



# The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



## Member Meetings



Eisenhower – Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> - 6:30 to 8:00 pm.  
Doors open at 5:30pm.

Savannah – Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> - 6:45 to 8:15 pm.  
Doors open at 6 pm.

**April Donor Award:**  
Smith & Wesson EZ 9mm,  
features a 3.675” barrel and  
two 8-round magazines.  
Easy to rack with a nice  
smooth trigger.



**May Meeting Topic: Battle Rifles of WWII  
by Don Frazer**

## Sumter County K9 Visit

At the VSS April meetings the Sumter County Sheriff K-9 Unit gave outstanding presentations on everything we need to know about their four-legged K9 officers and handlers.

Deputy Blankenship was the main speaker with the help of Deputy Lamb and Deputy Siglin and his bloodhound: Russo.

All Sumter County dual-purpose service K9’s are bred in Europe, the European breed K9’s are a better blood line for dual purpose K9’s. County bloodhounds are US breed and are single use tracking dogs.



The bloodhounds can be used to track elderly residents that are lost. The Sheriffs provide a “scent” kit that will collect a person’s scent on a pad stored in a plastic bag that will keep for 10-years. The pad can be used to give the bloodhound the scent to track. These K9s can track up to 10 miles, dual purpose K9’s are good for about one mile.



Deputy Siglin and his bloodhound Russo are pictured.

Dual purpose K9’s are very highly trained attack dogs and there are concerns having them in a room full of innocent citizens, so we did not get to meet Deputy Blankenship’s partner Mando. Mando is a Malinois Shepherd mix, born 8/9/2019 in Budapest, Hungary and is trained in the Hungarian language. It is easier to train the handler to speak the K9’s native language than to retrain the K9 to understand English. Also, the K9 is trained to understand the “tone” of the command and respond differently based on tone. The bond between the K9 and handler is critical in forming a strong partnership.

All K9 Deputy patrol cars are specially equipped for the safety and well-being of the K9 and Deputy. The dual purpose K9 Deputy carries on his person a remote control that will automatically open the right rear door of the patrol car on command during an emergency. When that right-hand door opens the K9 immediately runs to the officer to assist him. The dual purpose K9 is routinely put into the patrol car on the left rear door, making the opening of the right-side rear door a special non-verbal command.

These K9’s really love their job and look forward to exercising their training.

## Meet The Members

### A once-in-a-while column by “Reticle” staff writer, Steve Mosel

I like entrepreneurs. I like the “follow-your-dreams” kind of attitude and their willingness to make leaps of faith. Although I don’t personally know too many, I



met one the other day. His name is Adam Lawrence and he’s a brand-new member of our club. Why does a new member deserve to have an article written about them?

It’s because the dream that Adam is following is the business of manufacturing ammunition and his shop is within a half hour of The Villages!

This affable go-getter abandoned the stress and politics of a high-profile corporate job to open the doors of Lawrence Ammunition in Bushnell, Florida this past February. When Chuck, our esteemed president, informed me about all this, I gathered up Floyd Dunstan and Charley Beck Tuesday, the 10th of May, because it was definitely time for a road trip to the wilds of Bushnell, just off of Highway 301 South.

To say we were favorably impressed with the operation is putting it mildly. Although small-ish (Lawrence Ammunition produces about 40,000 rounds of ammo per day), I’ve been in dirtier hospital operating rooms and NASA Command Center has nothing on the organization of this place! It is an understatement to say that Adam – working fourteen-



hour days, seven days a week - runs a neat shop. Since this was the first time Floyd, Charley or myself had visited a commercial ammunition facility, our questions were numerous. Adam,

loving to talk about all thing’s firearms, willingly answered them all and dazzled us with some of his expensive toys.

Here are some of the pertinent things we learned: Lawrence Ammunition sells their products to the general public on the Internet as well as to private contractors. As of this writing, they manufacture .380 ACP, 9mm, .223 Remington, 5.56 x 45mm, .300 ACC Blackout and .308 Winchester. The .380 ACP and 9mm are ball ammo, but plans to offer hollow point in those calibers are afoot. In the very immediate future, .45 caliber will be joining the family.

Now here’s a really cool perk to being a Villages Straight Shooter member: When you go on their website to order: [www.lawrence-ammunition.com](http://www.lawrence-ammunition.com) there is a box you can select at checkout for Local Delivery. Make sure that you register on the website and include your telephone number. Adam pledged that VSS members will receive 10% off in perpetuity by using the coupon code VSS22 (click on “Apply Coupon” at checkout) and he will personally deliver your order to your door (as long as he knows you’re at home to receive it), FOR FREE! That is really something!

We had to ask him his opinion of the ammo shortage. He unfortunately feels that because of the Ukraine War, things are going to get worse before they get better.

Not a great forecast, but at least this wonderful source is opening up right here at home! We left the facility having



been very impressed with Mr. Lawrence. His careful purchase of Florida-made products, special equipment to help guarantee high quality and accuracy as well as his dogged determination to become a local household name, made us very happy to have him in our club.

A brand-new order of ammo in hand, Charley has already done a side-by-side comparison of some well known and accurate ammo to the Lawrence Ammunition in his trusty M-1 (chambered in .308), and, judging by the targets he brought back, it did very well indeed. Personally, I’m going to order a batch of 9mm and can’t wait to get to the Range. Having Lawrence Ammunition in our own back

yard feels as if we have an “in” with the ammunition industry at a time when any advantage is a Godsend. All the luck in the world Mr. Lawrence! And, welcome to the Villages Straight Shooters!

## 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)

---

### “SUPERSTARS!”

---

On March 16<sup>th</sup>, we presented a seminar about red dots and lasers entitled, “A Conversation with Floyd and Steve”. It progressed normally, with the subject of the day being absorbed by the attendees. And then, as is inevitable with our club, the question-and-answer portion turned into the promised “conversation”. The back and forth with the membership is always welcome and it seems as if I inevitably return home having learned something I didn’t know before. So, even if we tend to wander off-subject a bit (OK – a lot!), these talks can be fun and educational. But, aside from the great knowledge we find in our membership, I’m regularly impressed by those with whom I’m teaching or lecturing. When you think about it, we have a remarkable cadre of instructors and teachers in our club and only a pitifully small percentage of our membership take advantage of this wealth of knowledge. Just listening to the additional



comments thrown into the seminar mix by our guy and gal instructors in attendance is not only helpful (as the Seminar leaders are human and may forget an important tidbit or two) but often inventive and surprising.

These hard-working folks spend an inordinate amount of their time helping our members at the

various ranges we occupy during almost each and every weekday of the year. Their labors include everything from the running of the event to spending a full hour - one-on-one if needed – instructing a newer shooter in the proper use of firearms. And always, of course, safety is the number one consideration, and that’s where the R.S.O.’s (Range Safety Officers) contribute their essential services. And we can’t forget all the behind-the-scenes computer/meetings/seminars/membership/board members, etc. support staff. Without them, the club would not run, period!

I’m saddened when I go to an instructional shoot on alternate Wednesdays and only a few, experienced shooters show up. I’m always happy to see old friends, but we’re absolutely giddy when new shooters have signed up, taking advantage of the qualified instructors on hand. They’re able to receive as much instruction as they wish and tailor the hour to their specific needs. And all that at no cost to the shooter other than the Shooters World fees. What a deal so many of our members are passing up! So spread the word and let’s get folks signed up!!!

The point of all this scribbling is that you’ve got a dedicated and experienced bunch of ladies and gentlemen ready, willing and extremely able to guide you through all



your shooting needs. I hope you’re as impressed as I am with them. When you run into one – say thanks. It means a lot!

### The Reticle<sup>©</sup>

A monthly publication of The Villages Straight Shooters, LLC

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

Editor, Layout & Design, Mike Plocharczyk

Electronic (PDF) copies of The Reticle available at:

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