



SAGA Snippets

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What's Been Happening?

KZN Hunters National Hunting Day

On Saturday 6 May 2023 Peter and Gaye from the office represented SAGA at KZN Hunting & Conservation Association's annual National Hunting Day at NMR grounds in Durban.

The event was well planned and strategically visible from the main roads around the venue. An added bonus was a monster truck show which was being held at the same time at Moses Mabida Stadium. As we were all using the same car park, many of the attendees popped in to see us while going to and from the show.

Many well-known hunting and sports enthusiasts' favourite stalls where in attendance selling wide ranges of shooting paraphernalia.

SAGA was happy to meet with, and welcome back, many old friends and members who stopped by to chat, renew memberships, join as new members and to buy our new Braai Apron (see photo) which will be available to buy on our website soon.

Obviously, events of this kind always have venison food sales and this was no exceptions with delicious curry as well as copious amounts of biltong, dried wors and cabanossi.

Chris Jennings from KZN Hunter's Association intends continuing with this platform and plans are being discussed to engage with more vendors and associations to make this a far larger event in the future.



SAGA Snippets May 2023

Special points of interest:

- KZN Hunters National Hunting Day
- 2023 SATSA National Shoot
- Firearms Application Fees Amended
- Shooting Fundamentals: Hold Control
- SAGA Membership
- Be Ready
- Efficiency vs Speed
- SAGA Corporate Membership

2023 SATSA National Shoot

By Shaun Lyle

The South African Tactical Shooting Association (SATSA) recently held its 2023 national shoot at the George Sports Shooting Club in the Southern Cape. Participants from six provinces, including Southern, Eastern, Western, and Northern Cape, as well as KZN, were present, demonstrating the event's broad appeal.

The South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA) was a key sponsor and supporter of the event, joining forces with Lyle & Associates and other sponsors under the guidance of Anton Du Plessis (SATSA) and Anton Meyer (GSSC). Club members also played a vital role in creating a memorable experience for all attendees.

Safety was prioritized throughout the event. Competitors adhered to all standard range rules, such as maintaining safe muzzle direction, not pointing firearms at unintended targets, treating firearms as loaded, and being aware of targets and their surroundings.

Various courses of fire attracted competitors from across South Africa, including the carbine-handgun course, which was briefed by

André Grobler (Safety Officer).

The event's notable tyre pull, book-ending the carbine course of fire, was a standout moment, with Anton Meyer (Chair GSSC) performing effortlessly.



A comprehensive range of awards was presented across all courses of fire, allowing competitors to depart with a sense of accomplishment. The event's true success, however, lay in the camaraderie shared among competitors, sponsors, and friends from across the nation. The occasion facilitated the rekindling of old friendships and the formation of new connections within the firearm community.

SAGA proudly attended, supported, and sponsored the event, with Shaun and Bill participating in the Carbine stage, and Bill also competing in the Handgun stages.

The event was deemed a resounding success. The 2023 SATSA Nationals showcased a safe and enjoyable shoot, despite the unpredictable weather in George.





The firearm community eagerly anticipates future gatherings that will continue to bring together enthusiasts and highlight the best of South African shooting.



Firearms Control Fees Amendment Regulations, 2023

The list of fees payable for firearms-related applications has been amended with effect from 27 April 2023 as published in Government Gazette Number 48604, dated 17 May 2023.

Some of the most common application price changes are:

Application for licence to possess a firearm:

Was R161 Now R168

Application for a competency certificate:

Was R80 now R84

Application for a further competency certificate: Was R80 Now R84

Application for renewal of a licence, permit or authorization: Was R80 Now R84

* For the full list please see the Pdf on the News page of our website where the link appears under Press Releases.

These changes, signed off by the Minister of Police, Bheki Cele, will impact both current firearm owners who are due to renew their licence/s, and individuals seeking to acquire a new firearm licence.

These adjustments have been made to ensure that the fees associated with gun ownership align with the prevailing economic conditions and the costs involved in processing applications.

IMPORTANT: According to the Government Gazette, payments for these fees can only be made in cash or by bank guaranteed cheque. However, cheques are no longer accepted forms of payment in South Africa which means that cash payments will be required.

We strongly advise that you submit the correct cash amount with your application as it is unlikely that change will be available.

We encourage all firearm owners and individuals seeking to apply for firearm licences to familiarize themselves with the new fee structure.

Shooting Fundamentals: Hold Control

By Larry Quandahl

24 May 2023

What do we mean when we talk about "hold control"? Simply put, "hold" is the relationship of the gun and shooter to the target. Hold control is the way in which you correctly maintain it long enough for the shot to break. Here's how it works.

The shooter uses sight picture to monitor the hold. In stationary target shooting (bullseye rifle and pistol), sight picture consists of sight alignment (relationship of your eye and the rear and front sights), and the relationship of the aligned sights to the stationary target. For beginning shooters, it is as simple as holding still while firing the shot, but the simplicity of hold control is deceptive. Controlling hold is actually the most difficult aspect of accurate shooting. Even world-class shooters experience movement in their sight picture while shooting. The goal—hold control—is to control the combined movement of the shooter and firearm on the target.

The NRA Muzzleloading Rifle Handbook describes hold control as learning to hold the rifle steady, but that's just the beginning of the story. Hold control applies to shooting at stationary targets as well as at quick-reaction targets and moving targets. For simplicity's sake, this article will deal with stationary targets.

When shooting at a stationary target, the shooter has to aim at the target and hold the firearm still as the trigger is pulled. Your hold is the movement of your aligned sights in relation to the target that you see while aiming. The amount and speed of movement shows how well you are controlling your hold. Your task is to hold the firearm as



still as possible, which is best done by relaxing and letting your position and natural point of aim do the work for you. Concentrate on holding your body and the firearm as still as you can.

As a shooter, you need to learn to recognize the period of your steadiest hold. This is because the shot should be fired when hold is steadiest. Your goal is to reduce the amount and the speed of the movement and to release the shot when the hold is at its best.

So how do you do this? Start by establishing a benchmark to measure success at controlling hold. When you look through the sights at the target, you're automatically aware of the amount and speed of the movement of the gun as you hold. Have a mentor or coach look over your shoulder and observe the front sight with relation to an object or area downrange. Now that you and your coach know what kind of "wobble" your current hold is giving you, you can move forward.

There are five elements of a shooting position: consistency, balance, natural point of aim, comfort and, for competitive shooters, the position must be legal. To improve your hold, start by focusing on balance and



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natural point of aim. If you fire from an off-balance position, or if the natural point of aim does not coincide with the target, hold will be larger. The resulting movement will be like a leaf blowing in a windstorm. And the longer you hold, the stronger the "wind" gets.

To develop good habits, you can use a simple "go/no-go" system to get into and check position. You should always stop and correct any problem, no matter how small. The position checklist can be divided into two categories: external checks and internal checks. For example, checking to see that the butt of the rifle is placed correctly on the shoulder is an external position check that you can observe. An internal check would be checking the muscles and bones of your body, to ensure that they are in the right position and work together to support the gun. (The internal check is largely a matter of feel reinforced by experience.)

A good coach or trainer will provide a position checklist for you. As you gain experience, you'll create and continually modify a personal checklist to reflect refinements in individual position. Using this method of checking, you can determine whether a change has improved your hold.

Concentration improves hold control. Something as simple as thinking "hold"—or using hold as a key word—can slow and reduce movement. This will allow you to focus on sight alignment and sight picture. Through concentration, you literally reduce the amount of hold and its speed. If the hold is small and slow, your position is good with respect to natural point of aim.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/shooting-fundamentals-hold-control/>



SAGA Membership

SAGA annual Membership fees for 2023 are:

Adult R300

Pensioner/Junior R180

Family:

1x Adult @R300 plus any number of family members @ R100 each

Join via our website at www.saga.org.za

By being a member you keep us in 'business' and we are able to continue working for fair and just firearm rights for responsible firearm owners in South Africa.

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

The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cellphone number **066 003 9226**.

If you would like to send us a query or message by WhatsApp, please remember to include your Name and Membership Number (if applicable).





Be Ready

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/be-ready/>

by Jim Wilson
20 May 2023

One of the things that becomes quickly apparent when going over actual personal defense cases such as those in the NRA's Armed Citizen column is the number of people who are taken by surprise when the attack occurs. They are not expecting such an encounter and they aren't ready to deal with it. It is only the very fortunate ones who are able to overcome and prevail.

This is the reason that it is important for us to develop defensive habits that take effect automatically when we have a surprise encounter of any kind. No, I'm not talking about pulling a gun on your neighbor when he sneaks up on you in the grocery store. I am talking about recognizing potentially bad situations and developing habits that prepare us to deal with them should they actually turn out to be dangerous.

One important habit is to keep your hands empty whenever possible. We men are famous for coming out of the grocery store carrying 30 grocery bags instead of using a grocery cart. Using the cart allows me to go to my concealed handgun much more quickly. And, in addition, I can push the cart towards the threat in order to buy me even more time to respond by creating a diversion. Failing that, we practice carrying whatever we have in our support hand so that at least our gun hand is free. You do carry in such a manner that you can draw with one hand, don't you?

We also give thought to our covering garments only in terms of keeping the gun concealed. In certain situations, such as dark parking lots, bad neighborhoods, or having spotted suspicious persons, it might be a

good idea to get that covering garment open to reduce the time it takes us to make the draw stroke, should that be necessary and we might select covering garments with this ability in mind.

Upon encountering, or being approached by, suspicious persons it might be a good idea to put your hand on your gun using a shooting grip. Depending upon where you carry, it might be possible to slightly turn your body so that this move is not obvious. Regardless, it is not brandishing or assault because you have not drawn a gun or pointed it at anyone. If done with some thought and practice it is not an obvious move. However, to be on the safe side, consult with your attorney as to the legal aspects in your community.

Finally, most suspicious encounters don't turn out to be gunfights or fights of any kind. For that reason, putting on a gunfighter grimace like you are about to take on Johnny Ringo and Curly Bill might not be a good idea. A pleasant smile might disguise the fact that you are in Code Red and ready to put your defensive plan into play. And the same smile might help resolve things when it turns out that there really is no threat.

Putting degrees of readiness into effect is not something that a person will be able to do without some prior thought and planning. It has to be thought out and practiced on a regular basis. It has to become a habit. When your brain says, "those guys don't look right," your covering garment should be open and your gun hand empty and near your gun. That's the kind of readiness that I am talking about.

Efficiency vs Speed



By Steve Tarani
18 April 2022

A consummate action shooter consistently reaches for that perfect balance between speed and accuracy. The paradox of such a balance is that the cost for one is at the expense of the other. Shoot too fast and the price tag for losing control is inaccuracy.

Conversely, spending too much time verifying or reverifying alignment attenuates those precious tenths of a second which could mean the difference between success or failure in a critical incident or professional standing in a qualification or competition.

Several factors may contribute to or compromise the balance of speed and accuracy. Shooter athleticism, manual dexterity, visual acuity, physical and mental conditioning, skill level and ability to perform under duress just to name a few. However, the balance is more often the result of control level and efficiency of movement.

Although two sides of the same coin, interrelated and inextricably bound in a symbiotic relationship, speed and accuracy can be viewed as separate shooting performance measurement components.

Accuracy is nothing more than marksmanship or your ability to hit what you're aiming at. Whereas, according to champion competitive shooter Rob Leatham, "Speed is no more inaccurate than slow is accurate."

The mark of any professional is making the performance of their skill, especially under duress, look easy. A major league baseball player can consistently hit a ball moving faster than a minor league or collegiate-level player. The same applies to a grandmaster or master level action shooter who can sustain accuracy at greater speeds than their lower-ranked competitors.

The very best of the best shooters have trained themselves to push the very limits of high-speed accuracy with equally impressive consistency.

What three factors contribute to such high-speed accuracy and consistency? Proficiency, mechanical and mental efficiency:

Proficiency

Proficiency, the state or quality of being competent, is an integral part of efficiency. It is well-known throughout the professional shooting community that you can't do it fast if you can't do it at all. For example, if you're trying to deliver ten rounds into a four-inch target at twenty-five yards from your holster in under fifteen seconds and you can't make that round placement during slow fire (not on a timer), then what is there to measure if you don't have the basic skill and requisite proficiency with your grip, hold and fire control?

To further develop proficiency, it may be a good idea to initially reduce both the round count and/ or the target distance. Perhaps starting with five rounds at the same size four-inch target at the fifteen-yard line may be a good starting point. Once you've gained round-placement consistency at this distance and with the lower round count, then start adding rounds until you can center-punch ten of them at fifteen yards.

After gaining this proficiency then move the target back out to twenty-five yards and take it from there working your way up to the requisite ten rounds at the twenty-five-yard line without a timer. Once you have developed

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the skill to do it and can consistently demonstrate that accuracy component, you now have the proficiency needed to start measuring how long it takes to perform that task.

Start with doubling your time. Can you do it in 30 seconds or less? When the time comes that you can meet or exceed this standard you can then take it down to 20 seconds and then eventually you will reach your 15 second performance goal. However, without proficiency in the basic skill, there's no chance of doing "it" faster.

Mechanical Efficiency

First step to mechanical efficiency is finding your maximum mechanical capability. If, for example, you may be working toward a sub-second draw from concealment to a single shot upper-thoracic A-zone hit, you may first want to face the berm with no target in front of you. On the buzzer, and while maintaining optimal safety, draw from cover and orient your muzzle to the berm with no target which eliminates building a more controlled grip, as well as the aiming and verification process leaving only the mechanical capability of fire control at maximum physical speed. If you run this a dozen times and your maximum mechanical speed is 1.08 seconds without grip, alignment and sights verification, then it's not physically possible to go any faster after layering in those components. If, on the other hand, you do have the capability to break a one-second draw into the berm then you're in business and can work toward building a better grip (control) and alignment.

The shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Especially when it comes to pistol presentations, if you need to get that muzzle oriented with the target in a hurry, then you take the most direct route and not the most circuitous. You don't want to go fishing, bowling or any other non-linear trajectory on the way out you want the shortest distance between two points.

Hundredths of a second are added to running splits (multiple rounds on the same target) if there's either too much hang time, variance in your six-to-twelve sight/ dot movement or not enough control to return the muzzle to the target. The pros make it look effortless and to a certain extent it is less effort. Less tension is less energy input into the steering or driving the gun. Less input translates to more energy efficiency in that there's no extraneous input into the muzzle orientation with the target. The only remaining task is your fire control process.

The same concept applies to transitions (movement between targets). Adding any bit of over-travel or under travel movement between targets adds nothing but time. Rapid muzzle movement and your ability to stop the muzzle in the visual center of the next target are what build that proficiency which you can later measure on a timer.

Mental Efficiency

Mental efficiency is the mastery of what's going on between your earmuffs. Novice shooters try to do everything at once whereas true professionals solve one problem at a time. Trying to have your mind think about more than one thing at the same time is like having one foot in two different canoes. It doesn't work so well.

Lastly but certainly not least, is to reach out to the target with your mind. Your mind must be engaged. It must "get there first" as the body cannot go where the mind has not been. Efficiency equates to speed if there is no wasted energy, there's no wasted time.

Shooting proficiency combined with mechanical and mental efficiency introduces an arguably beneficial pathway to speed.

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/efficiency-vs-speed/>



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SAGA Corporate Members are clubs, associations and businesses who actively endorse the work being done by SAGA to protect firearm ownership rights in South Africa. *Please support those that support SAGA!*

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