



## **JULY 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/>.

### **HIGHER STANDARDS**

This month we are going to shoot a qualification course that would normally be shot on a silhouette target, but substitute a B-8C or an FBI-IP1 bullseye target, scored as printed. This raises the difficulty considerably, and reinforces mental discipline as well as the fundamentals of marksmanship.

**5 yards Draw and fire 5 rounds in 4 seconds**

**5 yards Start at The Ready, gun in dominant hand only. On signal, fire 3 rounds in 3 seconds, dominant hand only**

**5 yards Start at The Ready. Same as above, but non-dominant hand only.**

**7 yards** Start with only 4 rounds in the gun, at The Ready. On signal fire 4 rounds, reload, and fire 4 more rounds, all in 8 seconds.

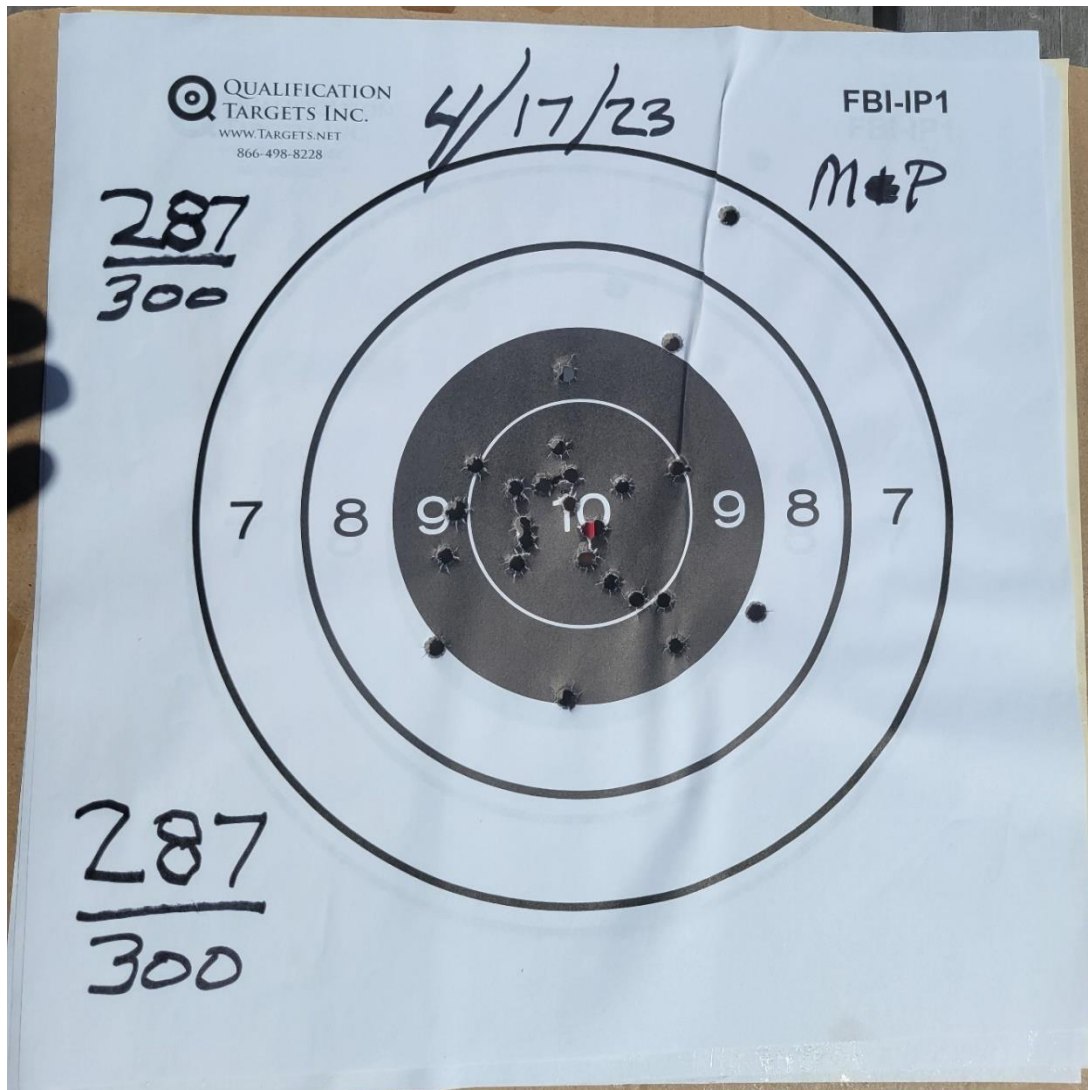
**10 yards** Start at The Ready. On signal, fire 4 rounds in 4 seconds

**15 yards** Draw and fire 3 rounds in 6 seconds

**25 yards** Draw and fire 4 rounds in 10 seconds

**30 rounds total 300 points possible 270+ to Pass**

**Penalize 10 points for every over-time shot fired.**



## **New Vang Comp Barrel Goodness!**

Recently, Cody at Vang Comp Systems sent me a new 14" barrel for my registered SBS 870. This barrel has the famous Vang Comp ports and other work that make for reduced recoil and better patterns. In addition, it sports Vang's new fixed sights, which I just love.

I took the little blaster to the range to pattern it and fired a variety of buckshot loads through it. They included:

**Winchester Ranger 8 pellet 00**

**Federal Flite Control 9 pellet 00**

**Federal Flite Control 15 pellet #1**

**Fiocchi Defense Dynamics 9 pellet 00.**

All gave outstanding patterns. All loads kept all pellets in the head of the silhouette at 10 yards and inside the torso at 20 yards. That is great performance for a shorty home defense gun.



**The sights are rugged and highly visible. The rear sight sits in a dovetail mount, allowing windage adjustment, secured by a lock screw. The front sight has a high visibility fiber optic mounted on a clean ramp. The sight picture is lightning fast and plenty precise. At 10 yards, I was able to clear a plate rack as quickly as I could cycle the action.**



**I'll pass this one around at the shotgun instructor course in Oklahoma I'm teaching in August. I'll report back on how it does.**



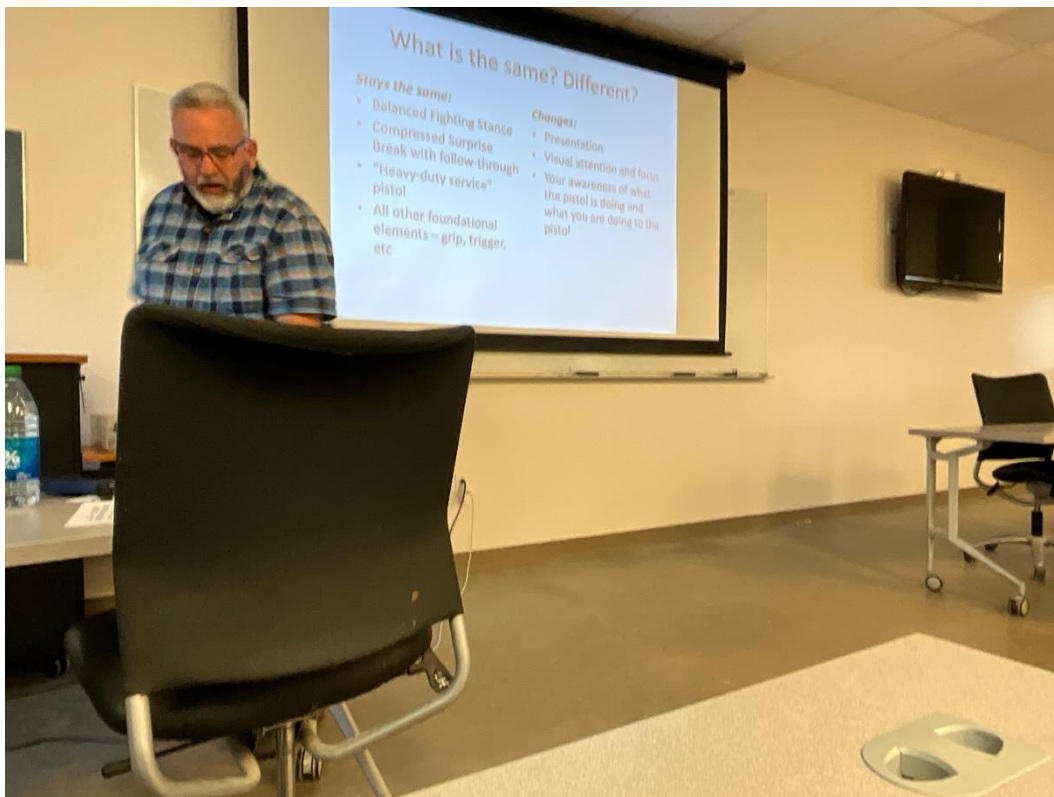


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# Cougar Mountain Solutions Pistol Mounted Optic Instructor

By Lee Weems, Rangemaster Staff Instructor

Pistol mounted optics (PMOs) are the trendy “modern” in contemporary firearms training. The Modern Technique developed by Jeff Cooper is the core of firearms training as we know it. Erick Gelhaus had the daunting task of integrating PMOs into the Modern Technique as an instructor at Gunsite. The



*Erick discussing what changes and what stays the same with PMOs.*

progeny of that effort is Erick’s [Pistol Mounted Optic Instructor Course](#), previously only available to law enforcement but now available, as of this offering, as a “hybrid model” to both law enforcement and what Erick terms as “decent, normal, human beings”.



I'm not going to delve into Erick's specific teaching points for techniques. If you want those, go take his class. This review will focus on Erick's teaching style particularly as it related to several challenges.

The first of those challenges is that this is a hybrid class. His intent is to offer a class that is beneficial to cops seeking information on developing an agency training programs and policies as well as techniques for training individual officers while also making the class relevant private citizens. In my opinion, he succeeded. There were 12 students in the class split almost evenly between the two groups. While a portion of the material was cop-specific, there were no segments of the class in which



the decent, normal, human beings were ignored or in which they could simply “switch off”.

Another challenge Erick faced is that this group was filled with several strong personalities. To his credit, Erick kept those strong personalities in check and the inside jokes to minimum while also avoiding doctrinal battles. On several instances, he offered his preference while also acknowledging other ways to tackle the problems. I'll note a key phrase that he used: “Here are the options. See what works.”.

Erick made ample use of the Explain, Demonstrate, Imitate, Practice (EDIP) teaching module. He explained everything. He demonstrated every technique. We worked coach/pupil with



another student for almost every exercise, and afterward, he



solicited feedback as to technique as well as teaching points for how to address coaching specific problems and techniques.

Finally, Erick's safety briefing included a significant discussion of the application of the safety rules with particular emphasis on muzzle and trigger finger discipline. His classroom and range material emphasized those rules.

**I'll be blunt. If you aren't legally justified to be shooting it, you aren't legally justified to be pointing a firearm at it.**



*Chuck coaching Buck.*

Unfortunately, that concept escapes some training offerings.



*Erick demonstrating a drill with BrYan on the timer*





*The instructor presenting the author with a hat for having the best score on a school drill. Also, see our new line of pants and shoes at your finer clothing retailers.*

If you are looking for a class from which you will come away with tools for teaching the PMO, this course will satisfy that need.

# Quality Information Sources?

In a sea of internet misinformation, a serious student wonders how he can find useful, reliable information on gear, technique, training, and related topics. Here are some vetted sources upon which I rely. These have a much higher ratio of useful material and the sources can be trusted to give you good data.

The first source is "The Weekend Knowledge Dump" from Greg Ellifritz. Greg is a recently retired police officer, and a very highly trained and experienced instructor. Greg has taught at TDI in Ohio before going out on his own. He is a Rangemaster certified Master Firearms Instructor and Defensive Shotgun Instructor, as well as being certified by many other organizations. Every Friday he posts a collection of articles with tons of relevant, timely information. This is one of the best single sources of good intel.

<http://www.activeresponsetraining.net/category/weekend-knowledge-dump>

Pistol-forum.com is one of very few internet discussion forums that has a fairly good signal to noise ratio. A lot of talented and very experienced shooters frequent this forum and offer advice.

"That Weems Guy" podcast is run by Lee Weems, a long time career lawman and Rangemaster staff member. Lee often interviews very experienced trainers who have been around a long time and can offer some insight into the history and development of firearms training. The firearms training community has a poor record when it comes to institutional



memory, and we keep having to learn the same lessons over and over. Tune in and learn.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/that-weems-guy/id1575361538>

The On-Duty/Off Duty podcast is hosted by Bryan Eastridge, a long time Oklahoma City cop, former Army Ranger, and experienced trainer. Check out

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-off-duty-on-duty-podcast/id1532606787>

CCW Safe is an organization run by some of the most experienced self defense lawyers in the country. They also put out a podcast with excellent information on a variety of self defense oriented subjects. See

<https://ccwsafe.com/news/>

These are all high quality information sources I use and participate in. Be careful about getting potentially life altering advice from some random Dude on the internet.

## **RANGEMASTER COMBATIVE PISTOL COURSES**

Aqil Qadir has been teaching since 1993 and has been a Rangemaster staff instructor for many years. He is now teaching our Combative Pistol Course, which is our foundational pistol class. It is also an outstanding way to prep for our instructor development courses, giving you a good grounding in

Rangemaster doctrine. Here are a couple of the CP courses coming up soon:

**Cincinnati, Ohio Sept 9-10 Combative Pistol Skills**

(Aqil Qadir)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-475332481247>

**Dallas, Texas Sept 23-24 Combative Pistol (Aqil Qadir)**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-465453954307>



# UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

**Yadkinville, NC July 15-16 Advanced Instructor Course**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-349893329367>

**Buford, GA July 21-23 Master Instructor**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-275274422207> **sold out**

**White Hall, AR Aug 12-13 Instr Reunion/Conference**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-instructor-reunionconference-tickets-450527238097>

**McLoud, OK Aug 18-20 Defensive Shotgun Instructor**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-291814323497>

**Cincinnati, Ohio Sept 9-10 Combative Pistol Skills**

**(Aqil Qadir)**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/combative-pistol-skills-tickets-475332481247>

**XENIA, OH Sept 22-23 Advanced Instructor**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-course-tickets-405956987277>

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