



The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



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SAFETY ALERT: S&W M&P15-22

Smith & Wesson has issued a safety alert for this firearm. Short version: stop using it until you have it checked.

All models manufactured before 1 Feb 2019 are affected. A manufacturing specification error may allow the bolt, upon closing, to crush the rim of the case causing the round to fire, cycling the bolt, and potentially resulting in multiple discharges without depressing the trigger. [American Rifleman article](#)
[S&W consumer safety alert](#)



Member Meeting Recap Springfield Armory

By Terry Marksberry

Springfield Armory is one of the oldest and most respected firearms manufacturing companies in the country. And, for good reason!

Springfield Armory was created at the direction of George Washington to store ammunition and gun carriage parts for the continental army.

In 1794 the Armory began manufacturing muskets for the new USA military. The Armory did so for the next 150 years, being a supplier for every US conflict during that period.

The Armory also served as the Army's "think tank" for various firearm concepts.



In 1968, citing financial problems the US Government closed the Springfield Armory and used it as a sort of museum to pay homage to the sizable contributions the Armory had made to the country.

Then in 1974, the Reese family rescued the name "Springfield Armory" and also adopted the philosophy that served it so well in centuries past.

In bringing the Armory back to life, they resurrected the historical designs of the:



- M1 Garand
- 1911-A1
- M14

Having focused exclusively on long guns in the past, in 1999, the Armory purchased rights to the PHP handgun designed and manufactured in Croatia. The new firearm became the XD9. “XD” standing for Xtreme Duty.

In 2001, the company announced the XD handgun which quickly became the NRA Handgun of the Year in 2003.

The XD became known as a very high-quality firearm that is very reliable. With the announcement of the XD, Springfield Armory also introduced some of their classic features, the grip safety, the double safety trigger, and the accessory rail.



Following in the XD footsteps, in 2007, the XD-M was announced. It was their first polymer framed pistol, again with their classic safety features. Weighing in at 29 ounces, it was not a carry gun but more useful for home defense type uses.

Bringing new focus to the burgeoning concealed carry market, in 2012, the XD-S was launched. It was their first carry sized firearm – single stack, 21 ounces, only .975” wide, with a nice Melonite barrel. The XD-S is chambered in 9mm and .45 ACP.



In 2016, the Armory introduced the “Saint” AR-15 series with 10 distinctive models. It has a keymod handguard and a 16” Melonite barrel. The Saint is chambered for 5.56 NATO or 300 BLK.

2017 brought a nice little challenger for the Sig Sauer P238 & P938 and the Kimber Micro and Micro 9. The Armory called it the 911. The 911 has an all aluminum frame and the .380 weighs in at a mere 12.6 ounces.



Springfield Armory is one of the premier firearm manufacturers in the country with a distinguished history and a reputation for high quality, innovative products.

It might be interesting to note that virtually every instructor in VSS owns at least one Springfield pistol. You might consider that an endorsement since they teach a segment on “How to select the Right Handgun!”

Donor Appreciation Awards

The March award was the Springfield Armory XD-E 9mm handgun.

Savannah winner	Eisenhower winner
Bruce Kanvin	Jim Stokes
	

Congratulations to Bruce and Jim!

Next Meeting & Award

The **April** meeting topic will be *The Other Guns of the Olde West & Movies – Part II*

Eisenhower: Mon. Apr. 22nd, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

Doors open at 5:30 pm.

Savannah: Thur. Apr. 25th, 6:45 – 8:15 pm.

Doors open at 6:00 pm.

The April meeting award will be a [Kimber Micro 9](#). Click the link on the website for specs.



Education at its Best!

The education programs offered by the VSS instructor team are simply the best, most thorough courses on firearms, and self-defense offered anywhere. Plus, the most cost effective to boot!

While there are many courses available to the public nearby, they are pricey and the instructors may lack experience in teaching and may not even be NRA certified. Just ask to be sure.

The club is very fortunate to have our education program led by our Chief Instructor, Jim Schiefer. Jim was a Senior Instructor for over a decade at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia teaching armed federal agents from dozens of different agencies in the government.

In addition to their extraordinary depth of experience, our instructors are NRA Certified in every course taught.

We discovered early on, that the NRA courses are good but not great. For a particular topic, their courses contain a lot of redundancy between courses, omit some key elements, and contain elements that are just not relevant to the primary objective of the class.

The VSS instructor team put their heads together and, from scratch, developed courses far superior to those generally available. The courses unique to us on content and quality are:



- Basic Pistol Safety
- Concealed Carry
- Personal Security I – in the Home
- Personal Security II – Outside the Home
- AR-15 Orientation

Do yourself a favor, if you can. Check with anyone who has taken one of the courses offered to the public around the Villages area and see how they liked it. Check course content, quality of instruction, instructor certifications, cost vs value received.

We may be beat on convenience, at times, but then when the chips are down in a defensive gun use situation is that even a relevant issue or is the quality of the education and training what really counts?

The VSS Training Academy courses are here for you. Take advantage of them.

The VSS Shooting Program – Not What it Used to be!

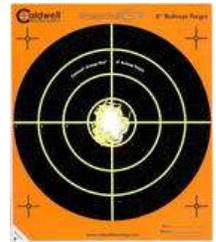
It's actually much better!

We used to go to the range and just punch holes in paper. That may help your aim and gun handling skills a bit but certainly not very exciting over time.

While most of the club's shooting events are at our outdoor ranges the scope and variety of the events have gotten a real shot in the arm (no pun intended) lately.

The club now offers:

- **Instructional Shoots** – good for newbies and old salts alike – we have instructors available to help you hit that pesky little black thing in the middle of your target, at least more often.
- **Winchester Program** – an excellent way to improve your marksmanship skills step-by-step at your own pace. The club provides you with a packet containing instructions and targets. You shoot at a range of your choice. Now bigger than ever with more participants. Join the fun.
- **Bullseye Leagues** – handicapped leagues in three categories:
 - Rimfire Pistols
 - Centerfire Pistols
 - Rimfire Rifles



The leagues go for ten weeks at which time the winners are recognized in both the actual and handicapped categories. An excellent way to improve your accuracy and general gun handling skills.

- **Poker Competition** – get better, win a prize! At any shoot, get your poker card from the shoot manager. Mount the target, take five shots, best

poker hand wins. Oh, by the way, the cards on the target are facing away from you!

- **Dueling Tree Steel Shoot** – Just how good are you? Try your hand with a little head-to-head competition. The dueling tree competition is just a hoot! You’ll love it. 16 competitors shoot at a time with a double elimination framework. Start with 2 ten round magazines. At the buzzer, shoot the steel paddles on your side of the tree. At the end of 30 seconds, the shooter with the fewest paddles on their side wins.
- **Action Shooting** – Can you move and shoot? Can you reload while moving? Can you shoot accurately with either hand? Well, if not, you really need to learn. In a defensive gun use situation it is not like shooting at a paper target. You need to move away from the threat, seek cover or concealment, and, you need to be defending yourself while doing so. This event is being planned. Watch for it on the website to make a reservation.



You should know that you cannot just buy a gun, shoot it once and put it in your nightstand. You need to develop good shooting techniques & learn good gun handling skills. That takes practice. To be a responsible gun owner you need to develop and maintain a certain skillset. It can only be done at the range and must be reinforced on a regular basis.

Please take advantage of the opportunities offered by the club. You’ll be glad you did!!

[VSS Educational Class schedules](#)
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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 EMERALD IN THE ROUGH!”



Just a leisurely half-hour drive from what used to be the bottom of The Villages at Route 44 and Morse Avenue, there lies a hidden gem. Carefully following the directions on the club website will bring you to Emeraldal, an intimate outdoor range tucked into the wetlands and patiently awaiting the arrival of our members. The beautiful drive will take you through tunnels of trees and wetland habitats brimming with an amazing assortment of wildlife wondering who it is interrupting their occasional strolls down the roadway. Pick the right morning and you might be witness to the fog just burning off and leaving a rather magical mist worthy of Brigadoon. A turn through the rusty gate will wind you down a slightly bumpy path to the object of your travels, probably greeted by our resident Sand Hill Cranes, noisily announcing their ownership of the property. Those in the know will have taken the trouble to purchase a \$12.00 pair of rubber boots at Rural King because, admittedly, it can tend to replicate World War II Burma during Monsoon time. In other words, it can get muddy. But that small inconvenience is heavily outweighed by the benefits.

The range offers 16 lanes of pistol happiness with distances available up to our Bullseye Shooting competition. Check out the regularly scheduled Instructional Shoots (which also provide an excellent opportunity for those involved in the beginning stages of The Winchester Program. They can take advantage of the instruction that’s always available at our club events.) Also, on the menu is a berm dedicated to ringing steel, with four new “trees”, ready for the fun of the Dueling Steel Tree competition. (Alas, Bob Powers is probably going to win that particular little dust-up, but the mortals among us can still dream about knocking him off his well-deserved perch!). The range also offers that unknown something special about shooting outdoors. The overhead covering on the pistol berms make even the warm-weather mornings quite pleasant. And the breezes bring a natural ventilation that can’t be beat.

At Emeraldal, you’ll always have our dedicated RSO’s (Range Safety Officers) and, of course, our

expert instructors willing to spend the entire session, if necessary, improving every aspect of your shooting technique. (Try finding that at Shooter's World for ten bucks!).

But mostly, I think, it's the camaraderie. Sure, those that realize what's available at Emeraldal are loyal attendees and we see a lot of the same men and women happily repeating their visits. But the new faces quickly fit in and find that the safe and relaxed atmosphere is conducive to a fun and productive morning of making noise and new friends of a like-minded nature.

No matter which of the many offerings you take aim at, you owe it to yourself to give Emeraldal a try. Only a small percentage of our members are taking advantage of all the possibilities. Join them and discover this sparkling little bauble for yourself.

Other Stuff

How to Buy A Gun & What to Expect - a Lesson Learned

Recently a club member bought a gun with initially an unpleasant surprise. The actual member, gun, and place won't be identified, but the process is the same.

We expect the store staff to be experts and help ensure we are buying what we want, yet in some cases we know more about the guns than the sales staff. So how to protect yourself is the question.

For example, you want to buy a Ruger LCP II; the newer version. Once home, he realized he got an LCP (the original) even though the paperwork and the box stated LCP II and paid the LCP II price. Returning to the store, he was essentially told no returns or swap outs; once leaving the store you own it. He could trade it in, but we know how trade value works. No help.

First, we must do our homework and really know what the gun looks like and how it is different from the previous model. A visual check. Generally, the

gun manufacturer will stamp the new name somewhere on the gun.

Second, at checkout, the store may scan the box (they don't scan the gun itself) believing they are selling you what you want. They will ask you at least twice if THIS is the gun you want to buy. However, this is your last chance to ensure the serial number on the gun is the same as the box and the paperwork. In this case, both should be LCP II.

Third, sometimes you are buying the display model and the store cannot find the box or they grab the wrong box. Again, you must ensure the gun serial number is the same as what would have come in the box.

You can always go back to the store and try for a swap or price differential, but it is a long shot. So, triple check every step along the way to be sure you are getting what you wanted.

In this case the Assistant Store Manager would not help our member. A follow up visit with the Store Manager was more positive and that Manager admitted they made a mistake. The wrong gun was in the box. They offered our member 2 acceptable choices; he picked one and it worked out this time.

Finally, look to the club for help. Check out the classified ads; maybe a fellow member is selling what you are looking for. Also, seek guidance from our club [Gurus](#).

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Seminar Review & Schedule Traveling with Firearms

(& Staying out of Jail!)

By Terry Marksberry

Staying out of jail may not be as easy as you think, especially if you are driving through "blue" states. In the last seminar we focused on trying to get a firearm from here to there by driving, flying, and FFL to FFL transfers.

First, it is perfectly legal to transport a firearm from one place to another if you can legally own the firearm at your point of departure and can legally own the gun at your destination. This is specified in the federal "Peaceable Journey Act" reinforced by the Gun Control Act of 1968 and the Firearm Owners Protection Act of 1986.

The above federal laws protect you providing that:

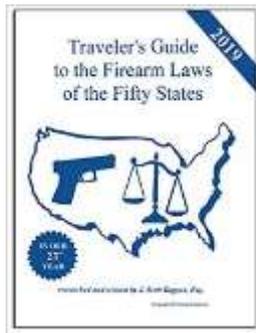
1. You are just passing through a state with only short stops for food or gasoline.
2. The firearms & ammo are not accessible to the driver or passengers in the vehicle.
3. The firearms are unloaded and located in a locked container other than the glove compartment.



The problem is that blue states, in particular, ignore the federal laws and have engaged in harassment actions against travelers. After you are arrested and end up in court, with your expensive criminal attorney, you plead not guilty using the federal laws as an "affirmative defense." The case is dismissed and you can resume your journey.

Of course, meanwhile you've spent days, if not weeks, in jail, had to hire an attorney, your spouse or other passengers get to spend time in a motel, etc, etc. Does not sound like a lot of fun!

So, what to do? First, plan your trip and identify the states you will travel through. Next get a copy of the "Traveler's Guide to the Firearm Laws of the Fifty States." Amazon \$19.30.



Finally, look up the states you plan to travel through and be sure you understand their laws for travelers with licenses/permits and travelers without licenses/permits. Determine if the state offers reciprocity with Florida licenses.

Unfortunately, you will discover that virtually every state is different in at least some aspects of their gun laws.

To be safest from a legal perspective just unload the gun and keep it in a locked hard backed case inaccessible to the driver or passengers. Of course, this means it is not available for self-defense along your route.



Transporting a gun when you are flying from A to B is not a problem in general. There are clear procedures on packaging and interfacing with the air-

lines and TSA agents. The problem occurs if you get diverted and have to land in a gun hostile blue state. While you can claim your luggage for an overnight stay, when you try to check the gun the next day to continue your journey, you will be arrested. End of journey!!

Traveling in a motorhome introduces another interesting issue. When you are on the road, the motorhome is clearly a vehicle and appropriate laws for vehicles apply. However, when at a camp ground, hooked up to utilities, some courts and states regard the motorhome as a residence in which case castle doctrine laws apply. To know where you stand legally, you'll need to do a little research.



Should you travel on any other "commercial carrier" like a bus, train, boat, federal law requires you to surrender the firearm to the captain, driver, or whoever for the duration of the journey.

To be totally safe the best option is to send the gun by FFL to FFL transfer. Not cheap! The FFLs will charge you for each gun on both the sending and receiving ends as much as \$40 to \$50.

So, why go through the hassle? The ultimate solution is to buy a "North" gun and a "South" gun! It may literally be the least expensive solution in the long run.

Happy travels!

The next seminar is **Wed., Apr. 17th**, 2-3:30 pm, at the Eisenhower Rec Center. The topic will be **Semi-annual Gun Cleaning Gala** via the Activity Signup sheet.

Winchester/NRA Achievements

Look who is on the move going up through the Winchester levels.

Expert: Bill Leverton, Ed de La Vergne, Leonard Jessup, William Kapps

Distinguished Expert: Scott Colligan

Defensive Pistol I: Hal Shelton, William Brindle

A Well-Earned Congratulations to All!!

Follow the current standings on the website or click [Pistol Qualification](#) and [Defensive Pistol I & II](#)

If you would like to begin evaluating and improving your shooting skills with the Winchester program, you can sign up [here](#) or via the Activity Signup webpage.



Shooting Events

Emeralda Schedule (Outdoors)

- **Instructional Shoot:** This is for anyone who needs some help with grip, sighting, stance, etc. Extra instructors will be available. Shoots are the 1st & 4th Tuesday, and 1st & 3rd Friday of the month.
 - Currently April 2nd, 5th, 19th, 23rd
- **Steel Target Shoot:** this provides you with a chance to test your skills against others shooting a steel tree.
 - Currently April 9th, 16th
- **Bullseye Shooting League** for Rimfire Handgun, Centerfire Handgun, and Rimfire Rifle. Signup via Activity sheet or if in mid-session, please contact Floyd Dunstan, email dun-sail2c@gmail.com, for the details.



Ocala Sportsman's Assoc. (Outdoors)

The OSA event is held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10 am only - April 25th.



Each date has a **handgun** and separate **rifle** range session.

For March Poker Hand Shoot winner was Sterne Maher.

Congratulations Sterne!



Education Classes

- **AR-15 Orientation Training:** 1 class on April 9th at 9 am.
- **Basic Pistol Safety** class: April 10th
- **Concealed Carry Qualification:** 1 class on April 15th at 9 am.
- **Personal Security 1 – In the Home:** TBD
- **Personal Security 2 – Outside the Home:** TBD

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