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RANGE•MASTER

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RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



DON'T BE
FOOLED BY

MISLEADING MURDER STATISTICS

There has been much in the local media recently about the number of murders in Memphis, Tennessee during 2014. While the near record high number of murders for the year is *an* indicator of the amount of violent crime in the Memphis area, it is not *the* indicator. Violent crime in the Memphis metro area is actually much worse than what the murder rate suggests.

Each year the FBI compiles a very detailed listing of crimes reported by every law enforcement agency in the United States. This report is called the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), and takes the Bureau nearly a year to compile. While detailed information won't be available for 2014 until sometime in 2015, we can look back at the 2013 report and get a clearer picture of the actual amount of violent crime in the metropolitan area.

In addition to the number of murders in 2013, the Memphis metro area experienced:

- 617 Forcible Rapes
- 3,466 Robberies
- 9,165 Aggravated Assaults



All total, there were 14,199 violent crimes in the Memphis metro area. Or, put another way, violent criminals victimized people 39 times a day — every day, 365 days — in the year 2013.

It's also interesting to note that there were 24 justifiable homicides in Memphis in 2014 — none by police. That means that 24 times last year ordinary Mid-Southerners defended themselves with actions resulting in the death of their attackers. The number of those who used a firearm to ward off an attack without discharging the gun is unknown.

As alarming as the number of murders may be, it is truly just the tip of the proverbial iceberg. Violent crime is much worse than the murder rate indicates. That's why citizens need to be trained and equipped to deal with the inevitable criminal encounter when it comes their way, as it surely will someday. ■

- By Craig Harper

Craig Harper is the owner and president of Harper Services, Inc., a firearms and self-defense training company based in Memphis, Tennessee. He has been teaching handgun carry permit classes and more advanced personal defense courses for nearly 15 years.



Harper Services, Inc.

THE CONFERENCE

2015

On February 20-22, 2015, Rangemaster hosted our annual Tactical Conference, a three-day training event unlike any other. This year we used the outstanding facilities of the Memphis Police Academy Firearms Training Unit (FTU), with multiple ranges, both indoors and outdoors, and multiple classrooms. This enabled us to offer classroom, hands-on, and live fire presentations by a virtual Who's Who of the firearms training community. This year's topics included:

CLASSROOM:

- *Shoot Like a Girl*, Lori Bigley
- *Excited Delirium*, Chuck Haggard
- *Fitness & Nutrition*, Larry Lindenmann
- *Defining the Threat*, Tom Givens
- *Teach 'Em a Lesson*, Tiffany Johnson & Craig Harper
- *Lethal Encounters*, Jim Higginbotham
- *Gunfight Video Study*, John Murphy
- *Witness Dynamics*, Massad Ayoob
- *Performance Under Fire*, John Hearne
- *Court-Proofing Defense*, Marty Hayes
- *Law of Self Defense*, Andrew Branca
- *Tactical Communication*, Claude Werner
- *Fatal Choices*, William Aprill
- *Urban Terrorism*, Dr. Martin Topper
- *Rehabilitating Shooters*, Julie Thomas
- *Women's Holsters*, Lori Bigley
- *Negative Outcomes*, Claude Werner
- *Kneeling and Cover*, Eve Kulscar
- *Training/Reality Mismatch*, Gary Greco
- *Secrets of Highly Successful Gunfighters*, Darryl Bolke
- *The Five W's of Risk*, William Aprill

LIVE FIRE:

- *Heightened Gun Handling*, Shane Gosa & Lee Weems
- *Critical Handgun Skills*, Spencer Keepers
- *Enhancing Trigger Control*, Wayne Dobbs
- *Defensive Shotgun*, Steve Moses
- *Pistol Manipulations*, Chuck Haggard
- *Rotator Target System*, John Farnam

HANDS-ON, FORCE-ON-FORCE, AIRSOFT, SIMUNITIONS:

- *Surviving the Knock-Out Game*, Cecil Burch
- *Weapon Retention & Disarms*, Paul Sharp
- *Optimizing the Use of Cover*, John Holschen
- *Low Light Force on Force*, Karl Rehn & Caleb Causey
- *Learning Laboratory*, Southnarc (Craig Douglas)
- *Practical Small Knife Skills*, Chris Fry
- *Empty Hand Skills*, Greg Ellifritz

Most of these training blocks were two hours in length, with some running much longer. Participants were free to attend as many of these training blocks as they could over the course of three full days. At the same time, we conducted a defensive pistol match on the main indoor



“Rangemaster is one of the best training conferences in the country. I'll be back for sure next year. I hope to see some of you there!"

- Greg Ellifritz,
Active Response Training

2015 Polite Society Pistol Match

Rangemaster Tactical Conference
February 20-22, 2015 • Memphis, TN

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

1st Place	Timothy Chandler	36.92
2nd Place	John Hearne	39.40
3rd Place	Lynn Givens	39.88
4th Place	Ron Mebane	41.73
5th Place	Shane Gosa	42.45
6th Place	Paul Sharp	44.02
7th Place	Jeff Myers	45.29
8th Place	Daniel Wilcox	46.49
9th Place (tie)	Gabe Schuetzner	47.70
9th Place (tie)	John Jayne	47.70
10th Place	Cody Claxton	47.81
11th Place	Reed Martz	48.32
12th Place	Massad Ayoob	49.01
13th Place	Edward Monk	49.24
14th Place	Chuck Haggard	49.75
15th Place	Wayne Dobbs	50.12
16th Place	Jeffrey Street	50.36
17th Place	John Barb	50.57
18th Place	Erick Gelhaus	50.82
19th Place	Steve Camp	50.87
20th Place	Greg Ellifritz	51.83

Congratulations to all the competitors in the 2015 Tactical Conference Pistol Match, and especially the top twenty finalists! We look forward to seeing you all compete again in 2016.

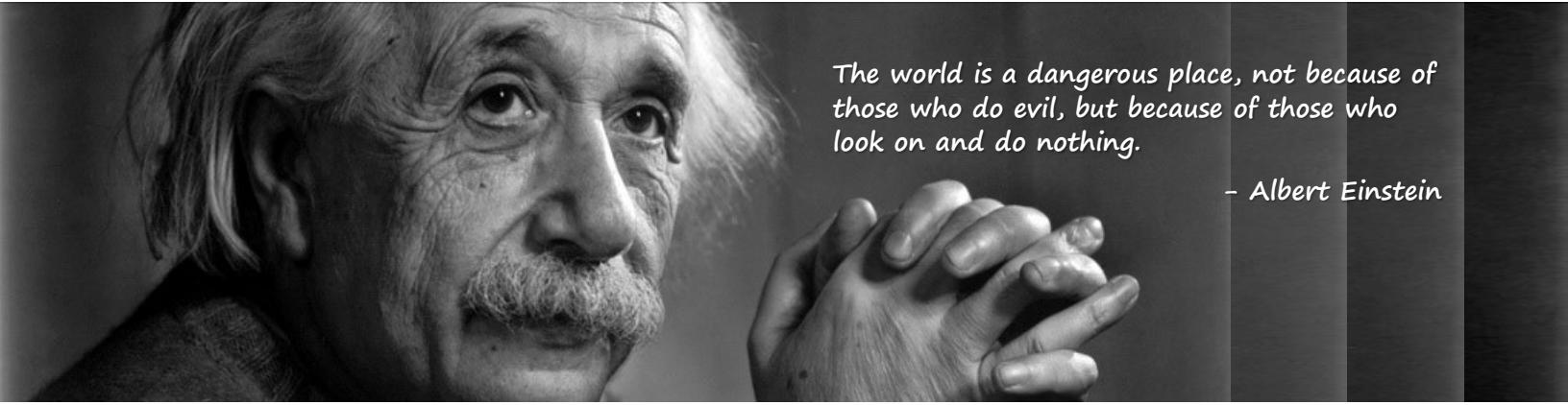
2015 Champion:
Timothy Chandler

High Lady:
Lynn Givens

High Lawman:
John Hearne

136 Shooters Total
Highest Score = 36.92
Lowest Score = 210.04
Average score = 74.27





The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing.

- Albert Einstein

AAR:

I am always leery of firearms trainers who have not taken a course from someone else in years, or even decades. I have been teaching firearms use professionally for over thirty-five years, and I still try to take at least two classes each year from someone outside my own organization. This keeps me current, exposes me to new ideas and equipment, and lets me steal ... er, audit ... the techniques and tactics devised by other trainers with different backgrounds and life experiences. Thus, I do not teach today what I taught twenty-five years ago, or even fifteen years ago. Failure to engage in continual training leads to stagnation and obsolescence.

I first met Wayne Dobbs several years ago when he attended a course I was teaching in Texas. He was already a seasoned instructor and an outstanding shooter at that time, and I was very impressed. Since then, I have seen him work at several annual Tactical Conferences and other events. More recently, I met Wayne's training partner, Darryl Bolke, at one of our conferences and I immediately decided that I needed to attend a course put on by these gentlemen, who do business as Hardwired Tactical Shooting, or "HiTS". My road training schedule and theirs finally coincided in June and I was able to attend a one-day First Responder Pistol and one-day First Responder Shotgun course at the Dallas Pistol Club. I was not disappointed.

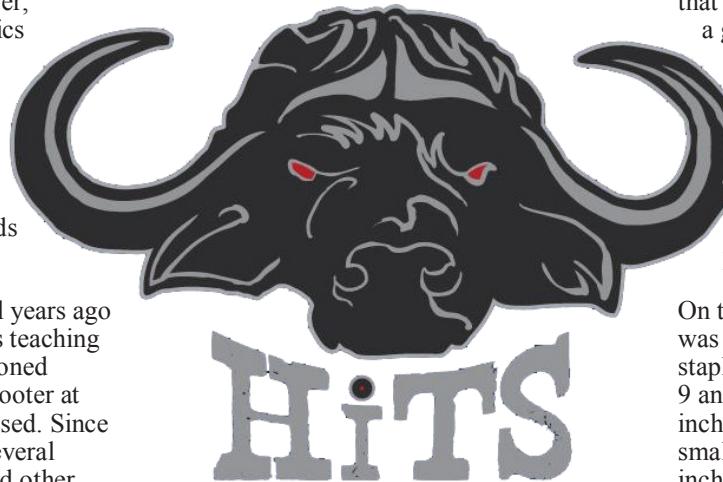
Both Wayne and Darryl are recently retired law enforcement officers, with extensive operational and training experience. Both have trained widely in both law enforcement and private sector schools, and both are very good shooters.

As I noted in the opening paragraph, I am a firm believer in continuing education for

First Responder Shotgun and First Responder Pistol

firearms trainers, and this extends to my staff of instructors. For this trip, I was accompanied by three of Rangemaster's staff instructors, and we were joined in class by a Federal Air Marshal and a couple of dedicated private citizen students. Class size was small and every student received direct coaching and attention from both instructors.

looking at the environment around their homes and work places, and start looking at backgrounds and surroundings in terms of safe directions and backstops. We were advised that all shooting on this day would be from a low ready position, a contact ready position, or from the holster and the ready positions were explained and demonstrated. We were also reminded that we will not shoot every time we draw a gun in real life, so all shooting drills would be started by a timer's beep or the command "Fire!" and that the command "Threat?" was to result in a challenge from an appropriate ready position. This forced the students to think and respond appropriately as the day progressed.



Throughout the weekend, either Darryl or Wayne would be the primary instructor and describe the drills, demo, and run the line while the other moved up and down the line observing and coaching the shooters. Both instructors demonstrated any new drill or exercise to standard, something I really like to see in class.

Saturday was pistol day, and Wayne was the primary instructor for the day. We began in the classroom with the usual admin stuff, then Wayne gave a very detailed and eloquent safety briefing, something glossed over in too many classes. "Every time you handle a gun, you are making life and death decisions." Wayne used the general Four Safety Rules we all know and teach, but added real world examples and anecdotes that made the material more relevant and real to the students. He encouraged students to start

On the range, the majority of the shooting was conducted on B-8 bullseye targets stapled onto a cardboard IDPA target. The 9 and 10 rings of the B-8 comprise a 5.5 inch diameter "black" that is significantly smaller and more demanding than the 8 inch "zero down" ring of the IDPA target. Wayne's philosophy is that if you can hit the 5.5 inch black reliably, whether under stress, while shooting very quickly, or at extended distances, you should be able to get anatomically useful hits on a real adversary under combat conditions. We engaged these bullseyes with two hands; with one hand, both dominant and support side; out to 25 yards for precision; and at high speed up close. Every shot fired, all day, was accounted for and critiqued. This level of concentration is demanding. At the end of the day, I had fired 392 rounds through my Glock 35 and I was ready for a break.

We started with several drills to give Wayne and Darryl a baseline of the students' skill level. The "Test" and the "Half Test" are drills originated by legendary trainer Ken Hackathorn, and these were among the first drills we shot

to establish where the class stood. We also shot drills devised by Wayne and Darryl, which I thought were very thought provoking. Their premise is that the first two seconds of a fight typically dictate the outcome, so we shot various exercises that sought to learn exactly what we could do in that two second window of opportunity, both from the ready and from the holster. Good stuff.

As the day progressed we worked on one handed shooting, pivots and turns, multiple targets and shooting while moving. Silhouette targets were used some later in the day. There was a heavy emphasis on failure drills, with two fast shots to the body immediately followed by a single precise head shot, out to ten yards. Darryl discussed how his former police agency had adopted that drill as a standard response and how it had worked very well for them in numerous line of duty shootings. We shot the LAPD SWAT qualification course toward the end of the day, and all the students passed. This is a testament to the quality of the instruction and to the skill level of the student group.

Day two was devoted to the 12 gauge pump shotgun, the mainstay shoulder arm of American law enforcement for many decades. Although the carbine is making inroads in US law enforcement, the shotgun still has a viable role as a close range weapon for LE and a politically acceptable home and business defense weapon for the private citizen. Like me, Darryl is a big fan of the shotgun and he has put a lot of thought into his teaching approach with it.

The day began in the classroom with another safety briefing, then on to the peculiar characteristics of the shotgun.

Darryl frankly discussed the shotgun's drawbacks as well as its strong points, and went over the tactical situations in which the shotgun would be most intelligently deployed. He also discussed technical issues such as ammunition selection; modifications; accessories; and ready positions and shooting technique. Once everyone had been fully briefed, we headed out to the range.

We started out by patterning the students' guns with buckshot at 5, 7, 10, 15 and 25 yards, both to establish a point of aim/point of impact reference and to acquaint the newer shotgunners with the advantages and limitations of buckshot. Maximum effective range with buckshot varied greatly among the students' guns. My Vang barreled 870 will put all Flite-Control 00 pellets well inside the vital zone of a silhouette target at 25 yards, while some students' guns had begun to throw unacceptable patterns by the time we reached the 15 yard line. It is critical that shotgunners pattern their gun with their ammunition, in order to accurately assess that gun and ammo's capabilities. We then fired slugs from 15 and 25 yards, again to establish a point of aim/point of impact reference and to check for accuracy. Once patterning and slug zeroing was completed, we worked on drills to establish consistency in the gun mount, reliable weapon manipulation and reloading skills.

As the day progressed, we worked on pivots and turns with the long gun, box drills, and shooting on the move with the shotgun. The old stand-by "Rolling Thunder Drill" was used to introduce time pressure to the loading process. Since the tubular magazine capacity of the shotgun is limited, emphasis was placed on quickly and reliably getting the tube

topped up under duress. As a final test, we shot the LAPD SWAT shotgun qualification course, with buckshot and slugs.

At the end of the day I had fired a bit over 150 rounds of birdshot, about 70 rounds of buckshot, and about 15 slugs. Most of us work primarily with the handgun, so I really appreciated an opportunity to get a full day work-out with the shotgun.

Wayne and Darryl have put together an impressive program that imparts solid skills to students in a fairly short time frame. As Darryl and Wayne say, "when somebody kicks down your door at 3:00am, YOU are the first responder!" This program gives students the skills and mental conditioning needed to respond effectively. ■



Tom Givens shooting on the move in "First Responder Pistol" class with Wayne Dobbs and Darryl Bolke of Hardwired Tactical Shooting

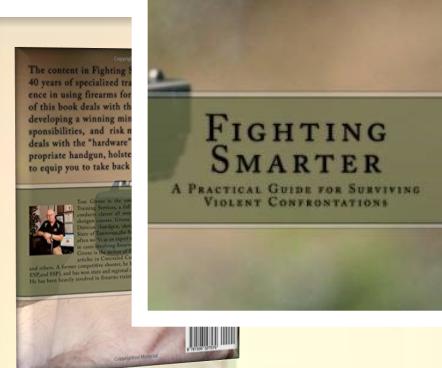
www.HardwiredTacticalShooting.com

Don't forget to pick up TOM'S BOOK

Now in its third edition, *Fighting Smarter* by Tom Givens is the result of over 40 years of specialized training, education and experience in using handguns for self-defense. Consisting of 40 chapters and over 300 pages, this book is full of vital information for anyone concerned about personal security. The first half of the book deals with the "software" issues, such as developing your awareness skills, building a winning mindset, and your legal rights and responsibilities. The "hardware" section

deals with selecting the right gun, holster, and ammunition and proper training to take control of your life.

Tom has been carrying a gun professionally for over 40 years and has been conducting training for over 35 years. He serves as an expert witness on firearms and training issues in state and federal courts all over the US. He is a former champion IPSC and IDPA competitor, and he holds an IDPA Master rating in three divisions. Givens has written well over 100 published articles in Combat Handguns Magazine, SWAT Magazine, Concealed Carry Magazine, Soldier of Fortune, and other publications. This is his fifth published textbook. ■



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What happens when you repeatedly LOAD and UNLOAD the same ROUND



Some people have the bad habit of unloading their carry gun every day when they get home, then loading it again the next day. This leads to cycling the same rounds in and out of the gun repeatedly. This is very bad, for three reasons:

1. For a stark illustration of why this practice is discouraged, consider the following excerpts from a 2011 training advisory issued by the Gwinnett County Police Department (Lawrenceville, GA). In September of 2011 a GCPD Officer was involved in a situation that quickly became a use of deadly force incident. When the officer made the decision to fire, the chambered round in his duty pistol did not fire. Fortunately, the officer used good tactics, remembered his training and cleared the malfunction, successfully ending the encounter. The misfired round, which had a full firing pin strike, was collected and was later sent to the manufacturer for analysis. As a result, the cause of the misfire was determined to be from the primer mix being knocked out of the primer when the round was cycled through the firearm multiple times. The agency also sent an additional 2,000 rounds of the Winchester 9mm duty ammunition to the manufacturer. All 2,000 rounds were successfully fired.

In discussions with the officer, the agency discovered that since he has small children at home, he unloads his duty weapon daily. His routine was to eject the chambered round to store the weapon. Prior to returning to duty he would chamber the top round in his primary magazine, then take the previously ejected round and put it back in the magazine. Those two rounds were repeatedly cycled and had been since duty ammunition was issued in February or March of 2011, resulting in as many as 100 chambering and

extracting cycles. This caused an internal failure of the primer, not discernable by external inspection. Upon receiving this data, the agency advised all sworn personnel that repeated cycling of duty rounds was to be avoided...

OVER
AND OVER
AND OVER
AGAIN?

2. Every time a round feeds from the magazine, it strikes the feed ramp before going into the chamber. Repeated chambering causes repeated impacts to the bullet nose on the feed ramp. This can cause the bullet to set back deeper into the cartridge case. Pistol cartridges have very limited space inside them for the powder charge, and shortening the overall length of the cartridge causes huge spikes in chamber pressure when that round is fired. Pistols have been blown up by these shortened rounds. If you have chambered a round of carry ammunition more than a couple of times, it is best to remove that round from your carry magazines. Save the discarded rounds for your next practice session at the range.

3. Most accidental discharges happen during loading and unloading. It is a lot smarter to simply leave your carry pistol loaded. If you need to keep it out of the hands of children or irresponsible adults, use a locking container for the gun when you are not wearing it. There are numerous quick access gun safes, Life Jackets, or other options for securing your loaded pistol. ■



UPCOMING CLASSES



Intensive Pistol / Defensive Shotgun

April 11-12
New Orleans, LA

Combative Pistol 1

April 25-26
Bryan, TX
(Austin area)

Rangemaster Instructor Course

April 17-18
Shawnee, OK

Intensive Pistol / Defensive Shotgun

May 16-17
Athens, GA

Register for classes on Tom's Eventbrite page:
www.eventbrite.com/o/tom-givens-6762296023