



TIGER VALLEY

TACTICAL INSTITUTE FOR GUN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Elm Fork Tuesday Night Classes

New Registration Process

Tiger Valley is instituting a new registration process for our Tuesday night classes.

Students interested in attending a class are requested to contact Tiger Valley by phone at 972-977-9513 or email at tjpilling@tigervalley.com. Please provide your name, phone number and email address. You can register up to and including the day of the class.

This process will enable us to properly staff these events as well as provide notification if weather causes us to cancel a particular class. Prepayment is optional, but available to those interested via our online store.

Surgical Pistol

While a rifle is the preferred weapon for longer distance engagements, all you may have on you is your pistol. Make those critical long-distance hits by taking our Surgical Pistol class on November 3. The course content will focus on getting the highest level of possible accuracy out of your pistol. This is a great class for both the experienced and the new shooter. Drills will be shown for correction of shooter errors on trigger control, trigger reset, and corrections for longer distance shooting.

Bring your handgun, 150 rounds of ammunition, holster, and safety gear. The cost is \$65 and the event runs at [Elm Fork](#) from 6:30 PM until 9 PM. Please notify us via email or phone if you are planning to attend.

Low Light Pistol

On November 17, Tiger Valley is offering an opportunity to learn and practice skills in utilizing your pistol when ambient light is low or nonexistent. This class was originally



scheduled to run in October but was rescheduled due to rain.

Bring either a hand held or weapons mounted light, along with your pistol, holster, safety gear, and 200 rounds of ammunition. The cost is \$65. Notify us via email or phone if you are planning to attend. Arrive by 6:30 PM at [Elm Fork](#), with the class running until 9 PM.

January Team Sniper & March 4-Man Match

Tiger Valley's first two matches for next year are open for early registration. A 2-man team sniper match will be held on January 30 and 31, 2010. A 4-man tactical team match is on March 20 and 21, 2010. The cost for either match is \$150 per person.

Full logistical details will be released in next month's newsletter, but the general format will follow our previous matches. Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and space is limited. Payment can be made either with a check to our office address listed at the bottom of this newsletter or through our [online store](#).



Team Sniper Match Posters Available

Tiger Valley Team Sniper Match posters are now available for online purchase and can be printed in variety of sizes.

Brandon Parscale, from [Parscale Photography](#), captured the many excellent moments from the match used in the poster.

To view the poster and order, simply visit the Tiger Valley section of [SmugMug](#) by clicking [here](#).



Training in the Rain - Lessons Learned

-by T.J. Pilling

It's amazing how much SWAT has changed in the last 30 years. Yet in some areas it hasn't changed at all. In 1979 I joined the Garland SWAT team. We were handed an M-16 with one magazine (if you were lucky) and told to go find the rest. That included holsters, magazine pouches, hose clamps to put your flashlight to the fore end of your weapon, everything you needed that they didn't hand you the day of selection was on your dime. Actually, they did give us two t-shirts that said we were the SWAT team.



As time went on, things improved on SWAT. The department became progressive and was more willing to spend money where they thought it needed. Money started to flow and we got the new wiz bang video equipment, vests,

guns, gas launcher, you name it. When the money started flowing, we bought some neat gear. This is not to say that problems with equipment procurement did and still do exist; it was not a bottomless pit of money. Some needed equipment never did, and still does not seem to get purchased. Don't get me wrong; the blame doesn't all fall entirely at the feet of administration, but also with the team members themselves.

Flash forward to 2009 at an advanced pistol/rifle class at Tiger Valley in Waco, Texas. We had 32 officers from various SWAT teams from across the state. The weather was atrocious; rain, wind and fifty degree temperatures. We did the orientation in the building and promptly moved to the firing line for pistol techniques. As officers were filing out the building, I did a visual check of equipment as well as rain gear. Seeing all but four or five with rain gear, I stopped one and asked, "Where's your rain gear?" He retorted, "Rain gear is for sissies". Well count me as one of those sissies, it was miserable.

We went to the firing line and started doing drills on steel. Those who weren't shooting were feverishly loading magazines awaiting their relay on the line. In hindsight, I think the rapid movement to do anything was more an effort to keep warm. Body language was soon giving those away who were cold in a bad way. Shoulders started to inch up to the ears; hands were pulling into sleeves and whole bodies turned instead of just the head. Most had deployed to the firing line in nothing more than long sleeve t-shirts, which some if they were lucky, had an assault vest over it. It was only 9:00 AM, and I knew this was going to be a long and painful day for some. Only one person had both a weatherproof top and bottom out of the entire 32 officer class. Some officers did have DRMO reject military Gore-Tex which soon failed because of the constant rain. However, even those with the jackets were missing the waterproof bottoms.

Since everyone was soaked to the gills, the class all voted to shoot through lunch. We moved to the 100-yard line to confirm their zero on their carbines and then moved to the 200 for stationary and moving targets. When the command to move to the prone position was given, it was like watching an ESPN slow motion replay. They all got into position, but it was ugly. Those not on the lines were in the pits working the targets, but their attention span had dropped in the cold and wet to the point where things were moving slowly. When the



first relay that was on the line moved to the pits to work targets for the second relay, I began watching some for signs of hypothermia. Steam was rising off exposed heads as well as soaked backs and legs. We ran the second relay and decided it was time to close camp before we made someone ill.

The point of all of this is that we are all familiar with the old warrior adage that we “train as we fight”. Obviously, this includes training in inclement weather under conditions that are not as favorable as we would always prefer. However, if we don’t equip ourselves both mentally /and physically/ for these hardships, we set ourselves up for sub-par performance. It’s easy to say that you’re tough and can handle things mentally and can “gut it out” operating in the cold and wet, but it’s an entirely different thing for your body to actually perform at the level that it must during those operations. While you may be able to tough it out, there’s no real reason to stand there shivering and losing your mental edge due to climatic discomfort. Having the right equipment is essential.

Rain gear is not a fight that is foreign to me. I fought this fight when I was a sniper on my team, and it was tough. It took years for the powers to be to decide that we needed it; some other piece of gear always seemed to trump the purchase. Rain gear is not flashy, if you asked the troops which they would rather have, rain gear or some new gadget, the gadget would always win. Good rain gear (and any environmental gear for that matter) is not cheap, but priceless when needed. It’s not about making a fashion statement. Rain gear made by companies like Columbia, Patagonia and a host of other outdoor vendors is available in fashionable SWAT black or green for that matter. Your average patrol officer raincoat is just not adequate for the task.

If this training day had been the real thing, the entire unit would have been functionally ineffective by 2:00pm. Needing good rain gear in Texas, some would laugh off as non-critical since it gets over 100 degrees for months at a time. The problem is that it only takes one day in the rain when all your scopes, guns, radios, and armored vans become worthless because the guy you got behind it can’t stop shaking. The point is, while things like rain and cold weather gear isn’t sexy as the latest whiz-bang flashlight, your odds of needing it are greater. There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad gear.

Previous Newsletters Available Online!

Check out our previous newsletters for fantastic training videos, equipment reviews, and special articles. Find them [here](#).

Upcoming Events

November

- 3 [Surgical Pistol \(Elm Fork\)](#)
- 14 [Level 1 Shotgun](#)
- 16-20 [Combat Arms \(Waco\)](#)
- 17 [Low Light Pistol \(Elm Fork\)](#)
- 21 CHL (Elm Fork)
- 28 CHL (Elm Fork)
- 30 [TTPOA Advanced Precision Rifle \(Waco\)](#)

December

- 1-4 [TTPOA Advanced Precision Rifle \(Waco\)](#)
- 12 Christmas Party - Free Open Range Day (Waco)

January 2010

- 16-17 [Level 1 Pistol \(Waco\)](#)
- 30-31 [Team Sniper Match \(Waco\)](#)

March 2010

- 20-21 [Four Man Tactical Team Match \(Waco\)](#)



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Direct comments and newsletter suggestions to news@tigervalley.com.



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