



Tactical Talk

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No kingdom can be secured otherwise than by arming the people. The possession of arms is the distinction between a free-man and a slave.

-- "Political Disquisitions", a British republican tract of 1774-1775

Inside this issue:

<i>Hunting & the Economy</i>	2
<i>Order Form</i>	3
<i>Instructor Development Course</i>	4
<i>Defensive Shotgun</i>	7
<i>Two Home Invasions</i>	9
<i>Korwin Article</i>	10

They Just Don't Get It



Shortly after the Aurora, CO, theater shooting, MALCO Theaters posted all of their area theaters with "No Guns" signs. I don't suppose

it ever occurred to them that the Aurora theater already had a "No Guns" sign clearly posted at the entrance when the madman came in and shot the place up. All the "No Guns" sign accomplished was to assure the gunman that he would be the only one there who was armed, which turned out to be the case. Since no one was able to defend themselves or their loved ones, he was able to shoot a huge number of helpless victims.



Despite the fact that the Aurora theater had the sign, MALCO executives decided to add these to Memphis area theaters. Surely, they are not naïve enough to think any future madman would be deterred in any way by these signs, so just what was their motive for posting them? I, for one, will not patronize any of their theaters again until these signs are removed. I urge you to join me, and to write to MALCO executive offices to let them know your feelings on this matter.

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HUNTING AND THE ECONOMY



What has a population the size of California (37 million), and a budget the size of the sales of iPhone and iPad worldwide (\$90 billion), and gets virtually no mainstream news coverage, all year long? If something that big was hidden from view that well, would it distort the voting public's impression of what's important?

In a report ignored outside industry trade outlets, the National Shooting Sports Foundation announced that members of Congress were briefed on the recently released data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 National Survey on Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation to compare hunting and fishing participation and expenditures to mainstream industries. The 10% average increase in hunting and fishing over the 2006 report figures is economic good news somehow overlooked by the "news" media.

"The economic impact of hunting and fishing is profound," noted Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), Republican Senate Co-Chair of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, at the briefing. "People don't think about hunting and fishing in terms of economic growth," stated Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.), Democratic Senate Co-Chair of the CSC. And they won't, since the media didn't convey the story.

The total spent for guns, ammo and archery gear hunters buy annually is \$6 billion, the same as the bicycle business, and much of it goes to businesses based in the U.S. keeping people employed in high paying steady manufacturing and related jobs. On the ground land conservation and restoration from sportsmen activity fees and taxes is \$3 billion (\$95 a second). The "news" media could not be reached for comment. No, that's not right. They didn't get the memo. Uhh, they were asleep at the switch. You know what it really is? They hate this subject and they hate you and they hate everything you stand for. And they think they're all peaceful and nice and that you are filled with hate.



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Instructor Development Courses

During 2012 we have conducted several Firearms Instructor Development Courses around the country. Instructor training and development is one of Rangemaster's specialties, and Lynn and I really enjoy teaching others how to teach new shooters. We did one of these right outside Pittsburgh, PA in April, in the Seattle, WA. area in June, at the home range in Memphis in August, near Oklahoma City in September, and in Macon County, Georgia in October. We have several in the works for 2013. Here is a review of the Georgia class by one of the students.



Tom and Lynn teaching an Instructor Development Course in Georgia.

Class review, Instructor Development Course, by Shane Gosa, class date 5-7 Oct 2012, Georgia

Shane is a full time police officer and a very experienced shooter. He has trained extensively with Gunsite, Larry Vickers, Southnarc and a host of other organizations. His comments follow:

"This was Tom's 3 day Firearms Instructor Development and Certification Course. \$479 was the price of admission per shooter for close to 30 hours of instruction from one of the greatest instructor's instructor of our times. I say over 30 hours for a three day course that would typically be 24 hours form most three day courses. We started a 0900 each day and went to around 1830 hours, with only a 30 minute lunch break each day. So range and class time were maximized, and there was homework on two of the three nights.

On the Thursday before the class I arraigned for a group dinner, as is my custom, to get the class together and break the ice before the learning began. We had three new faces in addition to five of the usual suspects. TPI was represented by 3 of the clan, and represent we did.

Friday started out at 0900 in the class. We were given a 179 page manual that contained info needed for the class, articles on a myriad of subjects, courses of fire, and tips for instructors. Tom introduced Lynn and their back up dog, Skeeter. He then began by telling us what we could expect from the course, and what he expected from us.

He continued with what he taught and why he did so. He provided examples of his 60 students that had prevailed in their shooting incidents. He introduced his methods of operating a handgun and why he used them.

We made it to the range about 1130 and began shooting. He had use perform a few drills to gain an understanding of who he was working with. We then branched off to some other skill building drills and broke for a quick lunch. We returned and began shot a diagnostic 30 round drill on a NRA 25 yd bulls eye with a minimum passing score. After this we were back in the class room for more lectures and instruction. We were assigned a presentation topic for Sunday and given homework of reading the 179 page manual.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Saturday started off at 0900 again in the classroom and then off to the range. The day was broken back and forth between the two. On the range we were introduced to several different drills to improve and or diagnose skills. We were also introduced to the FBI handgun qual and later shot if for score.

In the classroom we were introduced to public speaking and each of us stepped up in front of the class. We had to take a few minutes to tell the others about our background and why we were at the course. We were further indoctrinated in methods of teaching others and broke around 1830 til the next day.

We started again at 0900 on Sunday and went right to the range where we shot the FBI qual for score. We then went back into the classroom to talk about legal issues before breaking for lunch.

It should be noted that a few months ago I went to work for a new department. Due to some unforeseen circumstances I had to work every night of the class, to include the night before it began again. I was working off of brief periods of sleep immediately before the class and at lunch. So, I was starting to get tired now.

We then shot the Rangemaster Instructor Handgun course for score. This is a much more trying course than that of the vaunted FBI. It is a course that should be shot once a month to use as either a benchmark or a wake up call.

We retired to the classroom and took the nine page written test. When all students finished the test and Tom graded it we were back in class to make presentations on our assigned topics. Everyone did well with limited resources, for those that traveled in. We finished this up and Tom showed us two separate videos to illustrate differences in mindset and tactics. This was accompanied by his thoughts on the matter.

We moved off to the range to work on movement and a few more drills. We then returned to the classroom for handing out of certificates and such. As I stated earlier TPI represented well. The three of us shot the course with our carry guns and holsters in the way we do on the streets. My good bud C.M. Campbell got the overall top gun award. He scored 100 out of 100 on the FBI qual, higher than me on the Rangemaster Instructor qual, and we tied on the written test. I came in second with a 100 out of 100, 244 out of 250, and 96 out of 100 respectively.

He shot a relatively stock G17 from concealed AIWB throughout the entire course, and I shot a stock G22 from a Safariland sls/als. The other TPI'er shot a G19L from concealed FBI. Not to knock them, but others in the class shot a variety of modified guns, some in range holsters, with and without concealment. Again, this is not a put down on them, or bragging on us, but we did it the same way we would have on the streets to "keep it real, yo."

Everyone had a good time and learned a lot. Every single person said they would take another Tom Givens class and I had several ask me when he was coming back. In fact I have three already signed up for his next course here. Thankfully we did not have a "THAT GUY" in the class, as is normally the case with all of the classes I host.

I have been through a number of instructor rated schools and Tom's is one of the best, and I

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

believe the best currently available. He has my unsolicited and highly thought of recommendation for any and all training he chooses to provide.

The importance of good support equipment was noticed by several. Thus they will now have improved holsters/mag pouches and sturdier belts. We fired right at the prescribed 1000 rounds each.”

We will be conducting four Firearms Instructor Development Courses in 2013. They include:

Tucson, AZ 18-20 January 2013

Florence, SC 8-10 March 2013

Giddings, TX 22-24 March 2013 (near Austin/Bastrop)

Memphis, TN 2-4 August 2013 (indoors, air conditioned)



Rangemaster's 2012 Instructor Cadre. Ten of the trainers in this photo have worked at Rangemaster for over ten years.



Coaching is an important skill for trainers, and is emphasized in our Instructor Development Courses.



Students firing snubby revolvers during an Instructor Development Course. Candidates have to know how to shoot handguns other than the one they carry themselves.

Defensive Shotgun Course

January 12-13, 2013

Saturday-Sunday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. both days

The short barreled shotgun is a premiere home or business defense weapon, and could be an invaluable resource in a post-disaster scenario, as happened after Hurricane Katrina. To maximize its utility and effectiveness, one needs some training in its selection, modification, ammunition selection, and deployment.



Rangemaster will conduct a two-day Defensive Shotgun Course in January on our indoor range. Cost is only \$229, and we supply ALL of the needed ammunition for this class. We will have properly set up loaner guns for those who don't have one yet. Call 901-370-5600 to register.

A student in a Defensive
Shotgun Course at
Rangemaster



Students' shotguns laid out prior to range training



Tom Givens demonstrates proper form with the shotgun

Two Home Invasions, Different Outcomes

One of our students who lives in the Seattle area sent us this information. It seems that if attacked by criminals, the citizen who is armed and trained has a better chance of survival than one who is unarmed. Hmmmm.....

“Recently we had two home invasions I wanted to share with you:

The first one was north of Seattle in the city of Woodinville. Very close friends (and also quite anti-gun) had a neighbor come home for lunch during the week. He noticed a strange car in the driveway. But, since his wife frequently had workers at the house and she was supposed to be home, he didn't think too much of it. He walked in on a man and woman going through his master bedroom. Being a CHL holder, he drew his pistol, told “bad guy” to freeze and called 911. “Bad guy” rushed the homeowner. Homeowner shot twice. Bad guy runs out of the house, leaving his wife/girlfriend there. He drives down the street, only a couple of houses and then calls 911 to ask for medical help. Homeowner has not been cited. Girlfriend ran out of the house and was not found. I do not know what the medical outcome of the “bad guy” was.



The second situation was a family we know: our children went to the same school and so we saw each other frequently at school functions and they took their dog to my husband's veterinary clinic. Their children are now adults and have moved out of the house. Husband and wife went for an early morning walk. When they came home, they found a 6'5" man in their kitchen armed with a machete and a knife.

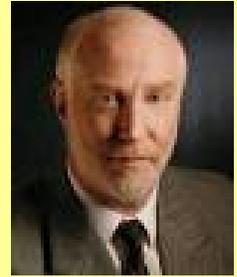
I am not sure of everything that occurred in the home. The husband died of his wounds at the scene. Neither the husband nor wife carried firearms.

I thought this was interesting, along with horrible, as the armed homeowner was able to protect himself. And while it is difficult to say that the second may have survived the fight if he or his wife had been armed, I believe he may have had more of a chance of survival.”

<http://mynorthwest.com/75/719836/911-calls-from-burglary-gone-bad-1m-dying>

<http://www.katu.com/news/local/Schools-lock-down-after-home-invasion-stabbing-in-Lake-Oswego-170032236.html>

This is from our friend and colleague, Alan Korwin. Alan is an astute observer and commentator and a prolific author.



While groups are lobbying to get marginal and questionable disorders into the official directory of mental disorders, the firearms and medical communities are falling down on the job of campaigning to get **hoplophobia** a well-known and politically damaging scourge the recognition and treatment its sufferers so desperately need.

The abject terror many people experience when even mentioning guns is often channeled into the political realm, where it literally affects legislation, infringes on fundamental human rights that have been part of the nation fabric since its inception, and attack the strongest underpinnings of a free society. The nation expends huge resources in political battles when psychological counseling is obviously at least a consideration.

It is often posited from within a small segment of the medical community that the core staff working on DSM-5, and indeed the medical professional as a whole is largely hoplophobic, and that this freezes out any serious consideration of the disorder. It would be funny if it weren't so serious, a sort of doctor-heal-thyself conundrum.

Read Dr. Sarah Thompson's seminal thesis on the subject, or Dr. Bruce Eimer's commentaries.

<http://www.gunlaws.com/GunPhobia.htm>

Idea: Ask YOUR doctor, dentist, gynecologist, whatever for an opinion about hoplophobia next time you have an appointment. You're paying the salary. That's your professional adviser. Get service. Ask. Tell me what you hear. I'll spread the word. And your doc will think.

Medical doctor, name withheld on request: "The psych establishment is, well, hoplophobic, and I suspect any effort to get hoplophobia recognized as a serious diagnosis in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual would be a wasted one."

Dr. Eimer describes the disorder concisely in a note to a reader:

"You are welcome. As a psychologist, I have been treating people with the emotional disorder of phobias for over 30 years. Phobias are emotional disorders characterized by an irrational fear of specific situations, activities or objects. They all have an underlying psychodynamic mechanism.

"Weapons phobias originate typically in childhood as a result of traumatic experiences that lead the afflicted individual to feel markedly vulnerable around knives, guns, sticks, etc. They do not necessarily stem from the phobic person's being a victim of an assault although in many instances that is the case. Often, hoplophobics were abused emotionally and/or physi-

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

cally as children. As a result of their fears of annihilation, they feel vulnerable and angry. They both fear others and themselves such that if they were to lose control, they would be a menace too. The adult rationalization defense mechanism makes it safer to displace these fears on to an inanimate object such as a gun. Hence, the psychological unconscious really believes that guns have agency and kill. The idea of factoring bad people into the equation: gun + bad person = destruction does not occur to the psychological unconscious.

It is too threatening to the psychological unconscious. It's less threatening CONSCIOUSLY to blame problems on inanimate objects."

Bruce N. Eimer, Ph.D., ABPP

Licensed Clinical Psychologist (PA & NJ)

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Board Certified Diplomate in Cognitive & Behavioral Psychology with the American Board of Professional Psychology

Fellow & Approved Consultant with the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis

Life Member, American Psychological Association

NRA Certified Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor

And a reply:

"I had never before made the connection between hoplophobia and projection. It's obvious enough that some people are terrified of firearms and some are terrified of anyone having firearms but it never crossed my mind that someone would be terrified that they themselves could have access to firearms!"

Dr. Eimer again:

Many gun control advocates believe that only two types of folks have guns -- cops and criminals. I grew up in New York City where this was and still is the prevailing view. People who believe that non-sworn citizens should not be allowed to own guns also tend to believe that anyone who owns a gun and is not a cop is a suspect.

Thus, you often hear the sarcastic refrain from people whose lives have been threatened: "What should I do, buy a gun?" Most of these folks fear firearms due to ignorance and their socialization. However, there is a larger group of folks who have an irrational fear (aka, "phobia") of firearms (aka, "hoplophobia").

I have met and also treated many such folks. As a board-certified licensed clinical psychologist with over 30 years of clinical and academic experience, I think hoplophobia should be added as a diagnostic category to the Anxiety and Phobia Disorders section of the soon to be published revised edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-DSM-V.

(Continued on page 12)

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(Continued from page 11)

Given my dual clinical and academic training as both a Behavioral and Psychoanalytic/Freudian psychologist and psychotherapist, I know that "hoplophobia" (fear of firearms or firearm phobia) is real. It is as real as arachnophobia (fear of spiders), ophidiophobia (snake phobia), dentophobia (fear of dentists), aichmophobia (needle phobia), androphobia (fear of men), cynophobia (dog phobia), entomophobia (fear of insects), and ideophobia (fear of ideas). **However, hoplophobia may be more widespread than all of the above mentioned with the exception of ideophobia, and unlike most of these other phobias, hoplophobia pervades every level of our society and poses a serious threat to our Constitutional Second Amendment and First Amendment rights.**

As a clinical psychologist, I know that what hoplophobics really fear is their own conscious and unconscious murderous rage. As with the psychodynamics of every true phobia, the hoplophobic person's psychological defense mechanisms unconsciously project his or her murderous rage onto other people and objects. In this case, the objects of choice are firearms. Only some hoplophobics are insightful enough to recognize, as one pro-gun control physician stated that, "I don't own a gun because if I did, I'd definitely shoot someone." He is right. He and others like him should definitely NOT own firearms. But, this is not a matter for legislation. It is about having good sense and perhaps, psychotherapy - because after all, that is what good psychotherapeutic treatment is all about.

The source for the hoplophobia post is my blog:

<http://personaldefenseblog.com/2009/06/01/hoplophobia-is-a-real-problem/>