



# **OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER**

## **DRILL OF THE MONTH**

Throughout 2026 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/> .

### **Drill, “Side Hustle”**

One silhouette target at 6 yards. Can be an IDPA cardboard, an IALEFI-Q, a Rangemaster RFTS-Q or any silhouette with an 8” circle correctly located in the chest and a head ring. Hits in the chest circle and the head ring count 10 points each. Everything else is zero points.

There will be a firing line 6 yards from the target. Two firing points will be marked on this line, 5 yards apart. Call them A and B. Shooter starts at A, holstered, concealed. Shooter will be holding an empty 50 round 9mm cartridge box in both hands at sternum height until the signal to GO. On

signal, the shooter will drop the box, draw and engage the target with 4 rounds to the chest and 1 round to the head. Shooter will then sprint to B, stop and fire 4 more rounds to the chest and 1 round to the head. Record the time, and score the points on the target.

Total points divided by total time is your score. Par score is 10, so your goal is a score higher than 10.

Hat tip to Dave Spaulding, whose 9X5 drill inspired this one.

6 yards/ 1 target/ 10 rounds/hit factor scoring

## **Vetted Information on Facebook**

Facebook is awash with pure BS garbage when it comes to self defense/personal safety issues. There are, however, some solid sources of free information you should be taking advantage of.

Rangemaster's Facebook group is open to all individuals, unlike our instructor group. Drills, news, advice, all free:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rangemaster>

The Concealed Carry Book Club keeps you up to date on available books that could enrich and enhance your understanding of key issues.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/258348198546656>

The Combatives Association advocates for an integrated approach to personal security, bringing trainers in firearms, empty hands, blades, and other skills together.

<https://www.facebook.com/CombativesAssociation>

Finally, Greg Ellifritz has quality info on his page, including the Weekend Knowledge Dump each and every Friday.

<https://www.facebook.com/greg.ellifritz>

Be careful about where you get your info on self defense matters. Life, death, and prison time are real consequences.

## **Belly Bands?**

Belly Bands are not the ultimate carry method a lot of people make them out to be. Practically speaking, they are a short term solution when discretion is paramount, or the clothing of the day will not support a belt holster. For instance, the last time I wore a tuxedo, a belly band was under the cummerbund, and I was still adequately armed.

With a striker fired auto, I DO NOT recommend putting the gun in a thin, flexible elastic gun pocket of the

typical belly band. Something can push inward, put pressure on the trigger, and cause an in-holster discharge. Bad ju-ju! Best solution is to take a Kydex IWB holster, remove the belt attachment, and Super Glue the holster into the pistol pocket of the belly band. This gives you a rigid holster and makes one handed re-holstering possible.

Here is a good article on belly bands with more info.

<https://gunsmagazine.com/gear/belly-bands-not-a-universal-solution/>



## New Covert Magazine Pouch

Aqil and I have been evaluating a new covert magazine pouch, and so far it is impressive.

There are several mounting options. The two most concealable options are a strong metal clip, or a very flat belt slot. The belt can be run through the belt slot on the rear (body side) of the pouch, or on the outside. The photo shows the pouch on Aqil with the belt run through on the outside. This tugs the pouch very close to the body.

Available from

<https://www.apexdevelopment.co/products/covert-mag-pouch>



## Pocket Holsters?

Many people rely on a pocket holster to discretely carry a second gun (back-up gun/belly gun/stingy gun/hideout gun). All of those terms have been used at various times throughout the last 150 years, illustrating how far back this custom goes. Many more carry their only gun this way, especially when in a non-permissive environment (NPE), where discovery of the gun could lead to legal or employment ramifications.

In the 1920's and 1930's, pocket carry was a very popular mode of carry in the cities. However, the usual placement was in the rear, or hip pocket, not the front pocket, which is prevalent today. At that time, men's pants were higher waisted and had larger pockets, so hip carry worked well. In the photos you will see a leather pocket holster for a revolver and an Audley Safety Pocket holster for a compact semi-auto.

Today, we tend to put the little blaster in a front pocket. One of the best choices for this is the Mika Pocket Holster. One is shown in the photo marked 1. It is made of a sweat-proof synthetic material, the band around its middle sticks to the inside of the pocket, and the holster mouth stays open when the pistol is drawn.

Other perfectly acceptable versions are available from Safariland and Wilderness Products. See photos.

Which front pocket does it go in? It depends. If this is your only gun, it should be in the dominant side pocket, that is, the right side if you are right handed. If it is a back-up/second gun, it should be in your support side pocket, for access with that hand. The most likely reason to have to go to a back-up gun is injury or other problem with your dominant hand or arm. You will then need to access the BUG with your non-dominant hand.



1



□



**Written by master trainer Jim Shanahan. Jim is a talented shooter, an excellent instructor, and an articulate writer. Pay heed.**

## **Train for the Distance You Hope You Never Need**

The recent active shooter attack at the In-N-Out in Twin Falls, Idaho has generated quite a bit of discussion in the training community. One of the conversations I've seen repeatedly is the need for armed citizens to be capable of making shots at distances well beyond what we normally associate with a defensive handgun encounter.

I agree. The difference for me is that I didn't arrive at that conclusion because of what happened in Idaho. I've believed it for a very long time.

For years we've heard some version of the idea that defensive handgun accuracy should include the ability to make a head shot at 25 yards and hit a man-sized target at 50. Those standards are often presented as fairly advanced expectations.

I've never understood why. Frankly, I think accepting a man-sized target at 50 yards as our accuracy standard is abysmally poor, particularly when we're talking about training and practice.

Think about the conditions under which we're normally demonstrating that ability. We're standing on a range. We know exactly where the target is. We know when we're going to shoot. Nobody is shooting at us. Nobody is moving. We aren't injured. We aren't trying to determine who the threat is while innocent people move through our field of view. We aren't worried about

our family. We aren't processing the consequences of what we're about to do.

Those are probably the best conditions we're ever going to get. Why would we accept mediocre accuracy there?

We spend a lot of time talking about what happens to performance under stress. People like to attach percentages to it, but I don't think we can honestly quantify how much accuracy or speed any particular person will lose during a deadly force encounter. There are simply too many variables.

The good news is that I don't think we need to know. What we do know is that we shouldn't expect ourselves to suddenly become better when everything gets worse.

That is one of the reasons I've advocated for a five-inch accountability standard in my own training and practice for a very long time. I'm not suggesting that every defensive shooting requires a five-inch group. That's missing the point. I'm trying to build a reserve.

If I can consistently maintain a five-inch level of accountability under good conditions, I have some room for performance to deteriorate when conditions aren't so good. If my practice standard is simply keeping rounds somewhere on a silhouette at 50 yards, I haven't left myself much margin at all. Distance doesn't make an inaccurate shot more acceptable.

It may mean I need more time. It may require more visual information. It may require better trigger management. It may even mean that the responsible decision is not to take the shot at all. But the bullet doesn't care how difficult the shot was. I'm still responsible for where it goes.

That's why I'd rather change the question. Instead of asking:

"How big of a target should I be able to hit at 50 yards?"

Ask:

"How much time do I need to maintain the same level of accountability at 50 yards?"

That's a very different training problem. The same applies at 25 yards. And 15. And 10. As distance increases, don't automatically make the acceptable target bigger. Give yourself the time necessary to solve the problem.

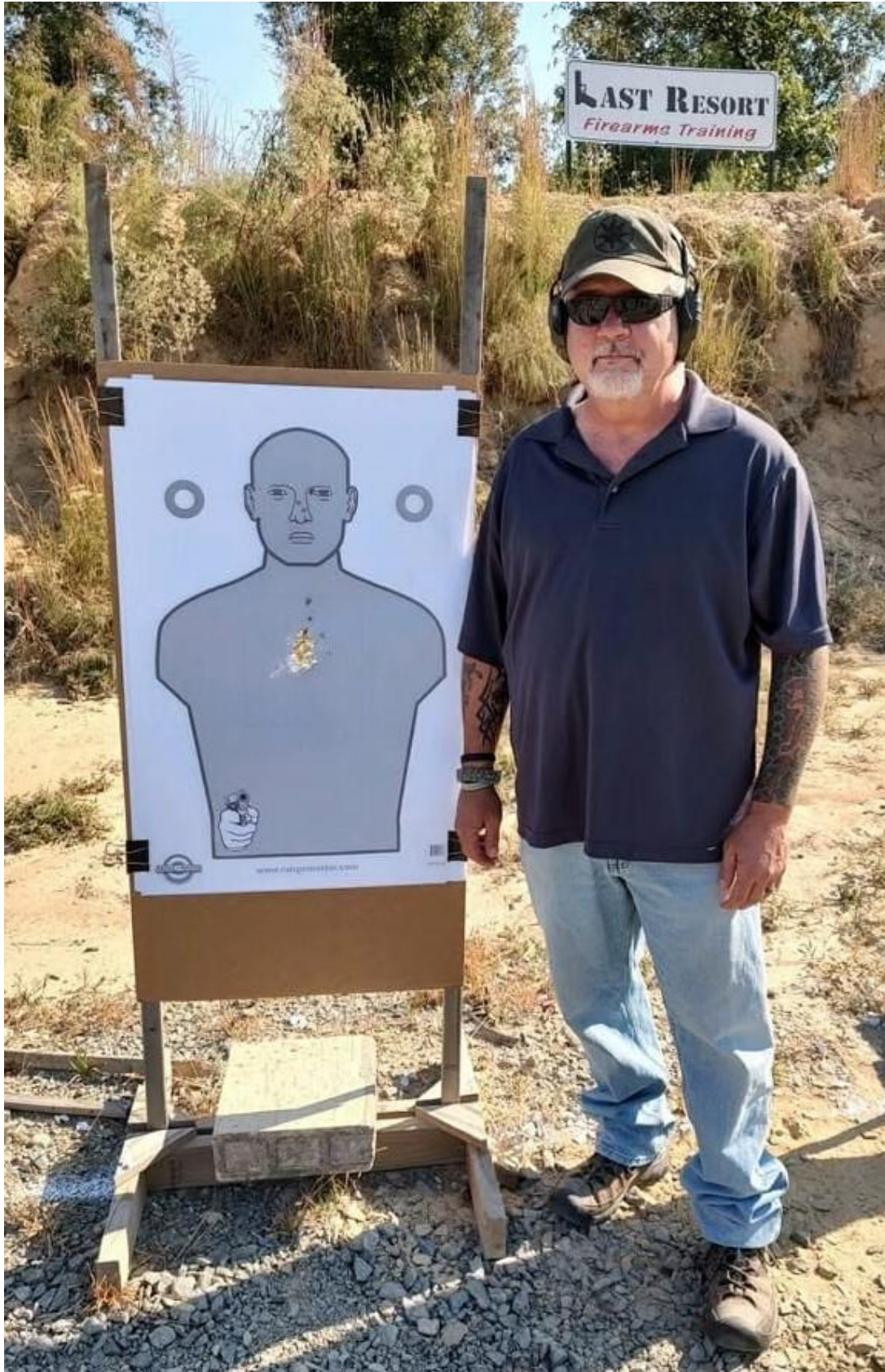
There is another benefit to training this way that has nothing to do with active shooters or 50-yard handgun shots. If you learn to hold yourself accountable to a smaller target at greater distances, the closer work starts becoming easier. You learn more about your sights, your trigger, your grip and, probably most importantly, yourself. You begin to understand what you can actually do rather than what you hope you can do.

Does the shooting in Idaho mean everyone carrying a concealed handgun suddenly needs to spend every range session shooting at 50 yards? Of course not. It does remind us, however, that the world doesn't promise to present our problems at seven yards.

Our training shouldn't be built around predicting the exact problem we're going to face. It should be about developing enough capability that we have options when the problem doesn't look like the one we expected.

Train close. Train far. Train fast. Train deliberately. Learn where your limits actually are, and then work to move them. Most importantly, hold yourself to a higher standard in practice than the minimum you hope will be good enough on game day.

Because if that day ever comes, don't count on suddenly becoming better.



## Problem Solving Tools

My old friend and colleague, master trainer Cecil Burch, brought to my attention a new holster maker with a very nice IWB holster for smaller revolvers. Here is what he had to say recently:

“I have been using the Problem Solving Tools holsters for a couple of months now. I have two different ones; a J frame specific one, and another for a K frame.

The nice thing is that the K frame holster also fits my Ruger Speed Six and I've spent a little time carrying that. I have spent a significantly larger amount of time with the smaller J frame holster and my Smith & Wesson 432UC.

The J frame version is an exceptionally comfortable holster with a quick on off capability. It's about as minimalist as you can get while still being a full holster. Normally, I dislike holsters with only one attachment point since I find for me that they tend to be much more unstable and shift around far too much and that drawback outweighs any advantage from a single attachment. But for the smaller snub holster I've not found it to be an issue in any way whether I've been wearing them in jeans, board shorts, or sweatpants.

For the K frame sample it can be a bit of an issue. And if I were wearing regular pants with a belt I'll probably go for another holster like the JM Custom one that is my standard go-to for revolvers larger than a typical snub. However, for a quick grab 'n' go holster for a short carry time (running to the store, taking the dogs to the dog park), even with the heavy Speed Six I find it to be a solid option.

The J frame has quickly become If not my out and out favorite, then an equal favorite with my Dark Star Gear Apollo or the PHLster City Special. Very well made and an exceptionally good design, with top notch concealability and comfort, but also speed of access on the draw. “

I have been testing one for the j-frame around the house and in the yard, and my experience mirrors Cecil's. Well made, secure, and fast—everything you need in a hide-out holster for a small wheelgun. <https://www.problemsolvingtool.com/> for more info.

Here is one with my Model 37 Airweight, with Hide-Out stocks and a bit of goon tape.



# UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

JAN 22-24 Instructor Development Course  
Homestead, FL (Miami)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/6a0626df609670070cd5479c>

FEB 6-7 Intensive Pistol Skills  
Williston, FL (Gainesville/Ocala/Orlando area)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/6a1242acf9af4d8caac9e1ed>

FEB 19-21 Master Instructor Development  
Lakeland, FL (halfway between Tampa and Orlando)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/6a0f8e693cd47574af51d1a3>

MAR 20-21 Combative Pistol  
Lakeland, FL (halfway between Tampa and Orlando)

<https://rangemaster.corsizio.com/event/6a0f90953cd47574af52101e>

APR 2-4 Tactical Conference 2027  
Carrollton, Texas (Dallas)

<https://taccon.info/>



**Master Instructor Course, Terre Haute, Indiana, September**



**Top Gun, Instructor Development Course, September,  
Buford, GA**