



# The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



## Next Member Meeting



**Everglades Recreation Center: Tuesday June 4<sup>th</sup>, Doors Open 5:30 Meeting 6:30.**

**Eisenhower Recreation**

**Center: Monday June 24<sup>th</sup>, Doors Open 5:30 Meeting 6:30.**

**Member Appreciation Award: S&W M&P 2.0 9mmEZ**



**Meeting Topic: One of Our Best Ever Presentations: Guns and Hurricanes, presented by: John Shewchuck Founder of The Villages Weather Club**

## Gun Storage

Most of us do not have young children living with us that could get into our unsecured guns, but we still need to properly store them. June 1-7 is National Safety Week and here is information on proper gun storage check week.

[Gun Storage Week](#)

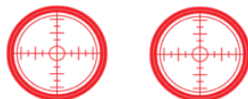


## Uncommon Handgun Chamberings

Here is a list of offbeat ammunition for handgun defense that are lower recoil, greater capacity or offer the option of shotgun ammo.



[Defensive Handgun Chamberings](#)



## Update on the Sumter Sheriff Gun Safety Training

As previously reported, this training will support 20 people per month and will include access to the Sumter County shooting simulator. We will keep you updated with the sign-up process.

## Constitutional Carry Story

Recently the Fifth Judicial Circuit States Attorney, Bill Gladson spoke in The Villages. The Fifth Circuit includes Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties with offices at each county courthouse.



Bill told a story of the shooting at the Paddock Mall on December 23, 2023. He was reviewing surveillance videos on that case. He noticed several citizens with their guns drawn behind cover looking for the shooter. A good example of Constitutional Carry!

## Countering the Mass Shooter

The May VSS meetings had Jerry Hostomsky a USCCA Training Counselor, who gave us a presentation on mass shooters. This was a summary of a part 1 class on what has been learned about mass shooters. It covered the reduced magazine limit, the AR-15, gun free zones and background checks.



The first point was the mass shooting at the Las Vegas music venue is a flyer in its own category, not like any other mass shooting.

75% of mass shooters commit suicide and many are Columbine copycats. Most of the victims were 0 to 12 feet away and most shooting events last only 9 minutes. Since the range is so short, even a .22 caliber handgun can be deadly, a high-power handgun or rifle is not necessarily needed. The Virginia Tech shooter used a .22 handgun.

Data was provided on the firing rate in mass shootings with most of them under 30 rounds per minute, so low-capacity magazine would not slow down the rate of fire. Also, high-capacity magazines do tend to malfunction more than low-capacity magazines. Many of us Air Force veterans remember loading the 20-round standard issue magazines with 18-rounds for that reason.

Most mass shootings are in gun-free zones. Mass shooters look for gun-free zones.

Victim's response is extremely important. Since most shootings are at close range and the shooting time is only 9 minutes a quick victim team effort can be effective. The shooter(s) can be stopped or will move on if you fight back or defend a shooting location.



Fighting back works.

Increasing background checks will not limit mass shootings. 83% of shooters legally purchase their guns, only 8% are stolen and 4% private sale or illegally purchased, so new gun control laws will not be very effective.

**"Foolish liberals who are trying to read the Second Amendment out of the Constitution by claiming it's not an individual right or that it's too much of a safety hazard, don't see the danger of the big picture. They're courting disaster by encouraging others to use this same means to eliminate portions of the Constitution they don't like."**

**- Alan Dershowitz**

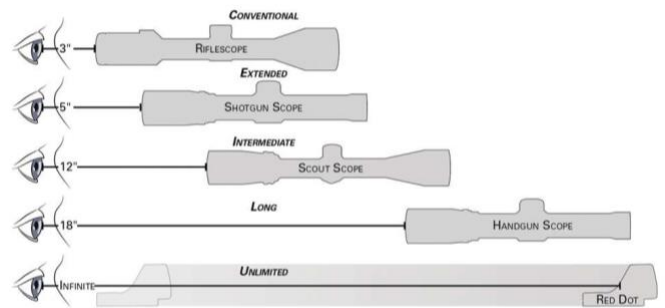


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## Optics Eye Relief

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Did you know that there are various eye relief distances based on different optic usages. The most interesting is the unlimited eye relief for red dots.



Here is an article describing all the options:

[Optics Eye Relief](#)

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## Upgrade Your Iron Sights

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Many of us are always looking at better ways to



improve our firearms. Upgrading the sights is a great way without an upgrade to a more expensive gun.

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## Optimizing Your Home Defense Handgun

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A catch all article on selecting, upgrading and storing your home defense handgun.

[Optimizing Your Home Defense Handgun](#)



## 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)

### “PASSING ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE”

We had a couple of old friends visit with us over the last weekend and an oft-repeated topic came up when they found out I was a firearms instructor. He, who was a decorated combat vet from the Viet Nam era, wanted to get a gun to help protect the home they were buying in Florida. She wanted nothing to do with having a gun in the house but was open to my suggestion that she try one out at a local range to alleviate some of her fears about things that go bang. I knew that many of you would find yourself in a similar situation from time to time and thought it would be a good opportunity to go over the best ways to introduce firearms to a novice shooter. So, here are some general rules on the subject I live by that have served me well over the years.

#### IF POSSIBLE, LET A CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR TEACH YOUR BETTER HALF



Especially for the first few lessons, as any experienced instructor will tell you, we discourage husbands teaching their wives how to shoot, just the way most husbands will relate that teaching their wives how to drive almost ended the marriage before it began!

Instructors have heard it all

before and usually possess an almost inhuman ability to remain patient, even in the most explosive of situations. Husbands – when their wives are involved – do not! Let the pros do what they do. You won't lose your macho credentials and your spouse may

actually enjoy learning how to shoot – the right, and safest way. The misinformation we've heard being imparted by husbands could fill volumes and I don't have the room to reprint it here! But, if you find yourself doing the teaching, take a look at the suggestions below.

#### START THEM OFF WITH A GENTLE CALIBER

As a cocky new instructor, I totally ignored my own advice above and taught my wife how to shoot before she did the right thing and attended a class with the club. For some inexplicable reason, she liked the .357 magnum the best of all the calibers I offered her (she



can be a frightening woman at times!).

For most normal people, a .22 LR (or even a pellet gun) is the far better choice.

The new shooter can

work their way up to handling hard-recoiling guns and a 9mm or .380 might bother them enough to not want to continue after their first session.

#### KEEP THEM CLOSE

Let the new shooter build up a bit of confidence. Nothing will sour the session more quickly than total failure at the initial shooting experience. If they are not a natural when it comes to punching paper, let them start no farther than five (or even three) yards away. The difference between five and seven yards can prove surprisingly dramatic. They'll get there. Don't push too hard or too quickly.

#### DON'T IGNORE THE IRON SIGHTS

Handguns come with an original pair of sights for a reason. Although they're terrific if practiced with, red dots should not be the



only sights a new shooter learns on. Don't ignore teaching the iron sights as well. It may seem a pain to spend all that time learning about sight windows and pictures, but electronics can fail. And, if they are unable to co-witness their sights through the red dot, they may be out of luck if their batteries die and they're unable to use the good old iron sights properly.

## PATIENCE – PATIENCE – PATIENCE

If this is truly their first time, they are, most likely, quite nervous. They are also very concerned that other, experienced shooters next to them are judging everything they do. They are sometimes aware of the penetrating eyes of the Range Safety Officer lurking behind them. Do your best to go over all they're about to experience – including safe gun handling – at home before you venture out to the range. Let them know that slow and steady is far better than trying to speed up the process and look cool. Each step in their set up, stance, grip and aiming technique should be thought about as a separate step before it is carried out. Be extremely patient for the entire session and find positive things to say about their results, even if you think they could have done much better. You can be kind and honest at the same time (good instructors have to be all the time!). Just remember that any instructor worth their salt will be able to explain why they're making any given suggestion.



It's always wonderful to bring new blood into the shooting sports. Just make sure the first experience is one that makes them want to come back for more! See you at the range!

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## 9mm Issues

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Is It the Gun, the Ammo or Me?



Many people, especially the ladies that are unfamiliar with handguns and this article will help you

troubleshoot an issue with your 9mm handgun when a VSS RSO is not available to help.

[Is It The Gun?](#)



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## Colt Python 5"

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Now this is a beautiful handgun and an instant classic.

Colt re-introduced the newest series of Pythons in 2020 and has been introducing various barrel lengths and the latest is the 5" version, which is not too long or too short. You get the accuracy of the 6" with a shorter barrel that is easier to handle.

[Colt Python 5" the Perfect Barrel Length?](#)



### The Reticle<sup>©</sup>

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