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RANGE • MASTER

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# RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS  
FOR THE REAL WORLD

*Firearms Training Services*  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



I am often asked (sometimes somewhat incredulously) how we managed to accumulate the number of student-involved incidents we have over the years. The answer is quite simple.

I have been teaching since 1975, at first on a part-time basis. I taught a few days a month at a local range owned by someone else and three or four classes on the road most years. In 1996, I opened my own range/training center in Memphis. At that facility, we taught classes six or seven days a week, year-round, for the next 18 years. During that 18-year period, we trained over 43,000 students at the home range, plus I was doing seven to nine road classes each year.

Memphis is a unique location and a perfect laboratory for an organization like Rangemaster. For those not familiar with Memphis, it is hard to comprehend the daily level of violence there. Let me try to make it easier. I will compare three cities'

rates of violent interpersonal crime. These are murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The chart below shows figures from the FBI UCR report for 2018, the most recent year currently available. In the table, the first number pertains to aggravated assaults specifically, and the second number is all violent crimes. Those numbers are the rates for just that one year.

So, as you can see, the violent crime rate per capita in Memphis is 2.4

times that of Chicago and 3.2 times that of Los Angeles, both of which are thought of as high crime cities. Looking at some notes, here are some interesting stats on justifiable homicides in Memphis:

- In 2005, there were 21 justifiable homicides (3 by police, 18 by private citizens).
- In 2007, there were 32 justifiable homicides (5 by police, 27 by private citizens).

City	2018 Rate of Aggravated Assault	2018 Rate of All Violent Crime
Los Angeles	1 for every 237 residents	1 for every 134 residents
Chicago	1 for every 178 residents	1 for every 99 residents
Memphis	1 for every 73 residents	1 for every 52 residents

# CONTINUED...

- In 2011, there were 28 justifiable homicides (4 by police, 24 by private citizens).

No other US city has this many justifiable homicides by private citizens.

In case you are wondering, I reference the number of aggravated assaults rather than the number of murders, as aggravated assault rates give you a much more accurate picture of the level of violence in a community. Los Angeles, Chicago, and Memphis all have very good trauma centers. If you get to one of those trauma centers even a little bit alive, the odds that you will survive are extremely high. The number of aggravated assault cases gives you a better idea of how many times someone tried to kill someone else, without success.

We closed the Memphis range in 2014 and moved to Florida, so I am no longer available for students to drop by my office and tell me about their experiences. However, I still get a couple of reports each year. We have had students involved in shootings not just in Memphis but also in Mississippi, Georgia, Arkansas, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Texas. Now that the range in Memphis is no more, I teach over 30 classes on the road each year, literally all over the US. So, I expect that list of states to expand over time. ■

## Analyzing the Drejka Shooting

by Tom Givens

In February, Michael Drejka was attacked and injured by another inmate in a Florida state prison, where Drejka will be spending much of the rest of his life. You may recall Drejka's name—he was predictably convicted of manslaughter last year by a Florida jury after he shot a man to death in a completely avoidable confrontation.

Attorney Steven Harris is a well-trained shooter and tactician, in addition to being a lawyer with extensive courtroom experience. He has posted an excellent analysis of this shooting on Modern Service Weapons, a blog with a wealth of information for serious gun people. I encourage you to take the time to read it: <http://modernserviceweapons.com/>. Harris's "can, may, should, must" paradigm is worth thinking about. It is also detailed at MSW. Important stuff! ■



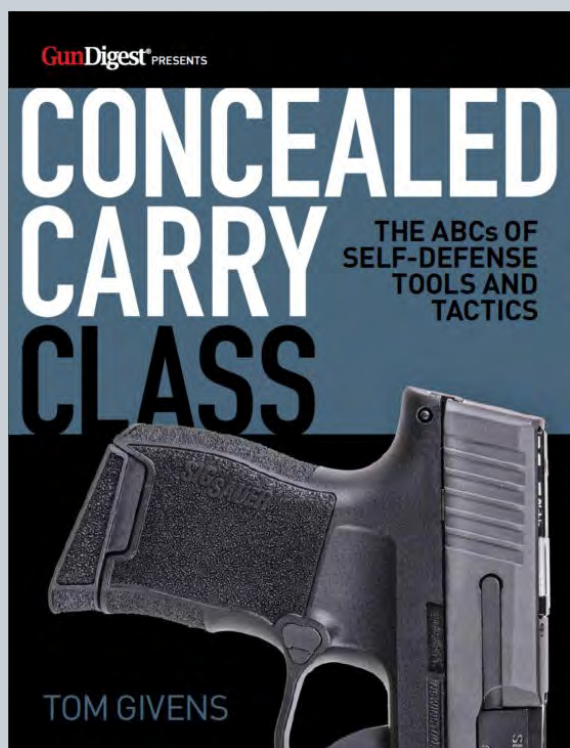
## TOM'S NEW BOOK

Now in Paperback and Digital Format  
from [www.GunDigestStore.com](http://www.GunDigestStore.com)

Just got your CCW permit? Thinking about getting one? This is the book for you! *Concealed Carry Class: The ABCs of Self-Defense Tools & Tactics* is a comprehensive guide to recognizing, avoiding and surviving violent confrontations. It's ideal for beginners or anyone looking to freshen up their understanding of concealed carry.

It covers everything from situational-awareness skills that can be honed to help keep you and your loved ones out of potentially dangerous scenarios; to the mental discipline it takes to carry a concealed weapon every day; to evaluating and selecting concealed-carry hardware, including handguns and calibers, holsters and clothing; to training drills you can use to become proficient with a handgun, and remain proficient through regular practice.

Tom Givens calls on decades of firearms and law enforcement experience to put together this practical collection of tips and tactics anyone can use for the safe, responsible and legal carrying of a concealed weapon. He has been involved in armed confrontations both as a police officer and as a private citizen, and has seen firsthand how decent people, with proper training, can fight back and overcome criminal attacks. ■





# UPCOMING CLASSES

Sign up today at [rangemaster.eventbrite.com](https://rangemaster.eventbrite.com)!

## April 24-25

Combative Pistol  
Northern Georgia

## April 26

Defensive Shotgun  
Northern Georgia

## May 11-12

Advanced Firearms Instructor  
Xenia, OH

## May 13

Defensive Shotgun  
Xenia, OH

## May 15-16

Combative Pistol  
Garrettsville, OH

## May 17

Defensive Shotgun  
Garrettsville, OH

## May 29-31

Master Instructor  
Development Course  
Jackson, MS

## June 5-7

Firearms Instructor  
Development Course  
Decatur, TX

## June 12-14

Defensive Shotgun  
Instructor Course  
McCloud, OK

## June 26

Defensive Shotgun  
Lincoln, TX

## June 27-28

Combative Pistol  
Lincoln, TX

**Eventbrite**

## July 21-23

Firearms Instructor  
Development Course  
Onalaska, WA

## July 25

Defensive Revolver  
Onalaska, WA

## July 26

Defensive Shotgun  
Onalaska, WA

## July 27-28

Advanced Firearms  
Instructor  
Onalaska, WA

# SAVE THE DATE



**November 7-8, 2020 ♦ Jackson, MS**

**Rangemaster Instructor**

# Reunion & Conference

We began offering our Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Development Course in 1997, so 2020 is our 23rd year of teaching this important course. To commemorate this milestone, we are having a gathering of the family at a very modern and comfortable

training facility near Jackson, Mississippi, the Boondocks Firearms Training Academy. Entry is strictly limited to persons who have graduated from one of our instructor development courses at any location since 1997.

We held our 20th Anniversary Conference in Shawnee, OK, in 2017. It was attended by over 50 Rangemaster certified instructors from 15 states. We held a second such event in Georgia for all our certified

instructors in the East in 2018. For 2019, we used the excellent facilities of KR Training, in Lincoln, Texas. In 2020, we'll be at the Boondocks Firearms Training Center, a multi-million-dollar facility in Raymond, MS. There are modern classrooms, covered outdoor ranges, shoot-houses and much more. This is one of the nicest training facilities in the US.

We will gather to discuss new information, training techniques, professional development and other items we have observed and learned in conducting training courses around the country. There will be classroom presentations, plus live fire on the range to check out and refine our skills. This is a great networking opportunity for Rangemaster certified instructors from all over the country. There will be presentations by Rangemaster staff instructors, including Tom & Lynn Givens, John Hearne, Tiffany Johnson, Lee Weems, John Murphy, and Aqil Qadir, plus live fire training on the range. This promises to be an epic event for trainers. Space is limited and the event will fill far in advance. Don't procrastinate. ■



**Eventbrite**



# Combative Pistol

with Dave Spaulding

After Action Report  
by Tom Givens

I think it's critical for all active self defense firearms instructors to continue to take classes as a student. Taking courses from someone outside your own organization allows you to get some structured trigger time under someone else's watchful eye, something most trainers rarely get. In addition, it allows one to keep up with new trends, see different equipment in use, pick up new drills and exercises for your own program, and prevent stagnation.

I've been teaching defensive firearms use since 1975, full time since 1996. Despite that experience, I try to take at least two classes from someone else each year. In 2018, I attended two 2-day pistol courses by Gabe White and Ernest Langdon, and I learned valuable tips in both. In 2019, I took half-day courses in "Stop the Bleed" taught by an experienced paramedic, low light skills with Massad Ayoob, and a revolver course with Marty Hayes, plus several blocks at the Tactical Conference. In February 2020, I managed to check off a long-desired box by attending Dave Spaulding's Combative Pistol course in Shreveport, Louisiana, accompanied by Rangemaster staff members John Hearne and Lee Weems.

Dave is a retired law enforcement officer and former Law Enforcement Trainer of the Year award winner. He has a degree in physical education, plus a Masters in Police Administration, plus years on a busy SWAT team and an inter-agency drug task force and time as a homicide investigator. All of that gives him a unique perspective on teaching physical shooting skills and on which skills are important for effective self defense.

John and Lee did Rangemaster proud, each winning a Handgun Combatives belt buckle for outstanding performance on some scored/timed drills. Dave has very high shooting standards, and he holds students to them very strictly. If the standard says 2.0 seconds, and you shoot the drill in 2.10 seconds, too bad—you failed. This is how it should be. Standards are meaningless unless they are enforced. All around great class, and I recommend training with Dave for more pieces of the puzzle. He only has 11 classes in 2021, so you'd better get on the stick if you want to train with him. For more information on Dave's classes, see <https://handguncombatives.com/>. Highly recommended! ■



# Drill of the Month

Justin Dyal's

## 5-Yard Round Up

Throughout 2020, we will be running a Drill of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The goal is help motivate folks to get to the range and actually shoot their defensive weapons, and to have some fun in the process. Each month we'll post a drill or a short course of fire. You are encouraged to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target in the Rangemaster Facebook group. This month, it's the famous 5-Yard Round Up, originally conceived by Justin Dyal.

### The Drill

Each of these four strings is fired at 5 yards. Use a B-8 repair center or the bullseye on an LTT-1 target. The time limit for all strings is 2.5 seconds.

- #1** From concealment, draw and fire 1 shot using both hands.
- #2** From the ready, 4 shots, both hands.
- #3** From the ready, 3 shots, dominant hand only.
- #4** From the ready, 2 shots, non-dominant hand only.

This drill requires only 10 rounds. Deduct 10 points for any overtime shots. Rounds that hit outside the 8-ring count as misses (zero points). Perfect score is 100 points. If you can score 95 or above on this, cold, you have good, solid close-range skills.

I would like for you to shoot this drill three times, on a fresh B-8C each time. That makes it easier to score accurately. Note your score on the first run, cold. Then add all three scores together. The maximum possible score is 300, we're looking for 285 or better. ■

# BOOK REVIEW

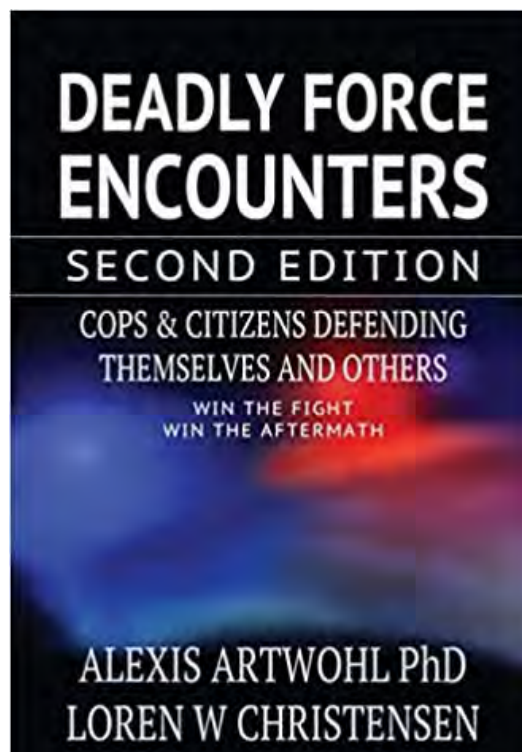
by Tom Givens

Dr. Alexis Artwohl and Loren Christensen recently released the second edition of their ground-breaking book, *Deadly Force Encounters*. The sub-title is "Cops & Citizens Defending Themselves and Others: Win the Fight, Win the Aftermath." It's available from Amazon.

Alexis Artwohl has been a police psychologist for decades, working with officers on post-traumatic incident stress, and on research with the prestigious Force Science Institute. She has often been an Expert Witness on these issues and is nationally recognized as a leading authority. Her husband was a career law enforcement officer with 47 years total experience, retiring as an Assistant Chief. She has made a calling of educating, training, and otherwise serving America's warriors.

Loren Christensen served with the Military Police in Saigon, South Viet Nam at the height of the war there, when Saigon was often called "the most dangerous city in the world". Upon his return to the US, he completed a 25-year career with the Portland, Oregon, police department. Many of those years were spent policing the mean streets of the worst parts of that city. Christensen is no stranger to violence.

This scholarly work comprises 526 pages of densely packed information, critical to anyone who carries a gun for self-defense. The first edition came out in 1997, and was centered on police officers, but this edition has been expanded to include armed private citizens. It also takes into account more recent research in this field and another two decades of experience for the authors. There are case studies, an examination of critical training issues, and a wealth of information on handling the legal, psychological and physical effects a decent person can expect to be confronted with if required to use deadly force in self defense. This book belongs in the library of every serious student or trainer. Highly recommended. ■







# TAC CON 2021



We'll be back.

Registration for the 2021 Tactical Conference opens April 1, 2020.  
[www.TacCon.info](http://www.TacCon.info)