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RANGE • MASTER

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# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS FOR THE REAL WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

“Accuracy was good and the load hit very close the sights at 5 yards, and a couple of inches high at 10 yards. It was dead on laterally...”

## Winchester ‘Defend’: A Promising Round

I recently came across a couple of boxes of the new Winchester .38 special 130 grain "Defend" jacketed hollow point ammunition. This is a standard pressure load, so I was interested in how it might perform in my aluminum frame Colt Cobra backup gun. The Cobra has a very lightweight frame and one should not use +P ammunition in it.

The ammunition comes in 20 round boxes and has nickel plated cases. I really prefer nickel cases for defensive ammunition both for corrosion protection and for easier extraction. The corrosion protection is especially important for a BUG worn on the ankle and not fired as often as the service pistol. The bullets are a jacketed hollow point design with a fairly large opening.

Fired from a 4-inch barrel revolver the velocity was 844 ft./s. My good friend Jim Higginbotham also tested this load, firing it into a Fackler Box, which contains numerous Ziploc bags

full of water. The bullets expanded to .565" in diameter. Using the standard formula to convert penetration in the water box to that of 10% gelatin the penetration was 13.1 inches. This is excellent performance for a standard pressure load. I was more interested, however, in how it would do in the little 2-inch barrel snubby.

From the 2-inch barrel velocity was 736 feet per second. The bullets expanded to .58" and the computed penetration was 12.7 inches. Recoil and blast were mild, as one would expect from a standard pressure load. Accuracy was good and the load hit very close the sights at 5 yards, and a couple of inches high at 10 yards. It was dead on laterally. This load was more accurate than the Magtech 148 grain wadcutter load and the Winchester 158 grain lead semi-wadcutter ammo tried alongside it. Accuracy fairly well matched that of the Winchester Super-Match 148 grain wadcutter load used as a baseline.



Muzzle flash was not seen in the indoor range and there was no smoke. With its somewhat rounded nose profile this load should work well in speed loaders or speed strips for reloading. I will carry this load for a while and continue testing it. ■

- By Tom Givens



# INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT

## IN *Dallas*

*Darryl Bolke is a retired police firearms instructor who now co-owns Hardwired Tactical Shooting (HiTS) with Wayne Dobbs in Dallas. Here is his review of our recent Firearms Instructor Development class.*

HiTS hosted Tom and Lynn Givens for their 3 Day Instructor Development Class on Oct.3-5 in Dallas. We had 14 students of various backgrounds, genders, and occupations. If there was a "theme" to the student backgrounds it was that there was no theme. It ranged from guys like Wayne and I who have our own training company but like to be students regularly, to active duty military, to several very squared away female instructors doing CHL type courses, to active law enforcement, regular folks who just train their friends and families, to other part time trainers. It was a solid mix.

Even though we had people from Oklahoma, we had perfect weather. Normally, when the north of the Red River folks show up we get terrible weather. The jinx has been broken, which is great. I think most will agree, we have a great facility for classes and things went great. We do have some very tight facility rules that we have to abide by, but overall things went well.

Typical of most instructor classes Tom ran two lines with one coaching while the other was shooting. He was able to maximize things by partnering many of the newer instructors with more experienced ones and moved people around. I found everyone to have a great attitude, super positive vibe throughout the class, and most importantly, safety was taken with the level of seriousness that it should be. I saw no major issues and some of the minor things like getting early on the trigger or too fast back to a holster we quickly corrected and everyone was open to the coaching. Many of the shooters were obviously established competition shooters based on technique and gear. Again, super receptive to adapting both to street work, better safety protocols for teaching to CHL holders and just a great overall attitude.

Tom and Lynn have done this show a lot, and it shows. Totally squared away logistically, very well organized, and exceptional delivery of the material across the board. Their workbook is big, well organized and really everything a basic instructor would need to be effective. Essentially, it is a well oiled machine. Tom is Tom. I think that is good, and I didn't note anyone who had any issues with Tom's style of teaching.

# AAR



Dallas

The guy has been doing it for 40 plus years. Guys like Tom you simply watch and learn. Even with stuff I don't agree with that Tom teaches, I am able to understand how Tom got where he got on philosophy because Tom is EXCEPTIONAL at explaining the "why's" "how's" history and origin of many things.

Equipment wise was as diverse as the group with a little of everything. Generally most everything ran okay. A few gizmo's were gone after day one. Some of the equipment was seen first hand that it wasn't a good choice for the application and the users made adjustments based on their own experience from the class rather than being told "that doesn't work". Seeing it first hand is a much better way to figure things out, and this was a great environment for that. This is especially true for newer instructors. I saw a few issues with magazines binding up from being dropped on asphalt with a good load on board. Tom isn't big on Tac Loads, so a lot of in-battery speed loads were conducted post shooting and prior to holstering. I tried it Tom's way out of respect day one and then went back to my normal SOP. We had three VP9's in class, and all ran well, including filthy. I had a single failure to fire due to an out of spec UMC 115 FMJ 9mm that would not chamber. The VP9's are fairly new to us, so I appreciated Tom letting me get a bit more diagnostic with it rather than clear it, and it was good to hear "I am not big on blowing up guns for no reason" from Tom, which is my thought as well. It was a very good example of Tom's teaching style....common sense over dogma.

## Performance.

What can I say other than this class was exceptional as a whole. Four perfect scores were shot which has never happened before and was a record. Two of those were by old guys with HK VP9's.....take note :-). A perfect 300 combination score that combines the shooting with a fairly detailed written examination has never been done. We had two. Wayne Dobbs and a Federal Agent who is one of "everybody's" favorite students were both perfect. I was at 298.8 and we had two US Army active duty studs who tied for third with what I seem to remember was around 297.5. Tom is really at the top of the food chain on his instructor courses. Signing up is not a guarantee of passing, and many do not. We had one of Tom's previous students come to shoot the final test to try to pass. Her enthusiasm and determination was infectious, and I think everyone who was near her felt a

“What can I say other than this class was exceptional as a whole. Four perfect scores were shot which has never happened before and was a record.”





sense of victory when she passed based on her obviously putting in the extra work on her own. Her sheer joy was real, and I am sure the fact that she earned that Instructor rating was far better than getting something that said "instructor" just because she paid tuition and showed up. This is what it is all about. I have been through many types of firearms instructor schools. Some good, some bad, and some exceptional. If your goal is to teach regular folks how not to be victims, this course is exceptional.

### *Positive observations.*

- This is not an Amway program buy into a system. This is a get educated to the how's and why's, and a set of serious standards.
- Watching Tom demo stuff. For true students, watching Tom is the culmination of over four decades of history of what we do. Also, Tom gets his points across through various means to connect with learners of different types.
- Lynn Givens — she is a very good balance to Tom and together they make a very efficient teaching team.
- The students — this class worked hard, were professional and it was a good mix.

A special thanks to Tom for letting Wayne and I simply be "students" for a few days. It was nice to be challenged hard as simple students again (as a note....if you are an instructor of any level....you need to be taking classes from other people as a student so that you can not only grow, but also get some verification of what you are doing). Final note-If you are teaching armed citizens in any capacity, this class should be on your priority list. ■

- By Darryl Bolke

# TACTICAL CONFERENCE 2015

The 13th annual Tactical Conference is February 20-22, 2015 (Friday through Sunday). This prestigious event will be held at the excellent facilities of the Memphis Police Department Training Academy. There will be classroom seminars, hands-on training segments, live fire courses, and a tactical pistol match running concurrently over all three days. Participants may attend as many training blocks as time permits. All training segments, the pistol match, and a prize drawing are included in the entry fee. There are no other fees.

The pistol match involves realistic scenarios and reactive mannequin targets that only fall when struck with solid, vital-zone hits.

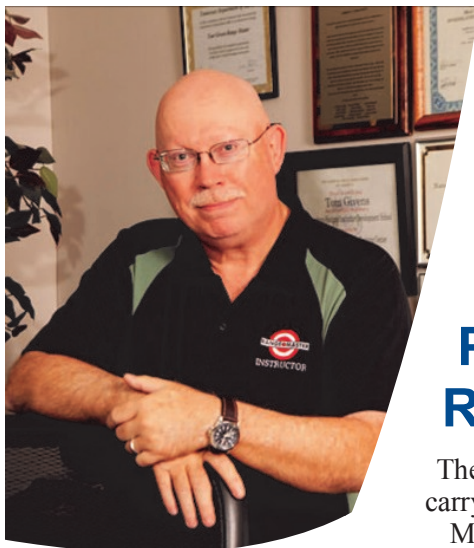
Target identification and discrimination are involved, along with shooting under stressful and realistic conditions. Only daily carry street guns and gear are allowed, and you will need about 100 rounds of ammunition.

The 2015 Tactical Conference is a rare opportunity to take part in knife, empty-hand, handgun, emergency medical, and tactics training all in one location. The entry fee of \$299 is the best value for your training dollar in the entire industry. This event fills early every year, as space is strictly limited, so it's best to register as early as possible to avoid disappointment. Visit Rangemaster.com to register online or download the registration form to mail. Don't delay! ■

- ◆ William Aprill
- ◆ Massad Ayoob
- ◆ Darryl Bolke
- ◆ Andrew Branca
- ◆ Wayne Dobbs
- ◆ John Farnam
- ◆ Tom Givens
- ◆ Chuck Haggard
- ◆ John Heame
- ◆ Jim Higginbotham
- ◆ Steve Moses
- ◆ John Murphy
- ◆ Karl Rehn
- ◆ Paul Sharp
- ◆ Southnarc
- ◆ Dr. Martin Topper
- ◆ And many more!
- Over 20 trainers in all!

**REGISTER** *Online*

**REGISTER** *by Mail*



*"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."*

- William Arthur Ward

## Tennessee / Mississippi HANDGUN CARRY PERMIT TRAINING RECOMMENDATION

There are many training options available for handgun carry permits in Tennessee and for enhanced permits in Mississippi. However, like service providers in every

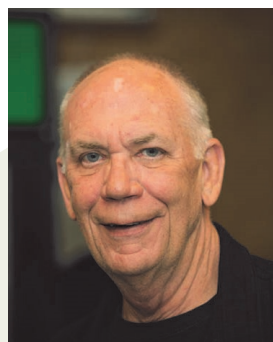
other discipline, some firearms

instructors are much better than others. If

you would like a recommendation for permit-level training, RFTS would suggest Mr. Craig Harper. Craig is a highly competent instructor with many years of diverse experience training law enforcement, military, and civilian students. He is not affiliated with Rangemaster Firearms Training Services; but he is a talented and trustworthy colleague, and we highly recommend him.

You can reach him at [Craig@HarperServicesInc.com](mailto:Craig@HarperServicesInc.com). ■

- Tom & Lynn Givens



Craig Harper

**MEMPHIS  
RANGE  
OPERATIONS  
HAVE CEASED**



We often receive inquiries about the range that formerly operated on South Mendenhall in Memphis. After 18 years of business, that facility has permanently closed. The business ceased to exist effective August 3, 2014. Both the range and the retail shop are closed, and the building is no longer available for shooting or for any other purpose. Rangemaster Firearms Training Services, LLC is a new and separate venture. We do not conduct any training at the Mendenhall location in Memphis. We also do not conduct handgun carry permit classes. Our focus instead is on more advanced training conducted throughout the United States and abroad. We hope to see you in one of our road classes soon. Thank you for your support!

*What's in store*

*for 2015???*

Jan 9-11  
Dominance Paradigm  
Shawnee, OK

March 28-29  
Dynamic Marksman  
Florence, SC

June 13-14  
Pistol / Shotgun  
Culpeper, VA

Aug 25-28  
Georgia Peace Ofc. Conf.  
Carrollton, GA

Jan 20-24  
SHOT Show  
Las Vegas, NV

April 11-12  
Pistol / Shotgun  
New Orleans

June 27-28  
Combative Pistol  
West Elkton, OH

Aug 29-30  
Pistol / Shotgun  
Americus, GA

Oct 3-4  
Advanced Instructor  
McCloud, OK

Feb 20-22  
Tactical Conference  
Memphis, TN

April 25-26  
Combative Pistol  
Austin, TX area

June 29  
Defensive Shotgun  
West Elkton, OH

Sept 11-13  
Instructor Course  
Nappanee, IN

Oct 10-11  
Combative Pistol  
Amarillo, Texas

Feb 27-Mar 1  
Instructor Course  
Pensacola, FL area

May 16-17  
Pistol / Shotgun  
Athens, GA

July 11-12  
Combative Pistol  
Denver, CO

Sept 19-20  
Combative Pistol II  
Austin, TX area

Oct 17-18  
Combative Pistol  
Phoenix, AZ

March 6-8  
Instructor Course  
Ft Lauderdale, FL

May 29-31  
Instructor Course  
Litchfield, NH

July 17-19  
Instructor Course  
Waterloo, IA

Sept 26-27  
Combative Pistol  
Indianapolis, IN

Oct 24-25  
Combative Pistol  
Longview, TX

March 14-15  
Advanced Instructor  
Ft Lauderdale, FL

June 6-7  
Combative Pistol  
Pelham, NH

July 25-26  
Advanced Instructor  
Austin, TX area

**REGISTER  
TODAY!**



[www.Rangemaster.com](http://www.Rangemaster.com)

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