



The Reticle



Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship

January, 2017

Self-Defense Ammo

The presentation at the last member meeting on self-defense ammo started off as a short subject to be added as a filler when needed. However, after doing a little research on the topic, it became evident, in short order, that there was a lot more meat on this topic than was initially thought and it should not be short changed.

If you have a firearm either for home defense or concealed carry, your primary objective, should you ever have to protect your life, is to stop the threat as quickly as possible. There are two elements involved:

- 1) Bullet Placement
- 2) Bullet Performance

We'll not discuss item 1 here but suffice it to say, "Center Mass" is the target. The primary factor in bullet performance or stopping power, in other words, is the amount of kinetic energy you can deliver to the target. While there have been numerous theoretical attempts to assess stopping power over the last 150 years, the one in current favor is the FBI model.



By combining the FBI gel tests and extensive studies of actual shootings by police, armed criminals and civilians, we can get a pretty good picture of what kind of ammo with what characteristics would be preferred for use.

The magic number seems to be around 400 foot pounds of energy. Stopping power is much greater over 400 and drops off rapidly under 400, usually requiring multiple shots to neutralize the target. The kinetic energy is mostly a function of the ammo, not the gun.

Kinetic Energy (E_k) can be calculated by knowing the weight of the bullet, in grains, and the muzzle velocity in feet per second. Both are available from published manufacturers specifications and even printed on the ammo box. The formula is:

$$E_k = (W_{gr} \times V^2) / 450,435$$

As can be seen from the formula, velocity has the greatest impact on kinetic energy (i.e., stopping power) since velocity is related by the square.

The two factors affecting velocity are the cartridge, of course, and the barrel length of the gun used. For longer barrels, the propellant has longer time to act on the bullet, increasing the velocity. Actually, a 1" longer barrel increases bullet velocity by about 5% or roughly from 40-60 ft lbs.

Once you have maximized the kinetic energy available by the combination of your gun and the ammo selected, you want to be sure that the ammo does its job in delivering all of the energy to the target.

Standard Full Metal Jacket (FMJ) range ammo, though inexpensive, is not good for self-defense since it tends to over-penetrate the target and not deliver the full amount of kinetic energy to the target.

The best self-defense ammo is the Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) since it expands once it hits the target and delivers its full energy. To work as designed it should expand to at least 1.5 times its original diameter and penetrate at least from 12" to 18" in a 10% gel block (FBI Req'mnts).



To net out the research, the **best results per caliber** are roughly:

- .380 = 200 ft lbs
- 9mm = 300 ft lbs
- 9mm +P = 400 ft lbs

With few exceptions, the .380 JHPs do not work. You might as well save your money and buy FMJs. They either do not penetrate, do not open, overpenetrate because they don't open, or all the above! We only found a couple of brands worth buying.

There are more 9mm options that operate properly but only half a dozen of those still only produce around 300 ft lbs max.

The best 9mm +P rounds generally work properly and are close to the 400 ft lbs objective. However, your gun must be rated for +P loads.

It is also very curious to note that both on FBI gel tests as well as examination of "street" results, there is negligible difference in stopping power between calibers from 9mm up to 45 ACP and everything in between! See the presentation slides [HERE](#) on the comparisons.

After sorting through the massive amounts of data and factoring in some newly announced options the best we could find were:

.380 Caliber

- Hornady FTX Critical Defense 90gr
- Winchester PDX-1 Defender 95gr

9mm Standard

- SigSauer V-Crown 124gr
- Magtech First Defense 92.6gr
- Speer Gold Dot 124gr

9mm +P

- Magtech First Defense 92.6gr
- Speer Gold Dot 124gr
- Corbon DPX 115gr





Villages Straight Shooters

One last word, there are a number of ammo releases claiming to be .380 +P. There is no SAAMI standard published for such ammo and we cannot recommend the use of it.

While the above results consider current available options, the ammunition market, like most others, is seeing a continuing advancement of the technology. Better options with greater stopping power could be available tomorrow, next week, etc...



MEET THE INSTRUCTORS By Stephen Mosel

The Buck Stops Here - If you've ever attended a general meeting of The Villages Straight Shooters, you'll have noticed several things: The meetings always start on time – They're very organized – The audio/video presentations are terrific – The content of the evening is stock-full of useful, current and important information.

Although bolstered by a sizable cadre of volunteers, the preparation and research for all this has taken one man over two weeks, averaging six to eight hours a day. That's just for the meeting. Each and every day of the rest of the month, the grueling schedule is the same. The dedicated dude behind all this is **Terry Marksberry**, President of and leader-by-example of the fastest growing club in The Villages.



Terry became interested in shooting rather late in life. At age 42, he and his family suffered a home invasion one night. The bad guy was sent running by a small but feisty pooch who bit him on the ankle. (No heroic dog story here - he bit everyone in the family on the ankle at one time or another!) But Terry realized that had the perp made it past their canine protector, he had no way to protect his family. The next day, he bought a 38 special S&W revolver with a four-inch barrel and his interest in guns was launched.

Joining the Naval Reserves as a Junior in high school, Terry left for basic training the day after graduation and went on active service at age eighteen. Stationed in London, he spent six years in aviation electronics, maintaining transport planes for the Admiral's Staff, as well as time as a radio operator on the flight crew of a DC-3 or "Gooney Bird".



Upon discharge in 1963, Terry attended The Ohio State University. His technical expertise kept him afloat financially, taking on as many as three jobs at once including: working on Saturn rocket research, being a lab technician and that heavily technical job of being a waiter. A ruptured appendix and mounting medical bills stopped his educational ambitions temporarily and he landed a job with IBM as a Customer Engineer (repairing computers). For sixteen years, he had sixteen promotions and moved sixteen times and still had time to finish his degree at OSU. The IBM experience was followed by several technology-related positions with a Data Services Company in Dallas, Pillsbury in Minneapolis, a publishing company in Iowa, as well as joining his brother, Roger at Postmark, Inc. in Houston, a direct marketing company.

During all this moving about, he was ably supported by his wife, Pat, whom he had married in 1968, unable to withstand the charms of a United Airlines stewardess.



They finally settled down in The Villages in 2007.

Terry eventually joined 10 or 15 like-minded guys who were establishing a club to shoot handguns. After about a year, he became the Club's second president and, much to our delight, has remained so ever since. Needing volunteers that would actually stick around, Terry developed a program in which the volunteers knew what their jobs would be before joining the group. That, and other more formal programs worked well and the word started to spread – and spread – and spread. To date, we have more than 2,200 members with no end in sight!

Terry is an NRA certified instructor able to teach all of their various courses and is also a Chief Range Safety Officer.

Although he will always enjoy the presentations and research needed to keep the general meetings humming along, Terry realizes the need for future help and succession planning. As is the case with several hard-working members of the club, we don't want to burn out these dedicated people. There might be a cap on future membership at some point in time, but right now, as long as we can meet the needs of our membership, Terry is right there with a talented team of volunteers to help handle our continuing growth.

The next time you see him, give him a sincere "thank you" for all that he has done and will continue to do.





Villages Straight Shooters

Range News – Correction



In the December 2016 newsletter, we reported that a new indoor range was being built in the Trailwinds development on 466a based on a report from the Villages-News.com website.

In an attempt to gain more information, we were able to contact the Trailwinds developer directly. Unfortunately, although he had made provisions in the development for a range, he has not been able to find anyone to sign on to the project to develop a range.

The Shooters World and Basics ranges are still under development and progressing. We will keep you posted on any new news..



Concealed Carry Permits

In Florida, a concealed carry permit is actually called a Concealed Weapons and Firearm License (CWFL). Obviously the "FL" in CWFL does not stand for Florida, contrary to popular belief!

Florida will issue CWFLs to both residents and non-residents. To apply for a CWFL, you'll need the completion certificate from a pistol safety class or your DD214 if you are a Vet. With your certificate in hand, go to either the Sumter County Tax Office on Powell road near the Pinellas Library or the McPherson Government Complex at 503 SE 25th Ave, Ocala, FL.



You will need an appointment at the Sumter office but at the Marion county office, in Ocala, you can just walk in.

At either office, they will complete your application online, take your picture and scan your fingerprints. Bring your check-book or credit card to pay the fees. Your card will be mailed to you in a week or two.

Florida permits are valid for 7 years. The Agriculture department will send you a renewal notice about 120 days prior to expiration. You may renew at the same offices. Note: You do NOT have to apply in the same county of your residence since it is a state license.



For new Villages residents, if you have a permit from another state, you may not convert it to a Florida license. You must apply as described above. Also, even though there may be reciprocity agreements with your former state and Florida, once you establish permanent residence, Florida will only recognize your other state permit for 90 days.



"The great body of our citizens shoot less as times goes on. We should encourage rifle practice among schoolboys, and indeed among all classes, as well as in the military services by every means in our power. Thus, and not otherwise, may we be able to assist in preserving peace in the world... The first step – in the direction of preparation to avert war if possible, and to be fit for war if it should come – is to teach men to shoot!"

– President Theodore Roosevelt



Also, be aware that many states do not recognize the "weapons" portion of your Florida license which allows you to carry a variety of other self-defense items in addition to a firearm. Additionally, many states will not recognize your Florida license if you are not a Florida resident.

For current reciprocity arrangements between Florida and other states go [HERE](#). Check frequently since the agreements change often.

Let's root for a national concealed carry law and the Florida open carry bill now making its way through the Florida legislature.

"If the constitutional right to keep and bear arms is to mean anything, it must, as a general matter, permit a person to possess, carry and sometimes conceal arms to maintain the security of his private residence or privately operated business."

- David Prosser
(Wisconsin Supreme Court justice)





The Reticle

Villages Straight Shooters

January, 2017

Join the NRA

Although the "heat" may be diminished on your 2nd Amendment rights for the next 4 years, the anti-gun lobby does not plan to cry uncle for the foreseeable future.

Bloomberg's "Everytown" still keeps cranking out bogus statistics and numerous left-wing politicians keep up their arm waving campaign at every opportunity.

Through it all, the National Rifle Association (NRA) and their Institute for Legislative Action (ILA) continue to fight for us at both the federal and state level. The ongoing fight costs money.



While our Club is affiliated with the NRA, we only require that Club Officers be members of the NRA. Members are encouraged to join and, in fact, if you go [HERE](#), you will get a discount on both joining and renewing your NRA membership. There is also a link on our website home page down on the right column.

Just because the election may have given us a little breathing room, we only won a battle not the war. Please support the NRA with your membership.

Upcoming Club Activities

Excursions

ReLoad Gun Range Shoot – Wed. Jan. 25

National Naval Aviation Museum – Feb 8 & 9 overnight excursion.



Winchester / NRA Achievements



Attained **Expert** or January: Frank Berlinski, Pete Horstmann, Edward Lawson, Barbara Dunn, Larry Smith, Tony Farina, Stephen Wheeler

Attained **Distinguished Expert** for December: Anthony Palazzo, Richard Reynolds, Ray Yearsley, Edward Lawson, Thomas O'Neill, Tony Farina, George Ruitter, Larry Smith



Attained **Distinguished Expert Defensive Pistol I** for December: Tom Lane, Rolf Moulton, Mike Plocharczyk, Al Winchell

A Hearty Congratulations to All!!

The Raffle Winners!

At the Eisenhower and Savannah Club Meetings on Monday Nov 28th and Monday, Dec 12th the Club raffled off a Browning 1911 380 Semi-Auto pistol.



Tish Benasutti Gene Caruana
Congratulations to Gene and Tish!



Shooting Events

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays, January 17th, 24th and Feb 7th and 14th Winchester Pistol Qualification shoots at the Gun Range on SR44 in Leesburg. Two sessions, 8-9am & 9-10am. Floyd Dunstan is the Shoot Manager. Cost \$8.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Fridays, January 13th and 20th Feb 3rd Open Handgun shoots at the Gun Range on SR44 in Leesburg starts at 8-9am and 9-10am. Cost \$8. **The 3rd Friday 8am slot is for beginner shooters.**

4th Thursday, January 26th at Ocala Sportsmans Assoc. Handgun and Rifle session are available, Shooter of the Month determined in shoot off. 1st session at 8:45am and the 2nd at 11am. Cost \$10. **Please note the date change.**

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.

Club Membership and Reservations Required for all Shooting Events

Next Member Meetings

Seminar - 3rd Wednesday, Jan 18th at the Sea Breeze Recreation Center from 2-3 pm. Topic will be Shooting Fundamentals I.

Monday Jan 23rd Club Meeting at the Eisenhower Rec Center - 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm.

Monday Feb 6th Club Meeting at the Savannah Center – 6:45pm – 8:15pm. Doors open at 6:00pm.

The Gun Raffle for each meeting will feature a Kimber Micro Raptor 9 mm subcompact pistol.

