

EPGAC Newsletter July 2021

Experience is a brutal teacher, but you'll learn by God, you'll learn.
C.S. Lewis



This Month's Drill

Larry Vickers from Wilson Combat with the "10-10-10" drill

AKA, "The Test"

<https://youtu.be/yx5ZyOLWpRE>

Another range clean-up day has come and gone, and once again we had a great turnout and got a lot of mowing, trimming, picking, sorting, repairing, and cleaning done. Two very full trailer loads of slash from the 300-yard range area were taken to the recycle yard, and a big pile of additional slash was moved down for the next load. Aside from a few bug bites, scrapes, and some sunburn I am not aware of any injuries. Good work all.

Thanks as always to Janine Dawley and Doug Tabor for bringing you this newsletter to help keep members up to date on the "goings on" out at Noels Draw Lane, and sometimes the indoor range as well.

The new storage shed is complete and ready for painting. That could be a project for the next clean-up day on July 11th.

Guns 101, 2nd Edition



For those of you who were not here last month, Guns 101 is designed for our new gun owners and shooters. Those with a thousand questions about how to do things, what accessories do I need, what type of training should I seek to start with, and how do I fit in with this diverse group of “gun nuts”? If those are questions that run through your mind, you are in the right place.

We always begin with safety, the single most important aspect of any of the shooting sports. Without it you can quickly ruin your day, or your life. Learn safe gun handling habits and burn them into your hard drive. Finger off the trigger, muzzle control, and never assume a gun is unloaded because someone told you it was. That trigger is a “finger magnet”. You know exactly what I mean; people’s normal tendency is to rest their trigger finger on the trigger. We see it on TV shows and in movies. When I work with new shooters, I will hand out my “blue guns”, plastic nonfunctioning dummy guns used for training. I like to see what the default position is, and it’s nearly always, finger on the trigger, and muzzle pointed everywhere. Get past that before dealing with real guns. Your ability to demonstrate safe gun handling and a cooperative attitude around others will help you to fit in and be accepted by others on the range.

Another very common question is about that rabbit hole known as “guns and gear”. The shooting world like any other has a vast array of companies, large and small, that are vying for your dollars. Tread lightly, and don’t be the “kid in a candy store”. Start by thinking about what your main purpose for buying a gun was.

Was it home security, a fun hobby, or hunting? It may well change over time, but you have to start somewhere. If it’s for hunting, what are you planning to hunt, and in what environment? If it’s for home defense, your selection might be different than what you would want to carry for personal defense as a concealed carry weapon. If you are planning

to get into competitive trap shooting, you would likely buy a much different shotgun than you would for say, hunting game birds in the thickets of Northern Wisconsin. You don't need fancy, you need functional. Of course you have to take into consideration your budget, but get the best that you can reasonably afford, without spending a ton of cash on gear that will most certainly be replaced in the future. My first concealed carry pistol was a \$240 Bersa Thunder 380, because we were raising 3 kids and that's what I could afford at the time. It was easy to carry, it was dependable, it was accurate, and it still works well nearly 25 years later.

From what I have seen from working with new gun owners is that the predominant reason for their change of heart about owning a firearm, is personal defense. Societal breakdown, the "defund the police" insanity, and simply a realization that bad people can travel to good neighborhoods, brought them to understand the need to provide for their own safety. When you get into the world of defensive use of firearms you will find boat loads of advice, much of it is good and sensible, but some is just plain stupid and could get you killed or land you in prison, do not buy into the stupid.

Here are a few recommendations from a long time CCW holder and someone who has boxes of unused holsters, mag pouches, gadgets, and good ideas that weren't.

If you buy a common pistol like a Smith & Wesson, Glock, Sig Sauer, or some variant of the 1911 platform, you should not have trouble finding a decent holster for your particular model. Please no "one size fits all", because they don't. A good holster should fully cover the trigger guard, and it should retain your gun so that if you find yourself getting knocked to the ground your gun will not go scooting across the tarmac. Finally, you should be able to re-holster one handed. If your holster "clamshells shut" so that you have to put your other hand in front of the muzzle to open it up for re-holstering, you may end up with

the nickname, “stubby”. Simply put, go to one of the well-stocked local sporting goods or gun stores in the area and pick up an outside waist band, Kydex belt holster for your gun and practice with a verified unloaded gun, learning how to safely draw and re-holster. Once you have done that you can start looking for better gear with a sense of what is truly important.

Remember, that every projectile that leaves your gun is your responsibility. Gun laws and attitudes toward gun ownership vary as you move about from state to state, and even municipalities. If your temper or your ego doesn't allow you to play well with others, leave the guns out of it. Advocate for your rights by being competent, safe, and in control. Change hearts and minds with facts, reasoning, and an offer to take you anti-gun friend to the range and make them a convert.



Why don't the 99% of us who are not offended by everything, quit catering to that 1% who are?



Bullet Points

July 2021

Nearly all of us will, at some time in our lives, find ourselves in the midst of an emergency that requires immediate action on someone's part to mitigate suffering and even save lives. It could be a car accident, a person in the checkout line that goes into cardiac arrest, or a child with a bee sting that goes into anaphylactic shock. Will you be that someone who knows what to do?

If you have no first aid training, take a basic Red Cross class. If you already have some training, look for a more advanced level of instruction where you learn to use and practice applying tourniquets, and how to pack a serious wound with gauze. If you spend a lot of time involved in activities that take you into areas where you are hours or even days away from medical help, consider a class in Wilderness Medical skills. Once you have some training, make sure you have supplies intended to treat serious trauma. I don't mean the basic drug store first aid kit that has some band aids and Q-tips. The **IFAK**, or Individual First Aid Kit, is available online from many suppliers. These are creations of combat veterans who know exactly what you need to keep a badly injured person alive.

It is far more likely that you will save lives with your medical skills than with your shooting skills. I recommend you prepare and equip yourself for both.

That rifle on the wall of the laborer's cottage or the working-class flat is the symbol of Democracy. It is our job to see that it stays there. George Orwell