

## In This Issue

- ▶ BETTER LOOPS ..... 1
- ▶ RECOMMENDED READING:
  - THE RED DOT CLUB ..... 2
  - SAFETY ON ..... 2
- ▶ SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS ..... 3
- ▶ NORTHWEST REGIONAL TACTICAL CONFERENCE ..... 5
- ▶ POP QUIZ! ..... 5

DECEMBER 2017

RANGE • MASTER

Volume 21 • Issue 12

# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS  
FOR THE REAL WORLD

## Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

By Tom Givens

## Better Loops For Your EDC Holster

**I**t always amuses me when people get upset about a scratch or finish wear on their pistol, or scuffs and wear on their holster. Dude, it's equipment meant to be used, and wear and tear are inevitable! If you actually wear a sidearm 12 to 14 hours a day, seven days a week you become accustomed to the dings and bumps that are part of daily carry life. You'll also break something every now and then. Get over it, that's just part of the cost of doing business.

An awful lot of us carry our pistol in an AIWB or IWB holster made of Kydex. I detest snap loops of any sort, having seen numerous students' holsters go flying downrange when a snap failed during a fast presentation. If it can be unsnapped, it will come unsnapped. For this reason, my IWB

holsters always have fixed belt loops. One thing I have learned over the years is that these fixed loops are subjected to a lot of stress as the wearer bends over, gets in/out of cars, and sits at a desk or table. The belt pulls and twists these loops, and eventually they crack. Over the past ten years I have replaced four or five cracked Kydex belt loops on IWB holsters from several different makers. This doesn't mean the holster is a bad design. It means stuff breaks if you use it enough.

Tony Mayer at JM Custom Kydex in Reno is always seeking to tweak and improve his products, which is one reason Lynn and I both use his holsters for EDC. ([www.jmcustomkydex.com](http://www.jmcustomkydex.com)) A few months ago Tony introduced a brand new belt loop for his holsters, made

of a more flexible material than Kydex. I have been wearing a holster with these new loops for about six months now and I can see no wear on them. Belt loops on Tony's holsters attach via screws, so you can just replace the existing loops on your holster, rather than buy a new holster. Give these new loops a try. I believe you will like them. ■

## JM CUSTOM KYDEX



Tony Mayer  
JM Custom Kydex





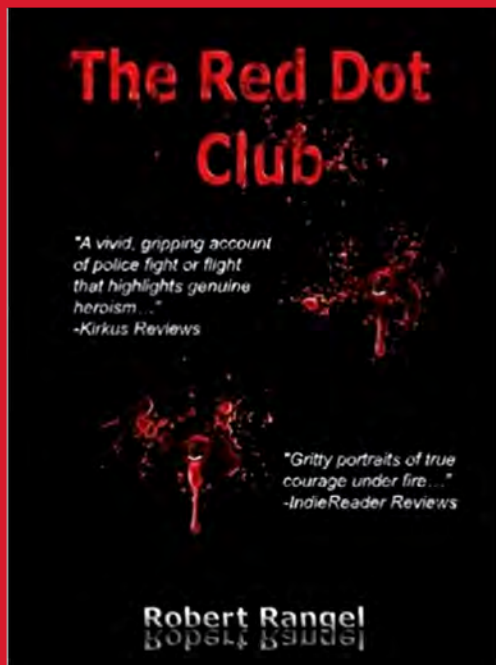
# Tom's Recommended Reading

## The Red Dot Club By Robert Rangel

**D**on't be confused by the title. This book is not about illuminated optical sights. The "red dot" refers to the entry wound on a human body, made by a pistol bullet. The author spent 13 years with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office, serving as a patrol officer and a detective, including working investigations into narcotics and the gang unit. He was involved in several line of duty shootings, including one in which he was shot twice but survived.

The book consists of in-person interviews Rangel conducted with other police officers who had been in shootings. The officers were from various departments in southern California, including Los Angeles, Ontario, and San Bernardino. Told in their own words, these are gripping accounts of bloody, terrifying gunfights, and their lessons. There are 13 chapters, and all but two are firsthand accounts of gun battles.

*The Red Dot Club* is available from Amazon for only \$14.95 in paperback, and it's even less in kindle form. Highly recommended. ■



The World is a dangerous place, not because of those that do Evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing."

- Albert Einstein



## Safety On By Yehuda Remer

**T**here's a new book out, *Safety On: an Introduction to the World of Firearms for Children*, by Yehuda Remer. This is a lavishly illustrated guide meant to assist an adult in teaching firearms awareness and safety to children. Safety rules and procedures are worked into the story of a young boy who wants to emulate his father and gain his approval by learning to handle guns safely and responsibly. I think the author did a good job of creating a tool to help parents teach their children about guns in a responsible and creative manner. There is also a Volume 2, which is a matching coloring book. Available from Amazon. Recommended. ■



from  
RANGEMASTER

Merry Christmas

# WARNING

## GRAPHIC CONTENT

By Tom Givens

# Safe Neighborhoods

Who'd want to hurt us?

**L**ate on the afternoon of Sunday, July 22, 2007, 48-year-old Jennifer Hawke-Petit and her 11-year-old daughter Michaela went to a local grocery store in Cheshire, Connecticut. During their trip, they attracted the attention of Joshua Komisarjevsky, who followed them home to see where they lived and judge their victim potential. Jennifer's husband was a successful doctor, so they lived in a large home in a very nice neighborhood. The thug liked what he saw.

Komisarjevsky then exchanged several text messages with his partner, Steven Hayes, as the two planned a home invasion for later that Sunday night.

According to Hayes' confession, the two men had planned to rob the Petit house under cover of darkness. Upon their arrival in the early hours of July 23, they found William Petit sleeping on a couch in the sun room. Komisarjevsky struck William on the head with a baseball bat found in the yard and then tied him up at gunpoint and took him to the basement. The children and their mother were then bound and locked in their respective rooms. Hayes later said that he and Komisarjevsky were not satisfied with their haul, about \$150.00 found in Mrs.

Petit's wallet, and that a bankbook was found which showed an available balance.

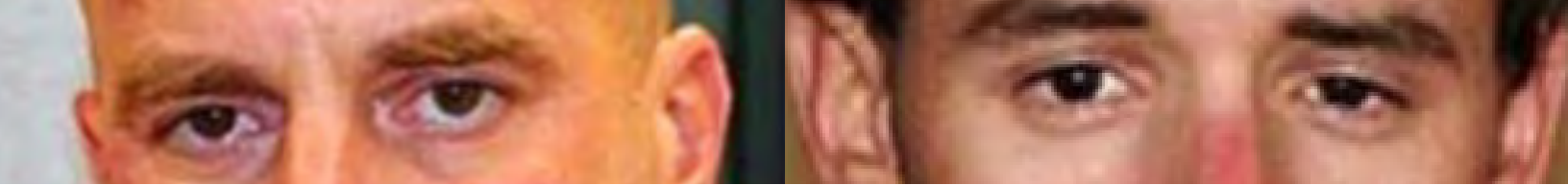
A gas station's surveillance video shows Hayes purchasing \$10 worth of gasoline in two cans he had taken from the Petit home in the early morning hours. After returning to the house and unloading the gas cans, he took Mrs. Petit to the bank when it opened. (The prosecution later claimed that this was evidence of premeditated murder.) Hayes convinced Jennifer to withdraw \$15,000 from her line of credit when the bank opened. Bank surveillance cameras captured the transaction which shows Jennifer Hawke-Petit, on the morning of July 23, as she informed the teller of her situation. The bank manager then called 911 and reported the details to police while Jennifer was still in the bank with the teller. The manager reported to the 911 dispatcher, in real time, as Jennifer left the bank and was picked up by Hayes, describing his clothing as he drove away with her.

The Cheshire police response to the bank's report began with assessing the situation and setting up a vehicle perimeter, without revealing their presence. The police remained outside the Petit home for more than half an

hour, taking these preliminary measures, while the assailants were raping and murdering the women inside the house. The police made no effort to make the assailants aware of their presence, choosing to remain out of sight in an extended perimeter around the home.

During this time, Hayes and Komisarjevsky escalated the heinous nature of their crimes: Hayes and Komisarjevsky sexually assaulted 11-year-old Michaela. The pathologist who conducted the autopsies testified that both suspects' DNA was found in semen recovered from Michaela's rectum. Komisarjevsky, who had photographed the sexual assault of the little girl on his cell phone, then provoked Hayes into raping the mother, Jennifer. Hayes raped her on the living room floor. Hayes then strangled Jennifer with a piece of rope, then doused her lifeless body and parts of the house, including the daughters' rooms, with gasoline. While tied to their beds, both daughters had been doused with gasoline; each had her head covered with a pillowcase. A fire was started, and Hayes and Komisarjevsky fled the scene. Hayley and Michaela both died of smoke inhalation, but only





after suffering extensive 2nd and 3rd degree burns to their feet and legs as they lay bound to burning beds.

William Petit had been able to free himself, use a basement door exit to flee, and run to a neighbor's home for help. In court testimony, William Petit stated that he felt a "jolt of adrenaline" coupled with a need to escape upon hearing one of the perpetrators state: "Don't worry, it's going to be all over in a couple of minutes." Petit then told the jury, "I thought, it's now or never because in my mind at that moment, I thought they were going to shoot all of us." As it turns out, those words were being spoken to Mrs. Petit as she was being slowly strangled to death with a rope.

Hayes and Komisarjevsky fled the scene using the Petit family car. They were immediately spotted by police stationed on the perimeter, pursued, and arrested one block away. The whole invasion lasted seven hours.

The details of this scenario were revealed in a confession by Hayes just hours after the killings. Detectives testified that Hayes smelled strongly of gasoline throughout the interrogation. Of course, each perpetrator blamed or implicated the other as the mastermind and driving force behind the horrific

crimes. Komisarjevsky later kept a diary, entered into evidence, in which he chose to call Petit a "coward" and claimed that he could have stopped the murders had he wanted to. During their interrogations, during their trial, and when interviewed in prison several years later, the suspects showed no emotion and no remorse whatever for their acts.

Steven J. Hayes (born May 30, 1963, in Homestead, FL) was found guilty of 16 of 17 counts related to the home invasion murders on October 5, 2010. He was 44 years old at the time of the crimes. Hayes' first arrest was at the age of 16. Joshua Komisarjevsky (born August 10, 1980) was Hayes' co-conspirator in the home invasion and murders. He was 27 at the time of the home invasion. Both men were sentenced to death, but Connecticut later abolished the death penalty, so both men's sentences were commuted to life in prison.

## Lessons in Reality

**1** There are no "safe" neighborhoods. This was not a random crime. The Petit's were specifically targeted because a career criminal saw them in public and liked what he saw. It was a very nice, quiet, safe neighborhood, but the thugs make house calls.

**2** When in public, be alert to your surroundings. According to his confession, Komisarjevsky followed Mrs. Petit and her daughter around inside the store, assessing them as victims, then followed them all the way home. No one should be able to do this without being noticed.

**3** Lock your damned doors! No one should be able to just walk into your home, especially at night. Unauthorized entry should take time and make a lot of noise, to give you a chance to respond before an assailant is literally beating you with a baseball bat. These offenders literally just walked right in at 3:00 in the morning.

**4** The cavalry is not coming to save you. The bank manager who called 911 told the police two men had invaded the home and were holding the family at gunpoint. Numerous police were outside the home as the girls and their mother were brutally raped and gruesomely murdered.

**5** You need to have ready access to defensive firearms. Even the perpetrators of these heinous crimes said they could easily have been stopped. Petit chose to flee to get someone else to handle the problem for him. As a result, he lost his family.

**6** Accept that evil exists, and it may come calling. Just because you would never even consider committing





crimes like these does not mean others won't. In their exchange of text messages prior to the home invasion, one of the thugs was all excited to get going to the Petit's home. The other thug told him to "hold your horses." The first thug's reply was "the horses want out NOW. LOL!" This was a game, entertainment, to these criminals. They are by no means unique. You must be mentally prepared to deal with scum like this if the time comes. You won't be able to reason with them or appeal to their better nature. You may have to fight them for your own life and the lives of your loved ones. Be ready. ■



The horses want out NOW...

# NORTHWEST REGIONAL TAC CON

July 27-29, 2018 | Firearms Academy of Seattle

We try to keep the Tactical Conference centrally located in the US, so that as many practitioners as possible may attend. That's why it is usually in Memphis or Little Rock or other central location. There are a number of committed students of The Art in the Pacific Northwest, which is still a really long way from Tennessee or Arkansas. To accommodate them, we will be holding a regional conference at The Firearms Academy of

Seattle (FAS) in July 2018. FAS is located between Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. It's a very nice training facility with several ranges and a modern classroom.

The dates are July 27-29, 2018, Friday through Sunday. This will be a smaller event than the national conference, with about 100 attendees. We have an impressive array of trainers presenting two-hour and four-hour blocks of instruction, including live fire with handgun,

shotgun, and carbine; a variety of classroom instruction; and hands-on training in empty hands skills and immediate trauma care. The trainers include Tom & Lynn Givens, Massad Ayoob, Marty Hayes, John Holschen, Lee Weems, John Hearne, John Murphy, Gabe White, Tiffany Johnson, Karl Rehn, Cecil Burch, William Aprill, Lori Bigley, Caleb Causey, and Belle McCormack. There will also be a defensive pistol match. Advance registration is required.

The trainers present two-hour to four-hour blocks of instruction in their area of expertise. You may attend whichever blocks you desire, and as many blocks as time allows over a three-day period. Attendance is open to adults who believe competent training is important and who wish to advance their knowledge of the defensive arts. Please visit our Eventbrite page to register. Don't delay. This event will fill up fast! ■

Eventbrite™



In the recent book, *Straight Talk on Armed Defense*, contributor John Hearne suggests thinking of every human being as having "two distinctly different brains." What are they?

- A) Fast brain & slow brain
- B) Tom brain & Lynn brain
- C) Action brain & reaction brain
- D) Emotional brain & rational brain



Think you know the answer? Reply to Tom's newsletter thread on the Rangemaster Facebook page. The first person to reply with the correct answer will be this month's

**WINNER!**

facebook

RANGEMASTER