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RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

by Tom Givens

“How was I able to do this? Simple. I learned to look for parts rather than the whole.”

In July, Lynn and I taught a Combative Pistol course in Colorado. While there, we took a couple of extra days to sightsee in the Rocky Mountains. One of our stops was a very nice zoo in Colorado Springs. This zoo is built on the side of a mountain, and many of the animals are in open air exhibits built into the mountainside. This allows them to be presented in a more natural habitat, with vegetation, boulders, and so forth.

The Lynx exhibit was a perfect example. Built into the mountainside, the exhibit had rock outcroppings, a dead fallen tree, and live bushes. The lynx, which is essentially a very large bobcat, has a coat that is naturally colored and patterned to fit into this rocky, bushy terrain. I was standing in front of this exhibit all alone when a zoo employee came over and said, “This is perhaps the hardest exhibit in the entire zoo for people to spot

the animals in. There are four lynx in there somewhere, but right now I can’t see any of them.”

So, I pointed and said to him, “Look at that rock outcropping up there. You can see the ears of one of the cats just above the edge of the outcropping. If you look up to the far end of the exhibit, one of them is sitting in the

How was I able to do this? Simple. I learned to look for parts rather than the whole. Most people, if looking for the Lynx, would look for the whole creature standing up broadside in the open. Instead, look for parts. For instance, the rock outcropping was a horizontal plane, but the cat’s ears were vertical. Among vertical tree trunks look for the horizontal line formed by the animal’s back or belly.

The same concepts apply when searching a building or other area for a human adversary. Don’t expect to see a suspect standing upright in the open. Instead, look for the elbow sticking out from the door frame, or the bill of a cap, the toe of a shoe. Look for shadows. Remember to look in depth, looking through windows rather than at them, and through the door at the end of the hallway, not just the hallway. With a little practice you can learn to look for the pieces that give away the location of the entire person. ■



corner. If you look by the fallen tree, one of them is lying stretched out alongside the trunk. The fourth one is sitting four feet in front of you under that bush.” As I pointed them out to him, he was able to see them. He was astounded. (They’re not used to dealing with hunters.)

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“Don’t expect to see a suspect standing upright in the open.”

MASS KILLINGS
HAPPEN ABOUT EVERY
TWO WEEKS



EXACTLY.

This is the opening graphic of a PowerPoint presentation that covers dozens of mass shootings from the past few years in the United States. The presentation was compiled by USA Today in support of further gun-control legislation. However, to a thinking person, this simply shows how necessary it is to wear your sidearm on a routine, daily basis. These mass shootings occur without warning and in every imaginable setting. **Be prepared.**

See the full presentation here.

<http://www.gannett-cdn.com/GDContent/mass-killings/#title>

Thoughts on the Rangemaster Instructor Development Course

We usually offer five or six of our Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development courses in different parts of the country each year. In July, we conducted one near Austin, Texas, at Karl Rehn's excellent KR Training facility. We had 18 students from as far away as California, Nebraska, and Virginia, plus locals from Oklahoma and Texas. A young SWAT officer and department firearms instructor from California was the Top Gun in this class. To the right is an excerpt from a note I received from him after the class.

Another student in this same class wrote a detailed multi-page review of the course in a July 28th post on PreparedGunOwners.com ([click here](#)).

Lynn and I find teaching these instructor development courses to be very fulfilling. We enjoy seeing the students grow both as shooters and as trainers, and we feel it is very important to properly prepare the next generation of firearms trainers who will be taking over in the next few years. ■

www.Rangemaster.com

Sir,

I travelled over 1,400 miles from Orange County, California to Bastrop, Texas to take your Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Course and it was well worth it. The fact that you have instructed over 45,000 students over the years and have had 65 students involved in real life gunfights speaks for itself. I walked away from your course with a deeper understanding of fighting with a pistol and how to convey that knowledge to other students. I have been to a few other Firearms Instructor Courses and I really liked how you emphasized teaching as well as instructor shooting skills. I too agree with the fact that in order to be a credible instructor you must be able to perform the skills you are attempting to impart upon your students. Your standards that are set for completing this course are tough but achievable if you have a solid understanding of marksmanship fundamentals and you take the time to study and take notes from your lectures. You used simple analogies to help teach skills needed to be a better shooter that I will definitely be using with my own students. Another aspect of this three day instructor development course that I enjoyed was the 200-plus-page book that is filled with years of knowledge. I have already referred back to your instructor book and referenced your material to current students. It is a wealth of knowledge. This is by far the most in depth instructor development course that has the facts, statistics, and real life debriefs that back up your methods. Thank you for all that you do. I look forward to learning from you again.

Dep. Gabe Rivera
Orange County, CA
Sheriff's Dept.
Firearms Training
Unit / SWAT



any many more...



The next Tactical Conference will be held on March 11-13, 2016, again at the fabulous facilities of the Memphis Police Department Training Academy. This modern range complex has multiple firing ranges, multiple classrooms, and hand-to-hand training areas. This year we will have live fire training with handgun, carbine, and shotgun, as well as extensive classroom training and hands on courses. Trainers presenting will include John Farnam, Massad

Ayooob, Southnarc, Tom Givens, Wayne Dobbs, Darryl Bolke, Greg Ellifritz, Claude Werner, Paul Sharp, William Aprill, and over 20 more. Space is limited, and the roster is filling quickly. We expect Tac-Con-16 to be sold out in another month. If you want to attend, you better register soon. Please visit Rangemaster.com for more information or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tactical-conference-2016-tickets-16064134258> to register. Don't miss this premier training event! ■

TACTICAL CONFERENCE 2016

"We expect Tac-Con-16 to be sold out in another month..."

Eventbrite

UP NEXT...

Register at www.eventbrite.com/o/tom-givens-6762296023

DEFENSIVE SHOOTING COURSES

September 19-20

Combative Pistol II
Near Austin, TX

November 7

Defensive Revolver
Franklin, TN

September 26-27

Combative Pistol I
Indianapolis, IN

November 8

Defensive Shotgun
Franklin, TN

October 10-11

Combative Pistol I
Amarillo, TX

October 17-18

Combative Pistol I
Phoenix, AZ

October 24-25

Intensive Pistol Skills
Longview, TX

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INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSES

September 11-13

Nappanee, IN

Oct. 30 Nov. 1

Wilmington, OH

November 20-22

Cleveland, OH



Eventbrite

Last Call!

ADVANCED INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT COURSES

October 3-4

McCloud, OK

We only offer this course once a year, and the location always changes. The 2015 Advanced Instructor Development Course will take place on October 3-4 (Sat-Sun) in McCloud, OK, at Wes Elliott's Practical Shooting range. This is a very nice private facility about 30 miles east of Oklahoma City. The Advanced class picks up where the Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Course left off, and admission is strictly limited to students who have successfully completed that course. Sign up today! ■

Always Wear Protection

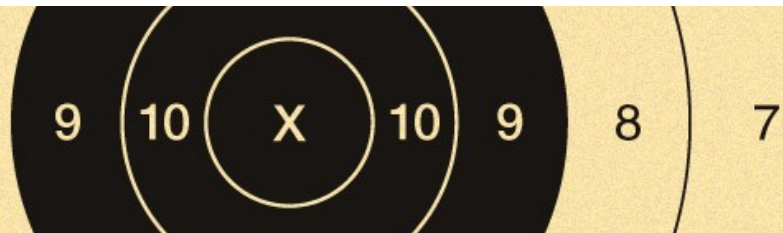


In August, we were conducting training on an indoor range that had a rather worn steel bullet trap of obsolete design. Over the course of eight days of training, the students fired a grand total of about 20,000 rounds on this range. Several times, staff or students were struck by small bullet fragments, consisting of tiny bits of lead or jacket material. These were largely an annoyance. However, at one point an intact 9 mm bullet returned from the trap and struck me in the chest with a pretty hard thump. So hard, in fact, that for a fleeting moment I thought I might have been shot. There was a small bleeding wound on my chest surrounded by red bruise that was 2½ inches in diameter. I found the spent bullet on the floor in front of me. No big deal – a Band-Aid sufficed to keep blood off my shirt and training continued.

Both the tiny fragments and the bullet are reminders of why proper safety equipment is so important on any firing range. There's always the possibility of bullet splash or other flying debris wherever firearms are being discharged. Proper safety glasses are essential. They should have polycarbonate lenses that have been tempered to prevent shattering. A ball cap pulled low over these glasses will help keep flying brass and other items from getting in behind the glasses.

Years ago, I once had a case separation in a .45 that blew brass case fragments out at rather high velocity. A sharp shard of brass embedded itself in the polycarbonate lens of my shooting glasses, directly in line with my right pupil. Had I not been wearing proper glasses, I would probably have lost the vision in that eye. Always be careful to protect yourself by wearing appropriate gear when training. ■

AIMING FOR ACCURACY



Many defensive shooters spend almost all their time on getting faster hits on close range targets. That is, in fact, a critical skill. Very accurate fire can also be needed, however, so we have to work on that periodically as well. Whether you are faced with an active shooter across the food court or a family member or other innocent person close to the shootee, pinpoint accuracy may be required.

Below is a simple practice drill to help work on accuracy. Use an NRA B-8 bullseye target, and score it as printed. All strings begin with the gin at low ready.

- 25 yards:** 5 shots in one minute
- 15 yards:** 5 shots in 15 seconds
- 7 yards:** Start with 5 rounds in the gun. On signal, fire 5 shots, reload, and fire 5 more shots, all in 15 seconds
- 5 yards:** Gun in dominant hand only, 5 shots in 10 seconds
- 5 yards:** Gun in non-dominant hand only, 5 shots in 10 seconds

The course uses 30 rounds total. The maximum possible score is 300 points. A score of 270 or above is pretty good shooting. ■

Headed Your Way

The 2016 Rangemaster training schedule is almost full. If you would like to host a Rangemaster course at your hometown range, please contact me as soon as possible. We only have a couple of dates left available in 2016. Email any inquiries to Rangemaster.tom@gmail.com.

Thanks!

While teaching a course in August I witnessed a malfunction I have never seen before. During a complicated shooting drill that involved movement, a reload, and malfunction clearance a student using a Glock 19 experienced a stoppage. When he tried to clear the malfunction, he wound up with the slide of the pistol about an inch forward of its normal position. You could see the top round in the pistol's magazine.



TAP RACK dang.

I assumed that his takedown latch spring had broken. However, we stripped the gun and found that the spring was intact. Upon reassembly, the pistol functioned normally and continued through another 300 rounds without any malfunctions. ???

This is a perfect example of a stoppage that cannot be remedied in a fight. Had this occurred during a defensive shooting, the student would have been out of luck — unless he had a backup gun (BUG). This is one of the reasons I am a strong proponent of wearing a backup gun. As we saw in this class, pistols break. When I say “break,” I do not mean malfunction. I mean mechanical parts crack, bend, split, and sometimes operate in inexplicable ways, as with this student's gun. In those cases, an immediate action drill like a tap-rack-bang will not suffice, and having a secondary option could save your life. ■



ARE YOU THE ONE?

The “Summer Special” is an inside-the-waistband holster first designed in the 1970s and since copied by just about every holster maker in the business. This holster was designed by a career undercover narcotics agent with the California Department of Justice, who was also one of the first Gunsite instructors. What was his name?

- A) Chuck Haggard
- B) Lou Alessi
- C) Bruce Nelson
- D) Milt Sparks



facebook.

Be the first to post the correct answer on our Facebook page and you will be officially crowned...**THE ONE.**
And you'll get a cool prize too.

