



# SAGA Snippets

THE SAGA TRUST  
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065  
TEL 031-562-9951 CELL 066-003-9226 FAX 086-553-9615

EMAIL: [SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA](mailto:SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA)  
WEB: [WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA)  
FACEBOOK: GunLobbySAGA

## What's Happening at SAGA?

### Events Held and Events Coming Up

#### Bellville Pistol Club

On Saturday 22 October, SAGA was present at a very well attended event at Bellville Shooting Club. SAGA members, Jaco Blomerus and his daughter Kaylin Blomerus represented SAGA. It is fantastic to see so much being done to promote shooting in South Africa.

#### Hillendale Shooting Club

A ladies event is being held on their range on 31 October. SAGA will be present at this event. A brief report back will appear in the next issue of Snippets.

#### Broadway Shooting Club

A "Basic Intro to Shooting" event is being arranged by Dragon Protection Services on Saturday 12 November from 12 to 3pm at Broadway Shooting Range. The price is R550 per person. To book contact Trisha at 082 930 1884 or email her at: [sales@dragonprotection.co.za](mailto:sales@dragonprotection.co.za)  
This event is being co-sponsored by SAGA and SAGA representatives will be there.

#### False Bay Sports Shooting Club Open Day

Save the Date! 3 December 2022

SAGA will once again be present at this open day and will be a co-sponsor. Those who attend will get the opportunity to shoot a variety of handguns (pistols and revolvers) in different calibres.

It will be held at the club's range at Tercentenary Way, Glencairn, Cape Town

This event is always great shooting fun for the whole family. For more details look online at: [www.falsebaysportshooting.com](http://www.falsebaysportshooting.com)  
Or on Facebook: @FalseBaySSC



## SAGA Snippets October 2022

### Special points of interest:

- *Events Held & Events Coming Up*
- *Update on World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSA)*
- *Building Confidence*
- *How to Carry a Concealed Gun While Driving*
- *SAGA Membership*
- *How to Introduce Senior Citizens to Shooting*
- *SAGA Corporate Membership*

## Update on World Forum on Shooting Activities



By John Welch  
22 October 2022

SAGA is an esteemed member of the World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSA). To save money, we seldom attend their meetings and functions and for this reason, we have a good friend, a specialist attorney (firearms, explosives and ammunition) in the USA, who looks after SAGA's affairs and who makes SAGA's presentations to WFSA.

I recently made a presentation to WFSA on the ill-fated draft Firearms Control Bill and the information was well received. Obviously, laws between countries differ, but there was a serious concern among WFSA members that the South African government might be serious about banning firearms.

It is our duty to oppose the proposed bill and to convince government that firearms do not commit crime, but rather that people do. SAGA will do whatever it takes to counter the ill-fated bill.

WFSA held its most recent meetings in Ottawa, Canada on 20 September 2022.

WFSA has various committees. SAGA serves on the Executive Committee, the body that considers all policy matters. However, we also make input on the Trade sub-committee, the Statistics committee, the Legislative committee, and the Environment committee. We are particularly involved in the Legislative committee since it considers matters on a world-wide scale, plus legislation and draft legisla-

tion within the European Union, and legislation that is being considered in the United States.

It is unfortunate that our government takes its cue from other governments and ensures that we are in line with the United Nation's disarmament model legislation, and especially with that of the African Union and SADC. In recent times terrorists have converted previously deactivated firearms (machine guns and carbines) which then caused death and destruction. Unfortunately, trucks are also being used to cause mayhem, but very little is said about that.

The Environment committee is also close to our hearts as the United Nations and various other states may ban hunting at any time. In South Africa for instance, we have seen that should the Game Meat Strategy be adopted, there are implications for slaughtering antelope you have hunted. There are also talks about banning elephant and lion hunting. To my knowledge, all concerned hunters and nature conservation officers, have made representations on these matters.

The Trade sub-committee looks at all matters pertaining to firearms and ammunition collecting, dealerships, hunting and shooting. It is particularly concerned about the shipment of firearms and ammunition, and the banning of certain firearms. In this regard, SAGA and the National Arms and Ammunition Confederation of Collecting in SA (NAACCSA) have made representations about collecting all types of firearms and ammunition and the importation of such firearms.

SAGA is proud to be a member of such an august body as WFSA. Not only does it give us an international hearing, our voice is also heard by those who care about firearms.



## Building Confidence

by Sheriff Jim Wilson

28 October 2022

All of our information was that this dude always carried a gun, a Bauer .25 auto, in his right front pants pocket. The night we went after him, he spotted the uniformed officers from about 25 yards away. As his right hand went to his pocket, I stepped out of the darkness about 5 yards on his right. There was enough light that I could clearly see the front sight of my Colt 1911 lined up with the side of his head.

The first that he knew I was there was when I said, "Don't do it." His empty hands shot up in the air like they were going to jerk his arms out of their sockets. Because he believed me, he went to jail instead of the morgue.

And he was lucky that he believed me. The particular gun that I held on him had been expertly tuned by Lou Williamson. It was one of the most accurate Colts I had ever owned. And, just that past weekend, I had used it to win a local IPSC match back in the days when IPSC was really practical. I had confidence in my gun and confidence in my ability to use it.

Building confidence in our personal defense skills is critical to survival. It helps us survive deadly attacks and often we are able to survive those situations without even firing a shot.

Now, mind you, I am not talking about developing false confidence or courage. That's the kind that you get from the bragging and boasting sessions at the local gun store or hanging out behind the lines at the local gun range. When you hear that sort of thing it is usually an attempt to control fear or to conceal it.

True confidence comes from knowing your gun and knowing how to use it. It comes from practicing with that gun every chance you get. Confidence also comes from studying the law and developing a working knowledge of useful tactics.



While the average crook probably can't give a very good explanation of body language, you can bet they have a natural understanding of it. They know when a potential victim just doesn't look or act scared enough. They know when their control is being subtly taken away from them. They know when they are no longer in command of the situation.

Working to continually improve our personal defense skills will give us a greater ability to handle a situation. It helps us to immediately understand when we need to shoot and to understand when we don't need to shoot.

By developing our skills, we build confidence and most crooks can read that loud and clear.

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/building-confidence/>

## How to Carry a Concealed Gun While Driving

By Frank Melloni

18 October 2022

Whether you're a commuter or someone who drives for a living, there are comfortable and effective ways to carry a defensive handgun.

Most of us chose our first holster while we were standing in front of a mirror without anything pressed against our body, or even in the immediate area. Granted, it passed the "bend over" test; we found it satisfactory enough to add steel and lead and went about our day.

However, things change drastically the moment you get behind the wheel of your car. Vehicles present a unique set of challenges. Since carjacking is a fairly common violent crime, and defending your automobile might also mean protecting a young child in the backseat, it pays to experiment with alternative carry methods when you are underway.

Let's begin with looking at the issues with the most common carry positions, namely the three- to nine o'clock locations on your waistline. Whether inside or outside the waistband, holsters kept here will probably interfere with your seatbelt or be pressed against a door or armrest, making them inaccessible in an emergency. Since you can likely reach in front of you without much trouble, most candidates should be situated in this position ... small-of-the-back carry won't work here.

The first carry position that likely comes to mind is appendix carry, and it's a fair contender. As long as your gun sits high enough, the waist strap of your seatbelt should lie away from the moving parts of the gun, allowing for easy access. However, this isn't going to be comfortable if you have a bit of mid-section mass, nor if you are carrying a full-sized pistol, as the barrel might press against your anatomy.

While I pooh-poo off-body carry in most situations, it does have a bit of utility on the road. Putting your handgun into a dedicated concealed carry bag solves all these problems without concern for body style or vehicle



design. However, the same downsides apply on the road as walking down the street; if you are separated from your pack, you are effectively unarmed. One solution to this is to keep a strap slung over your shoulder. Granted, if it is long enough; you shouldn't even notice it. It's also a great way to ensure that your firearm doesn't go flying to the floorboards if you slam on the brakes.

Working our way up, this brings us to shoulder holsters. These are undoubtedly the most comfortable devices for securing a firearm when seated, but concealment relies on wearing a jacket or overcoat. In warm weather, you're likely to have to keep the air conditioning on to remain comfortable with the extra layer, so be sure the rest of your passengers are on board with that.

Lastly, you'll want to ensure that your seatbelt's cross-body portion doesn't block you from your pistol. Conventional wisdom suggests that this will be incompatible with left-side carry, but your seatbelt and holster brand will best determine if that is the case.

Taking things as low as possible brings us to ankle holsters. In vehicular carry, these are indeed unsung heroes and deserve a second look. Strapping a gun to your leg doesn't typically require any change in dress and is effortless to access from a seated position. Being down so low obviously clears it from any waist-height obstructions, including those extra tacos you ate last weekend.



## Continued ...Concealed Carry While Driving

That said, this detective's-special carry location isn't without its flaws. Remember, your right foot controls the gas and brake pedals, so you shouldn't use that side. If you drive a manual transmission, that disqualifies both legs, as you'll have no means of working the clutch. (So, in short, it's a Boomer-friendly option that only works in a Millennial's world.)

Before leaving the house, we need to consider not only the destination and the stops, but the means by which we'll get there. Each person, vehicle and firearm combination will command a different solution; therefore, there aren't any cookie-cutter solutions or blanket statements that will get you there. Just like when you bought your handgun, investigate a few options, put them through a rigorous field test, and never give up on the idea of abandoning one system altogether. As they say, the best gun to save your life is the one that you have with you at all times.

Extracted and shortened slightly from:

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/how-to-carry-a-concealed-gun-while-driving/>



## SAGA Membership

By being a member you keep us in 'business' and we are able to continue working for fair and just firearm rights for responsible firearm owners in South Africa.

Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes? Refer them to SAGA today!

Current Membership Rates are:

Adult R260

Junior R160

Pensioner R160

Family:

1x Adult @R260 plus any number of family members @ R70 each

Join via our website at [www.saga.org.za](http://www.saga.org.za)

The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cellphone number **066 003 9226**.

If you would like to send us a query or message by WhatsApp, please remember to include your Name and Membership Number (if applicable).

## How to Introduce Senior Citizens to Shooting

# SENIOR CITIZENS

by Dave Campbell

21 October 2022

Ginny is a lovely, hardworking senior citizen who of late has found herself having to leave work, late at night, and return to her home in a part of town that has seen a big uptick in crime recently. She knows as well as the rest of us that, as a senior citizen, she's part of a growing population that's also facing a growing threat. Older folks are among the most vulnerable demographics for unlawful attacks and assault, unfortunately. So when Ginny took a realistic look at her situation, she decided to ask a friend from church if he could help her learn how to shoot. That person, as I'm sure you can guess, was me.

Let me say up front that I make no claims as a professional trainer in firearms. The very best way to learn is to seek out professional training. That said, I have introduced more than two dozen people to shooting during the last 40-plus years, including such diverse backgrounds as my mother—who once was vehemently anti-gun—to youngsters and fellas in my own age group. Once that interest is stimulated, the motivated student would be wise to seek professional training.

Ginny knew that I was a "gun guy" from having read some of my articles, but she also worried that maybe I wouldn't want to help her. She knew that I've made no secret that I prefer large, heavy bullets—specifically the .44 Special and .45 ACP—as the preferred rounds for self-defense. "All I have is a .22," she said. "'I'm not sure you would want to teach me."

I was pleased to let her know that wasn't the case at all. For starters, a .22 is a great place to begin for someone interested in learning self-defense shooting and gun handling. What's more, the fact of the matter is simple: The best gun to have when a gunfight or violent confrontation breaks out is the one you have on you at the time of the incident. A pair of .22 LR bullets delivered to the proper place at the right time beats a slew of other rounds sprayed in the general vicinity of the bad guy.

When I first started working with Ginny, I did so with two base assumptions. First, that shooting should be fun, or at least enjoyable. Second, that I didn't want to turn a shooting lesson or session into an endurance event. Let the student determine his or her limitations. A lesson that is fun and enjoyable whets the student's appetite to learn more and makes it easier to teach them.

And while I remain steadfast in my own preference for large, heavy bullets to defend one's self, if such rounds are painful for the student to employ, they are far more likely to give it up. Just because a person cannot physically handle a major caliber doesn't mean they have no right to be able to defend themselves to the best of their ability.

My senior student started slow, and that was by my design. Her first shots from her SIG Mosquito were at 3 yards at a regular bulls-eye. The purpose here is to gain familiarity with the gun and get grounded in the basics of sight alignment and trigger control. Not surprisingly, her groups were very good from the get-go. Getting good groups early on instills confidence and makes the student eager to go to the next level. That session lasted about an hour.

A couple of weeks later we had another lesson. I started her again at 3 yards—this time on a "Bad Guy" target from Birchwood Casey—to make sure she hadn't forgot anything. She hadn't. I moved the target back to 5 yards and started working on presentation from the low ready position. Too, I started her



## Continued ...How to Introduce Senior Citizens to Shooting

to shoot the target's eyes as a point of aim. She progressed splendidly, and then I made a mistake.

An eager student and not afraid to try anything new, I started showing her and then letting her shoot some close-up drills—arm's length, one-handed shots at the eyes and speed rocks to the groin. The session ran a bit more than an hour and a half. The next day she messaged me that her hands were cramping up and she was a bit sore. My bad. As we get older—and I know this first hand—we don't have the endurance we had when we were younger. I was so eager to show her some of the stuff we would spend more time learning that I over-extended the session. Each shooting session should be long enough to get one or two points across and no more.

By her third lesson my student started learning drawing and presentation from the holster. A good friend of mine, Rob Leahy of Simply Rugged Holsters out of Prescott, Arizona, provided her with one of his Cattleman holsters and a magazine pouch. Like anyone new to shooting, my student started slow and developed speed as her familiarity with the pistol and holster became greater.

Eventually her comfort with the pistol and shooting increased to the point where she began to look at other, more powerful alternatives to her .22 LR Mosquito. She asked me about all the hoopla over a 1911 pistol—what was it; why do some like and others not, etc. I let her try my Kimber Custom Shop Rimfire—a 1911-style pistol chambered in .22 LR—and her reaction after the first shot was, "Oh, this is very nice!" She also tried out an S&W Model 60 I have with target wadcutters and found it pleasant to shoot as well. I believe that in the not-to-distant future there will be a centerfire in her holster. Too, I pity anyone stupid enough to attack this quiet grandmotherly lady. She may not be a candidate for a law enforcement SWAT team, but anyone who messes with her is likely to find himself in a world of hurt.

The secret to successfully starting anyone to shooting is to make it an enjoyable experience. Start them slowly, and only progress to a new skill level once the previous one is mastered. Keep in mind that seniors—like most very young shooters—may have strength issues that prevent them from operating some handguns. It may be too much for some of them to rack a centerfire pistol's slide, or to pull through a double-action revolver's trigger. Let them determine the level they can comfortably achieve success. Like I said, a pair of .22 LR hollowpoints with proper shot placement beats a magazine full of 9mm or .45-caliber bullets around the periphery.

### **10 Rules for Teaching New Senior Shooters**

- \* Do not start with a powerful centerfire.
- \* Keep the shooting sessions short, no more than an hour.
- \* Keep the ranges short so that it is easier to shoot good groups.
- \* Be aware of and accommodate physical limitations.
- \* Take frequent breaks; sit down off the range and discuss tactics and scenarios.
- \* Make shooting fun.
- \* Do not get too wrapped up in tactical dogma.
- \* Give the shooter an opportunity to find the best way to solve a problem.
- \* Celebrate successes; do not come down hard on corrections.
- \* Let the shooter progress at their own rate; don't try to force them too quickly.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/how-to-introduce-senior-citizens-to-shooting/>

## SAGA Corporate Membership



Please support SAGA Corporate members where you can.

SAGA Corporate Members are clubs, associations and businesses who actively endorse the work being done by SAGA to protect firearm ownership rights in South Africa.

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