



SAGA Snippets

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Resolve to Improve

By Sheriff Jim Wilson
1 January 2023

The current anti-gun administration doesn't want you to know it, but it is estimated that honest citizens use guns to defend themselves something on the order of 2 million times a year. They are so concerned about this that the FBI has been accused of doctoring their yearly statistics to reflect a much lower number. Yet, an authority like Dr. John Lott is quite comfortable putting the number of defensive gun uses at around two million a year. With the current trend in some of our bigger cities toward ignoring social unrest, the figure could even be higher.

One of the reasons for this is that some usage of defensive firearms does not get reported. The farmer who, hearing a noise at night, takes his shotgun to investigate may not even see the crooks, but they see him and decide to beat feet. The citizen who, when confronted by potential bad guys, just says, "I have a gun, leave me alone," without displaying the gun or having an actual confrontation, may not even report it. Or, the crooks may be considering a potential victim only to have one of their group inform them that he is pretty sure that the person is a gun owner and shooter.

In all of those kinds of cases the private ownership of firearms can be credited with avoiding death or serious bodily injury.

So, while I am not usually a supporter of New Year's resolutions, it might be

time for us to think about improving our defensive skills. The fact is, all of us have room for improvement, from the old lawman who has seen the elephant a time or two right on down to the citizen who got his or her first defensive gun for Christmas.

Shooting skills, like any hand-eye coordination, are quickly diminishing skills. If we don't practice, we begin to lose the edge. And, if we really get bad about skipping practice, it can go downhill in a big hurry. This also applies to training; I've been at this business for fifty years and still pick up some little helpful tidbit in every class I attend

The same thing goes for continually trying to find ways to make ourselves and our homes harder targets. It wouldn't hurt to see what's new out there in terms of more durable locks and better video surveillance systems. And, right in line with that, it wouldn't hurt to go ahead and start scheduling those family discussions on personal defense.

New Year's resolutions? Yeah. You are responsible for your own safety; what are you going to do about it?

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/resolve-to-improve/>

SAGA Note: This article is American but has definite application to the South African situation.

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January 2023

Special points of interest:

- *Resolve to Improve*
- *Seven Inconvenient Truths of Concealed Carry*
- *World Forum on Shooting Activities*
- *Are We Seeing a Revolver Renaissance?*
- *SAGA Membership*
- *Create a Diversion*
- *SAGA Corporate Membership*

Seven Inconvenient Truths of Concealed Carry



by Richard Mann
23 December 2022

I've carried a handgun for most of my adult life. During that time, I've learned a lot of things about carrying concealed. Some of those lessons came from others who are more experienced, some came through the many training courses I've attended and some I learned on my own—the hard way.

If you're new to carrying a concealed handgun, especially if you're just considering it, you should know that it's not all rainbows and unicorns. That said, do not be discouraged from doing so; just know what you're getting into.

To effectively carry a handgun concealed and to be prepared to use it requires a lifestyle adjustment. With that in mind, here are seven inconvenient truths about carrying concealed.

1. It's not as easy as you think

If you look at the totality of carrying a concealed handgun, there are no absolutes. There's no single handgun that will fit everyone perfectly. There's no carry method that will be comfortable and allow complete concealment for everyone. There's no set level of proficiency that will assure your ability to stop a threat. There's no tactic or collection of techniques that will always work. And finally, there's no single statement you can share with a jury that will guarantee you'll not go to jail should you have to shoot in self-defense. Everything associated with concealed carry is an unknown. The best you can do is stack the odds in your favor, and that will take time, money, training and dedication.

2. Your first carry gun will not be your last

You will buy a carry gun that is too big and heavy and another that is too small and light. Big handguns are more comfortable to shoot, but harder to carry and conceal. Little handguns are difficult to shoot comfortably, but more convenient to carry. Because we're all different, and because we all live differently, the correct answer is not the same for everyone. The only way to find the correct handgun for you is to carry and shoot a variety of handguns until that perfect match is found. It's as problematic and as important as finding your partner for life. With either, compatibility matters, and with both, the relationship can determine your longevity and health. Some of us will go through multiple life partners looking for the right one, and it's no different when it comes to defensive handguns.

3. You don't know what you don't know

Many believe they are fantastic marksmen when it comes to the defensive handgun. This is partly because they lack exposure to shooters who are, in fact, fantastic marksmen. Can you draw your defensive handgun from concealment and put three shots inside a 3-inch circle at 3 yards in less than 3 seconds? Can you do that every time and on demand? If not, it's questionable if you have the foundational proficiency necessary to be considered a fantastic marksman, much less a truly prepared concealed carrier.

Many believe their cartridge and ammunition of choice is the equivalent of a death ray should they have to shoot an attacker. It's not. In fact, concealable handguns are very poor stopping devices and the ability of different cartridges to stop an attack have more to do with shot placement than anything else.

Many believe that marksmanship and tactics are the most important things when it comes to surviving a violent attack. They're important, but they're not the most important—your mindset is what will keep you alive. Knowing when to fight and when to flee and having the desire and determination to prevail no matter what are what will make the difference. Humans fight with their brains; everything else is just tools and techniques subservient to the mind. → →

Continued...Seven Inconvenient Truths

You also better know how to talk to the police should an incident where you had to display or actually fire your concealed-carry handgun occurs. What you say then might determine where and how you live out the rest of your life. To that end, it's never a bad idea to get to know a local attorney with experience and knowledge dealing with self-defense cases.

4. You'll need to change the way you dress

Concealing a handgun on your body is not difficult. Concealing a handgun on your body that you can keep concealed during normal activities, while remaining comfortable, is harder than hiding the 25 pounds you've gained since high school. Though some of us may be reluctant to admit it, we're all a bit vain; we like to present a certain appearance. In some cases that appearance is part of our persona, and is directly linked to the clothes we wear.

If you do not like to wear untucked shirts, vests or jackets, your new life with a concealed handgun will be complicated. There are multiple options for concealed carry, but the farther your handgun gets from a holster attached to a belt either in front of or behind your strong-side hip, the more uncomfortable living with it every day will become. Other methods are less comfortable, less tactically effective or both.

The reality is that you must turn into a bit of a "secret agent," dressed—every day—in a manner that will hide your gun while at work, at the grocery store, at social functions and possibly even while exercising. Hot and humid weather presents complications for concealed carry. Since concealed handguns are most often concealed by clothing, here's a test: Considering the way you're dressed right now, do you think you could you comfortably hide a handgun?

5. You're gonna need a new belt(s)

The most practical manner to carry a concealed handgun is with a holster that attaches to a belt.



Defensive handguns vary in weight from about a pound to as much as 3, with 2 pounds being a good average. Everyday belts are designed to do only two things: to look good and to hold your pants up. They're not intended to support the weight of anything heavier than a cell phone.

A gun belt is stiff enough to support the weight to of a handgun without sagging, and it must be worn tight enough to keep you from continually hiking up your pants.

Be prepared to go through several belts trying to find one you like. In fact, you may end up with multiple belts depending on how your day-to-day dress varies.

Similarly, you will also go through holsters. Belts and holsters are a money hole, and expect to ultimately spend as much on them as you probably will on the defensive handgun you settle on. Also consider that belts and holsters are wear items—they will eventually need replacing. Knowing when to replace a worn-out holster or belt is a discussion unto its own.

From a practical standpoint, your use of a defensive handgun starts at the belt, passes through the holster, transfers to the handgun and ends with the bullet. Build your concealed carry system from the belt, and then work toward the target from there.

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Continued...Seven Inconvenient Truths

6. Practice must become your new pastime

You cannot buy your way to proficiency. This applies to guns, gear and even training. Sure, taking a training class is a fantastic idea; it's where you learn how to carry and use a defensive handgun. But, learning is not enough—you must practice what you learn to develop proficiency. It's like driving. Learning to drive was something you did a long time ago, but good, safe, defensive driving comes from years of practice. And, whether you realize it or not, you're still practicing and learning every time you get behind the wheel.

First and foremost, you need to practice handling your handgun enough so you can handle it safely. Then, you must practice with your handgun enough so you can draw it and manipulate it efficiently. And, of course, you need to practice enough so you can deliver shots on target swiftly and accurately. You not only need to be able to do this in the sunshine, but you also need to be able to do it in low light. Ideally, with the inclusion of dry practice, your practice sessions should become something that happens weekly or even daily.

7. With great power comes great responsibility

As one who carries a concealed handgun, you will have with you the power to take a life or take command of a situation. However, this power demands that you exercise logic and humility. You must know what is legally permissible, you must know what is ethically acceptable and you must know when to extract yourself from situations where the choices you might have to make would be in defiance of law and morality.

The Bottom Line

Again, do not think I offer these truths to dissuade you from carrying a handgun for personal protection. I believe—as did the late Col. Jeff Cooper who founded Gunsite Academy—that an armed society is a polite society (a quote that can be traced back to science-fiction author Robert Heinlein). But, I also believe that truth is better than fiction, and the truth about concealed carry should be known and accepted by anyone who contemplates or attempts it.

You are your own first responder, and if your plan is to be prepared to respond with lethal force, you need to understand what that entails and also to be prepared to make the proper commitment.

Life is hard and so is carrying a concealed handgun for the purpose of allowing you to keep living it. If either were easy, neither would be important.

Extracted and shortened from:
<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/seven-inconvenient-truths-of-concealed-carry/>



World Forum on Shooting Activities

SAGA is an Executive Member of WFSA (World Forum on Shooting Activities).

In their December 2022 Newsletter, Graham Downing, WFSA President wrote:



Dear friend of the shooting community,

If we are to continue to protect our shooting sports, then we must do more than simply fight for them within our own countries. So much of the legislation we face results from decisions taken at international level, and that is why WFSA focuses on trans-national bodies like the United Nations.

Last June I had the opportunity to speak up for shooting sports on your behalf at the biennial conference of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons at the UN in New York. We must continue to take these and similar actions if we are to influence international policy over such things as firearms manufacture, trade issues and ammunition.

The coming year will see WFSA working once more in the field of ammunition, in international trade, and in providing evidence to ensure that any restriction on the use of lead for shot or in bullet manufacture is proportionate to any risk that it might pose. WFSA is not prepared to see the case for hunting, sport shooting and lawfully owned civilian firearms go by default.

My best wishes for a successful and prosperous 2023.

The WFSA website www.wfsa.net has had a redesign and includes the following improvements:

- * A remodeled/more institutional look, with a simple and user friendly interface;
- * An easier and more intuitive navigation/search bar;
- * A new Ambassador Award section that includes a list and description of past award recipients;
- * A new video section linked to our official YouTube channel; and,
- * A news section linked to our official Facebook page

One of the items in their newsletter reported on the establishment of a Sub-committee "Trade, Customs Finance".

The sub-committee on "Trade, Customs, Finance & Transportation" was established in 2021 with the aim to develop a strategy and create a dialogue with the international or regional entities to address the challenges posed to the free movement of firearms, ammunition and goods deriving from shooting activities (e.g. hunting trophies).

Almost all WFSA member groups from all over the world are facing similar constraints regarding:

- Air, sea and land freight providers refusing to transport firearms, ammunition or other goods (i.e. hunting trophies, game meat, etc.).
- Banks and other credit institutions denying banking services and access to funds.

For each of the above topic, a Working Group will be established. US attorney and representative for SAGA at WFSA meetings, Mark Barnes, has been appointed as one of two coordinators for this.

As soon as the work begins, it is expected that each working group will:

- Clearly identify the issues, causes and potential interlocutors at international level
- Interview one or two external experts to discuss the identified issues and causes
- Propose actions to solve the obstacles/constraints identified



Are We Seeing a Revolver Renaissance?

By Tamara Keel
4 January 2023

It has been interesting watching the popularity curve of revolvers—at least the ones used for concealed carry—over the last several decades.

When I first started putting curious nose-prints on the glass of gun-store counters as a teen in the mid-1980s, revolvers were still the preferred sidearm of American law enforcement. Furthermore, if not a majority, then certainly a healthy percentage of private citizens who looked to handguns for personal protection both in and out of the home eyed semi-automatics with a bit of skepticism. The term “jam-o-matic” was still actually in wide use, believe it or not, even as its applicability dwindled to nothing.

It's hard to believe that by the turn of the millennium, a mere 15 years or so later, semi-autos had so thoroughly replaced revolvers. Certainly by the early 2000s, the use of revolvers for carry duty had largely dwindled to the specialized realms of big magnums carried in the woods—where four-legged threats were as much or more of a worry than two-legged ones—and lightweight snubbies carried in pocket, purse or ankle holsters, often as a backup gun.

There's been something of a renewed interest in revolvers as primary carry guns over recent years, however, probably driven by a number of factors.

The first is that there are just more choices on the market than there have been in quite some time. Longtime revolver-market stalwarts like Ruger and Smith & Wesson have been turning out special-edition, serious-carry variants of medium-frame revolvers again for a while; even Taurus has jumped in on that act with the 856 Executive Grade. Colt has returned to the market with its Python and Cobra. Even Kimber is offering an array of revolvers now that are right at home in an EDC belt holster.

Secondly, the message is getting out from some well-known trainers that wheelguns can be entirely adequate for private-citizen, defensive-gun uses, if skillfully wielded. Retired LEO and well-known trainer Darryl Bolke has remarked that he sees a difference in the sort of handgun required to get out of trouble as opposed to one used to go looking for bad guys. These days, unless there's some special situation that would call for more serious hardware, he's as likely to be found with a lightweight snubby in each front pocket as anything else.

Finally, there's probably an element of style and/or nostalgia at work. People may want to carry a well-crafted machine that's reminiscent of the hard-boiled detectives or steely eyed cops of a bygone era, and then some folks just gotta be different, and if everyone else is carrying a flat gun, they gotta be different and carry one that just happens to be round in the middle.

The thing is, there's a lot of institutional knowledge regarding carrying wheelguns that is on the verge of vanishing. For the most part, the long-service holdouts of the last generation of officers to get issued revolvers out of the academy are retired now after 30-plus year careers. Talking to these guys can provide a wealth of information useful for carrying a wheelieboi that isn't intuitive if you've been a lifelong Glock toter.

For instance, consider reloads. A lot of new revolver carriers obsess with the best way to carry elaborate competition speedloaders or perhaps even moonclips. These tend to be bulky, turn rounds loose at inopportune times and (in the case of moonclips) get bent in ways that can tie up the gun.

The experts generally carry their reloads in the form of speedstrips. Flat and easily pocketable, they're much easier to tote. Since any incident with a revolver is almost certainly going to be resolved with the rounds in the gun, the speed isn't as much of a factor. Just in case, though, they carry four rounds in the speedstrip, separated into two groups of two.

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Continued... Revolver Renaissance?

The reasoning is that in dire circumstances, getting two rounds into the gun—now—beats getting five rounds into the cylinder eventually.

When you see one of these revolver gurus at the range, you'll likely notice they always have a toothbrush, as well as maybe a short rod with a chamber/bore brush on it. There's a good reason for this: While the revolver is very reliable with the basic load of ammunition in the gun, being immune to malfunctions caused by a poor grip or out-of-spec ammunition, it's hardly an infallible machine. If you've been spending a bunch of time on the square range with a modern striker-fired semi-auto, you're probably used to a pistol that can put hundreds, if not thousands, of rounds downrange with little to nothing in the way of cleaning or maintenance.

An extended range session with a wheelgun firing hundreds of rounds will almost certainly require a bit of attention with that toothbrush, getting crud off the face of the cylinder where it can foul the barrel-cylinder gap, as well as out from under the extractor star where it can and will cause malfunctions.

After a good range session with a revolver, cleaning it and checking it over to make sure nothing's loosened in the screw department is much more critical than with a modern semi-auto. For those of us who are practically known for our, um, rather indifferent cleaning regimens, carrying a revolver is a real blast (of Gun Scrubber) from the past.

Larry Vickers once said about 1911s that if you are one of those people who treat handguns like we all treat our lawn mowers, then maybe you should carry a Glock.

That goes double for revolvers.

Extracted and shortened from:
https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/are-we-seeing-a-revolver-renaissance/?utm_source=010523_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign



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).

Create a Diversion



<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/create-a-diversion/>

By Sheriff Jim Wilson
6 January 2023

Now, we know that we're all supposed to be alert for possible criminal activity in our area. But, I think you'll agree with me that we aren't always as aware as we should be, or could be. The fact is that our first inkling of a problem might be when we look up and see a crook with a weapon right there in front of us. The fact is that he's ahead of us and we need something to even the odds and give us a chance to successfully respond.

What we need in that sort of situation is a diversion, something that will attract the crook's attention and allow us to get our defensive firearm into play. The challenge is to think under this kind of pressure and come up with something that will take the bad guy's mind away from his chosen task.

One friend of mine carries a cheap metal money clip with some bills in it. When the street punk demands money, my friend slowly takes out the money clip and tosses it to the crook. Only he purposely tosses it so that it hits the ground short of the crook and, in fact, lands to one side or the other. The idea is that the crook will naturally follow the money clip with his eyes and that will give my friend a chance to move and draw.

In the case of a home invasion, there are lots of things that can be knocked over to create that diversion. Table lamps, dishes, a pot on the stove; all will create noise that may cause the crook to look that way. Dogs, even the pet that has never met a stranger, can cause

momentary concern for the bad guys. And your spouse in the other room might knock something over, yell or scream, to give you that advantage.

One friend of mine, being approached by three street punks, grabbed one of those plastic trash cans on wheels and knocked it over right in front of them. In that moment, he stepped into the street, flanked the punks and put his defensive pistol on them. After that, it was all peace, love, and brotherly fellowship...just a big misunderstanding.

Use your head. Look around you. And discuss it with your spouse. You need to buy just a little bit of time and there are hundreds of ways to do that.



SAGA Corporate Membership

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. This list is 2022 members with a few new for 2023. The updated 2023 list will appear in the February Snippets.



A.O.G SECURITY	MATTHEWS ENSLIN INC
ADVANCE TACTICAL	MEDWAY
AIM AND FIRE (PTY) LTD	MIL.SPEC. EQUIPMENT CC
AINSLIE INTERNATIONAL	MILNERTON SHOOTING ASSOCIATION
ALPHA SECURITY & PATROLS	MOBI-CLAW
ARMS KING	MODDERFONTEIN SHOOTING CLUB
AWESOME TOOLS	MONTANA PISTOL CLUB
BORDER HUNTING CLUB	MOSSC SPORT SHOOTING ASSOC
BROADWAY SHOOTING CLUB	MULTI-PLATFORM DIMENSION SHOOTING
BRUCE SHAW TRUST	NAACCSA
BUFFALO RIVER SHOOTING CLUB	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RESPONSIBLE FIRE- ARM OWNERS
CAPE SPORT RIFLE CLUB	NATIONAL HUNTING & SHOOTING ASSOC
CHS GUNS & AMMUNITION CC	NYATHI ANTI POACHING UNIT
CITY GUNS CC	PHASA
CLAY PIGEON ADVENTURES	PREMIER SECURITY
CLAY TARGET SHOOT ASSOC	PWAV/PAAA
DRAGON PROTECTION SERVICES	RECOVERI
EXECUTIVE DECISIONS	RICHARDS BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
FALSE BAY F T A (PTY) LTD	ROCKY RIDGE SHOOTING CLUB
FALSE BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB	SA DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION (SADPA)
GUN MOTIVATIONS	SA TACTICAL INSTITUTE
GUNLICENCE.CO.ZA	SAAACA GAUTENG
GUNS & BOWS CC	SAAACA KZN
HARLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	SAAACA MPUMALANGA
HIGHWAY ARMS & AMMO	SABIE CLAY PIGEON CLUB
HILLANDALE SHOOTING CLUB	SHOOTING STUFF
HILLCREST GUN SHOP	SOMERSET WEST PISTOL CLUB
HILLCREST PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	SOUTH CAPE HUNTERS & CONSERVATION ASSOC
IHAWU FIREARMS CENTRE	STAR RAPID RESPONSE
IMPALA SHOOTING CLUB	STARLIGHT SECURITY SERVICES
KAAPJAG (CAPE HUNTERS & GAME CONSERVA- TION ASSOC)	STRATEGIC PROTECTION SERVICES
KINGS GUN SHOP	SYSDEL CC
KOKSTAD SHOOTING CLUB	TAXIDERMY AFRICA
KWAGGA JAG & AVONTUURKLUB	VEKTOR SHOOTING CLUB
KZN ARMS & AMMO	VGK FIREARMS PTY LTD
KZN HUNTING & CONSERVATION ASSOC	WESTERN SHOOTERS OF SA
LITE OPTEC (PTY) LTD	WHYLO (PTY) LTD
LYALL MORGAN & ASSOCIATES	WITBANK PRACTICAL SHOOTING CLUB
LYLE & ASSOCIATES	