In the gun control debate, as in most things, the truth is this: maybe 10% of the population wants to completely eliminate your right to self defense. Maybe 10% are adamantly opposed to all infringements upon your right to self defense. The 80% in the middle don’t care a lot one way or the other.

Another imaginary problem. Persons “engaged in the business of selling firearms” are required by federal law to have a Federal Firearms License (FFL). FFL holders who sell guns at gun shows are required by federal law to keep elaborate records of every sale, have every purchaser fill out a Form 4473, and obtain a NICS background check on every purchase, just as if the sale took place in their brick and mortar store. Violations are a federal felony, carrying huge fines and significant prison terms. Guns used in crimes and subsequently seized by the police are called “crime guns.” The US Department of Justice did a study of crime guns and found that only about 1% were obtained at gun shows. Of course, that means that 99% WERE NOT.

Semi-automatic guns have been around since the late 1880s. I have a Savage .32 Auto handgun that holds 11 rounds of ammunition. It was designed in 1905 and entered production and civilian sales in 1907. My specimen was made in 1915, 114 years ago. I have a Winchester Model 1907 rifle, which is a semi-automatic rifle with a detachable high capacity magazine. It was introduced in 1907, as an improved version of a model
produced in 1905. My example was built in 1928. I have a semi-automatic shotgun designed by John Browning in 1899. My example was built in 1927. I could go on, but you get the picture.

**Letting civilians carry guns will result in all sorts of needless violence.**

Wrong. The exact opposite is true. States that have high rates of carry permit holders have significantly lower crime rates than states which do not. In addition, permit holders are the most law-abiding segment of the population. Texas has a million CHL (Concealed Handgun License) holders, and the state tracks them very carefully. This is from an official Texas government report:

*On January 1, 1996, the Texas Concealed Handgun Law went into effect. This law states that the Texas Department of Public Safety (TXDPS) “shall issue” a concealed handgun license (CHL) to any Texas resident who meets the application requirements for character (background check) and training. This is an analysis of arrest data for Texas concealed handgun licensees that was performed on data from the subsequent years of 1996 – 2000. A comparison was made with the arrest data for the entire Texas population for the same time period, showing that, on average: male Texans who are over 21 years old and are not CHL holders are 7.7 times more likely to be arrested for commission of a violent crime than male Texans with a CHL; and female Texans who are over 21 years old and are not CHL holders are 7.5 times more likely to be arrested for commission of a violent crime than female Texans with a CHL. Of the violent crime cases that have been adjudicated, approximately 26% of CHL holders who were arrested were convicted, and 44% are cleared of the violent crimes for which they were arrested.*

**We need an Assault Weapons Ban!**

Such a ban was in effect under Federal law for a ten-year period. Among other things, it limited magazine capacity to ten rounds. Various organizations, from the Centers for Disease Control to the U.S. Department of Justice studied the effect of the ban for that ten-year period. They all concluded that the ban had absolutely no effect on crime or violence.

All of these positions are verifiable facts. Use this information to help counter the outright lies used by those who would take away our most basic civil right and human right: the right to self preservation.

### Carry Permits Still on the Rise

Carry Permits Still on the Rise

According to research published in September of 2019 by John Lott of the Crime Prevention Research Center, there are now 18.66 million persons in the United States with handgun carry permits. This number continues to grow every year, despite the Left’s attempts at gun control. There are now 13 states in which 10% or more of the adult population has a carry permit, and there are now four states with over a million permits. Florida recently passed the two million mark. In addition, there are now 16 states with Constitutional Carry, in which any adult who can legally own a gun can carry it with no permit required.
2020 Schedule
Continued...

**Apr 16-19**
NRA Annual Meeting
Nashville, TN

**Apr 24-25**
Combative Pistol
Dahlonega, GA

**Apr 26**
Defensive Shotgun
Dahlonega, GA

**May 11-12**
Advanced Firearms Instructor
Xenia, OH

**May 13**
Defensive Shotgun
Xenia, OH

**May 15-16**
Combative Pistol
Garrettsville, OH

**May 17**
Defensive Shotgun
Garrettsville, OH

**May 29-31**
Master Instructor
Jackson, MS

**June 5-7**
Firearms Instructor Development
Fossil Point; Decatur, TX

**June 12-14**
Defensive Shotgun
McLoud, OK

**June 20-21**
Advanced Firearms Instructor
McLoud, OK

**July 21-23**
Firearms Instructor Development
FAS; Onalaska, WA

**July 24-26**
Northwest Tactical Conference
FAS; Onalaska, WA

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**Recommended Reading**

Below are links to articles I think you should read. Click the images to view each article online.

- Tom

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**Cases Where Permit Holders Have Stopped Mass Attacks**

by John R. Lott
Crime Prevention Research Center
May 3, 2019

Gun control advocates raise the concern that concealed handgun permit holders who stop an attack might accidentally shoot a bystander. They are also fearful that the police might accidentally kill the permit holder. While such incidents are a possibility, they have yet to occur….” [Read More]

**Defensive Shotgun with Tom Givens**

by “Dr. Late Bloomer”
GAT Daily
October 8, 2019

“…and then he raised the gun to shoot me.”

It’s easy to get caught up in thinking you need “cool guy” accessories even when you aren’t a cool guy. All that effort is better spent in actual practice with your actual gun….” [Read More]

**Rangemaster Instructor Development Course**

by Greg Ellifritz
Active Response Training
October 14, 2019

Most of the so-called CCW ‘instructors’ have never mastered these basics and would benefit greatly from learning the material that Tom presented….” [Read More]

**Friends Don’t Let Friends Open Carry**

by Greg Ellifritz
Active Response Training
September 24, 2018

Does anyone really think walking into Starbucks with a slug AK-47 will convince a person who doesn’t currently own a firearm to support the gun rights cause?” [Read More]
The Cambridge English Dictionary defines “culture” as “the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time.”

In the United States, there are some regional differences, but for the most part, we share pretty much the same culture throughout this country. There are two things most Americans fear, or are concerned about, and both are culturally ingrained fears/concerns, planted in our minds early in life by our parents and others who had a hand in our development. These culturally ingrained fears/concerns, among many others, help keep us safe in a sometimes perilous world.

The two that are almost universal in our culture are a healthy respect for lightning, and a general fear of snakes. These are not innate, or instinctive fears, they were planted in your mind as a child and have stayed with most of us throughout life. Rational people don’t stand on the golf course holding an iron, nor on the rifle range holding a shooting iron, while lightning plays across the sky. Instead, we seek shelter. We do this because we were taught early in life that to stay in the open, holding a metal rod, would likely get us fried. If you ask a typical person, especially here in the South, to reach under a woodpile and hand you something, many will flatly refuse. As their reason for refusal, they will cite the almost certain likelihood that they will be bitten by a snake. Again, something you were taught as a child.

According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, the National Weather Service and related government activities), each year in the US about 450 to 500 people are struck by lightning. Of these, an average of 51 people per year die from that lightning strike. That’s right, just 51.

The University of Florida, Department of Ecology and Conservation, who study such things, reports that in a given year in the United States between 7,000 and 8,000 people are bitten by venomous snakes. Of these, an average of 5 people per year actually die from the snake bite. Yep, 5, in a country of 320 million people. Far more people die from bee stings than from snake bites.

So, if you add deaths from lightning strikes and deaths from snake bites together, they annually account for less than 60 deaths in the entire country. Upon learning this, one might be tempted to say, “It’s silly to spend so much time teaching our children to be wary of lightning and poisonous snakes, when so few people are ever killed by either.” I would suggest that this is the wrong conclusion to be drawn from these facts.

It might be smarter to think, “Since our entire culture takes precautions against these potential threats, very, very few people actually fall prey to them.” That’s the key. Since almost everyone takes sensible precautions against these threats, the risk is mitigated to a very low level.

One threat most Americans are not taught to deal with from an early age is violent crime. Instead, we do everything possible to encourage victimization. We try earnestly to convince everyone that violent crime only happens to other people. (To every single person on the planet but you, guess who you are? Other people!) “We live in a nice neighborhood.” “We don’t hang out with bad people.” “Who’d want to hurt us?” “It’ll never happen to me.”

As a result, violent crime is a real, ever present threat in the US. The US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics recently released the violent
crime figures for 2018. They only count “non-fatal” violent crimes, limiting the reporting to Rape or Sexual Assault, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Simple Assault. This data was copied directly from the BJS official report for 2018:

The number of violent-crime victims age 12 or older rose from 2.7 million in 2015 to 3.3 million in 2018, an increase of 604,000 victims.

The number of violent incidents increased from 5.2 million in 2017 to 6.0 million in 2018.

Please note that with 6 million violent crimes, that works out to one for every 54 residents of the US, or about one for every 30 adults.

I firmly believe that one of the primary reasons for this astronomical amount of violent crime is the huge pool of victims created by NOT making part of our culture teaching kids that violent crime is as real as lightning and snakes, and that the risk of violent crime can be mitigated the same as with those other threats, by education and simple precautions, if practiced by the majority of the population.

If you are reading this, odds are you are an adult. It’s too late for someone to teach this to you as a child, so teach yourself now as a responsible adult. You must, on your own, accept, internalize, and act on these simple facts:

1 In a single year, your odds of encountering a potentially dangerous criminal involved in a violent crime are NOT “one in a million,” they are actually “1 in 54.” That’s a huge difference. Don’t be dismayed when it occurs. Be mentally prepared to accept this eventuality and act to protect yourself and your loved ones. Don’t get stuck in a denial loop, “I can’t believe this is happening to me!”

2 Accept that no one has a greater stake, nor a more vested interest, in your personal safety and well being than YOU do.

3 Understand and accept that no one is going to come and save you. You are on your own! According to the U.S. Justice Department, the duration of the average interaction with a criminal during a violent crime, from beginning to end of the incident, is about 90 seconds. The average urban police response time to a highest priority call is eleven minutes. In rural areas, response could be in hours! Thus, when seconds count, the police are just minutes away!

4 Adopt John Farnam’s Rule of Three Stupids:
   ♦ Don’t go to stupid places.
   ♦ Don’t hang out with stupid people.
   ♦ Don’t do stupid things.

5 Make a habit of simple things, like keeping all doors locked and using your alarm system. Scan your surroundings, especially when going from one environment to another (out of the store, onto the parking lot; out of your car, to the gas pump).

6 Have the emergency safety equipment you need to respond to a violent, life threatening emergency when it occurs, and have it on your person. You will not be able to go get anything.

We cannot remove risk from daily life. What we can do is control, mitigate and minimize risk by taking precautions against known threats. We could make violent crime as rare as lightning strikes and snake bites, but that would take a massive reshaping of our culture. You can’t do that on your own. What you can do is take steps to reduce that threat for you and your family. Why wouldn’t you do that?