



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Six Ways to be a Better Shooter in 2019

by Kevin Creighton

16 January 2019

The New Year means an opportunity to start over, so making a New Year's Resolution is a time-honored tradition at this time of year. This year, along with your other resolutions, why not resolve to a better pistol owner and better pistol marksman as well? A goal without a plan is just a wish, so here are six real-life ways you can improve your shooting and get more out of each range session as well in this new year.

1. Focus on accuracy

There is just no substitute for a well-placed shot, and getting the hang of looking at the front post and making sure it's lined up with your target as you take your shot is a great skill to master in 2019. Many new shooters (and more than a few experienced shooters) can't routinely place all their shots on an 8-inch circle at 10 yards, so this year, make consistent, repeatable performance a priority when you go to the range.

2. Commit to dry-fire practice

Dry-fire practice at home with a safe, unloaded pistol and no live ammunition anywhere in the room is the one of the fastest and easiest ways to improve your shooting.Dry-fire practice costs you nothing but time, and it puts you in the fast lane in the journey towards mastering your pistol.

2019

3. Gear check

Late last year, I reached into the back of my gun safe to pull out a revolver I hadn't shot in a while, and much to my shame, there were more than a few spots of rust on it.

Whoops.

This year, take a few moments and look over your gun collection. Are there any long-term projects you've been putting off? Is it time to swap out that scope that you really didn't like for something more suitable to your needs? How long has it been since you put fresh ammo in your concealed-carry gun? Are the batteries in your optics due for a refresh? Start the new year off right by turning your "to do" list into a "done" list.

4. Take someone to the range

Don't wait for someone else to grow the shooting sports — do it yourself. If you know there's someone in your workplace who's always wanted to go to the range, invite them out to your next shooting session. Have a relative who's gun-curious? Show them how to have fun with guns in a safe and relaxed environment. Our Right to Keep and Bear Arms is hanging by a thread, and the more

people we have on our side who see guns as a fun recreational tool (or better still, an essential human right), the better our chances of keeping those rights in the tumultuous political environment we're currently in.

5. Try something new

For the last 10 years, I've been focused primarily on the practical shooting sports, mostly with pistols, but a little 3-Gun as well. Last year, however, I started shooting Precision Rifle, and you know what? I like it. I like it a lot. The calm exactitude of Precision Rifle requires a completely different mindset than the run-and-gun frenzy of a pistol match, and I'm really enjoying it. If there's a sport you've always wanted to try, but it's way outside your comfort zone, give it a shot. Who knows? You might find a new way to have fun with your guns, and introduce yourself to a new group of friends as well.

6. Shoot for fun, but shoot with a purpose as well

When I go the range, it's usually with a purpose in mind, whether to sight-in a new gun, work on my draw or improve my accuracy. I'm the exception, however, and I nev-



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er realized how much of an exception I really was until a recent range session with my 13-year-old son, who had a grand old time plinking away at some steel targets with my Savage .22 bolt gun. Take some time each range session to not only have fun turning money into noise, but also put that ammo to some good use and work on specific skills to help make you a better shooter.

The goal in all of this is to end 2019 as a better marksman than you were at the beginning of the year, and continue to grow and expand awareness and participation in the shooting sports, so we can continue to enjoy the Right to Keep and Bear Arms for many, many years to come.

Extracted from:

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/1/16/6-ways-to-be-a-better-shooter-in-2019/>

SAGA comment:

While this article is from the USA and refers to the rights enjoyed by their gunowners, the six pointers remain useful suggestions for gunowners in South Africa.

2019 Membership Fees

Membership Fees for 2019 have, in most categories, gone up by about 10%.

However, those for Juniors and Pensioners (new and renewing members) have been kept the same as 2018.

2019 Annual Fees are:

New: Adult R220

New: Junior/Pensioner R150

New: Family Head R220

New: Family Member R60

Renewal: Adult R170

Renewal: Junior/ Pensioner R100

Renewal: Family Head R170

Renewal: Family Member R60

Life Member R4000

If you are not sure when your membership is due please contact the office.

Remember—renewing your membership is essential. With the expected changes to the legislation, keep informed and stay aware of things that affect you!

Self-Defense Behind the Wheel of Your Car

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/1/29/self-defense-behind-the-wheel-of-your-car/>

by W.H. "Chip" Gross

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

As more and more firearms owners in America seek advanced handgun training, more and more private shooting ranges are seeing this demand and filling the need. One of those ranges in Ohio is East Group Training Concepts.

Usually open only to law enforcement and military personnel, during the past year the range has hosted half a dozen advanced firearms training courses for the public through the Buckeye Firearms Association (www.BuckeyeFirearms.org). One of the unique training opportunities East Group offers is firing a handgun through the front windshield of a vehicle — from the inside out. I just had to try it, so I arranged for an hour or two of one-on-one instruction with head instructor Sly.

As a concealed-carry permit holder you may think that shooting through a windshield or side window from the inside of a vehicle is only a remote real-life possibility, but Sly disagrees.

"Carjackings are on the rise in the U. S., so to protect yourself you may be forced to shoot from inside your vehicle," he said. "Most carjackings occur when a vehicle is stopped, either at a stoplight or possibly when a person has pulled into or is leaving a parking lot. And during those times most people have their doors unlocked, and they're not paying attention to what's happening around them. Their mind is on the particular errand they're run-

ning or they may be talking on a cell phone, so their vulnerability is high."

Sly added that your first and best defense in an attempted carjacking/robbery is to put the vehicle in gear, if it's not already, and step on the gas. But if for some reason you can't do that, you then may be forced to fight.



Does shooting through a windshield deflect the flight of a handgun bullet significantly? The short answer to that question, according to Sly, is yes. "But as with any ricochet, you never really know how much the bullet will be affected," he said. "Let me show you..."

He placed a large paper target immediately in front of an older model SUV, no farther than 10 to 12 feet away from where I sat in the driver's seat. "Now, aim at the center of the target and fire one shot through the windshield," he said.

I took my time aiming, pressed the trigger, and the bullet hit the target 2 feet higher than my aim point. "Shoot again," said Sly. I repeated the shot and the bullet again hit 2 feet high. Both shots had deflected 2 feet from my point of aim in just 10 to 12 feet of distance — incredible!

"The deflection is due to the slant of the windshield," he said.

"When a bullet starts to penetrate glass, as it does any obstruction, it follows the path of least resistance. Meaning that as the tip of the bullet strikes the glass, the back of the bullet tilts downward, causing the bullet to fly high. When shooting through a windshield from the outside of a vehicle, the opposite occurs; the bullet deflects downward. But the overall effect is not as drastic from outside in because the distance from the windshield to a target in the front or back seats is usually not as great."

I was shooting 9mm ball ammunition, unjacketed, and at times during my subsequent shots the bullet would fragment going through the glass, producing two hits on the target instead of just one. Sly said that even with full metal jacket ammo the glass will, at times, partially or completely strip the jacket from the bullet. "You just never know for sure what a bullet will do when it hits an obstruction," he said.

If you are ever involved in a possible gunfight situation, and you can't drive away, Sly advises getting out of the vehicle. "By staying in the vehicle you're essentially trapped and it's difficult to maneuver to return fire. Every situation is different, but in most cases it's better to exit the vehicle and seek cover than it is to stay inside."

But what if you can't exit? For instance, what if there are children or grandchildren in the vehicle with you? If the kids are old enough, Sly recommends having a code word that the kids quickly recognize, such as "gun!"

"When you say that word, the kids should immediately plug their ears with their fingers, tightly close their eyes, and put their

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head down. Because if you have to shoot there will be flying glass, and the report of a handgun in a vehicle is extremely LOUD. So loud in fact, that a young child could have his eardrums broken or hearing permanently damaged if his ears are not plugged.”

For the final part of my instruction, Sly placed a life-sized target of a bad guy in the front passenger seat of a vehicle and had me shoot through the windshield at it from about 15 feet in front of the vehicle. Again, most of my initial shots went high, but not because the bullets deflected. It was because of where I was looking.

“As humans, we’re hard-wired to look at each other’s faces,” he said. “And during a gunfight that is not good because you will instinctively shoot high. Instead, look and aim where you want the bullets to go — center mass — and they’ll go there.”

Sly made one last critical point. “Always remember that, as a civilian, you should pull your handgun only as a last resort, as a defensive weapon, never offensive. Because if you ever are forced to shoot someone, it will change their life and yours forever. The ramifications are many, not only physical, but legal, psychological and financial, as well. And that’s even if you are in the right.”

Sobering advice, for sure...

Note: Before trying this type of advanced-handgun training, make sure you are wearing adequate eye and ear protection plus a scarf that covers your nose and mouth, because small glass particles will be sent flying. In most American-made vehicles the glass in the windshield will spider web when hit by a bullet; side and rear windows will shatter into small, pea-sized pieces.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

Self-Defense for Women: Cultivate "Condition Yellow"



<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/1/3/self-defense-for-women-cultivate-condition-yellow/>

by Wendy LaFever
Thursday, January 3, 2019

Ask any self-defense expert what you can do right now to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of crime, and chances are they'll say the same thing: Cultivate your situational awareness. After all, the best self-defense situation is the one that never takes place, because you are able to sense and avoid a potential problem long before it ever gets inside your sphere.

One way that many people talk about situational awareness is Col. Jeff Cooper's "Color Code." Ideally, we should be spending the majority of our time in "Condition Yellow," which is basically a state of relaxed alertness, and only going "Condition White" when we are asleep. Last month, we discussed one simple way to help yourself stay in Condition Yellow. Another very simple way to cultivate situational awareness is to change your relationship with your smartphone.

Yes, yes, I can already hear the "get off my lawn" chorus, but before you dismiss the idea, try this experiment the next time you're out and about: Look around

you and try figure out a rough percentage of your fellow diners, shoppers and commuters that is not currently poking away at their smartphones. The last five times I tried, it was approximately 25 percent. That meant that if someone started choking on his steak tartare...or a potential purse thief sidled up...or a pedestrian stepped out suddenly into the road...three quarters of the people around wouldn't have had a prayer of reacting in time.

Don't get me wrong: Smartphones in general are a net benefit in just about every way.The point is simply that when you are engaged with your phone, whether you're having a text conversation, playing a game, surfing the Net or checking your work e-mail, your eyes are focused on the screen and your brain has relegated everything around you to background noise. Even if you have terrific peripheral vision and a strong multitasking capability—some do—you're still hobbling your ability to proactively react to developing situations around you. When you're focused on your phone, you have essentially rendered yourself "Condition White."

So how to balance off the insistent buzzing of incoming messages and notifications against your personal defense strategy? When you're considering whether to pull the phone out, think of it as if you were contemplating doing something else that would put you in Condition White — sleeping. Ask yourself, "If I were to take a brief nap, right here, right now, would

that be a reasonably safe thing to do?" So if you were driving a car, the answer would be "no." If you were pulled over in a well-traveled and policed rest area with your doors locked, for you the answer might be "maybe, for a few minutes anyway."

You may have noticed by this point that this article's title refers to self-defense for women, and that there's nothing gender-specific about any of the above advice. Where this becomes of particular interest to those of us on the distaff side is that we may find it harder to distance ourselves from the siren call of the incoming text: A recent study has indicated that women are more prone to smartphone "addiction" than men. Additionally, many women use their smartphones almost like a shield, to send the message that they don't wish to be bothered by strangers or that they're uncomfortable with a conversation. It's a form of nonverbal communication meant to say "back off." The problem is that, to a predator, it says something quite different: "I am ignoring my surroundings, and also I have a valuable item here in my hand that would be pretty easy for you to take."

Cultivate Condition Yellow. As wonderful as smartphone technology is, it's no substitute for awareness.