



CONCEALED CARRY

MAGAZINE®

The Ultimate Resource for the Armed Citizen

PACIFISM A REFUGE OF THE SIMPLE MINDED

BY: GERARD VALENTINO

Official Publication of the:



Volume 4 • July
July 6, 2007

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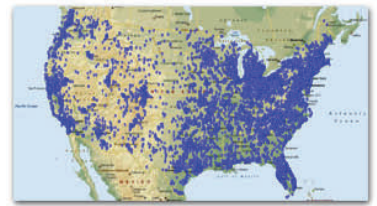


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If you feel the same way I do about family, responsibility, and self-defense, I'd be honored to have you as a new member.

Sincerely,

Tim Schmidt
Founder - USCCA

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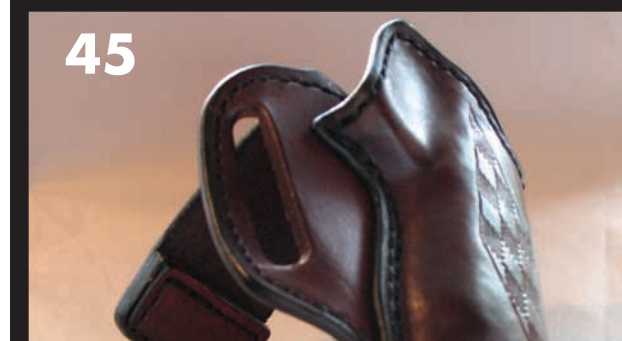
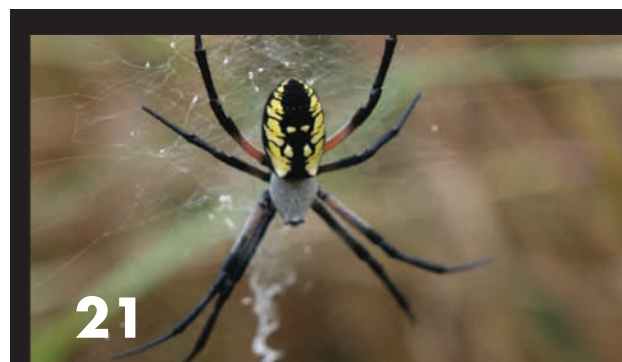
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Published for U.S. Concealed Carry by:



4466 County Road P - Suite 204
Jackson, WI 53037

(877) 677-1919 Customer Service

(262) 677-8877 U.S. Concealed Carry

Volume 4 - July 2007 Issue

Concealed Carry Magazine - July 2007 Issue; July 6, 2007 (USPS: 022-302, ISSN: 1550-7866) is published 8 times per year for \$39.00 per year by Delta Media, LLC, 4466 County Road P - STE 204, Jackson, WI 53037-9272. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, WI and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Concealed Carry Magazine, 4466 County Road P - STE 204, Jackson, WI 53037-9272.

TIM'S THOUGHTS

FATHERS PROTECT!

Dear Friend,

As I write this note to you, it is almost Father's Day. I remember a lot of things about growing up with MY Dad. Sure... I'll admit there was a certain amount of healthy fear I had for my father! He expected a lot of us kids and never let us get away with anything. One thing is for sure though... I always felt safe around Dad.

My Dad was a fierce protector of his family. I can remember being on a camping trip with Dad and we were sitting around the campfire in the middle of nowhere. This wasn't a campground with firepits. No way. We were deep in the middle of some woods in "up-north" Wisconsin. The night sounds were starting to come out as we watched the campfire burn.

All those mysterious rustlings and animal noises didn't bother me one bit. Not with my Dad sitting across from me with his nickel-plated Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum sitting on his lap!

I know that one of the reasons I was put on this earth was to be a father. And among other things, fathers are supposed to protect their families. A father does whatever it takes to keep his wife and children safe!

And if you're reading this magazine, there is a very good chance that you agree with me on this topic... which is why I have a big smile on my face right now. The world needs more fathers like you and I, my friend.

Be safe and God Bless,

Tim Schmidt

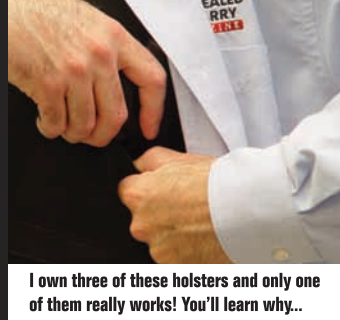
July 2007 - Cover Photograph

Dian Valencic, a grandmother of 5 from Wickenburg, Arizona has been shooting for over 20 years and enjoys shooting competitively at local matches. Dian is an Arizona CCW Instructor, NRA Certified Instructor in Home Firearm Safety, Basic Pistol, Personal Protection in the Home and Refuse to Be a Victim, as well as an NRA Chief Range Safety Officer. Valencic has noticed a steady increase in the number of women who attend our CCW classes and participate in the shooting sports. For the past 3 years, Valencic has been a coach for the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) and has recently become an NRA/USA Shooting/CMP Shotgun Coach (L1). In the upcoming year, she will be the Lead Coach for the Wickenburg SCTP Program. The SCTP is for young athletes between the ages of 9 and 18. Valencic has been a CCW permit holder in Arizona since the program was introduced. Her preferred method of carry is the Blackhawk Holster, but also uses a Coronado concealed carry purse when a holster is not practical. Her favorite concealed carry firearm is an H&K P2000. Dian uses Extreme Shock Personal Defense 9mm 124FF which is specifically designed for home and urban carry. Dian believes that one of the best ways to preserve the 2nd Amendment is educating more women and young people about firearms and the shooting sports.





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With the passage of **concealed carry** laws throughout the United States, more and more Americans are discovering the benefits of carrying a gun for self-defense. In order for that gun to be effective, it must be on your person and it must be concealed in such a manner to avoid detection but be ready for use in an instant!

- **Mark Walters**, Author of "Ordinary Guy Column" - *Concealed Carry Magazine*

"Now You Can Learn **Real Insider Secrets** About **Four of the Best Ways** to Deeply Conceal a Handgun..."

You'll save **time, money** and you'll **eliminate frustration** with **Ultra-Deep Concealment Techniques...**

Have you already made the decision to carry a handgun for personal protection? Are you considering carrying a gun but maybe a little confused about the best way to do so? Maybe you have a handgun carry permit but haven't yet found the most comfortable carry method?

Carrying a concealed handgun for personal protection is one of, if not the most, important decisions you may ever make during your lifetime. It was for me!

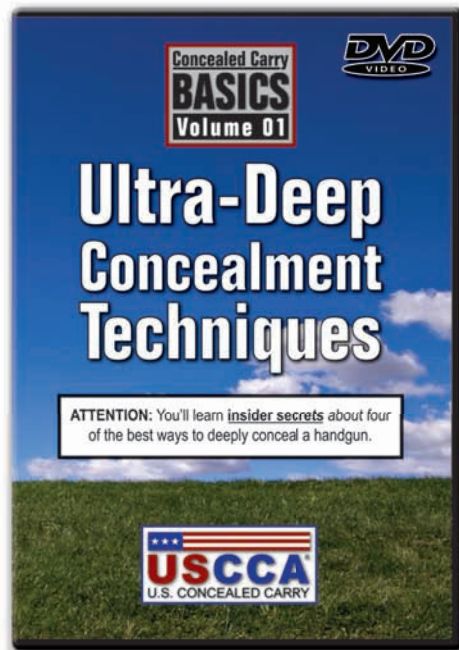
Learning the techniques in *Concealed Carry Basics Volume 01* may just save your life one day!

Let me introduce myself. My name is Mark Walters and some of you may know me as "The Ordinary Guy" columnist for *Concealed Carry Magazine*. I know first-hand the importance of carrying a handgun for self-defense!

7 things you'll learn when you watch the DVD, read the workbook and listen to the audio CD.

1. Fully conceal any size handgun.
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You see, back in November of 2002, I was on my way to work when I found myself the intended victim of a violent criminal during an attempted carjacking while stopped at a traffic light. My ability to produce my handgun quickly, from deep concealment, stopped that violent thug in his tracks. With-



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out even firing a shot, I was able to end the crime against me before it could escalate.

My concealed handgun, and my ability to produce it quickly, likely saved my life that morning.

Concealed Carry Basics Volume 01: Ultra-Deep Concealment Techniques will show you four comfortable methods of deep concealment that may very well save your life one day.

Let's face facts. Violent crime occurs where you live, no matter where that may be. It is estimated that handguns carried by law-abiding citizens are used over 2 million times every year to stop a crime and in over 90 percent of those cases, a shot is never fired.

Maybe you have a CCW permit and don't carry everywhere. Maybe you're considering obtaining your license.

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Tim Schmidt
Tim Schmidt




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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for the interview with Mr. Philip Van Cleave of the VCDL. I don't think it possible to praise the work of Mr. Van Cleave and the VCDL enough. They are always on the front lines of the battle to maintain our gun rights and Mr. Van Cleave is always available to help Virginia gun owners at a moments notice. He is truly a marvelous individual and I would like to thank you once again for presenting your interview with him.

Phil Balestrieri
Charlottesville, VA

You are to be commended for taking a thought you had and turning it into an informative and focused realization. Kudos to you, man; keep up the good work!

Bill Gordon
Chandler, AZ

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading the profile on Ed Monk in the April CC magazine. I especially like his position regarding proudly advertising our 2nd Amendment support through gun ownership by putting appropriate stickers on vehicles, wearing pro-gun (2nd Amendment) hats, shirts, etc.

I just read a letter in another magazine. A guy by the name of Bradley Fern seemed to write a fairly decent letter

regarding carrying guns in cars. Butt, extra "t" added for effect, in the end he concluded by saying he has "no NRA sticker on his vehicles because it would attract thieves thinking he had a gun in the vehicle."

I've read similar statements by others and totally disagree. I have several pro-gun/2nd Amendment stickers on my vehicles. How can we make anti-2nd Amendment politicians and Brady bunch types know we are out here if we do not proclaim we are! I don't put radical stickers out but the GOA, NRA, SAF, USCCA ones do quite well to deliver my message. Thanks for giving sound advice. All gun owners, "ADVERTISE YOUR PROUD OWNERSHIP OF GUNS and the personal responsibility for the safety of you, your family and your property!"

Mark Truskey
Pearland, TX

Dear Editor,

I joined the USCCA only a short time ago but already I'm impressed with you, the magazine layout and the info (I have the two most recent issues).

Due to volume received, not all letters can be answered. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

Send your letters to:

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4466 Hwy P - Suite 204 - Jackson, WI 53037
Or use our contact form: <http://www.usconcealedcarry.com>

SUBMIT YOUR COVER PHOTO

Dear Members,

We are giving you another opportunity of a lifetime; to be on the cover of Concealed Carry Magazine! Based on the great results we had these last two years, we would like to ask all of our USCCA members to take part in supporting CCM and the USCCA and send in your photographs.

Aside from the rule that we always want a "person" and not just a gun on the cover, we're open to pretty much anything. Please stay away from the traditional "gun magazine" photo of a gun with a tactical knife nearby—alongside some scattered ammo! Please be creative in your photography. You DO NOT need to be a professional photographer.

We only accept high resolution digital photographs. *NOTE: A standard 3x5 print will not work.*

We prefer to be contacted via e-mail. Please go to the "Contact Us" section of our website: www.usconcealedcarry.com and send us an e-mail with the subject "COVER SHOTS" saying that you are interested.

After we hear from you, we will return response with further information about how to send in your cover photos.

If you **do not** have access to a computer, but are interested in submitting a photograph, please give us a call (877) 677-1919 and we can attempt to work something out. If we do not answer,

please leave a message and we will return your call.

I would like to extend my thanks to all of our members that submitted cover photos in the last two years. If your photograph was accepted, and it has not been featured on the cover yet, we still have it on file and it may be used in the future.

If you have previously been featured on the cover of CCM, you can feel free to send in other photographs of a different subject matter.

Thank you for all your support!

Maria Harris
Managing Editor
Concealed Carry Magazine



Judy Hunter

INTERVIEWED AND WRITTEN BY: DON MYERS

I was at the shooting range recently supervising a group of concealed handgun license applicants as they shot the required course. Invariably, there are shooters whom I have to watch more closely because they are handling their handguns poorly and require special attention to ensure that they don't do something stupid to endanger themselves or someone else. Of course, I have to watch everyone closely in the beginning until I see who needs the extra attention. After the first ten rounds had been fired, I noticed that a woman who had been deftly handling her weapon during reloads had seven holes in the X-ring

and the other three in the 10-ring. It was obvious that she did not need extra supervision. Judy Hunter easily qualified for the renewal of her concealed handgun license (CHL).

At the end of each shooting session, I give a demonstration of how to shoot rapidly and accurately to try to impress upon the CHL applicants that they are not prepared to prevail in a gunfight just because they can pass the state-mandated course. Gunfights often entail shooting as fast as you can in a near panic situation. You don't remember the principles of slow fire under the pressure of the rapid fire circumstances.

I use a timer and shoot against the applicant who had the high score of the group. My time is usually twice as fast as my opponent's and all of my shots are usually in the kill zone while my opponent usually has many shots outside the kill zone. The demonstration never fails to get oohs and aahs since the

difference is so dramatic. I tell them that they need to get more training from me or some other professional to enhance their chances of coming out alive in a deadly force encounter. Every class has students who say they want to do it, but in the two years of doing this demonstration only two people have been responsible enough to heed my advice—Judy Hunter became number three. Her attitude about wanting to be better is the reason that she had stood out from the other shooters on the firing line that day.

During her subsequent advanced shooting lesson, she quickly learned trigger control and the importance of the muscle memory drills that I showed her. But it was not just her shooting ability and willingness to learn new things that made me realize that the readers of CCM magazine would want to know about her, it was her life experiences that prompted me to ask her to tell us more about her life.



ccmprofile

Each issue of CCM contains an article that "PROFILES" an everyday individual who carries a concealed weapon. Liz, as interviewed by Don Myers, is an inspiration to our readers by helping them to realize that they are not alone in their lifestyle decision to always be armed. Don Myers is a professional pilot, a Vietnam era army captain, an author, a certified concealed handgun license instructor for the state of Texas, and most importantly of all, a proud grandfather.

Judy was born and raised near Fort Worth, Texas. While in high school, she shot NRA .22 rifle courses as part of the school's intramural sports program (the school would probably be accused of developing terrorists if they tried to have intramural rifle shooting in today's politically correct society). She also enjoyed archery for a while, but gave up shooting and archery until she was mugged after she left high school.

Shortly after graduation, she married and had a daughter. She kept

a gun around the house, but "that was before there were classes that I knew about to show me how to use it, so I was uncomfortable with it. I went to the range a few times, but I wasn't very good. I figured I could at least scare an intruder." It wasn't until her younger brother, a part-time gunsmith, gave her "a couple of lessons" that she became comfortable and somewhat proficient with her pistol. "It never occurred to me to go to a range and get training until I took my first concealed handgun license class."

Judy's love of photography frequently takes her to remote places, often alone, to get the picture. She has pursued her hobby in south Texas, both coasts and points in between. Mostly, these trips were trouble-free, but there have been times when she was glad she was armed or wished that she had been. I sat down with this interesting woman to interview her so that we could learn more about her eventful life.

CCM Interview

CCM: Was there a specific incident that caused you to carry a gun?

Judy: Yes, I was mugged and almost raped.

CCM: That's certainly a good reason. Can you tell us more about it?

Judy: It was in the fall of 1969. I was walking in the Botanic Gardens in Fort Worth with a friend of mine at about 9:00 o'clock at night. When we came to the end of the Rose Garden these kids started coming out of the shadows. We tried walking away, but we were surrounded by a group of eight young men. No one had ever talked to me about situational awareness, so I didn't think too much about it until they grabbed us.

I honestly don't remember much of the details because I went into a once in a lifetime rage. How dare they do this to us! The fellow that I was with later told me that they were all armed with knives and guns, but I didn't see the weapons in my rage. They made my friend kneel down and put his hands behind him.

They grabbed me and tried to get my hands behind me and tried to make me kneel, but I wasn't listening to them because I was screaming at them and kicking and trying to elbow them.

One of them jammed his hands in my pants and I think he would have raped me if I had not been in my period and had not refused to sit down like they were telling us to do.

They took my friend's watch and money, and when they saw that I wasn't

carrying a purse, they left. Of course, I stopped at a phone booth and called the police, but they wouldn't believe me since that kind of crime had never happened before in that area. The next week they mugged another couple. That was in October. They mugged one or two couples every weekend until the end of the year. They raped most of the girls and killed some of the guys, but they hurt all of them. Now the parks are fenced and are closed in the evening, but in 1969, we could go at any time.

I don't know if it was because I fought back or because we were their first victims and they just hadn't gotten the courage up yet that they didn't do the same to us. The police finally did catch them and, as I understand it, each one of the gang was sentenced to ninety-nine years except the leader who got two ninety-nine years sentences served consecutively. It was really scary following the attacks in the news and thinking what could have happened to me because I was not armed.

The very next day my mother bought me a .22 pistol—a Saturday-night-special. That's when I started carrying. (Judy's use of the term, "Saturday night special" was satirical because anti-gun politicians came up with that term during the 1970's to indicate a cheap way to rob someone. The politicians' subsequent attempts to have only expensive guns sold would have made protection with a firearm out of the price range of the very people who needed them the most—those living in high crime areas which are nearly always where the poorest people live.)

CCM: Then you were carrying before Texas had the concealed handgun license.

Judy: Yes, the police couldn't protect me. In fact, they thought that I was lying when I reported this incident. My mom and I realized that we had to protect ourselves, so I started protecting myself.

That incident also brings up another point. If you carry a gun you must not have any doubt that you can use it if the situation calls for it. That incident relieved all doubt that I can and will protect myself if I have to.

CCM: Have you ever had to use your firearm in a defensive situation?

Judy: Yes, a couple of times and another time that I wished that I had it with me. The first time I used the gun defensively, I was in my van coming back from the east coast passing through Mississippi. A trucker was hassling me by passing me then slowing down to thirty to forty m.p.h. on the interstate. I would pass him and he would speed up until he passed me. This was before the days of cell phones making it impossible for me to call for help. I couldn't shake a cop loose from his nap. Oh, maybe I shouldn't say that, but I couldn't find a cop even though we were often going well above the speed limit. Understand that we were on a stretch of highway that had no frontage road, no off-ramps, no businesses or even street lights. After about an hour (maybe not really an hour, but it seemed like such a long time) of trying to out run him, which I wasn't able to do, I turned on my dome light and picked up the bag that my pistol was in. I unzipped the bag and laid the pistol on the dashboard where the trucker could see it. He left me alone after that.

Continued on page 8



CCM: It's amazing how a woman's gun can turn a thug into a gentleman.

Judy: Yeah, it was more like it made me a magician because he just disappeared into the darkness which was fine with me.

The other time that I used my gun was when a burglar was breaking into my house. When he popped the window open it set off my burglar alarm. I went to the window and pulled the curtain back with the barrel of my .38. When he saw the gun, he left.

CCM: You said that there was a time that you wished that you had been armed.

Judy: Yes, that was the worst of all. I was traveling with my daughter who was a toddler at the time. We were in rush-hour traffic coming home after work. A young fellow, who was obviously high on something and had a real vicious streak, kept trying to run us off the road. This was before cell phones, too. He chased us through rush-hour traffic terrifying us for about 20 miles. I don't remember how I got away from him, but I was terrified. I was wishing that I had my gun with me.

CCM: Why weren't you carrying?

Judy: At that time, I still had not had any lessons in handgun safety or shooting. Besides, I was a suburban mom going to and from work and day-care. How dangerous could it be?

Of course, as this was happening, I could see that we both would have been safer if I'd been properly trained and armed.

CCM: What training methods do you employ? Do you have any recommendations?

Judy: Sometimes I have my brother give me some shooting lessons. He is a gunsmith and is a very good shot, but he hasn't had any self-defense training. He has helped me with safety, grip, stance and aim. But now that I have taken a lesson from you, I see how important it is to receive professional help. There is a world of difference between just learning from a good shooter and learning from a professional instructor. I had no idea that I would learn so much. It also made me realize how much more there is to learn. As I told you at the end of that first lesson, I will be scheduling another lesson from you.

CCM: How long have you carried a concealed weapon?

Judy: From the age of 19 in 1969 and have done so most of the time ever since. That was long before we could be licensed in Texas.

CCM: What weapons do you carry?

Judy: I have a Colt .38 Special with a two inch barrel that I have carried most of my life. It's so old that I can't use +P

ammunition; it's almost a collector's item. I have a Llama .380 and have recently purchased a Glock 17 and Glock 19 which shoot 9mm. Of course, I don't carry all of them at once.

Now that I've had some lessons with the Glocks, I will carry the Glock 17. I've learned that it is much more accurate, and not prone to failure as are some semi-automatics.

CCM: What type ammunition do you carry?

Judy: I don't know the brand names, but they are hollow points.

CCM: What concealment holsters do you use?

Judy: My Colt came with a small-of-the-back holster that is very comfortable, but I don't know who manufactured it. It fits under my shirt or coat or I carry it in my camera bag. The 9mms are so new that I haven't bought holsters for them yet. Buying a holster is high on my shopping list.

CCM: What do you do for a living?

Judy: I have a bachelor's degree in construction management from East Texas University, now called Texas A&M at Commerce. I worked in the construction industry for many years, usually on-site. I now work for the Small Business Administration as a construction analyst. I have had jobs in the past that took me to the federal housing projects. Since I was in federal buildings, I could not legally carry and I went into some really scary places wishing that I were armed, but never had any trouble. There were two policemen who were assigned to be on-call for me, and I could call them at any time I felt the need. So even though I wasn't armed, I was protected. Coincidentally, these two policemen also worked on the 1969 case, so they were very protective.

There was one interesting thing that happened in that regard. Though I was not on site at the time, I had some roofers working when a young fellow came out of the apartments and shot his pistol into the air several times. The roofers were scared and went home a couple of hours early. When they returned the next day, they were reluctant to get out of their trucks because there were several young men just standing around, each one with a pistol in his belt. Then the roofers

noticed that these men were organized. There was a young man stationed at the corner of each of the buildings where the roofers had been working. The workers finally discovered that those kids were there to guard them.

CCM: Do you have any advice for our readers?

Judy: Carry all the time. You never know when you will need it. The only times that I got in trouble was when I didn't think I would. Even though my job took me into the high crime area of the projects for five years, that is not where I got in trouble. It was in the "safe" areas that I needed my gun.

Be comfortable with your gun by knowing it well and know that you can use it if you need to.

Professional training—you just can't come close to your potential without it. You will know that you are doing it right with correct training and not just because a friend who owns some guns thinks he's doing it right, but he really doesn't know how to use it properly. With sufficient training, the training will take over when you need it to, and the best response will be automatic and usually very fast. You won't even have to think about it. So many people use this method—the Marines, firemen, policemen, your local lifeguard—because it is so effective. When you know what to do, there is little chance for panic.

Since I was mugged, I have always been more alert to my surroundings. It's just too dangerous to walk around oblivious to your surroundings. Act in



a way so that others will know you are aware. Stand up straight, walk briskly, don't dangle your purse, look at and acknowledge the people in the area.

And finally, there is the awareness that if you are armed you must be careful to not over-react to a situation. As an example, I was returning home at night from working in the projects, so I didn't have a gun because they are federal buildings and my employer had a very strict policy that wouldn't allow me to carry a gun in my car either. It was winter time and the heater coil in my car gave out causing my car to over-heat. I could see a gas station ahead and thought that I could coast to the station to get help. The trouble is that the road did not go directly to the gas station, so I had to make a turn causing my car to come to a stop.

This was before cell phones, so I was sitting there in the dark, in the cold, in a very bad part of town trying to think of what to do. Should I get out and walk to the gas station or stay with the car and hope that the police find me? Just then, I saw this big black car with blacked out windows—the kind that "bad actors" use in the movies—a real stereotype. I looked in the mirror and six guys got out and started walking toward me.

Now remember that I was mugged by eight guys, so I was terrified because of my prior experience. I was almost in a state of panic, but I had been praying about a situation like this because of where I worked. It was seventeen degrees outside and I have three guys on each side of my car. The driver tapped on my car window, so I rolled the window down just enough to speak. He asked, "Is your car broken down?"

I said, "yes," in a tiny voice. You know, you don't want to show weakness, but it was pretty obvious that something was wrong. He waved to the guys who were there and they pushed my car to the gas station. He gave me a quarter for the telephone and he said, "You shouldn't be in this neighborhood."

If I had been armed and panicked, I could have hurt someone who was only trying to do good. So, you really have to be mindful of things like that when you are armed. When you are armed you have to be more careful than an unarmed person because you have the potential to illegally raise a non-violent situation to a threat of deadly force or deadly force response. Fortunately, the Texas CHL training helps to make that inappropriate response unlikely.



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SHOTS FIRED DURING BURGLARY

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH — A man shot at a burglar who entered his apartment Tuesday night.

Police said a man dressed in black broke into an apartment, at 1100 South block of 200 East, about 11:20 p.m. and told a man inside he would kill him. The resident, who was watching television at the time, tussled with the burglar in the living room and broke free, authorities said.

The resident went to the bedroom and grabbed a gun, shooting three times as the burglar ran away, said police.

The burglar appeared to get away unscathed, police said. He was described as white, in his 20s, 5 feet, 10 inches tall and wearing black shorts, a black shirt and a black hat.

Salt Lake Tribune
May 23, 2007

CLERK HOLDS ACCOMPLICE AT GUNPOINT

WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA — Police said a convenience store owner held a burglar's accomplice at gunpoint Thursday after an armed robbery at his store.

Authorities said a man entered a Shell station on University Parkway at about 5:11 a.m. and demanded money. After he received an undisclosed amount of money, the culprit demanded money from the safe. The owner, James William Overby, retrieved a handgun from a concealed location and pointed it at the culprit, according to Winston-Salem police. A short struggle ensued and the culprit fled on foot, police said.

Overby then encountered a second culprit waiting in the suspect vehicle and ordered him to the ground, according to police. Overby detained that person until police arrived. The investigation is still under way. Overby wasn't injured.

Winston-Salem's WXII12.com
May 24, 2007

RESIDENCE BURGLARY

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA — Oklahoma City police have identified a man shot and killed over the weekend after entering a home on the city's northwest side.

Police say 27-year-old Eugene Drake was killed shortly before 8 o'clock

Saturday morning after a gun battle broke out at the house.

Police say Drake was seen prowling outside the house on Northwest 121st Street before he entered the home and exchanged gunfire with someone inside. Drake was shot and killed, and the resident was wounded.

The resident's name wasn't immediately released, while police determine whether to recommend any criminal charges.

KWSO Channel 7
May 29, 2007

MAN SHOTS BURGLAR

WOODBIDGE, VIRGINIA — A suspected burglar was shot in the head Wednesday after police say the unknown man tried to break into a house in Woodbridge, according to Prince William County police.

The man, who police believe may be responsible for two burglary attempts at the house in the 1900 block of Old Post Terrace, fled from the scene after being shot, leaving a trail of blood, said Officer Erika Hernandez, Prince William police spokeswoman.

The first burglary attempt was around 8:45 p.m. Tuesday, Hernandez said. Police responded to the house and found that a rear window had been tampered with.

Then around noon Wednesday, police say a man tried to break into the same residence by breaking the window that had been tampered with the day before, Hernandez said.

Police said the homeowner fired a handgun at the burglar, striking him in the head, Hernandez said. When police arrived, the burglar was gone.

The burglar is described as a thin built white man in his early 20s, with blonde hair who is approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighs about 160 pounds.

The victim was not injured during the incident, Hernandez said, adding that at this time no charges have been brought against the homeowner.

Manassas Journal-Register
May 31, 2007

STORE CLERK SHOTS OUT THIEF'S WINDOWS

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS — Police say two men are under arrest after a robbery at a

northeast side convenience store Monday night. According to officers, one of those suspects was shot by the store clerk.

The robbery happened around 8:30 p.m. at the Ashkan Food Mart on Rittiman Road.

Police say a robber came into the store and acted as if he had a gun. Once he got cash, he hopped into a waiting pick-up truck. The clerk ran outside and shot at the truck as it drove away.

Officers were able to track down that truck at a nearby apartment complex. They say the vehicle's windows had been shot out and they noticed blood.

Police found the injured suspect and a man believed to be his getaway driver. Both were placed under arrest. There is no word yet on the suspect's condition.

San Antonio's WOAI.com
June 5, 2007

MAN DETAINS TWO ALLEGED BURGLARS

LAGRANGE, MAINE — A LaGrange man used a 12-gauge shotgun Tuesday to detain two people who apparently tried to break into the home he is renting on the Bennoch Road.

Guy Shuman, 18, of LaGrange has been charged with burglary and criminal mischief, and charges also have been filed against a juvenile involved in the incident, Sgt. Bill Birch of the Penobscot County Sheriff's Department said Tuesday afternoon.

This is the second time in the past few weeks that Penobscot County sheriff's deputies have responded to a report of a burglary at the home, according to Birch. Police confirmed that the rented residence previously was broken into in late May.

No one was injured in Tuesday's incident, Birch said. "[The resident] heard a noise out behind his house around 11:04 this morning when he noticed two people trying to break into his house," Birch said.

He confronted the two men and held them until law enforcement officials arrived.

Shuman was arrested and taken to Penobscot County Jail where he remained Tuesday afternoon. He is scheduled to appear on July 13 at Penobscot County Superior Court. The juvenile was released into his parents' custody.

Bangor Daily News
June 6, 2007

FOUR KEY POINTS TO DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS

In our previous column, we explained how the “gun control” agenda operates to discourage gun ownership so completely that political support for gun rights evaporates. When that support disappears, there will be nothing to stop the revocation of concealed carry permits and the imposition of total gun bans. How can we stop that agenda?

To oppose “gun control” arguments, the first approach is: Refuse to use their terms. As explained fully in the book, *Death by “Gun Control,”* the term “gun control” is Orwellian *Newspeak* that itself biases the debate. Therefore, we nearly always use the correct terms: “victim disarmament” or “citizen disarmament.”

We hear the argument: “How can you be against sensible gun laws?” The response is: “How can you favor disarming victims when the aggressors are armed?”

A second approach: Refuse to accept the idea that “gun control” is “modern.” The undisputable facts show that the earliest and most consistent restrictions on firearms ownership in America were applied to black people, both slaves and freemen. Legal scholars have documented the fact that “gun control” has its direct roots in racist tyranny.

We hear the argument: “Strict gun control is a feature of all modern democracies.” The response is: “Victim disarmament laws are the tools of racist slave masters. What makes such laws modern and enlightened?”

A third approach: Dispute the delusion that “if guns were outlawed, then we’d have peace.” The history of the 20th century showed the opposite. In just the largest eight genocides, over 70 million people were murdered by their own governments. In each case, the “gun control” laws and policies paved the way by ensuring that the victims were powerless to resist.

We hear the argument: “Private citizens don’t need guns; they are dangerous to society.” The response is: Show the video documentary, *Innocents Betrayed*. The awful fates suffered by over 70 million disarmed citizens must never be forgotten.

A fourth approach: Laugh hilariously at the idea that protecting society should be left to the professionals only. The book, *Dial 911 and Die*, proves that for nearly every state, the local police have *no legal duty* to protect individual citizens from criminal attack. Certainly the police strive to protect and serve, but as a practical matter, they cannot be on-site before a rape attempt, a carjacking, a street robbery or a home invasion. As a legal matter, if the police fail to respond in time to a 911 call, the victim cannot hold the police responsible for damages.

We hear the argument: “Only the police should have guns; they can protect us against crime.” The response is: “Why do you want to render potential crime victims powerless to protect themselves, and make them depend solely upon 911 call response, when the courts say that the police have no legal duty to protect individuals and families from criminal attack?”

It seems unbelievable that we have to defend the values of self-defense and the protection of families against armed aggressors, but defend we must. To support the effort, powerful videos, books and booklets are available at www.jpfo.org.

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Grassroots: IN THE SPOTLIGHT

written by: Cope Reynolds

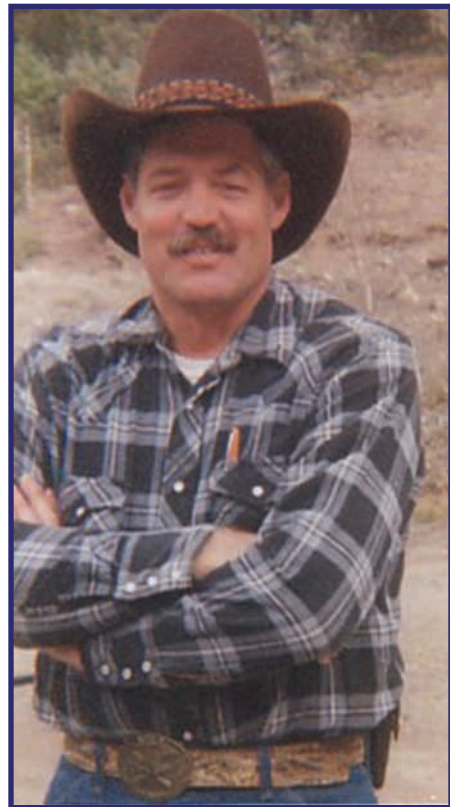
ROSS SPORTING GOODS

I was born in Farmington, NM in early 1956. We moved a few years later to a small ranch a few miles out of town where I trained and showed Appaloosa horses until I was about 16 years old. Any spare time I had away from the horses was mostly spent hunting, camping, fishing, tinkering with guns and target shooting. I was heavily involved with firearms beginning at a very tender age. I began joining my parents on hunting trips at the age of 8 months and never missed a season until I was 18 years old. Harvesting my first mule deer at the ripe old age of 9, I have since taken many more mule deer, whitetail, elk, antelope and a multitude of smaller game animals and varmints.

Spending most of my young adult life following drilling rigs and construction projects across the nation, I joined the United States Army at age 26 where I served as a vehicle recovery specialist and small arms repairer. I qualified "Expert" with both rifle and handgun numerous times while serving and also received a couple of certificates of achievement for my shooting abilities. My time in the service took me from the east coast of the U.S., to Europe for a couple

of years, and then back to southern California. Having lived, worked in or traveled to 36 states and 8 countries, I have now run full-circle and I am back in Farmington, New Mexico where I live with my wife and 4 children.

My children are the light and joy of my life. All of them began shooting by age 3 or 4. By the time they were 6 years old, they could shoot just as well as the many adults that I know. My oldest daughter, 13, doesn't have a tremendous interest in shooting but she likes to go occasionally. My other 2 daughters, 7 and 9, and my son, 12, enjoy shooting very much and they all have their own guns. I believe that the key to keeping kids safe is NOT prohibiting them from touching guns. Not allowing them to touch guns or be involved in shooting only creates curiosity. As they say, "Curiosity killed the cat." Training is the key to keeping kids safe. When my kids get that urge to shoot, they simply say, "Dad, when can we go out shooting again?" My answer, of course, is "How 'bout right now?" or "Would this weekend be okay?" I NEVER tell them that we'll do it as soon as I get time or put them off in any way.



Cope Reynolds

Besides being an avid hunter and outdoorsman and professional firearms instructor, I have shot competitively and attained local, state and national recognition in several disciplines including PPC, IPSC, IDPA, hunter/field silhouettes, skeet, trap and high-power rifle. Due to a series of events taking place from 1992-94, I gave up competing for the most part to pursue a career in training others to shoot, beginning primarily in defensive handgun. After owning and operating two other successful shooting schools in Cody, WY and Grants, NM, I am now the owner and senior instructor at Ross Sporting Goods and Four Corners Firearms Training here in Farmington. Ross Sporting Goods is an icon in the Four Corners region and has been in business for nearly 60 years. It was a very popular gun shop when I was a kid and I feel very fortunate to have been able to continue that tradition.



As for as my current firearms qualifications, I received my first firearms training certification from the NRA in 1995 and am now an NRA Training Counselor. I am also certified by the NM Dept. of Public Safety and the Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification as a concealed weapons instructor. I am a certified gunsmith, Glock armorer and a 5-time Distinguished Graduate of Front Sight Firearms Training Institute in Defensive Handgun, Advanced Handgun, Practical Rifle and Tactical Shotgun. I have two other full-time certified instructors here that are nationally certified in handgun and personal protection as well. One is my lovely wife, Beth, who also is the chief Hunter's Safety instructor and quite an accomplished handgunner for only having been involved in it for less than 2 years. The other is Jason who is also a Practical Rifle and Defensive Handgun graduate of Front Sight and an invaluable asset to our organization.

Four Corners Firearms Training is the only facility of its kind in the 4-Corners region offering not only the most comprehensive firearms training in the area but also personal contact defense

Continued on page 14



The Gang

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"The Gang is a brutally honest look at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and how they are out of control. The presentation is shocking yet very professional. The production team at JPFO did an admirable job of assembling a convincing story that shows just what happens with an unchecked government agency. I highly recommend "The Gang" to anyone who still cares about their personal freedoms." — Tim Schmidt - Founder & Executive Director, United States Concealed Carry Association

"Evil needs secrecy and shadow to exist. "The Gang" drags this band of rogue criminals into the light; where we, The American People will judge their evil deeds." — Larry Pratt - Executive Director, Gun Owners of America



training and disaster preparedness classes. We offer a menu of about 17 different firearms classes ranging from basic safety to more advanced defensive handgun, rifle and shotgun. The classes that I have developed are a culmination of my own experiences and ideas along with techniques and procedures that I have learned from a number of sources and different instructors and schools of thought. I, and everyone else here, strongly subscribe to Lt. Col. Grossman's analogy described in his excellent piece entitled, "On Sheep, Wolves and Sheepdogs." So much so that we have had bumper stickers made up that say, "I'm a SHEEPDOG!"


In all of our defensive weapon classes, one of our main points of focus is that as civilians, particularly CCW holders, we are not cops. We stress this for several reasons. The first being that just because you're carrying a gun doesn't mean that you somehow have new-found powers or that you are any braver or tougher than you were before. If anything, it should probably make you a little more humble.

Another thing is, as civilians, our rules of engagement and methodology may not be exactly the same as law enforcement. While our ultimate goal may be similar, the manner in which we arrive at it may be different and probably has more to do with mindset than anything else. For instance, a LEO usually enters and clears rooms while searching for a suspect. His goal is to safely go from room to room while searching. The homeowner or store manager may have to clear rooms to safely get OUT of the building or retrieve family members. His goal is to safely EXIT the building, not to engage the intruder unless absolutely necessary. So yes, I teach safe room entry and clearing in my more advanced classes while making it absolutely clear that is NOT a good idea unless there are no other options.

I think that something good can come from ALL training, no matter how different it may be to you. Think of training like eating chicken. You eat what you can use and throw away the bones.

Also available is training in disaster preparedness about which I wrote a

book entitled, "Dying is Not an Option!" In addition to everything else, I host a weekly talk radio show called "The Shooting Bench," where I address just about any topic involving firearms, self-defense, gun laws and rights, disaster preparedness or anything else that I feel the need to talk about from atop my soap box. The "Shooting Bench" is also available via podcast and on our website.

I love to customize, repair and modify guns of all types. My shop specializes in Glock, AK and SKS modifications although we work on most makes and models of guns. Many times I can be found still working in the shop at midnight or later. What a job! Where else could I find something where I so look forward to getting to work every morning and have no desire to leave at "quitting" time. But, it still winds up being a case of "the hurrier I go, the behinder I get." 

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Enough is Enough!

Over the last few months, I find that I cannot take my mind off the idiocy of our gun laws and the deaths that they have created. It breaks my heart when I think of the children that have been killed and wounded and the families that have torn apart by the total incompetence of our state and federal lawmakers or the incompetence of others that handle guns improperly. It makes me furious when I think of the complete and total preventability of shooting accidents and most school/workplace shootings. In light of recent events, I would like to share my thoughts about this.

Only two things cause shooting accidents: *carelessness* and *ignorance*, with carelessness far exceeding the other.

Ignorance simply means that one does not know how to safely handle a firearm. Yes, the handling of firearms by those that are ignorant of safe handling procedures results in an unacceptable number of accidents and

deaths, since the acceptable number is ZERO. Carelessness, however, results in many more due to so many people THINKING that they know all there is to know about the handling and firing of their guns. Some actually have been taught properly but, for whatever reason, elect not to exercise that knowledge. A firearm of any size or description demands that one be able and willing to devote 100% of their attention to it 100% of the time while in the vicinity of the gun. Note that I didn't say while handling the gun. I mean anytime that you are around guns, period. If someone else is handling a firearm improperly, you should very well be aware of it and take the appropriate action. Proper training, knowledge and strongly, deeply instilled safety procedures could prevent 100% of such negligent incidents. Oh, did I say "negligence?" Absolutely. Every time there is an unintentional shooting of any kind, a plethora of excuses erupts from those involved, whether it be an experienced police officer or a Boy Scout.

Such excuses include; "I didn't even touch the trigger!", "It just went off", "So-and-so accidentally shot himself", "I had an accidental discharge out at the range!" For the record, there is no such thing as an "accidental discharge" or "accidentally" shooting oneself or someone else. Guns do exactly what they are intended to and if handled properly, will NOT fire by themselves. If a gun, ANY gun, fires prematurely or unintentionally, it was due to negligence, not an accident.

Schools and other establishments that do not allow firearms on premises are target rich environments for criminals that choose not to obey state and/or federal laws. It is our sincere and heartfelt opinion that if responsible, trained individuals are

"More gun laws!" they cry. "Take away the guns!" Well that's just ingenious. Why didn't the normal, conservative, rational folks think of that? Let me see if I can explain it to you; IT'S BECAUSE IT DOESN'T WORK!! THAT'S WHY!

allowed to carry firearms for their own protection that the results of tragedies like the Virginia Tech and Columbine shootings could be greatly reduced if not completely eliminated in many cases. Contrary to what the detractors of legal, concealed carry would have us believe, there has NOT been bloodshed in the streets and increased violence in any state or city where concealed carry has been permitted. In fact, it has been quite the opposite. Violent crime, particularly murders, home invasions and armed burglaries have dramatically decreased in states with liberal concealed carry laws (over 30% in some states).

Have you ever seen a business that put up sign saying that it did not allow firearms? Did you feel safer while you were there? If you did, your elevator doesn't go all the way to the top. This may come as quite a shock to you but the people that are inclined to do harm to other human beings don't give a damn about your signs. The mall in Salt Lake City where a young man, just 18 years

old, killed 5 shoppers and wounded 4 others with an AK-47 has signs that say "No Firearms Allowed". I assume the shooter didn't get the memo. There have been 37 school shootings in the U.S. since February of 1996. All told, there were 103 students, administrators or parents killed and 152 wounded in 24 states! FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, PEOPLE! How many people have to die—no, how many CHILDREN have to die—before the idiots that make and support laws that prevent us from protecting ourselves realize that they are NOT working? "More gun laws!" they cry. "Take away the guns!" Well that's just ingenious. Why didn't the normal, conservative, rational folks think of that? Let me see if I can explain it to you; IT'S BECAUSE IT DOESN'T WORK!! THAT'S WHY! There are well over 20,000 gun laws on the books nationwide right now. Sure, let's make some more. The more laws we have, the more people die.

We can only do so much to try and make people aware of this problem. Following the example of a couple of other schools, Ross Sporting Goods of Farmington is offering free Multi-State Concealed Weapons courses for teachers, principals and other school administrators from June until school starts in the fall of '07. We will train up to four people from any school, public or private, in the Four Corners area. This will include personnel from ANY school in NM, AZ, CO or UT that gets this message. You will receive certified, professional defensive handgun training and, if you wish, the documentation to enable you to acquire permits to carry a concealed handgun in a number of states.

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At Ross Sporting Goods, we are quite passionate about personal defense and we believe that gun control is simply a product of good training!!

PACIFISM: *A Refuge of the Simple Minded*

America's school systems began enacting zero-tolerance policies in the early 1990's to address the growing violence they were experiencing at the time. After the tragedy at Columbine, school administrators made the policies so strict that honor roll students were being punished for accidentally leaving bread knives in their car while parked on school property.

Most employers also have a zero-tolerance policy barring weapons, particularly guns, from the workplace. Employees that leave target pistols in their trunk, on company property, in anticipation of a trip to the range after work risk being fired for their choice of sport.

Pacifism is another example of a failed ideology that is philosophically

equal to the zero-tolerance policies used by schools and businesses. Both take away individual judgment in place of an arbitrary, unbending rule. They also have unintended consequences that punish or hurt innocent people, and more times than not fail in their intended purpose of curbing violence. The inability of pacifists to determine when the use of deadly force is justified leads to a condemnation of all violent acts, or the misguided believe that violence is never a viable solution.

Try telling a rape victim who successfully fought off her attacker that violence didn't solve her problem. The same holds true for a mother defending her children strapped in the back seat of a minivan when a carjacker tries to steal the car. In both cases, violence was not only a good option, but it was most likely the only way to effectively solve the problem at hand. Plus, the decision to fight back has a residual benefit for all of society because criminals are forced to wonder if their next target will fight back with such ferocity, possibly making them choose safer, nonviolent property crimes in the future.

Regardless of the reason for believing in the false hope of pacifism, it ultimately proves to be detrimental to society as a whole. Whenever a criminal's successful attack is not resisted, it further empowers their action. Only meeting their violent action with an increased violent response has the desired effect of changing their aggressive behavior.

That isn't to suggest that fighting back is always the best option. The problem arises when a pacifist puts forth submission as the only acceptable reaction. One-size-fits-all solutions never work, especially when dealing with a fluid event like a criminal attack. Like other failed zero-tolerance policies, pacifism is short-sighted, and based on a lazy, one-size-fits-all answer to a specific problem. Pacifists claim that if we are just "nicer"

Proper training is key to learning how you will react when attacked.





Women are particularly vulnerable to attack and learning self-defense skills are key to survival.

to our enemies they will stop attacking us. What they refuse to understand is that thugs prey on the weak, and there isn't anyone weaker than someone who lacks the will to fight back.

The anti-gun movement uses the same flawed logic when they argue that banning guns will lead to a decrease in gun deaths. Such a silly notion punishes everyone for the sins of a few miscreants and is based on a decidedly misguided premise that criminals will turn in their guns. Then when gun control inevitably fails to get the desired result, the leaders of the anti-gun gang claim that the answer is even stricter gun laws. Such an illogical, one-size-fits-all approach to problem solving is indicative of how pacifists and anti-gun crusaders think. Aided by the establishment media, both movements continue to push their flawed agenda, seemingly oblivious to how their policies have failed.

Regardless, pacifists are often held up by the media as moral guide rods, yet nothing could be further from the truth. A refusal to defend innocent life is morally abhorrent and has no place in a civilized society. Standing idle while a family member or innocent person is violently attacked goes against the very reason civilization evolved in the first place.

Pacifism, in all its sad incarnations, has done more to damage the rights

of free people than nearly any other ideology. It has also spawned the anti-gun movement, anti-war movement and a thought process that submitting to criminals under all circumstances is beneficial to both the individual being attacked and the criminal.

Over the past 30 years, as the crime rate skyrocketed, the pacifists and appeasers had their way in the public policy debates. Now, with the proliferation of concealed carry laws and the strengthening of castle doctrine laws nationwide, the right to self-defense and the presumption of innocence has been given back to the law-abiding.

Such laws have also set up civil and criminal protections for honest citizens who use deadly force. The traditional media refuses to link the subsequent drop in violent crime with the return of the right of self-defense to honest citizens. Proponents of the right-to-life castle doctrine and concealed carry laws know the media will never admit that using force to deter force is often the only successful option during a violent attack. Yet, if the change in the law saves only one honest citizen's life, it's worth it.

Gerard Valentino is the Buckeye Firearms Association Central Ohio Chair, BuckeyeFirearms.org, and writes for the: ValentinoChronicle.com.

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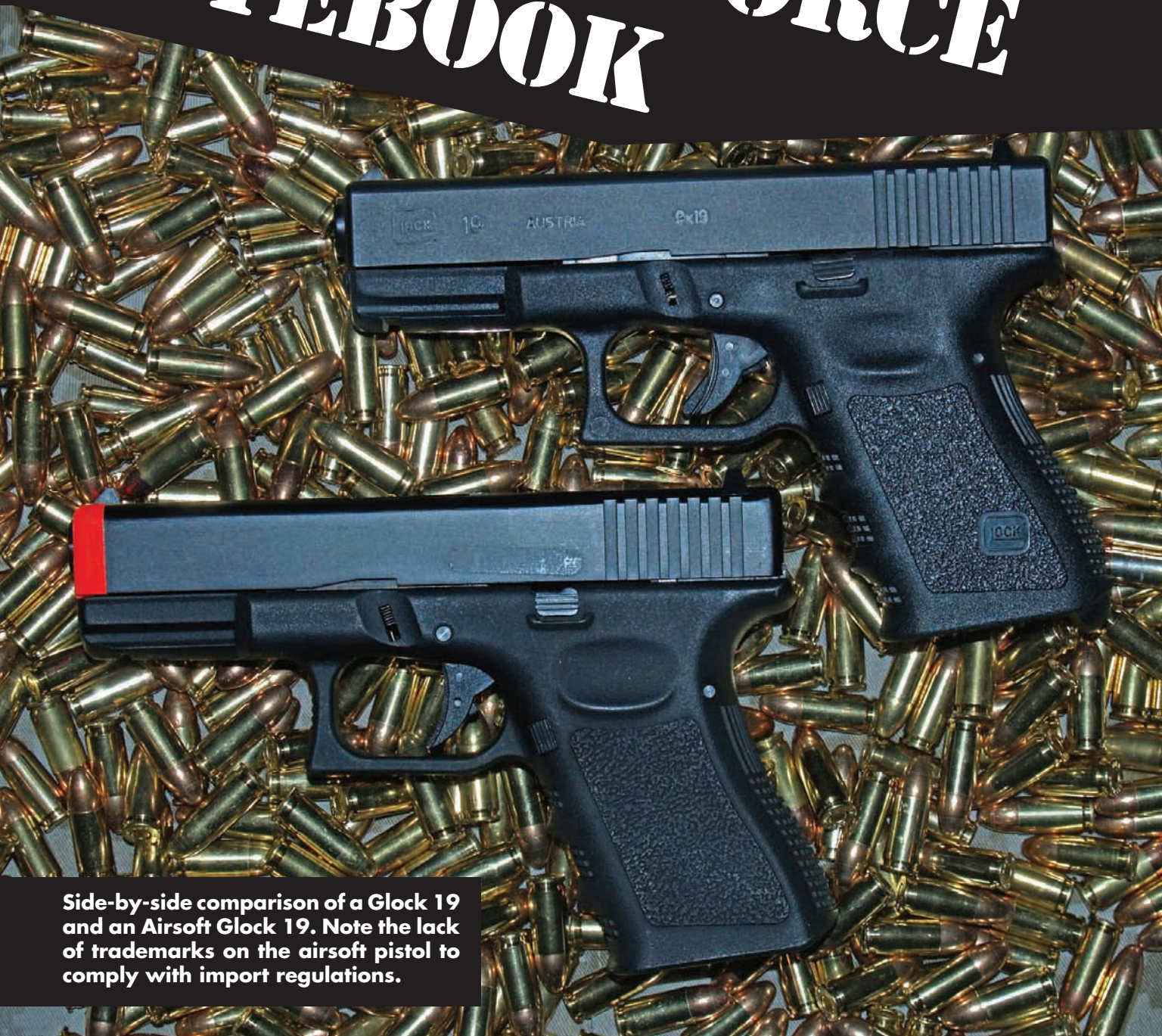
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A letter arrived at Concealed Carry Magazine that asked several very good questions about Airsoft gear that begs to have a column all of its own.

THE FORCE-ON-FORCE NOTEBOOK



Side-by-side comparison of a Glock 19 and an Airsoft Glock 19. Note the lack of trademarks on the airsoft pistol to comply with import regulations.

AIRSOFT GEAR

"I have just become aware of the Airsoft "toys." I understand they are recreational only and have no place in the "real" weapon arena. They do seem to present a real possibility for practice at home. In most homes, discharging a real firearm is not safe or practical. These functioning replicas seem to offer a viable alternative when getting to the range doesn't fit in the schedule. I have seen a selection of them: gas, electric and spring, pros and cons, good models and bad, etcetera. The spring models are inexpensive and the gas models have blow-back action to enhance the realism. Would it be possible to bring us (readers) up to speed on the topic?" —Bob Crifasi - Highland Park, NJ

It's time for a crash course on all things Airsoft. Let's get a little history while we are at it. Airsoft started in Japan during the early 1980s. It was then and is currently illegal to own firearms in Japan, but even with a total ban on firearm ownership, there was significant interest. During the latter part of the 1980s, the sport migrated to a number of Pacific Rim countries. Airsoft started appearing

in North America and Europe during the middle of the 1990s. Today, it is fairly well known in the US and is really starting to enjoy widespread use as a training tool, thanks in part to classes like *Interactive Gunfighting* from Suarez International.

Airsoft guns are 1:1 nearly perfect replicas of your favorite military and civilian weapons. Now you can own an FN Herstal P-90, a Heckler & Koch MP5K or a Glock 18. The only real visual difference is the orange tip on the muzzle, and the trademarks have to be removed for importation into the US. Otherwise, they look nearly the same when placed side-by-side. The biggest difference is that they will not and can not be made to fire any sort of conventional ammunition. They can only chamber and fire 6mm plastic BBs. Unlike simunitions, Airsoft guns and ammo are relatively cheap to use, easy to clean up after, do not require special protective equipment at considerable additional cost, and can be acquired without special permission.

Our subscriber asked if these are toys or serious training tools. Both toy and tool would be the correct answer. They are amazingly fun to shoot, but they have even greater value in the training arena.

It bears repeating that safety with these guns is as important as with real ones. Most out-of-the-box Airsoft guns shoot at 300 feet per second or more. The rounds don't hurt nearly as much as a paintball because of the low mass and small size, but at normal engagement distances, protective headgear and eyewear are a must. Long sleeves are a good idea, as are long pants. Even with the proper attire, you are going to know when you get hit and you will look like you have measles after a long day of skirmishes.

There are 3 major types of Airsoft guns: spring powered, gas powered and battery powered. The only two really worth using in most serious training scenarios are the gas powered guns and the battery powered automatic electric guns or AEGs.

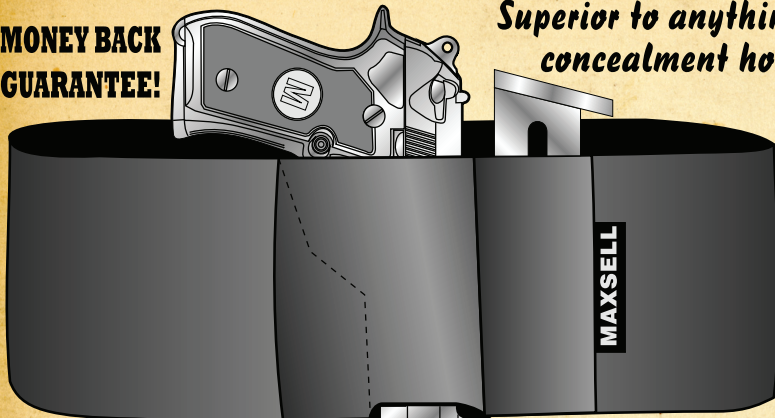
With the gas powered pistols, everything works just as you would expect in a semi-auto. The magazine ejects and is loaded in much the same way as a real pistol. They are powered by a gas charge in the magazine, usually Green Gas or HFC 134a. You fill it in much the same way as you would a butane lighter. The 6mm ABS plastic BBs of various weights

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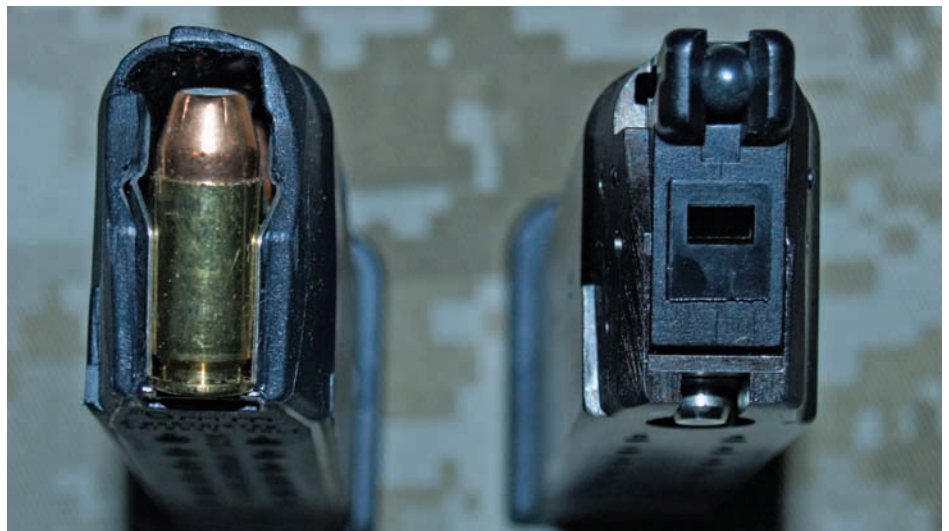
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(commonly 0.20 grams) are loaded into the top of the magazine. You insert the magazine, cycle the slide, and then you are ready for action. A decent gas gun can run \$100.00 and up. Personally, I have had great luck with the Glock pistols from KWA that are manufactured in Taiwan. Taiwanese guns use Green Gas and hit harder than the Japanese guns that use HFC 134a as their propellant. There are more and less expensive pistol options out there, but unless there is some other reason to purchase a more expensive gun (such as there is only one company that manufactures a Sig Sauer 220R like the one you carry that also carries a premium price tag), stick

Front View: Glock magazine (L) compared to Airsoft magazine (R).



Top View: Glock magazine (L) compared to Airsoft magazine (R).

to the \$100.00 to \$140.00 range. That seems to be a good balance of quality and value for the price. The lower priced guns are of much lower quality and have had serious durability issues in class.

The AEGs are the next step up in Airsoft gear. They run on rechargeable battery packs that are similar to the ones found in radio controlled cars. Want a Sig Sauer 552? Go get one. AK 47? Steyr AUG? Heckler & Koch G3 or MP-5? No problem. There is even a GE minigun Airsoft replica. I tend to favor the Heckler & Koch G36C and FN Herstal P-90 class of rifle for CQB and the AR and AK for a bit longer range shooting. "How far can you shoot," you may ask? Try in excess of 100 yards with the right equipment. The AEGs can be expensive; although most can be purchased with battery and charger for around \$350.00. There are several very reliable manufacturers on the market. Tokyo Mauri and Classic Army are two of the top makers of electric guns and they happen to be the manufacturers of the guns that I own. Upgraded guns can get into the thousands of dollars very quickly as you add bells and whistles. Save your money here, because for most CQB engagement distances, 500 feet per second upgrades are not needed. Your training partners will thank you.

There is a wealth of information as close as your favorite web browser. Make sure you read the reviews

available at the various online retailers and on some of the Airsoft forums for more information concerning both the pistols and the rifles. With literally hundreds of choices, it pays to do your homework before investing in new Airsoft gear.

Don't forget to visit the online forum and feel free to post any additional questions you may have concerning Airsoft gear. I'll see you in the next issue with new scenarios to examine and a few new welts on my body.

Jack Rumbaugh is a Suarez International Staff Instructor.

To participate in "The Force-On-Force Notebook," you can mail your force-on-force scenarios to:

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Turning Fear into Safety

COLUMN BY: KATHY JACKSON



Don't let fear keep you awake.

The difference between fear and panic is knowing what to do. If you have a reliable, effective solution, then fear is an asset. You know what to do, and fear just makes you do it faster. On the other hand, if you don't know what to do—or don't trust what you know—then you will freeze in terror, because you have no clear goal or way to get there. Fear helps, panic hinders. Fear is your savior, panic your nemesis.

—Marc MacYoung

One of the odd things about fear is that ignoring it can make it grow stronger. It can become this giant, amorphous *thing* that haunts the back of your mind, growing ever larger as you ignore the shadows in which it hides.

You start out by being afraid of some specific thing—the chance of being attacked and raped by a stranger, for example. You don't want to think in detail about that, because it certainly isn't a pleasant thought. Because you don't want to think about it, you surely never study the Uniform Crime Reports to learn that stranger rapes are the rarest type of rape, and you never discover that most of these attacks are committed against women who make high-risk lifestyle choices. Because you avoid thinking about this unpleasant subject, you tune out information about specific things you could do to reduce your already small risk of experiencing this unlikely type of attack. So that quiet little spot in the back of your mind, unexamined, grows into this huge black hole in which all strangers—

or maybe even all men—become dangerous aliens who must be avoided whenever possible. So how does one set about reducing this oversized black hole of fear back to its proper proportions?

LISTEN TO YOUR FEAR

The first step is simply to face your fear and acknowledge it for what it is. This may not be as easy as it sounds on paper, not simply because fear is an unwelcome sensation, but also because while the emotion is easy to identify, figuring out exactly what prompted the emotion might not be so simple.

If you have trouble sleeping in an otherwise empty house, for example, you might lie awake listening to unfamiliar noises, jumping every time the branches outside your bedroom window creak in the wind, and tensing up with every miniscule settling sound the house makes as it cools down and the night wears on. You're not actually scared of these noises, because you're an adult and you know that noises don't hurt people. But the

noises frighten you all the same. They make you tense. How could this be?

A little analysis might help you realize that the noises themselves aren't the thing you fear. Instead, they simply awaken your fear and get your imagination going. What you are actually afraid of is some danger that these unknown noises *could* represent. Might it be someone in the house with you? Someone trying to break in? That is one possible explanation. So it isn't enough to look for the thing that triggered your fear. You need to take it a step further, and figure out in what way the thing that triggers your fear represents an actual threat that could harm you.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

The next step is to educate yourself about the possible threat, and find ways to reduce your risk of being harmed by it. Those eerie, creaky noises can't harm you, but a home invasion might. So now it is time to do some research. How can you reduce the likelihood of a home invasion happening to you, or reduce your risk of getting harmed if it does?

On an immediate level, it could be as basic as learning that many home intruders simply walk in through an unlocked door, or climb in through an open window in the summertime. To reduce your risk of this type of home invasion, all you will need to do is make sure all of the doors and windows are shut and locked before you go to bed.

But if you've already locked the doors and closed the windows, and the noises still bother you, there's a chance your subconscious mind is telling you that you haven't done enough. You may need to dig deeper, and do a little more research into how these events take place, how often they occur in your neighborhood, and who is most at risk from them. Your local law enforcement office probably has brochures discussing preventive measures you can take to make your home more secure. The tips will probably include installing deadbolts and peep holes, beefing up your exterior doors and doorframes, and planting prickly bushes underneath windows. It may also discuss methods of securely locking windows while maintaining your ability to get out of the house quickly in case of fire.

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A lifestyle of awareness is not about fear. It's about living life to the fullest, seeing the details that other people miss.



Take a closer look at the things you fear. Sometimes they're not so scary after all.

If you fear violent crime, you may want to study Marc MacYoung's five stages of violent crime, which you can find online at www.nononsenseselfdefense.com. MacYoung teaches that it takes time to build up to violence, even though it often seems to the victim as if the crime "came out of nowhere." Criminals have goals they are reaching for, and certain steps they *must* take before they can reach those goals. Once you know what those steps are, you will be in a much better place to counter the steps and thus avoid violence.

When you know what a criminal needs to accomplish in order to attack you, you have a better idea of when and where to be alert, and more importantly, what you are looking for when you are alert. You also know when you may breathe a sigh of relief because you are temporarily able to relax your vigilance. In this, knowledge is your friend. And knowledge begins by facing your original fear nose-on.

TAKE ACTION

It is not enough to know that locked doors are a good thing. You actually have to get up off of the couch and lock the door. If your research shows that homes with exterior lights and a pet dog are least likely to get invaded, you install the exterior lights and then go shopping for a dog you can live with.

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Alarm system, companion, and friend, the family dog proves that listening to your fear doesn't have to be a scary proposition.

Perhaps you decided that you would be safer if you owned a gun, so you have purchased a gun for self-protection. Does buying a gun keep you safe? No. Owning a gun, or even carrying a gun with you wherever you go, will not keep you safe by itself. The back of your mind knows this; that is one reason why psychoactive dreams and daytime reveries are common among new gun owners. The gun is a uniquely useful tool, but it cannot act on its own to protect you. That is why most experienced handgun carriers will tell you that your real safety comes from within, from your own knowledge and skill and the willingness to fight if need be.

So simply purchasing a gun will not quiet your fears for long. But making the internal determination that you will fight back if you must, and then getting the skills and training you need in order to do so effectively, will very likely lay your fears to rest.

LET IT GO

The final step, as incongruous as it sounds, is to get on with your life. Once you have set your safety measures in place—whatever those safety measures might be, whether they are passive measures like better locks or active

measures, such as a lifestyle of paying attention and being alert—it is time to let go of your fear and focus your mind on more positive thoughts.

A lifestyle of awareness is not about fear, by the way. It's about life, and living life to the fullest.

It's about paying attention to the world around you, walking through life with your eyes wide open and your senses fully extended, seeing the details that other people miss. It's about smelling the roses, cherishing the daffodils, and never accidentally stepping on the bee that's hiding in the clover.

As Tim Schmidt, president of USCCA, says, "The whole idea of proper preparedness and a healthy, second-nature sense of awareness is to allow your mind to think about the important things in life." Fear doesn't have to run your life, and in fact it should not run your life. It is simply a welcome ally in the quest to live safely, secure in the knowledge that you are able to protect yourself.

Kathy Jackson is a freelance writer who lives with her husband and their five children in Washington state. An Assistant Instructor at the Firearms Academy of Seattle, Kathy takes special pleasure in teaching other women how to shoot. Her personal website may be found at: www.comeredcat.com

Nightmares and Dreams

A new shooter often found herself fighting off recurring nightmares and vivid dreams about guns and self-defense. Night after night, she battled shadowy bad guys, reaching for her gun only to find it missing. Or she drew the gun, and it would not fire no matter how hard she pulled the trigger. A masked intruder entered her dreams, and she stood frozen, unable to lift the gun to fire at him, even as he reached for one of her children. The dreams made her feel puzzled, powerless and angry. She was frustrated about her interrupted sleep, and worried that the dreams meant something was really wrong with her.

This isn't an uncommon tale. A fairly high percentage of those who venture into the self-defense world as adults will experience some level of sleep disruption as the subconscious mind struggles to integrate new thought patterns and organize the new information. Our brains are wired to process new information all the time, not merely when we are awake. The more fundamental the new

information, the more the brain struggles to integrate it with what is already there. Learning to cope with these active dreams can be an ongoing challenge, but it is possible to tap into such dreams and make them work for you. Here's how:

- Find a comfortable place. This can be your own bed, immediately after you awaken from the dream, or it can be an easy chair or a comfortable couch the next morning.

- Relax. Consciously slow your breathing as you deliberately let go of muscle tension.

- Visualize. Once you have relaxed, allow the dream to replay itself as a movie in your mind. Visualize each small detail, every bit of it, and don't shy away from anything. Accept the dream and the fear contained within it.

- Take control. As your reverie reaches the climax of your dream, the part that woke you up, take control, changing key details. Rather than visualizing being frozen in fear, visualize yourself reacting with calm confidence. Picture yourself calmly reaching for your firearm and drawing it smoothly, doing what is

necessary to stop the imminent attack. Consciously feel capable and strong. Hear your steady voice command the attacker to stop. If necessary, visualize pulling the trigger smoothly with the front sight centered on the attacker's chest, and visualize the gun responding as it should.

- Fix what you need to. As you allow the changed storyline to play out in your mind, you may discover that you do not know what to do in the event that an attacker does some specific thing (enters from the dining room window, perhaps). This is your opportunity to spot holes in your defensive plans that your conscious mind may not yet be aware of. If necessary, figure out what you will do to patch these holes and then visualize yourself doing those things.

Visualization really works, both to erase the immediate sting of the nightmare, and to reprogram your mind to fight and win if you must. Together with sensible safety precautions to allay your conscious fears, careful visualization can help put your nightmares to sleep for good.

It Doesn't Have to Make Sense: IT'S JUST THE LAW

COLUMN BY: K. L. JAMISON

TRANSPORTING GUNS

On 11 February, 2007, Joyce A. Deutsch was traveling through the Albany, NY airport. She declared her handgun to the ticket agent, and was immediately arrested for unlicensed possession of a firearm. The firearm was seized and Ms. Deutsch was assured that it would be destroyed. She was searched, was forced to post bond and missed her flight. This sort of behavior has been infamous in New York City and Newark, New Jersey airports, and it appears to be spreading.

The day I read this report, I had been advising a gun owner who travels for his work. I warned him about the New York and Newark airports, and had a powerful memory of a passage in *Black Like Me*. The book recounts a white author's experiences in the pre-civil rights South after dying his skin black. As he traveled, real African Americans warned him about what to do and what places to avoid, and now it is my professional obligation to warn my clients in the same way.

Transportation law begins with 18 U.S. Code §926A, which states:

18 U.S. Code §926A Notwithstanding any other provision of any law or any rule or regulation of a State of any political subdivision thereof, any person who is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm shall be entitled to transport a firearm for any lawful purpose from any place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm to any other place where he may lawfully possess and carry such firearm if, during such transportation the firearm is unloaded, and neither the firearm nor any ammunition being transported is readily accessible or is directly accessible from the passenger compartment of such transporting vehicle: **Provided**, That in the case of a vehicle without a compartment separate from the driver's compartment the firearm or ammunition shall be contained in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

The important part about a law is not what it **says**, but what it **means**. What this statute means is that a person who

legally owns a firearm in the state where he begins and ends his trip can legally drive through all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.¹ Although not mentioned in the statute, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico "and the possessions of the United States" are included in the definition of "state."² The firearm must be unloaded and in the trunk of the car; and if the car has no trunk, it must be in a locked container. The glove compartment and console of a vehicle are **NOT** containers, even if they have locks on them. Any other sort of container, regardless of its construction, is legitimate as long as it has a lock on it. Machine guns, sawed-off shotguns and the like cannot be transported across state lines without specific approval.³

The trick about a law is that different people will interpret it differently. Gentlemen may disagree and remain gentlemen; when government employees disagree the consequences are anything but gentlemanly. A New York law enforcement officer was told that federal law allowed a traveler to pass through the state with a firearm. He replied, "This is New York City; federal law doesn't apply here." This unique view of federalism cost the citizen (mentioned earlier) a bail bond, court appearances and legal fees.

Despite transportation protections of the federal statute, a citizen must observe the laws of any jurisdiction in his path. Some benighted jurisdictions do not consider a gun to be unloaded unless the ammunition is in a separate case.



Crossing the street may put a license holder in a different jurisdiction where the rules may be quite different, even if it has reciprocity with the license holder's state.

It is possible that a federal court in such a jurisdiction might adopt such a definition.⁴ The National Rifle Association provides pamphlets on state laws, which will help in planning trips.⁵ Two websites provide reciprocity lists for state concealed carry licenses, as well as state law peculiarities.⁶ Regardless of the state issuing a license to carry, the holder must obey the law of the state that he or she is in at the moment.

Federal law prohibits "a dangerous weapon" in federal facilities, which covers anything from a post office substation to a military reservation.⁷ There is an exception for hunting and "other lawful purposes." It is argued that self-defense is a "lawful purpose." I agree with this argument wholly, completely

Continued on page 26



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Indian reservations must be treated as foreign nations for the purpose of carrying guns; DON'T.

and absolutely; the federal government does not, and they own the handcuffs and prisons.

Indian reservations should be treated as foreign countries for the purpose of possessing firearms, so don't risk it. Membership in a different tribe will do no good, as certain rivalries and animosities have survived.⁸ In some states major state highways traverse reservations. It appears that in at least some places state law is enforced on the highways. This allows transportation of firearms as long as the traveler does not stop.

Bus and train travel will require the firearm to be unloaded and in a locked container inside of checked baggage. Air travel is more complex. While luggage must be unlocked, firearms must be unloaded and in a locked, hard-shell container inside of checked baggage. The Transportation Security Administration requires that the ammunition be in the original box. The box must be made of cardboard, wood, metal "or other packaging that is specifically designed to carry small amounts of ammunition."⁹ The unloaded gun must be presented to the ticket agent who will confirm that the gun is unloaded (although most need assistance in finding where the bullets fit). Inspections cause delays when leaving NRA conventions. The regulations are posted on the TSA website and must be consulted before every flight, as they change without warning.¹⁰ To further complicate matters, each airline has its own rules. Some have ticket counters inside of the secure areas of airports that ensure that passengers will be arrested before they can check their gun. All airlines have an arbitrary limit on the amount of ammunition that can be checked as baggage. This is a complication for persons traveling to

tournaments or shooting schools. Airlines often have customer service phone lines to provide guidance. However, the comments of the anonymous person on the phone will be useful only in finding the relevant part of the company's website. The maxim is that if it is not in writing, it did not happen.

As the only minority that can be abused without public disapproval, gun owners must take certain actions in self-defense. A copy of 18 U.S. Code §926A is advisable.¹¹ A copy of the TSA regulations from their website, and the relevant section of the airline website will at least demonstrate good intentions if not legality of action. Airport people react badly to the unexpected announcement, "GUN." When traveling I carry a letter that says, "I am transporting an unloaded gun and 20 rounds of boxed ammunition in this locked container on my flight from _____ to _____ on ____ (date)." This tends to prevent misunderstandings. It does not hurt that the letter is on legal stationary.

These defensive measures do not prevent legal harassment. Prosecutors in New York and Newark, New Jersey have made repeated false arrests of gun owners passing through their airports. They are aware of 18 U.S. Code §926A; some of the travelers have quoted it to them. They know that what they are doing is illegal. They also know that people will not come back repeatedly in order to fight a case, especially if they risk jail time. For real criminals, jail is a cost of doing business; for citizens it is a disaster. Citizens do not have information to trade for lenient treatment. Lawyers will not try a case without an extra fee, and the extra fee encourages a guilty plea. Lawyers are reluctant to sue the government without a strong case. Consequently, citizens have pled guilty to something minor, left their gun to the government smelter and moved on. With strong proof the government can be sued for false arrest and deprivation



Guns are banned on military reservations, in post offices, and other federal property.



CZ 75 Compact with optional laser sight and bayonet. The bayonet must be removed in "handgun only" jurisdictions. For airline transportation a locked, hard shell case is required, here a Pelican case. The letter explains what is happening to avoid misunderstandings. All speed loaders and magazines must be unloaded and ammunition boxed. Despite the superiority of the plastic box, the original cardboard box is preferred. It doesn't have to make sense; its just the law.

of property without due process of law. A few lawsuits of this nature in the hometown of N.Y. Mayor Bloomberg would go a long way towards evening things up. If there are consequences for violating the civil rights of gun owners, it will become less popular.

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This information is for legal information purposes and does not constitute legal advice. For specific questions, you should consult a qualified attorney.

¹ Driving to Guam could be tricky, but the rule should apply for boats and planes as well.

² 18 U.S. Code §921(a)(2).

³ 18 U.S. Code §922(a)(4).

⁴ The 9th U.S. Circuit, sitting in California leaps to mind.

⁵ NRA, 11250 Waples Mill Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030 (703) 267-1172, www.NRA.org.

⁶ www.Packing.org and www.Handgunlaw.us.

⁷ 18 U.S. Code §930.

⁸ A lesson in unity before a common foe, but a subject for another column.

⁹ Traveling with Special Items, TSA website.

¹⁰ www.TSATravelTips.us

¹¹ Which is why it is printed in full here.