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Gun Violence Is Not A Public Health Crisis On Its Own

By: Jeff Hague

This is a response to Gerald Cohen's letter to the Editor ("Senator, what are you thinking?" Delaware State News, Feb. 6).

Mr. Cohen opines that he finds it difficult to understand why a number of senators voted against Senate Concurrent Resolution 8. While a resolution is not a bill and is nonbinding, it is not as "vanilla" as Mr. Cohen suggests. The resolution declares that "gun violence is a public health crisis." I believe that declaration is perhaps one of the reasons that senators voted against the resolution.

Firearms, in and of themselves, are incapable of committing any kind of physical act without human involvement or intervention.

It is a person who commits a violent act, with or without a firearm or even a knife or baseball bat. To be at all effective, the emphasis in addressing violent crime must be on the person not the object. Regulating an object will not eliminate or even reduce incidents of violent crime.

I find the resolution misleading and certainly intellectually suspect in equating anti-social violence committed with firearms to the COVID-19 pandemic and somehow declaring it a public health issue. Violence committed by whatever means is not a public health issue. It is a societal issue — one resulting from the actor's breach of the social contract. Violence is a combination of many issues, including, but not limited to, mental health, socioeconomic, drug, gang, family unit, education, jobs and housing. According to a report from the Statistical Analysis Center of the Delaware Criminal Justice Council dated August 2020, violent offenses actually decreased from 21,101 incidents to 18,306 incidents between 2015 and 2019.

Of the 18,306 incidents of violent crime in Delaware in 2019, there were 173 shooting incidents reported. That equates to a mere 0.9% of the total. Granted, other violent crimes, such as robbery and assault, may have involved a firearm. However, by merely focusing only on firearm shootings, 99% of the bigger picture is being neglected. Of the 173 shooting incidents, 94 were committed in Wilmington, that number being 54% of the statewide total, making it painfully clear that a great deal of attention is

needed in Wilmington if we are to realistically and adequately address the true societal issues in need of attention.

In other words, if we can craft a meaningful response to the societal issues plaguing the great city of Wilmington, we will undoubtedly also successfully address the same social problems evolving in other parts of our wonderful state — like mental health, economic, drugs, gangs, family unit, education, housing, jobs and a respect for the rights and lives of others, resulting in a greater obedience to the terms of the overall social contract.

It is clear that to decrease the incidents of violent crime, the focus has to be on more than just firearms. Again, the need to focus on the person and not the object is clear — a full 99% of the violent incidents were not shootings.

Now to the "facts" mentioned by Mr. Cohen:

- "Delaware has the 13th-highest number of gun homicides in the country." Actually, Delaware was 45th in the number of homicides committed with a firearm in 2018 with 107 when one looks at total numbers. Texas had the most firearms deaths at 3,522. Delaware saw a peak in homicides in 2015, at 6.6 per 100,000 population. That rate has since fallen 24%, hitting 5.0 in 2018. That is the lowest rate in the last five years and the third-lowest rate in the last 10 years (according to FBI "Crime in the U.S." reports). Compare that to the overdose death rate of 43.8 per 100,000. One must also look at the fact that a vast majority of homicides committed with a firearm are drug- and gang-related. Breaking it down a bit further, the city of Wilmington is home to 7% of the state's population but saw 48% of the murders in 2018 (23 of 48 were there). In 2017, Wilmington saw 34 homicides — which was 65% of all homicides statewide that year.

Another useful fact is that 93% of all suspects in shooting incidents in Delaware have a prior felony arrest and 88% of the victims have a prior felony arrest. This means that bad guys are shooting bad guys.

- "From March through May 2020, unintentional shooting deaths by children increased by more than 30% compared with the same three month period for the previous three years." This figure is misleading at best. The definition of children most often includes those up to sometimes 21 years old. In actuality, accidental firearm deaths for children are one-seventh of their peak in 1979. However, when you include those between 15 and 18 years old, which is the prime age for gang participation, the numbers go way up.

• “According to the latest statistics, gun deaths in Delaware increased by 32% between 2009 and 2018.” This “fact” includes suicides, which account for nearly 60% of “gun deaths.” While suicides are unfortunate and, in some cases, preventable, those numbers should not be included.

I would submit that when one takes into account the numbers that I have presented, which are from either state or federal sources, such as those prepared by the Delaware Criminal Justice Council and the FBI, a more accurate picture emerges.

As I stated earlier, by focusing on one aspect of violent crime, the bigger picture is lost. Violent crime as a whole is a public health crisis. The use of firearms is but one small part of the problem. There are many other factors, including socioeconomic, that are part of the problem. In fact, a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report commissioned by the city of Wilmington in 2016 made over 20 recommendations to address crime, none of which included more gun laws.

Taken in perspective, the rate of violence committed with a firearm is not increasing and was never high to begin with, if one looks at trends over more than the 10 years the resolution mentions. Any reasonable person, after reviewing the facts I have presented — and there are many more where they come from — would conclude that efforts are needed in many areas if violent crime is to be reduced in Delaware.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Cohen took the “facts” as presented in the resolution as indisputable and did not perform his own research and discover the real numbers.

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly The Truth About HR 127

By: John C. Sigler
NRA Past President



Almost everyone remembers the classic western movie set during the Civil War titled “The Good, The Bad and the Ugly”, starring Clint Eastwood (Blondie), Lee Van Cleef (Angel Eyes) and Eli Wallach (Tuco). As you will remember, there was nothing good about any of the three main characters — they were all blood-thirsty, cold-blooded bounty killers; and everything they did was both bad and ugly.

Much the same can be said for Texas Democrat Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee’s most recent anti-gun bill, HR 127, also known as the “Sabika Sheikh Firearm Licensing

and Registration Act.” There is nothing good about HR 127; all of it is bad, and the end results of HR 127, both intended and unintended, are certainly nothing less than ugly.

There’s been a lot of chatter on the internet about HR 127, but here’s what’s really in that bad and ugly bill:

1. Registration — HR 127 requires the owner of a firearm to submit to the federal BATF the “identity” of the owner, the make, model and serial number of the firearm, the date that it was acquired and where the firearm will be stored — notice that the term “identity” is not defined and that BATF will write the regulations defining that term — that could mean fingerprints, DNA samples, and will certainly include your date of birth, address, employer, Social Security Numbers — who knows, it might even include full pedigree information such as parents names, dates and place of birth, and maybe more. It also requires notice to be sent to BATF any time an owner lends a firearm to another person, with full identification and dates of the loan included.

If you own a firearm at the time this law goes into effect, you will have 3 months to send in the information, otherwise that registration information must be sent to BATF the same day you acquire the firearm.

Note that it says “acquire” — that term is also not defined, so that could mean when you borrow your father’s gun to go hunting, or when you inherit your grandmother’s self-defense pocket pistol, or whenever you “acquire” the firearm by whatever means — I wonder if thieves and criminals will have to report their “acquisition” of a firearm when they steal your home defense weapon during a burglary? Probably not — that would violate their Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

2. Creation of a Searchable Database — The Attorney General will be required to create a searchable database that will be open to the public, and to all law enforcement — **AND** all members of the public? YES! - Now that’s BAD!

It also means that anyone and everyone can access the information for whatever purpose and do with that information whatever they want — your boss, your nosey neighbor, your mother-in-law, a political rival.

According to the language in the bill, your local newspaper could access and publish the information on every gunowner in your home city, county or state, and then publish that information — including all identification information including name, address, place of employment, date of birth, social security number, descriptions of all guns you own and where you keep each of those guns — now that’s UGLY!

And of course, THE GOVERNMENT will know where every gun is — so they can come and get them whenever it wants — and so can the local burglar — urrggghh....

3. Licensing Requirement — Every gun owner and every person purchasing a firearm would have to have a license — and that license would be issued by the Attorney General of the United States.

According to Rep. Jackson-Lee's HR 127, here's what you would have to do to get a license:

- Be 21 years of age or older – no exception for current military members, veterans or law enforcement
 - Undergo a background check – a NICS check will do – maybe that might be a little bit of “good”?
 - Undergo a psychological examination to determine whether you are “unsuited” to own or possess a firearm – here's the “ugly” – there is nothing in the bill to tell the Attorney General who is “suited” or “unsuited” – does that mean that if you are a member of the NRA or are a registered Republican or Libertarian, or voted for anyone but Biden you might be determined to be psychologically unfit? – If you listen to certain members of Congress and our own General Assembly, the answer to that question would be “of course they are unfit”.
 - Undergo a 24-hour training course approved by the U.S. Attorney General – again, no real standards – UGLY!
 - Prove that you have purchased an insurance policy covering your ownership of firearms. Now that's certainly bad, but then it gets really ugly – because the “insurance policy” is really a tax of \$800.00 to be paid to the Attorney General that is good for one (1) year from the date of issue – that's \$800.00 per year, until they raise the price – really UGLY!
 - You will also need a license to display an antique firearm in your residence
 - And you will also need yet another license (this makes three separate licenses) to possess what Rep. Jackson Lee calls in her bill semi-automatic “military-style weapons” (the new word for what the Left once called “assault weapons”). This license has its own training requirement.
- Now here's where Jackson-Lee's licensing scheme gets really ugly.
- Expiration – licenses that have been in effect for less than five years, are good for only one year – that seems to mean that it must be renewed every year for the first five years after which it must be renewed every three (3) years.
 - And - it appears that you will need a separate license (and insurance at \$800 a pop) for each and every firearm – if you look closely at the language of the bill, it refers to “a firearm”, “the firearm” and “an antique firearm” – HR 127 never uses the plural “firearms” anywhere in the operative sections within the body of the bill.
 - The same license is required for ammunition – so, theoretically at least, one could be found to be in violation of this Act and not even have a firearm, only ammunition.
- Now for some really “bad” provisions – with more “ugly” yet to come...
4. “Military-style weapons” (semi-automatic firearms sometimes otherwise incorrectly and pejoratively known as “assault weapons”) would now become “Class III” firearms the same a fully-automatic machine guns)
 5. All .50 caliber ammunition, both rifle and pistol) would be banned
 6. All detachable magazines, both pistol and rifle, capable of a maximum capacity in excess of 10 rounds would be banned.

Now for really, VERY UGLY provisions –

7. The penalty for transferring a firearm or ammunition to a person without one of Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee's licenses could range from a fine of not less than \$30,000 to \$50,000, imprisoned not less than 10 years up to 15 years, or both.
8. The Act also punishes a person for possessing a firearm or ammunition without one of Rep. Jackson-Lee's magical licenses with a fine of not less than \$75,000 up to \$150,000, imprisonment of not less than 15 years up to 25 years, or both.
9. There are more punishments that are just as bad and certainly just as UGLY!

Now for the really BAD and UGLY part of all of this and putting it all into context – does anyone remember the Carney-Townsend Gun Ban Trifecta?

Remember the infamous SB 82, SB 68, and SB 70 from the 150th Delaware General Assembly?

If you do remember those Delaware Senate bills, you will most certainly recognize that almost every part of Congresswoman Jackson-Lee's HR 127 appeared in one or more of the Carney-Townsend Gun Ban Trifecta from the 150th Delaware General Assembly.

Think and compare - in the movie the three bounty killers, “Blondie”, “Angel Eyes” and “Tuco”, were willing to kill each other for the gold buried in a Civil War cemetery; in the Delaware Anti-Gun Trifecta horror show from the 150th General Assembly, and in Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee's current HR 127 horror show these anti-gun “freedom killers” wanted to bury your right to keep and bear arms in the cemetery of tyranny in return for the “gold” found in the political donations from the likes of Bloomberg, Giffords, Soros, and The Brady Bunch.

There was no “good” in the actions of the movie's bounty killers and there is no good in the actions of these modern-day “freedom killers” – in the movie there was only “the Bad and the Ugly”. And in both HR 127 and the “Delaware Gun Ban Trifecta” and certainly in the personas of the political gun-fighters who sponsor these bills, there is no good, only “The Bad and The Ugly.”

If you listen closely when you read HR 127 and its counterpart proposals here in the Delaware General Assembly, you can almost hear the theme song from “The Good, The Bad & The Ugly”...” - dum, dum, dum.....dim, dim, dim...dim, dim-da, doom, ...dim da doom...

The “music” of very bad and very ugly gun bills.... Bills where what little “good” to be found is also bad, and very ugly.

Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club/IDPA Fundraiser Match To Benefit Sr. Cpl. T.J. Webb

January 30th was a cool-to-cold day, but that didn't stop a whole bunch of folks from coming out and supporting a Fund Raiser Match to benefit T.J. Webb, a Milford police officer who was recently significantly wounded in a confrontation with a suspect about to be apprehended. This event was put on thanks to the efforts (largely) of the Bridgeville IDPA Crew, and

consisted of a couple of racks of falling plates for pistols and pistol caliber carbines.



The fun didn't end there though, as there were several IDPA stages setup as a 'wildcat' match that were specifically designed to help accommodate novices that are unfamiliar with the sport of IDPA, and allow them to A): Have Fun B): Shoot Safely, and C): Pique their interest in coming out to more IDPA events.



Like all shooting events, this couldn't happen without dedicated volunteers to setup and run the events. A special mention should go out to Chad Rogers for coming up with the idea and rallying the help needed to set up stages on Friday (January 29th), and run the match on Saturday. Thank you too to Nikki and George for tractor and setup help, Dave Gallant for providing ammo (certainly a scarce resource these days) and a pistol caliber carbine for folks to use on the plates. Thank you too, to Kevin and Tina Hearn (mostly Tina ☺) for securing donations from a whole host of folks to help raise money via a silent auction. It also couldn't have happened without Dependable Dave Hampton putting in a good bit of work getting all this going. The efforts of the aforementioned Tina (and others) paid off in getting a nice bunch of goods for the

silent auction. The prizes were pretty impressive, and included items ranging from a 24-gun Rhino Safe (Southern States) to a case of chicken (Perdue, Milford), to gift cards, and car care products. The important thing is that ALL of our donors were willing to help out and help raise funds for Officer Webb. The alphabetical donor list is below. Please keep their support in mind when you are shopping or dining in the future:

NAME/COMPANY
Anonymous Donors
Applebee's Grill & Bar - Milford
Auto Zone - Milford
Backyard Restaurant
Bridgeville Rifle and Pistol Club
Feebs Distilling Co.
Gun Shooter Enterprise
Hearn's
Heroes for Hooters
IG Burton
Liberty Safes of Delawar
Mr & Mrs Jack Bean (Holly) - Bean's Attic
Mr & Mrs Jeffery Zerby JR (Jennifer)
Mr & Mrs John Chance (Joann) Chance's Firearms
Mr & Mrs Rogers
Mr Greg O'Brien
Mr Paul Hornung - Opa's Workshop
Mr William Mixon
Mrs Gladys Mixon
Ms. Jackie King
Ms. Mary Bashtarz
Ms. Patty Earp
Napa Auto Parts - Milford
Perdue Chicken - Milford
Russ Palmer Builders, Inc.
Southern States - Milford
StarQuest Shooters & Survival Supply
Tidewater Physical Therapy - Milton
Tractor Supply - Milford

At the end of the day we had cold volunteers and a grand total of **\$8,006.00** dollars raised to help Corporal Webb. I suspect that all of our cold volunteers had warm hearts at the end of the day as well.

Thank you to all who helped, ran stages, and contributed.

EQUALITY

By: Katie Pavlich for Prager University

Submitted By: Vickie Prickett

Do you want equality between men and women?

I do.

Which is why I own a gun. My Glock 43 is my equalizer.

Too NRA for you? Then, let's take a step back and think about this. I will start with this premise: Men are physically stronger than women. I know: even this is controversial these days. But men have more muscle mass and greater bone density; they run faster, and punch harder. It's called "biology."

If a woman is going to protect herself against a man who intends to do her serious harm, she needs to even the odds. And what's the best way for her to do that? Own a gun — and know how to use it.

Given this, you would think that feminists would be lining up in front of gun shops, spending quality time at the shooting range, and filing for concealed carry permits. But when was the last time you heard a feminist speak out for women owning guns? You haven't, because feminists aren't for gun ownership. They're for taking guns away from women.

Well, you might say, if no one owned a gun, then everybody would be safer. Yes...and it would be nice if cheesecake was a diet food.

There are over 300 million guns in the United States and that's not going to change any time soon. But even if we could build a giant magnet, fly it across the country and snap up every gun, it wouldn't much matter to women's safety.

In Great Britain, where it's almost impossible to get a gun, a woman is three times more likely to be raped than in America, according to a study by David Kopel, a professor of constitutional law at Denver University.

Here's another telling comparison between gun-free UK and gun-owning US: In the United States, only about 13 percent of home burglaries take place when the occupants are at home, but in the UK, almost 60 percent do.

Professor Kopel explains the disparity: "American burglars . . . avoid occupied homes because of the risk of getting shot. English burglars prefer occupied homes, because there will be wallets and purses with cash."

And, by the way, an assailant doesn't need a gun to be dangerous. What do you do if you're a woman and a man comes at you with a knife? Or just his bare hands? If you want to depend on pepper spray or a whistle, okay—but I think your finger on the trigger of a gun would be more effective.

Take the example of mail carrier Catherine Latta. After she had been assaulted and raped by her ex-boyfriend, Latta tried to purchase a firearm. She was told it might take a month to get a permit. "[I'll] be dead by then," she recalls telling the clerk. That afternoon, she went to a rough part of town and bought a handgun. Five hours later, her ex-boyfriend attacked

her outside of her home. She shot him in self-defense, and saved her life.

I should add that firing a gun is very rare. Just carrying it—let alone brandishing it—is a deterrent.

And, isn't that the issue? Personal safety? How is a woman supposed to defend herself? What if an intruder breaks into her home?

Liberal TV personality Sherri Shepherd answered this question a few years ago.

"At one in the morning, the alarm in our house went off," Shepherd told her co-hosts on the popular daytime show, "The View." As the alarm blared, her husband, Sal, went downstairs to look around. If something happened to him, a terrified Shepherd realized, she had no way to protect herself or her son, Jeffrey. " ...All I had was this wicker basket...[I] don't have a bat, nothing."

"We're going to get a gun," I told Sal. "[This] just made me realize how vulnerable you are if you can't protect your home. And the police [were] wonderful; they came about seven minutes later, but to me, that's seven minutes too late."

Luckily for Shepherd, the incident was a false alarm. But there are lots of cases where the alarm is real, especially in high crime areas. Yet every year, progressives push for more and more gun control without ever considering who will pay the price.

It won't be the bad guys. They always get the guns they want. It will be the good women who need to equal the odds in a dangerous confrontation with a man.

Women owning guns shouldn't be a partisan issue. In fact, it's a women's rights issue.

I'm all for equality between the sexes. And I practice what I preach.

That's why I own a gun.

Modern Day Dry Fire

By: Vickie Prickett

So, you love to shoot, and you want to keep your skills sharp, but it's cold outside, there is an ammo shortage, and COVID-19 has messed everything up. What can you do? The answer has been given by every really good shooter I have ever met or read about. The answer is dry fire practice. This sage advice is valid even when we do not feel like we are facing the Zombie Apocalypse (I'm referring to the election results, not COVID-19). However, like most things, there are pitfalls. Years ago, at a Cowboy Action match, a friend of mine was struggling with pistol misses. She jokingly said, "I always get my hits when I dry fire in my basement." In that moment, I realized that dry fire could be extremely harmful to your skillset if it were not done properly. I don't know who originally said it, but "Practice doesn't make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect." Simply put, you need feedback during your dry fire practice to get the most out of it and to make sure that you do

not reinforce bad habits. It is important to remember that when you dry fire, always keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction, keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot, and always keep your gun unloaded and ensure that there is no live ammunition in your dry fire training area. What you do in your dry fire training will show up on the range.

Just like going to the range for live fire, you have a number of choices to make when deciding on a dry fire solution. You need to select your gun, your ammo and your targets. There are a wide variety of choices and a wide range of costs. It can be a bit overwhelming. I did a lot of research and tried quite a few options before I found something that really met my needs. However, each of the products I tried were very valuable.

There are numerous options for laser training firearms. They vary from inexpensive laser cartridge inserts to more expensive inserts to inert dedicated laser pistols to recoil enabled pistols with visible laser or IR options. The later can approach the cost of the average handgun. Then you need to think about targets. You can get stand-alone targets that register a hit with a sound or flash; there are also targets that can link together for shoot/no-shoot or follow-the-ball exercises; and there are some that record hits and times for review. Then there is software. This can range from a simple smart phone app that uses the camera to point at a simple bullseye target and records hits all the way up to PC software that uses one or two cameras and a projector to simulate everything from paper targets to plate racks to IPSC courses to Steel Challenge to realistic video simulations to zombies and evil clowns. Yes, the clowns are really creepy. Here are some of the options:

Laser Software / Apps:

iTarget Pro*
LaserLyte
L.A.S.R.
Smokeless Range*
ShootOff (open source – free)*

Laser Targets:

LaserLyte*
LaserPET
i-M.T.T.S. (Interactive Multi Target Training System)*

Pistols / Laser Cartridges:

Laser-ammo SureStrike Cartridge* (in your own firearm or in an Airsoft recoil enabled pistol)
Pink Rhino Laser Cartridge
iTarget Pro Laser Bullet*
Cool Fire Trainer (with red or IR laser in your own firearm using a CO2 powered replacement barrel to simulate recoil)
R.E.A.L. (Recoil Enabled Airsoft Laser – Red or IR)*
Laser-Ammo ALTP (Advanced Laser Training Pistol)
SIRT (Shot Indicating Reset Trigger) Pistol*
LaserLyte Pistol

I have listed the products that I am aware of; although I am sure that I missed quite a few items. Also, for full disclosure there is an asterisk next to each product that I have personally used. I am not going to make specific recommendations, since this article is not intended to be a marketing piece. However, it was my experience with the Smokeless Range using a recoil enabled Airsoft piston with IR laser and my discovery of the free ShootOff software that inspired me to write this article. If you are considering a dry fire training product, you need to decide what will work best for you based on your budget, items you may already have, and your physical space and lighting.

For the SureStrike cartridge, there are multiple caliber adapters for pistols, rifles and even a shotgun adapter for your firearms. They are available in either a visible red laser or IR laser. The SureStrike uses a pulse instead of a laser that is on the entire time the trigger is depressed, like the SIRT pistols. Laser-ammo has their own pistol, the ALTP (Advanced Laser Training Pistol). It even has an alarm if you have your finger inside the trigger guard when it should not be there. SIRT Pistols (works with LaserLyte targets and Smokeless Range, but the SIRT laser frequency is not compatible with i-M.T.T.S. Targets). There are also SIRT and R.E.A.L. solutions for AR-15 carbines.

IR lasers have the advantage of only being “seen” by the electronic target you choose; so, you will not form the bad habit of watching the target instead of the front sight while breaking the shot. Of course, the visible lasers are very useful for an instructor to observe student errors in site picture or movement prior to the shot breaking. As an instructor, I like to have my students use both visible and IR lasers, specifically starting with visible then moving on to IR. However, for my personal training, I use the IR lasers for the most realistic experience. I do not like the idea of training to see the visible laser pulse, and I find that despite my best efforts, my focus tends to shift from the front sight to the target at the point the shot breaks. It is impossible for me to ignore the bright red flash on the target. I have had other experienced shooters tell me that they do not shift their focus while using a visible laser; however, if we did not lie to ourselves when dry firing, we would not need a laser training solution in the first place. We could simply trust ourselves when we see the front sight on the target and break the shot. To really train hard and increase speed for practical shooting and self-defense applications, you need to be able to see the sights on the targets faster and see the front sight in sharp focus while it lifts and returns to the point of intended shot placement. That is the essence of calling your shot. The faster you can do that, the faster you can shoot accurately.

I have used most of the targets and firearm/laser combinations I have discussed above except the Cool Fire Trainer, the ALTP, and L.A.S.R. software. All of them have pros and cons. However, the most realistic dry fire training I have experienced has been my recent exposure to Laser-Ammo’s Smokeless Range with an IR SureStrike vibration activated cartridge in a recoil enable Airsoft pistol using Green Gas

propellant. The Smokeless Range is a very sophisticated training package that is expandable and customizable. The user interface is simple and intuitive. For the base software package, it functions much like an arcade game. This is a system that requires a reasonably current laptop PC, a projector, a large screen, and a room where sunlight can be eliminated. The Smokeless Range itself is a software package and a camera which views the screen and “sees” your shots. The software simulates shot sounds, and for steel targets you hear the ding. These types of sophisticated simulators normally cost somewhere in the \$15,000 – \$25,000 range. This package ranges from around \$450.00 for the base software with the standard camera to \$2,800.00 for the base software along with all seven add-ons and a short-throw (0.5 ratio camera). You still need a PC (preferably a laptop), projector and screen (or a blank white wall) along with the space and ability to block sunlight.

The base system comes with ten different courses of fire including moving targets, shoot/no-shoot, trap shooting, moving targets, a dueling tree and others. There are multiple add-on software packages including Open Range which has over thirty preloaded courses of fire (everything from plate racks to evil clowns) all of which are customizable and allows for you to set up your own courses by using preloaded backgrounds and targets or uploading your own. There is also M-Range which allows you to customize courses of fire to replicate qualification testing; it allows for up to four shooters at once. The other add-ons include IPSC courses, Quick Draw, Steel Challenge, Tactical Targets which randomizes shoot/no-shoot targets, and the most expensive add-on, the Video Simulator Trainer – Pro (VST-P). VST-P is an interactive, first-person simulator with branches where the “bad guy” may disengage, may continue to be aggressive, may or may not be armed, etc. These branches or decision points are controlled by someone at the PC simply hitting a key based on how you handle the situation. This not only trains marksmanship and pistolcraft, but also tactics and decision making. This is the type of video training normally reserved for law enforcement officers. The VST-P add-on comes with sixty-five scenarios, but you can film your own. I have the base Smokeless Range with the Open Range add-on. The Tactical Targets, IPSC, and VST-P are definitely on my wish list, but that might have to wait for Santa to come next year.

If you have space for setting up a webcam and/or projector and want to try a robust software package without risking a significant monetary investment, the free Shoot-Off software offers many of the features of the L.A.S.R. software with your targets taped to a wall along with the ability to project simulated targets and courses of fire on a screen like the Smokeless Range. Shoot-Off does not have the easiest user interface, but it is hard to argue with free. And the developers are making continual enhancements.

While my experience with the Smokeless Range is what compelled me to write this article, any of the dry fire solutions mentioned (or some I have not listed) provide real-time feedback and would be useful in not only keeping your skills

sharp but enhancing them. Even in the best weather, when ammo is plentiful, how much do you actually practice? What would thirty minutes a day (or even fifteen) of structured dry fire with real feedback do for your skills? I realize that the “thirty minutes a day” comment sounds like a television commercial for some torturous fitness machine, but the Smokeless Range or any other dry fire training is a lot more fun. It seems that for the foreseeable future, my living room has been repurposed, but no one really sits in there anyway.

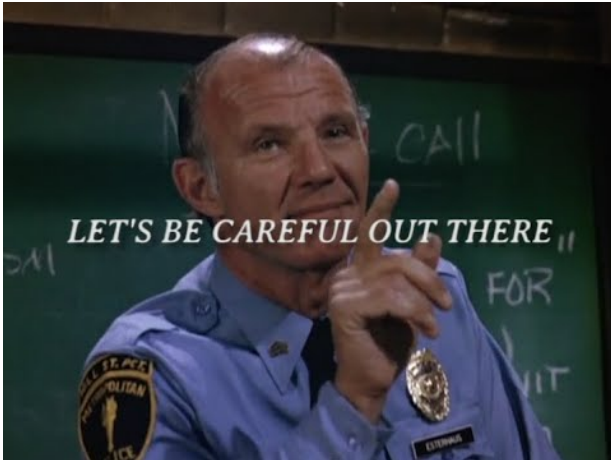
I am not trying to suggest that dry fire training can replace live fire. Even the recoil simulator products I mentioned, do not provide the same recoil as shooting real ammunition, but those products will enable you to track sight movement and return the sights to the target for follow-up shots. The point is that dry fire is extremely valuable and relatively inexpensive. It belongs in your training regimen.

Remember that the point of dry firing is to further develop your skills and carry those improvements with you to the range, to the match or to a defensive situation. The downside is the if you get sloppy with respect to safe handling, that will also stay with you when handling firearms and ammunition. When you dry fire, please do so safely with absolutely no live ammo in your dry fire training area. It is critical that you always follow firearms safety rules both when using a laser cartridge in your pistol and when using an inert laser training pistol. The habits you develop while dry firing will be carried with you when you handle your firearm on a range. Make sure you are very careful about developing training scars. This applies to safe handling as well as actions such as racking the slide after every shot to cock the hammer or reset the striker on your pistol. You do not want to train yourself to rack you slide after every shot; that could be disastrous in a self-defense situation. Certainly, a laser cartridge in your pistol has its place in your training regimen, but if your pistol is not a true double action, you should seriously consider a dedicated inert laser pistol for training.

The bottom line is that there is a large variety of dry fire training products with a huge range of costs and features. Once I found a solution that met my needs, I began training a minimum of four session per week firing more than 1,200 total “shots”. Even when ammunition and reloading components were plentiful and cheap, I was never able to get to the range on a weekly basis, let alone shoot more than a case of ammo per week. Given ammo shortages and current prices, it makes sense to get something to allow you to train much more frequently. So, consider a dry fire training solution. Do the research and find something that fits your needs, then put in the work. You will become a much better shooter and you get to stay warm.

Let's be Careful out there...

By: Frank Nedza



(Older) Fans of Hill Street Blues will recognize that statement, given by Sergeant Esterhaus after every roll call. For most, if not all of us, safety is our watch-word. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot. Don't point the gun at anything you aren't willing to destroy. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it. But there is always room for a reminder, as it only takes a moment for something bad to happen. I am going to use Sergeant Esterhaus' reminder today with a focus toward reloading.

Unless you have been living under a rock for the last several months, you know that ammunition is pretty much unobtainable right now. You also know that there are a LOT of new shooters out there at the same time. This, my friends, has the potential to be a disaster in the making –new or inexperienced shooters, with ZERO or NEAR ZERO reloading knowledge, deciding to take the plunge into reloading, or fairly experienced shooters/reloaders deciding to try to make whatever components they have at hand 'work' in cartridges for which they were never intended.

If you follow the gun-related forums online at all, you might have noticed an 'uptick' in questions like "Can I use small pistol primers in my Rifle?" (Short answer; NO!!), and "can I use xxx powder in my super-duper 6mm tactical blaster" (Short answer: it depends). It extends into just good reloading practice as well, such as knowing (or having been taught) NOT to have more than one powder on the loading bench at a time, how to look for and prevent high pressure in rifle or pistol rounds, and even who to listen to on the forums or in real life.

This was recently brought home to me on an internet forum where a fellow shot his 6.5 Creedmoor and experienced some 'issues'. He stated that 'due to limited powder options, he had to research a bit to find a load that 'seemed to be correct''. Upon firing, it seemed that it was, in fact, not correct, as he couldn't even begin to open the bolt. Upon finally getting the bolt open, and the brass out, here is what he found;



Note the rim, and the bulge just above the extractor groove. After looking at this, he still wasn't sure that the load was too hot (inexperience). I am not faulting the guy for his inexperience –we all start out that way, and need to learn. He just didn't know any better and was looking for help.

Based on the powder he said he used, he should have had a safe, if a little hot, load (again, inexperience). Folks offered up all sorts of advice, ranging from seating depth changes, to 'did you use a 7mm bullet in a 6.5 case', to brass thickness at the neck, to oil in the bore, to one good question –did you check your powder scale?

Most all of us know that your powder scale has to be level, and calibrated correctly, right? Well, here comes inexperience in the form of a powder scale that was missing a leveling leg and being propped up by a book of indeterminate thickness, and certainly not level, nor calibrated. Again, inexperience.



Well, inexperience reared its ugly head once again, and someone suggested firing another round to see if it would be OK a second time. ¡Ay, caramba!

He actually did just that, based on the advice of someone just as inexperienced over the internet. As you might imagine, he had the same result. I think you get the idea. Anyway, after a whole bunch of pages of responses, some helpful, most not (more inexperience isn't always better...), he found a mentor in his local area to help him identify what went wrong and how to correct it.

His new mentor, and new shooting buddy, and honestly, Guardian Angel, quickly determined that he did NOT in fact load the powder he thought he did, and the powder he used was totally inappropriate for that cartridge at that load.

In fact, someone ran what he DID use through Quickload (an internal ballistics program) and found that his load clocked somewhere around 147,000 PSI!! Please note that normal operating pressure for the 6.5 Creedmoor is about 60,000 PSI, and PROOF loads would be about 90,000 PSI, so he was 87,000 PSI over normal pressure and a good 50,000 PSI over Proof.

QuickLOAD® V.3.6 Results			
Maximum Chamber Pressure (Pmax)	10132 bar 146959 psi	Bullet Travel at Pmax	19.5mm 0.77 in.
Load Density	0.883 g/cm³	Energy Density	4159J/cm³
Values when Bullet Base Exits Muzzle...click here for more data			
Muzzle Pressure	566 bar 8203 psi	Muzzle Velocity	1002 m/s 3287 fps
Barrel Time, 10% Pmax to Muzzle	0.908 ms	Projectile Energy	4554 Joule 3359 ft.-lbs.
Amount of Propellant Burnt	100.0%	Ballistic Efficiency	37.3%
Results without any guarantee on usability! DANGER: Load exceeds Maximum Average Pressure! DO NOT USE THIS LOAD! Warning : 0.3% compressed charge! End of			

What is worse is that some folks didn't think he needed to be concerned about the integrity of his action/barrel/bolt, after all that went on, insisting that the brass is what took the pressure, and not the action/bolt/barrel. Again, inexperience and/or lack of knowledge.

It also points out the wisdom in believing everything you read on the internet. Well intentioned advice can obviously be horrifically WRONG. It is important to remember that pistol or

rifle, we are essentially detonating a bomb every time we pull the trigger –whether it is the 10-12,000 PSI in a pistol cartridge, or the 50,000 PSI of a rifle cartridge, they all have the potential to really ruin your day if you aren't careful.

The good news is that he was not injured in his two attempts at firing that rifle (he really owes the manufacturer a note of thanks for building an obviously super-strong action). The better news is that he now has a mentor who has graciously offered to continue to keep an eye on him, and teach him.

The good news for us is that we can all hopefully learn from his experience and not go down that road. I keep harping on inexperience, but things like what happened in this instance could happen to any one of us, experienced or not, through a moment's inattentiveness.

Take Home messages:

- Only 1 powder on the bench at a time.
- READ the label on the powder jug (don't just assume).
- If the load isn't in a reputable loading manual, DON'T USE IT.
- If in doubt, find someone reputable and ask questions.
- Not everyone on the internet is an expert (Famous Abe Lincoln quote).
- If you can't find a good answer, call the powder company –they will be happy to help.
- A good mentor is worth his or her weight in hospital bills.

So, to sum up, let's be careful out there, and additionally, try to help the new guy at the bench next to you –you could help him (or her) avoid injury or worse, and might just make a great new shooting buddy.

DELAWARE LAW ENFORCEMENT MARKSMANSHIP ASSOCIATION
By Mark Hester

The Delaware Law Enforcement Marksmanship Association (known as DLEMA) was established in the mid 1970's for the purpose of offering competitions for Law Enforcement officers. Dover PD and the Delaware State Police were the first to dedicate teams for these competitions. The National Rifle Association was instrumental in opening the competitions to a wide variety of handgun courses of fire. Handguns are designated as stock and open class for both semi-automatic pistols and revolvers. The course of fire outlined below falls under the NRA Police Pistol Combat Rules and is the course utilized for DLEMA.

7.9 Match 7 for Stock Service Revolvers & Match 14 for Stock Service Semi-Automatic Pistols and Production Semi-Automatic Pistols:

This course of fire is designed specifically for the purpose of encouraging law enforcement officers to participate in competitive shooting using standard issue police duty firearms

and so competitors do not incur the additional cost for specialized firearms or equipment. This course is also fired as Match 15 with the Off Duty Revolver or Off Duty Semi-Automatic Pistol and Two and Four Officer Team Matches using Stock Service Revolvers, or Stock Service Semi-Automatic Pistols. This match is an aggregate of the following stages.

Stage 1: 3 yards, double action - 6 shots one hand standing without support, 8 seconds.

Stage 2: 7 yards, double action - 12 shots, one or two hands standing without support position. Twenty seconds, includes reloading for second 6 shot string.

Stage 3: 15 yards, double action -12 shots, one or two hands standing without support. Twenty seconds, includes reloading for second 6 shot string.

Stage 4: 25 yards, double action - 18 shots, one or two hands; 6 shots kneeling, from behind the barricade for cover and support; 6 shots standing left hand from behind the barricade; and 6 shots standing right hand from behind the barricade. Ninety seconds, includes reloading for subsequent 6 shot strings.

The range used is the Nanticoke Sportsman Association Range located in Seaford, DE. Although the course of fire is Law Enforcement under NRA rules, DLEMA is open to civilian shooters as well. All shoots began at 09:00 hrs. and weather dictates indoor or outdoor shooting for the day.

Spring /Summer Schedule

Saturday April 10, 2021

Saturday May 8, 2021

Saturday June 12, 2021

Saturday July 10, 2021

Saturday August 14, 2021

Saturday September 11, 2021

Saturday October 9, 2021

Contact Mark Hester @ 302-270-0412 if you have questions.

Bridgeville IDPA Shooters Do Well at 2021 Chesapeake Cup Match!

By: Dave Hampton

“Team Bridgeville” was well represented at the Chesapeake Cup, held recently at Sanners Lake, MD. The match was for competitors in three different classifications; CCP (Compact Carry Pistol), CDP (Custom Defensive Pistol) and BUG (Back Up Gun).

Bridgeville shooters comprised nearly 15% of the 113 competitors and brought home six 1st, three 2nd and two 3rd place trophies! Five of the top seven places overall were earned by our folks with Chandler Schrider finishing 2nd overall, being outscored only by a Distinguished Master! Bridgeville shooters also earned SEVEN match bumps



total! There were 7 First place, 3 Second place and 3 Third place wins and they swept 3 categories. Way to go, guys!

The Bridgeville IDPA team took home a total of 20 trophies! A “match bump” is where you win your classification and division, you get “promoted” to the next highest level. Getting match bump may be the hardest way to move up but it is certainly the most rewarding.

Here are the details. Match bumps are indicated by names in **BOLD**

CCP MASTER

1. James Cantrell
2. Darryl Swigget
3. Mike Fiori

CCP EXPERT

1. **Rodney Bates: Bump to Master**
3. Scott Smith
5. Mark Rogers
6. Richard Simmons

CCP SHARPSHOOTER

1. **Scot Schrider: Bump to Expert**
2. **Stephan Kristic: Bump to Expert**
3. **Patrick McCoy: Bump to Expert**
13. Jules Castillo

CCP MARKSMAN

- #1. **Rob Wood: Bump to Sharpshooter**

CDP EXPERT

1. Chandler Schrider

CDP SHARPSHOOTER

1. **WG Haskins: Bump to Expert**
2. Chad Rogers
4. Mike Ludden

CDP MARKSMAN

1. **Garrett Slater: Bump to Sharpshooter**

BUG SHARPSHOOTER

1. Pedro Chin

HIGH JUNIOR

Chandler Schrider

MOST ACCURATE

Chandler Schrider

HIGH SENIOR

Rodney Bates

HIGH VETERAN

Scott Smith

OVERALL PLACEMENT (113 competitors)

2. Chandler Schrider
3. James Cantrell
4. Darryl Swigget
6. Mike Fiori
7. Rodney Bates
11. Scott Smith
16. Scot Schrider
17. Stephan Kristic
20. Patrick McCoy
21. Mark Rogers
22. WG Haskins
23. Richard Simmons
24. Chad Rogers
26. Mike Ludden
29. Garret Slater
33. Rob Wood
47. Pedro Chin
59. Jules Castillo

Congratulations to all our Bridgeville Shooters on a job well done!!

For those that are interested, new shooters are always welcome to join us each Wednesday morning and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 0900 to about 1200, for Club Matches using IDPA rules and format. Cost \$5.00. Open to the Public, ALL are welcome to come-out and shoot. You can find more information here:

<https://brpc-de.com/idpa/>

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The General Assembly is finished with the Joint Finance break. All the Executive agencies have presented their budgets and wish lists for the upcoming fiscal year. From all indications there is going to be plenty of taxpayer money to spend. So look out. All sorts of whacky ideas will be floating around the House and Senate in the upcoming weeks.

There was one particularly enlightening and interesting hearing before the JFC that deserves mention. Attorney General Kathleen Jennings presented her budget requests the

day after she release a list of legislative priorities. Top on her list were:

- Requiring a permit to purchase firearms.
- Banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.
- Regulating homemade gun kits.

Here we go. At the JFC hearing Sen. Lawson mentioned that it was very presumptuous of her to think she would direct the legislature to enact legislation. Sen. Lawson also took her to task on the problems of the bail reform she supported last year that has resulted in a "catch and release" program.

DSSA believes there will be attempts to push two of the agenda items, at least in the Senate. Permit to purchase and magazine capacity.

We all know the proposals, especially from the Democrats, focus on the wrong side of the problem. They want to inconvenience and regulate law abiding citizens, rather than the criminals that illegally obtain and use firearms.

Permit to purchase schemes are also racist and discriminatory. Any permitting scheme that includes fees and requirements for training, background checks and fingerprinting discriminate against those on the lower end of the economic spectrum.

Sources tell us that the magazine capacity ban will be no more than 17 rounds. Why 17, I have no idea. That leaves out almost all AR-15 style platforms.

Rest assured that we, the DSSA, will fight to make sure these types of wrong-headed bills do not become law. So please, contact your legislator, both Senate and House, and respectfully ask them not to support legislation will not do anything to reduce violence, especially that violence that is devastating our cities.

On a happier note, DNREC released the deer harvest numbers for the 2020 season. A record number of whitetail deer were harvested. There were 17,265 registered deer. It was also revealed that 23% of the harvest was with straight-walled pistol caliber rifles. Remember the year long lawsuit that DSSA was successful in against DNREC and their prohibition of semi-automatic platforms? The Delaware Sportsmen Against Hunger Program donated more than 84,000 venison meals.

Jeff Hague

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:

Roger T. Boyce

Vice President

DSSA

Roger.boyce@dssa.us