



SAGA Snippets

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Invitational Match Fundraiser

On Sunday 15 September 2024, SAGA joined Broadway Shooting Club for one of their regular charity events. This event for handgun, pistol calibre carbine and shotgun, was a campaign to raise funds for cancer and other terminally ill patients via the Back a Buddy program.

Approximately 30 participants attended, some were locals and others were from as far as Richards Bay - these as a result of the invitation SAGA sent to all its members. Thankfully the rain stayed away for the day and an exciting time was had by all.

There were categories for Handguns and Shotguns with each discipline shooting at 5 different ranges. This gave all the gun owners a magnificent opportunity to personally interact, show off and discuss the fine firearms being used - and to brush up on their already high levels of competence.



Ravi Reddy supported by Craig Lane runs a very efficient and user-friendly range at Broadway, despite having suffered quite heavily from the recent flooding in KZN. One section has been improved, and a new gully has formed which will take some serious skill to master.

A number of SAGA members took the opportunity at this event to renew their memberships.

By Peter Goodridge



SAGA Snippets
September
2024

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Let's Keep It Clean, Folks

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/let-s-keep-it-clean-folks/>

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
21 September 2024

My friend and I were talking defense guns when he decided to show me the small semi-automatic that he carried in an ankle holster. Proudly drawing it out of the holster, he and I both discovered that the pistol was missing its front sight. He didn't have a clue as to when he had lost the sight and, what's more, the gun was covered in dirt and lint. I pointed out that it was a really good idea to keep a defense gun clean and regularly inspected for such things as missing front sights, among other problems that might arise.

I'm not going to go into how to clean a handgun mainly because different types may need certain attention that the others don't. You really don't have to know how to properly clean and maintain every gun that was ever invented, but you sure need to know how to properly care for the one that you are set to bet your life on. If you don't know how to clean and maintain that gun in your pocket, you'd best find out. Most manufacturers give instructions in the owner's manual, if you need a place to start looking.

It's a really, really good idea to clean your defense gun after every shooting session. In addition, this is a perfect time to inspect it for loose screws and other attachments. And, while you're at it, it wouldn't hurt to make sure the gun is properly lubricated.

At a minimum, a weekly maintenance check is a real good idea, whether the gun has been shot or not. One of the things that I learned as a kid was to keep an old t-shirt handy, one with gun oil on it, and I wiped a gun off every time I handled it. To this day, when I undress at night, my carry gun gets wiped off with that oily rag before it gets put away.

How much cleaning and oiling needs to be done will vary with where you live. It would be minimal for me compared to the gun owner in Florida or Washington state, for example. At just about every shooting class, we see a lot of guns that are too dry and need some lubrication. And, once in a while, we see a gun that must be stored in a bucket of oil every night. Not enough lubrication is bad and too much is a problem, too. Learn how to care for your gun based upon where you live and how the gun is used.

Now, I will freely admit that most of my hunting rifles don't get this kind of attention, but you can bet that my .375-caliber, dangerous-game rifle does. Personal defense ... dangerous game, I know you can make the connection. So, it is just smart to develop a habit of regularly cleaning and maintaining that defense gun. It's like your life might depend on it, you know.



Focus on SAGA Insignia

Did you know that SAGA has branded items that you can order online?

Take a look on our website at <https://shop.saga.org.za/>

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

We focus here on two products, the SAGA Torch and the SAGA Braai Apron.



SAGA TORCH

This small, lightweight torch is incredibly bright. There are three settings - just push the button on the end of the torch to get a single beam of light, then push again to get a strobe, and then push again to get a solid bar of light.

The torch is conveniently re-chargeable using a USB cable (supplied) and has a wrist loop for ease of carry although, at just 9cm long, it is small enough to fit in most pockets.

The plastic carry case keeps everything safely in one place.

Price: R90



SAGA BRAAI APRON

Branded with simple embroidery on the front, this braai apron is perfect to protect your clothes around a braai or in the kitchen.

A generous one-size-fits-all, this cotton apron from Barron Clothing has a useful extendable neck loop and long waist loops to tie.

Two deep pockets are stitched on the front providing a useful place for putting things.

Easy to wash, this apron will give many years of wear.

Price: R150





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.



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- 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)
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- PWAV/PAAA
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- HILLCREST GUN SHOP
- KINGS GUN SHOP
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- MULTI-PLATFORM DIMENSION SHOOTING
- VGK FIREARMS (PTY) LTD

TRAINER

- ADVANCE TACTICAL
- EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
- SA TACTICAL INSTITUTE

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SAGA annual Membership fees are:

Adult R300
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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**.





The Precise Trigger Press

By Steve Tarani
6 September 2024

What would it take to hit a 2-inch dot on a paper target with five rounds, from the holster, at the 25-yard line in a compressed timeframe – say less than five seconds? Regardless of skill level, it would minimally require a considerably good hold with a precise trigger press.

Compare that 2-inch dot at 25 yards to a large (18x18 inch) piece of steel at the 10-yard line. Comparatively, dumping five rounds within a compressed time frame into a target that big and that close wouldn't require the same precise press.

These are two different trigger presses, as they are two different shooting solutions. Target size determines your accuracy demand, which is the first in a series of contributing factors to making a precise trigger press.

When calculating the optimal shooting solution for the target presented, there are multiple considerations. One is the position of your finger. Is it outside, inside or touching the trigger guard. If your trigger finger is inside the trigger guard, then is it completely off the trigger, lightly touching the trigger, in the process of taking up trigger slack, just starting at the wall, pressing through the wall, breaking the shot, traveling to the rear of the trigger guard past the breakpoint, is it riding reset, etc.?

Trigger Warning

Another consideration is the position of the trigger itself. If it's a pistol there can be as many as nine distinctly different trigger positions based on the make, model and any modifications. The nine trigger positions of a handgun are generically identified as:

At rest: there is no external forces exerted

Slack: the front-end take-up

Wall: where you start to feel a buildup of resistance

Creep: as you are pressing through the wall

Break: where the sear is released causing the hammer or striker to send the shot

Overtravel: the trigger movement past break

Pin: stopped at the rear of the trigger guard

Reverse travel: the trigger has now changed direction and instead of moving to the rear of the trigger guard is now moving to the front of the trigger guard

Reset: where the cycle of action begins again

Multiple positions of the finger and of the trigger in both directions comprise a complex matrix of trigger and finger position variables, all of which must be accounted for throughout delivery of the five rounds on target.

During the delivery process the shooter must maintain unwavering mental and visual focus while calculating the amount of precision needed to manage the finger-trigger matrix components. In addition to all the above, the shooter is cognizant of not altering grip pressure with the hands or changing structural support position with the upper body. Any changes to either structure or grip will introduce foreign input, which will affect round placement.

Yet another consideration is the speed of the trigger press. Controlling the steadiness, consistency and rate of trigger pressure are contributing factors to the overall shooting process when it comes to a precise press. Given the compressed time requirement (sub five seconds) trigger movement forward will need to be at least the same or faster than trigger movement to the rear of the trigger guard. If there is such a term as "compressed precision" it would translate to optimal control of each of these com-



Continued... The Precise Trigger Press

ponents: trigger-finger position, trigger position, trigger direction and trigger speed, affording you greater control of the overall press to produce the desired results.

Mastering The Mind Game

In addition, most shooters don't really consider how much the mental process contributes to optimal fire control. If you are connected to the gun and the shooting process mentally, you can build the shot earlier. The only way you can build the shot earlier is if you get yourself there earlier mentally. Getting there mentally sooner allows you to prep the trigger earlier, establish stability earlier and acquire alignment earlier—all of which contribute to building the shot earlier.

The mental process additionally affords you control of your timing. When you break the shot is equally as important as how you break the shot. Aside from the usual recoil control considerations such as rise, recovery and realignment, it's necessary to contend with the sequential timing of each of the above subcomponents. If you aren't there mentally then your timing is the first thing to go. Timing gives you control of exactly when you want the round to break and where you want the trigger to be in the cycle of prepping for the next break.

Given this complexity of contributing factors, to calculate how precise the press needs to be under duress of set time and accuracy demands, means that you don't have the luxury of thinking about any of it. A precise press is best delivered by those who can subconsciously control each of the matrix elements. The greater the control of each of the subcomponents of the press the greater your overall fire control.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/the-precise-trigger-press/?utm_source=newsletter

Unpacking SAGA Corporate Membership

Any institution lives or dies by its clients, customers and members, and in a non-profit's case this is even more critical.

At SAGA more members means the more we can do for firearm owners, the industry AND the stronger our lobby group is when fighting the critical firearms fight with the highest levels of government.

HELP us help you and sign up your company or business as a Corporate Member. Please don't be put off by the word 'Corporate' it simply means any business entity no matter how small or big - it does not refer only to JSE listed entities!

Our Corporate members include a variety of types of businesses and clubs/associations ranging from small one-man-band businesses, through small to medium clubs to massive shooting associations and distributors.

All Corporate Members appear on the monthly list in Snippets which is circulated to members and allied entities throughout the firearms community. Let's all stand together to ensure our collective voices are heard.

If you have a business or are a decision maker in an organization then please encourage membership -

- Clubs R750pa
- Small Businesses R750pa
- Associations R950pa
- Firearm Dealers R950pa
- Other Businesses R950pa

Simply use the QR code here or email the team at SAGA at sa-ga@saga.org.za

It's quick, it's easy, it's painless and you will make a huge difference to the cause.



Up Close

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/up-close/?utm_source=newsletter

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
7 September 2024

I once attended a defensive class where the instructor, assuming his best Wild Bill Hickok pose, said that he never allowed strangers to get close enough to him to touch him. I wanted to ask him how he was able to make his way down a busy city sidewalk, or function in a crowded shopping mall or sporting event. By the way, the rest of his class was a waste of time, too.

The fact is that strangers get really close to us on a regular, daily basis. That's just the facts of life. And it is also a fact that close-range attacks are generally the most dangerous. Identifying a problem at some distance gives us a chance to select several options for dealing with it. Up close it is all happening very fast, and we don't really have time to consider options; we just need to react and react quickly.

The problem is that the person who is crowding you may just be an honest fellow who is in a hurry. Or he might be an otherwise harmless drunk who, because of the booze, is violating your space but with no criminal intent. He also might be a violent criminal who is about to stick you with a knife or pull a gun on you. And, congratulations, you only have a split-second to make the proper response. Unfortunately, I don't know of any training that will guarantee that you make the right decision or survive the attack. But, in no particular order, here are some things that might help harden you as a target.

When out in public, it is critical to stay alert. That means actually looking at people and continually evaluating them as a threat potential. It especially means to check their hands for weapons. We may only glance at their face, but we take a good look at their hands. If one or both hands are in their pockets this may tell you something, too. A criminal will quite possibly recognize that you are doing this and simply seek another target.

Whenever possible, we also want to stay on the edge of crowds. This makes it easier to exit the area, but it also makes it more likely that we will be near a wall, or other solid object, that we can get our back to if trouble starts. And, obviously, it minimizes the number of people who can get behind you.

If at all possible, your hands should be empty. Have you practiced using blocking maneuvers with your support hand? Have you practiced shooting one-handed while blocking with your support hand? Have you thought about carrying a walking cane in crowded situations to assist in blocking or dealing with an unarmed attack?

So instead of making ridiculous statements about never letting strangers near you, the smart move is to accept that it happens and, in the vast majority of cases, does no harm.

At the same time, it is important to have a plan, actually several plans, for dealing with that close-range encounter with the criminal. Study the possibilities, evaluate your personal situation, and develop some plans that will work for a variety of cases. It's the smart thing to do.





Moving Safely with your Gun

by Jo Deering
24 September 2024

Moving with a gun seems simple, right? Just ... you know, move. Walk, or whatever. However, there's a specific way to move that will come in handy in certain circumstances.

We're not talking about 3-gun competition where you're running from target to target; that's a specialized kind of movement where speed counts and you're not defending yourself from anything. And we're not talking about most types of hunting, where you might be walking through a cut field waiting for a dog to point birds or stalking through the woods looking for deer. Again, those aren't defensive situations, and there are specific carry methods that work safely and still let you shoot pretty quickly if needed.

Rather, what we're talking about in this article is a technique I learned at Gunsite Academy, useful for times when your gun is drawn and the safety is off, because you've either just fired or you think you might be about to fire, but you don't have a target yet.

Maybe you're hunting and encountering dangerous game, and you're not sure if that grizzly bear ran to the next county or if he's waiting just beyond the bend. Maybe you heard a bump in the night and you're forced to clear your home (which you should not do unless you have to). Maybe you were accosted by multiple assailants and you're not sure if the buddies of the guy you just had to shoot are waiting for you in the next alley.

Whatever the reason, the immediate danger is over, but the coast is not entirely clear - trouble could pop back up at any moment, and you can't put the gun away until you know everything is safe. But you also can't just stand there in one spot; you have to get to your truck, or to your kids on

the other side of the house, or wherever else you'll find safety.

The trick here is you want to remain ready to re-engage a target with absolutely no hesitation the moment it's required. You're not in a big hurry, but it's important that you can:

- * See where you're going
- * Maintain a position you can shoot from
- * Be stable enough that you won't stumble or be easily pushed over if you're attacked.

We address those with a move Gunsite instructor Il Ling New calls "Big Step, Little Step." Maintain a fighting-style firing stance, with your feet about shoulder-width apart and the foot on your non-dominant side a little forward, knees loose and slightly bent. Don't go too wide, or you'll have to de-stabilize yourself to move, and don't go too narrow, or you won't have enough stability.

Maintain the gun at a low-ready position, which means the muzzle is lower than your eyes. If it's a handgun, you can keep your arms extended if you have the room, or drawn to your chest in a stronger retention position if you're maneuvering through hallways or anywhere else where retention could be a concern (or if your arms just get tired). If you have a long gun, you can keep the stock settled into your shoulder and lower the muzzle. Either way, lower the gun/muzzle just low enough that you can see over it for a clear view of any potential trouble ahead.

Now, you'll take one "big step" with one foot, depending on which direction you want to go, and when that foot lands, you'll follow it with a "small step" of the other foot so that you end up back in the same shooting position you started with,



Continued...Moving Safely with your Gun

just a single step farther ahead or over. Of course, the steps are actually the same size, but it will feel like a big step followed by a small step, and calling it that is a good way to remember that you want to end up in a stable, feet-apart stance. Otherwise, you'll be very tempted to naturally bring your feet together with your second step, and you'll wind up in an unstable stance. Don't take "big step" too literally; it's a normal-sized step that only feels big. If you try to take a huge step, you'll end up with your feet too far apart for stability.

You don't have to do it slowly; follow the pace that fits the situation. This is kind of a lumbering, shuffling way to move, and it will feel awkward at first, so practice it at home and at the range if your range allows this kind of movement. Big Step, Little Step offers a huge advantage over regular walking in that your feet aren't coming nearly as high off the ground, so there's less chance for stumbling over something on the ground. But more importantly, it keeps you in a stable fighting stance nearly all the time.

Think about regular walking. It's pretty much a constant state of balancing on one foot while the other foot swings through the air, and half of the time, the "wrong" foot is forward. At no point are you ever in a stable fighting stance while you're walking - if you needed to get into one, you'd have to first stop walking, then move your feet around to the proper orientation. That means that if a threat popped up, you'd either waste time getting ready to shoot or you'd end up just firing from an

unstable position, which is less accurate and potentially less safe for you, particularly if you're being charged.

With the shuffling Big Step, Little Step, you end every step in a stable stance, and even the middle of a full step has you in a good fighting stance, albeit a bit wider than normal. This way of moving is not made for speed; it's made for stability, and ideally, you won't have to do this for very long before you determine that the danger has passed.

Big Step, Little Step works well for moving forward as well as moving side to side. If you need to move backward so you can retreat while facing the potential threat, you can use the same movement, but I recommend sort of dragging your feet. This will help you feel any potential stumbling blocks before you trip over them. As soon as you are confident that the situation is safe enough that you won't have to shoot imminently, you can holster or sling your gun and resume normal movement.

<https://www.nrawomen.com/content/moving-safely-with-your-gun>