



The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



Editor's Note

There is a slight change in the layout of the news letter. The *OSA winner(s)* are moved up to the same area as Winchester and Gun Raffle winners. The next OSA meeting dates remain in the same *Upcoming Club Events* section.



In case you missed it, there are new pages on the website. Our members have asked for information on gunsmiths. Well, we now have a web page identifying some gunsmiths locally and nearby. Go to the [Resources Tab / Firearm Resources / Gunsmiths](#) at the bottom.

Also, check out the new Product Review page and Eye Protection. There also are new articles on *what to do when your Doctor asks about your gun(s)*, and updates on ear and eye protection.

Take a look!

Member Meeting Presentations

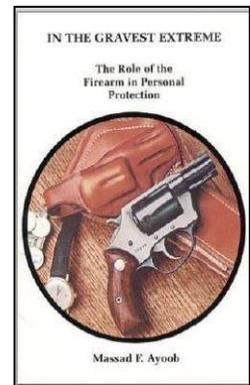
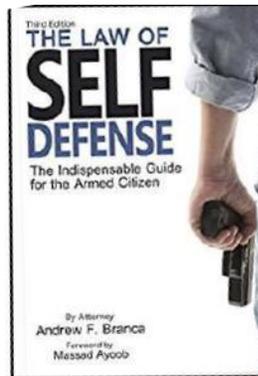


The Law of Self Defense *Don't Win the Battle & Lose the War!* **Presented By Terry Marksberry**

If you did not attend the July meeting, you should download the presentation slides and read them. This is especially important if you carry, but in general good advice for all members including those who only have home protection. Download the presentation from the website tab **Education | Meeting & Seminar Presentations**. Also a brochure is available at the meetings.

It is a single sheet tri-fold double-sided brochure on *The Laws of Self Defense* (and posted on our website).

The July presentation starts off with two important books you should consider purchasing. The first is *The Law of Self Defense* by Andrew F. Branca. The second is *In the Gravest Extreme* by Massad F. Ayoub.



Other source material presented includes *Gun Digest Book of Concealed Carry*, *Defend Yourself* by Pincus/Ayoub, *Deadly Force – Understanding Your Right to Self Defense* by Weiner, and *Florida Firearms – Law, Use and Ownership* by Gutmacher.

The slides will not be re-produced here, only a summary. Again, download the presentation from the web site.

If you use your gun in self defense, the legal system is structured to administer justice, not find the absolute truth. It becomes a situation of who can tell a better story, i.e. the prosecutor or the defense attorney. If you have a better story from the beginning, and the prosecutor does not see a path to conviction, the prosecutor is likely to not pursue legal action. You have to make your case look like a real loser for prosecution.



INSTRUCTORS CORNER

By Stephen Mosel

“Ready or Not”

It's simple really. All you have to do to get a Concealed Carry License in our state is to turn in a copy of your fifty-year-old DD 214 Form from the military, or successfully complete one of our Basic Pistol classes and Boom! – With these documents and a check written to the right people, you're legally entitled to carry a concealed handgun – knife – nun chucks – pepper spray or a downsized semi-auto



version of the Gatling gun of your choosing. (That last one is a joke – lest someone start looking on EBay for a bargain). Is it your right? Yup. Are you ready to carry? Probably not. The ability to shoot expert with an M-14 in 1967, has little bearing on properly utilizing a modern

handgun in a dicey neighborhood on the streets of Orlando or knowing how to strategically defend yourself and your loved ones in a home invasion.

In previous articles and Club seminars, we've spoken about the attitude adjustment and lifestyle changes carrying a firearm entails. This writing concerns what steps you can take to get ready and the good news is it's mostly available directly from the Club. Instead of just buying a gun, throwing it into your nightstand and thinking you're now protected, get off the couch and take full advantage of the Villages Straight Shooters and explore other steps you can take on your own to be truly prepared.

With the recent lead-level problems we've been experiencing, there's been a temporary hiccup in our abilities to find convenient local venues at which to shoot. But, with the new Emeralda range and the excursions to Shooter's World, we're doing our darndest to keep you shooting until Shooter's World opens up the new shop in The Villages. Until that time, take advantage of the new, Emeralda range, the well-established Ocala Sportsman's Association and the excursions to Shooter's World in Tampa.

The NRA Winchester Program: Whether you take the excursion to Shooter's World or decide to wait for the new one to open up in our back yard, the NRA

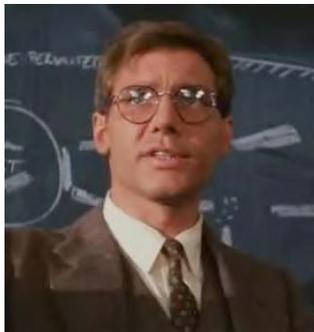
The presentation moves to the two standards of evidence (Preponderance of Evidence and Beyond a Reasonable Doubt), and subsequently the two burdens of proof (Production and Persuasion). The next step in the legal process is the 5 elements of self-defense.

1. Non-Aggressor (Innocence)
2. Immediacy (Imminence)
3. Parity of Force (Proportionality)
4. Duty to Retreat (Avoidance)
5. Reasonableness

There are sub-sections to each, hence the need to read it. Here is the rub. You as the shooter **MUST** show compliance with **ALL 5** elements whereas the prosecutor only has to disprove 1 of the 5.

Warning shots were discussed and why this may not be a good idea since it can lead to other than murder charges. Also, you cannot invoke self defense if protecting property: personal, pets or real (land). Your home or dwelling is the most defensible. Read more on our website **Home Page | What's New** section.

A professor once said that we remember at best 25% of what we learned. The only solution then is to learn



a whole lot. Interacting with the police is applicable here and an additional consideration. Frankly, it is likely hard to just stand there and say nothing; hence you need to learn a whole lot about what to say and when. With the adrenalin running full speed, on-

ly muscle memory (brain in this case) can guide you during police interactions.

Discussed less, but an important point is Element 3, Parity of Force. You should perhaps carry non-lethal defense aids to defend yourself when fear of death or great bodily harm are questionable or not applicable.



The final comment is appropriate. *You carry a gun to protect your life. You must know and understand the basics of self defense laws to protect your freedom!*

Winchester Program offers amazing opportunities to improve your gun-handling skills. Once you've completed the initial phase of the program and have reached the Distinguished Expert level, you have the opportunity to continue with Defensive Pistol I, II and possibly even III. At these higher levels, you will receive instruction in proper and safe holster work, shooting while on the move and firing from more unorthodox positions, from behind cover and using higher-caliber carry guns. This program is your best chance to use VSS Club resources and personnel to enhance your skill level. This is, in my opinion, a must and the least that you should do if you're serious about your decision to carry a firearm.

Other options: I urge you to also continue to take advantage of general Club shoots as well as the Bullseye League. If you wish to receive advanced training in other, outside classes and events, there are numerous options. One of the best – and cheapest – is to join the I.D.P.A. (International Defensive Pistol Association) and participate in its events in local



venues such as the Eustis Gun Club or the above-mentioned Ocala Sportsman's Association. You will have fun, but be challenged by real-life

situations which will help you understand critical decision making, shooting from cover and using a firearm while moving.

If your bank account and schedule permits, you may want to take the plunge and invest in more time-consuming and expensive training at well-established venues such as the Massad Ayoob Group in Florida or really go the distance and travel all the way out to Arizona to the legendary Gunsite Academy. These and other local options abound. Go on-line and check them out for yourselves and carefully research the reviews to be able to make the right decision.

On Your Own: Whomever you choose to train you, you've got to continue to train on your own. I love the Laserlyte LT-TTL training guns available on Amazon and use one every night to keep my trigger control and sight-alignment abilities up to snuff. I regularly take the live ammo out of the room (and guns) and practice dry-firing my carry guns and endlessly draw

and re-holster those same firearms. Daily weightlifting to keep my core strength viable is also on my agenda. The point is, this is serious stuff. Do what you need to do to understand and successfully handle this lifestyle we lead. Now get out there and train!

MEET THE MEMBER

By Stephen Mosel

“Core Strength”

As we all are aware, the real strength of a club lies in its membership. Although they may not choose to get up and make a presentation at a general meeting or run a club shoot at the Emeralda Range, the members are what the Village Straight Shooters is all about. A perfect example of this is **Larry Smith**. You can't miss this ham radio operator. A big dude with a beard, he's a fixture at most Club shoots and one of the nicest guys you're ever going to meet. I am convinced that he puts more lead down range than any group of 10 members combined. He always stays to the bitter end, cleaning up his spent brass and making sure to thank all the RSO's and Instructors who have donated their time to help him become a better shooter.



So how did this intense interest in shooting begin? It all started with Larry and his Dad shooting a 12-gauge on his Uncle's property in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He was only six or seven, so his Dad had to stand behind him “just in case”. They would do a little plinking and squirrel hunting, but after those early experiences, guns were not a part of his life until the military beckoned with his enlistment in 1971. But even then, basic training in the Air Force consisted solely of firing an M-16 with no training at all on handguns.

Larry stayed on at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi in Civil Service as an Radio Frequency Interference Investigator as well as time spent at Kelly AFB in Texas and retired from Eglin AFB, FL. Handguns would enter his life again while serving in the Air Force Reserves as they needed to qualify once

a year with a Beretta M9. Larry retired from the reserves as a Major. His future wife, Kathleen, a retired Colonel in the United States Air Force Reserve, worked on active duty and then as a contractor from 1999 to 2010 in Stuttgart, Germany. As Larry puts it, their apartment was waaaaay too close to the local Biergarten, but afforded them the opportunity to travel throughout Europe and the surrounding countries. After having spent some time in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, they moved to The Villages in 2014.

Larry got his Concealed Carry License well before obtaining a firearm “just because”. In fact, his method of collecting handguns should stand as a shining example of how to get into this sport without spending a dime! You see, after he noticed an ad in the paper about The Villages Straight Shooters, he attended a meeting, joined the Club and promptly won his first handgun, a Springfield Armory XDS. (I had to actually pay for mine)! It might be a good idea to follow him around at raffle time and see if anything rubs off. Larry’s legendary winnings at meetings to date have included: three guns – two range bags – a \$100.00 cash prize – two \$50.00 cash prizes – a hat of his choice and to top it off, a gun rug on a Club excursion. He has had to pay for some stuff as he now is the proud owner of seven handguns.

Larry still trains with us and has passed several Distinguished Expert categories in the Winchester Program including Defensive Pistol 1 & 2. And yet, although he has the carry-license, he still does not feel the need to do so. So why all the training? He loves to practice for the fun of it as well as enjoying the camaraderie. I know, firsthand, what a joy it is to teach Larry. When you have a student like that, you get as much out of it as they do – sometimes more.

To no one’s surprise, Larry would like to see even more Club activities, especially shooting competitions. He’s a very special member and it’s great having him in the Club. Just remember to sit next to him at general

meetings when it’s raffle-time!



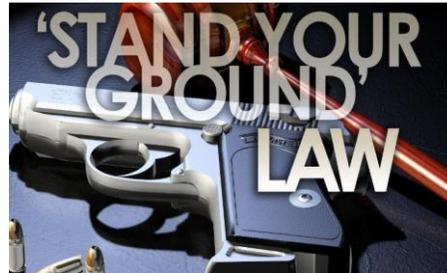
Seminar Review, August 2017

The Club will be taking some time off so the August seminar session was cancelled. The Seminars resume September 20th with the semi-annual Gun Cleaning Seminar.

What Else Is Going On?

One step backward – Stand Your Ground Burden of Proof

After the Florida legislature approved the change shifting the Burden of Proof back onto the prosecutors, on July 3rd, Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Milton Hirsch ruled that Florida’s law-makers overstepped their authority in updating the state “Stand Your Ground” law. Judge Hirsch stated the changes should have been crafted by the Florida Supreme Court instead of by the Legislature in his 14-page order. For now, this reversal appears to be applicable only within the Miami-Dade Circuit and not the rest of Florida. It is expected to be appealed. Stay tuned for more.



California Confiscation of Magazines Stopped

A recent law in California bans the sale of magazines with a capacity of greater than 10 rounds. Further, those owners of such magazines are required to turn them in. However, a judge subsequently ruled that the new law cannot be used to force owners to turn them in.

Winchester / NRA Achievements

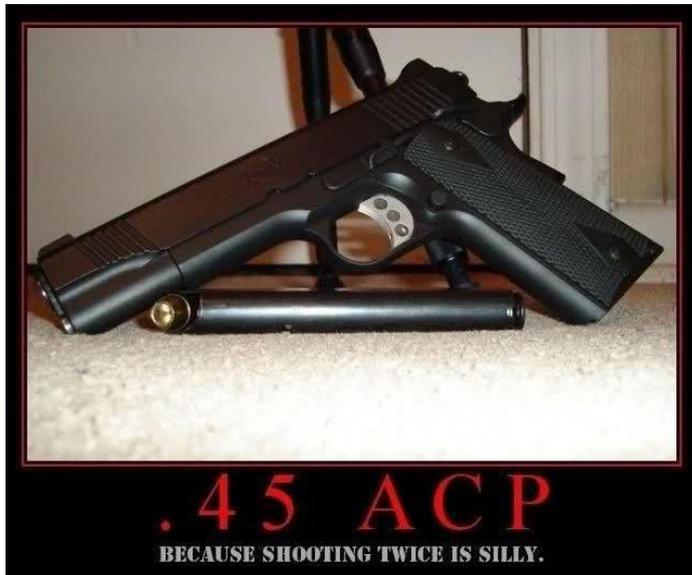
Attained Expert: Richard Carville, John Dulieu and, Rodney Ehmen

Attained Distinguished Expert: Thomas Horsey and Thomas Wilde



You can always see the current standings on the website by clicking the header and follow *Events / Winchester QP / WMP standings*.

A Hearty Congratulation to All!!



JULY 2017 Raffle Winners

The giveaway gun was a Remington R51 9mm with +P, 3.4" barrel, aluminum frame, two 7 round magazines.



And the winners were,

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Eisenhower Winner: Robert Arserio</p> | <p>Savannah Winner: Stephen Wheeler</p> |
|  |  |

Congratulations Robert and Stephen!!!

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

Ocala Sportsman’s Association Handgun & Rifle (Outdoor Range)

Shooter(s) of the Month for June at the Ocala Sportsman Association were:

Session I
Mary Thomas



Session II
James Veitch



Congratulations to Mary and James!

Upcoming Club Activities

NOTE: Club Membership and Reservations are required for all Shooting Events

Excursions

There are currently no scheduled excursions. Check your email or on the website for excursions that may be scheduled. Alternatively, from the website you can email suggestions.

Shooting Events

Winchester Pistol Qualifications

The next event is August 9th going to Shooters World in Tampa. Sign up on the website.



Open Handgun Shoots at the outdoor Emeralda Range

The Club is pleased to announce the addition of a shooting event on the 1st Friday of every month at



Emeralda. This will include a second Beginners Shoot and an additional Open Shoot.

1st Tuesday: August 1st, 8 and 9 am; **2 Open Shoots**

1st Friday: August 4th,
8 am **Beginners Shoot**
9 am **Open Shoot**



3rd Friday: August 18th
8am **Beginners Shoot**
9am **Open Shoot**

4th Tuesday: August 22nd, 8 and 9 am; **2 Open Shoots**

If you want to carpool with friends, we suggest you meet in the Southwest corner of the Lake Deaton Plaza and then head out to the Emeralda range. Cost \$10 cash; PLEASE try to have the exact amount since making change can be difficult.

Speaking of Emeralda, the Club volunteers are working hard to improve

the outdoor range. As you can see from the first two photos,



it has already progressed from an open field to a canopy covered shooting area. That said, because this is the rainy season and it is outdoors, sometimes it can be a bit muddy with puddles.

Here is some *Emeralda Fashion Attire* posed by our leaders. Despite the trendy and fashionable white boots, or the selection of two different shoes and colors, our models prefer to hide their faces not wanting to have their picture made public.



All kidding aside, see we have fun as well as making noise with our toys OUTDOORS!

Ocala Sportsman's Association Handgun & Rifle (Outdoor Range)



Thursday August 24th at Ocala Sportsman's Assoc. Handgun and Rifle sessions are available. Shooter of the Month determined in a shoot off. The 1st session is at 8:45am and, the 2nd at 11am. Cost \$10 per session.

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.

Bullseye shooting HAS RESUMED (both Rimfire and Centerfire). Sign up via the website as before.

Next Seminar Meeting

There is no seminar meeting in August as the Club is taking its annual hiatus.

Next Seminar is Sept. 20th which will be a **Semi-Annual Gun Cleaning Festival**. If you need some help, bring your gun (NO ammo) or pieces/parts if you cannot figure out how to put it back together. Help is available. All cleaning materials will be provided.

Next Member Meetings

There are no member meetings during the annual August hiatus.

The next meetings will be:

Club Meeting, Savannah Rec Center:

Tue., September 12th, 6:45pm – 8:15 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm.

Club Meeting, Eisenhower Rec Center:

Mon. September 25th, 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm.

The gun raffle for the September meeting will be posted on the website in late August.

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