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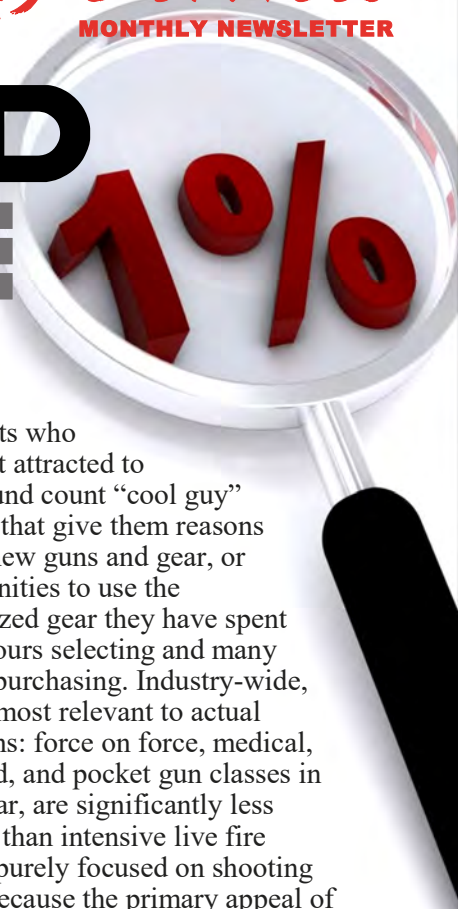
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Karl Rehn is the owner and chief instructor at KR Training, outside Austin, Texas. He is a master in IDPA, a USPSA Grand Master, and a highly trained practitioner of the defensive arts. Karl presents a topic at the Tactical Conference each year and is an accomplished trainer. Here are some of his observations about getting more gun owners to train.

BEYOND THE

by
Karl Rehn

- Tom



Over the past decade, the number of guns, gun owners, carry permits, and training schools has increased. It's been a period of growth for many parts of the firearms industry, including those that teach courses meeting state minimums. Many gun media sources (blogs, podcasts, TV shows, print magazines) all recommend getting training as important and essential for gun owners, but data from my home state of Texas indicates that less than 1% of all carry permit holders take a class or shoot any kind of competition even once a year. Why?

recommended to them. They've had no training in drawing from concealment and never practice that skill. "Practice" is occasional target shooting, with no specific training goal and no drills shot for score. They believe that in an actual situation, they will be able to use their gun effectively and make sound use of force decisions. They believe that all gun owners should get more training, and it's on their list to do "someday," along with eating better and getting more exercise. But it's not a priority. The odds of needing those higher-level gun skills are as improbable as winning the lottery.

hobbyists who are most attracted to high round count "cool guy" courses that give them reasons to buy new guns and gear, or opportunities to use the customized gear they have spent many hours selecting and many dollars purchasing. Industry-wide, classes most relevant to actual situations: force on force, medical, unarmed, and pocket gun classes in particular, are significantly less popular than intensive live fire classes purely focused on shooting skills, because the primary appeal of training isn't based in realistic risk assessment. Popular courses are more fun.

[D]ata from my home state of Texas indicates that less than 1% of all carry permit holders take a class or shoot any kind of competition even once a year..."

Meet Mr. and Ms. Good Enough. They have a gun, easily passed state minimums, mostly just carry "in the car," sometimes carrying on body using a low-quality mass market holster the other untrained folks on their favorite online forum

All the classes take a whole weekend, and that's a big commitment of time and money for something they will probably never need, doing an activity they don't really enjoy as a regular hobby.

They are different from the traditional customers for multi day training classes: dedicated gun

Surveys from the National Shooting Sports Foundation show that time, cost, and social interaction with family and friends are important factors in getting people to the range and motivating them to return. Academic research on the appeal of video games and gambling shows that people like frequent rewards (virtual or tangible). So, any

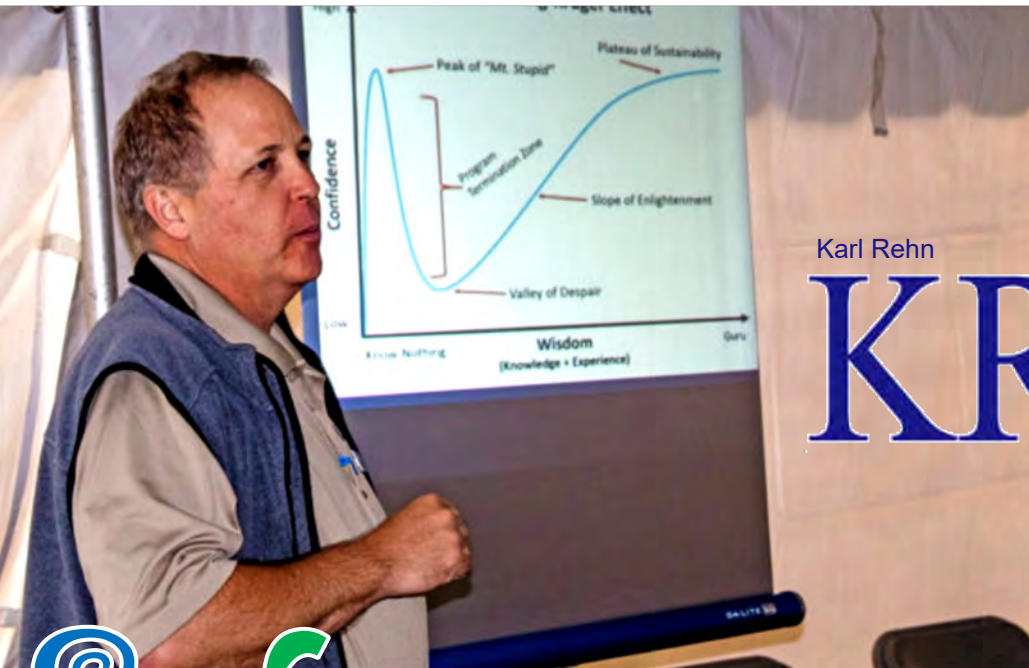
approach that appeals to the Good Enough market needs to consider those issues.

My approach, implemented several years ago and intensified during the ammo shortage that occurred after Sandy Hook, was to restructure my curriculum into two, three and four hour shorter courses with lower round counts. This addressed the issues of time and cost. As the shorter courses began to attract the Good Enough students, I invested in loaner gear, particularly holsters, because so many were showing up for their first

“learn to draw from concealment” class with a low quality holster purchased at a big box store the night before class. And having loaner gear available attracted students that liked the idea of getting to see, feel and use a variety of higher quality holsters before investing in serious carry gear.

I expanded the range of courses I offered to incorporate non-shooting courses: medical, unarmed and emergency preparedness, to reach a broader audience beyond just those with carry permits. And I offer a variety of short courses each

weekend, sometimes pairing two complementary courses back to back on the same day, and sometimes offering one basic and one advanced course, to reach both ends of the customer spectrum. It’s much easier to design a new short course than it is to develop a 16-hour or longer course, so adding new classes to the program is easier. New courses appeal to students looking for something new or focused on a specific topic. That’s a very different approach from the traditional method of designing a few two- or three-day courses that are offered on a regular schedule. For local trainers, it builds a long-term student client base. For traveling trainers, making part of a multi-day class a stand-alone short course that could be offered to a larger audience provides a way to introduce the “Good Enough” market to their program and build interest for a return visit. ■



Karl Rehn

KR TRAINING

The full presentation of this material, with more in-depth commentary, can be found at blog.krtraining.com. If you implement any of these ideas, let me know how they work for you, and if you discover other approaches that work.

- Tom

Safe PLACES AND Safe NEIGHBORHOODS

by John Farnam

Last weekend, two prominent physicians, a couple, living in the “high-rent district” of Boston, MA, were victims of a home invasion. Both were tied-up by a single, armed burglary suspect. Then, while thus helpless, both had their throats slit and subsequently bled to death! One of them, prior to dying, sent a pitiable text message to friends, pleading for help. None arrived!



This is from Master Trainer John Farnam and relates to an incident that occurred in May. I had planned to write about this, but John said it all very well. Take heed.

- Tom

This is similar to the Bataclan Theater attack in Paris, France in 2015, where innocent theater-goers, being held hostage by Islamic terrorists, tweeted desperate messages pleading for police to come and save them. None arrived there either. All hostages were murdered, many in hideous ways!

Back in Boston, the single suspect was arrested shortly after the double-murder, but not before a brief shootout with police. Suspect was wounded, but not fatally. No police were injured.

Continued Next Page...

LESSONS:

1 Affluence, education, intellect, high-end employment, political connections, status, personal prestige, residence in an ostensibly "safe," high-end, high-rise with lots of "security" in place. All wonderful, but none of that will not stop, scarcely even deter, violent criminals, as we see!



John Farnam

2 Every burglary suspect is extremely dangerous! Never regard criminals, even petty ones, as "amateurish," nor "harmless."

3 The closest to "safety" any of us will ever get is continuous, split-second access to loaded guns, as well as having undergone requisite training in their serious use. Either go armed, with a firm, righteous plan for personal victory, or be comfortable in your chosen status of "voluntary victim," and then be prepared to wittingly accept the consequences. Don't cry "unfair," when you're unprepared (not that it will matter)!

4 Never surrender to criminals. Never let them tie you up. Be ever committed, and fully prepared, to fight to the death—effectively and decisively!

Personal preparation and commitment are literally the difference between life and death. Confront these facts honestly, while you still can! ■

Editor's Note: The suspect who was captured after a shoot-out with police was an illegal alien who had been previously convicted of two counts of bank robbery. He served nine months for those robberies. That's right, months, not years. Had he been in prison where he belongs, this couple would still be alive today.

through increased terror attacks. They firmly believe that they can break our will to fight through the use of terror tactics here INCONUS, and thus eliminate any U.S. interference in the Middle East as they establish their caliphate.

As we've already seen, Al Qaeda, and now ISIS, are calling on all 'believers' to strike at U.S. society through the use of small, locally-formed terror cells and what we refer to as 'lone wolf' attacks. You can read about it in ISIS's on-line magazine "Rumiyah," just as you can in Al Qaeda's "Inspire" magazine.

Rumiyah points out that locally-formed terror cells are responsible to finance themselves, so we can expect them to do so by robbing banks and armored couriers, and eventually through drug-trafficking in cooperation with the cartels. The author notes that it is a mistake to write off these 'lone wolf'

Keith Jones is a retired Deputy Sheriff who served for over 30 years with the Marion County Sheriff's Office (Indianapolis, IN). He saw combat as a Marine in Viet Nam and on the streets of Indianapolis, and he is an old friend of ours. In this piece, Keith offers commentary on another article: "Hostage Rescue in the Age of ISIS," by James A. Gagliano (posted May 3, 2017 in *The Havok Journal*, a veterans-centered online publication).

- Tom

TIME TO CHANGE OUR THINKING ON HOSTAGE RESCUES

by Keith Jones

James Gagliano's "Hostage Rescue in the Age of ISIS" isn't a brief article (three pages), but it's one that I hope you'll make time to read.

According to the author, and as many of us already believe, ISIS is at a crossroads. They need to hold ground and control areas in order to establish their much-anticipated caliphate. The trouble is, they are an insurgency.

In order to control large areas of land, they've got to establish a conventional military presence and infrastructure. However, to do so makes them vulnerable since they can't go toe-to-toe with the more powerful military formations of free nations who are much better equipped, and much better-skilled and experienced at conventional warfare.

Gagliano says that ISIS is working to establish a more dominant presence in the United States



attackers as simply mentally ill, as the mainstream media so often attempts to do.

This leads to the main thrust of the article: that our long-time methodology of "Isolate, Contain, and Negotiate" in dealing with hostage-taking events is a grave mistake when applied to radicalized terrorists (as done in the Pulse nightclub incident in Orlando). If these terrorists 'negotiate,' it is only in order to delay a police assault on their position so they'll have time to set explosives and harden their defenses. They will never negotiate in good faith. Never. The Israelis learned this long ago.

The author posits that a hostage-taking by militarized extremists makes traditional hostage-negotiating obsolete, and that law enforcement shouldn't unnecessarily delay in taking action. He also argues that local SWAT teams start making more use of controlled explosive charges to aid the speed and shock of their building entries.

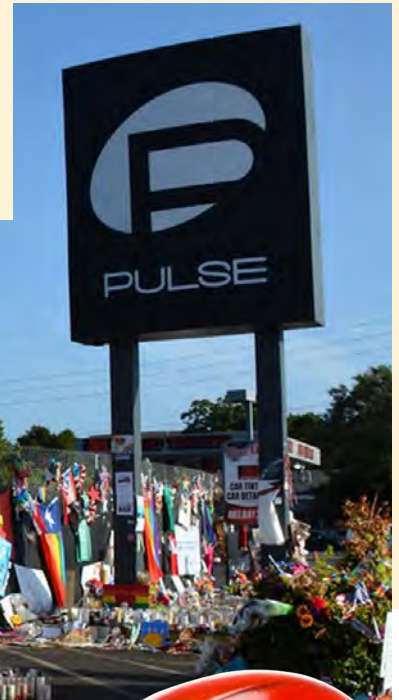
My own feeling is that it is better to prevent a high-profile hostage-taking than to deal with the horrific bloodshed and agony of such an event after it has occurred. No matter

their commitment, no matter how fast they drive, our first-responders likely won't arrive until the hostage-takers are already pretty much in control of the scene.

Thus, the need for an armed "first defender," whether it is a designated member of the group, or a professional security officer. Experience has shown us, worldwide, that terror attacks fail the most when subjected to focused defensive gunfire the moment the attackers show their hand.

It doesn't matter if it's a hospital, a church service, a downtown hotel, a grade school field trip, or a family reunion at a public park. Somebody should be designated as the 'first defender'. In a sense, it's really not much different than appointing someone to be the 'designated driver' when you and a group of friends go out for a night on the town.

You can read James Gagliano's article at in *The Havok Journal* at havokjournal.com/nation/hostage-rescue. I hope you enjoy it. ■



Ankle Holsters for BUGs

by Tom Givens



Many of us carry a small handgun as a second (or back-up) gun, in addition to our larger, primary pistol. There are several good reasons for this.

First, I teach all over the US, and everywhere I go I see good quality, well maintained handguns break during classes. By "break" I do not mean malfunction. I mean a part in the gun literally fails, putting the gun out of action. If your firing pin, extractor, takedown latch, etc breaks, the gun is a paperweight until you can procure and install a new part. If it happens in classes, it may happen in a fight. If your primary gun becomes non-functional, a second gun could be a literal life saver.

Second, you can give the back-up gun to a trained but unarmed companion. Sometimes when I pick up a colleague at the airport, I loan them my BUG until we get to the hotel and he can unpack and put on his own sidearm. Third, in a struggle a BUG may be more accessible than your primary gun.

There are several ways to carry this secondary handgun, and over the years I have settled on ankle carry for mine. Here are my reasons for this decision.

Pocket carry just has too many limitations. It is damn near impossible to draw a gun from a pocket holster while seated, whether in a car or at a desk or table. Most people spend way

too much time seated for this carry mode. In a tangled hand to hand fight, pocket carry would be difficult to draw from. It's also very difficult to get a gun out of a right front pocket with the left hand, and vice versa.

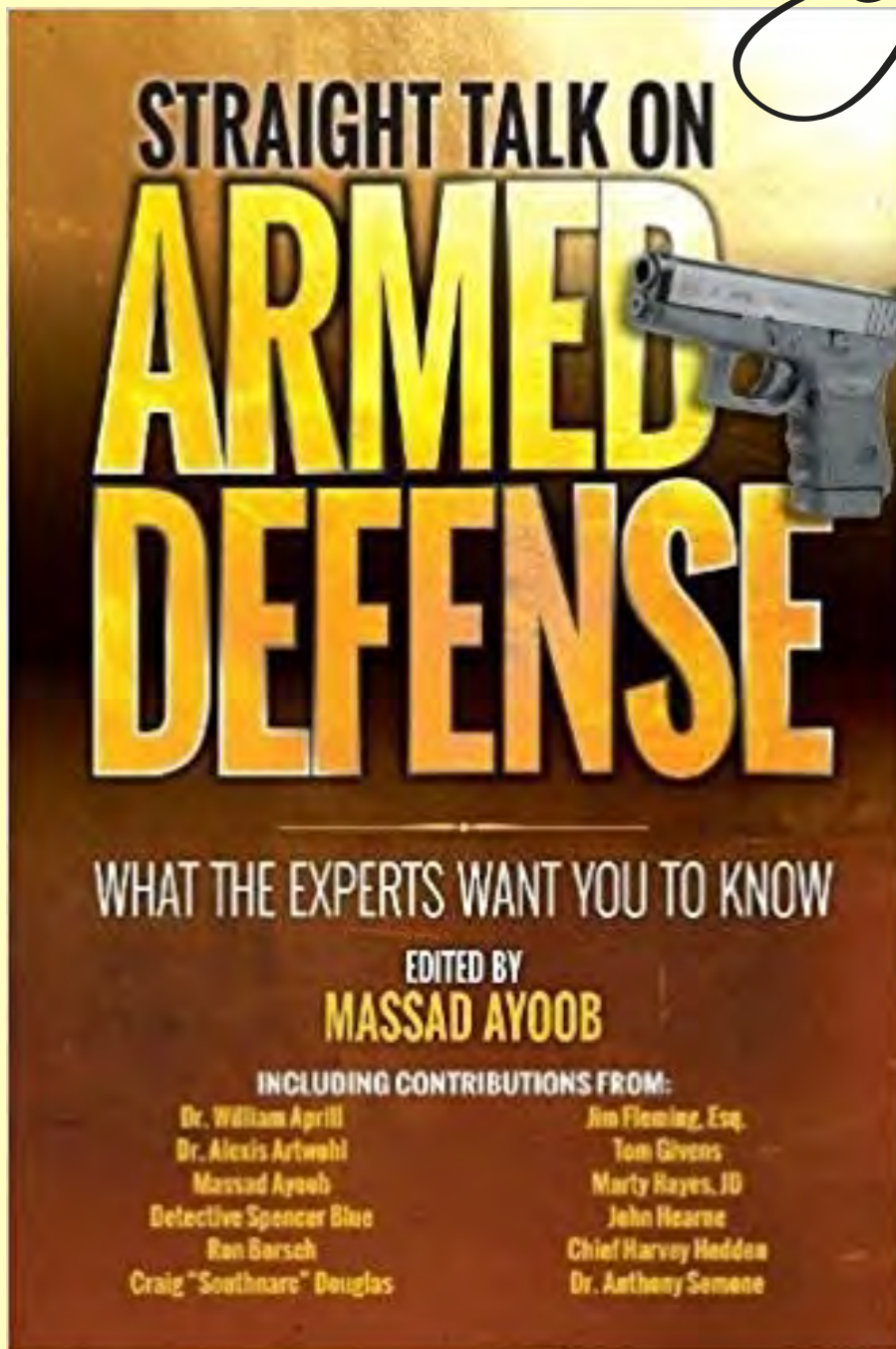
Some people simply wear the back-up gun on the belt, on the support side, with the primary gun on the dominant hand side. My belt already has enough stuff on it, so I don't care much for this mode, either.

(Continued on Page 6) Carrying a handgun in a well-designed ankle

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More than a single perspective, Straight Talk on Armed Defense offers an in-depth, full-spectrum study of the most important self-defense and concealed carry topics from today's top experts. The timely reference gathers the sage advice of Massad Ayoob and 11 other respected armed-defense authorities to deliver decades of practical know-how in one convenient volume.

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Contributors:

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- Alexis Artwohl**
- Massad Ayoob**
- Spencer Blue**
- Ron Borsch**
- Craig Douglas**
- Jim Fleming**
- Tom Givens**
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- John Hearne**
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SAGE ADVICE
FROM
SELF-DEFENSE EXPERTS



holster solves many of these issues. The ankle gun is actually quite accessible from a seated position. While driving, a gun on the inside of the left ankle (for a right-handed person) is easily accessed by the right hand. Even on my back on the ground, I can get to my ankle gun with either hand if necessary. A well-made ankle rig is comfortable and discrete.

There are several very well designed and well-made choices among ankle holsters. Over the years I have tried several, and have settled on some that are very comfortable,

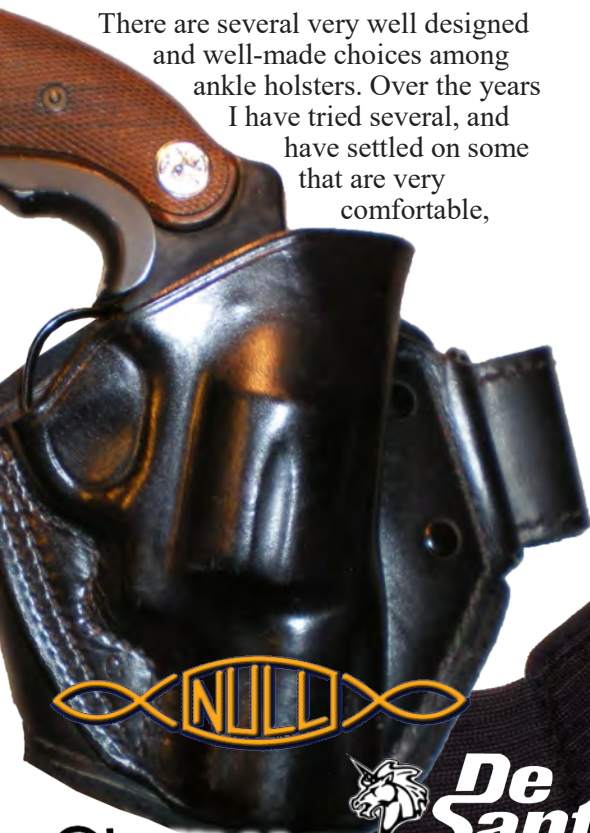
adequately secure, protect the pistol from the elements, and allow rapid acquisition. My favorites include the ankle holsters from Alessi, Ken Null, DeSantis, and Galco.

If I had to rank them in order of preference, the Alessi and Null rigs would be tied for first place. Both use Velcro fasteners to secure the holster to your lower calf. Both use precise molding to secure the handgun quite well, while allowing a very quick presentation. Both have a compressed felt backer on the holster, to protect your leg. In classes, I routinely set up a double feed in my primary handgun and demonstrate dropping my primary handgun and drawing my BUG from one of these ankle rigs in under two seconds, from "Go" signal to first shot.

that closes with Velcro. In the revolver version, an ingenious bit of leather sits behind the trigger guard to keep the gun in place until you grasp it and pull firmly. This is a very comfortable and fast ankle set-up. The Galco version has a thumb-break security snap and very lightweight construction.

Both the DeSantis and Galco holsters have a sheepskin pad behind the holster to cushion your leg.

Ankle carry works best with handguns that weigh around one pound, or very little more. Among revolvers, the Airweight Smith & Wessons like the Model 642 and the Colt Cobra or Agent are perfect for this role. In autopistols, the S&W Shield and the Kahr P9 fit the



Alessi Holsters for the Professional...

My next choice is the DeSantis rig. This is an elastic rig



bill quite well. Wear the thing for three or four weeks and you'll hardly notice it is there from that point on. You may never need that back-up gun, but if you do, you'll need it very badly. ■

POP QUIZ

IN THE OLD WEST, it was not uncommon for a man to carry a single action revolver and a lever action rifle chambered for the same cartridge, so he could use the same ammunition in either. The most common caliber used in this set-up was the:

- A) .38 Special
- B) .44/40
- C) .45 Colt
- D) .25/20

Be the first to post the right answer on the Rangemaster Facebook page, and YOU will be this month's

WINNER!

