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CONCEALED carry MAGAZINE



THE EVOLUTION OF A NEW SHOOTER

THE PACKING PARENT

WHY PROFESSIONAL TRAINING?

FNH FIVESEVEN

VOLUME 5 OCTOBER 2008

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Published for U.S. Concealed Carry by:

DELTA media, llc
4466 County Road P - Suite 204
Jackson, WI 53037
(877) 677-1919 • Customer Service
(262) 677-8877 • U.S. Concealed Carry

Concealed Carry Magazine - October 2008 Issue; October 3, 2008 (USPS: 022-302, ISSN: 1550-7866) is published 8 times per year for $39.00 per year by Delta Media, LLC, 4466 County Road P - STE 204, Jackson, WI 53037-9272. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, WI and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Concealed Carry Magazine, 4466 County Road P - STE 204, Jackson, WI 53037-9272.

TIM'S THOUGHTS

THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE

I was sitting at my desk a few weeks ago and I got an email from my wife. She sent me a picture that she had just taken of our three kids waiting for the bus on the first day of school. This is the first year where all three kids will be going to school all day. I stared at the picture. Only seconds before, I had been engrossed in a flood of daily emails. Everyone had something important they needed from me. There were "important" messages from employees, writers, editors, printers, customers and suppliers. I had been frantically trying to address all these "important" matters. And then my wife sends me this picture. Wow. Talk about jolting me back to reality. My wife and these three kids are the REAL important things in my life. Please be sure to take the time to appreciate the important things in your life too.



The three Schmidt kids wait for the bus on the first day of school.

Be safe and God bless,





OCTOBER 2008 COVER

PHOTOGRAPHER: Oleg Volk

MODEL: New shooter Sophie Chen shows her delight as she looks over targets she shot during a class taught in Tennessee by Steve Fisher of Michigan Defensive Firearms Institute. On her hip is a Walther P22 in an Uncle Mike's Sidekick holster. Of that class, Sophie said, ""Fun, fun, fun! I learned to shoot a million different ways: dominant hand, non-dominant hand, on the move. I got to shoot so many different guns and practice a lot. Steve made shooting guns exciting, yet made me feel like my life depended on learning how to shoot." Read more about Sophie and her evolution as a shooter in the article by Oleg Volk beginning on page 36.

Will you be ready if this guy shows up?



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BELTS



BLACK SUPERTUCK

Mark, I just received my SuperTuck Deluxe holster. I have spent hundreds of dollars looking for that perfect IWB holster with less than satisfactory results. I just found the perfect one with your product, and at about one half the price! This holster not only fits my M&P compact, but also my full size M&P. It is hands down the most comfortable holster I have ever worn. It's a great feeling to know I can carry a full size pistol comfortably vs. a mouse gun. Thanks for your great product! — Lou F., Massachusetts

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CROSSBREED HOLSTERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Send your letters to:
Concealed Carry Magazine
Attn: Editor
4466 Hwy P - Suite 204
Jackson, WI 53037

Or email:
editor@usconcealedcarry.com

Editor,
Kevin Jamison's article regarding Heller ["We Won!", CCM Aug/Sept '08] is the usual great writing by the author. However, it pains me when I hear people say that the right to own a firearm has limits just as the First Amendment has limits. The author gives the example that one cannot walk into a crowded theater and yell "FIRE!" It most certainly is a legal, Bill of Rights protected freedom to walk into a crowded theater and yell "fire." If the theater is on fire, you will be hailed as a hero. If not, you will be arrested for disorderly conduct. It is the same with firearms. It is entirely legal and a Bill of Rights protected freedom to own and use a firearm to shoot another person in self defense. If not [self-defense], it's murder. It's all about the context. Let's not keep giving the antis good words to use; they love the crowded theater analogy. Let's put their fire out!

Tom Herlihy
Chicago, IL

Editor,
I've been a member for a few months now and have been wanting to write and tell you how much I've been enjoying my membership! A couple of times before joining, I browsed your website and even signed up for the free newsletter but didn't join mainly due to limited funds. But after finally making the jump and looking at the archives and then receiving my first issue, I should have done it much sooner!

NO other magazine goes into this much detail and advice on concealed carry as you do. The ability to download past issues is invaluable as well. All of the articles in the past issues relate to today's current events and are informative. I have been telling many people at work about your organization and many have shown interest. Hopefully I can get some to join, I don't doubt it.

Keep up the good work and God Bless!

Rick Cross
Las Vegas, NV

Editor,
I was delighted to see a publisher who is not afraid to actually stand up for convictions! Bravo and kudos! ["Tim's Thoughts", CCM Aug/Sept '08]

There are few advantages to getting old, but one great and often overlooked plus is *perspective*. Having graduated high school in 1955, I have watched incrementalism ascend on our society. The language we all used in the locker room (as juveniles!) and the pool hall are now commonplace in our society. And some bright journalist started calling it "adult" language, and the name stuck! Of course sex sells. It always will. But is whatever sells really the best thing for our society? One can sell more by misrepresenting a product, or by deceptive packaging, or by any number of clever means -- well, you get my point.

As a lifelong firearms owner and hunter, I believe in our freedoms and liberty as much as anyone in America. I also believe that good taste and an underlying sense of principle should govern our enjoyment of those freedoms.

You folks have taken a high ground and we applaud you for it! We Americans have abused our freedoms for so long that many of us now mistake liberty for anarchy and lowlife behavior, and we blame it on the Founding Fathers. I am certain not all your readers will agree with your stand. We certainly do, and will be even more eager to introduce others to your magazine and to your advertisers.

Thanks for a great magazine!

Bob [last name withheld by request]
Longview, WA

Editor,
In response to Betsy Mayer from Walt Disney World (WDW) [Letters to the Editor, CCM May/June '08]: I once attended a class wherein an active member of one of our federal police agencies stated that WDW is one place he carries his weapon because WDW is high on the list for terrorist or criminal activities who want the media attention.

Use your own interpretation.

G.F. Oldziej
Murphy, NC

Given the high cost of a ticket to Disney World, its target status, and the presence of metal detectors at the gate, maybe it's time for concealed carry permit holders to spend their dollars elsewhere. ~ Ed.

Editor,
Just a comment for Kathy Jackson on her article "Is it Safe to Dry Fire?" [CCM May/June '08]

In the Tucson television range for local stations, every spring and summer messages are beamed at the viewing public warning of the dangers of leaving children and pets in cars and leaving children unattended in swimming pools. Every year in the Tucson area children drown in pools. Every year children or pets are left to bake in cars in the summer sun.

The article on dry firing has a similar tone to it.

The people who understand usually are not the ones to ignore the warnings. Those who ignore the warnings or otherwise lack the attention span to recognize the inherent dangers in such actions are, perhaps, better off out of the gene pool when their individual actions do not adversely affect innocent people. Hey! I am all for reminders but folks, there are stupid people out there and they aren't going to disappear just because we wish it to be so.

Until people realize that education is most likely the easiest path to knowledge, and the subsequent acceptance of personal responsibility, life is just going to be one challenge after another.

Richard McMains
Sierra Vista, AZ

It's surprising the number of otherwise-responsible people who just haven't ever really considered a lot of things that more experienced folks might take for granted. ~ Ed.

Editor,
The article by George Hill on the 10mm EAA Witness Compact [CCM Aug/Sept '08] says that the 10mm was introduced in 1983 in conjunction with the Bren Ten pistol. I believe that Colt had the Colt Delta Elite in 10mm. I am not sure when Colt came out with the Delta Elite, but I am sure it was sometime in the 80's.

Ron Price
via email

Production of the original Bren Ten ran from 1983 to 1986, while the Colt Delta Elite was introduced in 1987. ~ Ed.

• • •

Correction: in the Aug/Sept '08 issue on page 51, the photo of the snubbies is incorrectly captioned. The caption should read, "Smith & Wesson's new M&P 340 in .357 Magnum and 360J in .38 Special."

TRUE STORIES

CARRY A GUN... IT WILL SAVE YOUR LIFE.

BOTCHED ATM ROBBERY

Christian Johnson, 17, of Gladstone, Kansas figured he had good luck when he successfully robbed a Pour Boy gas station, so he decided to rob an elderly couple at a Bank of America ATM machine in Northland.

Johnson held the couple at gunpoint, and as he was leaving, the 61 year-old male victim retrieved his own gun from his car and demanded the robber to stop. Johnson pointed his gun at the victim, and the victim fired, shooting Johnson in the head.

"THE SHOOTING APPEARS COMPLETELY JUSTIFIABLE."

Prosecutor Daniel White said no criminal charges will be pressed against the 61 yar-old man, stating, "It's clear from the statement he gave police that the victim felt his life — or his wife's life — was at risk. He only fired when Johnson turned back toward him, gun in hand. The shooting appears completely justifiable."

Johnson remains hospitalized.

The Kansas City Star • Kansas City, KS

AMBUSH!

Handgun permit holder Nathan Zeger, 27, of Galion, Ohio had $7,000 cash in hand and was on his way to purchase construction equipment when he was ambushed by two white men dressed in black.

The men ordered Zeger to get down on the ground while one pointed a gun at him. Zeger dropped to the ground, but pulled out his .38 and shot at the men, emptying his revolver and then drawing and firing his backup handgun at least once. The armed robber fired back three times, but Zeger was not injured. It is not known if the robbers were injured.

Zeger fled to a quarry and waited for police to arrive, telling officers that he saw a "black Nissan-type vehicle with an Ohio temporary tag on the rear, leaving at a high rate of speed."

No arrests have been made, but a man being treated for a gunshot wound in a local hospital is a suspect.

Keger had responded to a newspaper ad listing the sale of construction equipment, and it may have been a trap. In previous incidents, robbers have used newspapers ads to rob another man and rape a woman.

Lancaster Eagle-Gazette • Lancaster, OH

SAMARITAN TO THE RESCUE

Officers say a man and a woman were fighting on the street when another man pulled up in a truck.

The woman got into the truck, but the man she was fighting broke the back window and tried to pull her through it.

The driver of the truck then shot the man twice. The attacker is recovering from his injuries, and police have not arrested the driver, believing the shooting was self-defense.

Koco.com• Oklahoma City, OK

MAN THWARTS ATTACKERS

A 35 year-old owner of a check-cashing business was conforonted outside his home by two armed men.

The victim was licensed to carry a 9mm Glock and pulled his gun from his waistband. The robber panicked and fired his .45 three times, and the victim-fired back four times. The robbers fled.

Det. Sgt. Anthony Repalone said, "This victim was probably preyed upon because of his business ventures." But the victim did not carry cash home from his business, he added.

One of the robbers, Jose D. Celis, 30, was arrested 15 minutes later, but the second has not been found. Celis is being charged with attempted murder, attempted robbery, criminal use of a firearm and criminal possession of a weapon.

Newsday.com• West Hempstead, NY

JEWELRY STORE SHOOTOUT

At a Southwest Side jewelry store, a pair of robbers entered and pretended to be customers. The store owner, Sergio Vasquez, was behind the counter.

The robbers pulled out guns, and Vasquez pulled out his. In the ensuing gunfight, both robbers were hit, a jeweler in the back of the store was injured, and a passing motorist was also shot in the face. None of the people shot suffered life-threatening injuries.

Police arrested one robber at the store, and found the other laying in the street around the corner.

wbbm780.com• Chicago, IL

DELI SHOP SHOOTOUT

Anis Cherradi, 26, owner of Don's Deli, was attacked by two robbers who walked in, pointed a gun at him, and demanded money.

Cherradi was forced into a headlock and wrestled to the ground when he reached for his 9mm Smith & Wesson and fired two shots at his attackers. The robbers fled the scene.

In 2006, Cherradi's brother was wounded in a similar robbery at the same deli. His brother retured fire and wounded his attackers.

concinnati.com• Cincinnati, OH

How would you have handled situations like these? Discuss scenarios and more online in the usconcealedcarry.com forums. Familiarize yourself with your local and state laws regarding self-defense.





Appendix carry allows for a minimum movement draw which is faster, easier to protect in a fight, and with the correct choice in garments, far easier to truly conceal than other forms of carry.

APPENDIX CARRY

I first began working with what is called "Appendix Carry" when two things happened concurrently.

I jammed up my right shoulder doing overhead presses in the gym, and I began to work in some ground fighting Jujitsu in the skill sets (I hate ground fighting, but you never know, right?)

I had normally carried in the four o'clock/five o'clock position, but now I found my shoulder got very sore reaching back there. You know the story the doc tells you when you tell him it hurts to do something, right? He usually says, "Well stupid…don't do that." Moving the pistol forward of the hip bone fixed that right away.

The other issue was that if I was fighting someone on the ground, it was exceedingly difficult to reach back to grab a pistol that was sandwiched between the ground and my body, yet appendix carry allowed me to reach my pistol.

When we tried appendix carry in our force on force drills we also found that it is very fast to draw from. And, mind you, we judge this speed of draw from dynamically moving positions, not from the "gunfighter's ready to go position" often seen in stationary range work.

Of course, the range Nazis almost had a heart attack when they saw what we were doing. Carrying up front was seen as unsafe, savage, and something only a caveman would do. Resistance mounted, and up until 2003, there was virtually nobody in the USA making an appendix carry, inside the waistband holster.

YET…FROM JEFF COOPER ON HANDGUNS:[1]

"Raked forward in front of the right hip is the appendix position. This is a good one for a detective whose need for concealment is not overriding. The pistol can be seen when [or] if the coat falls open, and is somewhat uncomfortable when the wearer is seated, but it is faster than the kidney position and it permits a locked wrist.

The only man I know who is both a Class A combat shot and a highly skilled holster designer is also a full-time narcotics agent. (I would like to call him by name but his line of work prevents me). He has settled on a .45 Commander, carried in the appendix position in a soft leather holster worn inside the trousers and beneath a hung out shirt tail. To blend with his unsavory professional environment, he has cultivated a sort of peacenik slouch with arms dangling forward and hands touching.

In this pose, his right forearm protects his sidearm from surreptitious search, and his left hand is ready to flip the shirt tail away if his right hand must draw. And heaven help the pusher who chooses to challenge this particular narc!"

The man Cooper was writing about was none other than the inventor of the entire IWB Summer Special concept, Bruce Nelson.

IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGES OF APPENDIX CARRY/IWB

1) Protect the gun in crowded situations.

One of the fears of most armed guys is going into a large crowd where you can't keep everyone 21 feet away, you can't keep your back to the wall, and all manner of strangers will be bumping into and rubbing across your strong



Appendix Carry makes the draw faster because less distance is travelled. This is especially important when one is in real fight requiring movement or some dynamic activity. Here, author Suarez shows an In Quartata draw, getting off the line of fire and shooting.

side holstered CCW pistol. With appendix carry, you can simply keep your arm across the holster and no one will ever know you are armed.

2) Easier covert deployment due to less arm motion in the draw.

Some folks never worry about covert deployment. This is probably because they have never been in an armed robbery where any fast motions indicative of a draw would be met with gunfire.

The shoulder articulation needed to bring the hand up to the belt buckle area is considerably less, and includes less travel time, than what is needed to reach for a wallet kept in the right cheek pocket. Less motion draws less attention, and is faster.

3) Easier deployment in grappling or stalemate situations.

Think of your fight starting with the bad guy knocking you down and now pummeling you on the ground. If you tell me that such a thing will never happen, you must be the baddest hombre ever to strap on a gun. Me, I know it could happen.

Finding yourself in that situation, a draw from appendix carry will be much easier and faster, not to mention physically safer than traditional strong side carry.

4) It is faster than any other kind of carry. Don't believe it? I will prove it to you on physics and geometry alone... and then we'll go out on the Force On Force floor.

Try an experiment right now. Stand with your arms at your sides. Now move your "strong side" hand to the appendix position (just to the right of the belt buckle). Try again with what would be the cross draw position, and the strong side position. You will notice that the distance to grip is much less in appendix carry. Left handed guys, simply reverse the exercise.

A second experiment: From each one of those positions, move your hand now to the fully extended position as if you were going to shoot. Just do it one handed now for simplicity. The appendix position is still less movement, and thus faster.

5) Unless you are built like Jabba the Hut, it is easier to conceal. Guys, no intention to offend Jabba, but Jabba is probably more in danger from a heart attack or a stroke than a bad guy trying to kill him and any type of draw is going to be a big chore.

IMPORTANT POINTS ABOUT APPENDIX CARRY HOLSTERS

1) The height of the holster from the beltline is a compromise. The guys who want total concealment want it to ride as low as possible. The problem is that the lower it rides, the harder it is to get a grip on the gun when you draw. The higher it rides, the harder it is to conceal. A rule of thumb is that the holster should allow your middle finger, ring finger, and pinky finger to wrap around the front strap of the pistol. If you can't do that, you will not be able to draw the gun at speed. Oh, you might pull some decent draws standing still shooting at some cardboard monkey on the range, but the minute you have to move, and your body is not in the perfect position, forget it. Don't believe me? Come on out to class and see for yourself.

2) Positioning of the holster. The holster has to be placed on the belt in the same spot so when your hand habitually moves to it, it will not have shifted

somewhere else. Usually, riding a belt loop is enough to satisfy this need.

3) It must be mobile. Wait...didn't you just say it needed to be fixed? No, I said it needed to be positioned on the same spot every time. But unlike the side holster, or the near-behind-the-back holster, the front of the torso flexes and moves considerably more and in various ways. A holster placed there needs to be able to move with the body, while remaining stationary on the belt.

Again, don't judge the holster by how you did at a gun game where you always shoot and draw from stationary points. That is a gun game and not a gun fight. Determine how well the holster works for you by how well you can still draw from true street concealment and fight in a force on force event, while running for your life "off the X".

If you have been looking for a good concealed carry concept that gives nothing up in terms of speed of access, this is it, guys. Give it a serious try. I think you will like it. ■



It is helpful to flag the shooting hand thumb when extracting the pistol to facilitate working with concealment holsters that ride close to the body. The thumb will initially ride on the back of the slide until the pistol is fully out and then it can move into a firing position. Waiting to acquire a "full and complete" firing grip while still in the holster will unnecessarily slow the draw, and is impossible with a true concealment rig.

[Gabe Suarez
Suarez International, Inc.
www.suarezinternational.com
www.onesourcetactical.com
www.warriortalk.com }

Notes

1. Jeff Cooper on Handguns, copyright 1979 (ISBN 0-8227-2121-X) p. 86

The Gang

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· An attorney tells you the ten things you must do and not do when a government agent comes to your home.

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"The Gang is a brutally honest look at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and how they are out of control. The presentation is shocking yet very professional. The production team at JPFO did an admirable job of assembling a convincing story that shows just what happens with an unchecked government agency. I highly recommend "The Gang" to anyone who still cares about their personal freedoms." — Tim Schmidt - Founder & Executive Director, United States Concealed Carry Association

"Evil needs secrecy and shadow to exist. "The Gang" drags this band of rogue criminals into the light; where we, The American People will judge their evil deeds." — Larry Pratt - Executive Director, Gun Owners of America



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ARE YOU WILLING?

[BY GEORGE HARRIS]

Some time ago, you decided that it might be prudent to take responsibility for your own personal safety. After sufficient study, you discovered that there are a multitude of perspectives and options available to help get you started. Next, you might consider a course focusing on self defense and street survival in today's society.

Most likely if you are reading this, a handgun became part of the solution to the problem. Next came the daunting task of deciding which was best, pistol or revolver. Selecting which cartridge is best for our own personal defense is a never ending question, but to move forward, we select what seems to be the right thing at the time.

About the same time, we had to consider the legal issues of purchase, possession, and carrying concealed. In most states at least one of the aforementioned issues, if not all, require some sort of a certified training course in order to qualify. So an internet search of your state's gun laws is in order, followed by a search for qualified training providers who can help you meet the state's requirements for certification.

Unfortunately all too many of us, in all of our training and preparation, never have the independent thought or question posed to us, "ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE A HUMAN LIFE?"

Next comes a decision about the means of carry, and the carry location, which leads to the purchase of a holster, magazine pouch, and sturdy belt to support their weight. Perhaps some cover garments such as a vest or looser fitting clothing need to be added to our wardrobe to conceal our new equipment from the general public.

The class comes and goes, leaving us with the realization that while we may now be legal to carry, we are unprepared in marksmanship—particularly when under pressure—and street tactics when it comes to self defense with a lethal weapon. The reality is that we just got started in the area of training, and that more is needed.

We seek and get more training that enhances our marksmanship skills, and teaches us how to use cover and movement, and how to operate the gun in a compressed time frame. All of the newly acquired knowledge and skill is practiced regularly from concealment, and we feel pretty good about our ability to use our equipment and defend ourselves if the need should ever arise.

As part of our continuing education we attend some interactive role playing courses where we are put

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:



George Harris has spent over 30 years in the field of adult education with more than 17 years at the SIG SAUER® Academy. He has focused his efforts in the arenas of small arms, small arms training and combat skill development. George has evolved from an infantry soldier, small arms repair technician, and drill instructor to become the coach and firing member of the internationally recognized United States Army Reserve Combat Marksmanship Team. As a competitive shooter, George has the coveted distinction of being Distinguished with both the service pistol and the service rifle. As director of the SIG SAUER® Academy, George is committed to the safe and successful use of firearms by armed professionals and responsible citizens alike through using the SIG Principle of Training: Simple Is Good!

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into confrontational situations that are relevant to what we might experience on the street. These courses cause us to use our verbal skills, street smarts and sometimes use of force with training guns using Airsoft or marking cartridge technology to successfully complete the scenario.

At this stage in our evolution we are feeling confident and pretty good about our ability to carry concealed and successfully defend ourselves or our loved ones in a confrontation from others who intend to do us harm.

Unfortunately all too many of us, in all of our training and preparation, never have the independent thought or question posed to us, "ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE A HUMAN LIFE?"

The reality of it is that when lethal weapons are used in a confrontation, there is a possibility of the death of one or more of the combatants. Trying to make that decision during a confrontation warranting such force has a high likelihood of a less than ideal outcome.

The reality of your death or the death of another at your hand must be mentally reconciled prior to finding yourself in a situation fighting for your life.

The hesitation of trying to make a decision in the heat of battle may just provide your adversary with a time advantage over you and lead to his success and not yours. The emotional scars left after taking the life of another without forethought may lead to total mental devastation and possibly suicide.

Even though what you just read is not pleasant, and to some may be offensive, it is reality. The reality of your death or the death of another at your hand must be mentally reconciled prior to finding yourself in a situation fighting for your life.

This unpleasant prospect should increase your awareness and vigilance to avoid a confrontation altogether. However, if you find yourself inextricably involved in one of these unpalatable situations, it is likely that you will act decisively and forcefully to overcome your adversary, and win the fight.

There are social, religious, and political issues among others that influence our answer to the question. Whatever your answer is, make sure that you can live with it both literally and figuratively. ■



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EN RRY: A GOOD IDEA?



Friends, barbecue and a well-protected family. Does it get any better?

[BY MARK WALTERS]

I have a question for all of you: Do those of you who live in "open carry" (OC) states actually carry openly from time to time?

Obviously the very title of this publication lends itself to our carrying concealed weapons but many of us do live in states where some form of OC is considered legal. I have to admit, it is an idea that I have been flirting with lately (more on why later).

In Georgia, where I reside, open carry with a firearm license is perfectly legal. The firearm license is not only a CCW license but it is exactly what it says it is: a firearm license, a license to carry a firearm that does not specify that the weapon must be concealed. Although Georgia is not an open carry state in the traditional sense, where OC is permitted for those who do not have a CCW license, the fact that I have my license permits me to carry either openly or concealed.

Lately it appears that the topic seems more prevalent across the country, if the increase in buzz all over the internet and the increased popularity of sites such as www.opencarry.org are any indication. It is also a pretty common thread on many chat boards including our own USCCA site. There have recently been some pretty high profile newspaper columns about the topic, not the least of which came from the Los Angeles Times. Believe it or not, the LA Times piece wasn't as critical of the practice as one would suspect from a huge, liberal, left-leaning newspaper. Even as CCW laws have been relaxed in most states, except the most liberal ones, you know: Illinois, California, New York and New Jersey, to name a few, there seems to be an open carry revo-



An outing organized by www.opencarry.org.



Enjoying an opencarry.org afternoon barbecue.

lution taking place to make the practice more mainstream again. In fact, as I write this, thousands of good, law-abiding Texans have signed a petition to make their great state the 45th that allows some form of carry in plain sight (Star-Telegram, June 23rd 2008 by Anna Tinsley).

Here's why it intrigues me. It's gutsy, plain and simple. It takes some grits to open carry in most states, no matter how legal it is. Most all of my OC experience comes from my travels in Arizona where it's not that uncommon to see guns carried openly, and it certainly doesn't require the courage that it would take to carry in say, downtown Atlanta—and I know folks who do that. It is also the ultimate way to make the ultimate statement about your Second Amendment protections.

As I mentioned above, I've been flirting with the idea more often lately. Not so much from a tactical standpoint, but more to make a statement. I personally believe that you have the tactical advantage when you carry concealed, but I'll tell you what, there is no better way to make that bold statement and stand up for what you know to be right than to strap that gun to your hip, throw aside the duster and go heeled in your local Kroger's.

I'm not really sure why that is, but it makes me ask myself some questions. Like all of you, I take my constitutional rights and protections very seriously. I will die for those rights and I will never give up my guns to any politician the likes of Barack Hussein Obama… and that means never, ever, NEVER. So, as a fervent supporter of the right to keep and bear arms, I question why I don't make that statement louder and clearer by openly carrying my handguns every opportunity I get–especially in light of the Heller decision.

Let's face it. Although we are breaking no laws, we know we may be opening ourselves up to unwelcome scrutiny from law enforcement when we carry openly. We may get some pretty strange looks from the local grannies in the aforementioned Kroger's, and I'm sure a store clerk or two may look at us a little funny from time to time…but isn't that the point? Obviously a law enforcement officer will discuss his run-in with the man or woman with a gun with his fellow officers, which may in turn enlighten those who are unaware of the legality of the practice in their jurisdiction, and thereby inadvertently reduce the harassment of other law-abiding citizens.

I mean, isn't it our duty to educate the public, and change this stigma that has been given to guns and those of us who carry them by the treasonous media, disingenuous politicians, and the lying liars who call themselves the Brady Campaign? Don't we have the absolute right to make that statement loud and clear by simply being a good citizen who causes no problems while openly carrying a firearm? Doesn't that help change people's perception? Even if we are not engaged in conversation about why we carry a gun, doesn't the mere presence of the firearm subconsciously affect those around us by removing any hidden fears that some folks may have about guns and those of us who carry them?

Maybe I'm an anomaly, but I've always tended to feel safer when in the presence of someone with a visible firearm. I don't mean simply because that person may be wearing a uniform, but I've been places prior to my regularly carrying a gun where that person made me feel a whole lot better about being where I was. So isn't it our responsibility to help change those negative perceptions when we can, from time to time? Like I mention above, I don't advocate carrying openly from a tactical standpoint as I happen to personally believe that I have the advantage over the bad guy when I have the element of surprise on my side. But that doesn't mean I can't openly go heeled on occasion and do my part to change a mind or two.

I urge you all to visit www.opencarry.org and drop John Pierce and Mike Stollenwerk a line to let them know you support their movement to remove the negativity that openly carried guns may impart on many of your neighbors. These guys are fighting hard for your rights!

While you're at it… go for it. Proudly carry that gun openly from time to time. I would also advocate that if you do openly carry your weapon that you be extra courteous and polite. Open a door for someone, help a lady with her groceries, smile at that screaming kid and just be a genuinely nice person. Afterwards, drop me a line at theordinaryguy@comcast.net to let me know of your experiences. I'll do the same, and we can compare some notes. I'll put a few of your stories in an upcoming column. Let me know how you make out. ■

[Mark Walters is a NRA Certified Instructor in three disciplines, a member of NSSF and a vocal Second Amendment activist. He is a member of GeorgiaCarry.org and encourages readers to write him at theordinaryguy@comcast.net]

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"People should be prepared to protect themselves."



CHRISTINA

Growing up, Christina Heisler wanted to star on Broadway.

Since grade school she has been involved with various school and community theater productions. She also played percussion in her school's band and has always enjoyed being on stage and in the spotlight as she performed for others.

Her life took an unusual twist while she was still a teenager, however. Christina relates, "I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life until I went on a job shadowing at a funeral home. From that day on I started working part-time for a funeral home in my hometown while still going to high school. I was a fish in water, learning a lot about the funeral business."

A few short years later, Christina had earned her Bachelors of Science in Mortuary Science, and received a license to be a funeral director in the state of Michigan. She had a particular interest in embalming and restoration, and before long, she found herself working for a county morgue performing autopsies. Most would say that it is hard to imagine a young woman with a bright personality performing autopsies, Christina admits. "However," she adds, "it's a job that needs to be done and I have a professional mindset which enables me to perform this duty for the dead. It is a result of our efforts at the morgue that allow the dead to have a voice."

Like most women, Christina feels a need to defend herself against negative situations. Her work often takes her into unsafe places while investigating death scenes. She points out, "I was always wary of dark parking lots at school, and I have also lived very close to unfavorable neighborhoods my entire life." This caution very naturally led her into the world of defensive firearms ownership, especially since she found nothing remarkable or repugnant about owning a gun. She explains, "My father has always owned guns and took me to the shooting range a few times as I was growing up. I also have a few family members in law enforcement so it was just very familiar and comfortable for me to get a gun so I could defend myself if need be."

Christina also feels very strongly about her right and need to carry a gun. She says, "Not only is it my right to own a firearm, but I feel much more secure as a person carrying a gun. Because of my small stature I know that my physi-



Christina on a hunting trip with friends Matt Kedzior and Doug Poloncih.



Now training for Golden Gloves, Christina has boxed since February 2008.

HEISLER

cal strength is limited. I fully understand my weapon and I'm not afraid to carry or use it in certain situations."

In addition to her defensive handgun, Christina also owns a .22 caliber Mossberg Plinkster rifle which she sometimes uses to hunt small game. She also enjoys hunting or just target shooting with her 20-gauge shotgun, a Mossberg 500 Youth, finding the youth stock particularly comfortable because of her petite stature.

Christina's other hobbies include scuba diving, hiking, camping, softball, boxing, range and target shooting, and stage performance. She plays the drums for Ded Ben Riggies, a basement rock band she and her friends started last year.

Admitting that her interests are somewhat varied and that the mix might be a bit unusual, Christina says, "I like to be involved, so I do a little bit of everything. Because I have so many different facets in my life, I believe that owning a firearm has limited my fear of traveling and enabled me to pursue my interests, especially the ones that may be dangerous."

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

No, nothing that definitely happened to me, just knowing my limits and living near unsavory neighborhoods. I always knew it was possible to be attacked, and I'm not exactly a big person. I don't think I am intimidating enough to scare someone off.



Michelle Waters, Bill Robinette, and Christina Heisler at Portage quarry in Bowling Green, Ohio. This was the very first training scuba dive for both Michelle and Christina.

You know, there are a lot of situations people can't get out of because they don't carry weapons. I think women, especially, should carry weapons to protect themselves because we are inherently smaller than men and therefore less able to protect ourselves physically. I think there are a lot of women who are afraid of firearms because they don't know how to use them properly or understand the mechanisms. It is that lack of understanding, I feel, that makes most women skeptical and afraid.

Were you afraid of them?

No, but I grew up with them, so I knew there was nothing to be afraid of as long as you knew what you were doing. I already understood the mechanism and how it works.

What kind of training have you had for carrying a firearm?

I hunt during hunting season, mostly small game, so I get some work with long guns, rifle and shotgun. And I go out to the gun range or shoot for fun on private property. I do think that if you own a gun you do need to practice, whether it is on the range or just setting up targets in the woods. You've got to get your practice in.

What does your typical practice routine look like?

If I'm going to the gun range, I'll set targets anywhere from 10 to 30 feet away and aim for center mass with my Taurus .38 revolver. For the .22 rifle, I like to set some tiny targets at distance. And with the shotgun, I really enjoy shooting skeet or clay pigeons for practice.





Practicing at the range with the Taurus snubby.

What do you carry, and how do you carry it?

I carry my .38 Taurus Ultra Light in a paddle holster, or in my purse. Actually, I mostly carry in my purse because I wear scrubs all day and it's just not possible to carry in scrubs—and I'm not supposed to carry on county grounds anyway.

What type of ammunition do you carry for self defense?

Speer Gold Dot in .38 caliber.

Do you have any recommendations for CCM readers?

Yes. First, I think people, especially women, should be prepared to protect themselves. If there's anybody—not just a woman—who is skeptical of guns or averse to them because they think guns kill people, I feel they need to educate themselves. I know that they will find that that fear is caused by a lack of understanding of how guns work in a self-defense role. If they did learn those things, they wouldn't be so afraid. So people who are afraid or against guns really need to take a basic class or just ease up on their adversity to them enough to understand them. People will then understand that a gun is a tool that can be used for good or bad purposes. They are no more inherently bad than a shovel or a baseball bat.

There are a lot people opposed to firearms ownership, but if you pass a law to take guns away from the public the bad guys will still have them. After all they are the bad guys because they don't obey the rules. You would end up with a society unable to defend itself against the very people that the "well intentioned" laws were meant to help protect. ■



MERNICKLE CROSSDRAW: TWO WAYS?



main: The Mernicle crossdraw is made of premium saddle leather and has a tight fit.

inset: The unique stabilizer flap.

[BY TONY WALKER]

My wife Vannessa (the Amazon Queen) pointed out something useful recently. After proofreading an article of mine on the techniques of crossdraw, she picked up one of the holsters used in the piece—a crossdraw holster made by Bob Mernickle—and held it against the waistband of her jeans, on the right side of her body, and gave me an enquiring look. I saw her point at once. The holster could also be worn in the "appendix carry" position, which was popular a few years back with the IPSC shooting fraternity. I tried this method once, but I was never too fond of carrying a cocked and locked 1911-type pistol in what I preferred to call the "vasectomy position". However, for the sake of research, I decided to see if using a crossdraw holster on the strong side would be a valid way to carry a concealed handgun.

The Mernickle holster, in this case made for a Glock 19, has a unique feature, a stabilizer flap that can be tucked behind the belt, or tucked inside the pants. This tends to push out the bottom of the holster and keep the butt of the gun pressed firmly into the side, which is a bonus when carrying concealed. The holster is made from premium saddle leather, and was an extremely tight fit, requiring a few applications of silicone spray before the gun could be withdrawn easily. However, it was soon allowing fairly speedy draws when worn in the crossdraw position.

Being lucky enough to still have a 34 inch waist, I'm not exactly the ideal candidate to wear a gun in the crossdraw position. With the holster worn to the left of my belt buckle, I don't really have enough flesh 'twixt navel and hip bone to allow the gun to be worn concealed, unless I wear a jacket, or hang my shirt outside my pants. Despite this, I persevered, and found that the Mernickle holster did a fine job of keeping the butt of the Glock firmly pressed against my body. At the range, I soon worked my draws up to reasonable speeds, providing that I took a step forward with my weak (left, in my case) foot, to bring the gun more into line with the target. The holster also worked fine while driving, and made the gun accessible from a sitting position. As a bonus, the gun didn't seem to dig into my stomach while I was seated.

I then tried the holster in the appendix carry position, which worked just fine, as can be seen from the pictures. There were no problems in making reasonably fast draws, and I found that my speeds were about the same as if I had used a holster worn behind the hip bone.

Drawing from under a shirt was no real problem, as I normally wear "Urban Cowboy" shirts that have snap fasteners instead of buttons. With the shirt outside the pants, the Mernickle holster kept the gun pulled into my body to keep it concealed, whether worn in the crossdraw or in the appendix position.



To access the gun, I simply ripped open the snaps on the shirt, and lifted the shirt as high as possible with my weak hand. My strong hand could then make the draw with no possibility of snagging on the shirt.

I'd recommend Bob Mernickle's products to anyone who is looking for a well-made leather holster. Check out his website at: www.mernickleholsters.com, or call him at (800) 497-3166. ■

*[Tony Walker is the author of the critically-acclaimed book **How to Win a Gunfight**, and he also wrote **Snides**, the action thriller that introduced ex-SAS trooper John Pilgrim and his swift-shooting wife Sally. The new John and Sally Pilgrim novel **Pilgrim's Banner** will be published soon. For more details, see his website at: www.johnpilgrimbooks.com]*


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Don Stahlnecker works out at 50 yards to see what the FiveSeveN can do.

[BY DIANE WALLS]

FNH FIVESEVEN

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NEW CALIBER ON T

FNH-USA (Fabrique Nationale Herstal) recently introduced a new caliber to the commercial market that has been gaining a foothold among military and law enforcement personnel for awhile.

This cartridge, in 5.7 x 28 mm, was designed to be light and fast for the type of modern combat that today's armed forces encounter in the urban arena. FNH designed a carbine, the PS90, and a pistol, the FiveSeveN, to fire the same 5.7mm round. Commonality of ammunition type can reduce the amount of gear the operator has to carry when these two weapons are deployed together. Positive feedback from military and law enforcement circles compelled FNH-USA to expand the market for these two guns to civilians.

As with anything new that comes from the military market, the FiveSeveN pistol came with a somewhat exaggerated reputation. Much buzz was generated on the internet about a pistol that had the ballistics of a rifle and could slice through body armor. It was suggested by some that this should never be offered to the general gun-owning public. Naturally, when I heard this, I absolutely had to get my hands on one and see what all the fuss was about. FNH-USA obligingly sent me one for testing and evaluation.

One of the first things I noticed about my FiveSeveN FDE when it arrived was all the polymer. It feels very light in the hand. The frame is synthetic, except for parts that must be metal: the internal hammer and assembly, extractor and ejector, and the parts that marry the frame to the slide. The slide is steel, of course, but wrapped in a matte black polymer jacket. It looks very modern, the military influence obvious.

In deference to the harsh conditions to which a military sidearm will be subjected in today's battlefield conditions, FNH went with a simple delayed blowback operating system. They also treated the hammer forged barrel with a hard chrome bore finish for long life. When field stripped, there is only the barrel with its captured recoil spring, the frame and the slide. There are no loose springs or pieces to lose track of. A light lubrication is all that is required to keep the gun operating. With only the lightest film of lube on the slide rails, at no time during my testing did the FiveSeveN fail to feed or extract.

Field stripping is easily accomplished. The hammer needs to be cocked in order for the take-down lever to remain in the rearward position and allow the frame and slide to come apart. The owner's manual never specifies this point in the disassembly instructions, only that the hammer must be cocked to re-assemble the pistol. The barrel and spring are easily removed. The gun comes with a cleaning kit which includes a take-apart brass rod, chamber and bore brushes and a brass slotted tip. All of these components store neatly in the handle of

The FiveSeveN FDE from FNH-USA.



The loaded chamber indicator is a small, silver-colored pin that protrudes from the slide cover when a round is chambered and contrasts with the matte-black slide finish.

HE BLOCK

the rod in a compact case that is easily stowed in a pocket, range bag or on a belt for convenient access anywhere.

The FiveSeveN is a full-size gun designed to be worn as a working sidearm for military and police and not necessarily as a concealed carry piece. The grip is wide in order to accommodate the double-stacked 20-round magazines it uses. While this necessitates an offset hold for a small handed shooter such as myself, it isn't large to the point of being difficult to handle. The controls on the FiveSeveN are easy to access. The manual safety is positioned just where, with the gun in the hand, the trigger finger would rest when properly indexed on the frame. It uses the common up for safe, down for fire system. A red oval shows when the gun is ready to fire. The magazine release is set into the frame where it can be easily reached with the thumb without breaking one's hold, yet still out of the way enough not to be accidentally pressed during firing. This control is reversible from right to left handed configuration with a tool that comes with the gun. I found the magazine release on my sample to be very stiff and slow. Everyone who tried it with me agreed that this is a point of annoyance at best, and a hazard at worst if a quick reload is required.

Another safety feature of the FiveSeveN is a magazine disconnect. Though this feature could be a lifesaver for a soldier or policeman if somebody is trying to take the weapon away from them, I find it more trouble than benefit for civilian concealed carry. I have always found these annoying for training, as I'm a firm believer in carefully ritualized dryfire both on the range when learning a new skill and at home to practice skills and stay sharp. Most range officers get a bit nervous when they see a magazine in a gun during a dryfire portion of a class. I found that with some practice, I could reset the action on the FiveSeveN for dryfire with a partial stroke of the slide. There is a half-lock point with an empty maga-



The 5.7 mm rounds look more like scaled down rifle rounds than the 9 mm and .45 ACP pistol rounds.



A 5.7 round is shown here buried in the Kevlar fibers of our level three test vest.

FN FiveSeveN

Fabrique Nationale Herstal (FNH)-USA

CALIBER	5.7 x 28 mm
BARREL LENGTH	4 ¾ inches
BARREL TYPE	Hammer forged. Hard chrome lined bore
OVERALL LENGTH	8 3/16 in
HEIGHT	5 9/16 in
WIDTH, BACK OF SLIDE	1 1/8 in
WEIGHT	19.0 oz
MAGAZINE CAPACITY	10 or 20 rounds, 3 magazines included with gun
SIGHTS	Fixed 3-dot combat. Tritium inserts available. Rear sight adjustable.
FINISH	Polymer frame and slide cover
GRIPS	Integral; checkered front, back and sides
SAFETIES	Magazine disconnect. Manual safety. Loaded chamber indicator.
OTHER	Delayed blowback operating system. Internal hammer fired. Double action only trigger.
INCLUDES	Integral picatinny rail, reversible magazine release (tool included), ambidextrous safety, sight adjustment tool, cleaning kit, hard case.
MSRP	$1153.35 for the FDE model tested

zine in the gun that I kept hanging up on. When the magazine was released, the slide would snap forward from this position on its own in a rather startling manner. Thank goodness I didn't have any parts of my hand too close to the chamber when this occurred! When the slide is locked fully back with an empty magazine, the magazine must be released, at least partially, before either the slide-lock can be used or the slide racked and released.

As is the case with many semi-automatic pistols on the market today, the FiveSeveN has the added safety device of a loaded chamber indicator. On this gun, it is a small, bright, silver-colored metal pin that protrudes slightly from the top of the slide when a round is in the chamber. It contrasts with the slide's matte black polymer jacket pretty well, but is not big enough to be very eye-catching. It is, however, easy to feel with the hand and would be useful in low light conditions. The manufacturer recommends that the FiveSeveN not be carried with a round in the chamber, as the gun may not be drop safe, so this is a good little safety extra to have.

I didn't think FNH would appreciate me doing an official drop test, in which I actually dropped the gun on a hard surface from a prescribed height to see if it would discharge. I didn't have the facilities available to safely do so in any case. But when the manufacturer warns against carry with a round in chamber, it behooves the serious practitioner of concealed carry and defensive shooting to carefully consider the risks before carrying a firearm that is not drop safe.

The FiveSeveN comes with 3-dot combat sights. The factory will install sights with tritium inserts upon request. The rear sight is fully adjustable for both windage and elevation with a sight adjustment wrench that comes with the gun. Adjustment is easily accomplished, making the sighting-in process simple. I set off to the range to see what it would do.

One of the first orders of business was to see for myself whether this gun could really penetrate body armor with the rounds available on the commercial market. FNH sent me a quantity of 28 grain hollowpoint lead free rounds, rated at 1890 feet per second muzzle velocity, and I bought some of their 40 grain sporting loads, rated at 1650 feet per second muzzle velocity. To get a vest for testing, I asked a friend in my local police department, who was one of the officers in charge of putting on our Citizen's Police Academy, if he might be interested in a demonstration for the class on their range day. He cheerfully let me tag along and provided one of his old level three vests. Our test was less than scientific and therefore inconclusive on the half of the vest we shot. He gave me the vest to play with. I chatted with one of the other officers in charge of the range day who had been an instructor with the Washington State Police Academy and was familiar with the FiveSeveN. He told me how they tested guns for penetration in the academy by placing the vest over a thick stack of cardboard targets. They had tested the FiveSeveN several times, and were unable to penetrate a vest with it.

I decided to try the test again with some backing that would at least somewhat simulate the force absorption qualities of a body behind the vest. I tightly bundled about 3-4 inches worth of glossy paper catalogs and strapped these to a steel silhouette target. I fastened the vest over this. I fired two rounds each of the 28 grain and 40 grain loads into the vest.

None of the rounds penetrated. The 40 grain loads didn't leave any impact damage on the backing at all. The 28 grain loads went deeper, in part because they hit the vest closer together than I wanted to place them. Even so, they didn't go through, and left impact damage to about 1.5 to 2 inches. I did a little research online to see what other testers had discovered about the 5.7 mm. round. In wood, ballistic gelatin and clay, it penetrated in the ranges of other pistol rounds tested. So much for the FiveSeveN's reputation as a cop killer. It's no worse than anything else out



Don Stahlnecker shows off his best 25 yard target with the FiveSeveN.

there. Another myth has been busted.

I called some of my shooting buddies to come out with me and test the FiveSeveN. Even though it was an unusually cold spring day, with everything from sunshine to hail and snow, we had a good time. The FiveSeveN is very pleasant to shoot. The 5.7 mm. rounds generate almost no recoil, and fast, accurate shots are easy. Though the gun is large, and all of us had to shoot it in an offset grip, it pointed well and naturally, even in low light conditions.

The double-action only trigger breaks cleanly after light take-up and a little bit of staging movement. My sample gauged out consistently for me at 5.5 pounds pressure on the trigger. Reset on the FiveSeveN is clean, and both tactilely and audibly distinct. Unlike most double-action only firearms, this one uses an internal hammer rather than a striker to actuate the firing pin. The consistent feel of each trigger stroke, though, is like its striker-fired brethren.

After we'd played on the falling steel range and in the darkhouse, I asked my good friend, Don Stahlnecker, if he would replicate the 25 yard work my husband and I had done early in the pistol's break-in period. Don, who has an uncannily steady hand, agreed. Since we were working with such a fast round, we also decided to see what we could do with the FiveSeveN at 50 and 100 yards. All distance work was done with the shooter seated and the gun rested on a sandbag or benchrest. The initial groups I had shot ranged from 2.5 to 5 inches at 25 yards with the 28 grain rounds. Don's groups also went as large as 5 inches, though he had one as good as 1.5 inches for five shots with the light rounds. The 40 grain rounds had also grouped for him at around 2.5 to 5 inches. In light of its close-range accuracy, we had expected better, more consistent performance. At 50 yards, Don kept his shots 90 percent within the C-zone or better on an IPSC silhouette target. The rounds shot so flat that almost no adjustment in sight picture was required out to 100 yards, where all the rounds stayed on the silhouette.

The FiveSeveN performed well for the combat pistol it was designed to be. It's a well-made gun and very user friendly. It's easy to see why the light weight and high capacity magazines of the FiveSeveN would make it an attractive choice for military and law enforcement personnel, especially with the availability of the companion carbine in the same chambering.

For those of us in the commercial market, the FiveSeveN would be a nice gun for training in high round count classes. Anyone challenged with hand strength issues, or who can't tolerate recoil well enough to enjoy training with firearms would find this gun to be a pleasant alternative that packs more punch than a .22 caliber. For self defense, it makes up for its light payload with high velocity and controllability that allows rapid multiple shots.

In my opinion, the major downside issues with the FiveSeveN would be its large frame that's not conducive to the ease of concealment civilians require, and the prohibitive cost, and limited types of ammunition currently available for it. If it becomes better established in the commercial market, a wider variety of ammo will become available as major manufacturers see a demand for it. Perhaps FNH would see fit to offer the FiveSeveN in a smaller, more concealable version in the future. For now, however, these two factors could keep this gun from gaining much momentum outside military and law enforcement circles. ■

[Diane Walls is a longtime martial artist and shooter. She is on staff at Firearms Academy of Seattle as an assistant instructor for handgun and women's programs. Her articles have appeared in ***Women & Guns Magazine****.]*

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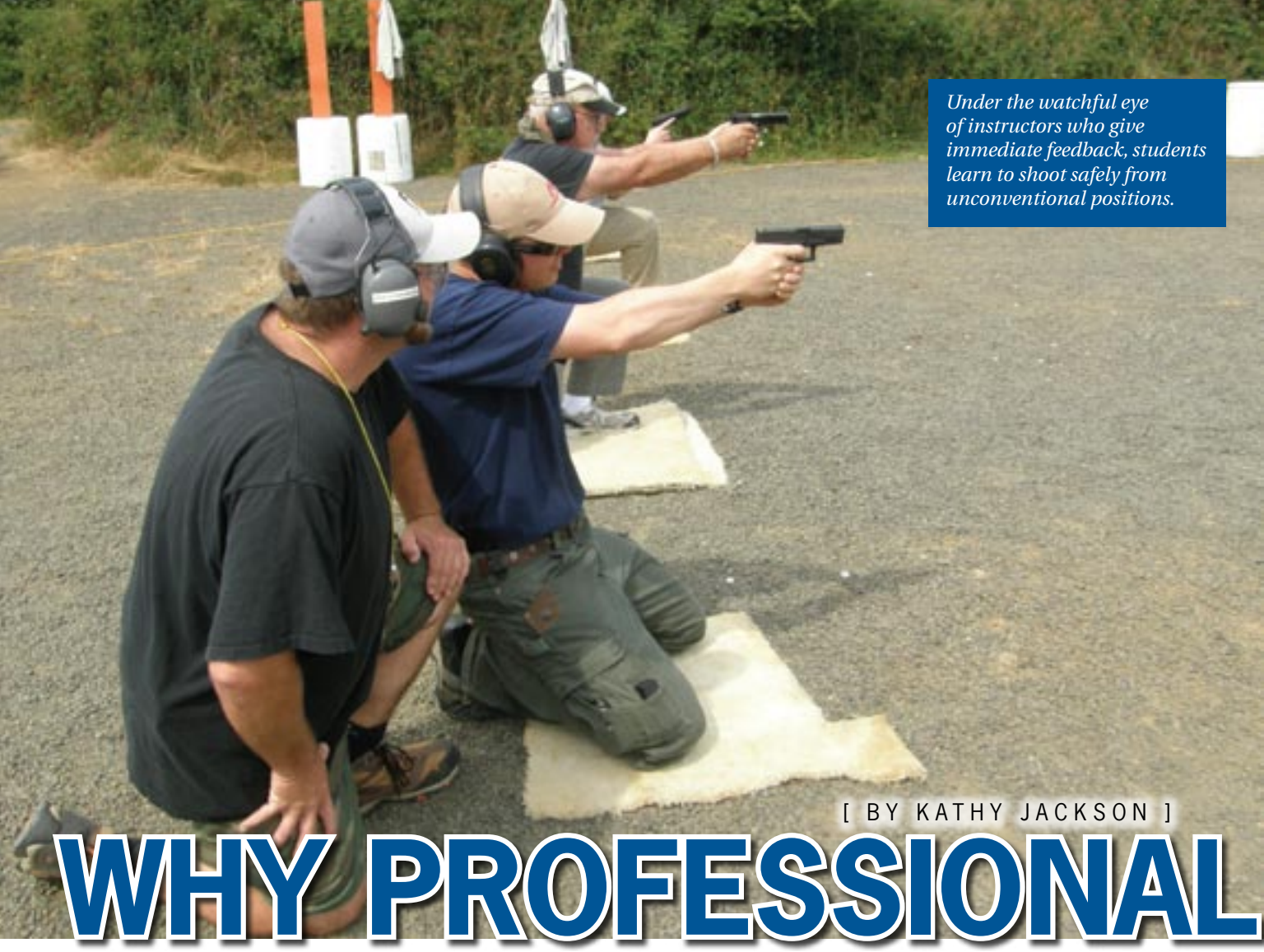
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For use of equipment & ranges as well as expert advice

Kathy Jackson and Donald Stahlnecker
For their camera work, companionship and expert opinions



Under the watchful eye of instructors who give immediate feedback, students learn to shoot safely from unconventional positions.

[BY KATHY JACKSON]

WHY PROFESSIONAL

One of the comments I have often heard from first-time students at a professional firearms training facility is, "Wow! I just didn't know how much there was that I didn't know!"

Sometimes they'll say, "I thought I was a pretty good shooter ... until I came here." Or they'll say, "Gosh, I never realized how much there is to think about with this stuff."

What these students are telling me is that the training industry has generally done a poor job in educating shooters about *why* they might need professional training.

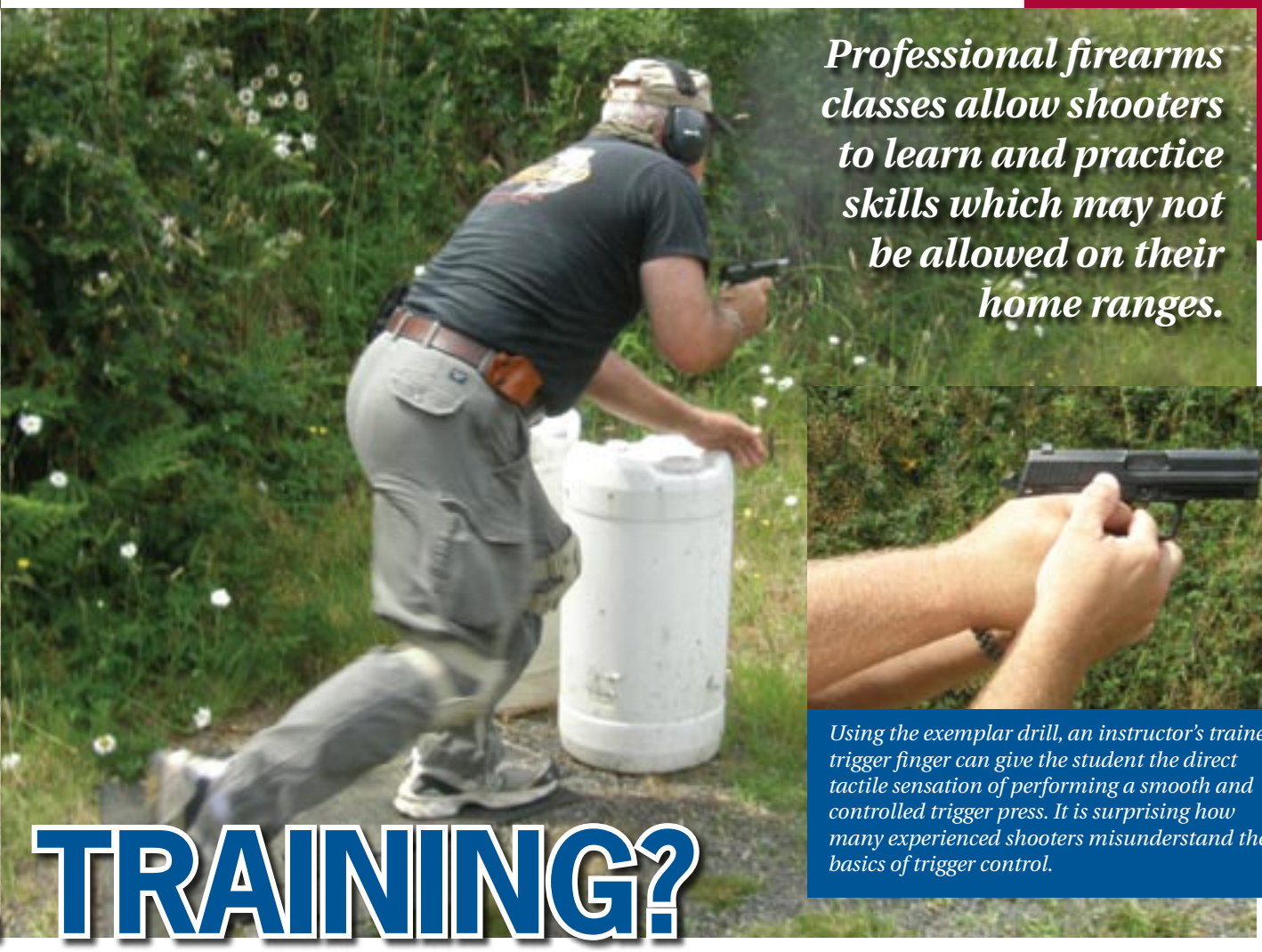
The problem is compounded greatly by state-required classes for concealed carry permits, which a great many people still think of as "real training." These classes can provide good information, and in most cases they're probably better than nothing, but *their primary purpose is really NOT to train the students how to defend themselves.* On the contrary, the primary purpose for these state-required classes is to assure political leaders that people who acquire a CCW permit in their states will not endanger the public. This is a far cry from being sure that the permit holders are themselves safer and better able to defend themselves from criminal attacks.[1]

As a lifelong autodidact,[2] I was a bit taken aback the first time a friend suggested to me that I might benefit from professional firearms training. "Good grief!" I thought. "This stuff is not rocket science. Why can't I just teach myself, or learn from books and videos?" Fortunately, I took my friend's advice anyway.

WHY NOT LEARN FROM A BOOK?

There are a lot of really wonderful things you can learn about self-defense from books. Chief among these is *mindset.* Books can be a wonderful way to impart philosophical points (see *The Art of War* by Sun Tzu; *Principles of Personal Defense* by Jeff Cooper). They can give the reader practical and tactical concepts (see *Guns, Bullets, and Gunfights* by Jim Cirillo; *Stressfire* by Massad Ayoob; *Teaching Women to Shoot* by Diane Nicholl and Vicki Farnam). They can address specific social considerations and give a good overview of the process of becoming a responsibly armed citizen (see *Effective Defense* by Gila Hayes). They can address legal issues (see *In The Gravest Extreme* by Massad Ayoob) and ethical questions, too (see *Shooting Back* by Charl Van Wyk; *Into the Kill Zone* by David Klinger). They can help prepare you to deal with the aftermath of using deadly force in self defense (see *On Killing* by Dave Grossman).

But the written word is a very limited medium, especially when it comes to learning physical skills. Take, for ex-



Professional firearms classes allow shooters to learn and practice skills which may not be allowed on their home ranges.

Using the exemplar drill, an instructor's trained trigger finger can give the student the direct tactile sensation of performing a smooth and controlled trigger press. It is surprising how many experienced shooters misunderstand the basics of trigger control.

TRAINING?

ample, this description of how to do a back fall:

"Squat down with your feet at the edge of the mat and your back facing it. Cross your arms over your chest, tuck your chin down ... Curl your spine outward. Then gently allow yourself to tip backward, keeping your arms crossed and your head tucked. When your shoulders are against the floor, allow your arms to open up and slap your palms down on the floor on either side of your butt."[3]

There's absolutely nothing wrong with the above description. It's pretty clear to anyone who has ever seen a back fall done. But to someone who has never seen a martial artist perform a basic back fall, there are a lot of unanswered questions: at what angle are the arms supposed to slap out? How does the timing work, exactly? Short of actually seeing the task performed, the inexperienced reader will have a difficult time properly doing it. What's more important is there isn't any feedback to tell you whether you did it right when you try it for the very first time.

Ah ha!, some of our more astute readers are thinking, *then what about seeing it on video?*

LEARNING FROM VIDEOS

There's really no denying that it is significantly easier to learn a physical task from watching a video than it is to learn the same task from the written word. For one thing, the viewer can actually see the action. You can watch the timing of the events, see how one motion flows into the next and then into a third. And, as with a book, there's the wonderful, wonderful advantage of being able to stop the action and think about what you've just seen. You can rewind it to the spot where you got confused, or slow it down enough that you can clearly see what is going on and have time to assimilate each step before moving on to the next. In some ways, videos are better than real life.

But.

Videos are not terrifically portable. Typically, you watch videos in the comfort of your own home, absorb as much information as you can, and then take that information (however much of it you've absorbed) out to the range with you. If you're missing a piece that you need to know, you have to go home and watch the video again in order to get it. More likely, you'll just guess and fill in the gap, *thinking* that you are doing what the video suggested.

A video cannot give you feedback about what you are doing. This is huge, people. Just this week, another instructor and I were talking about a course he was assisting with. "Rough day!" he confided. "One guy pointed a gun at me—TWICE."

"Twice?" I inquired, "What happened the second time?"

"The first time I didn't see what led up to it. Got there as quick as I could and redirected the muzzle. Gave him the stink eye and the full chewing out. He apologized, felt bad, promised he wouldn't do it again."

"So what happened the second time?"

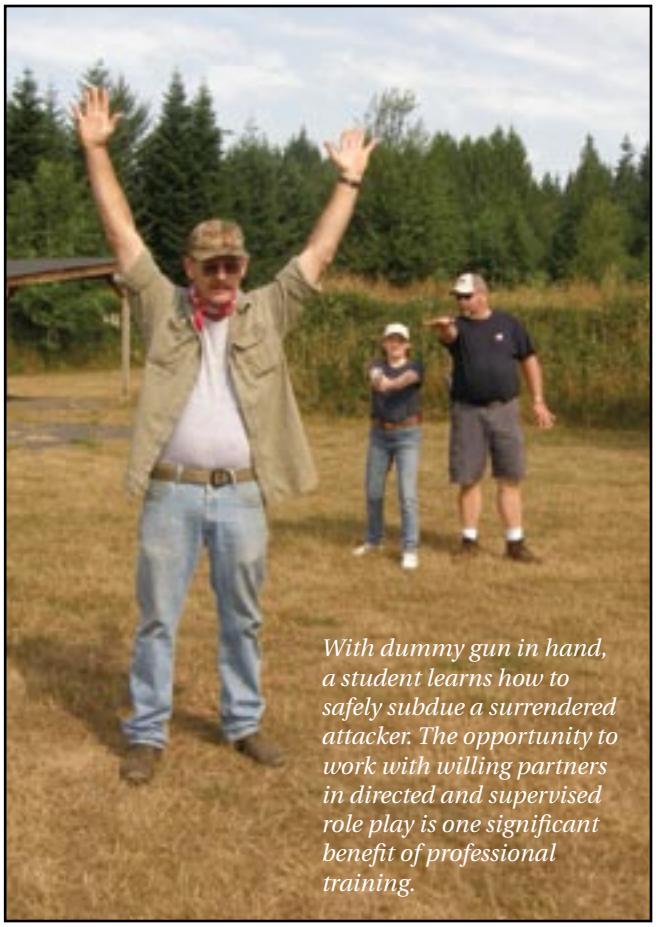
"The usual..." Deep sigh. "He simply did not have the faintest idea that he was bringing the muzzle around to point behind him every time he reached for a fresh magazine. Honestly did not. Just a complete failure of self-awareness."

Experienced shooters and intelligent people often have a hard time believing how much they need this honest and direct feedback from a skilled observer. But everybody *does* need it—and the longer the shooter has practiced without formal training, the more desperately they are likely to need this feedback as it relates to both safety issues and shooting techniques.

When I first began working out of a holster, I thought I was doing pretty well with it. Maybe I wasn't as fast as others, I reasoned, but at least I was doing everything safely. Or so I thought. Right up until a professional firearms instructor stood next to me and said, "Hey. You just pointed the muzzle at your own hand." I did? I hadn't even been aware of it!

Similarly, I have in turn stood next to students who were totally oblivious to their own major safety violations, everything from pointing the firearm at their own abdomens while racking the slide (yes, really), to sweeping the person next to them, to casually leaving their fingers on the trigger. When caught, the universal response is honest bewilderment: *"I did? I didn't even notice!"*

And that's just for gross and obvious safety issues. Shooting skills are even more prone to this type of personal blindness. One of the most powerful tools a good instructor has in the toolbox is a little trick called the "exemplar drill." Most instructors are vividly (and sometimes bitterly) aware that no matter how carefully they describe a good, smooth, steady trigger press, a certain number of their students simply cannot wrap their minds around the concept. You can describe it, write about it, show video of it, demonstrate it, talk them through it—and too many folks will *still* not get it. So with the exemplar drill, we stand next to the student, have them place their sights on target and their fingers on the trigger without pulling it. Then the instructor comes alongside and carefully puts a trained trigger finger over the student's trigger finger, tactilely demonstrating what a good and correct trigger press actually feels like, the steadily increasing pressure until the shot finally breaks and a good solid follow through after the shot fires. It's a great tool. And it's a *necessary* tool, because sometimes words and even example just aren't enough.



With dummy gun in hand, a student learns how to safely subdue a surrendered attacker. The opportunity to work with willing partners in directed and supervised role play is one significant benefit of professional training.

I'll never forget the first time I stood next to a student and did an exemplar drill with him. It was like watching a light bulb go on over the student's head. He turned to me in amazement. "But that's what I *thought* I was doing before!" he exclaimed.

Nor is this dynamic unique to trigger press alone. Whether it's a sloppy and fumble-prone drawstroke, a pattern of movement which guarantees a stumble with gun in hand, or an awkwardly slow method for clearing a malfunction or reloading, every single shooter on the planet has blind spots. These problems can be corrected easily when spotted by an experienced observer, but are very unlikely to be corrected by the shooter who is not aware of them in the first place.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Besides this necessary feedback, there are other benefits to being directly trained by a professional rather than teaching yourself.

Good instructors incrementally build skill upon skill, technique upon technique, until the students are blowing the centers out of the targets much faster and more accurately than they ever believed was possible. Attaining this increased skill level is accomplished *not* by simply shooting a lot of ammunition, but by building a solid foundation first, and then shooting that ammunition with a purpose and a plan.

Good instructors force their students to learn and then to practice skills the students aren't already good at when they come into the class. This counters the natural human tendency to overlearn the stuff we already know, while neglecting the stuff we need to learn.

There is not enough time in one lifetime to make all the mistakes yourself. While any given instructor might directly discover or invent a solid technique to solve a specific shooting problem, all the best instructors have learned from many other good people who have done the same thing and then compared notes.

This means that the solutions Jeff Cooper found in his heyday are still being passed along; that the lessons Jim

Cirillo taught the world did not perish with him. It means that the way Jack Weaver stood to shoot, and the tweaks that Ray Chapman gave to Weaver's stance are still being taught *and refined* by others. The Hackathorn Rip, the Bill Drill, the Ayoob Wedge, and the El Presidente are all easily available to the serious student, even in classes where these techniques or practice routines have been discarded in favor of newer ones. Dennis Tueller's famous drill is run in dozens of schools. But *you* needn't attend a dozen different schools to be exposed to this body of knowledge, because professional instructors talk to each other and learn from each other. They filter through a tremendous sea of distilled experience so they can pass the best ideas straight down to their students.

Learning directly from a professional trainer provides another little-advertised advantage. Students who have attended a professional school often have access to resources available only through that school: secure email lists, private forums, assurances of personal help if legal problems arise, referrals to trusted lawyers and expert witnesses and trauma counselors after a deadly force event. These valuable resources are usually available *only* to people personally known to (and trained by) the professional who offers them.

Finally, there's one more huge advantage to attending a professional firearms training school: it's fun! As one woman said to me not long ago, "Well, I absolutely needed to take a real vacation for myself this year. It was a choice between going to Disneyland or getting some training ... and this sounded more fun." ■

[Kathy Jackson is the managing editor of Concealed Carry Magazine. An instructor at the Firearms Academy of Seattle in Washington state, she takes special pleasure in helping other women learn to shoot. Kathy and her husband have been married over 20 years and have five teenage sons. Visit her website at www.corneredcat.com.]

Thank you to FAS Director Marty Hayes, FAS Assistant Instructor Don Stahlnecker, and the students who attended the August 2008 session of Weeklong Handgun at the Firearms Academy of Seattle for permission to take photos during their class. For more information about FAS classes, see www.firearmsacademy.com.

Notes

1. Lest anyone misunderstand me: there are a lot of very good instructors working within the confines of a state-required program, and for the most part, these folks are doing excellent work. Occasionally they are able to "bootleg" more information to their students than the state really requires, and that's excellent! My comments here regard the purpose of the state-required programs, and are not a criticism of those who work very hard to equip their students within the limitations of these programs.

2. Definition? Let's just say that the autodidacts reading this will go look up the word, but nobody else will.

3. *Self-Defense for Women: Techniques to Get You Home Safely*, by Elizabeth Pennell.







THE FINE POINTS OF CARRYING A GUN WHILE TOTING A TODDLER

Problem: Carrying a child on the strong-side hip positions them on top of the gun. Uncomfortable for the child, and inconvenient for the parent—a fast draw is not possible.

THE PACKING PARENT

[BY MARKO KLOOS]

In today's expanding market of publications geared towards legally armed citizens, there's a certain demographic that still gets short shrift when it comes to tailored information.

Sure, both the print and online gun magazines have no shortage of information for properly and effectively toting a gun when you're male, female, thin, obese, handicapped, six feet tall, or five feet short—but there's very little out there for the segment of the population that has to worry about concealing a pistol, and managing an infant or toddler in public at the same time.

In states where the population has the option to legally carry a concealed weapon, between two and five percent of citizens jump through the legal hoops and get concealed carry permits. If you live in such a state, you can assume that statistically, one or two out of every fifty people you see in public are legally carrying a handgun. That includes the segment of the population that ventures into public with strollers, baby carriers, and diaper bags. Some people consider it irresponsible to have handguns in the proximity of small children, while others recognize that having those children increases the need for carrying a weapon. Not only are you entrusted with the protection of more lives than your own, but you're also in a position that usually doesn't allow you to flee from danger easily. When you have small children in your charge, your handgun is no longer a *self*-defense tool, but a *family*-defense device.

The armed parent has to face a set of challenges that the average gun owner seldom has to consider. You have an obligation to keep and carry your gun in a safe manner, inaccessible to your children, yet reasonably fast to access in case of emergency. The trigger lock (the cure-all solution for the gun-phobic groups who would love to see all parents store their guns disassembled and in a separate zip code from the ammunition) is patently useless to anyone who wants to be able to use the weapon for defense against muggers, carjackers, or home invaders, who don't have the good manners to announce their intentions in advance.

Leaving the house with small children is an exercise in logistics, and a minor hassle on the best of days. You have to remember snacks, bottles, diaper bags, and toys. Throw in the need to comfortably carry, and efficiently conceal, a two-pound lump of steel on your person, and it's a major challenge.

Your average gun toter usually puts a holster onto their belt, covers the weapon up with a jacket or other garment, and goes about their business. Strong-side carry is still the best way to keep a weapon ready for quick access, but for the toddler-carrying parent, it doesn't work so well. First of all, consider how moms and dads usually carry a small child in need of carrying: on the strong-side hip, so that the weight of the child is on the hip bone instead of in the parent's arms, and the parent can support the child with their strong-side arm. This places the child right on



Popular baby carrier leaves the hands free, but interferes with holsters worn on the belt due to the location of the support strap.

Weapon carried in crossdraw holster can be drawn by the strong hand, or by the weak hand in "cavalry draw".

A clean draw is not an option here.

top of the spot where the gun sits, right behind the point of the hip bone. Not only is it uncomfortable for your toddler to sit on the lump of steel on your hip, but it also makes fast retrieval of the gun impossible. In addition, some of the most comfortable ways to carry a small child—the baby sling, or the backpack-like carrier harness known as the Snugli—completely rule out carrying anything on the waist, because the support strap interferes with anything you may wear on your belt or in your front pockets.

There are also environmental considerations that make the traditional method of strong-side carry less than ideal for the parent. Parents of infants and toddlers tend to move in circles where the inadvertent exposure of a gun may provoke strong reactions. While people may shrug off seeing an exposed weapon on your belt at the grocery store, it becomes a bigger issue when you're on the playground at the park, surrounded by lots of other parents and their small children, or in the children's section at the bookstore or library. Even if carrying your weapon in these localities is legal, other parents may vocally disagree with you bringing a loaded weapon into an environment full of children, and that sort of conflict will add unnecessary stress to your day. Therefore, parents must exercise even more diligence than the average CCW holder when it comes to concealment, yet this need must be balanced against the requirement to have the gun available in a timely manner in case of emergency.

Fortunately, there are a few carry methods that, while often ridiculed or dismissed by the childless permit holder as unsuitable, offer a unique set of advantages to the armed parent: the fanny pack and the shoulder holster.

The fanny pack, long dismissed by "serious" gun owners as a fashion faux pas and an obvious indicator to criminals, really comes into its own when used as a gun carrier by the toddler-slinging parent. It covers the gun completely, with no chance of accidental exposure, and it still allows for reasonably fast access. It gives the parent a place to stash wallet and wet wipes, and it keeps the hands and hips free for other uses. The fanny pack also has the undeniable advantage of being stealthy—while it may look obvious on a guy with a buzz cut and a pair of "tactical" pants, there's

absolutely nothing unusual or uncommon about a parent toting around toddler or infant supplies in a belt pack, and its presence will rarely if ever be questioned or looked upon as unusual by other parents. (It's a good idea to use a fanny pack model that has a separate compartment for the weapon, so you won't expose the gun while getting out a wallet, cookie, or wet wipe in front of other parents.) Taking the pack off even for a moment is out of the question. Caring for an infant or toddler involves a disregard for fashion dictates and frequent spit-up stains on clothing, so the fashion faux pas accusation against fanny packs has no application to the gun-carrying parent of small children.

The second carry method that has parent-specific advantages is the shoulder holster. When you're out and about with a child, you do a lot of bending over—taking a baby out of the car seat or putting him in, picking your child up off the ground, fixing shoelaces, wiping noses—and that's precisely the sort of movement that tends to expose the grip of a holstered pistol on your belt as it presses against the fabric of your covering garment. A shoulder holster keeps the weapon suspended under your weak-side arm, thereby both keeping your strong-side hip free for taxi duties, and keeping the belt line clear. Another big advantage of the shoulder rig is the ease of access to the weapon in a seated position, like being buckled into the driver's seat of a car, and the lack of exposure of the weapon to anyone walking up behind you while you're putting the kids in the car seat (a scenario that makes you very vulnerable because you're in a parking lot, a favored work environment for criminals, and you have your back turned to the likely axis of danger.)

As with any carry method, the fanny pack and the shoulder holster are not universal fix-all solutions for every armed parent out there. They do, however, offer viable alternatives for the diaper-slinging subset of the population, those of us who need to carry wet wipes along with spare magazines, and who want to be equipped to handle emergencies beyond the full diaper and the skinned knee effectively. Becoming a parent means an increased need for protection, not a decreased one, and with a little bit of experimentation, most parents will find a way to consolidate the need for safe storage and discreet concealment while keeping their defensive tool readily accessible.

After all, the gun is another indispensable tool in the parental toolkit. Everything we take along with us when we leave the house with our kids is designed to take care of their needs: wet wipes and diapers to satisfy the need for hygiene, snacks and bottles to satisfy the need for nutrition, toys to satisfy the need for entertainment…and Mommy's or Daddy's gun to satisfy the need for physical safety and a life free from harm. Of all the parental jobs, that of the Protector is arguably the most essential, and it makes no sense to take along the tools to fix a poopy diaper, but not the tools to fix a car jacker, mugger, rapist, or kidnapper. ■

[Marko Kloos is a stay-at-home parent and freelance writer who has been carrying guns for over fifteen years, both professionally and as a private citizen. He lives in New Hampshire with his wife, two small children, and a pack of attack dachshunds.]

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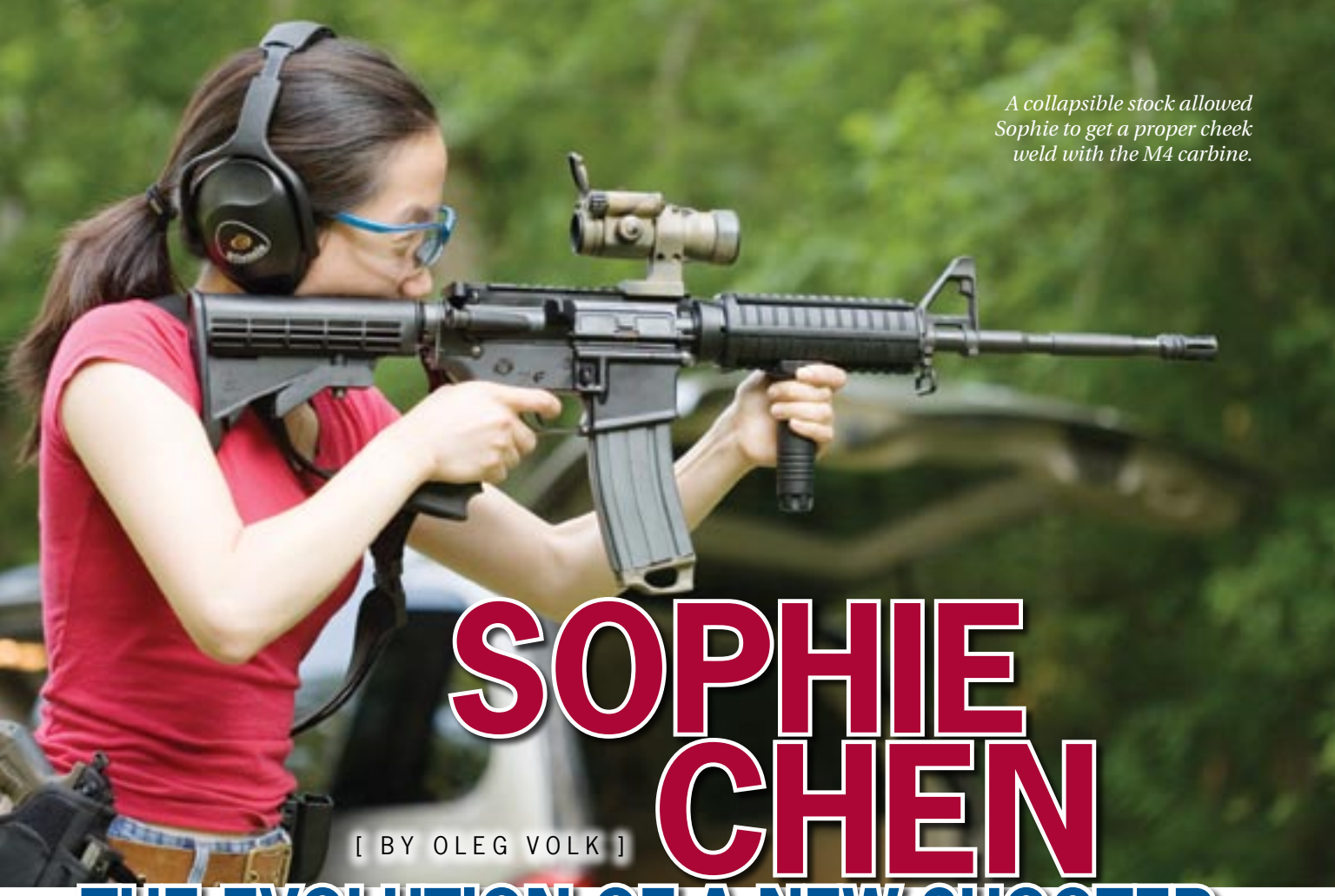


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SOPHIE CHEN

THE EVOLUTION OF A NEW SHOOTER

[BY OLEG VOLK]

Throughout her life, Sophie Chen has endeavored to do right by others.

A biochemistry researcher by education, she also volunteers extensively. Since 2000, Sophie has taught English in Mexico, tutored English as a second language (ESL)to Persian and Iraqi refugees in Nashville, and conducted Sunday school for kids. A sunny, cheery young lady, Sophie sees the best in all people she meets. Her view of personal safety had been equally positive. She was quite safe, she told her friends. "Besides," she wrote, "I already have the sword of the Spirit and the armor of God." Her friends concurred, either sharing her conviction or deferring to her certainty.

I invited her to the range a few times and she always said, "Sounds interesting, but I don't have time for shooting." Once, she asked me if I was armed, and upon seeing the guns, was quite disconcerted. We had only discussed firearms online once before meeting in person. She thought me to be a crazy, paranoid guy who needed to forget about guns and to stop worrying. Living in Nashville, Sophie never even thought about bad people trying to hurt her.

In 2006, Sophie decided to go to law school. She got a scholarship to Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in Memphis, and made ready to move. Quite a few of her friends said worrisome things about crime in Memphis, so Sophie took an unarmed self-defense class. In it, she learned to fight back with her bare hands. She gained useful skills, but she also discovered that a four feet eleven girl massing ninety pounds would be outmatched by much larger attackers.

Later that year, Sophie accepted an invitation to go to the range. "No harm in going just once to learn the basics," she thought. She learned the basic safety rules, how to hold a pistol and use the sights. Firing on balloons and other reactive targets was fun. Sound suppressors provided by companies Advanced



In a world where most handguns are still designed to fit the average to large adult male hand, shooters with hands as small as Sophie's have an uphill battle with finding guns to fit.

Armament, and ETS, made early marksmanship training easier by eliminating the flinch-inducing report.

Shortly thereafter, Steve Fisher of Michigan Defensive Firearms Institute came to teach in Tennessee. Sophie was among the students. In her own words: "Fun, fun, fun! I learned to shoot a million different ways: dominant hand, non-dominant hand, on the move. I got to shoot so many different guns and practice a lot. Steve made shooting guns exciting, yet made me feel like my life depended on learning how to shoot."

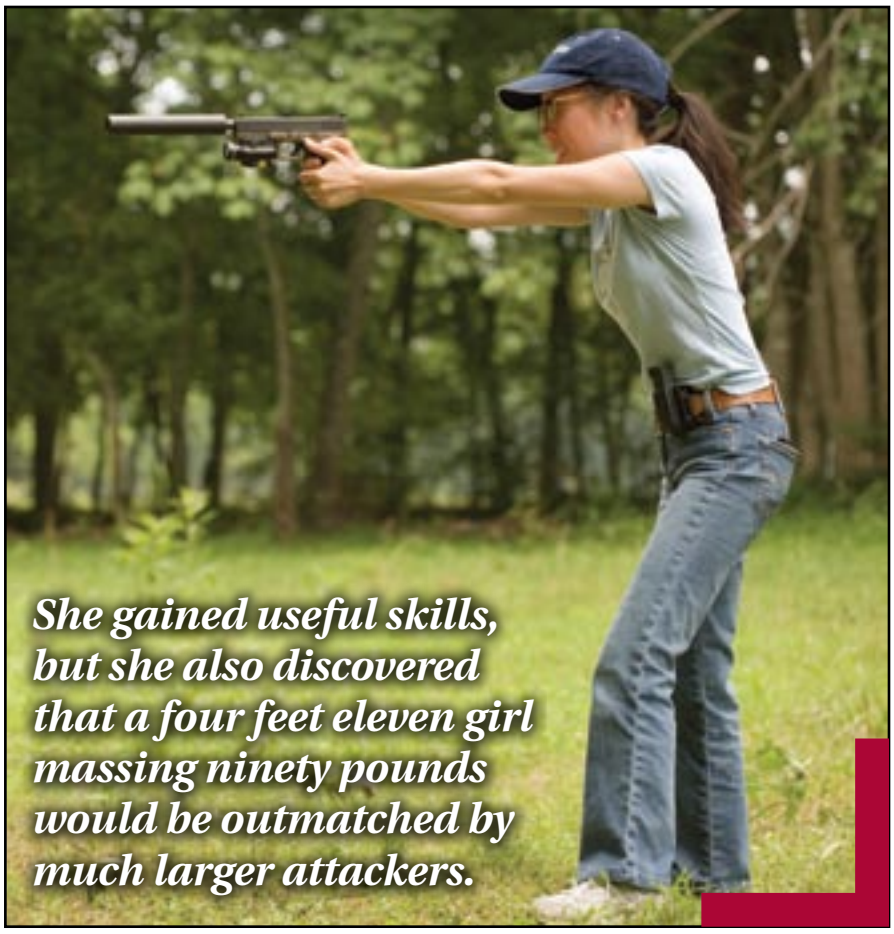
We discovered that the Smith & Wesson M&P pistol with its user-configurable grip fit Sophie's tiny hands better than other models—though she also used Glocks effectively. She learned the basics of shooting the carbine as well, first with a rimfire rifle, then with an AR-15. Steve, a talented and knowledgeable instructor, loved doing his part to enable tiny, inoffensive Sophie to develop the Valkyrie facet of her personality.

As Sophie began her three year stay in Memphis, her friends continued to worry about her. A petite, attractive, single woman living in a city known for violent crime would be safe only so long as her luck held out.

Sophie had firm faith in God and Providence, but some of her friends were less certain. After a while, she began asking them questions about personal safety, the ethics of use of force, and gun control. On the urging of her friends, she found herself at the women's introductory firearm course at Rangemaster.

Having been away from guns for several months, Sophie found that basic course invaluable. The instructors were kind, and patient women who made the novices comfortable learning intimidating technical skills. The course reiterated the fundamentals of loading and unloading pistols, sight alignment, and malfunction drills. Rangemaster staff also demonstrated how unlikely it is that the thinly stretched Memphis emergency services can arrive in time at the scene of a violent crime.

After that course Sophie took a two day carry permit class at Rangemaster. Firing a loaner Kahr P9 pistol, she discovered a preference for Glock triggers, with their short reset. She enjoyed the Level I course enough to sign up for the Level II. Lest anyone think that she was now serious about shooting, she excused her enthusiasm: "I only signed up because it was $50 off for returning students, I already have all the equipment, and I like learning this stuff."



Sound suppressors made early marksmanship training easier by eliminating the flinch-inducing report.

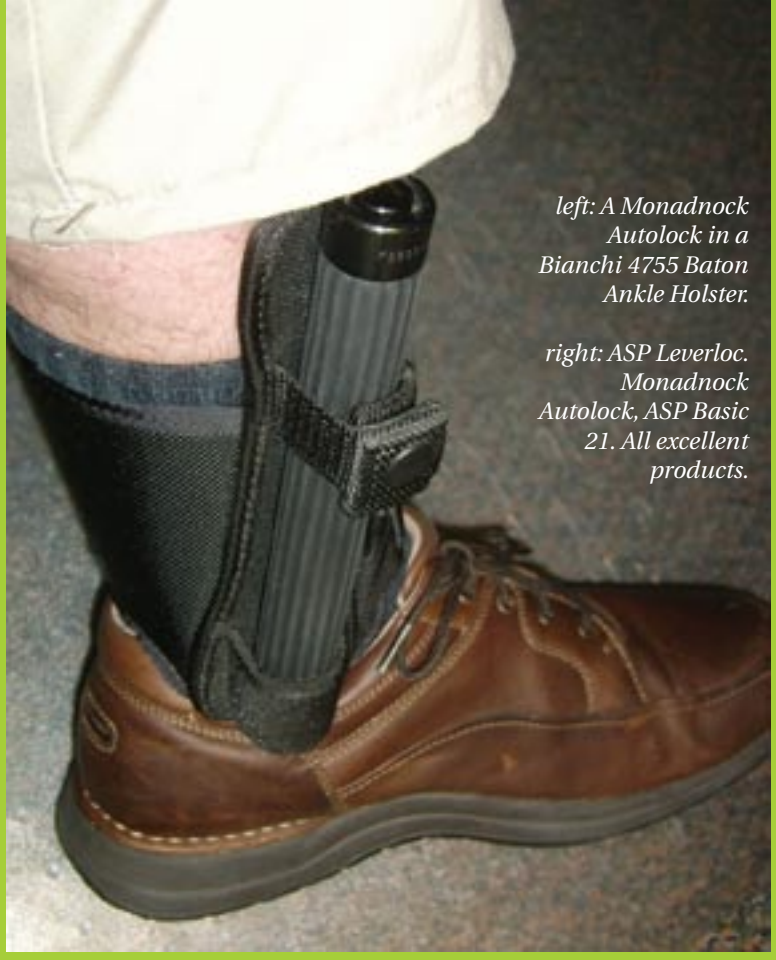
Having learned safe handling and marksmanship, Sophie is now learning safe storage and carry, as well as maintenance of firearms. Fortunately, her friends support her enthusiastically in her quest for self-sufficiency in personal defense. Finding holsters and other accessories to fit her was also a challenge. Her short stature and curvy hips made most conventional holsters stand out noticeably. For now, she is using Alessi Talon holsters with Kahr P9 and Glock 26 pistols, but K&D Holsters offered to provide her with a custom M&P Compact holster suitable to her body shape.

Sophie has been open about her learning progress with her friends. They found her informative and several expressed an interest in following her lead. Slight of stature and build, she is the poster child for the equalizing factor of guns. Ever concerned with humane and Christian treatment of all people, even criminals, she is also a paragon of restraint in the use of force. As she continues to train and improve her ability to defend herself and those dear to her, her friends can breathe a sigh of relief. ■

Michigan Defensive Firearms Institute
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[Oleg Volk (olegvolk.net) is a creative director, a photographer and a graphic designer. He has been promoting the right to bear arms since 1995, when he opened his website, www.a-human-right.com. Currently, he runs a firearms forum at www.thehighroad.org, creates numerous pro-freedom posters and looks for a compatible life-mate.]



left: A Monadnock Autolock in a Bianchi 4755 Baton Ankle Holster.

right: ASP Leverloc. Monadnock Autolock, ASP Basic 21. All excellent products.



COLLAPSIBLE BATON - THE GENIUS OF SIMPLICITY

The club may have been the first tool ever made. [BY CHARLES ELLIS]

When humans first picked up a stick and whacked something with it they created the foundation for technology. Even after many other weapons were developed, the club never lost its appeal. Eons later, here in the twenty first century humans are still using some variation of the club. This tool has lasted thousands of years and it is commonly found on every continent because of its sheer simplicity and utter effectiveness.

I have personally defended myself on several occasions with a stick and a baton. Gunfire would have not been appropriate and would certainly been dangerous to bystanders during these events. I often walk our dogs, and vicious dogs have attacked our poor pooches while they are on their leashes. I once defended our little pack by beating a snarling stray with a cane, and on another occasion, used a 21-inch expandable baton to fend off another attacking dog. There have been other incidents as well where mean dogs have stopped their attack early rather than meet with my swinging stick. Humans are not the only danger out there.

Police departments in every country and in every city in the world depend on some form of the caveman tool to enforce laws and bring order. For the armed citizen, the club or baton adds a valuable tool to their lives. This tool adds distance to defensive encounters as well allowing the defender to regulate the level of lethal contact. The baton never runs out of ammunition and does not pose any danger to innocents in the background.

The expandable baton is probably the most innovative design change in this ancient tool in centuries. It is a series of slightly tapered metal tubes slid together into a telescoping device. The tubes fold into the handle. When the closed baton is swung and snapped the tubes extend and lock into an extended position, forming a rigid baton. It is easy to conceal and can be an effective defensive tool.

In our home state of Tennessee there is a little known law that allows citizens the ability to carry an expandable baton concealed if they have obtained the proper training. When we decided to get our required training we wanted to get it from one if the best and most knowledgeable instructors in the state, Buford Tune of Nashville's Academy of Personal Protection and Security. Tune is a retired police officer and has a mile-long resume that includes expertise in firearms, self defense sprays and other tools. He is also an expert witness in justified police and civilian shootings, and is often seen the local news being interviewed as an expert in this field. Buford

Tune is a big man with a Tennessee accent and street-earned fierceness that is tempered by his country humor and Southern kindness. If you live in this region we highly recommend you consider attending Tune's fine school for your training.

Our class was a basic baton licensing class. Much like a concealed gun safety class, it started with the legalities and safe usage of expandable batons. Tune lectured on street applications and explained how a strike to the head or neck area was considered lethal force.

After the classroom session it was time to learn to use the baton. The class went outside with striking pads and padded practice batons. We beat on the pads until we learned to focus our strikes with ample force. At one point the instructor gave us each a gentle thump on the neck and the thigh with his hand and a padded training baton to help us understand the dynamics of getting hit with a baton. This was an eye opener. Even a light thump to the side of the neck was jarring. When we finished the class we were issued a card that allowed us to legally carry a baton in Tennessee.

Many states deny their citizens their right to carry any kind of club or stick. This is shameful. Most people are oblivious of these ridiculous laws and carry sticks while jogging and keep bats and clubs in their cars. Little do they know they are committing serious crimes in some areas. It is sad that our leaders have made basic tools illegal for some "feel good" policy to bolster their careers.

Even in areas with laws against carrying a club, there are options. Walking canes are still legal in most places. Before we carried a collapsible baton we often brought a stout walking cane. ■

[Charles Ellis is a Quality Systems Manager and a freelance writer. He especially advocates self-defense for women, and has been very happily married since 1982. He believes that the 2nd Amendment is all about political freedom and self-defense, rather than duck hunting. And perhaps he is the only Jewish, libertarian (who votes Republican), vegetarian member of the NRA.]

THE "TACTICAL QST": QUICK STEEL STICK

[BY J. KEATING]

The ASP or Monadnock type steel baton takes the legacy of the humble policeman's nightstick to new levels of application. Sticks of any kind have always been difficult to carry whether on foot or in a vehicle. That problem was solved by the clever telescoping sleeve design the ASP or Monadnock type employs. Like a child's transformer toy, the baton goes from a short, yawara stick size (6 to 8 inches) to a much larger (26 inches) and faster impact weapon merely by the flick of your wrist.

Surprise is a real factor in the application of an ASP or Monadnock type baton. With no tell-tale giveaways to impede its use, the slim profile is hard to see and moves fast.

Like hearing the sound of a shotgun racking or the ominous snap of a switchblade knife opening, the collapsible baton also carries a psychological noise that many have come to know and fear. The metallic "schhlockk" the baton makes upon being snapped into full length comes from metal sliding on metal. LEOs often find that a difficult suspect becomes more managable just from hearing the sound of the baton opening!

Surprise is a real factor in the application of an ASP or Monadnock type baton. A hardwood nightstick can be seen from a distance. Because of its nature, the traditional nightstick is hard to conceal. But a collapsible baton is never seen until it is deployed. With no tell-tale giveaways to impede its use, the slim profile is hard to see and moves fast. Indeed, illusion should accompany the tactical applications of this wicked wand of steel. At night it's nearly invisible.

On a civilian level, the folding metal baton is a wonderful idea. The whole concept of the collapsing baton is so defensive by nature I am amazed that more civilians do not own or carry a folding baton of some type. With the variety of sizes you can choose from there is a ASP or Monadnock type for every need. To beef up your confidence level, I recommend that you try out a few months of Arnis, Kali or Escrima training. These defensive tribal arts of the Phillipines all offer true insight and skill to any person interested in learning more about sticks, steel batons or clubs. (Kelly Worden has steel baton training videos available to the public at http:www.kellyworden.com).

As a tactical person myself, I prefer the folding baton over other versions of impact weapons. I see a bright future for the collapsible steel baton and recommend its responsible ownership to anyone seeking to make their world a bit more secure.

If you have questions, thoughts or need training on this steel baton subject I am always available at this email: jkeating@bmi.net or catch me at my website: http:www.jamesakeating.com for further information. Remember, train safe, train smart! ■

[James Keating has an extensive background in Asian martial arts, which he has studied since the 1960s. His studies include judo, jujutsu, karate and kung fu, as well as Filipino knife arts. Keating owns Combat Technologies in Washington State, and has been running the famous annual Riddle of Steel camp since the early 1990s. Visit his website at www.jamesakeating.com]



Practice, practice, and practice. This young woman practices moving fast, taking a solid stance, and firing low. With the compact .45 and Black Hills 230 grain JHP she has a very good chance of successfully defending herself.

SOME THOUGHTS ON ANIMAL DEFENSE

[BY RK CAMPBELL]

During my life I have been bitten by a mule and flogged by a mother hen.

As a youth, while riding my trail bike I was bitten by a large dog. I have had a number of scares with reptiles, and one kangaroo. The events are humorous except for the dog bite. These incidents are more or less ordinary in the life of a person who does not mind being in close proximity to animals. I had never seen an animal beaten or abused as a child, but I did see such crimes once I became a peace officer. Sure, some of the farm animals I saw were working animals but they were treated with respect. My father liked large dogs such as German Shepherds and Dobermans. These were hardly working dogs. I suppose they were spoiled rotten and very well adjusted, friendly animals.

I had many jolts to my ideas concerning humanity when I became a peace officer. Few got my dander up as much as the mistreatment of animals. When it comes to people, I discovered that inadequate types often keep a snarling, growling prosthesis to make up for their own shortcomings. I saw starving and mistreated animals, and drug dealer's drug dogs. I saw children mauled by dogs that should have been their companions.

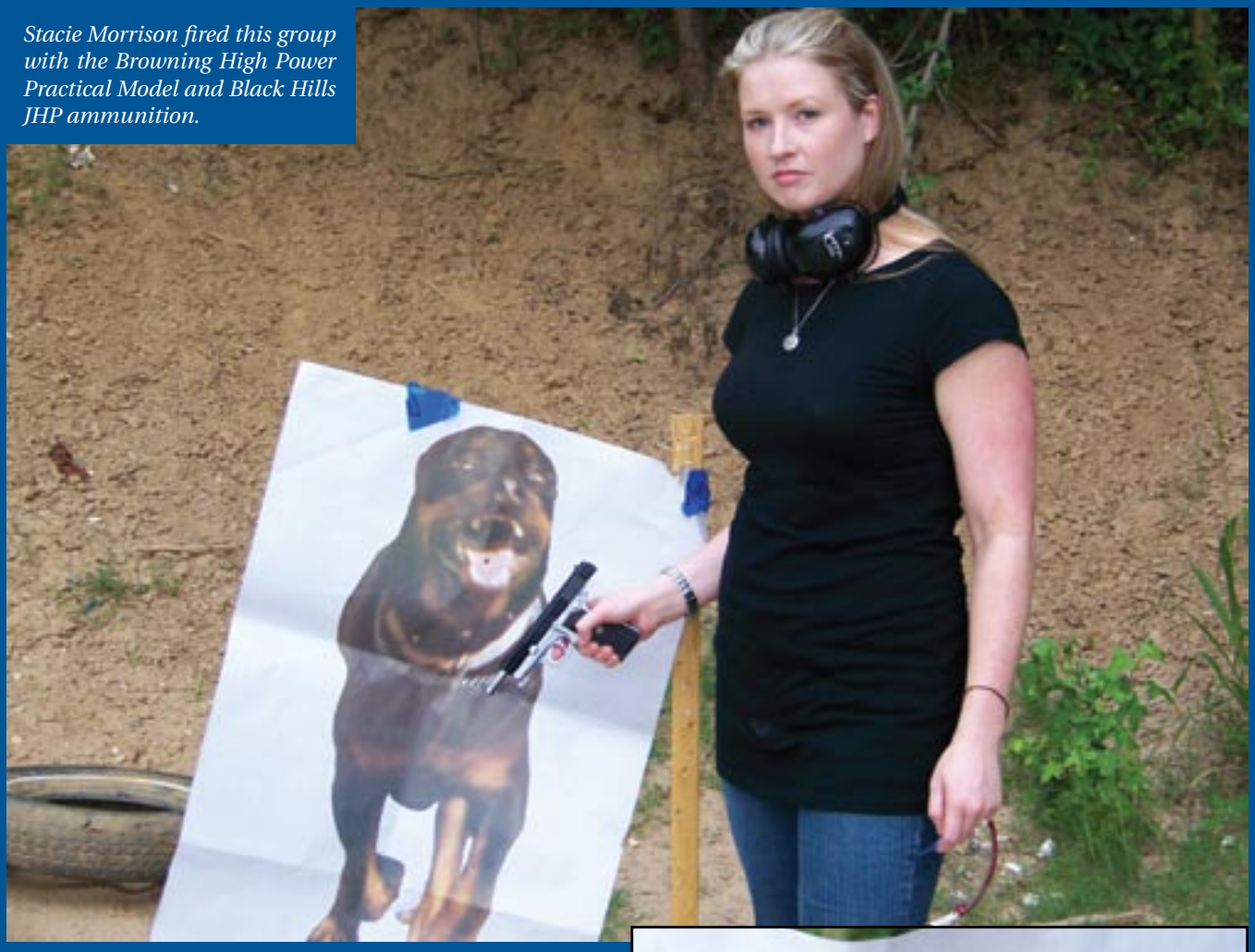
We must realize that dogs can be a menace. Often, the dogs that are most menacing are not the offspring of our protein fed criminal class, but the pets of elite snobs who scarcely regard you and me as human. Dog attacks have occurred in the ghetto and in Beverley Hills as well as the countryside. There have been an increasing number of wild animal attacks involving cougars, bears, and even alligators. The big cats have proven especially deadly. Then there are the dangers of feral dogs that are wild and have no fear of humans. Some of the attacking animals are sick, injured, hungry or too old to hunt and feed. They can be dangerous.

Diligence and common sense go a long way in avoiding these attacks. Respect of an animal's space is important. Most wild animals like to have plenty of space between them and humans, and so do domestic animals. If a cougar has entered human space something is very wrong.

Animal homicides are not common, with fewer than five hundred humans killed each year in America by animals (not counting snakebites).

When animals attack they move faster than humans and present a smaller target. The flurry of motion boggles the mind. You must fire quickly and accurately. Your body stance should be solid, preventing you from being bowled over, and protecting the firing hand.

Per my police experience, dogs are difficult to stop with small arms fire, but



Stacie Morrison fired this group with the Browning High Power Practical Model and Black Hills JHP ammunition.



This is a contact shot with the .22 Magnum. Gas really amplifies the wound at close range.

we will not discuss horror stories. I will pass on the drills that work and build skills. Any drill that addresses moving targets is a good one to build skills in firing on a moving target. You must condition yourself to fire downward toward the ground. This is a good thing, as the risk to bystanders is reduced.

Remember the dog's vital organs are in a different relation to your line of fire than those of a human. A head shot is proportionately more difficult with a human. You must fire quickly and accurately, and hope to strike the head. If you fire under the head, then the center of the chest and higher up is the target. Firing low in the chest from the front produces little if any result.

As may be expected, the effective handgun calibers begin at 9mm +P and those calibers that begin with a "4" are better. Be certain the cartridge selected has a good balance of expansion and penetration. You cannot go wrong with Black Hills ammunition, but whatever load is chosen, be certain it is completely reliable in your personal handgun.

As for big cats and coyotes, they are not much more difficult to kill with handgun fire given good shot placement, but the shots must be accurate. I am aware of a big cat that dropped like a rock with a single .22 Magnum—fired while the cat was leaping through the air! But others take a lot of killing.

Facing an animal attack is unpleasant and a daunting proposition. But these beasts can tear, rend, and cripple. When you engage in a training program, the program will be seriously short on tactical reality if you do not include animal defense drills. ■

[RK Campbell is an author with over 40 years shooting experience and more than 30 years police and security experience. He is the author of three books and hundreds of magazine articles. He devotes his time to learning more about personal defense and the human situation.]



Holding my toddler stand in. She has my eyes, don't you think?



Turning to your 7 o'clock as you draw puts your body between your adversary and the toddler.

DEFENDING THE FAMI

This month we'd like to take a look at a very common scenario.

We need to have a plan if we are attacked. Most of us have our solo plan in place, and have our responses dialed in. The new wrinkle we want to consider is what we would do if a member of our family, specifically a child, was with us during the assault. It puts a different spin on things, doesn't it?

I'm the father of two daughters and I have considered this at length. My kids have had some training as to what we would do in the event of an assault. We have a plan in place for several situations, and they know what I expect of them in an emergency. Now let's look at the questions your family will need to answer to have your own plan in place. Awareness is very important. If we can avoid a problem before it becomes a problem, that is a win for everyone involved.

The first thing to consider is the age of your child. If you have infants or toddlers in strollers, your mindset may be very different than if you have pre-teens or teenagers. You are walking with a child in a stroller, and a thug pops out from around a corner and demands your wallet. What do you do? You can't just bust out your best Pekiti Take Off and shoot them to the ground, now can you? That child is your responsibility and you can't leave them. Depending on the factors involved, compliance may be the best solution to keep your child safe. If you have a spouse with you, this will change things and give you more options for your response. Discretion may be the better part of valor in either case, but if you have to use deadly force, you do have more options open to you. If you and your spouse have trained together, you should be able to successfully solve the problem in front of you, and if they also carry, it's just the bad guy's unlucky day. It's a difficult situation, regardless of the composition of your family group at the moment of attack.

Let's look at the possible scenarios. There may be a contact weapon, such as a knife, pipe, or firearm. You may be alone with an infant or toddler, or alone with older pre-teens or teenagers. You may be with a spouse (who may or may not carry) and an infant or toddler, or have the older pre-teen or teenagers with you. The permutations could get overwhelming so we will just deal with four possibilities. We will examine the scenarios of you being alone with young children that are helpless and alone with older children that can react and follow directions appropriately. We will also take a look at two adults with young children, and with older children.

If you are alone with a very young child, they are completely dependent on you for protection. This is, in my



If you are alone with a very young child, they are completely dependent on you for protection. This is, in my opinion, about the worst scenario you can find yourself in.

My body is between the adversary and the baby as I engage.

LY

[BY JACK RUMBAUGH]

opinion, about the worst scenario you can find yourself in. The only one worse would be a hostage situation, but that is a subject for another time. If you are carrying an infant, for example, you will have to really think about your reaction to a threat, and consider the fragile nature of a very young child. If the decision is to defend yourself, you are automatically reduced to being one-handed. Also, certain lines of movement will be much less desirable. You will have to present your pistol one-handed and move with the added mass of your child. Your balance will be affected to a degree and you will want to make sure your body is between your child and your assailant. If the child is older, and able to run, you may have the option of leading your child away, keeping your body between your child and the threat. It still may be quicker to grab them up off the ground and quickly move off the line of attack. If your children are older, and you have trained with them, they can really turn the tables on your attacker. If they are able to move off the line of attack as you press your counter attack home, your assailant's attention will be momentarily split between the kids running to your five o'clock and you moving to the eleven o'clock, while delivering a well aimed burst of fire to his center of mass.

The other scenario we want to spend some time considering is two adults with the younger, and older children. If we are with our spouse and have younger children either in a stroller or being carried, you need to keep your primary hand free at all times. Once confronted, the easiest thing to do is split up, with you going one way, and your spouse getting out of Dodge as fast as they can in the other direction, again dividing the attention of your attacker. Once you start putting shots on target, your attacker will hopefully be fully focused on you and the damage you are inflicting on him.

If your children are older, the scenario would play out as before with your spouse. The idea would be to divide the attention of the attacker, and then you deal with the problem quickly. The cultivation and use of command voice is helpful in these situations. I know when I use command voice, my children know something is up and they had better listen and react accordingly. Command voice is your friend. It also may have the added benefit of resetting the OODA [Observe, Orient, Decide and Act] loop of your attacker, giving you a split second advantage. Take it and exploit it.

Another question is, does your spouse carry a pistol and train regularly? This would be the best of all worlds. Your as-







1. I move my daughter behind me as the threat presents itself.

2. She stays with me as I negotiate the threat. Note the hand keeping contact with my shoulder.

3. The adversary has to deal with two targets now. I engage as my daughter escapes to the rear.

sailant expects an easy mark, and gets two armed and very protective parents for his trouble. One of you would be the "rear guard" so to speak and the other takes care of the assailant. The other possibility is that both adults solve the problem as the children escape to the rear. Like I mentioned earlier, it is a very bad day for the bad guy.

It's time to run a couple of these scenarios and see what happens: The first one is a single adult and a small child. I don't have a small child handy so I will substitute a 24 lb kettle bell. My attacker will be using a contact weapon. He will simply close, present his weapon and make his demand. It's up to me to manage the contact. As the assailant approaches, I make sure I have a secure hold on my "child" and maintain the distance. As he presents his contact weapon, I move to my seven o'clock as I present my pistol. I'm able to move off the line of attack, and place a number of rounds on target.

Let's give the assailant his own airsoft pistoland run that again. As he approaches, I secure the hold on my child and try to keep some distance between myself and my potential attacker. As his hands move to his waistband, I mov to the seven o'clock again, present my pistol, and put rounds on my adversary.

Let's debrief these two scenarios. In both instances I purposely chose my line of attack to interpose my body between my child and my assailant. Moving to the seven o'clock position increased my distance from my attacker, and put me between my child and his weapon. In both cases, I was able to use my initial awareness of the situation to gain a slight advantage over my attacker.

I couldn't talk my lovely wife into playing my other adult, so the second scenario will be one adult and an older child. This one was set up as before, first with a training knife, and then with an airsoft pistol. I again manage the contact initially by getting my child behind me. She knows to get behind me and put a hand on my back or shoulder so I know exactly where she is. If I tell her to move, she knows that means run away directly behind me and look for cover. I'm the barrier the assailant has to get through to get to her. As the attacker closes and presents his training knife, I am able to have her move directly to my six o'clock and I am able to move more to my one o'clock, away from the arc of the knife, and give her time to escape as I place rounds on my target.

The next run is with airsoft versus airsoft. Again, once the assailant makes his approach, I have my daughter move behind me. In this set of circumstances, I might instruct my kids to just get down on the ground, or run to cover. It's a decision that I hope no parent is faced with. If there is good, solid cover available and close, running to cover would be preferable. In this instance, my only choice is down. As my assailant makes a move for his waistband, I present my pistol. She hits the deck as I move to my eleven o'clock. I manage to place a number of hits on my adversary, but I take a couple of peripheral hits in the arm and shoulder. Nothing life threatening I'd say, but I would have still needed medical attention had it been a real fight.

Once again, let's debrief these two runs. With an older child who is able to take some sort of evasive action, you have several new possibilities open to you. Your lines of attack are no longer as limited as they are when you are protecting a toddler. Having a child that knows what to do in a situation like this is priceless.

Distracting your assailant with overwhelming aggressive force should be your default response when dealing with a threat of this nature. Let the inner lions, tigers, and bears (oh my) out of their cages. Go all Rambo on them. They endangered ***your*** family. Righteous indignation doesn't begin to describe what you should be feeling.

I can't stress this enough. Have a plan. Make sure that you AND your family has a plan of action. You know what everyone will be doing, and conversely, your family members will know what you are going to do. A little prior training will keep it from turning into complete chaos. The last thing you want is for someone to take your legs out from under you. Fighting from the ground is less than ideal, and if you hit your head on the pavement it may be game over.

Consider getting your spouse to carry and then get him or her some quality training. You have far more advantages together than you do alone. Having one gun is good. Having two guns in the hands of two trained, and highly motivated individuals is much, much better.

We didn't specifically touch on this item in the scenarios, but some basic first aid is a good skill for other family members to have. The best case scenario is you are married to a trauma surgeon, but in the event you are injured, some simple steps to control bleeding will increase your chances to make it to the hospital. I can feel the parents shuddering as I type this. Teach your kids to use a cell phone if they are old enough to understand. Teach them about the proper use of 911. It may save your life.

Next month we will be talking about a scenario that we may find ourselves in on any given day, one that has been posted in the forum, and one I almost found myself in on a recent trip to my high school reunion. See you next month! ■

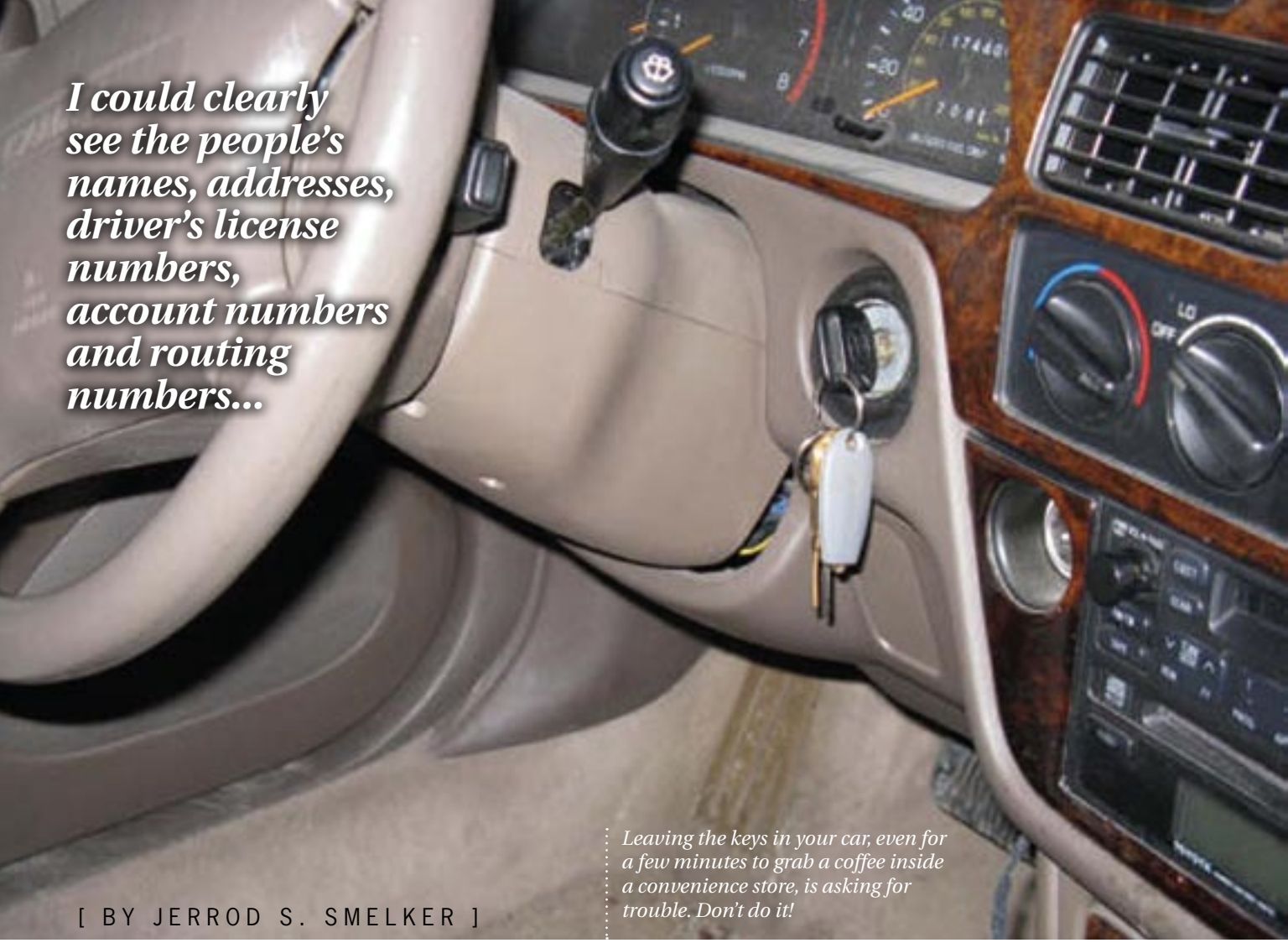
[Jack Rumbaugh is a Suarez International Staff Instructor for Virginia. He lives in the DC area with his wife and two teenagers. A self-professed training junkie, he is usually doing something that makes his wife shake her head and wonder.]











I could clearly see the people's names, addresses, driver's license numbers, account numbers and routing numbers...

Leaving the keys in your car, even for a few minutes to grab a coffee inside a convenience store, is asking for trouble. Don't do it!

[BY JERROD S. SMELKER]

THE THINGS I SEE

I don't think that a day goes by that I don't see everyday people let their guard down.

We all do it at one time or another, but I've noticed that many people do it all the time. I always say to myself, "Boy, if I were a criminal…."

One summer morning I stopped for gas on my way to work. It was about 6 a.m. I got out of my car, locked the doors, and pumped my gas. No one else was around. As I was standing there, I noticed a woman, about 25 to 30 years old, pull up in a nice newer Pontiac. She parked by the front door and disappeared into the convenience store. Her car was still running, windows down, radio blaring. As I went inside to pay for my gas, I walked past her car. Her key was in the ignition, alongside a number of other keys to her house, office, and private life. Her purse was sitting on the front passenger seat, wide open. I could clearly see her cell phone, address book, check book, and wallet. As I entered the store and paid for my gas, I could see that the woman was busy pouring herself a cup of coffee and trying to decide between the jelly filled and the glazed Krispy Kremes. I walked outside and got back in my car, started it, and then waited. About another three minutes passed before the owner of the Pontiac emerged from the store, donuts and coffee in hand. She got in her car and drove away. I see this way of thinking and this behavior from people just about every day.

Now I'm sure that many of you reading this are probably thinking the exact same thing I was: when that women at the gas station went inside, I could have taken her car, her money, her identity. I could have had access to her home and to her place of business. And the list goes on. This woman had her eyes off of her vehicle for at least five to six minutes. That would be plenty of time to take her car and possessions, and get away without anyone knowing where I was going. Worse for her, I could have climbed into the back seat to wait for her–and I could have done it in less than ten seconds, because that's all the time it would have taken.

I went by my small bank one afternoon to make a deposit. As I stood in line I noticed several things about the patrons of the bank, the bank staff, and

the bank itself. First, I noticed that there was only one door to enter and exit. That always leaves me feeling uncomfortable in the event that I have to make a fast emergency exit. I guess I could grab a chair and break out the huge twelve foot window if I had to. (Come to think of it, I would probably get a great deal of pleasure from that.) There were cameras above each teller's workstation, but most likely they are never monitored, only recording in the event something does happen. Now this one makes me laugh: the counter had two-inch thick bulletproof glass all around the tellers. Directly in front of the teller was a sliding two-inch thick bulletproof window that was slid wide open during business hours–Hmmmm?

I could tell where each person standing in line kept their wallet and money by the way they removed them from their purse or pocket. When they left, I knew exactly where their fresh wad of money was kept for safekeeping. As each one ended their banking business and exited the teller area, not one person looked me in the eye. They looked down at the floor, and exited the bank, feeling all warm and fuzzy inside.

I noticed that the bank manager's office was in the middle of the lobby, where everyone who came in was greeted. How nice, but how convenient for criminals. The guy in charge sits at an open desk, bank keys bulging in his front right pocket. He knows the codes and access to every door and vault. Speaking of door codes, the door that leads to the teller location, back offices, and the money vault is secured with a pushbutton code lock. Not a digital keyboard type, but a big beefy brass thing with large black buttons. It is probably a good lock, but that doesn't help any when the manager pushes the buttons without covering his actions—by the way, the code is 5984.

As I approached the teller area to conduct my business, I saw other people's checks and copies of their banking business sitting out in the open on the teller's desk. I could clearly see the people's names, addresses, driver's license numbers, account numbers and routing numbers, plus the amount that was just deposited or withdrawn. One teller left her purse sitting about five inches from my hand, and her keys were even closer to me. In fact, her keys were in plain view for anyone except her. Clearly visible on her key ring were car keys and remote, house keys, and what looked like the bank door keys. That's right, I said bank door keys.



An unattended purse is candy for a criminal. Exposed cellphones, GPS units and other easily removable electronics are desirable targets for thieves.

For a criminal who is looking to obtain some potentially easy money, there seems to be a lot of promise in a five minute stop at a local bank. And I don't mean by way of pulling a gun and yelling for people to hit the floor.

One Saturday afternoon, I drove through a quaint, small town. You know the type: one stoplight, one bar, one gas station. A town where people probably still leave their doors open and feel that nothing bad could possibly happen there. I noticed a girl, probably eight or nine years old, walking towards the town's one gas station and convenience store. She wore a small sundress, her hair was in pigtails, and she had a big ol' smile on her face and a wad of cash in her hand. The sidewalk she was walking down was narrow. There were no trees to speak of, and only a few houses strewn about. I looked around and noticed that not only was she walking alone, but also that there was no one else around. I mean no one. No one watering their lawn, no kids on bikes, no adults driving by, no one at all. I wondered where her patents were, and why they would let a little girl walk to the store or anywhere alone. I won't go into detail, but imagine what could have happened.

I like watching criminals stalk their prey. What I mean by that is that the trained eye can not only spot potential victims of crime, but the villains who are about to make them a victim. Criminals have certain body language, cues, signals and signs that many times make them easy to spot in a crowd, if you know what you're looking for. Much like a prospective victim who shows signs of an easy kill, (figuratively speaking, I guess) criminals, albeit very discreet and sly at times, still do things that project them as someone who is up to no good. I'm sure you've seen people like that in your daily routines. Those who, when you look at them, the hair stands up on the back of your neck, They give you that shiver, that gut feeling, that you must walk away. Of course, you may not be able to pick out the predator so easily, even if you are vigilant. I've always been told not to fear the criminal you see, but to fear the criminal you don't see.

Go into any casino, airport, busy



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1. Publication Title: Concealed Carry Magazine. 2. Publication Number: 1550-7866. 3. Filing Date: October, 2008. 4. Issue Frequency: Every 45 days. 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 8. 6. Annual Subscription Price: $27.00. 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 4466 County Road P - Suite 204, Jackson, WI 53037-9272, Contact Person: Tim Schmidt, Telephone: (262) 677-8877. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: 4466 County Road P - Suite 204, Jackson, WI 53037-9272. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher/Editor: Timothy J. Schmidt 4466 County Road P - Suite 204, Jackson, WI 53037-9272, and Managing Editor: Kathy Jackson: 4466 County Road P - Suite 204, Jackson, WI 53037-9272. 10. Owner: Delta Media, LLC (Timothy J. Schmidt) 4466 County Road P - Suite 204, Jackson, WI 53037-9272. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None. 12. Tax Status: N/A. 13. Publication Title: Concealed Carry Magazine. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: October 3rd, 2008. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation (Average Number of Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months). 15a. Total Number of Copies: 23,000. 15b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: 20,420. (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions: 76. (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 0. (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 0. 15c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 20,496. 15d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541: 55. (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541: 1. (3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 97. (4) Free Distribution Outside the Mail: 200. 15e. Total Free Distribution: 353 15f. Total Distribution: 20,849. 15g. Copies Not Distributed: 2,151. 15i. Total: 23,000. 15j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 98.3%. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation (Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest Filing Date). 15a. Total Number of Copies: 25,000. 15b. Paid and/or Requested Circulation (1) Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541: 21,217. (2) Paid In-County Subscriptions: 74. (3) Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution: 0. (4) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 0. 15c. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 21,291. 15d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (1) Outside-County as Stated on Form 3541: 55. (2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541: 1. (3) Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS: 97. (4) Free Distribution Outside the Mail: 200. 15e. Total Free Distribution: 353 15f. Total Distribution: 21,644. 15g. Copies Not Distributed: 3,356. 15i. Total: 25,000. 15j. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation: 98.4%. 16. Publication of Statement of Ownership. Publication Required. Will be printed in October issue of this publication. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions) including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

subway, crowded club, or bustling downtown area, and the criminals really put on a show. They know that places like these are filled with potentially easy prey that is easy pickings with little to no effort. From the fine art of picking pockets to sleight of hand with your briefcase, casino chips, or jewelry, to the down and dirty armed robbery or physical beating during a severe mugging, these dirtbags are everywhere, and hungry for blood or money. Some make it look so easy, and that's because it is.

By the way, don't think that when I actually witness these acts going down that I just sit back and watch the show. If I see something bad happening to a good, decent, law-abiding citizen, I'll intervene, in one way or another.

These are just a few examples of my daily observations. There are many others that catch my eye, and make me shake my head in disbelief at how vulnerable people are. They expose themselves to danger, and are so susceptible to becoming a victim. There are so many people with the "it will never happen to me" mentality, and the attitude that they think they know what they are doing, when they don't. It's no wonder that so many of them are victims of crime.

I guess I'm lucky that I have the ability to think like a criminal. It allows me to try and stay one step ahead of the real criminals. And it's lucky for the people I come in contact with that I'm not a criminal, because if I were…. ■

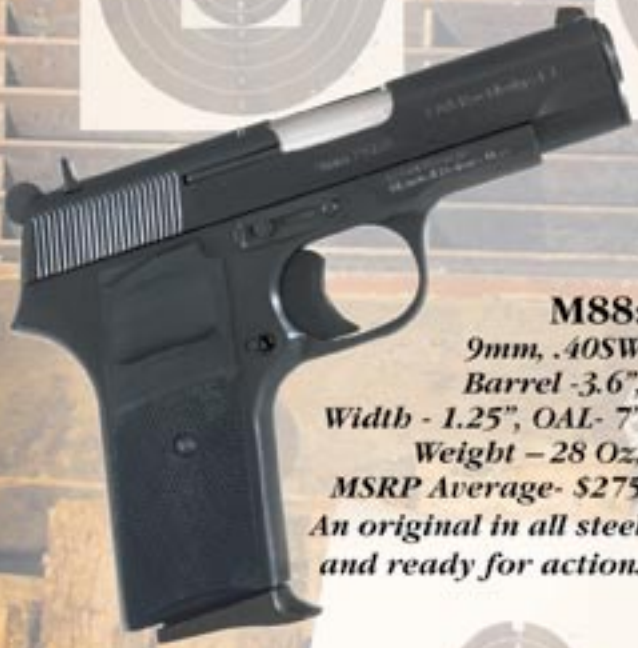
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Bringing the .38 into 2008. A Crimson Trace Lasergrip equipped J-frame snubby.

[BY BRUCE N. EIMER, Ph.D.]

PRUDENT EQUIPME FOR PERSONAL DE

As senior citizens, we need all the help we can get in the judicious use of emergency rescue equipment such as the defensive handgun.

In this article, I shall discuss two types of equipment that are prudent to employ with your personal defense handgun: laser sights, specifically Crimson Trace Lasergrips, and hollowpoint bullets. These tools help protect innocent bystanders by making defensive handguns safer, more efficient, and more precise. Using them is the responsible thing to do. With proper training, laser sights can make defensive shooting more accurate. Hollowpoint bullets create more stopping power relative to the intended target (the attacker) and reduce the possibility of over penetration.

CRIMSON TRACE LASERGRIPS

Crimson Trace Lasergrips replace the stocks of many types of semi-auto pistols and revolvers. When you firmly grip the handgun, an activation button in the grip is depressed. This causes the laser unit to project a beam from the laser aperture, which is aligned with the barrel. Like most sighting devices, the laser unit must be sighted in before use. The laser aperture projects a dot of light onto the target to the same point of aim as the pistol's iron sights. It's a very simple and reliable system.

Also known as laser sights, the use of a laser can replace regular iron sights when it is too dark to see them clearly. However, laser sights are an aid to shooting in less than perfect conditions, and are not a substitute for good training and correct mindset. Any target must still be clearly identified before shooting.

In the case of revolvers, Crimson Trace Lasergrips bring the .38 into the 21st century. They make little .38 Special J-frame snubbies and semi-autos more user friendly in the following ten ways:

1) J-frames typically have vestigial sights and a short sight radius. Laser

photos courtesy Crimson Trace



Sighting in your Crimson Trace Lasergrip.

These tools help protect innocent bystanders by making defensive handguns safer, more efficient, and more precise.

Laser dot aligned with a proper sight picture.

ENT EFENSE HANDGUNS

sighting makes it unnecessary to use these sights. This saves time in an emergency when you have to deploy your firearm quickly. For example, if you were being attacked by a two or four legged creature, you could rapidly acquire a sight picture by projecting the laser dot onto your target. You just need to point and shoot if necessary to save your life or limb.

2) Using a laser can serve as a deterrent. Just like the universally recognized sound of chambering a shell in a pump shotgun, a laser dot on one's chest or face communicates, "Stop your aggression now or be stopped!"

3) Lasergrips are great training tools. They teach muzzle discipline. That is, you learn not to sweep things with your muzzle. They teach trigger control. That is, you learn how big your "wobble zone" is by watching how much the laser dot shakes when it is projected onto your target. You can practice keeping your wobble zone small and the laser dot steady as you smoothly press the trigger. The laser also teaches you how to acquire a good sight picture.

In fact, for those of us with deteriorating eyesight, the bright laser dot above the front sight serves as an aid to seeing our front sight and where our front sight is aimed!

4) Lasergrips help you train to firmly grip your handgun. A firm grip is necessary for many reasons: steady trigger press, recoil control, handgun retention, and adequate cycling of the semi-automatic pistol. Unless you grip the handgun firmly, especially the little J-frame snubby, the Lasergrip will not be activated.

5) Having a set of Crimson Trace Lasergrips on your snubby will give you greater confidence in your ability to accurately and rapidly deploy your weapon should the need arise. However, this requires practice.

6) With your Lasergrips, you can rapidly and accurately deploy your handgun in an emergency from an unconventional or downed position. For example, a student of mine was knocked down by a vicious, attacking German Shepherd. He was able to quickly project the laser dot of his Crimson Trace Lasergrip-equipped .38 onto the dog's snarling mouth and squeeze off a shot. This effectively terminated the dog's aggression, and

saved my student's life and limb.

7) Criminal justice statistics reveal that most criminal attacks and gun fights occur in the hours of darkness. Firearm safety rule #3 states: Be sure of your target and what is around and behind it. Laser sights serve several purposes relative to this principle. First, understand that lasers are not the ultimate tool for helping you identify your target. For that, you'll need a good tactical flashlight and a good dose of common sense. However, laser sights can help you to locate your target in the dark. Also, because the laser dot may serve as a deterrent, a laser dot on your target is likely to get a reaction such as, "Don't shoot, I'm in the wrong home."

8) Crimson Trace Lasergrips are made for a wide variety of semi-automatics and revolvers. They are easy to install. You just replace your handgun's grips with the Lasergrips (except for Glocks and Springfield XDs, where the Lasergrips are attached over the polymer grips).

9) Crimson Trace Lasergrips in particular are simple, easy, and natural to deploy. They just require that you firmly grip your handgun. They come sighted in from the factory, but they are adjustable for elevation and windage to fine tune the sighting in. There are no switches to push or buttons to press that could slow you down.

10) Crimson Trace Lasergrips can help you learn point shooting. After sufficient practice with your laser sights turned on, you can switch them off and envision the laser dot as you point your handgun at the target. You will hit dead on. You have developed a muscle memory of how your handgun points.

In summary, Crimson Trace Lasergrips are prudent equipment to have on your personal defense handgun especially if you carry a snubby revolver.

HOLLOWPOINT BULLETS

The purpose of deploying your defensive handgun is to stop an attack and save your life and limb. We don't shoot to kill. We shoot to stop an attacker from doing what you were forced to shoot him for doing in the first place (trying to kill you or another innocent). The attacker may die as a result, since we are using deadly force, but that is not our intent. Our intent in using deadly force is to stop deadly force. For that purpose we want to use the biggest caliber we can handle.



Wadcutter bullets.

Now, there is no magic bullet that has guaranteed instant stopping power. There is no such thing as a "killer bullet" in a handgun caliber. Handguns are inherently less powerful than long guns (rifles and shotguns). However, handguns are what we are most likely to have on or around us when deadly force is necessary for defending against deadly force. For purposes of self-defense the rule of thumb is to use the largest caliber round that we can safely handle. Let's face it, bigger bullets make bigger holes and create larger temporary and permanent wound channels. This translates into greater stopping power. Stopping power is the reason we use deadly force in the form of a firearm in the first place—to stop a deadly attack.

Now, if a larger caliber bullet has greater stopping power than a smaller caliber bullet, it makes sense that we just might need to shoot fewer bullets to accomplish our goal of stopping the attack. Although we should never count on a one shot stop, and in most cases, a hail of bullets will be necessary to stop a determined bad guy, if we can do the job with fewer bullets, all the better. Fewer bullets fired create less chance of innocent bystanders being hurt. Also, fewer bullet channels in the aggressor means there is a lesser chance of killing the aggressor. So, let's now talk about hollowpoint bullets, and lastly, wadcutters.

Hollowpoint bullets are designed to expand as they penetrate flesh. As they expand, they ideally will create bigger holes and greater temporary and permanent wound channels. Also, expanding slows their penetration. With the proper combination of bullet weight (in grains) and bullet velocity (feet per second), enough momentum (foot/pounds of force) is created to promote optimal penetration. Full metal jacket or hard ball rounds tend to over penetrate in calibers of 9mm and greater. There is always the possibility with hard ball rounds that they can over penetrate, exit the target's body, and keep on traveling. This endangers innocent bystanders.

Of course, it makes sense that we must use whatever appropriate caliber rounds we have on hand should we need to defend our lives. However, the advantage of hollowpoints is that they have the above-described properties, plus they are more humane. More humane? Indeed. As pointed out by Massad Ayoob in his Lethal Force Institute, hollowpoints are more humane because you are likely to need fewer rounds to stop the attacker.

Hollowpoints are not "cop killer bullets" or "armor piercing" as some zeal-



Modern, state of the art, jacketed hollowpoint rounds: Cor-Bon DPX jacketed hollowpoints in .40 S&W and International Cartridge Corporation's frangible jacketed hollowpoints in .45 ACP.

ous anti-gunners would have the uninformed erroneously believe. They are modern bullet designs that are manufactured to exacting standards to do what they are designed to do and supposed to do—stop an attacker with minimum collateral damage.

Therefore, unless ruled illegal in your jurisdiction, hollowpoints are recommended over full metal jacket or hard ball. One last point however: full metal jacket and hard ball are still likely to get the job done. Despite arguments to the contrary, they have had a history of doing so for many years. This is especially true in larger calibers such as .40 S&W and .45 ACP in semi-autos. In smaller, less powerful calibers such as .380 ACP, .32 ACP, and .25 ACP, hard ball's extra penetration may be just what is needed to compensate for lack of reliable expansion.

ON WADCUTTERS:

Wadcutter or flat-nosed bullets have been used for years in revolvers for target shooting to make big, round, easy to see holes on paper targets. The bullet design is a lead cylinder internal to the cartridge case, the tip of which is flat and flush with the top of the case.

They generally weigh in the intermediate range in grains but they have a lower powder charge. Thus, they are easier to shoot and promote better second and third shot recovery. They are another viable alternative for defensive carry because you need not worry about bullet expansion and thus, the bullet plugging up with debris. Wadcutters make consistent round holes of the same diameter as their caliber. Remember the rule that bigger holes are better than smaller holes when you are trying to stop someone from killing you. Bigger holes will cause more rapid blood loss and thus, hopefully, more quickly terminate an aggressor's aggression. Add wadcutters to your list of prudent equipment for personal defense handguns. ■

Crimson Trace Lasergrips: www.CrimsonTrace.com

Lethal Force Institute: www.ayoob.com

Cor-Bon: www.dakotaammo.net

International Cartridge Corporation: www.iccammo.com

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THE MENACE OF SOLVED PROBLEMS

[BY L. NEIL SMITH]

As I've been pointing out for years, the last thing politicians are interested in is solutions—whether it's the way that guns in private hands dramatically reduce crime, or the fact that there's more black gold oozing under the Earth's crust than we'll ever be able to use.

There are a dozen other easily-available energy sources, as well, and any of them could solve our present energy crisis, but–watch what they do, not what they say–that's the last thing politicians want.

To bureaucrats and politicians, solved problems represent the direst threat imaginable: permanent unemployment. An end to their ride on the government gravy train. What they want is lots of problems that they can *promise* to solve (when they inevitably fail, they'll blame everybody but themselves) so that we'll keep on hiring and electing them.

Many of today's problems were carefully crafted by bureaucrats and politicians themselves. If the police and BATFE really wanted to stamp out crime, they'd repeal, nullify, or otherwise dispose of every gun law on the books, as well as every law they ever passed against drugs and every other sort of "act of capitalism between consenting adults." But then what would they do for a living, or probably more importantly, for that incomparable sensation they get from pointing submachine guns at the heads of cowering victims in the middle of the night? (See www.thegangmovie.com)

If, for instance, the city of Chicago remains the danger-filled, crime-ridden sinkhole it is today (the precise opposite of the "polite society" author Robert Heinlein predicted that an armed society would be) then its mayor, Richard "Baby Dick" Daley has an excuse to keep tens of thousands of cops on the street. Having a private army like that must make a man feel like Napoleon. He can use the situation he has helped to create to acquire even more money and even more power every year. And he can generally lord it over the helpless, disarmed serfs and peons of the barony his daddy, "Papa Dick," passed on to him.

Exactly the same evil racket is being operated in New York, most recently by Mayor Michael Bloomberg; in Denver, by Mayor John Hickenlooper; and in most other large American cities. That thousands of innocent men, women, and children go on being terrorized, injured, and killed every year, cruelly sacrificed to feed the insatiable political ambitions of vile specimens like these, means that we're still a primitive society. (See www.jpfo.org/smith/smith-bloomberg.htm)

But the analysis extends to much more than guns and crime. Third World people in Africa and elsewhere are starving, but it isn't because there's any lack of food in the world. Local politicians and the military, once again for reasons of money and power, or simply because they want their enemies to starve to death, deliberately stand in the way of its distribution. I've never understood why the highly-publicized and philanthropic (with other people's money) Bono of the rock band U2 fails to comprehend this ugly but extremely simple fact. That he does fail offers us all a measure, either of his intelligence or his integrity….I'm uncertain which.

Similarly, today's high fuel prices represent a problem that can be solved easily in any of a number of ways. The very best, in this writer's opinion, is thermal depolymerization, which cheaply turns any organic garbage into sweet, light crude oil. However, no real effort of the proper magnitude is being made in this area because the problem isn't real.

Again, politicians and their corporate clients have legislated and regulated energy production in the United States so that only a few individuals may control the choices everybody makes, creating false shortages and driving prices up. When it suits their purpose, they'll let prices fall. None of it has anything to do with the free market system.

The only cure for all of this is to dispense with the "services" of all those who benefit from the existence of problems–but not their solutions–and let the free market system go to work and do its thing. (See www.takeyourmoneyback.com)

You can catch a glimpse of the mechanism when you understand that, in a polite society, the money presently taken from us to "fight crime" could be reinvested (preferably by not collecting those taxes in the first place) in the free market system to create new methods of energy production. It's an axiom of economic history that there's no predicting precisely what market solutions will look like (although as a science fiction writer I try to do it all the time), only that there will be a much wider range of them to choose from, and that they will work.

Unlike the government, the market doesn't get paid for unsolved problems. ■

[Four-time Prometheus Award-winner L. Neil Smith has been writing about guns and gun ownership for more than 30 years. He is the author of 27 books, the most widely-published and prolific libertarian novelist in the world, and is considered an expert on the ethics of self-defense. Email him at lneil@netzero.com.]

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