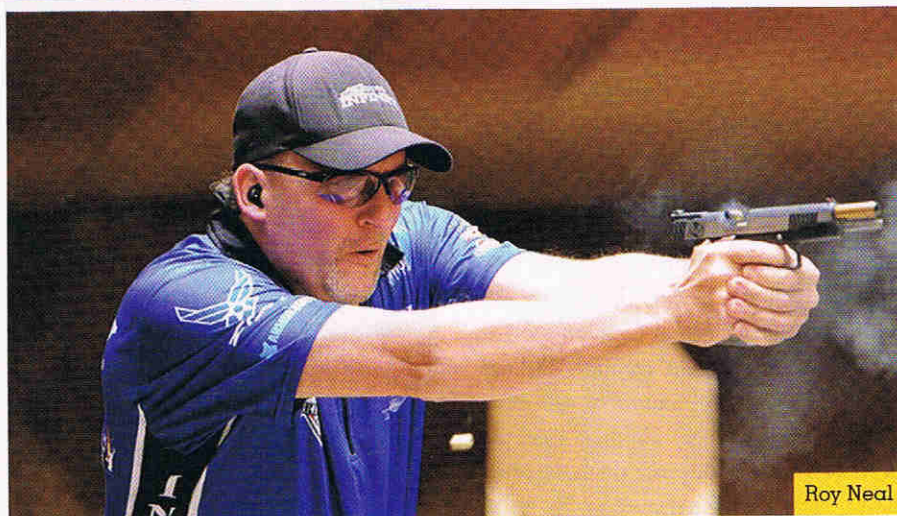
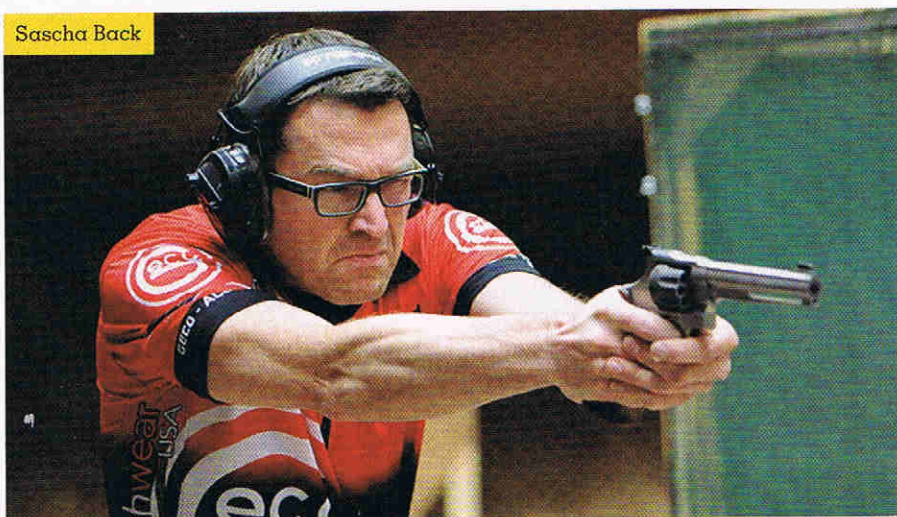


Sascha Back



this against them, only certain folks can take pictures at the match, and the Match Director has to sign your equipment sheet stating that. After spending a day out at the range, a group of Dutch and Swedish shooters took mercy on us and invited us out to dinner. We had a great time as the group turned out to be wonderful hosts, and numerous topics of gun laws were discussed over much food and adult beverages. A big Thank You goes to my SV Teammate Mats Backstrom for setting this up, for introducing us to everyone and being so nice.

Saturday morning brought our squad to the competition, where we got to watch as the staff hosed down the berms and the shooting areas just like they do the infield at a baseball game in order to keep down the sand/dust. That was a first for me but it made a difference and an impression. Then there was our shooting order. Since we had

some no-shows, we had a smaller squad. That was no big deal, as Papa Joe led off our shooting order as the fifth person on the list. Per the IPSC scoring program and list, that meant he continued to go first until it really was his time to go first – so over the course of 19 stages, he went first 11 times and last two times, as he had reshoots. I tried to explain to one of the CRO's about how we just drop the shooter who shot first down to last, but I was told in a very officious German accent that our "Papers would not then be in order" and we couldn't have that.

Our squad had the winners of three Divisions, so it was a lot of fun to watch and to compete. The first day had the big stages (points/number of shots), which some folks took advantage of. Brent Lorton really did well, jumping into first place in Classic with some solid shooting. Chris Tilley had to battle early trigger

issues to stay in the hunt for first place. (Watching Brandon Strayer rebuild Tilley's Open gun just minutes before the match was comical if you were not Chris Tilley or poor Brandon.) We met Sascha Back for the first time and he was a joy to watch shoot his revolver until you realized that he was beating many shooters who feed their guns via magazines and not moon clips. He was so nice that you couldn't help rooting for him and cheering him on. Ok, it probably helped that his wife sent tons of typical German food with him to the match for afternoon snacks, and after dinner we devoured the cake, so a little bribery works as well.

Chrono was an interesting stage, as they had it in a small brick/block tunnel with a backstop. IPSC is trying a new lower 150pf for Open Division to facilitate more competitors shooting Open with factory ammo due to travel complications. Everything was fine until the Americans show up with their SV IMM's and major power factor. Tilley's was loud, but Papa Joe's SV literally blew them out of the tunnel. I don't even think they wrote down the power factor - they just handed him the gun and told him to get out while shaking their heads. Poor guys.

Sunday brought more of the technical stages (lower round count but more movers and precision shots). When I say precision, I mean 6 inch plates at 35 meters sitting right next to penalty plates in case you go a bit wide with the shot. I thought that was against the Geneva Convention myself, as I protested leaving one of them up after a disaster stage of shooting. Our German CRO could only smile and shake his head at my entertaining excuse for not hitting the plate. I have not had the pleasure of shooting bobbing plates before this match, or plates that are on a slider going away from you. Now I have, and they were not as bad as I thought. Activator poppers with a single plate near them seemed to be the norm, as it forced you to swing quickly as the activated targets were a bit – um – brisk in some of their exposures. The turning target on one stage didn't even drop, it just turned and it turned quickly. You had