

NATURAL RIGHT

FIREARMS

NEWSLETTER

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MAN, IT IS WET

I was looking for a tool the other day. A file that I could sharpen the blades on my outboard motor so I can cut the grass in my shooting bays. I cancelled my USPSA matches in July and August because of heat but it turns out it would have been too wet instead of too hot. The good thing is NRF range drains well. So, Steel challenge is no problem even with all the rain.

I guess living in south Mississippi you never know if you will have 110-degree July or every afternoon flash showers that would float Noah's ark. This is the year of the Ark.

Some good news is when it dries up enough, I finally got enough gravel to cover the East end of the range next to the new bays. It is small steps, but it is slowly coming around. Also got a new flagpole. We will be able to play the national anthem and have an invocation ahead of matches. We need to practice our patriotism and faith more than ever now.

THE MENTAL GAME

Steve Anderson is coming to NRF in September to teach mental management. The reason people spend so much to have someone come teach that aspect is because your mental game is just as important cleaning your equipment, stage planning or even choosing the ammo you will use today. One reason I have such a hard time shooting well on match day is because so many other things occupy my mind on match day, at least when I am hosting. When I go shoot at BNA, or DSSA I tend to shoot much better because I'm not thinking about 40 other things and can focus on the match.

NRF is planning something for Steel Challenge guys also. We don't have a date set yet or even a complete agenda. It will be a two-day class something like Steve Anderson's taught by Vance Williamson. It will be a Match Tracker Academy on shooting steel challenge. He teaches one on one classes now but has agreed to put something together for those interested in getting better shooting steel challenge. Because I want to gauge interest, I am mentioning it here. If you would be interested shoot me a text or email and I will be sure to include you when we finalize plans. It will likely be a Friday Saturday class on a weekend we are already scheduling a steel challenge match and the match fee for one gun will be included in the registration.

THE MATCH

I continue to be excited about hosting our first Tier II Steel Challenge Championship here in the Pine Belt of Mississippi. The sooner registration is complete the better we can plan for the match so go to Practiscore and register for

the November 1-3 match at NRF Club. There is another club in Brandon who is putting on a Tier 1 match two weeks ahead of this one. They have chosen to adopt part or most of the name I chose for our match, so it is very confusing which match you are signing up for. Go to Practiscore and sign up to shoot the Magnolia State Steel Challenge Championship at NRF Club. We have some awesome sponsors and want to be sure to let them know we couldn't do this without them. It has been an enjoyable experience securing sponsors, planning for the RO's and working to make this an enjoyable experience for the shooters and sponsors alike. This range was built to host USPSA and Steel Challenge matches, so we are here to stay. As I have said before we want to have a nice safe place to shoot and want to get sponsor products in front of competitors. In the meantime, we shoot Steel Challenge every first Saturday of the month. In September and October,



we will be shooting all 8 stages of steel challenge. There won't be any sponsorships, trophies or drama, just fun and fellowship. Come check us out if you never had the opportunity to before.

THE RANGE

We finally got some gravel for area in front of the new bays on the east end of the range so rainy weather should not hinder us as much as in the past. I also renumbered the pistol bays, so the pistol bays are sequential now. In the past I have a training bay behind the venue I called bay 1 (David) and bay 2 was the rifle bay (Jeremiah). The remainder are bay 3 (Shammah), Bay 4 (Jashobeam), bay 5 (Joab), bay 6 (Gideon), Bay 7 (Eleazar), bay 8 (Benaiah), bay 9 (Samson), and bay 10 (Naaman). These were named after warriors in the Bible. I have a little history writeup at each bay about them. In biblical times these guys fought for Israel and the rights given to them by God.



We finally got a flag for the range. I never served in the military, but I want to always honor our country and the men and women who fought to protect the liberties we have. We can come out and shoot in competitions because men and women fought for those freedoms.

TRAINING

Shooting a firearm takes some skill. Skill comes to some naturally and to some like me with much work. I often tell my students the reason I teach is because I'm such a bad shot. George Bernard Shaw said, "He who can, does; He who cannot, teaches". That's why I teach. I'm not naturally a good shot. I must work at it. One or two things I do know about handling a firearm is if you never handle it, you will never get better at it. From time to time, you need to take it out of the bag and if nothing else do some dry fire practice. A lot of practice you can do without ever going to the range or sweating in the July heat. Practice drawing from different concealment, practice doing magazine changes, slap rack and roll drills to clear a jam. God forbid you are ever in a situation where you need to protect someone like maybe the former President and can't figure how to holster your firearm.

Training to use your gun is not unlike things you do daily. Take driving a car for instance. If an animal runs in front of you going down the road, what are you going to do? Slam on brakes maybe. Do you look down at your foot before moving it from the gas pedal to the brake pedal? Of course you don't. You know where it is without looking. Your brain has reserved that information in muscle memory. It got there from repetitively doing it repeatedly. It is the same with your carry gun. The more you practice, drawing, mag changes, shooting, and holstering the easier it will be to do that without even thinking about it.

Something else you should know is shooting is a perishable skill. If you don't practice what you learn will diminish over time. I say all this for those of you who see me and say I need to get up there and take a class, or I should come shoot in a match. We make time to do what is important to us. I don't practice nearly enough. I hope the people who read this and never handle their weapon are never in a situation they need to use it. That is not the time to start learning.

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