



THE SAGUARO GUNNER

The online journal of Arizona Weaponcraft Solutions.

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Summer is just about upon us, and the opportunity to do some good training comes with it. You will notice that we have added a new class to our lineup, an **advanced CCW**. This is a two day course, and results from the input of a number of past CCW students who wanted “The Card” but also wanted some serious pistol marksmanship training to go with it. The first day will be pretty much the standard state CCW class with all the legal classes, fingerprinting, written test, and 10 round qualification. The second day will deal with a number of important issues that the armed civilian needs to confront such as psychological preparation, selection of CCW holsters and defensive ammunition, as well as some solid and basic defensive shooting drills.

I am also considering scheduling some female only classes. Please see Parting Shot
We are looking forward to a really good year, and look forward to seeing you with us.

Regards,
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Arizona Weaponcraft Solutions

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Our Upcoming Class Schedule

Arizona Concealed Carry (CCW)

May 14, June 18, Aug. 20, and Oct. 22, 2011

Advanced Concealed Carry (NEW!)

July 16-17 and Nov 26-27, 2011

Intro to Kalashnikov (AK) Series Rifles

Oct 15, 2011

Intro to Defensive Shotgun

April 23, and Aug 15, 2011

NRA Personal Protection in the Home

Sep 10, 2011

NRA Basic Pistol

June 11 and Sep. 17, 2011

2. Firearms Review: Russian WW2 SVT-40 Semi-Auto Rifle



World War Two ushered in the age of the mass issued semi-automatic rifle in warfare. The U.S. had the famous M-1 Garand. Germany fielded the G-43 before jumping forward to the first true ‘assault’ rifle, the MP-44. The Russians had also been working on a practical semi-auto rifle for some time. They adopted the M-1936 Simonov rifle, which had a detachable 10 rd. magazine and chambered for the 7.62X54mm rimmed cartridge, the same round used in their bolt action Mosin-Nagant rifles. However this rifle proved to be too flimsy and unreliable in the Winter War with Finland. In 1940 the improved SVT-40 Tokarev was adopted. This rifle also had a detachable ten round magazine that could be reloaded in the rifle using Mosin-Nagant stripper clips, and was chambered for the 7.62x54mm rimmed cartridge. Soldiers were only issued two magazines and received their ammo in stripper clips. The gas system was improved and the rifle was much more reliable when proper maintenance was done. When the Germans invaded Russia they captured very large numbers of this rifle and used them whenever possible. These rifles are rather long and weigh approx. 8.3lbs. The gas system is adjustable with a special wrench. At the end of WW2, these rifles were refurbished and then put in storage. A number of them were imported in the 90’s and although expensive, can be found by collectors. The rifle pictured is in my own collection and is in mint condition with original sling. This is also a very accurate rifle, and a real joy to shoot.

3. Equipment Review: Handgun Hangers



Storing firearms properly can be a chore, especially if you have a large number. These handgun hangers by Gun Storage Solutions offer a convenient, simple, and inexpensive answer. This is one of those devices that will have you thinking, “Gee, why didn’t I think of that!” They enable suspension of handguns by their barrels beneath 3/4" to 7/8"-thick shelves in gun safes, kitchen cabinets, closets and bed frames, freeing up space atop. They are suitable for .22-cal. and larger bore calibers, and vinyl caps are included to hold the larger-caliber guns, as well as to ensure a tight grip on the shelf. The hangers feature powder-coated metal to prevent bore damage. Handgun Hangers are sold in packs of two and six for \$10 and \$28, respectively. Available from:

Gun Storage Solutions
18317 N. 2600 E. Road, Cooksville, IL 61730
www.storemoreguns.com

Please note: It is NOT a good idea to store loaded firearms in this manner.

4. Shooting Fundamentals: To Drop or not to Drop, THAT is the Question!

Magazines that is. Especially after a combat reload. Pistol or rifle. There is one of those ongoing controversies in the small arms instructor community as to whether one should simply eject an empty magazine and let it hit the ground when doing a combat reload, or to secure the empty magazine for future use and then reload with a fresh mag. You have schools that will teach both systems and insist that only “they” are right. The “drop and forget” crowd insist that you need to get reloaded immediately so don’t worry about the empty mag. The “secure and reload” crowd insists that at some point, you are going to need those magazines. Who is right? Like most issues that end up being dogmatically presented by two sides, depending on the circumstances, they both are. Like many instructors with a military background, I train my students to secure the empty magazine rapidly and then reload. MOST of the time. An AK or an AR without any magazine to reload and put in it is a very expensive goat stake.

A Glock or .45 without any magazines to reload and put in it is a very poorly designed hammer. In Vietnam I carried an M-16 and 700 rounds of ammunition. At that time most of our magazines were the 20rd variety and fit back in the bandolier pouches the ammo came out of. Handy way to carry loaded mags. So what did I do with my empty mags when I reloaded in a hurry? I stuffed them inside my shirt. Any extended shooting made me sound like the Tin Man in the Wizard of Oz movie, and if I had to move fast, I usually lost a couple. But I was able to retain most of my mags to reload later. With modern web kit, there are much better solutions today. Like most problems, this is not a stand alone issue. To begin with, you need to have sufficient training in tactical problem solving to come up with a correct answer.

With a rifle, you should be engaging targets far enough out that you will (and should be) seeking/under cover. This will give you the chance to secure the empty and reload in sufficient time. If your rifle runs dry and a hostile pops up within pistol range, forget the rifle and engage with your pistol. It is much faster than trying to reload the rifle. **But this takes training and practice.** What if all you have is a rifle? What? You are carrying a rifle in a *dangerous* situation without a handgun backup? Please make me the beneficiary on your life insurance policy. I need the cash.

If all you are carrying is a pistol, you need to train to retain those mags too. Not to mention the saving of wear and tear on your magazines from dents, dirt, dust, gravel, mud, blood and beer.

I am also not advocating that you die in place to save a magazine. If you are engaged by multiple attackers at close range and all you have is your handgun that just went dry, drop the mag, forget about it and reload. Not to mention the fact that you should be MOVING while doing this.

The bottom line is that you should train to retain your empty magazines when reloading, and have the tactical training and awareness to know when not to. Simple, yes? Eh, eh!!

5. Parting Shot: Ladies Only Classes?

Something I have noticed is a peculiar lack of females attending my classes. There is an obvious reluctance on the part of many women to take a firearms class with men. I think many feel they will be way behind the learning curve (after all MEN already really know how to shoot, right? Wasn't John Wayne a guy? They are just taking this class to have fun!). I think many women feel they will perhaps be overlooked with most of the instructor's attention being given to their fellow males.

I spent 8 of my 20 Army years as a professional shooter/instructor and have trained hundreds of females. And I have found that, over all, women are EASIER to teach marksmanship to than men, precisely because the DON'T have the John Wayne mentality, and no male ego to protect. They LISTEN! Especially in tactically oriented or self defense classes.

So I have a question for the ladies here. Do you think it would be worthwhile for me to attempt female only classes? Or would most females only feel comfortable in an all ladies class with a female instructor? I really solicit your honest input.

So, until next issue, shoot straight and stay safe!

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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 alone is responsible for his actions.