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**Highlights:**

- New Website & Newsletter** 1
- 2009 Course Schedule** 2
- Why the Active Shooter class?** 3
- Looking Back 'The Ithica'** 4-5

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**Coming Soon – A New ITTS Website and Newsletter**

We are very excited to announce that we will soon have a new website that will be very user-friendly with articles, photos and many interactive features. We are also working on a brand new newsletter format which will allow you to sign up for classes, find archived newsletters and articles and a lot more. Watch for it soon!!!

**Active Shooter/Critical Incident Class**

We apologize for any inconvenience, but due to a last-minute conflict in our schedule, we have had to reschedule the Active Shooter class to July 31-August 2. Put the new date on your schedule and plan to attend. This is a class you won't want to miss. To sign up go to [http://www.internationaltactical.com/class\\_detail.asp?CSID=375](http://www.internationaltactical.com/class_detail.asp?CSID=375) (also see Scott's article on page 3 with details about this class)

**Ammunition Scarcity**

Everyday we receive calls from people who can't find ammunition for a class. Fortunately, we are still able to get a limited amount as long as we have advance notice. For those of you wanting to attend classes but can't get your hands on ammo, please let us know and we will arrange to have it at the class for you. Please note, we can only furnish ammunition for the class that you are signed up for.

**Invite 12 of your closest friends .....**

This year we have noticed a new trend in firearms training– private group training. The beauty of this concept is that is very cost effective and can be scheduled at your convenience. Here's how it works: If you have a group of people from your work, gym, self defense class, church/synagogue or just your personal friends, we can do a one, two or three day class customized especially for you. We have done classes for all of the above. It can be one weapon system or a combination of weapon systems and whatever skill level your group is prepared for. You tell us what equipment you want to use, what drills you want to do and we will set it up for you. If your group is comprised of new shooters, we can supply the handguns, holsters and even the ammunition for everyone. Some people even have lunch brought in for their group or invite friends up for bachelor parties and graduations! It's a great way to have a fun shoot with your friends with everything provided. Many of the groups that have organized private classes have continued on to more advanced levels of training as a group. We can put the class on our website and your group can sign up online making it very easy to organize with a minimum amount of work on your part. Contact Brett for pricing and instructor availability at 310-471-2029 or [itts@gte.net](mailto:itts@gte.net)

**Courses Coming up:**

- July 10-12** **Advanced Handgun Series**
- July 11-12** **Defensive Handgun II**
- July 25-26** **Tactical Shotgun \***
- July 31-Aug 2** **Active Shooter /Critical Incident**
- August 7-9** **Defensive Handgun III (Intermediate Level)**



Private Class May 2009 – EMT training



Private Class May 2009 – Vehicles

# July-December 2009 Course Schedule

July 10-12                   Advanced Handgun  
 July 11-12                   Defensive Handgun II  
 July 25-26                   Tactical Shotgun - **NEW**  
 July 31-August 2           Active Shooter- **NEW**

**August 7-9                   Defensive Handgun III**  
**August 8-9                   Defensive Handgun I**

September 11-13           Advanced Handgun  
 September 12-13           Defensive Handgun II

October 2-4                   Tactical Carbine  
 October 23-25               Defensive Handgun III  
 October 24-25               Defensive Handgun I

**December 11-13           Advanced Handgun**

Additional classes will be posted for September, October and November once we have our fall off site schedule updated.

# The Active Shooter by Scott Reitz

As the recent shooting at the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. illustrated, the ability of an individual to fire upon others within a public venue despite certain precautionary and security measures does in fact, still exist. The ability of law enforcement and even the legitimately and legally-armed individual may be the deciding factor as to just how much damage such an active shooter is allowed to cause. The ability to place together a response to such an incident on behalf of responding entities is wholly dependent upon their prior training. It is difficult for a group of individuals under the stress of the moment to be able to ad-hoc and then implement a response absent any prior communication or training that addresses this issue. In the 1990's Metropolitan Division of the LAPD, of which I was a part (primary firearms/tactics instructor) was responsible for training all the geographical and specialized division's within the LAPD in a first responder's capability. The department realized the necessity for such a program and we therefore, addressed it.

The ability to assess, communicate, locate and respond to an ongoing threat entails many factors that the uninitiated individual is most probably completely unaware of. Our active shooters class addresses all the many factors and variables that must be dealt with prior to an incident rather than after the fact. We have had this particular class in place for many, many years and have instructed many police departments throughout the US in the specifics that such an evolution entails. This includes team movement, location of the threat, threat elimination, rapid 'hardening' of the site, weapons selection, communications, crowd control, rapid entries into structures, operations in both light and low level light conditions, rapid deployment, equipment assemblage prior to and during an active shooter scenario, control of suspects both active and downed and emergency egress of potential victims to name a very few of the covered topics. The student will leave with an entirely new understanding of these situations and how best to deal with them.

Our new simunitons house is complete which affords us the ability to transition from a live fire format into an active shooter format utilizing both static and live person's force on force scenarios utilizing simunitons and or air soft. It has hallways and offset and staggered rooms and irregular configurations. We designed it to accommodate as many different situations as are possible. It's an invaluable tool for not only the response to an active shooter but for room clearance both covert and dynamic as well.

We have never ascribed to the philosophy of more is better when the subject of round counts during training arises. We have always been able to teach students, with fewer rounds in a more practical setting, with more varied techniques and adaptations which in turn, leads to a much higher learning curve that is eminently more practicable for the students gunfighting skills. Simply 'hosing' a thousand rounds in a day means absolutely nothing other than the fact that you repeat the same evolution again and again and again and very little if anything is gained. In today's market, the cost of ammunition has skyrocketed so our philosophy and training methods don't have to change. You will learn more, in a shorter period of time and experience a greater skill than anywhere else. Those of you who have trained with us and experienced other training formats have constantly commented on this very fact. It not the amount but rather, the quality of rounds and the realism of that training that really counts if you're serious about upgrading your skills and that is precisely what we provide.

The potential for an active shooter in any public venue is always a possibility and the ability of an individual to address such a threat whether singularly or within a team configuration is a problem which will most probably not diminish in the near future. It is also a reminder that those law enforcement officers who possess the capability to carry in either an off-duty or retired status may well be the first viable response in these situations.

Our active shooter class is scheduled for July 31, August 1 & 2 and I encourage anyone who has not taken the class to make it a priority, especially those in law enforcement.

## Looking Back on the LAPD- 'The Ithica'

I wrote briefly sometime back, about the LAPD Ithica model 37, .12 gauge shotgun that was in predominant use by the department when I entered the force in 1976. Recently some officers from other departments attended one of our classes and related to me that their department had somehow obtained these beauties and were now deploying them. Back then in the 1970's these shotguns were shop worn and I can only guess as to their condition now. The wood stocks way back then, were already worn and smoother than oil on glass and you could never get a good firm grip on them. The sights constantly broke as they were nothing more than an, orange-ish (sic) colored opaque, triangular plastic wedge that was constantly breaking off. Since you had to obtain these babies from the kit room at the respective divisions, prior to the commencement of each watch, sometimes you'd have a front sight and sometimes not. Oh well... You had five rounds of .12 gauge shotgun ammo that you kept in your kit bag and these were rotated in and out of the shotguns each and every watch.

After about six months these rounds were so worn and discolored and mutilated from all the loading and unloading that it was any wonder at all that they could still cycle in the shotgun let alone, fire. They had a five point safety check of the shotgun back then that entailed removing the barrel, checking for barrel obstructions, (old timers put their cigars in them from time to time) checking the firing pin, extractors and safety mechanisms etc. The shotguns received more wear from this procedure than they ever did from actual firing. Every six months you qualified with only five rounds from the hip and shoulder and you shot at a paper target that had a hole big enough to drive a truck through. It didn't matter that we could not really shoot well or remain proficient with the shotgun just as long as we could perform the five point safety check. This was the absolute pinnacle of the absurdity of bureaucracy. We had no lights, no butt cuffs, no slings, no side saddles - nothing. It was just you, five rounds and the model 37 to crush crime with. I never liked that shotgun. It might be fine as a bird gun but for combat it was not an ideal choice. It loads and ejects from just one under-port opening. To speed reload if it was dry, you had to place the forend forward and load one into the loading port and then cycle the action. The stocks were too long and they slid off your shoulder as the rubber butt pad was even slicker than oil on glass (if that's possible.) I can't imagine that police still use these but they do and my hats off to them. Good luck.

We carried these relics in a shotgun mount that mounted horizontally under both the driver and passenger's legs. Your calves were constantly chafing against the steel bracket, you had to unlock the locking device with a key on the black and white key ring and then depress a button and flip up the lock. Then you had to slide the shotgun towards the driver and up and over your legs while you were en-route to a hot call. A lot of swearing always seemed to accompany this procedure. We've come a long way with shotguns since then and that is a good thing but to really and truly appreciate what is available now in shotgun selection, you would have had to experience all the frustration of past days. I remember once voicing my concern to the kit room officer (who had forty plus years on the department) about the marked absence of a front sight on my issued shotgun. "Get over it kid. Just point it and let'er (sic) loose junior and everything downrange will get chewed up to smithereens!" He must have been using different loads than the rest of us carried. The kit room personnel were responsible for cleaning and maintaining the shotguns but no one really did. I doubt if there was one drop of oil for fifty shotguns. I took to oiling my issued shotgun for the day with a little bottle of oil. At the end of the year most of the shotguns in Wilshire Division had a few drops of oil on them due in large part to my little bottle of oil and the fact that you were issued the shotguns at random so by years end, you had pretty much been through every shotgun in the kit room.

Back then, as a brand, spanking new rookie, the training officers always took to putting you through your paces. My partner Bud Jablonsky, once told me to check out fifteen shotguns. Okay. In I went to the venerable old timer, "I need fifteen shotguns." He didn't say much but he did give me the evil eye and proceeded to stack fifteen shotguns into my arms. Back out I went into the parking lot only to be met by the Sergeant of the watch standing over by the black and whites by the gas pumps with the other officers of the watch. I could barely see over the stack of shotguns let alone balance them. "Reitz...what is your problem?" The Sergeant slowly drawled to me. "Nothing Sarge...why?" "Why do you have all those shotguns?" "Ahhh welllll...I really don't know." Then put 'em back and stop screwing around." My partner was shaking his head. "See what I have to put up with Sarge?" He stated. "It's really...isn't it?" He added. "Yep." The Sergeant responded back to my partner. They just wanted to see if you

could take it back then and whether you possessed some sense of humor about yourself. The only real downfall was that the old timer, who had just completed all the paperwork for each shotgun, now had to do it all over again in order to check them back in and he was not a happy camper by any stretch of the imagination and he made me painfully aware of his feelings towards me. They were a good crew. Real funny guys.