

# REAL-TIME RPG: SOMETHING NEW FOR FIELDS!

FOR THOSE GAMERS WHO APPRECIATE THE TERMS... WE ARE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE REAL-TIME RPG WITH LIVE PLAYERS!

Looking for a solution to decreased sales? I have watched our industry decline over the past four years, and I have seen some things that a few fields are doing differently in order to stay alive. I have also

shared many of my views on the pages of APG magazine, and in the PTI classroom. You may be involved with a paintball field or store business that could benefit from this information.

There is a new class of shooter-tag business that is offering relief for many paintball fields. It enables fields to adapt their existing field rental paintball markers, and to organize games in backyards and company picnic areas where we can better compete in the entertainment and party industries.

These new low impact games are especially appealing to a youthful market segment that we appear to be losing to RPG (computer gaming). There are versions that can be played at home, and there is a new system being developed specifically for professional playing fields that will operate much like the MILES military simulator.

This hardware and software Role-Playing-Game (RPG) concept is so impressive that the US Army has purchased a large number of the Generation-One barrels and is participating in the development of the Generation-Two systems which include communicators, GPS, different weaponry, and sophisticated computer networking that can be remotely monitored.

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This fascinating concept has been the greatest attention-getter at recent PTI Business and Marketing classes. Infra-Red barrels that attach to existing paintball markers, and enable GAMES WITH YOUNGER PLAYERS and NO GOGGLES! It's all about a new generation Infra-Red gaming concept and a new product release from Predator Games, a Wisconsin company where everything is labeled "USA".

These products were designed by paintball players and are manufactured in Wisconsin by Universal Electronics (a major supplier of electrical components to the military, medical, and paintball industries). The Generation-One IR-Tag Barrel Systems are credited with bringing several paintball fields back from the brink, and even store owners without an actual field can carry these products into back yards for small groups who are looking for an exhilarating experience, without the sting or mess that is sometimes associated with paintball.

I have seen the new Generation-Two networking system demonstrated and it is truly AWESOME! I don't know how they can



All Eagle Eye systems are networked together using a state of the art radio frequency system. Each time you score a hit on another player, the system will broadcast out this information to all players within range. Players will know with certainty who hit them—friend or foe. Two different interchangeable barrel types are available; standard or long range sniper barrel.



Predator Games has released their Generation-Two infrared barrel product code-named Eagle Eye, shown here mounted on a Tippmann X-7 paintball marker. A standard loader base configuration is also available, allowing easy attachment to any marker.

This allows field or pro shop owners to convert existing rental inventory to a new concept game that can be carried into back yards for birthday parties. The Eagle Eye system takes a giant leap forward offering new capabilities and stretching the limits of current technology. New features such as high resolution display, timers, ammunition and health level monitors, sound effects, standard and customizable games are included in the new Generation-Two IR-Tag systems. Photos by Bob McGuire

pack so much performance into such a cool and affordable package. Every IR-Tag unit actually includes a miniature computer that automatically logs in whenever it is turned on within range of the wireless system.

These systems are designed to be used outdoors in full sunlight and harsh conditions. The shooting and wireless communication range is perfect for large fields, and the microprocessor LCD displays allow players to instantly know their status and performance during a game. And if you like Generations One and Two, just wait until you hear about the Generation-Three system that will be introduced in late 2009. All generations of systems can be used in games together, although the earlier models have limited capabilities and functionality.

You may want to check out their website: [www.PredatorGames.com](http://www.PredatorGames.com), where the Predator Games staff will provide references upon request, and would be glad to relate several stories of paintball fields who have experienced the magic of IR-Tag in an industry where many old-timers believe that paintball bruises are necessary for adrenalin addiction. These systems offer paintball business owners an opportunity to cash in on the computer gaming explosion, and lure some of



The Eagle Eye system comes with standard pre-defined games and the option to create your own customized games. This exciting gaming system keeps track of "ammunition", game time, confirmed hits, and your health level. These options will allow you to customize your system to fit your playing and/or training style.

those 140 million players away from their computers and into the action, with live "combat" simulations and a new level of Role Playing Games. This is a chance for fields and stores to expand their universe and to better utilize existing assets.

Bob McGuire is President of the American Paintball League and the Paintball Training Institute. Over the years, the APL has insured over 3500 different playing fields and stores, and PTI has graduated over 2700 airsmiths and business owners who have gone on to make a mark in the industry. Information about field or store insurance can be found on the website: [www.paintball-api.com](http://www.paintball-api.com), and paintball training info can be found at: [www.paintball-pti.com](http://www.paintball-pti.com).