

In This Issue

- ▶ BECOMING A FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR 1
- ▶ UPCOMING RANGEMASTER CLASSES 2
- ▶ PAUL HOWE'S CSAT STANDARDS 3
- ▶ SECRETS OF THE SHOTGUN 4
- ▶ DRILL OF THE MONTH 5

FEBRUARY 2019



Volume 23 • Issue 2

RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

There is an enormous need in this country for education about firearms and their use. Entertainment such as television and movies, along with anti-gun press and politicians leave the average American with no clue about the real use of firearms, either for recreation or more serious functions. Now, all fifty states in the U.S. have some form of a civilian handgun carry permit system, and in many states as much as 10% of the population has a carry permit. Add to that millions and millions of citizens who have guns in their homes. In the past several years gun sales have skyrocketed, and most of the buyers are first time gun owners according to NSSF research. All of this creates a real need for local, grassroots training opportunities accessible to the average person.

defending themselves and their loved ones against armed sociopaths. They seek knowledge and skill, and they practice to hone their craft. These people will make the commitment in time, money, and resources to attend major fixed facility schools like Gunsite or Thunder Ranch, and/or to seek out traveling instructors like John Farnam, Mas Ayoob, Dave Spaulding, or us. These "serious students" comprise a tiny fraction of gun owners, unfortunately. I travel all over the country teaching and attending various training events, and I see a lot of the same faces everywhere I go. The pool of truly serious students is depressingly small.

The other group I'll call "casual students." These are the typical carry permit holders, or the person who owns a gun to defend the home, or the shooter who goes to the range once or twice a year as a form of recreation. These folks make up the vast majority of gun owners in this country, and they have a desperate need for basic firearms training, for their own safety and that of those around them. This is the group that needs easy local access to competent basic instruction. That's where you come in.

To prepare yourself to help these folks become responsible

Becoming a Firearms INSTRUCTOR

For the purposes of this article, I'm going to divide the target population into two groups. One group are what I call "serious students." These are people who recognize the enormous responsibilities attached to carrying a firearm. They seek to become truly competent and to become capable of

defending themselves and their loved ones against armed sociopaths. They seek knowledge and skill, and they practice to hone their craft. These people will make the commitment in time, money, and resources to attend major fixed facility schools like Gunsite or Thunder Ranch, and/or to seek out traveling instructors like John Farnam, Mas Ayoob, Dave Spaulding, or us. These "serious students" comprise a tiny fraction of gun owners, unfortunately. I travel all over the country teaching and attending various training events, and I see a lot of the same faces everywhere I go. The pool of truly serious students is depressingly small.



by
Tom Givens

gun owners, there are several steps you can take to ensure your success. The first is something aspiring trainers often overlook, which is to learn about public speaking. Join Toastmasters, or some local civic organization, and learn to comfortably deliver a speech on some topic in front of an audience. Communication skills are critical. As a trainer, it doesn't matter how much you know about a subject if you cannot effectively transfer that knowledge to a student.

Some training in teaching methodology, the theory of adult learning, and class preparation would be of great benefit. For this, there are several sources. The oldest and the most widely recognized source is the NRA. Frankly, the Basic Pistol Shooting Instructor certification is very weak, and I do not consider it adequate preparation to teach anything beyond a Boy Scout Camp familiarization outing. The newer instructor courses for Personal Protection in the Home, and Personal Protection Outside the Home are improvements and would go a long way toward getting you ready to deliver instruction. If you are in law enforcement, the LE side of the NRA house offers detailed five-day courses that can put you much further down the path toward competency as a trainer.

In addition to the NRA, some of the better-known private training organizations offer instructor development courses. The Firearms Academy of Seattle, Paul Howe's CSAT school, Dave Spaulding, and Rangemaster all offer three to five-day programs to prepare shooters to teach other shooters according to that school's doctrines.

In addition to training geared specifically toward instructor development, take as many shooting courses as you can from a variety of trainers. There are enough well respected and highly competent traveling trainers now that regardless of where you live, there are solid training opportunities available to you. It is important to be exposed to different training styles. As a trainer, you might explain something to a new shooter three or four ways, and

the person still might not get it. Then, when explained one more way, the light bulb comes on and learning takes place. The best way to have several ways to explain technique is to see how different trainers put forth the information. I have been teaching firearms use for over forty years, and I still make a point of attending at least one course taught by someone else every year so I can steal, err... research their methods. In 2018, I took a class in February from Gabe White and then one in November from Ernest Langdon. In both cases, I picked up some useful gems and training tips.

Once you have had a solid foundation in shooting technique, competitive shooting can go a long way toward helping you find out what works well and what doesn't under a bit of pressure. Shooting for score in front of peers let's you develop the ability to function under some stress and provides a great way to see how a gun, holster or carry method works under more realistic conditions than a static range session. Shooting in IDPA or USPSA matches will boost both your gun-handling and shooting skills and your confidence in those skills.

Finally, attend some training conferences to network with other trainers, pick their brains, and generally broaden your training horizons. The discontinued National Tactical Invitational (NTI) was a great example of this, but there are still events like the NE Shooters Summit in New Hampshire, the Warrior's Conference (formerly the 1" to 1,000 Yards Conference) in Nevada, the Rangemaster Tactical Conference, the annual ILEETA convention and others.

For years, the Latin motto of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers was "Qui docet, discit." In English, "He who teaches learns." The very best way to master a subject is to learn to teach it. Become a trainer and you will become a better shooter, all the while performing a vital public service. ■



Qui docet, discit.

Upcoming Classes



Feb 22-24

Instructor Development (Pistol)
Lakeland, FL

Mar 15-17

Tactical Conference
NOLATAC, New Orleans, LA

April 12

Defensive Revolver
Athens, GA

April 13-14

Advanced Instructor Course
Athens, GA

April 26

Defensive Shotgun
KR Training, Lincoln, TX

April 27-28

Intensive Pistol Skills
KR Training, Lincoln, TX

May 4-5

Rangemaster Instructor Reunion
KR Training, Lincoln, TX

Eventbrite



PAUL HOWE'S CSAT

by
Tom
Givens

STANDARDS

Paul Howe should need no introduction. A former Delta operator, he fought through the Battle of Mogadishu featured in the film *Blackhawk Down* (among many other engagements). He now operates his own school in southeast Texas: Combat Shooting and Tactics (CSAT). Learn more about CSAT at combatshootingandtactics.com.

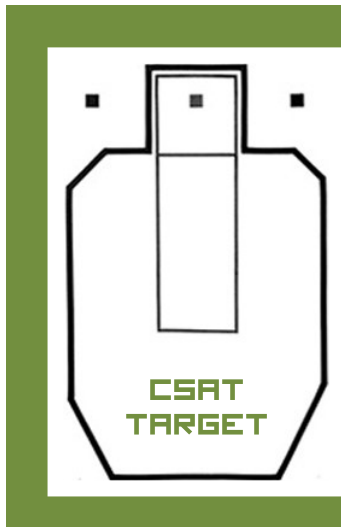
Howe has his own target, but you can substitute an IPSC cardboard silhouette just fine. For scoring, the head shot can be anywhere in the head. The body shots must be in the A-Zone. Anything else is a miss. The goal is 100% hits under the time limits.

According to Howe, the drills below were designed with three purposes in mind:

- 1** To establish a measurable standard for shooters to maintain.
- 2** To provide an efficient, stair-stepped workout program that covers all the bases.
- 3** To test the individual shooter at various times to show areas needing improvement.

The CSAT standards are provided to the right. When shooting these drills, only score shots in the center box or head of the CSAT target. Keep in mind that if an enemy turns sideways, that will be all the shooter has to engage, resulting in a worst case scenario.

These standards call for a total of 25 rounds. All drills are fired at 7 yards except the last one, which is at 25 yards. Instructors should be able to pass at least eight of the ten standards in one course of fire. Howe believes that if you can shoot this course of fire clean (cold), then that your handgun skills are good enough and training time should be spent on other areas. Give it a try. ■



- 1** One target @ 7 yards
From the ready: 1 shot
1 second
- 2** One target @ 7 yards
From the holster: 1 shot
1.7 seconds
- 3** One target @ 7 yards
From the ready: 2 shots
1.5 seconds
- 4** One target @ 7 yards
From the ready:
5 to the body, 1 to the head
3 seconds
- 5** Two targets @ 7 yards
From the ready:
2 shots on target #1
2 shots on target #2
3 seconds
- 6** One target @ 7 yards
From the ready:
2 shots weak hand
2 shots strong hand
5 seconds
- 7** One target @ 7 yards
From the ready (empty chamber):
1 shot, malfunction drill
3 seconds
- 8** One target @ 7 yards
From the ready:
2 shots, reload, 2 more shots
5 seconds
- 9** One target @ 7 yards
From rifle up (or simulated):
Transition to handgun, 1 shot
3.25 seconds
- 10** One target @ 25 yards
From the holster: 1 shot
kneeling
3.25 seconds



SECRETS OF THE SHOTGUN

by Tom Givens

In 2019 we have several shotgun courses, both for end users and for instructor candidates. There are some things you can do before class to maximize your learning opportunities, make things more comfortable for you, and generally allow you to have a better training experience.

The social or defensive use of the shotgun is radically different than its use in bird hunting or clay pigeon sports. To get the most out of these classes, please follow these directions.

Unless you have already had it shortened, the butt stock of your shotgun is too long. When we say the "length of pull" (LOP) that means the straight-line distance from the trigger to the butt plate. For smaller stature persons, most females, and men under about 5'7", a 12-inch LOP is about right. If you are between 5'8" and 6' tall, a 12½- to 13-inch LOP will probably work fine. The factory length of pull on most shotguns runs from 13¾ to 14¼ inches, which is just too long. You can replace a butt stock that is too long with a shorter aftermarket stock from Hogue, Mag Pul or Speedfeed, or a gunsmith can shorten your existing stock for a small fee. I recommend the MagPul, which is easily adjustable for LOP.

Your magazine needs to hold at least four rounds. If your shotgun has a

plug in the magazine to limit capacity to two rounds please remove the plug before class.

You should have some means of carrying spare ammunition on the gun. A side saddle or a butt cuff are both fine (whichever you prefer). A sling is optional, your choice.

Either a pump action or semiautomatic shotgun are fine for this class. The gold standard is the 870 Remington Police pump or the Beretta 1301 Tactical for autoloaders.

Your barrel length should be between 18 and 22 inches. Barrels longer than 22 inches will be cumbersome and awkward in our context. A shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches long is a Class III weapon. If you legally possess a short barrel shotgun feel free to use it in class. Have a copy of your ATF paperwork for the short barrel shotgun with you.

You will need birdshot for a lot of the manipulation practice. Please be aware that some really cheap birdshot has zinc or steel shell heads instead of brass and may cause extraction problems in your shotgun. Spending a little more money on quality shot shells is something you will be glad you did.

You will need a certain amount of buckshot; how much depends on the

type of class. We prefer standard load eight- or nine-pellet 00 Buck. Magnum loads only increase recoil and will beat you up with no advantage. Standard velocity or reduced-recoil 00 Buck will do just fine. Again, cheaper shells will not pattern as well as premium loads. If you want absolute maximum performance, I suggest Federal Premium 8-pellet 00 Buck with the Flite Control wad, or the equivalent Hornady load with their Versa-Tite wad (same thing).

You will need a cooler with lunch, snacks, and plenty to drink. We will break for lunch at the range. Be sure you have what you need to sustain you through the day.

We look forward to working with you in class. The shotgun is a wonderful instrument. It can be devastatingly effective in trained hands, and this class is a lot of fun. See you there. ■



Drill of the Month

In 2019, we'll be running a Drill of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The goal is help motivate folks to get to the range and actually shoot their defensive weapons, and to have some fun in the process.

When we post the drill every month, we encourage you to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page. Each month I will randomly select one of the posts and award the shooter a \$25.00 discount certificate to use toward the purchase of a book, DVD, or training course.

Congratulations to January's Drill of the Month winner: Dale Miller. When I said the drill should be shot cold, Dale took that requirement very seriously! Dale reports that although he did drop a few shots, he was pleased with his performance given the frigid temperatures. Great job powering through tough conditions to get the job done. That effort has earned you a \$25 Rangemaster discount. Attaboy!

- Tom



The February Drill

YOUR MISSION...
SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT:

February's Drill of the Month is the CSAT Standards designed by Paul Howe. The course of fire is explained on page 3 of this newsletter. Don't forget to post your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page for a chance to win a \$25 Rangemaster discount!

PAUL HOWE'S

CSAT STANDARDS

facebook

