



# **JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER**

## **DRILL OF THE MONTH**

Throughout 2025 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/> .

## **The Super Test**

“The Test” is a drill generally credited to Ken Hackathorn. Ken wanted a very quick and simple way to “test” a shooter for basic competency. His drill requires a B8-C or equivalent bullseye target (B-8, FBI-IP1, etc) at 10 yards. The shooter must fire 10 rounds, with a time limit of 10 seconds. Ken was looking for a score above 90% to indicate basic competency.

Master Trainers Wayne Dobbs and Darryl Bolke in Texas expanded on Ken’s original idea and came up with “**The Super Test**”. This involves different cadences at different distances, with an emphasis on accuracy and accountability. Again, standard bullseye target is used (B-8, B8-C, FBI-IP1, etc). The Super Test involves a total

of 30 rounds, fired in three 10-round strings, as follows. All strings begin gun in hand, at a true Low Ready:

**5 yards      10 rounds in 5 seconds**

**10 yards    10 rounds in 10 seconds**

**15 yards    10 rounds in 15 seconds.**

Deduct 10 points for any shot fired overtime.

This deceptively simple drill is a real test of shooting ability. It requires completely different trigger control techniques at the different distances, and a relentless focus on the principles of marksmanship. Give it a try.



## **A Better Mousetrap?**

I know a number of serious gunmen who carry a revolver on certain occasions. If you carry a handgun, you should have at least one reload for it on your person.

In training, I almost always see revolver shooters using speedloaders to reload, as this is the quickest, most efficient way to reload a wheelgun. However, the speedloader is the same width/thickness as another revolver, so I find very few people carrying a speedloader away from the practice range. Most of the revolver gunners I know rely primarily on Speed Strips to carry spare ammo, although reloading with a strip, two rounds at a time, is decidedly slower than loading all five or six at once with a speedloader.

Simply Rugged has devised an answer to this issue. Combining kydex and leather, this speedloader holder puts the speedloader horizontally on top of the gunbelt, minimizing printing. I have watched several shooters use this rig in class with very good results. Give it a look.

<https://www.simplyrugged.com/store/Sidewinder-Speedloader-Moon-Clip-Pouch-p594840640>

## Another Option for 9mm Carry Load

Federal currently offers a standard pressure (non +P) 9mm loading that shows real promise as a defensive round. The Federal 9mm 135 grain Hydra-Shok Deep is a re-designed, modernized version of the 1980's Hydra-Shok line. It is designed for deep penetration and reliable expansion, without the blast and recoil of a +P loading.

In my testing, I fired 3 rounds over my chronograph. The velocities were 1111 feet per second, 1085 fps, and 1112 fps. This is very consistent, and is slightly higher than the catalog velocity of 1060 fps. Fired at sea level, 65 degrees, low humidity.

For accuracy, I put up one of our playing cards at 15 yards and fired 5 rounds, standing, unsupported. I used my practice Glock 17 with iron sights. Four of the rounds were well inside the card, but on my fourth shot there was a severe earth tremor right where I was standing, and I blew that shot. Not the ammo's fault. Recoil and blast were mild, and the nickel plated cases fed and ejected smoothly. This ammo hit right to the sights in my gun.

Below is a link to the Federal promo video, showing penetration and expansion in ballistic gelatin. I would be happy carrying this load for self defense.

<https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-infospace-mapquest&ei=UTF-8&hsimp=yhs-mapquest&hspart=infospace&param1=907b10q3g7rbm4qld2ggg0jd&p=images+video+gelatin+testing+federal+9mm+135+grain+hydra+shok+deep&type=ud-c-us--s-p-rci2f2zy--exp-none--subid-btgxi456#id=6&vid=8048e659ee0a7d87466e012beb9fd16a&action=view>



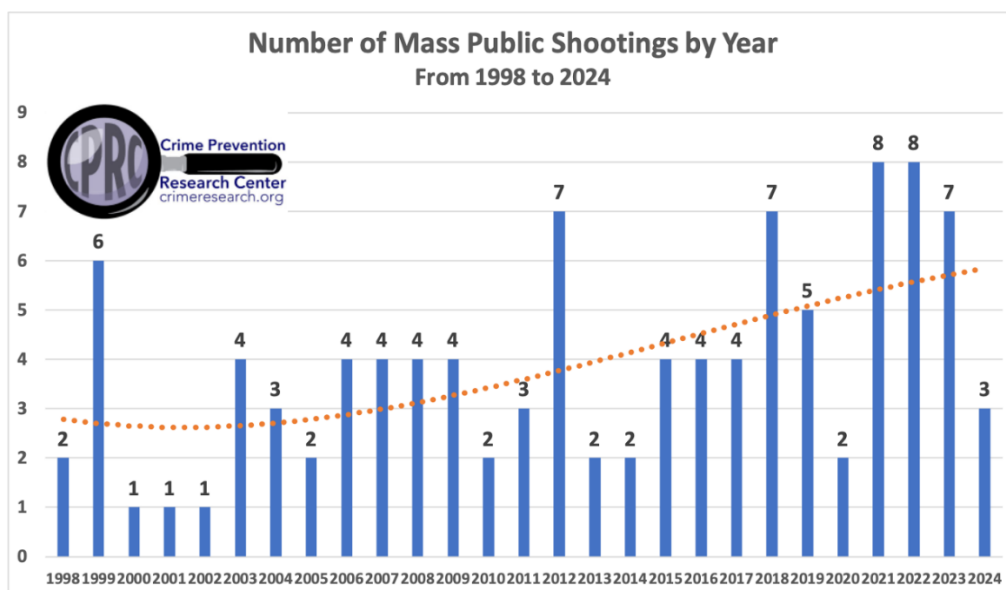
# Mass Shootings, Real Information

Here is an updated (Jan 2025) report on mass shootings in the US. There is a lot of useful information, such as:

82.8 percent of the attacks since 1998 and 94 percent since 1950 have occurred in places where guns are banned. For those [who read these murderers' diaries or manifestos](#), these numbers aren't too surprising.

These mass murderers plan their attacks long in advance (at least six months). Their goal is to get media attention, and they know that the more people they kill, the more media attention they get. They know if they attack a place where people can't defend themselves, they will be able to kill more people.

[https://crimeresearch.org/2025/01/updated-information-on-mass-public-shootings-from-1998-to-2024/?fbclid=IwY2xjawlmwURleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHRA BxdOr4YBmCNH\\_z9q-qr0l9bYAWLzXYzxWvkDeLsyqxUIVecE1Q8UwJw\\_aem\\_o upMWUQaQ-6Jyxokl-luVA](https://crimeresearch.org/2025/01/updated-information-on-mass-public-shootings-from-1998-to-2024/?fbclid=IwY2xjawlmwURleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHRA BxdOr4YBmCNH_z9q-qr0l9bYAWLzXYzxWvkDeLsyqxUIVecE1Q8UwJw_aem_o upMWUQaQ-6Jyxokl-luVA)



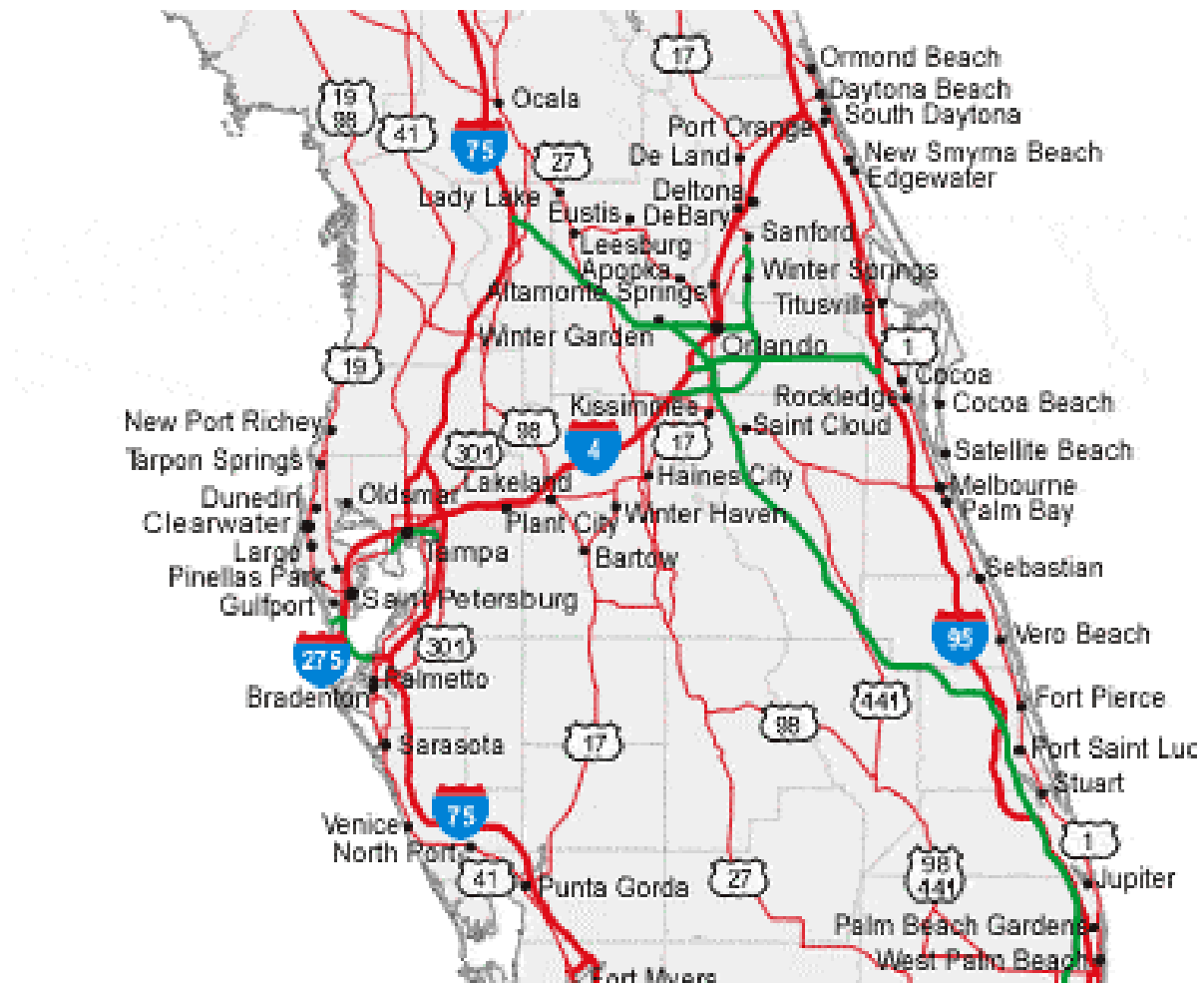
## Safe Places?

Lynn and I live in Plant City, Florida. This is a small community of only 40,000 residents, in an agricultural area. It is where most of the winter strawberries in the US are raised. Tampa is 25 miles to our West, and Lakeland is 15 miles to the East.

Recently, there was a fatal shooting at a gas station on the edge of our town, ruled justifiable self defense. ( A thug pulled a knife on a concealed carrier. This turned out to be a very bad idea.) In the week before that, there were several shootings in Tampa and in Lakeland, including two being handled by the police as justified self defense. There had also been two fatal shootings by police in that week in Brandon (Tampa suburb) and Lakeland.

Please get out of your head the notion that there are “safe places”. If there are human beings present, there is a potential for violence. Simply accepting that fact will go a long way toward getting your head right for personal security.







# Citizen's Arrest?

Once in a while I get questions from someone who goes armed, asking about detaining a suspect when a crime is committed, and holding that person for the police. This is a good time to know the difference between “can” and “should”.

We'll use Tennessee as an example, but remember state law can vary greatly from state to state. In Tennessee, a private citizen may make an arrest for:

1. A misdemeanor or breach of the peace committed in his presence; or
2. A felony committed in his presence; or
3. When he knows a felony has been committed and he has probable cause to believe the arrested person committed that felony.

Here is where it gets dicey. Can you articulate the elements of various felony charges? If one or more elements are not satisfied, there may not be an actual felony offense. Misdemeanor or felony, are you absolutely certain you know what constitutes that charge? “Probable cause”—can you articulate in court what that phrase actually means?

On the civil side, you may find yourself being sued for false arrest, battery, infliction of emotional distress, etc.

On the criminal side, if you held someone at gun-point unlawfully, that is an open/shut aggravated assault. There are also criminal penalties for unlawful confinement, and if you moved the arrestee a couple of steps, an aggravated kidnapping.

Be a good witness. Train yourself to recall and describe people and vehicles properly. Resist the temptation to intervene in things that don't involve people you know/care about. If no one's life is in danger, butt out and call the police. To do otherwise is to risk your freedom and your family's financial future.

## **Becoming a Firearms Instructor**

**There is an enormous need in this country for education about firearms and their use. Entertainment such as television and movies, along with anti-gun press and politicians leave the average American with no clue about the real use of firearms, either for recreation or more serious functions. Now, all fifty States in the US have some form of a civilian handgun carry permit system, and in many states as much as 10% of the population has a carry permit. Add to that millions and millions of citizens who have guns in their homes. In the past several years gun sales have skyrocketed, and most of the buyers are first time gun owners according to NSSF research. All of this creates a real need for local, grass roots training opportunities accessible to the average person.**

**For the purposes of this article, I'm going to divide the target population into two groups. One group are what I call "serious students". These are people who recognize the**

**enormous responsibilities attached to carrying a firearm. They seek to become truly competent, and to become capable of defending themselves and their loved ones against armed sociopaths. They seek knowledge and skill, and practice to hone their craft. These people will make the commitment in time, money and resources to attend major fixed facility schools like Gunsite or Thunder Ranch, and/or to seek out traveling instructors like John Farnam, Mas Ayoob, Dave Spaulding, or us. These “serious students” comprise a tiny fraction of gun owners, unfortunately. I travel all over the country teaching and attending various training events, and I see a lot of the same faces everywhere I go. The pool of truly serious students is depressingly small.**



**Zach Cox with a 100% score on a qualification course in our Instructor Development Course. An excellent example of a serious student.**

**The other group I'll call "casual students". These are the typical carry permit holder, or the person who owns a gun to defend the home, or the shooter who goes to the range once or twice a year as a form of recreation. These folks make up the vast majority of gun owners in this country, and they have a desperate need for basic firearms training, for their own safety and that of those around them. This is the group that needs easy local access to competent basic instruction. That's where you come in.**

**To prepare yourself to help these folks become responsible gun owners, there are a number of steps you can take to ensure your success. The first is something aspiring trainers often overlook, which is to learn about public speaking. Join Toastmasters, or some local civic organization, and learn to comfortably deliver a speech on some topic in front of an audience. Communication skills are critical. As a trainer, it doesn't matter how much you know about a subject if you cannot effectively transfer that knowledge to a student.**

**Some training in teaching methodology, the theory of adult learning, and class preparation would be of great benefit. For this, there are several sources. The oldest and the most widely recognized source is the NRA. Frankly, the Basic Pistol Shooting Instructor certification is very weak, and I do not consider it adequate preparation to teach anything beyond a Boy Scout Camp familiarization outing. The newer instructor courses for Personal Protection in the Home, and Personal Protection Outside the Home are great improvements, and would go a long way toward getting you ready to deliver instruction. If you are in law enforcement, the LE side of the NRA house offers detailed five day courses**

**that can put you much further down the path toward competency as a trainer.**

**In addition to the NRA, some of the better known private training organizations offer instructor development courses. The Firearms Academy of Seattle, Paul Howe's CSAT school, Gunsite, and Rangemaster all offer three to five day programs to prepare shooters to teach other shooters according to that particular school's doctrines.**

**In addition to training geared specifically toward instructor development, take as many shooting courses as you can from a variety of trainers. There are enough well respected and highly competent traveling trainers now that regardless of where you live, there are solid training opportunities available to you. It is important to be exposed to different training styles. As a trainer, you may explain something to a new shooter three or four ways, and he still doesn't get it. Then, when explained one more way, the light bulb comes on and learning takes place. The best way to have several ways to explain technique is to see how different trainers put forth the information. I have been teaching firearms use for fifty years, and I still make a point of attending at least one course taught by someone else every year so I can steal, err... research their methods.**



**Tom getting a certificate from Ernest Langdon**

**Once you have had a solid foundation in shooting technique, competitive shooting can go a long way toward helping you find out what works well and what doesn't under a bit of pressure. Shooting for score in front of peers let's you develop the ability to function under some stress and provides a great way to see how a gun, holster or carry method works under more realistic conditions than a static range session. Shooting in IDPA or USPSA matches will boost both your gunhandling and shooting skills and your confidence in those skills.**

**Next, find an experienced, competent instructor with verifiable credentials and a good reputation and apprentice under him. Assist with classes, for free if necessary, to observe and learn. Watch how he runs a firing line, how he manages time, how he explains and demonstrates concepts to the students. I assure you, you will learn more behind the line as an AI than you will as a student in class.**

**Finally, attend some training conferences to network with other trainers, pick their brains, and generally broaden your training horizons. There are the Warrior's Conference (formerly the 1" to 1,000 Yards Conference) in Nevada, the Rangemaster Tactical Conference , the annual ILEETA convention, the annual IALEFI conference, and others.**





**For years, the Latin motto of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers was “Qui docet, discet”. In English, “Who teaches, learns.” The very best way to master a subject is to learn to teach it. Become a trainer and you will become a better shooter, all the while performing a vital public service.**

**NRA Law Enforcement Instructor Training**  
**[www.nrahq.org/law/](http://www.nrahq.org/law/)**

**NRA Civilian Firearms Instructor training**  
**[www.nrahq.org/education/training/instructor.asp](http://www.nrahq.org/education/training/instructor.asp)**

**Toastmasters**      **[www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org)**

**Paul Howe**      **[www.combatshootingandtactics.com](http://www.combatshootingandtactics.com)**

**Rangemaster**      **[www.rangemaster.com](http://www.rangemaster.com)**

**Tactical Conference**      **tacon.info**





# UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

June 13-15, Master Instructor (Givens)  
Private Range, Culpeper, Virginia  
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7638e4e7e7f3ba1243cd>

June 20-22, 2025 Instructor Development Course  
(Givens)  
Marianna Field & Stream Club  
144 Hufford Run Rd  
Marianna, PA 15345  
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6f23e4e7e7f3ba1077a9>

June 28-29, 2025  
Combative Pistol Sherwood, OR (Aqil instructor)  
<https://manager.corsizio.com/events/676efdab99d74784f785341b>

July 10-12, 2025 Thursday-Saturday (Givens)  
Instructor Development Course Xenia, Ohio  
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d6d7ae4e7e7f3ba0ffe4c>

July 18-20, 2025 (Givens)  
Instructor Development Course Springfield, MO  
<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668d7717e4e7e7f3ba128a71>

Aug 8-10, 2025

(Givens)

Defensive Shotgun Instructor, Apache, Yadkinville, NC

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/668f3de3e4e7e7f3ba8f4191>

**If you got your instructor certification from somewhere other than Rangemaster, you may be entitled to compensation.**

