



SAGA Snippets

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065
TEL 031-562-9951 CELL 066-003-9226

EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA
WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA
FACEBOOK: GunLobbySAGA

Rumoured Firearms Reform: Repression & Disarmament by Another Name?

Opinion Piece by Shaun Lyle
25 May 2025

Serious 'rumours' suggest the State is again considering reforms to the Firearms Control Act (FCA). South Africans must remain vigilant.

What is being sold as "reform" increasingly resembles a stealth campaign to disarm responsible citizens and erode their constitutional rights. In a country where the State cannot guarantee basic safety, further weakening the right to lawful self-defence is **not reform – it is yet more betrayal**.

The Real Reform South Africa Needs

Administration of the FCA is deeply flawed and bottlenecks abound. Licensing delays stretch for months or years. Law-abiding applicants face arbitrary refusals, lost paperwork, and unnecessary red tape. Instead of fixing these known failures, the State's likely path forward involves tightening control, increasing costs, and narrowing access – especially for private citizens seeking firearms for self-defence.

True reform would respect rights, not restrict them. It would:

Digitise and Decentralise Licensing:

End the administrative paralysis by introducing efficient, transparent systems.



Licence the owner, Register the firearm:

Flip the current process and greatly enhance the entire system and process.

Respect the Right to Self-Defence:

Codify self-defence as a legitimate reason for firearm ownership, not a grudging exception or special case motivation.

Protect Against Arbitrary Denials:

Implement clear, reviewable criteria to prevent abuse by anti-gun ideologues in the CFR.

Anything less is not **reform** – rather **repression** of civil and inalienable rights.

Policing Failure and the Hypocrisy of Disarmament

The South African Police Service (SAPS) has failed catastrophically in its duty to protect. From rolling back rural safety units to chronic under-resourcing, SAPS often arrives late – if at all. For the average citizen, the reality is simple: you are on your own.

In this context, proposed restrictions on civilian firearm ownership are not

SAGA Snippets May 2025

Special points of interest:

- Rumoured Firearms Reform
- Advertise in SAGA Snippets
- Directory of Shooting Disciplines, Associations, Clubs and Ranges
- SAGA Corporate Membership List
- What's More Important Than the Gun you Carry?
- Wildland Magazine May 2025
- 3 Gun-Handling Fictions
- Defensive Firearms Tip: Work by Feel
- SAGA Personal Membership
- Jumping-Starting Concealed Carry
- Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia
- In Memory of Stephen Smith

Continued...Rumoured Firearms Reform

just tone-deaf – they are reckless. Contemplating disarming the public while SAPS is overwhelmed or absent amounts to State-sanctioned vulnerability. Criminals do not comply with firearm laws. Disarming the law-ful does nothing but empower the unlawful.

Conclusion: A Line in the Sand

The State cannot simultaneously fail to protect its citizens and deny them the right to protect themselves, however this is exactly their rhetoric. If FCA "reform" means more control, more delay, and more disarmament, **then it must and will be resisted – fiercely.**

South Africans deserve real reform that strengthens civilian rights and acknowledges the lived realities of insecurity. Anything less is not public safety – it is surrender!

Advertise in SAGA Snippets

Advertising space in SAGA Snippets is available to SAGA Corporate Members from this edition. We are offering a Launch Special at just R500 per advert for the first three months (April to June 2025) on a "first come, first served basis".

From July to December 2025, the price per advert will be R700, and from January to March 2026 the price per advert will be R900.

All prices exclude design costs. If you need help with advert design, for an additional R400, we have an experienced graphic artist who supports this initiative and will assist.

Advert dimensions are: 15.5cm wide x 5cm high.

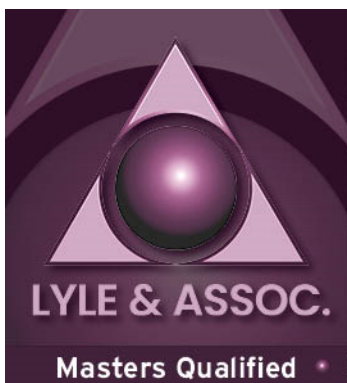
Take advantage of this great opportunity to advertise your business, club or association to a huge audience of like-minded firearm owners.

Snippets is sent out in the last week of each month, apart from December when it gets sent out by 16 December.

Edition	Booking	Design for Artwork	Final Artwork	Payment
June	02-Jun-25	06-Jun-25	13-Jun-25	20-Jun-25
July	04-Jul-25	09-Jul-25	15-Jul-25	24-Jul-25
August	01-Aug-25	08-Aug-25	15-Aug-25	22-Aug-25
September	05-Sep-25	12-Sep-25	19-Sep-25	23-Sep-25
October	03-Oct-25	08-Oct-25	15-Oct-25	23-Oct-25
November	03-Nov-25	14-Nov-25	17-Nov-25	21-Nov-25
December	24-Nov-25	01-Dec-25	05-Dec-25	10-Dec-25

All prices excl VAT. Space is limited to four adverts per Snippets.

To book contact Gaye at the office on 031-562-9951 or saga@saga.org.za



LYLE & ASSOCIATES

Chartered
Secretaries &
Tax Advisors

Tax Accounting
Tax Advisory Services
Financial Analysis
Business Valuations
Training

consulting@lyleassociates
Durban 0825537399 | Southern Cape 0713017072

Masters Qualified • Detail Driven • Relationship Centred • Pastel Powered

Directory of Shooting Disciplines, Associations, Clubs and Ranges

Attention Shooting Associations, Clubs and Regulatory Bodies

As part of SAGA's commitment to strengthening and supporting the South African shooting community, we are compiling a comprehensive Directory of Shooting Disciplines, Associations, and Clubs across the country.

This initiative aims to serve as a practical national reference for shooters – promoting awareness, participation, and access to the rich diversity of shooting opportunities available in South Africa.

To ensure this directory is accurate, inclusive, and truly representative, we are inviting contributions from our members, affiliates, and stakeholders across all levels of the sport.

Phase 1: Shooting Disciplines

We are first gathering information about all recognised or practiced shooting disciplines – from formal competitive sports to recreational or tactical styles.

Phase 2: National and Regional Associations

We'll then gather data and incorporate data about the governing bodies, representative organisations, and training institutions that support and manage these disciplines into the Directory.

Phase 3: Shooting Clubs and Ranges

Finally, we will map the network of clubs, facilities, and community ranges across the country where these disciplines are practiced.

If you are involved in shooting please share details. For each submission, please provide (as applicable):

- Name of the discipline, association, or club
- Brief description of the activity or organisation
- Governing body or affiliate structure (if relevant)
- Key contact details (name, phone, email)
- Website and/or social media handles
- Membership size or regional footprint
- Any unique features, access requirements, or events of interest

Please note this is not a request for individuals but is for the Associations, Clubs and shooting discipline regulatory bodies to respond.

Please send your submissions to:
saga@saga.org.za

Your input will help us build a definitive reference for:

- New shooters looking for where to start,
- Enthusiasts and competitors exploring new challenges, and
- Policymakers needing to understand the scope and value of South Africa's lawful shooting culture.

Thank you for being part of this important initiative, and for your continued support of SAGA.



SAGA Corporate Membership

Current 2025 Corporate Members are:

ASSOCIATION

CLAY TARGET SHOOTING ASSOC
KAAPJAG (CAPE HUNTERS & GAME
CONSERVATION ASSOC)
KZN HUNTING & CONSERVATION ASSOC
MILNERTON SHOOTING ASSOC
MULTI-PLATFORM DIMENSION SHOOTING
NAACCSA
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RESPONSIBLE
FIREARM OWNERS (NARFO)
NATIONAL HUNTING & SHOOTING ASSOC
PHASA
PWAV/PAAA
SA DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION (SADPA)
SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOC
SAAACA GAUTENG
SAAACA KZN
SAAACA MPUMALANGA
SOUTH CAPE HUNTERS & CONSERVATION
ASSOC
WESTERN CAPE SHOOTING UNION
WESTERN SHOOTERS OF SA
ZULULAND HUNTING & CONSERVATION
ASSOC

CLUB

BALLITO DEFENSIVE SPORTS SHOOTING CLUB
BORDER HUNTING CLUB
BROADWAY SHOOTING CLUB
BUFFALO RIVER SHOOTING CLUB
CAPE SPORTING RIFLE CLUB
CLAY PIGEON ADVENTURES
DALTON RIFLE & GUN CLUB
EYE SHOOT SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
FALSE BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
GEORGE SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
HILLANDALE SHOOTING CLUB
IMPALA SHOOTING CLUB
KOKSTAD SHOOTING CLUB
KWAGGA JAG & AVONTUURKLUB
LION MOUNTAIN RANGERS



MODDERFONTEIN SHOOTING CLUB
MONTANA PISTOL CLUB
NYATHI ANTI POACHING UNIT
RICHARDS BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
ROCKY RIDGE SHOOTING CLUB
SABIE CLAY PIGEON CLUB
SOMERSET WEST PISTOL CLUB
SWISS RIFLE CLUB CAPE TOWN
VEKTOR SHOOTING CLUB
WILDEALSKLOOF SHOOTING RANGE
WITBANK PRACTICAL SHOOTING CLUB

DEALER

1652 TACTICAL
ARMS KING
ART OF AMMUNITION
BOOMSTICKS
CHS GUNS & AMMUNITION CC
CITY GUNS CC
ELITE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION
FALSE BAY F T A (PTY)LTD
GUNLICENCE.CO.ZA
GUNS & BOWS CC
JABAMA SAFARIS
KINGS GUN SHOP
MILSPEC EQUIPMENT CC
PAROW ARMS & AMMO
SHOOTING STUFF
VGK FIREARMS (PTY) LTD

....continued on the next page

Continued...SAGA Corporate Membership



SECURITY

A.O.G SECURITY
ALPHA SECURITY & PATROLS
BLUE SECURITY
EXPRO PROTECTION SERVICES
GABOON PROTECTION
HARTWIG & HENDERSON
LAD SECURITY SERVICES
NYATHI ANTI POACHING UNIT
PREMIER SECURITY
PRO-SEC TECHNOLOGIES
PROTACT PROTECTION SERVICES
PVIP PROTECTION
QINISA SECURITY
SECURITY RESPONSE GROUP
SJ SECURITY SERVICES
SPECIALIZED PROTECTION & INVESTIGATIONS
STAR RAPID RESPONSE
STARLIGHT SECURITY SERVICES
WALKLEY ENTERPRISES
WESIZWE PROTECTION SERVICES

BUSINESS

BRUCE SHAW TRUST
EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
FASTRAK TRADING
GH WINGSHOOTING SAFARIS
KINGFISHER FREIGHT SERVICES
LYALL MORGAN & ASSOCIATES
LYLE & ASSOCIATES
MARTIN & DE BEER INC
MATTHEWS ENSLIN INC
MEDWAY
MOBI-CLAW911
ONE POINT FIVE PERCENT
ORTON & ASSOCIATES (PTY) LTD
PANGOLIN SECURITY PRODUCTS
SEARLE INVESTMENTS CC
SOTHEBYS INTERNATIONAL REALTY
SYSDEL CC
TARGET TRUCK SALVAGE (PTY) LTD
TAXIDERMY AFRICA

TURN TECH
WHYLO (PTY) LTD
WITTSTOCK RISK MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANCY

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HARLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
HILLCREST PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

TRAINER

FUNDIKHONO
MULTI DIMENSIONAL WARRIORS
SA TACTICAL INSTITUTE

Please support our Corporate Members whenever you can!

Find out more about becoming a Corporate Member by contacting the office:

TEL 031-562-9951
WHATSAPP 066-003-9226
EMAIL saga@saga.org.za



What's More Important Than the Gun You Carry?

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
26 April 2025

When we think about our personal defense, it may be that we spend too much time considering just which gun to carry, which ammo to use and exactly how to carry it. While all of that is certainly worthy of consideration and study, there might be other things that are just as important or even more important.

Here are 3 other areas that the concerned citizen needs to give thought to. I firmly believe that the greatest defensive tool is awareness. The more that we are alert for possible problems, the more options we have to deal with it. If I see the problem from across the street, I have time to make sure the door is locked while I call for help, I can take cover or I can prepare to deal with it depending upon the particular circumstances. I also have time to evaluate things and decide on exactly which option is the best. All of that is of little use if the threat is in my face when I first become aware of it.

Another important defensive technique is to develop good tactics. The topic of tactics covers a lot of ground. It is the smart armed citizen who not only has a defensive plan, they have several of them based on situation and location. At any given time, they know where the closest cover and exit are located, and they have a plan to get to them. They have learned ways to talk to people in order to make an attempt to calm tempers. They have taken the time to learn techniques for dealing with unarmed threats, and make every effort to improve their physical condition to be better able to survive an attack. When we consider the various kinds of criminal attacks that might occur, we realize that the development of useful tactics is virtually endless.

Finally, some of the best advice I have ever heard is "Don't go to stupid places, with stupid people and do stupid things." This may apply to a night on the town with some friends or various kinds of public events. It also might apply to the kinds of friends that one chooses to hang out with. Just because we have a lawful right to be out in public, armed

or not, we might ask ourselves if it is really a good idea and worth the problems that might arise.

Personal defense is not just about carrying a firearm. It is a lifestyle. To be the best we can be, we need to continually observe, continually study, and continually improve our skills ... all of our skills.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/what-s-more-imprtant-than-the-gun-you-carry/?utm_source=newsletter

Wildland Magazine May 2025

As part of SAGA's collaboration with Wildland here is the link to your free copy of Wildland magazine, May 2025.

Click on the link in the covering email, or copy and paste the link below into your web browser:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/70335394/wildland-mei-2025>



3 Gun-Handling Fictions (That Are Actually Facts)

By Wendy LaFever
7 May 2025

The NRA's Three Rules of Gun Safety are as follows: 1. **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.

We phrase these instructions that way because it's clear, simple and easy for beginners to remember. If you're a new shooter who's looking for or undergoing gun safety training, you'll hear those rules over and over again. You may also hear some other "rules" that may seem confusing, because occasionally they will contradict the evidence of your eyes. That's because there are some bedrock concepts of gun safety, gun handling and hunting that are best expressed as a metaphor. They're not gun-handling fictions ... they're actually facts. Here are 3 examples.

That gun is always loaded, especially when it isn't.

You may hear this as "always treat guns as if they are loaded," and that's a more accurate representation of what we mean. The problem is that when it comes to gun safety, there really is no room for nuance. You must train yourself to believe that the gun is ALWAYS loaded. Yes, even when you have just dropped the magazine and cleared the chamber yourself. Yes, even when your pinky finger is jammed in the breech. Firearms accidents are relatively rare, but when they do happen, the most common cause is that someone treated a loaded gun as if it weren't.

When are you allowed to stop treating the gun as if it were loaded? Around the time it stops looking like a gun ... when you have fully disassembled it for cleaning.

Every bullet costs \$10,000.

No, we're not referring cheekily to the current price of ammunition, and the way you can tell is that we're saying "bullet." If we were complaining about the price of ammunition, we'd say "cartridge," "round" or "shell," because that's what goes into the breech. What comes out the muzzle is the bullet, and that's the part that might cost you \$10K.

The explanation for why lies in the other way you might hear this saying: "Every fired round comes with a lawyer attached." The \$10,000 in question is a round-number figure for what it might cost to have a lawyer defend you in court for something like a negligent discharge.

Therefore, it's always in your best interest to think of every single round as precious and deserving of great care. It's that extra motivation to ALWAYS be sure of your target and what lies beyond it. It also helps you keep the #1 rule above at the top of your mind ... now all guns are always loaded with rounds worth as much as a used car.

Extracted and shortened from:
<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/3-gun-handling-fictions-that-are-actually-facts/>



MATTHEWS ENSLIN

MATTHEWS ENSLIN INC • ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES AND CONVEYANCERS

FIREARM LICENSING AND LEGAL SUPPORT

Trusted legal guidance for firearms owners.

We assist with license applications, renewals, appeals, compliance and firearm-related legal matters.

Suite D1 & D2, Westlake Square 1,
Westlake Drive, Tokai, 7945

✉ david@legalonline.co.za | damian@legalonline.co.za
☎ (021) 702 3070 | 🌐 www.matthewsenslin.com

Defensive Firearms Tip: Work by Feel

by Jo Deering
22 May 2025

Whether your self-defense/home-defense firearm of choice is a handgun, a shotgun, an AR or something else, it's important that you're very familiar with how the gun works. This is a big part of what we're training when we go to the range - we're building familiarity with the gun, learning how it works and how it feels and how to fix problems when they occur. The more you do this, the better and faster you get at all aspects of gun handling, from loading to finding the sights to dropping empty mags and more.

Research shows us that the more we can automate those sorts of tasks to the point that our bodies can perform them without our brains having to think about it, the more our minds are freed up to concentrate on other things. When Olympic medalist Kim Rhode picks up her shotgun to shoot skeet, she's not thinking about where to place her fingers or how to get the stock settled into her shoulder. She's mounted that gun so many times that her body automatically puts it in the exact right spot without even thinking about it, freeing up every bit of brain power to focus hard on that clay target.

While Kim sets a pretty high bar, that's the level of automaticity we all want to obtain with our self-defense firearms: We want to be able to draw it, present it to the target, load and reload it, and do other basic tasks without having to think about it, so our brain can focus all of its attention on more important things, like analyzing the threat before us and deciding what to do about it.

There's no shortcut to this level of subconscious competence - you just have to do the thing enough times, properly, that it becomes automatic. The good news is that much of it can be done unloaded in dry-fire practice.

Along the way, you can work on building in another layer of competence that will benefit you in a self-defense scenario: Learning to

work your gun entirely by feel instead of by sight.

Think about how often you look at your gun at the range. Take a handgun, for example. The very first time you drew from a holster, and certainly the first time you reholstered, you probably looked at the holster to see where the gun was. Then you pretty quickly learned to put your hand in the right spot without having to look.

You want to extend that same "work by feel" aspect to other parts of running the gun. For one thing, it helps build more familiarity, which is a good thing, but for another thing, you don't know what you'll be facing in a self-defense scenario. It might be dark. You might have something (like a threat) occupying your attention and you don't care to take your eyes off of it. If you can operate your gun entirely by feel, you'll be more versatile in your ability to handle any scenario.

You probably don't realize how often you look at your gun, but most of us rely on sight much more than we think we do. You can probably drop the empty mag on your pistol without looking for the release button, but can you also grab a new mag off your belt and slap it into the gun without looking for the magazine well with your eyes? Can you run the slide to clear a jam without taking your eyes off the threat? Not all jams can be handled that way, but you should at least practice tap-rack-bang without looking, as that will take care of a lot of them.

Do you know what the follower in your shotgun feels like? If you feel the follower, you'll know your magazine is empty - without having to look at it.

What about your home-defense shotgun? Can you grab shells off the side saddle with your weak-side hand and load them into the magazine - without taking your strong-side hand off the grip and without looking at the gun? Do you know what your follower feels like so you can tell without a glance that the magazine is unloaded? Take just a few sec-

Continued...Defensive Firearms Tip: Work by Feel

ends at each range trip to physically feel this with your finger or thumb so you can get used to the difference between touching a shell in the mag tube and a follower (which indicates there's no shell). Can you find the bolt release button without looking for it? Are you able to perform a simple press-check entirely by feel to confirm there's one in the chamber without having to turn on a light in a dark room? That one is still tricky for me, I'll admit. It requires a certain amount of gymnastics to support the gun, open the bolt partway and feel the shell in the chamber. A third hand would be helpful, but I'm getting better at this with practice.

Even bolt-action rifle shooters can benefit from this, whether for defense or hunting or anything else. Can you find the ammo in your side saddle or on your belt and load a round into the chamber without having to look?

Some of these tasks will come easier than others - loading a long gun with your off-hand feels awkward for most of us until we've done it a lot - but all of them can be learned with enough practice. You'll probably feel fumbly and slow at first, but keep practicing until it becomes second nature.

When something goes bump in the night and you need to grab your home defense firearm and load it or confirm that it's ready to go, all without the aid of your eyes, you'll be glad you can operate your gun by feel and not by sight.

Extracted and shortened from:
<https://www.nrawomen.com/content/defensive-firearms-tip-work-by-feel>

SAGA Personal Membership

SAGA annual individual Membership fees 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 today!

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



Jump-Starting Concealed Carry



<https://www.american1stfreedom.org/content/jump-starting-concealed-carry/>
(Shortened)

by Richard Mann
22 May 2025

If vampires and werewolves were real and common, we'd all carry a crucifix, wooden stakes and silver bullets everywhere we went. But, of course, the vampires and werewolves that haunt our dreams are not real. Monsters, however - human monsters - are real. This is why deciding to carry a concealed handgun as protection against a violent assault is a very practical response to the realization you are your own first responder.

Statistics vary based on computation methods and data sources, but according to the U.S. Department of Justice, if you're 35 today, the chance you'll be a victim of a violent crime during the rest of your life is as high as 40%. This is why many of us carry concealed. The Crime Prevention Research Center estimates that about 21 million citizens have carry permits. But this does not include those who carry concealed without a permit in the 29 states where some type of constitutional carry is legal.

For those just embarking on the concealed-carry journey, a road map can help. To do it responsibly, safely and effectively, you must develop the right mindset. You must also select the appropriate gear for you and learn to use and maintain the firearm. You must

also increase your proficiency and establish protocols that support the practice. Here are some essential directions to guide you on this voyage.

Step 1: Mindset & Law

As Jeff Cooper observed in his book, *Principles of Personal Defense*, "Violent crime is feasible only if its victims are cowards. A victim who fights back makes the whole business impractical."

I would strongly recommend this book to those interested in concealed carry. It's not a book of martial arts; instead, it's a study on the guiding principles of survival in the face of unprovoked violence. It discusses and explains alertness and decisiveness and helps you establish a practical foundation for the survival mindset.

Walking around with a hidden gun while enjoying the comfort it provides is one thing. Being prepared and willing to use that gun to stop a lethal threat is another thing entirely. A justifiable self-defense shooting can result in injury or death to the attacker. If you cannot commit to and be comfortable with exercising that level of violence to protect your life, it's doubtful you'll be able to use that hidden gun when it's time to fight.

However, the ruthlessness you must be prepared to exert cannot contain malice or revenge. Your carry gun is merely a tool to stop an attack. You must temper your survival mindset with use-of-force legality. It's incumbent upon you to familiarize yourself with concealed-carry laws and the use of force. The immediacy of the threat, proportionality of your response, perceived intent of the attacker and your duty to retreat are all important considerations. Their legal value can vary by city and state jurisdictions.

Step 2: Gearing Up

There are big guns and little handguns, and revolvers and semi-automatics, all with varying power levels. To someone new to concealed carry, the options can seem endless and finding a starting point can be daunting. The two foundational principles regarding concealed carry are that the gun must be

Continued,,,Jump-Starting Concealed Carry

comfortable to carry, and it must also be comfortable to shoot.

If you cannot carry your hidden handgun comfortably, you won't. Carry comfort depends on your body size and type, the size and type of the handgun, your holster and, though often overlooked, on the fashion you prefer. Though some suggest you should start by looking for a gun that's comfortable to shoot, I think it's best to first discover the size and type of handgun you can comfortably carry concealed.

Most will find that a compact or subcompact 20- to 30-ounce 9mm pistol is compatible for carry and shooting. By trying that pistol with various holsters and carry methods, you can make judgments on whether you need something smaller or lighter, or if you could work with something larger and heavier. Larger guns are not as easy to carry or conceal, but they're generally easier to shoot.

The tendency is to skimp on the holster, but the holster is a colossal aspect of carry comfort, and good, comfortable holsters are not cheap. A decent concealed-carry holster will firmly hold your handgun in place without a retention strap even as it provides comfortable concealment.

Leather and Kydex holsters are both viable, but the way you dress is critical. Those who wear a suit with a jacket might get by with outside the waistband (OWB) carry, whereas others who dress more casually may need to carry inside the waistband (IWB). Some may not be willing to make fashion sacrifices and, in some cases, mandated dress guidelines limit carry options. Some people do recommend off-body carry in a purse, satchel, fanny or shoulder pack, but these are less than optimal; however, in some instances, this type of carry may be your only option.

Regardless of the carry method - you may employ several as situations dictate - you cannot determine carry comfort by holding a holster, purse or fanny pack in your hand. It's something you must try. If your gun shop will not collaborate in helping you find something compatible, find another gun shop. And, if

you do choose IWB or OWB carry, do not overlook the belt. It needs to be of good quality and moderately stiff to support the holster and the 20-some ounces it will hold.

Sights are another consideration. You'll see a variety of sights from plain black to Tritium night sights. Select a sight that works for you, but don't let sights determine handgun choice. Aftermarket sights are available for most handguns. Reflex (red-dot) sights have become very popular but there are pros and cons: Aiming with a single red dot can help you shoot with better precision and sometimes even faster, but red-dot sights are battery-powered electronic devices that can fail.

You'll also need practice and carry ammo. Affordable options like CCI Blazer or something similar loaded with FMJ bullets are fine for range work. For everyday carry, however, ammunition that is purposely built for self-defense, like Speer Gold Dot, Federal HST and Barnes TAC-XPD, are advisable. You want a carry load that will maximize tissue destruction and penetrate to between 10 and 16 inches; however, don't settle on a single carry load until you've proven your handgun will digest at least 100 rounds without a stoppage or malfunction.

A simple summarization would be to select the best, highest-capacity, largest-caliber, hardest-hitting handgun you can shoot fast and accurately, and that you can also comfortably carry concealed all day.

With that guidance, a word about price is necessary. With daily carry and frequent training, pistols should last a lifetime. The more expensive will probably be more reliable with a wider range of ammo, will deliver better precision, will have a better trigger and will have fewer sharp edges to wound your hands during manipulation.

Advantages like these might seem hard to justify while standing at the gun-shop counter, but you'll appreciate them on the range or if you find yourself in a fight. Ultimately, your investment in gear has some correlation to the value you place on your life.

Continued...Jump-Starting Concealed Carry

Step 3: Learning

I'm against government-mandated training that's required to exercise the fundamental right of self-defense; however, gun owners should seek basic firearms safety instruction, as well as some type of marksmanship training, and they should establish a working knowledge of the legalities associated with concealed carry and the use of force. Not only is a failure to do so negligent, but it could also result in injury or death to you or the innocent; it could even get you in legal trouble.

You can read books, study videos and have discussions with experienced shooters, but nothing matches hands-on training under the tutelage of a skilled instructor who understands the martial art of handgun combat.

Beyond basic marksmanship, you need to learn how to present your handgun from your holster/carry method to the target, how to keep your handgun operational and when, how and where to engage a threat. You also need to know how to safely and properly secure/holster your handgun. Many self-inflicted gunshot wounds occur when holstering.

There are numerous respectable firearms training schools capable of providing this type of instruction.

Step 4: Training and Practice

A week-long training school will present a great deal of information, but shooting is a perishable skill. You should work to develop the skills you've learned, and this requires recurrent training and practice. At a minimum, you should train as often as law enforcement-police agencies typically train and qualify twice annually. Ideally you should be conducting some form of training monthly, but it does not have to be live-fire training. You can practice handgun presentation, sight alignment, trigger control and even stoppage-clearance drills with a dry (empty) gun. You can add dummy rounds for more realism. Supplemented with bi-monthly live fire at a range, this can help maintain and even improve your defensive handgun skills.

Though there are a lot of drills and courses of fire you can use to measure your competence, there's no fixed performance benchmark. Your goal should be to continually improve your speed and accuracy, and various training drills provide mechanisms to help you balance both. A good standard to strive for is to draw from concealment and place five shots in a five inch circle at five yards in five seconds. That level of proficiency will provide a great foundation to build from.

Step 5: Day to Day

You should develop a daily routine for carry-gun interaction; for example, every morning before leaving home, check it for serviceability. Do the same at the end of the day before you secure it from children or other untrained hands. Also, plan for bad situations and have discussions with family and friends who need to know you're armed and what to expect in a bad situation.

Many trainers have authored books about personal protection with handguns. Two of the biggest mistakes often made are the assumption that you know everything, and that your skill level is sufficient. Be open to learning new tactics and techniques, frequently evaluate your gun, gear, carry method and handling and shooting abilities, and never take your safety for granted.

There are those who play with guns, recreationally, and those who live with guns, daily. If you're going to carry concealed, you need to be in the last category. Carrying concealed is a life-altering practice that will impact the way you live, almost as much as, but differently than, getting married or having kids. Don't let the newfound acceptance or increasing commonality of concealed carry diminish its gravity. It is a serious lifestyle choice that's as important as a fire extinguisher in your home, but it is infinitely more complicated.

Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia



Double Lock Folding Knife

This folder by Coast has an extremely comfortable nylon-handled grip, a 9.2cm long stainless steel blade with an ambidextrous opener which allows one-handed opening, a lanyard hole and a 3-position clip. The Double Lock is a patented safety switch mechanism that works in conjunction with a primary liner lock to prevent disengagement.

Lazer engraved with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo, this strong folding knife is robust and will give years of good service.

Price: R380



PVC Patch with Velcro Backing

PVC patches are the modern equivalent to embroidered patches. Made of durable plastic they are flexible, lightweight, and weatherproof. The new SAGA PVC patch measures 6x4.2cm (length x width), and will attach to anything with Velcro like jackets, caps, backpacks and shooting bags.

Price: R90

Softshell Jacket

This quality softshell jacket is a Barron brand and is available in black with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo embroidered on the front left chest.

The jacket has elasticated binding on the sleeve opening, front shaped panels with welt pockets, bar-tacks at pockets for added durability, inverted nylon full zip opening and an

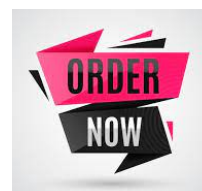
inner storm flap.

Comfortable and easy-to-wear, these jackets not only look good, but will wash well too. Available in sizes from small to 5XL.

These jackets need to be ordered - contact the office for more information.

Price: R660

Order on our website:
<https://shop.saga.org.za/>



In Memory of Stephen Smith (12 June 1959 – 23 April 2025)

By Shaun Lyle

It is with sadness, respect, and enduring gratitude that we commemorate the life of Stephen Smith, a steadfast champion of the South African shooting community.

From 1996, Stephen was deeply involved with the Hillandale Shooting Club, training under the guidance of Keith Box and Ken Rightford. By 1998, Stephen had become a qualified instructor, using his expertise not only to teach but to inspire shooters of all ages, creeds, and cultures.

Stephen stepped into the role of Chairman of Hillandale, where he led with integrity, compassion, and a deep love for the shooting sport. Under his leadership, the club thrived as a community-driven, safety-focused institution.

Stephen's dedication to his country and community extended beyond civilian life. He served with pride in the Natalia Regiment Reaction Unit, demonstrating his commitment to both service and security. Even while working in Afghanistan and Iraq between 2010 and 2015, he never turned his back on the local community he cherished. Remarkably, he continued to run Hillandale from afar, embodying the rare kind of leadership that endures distance and difficulty.

A skilled and enthusiastic marksman, Stephen participated in numerous 3 Gun Competitions, and was also involved in IPSC shooting. His approach to sport shooting was inclusive and encouraging – especially evident in events like his final one as Hillandale Chairman: the SAGA Women's Shoot in October 2021, still one of the biggest and best-attended events in the country. This shoot symbolized everything Stephen believed in: empowering others through knowledge, skill, and safety.

In January 2022, Stephen launched Eye Shoot (KZN), a club where he continued to mentor and motivate.



Photo L to R: Shaun, Stephen, Julie and Jayne at Hillandale Ladies Shoot, 2021.

Stephen never wavered in his belief that firearm ownership and sport must be grounded in responsibility and care. His mantra, repeated often and remembered always, summed up the core of his philosophy: "Think Safe. Shoot Safe. Make Safe."

Stephen was not only a skilled shooter and respected leader; he was a generous teacher, a loyal friend, and a passionate believer in the unifying power of the shooting sport. His legacy lives on in every shooter he mentored, every club he supported, and every life he touched with his quiet strength and resolute spirit.

He will be dearly missed and forever remembered. Rest in peace, Instructor Smith, with deep respect – from all of us in the firearms community.