



CONCEALED CARRY

MAGAZINE®

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SCHOOL SHOOTINGS, WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AND GUNS

Cover Story by: T. Stephen Eggleston

Taurus Titanium 605
Gun Review

Hanna Fowler
Chris Pennington
Profiles

Final Option
Course Review

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T. Stephen Eggleston - Guest Editor
SCHOOL SHOOTINGS, WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AND GUNS. *Something has changed and it's not the guns.*



Tim's Point of View

Here's something you might find interesting...

Sometimes people call me up and ask me to send their copy of Concealed Carry Magazine in a plain envelope. Now, I am a business person and I realize who the customer is, so I always graciously honor these requests (If they're willing to cover the extra postage cost!). But I have to tell you, I just don't get it!

The whole idea of the USCCA and Concealed Carry Magazine is to inform, educate and support the "armed lifestyle." I think you'll agree that if MORE of the good guys decided to carry guns...well, it would be better.

Now don't get me wrong, I am a very private person and I respect everyone's right to privacy. I will be the first to admit that I get tired of responding to questions like, "Why do you think you need to carry a gun?" or "What are you afraid of?" or "Don't you think the police will protect you?"

You've heard questions like this, right? Well, these questions come from people who have never had all the good aspects of living the "armed lifestyle" explained to them. They've never had their friend or relative describe to them how being "always armed" is a very responsible, and sometimes, life-changing decision.

Am I starting to sound like a self-defense evangelist? Well, maybe that's what I am. I challenge all of you to hold your copy of Concealed Carry Magazine up for everyone to see. You don't have to tell them where or how you conceal your weapon, but you can let them know that there are hundreds of thousands of law-abiding Americans all across our country who make the daily decision to go armed.

Be safe and God bless,



Timothy J. Schmidt
Publisher / Editor

COVER PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CCM SUBSCRIBER:

Michael D. Greer

Photographer: Stephanie Greer
(Daughter of Michael)

Michael: I'm a former Border Patrolman and a police officer with two agencies. I retired from the LAPD in 1989 after an on-duty accidental gunshot wound left me a paraplegic. I am moving to Colorado Springs, CO next month to enjoy the outdoor lifestyle of the Rocky Mountain region. My current CCW is a .40 Cal Glock Model 22 carried in a belt slide holster. I use Remington Golden Saber 165 grain ammo. I am transitioning to a .45 Cal 1911 government model, Kimber Custom CDP II. I liked the .45 gov't model since I carried one in Vietnam over 30 years ago. It points well and fits my hand like a custom-made glove. As an honorably retired police officer, I can carry concealed nationwide since the passage of H.R. 218. I also have a Utah CCW permit which is valid in several states.



CONCEALED CARRY MAGAZINE

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Letters

Dear Editor,

I received my first issue of CCM. I really enjoyed the information in it. Even though I am working a 12 hour schedule, I stayed up until after midnight reading it from cover to cover. Keep up the good work!

E.Henderson.Jr
Ohio

Dear Editor,

I'm a new member. I signed up for the three year special after seeing your advertisement in *American Handgunner* magazine and viewing your website. ...I'm really enjoying my membership and my first issue of *Concealed Carry Magazine*. I've always wanted to get some professional training from someone concerning what works and what doesn't when you're confronted by violence or potential violence; but, until I read your magazine, I wasn't aware of any facility within at least 500 miles of where I live that offered that kind of training. I always assumed it would be very costly. The first Issue I received highlighted the Southern Exposure facility in Lakeland, Florida—a fairly short drive from where I live—and where I have some family. The price is definitely right! So, now I can train and use that as an excuse to visit some relatives I don't see very often!

I've signed up and I'm looking forward to training there next month. Now, I'll be getting some of the professional training I've always wanted just 2 months into my USCCA membership. Thanks to the USCCA for providing me with the valuable knowledge of resources close to home!!!

I'm looking forward to even more benefits of membership—as your organization is relatively new on the scene—and hasn't yet fallen prey to the big money. Your reporting seems to be factual and honest and you're still covering training and accessories that don't empty a needy person's wallet.

For instance, while I'm sure the training is worth the price, A guy like me can't yet afford to travel to Oregon from South Alabama, stay in a motel for several days, AND pay the price to attend training at Thunder Ranch. I'm sure they have a world class facility, the very best instructors, and would be worth every dime spent, but the reality for me is they are in the premier market, and I'm not. One day, when my new business has developed further, I will attend training at such a facility. For now, you've shown me how to satisfy my immediate needs until I can afford the "Cadillac." I'm more grateful than you will ever know.

...Thanks for all you've already done. One satisfied member!

Chip Oakley
Alabama

Dear Editor,

I have lived in Wisconsin, delivered pizza in Milwaukee, carried illegally there, shopped at the Shooter's Shop, been a member of JPFO and trained with Gabe Suarez. I congratulate you for creating *Concealed Carry Magazine*, and that you are still surviving!

Before CCW became commonly lawful across the country, magazines like *Guns&Ammo* and *American Handgunner* from the 80's and early 90's, would discuss concealed carry... but their editorial posture was so prudish towards decent people carrying illegally, that their tone seemed oriented to an audience of police and detectives only.

I have been a subscriber since last year and I find CCM to be more substantial, and more directly oriented to decent people like me. It is much more focused than any other defense or gun-oriented magazine.

Karl George
Wisconsin

Dear Editor,

I am a new subscriber to your fine magazine and unfortunately, I missed the original article about the "Safety Hammerless" pistols, but saw the exchange of comments in the Letters to the Editor in the October 7th issue. I do not intend to beat a dead horse, but there are a couple of points that I would like to make. I have the pleasure of owning a Safety Hammerless Fourth Model that has been in my family since it was purchased new in 1908. I also have a letter from Smith & Wesson that confirms the authenticity of the pistol and provides some information about this product line. In addition to handling the pistol, I have also had the pleasure of shooting it as recently as a few months ago.

The strap on the back of the grip is indeed a safety and it must be depressed to allow the trigger to be pulled. The pistol will only fire in the Double Action Only mode. There are no provisions for the pistol to be fired in a Single Action mode. While I do not have a scale to measure the trigger pull of the pistol, I can assure you that it is a very hard pull and not one that could be accomplished by accident. Therefore, as you mentioned in the exchange of information in the magazine, the need for this additional safety is questionable.

In the letter from Smith & Wesson that is signed by Roy Jinks and is dated April 1, 2005, he states the following: "During the first twenty years that this model was produced, four major design changes were made. These design improvements are now classified by collectors as separate models to distinguish the different variations from the original. The resulting five categories are simply labeled .38 Safety Hammerless First Model through .38 Safety Hammerless Fifth Model. The .38 Safety Hammerless Fourth Model was introduced in 1898 and manufactured until 1909."

Thank you for a quality magazine.

Bill McAmis
St. Paul, MN

Send your letters to:

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*Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered.
Letters may be edited for space and clarity.*



Hanna Fowler

I recently had the pleasure of giving Hanna Fowler her concealed handgun license renewal class. During the instruction, I discovered that her compelling story would be interesting to CCM readers—not because she was a secretary to the Assistant Managing Editor of the Wall Street Journal for twenty-two years, nor because she has hunted all over this country, nor because she was a model for Neiman Marcus and Nordis of Dallas. Hanna isn't just interesting because her charity work lets her rub elbows with some of the most famous people in the world. She is of special interest to the readers of this magazine because she has carried a gun most of her life, which is the reason that she is still alive today.

Hanna is one of those special people who become one of your best friends within five minutes of knowing her. As she buzzed me through the security door of her Diamonds by Hanna jewelry shop in Southlake, Texas, she was on the phone trying to convince her reluctant hair dresser to take an appointment for the customer standing nearby. The hair dresser, who

was in high demand, had no openings for two weeks, which resulted in her rebuffing Hanna's impossible request, but because of Hanna's charm and persistence, her customer left with a 5:30 appointment for the next day. As the customer turned to exit the store, Hanna asked her what was in her large brief case. It turns out that the woman, who I had assumed was a regular client or one of her dear friends because of the way she was being given special treatment, was actually a saleswoman who got caught up in Hanna's spell and forgot about her purpose for being there. Hanna told her, "Come back next week and you're going to have to resist hugging me when you see how well my hair dresser colored your hair."

Such is the wonderful world of Hanna Fowler. I too, fell under the spell of this seemingly ordinary jeweler, as she related her extraordinary life. Hanna Fowler grew up in the little farm town of Crandall, Texas, east of Dallas. The town is so small that she only had twelve students in her graduating class. When she was six years old, her dad taught her how to shoot a



Each issue of CCM contains an article that "PROFILES" an everyday individual who carries a concealed weapon. Hanna, as interviewed by Don Myers, is an inspiration to our readers by helping them to realize that they are not alone in their lifestyle decision to always be armed. Don Myers is a professional pilot, a Vietnam era army captain, an author, a certified concealed handgun license instructor for the state of Texas, and most importantly of all, a proud grandfather.

double-barreled shotgun. He leaned her up against a tree so that the recoil would not knock her down. I can only imagine how tiny she must have been, since she barely weighed one hundred pounds during her modeling days. That also gives you some idea of how tough this little girl must have been, to survive the punishing recoil of the twelve-gauge that bruised her tiny shoulder because she shot a whole box of shells at doves that day. From that early introduction to guns, Hanna has seldom been without a firearm of some type in her possession.

"I was born with a gun. I had to hunt to survive. I shot birds and rabbits, but I didn't deer hunt until I was about twenty-two. I don't know my life without a gun."

ccm interview

During her formative years at her father's side, gun safety was an integral part of her introduction and continued safe use of guns of all types. "I was taught how to use a gun, how dangerous it was, and that it was there to protect us and feed us."

Hanna married right out of high school and was a secretary at Lone Star Steel. She spent two years in Germany with her husband while he was in the service. After working for a law firm for a few years, followed by a few years at Hunt Oil, she finally joined the Wall Street Journal in 1964. During all of this, she gave birth to a son and daughter and now has one grandchild.

Hanna's high school basketball team was the first to ever win district. "We had seven players on the team, so you had better not have anybody foul out, since there were six players on the floor, the way we played women's basketball in those days." She continued playing the game in a semi-pro league until she was in her 40s. The lithe and nimble lady even won a dance contest with a trip to Las Vegas as the prize.

Deer hunting became a passion of Hanna's, with most of her hunting being done in Texas, but she also hunted in several other states, including Alaska. Her great accuracy with her .243 put plenty of deer on the ground, and to the chagrin of some of the male hunters in the camp, found her out shooting them on many of those enjoyable hunts.

On a few occasions, this interesting Texan took part in the spring rattlesnake roundups in the west Texas towns of Walnut and Sweetwater. There is actually a sane reason for doing this. "After the snakes are taken from their hibernation lairs using a hook on the end of a golf club, they are taken to a central collection in town, where they are put in a huge, rubber-lined tub. Initially, they are listless from the low temperature of hibernation, but as they warm up, they become angry and start rattling their tails. The noise is deafening, but now they can be milked for their venom to be used in medicine." The festivities include frying the skinned snake, which Hanna says, "tastes like rich chicken."

Hanna started studying to be a gemologist in the late 1970s and opened her own storefront in 1986. Women are often the preferred target of robbers, but with this new profession came even more dangers for this lady with the diamonds and rubies. This is a woman who takes responsibility for her life and refuses to be a victim of some violent predator. I sat down with her to have her answer a few questions.

CCM: Was there a specific incident that caused you to carry a gun?

Hanna: No, I have been around guns all my life. As I told you earlier, I have always had a gun nearby for protection, especially since becoming a custom jeweler.

CCM: Have you ever had to use your firearm in a defensive situation?

Hanna: Yes, a couple of times. In 1986, during the Christmas season, a guy called and wanted four one carat diamonds. At that time, I didn't have a storefront. I went to all of my suppliers and found four diamonds that matched. When I called him back, he answered at a pay phone, which should have been a big red flag for me, but I was excited about making my biggest sale yet. He asked me to meet him in a parking lot, since he said he would be in a big truck. That did raise a red flag for me, not because he was a blue-collar customer, because I am from a blue-collar background, but because we would be by ourselves in the parking lot. But I didn't want to miss the sale. I had my little black dog, Yiddy, with me and she was very protective of me.

He came driving up in a big wrecker. When he got in my car, Yiddy started yapping and would not stop. So, I thought, "What in the world is this baby yapping about?" I brought out a black velveteen pad to show the diamonds and thought, "This ol' dog knows more than I do."

So, I stuck my hand in my purse to put it on my .38 revolver.

The man said, "I want these four diamonds."

I said, "It's going to cost you \$12,000." He pulled out a gun and said, "You know what, I think I'll just kill you. I done killed one woman and got off."

So, I said, "Okay, you can kill me, but when you pull that trigger, my reflexes are going to kill you."

"What the Hell are you talking about?"

"I've got my hand on a .38 in my purse," so, I pulled it out and pointed it straight at him. Now mind you, Don, I was just as calm as I am sitting here right now telling you this. Anyway, I told him that the gun was cocked and if he shot me my reflexes would pull the trigger and kill him. I told him that he still owed me the money for the diamonds and to put the money on the velvet pad. He put his gun away and pulled \$12,000 out of his pocket and took the four diamonds and left while I was still pointing my gun at him. After he got out of the car my baby quit barking.

Well, stupid me, I went to a Denny's and as I got out of my car, I was wearing a slit skirt, and it suddenly dawned on me, what had just happened. Not only that, but he had my phone number and my car license number and could find me. Well, I don't know how to say it nicely, but I peed all over myself, soaking my skirt.

Continued on page 6





I have never been so scared as I was that day. So, to me, the good Lord was looking after me. He put that baby [Yiddy, the dog] there to take care of me.

Of course, that was before we had [concealed handgun] licenses, but it was the time that I made up my mind that I was going to carry at all times.

CCM: After you sent that creep away to contemplate his poor choice of victims, did you go to the police?

Hanna: No, it wasn't legal for me to carry that pistol concealed at the time, since it was about another ten years before Texas started issuing [concealed handgun] licenses. Besides, it would be my word against his and since he paid for the diamonds, I might not sound credible. I stood to lose too much if the police did not believe me.

CCM: You said that there were "a couple of times" that you used your handgun to protect yourself. What happened the other time?

Hanna: I was in Irving and I thought I was in the left turn lane, but I was actually in the lane next to it. Well, I started to turn left and caused a truck in that lane to have to slam on his brakes to miss me. The light turned red, so I stopped. All the traffic came to a halt and the guy that I cut off, who was in a GMC Jimmy, got out and in a screaming rage, called me some really terrible names while he was walking toward me. Then he screamed, "I'm going to pull you out of that car and whip your ass." When he got within about 35 feet of me, I pulled my gun out from under my seat. He was so close to me, with rage in his eyes, but when I pulled that gun out and pointed it at him, he dropped down on all fours and crawled back to his truck.

CCM: Did you get any reaction from the other cars in the intersection?

Hanna: Yes, (She said with a chuckle) after he got back in his truck, I noticed that all four lanes of traffic had stopped and the people in the other cars who had stopped were clapping for me. Some of them motioned for me to go ahead and make my turn, even though the light was still red. I think they had me move on because they were happy for me, but I guess it could have been because they didn't want to mess with the woman with a gun.

CCM: What training methods do you employ? Do you have any recommendations?

Hanna: I go to the firing range occasionally. But even before taking your CHL renewal class, and especially since taking it, I worry about missing my attacker and hurting someone else. I know I should practice more, but I know that I should exercise more too and don't do that either. So, as far as recommendations go, I recommend that you don't do as I am doing. Go practice as if someone's life depended on it. I have had several men tell me to enter competitions, so I could learn to shoot under pressure. But, Don, I don't go like I should.

CCM: Normally, I would ask how long you have been carrying, but you answered that when you said that you have always carried since 1988.

Hanna: Yes, before that incident, I would carry most of the time, but not all the time. But now I am seldom unarmed. I have always felt safe being armed and always knew that I could use the gun if I had to. There's a lot of difference in carrying a gun and knowing if you are capable of using it or not.

CCM: What weapons do you carry?

Hanna: I have a 9 mm PPK and I just bought a 9 mm Glock 26.

CCM: What type of ammunition do you carry?

Hanna: That I can't answer. I just know it's a hollow point like you recommended in your class.


CCM: What concealment holsters do you use?

Hanna: I don't know. I just use my purse. And I have a holster that fits under my car seat, but I don't know what brand it is. Before I put on so much weight, I wore a shoulder holster, but since I put on so much weight, these things (pointing at her ample bust line) get in the way. I don't know if you can say that in your magazine, but women do have different needs with holsters. I don't know what brand shoulder holster it was either.

CCM: What do you do for a living?

Hanna: I make custom jewelry. I have a knack of knowing what looks best on a person and I never take a picture of a piece because I want everything that I sell to be an original, with no one else having one like it. I have to take into consideration what kind of person will be wearing my jewelry, such as, a flight attendant can't have a diamond with prongs that set up high. She should have it set in a bezel. That way, in her work, she isn't putting the precious stone in jeopardy. So I make jewelry that fits the person. This is my love. I could probably be making more money doing something else, but I love it.

CCM: Do you have any advice for our readers?

Hanna: I'm a firm believer that when you go out of town, you should be armed. When you go to the mall, you should be armed. In my home, I'm armed, in my shop, I am armed and in my car, I am armed. So, you could say that I'm armed at all times. I think that would be good advice for everyone. 



Chris Pennington

I grew up just outside of Beaumont, TX. My father was a huge outdoorsman, and that area of Texas catered to hunting and fishing sports. He instilled, in my brother and me, his love of the outdoors.

We grew up with guns in the house. Dad kept them all (mostly hunting rifles) in a gun cabinet for all to see. They were not locked up or anything, but we knew that we were not supposed to touch them and we never did. Things were different back then. If a kid did something wrong (like get in the gun cabinet), he knew he might get a spanking. Of course, I can't remember ever getting spanked, but I guess the threat was always there.

I had just completed my freshmen year in college, when my parents decided they wanted to move back to the area they were originally from. So we packed things up and moved just outside of Cincinnati, OH. I enrolled at Xavier University and finished college in 1993 with a degree in nursing. I started working as an RN in an emergency department, and soon after, I was married to the girl of my dreams.



ccm profile

Each issue of CCM contains an article that "PROFILES" an everyday individual who carries a concealed weapon. This article is an inspiration to our readers by helping them to realize that they are not alone in their lifestyle decision to always be armed.

After a couple of years, I became a little "burned out" in my career choice, so I started thinking about doing something else. Being cooped up in the hospital for 12 hours at a time really wasn't for me. I kept seeing the paramedics coming into the ER. They were doing essentially the same job I was doing, but they were not stuck in a hospital all day. I thought that I might like that a little more, so I went back to school and became a paramedic and a firefighter. 10 years later, and I still love it. It is the best job in the world.

There is a saying, "All cops want to be firemen, and all firemen want to be cops." I guess in a way, it is true. My brother ended up being a cop. When we get together, all I want to talk about is what kind of calls he has been on, and he wants to hear about the calls I have been on. It drives our wives absolutely crazy. So we talk about the

next best thing, our handguns. Both of our wives are active shooters, so I guess we are "allowed" to talk about that.

Most firemen have other jobs they do on their off days, and I was no exception. When you work a 24 hour shift and then you are off for 48 hours, you have plenty of time to kill. I would work my shifts at the firehouse, and then pick up a shift in the ER working as an RN to make some extra money. That all changed for me in March of this year. On March 29, 2005, we were finally blessed with a little boy. My wife took her maternity leave, but has since returned to work. I now play "Mr. Mom" on my off days, and I love every minute of it. I can't wait to see what he is going to do next.

Most people told me that when you have a child, your views on firearms in the home will change. Well, they were right, but not in the way that they were thinking. I hope to teach my son about gun safety and the joys of shooting. Hopefully, if I do it like my father did, he will learn gun safety and the pleasures associated with shooting sports. Maybe some day, he will teach his kids the same. Or better yet, maybe he will let me teach them.

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Concealed Carry Magazine

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ccm interview



CCM: Was there a specific incident that caused you to carry a gun?

Chris: I think it was more of an accumulated incident, vs. a specific one for me. When I was working as an RN in the emergency department, I saw hundreds of patients that came in with injuries related to violent crimes, not to mention the deaths that resulted from those injuries. I've seen them all (gunshot wounds, stabbings, violent beatings). Then when I started working as a paramedic, I was actually at the scenes where the acts of violence were occurring. I am not talking about the inner city where gang violence is on the rampage. I am talking about the suburbs. I'm talking about the area that my family and I call home.

CCM: Have you ever had to use your firearm in a defensive situation?

Chris: No, not really. I've had my wife wake me up in the middle of the night to tell me that she hears something downstairs, and I have gone down to investigate with a gun in hand, but never have I found anything.

CCM: What training methods do you employ? Do you have any recommendations?



Chris: Being in the line of work that I am, I have become friends with a lot of the police officers. They have shown me a few things here and there. Plus with my brother being a cop, he has shown me some things as well. I have also attended a few classes at the Tactical Defense Institute (www.tdiohio.com). They offer classes to civilians on the weekends that are excellent. They teach tactics such as engaging multiple targets, shooting on the move, use of cover, etc. I highly recommend them to anyone who is going to carry a weapon on a regular basis. I also have the luxury of owning a few acres of land, I can shoot at home whenever time permits, and I go to an indoor range on occasion. I estimate that I shoot about 1000 rounds a month on average.



CCM: How long have you carried a concealed weapon?

Chris: I have had guns all my life, but I have been carrying daily since Ohio passed their CCW law. I guess nearly 2 years now.

CCM: What weapons do you carry?

Chris: 90% of the time, I carry a Glock 19. When I can't carry it due to clothing restrictions, I carry a Glock 26. When I can't conceal a weapon on me for whatever reason, my wife has her gun stowed away in her purse.

CCM: What type of ammunition do you carry?

Chris: Speer Gold Dot 124Gr +P. I also like the Cor-Bon DPX rounds, but I have not shot enough of them yet to know if they

are 100% reliable in my guns. So far they have functioned perfectly.

CCM: What concealment holsters do you use?

Chris: I like the Galco M7X Matix. If I need deeper concealment, I use the Thunderwear Combination model.

CCM: What do you do for a living?

Chris: I am a Firefighter/Paramedic.

CCM: Do you have any advice for our readers?

Chris: Practice as much as you have time to do and as much as you can afford to do. Shot placement is far more important than caliber choice. In my line of work, people get killed just as fast from a 22LR as they

do from a .45 ACP round. It just depends on where they got hit. The 9mm is a very effective round, and very easy to shoot. It is also one of the least expensive rounds to practice with, and practice makes perfect. Try to get advice from others such as law enforcement officers. Take some advanced training courses. Get involved with the NRA or other organizations that fight the law makers to keep our rights to arm ourselves. Teach your kids about firearms and firearm safety. If they know about them, they are less likely to be curious about them when you are not around. You can't watch them 100% of the time. I would hate for my son to be playing at the neighbor's house, and find a loaded handgun in a nightstand. I hope to teach my son to know the right thing to do.

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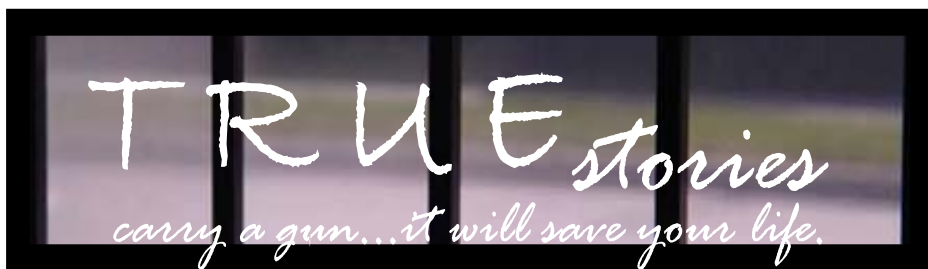
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A made for television pilot.



Compiled by Sten Jackson

MAN SHOTS BURGLAR

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota — A Minneapolis man shot and wounded a suspected would-be burglar Monday morning after he climbed through a broken window.

Police said the suspect broke into a home in the 3000 block of 16th Avenue S. about 9 a.m. The man, who was living in the lower-level duplex, confronted the burglar and fired several shots, said Capt. Rich Stanek.

The alleged burglar was transported to Hennepin County Medical Center in critical condition and was later stabilized, said Capt. Mike Martin. Police would not say how many times he was shot. He was expected to recover.

Any relationship between the burglar and resident is unknown, police said, adding that nothing was taken from the home.

Stanek said police have been called to the address several times recently because

of drugs, but authorities said it was too early to say what role that may have played in Monday's incident.

He said police don't recommend that homeowners confront intruders.

"But we understand that homeowners have a right to protect their person and property," Stanek said, adding that homeowners have the right to use reasonable force to protect themselves.

September 20, 2005
Startribune.com

STORE OWNER SHOTS ROBBER

JONESBORO, Georgia — A would-be robber was injured and later arrested after being shot by the owner of a store he intended to hold up, authorities said.

The incident began Tuesday morning when an armed man who police identified as Keston Scott entered John's Discount Store.

"He said 'give me the money,'" said the store's owner Zulfiqar "John" Butts. "I said wait a minute, I have a gun too."

When the man crouched down as if preparing to fire, Butts said he pulled out his .357 Magnum and fired three shots, hitting the man at least once. The robber escaped, leaving behind his 9mm handgun, and fled in a waiting car.

Police later arrested Scott, 22, at a hospital, Jonesboro police Sgt. Wayne Woods said.

"He had somebody drop him off at the hospital," Woods said.

Scott has been charged with criminal attempt at an armed robbery, aggravated assault and possession of a firearm in commission of a crime. He was released from the hospital Tuesday afternoon and taken to the Clayton County jail.

Butts has been robbed three times in the past five years, Woods said. Woods said he would not advise other store owners to do what Butts did.

But Butts had no regrets.

"It was just easy," Butts said. "You have no choice when you see someone has a gun and they're going to kill you."

September 20, 2005
The Associated Press

RESIDENTS TAKE UP ARMS

ROWAN COUNTY, North Carolina —

A group of Rowan County residents have organized armed patrols from the rooftops of their homes overnight Friday to protect themselves from a man suspected of arson and attempted murder.

Neighbors are upset deputies aren't on constant patrols or on a manhunt in search of David Lovett, a man accused of arson and attempted murder. If authorities can't catch him, they are ready to take up arms.

"We're not going to let this thing go by," said Richard Walker. "We're protecting our property and our homes."

According to police, Lovett created a "hit list" of residents he believed stole money, cigarettes and shaving cream from him.

"I don't know who is responsible for stealing my things, so I must punish all of you," the list reads. "Give it back and I will not punish you."

In an attempt to cross names off the list, Lovett has stabbed his aunt, Rita Regis, and burned several items in the homes of residents Scott Everhart and Amber Walker.

"He jumped out of his seat, grabbed the knives, stabbed her in the face and

HK P7 PSP chambered in 9mm in hard-chrome finish with "brush flats."
Photo courtesy of Ken Lunde.

<http://www.praxagora.com/lunde/firearms.html>



started stabbing her in the head," said Regis' boyfriend Douglass Altman.

Neighbors say four other residents were named in addition to the three that are already victims of Lovett's attacks. Lovett frequently threatened neighbors with a machete and a hatchet, neighbors said.

"He believes he's Sasquatch. He believes he's Bigfoot," neighbor Tom Lettice said. "He says, 'I'm around when you least expect me.'"

September 23, 2005
Charlotte's WCNC.com

TWO MEN SHOT

YORK, Pennsylvania — Police said the men were shot during a robbery attempt at a store.

A store owner and one of three men who tried to rob his shop were shot Monday afternoon, according to York City Police.

Both the store owner and the suspect were treated at York Hospital Monday night. The business owner, Kevin Patrick Winter, was doing well, police said. The other man was in the intensive care unit late Monday night.

The shootings occurred at Kendal's Grocery and Jamaican Cuisine in the 600 block of East Market Street.

Shortly after 4 p.m., three men went into the store and tried to rob Winter. When he wouldn't comply, one of the men shot him once in the hip, said York County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Bill Graff.

A part-time store clerk, Steven Gray, fired several shots from a .45-caliber handgun, hitting one of the men, police said. The robbers ran out of the store.

Witnesses said they heard the shots and saw Winter lying in the store's doorway, bleeding. A man they described as his friend tried to keep Winter from passing out as they waited for help to arrive.

Within minutes, an ambulance came and took Winter to the hospital.

The uninjured robbers helped their hurt accomplice into a car and left, witnesses said. They sped past two city officers, Travis Sowers and Matthew Leitzel, who followed them to the hospital. The officers arrested the uninjured men while the third was treated in the emergency room, police said.

That man was shot four times—twice in the stomach and twice in the arm—the prosecutor said. At the store, police blocked off the area out front, spreading yellow police tape from one side of the street to the other. A fire policeman diverted East Market Street's heavy, rush-hour traffic to an alternate way out of the city.

People who live on the street stood along the police tape watching officers work. "It's a shame that people are out here shooting in broad daylight," one woman said. She shook her head as she walked up the street toward her apartment.

Police filed charges against two men Monday night, but court documents detailing the offenses weren't available. The man in the hospital was to be charged once he was moved from the intensive care unit, authorities said.

Charges include robbery, aggravated assault and attempted homicide. Gray won't be charged, Graff said.

"He didn't commit a crime. He defended himself," Graff said. Gray had a license to carry the gun, which was properly registered, he said.

September 27, 2005
York Daily Record

RESIDENT SHOTS INTRUDER

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — A Corpus Christi man shot and wounded one of several intruders who tied up his wife and small children and ransacked his home early Wednesday morning, police said.

Frank Pizzini, 23, told police he and his wife were sleeping at their home in the 4700 block of Mokry Drive when he heard a crash at his front door about 3:15 a.m. Police reported that as Pizzini went to the door to confront three men wearing hoods or ski masks, his wife rolled off their bed onto the floor and called 911.

"They threatened Mr. Pizzini," Police Cmdr. Mike Walsh said. "They asked for guns, jewelry, money and the keys to the car." Walsh said Pizzini got into a struggle with the men while his wife and children were taped up. "They spent a short while ransacking the house, then ran out the back door," Walsh said.

He said Pizzini followed the men, picked up a pistol one of the invaders dropped near Pizzini's property and fired several shots, hitting one man in the leg.

Andres Aleman, 24, who is on probation for aggravated robbery, was arrested and treated for a bullet wound in his leg, police said. A bond for Aleman, who was under guard at Christus Spohn Hospital Memorial late Wednesday, was set at \$100,000.

Walsh said a pistol and two shotguns were recovered at the scene as well as a Chrysler minivan reported stolen in May that might be connected to the crime.

October 6, 2005
Corpus Christi Caller-Times



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Super-imposed Sig-Sauer P220ST
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T. Stephen Eggleston

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS, WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AND GUNS.

Something has changed and it's **not the guns.**

I went to school in a different time, the late 1950's and 1960's. It was a semi-rural area, and most people in the area had guns.

I was also a nerd before there was such a thing as a nerd. If I were in school today, I would have been labeled ADD and drugged into complacency. As it was, I was bored to tears because school was not a challenge. I was a target for every bully in the school from grades 1-12, including the teachers. One classmate expected me to show up every morning and accept my beating. I did it.

I looked at every school-day morning as a death-row prisoner must look at their last day on Earth, except I knew I'd have to repeat it tomorrow. Like many other kids in my school, I had easy access to guns.

If any kid ever had motive, means and opportunity to blow away their teachers and classmates, I did.

The LAST THING I would have dreamed of, however, would have been to shoot someone. I watched Elmer Fudd point a shotgun point-blank at Bugs Bunny and pull the trigger. All that happened to Bugs was a soot-covered face. Somehow, however, I knew you didn't point a shotgun at a person.

I knew you didn't kill.

Killing a human being just wasn't a concept in my mind, or in the minds of my fellow students. A respect for life was something we knew instinctively in our souls.

Most of the boys in my neighborhood had guns. Surplus 7.62mm Mausers were

sold at the local department store for \$12.00. Ammo was available at Robbys surplus store. You needed no I.D., permit or anything but two bucks to buy 150 rounds of surplus NATO ammunition. We spent Saturdays at the local trash dump shooting at rats and pretend Nazis. Other days we played war games, had BB battles, played cowboys and Indians and Cops and Robbers. For these, of course, we'd leave the 'Real' guns at home. We somehow knew they weren't toys.

We built pipe bombs filled with our own homemade black powder. We made bazookas that would shoot a dirt clod a quarter of a mile and generated hydrogen in pop bottles full of aluminum foil and lye, so we could float surplus weather balloons (ordered from the back of the Sgt. York comics) high in the sky and shoot them with flare guns just to watch them burn.

We knew that White Phosphorus (Willie Pete) could burn a hole in an engine block because we did it. We made rockets from steel broom handles and used them to launch our homemade fireworks.

Our toys had sharp edges, things that would burn you, shock you, crush your fingers and get lodged in your throat. We had knives, hatchets, axes and other potentially harmful tools.

We lived next to forests with snakes, rivers with undertow and all manner of other deadly things. We had fishhooks, spears, crossbows (mostly homemade) poisons and other potentially fatal objects all around us.

Based on the above, our recent 35th class reunion should have been attended by grieving parents and widows. SURPRISE, we're alive and well.

The difference between then and now...? Adults, however misguided they may appear in hindsight, who cared—*really* cared.

My father took me hunting when I was 8 years old, but only after I demonstrated that I knew how to handle a gun and was a crack shot. When his dog Mack brought back my first kill, a little bunny rabbit, my life changed. That lovable furry little critter that I would have loved to pet and cuddle was cold, bloody and dead. Nothing teaches a child more respect for life than holding death in his hands. From that day forward I had a deeper respect not only for life, but for what a person with a gun could do to that life in an instant. I was upset for weeks, and that respect for life is with me today.

We don't teach children fear of water, we teach them to swim. Are parents doing their children any favors by saying things like, "I never want my child to ever even see a real gun." We all know the lure the forbidden presents to children. Do we really want to foster this curiosity, or should we teach our children a healthy respect for the things that can hurt them, or others. Are we doing them a favor by completely insulating them from anything that could cut, bruise crush or burn?

My parents had their problems, and they both passed while I was in my early teens. We were not wealthy, and my father

was working most of the time. When he was there, however, he left no doubt in my mind that he cared.

Could this kind of environment possibly have something to do with the fact that none of my classmates turned into serial killers. It couldn't have been the guns, because we all had them. On the first day of deer season it wasn't unusual to see a rifle or shotgun in somebody's locker when they came in at 2:00, just in time for the last class.

One kid built a beautiful crossbow in metal shop using a leaf spring from a car. The thing would shoot a hardened steel rod through cinder block at 25 yards. He got an "A."

Of course times were different then. WWII vets and those on active duty in Korea saw atrocities and had traumatic experiences. They went away as young men and returned as trained killers. These were our parents.

We watched war movies, read really gross and violent comics (Sgt. York would be deemed too violent today.) As teens, we grew up with the horror of the VietNam war on television, and for many of us, in reality. We were forced to kill, and many of us, to die.

We lived with the threat of the bomb and practiced regular 'duck and cover' drills as if that school desktop would save us should the Russians attack. We lived with the fear of incineration and never had to have 'grief counselors' or drugs.

What we have to ask ourselves is not why times were different then, but how.

Guns haven't changed. Guns are pretty much the same as they were at the beginning of the century. They were easier to get then, but the mechanics have pretty much remained the same.

Children haven't changed. They are still born without avarice, hatred, intolerance and bigotry.

Could it be the parents who have changed?

Is this the same set of draft-dodging "generation ME" parents who also settle traffic and workplace disagreements with rage and violence?

No wonder the kids are screwed up!
But that's another rant!



This article is printed with permission from T. Stephen Eggleston (The Eggman). Rumored to have been employed by a number of three-letter agencies, Steve Eggleston (The Eggman) is currently a northern Virginia grassroots activist and member of the Virginia Citizens Defense League, Gun Owners of America, the NRA and the Association of Former Intelligence Officers. For more, visit his website at: <http://www.the-eggman.com>



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AWARENESS GAMES, SELF TRAINING

TOM GIVENS

The single most important element in your survival training is a cultivation of your awareness skills. Many people don't realize that your awareness skills are more important than your marksmanship skills. Well, you can't shoot something you don't know is there, or don't know needs to be shot!

For most people, alertness and awareness are not innate behavior traits. This is a learned behavior pattern, and like most skills, it is best learned through repetition. Make a conscious effort at first to be more aware and see the details around you. After a few weeks of effort, it will become second nature.

You should have been taught this as a child, but unfortunately, most children now are not taught this or other vital social skills. A thousand years ago, all children were taught at a very early age to be aware, alert and in tune with their surroundings. If they were inattentive, they got eaten. A hundred years ago, children were taught to be aware and pay attention to their surroundings, or the hay baler tore their arms and legs off. In our time, if you fail to pay attention to your environment, someone will cut your throat. Each example is simply a different manifestation of the exact same problem.

On the street, you must be aware of your environment. If you know who is around you and what they are up to, you are in charge. If you do not know who is around you and what they are up to, you are meat. It's that simple.

When you walk into a room, scan around and see who is in it besides you. Don't be surprised by someone you did not see. When walking on the sidewalk, glance into storefront glass and see who is behind you. Get your head up, open your eyes and look around.

Let's look at a couple of examples. Carjacking is a very common problem right now. In fact, in my city there are about 500 carjackings each year, and roughly half of the victims wind up seriously hurt. This is a perfect example of how passive attempts to fight crime just make it worse, by the way. By putting Clubs, kill switches and car alarms in your car, it is now easier to drag you out of it while it is running than to steal it from your driveway as you sleep. Where do most carjackings occur? At intersections, as you wait for the light to change.

When a typical doofus pulls up to a red light, he sits and stares at the light as if it is going to sing and dance. He then hears a tap on his window, and turns to look

into the muzzle of a gun. Too late to fix it, now. To avoid this, all he had to do was scan his surroundings instead of staring at the light. If you see a guy standing on the corner, looking at your car the way a hungry man looks at a steak, start thinking. You saw him because you were in condition yellow, and you go to condition orange and start thinking. What am I going to do? If he steps off that curb toward my car, I will accelerate around the car in front of me and be gone. Problem solved.

Another crime that really annoys me is the practice of following people home and robbing them in their driveways as they exit their vehicles. This happens two or three times a day in my city. It cannot happen unless the victim is a willing accomplice. You have to go out of your way to have this happen to you.

I say this because not one of these victims lives on a major thoroughfare. By definition, they live in residential neighborhoods. I don't care where you have been: the bank, the grocery store, the ATM, the theater. When you turn off the main drag into your neighborhood, look in the rearview mirror. It's not there to shave on the way to work or to put on makeup. It's there specifically to see what kind of car

“You need to see the gun when it is still in his pocket, not when he pulls it out and points it at you.”

is behind you. You make a turn into the neighborhood. Again, look in the mirror. You turn onto your street. Again, look in the mirror. If you have made three turns inside your neighborhood, and the same ragged-assed car is right behind you, you have a problem. It is, however, a relatively small problem at this point. You are still mobile and in control, and most importantly, you are aware of it. If, on the other hand, you are too damned lazy to look in your mirror three times, and you pull in your driveway, open your door, and find a guy standing there with a gun in your face, you have a much bigger problem. Fix it the easy way, by being alert. Every fight you avoid, you win.

There are some exercises to help you become more aware. As a car passes you in traffic, look away and quickly describe it to yourself. What were its make, model, color, and license number? Was it a 2 door or 4 door? What were the gender, race and age of the driver? Of the passenger? Look back and see how much information you got right. When you walk past someone in the mall, mentally describe him. Hair color? Glasses or facial hair? Shirt, pants, shoes? Turn around and look. How much did you get right?

Right now, close your eyes. Visualize your own living room. Describe every detail to yourself as you visualize it. Describe the paintings on the wall. What is the title of the book lying on the floor by the couch? What color is the coffee cup you left on the table?

What most of us refer to as vision is actually a two-part process, which involves “sight” and “observation.” Sight refers to the actual physical process of having light enter your eyes and make images on your retina, which are then neurally transmitted to your brain. Observation refers to the process of sorting, prioritizing and making sense of those images. This is where the typical person falls short.

Human beings are visually oriented creatures. Our eyes have been elevated off of the ground with our upright posture. They have been moved to the front of our head for stereoscopic vision, and our visual acuity is among the best of all living creatures. For a typical person, roughly 70 to 75% of all sensory input is visual. However, the average person only consciously processes about 10% of the total visual input the brain receives from the eyes. This is pathetic.

You must learn to raise this level of consciousness through actual specific effort. You need to see the gun when it is still in his pocket, not when he pulls it out and points it at you. You need to see him standing behind that column in the parking garage, not when he is in your face. Shame on you if you get a speeding ticket! You should have seen the cop long before he could get a radar reading on you. If that were your girlfriend’s husband behind that bush, with a rifle instead of a cop with a radar gun, you’d be dead now!

Let me give you a recent example of how being alert allows you to avoid problems. My wife and I stopped at a local barbecue joint for a sandwich on a recent Saturday afternoon. We were sitting in a corner booth, by the entrance. Anyone who entered the place had to walk past us to approach the counter, giving us a good view and putting us behind anyone who started a problem. (In a retail environment, the cash register is the center of likely events. Be away from it, and in position to see it.) Every time the door opened to admit a patron, my wife and I simply glanced up from our lunch to briefly look them over. This in no way interfered with our conversation or our lunch, but we were simply aware of our surroundings (condition yellow). The third guy to come in was a young man of about twenty. He was wearing worn, denim jeans, and clearly outlined in the right rear pocket

In one, the subject is walking with his head down, hands in pocket, oblivious to his surroundings. In the second, the subject has his head up, scanning the parking lot, keys in hand to enter his vehicle quickly when he reaches it. Which subject is more likely to be selected by a mugger?



was a small, semi-automatic pistol. He had been sitting on it in his car, and the gun’s outline was clearly printing through the material of his pants. As he passed on toward the register, I quietly asked my wife, “Did you see the gun?” “It looks like a Lorcin

.380,” she replied. (She’s very good at this!) We went to condition orange. I continued eating, but kept an eye on the young man, assessing him. As the customer in front of him paid for her order, the young man got up on his toes and checked the contents of the till over her shoulder. Condition Red!

Then it was obvious that he was planning a stick-up. I emptied my hands and mentally prepared for possible violence. However, before pulling a gun and announcing a stick-up, he decided to scan the restaurant and take a head count first. As he turned to me, his eyes got very wide and he ran out of the store, got in his car and sped away, without ever doing anything remotely aggressive. What did he see that scared him so badly? I looked him right in the eye and smiled. He knew that I knew, and that I was prepared to deal with him. This was a perfect example of violence that did not happen because I was alert and aware of my surroundings. Situational awareness is often situational dominance!

The scary part was that no one else in the place, customer or staff, noticed any of this interplay. They did not see the gun, did not notice him checking the till, and did not even notice him hustling out of the place. Other than my wife and me, every single person in the restaurant was in condition white.

The predators are out there. They are looking for the distracted and the preoccupied. If you shuffle around, with your head down, looking at your feet, you might as well wear a sign around your neck that says, “Take me. I am a victim.” Get your head up, open your eyes, and move them around. Take that damned sign off and get rid of it! Whether you are going to be a victim is not up to them. It’s up to you.

Tom Givens—I am a full time trainer, with over twenty five years’ experience. I have had about 85 articles published over the years in SWAT Magazine, Combat Handguns, Petersen Handguns, Soldier of Fortune and other publications. I am certified as an expert witness on firearms training in both state and federal courts, and I own a firearms training school, Rangemaster, in Memphis.



George Hill

Ranger

Taurus Titanium 605

What kind of gun is it that attracts your eye when you are skimming across the counter at a well stocked gun shop? Shiny ones? Big ones? One's with scopes? Let me bring your attention to one that is none of those things. It's a rather flat, gray colored revolver, small, and very simple. In fact, it is so simple that some might think that this would be a suitable handgun for a novice to start out with...and usually this assumption would be correct. However, in this case, you would be so wrong that you might turn off the novice from shooting forever.

When I picked up this gun from my federally licensed dealer, he handed me the black, lockable case from across the counter. I took the case from his hands and instantly thought that the case was empty. Right there, I had to open the case to see if a weapon really was in there. I was surprised to see that there was. I felt like Will Smith's Agent, "J," from "Men in Black" when I picked the gun up; "Man, I'm going to break this damn thing." Turns out that this is about the closest thing to

a "Noisy Cricket" that you are going to want to get. This is the Taurus model 605n according to the sticker on the box, but it looks like the production version is the 605sh2. The 605 is much like the last two guns I've reviewed, in that this is another "J-Frame" sized, five shot, .357 magnum revolver. This is where all similarity ends.

Line for line, it is almost an exact copy of a typical J-Frame, and dimensionally it is the same as my S&W model 650, a revolver that I love a great deal. Ounce for ounce...well...you would have to stack three of these 605s on the scale to balance the single 650. And the 650 is not a weighty pistol. The Taurus Titanium 605 weighs a claimed 16 ounces, but it feels like a lot less. Taurus' website also says that the construction is "steel." I can see some of the parts are steel, like the trigger, hammer, and the barrel insert, but the rest is very lightweight titanium. This is an incredibly small amount of heft for a platform from which one launches .357 Magnum projectiles. Sixteen ounces, multiplied by 158 grain magnum loads, equals a

tremendous amount of felt recoil. This is why a novice shooter is better off with something else. Let me explain this. Even experienced shooters can develop a flinch from a harsh recoiling handgun. Flinching in a novice shooter is something that takes a lot of training to train out. Luckily, since this is a .357 magnum revolver, one can load it with light .38 Special ammunition and practice all day long. But this isn't what I did. When I picked up the 605, I also grabbed a couple boxes of heavy .357 magnum ammunition of different sorts because Taurus claims that its handguns are all +P capable. I wanted to test this.

Before I report on the shooting, let me give you my impressions of this little gun. While examining it, I found that it was extremely well made and well finished. S&W would be proud to have put out such a product. Any company would have been. Taurus has the reputation of being second fiddle to S&W when it comes to revolvers, and in the past, this reputation was deserved because it was quiet true. This is no longer the case. Taurus has made

some great efforts to improve the quality of their products, and they have gone to some lengths to distance themselves from being a mere clone maker. Most of Taurus' product lineup consists of revolvers very unique from anything Smith and Wesson makes. The Tracker series is a line of handguns perfect for anyone wanting to hit a trail in our great outdoors. The Raging series which includes Raging Bull and Raging Hornet revolvers are perfect for sports and hunting—strong and capable of firing the hottest rounds out there with perfect accuracy. I've fired several and have found them to be excellent revolvers. It used to be that if you wanted a revolver, there was S&W and there was Ruger, and if you couldn't afford those, there was Taurus. That's just the way it was. WAS. Nowadays, a Taurus can go toe to toe with anything out there. Again, let me remind you of Taurus' lifetime warranty, something that S&W doesn't offer. When I have called Taurus in the past, I was always greeted with the honest attitude of "What can we do for you?" Taurus wants you to be pleased with their guns and their services, because if you are not, your next gun will not likely be another Taurus. They understand that, something I wish other gun makers would clue in on. I don't need to go over the last time I called Beretta USA, but the feeling I got on that call was that I was keeping the guy from something more important, like his game of Solitaire on his computer.

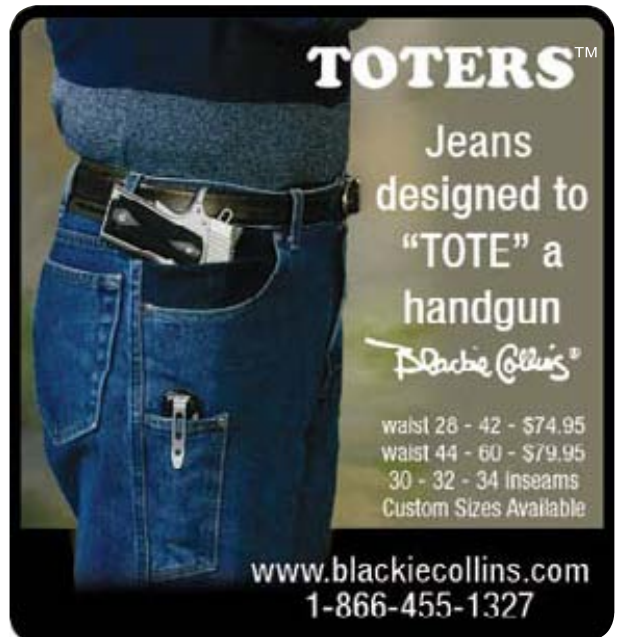
The one feature I did not like on the gun is the locking system. There on the back of the hammer is a little tiny locking mechanism matched to a little tiny key. The idea is that you are much safer if you lock the gun up when you are not using it. I have another idea...if you have to lock up your gun with a little tiny key, then maybe you shouldn't have a gun. If a bad guy is

kicking in your door at 3:00 a.m. and 911 says "Hold Please"... I don't think the goblin with the crowbar in his hand is going to give you a minute to go get your gun, then go find your keys, then fumble with them in a panic until you finally manage to get that little tiny key into that little tiny hole. No thank you. But it seems that you have to have some sort of locking system on any new gun these days, and personally I think this is a better arrangement than what S&W is doing, putting the lock on the side of the frame.

Looking at this 605 at the same time I was looking at my 650...the 650 has a better double-action pull. That's important because it is a hammerless design and the 605 isn't. The 605 has the traditional hammer spur that lets you thumb-cock the action so you can fire the pistol with a short, crisp, single-action pull. The single-action pull on the Taurus is surprisingly very good. This was a contributing factor in the 605's accuracy. But more on that later.

When I loaded it up to fire it for the first time, I noticed how easily each cartridge slipped into each cylinder. Then I locked the loaded cylinder shut. I noticed that the lock-up in the cylinder was nice and tight, more so than my Smith. A little play in the cylinder is a normal thing, but this Taurus had not a bit. That's a good sign.

When I addressed my target, I took up a good two handed stance, braced for the expected recoil, thumbed back the hammer, closed my left eye, and pulled



back on the trigger. Pow! The recoil was sharp! Ouch! But it wasn't so bad. The 605's grips are made from a nice rubber compound that really helps. I'm afraid that if it was sporting some wood grips, I'd have been picking shards of splintered wood from out of my palm. I fired another shot, and then another. Then I noticed with pleasure that all my shots were impacting the target all right there, where I wanted them to. Lovely! The shot group was much tighter than I expected. About two inches at 15 paces. This is good enough accuracy for almost any handgun, but out of a snub nosed revolver that almost weighs less than the box that it came in, this is outstanding. After the fifth shot, I noticed a small pain in my palm, but I ignored it. I unlocked the cylinder and was about to eject the empty cartridges when I noticed some blood on my hand. "You little minx," I thought. The recoil was sharp, but there was nothing that should have drawn blood. Nothing on the gun cut me, but there was a tear in the flesh of my right hand palm that wasn't there before I started shooting. I don't know how to explain this, and I know that this might even open myself up to a lot of jokes about what sort of friction could cause injury to a guy's right hand palm... but hey, I'm just reporting the facts here.

To continue, I went ahead to eject the empty cartridges. This didn't go so well. One of the cylinders was stubborn, as four empty shells fell right out. Four out of five isn't that bad if you are playing Rock Paper Scissors. You could go to the RPS Championships with that sort of regular performance. In a weapon, this doesn't cut it. The gun was clean when I got it, but I



Continued on page 18



Taurus Titanium 605 Specifications

Caliber	.357 Magnum
Length	6.50 in.
Width	1.378 in.
Height	4.77 in.
Barrel Length	2.00 in.
Cylinder Capacity	5

here, “yeah baby!”) I went through all of my .357 ammo testing this little gun. The sticky chamber never got any better, but the cylinder lock-up never loosened either, and the accuracy never opened up. Titanium is some amazing stuff, isn’t it? Very light, but very strong.

Overall, I’m very pleased with this 605. I’d have to get that sticky chamber sorted out, but once that was done, I think this would make one heck of a fine revolver for CCW, especially for someone who carries “Off Body,” such as in a planner or purse, or maybe in a front pocket. Those Dockers Hidden Pocket slacks come to mind as the perfect match for this gun. I couldn’t think of a better choice for ankle carry for someone wanting to pack a .357 maggie. Have you ever watched the movie “The French Connection?” Great movie. Our hero in that feature carries a small revolver in an ankle rig. Had he been given the choice, I think he would have picked a 605 Titanium too. I also think he might have decided to just load it with .38 Special ammunition, which is what I suggest. .357 Magnum loads could be reserved for loading should you have to take a trip downtown after dark, or for your speed loaders, because if you have to reload fast, you probably need the extra potency. But in most situations, I think some .38 Special Gold Dots would serve most anyone just fine in this gun.

MSRP on this thing is only \$375, which is fantastic for what you are getting for your money. I am trying to decide if I should send this gun back to Taurus for repair and with a check, or return it with a note telling them to check out the cylinder. I can’t decide.

For more information:
<http://www.taurususa.com>

George Hill is an NRA Certified Pistol and Personal Protection instructor and the writer and publisher of MadOgre.com. Visit his website for more information on MadOgre.
<http://www.madogre.com>

took it apart and went over everything with an oil moistened swab before I went out to shoot it. I dragged a dry swab over everything again, through all the cylinders and I didn’t find any burrs or anything of the sort, yet this one chamber in the cylinder remains “sticky.” Had this been my own gun that I actually owned, I’d have called Taurus right then and there. Really, I would have. Believe it or not, out here in the middle of nowhere, I do have at least 3 bars on my cell phone. No, really. Taurus would have said something like, “Well, send it in and we’ll make it right.” And I would have, and they would have. So I wouldn’t have been worried, but this is an annoyance. Okay, more than an annoyance, this is flat unacceptable in a gun that I’m going to stake my life on. Other Taurus revolvers I’ve shot have never shown this problem before, so I’m going to chalk this up as a fluke, in good faith. When I send this unit back to Taurus, I’m going to do so with a note for them to sort this problem out, and I know they will. Taurus is a good outfit. But I’m not just reporting what my assumptions are, because I did call Taurus

about this. Not right there, but the next day. Had I wanted, the arrangements would have been made to send the gun in, and if they could not have fixed the problem, the gun would have been replaced with a new one. If that model was not available, they would have replaced it with a similar unit of equal or even greater value. Like I said, they wanted me to be happy. I didn’t tell them I was in the middle of a review for a gun magazine, so I expect that this would have been the same service that you would have received had you called Taurus.

This goes to show you that Taurus did not send me a “Ringer,” a specially selected revolver to send to a gun writer. No, pretty much, this was an off-the-shelf unit. It did sport a nice little ring around the cylinder, so this gun was not new; it’s been fired before. Makes me wonder about the gun writer that fired it before me. Why didn’t he report the sticky chamber? Maybe he didn’t fire all five shots? Believe me; it was tempting to stop shooting after five shots! But it was kind of like Angelina Jolie biting my lip. Hurts, but enjoyable in a sick, freaky sort of way. (Insert an Austin Powers growl

ARMS AND THE WOMAN

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY: OLEG VOLK

Niki has gone from fear to competency with small arms in less than a year. The Entry model SLR15 is sized just right for her.

“It’s more amazing that it talks at all, than how well it speaks,” said Samuel Johnson about a talking dog. The same sense of amazement used to elicit phrases like “Really good shooting...for a woman,” with which to dismiss accomplishments of a shooter. The gun owning woman, though more common than in the decades past, remains less common than the gun owning man. With other mature technologies, such as cars and computers, there is no similar gap between the sexes. Guns are inherently egalitarian, equalizing physical disparities and offering greater marginal benefits precisely to those who are, on average, less strong.

In most training classes, I’ve encountered no female students at all. On networking sites, usually fewer than ten women in the entire country list shooting as a hobby, whereas hundreds of men do. Not a single prominent firearm designer is female. Why is it that women who own guns, carry them and train with them are so rare?

The traditional reason is the lack of martial tradition dating back to the age when weapons required strength. Historic military movies do not show many fighting women. Even today, warfare requires strength and endurance beyond most women’s capabilities. While many boys grow up playing soldiers, few girls do. While it may be healthier that girls do not imagine themselves doing some government’s bidding, it also reduces their interest in martial role playing. Parents who do not expect an

interest in guns from their daughters do not reinforce it. Yet the lack of support cannot be the sole or the main reason. After all, many ranges waive range fees to women on certain days. Most men are willing to provide support and cover expenses whenever women around them show even the slightest desire to learn gun handling.

Another tradition has been the relatively heavy reliance on men or government agencies for physical protection. For a busy couple, it would make sense to specialize in the tasks for which each has greater aptitude. Since men have always held a comparative advantage over women in close combat, many couples viewed home and family defense as men’s work. If a single weapon was available, it was usually sized to fit an adult male. With the romantic literature glorifying men who shield women from the harshness of the world, it is easy to forget that personal defense is not something that can be effectively delegated to another. Even an attempt at such delegation comes at the cost of dependency.

That brings us to the third reason, the unsuitability of most weapons for smaller users. Shorter, smaller and with less upper body strength than men, women have a harder time handling heavy guns or guns with long stocks. More recently, an entire category of guns eminently suitable for female users has been restricted and all new models made illegal for civilian ownership. Submachine guns and their recent branch, personal defense weapons, are ideal for women because of compact dimensions and low recoil. Still, plenty of arms of reasonable weight and size exist, and the relative scarcity of female gun owners cannot be explained entirely by the technical limitations.

Continued on page 20



“Is this state of affairs a problem?” you might ask. It is truly a problem which affects men and women, though in different ways. On women, gun ownership confers a greater marginal benefit than on men, as it enhances their safety by a greater amount. Samuel Colt’s observation about the equalizing influence of revolvers is especially true in bridging the defense capability gap between the sexes. For men, the problem at home is in the necessity to provide close protection to their wives and children. A woman unarmed is a poor protector for her children, and that is a concern to many fathers. Further, women unversed in armed self-defense and unappreciative of guns are unlikely to be very supportive of their husbands’ gun rights and interests. It is, therefore, in the direct interest of men to bring more women into the fold of gun ownership.

Not all is gloomy on this count. The number of women participating in gun sports has been growing slowly, and

Morrigan has been shooting under parental supervision since age 5. At 7, she uses a bolt action .22 and a .223 autoloader to hone her marksmanship skills.



likewise the number of women who carry firearms for self-protection. That is probably in part due to the liberalization of laws regulating legal carry. Women who participate in sports shooting tend to do well, benefiting from better average hand-eye coordination than men. Women have also moved to the vanguard of pro-gun political activism, leading the NRA and many regional organizations.

Despite the improvements, women remain underrepresented in all venues gun-related. On firearm web forums, perhaps one in fifty users is female. Families where the primary or sole gun owner is female are extremely rare. This imbalance is detrimental to our future and should be addressed. Gun ownership can follow the precedent of car ownership: once almost entirely a male club, now the domain of both sexes equally.

Few women would want to depend on men for their transportation and, hopefully, equally few would wish to be dependent for safety. As with car ownership, this evolution of attitudes can be quite rapid.

We can do a few things to bring more women to gun ownership. Parents can teach and encourage their daughters just as they teach and encourage their sons. Just as with other laudable skills and attitudes, parents can best teach responsible gun ownership by example. The best role models would be everyday people who happen to be gun owners, rather than the famous or the notorious. Unfortunately, in movies or books, gun-owning characters are seldom the mundane. The lack of realistic media representation of gun-owning women outside of police, military, super heroes or villains is another reason why relatively few young women acquire guns on their own.

To adult women, the benefits of competency with weapons are considerable. In addition to the obvious improvement to safety, gun ownership adds a considerable advantage in dating. Many men prefer armed



Jon and Leigh with their wedding presents to each other. Leigh got Jon into the armed lifestyle.

women as dates for several reasons. The first is that providing properly for self-protection is usually one of many related traits of assertive, capable women with a strong sense of personal responsibility. The second is that such women would be accepting and supportive of the men’s gun-related interests and lifestyle choices. The third is that defense training, armed or unarmed, teaches realistic threat assessment. An armed woman is far less likely than a defenseless one to mis-identify a peaceful male as a danger to her. The long-term preference for armed women comes from the desire to protect the children from adversity. A man who cannot always guard his progeny would consider a spouse capable of providing protection far superior to the less capable women.

Our task, important and urgent, is to provide the support framework for all new shooters. We should give the female novices the same support we extend to the men. The sole concession to their specific requirements would have to be rifles with shorter stocks and pistols with smaller grips, just to ensure good fit. Hopefully, in the next generation women with guns would be as common and unremarkable as men with guns. That may be a change to the detriment of the bad hominids, but much to the improvement of the civilization as we know it.

Oleg Volk runs *thehighroad.org* forum for the advancement of responsible firearm ownership, and *www.a-human-right.com*. He is a multimedia professor and an advertising designer in Nashville, TN. Please visit his website at: *www.olegvolk.net*

the Ordinary guy

Column by Mark A. Walters
VOL.7

ORDINARY OBSERVATIONS

HURRICANE KATRINA

What else needs to be said? How many times do we need to see in our own lifetimes, with our own eyes, that a firearm is absolutely necessary for personal protection in the event of any type of major disaster? How many times do we need to witness the shop owner with a handgun strapped to the waist and a shotgun in hand, defend his livelihood from looters? How many times do we need to witness the homeowner defending his/her property from the same disgusting excuse for a human being? The Second Amendment ain't about huntin' folks.

MY GLOCKS

I have been an avid Glock fanatic for many years and it's my personal belief that the Glock 17 is the perfect handgun. (I won't go into why, let's just say that's what I think). In addition to the Glock 17, my stable included the Glock 23. Well, during a particularly slow day at work one afternoon, I decided to spend the lunch hour perusing my local gun shop, when I saw it, the Beretta 92FS INOX. She was staring back at me from the glass case, begging to be fondled and who was I to resist? Once it was in my hands, the love affair began.

Over the past couple of years, I have found myself carrying the full-size Glock 17 far more often than the smaller 23. I know, I know...but I really don't want to get into the whole 9mm vs. 40 cal. debate (I'll leave that to George), but the 9mm works for me and there is nothing quite like the feel of a full-size handgun, regardless of the caliber. It feels good, it fits my hand and it fits my carry methods.

Anyway, my Glock's hadn't seen the light of day since I purchased the Beretta and I began to feel sorry for them. They needed air, they needed to be loved and touched. They needed the affection due

them and they were not getting it from me...so I decided to let them go. I took them back to my local dealer and asked to trade the 17 and 23 with all of their appropriate accessories and that's when I saw it...another 92FS, blue steel, equipped with Crimson Trace laser grips. An even trade was agreed upon and I walked out the proud parent of another Beretta. Stainless steel for daytime carry and the sleek, stealthy, laser equipped, blue steel for nighttime carry. Oh Baby.

MY HOLSTER DRAWER

It includes every holster known to mankind, it is overflowing and it has grown every year with every firearm I've ever owned. I have some pretty cool stuff in that drawer and I can't bring myself to empty it. My recent decision to carry the full-size weapon rather than the smaller compacts, coupled with my fresh purchase of the two Berettas will, no doubt, make my holster selections a little easier. So easy, in fact, that I recently contacted the fine folks at Galco and had a few shipped down for my review.

I can now say that I am carrying my Berettas in the finest holsters I have ever worn. In particular, I am wearing two of them regularly and will now begin cleaning out that holster drawer. The first is the Galco Concealable Belt Holster, a leather OWB that rides high and tight on the right hip and conceals magnificently under any outerwear. I prefer it with jeans or shorts and a loose fitting, un-tucked shirt. The second is the Galco Royal Guard IWB in horsehide. I've never been a big fan of inside-the-waistband carry...You know, the whole "bigger pants" thing. I'm not having any trouble increasing my pant size on my own without having to worry about stuffing a full-size gun holster down the side of my drawers. However, the horsehide makes this one of the most comfortable holsters I have ever worn IWB. It wears extremely well with virtually any pair of shorts, slacks, jeans and un-tucked outerwear.

As I've mentioned before on these pages, I'm not on anyone's payroll, but I

would certainly recommend either of these choices, at least for those of you who carry a full-size firearm. These holsters make the full-size as comfortable to carry as a compact gun.

DIRTBAGS IN GENERAL

Ya know, I'm speechless and you can ask anyone who knows me and they'll tell you that I'm not usually at a loss for words. I got a call from my younger sister, Joanie, who lives north of Atlanta and she proceeded to tell me about this carjacker who got a taste of his own medicine when he was shot and killed by a passer-by who witnessed his crimes. Now, this dirtbag, this waste of good breathable air, carjacked a young mother and forced her to drive to an ATM, stole her money and shot her. You know the routine. The bullet didn't kill her and a passer-by witnessed the victim fighting for her life with this loser and gave chase to the car.

Of course, this is where the story got really ugly. The car got slammed by a passing concrete truck and this young woman, this local business owner, this hero, wife and mother of two toddlers, was killed instantly. As always seems to happen, the criminal, this waste of human flesh, escaped injury. Upon exiting the vehicle, he was confronted by Mr. Shawn T. Roberts, the passer-by, who happened to have a GA firearm license and was carrying his sidearm. If there was any bright side to this terrible story, it was when Mr. Roberts ended the existence of the carjacker with three shots, dropping him on the side of the road. Justice served.

Mark A. Walters is the Director of Gun Safety Education and an NRA Certified Instructor in 3 disciplines. He is also the owner of 45 Caliber Transfer, LLC and a local firearms/Second Amendment activist in his hometown.



DUANE A. DAIKER

PHOTOGRAPHY: TERESA DAIKER

YOUR DEFENSIVE HANDGUN:

TO PORT OR NOT TO PORT?

THAT IS THE QUESTION! Porting on defensive handguns has become very popular in recent years. Porting seems to be most prevalent in revolvers because of the tendency to pack powerful calibers into relatively small and light carry packages. Taurus and Smith & Wesson both offer a wide variety of ported revolvers designed especially for concealed carry, and there are many gunsmiths who will port your favorite carry gun. Porting, however, is not confined to wheel guns, and many semi-autos can be had in ported configurations, including several Glock models, and many others can be ported by after-market conversions.

So...should you port your defensive handgun? Raise this question in your favorite gun shop or on an Internet forum and you will likely have an avalanche of strong and varied opinions. In order to make some headway on this question, I decided to run some tests and see for myself.

The Guns and the Testing

In order to fully evaluate the value of porting, I needed two nearly identical guns—one ported, and one not. Marc Morganti of Gemini Customs graciously provided me with two nearly identically

configured Ruger SP-101s in .357 Magnum. One gun had Gemini Customs' exclusive Hybra Port porting—a series of five ports down the length of the three inch barrel. The other had similar bits of Marc's magic applied (see the sidebar to this article), but no porting. These two short-barreled revolvers provided an excellent test bed to see just what porting could do for a carry gun.

I tested both guns extensively, over several range sessions, with a wide variety of defensive grade ammunition in both .357 Magnum and .38 Special (both standard and +P loads). These handsome guns (and the



The only significant difference between these guns is the Hybra Port modification shown on the top SP-101.

promise of free ammo) attracted a variety of on-lookers who also compared the guns and helped me with the subjective analysis.

The Results

The first question was, “Do ported guns perform better than non-ported guns?” If not, the analysis could probably end there. If so, a second question would be, “Are there drawbacks to porting that outweigh the benefits?”

Advantages of Porting

The claimed advantage of a ported firearm is to reduce or eliminate muzzle rise upon firing, resulting in faster follow-up shots. Many people mistakenly believe that porting reduces felt recoil, which is not technically true. Until Newton’s Third Law of Motion is repealed, firing a bullet from a gun is always going to impart an equal force of “recoil” to the gun. However, porting functions to re-direct a portion of the hot, expanding gasses escaping from the firearm to a different direction, altering the direction of the recoil force to some degree. By porting the top of a barrel, some of the escaping gasses are directed out of the top of the barrel, causing a downward force on the barrel, which counteracts the natural inclination of the barrel to rise sharply on recoil. (Physics majors, please direct all complaint letters to the e-mail address at the end of the article—I am doing the best I can).

So what does all that mean? Porting a handgun should result in less muzzle rise. Less muzzle rise keeps the sights on target—or closer to the target—permitting quicker follow-up shots.

My experience with the ported SP-101 confirmed the effectiveness of porting to reduce muzzle lift. Although this type of testing is very subjective, I believe the porting significantly reduced, and in fact almost eliminated, muzzle rise—even with hot .357 Magnum loads. Interestingly, the porting works better as the loads get hotter. With .357 Magnum loads, the SP shot nearly flat. The non-ported SP-101, by comparison, would experience significant muzzle rise and deliver a sharp snap to the wrist. The ported gun was unquestionably easier to shoot fast and much easier on the wrist.

However, the reduced or eliminated muzzle rise does not tell the entire story. While the ported gun was easier to shoot with hot loads, it was not necessarily more pleasant overall. The side effect of porting is that much more of the gun’s blast—i.e., the noise and concussion—is directed toward

the shooter, as opposed to downrange. The perceived blast was considerably more with the ported gun, and was a bit disconcerting at first. I am not sure that recoil-shy shooters will necessarily prefer a ported gun, although those with weak or arthritic wrists certainly will.

Disadvantages of Porting

With the advantages of porting comes a series of potential disadvantages that must be considered.

Shooting from retention or unusual positions. Modern pistol training techniques teach the student to draw to, and potentially shoot from, a retention position—where the gun is held tight up against the body near the armpit. Close range struggles may require shooting from unusual positions while grappling, ground fighting, or struggling for control of the gun. These positions can cause potential problems with a ported handgun because firing with the ports oriented toward the shooter can result in the hot expanding gasses, particles and unburned powder causing discomfort, distraction or even injury. This is a danger that has to be taken into account when using a ported handgun. Of course, this potential problem can be largely overcome by proper training and attention to the orientation of the gun when firing. For example, rotating the gun slightly to the outside of the body while holding in a retention position can be effective to redirect the ported blast—but it has to be practiced and ingrained into the shooter’s training.

Reduction of night vision. Many critics will say that the porting of flaming gasses into the shooter’s line of vision (over the sighting plane of the gun) will have a negative effect on night vision. This is, of course, another very subjective issue. I found in my testing that the flash caused by the ports had no more detrimental effect on my vision than the huge fireball and flash emanating from the end of the unported barrel. Excessive muzzle flash is very common on large caliber, short-barreled guns because all of the powder is not burned in the barrel, and the porting makes little

difference to me. Regardless of porting, the amount of flash can be controlled to some extent by proper ammo selection.

Reduction of bullet velocity. By drilling holes in the barrel of the gun, some of the hot, expanding gasses that are pushing the bullet down the barrel are allowed to escape before the bullet exits the barrel. This effect necessarily results in some loss of velocity to the bullet being fired. Some of the results of my testing are reproduced in the accompanying chart. The chart shows results for Winchester’s “white box,” personal protection ammo in .357 Magnum, and shows a loss of approximately 100 feet per second caused by the porting. Results were similar with other brands, although the slower .38 Special loads lost slightly less velocity on a percentage basis. Based on this sample, a difference of 100 or so feet per second on a .357 Magnum load would not seem to be a real disadvantage in and of itself. Other guns and other loads, of course, may have different results, but the relatively small decrease in velocity is probably not a major factor in deciding if porting is right for you.

Fouling of sights. As a minor concern, some ported handguns will deposit soot on the front sight, which can change the sight picture and potentially obscure a gold bead, a red ramp, or even a tritium night sight. This type of fouling is usually not at significant levels after firing the number of shots reasonably anticipated in a defensive engagement. For most applications, this would seem to be a minor concern.

Conclusions

The selection of a defensive handgun is a highly personal choice, as is the decision to port your gun. Ultimately, only you can decide what fits your needs. Porting is very effective to reduce or eliminate muzzle rise and the accompanying wrist snap and discomfort. For those with weak or damaged wrists, porting could be a wonderful solution. Also, those who highly value and desire the ability to deliver multiple shots

Continued on page 24

Non-Ported SP-101			Ported SP-101		
Winchester .357 Magnum 110 grain JHP					
Velocity (fps)	Run 1 5 rounds	Run 2 5 rounds	Velocity (fps)	Run 1 5 rounds	Run 2 5 rounds
High	1285	1249	High	1158	1163
Low	1222	1239	Low	1114	1114
Average	1249	1242	Average	1133	1140



Two nicely modified Ruger SP-101s from Gemini Customs were used for testing.

as quickly as possible should seriously consider a ported gun. However, those committing to carrying a ported gun must be aware of the characteristics of their gun and train appropriately with that firearm. Many well known instructors discourage ported carry guns because of the extra level of complexity or training required to mind the ports and the possible effect of the gasses expelled from the ports. Ultimately, however, balancing the advantages and the disadvantages are a personal decision for each of us to make.

About Gemini Customs

Marc Morganti of Gemini Customs has been in business since 1997 and does a wide variety of custom gunsmithing to Ruger and Smith & Wesson revolvers, as well as 1911 pistols. The SP-101s shown in this article were completely re-worked as part of Gemini's SP-101 package deals. Gemini Customs is the exclusive outlet for the Hybra Port brand of porting originally developed by Jack Weigand. I have seen several examples of Marc's work and it is exceptional. Whether you decide to port or not to port, I highly recommend Gemini Customs.

www.gemini-customs.com



Duane A. Daiker writes on firearms and concealed carry issues as a Contributing Editor of Concealed Carry Magazine. Duane shoots regularly in club IPSC matches and is the moderator of the Rohrbaugh Forum: www.RohrbaughForum.com Contact Duane at: Duane@Daiker.net

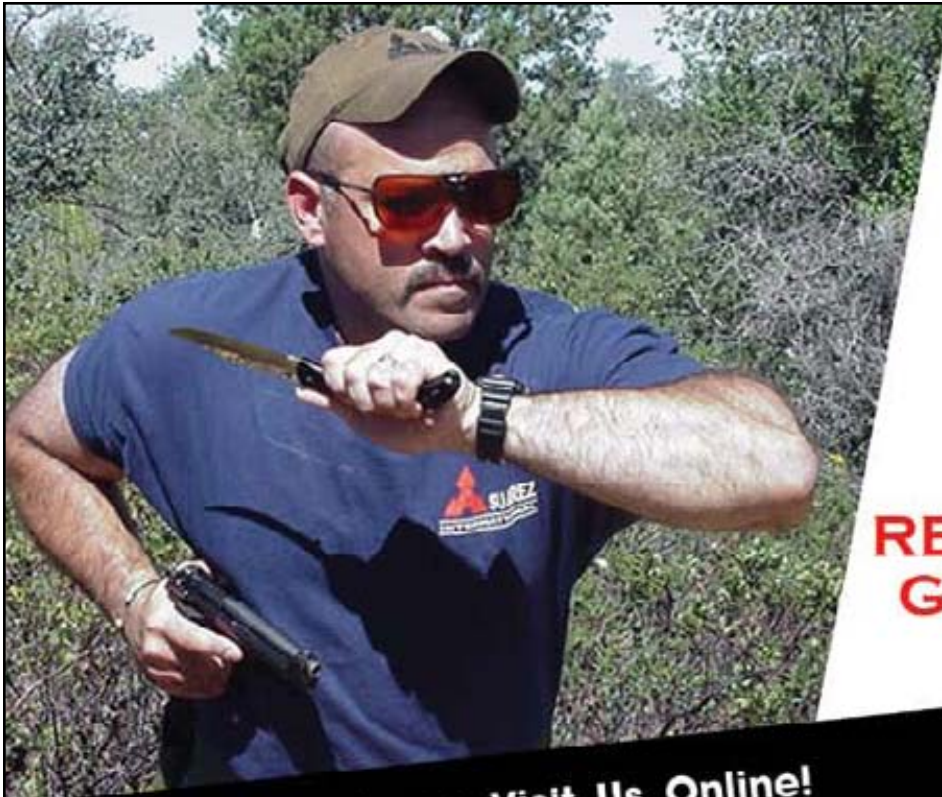
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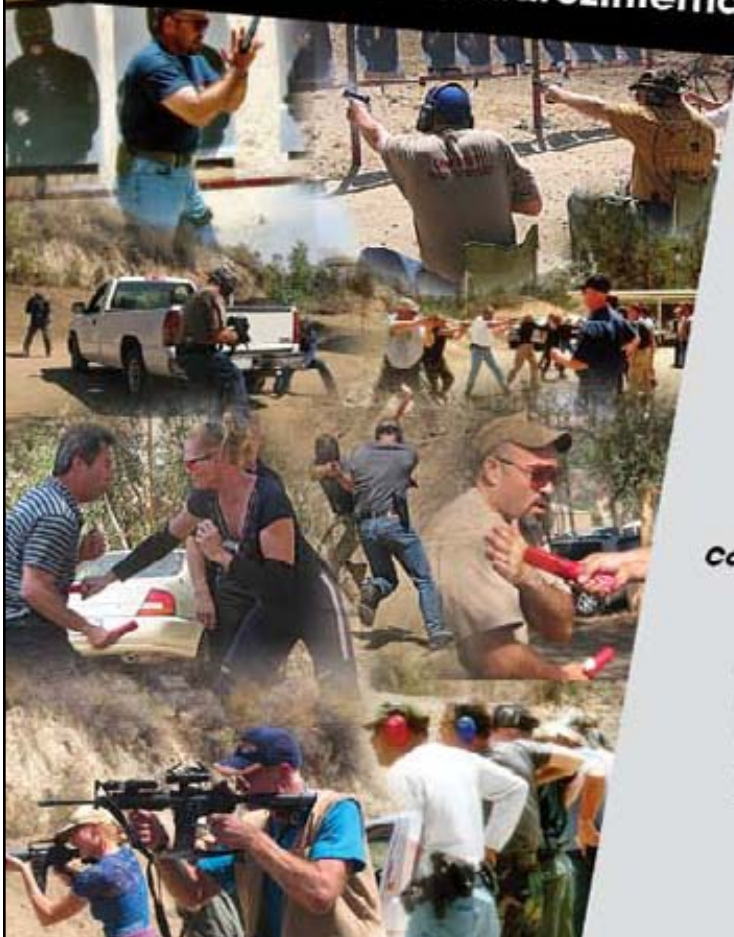


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FINAL OPTION..

should be your first choice

Kevin Michalowski

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All live-fire training at Final Option is done on reactionary steel targets. The targets provide instant feedback and are computer-controlled to show real-world shooting times and target sizes.

Firearms training should not simply put a gun in your hand and point you toward a target. There's so much more to self-defense. A good school will teach you what you don't know, not simply to hone your marksmanship skills.

Minnesota-based Final Option Tactical Firearms Training School provides practical, legal, ethical and real-world training in a perfect mix of classroom, range and reality-based training. If you leave the school not knowing more than when you started, you just weren't paying attention.

The Final Option Advanced Concealed Carry Course is an intense weekend, packed with information and training that will not only make you a better shooter, but will also increase your understanding of the real-world meaning of self-defense. It's a lot to take in, but Tony Caspers and his team of instructors keep the training focused and the students involved.

"This type of training is about as close as we can get to the real thing. The difference is, you should know you're not going to die in this class," says Caspers, founder and lead instructor at Final Option. And Caspers knows about the real thing. As a decorated, 11-year veteran of the Minneapolis PD Emergency Response Unit, Caspers has utilized every element of the training he provides. The fact that he is alive to talk about it is proof that it works.

The "real thing" Caspers refers to is a phenomenally stressful situation that could end up with you fighting for your life.

In those few seconds you've got to make all the right decisions and follow through with the correct actions. That's what self-defense is about. To induce stress and teach students to deal with it, Final Option trains students in reactive shooting. Simply put, all the shooting elements on the range are timed. Targets appear and disappear and the action doesn't stop just because you have to do something like reload or clear a malfunction.

"If you get rattled on the line with us pushing you to improve and the targets popping up and down, imagine what it's going to be like if you ever really have to use your gun," says Caspers.

Because it is a concealed carry course, students are expected to draw from concealment, fire and reholster in accordance with the instructor's commands. In the Advanced Concealed Carry course, students are expected to have some experience with their gun and holster rig. While it is assumed that each student has some basic level of skill, the staff also takes the time to go over the basics for those who might need a refresher.

A computer controlled, targeting system raises and lowers targets according to the sequences directed by Caspers. When the target appears, you shoot it. The steel targets provide instant feedback and instructors patrol the line, providing encouragement and pointing out problems that get in the way of accurate shooting. Each sequence gives the shooters only a few seconds to score the required hits before the targets disappear—and don't get caught shooting late.

"Hey! That target was gone," said Tim Hanks, an instructor and fellow officer on the SWAT team with Caspers. "Listen people. We are teaching you to shoot until the threat stops. If the target is gone, that means that the threat has stopped. Don't shoot. On the street, if you shoot when there is not a threat, you will be held accountable."

Tim Hanks, a decorated member of the Minneapolis Police Department SWAT team, provides hands-on instruction to a student on the firing line. All Final Option instructors have extensive training and practical skills that are reflected in the quality of the instruction.





Left: Final Option founder and president, Tony Caspers, instructs students on the proper use of cover and concealment when shooting near an automobile. Caspers is a veteran SWAT officer with the Minneapolis Police Department and uses the tactics he teaches to his students.

Right: Any school should teach you something you don't know. Chances are pretty good that most students arriving at Final Option have never fired from inside a car. Until you've done it, you don't know what to expect and even with practice you can't tell where your bullet might go.

That statement pretty much sums up the training regimen at Final Option, as police officers Caspers and his staff are in a unique position to reinforce the reality of using force for self-defense. "Even if you don't fire your handgun, if you draw it, you'd better be able to explain why," says Caspers.

"There will be an investigation into every shooting incident. You have to be able to defend and explain your actions to the police, a prosecutor and maybe even a judge and jury. And even if there are no criminal charges filed, you will likely face a civil suit," he said.

Students at Final Option are taught that making the right decision is just as important as having the proper shooting form and trigger mechanics.

For those that think that they handled the classroom and the firing line, the first day of training ended with an even bigger bang. Students have the option of attending an evening class of force-on-force training using Simunitions in a variety of scenarios. My advice is simple: Pay the extra money for the force-on-force training. It puts all of the elements of the first day's activities into perspective and gives you a real-time look at how you might react. Several students were surprised. I know I was.

For my first force-on-force scenario, I was given a Simunitions pistol, a cardboard box and the most basic instructions. "This is a present for your wife. Walk over there and get in the car to drive home," was all that my instructor said.

"Over there" was a corner of the now dark range, with a single streetlight

partially illuminating an old sedan. As I got half way to the car, I thought to myself, "I never would have parked here." Just as I got to the car, I heard a voice from the far side of the car.

"Hey, can I have ride? I really need a ride downtown so I can get to work."

I dropped the box into the car and said, "Nope. Sorry. I'm in a hurry."

"Aw c'mon," the man said, as he started around the front of the car. "I really need a ride."

"Hey, man. Back off," I said, starting to move to the rear of the car.

"Gimme a ride!" he shouted, still coming.

"Get back!" I responded, still trying to put some distance between him and me.

Before I knew it, he was flying at me screaming, "Gimme the f---ing keys!" There was something in his hand!

By the time I could draw and fire, his training knife had hit my left arm and I was still trying to get around to the trunk of the car.

"That's enough!" shouted the instructor. "Michalowski, why did you shoot?"

That was easy. I said that a knife-wielding attacker was almost on top of me. The instructor seemed to approve of that answer.

"Did you hit him?"

I saw my front sight on his chest before each shot of the controlled pair. I was right again: two hits, center mass. Then I admitted that I could not remember if I had seen a true sight picture or just the front sight.

"Could you have done anything else?" was the next question.

I didn't think so, but I wanted to hear what he had to say.

"What about your flashlight? Could you have lit him up with your light right away? That might have made him think twice about advancing. You have a light. Use it."

In the confusion and at the pace my "attacker" had set, I didn't even think of the light. Perhaps a firm response showing preparedness on my part would have defused the situation. I'll never know. And I may never have thought of it without this type of training.

The role players were so good in each of the three scenarios that for a full 10-minutes after each event my heart was still racing, even though I knew this was "just training."

On the second day of training, we worked through malfunction and reloading drills. This was where people really came to understand the difficulty of using fine motor skills under stress. And this wasn't even serious stress. Targets were up and gone before many of us could even get out from behind cover. It was humbling for many.

We also got a quick look at what happens when you are fighting from a vehicle. We've all heard about the difference between cover and concealment when it comes to car doors and the like, but what happens if you have to shoot from inside your car? It was another thing that none of us knew and might never get a chance to practice anywhere else. It was eye-opening.

Over the course of the weekend, I fired more than 500 rounds, second-guessed my reactions a thousand times to all three force-on-force scenarios and got a real understanding of what it takes to draw and accurately fire a concealed pistol in a limited amount of time. I came away not only a better shooter, but also knowing more about the real meaning of self-defense than I ever had. No matter where you've trained before, Final Option will show you what you don't know.

Kevin Michalowski is an NRA Certified Pistol and Personal Protection Trainer and a member of the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department Reserve.

BEAR ARMS IN A WHEELCHAIR



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MICHAEL GREER

Alas, the goblin itched to spike a fool. But the bloke in the silver wheelchair was no fool. Stealthy shadow warrior was he, prepared to present the overconfident goblin with a resolute surprise sheathed in concealed wait under his robes. – Unknown Warrior

Having to use a wheelchair to get around is no reason to be without personal protection and defenseless. You may look like a target of opportunity to Mr. Bad Guy, but your physically challenged “get-up” can be your cover, just like “Sergeant Granny” of the Police Department’s Decoy Squad. Furthermore, being in a wheelchair does appear to widen the disparity of the strength and force gap between you and Goofy the Goblin. This article is about taking the appropriate measures to reduce that disparity, so you’re empowered to defend yourself.

There are lots of ways to bear arms in preparation for personal defense in a wheelchair. Because many folks buy into the stereotype that folks in a wheelchair are disabled from defending themselves, you can benefit from the advantageous element of surprise if you have to act in defense of your life.

Let’s get down to the nitty gritty. There are two ways to carry a concealed weapon when you’re in a wheelchair: on your person or around your person.

Around Your Person

When you’re sitting in your wheelchair, you can carry your firearm in an appropriate type of bag or pouch secured to the chair. For example, most of the fanny packs or gunny sacks for on your person carry that we’ll be discussing below can be strapped to the arms or back of your wheelchair. One fellow I know keeps a revolver in a small knapsack tied to the side of his wheelchair.

There is nothing wrong with this mode of carry when you are in your chair. You should make sure you have quick, unimpeded access to your weapon. In my opinion, it makes the most sense to fasten the gun pack to the inside arm of your wheelchair (preferably the strong side) for security reasons. However, the important thing to remember is to NEVER leave the unexposed but unlocked firearm unattended. If you leave the wheelchair, the gun should leave with you. Unattended firearms tend to grow feet. In this case, they already have wheels!

I also recommend that you always carry a small flashlight in your fanny pack,

such as one made by Streamlight (800-523-7488 www.streamlight.com) or Surefire (800-828-8809 www.surefire.com). You should always have a powerful light with **fresh batteries** available for emergency use to aid your visibility in ambient light and at night.

On Your Person

The concealed carry “fanny pack,” “waist pack” or “gunny sack” is probably the most efficient and unobtrusive way to carry a concealed handgun if you use a wheelchair. The pouch, which will contain a compartment for your firearm, is best worn in the cross draw, weak side of your abdomen, in front of your hip position (opposite your appendix if you’re right handed). For folks who spend a lot of time sitting, the high ride, cross draw position keeps the gun comfortably out of the way, but easily accessible with the strong hand.

The trick in drawing from this position is not to cover (or “laser”) yourself with the muzzle when drawing the handgun. Thus, your draw should be practiced with an empty gun until it becomes smooth and precise. More on this in a moment.

There are many excellent products of this type on the market. Roma Leather makes an excellent and affordable line of concealment fanny packs in both leather and nylon, as well as pistol cases, organizers, leather concealment vests and accessory packs (800-998-7662 www.romaconceal.com).

Photo Below: Roma Nylon Fanny Pack.



Michaels of Oregon (800-845-2444 www.michaelsforegon.com) and DeSantis (800-424-1236 www.desantisholster.com) also make excellent product lines. Desantis calls their fanny pack the “Gunny Sack.” They also offer hip pouches and pistol packs that clip or slide on to your belt. Michaels of Oregon’s GunRunner Belt Pack Holsters also allow you to pack a large bore pistol with no one to know but you.

Photo Below: Desantis Gunnysack.



The advantage of carrying your concealed handgun in a fanny pack is that most gunny pouches have multiple compartments in which to carry your wallet, keys, change, a flashlight, a folding knife, OC pepper spray and so on. This fact also normalizes the perceived purpose of the pouch and aides concealment.

One recommendation when shopping for a fanny pack—purchase one with a rip open gun compartment. These may come either with Velcro and snaps or zippers with loops to grab and rip open. You don’t want to have to fiddle with finding the zipper when you need fast access to your handgun.

The Five-Step Draw

The draw is broken down into steps you can learn it and practice it. In action, the steps form one smooth continuous flow.

Step One: With your weak hand, rip open the gun compartment.

Step Two: Hold the compartment flap open if the fastener is a Velcro snap. If it’s a zipper, hold the zipper down and acquire your strong hand, full grip on the gun, with your trigger finger “in register” along the frame.

Step Three: Smoothly draw your handgun out of its pouch into a close retention position. You can fire from this position if necessary.

Step Four: Bring your support hand over to meet your strong hand in the retention position. You can also fire from this protected position if necessary.

Step Five: With both hands in a proper wrap-around, two-handed grip, push the gun out toward the target to get a proper sight picture.

Cross Draw Outside the Waistband Belt Holsters (CD-OWB)

A CD-OWB is probably the next best mode of concealment carry for those who are seated in a chair. It allows comfortable, unimpeded access to the handgun in the sitting position. The draw from concealment is the same as with the fanny pack, minus Step One.

There’s nothing wrong with a cross draw inside the waist band holster (CD-IWB) if you can carry your handgun this way comfortably and access it easily. However, many folks who have a belly or a big waist find that an IWB rig pinches them in the cross draw position when they are seated. They also may have a more difficult time accessing the gun. DeSantis makes an excellent and affordable CD-OWB called the “Sky Cop” and Don Hume makes the first rate “The Partner-Cross Draw.”

Photo Below: Don Hume “Partner.”

Also worthy of consideration is the shoulder holster and harness. Again, the cross draw is similar as in the previous descriptions. However, I have one recommendation. If you get a shoulder rig, get one that holds the handgun in a



horizontal position with the butt vertical and the muzzle facing the rear. Products that hold the muzzle up into your armpit laser you, and I don’t like that concept. Also, products that hold the gun muzzle down make it harder to acquire your grip and draw the gun.

With all these holster choices, you should try before you buy. What is good for one person may not be good for another. One size rarely fits all. Excellent shoulder holster rigs are made by Mitch Rosen (603-647-2971 www.mitchrosen.com), Lou Alessi (716-691-5615 www.alessileather.com), DeSantis and Galco (800-737-1725 www.usgalco.com).

Another option would be a waist length jacket or vest for pocket carry. Coronado leather (800-283-9509 www.coronadoleather.com) makes a fine line of leather and suede jackets with dual, reinforced, inner pockets for cross draw. You can also carry a handgun in your strong side jacket pocket if the fit is right.

I believe that strong side, outside the waistband, inside the waist and pant pocket carries are bad bets for people in a wheelchair. Access to the gun is slow and these modes of carry in this position can be uncomfortable.

What’s nice about fanny pack carry is that you can carry a full-size handgun (such as a Government or Commander size 1911, a medium to full size Glock, Sig, or Smith & Wesson semi-auto, or a medium size revolver, such as a Smith & Wesson K or L frame) in a large fanny pack. The same is true with a shoulder harness or cross draw belt slide or scabbard.

Belly Bands

Gould and Goodrich (800-277-0732 www.gouldusa.com) makes an excellent belly band for discrete, under-the-shirt concealed carry. Their Body Guard Model T727 is a waistband holster of long lasting, 4 in. wide elastic with an adjustable, Velcro closure. The rig can be positioned for cross draw, appendix front or back concealed carry of your handgun. It also has two pouches for spare magazines or a knife. What’s unique about this design is that there is also a pad behind the gun holster for extra comfort. DeSantis and Galco also make excellent and very affordable belly band holsters.

Another advantage of a belly band is that it will hold your belly in.

Pepper Spray

Pepper spray is an effective, less-than-lethal tool in your personal self-defense arsenal. It is a product commonly used in law enforcement that works on the olfactory and mucous membrane systems of the body-

Continued on page 30

eyes, nose, mouth and lungs. Pepper spray of sufficient strength (oleoresin capsicum content) will usually incapacitate a subject in seconds and give you a chance to get away. The sprayed subject starts coughing spasmodically, his eyes reflexively flutter closed from the inflammation and stinging and he cannot keep his eyes open. As a self-defense tool, pepper spray can be used within a range of 8 feet or closer to enable escape in a violent physical confrontation.

I recommend that you carry a proven pepper spray product on you or in your fanny pack. I recommend the stream delivery system versus the cone or mist. The stream is more target-focused, and you're less apt to get back sprayed.

There are many good products on the market. Two brands that I recommend are Spitfire (800-SPITFIRE www.1800spitfire.com) and AERKO International (800-565-8475 www.aerko.com).

Choosing the Right Carry Gun

The best advice I can give you is to choose the most potent caliber you can effectively handle and practice, practice, practice with it. There is no "magic bullet." A well placed shot with a .32 is better than a miss with a .45. However, quality, small revolvers chambered in 38 Special or 38 Special +P and semi-autos chambered in 9mm and 9mm +P are reliable, easy to control and offer good "stopping power." Remember that choosing a handgun is a personal thing (see my article in Volume 02-Issue 2). You have to make sure the gun fits your hand, the grip is comfortable and the trigger is manageable.

Semi-automatics: With a semi-auto, you must evaluate whether you can easily, manually cycle the slide to chamber a round or clear a jam. Can you easily reach and operate the manual safety lever and decocker if the gun has one? Can you reach and operate the slide stop/release lever? These are questions you must evaluate.

Double action only semi-autos such as Glocks and Kahrs have the simplest manual of arms. However, many folks including this author really like the safety features built into Smith and Wesson's semi-autos. These include a two-stage, slide-mounted, safety/decocker and a magazine disconnect safety, such that the gun will not fire with the magazine removed, even with a round in the chamber! This latter feature has saved many a cop's life when the cop managed to drop the magazine before her gun was wrestled away by a bad guy.

The Smith & Wesson semi-autos (800-331-0852 www.smith-wesson.com) also

have a nice and smooth, first shot, double action trigger pull and subsequent shot, single action trigger pull. The double action trigger travel is long like that of a revolver, but this is a safety feature that minimizes the chance of an accidental or negligent discharge, with proper training of course. Furthermore, there are so many choices that there is a Smith semi-auto pistol out there that will fit anyone's hand.

Photos (Top to bottom): Smith and Wesson 9mm Model 3913TSW semi-auto, and the Smith and Wesson 340PD Airlite .357Magnum/.38SpecialJ-FRAMESnubby.



L.W. Seecamp's double-action only, .32 and .380 ACP pocket pistols offer ease of concealment, yet pack a punch at bad breath range that's sure to ruin Goofy's day. And bad breath range is where you're going to be accosted if you're accosted in a wheelchair. Seecamps are very reliable little guns with a simple manual of arms (www.Seecamp.com).

Revolvers: The revolver has the simplest and easiest to learn manual of arms. With proper training in its use, its long and consistent double action only trigger decreases the likelihood of an

accidental or negligent discharge. Smith and Wesson's small, J-frame revolvers are easy to conceal in a fanny pack or jacket pocket, making them ideal as a primary or back-up carry gun for folks in a wheelchair or for anybody, really. Smith and Wesson still makes the best revolvers on the planet.

Perfect Practice Makes Perfect

Keep it real! Remember to practice as you carry. In an emergency, when the adrenaline dumps, your muscle memory will take over and you will perform as you've trained. So, go to the range and (if it's permitted at the range you go to) practice shooting from your concealed carry rig. However, before you head to the range, make sure to perfect your draw by practicing it hundreds of times at home with a doubly and triply checked, empty gun.

Keep in mind that mental preparedness and tactics are keys to survival. Think through your personal defense options and practice visualization and mental rehearsal. See my article on "Psychological Preparedness" in Volume 01-Issue 3 (July/August 2004 issue) of this magazine.

In a wheelchair, you should also practice shooting and moving. This you might have to do as dry practice with an empty gun, unless you can use an outdoor range. Your adversary, Mr. Goofy Goblin, will no doubt expect you to be a stationary target. Well, surprise the creep!

Remember that your wheelchair is neither a Sherman Tank nor a Bradley Assault Vehicle. It provides neither cover nor concealment. However, you have options for going armed and responding to a deadly threat tactically. Make informed choices. Prepare your mind and your body for survival.

Bruce N. Eimer, Ph.D. is a board certified, licensed, clinical and forensic psychologist, NRA Certified Firearms Instructor, NRA Life Member, Glock Certified Armorer, and Author in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As the co-owner of Personal Defense Solutions, LLC, Bruce teaches concealed carry classes and NRA Basic Pistol and Personal Protection courses, as well as offering individual shooting instruction. He also teaches CCW classes that prepare people to apply for a Florida Non-Resident Concealed Carry Weapons Permit which is honored by 27 states. For more information, he can be reached by phone at 215-938-7293 (938-SAVE) and by e-mail at DrBruce@PersonalDefenseSolutions.net or CCWInstructor@PersonalDefenseSolutions.net. For a schedule of upcoming classes, you can log on to the PDS website: www.PersonalDefenseSolutions.net. Bruce is also the co-author, with Stephen Rementer of the Pennsylvania Lethal Weapons Institute, of the Essential Guide to Handguns: Firearm Instruction for Personal Defense and Protection which is published by Looseleaf Law Publications -www.LooseLeafLaw.com.

The history corner

ALEXA H. MADISON



Alexa H. Madison, a collector of fun historical facts and stories. Concordia University Graduate—History. Madison traveled the Western U.S. for 20 years before settling in the Wisconsin area. e-mail: madison@wi.rr.com



THE KENTUCKY LONG RIFLE AND BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS AT CHALMETTE

The Battle of New Orleans

“In 1814 we took a little trip along with Colonel Jackson down the mighty Mississipp.

We took a little bacon and we took a little beans

And we caught the bloody British in the town of New Orleans...”

Written by (Jimmy Driftwood)

Recorded by JOHNNY HORTON (1959)

During the war of 1812, The British invaded from the Gulf of Mexico, at New Orleans, to gain control of the Mississippi River. The final battlefield for control of the shipping channel was the Chalmette Battlefield, where the future of the United States lay in the hands of General Andrew Jackson and his jambalaya of American militia of frontiersmen from Kentucky and Tennessee, American Indians, Creoles, pirates and freed black Slaves. These were the men that made up the Louisiana militia who fought for their homes and their families. The riflemen of the Tennessee division were most likely to have carried the Kentucky Long Rifle. The “Kentucky” or the “Long Rifle” truly fit the description of the first American Firearm. It was named after the state where it first gained its popularity. This firearm was treasured among the militia, and used with notably great skill by the men in the Tennessee regiment. These men were known as marksmen of the forest and their skill with the accurate and long-range rifle in rough or wooded terrain was instrumental in beating back the well-equipped and skilled regulars of the invading British. The British army was defeated in the Battle of New Orleans, in January, 1815.

Created mostly in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in the mid 1700’s, by immigrant craftsmen from Germany and Switzerland, the lightweight flintlock

operated on black powder that was inserted into the muzzle, followed by an often homemade ball of lead that was placed in a patch of oiled leather to make it seat tightly to the muzzle, and tapped down with a ramrod. To fire, the “Kentucky” was primed with powder poured into the pan, the hammer was moved to cock, the trigger was pulled, and the frizzen hit the flint. The spark it created lit the full charge in the barrel.

“...We fired our guns and the British kept a’comin. There wasn’t nigh as many as there was a while ago. We fired once more and they began to runnin’ down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.”

This article is dedicated to all who suffered in the community of Chalmette the parish seat of St. Bernard Parish in the state of Louisiana. Chalmette is located on the east bank of the Mississippi River, two miles from the city of New Orleans. This area was devastated by Hurricane Katrina in late August of this year. The storm surge from the hurricane swamped the area levee

system, caused a break in the levee along the canal in the nearby 9th Ward of New Orleans, and left the entire area flooded, including the area where the final battle of the war of 1812, the “Battle of New Orleans,” was fought between the British and the fledgling Country. May victory again visit this battleground.



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Street Tactics:

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THE MODERN URBAN RIFLE

Top: The author trains with his Bulgarian AK during winter in Arizona. The AK is a viable weapon system, but for best utility an AR15 would be a better choice.

Left: The Marlin 336, 30-30 was the author's choice in liberal California due to a benign image, and inexpensive price.

Your heart threatens to crack the reading glasses in your front breast pocket and your breathing sounds like a lumberjack crew sawing down a Redwood tree. From your vantage point on the rooftop of your store, you can see the distant fires getting closer.

"There they are!" one of your men cries out, pointing to the intersection 100 yards away. Your "salesmen," many of them former soldiers, instantly reposition themselves to face the advancing "enemy" troop of arsonists and looters. You'd never let your men see it, but your stomach feels like a bag of cats on the way to the river.

You hold your M1 Carbine at port arms and taste the dryness in your throat.

Later, you won't remember who was the first to shoot, but you will recall trying to hold your front sight steady on the man wearing the black Raiders jacket that was about to throw the Molotov cocktail.

After a fusillade of shots, the invaders are driven back. Some of them lay dying across the street. The thought of giving them aid never enters your mind. They had it coming. You slowly lower your rifle, and engage the safety.

They'll be back soon!

You remember to start breathing again, and notice your hands are shaking as you try to light a cigarette. It is 1700 HRS, March 29, 1992, Koreatown, Los Angeles, CA! The first night of the Rodney King Riots. It's going to be a long, long night.

Incidents such as this are played out all over the world, every day. Most recently, we saw the quick decline of order in New Orleans as looters and armed gangs set the order of the day. Urban riots and Guerrilla



Skill with, and possession of, a rifle may make the difference for the lone private citizen. Here, the author trains with the Argentine Counter-Terrorist Team and their FNs.

warfare are not exclusively Third World problems...not anymore. As a result, many concerned Americans are rethinking the role of the rifle/carbine as a viable close-quarters defensive urban tool.

Normally, the anti-personnel rifle is thought of as a tool used offensively, and from nearly artillery distance. Not so, when it is utilized by an individual operator in the confines of an urban setting. These encounters will be very, very close. One police agency I had contact with years ago logged their longest rifle contact at 57 feet! Most such fights will be well within the length of a football field and probably much closer.

In congested urban areas, you often cannot see farther than 100 yards without a building getting in the way. Moreover, even when you have greater visibility, the potential for a non-involved party walking or driving into your line of fire is very real. The result is that you will take closer shots and avoid long ones, not only to insure good hits, but to avoid tragically hitting someone who doesn't deserve it.

How about penetration? You may need to shoot through intermediate cover at all likely engagement distances. Additionally, facing multiple infidels is always a possibility. Although a 90 round drum magazine is not necessary, a repeating action is required, and a semi-auto is "nice to have."

Finally, how will such a rifle be carried and deployed? It is neat to have a Para FN-FAL, but if it lives in your gun safe, what will you do when you are 50 miles away from home without it? If you live in a free state, no one will raise an eyebrow if you go through your day with a FAL propped up against the corner of your office, or an AK-47 in the back of your Jeep.

Those of us who live in more "cultured and refined" places can't do that for fear of unwanted official attention. Rifles will be kept out of sight until they are needed. Even the rural CCW operator will keep his rifle out of sight, in ready storage, and rely on his pistol for immediate response. Deploying the rifle requires prior knowledge that trouble is on the afternoon's activity list. But just like the handgun, the rifle must be always available, or it is useless.

In urban areas, the rifle will probably live in the trunk or other compartment in a vehicle. Like it or not, this exposes it to theft. Keeping an expensive and almost irreplaceable, military rifle in such a manner is not a good idea.

Finally, consider that when you smite the living you-know-what out of a heathen, the incident will probably not go away. You will be called to explain yourself. Moreover, if the package goes to trial (civil or criminal), be certain that the bayonet lug, flash suppressor, and everything

written about your "SEAL-style M-4" will be discussed at length. This may not be a problem in some areas, but it's worth thinking about in other areas.

The mission of the urban rifle calls for a 100 yard capable weapon that is powerful enough to penetrate intermediate cover, and provide accuracy that is sufficient for our needs. High ammunition capacity is okay, but not essential. A lone rifleman, excluding the static defense situation, will shoot and quickly change positions. He will rely on well placed shots from covered and concealed positions, and then move quickly. As the boxer Ali said, "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee."

It must be inexpensive enough to be easily replaced in the event of loss or theft. It must be small enough to be easily transported and stored in a vehicle and forgotten until needed. Finally, it should be "visually sterile," without the appearance of being a weapon intended for fighting. Resupply of ammo and of ancillary gear such as magazines and spare parts must also be considered.

There are many fine weapons out there that fit our needs for a close quarters defensive rifle, and the choice is only limited by your checkbook and imagination. My personal choice for vehicle carry when I lived in Los Angeles was a Marlin 16" barreled .30-. The rifle was stored with

Continued on page 34



Top: The availability of true gunfighting courses in rifle for private citizens are limited. You need a rifle gunfighting course, not a hunter safety class with a military rifle. If the instructor dislikes teaching "civilians" steer clear. Here a Los Angeles businessman works out with his AR15.

Below, Top: In many areas, the potential for a break-down in infrastructure, terrorism, and their aftermath requires that the private citizen have the ability to protect himself and his loved ones for extended periods beyond the capability provided by a handgun.

Below, Bottom: Their faces covered for privacy, an electrician, a doctor, a private military contractor headed for Iraq, and a maritime attorney train at a recent Suarez International rifle course.



100 rounds of ammo. It cost me less than \$300, and lived in my Jeep Cherokee...just in case I got an invitation to lunch from the bad guys.

Another excellent choice is the AR-15 series. It can hit well within the required distances and will do the job if the hits are well placed. One magazine will hold more ammo than will probably be needed. In its "shorty" versions, it is small and light, and easily broken down into two pieces for storage. Resupply will be available, considering the fact that any Armed Force deployed in urban operations will be armed with a version of this rifle. The only thing is that it is not is "cheap," or "politically sterile." These two factors may or may not be important to you in your particular area of operations.

Today my primary deployment rifle is a Bushmaster M-4 type rifle. It has a full stock, and a 16 inch barrel, complete with Aimpoint sight. It is too expensive to keep in the trunk of a car, but it will be my first choice if things ever get "ugly" in our little part of the world.

Before we get too carried away with the tools and trinkets, remember that it is the man that does the fighting, and not the rifle. I remember one of my students several years ago. She kicked everyone's butt in a very demanding rifle course with a Russian Surplus SKS and East German ammunition! Lest you think that her fellow students were a bunch of numbskulls, they were all experienced (and combat tested) riflemen from several Army and Navy units attending the class. Always remember that it is the man (or woman), and not the weapon that makes a difference.

The stranger our world (and nation) becomes, and the more the threat of terrorism looms in our lives, the greater the need for the individual, private citizen to have the tools and skills to protect their lives and the lives of their loved ones. The writing is on the wall. In a disaster, natural or man-made, you are on your own. Accept it and prepare accordingly. Rifles and the skills to use them are a big part of that. Get some instruction from people who know about rifle shooting. Then practice your skill like your life depended on it. After all, it does.

Gabriel Suarez is an internationally recognized trainer and lecturer in the field of civilian personal defense. He has written over a dozen books and taught courses in several countries.

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MORE THAN JUST A WAY TO KEEP YOUR PANTS UP

JASON RUSER

I was a strapped for cash college student working for an obscenely small hourly wage. My only handgun was a four inch, Smith & Wesson Model 686 .357 Magnum. I bought it to provide some measure of protection when making deliveries, as some of those deliveries were in rough parts of town. Once I obtained my concealed carry permit, I walked down to Wal-Mart, bought a cheap leather belt and an equally cheap little slip of a holster that was made from some unidentified, synthetic material. You know the one I'm talking about: the inside-the-waistband (IWB) holster with the plastic clip that goes over your belt. A week after wearing that rig, I seriously considered leaving my revolver in my vehicle as I made my deliveries. I could not achieve a secure carry with my Model 686. I tried all sorts of cheap belt and cheap holster combinations. All were either uncomfortable or would slip and slide around like a greased pig, or both. For all the money I "saved" on worthless holsters and belts, I could have had a custom belt and holster rig made to order.

Selecting a Gun Belt

There are several characteristics of a good gun belt, of which I was ignorant. First, the gun belt must closely match the belt loops of the holster to be used. Placing the highest quality holster with 1½ inch belt loops

on a quality 1¼ inch wide belt will result in a sloppy fit. The holster will is not likely to stay in place and will make drawing the weapon more difficult. This is a good reason to buy a belt and holster as a unit from a custom holster and belt maker. Second, the belt must be rigid. How rigid? It must be rigid enough to keep your holster and weapon in place throughout any task you might accomplish, to include drawing your weapon while running at top speed for cover. Most belts bought at common clothing stores are not nearly rigid enough to serve as a gun belt. Third, the belt must be appropriate for your attire. A belt appropriate for jeans and a western shirt is likely to be inappropriate for a suit and tie. (Guys: when in doubt, consult your wife or girlfriend.) Last, the belt must be the correct length. Galco International's website states the following (bold face in the original), "**Do not pick the waist size you would LIKE to be, or guess—PLEASE MEASURE. 99% OF EXCHANGES ON THIS BELT ARE FOR THE NEXT SIZE UP!**" Take your actual waist measurement with pants on, note the measurement, vow to lose weight, and then add two inches. Alternately, you can take your measurement with a cleared and safe weapon held in your waistband, swear to never stop at Krispy Kreme ever again, and note the measurement. A properly matched quality holster



Triple K Garrison Belt #213



and gun belt will comfortably and securely carry the largest of service revolvers and pistols. Different belt vendors size their belts in different ways. Call the vendor if you have any questions.

Triple K Garrison Belt #213

Triple K produces a number of belts more or less suited to concealed carry. Triple K's website does not suggest the Garrison Belt #213 as being appropriate for concealed carry, though the gun shop where I bought it surely did. "You don't want one of those double-thick gun belts. Might as well buy a weight lifter's belt and be done with it! What we've got here is just what you're looking for..." Imagine that, a gun shop suggesting that what they had in stock was ideal for my intended purposes. I was weak and in sore need of a gun belt, so I decided to buy it and was out the door for less than \$30 in damage.

Upon examination, the Garrison Belt is much more rigid than the garden variety, department store work belt. It is produced from a single thickness of leather and is 1½ inches wide with a buckle made of chrome plated steel, which is attached to the belt by two snaps. Overall workmanship could be described as "rough." Craftsmanship is somewhat haphazard and the buckle-to-belt fit is as sloppy as a three-year-old boy eating spaghetti.

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Manufacturer	Model	Construction	Width (in)	Thickness (in)	Price
Triple K	Garrison Belt #213	Single-Thick Leather	1.46	0.16	\$28.00
HBE	Custom	Double-Thick Leather	1.49	0.26	\$75.00
Galco	Reinforced Instructors Belt	Synthetic Reinforced	1.71	0.31	\$49.95

(Width and Thickness are an average of 5 measurements)



HBE Specialty LeatherWorks Custom, Double-Thickness, Leather Belt

Triple K may not have invested in the aesthetics or finish of the Garrison Belt, but they did produce a functional gun belt. When worn a bit snug, the buckle's sloppiness becomes a non-issue. Also, I found that if I wore a sufficiently garish Hawaiian shirt as a cover garment, nobody noticed the homely belt holding my pants up...or the Smith & Wesson SW1911 mounted on my hip. All my holsters with 1½ inch belt loops were able to work reasonably well with this belt, IWB holsters working the best. Outside-the-waistband (OWB) holsters with heavy service weapons pushed this belt beyond its limits and made it a marginal performer, given such a burden. After using the Garrison Belt in the hot Texas summer, I noticed more wear than I would have expected on most gun belts I buy, though it still firmly held whatever gun I was packing at the time. For less than \$30, I cannot reasonably expect to pass this belt on to my progeny.

The Garrison Belt will win no beauty contests and won't set the hearts of gun leather aficionados atwitter. If you need a belt to tote your full-sized auto or revolver, you would best be advised to purchase a

more robust belt. This belt will, however, keep your IWB holster and concealed weapon planted firmly where you place it for the penurious retail price of \$28.

HBE Specialty LeatherWorks Custom, Double-Thickness, Leather Belt

My first course of action upon acquiring a new carry weapon is figuring out how I will explain the purchase to my wife. Second, I ensure that the new pistol is reliable with some sort of self-defense ammunition. Last, it is time to start looking for gun leather with which to pack it. Such was the case with my purchase of a Smith & Wesson SW1911. I decided to buy a matching belt and holster from a custom shop and researched a number of them. It seems that everybody and their brother produces gun leather these days and most of them have web sites. This is a wonderful thing for those of us who carry concealed, as the variety of holsters and belts available is both broad and deep. A few minutes on the telephone with a custom shop can yield the gun leather of your heart's desire.

HBE Specialty LeatherWorks,' Eric Larsen, is a relatively new entrant to the gun leather business and has earned a good reputation over his four years in the business. I decided that I wanted to deal with one of the smaller, up and coming makers and HBE fit the bill. So I called Eric and commissioned a matched COM model IWB holster and a double-thickness, 1½ inch gun belt. Eric was quite helpful and a pleasure to do business with. The belt and holster arrived two days before Eric's estimate.

Opening the package, I discovered a handsome, matching belt and holster set. The holster's loops snapped around the belt securely and they both exhibited quality and attention to detail. Belt and holster edges were smooth and finished, and the stitching was uniformly well executed. The belt was extremely rigid. It resisted both torsion and aggressive force applied across its width. The attractive, nickel-plated, brass buckle was well fitted and secured, using two slotted screws, mated up with finished, threaded fasteners. The double-thickness belt held my weightiest gun and holster rig without exhibiting any signs of sagging or leaning away from my torso. With belt and holster used as a set, my SW1911 was held snugly in against my body, while the broad COM holster distributed pressure in a comforting and comfortable manner, all day long.

Manufacturer	Website
Triple K	http://www.triplek.com/
H.B.E. Specialty LeatherWorks	http://www.hbeleatherworks.com/
Galco International	http://www.usgalco.com/



Galco International 1¾ inch, Reinforced, Instructors Belt



The HBE belt exceeded my expectations of quality, functionality, finish and price (at \$75). It even arrived before Eric said it would and it is an attractive bit of handiwork. I can see at least an OWB holster and a couple of magazine carriers in my future from HBE Specialty LeatherWorks.

Galco International 1¾ inch, Reinforced, Instructors Belt

When it comes to carry gear, my materials preference is for some sort of dead, animal skin. It can be from a cow or a horse. I would even consider gear made from pigskin, hippo or shark. I like the craftsmanship of a quality, leather rig: belt, ammunition carriers and holster. Leather has a "leathery" smell and a tactile experience that hard, cold plastic cannot match. Granted that leather is what the "Big Man Upstairs" intended carry gear to consist of, but every once in a while, we ought to get out of our comfort zone and try new things. Such was the case one afternoon, as I passed some quality time in a local gun shop. I was minding my own business, in mid-drool over some custom revolver that I couldn't afford, when I heard some fellow behind me comment, "Hot dawg! Now THAT is one hoss of a belt!" I quickly checked my own (rather substantial) belt to see if anything was amiss and found all to be in order, as the emitter of the accented exclamation was walking on past the carry

gear and out the door. I decided to see what all the fuss was about and headed toward the still swaying belt display. It didn't take long to find the "hoss."

The "hoss" of a belt is the black, Galco International, 1¾ inch, Reinforced, Instructors Belt. The belt is constructed of nylon webbing with some sort of plastic reinforcement stitched and sandwiched inside two layers of webbing. The buckle is forged steel with a Roguard finish. Clamped on the other end is a metal tip and Galco used hook and loop fasteners to keep the tip of the belt from flopping about. Overall construction is middle linebacker robust, like a nylon & steel Dick Butkus. This is no metrosexual, pretty boy belt. It is advised that you put down the mousse before you pick this bad boy up. Stitches are heavy and used liberally to keep everything together. The steel buckle is stoutly built and shows little wear after quite a bit of hard use. The only nit is the metal clasp on the belt tip used to "prevent fraying," as Galco writes on their website. It doesn't. The belt tip is cut at an angle and nylon began to fray on the angle not covered by the metal clasp.

I was impressed enough by the Instructors Belt that I coughed up the \$50 that the gun shop wanted. I was half way home when I remembered that I didn't actually own any holsters with 1¾ inch loops. Luckily, I live in Texas, where it must be a state law that any trip over 20 miles has to pass by a gun shop. I am a law-abiding citizen, so I duly drove past another gun shop, sort of, on the way home and bought an Uncle Mike's kydex OWB holster for my SW1911. As it turns out, I need not have worried, as one of my IWB holsters just barely was able to snap over the Instructors belt.

If you can reasonably call it a handgun, the Instructors Belt can tote it, given a proper holster. However, I did not have a Smith & Wesson 500 with a 4 inch barrel to try out that theory, and the only other 500 I saw came with its own sling. In my

rule book, if you need a sling to carry it, it is no handgun.

Conclusion

If you want quality, looks and functionality in your gun belt, get ready to drop \$75-\$150, depending on how flashy you want it appointed. Spend any less, and something's got to give. In the case of the Garrison Belt, \$30 buys reasonable functionality with most concealed weapons, period. You won't be burdened with style or lasting quality. Frankly, \$30 is a small price to pay to make sure your holster and carry weapon doesn't flop around on your hip.

Paying \$50 to step up to the Reinforced Instructors Belt will net a heaping helping of functionality and quality. It will never be accused of being pretty, unless the accuser has a thing for retread tires (though it would make a convincing, bludgeoning weapon, if it came right down to it).

An entry fee of \$75 will get you in the quality gun leather game. The HBE, custom, 1½ inch, double-thickness belt is a no frills, quality, functional and handsome belt. Adding any ornamentation, tooling or exotic leathers will drive the price skyward. No more functionality will be added and your IDPA score won't know the difference, but the extra expense devoted to flash ought to provide that warm and fuzzy feeling called "pride of ownership."

About the Author

Jason Ruser obtained one of the first concealed carry permits when the state of Arkansas passed "shall carry" legislation, subsequently held a concealed carry permit in the state of Georgia, and currently has a Concealed Handgun License from the state of Texas. Jason spent three years stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, playing foolish Ranger games in the service of Uncle Sam and currently works for a defense contractor as an analyst. Jason can be contacted at:

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THE BIG TRAINING SECRET THAT SHOULD NOT BE A SECRET

MICHAEL TAN

What expensive times we live in! These days a typical handgun course will cost you \$1,002, which includes \$350 for the course, \$150 for food and lodging, \$220 for airfare, \$80 for car rental, \$200 for ammo and \$2 for sun screen. You could buy two Glocks for that much money! And who wants to pay money for a class when you could increase your inventory of self-defense equipment instead?

But wait, savvy shoppers. Before you run down to your local FFL and pick up the pair of green Glocks that you've been just dying to acquire (one for the strong side and one for backup, right?), let me fill you in on a secret.

What if I told you that you could buy a lifetime ticket to ringside seats at an intense handgun course? And what if I told you that it would always be scheduled so that you didn't have to use any of your vacation time? And what if I told you that it would only cost \$75? Furthermore, what if I told you that this summer, Smith and Wesson is releasing a new compact 1911 handgun, chambered for 12 gauge shotgun ammo? Okay, forget that last question. The 12 gauge handgun is not going to happen, but I can assure you that the \$75 ringside seat is already available.

This summer, Paladin Press released Gabe Suarez's *Close Range Gunfighting* DVD set. It is two full DVDs (VHS also available), and it only costs \$75. I have numerous handgun training videos from the big schools and from the little schools. This one is a keeper.

Why is this worth \$75?

Why should you buy this DVD set? Let me give you five reasons:

Feed your brain healthy food: You should buy this set because in all honesty, most of you have done nothing more than buy a handgun and occasionally shoot at paper targets at the range, while standing still in your air conditioned lane. Okay, maybe that was a little harsh. Since you're reading this magazine, you're literate and desirous of learning about armed self-defense. You've probably poked around in the various forums and ingested a smattering of often conflicting posts and articles, all of which are variations of, "Well, if I'm attacked, I would do this...." But that won't give you a systematized and prioritized mindset for what to do in a real fight. Gabe's video will help move you toward that.

Feed your brain lots of healthy food: I was very surprised when I received this DVD set. I was surprised because Gabe puts so much content into one package. He could easily have taken half or a quarter of the material, and just drawn it out to fill the discs, but he didn't. I haven't trained under Gabe, so I don't know how much more he covers in his class, but I will say that he gives the viewer his money's worth in terms of content. Gabe covers draw stroke, concealed draw stroke, ready positions, movement, palm strikes preceding the draw (for extreme close quarters), malfunction clearance, multiple assailant shooting, backup weapon transitions, vehicle

shooting and force-on-force practice. He does not cover low light shooting, building tactics or ground shooting, but hey, he had to leave something for the sequel!

The peas are not in the mashed potatoes: The food metaphor is getting out of hand, but what I'm talking about here is organization and balance. This video is very well organized. Everything is in its place. Building smoothly and logically, each lesson is thorough and complete. Gabe does not ramble on.

Furthermore, the presentation is well balanced. He doesn't spend too much time on minor topics, squeezing out valuable space that could be given to more substantial topics. You will be very pleased with the breadth of material and the carefully laid out presentation.

It's a meal fit for Mom: With an articulate and clear teacher like Gabe, the material is easy to follow and clearly demonstrated. In a class I was taking from Jeff Gonzales, I overheard some of the students saying that Gabe was another very good teacher. Seeing the videos convinced me of that fact. Gabe is gifted at conveying information. He speaks well, and he demonstrates everything. You may have read articles, you may have stared at step-by-step pictures, but there are many things that can't be adequately conveyed until they are demonstrated in real time. There is no lack of demonstrations in this video.

Thankfully, this video is well produced. Its quality matches the level of

Gabe's instruction. You won't roll your eyes at unprofessional production values.

It's Hardees™, not Fifi's: Gabe's material is practical, not esoteric or high end. The material is not geared for competition shooting. It's geared for walking to your car and seeing that a man with a knife is headed your way. The distinguishing emphasis here is the early introduction of force-on-force. Almost all well known teachers use movement and force-on-force in their classes, but Gabe is on the early end of the spectrum regarding when he brings these elements into the class.

What it won't do for you

Now that I've enthusiastically told you why you should get this video, let me warn you of a few things.

First of all, this video is not a substitute for taking a course. It's like a ringside seat, but as you know, having a ringside seat is not the same as being in the ring. The videos are very educational and thought provoking, but they won't correct you when you incorrectly try to put the material into practice. You need to have a living, seeing, speaking instructor to be sure you're not doing something stupid or dangerous. Guns are fun, but they are not toys.

They are tools requiring the highest respect and responsibility. Videos are not adequate substitutes for sitting under the tutelage and observation of a qualified teacher.

Secondly, this video is not for total beginners. Before you can follow this material, you need to have a good grounding in practical gun safety and the manual of arms for your gun. And you need to have a \$200 tactical flashlight and a pair of \$120 HRT tactical boots before you will understand this video. Just kidding about the flashlight and boots.

Thirdly, this video is not the be-all and end-all voice on the subject of defensive handgun usage. Gabe's major focus in this video is close-quarters gunfighting. Statistically, most gunfights occur at "kissing distance," so Gabe understandably devotes the majority of the video to this highly practical topic. But, as noted above, he can't and doesn't cover everything.

Fourthly and finally, the viewer needs to understand that Gabe is not infallible. He is a "progressive" trainer in many ways. Much of his material (shooting and moving off of the line of attack, non-diagnostic immediate action drills, etc.) has been taught for years at other schools such as Gunsite, Thunder Ranch, etc., but some of it is experimental.

"Experimental" is not necessarily a bad word. Gabe insists that all techniques must be subjected to the crucible of force-on-force. This is not unique to him, but some of his conclusions are different from what other teachers have concluded. Do not be alarmed. The world is still revolving around the sun. The stars have not fallen from the sky (yet). As a well informed student, you need to realize that among the well known teachers of defensive handgun, there is no unified code of "tactical doctrine" that they all agree on.

There is a large amount of material they all agree on—your right and responsibility to defend yourself, the value of firearms in self-defense, the value of resetting your opponent's OODA loop, etc. But among Jeff Cooper, Clint Smith, Louis Awerbuck, John Farnam, Randy Cain, Jeff Gonzales, Gabe Suarez, etc., you will find that each has varying and sometimes contradictory views about various techniques. One man will heavily rely on the high-index technique for flashlight shooting, while another will emphasize Harries. One man will advocate moving and shooting using slide-steps, while another will advocate natural strides.

Continued on page 40

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If you've followed Gabe's writings over the years, you'll see that he himself seeks to constantly learn, test, discard and learn more. His early books are quite different from his later books in terms of the emphases and even in some of his conclusions. It demonstrates that fact that there are few laws, if any, that can be made in the realm of tactical doctrine. Because of that, there is always more to learn. There is always more to practice.

This video set will give you a lot to think about. Even if you find that you disagree with Gabe on various points, you will find value in having to articulate and defend your position. For example, I personally have reservations about Gabe's style of movement—using natural strides, as opposed to the sliding steps taught by others (moving in such a way that your legs never cross). I agree that the shooter needs to immediately get off of the line of attack. I even agree that the slide-step method is slower than the natural steps taught by Gabe and others. However, in the real world (unlike the range), you'll be in a place with curbs, steps, clutter, and even overturned lamps. It is incredibly easy to trip in the real world, especially if you are moving in one direction, while facing and shooting in another direction. I call it "the mayhem room test." The sliding step method, where your legs do not cross, does much to prevent losing your balance and falling to the ground. Now, just because I don't agree with this one aspect of Gabe's video, do I discard it? No, it forced me to challenge and assess what I currently believe. And who knows? One day I may change my mind, and then I will be even more glad for my exposure to Gabe's material.

Conclusion

Frankly, few of us can afford to attend classes with all of the instructors from whom we'd like to learn. Videos like this give us good material to ponder and to practice between classes. More video sets like this need to be produced. Do your part and encourage these sorts of productions. Buy it and tell your contacts at the range and gun store to buy it as well. And then sign up for a class!

Michael Tan is happily married and has eight children.

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We've had a LOT of NRA members join recently. I'd like to extend a sincere "Welcome to the USCCA!" to each and every one of you. The NRA has helped us tremendously by allowing us to advertise in their publications. I hope you enjoy the USCCA and Concealed Carry Magazine as much as I do!

Thank you and be safe.



Timothy J. Schmidt
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This "photographers" vest is popular with Secret Service personnel. Its loose design and long fit allow you to carry just about anything. Some agents have been seen concealing cut down versions of the HK MP5 submachine gun. It's long enough to cover every holster available and it comes with 14 utility pockets for things like film, pads of paper, small books, gloves, snacks, water you name it. This vest is perfect for a day hike...no need to carry a backpack...just wear the vest. Yet another classic concealment option that has a true practical application.

Sizes: Small(38" chest), Medium(44" chest), Large(50" chest), xLarge(54" chest), xxLarge(60" chest), xxxLarge(66" chest)

Tan • Item #T0205TN • \$59.95 (pictured)

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Fits All Small to Medium Size Handguns

Versatile Comfortable & Affordable!! The most versatile and most comfortable method of concealment available. You can wear it in almost every situation! Whether you dress up for the office or go to the gym, The Belly Band can be there, totally concealed and ready! It's made in the USA of heavy duty elastic and a Velcro fastener. It has two slots, one for an automatic pistol and one for a revolver. It has a 6-inch pocket which conceals important papers, cash, credit cards, as well as a slot for a spare magazine. It works great with medium and small frame revolvers and semi-automatic pistols. It is pictured to the left with a Glock 19 and will easily accommodate a full sized Glock and all the mini Glocks. It will even work with Beretta 92F, Colt 1911, Sig P230 and P226 and most of the popular self-defense handguns. You can discreetly and comfortably conceal your handguns under a variety of shirts and sweaters.

Features: 4" Width, 2 gun pockets, 1 document pocket, spare mag pouch.

Sizes: xSmall(24"-27"), Small(28"-32"), Med(33"-36"), Large(37"-40"), xLarge(41"-45"), xxLarge(46"-52")

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xxxLarge add \$5.00

Leather Concealment Vest



This handsome vest is made from top American leathers front and back and features two large concealed pockets, one on each side, lined with heavy rip-stop cordura to help conceal bulky items. They're large enough to carry a full sized wallet, passport and small books, even a full-size Glock or 1911. Vest is made with premium leathers and lined with garment quality fabric. We guarantee your satisfaction and back it up with a 30-day money back, no questions asked policy.

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Measured in Even Chest Sizes:

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