



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Holiday Security

Note from SAGA:

Although this article is from 2012 it is still relevant today.

by Jim Wilson
21 November 2012

And, especially during the holidays, it really doesn't hurt to have a little family conference about safety.

All you have to do is go by any big mall just about dark and have a look at the shoppers as they trudge their way back to their cars. Most of them have their heads down, digging in purses for car keys, as they wander out through the parking lot. They are so tired that they are totally oblivious to anything that is going on around them. It is a scenario that is made to order for crooks.

This time of year, it is always a good idea to take someone with you when you set out to do your holiday shopping. Two sets of eyes are better than one. Get your keys out before you leave the building and use your eyes to scan the parking lot for your car and the area around it.

If a person is truly practicing awareness, problems will become obvious while one is still quite a ways from the vehicle. You should be looking for people hanging around your car who seem to have no real purpose. Be alert for people who seem out of place. Be alert for anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. And, for goodness sakes, if you feel un-

comfortable, don't just ignore it and go on. Take the time to figure out what the problem is and what you are going to do about it.

Even if a person is carrying a defensive handgun, the smart move is to just go back into the store and let mall security, or the police, handle the situation. Don't be afraid to call for help and don't be put off by the bored looks you get from the security staff. That's their job and they need to do it.

One of the best accessories to carry during an all-day shopping binge is a tactical light. Use it to light the way to your car. Use it to check the area around your car before you get too close. Shine it in the face of anyone who approaches you without a good reason.

Dark shopping-mall parking lots and tired shoppers are a productive haven for crooks. Be alert. Be aware. And, above all, don't be a victim.

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/holiday-security/>

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

**SORRY WE'LL BE
CLOSED!**

The SAGA office will close at 14:00 on Wednesday 22 December 2021 and will re-open at 08:00 on Monday 10th January 2022.

The SAGA Trustees and staff wish you and your family all the best for the festive season and the new year.

SAGA Membership 2022

The good news is that SAGA has decided to apply a very nominal increase to all individual membership fees from January 2022. You can expect just a R10 difference in the annual fees to join or renew SAGA.

SAGA members are essential for SAGA to continue to protect your firearm ownership rights.

Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes? Get them to join SAGA today!

Rates for New Members for 2022:

Adult R260

Junior R160

Pensioner R160

Family:

1x Adult @R260 plus any number of family members @ R70 each

Scan the QR code below for a quick link to the SAGA application form or join via our website at www.saga.org.za



Corporate Members

SAGA is proud to have had the support of these businesses, clubs and associations as Corporate members for 2021 and we look forward to them renewing for 2022!!

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

If you are interested or know someone who may be interested in becoming a SAGA Corporate member please contact the office for more information.

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

Corporate Member List

Ainslie International
Alpha Security & Patrols
Arms King
Awesome Tools

Boomsticks
Border Hunting Club
Broadway Shooting Club
Bruce Shaw Trust
Buffalo River Shooting Club

Cape Hunters & Conservation Association
Cape Sport Rifle Club
CHS Guns & Ammunition cc
City Guns cc
Clay Pigeon Adventures
Clay Target Shooting Association

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

Gunlicence.co.za
Guns & Bows cc

Hillandale Shooting Club
Hillcrest Park Neighbourhood Watch
Hunt

Ihawu Firearms Centre
Impala Shooting Club

Kings Gun Shop
Kokstad Shooting Club
KZN Hunting, Shooting & Conservation Association

Liteoptec (Pty) Ltd
Lyll Morgan & Associates
Lyle & Associates

Matthews Enslin Inc
Medway
Mil.Spec. Equipment cc
Modderfontein Shooting Club
Montana Pistol Club
MOSSC Sport Shooting Association

NAACSA
Nyathi Anti Poaching Unit

PHASA
PWAV
Recoveri
Richards Bay Sport Shooting Club

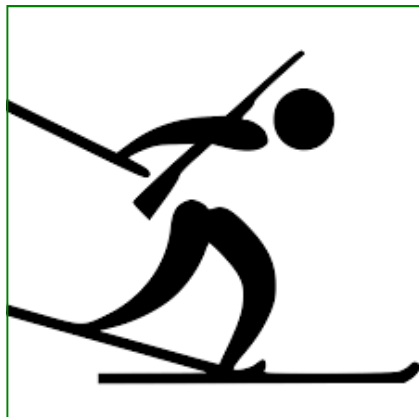
SAAACA Gauteng
SAAACA Mpumalanga
SAAACA Natal
SA Tactical Institute
Sabie Clay Pigeon Club
Shooting Stuff
Somerset West Pistol Club
South Cape Hunters and Conservation Association
Star Rapid Response
Starlight Security Services
Sysdel cc

Taxidermy Africa

Vektor Shooting Club

Whylo (Pty) Ltd
Witbank Practical Shooting Club

How Much Do You Know About Biathlon?



<https://www.ssusa.org/articles/2021/12/9/how-much-do-you-know-about-biathlon>

by John Parker
Thursday, December 9, 2021

A military-inspired Olympic event that combines cross-country skiing and target shooting, biathlon is among the most grueling of all sports.

Take our 10-question quiz to find out just how much you know about biathlon.

1. True or false? Biathlon is a combination of cross-country skiing and pistol shooting.

2. What year was the first World Biathlon Championship held?

1920
1938
1955
1958

3. True or false? A precursor sport to biathlon called "military patrol" was a competitive event at the 1924 Chamonix Winter Olympic Games.

4. What year did the biathlon make its official Winter Olympics debut?

1928 St. Moritz
1932 Lake Placid
1960 Squaw Valley
1964 Innsbruck

5. Biathlon steel plate targets are placed at what distance?

20 meters
25 meters
40 meters
50 meters

6. Each biathlon prone target is _____ in diameter?

25 mm
45 mm
50 mm
115 mm

7. How many meters distance is a biathlon penalty loop?

50 meters
100 meters
150 meters
200 meters

8. With 52 in total, which nation currently holds the most Olympic biathlon medals?

Germany
Sweden
France
Russia

9. In what two shooting positions do biathlon shooters fire their rifles at targets?

Sitting and kneeling
Standing and kneeling
Sitting and prone
Standing and prone

10. True or false? The 2022 Winter Olympics biathlon program includes mixed relay events.

- Answers**
1. False
 2. d. 1958
 3. True
 4. c. 1960 Squaw Valley
 5. d. 50 meters
 6. b. 45 mm
 7. c. 150 meters
 8. a. Germany
 9. d. Standing and prone
 10. True. The 4x6 km Mixed Relay event will be held on Saturday, February 5 at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

11 Ways To Help a New Shooter Succeed

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/11/30/11-ways-to-help-a-new-shooter-succeed>

by Wendy LaFever
Tuesday, November 30, 2021

"I think I need to learn how to shoot a gun. Can you help me?"

Whether it's coming from a friend, colleague or family member, these are the words that everyone who loves the shooting sports should be thrilled to hear.

It can be hard for someone who has never fired a gun before to admit that they need help. The fact that they've chosen to trust you with this critically important task should come as a tremendous compliment—as well as a serious responsibility. The first trip to the range can make or break a person's future interest in the shooting sports, so it's up to you to ensure that the experience is a positive one.

1. Emphasize Safety

The most important part of a first trip to the range should start long before you pull into the parking lot. Explain to your first-timer that safety comes first, and help show them what that means. Consider using an object that is not a firearm (say, a "blue gun" or a water pistol) to demonstrate the concept of a "safe direction." Show them how to move themselves around the gun to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, and how to keep their finger outside the trigger guard.

Go over the Three Rules (ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction; ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot; ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use) until they know them by heart.



2. Tell Them What to Expect

Explain the rules of the range that you plan to take them to ahead of time.

Let them know what a Range Safety Officer (RSO) is, and emphasize that they must obey the RSO's directions. Tell them what the range commands mean in practical terms. They may get the idea of "Ceasefire," but they may not understand that they can't fire off just one more shot to empty the magazine.

3. Manage Their Expectations

Unfortunately, the discipline of marksmanship has been misrepresented by the media. Although there is such a thing as a "natural" shooter, most people require practice and instruction to get good at it. Let them know that, although this is a skill just about anyone can learn, nobody expects them to be Wild Bill Hickok or Calamity Jane right off the bat.

4. Keep the Situation Relaxed

If at all possible, try to take your newbie to the range at a time when it's not crowded. The experience of shooting for the first time is intimidating enough when you're not feeling self-conscious that you're being "judged" by more experienced shooters, or being continually startled by the report of a .308 from the next lane over. Speaking of which...

5. Reduce Noise as Much as Possible

Again, due to media misrepresentation, many new shooters will underestimate just how loud a gun's report can be. It's natural for people to startle or be made uneasy by repeated loud noises, even if they're expecting it. Many problems with flinching when shooting are due more to the noise than to recoil. Have them double up on ear protection, using both foam plugs and earmuffs. If you have legally obtained a suppressor for your firearm, this is the time to break it out!

6. Bring the Right Gun

Many of the folks who are just getting into shooting are doing so because they're concerned about personal defense. However, many personal-defense firearms can be quite intimidating to shoot, offering intense recoil and muzzle blast.

This first trip to the range should be about gaining comfort and having fun, so focus on firearms that are easy to shoot. A long-barreled revolver chambered in .22, for example, or a rifle chambered in .17 HMR, will allow your newbie to focus on their fundamentals instead of how much their hands and shoulders hurt.

7. Bring the Right Guns, Plural

If possible, bring more than one firearm. Everyone's anatomy and preferences are different, so your newbie may discover that they actually like shooting a semi-auto better than a revolver, or that the rifle you brought is too long for them. Who knows - if all goes well, they may even want to try the .45 before they leave!

Continued... 11 Ways To Help a New Shooter Succeed

8. Make it Easy For Them to Succeed

Nothing breeds success like success. If your range will allow it, consider using paper plates as targets for the first several shots; that way, your newbie won't be upset with themselves for not hitting the 10-ring. Anything that hits the plate is a "win."

If you're starting with a pistol, consider keeping the targets at no more than 7 yards. (After all, that's the distance at which the vast majority of self-defense shootings happen.) Focus on helping them achieve proper sight picture, a good trigger squeeze and a good stance, not on precise marksmanship.

9. Keep it Fun

As your new shooter gains confidence, why not try reactive targets? Targets that change color when they are hit are not only fun, but offer real-time feedback for the shooter. Perhaps some whimsical "zombie" targets will amuse them, or maybe they'd enjoy steel targets that fall down when hit.

10. Respect Their Space

You'll want to stand close enough to them that you can see what they're doing, but try not to breathe down their neck. It's quite likely that, at some point, you'll need to help adjust your mentee's stance or grip. Even if you know this person well, before you touch them, let them know why and ask their permission. ("I need to adjust your stance. May I touch your elbow?") Do not touch them without their permission unless there's a serious safety-based reason to do so, as many people become nervous and flinchy when they are touched unexpectedly.

11. Remember, This is About Them (Not You)

We're all human, and sometimes the urge to show a beginner just what an expert is capable of can be overwhelming. Resist it. Even the most naturally talented newbie may be discouraged if they see you rapidly empty your magazine into a perfect dime-sized hole at 25 yards.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

5 MORE Movies That Get Gun Handling Right (For a Change)

by Frank Melloni

3 December 2021

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/12/3/5-more-movies-that-get-gun-handling-right-for-a-change>

Hollywood does an awful job portraying gun owners and the proper use of firearms in most cases. Terminology and concepts are often butchered to the point where those of us in the know can't even enjoy your average movie.

However, there are a few gems of the film industry that actually reference realistic firearms uses and practices. Sometimes we even use these scenes to teach a lesson. At Renaissance Firearms Instruction, when we are educating new students on the importance of checking both chamber and magazine before they walk away from a firearm, we use the iconic line from *Dirty Harry*:

"I know what you're thinking. 'Did he fire six shots or only five'? Well to tell you the truth, in all this excitement, I kind of lost track myself."

Sadly the line is lost on most millennials — and even a few who should be old enough to remember the speech that made Clint Eastwood famous. Well, I guess with references from as far back as 1971, I ought to update them a bit. Brad Fitzpatrick first covered this topic in the original work here, but since it was published there have been a few good ones, as well as a few personal favorites that I would like to mention. So I parked my butt on the couch, surrounded myself with junk food and "worked" very hard on this project. I hope you all enjoy the labor that I endured for the sake of NRA Family.



1. John Wick

It seems that overnight Keanu Reeves set the benchmark for what all gun handling should be — and rightfully so, as he spent months preparing for the role with World Champion Shooter Taran Butler. Throughout the movie we consistently see Mr. Wick utilize tactical sequence, ensuring each foe is shot once before getting a second round.

We also see him keep his eyes on the threat (or next threat) as he reloads, something taught in every defensive pistol course and a tactic used by nearly every competitive shooter.

Also on the topic of reloads: I liked seeing a realistic "flick out" of a magazine that doesn't drop free, as well as a plausible tactical reload during a lull before he enters the next room. Also during this scene, I had a lot of respect for the writers who didn't have his soft (level IIIA) body armor stop anything that it wasn't rated for. However, nothing is perfect. While Keanu's movements and techniques were pretty good, one huge flaw that I noticed was when the female assassin used the pillow as a suppressor in the hotel room. While this might marginally stifle on a semi-auto, you certainly aren't going to get any noise reduction out of the revolver she had pressed against it.

2. The Irishman

This one is on Netflix and this assignment gave me the perfect excuse to donate another three and a half hours of my life to Martin Scorsese. The movie revolves around Robert De Niro's portrayal of Frank Sheeran, a high-level mob hitman. Halfway through the movie came the scene that earned this movie its spot on this list. This was when Sheeran was deciding which firearms would be best for his next job. What caught my eye was not only proper terminology, but real insight on the cartridges' strengths and weaknesses. The voiceover starts with De Niro's character explaining "you want something with more stopping power than a .22," referencing not only low power of the rimfire, but the mafia's reputed "love affair" with it.

Then he goes on to explain that he didn't want something suppressed because he wants to "make witnesses run away...But not the noise a 45 makes, because a patrol car can hear that a few blocks away." 1911s sure are noisy, especially when compared to the .38 Special and .32 S&W Long that he eventually decides on. I like how he regarded the latter as still capable of doing the job although most regard it as "a woman's gun." Bonus points were also awarded for being nearly 100 percent accurate as he removed each referenced gun through his process of elimination.

Continued...5 MORE Movies That Get Gun Handling Right

3. The Town

The 2010 heist film *The Town* stars Ben Affleck in his role as the head of a team of bank robbers hailing from Charlestown, Massachusetts. Naturally, any crime drama is going to have its fair share of gunplay, and this film was no different. Sure we saw the typical fire-fight stuff, but one maneuver that struck a chord with me was the use of suppressive fire. Towards the end of the movie, Affleck's character puts his rifle through the gun port on an armored car, effectively thwarting the guard's ability to fire and allowing his team to move out. Most directors would try to cut that as an attempt to shoot the people on the inside, but I liked that they chose to go the route of portraying an actual military tactic.

While this was impressive, nothing was more impressive than one of the final handgun exchanges that took place with no more than 15 feet between combatants. While both actors dumped an entire magazine, they only managed about a 50 percent hit rate. Most movies utilize "magic bullets" that only hit what needs to be hit and miss what doesn't (looking at you, *Pulp Fiction*). However in real life people miss close-range targets like this all the time, especially when those close-range targets are shooting back!

4. American Assassin

American Assassin was released in 2017 and stars Dylan O'Brien as a crazed vigilante hell-bent on avenging his fiancée's death. Early in the movie he gets into one of the hardest ISIS camps to crack and is immediately employed by the U.S. Military to help infiltrate other camps. So a lot of the gunplay in this one is cheesy, but it makes the list for one scene and one scene only. Early on in the movie when O'Brien's character is "training" on a public static shooting range, he begins to walk downrange while the folks on the other points are still firing. Immediately they stop firing and call him nearly every name in the book. I like that the writers took a few seconds out of the film to portray firearms owners as the safety-conscious individuals that they are. They also put out a mini PSA, letting the audience know that this is not acceptable behavior. As a firearms instructor, I applaud.

5. Shooter

This 2007 action flick might top the list for its accurate portrayal of government corruption, but let's try to stay focused on guns. This movie scores highly with me for the amount of ballistic research that went into the script. Sure watching a sniper team work might not have the sex-appeal of watching Keanu Reeves shoot people to the hottest dubstep mix, but the gun geek in me got a little excited when I heard the Coriolis effect mentioned. This phrase came out of the string of accurate observations as Mark Wahlberg's character explained what would be required if someone were to attempt a presidential assassination at 1800 yards (more than one mile). Here he mentions bullet drop, flight times, atmospheric effects and the requirement of wind indicators.

The movie continues on like this and even shows scope-cam footage where he holds for wind and target movement. Although the dope he applied was completely bogus (Really? Only 2 mils for an 800-yard target moving 30 MPH?!), it was nice to see him put the second subtension on his target and score a hit. The movie is packed with scenes purely for gun owners, like his 200-yard shots with a .22LR.

Check out the above flicks, they're entertaining, educational and won't leave you screaming at the screen...

Who carries a .44 revolver today anyway?