

JULY 05

INFORMATION LETTER/UPDATE:

Calendar Changes/Updates Law Enforcement:

- **9-13 Jan 06 Adv Hostage Rescue San Marcos, TX Open**

Calendar Changes/Updates Civilian/Open:

- None Noted

IN GENERAL:

I apologize for this letter being late. The motherboard on my Sony lap top went bad during a recent class in San Marcos and I purchased a new Toshiba that is up and running. No data was lost and my new machine has a DVD burner that is pretty slick. I can back-up all my data on three disks instead of 15-20 CD's.

COURSE UPDATE(S):

Tactical Pistol Instructor (six-day):

We just finished a six-day tactical pistol instructor class. It was a small class of instructors, but was the perfect size for a pilot course. I was able deliver the material and ensure time lines were met. Due to the heat, we started the class at 6:00 am and finished between 2-3:00 pm everyday. The class went well and we got off the range before the heat took its toll and the learning curve dropped.

Students were assigned blocks of instruction the second day of the course that they were required to deliver to new students on day 5-6. I believe in instructors putting hands on new students prior to leaving such an instructor level course. The new instructors did an excellent job. The two day class was full, 12 students and the instructor to student ratio was great.

Instructor students were also required to pass a written exam and shooting test prior to completion of the course.

RANGE UPDATE:

I currently have a dozer working and we are polishing up the long distance range. I am getting the 200 and 300 yard berms "exact" as well as trying to push a lane out to 400/500. I will know how that goes tomorrow. We did get some rain this past week and the grass is starting to take off.

On a side note, the hogs are being taken care of one at a time. I let some local boys in this morning to help clean them out. They use dogs to track and "catch dogs" to pin. It is interesting to watch. They nailed a 465 hog on the North side of the property a couple of weeks ago and let me know that they got a big boar today. I should have photos in a few days.

TRAINING:

I read a great deal on the chat lines about weapons, calibers, etc. When asked, "What is the best gun," Ken Hackathorn replied, "It's the one in your hand." Much can be said about this. It is no the machine in your hand, but the person driving it. I have witnessed folks shoot handguns whose caliber was not a .45, but could shoot it fast, well and accurately. This is the name of the game. I prefer to shoot the largest caliber I can handle, but not everyone is built like me. I have a failure drill that sometimes shows what caliber you can and cannot handle. If your recovery time is too great, or the muzzle blast creates a flinch or jerk, the caliber may be counter productive to your shooting. Let's face it, some folks don't have the time to shoot like they need to. Pick a caliber that is comfortable to you and you enjoy shooting and then match the gun with some good bonded ammo.

EQUIPMENT:

I just got in my new Glock 30's with light rails and have been breaking them in. I installed two different sights on the guns.

The Tru-Glo fiber optic tritium is looking good. The lime-green sights worked well in the day light/night for easy uniform pick-up. I am not sure how they will stand up to cleaning solvents, but I will keep you posted. The factory attempts to match the front and rear to give you a 25 yard point of aim point of impact zero. Mine shoot about 4-6" high. I am going to shoot the gun more and see if it (or I) settles in a bit.

The Mepro light sights on my other gun shoot about 8" high and Glock Meister is sending me another set of lower rear sights. I will let you know how they work out.

IN CLOSING

I am beginning to book classes for next year and after much thought, have decided to raise my prices for some courses. I have held off raising any prices since I began teaching, but as much as I love the job, it is a business. I am looking at putting in a building along with other improvements and I intend to get off the road even more.

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To do achieve this, I need to increase my revenue a bit and cut back on my classes on the road while doing more at my facility. I have a certain standard that I want for my customers and to do that, I have to spend a bit more money on the ranges. Currently, the ranges are all weather range (except for lightening). In the future, I want to put in a classroom building with heat and A/C to include showers, classroom and mat room for hand combat.

Having made this decision, I will still provide the best and most relevant tactical training I can design and deliver, while making every effort to keep my prices reasonable.

Take care and be safe.

Paul R. Howe