



ISAOnTarget
Irwin Sportsmen's Association Newsletter

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Mastering the Handgun: A Tried-and-True Method

It is an established pattern. Every year, a new group of shooters comes along with an interest in firearms. Sometimes, the interest may be a function of the many shooting sports that have grown up in recent years. For other folks, the interest stems from being just plain worried about their safety and their family's

Americans have also always had an interest in owning and using guns, and that goes back to the days when the Founding Fathers codified the right to do so into the Constitution. This is a unique situation in the modern world—only in America. Simply stated, there is an unending supply of beginners. I believe that many new shooters get a less-than-ideal start in the shooting sports, and I would like to offer some thoughts as to possible solutions.

The marketplace for firearms, plus their ammunition and accessories, is huge. At no other time in the ongoing history of personal firearms have we had the great assortment of makes, models, styles and calibers so readily available. From a semi-automatic pistol that's small enough to fit in a pocket to a massive revolver capable of dispatching a big bear, it's there for the asking. Naturally, those who manufacture and market pocket pistols and massive revolvers want you to choose their product over all others. Products are not necessarily limited to just the gun.

The accessories market is also very broad—with cases, holsters, cleaning gear, sighting equipment and a great variety of stuff that is at least handy and sometimes essential. Most of all, there is ammunition and everything having to do with ammo.

You might be able to get by without the time and expense of handloading, but if you are a shooter, you must have ammunition. If you can accept the major premise of my argument, you may need far more ammo than you realize. I believe the equipment involved with the shooting sports is getting more attention than the skillful use of that equipment.

It is possible that a gun owner might get so intrigued by the quality and quantity of neat shooting gear that he or she could lose sight of the goal. The goal is hitting the target—be it steel plate, bowling pin or paper bullseye. As with knitting needle, tennis racket or banjo, marksmanship doesn't automatically come with better gear. You cannot buy skill, but you can develop it on your own.

At the beginning of your interest in the sport, you need help from a qualified instructor. In the case of the handgun, put yourself in the hands of a qualified [NRA instructor](#) and learn safety, then the basics of grip, stance, breathing, sight alignment, trigger control and follow through.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

Let's say that you follow my advice and start with a typical .22-cal. handgun, revolver or semi-automatic. After your initial training, limit every practice session to no more than 50 rounds and record your scores—good and bad. Don't change anything until your scores level out—no more improvement. At this point, change your equipment in some small way. Maybe a change to a plain black front sight is in order.

Keep up the recording of scores, so when the scores improve, you may conclude the new sights are probably involved. In similar fashion, try other improvements one at a time. Also, I'll repeat a principle from the early writings of Jeff Cooper. The dean wanted his students at Gunsite Academy to shoot no more than 1,000 rounds in a 5.5-day course. But he insisted that every round be fired carefully. It can be done, and it does work.

In the process of working your way conscientiously through this routine, you will be developing a gradually increasing level of skill. Experience grows slowly, and as it does, you will also be developing a fund of knowledge as to what works and what doesn't. The major point that I want to make is to avoid this business of trying to buy your way to mastery of the handgun. Accept that patience and steady work on simple principles will prevail.

(end)

When You Return to hunting Next Fall...Check Out Your Tree Stand for Safety

There is no need for anyone to work alone. Please call one of the following so that they can assist and provide additional safety.

Smokey Burdin 724-396-9627 M-F 9-5

Kevin Kennelty 724-640-0726

Rich Boehm 724-953-4778

Musings from Our President

There are too many negative things going on in this world today. With so much uncertainty, I prefer to remain positive. I would like to thank all the members and officers who have given their time to keep the club grounds looking nice and to let you know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed but very much appreciated.

The after effects of the pandemic are still with us and may still be with us for quite some time but I have noticed that gun stores are starting to get their supplies back in. Ammunition is starting to trickle in but not at a price one wants to pay. Hopefully, this will all pass soon.

While you may not have been to the range (because of the shortage of ammunition), we are still planning to have our annual open house on September 26 from noon until four. More information about the open house will be coming as we finalize the plans. Hope to see you there.

Joyce



“The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun.” And, for those that carry or have a defense weapon available, practice at the club makes for that perfect shot when required.

Did you change your phone number, email account, or address? Please tell us so that we can communicate with you.

WHY ARE TICKS DANGEROUS

With more and more people spending time outdoors fishing, camping and, in the fall, hunting, the chances of having an encounter with a tick are at their highest. And nothing about those encounters can be good.

Strat Donnell of Hampstead, N.C., ran into a bad tick — more than likely a lone star tick — several years ago. A veteran turkey hunter and on-and-off turkey hunting guide, Donnell got sick in 2012. He was suddenly stricken by digestive problems, and after several procedures and tests it was determined that he had a condition called achalasia, where the two-way valve between the esophagus and stomach ceases to function properly.

After losing 40 pounds over a year, he was diagnosed with an allergy to meat, and doctors put two and two together upon reading a study from two professors at the University of Virginia connecting meat allergies to the bites of the lone star tick — a tiny blood-sucker that has also been identified as the transmitter of the heartland virus, a disease that has surfaced from Tennessee across the Midwest.

After another surgical procedure, Donnell can eat anything except beef without any repercussions.

“Do not be timid on getting a blood test if you have had or have any such symptoms,” Donnell said. “And just because you have no symptoms today does not mean you can’t earn a trip to the kitchen sink after the next tick finishes snacking on you.”

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ISA Info

- Gate open if anyone is on property...Gate closed & locked if you are the last one to leave. If you unlock the clubhouse, make sure it is locked if you are the last one out.
- See our calendar on the webpage for activity dates and times.
- Put any misfires or bad rounds in the boxes provided. Do not put them in the burners.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever and Lyme disease are by far the most-prevalent tick-borne diseases. And more people are at risk of being infected with that debilitating ailment in today’s warmer environment, according to Dr. Doug Inkley, writing in a National Wildlife Federation report.

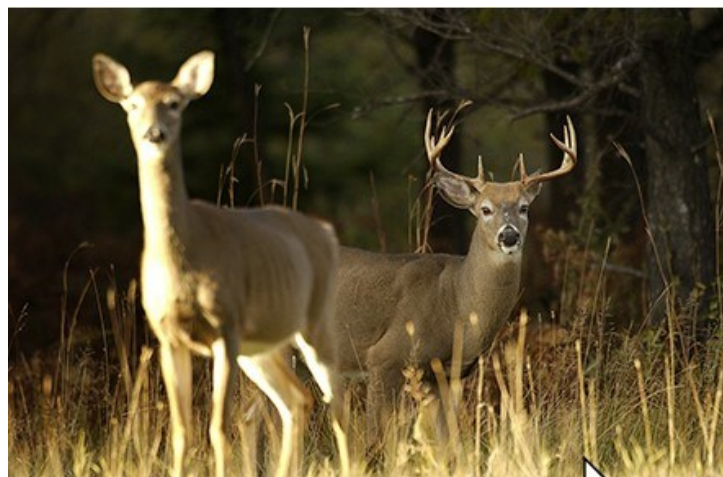
“Most of the ticks that bite and infect humans with (Lyme) disease are nymphs, which are most active in the summer months when people and pets are also most active,” Inkley wrote.

Fortunately, tick-borne diseases and encounters with ticks can be prevented. In most cases, a tick must have latched onto your skin for at least 24 hours to transmit disease, so a quick daily check while showering or bathing can solve that problem.

Even better is the use of insect repellents. The Center for Disease Control recommends using repellents that contain at least 20 to 30 percent DEET on exposed skin and clothing, or to treat clothing with products that contain permethrin.

Specifically, make sure boots, shoes, socks and pants are treated, as ticks have to make contact at ground level before travelling to the spots where they intend to grab hold.

And make sure your pet’s tick and flea prevention is up to date.



Welcome New Members

Enjoy your membership....Questions?

OUR EXCELLENT SPONSORS

- Bell-View, Lee-Thompson-Fawcett Co, Robert Fawcett, 724-523-5406
- Vasko Tree Service, Robert Vasko, 724-515-7823
- ChooseAVintageLife, Bill & Rose Omalacy, 724-880-5832
- A Better Choice Inc., Richard Pack 724-516-5000
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- Dominic Surace Automotive, Dominic Surace 724-527-5011
- Buchanan's Auto Repair and Sales, LLC, Bill Buchanan, 724-744-3055
- David L. Holloman Tree Service, Dave Holloman 724-863-9082
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- JVS Landscaping, LLC, Joseph V. Schoffstall, 412-491-6247
- Harper Electric, Tom Harper, 412-378-4757
- Industrial Tractor Parts, Jim , Bev or Jon 724-424-1200
- Howard Gasoline & Oil Co, Thomas Howard, 724-864-5210
- KC Express Vending, Ken Carasia, 724-527-5233
- Lenhart's Service Center, Nick Lenhart, 724-863-4000
- Manor Grille, Derek Gutkowski, 724-861-3404
- Norwin Rental & Outdoor Power Equipment, 724-864-1150
- Pete's Firearms, Larry Weightman, 724-515-5417 and 724-787-1023
- Varine-Slavin Insurance, Niles Slavin, Agent, 724-527-2802
- Integrity Plus Realty, George and Dana Kendall, 724-420-5676x170
- Revolution Arms, Charles Laughery, 724-527-2045
- Roberts Roofing Experts, 412-353-7663
- Scott Electric, Chuck Konkus, 412-389-9181
- Westmoreland Equipment, Rental Sales & Service, Ernie Graham 724-744-3130
- Varine-Slavin Insurance, Eric Slavin, Agent, 724-527-2802
- All Vehicle Service, Shawn Mason, 724-863-6424
- Vasko Tree Service, Robert Vasko, 724-515-7823



******* 2021 ISA OFFICERS *******

PRESIDENT	JOYCE LICHTENFELS	724-863-6940
VICE PRESIDENT	KEVIN KENNELTY	724-640-0726
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	SMOKEY BURDIN	724-396-9627
RECORDING SECRETARY	DAN NAVE	724-863-1392
TREASURER	RICH LINDH	412-817-4074

******* 2021 ISA COUNCIL *******

JOE CURRAN (21)	412-610-3692	JOHN RUFFNER (23)	724-744-2514
JON GILMORE (21)	724-433-9854	ED GOLLINGER (23)	724-864-0687
LAUREN WEST (21)	724-244-9053	LARRY LICHTENFELS(19)	724-863-6940
AL CEOL (22)	724 396 7010	RON COINER (21)	724-396-4971
JIM FISHER (22)	724-863-3764	KEN GRAY (21)	412-610-2963
RICH WEAVER (22)	412-638-3063		

******* 2021 ISA Contact Persons *******

ARCHERY	Ken Gray	412-610-2963
COUNTY LEAGUE	Samuel Petrill Smokey Burdin	724-523-9216 724-863-7365
JR RIFLE TEAM	Paul Angelicchio	724-864-2026
KITCHEN	Lauren West	724-244-9053
LUCKY BB SHOOT	Al Ceol	724-396-7010
MEMBER RECORDS	Smokey Burdin	724-396-9627
NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE	Ron Coiner	724-396-4971
NRA	Smokey Burdin	724-863-7365
OUTDOOR PIN SHOOT	Rich Weaver	412-610-2388
INDOOR PISTOL PIN SHOOT	Rich Lindh	412-817-4074
RIFLE	Al Ceol	724-396-7010
TRAP SHOOT	Lauren West	724-244-9053
WOMEN'S LEAGUE	Joyce Lichtenfels	724-863-6940
YOUTH DAISY BB COURSES	Ken Guidas	724-864-7318