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RANGE • MASTER

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RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

An awful lot of people carry a small frame, short-barrel revolver (snub, or snubby) as a back-up gun or as a primary sidearm when in a circumstance or environment where a larger gun would be a problem due to legal or employment ramifications. Obviously, a compact or mid-sized semiautomatic pistol would have several advantages over the snubby, including the auto's higher capacity; easier, quicker reloads; and generally superior shooting/handling characteristics. None of those advantages matter much, however, if the semiauto is left at home. If the snub is what you have, it's best to make the gun as effective as possible.

There are three things that can really help make the snub more shootable and effective. They are more visible sights, better stocks, and careful ammunition selection. Close attention to these details can make the snub much more effective and a lot easier to use well.

The whole idea of the snub is to have a minimal-sized package, to aid in real concealment, often hidden in a belly band or a pocket holster. Thus, the sights are usually small, low profile fixed sights, which can be hard to use at speed. One thing I really like about the older (pre-1972) Colt snubs like the Detective Special, Cobra, or Agent is that the front sight is a full 1/8th inch wide and a good

bit taller than the front sight on a J-frame Smith & Wesson. With the addition of a bit of bright red or orange paint, the Colt front sight stands out fairly well. On older S&W snubbies, the front sight is very narrow and hard to see. More recent production guns have a wider, more

Stocks that are designed for fast double-action shooting really make hitting in a hurry a lot easier. Properly designed stocks spread out the felt recoil, prevent the gun from squirming around in your hand during recoil, and position the trigger finger to press the trigger straight back, which is critical. The grip frame of the modern double-action revolver was actually designed for thumb-cocked, single-action shooting. The empty

Optimizing the Snubby Revolver

by Tom Givens

visible front sight. Claude Werner (The Tactical Professor) is a snubby sage, and he advocates painting the front sight bright white, then adding a coat of red or orange to the part of the front sight that just fills the rear sight notch. This makes getting an adequate sight picture much faster and easier, as you can readily see what portion of the front sight belongs in the rear sight notch. The fixed rear sight on a stainless-steel revolver also needs some attention. With a pointed Sharpie you can black out the recess around the rear sight notch, providing contrast for the brightly painted front sight.

Continued next page...

Don't miss out on the
last few Rangemaster
courses of

2018

Sep 29-30

Combative Pistol
Hot Springs, AR

Oct 6-7

Dynamic Marksmanship
KR Training
Austin, TX

Oct 12-14

Firearms Instructor
Development Course (Pistol)
Okeechobee, FL



Oct 20-21

Advanced Firearms Instructor
Dallas, TX

Oct 27

Intensive Pistol
(One-Day Format)
Beaumont, TX

Oct 28

Defensive Shotgun
(One-Day Format)
Beaumont, TX

Nov 2-4

Firearms Instructor
Development Course (Pistol)
Boondocks Academy
Jackson, MS

Dec 1

Ed Mireles Lecture
Double Tree Hotel
Tampa, FL

www.Rangemaster.com

The Snubby Revolver

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Different stock designs can be used to fit the snub to the user's hand.

space behind the trigger guard was put there to raise the middle finger higher, which put the thumb closer to the hammer spur, for easier thumb cocking. Fast double-action work requires the middle finger to be lowered, so that the trigger finger can pull straight back throughout the double action trigger stroke. Stocks designed for double action work will fill in the gap behind the trigger guard. When choosing stocks, remember that the whole purpose of the snubby is compactness. Don't put big, bulky stocks on a tiny gun. The photo above show several good examples of stocks that enhance shooting without adding excessive bulk to the gun.

Finally, intelligent ammunition selection is important. Fired from a two-inch barrel, even modern hollow

point .38 Special ammunition is very unlikely to expand in real flesh. Also, especially in an aluminum or scandium framed fly-weight revolver, heavier loads recoil fiercely, making follow-up shots harder. If you only have 5 or 6 shots, you'd better be able to make them count. A good, reliable, factory wadcutter round, like Federal Gold Match is probably as good a terminal performer as anything else in a snubby. It also has mild recoil and usually shoots right to the sights. Since the low-profile fixed sights on the snub are hard to adjust, I recommend finding a load that hits right where you aim.

Set your snubby up correctly, find a load that shoots to point of aim, and then **practice with it.** These little guns are quite hard to shoot well. Yes, very credible shooting can be done with one, but you have to do the work. ■

Cobras have a large, highly visible front sight. This feature is always helpful for fast, accurate shooting.

Eventbrite

JANUARY 11-13,
2019

• ESTABLISHING a

SHAWNEE,
OKLAHOMA

dominance

This is our special once-a-year course combining the special talents of Tom Givens, Craig Douglas ("Southarc") and William Aprill. William provides classroom training on criminal psychology, stress management, and tactical decision making. Craig will lead realistic Simunitions decision-making scenarios involving trained role players and a fabulous mock-up training area. Tom will focus on maximizing handgun skills. All three trainers' work blends into a seamless system. Each of the instructors will focus on his area of expertise, and the entire program flows together, taking the academic information presented then putting it into practical application.

The venue is the BDC Gun Room in Shawnee, OK, about 30 miles east of Oklahoma City. There are numerous hotels within minutes of the range. The BDC Gun Room is a brand new modern indoor training complex. It has two modern classrooms,

two indoor
pistol ranges,
and a force

PARADIGM

on force area. We were able to recreate some very realistic scenarios in the training area, with trained role players. We are even able to use a real automobile in the scenario training area, indoors. Great facility.

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. ■

Eventbrite



Ed Mireles to Speak in Tampa

by Tom Givens



In the past 50 years, a few incidents have caused the firearms training community to stop, re-evaluate, and revamp longstanding doctrine. The Newhall Incident (1970), the Bank of America hold-up in North Hollywood (1997), and Columbine (1999) prompted huge changes for law enforcement. However, the FBI firefight on April 11, 1986 in Miami offered valuable lessons for anyone who goes armed. The FBI Special Agents in this incident were in civilian clothing, riding in unmarked cars, wearing concealed handguns, just like a private citizen would.

One of those Special Agents was Ed Mireles (now retired). He was the agent who wound up killing both of the suspects, despite having been shot twice with a rifle. Ed recently published a book, *FBI Miami Firefight: Five Minutes That Changed the Bureau*. Over the years, Mireles has many times delivered an intensive lecture on this event at law enforcement academies and conferences. We are proud to announce that Ed will be conducting this exhaustive examination of this fight for an open enrollment audience on Saturday, December 1, 2018, at the Double Tree Hotel on W. Cypress Street in Tampa, Florida (just a few minutes from Tampa International Airport).

This event will begin at 11:30am with a social hour. Ed's lecture will run from 12:30pm to 5:30pm, followed by a book signing. Registration is only \$125.00 per person. To register, please see our Eventbrite page (click the logo). ■

Eventbrite



As armed citizens, we face unique challenges. We must use a series of skills in tandem, creating the challenge of managing diverse strategies, tactics, techniques and tools. We take different classes, honing our skill sets, in contrast, we seldom train in a comprehensive manner. A violent encounter should not be the first time we unify our various disciplines. Fortunately, there is a solution to our dilemma. A synergistic approach to training yields valuable insight into the difficulties of prioritizing and combining these skills. Recognize pre-attack cues, talking, moving, defensive hand positions, clearing cover garments, and unusual shooting positions are all possibilities for the armed citizen. The purpose of this article is to provide a framework for practice outside of class.

Communicate while making space, and watch the entire area for other threats. Hold your hands in a position that allows you to react to a push or strike or to draw your firearm if necessary. Move, turn, and scan for possible accomplices while also moving towards barriers, cover, or exits.

Unique CHALLENGES

Draw the firearm to accommodate different distances relative to the threat you are facing. I use descriptive words, along with the four-count draw, to reinforce the malleable nature of the positions of the draw in relation to the distance of the attack. These are transitional points during the draw, allowing your motion to extend or collapse with the movement of your attacker.

- Position 1 is clear and grip
- Position 2 is retention
- Position 3 is compression
- Position 4 is extension

Position 1 typically requires you to first have sufficient control of the opponent/space to clear the cover garment (possibly with your strong hand only) and get a grip on the firearm.

Retention is at contact distance to the opponent, necessitating control and space to allow you access to your weapon, coupled with a framework that allows the firearm to function.

Compression distance is not in contact with the attacker, but he is close enough to grab the weapon. The compressed position allows you greater control over the firearm.

Extension is the end of the draw with arms extended in your final firing position. This the best position to use your sights and make hits, if there is adequate space.

Beyond contact range, we find several positions requiring practice to solve the timing issue of maintaining trigger finger and muzzle discipline. One of these is the hand on the gun and the support hand extended to the threat, possibly emphasizing the command to stay back. Practice bringing the support hand back rapidly to the chest and meeting the gun at the 3 or compressed position, thus ensuring you do not shoot yourself in the hand when you draw.

Continued next page...



by
Brian Hill
**The Complete
Combatant**

Sat-Sun, October 6-7
KR Training (Lincoln TX)

DYNAMIC MARKSMANSHIP

- ◆ Rapid presentation from concealment
- ◆ Effective, efficient gun-handling
- ◆ Rapid reloading techniques
- ◆ Movement skills
- ◆ Disability drills (with one or both hands)
- ◆ Precision shooting at longer ranges
- ◆ Sharp defensive mindset
- ◆ And much more

Most ranges are static and sterile. The real world is far more dynamic. In this two-day, thousand-round course, Lead Instructor Tom Givens offers battle-tested tools for overcoming the most common obstacles to success in defensive encounters. Learn more at Rangemaster.com or click to logo below to register on our Eventbrite page.

Eventbrite

The covert draw, which may mean using your body to hide your draw with a distracted adversary, is also problematic. There is a tendency to sweep the firearm to the target, thereby endangering ourselves and others and slowing down the presentation of the firearm. Turning, stepping, and moving require practice to find the most efficient and safest path to deploy the firearm.

Learning during the fight is a tough and brutal task. The great news is we can practice these movements during dry work. Designate a wall or safe direction to be a practice area, remove all ammunition and working firearms. To provide extra safety, use a barrel blocker and a tap rack trainer to make it impossible to fire a live round and to provide visual indicators that the firearm is safe to do dry work. Use a camera or partner to verify trigger and muzzle discipline. Practice talking, moving, drawing to different distances while also practicing different defensive hand positions. With practice, shifting from one task to the next will become easier. When your dry practice has come to an end, return the firearm to working condition, and say aloud, "dry practice has now ended." A verbal confirmation will fix in your mind that you now have a loaded firearm.

Practicing these skills together will help you to become the complete combatant, ready to face situations with composure, confidence, and accountability in the real world. ■



Brian Hill is a Rangemaster-certified firearms instructor and owner of The Complete Combatant in northern Georgia. Learn more at www.TheCompleteCombatant.com.

Earlier this month, we held a very successful Advanced Firearms Instructor Development Course in Wisconsin. We had eight law enforcement firearms instructors and ten private sector trainers in class. All did exceptionally well. Great bunch of students, pictured here.



The next Advanced Firearms Instructor Development Course will be on October 20-21, 2018, at the Dallas Pistol Club in Texas (a great facility). Please note attendance is strictly limited to those who have successfully graduated from one of our Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Courses at any location. To register for Dallas, see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-advanced-firearms-instructor-course-tickets-39454379110>.

TAC CON

2019

RANGE • MASTER

It's time to get registered for the premiere training event of the year: the annual Tactical Conference. Tac-Con 2019 will mark the 21st year of this important training opportunity, and this time we'll be convening on a very nice new range facility just outside New Orleans. There is a restaurant on site, and there are plenty of activities for family members who don't wish to attend the conference. This event fills many months in advance every year, so don't procrastinate.

rangemaster.com/2019-tactical-conference



We recently received some samples of casual wear jewelry from Bullet Blossoms. These are necklaces, bracelets, rings, tie bars, ear rings, cuff links, and other items fashioned from expanded jacketed hollow point handgun bullets. The perfect fashion accessory to wear to your next match or gun rights meeting. Check them out at www.BulletBlossomCreations.com. ■

-Tom

POP QUIZ

Quick! Post the answer in Tom's newsletter thread on the Rangemaster Facebook page. The first to get it right is this month's CHAMPION!

Scattergun Trivia

In buckshot, which of these is the largest pellet?

- A) 0
- B) 00
- C) 000
- D) #4

