



SAGA Snippets

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SATSA Nationals 2024

South African Tactical Shooting Association (SATSA) are an officially constituted designated shooting association, represented in 6 provinces and now also KZN.

Pierre Moolman (Chair), SATSA Eastern Cape, hosted this year's SATSA Nationals on 18-19 October at Gamtoos Shooting Range with SAGA proudly sponsoring this event for the 2nd successive year.

The Jbay Shooting Range is situated on a private farm near the Gamtoos river mouth, 15kms north of Jeffreys Bay, with 5 established outdoor ranges plus a hillside long-range setup for the event. The range also boasts a firearms training centre, owned and operated by Barny and Wendy.

Apart from SAGA, other sponsors included Humansdorp Co-op, Simpson Safes, and Pew Pew, and all made for a memorable event.



Competitors arrived on the Friday afternoon to assist with building the 4 ranges and for the briefing ahead of an early Saturday morning start.

Paramedic Fivaz of Ambulance Services manned the EMS response vehicle, keeping a watchful eye over proceedings and engaging with competitors.

A family of 30 competitors plus supporters and sponsors from SATSA ranks enjoyed the competition. With old friendships rekindled and new friendships and relationships formed.



SAGA Snippets October 2024

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The event consisted of two Courses of Fire (CoF) with two stages each, across 4 outdoor ranges. Scoring was based on hits on steel with a specified round count, penalties for not using cover/concealment and then against total time for both stages back-to-back for each CoF. All required gear had to be carried with the shooter.

CoF One - Handgun & Carbine

Stage 1 – Distance shooting with transitions and physical exertion then back down the hill to the start and across the road on the run to stage 2.

Stage 2 – Including shooting carbine on the move, prone concealment shots and transition to handgun with left and right hand unsupported at a series of targets.

CoF Two - Handgun & Carbine

Stage 1 – Starting with a falling plate and then into a series of multiple steel handing targets, shots between and next to hostages, a duelling tree and then shooting on the move to last position with left- and right-handed handgun shots.

Stage 2 – Running across to the next range to engage steel with the carbine from behind a vehicle in prone, then onto the plate rack with handgun, through a series of barricades with falling plates partially concealed and the final shots on steel at the back of the range.

Prizes were awarded to the best three shooters, across 3 categories: handgun only, handgun and carbine, and women only.



Overall results:

FIRST – Janlo (Son) Ferreira ec
SECOND – Retief (father) Ferreira ec
THIRD – Ruan Audie sc

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Anton Du Plessis (SATSA National Chair) for his efforts and unwavering support for SAGA, Perry (EC Chair) our hosts for the warm welcome.

Including thanks to Barney & Wendy for dedicating their farm and ranges to SATSA for the weekend and of course, all the competitors and supporters travelling in for the annual event.

By **Shaun Lyle**

SAGA Representative, KZN and Cape



Dalton Rifle & Gun Club Event



On Saturday 19 October we braved a very wet, cold and windy day to join the 102-year-old Dalton Rifle & Gun Club for their annual "Schützenfest" at their rifle range on a sugar farm outside Dalton in the KZN Midlands. The weather did not dampen the spirits of all who participated and everyone entered into the spirit of the day with much enthusiasm and energy.

This event is the largest .22LR shoot in South Africa and approximately 112 participants took part, a number of whom used this opportunity to renew their SAGA memberships or to join for the first time.

The shoot consisted of 12 stages of 8 or 9 gongs, with distances ranging from close to 150 meters, each being in various positions and all exercises timed. There was a limit of 100 cartridges per shooter.

The Team Winners were:

Hotshots – Rudi and Desi Meyer (191/200)
Team FK – Devlin Frohlich and Chris Olley (189/200)

Zero Tolerance – Martin Rossouw and Leon Cronje (188/200)
2 Shot Kings – Andrew Smith and Mark Klipp (188/200)
Waidmannsheil – Thys le Roux and Conrad Klipp (188/200)

The lady winners were:

Sabine Thies (97/100)
Jesse Ludwig (84/100)

A highlight of the day was the lucky drawing of a Tikka rifle and a Ruger rifle which were won by two very happy contestants.

SAGA contributed three hampers as prizes, of which, one was given to the first participant to join SAGA, and the other two to the ladies who came first and second in their category.

The day ended with a great social gathering and braai.

Well done to the organisers for a successful event.

By Peter and Gaye Goodridge
SAGA Office





SAGA Corporate Membership

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

The members listed below and over the page are all proudly 2024 SAGA Corporate Members.

ASSOCIATION

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

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BROADWAY SHOOTING CLUB
BUFFALO RIVER SHOOTING CLUB
CAPE SPORTING RIFLE CLUB
CLAY PIGEON ADVENTURES
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EYE SHOOT SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
FALSE BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
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HILLANDALE SHOOTING CLUB
IMPALA SHOOTING CLUB
KOKSTAD SHOOTING CLUB



KWAGGA JAG & AVONTUURKLUB
LION MOUNTAIN RANGERS
MODDERFONTEIN SHOOTING CLUB
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EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
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Continued...SAGA Corporate Membership



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PANGOLIN SECURITY PRODUCTS
PREMIER SECURITY
SECURITY RESPONSE GROUP
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Please support those that support SAGA!

Find out more about Corporate Membership by contacting us:

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EMAIL saga@saga.org.za

SAGA Personal Membership

SAGA annual Membership fees are:

Adult R300
Pensioner/Junior R180
Family: 1x Adult @R300 plus any number of family members @ R100 each

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

By being a member you keep us in 'business' and we are able to continue working for fair and just firearm rights for responsible firearm owners in South Africa.

Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes? **Get them to join SAGA today.**

The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cell-phone number **066 003 9226.**





What Really Matters

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
2 October 2024

Sometimes I think that we spend too much time thinking about certain aspects of personal defense instead of looking at the big picture. You know, we get involved in deciding which gun we ought to be carrying, revolver or semi-auto, big gun or little gun, big bullets or little bullets, and on and on. Personally, I think that there are other issues for consideration that are more important, or certainly just as important. Here are a few.

Avoidance. "Don't go to stupid places and do stupid things with stupid people." That pretty well says it all. If the police have been called to your favorite bar the past three Saturday nights in a row, it might be a good idea to change bars. Years ago, my father suggested to me that it was really difficult to be in a saloon brawl if I just stayed out of saloons. It's fine to enjoy a social drink with friends, the secret is to just be real picky about where you do it.

The key is to just use some common sense and stay away from places and people where trouble is likely to arise.

Another real avoidance skill is just keeping our mouths shut. Uncontrolled tempers can cause arguments to turn into violence pretty readily. I suppose your momma told you this and she was right.

Professional Training. What you carry, how you carry it and what you carry in it is not nearly as important as what you can do with it. And the very best way to get those skills up to useful levels is to get training from the experts. In one week at a professional training school, the students will be shooting better than most American police officers. How good do you have to be to survive a criminal attack? You decide; it's your life at stake.

Awareness. This is the most important survival skill. And the person who tells you that he is always aware is really just telling you that he's a fool. None of us are as aware as we ought to be or as we could be. And so we even become aware of that fact and continually work on ourselves and our family to be alert for problems while there is still time to implement a plan to deal with them or to avoid them entirely. Crooks like to look for easy targets; don't be one.

So, as you can imagine, I like guns and gear; I like to talk about them, use them, and acquire new ones. Writing this column just reminds me, and hopefully you, too, to keep the big picture in mind. It is what really matters.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/what-really-matters/?utm_source=newsletter



Focus on SAGA Insignia

In the second of our Focus on SAGA Insignia we take a look at our caps and lapel badges

Go to website <https://shop.saga.org.za/>

Scroll down to find all the available products and place your order today.



SAGA CAPS

These brushed cotton caps are available in green and pink and are branded with a simplified SAGA logo. They have an adjustable Velcro strap at the back for easy, comfortable wear. To wash just pop in the washing machine.

Price: R95



SAGA LAPEL BADGE

These small round lapel badges are made of metal and fasten with a pin and clip so can be worn on any garment no matter the fabric.

Measuring 65mm across, these lapel badges look very smart.

A great small item to order with other insignia (not cost effective to order on its own).

Price: R35



Trained vs Untrained

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/trained-vs-untrained/?utm_source=newsletter

by Steve Tarani
4 October 2024

In the world of firearms, proficiency is not a static quality: it is dynamic, evolving and perishable. There is a clear distinction between those who invest time and effort in continuous training and those who merely possess firearms but fail to maintain or develop their skills. The difference between these two types of shooters is not just in technical ability but in mindset, gun handling, safety and real-world readiness.

Firearm proficiency is not a one-time achievement; it requires ongoing practice to maintain and improve. The skill sets required to be an effective and responsible shooter—gun handling, marksmanship, situational awareness, and decision-making under pressure—are highly perishable. Much like athletes or musicians, shooters who do not engage in regular practice will see their skills diminish over time.

This degradation is not merely hypothetical. Studies on motor skill retention indicate that even well-learned physical tasks deteriorate when they are not practiced. For shooters, this can result in slower reaction times, reduced accuracy and poor judgment during high-stress situations. For defensive shooters, this decline in proficiency can have life-or-death consequences. Without consistent training, the physical and mental capacity required to operate a firearm efficiently in stressful or emergency situations deteriorates. In contrast, those who train regularly keep their skills sharp.

One of the most significant benefits of consistent firearms training is an enhanced focus on safety. Those who train regularly develop safe-handling habits that become



second nature. From muzzle discipline to trigger control, trained shooters internalize the rules of safe gun handling, reducing the likelihood of negligent discharges. In contrast, shooters who do not train may become complacent or careless, leading to potentially dangerous situations.

Stay Cool Under Fire

Training conditions shooters to remain calm and composed under pressure. Whether facing a competitive shooting event or a life-threatening encounter, individuals who train regularly develop the ability to think clearly and make sound decisions. Training builds not just physical skill but also mental resilience. In high-stress situations, trained shooters rely on their experience and preparation, allowing them to assess the situation, make quick decisions and act with precision. Those who do not train are far more likely to panic, hesitate or make poor choices when it matters most.

Training enhances a shooter's ability to solve complex problems in dynamic situations. In real-world self-defense scenarios, the decision to engage or disengage is paramount to marksmanship. Professional instructors teach shooters to evaluate their surroundings, assess potential threats and make split-second decisions. This decision-making process, honed through regular practice, is what sets trained shooters apart from those who simply own a firearm. Untrained shooters may focus solely on the mechanical aspects of shooting, without considering the tactical or legal implications of their actions.

Regular training cultivates a disciplined mindset that extends beyond the shooting range.



Continued...Trained vs Untrained

Trained shooters are more likely to adopt a growth-oriented attitude, always seeking to refine their skills and expand their knowledge. Shooters who do not train, on the other hand, may become complacent, overestimating their abilities and underestimating the complexity of real-world encounters. Some individuals prefer to train on their own, either solo or with a trusted partner, while others seek out professional instruction to improve their skills. Both approaches offer unique advantages and the choice often depends on the individual's goals, experience level, and access to resources.

Solo training allows shooters to develop skills at their own pace, focusing on specific areas of improvement. Dry firing, target shooting and practicing drills on the range can all be done independently. Shooters who train solo often develop a deeper relationship with their firearm, becoming intimately familiar with its mechanics, recoil, and trigger.

However, solo training also has limitations. Without external feedback, it's easy to develop bad habits or overlook critical areas of improvement. Self-taught shooters may plateau, failing to advance beyond a certain level of proficiency.

Training with a partner adds an element of accountability and feedback that solo practice often lacks. A training partner can provide constructive criticism, point out mistakes and challenge the shooter to improve. Partner drills, such as team-based tactics or competitive exercises, introduce new layers of complexity that enhance problem-solving and communication skills.

Seek Help

For those seeking to maximize their potential, professional instruction offers unparalleled benefits. Professional instructors, whether at established brick-and-mortar schools or through traveling courses, bring a wealth of knowledge and experience that can dramatically accelerate a shooter's development. Instructors can identify weaknesses,

tailor training to individual needs and introduce advanced concepts that might be difficult to learn independently. Moreover, professional courses often simulate real-world scenarios, teaching shooters to apply their skills under stress.

The rise of digital platforms has made firearms training more accessible than ever before. Online courses, videos and training programs allow shooters to learn from experts without leaving their homes. While online training cannot replace hands-on experience, it can serve as a valuable supplement to range time. Shooters can study techniques, drills and tactics, applying what they learn in their own practice sessions.

While training provides a clear path to improvement, safety and readiness, the absence of training can lead to dangerous consequences. Untrained shooters may overestimate their abilities, believing that owning a firearm is enough to protect themselves or others. This false sense of confidence can lead to reckless behavior, poor decision-making and avoidable negligence. Untrained shooters are often unprepared for the realities of a defensive encounter. They may struggle to operate their firearm effectively under stress, make critical mistakes or fail to follow requisite legal and ethical guidelines. In the worst-case scenario, this lack of preparation could lead to disastrous results.

The commitment to ongoing skill development is what separates the proficient shooter from the novice. In the end, training is not an option—it is a necessity and ultimately the path to mastery.



Economical Shooting

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
5 October 2024

Now, mind you, I'm not an economist—never even played one on TV—but it appears to me that things are getting almighty expensive. This includes the cost of ammunition, and folks smarter than me are saying it could get quite a bit worse. All of this can have a negative impact on our defensive-shooting practice which is so important to maintaining our skills at the highest possible level.

The best possible solution in these troubled times is dry practice. If the defensive shooter will spend four or five sessions in dry practice for every trip made to the shooting range, they can keep those skills at a useful level. Just like with live-fire practice, I don't think the sessions need to be long ones. They do, however, need to be focused on getting it right each and every time.

Probably the most common dry-practice drill is making a pistol presentation and getting that important first shot off quickly and smoothly. Attention should be given to avoiding all unnecessary movement. As the gun comes on target, a quick glance at the front sight tells you that you are centered and you break the shot.

But, it is also just as important to spend equally as much time drawing to the ready position. It is not a good idea to get into the habit of shooting every time you get on target. In a real situation, the target may no longer be a threat; they may have dropped the weapon or turned to run. Dry practice will help the defensive shooter think through these various possibilities.

Dry practice is also very important for the defensive shooter who prefers the double-action revolver. The DA trigger pull is the big challenge with these guns and can be difficult to make an effective trigger press while staying on target. Practice is the key, lots of practice. The revolver shooter will also find that the action of the revolver will tend to smooth up with increased practice.

And, while we're thinking about dry practice, it is a really good idea to order some dummy ammo from your favorite supplier. This dummy ammo will allow the shooter to practice his speed and tactical reloads. The kind that I use is entirely dark red in color and cannot be easily confused with live ammo.

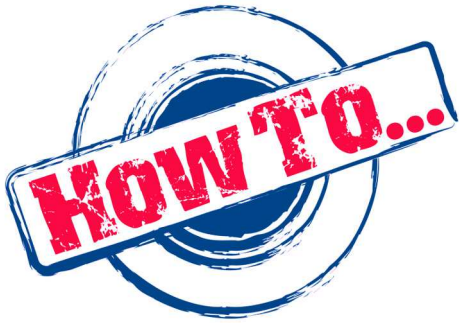
Again, I think it is important to stay focused. Ten minutes of practice with everything done as correctly as you are able is worth much more than an hour of just fooling around. The same goes for your occasional trips to the range; don't try to shoot as many rounds as possible, try to shoot a few rounds correctly.

And, of course, above all, be safe. Be sure to completely unload before each dry session and check and double check. It is even a really good idea to put all the live ammo in another room. We should stay focused, and the smart defensive shooter is always focused on safety.

So, join me in cussing out the economy if you will. But, don't let that keep you from working to improve your defensive skills. Dry practice will certainly help.

[https://www.shootingillustrated.com/
content/economical-shooting/?
utm_source=newsletter](https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/economical-shooting/?utm_source=newsletter)

Easy Steps to Improve your Shooting Skills



by Jeff Gonzales
25 September 2024

One of the questions I am most frequently asked after a student completes a training course is “How do I get better?” It’s a great question. For some, they performed well in the course and want to continue to improve. For others, they failed to perform well and want to know what they can do to improve. I look at myself as a life-long learner, so I love hearing this question. Over the years, I’ve fine-tuned my answer in an effort to provide an actionable response. The answers I provide are practical and, in my opinion, easy.

Start by defining the investment you are willing to make. Set challenging, but attainable goals. Document and critique all your performances. Train with people better than you and help people who struggle. If you can follow this advice, your practice will not only be effective, but efficient.

The problem with high-intensity shooting courses is there is a lot to cover, but not an equal amount of time and, from the instructor’s standpoint, we need to make concessions. One thing on which I do not compromise is providing students with the tools for continued education at their own pace. I believe the real training begins once they leave the course. Don’t make the mistake of thinking there is no room for improvement, or that a single, 16-hour course every couple of years (or less) will suffice.

It is also a mistake to think you don’t need to practice. Very few can leave a course and not need to practice. Part of the reason for

some not “needing” to practice is because they have committed to regular practice in the first place, so the need is implied.

I like to remind myself just how imperfect I am by starting a new hobby every 10 years. It is said that it takes approximately 10 years to truly master a skill, to be at the pinnacle of performance in said study. My experience confirms this at a general level, but there will always be outliers that either reach mastery sooner, or take much longer. The point is it takes time—even if you don’t want to gain mastery, just being competent is still time-consuming.

What I’ve taken away from building new skills is a better sense of how I learn and make progress. It has, in some cases, allowed me to shorten my overall learning curve. I still struggle, but part of that conflict is the reason I continue to challenge myself. It is easy to become complacent if you don’t.

A big mistake many new shooters make is not aligning their expectations with reality. If you want to be a good shot, you will need to shoot a lot. If you want to see the gains, you will need to invest in ammunition and time. I recommend looking at an hourly investment spread out over years. You can choose one, three or five years for the initial break-out period.

It is during this period where you will see the most gains, since you are starting from a low knowledge and skill base. I feel one year is too short, and five years is asking a lot, so three years is a good compromise. Whatever your break-out period, chunk it into months and give yourself some realistic time-off blocks.

I generally plan around 10 good months of training out of the year. During these 10 months, I aim to get a minimum of 30 to 40 hours of live-fire formalized practice. Over a three-year period, that is 120 hours. Ideally, I look for a minimum of 80 hours of formalized practice.

The last variant to our equation is the number of rounds I expend over this break-out period. I typically fire 100 rounds per hour of formalized practice, but I think a more reasonable

Continued...Easy Steps to Improve your Shooting Skills



expectation is 50 rounds per hour. Throughout a three-year break-out period, that would be approximately 6,000 rounds.

This is what I mean by being realistic with your expectations. It will not only take a time investment, but an investment in ammunition as well, which happens to be a financial investment.

It might seem odd to start with the investment over the goals, however when the investment is considered first, it helps keep the goals realistic. Too many times when the goal is all you think about, the investment is overlooked, which can lead to failure and frustration. This way, the expectations are kept in check by the actual needed investment in time and money. Creating challenging goals becomes easier this way.

It may seem alluring to want a sub-second draw from concealment, and I'm all for elite performance such as this. I'm bound with guilty knowledge of how to get there and most fail to reach their goals not from lack of effort, but starting with unrealistic expectations in the first place. The goal also does not need to be a specific outcome. Since we are planning for an unknown, unknowable event, the goal could even be pointed in the wrong direction. Instead, consider the goal as total rounds fired. The more quality rounds fired, the more you can develop your overall skill set.

There are only so many drills one can practice. Inevitably, some will be repeated. That is a good thing, since it will allow for the observation of repeated performance. From the very beginning, the literal first round fired, start documenting. Create a tracking form or

logbook that can be periodically reviewed to monitor progress.

I typically shoot what I call a "cold drill" as the first drill for all my practice sessions. I change this cold drill up every quarter, but it allows me to monitor my performance without falling into the training trap, which is only training the drill and not the skills within the drill.

I will document as many variables as are relevant, such as the overall time, score, distance and type of target. When I start the next practice session I will review my past performance—"What did I do wrong or poorly?"—in an effort to make improvements. If I shot it slower than I feel I'm capable, I make the effort to go faster. If I scored below a certain threshold, usually 90 percent (75 percent for beginners), I work on my accuracy by spending a bit longer perfecting the shot(s). If I find myself somewhat stagnant, I change out one of the conditions, such as distance. Maybe I'm struggling to hit my 90-percent threshold. Closing the distance can help me get over that hurdle with the added benefit of a new goal, which would be to eventually perform the drill at the prescribed distance.

Playing with these variables—what I call scaling—can be immensely helpful at not only improving, but staying motivated. Too many failures can have a negative impact on the overall goal. However, just enough failure is great to keep you reaching and working harder.

One of the best things I did to help reach new levels was accepting an invite to shoot with someone who was without a doubt better than me at every level. It was humbling to be sure, but I went into it with my eyes wide



Continued...Easy Steps to Improve your Shooting Skills



open thinking of it as a great opportunity to learn. As our practice sessions grew, I could see my shooting improvements grow. There is plenty of research indicating that working with people better than you will lead to your own improvements.

I believe there are two big reasons for this phenomenon, and the first is recognizing your own shortcomings. When you see someone do something better, it helps break through some self-imposed barriers. It becomes almost accepted that a given performance level is as good as it can get, similar to when the 4-minute mile was broken. Until then, it just wasn't something imagined. Then it became common practice, because the trail has been laid. I watch and ask questions to better understand what they are doing, but also what I'm not doing. Plus, having a pair of expert eyes on you to provide feedback is immensely valuable.

The second reason is motivation. When you get into these groups, there is desire to do the work. When someone suggests a range day, you are already thinking about how you can make it happen versus coming up with excuses to avoid the rendezvous. There can even be a level of competitiveness knowing others will be "getting better" in your absence. The last thing you want is to be left out of all the fun, and it is truly enjoyable to get together with other like-minded individuals who only want to see you succeed.

There's an old saying, "if you want to master something, teach it." I find so much value in this concept that I search out ways to teach in other areas of my life. To teach something requires a comprehen-

sive understanding of the subject matter. It requires something of a reverse-engineering process. Instead of teaching what you know, teach how you know. This requires the ability to explain concepts from a different perspective at a fundamental level. At times, there is a personal recognition of gaps requiring further understanding to teach. I further cultivated my understanding of the subject and reinforced my own beliefs that I share in an effort to teach.

There are no real shortcuts to reaching mastery, but there are some tried-and-true methods to create a more efficient pathway to such a goal.

Start by defining the level of investment.

Create goals for yourself that push the boundaries, but are also achievable.

Take notes on everything and review them as a way of improving your performance.

Find someone or a group of individuals better than you and soak up their knowledge. To truly gain mastery, teach.

Find someone who is interested in the subject and offer to share your time and experience.

This formula has provided solid results in all areas of my life, not just my profession. Even if these tips are not followed wholly, individually they can produce results. Nonetheless, imagine what can happen if all of them are followed.

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