



Tactical Talk

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When a man says he approves of something in principle, it means he hasn't the slightest intention of carrying it out in practice.

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RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITY SHOOT RESULTS

On Feb 20th, we hosted our annual Charity Machinegun Shoot to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House here in Memphis. The shoot was a great success, raising over \$5,000 for the fabulous work of the House.

Our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who made this event possible, and especially to the collectors who loaned us their valuable submachineguns and other exotic weapons for the night. Some of the individual guns are valued at \$10,000 to \$15,000, and we put a lot of ammunition through them in four and a half hours. Good show!



UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS SHOOTER WINS MORE HONORS

As many of you know, the U of M Rifle Team is headquartered at Rangemaster. They're having a very good season so far this year, and are currently ranked 13th in the nation. One of their star shooters, Beth Tidmore, recently tied for 16th in the Bavarian Air Games in Germany, and Beth has been selected to compete in the 2004 National Collegiate Men's and Women's Rifle Championship, in both smallbore and air rifle divisions. Way to go!



Upcoming Courses

COMBATIVE PISTOL COURSES IN MARCH

During the month of March, Rangemaster will be conducting two of our two-day Combative Pistol Courses on the road. The first is on March 6-7, at the Tac Pro Shooting Center between Dallas and Abilene, Texas.

On March 27-28, we will be returning to the South River Gun Club, in Conyers, GA, right outside Atlanta. Details on these courses can be seen at www.rangemaster.com.

JOHN FARNAM ADVANCED HANDGUN COURSE AT RANGEMASTER

John Farnam will return to Rangemaster on April 3-4, 2004. John will be conducting his Advanced Handgun Course, a full two days of range training with one of the most respected trainers in the industry. John covers a wide range of skills, including weapon retention and disarming techniques, movement, verbalization, and much more. John teaches this course once a year at Rangemaster and students typically come from a several state area to attend.

MISSOURI SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF CCW



The Missouri Supreme Court has ruled on the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Missouri's new handgun carry permit law, ruling in favor of its proponents. This puts Missouri one step closer to actually putting their permit system into action, hopefully over the next couple of months. That will only leave five states in which residents have no right to defend their own lives or the lives of their loved ones.

Function Checking Ammunition

There is an incredible array of commercial ammunition available to the buying public. Shooters now have literally dozens of choices in every caliber. We tend to obsess over the terminal performance of our ammunition, things like expansion, penetration depth, accuracy, etc. All of these are important, but the most important issue is *reliability*. If you ever need your pistol for real, you're going to need it to work!



I suggest you fire a minimum of 200 rounds of whatever load you select for carry purposes, to ensure that it feeds and cycles reliably *in your gun*. It doesn't matter how well it performs in someone else's gun—only your gun matters. Once we've settled on a particular brand and load to carry, it's a real good idea to check each individual cartridge that you intend to carry for self defense. The ammunition factories produce millions of rounds of ammunition every day, and no company's quality control is 100%.

First, visually inspect each individual cartridge. Look for hollow point openings smashed shut by rough handling, or plugged with foreign matter. Check rims for burrs. Check the cases for bulges, ripped case mouths, or deep dents. Look at the primer. It should be just below flush with the case head. Once this inspection is complete, one more test.



With a revolver, load the cylinder, keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction. Thumb the hammer back just a bit, to unlock the cylinder. See if the cylinder will rotate freely, without binding or friction. If you have a bent case rim or a high primer, this "spin check" will detect it.

With an autopistol, disassemble the gun. Hold the barrel in your hand, pointed downward. Drop a cartridge into the chamber. It should drop in freely and the case head should be flush or just below flush with the rear of the chamber/barrel hood. When you turn the barrel up, the cartridge should fall free from the chamber. You can be confident that any round that passes this test will chamber and extract easily in your gun. A few extra minutes spent checking your carry ammo could save a big headache later.

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TRAINING IN WEAPONS, TACTICS AND COMBATIVES

LOW LIGHT GUNFIGHTING

On August 14-15, 2004, Wes Doss from Suarez International will conduct their Low Light Gunfighting course at Rangemaster. This entire course is conducted in low light, both with and without a flashlight. Students will learn the nuances of operating effectively in the dark, including finding, identifying, and evaluating threats in dim light, shooting effectively in low light, and scanning, etc while in a dangerous low light environment. Defensive encounters in less than full light are really the rule, rather than the exception (cockroaches come out in the dark). The material in this course was formerly restricted to law enforcement personnel, but registration for this course is open to all.