

# The Flyer

Official Newsletter of the  
Airfield Shooting Club

Volume 18, Issue 4

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## Airfield Shooting Club

at the Airfield 4H Center ~ Wakefield, Virginia

P.O. Box 250, Wakefield, VA 23888

### Winter Shooting News



Welcome  
Winter

#### Have a Safe Holiday Season: Getting Familiar with new Firearms and Range Equipment.

As the holiday season envelops us in its festive spirit, many enthusiasts are eagerly anticipating the possibility of receiving or gifting new firearms and range equipment. While the joy of adding to one's collection is undeniable, it's crucial to approach the newfound treasures with responsibility and awareness. This article aims to emphasize the importance of becoming familiar with any new firearms or range gear before heading out to the range, this will ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

#### Safety First:

Before indulging in the excitement of using new firearms or range equipment, prioritizing safety is paramount. Whether you're a seasoned shooter or a novice enthusiast, familiarizing yourself with the specific features, mechanisms, and safety protocols of each item is a non-negotiable step. This not only safeguards you but also those around you at the shooting range.

#### Take the Time to Read Manuals:

Manufacturers provide detailed manuals with their products for a reason – to guide users on safe handling, operation, and maintenance. This holiday season, make it a tradition to thoroughly read and understand the manuals that accompany your new firearms or range equipment. This knowledge is instrumental in preventing accidents and ensuring the longevity of your gear.

#### Seek Professional Guidance:

If you're unsure about any aspect of your new firearms or range equipment, don't hesitate to seek professional guidance. Taking advantage of professional resources can enhance your understanding, build confidence,

and promote responsible firearm use. Look at the training programs offered by ASC.

#### Practice in a Controlled Environment:

Before hitting the range for a full-fledged shooting session, consider practicing in a controlled environment. This could be in your backyard (if legal and safe) with an unloaded firearm or through dry-fire exercises. Familiarizing yourself with the feel and handling of your new equipment in a controlled setting minimizes the risk of accidents during live-fire sessions.

#### Understand Local Regulations:

Different regions have varying laws and regulations regarding the use and transportation of firearms. Take the time to understand and comply with local regulations to ensure a legal and trouble-free shooting experience. This knowledge is especially important if you plan to travel with your firearms during the holiday season.

#### Embrace Continuous Learning:

Learning about firearms and range equipment is an ongoing process. Stay informed about updates, safety tips, and advancements in shooting sports. Engage with the shooting community, both online and at the range, to share experiences and gain valuable insights. The more informed you are, the safer and more enjoyable your shooting experiences will be.

This holiday season, as you unwrap the exciting gifts of new firearms and range equipment, remember that responsibility and safety should be unwrapped first. By taking the time to become familiar with your gear, understanding safety protocols, and staying informed, you contribute to a culture of responsible firearm ownership. Let this season be a celebration of joy, camaraderie, and the responsible pursuit of your shooting passion. Happy holidays and safe shooting!

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## Behind the Scenes: A Day in the Life of a Match Director & Range Safety Officers (RSOs)

*Dear Airfield Shooting Club Members,*

In the symphony of clicks, pops, and echoes that resonate through our range events, there exists a crucial yet often unsung hero—the Match Director. These dedicated individuals are the organizers for our shooting events ensuring not only a enjoyable experience but, above all, a safe one. Join us as we delve into the behind-the-scenes world of our Match Directors and discover the vital role they play in planning events at our range.



### *The Early Morning Rituals*

As the sun peeks over the horizon, our Match Directors are already hard at work. Their day begins with meticulous inspections of the range, setting up the range obstacles, checking for potential hazards, ensuring proper RSO coverage, and verifying the functionality of safety and first aid equipment. This groundwork is essential to set the stage for a day of incident-free shooting event. All this comes after hours of event planning and preparation.

### *The Gatekeepers of Safety Protocols*

Once the range is open for members, the Match Directors and RSOs become the gatekeepers of safety. Their watchful eyes survey every shooter, every firearm, and every movement. Their role is not just about enforcing rules but about cultivating a culture of safety. They educate members on proper firearm handling, emphasize the importance of ear and eye protection, and remind us all of the cardinal rules of gun safety.

### *Handling Challenges with Calm Authority*

In the unpredictable environment of a shooting range, challenges are bound to arise. Whether it's a misfire, a first-time shooter feeling jittery, or a member needing guidance on a new firearm, Match Directors and RSOs handle these situations with calm authority. Their ability to think on their feet and address issues promptly contributes to the smooth operation of the range and a successful event.

### *Emergency Preparedness: A Priority*

Some of our Match Directors and RSOs undergo rigorous training in emergency response. From basic first aid to dealing with potential medical emergencies or firearm malfunctions, they are equipped to handle any situation that may arise. Their preparedness ensures that our shooting environment remains secure, even in the face of unexpected challenges.

### *Beyond the Whistle: Building Relationships*

While the role of an Match Directors and RSOs are rooted in maintaining order and safety, it goes beyond the whistle and commands. Both often build relationships with members, offering guidance on improving shooting skills, recommending appropriate gear, and becoming a resource for knowledge on the range.

### *A Call for Appreciation*

As members of the Airfield Shooting Club, it's essential to recognize and appreciate the tireless efforts of our Match Directors and RSOs. Their commitment to safety allows us to enjoy our passion for shooting with peace of mind. The next time you're on the range, take a moment to express your gratitude to these unsung heroes who work diligently behind the scenes.

### *In Conclusion: Guardians of Our Shooting Sanctuary*

Our Match Directors are the silent sentinels ensuring that our shooting sanctuary remains secure and enjoyable for all. Their dedication to creating firearm matches whilst upholding safety standards enriches our shooting experience and contributes to the strong sense of community that defines the Airfield Shooting Club.

*Thank you to our Match Directors and RSO volunteers for your unwavering commitment to our safety.*



### Contacting Match Directors

Bowling Pin matches: Steven Gordon  
 > [pinmatch@airfieldshootingclub.org](mailto:pinmatch@airfieldshootingclub.org)  
 Service Rifle matches: tbd  
 > [servicerifle@airfieldshootingclub.org](mailto:servicerifle@airfieldshootingclub.org)  
 Defensive Pistol matches: Taylor Strickland  
 > [idpa@airfieldshootingclub.org](mailto:idpa@airfieldshootingclub.org)  
 Rimfire Challenge Matches: Tom Sanford  
 > [rifire@airfieldshootingclub.org](mailto:rifire@airfieldshootingclub.org)  
 Shotgun Completions: Jon Lester  
 > [shotguncompetition@airfieldshootingclub.org](mailto:shotguncompetition@airfieldshootingclub.org)  
 Swamp Shooters: Dale Mullin  
 > [swampshooters@airfieldshootingclub.org](mailto:swampshooters@airfieldshootingclub.org)

### Range Rules Questions

Recently we have gotten questions about some range rules others might benefit from. The first one was regarding the use of a dueling tree on the range. To use a dueling tree at ASC it needs to comply with Steel Target Rules which means that it needs to meet the following:

- Made of AR 500 or better
- Be supported by something that does not cause a ricochet. This could be wood, PVC, electrical conduit.
- It must be placed in/at the berm so that lead is at the berm.

Another member asked for clarity on hanging steel targets from the target frames. There was some discussion about if you had to hang them from the top of the target frame or the lower cross bar.

- To be clear the only target frame locations that you can hang steel from is the position immediately in front of the berm.
- It does need to be hung by two points to prevent it from spinning.
- There is no specific cross bar to hang the steel from. Much depends on the size of the targets and the length of the chain. If it is so long that hanging it from the lower bar increases the risk of shooting the ground then I would hang it from the upper cross bar. If it is short such that it would cause the round to impact above the mid height of the berm then it should be hung on the lower bar.

Questions regarding rules can be submitted to the Chief Instructor at [Instructor@airfieldshootingclub.org](mailto:Instructor@airfieldshootingclub.org).

### Airfield Shooting Club sponsors the Airfield 4-H Swamp Shooters Club.

The Airfield 4-H Swamp Shooters is a 4-H Shooting Education club whose members meet twice a month to hone their marksmanship skills at the 4-H Airfield Center, located in Wakefield, Virginia. But that is only the tip of the iceberg.

The Swamp Shooters are also tasked to develop their leadership skills by holding club officer positions. They learn a great deal of self-discipline by relentlessly following the firearm and range safety rules.

Many of the youth in the Swamp Shooters had never fired a rifle, a shotgun, or had ever drawn a bow before joining our group. Members are given the opportunity to sample three different shooting disciplines: Smallbore Rifle, Archery, or Shotgun. Once they've tried the disciplines they think they may like they are asked to choose one primary discipline for further training during the year. In addition to practicing twice a month the club members compete in sanctioned competition.

First in the 4-H District Shoot and later in the 4-H State Shoot. These competitions are designed to be safe and fun and our young shooters really look forward to them. Bring your young folks out and check us out at one of our practice sessions. Youth age 9 through 19 are welcome to come out to see what we have to offer. We meet on the second and fourth Sundays of most months. For further information contact Dale Mullin ([Dale1449@gmail.com](mailto:Dale1449@gmail.com))

If any of you have an interest in helping the Swamp Shooters as an instructor, we are currently recruiting instructors for Smallbore Rifle and Archery.

### ARCHERY INSTRUCTORS NEEDED!

If you are an archery instructor and interested in helping the club as we gain access to the Airfield Conference Center's new Archery ranges, we want to talk to you!!! We are in desperate need of an archery instructor to help out with different activities throughout the year. It doesn't take a lot of time, but it will take a couple days.

If this interests you please contact Scott Sampson at [Instructor@airfieldshootingclub.org](mailto:Instructor@airfieldshootingclub.org).







### MANTIS Laser Academy Training System Review

By Scott Sampson

Winter is almost here and the weather is already getting a little chilly. Many folks reduce their trigger time because of this. Mantis has a new product called the Mantis Training Academy that can help you out.

Many people are familiar with Mantis-X which is device that is attached to a rail of the gun or a magazine to help grade and assess your shooting skill. The primary focus is measuring how much you move the gun as you press the trigger. It does not involve a target. This is an outstanding product that I have been using for years with myself and students.

The new Laser Academy Training System is another option offered by Mantis. It does not do the assessment but actually uses a laser cartridge and a variety of mantis targets to record your actual performance and how well you score on the target. The system comes with a laser cartridge, tripod for the camera, camera holder, targets, stands carrying cases and more.

You download a free version of software (an application) on your phone that is used to score your shots. It has courses, drills and even a marksmanship test to hone your skills. The provided targets have QR codes on them that the camera automatically identifies and adjusts the scoring rings etc. This allows rapid setup or changing of targets to be able to set up your own course of fire or use one of theirs. You can also create your own targets but takes a little bit of effort.

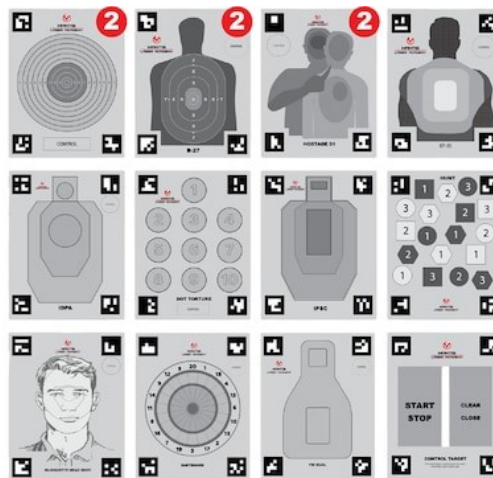
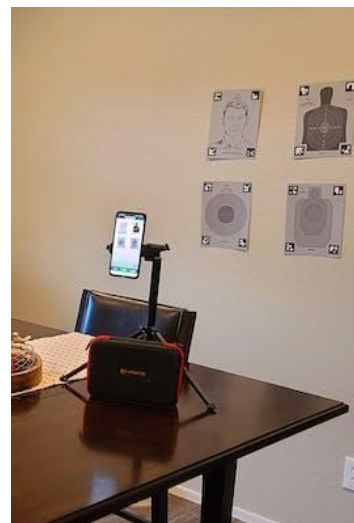
Mantis also offers an additional level of programming called the "Pro" in the application for an additional fee. You can purchase a single drill for \$4.99 or full access for \$49.99 which includes 19 additional drills.

Mantis will track your progress and show a history of how well you are doing. It also shows how often you practice. With number of shots, longest streak, longest gap and success rate. In the individual drills it will show shot placement, the time and split times for each shot. It will also allow you to record notes about your session.

This system because it comes with a laser cartridge can be used with your pistol or you can use a SIRT pistol if happen to have one of those. It also has the ability to work with two shooters

Mantis is currently selling this in a Portable (\$99) or Standard (\$159) versions. This will make a great Christmas Gift for yourself or your favorite shooter.

*Note from the editor to Santa:  
I've been a really good boy!!!*



ATTACH THE DEVICE



CONNECT THE PHONE



COLLECT THE DATA

Connect **MantisX** to the accessory rail of any firearm. Just like you would any other firearm attachment. Works with live fire, dry fire, airsoft, and CO2.

Install the smartphone application, turn on **MantisX**, and pair the device with a phone via Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE or Bluetooth 4.0).

Evaluate shooting performance, identify areas of improvement, and track progress over time.



## Did You Know

First Focal Plane (FFP) and Second Focal Plane (SFP) scopes are two common types of rifle scopes, and they differ primarily in the placement of the reticle and how it scales in relation to the target. Each has its advantages and disadvantages, which largely depend on the intended use and personal preferences of the shooter. Here's a breakdown of the key differences and considerations for each type:

### First Focal Plane (FFP) Scopes:

**Reticle Placement:** In FFP scopes, the reticle is located in front of the magnification lens, meaning it changes in size along with the target as you adjust the zoom. When you increase the magnification, both the target and the reticle appear larger. When you decrease the magnification, they both appear smaller.

**Reticle Consistency:** The FFP reticle's size remains proportional to the target at all magnification levels. This makes range estimation and holdover corrections consistent across the entire zoom range, which is especially valuable for long-range shooting.

#### Advantages:

**Range Estimation:** Easy and consistent estimation of range using the reticle's sub tensions at any magnification setting.

**Holdover Corrections:** Precise holdover corrections without needing to adjust for magnification changes.

**Versatility:** Well-suited for dynamic shooting situations where rapid magnification changes are required.

#### Disadvantages:

**Reticle Thinness:** At lower magnifications, the reticle may become quite thin, making it less visible in low-light conditions.

**Cost:** FFP scopes are often more expensive than their SFP counterparts due to the complexity of their design.

### Second Focal Plane (SFP) Scopes:

**Reticle Placement:** In SFP scopes, the reticle is positioned behind the magnification lens, so it remains the same size regardless of the magnification setting. Only the target image changes in size.

**Reticle Consistency:** The reticle's subtensions (e.g., mil dots or MOA hash marks) are accurate for range estimation and holdover corrections only at a specific magnification setting, typically the highest one.

#### Advantages:

**Reticle Visibility:** The reticle maintains a consistent thickness and visibility across all magnification settings, which can be advantageous in low-light conditions.

**Simplicity:** Simpler design often leads to more affordable scopes.

**Center Crosshair:** The center crosshair remains unobstructed at all magnifications, making it ideal for precision shooting at a single, known distance.

#### Disadvantages:

**Magnification-Dependent:** To use the reticle's subtensions for ranging and holdover, the scope must be set to a specific magnification. If the magnification changes, corrections become inaccurate.

**Range Estimation Challenge:** Estimating range accurately can be challenging when magnification varies because the reticle subtensions do not match the target size.

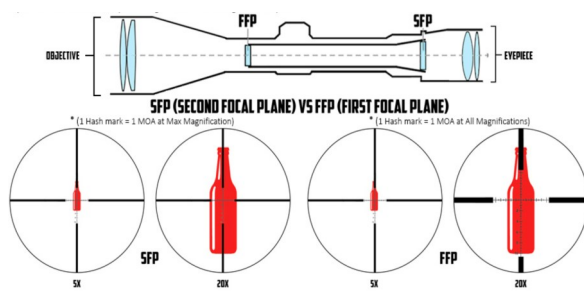
Choosing between FFP and SFP scopes largely depends on your shooting style and intended application:

**FFP Scopes:** Ideal for precision shooting, long-range shooting, and tactical situations where quick magnification changes are required. They offer versatility and consistency but may be costlier.

**SFP Scopes:** Well-suited for hunters, recreational shooters, and situations where magnification adjustments are rare or unnecessary. They are often more budget-friendly and have a reticle that remains easily visible.

Ultimately, the choice between FFP and SFP scopes depends on your specific needs, shooting preferences, and budget constraints. Consider the type of shooting you do most frequently and how important reticle consistency and magnification versatility are to your style.

By Tom Sanford, Editor



<https://www.80percentarms.com/blog/first-focal-plane-vs-second-focal-plane-which-do-you-choose/>





### Work Party Success

Cory Allen, Maintenance Officer

I would also like to thank Taylor Strickland, Demetri Panagopoulos and Pamela Adams, with her grandson, for the tremendous amount of work they put in. Taylor showed up



early to clear a spot for all the debris to be placed and then attacked the headend of the berm with his tools and cleared all around the 100 structure and the drainage culvert pipes. Pam and her grandson at-

On Sunday November 5, we had a work party to address some of our main concerns to maintain the property of the club. 24 members, some with their family members, showed up on a beautiful Sunday morning to help accomplish these tasks. Our primary goal was to strip as much as the brush from the berm separating the 100 from the shotgun fields. Of course, we had some other jobs planned to include building new target frames, prepping new target backers, rebuilding the removable shooting railings at the 100 and general range cleanup. Then to top it all off, we had some bonus jobs completed that were not even considered. The ballistic wall separating the 50 and 100 was sealed on both sides, general grading and smoothing of the SRB/50 surface area and the parking lot regraded with a land plane.

tacked the target end of the berm with all hand tools and easily cleared a quarter of the berm themselves. Demetri cleared almost the entire shotgun side of the berm himself.



Thank you to all the members who worked on the berm, it was very challenging work for all of us.

Thank you to all the members who took on the task of doing all the carpentry work. One

As part of the plan, we had rented a chipper shredder to repurpose the debris instead of adding more debris to the area around the trash dumpster. 3 members manned the very loud and obnoxious chipper shredder that proved to be a little bit of a maintenance nightmare at one point. Thanks to Art Schoner, Frank Sanders and Todd Woessner for running the machine all day. Mike Peregrine joined in on the activities towards the end of the day. When everyone else was done with clearing the berm, Mike picked up the brush cutter and finished up the berm and then joined in on the shredding activities.

team built the new frames for all the ranges from less than adequate drawings provided by the MO, I promise they will be better next time. Another team made short work of the railings at the 100. After the carpentry work was completed, the members jumped right into sealing the ballistic wall on both sides. Excellent work for sure!



*Thank you*



### Reading the Wind: A Guide to Reading the Wind for Improved Marksmanship

In the flight between bullets and targets, few factors play as pivotal a role as the ever-changing wind. Reading the wind is an art that, when mastered, can elevate your marksmanship to new heights. Join us as we delve into the nuances of gauging wind direction and speed, exploring techniques that will empower you to become a true wind whisperer on the shooting range.

#### Understanding Wind Direction: Nature's Compass

1. Observing Natural Indicators:
  - Vegetation: Pay attention to the movement of leaves, grass, and other vegetation. Wind has a distinct influence on their sway.
  - Smoke or Dust: Observe the direction of smoke or dust particles. These visible cues provide valuable insights into wind direction.
2. Flags and Windsocks:
  - Flag Orientation: Look for flags on the range; they are excellent indicators of wind direction. The angle and fluttering of the flag reveal the wind's path.
  - Windsocks: Similar to flags, windsocks provide a visual representation of wind direction and speed.
3. Mirage Reading:
  - Heat Mirage: Pay attention to the mirage caused by heat rising from the ground. The distortion pattern can indicate wind direction.

#### Quantifying Wind Speed: The Dance of Precision

1. Estimating Speed Through Observation:
  - Tree Movement: Assess the speed at which trees or branches are moving. Slow movement suggests a light breeze, while rapid movement indicates stronger winds.
  - Water Ripples: If you're near a body of water, observe the size and frequency of ripples. Small, frequent ripples suggest a moderate wind, while larger waves indicate a stronger breeze.

#### 2. Use of Wind Meters:

- Handheld Anemometers: Invest in a handheld anemometer to measure wind speed accurately. These portable devices are valuable tools for precision shooters.

#### 3. Impact on Bullet Trajectory:

- Wind Drift Tables: Refer to wind drift tables specific to your caliber and load. These tables provide estimates of how much wind will affect your bullet at various distances.

#### The Mental Game: Developing a Wind-Reading Mindset

##### 1. Patience and Observation:

- Wait and Watch: Take your time before taking a shot. Observe the wind's behavior and make a mental note of any changes.

##### 2. Experience and Practice:

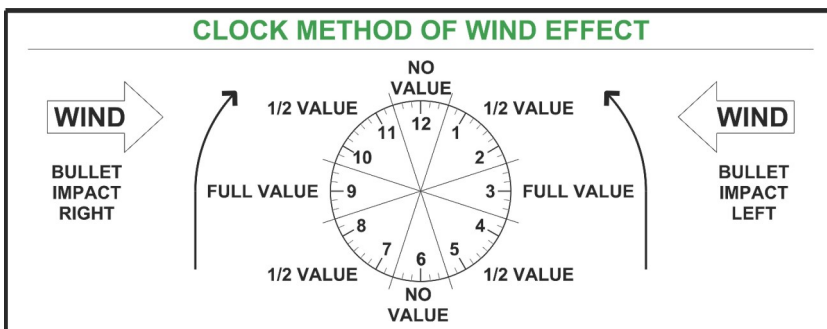
- Learn from Shots: Every shot fired in varying wind conditions is a lesson. Analyze your shots, understand the impact of wind, and apply these insights to future scenarios.

#### In Conclusion: A Constant Learning Process

Mastering the art of reading the wind is an ongoing journey, marked by continuous learning and refinement. As you step onto the range, let the wind be your ally rather than a challenge. Develop your skills, embrace the lessons from every shot, and soon you'll find yourself dancing with the breeze—a true marksman in harmony with the elements.

May your shots always find their mark.

Tom Sanford, Editor







## TRAINING CORNER

### Marksmanship 101

By Scott Sampson

We had 7 students complete our first Marksmanship 101 class. Being our first class we had no idea how much interest the class would garner. It turned out we sold out in the first 24 hours.

This was a pleasant surprise. We had a wide range of experience attend the class from novices to some very experienced folks looking to advance and hone their skills.

Our focus was to help folks improve their pistol fundamentals. The reviews are in overall everyone was very happy with what we did! We did end up being a little rushed as we packed a lot of material (probably too much) into 4 hours. We were racing against sunset and were only half kidding about having to turn the car lights on to finish cleaning up.

We have a several classes coming up next year. We will be offering some online courses regarding Situational Awareness in January and How To Make Your Home a Harder Target in February. These will be free. We also be offering an in-person First Steps Pistol Class with concealed carry laws in February as well. We will also start with Shotgun instruction classes in March. Stay tuned for more information.

These classes are a result of establishing an instructor Cadre and members offering to volunteer their time to help.

If you have any questions, requests or want to volunteer, please feel free to reach out Scott Sampson at [Instructor@airfieldshootingclub.org](mailto:Instructor@airfieldshootingclub.org).



## ASC Member of the Quarter

**Member: Author Becker #1223**

A heartfelt and immense thank you extends to Arthur Becker for his exemplary act of securing a firearm and bag left behind with the 4H Center by a fellow member who had to abruptly leave the range due to a family emergency. Mr. Becker's thoughtful and responsible actions truly embody the spirit of camaraderie that makes our shooting club exceptional. It's moments like these that reaffirm the sense of community and support we have among our members.

Being a part of a club with individuals like Arthur Becker, who selflessly looks out for the well-being of others, is truly a privilege. His quick response and thoughtfulness in ensuring the safe return of the forgotten items speak volumes about the character of our club members. We're not just a shooting club; we're a community that cares for and supports one another. Here's to celebrating the exceptional members who contribute to the positive and caring environment we all cherish.

While we can all understand the anxiety that the member was facing upon hearing a family member may be injured it is imperative that we, as gun owners, always maintain control of the location and storage of our guns to prevent them from getting into the wrong hands.

This heartening incident with Mr. Becker is a wonderful story that deserves to be shared, highlighting the positive and considerate members that make our shooting club unique. It's a testament to the values we uphold, emphasizing not only responsible firearm handling but also the genuine concern and support we extend to our fellow members. Kudos to Author Becker and to all the incredible members who contribute to making our shooting club a fantastic and compassionate community!

Taking a moment to nominate a Member of the Quarter is a meaningful way to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional contributions within our organization. It not only highlights the outstanding efforts of individuals but also fosters a culture of excellence, motivation, and camaraderie. These are the people who inspire and elevate our work environment!

Your role in this process is crucial. By thoughtfully crafting a compelling nomination, you actively contribute to honoring the achievements of your colleagues and nurturing a positive and thriving work atmosphere. These are the individuals we aspire to be surrounded by—dedicated, driven, and making a significant impact.

So, don't miss the chance to recognize and elevate the exceptional members of the Airfield Shooting Club for the valuable contributions they bring. Submit your nominee to any board member, and let's collectively celebrate and appreciate the outstanding members who make our organization thrive.





## Firearms Maintenance 101: A Guide to Keeping Your Weapons in Top Shape

Owning firearms comes with the responsibility of proper maintenance to ensure their longevity, reliability, and, most importantly, safety. Whether you're a seasoned shooter or a novice, understanding the basics of firearm maintenance is crucial. In this guide, we'll walk you through the essential steps, recommend tools, and highlight common mistakes to avoid.

### Step 1: Safety First

Before diving into firearm maintenance, always remember the golden rule: Treat every firearm as if it's loaded. weapon is unloaded, the chamber is clear and all live ammunition is removed from the immediate area

Safety should be the top priority throughout the entire maintenance process.

### Step 2: Disassembly

Refer to the Manual: Every firearm comes with a manual that outlines specific disassembly and cleaning instructions. Familiarize yourself with this information.

Prepare a Clean Workspace: Work in a well-lit, organized area with enough space to lay out parts without them rolling or getting lost.

Use the Right Tools: Invest in quality gunsmithing tools, including screwdrivers, brushes, and cleaning rods. These tools are designed to prevent damage to your firearm's components.

### Step 3: Cleaning

Barrel Cleaning:

Run a bore brush through the barrel to remove fouling. Use a cleaning rod with a patch soaked in a solvent to clean residue.

Follow up with a dry patch until it comes out clean.

Slide and Frame:

Wipe down the slide and frame with a clean cloth.

Use a toothbrush or nylon brush to remove debris from hard-to-reach areas.

Lubrication:

Apply a small amount of high-quality firearm lubricant to moving parts. Be cautious not to over-lubricate, as excess oil can attract dirt.

### Step 4: Inspection

Check for Wear: Inspect critical parts such as the firing pin, extractor, and springs for signs of wear. Replace any worn components to maintain optimal performance.

Function Test: Reassemble the firearm and perform a function test to ensure all parts are working correctly.

### Step 5: Reassembly

Follow the Manual: Refer to the manual for the correct sequence of reassembly.

Torque Settings: If applicable, adhere to recommended torque settings for screws and fasteners. Over-tightening can lead to damage.

## Common Mistakes to Avoid

Skipping the Manual: The firearm manual is your best friend. Skipping it can result in improper cleaning, potential damage, or even voiding warranties.

Neglecting Regular Maintenance: Regular cleaning and inspection are essential. Neglecting these tasks can lead to malfunctions and reduced firearm lifespan.

Over-Lubrication: Too much oil attracts dirt and debris, affecting the firearm's performance. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for lubrication.

Using Incorrect Tools: Improper tools can damage firearm components. Invest in quality tools designed for your specific firearm.

By following these steps and avoiding common mistakes, you'll keep your firearms in top shape, ensuring they perform reliably every time you hit the range. Remember, responsible ownership includes proper maintenance for the safety of yourself and those around you.

Tom Sanford, Editor



## IMPORTANCE FOR PROPER SECURING YOUR FIREARMS WHEN NOT IN USE

Properly securing firearms when they are not in use is of utmost importance for several reasons, encompassing safety, legal compliance, and responsible gun ownership. Here are the key reasons why secure storage of firearms is crucial:

### Preventing Accidental Discharges:

Secure storage helps prevent accidental discharges. An improperly stored firearm can be accidentally fired by a child, an inexperienced person, or even by mishandling.

### Child Safety:

One of the most compelling reasons to secure firearms is to protect children. Children are naturally curious, and an unsecured firearm poses a significant risk if a child finds it. Proper storage keeps firearms out of reach and inaccessible to children.

### Reducing Unauthorized Access:

Secure storage prevents unauthorized individuals, such as burglars or visitors, from gaining access to your firearms. This reduces the risk of your firearms being stolen and potentially used in criminal activities.

### Compliance with Laws and Regulations:

Many jurisdictions have laws and regulations requiring firearms to be stored securely when not in use. Failure to comply with these laws can result in legal consequences.

### Preventing Suicides and Domestic Violence Incidents:

Properly securing firearms can help prevent access to firearms by individuals who may pose a danger to themselves or others during moments of crisis, such as suicidal thoughts or domestic violence situations.

### Responsible Firearm Ownership:

Responsible gun ownership includes secure storage as a fundamental component. It demonstrates a commitment to firearm safety and responsible use, contributing to a positive image of gun owners.

### Preventing Unintentional Injuries:

Secure storage reduces the likelihood of unintentional injuries, which can occur when someone unfamiliar with firearms mishandles them, leading to accidents and injuries.

### Maintaining Accountability:

Secure storage ensures that you are aware of the location and condition of your firearms at all times. It prevents the possibility of a firearm being used without your knowledge or permission.

### Protecting Your Investment:

Firearms are often valuable investments. Proper storage helps protect them from damage, corrosion, and wear and

tear over time, preserving their value and functionality.

### Peace of Mind:

Knowing that your firearms are securely stored provides peace of mind, both in terms of safety and legal compliance. It allows you to enjoy your firearms responsibly and without unnecessary worry.

### **To ensure proper firearm storage, consider the following secure storage options:**

Gun Safes: High-quality gun safes are designed to securely store firearms, ammunition, and accessories. They offer protection against theft, fire, and unauthorized access.

Lockable Cabinets: Lockable cabinets can be a more affordable alternative to safes. They provide a level of security and are preferable to leaving firearms unsecured.

Trigger Locks: Trigger locks prevent the firearm from being fired by locking the trigger in place. While they do not offer full security, they provide an additional layer of safety when combined with other storage methods.

Ammunition Storage: Keep ammunition separate from firearms and store it securely to prevent unauthorized access.

Education and Training: Ensure that family members, especially children, are educated about firearm safety and understand the importance of not handling firearms without supervision.

Secure Storage Locations: Choose storage locations that are discreet and not easily visible or accessible to unauthorized individuals.

Remember that the specific storage requirements and regulations may vary by jurisdiction, so it's essential to be aware of and comply with local and national laws. Properly securing your firearms is a responsible and critical aspect of gun ownership that helps ensure the safety of your loved ones and the broader community.



## Firearm Safety for Families



Studies show children are naturally curious, even about a firearm they've been warned not to touch.



**Kids are safer when:** Firearms are in a lockbox or safe, unloaded. Ammunition is locked away separately.



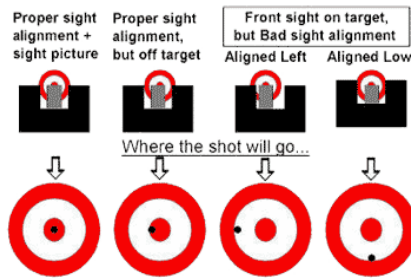
**Kids are safest when:** firearms are stored outside the home.



### A Journey to Precision: Becoming a Better Marksman

Becoming a proficient marksman is a journey that demands a combination of discipline, knowledge, and continuous practice. Whether one is a novice or an experienced shooter, the path to mastery involves mastering fundamental skills, embracing safety practices, and staying informed about advancements in marksmanship.

The foundation of marksmanship lies in understanding and adhering to firearm safety protocols. The importance of responsible firearm handling, secure storage, and cautious usage cannot be overstated. Safety not only protects the individual but also those in the surrounding environment.



Choosing the right firearm is a critical decision that significantly influences one's marksmanship journey. Considerations such as caliber, intended use, and personal comfort should guide this choice. Each shooter may find a specific type or model that suits their needs and preferences.

Mastering the basics of marksmanship is paramount. The core principles, include aiming, breath control, trigger control, hold control and follow-through form the bedrock of accuracy. Achieving consistency in applying these fundamentals is essential for skill development.

Regular, focused practice is the backbone of improvement. Dry-fire practice, where one practices without live ammunition, allows for honing techniques such as trigger control and sight alignment. Live-fire training at a shooting range complements dry-fire practice and provides the opportunity to apply learned skills in real-world scenarios.

Breathing control and relaxation are often overlooked aspects of marksmanship. Properly manag-

ing breath can minimize movement during aiming, while staying relaxed prevents unnecessary tension that can impact accuracy. Attention to detail in maintaining a consistent sight picture is crucial for precise shooting.

External factors, such as wind, lighting conditions, and terrain, add complexity to marksmanship. A skilled marksman learns to adapt their technique to these variables, enhancing their ability to deliver accurate shots in diverse environments.

Seeking professional instruction is a wise investment in skill development. Qualified instructors can offer personalized guidance, correct potential errors, and provide valuable insights that may go unnoticed during self-directed practice. Courses led by experts in marksmanship contribute significantly to a shooter's progression.

Recording and analyzing shooting sessions provide a unique perspective on one's performance. Video footage allows for a comprehensive review of actions, revealing areas for improvement and tracking progress over time.

Physical fitness plays a role in marksmanship proficiency. General fitness contributes to overall stability and control, impacting the ability to maintain proper shooting positions and focus during extended sessions.

Staying informed about developments in marksmanship techniques and equipment is essential for continuous improvement. Embracing new practices and technologies can provide a competitive edge and keep a shooter at the forefront of advancements in the field.

In conclusion, becoming a better marksman is a multifaceted journey that involves a commitment to safety, mastering fundamentals, consistent practice, adaptation to external factors, seeking professional guidance, and staying informed about industry developments. The pursuit of precision in marksmanship is not only a personal endeavor but a dedication to responsible firearm use and a commitment to the highest standards of safety and skill.