



The Reticle

Gun Safety, Education, Marksmanship



Newsletter: In Sync with the Website or Different?

If you have not explored the Club web site topic by topic, then you don't know just how much information and resources are offered (and you may be missing out). Seriously, it is amazing what is offered and what you can obtain. However, not everyone has access to the web all the time or when they need some information. Hence, the newsletter is a good summary of what has been going on especially for those who are out of town or seasonal. It lets you know what occurred so you can go to the web site for details, e.g. downloading a presentation or learning session or signing up for an activity. Let us know what you think needs to be included in the newsletter and/or the web site.

Member Meeting Presentation

By Terry Marksberry

Reservations Please!



On any given month, numerous volunteers in the Club get calls and emails from members about how to make reservations for a particular event or, in some cases, how to cancel their confirmed reservations.

So, at the meeting on April 24th, we decided to give a presentation on how to make reservations through the website. Roger Marksberry, our VP, took us through step-by-step on how to make reservations for both the free events and those involving a payment.

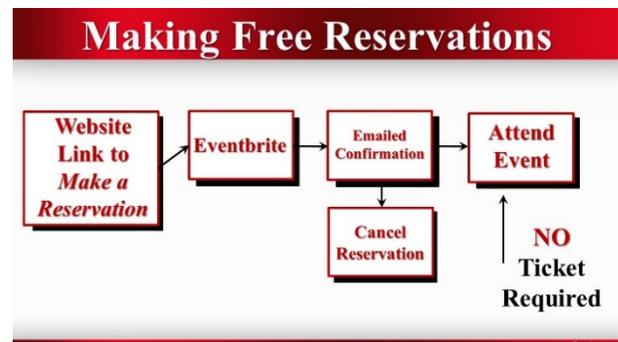
If you wish to review the presentation it is posted on the website [HERE](#).

To begin, go to the website and hover (not click) over the "Events" navigation tab. You will then see the

drop-down menu showing all the possible events available for you to make a reservation.

Click on the event of your choice and you will be sent first, in most cases, to a descriptor page that provides information about the event. Somewhere on that page will be a hot link that you must click on to go to the actual reservation page.

We use a system called "Eventbrite" as our reservation system. Below is the big picture on how the process works.



In many cases you must first select the date for the particular event you want to attend. After completing the reservation request you will receive an email confirming your reservation.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE EMAIL in case you wish to cancel your reservation for some reason. Also, we use the system purely as a reservation system. There is no need to print the ticket since we will have you on the list for the event.

If, when you try to make a reservation, the system indicates that the event is full, PLEASE put yourself on the "Wait List." It is usual that we have cancellations and have to offer the openings to people on the wait list in chronological order. Also, if you place yourself on the wait list, please keep that date and time open. Many times we email or call individuals on the wait list only to find that they have committed to another activity.

Finally, you need to save the confirmation email in case you need to cancel your reservation. There is a link in that email that gives you the option to cancel your reservation. If you cannot find the link, at least please call or email the event coordinator who can handle the cancelation for you.

Order for Monthly Seminars

Free order #614180639 on April 2, 2017
Wednesday, May 17, 2017 from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM (EDT)
The Villages FL

PRINT TICKETS

CANCEL ORDER

CONTACT THE ORGANIZER

VSS Seminar

The organizer has elected to not make a mistake.

Contact Information

If you wish to go through the process in greater detail, please go to the presentation in the website. A hot link is provided above.

By the way, if you do not have a PC, tablet, or smart phone, there are PCs available for Villagers to use at the Savannah center.

See you at the next event!!

Member Meeting Presentation

By Floyd Dunstan

Improve Your Marksmanship - NRA/Winchester Marksmanship Qualification Program

Improved marksmanship does not come with age or through osmosis by associating with good shooters!

Developing good marksmanship is a process involving dedication and hours of practice. The Club's Winchester Pistol Qualification program is an opportunity to develop and refine your stance, grip, and shooting fundamentals including:

- Aiming
- Breath Control
- Trigger Control
- Hold Control

Over time you can also learn how to minimize your arc of movement.

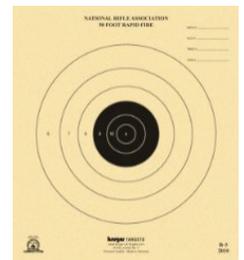
The Winchester program provides six levels of increasing difficulty from Pro Marksman to Distinguished Expert. Most individuals do not have a problem completing the full program. It just takes time and a fair amount of ammo!

Most individuals utilize a .22 target pistol to save on the cost of ammo. The presentation at the last meeting showed five of the most common choices on target pistols. The Ruger Mark IV and the Smith & Wesson Victory pretty much dominate the market in this area.



The targets, either a B2 or an AP-2 are placed at 5 yards (15 feet). The Club provides the targets. All you need to bring are a gun, ammo, and a good attitude. Let the fun begin!

The Club offers eight Winchester shooting opportunities every month. There are two shoots per day, 8-9 am and 9-10 am and are held on the first Friday and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Tuesday. All events are held at the Gun Range on SR44 and are staffed with a shoot manager, range safety officer and an instructor.



Normal Club safety rules apply at all shoots. Eye & ear protection is required. See the VSS Club info card for details. If you do not have a safety card, they are available at every meeting and from your friendly RSO.

Reservations may be made through the website. See the article in this newsletter regarding making reservations. Don't forget the "Wait List" option.

"... if someone has a gun and is trying to kill you it would be reasonable to shoot back with your own gun."
- Dalai Lama

To learn more about this great way to improve your shooting skills, go to the presentation on the website, [HERE](#). Also, you can view or download the official NRA Winchester booklet on the same page.



NRA Dinner

What an event! The Village Straight Shooters were well represented with about a third of the tables. Almost 40 items were auctioned off. Details on the dinner and the NRA Annual Meeting will be discussed and presented next month.

For now, to view photos, click [here](#).

Instructors Corner

C.A.S.A.

By Stephen Mosel



You'd be forgiven if you read the title of this article and decided it was to be about defending your home south of the border. But no! **CASA** is an acronym I'd like you to remember. It stands for: "**CONFLICT AVOIDANCE & SITUATIONAL AWARENESS**". Receiving your concealed carry license in Florida is as easy as completing one of our Basic Pistol Classes or sending in a 50 year-old DD-214 Form from your days in the military. To say the least, it's extremely easy to do and, unfortunately, puts a lot of folks with guns on the street that are not even close to being ready to carry. But this is not about the many opportunities you have as a member of the Villages Straight Shooters to receive proper training or advice on taking more advanced training at outside facilities. Rather, it's all about using the best weapon at your disposal – your brain.

The worst thing that could happen after receiving your carry license is for you to feel "emboldened" by the fact that you're now carrying a lethal weapon. If the potentially catastrophic consequences of being involved in a shooting aren't enough to give you pause, and you feel better equipped than law enforcement to handle bad guys, your lifestyle choices need re-evaluation. Yes, if you find yourself in a situation where

you - or those with you – are in immediate danger of great bodily harm or death, then a properly used firearm may be justified. But don't go looking for trouble. If possible, because you're carrying, make an even greater attempt to avoid the road-rage incidents of the world. Your pride isn't even close to the value of your life!

A focus group of street-thugs was recently gathered and they were shown films of ordinary people walking down the street. They were then asked which ones would be their most likely victims. The answers had little to do with age – apparent physical strength – gender, etc. It mostly had to do with how aware the potential targets were. Was their head buried in a cell phone? Were they preoccupied in conversation? The advantage of surprise gave the bad guys the best chance of success. So give yourself the edge. Give a wider berth to the street corners and alleyways in a dicey neighborhood. Keep a close watch on that van parked next to your car at Walmart. Check out what cover may be available at restaurants or the exits in theaters. What will it be that gives you those few precious seconds of advantage in an active-shooter situation? It doesn't take much effort to keep your head on a swivel and to always know what's going on around you. **CASA!** It could save your life someday.

Meet the Member

By Stephen Mosel

We've met several interesting individual Club members over the last several months, but I thought that since some of our hard-charging volunteers come in pairs, it might be a good idea to interview a couple. Who better to focus on than Lou and Tish Benasutti?!

These two are so friendly and easy going; you'd never guess that in 1990, they met on the job, serving as dreaded IRS Revenue Officers, hunting down those that chose to



keep the money owed to Uncle Sam for themselves. Tish was tenacious in getting her man and was renowned for surprising her targets. But Lou, while admiring her talents, was more attracted to Tish's

sense of humor and married her in 1996. Before becoming an officer for the IRS, Lou had spent 20 years in the bakery business and also a good deal of time as a weapons system designer for Grumman Aerospace, working on the F-14. His interest in weaponry, however, started out more modestly, when, at seventeen, he purchased his first rifle, a Marlin bolt-action 22 (which he still owns and shoots today). Lou also spent time as a hunter, seeking out deer in Missouri, black bear in Manitoba, Canada and Pronghorns in Wyoming.

Tish started shooting around 1980 in upstate New York where she and her ex-husband owned a cabin. She said she became as proficient as a good hunting dog at flushing out small game, which served her well in her future adventures with the IRS! They also had what we can only dream about; a shooting range on the property, where they regularly practiced with their rifles and shotguns.



In 2002, after unloading a recreational boat Lou and Tish had purchased in 1996, the couple started searching for a place to roost in their later years. Noticing a TV ad and figuring it just had to be too good to be true, Tish and Lou, with another couple in tow, spent a week in the Villages’ “Lifestyle Program” and were hooked. They purchased their present home in 2011 and moved here full-time in 2013. Lou was first to join the Straight Shooters and Tish followed soon after, joining in 2014. At the time, the membership numbered between three and four hundred.

Tish became Club Treasurer in 2015 and her duties include balancing the books – identifying Club expenses for tax purposes – monthly financial status reports – presenting to the Board of Directors – preparing paperwork for the audit accountants – writing checks and paying bills. Lou has become the shady guy in the trench coat you’ll find in the parking lot after general meetings, selling Club ammo out of his trunk. Together, they attend numerous Club shoots, seminars and other events at which they are always ready to lend a hand and do what is necessary to keep the organization running smoothly.

They both hope that new volunteers will keep stepping up to the plate as the Club continues its amazing

growth. Tish also hopes that more women will step into leadership roles in the future and that there will be more gal-specific shooting events around the corner.

This wonderful couple represents the Club in the best possible way. Say hello sometime – just be sure your taxes are in order!

Seminar Review, April 2017

This month’s seminar was different. Instead of presenting to the group, 3 of our experts fielded questions from the Club members. The topic was Gun Guru Q&A. While it was attended less than some other seminar sessions, you missed a good one by not being there. We actually ran out of time since the questions, exchanges and comments continued for the full duration of time. The Club should think about doing one of these sessions during the winter months when our seasonal members are here. To our experts, well done. Really good comments and suggestions by the panel (Jim Schiefer, Floyd Dunstan, and Steve Mossel).

On the heels of the training discussion is the Summer 2017 edition of Concealed Carry Handguns article on training. It provides discussion and photos on various training tools from similar laser practice guns to interactive software app products. It is well worth reading.

What else is going on?

Concealed Carry - what State am I in now?

Our Club web site has very useful information on CCW in Florida and in other parts of the country. Recently, the Concealed Carry Handgun magazine (2017 Self—Defense Buyer’s Guide issue) reviewed all 50 States. However, these are valid *at that point in time*. One of our members uses a web site and app called Legal Heat which provides a real-time status of laws. As with most tools, it can be a double-edged sword. That is real-time status for the state you are in (or traveling through), but also a reason not to know (I didn’t know won’t work with the police). There are other apps; just know they exist for your evaluation and use. Thanks Bill S.

Speaking of concealed carry, here is a summary of the states enacting “Permitless Carry” as a Constitutional Right.

U.S. Jurisdictions That Have Constitutional Carry

1. Alaska
2. Arizona
3. Arkansas
4. Idaho (residents only)
5. Iowa
6. Kansas
7. Maine
8. Mississippi
9. Missouri
10. New Hampshire
11. North Dakota (residents only; cc only)
12. Vermont
13. West Virginia
14. Wyoming (residents only)



U.S. States that have a limited form of permitless concealed carry

15. Montana (outside city limits)
16. New Mexico (unloaded weapon & loaded magazine, vehicle carry)
17. Oklahoma (residents of constitutional carry states)

Guns Laws Updates – laws change frequently so periodically check. Current statuses are:

New Mexico killed proposed gun registration legislation.

Gov. Branstad signs Iowa gun expansions into law

- HF517, making Iowa one of the most pro-2nd amendment states in the country.
- The new law removes the duty to retreat from Iowa’s self-defense statutes on the use of reasonable or deadly force. This so-called stand-your-ground model has been adopted in many conservative states with Florida passing the first of its kind in 2005.
- Next, the law puts gun permit holder information out of bounds from public and Freedom of Information Act requests. Previously, anyone could get the name, address and birth date of concealed carry permit holders.
- In addition to the use of force and privacy sections, the act includes mandates to loosen regula-

tions on youth handgun possession for target shooting and hunting reasons provided they are given the firearm by a parent, instructor or guardian. Prior to the new law, only youth 14 and over could legally shoot handguns.

- Finally, the law strikes gun-free zones at the state capitol, expands Fourth Amendment search and seizure protections for those carrying firearms, scraps the state ban on short barreled rifles and shotguns, and prevents officials from restricting the carry of firearms during a state of emergency

Ducey signs law blocking gun tracking mandates in Arizona

Arizona’s Republican Gov. Doug Ducey approved a measure 18 April that would block state or local laws requiring guns to use electronic firearms tracking. The bill, HB 2216, curtails future mandates that would add technology designed to locate or control guns in the state. Backers argue that, while there may be a need to utilize such technology in investigations or by gun dealers for inventory control, gun owners shouldn’t be forced into using trackable smart guns. The bill allows that law enforcement can use tracking technology under a warrant, as can parole or probation officers for surveillance, or pawnbrokers for tracking inventory in conjunction with a sheriff.

Almost; not quite done....



Texas lawmakers advance permit-less carry bill

Lawmakers in the Texas House Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee approved a bill 18 April that would allow lawful gun owners to carry handguns without a permit. Individuals would have to meet the same requirements currently in place to obtain a permit. Guns would no longer be prohibited from churches and places of worship, but signs banning guns would still be allowed to be posted in those places. Openly carried guns must be holstered, but the modified version of the bill does not specify a belt or shoulder holster. Campus carry laws would not be changed by the bill. This bill simply creates an unlicensed option to carrying a handgun.

Texas: First Responders to carry handguns

SB1408 passed and sent to the Texas House would allow firefighters and EMS to carry concealed provided they have a concealed carry permit AND 20 extra hours of firearms training. State law does not prevent

this unless the local Fire department policy does not prohibit this. The law would override department policy. EMS first responders are assaulted over 700,000 times per year nationwide.

Alabama Senate passes constitutional carry measure

State senators sent legislation to the House that would allow Alabamians to lawfully carry concealed handguns in the State without a permit. The proposal would keep Alabama's current concealed carry permitting scheme administered through county sheriffs in place, but erase the requirement to obtain such a permit. Permit holders would retain the advantage of being able to buy a gun without an additional background check as well as reciprocal carry in the states that currently recognize Alabama's permits. Open carry is already legal without a permit.

Trio of Oregon gun control bills draw bipartisan support and opposition.

- Senate Bill 868 would allow family members to ask for a court order that would prevent an individual at risk of hurting themselves or others from purchasing a gun. The individual would also have to give up any previously purchased firearms. The bill is aimed to prevent suicides, especially among veterans. This bill allows for a protective order to remove your Second Amendment rights, not because of a criminal conviction, but based on third-party allegations using an evidentiary standard that falls far below what's normally required for the removing of fundamental rights.
- Senate Bill 797 would require a background check to be completed for all gun transfers, no matter how long the check takes. The proposal is meant to close the so-called "Charleston Loophole," which allows gun transfers to go through if the background check takes longer than three days. The measure would also make it illegal for individuals convicted of stalking and subject to a restraining order from purchasing a gun.
- Senate Bill 764 would require concealed handgun permit applicants to show the ability to fire a handgun, as opposed to just completing an online test.

PA moving to allow teachers to carry.

SB 383 passed committee 9-3 and now goes to the full Senate. The bill does not require teachers to

carry, but allows them to do so after additional firearms training. Even some opposition groups are not opposed to guns in schools, but only with safety officers and not teachers.

Also in PA, a proposed pre-emption bill (HB671) has cleared the House Judiciary Committee 26-6 which means it has bipartisan support. The bill would prevent local governments from enacting firearm ordinances over and above state law, thus avoiding individuals from inadvertently breaking the law. This has been proposed before and a similar enacted law was struck down by the Supreme Court based on it addressed too many unrelated issues. Narrowing the law's scope should enable passage.

FL Burden of Proof legislation status.

Summary: shift the burden of proof from the individual (YOU prove that you were right in claiming self-defense) to the prosecutor who must prove you did not have legal standing for self-defense or Stand Your Ground. Status: approved by both FL houses, but different versions, so it is still working its way through legislation. To read the actual proposed bill, click [here](#). To read as a web page or PDF, see that link in the upper left of the web site. We'll give you an update after the state lawmakers are through with revisions.

Winchester / NRA Achievements

Attained Expert:

Charles Wilson, Thomas Baldwin, Lynda Held, Wayne Cross and Ron VanDevander



Attained Distinguished Expert:

Cynthia Murphy, Robert Farwell, Stephen Wheeler, Ed Pack and Edwin Eich

Attained Pistol Defense I, Distinguished Expert:

Eugene DaCorte, Greg Maurer and Steve Held

Attained Pistol Defense II, Distinguished Expert:

Eugene DaCorte and Kirk Carver

You can always see the current standings on the web site by clicking the header and follow Events → Winchester QP → | WMP standings, or click here: <http://www.vssclub.org/winchester-qp-sign-up.html>

A Hearty Congratulations to All!!

March 2017 Raffle Winners

There was only one meeting in April which was at Eisenhower.

**Eisenhower Winner:
Chuck Wildzunas**

**Springfield Armory
XDM 3.3" 9mm**



Congratulations Chuck!

Upcoming Club Activities

NOTE: Club Membership and Reservations are required for all Shooting Events

Excursions

There are no currently scheduled excursions. Please visit the web site Excursion page for updates and newly scheduled events or for submitting trip suggestions at: <http://www.vssclub.org/excursion-sign-up.html>.

Shooting Events

Winchester Pistol Qualifications

May 5th, 9th, 16th, & June 2th Winchester Pistol Qualification shoots at the Gun Range on SR44 in Leesburg. Two sessions, 8-9am & 9-10am. *Do not forget eye and ear protection. Attire: billed cap, high neck shirt, no open toed shoes.* Floyd Dunstan is the Shoot Manager. Cost \$8.

Open Handgun shoots

May 12th, 19st, June 6th & 9th Open Handgun shoots at the Gun Range on SR44 in Leesburg starts at 8-9am and 9-10am. Cost \$8. **The May 19th, 8am slot is for beginner shooters.**

Ocala Sportsman's Association Handgun & Rifle (Outdoor Range)

Shooters of the Month for April at the Ocala Sportsman Association were:



Session I: Steve Sumner



Session II: James Veitch



Thursday May 25th at Ocala Sportsman's Assoc. Handgun and Rifle sessions is available. Shooter of the Month determined in shoot off. 1st session at 8:45am and the 2nd at 11am. Cost \$10. *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.*

Next Seminar Meeting

Seminar: Wednesday May 17th, at the Sea Breeze Recreation Center from 2-3 pm, Topic will be "NRA Annual Meeting".

Next Member Meetings

Club Meeting, Eisenhower Rec Center – Monday May 22nd, 6:30pm – 8:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm.

Club Meeting, Savannah Rec Center: Tuesday May 23rd, 6:45pm – 8:15 pm. Doors open at 6:15pm.

Gun Raffle: Springfield Armory XDM (Full size 4.5" barrel, 9mm)



"The police cannot protect the citizen at this stage of our development, and they cannot even protect themselves in many cases. It is up to the private citizen to protect himself and his family, and this is not only acceptable, but mandatory." Col. Jeff Cooper

NRA Dinner photos.



The hall as it fills up



About 36-40 items were auctioned off



Above, Right to left: Terry Marksberry, Floyd and Jocelyn Dustan



Jim and Dorothy Schiefer



Chuck and Nancy Wildzunas



Steve and Marilyn Mosel

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