

In This Issue

- ▶ MANAGING UNKNOWN CONTACTS 1
- ▶ FIGHTING SMARTER 2
- ▶ HOST A CLASS 3
- ▶ DEALING WITH CROSS DOMINANCE 3
- ▶ UPCOMING CLASSES ... 4
- ▶ CCW STORIES 4

- ▶ THE A+ STUDENT 5
- ▶ GUN SHOW DUPE-HOLE 6
- ▶ POP QUIZ! 6
- ▶ LESSONS FROM THE LAPD 6

FEBRUARY 2016

RANGE • MASTER

Volume 20 • Issue 02

RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

OH, MUC!

Managing Unknown Contacts: A Real-Life Example

A couple of years ago, one of our students who lives in Tulsa, OK had an experience that made him very glad he bothered to acquire some training in "managing unknown contacts" (MUC), which means dealing with people you don't know. These interpersonal interactions are part of daily life, and most are benign. We have to be mentally prepared, however, to deal with the exceptions. Here is our student's account, plus comments from a long-time law enforcement officer.

-Tom

First, a little background. I live in a fairly nice old neighborhood, but it's close to downtown, and we get quite a bit of (homeless, drunk) pedestrian traffic walking through the park that's across the street from my house. I take my four-year-old twins to the park to play at least a few times a week.

Recently, I was at the park chatting with one of the soccer moms from the neighborhood. My kids are playing with her boy, all toddlers. There are two homeless guys drinking something out of a sack at a picnic table maybe 25 yards south of us. I kept an eye on them, but it's not exactly a unique occurrence in local parks here, and aside from making sure they stayed put, I didn't pay much more attention to them.

That is, until one of the two homeless guys — a drunk, scrawny man, who could have been anywhere from 45 to 60 years old — stands up and starts walking towards us, smiling. I step in front of the soccer mom and all of our kids, sort of blade myself toward the guy a little as he's walking up, making sure I have a decent chance of getting a grip on the 2"-barrel revolver I'm carrying concealed; and he says, "You sure have beautiful kids." I say something along the lines of, "Do you need something?" He says, "Why are you looking at me like you want to fight me or something?"

At this point, I remember very distinctly thinking of Southnarc's training on managing unknown contacts, and I was mostly tuning out what he was mumbling and watching

his hands, trying to decide if this was turning into an episode of computer-goober-pistol-whips-the-homeless-guy or not. He was apparently saying something about his kids having died, and the soccer mom was telling him how horrible that was, when I said firmly, "Right. Thanks for stopping by. You take care now," motioning to the table with his friend. He mumbled some more crap, and headed back to the table. The soccer mom gave me an awkward look, like she wasn't sure if I was being an asshole to the guy, or if I'd just helped her out. We decided to call it a day, we followed the soccer mom back towards her house and we went home. End of story.

Well, today, at the same park across the street from my house, around 5:30pm, two homeless men apparently

tried to kidnap a 3-year-old boy from his mother while they were in the park. Looks like a story where all the facts are still pretty muddy, but the gist seems to be coming out. And lo and behold, the one guy that the Tulsa Police Department has caught so far (one's still at large)... is the same guy I ran into at the same park.

I've spent a week of my life listening to Clint Smith tell funny stories at Thunder Ranch, and I've spent a long weekend listening to Tom Givens tell more depressing (and more useful) stories at Rangemaster while I spewed rounds downrange like a computer guy on vacation. I have also studied

Southnarc's material on Managing Unknown Contacts. This training put me in the right mental mode to respond correctly to prevent a problem, rather than have to respond to one.

This isn't some "I narrowly escaped with my life" anecdote, but it is a wake-up call to me, and hopefully to

others. If I had not been paying attention, and not been willing to challenge this man when he moved toward my kids, something tragic might have happened.

And now, here is some commentary offered by an experienced law enforcement officer in response to the student's experience in the park. This officer deals with similar encounters daily...

Don't take this as accusing you of being stupid by being in a stupid place, because I'm not; but if you continue to frequent that park, this will happen again. I know you live there, and I know that it is part of the charm of living in an older downtown neighborhood. But it will happen again, buddy... And again, and again, and again. That particular population is dangerous — especially for your family. You're obviously already aware of that, but people need to realize just how dangerous they really are.

So, here ya go. From someone who works this population on a regular basis, these are my estimates, and I would bet that most of the LEOs with experience with the demographic would concur with the following estimates:

- Nearly 100% of them will have extensive criminal records
- Upwards of 2 in 10 will likely be current or former sex offender registrants
- Nearly 100% will be either IV dope addicts or alcoholics (or both)
- Of the IV dope users, there will be rigs (hypodermic needles) within a few feet of them (something to consider when you let your kids play nearby)
- Nearly 100% will be armed with some kind of weapon (knife, box cutter, gun, etc)
- Fifty to 75% will have some kind of mental disorder. These are typically dope-induced. This is the part that most "good samaritans" don't understand. These people are

irreparably damaged. They cannot be "fixed" by your kindness.

- At least 50% (conservatively) carry communicable diseases that can be transmitted in the air or via spit, feces, blood, etc. Do you know what the ball your child just picked up off the grass just rolled through?

These are just a few thoughts that I would offer for people to ponder when they consider taking their family — or even themselves — to a known transient "infested" locale. People will undoubtedly find ways to justify it and rationalize it; but the fact is, *statistically*, these people are dangerous and should be avoided at *all* costs. ■

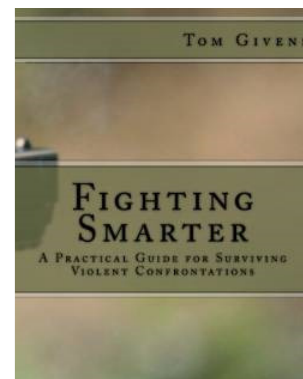
**All I can add is Amen.
- Tom**

Don't forget to pick up TOM'S BOOK

This latest publication by Tom Givens is 318 pages, with full-color photos and illustrations. Here is a link to an in-depth review by noted trainer and blogger, Greg Ellifritz: www.activeresponsetraining.net/fighting-smarter.

To purchase online with a credit card, please visit wwwcreatespace.com/5230622 and order directly from the publisher. The price is \$39.95, plus shipping. If you would like one or more personalized, signed copies, you can order directly from Tom Givens by writing to Rangemaster at 1016 W. Poplar Avenue, Suite 106, Collierville, TN, 38017. Please include a check payable to "Rangemaster" (sorry, no credit cards) in the amount of \$45.00 per copy, which includes shipping. ■

The completely revised and updated 3rd Edition of *Fighting Smarter* is available.



RANGE MASTER

Oh, C'mon...

INVITE US OVER!

We often get inquiries about hosting our courses in new locations. Our 2016 schedule is completely full, but we are working on 2017. Here is what it takes to bring a Rangemaster course to your location.

The local host is our representative in the geographic area in which the class will be conducted. If the host does not own or manage the range facility to be used, he/she will act as the liaison between Rangemaster and the gun club or commercial range we will be using. The host locks in the date and handles any other logistical issues with the range.

The host is expected to promote the class locally, recruiting students from the gun club, gun shops in the area, IDPA or USPSA clubs, local law enforcement agencies, and other sources. Just before class time, the host ensures that the range is in useable condition; enough target stands are in place with cardboard backers; a restroom or porta-john is on site; and the classroom (if any) is set up for class.

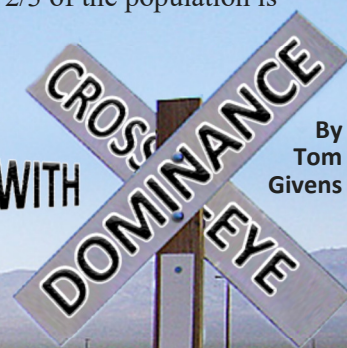
Rangemaster advertises the class on our website, on social media, on various internet forums, and to prior students in the area. Rangemaster collects all fees/tuition. Rangemaster pays any range fees directly to the range owner. The local host does not have to handle money or student information.

In return for his/her assistance, the local host gets a free space in class. Depending on class size, the host may be granted additional free spaces for associates (generally one free space for every nine paying students). If you're interested in hosting Rangemaster for a local class, please contact us at rangemaster.tom@gmail.com. ■

www.Rangemaster.com

If you teach a large number of students like I do, you will find a surprising percentage who are cross-dominant. No, that doesn't mean they wear their spouse's clothes to class. It means they are strongly dominant in one hand, but their dominant eye is on the other side of the body (such as a shooter who is right handed, but has a dominant left eye). It is believed that 85-90% of the world's population is right handed. However, about 2/3 of the population is right eye dominant, and 1/3 is left eye dominant. Only a small number (thought to be around 1%) have no dominance in either eye. There are several simple tests an instructor can use to check for cross dominance issues. I'll describe a couple of very easy ones here.

DEALING WITH



By
Tom
Givens

First, have the student make a small frame opening at arms' length, by bringing the hands together. With both eyes open, have the student center a small object across the room in that opening. Close only the left eye, then open both. Close only the right eye, then open both. For one eye, the target object remained in the opening. For the other eye, the target object disappeared. The eye with which the object stayed in the frame is the dominant eye. An alternative method is to have the student center an object in the opening with both eyes open, then slowly bring the hands back to touch the face, keeping both eyes open. The opening will naturally be drawn toward the dominant eye.

On the range, the clue that the student is cross dominant is usually misses that impact the target a bit high but way off to the side. For a right-handed/left-eyed shooter, for instance, the hits will be high and to the left. Another clue can be discovered by watching the shooter while they fire. You may see the gun moving toward the shooter's non-dominant side, or the head moving



Continued on Page 4

Click the dates or the
Eventbrite logo for
more info...

March 19-20
Combative Pistol 1
Baton Rouge, LA

May 13-15
Instructor Development
Athens, GA

April 2-3
Intensive Pistol &
Defensive Shotgun
Eustace, TX

May 21-22
Intensive Pistol &
Defensive Shotgun
Reno, NV

**Coming Soon
to a Neighborhood
Near You!**

April 8-10
Instructor
Development
Florence, SC

May 27-29
Instructor Development
Culpeper, VA

Eventbrite



CROSS-EYE DOMINANCE

Continued from Page 3

sideways as the shooter aims. If you see these clues, it's time to perform the eye dominance tests described above.

With a shoulder fired weapon, such as a rifle or shotgun, really the only satisfactory solution is to learn to shoot from the shoulder on the same side as the dominant eye. I am not aware of any other practical fix for this with long guns.

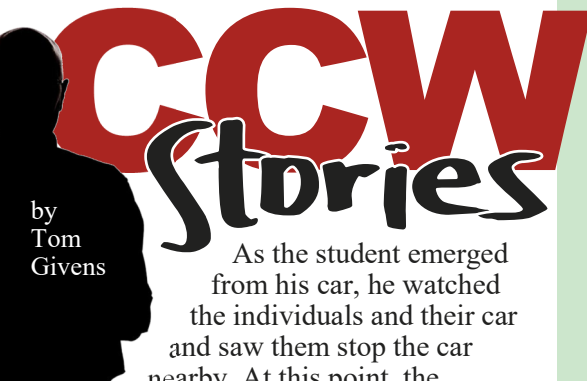
At approximately 2 a.m., a Rangemaster student arrived home from work. He works a late shift at a package handling facility in Memphis. As he pulled into his apartment parking lot, he noticed a car with two Hispanic males leaving the parking lot. But as he parked his car, he noticed the same vehicle turn around and come back into the lot. He thought this was odd and, given the late hour, suspicious...

With handguns, we have some options. One controversial method is to simply learn to shoot with the hand on the same side as the dominant eye. So, if you are left eye dominant, you hold the handgun in the left hand, which puts the sights directly in front of the dominant eye. Bill Rogers is probably the best known proponent of this system. I find it unlikely that a student will reach his full potential using his non-dominant hand as his primary hand, especially under stress. The non-dominant hand typically only has about 60% of the strength of the dominant hand, and is far less nimble, because the dominant hand is used far more of the time in everyday life.

Another method is to keep the gun in the dominant hand, but move the head to bring the dominant eye behind the sights. This can be done two ways. We'll use the example of a right handed/left eyed shooter, for clarity. In the first method, the head is rotated on its vertical axis to bring the left eye behind the sights. This is sub-optimal, as it points the right eye off to the right side, reducing peripheral vision to the front left. It appears to work better to keep the head pointed forward, but tilt it to the right just enough to bring the left eye behind the sights. You have probably seen pictures of Jeff Cooper shooting a 1911 in a classic Weaver stance. You may have noticed his head cocked over to the right. This was because Jeff was right handed but left eye dominant, and used this technique.

A third option is to cant the pistol inboard from 15-40 degrees to bring the sights into the focal plane of the left eye. I am not a fan of this particular method.

Now that you know what to look for, I predict you will notice more cross dominant students. Now, you know how to help them. ■



by
Tom
Givens

As the student emerged from his car, he watched the individuals and their car and saw them stop the car nearby. At this point, the student sat his backpack down in the seat to free his hands, and continued to watch the two males. The two males got out of their car, and one pulled a bandanna up over his face as they began walking toward the student. They both also produced handguns from underneath their clothing as they reached a point about a car length away. At that point, our student drew his own gun — a small

The student is not certain whether the shot he fired struck the suspect or not, but given the fact that it was a .32 it is not uncommon to leave no blood trail or to still be able to flee. The apartment complex security guard came around the corner just as the shot was fired, and was able to follow the suspect vehicle long enough to get its tag number. The police were called and arrived shortly and were given the tag number. The license plate

was registered to an individual in Collierville, but it is unknown at this time if the vehicle was stolen or not. As a routine matter, the police took the student's handgun to the property room; but he was not arrested and no charges

are being contemplated. The weapon was taken in case a body showed up later, which did not occur.

As is often the case, the key element here was the student being aware of his surroundings, seeing something suspicious, and acting on it rather than trying to rationalize it away. Once the suspects were committed — as in pulling up masks and drawing guns — the student acted swiftly and aggressively, which probably saved his life. This is Rangemaster student incident number 64. ■

“Once the suspects were committed, ... the student acted swiftly and aggressively, which probably saved his life.

32-caliber revolver —and fired one shot at the closer individual. That individual fell but got back up and ran away. The student pointed his handgun at the other subject and ordered him to drop his gun. Instead, that subject also ran away. Both subjects ran back to their car, got in it and fled the scene. Our student was unharmed.

INCIDENT PROFILE

Good Guy:	Black Male, 40s, Works late shift
Bad Guys:	Two Young Hispanic Males
Location:	Apartment Building Parking Lot
Date/Time:	November 19, 2013 @ 2:30am
Shots Fired:	One

THE A+ STUDENT

Many are familiar with the “Seven P’s of Project Management.” It occurred to me that are five A’s of defensive firearms training. As trainers, we must make our students aware that all of these essential elements must be recognized, trained for, and skill-developed in order to ensure a successful outcome in a crisis. As students, we must recognize that owning, — or even carrying — a gun is not enough. We must work on or prepare for all of these A’s.

ACCEPTANCE

For many years I worked as an investigator. While interviewing victims of violent crime, I was struck by how many of them just froze up when attacked, and did nothing to defend themselves. In questioning them about this, they usually said that they were stuck in a mental denial loop, with “I can’t believe this is happening to me” the only thought they could manage. I firmly believe that this is the direct result of spending so much mental energy over the years trying to convince one’s self that “it will never happen to me”. After years of self delusion, when the event comes the victim is stunned into inaction, which can have very bad results. The Bureau of Justice Statistics, part of the US Department of Justice, counts five crimes as the “violent crimes”. These are Murder, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Forcible Rape and Assault. I would suggest that the first four are the exact crimes one would use a handgun to defend against. According to the BJS, there were 5.8 million of these five crimes in the US in 2011 alone. Thus, instead of “I can’t believe this is happening to me”, your mental reaction must be “I knew this might happen, it’s my turn at bat.”

ACTION

I will give you a double-your-money-back guarantee that you will win every single violent confrontation you don’t get involved in. Don’t go to specific places while armed that you would not go to unarmed. Resist the temptation to flip off the jerk who just cut you off in traffic or took the parking space you were waiting for. It’s not worth it. Remember that as an armed citizen, you will be held to a higher standard of judgement and discretion than an average person.

AVOIDANCE

If, despite your best efforts at awareness and avoidance, you are faced with an imminent deadly threat, you will have to act swiftly and decisively to end that threat. This requires skill at arms. Skill requires work, in the form of training and practice. At a minimum, you should be well versed in these physical skills with your sidearm:

- 1 Quickly, safely and efficiently presenting your handgun from concealment, or quickly and reliably accessing it from its storage space at home.
- 2 Achieving rapid, multiple, accurate hits at realistic distances.
- 3 Reloading your pistol quickly and reliably.
- 4 Quickly fixing common malfunctions and keeping the gun running, even under stress.

AWARENESS

People cannot fix a problem until they know the problem exists. The one action that most people could take to enhance their personal security would be to become more alert and aware when out in public. Stop talking or texting on the cell phone while walking across the parking lot! Get your head up, open your eyes, and look around. Look for people, activities, or circumstances that look odd, out of place, or out of character and are, therefore, suspicious. Thugs do not beam down from the Mother Ship and attack people.

One of the dumbest things I always see in TV and movie crime dramas is when the hero is involved in a fatal shooting and is back on the job the next day, with no further mention of the shooting incident. Life just goes on. In real life, not so much. In every U.S. jurisdiction, whenever one person shoots another, it will be treated (at least initially) as a criminal investigation. You may be taken into custody, searched, handcuffed, even questioned at a police facility. Your gun will be seized as evidence. Depending upon where in the U.S. you are at the time, you might be charged with a serious crime and have to hire an attorney and post bond. If you are fortunate enough to live in an area that is more self-defense friendly, you may be released at the scene after the initial on scene investigation, but that does not mean it is over.

Don’t hesitate to seek professional help, whether legal counsel or treatment by a qualified psychologist. Regardless of how justified and necessary your actions may have been, this will be a traumatic experience for you and your loved ones. Be prepared to deal with this.

AFTERMATH

To be fully prepared to defend yourself or loved ones against a violent attack, remember the Five A’s. Acceptance, Awareness, Avoidance, Action, and the Aftermath should all be given serious consideration beforehand to increase the likelihood of success when the unthinkable finally unfolds. ■

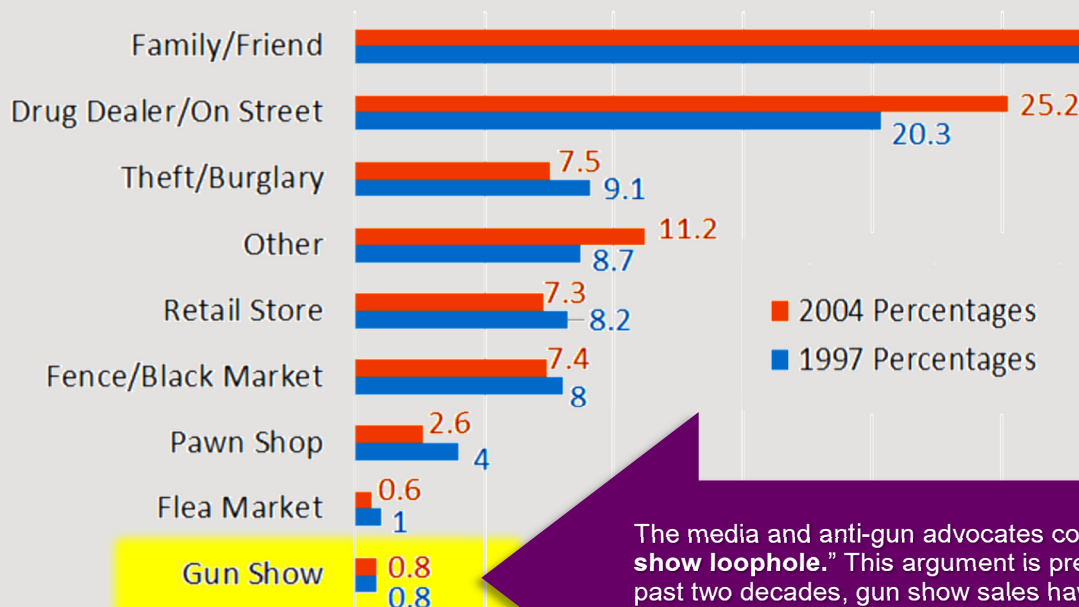
THE GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE

DUPE

Source of Firearms

Possessed by State Prison Inmates at the Time of Offense (%)

Source:
Bureau of Justice Statistics Survey of Inmates, 1997
& 2004 (NCJ 241730). [Click here for full report.](#)



POP QUIZ!

According to this same BJS report, what percentage of 2004 federal inmates committed their offense using a handgun?

- A. 15.5% C. 13.3%
B. 37.4% D. 82.2%

Quick! Post the answer on our Facebook page to **WIN!!!**

facebook

The media and anti-gun advocates constantly deride the so-called "gun show loophole." This argument is pretty silly, considering that over the past two decades, gun show sales have consistently accounted for less than 1% of the firearms used to commit crime.

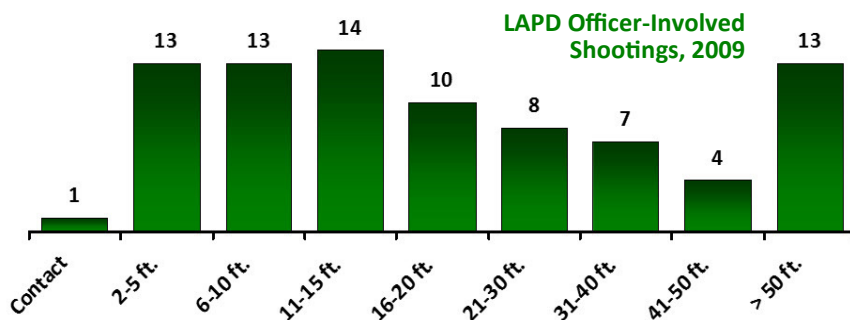
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE LAPD

In 2009, the Los Angeles Police Department had officers involved in 85 shooting incidents. This is an average of one shooting every 4.3 days. Here are some interesting tidbits from their annual report ([click here](#) to access the full report).

In those 85 incidents, the average number of shots fired was 4.4 rounds. However, in 29 incidents (34% of the total), the officer fired six to 18 shots! Since a full third of the shootings involved six or more shots, it stands to reason you need a handgun that holds more than five or six rounds.

Of these 85 shootings, 60% occurred at less than 21 feet, with the remaining 40% involving distances from seven yards to 15 yards and beyond. Fifteen of the incidents occurred at beyond 50 feet. Almost half of the shootings (48%) occurred at less than 16 feet, which is the length of the average American automobile. In simple terms, roughly half of the shootings occurred inside one car length, and half beyond that distance. What lesson should we take from these numbers? Marksmanship ability beyond a car length is clearly a necessity. ■

DISTANCE FROM THE TARGET



NUMBER OF ROUNDS FIRED

