



SAGA SNIPPETS

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SAGA News

SAGA's on the Move!

The SAGA Board of Trustees held an imbizo during November to agree a course for the future. Our focus will be on developing and rolling out exciting changes and upgrades to our social media and communications platform, as well as a number of other new projects. We're going to embark on a determined drive to recruit new members, and are closely following the development and amendment of gun related legislation. Watch the press for details!

SAGA Office

Please note that the SAGA National Office will be closed from Thursday 22 December and will re-open on Wednesday 4 January 2017.

Media Advisories

In November SAGA put out two Media Advisories as follows:

24 November 2016

Gun Owners' Association Weighs in on SAPS Firearm Handling

Reacting to an article (ENCA - SAPS gun proficiency under fire, November 18th), in which it was reported that an estimated 50-60% of SAPS officers would fail their annual firearm handling test, Advocate John Welch, Chairman of SAGA expressed concern, saying "Our men and women in blue are the lead agency in combating crime. Carrying and using firearms is an integral part of their day and we expect them to be far more competent than private gun owners as they protect themselves and the public against increasingly violent criminals." Meanwhile,

in Cape Town this week, a female police officer was shot dead and her colleague wounded in an attack while they were going about their duties. The officers' firearms were stolen during the attack.

Welch observed "If the statistics suggested in the newspaper report are even half accurate it is an issue of great concern to SAGA and to all citizens." He suggested that "Rather than sit on the sidelines and criticize the Police Services, who are known to be often under-resourced and working in dangerous and trying circumstances, SAGA is developing a plan to use private expertise in a useful and supportive role. Our idea is one which would see private gun owners and the shooting fraternity stepping up to the opportunity at local police station level - becoming involved in assisting to reverse this worrying

status quo," said Welch.

He explained that "Without committing any third parties to participation at this time, we see the possibility for recognised Firearms Associations and Shooting bodies to be involved in rolling out and maintaining an agreed training and practice regime at their local shooting ranges for SAPS officers. SAGA believes that a program such as this could provide the necessary opportunity for officers to improve their firearm handling skills and stay current."

"It's time for the shooting fraternity to step up to the plate and 'pay it forward' for SAPS."



Continued....SAGA Media Advisories

25 November 2016

North Gauteng High Court Postpones Applications on Gun Licences

Pretoria November 24. The North Gauteng High Court heard an Application brought by the South African Arms and Ammunition Dealers Association (SAAADA) against the Minister of Police and others.

According to reports, the Judge in the matter – Judge Raulinga, ‘was very well informed on the matter and was aware of the Application of the SA Hunters’. The Judge decided that all the matters relating to the late renewal of firearm licences should be heard together, but not joined. The Judge apparently felt that the various issues dealt with the totality of the problems with administration of the Firearms Control Act by SAPS and that a holistic approach to the matter should be adopted.

The Judge declined to grant any relief at this stage and further directed that the matter be postponed to a date to be determined in April 2017. A date circa 20th April onwards was discussed. It also emerged that in the Judge’s opinion, all three Court cases dealing with the late renewal of licences should be heard by two Judges.

Meanwhile the SA Hunters case, in which SAGA is committed as Amicus Curiae (Friend of the Court) has been set down in the same Court for April 25th and 26th 2017.

It follows that matters relating to the late renewal of firearm licences will only be dealt with in April 2017 - at the earliest. In the interim all Gun Owners are advised to seek qualified legal advice prior to taking any action in connection with general licence renewal issues and expired licences.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

The Top 4 Most Important Active Safety Systems

Most modern guns have one or more mechanical devices or subsystems designed to reduce the likelihood of an inadvertent discharge. These subsystems are collectively known as "safeties." Generally, safeties can be either "active" or "passive." Today, we'll cover active safety systems—those that are intentionally activated and deactivated by the user. (Passive safety systems work without your direct intervention.) Safeties are generally located on the firearm in close proximity to the thumb or index finger of the shooting hand, which allows the user to engage or disengage the safety without disturbing his or her grip.

1. Sear-Blocking Safeties

The sear is the action component of the firearm that holds the hammer or striker in the cocked position; when released, it permits firing. Some safeties work by preventing the sear's release until the user disengages the safety. Examples of sear-blocking safeties include the thumb safety on the M1911 Government Model and Browning Hi-Power pistols.

2. Trigger-Blocking Safeties

The sliding tang safety on most break-action over/under shotguns is of the trigger-blocking safety type. On some break-action shotguns, the tang-mounted sliding trigger-blocking safety automatically resets to the "safe" position each time the gun is opened and closed.

Either of the above safeties will reliably prevent the gun from firing—IF the safety system is in proper working order. This may not always be the case with guns that are older, much-used, or that have been abused or neglected. Even in a new firearm, the engagement between the trigger and the sear or hammer, or

between the sear and the hammer or firing pin, may be only about the thickness of a single credit card. Wear or improper trigger adjustment (either from the factory or, more commonly, from home gunsmithing) can sometimes reduce this slim margin to the point at which dropping the gun, or even closing the action briskly, can cause the trigger or sear to release even with the safety engaged. For this reason, some gunsmiths and firearm authorities consider a safety that solidly blocks the hammer or firing pin to be more secure than the other types of active safeties. This brings us to #3:



3. Hammer- or Firing-Pin-Blocking Safeties

The swinging safety mounted on the bolt shroud of Winchester and Mauser bolt-action rifles retracts and locks the firing pin rearward, and thus is of the firing-pin blocking type.

It's good to know what type of active safety systems your current or potential gun has, and how it works, but it's also important to remember that active safety systems are mechanical devices that can fail. Furthermore, some guns do not have active safety systems at all. Double-action revolvers, for example, usually lack such systems as their long, heavy trigger pulls make an accidental discharge highly unlikely. This is why the very most important "active safety system" of all is #4:

4. Between Your Ears

Your brain is the most critical "active safety system" there will ever be. When you follow the Three Rules of Gun Safety—and ensure that everyone around you does the same—if the mechanical devices that keep the firearm from discharging ever fail, injury can be avoided. So:

ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. This means that even if the gun were to fire, it would not cause injury or damage. Common sense will dictate the safest direction, depending upon the circumstances.

ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot. When holding a gun, rest your trigger finger outside the trigger guard alongside the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.

ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use. Unless the firearm is being kept in a state of readiness for personal protection, it should be unloaded. That said, never assume a firearm is unloaded, even if you unloaded it yourself. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.

by NRA Staff
Friday, September 16, 2016

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2016/9/16/the-top-4-most-important-active-safety-systems/>

Keep Shooting Fun: Tips and Targets That Engage New Shooters

by Sheriff Jim Wilson

I can tell you from my own experience that parents and grandparents are in for a lot of enjoyment when their kids get old enough to begin learning to shoot. Of course, even before they fire their first gun, they should already have a solid understanding of gun safety. And this strong emphasis on safety should continue through their shooting training and throughout their lives. Having said that, parents or other adult teachers should make every effort to see that their range time is a fun and enjoyable experience.

Sometimes, we get so caught up in trying to teach marksmanship we lose sight of the fact that we got into shooting because it was fun. You might consider that a teaching session could begin with emphasis on the principles of marksmanship—breath control, sight picture, and trigger squeeze—but be sure to allow equal, or more, time for some fun shooting.

Kids—actually kids of all ages—enjoy shooting at targets that do something when they are hit. Several companies make different kinds of metal spinner targets at very reasonable prices. The child can see an immediate reaction when he hits one of these targets and some friendly competition will just enhance the experience.



However, when shooting at metal targets, always make sure that you are far enough away from the target that the occasional bullet splashback doesn't endanger anyone.

Another great idea is to take some impromptu targets to the shooting range with you. Of course, it is important to make sure that this is acceptable with whoever is managing the range. And it is best to avoid shooting at anything made of glass for what should be obvious reasons.

Old vegetables make excellent targets for the young shooters and are biodegradable. A center hit on a tomato just gives very satisfying results. Equally fun targets are charcoal briquettes, scattered around at different ranges, that turn in to a gray, smoky-looking cloud when the bullet flies true. Again, these are biodegradable and won't create a mess on the range.

And don't forget about those plastic water bottles that are so popular. Filled with water, capped off and hit with a .22 hollowpoint, they virtually explode. For a real technicolor experience, fill them with water and food coloring—the kids will enjoy helping with that. Think about it and use your imagination in coming up with reactive targets for your little shooters.

Regardless of the fun that you are having, two things are extremely important. Never, ever, allow fun to get in the way of gun safety. No one expects, or requires, us to become great marksmen, but they do have a right to expect us to be safe in everything we do with guns.

The second important thing is to clean up any mess that has been made during our shooting range fun. The range area should be cleaned up just as well as your campsite when you are about to head for home. If you packed it in, pack it out.

You will find that when the kids are having fun, their marksmanship skills steadily increase, and increase at a surprising rate.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2016/9/1/keep-shooting-fun-tips-and-targets-that-engage-new-shooters/>

Thursday, September 1, 2016

Bad For Your Health

<https://www.america1stfreedom.org/articles/2016/11/28/bad-for-your-health/>

by Dave Hardy
Monday, November 28, 2016

This feature appears in the December '16 issue of NRA America's 1st Freedom, one of the official journals of the National Rifle Association.

If you read the medical journals and the propaganda from medical organizations, you would think all doctors hate guns. In fact, most of the medical journal articles on gun ownership could easily be headlined, "Buy A Gun And Die."

But a closer look shows that American Medical Association (AMA) membership continues to dwindle and the anti-gun "studies" invading medical journals are little more than junk science. Most of this junk science has been generated by big grants from the federal government's Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The CDC's involvement is a story in itself. Dr. Arthur Kellermann teamed up with medical examiner Dr. Donald Reay in the 1980s to study gun homicides in King County, Wash., where they both were situated. They concluded that guns in the home were associated with more deaths (84 percent of them being suicides) than with attackers or burglars killed in self-defense.

This was really not surprising: People do not choose to own a gun in the hopes of winning the body count. Studies have shown that defenders against burglary, for instance, rarely shoot unless forced into it, and few sane burglars want to push them that far. Upward of 95 percent (and some studies say closer to 99 percent) of defensive gun uses do not send

the criminal to the morgue. Kellermann and Reay even admitted the limitations of their study, noting: "Mortality studies such as ours do not include cases in which burglars or intruders are wounded or frightened away by the use or display of a firearm. Cases in which would-be intruders may have purposely avoided a house known to be armed are also not identified. We did not report the total numbers or extent of non-lethal firearm injuries involving guns kept in the home. A complete determination of firearm risks versus benefits would require that these figures be known."

In other words, this study actually proved nothing about whether private firearm ownership was good or bad. The mass media, of course, ignored that caveat and reported the conclusion as, "Firearms in the home do more harm than good."

Kellermann's work caught the attention of the CDC, which was more concerned with achieving an anti-gun agenda than with getting solid data. At least they were honest about it.

"We need to revolutionize the way we look at guns, like what we did with cigarettes," the CDC's Dr. Mark Rosenberg told *The Washington Post*. "It used to be that smoking was a glamour symbol—cool, sexy, macho. Now it is dirty, deadly—and banned." Another CDC official had this to say: "We're going to systematically build a case that owning firearms causes deaths. We're doing the most we can do, given the political realities." "Given the political realities," simply means, of course, that they can't push for confiscation ... yet.

For that agenda, treating guns as a medical issue and publishing in medical journals offered a key



advantage—editorial ignorance. For 20-plus years, all serious studies of guns and gun control had been published in journals of criminology or sociology. A number of criminologists had distinguished themselves in the field. David Bordua, Alan Lizotte and Gary Kleck all stood out as experts, and they had generally found that violent crime rates were not affected by gun control or by the percent of households that own guns. Most of these authors, it might be added, had started out assuming that gun control reduced crime rates, but they changed their minds when they found the data pointed in the other direction.

Most academic journals feature peer review, in which a potential article is sent to recognized experts for their critique. Sending a manuscript to a journal of criminology would risk it running into editors and peer reviewers who knew what they were talking about, and who might respond, "But Bordua reached the opposite conclusion, and his methodology was far better than this article's," or "Kleck showed why that approach didn't work, 10 years ago."

Submitting the manuscripts to medical journals solved this problem for the anti-gun crowd. A peer reviewer who was, say, an expert on mosquito-borne

Continued...Bad For Your Health

tropical diseases would not know of the many existing criminal-logical studies done in the past, nor would he know that a statistical tool useful in studying malaria was of no value in studying violent crime.

There was also another consideration to using medical journals. Recall how often you've read of one medical study debunking an earlier one, or been told to eat this or that for your health, only to be told later that that diet was terrible. A 2005 article by John Ioannidis, titled "Why Most Published Research Findings Are False," demonstrated that this was a very widespread problem in medical writings. Medical journals are predisposed to publish anything that says one thing causes or cures another, and have minimal capability to double check the author's claims.

The CDC's grant recipients took full advantage of these matters, and quickly found that the *New England Journal of Medicine* was open to publishing anything anti-gun. In 1988, Dr. John Sloan and Kellermann used that forum to publish "Handgun Regulations, Crime, Assaults, and Homicide: A Tale of Two Cities." Comparing Seattle, Wash., with Vancouver, British Columbia, it noted that Seattle had much higher rates of firearm assault and of murder by handguns, and concluded that Canadian gun control must be the determinant for Vancouver's lower rate. Thus, "A more restrictive approach to handgun control may decrease national homicide rates."

The study did not fare well. It was obvious that comparing two cities allowed almost unlimited "cherry-picking" of data. In fact, it was soon revealed that another academic, Dr. Brandon S. Centerwall, had conducted a study com-

paring homicide, not just in two cities, but in all the American states and Canadian provinces along the international border. He concluded that there were no consistent differences: Sometimes the American state had the lower rates, sometimes the adjacent Canadian province did. "Major differences in the prevalence of handguns have not resulted in differing total criminal homicide rates in Canadian provinces and adjoining U.S. states," he reported.

What was even more significant was that Centerwall had given Sloan a copy of his study before Sloan wrote his own article. So Sloan knew before he wrote about his study that overall the relevant Canadian homicide rates were not lower than the relevant American ones, and that his own comparison of two cities was a matter of cherry-picking an isolated result.

The next major anti-gun claim came in a 1993 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, which was steadily becoming the anti-gunners' publication of choice. Financed by the CDC, with lead author Kellermann, the study was titled "Gun Ownership As a Risk Factor for Homicide in the Home." Its conclusion was that keeping a gun in the home more than doubled the risk of dying from homicide in the home. It was accompanied by a two-page editorial calling for more gun control. (When readers complained, the editorial author went on a rant: "Congress has finally heard the wail of the people, and NRA has lost some of its hold on lawmakers.")

Kellermann's study of course grabbed headlines for a time, but its results were pure bunkum. The authors had taken a list of gun homicide victims in three loca-

tives and friends about their habits and whether they owned a gun. Then he made a comparable list of the victims' neighbors with similar demographics, and asked them the same questions. The homicide victims had been more likely to have handguns in the home than the living neighbors. Conclusion: Possessing a handgun makes it more likely that you will be killed by it.

Comparisons of this type were valid in medicine, because you and your neighbors, all things being equal, are about equally likely to catch a disease. But criminality isn't like that. A person and his neighbor may have entirely different homicide risks if the person's income comes from dealing illegal drugs and his neighbor's income comes from a legitimate job.

That was actually the case here. Compared to the living neighbors, the murder victims were, for instance, five times as likely to have been using illegal drugs, and twice as likely to have a criminal record.

And the study had an even worse flaw. The article spoke of people who possessed a gun in their house being killed, and created the impression that the gun and the death were connected. But critics soon uncovered the fact that a majority of the homicides involved killers who had brought their own gun to the house; it was pure coincidence that the victim owned a gun as well. The fact that a drug dealer owned a gun and was shot by a rival with the rival's gun was being used to show that owning a gun was dangerous, when actually, it was being a drug dealer that was dangerous. But for anyone but drug dealers, the study was completely worthless.

Continued...Bad For Your Health

By 1996, CDC was pumping \$2.6 million a year into anti-gun propaganda, but gun owners and Congress had had enough. That year's CDC budget had a rider forbidding spending to promote gun control. To make sure it got the agency's attention, Congress also took the \$2.6 million it had misused, and earmarked that sum for true medical research. The CDC became cautious and began spending its funds on researching cancer, aids, the Zika virus and other things that involved, well, disease control.

This hasn't completely stopped the production of junk science in the medical journals, but it does mean that Michael Bloomberg or the Joyce Foundation, rather than we taxpayers, are now having to finance it.