



# The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



## Next Member Meeting

Reservations & Masks Required see the VSS Website for details

1. You can save money
2. You can order exactly what you want
3. You can repair it yourself
4. You can add features and accessories yourself
5. You'll know better how to clean and care for it.

**Savannah – Tuesday,  
January 19th– 6:45 to  
8:15 pm**

**Donor Award:  
S&W M&P 9EZ 9mm  
Compact**

**Topic: Concealed Carry Insurance**



An AR starts with the lower receiver. The lower receiver is the only serialized part on the AR and must be purchased from an FFL. Other components may be shipped directly to your home.



**Eisenhower –  
Monday, January  
25<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 8:00 pm**

**Donor Award:  
Springfield Hellcat**

**Topic: Concealed Carry Insurance**



Since virtually all of the lowers are made to “Mil Spec,” they are identical. You can get a nice Anderson stripped lower for \$99 or so currently. Anderson lowers are made from 7075 T6 aluminum and are pretty much the standard. You can spend over \$250 on a lower, but other than a logo, it will be the same as an Anderson with only minor changes.

---

## Build Your Own AR-15

---

by Terry Marksberry

Today's anti-AR political environment is about to get worse and the severe shortage of all things gun related, looks about the same. Surprisingly, AR parts and build kits are still available. Perhaps not for long!

There are several advantages in building your own AR-15, and it only takes about 45 minutes (with a few special tools).

You can also get an 80% completed lower with no serial number shipped directly to you. No FFL. You have to mill out the trigger compartment and drill a few holes to complete the lower. The Club has purchased the jigs and tools to finish the lower. 80% lowers will be covered in a future article.

Once you have the stripped lower, you'll need to get a complete lower build kit. The lower kits run from \$120 to over \$300. Again, all of the components are Mil Spec. The main difference may be the trigger quality and butt stock, but mostly you're paying for a logo and brand name.

For starters, try: Palmetto State Armory, Right to Bear, Bear Creek, Cheaper than Dirt for lower parts kits.



Last component is the complete upper which contains the upper receiver and the barrel. Barrel selection is especially important. You must choose:

- Barrel length (16", 18", 20", 20"+)
- Barrel material (Stainless Steel, Nitride)
- Chamber (.223, 5.56mm, Wylde)
- Twist Rate (1:7, 1:8, 1:9)
- Fore grip (Picatinney, Keymod, M-Loc)

Although there are other choices, the above selections are the most often chosen. My personal choice is the 16", Stainless, Wylde, 1:8, M-Loc.



You may like something different. Do your homework to understand the differences or attend the Club's AR-15 Orientation class. Also, be certain that the upper unit you purchase contains the Bolt Carrier Group unless you wish to purchase the BCG separately.



Caution, do not get the "classic" foregrip shown above or the tall front sight. You cannot attach accessories to the classic foregrip since it is tapered. The tall sight is problematic regarding optics if you wish to add accessories like scopes or red dots.

Once you have all of the components in hand, go to the club web page and set up an appointment for the build. The club has purchased all the tools necessary to complete a professional build with no oops or worse. Cost for the assistance is \$25 and usually takes about 45 minutes. So far, 32 VSS members have built their own custom ARs.

One final suggestion: Before you build your AR-15, go to the club's AR-15 Orientation class. The class has been enhanced to a 4-hour class with many new topics covered regarding an AR-15.

Any questions call Terry Marksberry at 352-360-5666.

## AR-15 Orientation Training Class You do NOT need an AR to attend!



Pat's Pawn and Gun – Thursday,  
January 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am to noon, sign up on  
the VSS Website, \$35 charge

---

## Is There a Perfect Holster?

---

by Terry Marksberry

The quick answer is NO! But that does not mean you stop looking.

I have over 30 holsters at last count. I know guys who have more. Are we holster hoarders or just crappy holster buyers?



Actually, none of the above.

The purpose of a holster is to hold your gun in a fixed position so that, when you instinctively draw the gun in a crisis, the grip is always in exactly the same position time after time.

Selecting the best holster depends on your gun, of course, and your wardrobe. Since you may not always carry the same gun or wear the same clothes, there will be a "best" holster for a given set of criteria.



The holster must be a considered balance between the following criteria:

- Concealment
- Access
- Retention
- Comfort

***Criminals Obey Gun  
Laws Like Politicians  
Follow Their Oath of  
Office***



First, the holster must conceal the firearm. Note that the law requires that the gun be concealed not necessarily the holster. The “Sneaky Pete” holster is an example where the holster is in plain sight with the gun inside.

There is a trade-off between concealment and access. The more concealed the gun is, the harder it may be to quickly access it in a threatening situation. Also, remember the Tuellar Drill. An individual can be 21 feet away from you with a knife, club, etc, and get to you within 1.5 seconds. That does not give you much time to draw your gun and bring it on target.

Another important factor is the ability of the holster to safely retain the firearm during the normal course of daily activities.

It is very embarrassing to bend over to retrieve something on a low shelf at the grocery store and have your gun fall out and skid across the floor! Along with screams and ladies rushing children to the door, you will likely get to meet some of your counties finest police officers.

Retention comes in 3 flavors. Level I is just friction. The holster is form fitting and snugly holds the gun with friction. You should be able to hold the holster upside down and the gun will not fall out.

Level II retention involves a hammer strap or other mechanism that must be disengaged before the gun can be drawn from the holster. This is recommended for most non-professional individuals.



Level III is more complex to ensure that the gun can only be drawn by the wearer.

The last criteria is comfort. If the holster is not comfortable, over time, you will stop wearing it. A holster must secure the gun in a manner that you hardly know it's there.

In Florida, a t-shirt and shorts are typical attire. Therefore, a shoulder or ankle holster is probably not ideal. Gee, ya think?



The next options are on-body and off-body means of carry. On-body choices include inside-the-waistband, outside-the-waistband, and pocket holsters.

Off-body options include purses, fanny packs and sling bags.

Examine the options and make your decision. It will be wrong the first time for sure. Try, Try again!



## **The Right Holster Seminar** **Eisenhower – Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>** **2:00pm to 3:30pm, sign up on the VSS website**



### **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)



## **What's your Plan?**

On Tuesdays and every other Friday, I spend my mornings happily laboring away walking the lines of our club Instructional Shoots at Shooters World. One of the things that I turn my attention to, especially with the newer shooters, is to try and figure out where their



heads are, gun-wise. In questioning them – which is often a challenge with masks and earphones in place – the answers I get back can be jarring, if not mildly terrifying! Now keep in mind that they might have just purchased their first firearm and are giving it an outing or are renting one in anticipation of a purchase (a very smart move!). I have experienced – I kid you not – new shooters coming in with multiple magazines loaded backwards (blaming it on their spouses, of course). Others have signed up for the shoot so that they can fire their new purchase “at least once” and then intend to put it in their nightstand, confident that they now have adequate protection for their home and loved ones. The terrifying part comes when I hear that they’ve obtained a Concealed Carry License (easy to get because they were in the military 50 years ago) and plan to start carrying immediately. Oh, and did I mention that the same person needed help figuring out how to load their gun and asked what all the levers and buttons were for?!



Look, I’m very happy that they decided to attend a shoot to acquaint themselves with a particular firearm. But without a plan for continuing their shooting education, they are putting themselves and others in what could prove to be really dangerous territory. In both cases, improving your marksmanship and learning how to run your gun is a good start. Various programs that the Club offers are a good opportunity for that. The NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program is one (formerly called the “Winchester Program” – The Bullseye League is another and, of course, the above-mentioned Club Instructional Shoots are excellent opportunities to shoot under the watchful but friendly guidance of a seasoned instructor. Learning more about the



advanced use of your firearm can be found at the Steel Challenge held at our Emeralda range (always fun) and continuing on after completing the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program with Defensive Pistol 1, 2 and more, are other opportunities.

If you are planning on carrying a firearm, be sure to take some more advanced courses given around our state and possibly take part in the I.D.P.A, (International Defensive Pistol Association) shoots held at the Eustice Gun Club and other locations. They offer an excellent avenue to testing yourself and your decision making while shooting on the move. They’re fun, friendly and all levels of expertise are welcome. They even offer an indoctrination session for the first-timers, which I highly recommend. Becoming comfortable with how to carry and run a concealed gun, what gear to use, knowing Florida law and – importantly – when not to use a firearm, is essential.

If you’re solely interested in home defense, at least attend one of our upcoming seminars on the subject and learn how to make your home a much harder target; how to use lights properly; when it’s not appropriate to go hunting for bad guys, even in your own home; the best choice of weapons for you and your family; the importance of drilling, practice and much more.

If you’re going to do this, do it right! Start making a plan now. It just might save a life someday.



**The Reticle<sup>®</sup>**

A monthly publication of The Villages Straight Shooters, LLC  
[vssnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:vssnewsletter@gmail.com)  
 Layout & Design, Mike Plocharczyk  
 Electronic (PDF) copies of The Reticle available at:  
<http://www.vssclub.org/newsletter.html>