



# SAGA SNIPPETS

THE SAGA TRUST  
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065

TEL 031-562-9951 FAX 086-553-9615  
EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA

## Ladies Shooting Competition

SAGA was one of the sponsors for the recent Gun Africa 2017 Top Shot Ladies Competition, which took place on Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at the premises of the False Bay Sports Shooting Club.

The event was well attended with 44 lady shooters participating. There were many prizes to be won, including a pump-action shotgun sponsored by the Powder Keg.

The ladies had to partake in different types of sports shooting activities from the main sports shooting bodies, such as NPA, Cowboy Action Shooting, IPSC, IDPA, 3Gun Nation, ICore, Steel Challenge, as well as shoot a .50 calibre rifle.

The event was a resounding success with the ladies really enjoying themselves, despite the fact that many of them had never been involved in many of the sports shooting disciplines.



The top ladies at the event were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place Alexis Biermann (middle)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place Ester Liebenberg-Stassen (left)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Helen Xie (right)

Alexis Biermann also won the pump-action shotgun from the Powder Keg.

SAGA congratulates the winners as well as all the ladies who took part in the competition. We trust they will continue with safe and responsible shooting.

By Damian Enslin



## Court Case Update

On 4 July 2017, the Gauteng High Court ruled in favour of the SA Hunters' application that Sections 24 and 28 of the Act were unconstitutional, pending a review by the Constitutional Court. A few weeks later, on 28 July, the South African Police Services (SAPS) filed an appeal with the Constitutional Court against the Gauteng High Court ruling.

The appeal of the SAPS against the Gauteng North High Court's deci-

sion will be heard in the Constitutional Court on 8 February 2018.

- \* If your firearm licence is due for renewal please ensure you apply to renew it more than 90 days prior to its expiry.
- \* If you have already handed a firearm in to the Police, retain the proof thereof very carefully. Do not ask the Police to give back your firearm. They will not do it.
- \* If you are in possession of a

firearm of which the licence is lapsed, please keep it locked away in your safe until the court case is settled.



1985

2015

## 5 Biggest Mistakes Concealed Carriers Make

by Sheriff Jim Wilson  
Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Personal defense and concealed carry are definitely hot topics today. More and more citizens are realizing that they are responsible for their own safety and they are taking steps to protect themselves and their families. All of this is good, but in many cases folks are getting bad information (“Well, Uncle Charlie says...”), or they are not thinking the process through in a rational manner. In no particular order, here are five of the biggest mistakes that concealed carriers can make.

### #1...CARRYING TOO SMALL A HANDGUN:

Many people are attracted to small defensive handguns simply because they can be more easily concealed. What they fail to realize is that the smaller the handgun, the more difficult it is to shoot accurately.

Small handguns increase the felt recoil from a particular cartridge. Simply put, that little 9mm that fits so nicely in the pocket is going to kick more than a larger service pistol in the same caliber. Recoil may be so sharp that it causes the shooter to start flinching, that is, anticipating the gun firing and the resultant recoil. When we flinch, we have trouble hitting the target in an accurate manner.

Taking the 9mm as an example, it is possible to find defensive handguns in small, medium and large. The shooter is well advised to select the handgun that is most comfortable to shoot. Comfort leads to accuracy, and accuracy leads to confidence in the gun and one's ability to deliver shots that will stop a criminal attack.



### #2...FAILURE TO DRESS AROUND THE HANDGUN:

One of the main reasons that people end up with a gun that is so small they can't use it effectively is because it is easier to conceal with the clothes that they are used to wearing. In short, they haven't learned to dress around the gun.

Dressing around the gun is not as difficult as it may sound at first. It may just entail buying pants that are one size larger in the waist. It may involve wearing shirts or blouses without tucking them into the pants. It may involve wearing a lightweight fleece vest, although one should stay away from the khaki photographer's vests that were once so popular for concealed carry that they should have a sign across the back that says, “I have a gun!”.

An excellent idea is to get concealment advice from people who have been carrying for a while. Find out how they manage to conceal during the various seasons of the year, what holsters they use and what other holsters might be available. In most cases, changes to the wardrobe are not all that severe. Use your imagination and learn to dress around the gun.

### #3...OFF-BODY CARRY:

Many women solve the concealment problem by carrying in a purse. And, nowadays, it is not uncommon to see men using shoulder bags as well. Although it is certainly better to have a firearm in a bag than no firearm at all, there are two problems with this type of concealed carry.

The first is that it takes much longer to get the gun into action from a bag than it does a holster on the body. And it takes two hands to get the gun into action, one to draw the gun and the other to hold the bag still. Considering that the crook has to make his move before you can draw on him, time is the one thing you can't afford to waste.

The second problem with off-body carry is that people tend to lay their off-body devices down while they go about other tasks. The minute that bag is off your shoulder, you have lost control over it. It becomes more accessible to crooks, unauthorized people and children.

The defensive handgun is more quickly brought into action when it is holstered on the person. It is also easier to control who sees it and who touches it. Learning to dress around the gun makes carrying in a purse or bag unnecessary.

### #4...LACK OF TRAINING:

We often hear people say that they have been shooting guns all their lives. While this may be true, in most cases, they have never learned to fight with a gun. And folks, there is a big difference between those two.

## Continued...5 Biggest Mistakes

Whether they want to admit it or not, what most people know about gunfighting is what they have gotten from movies or television. I don't think I need to go into any great detail about how faulty that sort of information is to real-world criminal attacks. If you wanted to learn to scuba dive or fly an airplane, a smart person would realize the importance of getting training. It is no different with personal defense: It only makes sense to get good professional training.

We are fortunate to have numerous, well-qualified defensive instructors working today. Some of these instructors will even travel to your home shooting range to put on classes. Get the training...and then get more training. And, after you have absorbed that, book another school. When your life depends on it, there is

not much chance of getting too much training.

### #5...NOT TAKING GUN SAFETY SERIOUSLY ENOUGH:

When you carry a gun you have the obligation to not place your fellow citizens in danger. Gun safety is a 24/7 proposition. It must be in effect whenever you handle a firearm. It must become second nature. It must be something that you are rabidly serious about any time, every time, and all the time. And you must demand it from your friends and family.

When guns go off unintentionally it is rarely due to an accident; most often it is due to negligence. Here are four easy-to-understand safety rules that will help avoid all sorts of grief:

1. All guns are always loaded
2. Never let the muzzle cover anything that you aren't willing to destroy
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target
4. Be sure of your target and what is behind it

Carrying a concealed handgun is a way of life. In many ways, it changes the way we dress, the way we act and the way we think. It changes our priorities to the point that we pass on a vacation in order to spend time and money on training. Taking it seriously will help a person avoid these five pitfalls to concealed carry.

[https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2017/6/28/5-biggest-mistakes-concealed-carriers-make/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=insider&utm\\_campaign=0717](https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2017/6/28/5-biggest-mistakes-concealed-carriers-make/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0717)

## Study on Blood Lead Levels



The study "**Blood lead levels following consumption of game meat in Italy**" has been recently published in Elsevier scientific magazine.

The aim of this study was to measure lead (Pb) levels in blood (Pb-blood) in consumers of game meat, taking into account other

possible sources of lead exposure. A spot blood sample was obtained from 95 subjects, and a questionnaire was used to collect general information and data on game meat consumption, hunting, wine drinking and other possible sources of lead exposure. Pb-blood was measured by inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry.

The results showed that **Pb-blood was not influenced by** age, sex, residence in an urban or rural area, **consumption of game meat**, tobacco smoking or hobbies associated with potential exposure to lead, and median Pb-

blood was 1.7 (5th-95th percentile 1.0-5.3) µg/dL and 3.4 (0.9-6.1) µg/dL for game meat non-eaters and eaters, respectively.

The complete study can be purchased online at:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935116309458>

Taken from WFSA (World Forum on Shooting Activities) July 2017 Newsletter.

## 5 Tips For Mentoring New Hunters



[https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2017/8/23/5-tips-for-mentoring-new-hunters/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=insider&utm\\_campaign=0817](https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2017/8/23/5-tips-for-mentoring-new-hunters/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0817)

by John Zent  
Wednesday, August 23, 2017

If you go by what old-timers say, you might think mentoring new hunters is mostly about rationing ammo. According to a much-repeated proverb, the newbie is sent forth with just one round, and must bring back meat in order to earn another. That would indeed motivate one to pick their shots carefully. But unless you're already a crack shot, it's not how you become one, since shooting skills are built through repetitive practice.

With that in mind, here's a five-step guide to mentoring budding hunters to positive outcomes that will help him or her fall in love with this all-American pastime.

**1. Hit the Range**—Before any actual hunting, newcomers must gain the skills needed to make killing shots. Depending on the student's level of training, they may need full-on gun-safety and basic handling lessons. Rifle shooters may need instruction in shooting technique, especially when firing from the position(s) typical for your style of hunting. Life-size targets fired at realistic distances provide great practice

and a reflection of the student's ability, and also teach important lessons in anatomy and shot placement.

In addition to safety and handling basics, wingshooters may need coaching on mounting, footwork and swing-through. Clay birds are ideal for training, and sporting clays is especially valuable because of the variety of targets that simulate different kinds of hunting. If you have a safe place to shoot, a handheld thrower can zing clays for useful (and fun) practice.

And so the first step is to shoot with your beginner or refer them to qualified instruction. Only when they can demonstrate competence on the range are they ready for the real thing.

**2. Lead by Example**—The tried-and-true method for training new hunters is for them to accompany parents, grandparents, etc., strictly as an observer at first, "graduating" to full participant when the time is deemed right. This is the norm among family groups and where possible there's still no better way. But with more and more recruits coming as teens or adults, it behooves us to accommodate their natural inclinations to get right in on the action.

Let's also recognize that TV hunting shows can be a kind of surrogate mentor. Yes, I know there's plenty of buffoonery on the tube, which tends to suggest hunting is much easier than it really is, that it's all about trophy size and getting all puffed up after a kill is a virtue.

On the other hand, TV depictions can help newcomers envision what can and is supposed to happen. Verbal and written stories

can't quite match the ability of video to convey what it looks like when a tom turkey comes to a call, how to maintain proper spacing during a group pheasant hunt and other scenarios. While it's far from real-time experience, viewers get a sense for the sights and sounds, the positioning of hunter and prey, the pacing, the need for stealth, and when to wait and when to shoot.

Or why not combine the two methods? Watch a couple of shows together and speak your mind, both about what's worthwhile and what isn't. Then, with just one gun, take your trainee out for what may be a dry run, or—if you both feel the situation is right—could instead be his or her first actual hunt.

**3. Take a Walk, Have a Seat**—An even better intro, in my opinion, is a preseason visit to your hunting spot. When that can be arranged, walk through the woods or fields, look for sign, try to spot wildlife—the animals you will be hunting and others. Perhaps even climb into the stand or blind you will be using. Scouting it out is a great way to orient budding partners before the action and pressure of the real thing factor in. A dress rehearsal helps them to break-in new boots and get used to their hunting clothes while learning to walk quietly and use their eyes and ears like a predator. It's okay to enjoy some quiet conversation, especially if the actual hunt is some time off. It should be a time for fun. It's also a time to practice and learn using some of the tools of the trade. Binoculars—so important to the overall experience—can be tricky for first-time users, and so instruction is in order. If the trainee is willing, you may also want to break out some

## Continued...5 Tips For Mentoring New Hunters

game calls and tune up for the coming performance.

The point here is that any ground you guys can cover in a warm-up session will contribute to making the hunt more rewarding and productive.

**4. Keep it Simple**—Avoid starting with hunts that are overly challenging—those requiring lots of time, money, physical exertion and arcane equipment—as well as situations likely to require split-second decisions and follow-through. Pursuing game that is abundant and easily located is the ideal scenario. Though hunting wild animals is never truly a controlled situation, some outings tend to be fairly predictable, thus giving newbies a better chance to process what is happening and to prepare to make a good shot. Game that comes to the hunters—deer from stands and blinds, spring turkey, waterfowl and doves—give beginners prime opportunities to be safe and successful.

The downside there is that for many, inactivity is boring, which should be a concern to mentors. Try sharing what you like about sitting quietly, soaking in nature's sights and sounds, but if your charge can't get settled, there are ways to ramp up the action. In fact the traditional first hunt for many Americans is a combination of sitting and stalking and glassing—squirrel hunting. By turns it can entail aggressiveness and patience, and the spotting and shoot-

ing are challenging. But if you can stake out a half-decent woodlot, the two of you will likely get plenty of chances. An even more active alternative is rabbit hunting, which, with a couple of partners and a dog can also be good training ground. In that fluid situation, where everyone is moving and shooting opportunities are quick, make sure new shooters are ever mindful of where their muzzles are pointed and where the dog is.

Small-game hunts also are great first lessons in field dressing, butchering and game cooking, all vital parts of the sport.

A pre-hunt gear review is always in order. Make sure appropriate firearms and ammo—which should have been used in range sessions—will be in use. Oftentimes mentors can loan things like clothing, optics, a stool, perhaps even an easy-to-use tool like a deer grunt tube or push-pin turkey call. Footwear is important and not something easily shared, so well beforehand, help your trainee understand what is needed. Cold, wet feet can ruin a hunt and douse the will to stick with it.

**5. Respect the Game**—While it's entirely possible to gain the skills needed to harvest lots of game, if a hunter doesn't also develop respect for the sport, for fellow hunters and for the animals, they're missing out on one of the best parts of hunting. We owe newcomers an explanation of why fair-chase, shooting only when one can plausibly make a quick hu-

mane kill, and why celebrating a kill with gratitude and respect are ethics American hunters have always embraced. While it's not possible to force one's values on anyone else, we can and should share what makes this ages-old human activity so vital to so many. It's also important to pass along the sense that we are dedicated, on-the-ground conservationists, and that wildlife management through hunting is the proven best way to ensure the continued existence of wild animals.

While these aren't overly difficult concepts, they can't necessarily be conveyed during a single conversation. Mostly our hunting ethics and values are taught through example, but they are also a common theme in our hunting culture. For many, hunting becomes such an integral part of life they feel compelled to read about it and watch it on TV. That's part of the reason NRAFamily.org and NRA's American Hunter magazine and website are so popular. New offerings, like NRAHLF.org (HLF stands for Hunter's Leadership Forum) and NRAHunting.com are also great sources of information and inspiration into why we hunt and why we must be vigilant in opposing well-financed anti-hunting forces determined to strip us of this basic human right. Please steer all of your hunting friends and partners to these online resources.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

## 11 (Cheap) Ways to Make Your Home a Castle

by Jeff Johnston  
Wednesday, July 12, 2017

We all want 24-hour armed security and a car fitted with bulletproof glass, but the reality is, most of us aren't wealthy enough to turn our places into Ft. Knox. Rest assured, though, that in addition to getting a firearm and training as a last resort against crime, there are some easy, inexpensive things you can do to protect your home. Here are our top 11.

### 1. Install video cameras:

Cameras aren't the end-all for home defense, but they can certainly help. Cameras can record a face and solve a crime after the fact, but what they are better for is *preventing* crime. That's because if thieves see cameras, they are likely to pick an easier home—one that doesn't have them.

I have a camera system ...that allows me to see my home remotely, so I can check it while I'm away. If I'm at home and I hear a noise, I can see what's going on outside before I come to the door. But security isn't all about the system itself. In installing the system, professional security companies think of other things.

### 2. The cameras don't even *have* to be real:

"Dummy" cameras are cheap, but their presence bolsters your home's defensive posture. In fact, you can even use a dummy camera as a decoy. A criminal intent on breaking into your home may try to break or cover any obvious security cameras. So place a dummy in a likely spot for a real camera, then, if possible, hide a real camera somewhere that looks at the dummy. This way you'll be able to see a villain if they target what they think is the real camera.

### 3. Shed some light on the matter:

"Keep your house's perimeter lit up," says Frank Orman, whose company specializes in home security systems and tactics. "Even simple motion detectors work great. The light catches the neighbor's eye, and they also catch the attention of the would-be burglar. It's an excellent deterrent."



### 4. Fortify your exterior doors with deadbolts or other devices:

Simple door knob locks are too easy to pick and to kick. If your outside doors don't have deadbolts, have them installed. ....

### 5. Use trail cams:

Unlike security cameras, which tend to be hard-wired into your home's electricity, trail cameras work on batteries and are designed to be hidden. Put one in a place where it's likely to pick up a bad guy when he's coming onto or leaving your property. If you live in the country, hiding a trail cam is easy: Set it up in a tall tree where even if a criminal sees it, it will be a huge commitment to destroy. If you live in town, however, you'll have to be more creative in hiding the cam; the challenge is, you don't want it taking a photo of every single car that drives down the road or person who walks the sidewalk. But you could put one in a tree facing your back door, ....

### 6. Boundaries, boundaries, boundaries:

"Fences lend security," explains Orman. "While they may not deter a criminal from trespassing, a fence, if crossed, leaves you no question that the trespasser has a plan and is not there by accident. I also advise marking your fence with 'No Trespassing,' 'Beware of Dog' and 'Smile, You're on Camera' signs placed around the perimeter."

### 7. Get a dog:

While a dog isn't *cheap*, exactly—it will cost you thousands over the long haul—a dog who naturally barks at strange smells and strange people is one of the best crime preventers known. If you're sleeping, he'll wake you up. If you're home alone, he will be your early warning system with his keen senses. And if your dog is home but you are not, it takes a brave villain indeed to enter despite the growling, yapping canine that's just on the other side of the window. Likely, the bad guy will choose another house.

### 8. Install a hotel-style lock on your bedroom door:

For some reason, placing a lock on your bedroom door sounds odd to some people. But why? Do you not lock your outside doors? A lock on your inner sanctum gives you a last line of defense. Besides, if you are asleep and someone breaks in and enters your bedroom, your gun or ninjitsu does you little good.... The lock makes a loud clanging noise if the door is opened without throwing the lever off first. ... surely if someone breaks your bedroom door down you'll wake up. If you're awake and armed, you have a chance. If you are awake and armed behind a locked door, you have the advantage.

## Continued .... Make Your Home a Castle

### 9. Put your lights on a timer:

Whether you are away on vacation or just not home at night, buy a timer system for a few of your interior lamps. Then set them to turn on and off at random times to give the illusion that someone is home. Most criminals won't break into a home if they think someone is there. It's bad for business.

### 10. Secure your vehicles:

"If your vehicles stay outside, be sure to remove any garage-door openers, ... items that may have personal information or spare house keys," says Orman. If you don't, the criminal can obtain access to your house if they can they open your vehicle...and, sadly, most cars aren't terribly difficult to break into. Park vehicles under lights or in open areas that can be seen and, reminds Orman, "always set the alarm and lock the doors."

### 11. Have a plan:

This is perhaps the least expensive thing you can do to keep your household safe, but it's likely the most important.

Simply talk with your family about what will happen should the unthinkable happen. Devise a secret knock that alerts other family members it's not an intruder at their door. Have a meeting place...and a backup meeting place. Tell family members whether you want them to go to a safe room, a secure hiding place, or if you want them to flee to a neighbor's.

For many families, a good plan involves the wife staying in the bedroom with a gun and cell phone while the man goes and fetches the kids. Make sure that when a family member calls for help, they know to inform dis-

patchers that the homeowner has a gun, and what that person (you) looks like.

You just need a plan, and a back-up plan, and you need to talk about it *now*, before something happens. Your goal here is not to worry your family members; if you have a relatively secure home, a gun and a plan, it is the home invader who should be worried.

Extracted and edited from:  
[https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2017/7/13/11-cheap-ways-to-make-your-home-a-castle/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=insider&utm\\_campaign=0717](https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2017/7/13/11-cheap-ways-to-make-your-home-a-castle/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=insider&utm_campaign=0717)