



Tactical Talk

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New Law, Guns in Vehicle Now Legal in Tennessee Without a Permit

T.C.A. § 39-17-1307— New law takes effect on July 1. People can carry firearms (pistol, rifle, shotgun) **with intent to go armed in a motor vehicle without a handgun carry permit so long as they are in lawful possession of the vehicle.** Excluded are gov/work vehicles where employers prohibit firearms/ ammo. Without a carry permit the firearm must remain in the vehicle. A Handgun Carry Permit is still required to carry a handgun on your person.

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2014 Special Events & Off-Site Courses

- Aug 29-31** Firearms Instructor Development
Ft Lauderdale, FL (indoors)
Contact Richard Smith, rascgc@aol.com
- Sept 6** One Day Pistol Skills
Eustace, TX
Contact Steve Moses, steve_moses@msn.com
- Sept 7** Defensive Shotgun
ETRPC, Longview, TX
Contact [Steve Moses@msn.com](mailto:Steve_Moses@msn.com)
- Sept 13-14** Combative Pistol II
Americus, Georgia
Contact Dennis Raines, seacapn2005@yahoo.com
- Sept 19-21** Firearms Instructor Development Course
Chandler, OK
Contact Spencer Keepers
spencerkeepers@yahoo.com
- Oct 3-5** Firearms Instructor Development Course DPC
Dallas, Texas
Contact Wayne Dobbs, detwd114@yahoo.com
- Oct 18-19** Combative Pistol II
KR Training Austin, TX
Contact Karl Rehn, rehn@krtraining.com
- Nov 1-2** Combative Pistol 1,
CCFSA Wilmington, Ohio
Contact Eric Daniels, handkp30@gmail.com



We still have several Firearms Instructor Development Courses in 2014, including in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, Chandler, Oklahoma, and Dallas, Texas.

Guns for Senior Citizens

By Rangemaster Instructor, Craig Harper

It pains me to say this: I've reached senior citizen status. Suddenly I'm getting reduced cost or free coffee at Starbucks and McDonald's. It always surprises me.

Reaching this arbitrary point got me thinking about firearms for seniors. It's not a specific age; it is the physical abilities of seniors that matters most. I've not attempted to keep track of the number of senior students – those over 65 – I have seen over the years but it's a substantial number. Several of those seniors are memorable because of their performance and how they met the challenges of age and defensive shooting.

In general, selecting a personal defense firearm for seniors is no different than any other person. The gun has to be:

Reliable. The gun must work when you need it.

Effective. The gun must be of adequate caliber to stop the attacker. Any gun can kill. Our goal is to not be killed.

Wearable. You can't save your life if you don't have the gun on your person.

User-friendly. You must be able to operate all the controls and the gun must fit your hand.

Yet when it comes to firearm selection, many seniors face challenges that younger people do not.

Often seniors are on fixed incomes and quality firearms are can be expensive. I recall a couple in their 70s who came to class with matching Sig 239s. When asked why they choose those pistols they cited the reason above and added this: while the Sigs were expensive, they budgeted carefully so that they could be assured of having good guns. I thought that was a wise approach. Better to have a gun you can rely on than a cheap piece of junk that was affordable at the moment.

A couple in a recent class was age 86 and 84. The gentleman shot a 98 on the state test with no misses and the lady (who had never fired a gun before) shot a 96 with no misses. The gentleman used our Glock 19 pistol while the lady used our Smith M & P in 9mm. The guns fit their hands, the 9mm recoil is mild, and the trigger press was light enough for their aged hands. They used the best guns for their individual situations.

Seniors may have strength issues caused by aging or impairment like arthritis. These issues can be overcome with a little forethought and experimentation. Very large frame guns will probably not work for most seniors because of size and weight. Heavy calibers like .45 ACP or .44 Magnum probably have too much recoil. Eight-pound trigger pulls on double action pistols or revolvers may be more than what old hands can cope with. The good news is there is a wide selection of polymer and steel guns with compact and sub-compact frames that can fit older hands while not punishing them while shooting. They have lighter trigger pulls that allow seniors to shoot accurately. They are light and easy to carry too.

Here's an example of a bad decision in handgun selection. A female friend of mine is 70-years old and has arthritis and vision problems. She purchased a Glock 23 at my suggestion. As expected, the gun fit her hand, she could see the sights and the trigger pull was easy for her. She shot well in class. The only problem was reliably running the slide; her grip was weak. After a period of time, she sold the Glock and bought a 2" S & W J-frame revolver because, "I don't have to worry about the slide. And it's smaller."

The result is she now has a gun that she can't shoot well; the frame is too small for her hands, she can't see the sights, and the trigger press is too much for her. The gun punishes her hands when she shoots. Yet she stubbornly hangs onto the revolver. The slide problem could have been easily overcome with some additional instruction.

Seniors need firearms as they are often seen as easy prey by thugs. Today there are plenty of reliable and affordable guns that seniors can easily handle to help protect them. It just takes some informed decision-making. We can help.



Rangemaster

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	DVD: "Introduction to Self Defense Handguns" (30 min.)	\$ 14.95	
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Mental Preparation for Self Defense

By Tom Givens

Many people, including many who have a carry permit, are not sufficiently prepared to mentally deal with the reality of a criminal attack. Simply owning a gun is not enough. One needs to accept the actual threat level that exists, and be mentally prepared to act in defense of self or family. For many years I worked as an investigator, and I had a lot of opportunity to speak with crime victims. In addition to asking the relevant questions about the crime, I used these opportunities to inquire about the mental state of the victim at the time of the attack. I found that a very large percentage of these victims had one of two thoughts going on in their minds when they were attacked. These thoughts were "I can't believe this is happening" or "Why would someone want to hurt me?". These questions leave the victim in a mental denial loop that freezes them into inaction, and wastes the precious seconds in which they could have defended themselves. Let's look at the thoughts separately.

"I can't believe this is happening!" This is the result of not knowing the actual threat level, and of continually convincing themselves that violent crime only happens to other people. Well, guess what? To everyone else on the planet, YOU are "other people"!

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is a research unit within the U.S. Department of Justice. For the year 2006, the BJS says that in the United States there were 5,685,620 violent crimes (Murder, Aggravated Assault, Robbery and Forcible Rape). That's right, over 5.6 million, of just these crimes. That is one serious violent crime for every 54 people in the country. I often hear permit holders say, "The odds of me needing my gun are 1 in a million.". Wrong! The odds are 1 in 54, just for the four violent crimes listed here.

The BJS recently released the figures for 2011, showing an increase in these violent crimes nationwide. In 2011, there were 5.8 million violent crimes, a 17% increase over 2010. Urban areas experienced 1 violent crime per 37 persons. Suburban areas had 1 violent crime per 50 residents. That is a national statistic, however, so let's look at Tennessee, specifically.

According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), in 2011 there were 582,893 crimes reported in Tennessee, with a population of 6,403,353. That is roughly one crime for every eleven Tennesseans. That includes all crime, however. The crimes you would use a firearm to defend against involve violence and the possibility of death or serious injury to the victim. Here are some of those crime totals for Tennessee in 2011, with the clearance rate in parentheses.

Murder 390 (264)
Aggravated Assault 28,802 (16,811)
Kidnap/Abduction 1,175 (598)
Robbery 8,168 (2,246)
Forcible Rape 2,131 (839)
Forcible Sodomy 532 (243)
Sexual Assault with Object 273 (85)

TOTAL= 41,471 in Tennessee, in 2011 alone.

That is an average of 114 of these serious violent crimes EVERY DAY, just in the state of Tennessee. So, as you can see, the odds of needing your handgun are not that remote. Instead of "I can't believe this is happening!", your mental response must be "I knew this might happen, now I must deal with it!". If we truly

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accept the fact that violent crime can occur anywhere, at any time, we can avoid that denial loop and instead, immediately act to defend ourselves.

“Why would anybody want to hurt me?” This is the other thoroughly irrelevant question. Actually, whether the attacker is a gang member seeking higher status, or a career criminal who thinks working is for suckers, or a mentally deranged person, or someone with a real or imagined grievance against you—it doesn't matter! The only relevant issue is that he is trying to hurt or kill you and you must make him stop. Later, in safety, his motivations can be dissected, but right now he must be stopped. Now, let's look at some other mental issues.

“I only carry my gun when I might need it.” So, you truly believe that you can foretell the future? You and I need to go to Las Vegas! I'll make certain that nothing bad happens to you, and we'll split your winnings. As of May, 2014, we had our 64th Rangemaster student involved in an incident in which he/she had to use a handgun in self defense. Not one of those students got out of bed on the fateful day thinking they would need a gun that day, but they all did need one. In 61 of those incidents, the student won the fight, and only 3 were injured. To the best of my knowledge, however, three Rangemaster students have been murdered, after taking some training with us. All three were killed in separate street robberies. Essentially, they were executed for the contents of their pockets. What else did these three have in common?

They were not armed on that day. They decided that they would not need a gun that day, they were wrong, and they are dead. Let's see, 61 out of 61 who were armed won, and 3 out of 3 who were unarmed lost and died. I don't know about you, but I see a clue imbedded there.

“I only carry my gun when I go to _____” This is a variation of the previous mistake. That means that when you carry a gun, you are actually going somewhere where you think you might need a gun. Why go there?

“I have a gun with me, that takes care of everything.” It would be great if things were that simple, but they are not. Your gun will not observe or identify a potential threat. Your gun will not jump out of the holster and defend you. In fact, your gun will not do anything. YOU must do things for yourself. The gun is only a tool.

When in public, always pay attention to the people around you. Look for persons, behavior, or circumstances that appear to be out of place, unusual, unexplained, and therefore, suspicious. Any time you see something or someone who looks out of place, ask yourself, “Why?”. Why is that guy leaned against the wall in the parking garage? Why have I seen that same man in the last three shops in the mall? Why are those two men in “thug wear” sitting in that parked car on the lot? Why is that man just standing there 10 feet from an ATM? Criminals are not invisible and they do not beam down out of the Mother Ship to attack. Get your head up, open your eyes, see what is around you. When out in public, you should be able to answer two questions at any given moment: “Who is around me?” “What are they doing?”

If you plan to carry a handgun for self defense, I strongly urge you to obtain a copy of *Principles of Personal Defense* by Jeff Cooper, available on Amazon quite cheaply. This short book is actually an essay Jeff wrote in the 1960's, but it is 100% relevant today. Read it about once a year to keep your mental attitude focused and sharp.

Accept that violence happens to good people. Accept that violence can occur anywhere there are people.

Accept that when violence comes to you, only you can protect yourself. You are actually the first responder.

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www.rangemaster.com



We believe the "why" is as important as the "how". Here, Tom explains some fine points during a classroom session, Firearms Instructor Development Course, Ohio.

Training with the shotgun is vital to gaining real skill with this awesome weapon. We have a one day shotgun course at the East Texas Rifle & Pistol Club in Longview, Texas, on September 7.

