



# **AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER**

## **DRILL OF THE MONTH**

Throughout 2024 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 Bullseye Course**

This course is intended to help you work on accuracy, while still maintaining time pressure. The target can be an NRA B-8, a B8-C, an FBI-IP1, or the bullseye on an LTT-1 target. If using a full-size B-8, the 5 and 6 rings count as misses. 30 rounds total, 300 points possible. Instructors should shoot for a score of 270 (90%) or above. All strings begin with the gun in hand at a true Low Ready.

25 yards    Fire 5 rounds in one minute, each round, maximum precision.

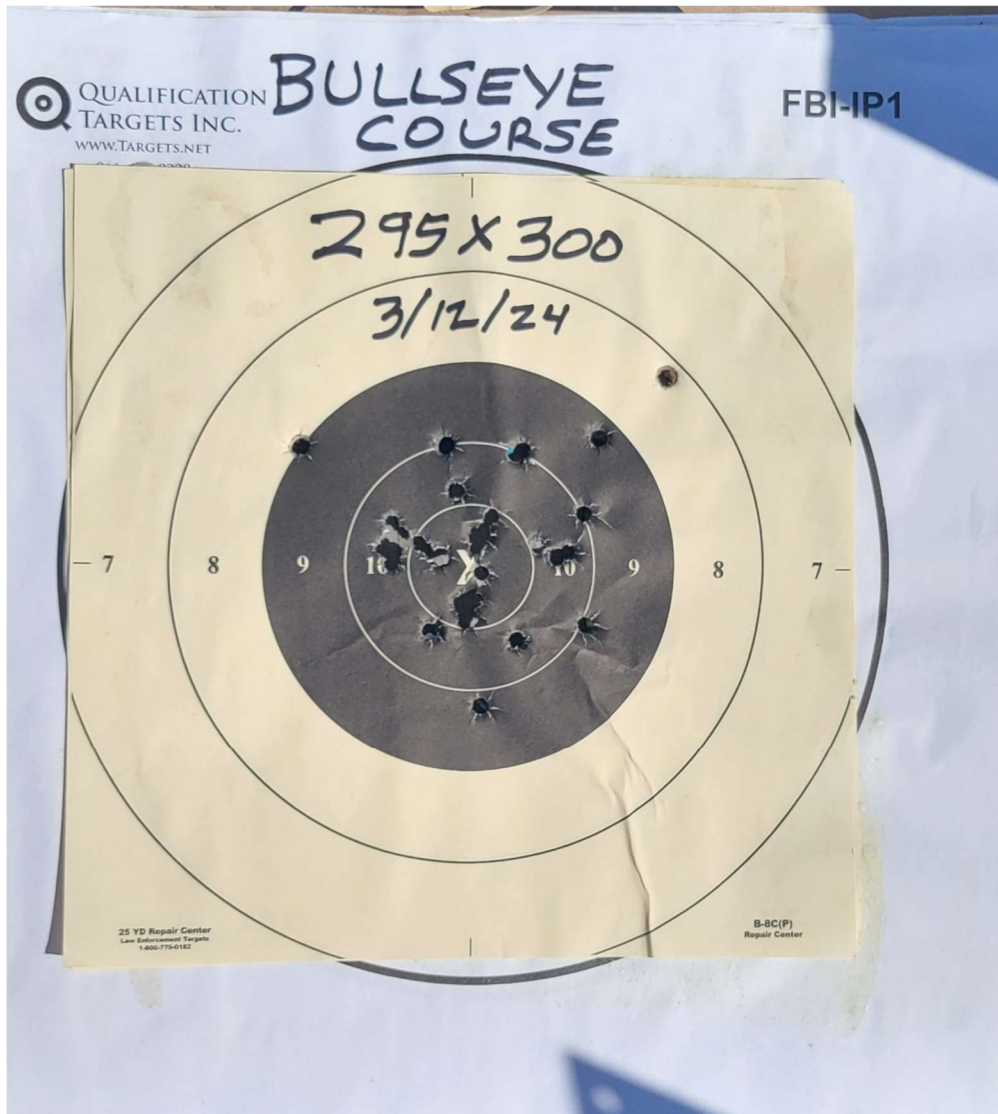
15 yards    Fire 5 rounds in 15 seconds

10 yards    Fire 5 rounds in 10 seconds

7 yards Start with 5 rounds only in the gun. Fire 5 rounds, reload, and fire 5 more rounds, all in 15 seconds

5 yards Fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds

That's it. A score of 285 is 95%, so I believe 285 or higher is the sign of excellent marksmanship.



Here is my target from March 2024 with my M&P 2.0. A video demonstration can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/l-quiP46EFE?si=9zkLx4QQJTrecDzi>

## **AAR “On Demand Performance”, pistol class**

On June 8-9, 2024, I had the distinct pleasure of attending the first open enrollment class from Pistol-Training.com since the untimely passing of its founder, Todd Green. The banner is now being carried by Todd’s very close friend, Simon Golob. Here is a detailed report on this intensive two-day class.

The Instructor- Simon Golob started as a New York City police officer. After 9/11 he joined the DSS, and then transitioned to another federal law enforcement agency where he remains today. Most of his time has been on SWAT teams and working as a trainer. Simon won the pistol match at Tac Con this year, and he attended our instructor development course last year, winning all the coins and the Top Gun title, so I had seen him at work in both a training and competition environment. Simon is one of the best shooters I have ever known, and he has a laser focus when he is behind a gun. It turns out he is also a very talented trainer, with an easy-going demeanor while delivering a butt-load of detailed information. Simon demonstrated every drill to standard or better in class.

The Facility- This class was held at Mead Hall Range in McLoud, OK. This is between Shawnee and Oklahoma City, about 45 minutes from the OKC Airport. There is a casino hotel 5 minutes from the range, and Shawnee, fifteen minutes away, has all the chain hotels. Mead Hall is owned and operated by Bill Armstrong and his lovely wife, Sharla. These two are by far the best hosts in the

business, doing everything possible to support the work of migrant trainers who teach there. There are air-conditioned flush toilet bathrooms at the range, as well as in the very modern classroom 400 yards away. They provided a hot lunch both days in the classroom building's full kitchen. I cannot say enough about the outstanding work these two do as class hosts.

Weather was very hot and humid, as one might expect in Oklahoma in June. The actual temperature Saturday was about 97 degrees. Simon monitored the students well and provided hydration breaks appropriately.

My Equipment- I took two S&W M&P 2.0 Aluminum 9mm pistols. I used my every day carry gun on TD1 and its twin brother training gun on TD2. Both are 100% out of the box stock guns, except for paint on the factory iron sights. I used 4 factory 17 round magazines. I used the rig I wear every day, a JM Custom Kydex IWB #3 with 2 JMCK low profile mag pouches, worn under a shirt. I fired almost 900 rounds of Federal 147 grain ball, with no malfunctions of any sort. This is the holster/ mag pouch set up that I wear every day, and I just wore regular street clothing.

The Students- There were 11 men and 1 woman in attendance. Simon limits enrollment to a dozen, as much of the training involves individual coaching, man vs man events, and having one student shoot at a time with everyone else gathered around to watch. There were students from as far away as Minnesota, North Carolina, and Iowa, and the overall skill level was quite high. There

were several working law enforcement or military trainers and all but two students had been through Rangemaster instructor level courses. It was humbling shooting among talented performers half my age but I survived the weekend. If we divide the students into categories, in the category of broken down old men in their 70's I was one of the top performers.

The Curriculum- Here is the course description from the pistol-training ,com website:

### **On-Demand Performance**

Pistol-Training.com's flagship course, On-Demand Performance (ODP) is a 2-day class that focuses equally on technical excellence and cold performance. Cold performance is performance without any kind of warmup and is the only kind of performance that matters for most law enforcement and civilians. ODP offers training practices to build your cold ability and allow you to perform as well as possible. Students are tested to determine their current ability, and training is tailored to individual needs. The prerequisites for the class include the ability to draw and re-holster safely and students must pass a pre-test of five shots on a 3x5 card at 5 yards, with no time limit. The course requires a minimum of 1000 rounds of quality training ammo for your pistol and 4 magazines. Red dots or irons are equally welcome. Holsters may be duty holsters, IWB or OWB, strong-side or appendix however,

unconcealed gun/holster combos are discouraged. Students also have the opportunity to test for the FAST coin if they wish. This course is ideal for the shooter who has the fundamentals of marksmanship down, but wants to become fast and efficient at hitting low-probability targets.

TD1 started at 8am in the classroom, with about an hour and a half spent on outlining the goals and methodology for the class, student introductions, and a safety briefing. We had a retired medical doctor and a couple of EMT's in class, so any medical emergency would be well handled. Of course, since we had a good plan there were no incidents, injuries or problems.

Once on the range, we started by engaging a 3X5 box, long axis horizontal, with 5 rounds from 5 yards, one at a time with the rest of the class hovering over the shooter. This is a pre-test to make sure everyone in class is up to the challenges to come. I was the first shooter on this, and that 3X5 looks a lot smaller under those conditions! Of course, all 12 shooters accomplished this task, and we were then off and running.

TD1 consisted of refining everyone's concealed presentation, working extensively on the "press out" trigger control/timing method, shooting with both hands, dominant hand only, and non-dominant hand only. Reliable, consistent reloads were worked over and over, as we did a lot of shooting (about 450 rounds on the first day).

Simon uses a proprietary silhouette target made by the National Target Company, that features a number of shapes, circles, and other scoring zones, to include 2" dots, one inch squares, a 3X5 head box, and 6" and 8" circles in the chest area of the silhouette. This allows Simon to switch back and forth from tiny targets to relatively large ones. We would work a skill from 3 or 5 yards on a 2 inch dot, gradually working up speed as a skill progressed. Then we would switch to the 6" circle and turn the speed up. Getting the hit was always emphasized. Simon is very strong on process focus, rather than outcome focus. If you focus on the process for every shot, every shot will be a hit.



On TD2 we started by reinforcing the drills worked on Saturday, then added some movement patterns. Students were expected to still get hits, no matter how many hands were available or if movement was involved. Then we put the skills learned or refined on TD1 to the test. In line with the course title, “On Demand Performance”, students were put under performance pressure by various means. We used plate racks in some pretty inventive ways to induce stress, and we did some man vs man competitions on steel. This is one reason Simon limits class size, as this type of shooting is time consuming, but an important part of learning to perform on demand. We also shot the FAST, with several shooters earning a pin for a sub- 7 second run. Matt Rakestraw almost won a FAST coin, with a couple of very impressive runs.





Throughout the class, Simon explained the thinking behind each drill or method, in a very logical and thorough manner. His primary goal is to teach students how to train/practice on their own in order to actually build skill, rather than just burn ammo. He had a solid answer for every question posed by the students, and his shooting demonstrations showed the efficacy of his methods.



In summary, this was an excellent class, and I recommend it highly for shooters who have achieved a fair degree of skill and want to learn to improve. The rest of Simon's classes this year are for LE agencies, but he plans some

open enrollment courses for 2025. If you get a chance, jump on this opportunity.

## **What You Need to Know About Saps**

Mark Luell is a long-time student of the protective arts. He has trained extensively with Rangemaster, Southnarc, and several others. He is now making some excellent impact weapons. Here is some commentary from Mark.

A sap, not to be confused with a slungshot, cosh, or blackjack, is usually a flat sandwich of leather filled with a lead slug (or lead shot) sometimes accompanied by a piece of spring steel to give extra structure and whip. The idea is to create a small pocket portable tool that allows someone to punch above their weight class and skill level.

Saps tend to be easier to carry due to their flat profile, whereas a round blackjack feels more like carrying an extra flashlight.

Historically, saps average about 9oz, and were often carried as a backup baton by Police, or as an attitude adjuster by thugs. The idea of an impact weapon filled with dense material is nothing new, however. There are depictions of sand-filled canvas fighting implements dating back to at least the 14th century Europe. Likely originally threshing implements pressed into service during revolts.

The idea of hitting someone with a loaded bag is a tried and true concept, to be sure.

My introduction to daily carry impact weapons was in 2007 reading Total Protection Interactive (Craig Douglas of SHIVWORKS' discussion forum). At first I was attracted to the skillful leather-craft and odd shapes and the allure of a force multiplier carried in the pocket. I didn't really understand their context of use and had no understanding of a striking system. I kept reading and eventually bought a Boston Leather "4-ply Midget" from a police supply shop. It was my back pocket companion for many years and never garnered much attention from the public.



German peasants use sand-filled bags as impact weapons, from an old wood cut.

Over the years I have collected a small pile of saps and jacks, and as much history and training material as I could find. It turns out there isn't much on the topic, as apparently slugging someone in the face doesn't require much training. For a deep dive on their history and

lineage, the book *Saps, Blackjacks, and Slungshots* by Robert Escobar is my top recommendation.

Saps afford the user a wide range of force options. From painful muscle belly slaps with the flat of the sap, to potentially fatal head shots with the thin edge, and everything in between, there is a way to tailor the force for the situation at hand. Being able to end a fight up close without using a knife and risking exposure to blood-borne pathogens is a big upside. If you look at a Monadnock police baton targeting poster, you'll get a good idea of target zones and levels of force application for the concerned citizen.



Historically, my favorite sap size is the “midget” from companies like the Foster Brothers, or Boston Leather. They are easy to keep next to my wallet in my back pocket, light enough to not be in the way, and accessible

by hooking the pinky finger into the exposed loop of the strap.

There are a few things lacking in the design, which I attempted to address in my first personal design. If you use a short sap like you would a small knife, the techniques for use become obvious. I tend to favor striking with the thin edge of the sap to focus the energy into a smaller surface area, thus delivering more pounds of force per square inch. Because of this, I also favor an asymmetrical head which cants towards the fingers and requires less wrist articulation when striking with something that barely protrudes from the fist. I also don't generally enjoy sitting on a sprung sap with a spring steel shank integrated into the lead slug. They don't conform at all to your body when sitting or moving. My last gripe of common "midget" saps is indexing in the pocket. Unless the sap is captured next to a wallet, it will tend to tip over and require hunting with your hand mid-fight.

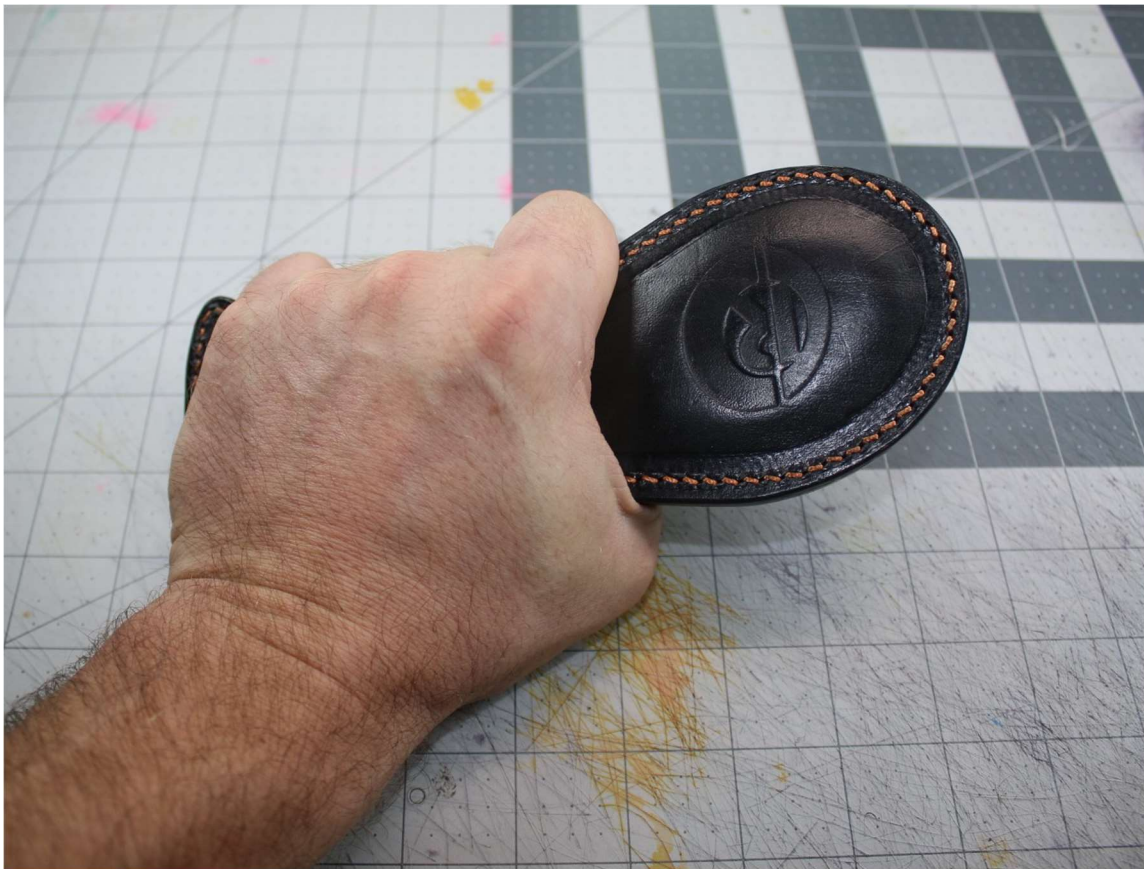
The solution, as best as I can design it, is an asymmetrical sap, the same overall length as the Boston Leather 4-ply midget (including the finger loop), without a steel shank, with a pocket clip, in the 9-12oz weight range. This affords as many usage and carriage advantages in a similar size envelope to the ones I favor. I started making them relatively recently as Father's Day gifts for the men in my life, and soon was requested to make more to sell. So, I did. This is the passion project that is 17 years in the

making. I have several other designs I'm sorting out that will all revolve around concealment, in-fight access, and generally being close at hand when needed most.

If you're interested in one, please follow or email me, and I'll try to accommodate you.

[Growingupguns@gmail.com](mailto:Growingupguns@gmail.com)

[facebook.com/Growingupguns](https://facebook.com/Growingupguns)



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### **“Your car is not a holster.”- Pat Rogers**

An amazing number of people keep a handgun in their car, “just in case”. This is an incredibly bad idea.

I’m not sure how you think you’re going to go to your car, unlock it, open the glove box, get a gun and come back and shoot someone in legitimate self-defense. There is a term for this sequence of events, though—premeditated murder.

Aside from the fact that a gun left in your car is useless, thefts from automobiles is the main source of guns used in crimes. Consider these numbers:

2023 Over 3,600 guns stolen from cars in Nashville.

2022 Over 3,000 guns stolen from cars in Memphis.

2022 Over 3,300 guns stolen from cars in Houston.



That's 10,000 guns stolen from cars in just three cities. Every one of those was stolen by a criminal, and many will subsequently be used in violent crimes. You can expect some legal liability if your unsecured gun is stolen and used in a crime, aside from the moral and ethical considerations.

There are numerous low cost devices for securing a gun in a car. Here is a \$32.00 example. There are many others. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07KCRKDD7?tag=bg1-141324-20&th=1> .

**Be smart. Either wear it or lock it up.**

## **PISTOL MASTER AWARD, WALL OF FAME**

The Pistol Master Award was instituted to recognize especially highly skilled performance with the handgun. The test consists of two parts: a 30 round course fired on a bullseye target and a 50 round course fired on a specific silhouette target. Below, listed alphabetically, are the shooters who have achieved this prestigious award.

Name	PMT	PPIQC	AGGREGATE
Bob Allen	98	99	197
Carter Allphin	98.3	97	195.3
Andy Anderson	98.7	100	198.7
Luis Arias	96.7	98	194.7
Steven Baine	98.7	98	196.7
Mekkos Beech	99	98	197

Tim Chandler	99.7	100	199.7
Zach Cox	98.7	100	198.7
Brian DeKind	98.7	100	198.7
Wayne Dobbs	99.3	100	199.3
Chris Edwards	98.7	98	196.7
Greg Ellifritz	95.7	98	193.7
James Garner	99	99	198
Tom Givens	99.3	98	197.3
Alvin Gunkel	96.7	99	195.7
Keith Harper	95.3	97	192.3
John Hearne	97	99	196
Eric Hite	97.3	98	195.3
Tim Kelly	98.7	99	197.7
David Maglio	98.3	99	197.3
Howard Marbury	97.3	96	193.3
Nicholas McAuliffe	95	99	194
Dale Miller	99	100	199
Troy Miller	99.3	98	197.3
Shannon Pable	95.3	98	193.3
Aqil Qadir	97	98	195
Ashton Ray	97.3	100	197.3
Daniel Reedy	99.3	98	197.3

Tim Reedy	99.7	99	198.7
Karl Rehn	98.3	100	198.3
Rick Remington	99	100	199
Mike Rioux	98.7	97	195.7
Alonso Robles	98	98	196
Jim Shanahan	98.3	99	97.3
Ken Steadman	97.7	97	194.7
Kirk Walter	9.3	96	193.3
Allen Zant	98.3	100	198.3

## UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

**Aug 16-18 Pistol Instructor (indoors, air-conditioned)**  
**Buford, GA (Atlanta suburb) sold out/full**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688815665197?aff=oddtcreator>

**Aug 23-25 Pistol Instructor** **New Kensington, PA**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-490482385017?aff=oddtcreator>

**Aug 31-Sept 1 Combative Pistol (Aqil) Nampa, Idaho**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-tickets-721642481087?aff=oddtcreator>

Sept 7-8      Combative Pistol (Aqil)      Terre Haute, IN

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-767928022387?aff=oddtcreator>

Sept 25-29    Protective Pistolcraft Instr    5 day    White Hall, AR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/protective-pistolcraft-instructor-development-course-tickets-688836898707?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Oct 4-6      Master Instructor      Mead Hall, OK

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-688819005187?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Oct 5-6    Combative Pistol (Aqil)      Bandera, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-combative-pistol-course-tickets-729181921757?aff=oddtcreator>

Oct 18-20    Shotgun Instructor      Richmond, VA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-689399120327?aff=oddtcreator>