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**Regarding AB962 – many of you have emailed me about this bill that Arnold signed into law. I have spoken to a number of dealers and they have said that they are waiting for the information to be sent to them. The best place to get up to date information is at the**

**following websites:** <http://www.nssf.com/> and <http://ag.ca.gov/firearms/>

The law does not go into effect until next year or possibly later. As far as anyone knows, it will not limit how much ammunition you can purchase but you will need to give a fingerprint and fill out forms to buy ammunition which is already in effect in the city of Los Angeles. This law does not apply to law enforcement. As I get more information, I will send it to you by newsletter. This will not affect our ability to get ammunition for classes, so don't worry.

### **Upcoming classes:**

- ❖ This Sunday we are having a Shotgun refresher class which is perfect for those of you who want to hone your shotgun skills. We do have shotgun ammunition available if needed. We will be doing the famous 'rolling thunder' drills, varied position shooting, multiple target engagement, speed reloads, the Metro obstacle course and some other drills that Scott throws in. You will love this class!! To sign up go to:  
[http://www.internationaltactical.com/class\\_detail.asp?CSID=378](http://www.internationaltactical.com/class_detail.asp?CSID=378)
- ❖ Next weekend (Oct 24-25) we are having two classes back to back on different parts of the Eagle's Nest. One is Defensive Handgun I and the other Defensive Handgun III otherwise known as Intermediate Handgun. Go to:  
[http://www.internationaltactical.com/class\\_detail.asp?CSID=373](http://www.internationaltactical.com/class_detail.asp?CSID=373)
- ❖ **I screwed up - sorry!** November 7-8 is the new 2 day Sniper/counter sniper course, not Nov 4-5 as was on the website and last newsletter. Scott fits almost three days of class into two with only very short breaks and a fast-paced class. The cost for this class is only \$450 and covers a lot of information. You will definitely get your fun meter pegged! Taught by Scott and Mark Semos with both a SWAT and SOCOM point of view.
- ❖ The new OB course - we have never done anything quite like it before. Test yourself to see how you work under pressure with some challenging obstacle course thrown in. This might just be the most challenging course you have ever taken. Are you up to the challenge? For more information go to:  
[http://www.internationaltactical.com/class\\_detail.asp?CSID=383](http://www.internationaltactical.com/class_detail.asp?CSID=383)

### **Highlights:**

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### **Highlights of Upcoming Courses:**

<b>Oct 18</b>	<b>Shotgun Refresher Course</b>
<b>Oct 24-25</b>	<b>Defensive Handgun III</b>
<b>Nov 7-8</b>	<b>Sniper/Counter Sniper Course</b>
<b>Dec 5</b>	<b>Obstacle Course</b>



**Boston Area Police Class October 2009**



**Rob B gives the class lecture & range instruction**



# OCTOBER 2009 – April 2010 Course Schedule

October 17	Shotgun	Krav Maga Instructor's
October 18	<b>New Class</b>	Shotgun Refresher
October 24-25		Defensive Handgun III
October 24-25		Defensive Handgun I
November 7-8		Sniper/Counter Sniper
November 14-15		Tactical Shotgun/Pistol
December 5		OB course <b>New Class</b>
December 6		Nighttime Combat
December 12-13	<b>New Class</b>	Defensive Handgun I
December 12-13		Advanced Handgun

## 2010 Courses

January 23-24	Defensive Handgun III
January 30-31	Vehicle Assaults/Stops *
February 20-21	Defensive Handgun I
February 20-21	Defensive Handgun III
March 27-28	Defensive Handgun II
March 27-28	Advanced Handgun
April 17-18	Defensive Handgun I
April 17-18	Defensive Handgun III
April 21-25	5 Day Ultimate Tactical Course
June 23-27	5 Day - 3 weapons class

\* Denotes Law Enforcement only

## **'Nerves of Steel' by Scott Reitz**

We recently returned from doing a class in the Boston area. The police there are a great group to work with and we pushed through a lot of evolutions. The fall colors are spectacular in October- nothing we will ever see on this coast. But finding our way around was not an easy feat. Don't rely on Google to find your way around the North End of Boston. Don't bet on finding parking either. Do, however, go to the 'Neptune Oyster Bar' on Salem Street. Family run and absolutely incredible seafood. It's in the Italian section. If I lived in Mass. again I'd be fly-fishing every day from a canoe in one of the many deserted lakes that surround the area.

After we finished the class we drove to New York City, which is one of our favorite places to visit, especially in the autumn. But the taxi drivers are in a class of their own. There are many professions which entail heavy doses of testosterone, nerves and sheer guts. Some of these career choices require perfected skills beyond those achievable by mere mortals. One practiced occupation in particular stands apart and alone from the rest however. It's not the fighter pilot, astronaut, deep sea diver, parachutist, spelunker, rhinoceros neuterer, great white shark oral surgeon, or any such nonsense. This accolade and tribute goes solely to the New York taxi driver. Very few possess a command for the English language as a primary choice for one thing. Even fewer still seem to know where anything is. (Out of all the taxi drivers Brett and I used only one knew where anything was. The rest we had to direct to various locations including one enterprising soul who went the wrong way onto the Brooklyn Bridge on-ramp. Fun evolution.)

A New York Taxi driver can split atoms with the distances he passes static objects by. How they don't end up in collisions every ten meters is simply beyond me. Their sense of spatial relationship is way off the charts. Large truck ahead? No problem. Twenty New York pedestrians of all shapes, sizes and mobility skills? No problem. A fully stopped limousine only twenty inches ahead? No problem. I mean these guys have nerves of steel and reflexes a mongoose would be envious of. They speed up to about sixty mph for a single block of travel, slam on the brakes and coast to a stop in the traffic only to repeat this procedure for the entire length of Park Avenue block after block after block. The G forces are off the charts.

"Do you think it's good to drive like this?"

"Oh...thank you very much to be sure..."

"No...I mean your driving is...well I don't know how to describe it."

"Oh...thank you very much. Yes to be sure...my driving is quite good thank you."

"Forget it."

"Where is your destination to be once again...to be sure?"

"Great English junior. The Metropolitan Museum."

"Oh...yes thank you...my English is quite alright to be sure. Do you remember where it was?"

"You mean the museum?"

"Yes to be sure..."

"We just told you."

"Really?"

Are you kidding me? Now all this is transpiring as he weaves in and out of traffic, talks on his cell phone, answers the taxi radio and waves to cohorts he passes by whom he seems to recognize. Some of these guys use only two fingers on the steering wheel. If two taxis are about to collide they use telekinesis to avoid each other. They both seem to go where they were supposed to in order to avoid running into each other. This will occur about twenty times in a one hundred yard distance. It's simply remarkable. I watched from the side window and there was no doubt in my mind that on more than one occasion he removed microns of paint from his yellow taxi as he passed the other taxis, New Yorkers and God knows what else. Nothing rattles these guys. New York cop yells at them? They wave and keep going. In LA they'd dust you for that!

A New York taxi driver can break every traffic law there ever was and get away with it. He can also defy all the laws of physics with his yellow cab. They fit through openings a hummingbird couldn't squeeze through. They'll do it at night too. Do not try and get a cab when they all go on break at 1700 hrs. They'll run you over. No ands, ifs or buts about it. They'll cream you in a New York minute. Brett and I tipped them based on the amount of adrenalin surge they either caused or avoided. Sometimes they might even tell you to get out and walk when their skills can't cope with the traffic. No kidding.

"You need to get out now."

"Really?"

"Yes to be sure. It's only a mile or so but my cab will not go as fast as you can walk with your little feet. They have a parade today." New York has a parade every day it seems. The Irish, Italians, Lithuanians, Huguenots, Visgoths...everyone has a parade. That means entire streets are shut down the length of Manhattan. Taxi drivers also don't swear. "It's New York." That's all they say to cover any problem they encounter. This philosophy seems to encompass anything dealing with New York for that matter. They honk their horns about every twenty feet whether they need to or not. I don't know why...they just do. The other taxis honk their horns every ten feet. Everyone seems to honk their horns and no one pays attention anyway so maybe it's a cultural thing unique to the big apple.

You can't call for a taxi in the city of Manhattan. It's some kind of rule they have out there. Nope...can't call for one, brother, no way and no how. This means you have to hail one down. Sometimes this works and sometimes it doesn't. If the light on their roof is off, forget it. If it's on you might want to forget it as well. If you're a runway model none of this matters other than that - you're pretty much on your own. Sometimes they stop and sometimes they don't. It's New York. Brett and I got into a cab at the Plaza Hotel. The driver slowly turned and looked back at us. "I'm now off duty." It's New York. He took off in the direction we were going anyway. Still New York. One of our drivers could barely reach the gas and brake pedals with his little feet. He kept slipping down in the seat as he threw his yellow cab this way and that way in and out of traffic. How did this guy even get a license? The way I figure it these guys probably live to about 100 as nothing else seems to touch them. Take about five separate cab rides in New York and see if you don't arrive at the same conclusions I have. These guys can't be fazed, bullied or worried about death, mayhem or anything you and I see as a potential threat to our mortal bodies. They've got nerves of steel as far as I can tell.

## **Looking Back on the LAPD- SWAT Pistols**

One thing that struck me as I was finishing up on the last re-write of my book, was the fact that SWAT has a dedicated pistol made by Kimber the LAPD SWAT Custom II. When I was first on SWAT this was not the case. The 1911's were all taken from property division. This meant that the SWAT armorer's had to assemble a pistol from a bin of parts that did not always fit together. There were some rather interesting mixes of pistols among us. Some had two toned pistols. Blue steel slide and hard chromed frame or vice-versa. Some had adjustable sights and some did not. The stocks could run the gamut. Some had wood some had micarta some had metal and some had the brown WWII hard rubber stocks from Guadacanal. Some had good barrels and some did not. Some had good triggers and others did not. Some were Colts and others were not. It was always a toss of the dice. You went into the armory when you first entered D team and chose what you wanted from what remained in the boxes. Newer SWAT entries invariably received the 'bottom of the barrel' selections so to speak. This was always something of a gamble. If you went out and shot the pistol and it didn't run well you had to return to the vault and sheepishly ask for a replacement. Depending on the armorer's mood at the time this could be a dicey proposition. You had two issued pistols and one of them invariably ran better than the other. That was your primary and the other was for a fishing weight. Most of the serious members bought their own and took painstaking care to have them worked on properly. The armorers were pretty good but again, they were SWAT cops not gunsmiths. I took mine to King's Gunworks in Burbank. These guys were in business when Christ was a corporal. Elmer Keith writes about them in his books. I'm glad I did. Both of mine that they worked on were used in shootings and they did not fail me. In fact, one of them eventually cracked in the frame section and King's re-welded it and put it back together and it's still my favorite pistol but I've relegated it to the safe.

The SWAT vault back then did not have all the fancy shelving and technology that they do now. They had an old poster tacked up for LAPD recruitment from the early fifties when starting pay was about 430 dollars a month. They also had a sign that said 'Skunk Works.' You could also go into the vault and actually talk to the armorer when crime stopping wasn't a pressing issue. Nowadays you need a double secret, top secret squirrel clearance...especially for me. One of our members once cooked off a .45 round in the vault with a one point safety check. They had his name written next to the hole in the wall with the adage, 'so and so's qualification course of fire!' That round by the way made it into the cot room where officers from Central division slept when court cases trailed. The boys in the vault had a sense of humor. There wasn't a question that you could ask that wasn't met with dripping sarcasm. The stupider the question the more they humored you and the smarter the question the more they humiliated you. They were really great guys.

As with anything, progress continues in methods and equipment. The SWAT vehicles they use now are professionally manufactured and have more armor than we ever did. New weapons and devices are continually being added with one notable exception. It will always be the human behind all of this which makes the difference. I could have the most expensive putter in the world and yet, Tiger Woods could beat me with a barrel stave. Think about it.

## 'Silly Questions'

(loosely re-printed from SWAT magazine – October 2009)

Brett has received many questions regarding our training over the decades and they are nothing less than short of insightful so here go her responses:

“Are we going to be shooting real live ammunition?”

“Yes it is a firearms class after all.”

“Do I need eye and ear protection?”

“Yes unless you want to go deaf and blind in the same day”

“Can I wear sandals?”

“Not unless you are an honest-to-goodness real Spartan.”

“Do I need a belt?”

“Yes. Some people’s frames are not designed to be exposed to the general populace.”

“If it’s going to be a 110 degrees do I need water?”

“Yes, unless you are a camel.”

“There’s no restaurants in the area should I bring food?”

“Yes, unless you are preparing for a weight loss infomercial.”

“My friend can teach me for a lot less”

“Then learn from your friend”

“Can you give me a free class for professional courtesy?”

“No. And a real professional doesn’t ask such a question”

“Can I get the class for half off just because I’m a nice guy?”

“We’re also nice guys and you are paying us for our expertise, experience and tolerance of persons such as yourself.”

“Can I get the ammunition for free?”

“Probably, but not from us - we have to pay just like everyone else.”

“I’m real high speed and I own a hundred guns so can I come to your advanced course even though I’ve never trained with you before?”

“Unless I really know you or your verified background, probably not. I can own a Steinway but that doesn’t mean I can play it.”

“Do you know how to get to the range?”

“Yes I do.”

“Do I get to shoot all your guns?”

“Probably not.”

“Do I need sunscreen”

“Unless you want to look like something that is served with drawn butter and lemon juice...yes”

“Will you take me on a tour of the LAPD?”

“Probably not...I do have a life”

“Can I stay with you”

“Probably not.”

“If I fly into LAX do I need a car?”

“Yes, the range would take about a day or two on foot and Los Angeles does not lend itself well to horsies (sic).”

“If I come out there, can I carry a concealed gun even though I don't have a permit and you can just vouch for me?”

“Have you lost your mind?”

“Can you send me out a gun so that I can practice with it”

“Are you still out of your mind?”

“Can I take a rental gun back to the hotel room to practice with it?”

“Most likely not, as people that pose such silly questions tend to do silly things”

“Can I pay for the class later, after I've taken it?”

“Probably not and you really don't have a mind after all, now do you?”

“Will I learn how to shoot a gun?”

“Most probably yes, as that is what we teach.”

“I know it's a pistol class but can Scott teach me all about the sniper rifle during the break?”

“Probably not as that would take at least twenty minutes.”

“I understand that we shoot against each other in this class - what if I'm hit?”

“We don't actually shoot AT each other but rather against each other and there is a distinct difference. It's a figure of speech besides Scott doesn't need the trauma experience”

“What if I'm too high speed for the class?”

“One, never believe your own press and two, Scott can always accommodate your level of expertise regardless.”

“Can I shoot all five of my pistols in this class?”

“First learn to shoot one at least halfway decently and then maybe, maybe we'll let you switch out”

“Do we shoot two pistols at the same time like in the movies?”

“No - that's why they call them the movies...get it?”

“Do you teach how to curve bullets like Angelina Jolie did in the movie?”

“Where do you think she learned it?”

“Will you guys buy my brass from me after the class?”

“Probably not.”

“Will you clean my gun for me?”

“Definitely not”

“Do I need cleaning gear to clean my gun?”

“That would be of considerable help.”

“Can we shoot Scott’s bullet proof vest to see what it will stop?”

“You can buy your own and shoot it up instead, okay?”

“Can Scott get me onto the LAPD?”

“I think you have to do that by yourself”

“I’m a Hollywood director- can you advise us for free?”

“&\*%\$+@#”

“My name is Uma Thurman, the actress; can Scott teach me?”

“No, I will...Scott is booked for the next two years”

“My name is Daniel Craig, the actor, I played James Bond - can Scott teach me?”

“No, I will...Scott is booked for the next five years”