



# Riverside

*Located in the densely wooded New England countryside with facilities to support our members whether your interests are competitive shooting, breaking clays, fishing, plinking, sharpening your skills for hunting or just socializing.*

## Quarterly

September 2023

### Archery

Year round programs for both junior and adult archers. USA Archery, State Assoc., National Assoc., and the Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) Program.



### High Power Rifle

A variety of programs for a range of shooting interests including participation in the Highpower, CMP Civilian Marksmanship Program events and the Rifle Clinic.

### Pistol & Rifle

A variety of programs for a range of shooting interests

### Skeet & Trap

Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday Shoots every week. Three fields are configured to support different shooting programs including skeet, trap and 5 stand with lights

[\(Continued on page 2\)](#)



### Banquet Facility

Function hall, dance floor, band stand, and kitchen area with a separate entrance area and full function bar has a capacity of 150. Rental includes bartender and cleanup. Caterer and DJ available for functions.



### Clubhouse

Outdoor Patio, Horse Shoes, Trout Pond, Sports Bar Big Screen in the Smoke free Club House, Banquet Hall dates available.



Club information will be maintained on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/RiversideGC.org>

### Fish & Game

The trout are jump'n in our fully stocked trout pond. Badges available at the clubhouse.



### Education & Training

The hands-on firearms courses, education & tactical schedules

## SKEET & TRAP



The clay fields have been bustling with activity this summer. Despite losing a number of prime shooting days to the weather, we've had near-record rounds of skeet, trap & 5-stand. A steady flow of new shooters, young and old, have enjoyed lessons from our team of certified instructors. A number of corporate outings took place over the summer, and more are scheduled this Fall. These outings are a great way for coworkers to get to

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## Archery

The 139<sup>th</sup> USA Archery Target Nationals and US Open was held Aug 31-Sept 2 in Malvern, PA.



[\(Continued on \(Continued on page 4\)](#)

## from the President's Desk

As you know by now, we raised the membership dues to combat inflationary increase in just about every expense. Our financial stability is sound and programs are being well managed by a capable executive board. You need to be aware of one of the expense reduction efforts. You will no longer receive a notice via postal service of the expiration date for membership dues. I know a lot of you rely on the notice to stop by the club and pay your annual dues. Now it is essential to mark your calendar a year in advance or set an alert on your smart phone. Those having email address on file with us will get an email notice. We will no longer mail and RGC badge or a receipt for dues payment—if you want one, you can stop by the club and pick it up.

[\(Continued on page 6\)](#)



Michael's first perfect 25!



Patrick's first perfect 25!



Liz shooting at station 1



Frank trying out his new gun



John shooting low 8



Michael shooting station 5

know one another outside of work, while enjoying the outdoors and learning a new sport.

In between days of uncooperative weather, we made a couple of major improvements to the grounds and facilities. Friends of the club were gracious enough to donate left-over asphalt, along with their equipment and expertise to pave sections of the road to the back fields, addressing a few nasty pot holes and erosion. We also had a work team repair damage and decay to fences and several skeet & 5-stand houses. Also many thanks to Jeff C for power washing all the concrete walkways, trailers, fences and benches. We're working with the Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School to schedule students in the Painting & Design Technologies program to help with staining and painting the repaired work. This helps the students gain practical field experience in preparing for their future. Lastly, we took delivery of 1,440 cases of biodegradable targets. A dozen volunteers worked for several hours unloading a full tractor trailer. We should be set for a while!

If you are interested in lessons or corporate outings, please contact me at [fharrington@riversidegc.org](mailto:fharrington@riversidegc.org). The



G U N C L U B

## OUTDOOR CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS



Jeff power washing all fields



Ken helping at work party



Mike helping paving



Ken helping paving



Paul helping at work party



Kevin helping at work party

fields are open Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-9 PM, and Sundays from 9AM - 1PM. We also have monthly 5-stand and special holiday shoots.

Please contact Frank Harrington  
<https://riversidegc.org/Contact.shtml>.

The 2023 Skeet & Trap schedule can be found here:  
<https://riversidegc.org/Skeet.shtml>. Please stop by to join the fun.

Hope to see you at the fields.

*Frank Harrington*

Chairman

[fharrington@riversidegc.org](mailto:fharrington@riversidegc.org)



# ARCHERY

Four Riverside members went to compete against archers from across the country.

- Jacques Coté placed first in Guest Recurve 70+ men
- Marnie Hooker placed 4th for the Barebow 50+ Women's division.
- Marie Fein placed 5th for the Recurve 50+ Women's division
- Buzz Hooker (picture) took the Gold medal for Recurve 70+ men in a tight race.

Congratulations!



In other news, the State Archery Association of Massachusetts will be holding a tournament in December to benefit Riverside Archers and SAAM scholarships. The SAAM Star Fita Festivus will be Dec 9-10 in the Riverside indoor range. For more information on this archery tournament or others, please visit: <https://massarchery.org/calendar/>.

Junior RGC members from the Riverside Archers JOAD (Junior Olympic Archery Development) show off their new team shirts at the 2024 USA Archery Massachusetts State Championship at the beginning of August. The weather was fantastic and they had a great time. This was also Cozette's last tournament before she leaves RGC for college. Riverside Archers are now getting ready for indoor season...Goodbye mosquitos! Pictured Left to right Coaches Sam Bade, Brad Reynolds, Lorne Gilsig, Patrick Weng. Archers: Oliver Wilgress-Pipe, Tommy Leonhardt, Cozette Weng, Mia Jaillet, and Hannah Peters.





## RIVERSIDE EDUCATION

The year 2023 has witnessed a diverse range of shooting educational programs providing great opportunities for members who are seeking to enhance their knowledge, safety and proficiency. These courses not only provide essential skills but also promote responsible firearm ownership. Beyond the education, those who participate experience great camaraderie. This is a summary of the courses that have been conducted here are Riverside so far in 2023.

**The NRA Range Safety Officer Course** - The NRA Range Safety Officer course equips participants with the knowledge and skills required to ensure the safe operation of shooting ranges. This comprehensive program covers range rules, safety protocols, and emergency procedures, enabling individuals to become certified Range Safety Officers, contributing to a safer shooting environment. This course was taught by Chief Range Safety Officer Tony Tufo who is a club member and also shoots on the pistol team.

[See page 11](#)

**Advanced Pistol - The USCCA DFS1 Course** - The USCCA DFS1 course is designed for experienced pistol owners looking to enhance their skills. It delves deep into advanced shooting techniques, concealed carry considerations, and defensive strategies, providing a solid foundation for responsible armed self-defense. Bill Dalpe from the Patriot Firearms School ran this course for us. Bill is an outstanding instructor. [See page 9](#)

**Defensive AR-15 Course** - This course was also taught by Bill Dalpe from Patriot Firearms School. The defensive AR-15 course is tailored to those who own an AR-15-style rifle. Participants learn how to operate this firearm safely and effectively, with a focus on defensive shooting techniques, marksmanship, and home defense scenarios. [See page 11](#)

**The NRA Home Firearm Safety Course (Massachusetts Firearms Licensing Requirement)** - In Massachusetts, prior to owning a firearm citizens must complete a state approved course. After completion of said course, citizens can apply for a Firearms Identification Card (FID) or a License to Carry (LTC). The NRA Home Firearm Safety course when combined with a module which teaches crucial elements of Massachusetts firearm laws is a prerequisite for obtaining a firearms license. This course emphasizes safe handling, storage, and transport of firearms, ensuring that individuals meet the state's stringent firearm laws.

**Tactical Tuesdays** - "Tactical Tuesdays" is a popular weekly tactical handgun advanced shooting session that provides ongoing training and practice opportunities. It covers a wide range of topics, including rapid target acquisition, movement drills, and scenario-based training, allowing participants to continually refine their skills and stay prepared for real-world situations.

**Basic Pistol Skills (3 courses)** - The Basic Pistol Skills program consists of three progressive courses. The first course (Basic Pistol Skills) starts with the very basics. Assuming that the students are new to handguns we must start with the most fundamental skills. The second course in the series (Basic Pistol Skills Plus) builds on the skills which are developed in the first course. In this course the students work on improving accuracy and begin to work on multiple target engagement. The third and final course in the series (Beyond Basic Pistol Skills) is advanced shooting. The students continue to work on accuracy and new more complex drills are added to the course curriculum and the students can work on moving around the range and shooting at multiple targets. These courses provide a path for new shooters to learn the skills they need to really become great shooters and feel confident should they decide to take more advanced courses from the great outside instructors that we bring to Riverside.

Although the rest of the year has not been laid out. There's still time for us to schedule additional courses. Some of the courses which we have been looking into include: self-defense law, first aid, stop the bleed, the NRA refused to be a victim course and the NRA basic rifle shooting course. Feel free to let me know if any of these courses aren't interesting to you because if I get feedback on a particular course it gives me more reason to get it put together.

This shooting educational program in 2023 demonstrates a commitment to responsible firearm ownership and safety. From range safety to advanced pistol techniques and defensive rifle training, these courses empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to handle firearms responsibly and effectively. Whether you're a novice seeking basic firearm safety or an experienced enthusiast looking to hone your skills, these courses offer valuable resources for a safer and more informed shooting community.

Education Director

*Bill McDonough*

[bmcDonough@riversidegc.org](mailto:bmcDonough@riversidegc.org)



*Rep Kate Hogan meets with RGC Executive Board to hear our views and concerns on proposed gun control legislation HD.4420*

It's exciting to see the collectively work to improve the club not only for members, but also for the community. Local firearms clubs such as Riverside are essential to the American way of life. As Americans, we take on the responsibility of owning firearms and operating them safely. Riverside is essential to our American culture as we provide a safe place for local residents to learn about firearms. A lot of hard work has been done and much has been accomplished since we began range and facility improvements several years ago. It is our hope that the improvements at Riverside will be a source of pride for its current members, future members and neighbors as we all enjoy an improved shooting, recreational and social facility.

After an action packed, fun-filled summer, we transition into the fall season. The first of October marks the beginning of both the Jr. Rifle (October 20th) and the Pistol League (October 4) I invite anyone interested in the pistol league come out on Wednesday evening at 6 PM to check it out. However, there is plenty of good weather left for outdoor activities. The outdoor range activity picks up a bit in September as I expect to see a lot of hunters sighting in the guns and practicing archery in preparation for deer season opening day.

It's 3 months away, but this is the last newsletter prior to the club officer election. The election is scheduled for Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Submit your self-nomination any time prior to the October General Membership meeting. You can nominate other individuals at the October Meeting as well. This is your opportunity to make the greatest difference in Our Club! We need officers who are Team players and who will support the club Bylaws. All board members and officers are elected annually for a one year term, serving January - December. The requirements for running for office are spelled out in the club rules which are posted on the club website [www.riversidegc.org](http://www.riversidegc.org). You may also contact either Army Buckman, Election Committee Chairman, [abuckman@riversidegc.org](mailto:abuckman@riversidegc.org) or the club manager during normal business hours, Mike Brophy, 978-562-2404. Whether you want to run for office or not, it is especially important that you attend the elections to meet the candidates and vote.

Speaking to those who are new to shooting or maybe feeling nervous on the range? If you have little or no experience with a handgun, we have instructional shooting classes tailored for you. We will walk you through the fundamentals of shooting and the basics of gun safety so you can enjoy the range with confidence *(Continued on page 13)*



# ALERT

## EVERY MASSACHUSETTS GUN OWNER!!!

**TAKE ACTION NOW!** The Massachusetts Speaker of the House has launched new legislation GOAL is calling: **“The Lawful Citizens imprisonment Act” HD4420 “An Act Modernizing Firearm Laws”** represents an all-out assault on the entire Second Amendment community. Virtually everyone of any age, regardless of specific interests in firearms, **will likely become felons** should this bill become law!

No one who owns any type of gun in Massachusetts is spared from this new proposed legislation!

- Essentially bans hunting on private property
- Mandatory *serialization* and *registration* of all feeding devices not just magazines
- Massive training requirements that include things like active shooter training
- Any *changes* or *repairs* to a gun must be *approved* by the state
- Any *semi-auto rifle or shotgun with a pistol grip* will be an “Assault Weapon”. Significant changes to the definition of “Assault Weapon” attempting to include all semi-automatic rifles
- No one under 21 can purchase any semi-auto gun of any kind or caliber
- The definition of “Firearm” would mean any gun, frame, receiver or barrel. In order to carry or transport any gun, *property owners must post that they consent* to allow guns on their property
- Many provisions are unconstitutional and impossible to enforce by police

### AND MUCH MORE



**HD.4420 WOULD FORCE YOU TO BEG PERMISSION FROM THE STATE EVERY TIME YOU CHANGE THE CONFIGURATION OF YOUR SHOTGUN FOR HUNTING SEASON!**



**Did You Know?**

HD.4420 would require every type of feeding device to have a unique serial number applied by a "government entity"!

**TAKE ACTION WHILE YOU CAN!**

[WWW.GOAL.ORG/GUNBAN](http://WWW.GOAL.ORG/GUNBAN)

### The Massachusetts Police Chief’s Association comment on this bill:

According to the sponsors, the bill was created to reduce gun violence. However, the bill completely misses the mark. It disarms law abiding citizens and does nothing to impact criminals.

Statistically most violent crime is committed by a 10% segment of individuals. Of this segment, the majority are repeat offenders. This group is marginally mentioned in this Bill.

### TAKE ACTION

- Contact your state representatives and tell them to kill this bill.
- Write letters and emails to your state representatives
- Participate in Riverside’s and GOALS’s activities to stop this bill

For more information on this historic attack on our civil rights visit: [www.GOAL.org/GunBan](http://www.GOAL.org/GunBan)



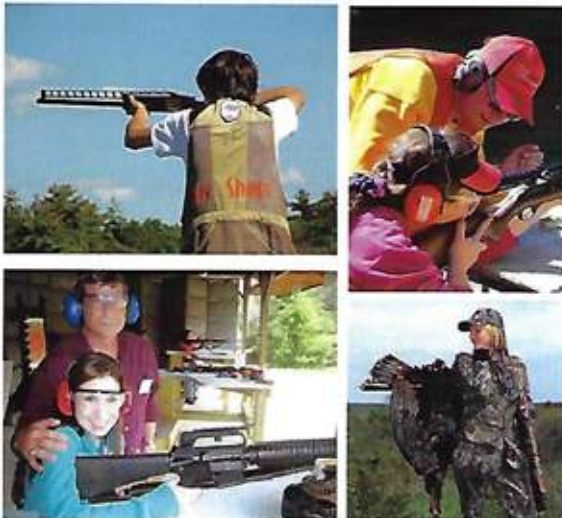
The best \$30 a gun owner in Massachusetts can spend! Become a GOAL member. GOAL is our first line of defense against the anti-Second Amendment forces in Massachusetts.

*Join Today!*  
**Our GOAL**  
*Is to preserve your heritage*

Gun Owners' Action League was formed in 1974 to protect the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes in Massachusetts. We are a grass-roots organization of law-abiding citizens who are working to protect our rights and our shooting sports heritage.

Whether you choose to lawfully own a firearm for recreation, self-defense, hunting, competition, collecting, or any other lawful reason, GOAL is working to restore and defend our rights and heritage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Please join the thousands of other lawful gun owners who have made the commitment to restoring and protecting what is rightfully ours. Your membership could make the difference in how the future looks for lawful gun owners! Thank You.



**Gun Owners' Action League**



Post Office Box 567  
 Northboro, MA 01532  
 Phone: 508-393-5333  
 www.goal.org

**Gun Owners' Action League**  
*Application for membership*

Dues Effective February 1, 2006

New  Former  Renewal Member ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Junior (under 21)**  1 year \$15

Junior birth date (required): \_\_\_\_\_

**Individual**  1 year \$30

3 year \$75

5 year \$125

**Family**  1 year \$35

3 year \$95

5 year \$150

(if choosing a family membership, please list the names of other family members who should receive membership cards)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Life \***  Sustaining \$750

Benefactor \$1500

Patron \$3000

*\*For monthly payment schedule, please contact the GOAL office.*

Enclosed is my:  cash  check/ money order

Please charge to my credit card:

Type:  Master Card  Visa  Amex  Discover

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature for credit card

Sponsor (if any): \_\_\_\_\_





## ADVANCED PISTOL

## THE USCCA DFS1 COURSE

On July 8, 2023, Bill Dalpe from the Patriot Firearms School in Rehoboth Massachusetts taught Carry And Defend, Defensive Shooting Fundamentals which is a the United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA) course on Riverside's 60 yard range.

Students who complete this course begin to feel both physically and mentally confident in their shooting skills as we prepare for the most probably scenarios while building a solid foundation of defensive handgun techniques, such as:

- Intuitive unsighted fire
- Intuitive sighted fire
- Using natural kinesthetic alignment
- Lateral movement
- Emergency reloads
- Dynamic drills
- Multiple target engagement



*A break for some instruction*



*The Shooting Line*

In this course, students are introduced to concepts, terminology, and information that will prepare them to maximize their learning potential as they complete the live fire portion of the programs. Bill taught intuitive defensive skills that work well with what the body does naturally under the stress of a dynamic critical incident. The students realize competency levels as they learn to apply skills in context during the intense live fire drills and simulations.

## GOAL

### OUR GOAL IS 100% MEMBERSHIP IN GOAL

The Gun Owners Action League (GOAL) is the official state firearms association in Massachusetts. GOAL is an association of law-abiding citizens who believe that the basic right of firearms ownership.

GOAL works to defend the Constitution and Bill of Rights against those in Massachusetts who wish to infringe upon the freedoms guaranteed by our forefathers.

Now, more than ever, we need to support GOAL and participate in their activities. HD4420 is an incredible attack on our Second Amendment and hunting rights. It has been described as worse than a amalgamation of the worst gun laws from California, New Your and New Jersey. It is a legislative temper tantrum because our single-party rulers in Massachusetts did not like the Supreme Court's Bruen decision.

If you are not a member of GOAL, you need to join. This organization is the defender of our rights. The Massachusetts legislature just passed a law that essentially allows anyone who is afraid of you because you own guns to file a complaint (valid or not) with the local police and without any hearing or other due process, the police can go to your house and confiscate your guns. The law does not provide a mechanism for you to get them back without an appeal to the court and, even if the complaint is found to be without merit, it can be used as a reason to deny your LTC renewal. This bill ignores all aspects of mental health. The only purpose is to allow the confiscation of our firearms/removing our rights without due process.

If we don't have GOAL, we will lose our rights.

If you are not a member, please follow this link:

<http://www.goal.org/joingol.html> and join today.



## THE CASTLE DOCTRINE

The following statement is FALSE. If someone is in your house *illegally*, it is *lawful* for you to shoot or otherwise use deadly on that person. There are some exceptions that might apply in states like Texas but definitely not in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. I will explain.

First let's take a cursory review of the basics of self-defense law. It you are attacked, meaning that you are not the aggressor in the fight, you can legally defend yourself. But there are strict limits. If you are attacked by someone who is using non-deadly force, you may only use non-deadly force to defend yourself. Keep in mind that the law only recognized two types of force: non-deadly and deadly force.

Non-deadly force might include such things as fists, feather pillows, or even a club. Deadly force might include items like a gun, a knife, or a club. What's that, a club can be either deadly or non-deadly? *Correctamondo*, if you hit someone on the head with a club, there is a significant likelihood that you can seriously injure that person or kill them. That is deadly force. If you hit the person on the upper arm, then there might be injury, but it should not be life threatening. So, when my wife threw a shoe at me, it was non-deadly force, however, when she threw the iron at my head, it would be deadly force (fortunately I have a very hard head).

Therefore, if you are attacked by someone who is applying non-deadly force, you can only respond with non-deadly force and if you are attacked by someone using a knife or a gun (both of which are always deadly force implements) your can respond with deadly force; a gun, knife, club, etcetera.

This issue of proportional force is one of the five requirements for successful, legal self-defense. The other four requirements are: **Innocence** (you are not the aggressor as mentioned previously), **Avoidance** (retreat if you can do so safely), **Imminence** (You are being attacked or are about to be attacked), and **Reasonableness** (You acted in a reasonable manner given the circumstances). Each of these would take several paragraphs to explain so we will leave most of them for another day.

We need to have a brief discussion of the concept of **Avoidance**. Simply stated, you must do what you can to avoid the conflict. In other words, you are obligated to "*get the heck out of Dodge*" if it is safe to do so. As a practical matter, we are always better off running away from a gunfight than participating in a gunfight. Basically, Massachusetts is a "*Duty-to-retreat*" state, which means that outside of your home, you can only use self-defense if you have no other option. You are required to avoid the use of

force by any other means, including walking (or running) away. Most states, not Massachusetts, are "*Stand-Your-Ground*" states where there is no *Duty-to-retreat*, and you can defend yourself if threatened without having to flee. Please remember that discretion is the better form of valor.

Alright, back to the Castle Doctrine. You may have noticed in the previous paragraph that phrase outside of your home was used when describing the *Duty-to-Retreat*. Essentially what the Castle Doctrine does is remove the *Duty-to-Retreat* or the need for **Avoidance**. Under the Castle Doctrine, if someone is illegally in your home and you are in fear for your life or of great bodily injury, then you can use deadly force to protect yourself or other innocent persons in your home. This is a very strict concept in the law. You do not have the right to just shoot someone because they are illegally in your home you must be under threat of death or great bodily injury. So, if you come down in the middle of the night and see two neer-do-wells walking out of your house with your 65-inch television you can't just draw your gun and shoot them dead. However, if they put down the television and come towards you putting you in jeopardy that's a different story and you are allowed to use force (deadly or non-deadly) to protect yourself, without the *Duty-to-Retreat*, under these circumstances.

The best way to think of the Castle Doctrine is that, if all of the other conditions for legal self-defense exist, the Castle Doctrine eliminates the need for **Avoidance**. To apply the Castle Doctrine, you must be in Imminent danger of death or bodily harm, you must be the **Innocent** party, your actions must be Reasonable, and your response must be Proportional.

One important feature of the Castle Doctrine is how it describes your castle. It actually is different depending upon the state you're in. In some states your castle, i.e., your home includes your house, your yard, your garage, your driveway, all of it. Most states a have tighter definition of your castle, pretty much limiting it to your home, the physical house. In Massachusetts, your castle is defined as the interior of the four walls of your house. It does not include your porch, your unattached garage (maybe your attached garage, but maybe not), your yard, your driveway, or any other part of your property. So, if someone is

["The Castle Doctrine \(continued\)" on page 13](#)



## ***THE NRA RANGE SAFETY OFFICER COURSE***

During two evenings in June, Riverside's own Tony Tufo, an NRA Chief Range Safety Officer, taught the NRA Range Safety Officer course. Tony ran an excellent course and graduated 12 new NRA Range Safety Officers. Congratulations to the students who are investing their time to be more knowledgeable, better-informed shooters. These additional, well-trained RSOs will make our ranges safer for all of our members and their guests. Their NRA RSO course equips participants with the knowledge and skills required to ensure the safe operation of shooting ranges. This comprehensive program covers range rules, safety protocols, and emergency procedures, enabling individuals to become certified Range Safety Officers, contributing to a safer shooting environment.



NRA RSO Class

## ***AR-15 DEFENSIVE SHOOTING***

On August 19th Bill Dalpe from the Patriot Firearm School put on an outstanding AR-15 course on our 60-yard range. Each student shot somewhere around 500 rounds of 0.223/5.56 and had a blast. Bill's excellent teaching techniques allow for a non-intimidating experience for every shooter, whether experienced or novice.

The defensive AR-15 course is tailored to those who own an AR-15-style rifle. Participants learn how to operate this firearm safely and effectively, with a focus on defensive shooting techniques, marksmanship, and home defense scenarios.



ALL responsibly armed Americans how to respond efficiently and effectively during a dynamic critical incident.

This Patriot AR-15 Defensive Shooting class is designed to expose students to an efficient method of defending themselves with an AR-15 during a dynamic critical incident. All of the principles and fundamentals of the USCCA AR-15 Shooting Fundamentals program are applied, and the following topics are covered:

- Four Points of Contact with an AR-15 and Intuitive Shooting Fundamentals
- The Balance of Speed & Precision with an AR-15
- Primary and Secondary Aiming Methods
- Zeroing concepts
- Volume of Fire
- Critical Incident Reloads & Efficient AR-15 Handling
- Fundamental AR-15 Malfunction Clearing

Notwithstanding the eight-hour length, the subject and the shooting in the class, AR-15 defensive shooting class was not a physically challenging course.



## PRACTICE WITH PURPOSE

When it comes to pistol shooting, there's a significant difference between simply heading to the range and shooting at targets or engaging in casual plinking and practicing with purpose. While casual shooting can be enjoyable and it often lacks the focus and structure necessary for true skill development. By adopting purposeful practice methods, pistol shooters can transcend the realm of plinking and truly elevate their shooting skills to new heights of accuracy, speed, and proficiency. In this blog, we will explore the benefits and strategies of practicing with purpose, enabling pistol shooters to maximize their potential and achieve tangible progress in their shooting abilities.

Becoming a skilled pistol shooter requires consistent practice with purpose. While simply firing rounds at a target can help develop muscle memory (actually neuron pathways), focusing on specific drills and techniques can greatly enhance your shooting proficiency. Practicing with purpose allows pistol shooters to sharpen their skills and reach new levels of accuracy and speed.

### Set Clear Goals

Before beginning any practice session, it is essential to establish clear goals. Whether it's improving accuracy, speed, or mastering a specific shooting technique, defining your objectives will provide direction and purpose to your practice.

### Work On Your Weak Areas

Understand your weaknesses and work on them. For instance, the preponderance of new, right-handed shooters tend to shoot low and to the left due to anticipation or flexing the fingers of the right hand during the shot. If this is you, then a lot of your practice session should be focusing on this and doing drills that will correct it.

### Dry Fire Practice

Dry fire practice is a valuable training method that can be done safely at home. Unload your firearm, remove all ammunition from the area, and practice your shooting fundamentals, such as grip, stance, sight alignment, and trigger control. By focusing on these fundamentals without the noise and recoil of live fire, you can refine your technique and build muscle memory. A great tool is a chamber laser that sends a light pulse when it is hit by the striker or firing pin. Used in conjunction with a smartphone app that can record the location of the light hits on a paper target, can be really helpful in improving accuracy and the all important trigger control.

### Incorporate Drills

Including drills in your practice routine is crucial for honing specific skills. Here are a few drills to consider:

◆ *Bill Drill*: Shoot a series of rounds as quickly as possible at a single target. This drill improves accuracy and speed when shooting multiple rounds. Only try this drill if you can maintain complete control of the gun through all shots and can hit the target with every round. If your shots are wild, slow down and stay slow until you master slow shooting. Then you can moderately increase your speed.

◆ *Dot Torture*: Shoot at a series of dots on a target using different shooting positions and techniques. This drill enhances marksmanship and control. You can get the Dot Torture target here: <https://pistol-training.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/dot-torture-target.pdf>.

◆ *El Presidente*: Engage multiple targets, reload, and engage them again. This drill improves accuracy, speed, and reloading skills.

◆ *Failure Drill (Mozambique)*: Shoot two rounds to the chest, return to a high ready position, then shoot one to the head of a target. This drill focuses on shot placement and follow-up shots.

### Work on Transitions

Efficiently transitioning between targets is crucial in dynamic shooting scenarios. Set up multiple targets at varying distances and practice smoothly moving from one target to the next while maintaining accuracy. This will enhance your target acquisition and speed. Hint: After shooting one target, move your eyes to the next target before moving the gun to the target.

### Incorporate Movement

In real-life scenarios, shooters may need to engage targets while moving. Practice shooting on the move by incorporating lateral, forward, and backward movements into your drills. This will help develop the ability to accurately engage targets while in motion.

### Analyze and Review Performance

After each practice session, take the time to review and analyze your performance. Assess your accuracy, speed, and overall improvement. Identifying areas for improvement will guide your future practice sessions and allow you to track your progress.

*"Practice With Purpose (continued)" on page 13*



## **PRACTICE WITH PURPOSE** (CONTINUED)

### **Seek Professional Instruction**

Consider seeking professional instruction from qualified firearms trainers. They can provide guidance, correct any errors in your technique, and introduce you to advanced training methods. A knowledgeable instructor will help you practice with purpose and accelerate your development as a pistol shooter.

### **Conclusion**

Practicing with purpose is the key to becoming a skilled pistol shooter. By setting clear goals, incorporating drills, working on transitions and movement, and regularly reviewing your performance, you can continuously

improve your accuracy, speed, and overall shooting proficiency. Remember, consistency and dedication are essential, so make time for regular practice sessions and commit to refining your skills. With purposeful practice, you'll become a more confident and capable pistol shooter. Stay safe and always prioritize firearm safety in all your practice sessions.

See you on the Range,

*Bill McDonough*

Education Director

[bmcdonough@riversidegc.org](mailto:bmcdonough@riversidegc.org)

## **THE CASTLE DOCTRINE** (CONTINUED)

standing outside on your lawn, threatening you and you tell them to leave and they refuse, don't think the Castle Doctrine is there for you - Call the police, go inside, lock your door, and have a nice refreshing drink while you wait for cavalry.

The Castle Doctrine is greatly misunderstood by civilians, law enforcement and lawyers. It is frequently mischaracterized when officials are describing acts of self-defense, especially by those officials who don't believe people should defend themselves and disagree with the Castle Doctrine.

The bottom line is: the Castle Doctrine requires the application of all legal self-defense elements except avoidance.

See you on the Range,

*Bill McDonough*

Education Director

[bmcdonough@riversidegc.org](mailto:bmcdonough@riversidegc.org)

## **PRESIDENT'S DESK** (CONTINUED)

knowing that you can apply the gun safe handling techniques, develop proper shooting skill so that you can confidently clear common firearm malfunctions. Learn how to have a trouble-free experience every time you come to the range. Our firearm training programs are designed to develop fundamental skills and a level of comfort with pistol manipulation.

Contact Bill McDonough, Education Director,  
[bmcdonough@riversidegc.org](mailto:bmcdonough@riversidegc.org). Give it a shot !

See you on the range!

*Mike Connelley*