



THE SAGUARO GUNNER

The online journal of **Arizona Weaponcraft Solutions.**

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Well, we are now into a new year, and the Tucson shooting still weighs on our minds. I am going to discuss that in this issue. It is important to learn as many lessons as possible from these types of incidents, because they are going to continue to happen, and I believe, with more frequency. Our society has been laying the groundwork for these things for more than 40 years now. And we are reaping what we have sown. That, of course, is outside the scope of my profession. My job is to teach people the skills they need to survive a situation like this, if and when they find themselves involved in one.

You have probably noticed from our class schedules that we are moving more into the tactical arena. My goal is to lay a foundation of classes that will take a beginner from very basic skill sets to as an advanced a level as they wish to go. I will soon be entering the law enforcement and security “contractor” markets as well.

This doesn’t mean that I will be ignoring the “civilian” shooter. We will continue to offer basic NRA classes which will appeal to new shooters of various interests.

We also offer a series of security and safety seminars through our security consulting division. You can find them on our consulting website at www.jmock-consult.com

So, a busy year coming up. Kick back and enjoy this issue of the Gunner. And if you get the time and inclination, I would truly enjoy hearing from you about articles you liked, perhaps didn’t like, or ones you would like to see.

Regards,

Johnnie L. Mock
Senior Instructor
Arizona Weaponcraft Solutions

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Our upcoming class schedule

Arizona Concealed Carry (CCW)

Mar 12, and May 14, 2011

Intro to Defensive Pistol

Feb 26, 2011

Intro to Kalashnikov (AK) Series Rifles

Mar 26, 2011

Intro to Defensive Shotgun

April 23, 2011

NRA Personal Protection in the Home

May 28, 2011

Learn more at:

www.azwcsi.com

2. Firearms Review: Russian M-1895 Nagant Revolver

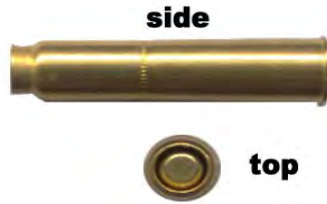


I teach modern Weaponcraft. I have spent most of my adult life carrying and using, or teaching the use of, modern small arms. But I truly enjoy collecting firearms of by-gone eras. And there are so many available on the market today. A lot of them are good shooters too. The Russian M-1895 Nagant is a unique pistol of historical interest and is available for a ridiculously low price.



The later half of the 19th century saw the beginning development of the semi-automatic pistol. But the revolver would be the handgun mainstay of most armies through World War One, and still be in heavy use in World War two. Czarist Russia turned to successful Belgian arms designer brothers Emile and Leon Nagant for their handgun needs, and they adapted their design to the Russians criteria. The Russians adopted the M-1895 Nagant revolver in 7.62x38R caliber as their official military handgun. Initially both single action and double action models were made, although they soon standardized on double action and many of the single action ones were converted to double. Although technically replaced by the semi-automatic Tokarev pistol (a Browning design) in 1933, the Nagant was manufactured and used all through World War Two. The one pictured was made in 1937. Manufacture finally ceased circa 1950.

The Nagant has a unique design among revolvers. When the hammer is cocked (single or double action) and the cylinder rotates, just as the next loaded chamber aligns with the barrel, the cylinder moves forward to meet the back of the barrel. The bullet is actually all the way inside the case, and to the un-initiated, would look like a blank.

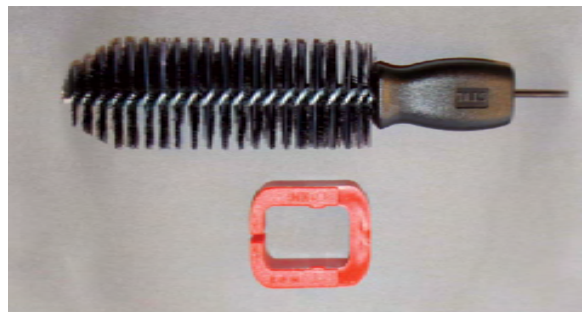


7.62x38R

In theory, this eliminated the gas loss that normal revolvers have between the face of the cylinder and the back of the barrel. In reality, whatever muzzle velocity is gained is more than offset by the fact that the 7.62x38R cartridge is an under powered, weak defensive cartridge. In addition, the Nagant has to be loaded and unloaded similar to a Colt Single Action, ie; the cylinder has to be rotated by hand and each individual cartridge inserted, and after firing, rotated again by hand and each case ejected manually by the ejector rod. During the Soviet regime, the Nagant was considered an “honor” pistol, and many were presented to favorite officials. And oddly enough, this pistol is still on active duty in Russia, where it is carried by many members of the Railway Security. This makes it one of the longest pistols on continuous active duty in the world. Current available ones are factory reconditioned and come with new holster, lanyard, cleaning rod, and screwdriver. Available from J&G Sales for \$99.95 at www.jgsales.com. Ammo is available too.

3. Equipment Review: Glock magazine takedown system

Glock pistols are some of the most reliable and accurate in the world. I know, I carry one now, and did for two years in Afghanistan. And Glock magazines are some of the best made and reliable magazines you will find. They also have a reputation for being difficult to disassemble and clean. The key to successful Capitalism is to find a need and fill it. The GTUL (pronounced “G-tool”) is a magazine takedown system developed by GTUL, LLC for use with Glock 9 mm Luger and .40 S&W magazines. . The GTUL ring fits snugly around the base of the magazine and two steps on the interior surface grip the sides of the magazine tube. An optional brush with a 1¼" metallic pin on the underside of the brush handle is used to punch through the hole on the underside of the magazine to release the floorplate retaining pin. The brush is designed to clean out all the dirt dust, powder residue, and pieces of junk ect. that find their way into magazines and cause stoppages. A handy device for the Glock owner.



Available from: GTUL, LLC)
6275 University Drive Suite 37
Huntsville, AL 35806;
(757) 647-0805;
www.mygtul.com

4. Shooting Fundamentals: Position?

In basic handgun classes such as the NRA Basic Pistol, Arizona CCW, or Intro to Defensive Pistol, the shooter is introduced to the concept of positions. These are usually from the bench, the Isosceles, and the Weaver/Modified Weaver. It is important for the new shooter to get a good basic foundation of the fundamentals of marksmanship prior to taking advanced classes that will prepare him/her for a serious social confrontation. And it is critical that the beginning shooter get a good, solid foundation in assuming and properly using whichever of the standard positions he chooses to learn the basics in. Positions are important. Only a solid, stable, and comfortable position will allow you to properly learn and implement the critical skills of sight alignment, and trigger control. Not to mention more practical skills such as double-tapping, malfunction clearance and rapid reload. Unfortunately, many shooters never progress beyond that. They spend serious time, effort, and money (in ammunition) developing excellent defensive marksmanship skills, all from their favorite “position” If you are serious about learning to defend yourself or your loved ones with a handgun, do you honestly think you are going to be able to communicate to the aggressor “Stop! I need to get into my perfect Weaver Stance”? Of course not. Most violent attacks are extremely fast and extremely close. So what is the point of learning “Positions”? Once again, to give you a firm physical foundation to learn the basic skills from. But just like an infant eventually needs to be weaned from the bottle and begin eating solid food, anyone serious about carrying a handgun for self defense needs to learn to use that handgun effectively without being in that perfect “position”. You need to learn to shoot while moving (which is what you should be doing if under attack) from a barricade, from a car window, ect. So how do you learn these skills? You either take classes in them from instructors who offer these skills, or you study on your own from any number of excellent books on the market. Taking the classes is much easier. Studying the books alone will take longer, cost a lot more in ammunition, and you run the danger of inadvertently learning bad habits that only a skilled instructor can notice and correct. The books are great to reinforce what you learn in professional training. Those of you who live in or near the Valley of the Sun are fortunate to have a large number of excellent instructors available to choose from. If you are carrying your handgun for self defense and the only level of training you have is a CCW or an NRA basic course, you are fooling yourself if you think you are really prepared to defend yourself with it. I’m certainly not trying to offend anyone, but I would rather ruffle your feathers and hopefully get you motivated to get the best training, than to hear about you being killed in a violent assault. Master your position and the fundamentals of shooting from it. *Then* learn to shoot without it. The life you save may be yours.

5. Parting Shot: Active Shooter Incidents. Is being armed the total solution?

Active Shooter: “An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area, typically through the use of firearms”. Department of Homeland Security

January 8, 2011: Jared L. Loughner, 22, went to the parking lot of a Tucson Arizona Safeway where Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords was greeting constituents. He opened fire at close range with a semi-automatic pistol, shooting Congresswoman Gifford in the head wounding her seriously, and killing six people including Federal

Judge John Roll, 63, and 9 year old Christina Greene. He wounded an additional 13 people before *being subdued by onlookers*. This incident received massive media coverage primarily due to status of the victims. And may God bless the families of the deceased and give a speedy recovery to the wounded.

But this is not an isolated incident. Active shooter situations are occurring with more frequency not only in the United States, but around the world. And even in countries with drastic gun control laws such as Germany. And they all do not get the media attention given the Tucson incident.

We are fortunate that we live in a gun friendly state. But *unfortunately* too many people believe that being armed automatically solves their violent confrontation problems. Not so. Having a gun and knowing *how* to use it or *when* to use it are not the same thing. With so many armed people in this state, many are asking why no one shot Loughner. There are a lot of factors involved. First of all, few people actually live in a state of condition "yellow" where they are mentally alert to everything going on around them and are prepared to act quickly to a violent incident. Second, many people, including the Congresswoman herself, simply weren't carrying even though they could. I am willing to bet that many of you reading this have taken my CCW course and still don't carry most of the time. In all honesty, I don't carry sometimes because I am going to be travelling onto a Federal facility where I cannot have a firearm either on myself or in my vehicle. Third, as I teach in my classes, shooting is not necessarily the best option. Had someone shot Loughner at that close of range in that crowded condition, there would have been a good chance of the bullet going through him and striking an innocent person. I know, you will ask "What about modern self defense ammo that expands and stays inside the target?" They do. *Most of the time*. And what if you miss?

It is important to be mentally prepared for these situations, and that takes training. Being involved in a situation like that is problematic. You have to make an *immediate* decision whether to shoot at the aggressor, run, hide, or physically attack him.

And shooting may not always be the right answer. I think the people at the Tucson incident, whether armed or not, made a tactically sound choice. They subdued and disarmed the man when they could, and stopped the murder as quickly as possible without contributing to the death toll. Another set of circumstances might have called for a different approach such as shooting the perpetrator.

There is a lot of information and training available for the average citizen to learn how to survive an active shooter situation. One of the security seminars I give is titled *Surviving the Active Shooter*. It is an approximately two hour presentation that can be given to groups in any classroom setting. If you would be interested in setting up a seminar like this for your group, contact me.

And don't forget to stay in Condition Yellow.

Until next time,

Johnnie

Disclaimer: Neither the author, nor the author's organization, accepts any responsibility for injuries or damages resulting from the information in this document. Some actions or items of equipment described may be illegal in certain localities or states, and as such, they are not supported by the author or his organization.

The reader should understand that training with firearms is potentially dangerous if done improperly and that he/she alone is responsible for his/her actions.