



## Rangemaster Firearms Training Services

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# DECEMBER 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/> .

## Card Challenge, Consistency

We are all familiar with the standard card test—place a playing card at 5 yards, draw from concealment, and fire 5 rounds in 5 seconds or less. This month we are looking for consistent performance, so we'll do the drill a bit differently. Place 5 cards, at 5 yards. On signal, draw and fire 5 rounds at one card, record the time. Do this separately for all 5 cards. The goal is all 5 rounds into each card, in less than 5

seconds each time. If you can do this all 5 times with no misses, under the par time, you are pretty skillful with a pistol.

## **Selecting Rangemaster Staff**

There are now almost 3,000 Rangemaster certified instructors. Counting Lynn and myself, there are only 8 Rangemaster Staff Instructors. I am sometimes asked what it takes to be selected to join the Rangemaster staff.

First, I need to observe the candidate in multiple classes. I want to see:

A consistently high skill level;

Being open to changes in their technique;

How they interact with other students;

Do they speak English well, are they articulate? ;

Have they trained with other schools, not just Rangemaster?

Then, they apprentice as AI's for a while. I want to see how they approach teaching students and how they follow procedures and directions.

I look at their educational background. In a few months, Tiffany Johnson will earn her EdD. John Hearne and Lee Weems have Masters degrees. All the rest have various degrees. This helps them in conducting research and in developing classes and training materials.

Finally, but most importantly, they have to be passionate about teaching people to defend themselves. They have to CARE. They have to be willing to put 100% into every class and every student. Our Staff Instructors all do a great job, both for Rangemaster and when teaching under their own banners. I am incredibly proud of them all.

## Rumors of My Demise

Recently, rumors about my health came to my attention, so I thought it might be wise to state the facts.

I was diagnosed with leukocytosis with lymphocytosis in June 2021. This condition is commonly referred to as Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, or CLL. In simple terms, it is a progressive, incurable form of blood cancer. The oncologist thinks I've actually had it since 2018. I also have the very early stages of prostate cancer, but that oncologist says I "will die with it, not from it". No big deal.

The CLL does two things to me. First, since the white blood cells try to outnumber the red cells, I do not have the strength or stamina I had 10 years ago. Of course, I'm also 73 years old, so that has an impact. The worst aspect of the CLL is that it creates an enzyme in my blood which attacks my joints. This time last year it was my shoulders, making it very painful to lift my arms. That has gone away, so now the inflammation is mainly in my hands and knees. I already had some arthritis in my hands, and this just makes it worse. Shooting can be painful for me.

I have been doing 30-36 classes all over the country for several years. Because of these health issues, I will be cutting back to 26 classes in 2026, and pulling in my travel perimeter a good bit. For 2027, I plan to do no more than 10-12 classes, and keep them closer to home (Florida). In late 2027, I'll decide whether to keep teaching or retire, based on my health, which determines things like driving 400-500 miles a day, being on my feet 10 hours a day, and shooting demo's to my satisfaction.

My thanks to everyone who has expressed concern about me. I really appreciate our students and look forward to seeing many of you in class in 2026.

## Another Announcement

Lynn has decided to retire fully from Rangemaster duties after 20 years as a firearms instructor and our office manager. A few years ago she broke her right wrist so badly that it has 2 metal plates and 9 screws holding it together. Earlier this year she tried to take a shooting class, and the recoil loosened the screws holding her wrist together, so she can no longer train. She has decided to devote her time to taking care of our dogs, looking after a large home, raising orchids, and working with her sewing group creating art pieces.

Lynn made a real difference in the training community over her career. She designed several drills we use in training, helped run the annual Tactical Conference every year, mentored several younger female firearms instructors, and served as a role model for the training community. Please wish her well as she begins her new journey.



# BJS Report, 2024 Crime in the US

The Bureau of Justice Statistics is part of the US Department of Justice. Each year in October, the BJS issues a report on crime in the US during the previous year. It takes that much time to gather and collate the information, so the 2024 report came out this October. There are some sobering statistics.

According to the BJS, in the US in 2024 there were:

560,890          Rapes

642,150          Robberies

1,341,950      Aggravated Assaults

1,145,260      Violent crimes resulting in injury to the victim.

There was 1 violent victimization for every 42.9 people aged 12 years old or older. That's about the seating capacity of a city bus. That's 3,677

Aggravated Assaults PER DAY. Remember **AAA** :

Be **aware** of these numbers.

Be **alert** in all public places, regardless of venue.

Be **armed**.

# One Handed Shooting

The key to shooting well (accurately plus quickly) is to use body mass, rather than hand/arm strength, to control the pistol. Step into it a bit with the foot on the same side the gun is on (right hand/right foot). Bend your forward knee, to shift your upper body weight way forward. Wrist locked, but elbow flexed.

This video clip wasn't planned, an AI caught it during a class demo. Check it out.

<https://rangemaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/One-Hand-Demo.mp4>

## 2025 Class Data

In 2025, we taught a total of 31 classes, all over the US. Of those 30, 10 were Three-Day Firearms Instructor Development Courses. Here are some interesting numbers from those 10 Instructor Courses.

Total number of students = 159: 129 males, 30 females.

There were students from 29 states.

The average range qualification score was 96.8%.

The average written test score was 95.7%.

10 students did not make the cut, 7 males and 5 females.

That is a failure rate of 7.5%. That is an improvement from 5 years ago, when we had an 11.5% failure rate. Based on that and my observations in class, the general skill level of the training community seems to be improving.

We have 9 Instructor Courses scheduled in 2026. See [rangemaster.com](http://rangemaster.com) for the full 2026 schedule.



## **New Cardboard Training Target, Good Choice**

PCSL is the Practical Competition Shooting League. This is a fairly new organization, promoting pistol; carbine; pistol caliber carbine; and pistol/carbine matches. I have no experience with them and no opinion on them.

They have, however, designed a cardboard target for their use in matches, and I like it for training use. The PCSL Target is similar in many ways to the familiar IDPA or USPSA cardboard silhouettes. The lower torso of the target is reduced, and the scoring areas are somewhat different. In the chest, the primary hit zone is roughly 6 inches wide and 9 inches tall. The head zone encompasses the ocular window, with eyes and nose only. Like the USPSA and IDPA targets, the D zone should just be considered misses. If you assign a value of 2 points to the inner chest and head zones; 1 point to the C zone; and 0 points to the D zone; you have a fairly anatomically sound target.

I cut out one of my silhouette targets and glued it to a PCSL target. The bottom of the cardboard is right

at the belt-line of our target, and you can clearly see why I say the D zone is really a miss.

I went to the range with this target and shot some of our regular Courses of Fire on it. My first was the Intensive Pistol Skills Course, which I shot clean. I tried our Master Instructor Qualification Course and shot 97%. Overall, I think this is a useful training target alternative.

Order- <https://chltargets.com/pcsl-practical-target-2025-version-cb-100-target-pack-free-shipping/>

\$104.00 per 100, with free shipping. Good deal.

Note: I outlined the scoring zones with a Sharpie just so you can see them well in this photo.



## UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**The primary instructor is in parentheses.**

Jan 9-11, Cognitive Pistol/Tactical Anatomy,  
Lakeland, FL (John Hearne)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/685ea3e5f02127913e32f833>

Jan 10-11, Combative Pistol, Powder Springs, GA  
(Aqil Qadir)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/685eb493f02127913e347a9a>

Jan 17, Shotgun Operator, One Day, Lakeland, FL,  
(Tom Givens)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/68dc275989d440314feb0e1b>

Feb 6-8 Instructor Course Lakeland, FL  
(Tom Givens)

<https://manager.corsizio.com/events/685eaa69f02127913e339494>

Feb 21-22 Advanced Instructor Lakeland, FL  
(Tom Givens)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/685eabb0f02127913e33c516>

March 13-15 Master Instructor Lakeland, FL  
(Tom Givens)

<https://manager.corsizio.com/events/685eac92f02127913e33cb50>

March 20-22, Instructor Course , Beaumont, TX  
(Tom Givens)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/685eade2f02127913e33e027>

March 20-22, Shotgun Instructor, Boondocks, MS  
(Tim Chandler & Ashton Ray)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/685eb39df02127913e34644b>

March 27-29, Tac Con, Dallas, TX

The annual Tactical Conference

<https://taccon.info/register/>

Still a handful of tickets left.

April 9 One Day Shotgun Xenia, OH

(Tom Givens)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/685eaec6f02127913e33f5ea>

April 10-11 Adv Instructor Xenia, OH (Tom Givens)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/685eb089f02127913e341fb6>

