



THE SAGUARO GUNNER

**The online journal of
Arizona Weaponcraft Solutions.**
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We are running a bit behind on our publishing schedule this issue, and for that I apologize. The trip to Europe in May was very productive and I have been busy developing new classes for both Arizona Weaponcraft Solutions, and my security consulting programs under Johnnie L. Mock PSP, Security Consultants LLC. One of the things I have learned is that people in the Valley really don't like to train in the excessive summer heat. My next years schedule will reflect that and most of my classes done at Joe Foss Range will be during the better weather months. During our "flame thrower" months here, I plan on expanding my training programs to other areas where the weather is milder.

Based on the response I got back from my former female students, I WILL be doing a Ladies Only CCW class later in the year when the weather is nicer. I will send an e-mail announcement out when I have it scheduled. If it is successful, I will begin running them regularly.

I have noticed that many ladies understand that they need to comprehend the legalities involved in armed self defense, as opposed to many men who now have the Macho Grande attitude of "Me got gun. Me bad dude. Me no need stinking card!" I can't wait to hear some of these guys say that while wearing Sheriff Joe's pink unties! Don't get me wrong. I support the concept of Constitutional Carry. I also support the concept of common sense. I am now offering **fingerprinting service in your home**. Check the website for details.

Anyway I hope you enjoy this issue, and as always I am eager to get feedback from all of you.

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Our Upcoming Class Schedule

Arizona Concealed Carry (CCW)

Aug. 20, and Oct. 22, 2011

Advanced Concealed Carry (NEW!)

Nov 26-27, 2011

Intro to Kalashnikov (AK) Series Rifles

Oct 15, 2011

Intro to Defensive Shotgun

Aug 13, 2011

NRA Personal Protection in the Home

Sep 10, 2011

NRA Basic Pistol

Sep. 17, 2011

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2. Firearms Review: The SKS as a civilian defense rifle.

Many people are making a personal decision to purchase a rifle for defensive purposes. There are many reasons for this. As I have stated often, the handgun is in reality a poor defensive weapon, it's only real advantage being small and light enough to be carried easily either open or concealed. As we see an ever increasing crime problem, escalating natural disasters that require evacuation (fires, floods, hurricanes, tornados), and an economic system that could conceivably collapse, the need for more than just a handgun for defense is becoming a serious requirement for more and more people. So what would be the requirements for a defensive rifle for civilians assuming you were not planning on fighting the Red Army single handed?

It should be in a sufficiently powerful cartridge and ammunition should be readily available. It should be reasonably light weight, and it must be a design that has proven reliability. And it should be affordable for the average income.



Based on the above criteria, the SKS, *Samozaryadni Karabin Simonova* (Self-loading carbine Simonov) would be a good choice. The SKS was developed just at the end of the Second World War by Russian arms designer S.G. Simonov. It was field tested in the closing weeks of the war and many were actually used in the final fighting in Berlin in 1945. It chambers the 7.62x39mm Russian cartridge, which is the same ammunition used in most AK-47/M series assault rifles, and is a cartridge that has become popular and readily available in the U.S. both in military and civilian loadings. And it generally far cheaper than many comparable military style rifle, although prices have begun to climb in recent years.

The SKS is available in a variety of makes and origins, primarily Russian, Chinese, and Yugoslavian. Most of the Yugos have a grenade launcher on the muzzle. Many come with a folding bayonet that is permanently attached and folds under the barrel when not in use, and many have had the bayonets removed. (They are easy to remove).

Weighing in at just less than 8 lbs., the SKS has a non-detachable 10 round magazine that is loaded from the top of the receiver using ten round stripper clips. (These same clips are used to load AK magazines). With a little practice, this rifle can be reloaded fairly rapidly. One note about these clips: Some are very easy to strip rounds out of and make loading the rifle easy. Set these aside for future use. Some are extremely difficult. When you are bored, or just watching the tube, take the stiff ones, an EMPTY steel 7.62x39mm cartridge case, place some oil on the case grooves and run it up and down in the clip until it loosens up. If you really want to speed up the process use a slight amount of valve grinding compound. But make sure you clean the clips thoroughly before use so that you don't get valve grinding compound in your rifle action when loading it with these.

The SKS pictured is mine. It is a very early Russian with rare hardwood stock (most were laminated) blade bayonet, and was arsenal rebuilt in Russia to new condition. It shoots great.

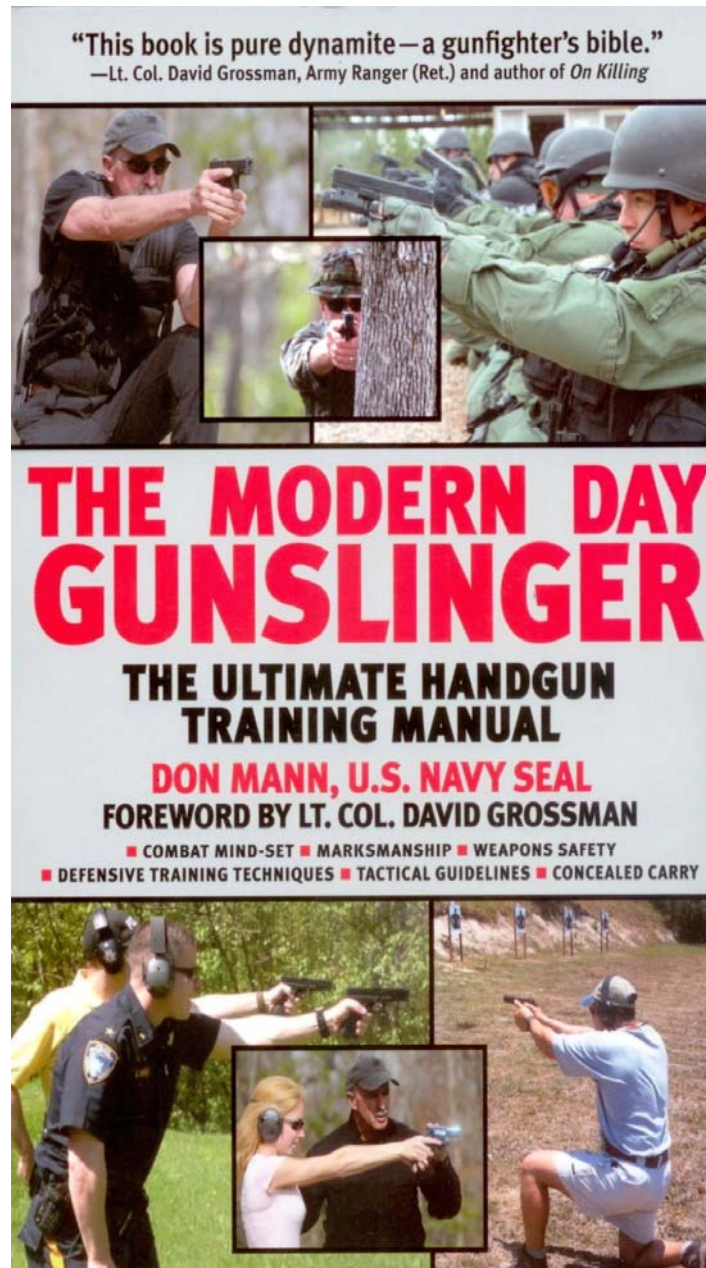
The SKS is available from various sources. It would be a good choice for a one rifle civilian.

3. Book Review: *The Modern Day Gunslinger*

Don Mann

Skyhorse Publishing

ISBN 978-60239-986-0



This has got to be one of the most thorough and comprehensive books on defensive handgun training that I have ever seen. The author is a veteran Navy Seal, and it is obvious to me that he is a true professional in regards to this subject. It is also obvious that he spent a tremendous amount of time in writing this volume. The reader is going to get a LOT more than the standard marksmanship techniques. There is in-depth information on the psychology of deadly force, and the combat mindset. One particular chapter, "**Living in a Battlefield**" draws heavily on the research of Lt. Col. David Grossman, whose classic text *On Killing* was nominated for a Pulitzer

Prize. This chapter alone does much to explain the world wide rapid rise of violent conduct. In WW2, only about 20% of infantrymen actually shot at the enemy. By the Korean War it was up to 50%. By Vietnam, up to 90% of us were more than glad to launch bullets at Charlie. There was a training reason why, and you need to understand the concept behind it.

The author thoroughly covers every aspect of defensive shooting from selection of handguns, defensive ammunition, marksmanship techniques, low light level shooting, ect. He covers it all.

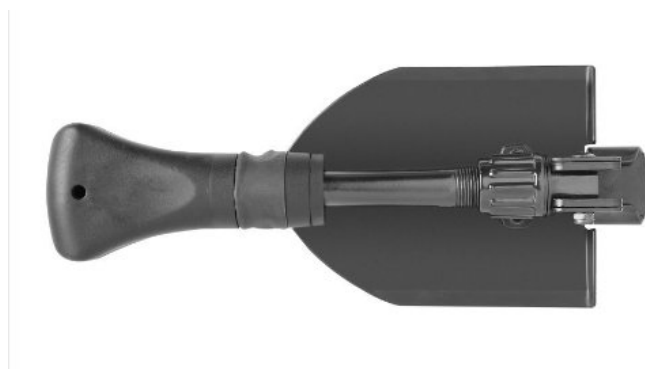
Separate chapters give the reader information on training fundamentals as well as shooting drills. This book is simply one of the best I have seen, and I highly recommend it to anyone seriously considering carrying a handgun for self defense.

Available at Barnes&Nobel or the author's website at: www.usfrogmann.com

4. Equipment Review: Gerber's nifty little shovel

Recently I was updating my emergency preparedness equipment and decided to buy another small shovel for my Jeep. I have one of the excellent Glock (yes, same company) shovels, but decided to do a little research. Gerber, the famous knife maker, makes an excellent little camping shovel called the Gorge. This shovel features a fast, easy-to-use push button slide mechanism, a glass-filled nylon handle with rubberized overgrip, and a hammer mode for pounding in tent stakes. Light and easily packable, it comes with a nylon draw string bag for storage. This is one nifty little shovel that is solid, light, and a good addition to your emergency preparedness equipment. Available at: www.gerber-tools.com

And it is only \$24.95



5. Shooting Fundamentals: Learning from the bottom up

I have had a large number of students come to class with brand new guns. Many of them end up being excellent shooters from the point of view of pistol marksmanship, but their gun handling skills are sadly lacking because *they don't know their gun*. Folks, if you are serious about carrying a firearm for defensive purposes, you need to know it as well as you know your spouse or significant other. Seriously. And it isn't difficult. There is a process involved.

1. Do your research *before* you buy your handgun. I have addressed this in other articles.
2. When you bring your new baby home, *read the owners manual. Then read it again.*
3. Buy a good quality cleaning kit for your firearm and learn correct cleaning techniques.
4. Learn to disassemble, clean, and then reassemble and function test your handgun. (Remember the safety rules. You should have memorized them by this point.)
5. Understand *how* your handgun works. What all the parts do, and why they work the way they work.
6. If you really feel like you need training in these area, myself and other instructors are available for private instruction.
7. *Then* you are ready to sign up for a training class.

6. Parting Shot: Norway

The recent tragedy in Norway tugs at the hearts of decent people. Our prayers and thoughts go out to the relatives of those murdered by the psychopathic killer. But it brings some other things to mind also. As many of you know, I live in Europe part of the year. My wife is German, and I am a legal permanent resident of Germany. I have lived in Europe a lot, do business there sometimes, and I love it. But the Europeans do not have the tradition of individual firearms ownership that we in America have. From the days of Kings and Queens until the modern democracies, the Europeans have a tradition of only allowing the “King’s Men” to be armed in public. When I suggest to my European friends that if only *one* armed and trained civilian had been present at the massacre many of the victims would be alive today, they will look at me and say “Good God Johnnie, we can’t have people running around carrying guns like you American cowboys!”

They just don’t get it. And probably never will.

If we don’t educate our young people, the left in this country is going to condition them to be just like the Europeans. They will learn to be helpless unarmed sheep whose shepherders are seldom in the right place or on time to protect them. And who have no idea that they have a God given right and responsibility to be responsible for their own protection.

May God bless and comfort the families of the fallen in Norway.

Until next time, shoot safe and have fun.

Johnnie L. Mock
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