



## June 2020 Newsletter

### **DRILL OF THE MONTH**

Throughout 2020 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, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rangemaster/>.

#### **Rangemaster Advanced Bullseye Course, 2020**

Fired on NRA B-8, B-8 repair center, FBI-IP1, or the bullseye on an LTT-1  
Only hits in the 8, 9, 10 and X ring count, all others are misses.  
All strings begin at The Ready, gun pointed at ground in front of shooter.

25 yards   5 rounds   30 seconds

15 yards   5 rounds   10 seconds

7 yards   10 rounds   12 seconds

Start with 5 rds only in the gun; 5 rounds, reload, 5 rounds

5 yards   5 rounds   5 seconds

5 yards   3 rounds   3 seconds

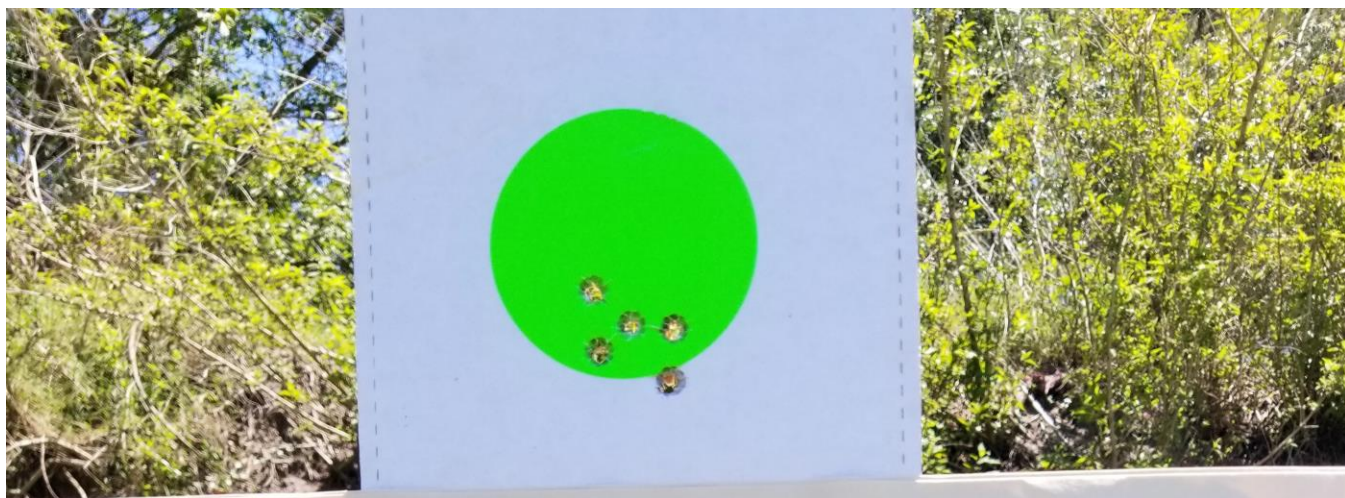
Start gun in hand, at ready, using dominant hand only

5 yards   2 rounds   3 seconds

Start gun in hand, at ready, using non-dominant hand only

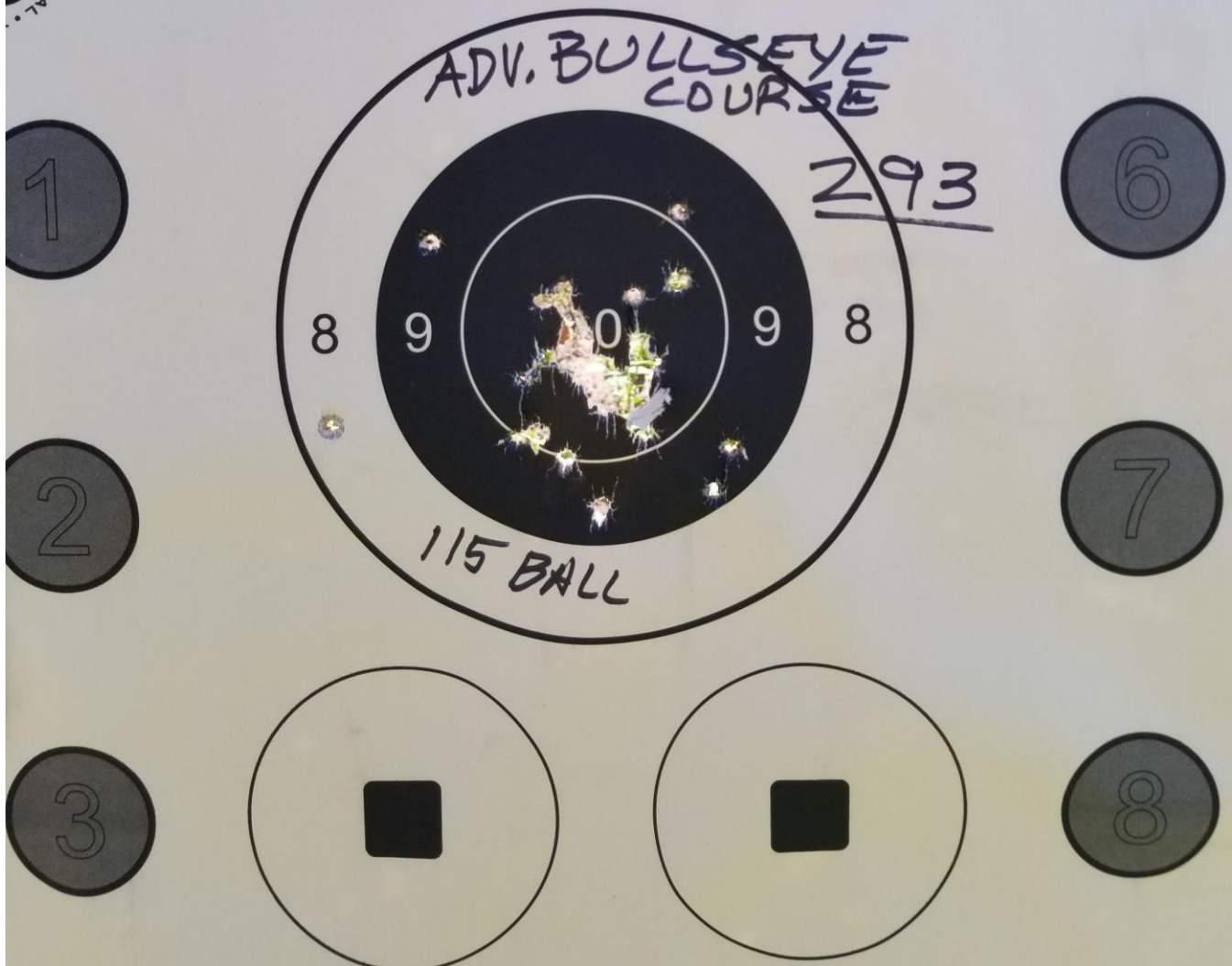
30 rounds   300 points possible   270 or higher to pass

If you can shoot 270 (90%) or above on this, cold, you're a very good shot. The target in the photo was not shot cold, I had a bit of warm-up, but it gives you an idea what this should look like. Go shoot!



LANGDON TACTICAL TECHNOLOGY

THE NATIONAL TARGET CO.  
3915-D DARTMOUTH CT. • FREDERICK, MD 21703  
MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF OFFICIAL NRA TARGETS  
N.R.A. LICENSE NO. 1



## **The Thinking Gunman's Bookshelf, by Tom Givens**

As a serious “student of the gun” for over fifty years, I have always sought out information on every aspect of armed self defense. Sadly, I frequently encounter people who own guns, ostensibly for self defense, but they have no knowledge of defensive shooting technique or equipment. Others know something about their handguns and may even be good shots, but have never actually considered the moral, ethical and legal ramifications of using a firearm in self defense. Still others have some understanding of these issues, but have no idea of the rich history of armed self defense in this country, or the evolution of the techniques we take for granted today. If self defense against dangerous criminals is your goal, some understanding of the criminal’s mentality could be very useful. Finally, some understanding of the wounding mechanisms of handgun ammunition and of human anatomy are important pieces of the puzzle. In my view, a well rounded handgunner should have some basic knowledge and understanding in each of these areas of study.

Looking over my personal reference library, I found three hundred and eighty five books dealing with the topics listed above. Generally, they can be divided into two categories, “software and hardware”. The “software” volumes deal with such issues as developing a proper defensive mindset, understanding the criminal mind, and basic understanding of the legal issues involved in using force. The “hardware” books deal with handguns, holsters, and other equipment and with the specific techniques involved in using these tools efficiently. I’ll break these further into sub-sets based on content and make some recommendations for your reading list. Space constraints keep

me from being able to give you a real book report on each but I'll highlight why I think some of these books are important to you.

## **SOFTWARE**

The first book on my list should be required reading for every person who even thinks about carrying a handgun for self defense. Principles of Personal Defense was written by Jeff Cooper in 1972 and is a very brief work outlining the seven guiding principles of personal combat. Jeff authored a number of books in his long career and many of them contain great insight into both shooting technique and mindset development. One of my favorites is Fireworks , a Gunsite Anthology.

Born Fighting, How the Scots-Irish Shaped America, by James Webb has been described as “popular history at its finest” by the American Library Association. Webb traces the influx of Scots-Irish immigrants into the US and how their input shaped the American working class’s sense of fierce individualism, persistent egalitarianism and strong sense of personal honor.

Deep Survival, Who Lives, Who Dies, and Why by Laurence Gonzales is a vital description of the mental, emotional and character issues involved in surviving catastrophe, whether natural or man-made. Many years ago Jeff Cooper wrote that “the world is divided into two groups, “copers” and “non-copers”. The purpose of training and personal development was to become a “coper”. According to Gonzales, it appears Jeff was correct.

The Deadliest Men, by Paul Kirchner is a fascinating look at some of the most skilled and successful warriors in history. Paul spent five years researching this material and has offered some real insights into the character and actions of some of the best known as well as some relatively unknown fighters. From well known folk heroes like Sgt. Alvin York and James Bowie to some less well known gunmen like Delf “Jelly” Bryce and Lance Thomas, Kirchner gives us a look at what makes real warriors.



Straight Talk on Armed Defense, What the Experts Want You to Know, edited by Massad Ayoob. This is a collection of chapters written by 14 different experts in the self defense field, each with his own area of expertise. Contributors include Mas Ayoob, Craig “Southnarc” Douglas, William Aprill, Dr. Alexis Artwohl, John Hearne, me, and others. The information covers all aspects of armed self defense.



To this list I would add two more works dealing with the emotional and mental aspects of deadly force incidents. Both offer a great deal of information on what you can expect during, and as importantly, after a defensive shooting. They are Deadly Force Encounters, Second Edition, by Dr. Alexis Artwohl and Loren Christensen, and Into the Kill Zone, by David Klinger.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Without comment, here is a good starting list for learning about the history and development of gunfighting in the US. Many are available as low cost re-prints, or you can scour gun shows and estate sales for original copies.

Fast & Fancy Revolver Shooting, by Ed McGivern

Sixguns, by Elmer Keith

Gunfighters, by Col. Charles Askins

Shooting, by J. Henry Fitzgerald

Legendary Lawman, The Story of Quick Draw Jelly Bryce, Ron Owens

## **HARDWARE**

These are current works dealing with modern, effective shooting and gunhandling techniques. Each represents current state of the art technique, but because of the different backgrounds of the authors (law enforcement, special operations military) those techniques may vary slightly.

Stay in the Fight, Warriors Guide to the Combat Pistol, by Kyle Lamb, recently retired from US Army Special Operations.

Handgun Combatives, by Dave Spaulding, recently retired from a long and storied law enforcement career.

The Art of Modern Gunfighting, by Scott Reitz, recently retired member of LAPD SWAT, winner of several line of duty gunfights and experienced trainer.

Tactical Pistol Shooting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Erik Lawrence and Mike Pannone, former Special Operations soldiers and excellent trainers.

Training at the Speed of Life, by Kenneth Murray. Murray is one of the pioneers in simulation based training and this book is the bible for force on force training.

## **WOMEN'S ISSUES IN FIREARMS TRAINING**

More and more women are entering the field of personal self defense training, and they bring a unique set of challenges and needs to the modern firearms trainer. Here are some excellent works to help guide women and their trainers.

Concealed Carry for Women, by Gila Hayes

Teaching Women to Shoot, by Vicki Farnam and Diane Nichol





## **GUNSHOT WOUNDING**

Gunshot Wounds, by Dr. Vincent DiMaio, one of the most experienced and respected forensic medical examiners in the US

Forensic Analysis of the April 11, 1986, FBI Firefight, Dr. French Anderson A detailed look at a historic shooting incident, including extensive information on the many wounds suffered by participants in this gun battle, and how those wounds affected the action.

## **LEGAL ISSUES**

In the Gravest Extreme, by Massad Ayoob is several decades old now, but still has a solid foundation of information on the legal aspects of self defense.

Deadly Force, Understanding Your Right to Self Defense, by Massad Ayoob. This 2014 release covers the legal issues involved in the use of lethal force in self-defense in great detail but in language the non-lawyer layman can easily understand. Highly recommended.

## **CRIMINAL PSYCHOLOGY**

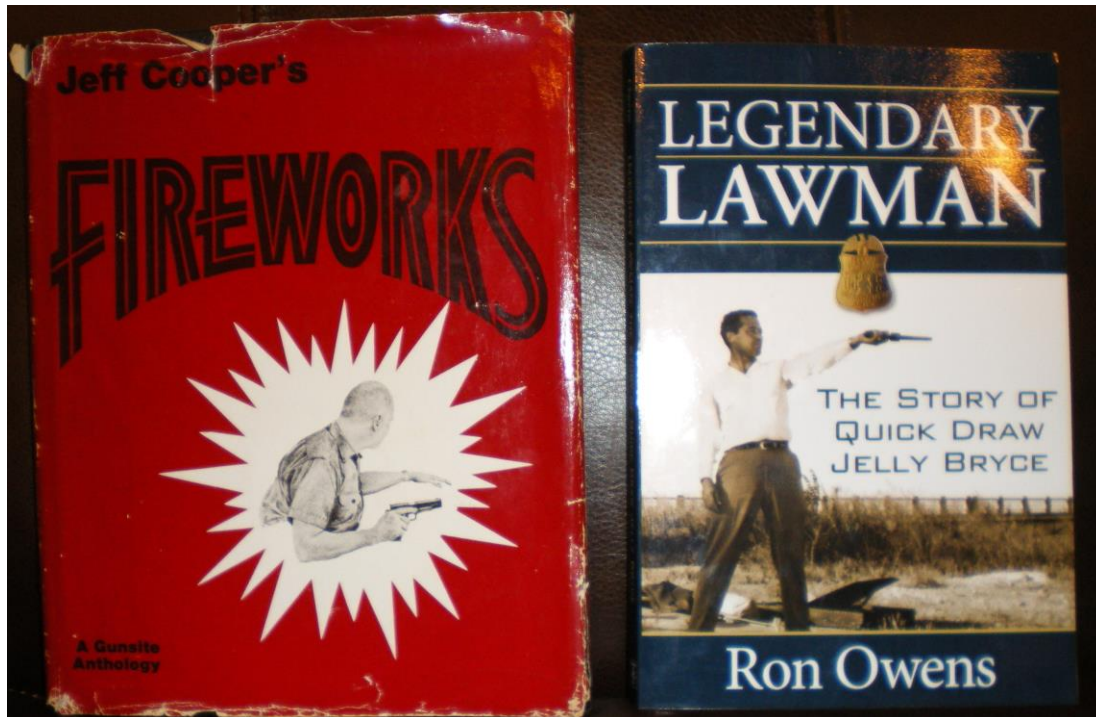
Inside the Criminal Mind, by Stanton E. Samenow, Ph.D. (The Revised and Updated Edition). The original version of this book was published in 1984, and became a best-seller. The work was updated in 2004, after Samenow had an additional 20 years of experience in researching criminal behavior. John Douglas was one of the original profilers in the FBI Behavioral Sciences Unit, and he had this to say about Inside the Criminal Mind, “Utterly compelling reading, full of raw insight into the dark mind of the criminal.”

The Dark Side of Man, by Michael Ghiglieri is a thorough and detailed look at human aggression and violence from the unique perspective of a former combat soldier and longtime primate researcher, a protégé of Jane Goodall. The Dark Side of Man



offers scientific explanation for behavior such as rape, murder and genocide. Not for the faint hearted.

So, this should keep you reading for a while. When you finish these, you'll have a good basic working knowledge of the many topics that are involved in self defense and hopefully, an appetite for more. Happy reading!



## **Lessons Learned, and Then,** **Re-learned by Tom Givens**

I've been a serious shooter since the 1960's. While shooting in various forms of competition, carrying a gun for a living, and training others over a span of over 50 years I find that every now and then I am presented with a life lesson that I have been exposed to previously, but had faded from my consciousness over time. Some of these could have disastrous results if they occurred at the wrong time. Fortunately, the ones I'll mention here took place in an environment where no real harm resulted.

In the first, I was at the local indoor range working some drills with a new Glock 19 that was worked over for me at Boresight Solutions. This gun is a real shooter, and I enjoy shooting it. I had reached a total of about 2,200 rounds through it when the extractor suddenly went bad. (This is not a reflection on Boresight. Nothing they did to the gun had anything to do with extraction.) It began by tossing the brass back in my face, something it had not done previously. After a few more shots, I started getting a failure to eject (stovepipe malfunction) every few shots. After five or six stovepipes, I took the gun to the range's gunsmith for examination. The extractor was missing a small piece of the claw, which had broken off. He stuck in a new extractor and the problem was fixed.

The problem is, that fix would not have been available during a fight! There are a couple of important lessons here. First, this reinforces my habit of having two identical specimens of any gun I actually carry. In this case, the gun that broke was my practice gun. My normal routine is to train and practice with one of the pair, and actually carry the other, rarely shooting the carry gun. Thus, the carry gun does not accumulate wear and tear, and is less likely to break when I really need it. Second, a broken extractor in only 2,200 rounds is not normal, but it did happen. It could just as easily have happened when I needed the gun for real. This reinforces my practice of carrying a BUG. I don't carry a back-up gun in case of a need to reload, or a minor malfunction, but I carry it in case of an actual part failure, as in this case. If your primary gun breaks at a bad time, your back-up gun might be really important.

I am often asked by students something like, "I have to decided to carry this gun, and have bought one. What gun should I buy next?". My answer is to buy another one just like it, and follow the practice of training/practicing with one and carrying its twin. The photo shows my identical twin G17's. The one on the left is my every day carry gun. The one on the right is my training/practice gun. They are virtually indistinguishable.

The next lesson also involved this Glock 19. The only range actually close to my home is a small indoor range. On this particular range, the longest shot is 10 yards. This is where I had shot this gun on most of the opportunities I had to fire it prior to the extractor failure. I then got a chance to go to a steel shoot put on in the next county, on an outdoor range. To my surprise, when I shot it at 25 yards I found that the point of impact was 3-4 inches below my point of aim. I went home and fixed this by installing a shorter front sight. The lesson- always check your zero at 25 yards. At 10 yards, the difference in POA/POI may not be obvious, but at 25 yards it

sure is. Don't assume that if it hits where you aim at 5,7 or 10 yards, that it will at 25 or 30 yards.

The final lesson did not involve me, but it still made an impression. A group of police officers were recently at their range to shoot their semi-annual qualification course. As with many agencies, this department's policy is to shoot the ammunition the officers had been carrying, and after the qualification session issue them fresh duty ammunition. This way, they are never carrying the same ammunition on duty for more than six months, a really good practice to emulate. For one officer, on his very first stage, the round in his chamber, the one that had been in his chamber on the street for six months, was a squib. The bullet was pushed out of the case and stuck in the chamber. A simple tap/rack got rid of the empty case, but the stuck bullet prevented the next round from chambering. There is no immediate action fix for this. The officer had to lock open the slide, put a brass rod down the barrel from the front, and use a mallet to pound out the stuck bullet. Doing this while under fire would be a bit problematic. The lesson—again this is a prime reason for a BUG. If the only gun you have is rendered inoperable, you have an inefficient paperweight in your hands. If you have a second gun, you can rock on. This squib would have been the first round this officer attempted to fire if he needed that gun to save his life on duty.

At present, we have the finest guns and ammunition that have ever existed. Always remember, though, that the guns are mechanical devices, built by people. Mechanical devices wear, and they break. Tens of millions of rounds of ammunition are made in this country every single day. Some will not be up to spec. One of those out of spec rounds may be in the chamber of your carry blaster. Be prepared to deal with these issues if they arise.

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**June 12-14      Defensive Shotgun Instructor, McCloud, OK**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-52852914490>

**July 21-23      Instructor Development, Firearms Academy of Seattle**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-washington-state-tickets-65074230776>

**July 25      Defensive Revolver, Firearms Academy of Seattle**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-revolver-course-one-day-tickets-92425682705>

**July 26      Defensive Shotgun, Firearms Academy of Seattle**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-shotgun-one-day-course-tickets-92425933455>

**July 27-28      Advanced Instructor Development , Firearms Academy of Seattle**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-60668169127>