



The Reticle

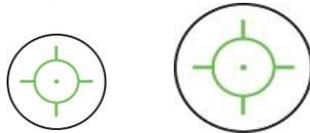
Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



WELCOME BACK TO OUR SEASONAL RESIDENTS

Due to scheduling conflicts, we will have only one meeting in February and March. Both our February and March meeting will be at Eisenhower Recreation Center on the following dates:

- February 28, 2022
- March 28, 2022



Please plan to come early since we will only be able to admit those we have seats for. We will not be able to have members standing in the back.

Also, mark your calendar and come visit us at the Outdoor Expo: Everglades Recreation Center, February 25 and 26 from 10am-3pm.

I am looking forward to seeing some familiar faces that have been missing over the summer.

Chuck Wildzunas
President



I don't carry a gun because I want to shoot someone; I carry a gun because I want to die at a ripe old age in my bed and not on a sidewalk somewhere tomorrow afternoon.



Gun Show Fan

Next Member Meetings



Savannah – February meetings will be combined, so no meeting at the Savannah Rec Center.

Eisenhower – Monday, Feb 28th - 6:30 to 8:00 pm.
Doors open at 5:30pm.

Donor Award:
Springfield Hellcat
9mm, 3” hammer
forged barrel, two 11+1
capacity magazines,
high visibility sights,
18.3 oz weight.



January Topics: What's New at the Shot Show

VSSCLUB.ORG

By Terry Marksberry



In the January member meetings, the presentations focused on the club's website.

From the earliest days of the club, the website has been the primary means of providing information to the members and a resource for news and information about firearm safety and education.

As with any website, it starts with the home page.

The home page always shows the upcoming member meeting dates, times, and topics. Also included are the donor awards for the upcoming meetings.



Below the meeting information, on the left columns, are current news articles we believe to be of interest to the

Next Member Meeting
Reservations NOT Required for Member Meetings
Combined Meeting in February - NO Savannah Meeting

JOIN OUR CLUB OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
CLICK HERE

What's New?
Basic Pistol Safety class

members. The most recent articles are posted at the top and are updated on a daily basis.

The right-side column contains links to join the club or renew your membership. For convenience, since the site is hundreds of pages, is a “What’s New” banner to highlight updates that may be of interest. Lower on the right column is an NRA link that will provide a club discount when joining the NRA or renewing your current membership.

Navigating the site is relatively easy using the “hover” buttons below the top banner.

The second button, “Activity Signup” is the place to go to signup and pay, if required, for any club events requiring reservations.

The next tab, “Training” begins site sections that are informative and educational. The pages contain useful articles, videos, and links to other web sites that contain relevant information.

“Member Services” lists the numerous services the club offers its members including:

- AR-15 Building Assistance
- Ask the Gurus
- FFL Transfer Services
- Laser Bore Sight loaners
- MVP Athletic Club Discounted Memberships



A section of the site of particular member benefit, is the “Classified” section where members can sell handguns, long guns, and accessories. This is a very

busy section and has shown to be very beneficial if you are in the market for a new firearm or wish to sell something. The top tab provides information on how to provide your listing information in order to get it posted.

Under the “Resources” tab is an absolute wealth of information. The “Firearm Resources” sub-tab provides 6 additional tabs with information as indicated. It’s excellent reference material including videos. The “Gun Shows” tab is updated weekly with local shows highlighted.

Likewise, the “Info” tab contains numerous sub-tabs with tons of links, videos, and articles. As with prior sections, the pages are updated on a regular basis with the latest information. This section provides some key legal information on state laws and reciprocity with other states.

Finally, the last tab “Contact Us” is your way to communicate with the club. Your email is forwarded to the Club member or officer in the best position to respond to your inquiry.

The website is the result of an enormous amount of work to create and maintain it. Browse the site at your convenience. You just might find a gem or two to reward your efforts!



Stand Your Ground

At our December VSS Club meeting with Senator Baxley, he discussed the “Castle Doctrine” and “Stand Your Ground” laws in Florida. Residents have the right to protect their home and intruders can’t sue residents after a break in.



Terry Marksberry has spoken often on this subject and how great Stand Your Ground is for us in Florida.

Well, there are currently two bills before the Florida House and Senate to repeal these laws, HB 73 filed by Rep Raynor and SB888 filed by Sen Jones. Both bills would “New York Florida” regarding Castle Doctrine/Stand Your Ground. Very bad for us living in Florida.

The VSS Legislative Action Committee will monitor both bills and keep you informed.

**SWITZERLAND ISSUES A GUN TO EVERY HOUSEHOLD.
SWITZERLAND'S GOVERNMENT ISSUES AND TRAINS EVERY ADULT IN THE USE OF A RIFLE.
SWITZERLAND HAS THE LOWEST GUN RELATED CRIME RATE OF ANY CIVILIZED COUNTRY IN THE WORLD!!!**

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)

“SCARY STUFF!”

With just a teensy bit of editing for brevity’s sake, this tidbit appeared quite a while back in “Talk of The Villages” on-line: *“While parking my car near Brownwood, I observed an older Villager stumble out of his parked golf cart. He appeared fine, but I noticed that he dropped his Glock 17 onto the parking lot ground. He asked me to help him recover his firearm as he had difficulty with his gait. I immediately realized that based on his behavior, he was*



unfamiliar with handguns and I told him I would help. The firearm had an empty chamber but the clip was full. After securing the gun, I strongly suggested he take a course at Shooter’s World. Just wondering how many “unfamiliar” souls here carry?”

A few things immediately stick out in this story. Were they checking that the “clip” (actually a “magazine”) was full, out in the open? Was the offending party a Straight Shooters member? (What are the odds?). Why wasn’t the Glock in a proper retention holster? Why would anyone want to carry a Glock 17 concealed? (In my opinion, it’s a bit big for the task at hand.) Is there another side to this incident? (There almost always is.) But aside from these questions, it does remind us that at some point, we may have to face the tough reality that it’s time to hang up our gun belts and stop carrying in public.

Many families – including yours truly – have gone through that horrible moment when the car keys have to be taken away from a parent or elderly loved one. It’s just plain awful to have to take away that basic freedom, but it must be done. The alternative is that everyone’s safety is seriously compromised and that trumps everything else. The same thing applies to carrying a firearm in public. It is a massive responsibility that takes sharp judgement and should involve many hours of training. Unfortunately, as we all know, that simply isn’t the case and all you have to do is pick up a newspaper to read about underprepared folks who made some really poor choices that involved a concealed firearm. We can’t control the idiots out there, but we can go a long way to helping friends and relatives that need sensible, caring guidance when they become a potential danger to themselves and others. The hope that “self-policing” will solve the problem is probably pie-in-the-sky thinking. How easily would



you give up the privilege of carrying a firearm? After all, as we age, we become more of an easy target for those that might harm us and our loved ones. But if we are unable to rationally react and/or physically handle a firearm during the most stressful time you can imagine, it's better to keep the gun as a defensive deterrent in the house and not on the streets. Don't endanger those around you. The nightmare scenario of twenty guns being drawn by unqualified Walmart shoppers because a clerk dropped a box of pots that made a "bang" is scary stuff.

The good news is that if you haunt the area gun ranges, you'll witness the Villages Straight Shooters that are in attendance usually doing exactly the right things. They exhibit the best range behavior of all the visiting public and I'm almost always proud of their good judgement. The problem is that it's a mighty small

percentage of our vast membership that I see at our shooting events. We know almost all of them by sight and it's



Unfortunately unusual to see new faces. Take advantage of the numerous club offerings. If you regularly come out and train with us at one of the club sessions, or simply enjoy yourself improving your marksmanship, it will keep your head in the game and help guarantee that – if they so desire and are qualified - older shooters are the folks that SHOULD be carrying. Certainly, if you know of someone close to you that you feel should not be packing in public, summon up the courage to have that discussion. You just might be saving someone's life!



“A free people ought not only be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them. Which would include their own government.” - George Washington



“Our nation was built and civilized by men and women who used guns in self-defense and in pursuit of peace. One wonders indeed, if the rising crime rate, isn't due as much as anything to the criminal's instinctive knowledge that the average victim no longer has means of self-protection.” - Ronald Reagan



The Reticle[®]

A monthly publication of The Villages Straight Shooters, LLC

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Layout & Design, Mike Plocharczyk

Electronic (PDF) copies of The Reticle available at:

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