

REVIEW!
**RUGER
LCR**

THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE FOR THE ARMED CITIZEN

CONCEALED
carry
MAGAZINE



**WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP
HOLSTER REVIEW**

VOLUME 6 JULY 2009



USCONCEALED.CARRY.COM

THE WHEELGUN ISSUE

ARE REVOLVERS STILL RELEVANT?

TRAINING WITH THE WHEELGUN

SMITH & WESSON 327: EIGHT ROUND WONDER

HOW'S THE TRIGGER ON YOUR REVOLVER?

CONTENTS

JULY 2009



32 SMITH & WESSON MODEL 327

BY TODD BURGREN

22 MODIFIED LFI RIG FROM TED BLOCKER HOLSTERS

BY KATHY JACKSON

24 WOMEN'S GROUP STUDIES HOLSTER CHOICES

BY KATHY JACKSON

28 TRIGGER JOB: HOW'S THE TRIGGER ON YOUR REVOLVER?

BY GRANT CUNNINGHAM

36 ARE REVOLVERS STILL RELEVANT?

BY MARTY HAYES

40 SNUBBY SCHOOL: TRAINING WITH THE WHEEL GUN

BY DUANE A. DAIKER

46 RUGER LCR: IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE POLYMER

BY DUANE A. DAIKER

COLUMNS

08
THE ORDINARY GUY
The Ordinary Guy
Takes A Look At
Dangerous Political Times
BY MARK WALTERS

12
**SIG SAUER
ACADEMY**
Working The Gun
With One Hand Only
BY GEORGE HARRIS

14
**STREET
TACTICS**
Modern Force On Force
BY GABE SUAREZ



18
PROFILE
Major Jean-Michel Guerin

42
**FROM
INCIDENT TO
ACQUITTAL**
Here He Comes,
To Save The Day!
BY MARTY HAYES, JD

44
**IT'S JUST
THE LAW**
The Law And Manners
BY K.L. JAMISON



50
**ARMED
SENIOR
CITIZEN**
L.W. Seecamp:
Good Things Come In
Small Packages
BY BRUCE N. EIMER,
Ph.D.

54
**BALLISTIC
BASICS**
Bullet Weight May
Be Good For You
BY DENNIS CANTRELL

DEPARTMENTS

04
TIM'S THOUGHTS

06
**LETTERS TO
THE EDITOR**

07
TRUE STORIES

The author simulates a jacket pocket “shoot through” for when there is not time to draw.



SNUBBY SCHOOL: TRAINING WITH THE WHEEL GUN

I have a confession to make: I am a revolver guy.

[BY DUANE A. DAIKER]

Even in this world of polymer high-tech mega-capacity semi-autos, I still prefer to carry a wheel gun. I own, shoot, and test a lot of bottom-feeder wonder guns, but I still love revolvers. I admit I am that annoying guy who shows up at a three-day tactical shooting school with a two-inch revolver. Maybe some of you are too? Or more likely, you take your Glock 17 out to the range and to classes, but you really carry a snubnose revolver in your everyday life? Lots of people rely on a five-shot .38 Special for everyday protection, even if some of them don't want to admit it. Snubby revolvers may not be “tacti-cool,” but they can be very serious defensive tools.

A snubnose revolver, however, is not the easiest gun to shoot. Some of the very things that make snubbies so special also present challenges for shooting. For example, the snubby has small overall dimensions, making it light and easy to conceal. This also makes the gun harder to hold and manipulate. The light

weight contributes to an increase in perceived recoil. The short barrel makes the gun easy to hide, easy to draw, and easy to get on target. However, the short sight radius exaggerates any misalignment of the sights. The sights themselves are snag-free and nearly unbreakable, but they are also more difficult to see, and thus make it more difficult to quickly acquire a sight picture. Finally, the snubby has a long and heavy trigger that requires no manual safety but makes a smooth pull and a surprise break that much harder to achieve.

My belief is that if you are going to carry a snubby revolver, you'd better get some training with that gun. One way is go to your local shooting school and show up with your little gun. Most instructors will work with you, and having the pressure to keep up with the autoloaders can be beneficial, if you are up to the challenge. But, if you are really serious about defending yourself with a small revolver, I recommend you get some snubby specific training.

THE INSTRUCTOR

In particular, I recommend you seek out Michael de Bethencourt of Northeast Tactical Schools. Michael, who is affectionately known to his friends as “BoBo,” is a nationally recognized expert in snubby revolvers. In fact, he confines his training solely to snubby revolvers and knives. While many instructors are willing to work with revolvers from time to time, Michael's firearms classes are designed strictly for short-barreled revolvers.

Michael de Bethencourt is a hard guy to forget. His classes are high energy and non-stop, with Michael coming across as a mix between a carnival barker and a stand-up comic. While the instruction and philosophy he imparts is deadly serious, his approach to the material is not. I have met few instructors that can keep your attention the way he can. His teaching style is entertaining, effective and very memorable.

Michael, however, is a very humble guy. He is quick to give credit to others

for techniques that he teaches, and rarely takes credit, even when it is deserved. The classes are in the nature of a workshop, and he seems to be constantly learning from his students while they learn from him. The techniques he teaches are somewhat fluid, and sometimes change as a result of his continued experience and student input.

THE COURSES

Michael teaches two snubby-specific courses: "Secrets of the Concealed Carry Snub Revolver" and "Mastering the Concealed Carry Snub Revolver." "Secrets" is the basic class, covering all of the snub-handling and fighting essentials. The class starts with the essentials, including advice for selecting a concealed carry snub, finding the right holster, and finding the right stocks. Michael has definite opinions on all of these things, and will happily share them with you.

He then delves into shooting fundamentals such as stance, grip, and trigger control. This part of the class is not really designed for the rank novice. Some basic shooting skills are assumed, and Michael will help tune those skills to the particulars of shooting the snub. There are a number of drills with dummy guns and dummy rounds before heading out to the range for live fire.

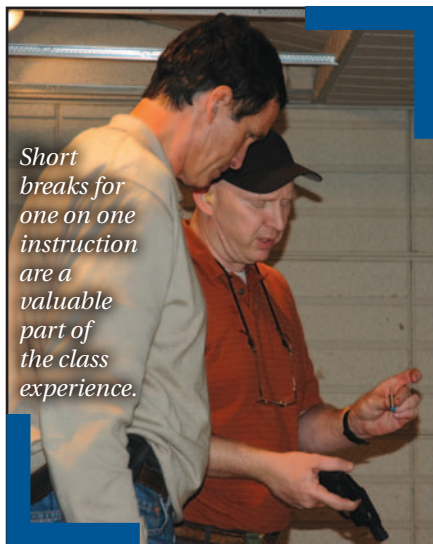
"Mastering" is a more advanced course that builds on the previously learned techniques. "Secrets" is a pre-requisite for "Mastering," and is a logical training progression. The classes are often taught on back-to-back days, providing an intense two days of training. "Mastering" includes more advanced techniques like weak hand and injury drills, prone shooting, manipulation of two revolvers, low light shooting, and a lot more. It is hard to think of a snubby-specific topic that isn't covered within these two classes.

THE TECHNIQUES

The snubby skills Michael teaches are far too numerous to discuss in any real detail. Shooting the snubby revolver requires slightly different skills in many respects—from stance, to grip, to trigger press. But perhaps the most challenging aspect is reloading. Michael is adamant that the most important thing is to keep the snub loaded and running. Whether performing full reloads or partial reloads,

you have to keep ammo in the gun and be ready to shoot. Sometimes this involves just loading a round or two, shooting, and loading again.

Michael's dry fire and live fire drills are designed in part to convince you that loading five rounds from a speed strip takes a lot longer than loading just four—only one charge hole is left, and only one charge hole can be loaded in the time two can be loaded from a speed strip when the gun is more empty. The quick lesson is: don't get fixated on loading all five



Short breaks for one on one instruction are a valuable part of the class experience.

rounds. Load two or four (or whatever you can do quickly) and get back in the fight! [Ed.: Bianchi makes the speed strip, a strip of rubber that holds six rounds of .38 Special ammunition in a line, rather than how a speed loader holds them in a circle. Rounds can be stripped off and loaded one or two at a time.]

One of Michael's more controversial topics is his loading method. The traditional "FBI method" that has been taught for decades involves switching the revolver to the weak hand and loading the cylinder with the strong hand. The primary reason is that loading the cylinder involves some fine motor skills that are more easily accomplished with the more dexterous strong hand.

Michael challenges the wisdom of this method, suggesting that keeping the revolver in the strong hand is better all around. He believes this method is faster, more efficient, and more secure. At first, it seems unnatural, but by the end of the first day I was starting to believe. At the end of the second day, I was a firm believer.

If you can spend the time to re-train

your muscle memory and break old habits, the de Bethencourt loading method is hard to beat. The gun never leaves the shooting hand, and you never lose your firing grip. The gun can be closed up and fired quickly when necessary, even in mid-loading. If you get into a struggle for the gun, it's much better to have a firm grip on the gun in your strong hand. The only real drawback is loading the cartridges into the charge holes with the weak hand, but that really can be overcome. When done properly, reloading a revolver is not as fine a motor skill as you may believe. This method is worth learning, and there is no one better to learn it from than Michael.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Michael is the director and chief trainer for the Northeastern Tactical Schools. While the courses are primarily in the Northeastern part of the country, Michael does travel. I took his courses at the Smith & Wesson Academy in Springfield, Massachusetts. This was a great facility, and taking a pilgrimage to the home of Smith & Wesson for your snub training is well worth the trip. You can fly into several less expensive airports and lodging is inexpensive. However, classes are offered in many other locations and Michael will come to your local range as well. Tuition is not cheap at about \$300 per day, but I am not sure there is anywhere else you can get this type of snubby training.

If you carry a snubby revolver, whether as your primary gun or a backup, you owe it to yourself to get snubby-specific training. I left the class as a better snubby shooter, and I will continue to develop and hone the skills I learned. If you are a revolver shooter, you really should consider training with Michael de Bethencourt and Northeastern Tactical Schools. ■

[Duane A. Daiker is a contributing editor for CCM, but is otherwise a regular guy—not much different from you. Duane has been a lifelong shooter and goes about his life as an armed, responsible, and somewhat opinionated citizen. Duane can be contacted at Daiker@RealWorldCarryGear.com.]

CONTACTS:

Northeastern Tactical Schools
www.SnubTraining.com
(978) 667-5591
info@SnubTraining.com