



The Reticle



Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship

March, 2017

2017 Shot Show

In case you are not aware, the Shot Show is the firearms industry annual expo held each January in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Literally everyone in the industry displays their products and most use the occasion to announce their new products for the coming year.

This year was no exception with a host of new pistols, rifles, and accessories on display. At the Eisenhower member meeting on Monday, 2/27/17, a few of the new products were highlighted.

Colt got back in the fray with their new Cobra revolver targeted at the concealed carry market. It's a 6 round stainless .38 special +P. The Cobra's weight of 25 ounces puts it a bit on the heavy side but still a manageable size. It would definitely be better sans hammer spur.

Not to be outdone, Ruger launched their Performance Center model 642. With a light alloy frame, it tips the scales at only 14 ozs. Also a .38 Special +P, it is a 5 round snag free DAO carry pistol. At \$469 it is certainly worth careful consideration.

In the "Monster" category was the Korth (German company) revolver. Clearly a high-end pistol with a high-end price!



In the "Semi-Auto" category, there were several new offerings worth noting.

Smith & Wesson introduced their new M&P M2.0. Many nice features and it comes with 4 palmwell grip inserts to ensure a perfect fit for your hand big or small!

Sig Sauer added the X-five to their excellent P320 series of modular semi-autos.



It accommodates the slide mounted Sig Romeo1 or 2 reflex optic. With a 21 round mag, quite an awesome piece.

Last but not least was the colorful little Taurus SPECTRUM pocket carry gun. It comes in 20 different colors with a mix of finishes on the slide and frame.



There were several more items of interest covered in the meeting presentation. To review the full presentation, go to the "Education" tab on The Club's website.

Volunteers to the Rescue!

A couple of meetings ago we put out the call for more volunteers to help run The Club since it continues to grow and places more demands on the current group of volunteers.



We are very pleased to report that numerous individuals stepped up to the plate to help. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

"I am concerned for the security of our great Nation; not so much because of any threat from without, but because of the insidious forces working from within."

- General Douglas MacArthur

Seminar Subjects

The February seminar was titled "Next Steps." Most everyone knows at this point that the Basic Pistol Safety class, although authorizing you to get a CWFL, is just the beginning in your firearms & self defense education.

The "Next Steps" seminar was primarily intended to show how you can develop your skills with:

1. Things you can do at home
2. Things you can do at the range
3. Formal training

Things You Can Do at Home

While you're at home watching TV or vegetating (but then I repeat myself!), no need to let the time be totally wasted. For Example:

You can practice loading & unloading your firearm until you can do it quickly without looking at the gun.

Of course, use the dummy rounds, AKA snap caps. (We refer to them as explosively challenged rounds just to be PC). And, do your gun a favor, get the Tipton snap caps with the spring-loaded primers. Your firing pin will be glad you did.

Next, practice drawing from concealment. The gun should be holstered in whatever manner you prefer. The key objective is to be able to draw from concealment and be on target in 1.5 seconds or less. The 1.5 seconds is the time it takes a threat to get to you from a standing start at 21 feet away.

Even more fun, get the LaserLyte kit with the "Glock 43 like" plastic laser gun and the small target. On Amazon for \$180 but well worth it. You could even get an inexpensive Glock holster to practice drawing.





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Villages Straight Shooters



Things You Can Do At The Range

To improve your marksmanship, get to the range as often as possible. Nothing beats sheer practice.

The Winchester Pistol Qualification program is a great place to start. It's easy to start, as you work your way up the ladder. Succeeding levels get more challenging and give you a good feeling of accomplishment as you progress.

The Bullseye League is a handicapped competition. You shoot one-handed at 50' (17yds). It may be tough at first, but you'll be surprised how quickly you improve.

Formal Training

Following the Basic Pistol class the next class is the Personal Security I – in the Home. An excellent class to help ensure you are prepared to deal with a home robbery or invasion. Don't be complacent, they DO happen in The Villages.

Finally, there are also other topics you should get up to speed on such as legal ramifications of a self-defense incident and insurance protection.

Also, take the time to read the following books:

1. *The Laws of Self Defense* – Andrew Branca
2. *Concealed Carry and Home Defense Fundamentals* – Michael Martin
3. *Florida Firearms Law, Use & Ownership* – Jon Gutmacher

You may checkout the above books from The Club's lending library available at each meeting.



MEET THE OFFICERS

By Stephen Mosel

The "VEEP"

With an accessible, natural charm and the friendly smile of former Vice-President Joe Biden (you may not have liked his politics, but that man had a GREAT smile!), you might find Roger Marksberry, VP of The Villages Straight Shooters playing host on a Club excursion that he painstakingly organized – Sending out publicity and promotional emails – Working on the website and reservation system - posting member classified ads – Setting up member meetings – Responding to member emails – Pulling RSO duties at club shoots – Answering membership questions at general meetings, or any one of hundreds of other Club-related efforts that take up an average of 40 hours a week. (Weren't we supposed to retire down here?)



Add to that his lovely fiancé, Maureen, 4 children, 8 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and one demanding older brother (our very own, energetic President, Terry) and you have a man that is working hard on a new volunteer plan for the club. (More on that later).

After joining the Navy through Ohio State University's NROTC program, Roger's interest in shooting started with a very large bang, as Gunnery Officer aboard the USS Tattall, a guided missile destroyer. The large shells (along with the venerable Colt '45), would be the only shooting he did until coming to The Villages years later.

Upon leaving active duty in 1973, he worked for Abbott Labs, a Pharmaceutical Rubber & Plastics company in Ohio for five years; Colt Industries, in their non-firearms truck products division for twelve years in Texas and then joined his big brother, Terry, for seventeen more years in the direct marketing business in the Lone Star state.

Roger retired back to Ohio in 2010, but made a fateful visit to The Villages in 2013, where he met Maureen at the Sumter Landing Christmas Tree lighting. After a whirlwind "7,000 minute" (check the phone records) telephone courtship, our little community claimed him as one of its own.

Roger knows that the Club's rapid growth has resulted in just a small percentage of members doing all the heavy lifting which can't sustain a club of this size and that before everyone burns out, many more volunteers must come on board to guarantee a viable future. If they do, he feels The Club will continue to provide high value to the members, delaying or even avoiding any reason to put a cap on membership.

And one thing he knows for certain: The power of Maureen's blueberry muffins will guarantee that any potential volunteer will say yes to almost any reasonable request. It certainly worked on me!

INSTRUCTOR'S CORNER

EYES & EARS – Part 1

Before any of the Range Safety Officers can give the command for a "Hot Range" (shooting may commence), our shooters will hear the command for "Eyes & Ears". This simply means that all participants and officers should have the appropriate eye and ear protection.

Under most circumstances, the scratch-proof, polycarbonate glasses worn by most of us for daily wear are acceptable. To be sure, they do not offer the protection of glasses meant for the task of protecting shooters from serious shrapnel (as are those rated for military or law enforcement work), but are universally accepted at most ranges in our area.

We have noticed, however, that many of our members with aging eyes are using their trifocals or the like to shoot with. This often leads to overly gymnastic head positions as the shooter tries to focus on the front sight of their pistol and the effort often results in less than ideal marksmanship.





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Villages Straight Shooters

Since I personally faced the same dilemma, I decided that instead of going through some vertigo-inducing re-positioning of my noggin, I would visit my local eyeglass emporium and solve the problem. For remarkably little money (since there is only one prescription involved), I got a cheap pair of aviator-style glasses (which gives the wearer plenty of glass surface for protection) and had the single prescription filled for the exact distance that my front sight extended out from the bridge of my nose.

If you know your eye doc to be shooter friendly, they (with permission) will often allow you to bring the gun in question (made safe of course) into the examining room to be sure of the outcome.

The rear sights and target will be slightly out of focus, but you'll still be able to function normally. I use this set-up for IDPA competition and it works very well.

You can spend much more on custom shooting glasses if you're really serious, but this solution works well. In the next issue, we'll check out some options for protecting your ears.

Vaultek Safes

Several months ago we introduced you to a new state-of-the-art gun safe made by Vaultek. We were able to get a 15% discount for all Straight Shooter members through the end of March. Just a reminder, only a few days remain to take advantage of the offer.

There are numerous models of the safe in several colors. To learn more about the new features or to purchase one, go to their website at <http://vaulteksafe.com/>. To get the 15% Club discount enter the promo code "VSS-1smartsafe" when you checkout.



OSA Champion of the Month

Shooters of the Month for the Febuary shoot at the Ocala Sportsman Assoc. Good Shooting!

Session I -
Greg Maurer

Session II - No
Shoot Off



Winchester / NRA Achievements



Attained **Expert** for Febuary: Leticia Benasutti, Steve Held, Verne Betlach, Tom Novak, Robert Rawlinson, Lynder Blau, Thomas Horsey.

Attained **Distinguished Expert** for March: Frank Berlinski, Ronald Ellsworth, Robert Grant, Verne Betlach, Robert Rawlinson



Attained **Distinguished Expert Defensive Pistol I and II** for February: Larry Smith

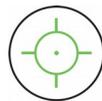
A Hearty Congratulations to All!!

The Raffle Winners!

At the Eisenhower Club Meeting on Monday Feb 27th the Club raffled off a 9mm Glock 19 MOS (does not include optics) sub-compact pistol.



Roy Pawlowski
Congratulations to Roy!



Upcoming Club Activities

Excursions

Shooters World - Mar 22.



Shooting Events

1st Friday, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays, March 14th, 21st & 28th and April 7th & 11th Winchester Pistol Qualification shoots at the Gun Range on SR44 in Leesburg. Two sessions, 8-9am & 9-10am. Floyd Dunstan is the Shoot Manager. Cost \$8.

1st Tuesday and 2nd, & 3rd Fridays, March 17th, April 4th & 14th Open Handgun shoots at the Gun Range on SR44 in Leesburg starts at 8-9am and 9-10am. Cost \$8. **The 3rd Friday 8am slot is for beginner shooters.**

4th Thursday, March 24th at Ocala Sportsmans Assoc. **NO SHOOT this month due to scheduling conflict with OSA**

Remember eye & ear protection. Adhere to the Club safety rules. If you need a Club safety card or chamber flag, ask an RSO or the Shoot Manager.

Club Membership and Reservations Required for all Shooting Events

Next Member Meetings

Seminar - 3rd Wednesday, Mar 15th at the Sea Breeze Recreation Center from 2-3:30 pm. Topic will be the "Semi-Annual Gun Cleaning Festival."

Tuesday Mar 21th Club Meeting at the Savannah Center - 6:45pm - 8:15pm. Doors open at 6:00pm.

Monday Mar 27nd Club Meeting at the Eisenhower Rec Center - 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm.

The Gun Raffle for each meeting will feature a Beretta Px4 Storm Compact 9mm.

