



SAGA Snippets

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Make It A Team Effort

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
4 November 2022

A spouse who can shoot is a force multiplier in a lethal force encounter.

All too often, among married couples, the husband is the firearms enthusiast and the one interested in personal defense, while the wife tends to rely on that protection. Unfortunately, things don't always work out so well when that kind of thinking prevails.

In the case of a home invasion, or any kind of attack when a couple is targeted, the crooks will be focused on neutralizing the man as quickly as possible because they see him as the major threat. What that means to us guys, whether we like to think about it or not, is that we may be the first one to hit the ground with a debilitating wound. What is the unarmed, unprepared woman going to do then?

If the woman is encouraged to take part in the training and the preparedness, we now have a defensive team that multiplies our chances of prevailing when attacked. In fact, she becomes the wild card in many situations. The crooks don't pay much attention to her because they expect her to be running scared. When, instead, she takes a fighting stance and is looking at them over the gun sights it may well mess up their whole predetermined battle plan to the point that they decide the best thing to do is just to leave.

In the days of the American frontier, women were generally always a major part of the defensive situation.

They had to be simply because there was no other choice. And, though history rarely reports it, the woman was often the better shot. In fact, the entire family had various assigned duties to perform when the homestead was under attack.

Fortunately, today, we are seeing women's interest in personal defense increasing. These efforts are being and must be encouraged. More than that, we can use our influence to get women's classes and clubs organized in our area.

More importantly, we work with the women in our lives to truly develop as a team. That requires established methods of communication, verbal and non-verbal, as well as working out ways to provide support to each other. She may not be interested in becoming a firearms enthusiast, but that doesn't mean she isn't interested in protecting herself and her family. If we make sure that we use the same kind of defensive handgun, in the same caliber as she does that will simplify logistics. It will also mean that both defenders can function with whichever firearm we can get our hands on.

If you're a firearm enthusiast, it is incumbent upon you to ensure your partner is properly trained. She can be the best defensive partner that you could hope for, and she may end up saving your life.

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/make-it-a-team-effort/>



SAGA Snippets
November
2022

Special points of interest:

- *Make it a Team Effort*
- *SAGA Happenings*
- *False Bay Shooting Club Open Day*
- *5 Life Lessons*
- *SAGA Membership*
- *Gun Skills: Scan & Assess*
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SAGA Happenings



30 October 2022 - KZN

The Hillandale Shooting Club event held at the Mapstone Range on 30 October 2022 in Baynesfield was attended by a group of about 30 people. They were of course all there to support the Ladies for whom the event was actually sponsored.



One of SAGA's other corporate members - Rocky Ridge Shooting Club - was hosting a private shoot at the same time. Members of this club were among those who joined SAGA (14 new) and who renewed (4) - these memberships being processed on the day.

12 November 2022 - KZN

On the 12 of November, SAGA attended as co-sponsors, along with NHSA, a Dragon Protection Services customer function at the well-known Broadway Shooting Range.

We started the event with two presentations. One by SAGA staffer Peter Marshall-Goodridge on the features and benefits of SAGA, what it means to be a member of an organisation fighting for the rights of firearms

owners and, what we currently have in place regarding a Class Action against the CFR to address the slow service delivery of all issues around firearm licences.

The other opening talk was by Rowan Kirton from Kings Firearms who explained about the different firearms that the participants would be shooting with that day.





SAGA Happenings



20 November 2022 - Gauteng

Themba Khubeka held another successful shoot in Johannesburg with 10 lucky participants attending. They learnt about firearm safety and the legalities of firearm ownership and Themba was able to dispel numerous incorrect myths surrounding firearm ownership and use in South Africa.

Tactical HQ at Fourways kindly provided the range facility and the attendees all got a chance to shoot.

Some have taken things a step further and booked a course with instructor Dylan Hadassin. It was a very successful event.



Upcoming Event!!

Cape Town — 3 December 2022



SAGA will be attending this Open Day at False Bay Shooting Club.

This event is always great shooting fun for the whole family.

For more details look online at:
www.falsebaysportshooting.com
 or on Facebook: @FalseBaySSC

5 Life Lessons from the Range

by Frank Melloni

7 November 2022

Sometimes the best lessons in life are learned entirely by accident. Looking back at my time teaching on the range, countless portions ended with me stating, "That's a life lesson too." There is something deeply rooted in shooting that touches our entire being. As a result, I have solved a lot of life's problems by simply sitting at a shooting bench or spending time introducing newcomers to the sport. Here are five lessons I've learned that not only made me a better shooter but a better human being overall.

1. "Don't be afraid to miss."

One of the hardest things to do as an instructor is to take a student who is used to slow-fire, perfect-sight-alignment shooting, and teach them to shoot rapidly. While their accuracy is almost never an issue, getting them to move faster is more of a training of the mind than it is the body. These shooters are typically worried that they will lose the ability to stay in the "A-Zone" if they run the gun a little harder. The gentle instructional phrase "Don't be afraid to miss" typically shows them how good they really are.

After preaching this for years on the firing line, I realized that we could get so much further in life if we apply that mentality to other things. Go apply for that job, ask that girl out, buy that house. You'll be surprised how much of it actually works out for you.

2. "Don't let the perfect get in the way of the good enough."

This one came from one of my first rifle coaches, and he was simply referring to the tendency that positional shooters have to try to make every piece of what they are doing perfect before they take a shot. While this is the best way to approach slow-fire stages, it'll keep you from getting all of your rounds off during the rapid-fire ones. In other words, you'll lose 10% of your score for each round left in your rifle.

If we consider this concept in everyday life, how many projects are indefinitely delayed because we don't have just the right amount



of time or money? How many parties have we canceled because the weather was a bit dreary? How about the ones we held in the rain that turned out to be amazing? At the end of the day, things don't have to be perfect to be just right, so press on—it's remarkable how often sub-optimal situations come out with good results.

3. "Accept your guns the way they are."

Far too often do I meet a student trying to get something out of their gun that it simply wasn't designed to do. It ranges from the 16" carbine owner trying to squeeze benchrest-grade accuracy out of a platform built for defense, to the budget pistolero trying to win Open division with a \$300 handgun. I always remind them to try not to ask more from their guns than what they are capable of. These instances are completely self-initiated and based on expectations and a lack of acceptance ... and therefore can only end in heartache.

Now, swap "guns" for "people," and you start to see something profound. Take the time to understand the people in your life, and don't put unrealistic demands on them; neither of you will be happy.

4. "Do your own shooting first."

Although I get to the range more than most people, I have to split my time between the tasks of training students, reviewing firearms and personal practice. I quickly learned that if I put my own practice off to the end of the session, I leave the range without firing a single round in the name of self-improvement.



Continued... 5 Life Lessons

The traditional slogan here is "pay yourself first," and many of us have heard it in relation to establishing a savings account.

The truth is, this applies to all areas of life. I learned that if I don't exercise first thing in the morning, it just doesn't happen because the day finds a way of getting in the way. The same goes for eating the healthy foods on my plate first. Time and energy are our most precious commodities; although we don't realize it, both are utterly finite.

5. "Sights have a way of settling in the X-ring."

Whenever I explain to somebody that they must focus on the front sight, they typically respond with, "But how will I know it's in the middle of the target?" Thinking back, my answer must have seemed like wizardry because it's generally some version of "it always just lines up." It takes a bit of trust, but if you let your target blur and let your front sight, dot or reticle come into focus, your groups will improve and land right where you want them (granted that you have good trigger control).

If you think about it, isn't this true with most things in life, even the bad ones? Take a look at some of the worst events that you've been through. If you look hard enough, you can likely link them to your most prominent assets today. The takeaway here is to keep the focus within arm's reach while ignoring things in the distance, and as long as you do the right thing, the right things will happen to you.

An underlying theme to all of this might just be "You never know where the lesson comes from," as I would have never believed anybody who told me that I would find insight while pumping lead into a hillside. Yet, here we are. We never know the effect one circumstance will have on another, so the best takeaway of all here is to keep your eyes and mind open because the truth is, we have so little to do with the end result.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/5-life-lessons-from-the-range/>



SAGA Membership

Note: As of 1 January 2023 SAGA membership fees will increase slightly.

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?

Beat the price increase and sign up a friend, colleague or family member before the end of the year!

Membership rates until the end of December 2022 are:

Adult R260

Pensioner/Junior R160

Family:

1x Adult @R260 plus any number of family members @ R70 each

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

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).



Gun Skills: Scan and Assess

<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/content/gun-skills-scan-and-assess/>

by Frank Melloni

12 November 2022

The human body is a remarkable mechanism; it is advanced, yet animalistic when it needs to be. If we study our physiological response to stress, this becomes incredibly apparent. When a threat appears, adrenaline courses through our veins to assist us in fighting it off or fleeing the area.

As a byproduct, this produces tunnel vision, which helps us to concentrate on the most-immediate threat, which is typically square in front of us.

The problem with this is that in many instances, a secondary attacker is positioned adjacently just a few feet to either side of the original one. Given our current state, we are now blind to this threat. The solution to this problem comes in learning to scan and assess your peripherals after your first shots.

Here are a few drills to help build that into practice.

The Three, Two, One Routine

Statistically, most gunfights are over in two to three rounds. Most self-defense gun shots are fired at distances inside of seven yards. Seven yards might as well be a mile, though, as far as our vision is concerned, because the threat is so far away your eyes produce little to no obscurement to your field of view.

Working with a cardboard target (never use a metallic one at this distance) that is substantially closer, forces us to induce this scanning technique.

1. Position a cardboard target against a safe backstop and stand three yards away. Fire two shots in rapid succession before breaking your chin (and eyes) left and right to scan for other targets. Scan five more times.

2. Move to a distance of two yards from your target and repeat the drill. You'll notice that you need to move your head more to see

the same distance on each side.

3. Move to just one yard of your target and repeat the course of fire. From here, the target will be so close that it will be hard to forget to check each side. Repeat the course of fire 10 times to help cement it in.

The Failure Check Routine

The failure-to-stop drill is a popular routine that involves placing two rounds into the center mass of your target before transitioning to a head shot. When dealing with one threat, this is a highly effective maneuver; however, it could leave you open to an attack from a second opponent as you prepare to take that third shot. This drill addresses a secondary threat while the first should be disabled from the initial wounds.

1. Position a similar cardboard target to the last drill at five yards.
2. Position a second cardboard target five yards to the left.
3. Using a shot timer, fire five standard failure-to-stop drills on the target directly in front of you and average your times.
4. Fire two shots into the center of the target in front of you; scan over to the secondary target; fire two shots; return to the first target and fire a final shot to the head of this target.
5. Scan and assess for other potential threats.
6. Repeat until you can run the drill as fast as the baseline you established in step one.

Far too often, we find ourselves aimlessly punching away at paper without much realism in our training scenarios.

Scanning and assessing helps us to remember that a relaxed shooting range doesn't represent a life-or-death encounter. Adding the practice of breaking up your engagements with a quick side-to-side gesture dramatically changes your mindset while encouraging proper follow-through.

Additionally, this separates the reset procedure (e.g., reholstering) from the engagement. At the very least, it serves as a reminder that we live in a 360-degree world—danger can lurk around any corner.

SAGA Corporate Membership



Please support SAGA Corporate members where you can.

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.

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