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RANGE • MASTER

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RANGEMASTER

DEFENSIVE TACTICS
FOR THE REAL WORLD

Firearms Training Services

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NORTHWEST REGIONAL TAC CON

by
Tom Givens

Friday—Sunday ♦ July 24-26, 2020 ♦ Firearms Academy of Seattle ♦ Onalaska, WA

We try to keep the Tactical Conference centrally located in the US, to accommodate as many practitioners as possible. That's why it is usually in Memphis, Little Rock, Dallas, or other central location. There are many committed students of The Art in the Pacific Northwest, which is still a really long way from Tennessee, Arkansas, or Texas. To accommodate them, we will be holding a regional conference at The Firearms Academy of Seattle (FAS) in July 2020. FAS is located between Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon, and is a very nice training facility with numerous ranges and a modern classroom.

The dates are July 24-26, Friday through Sunday. This will be a smaller event than the national conference, with about 100 attendees, plus staff and trainers. We have an impressive array of trainers presenting two hour and four hour blocks of instruction, including live fire with handgun, shotgun and carbine; classroom instruction on a variety of topics; and hands-on training in empty hands skills and

immediate trauma care. The trainers include Tom & Lynn Givens, Massad Ayoob, Marty Hayes, John Holschen, Lee Weems, John Hearne, John Murphy, Gabe White, Tiffany Johnson, Karl Rehn, Cecil Burch, William Aprill, Sherman House, and Belle McCormack. That's over a dozen well respected trainers teaching over three full days of training! There will also be a defensive pistol match concurrent with the training events. Advance registration is required.

The trainers present two-hour to four-hour blocks of instruction in their area of expertise. You may attend whichever blocks you desire, and as many blocks as time allows over a three day period. Attendance is open to adults who believe competent training is important and who wish to advance their knowledge of the defensive arts.

Don't delay, as this event will fill up fast. It's only offered every two years, and in 2018 the event sold out in a few months. Visit Rangemaster.Eventbrite.com to register. ■



Claude Werner, aka "The Tactical Professor," is a highly skilled shooter and trainer, a former Captain in the U.S. Army and formerly senior instructor at the prestigious Rogers Shooting School. Claude's specialty is the snubby revolver, and you would do well to heed his advice.

– Tom Givens



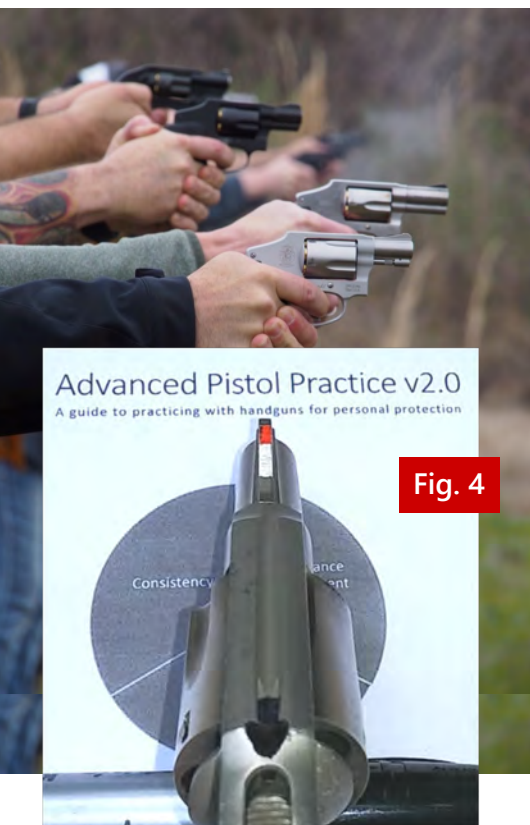
Get More Out of Your Snub's SIGHTS

by
Claude Werner
"The Tactical
Professor"

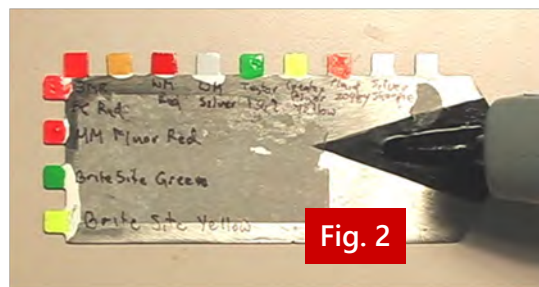
If you can't see the sights on your snub, you can't use them. While there are some ways gunsmiths can put better sights on a snub, careful application of paint and perhaps Magic Marker can go a long way to improving your ability to see the sights. Most snubs' sights are not of a color to contrast against the target. The lack of contrast makes it difficult to pick up a quick visual reference. Fire trucks and school buses aren't painted blue or silver for a reason. Silver generates glare easily and blue doesn't contrast against a dark target nor in limited visibility.

Colored nail polish or paint is an old trick to increase the visibility of the front sight. If you paint the sight first with white paint as an undercoating, the color will stand out much better. Degrease the sight before applying paint to ensure the paint sticks. Let the white paint cure completely and then apply the color paint over the white.

A common error is painting the entire front sight ramp with color. This will cause the front sight to visually rise out of the notch causing high shots. Putting color only to the visual depth of the rear notch as seen when you have a sight picture is what is desirable. The visual depth is usually about 1/3rd of the length of the ramp (**Fig. 1**).



Czech to see what color your eyes see best. Eyes perceive color differently and what works best for one person may not work as well for another. Most people will perceive green better than red, but the opposite may be true for you. Green will sometimes wash out in bright sunlight, so I have chosen to stick with red. For the really industrious, you can make a reference tool using a notched trowel and different types of paint. (**Fig. 2**).



If your snub is stainless or silver anodized, you'll also need to do something about the rear sight. This is simple; take a black magic marker and color the rear notch black. Include the interior of the notch as well as the back of the notch (**Fig. 3**).



What we want is to have both sights with improved contrast to the target. That will allow us to not only have an improved sight picture for more accuracy but also to pick up the sights more quickly (**Fig. 4**).



Improving the visibility of a snub's sights can really improve your shooting. This simple solution pays a lot of dividends toward hitting the target.

My ebooks about shooting will also pay a lot of dividends toward hitting your target:

- *Indoor Range Practice Sessions*
- *Concealed Carry Skills and Drills*
- *Advanced Pistol Practice* ■

- Claude Werner

tacticalprofessor.wordpress.com

A Better Target

by
Tom Givens

I have found a cardboard target I really like, and I recommend its use in your practice sessions. Cardboard cut-out silhouette targets are popular for training and competition. They are easy to attach to a target stand, and they can take a lot of rounds if you simply use pasters or tape to cover the bullet holes between drills. Both IDPA and IPSC/USPSA targets share a huge fault, however. There is no neck. The head sits right on the torso. This detracts from the humanoid appearance and lowers the head ring to an unnatural height.

A newer cardboard target from Shoot Steel (shootsteel.com) fixes this problem, plus it has very anatomically relevant scoring zones. There is a distinct neck, and the head is shaped like a human head, rather than a square box on the IDPA or IPSC/USPSA targets. The scoring area in the head is properly placed and shaped to mimic the ocular window formed by the eyes/nose, and it is even with the ears, an important marker.



The scoring zones in the chest are also anatomically located. The 5 inch circle in the upper chest corresponds exactly to the location of the heart, and the "box" delineated around that zone mimics the area from collarbone to diaphragm, between the nipples. The overall torso is also smaller than that of an IDPA or USPSA target. It would be hard to make a more anatomically relevant target that is two-dimensional. The photo shows a Shoot Steel target and an IDPA target, side by side. I used a Sharpie to outline the scoring areas on the IDPA target, so you can easily see them. I believe the Shoot Steel target is superior in every way.

These targets are available in packs of 25 or 100, and the cost is quite reasonable. In boxes of 100, they cost about 80 cents apiece. Give them a try. ■

Upcoming Classes



Oct 3-5

Pistol Instructor
Development
Xenia, OH

Oct 18-20

Shotgun Instructor
Development
Dallas, TX

Nov 2-3

Intensive Pistol Skills
Phoenix, AZ

Nov 15-17

[Sold Out]
Master Firearms
Instructor Course
Shawnee, OK

Nov 23-24

Advanced Firearms
Instructor Course
Ruskin, FL

Eventbrite

Pistol Shooting Solutions

Gabe White Training .com



An AAR by Tom Givens

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, 2018, I was extremely fortunate to get to attend Gabe White's "Pistol Shooting Solutions" course conducted in Lakeland, FL. A couple of my associates had attended this course elsewhere and raved about it. I corresponded a bit with Gabe, then enrolled Lynn and me as paying students. We were joined by Rangemaster staff instructor John Hearne, plus there were several other people we knew in our class. There were 14 students, including 4 ladies, from as far away as New York, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Mississippi, plus several Florida residents. 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." This is defined as "the development of core shooting skills in conjunction with spatial management- movement, barriers, bystanders, maneuver- in an attempt to allow the defensive handgun practitioner to credibly attempt the best-practice answer they can discern, when shooting is an appropriate solution."

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 aspect where many other programs fail. Without these hand-out materials, students are left to struggle with hasty notes and faulty memories, and they 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, working. 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 fire for as many as 10 to 20 repetitions, to groove in the motions involved. Then, the drill is shot at full speed, so each student can determine his fastest speed 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, the procedure outlined above is followed, then students are timed for two practice runs, to give them a feel for their performance. Next, they are timed for

recorded score twice, performing one at a time in front of the rest of the class. This gives students a chance to test their skills under a bit of performance anxiety — or peer pressure. Your performance on those four skill tests determines your ranking at class end.

I'm not going to 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 through the course of 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 from behind cover), and more. There were some drills done solo, and some friendly man-vs-man competition drills on steel targets to reinforce key points.

Performance on the four tested drills results in the opportunity to be awarded either a certificate only or one of Gabe's famous pins: the Dark Pin, the Light Pin, or the coveted Turbo Pin. Gabe stated that he normally only awards 2-3 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, worn fully concealed under a button front Columbia fishing shirt with the tail out. I had no malfunctions or issues 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 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. ■



Interested in Hosting Rangemaster

RANGE • MASTER

Our 2020 class schedule is completely full. Right now, we're working on 2021. If you would like to host a Rangemaster course in your area, here are the details.

The local host is our representative in the geographic area in which the class will be conducted. If the host does not own or manage the range facility to be used, he/she acts as the liaison between Rangemaster and the facilities we will be using. The host locks in the date and handles any other logistical issues with the range.

The host is expected to promote the class locally, recruiting students from area gun clubs, gun shops, IDPA or USPSA clubs, law enforcement agencies, etc. Just before class time,

the host ensures that the range is in useable condition, that an adequate number of target stands are in place with cardboard backers, that a restroom or porta-john is on site, and the classroom (if any) is set up for class.

Rangemaster advertises the class on our website, on social media, on various internet forums, and to prior students. Rangemaster collects all fees/tuition. Rangemaster pays any range fees directly to the range owner. The local host does not have to handle money or student information. Rangemaster carries a two-million-dollar liability insurance policy. The host range can be added as an additional insured, if desired.

In return for this assistance, the local host gets a free space in the class. Depending on class size, he/she may be granted additional free spaces for associates.

Generally speaking, we need at least 10 paying students by 30 days prior to the class date. That minimum might rise as travel costs increase. If a class is canceled, all registered students receive an immediate full refund of tuition paid. If you're interested in hosting Rangemaster, please contact us at rangemaster.tom@gmail.com. ■

Drill of the Month:

THE RANGEMASTER

by Tom Givens

CASINO DRILL

Throughout 2019 we will 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.

Each month we'll post a drill or a short course of fire. You are encouraged to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page. Go shooting!

Purpose

In an actual defensive shooting, there will be lots of skills involved besides just shooting. The shooter will be tasked with target identification, target discrimination, and target assessment — and these will all be changing and evolving continually throughout the incident. To help the shooter become accustomed to processing information while simultaneously running the motor program for shooting, we developed the “Casino Drill.”

This drill tests a rapid presentation from a concealed holster; fast and accurate shooting on multiple targets; two empty-gun reloads on the clock; target identification; and keeping up with changing circumstances — all under time pressure. The drill is fired at five yards, starting from the holster, concealed (or in a secured police duty rig).

What You'll Need

- ♦ DT-2A target, available from Action Targets or Law Enforcement Targets (pictured above)
- ♦ Three magazines
- ♦ 21 rounds of ammunition



The Drill

Shooter begins with 7 rounds loaded in the handgun. The handgun is holstered and concealed (or secured in a duty rig for LEO contexts). Shooter will have two spare magazines, each loaded with 7 rounds.

At five yards, on signal, the shooter will draw and engage:

- ♦ target #1 with 1 round,
- ♦ target #2 with 2 rounds,
- ♦ target #3 with 3 rounds,
- ♦ target #4 with 4 rounds,
- ♦ target #5 with 5 rounds, and
- ♦ target #6 with 6 rounds.

Twice during the drill, the shooter will have to reload an empty gun. After each reload, the shooter must remember to finish

up the required shots on the last target before moving on to the next one.

Par time for this drill is 21 seconds, with ALL hits inside the numbered targets (the colored shapes). Shooters must also complete the drill with no procedural errors (magazines loaded properly, correct number of shots on each target, all targets shot in numerical sequence).

Firing from magazines of 7, 7, and 7 amounts to 21 rounds in 21 seconds, hence the name, “The Casino Drill.”

To run this as a scored competition, the fastest total time wins. Add one second for each shot that misses a numbered target, and add one second for each procedural error. Once the target sequence and timing of reload become familiar, consider varying the drill by shooting in reverse order, shooting with the off hand, or loading with 6, 7, and 8 rounds instead of all seven-round magazines. Don't forget to post your target photos and times on our Facebook page. Good luck! ■