



SAGA SNIPPETS

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General SAGA Updates

FCA Bill Submissions Closed

The deadline for making a submission on the Firearms Control Amendment Bill has now passed.

SAGA's submission has been formally acknowledged by the Civilian Secretariat for Police (CSP).

We trust that our submission will be taken seriously as SAGA is major stakeholder in the firearms landscape in South Africa.

The next step in this process is for the CSP to analyse all the submissions and prepare a summary of these for cabinet. It is unknown how long this will take. We will keep members updated.

New Look SAGA Website

The SAGA website has had a mini make-over.

It now has a more up to date look, it's easier to navigate and a lot of content has been simplified for ease of use. Take a look at www.saga.org.za

Chaos and Disorder at the CFR

Many firearm owners have been struggling for months to obtain feedback on the progress – or lack of progress with their competency and licence applications.

The office has been receiving complaints from members about poor service delivery from SAPS on a daily basis.

If you have experienced delays beyond 90 days with your competency or licence application, please email the office with your details.

SAGA has taken the decision to in due course go forward on behalf of our members with an application to the High Court against CFR and SAPS, to force them to process applications within a reasonable time period. Applications should be processed within 90 days (three months), as prescribed by the Promotion of Administrative Justice Act 3 of 2000 (PAJA).



Membership

In the mean time we need to keep growing support for SAGA and the work we are doing for legal firearm owners.

Make sure you renew on time, sign up a new member, let your firearm owning friends and colleagues know about SAGA.

New Member Rates for 2021:

Adult R250

Junior R150

Pensioner R150

Family:

1x Adult @R250 plus any number of family members @ R60 each

Renewal rates for most categories of membership are R50 less than the new rate. Enquire at the office.

Scan the QR code above for a quick link to the SAGA application form.

Woman's Day 2021 – Armed & Informed

By Hamish Deal

On Monday 9th of August 2021, eleven ladies from the Western Cape, braved the cold and wet weather to attend Armed & Informed, an orientation session supported by SAGA at Bellville Pistol Club.



Registration commenced at 08:00 with a light breakfast and refreshments. Each lady received a Goodie bag with various gifts from our event partners, including a custom made limited edition SAGA mug.

The session was presented by Hamish Deal from Bellville Pistol Club who gave everyone a warm welcome. The guest speaker was Lance Allam, a SAGA Trustee, who gave an overview of SAGA and explained SAGA's intentions and interest in gunowners and other related parties in South Africa.

The session included a discussion around actual events in which people had found themselves threatened by attackers, and the facts related to such. As the session progressed, the advantages and benefits of owning a firearm were explored and aspects relating to self-defence and certain legalities were discussed. An introduction to sport shooting was also presented.

The 7 fundamentals of shooting were discussed as well as the basic operation of firearms and various safety aspects.

Kaylin Blomerus, who is Bellville Shooting Club's youngest female sport shooter at 16 years of age, was the demonstration shooter. She provided the ladies with a demonstration of what to expect during the practical orientation experience.

Each lady then had the opportunity to use a semi-automatic pistol, a semi-automatic rifle as well as a pump action shotgun. It was incredible to see the ladies enjoy the experience, while in parallel, developing skills in the basic handling of firearms.

After all the hard work, the ladies were treated to a wonderfully presented meal. There was a lucky draw with a prize for each participant, ensuring no lady left empty handed. The overall SAGA floating trophy was awarded to Siri Hills with just over 96% score.



SAGA's support made this event possible and it is clear that prospective and current firearm owners stand to benefit enormously by supporting SAGA who care for and invest in their members and in particular, firearm ownership in South Africa.

Armed Defense from Your Vehicle

by Jim Wilson
17 July 2021

When thinking about defending yourself while in your car, from a carjacking or any other deadly attack, one might keep in mind that probably the best defensive tool is what you are sitting in. Yep, your car. When confronted with a threat, the best move is to stick your foot on that accelerator and leave.

And this is also not the time to try to follow the admonishments of your old driving instructor. If you have to ram the bad guy's car, do it. If you have to drive up on the sidewalk — if you can do it without endangering innocents — do it. Accept the fact that your car is probably going to get dinged up, just get away and notify law enforcement as soon as you can.

However, situations may occur where you can't drive away from the attack. In that case, if there is shooting, or the likelihood of shooting, you need to get out of that car as quickly as possible. Sitting in the car, especially behind the steering wheel, really

limits a person's mobility. Imagine having to engage someone who is directly behind the vehicle and shooting at you through the back window.

So you need to get out of that vehicle and get to better cover. Many attacks will come from the driver's side of the vehicle, which means that you need to go out the passenger door. Have you tried that? Can you climb over the center console and get out through the passenger door? You may want to give that some thought and practice.

Further, if a passenger is in that right front seat, do they know that when you say, "Get out!", that you mean for them to get out right now? This is not the time to have to have a discussion about the merits, nor is it time for a lengthy explanation.

And, of course, once you are outside, your car itself can serve as the cover you need. The best position being the front of the car where you can keep the engine block between you and incoming bullets.

We spend a lot of time in our cars, but I fear that too few armed citizens really give a lot of thought to dealing with armed attacks while in the car. Take some time and do a dry practice in your car. Imagine dealing with various different positions for your attackers, left corner, right corner, directly behind. Figure out how you can quickly get over the console and out through the passenger door.

Give it some thought and work out some techniques.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/articles/2021/7/17/armed-defense-from-your-vehicle/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0721

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

Manual Safeties On Carry Guns: Pro Vs. Con

By Brad Fitzpatrick
23 August 2021

While writing a book on concealed carry, I polled a number of new shooters who had recently obtained their CCW permit and asked what they were looking for in a defensive firearm. Many of the answers were what you might have expected; the majority of respondents wanted a gun that was compact and easy to carry, reliable, simple to operate and affordable. But one particular feature that many new permit holders demanded was a manual safety on semiautomatic firearms. This wasn't a local mandate where restrictions required firearms to be equipped with a manual safety, but rather a personal preference. Simply put, many shooters felt more at ease when carrying a firearm with a manual safety.

There are, however, many defensive firearms that do not have manual safeties and many, many shooters who prefer them. We must be clear, though, that there is a difference between "safeties" and manual safeties. Glock firearms, for instance, are referred to as "Safe Action" pistols and they contain three mechanical safeties—a trigger safety, a firing pin safety and a drop safety—but no manual safety. So, to be clear, when we discuss safeties we are strictly referring to manual safeties—a bar or lever that must be moved to allow the gun to fire.

Because shooters are so divided on the manual safety issue and because certain state and jurisdiction have specific laws requiring manual safeties, many companies like Ruger, Smith & Wesson and SCCY offer firearms with an optional manual safety. Additionally, this is primarily relevant to semiauto handguns, since double-action revolvers generally do not have a manual safety.

So, should you have a manual safety in your defensive firearm? That depends on your taste, comfort level and preferences. But before we examine the pros and cons of each style one thing must be made perfectly clear: A manual safety does not make a gun safe, nor does the lack of a manual safety make a gun inherently dangerous.

The key to avoiding negligent discharges is to follow the universal rules of firearms safety by treating every gun as though it were loaded at all times, keeping your finger off the trigger and out of the trigger guard until you are ready to fire, never pointing the muzzle of the firearm at something you are not willing to destroy and always being sure of your target and what lies beyond it. Understanding these rules—and always remaining aware when handling a firearm—are the real keys to safety.

A manual safety does not preclude a shooter from learning, understanding and implementing those rules.

Advantages of a Manual Safety

Some shooters only feel confident when carrying a firearm with a manual safety, and there's little room to argue that a gun with a manual safety is far superior to having no gun at all.

Along that same vein, many shooters only feel safe carrying a pistol with a round in the chamber if they have a gun with a manual safety, and it does take less time to release the safety on a firearm than to rack the slide. The manual safety acts as a last line of defense to prevent a gun from firing if it is mishandled, though it should be clearly understood that you cannot rely on a manual safety to act as a substitute for proper gun handling and firearm security.

In certain instances a manual safety can help prevent an accident if the shooter makes a mistake; the most common example relating to a dropped firearm. Guns are an investment, and many people instinctively reach out and grab a firearm that falls from the holster or from a table the same way they would if it were a smartphone. Problem is, if you have a loaded gun with no safety and inadvertently grab the trigger, you can accidentally fire a shot if your gun is not equipped with some form of manual safety (and it's for this reason that you never reach to grab a falling handgun).

Most manual safeties are lever designs that fit tight close to the side of the firearm. Colt 1911s and clones have both a manual thumb safety as well as a grip safety that must be depressed before the gun can be fired; this tandem of manual safeties is why these guns are generally carried in the "cocked and locked" position. Springfield Armory outfits their striker-fired XD pistols with a grip safety, a simple layout that is intuitive and unobtrusive, so there are a number of manual safety options.

Advantages of Firearms Without Manual Safeties

There's a misconception that firearms without manual safeties are a new fad, but that's not true. In fact, the classic "pocket guns" of a century ago—namely compact double-action revolvers—did not have manual safeties. The DA revolver's long trigger pull made these guns relatively safe to carry. Modern revolvers and modern semiautos without safeties are popular and, if properly handled, they are safe. It's critical, though, that these guns be secured in a holster with the trigger shielded.

Continued...Manual Safeties On Carry Guns: Pro Vs. Con

The primary advantage of guns without manual safeties is their simplicity. You draw, pull the trigger and the gun will fire without the need to operate a safety. Under duress, something as simple as releasing a manual safety can escape your mind. If there's no manual safety to release then that's not a concern, and there's no external safety mechanism to hang-up when drawing. Trigger weights vary, and double-action revolvers and DA/SA guns like the

SIG P226 and the Beretta 92 may have an initial trigger pull of 10 pounds or more, reducing the likelihood of negligent discharges. With DA/SA guns the cocking of the hammer after the initial shot reduces the trigger pull of subsequent shots to somewhere between 4 and 6 pounds. Striker-fired guns have a lighter trigger pull initially—roughly 6 pounds—and each subsequent shot has the same pull weight.

Most of the guns that I carry and use for personal defense do not have a manual safety, but I feel confident carrying them even with a round in the chamber. Why? Because I carry them in a secure holster and I repeatedly work on the fundamental rules of firearms safety as I practice each day. Primarily, I work to ensure that I do not place my finger inside the trigger guard until I am ready to fire, and after shooting my finger is immediately indexed for re-holstering.

Moving Targets: The Route to Better Shooting Skills

by Mark Fike
19 August 2021

Shooting is fun no matter how you do it, but everyone has their own level of enjoyment. Some are content shooting paper targets, while others need some action in their shooting. I find myself in the latter group. Once the gun is sighted-in, I am trading the paper targets for something that moves. While paper targets have a big role in becoming a better shooter, moving targets also play an important role in improving our shooting abilities.

Paper targets don't move; they are static or fixed. Moving targets put our senses at a different level, and we find it easier to be laser focused to make the target move. When your desire is to make something swing, jump, explode or sound off, you tend to try harder. When you try harder, you get better at whatever it is you are doing. When you are getting better at something, your confidence grows and you end up having more fun!

For those reasons I really enjoy shooting moving targets, and I have found many of the new shooters I introduce to shooting really light up when they hear the metal plate sound off or see the clay explode or watch a target swing wildly. I can easily see them wanting to become better shooters and they soon execute the "sight, acquire, fire" drill better and better. It is instant gratification!

You can set up your own moving targets from items you find at home, but if you are going to do a lot of shooting or you plan on being serious about it, investing in a quality made moving target will save you a lot of time over the years and offer you a safe setup that you can reliably run drills on or have some friendly competition.

Tree Targets

Tree targets aren't actual trees, of course! They have a straight vertical metal bar in the middle with paddles that stick out left and right from it on a hinge. When you



shoot them on one side, they swing to the other side. You and a partner can "punch" them back and forth. These targets are great for speed drills, honing your sight acquisition, or having a competition to see if you or your partner can put all of the targets to one side or the other while both of you are shooting.

Continued...Moving Targets: The Route to Better Shooting Skills

Plate Rack Targets

Plate rack targets have swinging paddles below or paddles above that you knock down, swing or lock in the UP position (depending on what the manufacturer designed). My go-to plate rack target is Challenge Targets' Shoot to Reset Plate Rack. This product works well with common handgun calibers and is a lot of fun to shoot. Always check your owner's manual to verify the safe distance for shooting your specific caliber!

There are four paddles. The shooters shoot three. They lock up out of sight until you hit the fourth one, which causes them all to reset. No more walking back and forth to reset targets! There are plenty of reasons to like this product.

First, it can be broken down by taking off the legs with no tools and put in a truck to go to a friend's house or camp. Second, the premium package comes with .22 paddles, which easily switch out so you can get the entire family involved in shooting, even the younger shooters. Third, the centerfire setup has a bullseye plate with a 2" aperture to make sure you really put your round in the exact spot to reset the targets. This is a great feature for timed challenges, or just to get your focus dialed in.

We used this plate rack target to knock the rust off our shooting skills. Due to ammo shortages we have not been shooting nearly as much as we would like, and it showed during the first rounds of practice. However, after a few rounds, I was happily burning the paddles up and resetting them without much thought. It felt great to use this target system to rehone my shooting.

There are other moving targets made by various companies out there. Be sure to do your research and get a setup that will last and is made of certified steel. This is why I personally like Challenge Targets. I know the quality is great. You can check out other moving targets on their site.

Safety

When using one of the above targets or any like them, keep in mind that there will be a minimum safe distance between the shooter and the target, and that minimum safe distance starts at 10 yards for small-caliber pistols. It increases for each caliber—and there will be a dramatic increase in the minimum safe distance from pistol caliber to rifle calibers. Rifle calibers are considered to have a minimum safe distance of 100 yards. Your owners' manual should provide specifics, and you should always check those specifics ... then go a little further out

than required. The reason why is that it is possible for bullet fragments to shatter or break off around the target.

Don't forget safety glasses and ear protection, and wear long pants. Another primary safety consideration is to be certain of your backstop. Always know what lies beyond your target!

Extracted from:

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/8/19/moving-targets-the-route-to-better-shooting-skills>

SAGA 2021 Corporate Members

SAGA is proud to have the support of these businesses, clubs and associations.

We call on all SAGA members to support our Corporate members when they can.

Corporate Membership is per calendar year and costs:

Business/Association @ R750
Clubs/Taxidermist @ R500

If you are interested or know someone who may be interested please contact the office for more information.

Join via the website using the Corporate Application tab on the Join SAGA page.

Member List

Alpha Security & Patrols
Arms King
Awesome Tools

Boomsticks
Border Hunting Club
Bruce Shaw Trust
Buffalo River Shooting Club
Bushveld Hunters & Game Cons - Pietersburg Branch

Cape Sport Rifle Club
Clay Pigeon Adventures
Clay Target Shooting Association

False Bay FTA (Pty) Ltd
False Bay Sport Shooting Club
FM Safaris

Guns and Bows cc
Gunlicence.co.za

HJ Drinn (Pty) Ltd
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Modderfontein Shooting Club
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National Arms and Ammunition Collector's Confederation of South Africa (NAAACSA)
Nico van Rooyen Taxidermy
Nyathi Anti Poaching Unit

Pretoria Arms and Ammunition Association
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Recoveri
Rescomp Handgun Technologies
Richards Bay Sport Shooting Club

SAAACA Gauteng
SAAACA Mpumalanga
SAAACA Natal
Sabie Clay Pigeon Club
SMS Lyle & Associates
Shooting Stuff
Somerset West Pistol Club
South African Defensive Pistol Association (SADPA)
Southern Cape Hunters and Conservation Association
Star Rapid Response
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