

23rd Annual Texas Handgun Association's Conference

Class Descriptions & Instructor Bios

[Track A] Empty Hands Tactics**, *Friday, May 14th, 12:00-1:30 pm* – 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 may be eligible for one hour of TCOLE credit for licensed peace officers.

[Track A] Advanced Bleeding Control**, *Friday, May 14th, 1:45-3:45 pm* – According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, traumatic injury is one of the leading causes of death for people under 50 years of age in the US. A large portion of those deaths are from severe bleeding -the most treatable cause of death due to trauma. This class is designed to provide detailed information on the control and care of severe external bleeding.

- Severe external bleeding
- Physiology of bleeding
- Direct pressure
- Using pressure bandages, tourniquets, and packed dressings
- Preparation

[Track A] Handgun Safety Training*, *Friday, May 14th, 4:00-5:30 pm* – This class, led by **Tim Koebke**, is for new and experienced sportsman. Tim and his assistant instructors will help you understand how to select, properly, and safely handle, and care for your firearm. These are the most important steps. This course is all classroom.

*This class will meet course objectives of the *NRA Gun Safety Seminar*. If you are interested in NRA credit, please email timkoebke@NPSItraining.com for further information.

[Track B] Winning the Rights Fight: Securing our 2nd Amendment Rights, *Friday, May 14th, 12:30-1:30 pm* – 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?

Classes identified with double asterisks (**) may be eligible for Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) continuing education credit for licensed police officers. For **IN-PERSON** attendees only. Ask your department training officer.

Photographs will be taken at all events and may be published

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 2nd 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.

[Track B] Range Fun Shoot*, *Friday, May 14th, 2:00-5:30 pm* – 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 2021 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.
- 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 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.

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

[General Session] Case Study of the 1986 FBI Miami Firefight, Saturday, May 15th, 8:00-10:00 am – 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.

[Track A] Armed Citizen Interacting with Law Enforcement**, Saturday, May 15th, 1:45-2:45 pm – This presentation by **Larry Dean Bloomquist** is to help the armed citizen positively interact with Law Enforcement. It is critical to know your rights and how to act. **This class may be eligible for one hour of TCOLE credit for licensed peace officers.

[Track A] ASP Baton Tactics and Utilization**, Saturday, May 15th, 3:00-5:00 pm – 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 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 may be eligible for two hours of TCOLE credit for licensed peace officers.

[Track A] Emergency Preparedness: Are you doing enough? Saturday, May 15th, 5:15-6:00 pm – Emergency Preparedness is not just about societal collapse or the eruption of Yellowstone. You don't need 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.

[Track B] Training That Wins: Being Truly Prepared for Armed Self-Defense, Saturday, May 15th, 1:45-2:45 pm – 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)

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- 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

[Track B] Range Training Session*, *Saturday, May 15th, 3:00-6:00 pm* – 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.***

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.
- 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.

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- 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.

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[General Session] Instructor Development Training, Sunday, May 16th, 8:00-9:30 am – This open forum course, led by **Ken Lewis**, is for Instructors who want to expand their resources and improve their presentation.

[General Session] Gun Cleaning and Civilian Less Lethal Options: OC Spray**, Sunday, May 16th, 9:45-11:30 am – This open forum course is being led by Ken Lewis.

Gun Cleaning

Learn to clean your own firearms (any type) with Texas Handgun Association Instructors guiding you. We'll spend a quick hour reviewing the important points. You must have clear eye protection. Bring your user manual and a cleaning kit, if you have one. We will NOT use solvent or oil.

OC Pepper Spray Course

This course covers Texas law, basic techniques, tactics, and decontamination necessary to successfully deploy OC Pepper Spray. Yes, you may be able to spray each other (if you want) with an inert trainer to get experience.

Chemical Dispensing Device (46.01(14) TPC) means a device, other than a small chemical dispenser sold commercially for personal protection, that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being. *Prohibited Weapons* (46.05 TPC) (a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally or knowingly possesses, manufactures, transports, repairs, or sells: 4) a chemical dispensing device; (e) An offense under Subsection (a...)(4)... is a felony of the third degree.

**The Civilian Less Lethal Options: OC Pepper Spray class may be eligible for .75 hours of TCOLE credit for licensed peace officers. TCOLE Reporting Number 3343.

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, Erwin 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. Erwin 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 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.

Nathan Dee is a retired U.S. Marine. Mr. Dee spent 14 years in the Marines with three combat deployments to Afghanistan and Iraq. He also deployed on multiple times to humanitarian situations around the world. He has been a logistics and embarkation chief, ground safety officer, weapons instructor, and police tactics advisor during his deployments. He helped to setup the first Iraqi police training academies during his last tour before he was wounded. After being medically retired due to combat injuries, Mr. Dee turned his sights on school. Receiving a bachelor's degree of science in biology with a teaching licensure. Mr. Dee has taught middle and high school science and math. During his time as a teacher, he also assisted with security of the schools. He is an NRA Certified Instructor for pistol, rifle, CCW, and is a range safety officer. He is also a certified License to Carry Handgun and Private Security Program Instructor for the state of Texas, a Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Instructor, and U.S Concealed Carry Association (USCCA) Instructor. In his spare time, Mr. Dee trains service animals for other wounded veterans, he helps with equine therapy for veterans, and is a peer mentor for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Tim Koebke is an Instructor, Range Safety Officer, and seasoned firearm enthusiast with over five decades of shooting experience. He has over 40 years of combined work experience in business, engineering, agriculture and animal husbandry, encompassing assessment of business and technical operations in US and Latin American organizations; sustaining accreditations of Testing Labs, manufacturer Inspection Agencies, and Quality Assurance

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inspections. Tim holds an A.A.S in Electronics from San Antonio College, a B.A.A.S. Summa Cum Laude from the University of the Incarnate Word, and a Master of Science in Management with emphasis in Project Management from Colorado Technical University.

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. Aaron 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 Handgun Association. Aaron 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](#).

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, Ed 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. Ed 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. He has over 15 years of undercover (UC) experience having worked scores of high-risk UC cases. Ed 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, Ed 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, he 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.

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Ed 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 or on Amazon.

Larry Dean Bloomquist is a Board-Certified Criminal Defense attorney. As a Prosecutor for eight years, he fought in the courtrooms and argued to juries, that those that chose to hurt others be prevented from doing so. In case after case, he sought justice. Over time Larry realized the criminal justice system sometimes caught innocent people and tried to put them in prison for crimes they did not commit or tried to punish the guilty beyond all reason and without compassion. Those people needed protection and help, more so because they faced the overall power of the state. So now he defends people charged with crimes. Larry defends gun owners and protects their rights to own and carry firearms. He travels the state to protect those that act in self-defense and educate gun owners on their rights and responsibilities. For more information on Larry, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=gh2moN8PRZU.

Armando "Ace" Caballero was born and raised in Uvalde, Tx. After graduating high school he joined the Army in July 1999 as Military Police; serving seven years on active duty, obtaining the rank of Staff Sergeant with one combat deployment to Iraq. After leaving active duty he served five years in the Army Reserves as a Military Police Instructor with another deployed to Iraq. As a Civilian Ace has worked in the corrections and security fields. He is licensed to teach the Texas License to Carry (LTC) course, private security courses levels two, three and four, along with ASP handcuff, ASP baton, Taser, and pepper spray. He currently holds the position of Safety and Security Programs Manager at Roku in Austin, TX.

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, thirteen years in private security, and twenty 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.

Ken Lewis is an Eagle Scout, 24-year Air Force veteran, Range Master, Firearms Instructor, NRA Training Counselor, NRA Practical Pistol Coach Development Staff, NRA/USA Shooting Shotgun Coach, Range Consultant, use of force expert witness and subject matter expert, and college professor with active security, military, and law enforcement experience. His experience includes emergency management and disaster response, working with numerous employers and enterprise-level corporate customers to manage and minimize risk through the application of periodic assessments, intelligence, and threat management techniques. Ken holds several undergrad degrees, and a Master of Business Administration from Our Lady of the Lake University.

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