



Tactical Talk

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The Shooting Channel

There is a new information resource for shooters at <http://theshootingchannel.com>. There are sections here that deal with general gun ownership and legal issues, concealed carry, tactical training and much more. I will be contributing articles frequently along with a number of other authors and trainers. Check it out.

Tactical Conference Announcement

The annual Tactical Conference will be conducted at Rangemaster on Friday through Sunday, 21-23 February. This premiere national event will involve presentations by 22 nationally known firearms and tactics trainers, delivering 35 separate blocks of instruction. The event is attended by serious students of self defense from literally all over the United States.

This means the range will be unavailable to the public from Thursday, 20 February until Monday, 24 February. We have to set up the pistol match and reconfigure the classrooms on Thursday so the event can run from Friday through Sunday. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Inside this issue:

Understanding Islam 2

Dynamic Marksmanship 4

Givens Article 6

Classes 7

Government Efficiency 8

AR-15 Practice 9

Ankle Holsters 10



Here is a class pic from our Firearms Instructor Development Course in Memphis in 2013. The crew along the wall (back row) are all Rangemaster staff, who were here to coach and mentor the candidates. We had students from all over the US in this class.

You're a Minority and You Are Being Discriminated Against!

In Tennessee, a business can post its premises as a "no gun zone" by placing a clearly visible sign at every entrance. I wonder if you have ever thought about exactly what that means.

Without any such sign, it is **ALREADY** a crime for any person without a valid handgun carry permit to possess a gun on that premises. Sign or no sign, it is a crime to carry a pistol without a permit. So, these signs are obviously not directed at criminals. The only people these signs are directed at are Handgun Carry Permit holders, who have been through a training class and a government background check, and have no history of criminal activity or a host of other disqualifiers. Basically, they are saying that if you have a carry permit, they do not want your business.

The current population of Tennessee is 6,456,243 people. As of December, 2013, there were 449,419 people in Tennessee with Handgun Carry Permits. That is 7% of the total population of the state! There are 2,440,663 households in the state. There is, therefore, one handgun carry permit holder for every 5.4 households in the state. That's a sizeable minority!

According to US Census figures, the population of the US is 4.8% Asian American and only .9% Native Ameri-

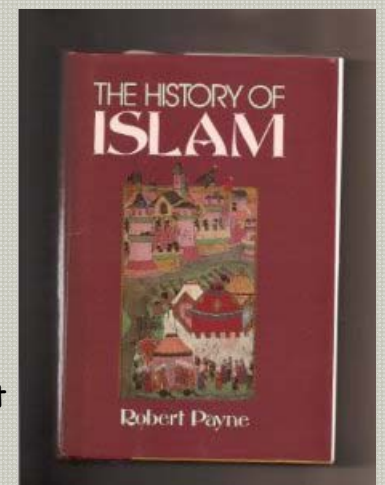
can. Imagine a store with a sign that prohibited Asian Americans or Native Americans! There would be enormous public outrage. I suggest you get a bit outraged, yourself, over this blatant discrimination against those who would accept personal responsibility for their safety and that of their loved ones. Send this information to stores and businesses that are posted, and demand that they take those signs down. Personally, I will not spend a dime in any such establishment. They have made it clear they do not want my business, and I will go elsewhere.

But, the argument goes, these business owners have property rights, and their property rights over-ride your right to self defense. Bull! If a citizen shoots a criminal who is running off with the bank bag, or Aunt Tillie's silver service, or any other property, that citizen will be charged with Aggravated Assault if the thief lives and Murder if he dies. That is because in our culture the right to life outweighs any and all property rights. The law says that no monetary value exceeds the value of a human life. So, my right to self defense (the right to stay alive) trumps your property rights. The right to defend your own life and the lives of loved ones in your charge is the single most important civil right and human right. To say you have the right to defend yourself, but you may not possess weapons is exactly like saying you have the right to a free press, but you may not possess ink or paper. The "right" is then turned into a cruel joke.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

Most Westerners, especially Americans, seem to have an incredible amount of difficulty understanding the thinking process and mindset of Islamists. Our current worldwide conflict with Muslim extremists will not end any time soon, so a better understanding of this enemy would be helpful.

To that end, I highly recommend The History of Islam, by Robert Payne. A historian and scholar, Payne has written three or four books on this subject, but this is the only one I have personally read. It begins with Muhammad's early life and the founding of the faith, and ends with the founding of present day Saudi Arabia and the rise of Gamal Abdal Nasser in Egypt. These events mark the beginning of the current world struggle. Written in 1959, this book does not address the current conflict, but it makes the genesis of the conflict more apparent. Copies are available on Amazon for as little as \$3.00. Recommended.





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Rangemaster Dynamic Marksmanship

by Paul Angrisano, Baton Rouge, Louisiana

December 7-8th of 2013 I was lucky enough to attend Rangemaster's Dynamic Marksmanship class as instructed by Tom Givens. Tom is a former law enforcement officer and has served in the military but his forte is teaching citizens how to prepare for defensive encounters.

I've attended a variety of defensive pistol classes over the years. Depending on the school and class they have various levels of emphasis on mindset, various tactics, movement, work around vehicles, and marksmanship. After a while I've noticed a common theme – many students want to take a class where they shoot courses straight out of a Hollywood action movie despite the fact they haven't yet mastered sight alignment and trigger control.

Tom Givens, Clint Smith, Louis Awerbuck and Tiger Mckee all make a strong case that there are no "advanced" classes, tactics, or defensive encounters. The reality of the situation is simply that you can or can not apply the most basic things – sight alignment and trigger control – in any given situation, regardless of the distractions, pressure, or difficulty of that situation. People don't want to hear that you have to practice, practice, practice to get to get good, but it is the reality of the situation. There is no substitute for quality training and repetition of proper technique.

Dynamic Marksmanship is the most focused class I've taken. You shoot about 1,000 rounds in two days in a series of drills designed to make you shoot straighter and faster as you have more and more pressure applied to you. Tom starts with a substantial amount of discussion about trigger control and how it relates to accuracy and the pistol. The basic problem is purely mathematical – most pistols weigh less than their trigger pull. Whether you have a three pound 1911 with a five pound single action trigger or a 10.5 ounce scandium J-Frame with a 12 lb double action trigger – you have to impart more force on the trigger than the weapon weighs. If you apply more force to an object than it weighs, you'll likely move it at least a bit. This is why so many targets at public ranges look like the targets were ravaged with buck shot despite being 15 feet from someone with a handgun.

Tom gets past this issue by spending a substantial amount of time making you aware of exactly what happens in the course of the trigger press and reset. First, one does not "squeeze" a trigger. You press a trigger. Words mean things and when we tell ourselves to do something, our subconscious applies it to our actions. Humans squeeze things with their entire hand – if you think the word squeeze, all your fingers are going to crank down and upset that perfect shot. Press the trigger like it is a button, and do so with increasing force in a linear fashion until you get a trigger break.

If you'd like to see if you can smoothly press a trigger, here is a very simple drill. All you need is a partner and a piece of fired brass. Verify your handgun is unloaded (remove magazine, clear chamber, visually inspect chamber) and draw it to ready. With the pistol on target and parallel to the ground, have your partner carefully balance the piece of fired brass on top of your front sight. You'll have to have a very steady hand to provide a stable base, but once the brass is balanced, all you have to do is press the trigger without knocking off the piece of brass. It can be done and it can be done consistently but you have to practice and focus. Once most of the people in the class manage to dry fire without knocking the brass off, Tom points out that if you employ that trigger press for every single shot, the bullets will miraculously themselves onto target – and he is absolutely right. I've come to believe trigger control is the single most important aspect of accuracy. This isn't some revolutionary concept – when competition legends like Rob Leatham and defensive teachers like Tom, Clint, Tiger and Louis all preach the same primary skill there is a clue.

Once you can smoothly press the trigger, one must learn to work through the full manipulation of the trig-

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ger. So many things in life require follow through and a good trigger press is one of them. If you are shooting at the same target with multiple shots, there is absolutely no reason to take your finger off the trigger. It takes more time and leads to “slapping” the trigger with different amounts of force coming in at different angles. The proper way to manipulate the trigger is to allow it to progress forward until you feel/hear the mechanical “click” of the mechanism as it resets. That is exactly as far as the trigger needs to go out to fire again – anything more is superfluous. If you intend to shoot again, you begin pressing again from that point – if not, and you are off target – that is the time to remove your finger.

This brings us to the sight picture. We should all know what a sight picture is supposed to look like, but as I’ve been discussing the trigger press can disturb the pistol as it sits in our hand. Once the trigger is sorted out, then we can focus on the sights. This is where things are counter-intuitive to conventional wisdom. Tom illustrates that at typical defensive distances your sight picture can be imperfect and still yield acceptable results IF you aren’t jerking the gun around. Even with the front and rear sights anywhere near center, hits are still surprisingly good. This is demonstrated by him standing about 15 feet from a standard target and making a small but clearly identifiable figure 8 with his muzzle and pressing the trigger smoothly throughout – a group appears on target that most shooters would be happy to call their own, despite the muzzle being in constant intentional motion to prove a the concept.

Everything comes together once the students settle down into a routine where they acquire the appropriate sight picture as they properly press the trigger and follow with reset. The next step is to learn how to get a follow up sight picture – this couldn’t be simpler. Once you fire, bring the pistol back down onto target as smoothly and efficiently as possible to determine if there is still a target/threat that needs to be shot again. This means no matter how many shots you fire, you should have that many sight pictures plus one.

Through the course of the class, there are countless drills that begin to force the application of this process faster and on smaller targets. A timer comes out, targets are scored, and eventually you have man on man shoot offs. Then you get to shoot a complex set of problems under time as the entire class watches – Tom refers to this as “stress inoculation”. While we can’t be stressed the same way in a training environment that we might be in a fight, some stress is very different than no stress. The stress of firing under time with a single miss meaning you fail and 16 people watching – that can get to some people a bit, but if you are ever called to shoot under pressure it is better that you aren’t doing it for the first time.

The written word is completely insufficient to instruct. Attending a class like this illustrates that in ways you have to experience to appreciate. It is my belief that we carry a gun in case we find ourselves in a situation where someone else has decided that deadly force will be necessary. I hope a defensive encounter is never necessary as tragedy follows on many levels, but if called the one thing you can’t do is shoot without being able to guarantee a result. You can’t miss the threat and you can’t hit the wrong person. You don’t have the time to miss the threat – the first good hits in a fight almost always determine the victor. You can’t hit the wrong person – from every moral, ethical and life consequence standpoint that is a completely unacceptable result.

What this class illustrates more than anything is that such a simple concept - trigger control while maintaining sight alignment – is a pursuit of perfection. You must be able to guarantee the results every time you press the trigger. The greater your skill set and experience the greater range of situations and stresses you can handle without wondering if you are capable. Wondering if you can do while you are trying to do is really mentally consuming. I find knowing you can because you have – preferably to the point that you have over and over again - is a far more effective strategy.

I’ve taken more classes and burned more ammo than most and I can occasionally hit a target as a result – but I still pursue a goal I have yet to attain. Hope to see you on a firing line chasing the same perfect press.

Engaging Moving Targets with the Handgun

by Tom Givens

When the bullets start flying, the feet start working! During gunfights it is very common for participants to run toward cover, run toward exits, or simply run because they are being shot at. Therefore, the ability to reliably hit a moving target is an important skill in the defensive gunner's repertoire. Before learning to hit moving targets with a handgun, you must first be made aware of some basic principles that will apply.

First, you need to forget much of what you may have learned in the past when wing shooting ducks and geese or clay birds with a shotgun. To hit these aerial targets the shooter must swing ahead of the target, a process called "leading". That's lead (lead), not lead (led). This is because game birds fly very quickly. A dove can hit 40 miles per hour, so a fair bit of lead ahead of the bird is needed to assure that the flight path of the bird and the flight path of the shot charge intersect. Live bird and clay bird shooting often involve distances of 20-30 yards. Human beings cannot move nearly that fast. At typical defensive distances, a human target cannot move fast enough to need any appreciable amount of lead.

The reason people miss moving targets with the handgun is not lead, but rather it is stopping the swing the instant the gun fires. This invariably results in the bullet passing right behind the intended target. This is caused by a chain of events that most people don't really think about until it is pointed out to them.

When your brain makes the decision to fire the handgun, the shot does not take place instantaneously. Rather, a whole series of events has to take place. This series of events can be called the "ignition train", and it looks like this:

- ◆ The command impulse has to travel down the spinal cord from the brain to the brachial nerve, then the radial nerve and to the finger;
- ◆ The trigger finger's muscles have to contract;
- ◆ The trigger has to move through its arc, which may be a half inch or more;
- ◆ The sear has to release the hammer or striker, which then must overcome its inertia and move forward to strike the primer;
- ◆ The primer has to detonate, lighting the powder charge, which has to burn and generate gas pressure; so that
- ◆ The bullet is kicked loose from the cartridge and accelerated down the barrel until it exits; and then
- ◆ The bullet must fly from the gun to the target.

That's a lot of stuff going on. Although the increments of time involved may be very small (micro-

seconds) once we add them all up it becomes an appreciable amount of delay between the decision to fire and the actual launch of the bullet. So, if you stop your swing as your brain says "Fire!", your bullet will get to the point where the target WAS, not where it is now.

Many larger police firing ranges have "runners", mechanical moving target systems that move a silhouette target along a track or on wires to allow trainees to learn to keep the gun swinging. You may not, however, have access to such a system. No problem. All you have to do is learn to keep the gun moving while you track the sights and work the trigger smoothly. This can be easily done with a static target array, as illustrated.

Set up three to four targets in line abreast of each other, fairly closely spaced (see photo), at 5-6 yards as a starting point. Fire 1 round at each target, working your way across so that all targets are engaged in one continuous string. Your shots should not sound like "1.....2.....3.....4.....", but instead, should simply sound like "1,2,3,4". Another way to describe it is thus: all four shots should sound like they are being fired at one stationary target in a 4 shot string". Shoot from left to right, and right to left. Once you can do this smoothly, fire 2 rounds per target. Again, the goal is to have eight consecutive shots that sound like an eight shot string on one target, not like four pairs. "1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8", rather than "1,2.....3,4.....5,6.....7,8"

The key here is to learn to track your front sight as the gun moves. When the front sight rises in recoil, bring it down on the next target to be engaged, rather than bringing it back down on the last target.

Work on this a bit, and at pistol engagement distances no one will be able to move fast enough to keep from being hit by your gunfire, unless they are running so flat out that they pose no threat to you, anyway.



A static target array can be used to learn to keep your front sight moving, without stopping your swing as you transition from one target to the next. This is the key to hitting moving targets.

2014 ROAD CLASSES AND EVENTS

Mar 8-9	Combative Pistol 1 Tucson, AZ
Mar 20-23	A Girl and a Gun Conference, Waco, TX
Mar 29-30	Advanced Pistol Skills (1 day)/Defensive Shotgun (1 day) Florence, SC
April 5-6	Combative Pistol 1 Athens, GA
April 12-13	Combative Pistol 1, KR Training, near Austin, TX
April 26-27	Advanced Pistol Skills and Defensive Shotgun (1 day each) Ft Meade, Florida
May 17-18	Advanced Pistol Skills and Defensive Shotgun (1 day each) Culpeper, Virginia
May 31-June 1	Advanced Instructor Course at Rangemaster, Memphis
June 6-8	Firearms Instructor Development West Elkton, Ohio
June 21-22	Advanced Pistol Skills, Defensive Shotgun, 1 day each Nappanee, Indiana

Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Development Courses



Our three-day Firearms Instructor Development Course has become one of our most popular offerings. This course is suitable for shooters who wish to become firearms instructors, or for established instructors who want to polish and refine their shooting and teaching skills and learn new tips and techniques. This course qualifies graduates for state certified handgun instructor licenses in Tennessee, Mississippi and Oklahoma and for continuing education credits in other states. Course time is about equally divided between range time and classroom instruction. A 200 page training manual comes with this course, and it is a valuable reference resource. You will need 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

We will be offering this course in the following locations in 2014:

June 6-8	West Elkton, Ohio	johndavidfarquhar@frontier.com
Aug 1-3	Rangemaster, Memphis (air conditioned, indoors)	901-370-5600
Sept 19-21	Chandler, Oklahoma	spencerkeepers@yahoo.com
Oct 3-5	Dallas, Texas	detwd114@yahoo.com

Workplace Violence

We all would like to think we are safe at work, but this is a dangerous illusion. If you work outside your home, you must interface with co-workers and the public, any of whom could be or could become a threat. Workplace violence has become an epidemic in the U.S., although one not widely reported, as companies have a vested interest in keeping such events low profile.

According to the latest figures from OSHA, here is a more accurate look at the actual magnitude of the problem:

- Over 2 million (that's right, millions) assaults in the workplace per year.
- 40,000 Aggravated Assaults (serious injury, deadly weapons)
- 51,000 raped or sexually assaulted at work in a year
- 1 out of every 9 fatal occupational injuries is a homicide!

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), of the 4,547 fatal workplace injuries that occurred in the United States in 2010, 506 were workplace homicides. Homicide is the leading cause of death for women in the workplace.

To put it into another time context, EVERY SINGLE WEEK:

- 18,000 workers are assaulted
- 1,000 are raped or sexually assaulted
- 10 are murdered while at work.



Remember that there are things you can do to reduce your risk:

1. Be alert. Do not assume you are safe at any time in public.
2. Know where exits and escape routes are. Mentally rehearse crises before they occur. Have a plan!
3. Take threats or oddball behavior seriously. Report them to management or security and insist on follow up.
4. Equipment you did not wear today will NOT be available in an emergency. Wear your gun.

Government Efficiency

During the 3-1/2 years of World War II that started with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and ended with the surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945, the U.S. produced 22 aircraft carriers, 8 battleships, 48 cruisers, 349 destroyers, 420 destroyer escorts, 203 submarines, 34 million tons of merchant ships, 100,000 fighter aircraft, 98,000 bombers, 24,000 transport aircraft, 58,000 training aircraft, 93,000 tanks, 257,000 artillery pieces, 105,000 mortars, 3,000,000 machine guns, and 2,500,000 military trucks.



We put 16.1 million men in uniform in the various armed services, invaded Africa, invaded Sicily and Italy, won the battle for the Atlantic, planned and executed D-Day, marched across the Pacific and Europe, developed the atomic bomb and ultimately conquered Japan and Germany.

During the almost exact amount of time (3-1/2 years), the Obama administration couldn't build a functioning web site.

Want to be labeled an "extremist" or possibly a "dangerous person"?

All you need to do is quote the Founding Fathers of the United States. These brave men fought against the strongest empire in the world and won, risking their "lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor" to bring freedom and personal liberty to this land. They believed strongly (strongly enough to die for their beliefs) that human rights are given by God, not the government, and that the Constitution identifies and enumerates these rights, but does not grant them. One of the rights they felt very strongly about was the right to keep (own, possess, have) arms and to bear (carry, wear, have on the person) weapons.

Contrast these brave men: businessmen, merchants, farmers, military leaders, to the current crop of self-serving, craven, corrupt career politicians who want to strip you of your God-given right to defend your own life and that of your family. Here's what a few of them had to say:

"No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms." **Thomas Jefferson**

"The peaceable part of mankind will be continually overrun by the vile and abandoned while they neglect the means of self-defense. The supposed quietude of the good man allures the ruffian; while on the other hand, arms like laws discourage and keep the invader in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property." **Thomas Paine**

"...and that the said Constitution be never construed to infringe the just liberty of the press or the rights of conscience; or to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms..." **Samuel Adams**

"As the law of nature allows us to defend ourselves, and imposes no limit upon the right, the only limit we can impose is the necessity of the case. Whatever means are necessary must be lawful; for the rule is general, that where a right is absolutely given, the means to exercise it must also follow." **Henry St. George Tucker**

The current effort to disarm you is NOT a spectator sport. Get involved. Talk with your non-gun owner friends, and explain our side in rational terms. We are not fighting for the right to duck hunt, we are fighting for our most basic civil right, the right to self defense.

AR-15 Practice Available at Rangemaster

Many people have an AR-15 type carbine. Whether you think of it as an "assault rifle" or a "modern sporting rifle", developing and maintaining skill with it requires practice, as with any other weapon type. Since it fires a centerfire rifle cartridge, however, this usually means travel to an outdoor rifle range well outside the city, limiting the opportunities for training and practice.

To remedy this, we have acquired a Smith & Wesson M&P15/.22 and an Olympic Arms AR-15 in 9mm for the rental gun case. Both of these are exactly like a typical M-4 con-

figuration .223 carbine, but fire less expensive .22 rimfire or 9mm pistol ammunition. Both can be fired on our indoor range and we keep ammo for both in stock. Rental is only \$10.00 for either. The safety lever, bolt release, charging handle, sights, etc are exactly like a regular .223 AR-15, so your practice with these guns will carry over to your own AR just fine. So come on in and have some inexpensive fun while sharpening or maintaining your carbine skills.



Ankle Holsters, by Tom Givens

Many of us carry a small handgun as a second, or back-up gun (BUG), in addition to our larger, primary pistol. There are a number of solid reasons for this practice.

First, I teach all over the US, and everywhere I go I see good quality, well maintained handguns break during classes. By "break" I do not mean malfunction. I mean a part in the gun literally fails, putting the gun out of action. If your firing pin, extractor, takedown latch, etc breaks, the gun is a paperweight until you can procure and install a new part. If it happens in classes, it may happen in a fight. If your primary gun becomes non-functional, a second gun could be a literal life saver. Second, you can give the back-up gun to a trained but unarmed companion. Sometimes when I pick up a colleague at the airport, I loan them my BUG until we get to Rangemaster or the hotel and he can unpack and put on his own sidearm. Third, in a struggle a BUG may be more accessible than your primary gun.



Alessi ankle rig, one of the best.

There are a number of ways to carry this secondary handgun, and over the years I have settled on ankle carry for mine. Here are my reasons for this decision.

Pocket carry just has too many limitations. It is damn near impossible to draw a gun from a pocket holster while seated, whether in a car or at a desk or table. We spend way too much time seated, especially in the car, for this carry mode. In a tangled hand to hand fight, pocket carry would be difficult to draw from. It is also very difficult to get a gun out of a right front pocket with the left hand, and vice versa.

Some people simply wear the back-up gun on the belt, on the support side, with

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)



The DeSantis ankle holster is an elastic and fabric rig that works very well.

on my back on the ground during a struggle, I can get to my ankle gun with either hand if necessary. A well made ankle rig is comfortable and discrete.

There are several very well designed and well made choices among ankle holsters. Over the years I have tried several, and have settled on some that are very comfortable, adequately secure, protect the pistol from the elements, and allow rapid acquisition. My favorites include the ankle holsters from Alessi Holsters, Ken Null, DeSantis, and Galco.

If I had to rank them in order of preference, the Alessi and Null rigs would be tied for first place. Both use Velcro fasteners to secure the holster to your lower calf. Both use precise molding to secure the handgun quite well, while allowing a very quick presentation. Both have a compressed felt backer on the holster, to protect your leg. In classes, I routinely set up a double feed in my primary handgun and demonstrate dropping my primary handgun and drawing my BUG from one of these ankle rigs in under two seconds, from "Go" signal to first shot.

My next choice is the DeSantis rig. This is an elastic rig that closes with Velcro. In the revolver version, an ingenious bit of leather sits behind the trigger guard

the primary gun on the dominant hand side. My belt already has enough stuff on it, so I don't care much for this mode, either.

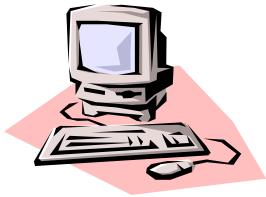
Carrying a handgun in a well designed ankle holster solves many of these issues. The ankle gun is actually quite easy to access while seated. While driving a car, a gun on the inside of the left ankle (right handed person) is quite easily accessed by the right hand. That ankle gun is much easier to access than a gun in a belt holster, under a jacket, under a fastened seat belt. Even

(Continued on page 12)

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The Galco ankle holster has a sheepskin lining to protect your leg.

(Continued from page 11)

to keep the gun in place until you grasp the pistol's butt and pull firmly. This is a very comfortable and fast ankle set-up. The Galco version has a thumb-break security snap and very lightweight construction. Both the DeSantis and Galco holsters have a sheepskin pad behind the holster to cushion your leg.

Ankle carry works best with handguns that weigh around one pound, or very little more.

The Airweight Smith & Wessons and the Colt Cobra or Agent are

perfect for this role. Wear the thing for three or four weeks and you'll hardly notice it is there from that point on. You may never need that back-up gun, but if you do, you'll need it very badly.