



Volume 16, Issue 5

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# Tactical Talk

***The problem  
with the gene  
pool is that  
there is no  
lifeguard.***



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## Defensive Shotgun Course ~Coming Soon~

The shotgun is an under-appreciated and under-trained weapon with many advantages as a home defense or post-disaster scenario tool. Like most specialized gear, its usefulness is increased greatly by a bit of training in its use. On Saturday-Sunday, June 30 and July 1 we will conduct a Defensive Shotgun Course at Rangemaster. Time is 10am to 2pm both days, and tuition is only \$229.00. All ammunition for this course is supplied by Rangemaster, at no additional cost. This includes birdshot, buckshot and slugs. We also have several loaner shotguns for students who don't yet have a suitable shotgun. We only offer this course about once a year in Memphis, so don't let this one pass you by. Call [901-370-5600](tel:901-370-5600) to register.



## Notes from the Tactical Conference . . .

In February we conducted the 14<sup>th</sup> Tactical Conference and Polite Society Match at Rangemaster. We had 135 attendees this year, with classes going on concurrently in three separate training areas, plus the low light match going on in the pistol range. I noticed that some of the most heavily attended classroom sessions included:

A two hour introduction to emergency trauma first aid, taught by a very experienced currently serving Army Special Forces medic was very well received. In a fight, there is always the chance that you or a loved one will be shot, cut, or bludgeoned. Immediate care for that wound may make the difference between life and death before emergency medical personnel can even get there. If you haven't had any of this type of training, I urge you to remedy that soon.

John Farnam's lecture on integrating defensive skills drew a huge crowd. John weaved together a tapestry of related skills, from avoiding selection by criminals in the first place; to movement and communication skills during the fight; to appropriate interaction with law enforcement after the incident. The pre-fight, in-fight, and post-fight segments simply cannot be separated, and training in all aspects is important.

Leslie Buck's block on defense against edged weapons drew a large crowd, and a lot of eyes were opened. Just having a gun does not guarantee a victory over a skilled and aggressive opponent with a knife. Highly recommended.

On the range, the low light match was run by our instructor cadre. Over the course of three days they got to watch 109 participants go through the scenarios, which were demanding and stressful. The lighting was set low, about like being on a typical urban parking lot at night. The staff noticed several things that occurred so often they bear mention here:

1. A fair number of shooters used lasers, but did not do well with them. It appeared to the staff that most laser users had not practiced much with the laser in dynamic low light conditions, with clothed humanoid targets mixed in with no-shoots. They spent so much time trying to find and then move the laser dot that they were slowed down considerably. This is not an indictment of laser aiming devices, but a reminder that they don't help unless you train with them.
2. Target identification is more difficult in low light. The problem is not hitting the target, it's deciding which target to hit.
3. Some participants needed a back-up gun (BUG) and were wearing one, but under stress they forgot to deploy it. Again, unless you train with a piece of equipment, its value is severely limited. Once in a while, practice dropping your primary handgun and drawing your BUG during a practice drill. (You don't have to drop your primary on the ground in practice. A cardboard box full of crumpled up used paper targets is a great place to drop a non-functioning handgun.)



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# A Ladies' Perspective on Firearms Training

A great deal of criminal violence is directed toward women who criminals often view as weak, easy prey. Nationally, the Bureau of Justice Statistics says that one in every four Americans will be the victim of a violent crime at some point in their lifetime. For women, the situation is even worse, with an estimated one out of every three women the victim of some type of sexual assault during their life-time.

Each year in Memphis alone, about 400 forcible rapes are reported to the Memphis Police Department. The FBI estimates that about one rape in three is reported to police. Victims' advocacy groups believe the actual figure is that about one in six are reported. The truth is probably somewhere in between, which would mean there are between 1,200 to 2,400 rapes each year, just in our city. And that is just rapes—that does not include violent assaults, armed robberies, and home invasions.

So, how am I supposed to fight off a male attacker, who is probably both bigger and stronger than I am? What if there are more than one of them? The same way thousands of other women accomplish this—by being armed and skillful in my handgun's use. By being armed and knowing what to do I can take back control over my own life. I do not carry a pistol so I can impose my will on someone else. I carry a pistol so someone else cannot impose their will on me!

I came to this realization some years ago when I was being stalked by a mentally disturbed man who made credible death threats against me, my family, and others. The police and private investigators were looking into these death threats, but were unable to do anything. I never thought I would have to pick up a gun until someone tried to take my and my son's choices out of our hands. It then became very real when I found my picture on the front page of the newspaper in an article about crime.

In order to be able to protect myself and my son, I made a visit to Rangemaster and explained my situation to the staff. I began taking defensive firearms courses, and I was hooked. I have since taken numerous courses from several of the top trainers in the industry, and I became an NRA certified, Tennessee State certified and Mississippi state certified firearms instructor. This allows me to pass on the knowledge and skills I have gained, and with them the peace of mind knowing you too can protect yourself and loved ones.

At Rangemaster we have several other female instructors, and we all work together with the male instructors to provide up-to-date training for men and women alike, who wish to be safer and more secure in our often perilous world.

Make a commitment to yourself and your family that you will not be a victim. You are responsible for your own safety. The choice is yours.

— **Lynn Givens, Firearms Instructor**





# Continuing Education for Rangemaster Instructors

One of the things that sets Rangemaster apart from many other schools is our commitment to continuing education and professional development for our staff instructors. This keeps our skills sharp, exposes us to new ideas, tactics, and techniques, and prevents stagnation of school doctrine. In just the months of March and April, over a dozen of our instructors attended various professional firearms training courses, to include:

March- John Parker attended the I.C.E. Combat Focus Shooting course hosted at Rangemaster.

March- Steve Palmer, Chris Hopkins and Anita Hopkins attended an IALEFI Master Instructor Course in Birmingham, AL. The International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) puts on a three day program for instructors who already have experience as firearms trainers.

One full day is devoted to carbine, one to shotgun, and one to pistol, all geared toward how to teach that particular weapon's use.

March- John Parker, Chuck Chow, and Lynn Kugele attended a Glock Armorer's Course and Glock Instructor Workshop hosted by us at Rangemaster.

March- Mitch McBroon attended an officer survival course at the Tactical Officer Survival School, conducted by long-time Southaven Chief of Police Tom Long, a nationally recognized police trainer.

March- John Hearne attended a federal government law enforcement Force on Force Instructor course and the SIG Armorer school.

April- Tom and Lynn Givens attended the Central Florida Tactical Conference near Tampa and observed training by "Super Dave" Harrington, Phil Peplinski, Jim Clark



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and other talented trainers. Tom was also a presenter at this conference.

April- Randy Richardson, Jeff Edwards, and Tom & Lynn Givens attended Southnarc's "Armed Movement in Structures" course. This is a dynamic, hands on Force on Force course taught in a huge commercial building full of halls, doorways, and corners.

In addition to all this training in March and April, in the past few months Joanie Webb attended Kathy Jackson's "Cornered Cat" ladies only handgun course. Gunny Birdsong attended the Rogers School in Georgia. Steve Palmer attended a Larry Vickers Handgun/Carbine Course in Florida, and Paul Howe's Handgun Instructor Course in Texas. I know of no other firearms school whose staff have taken so much diverse training on an on-going basis.

## MAG-20/Classroom – Armed Citizens' Rules of Engagement:

A two-day, 20-hour immersion course in rules of engagement for armed law-abiding private citizens, emphasizing legal issues, tactical issues, and aftermath management. Topics will include interacting with suspects, witnesses, responding police officers...threat recognition and mind-set...management of social and psychological aftermath after having had to use lethal force in defense of self or others...and preparing beforehand for legal repercussions and minimizing exposure to them. Situations in the home, at the place of business, or "on the street" are all covered. Tuition is \$400.

This is Ayoob's signature course, formerly known as LFI-1. All training will be in our comfortable air conditioned classroom.

Ayoob's class is on Saturday-Sunday. On Monday, Tom Givens will conduct a one day Advanced Pistol Skills course for those who want to stay over and work on their shooting skills. This is a full day on our air conditioned indoor range working on high speed marksmanship. You will need your normal carry gear and 400 rounds of ammunition, which can be purchased here. Tuition is \$200.00. For either of these courses, call 901-370-5600 to register.



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## Combined Skills Course

In April we taught a class in Weatherford, Texas, alongside two instructors from Bluff Dale Academy, Steve Moses and Dr. Troy Miller. Tom Givens conducted a four hour classroom block on personal defensive tactics, geared specifically toward the private citizen with a carry permit or the off-duty police officer. Tom also did a live-fire block on the range covering advanced pistol skills. Steve Moses did a great hands-on block implementing personal tactics in both a building and a parking lot setting, allowing students to take the classroom tactical lessons and apply them against a live role player. Steve also did a live fire range block concentrating on fast,

reliable presentation and first round hits from real street clothing, rather than specialized match gear. Dr. Miller, a very experienced trauma physician, spent 3.5 hours going over emergency trauma first-aid, including how to stop dangerous bleeding from gunshot or knife wounds.

Since this course includes tactical training, live fire skill building, role play, and medical training we elected to use the term "Combined Skills". We'll be offering this class again this Fall in Chandler, Oklahoma, again with Steve and Dr. Miller. Contact Steve at [steve\\_moses@msn.com](mailto:steve_moses@msn.com) for details or to register. Tuition is only \$450.00.

## 2012 Our Busiest Year Yet for Road Classes



As of May 1<sup>st</sup>, we have already taught off-site classes this year in Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, Texas (twice), and Pennsylvania. Still to come this year are courses in Kansas, Oklahoma, more in Texas, Ohio, more in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Virginia, Georgia (two classes), and Washington state. Most of these are two day handgun courses such as Combative Pistol, but four are full fledged Firearms Instructor Development Courses in other states. Busy!