



The Flyer

Official Newsletter of the
Airfield Shooting Club

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Airfield Shooting Club

at the Airfield 4H Center ~ Wakefield, Virginia

P.O. Box 250, Wakefield, VA 23888

Spring Shooting News



Happy
Spring

ASC Member of the Quarter

By The ASC Board of Directors

Name: Brian Howell (ASC #710)



The board of directors has chosen Mr. Brian Howell as the member of the quarter. Brian is an avid shooter that can be found out at the range almost every weekend.

He has often been seen cleaning off the firing line of leaves, debris, and other items that were not properly replaced or disposed of.

Brian is constantly taking the initiative to correct and improve the conditions at the range.

Please join the board of directors in recognizing his dedication, initiative, and hard work to make our range better.

Range Safety

Don Aubuchon, Editor

The Board of Directors would like to remind members that range safety is everyone's responsibility. We all must be involved to ensure that our range is run in a safe manner.

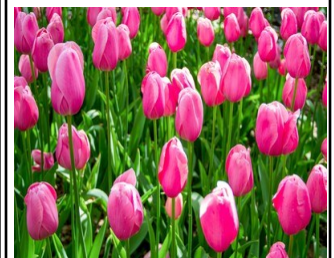
Members are to exercise care and common sense at the range. Watch yourself and fellow members. Members are expected to quickly and firmly act to correct unsafe practices and save someone from avoidable injury or death.

DO NOT become upset if you are corrected for a safety violation. We all make mistakes and can benefit from the counsel of others.

Members are responsible for maintaining a thorough knowledge of, and complying with, all rules and regulations. Further, members are also required to ensure that their guests comply.

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Up Coming Elections

Don Aubuchon

Attention all ASC Members,
Every year the ASC holds its annual election meeting and breakfast at the Airfield Conference Center. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow members, address club matters, and vote on a new ASC Board of Directors. With all that has happened so far this year, we encourage all members to participate and choose the future leadership of your Club.

Our election and breakfast will be held in July. After breakfast, the ASC President and other Board members will address Club matters. We will then hold the election to choose the new ASC Board. All active Members will be eligible to vote.

Breakfast is paid for by the club for all ASC Members in good standing. Please note that family or guests accompanying Members will not be paid for by the Club.

If you would like to help out at the club or partake in club business this year, please contact the Secretary for more info.

(secretary@airfieldshootingclub.org)

*** ASC WILL NOT BE TAKING IN NEW MEMBERS AT THIS MEETING ***

Online Training is Underway!

Scott Sampson

ASC is hosting online training sessions. These monthly sessions will cover different topics and last for 30 minutes. The online meeting uses Google Meet. The training uses video and power point to communicate the topics. For those that do have hearing impairment challenges, the Close Captioning actually works reasonably well.

We have had a class on Situational Awareness and Defensive shooting basics. We are always interested in hearing from you. Please send a message via our Facebook Page or send an email to the Chief Instructor at instructor@airfieldshootingclub.org.

See you online!





Review: S&W M&P EZ Shield – 380 & 9mm

By Scott Sampson



Above is the Smith and Wesson, Military and Police EZ Shield. The concept in my opinion is long overdue in shooting world and I hope other firearm companies take note. The concept behind this model of firearm is to make it “Easy” or EZ to use and operate. The focus is specifically people with arthritis or weak hands or arms. So, what makes it easy to use? Let’s cover some of the features.

1) Magazine Loading:

S&W took the .22 magazine concept and applied it to the centerfire cartridge magazines. Both calibers offer “buttons” on either side of the magazine that allow you to pull the follower down. You don’t have to push the cartridge down to load it. They are 8+1 capacity.



2) Recoil Spring:

The recoil spring on the both the 9 and 380 are much less than any other gun I have

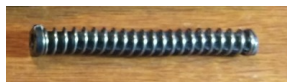


Figure 1 EZ Recoil Spring

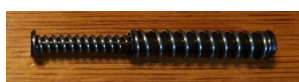


Figure 2 - Sig 365 Recoil Spring

handled of equivalent caliber. Below you can see the difference between the recoil spring of the EZ vs the recoil spring of a

Sig 365. This makes it very easy to pull the slide back.

- 3) Slide Tabs – Not sure if this is the proper term, but the slide at the rear tapers slightly creating “tabs” or ledges at the rear of the slide. This is excellent for people that can’t grip strong enough to operate a normal slide. The tabs give just enough purchase that people can grab the slide easier to pull it back.



The above features make this firearm super easy to operate. It provides some great opportunities for folks that don’t have enough strength to pull a double action trigger on a revolver or rack the slide on a normal semi-automatic.



The gun has several other features that may make it a little more attractive. The gun has a tactile feel loaded chamber indicator. When a casing is in the chamber, the lever rises, and you can feel it in the dark. This is a way to help ensure that you loaded the firearm.

The gun has a grip safety. This grip safety is designed so the top of the grip safety pushes in vs the lower portion of the grip safety (like a 1911). I have seen some new shooters struggle with this as their grip is not quite proper. If you have a proper grip, then it should not be an issue. My version comes with an ambidextrous thumb safety, but this is an option and you can purchase it without it. I have seen people with smaller hands have trouble getting to the slide stop because the safety gets in the way. If you have larger hands or just develop the right technique it should not be a problem.



(continued on page 4)



Review: S&W M&P EZ Shield – 380 & 9mm (Continued)

There are options for the sights on the gun on the 9mm version. Mine are the regular white dots sights and to be perfectly honest are less than stellar. I am not a fan of this type of sight. The gun also comes with an option of night sights which should be much better. The rear sight on both variants are still sloped and do not allow for capturing it on a belt or holster to facilitate one handed racking.



The frame has a standard rail on it that is suitable for a laser, light or a Mantis-X. The platforms do offer a red

Crimson Trace laser as an option.



The pistol can have an ambidextrous safety, but the slide stop is only on one side. The magazine release is setup for a right handed person, but can be switched. The MSRP is about \$430 - \$600 depending on caliber and options. This pistol should appeal to a large segment of the population that a semi-auto was previously a non-starter.

SAFETY IS JOB ONE!

Scott Sampson

Folks we have had several recent reports about safety that have me writing this short reminder that safety is job one! I cannot over emphasize the importance of being safe on our range. If an incident occurs, someone's life could be in danger not to mention the Conference Center could decide not to renew our lease. Pursue safety with a ruthless enthusiasm!

The first incident occurred where a member was on the short-range berm and the rounds were impacting toward the top of the berm. Another member who was not the RSO came over and indicated the shots were high and suggested the target be relocated to ensure the shots impacted the berm in the correct location. The member that was shooting did nothing and continued to shoot.

This is simply unacceptable. An investigation was conducted. The rules clearly state that round must impact the lower half of the berm. If a round goes over the top of the berm, it has left the range. We cannot afford this to happen. The person who brought the issue up, did the correct thing and did not argue, but brought it the board's attention.

Why is the board upset with the situation as we currently understand it? Because it represents not only a known violation of our rules, but a clear disregard for safety and the welfare of our club. We all make mistakes from time to time. However, when someone is kind enough to point out our shortcomings, we need to be responsible and mature enough to correct those errors especially with what is at stake.

The 2nd incident involved a cold range condition on the 50 yd and short-range berm. The RSO was down range taking care of targets and some other gentlemen were at the far end of the 50 and kind of facing the 100.



Safety Is Job One (Continued)

A person on the hundred looked over to see the RSO down range taking care of his targets and the other gentlemen at the benches and handling firearms (no shooting). The person on the 100 went over and immediately called a CEASE FIRE and got everyone on the line together to discuss what he had seen.

The issue was people were at the benches handling firearms when the line was COLD. When there is a COLD range, anyone not going down range, must remain behind the red line and handling of guns, ammunition is not authorized. Persons can go to a bench that does not have firearms on it to tape targets to a cardboard backer but that is it.

After sorting it out, the two gentlemen did not realize a cold range had been called due to hearing issues. There was no malice, they were just unaware. This as a learning opportunity. When you are the RSO, make sure you are in command of the line. You should ensure that:

- 1) Commands are loud and clear.
- 2) Prior to calling a range cold, the RSO should ensure that all firearms are unloaded, actions locked open, and personnel are back behind the red line.
- 3) Prior to calling "You may Now Go Down Range" the RSO should have ensured all personnel were back behind the line.

As a shooter, if you show up to a range and the red flag is up, that means there should be an RSO around. If you don't see anyone on the line, you should start looking for them before you handle firearms. They might be down range; they might be in the bathroom – who knows and that is the point. If you don't know where someone is, it isn't the time to handle firearms and call the range hot and commence fire. Be sure that folks are accounted for.

The third situation that we have discovered recently is the use of portable stands at locations other than the berm. We found portable target stands at

15' at the SRB and a member saw them being used on the 100m range just in front of the line!

To be clear, portable stands that you put the target frames into rather than the PVC pipe can ONLY BE USED AT THE BERM! This is because a frame is sized for a specific location on the range when sitting in the PVC pipe in the ground. Placing the portable stands the berm eliminates the issue of a frame being the incorrect height.



The fourth situation is a combo like the third. We have found repeated strikes on the ground. Not just a couple like an accident, but rather a bunch like a blatant disregard to the rules or someone be completely unaware of what

their target is and what is beyond. Either way this is a very bad situation. When a bullet strikes the ground, it can skip, just like skipping a stone on water. The issue is that the ground is irregular, and you cannot predict where that round will go. We recognize that some police are taught that a skipped round will hug the surface that it ricocheted off. This is generally true with straight uniform things like walls, concrete floors. It is NOT TRUE for dirt.

To help with understanding of the rule "know your target and what is beyond" let's take an example of the cardboard backer on the SRB. How many of the targets can you shoot on this target if you are standing, and this is your vantage point?

If your cardboard backer looks like this and you are only shooting one position (standing) and then you are destroying club property and endangering lives. Let's see why....

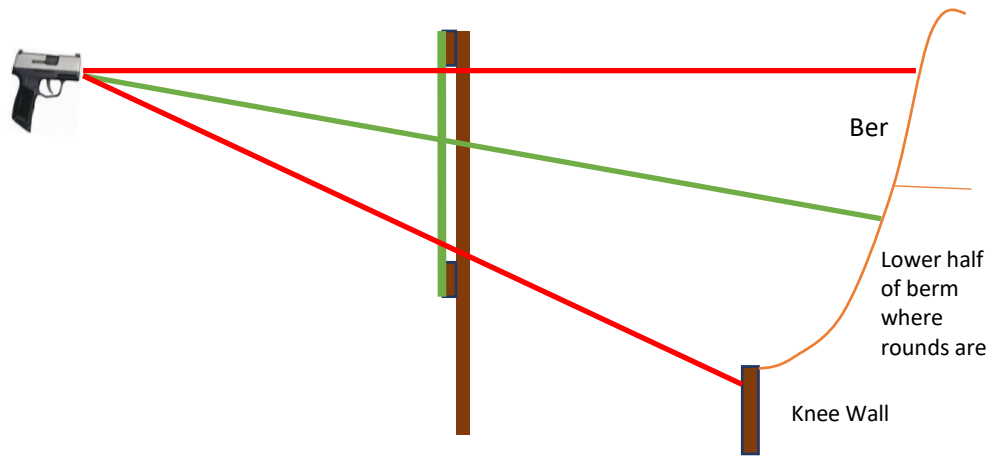




Safety Is Job One (Continued)

The rule “Know your target and what is beyond” is at play here. Let’s consider for all intent and purposes a bullet travels in a straight line for the short distances we are talking about. When looking at the backer above let’s see what is good and bad...

The drawing below shows how the target location effects the impact on the berm. Just because there is a lot of space on the backer, does not mean you can fill it with targets! They are that big to compensate for different shooting positions (ie height)





Safety Is Job One (Continued)

Not only are the targets placed too high for the berm, but the targets cover the top of the frame! Whoever shot this target, no matter what frame they placed it on shot the frame!

We got very lucky with these incidents. It also makes me proud that we had members that caught some of these events and were able to address them. We need to always police ourselves and ensure that we remain vigilant about safety on our range.



Upcoming Events

- Swamp Shooters (23rd of May)
- AIM Shoot (23rd of May)
- Bowling Pin Match (5th of June)
- Swamp Shooters (13th of June)



It's a matter of life and death. Yes, it's that important.