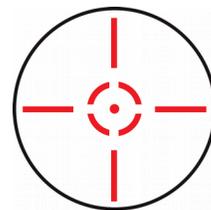




# The Reticle



Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship

August, 2015

## The Laws of Self Defense

The main topic for the July/August member meetings is "The Laws of Self Defense" with a particular focus on Florida laws. It is naturally a fairly complex topic but critical knowledge if you are to successfully claim self defense following either a non-deadly or deadly use of force defensive incident.

Members were advised on the 5 elements of a self defense plea that you must prove, which are:

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

The truly scary part is that the prosecution only has to disprove one of the 5 elements beyond a reasonable doubt for you to totally lose your right to claim self defense.

Attendees received a brochure that provided a brief explanation of these critical elements.

Additionally, "defense of others" was discussed and the extremely important issue of how to deal with the authorities, step by step, after a self defense incident.

The presentation, FL State statutes, Chapter 776, FL Jury Instructions – Criminal 3.6, and references to Court Decisions (Case Law) will be posted on the website after the Friday, Aug 7<sup>th</sup> meeting if members wish to learn more. TM

## Why Shoot IDPA?

If you carry a handgun, or have a handgun at home for self-defense, it is crucial to practice and train regularly. Realizing that nothing can completely prepare you for a fight for your life, dry fire practice and time at the range can certainly help. Think "muscle memory." Training must be taken seriously, obtained from knowledgeable instructors, and practiced frequently.

The closest that we may come to a real world situation is by inducing stress through competition. There are numerous disciplines available such as bullseye pistol, IPSC and IDPA.

Let's address IDPA, or International Defensive Pistol Association. This is a competition shooting event that closely recreates real life gunfight scenarios.

Your first step in IDPA is to shoot a Qualifier round, which enables you to determine your baseline skill level with the gun that you will carry as a defensive handgun.

IDPA matches are intended for you to compete with your everyday carry or bedside handgun. Stages often require you to draw from beneath a concealed carry garment and utilize cover when available, reload behind cover, and engage targets in tactical priority, based on their relative threat to you. Target arrangements and stage scenarios that depict realistic use of force situations are designed to reinforce real world defensive shooting skills.

Recently several other club members and I shot an IDPA match at a local gun range. It came as a real surprise to learn that we were going to shoot the

majority of the scenarios in the dark. So, there I am, totally unprepared, a flashlight with failing batteries, and one that I have not practiced with in a long time.

Needless to say my scores reflected my lack of night time practice and unfamiliarity with my equipment. It was painfully obvious that practice in all aspects of gun handling is critical. Fortunately this was not a real life scenario.

I encourage you to join your fellow club members in this very exciting sport, which also puts you in contact with experienced shooters who are more than willing to share their knowledge.

Floyd Dunstan

## Shooters of the Month

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday - July 24<sup>th</sup>

Early Session:  
Mary Russo



Late Session:  
Larry Russo

All in the family!!



*"What country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance. Let them take arms."*

Thomas Jefferson, letter to James Madison, December 20, 1787



## Winchester Achievements

### Expert (July, 2015)

#### Pistol Qualification

- Frank Lacoine
- Armand Codoner



### Distinguished Expert

#### Defensive Pistol I

- Ralph Bidle



## The Seminar

The upcoming seminar on Wednesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, will be one of our semi-annual gun cleaning opportunities. Bring your gun, no ammo, and the owner's manual, if you're are not familiar with the dis-assembly or assembly of your handgun.

Instructors will be available to help with reassembly, especially on your Ruger Mark IIIs and 22/45s.

Some cleaning materials will be available (rags, Q-Tips, Ballistol) but plan on bringing your own cleaning kit. We will not have kits available for sale.

## The Safety Corner



Most should be aware by now that you must carry your gun to and from the firing line encased. This is true for either indoor or outdoor ranges. At an outdoor range, moving your gun must be done during a period when the range is "Hot".

The club offers a selection of gun rugs, tactical & small competition range bags at every meeting.

## Light Up the Night!

A tactical flashlight is a must-have accessory for functioning in dim or dark lighting conditions. As mentioned in the IDPA article, some IDPA event scenarios are even done in night conditions requiring a good tactical light.

What makes a good tactical light? Well several things. Feature-wise it needs to have a switch or button that has momentary on, full on, and strobe options. All three capabilities are useful at different times.

Brightness is measured in Lumens. A suitable light should be in the 300-600 lumen range and will usually be on the \$50 to \$85 range depending on the brightness desired. 300 will certainly be blinding to an assailant.

The two primary models are hand held and accessory



rail. Tac lights also come in combo versions with a laser, red or green, normally with a 200-300 LED light. There are pros and cons of each but it tends to be a matter of personal preference. Naturally with a hand held light you will be shooting with one hand.

While there are numerous manufacturers, the two primary ones are Streamlight and Surefire. Both companies offer comparable features and prices.

The Streamlight TLR-1, shown to the right, comes in 6 models and fits on the front accessory rail. Its light is a 630 lumen single LED. The TLR-1 is one of the most popular Tac lights.



Check the website frequently for the latest news and updates:

[www.vssclub.org](http://www.vssclub.org)

## Interested in Hunting?

Several members are interested in forming a special interest group on hunting. A page has been added to the website to let us know if you are interested.

## Upcoming Club Activities

**1st Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 to 10:00 am** at The Gun Range on US 44 in Leesburg. Targets provided. Please show up 15 min. early for range safety briefing. Floyd Dunstan is the Shoot Manager. \$10

**1st & 3rd Tuesdays, August 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> – 9-10 & 10-11 am** at Gun Range 44. Winchester Pistol Qualification shoots. Become a Distinguished Expert!

**4th Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – Two Sessions 8:45 – 10:30 & 11:00 to 12:30** at Ocala Sportsmans Assoc. Dave Agnew is the Shoot Manager. 1 RSO/10 shooters. \$10

### Reservations Required



### Next Meetings

**1st Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 to 9 pm** at Mulberry Grove. Main topic: The Laws of Self Defense

**4th Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 to 8 pm** at Eisenhower. Main Topic: Kel-Tec & Kimber Firearms

Plus club News, Announcements, Awards, 50/50, and Gun Raffles!

Raffle gun for 8/7 will be a Smith & Wesson 642, .38 Special +P, Carry Revolvers with custom grips. Raffle Gun for 8/24 will be a Kel-Tec PF-9

### All Villagers Welcome!

