

May 1, 2008 - Newsletter

First, a tribute to a brave lady from the Austin Rifle Club. Sandy Riggs lost her battle with health problems on April 3, 2008. She will be long remembered for all of her time and efforts, at the side of her husband and fellow worker Dana, in the Austin Rifle Club education programs and club activities. A tireless worker for shooting sports and training, Sandy will long be remembered by those who knew or knew of her through the accomplishments of the club. She had an uncanny ability to get people to do more than they ever thought they could.

***We have set the first personal protection in the home class (May 10, 2008 at the America Best Value Hotel, 909 E. Koenig Lane, Austin, Texas)). To take this class, you must have completed the Handgun Basic Class or at least taken the test and passed it. This class will be taught in a classroom setting and no ammunition or live fire will be completed.***

***It will cover securing the handgun in the home, responding to the unexpected, remaining calm and in control, types of guns and their use in self defense of the home. We will also review safety matters in defense of the home and different types of holsters, storage containers, ammunition and rotating ammunition with hands on simulated guns and other safety devices.***

***The class will start at 8 am and end at 4:30 pm with an hour off for lunch. The number of students will be limited so that we have sufficient instructors with each group.***

***The next Basic Handgun course is May 31<sup>st</sup> from, 8 am to 2 pm at the Lone Star Gun Range'***

We must keep stressing that your concealed handgun is a matter of last resort. Your goal to stay alive, and survive. Common sense tells you that if there is time and/or distance, you want to escape by any means. However if escape and flight are not options, be prepared to fight.

In many instances, the mere presence of a handgun in the hands of a law abiding citizen prevents the use of deadly force on either side. However, if you must use your handgun in self defense to save innocent lives, including your own, *take a stand and use your handgun*, shooting center of mass until there is no longer a threat. You should not reveal your handgun unless the situation has degenerated to a matter of receiving seriously bodily injury and/or death – last resort.

With verbal threats alone, you cannot respond with deadly force. The person must have or acted or appeared to have the means at hand to carry out their intent because they are armed with a weapon which could cause serious injury, or, if unarmed, they are physically capable of overpowering you.

The situation should make you feel that the conditions merit the use of deadly force on your part to prevent serious bodily injury and/or death. That perception of fear raised to the level of belief that it is a last resort, may be different for different people because of numbers of attackers, size, appearance of weapons, and other facts.

The old Scout adage of “Being Prepared” and continuing practice are a must. Become familiar with your firearm, its operation and capabilities so you will respond correctly in a trauma situation. Be alert to your physical surroundings and with a watchful eye for unfamiliar or suspect conditions when not in your safe zones.

The “fight or flight” reflex will always manifest itself resulting in increased heart rate and cardiac output, higher blood pressure, accelerated respiration, greater carbohydrate metabolism, and instantaneous supercharging of the body by the adrenal glands. The body may express itself by greater strength and faster speed and near impervious reaction to pain. However, the motor skills grossly deteriorate, dexterity noticeably decreases, and body may tremble and you may experience an altered state of perception. You are probably are not calm, cool and collected.

The mind may screen out extraneous matters not immediate to survival; such as when a person does not hear the air bag go off during an accident.

Then the denial response may appear. “My gun must have gone off.” One tends to seek mental and emotional shelter in normalcy. You may experience a state of confusion resulting in remembering events out of sequence, exaggerating the importance of little things, and forgetting important events. Recognize how your body and mind may react, and prepare yourself accordingly. *Mental preparedness is one aspect of self defense.*

It may not be a good idea to give legal statements regarding an attack right away, especially if the attack was terminated by the justifiable use of deadly force. Prepare yourself with a mind set to responsibly respond to officials and other personnel should you ever have to use personal self defense to go home to your family.

Our Personal Protection in the Home class is on our web site with an outline of the days event, price and sign up. If you have not taken the Handgun Basic Class and want to take the test to attend, give us a call and we will arrange for you to do so before class on the day of the class. All classes are set out on the web site, click on Schedule and then the class you are interested in; maps and outlines will come up. If you have any questions or do not wish to sign up online, give us a call. 512/750 9843.

Ross and Dottie