



The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



Member Meeting Presentations

By Roger Marksberry



“Trump Slump” Ends

The month off May set a record 1.9 million background checks; an increase of 70,000 over May 2016. The public seems concerned after numerous terror attacks.

Ruger Mark IV Safety Recall



Ruger has initiated a recall of all versions of the Mark IV. Summary: the safety may not lock in place and the gun can discharge when not expecting it to. Affected guns start with serial number 401 or WBR. **STOP use of the gun** and contact Ruger for repairs.

DO NOT bring the Mark IV to the range unless it has been repaired or can be identified as not affected.

Florida Gun Related Legislative Changes

Gov. Scott indeed signed into law significant changes. First, the **Burden of Proof** has shifted from the individual proving innocence during a shooting back to the Prosecutor. It is believed this is the first such law in the country.

Second, **Justifiable Use of Force** in the home (aka Castle Doctrine). It fixes an error that technically required the resident with the duty to retreat while in the home. This does NOT apply to general concealed carry situations outside the home.



Elsewhere, Roger reported that the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (yes, the one in Missouri) ran an editorial that Florida’s Stand Your Ground Burden of Proof enhancement will be copied by Missouri legislators. Therefore, more self-defense incidents and will be harder to convict these self-defense victims. Really?

Shooting Hygiene

By Terry Marksberry

Due to the recent problems the club has experienced with lead contamination at an indoor range, we thought it might be good to provide a bit of a refresher course on range hygiene.

Any amount of lead exposure is harmful to human health. People using firearms, handling ammunition or visiting shooting ranges are at risk of inhaling or swallowing lead, or to a much lesser extent, absorbing lead through the skin.

How are we exposed to lead? Lead is present in most types of ammunition. It can be found in the projectile and the primer (the explosive that ignites gunpowder) of ammunition.

Lead in the primer and the outer surface of the projectile is vaporized and released into the air after a firearm is discharged.

Lead dust and fragments are also released when the projectile impacts solid surfaces.

For these reasons, surfaces in shooting ranges may be contaminated with fine lead dust. This dust can be inhaled or ingested. Lead dust may be suspended in the air or stick to people’s hands, hair, face, clothing and footwear. This dust may be transported on your body, clothing and equipment from a shooting range into a car and into your home.

Check the ventilation at your shooting range

Poor ventilation of indoor shooting ranges may result in unnecessary exposure to lead vapor and dust (good ventilation and filtration removes some or most of the lead vapor).

If the range regularly appears ‘smoky’ or you have a metallic taste in your mouth, it is likely that ventilation is poor. Switch to a shooting range with adequate ventilation or use an outdoor range.

Practice good hygiene

Good hygiene practices can reduce the risk of lead exposure.

1. Do not eat, drink or smoke while shooting since this makes swallowing of lead more likely.
2. Wash your hands, neck and face with soapy **cold** water before taking breaks and when you have finished shooting for the day. If facilities are not available, at a minimum, use lead wipes such as those shown here.
3. Shower after shooting. If showers are not available in your shooting range it is recommended you shower as soon as you return home.
4. Change your clothes and shoes before leaving the shooting range if possible or as soon as possible thereafter.



How can I reduce lead exposure?

Choice of ammunition

In the past, lead-based ammunition has been used because of its high density, lower cost and longer shelf life. However, alternatives to lead ammunition are available.

If possible, use lead-free ammunition; ammunition that replaces lead-based primers with safer alternatives and/or ammunition that uses lead-free or jacketed projectiles that have a lead core covered with a copper or nylon coating.

Examples of lead free or reduced lead ammo:

- Inceptor or ARX branded
- Remington Premier Copper Solid
- Any Jacketed ammo

While some of us may have regarded shooting hygiene with a ho-hum attitude in the past, recent have brought it front & center.

Shoot Straight, Be Safe!!



*Editor's note: Be sure to visit and READ the shooting hygiene guidelines on our website at **“Education → Shooting Hygiene”**. There is a full page of information augmenting this discussion.*

Selection & Use of Tactical Flashlights

By Terry Marksberry

At the seminar held on Wednesday, June 21st, the presentation focused on tactical flashlights and lasers. We'll save lasers for later and just deal with tactical flashlights for now.

Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology has been around since 1907 when electroluminescence was discovered. The luminescence was in the non-visible range. It was not until 1962 that devices were developed that emitted visible light.

The progress in LED technology is following a path similar to silicon. The brightness per watt of power and the cost per lumen are improving exponentially and will continue that way until around 2030.

If you have purchased a flashlight in the past couple of years, you've already noticed that the lumens of brightness have gone from the 100-200 range to upwards of 2200! Prices have also been dropping like a rock. Within a short period of time, incandescent bulbs will be a thing of the past.

Virtually all flashlights are now LEDs whether they be just regular flashlights, handheld tactical, gun mountable or the combo stun gun/flashlight or flashlight/laser.

As with any new technology, there is a host of manufacturers vying for your business. Some will make it, most will not. Below are some of the most notable with the best products:

- Streamlight
- Surefire
- Solaray
- Olight
- Outlight



Some features that you want to be sure to have are:

- Rear (protruding) activation switch
- Momentary on
- Lanyard

Also, if the tactical light has multiple modes, you want it to have a memory function so when you depress the switch, the light comes on in the desired mode. (Hi, Med, Lo, Strobe, etc.).

Many of the handheld tactical lights may be mounted on a gun, but due to the size & weight, are limited to a long gun, not a handgun. If you choose to get a mountable light, be sure they also offer a remote switch accessory.

Most self defense incidents (60-80%) occur at night or in low light conditions. And remember, if you choose to use a handheld tactical light, you have committed to one-handed shooting. How often do you train or practice low light – one handed shooting? Don't let a real self defense incident be the first time you try it.

There are numerous ways to utilize a handheld tactical light. The most common are:

- Harries
- Chapman (+Ayoob variation)
- Rogers
- Neck-Index
- FBI



Which one you use is a personal preference. Check out the seminar presentation on the website to learn more.

Tactical lights to consider are:

- Streamlight 88040 Pro Tac
- Solaray Pro ZX-2
- Nitecore EC4S
- Fenix PD35 Tac
- Olight M20-SX Javalot (my favorite)
- Outlight A100 (sold at meetings)

Gun mounted tactical lights are also a topic that deserves a full treatment. We'll do that later also.



HELP!

By Terry Marksberry

We had a special visit at our last meeting by Bob Walls of the NRA regarding the May 2017 *Friends of NRA* dinner event which drew over 60 VSS Club members.

Many of you attended The Villages-Tri County Friends of NRA Banquet & Auction last April and played a key role in helping our FNRA Committee raise \$72,208 to help support the future of the shooting sports here in Florida, as well as across the USA.



The Villages-Tri County Friends of NRA Committee is in need of your help if this success is to continue. Everyone and anyone can help regardless of how much time you can contribute to this effort. We need you to become part of our team to put this annual event together and help raise the necessary funds for the future of the shooting traditions we value so much.

PLEASE give a little of your time to help by calling one of the following for more information:

Bob Walls, Chairman, (352) 391-1651
 Mark Amsden, Co-Chairman, (352) 321-7590
 Bret Eldridge, North Florida Field Rep., NRA, (352) 726-0059

How to Build a Sporting Rifle

By Don Fraser

AR-15 Build or Buy?

At the June member meetings, Don Fraser gave an excellent presentation on “Building Your Own Sporting Rifle.” While focusing on the AR-15, Don provided a bit of history, reasons to own one, typical uses, and finally, the merits and advantages of building your own rifle. The full presentation is posted on the website on the “*Education > Member & Seminar Presentations*” tab.

In the 1950s, Eugene Stoner, while working at ArmaLite, developed a lightweight version of the AR-10 chambered in 7.62 mm that was later called the AR-15. The AR-15 was chambered in NATO 5.56 mm since the round was smaller, lighter, and troops could carry more ammunition into battle.

So, contrary to current anti-gun rhetoric, “AR” does not stand for Assault Rifle, it stands for ARmalite. In 1959 after development of the AR platform, ArmaLite sold the rights to Colt who currently still owns the rights to the AR.

Colt introduced the M16, fully automatic version, for the military and later the M4 in the ‘90s with a 14.5” barrel and a gas impingement system. The AR-15 is the civilian semi-auto version of the select fire M4.



Reasons to Own an AR

First is the “shootability.” The AR-15 has a very light recoil when chambered in its native 5.56 x 45 mm round. It is also very ergonomic when compared to other popular rifles such as the AK-47 or later AK-74.

Another main reason is the AR-15 is a shooting “platform” with standardized components and a modular design. One can literally select each component, with some caveats, and they will all fit together to make a complete functional firearm.

In fact, it’s a big family:



A modestly expensive AR-15 in the \$500-\$600 range has a practical range of 200-300 yards in accuracy. Good optics can push that distance out a bit further.

Typical uses include:

- Home Defense
- Competitive & Recreational hooting
- Hunting
- Disaster Preparedness
- Assertion of your Constitutional Rights

And last but not least...

- The weapon of choice for the Zombie Apocalypse!

Well, maybe that is the last and least!

The AR platform allows for a practically unlimited number of accessories. You can even get a bit creative.



Don finished the presentation by going through the AR platform component-by-component showing the numerous options and reason why one would select one over the other. He noted that once you’ve built your own AR, you can “consider your man card reissued!”

INSTRUCTORS CORNER

“WHAT’S IN YOUR RANGE BAG?”

By Stephen Mosel

It’s a long standing VSS club rule that upon entering a range, all guns must stay encased until they get to the firing line. But the luggage in which our members bring in their guns, ammo and other gear, ranges from paper bags to custom built contraptions on wheels that would make a pro shooter envious. Since we usually have limited space at the line, let’s discuss some reasonable options for toting our stuff to a Club shoot. The best way I can think to do this is to discuss my own set up and to find out why Floyd laughs at me every time I bring in my bag.

First, a word about range bags. You can certainly utilize the above mentioned paper bag, but there are far better solutions made to cart heavy guns and ammo and much more. Figure spending from about \$20.00 for a Plain-Jane bag to \$100.00 or more for a sturdier carrier with more bells and whistles. Because of my need to carry extra gear/guns for instructional purposes, I opted for a Midway USA Competition Range Bag System, priced at \$80.00 on Amazon. It’s a ginormous rig (17x10x10) that’s actually five bags in one, including a removable fired-brass utility bag - two removable pistol rugs (I can easily transport 5 handguns) - 8 dedicated magazine holders – a place for a water bottle (be sure to leave the range area to eat or drink and wash your hands), and a removable stage bag/ammo carrier. It comes in a variety of colors and yes, Floyd had one first (sigh), but of course he chose boring black and finds my much more interesting flat-dark-earth (FDE) color amusing. When shooting, I leave the main bag at the back table and come to the line with a pistol rug and ammo/mag carrier and loader (more on that later). It’s a great, well-balanced bag with very sturdy hardware and is easy to carry, even with heavy loads.



OTHER ESSENTIALS



- A chop stick for clearing jams. (I carry a more extensive tool kit including needle-nose pliers and a variety of Allen-style wrenches).
- A medical kit (keep it up to date and supplied)



- Electronic headphones plus an extra set of ear buds or the like (plus replacement batteries)
- A lead-rated respirator (Only necessary if you spend lots of time at dirty ranges)
- Masking tape
- A small stapler and staples
- Targets/Target clamps
- Shooting glasses (dedicated prescription glasses can be a good idea if you shoot a lot)
- Shooting gloves (to spare my hands if I’m going to be spending lengthy sessions)
- Portable cleaning kit
- Lead wipes
- Range safety flags
- Pens/markers
- Appropriate batteries for red-dots, etc.
- Rag
- Pocket knife
- Small flashlight
- Baseball hat (to protect you from the hot brass)



It may seem like a lot to tote around, but just one time finding yourself without something you need should be enough to convince you to be as self-contained as possible. I look forward to seeing what you come up with at the range and to immediately steal the best ideas.

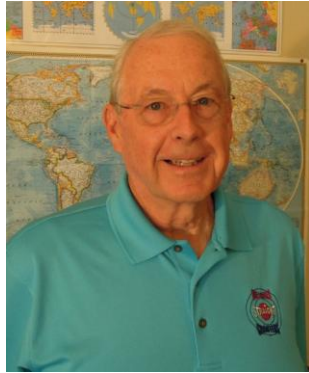


MEET THE MEMBER

By Stephen Mosel

DON FRASER – “Go Navy!”

In doing these interviews, the one constant has proven to be that everyone has an interesting story. Such is the case with our subject and hard working Board member, Don Fraser. Hailing from New Jersey, like a lot of us, Don’s first



experience with firearms was with a single-shot, bolt action .22 rifle and, pack-rat that he is, he still has the patches and medals to prove it. Staying in the “Garden State” through high school, he took a relaxing nine days after graduation to report to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. Following graduation in 1967, he landed in Pensacola, Florida for flight training as a naval flight officer and eventual designation as a bombardier/navigator in the Grumman A-6 Intruder medium attack aircraft.



Initially assigned to Whidbey Island, Washington, Don embarked on a Southeast Asian combat cruise aboard the USS RANGER. In 1970, his airplane was shot down over Laos and he got to spend an exciting night in the jungle before being rescued by Air Force units from Thailand the next day. Interestingly, the Naval Academy had only introduced their future combatants to small arms training with a 1911 semi-auto. In all their wisdom, they gave their pilots a Smith & Wesson .38 snubbie for personal protection in such incidents, with no training at all on the tiny gun. Don augmented his personal arsenal with a Smith & Wesson 6-inch revolver so he could at least hit something should the necessity arise.

Other Navy assignments included returns to the Naval Academy as an instructor and administrative officer – a catapult and arresting gear officer back aboard the RANGER – flight instructor duty in Pensacola – leadership positions in ATTACK SQUADRON 115 in Japan – work at the Naval Military Personnel Command in Washington, DC and duty as commanding officer of Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Pensacola. Somewhere in all that moving around, he was able to earn a Master of Science degree in Technology of Management from American University and most importantly (while at the Naval Academy), met and married his wife, Nancy, herself a Desert Storm veteran, retired nurse practitioner and Captain in the Naval Reserve Nurse Corps. Don’s military awards include the Legion of Merit – a Bronze Star with Combat V – the Purple Heart – three Meritorious Service medals – a meritorious action Air Medal – three strike flight Air Medals and various campaign ribbons. Don retired as a Captain in 1993. **Thank you for your service!**



Following military retirement, Don served in the Jacksonville, Florida area as a high school Navy junior ROTC instructor/social studies teacher. Other interests include ham radio, photography and SCUBA diving. He and Nancy arrived in The Villages in 2015. In addition to his duties as a member of the Board of Directors for the Villages



Straight Shooters, he serves as a Range Safety Officer and manages the popular Winchester Program. He hopes that the recent influx of members volunteering in key roles continues, so that the Club can keep growing and properly serve the membership. A proud Scotsman, Don also knows the answer to the question, “What’s worn under the kilt?” To get him talking, be prepared to offer a bribe of a wee dram of Drambuie.

Seminar Review, June 2017

The topic was Lasers and Tactical Flashlights. A discussion on Tactical Flashlights is detailed above. If

you download the presentation, you will see a review of lasers as well.

The Club will be taking some time off so the July and August sessions are cancelled. The Seminars resume in September.

What Else is Going On?

Who recognizes Florida CCW permit? According to the NRA, the map indicates a lot of states though there are some specific conditions by some states. But generally, a nice summary map.



Winchester / NRA Achievements

Attained Expert: John Lindsay, Jim Majer, Thomas Wildes

Attained Distinguished Expert: Ed Nance, Greg Simmons

You can always see the current standings on the web site by clicking the header and follow *Events* → *Winchester QP* → *WMP standings*.



A Hearty Congratulations to All!!



JUNE 2017 Raffle Winners

The give away gun was Smith & Wesson M&P Bodyguard 380

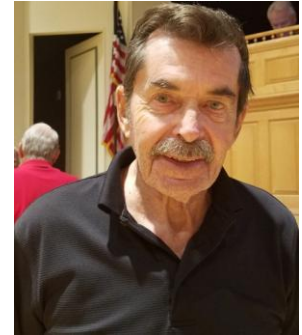


And the winners were,



Eisenhower Winner:
John Fox

Savannah Winner:
Herbert Silcox



Congratulations John and Herbert!!!

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 after publication of this newsletter.

Shooting Events

Winchester Pistol Qualifications

The next event is July 12th going to Shooters World in Tampa. Sign up on the web site. At time of publication, there were only 3 seats left.



Open Handgun Shoots

All shoots are at the Emeralda outdoor range.
1st Tuesday: July 4th, 8 and 9 am; **Open Shoot**
3rd Friday: July 21st, 8am is **Beginners Shoot**
3rd Friday: July 21st, 9am is an **Open Shoot**
4th Tuesday: July 25th, 8 and 9 am; **Open Shoot**



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

Shooter of the Month for June at the Ocala Sportsman Association was Bob Powers.



Congratulations Bob!

Thursday July 27th at Ocala Sportsman's Assoc. Handgun and Rifle sessions are available. Shooter of the Month determined in shoot off. 1st session at 8:45am and the 2nd at 11am. Cost \$10.

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 should resume in July. Consult the website or your email for further information as it becomes available.

Next Seminar Meeting

There are no seminar meetings in July and August.

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.

Next Member Meetings

Club Meeting, Savannah Rec Center:

Mon., July 10th, 6:45pm – 8:15 pm. Doors open at 6:00 pm.

Club Meeting, Eisenhower Rec Center:

Mon. July 24th, 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm.

Gun Raffle for the July meetings:



Remington R51
9mm +P
3.4" barrel
Aluminum frame
Two 7 round magazines

“You will never see refugees from America, when things turn bad, we don't run to other countries, we dust off our guns and fix it.” – *Anonymous*.

"Gun control is like trying to reduce drunk driving by making it tougher for sober people to own cars." – *Anonymous*



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