

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas Handgun Association's Conference

## Class Descriptions & Instructor Bios

**Empty Hands Tactics\*\***, *Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>* – The main objectives of this training are for the participants to be able to:

1. Demonstrate disengagement tactics from grabs, strikes, and knives
2. Demonstrate counters to a gun grab and weapon retention
3. Identify options for improvised weaponry.

In this one and one-half hour class, the instructor, **Erwin Ballarta**, CEO of [Armatek USA Security Group Inc.](#), will cover Disengagement (Grab, Punch, and Knife thrust); Weapon Retention (Retention in holster and Disarming from a gun grab); and Improvised Weaponry (Use of magazine, Use of Pen, and Use of common dinner table items). \*\*This class is eligible for one hour of TCOLE credit for licensed peace officers.

**First Aid for Gunshot Wounds**, *Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>*, – Accidents or more precisely, negligence happens. As a firearms instructor (see **Note** below), you may often find yourself in situations surrounded by novice or inexperienced gun owners armed with loaded weapons. What happens if your student is negligent at the range and shoots someone? Are you prepared to help? Do you know what to do to give the injured person the best chance to survive? Make sure you know basic trauma first-aid for gunshot wounds. Make sure you will be able to help.

[U.S. & Texas Law Shield](#) wants to provide you with knowledge that just may save a life. With the assistance of an experienced battlefield medic, emergency medical paramedic, and Navy Corpsman, they have developed this two-hour course to provide you with the working knowledge of the first-aid you need in a gunshot wound scenario.

Some of the topics to be covered by **Dewayne McBride**, U.S. & Texas Law Shield's National Field Sales Operations Director, include:

- First Aid in seconds after a disaster;
- Things to do before EMS or paramedics arrive;
- Hemorrhage control;
- Essential First Aid equipment and how to use it;
- Essentials items for your blow-out kit.

**Note:** This course, although originally created for firearm instructors, would be beneficial to every gun owner.

**Testing Gunshot Wound Training**, *Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>* – Any skill not learned under stress cannot be recalled under stress and using a tourniquet, packing a wound and applying chest seals on training dummies or each other in a well-controlled environment offers little in preparing you for saving a life with a gunshot wound. Static lecture-based training has its place, but after a

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base level of competence, no seminar can address the practical issues of a real-world dynamic encounter. This two-hour class led by **Austin Davis**, owner of [Virtual Tactical Academy](#) and who has over 25-years of experienced instruction, will test you and the participants in gun fighting skill sets with treatment of gunshot wounds in the safest, yet most realistic manner possible, using modern adult learning theory and state of the art Virtual Reality (VR) training.

**Winning the Rights Fight: Securing our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights**, *Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>* – Those of us who believe strongly in the right to keep and bear arms want to see those rights secure for this and future generations. But for those rights to be truly secure, the will of the people must back the sentiment embodied in the Second Amendment. How do we persuade those who are not of like mind to see things our way?

This one-hour seminar, led by **Aaron Marshall** of [Guncraft Training Academy](#), will give you tactics to fight the anti-gun agenda and advance the cause of the right to keep and bear arms through effective persuasion. You'll gain a wealth of knowledge that you can immediately begin using to win converts to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, including:

- The #1 threat to gun rights (It's not what you think)
- The fight that we absolutely MUST win, and is even more important than legislative or judicial victories
- The two types of gun opponents and how to deal with each
- The biggest way that gun owners hurt their own cause
- The deceptive tactics of the anti-gun agenda and how to counter them

The “secret weapon” that the gun community can use to persuade even ardent anti-gunners.

**\*Range Fun Shoot**, *Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>* – Test your mettle against your fellow TxHGA members! During this time on the range, you'll test your skills through a series of five challenging shooting events. Every stage will require your very best in speed, accuracy, and consistency of shooting, as well as a little creative thinking. For each event, you'll receive a score that indicates your overall performance. At the end of the day, the highest score will earn the title of 2020 Conference Top Shot. **Aaron Marshall and Jamie LaBarbera** of [Guncraft Training Academy](#) will be your range masters.

***\*Note: Participation in the Range Fun Shoot will be limited to the first 20 paid attendees.***

Equipment required for range day activities:

- Reliable, modern semi-automatic pistol or revolver chambered in 9mm or larger. Semi-autos must have a barrel at least 3” in length. If you have questions about a particular pistol, please contact Guncraft at [info@guncrafttraining.com](mailto:info@guncrafttraining.com).
- Minimum of 100 rounds of ammunition. Factory ammunition is preferred but high-quality reloaded ammunition is acceptable if you loaded it. Do not bring reloaded ammunition loaded by someone else as there is no way to assure safety and quality. Revolver

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shooters will need at least two speed loaders and semi-auto shooters will need three magazines.

- A good quality, strong side belt holster on a sturdy belt is required. The holster must remain open and not flatten when the gun is withdrawn. The gun's trigger guard must be completely covered when in the holster. A Kydex or reinforced leather holster is recommended. No Serpa, cross-draw, shoulder holsters, or appendix carry holsters.
- Speed loader or magazine pouches are recommended to hold spare ammunition.
- Suitable outdoor clothing and comfortable shoes as well as a brimmed cap.
- Hearing protection. Electronic hearing muffs or plugs are highly recommended.
- Eye protection with side protection.
- Water will be available, but bring your Gatorade or other drink if you like.

➤ *Parts of the road at the range are rough and could pose a problem for low clearance vehicles. Please plan accordingly.* ◀

**Civilian Less Lethal Options: OC Spray & Conducted Electrical Weapons\*\***, *Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>* – Once you have your LTC and religiously carry your handgun, you are prepared for any encounter. Right? **WRONG!** You are only prepared for about 1% of encounters you could expect in the normal course of a day. What about the other 99% of the cases? This 3-hour class, led by **David Kidder**, will teach the student about the proper use of OC Spray and Conducted Electrical Weapons for defense of self or others in those situations where the use of force is justified, but deadly force is not. Students will have the opportunity to deploy inert spray on training targets. They also can deploy a Conducted Electrical Weapon such as the TASER on a training target. **Students WILL NOT be exposed to live OC or electric shock during this training.** \*\*This class is eligible for three hours of TCOLE credit for licensed peace officers.

**Armed Citizen Interacting with Law Enforcement\*\***, *Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>* – With the steadily increasing number of LTC holders in Texas, the chance of an armed citizen being involved in interactions with law enforcement increases as well. This one-hour participatory class led by **Jamie Kidder** will cover situations where the legally armed citizen might encounter a law enforcement officer while armed. Scenarios will cover both traffic stop situations and situations where the citizen encounters responding law enforcement officers after being required to display a firearm in a self-defense situation. \*\*This class is eligible for one hour of TCOLE credit for licensed peace officers.

**ASP Baton Tactics and Utilization\*\***, *Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>* – Students will be shown how to properly hold, deploy and utilize the ASP Baton, and other similar expandable batons in a less than lethal use of force situation. The training led by **Norman Bennett** will also teach the student the target strike areas, as well as counter techniques during a physical confrontation when use of less lethal force options are authorized and required. \*\*This class is eligible for two hours of TCOLE credit for licensed peace officers.

**Emergency Preparedness: Are you doing enough?** *Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>* – Emergency Preparedness is not just about societal collapse or the eruption of Yellowstone. You don't need

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10 years of food and water and an underground bunker to be prepared for everyday events that affect thousands of Americans every day. Just as important as being comfortable and proficient with a firearm, instructor **Steve Lehman** will explain during this 45-minute seminar why people should have first aid skills, plans for evacuating their home, an inventory of valuable and important possessions, and supplies for sheltering in, just for starters.

**Training That Wins: Being Truly Prepared for Armed Self-Defense, Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> –**

A gun is a very popular choice as a tool for self-defense, and for good reason. But aside from owning the gun, what skills should you develop to be fully prepared to use it at a moment's notice? How can you know you are truly ready to be successful against a criminal attack? During this 45-minute seminar by **Aaron Marshall**, [Guncraft Training Academy](#), you'll find the answers to these questions and many others. You'll gain valuable insight into the following self-defense related topics:

- The cost of poorly-trained gun owners (and why there are more of them than you think)
- The Five Levels of Competence, and how to recognize which applies to you
- The four types of defensive firearm skills, and which ones you can't afford to neglect
- Why understanding the difference between training and practice helps you do both better
- How some practice can actually HURT your ability to defend yourself
- Evaluating whether the techniques you're using are best for self-defense
- The two most common training mistakes made by both students and instructors

**\*Range Training Session, Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> –** During the three-hour range training session, you will focus on developing and improving an essential set of defensive techniques that are vital to prevailing against a deadly attacker. You'll gain a deeper understanding of these essential skills, whether you're a brand-new shooter or have been shooting for years. Through a series of demonstrations, dry practice, and shooting exercises, you will deepen your understanding and abilities on:

- The Two Key Elements that will enable you to hit your target, every time
- Using proper trigger control for improved accuracy and speed
- Finding the optimal balance between speed and accuracy
- Consistently presenting your handgun from the holster
- Primary and alternate shot-placement strategies and when to use them
- The one "step" that cuts your chances of getting shot by your adversary in half

The session will conclude with two fun and challenging exercises that will test your speed, accuracy, and consistency. The individual who comes out on top in both of the exercises will be recognized at the banquet. **Aaron Marshall and Jamie LaBarbera** of [Guncraft Training Academy](#) will be your range masters.

***\*Note: Participation in the Range Training Session will be limited to the first 20 paid attendees.***

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Equipment required for range day activities:

- Reliable, modern semi-automatic pistol or revolver chambered in 9mm or larger. Semi-autos must have a barrel at least 3" in length. If you have questions about a particular pistol, please contact Guncraft at [info@guncrafttraining.com](mailto:info@guncrafttraining.com).
- Minimum of 150 rounds of ammunition. Factory ammunition is preferred but high quality reloaded ammunition is acceptable if you loaded it. Do not bring reloaded ammunition loaded by someone else as there is no way to assure safety and quality. Revolver shooters will need at least two speed loaders and semi-auto shooters will need three magazines.
- A good quality, strong side belt holster on a sturdy belt is required. The holster must remain open and not flatten when the gun is withdrawn. The gun's trigger guard must be completely covered when in the holster. A Kydex or reinforced leather holster is recommended. No Serpa, cross-draw, shoulder holsters, or appendix carry holsters.
- Speed loader or magazine pouches are recommended to hold spare ammunition.
- Suitable outdoor clothing and comfortable shoes as well as a brimmed cap.
- Hearing protection. Electronic hearing muffs or plugs are highly recommended.
- Eye protection with side protection.
- Water will be available, but bring your Gatorade or other drink if you like.

➤ *Parts of the road at the range are rough and could pose a problem for low clearance vehicles. Please plan accordingly.* ⬅

**Case Study of the 1986 FBI Miami Firefight, Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** – In five minutes two bank robbers and two FBI agents were dead, five other agents were wounded, three critically. This incident would change the FBI and law enforcement in general. Keynote speaker and instructor **Ed Mireles** will cover the investigative background, surveillance, car stop, shoot out, weapons and tactics, wound ballistics, and will to survive as part of the 1986 FBI Miami Firefight. He will also cover the affect that this firefight had on changes in law enforcement equipment and Weapons and Training, as well as PTSD.

**Present a Pistol and Re-holster Training, Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** – As with any firearms training course, students should be encouraged to seek additional training to learn and understand the unique safety and legal issues that apply to owning and using a firearm. In this course, led by **Richard Buchfink**, owner of [Bronze Star Shooting](#), the objective is to present a pistol and re-holster a concealed and openly carried gun safely. The NRA provides specific procedures to follow to master and apply each technique. However, students should not feel confined to one rigid or dogmatic system. Simulated training pistols will be used for all training. No live firearms or ammunition will be allowed with this training. The student will objectively learn the necessary steps for pistol presentation and re-holster. The student's obligation to learn and practice will enable the individual to obtain a balance of speed and accuracy. These two characteristics combined will develop your self-defense capabilities.

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## **About the Instructors:**

**Erwin Ballarta** began his law enforcement career with the Big Spring Police Department in 1982 and moved up the ranks as a Patrol Sergeant, Narcotics Sergeant, and Criminal Investigator Sergeant. In 1987, he accepted a position as a recruit with the Texas Department of Public Safety and after graduation, he found duties in Highway Patrol, Safety Education, Governor's Protection Detail, and Training Academy. Before retirement in August 2008, he attained the rank of Lieutenant coordinating the In-Service Program, Defensive Tactics Program, and the Specialized School Program of the Texas Police Association. Since retirement from Law Enforcement, he has been Senior Vice President of CCNG Inc. and CEO of [Armatek USA Security Group Inc.](#)

In 2001, he received the Wallace Beasley Association of Texas Law Enforcement Educator of the year award. He received the "Texas Professional Achievement Award" from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education for his contribution to Law Enforcement in the field of training. On November of 2001, he acted as Liaison between Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and President George W. Bush on mutual alliance to combat world terrorism in Washington, D.C.

Erwin M. Ballarta is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and the 188th Session of the FBI National Academy. He is also the owner of True Blue Coffee Company dedicated to supporting fallen officer's family and programs for inner city kids.

**Dwayne McBryde** is a veteran with over 21 years of field experience as an emergency medical paramedic and combat medic for the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Navy Reserves. As a first-responder, he has an extensive trauma and emergency treatment background. Mr. McBryde is a Medic and Diplomatic Security Service Contractor for the U.S. Department of State, where he provides tactical medical care for U.S. Department of State Chief of Mission personnel as a member of a low profile diplomatic security team in a high threat environment. In addition, Mr. McBryde has received specialized training in "Care under Fire" and "Tactical Field Care." He is currently the National Field Sales Operations Director for Texas Law Shield

**Austin Davis** is a former Police Officer with over 25 years as a law enforcement trainer, as well as a former professional comedian. As owner and CEO of [DavisSeminars.com](#), [Kangaroo Carry, LLC](#), and [Virtual Tactical Academy](#), he has instructed more than 2500 crime prevention seminars and observed over 2000 students in 10's of thousands of virtual reality use of force scenarios. Austin is currently licensed as a Texas LTC instructor and NRA instructor.

**Aaron Marshall** is a two-time combat veteran, having deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, and is currently a major in the US Army Reserve. He has been a shooter for almost twenty years and a firearms instructor for over fifteen years, in both military and civilian settings. He holds instructor certifications from Glock, Sig Sauer, and the NRA Law Enforcement division, and is a US Army primary marksmanship instructor for both pistol and rifle. He worked for three years as a range master at Front Sight, the largest private firearms school in the county, and has personally trained over 6000 students. He sits on the board of directors for the Texas

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Handgun Association. He is a master trainer for [Guncraft Training Academy](#) in New Braunfels, Texas, where he manages and instructs in training programs on defensive handgun, rifle, and shotgun.

**Jamie LaBarbera** is a former police officer for the Fremont and Oakland police departments. He was also a senior training specialist for the California Motorcycle Training Program, and is a licensed private investigator. Jamie is a POST-certified and NRA Law Enforcement certified firearms instructor. He is the Training Coordinator for [Guncraft Training Academy](#).

**David Kidder** is a retired Texas Peace Officer with over 20-years as a Police Academy Firearms, Defensive Tactics, and Use of Force instructor. Since retiring in 2012, he has conducted civilian training in firearms and self-defense to thousands of students. David is a NRA Training Counselor and Chief Range Safety Officer, a DPS Certified License to Carry Handgun and School Safety Certification Instructor, and a United States Concealed Carry Association Certified Instructor.

**Jamie Kidder** has been a licensed Texas Peace Officer since 2011 assigned to the patrol division. Jamie has been assigned to night shift patrol for the past 3 years. She has also been a Texas LTC Instructor since 2014 and holds multiple NRA Instructor ratings. Jamie also holds the TCOLE Master Telecommunications Proficiency and Intermediate Peace Officer Proficiency.

**Norman Bennett** is a Master Peace Officer, TCLEOSE (now TCOLE) Instructor, Licensed Body Guard/Personal Protection Officer, and Swat Qualified/Proficient. He has been a Guest Lecturer/Instructor for the following academies, associations, and departments:

- Texas Narcotics Officers Association West Region
- Odessa College Law Enforcement Academy
- Texas Department of Public Safety/Texas Police Association
- Midland Law Enforcement Academy
- Lubbock County Sheriff's Academy
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice and Corrections
- Rio Concho Valley Law Enforcement Academy

With over 15 years as a peace officer, Norman has provided instruction in hostage/crisis negotiation; active shooter situations, tactical shooting, and defensive tactics, including Hand-to-Hand and Ground Fighting Tactics, OC Pepper Spray, ASP Defensive Baton and Tactical Knife/Edge Weapons.

**Steve Lehman** grew up during the Cold War as an Air Force brat. Duck and Cover exercises in grade school were his first introduction to emergency preparedness. He has been a native Texan since his Dad retired in 1967 and moved to Kerrville. After several years in the Army, 13 years in private security and 20 years as a computer tech he began teaching emergency preparedness in 2012. Steve is also a volunteer member of, and instructor with, the Kerr County Citizen Emergency Response Team under the Kerr County Sheriff's Office.

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**Ed Mireles** was born in Alice, Texas. In 1971, he enlisted in the US Marines and did a four-year tour of duty. After graduating from the University of Maryland in 1979, Mr. Mireles joined the FBI and retired in 2004.

During his 25 years of FBI of service, he served in Washington DC, three tours in Miami, Omaha, Tucson and two tours at the FBI Academy at Quantico. He worked in a variety of areas in Program Management, as a Supervisor, Classified Government Programs, General and Violent Crime Investigations, Organized Crime (OC) Investigations, Narcotics Investigations, Undercover Operations, Southwest Border Initiative, Crime Scene Investigations, Interviewing & Interrogation, Counter-Terrorism/ CT bombing investigations, Threat Assessment, Data Collection, Reporting of Criminal & Security Incidents, Firearms Training and Street Survival Training. Mireles has over 15 years of undercover (UC) experience having worked scores of high-risk UC cases. He has been involved in two deadly force confrontations and has been wounded twice. He was selected as the 1986 National Police Officer of the Year; the recipient of the US Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Heroism in 1987, the FBI Medal of Valor in 1989, and in 1994, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice dedicated the Criminal Justice Training Academy, located in Beeville, Texas, in his name.

For the last 30 years Mr. Mireles has been a guest lecturer and instructor at police academies and military centers across the US and Canada. As a firearms instructor and survivor of violent encounters, Mr. Mireles is a subject matter expert (SME) in Deadly Force confrontations, deadly force policy, wound ballistics, street survival, the physiological and psychological responses to "fight or flight" incidents and the physiological and psychological responses to gunshot recovery.

Mr. Mireles has published his account of what happened on April 11, 1986 and published a recently released book "FBI Miami Firefight, Five Minutes that Changed the Bureau." The book can be found at [www.edmireles.com](http://www.edmireles.com) or on Amazon.

**First Sergeant Richard Buchfink, Jr., USA, Retired**, graduated from Union High school in 1991 while living in Tulsa, OK, and enlisted in the U.S. Army in June 1992, retiring after 21 years as a highly decorated soldier. Richard's education includes a Bachelor of Science, Major: Applied Science, Concentration: Business Administration from Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas, and an Associates of Arts, Concentration: General Studies, from Central Texas College in Killeen, Texas. His certifications held are with the National Rifle Association of America as a Training Counselor, Firearms Instructor, Chief Range Safety Officer, and Refuse To Be A Victim Instructor. Richard also holds certifications with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a License To Carry a Handgun Instructor and certifications with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a Hunter/Bow Hunter Education Instructor. He enjoys running his small business [Bronze Star Shooting](#) in Weatherford, Texas and is passionate about properly training others in handling firearms. Richard's background as an Expert Marksman serves him well as a Training Counselor, and instructor focused on safety, education, and skill perfection.

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