



# Tactical Talk

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*"I sympathize with people who want to ban guns, but I can't agree with them. We have to be careful in our zeal to abolish guns that we don't wind up with counter-productive legislation that will leave armed only the people most likely to do harm with them."*

-- Hugh Downs,  
veteran ABC  
newsmen

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## SPECIAL CLASSES ANNOUNCED

### Low Light Skills

*July 12, 2007, Thursday, 6:00 -10:00 p.m., \$69.00*

Classroom instruction and range practice firing in various dim light conditions, both with and without a flashlight. You will need about 200 rounds of ammunition. Should be a graduate of at least Level II prior.

### Back-Up Guns (BUG) Course

*July 23, 2007, Monday, 6:00 -10:00 p.m., \$79.00*

Classroom and range instruction on the selection of a BUG, carry methods, and deployment. Advantages/disadvantages of the various types will be considered, and you will get an opportunity to fire a variety of common small back-up handguns. Guns and ammunition are furnished, or bring yours.

### Vehicle Defense (anti-carjacking)

*August 9, 2007, Thursday, 6:00 -10:00 p.m., \$79.00*

Classroom instruction on recognizing threats and dealing with them while in a car, and shooting from simulated vehicles on the range. You will need 150 rounds of ammunition. Should be a graduate of at least Level II handgun prior to this course.

### Combative Pistol II

*April 21-22, 2007- South River Gun Club, Atlanta, GA*

### Combative Pistol II

*May 19-20, 2007- Rangemaster, Memphis*

### Annual Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Course

*August 3-5, 2007 - Rangemaster, Memphis*

### Defensive Shotgun Course

*August 18, 2007- Rangemaster, Memphis*

# SHOOTING SPORTS FOR DEFENSIVE SHOOTERS

Shooting in competition is not the same as being involved in a gunfight. For one thing, if you lose a pistol match you get to try again next month! Competitive shooting can, however, be an excellent form of training, giving you a chance to practice combat marksmanship and gunhandling skills under pressure. Strangely, a typical person will work harder to not look bad in front of his peers than he will to stay alive. This self-induced stress, or pressure, gives the shooter a chance to practice his skills in a stressful environment, as well as a chance to try out equipment under difficult circumstances. Besides, it's fun!

To achieve the maximum benefit from this exercise, you must choose the most realistically oriented form of shooting competition. At present, this is represented by the International Defensive Pistol Association, or IDPA. IDPA was formed in 1997 to give pistol shooters a venue in which they could compete, under simulated defensive conditions, with everyday street carry guns, holsters, and related equipment. IDPA rules forbid compensators, optical sights, and low-slung cutaway holsters that are prevalent in some other shooting sports. IDPA matches require essentially "carry gear," with guns, holsters, etc. suitable for all day concealed carry for self defense.

IDPA match design guidelines call for most shooting to be conducted at close range (20 yard maximum), on a fairly realistically laid out cardboard silhouette target. Multiple targets are often involved, along with the use of cover and movement. Major matches usually require the gun to be worn concealed, just like on the street. Athletics are held to a minimum, and strings are usually four to twelve rounds. Some of the skills needed to win in IDPA competition are exactly the same skills you may be called upon to use in a gunfight.

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The appeal of IDPA to self-defense minded individuals has been phenomenal. As of early 2000, there were nearly 250 IDPA clubs nationwide, plus several foreign countries, and growth has continued since then. Information can be obtained from [www.idpa.com](http://www.idpa.com), or contact them at IDPA, P.O. Box 639, Berryville, AR 72616, or call 870-545-3886. Dues are only \$30.00 per year, which includes *The Tactical Journal*, IDPA's official publication.

Another shooting competition of some value to self defense oriented shooters is USPSA competition (formerly IPSC). The International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) was formed in the late 1970's to oversee "practical" shooting competition. In the beginning, it closely resembled the IDPA of today. Under current USPSA rules, the self defense aspect of the sport has been de-emphasized, and the sport is often referred to as "action shooting". Courses of fire usually emphasize high round count, many targets, and movement to various shooting boxes arrayed along a path of movement. The ability to shoot very quickly and perform reloads and other gunhandling while on the move are critically important. Guns are bigger overall than in IDPA matches, and are typically worn openly on equipment belts with multiple magazines.

Neither IDPA nor USPSA competition are better than the other, they are simply different approaches to learning shooting/gunhandling skills under stressful conditions. NEITHER are tactical training. Both give the practitioner an excellent opportunity to wring out gun/holster combinations and learn to operate under pressure. Pick your preference, or participate in both.

Another useful venue is the National Tactical Invitational, or NTI, held annually each May in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Though not actually a competition, shooters get to test themselves in the most stressful, demanding, and realistic exercises possible, short of a series of real gunfights. The NTI is not for beginners. Once you have had some formal training and acquired some skill, the NTI is the place to evaluate what you have learned and assess your skill level and future training needs. See [www.teddytactical.com](http://www.teddytactical.com) for details.

At Rangemaster, we conduct informal matches every Friday night, starting at 6:00 pm. These are not sanctioned IDPA matches, but we loosely follow IDPA rules just to have some structure and guidelines. Participants usually get to shoot in three scenarios each session, at a cost of only \$15.00 per person. Once you've had some initial training this is an excellent way to test your skills, test your equipment, and have a good time.

# Smith & Wesson M&P

In 2006 S&W brought out the M&P (Military & Police) model in 9mm, .40 S&W, and .357 SIG. The first offering was a full size, 4.25" barrel pistol, holding 16 rds in .40 caliber. In 2007 the Compact version came out, with a shorter barrel and butt, making a very compact pistol overall while still holding 11 rds in .40 caliber. This Spring the M&P will be available in .45ACP for big bore fans.

The M&P is a polymer frame pistol, with a steel reinforcing chassis built into the frame. It uses metal magazines, which are durable and drop free easily when released. The M&P has three sizes of interchangeable grip panels, allowing the owner to change the size of the grip to suit his individual hand size. This is a great feature, as not everyone has the same size hands. Changing these grip inserts is quick and easy. I have fairly small hands, but I find the medium insert the most comfortable. The M&P also has a slide latch on both sides of the frame, making the gun easy to lock open for a left-handed operator. The M&P is one of the most user-friendly handguns available for left-handed shooters.

We have had a number of M&P's in classes over the past few months, and they have performed well. The gun is exceptionally ergonomic, and those I have seen in use were very reliable and plenty accurate for a defensive pistol. We have these in stock, including a set which includes a pistol, case, three magazines, Blade Tech holster, and double magazine pouch, all for under \$600. Highly recommended.

## M&P .40 Specifications:

Barrel length- 4.25"  
Overall length- 7.5"  
Weight empty- 24.25 ounces  
Width- 1.2"



*M&P and  
M&P Compact  
side by side*



*M&P Compact  
and Glock 23  
side by side*

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## Hunter Education Requirements

Every Fall, just days before hunting seasons open, we get a number of calls wanting to know if we can do a Hunter Education Course right then. Of course, the answer is No. The time to attend a Hunter Safety course is early in the year, so it can be completed before hunting season.

Tennessee state law requires any person born after January 1, 1969, to complete an approved hunter safety course in order to obtain a hunting license. These courses are put on by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) at certain locations around the state. Applicants must be at least 9 years old and have a Social Security Number. For a current listing of class schedules go to [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org).

