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Sunshine Patriots

By: John C. Sigler
NRA Past President
DSSA Past President

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated."

So wrote Thomas Paine in a pamphlet called *The American Crisis*, #1, dated December 23, 1776, as America struggled against the yoke of British tyranny in search of a new way of life, a new way of thinking, and a new way of governing. America wanted freedom, and some were willing to fight and die for that freedom. The Revolution was new – and it was in trouble and she needed everyone to rally to the cause - just as today, in Election Year 2020, America is in trouble, and needs everyone to rally to the cause – the Cause of Freedom.

Are you a real patriot? Or are you simply a summer soldier, a sunshine patriot? Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered, and it is the specter of future tyranny we face today – the choice is clear, more clear than it has been in my lifetime, and probably in yours as well.

The lines have been drawn and the battle has begun. Will you join the fight? Will you work for freedom? Will you work to ensure that our beloved Constitution remains safe, that our history, our culture and our heritage will remain whole and unharmed for the benefit of future generations?

Will you volunteer to work for pro-gun candidates? Will you put a sign in your yard, knock on doors, stuff envelopes, help others put up signs, call your friends and neighbors? Will you dig deep and make that sacrifice, giving money to those candidates who believe as you do, who believe in freedom and who believe in the right to self-defense and the right to keep and bear arms?

Oh, you don't believe there's a crisis? Why? The evidence is before you – look around you and see for yourself.

They call themselves "progressives", and they want your freedom. First, they want your vote, and then they want your guns, and then they want your Constitution, and then they will have your freedom – don't give it to them. If you ask them, they will tell you it's about "progress" – they are, after all, "progressives". But progress toward what, exactly? What is their goal, what is their "end game"? Is it socialism? Is it communism? Is it despotism? Or is it perhaps, totalitarianism? Or is it some combination of all of those things? Or perhaps their idea of "progress" is something not yet named by today's political and social scientists and studied in the textbooks of our time, something even more sinister and foreboding? I don't know – and I doubt that most of them do either.

But, what we do know, is that whatever it is toward which they are "progressing", it isn't traditional "Americanism" and it certainly isn't about preserving our Republic, our history, our culture, our heritage, our American way of life, our freedom or our beloved Constitution. Whatever it is toward which they want to "progress", it is most certainly the antithesis of the freedom and the love of America for which you and I and every other card-carrying NRA member stands, and for which so many Americans have fought and died.

In July of 1775, during the days of the British oppression of Boston, Thomas Paine also wrote in a pamphlet titled "Liberty Tree #4":

"From the east to the west blow the trumpet to arms! Through the land let the sound of it flee; Let the far and the near all unite, with a cheer, in defense of our Liberty Tree".

His was a call to arms to establish Freedom, today we sound a call to "arms" of a different sort in defense of freedom. Paine was calling for men to take up their muskets to fight for freedom – we are calling for you to use your freedom to save your muskets.

We call for you to join the fight, not passively with just your vote, but actively with your hard work, and your wallet – and your voice. We ask that you speak out, let your voice be heard – and reach out and help our pro-gun, pro-freedom candidates.

We call on you to join with your friends and neighbors to fight for freedom in this Election Year 2020. Yes- VOTE - Vote Freedom First, just as you have always done. But this year freedom demands more.

This year Freedom demands that no one shrinks from service; that all of yesteryear's summer soldiers and sunshine patriots heed the call to duty; that all of us join together, do our part and fight for freedom as never before – because we have never before faced a threat to our freedom such as that which we face today.

Join the fight – become a volunteer for freedom – give of your time, your wealth and your skills – give it your all. Be neither a “summer soldier” nor a “sunshine patriot” – not this year, not ever again – the Cause of Freedom depends upon you.

Many of your friends and neighbors have already joined DSSA's cadre of election volunteers. Join ranks with them. Join our army of “freedom volunteers”! For more information about becoming a DSSA Election Volunteer go to <https://dssa.us/volunteer>.

If we stand united, we – you, and I, and the NRA – can, and will, defeat these anti-American forces of evil at the ballot box this year, and every election year thereafter. United we win – divided we fail.

VOTE FREEDOM FIRST!

GUNS, THE NRA AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT ARE UNDER ASSAULT FROM THE LEFT

The case for protecting gun rights couldn't be stronger right now to reasonable Americans, yet Democrats want to weaken them.

By: Leslie Rutledge, Attorney General of Arkansas

Contributed By: Vickie Prickett

<https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/guns-nra-second-amendment-are-under-assault-left-ncna1237712>

In the midst of a challenging pandemic, many American cities have been under siege. Amid violence and riots, the rule of law has been abandoned by the same elected officials who swore to uphold it. Law-abiding citizens who unwittingly drove through protests have found themselves attacked or left to the mercy of a mob.

Many Americans are indeed now choosing to exercise their Second Amendment rights; a national indicator for gun sales is at an all-time high.

The promotion of civil unrest and the systematic destruction of neighborhoods and businesses have been permitted with limited consequences under the guise of the First Amendment's protection of the right to protest. Yet when the case for protecting the Second Amendment couldn't be stronger to reasonable Americans, the left is yet again trying to weaken it.

As Americans, our constitutional rights and individual liberties are not just a source of patriotic pride but the lifeblood of our democracy. The founders knew that the right of citizens to bear arms was essential to the preservation of democracy and liberty. The Second Amendment ensures that

Americans can protect themselves, their families and their businesses, especially when the government is unwilling or unable to do so. And many Americans are indeed now choosing to exercise their Second Amendment rights; a national indicator for gun sales is at an all-time high.

The left has long attacked the Second Amendment, as they believe it is antiquated and unnecessary, and have assured us they can protect us better than we can protect ourselves. But in a time of crisis, many of them have revealed that they won't actually use law enforcement and even support defunding the agencies that protect and serve all communities. Now they are attacking a private organization that's trying to do the same.

Just three months before a presidential election, New York Attorney General Letitia James has filed suit against the NRA and several members of its leadership, seeking to have the gun rights organization dissolved. This lawsuit, filed in New York state court, is the apex of a longstanding feud between the NRA and the Democratic state attorney general. James attacked the NRA while she was a candidate for attorney general, calling it a “terrorist organization” and a “criminal enterprise.”

James knows that if the NRA were dissolved, it would be a huge personal and political victory, as the Democrats would finally be able to silence the largest Second Amendment and gun safety advocate in the country. The NRA promotes responsible and safe firearm ownership and self-defense, and it encourages favorite pastimes like hunting and recreational shooting. That's a staple of life for folks like us in Arkansas, and a far cry from James' nefarious “terrorist organization” and “criminal enterprise” labels.

As state attorneys general, we are tasked with protecting the interests of consumers and holding bad actors accountable. Since the NRA is based in New York, James' office has the jurisdiction to investigate this organization, like any other charity or nonprofit. But while the lawsuit alleges that NRA leadership misused the organization's funds for their own personal gain, no NRA executives have been charged with any crimes, though James has threatened criminal charges pending the outcome of her office's investigation.

Moreover, James doesn't seem to be too worried about protecting the interests of the “consumer”: those who are NRA members. If successful, the lawsuit could permanently bar the strongest Second Amendment advocate from raising funds for its cause and ultimately dissolve the multimillion member organization. Instead of holding the alleged bad actors accountable, James seems to believe she has found a way to finally rid the left of one of its greatest political adversaries — and, possibly, its least favorite constitutional amendment.

However, like any good defender of freedom, the NRA is fighting back. The same day New York filed its state suit, the NRA filed its own lawsuit in federal court, pointing to then-candidate James' campaign promise to “take on the NRA” if elected. The NRA claims that James' lawsuit is nothing more than a politically motivated stunt to deliver on that promise — not a response to any real fraud.

The NRA's lawsuit is based on the First Amendment and similar New York state law. The NRA argues that it is being targeted for its pro-Second Amendment advocacy and that James' request to dissolve the NRA is nothing more than an attempt to silence political speech. The NRA is also asking the federal court to stop James from interfering with its free-speech rights and to declare that the NRA is in substantial compliance with New York not-for-profit law.

As Americans, our constitutional rights and individual liberties are not just a source of patriotic pride but the lifeblood of our democracy.

So, is this lawsuit really about the NRA, or does it represent a bigger agenda of the left? While the suit may be a great political rallying cry for James in New York and other liberal arenas heading into the November election, the rest of us see this lawsuit for what it truly is: a deliberate attack on the Second Amendment and those of us who support it.

I understand the importance and duty of attorneys general to investigate allegations of corruption and fraud, but James' eagerness to dissolve the entire organization rather than to hold potential bad actors accountable speaks volumes about her real motives. The left has worked tirelessly to rewrite history, but we will not and cannot allow it to try to rewrite the Constitution.

The Most Important Job(s) You Will Ever Have

By: Frank Nedza

Twenty-two million, eight hundred nineteen thousand, two hundred seventy one. According to the FBI, that is the number of NICS checks that have been completed in **2020** as of the end of **July** –and that is **BEFORE** things got crazy in the gunshops. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), nearly 63% of those purchases are to First-Time gun buyers, and of those, about 40% are female.

Looking at those numbers, it seems obvious that Law-Abiding Americans of all walks of life are watching what is happening in many cities and states in the country and deciding to take their safety into their own hands. You do not have to look hard to find many examples of lawful gun owners standing guard in front of their homes, their businesses and their neighbor's businesses, in an effort to deter mob violence and crime. For these and a growing number of good reasons, women and minority firearm ownership numbers are on the rise.

OK, so, now what? Well, now we have a whole bunch of new firearm owners out there who will need some education on how to safely and properly USE that new gun. With the sheer volume of new purchase numbers, there is no way that typical instructors can keep up –that is where WE, the 'old-hands' of firearms enthusiasts come in. We need to let folks know that we are ready, willing, and able to help them understand how to properly use their new gun, and that we could use a couple of new shooting buddies too. It is time to pass on the knowledge, skills and attitude that we possess. It

is time to make friends with those new to the shooting sports, and it is long past time to show those new to our fold what kind of people WE are. Ordinary, everyday people, overwhelmingly law-abiding, hard-working, and consisting of every race, creed, color and any other variable you can name.

After jumping through the hoops of purchasing that first gun, and learning that perhaps it isn't quite as easy as the media have for years made it out to be... (FORMS? I have to fill out FORMS? What background check? I have to WAIT? But I want it NOW! Why isn't there any AMMO?), we also have a unique opportunity to educate that new gun buyer about the politics of the Second Amendment (and Article 1 Section 20 of the Delaware Constitution), and about WHO, exactly wants to take away, forever, their new-found right to self-defense. You and I are acutely aware of the lack of respect for gun rights by many politicians, but they may not, in fact, are likely not, aware at all that the people they might normally support are exactly those who would take away their newly discovered "...right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreational use". Once those new gun owners realize that their new firearm is constantly in danger of being taken away, their rights constantly in danger of being restricted, and their freedom constantly at risk of being impinged, perhaps they will realize what many of us already know. We need to protect our rights –ALL OF THEM, not just the ones we happen to like at the time, or those that affect us personally.

As I see it, respecting and protecting the Constitution is, or should be, non-partisan, but it sure seems like the bulk of the 'gun safety' baloney comes from one side of the aisle... In any case, for good or for bad, we live in a largely Blue State, and that is unlikely to change in any significant way any time soon. BUT, we can help ourselves, those new gun owners, and DSSA by becoming a bit more politically aware and perhaps becoming politically involved, and thereby maybe, just maybe, making the legislature a little bit more gun friendly overall. All we need is a slim, but convincing and dedicated majority of pro-gun legislators (regardless of party) to keep bad bills from moving forward, and maybe advance some good, gun-friendly bills instead. To accomplish that, we first need to VOTE, as legislators the world over don't give two hoots about you unless you do.

Sadly, too many gun owners don't register to vote, and the numbers are striking. A survey of a local clubs' member database against voting rolls revealed that only about 75% of the members were registered to vote. Of that 75%, only about 50% had voted recently. To put that in perspective, if a club had 100 members, only 38 of them voted! If you think about shooting club membership in Delaware, there are likely somewhere around 2500+ members throughout the state. If the numbers above hold, that would mean only 950 members had a voice in the makeup of the state legislature! We should have all 2500 of us speaking! In reality though, we should have every gun owner in the state speaking with one voice; NO MORE BAD GUN LEGISLATION!

So, what are the job(s) referenced in the title of this article?

1. Help a new shooter get started the right way with their new firearm.
2. Educate them about our Family (and we ARE a Family).
3. Get them to Register to Vote.
4. Get them (and yourself) to the polls on Election Day (November 3rd).

As a reminder, the deadline to register to vote before the November general election is October 10th, 2020. OK, you have convinced me –I want to make my voice heard and register to vote, how can I do it?

You can go to; <https://elections.delaware.gov/index.shtml> for all the answers about voting in Delaware.

Or you can go here as well; <https://ivote.de.gov/VoterView>

VOTE FREEDOM FIRST!

INSTRUCTORS CORNER NEW AND SEASONED PISTOL INSTRUCTORS

By: Roger Boyce

This issue will take on vision issues, anticipation, flinching, and other problems common to the new, and not so new, pistol shooter.

Next in the progression of new shooter problems are eye issues, anticipation/flinching and heeling of the gun.

We start with the assumption that during the fundamentals the instructor helped the student determine their eye dominance. The student and instructor should have identified the dominant eye and discuss cross-eye dominance issues. Some rare occurrences with eye dominance to look for are:

1. In some cases, eye dominance can change with age. The student was right eye dominant at a younger age but now they are left eye dominate. Some may adamantly deny it and try to game the dominant eye exercise. Watch for that.
2. Eye dominance can change with some health conditions to include past strokes and brain injuries.
3. Eye dominance normally means that one eye is more dominant than the other. In some cases, a person's eyes may be near equal in strength/dominance. It's kind of like being ambidextrous.

The bottom line is that eye dominance is what it is. You can't change it. You should work with it but if the student insists, they may have to shoot with the dominant eye closed or covered with a patch. If you find other issues, the student may have to consult with an eye specialist. In fact, as vision is **SO** important to the shooter, a regular eye exam is never a bad idea...

One Eye vs. Two Eyes Open – This segment assumes iron (open) sights. This means that the students' eye focus is on the front sight. If possible pistol shooters should shoot with

both eyes open. This will allow the shooter to make the most advantage of the field of vision during the shooting sequence. Most new shooters will start shooting with one eye closed (may be the dominant or non-dominant eye). Therefore, it is important that the instructor watch the face, as well as the hands/pistol while the shooter is engaging the target. This means that the instructor must be alongside the shooter to see the face and eye(s).

If you tell the shooter to open both eyes and they see double targets or double front sights, encourage them to push through it for the first dozen shots. These students may have a weak eye dominance issue and the two eyes are fighting for control. Usually within a dozen shots one eye will take dominance and the double vision will subside.

In some cases, the student just can't stand the double vision and will resist. In other cases, the double vision will persist. At this point you just need to let the student close the eye of choice and shoot with one eye, or use a blinder over the non-dominant eye. Shooting with a relaxed non-dominant eye is preferable to shooting with a squint.

In some cases (such as stroke victims) the student may not be able to close one eye and is having very troubling double vision. In that case you have a couple of options.

1. Try putting a patch over one eye.
2. Try putting painters' tape (or better yet, frosted scotch tape) on the safety glasses, covering the necessary portion of the non-dominant eye.
3. Have the student try a reflex red dot sight (to be explained later).

Young vs Older Eyes -When a young person requires corrective eyewear, the older eyes discussion may be more appropriate.

Young Eyes - It's been said that; "Youth is a terrible thing to waste on the young". 'Young eyes' generally allow the student a wider range of sighting system options and may provide them with a natural competitive advantage. In this case iron (open) sights are the best option. To acquire a sight picture with iron sights, the shooter must focus on the front sight but still see the rear sight and the target in the same frame (hence the term sight picture). Young eyes can do this very well because the young eye can perform a very sharp focus on a single point but can still see with reasonable clarity at distance. This ability allows the student to have the front sight in view while acquiring and transitioning from target-to-target. This is a huge advantage in competition and tactical shooting. But this advantage only comes if the student is shooting with both eyes open. If the student is shooting with one eye closed, they have lost 50% of their field of vision and much of any competitive advantage they may have had.

Older Eyes – It's been said "with age comes wisdom". In the shooting field, with age come vision disadvantages... A younger instructor reading this segment will have trouble comprehending the issues because they have never experienced the various conditions. Just wait, your turn is

coming. But the young instructor will have to teach shooters of every age, and it is important to gain an understanding of what older shooters, and those with other eye issues face to be able to properly help them remediate those issues.

As the eyes age, they can be plagued with a host of different conditions and problems. The most common is that the vision needs to be corrected for distance and close viewing. Many times, when an older shooter is using iron sights, they must have special shooting glasses or break their neck looking through their bifocals. Either way, the target becomes blurry to the point that they may not be able to see the target beyond 25' to 50'. It stinks trying to shoot steel when you can't see it because you're focusing on the front sight through a corrective lens.

For many older eyes, the red dot reflex and optical sights have done wonders in allowing them to shoot well. The red dots completely change the sighting system. Once sighted in, wherever the red dot is, the bullet will go there (assuming you hold the gun still until the bullet leaves the muzzle). Now, the target and the 'dot' are projected in the same plane of vision, and instead of having to do "front sight" focus, the student does "target" focus. This allows the student to use their normal distance vision (corrected or not) to focus on the target and impose the red dot onto the target without having to adjust focus to the red-dot. Instead of being three points of the sight picture, there is only one. You don't look at the red dot; you just impose it onto the target. Your focus stays on the target.

Now as wonderful as this may be for older or corrected vision shooters, it has two primary drawbacks as follows:

1. Let's play 'find the dot' (you will appreciate that when you try one). The reflex red dots commonly used on slide mounted auto pistols and revolvers have a significant drawback. Your grip and pistol alignment must be near perfect for every shot. If you are shooting from a holster, it's even harder. With the red dot you do not have to align anything. Just put the red dot where you want the bullet to go and presto, you hit what you are aiming at. It's like magic. The problem is that if due to your grip or the way you present the gun to the target, you are not perfectly aligned, the dot will not "appear". So, you start hunting for the dot. "Where's the damn dot?" "I can't find the dot". "The cursed dot". It takes thousands of draw strokes, grips and thrust to get your proprioception trained to present the dot every time you point your gun at a target. As a result, it takes a long time to become fast and proficient with a reflex red-dot sighting system. Tubular red-dots are a little easier because the length of the tube gives the shooter a more natural alignment picture and the dot is always in the center of the tube. In reflex sights the dot drifts off into never-never land because you are not aligned. The problem is that tubular red dots are not generally suitable for slide mount when using a holster (but the Bullseye guys and gals love them).

2. With any type of red dot, you lose some of the advantage of having two eyes open. This becomes especially apparent when transitioning between targets during a

competition or tactical situation. It's hard to keep the dot in view while you are scanning, tracking and acquiring the next target. With iron sights, it's much easier because you have an unobstructed field of view and your peripheral vision and focal vision can track the target and the front sight at the same time, allowing the two to come into alignment quicker.

Note: When using a red dot some students may see a starburst or distortion of the dot instead of a crisp clear red dot. In most cases this is not a fault of the red dot sight. The student may have astigmatism (eye condition) which is a vision problem. Much of the stigmatism can be corrected with corrective lens. They need to see their eye care professional for evaluation and correction of astigmatism.

Bi-focal Corrective Lens – As we age, far sightedness (things are fuzzy up close) can become an issue. This is easily corrected with traditional bi-focal corrective lenses. A portion of the lens (usually the bottom of the lens) is ground to allow close viewing such as reading and the rest of the lens is ground for distance viewing. Many bi-focal lenses have a distinct and visible line between the close-up and distance prescription. In other cases, the line is not visible (called progressive lenses), and there is no firm transition from distance to up close focus. When using iron sights, the student may need to tilt the head back to bring the front sight into focus. This means that the student needs to change head position/focus when sighting the gun vs. acquiring targets (using the distance portion of the lens). Again, this is a disadvantage to the student with older eyes. Their head feels like it's on a swivel and it takes precious time.

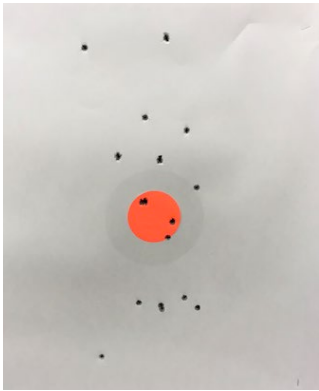
Ask the student if they have bi-focal glasses. If so, then they will need to look through the bottom of their glasses, when using iron sights. If they are shooting a red dot, then they need to look through the distance portion of their lens. Failing to look through the correct portion of the lens will create a pattern spread on the target north-to-south above and below the aiming point. This pattern can also be caused by 'flitting', where the eyes focus is going back and forth from front sight focus to target focus. This will be discussed later in the article.

Progressive lenses - These glasses present a unique problem to the student. Progressive glasses are designed to have a graduated prescription with the distance viewing at the top and as your eye descends down the lens the prescription produces an ever increasing farsighted (close-up) prescription. It's like progressive bi-focals, hence the term, progressive glasses. The difference here is that instead of having two focal points, i.e. distance and close-up, progressive glasses have a series of focal points up and down the vertical of the lens.

The problem with progressive glasses is the student doesn't know where to look through the lens to sight the gun. A classic tell is when watching the face of a student shooting iron sights with progressive glasses, their head will bob up and down. They are trying to focus on the front sight at the same time they are trying to look at the target which is at distance (top of the lens). They will mimic a bobble head bouncing up and down. This is another reason why you need to look at the

student when they are shooting. You won't see that if you're watching the target because it will occur most moments before the shot breaks.

The hard part of this is diagnosing the problem. If you are watching their face, their glasses look to be normal distance glasses without a tell-tale line in the lens. If you see their head bobbing up and down, look at the target. If the shot placement is vertical, north, center and south of the bullseye, most likely your student has progressive glasses. Or you can just ask them before you start shooting and correct any issues before they start shooting as described below.



Shots are lined up left-to-right, but are vertically 'strung'.

Easy solution - Once you have determined that the student has progressive glasses and is flitting between target focus and front sight focus, try this exercise:

Get a business card or reading object about the size of a business card. With the gun unloaded, have the student press out the gun as if to shoot or dryfire. Place the business card at the end of the muzzle or front sight and have the student read a line on the card. Tell them to look at the front sight and then pull the card away while they continue to look at the front sight.

Repeat this exercise three or four times.

The student is learning where to cue up the front sight in their progressive lens. After several cycles of this exercise have the student start shooting and the shot placement should start grouping. The student may have to do these two or three times between shooting sessions to make the alignment of the progressive glasses with the front sights instinctive.

Determining eye dominance is a great time to resolve this issue. If you see the student has glasses, determine if they are just distance glasses, reading glasses, bi-focals or progressive lenses. This is a good time to have the discussion and then put the exercises into practice on the shooting line.

Flitting Between Front Site or Red Dot and the Target

Flitting is a very common problem with first time shooting students. Much of this was discussed previously but bears repeating as a unique problem that can happen to any shooter regardless of young or older eyes, corrective lens or various sighting systems. The most natural thing is for the student to focus on the target. We instinctively want to "track" the target

(that's why as a predator our eyes face forward) following the path of the target. This allows our brain to constantly calculate an intercept point, be it shooting sporting clays, chasing prey or just driving a car. It's only natural that a student shooter wants to focus on the target. But because we can't focus on more than one object at a time, and we need the precision alignment of the front sight in relation to the rear sight and the target (sight picture), we have to choose one point to focus on so we compromise and focus on the front sight.

Even though we tell the student to focus on the front sight, when they put the gun in their hand and start going bang, everything you told them in the previous classroom work goes right out of their head. They will instinctively target focus, occasionally glancing/focusing back on the front sight. They will "flit" back-and-forth between target focus and front sight focus. Of course, when you change your focal plane, you inadvertently and unknowingly change the point of aim. Only the instructor can see (or suspect) this is happening by watching the eye movement during shooting. It can be confirmed by diagnosing the shot placement, which is intermittently north, center and south of the bullseye.

Solution - It's better for the instructor to start out with the assumption that the student is going to change focus. The instructor must emphasize to the student to look at the front sight and do not focus on the target. Tell the student that the target should be in their peripheral (vertical in this case) field of vision but the focus has to be on the front sight. As stated in the fundamentals, the target and the rear sight will be somewhat out of focus. The student will not like this. But this is the compromise of using iron sights. Reassure the student that in a short period the sight picture will become normal and acceptable. They must push through the discomfort.

We have been discussing flitting using iron sights, but it can also happen with red dots. The benefit of the red dot is that the older eyes can target focus without alignment of a front and rear sight. Wherever the dot is, that's where the bullet goes (I still think its magic...).

Even though the student is target focused, the impulse is to look at the red dot and track it to the target. Although this works, your eye is still trying to adjust between the red dot and the target which are at different distances. The trick with a red dot is to keep the focus on the target and impose, through peripheral vision the red dot on the target. For competition and tactical shooting, this works very well because it's very instinctive for the brain to do the calculations and press the trigger when the red dot is in the same zip code as the target.

Although the red dot is very effective when doing precision shooting, the shooter has to slow down and flit back-and-forth between the target bullseye and the red dot, breaking the shot when the red dot is within the margin of the arc-of-movement on the bullseye, therefore increasing the challenge.

Other Beginner Shooting Problems

Flinching is the general term applied to various maladies otherwise known as anticipation, heeling or pushing, is a very

common problem not only for new shooters but at some point, in every shooter's career. It can come and go at any time. Ask me how I know...

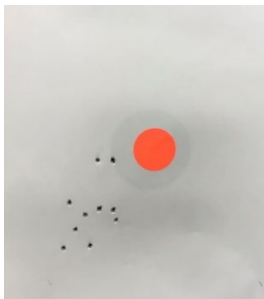
There are excellent discussions and videos that cover flinching such as "Goodbye Low and Left: 8 Ways to Cure a Flinch by Chris Baker."

Anticipation, heeling or pushing the gun are various forms of flinching and can occur along with the more traditional flinch of wincing or closing of the eyes, concurrently tensing the arm and hand muscles to instinctively counter the bang (recoil sound and pressure wave). In extreme cases, you may see the student close both eyes as they pull the trigger. They don't even know they are doing it. This is an extreme reaction to anticipating the bang and pressure wave.

This discussion is directed towards the instructor who must diagnose and help the student fix the problem.

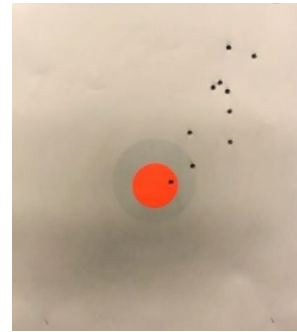
Flinching should not to be confused with a poor trigger press as we discussed earlier. Flinching is the disturbance of the sight picture prior to the bullet leaving the muzzle. It most commonly results from the shooter anticipating the recoil, sound and pressure wave from the shot. This is a very natural reaction to "bang" and as a result it can happen to anyone at any time.

In most cases the flinch starts milliseconds before the shot breaks. But even as the shot breaks, a lot of things such as a flinch can occur and affect the aim before the bullet exits the muzzle. As the instructor you will not see a flinch if you're watching the target. If you can see it at all, you must be watching the student's hands, face and eyes to diagnose it. It can be confirmed by looking at the target and see a random target grouping low right or low left as shown below.



Most or all shots are low and left. Most common form of anticipation. This is for a right handed shooter –a left handed shooter would place shots low and right.

In some cases, the student can do what's called "heeling" the gun. This is just another form of anticipation/flinching. Just prior to or during the sear break, the student pushes the gun with the heel of their shooting hand (hence the term heeling the gun). This will cause the shots to go high right or high left. This is a common reaction to high recoil guns and hot ammunition.



Most or all shots are high and right. Most common form of heeling shots. This is for a right handed shooter –a left handed shooter would place shots high and left.

Fixing the problem – The most common fix for flinching is to educate the student that it is happening by using the "ball and dummy round" exercise. All of you should be familiar with this exercise. Out of view of the student, load a magazine with some live (5-6) and some dummy rounds (3-4) in random order. Have the student load and shoot one shot at a time. Look at the hands/gun muzzle, not the target. During the trigger press, watch the eyes and face. When the student encounters a dummy round, you and the student will see any of the following:

1. Muzzle drop just prior to the sear break.
2. Gun pushed forward and the muzzle drop just after the sear break.
3. Eyes blink or completely closed.
4. A startled response in the face.
5. Heeling the gun causing the muzzle to rise up and move to the left or right.
6. Any combination of the above.

Two or three magazines using the "ball and dummy round" exercises normally will help a student recognize the problem. Only extensive practice of both live and dry fire will correct it. The student needs to always watch out for it creeping back.

Author's note: Experience has been that dry fire does little to solve this problem. Student will dry fire perfectly and then consistently flinch when using live ammunition. Most of this solution is accomplished during live fire with ball and dummy rounds.

Many times, the first two or three shots the student takes are very good but then flinching creeps in and the shot placement goes low right or left. This is classic so you must diagnose it by looking for flinching during the first dozen shots. Expect not to see it on the first few shots. But watch to see if it creeps in after 5 or 6 shots. You will also see the results on the target. The target will have 2 or 3 good hits and then several low left or right.

Other potential solutions for flinching include:

- With severe flinching, let the student stand on the shooting line while other shooters are shooting using double hearing protection and protective eyewear. This allows the student to acclimate to the sound, smell and pressure wave. It

trains the body that nothing bad is going to happen. They will acclimate and the fright response will diminish. This may take several sessions at the range to get past it. Even still, many times the first shot of the day will result in a brief startled response. This is very natural for all shooters.

- Humming – One instructor I know has the student hum while pressing the trigger to divert their attention and allow them to focus on the sight picture. It works. You can also try telling the student to say to themselves “press, press, press” after they have taken up slack and are trying to break the shot. Almost anything that will take their mind off the bang might help.

- Counting – Have the student count 1,2,3... while pressing the trigger to divert attention and allow them to focus on the sight picture.

Go back to the shooting sequence of raising the gun, finger on the trigger, take up slack, stop, sight picture, press.

Sighting Problems – There are a host of sighting problems, both mechanical and student induced. They typically start with a lack of understanding of the sighting fundamentals such as front sight focus, rear sight and the target is blurry. Some problems worthy of discussion are as follows:

1. If adjustable, make sure the students’ sights are properly zeroed.
2. If there are unique sighting aids on the gun, evaluate and educate the student.

Sights with dots, triangles, optic fiber, night sights, etc. are not for precision sighting. They are for zip code shooting or helping the competitor find the front sight quickly. For precision shooting, the shooter still must align the top of the front sight with the top of the rear sight and show equal light on both sides. A very common problem with S&W 686 revolvers is that they have a red piece of plastic built into the front sight. Many students using this gun will put the center of the red level with the top of the rear sights. The shots go high and inconsistent. The red plastic does the same thing as dots, fiber and other front sight sighting aids. They are to get the eye’s attention for quick targeting but the shooter still must do final alignment with the top of the front sight with the top of the rear sight.

3. If shots are intermittently high, see if the student is lifting the front sight out of the rear sight alignment just prior to shot placement. This is hard to detect. Just remind the student to keep the top of the front sight aligned with the top of the rear sight.

4. As discussed, flitting focus between the front sight and the target is very common. This results in high or low inconsistent hits.

5. Does the student have the proper sight picture? Is the gun set up for a 12 o’clock, center or 6 o’clock hold? Does the student understand what "hold" is?

6. For whatever reason is the student grossly misaligning the sights? A case in point was a student shooting at a 50’ distance that shot completely off the target high left. Two instructors could not figure out what the student was doing just by

watching the student shoot. They put a laser pointer on the gun and quickly realize it was a sighting problem that was easily fixed with some direction.

Some of us get help with a mathematical comparison. The following table was developed and provided by Curtis Clements, a long-time shooter and instructor. This table illustrates the front sight alignment tolerance at distance, showing that only a 1/32” sight misalignment can produce a pretty severe shift in shot placement.

Barrel Length (inches)	Misalignment (1/32 inch)	POI Shift at 21 feet (inches)	POI Shift at 35 feet (inches)	POI Shift at 50 feet (inches)
8	0.03125	0.98	1.64	2.34
6	0.03125	1.31	2.19	3.13
5	0.03125	1.58	2.63	3.75
4	0.03125	1.97	3.28	4.69
3	0.03125	2.63	4.38	6.25
2	0.03125	3.94	6.56	9.38

This example shows that if a shooter with a 4-inch barrel shooting at 50 feet has a misalignment of 1/32 of an inch, they will be off the center of the bullseye by nearly 5 inches. It doesn’t take much misalignment to completely miss the target!

Getting the Student to Relax – Stop the “white knuckles.” Different types of shooting and individual shooting styles require a different type of grip and stance. In tactical and action competition much of the grip is choking the gun with a very firm grip. In flat footed target shooting, you must relax the grip. Students just learning to shoot should be target shooting. You must get them to relax the grip, arms and shoulders.

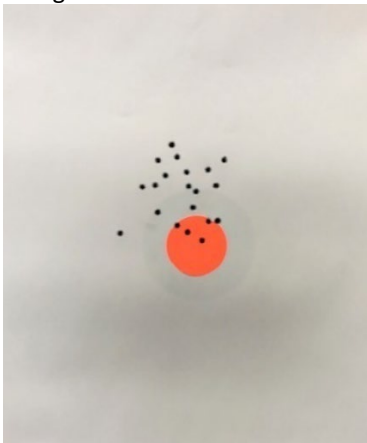
It is very natural, (and to be expected) that when a student first starts to shoot, they are going to be very tense. You will see this several ways:

- Tips of the fingers, knuckles and hands are white “white knuckled”. They are holding so tightly that they are squeezing the blood from the muscle tissue.
- Hands have a “death grip” on the gun.
- Arms are rigid and forearm muscles tensed.
- Shoulders are raised and may be hunched forward.

In cases like this the arc of movement and shaking increases with every second of hold. The hand, wrist and forearm muscles will react with the trigger press causing the arc-of-movement to change or increase as the sear breaks. Any anticipation or flinching is amplified by the tense posture. The student needs to learn to relax while target shooting. Try this exercise:

Note: During this exercise you will need to touch the hands, arms and shoulders of the shooter. Subject to today’s environment, it is wise to get their permission first. “Shooter Relax” exercise. While performing the “Follow Up” exercise, after you have given the Stop command and the

shooter has obtained a sight picture – and prior to giving the “Press” command: gently reach out and touch the student’s hand and say “relax your hands”, then touch the forearms and say “relax your arms”, then touch the shoulders and say “relax your shoulders”. Then give the Press command. Remember, this student is new to shooting and a lot of things are going through their mind. They don’t hear or comprehend half of what you’re saying on the shooting line. By physically touching the body parts that you want them to relax, you are graphically showing the student what you want them to do. The touch results in a more effective learning moment by giving the student both a verbal and physical cue to achieve the desired result. On separate students, try it verbally only on one student and then on a second student add the touch to the verbal instruction. You will see a drastic and immediate improvement in results. Add this to your “Follow Up” exercise for three or four cycles. You should be able to see the student’s hands “lighten up” on the grip. Pink color will return to the skin. You should see the forearm muscles relax and you should see the shoulders drop into a natural posture. This may take a while for the student to learn. Tell the student to do this exercise mentally for the first dozen shooting sessions on their own.



The student was tense which was lifting the front sight out of the rear sight during trigger press. The bullseye shots shown occurred after the instructor did the shooter relax drill.

Multiple Problems - Here’s where we separate the average instructor from the exceptional instructor. It’s not that hard. If not properly instructed in the fundamentals or if the student is an “over thinker” and does not have instinctive and natural shooting ability, new shooters may come to you with multiple shooting problems. The classic shooter with multiple problems will display the following: The student will have two or more issues that you will see while watching the first 8-10 shots. Blasting through the trigger press; obtaining sight picture problems; sighting problems in general such as bobble head, flitting between front sight and target, not following through and so on.

If you see multiple issues while watching the student, confirm multiple problems and diagnose the target. The shots will be all over the place and some may completely miss the target. If you can’t see where the last three bullets went, they

probably missed the target. Not many new shooters can do Robin Hood shots.

When you find that a student cannot produce a group of shots and instead their shot placement is very inconsistent, you need to suspect that there are multiple problems and proceed accordingly. This is a case where both the student’s and instructor’s patience will be important. This is going to take a little time and maybe a couple of shooting sessions with a lot of dry fire in-between.

You start by solving one problem at a time. You will not solve the problems in 20 rounds. It may take 100 or more, solving one of the problems at a time.

As an example: A student, after the first 10 shots, you determine that they are:

- Jerking the trigger low left on the target.
- Making facial expressions just prior to the sear break.
- Constantly re-gripping the gun.
- Displaying white knuckles, fingers, hands, wrist.
- Shooting all over the place and/or missing the target completely.

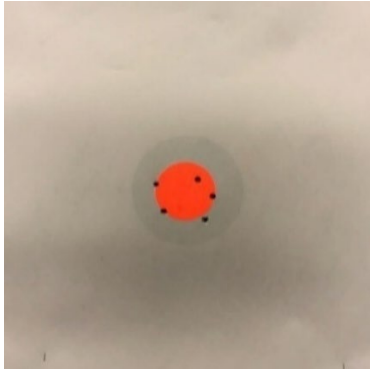
Start by solving jerking the trigger. Go back to the “feel the trigger” exercise. Then have the student demonstrate good trigger control by taking them through the “Follow Up” exercise.

Second, get the student to relax the tension in the hands, arms and shoulders. Do the “Relax” exercise along with the “Follow Up” exercise.

Third, the jerking of the trigger may be combined with anticipation. The facial expressions seem to reinforce this suspicion. After doing the three exercises above, have the student go through the “ball and dummy round” exercise. This exercise will determine if anticipation/flinching are involved in the multiple problems. You may have to do this exercise several times to allow the student to self-correct.

After doing the above you and the student should see an improvement in the shot placement and the feel of the shooting sequence. This may take two or more shooting sessions to accomplish because in the first one the student may get frustrated and tired. Keep at it. You can fix it.

When you suspect multiple problems, take physical or mental notes of the individual problems you’re seeing while the student shoots. Compare your notes and thoughts to the target. The combination of problems will vary from student-to-student along with intensity and severity of the problems. Your job as the instructor is to observe, diagnose and correct, taking one problem at a time.



You fixed everything! Well Done!

Summary – We have covered a lot for a new instructor (or a new shooter reading this) to absorb. You don't learn these points over night. As a new instructor what you must do is to try and apply what you have learned here to each new student. As you gain experience your success rate will dramatically improve.

Still, every once in a while, we all come up against a student that for whatever reason, we just can't fix. Sometimes it's just you, your lack of experience with a specific personally type or the student has a problem that you have never seen or diagnosed before. In that case, you need a Vic. What's a Vic? Vic is that seasoned instructor that always seems to fix someone you can't. You need to associate yourself with seasoned instructors and find your own Vic, or Joe or Chris or Barbara. They're out there. You just need to have the humility to ask for help. We all need it sometimes.

Hopefully, you have enjoyed reading this series of articles, and have learned something, and even better, been able to put it to use, and seen the smiles of your new shooters as they begin to become better, more proficient marksmen.

Bridgeville's Family Day at the Range National Shooting Sports Month Celebration

By: Bruce Smith

In spite of the threat of significant rain, Saturday, August 29th was, the date for a celebration of sorts in recognition of the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Shooting Sports Month. The event was Co-Sponsored by Bruce Smith's BKK Firearms/BKK Defensive Systems and the Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club. Billed as a "Family Day at the Range", the event was open to the public. This Rain AND Shine event brought out over 450 people to experience the Fun, Safety, and Camaraderie of the Shooting Sports. Even with the threat of lots of rain (which largely held off until a brief shower around 2:30) the event was a huge success. People came from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia and all over Delaware, including as far north as Newark.

Special thanks goes out to all the VOLUNTEERS who helped make this event a success, especially the Woodbridge

High School ROTC, who made sure all magazines were loaded, and all the RSO's who made sure everyone was functioning safely and that all equipment was sanitized after each use. Thank you's go out to Karen Johnson (Bridgeville Library), Mrs. Hampton, George Carson and Nikki O'Donnell for all their incredible help with everything from set-up to tear down.

There were several vendors present including USCCA, Red Stitch Targets (Steel Target Mfg from Manassas, Va), and Diamond G Concepts (Kydex Holsters and much more from Delaware). The Delaware States Sportsmans Association (DSSA) was present, as were representatives from the Well-Armed-Women's Group and others. Individual shooting disciplines were well represented with participants present to answer questions and try to gain interest in those facets of the sport. Disciplines present included Cowboy Action Shooters, Long Range Prone Shooters, IDPA and USPSA. The IDPA and USPSA shooters also conducted several live fire Demos during the day.

Also present were several Candidates running for political office in Delaware, including; Julianne Murray, Lee Murphy, Julia Pillsbury, Charles Postles and others. Present and ready to experience the shooting sports too, were Senator Brian Pettyjohn, Senator Bryant Richardson, Senator Dave Wilson, Senator David Lawson, Representative Jesse Vanderwende, Sussex City Councilman Mike Vincent, the Young Republicans and more. Participants were able to get some great food from Mojo's To Go food truck and Vanderwendes' Ice Cream Truck.

It wasn't ALL about the food or the politics though! There were several shooting stations set up and running all day, to include – Air Rifles and Air Pistols, Rimfire .22 caliber pistols and rifles, 9 mm pistols, pistol caliber carbines, and finally AR 15's. All firearms (and a bunch of ammo!) were provided by Family Day Director, Bruce Smith. We had lots of kids, teens and adults who have never experienced the fun and safety of shooting before. Every shooting station had several experienced Range Safety Officers/Instructors on hand to guide each person through the safe handling and specifics of shooting a firearm. I am pretty sure that everyone, especially the kids, had an incredible time, and I want to mention that all RSO's did a great job of keeping new shooters safe and getting them on target. I for one am looking forward to August 2021 and a repeat of this fun and educational event!

Helping New Shooters – The Journey From Fear to Confidence and Confusion to Competence

By Curtis Clements

Recent current events, starting with the widespread concern over the potential adverse impact of COVID-19 and continuing with the current anti-police social unrest, have apparently motivated several million people to acquire a firearm for the first time. As a group, and based upon some of

their published comments, many of these people were previously indifferent to firearms ownership. Some were long-time, anti-gun advocates and some were just plain scared to have a gun in their home for any number of reasons. What they have in common is that current events have either opened their eyes to the reality of the need to be able to protect themselves and their families or what they have seen has frightened them more than their prior trepidation and/or misgivings about gun ownership. What they also have in common is a critical need for training and education regarding the safe handling, use, transportation and storage of their new firearms, particularly those people who have purchased handguns.

As an NRA-certified firearms instructor, I frequently work with novice shooters and new gun owners on the fundamentals of pistol shooting and the safe handling and use of firearms, both on the range and in the home. And, if your recent experience is anything like mine, you have probably had one or more individuals in your circle of acquaintances, who are part of those several million new gun owners, reach out to you for advice and counsel as they made that first firearms purchase. If they know you well enough, they may have even asked for help in learning how to use it. If you do not feel comfortable in, or capable of, doing so, the best thing that you can do for them is to suggest that they seek the assistance and services of a trained and certified firearms instructor. On the other hand, if you do decide to work with them, the rest of this article offers some thoughts on how to help them overcome their fears and lack of knowledge, and get them started on the path to becoming confident, capable and responsible gun owners.

Regardless of which route you go, please make sure to at least start them out with the basic rules of gun safety:

1. Always keep the muzzle of the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. Always keep the finger off the trigger until the gun is sighted on the target.
3. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use it.

This article is not about how to teach the basics of how to shoot a handgun. If you do not already have a sound understanding of, and/or the ability to convey the essential elements of topics such as grip, stance, sight and target alignment, breathing management, trigger control, etc., then do not be embarrassed to send your friend to a certified instructor for help. Rather, this article is about understanding how the four stages of learning apply in the development of the ability to shoot safely and effectively.

Those of you who have had the experience of taking one or more NRA-certified firearms courses know that the three most important factors in learning the safe and effective use of any firearm are Attitude, Knowledge and Skills. You have also heard that the two major causes of accidents involving firearms are carelessness and ignorance. With most new shooters, acts of carelessness are most likely the result of lack of knowledge, or simply, not knowing what it is that they do not yet know. Management trainers refer to this as

unconscious incompetence. This is the first of four stages of learning, the names and descriptions of which are typically attributed to Martin M. Broadwell, circa 1969 [1].

At this stage, the new gun owner does not understand what to do or how to do it, and they may not yet recognize that they have a knowledge gap. For example, a significant number of new pistol shooters seem to instinctively want to put their finger on the trigger as soon as they pick up the gun. This is a natural, intuitive action, but as stated clearly in Rule No. 2 above, this is a major safety faux pas. The vast majority of new shooters I have worked with at this stage have a good attitude and readily respond to coaching and counseling. Showing them what to do and explaining the basis for doing it the right way is the proper starting point. Demonstrating how to pick up the pistol, keeping the trigger finger up on the side of the frame and out of the trigger guard, makes them aware of the proper technique. Having them do it properly themselves a few times will allow them to move along to the next stage in the learning process, known as conscious incompetence.

At this point, even though the person may not fully understand the “how” of what they need to do, they at least recognize what it is that they need to learn. Under your supervision, they can begin to “put theory into practice,” working on developing their shooting skills, like proper grip and stance, muzzle control, sight alignment, breathing management, trigger control, follow through, etc. Some things, like keeping the finger off the trigger, may require multiple repetitions before it becomes an engrained habit. The making of mistakes is typically an integral part of this stage of learning, so close supervision and instruction is required to keep those mistakes from getting someone hurt. During this stage, however, any residual fear can be transformed into a healthy recognition of, and respect for, the hazards associated with firearms. With that knowledge, the novice shooter can move from intimidation to cautious confidence, as they develop the skills through repetition and practice of the right way to do it. This is the journey to the next stage in the learning process, referred to as conscious competence.

At this point, the new shooter will have learned how to do something, but doing it correctly requires focused concentration. In the case of learning to shoot a pistol, each part of the process needs heavy, conscious thought, especially as the activities relate to the fundamental rules of safe gun handling, such as, for example, remembering to always eject the magazine from a semi-automatic pistol before racking the slide to eject a round in the chamber and clear the firearm. These skills need to be drilled and practiced to the point where the individual reaches the fourth stage of the learning process, known as unconscious competence.

At this stage, the individual has the knowledge and skill so well-engrained through practice that the application does not require conscious thought. The skill becomes “second nature,” freeing up the conscious thought process to focus on learning the next skill until it also becomes “automatic.”

Now, not every new gun owner may have the interest in reaching that fourth stage of learning. If not, at least getting

them to the stage of conscious competence will go a long way to taking them from being intimidated by firearms to at least being cautiously confident that they can do so properly and safely, should the need ever arise. And if they go further, and reach the level of unconscious competence, remind them that every once in a while, it is important to drop back and consciously focus on maintaining their competence, particularly in regard to those fundamental rules of safe gun handling. Otherwise, there is a danger of overconfidence in unconscious competence leading to complacency, which, in turn, can lead to carelessness. And carelessness with a firearm is something that no one can ever afford.

So, please keep these stages of learning in mind as you work with your new-gun-owner friends and acquaintances. Helping them on their journey can be both a worthwhile and a rewarding effort.

[1] According to Wikipedia, Management trainer Martin M. Broadwell described the model as "the four levels of teaching" in February 1969.[1] Paul R. Curtiss and Phillip W. Warren mentioned the model in their 1973 book *The Dynamics of Life Skills Coaching*. [2] The model was used at Gordon Training International by its employee Noel Burch in the 1970s; there it was called the "four stages for learning any new skill".

The Yackleys: America's Shooting Family

<https://www.ssusa.org/articles/2020/8/19/the-yackleys-america-shooting-family>

By: John Parker

Submitted by: Dave Bell



Above: The Yackley 5. From left: Tim, Andrew, Mark, Becky and Sean.

When you first meet the Yackley family, it's an eye-opening experience. Nestled at the intersection of Americana and marksmanship, all five of the Yackleys—patriarch Mark, mother Becky, and three sons Tim, Sean and Andrew—are committed to competitive shooting. And when I say committed, I'm talking crisscrossing the country attending matches and racking up an impressive bevy of awards in the process. The oldest son Tim in particular has become something of a legend in the shooting community, garnering top honors on the Multi-Gun/USPSA circuit for years and triumphing at the Bianchi Cup as the Junior Champion four consecutive years. What's more is at age 20, Tim became the

youngest shooter ever to become NRA World Shooting Champion in 2018, after a tour-de-force performance against big-name competitors several times his age who collectively held centuries of experience on the firing line.

The bulk of this article came from an interview last year during the Bianchi Cup in Columbia, Mo. Comfortably perched at a picnic table inside the Green Valley Rifle and Pistol Club's main building, I met with four members of the clan—Becky, Tim, Sean and Andrew. (Mark was on order with the Marine Corps.) They were all smiling as they greeted me. What followed was an interesting glimpse into an All-American family that evolved into one of the most successful to ever take up competitive shooting sports.

Mark and Becky Yackley met at Marquette University, where they both were active competitors on the rifle and pistol teams. Becky grew up shooting with her dad, and was an accomplished high school high power shooter, adding air rifle and smallbore into the mix while in college. And prior to becoming a student at Marquette, future husband Mark honed his skills as a smallbore shooter on his high school team. With their respective shooting backgrounds, it's no big surprise they both garnered All-America honors as shooters in college.

After marrying and starting their family, shooting continued to be a family tradition. When the kids were little, they would shoot clays together and occasionally shoot pistols, along with hunting trips. Later on at a junior camp geared toward beginner action shooters, the fire for competition was lit. From there it was on to USPSA, and in 2012 they shot the FNH-USA 3-Gun match, which was their first foray into multi-gun at a high-level event.

The Yackleys are well known for their prowess in 3-Gun, USPSA and IPSC competition. But it was at the Bianchi Cup that all three kids—Tim in particular—developed high-level pistol shooting skills. They began attending in 2014 knowing that the Cup is a hotbed for action pistol knowledge, as well as a technical match that demands excellence. "I attribute most of my pistol shooting success to the amount of time I've put into the Bianchi Cup," said Tim.

At 22, Tim Yackley has the kind of maturity that many others in his generation lack. He's polite, well-spoken, disciplined and modest about his accomplishments, despite the fact he's achieved more in the shooting sports than many do in a lifetime. In 2019, Tim was working as an instructor at Tactical Performance Center in St. George, Utah, with Ron Avery and Ken Nelson (founder of Practiscore). He spoke fondly of the school's curriculum, which centers on competition and overall pistol training for mostly military and law enforcement. "Tactical Performance Center mainly just focuses on the shooting part of things. They break everything down into principals and different ways to achieve them. We work with students to build a system and apply training to achieve those principals," said Tim.

Going deeper, the training essentially breaks down the nuances shooting at the microscopic level as a sort of advanced-advanced set of classes. It's all about learning how

to assess personal shooting deficiencies and finding ways to continually improve your game.

"It's the most I've ever seen stuff broken down. You'll sit there for an hour just talking about grip and all these different aspects. There's so much broken down," he added.

The shooting sports have allowed the family to travel around the U.S., and in Tim and Becky's case, worldwide for IPSC competition. "The kids have seen a lot of this country because of competitive shooting," said Becky. And although he hasn't traveled to compete internationally yet, middle son Sean has enjoyed his time traveling to different states for matches.

"My favorite part of shooting is going all across the country and seeing a lot of different places, whether it's the mountainous areas in New Mexico or getting to see the palm trees and sand for a change in Florida. It's nice to always have a change of scenery, and you get to see some unique stuff."

When it comes to training for matches the Yackleys mostly do it as a family, to an extent. Bianchi preparation is a major focus. Having a backyard range at their Wisconsin home helps. "Bianchi is probably the match we have the most dedicated practice for," said Becky. "We bought a Mover from Action Target, and Andrew will run one of us on it, or we'll run each other. If we go out to do any specific practice, usually it's together."

It's not all glamour and putting rounds downrange for the Yackleys, though. Although they have a mile-long list of sponsors, the costs involved with five active competitors can add up. Like any other family they have to pay the bills, luckily the knowledge-sharing business can be a good revenue generator. Content creation is a big help for their expenses. Additionally, Becky is a top-tier photographer who also writes and manages a few social media accounts.

"It's work that's synergetic with what we're already doing that's going to help us," said Tim. "We incorporate our training and other things we're practicing into the content we're creating for our different partners throughout the year."

I concluded my time with the Yackleys by asking Andrew, the youngest, why he enjoys the shooting sports. He provided a succinct answer that sums up the family's mutual love of competition. "I enjoy meeting all the good people in the competitive shooting world. It's nice being around such great, funny people."

So what's next for the Yackleys? For the remainder of 2020 it's a safe bet they will be continuing to excel on the firing line. As of this writing, matches have resumed across the country and Tim Yackley performed admirably at the 2020 USPSA Multi-Gun Nationals with a third-place finish. The best way to follow the Yackley family is social media, specifically Facebook. Also, check out Becky's Instagram.

Book Review: Gun Control Myths

Author: John R. Lott, Jr.

By: Curtis Clements

John Lott is a Ph.D. economist by academic background. His interest in guns and gun control stemmed not from any life-long passion for firearms, but rather from professional curiosity. The result has been a succession of books that have repeatedly and thoroughly debunked the myths and lies about gun control (More Guns, Less Crime, 1998 and 2000), highlighted the anti-gun prejudice of the mainstream media (The Bias Against Guns, 2003), and how the media, special interests and left-wing politicians are making a concerted effort to destroy the Second Amendment with misleading statistics, bogus public health research and outright lies (The War on Guns, 2016).

His latest effort is Gun Control Myths. It continues to build upon and reinforce many of the points addressed in Lott's earlier works, but it is absolutely loaded with the latest detailed information and statistics, which as he shows, clearly put the lie to many of the claims routinely made by anti-gun politicians and organizations like Moms Demand Action (MDA) and Everytown For Gun Safety. He shines the light of truth on their propensity to highlight only selected parts of historical trendlines, which support whatever point they are trying to make, while ignoring the complete trendline, which usually shows just the opposite to be true. He calls out their tactic of citing isolated, cherry-picked surveys to support their point, while ignoring numerous other surveys of the same subject which clearly indicate the opposite conclusion.

With chapters on Gun Control Myths, Debunking Myths about Mass Public Shootings, The Heroes that the News Media Doesn't Cover, et al, this book is both an interesting read and a veritable treasure trove of "inconvenient facts" that you will never hear from the anti-gun, mainstream media. I consider it to be an absolute "must have" on the bookshelf of anyone who wants to be able to be a credible advocate for our Second Amendment rights and to be able to call out the lies and hypocrisy of groups like MDA, politicians like Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and Beto O'Rourke, and their media allies.

The introduction to the book is written by Andrew Pollack, who tragically lost his daughter in the Parkland, FL school shooting. He discovered John Lott's work while on a personal quest for answers as to what happened to his child and the other victims of that horrible crime, and why. While neither being pro-gun or anti-gun prior to that time, his research led him to the conclusion that, ultimately, it is gun control that kills people. To quote his concluding thoughts:

"You probably won't be like me. You'll probably never have a loved one who was murdered but could have been saved if not for gun control policies. But you might.

That's why you have to read this book and use the facts in it as ammunition in the fight to keep your family and loved ones safe. They [sic the liberal left] want a world where

everyone is defenseless. Where the only people armed are the criminals and the murderers. You can't let that happen. You need to learn the facts."

High Power Report

By: Frank Nedza

In our last issue, you learned that Highpower was up and running again, and that has continued (sometimes in spite of the weather...).

Saturday, July 11th saw 12 shooters come out for an Across the Course (XTC) match. It was a little bit drizzly here and there but not too bad and we were able to get the targets set up and the match in. We had 7 High Masters, 3 Master-Class shooters, and 2 Expert class shooters on hand. I sure would like to see more Marksmen and Sharpshooters show up to these matches. Guys and Gals, you ARE good enough to show up and compete! I can also guarantee that you will have fun, and other shooters on the line will help you get better.

Anyway, on to the results. Offhand started out with a bang, literally, with Roman Podshivalov and Jeff Browning both putting up 196's, but Jeff edged out Roman by an 'X' with his 196-6X, versus 196-5X, for the stage win. In seated rapid fire, Roman took the win with a nice 200-13X, followed by Master Matt Zagorski, who shot a very solid 200-10X. Prone rapid fire saw three clean scores in High Master-land, with Jeff Kaufman edging out the competition with a VERY nice 200-16X. In the last stage, 600 yard slow fire prone, it was Jeff Browning again, with a solid 199-15X for the stage win. At the end of the day, Roman Podshivalov took the overall win with a very nice 794-40X. Well done Roman! Jeff Browning was right behind him though, with a 793-43X.

I hope everyone had fun, and I hope to see you all on the line again soon.

Sunday, July 12th –Mid-Range Prone, saw 15 F-Class, 3 AR-Tactical, and 20 Sling shooters on the firing line.

In F-T/R, Todd Norfleet took the win, firing a nice 596-31X, followed closely by Todd Strasavitch at 594-35X. In Expert class, Josh Driessen fired a very nice 593-27X. I don't think he will be an expert too much longer with scores like that! Well done Josh!

In F-Open, John Sigler was truly on his game, firing a triple clean 600-37X! That is some seriously good shooting Sir! Hugh Cropper and Joe Spine were not too far behind with scores of 596-25X, and 595-33X, respectively.

In AR-Tactical, Rufus Standefer had a pretty good day, firing a 590-23X. Junior shooter Connor Browning is coming along nicely too, firing a 515-7X –well done Connor!

On the sling side of things, there were enough High Master shooters to split up the Match Rifle and the Palma Rifle shooters. In the match/any rifle category, Rich Kussman had a darned good day, firing a double-clean good 599-37X for the win, closely followed by Jeff Browning and Matt Zagorski at 598-41X and 598-34X, respectively. In Palma rifle (iron sights and .223 or .308 only), Nate Guernsey (firing out of

competition) shot a very nice 599-36X, with Jon Howell touching off a 598-37X for the class win. In master class, Matt Slocum wound up with a nice 595-27X (another guy who will be moving up soon, I think).

Saturday August 15th, was supposed to be the start of a two-day Mid-Range match, but Sunday ended up kinda wet, so it turned into a one day match... This match was also set up as a fundraiser for the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, and raised around \$400 for legislative and other activities. Anyway, we ended up with 33 shooters on the line, with 20 sling shooters, 2 AR-Tactical, and 11 F-Class shooters. On the sling side, Jeff Browning set a new National Record for the aggregate in 600 yard prone, firing a super-nice 600-49X. think about that for a minute, and realize that out of 60 total shots, Jeff fired 49 X's. That, my friends, is some seriously good shooting. Congratulations Jeff! Also in any rifle, Jon Howell took 2nd with a very nice 599-41X. On the Palma line, Nate Guernsey took the class win with a 599-42X, followed by Frank Nedza at 596-38X. In the Master/Expert class, Steve Palmieri took the class win at 588-27X.

In F-Open, Bill Holden was the Top Dog, firing a really nice 598-43X. I think Bill is sneaking up on folks, so you need to be looking out for him... Well Done Bill! John Sigler was right on his heels at 597-37X. Newer shooter in the Master Class, Mike Haines is doing well too, firing a nice 594-30X –another one who will likely be moving up soon. In F-T/R, Todd Norfleet fired a nice 593-24X, but Master/Expert Josh Driessen edged him with a 593-28X –two in a row smells like an Upgrade Josh!

August 22nd and 23rd –Delaware State Long-Range Championship. As you are no doubt aware, it was hot and super humid (including fog in the morning) –just like most of this summer so far, but that didn't stop 41 shooters from coming out to this 1000 yard match. We had a total of 17 sling shooters, and 21 F-Class shooters on the line, with three of our Friends from Texas joining us.

In F-Open, Texan Tim Vaught had a pretty good weekend, firing a very nice 1189-59X for the win. Think about that; –out of a possible 1200 points, he nailed 1189 of them, firing 109 shots into an area that is no bigger than a dinner plate (10") from over 1000 yards away, with 59 of those shots landing in the 5" X-Ring! Nice shooting Tim! Our own John Sigler is the new Delaware State F-Open Champion, firing a nice 1183-49X. Congratulations John! On the sling side of things, Joe Fogg had a really good weekend, firing a very nice 1181-50X for the sling win. This was, if I am correct, his first ever overall win at long range. Well Done Joe, well done! Right on his heels in Any Rifle was Tom Guercio, who fired a nice 1179-51X. Over in Palma rifle, Jon Howell (we sure see that name a lot, don't we ☺) fired a nice 1178-52X for the class win, and for the State Championship in Sling, followed by Frank Nedza at 1174-49X. Of special note, several F-Class shooters fired their way into High Master this weekend, including Gwen Basalla, George VanWhy, and John Sigler. Congratulations all!!!

As always, you can find match results on the Bridgeville website here; <https://brpc-de.com/2020-match-results/>

I hope to see you on the line soon!

Notice:

American Rifleman Collectors; I recently was given 1962 and 1963 American Rifleman magazines which are in fair to good shape.



If you are a collector, the magazines are free to a good home. Contact Roger Boyce at; rogerb@systemsapproachltd.com

Defining Thumb Safety vs. Trigger Safety

In today's modern world, with the right to bear arms allowing us to be owners of concealed carry guns or hunting rifles, we often worry about the dangers of carrying firearms. To be more specific, we worry that the firearm will be discharging itself accidentally, injuring ourselves or the ones close to us in the process. This is why more and more people are opting for gun safety.

Some guns have one safety type, whereas others have multiple options. So, which one is most beneficial for us to use? Is one safer than the other? More and more people are trying to make a choice between thumb safety and trigger safety – but since they don't know the exact differences, they also do not know which one to choose. This article should help clear some things up.

Understanding the Thumb Safety

Many of us are quite familiar with thumb (or manual) safety, as it is one of the most common safety types. These safeties are mounted on the rear or the gun's side, depending on the actual design of the gun. Granted, numerous guns do not have thumb safety – but those that do are typically found in the tang of the firearm.

To put it simply, thumb safety features an actuating device (such as a button, a lever, or knob) that is activated (or deactivated) your thumb. This will put your gun in that "safe"

position that will prevent you from accidentally pulling the trigger.

Thumb safeties come in a variety of designs and mechanisms, but perhaps the most common is the latch or the block that will prevent the firing mechanism and the trigger from moving. This mechanism will connect the latch to a device that will disconnect the trigger and prevent it from activating the firing mechanism.

Also referred to as "active safety mechanisms," these types of safeties give the user complete control over when they want the safety to be on or off. The thumb is used in the engaging or disengaging process, making it a convenient option if you don't want to deactivate the safety after every shot you make.

At the same time, people find it rather inconvenient if they have to constantly remember to put the safety on. Others have turned it into an instinct – but if you have only been using a gun for a short time, there is a chance that you might forget placing the trigger after you shoot. This can put the user in danger of injuring themselves after accidental weapon discharge. But if their memory and instinct serve them, it is actually quite convenient.

Thumb safeties can be placed on the left or the right side, bringing enough comfort for every shooter. A good Glock gun will have a slimmer figure and a safety that will not get in your way when pushing the Glock trigger. Depending on the user's comfort and preferences, you may have a thumb safety that is made to be pushed up – but you may also get one that can be pushed down.

If you are new to guns, you need to know and learn everything about it. The last thing you want is to fumble with your safety in case you are attacked, putting yourself even more in danger.

Defining Trigger Safety

Trigger safety has the same benefits of a manual safety, but functions a bit differently in terms of preventing accidental firearm discharge. This type of safety naturally de-activates when the user is firing their gun but keeps the trigger in "safety mode" under other circumstances. This is done so by pressing a small lever incorporated within the trigger.

To de-activate the safety trigger, you have to actually pull that trigger. Not nick it, not unintentionally put pressure, not strike against the trigger. You need to press it all the way, on the safety – pressing with the actual intention to shoot. Other actions will not trigger it.

The reason why these guns do not accidentally trigger even without a blocking lever (like with manual guns) is that the trigger itself is quite difficult to press. You'd have to put a fair amount of pressure on that trigger – something that will not normally happen if you place the gun in your pocket or bag, accidentally nicking over it or dropping it.

Trigger safeties were made popular with Glock guns, with the 1987 Iver Johnson revolver being the first one to ever use

this kind of safety. This weapon practically used a trigger that featured a spring-loaded lever.

The lever was sticking out from the face of the trigger and had to be pressed all the way if you had the intention to shoot. Once you pressed the “trigger within the trigger” entirely, the actual trigger was disengaged, and you were able to move the actual trigger.

In the end, if you leave the gun in your bag or unintentionally put pressure over it, you won’t be disengaging it. The trigger will remain exactly where it is. Since this type of trigger has a variety of moving parts and requires a specific type of pressure, there is a very slim chance of activating this safety.

Still, there are people who are rather wary of getting this type of safety – mostly because if you are particularly careless with the gun placement, you can end up pressing fully on the trigger. So, most people say that this is the most convenient option, as you will have to press the safety fully first, and then the trigger. There’s a very low chance of doing that. Actually, the chances are as slim as you accidentally taking the thumb safety of your gun off.

The Bottom Line

In the end, both safety options represent a convenient choice, depending on what your comfort level is. Some people prefer manual safety, whereas others like the trigger safety more. Still, in both cases, they will significantly lower the chance of you actually discharging your gun by mistake. So, they are a must in your arsenal

violence that has occurred in many cities, including Wilmington. With the calls to defund the police, which even Biden has called for, although he says he hasn’t, people fear that when they call 911, no one will come.

Almost 80% of current purchasers of firearms are obtaining their first gun. That number is unprecedented. Not only are firearms hard to come by, ammunition is also very hard to get.

What does this mean for your state association? Several things. One, it means there are a vast number of first time gun buyers that will need instruction in safe handling and basic marksmanship. It means that there may be a vast number of new voters, that need to register to vote. It may mean the difference between seeing our rights shrinking come January and maintaining what we have currently.

This is where you, as members, have an opportunity to further the reach of DSSA. If you hear of someone that just purchased a firearm, reach out and offer your assistance. At the same time encourage them to vote so that the representatives and senators that are elected here in Delaware will understand our right to keep and bear arms and not vote for any of the radical and ineffective gun “safety” measures that are advocated by Moms Demand Action and Everytown.

The answers to ending the violence in places like the city of Wilmington, does not include the curtailing of the rights of law abiding citizens. By definition, criminals do not obey the law, that is why they are called criminals. All the gun bans and magazine bans in the world will not make street criminals and drug dealers stop their criminal ways.

Remember, you need to vote and be especially cognizant of who you are voting for. Politicians that believe in our right to keep and bear arms come in all persuasions, Republican and Democrat. Check before you vote.

Jeff Hague, President
jeff.hague@dssa.us

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Well the election is almost upon us. By all measures this will be the most important election in many years when it comes to our right to keep and bear arms.

Our core values, our constitution, both federal and state are under attack like never before. The radical left has taken over the Democratic party and is pushing agendas that will, by all sane accounts, decimate America. Of primary concern to your state association is the right to keep and bear arms. Biden has already said he will take extraordinary measures that will severely infringe on our God given right to, not only protect our self and family, but to own and possess firearms.

Evidence of this comes in many forms, but one prime indicator is the number of firearm background checks, other wise known as NIC checks. In Delaware alone the numbers for the past several months have been double what they were in 2019. In all of 2019 there were a total of 46,427 NIC’s checks. From January to August of this year there have been 49,012 checks.

This indicates to me, and speaking with various gun shops bears this out, that people are scared. They are terrified of the

Call for Articles

Would you like to be published in the DSSA News Letter? Publicize your Club’s activities or special events. Found a great article that you want to share with Delaware Sportsmen?

Please send your article or special event to:

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Vice President

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