

## **Jonathon Wolfe Named New AC for New England**

Jonathon Wolfe of New Hampshire has been named Area Coordinator for the New England Area. His Area of Responsibility will include CT, MA, ME, NH, RI and VT.

Wolfe is a member of Pioneer Sportsmen, Inc., in Dunbarton, NH. He says he discovered IDPA in 2009 and has been hooked ever since. "As with most people, I became attracted to IDPA when my son and I chose to start exercising our Second Amendment rights. After taking an initial handgun class, I thought, "Now what?" I didn't feel as though I had the training or skills to feel confident enough to defend myself, so I sought out additional training, and through that training found IDPA. I loved the concept and means to practice my handgun skills, in a welcoming and friendly environment. Over the years, our IDPA program at Pioneer ebbed and flowed with seemingly new Directors every year and I had always been hoping for something more. A program that incorporated more realism to the stages and one that broke down barriers and brought more shooters into the fold. In 2013, Ken Lambert reinvigorated IDPA at Pioneer and I was thrilled!! He created a State level sanctioned match that rivaled others in the area and I thought, "Finally, the program is being taken in the direction I had hoped!" Unfortunately, the next year, Ken had to step down due to employment obligations and I was faced with a difficult decision, do I take over in his role with only a few years of experience or leave it to chance and hope the next person would carry on what Ken had started? I couldn't take that chance. I volunteered to become the IDPA Discipline Chair at Pioneer Sportsmen and I was determined to create a program that would be large enough to become self-sustaining and I think we have come close to that mark. The "Live Free or Die" State Championship is into it's 6th consecutive year with 200 slots that sell out in less than an hour. We have weekly practices, monthly matches, Intro to IDPA Classes and annual Safety Officer classes. These are the tools that bring shooters into IDPA and keep a fresh supply of volunteers to create some of the best stages for LFoD, both visually and technically. However, what I love most about IDPA is the people I have the pleasure to meet and work with. I have always said, "You come to IDPA for the shooting, but you stay with IDPA because of the people." I have made the BEST friends in IDPA and they truly feel like family to me."

With this enthusiasm, Wolfe has a goal in mind as the region's leader. "I would like to see more participation in ALL the states in my area. Wouldn't it be great to see a State Level match in each of the New England States? The formula I have used to generate participation works. The demand for action pistol shooting has never been better and people are looking for an outlet to shoot and learn to become better. IDPA is the "Gateway Drug" for Action Pistol Shooting. I would like other clubs to recognize what a safe and fun sport this is and how it can be a significant revenue generator for their range."

What else should the New England members know about their new AC? "I am very fortunate to have so many friends in the shooting sports. I listen to them and depend on them. I have always felt that I am merely a facilitator of this program. The ambition, motivation and desire to have such a program, like Pioneer IDPA, comes from everyone who shares that same passion. I just provide an outlet for their creativity and drive. I will be the first to tell you, I don't know all there is to know about IDPA, but I have a wealth of friends in the sport who are an amazing resource who help me find the right answers. I look forward to my new role within IDPA and I hope to be a helpful resource to New England and a positive influence for IDPA in my area."