



Disclaimer: EDC Pistol Training LLC hosted this course

BLUF: RECOMMEND

Format

9 hours | 400 rounds (169 actually fired) | \$300 | Homestead Training Center

Instructor to Student Ratio

1:16 | Tim Herron was the solo instructor | 13 students were Civilian including several instructors, 2 were Federal LE Firearms Instructors, 1 is local LE Patrol

Tim Herron Shooting | Practical Pistol Performance | March 13, 2021

Personal Kit

Colt Combat Commander 9mm | Vickers Combat Wilson Duty Magazines | Speer Lawman 147 grain TMJ | JM Custom Kydex AIWB holster | Dara AIWB mag pouch | Blue Alpha Gear EDC belt | Oakley eye protection | Etymotic electronic ear buds | **ZERO STOPPAGES OR ISSUES**

Training Day

The following is a high level overview, absent of content detail, to give readers a feel for the course.

Tim started the class with self-introductions, paperwork, safety brief, and a quick overview of his personal firearms journey. Tim then went on to explain that normally this is a 2 day course meant for competition shooters, but since this was a 1 day course he was going to jettison all the gaming content and focus on foundational skill content, self-diagnostic skills, and self-correction skills.

We began with our “best 5 rounds” from the 7 yard line at an IDPA target, no time limit. Tim said he always likes to begin his practice sessions with this best 5 rounds to establish a baseline, see if there’s anything he needed to work on that session that he hadn’t planned for, and then end the same session with his best 5 rounds to gauge progress.

The first teachable moment occurred almost immediately with a student on the line. He had an AIWB holster with two problems: 1) it was canted 15°, and 2) it was riding so deeply the user had no way to get a grip on the gun. Tim used this opportunity to explain that a holster is more than just a “bucket” or for retention, it’s also to position the grip with easy access in a consistent place for a consistent draw. This student struggled throughout the day with this holster, and ultimately moved it to the 4:00 position. He vowed to replace it first thing after class.

Tim then used our “best 5 rounds” target to delve into his first topic, GRIP, in great detail. We must have spent 2 hours getting into the weeds on grip and was the most thorough explanation and exploration of this topic I’ve seen. His view is that grip is more important than trigger control, and then expanded into the

Tim Herron Shooting | Practical Pistol Performance | March 13, 2021

nuances of how much grip strength we should use in the dominant hand and how much in the support hand, and why. We then ended this part of the training with live fire testing and evaluation of how each grip and each strength level directly impacts where the round will go and group sizes.



It was during these live fire exercises that Tim reminded us that Misses give us information for learning. From here he went into another deep discussion on how to take the emotion and ego out of misses and mistakes and turn them into a

Tim Herron Shooting | Practical Pistol Performance | March 13, 2021

positive teachable moment leading to IMMEDIATE improvement. From here we launched into one handed shooting, using both dominant and non-dominant hands. He showed us what works and what doesn't work, and why.

In all honestly, everyone was pretty happy with what they had learned so far, but then Tim shifted gears and went into shot calling. We spent time learning how to read what our sights were telling us at the moment of ignition, and then using that split second informational view to call where our shot landed on the target. I got about 60% of my calls right, and will definitely be working on this skill.

Next up was using the sights, beginning with a sight deviation drill at 12 yards. While I was already familiar with this drill and in fact teach it in my own classes, Tim used this learning experience as a foundation to springboard into other sighting topics myself and the other students never really appreciated until now.

For example, I have a tendency to shoot USPSA and IDPA targets low center. Tim explained that is common at longer distances (20 yards in this case) because our eyes trick us by only recognizing the body portion of the target and not the head portion. Our eyes then cut this body portion in half which means we aim low. The skill here is to get our eyes to recognize the target begins with the top of the head, and once we do that we will land rounds in the center of the A zone right where it says the letter A. I tried this and it worked perfectly!

From there we spent the next evolution learning about soft target focus. Tim said that from 0 to 50 yards, he never does a hard front sight focus instead doing what he calls a soft target focus with the rear sight body as his "anchor point." Neither the target, nor the front sight, nor the rear sight body are ever truly in hard focus. Instead, he overlays the rear sight body on the target to cut it in half and establish his anchor point, then uses the front sight to cut the target seen in the rear sight notch in half. I tried this at 20 yards and was making dead center hits despite everything being blurry.

Finally, we wrapped up with Transitions. He placed 3 targets side by side and placed two rounds in each target. He demonstrated shooting it the way most people do: as 2 rounds per target x 3 targets. Tim then shot it the way he does it: as one 6 round string. The timer didn't lie and confirmed the latter method was

Tim Herron Shooting | Practical Pistol Performance | March 13, 2021

much faster. It was here that Tim had all of us practicing numerous times how to minimize the pause when transitioning between targets.

Reflections

This class under-promised and overdelivered on many levels. First off, just the fact we only fired 169 rounds over a 9 hour day and came away with lots of learning is simply amazing, and really reflects how knowledgeable and efficient Tim Herron is as an instructor. The upshot on this 169 rounds, is we didn't do any dry fire, so it's not like Tim was replacing one with the other.

As a student, I tried every technique Tim asked me to do, and when I did I got immediate and measurable results every single time! I will definitely be incorporating what I learned today into my every day practice and even our own training programs.

Not alone in my assessment, I had students approach me after class in person, in text, and now several emails, telling me how much they learned and wanting to know how soon I can host Tim again.

I would put Tim Herron right up there with a long list of great instructors ranging from Ray Chapman to John Shaw and Pat Rogers to Jedi, Brandon Wright, and Tom Givens. The fact I plan to host him again next year for a 2 day class, should tell the reader everything they need to know.