



SAGA Snippets

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In Memory of SAGA President John Welch

The Passing of an Icon – Tribute to Advocate John Welch

On the 9th January 2024, SAGA and the firearms industry as a whole lost a valuable and passionate gun rights supporter with the passing of Advocate John Welch, SAGA's President and a former Chairperson.

John had personally been a mentor to me over the last ten years, and I often called him to discuss technical legal issues primarily firearms related. He was extremely knowledgeable when it came to the Firearms Control Act and its Regulations and he was always willing to debate and discuss interesting and testing matters.

John had great patience and was always willing to speak – he was strongly passionate about firearms rights, and the right of the law abiding citizen to own firearms.

John you will be sorely missed by the Trustees and members of SAGA.

Damian Enslin
SAGA Chairperson



Huldeblyk aan John Izak Welch

Deur Stef Grobler

Voordat ek begin, vergun my asseblief die geleentheid om my verbintenis met John oor bykans 30 jaar vlugtig te meld.

Ek het John as Senior Staatsadvokaat en later as Adjunk Prokureur-Generaal leer ken toe ek aan die Handelstak, Pretoria en die Anti-Korrupsie eenheid van die Suid Afrikaanse Polisie diens verbonde was. Ons verbintenis het verder gestrek toe hy later die Hoof van Getuiebeskerming by die NPA was en ek opleiding by die Spesiale Onderzoek Eenheid gedoen het. Ons het saam opleiding aan aanklaers van die destydse Skerpioene oor verskeie onderwerpe gegee en so is ons vriendskap verder versterk.

SAGA Snippets
January 2024

Special points of interest:

- *In Memory of SAGA President John Welch*
- *Mastering Sight Picture, Sight Radius and Hold*
- *SAGA Corporate Membership*
- *Gun Safety: What you must know*
- *Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Guns: What's Next?*
- *SAGA Membership*
- *Colt CZ Group Acquires Sellier & Bellot Ammunition*

Continued...In Memory of SAGA President John Welch

Baie dankie vir die voorreg dat ek namens die Pretoria Wapen en Ammunisie Vereniging, Die National Arms and Ammunition Collectors' Confederation of South Africa en die South African Gunowners' Association, huldeblyk aan John kan bring.

Dit is onmoontlik om in die kort tyd wat my gegun is, werklik reg aan iemand soos John te laat geskied. Hy was 'n reus tussen reuse, 'n ware heer in alle opsigte en waarskynlik een van die kundigste persone wat vuurwapens aanbetref.

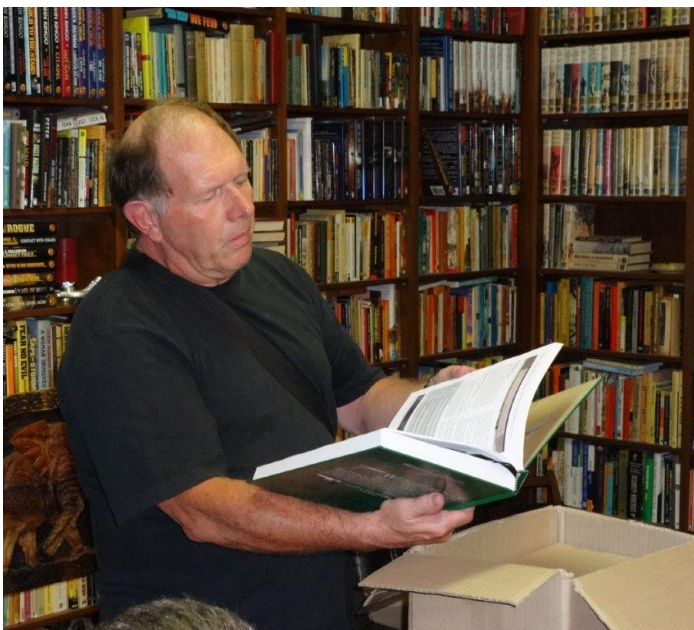
Sy kundigheid, kennis en insig rakende wetgewing rondom vuurwapens – beide plaaslik en internasionaal – het daartoe gelei dat hy deur vriend en vyand met respek en agting bejeën en behandel is en dat sy raad en insette daartoe gelei het dat drakoniese wetgewing rondom vuurwapens óf teruggetrek óf gewysig is.

John het nie in konfrontasie geglo nie. Vir hom was dit die sagte woord wat grimmigheid gekeer het. Dit was juis hierdie aspek van sy persoonlikheid wat sy opponent tot groot spyt en verdriet te laat agtergekom het.

John was one of the four founders of the Pretoria Arms and Ammunition Association (PAAA) that was formed in Pretoria on 6 May 1995. His membership number was F003 – the others being Ben Beneke F001, Wally Haese F002 and Louw Erasmus F004.

John was a member of the PAAA for 29 years. He was the Chairperson of the PAAA for 20 years from 5 June 1997 until 10 June 2017. On that date he was nominated as the President of the PAAA and the position of Chairperson was filled by Hubert Wentzel who serves in that capacity until today.

Under John's leadership various important projects were launched. Some of the most notable being the La Kavayan-series wine project and the internationally acclaimed publication: "Firearms Developed and Manufactured in Southern Africa 1949 – 2000" which saw 2 editions of more than 2600 copies and is currently out of print. Another project was the custom-built hunting rifle in .375 H&H by another member of the PAAA, Danie Joubert. John initiated various fundraising projects to strengthen the anticipated legal costs when the industry faces draconian laws in the future.





Continued...In Memory of SAGA President John Welch

Other notable initiatives were exhibitions; strategic planning sessions; establishment of a library; newsletters; competitions; training sessions; liaison with other associations; and many others – too many to mention here.

The most important and notable of all was the accreditation of the PAAA with the Central Firearms Registry of the South African Police Service on 15 November 2004, making the PAAA one of the first associations to be accredited.

SAGA:

John was a founding trustee of the South African Gunowners' Association which was incorporated as a trust on 2 March 1985. He served as a trustee and was appointed the managing trustee when Ron Anger passed away. In this capacity John was instrumental in expanding the trust to deal with the ever increasing pressure from Government and other anti-gun lobbies to either ban the private possession of firearms or to otherwise limit their possession.

John relinquished this position in favour of Damian Enslin in 2020 and accepted the position as president of the Trust. He worked with Damian on a number of initiatives such as interaction with the CFR, public relations, insurance for members and the sponsorship of many events aimed at firearm awareness programs.

NAACCSA:

John was involved in the establishment of the National Arms and Ammunition Collectors Confederation of South Africa (NAACCSA) in 2003 which was set up at the suggestion of the South African Police Service to act as a "National Body" to which all Associations would need to belong for accreditation as envisaged in the draft regulations to the FCA published in 2003.

At the time Carvel Webb was elected as the first Chairman with John as Vice Chairman. John was still in State employ and did not want to figure too prominently with Parliament etc.

This was the situation for the next ten years until 2013 when Carvel stepped down as Chairman of NAACCSA. John retired from his State job at the same time and took over as Chairman.

With John's health declining last year, Hubert then was elected as the new NAACCSA Chairman with John in a newly created non-executive President position for institutional memory purposes.

In summary, I would say the biggest challenge that all associations have had to confront is the ongoing perception from successive waves of stakeholders that we are Cowboys with guns rather than Historians and Conservationists, to the extent we have twice been written out of the Act, but John has always striven to get that message across. He will be missed.

I apologize if I have inadvertently left out any person or organization that needs to be acknowledged.

Addendum tot Huldiging

- Uitstallings by Truvelo
- Strategiese beplannings sessies
- Biblioteek
- Wapenkunde seminare
- Akkreditasie
- Webtuiste
- Kompetisies
- Klassifikasie proses
- Ere-lidmaatskap
- Nuusbriewe
- Opleiding
- Borgskappe
- Vergaderings met SVR
- Grondwet
- Fooie laag gehou
- Afstigting van Noordwes, Gariëp, Bosveld en Karroo
- SAHRA (South African Heritage Resource Agency)
- Besoeke en uitstappies.
- President trofee hernoem na John Welch Wisseltrofee 2019.



Mastering Sight Picture, Sight Radius & Hold

by NRA Staff
11 December 2023

There are three simple things that affect your marksmanship with every shot; two of them are under your control, and the third depends on your firearm. Under the first category are sight alignment/sight picture and hold—under the latter category, sight radius. We'll start with sight radius, since it's a consideration you'll want to take into account before you purchase your gun...and it's also the least likely to offer a significant impact for the "everyday" shooter.

Sight Radius

The distance between the front and rear iron sights is called the sight radius. A longer sight radius offers greater theoretical precision. For this reason, many iron-sighted target guns have features to increase the sight radius, such as front sight extenders on target pistols and "bloop" tubes on the end of rifle barrels. Tang rear sights mounted on the stocks were used for the same purpose in the 19th century.

Sight radius also affects iron-sight adjustments. A typical match-type micrometer rear sight offering 1/4 m.o.a. clicks moves the aperture .002 inches with each click. With a 30-inch sight radius, this changes bullet impact .24 inches per click at 100 yards, very close to the advertised value. Shorten the sight radius to 24 inches, however, and the change in bullet impact per click is .3 inches. This is not significant at 100 yards, but in a 1,000-yard match each click will move the strike of the bullet 3 inches.

Sight Alignment and Sight Picture

Sight alignment and sight picture are two critical and related concepts regarding iron sight use. Sight alignment refers to the proper visual relationship between the front and rear sights. For example, the front post should be sitting squarely and evenly in the rear notch.

Sight alignment is critical to accuracy, as small errors in sight alignment produce greater bullet dispersion as the range increases.

Sight picture refers to the relationship of the correctly aligned sights with the target. Small errors in sight picture produce small deviations in bullet impact at the target. Though aiming is normally a deliberate action, in practical shooting competition or in a real-world defensive shooting situation, the process of aligning the sights with the target must be compressed into an instant. Under these conditions, the shooter must use a flash sight picture, that is, rapidly covering the target with the front sight, and concentrating on the front sight.

Hold

Hold refers to the part or area of the target on which the sights are aligned during aiming. For example, many shooters use a six o'clock hold, in which the front sight is held at the bottom of the round bullseye on the target. Other shooters prefer to hold the front sight in the center of the target, at the point where the bullet impact is desired. Under conditions of strong cross-, head- or tailwinds, a shooter may hold off to one side of the target or another to compensate for wind deflection. Such "guesstimated" compensation is called "Kentucky windage."

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/mastering-sight-picture-sight-radius-hold/>



SAGA Corporate Membership

SAGA Corporate Members are clubs, associations and businesses who actively endorse the work being done by SAGA to protect firearm ownership rights in South Africa. *Please support those that support SAGA!*

Sign up as a Corporate Member on our website today!



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BORDER HUNTING CLUB	NAACCSA
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FALSE BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB	SAAACA GAUTENG
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Gun Safety: What You Must Know

<https://www.americanrifeman.org/content/gun-safety-what-you-must-know/>

by Aaron Carter
21 December 2023

I never shall forget the feeling. My two squad mates and I approached the stand, a simple wooden platform with an enlarged shooting window at its front, ready for the “show pair” of clays at a large, NSCA-registered event. Rotating as we completed stations, a nationally acclaimed shotgunner was “up to bat,” followed by a novice and me, the “three-hole hitter.” As the leadoff prepared to call “pull,” I couldn’t help but notice that the dual muzzles of the neophyte’s over-under were pointing directly at my head, from only a few feet away.

In an effort to balance the stacked-barreled shotgun on his shoulder, like many of his competitors do, he inadvertently reversed the direction of the shotgun; it was pointing directly behind him. Granted, the action was open, so it couldn’t fire, but still it was a flagrant violation of basic gun safety. Stopping the call for the presentation birds, I asked the shooter to remedy the situation, which he did—and he apologized profusely. I don’t anticipate that happening again.

I’ve handled and shot firearms since I was old enough to physically support them and truly understand their safe use. From my origins, which consisted of squirrel hunting with my maternal grandfather’s vintage Winchester Model 250 lever-action .22 and trap shooting with a New England Firearms (NEF) single-shot .410, to today, where I currently compete at the highest levels of sporting clays (and FITASC) competition with a well-used Browning Citori CXS 12 gauge progressively losing its bluing. I’ve experienced a lot—mostly good things, but a few experiences have been nearly lethal.

I’ve witnessed negligent discharges, one of which was when a 20-ga. single-shot nearly removed a foot of mine, and I’ve been peppered by shot on three occasions while wing-shooting. Trust me, speedy copper-plated No. 4 shot is rough on an unprotected neck



(fortunately I recognized what was about to happen and turned, shielding my face). And that’s only the beginning. I mentioned these instances, as well as the example of the greenhorn competitor, not to frighten you, but rather to illustrate examples breakdowns of established gun safety rules.

There is an immense responsibility that comes with owning and using a firearm, and that’s ensuring the safety of yourself and others. Like other tools, a blatant disregard of safety practices will have consequences—some life-altering, other times lethal. So, what should you know and practice? That’s the intent of this article.

Firearm Safety

There’s no better place to begin a discussion about proper gun safety than with the NRA’s three fundamental rules. Each is detailed individually below.

First, always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. Seems like common sense, but as you recall from the introductory paragraph, it’s not always practiced; in fact, it’s easily ignored in especially stressful or exciting circumstances, such as self-defense, competition or hunting. This rule is particular important because, even if there were to be an “accidental” discharge—rarely the case, as it’s generally human error—the impact of such would be less severe. In general, a “safe direction” would be pointing toward the ground, away from appendages of yourself and others. Under most circumstances and in most environments, these are the safest directions, though only you can determine that.

Secondly, always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. Despite being demonized by the liberal Left and accused by those who disregard these very rules, hoping to place blame where it doesn’t exist,



Continued...Gun Safety: What You Must Know

guns don't think for themselves, and they never will fire randomly. Even in the most befuddling circumstance, something (finger, accessory, clothing, etc.) trips the trigger with the safety (or safeties) deactivated. The result: discharge. Premature discharges are particularly prominent in rifles featuring triggers with lighter-than-normal pull weights; however, you must still engage the trigger. So keep your finger clear of the trigger until you're ready to fire.

Lastly, always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use. Simple. If you're not ready to engage a target (or multiples) or aren't actively hunting, keep the gun unloaded. An unloaded firearm, which has been visually and physically checked, with the action open, too, simply cannot fire. With this, even when hunting, unload the firearm when crossing obstacles, such as a streams or fences, unload the firearm and, if hunting with a partner, hand it over the fence to him or her.

Additional Rules

Beyond those three guidelines outlined above, there are other sage safety rules that should be followed. For instance, know your target and what is beyond. Think buildings, parks, buildings, people, livestock, etc. Once fired, you own that/those projectile(s), and you cannot recall it; whatever that projectile does downrange, you own it. Remember, projectiles from modern firearms travel great distances and have the ability to cause harm (or kill) at their farthest reaches, so it's your responsibility to know the safe locations and directions to shoot.

Also, know how to properly operate your firearm, as well as know that it is safe to operate. When at the range, while using real ammunition, isn't the place to discover your gun's basic operating principles; learn these beforehand so that you keep yourself and others safe while having a more enjoyable and productive time at the range. If there's any question about the resilience of your firearm, have it evaluated by a trustworthy gunsmith. The last thing you want is a catastrophic failure, which can result in injury or death.

Other NRA-recommended rules for using and

storing guns include: use the correct ammunition for your gun (incorrect ammunition can render a gun inoperable at best or cause a tragedy at worst); never use alcohol, over-the-counter or prescription drugs before or while shooting; and store guns so they are not accessible by unauthorized persons. With this, know your jurisdiction's laws about storage and transport of firearms.

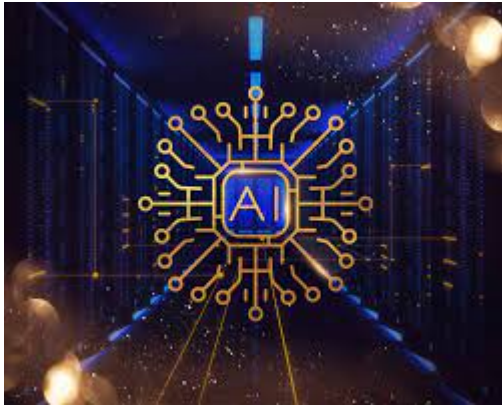
Finally, always wear eye and ear protection. I cannot stress enough the importance of this rule for maintain your quality of life. Unless you want to constantly ask, "Huh?" or "What did you say?" wear quality hearing protection. It's so accessible and inexpensive, frankly, it's just outright foolish not to—even when hunting.

As for eye protection, you want to preserve your eyesight at all costs. Imagine losing your eyesight for the sake of economy, effort or expediency. Let me share a story of how quickly and easily it can be lost. While hunting doves in Cordoba, Argentina, one of the hundreds of pellets sent downrange after a speedy dove deflected off the tip of a nearby branch, downrange from where we were hiding, and came back at us. It struck the eyewear—dead center—of my Bird Boy, spiderwebbing the lens. Rather than lose an eye, only a replacement of the glasses was needed—and which I happily provided with an upgraded model. I've never forgotten this event, and the importance of quality, impact-resistant eyewear when shooting. Consider what your vision is worth.

Obviously, this is not an all-inclusive course on firearms safety; rather, it's a synopsis of the key elements. To learn more about gun safety and firearms training, make use of the many resources that the NRA offers.

When it comes to firearms safety, the adage, "familiarity breeds contempt," holds especially true. Seldom are there true firearms accidents; rather, the individual(s) forget to enforce the basic tenets outlined above, and consequences are to be expected. Novice or veteran, male or female, old or young, firearm safety is your responsibility. Excuses aren't accepted, and exceptions aren't made.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Guns: What's Next?



by Guy J. Sagi
21 January 2024

The artificial intelligence (AI) genie is out of its bottle and already performing a variety of tasks at mind-boggling speed, including recognition of a firearm in a photo or live video, analyzing if one is being carried concealed and issuing appropriate alerts. It's a growing trend with a potential impact on law-abiding gun owners that goes beyond the legal and ethical ramifications of AI itself.

Concealed Detection

In 2018, California's Oakland Airport harnessed AI-fueled Evolv Edge "... to streamline its employee screening program," according to Evolv Technologies' press release. "This installation enhances OAK's security posture by protecting against metallic and non-metallic threats while simultaneously improving operational efficiency."

The system has advanced in the years that followed and is now employed by healthcare systems, malls, museums, NFL stadiums—including duty at the outer perimeter of the Super Bowl—concert venues and more. A Washington Post article summarized, "Evolv machines use 'active sensing'—a light-emission technique that also underpins radar and lidar—to create images. Then it applies AI to examine them."

Visual Alert

Evolv, which deletes videos not involving an incident after 30 days and actively looks for concealed threats, can be expensive investment for school systems on a tight budget. That's one reason December's announcement by Iterate.ai that it was providing threat-detecting AI-driven software free to schools and non-profit organizations was big news. Instead of requiring expensive scanner installation, it works on existing security video processed by a computer that uses an Nvidia graphics processor—the dominant force in that industry.

"We believe that school tax dollars should go to buying computers and supplies (items needed every day) rather than paying for threat detection software which is unlikely to be needed—but potentially lifesaving in the event of an armed intruder situation," Jon Nordmark, CEO of the company said the press release.

The firm brought in a former Drug Enforcement Agency officer to test and polish the system, which was trained on 20,000 armed robbery and intrusion videos scraped off the Internet, according to this U.S. Today report. The story indicated "... it'll be fairly simple for most system administrators to add the python code to their computer server. In a few hours, every camera will be on the lookout."

It, like the system Michigan announced monitoring of its Capitol Grounds in November, doesn't look for anything concealed. "If someone pulls a gun out in front of one of those cameras, an alert will be sent from that location to our in-house monitoring center," Sam Alaimo, co-founder of ZeroEyes—the company that produced the program—told CBS News Detroit. A person there either alerts officials on site or calls the designated contact, like local law enforcement. A ZeroEyes system launched in Indianapolis in October.

"We store any detection image, false positive or true positive for improving our AI and providing forensic false positive reports," according to the company's FAQ. Subscribers have the option of storage in the cloud or locally on their servers.



Continued...Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Guns:

OmniAlert also offers an AI-driven system. Likely dozens more exist, thanks to largely open-source software.

Concerns

There's no debate about stemming or stopping crime. Legally, however, there are those who claim the unauthorized use of videos and photos posted on the Internet to train AI software was illegal to begin with. Videos, photos, writing and other works are copyrighted—even when no paperwork is filed with the government—at the moment of their creation.

Those intellectual rights remain with that person until that copyright expires (70 years after the person dies) or they are willfully transferred. The New York Times filed a lawsuit in December alleging ChatGPT (the AI) violated that law by training conducted on its articles.

Ethically, there are privacy concerns and being identified while carrying concealed lawfully also raises safety questions.

Some also ask how the companies acquired such a huge volume of photos and videos to train their respective programs. The sheer numbers cited make it obvious it took software meticulously mining the web and compiling an exhaustive library on firearms and, inadvertently, their respective owners or enthusiasts.

<https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/artificial-intelligence-ai-guns-what-s-next/>



SAGA Membership

SAGA annual Membership fees are:

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Join via our website at www.saga.org.za

By being a member you keep us in 'business' and we are able to continue working for fair and just firearm rights for responsible firearm owners in South Africa.

Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes? Get them to join SAGA today.

The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cellphone number **066 003 9226**.



Colt CZ Group Acquires Sellier & Bellot Ammunition

<https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/colt-cz-group-acquires-sellier-bellot-ammunition/>

by Guy J. Sagi
9 January 2024

On Dec. 18, 2023, Colt CZ Group announced it has entered into an agreement with CBC Europe to purchase 100 percent interest in Sellier & Bellot, one of the oldest engineering firms in the Czech Republic and ammunition manufacturer making steady inroads in the U.S. market. The transaction includes cash in the amount of \$350 million and the issue of new Colt CZ common stock that will lead to CBC Europe holding a 27 to 28 percent stake in the Colt CZ Group share capital. Pending regulatory approval, the contract is expected to close sometime in the first half of 2024.

"We are proud to welcome one of the oldest and most important producers of small-caliber ammunition, Sellier & Bellot, to Colt CZ Group," said Jan Drahota, CEO and chairman of the Board of Directors of Colt CZ Group. "This acquisition fits into our long-term strategy to expand not only in our core segment of small arms, but also in related areas, with ammunition being a natural complement to our products. We look forward to working with the management of Sellier & Bellot, its employees, partners and customers, as well as the new opportunities that the connection with Sellier & Bellot will undoubtedly bring to our entire group. We are pleased that CBC believes in our story and our strategy and is to become the second-largest shareholder of Colt CZ Group."

Sellier & Bellot 

Sellier & Bellot products have been manufactured under its trademark since 1825. The company's line includes a wide range of hunting and sporting ammunition and components for pistols and revolvers, rifles, shotguns and rimfire cartridges. The firm is also a major supplier of small-caliber ammunition to military and law-enforcement customers worldwide and has approximately 1,600 employees. Its main production facility is located in Vlašim, Czech Republic.

"The successful contribution of one of CBC Global Ammunition Group's flagship companies to Colt CZ Group in exchange for a significant shareholding marks the starting point of an impactful strategic collaboration," said Fabio Mazzaro, CFO of CBC Global Ammunition LLC. "We are convinced of Colt CZ management's long-term vision and believe the transaction will lead to remarkable value creation between the ammunition and firearms segments. Our subsidiary Magtech Ammunition will continue to serve as the dedicated sales entity for Sellier & Bellot products in the United States. This ensures exceptional customer service and reliable distribution to further preserve Sellier & Bellot's trajectory of growth in the most relevant ammunition market."