



# Tactical Talk

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*“Cogito,  
Ergo  
armatum  
sum!”*

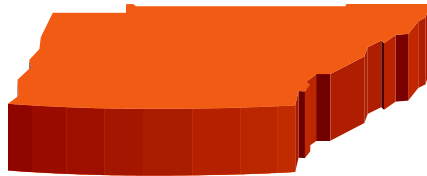
—Kevin  
McClung

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## State Laws of Note

by Tom Givens



**39-17-1322 Defenses-** A person shall not be charged with or convicted of a violation under this part if the person possessed, displayed, or employed a handgun in justifiable self defense or in justifiable defense of another during the commission of a crime in which that person or the other person defended was a victim. (Acts 1994, ch. 943, Section 1)

This statute follows the several statutes that establish penalties for carrying a handgun in various locations, like premises where alcohol is served. Often called the “Safe Harbor Act”, this law provides protection for someone who is carrying illegally but has to use the gun in self defense. The legal doctrine here is “the lesser of competing evils”. Since you had to use the gun in self defense, it’s a good thing you had it, so we’ll excuse the minor violation. Good law!

Another very important Tennessee statute is known as the “Good Samaritan Protection Act of 1999”. It says that if you injure or kill a criminal in the act of committing, or attempting to commit, any of the offenses listed below, you are “absolutely immune from civil liability.” The listed offenses include: any criminal homicide; aggravated rape; kidnapping; aggravated kidnapping; especially aggravated kidnapping; especially aggravated burglary; aggravated robbery; especially aggravated robbery; carjacking; and attempt to commit first or second degree murder. Thus, if the suspect is committing any crime it would be justifiable to use a gun to stop, you have absolute immunity from lawsuit for injury or death to that suspect. Several other states have adopted similar laws, so that decent citizens don’t have to worry about being sued by a criminal after a self defense shooting.



## Exciting Class Announcement

On April 12-13, 2008 (Saturday-Sunday) Rangemaster will host a unique training opportunity in Memphis for those serious about personal security. Southnarc, Ed Lovette, and Tom Givens will each teach segments involving their personal specialties, and students will rotate among these trainers, getting an incredible amount of information and skill in one weekend.

Southnarc served in the US Army Rangers before entering law enforcement. He is currently the commander of an inter-agency drug enforcement task force and a SWAT Team leader on the Gulf Coast. For a number of years he did undercover drug work, resulting in a number of serious physical assaults on him. These assaults included "rip-off" robberies, much like the robberies private citizens fall victim to every day. Southnarc is one of the most analytical trainers I have ever met, and as a result of these incidents he made a thorough study of such things as Pre-Assault Indicators, Weapon Access During an In-Progress Fight, Empty Hands Skills to escape from a grappling attack or multiple assailants, and more. He will be teaching these skills in two phases. "Managing Unknown Contacts" deals with the critical pre-fight processes involved in observing and assessing potential attackers; positioning to shift the advantage to you; verbal interaction; and decision making skills. These "pre-fight" activities often actually determine the outcome of the real fight, when it comes. More importantly, they often deter an assailant from carrying out a planned attack, as he realizes you are a harder target. The next phase will be Practical Unarmed Combat, which deals with proven, simple realistic techniques which can be learned and maintained without a lifetime in the martial arts. Southnarc's skills are simple and straight-forward and work well.

Ed Lovette worked as a police officer for a number of years, including a period as a firearms instructor at the New Mexico State Police academy. He then joined the CIA as a paramilitary officer, retiring from that position recently after serving in hot spots all over the world. In the CIA, Ed often had to move through areas of great danger while keeping a very low profile. He developed two things in that arena- one, the ability to observe his surroundings and look for things that might tip him to coming troubles, and second, a fondness for a deeply concealed small frame revolver, often called a "snubby." Ed will teach the observational and mental skills needed to spot threats ranging from stalkers to robbers and carjackers, based on his vast experience in counter-surveillance and stealth. He will also teach live-fire skills with the snubby revolver. Ed literally wrote the book on this subject. *The Snubby Revolver, The ECQ, Backup, and Concealed Carry Standard*, from Paladin Press is recognized as the authoritative text on the subject.

Tom Givens, chief instructor at Rangemaster, spent 25 years in law enforcement and specialized security work before becoming a full time trainer in 1996. Since then, Tom has trained thousands of students in armed self defense, and every year several Rangemaster students successfully defend themselves against armed attackers. Tom is an FBI and NRA certified law enforcement firearms instructor, a champion competitor in both IDPA and IPSC competition, a

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nationally recognized court expert on firearms training, and the author of several books, including *Fighting Smarter*. Tom will focus on handgun skills designed to work well under stress. Training will include effective gunhandling and marksmanship techniques, stress inoculation, fast but precise shooting skills in both daylight and low light conditions, and mental conditioning. Regardless of skill level, your shooting will improve as a result of this course.

Students will need a sidearm, quality holster and belt, at least three magazines for the primary gun, and 600 rounds of ammunition for the primary gun. A snubby or other backup gun is recommended, along with 250 rounds of ammo for it, and a suitable carry method. You will also need a good flashlight, like a Surefire 6P, 6Z, 8X or similar and street clothes, including a concealment garment. You will also need work-out clothes, soft shoes, a cup and a mouthpiece. We will supply workbooks and guns that fire marking cartridges. A detailed equipment list will be sent out prior to class. Ammo is available here or bring your own.

The cost of this course is \$499.00. This is quite a bargain considering you're getting three courses, from three well respected trainers, in one location. There are several hotels within blocks of Rangemaster, ranging from basic Extended Stay or Holiday Inn to a very nice Marriott. Call 901-370-5600 to register. Class size is limited.

## **1911 Maintenance Class**

The 1911 type pistol requires an informed user and proper maintenance/lubrication to work well. On Monday, 31 March, 6:00-10:00 p.m., Colonel Jim Shearin will conduct a classroom course on proper maintenance of the 1911 system. Students will be guided through correct disassembly/assembly, proper lubrication, and function testing. You will also learn which accessories or modifications are desirable or to be avoided. Cost is \$69.00. Advance registration is required.

**Dynamic Marksmanship Course,  
May 5-6, Oklahoma City, OK**

**BUG, Vehicle Defense, Low Light  
Clinic- May 9, Atlanta, GA**

**Dynamic Marksmanship Course,  
May 10-11, Atlanta, GA**

**Dynamic Marksmanship Course,  
May 24-25, Tyler, Texas**

# What is Dry Practice?

By Tom Givens

Dry work is practicing basic marksmanship techniques and gun handling skills with an unloaded weapon. The weapon can be presented, aimed, and fired by simulation, without ammunition.

Combat marksmanship is based on complex motor skills that require learned hand/eye coordination. Pistol fights occur close, fast, and often under the worst conditions (low light, high speed, excitement, etc.). This underscores the need for reflexive – that is, “muscle memory” – performance of the presentation and firing stroke. This “muscle memory” can only be achieved through constant practice of correct techniques, especially early in your training.

A short but intense session of ten minutes daily will benefit you far more than a long, tiring session done infrequently. A brief session daily will enhance your ability to smoothly and swiftly present the piece and fire a controlled shot quickly. In just a few months, your basic defensive stroke will be deeply ingrained.

There are two grave mistakes that account for the vast majority of all accidental discharges that occur while practicing. The first is failure to completely clear the gun and put the ammo away before starting. The second is reloading after a session and then trying to squeeze in one last dry shot. BE CAREFUL!

If you will follow the checklist outlined in the sidebar, you cannot have a negligent discharge. Get the checklist out and go through it at the start of each dry fire practice session.

The importance of dry practice cannot be overstated. You must learn to present the weapon smoothly and very quickly so that you can present it reflexively in a life-threatening situation. If your life is in immediate danger, your mind must be free to deal with the tactical situation – not how to operate your holster and gun!

***“Practice does not make perfect...  
Perfect practice makes perfect.”***

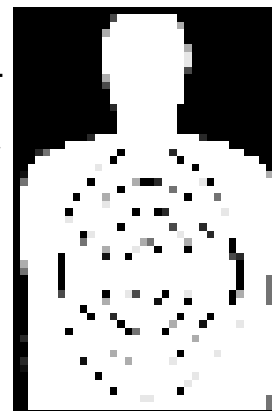
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**Follow this checklist:**

- 1. Go to a room by yourself. Remove all ammunition from the gun and from your spare ammunition carrier! Put the ammo across the room.**
- 2. Select a safe wall at which to point the gun. You want to be able to safely contain any negligent discharge, no matter how remote the possibility.**
- 3. Plant your feet facing your selected aiming point. Check the gun AGAIN!**
- 4. Mentally enter your Dry Practice mode. Concentrate fully on the task at hand. Avoid disruptions or distractions of any kind. If you are interrupted by the phone or some other disturbance, start all over again.**
- 5. Ten to fifteen minutes is enough. If you start to tire or your attention wanders, it is time to stop.**
- 6. When you finish dry practice, STOP COMPLETELY. Tell yourself the session is over. Load the weapon and leave the dry practice area. Never allow yourself “one more draw”. This is typically when accidents occur. When the session is finished, it is over!**

## Dry Fire Drills on Your Computer

If you will go to [www.rangemaster.com](http://www.rangemaster.com) and click on the banner for Dry Fire Drills, you will be presented with several options to assist you in your dry fire practice regimen. Targets will appear and disappear on your monitor's screen, giving you an aiming point for your dry practice. FOLLOW THE CHECKLIST, CLEAR YOUR GUN, AND REMOVE AMMO FROM THE DRY FIRE AREA. One of the drills, for instance, features an IDPA silhouette target that appears for three seconds, then disappears. This can be used to practice drawing your gun in response to a visual cue, and force you to get off a shot before the target disappears. Great practice!



***Two Colt Cobra .38 snubbies, lightweight aluminum frame back-up guns. One has the factory stocks, the other a pair of Eagle Grips, Secret Service model stocks. A simple change of stocks can make all the difference in shootability of these little blasters. This is the sort of thing you'll learn about in our BUG (Back-up Gun) Course scheduled for May 9th in Atlanta, GA.***



***Here is a S&W Model 10 2" barrel .38, with a Tyler grip adaptor and hammer spur removed to prevent snagging. This is an excellent example of a serious revolver.***

# **Annual Three Day Firearms Instructor Development & Certification Course**

*August 1-3, 2008*

This is a very intensive three day course, conducted Friday through Sunday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. There is classroom instruction and a lot of live fire training on the range, utilizing a variety of handguns, both yours and ours. Successful candidates will pass a thorough written examination, pass a stringent shooting test, and develop a brief training segment to deliver to the class.

Students will fire approximately 800 rounds of ammunition, which we supply. Students will fire their own chosen handgun, as well as a wide variety of handguns which we provide, including revolvers, and single action, double action, DAO, and striker fired semi-auto's. You will learn to function and operate a variety of current and some not so current handguns.

Students will also receive a huge course manual, which will be a valuable reference source after the class. Topics covered in this course include:

Adult Learning Theory

Developing a Lesson Plan

Handgun Marksmanship

Coaching Techniques

Instructor Liabilities

Organization & Preparation

Range Safety & Operations

Efficient Gunhandling Skills

Helping Problem Shooters

and much, much more.

Cost is \$449.00, which includes all ammunition and materials.

Space is limited, and we only offer this course once per year. Graduation satisfies the Department of Safety requirements to obtain a license as a State Certified Handgun Instructor in Tennessee. Call 901-370-5600 to register.

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Please note new e-mail address!



*[www.rangemaster.com](http://www.rangemaster.com)*

## Right to Carry Laws and Crime

Currently there are several bills in the Tennessee Legislature to allow citizens with carry permits to carry their guns legally in more locations. Predictably, left leaning media like The Commercial Appeal and The Memphis Flyer have editorialized in strong opposition to these measures, predicting blood running in the streets if more people carry guns. As usual, they are dead wrong in their assumptions. People with carry permits have invested time and money in training and a stringent background check, and are the least likely people in the world to cause problems.

Florida is an excellent example of a 'shall issue' state. In 1987, Florida passed a carry permit statute very similar to the one in Tennessee. Between October of 1987 and April of 1994, Florida issued 221,443 carry permits. During that time, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement recorded 18 crimes committed by persons with carry permits, and none of these resulted in any injuries. When the law went into effect, Dade County Police expected problems, so they set up a program to track all arrest and non-arrest incidents involving carry permit holders. Between September of 1987 and August of 1992 Dade County recorded four crimes committed by licensees with firearms, and none of them involved injuries. In 1992 the record keeping project was abandoned, as there was nothing to track. Legitimate citizens with gun permits ARE NOT the problem, thugs with guns are the problem.