



SAGA SNIPPETS

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065

TEL 031-562-9951 FAX 086-553-9615
EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA

SAGA Updates & Information

SAGA Follow-Up with the CFR on Service Delivery

At our meeting with Brigadier Mabula of the CFR on the 29th September 2021, a full hard copy list of members with service delivery complaints was handed to him.

This same list was emailed to Brigadier Mabula and his offices on the 30th September 2021.

SAGA Chairperson Damian Enslin followed up with Brigadier Mabula on Friday 8th October 2021 and received a response within minutes, to the effect that they are dealing with the outstanding applications as per the list, and that the same is receiving attention and feedback will be provided.

A further follow-up email was sent by the SAGA Chairperson on Thursday 21st October 2021 to Brigadier Mabula and we await his response.

It seems that some members' complaints are being dealt with and we have had some success with competencies and licences being approved and finalised.

We would appreciate feedback from those SAGA members who submitted complaints to us using our online form before 28th September 2021, as to whether their matters have been concluded or resolved. Email the office at saga@saga.org.za

For further administrative delay issues and complaints, members who have not yet used our online form are welcome to use the link below to submit their complaints about CFR service delivery to SAGA for a second list to be submitted to CFR for attention.

<https://forms.gle/9MqptoAeEmJwBf2L7>

We will keep members updated on this issue.

Last Few Days of the Glocktober Fest

A reminder to all members that the Glocktober Fest will come to an end on 31 October 2021. As a member you get an automatic entry to win this awesome Glock 19X kit but you can earn more entries by making sure you sign up a new member before the end of the month. It's not too late - get it done today!



5 First-Timer's Firearms Fears (& How to Overcome Them)

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/10/24/5-first-timers-firearms-fears-how-to-overcome-them>

by Frank Melloni
25 October 2021

Hey, let's face it, the first time any of us stepped on the range we were intimidated. As with anything new and potentially dangerous we naturally had a few concerns. Some of us may have had a bad experience already with a firearm, and those concerns turned into downright fears. Others still had been indoctrinated by false claims of both the media and the big screen. I still remember my first day on the range, and now that I'm an instructor, I always put myself back in those shoes when I train a new shooter. After doing so professionally for close to 10 years, I have identified the top five fears that new shooters have, and some advice to help them deal with it.

1. Shooting yourself

It shouldn't surprise anybody to see this at the top of the list, as everyone wants to go home after any fun activity. The truth is that the shooting sports are statistically some of the safest activities in the world, especially when compared to contact sports. Explaining this to a new shooter often helps ease their minds and allows them to focus on the first lesson, safety. I have my routine of the three rules of firearms safety down to about 7 minutes. This lecture and demonstration is meant to be brutally simple with the hope to get a "that's it?" response from our students. Keeping these rules simple helps to build the confidence that they, too, will be safe and successful with a firearm.

2. Recoil

Most students come to us worried about "kickback." When that phrase comes up I like to help them with their terminology and explain that the proper term is recoil. ("Kickback" is what the county had to pay the union to build the range.) But, yes, as confirmed by Sir Isaac Newton, for every action there is an equal but opposite reaction. Lead going downrange means steel moving uprange. Sure firearms kick a little bit, so we like to minimize that by using heavier guns, smaller cartridges or a combination of both. Nothing is softer to shoot than a full-sized rifle or pistol in a rimfire caliber. Again the goal here is to generate a "that's it?" response. When it's time for a centerfire I have the students load just one round into the gun the first few times they fire it. We do this because should they drop the gun after it fires, they will be dropping an unloaded gun. Of course, this is a highly unlikely scenario, but letting them know that they are working with a one-round "safety net" eliminates that fear and helps the student concentrate on the other aspects of firearms safety, as well as marksmanship.

3. Noise

My friend Oleg Volk says "A gun without a suppressor is like a car without a muffler." I couldn't agree more with this statement and thus use a suppressor anytime I can when teaching a new student. Of course, this is a problem in many states and other means must be examined. Quiet comes in a lot of different forms, such as the use of subsonic ammo. This offering is available for a number of cartridges, with .22 Rimfire



being the quietest. Other ways to bring the noise down is to use longer-barreled firearms and utilize outdoor ranges as often as possible. An outdoor range, especially if that particular range is void of a pavilion, is a substantially quieter environment to discharge firearms. Of course, doubling up on the hearing protection (earplugs and earmuffs) will also cut down on the guns' report.

4. Action bite

"I have a friend that needed stitches after pulling the trigger the first time." Yes, many of us have heard about "That Guy" before we picked up our first guns. The truth is that guns are not designed to hurt the user whatsoever. Before I let a student pick up a gun I ALWAYS demo a proper grip, as well as an improper grip. When showing a student how to grip a revolver I take a minute to show them the soot around the cylinder gap and explain that high pressure burning gas is emitted through there. Next, I fire a full cylinder with a proper grip and show them that with a little knowledge they have nothing to worry about. As for semi-autos I simply fire and talk about how the slide moves. During this demonstration, I remind the students that my support hand thumb NEVER wraps around the backstrap, as this action will gouge a chunk out of it.

The Very Serious Business of Keeping Shooting Fun

5. "Everyone's gonna look at me"

Yep, many times a student is self-conscious of their early performance. While I'm no Dr. Phil, I often do have to play the role of tactical psychologist and help new shooters learn to deal with the looks experienced shooters are giving them.

For starters, they're not...No I mean it, really...nobody cares that you're new, and nobody is paying attention to your shooting. Anybody worth their salt on the range is too busy paying attention to their own target.

Gun owners are some of the most understanding and accepting people I have ever met and newbies are an everyday occurrence. When I am working with someone with this concern, I ask them to point out some easy to recognize characteristics of the other people on the range. When they fail to answer I point out that the same way they aren't obsessing over the other shooters, the other shooters aren't obsessing over them. Now if it's a group class I always like to start off by asking for a show of hands of "how many people have been to the range fewer than five times." In nearly every introductory course it is somewhere around 92 percent of our clientele that has a hand in the air. Knowing that they are among shooters of the same skill level helps them feel less out of place, and again helps them concentrate on safety and marksmanship.

Overall, firing your first shots should be a memory that lasts a lifetime—but for the right reasons.

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
Tuesday, October 12, 2021

Sometimes I think that we spend too much time focusing on the personal defense side of shooting. Oh, don't get me wrong, perfecting our defense skills is certainly important and requires practice. But we don't always have to be so uptight and serious about the whole thing. Besides, as an instructor, I have observed that people seem to learn more when they are having fun.

Now before I get into some fun shooting ideas, let me emphasize the importance of safety any time we are handling guns. Whether you are in a defensive shooting class, going hunting, or just enjoying an afternoon of plinking, the same rules of gun safety always apply. It's particularly important to ensure that you have a proper backstop, and that none of your impromptu or "fun" targets can cause ricochets with the ammunition you're using. However, once you've established that your range, targets and shooters are all safe...it's time to bring back the joy of target shooting for fun.

Instead of concentrating on improving your skills at controlled pairs or timed fire, just relax and think of ways to have a little fun competition with your fellow shooters...or even against yourself. For example, get a roll of those little orange paste-on bullseyes – the ones that are about the size of a quarter will do nicely. Paste one up on the target frame

for each shooter. Then, shooting from 15 yards with as many rounds of ammo as needed, see who can be the first to completely obliterate their orange dot.

Charcoal briquettes also make good impromptu targets. And, when hit, they dissolve into a gray cloud that doesn't create a mess on the shooting range. So line a few up, downrange, and see who can bust the most briquettes with the fewest shots. A variation would be to put up a line of briquettes and have two shooters, one starting at each end of the line, see who can hit the most before the other shooter. If you're on private property outdoors, try old fruit or moldy potatoes as targets. Manky old produce has a way of exploding amusingly when hit...and the local raccoons will take care of any mess you've left behind.

The old-time gunfighters used to use playing cards for targets. They'd shoot a nice, tight group from a given distance and then sign the card – it almost became their calling card. You might stick up several cards and see who can shoot the tightest five-shot group.

Any of these little fun drills that I have mentioned will also improve a shooter's defensive marksmanship. Give it some thought and see what fun drills you can come up with.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/10/12/the-very-serious-business-of-keeping-shooting-fun>

Can Ammunition "Go Bad"?



<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/10/3/can-ammunition-go-bad>

by Jeff Johnston
Sunday, 3 October 2021

We know you love to stash ammo, because no gun owner wants to be without a few rounds when they need it most. But does it have a shelf-life? When does it go bad, if ever? In this article we'll examine what causes ammo to peter-out, and what you can do to prolong its life.

I remember the day I asked my father if we could shoot "the old .303." To my delight, he said yes. (I guess he'd had a good day at work, because I'd been asking him for years!) He'd bought the Lee Enfield WWI-era bolt-action at a pawn shop for \$5 when he was 18, and he used it to take his first buck. He'd bought several boxes of military surplus .303 British ball ammo to go with it.

Thirty-some-odd years later--with his gun cabinet now flush with modern .308s, .243s and .30-06s--we dusted off the old rifle off and marched out of the house with two stripper clips full of greenish-colored .303 ammo to shoot. I raised the rifle to my shoulder, aimed through the peep sights and Blam! The rifle fired as if the year were 1925 and the ammo was shiny-new.

Twenty-five years later, I was asked to write this story. I trekked back to my now-departed father's gun cabinet, grabbed the .303 and a few cartridges and marched down to the pond-dam range. Blam! The gun fired! The ammo is at least 75 years old, if not 100.

"I've shot factory loads from the 1870s, and they went bang and hit the target accurately," said NRA Museums Senior Curator Doug Wicklund, affirming that ammo can indeed last a long, long time, and the .303 wasn't a fluke.

So why, then, do ammo companies tell us the shelf life of their ammo is 10 years?

Fact is, the life of ammo is relative and unpredictable. It's based on the quality of the manufacturer's loading techniques and its components, including powder and primer type and their proper sealing. But after manufacturing, a round's life comes down to the conditions under which it lives.

Ammo, like good wine, should be stored in a cool, dry place without sunlight. It should have no drastic temperature changes and shouldn't be jostled a bunch. You should never store it with or near oils or solvents. That's because both can eventually infiltrate the cartridge and void the powder. Ammo should never be stored in super-high temperatures, like in a car trunk in the summertime where temps can exceed 135. Over time, doing so can break down the chemical structure of the powder and lead to degraded performance, if not outright failure to fire.

Will it fire if it's been stored in a dank basement? Probably, but maybe not. Will it fire after 50 years if it's been stored in a cool, dark, airtight container? Again, probably, but maybe not. The point is, you should do what you can to make sure the odds are in your favor that it fires. And if it's ammo that you may trust your life upon - such as rounds for your

concealed carry gun - shoot it for practice after three to five years and buy more. It's just smart policy.

Fact is, all modern ammo will last more than 10 years if it's been stored reasonably well. Ammo companies push a conservative message, likely because they don't want the liability if it fails to fire (and, hey, they'd like to sell more ammo...fair enough). Still, however, you should practice the following tips to make sure your ammo is in tip-top shape when it's finally loaded into the breech.

Store your ammo in a climate-controlled place that seldom to never fluctuates higher or lower than a 20-degree temperature change. "Around 70 degrees with 50% humidity is ideal," said Wicklund. This rules out attics and non-climate-controlled garages.

If the area where you must store ammo is humid, store it in an airtight canister or o-ring sealed plastic container. Throw a silicon anti-humidity pack in there as well.

Consider purchasing a dedicated dehumidifier that's powerful enough for the size of the area where the ammo is stored. Depending on the size of the area, one can be purchased for around \$150.

Practice the milk-at-the-supermarket technique wherein the first ammo you place in storage is the first to be fired. This way you'll keep all of your ammo as fresh as possible.

Pros vs. Cons of Appendix Carry

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
Wednesday, July 28, 2021

Appendix carry is nothing new although it has become a current topic among those who carry concealed. It was actually quite popular during the days of the American frontier. Contrary to what you see in movies and on television, frontiersmen did not wear their cartridge belts and holsters when they came to town. Instead, they just shoved their old sixgun into their waistband in front of their hip bone and covered it with their coat.

Appendix carry can be a viable concealed-carry technique for today's armed citizen. However, there are advantages and disadvantages to this method. And a lot of that depends upon what you are carrying and what your level of training is. Here are some of the more important factors to consider before stuffing your pistol into a holster in the front of your waistband.

One of the advantages of appendix carry is that it can provide for a very fast pistol presentation, assuming that one has practiced sufficiently. As we go about the normal tasks that make up our daily schedule, our hands tend to be located closer to the front of our body. Thus, when trouble raises its head, we have less distance to move our hands in order to acquire the defensive handgun.

In addition, a handgun carried on the front side of our body is less likely to "print" on our covering garment as we bend, stoop or otherwise move around. It works especially well when the covering garment is a t-shirt, sweatshirt or buttoned shirt that is worn with the

shirttail out. With practice, one quickly learns to use the support hand to clear away the covering garment during the draw stroke.

The most serious disadvantage of appendix carry occurs when one has a negligent discharge while drawing or reholstering. When a gun is carried on the hip, or behind the hip, an ND usually only results in a relatively minor wound to the buttocks or back of the thigh. However, when that same ND occurs on the front side of the body the bullet stands a good chance of impacting the groin area or, even worse, the femoral artery. That sort of an ND is definitely life threatening.

For this reason, I only use appendix carry with certain handguns, namely revolvers. Revolvers, single action or double action, will not easily fire when your finger, or the holster, comes in contact with the trigger. I'm sure it can be done, but you'd really have to work at it and, in the case of the SA revolver, you would have to be reholstering with the hammer cocked – a move that no one in their right mind should consider.

I personally don't appendix carry with semi-autos because, in the case of the single-action auto, the safety could fail, leaving the trigger vulnerable. And, in the case of many striker-fired autos (the Glock, S&W M&P and the Springfield XD, to name a few) the safety trigger can very easily be manipulated, either by the trigger finger, the holster or shirt. This is not a condemnation of the striker-fired pistol. It is only to point out that every handgun design has its own manual of arms. And, with the striker-fired gun, you'd better be

sure that nothing comes in contact with that trigger.

A person considering appendix carry should be extra certain that they use a quality holster and one that is made specifically for the gun they are carrying. In addition, they should train and practice enough so that they can be certain that they will keep the trigger finger straight at all times.

As with all things concerning personal defense with firearms, the best recipe for safe appendix carry is to get professional training. The person who simply buys a handgun and straps it on is just asking for trouble. A professional trainer can help you learn to protect yourself in a safe and efficient manner, and help you decide which defensive handgun and method of carry is best for you.

Appendix carry, in and of itself, is no more dangerous than any other carry technique when one is properly trained and armed with a handgun that lends itself to this method. It is up to each of us to be properly informed and educated.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/7/28/pros-vs-cons-of-appendix-carry>

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

SAGA Membership

Being a member of SAGA is essential if you want SAGA to continue to protect your firearm ownership rights.

Also know that you do not need to be a firearm owner to be a member of SAGA. We have many members who support the right to own and use firearms in a responsible manner - while choosing not to own a firearm themselves. These members are keenly aware that by supporting the cause they add weight to the cause.

Rates for New Members for 2021:

Adult R250

Junior R150

Pensioner R150

Family:

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

Rates for Renewing Members for 2021:

For most categories of membership the renewal fees are R50 less than the new membership rate. Enquire at the office.

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 the support of these businesses, clubs and associations as Corporate members for 2021.

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

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

Ihawu Firearms Centre
Impala Shooting Club

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

Liteoptec (Pty) Ltd
Lyle & Associates

Matthews Enslin Inc
Medway
Mil.Spec. Equipment cc
Modderfontein Shooting Club
Montana Pistol Club
Morgan & Associates
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
Star Rapid Response
Starlight Security Services
Sysdel cc

Taxidermy Africa

Vektor Shooting Club

Whylo (Pty) Ltd
Witbank Practical Shooting Club