



Tactical Talk

Volume 18, Issue 4

April 2014



"...with liberty and justice for all..."

(Must be 18. Void where prohibited. Some restrictions may apply. Not available in all states)

-- D. Stanhope

Tactical Conference 2015 Announced

On February 21-23, 2014 we held the 12th annual Rangemaster/ Polite Society Tactical Conference at the home range in Memphis. This was probably the best conference yet, attended by over 170 participants with training presented by 22 well-known instructors from all over the country. The list of trainers covered a broad spectrum of disciplines and specialties with a lot of nationally recognized names including John Farnam, Steve Moses, Southnarc, Karl Rehn, John Hearne, Darryl Bolke, William Aprill, John Holschen, Kathy Jackson, Jim Higginbotham, Claude Werner and several others. The training topics included urban rifle/carbine, legal issues, active shooter/terrorist events, current research in the psychology of self-defense and of learning physical skills, criminal psychology, developing training programs, emergency trauma care for first responders and more.

In addition, we held a very realistic pistol match on our indoor range which included a scenario involving a violent armed robbery in a store at the mall. There were clothed mannequin type targets that represented store employees, customers, and bystanders as well as a couple that were armed with realistic life-size handguns and represented the armed robbers. Under stress and time pressure shooters had to identify the armed robbers and engage them without hitting any of the non-hostile persons downrange. Many attendees opted not to shoot the match, so they would not miss any of the training opportunities. We still had 129 shooters complete the match.

The 2015 event has been scheduled for February 20-22, 2015, again Friday through Sunday at Rangemaster, Memphis. We will have almost all new training blocks for 2015. We have five new trainers (established instructors, just new to this event) including three female instructors. This year we had 25 female attendees registered, +3 female staff members and we would like to see even more women involved in 2015. We'll have several blocks of instruction by these female trainers to help the ladies get the most from their attendance and feel at home here.

The 2015 registration forms and waiver are available online at www.rangemaster.com. This year we had to turn away quite a few people who waited too late to register. We have a definite, strict cut off because of space limitations. If you wait too late to register you simply won't get in. We urge you to get your registration form and waiver in soon to avoid disappointment.



Here a participant looks for an armed Bad Guy while controlling a panic stricken toddler and attempting to aid a wounded companion. Great learning experience!

Inside this issue:

Revolver Gunsmithing	2
Event Calendar	2
Establishing a Dominance Paradigm	4
2014 Match Results	5
Distances for Private Citizen Shootings	6
Violent Crime Report	7
Instructor Development Courses	8

Revolver Gunsmithing

Here is a pic of one of my favorite back-up guns. This is a Colt Cobra, an aluminum framed lightweight six shot .38 Special revolver made about 1960. This one sports a set of Eagle Grips rosewood Secret Service stocks. The hammer spur has been bobbed, to prevent snagging on clothing when presenting from a pocket holster or ankle holster. The action has been polished and tuned by Grant Cunningham, one of very few gunsmiths who actually understand the old Colt action design and know how to work on them.

The lockwork of these older Colts was designed before the turn of the 20th Century. They would be far too expensive to produce today, due to the intricate machining and precise tolerances the design requires. They are a lot like an old wind-up watch on the inside, but once tuned correctly, they are a joy to shoot. I like the fact that they hold 6 shots, instead of the 5 in a j-frame Smith & Wesson, and the sights are infinitely better than those on the S&W snubs.

Grant Cunningham (<http://www.grantcunningham.com>) is a revolver aficionado and one of the biggest proponents of the wheel-gun as a defensive weapon. If you have a Colt or Smith & Wesson revolver you'd like to have optimized for carry/self defense, check him out.



This is one of Tom's favorite BUG's, a 1960 vintage Cobra done up by Grant.

Rangemaster Event Calendar

Here are some of our open enrollment courses around the country in the next few months. If a local host is listed, please contact them directly to register.

April 5-6 Combative Pistol 1 Athens, GA
Contact J.L. Weems, jlweems@gmail.com

April 12-13 Combative Pistol 1
KR Training, Austin, TX **FULL**

April 26-27 Advanced Pistol Skills/Defensive Shotgun
Ft Meade, Florida
Contact Jim Clark, jimclark.instructor@gmail.com

May 3-4 Combative Pistol 1
Baton Rouge, LA 901-370-5600

May 17-18 Advanced Pistol Skills/Defensive Shotgun
Culpeper, VA
Contact John Murphy, john@fpfrtraining.com

May 31-June 1 Advanced Firearms Instructor Course
Memphis, TN
Call 901-370-5600 (at Rangemaster)

June 6-8 Firearms Instructor Development Course
West Elkton, Ohio **FULL**

June 28-29 Advanced Pistol Skills/Defensive Shotgun
Nappanee, Indiana
Contact Steve Clay, SClay896@yahoo.com

July 12 Law of Self Defense Seminar
Andrew Branca, at Rangemaster
Go to <http://is.gd/vJ1YkE> to register

July 18-21 Combative Pistol 1/Defensive Shotgun
FAS, Seattle, WA
Contact Marty Hayes, marty@firearmsacademy.com

Aug 1-3 Firearms Instructor Development Course
Memphis, TN
Call 901-370-5600 (at Rangemaster)



Rangemaster

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	DVD: "Cooper's Color Codes" (1 hr.+)	\$ 22.95	
	DVD: "Introduction to Self Defense Handguns" (30 min.)	\$ 14.95	
Subtotal			
Shipping (\$3.00 per DVD)			
ORDER TOTAL			

Billing Information	Shipping Information (if different)
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Zip Code:	Zip Code:
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Number:	Type: Visa Mastercard AmEx Discover <i>(circle one)</i>
Expiration:	Signature:

ESTABLISHING A DOMINANCE PARADIGM

Concepts for Enhancing Performance and Resilience

Course length: Three days or 30+ hours

Instructors: Tom Givens, Dr. William Aprill, Craig Douglas

Course description:

Enhancing a Dominance Paradigm is a 30+ hour specialty course designed for the senior practitioner/student of firearms. Participants will be selected from an existing base of students who are familiar with the body of work of the three instructors. The objective behind the course work is to interweave increasingly difficult shooting standards with complex Simunitions based decision making exercises, all while presenting more in depth instruction. Pressure will begin literally from the moment the course begins and steadily increase over the three day period.

The class will be kept quite small, to maximize individual growth and learning. Students will be selected based on their prior training and known abilities. The instructors wish to be able to forego any basic instruction in their respective disciplines and move right to more advanced skills.

Tuition is \$675.00 for all three days. A deposit of \$300.00 will hold your space, with the balance due in full not less than 15 days before class. Call 901-370-5600 to register and place your deposit. A detailed equipment list, hotel list, etc will be sent well before class time. Friday through Sunday, Jan 9-11, 2015.

“Even an animal can survive. I am not interested in mere survival.”

-Attributed, F.L.

“Victorious warriors win first and then go to war, while defeated warriors go to war first and then seek to win.”

-Sun Tzu, The Art of War, Ch. 4

Preparation for the unknown demands of defending loved ones, those bound by duty, and oneself is best described as a commitment rather than a series of actions. This personal project leads from applied physical and technical skill development to inquiry into the conceptual, the philosophical, and the meta-cognitive while striving for ever-more robust, adaptive, and flexible capacities.

Those who have undertaken this commitment in earnest and readied themselves to do lawful violence are therefore, by choice, on a developmental path that often yields few resources. Moreover, individuals and skill-sets honed by depthful practice are resistant to challenge through traditional defensive training coursework, and even more difficult to stress to the point that paradigms fracture and new internal resources arise.

Accordingly, we propose an experiential learning laboratory in which participants will be called upon to operate at and beyond their current level of mastery in the domains of:

- 1. applied use of defensive firearms within demanding time and accuracy standards**
- 2. understanding and operating within the parameters of criminal victimization profiles**
- 3. dynamic, multi-modal decision-making under pressure by resisting opponents**
- 4. integrating and leveraging personal strengths and limitations**

We plan to institute a regimen of novel stressors with the explicit goal of moving practitioners to a performance level that allows the projection of dominance across the spectrum of defensive encounters: from de-selection and disruption to chaos management and physical mastery.

If the maxim holds true that performance under stress will approach 50% of that noted under optimal conditions, it is the goal of this program of instruction that participants will complete the work more able than ever to accommodate any degradation in performance, on demand, and win decisively when called upon.

Tactical Conference 2014 Match Results

At the annual Tactical Conference at Rangemaster in February, 129 of the attendees opted to shoot the Defensive Pistol Match. The match consisted of two segments, all fired from concealed carry, with daily concealed carry gear.

The first segment was "The Standards", which include scored firing at paper silhouette targets on Limited Vickers Count. The Standards test a variety of shooting and gunhandling skills, at various distances. One handed shooting, multiple targets, failure drills, an empty gun reload under time pressure, and proper use of cover were all tested.

In "The Scenario" segment, we set up an armed robbery by two suspects armed with pistols inside a store at the mall. The shooter started outside the store, which was enclosed completely by hanging tarps, so that no one could see inside. On signal, the shooter had to enter the store, and go to the aid of his female companion and child that were already inside when gunfire broke out. The shooter had to intelligently use cover, identify the armed robbers among a large group of fully clothed, very realistic mannequins representing store employees and customers, and engage the robbers without hitting any non-hostile mannequins. As in real life, there were draconian penalties for hitting any non-threats.

There was a lot of really impressive shooting displayed during the match. The top scores were as follows:

Champion	Jeremy Younger	42.75
1st Place	Chuck Haggard	44.02
2nd Place	John Barb	45.11
3rd Place	William Aprill	46.42
4th Place	Dave Reichek	46.51
5th Place	Chris Hopkins	46.80
6th Place	Shane Gosa	47.39
7th Place	John Parker	47.56
8th Place	Claude Werner	48.14
9th Place	Don Stahlnecker	49.04
10th Place	Jon Hodoway	51.98
High Lady	Anita Hopkins	58.47
High Lawman	Chuck Haggard	44.02

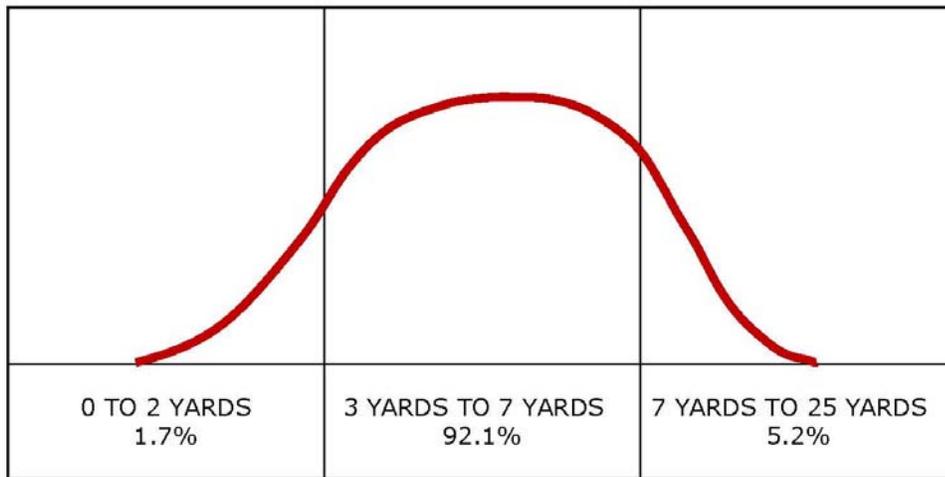
The rest of the scores can be viewed on our website under Match Results in the Tactical Conference section.



Engagement Distances for Private Citizen Shootings

There are a number of firearms training related topics on which I run into an enormous amount of myth, misinformation and plain old B.S. One of the top topics in this regard is that of expected engagement distances for private citizens involved in legitimate self defense shootings.

Engagement Distances, 63 Student Involved Incidents



One of the myths is that almost all civilian shootings occur at arms length. This is simply not true. I think a lot of the time this is used to try to justify carrying a five shot snubby as the primary or only sidearm. The other myth is that the private citizen would never be justified in shooting beyond car length. Again, simply not true.

Probably the single most common situation in which a private citizen would have to defend himself with a firearm involves some form of armed robbery. If you will think about it, someone holding up

your business, robbing you at gunpoint on the parking lot, demanding your car at gunpoint, or kicking down the door of your home while armed are all simply different forms of armed robbery. The key word in armed robbery is "armed". The whole purpose of the robber's gun or knife is to terrorize the victim into compliance from a safe standoff distance. Only after compliance is gained does the robber close within arm's reach in order to take possession of wallet, bank bag, or whatever it was he demanded. Armed robberies do not start as physical assaults, after which the robber disengages, moves back and produces his weapon. The robbery begins with a challenge from two or three steps away typically, so that the offender can speak with you while showing you his weapon, all the while beyond your reach. In this context "conversational distances" and "confrontational distances" mean the same thing. He has to be able to talk to you.

The other assumption is that a private citizen would not be justified in shooting someone beyond a car length away, as that person would not be immediate deadly threat. In the last few years I have had three private citizen students who were forced by circumstance to engage at 15, 17, and 22 yards. In each case the shooting was absolutely necessary in order to save innocent life. In two of those the student was shooting to protect the life of a family member who is being attacked in the third case the student shot to defend himself and his six-year-old daughter, both of whom are under fire. These were absolutely necessary shootings, they were legally justified, and fortunately the students were good enough shots to pull it off.

We have had over 60 student involved shootings. Of those, two incidents occurred at less than 3 yards. One involved intentional physical contact between the shooter and the offender, the other involved purely accidental contact. The vast majority of these shootings occurred at distances between 3 yards and 7 yards, with the bulk of those at 3 to 5 yards. So, we see that the **typical** self-defense shooting is well beyond arm's-length and may be past the length of your car. The average American sedan is 16 feet long. That is approximately 5 yards. My Silverado pickup is a little over 18 feet long, or 6 yards. This is way beyond arm's-length.

Violent Crime Reporting

The Commercial Appeal is the local daily newspaper in Memphis. On one recent typical day, March 7, 2014, the following crime items appeared just in the six-page "Local" section of the paper. Let me emphasize, this is not all the violent crime on the previous day, it is just the stories that actually made it to the paper.

Man Shot at Oak Court Mall *Yep, that's the upscale "safe" mall in East Memphis.*

Woman's Body Found in Sulphur River *Just west of Memphis in Arkansas.*

Puppy Dies After Dishwasher Ordeal *Local scumbag with long criminal record charged with felony animal cruelty for putting a puppy in a dishwashing machine and turning the machine on. Don't expect rational behavior in a street confrontation with this guy.*

Teens Plead Guilty to Robbing, Shooting Elderly Woman *Two fine young men forced their way into the home of a 72 year old woman, shot her, then made her crawl to her purse and get it for them.*

Man Indicted in Burning Death *Dude beat his girlfriend, put her in the tub, doused her with gasoline and burned her to death.*

Stepbrother of Louisville Guard Shot to Death *Stepbrother of University of Louisville basketball player gunned down in his driveway. Police responded to a call of shots fired and found victim in the driveway. No suspects.*

Man Killed in Early Morning Shooting *Police responded to a shots in the neighborhood call at 12:15 am and found Marcel Poscoe dead in the street. No suspects.*

Police Find Body of Unidentified Man *Police responded to a call of a man down in the street at 7 am and found an unidentified man dead with a gunshot wound. No suspects.*

This is a sadly typical week day in Memphis, and in most large cities. There are important lessons here:

Violent Crime is more common than many people realize. "Normal" people live and work in areas where this level of violence may not be common, so they tend to develop the mindset that "it'll never happen to me". However, your daily routine often has you travel through areas that may be very prone to violence. Also, as the Oak Court shooting indicates, being in a "safe" part of town is no guarantee.

The police will always arrive AFTER the event. They are not clairvoyant. They will come after someone calls them and alerts them to the problem.

YOU are the first responder. Be ready to take care of yourself and your loved ones, no matter where you may be.



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Firearms Instructor Development

We have several Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Courses in the works this year. This course is challenging and demanding, and it is also a lot of fun. We guarantee you will leave this class a better shooter and a better trainer. Cost is \$525 and you will need 1,000 rounds of ammo.

June 6-8 West Elkton, Ohio johndavidfarquhar@frontier.com

Aug 1-3 Rangemaster, Memphis (indoors, A/C) call 901-370-5600

Aug 29-31 Ft. Lauderdale, FL (indoors) rascgc@aol.com

Sept 19-21 Chandler, OK spencerkeepers@yahoo.com

Oct 3-5 Dallas, TX detwd114@yahoo.com

