



The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



Next Member Meeting



**Savannah Center
Recreation Center:
November 22, 2023
Doors Open 6:00
Meeting Starts 6:45**



**Savannah Member
Appreciation Award: Kel-Tec
P17 AND 500 rds 22LR CCI
Mini Mag**

**Eisenhower Recreation
Center: November 27, 2023
Doors Open 5:30 Meeting
6:30**



**Eisenhower Member
Appreciation Award:
Mossberg MC2sc 9mm**

**November Topic: Gifts for Gun Nuts by Chuck
Wildzunas, President**

Election 2024

Yes, it is time again. The election will be in January 2024; however, the process and Board of Directors review must be completed by December 2023. That said, the openings are:

- Board of Director – Floyd Dunstan who is running for re-election to a 2nd term
- Board of Director – Steve Pryor who is running for re-election to a 2nd term
- Board of Director – Alan Forrest who is running for re-election to a 2nd term
- Vice President – currently open

The Vice President position duties include those of the President if the President is not available. Those duties include but are not always limited to: *shall be fully responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Club including financial management, education programs, shooting programs, member services, and general administration in accordance with the strategic directions and broad directives established by the Board of Directors.*

During the first year the VP will have to learn what the President does:

1. Accompany the President on activities and outside partner meetings to understand processes, requirements, etc.
2. Participate in the monthly Board of Director meetings
3. Coordinate activities with the Recreation Centers for meetings (member and seminars)
4. Include other outside activities
5. Run the gun giveaway program including deciding what model, actual purchase, and display at the member meetings. The VP must know the ropes on this as well.

The VP will also have voting privileges at the Board of Director meeting.

All positions REQUIRE being a full time Villages resident, at least 1-year VSS club membership, and member of the NRA. Also a solid background in firearms shooting activities and organizational skills.

If you are interested, please send an email to vssvillages@gmail.com for an application and subsequent discussions.

Chuck Wildzunas
President
cwildzunas@gmail.com



CMP Virtual Training Course



Calling all gamers! As part of its mission to promote the safe use of firearms and to provide training for all citizens, the CMP has initiated the design phase of its own esports game platform, *Sightline*, with gameplay features participants can access right from their own homes.

This opening leap into esports, Combine 1, follows a first-person training platform, where users play from a perspective set behind rifle, pistol and shotgun firearms to simulate nine different real-life range scenarios. Download and play as much as you'd like – all free of charge!

To play, you'll need:

- Internet connection
- PC/Windows
- Keyboard
- Mouse
- Steam and Aimlabs free downloads



Those interested in playing may access *Sightline* by following this step-by-step setup guide through the Steam and Aimlabs gaming platforms: https://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SightlineAccessGuide_Windows.pdf. (Note: download times may vary due to user internet connectivity and available hard disk space.)

Play as many times as you'd like and work your way up the leaderboard or invite your friends and family to see if they can beat YOUR scores!

Learn more about *Sightline* through our website at <https://thecmp.org/cmeps-new-sightline-esports-game-for-home-training-available-to-users-in-november/>.

Have fun!

Mass Shooting in Lewiston Maine

Lewiston, Maine Thursday, October 27, 2023 11:08 AM

I sit here in front of my computer trying to make sense of what happened here...and I can't. We used to say "These events can't happen here. There are so many people who carry firearms that it would be suicidal for a shooter to try this."

We were wrong.

Yes, Maine probably has more firearms per capita than any other state in the union. Yes, Maine had one of the lowest per firearms related deaths in the nation...until now.

How did this happen? A bad man with a gun committed a horrific event, but it took the perfect storm to make this possible. In both of these locations, a bar/pool hall and a bowling alley we can see one common denominator. Since both of these locations sell alcohol patrons are not supposed to carry firearms. These are both what would be classified as "gun free" zones, in Maine. The shooter was known to frequent both of these places, therefore he knew the odds were damn good that he would be the ONLY person with a firearm. Judging by how well he has evaded law enforcement, to this point, he obviously had a plan and is not stupid.

I have frequented the pool hall with my sons...all three of us carry defensive firearms – as is our right – and all three of us used to lock our firearms in the trunk of our car when we went into these places to enjoy a night of relaxation because that is "what was done". Past tense. None of us will ever enter a location that is "gun free" without our pistols again...unless there is a metal detector at the

door...in that case we simply will not enter.

We the people have the right to keep and bear arms. The Second Amendment does NOT give us that right, the Second Amendment ensures that the government can not infringe on that right. Every time I entered that pool hall and put my pistol in the trunk of the car I gave up that right. It is terrible that it took an event like this to remind me exactly how foolish I was being with the “it can’t happen here” attitude. It CAN and DID happen here. There is a report from witnesses that the manager of the pool hall grabbed a knife from the kitchen and rushed the shooter in an attempt to stop the attack. He was shot twice and died at the scene...a brave man, a hero, unquestionably...but a knife against a determined bad man with a rifle?

One good man with a firearm – who knew how to use it – would have ended this horrible night with a much lower fatality rate and much less pain and sorrow for so many people.

There is going to be much outcry about how guns and armed people are a danger to society and we need more restrictions, more laws, more control. A rifle did not kill these innocent people. A bad man who took advantage of the lack of good men with a firearm killed them.

It is very hard for me to not let my anger at the flawed system not spill out in a rant here. The system failed on so many levels. Why was this person released from a mental health facility when he still spoke of “voices” telling him what to do and threatening to “shoot up” an Army Reserve location? Why do we insist on creating “gun free zones” when that is nothing more than creating a soft-target area for bad guys, who are definitely not going to give a damn about that sign other than being comforted by the knowledge that their evil intent just got a whole lot easier? Why does the government feel that placing more restrictions on the law-abiding citizen is going to reduce the number of these disasters? Does ANYONE really believe that the bad guys are going to say “Oh, a gun free zone, I can’t shoot anyone here.” Or “Oh, OK I guess I better turn in my high-capacity magazine (whatever that is) or my _____ (fill in the blank with your knee jerk term of choice

assault rifle, weapon of war, etc).”

I have gone on long enough. The thing that I am most upset about is that I indirectly contributed to this horrible tragedy when I locked my pistol in the trunk of my car. I had two other choices. Ignore the bad law and carry, or refuse to perpetuate this idiotic rule by not frequenting establishments that attempted to place a boundary on my rights.

I hope others learn not to accept things they KNOW are wrong...

John Zelinski
BHServiceConsultant
Lewiston Maine Resident



Editor’s Note: It should be noted that it is legal to carry a concealed weapon in a bar in Florida *if* that establishment serves food.

So, another mass shooting that should have been prevented had the laws been enforced. The state of Maine has a fed flag law, but it does not work if the government agencies do not properly communicate with each other. How could it be that a National Guard soldier is committed to a West Point mental hospital for two weeks and still be allowed to keep his personal weapons? The state law enforcement agencies should have been involved with the DOD before the soldier was released from the hospital.

This reminds me of a situation in Texas a few years ago when an Air Force airman was dishonorably discharged for domestic violence and was able to purchase a rifle and then shoot up a small-town Texas church. A good guy with a gun stopped him, but not soon enough.

We need to get all government agencies to uphold the law and update background check data bases for situations like this and communicate. New gun control laws will not work and when they don’t the politicians vote in more restrictive laws without the means to enforce the laws, that they legislate.



Surviving an Active Shooter Terrorist Attack

Editor's Note: Parts of this article were first published in the January 2016 The Reticle and have been edited for updates. This material is important to revisit because of the increased threat of terrorism due to the terrorist attacks in Israel. VSS members were provided details about active shooter attacks in the U.S. with a particular focus on the terrorism related incidents. It should be noted that Florida citizens can now carry without a CCW permit:

Citing accurate statistics are fraught with definition problems and political bias. The FBI defines "Mass Shootings" as incidents where 4 or more people are killed in a continuous attack, i.e., there was no intervening time gap between the murders. You will likely hear various numbers for the number of mass shootings in 2015 from 11 to 365 depending on the source and level of political manipulation.



The FBI reports that there have been 160 mass shootings from 1999 through 2013. That is an average per year of 11.4, or roughly 1 per month. Of the incidents in 2015, four were terrorism related. While the trend over the past 15 years is only slightly up, the percentage of terrorism incidents is clearly on the increase.

Sheriff Blair, Marion County, recently made comments alerting everyone to the increasing danger of such attacks. He referred to citizens with a concealed carry license as "the first line of defense." He encouraged citizens be more alert, carry their firearm, if holding a CWFL, and be prepared to use it.



The Sheriff also observed that in an active shooter incident, terrorist or otherwise, you have three



choices, at best: Run, Hide, Fight. Topical literature clearly reinforces the Sheriff's comments.

While there is not room here to detail the meeting presentation, it focused on the above three options.

The key to survival is to stay alert and act immediately when sensing danger. The first line of defense is to run away from the danger when at all possible. If your escape path is blocked or it is too



dangerous to run and expose yourself to the shooter, the second line of defense is to seek cover or concealment

and hide from the shooter's view.

If running or hiding are not viable options, the last line of defense is to fight. If you are forced to fight or, if armed, opt to fight to save others, the tactical situation will be far different than defending against a criminal threat. Criminals want to take something from you. Terrorists simply want to kill you and as many others as possible, caring little about their own safety in the process.

If you engage the shooter, you will likely do so at a distance of 20+ yards, and you need serious stopping power. Defending yourself from an active shooter threat requires



a rethinking of what you carry, how you train, and how you prepare.

Be alert, be prepared, be safe!



Gun Owners Legal Questions

Several months ago, VSS invited Attorney James Phillips to one of our meetings in association with USCCA Self-Defense Liability Insurance. At that time, James agreed to answer gun liability questions from an attorney's legal point of view. Below is the first in a series of those questions:



If during the night or upon returning home you encounter an intruder. You freeze the situation by holding the intruder at gunpoint (you do not know at this point whether he/she is armed or not) while calling 9-1-1. Law enforcement arrives. You claim an intruder; the intruder claims he is being held hostage and wants to press charges. What is the legal standing of the homeowner?

Version one: you live alone and there are no other witnesses.

Version two: you live with a spouse/partner and as such have a witness (probably ok)

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If you are in your home, hear a noise, and find an intruder inside your home, you will be entitled to the presumptions of what is commonly referred to as the "Castle Doctrine." Florida's version of the Castle

Doctrine can be found in Florida Statute § 776.013. Under this statute, a person is presumed to have held a reasonable fear of imminent peril of death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another when using or threatening to use defensive force that is intended or likely to cause death or great bodily harm to another if the intruder had unlawfully and forcibly entered your home. There are some exceptions to when this presumption would not apply but based on the question, it does not appear they would be applicable to the scenario. Since the Castle Doctrine would presume you would be justified in using deadly force, you would be justified in using non-deadly force in the form of holding the intruder at gun point until law enforcement arrives. In this type of scenario I would advise not engaging the intruder. Instead I would advised



locking yourself in your bedroom, calling 911, and taking a defensive position with a firearm. If the intruder breaks into your bedroom, then you do what you need to do to survive. The law does not require you to retreat or remain in your bedroom, but considering you don't know how many intruders are outside your bedroom door, I would suggest bunkering down. Now my opinion would change if your spouse or other family members were in different rooms. In that situation the need to protect your family would, at least for me, require confronting the intruder(s). This is why it is extremely important if you live with others that you as a family come up with a plan on what to do if this very scenario happens.

If while returning home, you see an intruder unlawfully and forcefully breaking into your home, you could confront the intruder and hold him at gun point until law enforcement arrives. Again I would not recommend that. Instead I would call 911 and let law enforcement handle the situation. Your life is worth more than your property. Florida Statute § 776.012, allows an individual to use or threaten to use deadly force when he or she believes such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily injury to themselves or others or when it is

necessary to prevent the imminent commission of a forcible felony. In this version of the scenario, the intruder is committing a burglary which is a forcible felony. So you could be justified in using deadly force but remember it may require a jury deciding whether or not your actions were reasonable and necessary. I can't imagine, you as the homeowner would have anything to worry about even if the intruder told law enforcement you were holding him hostage, especially if there is evidence of him unlawfully and forcefully entering your home. Anytime you have a witness that can corroborate your version of the events, it is helpful. However, be aware that some law enforcement may not give family members the same credibility as they would an independent stranger.

Number 2:

Can you ask the attorney what his feelings are in relation to insurance which also provides for civil protection. I have CCW and do not have the civil protection component and need to decide whether to update with additional coverage.

This is really a personal decision, but if you have assets that you want to protect, it is definitely worth considering. Unfortunately we live in a very litigious world where anyone can sue anyone for anything. If you are involved in a self-defense situation there is nothing you can do to prevent the other person or their family from suing you. Now ultimately the case against you may be dismissed based on immunity or failure to state a claim, but those type of results only come after the suit has been litigated.



Number 3:

if someone throws something at your car in a road rage incident that can injure you or your passengers is it legal to shoot back (stand your ground law). This is somewhat of a tricky question to answer based on the limited facts. For example throwing a penny compared to a brick at your car might change the reasonableness of your actions. Also the facts leading up to the other person throwing an object may change the outcome. So in answering this

question, I am going to assume that the other car has been aggressively maneuvering your vehicle in a manner which causes concern for your safety (i.e. break checking, veering into your lane, following you, etc.) and the object they throw at your car is an unopened coke can. Anytime you discharge a firearm, whether intentionally or accidentally, it is considered the use of deadly force. Therefore we have to look at whether you would be entitled to use deadly force. Florida Statute § 776.012(2), allows you to use deadly force in two situations. The first is if you reasonably believe that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily injury to yourself or another. The second time is if you reasonably believe such force is necessary to prevent the imminent commission of a forcible felony. Keep in mind that when it comes down to reasonableness, it is not really what you think is reasonable but what a reasonable prudent person in your same situation would consider to be reasonable. That is the standard a judge or jury would use to determine if your actions were justified. So would it be reasonable to believe such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily injury? I think to be successful under this approach, you would have to fire at the vehicle almost at the same time the driver is throwing the full coke can at your car or while he was in the process of getting ready to throw it. The reason is because after it has been thrown, the imminent death or great bodily harm aspect is over. Now if he was in the process of throwing something else, then I think the action would be determined to be justified. Would the action of throwing a full coke can at your vehicle be considered a forcible felony. The list of forcible felonies can be found in Florida Statute § 776.08. Although I do not think the act of throwing a full coke can falls under any of the named forcible felonies, there is an argument that it could fall under the "catch all" phrase of the statute which reads "any other felony which involves the use or threat of physical force or violence against an individual." In Florida there is a felony charge for shooting into or throwing deadly missiles into a



vehicle found in Florida Statute § 790.19, which reads:

Whoever, wantonly or maliciously, shoots at, within, or into, or throws any missile or hurls or projects a stone or other hard substance which would produce death or great bodily harm, at, within, or in any public or private building, occupied or unoccupied, or public or private bus or any train, locomotive, railway car, caboose, cable railway car, street railway car, monorail car, or vehicle of any kind which is being used or occupied by any person, or any boat, vessel, ship, or barge lying in or plying the waters of this state, or aircraft flying through the airspace of this state shall be guilty of a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Going back to Florida Statute § 776.012(2), a person is justified in using deadly force if he or she reasonably believes such force is necessary to prevent the imminent commission of a forcible felony. So in order to be justified under this theory, I think you would have to fire your firearm either right before or as the other person is throwing the full coke can. Once it has already been thrown at your vehicle, the forcible felony is over.



"There's no question that weapons in the hands of the public have prevented acts of terror or stopped them."

- Israeli Police Inspector General Shlomo Aharonisky

"Our nation was built and civilized by men and women who used guns in self-defense and in pursuit of peace. One wonders indeed, if the rising crime rate, isn't due as much as anything to the criminal's instinctive knowledge that the average victim no longer has means of self-protection."

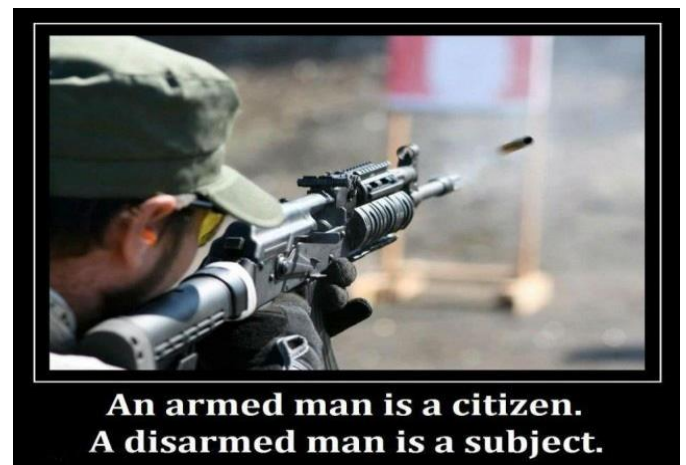
- Ronald Reagan



'The Party seeks power entirely for its own sake. We are not interested in the good of others; we are interested solely in power – pure power.'

'Power is not a means; it is an end. One does not establish a dictatorship in order to safeguard a revolution; one makes the revolution in order to establish the dictatorship.'

George Orwell, 1984



"Arms in the hands of citizens may be used at individual discretion in private self-defense." – John Adams



Instructor's Corner



By Steve Mosel



(These articles are the opinions of the writer only and in no way reflect official positions of the Villages Straight Shooters - or anyone with good sense

for that matter - SM)

“AN OPEN LETTER TO CHUCK”

Dear Chuck:



Nice job at the meeting the other night. As usual, it was informative and well organized. I sure wish that there were more members in attendance, taking advantage of these monthly get-togethers! There was one thing that especially caught my attention: You mentioned your invitation to the membership (in “The Reticle” newsletter) to ask questions of James Phillips. He is a most excellent Florida attorney, especially when it comes to gun-related matters. Unfortunately, very few questions had come through. Here’s one that has been bugging me of late. It’s a little long-winded but consider the source!



I was thumbing through one of the gun magazines recently and came upon an ad for a new model of a Tisas handgun. They called the

model the “NIGHTSTALKER”, a name prominently etched into the slide of the semi-auto in capital letters. OK. Call me overly careful, but because we live in such a litigious society, it gave me pause. I would think that if something awful went down and an armed citizen was forced to defend himself with that firearm, even justifiably, any competent attorney representing the opposition would glom on to the name of the gun in a New York minute. That attorney would declare the citizen an obvious threat to society who had the intention of shooting someone all along.

I can hear him now: “I mean, really! Look at the name emblazoned on his gun. It might as well have said, “MANHUNTER”!”

Because of my concerns, I’ve always stayed away from the cutesy t-shirts and bumper stickers such as:

“IF AT FIRST YOU DON’T SUCCEED, RELOAD AND TRY AGAIN!” Or: “I STUDY TRIGGERMOMETRY IN SCHOOL”

But now, in an apparent attempt to make the product “cooler”, they’re putting these colorful descriptions directly on our defensive tools. Admittedly, I’m about as far away from possessing attorney-level knowledge as one could be, but, to me, it seems that in the hands of a good barrister, it simply screams “intent”, and personally, I’d want no part of it.

So, Chuck, would you please pass on my misgivings to Mr. Phillips so I can find out if my concerns fall into the category of baseless worry or something that the members of the Club should keep in mind. Also, please thank him for offering his services on this matter pro-bono. As he knows, when it comes time for the Q&A after one of his excellent talks, the session could easily go on all night. We’re all extremely interested in the legalities involved in the use of firearms. It just might take some time to get going in this format. Maybe my inquiry will get things started!

“ ... the right to defend one's home and one's person when attacked has been guaranteed through the ages by common law.” - Martin Luther King



The Reticle®

A monthly publication of The Villages Straight Shooters, Inc.

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Editor, Layout & Design: Mike Plocharczyk

Electronic (PDF) copies of The Reticle available at:

<http://www.vssclub.org/newsletter.html>