



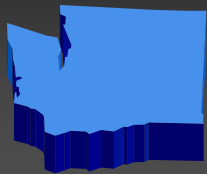
# Tactical Talk

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**Washington state has now added TN to the list of reciprocal states. As of August 2011, a Tennessee Handgun Carry Permit holder may legally carry in Washington**



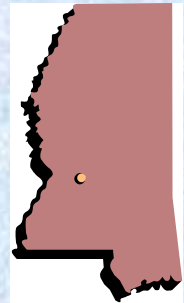
**(state, NOT D.C.)**

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## Mississippi Gun Permit News

Until recently, obtaining a Mississippi gun permit did not require any training. Because of this, there are very many restrictions on where a permit holder can legally carry.



Now, there is an "Enhanced Carry Permit" available in Miss. You can apply for an Enhanced Permit once you have completed required training, OR if you have a current MS permit, you can take the training and get an endorsement on your current permit. Either way, the Enhanced Permit allows you to carry legally in far more places in Mississippi.

With the REGULAR GUN PERMIT it is A CRIME to carry a gun into:

- ◆ Any police, sheriff, or Highway Patrol station or any prison or jail;
- ◆ Any courthouse;
- ◆ Any polling place;
- ◆ Any public park;
- ◆ Any school, college, university;
- ◆ Any school, college, or professional sporting event;
- ◆ Any establishment that serves liquor as their primary business (bar);
- ◆ Any church or other place of worship.

With the ENHANCED GUN PERMIT, all of the restrictions ARE REMOVED, except:

- ◆ Police, Sheriffs, or Highway Patrol stations, prisons, and jails; and
- ◆ Courtrooms where court is in session.

Our regular permit class satisfies the requirements for the Enhanced Permit. We issue a certificate upon completion of training, and you use that certificate to get your Enhanced Permit or to get the Enhanced endorsement on your current permit.

There is no charge for the upgrade by the Miss Highway Patrol. Cost of the class is \$99.00, which includes all ammunition. Call 901-370-5600 to register.

# Carry Your Gun!

I recently spoke with my friend Lt. Chuck Haggard with the Topeka, Kansas, Police Department. Kansas has had a carry permit system a relatively short time, and just a few days ago a permit holder was murdered during a robbery there in Topeka.

Two ladies went to a birthday party together. As they returned to their home, they were followed by a van containing several subjects who, it turns out, had been doing home burglaries and street robberies in the area. As the ladies exited their vehicle, a couple of suspects got out of the van and accosted them at gunpoint in their driveway. Although the women cooperated, both were shot in the head, one fatally.

The survivor told police that although the dead woman had a Concealed Handgun Permit, she had made a conscious decision not to carry that evening because they were going to a birthday party at a friend's home. Her handgun was in the bedroom of her home when she was murdered in the driveway of her home. The gun in the sock drawer won't help you when you are outside!

A few reminders from this tragic incident:

- ◆ You need to carry your handgun consistently. Trying to decide in advance where and when you are going to need it is fruitless. YOU don't decide where you are going to need a gun, SOMEONE ELSE makes that decision for you. You will typically only be informed of this decision at the last minute.
- ◆ Yes, carrying a handgun can be a pain in the butt, but it is not nearly as inconvenient as being murdered and your associate shot in the head. Find a comfortable and concealable carry method and employ it.
- ◆ Where you are going is irrelevant. No, you probably won't need a gun at your friend's birthday party, but you have to get there and back safely.
- ◆ Be aware of your surroundings. Some of the suspects in this case have been apprehended. From their interrogations, it appears they followed these ladies for some time, right to their driveway. If you think you are being followed, don't stop and don't go home.



**Rangemaster**  
 2611 S. Mendenhall Rd.  
 Memphis, TN 38115



Phone – (901)370-5600  
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	Book: “Fighting Smarter” 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	\$27.95	
	DVD: “Concealed Carry for Self Defense”	<b>\$19.95</b>	
	DVD: “Defensive Shotgun”	<b>\$19.95</b>	
Subtotal			
Shipping (\$3.00 per DVD, \$4.00 per Book)			
Order Total			

Billing Information	Shipping Information (If Different)
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Zip Code:	Zip Code
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Credit Card Information	
Number:	Type: Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover
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### The following is from Rangemaster staff instructor, Craig Harper:

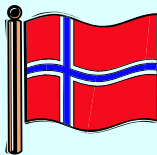
"When are the police coming to help us!"

The headline is a verbatim "tweet" sent by a person on the Norwegian island of Utoya during the mass shooting of July 2011. I saw this on-line, early on during the events of that day. Understand; I have sympathy for the victims of this slaughter. Yet when I read the tweet, I could not help but think how pathetic it was. The victims were powerless to stop the shooter and they were, quite naturally, pleading for help. The victims were powerless because nobody was - or could be - in a position to stop this crazed attacker.

Gun ownership in Norway is quite common; there is a long tradition of hunting and the Scandinavian countries excel in Biathlon, a winter Olympic sport that combines skiing and shooting that was derived from the tradition of hunting on skis. Handgun ownership is less common but certainly permissible. Yet, the Norwegian guns laws are so restrictive that potential use of firearms by individuals to protect themselves is virtually impossible. Norway actually has a carry permit system but issuance of permits for self-defense is virtually non-existent. At the same time, none of these laws impeded the shooter; they never do.

The result of the Norwegian firearms laws is that the government made it impossible for citizens to

stop the shooter and that their lives depended on another government agency to come and rescue them. The police did show up...after 80+ people were murdered.



I'm quite sure that Norwegian gun laws were passed under the theme of "sensible gun control that will protect our citizens." I have no doubt that

Norwegian politicians spoke about how they were not anti-gun; they just wanted safe and sane laws. Just as leftist American politicians do.

There is no way of knowing that, if Norwegian citizens had been armed, they could have stopped this massacre. I do know this: at least there would have been a chance to stop it. Instead, these poor people were reduced to begging for government rescue.

Armed citizens in the U.S. have stopped mass shootings. More routinely, armed citizens in the U.S. have kept themselves safe from criminals who would have murdered, raped, robbed or kidnapped them. Every day in the U.S, citizens protect themselves without the permission of the government and without having to plead for rescue.

Next time you hear government officials or the news media talking about "sensible" gun laws and trumpet efforts to reduce violence, keep the events of Utoya in mind. And fight like the dickens to stop those government efforts.

In the August issue of this newsletter I recommended that you read [Inside the Criminal Mind](#), by Stanton Samenow. I would like to strongly recommend a few other books that have nothing to do with shooting technique, but are very important for helping you deal with the mental issues involved in self defense.

[Born Fighting, How the Scots-Irish Shaped America](#), by James Webb has been described as "popular history at its finest" by the American Library Association. Webb traces the influx of Scots-Irish immigrants into the US and how their input shaped the American working class's sense of fierce individualism, persistent egalitarianism and strong sense of personal honor.

[Deep Survival, Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why](#) by Laurence Gonzales is a vital description of the mental, emotional and character issues involved in surviving catastrophe, whether natural or man-made. Many years ago Jeff Cooper wrote that "the world is divided into two groups, copers and non-copers". The purpose of training and personal development was to become a "coper". According to Gonzales, it appears Jeff was correct.

[The Deadliest Men](#), by Paul Kirchner is a fascinating look at some of the most skilled and successful warriors in history. Paul spent five years researching this material and has offered some real insights into the character and actions of some of the best known as well as some relatively unknown fighters. From well known folk heroes like Sgt. Alvin York and James Bowie to some less well known gunmen like Delf "Jelly" Bryce and Lance Thomas, Kirchner gives us a look at what makes real warriors.



## ***Rangemaster courses to be conducted by Tom & Lynn Givens at various locations:***

**Combined Skills**, 2-Day Format, Sept. 10-11, Weatherford, Texas: featuring Tom Givens, Steve Moses, Allan McBee, and Troy Miller, MD. This is a unique course offering. Tom Givens will do a segment on tactics based on lessons learned from Rangemaster student involved shooting incidents and other sources, plus a live fire segment on advanced handgun skills. Allan McBee will conduct a session focusing on speed from real street concealment clothing, rather than a specially rigged IDPA vest. Steve Moses will conduct a segment on home defense tactics, and Dr. Troy Miller, a trauma care physician will do a segment on first aid for gunshot victims. Students will rotate in small groups through these blocks of instruction. Conducted at Texas Tactical's range in Weatherford, Texas. Contact [steve\\_moses@msn.com](mailto:steve_moses@msn.com), at Bluff Dale Firearms Academy to register.

**Defensive Shotgun**, 2-Day Format, Tom Givens, at Oklahoma City Gun Club, Sept. 17-18, Sat/Sun, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. both days, contact [spencerkeepers@yahoo.com](mailto:spencerkeepers@yahoo.com)

**Home Defense Shotgun II**, Tom Givens, at Rangemaster, Memphis- Sept. 26-27, 6 p.m.-10 p.m. both evenings, contact Rangemaster 901-370-5600

**Defensive Shotgun**, One-Day Format, Tom Givens, at East Texas Rifle & Pistol Club, Longview, Texas- Sept. 30, Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., contact James Sterling, [sterlingranch@suddenlink.net](mailto:sterlingranch@suddenlink.net)

**Combative Pistol**, Tom Givens, at East Texas Rifle and Pistol Club, Longview, Texas, Oct. 1-2, Sat/Sun, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. both days, contact James Sterling, [sterlingranch@suddenlink.net](mailto:sterlingranch@suddenlink.net)

**Advanced Pistol Skills**, One-Day Format, Tom Givens, Cedar Ridge Shooting Academy, Cave City, KY- Oct. 8, Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., contact Cedar Ridge at <http://www.cedarridgeshooting.com>

**Defensive Shotgun**, One-Day Format, Tom Givens, Cedar Ridge Shooting Academy, Cave City, KY- Oct. 9, Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., contact Cedar Ridge at <http://www.cedarridgeshooting.com>

**Combative Pistol**, Tom Givens, at KR Training, Lincoln, Texas (near Austin)- Oct. 15-16, Sat/Sun, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., contact Karl Rehn, KR Training, [rehn@krtraining.info](mailto:rehn@krtraining.info) **FULL**

**Combative Pistol**, Tom Givens, at Americus, Georgia- Oct. 22-23, Sat/Sun, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Contact Shane Gosa, [wsgosa@hotmail.com](mailto:wsgosa@hotmail.com)

**Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development & Certification Course**, Tom Givens, at Oklahoma City Gun Club, Oklahoma City, OK- Oct. 28-30, Friday through Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.- authorized by OK CLEET to certify as OK SDA Instructors- contact Spencer Keepers [spencerkeepers@yahoo.com](mailto:spencerkeepers@yahoo.com)



## The Colt Cobra by Tom Givens

For roughly sixty years, from the mid-1920's to the mid-1980's, the small frame short barrel .38 Special revolver was the mainstay of American detectives and plain clothes officers, bodyguards, and armed private citizens. Just recently, a factory rep told me that Smith & Wesson sells more J-frame snubbies than any other handgun in their catalog and many people still rely on this type of gun for daily carry.

I have never been a fan of the .38 snubby as a primary weapon, for a number of reasons. It has a smaller grip and smaller sights than a service size handgun, holds far less ammo, is difficult to reload quickly, and the .38 Special is not known for effectiveness on big, angry doped up thugs. It is true that modern ammunition raises the effectiveness of the .38 Special round considerably, but I still consider it to be the minimum caliber I would choose for self defense. Also, if worn on the belt, the width of the cylinder makes the snubby little, if any, more concealable than a large caliber semi-auto with three times the amount of ammo in it. Even a little j-frame Smith is thicker through the cylinder than are most autos measured through the slide or grip frame. To me, the real niche for the snubby is as a second gun worn more deeply concealed than the primary sidearm it backs up. The small grip frame, short barrel, and light weight of the snubby make it an ideal choice for pocket or ankle carry as a second gun. This makes it a prime choice as a BUG or for those occasions when clothing, activity, or environment make it just too difficult to carry a mid-size to full size handgun discretely.

For many years Colt was the world's preeminent manufacturer of handguns. In the early days of the 20th century, until after WWII, Colt was the main supplier of handguns to the US military, federal and local law enforcement agencies, and private citizens around the world. In response to demand for a more concealable handgun, in 1927 Colt introduced the Detective Special. This was essentially the very popular Colt Police Positive revolver with a 2" barrel replacing the standard 4", 5", or 6" barrel of the PP. The Police Positive was a very compact revolver, with a smaller frame than that of the Smith & Wesson Military and Police model or the Colt Official Police model. These two service revolvers comprised the vast bulk of the revolvers carried by American police officers of that day, and both were a bit large for pocket carry. The Detective Special was an instant success. Weighing just 23 ounces, holding 6 rounds of .38 Special ammo, in a sturdy but compact package, the gun was soon in great demand.



After World War II Colt and Smith & Wesson began experimenting with aluminum frames to reduce the weight of handguns, which up to that time had been of all steel construction. Immediately after WWII, the US military toyed with the idea of replacing the 1911 .45 with a lighter, more compact handgun in 9mm, to standardize ammo with NATO, on whom we had thrust the 7.62X51mm cartridge, whether they liked it or not. Smith & Wesson developed the Model 39, 9mm semi-auto, and Colt the

*(Continued on page 7)*

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Lightweight Commander, both with aluminum frames. The military dropped the project, but Colt and Smith & Wesson saw the market value of lighter weight carry handguns and brought out several more in the next few years. In 1950, Colt produced an aluminum frame version of the Detective Special, dubbing it the Cobra, and a new era for snubbies began.

Although externally identical to the Detective Special, the Cobra dropped the weight from 23 ounces to just 15 ounces. Frankly, worn on a gun belt the difference is hardly noticeable, but in the pocket or on the ankle, the difference is immediately apparent. The first generation Cobra's made in the early 1950's had a full length grip frame, which extended all the way to the bottom of the wooden stocks. The front sight was narrow, and the rear sight notch was quite small. The ejector rod was short—too short to forcefully extract empty cases for a fast reload. All of these shortcomings were addressed in the mid-1950's when the second generation guns appeared. The front sight was made significantly larger, just like the ones on the Official Police service revolver of that day. The ejector rod was lengthened, to improve extraction of fired cases. In 1966, the final improvement was made, when the grip frame was shortened substantially. This allows very compact grips of various designs to be fitted to suit the user's particular needs.

In 1973 the D-frame line, which included the Colt Detective Special, the Cobra, and the Agent were re-designed to "modernize" them. These last third generation guns have a heavier barrel, with a shrouded ejector rod, and tiny, hard to see low ramped sights. To me, they are far less desirable than the second generation guns, with their high visibility sights. My recommendation of the Colt Cobra as the premiere back-up gun assumes a second generation gun, which are easy to find and reasonably priced.

The second generation guns were made from the mid-1950's to 1973, and several hundred thousand were manufactured, so they are not hard to find. Cruise a few gun shops or check the various internet auctions, and you'll find a number of excellent examples. I have found several over the past couple of years in the \$375 to \$500 range, depending on condition. These little guns often have finish wear, but are mechanically sound, as they have been carried much but shot very little. I have a couple that are absolutely pristine on the inside, although the finish is quite worn on the exterior, especially on the aluminum parts. Since aluminum doesn't rust, the worn finish is of no consequence to me.

Why, you ask, would I hunt up these antique revolvers instead of just buying a new one from some other maker? Good question, and I have some good answers. First, the old Colt holds 6 rounds, not 5. In essentially the same size package, more ammo is better. More importantly, the Colt's have sights I can see. A front sight big enough to pick up quickly is the single greatest aid to high speed accuracy. If you only have 5-6 medium caliber rounds to fire, you'd better be getting hits with every one of them. That's a lot easier with the Colts. The old-timers often preferred the Colts over S&W's because on the Colt the cylinder rotates to the right, and the hand pushes the cylinder to the right (into the frame) to lock up just before a cartridge is fired. Theoretically, this gives a tighter, stronger lock-up to the Colt over a Smith & Wesson, which rotates counter-clockwise and is pushed away from the frame at lock-up. I doubt that this is a big deal, but I have noticed that my Colt's shoot very well for small revolvers. Finally, the 1950's and 1960's production guns featured very good fit and finish. The old Colt revolver action required a bit of hand fitting at the factory, which made it more expensive than some of its competitors. They are often much better made than current production guns.

One caveat—the aluminum frame Colts are not compatible with +P ammunition. Loads in the +P range will accelerate wear on these guns rapidly. The traditional 148 grain target wadcutter load (my preference is the Winchester Super Match) or the 125 grain Federal Nyclad load are both good non-+P choices that shoot very well in my Cobra's and offer good terminal performance.

Look up one of these second generation Colts and get acquainted with it. I think you'll be pleased.

RANGEMASTER  
2611 S. Mendenhall Rd.  
Memphis, TN 38115-1503



Phone: 901-370-5600  
Fax: 901-370-5699  
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**On August 5-7, we conducted our annual Memphis iteration of our Three-Day Fire-arms Instructor Development & Certification Course. We had 19 students from all over Tennessee and Mississippi, Colorado, and Kansas. This was an exceptionally talented group, and all passed both the written examination and the shooting qualification courses. Congratulations to Lt. Jason Mitchell of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department SWAT Team! Jason won the Top Gun award for this class, which was hotly contested. The next Instructor Course will be Friday through Sunday, October 28-30 at the Oklahoma City Gun Club.**

