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RANGE • MASTER

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RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Here are some very typical gear set-ups for every day carry by a plain clothes investigator over the past 50 years.

The first photo (to the right) has typical gear from 1967. The wheelgun is a Smith & Wesson Model 12. This is the K-frame, or medium frame, in .38 Special, round butt, four-inch barrel. The M12 has an aluminum frame, making it very light for a mid-sized revolver. The ammo is 158 grain round nosed lead, pretty much universal in .38's all over the country at that time, worn in a simple belt slide cartridge loop carrier.

The holster was made by Bucheimer, a long-time supplier of

leather gear to all stripes of lawman in the 1950's through 1980's. This holster is the "Hank Sloan" model, named after the legendary FBI agent and trainer. Henry L. "Hank" Sloan had an

illustrious career with the FBI beginning in 1935 as a Special Agent and on to Firearms Instructor and then to Special Agent In Charge at FBI Training, Quantico, VA.

This holster features an adjustable welt, which provides tension on the frame of the revolver, as a passive retention

device. The curved portion at the top of the holster protects the suit coat lining from abrasion by the revolver's hammer spur. This holster was fast and was considered state of the art in the 1960's and 1970's. The sap was an important piece of gear, as there were no Tasers or OC spray then. Of course, it could also double as a field topograph.

The second pic (to the left) has gear from 1987, 20 years later. The lightweight .38 has been exchanged for a 4" barrel Model 19 S&W in .357 Magnum. This particular gun has a Parkerized finish and a Pachmayr grip adaptor. Spare ammo is carried in a Safariland speedloader, in a fold-over pouch that sits the speedloader atop the belt, to reduce

EVOLUTION: *A Photo Diary*

by Tom Givens

1967

1987

printing. You may notice the top of the front sight has been filed down, making it shorter in height. This allows the pistol to be zeroed with the adjustable rear sight screwed all the way down and Loc-Tited in place. This allows the larger, faster-to-pick-up sight picture of the adjustable sights, without worry about losing zero.

The holster was made by the late, great Lou Alessi around 1979. By having belt slots fore and aft of the revolver's frame and cylinder, thickness of the holster is reduced, allowing it to ride much closer to the body than the older Sloan design. The widely separated belt slots support the weight of the heavier revolver on a much larger section of belt, enhancing comfort, and making the holster more stable on the belt. Retention is accomplished by detail molding, including leather that curves inward over the revolver's recoil shield. The hammer shroud of the Sloan model is present, protecting the wearer's suit coat lining. Note the covered trigger guard. Modern firearms training, with the safe gun-handling rules we now use, was just getting a foothold in much of the country. This holster is just as serviceable today as it was when it was new, 38 years ago.

The third photo (to the right) depicts gear from 2017. The handgun is a modified Glock 19, carrying 16 rounds of 9mm ammunition, with another 15 rounds in a spare magazine in a pouch from JM Custom Kydex. The holster is an IWB #3, again from JMCK. The Glock is smaller, thinner, and lighter than the Model 19 Smith and holds almost three times as much ammunition, with an instant reload available. The IWB #3 is an extremely well-thought-out inside waistband holster, shown with a fixed belt loop. This locks the gear in place all day and adds very little bulk to the holster.

Times change. Our gear needs to change as the threat evolves and new threats appear. ■



A VERY BIG DEAL

In June, Lynn and I spent two weeks teaching in the Pacific Northwest. We had an excellent Firearms Instructor Development Course at the Firearms Academy of Seattle. We had 18 sharp, motivated students and all passed this rigorous course. Later, we taught a Combative Pistol Course at John Holschen's outstanding facility, West Coast Armory North, in Everett, Washington. Stay tuned to the September issue of this newsletter for an important announcement of a Very Big Deal in this area in 2018.

- Tom



THE RANGEMASTER SPECIAL

by Tom Givens

Boresight Solutions Group is Ben Simonson's custom shop in Davie, Florida (a suburb of Miami). For about five years, I've been carrying a Glock 35 Ben built for me and I'm very pleased with it. Since then he has built two Glock 34's and three Glock 19's for either Lynn or me. That's the best endorsement I can give him.

I truly believe Ben and his crew do the very best grip reductions and other custom work on Glocks, M&Ps and SIG P320s. Aside from the excellent functionality, these are the most aesthetically pleasing plastic pistols I've seen.

Below is a pic of a Glock 19 Ben recently did up for me. The group shown next to it was fired at 8 yards, standing, in a dimly lighted indoor range, with Federal 147 grain HST ammo. That's five rounds in one hole at 8 yards. The grip texture is such that it really locks your hand in place when you grasp it firmly, but it does not abrade clothing or your skin. The other photo shows two G34's Ben worked on for me, plus a G19 he did for Lynn.

Boresight is offering a "Rangemaster Special" package on Glock pistols, available on Glock models 17, 19,

22, 23, 34 and 35. The package consists of a Level 2 Grip Reduction; Apex trigger parts and trigger job; and Heinie Ledge fixed steel sights. This is exactly the same as the G19 pictured with the target below. Gen 3 or Gen 4 Glock, you supply your gun or Ben will sell you one. For more information, please visit www.boresightsolutions.com or email Ben at info@boresightsolutions.com to order yours. ■

BORESIGHT
SOLUTIONS



TAC 2018

20th Anniversary

RANGE MASTER

The 2018 Tactical Conference is filling up quickly. The 2018 conference marks the 20th anniversary of this important training venue, so we have a lot of special events planned. We will have a lot more live fire blocks this year, with range classes on pistol, snubby, carbine and shotgun. The ladies will have a range and classroom of their own, with ladies' events going on throughout the conference. We also have some new trainers coming this time. Don't miss out – register today. It looks like we'll be full soon, and once the spaces are filled, that's it. See www.eventbrite.com/e/tactical-conference-2018-little-rock-arkansas-tickets-33492433771 to register. ■

TAKE YOUR INSTRUCTOR CREDITS TO NEW HEIGHTS

On Saturday-Sunday, Aug 26-27, we'll be conducting an Advanced Firearms Instructor Development Course on a private range in Culpeper, Virginia. This is a very nice outdoor range just outside Culpeper. This will be the last Advanced Instructor course in 2017. Entry is strictly limited to those who have successfully completed our Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Course at any location. Please visit our Eventbrite page for more information or to register (click the Eventbrite logo on the right to visit the site).

And for those who like to plan ahead, here are the venues we've already booked for Rangemaster instructor courses in 2018:

Jan 26-28, 2018

Instructor Development Course
Homestead, FL

Feb 3-4, 2018

Advanced Firearms Instructor
Homestead, FL

Jun 28-30, 2018

Instructor Development Course
Xenia, OH

Oct 13-15, 2018

Instructor Development Course
Okeechobee, FL

Nov 2-4, 2018

Instructor Development Course
Jackson, MS

Eventbrite™

MAYBERRY?

Maybe not!

by Tom Givens

Just over one year ago, Lynn and I moved to a quaint little town of 35,000 folks in a rural area 35 miles east of Tampa, FL. It's a quiet, Mayberry-like town. The police department has 74 sworn officers, and there is little crime.

A few months after we moved here, there was a fatal shooting here involving a person with a Florida Concealed Weapons License. The shooting was ruled justifiable self defense and no charges were involved. The shootee had just recently been paroled on a prior murder conviction for which he served 11 years in the Florida State Prison. In July, two of our police officers shot a violent felony suspect to death during a

confrontation after a vehicle chase, at 7:00 in the morning. The deceased had multiple prior arrests for domestic violence and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

That's two fatal self defense shootings in one year in my little town. The lesson: there are no longer "safe places," except where you make yourself safe through vigilance, commitment, and skill. Carry your damn gun. Accept that violence can occur suddenly, anywhere. Be mentally prepared. Someone in a setting much like my town once asked John Farnam, "How many times do people get killed around here, anyway?"; John's classic response was, "Just once, just like everywhere else." ■

This month's quiz crown goes to the first person to post the correct answer on the Rangemaster Facebook page. **NOTE:** Since we've been getting quiz answers posted all over Facebook, here's a new rule: You must post your quiz answer as a [reply](#) to Tom's newsletter post on the Rangemaster page (not on Tom's page, not on the RM Instructor page, not on the Tac-Con page, etc.). Got it? Cool!

POP QUIZ

"[T]he individual right to carry common firearms beyond the home for self-defense—even in densely populated areas, even for those lacking special self-defense needs—falls within the core of the Second Amendment's protections."

This quote comes from the majority holding in what recent federal case?

- A. District of Columbia v. Heller
- B. McDonald v. City of Chicago
- C. Wrenn v. District of Columbia
- D. Kachalsky v. County of Westchester

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