

In This Issue

- ▶ TAC-CON IN THE BIG EASY 1
- ▶ GOSPEL OF THE GAUGE 2
- ▶ UPCOMING CLASSES 3
- ▶ GABE WHITE AAR 4
- ▶ RANGEMASTER INSTRUCTOR
REUNION & CONFERENCE 4
- ▶ TAC-CON-18 IS A WRAP! 4
- ▶ POP QUIZ! 6

APRIL 2018

RANGE • MASTER

Volume 22 • Issue 4

RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE **REAL** WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JOIN US IN THE *BIG EASY*

TAC CON

2019

RANGE • MASTER



The 2019 Tac Con will be held on March 15-17, 2019, at the NOLATAC Training Center, just outside New Orleans. This is an impressive brand-new facility, with lots of amenities, including an on-site restaurant. Weather should be perfect in March and the attractions of New Orleans are just minutes away.

This will be our best event ever, with the usual trainers returning plus some exciting new talent. There will be hands on training with handgun, carbine, shotgun, empty hands skills, medical skills, and role play scenarios. Classroom lectures will cover legal issues, criminal

psychology, personal tactics and much more. Trainers will include Tom and Lynn Givens, Massad Ayoob, John Farnam, Southnarc, John Hearne, Tiffany Johnson, Gabe White, Tim Chandler, William Aprill, Claude Werner, Caleb Causey, Cecil Burch, and many more. This has become the premiere training event of the year.

Just a reminder: because of administrative nightmares we've had the past couple of years, for 2019 we are only accepting registrations for Tac Con 2019 via the Eventbrite link, shown below. Please don't mail in any checks or money orders; they will just be

returned. The Eventbrite system gives us your name for the roster, puts you on an email list, and generates your waiver, and only takes you about two minutes to do it all. This is better for both you and us. Thanks, and we'll see you in New Orleans!

To register, please visit:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-tactical-conference-2019-new-orleans-tickets-44537121730> .

Eventbrite



Gospel of the Gauge

by Tom Givens



The Beretta 1301T

It is no secret that I am a huge fan of the serious social shotgun. In the military context there are far more useful weapons, but for the urban police officer or the armed citizen, nothing beats the performance of a 12 gauge loaded with buckshot when dealing with armed human predators at close range. The Remington 870 has been in continuous production since 1950, and to date over 10 million have been sold. That's the shotgun I got my initial training on and the one I have the most trigger time with. It's no surprise then to look in my gun room and find four of them, including 18" barrels and a 14" shorty.

A couple of years ago, I was intrigued by the introduction of the Beretta 1301 series, especially the 1301 Tactical, or 1301T model. I handled one at SHOT when they were first unveiled, and I really liked it. Since then, I have observed quite a few of them in classes, at both the student level and the instructor level. This allowed me to see thousands of rounds fired through them, many in stressful drills. That's a pretty good way to get a feel for a particular model's handling characteristics and reliability.

I also shot several individual specimens belonging to my students, and liked the way they handled. I have been impressed by the lack of observed malfunctions and the degree of enthusiasm shown by their owners — so much so that I bought one for myself last year and began working with it on the range.

In the photo to the right, you see Rangemaster certified shotgun instructor Tim Chandler with his 1301T in a recent course. You can't see Chris, but just to Tim's left is Chris Baker, also with a 1301T, his sporting a red dot optical sight. When trained, experienced shotgunners like these guys show up with a specific model shotgun, most would call that a clue.

At an overall length of 37.8 inches, the 1301T is almost exactly the same length as an 870 with the same 18.5" barrel length. At just 6 pounds, 6 ounces empty, the 1301T is, however, a pound lighter than the 870, making it a bit faster to mount and swing. The 1301T fires either 2 3/4" or 3" shells, although I see no use whatever for 3" shells in our context. The well designed butt stock has a 13" length of pull, suitable for modern shooting technique for the vast majority of American adults. Current standard magazine capacity is 5 rounds, plus one in the chamber.

The sights on the 1301T include a square ramp front post protected by wings, and a fully adjustable "ghost ring" type aperture sight, plus a small section of integral rail in front of the rear sight, for attaching an optic.

On my own 1301T, I have made some modifications to suit my individual preferences, although I freely admit the gun is quite suitable for defensive work right out of the box, with the one exception that I will note. On my gun, I replaced the factory rear sight assembly with the CROM (Co-Witness Ready Optic Mount) unit from Aridus



Industries. The factory rear sight/optic rail unit is made primarily of plastic, and just does not look rugged to me. The CROM is steel, simpler, and more compact. The bolt charging handle on the 1301T is quite large and easy to use, so I left it alone. I attached a leather five round butt cuff to the stock, anchoring it with a couple of wood screws on either side, at the rear. This keeps the butt cuff full of heavy shotgun shells from crawling forward under recoil. I also added a Nordic one-shot magazine extension,

giving me a six-round magazine capacity. With six rounds in the magazine and five more on the butt cuff, I have enough in/on the gun to handle just about any emergency. That's almost all I've changed on mine, with one important addition.

The factory bolt release lever is located on the right side of the receiver, under the ejection port. It is well situated and sized for easy operation with either hand. The factory part, however, doubles as a bolt release when depressed at its front, and a quick magazine unloading device when pressed at its rear. Unfortunately, inadvertently pressing the rear of the catch results in a malfunction you have to stop and clear. This would be a deal breaker if it were not fixable, but fortunately, there are simple remedies. In my

case, I installed a replacement bolt release lever from Aridus Industries. It only depresses in the front, eliminating the issue. Another way to fix this is a simple plastic shroud available from Tau Development Group or from Beretta, for under \$10.00. All three of these fixes can be installed in minutes, with just a screwdriver. They all completely eliminate the only problem I have found with this gun.

Early in 2018, Beretta started shipping this model with an improved bolt release that eliminates this problem. Be aware, however, that most of the 1301s in the field are the original version and will need the modification described above.

The 1301T has a chrome lined barrel, with a fixed cylinder choke. This

patterns very well with modern buckshot loads like Federal Flite-Control and gives excellent accuracy with slugs. Mine will put several slugs through the same hole at 25 yards, standing without support. That's as accurate as I need a shotgun to be.

If you are short enough to need a stock with a length of pull under 13 inches, Aridus makes an adaptor that allows the installation of a MagPul replacement butt-stock originally intended for the Mossberg 590 pump shotgun. With the spacers removed, this allows a 12.5" LOP.

If you want a light, fast handling, reliable autoloading shotgun, the 1301T just might be what you need. Mine has taken over duty as my house gun, which is the highest recommendation I can give it. ■

Tim Chandler

UPCOMING CLASSES

Eventbrite™



April 7-8

Combative Pistol
Lakeland, FL

April 13

Defensive Shotgun
Culpeper, VA

April 14-15

Combative Pistol
Culpeper, VA

April 27-29

Instructor Development
Course (Pistol)
Lincoln, TX

May 4-6

Defensive Shotgun
Instructor Course
Franklin, TN

May 18

Defensive Shotgun
Okeechobee, FL

May 19-20

Combative Pistol
Okeechobee, FL

May 26-27

Intensive Pistol Skills
Florence, SC

June 9-10

Rangemaster Instructor
Reunion & Conference
Athens, GA

June 28-30

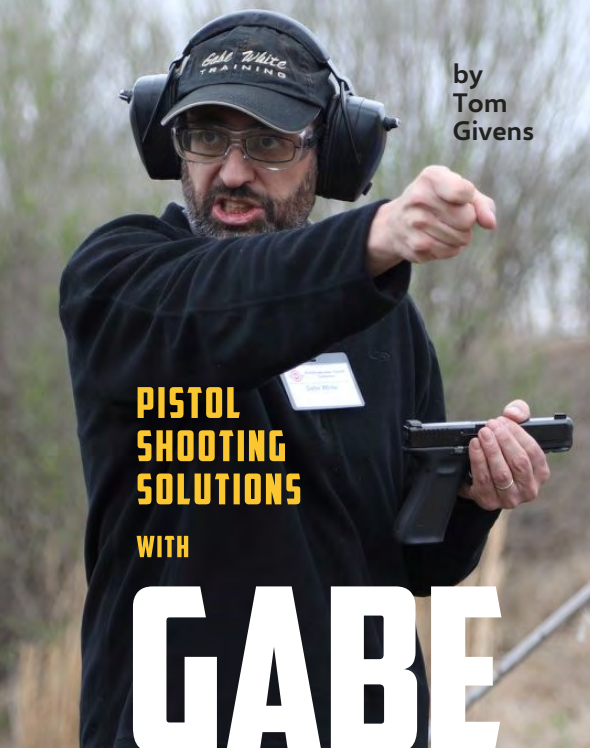
Instructor Development
Course (Pistol)
Xenia, OH

July 14

Combative Pistol
Gap, PA

July 27-29

NW Regional Tac Con
Onalaska, WA



by
Tom
Givens

**PISTOL
SHOOTING
SOLUTIONS**

WITH

**GABE
WHITE**

Although I've been teaching for over 40 years, I try to take 1-2 courses each year myself from vetted instructors outside my own organization. I feel this is critical to keep up with new ideas and trends and prevent stagnation.

In February, I was extremely fortunate to get to attend Gabe White's "Pistol Shooting Solutions" course in Lakeland, FL. A couple of my associates had attended this course elsewhere and raved about it. I corresponded a bit with Gabe and then enrolled myself and Lynn as paying students. We were joined by Rangemaster staff instructor John Hearne, and we knew several of the other students. There were 14 people enrolled (including four ladies) from as far away as New York, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Mississippi, plus several Florida residents. The overall skill level was fairly high and there were no issues. "That Guy" was conspicuously absent.

Gabe identifies the major class focus as "contextual shooting agility." He defines this to



Rangemaster Firearms Instructor

The year 2017 was the 20th anniversary year of our instructor training program. To commemorate this important milestone we put on a 20th Anniversary Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Reunion & Conference in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Over 50 Rangemaster certified firearms instructors gathered from 16 states to network, compare notes, and indulge in continuing education. The event was held all day Saturday and Sunday at the BDC Gun Room in Shawnee, Oklahoma. BDC is a new, modern, state of the art indoor range complex near Oklahoma City, and was a perfect setting for our anniversary celebration. We had live fire training on the range both days, a bit of friendly competition to see how the instructors handled themselves under stress, and a huge amount of classroom training. There were classroom presentations by John Correia, John Murphy, John Hearne, Tiffany Johnson, Lee Weems, and Warren Wilson, along with some input from Tom & Lynn Givens. This was a great weekend of fellowship and professional development for all concerned. Karl Rehn wrote an excellent review of the event for his blog. See: blog.krtraining.com/2017-rangemaster-instructor-conference. Karl also followed up with this: blog.krtraining.com/even-more-knowledge-from-the-rangemaster-instructor-conference.

Because this event was such a resounding success and the fact that we have so many graduates East of the Mississippi, we have decided to repeat this event at Athens, Georgia, on June 9-10, 2018. We will be using a very nice community center for classroom space and a nearby outdoor range for the shooting sessions. Entry is strictly limited to those who have successfully completed our instructor development course anywhere since 1997. Space will be limited and this event will fill early. To register, please visit www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-certified-instructor-conferencereunion-tickets-39451499497. This will be an epic training event. Register soon to avoid disappointment. ■

include those core shooting skills that allow defensive handgun practitioners to credibly attempt the best-practice solutions they can discern in conjunction with spatial management (movement, barriers, bystanders, etc.), when shooting is an appropriate option.

Gabe is one of the most organized and disciplined trainers I have ever had the

pleasure of working with or observing. He has obviously given a great deal of thought to course content, time management, student observation and coaching, and delivery of course content. He carries a multi-page sheaf of printed notes with him on the line and has a well developed lesson plan, something sorely lacking in many instructors'



programs. He also is a highly skilled shooter, demonstrating all drills to standard while explaining minutely what he is doing. Gabe provided students with a 12-page printed hand-out, which lists, explains and reinforces the lessons taught on the range. This is another area where many other programs fail. Without these hand-out materials, the student is left to struggle with hasty notes and faulty memory, and often practice skills improperly after the class as a result.

Both training days began promptly at 8:00 am and went to just after 6:00pm, with only a very brief lunch break, on site. As I mentioned, Gabe is extremely well organized, and he had targets, props and other supplies staged and ready for the next progression. During water/restroom breaks for the students, Gabe was out on the range setting up the next iteration.

There was no wasted time in either training day. We fired approximately 950 rounds total per student, just as we were advised before the course.



On the first day, Gabe began with an hour and a half lecture that covered safety and the core skill sets to be involved in the weekend's training. His safety briefing was one of the best I have heard, interweaving real world examples into the four universal gun handling rules with which we are all familiar. He went on to explain the human performance factors involved in shooting at high levels of skill and the development of a "growth mindset". Gabe sees high level shooting as a system consisting of three sub-systems, grip/stance/platform; sights; and trigger. He went on to explain his understanding of these sub-systems and how to develop and integrate them into an effective, accurate, fast system of shooting. Good stuff!

The rest of TD1 and most of TD2 were spent on the range. Gabe uses a progressive "building block" approach. He minutely explains a concept or drill, demonstrates it several times, then has the students work that drill in dry practice for a while until the bugs are worked out. The drill is then

practiced live for as many as 10 to 20 repetitions. Finally, the drill is shot at full speed, so students can see their fastest speeds for effective hits. This is a great system for learning.

There are four skill tests involved. Two are fired on TD1 and two on TD2. When a drill is part of the test, Gabe follows the procedure outlined above. Students are timed for two runs to get a feel for their performance; then they're timed twice more for recorded score,



GABE AT THE 2018 RANGEMASTER TACTICAL CONFERENCE



performing one at a time in front of the rest of the class.

This gives students a chance to test their skills with a bit of performance anxiety and peer pressure. Those four skill tests determine students' rankings at class end.

I won't get into specific dry practice routines and live fire drills. Suffice to say they were well designed and effective. Early on in TD1 I was able to identify a weakness and correct it over the weekend due to Gabe's thoughtful selection of drills. If you want more details, take the class.

Topics covered during live fire training included Draw Refinements, Shot Calling, Shot Trajectory Mitigation, both vertical and lateral, Ready Position Presentations, Shooting on the Move, Barrier Use (shooting behind cover), and more. There were some drills done solo, and some friendly one-on-one competition drills on steel targets to reinforce key points.

Performance on the four tested drills results in the opportunity to be awarded a pin: a certificate only; or Dark Pin; Light Pin; and the coveted Turbo Pin. Gabe stated that he normally only awards two or three Turbo Pins each year, and I'm not surprised. His standards are very high, objectively scored, and difficult. I managed to win a Light Pin. John Hearne also got a Light Pin, narrowly missing the Turbo Pin cut-off. Two of John's test runs were each .04 seconds over the Turbo time cut-off. Close!

For gear, I shot a Boresight Solutions Glock 34, with Federal 147 grain ball.



I used a JM Custom Kydex IWB #3 and JMCK magazine pouches, fully concealed under a button front fishing shirt with the tail out. I had no issues or malfunctions with my gun gear.

Gabe's course description states that this is not a suitable course for beginners. I second that emphatically. Unless one's core skills are in place, this course will likely produce more frustration than progress. An IDPA Sharpshooter or USPSA C class shooter or their equivalent would likely do well and progress rapidly in skill acquisition with this course. It should NOT be someone's first formal course of instruction. I recommend this class strongly to committed students who want to wring the maximum performance from their gear and themselves. Take this class. ■



www.GABEWHITETRAINING.com

SUCCESS

TAC CON

20th Anniversary

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The 2018 Tactical Conference is wrap! This event is a herculean endeavor that requires hundreds of hours of planning and labor every year. To everyone who invested valuable time, money, and effort to join us in North Little Rock for our 20th anniversary, we sincerely appreciate your continued support and confidence in Rangemaster. We are also eternally grateful to the many talented trainers who travelled from all over the country to share their knowledge and expertise. And of course, the Conference could not happen without the dozens of range safety officers and other hard-working, reliable volunteers who dedicate so much unsung time and energy behind the scenes. Tom and Lynn Givens would like to thank everyone who pitched in to make this year's Conference a resounding success. Each of you has played an important role in lifting the Tactical Conference to this historic milestone of 20 years of excellence. We hope to see you on March 15-17, 2019 for NOLATAC-CON in the Big Easy.



Be the first to post the answer in Tom's newsletter thread on the Rangemaster's Facebook page, and

YOU WIN!

POP QUIZ

Once Upon a Tac Con...

The Rangemaster Tactical Conference began 20 years ago as what kind of event?

- A. An IPSC Match
- B. A SHOT Show Seminar
- C. A Staff Retreat
- D. An IDPA Match