



# The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



## Next Member Meeting



**Savannah** –  
Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> -  
6:45 to 8:15 pm.  
Doors open at 6 pm.  
**Eisenhower** –  
Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> -

6:30 to 8:00 pm. Doors open at  
5:30 pm.

**Member Appreciation Award:**  
Glock 43, 9 mm, 3.41” barrel, 6  
round magazines, 18oz.



**May Topic:** Non-traditional Law Enforcement  
(What can the Sumter County Sheriff's Department  
do for you today?) by Undersheriff Patrick "Pat"  
Breedon and Captain Bob Siemer of the Sumter  
County Sheriff's Department

## CMP Surplus Ammo

As recently announced, the Civilian Marksmanship  
Program has acquired a supply of  
surplus ammunition. Starting on  
April 11, 2023, qualified  
individuals will be able to purchase  
surplus .30-06, 400 round cans; .30  
Carbine in 240 round boxes; and .22  
in a 500-round brick. Those wishing to purchase  
can use the CMP Universal Order Form on the  
CMP website at [CMP Surplus Ammo](#) to place their  
order. Customers must have a current CMP  
affiliated club membership and proof of citizenship.



VSS is an affiliated club for CMP purchases, plus  
veterans also qualify.



## Are You Ready for a Red Dot Sight?

Should you purchase a red  
dot sight for a MOS  
(Modular Optics System)  
ready handgun? Red dot  
sights are ubiquitous now,  
but they raise a lot of  
questions, too. Here are 5  
things to ask yourself prior  
to purchasing a red dot ready  
gun and the red dot: [Red Dot  
Sights](#)



## AR-15 Buffer Tune-up

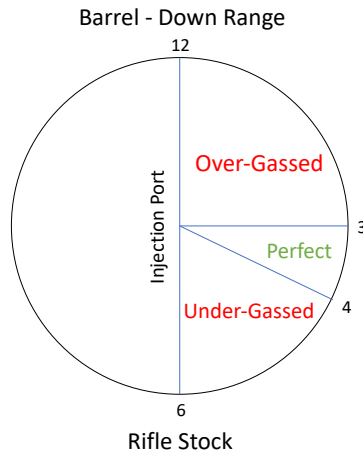
Many of us have taken advantage of the VSS AR-15  
lower build project and most likely used a standard  
5.56 mm carbine length gas system and carbine  
length buffer tube buffer and spring, which works in  
most applications. What if you have a different gas  
system like a mid, rifle, or pistol length gas system?  
Or a M-16 style rifle buffer tube and stock? Or are  
you using an upper for a heavier caliber like 300  
Blackout, 6.5 mm or a 450 Bushmaster or one of the  
other possible AR-15 lower caliber options? Is the 3  
oz carbine buffer and spring ok with these gas  
systems and calibers?

The AR-15 lower can accommodate a carbine buffer  
tube and collapsible stock like a military M4 or a rifle  
buffer tube like a M-16 style stock. The buffer and  
springs are different for these buffers with the rifle  
buffer tube and the buffer both are much longer.

An over-gassed rifle will increase the felt recoil since  
the bolt carrier group (BCG) and buffer are slamming  
into the buffer tube and may cause damage to the  
buffer and buffer tube over time. Under-gassed  
system will not have reliable ejection of the spent  
shell during cycling.

There is a simple test that you can use to show if your AR-15 is “over-gassed” or “under-gassed”. All you must do is to watch the shell ejection of your AR-15 while cycling. Over-gassed requires a heavier buffer or reduce your gas block flow if it’s adjustable. Most of us would adjust the buffer weight to fine tune the lower to the upper.

This picture shows the pattern based on the clock method, with 3 to 4 o’clock being the optimal ejection, 12 to 2 o’clock over-gassed and 4 to 6 ‘o’clock under-gassed.



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## Buffalo Bill Museum

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If your travels have you somewhere close to Cody, Wyoming, check out the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. Just be sure to allow at least a day to see all the guns and other items on display at this museum, it’s worth a look.



Here is a link to the NRA article about the museum:

[Guns in the Buffalo Bill Museum](#)

**"A woman who demands further gun control legislation is like a chicken who roots for Colonel Sanders." - Larry Elder**

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## 6 Great Revolver Cartridges

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It has been interesting to review the different handgun center fire cartridges used in revolvers. The surprise is how powerful the 357/44 Magnum cartridges compare to the 38/44 Special. It is a big advantage to purchase a .357 or .44 magnum revolver for the extra power and still have the ability to shoot .38/.44 special rounds for training.

Check it out: [Revolver Cartridges](#)

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## 9 mm or .38 Special Revolvers

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The cost of 9 mm ammo has come down lately and more and more gun manufactures are building



revolvers for the 9 mm ammo. It’s interesting that the smaller 9 mm shell has slightly better ballistic characteristics than the older .38 special cartridge.

Here is an article about both of these cartridges in the small snub nose revolvers : [Snub Nose Revolvers](#)

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## New Henry Revolvers

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Henry Repeating Arms is branching out into the revolver market with their new .38 special / .357 magnum



revolvers. Great looking sidearms with a lower brass frame and nice wood grips, available in two different grip styles. Check them out: [Henry Big Boy Revolvers](#)

**"There are no dangerous weapons. There are only dangerous men." - Robert A. Heinlein**



## 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)

### THE SCATTERGUN OPTION

The other night, I was doing my thing at a General Meeting of the Club, lauding the attractive features of the Springfield Armory Hellcat we were offering as the "Donor Appreciation Award" for the evening. One of our newer members asked me some questions about a shotgun he wanted to buy for home defense. After answering his questions, I got to thinking that there might be a number of members not properly acquainted with that great defensive tool. So here goes, a short summary of the pros and cons of the good old scattergun:

Firstly, one of the main attributes is that the ammunition – in shot form, not slugs – will not generally penetrate nearly as far as will a rifle or handgun bullet. That should make your neighbors smile, assuming the impossible: you miss your intended shot at a bad guy and having the round sail through some dry wall, siding and land somewhere uncomfortably close to their favorite uncle visiting from Altoona. And, while we're on the subject of ammo, more and more manufacturers are making terrific defensive loads, some of which are frangible, which helps in further mitigating penetration. In addition, "shortie" shells are being manufactured that will increase the capacity of your ammo, while bringing the added benefit of less recoil. The problem with these shells is that not all shotguns are set up for them and, unless they are, the chances of malfunctions increase dramatically. The good news is that companies like Mossberg and their "S" series 500



models, will easily handle the "shorties", if that option is attractive to you.

Speaking of recoil: Shotguns, especially in 12 gauge, can give the operator a hefty kick. Less so in automatics than in pump guns, but they still definitely let you know that they've been fired. An inexperienced shooter – or one that hardly ever practices (am I talking to you?) – is going to be afraid of pulling the trigger and will probably miss the target. So, especially if other, less-experienced family members are going to potentially use the gun as a self-defense option, also consider 20 gauge or even less. They are still quite effective and will be easier to handle.

A word about hitting the target. Please don't buy into the notion that it's ever-so-easy to hit anything with a shotgun because of the spread of the shot. In a typical home setting the distances are such that it's unlikely the spread will be greater than a few inches, maybe up to six or so. That's an easily missed shot. If you practice shooting a scattergun from the hip, I'd add a laser to help you find the target. Google "lasers for shotguns" and you'll find a plentiful array of options. If you shoot from a more traditional position, I'd add an aiming device of some sort. Red dots on shotguns, especially tactical, are becoming more and more popular. In addition to the laser or red dot, you'll absolutely need to attach a light to a defensive shotgun. It's your responsibility to know what, or who, you're shooting at and an incident could most certainly happen at night. Since you can't juggle a flashlight and handle the shotgun at the same time, put a light on the gun and learn how to use it!

In a shotgun, you have a terrific defensive tool that can well protect you and your loved ones. With the above- named accessories, we're obviously talking about a defensive or "tactical" shotgun that is set up for these tools. Another benefit of these guns is the shorter length, which makes them easier to maneuver around doorways and such. Although

there's a notion that simply the sound of racking a pump shotgun will cause a bad guy to flee in terror, it's not something I'd want to test out, especially considering someone hopped up on meth or the like. But, if all members of the household will practice and become comfortable with the gun and its accessories, there are a lot of benefits. Do some research, read the reviews and the comments in the chat rooms – speak with some of our instructors and other members and then, come to your own conclusions.

Editor's Note: There is an option available for standard Mossberg 500 series shotguns to adapt them to shorty shells. An adapter "plug" can be installed in the lower receiver to allow the shorty shells to be fed into the chamber. The downside is then you can only use shorty shells in the gun with the plug installed and the plug would have to be removed to feed the 2-3/4 or 3" shells.



Info on this adapter, which only works on the Mossberg 500 series shotguns, including the Maverick 88 shotguns and Shockwave firearms (the Shockwave is not legally considered a shotgun): [OpSol Mini-clip 2.0 Flex](#)

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## More on the 12 Ga Shorty Shells

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There is a new option for the 12 Ga shorty shells that has a new style 00 Buck "split" pellet that breaks in two on impact, with an adequate velocity: [Federal Shorty Shotshells](#)



**“The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.” – Samuel Adams**

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## Carrying Extra Shotgun Ammo

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Most shotguns use a feed tube, which makes carrying extra ammo an issue.

Shotgun shells in the pocket is bulky.

Here are many options to help with carrying extra shotgun shells: [Carrying Shotgun Ammo](#)



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## Gun Cleaning Seminar

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The club held a gun cleaning seminar on Wednesday, April 19, with about 50 people in attendance. By the



end of the seminar, all guns were cleaned and had been reassembled. It was a great way for people to learn more about their gun(s). By the end of the

session, all guns were put back together, including the Ruger Mark IIIs. A fun way to learn more about cleaning your gun, especially the finicky .22's.

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## Storage Solutions for Your Handguns

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Back in the October 2022 edition of The Reticle Steve Mosel wrote an article called **“THE CRINGE FACTOR”** about safe storage of guns in the home. The link below is an article about safe storage of handguns: [Handgun Safe Storage](#)

### The Reticle<sup>®</sup>

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