

# THE AMERICAN GUN OWNER

## IN THIS ISSUE #15

**THE COOLEST SHOOTING RANGES IN THE UNITED STATES**

**HANDGUN REVIEW: SIG SAUER P229 LEGION SAO**

**IMPROVE YOUR SHOOTING WITH DRY FIRING TRAINING**

**TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE (QUIZ)**

### COMING UP NEXT MONTH:

- ▶ **2019 TOP GUN NEWS REVIEW**
- ▶ **CHILLING OUT: EXTREME COLD WEATHER RIFLES**
- ▶ **ARE YOU (AND YOUR GUNS) READY FOR WINTER?**

The American Gun Association (AGA) provides information, tools, training, and support for gun owners throughout the USA.

The AGA stands for and advocates responsible gun ownership, as well as protecting our right to bear arms. Our mission is simple: **protect our guns, protect ourselves.**

## THE COOLEST SHOOTING RANGES IN THE UNITED STATES



Sometimes, business or pleasure calls you away from your hometown.

And regardless of whether it's business or pleasure, you probably aren't interested in visiting the normal tourist traps during your downtime.

### What avid gun lover would be?

Lucky for you (and gun lovers everywhere), there are dozens of shooting ranges waiting to be used. And some of these ranges are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience.

So, if you're in the neighborhood, here are the 5 coolest, must-visit shooting ranges in the United States:

### **1. THE RANGE AT THE PRESERVE (RICHMOND, LONG ISLAND)**

Most indoor shooting ranges max out at between 20 and 25 yards and have rather aggressive caliber restrictions. The reason for the former is because real estate isn't exactly cheap, and the latter is due to the risk of penetration.

*Article continued on page 4*



# American Gun

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## A S S O C I A T I O N

The **American Gun Owner** is the official monthly publication of the **American Gun Association (AGA)**. We provide you with **information, tools, training, support, and an active online community**.

### WHY WE EXIST

There are many threats to your safety and security, and gun ownership is being challenged more than ever before. We support and defend the rights of responsible gun owners throughout the USA.

### OUR MISSION

Over the years, AGA has helped over **85,000 gun owners** stay safe and secure.

We help to educate and inform you about how to stay safe. Our goal is to provide you with at least **10x the value** of your modest membership fee.

### OUR MEMBERS

Our members are hard working Americans like you, from all walks of life, backgrounds and locations, united in advocating the right to own firearms to defend themselves and their family. Our members are aware of the serious responsibilities that come with owning guns, and safety is their #1 priority

### YOUR AGA ELITE MEMBER BENEFITS:

\* The option to **test and keep gear** valued at up to \$85.00 for FREE (just cover the shipping and handling). Look out for the emails and text messages, as well as announcements in the Facebook Group

\* Thousands of **discounts, savings and giveaways** on movie tickets, oil changes, pizza, car rental and much much more. Many members tell us they're saving in the region of \$150.00+ every month! Go to <https://gunassociation.memberdiscounts.co/perks/register> to access your benefits instantly!

\* This **monthly printed publication** delivered to your door, with **articles, tips and training on developing new skills**, along with a **test** to evaluate your progress.

\* The **online community** on Facebook, where our members share ideas and tips about family protection. To join, visit [www.Facebook.com/groups/AmericanGunAssocation/](http://www.Facebook.com/groups/AmericanGunAssocation/) and click on the **+Join Group** button. Please allow 24 hours for approval, although it's often much faster.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS? CONTACT US:

**Email:** [support@gunassociation.org](mailto:support@gunassociation.org)

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# MEET THE EXPERTS

## CRAIG CAUDILL



**Craig Caudill** has spent a lifetime practicing and teaching survival, preparedness and self-reliance, skills. He is the director of the Nature Reliance School and teaches these skills in the midwestern and southeastern U.S.

He is an incredibly active blogger and writer for several different blogs and self-reliance magazines. He has appeared on educational television teaching self-reliance skills multiple times.

He has a worldwide student base who study with him through his online self-reliance school. Craig considers himself a student in all things and is regularly studying with other instructors, thinking and practicing outside the box of conventional wisdom, and honing both his abilities and teaching methods.

His students have included military operators, law enforcement special response units, and many average ordinary law-abiding citizens.

## JEREMY PARSONS



**Jeremy Parsons** is a former Marine sniper with multiple combat deployments overseas. He is truly a world-class expert at handling firearms.

Jeremy is a native of Austin, Texas. He joined the Marines at the age of 20 and quickly realized his passion for both the military and for shooting.

His passion for helping and instructing other gun owners led him to open a business where people can learn to be proficient with their firearms and feel more comfortable owning them.

Once hitting his unit he signed up for the scout sniper indoctrination and made his way into the platoon.

After a deployment to Iraq, he attended and graduated from Scout Sniper School and gained the title of **Marine Scout Sniper**.

Following a deployment to Afghanistan and starting a family he decided to leave the Marines and spend more time at home.

When returning to Austin his passion and skill lead him to start a company that would allow him to do what he loves to do, namely instruct and shoot.

## CHRISTINE ZÁDOR



**Christine Zádor** is the President & CEO of San Joaquin Rifle and Pistol Range, Inc. (SJRPR) located in Linden, CA. Her parents opened the range in 1979. Christine has dedicated herself to carrying on her parent's legacy by continuing to operate and develop the range today. Christine's dream is to make San Joaquin Rifle and Pistol Range a top-notch shooting facility.

Christine Zádor has created a long history of success in several different industries, however her true passion is in the firearms industry. Before taking ownership of SJRPR she attended the University of Southern California, where she played water polo and won an NCAA Women's Championship. She later co-founded a water polo board company named Zaqua Boards, and has been coaching water polo for many years.

Ever the adventurer, Christine also enjoys swimming, hiking, horseback riding, and traveling to meet and learn stories of Veterans in determination to make a difference in their healing process.

Christine is an avid shooter and currently competes in the USPSA, American Marksman, and competes in nationwide competitions.

## The Coolest Shooting Ranges in the United States

*Continued from page 1*

Neither is an issue at The Range, which is situated entirely underground. Climate-control makes sure The Range is at a comfortable temperature all year round, and the facility boasts an impressive 150-yard shooting lane flanked by several 33-yard ones.

The Range also features a variety of training classes, golf simulators, and archery ranges.

### 2. F.I.R.S.T. SHOT (DYER, INDIANA)



If getting a F.O.I.D. card is proving too much of a hassle while visiting Chicago or the neighboring areas, head a little south to Dyer, Indiana.

It's here you'll find F.I.R.S.T. Shot, short for Firearm Interactive Range Simulator Training.

F.I.R.S.T. Shot is an indoor venue that uses virtual reality technology to its advantage.

Visitors get to choose from a range of simulations (including lifelike situations and the zombie apocalypse) and practice their shooting skills with a simulated gun that mimics recoil sensations.



If you've been wanting to better prepare yourself for situations where shoot/no-shoot tactics and de-escalation skills are necessary, F.I.R.S.T. Shot is the place to be.

### 3. KNOB CREEK (WEST POINT, KENTUCKY)



Unless you've been living under a rock, you've probably heard of Knob Creek Machine Gun Shoot, a world-famous annual event hosted at the Knob Creek shooting range.

What you might not know, however, is that Knob Creek is open year round.

So if you have a hankering to shoot holes through just about everything from cars to boats, head down to West Point for the day. Pretty much the only things they won't let you shoot are people, animals, glass, and electronics.

### 4. HELIBACON (BRYAN, TEXAS)



If you've watched a lot of war movies and wondered what it's like to shoot a machine gun from a helicopter, then this is your lucky day.

Helibacon offers that exact experience.

Pick up a Texas hunting license on your way in if you want to try your hand at depredation hunting – during your 2-hour helicopter flight, you'll get a chance to dispatch feral hogs with an AR-15 (or the M16 if you choose to upgrade).

If the idea of shooting feral hogs with a machine gun isn't all that appealing to you, don't worry. Helibacon also has an airborne range shoot and a large variety of full-auto firearms you can test out on their ground-based range.

## 5. MACHINE GUN VEGAS (LAS VEGAS, NEVADA)



Last – but certainly not least – on our list of the coolest shooting ranges in the United States is the infamous Machine Gun Vegas.

To start off, Machine Gun Vegas offers indoor and outdoor shooting ranges. What’s unique about this shooting range, however, is the fact they offer interactive shooting experiences.

This could involve “trekking out to the Mojave desert” for some outdoor shooting fun, or staying on the Vegas strip and going “Rambo” at the indoor luxury gun range.

You might choose the “Bonnie and Clyde” experience instead – or perhaps

the “Urban Assault Special” or the “Femme Fatal”.

One thing’s for sure: whatever you choose, you’re sure to have a heart-pounding, exhilarating time.

The shooting range also boasts of something for everyone – experienced and inexperienced shooters alike – and a large array of guns to choose from, including rifles, pistols, semi-automatic guns, fully automatic machine guns, and sniper style shotguns.

## CONCLUSION

If you’re spending too much time wishing you had less work and more breaks, it’s probably time for some well-spent, stress-relieving activities.

And what better way to relieve stress than by firing a gun at one of the country’s coolest shooting ranges?

Not only will you breathe a sigh of relief, but you’ll walk away feeling like a complete badass.



## TOP FACEBOOK GROUP CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH

1		Seth Roeder
2		Michael Venia
3		Freddy Espinoza
4		Odie Kozme
5		Jimmy Machado

Congratulations to the top contributors in the AGA Facebook group! Join us on Facebook at [www.AGAmembers.com](http://www.AGAmembers.com) for tips, ideas, news, and more.

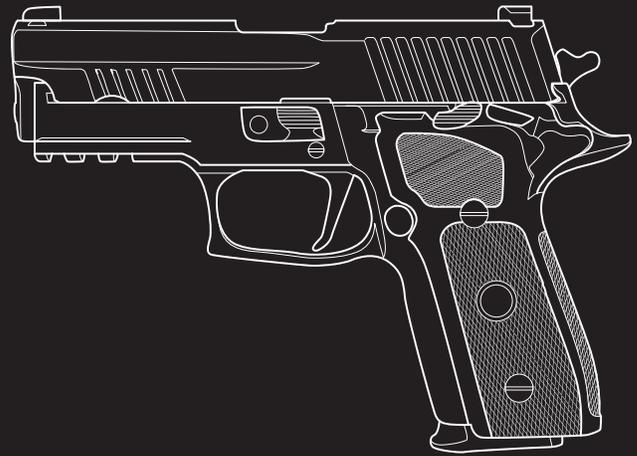
I started teaching my son how to shoot when he was 8. What is your stance on the topic? 🗣️

826 290 Comments

Be sure to check out the latest news in your exclusive AGA Facebook community.

[www.AGAmembers.com](http://www.AGAmembers.com)

# HANDGUN REVIEW: SIG SAUER P229 LEGION SAO



Members of the exclusive SIG SAUER Legion program are probably already aware of the SIG SAUER P229 Legion SAO pistol.

Introduced in early 2018, the P229 SAO is described by SIG SAUER's CMO & Executive Vice President of Sales, Tom Taylor, as "the natural evolution of the shared mission of SIG SAUER and our Legion members to never settle."

The entire Legion Series is, of course, designed and developed based on the input SIG SAUER receives from the program's elite shooting professionals. And the P229 SAO is no different.

In fact, it's an improved version of the P220, which Taylor describes as "one of SIG SAUER's classic pistols" and "iconic amongst shooting enthusiasts."

That's not a bunch of marketing talk by the company either – it's entirely true. Let's take a closer look!

## HOW DO THE TWO COMPARE?

A common complaint regarding the original P220 Legion is that it features the DA/SA operating system.

While this is by no means a flaw, SIG

SAUER did get feedback from its Legion program members: they love the gun, but prefer the consistency a single-action pull affords them.

SIG SAUER clearly listened. Instead of the long double-action pull for the first shot, the newer P229 uses an exclusively single-action feature (hence SAO).

For safety, you get a manual operation accommodating of those who practice cocked-and-loaded carry.

And for those who are ambidextrous shooters, you'll be glad to know the safety is on both sides.

## SPECS

- 9mm Luger caliber
- Semi-auto firing
- Black G10 grip
- Compact alloy frame
- Stainless steel slide
- Carbon steel barrel (3.9 in/99 mm)
- Full length - 7.1 in/180mm
- Weight - 32 oz (908 g)

The P229 Legion Series SAO pistol's most stand-out features include its Cerakote Elite Legion Gray Coated slide and frame, which allows you to rack the slide even with the safety engaged.

“  
**ONE OF SIG  
SAUER'S  
CLASSIC  
PISTOLS**”

“ICONIC AMONGST  
SHOOTING ENTHUSIASTS.”

Just as importantly, it's known for its industry-leading performance in lubricity, abrasion resistance, and hardness.

This is paired with the SAO trigger that distinguishes it from the P220 DA/SA. Inspired by the SIG Master Shop Flat Trigger, many of its users describe it as the smoothest trigger action they have had the pleasure of experiencing.

To cap off the most noteworthy features, we have the X-Ray3 Day/Night Sights. The tritium front and (serrated) rear sites allow for high-visibility by day and night alike.

And for those of you who've been working on one-handed shooting skills, the rackable rear ledge is very accommodating to single-handed slide manipulation.

# IMPROVE YOUR SHOOTING WITH DRY FIRING TRAINING



They say practice makes perfect – but really, it’s perfect practice that leads to perfect results.

This is especially true when using firearms, where it’s all too easy for bad habits to set in if you don’t correct them before they lock into your muscle memory.

But ammunition isn’t cheap...

Luckily, there’s a decades-old training technique that’s easy, safe, and free: dry firing.

## WHAT IS DRY FIRING?

Dry firing is practicing the act of firing your gun without any ammunition. You’re basically doing everything you would normally do at the range, just without having any ammunition loaded.

Not only does this make dry firing training safe and free, but it also makes it highly effective.

Think about it: when you’re at the range, there are dozens of distractions that can pull your focus away from your technique and lead to bad habits. This can include the sound of your

own weapon discharging, as well as those of other shooters on the range, reciprocating slides, ammunition shells flying past your face, and so much more.

By cutting all of that out and allowing yourself to safely practice firing your weapon at home, you create a training environment more conducive to quiet, focused practice.

## DRY FIRING TRAINING SAFETY

Just because there’s no ammunition involved, doesn’t mean you can throw the rules of gun safety out the window.

The best way to prepare is to go through a safety checklist, which we’ll share with you next. Make a ritual of

running through it until it becomes second nature.

### 1. The Designated Dry Firing Area

Choose an area at home to be your designated dry firing “range.” This is where you’ll be practicing. Unless you move to a new home, this is the only place (other than the shooting range) where you’ll work on dry firing.

Bearing safety in mind, don’t make your dry firing area an interior wall. Use a stone fireplace or an exterior wall made of brick – anything that will stop a bullet if you accidentally fire live ammunition.

If you have a body-armor vest, set it up as a backstop too.





## 2. Set Up a Target

You need something to aim at, right?

There are several options to choose from, such as a commercial target, hand-drawn or printed off the internet.

If you're using something like the Laser Ammo brand, they also have Personal Electronic Targets you can use.

Never use something that has any value, personal or otherwise. Remember: one of the golden rules of gun safety is to never aim your firearm at anything you don't intend to destroy.

Your dry firing target is exactly that – a target you use for dry firing only. This will help you to stay in the right mental zone by segregating your dry firing training and your live firing practice.

## 3. Clear Your Weapon – Twice

Once you enter your designated dry firing area, clear your weapon.

Make sure the magazine or

speedloader is removed, there aren't any chambered rounds, and your pockets are free of ammunition.

If you want to go the extra mile, take all live ammunition out of your designated dry firing area. After clearing your weapon, move any ammunition brought with you back to its proper storage.

At the very least, you can temporarily put it into a locked drawer, just so long as it's not in the same room.

Then clear your weapon a second time. Always err on the side of caution.

## 4. Ending the Session

We'll talk about dry firing technique and drills in the next section, but let's finish off the safety checklist first.

At the end of your session – which should only last a maximum of 15 minutes a day – tell yourself,

“This session is now over. No more practice for today.” Say it out loud. Repeat it a few times.

Once you're mentally focused on the fact your dry firing session is over, you can reload your weapon. Again, tell yourself out loud: “This weapon is now loaded. No more practice for today.”

This is very important. There are dozens of stories online of someone thinking “maybe just one more shot...” after reloading their firearm. And that's what leads to accidents.

## **HOW DRY FIRING TRAINING WILL HELP IMPROVE YOUR SHOOTING**

Dry firing can help you improve your shooting in several different ways. Pretty much the only things dry firing won't help with are your recoil recovery and getting used to the noise of live fire.





magazine – while also carefully making sure it's empty – with the spring and follower removed.

This allows you to practice reloading your firearm while dry firing. You're able to send the slide home while reloading with the spring and follower removed.

Alternatively, there are training magazines – like the DryFireMag (\$99 to \$115 depending on your gun model) – which are also excellent for dry firing.

### 1. Trigger Control

Trigger control is a common problem for new shooters.

While dry firing, it's easier to focus on how the slack takes up, the trigger breaks, and resetting. Pay attention to how this affects your aim. When you hear the “click,” your sights should still be 100% on target.

A good rule-of-thumb is balancing a penny (or any other coin) on the front sight. If your trigger control is off, the coin will fall.

Alternatively, you can invest in something like the MantisX Firearm Training System, which costs between \$150 and \$250 depending on the model.

All you need to do is attach it to your firearm's accessory rail and link it to the MantisX phone app via Bluetooth. You'll be able to evaluate your shooting performance in real-time, identifying any problem areas, and receive advice for improvement.

### 2. Drawing

If you ever find yourself in a position where you need to use your firearm for self-defense, you need to know how to draw, present, and fire.

Start out slowly so you can focus on your grip, draw action, and aim. Build up that muscle memory properly so the action is as smooth as can be. As you get better over time, start increasing your pace.

### 3. Reloading

You can start by grabbing a spare

## WHEN TO PRACTICE DRY FIRING

Remember, dry firing training is meant to help you practice perfectly, not excessively.

The idea is to identify weak areas in your shooting technique so you can improve on them and develop muscle memory without the distractions of live fire.

This is one of the reasons why you should stick to a maximum of 15 minutes a day. Any longer than that and



you'll start losing focus and/or interest, which leads to sloppy shooting.

Sloppy practice is even worse than no practice at all because it ingrains bad habits into your muscle memory. That's contrary to the purpose of dry firing training.

So what is the best time and place to practice dry firing?

Well, honestly, It depends.

### 1. Dry Firing at Home

If you're not going to the shooting range for the day, you'll be using your designated dry firing area. Carve out a 20- to 30-minute time slot in your schedule. This extra time allows for clearing your weapon and ending your dry firing session properly.

Make sure it's a time period where you're most focused. Dry firing training could become part of your morning routine before you leave for work, or something you do in the evenings if you're more of a night owl.

Obviously, you can't prevent every conceivable distraction. If the phone rings or there's a knock on the door – or anything else that takes your focus away from your session, even for a moment – start again.

End the session, deal with the distraction, then get back into a dry firing training mentality and do your full 10 to 15 minutes.

### 2. Dry Firing at the Range

Of course, it's not impossible to practice dry firing at the range.

In fact, some instructors encourage it. It helps you get used to the noise, because other shooters will be firing their weapons.

Something particularly useful is practicing dry and live firing at the range. Start off with a few minutes of dry firing to help you get accustomed to the noise before loading your firearm.

Then end your day at the range with another 10 minutes of dry firing. Switch straight from live fire to dry fire. This will help you better identify and correct any mistakes you're still making while firing live ammunition.



# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

After studying this training, we encourage you to test your knowledge with this quiz. The answers can be found at the bottom right hand corner of this page.

## 1: What is dry firing?

- A. A safe, free way to practice shooting your firearm.
- B. A technique for shooting practice without any ammunition.
- C. Both of the above.

## 2: Where should you practice dry firing?

- A. In a designated area at home and/or the shooting range.
- B. Anywhere with a backstop that can stop live ammunition.
- C. Against a drywall, so long as you've cleared your firearm.

## 3: Which of the following statements is CORRECT:

- A. You only need to clear your weapon once.
- B. Your designated dry firing area is the only place you should practice in, other than the shooting range.
- C. You can use the same target(s) for dry firing as for live firing.

## 4: How should you end your dry firing training session?

- A. By relaxing with a beer.
- B. By loading your weapon and firing a test shot to make sure it hasn't been damaged.
- C. By reminding yourself that the session is over before and after loading your weapon.

## 5: Which of the following can dry firing training NOT help you improve?

- A. Reloading in an active situation.
- B. Recoil recovery.
- C. Drawing your weapon in an active situation.

## 6: What can you use to help improve your trigger control while dry firing?

- A. Place a coin on the front sight of your firearm.
- B. Use a firearm training system that analyzes your technique, etc.
- C. Both of the above.
- D. other to avoid accidents

## 7: True or false? Removing the spring and follower from your magazine can help during dry firing training?

- A. Always true.
- B. Always false.
- C. True, but only when practicing reloading.

## 8: How long should you practice dry firing in a day?

- A. As long as you like - the important thing is that it's every day.
- B. 10 - 15 minutes maximum.
- C. Neither of the above.

## 9: The point of dry firing training is to:

- A. Practice perfectly.
- B. Get as much practice in as possible.
- C. Both of the above.

## 10: If your dry firing training is interrupted, you should:

- A. Deal with the distraction and then continue.
- B. End your session for the day and continue tomorrow.
- C. Deal with the distraction and then start your session from the beginning.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1c, 2a, 3b, 4c, 5b, 6c, 7a, 8b, 9a, 10c

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