

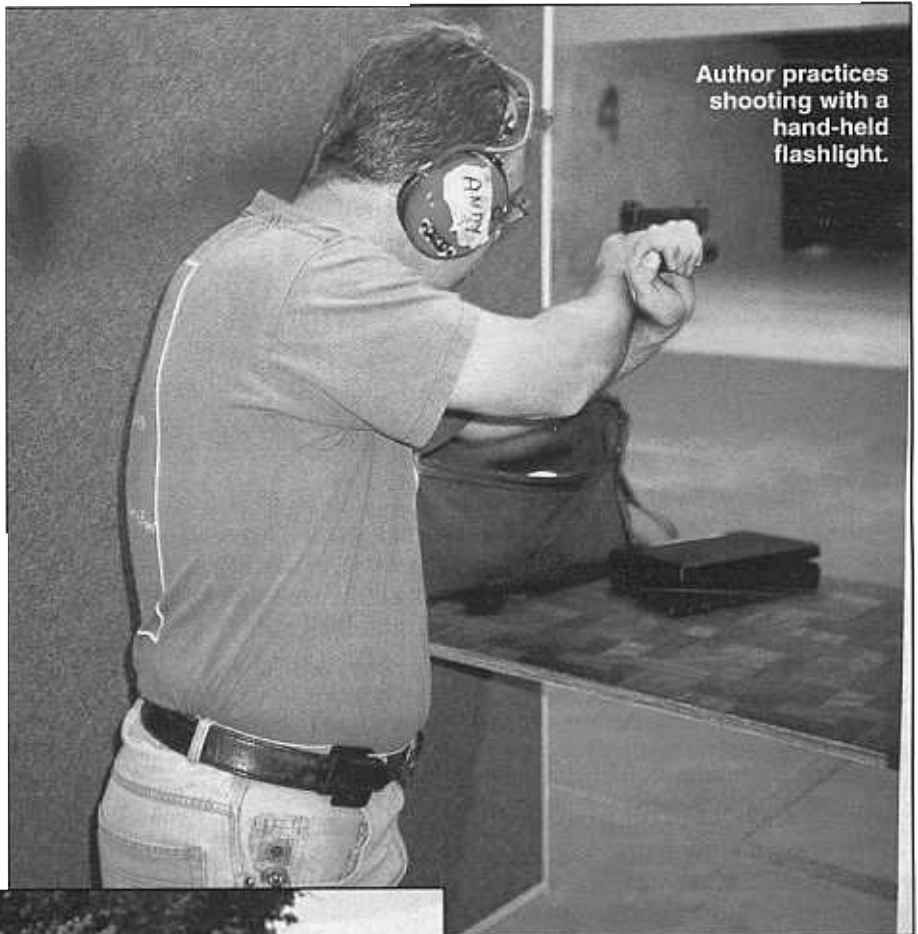
DRILLS FOR THE PUBLIC RANGE

Ten skill-building shooting routines that are both range-safe and street-savvy!

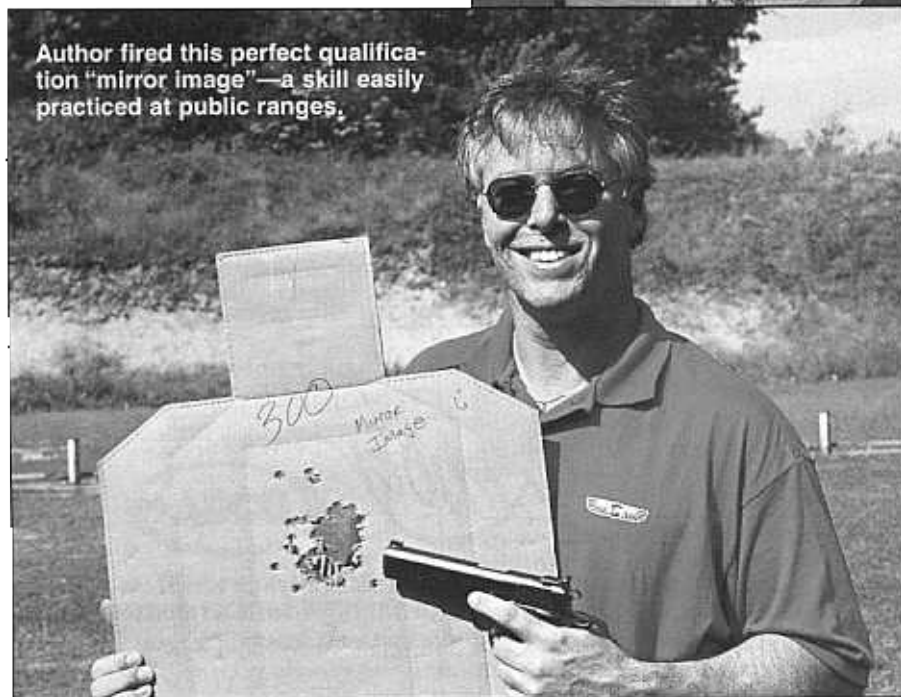
By Andy Kemp

Well, you finally did it. You just got back from that shooting class you always wanted to take and you learned some really cool stuff. Anxious to ingrain everything you've learned, you head off to the public range with a few hundred rounds of ammo and your favorite pistol...you've never been so eager to practice.

What's this? No drawing from the holster? Worse yet...no rapid-fire? The target has to be how far away? How are you going to practice those lifesaving drills now? Fear not...there are safe ways around all those nasty range rules that will allow you to hone your skills, leaving nothing out.



Author practices shooting with a hand-held flashlight.



Author fired this perfect qualification "mirror image"—a skill easily practiced at public ranges.

First of all, consistent practice is the key. Fifty rounds every week will do more for you than two hundred rounds once a month; 100 rounds once a month is better than 600 rounds biannually. Frequency is essential to building and maintaining any skill. Likewise, volume is no substitute for quality practice. Make each and every shot count.

1) Do not underestimate the value of slow-fire, accuracy-driven shooting at a public range. Sure, it doesn't look fancy, but for those who see the target, a single, ragged hole from 25 yards can be mighty impressive. This type of shooting brings you back to basics, allowing you to focus on the fundamentals which are essential to every other type of shooting that you do.

2) Most public ranges will not allow rapid-fire. One second per shot is about all they will tolerate. Fine. Fire one shot every second at varying distances, striv-



Glenn Rogalla demonstrates engaging to the rear while author engages left. Note different feet position.

ing for the tightest groups you can shoot. This will help you develop a rhythm and get a feel for the gun in a sustained firing mode, see how it recoils, watch where the front sight falls after each shot and get a sense of your timing for the trigger press. If you can't do it slow, you sure can't do it fast.

3) Practicing the draw can be easily accomplished in dry-fire practice at home, following all the standard safety precautions. Still, you need to see where you're hitting and live-fire is just so much more fun. No problem. Start with the gun in your strong hand, muzzle pointed downrange, holding the gun near your rib cage as if you have just cleared the holster. The safety should be on, finger off the trigger and your weak hand pulled into the front of your body, clear of the muzzle. Now bring the gun up on target.

HARRIS FARMERS' ALMANAC

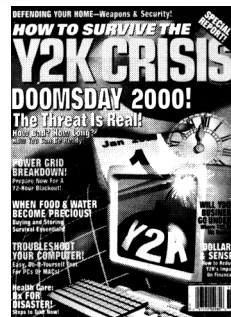
Presents

THREE SURVIVAL GUIDES TO THE Y2K CRISIS!

Three magazines entirely dedicated to the Y2K Crisis featuring and possible scenarios and ways individuals and families can prepare to lessen the consequences.



**Y2K!
DISASTER
2000!**



**HOW TO
SURVIVE
The Y2K CRISIS!**

Both On Sale Now!



A New Common Sense Guide: On Sale August 10, 1999

THE Y2K SURVIVAL HANDBOOK!

Despite assurances from the highest levels of government that we have nothing to fear at midnight on December 31st, the moment when computers all over the globe are expected to go into spasms and paralysis—millions of people remain deeply concerned.

Varying opinions on what is likely


to happen continue to grow like weeds. They range from calling the crisis a non-event to dire predictions of the total collapse of society. One thing is for sure: Not for nothing have government institutions and business around the globe been spending billions to meet the threat. Are they succeeding? Many think not!

Cost per issue includes postage & handling:

U.S. \$7.45

Canada \$7.95, Foreign \$8.45

Send Check or MO to: **Harris Publications**
1115 Broadway 8th Fl, NY, NY 10010
Attn: Y2K Offer



OLD WORLD™ LEATHER

HW

HIP HOLSTERS

...from the number one holster manufacturer in the World. Old World Leather Hip Holsters are created per Michaels of Oregon's specifications, in North Central Italy, one of the world's most respected leatherworking regions. Each holster is crafted of high quality, hand selected, color matched leather, which is wet molded, hand boned and reinforced with precise nylon stitching to ensure superior quality and exact fit.

For more information contact GunMate/Old World Leather at: (503) 655-2837
Fax: (503) 655-4310 P.O. Box 1720, Oregon City, OR 97045 www.michaels-oregon.com

HKS

REVOLVER SPEED LOADER

only **\$8.50**

Super-Fast



MAGAZINE SPEED LOADER

only **\$9.95**

- 10 Models Available. Loads .380, 9mm, 40cal., 45cal., or 10mm single and double stack mags.
- Magazine slips into loader and is held in by hand. Depress thumb lever to load.
- Loads ammo. into magazines faster and easier than ever.

.22 CALIBER MAGAZINE SPEED LOADER

only **\$2.95**

Featuring:
**Flex Brake Arm &
Lock Down Stop!**

HKS .22 L.R. CAL.
Magazine Speedloaders

- Browning, • Ruger I & II,
- Ruger 22/45, • Colt, • S & W,
- Mitchell Arms (H.S.)

**No more sore fingers
when loading .22 mags!**



HKS

HKS PRODUCTS, INC.
7841 FOUNDATION DR. FLORENCE, KY 41042

SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER

PATENTED

DRILLS FOR THE PUBLIC RANGE

(Continued from page 63)

Support hands come together, thrust forward, swipe the safety, align the sights, press the trigger, just as you normally would during your presentation. All you have left out is one move...clearing the leather.

4) I never see shooters practice a speed reload at a public range. Why, I don't know. I have yet to see a sign prohibiting patrons from carrying spare ammo on their belt. Do it...it is an important part of your training program. Let the "one shot per second" rule be your goal.

5) Multiple targets can be engaged by simply attaching paper plates or post-its to your cardboard. Now engage in whatever order you like. Mix it up, vary the number of shots. This will train your eye to follow the front sight and track different targets.

6) Engaging targets at 360 degrees can be accomplished by simply changing your stance. Set the gun down, turn 180 degrees with your back toward the target, for example, twist around without moving your feet so you can pick up the gun and fire downrange. It's awkward and clumsy, but real. You may have to fire at a target behind you someday. You'll not always have the perfect stance in the real world. Practice this with your feet facing away from the target at various angles while twisting your upper body toward the target and you will, in effect, be firing at targets encompassing 360 degrees. You may find that you need to use a Weaver sometimes, Isosceles others and one-hand-only occasionally. Be sure to set the gun down while turning away from the target and don't retrieve it until you've twisted your upper body around to the target and are ready to engage.

7) We all seem to want to shoot from the holster, forgetting that a quick shot from low-ready is an equally important skill. You can practice this easily at a public range, firing one shot at a time, emptying the mag or any number of shots in between. You can change the drill slightly by starting with the gun on the bench in front of you and picking it up the way you would off of a nightstand or from inside a drawer.

8) Mirror image shooting is another excellent skill for developing fundamentals. Massad Ayoob showed me the importance of this and I'm a big believer. You are now gripping the gun in your weak hand and your strong hand assumes the support role. Reverse your feet to accommodate the reverse technique. Use Weaver, Chapman, Isosceles...it doesn't matter...but it should be a mirror image of your normal stance. This truly forces you to focus on



Starting from low-ready, the draw starts as if you have just cleared leather, muzzle downrange. Here author completes presentation.

the basics, firmly ingraining them in your mind. And if the day comes that your strong hand is out of commission, wouldn't it be nice to know that your weak hand has already been trained?

9) That brings us to one-hand shooting, both strong-hand-only and weak-hand-only. So, the range won't let you put targets out at only four yards like you did in class? So what? Get good at doing it at 10 yards, or 15 yards. So much the better.

10) Don't wait for the next night-shoot to practice flashlight techniques. It makes no difference that the range is lit. You are going to be lighting up the target anyway. You can still see if your beam is on the target and you get practice in shooting with the flashlight in your hand. Try the various techniques and see which is most comfortable, which affords you the best shot placement and follow-up shots. It feels quite different, shooting with a flashlight, and you need to get used to that feel.

The real point is, make your range time count. Pick a couple of techniques and work on them. Rotate the drills with each trip to the range. With a little thought you can probably come up with numerous exercises that have practical defense applications and will stimulate your training program. ●

About the author: Andy Kemp has been an instructor with Ayoob's Lethal Force Institute and also holds instructor credentials with John Farnam's DTI. As Director of his own Illinois-based Midwest Training Group, Inc., Andy hosts classes with some of the most prestigious instructors in the business.