

RANGE-MASTER TACTICAL CONFER

March 17-19, 2017 ■ Direct Action Resource Center ■ Little Rock, AR

Download the Conference App: "Eventbase" (Install & search for "Rangemaster")

Schedule at a Glance...

		Classroom 1	Classroom 2	Classroom 3	Med Bay	Paper Range	Shoot House	Covered Range
FRIDAY	8a	Problems 1 and 2	Developing Force-on-Force Training Programs Pakieser	Between a Harsh Word and a Gun Haggard		Intro to Combative Pistol Hearne		Pistol Match
	9a	Gochenour						
	10a	Church Security		Active Killers	Keep Your Piece			
	11a	Moses		T. Givens	Fuller			
	Noon							
	1р	Police-Citizen Contacts	Street Encounter Skills Murphy	Beyond the 1% Rehn	Tactical Medicine Causey	Pocket Poppers Haggard	In Extremis Movement Through Structures Holschen / Greco	Pistol Match
	2р	Weems						
	Зр	Gun Accidents				Ammo Selection Guide (Demo) Haggard		
	4р	Farnam						

		Classroom 1	Classroom 2	Classroom 3	Med Bay	Paper Range	Shoot House	Covered Range
	8a	Terrorist Bombers	Unsuck Your PowerPoint	S.T.O.P.P.	Just Enough Jitsu	AIWB Skills Keepers	In Extremis Movement Through Structures Holschen / Greco	Pistol Match
	9a	Ellifritz	Johnson	Werner	Burch			
AY	10a	Police-Citizen Contacts	Things Other than Violence	Defining the Threat	Multiple Opponents			
SATURDA	11a	Weems	Martin	T. Givens	Sharp			
	Noon							
S	1p	Use of Force:	Violent Actors	What Really Matters Pt. 1 Dobbs / Bolke	_	Maximum Effective Range Haggard	Experiential Learning Lab	Pistol Match
	2р	Lessons / Cases Kapelsohn Law of Self-Defense Branca						
	3р		Aprill			What Really Matters Pt. 2	Douglas	
	4р					Dobbs / Bolke		

		Classroom 1	Classroom 2	Classroom 3	Med Bay	Paper Range	Shoot House	Covered Range
SUNDAY	8a	Problems 1 and 2 Gochenour	Beyond the 1% Rehn	Street Encounter Skills Murphy	Tactical Medicine Causey	Handgun Essentials (Ladies)	Experiential	Pistol Match
	9a					Thomas / Kulcsar	Learning Lab	
	10a	Church Security Moses	Training for the Fight Davis		Just Enough Jitsu Burch	Intermediate Handgun (Ladies) L. Givens / Bigley	Douglas	
	11a							
	Noon							
	1р	The Firearms Instructor as Expert Witness Ayoob / Hayes	Developing Force-on-Force Training Programs Pakieser	S.T.O.P.P. Werner	Hand-to-Hand Skills for Women Lindenman	Defensive Shotgun Givens		
	2р							Pistol
	Зр			Video Debrief Holschen / Greco				Match
	4р							

All classes are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no advance enrollment, and "saving seats" is not allowed. Presenters may limit class size as they deem necessary to ensure students' safety and reasonable comfort.



Training Decisions: Problem #1 and Problem #2

Friday, 8am-10am Classroom 1

Jeff Cooper defined Problem #1 as the life-threatening encounter you survived and Problem #2 as the legal fight that follows. You selected training schools to provide you with the skills needed to solve Problem #1. But prosecutors will examine your application of those skills against the legal constructs of "reasonableness," "necessity," and "provocation" (the definitions of which may vary from state to state). This presentation will examine actual cases from Skip Gochenour's trial preparation experience. Skip will compare different training school regimens and how they affect prosecution decisions.



Skip Gochenour is a licensed private detective and founder of S. R. Gochenour & Associates. He has consulted on hundreds of civil and criminal cases involving firearms and use of force, and he has appeared on documentary television shows such as *Forensic Files, Autopsy,* and *Murder by the Book.* Skip also founded and serves as the Director of the American Tactical Shooting Association (ATSA). Through ATSA, Skip pioneered the National Tactical Invitational (NTI), an exclusive annual event where top-tier defensive shooters negotiated realistic scenarios in a 360-degree training environment with role players and simunitions.

Erik Pakieser

Developing Force-on-Force Training Programs

Friday, 8am-11am Classroom 2

Force-on-force training is rapidly gaining acceptance in the self-defense community as an effective way to practice avoiding conflict, managing contacts, disengagement, and post-incident procedures. While range shooting is still important, force-on-force training has the added benefit of introducing genuine stress reactions into training and assisting students with identifying their own shortcomings. This program is designed to assist new and experienced trainers with developing a force-on-force scenario-based training program from the ground up.



Erik D. Pakieser has over 25 years of experience in the military, law enforcement, corrections, and emergency management. He is the Principal Instructor of QSI Training, a fight-focused training organization that specializes in practical firearms skills and force-on-force. His law enforcement and security experience includes Military Police service, high-risk patrol in public housing projects, federal facilities, and corrections. Erik has served with four different SWAT and tactical teams and logged over 40,000 hours of field experience. A 12-year veteran of the US Army, Erik served in the 1989 Panama invasion as well as the 1991 Gulf War. Erik is a certified NRA Instructor and Affiliate Instructor for Defense Training International.

Chuck Haggard

Something Between a Harsh Word and a Gun

Friday, 8am-10am Classroom 3

Chuck Haggard will cover various less-than-lethal / less-lethal / emergency options for the CCW person or off-duty officer when a firearm is either unavailable or inappropriate for the level of force confronted. The class will emphasize OC spray as a less-than-deadly force option with information and practical drills so students can make sound decisions when purchasing and deploying OC spray. Inert spray drills are incorporated into this training. No live spray will be used. All equipment will be provided, so there's nothing students will need to bring. However, anyone who has a dummy gun, holster, or training knife is encouraged to bring it to the class.



Chuck has been active in private defensive training throughout his long career in urban law enforcement. After serving nearly thirty years with the Topeka Police Department (as a field training supervisor, rangemaster, armorer, SWAT team leader, and watch commander), Chuck founded Agile Training & Consulting to pursue private teaching on a more regular basis. He maintains his POST certification and stays active in the law enforcement community, but he now devotes even more time to training other police officers, military personnel, security forces, and private citizens on the art and science of personal defense.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 2 of 18

Introduction to Combative Pistol

Friday, 8am-12pm Paper Pistol Range

This course will introduce, teach, and review the basics of the combative application of the semi-automatic pistol through dry practice and live fire. Topics will include grip, stance, trigger control, proper presentation, rapid sight usage, and simple malfunction clearance. This course is perfect for students with limited handgun training, such as those with only their carry permit. Expect to fire approximately 200 rounds. Limited to 24 students. Required Equipment: Holster (non-collapsing), three magazines, two magazine pouches, concealment garment, 200 rounds.



John has been a federal law enforcement officer since 1992, serving primarily in uniformed patrol. He currently serves as an instructor (firearms, tactics, active shooter, & use of force), an armorer, and a field training officer for his agency. John's firearms instructor certifications include: – Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) (Pistol, Revolver, Shotgun, Rifle, Select-Fire) – Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Police Firearms Instructor – National Rifle Association (NRA) – Tactical Shooting – Rangemaster Advanced Instructor Certification John has been a Rangemaster instructor since 2001 and has helped teach armed citizens, law enforcement officers, and military personnel across the country. He is also a noted researcher and speaker and has been speaking at a variety of national and international venues since 2005.

Steve Moses

Running a Church Security Detail

Friday, 10am-12pn Classroom 1

For five years, Steve Moses served as shift leader on a large-scale security operation for a mega-church in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In this session, he will discuss some of the unique challenges of securing a house of worship and the effective ways that he and his team overcame those challenges. Anyone remotely involved in church security should consider attending this session.



Steve Moses is a Texas-licensed Level 4 Personal Protection Officer Instructor and has provided close protection to state, national, and international political leaders, including former Mexican President Vincente Fox and former Columbian president Alvaro Uribe. Steve was shift lead on a mega-church security team in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for eight years. He is also a reserve deputy and was a member of a multi-precinct Special Response Team for over 10 years. He has been a defensive firearms instructor for over 20 years and is a published author.

Tom Givens

Active Killers and Your Response

Friday, 10am-12pm Classroom 3

In this classroom block, Tom Givens will examine information from various government and open sources, along with case histories of several well-known and not so well-known active shooter/spree killer episodes in the United States. The presentation will explore many of the objective, unbiased, relevant factual details that popular media outlets often distort, gloss over, or ignore.



After completing a 25-year career in law enforcement and specialized security work, Tom opened his own pistol range in Memphis, TN in 1996. For 18 years, it was the primary source of handgun carry permit certification for the greater Memphis area. Soon joined by his wife Lynn, the training duo formed Rangemaster Firearms Training Services to share their expertise with a much broader audience. They now travel across the country and around the world to arm responsible citizens with the skills and knowledge they need to effectively protect themselves and their families. Tom has now been working in firearms instruction for over forty years. He has trained security officers; law enforcement officers at the local, state, and federal level; and foreign government agents. He founded the Rangemaster Tactical Conference in 1998, and the annual event has been growing ever since.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 3 of 18

Keep Your Piece: Close-Quarter Handgun Retention

Friday, 10am-12pm Med Bay

For responsible armed citizens and professionals alike, every physical confrontation involves at least one weapon... theirs. Protecting that weapon and/or deploying it under control against a violent and dangerous attacker is a critical skill. This class will present practical, functional, and proven methods of handgun retention for a variety of carry methods and tactical scenarios. Training will be dramatically enhanced with the use of the Silent Blank Rounds provided by our friends at Ultimate Training Munitions. Students should bring clear eye protection.



Fletch Fuller is a military veteran and currently the High Liability Training Coordinator for a large law enforcement agency in southwest Florida, where he has served since 1996. He is also a lead instructor for defensive tactics, baton, OC spray, and driving, as well as a Master Instructor with TASER International. Fuller has developed and coordinated classes for officers in the areas of weapon retention, ground tactics, and tactical duty knife, among many others. Fletch is a Rangemaster-certified Instructor and has been a regularly featured presenter for the International Law Enforcement Educators Trainers Association (ILEETA), the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) the Florida High Liability Trainer's Conference, and now the Rangemaster Tactical Conference. Fuller has trained in various Martial Arts for 20 years and is currently a Black Belt Instructor in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

Lee Weems

Police-Citizen Contacts

Friday, 1pm-3pm Classroom 1

This presentation will explore the legal guidelines handed down by the United States Supreme Court governing contacts between citizens and peace officers. Special attention will be given to the understanding of the concepts of reasonable articulable suspicion (RAS) and probable cause (PC) and their applications to the seizure of persons and property. Particular focus will be paid to how these concepts apply to the armed citizen. The legal framework for the evaluation of use of force by the courts will also be discussed.



Lee Weems has been a peace officer since January of 1999 and has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, detective, supervisor, and Chief Deputy. He has been sworn at the local, state, and federal levels, and he is an adjunct instructor on the collegiate level. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (GALEFI) and is certified by GALEFI as a Master Firearms Instructor. He is also certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) as a general topics and firearms instructor and is a graduate of the FBI's Law Enforcement Instructor and Police Firearms Instructor training programs. Chief Weems is also the owner/operator of First Person Safety.

John Murphy

Street Encounter Skills

Friday, 1pm-5pm Classroom 2

This four-hour block features interactive classroom instruction using surveillance videos from street robberies, business hold-ups, and other violent encounters. John will analyze the video footage to highlight criminal pre-assault behavioral indicators, show the physiological impact of stress in self-defense situations, and debunk some of the myths of ballistic performance.



John served ten years in the Marine Corps and currently works for the Department of Defense. However, he has learned much more about shooting and self-defense outside the military than he ever did during his service. John has trained under some of the most respected firearms instructors in the country, including John Farnam, Louis Awerbuck, Kelly McCann, Pat Rogers, Jeff Gonzales, Pat Goodale, and Tom Givens. He incorporates the best and most practical methods from his own experience and those of his mentors. He prides himself on teaching proven techniques that work for average citizens looking to protect themselves, their families, or their community.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 4 of 18

Beyond the 1%: How to Get More Gun-Owners to Train

Friday, 1pm-3pm Classroom 3

It's widely recognized that there's a significant gap between the average gun owner's gun-handling and shooting skills and the level considered acceptable by the training community. Over the past decade, the number of gun owners and carry permit holders has increased significantly; but those seeking training beyond their state's required minimum remains small. Karl will present on potential market size; discuss alternate approaches (short courses, blended learning, remote coaching); examine common marketing and customer retention issues between shooting, fitness, and martial arts programs; and explore some of the mindset and attitude issues that can be influenced by trainers and those seeking to grow the training community.



Karl Rehn is owner and lead instructor of KR Training, offering classes at his A-Zone facility for the past 26 years. He has over 2,000 hours of training from the nation's top tactical schools and multiple national and world champion competitors. He is a multi-division Grand Master in USPSA, an NRA Training Counselor, a Texas law enforcement and carry permit instructor, and a graduate of the Rangemaster Advanced Instructor class. For the past 15 years, KR Training has placed at least one instructor or student in the top 10 of the Rangemaster Tactical Conference shooting match. After 10 years of managing Texas A&M's DHS-funded Threat & Risk Assessment national training program and 23 years of Navy-funded R&D in physical security systems at UT-Austin, Karl recently retired to focus on KR Training full time.

Caleb Causey

Tactical Medicine for EDC

Friday, 1pm-3p<mark>m</mark> Med Bav

During this two-hour block of instruction, students will learn how and when to appropriately identify and treat immediate life-threatening injuries sustained during a violent attack. Students will be presented with several different tactical medical products and methods for carrying them as part of their everyday carry (EDC). This will include minimal lecture and as much hands-on skills practice as possible. There is no special equipment required for this class, and there are no prerequisites. This will be geared towards the layperson with little to no formal medical training, but healthcare professionals are encouraged to attend as well.



Caleb has been a medic involved with field and tactical medicine for over 15 years. His background includes four years as a combat medic in the US Army with multiple deployments overseas, six years as a volunteer FF/EMT with the Benbrook Fire Dept., and six years as the SWAT medic with the Benbrook Police Dept. Caleb has earned several state and national certifications at both the provider and instructor levels throughout his career. He has also published several articles with Personal Defense Network and ITS Tactical. Since 2009, Caleb has traveled across the US teaching his courses to armed citizens, law enforcement, and healthcare professionals alike. He enjoys learning as much as he does teaching, and he trains with the other Tactical Conference instructors throughout the year.

Chuck Haggard

Practical Practice with Pocket Poppers

Friday, 1pm-3pm Paper Pistol Range

Many CCW folks train and attend classes with a service-sized handgun while carrying a very small handgun or snubby revolver on a daily basis (either as a primary or a back-up). This targeted block of instruction will cater specifically to small pistols and snub revolvers. Compared to what we normally use with service-sized pistols, small handguns often require modified handling, such as for reloads and malfunction clearances. We will explore various carry options (ankle, pocket, etc.) and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Attendees will need about 100 rounds of ammo.



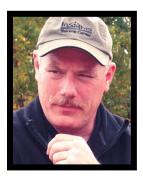
Chuck has been active in private defensive training throughout his long career in urban law enforcement. After nearly thirty years of steady upward progression through the ranks of the Topeka Police Department, he ventured out on his own and founded Agile Training & Consulting. He maintains his POST certification and stays active in the law enforcement community, but he now focuses on training other police officers, military personnel, security forces, and private citizens on the art and science of personal defense.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 5 of 18

In Extremis Movement through Structures

Friday, 1pm-5pm Shoot House

Participants will be given the opportunity to exercise the skill set required to move through an interior structure while armed with a Simunition handgun and in the presence of possible hostile individuals. Participants will receive an individual debrief after their run. Required Equipment: Eye protection, positive attitude, open mind.





Gary and John both have many years of service overseas in the US Special Operations and Intelligence Communities. Their unique experiences in the field have spawned a common set of training philosophies and shaped their teaching styles in the areas of weapons and combatives techniques. As civilian trainers, they have worked to convert some of their specialized skill sets into useful defensive curricula for private citizens. They were each bestowed the title of "Practitioner" for participation in multiple National Tactical Invitationals (NTI).

John Farnam

Gun Accidents! (Let's Not Shoot Ourselves)

Friday, 3pm-5pm Classroom 1

Farnam will discuss root causes of gun accidents and how to prevent them, while still maintaining a high degree of readiness. A maniacal preoccupation with the elimination of all risk is doomed to failure, as we see over and over. Enlightened philosophy and procedure represents the best route, but still offers no guarantees!



John S. Farnam is founder and president of Defensive Training International. He is presently a fully commissioned deputy sheriff (Training Officer) for the Park County, Colorado Sheriff's Office. With years of experience as a law enforcement trainer and a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, John is one of the top defensive firearms instructors in the nation. He has personally trained thousands of federal, state, and local law enforcement agency personnel, many private security agencies, foreign governments, and hundred of civilians in safe gun handling and the tactical use of the defensive firearms. John has authored dozens of magazine articles, five books, and several handgun manuals; he has produced numerous training videos (including the DTI "Operator Series"); and he has written a model Use of Force Policy. He is also a Senior Board Member of the Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network.

Chuck Haggard

Quick and Dirty Guide to Ammo Selection

Friday, 3pm-5pm Paper Pistol Range

This two-hour block is designed to help students make informed choices regarding defensive handgun ammunition. Different types of ammo will be fired into gelatin blocks to demonstrate, analyze, and compare ballistic properties and destructive power. Students will need eye and ear protection. Note-taking materials are welcome.



Chuck has been active in private defensive training throughout his long career in urban law enforcement. After nearly thirty years of steady upward progression through the ranks of the Topeka Police Department, he ventured out on his own and founded Agile Training & Consulting to pursue private training on a more regular basis. He maintains his POST certification and stays active in the law enforcement community, but he now devotes even more time to training other police officers, military personnel, security forces, and private citizens on the art and science of personal defense.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 6 of 18

517URD Greg Ellifritz

Recognizing & Neutralizing the Terrorist Bomber

Saturday, 8am-10am Classroom 1

Did you know that majority of terrorist events that have occurred in the United States have been bombings? Did you know that many of the more famous active shooter events also involved bombs? This trend is only likely to increase as terrorists implement the expertise and tactics they have learned on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. In today's ever-hostile environment, knowledge about explosive devices has become critical for both police officers and aware citizens. In this class, you will learn about basic explosive characteristics, terrorist bomb designs, response tactics for dealing with a suicide bomber, and much more.



Greg Ellifritz owns Active Response Training. He has been a police officer since 1995 and spent 13 years as the full-time tactical training officer for his central Ohio agency. He has also served as patrol officer, armorer, bike patrol coordinator, sniper, and field training officer for his agency. Greg holds instructor, master instructor, or armorer certifications in more than 75 different weapons systems, defensive tactics programs, and law enforcement specialty areas. He has taught classes nationwide for The Tactical Defense Institute, Ohio Peace Officer's Training Academy, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors, and The American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers.

Tiffany Johnson

Unsuck Your PowerPoint

Saturday, 8am-10am Classroom 2

Computer skills are not as sexy as marksmanship, so most trainers don't prioritize audio-visual teaching aids and graphic design. This can be a grave mistake, especially for those who teach beginners. In a continuation of her training blocks from the past two Tactical Conferences, Tiffany will run through some quick and easy pointers for sprucing up your presentation slides. This will be a hands-on workshop with specific, step-by-step instructions on exactly what you can do within PowerPoint (or KeyNote, Prezi, Google Slides, etc.) to make your classroom presentation more useful to your students. Feel free to bring laptops and work on your own course content during the session.



In addition to being mentored by Tom and Lynn Givens and other Rangemaster instructors, Tiffany has also trained under Jim Higginbotham, John Farnam, Jeff Gonzales, Marshall Luton, John Murphy, Paul Sharp, Craig Douglas, and several other respected veterans of the self-defense community. She has earned instructor credentials from the State of Tennessee, the State of Mississippi, the National Rifle Association, and Rangemaster (Advanced Instructor Certification). Tiffany is a practicing attorney and legal research and writing consultant, and she teaches college courses in legal studies and writing at the University of Memphis. She also coaches lawyers and educators on presentation skills and visual rhetoric.

Claude Werner

STOPP: Strategy, Tactics, and Options for Personal Protection

Saturday, 8am-10am Classroom 3

This class focuses on helping students define the personal strategy that is appropriate for them. Strategies and their associated timelines are unique to each individual, and no one size fits all. After learning possible personal strategies, students will learn the tactics and options that are most relevant to their personal situation and strategy. Tactics and options are as highly individualized as the strategies they implement. Being aware of the broad range of tactics and options available helps people achieve positive outcomes and avoid negative outcomes.



Claude Werner's background combines extensive work in the military, self-defense training, and white collar financial services communities. This diverse range of experience gives him a view of self-defense equipment and techniques that is uniquely attuned to the needs of people with median lifestyles, in contrast to other segments of the industry that are focused on more extreme applications. Claude is a retired Army Captain with 10 years service in Special Operations, and he formerly served as Chief Instructor at the elite Rogers Shooting School.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 7 of 18

Just Enough Jitsu

Saturday, 8am-10am Med Bay

Contrary to popular belief, many empty-hand fights (and those involving weapons) end up on the ground. "Just Enough Jitsu" is designed to introduce fundamental concepts to help you survive this type of situation. This is a hands-on module in which participants will learn and practice relatively simple physical skills to keep them in the fight even when starting from an initial deficit, such as a sucker punch or a sudden rush. While we will be engaging in physical contact, this course is NOT "Fight Club." It does not require any previous training, nor does it require any great physical prowess. Attendees are not required to exert any further than their own comfort levels. This is a good opportunity to start to experience this kind of material in a safe environment.



Cecil Burch has been a firearms enthusiast since age 12 and a martial artist since age 16. He now has over 35 years of experience in Martial Arts and Combative methods, and he is a first-degree black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Cecil has traveled extensively and conducted seminars across the U.S. and internationally. He has been a featured presenter at the Mid-Atlantic Training Conference, the New England Shooter's Summit, the Rangemaster Tactical Conference, and several other venues. He has worked with law enforcement officers, federal air marshals, military special operation troops, and private citizens on the functional utilization of boxing, clinch-fighting, and Brazilian jiu-jitsu in close quarters combat.

Spencer Keepers

AIWB Skills

Saturday, 8am-12pm Paper Pistol Range

This block focuses on the specialized skills required for effective appendix-inside-the-waistband carry (AIWB). Spencer will discuss what AIWB is, what it isn't, and how to safely make the most of this increasingly-popular method of concealed carry. This will be a four-hour live-fire and dry-fire class that will delve deep into the nuances and dispel some of the myths of carrying AIWB. Students will need a reliable semi-auto handgun, approximately 200 rounds of ammo, three spare mags, and at least one mag pouch. Note: Any student who cannot demonstrate safe re-holstering will be required to switch to a standard strong-side OWB holster or excused from the class.



Spencer Keepers is the founder of Awareness Defense Training, LLC and Keepers Concealment, LLC. He is a nationally-renowned competitive and defensive shooter, an experienced trainer, and a custom holster-maker. He also teaches at the BDC Gun Room in Oklahoma. He has trained extensively with Tom Givens, Craig Douglas, Rob Pincus, Will Andrews, Claude Werner, John Farnam, and many others. Spencer is also one of only a handful of people to earn a ranking of "Expert" on Todd Louis Green's coveted F.A.S.T. Wall of Fame.

John Holschen & Gary Greco

In Extremis Movement through Structures

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Gary and John both have many years of service overseas in the US Special Operations and Intelligence Communities. Their unique experiences in the field have spawned a common set of training philosophies and shaped their teaching styles in the areas of weapons and combatives techniques. As civilian trainers, they have worked to convert some of their specialized skill sets into useful defensive curricula for private citizens. They were each bestowed the title of "Practitioner" for participation in multiple National Tactical Invitationals (NTI).

www.Rangemaster.com Page 8 of 18

Police-Citizen Contacts

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Lee Weems has been a peace officer since January of 1999 and has served as a patrol officer, field training officer, detective, supervisor, and Chief Deputy. He has been sworn at the local, state, and federal levels, and he is an adjunct instructor on the collegiate level. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (GALEFI) and is certified by GALEFI as a Master Firearms Instructor. He is also certified by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) as a general topics and firearms instructor and is a graduate of the FBI's Law Enforcement Instructor and Police Firearms Instructor training programs. Chief Weems is also the owner/operator of First Person Safety.

Paul Martin

Preparing for Things Other than Violence

Saturday, 10am-12pm Classroom 2

"Prepping" is becoming more popular in the gun community as well with others who are not firearms owners. During this presentation, attendees will learn how to incorporate preparedness training into their defensive classes and how to add stand-alone preparedness classes to their existing course offerings. Covered topics will include motivations of preppers as customers, what they're looking for in classes, finding quality instructors, curriculum development, and economics of preparedness training (among other things).



Paul Martin is a lawyer and lobbyist for a national insurance trade association. He regularly advocates for preparedness at hearings before state legislatures, conferences, and various media outlets. Paul is an NRA-certified firearms instructor, and he is also certified by the Texas Department of Public Safety as a License-To-Carry Instructor. He is also a general class amateur "ham" radio licensee (K0AUS), an instrument-rated private pilot, a storm spotter for the National Weather Service, and a former volunteer firefighter. Paul's book, "Pivot Points: Creating a Culture of Preparedness and Resiliency In America," has received excellent reviews and was featured in an episode of The Survival Podcast.

Tom Givens

Defining the Threat

Saturday, 10am-12pm Classroom 3

This two-hour block will be an interactive discussion on how to set up your personal training regimen — a training program for private citizens and off-duty law enforcement personnel. We will examine the varying defensive paradigms of military personnel, on-duty law enforcement, and private citizens; the ways their training needs differ; and how private citizens can maximize the benefits from limited training resources.



After completing a 25-year career in law enforcement and specialized security work, Tom opened his own pistol range in Memphis, TN in 1996. For 18 years, it was the primary source of handgun carry permit certification for the greater Memphis area. Soon joined by his wife Lynn, the training duo formed Rangemaster Firearms Training Services to share their expertise with a much broader audience. They now travel across the country and around the world to arm responsible citizens with the skills and knowledge they need to effectively protect themselves and their families. Tom has now been working in firearms instruction for nearly forty years. He has trained security officers; law enforcement officers at the local, state, and federal level; and foreign government agents. He founded the Rangemaster Tactical Conference in 1998, and the annual event has been growing ever since.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 9 of 18

Countering Multiple Opponents

Saturday, 10am-12pm Med Bay

While we all recognize the threat of multiple opponents, structuring our training to address multiple opponents can be a challenge. In this block of instruction, we work through a systematic approach to adding layers of tasking and resistance in a safe and repeatable manner. Training drones are permissible and encouraged. No live weapons will be allowed in the training area.



Paul Sharp is the owner and head coach of the Straight Blast Gym Illinois, a Combat Base BJJ Blackbelt, and 1/6 of the ShivWorks Collective. He is also a police officer with nearly 20 years of experience. Current and past assignments have included patrol, SWAT, officer training, resident officer, undercover narcotics detective, and neighborhood response officer. Paul holds a Black Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and instructor ratings in Filipino Martial Arts, Jeet Kune Do concepts, and Mixed Martial Arts. Having competed at a professional level in Mixed Martial Arts and boxing, Paul is uniquely positioned to coach others from knowledge and experience. He now teaches, blogs, and publishes training videos through his company, Sharp Defense.

Emanuel Kapelsohn

Lessons Learned from Use-of-Force Cases

Saturday, 1pm-3pm Classroom 1

This class will begin with a brief review of the principles of justification for use of deadly force and will then move quickly into discussion of particular use of force cases in which Manny has worked, either as an attorney or as an expert witness. A few of the recent heavily-scrutinized police shooting cases will be discussed, plus cases where legally armed citizens who drew — and did not fire — their handguns in threatening circumstances were then prosecuted. The class goal is to learn what we can from the legal and practical aftermath of these incidents, so that we can all approach this subject from a realistic standpoint and minimize risk to the extent possible.



Manny is a practicing attorney with degrees from Yale University and Harvard Law School who has been a professional firearms instructor for over 35 years. He has trained thousands of local and federal law enforcement officers and private individuals, certifying firearms instructors for agencies in dozens of states and in Canada. He has been certified as an instructor in all of the small arms, as well as in defensive tactics, handgun retention, baton, pepper spray, Taser, less-lethal impact munitions, executive protection, shooting scene reconstruction, and force science analysis. A sworn reserve deputy sheriff for 19 years, he has served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors for the past 29 years and has testified as an expert witness in criminal and civil shooting and use of force cases nationwide for the past 33 years.

William Aprill

Violent Crime, Violent Acts, & Violent Actors

Saturday, 1pm-5pm Classroom 2

Who poses a threat to me and those I love? How do they decide to attack me? Can I be more ready? This lecture will cover current understandings of the scope and scale of criminal violence, typologies of such violence, and the typical developmental paths of those who inflict such violence on others. Academic concepts and theories will be distilled into to actionable material that students can apply at the street level. This module aims to demystify the origins of and motivation for the seemingly senseless violence that wreaks havoc on so many communities, and attendees will learn how to use this knowledge for greater defensive effectiveness.



William Aprill is a licensed mental health professional with over 19 years of experience across the continuum of clinical care. He is a former deputy sheriff and Special Deputy US Marshal, as well as a decorated competitive shooter. He has taught civilian, law enforcement, and military personnel in various fighting skills since 1990. Through his company, Aprill Risk Consulting, William has presented on the psychology of violence and several other defense-related topics across the country in collaboration with Shivworks, Lethal Force Institute, Rangemaster, Active Response Training, Sharp Defense, Point-Driven Training, Modern Defensive Training Systems, Immediate Action Combatives, and several others.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 10 of 18

What Really Matters: Part 1 (Classroom)

Saturday, 1pm-3pm Classroom 3

This two-part block is built out of the "Training Secrets of Highly Successful Gunfighters" lecture that was presented at the last few Tactical Conferences. After interviewing and studying several individuals with a history of winning gunfights, Darryl and Wayne quickly recognized a recurring theme of specific skills that always mattered most in a shooting incident, and they will discuss them in-depth and in context. This classroom block will include a lecture and slide presentation with photos and video from actual shootings. A live-fire session will follow, where students can shoot (or just watch) a series of drills developed to implement those skills discussed in the classroom block.



Wayne Dobbs retired from the Richardson, TX Police Department after a 25-year career in Patrol, Deployment, SWAT, Narcotics/Intelligence, Organized Crime, and Major Crimes/CID. For nearly 10 years, Wayne directed and managed his department's firearms training program. Wayne served for 25 months in Iraq on a Department of State police training and advising contract. He has trained under Ken Hackathorn, Larry Vickers, Pat Rogers, Paul Howe, Clint Smith, Jerry Miculek, John Farnam, Tom Givens, and many others.



Darryl Bolke retired from a Southern California police department after almost 20 years as a full time officer, due to injuries sustained during a violent on-duty confrontation. He was a Firearms Instructor and Armorer for the Special Weapons and Tactics Team for 17 years and was the primary instructor for all firearms systems used by his agency. He assisted on the investigation of over 75 officer-involved shootings and has provided expert testimony in regards to firearms usage and police tactics in numerous court cases.

Christophor Periatt

Countering Close-Quarter Attacks

Saturday, 1pm-5pm Med Bay

This course will introduce attendees to street attacks using a variety of weapon systems that are most commonly found during these attacks (if you have blue guns or training knives/batons, please bring them). Chris will demonstrate attacks from a variety of positions and angles, as well as solid, reality-based techniques to counter and defend against them. Students will also be she physical class. Students should see Conference App for details



Chris s Due to unforeseen circumstances, this block law en unfortunately had to be cancelled. We hope to have and ha Chris Periatt back for future conferences.

s also a use-of-force instructor reas of use-of-force. Chris has force and K9 deployments by

Michigan federal and state courts. Chris holds a Brown Belt 2nd stripe in Jiu-Jitsu and also trains in Krav Maga, boxing, and kali/arnis. For the past ten years, he has served as a Lead Academy and Tactical Coordinator/Instructor at the Macomb Community College Advanced Criminal Justice Training Center and the Macomb Police Academy.

Chuck Haggard

Maximum Effective Range

Saturday, 1pm-3pm Paper Pistol Range

This live-fire class covers use of the handgun in situations beyond the standard "3 shots at 3 yards in 3 seconds" defensive shooting paradigm (such as being caught in an active killer incident). The course will feature drills designed to explore use of the pistol at increasing ranges. We will also cover tactical anatomy/effective shot placement, "failure drills," and pistol/ammo choices to increase the odds of success with precision shooting. Students will need a quality pistol, two magazines or speed-loaders, a safe holster, eye/ear protection, and 300 rounds of ammunition.



Chuck Haggard spent nearly 30 years with the Topeka Police Department as a field training supervisor, rangemaster/armorer, Response Team (SWAT) squad leader and team leader, and watch commander before retiring at the rank of lieutenant. He then founded Agile Training & Consulting to offer private defensive training and use-of-force consultation to police officers, military personnel, security forces, and private citizens.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 11 of 18

Experiential Learning Lab

Saturday, 1pm-4pm
Shoot House

Craig Douglas has an enormous amount of training and experience exposing students to stressful, relevant, and valuable force-on-force scenarios with trained role-players and hit-marking cartridges. In this block, participants will negotiate blind scenarios and be debriefed on their performances. This will be an excellent opportunity to participate in and observe others reacting to active, thinking, moving opponents in real-life circumstances.



Craig Douglas (a/k/a "SouthNarc") is the founder of ShivWorks, a consortium of like-minded professionals devoted to training and product development in the emerging field of interdisciplinary problem-solving for self-defense. Craig retired from law enforcement after 21 years of service with the bulk of his career spent in narcotics and SWAT. Craig has been teaching globally under the brand of ShivWorks since 2003 and has conducted coursework on entangled shooting skills in 35 states and nine foreign countries. He has taught for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and to three branches of the U.S. military.

Andrew Branca

The Law of Self Defense

Saturday, 3pm-5pm Classroom 1

Andrew conducts his Law of Self-Defense seminar all over the US and is recognized as one of the premiere authorities on the legal issues involved in the lawful use of force. This course will provide a brief overview of the basic fundamentals of self-defense law for private citizens in the United States.



Andrew F. Branca is an internationally recognized expert on American self-defense law. Now in his third decade of practicing law, Andrew also nationally consults for other lawyers in high-profile self defense cases. He is a former guest instructor on self-defense law at the SigSauer Academy in Epping, NH; is frequently a featured speaker at law school firearms policy symposia around the country; and provides legal expertise for such news outlets as the Wall Street Journal and NPR. Andrew began his competitive shooting activities as a youth in smallbore rifle. For 20 years, he has been a Life Member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and a multi-division Master-class competitor in the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA). He is also a longtime NRA-certified firearms instructor in pistol, rifle, and personal protection, and is a life-long absolutist for the right to carry firearms and the Second Amendment generally.

Darryl Bolke & Wayne Dobbs

What Really Matters: Part 2 (Live-Fire)

Saturday, 3pm-5pm Paper Range

This two-part block is built out of the "Secrets of Highly Successful Gunfighters" lecture from previous Tactical Conferences. After the classroom lecture, Wayne and Darryl will head over to the pistol range for Part 2 (the live-fire segment), where they will lead students through a series of shooting drills developed to implement those skills discussed in the classroom block. Students are welcome to just observe the live-fire drills if they prefer not to shoot.



Wayne Dobbs retired from the Richardson, TX Police Department after a 25-year career. For nearly 10 years, he directed and managed his department's firearms training program. Wayne served for 25 months in Iraq on a Department of State police training contract. He has trained under Ken Hackathorn, Larry Vickers, Pat Rogers, Paul Howe, Clint Smith, John Farnam, Tom Givens, and many others.

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www.Rangemaster.com Page 12 of 18



Training Decisions: Problem #1 & Problem #2

Sunday, 8am-10am Classroom1

[Repeat] Jeff Cooper defined Problem #1 as the life-threatening encounter you survived and Problem #2 as the legal fight that follows. You selected training schools to provide you with the skills needed to solve Problem #1. But prosecutors will examine your application of those skills against the legal constructs of "reasonableness," "necessity," and "provocation" (the definitions of which may vary from state to state). This presentation will examine actual cases from Skip Gochenour's trial preparation experience. Skip will compare different training school regimens and how they affect prosecution decisions.



Skip Gochenour is a licensed private detective and founder of S. R. Gochenour & Associates. He has consulted on hundreds of civil and criminal cases involving firearms and use of force, and he has appeared on documentary television shows such as Forensic Files, Autopsy, and Murder by the Book. Skip also founded and serves as the Director of the American Tactical Shooting Association (ATSA). Through ATSA, Skip pioneered the National Tactical Invitational (NTI), an exclusive annual event where top-tier defensive shooters negotiated realistic scenarios in a 360-degree training environment with role players and simunitions.

Karl Rehn

Beyond the 1%: How to Get More Gun-Owners to Train

Sunday, 8am-10an Classroom 2

[Repeat] It's widely recognized that there's a significant gap between the average gun owner's gun-handling and shooting skills and the level considered acceptable by the training community. Over the past decade, the number of gun owners and carry permit holders has increased significantly, but those seeking training beyond their state's required minimum remains small. Karl will present on potential market size; discuss alternate approaches (short courses, blended learning, remote coaching); examine common marketing and customer retention issues between shooting, fitness and martial arts programs; and explore some of the mindset and attitude issues that can be influenced by trainers and those seeking to grow the training community.



Karl Rehn is owner and lead instructor of KR Training, offering classes at his A-Zone facility for the past 26 years. He has over 2,000 hours of training from the nation's top tactical schools and multiple national and world champion competitors. He is a multi-division Grand Master in USPSA, an NRA Training Counselor, a Texas law enforcement and carry permit instructor, and a graduate of the Rangemaster Advanced Instructor class. After 10 years of managing Texas A&M's DHS-funded Threat & Risk Assessment national training program and 23 years of Navy-funded R&D in physical security systems at UT-Austin, Karl recently retired to focus on KR Training full time.

John Murphy

Street Encounter Skills

Sunday, 8am-12pm Classroom 3

[Repeat] This four-hour block features interactive classroom instruction using surveillance videos from street robberies, business hold-ups, and other violent encounters. John will analyze the video footage to highlight criminal pre-assault behavioral indicators, show the physiological impact of stress in self-defense situations, and debunk some of the myths of ballistic performance.



John served ten years in the Marine Corps and currently works for the Department of Defense. However, he has learned much more about shooting and self-defense outside the military than he ever did during his service. John has trained under some of the most respected firearms instructors in the country, Including John Farnam, Louis Awerbuck, Kelly McCann, Pat Rogers, Jeff Gonzales, Pat Goodale, and Tom Givens. He incorporates the best and most practical methods from his own experience and those of his mentors. He prides himself on teaching proven techniques that work for average citizens looking to protect themselves, their families, or their community.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 13 of 18

Tactical Medicine for EDC

Sunday, 8am-10am Med Bay

[Repeat] During this two-hour block of instruction, students will learn how and when to appropriately identify and treat immediate life-threatening injuries sustained during a violent attack. Students will be presented with several different tactical medical products and methods for carrying them as part of their everyday carry (EDC). This will include minimal lecture and as much hands-on skills practice as possible. There is no special equipment required for this class and there are no prerequisites either. This will be geared towards the layperson with little to no formal medical training, but healthcare professionals are encouraged to attend as well.



Caleb has been a medic involved with field and tactical medicine for over 15 years. His background includes four years as a combat medic in the US Army with multiple deployments overseas, six years as a volunteer FF/EMT with the Benbrook Fire Dept., and six years as the SWAT medic with the Benbrook Police Dept. Caleb has earned several state and national certifications at both the provider and instructor levels throughout his career. He has also published several articles with Personal Defense Network and ITS Tactical. Since 2009, Caleb has traveled across the US teaching his courses to armed citizens, law enforcement, and healthcare professionals alike. He enjoys learning as much as he does teaching, and he trains with the other Tactical Conference instructors throughout the year.

Julie Thomas & Eve Kulcsar

Handgunning Essentials (Ladies Only)

Sunday, 8am-10am Paper Pistol Range

Whether students are new shooters looking for solid skills instruction, experienced shooters looking for some fine-tuning, or instructors looking for a different perspective, this class offers the opportunity to go through an in-depth course in handgunning essential skills with several Rangemaster-certified instructors and a low student-to-instructor ratio. The course will emphasize core competency in shooting platform, sight alignment, trigger control, and presentation from the holster. Students should bring their handgun, holster, belt, at least two extra magazines, and 150 rounds of ammunition.





Julie Thomas is a Rangemaster-certified instructor who has trained with Craig Douglas, Spencer Keepers, Wayne Dobbs, and Claude Werner. She specializes in working with beginning shooters and remediating experienced shooters. She is an experienced educator and a life-long student of self-defense and martial arts.

Eve Kulcsar is a full-time law enforcement officer and owner of Roka Arms Training. She has trained with industry leaders such as Tom and Lynn Givens, Craig Douglas, William Aprill, and Paul Sharp, and she has also trained at the elite Rogers Shooting School.

Craig Douglas

Experiential Learning Lab

Sunday, 8am-11am Shoot House

[Repeat] Craig Douglas has an enormous amount of training and experience exposing students to stressful, relevant, and valuable force-on-force scenarios with trained role-players and hit-marking cartridges. In this block, participants will negotiate blind scenarios and be debriefed on their performances. This will be an excellent opportunity to participate in and observe others reacting to live, thinking, moving opponents in real-life circumstances.



Craig Douglas (a/k/a "SouthNarc") is the founder of ShivWorks, a consortium of like-minded professionals devoted to training and product development in the emerging field of interdisciplinary problem-solving for self-defense. Craig retired from law enforcement after 21 years of service with the bulk of his career spent in narcotics and SWAT. Craig has been teaching globally under the brand of ShivWorks since 2003 and has conducted coursework on entangled shooting skills in 35 states and nine foreign countries. He has taught for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, and to three branches of the U.S. military.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 14 of 18

Running a Church Security Detail

Sunday, 10am-12pm Classroom 1

[Repeat] For five years, Steve Moses served as shift leader on a large-scale security operation for a mega-church in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. In this session, he will discuss some of the unique challenges of securing a house of worship and the effective ways that he and his team overcame those challenges. Anyone remotely involved in church security should consider attending this session.



Steve Moses is a Texas-licensed, Level 4 Personal Protection Officer Instructor and has provided close protection to state, national, and international political leaders, including former Mexican President Vincente Fox and former Columbian president Alvaro Uribe. Steve was shift lead on a mega-church security team in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for eight years. He is also a reserve deputy and was a member of a multi-precinct Special Response Team for over 10 years. He has been a defensive firearms instructor for over twenty years and is a published author.

Kevin Davis

Preparing and Training for the Fight

Sunday, 10am-12pm Classroom 2

Far too often, citizens preparing for armed self-defense tend to focus their training much too narrowly. Many focus heavily on shooting while excluding the mental and performance-under-stress issues. Others study the applicable laws but neglect to fully develop skills that can help them survive the violent encounter as well as survive the legal aftermath. In this discussion, we will attempt to outline a preparation and training plan that addresses not only the violent encounter itself but also all the additional issues it may encompass.



Kevin Davis is a 34-year veteran of law enforcement with experience in corrections, patrol, street narcotics, and SWAT, where he was a team leader and lead instructor. Assigned to the Training Bureau of his large municipal police agency, he is a court-recognized expert in firearms, tactics, suspect control, and use of force. Kevin is the author of "Use of Force Investigations" and "The Citizen's Guide to Armed Defense," as well as a frequent contributor to Officer.com and PoliceOne.com. He also maintains his own personal blog at KevinRDavisBlog.com.

Cecil Burch

Just Enough Jitsu

Sunday, 10am-12pm Med Bay

[Repeat] Contrary to popular belief, many empty hand fights (and those involving weapons) end up on the ground. "Just Enough Jitsu" is designed to introduce fundamental concepts to help you survive this type of situation. This is a hands on module in which participants will learn and practice relatively simple physical skills to keep them in the fight even when starting from an initial deficit, such as a sucker punch or a sudden rush. While we will be engaging in physical contact, this course is NOT "Fight Club." Attendees are not required to exert any further than their own comfort levels. It does not require any previous training, nor does it require any great physical prowess. This is a good opportunity to start to experience this kind of material in a safe environment.



Cecil Burch has been a firearms enthusiast since age 12 and a martial artist since age 16. He now has over 35 years of experience in Martial Arts and Combative methods, and he is a first-degree black belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Cecil has traveled extensively and conducted seminars across the U.S. and internationally. He has been a featured presenter at the Mid-Atlantic Training Conference, the New England Shooter's Summit, the Rangemaster Tactical Conference, and several other venues. He has worked with law enforcement officers, federal air marshals, military special operation troops, and private citizens on the functional utilization of boxing, clinch-fighting, and Brazilian jiu-jitsu in close quarters combat.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 15 of 18

Intermediate Pistol Skills (Ladies Only)

Sunday, 10am-12pm Paper Pistol Range

Rangemaster instructors Lynn Givens and Lori Bigley will lead the participants through a series of drills designed to reinforce and strengthen their gun handling and shooting skills. These drills will involve presentation from the holster, accurate shooting, multiple shots, efficient reloading, and pistol malfunctions. All participants should have had prior formal training and should be familiar with the operation of their handgun, holstering safely, and the basics of marksmanship. This class will only cover semi-automatic pistols (sorry, no revolvers).



After a frightening experience with a stalker, Lynn began taking self-defense shooting courses and was immediately hooked. Within seven months, she became a Tennessee State Certified Instructor, going on to attend several hundred hours of training over the next few years. Lynn has now worked extensively with



women facing similar problems, and she was recognized for this work with a plaque from the local Attorney General's office. Lynn assists with Rangemaster advanced classes conducted all over the United States.

Lori is an engineer and a Rangemaster-certified instructor who began teaching as part of the Rangemaster Trainers Apprenticeship Program (RTAP). She has trained extensively with Tom and Lynn Givens and now assists with range instruction, particularly for Rangemaster's ladies-only classes.

Massad Ayoob & Marty Hayes

The Firearms Instructor as Expert Witness

Sunday, 1pm-4pm Classroom 1

This three-hour session will explore the function of expert witnesses in use-of-force/shooting cases, as distinct from their role as material witnesses speaking for those they've trained (with both areas thoroughly covered). The presenters will explain legal standards, prep, consulting versus testifying experts, pre-trial reports, and lessons learned from their own experiences serving as expert witnesses.





Massad Ayoob has served as an editor of *Guns Magazine* and *American Handgunner* since the 1970s. He has published thousands of articles in gun magazines, martial arts publications, and law enforcement journals; and he has authored over a dozen books. Mas has been judicially recognized as an expert witness in weapons and shooting cases since 1979.

After spending years as a police officer, competitive shooter, and police firearms instructor, Marty Hayes founded the Firearms Academy of Seattle in 1990. He is also a staff instructor for the Massad Ayoob Group and formerly an adjunct instructor for Defense Training International. He holds a law degree and occasionally works as an expert witness/consultant in firearms, deadly force, and police use of force cases.

Erik Pakieser

Developing Force-on-Force Training Programs

Sunday, 1pm-4pm Classroom 2

[Repeat] Force-on-force training is rapidly gaining acceptance in the self-defense community as an effective way to practice avoiding conflict, managing contacts, disengagement, and post-incident procedures. While range shooting is still important, force-on-force training has the added benefit of introducing genuine stress reactions into training and assisting students with identifying their own training shortcomings. This program is designed to assist new and experienced trainers with developing a force-on-force scenario-based training program from the ground up.



Erik D. Pakieser has over 25 years of experience in the military, law enforcement, corrections, and emergency management. He is the Principal Instructor of QSI Training, a fight-focused training organization that specializes in practical firearms skills and force-on-force. His law enforcement and security experience includes Military Police service, high-risk patrol in public housing projects, federal facilities, and corrections. Erik has served with four different SWAT and tactical teams and logged over 40,000 hours of field experience. A 12-year veteran of the US Army, Erik served in the 1989 Panama invasion as well as the 1991 Gulf War. Erik is a certified NRA Instructor and Affiliate Instructor for Defense Training International.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 16 of 18

STOPP: Strategy, Tactics, and Options for Personal Protection

Sunday, 1pm-3pm Classroom 3

[Repeat] This class focuses on helping students define the personal strategy that is appropriate for them. Strategies and their associated timelines are unique to each individual, and no one size fits all. After learning possible personal strategies, students will learn the tactics and options that are most relevant to their personal situation and strategy. Tactics and options are as highly individualized as the strategies they implement. Being aware of the broad range of tactics and options available helps people achieve positive outcomes and avoid negative outcomes.



Claude Werner's background combines extensive work in the military, self-defense training, and white collar financial services communities. This diverse range of experience gives him a view of self -defense equipment and techniques that is uniquely attuned to the needs of people with median lifestyles, in contrast to other segments of the industry that are focused on more extreme applications. Claude is a retired Army Captain with 10 years service in Special Operations, and he formerly served as Chief Instructor at the elite Rogers Shooting School.

Larry Lindenman

Practical Defensive Skills for Women

Sunday, 1pm-4pm Med Bay

Do women have specific self defense needs, different than men? Larry Lindenman will answer this question and develop a physical defensive skill set that enhances females' unique strengths in a dynamic and safe training environment. This class will emphasize pressure-tested physical skills for stand-up and grounded fighting. Through repetition and gradually increasing pressure, students will develop competence and confidence in a physical skill set that allows them to recognize and physically prepare for imminent attack, survive first contact, and move to a dominant position, allowing for deployment of a concealed firearm, knife, physical technique, or escape.



Larry Lindenman retired from the Illinois State Police after 26 years of service. After patrolling the interstates for four years, Larry spent the remainder of his career in Investigations, SWAT, and narcotics investigations. Larry has an extensive background in Filipino martial arts (beginning his training in 1980), and he is a brown belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. Larry was a SWAT instructor and range officer, and he authored the Defensive Tactics manual for the Illinois State Police. He currently serves as the training coordinator for The Range at 355 in Bolingbrook, Illinois; and he is the owner and founder of Point Driven Training, a tactical training company.

Tom Givens

Fundamentals of Defensive Shotgun

Sunday, 1pm-4pm Med Bay

While the shotgun is one of the most effective and versatile weapons available to the average private citizen or police officer, it is also the least understood and most under-utilized. This live-fire block will cover the fundamental tenets governing effective use of the shotgun as a defensive weapon system. Students will need a reliable semi-automatic or pump action shotgun (such as a Remington 870 or Mossberg 500 series), about 50 to 75 rounds of birdshot, and eye and ear protection. We will have a few loaner guns on hand.



After completing a 25-year career in law enforcement and specialized security work, Tom opened his own pistol range in Memphis, TN in 1996. For 18 years, it was the primary source of handgun carry permit certification for the greater Memphis area. Soon joined by his wife Lynn, the training duo formed Rangemaster Firearms Training Services to share their expertise with a much broader audience. They now travel across the country and around the world to arm responsible citizens with the skills and knowledge they need to effectively protect themselves and their families. Tom has now been working in firearms instruction for nearly forty years. He has trained security officers; law enforcement officers at the local, state, and federal level; and foreign government agents. He founded the Rangemaster Tactical Conference in 1998, and the annual event has been growing ever since.

www.Rangemaster.com Page 17 of 18

Perception and Its Tactical Applications

Sunday, 3pm-4pm Classroom 3

In this one-hour block, John and Gary will lead a discussion of the skills and techniques that contribute to successful movement through structures while in the presence of potentially hostile individuals. The session will include video debriefs and lessons learned from their simunitions exercises in the Shoot House from Friday and Saturday.





Gary and John both have many years of service overseas in the US Special Operations and Intelligence Communities. Their unique experiences in the field have spawned a common set of training philosophies and shaped their teaching styles in the areas of weapons and combatives techniques. As civilian trainers, they have worked to convert some of their specialized skill sets into useful defensive curricula for private citizens. They were each bestowed the title of "Practitioner" for participation in multiple National Tactical Invitationals (NTI).

Martin Hoffert, Match Director

Polite Society Pistol Match & Awards

Fri-Sun, All Day Covered Pistol Range

The annual Polite Society Pistol Match has always been a staple of the Tactical Conference. All registered attendees are eligible to shoot the match. Your competition time will be assigned to you in advance and sent by email, and a list of the full competition schedule will be available at the Conference. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled time. When you arrive, please be prepared to shoot, with all your gear ready to go. The range officers will give further instructions once you arrive. Winners will be announced after the last session ends on Sunday afternoon. Good luck in the match!



www.Rangemaster.com Page 18 of 18

Thanks for attending the 2017 Rangemaster Tactical Conference! We look forward to seeing you again in 2018.