

Journal of the Texas Concealed Handgun Association

The Concealed Handgun

Volume 25 • Issue 1

Joaquin Jackson

"On his first official day as a Texas Ranger, he was sent to a jail riot in Carrizo Springs." Read more about Joaquin on pg. 18.

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**YO Ranch
Reservations
have been extended
until February 14th**

THE CONCEALED HANDGUN

The Concealed Handgun is published four times a year for the benefit of members to provide news and educational information of mutual interest. The association is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or photographs. Comments or opinions expressed in by-lined text should not be considered official views of the association, its officers, or directors. Members are invited to submit material for publication to the following mailing address:

TCHA P.O. Box 161713 Austin, Texas 78716

The Texas Concealed Handgun Association is a membership organization. Its objectives and purposes are: to promote the continuation and improvement of the Texas Concealed Handgun (CHL) Law; represent the standards and concerns of members to the general public, news media, Department of Public Safety and legislators; to promote responsible firearms safety and ownership; to provide current information to members about the laws, lesson plans and topics related to the Concealed Handgun License program; to promote high standards of instruction and training; and to support the right of responsible, law abiding citizens to own, keep and lawfully carry firearms for personal protection.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Texas Concealed Handgun Association Board of Directors is pleased to announce this year's schedule for the 18th Annual Conference, March 6-8, 2015, which will take place at the YO Ranch Hotel, 2033 Sidney Baker Street, Kerrville, Texas. The conference will start with a panel discussion on the latest issues dealing with our 2nd Amendment rights. This is a pivotal time for Texas while legislators deal with issues such as open carry, constitutional carry, and campus carry. Sheriff Jim Wilson will then take the reins and discuss Combat Mind Set which incorporates the awareness, determination, and mental preparation needed to prevail against a vicious criminal attack. Friday's training will conclude with Director Austin Davis' introduction of the association's new TacMed DVD.

On Saturday morning, the annual Fun Shoot, for those attendees who sign up to participate, will be held at the Hill Country Shooting Sports Center, 1886 Cypress Creek Road, Kerrville, Texas. Susie and Jim Tackett, who regularly participate in local IDPA and USPSA matches, have established challenging stages for this year's event. After the luncheon, conference attendees will participate in the interactive training To Shoot or Not to Shoot. This session will include a scenario-based overview of the Texas Criminal Justice process from the shooting to the possible grand jury indictment. This year's President Reception, which takes place prior to the banquet, is being sponsored by Texas Law Shield. The banquet keynote speaker is retired Texas Ranger Joaquin Jackson. To find more detail information regarding the conference, please go to <http://www.txchia.org/evt0315.htm>.

Individuals can submit their conference registration online at <http://shop.txchia.org/> or call 866-516-5117 or submit the conference registration form contained within this publication to complete the registration process.

Below is list of standard conference item choices:

- Luncheon/Seminars/Certification/Banquet combination \$129.00
- Life Members, includes all of the above \$99.00
- Junior rate (16 or under), includes all of the above \$59.00
- Luncheon and Banquet Only \$89.00
- Banquet Only \$59.00
- Fun Shoot, Saturday, March 7 (not included in above) \$20.00
- Raffle Donation (per ticket) \$10.00

For those individuals who cannot attend both days of training, join us for Saturday's luncheon, and/or stay for the banquet, the association can extend the following additional choices. Please call 877-516-5117 to complete the registration process if any of the options below are desired.

- Luncheon Only \$30.00
- Friday classes only \$30.00
- Saturday class only \$10.00

Looking forward to seeing you at this year's conference!

Bobby D. Clakley

! TCHA Membership has its perks:
! Enterprise Car Rentals will give a 5% discount when a
! car is rented if they are shown your TCHA membership
! card.

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Product In Review



We are bringing to our members a new segment in the TCHA journal known as “Product in Review”. This section is where we have asked members to review product and provide their thoughts in order for our members to make informed decisions on new or existing products. Below is the first installment in which three members have reviewed a new gun-cleaning product: RamRodz® Barrel and Breech Cleaners.

Review #1

Susie Tackett of Cactus Country Handgun Training® and representative of the Texas Concealed Handgun Association® asked me to try a new firearm-cleaning product. I was presented with an assortment of RamRodz® Barrel and Breech Cleaners to try in our small gun shop. I was a bit skeptical at my first examination of the products, but I said I would give them a try.

Armed with Hoppe’s #9 cleaning solvent and Gun oil, a bag of RamRodz®, and three dirty handguns, I set out to give these little swabs a workout.

With the assortment of various sized swabs before me, I chose one of each for testing. With the autoloaders, slide locked rearward on the frames and the revolver cylinder open, I ran the swabs through each barrel from chamber to breech dry to test for fit and flexibility. The swabs bent and contorted nicely without cracking, binding, breaking or splintering. They immediately picked up large amounts of residue without effort.

I examined the barrels for “left behind lint or fuzz” from the swabs, and there was none. I tapped the soiled swabs on the table expecting residue to fall free; or worse yet, to be re-deposited back into the firearms, and I found that the swabs would not release the contaminants from the fibers. The swabs held the liquid cleaning solvent without dripping, and also provided an even spread of Solvent (and Gun Oil) without effort and without leaving fuzzies everywhere. Impressive, not at all what I expected from this simple product. These would be a fantastic addition to anyone’s range bag or gear box for quick field or detailed table cleaning of any firearm. I would highly recommend these for shooter and hobbyists alike.

David D Rowe, owner of Blade Runners Knife & Gun Shop, Del Rio, TX.

Review #2

When my friend Bobby gave me a supply of RamRodz® gun cleaning swabs for an informal evaluation, I was prepared to be unimpressed. They look like oversize, one-ended Q-Tips® with wooden handles instead of rolled paper sticks. Some of them are about eight inches long, with the swabs to fit bores in .22, .38/9 mm, or .40/.44/.45 calibers. Some others have shorter sticks and smaller swabs on the end, for general nook-and cranny cleaning.

Well, I was wrong. The swab appears to be some kind of synthetic material, not cotton, and they work great. They pick up bore solvent or other liquids, but not as much as a cotton end would, so they don’t drip liquid across the work surface, and they do not squeeze out excess liquid when you shove one down the bore. The swab ends are

very secure, so they do not pull off of the stick if they hang up on something sharp. Also, even better, they don’t leave lint on sharp things, like pistol ejector blades and revolver extractor stars! The wooden sticks are made of split bamboo, so they are stiff enough to work with but still flexible enough to be handy. And I suspect it would be easy enough to sharpen the non-tipped end with a pocket knife, to use for picking up accumulated crud from those tiny corners where pistols love to accumulate it.

Short answer to, “How do you like them?” I like them well enough that I’ll probably buy more, with my OWN MONEY, when I run out of the freebies Bobby gave me. Best endorsement I know how to give.

Dean

Review #3

Last night I set out to clean three pistols, a 1911 .45, .357 “J” frame and .9mm using cleaning solvent, gun oil, and the RamRodz® pistol cleaning systems. Although I was somewhat skeptical of the product, I soon became a fan. I found them to be very convenient in every aspect of the cleaning process. This system removed the requirement of having to attach a cloth patch to a cleaning rod every time. The large swabs were perfect for cleaning the barrel and groves with ease; without using a nylon bristle brush, I used several swabs to clean the barrel with the last swab coming out clean. Additionally, the system has small swabs that are great for the various parts in the frame. I did use numerous swabs for those areas, but it was worth it and I had a very clean pistol. The small swabs have a distinct advantage over cloth patches for cleaning the more intricate functioning areas, they provided easy access into small areas, and the smaller stick allowed me to get the swab into areas that I couldn’t have reached with my current equipment. For the large areas (frame), I would use a cloth patch in order to cover more surface area in a shorter amount of time. Overall, this is a great product and is one that I would recommend adding to your gun cleaning kit.

Bobby Clakley

Overall Rating 😊

To contact RamRodz® regarding their gun cleaning systems, please visit:

RamRodz® Incorporated

16 Yerry Hill Road

Woodstock, New York 12498

845-706-5600

Email: customerservice@ramrodz.com

Web: <http://ramrodz.com/products/>

THE STEPS TO ACCURATE HANDGUN SHOOTING

The Fundamentals and Beyond

by Dean McCormick and Mike Arnold

Installment 2, "Aim Small, Miss Small"

This is the second of a series of four articles. The first appeared in "The Concealed Handgun," Vol. 24, Number 4. If you missed it, you can go to the TCHA website <http://www.txchia.org>. and click on the "Newsletters and Articles" tab.

In the last installment, we talked about how to pick up a handgun and how to stand there (or not) and hold it. Now we'll talk about pointing it at what we want to shoot. Any seven-year-old who has ever watched a few Western movies knows how to do that. Just point the barrel at the bad guy and pull on the trigger!

In truth, if you're no more than a few feet away from a man-sized target, that might work. But I've seen times it didn't! I'll (Dean talking) swear on Jeff Cooper's honored memory that I once had a CHL student who scored about 50% hits anywhere on the paper, on a full-size B-27 target, at three yards! I'm not sure what she was doing, as I was behind her, looking over her shoulder. (That was clearly the place to be, if you had to be anywhere within two miles.) I suspect she was closing her eyes and just yanking on the trigger. She made a series of loud noises, but didn't accomplish much else.

And clearly, as we get further away from the target and/or get more demanding about exactly where our bullets are going, this "aiming" thing gets both harder but more necessary. So how do we do that?

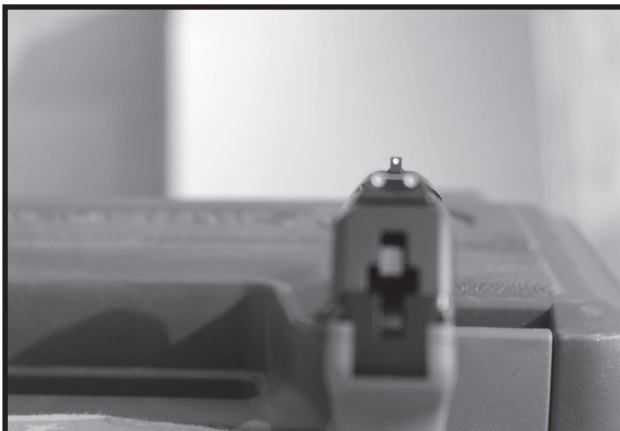
Conventional Sights



Typical Fixed Rear Sight



Typical Adjustable Target Sight



Sights with white dots



Front sight with fiber optic red dot

First, we'll talk about conventional "open" sights, then about some of the newer, higher-tech, options.

The standard setup is to pair some sort of a notch, mounted on the rear of the frame or slide, with some sort of blade or post mounted near the muzzle.

Various front sight colors and inserts

The basic method is to visually center the blade in the notch, in the left-to-right sense. This is sometimes described as "an equal amount of light showing on either side of the blade." In the up-and-down sense, the top of the blade is held even with the top of the notch.

There is a recurring theme in this series of articles, so we might as well come out and say it explicitly. Of course there will always be a degree of "trade-off" between speed and accuracy. But, if you can train yourself to use some good techniques, that trade-off need not be so severe as many would assume. In short, the goal is to have you shoot as accurately as you can, as fast as you need to. Or as fast as you can, as accurately as you need to. How fast, or how accurately, you need to shoot will vary with the circumstances!

The point of these articles is that, if you train the right way, you can get wholesale improvements in accuracy with very little, and maybe no, loss of speed. Keep in mind two quotes, attributed (maybe even correctly!) to the late Border Patrolman Bill Jordan:

"You can't miss fast enough to win." and

"Speed's fine, but accuracy's final!"

How about if you're in a **BIG HURRY** to get the shot off? You might be, if you're trying to stop somebody from killing you or somebody else! In that case, just put the top of the front sight blade where you need a bullet to go, and don't worry about its precise position in the notch. The key is to **PUT THE FRONT SIGHT ON THE TARGET, WHILE KEEPING THE GUN LEVEL**. That will get you close, and close will probably be good enough.

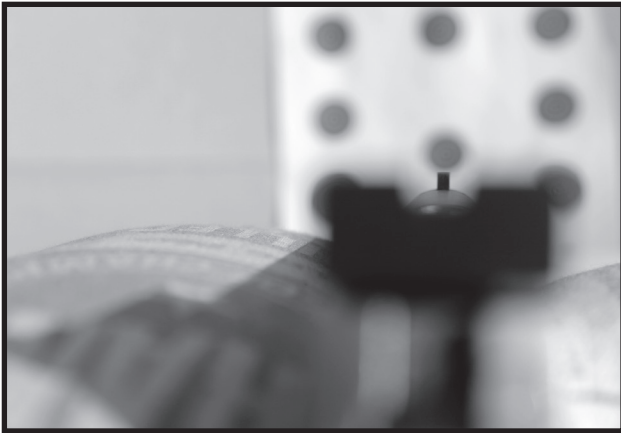
How do you know if the gun is level, or at least "level enough?" The quick and dirty way is to be able to see the front sight, but **NOT** be able to see the top of the gun. A slight refinement of this idea is called a "flash sight picture" or a "silhouette" sight picture. Try it yourself, with a triple-checked unloaded gun. Just hold the gun out at arm's length and look at the **SHAPE** of the gun. If it's pointed crooked, the shape you see will be distorted enough for you to notice.

If we are going to want the absolute best accuracy we can get, like in old-fashioned formal bull's-eye shooting, we have some advantages that lead us to a slightly different technique. We're shooting at a round, black target with an off-white background. The target is of a known and constant size, and at a known distance. In that case, conventional wisdom says to use a wide, square notch and a square-topped, wide, flat black front sight. We align the sights as carefully as we can, and hold the front sight at the bottom of the bull's-eye. This arrangement is referred to as a "6 o'clock hold" or a "pumpkin on a fencepost" sight picture. That will give you the most consistent, repeatable sight picture, and therefore the best possible accuracy.

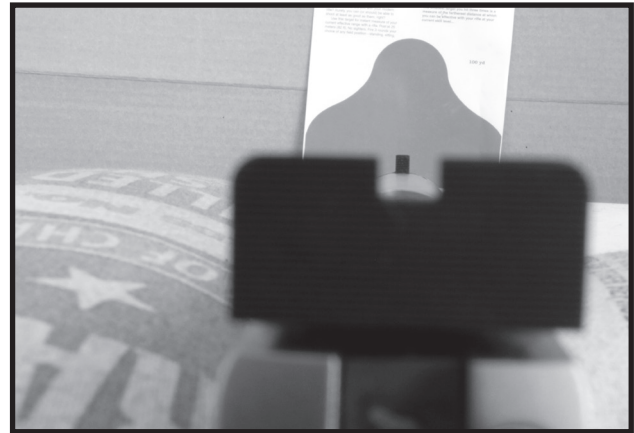
However, in the case of self-defense shooting or hunting with the handgun, we don't have those advantages. Our target won't be of a constant, known size, nor at a pre-measured distance, nor will it always be high-contrast compared to its background. In those cases, most experienced shooters use a "center of mass" or "center of the vital area" hold. On a human target, that vital area is usually considered to be high in the chest.

Many visualize a triangular area defined by the Adam's apple and where we imagine the nipples would be. If your handgun has adjustable sights, they can be set to put the hits right at the top of the front sight blade at a moderate distance. At other distances, the point of impact will be pretty doggone close to that.

If the handgun has fixed, or non-adjustable sights, they are almost always reasonably close to that setting. The shooter just has to learn where his gun shoots at various distances, and "hold off" for the known error at the estimated distance. Some limited adjustments can be made by a gunsmith, if needed, by building up the front sight blade or filing it down, or in some cases by replacing the front sight blade with one of a different height. Or even by bending the blade it or screwing the barrel of a revolver in or out just a slight fraction of a turn, where it screws into a revolver's frame. But these steps are beyond the scope of the average shooter's ability. In most cases, such steps are unnecessary. Without going so far as to modify the gun, some degree of "adjustment" is possible by choosing your ammunition. A load with a lower velocity/heavier bullet will usually hit HIGHER, at least at short or medium distances, than on with a higher velocity/lighter bullet.



Six O'Clock Hold



Center of Target Hold

Now is a good time to mention the effects of barrel length on accuracy. A longer-barreled handgun is easier to shoot accurately, but not because it is inherently more accurate. A short-barreled handgun is capable of shooting just as accurately as a longer barreled one, but the shooter can usually be more accurate with the longer one because the distance between the sights (sight radius) is longer, allowing the shooter to more precisely align the sights (if the time is available to do that carefully). All things being equal, a longer barreled handgun will spit out the bullets with a bit higher velocity, but that's a totally separate matter and essentially unrelated to accuracy.

Human eyes as aiming devices.

We all suffer from a "design defect" when it comes to effectively aiming a handgun. When the Good Lord designed our eyeballs, He apparently didn't have "aiming pistols" very high on his priority list of activities for those eyes. Because eyeballs can only focus at one distance at a time. But the rear sight, front sight, and target are at three different distances! And that's a huge problem for us now. Young eyes can shift focus pretty quickly, so they can sometimes SEEM to focus on all three at once, although they really cannot. So what to do? FOCUS ON THE FRONT SIGHT!

Let the rear sight be somewhat blurry, and the target be somewhat blurry also. To put a string of bullets close together, just put that sharply-focused front sight the same place on the blurry target every time.

Those of us with a few years of use on our eyeballs, so that we have "trombone vision," or middle-age farsightedness, usually find that we shoot best wearing corrective lenses that help us focus on the front sight.

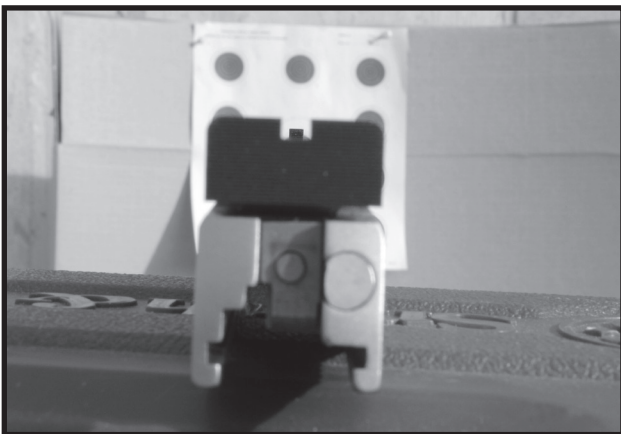
Often a weaker “computer glasses” correction, rather than a stronger “reading glasses” correction, works best. Another thought: Do at least SOME of your practicing without any corrective lenses at all. What’s the chance that, if things turn so dark brown that you need to shoot to save your life, you’ll have lost your glasses, or will have gone for the gun without taking time to find or put on your glasses?

But our human inclination is to focus on what we want to hit! That’s another reason we need to practice, and more importantly practice doing the right things, so in a moment of stress, like in a competition or when we’re fighting for our lives, we’ll be able to concentrate on the right thing, which is:

FOCUS ON THE FRONT SIGHT!

There are stories about gunfights where the great majority of the bullets fired missed their targets. Especially those gunfights that took place at longer than “handshake” distances. It has been shown many times that it’s entirely possible to completely miss a man-sized target, at only a few feet distance, when under stress. The stories told by the gunfight survivors, who are in the main the ones whose bullets hit their targets, often mention that they remember having focused intensely on their front sights. In one case, a police officer who survived a medium-distance gun fight remembered seeing the very fine serrations on his front sight blade, as he fired the shots that ended the fight.

If you want to shoot accurately, **FOCUS YOUR VISION ON THE FRONT SIGHT.** Let everything else be blurred. That’s all that needs to be said. **DID WE SAY THAT ENOUGH TIMES?**



*Focus on Front Sight - Correct,
although sight alignment isn't correct*



Focus on Target - Incorrect

“Wait just a second,” we hear you ask. “If the target and/or the rear sight are blurred, how in the world can we accurately aim?” “And if the sights are blurry, won’t everyone see them a little differently?”

Good questions.

Yes, everyone **WILL** see them a little differently, which is why you need to “sight in” your own handgun. And as for the imprecision of the blur, both on the rear sight and the target, just hold the same place on the blur every time. The differences from load to load, and from shooter to shooter, are the reasons for those adjustable sights!

Unconventional Sights

Now we’ll move on to some of the newer, more-or-less high tech sighting systems available.

Self-illuminating sights

These use either some kind of luminous coating on the sights, so they glow in the dark for a while after absorbing energy from available light sources, or, more commonly nowadays, contain a tiny glass ampoule(s) of tritium gas. That ampoule is usually glued into the front sight blade, and sometimes also on either side of the notch in the rear sight. If the right kind of adhesive is used, it's pretty durable but CAN be broken by a sharp enough blow. Tritium gas is an isotope of hydrogen which glows as it decays radioactively. The amount of radiation emitted is very small and is usually not considered a health hazard to the person carrying a handgun so equipped. Tritium glows all the time, day and night, and does not need "recharging" by exposure to daylight or any other light source. However, sights with tritium are expensive, roughly \$100/set, and they weaken over time. Tritium has a half-life of just over 12 years. That means that 12-year-old tritium glows half as brightly as it did when new, and one quarter as brightly as new when it is 24 years old. So, most manufacturers recommend replacing tritium sights every ten years, when their strength is just above half that of new ones. Your money, your call. If you do buy those, try to be sure to get sights that are fairly fresh, because they start that decay process as soon as they leave the reactor, not when YOU put them into service.

When are these sights helpful? Not in full darkness, because you still have to see and identify your target. In very low light? Like if you can see and identify a threat, but can't see conventional flat-black sights? Quite possibly so.

Telescopic sights

There are telescopic sights made for handguns, which look and act like the scope sights we've mounted on rifles for years. Handgun scopes usually have less magnification than rifle scopes, because lower power (lower magnification) scopes usually have bigger "fields of view" than higher powered scopes, and handgun scopes are made with a longer "eye relief" than rifle scopes. That means that they are set up for the shooter's eye to be considerably farther from the scope's ocular (rear) lens than a rifle scope, allowing a more or less normal shooting stance. Another reason for the lower power is that high power badly magnifies the wobbles inherent in holding a handgun, and normal wobbles coupled with high magnification make aiming a near-impossibility. It's even possible that the shooter will have trouble FINDING the target within the field of view of a magnifying type of scope sight. Or, especially in a hunting situation, if the target is closer than expected, the shooter might find that the scope's whole field of view is full of fur. But the shooter can't tell if that fur is on the bear's neck or chest or belly or backside! What is intended to be an aid to accurate shooting can become an impediment.

Another consideration is that an auxiliary mounting system has to be attached to the handgun. Some of these are costly, and add bulk and weight, and require a special holster to carry the scoped handgun. Many shooters also find that scoped handguns are awkward to hold, and balance poorly in the hands.

Red-dot sights

These come in two types. The first type looks like a short, fat telescopic sight. It normally gives an unmagnified image, with a red (or sometimes green or yellow) illuminated dot showing where the gun will shoot. Some models have a crosshair or circle or other reticule in place of or in addition to the aiming dot. The other type looks like a tiny TV screen mounted in a little housing on top of the handgun. Again, most give no magnification and may offer a single illuminated aiming dot or any of several more complex reticule designs. The main advantage of both all these types of "optical" sights, both the ones with magnifying lenses and those that do not magnify is that they present the target and the aiming dot or reticule in the same "focal plane," or apparent distance. In other words, where to focus the eyes becomes a non-issue. The big

disadvantages are that that these gadgets, like telescopic sights, tend to be bulky and require special holsters, and most of them require batteries. Batteries are a bother, and who wants to bet their life on the batteries not failing at the critical moment?

Projecting laser devices

Another sighting system altogether, and probably the newest, involves attaching a laser device to the handgun, which sends a laser beam, usually red or green, out from the handgun and onto the target. These devices usually include a way to adjust the beam so it “hits” where the bullet will. Some of these devices are built into the handgun grips, or replace the guide rod in a semiautomatic pistol, or attach to an under-barrel rail or the front of the trigger guard. The big advantage of these laser sight devices is that they allow the shooter to focus on the target (or threat), which is where his natural inclination is to focus anyway. Also, there is some speculation that a bad guy might notice a red dot on his shirt, take the threat seriously, and stop doing what he was doing to warrant getting shot! The authors haven’t heard of any documented cases of this happening, but it is an interesting thought. But here’s another thought: If the situation is so grave and immediate that you are justified in shooting someone, can you afford to wait to see if and how the other person reacts to the red dot on his shirt? It seems to us that, if deadly force is justified, it is justified RIGHT NOW.

These lasers are usually smaller than optical sights, so they add little bulk to the handgun. Modifications to standard holsters are therefore not required at all, or are minimal. Depending, of course, on the model of laser projector and how it is mounted.

However, good laser projector devices are usually pretty expensive, and are dependent on batteries. Improving battery technology has increased the service life of the batteries, but they can still fail So many authorities say go ahead and install and use one of them, but do not neglect conventional sight practice. That way, if your laser DOES fail, you won’t be completely helpless without it.

A future issue of The Concealed Handgun will have a complete article debating the merits of these devices on self-defense handguns.

Wow. That was a double handful of things to think about. What we gain in using handguns is that they are small enough and light enough to carry with us most of the time, even while we are busy doing other things.

What we lose in using handguns, in comparison to rifles and shotguns, is that they are usually considerably less powerful than most rifles, and harder to aim well.

In the next installment, we’ll cover how to manipulate the trigger so as not to degrade our mediocre ability to aim these wimpy and hard-to-use handguns, by mishandling their triggers.

It’s as simple as one two.



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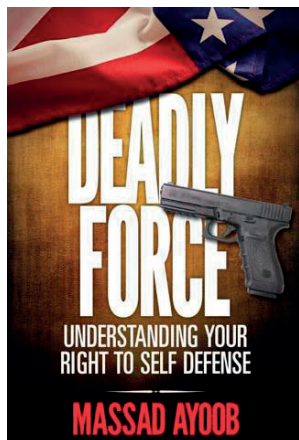
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Book Review:

***Deadly Force - Understanding your Right to Self-Defense* by Massad Ayoob**

By Susan Tackett



Just as important as shooting well is a proper mindset that goes with using lethal force. This book is written by the very brilliant and articulate Massad Ayoob. He starts out by talking about standards, which is this “If you act to the standards by which you know you will be judged, you should not be found wanting in the judgment”.

As a person who teaches concealed handgun classes for the State of Texas, there is always the element of getting new CHL holders to wrap their head around the before, during, and aftermath of a lethal shooting. Nobody ever seems to think about that particular aspect of defending their lives but it is a crucial element in understanding how you will be dealt with in a court of law. Mr. Ayoob has spent decades teaching people just this subject, the judicious use of deadly force.

The book talks about how in a situation of immediate danger of death or crippling injury it is normally determined by the simultaneous presence of three criteria. These criteria being Ability / Opportunity / and Jeopardy. Mr. Ayoob goes in to great detail in helping the reader understand these elements.

He also goes in to what is considered other critical concepts. Mr. Ayoob talks in detail about how the court will deal with an individual following a self-defense shooting. He also debunks many of the myths of armed self-defense. A detailed breakdown of the Zimmerman case is included as well as other case studies. What was really fascinating for me was the detailed explanation of the difference between The Castle Doctrine and Stand Your Ground laws and how each one applies in real world situations.

Included in the book is a discussion about the aftermath of a shooting. This is a subject that most people don't think about. The author goes in to great detail about what to say, how to say it, and when to stop talking. Included is a chapter that is named “Hardware Issues”. It discusses how your choice of carry gun and ammo can make a huge difference on how you will be scrutinized in a court of law and by the jury. And for those of us that reload, he tells why using reloaded ammunition for self-defense is probably not a good idea sighting scientific evidence to back his argument. Finishing out the book is Massad Ayoob's ten commandments for concealed carry. These include ideas and advice that sometimes we don't think about.

This is a book for everyone who carries a gun for self-defense. The concepts found within these pages contain mind changing ideas. It is not enough that you know how to shoot well. The mindset that goes with carrying a gun is essential to keeping yourself out of trouble and staying safe.

Massad Ayoob has authored thousands of articles and more than a dozen books on firearms and self-defense topics including:

In the Gravest Extreme: The Role of the Firearm in Personal Protection; Combat Shooting with Massad Ayoob; Greatest Handguns of the World Vol 1 & 2; and two editions of Gun Digest Book of Concealed Carry. He founded the Lethal Force Institute in 1981 and now trains through the Massad Ayoob Group.

As a graduate of the MAG40 course (2 days of classroom and 2 days of range work) I highly recommend attending one of his courses. The level of training and the knowledge gleaned is invaluable. To find out more go to www.massadayoobgroup.com.

TEXAS CONCEALED HANDGUN ASSOCIATION
DIRECTORSHIP APPLICATION/NOMINATION FORM

The TCHA members will be electing several directors during the 2015 annual conference. This is a **volunteer, non-funded** position that will meet at least on a quarterly basis. A board member must be an active member of the association and actively participate in board functions. Please note that nominations will also be considered at the March conference; however, if you would like to submit your interest or submit a nomination beforehand, you can complete the following information:

Mail completed form to: TCHA, PO Box 161713, Austin, Texas 78716 no later than **February 15, 2015**

Name				Member Number
Address	City	State	Zip Code	Telephone number

I would like to nominate (this can be a self-nomination): _____
Name (print name clearly)

Provide us with any other personal knowledge or experience you feel you could bring to the board. A personal profile or resume not to exceed one page may be attached. References are not required.

Signature: _____ Date _____

TCHA Use Only

Date received: _____ Member identification verified by: _____ Date Verified: _____

Q&A with Larry Arnold



Question:

I was pulled over by the police, but did not mention my CHL because I did not have a gun on me or in the vehicle. However, the police issued me a ticket for my failure to announce my CHL. I feel that this is not right; therefore, who is correct and what is the applicable law/statute?
Isaac C.

Answer:

The relevant law is Government Code 411.205. A CHL is required to display a driver's license and CHL only if carrying a concealed handgun. In addition, since 2009 there is no penalty for failure to display. We do recommend that CHLs display when not carrying to avoid surprises when the officer runs your driver's license, but again it's not required.

Question:

I am in the process of becoming a resident in Texas and have provisional approval since I am married to an American lady; in fact I have my biometric information being recorded later this week. I have been hunting and

shooting all my adult life and have shot competitively in Europe for over 30 years with rifles pistols and shotguns, I have also operated as a mentor for new hunters to learn to stalk deer for UK Police Authorities. I was also a Registered Firearms Dealer.

Now I am beginning a new life in Texas I would like to become an instructor for concealed carry courses and have already completed one myself in anticipation of getting my green card. I understand that in order to apply here I first need to have training from the NRA but in order to become an NRA trainer there seems to be lots of courses that are not necessarily relevant to CHC such as reloading, muzzle-loading and Range Officer courses?

Please could you advise which of the NRA Courses I will need to complete in order to qualify for consideration to become an Instructor in Texas? Many thanks in anticipation.
Roo E.

Answer:

You need to complete the Basic Instructor Training (BIT) and NRA Basic Pistol classes. Most training counselors offer them together. There's a list of upcoming Texas classes at <http://www.txchia.org/chlinstructoralert.htm>. Welcome to Texas!

Question:

I am a Marine stationed in North Carolina. I have recently submitted all of my credentials and information. I have not heard a response back from anybody in regards to the license. If you could please check the status of this problem it would be greatly appreciated.
Thank you,
Sgt K. USMC

Answer:

TCHA is not part of the licensing process, and we have no way of accessing your information, as the Department of Public Safety keeps it confidential. Contact information to DPS is at <http://www.txchia.org/links.htm>. Good luck.

Question:

I just heard about your organization from Sheriff Jim Wilson’s Facebook post and would like to know more about it. What are your annual dues? Do you need to be a member to attend the annual conference? Do you accept out of state members? Thank you for your help. David G.

Answer:

Annual dues are \$20.00. Non-members are welcome at our conference, but members get price breaks. We do accept out-of-state members. For more membership information check out our website at <http://www.txchia.org/membrshp.htm>.

Question:

I read somewhere that city buildings, such as city hall, were prevented from posting 30.06 signs. My local city hall and some others nearby have posted 30.06 signs. Can you direct me to the regulations concerning this, so if I am correct, I can address it with them? Thanks, Michael M.

Answer:

Penal Code 30.06(e) It is an exception to the application of this section that the property on which the license holder carries a handgun is owned or leased by a governmental entity and is not a premises or other place on which the license holder is prohibited from carrying the handgun under Section 46.03 or 46.035.

Note that the city can post a 30.06 sign prohibiting carry at

a government meeting. Also, you can’t carry into a city building that contains a courtroom. Good luck fighting city hall.

Question:

If a person qualifies for a CHL with a revolver can he only carry a revolver? Thanks, Tom G.

Answer:

That used to be the case, sort of. If you qualified with a revolver you couldn’t carry a semiauto. You could carry a revolver, derringer, etc. However, that part of the CHL law was amended in 2013. You can qualify with any handgun .32 cal or greater, and carry any legal handgun.

Larry Arnold is a longtime firearm and CHL Instructor. He is also a member of the TCHA Board of Directors and is our Legislative Director and Webmaster. Each quarter Larry provides us with the most interesting questions directed to our website.

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“Personally, I carry a gun because I’m too young to die and too old to take an ass whoopin’.”

18th Annual TCHA Conference Training Schedule

Current Issues: A panel discussion *- Friday, March 6, 2015 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Panel: Bobby Clakley, Bill Titus, Larry Arnold and Susie Tackett

Combat Mindset *- Friday, March 6, 2015 2:15 pm – 3:15 pm
Instructor: Jim Wilson

Class Description: Col. Jeff Cooper talked about the Combat Triad which is made up of Marksmanship, Gun Handling, and Combat Mind Set. Combat Mind Set incorporates Awareness, Determination, and the Mental Preparation needed to prevail against a vicious criminal attack.

About the Instructor: Jim Wilson is a native Texas who was born in Austin and raised in San Antonio. For nearly 30 years, he served as a Texas Peace Officer in Denton and Crockett Counties. In 1988, he was elected Sheriff of Crockett County (Ozona), Texas, and served in that capacity until his retirement from law enforcement in 1996.

Tactical Medicine *- Friday, March 6, 2015 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Instructor: Austin Davis

Class Description: Introduction to the Texas Concealed Handgun Association new TacMed DVD.

About the Instructor: Austin Davis is a former Police Officer with over 20 years as a law enforcement trainer. As owner and CEO of DavisSeminars.com and Kangaroo Carry, LLC, Austin has instructed more than 2500 crime prevention seminars. Currently a licensed Texas CHL instructor and serving on the board of directors for the Texas Concealed Handgun Association, Austin is a certified Low Light Instructor Level II through the SureFire Institute

Fun Shoot*-** Saturday, March 07, 2015 7:00 am – 11:30 am
MANDATORY SAFETY BRIEFING AT 7:00 am in the Hotel Lobby

Facilitators: Susie and Jim Tackett

NOTES -You must:

- Attend the Safety Briefing at 7:00 am in the hotel lobby Saturday morning.
- Provide your own EAR and EYE protection.
- Provide your own gun.
- Upon arrival at the range, keep your firearm in the bag, box or holster until under the supervision of a designated safety officer. This is COLD range. Please NO handling of firearms until on the firing line or told to do so by a designated safety officer.
- Bring, as a minimum, 50 rounds of ammunition.

About the Facilitators: Susie Tackett has been a CHL holder since 1996 and a CHL instructor since 2008. She has been shooting local IDPA and USPSA matches since 1996. Susie has been to Thunder Ranch for several classes including Defensive Handgun I & II, Ladies Defensive Handgun, Home/

Vehicle Defense with trauma training, and a private tutorial with Clint and Heidi Smith on instructor development and tactics. She has twice attended Kay Miculek's Babes with Bullets shooting seminars. She has also attended NRA Women on Target shooting seminars. Susie is a NRA instructor, an IDPA Safety Officer, a USPSA Range Officer, and a NRA Range Safety Officer. She helps her husband, Jim, run the local ZSA (Zombie Shooters Association) club matches as well as IDPA matches. She is the area coordinator for Second Amendment Sisters and the Del Rio facilitator for the A Girl and a Gun Club.

Jim Tackett has been a CHL holder since 1996, and a CHL instructor since 2005. Jim has been shooting competitively since 1996. He shoots at the Local, State, Regional and National level in IDPA & USPSA. A couple of years ago Jim took up the revolver and is also shooting ICORE (International Confederation of Revolver Enthusiasts) matches. Jim has been to Thunder Ranch for several classes including Defensive Handgun I & II, High Intensity Tactical, Urban rifle, Defensive shotgun, Home / Vehicle Defense with trauma training, and a private tutorial with Clint and Heidi Smith on instructor development and tactics. Jim is a NRA instructor and also certified as an IDPA Safety Officer, and an USPSA Range officer. Jim and his wife, Susie, run monthly ZSA (Zombie Shooters Association) matches each month as well as running IDPA club matches. Jim has also attended classes taught by Gordon Carell and Erwin Ballarta.

[* Parts of the road at the range are rough and could pose a problem for low clearance vehicles. Please plan accordingly.]**

Luncheon- Saturday, March 07, 2015 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Speakers: Sherrie Zgabay (DPS) and Texas Law Shield

The Question: To Shoot or Not to Shoot (Interactive Training)* 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Featuring Austin Davis and Virtual Tactical Academy

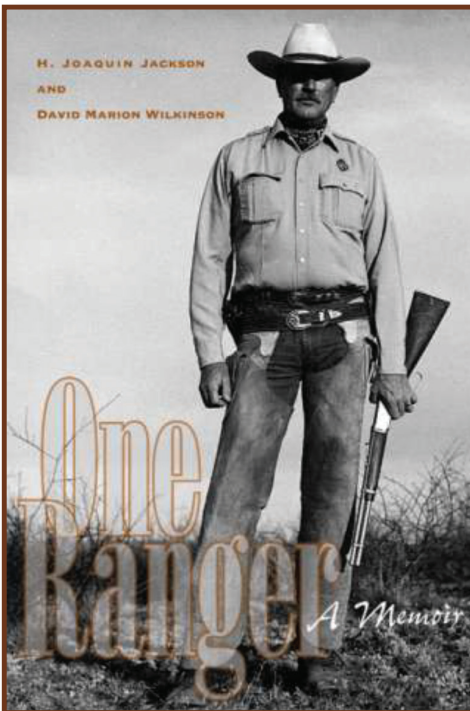
Class Description: Class participants will be able to take turns on the VTA's Virtual Reality Room which provides branching video with approximately 800 shoot/no-shoot judgment training simulations. Students talk to the screen and answer the realistic actor threats on the screen. After each scenario students practice their 911 calls (a neglected practice area), recap to instructor what they think happened and discuss where they think their shots landed. The whole scene is then replayed to compare what they saw, what they thought they saw, and with how they really shot. Amazing how different the imagined event compares to the replayed reality! This class will be taken a step further by taking one of the scenarios that occurs and incorporating what happens in the legal system up to and including a possible grand jury indictment after a person makes the decision to shoot.

President's Reception- Saturday, March 07, 2015 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Hallway outside of the Live Oak Room
Cash Bar Provided

On his first official day as a Texas Ranger, Joaquin Jackson was sent to a jail riot in Carrizo Springs and for the next 27 years he served in the oldest and most legendary law enforcement agency in the United States, following other Rangers before him: Texas Rangers like Leander McNally, Rip Ford, Big Foot Wallace, Ben McCullough, Jack Hays, Samuel Walker, and Frank Hamer.

He has credited his first Ranger Captain, Alfred Allee with Company D, for giving him his best advice: “Never let those (expletives deleted) bluff you out!” For almost three decades he followed that advice. He logged more than one million miles on the road, worked more than 1,800 felony cases, and recovered more than \$3 million in property.

But being a Ranger exacted a price. The phone always rang. He slept very little and drove a lot. He spent days away from home on manhunts and stakeouts. He slept under a canvas saddle bedroll as often as did next to his wife, and missed far too many important moments in the lives of his sons.



He has starred as the sheriff in Tommy Lee Jones’ production of *The Good Old Boys*, had a cameo role as an air force officer in *Blue Sky*, he posed for one of the most successful covers of *Texas Monthly* magazine. He was featured in articles in *Life* and *Rolling Stone*, and spent three weeks preparing Nick Nolte for the lead role in *Extreme Prejudice*.

Together with David Marion Wilkinson and James L. Haley, Joaquin Jackson has authored two books. Elmer Kelton, himself voted the Greatest Western Novelist of the Twentieth Century, said he could hardly put the book down. Mike Cox, author of *Texas Ranger Tales II*, said “This is the best modern-day Ranger memoir I have read.”

Tom Selleck said, “It’s great to see my friend Joaquin Jackson’s life celebrated. It is a life well lived!” Today, Ranger Jackson owns and operates Ranger Investigations, and lives in Alpine, Texas. He serves on the Board of Directors of the NRA.

Taken in part from *One Ranger – A Memoir*, by H. Joaquin Jackson and David Marion Wilkinson

Annual Membership Meeting- Sunday, March 08, 2015
(Board elections will take place)

9:00 am – 11:00 am

TCHA Board Meeting (members are welcome to attend)

11:15 am

Checkout time

12:00 pm

[Classes identified with a single * is a continuing education class and participants completing each class will be awarded a certificate of completion. CHL licensed conference attendees who complete all four of the classes on this year’s schedule will be awarded an Intermediate (if they were not presented with one at a previous year’s conference), Advanced (if they hold an Intermediate certificate) or Master (if they hold an Advanced certificate) TCHA certification. It will be each participant’s responsibility to ensure that they identify that they are a CHL holder and sign the roster for each class attended in order to receive credit.]

Note: Photographs will be taken at all events and may be published.

Handgun raffle ticket: Colt Mustang XSP 380 – will be drawn at the members meeting March 8, 2015

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

\$10 per ticket. Need not be present to win. Include with conference registration form and/or mail tickets with donation to TCHA, PO Box 161713, Austin, Texas 78716

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Traveler's Guide to the Firearms Laws of the Fifty States, (2014 Edition)
by J. Scott Kappas \$14 Qty _____ Price \$ _____

TCHA Logo Merchandise

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TCHA Life Member Patch (4" tall X 3" wide, round plus rockers. Embroidered.
Available only to Life Members) \$5 Qty _____ Price \$ _____

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Where Can You Openly Carry a Firearm in Texas? —

By Dean McCormick

Warnings and disclaimers:

1. I am not a lawyer, even though I have sometimes tried to sound like one (but I never CLAIMED to be one) on the telephone. Most importantly, I am not YOUR lawyer.
2. The law is full of exceptions and precedents, not all of which appear in the simple listing of the laws and statutes. So I'll be quoting laws only in general terms.
3. Never being arrested is much better than winning your case in court.
4. Almost anything can happen at trial; every case is to a degree a "roll of the dice."

That said, here is what I have discovered about the CURRENT (October, 2014) Texas law regarding "open" (unconcealed) carry of firearms.

Texas Penal Code Section 46.02 regulates unlawful carry of firearms. It does not mention "long guns" (full-size rifles and shotguns) at all. So, except for the prohibition of bringing firearms into schools or post offices and most if not all other federal facilities, you can carry a long gun, loaded or not, concealed or openly, locked up or not, most places in Texas.

Of course, Penal Code 42.01 (Disorderly Conduct) prohibits "displaying a firearm in a public place in a manner calculated to alarm." So what does that mean? What alarms one person might comfort another person. There are many precedents and court cases, but it probably comes down to what YOUR jury thinks. And you don't want to go there, really.

Also, Penal Code 22.02 (Aggravated Assault) prohibits "using or exhibiting a deadly weapon in the course of committing assault, including threatening another with bodily harm." Likewise, not something you want to be involved with.

The federal Gun Free Schools Act, 18 USC Section 922, especially Section 922(q)(2), was passed in

1990, thrown out by the supreme court in 1995 (Lopez v. United States), and was substantially re-enacted in 1996, as part of some "omnibus" legislation, with minor re-wording. That "new" law has not yet been challenged in court. It prohibits guns (with some exceptions, like on private property and CHL holders with their carry pieces, as long as they do not enter the school premises proper, or with written permission of the school authorities) within 1000 feet of school grounds. And remember please, this law makes no distinction between handguns and long guns - it applies to them all. It also contains no mention of any exception for times when the school is not in session, nor any exception for just traveling down a public road or highway that goes past the school (by anyone with a long gun, or anyone unlicensed but legally carrying a handgun in his vehicle). This law is usually not actively enforced by local law enforcement. I'm not saying to "forget about it," but it will not be a part of the rest of this discussion. The meat of the matter involves open carry of HANDGUNS. That is prohibited by PC 46.02, except while hunting or involved in a sporting activity using the handgun or while at a public shooting range, or while in one's own property, property he controls, or

place of employment. So what we're talking about is carrying a handgun "in public" generally. Basically, that's illegal for anyone except law enforcement officers, CHL holders, and a few others. Carrying a handgun in a private vehicle is allowed under PC 46.02, but the handgun must also be concealed from plain view. Similar to what applies to a CHL holder. And that exception does not apply if there is any criminal involvement beyond minor traffic offenses. Check the law yourself, or even better consult YOUR attorney, if you have any doubts. A recent change in the wording of Texas PC 46.035 made it easier for a CHL holder to avoid arrest (or successfully defend himself) in the case of a concealed handgun being accidentally exposed, but that's still not a thing anyone wants to be involved with. And it clearly does not cover intentional "open" carry. So that's where we are right now. "Open carry" has been advocated by many, with or without the need for a license, for a long time. The question will almost certainly be debated by the legislature in the 2015 session, so everyone involved with handguns in any way needs to know the basics of the current law.



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or Texas Concealed Handgun website at: <http://www.txchia.org/ recip.htm>

Be sure and check out the CHL forum on our website www.txchia.org



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