



# The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



---

## Presidents Corner

---

Season's Greetings to all...

Here it is December already! I am grateful that 2020 will soon be in our rear view mirror. 2021 is shaping up to be a very good year for our club.



We have been able to conduct three meetings and one seminar. We have had almost 200 members at each of the Eisenhower meetings and about 150 at the Savannah Center. Three lucky winners have gone home with a new gun and/or other prizes, including cash from our donor appreciation drawings. All-in-all a nice ending to a rather nasty year.

Only one meeting this month which will be at the Savannah Center on the 28<sup>th</sup>. I will have a S&W M&P 9ez for our drawing at the meeting.

Our weekly shooting programs have been filling up and there seems to be just enough ammunition available to keep us in operation. My personal thanks to all who are participating in these events.

Have a great Holiday Season.... See you on the other side of the calendar.

Chuck Wildzunas  
President



***“When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty.” Thomas Jefferson***

---

## Next Member Meeting

---

*Reservations & Masks Required see the VSS Website for details*

**Savannah – Monday, December 28th  
Combined Meeting - 6:30 to 8:00 pm**

**Donor Award:  
S&W M&P 9EZ  
9mm Compact Topic:  
The Historic 1911**



---

## Great Bodily Harm

---

by Terry Marksberry

If you carry a concealed firearm, you should already know that you may only use lethal force to prevent an imminent threat of death, great bodily harm or a forcible felony.

A threat of death is easily defined and a forcible felony is specifically defined in the statutes. But what is “great bodily harm (GBH)?” You can already guess that it’s not a black eye or bloody nose. They heal and you’re as good as new.



While the definition of GBH may not be precise, if you carry concealed, you should at least have a good idea of the threat since it justifies using lethal force for self-defense.

As with many legal statutes, you can really only understand the intent of the law by examining how

the courts interpret the law in actual court cases. In general, great bodily harm means an injury that:

1. Can cause death
2. Can create a substantial risk of death
3. Causes serious permanent disfigurement
4. Causes an extended loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ

It is also very important to note that you need not actually sustain an injury before you defend yourself. If the assailant has the opportunity, means and shows intent to seriously harm you, you may use the level of force necessary to stop the threat up to and including lethal force.

If an assailant is not armed, in any manner, lethal force is rarely justified. There are exceptions. For example, a 300 pound man attacking a 120 pound woman. That's when a gun is called "the great equalizer."

A potential problem is the fact a single strike by a closed fist can cause death or GBH if landed in a critical location like the chin, temple, back of head or even the side of the neck. A frighteningly large number of people have actually been killed or suffered permanent brain damage by falling on a hard surface after being hit by a single blow. This situation can be confirmed by doing a quick internet search on "knockout game". It is also likely that once a person is down, the assailant will punch, kick, and stomp on the unconscious individual.

So, what can you do to prevent being in a position where your life is in grave danger?

- Do not get into a physical altercation, AKA mutual combat. Walk away.
- Understand that many individuals that suffered GBH or were killed in this manner were either sucker punched or involved in mutual combat.
- Keep more than an arms-length distance away from a potential threat.
- Protect your chin and neck from a hit.

Also remember that according to FBI statistics, once you draw your firearm to defend against an assailant, 80% of the time, the assailant will flee once they know you can and will defend yourself.



As usual, it is the total circumstances of the incident that would indicate to a jury that your actions were reasonable and appropriate. The best advice is to get educated and trained. Individuals that are not trained and confident, tend to overreact to a threat due to their lack of confidence and uncertainty about their abilities.

---

## The Beloved/Hated AR-15

---

by Terry Marksberry

If you are conservative in your thinking and support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, you probably love the AR-15 and probably even have one.

If you are liberal/progressive in your thinking and likely do not support the 2A, you probably hate the AR-15 but for totally illogical, irrational reasons. Or are they?

Thanks to the anti-gunners, the AR-15 is the most demonized and misunderstood firearm of the lot.

First, "AR" does not stand for "Automatic Rifle" as the anti-gunners have stated. "AR" stands for the Armalite company that designed the rifle in the early 1950s. Armalite soon sold the patents and trademarks to Colt in 1959.

The AR-15 is a semi-automatic firearm just like every other rifle and pistol – 1 trigger pull, 1 round fired.

Full automatic firearms have been banned for public ownership since the 1930s. It is usually black in color which the left seems fixated on. No, black does not equate to evil! You can get a pink AR but the rifle is still the same.



The color only changes one's perception of the one holding the rifle!

The AR is NOT a military grade weapon. There are many design changes that enable the M16 to fire in burst or full auto mode. The AR-15 has been designated by the National Shooting Sports Foundation as a "modern sporting rifle." Actually, it is just a "carbine" like hundreds of others.

The AR-15 is favored by many since it is a "shooting platform." Generally, all ARs are built to a set of specifications that makes all the parts interchangeable. In addition, there are a huge number of accessories for the rifle. In fact, you can easily spend far more money on the accessories than you spent on the rifle!

The AR-15 is preferred by many gun owners due to its versatility, accuracy, wide variety of features and calibers. It can be used for hunting, target shooting, self-defense, home-defense and just because the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment allows you to have one!



Out of the estimated 300 million firearms owned by US citizens, 5-10 million are AR-15s.

Back to the hatred! The AR-15 was banned for a time during the Clinton administration. When the law came up for renewal, it was not renewed, since there was not a shred of empirical evidence that the banned accomplished anything.

The argument that an AR-15 ban would save lives is specious at best. The facts are that long guns (rifles, carbines, shotguns, etc) have been used in less than 2% of the mass murders in the country according to the FBI. Also, the legal magazine capacity has been proven to be totally irrelevant. After all, bad guys do not obey the laws anyhow, that's why they are called "bad guys." Duh!

Statements by politicians and anti-gunners have repeatedly shown that they do not understand what they are so eager to talk about! So, if banning AR-15s is not to save lives, why would they want to ban them. It might have to do with the fact that all

totalitarian regimes quickly seek to disarm the population to limit any resistance by their opposition.

Should the left gain power at either the state or federal levels, you can bet that they will attempt to enact their anti-gun agenda. Hopefully the 6-3 Supreme Court will at some point stop the anti 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment nonsense.

Note: Terry is holding an AR-15 Orientation Class on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 9am at Pat's Pawn Shop. See the website to sign up (The Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> session is full).

***"When any nation mistrusts it's citizens with guns it is sending a clear message. It no longer trusts it's citizens because such a government has evil plans." George Washington***



## **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)



---

## **"Membership"**

---

This past November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Marksberry Award for Outstanding Membership was deservedly given to Floyd Dunstan. The award was named for our long-time President and first recipient, Terry Marksberry. Terry, who still serves as Chairman for the Board of Directors, would regularly put in ten hour-plus days, guiding the Village Straight Shooters through its infancy to the mega-club it is today. With over 3000 members, it's a large ship to steer and with the help of an always too small group of volunteer helpers, the membership became the beneficiary of his super human efforts. Floyd, the manager of our shooting programs, was also one of "those volunteers". Organizing and attending all education and shooting events possible and filling his garage with the

flotsam & jetsam necessary to keep us in business, this dynamo became part of the furniture at Shooters World and the paid employees there would be forgiven

to assume he was on the books!

Without his efforts,

it's possible the club may have nearly ground to a temporary halt during the COVID crisis.



Now I'll grant you, these two gentlemen are rather extreme examples of excellence in membership that set a bar way too high for most of us mortals to strive for. But I can assure you that there are others, from our current leadership to those working behind the scenes that deserve accolades a-plenty for their Trojan efforts on behalf of all of us and the shooting sports in general. The Selection Committee for the Award, which consists of myself, Colleen Rutherford and Don Frazer, will be hard at work suggesting future recipients for the honor, but always knowing that it takes many others to allow these individual stars to shine. And there you have the point of this article. What are you willing to do to become the best member you can be? You can, of course just keep it simple and thank the volunteer Instructors, R.S.O.'s and Shoot Managers that you'll find at every event – (it's always appreciated). Don't just assume that the General Meetings put themselves together. Go up to our ever hard working President, Chuck Wildzunas after a meeting and thank him or thank Roger Marksberry for the countless hours spent on the keeping things – and the web site - running. And be sure to acknowledge the folks working the tables at our meetings as well as Mike Plocharczyk (also on the Board of Directors) and Dianne Olsen (Board Secretary) for organizing this periodical. If you run into Larry Smith or Ed Pack, let them know you appreciate their labors on the Board also.

Regularly read the club website to keep up to speed on the goings-on. If volunteers are needed for specific tasks, Roger will post the information and maybe you'll be interested in adding your expertise to the cause. As wonderful as it is to see the same faces at our shooting events, it's equally terrific to meet new shooters. So, if you haven't already, be certain to take advantage of all the hard work it takes to put an event together and come out to shoot with us. Maybe you're a long-time shooter with a solid knowledge of our sport who would like to become certified as an Instructor or R.S.O. (Range Safety Officer). Watch the website and Floyd will notify everyone when volunteers are needed for those important positions.

Whatever your level of interest, whether it's regularly showing up and supporting our shooting events, meetings and seminars or actively taking on a specific job, consider what membership really means. You're part of a wonderful club of like-minded people who want to get together to learn, shoot and socialize. The second amendment is worth fighting for and strong shooting clubs like ours, with great safety records and level-headed participants, well represent our interests and shine as good examples for those that think all gun owners are despicable and probably homicidal. Your contributions may not be acknowledged with a Marksberry Award, but they'll always be appreciated and are vital to a successful future for our organization.



### **The Reticle**<sup>©</sup>

A monthly publication of The Villages Straight Shooters, LLC

[vssnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vssnewsletter@gmail.com)

Layout & Design, Mike Plocharczyk

Proof Reader, Dianne Olsen

Electronic (PDF) copies of The Reticle available at:

<http://www.vssclub.org/newsletter.html>