TACTICAL TRAINING SPECIALTIES

THE SHOOTING TIMES

WINTER 2017

HAPPY NEW YEAR & CONGRATULATIONS!

The congratulations and well-wishes are for Sgt. John Bush with the St. Charles County Police Department (formerly Sheriff's Department). John has been with the department for about 40 years and he has been their rangemaster at least since 2003 when they opened their 3 million dollar training facility equipped with a 30 point firing range to 50 yards, a full size shoot house, three classrooms, and an EOD magazine (range pictured behind us). We have been privileged to hold our annual Tactical Firearms Instructor - 3 Gun course there for the last 13 years. John officially retires on January 3rd, and he hands over his responsibilities to newly promoted Sgt. Steve Case, also a well known and respected friend and peer. John has done much for many and we absolutely wish him the best for his beginning a pleasant and prosperous retirement. Thank you John, you will be missed and we will remember you for many years to come!

Course descriptions and more available at www.tactical-specialties.com

Scan the QR code below to follow us on Facebook!

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DID YOU KNOW:

As of January 1, 2017, Missouri became one of the states allowing "permitless carry" meaning you can carry concealed (with exceptions) without taking a class and obtaining a CCW permit. This subject is the focus for this quarter's newsletter.

There are pros and cons here. If you have not read the article by Dale Roberts from the Fall 2016 issue, there is a lot of information there that goes along with this issue.

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AR101 Returns in January!

Green Valley Rifle & Pistol Club

Saturday, January 14, 2017 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

COURSE OVERVIEW

Get a new rifle for Christmas? Want to learn how to correctly operate it? This course is for any person who has an AR platform rifle and wants to learn how to operate, maintain and troubleshoot it. Our course is quite comprehensive and a great opportunity to work with experienced coaches and rifle-drivers who will answer your questions and concerns. The class is designed for novices but veterans tell us they have gained useful skills and are glad they participated.

TOPICS AND CONTENT

We will cover disassembly and cleaning, nomenclature, how to sight in and zero, iron versus optical sights, handling and manipulation, the use of a sling, malfunctions and stoppages, all in an open-forum learning environment that is safe & fun!

WHAT YOU NEED FOR CLASS

1. AR-15/M4 rifle with at least (2) 20/30 round magazines
2. 100 rounds of quality ammunition
3. Eye and ear protection, mat or ground pad for prone
4. Sling for rifle, knee pads, Multi-plier or SOG tool
5. Whatever cleaning gear you normally use

HOW TO ENROLL

Simply e-mail us your name, address, home and cell phone numbers, make and model of your rifle, and date of birth to todd@tactical-specialties.com. The course fee is $150. Cash or check is accepted on the day of class. Your word is your credit card - you need not prepay.

This course is suitable for all skill and experience levels. No previous training is required and experienced rifle operators will find this course useful too! There will be light physical activity to demonstrate how to properly hold and index, load and unload, reload, and clear malfunctions from the rifle. Knee pads are important for these drills. Participants who have orthopedic or flexibility issues will not be required to kneel.

Come and learn what you have always wanted to know but were embarrassed to ask! You will be much more confident when you know how to operate & troubleshoot your AR rifle!

Shooting is fun, no doubt about it. But knowing why your rifle works, or doesn't, is important too!

If you are unsure about pieces and parts, don't worry. This is some of what you will learn in class!

Properly operating rifle, happy operator!

Crisis Casualty Care - Tactical Medical

Hallsville Baptist Church 117 Elizabeth Street

Saturday, January 28, 2017 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

COURSE OVERVIEW

"Everyone should attend this course!" is a common theme from our program evaluations. Augment and improve your skillset by learning how to assess and immediately manage common life-threats and traumatic injuries. The skills presented follow the approved curriculum and course content from the Committee for Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC). This course has been very popular with police, fire, EMS, schools and church ministries for many years.

TOPICS and CONTENT

- Airway Management
- Hemorrhage Control
- Tourniquets and Hemostatic Agents
- Effective Trauma Dressings
- Self Aid / Buddy Aid
- Chest and Abdominal Injuries
- Recognizing and Treating Shock
- Performing Physical Assessment
- Emergency Patient Movement
- Items to Include in a Trauma Kit

This is not a basic first aid course and we will not spend the day watching videos and rolling bandages! It is not our intent to cover every possible illness or injury. We will address how to recognize and immediately treat common traumatic wounds and medical emergencies in the minutes before advanced life support arrives or in the event that additional help will not be available for some time. CPR is an important and valid skill but due to time constraints it is not included in this day of training.

ACCREDITATION

No prior medical training is necessary to participate! This course is approved by The Missouri Department of Public Safety - POST for law enforcement officers and the Missouri Bureau of EMS for emergency medical services personnel. This program is designated as delivering "recognized educational content" by the Committee on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care. ***Special Pricing:*** $150 adults, $100 for a second immediate family member, and $75 for mature young adults under 18.

RECOGNIZED TECC EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

THE LAW HAS CHANGED: I CAN NOW CARRY WITHOUT A PERMIT! SO WHY SHOULD I TAKE A CCW CLASS?

This is a reasonable question that has been building ever since Senate Bill 656 was proposed, amended, and subsequently passed. As of January 1, 2017, a person who may lawfully be in possession of a concealable firearm is no longer required to take a training course and gain a legal permit to conceal that firearm on their person in public. To begin I must say that this is one of the best examples of *"just because you can does not mean that you should"* that I have ever seen.

Before discussing reasons for seeking professional training, you need to ask yourself ONE very important question. That question is "**why do I want to carry**?" (If you thought the question was "do I feel lucky?" you are already getting your training via the wrong venues!) Each of us will answer the "why" question with very deep and sincere reasons that are quite personal and individual to us. We need to apply the same thoughtfulness and deep sincerity to our approach for "**how am I going to carry**" which must take into consideration equipment, physical abilities, decision making, legal issues…things I consider to be "tactical knowledge" and best practices. Some of this knowledge can be gained through reading or watching a DVD, but much of it requires mechanical and psycho-motor skills that need to be coached and developed with the help of someone experienced who already possesses these skills.

But beware, even though training is still offered and you can still gain a CCW permit if you so choose, the legal training standards have been diminished to the point where it is now possible to gain legally recognized training in *less than a quarter of the time* that used to be required and firing *only 25% the number of rounds* that were required in this same class 10 years ago!

When someone asks me why they should take a training class, my first thought is why would you NOT take a training class! I know you may expect this response from me considering my trade and craft, so allow me to offer you a few things to think about.

How Well Trained and Knowledgeable Are You? Ask yourself the following 20 questions about firearms and the law and see how you do.

1. Identify who may carry a concealed firearm in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle both with and without a permit.
2. Explain what is meant by "open carry" and state who is permitted to do so.
3. Explain the Federal Firearms Transportation Law and how it applies to a person transporting a firearm through any state. (Title 18, Part 1, Chapter 44 §926A, United States Code - Interstate Transport.)
4. Identify locations where carrying a concealed firearm is prohibited.
5. Identify penalties for carrying a concealed firearm into a prohibited location when a person a) has a CCW permit, and b) does NOT have a CCW permit.
6. Define what is meant by a "legal posting" regarding carrying a concealed firearm.
7. Define the term "force."
8. Explain the Supreme Court case precedent of Graham v. Connor, 109 S. Ct. 1865 (1989), and how it applies to the lawful use of force upon another person.
9. Explain what is meant by having a "duty to retreat."
10. Explain the legal requirements for giving verbal commands in a deadly force situation.
11. Identify the requirements for the legal use of deadly and non-deadly force in the defense of a person.
12. Identify the requirements for the legal use of deadly and non-deadly force in the defense of premises.
13. Identify the requirements for the legal use of deadly and non-deadly force in the defense of property.

WHY TAKE A CCW CLASS? (CONTINUED)

14. Identify when a private person is justified in using deadly and non-deadly force in making an arrest. (Hint: this is a 4th Amendment issue and, regarding force, applies to everyone, not just the police!)
15. Recite and demonstrate the four cardinal rules of safe firearms handling.
16. Explain and demonstrate general safety rules when handling firearms and related equipment.
17. Identify and demonstrate the two fundamentals of marksmanship that are absolutely required to achieve intended shot placement.
18. Demonstrate how to visually and physically inspect a firearm to verify that it is safe and unloaded.
19. Demonstrate how to safely, and in a tactically-correct fashion, handle, load, unload, reload, discharge, and clear a malfunction from a selected handgun.
20. Demonstrate how to respond and behave during a critical incident when the police have arrived and you are armed.

While the above items may seem like a lot of material, only about HALF of them are covered in some CCW classes. These instructional objectives are from my course which is accredited by the Missouri Department of Public Safety – POST. Which ones do you think could be omitted?

Training Demonstrates Good Faith. No good person begins their day with the intent of harming another person, but when you holster your pistol and leave home you have chosen to carry a tool specifically for self-defense and life-saving in the direst of circumstances. You need to be prepared to articulate why you are doing so, even though this is your legal right. We must practice being situationally aware and develop the "street sense" to spot potential problems early and avoid or prevent them when possible. Feeling more secure and less afraid is a natural by-product of carrying a firearm but we must practice and train **how** to carry safely, competently, and tactically. In our minds and hearts that firearm should be the tool of last resort and not the first option we rely upon. When you go to the expense and take the time to train you demonstrate good faith, genuine interest and concern, and the desire in knowing how to prepare and respond properly. In doing this you exceed the "lowest common denominator" or doing just the bare minimums simply to get by. This is one of the hallmarks of a professional person.

Training Moves You from the Reasonable Man to the Reasonable Professional. The Supreme Court Case of Graham v. Connor in 1989 set standards for not only the use of force, but how to examine the force that was used in an incident. *Graham* explained that an officer must apply constitutionally appropriate levels of force based on the unique circumstances of each case. The force used must be "objectively reasonable" compared with what another officer would do in the same circumstances. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly said that the most important factor to consider in applying force is the threat faced by the officer or others at the scene. Some argue that since a citizen is not a police officer, the same rules don't apply. Others argue that the more training you have, the higher the standard you will be held to. Good faith does not require you to train, but in doing so you demonstrate a more professional mindset, belief system, and set of behaviors. There are several other points that came from *Graham* that support your decision to train, and consider what Chief Justice William Rehnquist said, *"The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight. The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation. The test of reasonableness is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application."* While you may not be a

WHY TAKE A CCW CLASS? (CONTINUED)

police officer, many of the same rules, checks, and balances will apply or be scrutinized. What was your purpose for being where you were? Were your actions lawful? Were your actions reasonable? WHY did you do what you did? What has been your training and experience? Even though the law is on the side of the good person behaving properly, wouldn't you like to have additional preparation and an understanding of what you are getting into? If your actions, and the reasons underlying your actions, are ever legally scrutinized, you will want to have your ducks in a row.

Training Helps You Learn What You Don't Know. "I had no idea" is absolutely one of the most common things we continue to hear over the course of 14 years we have been offering our training classes. ***"You don't know what you don't know"*** is a fact, and when we are talking about deadly force and self-defense these are very important facts! It is to our delight and the learner's credit when this learning happens, particularly when a student thought they already knew something (and they did not) or they believed they were proficient in a technique (and they were not). I say this with the utmost courtesy and respect because it is not about my ego as an instructor or embarrassing a learner. When we can lead someone to a point where they discover and learn, it is constructive and positive and in this context it can save lives!

Training Helps You Prepare for a Life Changing Event. Simply stated, this subject is about life and death. I continue to share this example with each participant of every class. In my 35 years of gun-toting experience the statistics of an "average" gunfight (the final exam) have changed very little. The facts remain as follows:

- 90% of the time the fight occurs at 20 feet or less and 50% of the time it takes place at 10 feet or less;
- 40% of the time there is more than one attacker;
- From beginning to end the incident is over in less than 3 seconds.

Knowing this I ask everyone a question: If this is what the final exam looks like, but I don't know ***when*** I am going to take it, ***where*** I am going to take it, or even ***if*** I am going to take it…how well do I want to be prepared and how much studying will I have done in preparation for it? Is it enough for me to simply put a gun in a holster, cover it with my jacket, and call it good? Most people reply that they want to be as prepared as they possibly can be, but my experiences show me that many, maybe most, people train minimally if at all! This includes a lack of dry fire practice with a rendered-safe gun at home.

I carry a firearm is because my German Shepherd is too heavy, and she is difficult to conceal.

The Chainsaw. This is my favorite example. You have the right to walk into the store and purchase a brand-new Magnum XL chainsaw, take it home, and head into the field with no eye protection, no gloves, no chaps, no helmet, no first aid kit, and no training. If you have not had any training with the chainsaw, does this sound like an intelligent thing to do? C'mon guys, answer honestly. Yes we can do this, and some even do, but is this really a good idea?

WHY TAKE A CLASS? (CONCLUSION)

For 14 Years, Training was Formerly the Standard. An 8-hour minimum training requirement to fire both a pistol and a revolver for a total of 140 rounds was previously the legal and required standard for training. The topics were outlined by Missouri Revised Statute Chapter 571, and then it was the responsibility of the individual instructor as to how the subject materials were delivered to the participants of the class. I have even heard some "instructors" say that it is not their responsibility to "teach" a participant anything. As long as the person was present for the full 8 hours of class time, and they fired their minimum number of rounds striking the target at least 75% of the time, and they did not commit any seriously unsafe acts, they were given an affidavit of training. Since 2003 Chapter 571 (CCW law) has undergone several changes and major revisions. Some of these changes have been good and others not so much. I won't take the time to detail all of these changes now, but I must say that the current training requirement has been so watered down and weakened that I would not call it a "training" requirement. Just because the law was changed does not mean that it was improved. *(For details about the significant changes in the CCW permit training requirement, see the Fall 2016 Shooting Times article by Dale Roberts - available on our website archives.)*

Constitutional Carry means that you may carry a firearm openly or concealed, without a government permit – period. The more you add restrictions and lists of prohibited locations the farther away you move from what is truly meant by "Constitutional Carry." In addition to obtaining a CCW permit, Missouri now has the provision for carrying without a permit or "permitless carry" but it is not the same as CC. This is different in each of the 50 states. It is also important to understand that there is a big difference in legal consequences between carrying a) with a permit, and b) without a permit into a prohibited location according to RSMo. Chapter 571. Do you know what these places are and what the difference is? *(If you do not I again refer you to our website archive, Fall 2016 Shooting Times article by Dale Roberts.)*

Like the television commercials state, "*The decision whether to carry, and how to carry is a very personal one, and should not be based solely upon advertising."* Your due diligence, concern, and knowing the law will put you in a much better place that the person who "thinks" they know or who "heard about it" from someone they cannot remember. I pray that your choices will include getting enough rest and exercise, eating your green leafy vegetables, and choosing to train! Respectfully, Todd Burke

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Training? Consider Melinda's View from CCW3 (Prevailing In Low Light) on October 22, 2016:

"I wanted to take a minute to thank you again for a terrific class. Charlie & I had taken the CCW2 class in the spring and I began going to the range to practice regularly thereafter. I was feeling pretty good about my progress and grew complacent. I stopped practicing and I paid the price. I was "off" from the get go on Saturday and the class hit home to me the importance of practice. I will not become a "slacker" again.

In spite of my own limitations, self-induced and unavoidable, I learned so much from the class that I count it as time more than well-spent. I also learned that, to practice well, one must practice properly. Case in point was when I was trying the Harries flashlight method, I placed my left hand (the one with the flashlight) on top of my right (gun hand). When I shot, apparently the slide came back and hit me in the forearm. I have attached a photo. Most interestingly, I didn't notice it until some time after it happened – another lesson learned; when a person is focusing on one thing too intently, s/he doesn't always notice an injury. The arm is fine, the ego is bruised, and I learned way more than I expected! Thanks again for an excellent class!"

(Thanks for your honest assessment and explanation of why training is important to you Melinda - Todd.)

TRAINING CALENDAR AND COMING EVENTS!

CCW1: CARRYING A CONCEALABLE FIREARM

Dates we have scheduled in 2017 so far include:

- **January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6** (all classes are 0730-1600)

Missouri laws have changed but the quality and content of our CCW program has not! Gain your CCW permit by training with us. This class is also appropriate for the novice who may not plan to get their permit but who wants to learn safety skills, how to handle and manipulate their pistol, and the law! ($100)

AR101 - January 14

Our basic "care and feeding" course for the AR style rifle has been popular with intermediate operators as well as beginners since we introduced it 4 years ago. This is an excellent class to take before enrolling in our Tactical Rifle class but it is not a prerequisite. There is a complete description on page 2. ($150)

CRISIS CASUALTY CARE (Tactical Medical) - January 28

Learn how to assess, treat, and prevent death from the most common traumatic injuries with (5) simple and inexpensive treatment devices! Literally based upon thousands of case studies, this is much more than a first aid course! A complete description is on page 3. ($150 adults / $100 for a second immediate family member / $75 mature folks under 18.)

DEFENSIVE TACTICS - February 25

This training focuses on proven active physical countermeasures and empty-hand techniques when other tools or weapons are not appropriate or available. Several techniques are martial arts based and taught to law enforcement officers. ($150 adults / $100 for a second immediate family member / $75 mature folks under 18.)

TACTICAL SHOTGUN - March 18

If 90% of the gunfights occur at 20 feet or less, the shotgun reigns supreme! We emphasize competency through sound tactics, techniques, and marksmanship skills. The shotgun is more than a point-and-shoot firearm, it is a precision tool worth mastering! One of our most popular courses! ($175)

CCW2 - THE PRINCIPLES OF PERSONAL DEFENSE - April 15

For the CCW1 graduate who wants to know "what's next?" or the person who already has their CCW permit and wants to continue their tactical training...this course is about effectively fighting with a handgun. If you have a new pistol or holster this is an excellent time to take it for a test drive. Repeat offenders remember your discount...this is our most often repeated class! ($175)

Our Courses are Approved by the Missouri Department of Public Safety - POST so police officers get ceu credits!

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ADVERTISING - THIS IS HOW WE ROLL...Many have asked how much it costs to advertise in The Shooting Times. The answer is ZERO. I don't currently accept paid advertising. The folks you see in our newsletter are people I know and trust and do business with myself. They share the good word about me and I do the same for them. Same kind of barter that helped get our country going. Still works today. So when you see an ad, a business card, or a referral in The Shooting Times, they didn't pay for it...they earned it! Thanks everyone!

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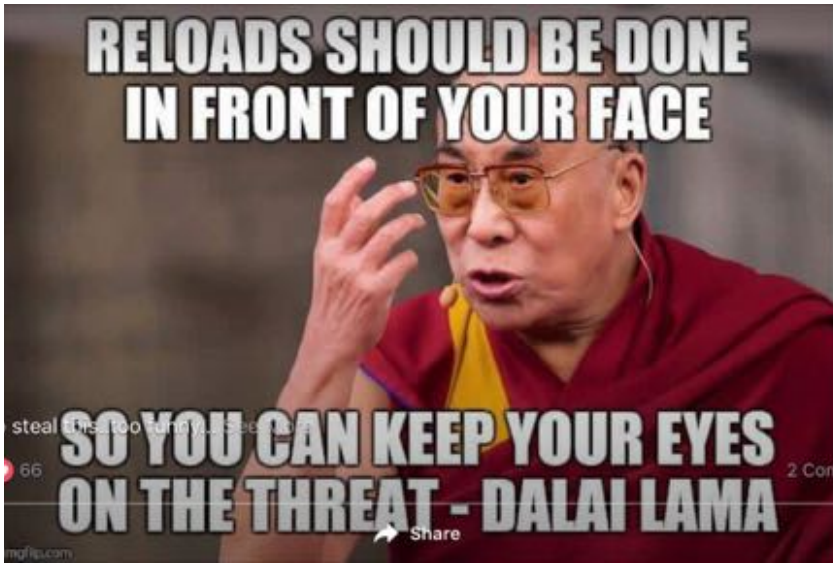
TACTICAL TRAINING SPECIALTIES is a registered corporation with the Missouri Secretary of State, serving emergency services responders since 1990. Our primary product is contextually valid and tactically correct training that we offer in good faith.

In 2004 we broadened our scope in order to accommodate conscientious citizens who wish to learn safe and proven techniques in handling and deploying personal defensive tools for the legitimate purpose of lawful, reasonable, and effective personal defense.

We invite your views, opinions, and suggestions and you can e-mail them to the address above.

PARTING SHOTS



WE TOLD YOU - HEAD UP, SEE THE BATTLEFIELD!

If you can't trust the Dalai Lama, who CAN you trust? He's trying to tell you what we've been preaching all along! Full disclosure...the Dalai Lama has not been a student in one of our classes...yet! You might see him in CCW2 on April 15th.

DANGER: THIS LIGHT IS CRAP!

Scam, scam, scam! It is all over the internet and TV infomercials under a variety of names (Shadowhawk, Outlite, AuKvi, Military Grade, etc.) and it is simply a P.O.S! Several of my students and family members have shown up with this stupid thing...ugh! If all you want is a bright flashlight with a head that telegraphs (zooms) in-and-out for walking your dog or sitting on your back deck spotlighting animals, this will fill the bill. Note Amazon prime lists 31% favorable and 69% unfavorable reviews. Type "bright flashlight" into Amazon and you will see the same light with 12 different names in the $15 to $40 range. For tactical use or as a tool in a life-safety role, ***this thing will fail and get you killed!*** The switch will break the first time you drop it and the tele-scoping beam selector is bad, bad, bad! You can spend $40 to $60 and get a much better tool that you will have for years! More on that in a future edition...

WHEN IT IS TIME FOR BATTLE FIGHT FIERCELY AND INTELLIGENTLY. THE REST OF THE TIME...BE NICE!