

**Rangemaster Firearms Training Services**  
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## **APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER**

### **DRILL OF THE MONTH**

Throughout 2023 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/> .

### **7 Yard Standards**

To be shot on a B-8C repair center, a B-8, or an FBI-IP1 bullseye target. The rings are scored as printed, except if a full size B-8 is used, nothing further out than the 7 ring counts. Anything in the 5 or 6 ring counts as zero points. All firing is from 7 yards.

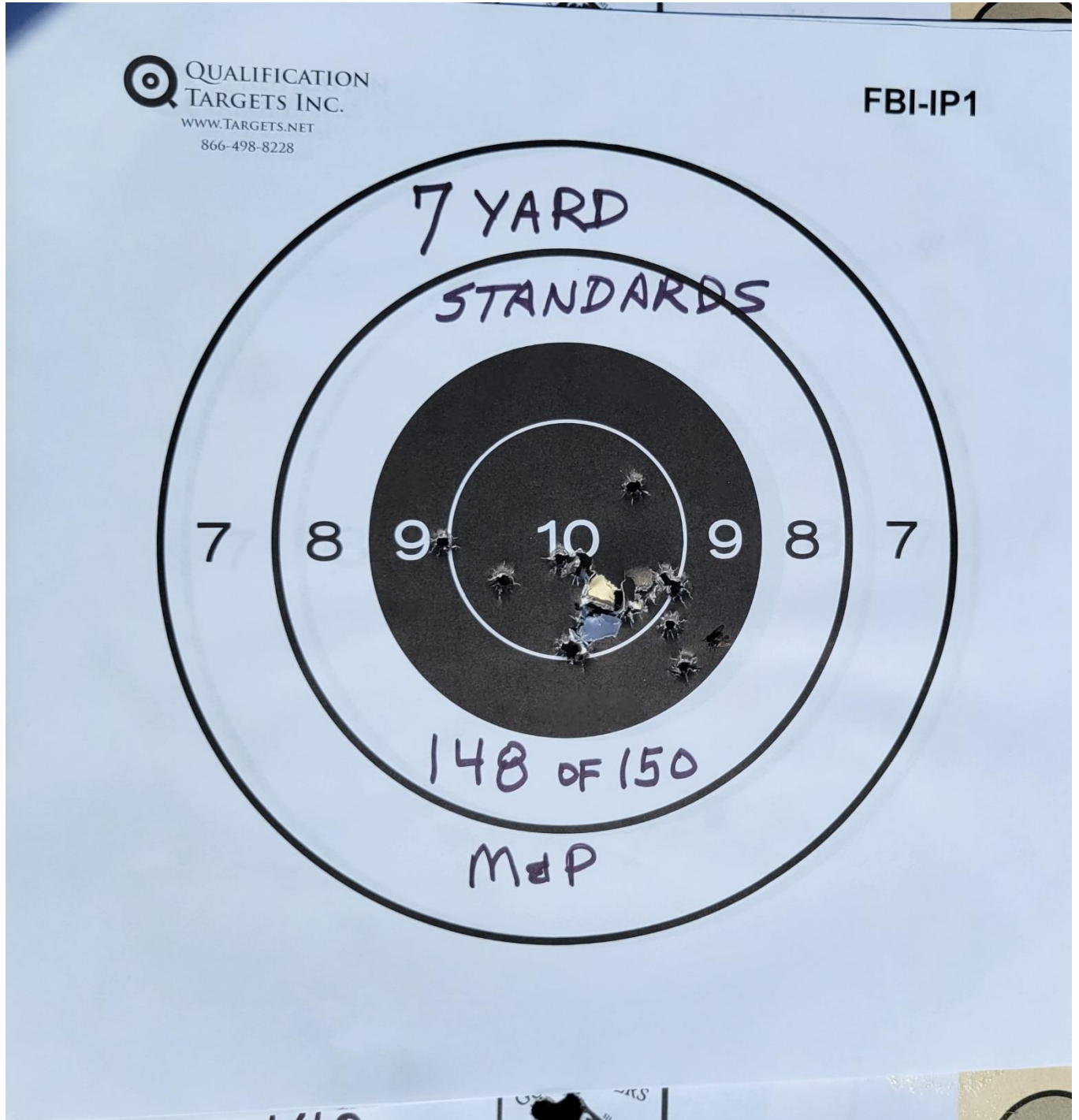
**Draw and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds**

**Start at Ready, gun in dominant hand. Dominant hand only, fire 4 rounds in 5 seconds**

**Start gun in non-dominant hand. Non-dominant hand only, fire 3 rounds in 5 seconds.**

Start with 1 round in the gun, empty magazine in gun, at The Ready. On signal, fire 1 round, conduct an empty gun reload, and fire 2 more rounds, all in 8 seconds.

15 rounds total 150 points possible 135 or above to pass



# Voice Amplifier Review

Sarah Hauptman

This extremely helpful article was written by our dear friend, Sarah Hauptman. Sarah is one half of Phlster Holsters and presents at the Tactical Conference. Hers is good advice.

For those of us who can't project our voices, or who get vocal fatigue after a long day, portable voice amplifiers can be a lifesaver. The cheap ones are adequate for indoors or small groups, but sometimes you need a little more volume for outdoor environments. I tested three portable voice amplifiers available on Amazon, ranging from \$28 to \$188.

All last year, I used a relatively low end voice amplifier for my classes (Zweetek 10 watt voice amplifier, \$28). I teach a 2-4 hour classroom block, which is often outdoors and sometimes in close proximity to fire ranges. While my cheap amplifier was definitely better than nothing, there were times when environmental noise would overpower my voice. So I decided to upgrade. I purchased two of the highest end options I could find - the Shidu 30 Watt Voice Amplifier (\$119), and the the Gigaphone 40 Watt Voice Amplifier (\$188). After spending some time with them, I'm sending the Shidu back and buying a second Gigaphone. For my purposes, it's just that darn good. Here's why:

The Gigaphone is significantly louder than the Shidu. Like knock your socks off, scare the dog loud. I couldn't get a quantitative measurement because my phone's sound meter only goes up to 80ish decibels, but it was the only one of the

three loud enough to max out my phone's meter. Qualitatively, to my ear the Shidu and Gigaphone sounded about equally loud with the Shidu at max volume and the Gigaphone at half volume. Both the Shidu and Gigaphone are considerably louder than the Zoweetek.

Sound quality with the Gigaphone is acceptable at max volume, but it can sometimes be difficult to avoid feedback, squawking, and ringing. Careful mic adjustment is important. Adjusting the volume just a touch under max seemed to be a good compromise, and was plenty loud (still much louder than the Shidu).



The Gigaphone did a better job of amplifying the higher frequencies of my voice, which made speech easier to understand. It sounds more artificial, and has more of a “PA” sound, but the voice projects very cleanly.

The Shidu, on the other hand, had an overall more pleasant sound quality. It was richer in the lower frequencies, but I felt

that the lower volume combined with less amplification of the high frequency "S" sounds made the speech muddy and harder to understand. If I were a singer, or if I prioritized vocal quality over loudness, I might favor the Shidu's more balanced sound, but IMO the Gigaphone is better for straight up understandable speech. Both have better sound quality than the Zoweetek.



The Gigaphone has the best user interface, with a simple, quick power button and volume knob. It's also quick to boot up. The Shidu requires different combinations of long and short button presses to perform basic functions, which is annoying, and it takes a while to turn on. The Zoweetek turns on fairly quickly and has a simple dial for volume control.





**The Gigaphone is a good balance of weight vs power. Weight starts to matter when it's hanging around your neck or off your belt all day. The Zoweetek was the smallest at 5.9 oz, followed by the Gigaphone at 10.5 oz, then the Shidu was a hefty 26.7 oz. Relative sizes are shown in the reference photo.**

**The version of the Gigaphone I tested does not have wireless capability. Not an issue for me - I prefer wired headsets for the reliability and battery life. While there's a Gigaphone with wireless available, it's yet another \$100 more on top of an already high price tag (Wireless 40 Watt Gigaphone, \$280). The Shidu I tested does have wireless, if that's a feature you prefer, and is a much more reasonable \$119.**

**The Gigaphone has a user replaceable battery. That means it has a longer lifespan, which is important in an expensive product. If it starts to lose charge capacity over time, it's very simple to just open up the battery compartment and swap out the battery for a new one. The Shidu and Zoweetek do not appear to have replaceable batteries. All three have rechargeable batteries, and all three will require you to bring an additional special wall charger that you wouldn't**

ordinarily travel with, which is obnoxious in the era of USB-C.

Overall, I felt the Shidu and Gigaphone were both good products. The Gigaphone is better for my specific goal (making speech as loud and clear as possible). The Shidu has a more pleasant sound. The Zoweetek performs about how you'd expect being the cheapest of the three, but is passable if you're on a budget and only need a little extra boost.

Value wise, I think the Shidu probably provides the best value for the price. It is reasonably loud, has wireless capability, and is a big upgrade from the Zoweetek.

The Gigaphone is a big step up in price for somewhat diminishing returns, in my opinion. While it's easily the loudest of the three, I would only recommend it if you really need maximum amplification and are willing to pay for it. Unfortunately, I was cursed with a voice that does NOT carry, at all, so I need all the help I can get, especially outdoors when people are shooting nearby.

If you're on a budget or you don't need as much amplification, the Zoweetek is perfectly acceptable and costs less than two boxes of ammo, or a dozen eggs.

# **Bullseye Drills and Courses**

**If one is trying to build real skill with a handgun, shooting bullseye type targets can be highly beneficial. The B-8 and its derivatives require a level of precision not found in typical silhouette targets, and learning to hit that tiny 10 ring at speed will often translate into real skill and confidence on larger targets. That confidence can be crucial to preventing panic and remaining in control under the stress of a real armed encounter.**

**I'm sure it is purely coincidental, but the B-8 has a lot of anatomic relevance. The 10 ring is about 3 ½ inches in diameter, about the same as an ocular window head shot. The "black", encompassing the 9 and 10 rings, is 5 ½ inches in diameter, corresponding to a good solid hit in the heart and attached plumbing. The 8 ring happens to be 8 inches in diameter, the same as the 8 inch circle in the chest of many good silhouette targets. Finally, the 7 ring is the same width as my torso. That's why in my drills, hits further out than the 7 ring don't count, as they would be misses on a man of my size.**

**The B-8, the B-8C repair center, and the FBI-IP1 all use the same dimensions for the scoring rings. My favorite version is the FBI-IP1, which is on a 15.5"X15.5" piece of paper, and only goes out to the 7 ring. This makes it perfect for my purposes.**

**Here are several drills and courses of fire that I use in my own training. I always start a practice session with one of these, shot cold, as a skill check. That tells me where I am skill-wise on that day, and what specific skills I may need to work on in that practice session. Give them a try.**



## **Baseline Skills Assessment Drill**

**Use a B-8 repair center, FBI-IP-1 bullseye, or the bullseye on an LTT-1 target, scored as printed. This drill is intended to be shot cold, from concealed carry. If using a full size B-8, nothing further out than the 7 ring counts as a hit.**

**5 yards Draw and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds, using both hands.**

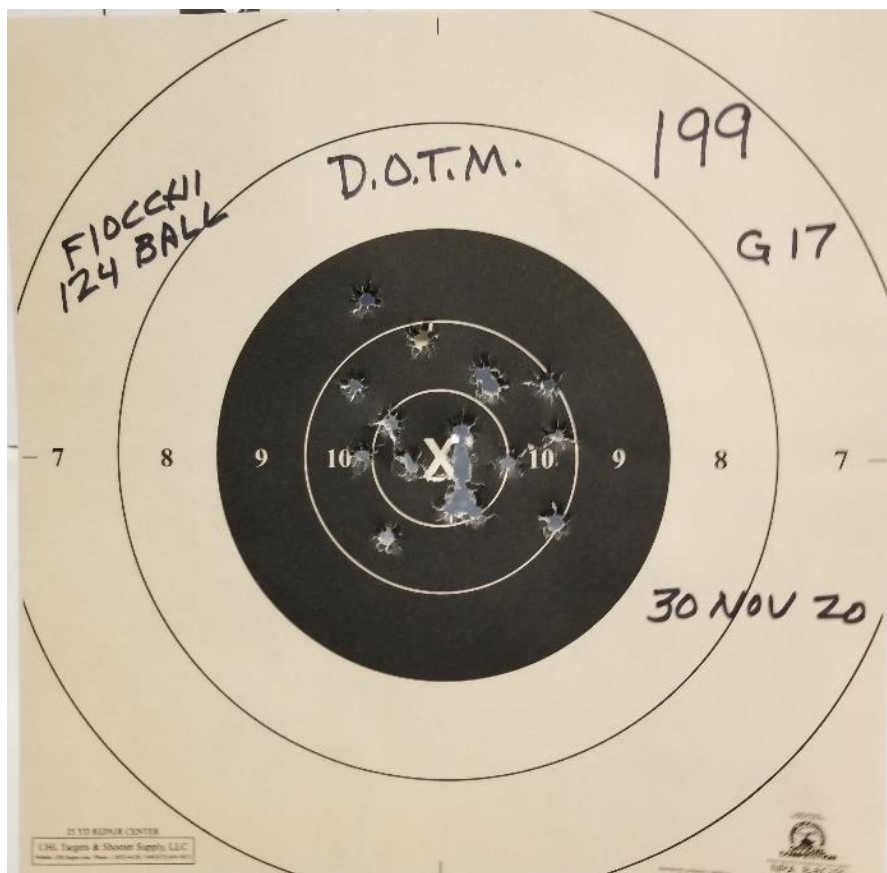
**5 yards Start gun in hand, at Ready, in dominant hand only. Fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds.**

**5 yards Start gun in hand, at Ready, in non-dominant hand only. Fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds.**

**7 yards Start gun in hand, loaded with 3 rounds only. Fire 3 rounds, conduct an empty gun reload, and fire 3 more rounds, all in 10 seconds.**

**10 yards Start gun in hand, at Ready. Fire 4 rounds in 4 seconds.**

**20 rounds total. Possible score = 200**



### **Rangemaster Bullseye Course**

**Fired on NRA B-8, or FBI-IP1, scored as printed, except outside 7 ring counts zero**

**All strings begin at the Ready**

**25 yards      5 rds      1 minute**

**15 yards      5 rds      15 seconds**

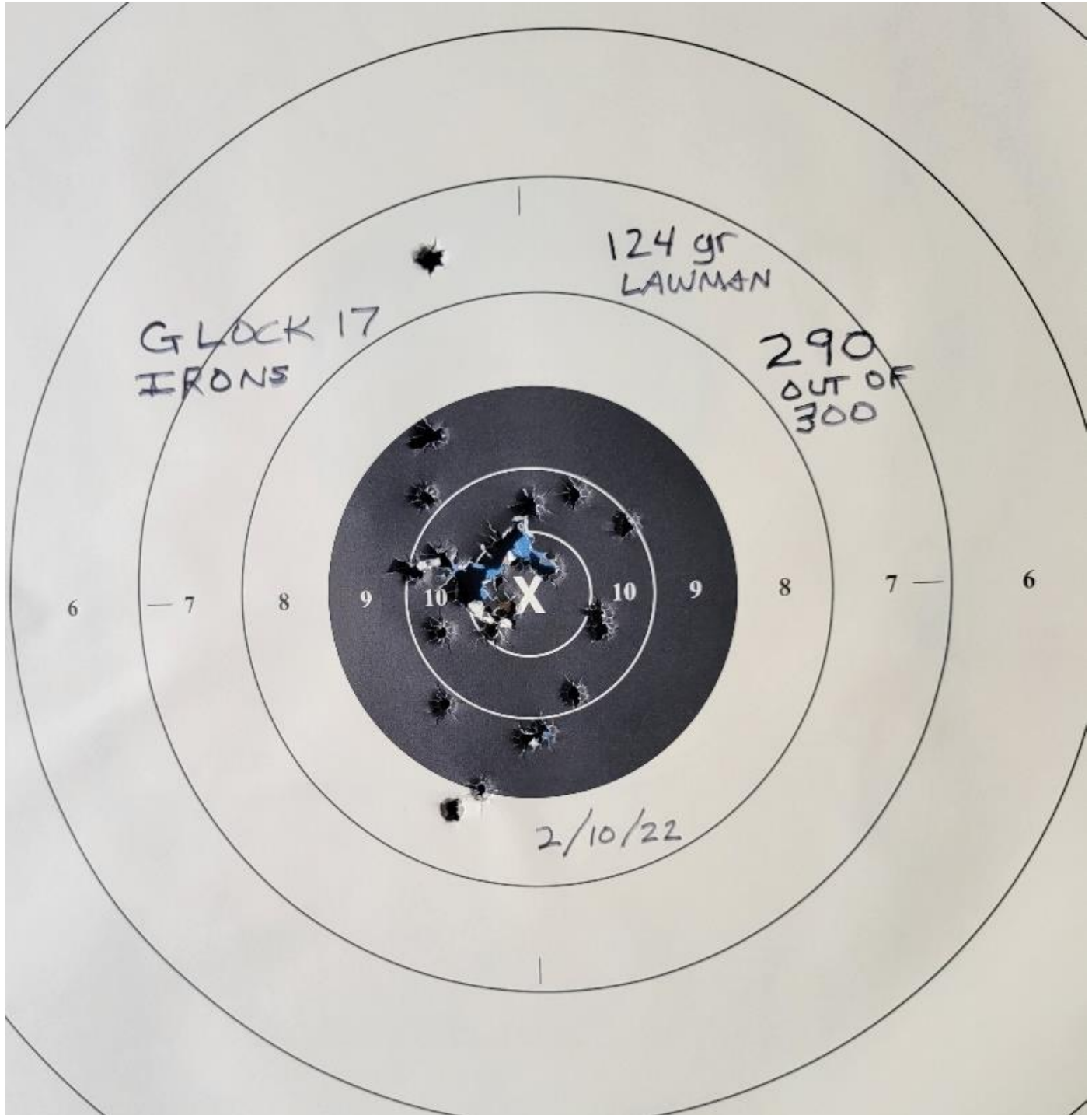
**10 yards      5 rds      10 seconds**

**7 yards      10 rds      15 seconds**

**Start with 5 rds in the gun. Fire 5, reload, fire 5, all in 15 secs**

**5 yards      5 rds      5 seconds**

30 rounds total      300 points possible    270 to pass at  
Instructor level (90%)



## Rangemaster Advanced Bullseye Course

NRA B-8 or B-8C, or FBI-IP1 bullseye target used.

Only hits in the 7, 8, 9 and 10 rings count. Beyond the 7 ring are misses.

All strings begin at Ready, gun pointed at the ground.

25 yards 5 rds 30 secs freestyle

15 yards 5 rds 12 secs freestyle

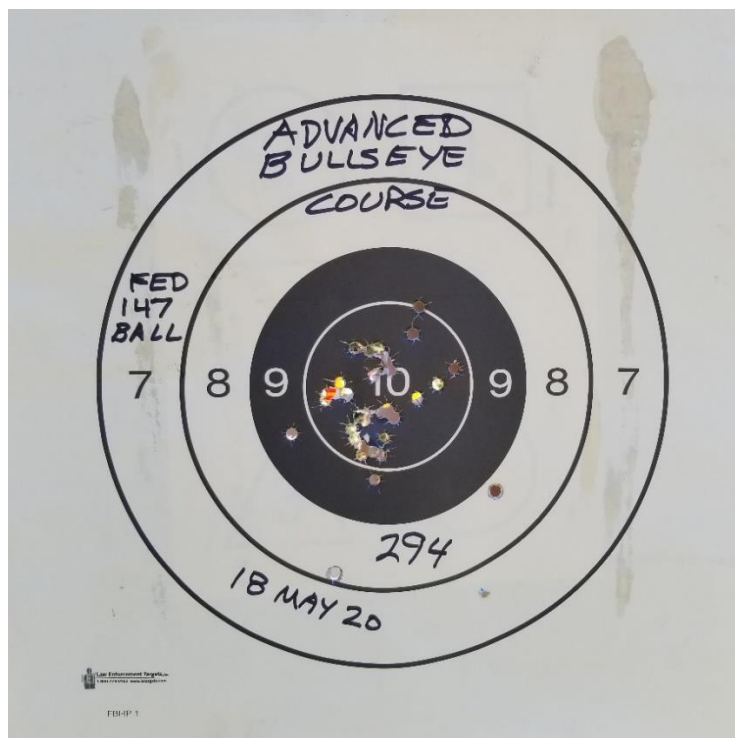
7 yards 10 rds Start with 5 in gun. Fire 5, reload, fire 5  
all in 12 seconds, freestyle

5 yards 5 rds 5 secs freestyle

5 yards 3 rds 3 secs Dominant hand only

5 yards 2 rds 3 secs Non-dominant hand only

30 rounds total 300 points possible 270 or above to pass



## **The 5 Yard Round-Up, designer- Justin Dyal**

**B-8, B8-c, or FBI-IP1 target, nothing further out than the 7 ring counts. All firing is at 5 yards. The time limit for all tasks is 2.5 seconds.**

**Draw from concealment and fire 1 shot.**

**From the Ready, fire 4 shots.**

**Start gun in hand, at ready, in dominant hand only. Fire 3 shots.**

**Start gun in hand, at ready, support hand only, fire 2 shots.**

**Overtime shots do not count.**

**10 rounds total 100 points possible Goal is 95 or above.**

## **The Test, designer- Ken Hackathorn**

**B-8C or FBI-IP1, scored as printed.**

**Start at Ready, target at 10 yards. Fire 10 rounds in 10 seconds.**

**Possible Score = 100**

**When you can clean this from the Ready, do it while drawing from the holster.**

**The Super Test, designers Wayne Dobbs & Darryl Bolke**

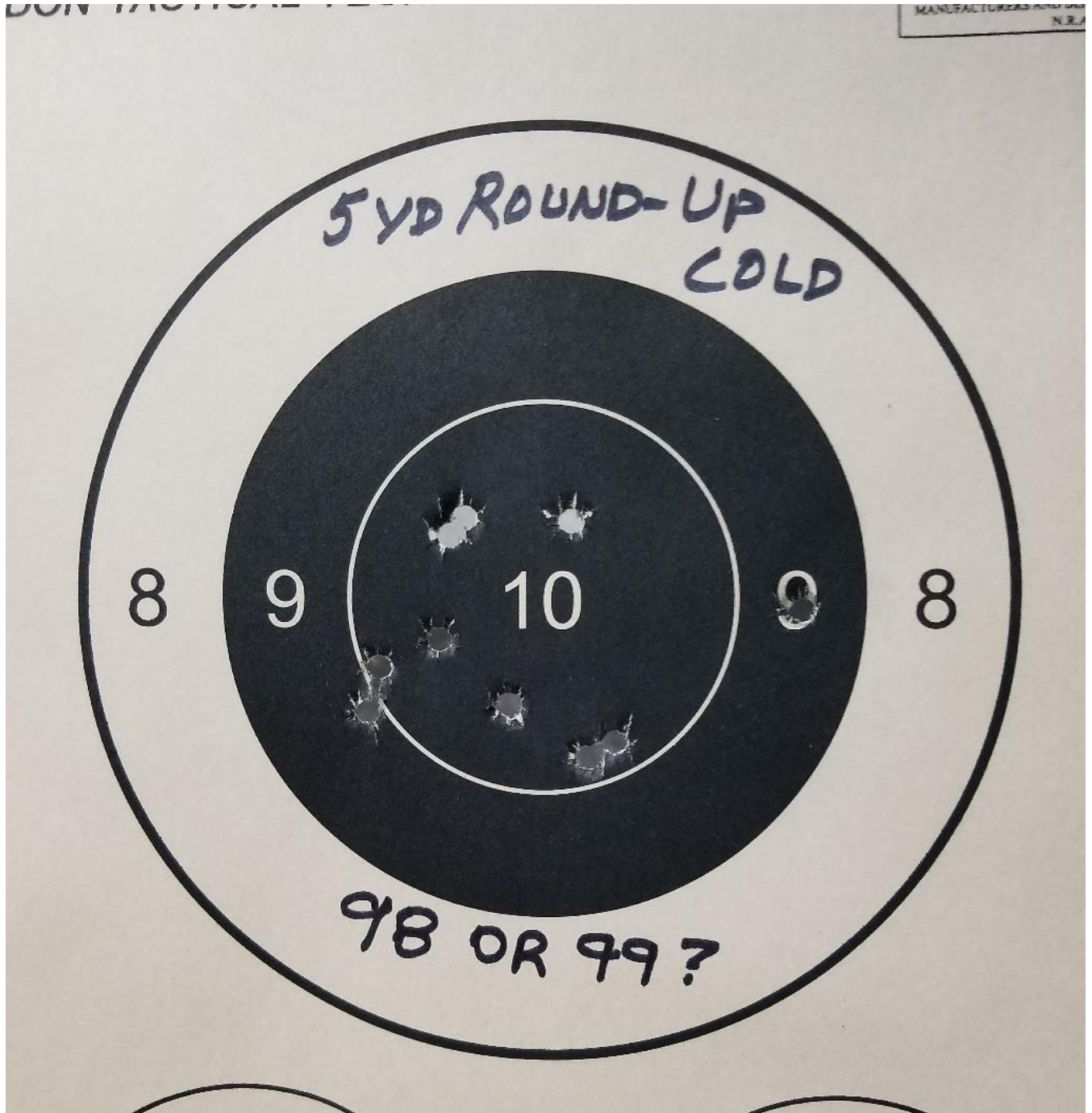
**B-8 or FBI-IP1 target. Start each string at the Ready.**

**5 yards Fire 10 rounds in 5 seconds**

**10 yards Fire 10 rounds in 10 seconds**

**15 yards Fire 10 rounds in 15 seconds**

30 rounds total, 300 points possible. When you can shoot 285 or above, do the drill from the holster.





## **John Hearne, Two Pillars Training**

One recent weekend I did not have to teach, so I drove down to Miami, FL, to attend a series of three one-day classes by my long time friend and associate, John Hearne.

John has been a federal LEO since 1992 and a staff instructor with Rangemaster since 2001. He is certified as a firearms instructor by Rangemaster (Master Instructor), the FBI, FLETC, NRA LE Division, etc, and has trained with just about everybody in the field. He has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis on research.

John has put his academic training as a researcher to good use, and he has come up with coursework that is a unique blend of psychology, sports physiology, motor skills learning/adult teaching, and his experience dealing with crime and criminals. John teaches this curriculum on his own as Two Pillars Training.

On Friday, we spent an entire day in the classroom on what John calls, "Defeating Violent Criminals: A Conceptual and Tactical Analysis". This was a solid nine hours of lecture, starting promptly at 9:00 am. The first half of the day dealt with how much violent crime there actually is, looking at a number of sources. John explained much of the psychology of crime, including both expressive and instrumental criminal types, and discussed how criminals evaluate and choose their victims. He also

discussed the findings of a fifteen year FBI study of lethal conflicts between violent criminals and the police.

The second half of the day centered on detailed analysis of the Newhall Incident in California and the FBI Miami 1986 shooting. A huge number of lessons were underscored in each incident.

TD2 on Saturday was John's famous lecture, "Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why?". This is a fascinating look at human evolution, how the brain works, and how to keep your feces coagulated in a crisis. Great stuff!

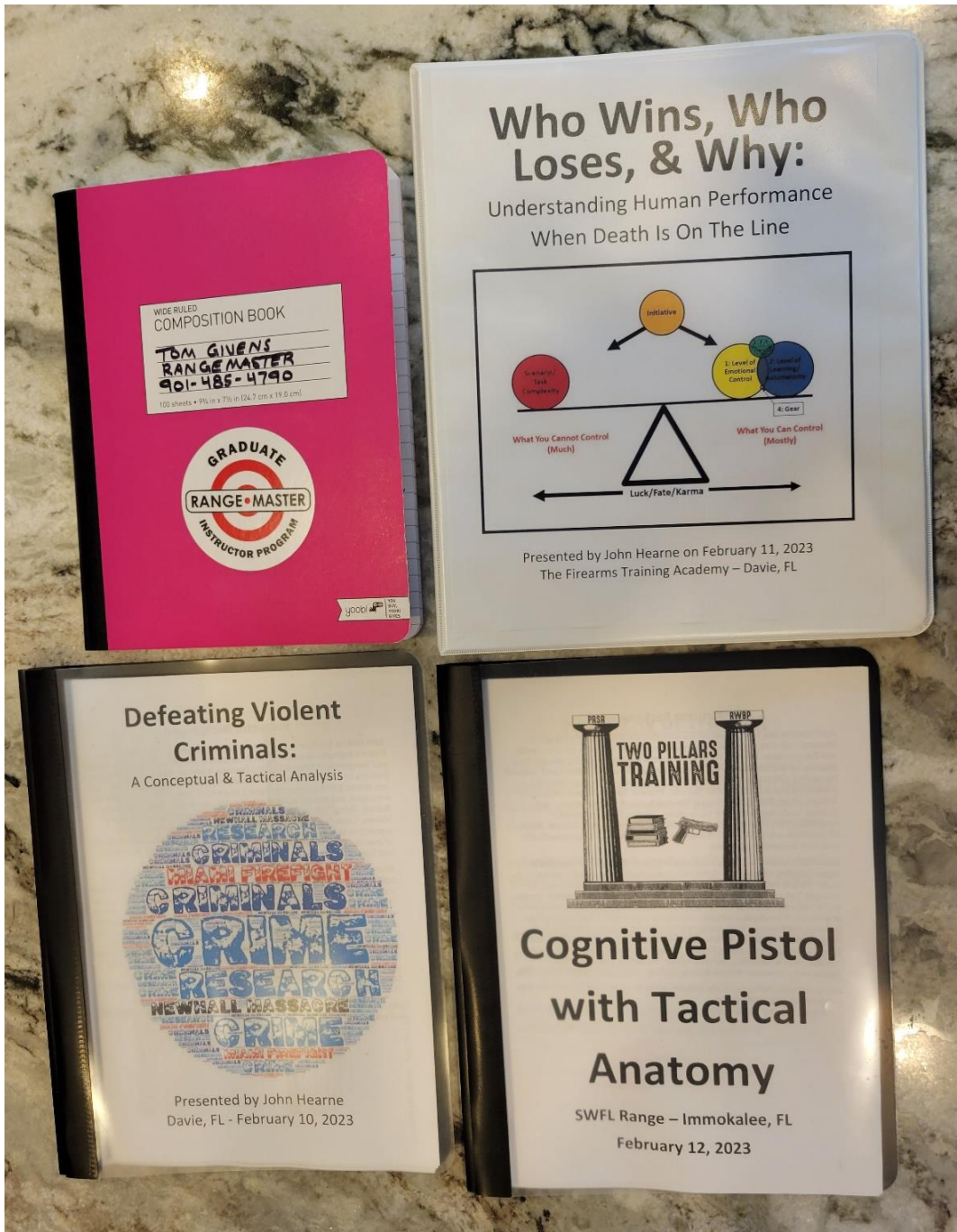


TD3 on Sunday was spent on an outdoor range in the Everglades. This course was "Cognitive Pistol, with Tactical Anatomy". John has developed some unique targetry, well thought out drills, and subtle ways to force the student to think and adapt while operating a handgun. Scott Reitz once said, "Gunfighting is advanced problem solving". John has devised ways to give students visual input, distractions, and decision making in real time. He brings turning targets, realistic mannequin targets, signal lights, and more to add a new dimension to most shooters' training.





John provides detailed, bound study materials to go with his classes. I was already familiar with the material and had heard most of the lectures previously. I still took 12 pages of notes in my notepad. Calling John's lectures "information dense" is a bit of an understatement.



I strongly recommend this program to anyone serious about self defense. For more details, see

[www.twopillarstraining.com](http://www.twopillarstraining.com) .

## **MeWe, Rangemaster's New Social Media Site**

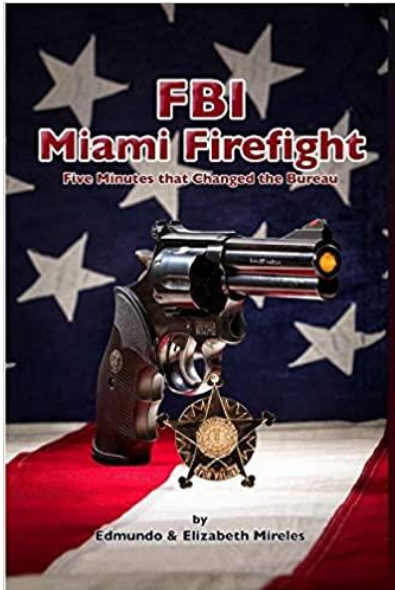
**A lot of people have left Facebook in recent months over censorship, shadow banning, and so forth. I noticed that very few of our friends and students were getting our Facebook posts, so we have established a new page on MeWe, an alternative network. Join us at [mewe.com/i/rangemasterfirearmstraining](https://mewe.com/i/rangemasterfirearmstraining)**

## **APRIL 11, 1986, the Gunfight That Changed Policing**

April 11th will be the 37th anniversary of the famous FBI shoot-out in Miami, Florida. This event pitted nine FBI agents against two heavily armed, skillful, and extremely dedicated hold-up men. When the gun battle was over, both Bad Guys were dead, but so were two FBI Special Agents, plus another five wounded.

This was a watershed event, leading to the change-over from revolvers to semiautomatic pistols in American law enforcement; to the modern high performance ammunition we have today; and a host of training and doctrinal changes. One of the surviving agents, who killed both the suspects, was Ed Mireles. Ed has written a first person account of the fight and I strongly recommend his book if

you are serious about winning violent, bloody confrontations with criminals. Available from Amazon for about \$20.00, or on Kindle even cheaper.



## UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

Unless noted otherwise, Tom Givens is the primary instructor for these classes. Aqil Qadir's classes are highlighted.

**KR Training, TX Apr 27, Defensive Shotgun one day**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-day-defensive-shotgun-course-tickets-291819629367>

**KR Training, TX Apr 28-30 Instructor, pistol**  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-291824203047>



**Cohutta Pines, Cisco, GA May 27-28 Combative Pistol (Aqil Qadir)**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-course-tickets-473639447337?aff=ebsoporgprofile>

**Tuttle, OK May 19-21 Instructor, pistol**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-292016277547>

**Yale, VA June 2-4, 2023 Instructor, pistol**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-168313735915>

**Kalamazoo, MI June 9-11, 2023 Instructor, pistol**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-166702173689>

**Springfield, MO June 23-25 Instructor, pistol**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-215417699137>

**Slidell, LA June 24-25 Combative Pistol (Aqil Qadir)**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-465457324387>

