



SAGA Snippets

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January 2025

Celebrating 40 Years of SAGA

January 2025
By Shaun Lyle

Since its inception in 1985, the South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA) has been a steadfast advocate for the rights of responsible firearm owners across South Africa. With 2025 being the 40th anniversary of the South African Gunowners' Association, it's a fitting time to reflect on the remarkable journey and achievements of this dedicated firearm rights organization.

Founding Principles and Early Years

Founded with the mission to represent the interests of individuals who embrace the principles of safe and responsible firearm ownership, SAGA has always prioritized education, advocacy, and community engagement. In its early years, the association focused on building a strong foundation of knowledge and support for its members, laying the groundwork for future successes.

Advocacy and Legal Battles

One of SAGA's most significant achievements has been its unwavering commitment to protecting the rights of firearm owners. Over the years, SAGA has been involved in numerous legal battles, successfully challenging restrictive legislation and advocating for the rights of responsible gun owners. These efforts have helped shape a more balanced and fair legal landscape for firearm ownership in South Africa.



Educational Initiatives

Education has always been a cornerstone of SAGA's mission. The promotion of safe and responsible firearms ownership and handling has been ongoing and continues still. These initiatives have empowered countless individuals to become knowledgeable and responsible gun owners, contributing to a safer community.

Community Engagement and Support

SAGA has also been deeply involved in community engagement and support. The association has organized numerous events including shooting competitions, and self-defence workshops, fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose among its members. These events have not only provided valuable learning opportunities, but have also strengthened bonds within the firearm community.

Special points of interest:

- Celebrating 40 Years of SAGA
- Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia
- SAGA Corporate Membership List and SAGA Personal Membership
- Let's Talk Safety
- Wildland Magazine Offer
- Big Pistols vs Small Pistols
- Scam Alert: Fraudulent Ammo-related Ads
- Make your Training Priorities Match the Real World

Continues...Celebrating 40 Years of SAGA

Future Threats

Despite SAGA's successes, the future of firearm rights in South Africa faces significant threats. Recent attempts to amend the Firearms Control Act (FCA) have raised serious concerns among firearm owners. The proposed amendments will severely restrict the ability to obtain firearms for self-defence, hunting, and sport shooting. These changes could have far-reaching negative consequences for responsible firearm owners, limiting their ability to protect themselves and their families.

It is crucial for the firearm community to stand together and fight against these amendments. SAGA continues to advocate for the rights of its members, urging everyone to stay informed, engaged, and vocal in opposing any legislation that undermines the principles of responsible firearm ownership.

What might appear to many to be non-consequential or even fair changes to legislation is we suggest an orchestrated strategy used universally to incrementally erode our rights until it's too late to roll back the changes and we are left facing serious potentially insurmountable consequences.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, SAGA remains dedicated to its mission of advocating for the rights of responsible firearm owners and promoting a culture of safety and responsibility. The association continues to evolve, adapting to new challenges and opportunities, ensuring that it remains a vital force in the firearm community.

Conclusion

The South African Gunowners' Association has come a long way since its official founding in 1985. Through its unwavering commitment to advocacy, education, and community engagement, SAGA has made a lasting impact on the lives of firearm owners across South Africa. As we celebrate this 40th anniversary, we look forward to many more years of success and continued dedication to the principles that have defined SAGA's journey.

BIRTHDAY INSIGNIA

In honour of SAGA's 40th birthday we have ordered some fabulous Limited Edition insignia items. **See next page.....**

Order on our website:

<https://shop.saga.org.za/>

Scroll down to find all the products and place your order today or contact the office directly on 031-562-9951 or email: saga@saga.org.za



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 6x4.2 cm (length x width), look incredible and will attach to anything with Velcro from 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





SAGA Corporate Membership

SAGA Corporate Members ...professionally representing Firearm owners, Dealers & Associations at the highest level.

The members listed below and over the page are all proudly 2025 SAGA Corporate Members.

ASSOCIATION

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

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
SHOOTING STUFF
SOMERSET WEST PISTOL CLUB
SWISS RIFLE CLUB CAPE TOWN
VEKTOR SHOOTING CLUB
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
GUNS & BOWS CC
HILLCREST GUN SHOP
JABAMA SAFARIS
KINGS GUN SHOP
MILSPEC EQUIPMENT CC
MULTI-PLATFORM DIMENSION SHOOTING
VGK FIREARMS (PTY) LTD

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HARLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
HILLCREST PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

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Continued...SAGA Corporate Membership



TRAINER

ADVANCE TACTICAL
EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
SA TACTICAL INSTITUTE

SECURITY

A.O.G SECURITY
ALPHA SECURITY & PATROLS
PANGOLIN SECURITY PRODUCTS
PREMIER SECURITY
SECURITY RESPONSE GROUP
STAR RAPID RESPONSE
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SOUTHERN RIGHT TREASURY
SYSDEL CC
TARGET TRUCK SALVAGE (PTY) LTD
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TURN TECH
WHYLO (PTY) LTD
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Please support those that support SAGA!

Find out more about Corporate Membership by contacting us:

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

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 cell-phone number **066 003 9226.**



Let's Talk Safety

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/let-s-talk-safety/?utm_source=newsletter

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
21 January 2025

When dealing with firearms, safety should always be our most important consideration. For years now, when I work with classes, I tell them that they are all Range Safety Officers. As a rule, I don't like clichés, but "If you see something, say something" really fits here.

For the beginners, it is often a case of not being familiar in the handling of firearms. The safe handling and management of guns just hasn't yet become a habit, so things often become kind of clumsy.

I recently saw a video of a woman shooting a handgun at an indoor range. She was doing pretty good until an empty flew back and ended up in her clothing. At that point, she forgot all about that gun in her hand and started fighting the burn. She also forgot about the trigger and ended up firing a shot during her dance. Fortunately, the shot went into the floor and it appeared that no one was injured.

This probably wasn't a case of negligence so much as just the fact that she panicked and didn't know what to do. It all would have changed in an instant if she had inadvertently shot herself or someone else. As it was, it was a case of something she will never forget as she is shown out the door and told not to come back.

I simply don't know why beginners don't seek out professional training when learning about firearms. It will avoid so much embarrassing stuff and serious injury.

And we life-long shooters aren't immune, either. It may be that some of us get so used to handling guns that we no longer have that little bit of fear that is such a good thing. And it may be that we might get a little bit full of ourselves and think that if we know how to safely run some guns, we know how to safely run all guns. That was the case with the only negligent discharge, with injuries, that I have personally witnessed.

This fellow was a retired deputy sheriff, from the revolver era, who had a new job as a security guard and was packing a striker-fired pistol. He just couldn't seem to remember to keep his trigger finger straight. And when he went to re-holster for the umpteenth time, it caught up with him. Fortunately, the injury was not serious and some stitches and band-aids fixed things. However, I think his ego was pretty badly damaged.

I guess my main point is that none of us are immune from having a negligent discharge. It is something that we must continually keep in mind and guard against. It can ruin your day and it can certainly ruin your life. So, when you preach firearms safety, you are singing my song. We should all consider ourselves Firearms Safety Officers.

Wildland Magazine Offer

Wildland magazine was established during 2013 after Andre van Dyk 'retired' from SA Hunt Publishing that was then owned by Media24 and SA Hunters & Game Conservation Association.

Wildland was introduced to the hunting and shooting fraternity during HuntEx 2013, where a free copy was handed out to most of the visitors.

Wildland was originally published in hard copy format but because of extremely high printing costs and distribution nightmares, it has only published in digital format since 2020.

Today, with more than 80 000 digital copies distributed on a monthly basis, Wildland is the largest hunting & shooting magazine in South Africa. In fact they count under the top five of all magazines in SA. These figures are confirmed by the ABC (Audit Bureau for Circulations) who do a comprehensive audit every three months.

Wildland focuses mainly on hunters and shooters – so if you carry any sort of firearm, Wildland is the magazine to read.

Wildland offers their regular advertisers excellent exposure for their products as they also produce videos free of charge for them. These videos are screened on the Wildland Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/wildlandmag and has more than 39 000 followers. The videos are also shown on their Youtube Channel.

Wildland endeavors to bring the latest news and products to their readers enabling them to make an informed decision when buying a new product.

Wildland is a proudly South African family business that is based in Pretoria.



In a collaboration with SAGA, Wildland invites our members to read the January 2025 edition and future editions to come.

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

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/69528173/wildland-januarie-2025>

Big Pistols vs. Small Pistols

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/big-pistols-vs-small-pistols/?utm_source=newsletter

by Karl Rehn
8 January 2025

The optimal handgun for concealed carry might vary with weather, wardrobe and level of concealment and level of retention required for each person. Full-size guns are for shooting, small guns are for carrying. That's why many people prefer to use openly carried, full-size guns with heavy frames, optics, lights, compensators and lightened triggers for range practice, classes and matches. As a result, those easy-shooting guns give us great confidence in our skills.

When it's time to leave the range, the big gun goes in the case and the small gun goes back in the pocket, inside the waistband or back in the car. The added complexity of drawing from concealment or off-body carry can dramatically increase times to an accurate first shot. Practicing with the small gun isn't as much fun as the big gun, so most don't do it, relying on the untested assumption that their skill with one will carry over to the other.

Comparing Bigger Pistols to Smaller Pistols

For the past decade, each year I have run a smaller-size firearms training course with an exercise where students shoot our 20-round "Three Seconds or Less" drill with both their smaller guns and their big guns. The test uses an IDPA target. Each string has a 3-second par time. "Zero ring" hits count 5 points, hits outside the zero ring count zero. Some strings start from a partial draw: hand on holstered gun, support hand at chest level lifting concealment garment.

Shooting 100 percent on this test requires skill equivalent to USPSA C class, IDPA Sharpshooter, or ability to shoot 90 percent or better on a typical police qualification course of fire. Our test is roughly twice as difficult as the Texas carry permit shooting requirement. Scoring-wise, 70-79 points is marginal, 80-89 points is acceptable and 90-100 points is desirable.

3 yards

- 1) From concealment, step left, draw and fire 3 body shots
- 2) From concealment, step right, draw and fire 3 body shots
- 3) Partial draw start, fire 2 head shots
- 4) Partial draw start, fire 2 body shots, one handed while retreating

7 yards

- 1) Remove magazine, empty chamber, lock gun open. Start with new magazine aligned with mag well. On signal, insert magazine, rack slide and fire one body shot
- 2) From ready, fire 2 head shots
- 3) Partial draw start, draw and fire 2 body shots strong hand only
- 4) Holster then face left. Partial-draw start, on signal turn right, draw and fire 3 body shots
- 5) Transfer gun to support hand only, aim at target with finger off trigger. On signal fire 2 body shots.

The average big-small score gap ranged from 1 percent for the highest skill level shooters to 15 percent for those with lower skill, with 40-percent losses recorded for those with the lowest skill level. So shooting your big gun to a standard far beyond a state-mandated minimum can give you enough skill to shoot the small gun acceptably well, if you choose the right small gun.

What About Small Revolvers?

Snub-nosed revolvers are easy to carry but harder to shoot for those used to shorter, lighter semi-automatic triggers. Those that chose a smaller gun that was the subcompact version of their bigger gun, or very similar to it, shot their smaller guns better. Only 32 percent of the snub shooters shot scores over 80 with both guns, compared to 64 percent of the subcompact shooters achieving the same feat.

The lessons learned from this ongoing experiment are simple: Choose your small carry gun to be similar to the big gun you shoot best. Then train with the smaller gun you carry until you can meet a realistic performance standard. That is the skill that matters the most in an actual defensive incident.

Scam Alert: Fraudulent Ammo-Related Ads on the Rise

https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/scam-alert-fraudulent-ammo-related-ads-on-the-rise/?utm_source=newsletter

by Guy J. Sagi
12 January 2025

Criminals are well-versed in using the Internet to steal identities, hold computers hostage, blackmail victims and worse. Stealing a portion of our hard-earned cash through websites elaborately camouflaged as some of the gun industry's most well-known brands pales in comparison to some of these scams, but the approach gained serious social-media momentum in December 2024.

The volume of legitimate-looking ads the impersonators took out on Facebook for "Warehouse Sales" or other bargains late in 2024 saw many gun writers sharing notes and anger. Traditionally, scams are easy to spot, but these were typo/broken-English free, included a legitimate company logo and featured recognizable products in familiar packaging.

They looked legit and, in most cases, prices on the display ad were a good deal, but not low enough to raise red flags. High-ticket items, like optics and firearms are the usual target, but with all the new guns that arrived during the holidays, apparently, criminals decided to highlight products with lower profit margins.

Hornady Warning

On Dec. 21 Hornady posted the following on its Facebook page:

"There are numerous fraudulent websites claiming to be Hornady by offering ammunition, bullets, brass, etc. on their website. We do not sell those products direct to consumer and the only legitimate Hornady websites are: <https://www.hornady.com> and <https://store.hornady.com>."

"Example of a NON Hornady website: <https://hornady-us.shop> THIS IS A SCAM. Please be mindful this holiday season and do not fall victim to these criminals."



"We have reported all of the websites that we are aware of."

Federal Premium Warning

On Dec. 3, Federal Premium posted:

"We have been made aware of a scam where a number of sponsored ads here on Facebook are driving folks to a fake website that looks just like ours. Please note this is not legitimate. Our only official website is FederalPremium.com. We are actively working to get the website taken down. We apologize for any inconvenience."

Sierra Bullets Warning

Another "Warehouse Sale" advertisement on Facebook looked like it was sponsored by the real Sierra Bullets in December. It was not.

The company's real website now has a banner on top of its home page stating, "There is a scam website called 'sierrabullets.shop' that is impersonating us. Please stay clear of that website. Thank you."

There are dozens, if not hundreds, of other gun-related scams on the Internet, although the shift to more modest priced ammo and reloading components caught many in the industry by surprise. The proliferation of ads on social media was significant as the holiday season approached and they are likely still circulating.

* SAGA Comment:

This article has been included to highlight the fact that online scams are a very real problem in every industry. Please be extra alert with any online orders.

Make Your Training Priorities Match the Real World



by Kevin Creighton
13 January 2025

At this point in my concealed carry journey, I have just over 1,100 hours of firearms training, and that amount is growing every year. This pales in comparison to some of my peers, but I have had, for the most part, pretty solid training, with instructor certifications from the NRA, Rangemaster Inc, Defense Training International and others, along with classes from people like Massad Ayoob, Craig Douglas and John Hearne, as well as multiple trips to Gunsite under my belt.

In addition to this, I've shot practical pistol matches at a fairly high level, competing in top-tier matches like the USPSA Area 2 Championship and the Superstition Mountain Mystery 3 Gun match. I am not, however, a top-ranked competitive shooter, nor do I wish to be one. My goal has never been to reach those lofty heights, it was to learn how to apply the skills acquired in a shooting bay at a match to life outside of the shooting range.

One thing I've found is that if the words "practical pistol competition" are mentioned in the context of defensive firearms training, inevitably there will be a hue and cry from certain circles about how shooting a match produces "training scars" which will get you killed on the street. But there's another, more pervasive source of training scars which comes from the legacy of law enforcement training that affects how we train armed civilians.

Right now, a good percentage of you are saying "So? The police carry pistols and need to deal with crime, and the armed citizen

carries a pistol and has to deal with crime. It's the same, right?"

No.

The ideal end state of law enforcement and the ideal end state for the armed citizen are radically different. The job of law enforcement is to pursue the (alleged) criminal until he or she is no longer a threat to the community, which could mean they're in cuffs in the back of a squad car or some other outcome. Either way, law enforcement is in the fight to win the fight.

The armed citizen, on the other hand, is in the fight until the fight ends. If the (alleged) criminal realizes they made a horrible error in the victim selection process and runs off when we present a firearm, we win. We're not going to pursue him or her, because our job isn't to protect the community as a whole, it's to protect ourselves and those in our care.

This has a profound effect on how we should prioritize our training. What is important to law enforcement, like fast, efficient reloads and the use of cover during a prolonged encounter with a bad guy, suddenly becomes less important for the armed citizen.

We are most likely going to be dealing with resource predators who want to take something from us, and when they don't get it, they end the encounter (or we end it for them). To put it more simply, if the bad guy runs away, I don't run after him. Therefore, is cover all that important? Movement, especially "getting off the X," sure, that's

Continued...Make Your Training Priorities Match the Real World

important. Shooting from behind cover? Maybe not so much.

Which brings me to another training scar: The lack of preemptive movement skills. Picture this scenario: You're filling up your vehicle at a service station, and about 25 feet away, you spot someone who has tripped your "That ain't right" sensors. He's by himself, there is no one else around, and he moves towards you. Why not use your vehicle or the pump island or other objects in the environment as a movement barrier to prevent him or her from getting closer to you?

Movement barriers are a bad thing in the world of law enforcement because they make it harder to approach the bad guy and arrest him or her. Our job, however, isn't to close with and interview the bad guy before arresting him or her, it's to keep the bad guy as far away from us as possible.

Preferably in another county.

A lack of preemptive movement training isn't just a holdover from law enforcement training, it's also inherited from practical pistol competitions. After all, the point of a match is to hit all the targets in as short a time as possible. Unless you're shooting IDPA, moving to keep something between you and the target slows you down and doesn't help you win the match.

Preemptive movement and using the environment to hinder the approach of potential bad guys gives us more time, and more time gives us more options. These options allow us to sort out a problem with verbal commands, less lethal or some other tool, rather than wind up in a desperate situation where we are forced to make a life-or-death decision. I train for that moment, but I sincerely hope it never arrives.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/make-your-training-priorities-match-the-real-world/?utm_source=newsletter