



THE SAGUARO GUNNER

The online journal of Arizona Weaponcraft Solutions.

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Welcome to our newest Gunner. We hope you enjoy it. For the benefit of our alumni students who receive our e-mail updates with our upcoming class schedule, you may wonder why you get it again in the Gunner. The Saguaro Gunner is not only posted on our website, but published on the internet on ScribD and other venues where the readers don't receive our e-mails.

Speaking of upcoming classes, I have attempted to keep the price of my classes as low as possible in order to provide quality training to students who perhaps are lacking the resources in time and money to attend the more expensive classes being offered elsewhere. I don't think you should have to be wealthy to get quality defensive firearms training. But I face the same economic issues as everyone, and unfortunately the prices of my classes are going to go up next year. Early registration guarantees you the current posted price, and of course, alumni students who have taken any of my prior classes get the alumni discount. I'm looking forward to a great training year, and hope to see you soon in class and on the range.

Best regards,
Johnnie L. Mock
Senior Instructor

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1. Our upcoming class schedule

We have an Intro to Defensive Pistol on Dec. 04, 2010 which is our last class of this year.

Arizona Concealed Carry (CCW)

Jan 15, Mar 12, and May 14, 2011

With Constitutional Carry, why should you get a CCW permit? Simple: The **LAW**. Do you know the legalities of when you can use **deadly force**? Do you know what the law says about **defensive display** of your firearm?

Good and decent people can end up in prison for shooting someone “thinking” they were right. Don’t be one of them. Our course covers the complete legal training mandated by Department of Public Safety to get a CCW permit. Fingerprinting and application forms are included in the course. It does not include the state’s \$60.00 fee. Additionally, with a CCW you can carry in establishments that serve alcohol as well as national parks.

If you are going to carry concealed, you owe it to yourself to get this training.

Cost is \$75.00, cash, check, or money order.

For more information and to download application form, please visit our website at:

www.azwsl.com or e-mail us at aws@mindspring.com

NRA Basic Pistol

Jan 29, 2011

This class is excellent for the new handgun owner, someone considering a handgun purchase, or just wants to get a solid grounding in the basics of pistol shooting. Subjects include pistol knowledge, safe gunhandling, basic pistol marksmanship, ammunition, and range firing practice.

Cost is \$75.00, cash, check, or money order.

For more information and to download application form, please visit our website at:

www.azwsl.com or e-mail us at aws@mindspring.com

Intro to Defensive Pistol

Dec 04, 2010, Feb 26, 2011

Owning a handgun and being able to effectively use it to defend yourself and your loved ones is NOT the same thing. This class will give you the basic fundamentals of defensive pistol marksmanship techniques which will prepare you to take more advanced training or to continue training on your own. Subjects will include review of basic marksmanship, safety, defensive mindset, selection of handguns, gear, and ammunition, proper presentation (draw), and live fire drills.

Cost is \$75.00, cash, check, or money order.

For more information and to download application form, please visit our website at:

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Intro to Defensive Shotgun

April 23, 2011

The shotgun is one of the most versatile firearms available and has a definite place in the personal defense arsenal. But it also has its limitations, and there are a lot of myths about the capabilities of the “alley sweeper”. This short (4-5 hrs. depending on class size) class will cover the basics of shotgun selection, ammunition capabilities, ammunition selection, worthwhile accessories, and rapid reloading. Live fire drills will give you the opportunity to pattern your shotgun using #4 and OO buckshot, and to zero it with slugs. **(NOTE: This class is designed for pump or semi-automatic shotguns having cylinder bore. Single-shot, double barrel, or shotguns with chokes are unsuitable.)**

Cost is \$75.00, cash, check, or money order.

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www.azwsl.com or e-mail us at aws@mindspring.com

Intro to Kalashnikov (AK) Series Rifles

Mar 26, 2011

The Kalashnikov (AK) series of rifles is probably the most numerous series of weapons ever produced. There are a tremendous number and variety of these weapons available to the American shooter. This class will give you the fundamental skills necessary to use your AK as a serious defensive rifle. Subjects will include background of the AK, an overview of available models, proper disassembly and maintenance, and selection of ammunition, magazines and accessories. Live fire exercises will allow you to zero your AK, and practice rapid reloading and malfunction clearance. This class will give you the basics to continue training on your own, or to take advanced classes in this highly effective weapon.

Cost is \$75.00, cash, check, or money order.

For more information and to download application form, please visit our website at:

www.azwcsl.com or e-mail us at awsl@mindspring.com

NRA Personal Protection in the Home

May 28, 2011

If you keep a handgun at home for home defense, you need this training. This is an NRA certified class that will give you the fundamental skills you need to protect your home and family from the type of violent home invasion that is on the rise. Subjects will include intro to defensive shooting, basic defensive handgun skills, firearms and the law, strategies for home safety, response to violent confrontations, selecting a handgun for self defense and much more. **This is the best price you will see for this class anywhere!**

Cost is \$75.00, cash, check, or money order.

For more information and to download application form, please visit our website at:

www.azwcsl.com or e-mail us at awsl@mindspring.com

2. Equipment Review: Selecting a handgun for defensive use.

The world of Defensive Weaponcraft has been overwhelmed by opinions about the *best* handgun for self defense or the *best* caliber or the *best* load, ect. Anyone who reads any of the gun magazines for very long could get a headache trying to sort out the conflicting opinions. And they are just that: Opinions. Some of the folks expressing their opinions on the subject are well seasoned armed professionals who have extensive experience carrying weapons in harms way, and some of these opinions are being expressed by people who couldn't find their own butts with a search warrant. And a lot are expressed by folks who fall somewhere between the two extremes. So what is an honest Joe or Jane Citizen who is contemplating buying a handgun for defensive purposes to do? (I haven't included police or military in this equation because they are mostly required to carry whatever their departments or services dictate.)

You need to define the problem and the relative parameters.

To begin with, you need to understand that a pistol is really *a poor defensive weapon*.

The effectiveness of a defensive weapon is predicated on how **quickly** it can **incapacitate** an attacker (notice I did **not** say kill). And that is a function of how much power can be applied to the target. Adequate defensive power can be applied to a target with a center fire rifle or a large bore shotgun. All defensive pistol calibers are marginal at best in regards to defensive power. But how many of us are able to carry our AK-47 or Rem. 11-87 SP shotguns around with us all day?

The *one* advantage a pistol has is size and weight. A pistol can be readily concealed, and proper carrying techniques can make it handy, comfortable to carry, and quick to deploy. Which means that there is a good chance you will have it with you when you really need it, while your rifles and shotguns remain home in the gun safe.

So, accepting its limitations, how does one go about selecting the right handgun for defensive use that you can effectively carry on you? Let's consider some criteria.

Ergonomics= That's a ten dollar word meaning that the pistol will fit your hand and is comfortable to shoot. Find an indoor range that rents pistols and try different models, and shoot them. The pistol should fit your hand so that you are able to place your trigger finger where you can press the trigger straight to the rear, and the recoil will come straight back in an axis that aligns with your shooting arm. It should also not be painful to shoot. I read once that a famous firearms instructor was once asked what he thought the best defensive handgun was, and he answered "The one you have with you when you need it"

Sights= Fixed or adjustable, they need to be large enough to see properly and to get quickly aligned on the target. Try aligning the sights on a WW2 era G.I .45 in dim light and you will see what I mean.



Action type= Single Action revolvers belong in the "fun" or "collector" category. Not for serious self defense. A quality Double Action revolver is fine, especially for brand new shooters. They are simpler to learn on, and are not as ammunition sensitive as auto-loaders. In autos, the action type really doesn't matter (single action, double-action, double-action only), but new shooters should keep it simple and avoid all the bells, whistles and levers. That's why I am partial to Glocks.

Manufacturer= Selecting a handgun by an established manufacturer is important. Whether it is domestic or imported, insure you purchase a model made by a company that has been in business for a long time. All of the major firearms manufacturers will warrant their products.

Where to look and get advice= Ask a number of experienced shooters what handguns for defensive use they like and why. You are going to get an amazing variety of answers but it gives you a starting point. Talk to different handgun instructors. Check out different gun stores. A word of warning here. By gun store, I mean a shop that specializes in the sale of firearms. Most of the people there are knowledgeable. Avoid getting advice from the kid behind the sporting goods counter at Wal-Mart. The odds are that last week he was working in the appliance section

O.K. You now have some criteria to begin a logical search for the defensive handgun that is ideal for you. But what about what caliber to get it in?

We will cover that next issue.

3. Book Review:

No Second Place Winner **Bill Jordan**



Combat pistol craft is the American Martial Art. It was American pistol masters who taught the world what a skilled pistolero could do. In the current era of wonder-nines and advanced .45's, and Star Wars looking hybrids, it is hard for newer shooters to realize that it wasn't that long ago that the double action combat revolver reigned supreme up into the 60's and that the masters of it were the old style lawmen who carried and used them in harms way.

Bill Jordan was one of those lawmen. He worked for the U.S. Border Patrol back in the days that they were allowed to do their job. And he survived a number of gunfights along the Rio Grande.

This book is a classic treatise on revolvers and their accessories as they were used back then. Besides a lot of historical perspective, there is a lot of good information on combat hand gunning with revolvers from men whose lives depended on knowing how to use them. This volume has been reprinted a number of times and is available in either new or used form a variety of sources including Amazon.com. Or just Google the title. It belongs on the bookshelf of any shooter with an interest in combat revolvers.

4. Shooting Fundamentals: Follow Through

Follow through is one of the more difficult shooting techniques to teach because it cannot be easily demonstrated, and is difficult to clearly explain as well. But it is a very important part of learning to be a good shot. And it is a concept used in many sports such as golf or baseball. Many shooters will employ the fundamentals correctly, fire the shot, and wonder why they are not hitting the target where they want. They are not following the shot through. The concept is similar to the martial artist who strikes *through* his target. He isn't really finished just as his hand hits the target.

One way of describing follow through for shooters is that no shot is finished until your sights are lined back up on the target, the trigger is reset, and you are ready for your next shot. The sequence goes like this.

1. Breath, relax, settle into position on the target.
2. Pick up the front sight and focus on it.
3. Steady pressure on the trigger, Front sight, front sight, front sight, BANG!

4. Pistol goes into recoil, you maintain the SAME grip, and continue to hold the trigger back.
 5. As the pistol comes back into battery, you pick up the front sight, focus on it, slightly release the trigger until it resets (no more than that) and prepare for the next shot. If you are not going to shoot again, you can relax.
- Everything after “Bang” is follow through.

5. Parting Shot: We need to forge ahead.

I try to avoid politics as much as possible except to vote on Election Day, and to keep up with Second Amendment issues. Having been a professional soldier much of my life, I tend to place politicians, the news media, and rattlesnakes all in the same general category.

But I sense that this current crowd in Washington has put a pretty big burr under the saddle of the American public, and maybe a lot of people are waking up. We need to! As distasteful and distracting as politics tends to be, we need to keep the fire lit under the feet of the new winners so they don't forget who they really need to be beholding to: We the People. And they need to start dismantling some of the really onerous laws, rules, and regulations concerning firearms we are saddled with. For example, some unelected pencil pushing pin head nit wit in Washington arbitrarily denied an application to import a large number of M-1 Garand rifles and M-1 Carbines from South Korea. These are collector rifles that served in the Korean War. They belong back home in the hands of honest American shooters and veterans. This type of stupidity will only stop if we push. And push hard. And that is going to take a little bit of time and energy on all our parts. The last time the current winners swept the House and ended up with their party's President in the White House, a lot of people thought the battle was won. **They let us down.** We need to make sure *they get the message* this time. **NO MORE GUN CONTROL LAWS, PUT THE BRAKES ON UNELECTED OFFICIALS HARRASING LAW ABIDING GUN OWNERS, AND DISMANTLE THE UNCONSTITUTIONAL LAWS ON THE BOOKS.** Nothing less will be acceptable or accepted. Except to replace them if they don't.

Just some thoughts.

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The author makes no warranty concerning any items discussed in this document, and will not accept responsibility for their use, misuse, or functionality.

The reader should understand that training with and the use of firearms is potentially dangerous if done improperly and he alone is responsible for his actions.

You have received this e-mail because you asked to be added to our mailing list. If you no longer desire to receive our announcements or the Saguaro Gunner, simply reply to this e-mail with “remove” in the subject line.