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DECEMBER 2016

RANGE • MASTER

Volume 20 • Issue 12

RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

In November, Lynn and I went strictly as students and took the DTI Handgun Instructor Course from the legendary duo of John and Vicki Farnam. John and Vicki do business as Defense Training International (DTI). See defense-training.com for lots of background and details. The executive summary is that John is one of the most senior firearms trainers in the US, having been teaching for over 40 years. He served as an Infantry Officer in the Marine Corps in Viet Nam and worked for many years as a police officer thereafter. His wife Vicki has been teaching with him for decades, and she has become recognized as an authority on teaching firearms skills to female students. Her books, "Teaching Women to Shoot: A Law Enforcement Instructor's Guide," and "Women Learning to Shoot: A Guide for Law Enforcement Officers," are widely regarded as authoritative texts on the subject.

The DTI Handgun Instructor Course is an intensive two-day class, meant to teach students the Farnam Method of instruction. This course was held at the Homestead Training Center south of Miami, Florida, and was attended by students from several states. There was classroom instruction, plus lots of range time on John's devious "Rotator" steel target system. I have trained with John previously several times, as far back as 1978 (yeah, yeah... I know you weren't born yet then.) Lynn trained with him about ten years ago. We wanted to see what has evolved in his curriculum over time, get some new training tips and ways to explain techniques to our students, and get some precious trigger time. We rarely get to shoot someone else's drills and exercises under close observation and performance pressure, and this was a great opportunity. We got to shoot with a great group of students and tune up our skills in a way solo practice won't accomplish.

One of the short-comings I see with a lot of trainers these days is their reluctance to get out and train as a

TRAINERS:

Have you trained lately?

by Tom Givens

student with other trainers' organizations. When you quit learning, it's time to quit teaching. Over time techniques evolve, the threat evolves, new equipment comes along, and we learn new things about both teaching and how students learn. Without going outside our own training programs, one's curriculum becomes "inbred" and stagnant, then irrelevant. This is especially true of law enforcement training operations, where the current staff were trained by the guys who came on before them, who were trained by the guys who came on before them, and so on. This leads to a very weak program, based on "that's the way we've always done it."

In the past year and a half, I have attended three firearms training seminars or conferences, taking as many class segments at each as I could. I have attended two live fire

classes in that same year and a half period as a student. I spent a considerable amount of time and money on these outings, because I believe they are important. I have been training people professionally since 1975, and doing it full time since 1996. That's a long time. I know a fair bit about this stuff, but I never attend one of these training events without learning something new, or re-learning something that had become rusty over time. Taking live fire classes also does things that solo practice simply cannot accomplish.

The next time you consider taking training from some instructor, you might ask him, "When did YOU last take a training class as a student?" If the answer is "ten years ago" or "never," you might be wise to look elsewhere. ■

JANUARY 6-8, 2017 • ESTABLISHING A DOMINANCE PARADIGM SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

One of our newest specialty classes is called "Establishing a Dominance Paradigm" (EDP).

For those of you who missed the last two offerings of this annual course, we will be presenting it again on January 6-8, 2017. The venue is the BDC Gun Room in Shawnee, OK, about 30 miles east of Oklahoma City. There are several hotels within minutes of the range. The BDC Gun Room is a brand new modern indoor training complex with two classrooms, two indoor pistol ranges, and a large, open training area.

Each of the instructors will conduct training in his area of expertise. William Aprill is a psychologist and former LEO. He will lead the classroom instruction on various mental preparedness factors, including self-deselection and criminal psychology. Tom Givens will be conducting live fire training with an emphasis on accuracy at speed, under duress, with a handgun. Craig Douglas (Southnarc) will conduct Simunitions force-on-force scenarios

with trained role players, giving students a chance to apply their threat management training in a very realistic environment. The entire program flows together well, with a good balance of academic information, skill drills, and holistic practical application exercises.

This is not a course for beginners. You should have prior formal handgun training, and prior training such as MUC or ECQC with Craig would be highly desirable. Please visit our Eventbrite page to register or click the Eventbrite logo. This unique course is already filling up, so don't delay. ■



And Counting...

As of November 11, 2016, 76 police officers had been murdered in the line of duty in the United States in 2016. This is a significant increase from the previous year. This is just a symptom of the greater issue of general violence. Agitating protesters, folks from the political extremes, Islamic terrorists, and plain old criminals are all acting more boldly and with no regard for the consequences of their actions. Be alert, be aware, and be armed.

BOOM

CHUNK CHUNK

Academic work in the classroom,
Defensive Shotgun Instructor Development Course, 2016.

Eventbrite

In October, we taught a Defensive Shotgun Instructor Course in Commerce, Georgia, near Atlanta. We had 25 students from Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Texas, Florida and even New York. Half of the class shot at any given time while the other half coached. This gave everyone enough trigger time to learn to run the shotgun well, while also learning how to effectively coach others on the shotgun. Of course, there was classroom time, and we provided a large manual as a reference source.

The shotgun is a lousy general purpose military weapon. It has limited range, limited penetration against hard barriers like mud wall building construction, and 300 rounds of shotgun ammo would be bulky and heavy to carry. Who cares? That is not what this course is about. If the threat is an armed home invasion, the hold-up of your business, or hunting felons at close range in built up urban areas, the shotgun still has a lot to offer the law enforcement officer or private citizen. Part of the thrust of this course is to dispel a lot of myths, misinformation and plain old B.S. about the shotgun and its use for civil US self-defense. We even brought out two junk automobiles for

this class, which the group got to shoot up with both buckshot and slugs, so the students could see for themselves, first-hand, exactly what the shotgun is capable of at typical engagement distances.

The next iteration of this course will be in February, 2017, in Homestead, FL. See our Eventbrite page (or click the logo above) for details or to register. What better time to train in south Florida than in February? There's also much for your family to do in the Miami area while you're in class. ■

Ammunition selection/testing is critical with the shotgun. Here are two playing cards attached to a cardboard target. Tom fired two rounds of one brand of slug at the top card, and two rounds of another brand at the lower card. Both groups were fired from 25 yards, standing. The accuracy difference is amazing.

Every day of my life, I carry a concealed handgun to ensure my own safety and security and that of my wife. I learned long ago that violence is an everyday fact of life, and that if anything, violence is unpredictable and can occur anywhere there are people. I am always amused when I hear a gunowner say, "The odds of me actually needing my gun to defend myself are one in a million." That estimate is just a bit off. There are 315 million people in the United States. Last year there were 5.8 million violent crimes in the US (US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics). Do the math, folks. That's one violent crime for every 55 people, and that's just in one year! That's one for every 30 adults. Every one of those incidents involved a victim who could have fought back, had they been armed.

PREPARATION OR PARANOIA???

By Tom Givens

The other really goofy statement I often hear is, "I only carry my gun where I might need it." Give me a break! That means that if I see you with a gun on, you are going some place where you think you will need it. Why on earth would you go there? Now that I am out of law enforcement, I never voluntarily go anywhere I think I would need a gun.

A couple of years ago, in early August, Lynn and I were preparing for a trip to a wilderness area in New Mexico for a bear hunt. We would be in the Gila National Forest, which along with the adjacent Apache National Forest comprises 4.1 million acres of pristine wilderness. The nearest Wal-Mart is 213 miles from our guide's cabin, and that, my friends, is a good indication of how remote this area is. Despite the fact that we would be in a remote wilderness, I would be wearing my every day carry Glock 35 and Lynn her Smith & Wesson M&P, simply because we wear them every day, everywhere. Our crystal ball has been down for repairs, so rather than try to guess which days we'll need a gun, we just routinely carry one.

On our way to our destination, we stopped for the night in the scenic little town of Santa Rosa, New Mexico. As we entered town, I saw a news van parked at the State Police substation in town, so I stopped by the grocery store on the way to the hotel and bought a newspaper. In the paper, I learned that on July 30 three murderers had escaped from an Arizona prison just across the Arizona/New Mexico state line from where we would be hunting. Two had been recaptured by police, one in Colorado and one in Wyoming. The third, however, and his girlfriend/accomplice had murdered a couple right there in Santa Rosa a few days prior to our arrival. The fugitives had killed the couple in order to take their car and camping gear. Police had positively linked the escapee to the murders through evidence left at the scene. So, one of the killers was possibly still there in our little part of New Mexico. Duly noted.

We went on from Santa Rosa to our camp the next day, and spent several days hiking remote areas of the National Forest in search of bears. One evening, upon returning to the cabin, we were greeted with the TV news that the third killer and his companion had been captured that day, camping in the same National Forest we were hunting in. This is why I wear a gun, even in remote areas where the uninformed would

Rangemaster's 2017 classes span from coast to coast! If you live in the continental U.S., then we'll be coming soon to a range near you! Classes fill up fast, so visit our Eventbrite page and sign up today.

Eventbrite



be tempted to say no one could possibly need to go armed. Had we run into this guy, he might have decided he needed a new vehicle and more camping gear, and been willing to kill my wife and me to get it. We would have the ability to register an objection.

Consider these facts. The FBI collects crime data from police agencies all over the United States each year. The sheer volume of information requires quite some time to collate and tally, so the details don't come out for some time. The following items pertain to crimes reported to the police in the United States. In 2006 alone, there were 232,380 reported robberies in which the victim was injured. In 80% of those cases, the robbery occurred in public, away from the victim's home. That makes sense, if you'll just think about it. Where do robberies occur? The 7-11 parking lot, the shopping

mall parking lot, the office building parking lot... public places.

"Aggravated Assault" refers to an assault in which the criminal uses a deadly weapon or inflicts serious bodily harm to the victim. To the layman, this is the same crime as "Attempted Murder." In 2013, in the US there were 994,220 Aggravated Assaults, (that's one for every 315 people in the country, in one year). Of those Aggravated Assaults, 82% of them occurred away from the victim's home. Folks, that's four out of five Aggravated Assaults occurring in public places. The same pattern holds true for other violent crimes.

As of April, 2016, some 63 Rangemaster students that we know of have had to resort to the use of a gun in self-defense, or in defense of a family member. Only a small handful of those incidents occurred in the students'

homes. Approximately 90% of these incidents occurred in public places, including convenience stores, shopping mall parking lots, a bakery, a park, and an outside ATM kiosk. In not one single case did the student know of an impending attack in advance. Fortunately, in every case, the student was smart enough to be armed on a daily, routine basis, so that when the unforeseen attack came, they were prepared to deal with it. On the other hand, to the best of my knowledge, three people have trained at Rangemaster and subsequently been murdered. All three were killed on the street, in separate armed robberies; essentially, they were executed for the contents of their pockets. None of these three students were armed. Let's see, 63 out of 63 who had enough sense to be armed won their fights. Three out of three who were caught unarmed died. A policeman would call this a "clue." Carry your gun. ■

**QUICK SHIP
PRODUCT**

INTRODUCING THE **TOM GIVENS PACKAGE** FOR GLOCK 17/22

BY
**JM CUSTOM
KYDEX**



JM Custom Kydex now offers a package deal for a holster and two magazine pouches. These are the exact same rig I wear every day to fully and comfortably conceal a Glock 35 and two spare magazines. See www.jmcustomkydex.com/p/tom-givens-package-g17.html to order.

TACTICAL CONFERENCE *Accommodations*

The 19th annual Tactical Conference will be held on March 17-19, 2017. This time we will be using the excellent facilities of the Direct Action Resource Center (DARC) in North Little Rock, Arkansas. This event sold out in October and is now full, so if you waited too long you'll just have to try for the 2018 event. A schedule of trainers/topics will be sent to registered attendees soon. Meanwhile, if you haven't already made hotel reservations, consider doing that very soon, as the rooms will fill up. We have deals with two hotels which are both near the training site. Contact the hotels and tell them you are with the Conference for special discounted rates. Click the hotel logos below for details.



Hilton Garden Inn North Little Rock
4100 Glover Lane, North
Little Rock, AR 72117
(501) 945-7444

www.Rangemaster.com



Holiday Inn Express Little Rock Airport
3201 Bankhead Drive
Little Rock, AR 72206
844-548-1466

Something SPECIAL



Smith & Wesson Third Model Hand Ejector, .44 Special.

This is a good example of a professional gunman's revolver, circa 1930. This is a large frame, six shot revolver. The .44 Special cartridge had a reputation for extreme accuracy, good power, and low recoil. The stocks are an early type of plastic, made to look like stag, made by the Fitz company.

3-Day Instructor Development Course (Pistol)

In 2016, we taught six of these courses all over the US. This is an intensive, immersion-level course, which normally runs Friday through Sunday. Course time is split almost evenly between classroom instruction and range time, and each student fires between 900 and 1,000 rounds of ammunition. On the range, only half of the students shoot at any given time, while the other half coaches. This allows sufficient

trigger time to bring the students' skill level up dramatically, while also learning how to effectively coach others. We change range partners frequently, so each student gets to coach several others, seeing different issues and different equipment in use. This also allows each student to be coached by several others, who will each see the student's performance a bit differently. Classroom training includes a huge training manual, which serves as a valuable reference resource after the class. Upon completion of this course, you will be both a better shooter and a better coach and trainer.

Over the past decade, there have been literally tens of millions of first-time gun purchasers in this country. Unlike in the past, the most often cited reason for buying a gun was self-defense. This has created a huge demand for ground level training, so these new gun owners can exercise their rights safely, effectively and responsibly. That's the goal of this course. The next Instructor Development Course is scheduled for February 2017 in Homestead, FL (south of Miami). Visit our Eventbrite page for details. ■

Santa wants to know if you can fill in the blank to complete this popular post-Civil-War adage:

POP QUIZ

???

The first person to post the right answer on the Rangemaster Facebook page will be crowned this month's **WINNER!!!**



"Abe Lincoln may have freed all men, but _____ made them equal."



MERRY CHRISTMAS