

EPGAC September 2021 Newsletter



Guns 101

Wrong thinking and bad ideas

In talking to new gun owners, I hear a range of ideas from reasonable but a bit naïve, to a dangerously bold “scorched earth” plan for home defense. The “old wives’ tales” and colloquialisms that run rampant in bar rooms, shooting ranges, and around the water cooler at work, can do nothing to enhance your security, and everything to get you in trouble and destroy your life if you take them to heart.

Let’s examine a few. Here’s my favorite, “if you have to shoot someone on your front steps, just drag them inside your house before the police get there”. Now I hope that no one really believes this is a good idea, but to suggest that any tampering with the crime scene might help you convince investigators of your innocence is counterproductive. No matter how righteous you may have been in defending yourself, lying and tampering with evidence will destroy your credibility instantly, and they will discover it. Watch an old episode of “Forensic Files” if you don’t believe me.

Another favorite is “I just gave my wife a shotgun and said just point and pull the trigger”. Not to disparage shotguns as a legitimate choice for home defense, but like all firearms they require familiarization, training, and understanding of function. And, it would help if the shooter is not scared to death of it. Contrary to popular belief, shotguns do not project a wall of lead that will vaporize an intruder at 5 yards. What they will do if you don’t have an accurate point of aim, is **MISS**.

Shotguns have a wide range of types of ammo to select from, and that selection must be based on several factors. The size and layout of your house, the building materials, and how many others live there. How close are your neighbor’s homes? The physical size of the gun is kind of big deal as well. Your 5ft, 100 lb wife may have a real struggle with your 12 gauge long barreled goose gun, so at least set her up with something that fits. One more thing, “the sound of you

racking a round into the chamber will send the bad guy running”. Don’t count on it.

There is a long list of incorrect and dangerous ideas about “use of lethal force” laws, and you would do well to rid your mind of them. Laws vary to some degree from State to State or even one jurisdiction to another. Never assume that because you feel threatened that you will not be prosecuted for using lethal force or even showing your firearm in an attempt to discourage someone who you feel has ill intent toward you. The “warning shot” fired into the air has to come back down somewhere and may result in injury or death of a completely innocent person.

One of the things seldom discussed is the psychological toll of taking a life. No matter how tuff you think you are, or how justified, it will weigh heavy on you. Add to that the stress of the legal battle you are about to face. Just understand that it may be the price you pay to when you decide that your life and those of your family are more important than that of the criminal attacker who forced you to make that decision.

Anyone that carries a firearm for defensive purposes, or keeps a gun in the home for that purpose, needs to understand these things. Use your head, and don’t take advice on defensive use of a firearm from Joe Biden. (For those that remember his “just get a shotgun” advice)

Please do not buy a gun for protection, hide it in the sock drawer, and forget about it until you hear that “bump in the night”. Get familiar with it, learn to handle it, load and unload it safely, and become proficient in shooting it. Have a home defense plan, just as you would have a plan for fire, everyone in the home should be familiar with it.

Take every opportunity to handle other types of firearms so you have a basic understanding of how they work and can handle them in a safe manner. You may someday find yourself at the family cabin with nothing but Grandpas old 30-30 lever action rifle for a defensive tool. Get some training, get familiar with your gun, keep practicing, and don’t listen to bad advice.

Watch this video for an insight into how a defensive incident may affect your life.

. <https://youtu.be/K-jxCSNjpes>

Check out Ken Hackathorn's Comfort Zone Drill <https://youtu.be/khYm99i3Peg>

I just returned from the first gathering of a group of women at the outdoor range. I was there to help out as an RSO and provide some logistical support as needed. Two very competent shooters, J and Cindy, are heading up the effort to encourage the women shooting enthusiasts to come out on a monthly basis to shoot with other women, mentor each other, have some fun, get more comfortable with shooting, and maybe help one another find good holsters and other carry methods designed by and for women to help make the task of concealing a defensive firearm easier.

The current plan is for the next session to be September 20th at 5:00 pm. Watch the website for updated info in case things change.

There are men running Governments who shouldn't be allowed to play with matches.

Will Rogers

Club management has approved funding for the materials to build another new shed. This will be located across from the pistol range and its purpose will be to serve as the Public Day "sign in" station, replacing the portable canopy next to the latrine. We are doing this with volunteer labor, and we can use your help. The immediate need is site preparation to provide a solid level surface to construct the shed on.

If you can help, please contact me at davejiles@gmail.com

More good training advice from the Miculek Family

Target transitions <https://youtu.be/BsWQNJ-AhAg>

Choosing your first gun <https://youtu.be/RaEYqu9uxXc>



The excitement builds; we are seeing more folks out sighting in their hunting rifles, fine tuning their archery equipment, and packing their gear bags. Dove season opens on September 1st followed by archery season on the 2nd. I know that not everyone in the club hunts, but to those of us who do, this is like Christmas Eve.

For all of us aged “flower children” of the 50s and 60s. Not the original, but a very well-done cover of a song that may be coming back into relevance in our current political climate.

<https://youtu.be/MeCu3pm8IxE>

BULLET POINTS



“The Myth of the Safe Neighborhood”

Going back some 25 years, I can recall so many neighbors, friends, and acquaintances who thought that there was no need for a civilian to carry a concealed carry firearm, and in fact it was a terrible idea. “We live in a civilized society after all, those bad things we occasionally hear about on the news don’t happen here”. But times are changing and it becomes harder each day to imagine that the “bubble of safety” will protect you from the rest of the world.

My goal is not to terrify you into a state of clinical paranoia, but to convince you that part of being “safe” is being aware of and prepared for the risk of day-to-day life. Even when life is good, bad things can happen in an instant. Like the teenager

who “just had to” text a cheeky comment and a cute emoji to her friend, and crashes into your car at a stop light.

Your neighbors are good folks, your streets are clean, and your lawns are neatly trimmed, your neighborhood looks nothing like the crime ridden urban cities that seem to compete for the record of the most shootings, stabbings, robberies, and rapes over a holiday weekend. But the “bad guys” know how to get to your place too. You have nicer stuff, and more cash available to you at the auto teller. Best of all, you are probably not as alert and street savvy as the people who have to live among thugs all the time.

If I have your attention, please search out and read up on two horrific cases from the past. Both are cases in “safe neighborhoods” where “these kind of things just don’t happen,” except they do.

From 1959 in the quiet, safe, farming community of Holcomb Kansas, the Clutter family, father, mother, teenage daughter, and son were murdered in their home by two ex-cons that had heard rumors that Mr. Clutter kept a good deal of cash in the house. Turns out he didn’t, so they killed them all. This is the case that was the subject of Truman Capote’s book “In Cold Blood”.

On July 23rd, 2007, the Petit family of Cheshire Connecticut was attacked in their home, by two ex-cons. Dr Petit, the father, was beaten to unconsciousness, Mrs. Petit was forced to drive to the bank and withdraw cash, then taken home, raped and strangled to death. The 17- and 12-year-old daughters were tied to their beds, raped, and then set on fire. Both died.

These are not the subject of horror movies; these are real cases of people who lived in “safe neighborhoods”. They did not lead risky lives, nor flaunt their wealth. They simply fell victim to the greed of subhuman creatures who’s only means to acquire what they wanted was to take it by force with no regard for anyone else. And they know how to get to your neighborhood.

That friendly little convenience store that you stop at on your way to work for gas and coffee, could be the next stop for two ex-cons on a five-state killing spree. That homeless guy that talks to himself, may stop at the sporting goods store and steal a machete (that’s acceptable in some places now) and show up on your doorstep someday. While I feel bad for people with mental illness, my priority in life is the wellbeing of my family, myself, and the innocent people around me.

Despite compassion for your fellow humans with problems, in my opinion, those should be your priorities as well.

You don't have to carry a gun all the time, but you may ask yourself, "Why do I think I will know on what day I may need it and what day I am certain that I won't. You don't need to stage a shotgun under the couch cushions, a revolver in the refrigerator, or an AR-15 on the wall behind the drapes, but you should ask yourself how long it will take you to access a firearm if you really need it.

Most of us are generally too complacent about the threat level; we may have solid core doors, doorbell cameras, maybe even an alarm system. But are the doors secure enough to handle a solid kick or two, is the alarm system on, and though the camera may be helpful for the investigators looking over the crime scene, will you be looking at it when the bad guys approach the house?

Certainly, most of us will never actually experience a criminal attack let alone have to use lethal force. Just the fact that you are alert, aware, and prepared will help you avoid a lot of trouble completely and be able to discourage the attention of a predator. In the wild, predators don't mess with the badger, be the badger.

Meanwhile, no matter what your involvement in the defensive world, train, practice, stay alert, and keep learning.

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."

C.S. Lewis

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