

Modern Samurai Project Red Dot Pistol: Fundamentals and Performance 2 Day Course
Instructor: Scott "Jedi" Jedlinski
Location: Meadhall Range in Oklahoma
Date: May 25 & 26, 2019

After Action Report
By: Sean Hoffman

About five (5) months ago I jumped into the world of RDS on a pistol. I already had the gun and sighting system set up, but I had no dedicated formal instruction on the deployment of an RDS. I search the internet for "how to" videos and proceeded to become self-taught in this new adventure.

After months and months of practice, I wasn't horrible. I was able to attend training and complete several high-level pistol instructor courses, but none were dedicated to operating a red dot. My biggest obstacle in my opinion was locating the dot during the presentation. Like most new users, it would appear but just not as quickly as I thought or hoped it would.

Knowing that I need a dedicated course, because sending rounds downrange wasn't the answer, I booked a spot in Scott Jedlinski's two (2) day Red Dot Pistol Course. I made the 7-hour commute from Texas to OKC excited to finally figure out this sighting system.

Class started with Scott AKA "Jedi" making a short introduction about himself. He self admits that he doesn't have a long resume, but you can tell he is dedicated to accomplishing goals that he sets. I was impressed that Scott was able to achieve a Master ranking in USPSA in a year and four months. Scott also has a background in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu that he applies when discussing body mechanics and how it applies to shooting. Scott then goes around the class asking each student to introduce themselves. As with most classes I attend, the class had students with various backgrounds and levels of experience.

There is very little classroom time, but the time spent was full of useful information. Scott discuss choice of optics, mounting, and personal contacts he has to assist Law Enforcement Officers getting polices approved for their Department.

There was a safety briefing and emergency plan established, then we went out to the range. Within the first 30 minutes on the range Scott had every students' Red Dot zeroed at ten (10) yards. Most students were able to have their Red Dots zeroed in as little as 5-6 shots. Scott uses a 10 yard zero over a 25 yard zero and explains the deviation of the two prior to zeroing.

From there the class began to flow. As promised, I felt like I was drinking from a firehouse. As much as I tried to take notes and remember everything I just couldn't. There were several teachable moments for me, which I will detail in this report. The drills listed in this report are not in perfect chronological order.

Scott explains and demonstrates each drill. He explains what the national standard is, along with his class standards and his black belt standards. When he explains these standards, you can see heads shaking in disbelief. Scott constantly encourages his students and tells them that each one of us will be better before we leave. In one video I posted on Facebook you can hear Scott telling me "Get out of your head." Little did I know he was paying that much attention to my body language and identified one of my worst enemies, myself.

We did some draws from the holster as Scott went around and provided each of us with individual instruction before we moved into live fire. We began with one shot draws from the holster. This has been one of my biggest Achilles heel. Throughout the course Scott would reiterate to violently grip our guns in the holster and not be lethargic with the motion.

Scott came by a few times and had us shoot this drill individually. This is also done during each of his drills, so he can provide you with individual instruction and a par times. The one shot from draw was the first drill I have ever shot in front of Scott. When it came to my turn, I was noticeably nervous. Scott even asked me if I was nervous and I said, "No." I know he didn't believe me because it showed in my performance.

A lot of students, along with myself would do some form of body movement prior to the draw. From a headshake to a shoulder shrug or a squat. Once Scott noticed this, he would have you perform a dry fire draw and explained that the body remembers recency of motion. Meaning if you shrugged your shoulders before your draw, you will most likely shrug them during your draw, causing frenetic motion.

Much to our surprise a majority of us were under 1.5 seconds in our draw to first shot. A few students achieved a draw time close to 1 second, and at times throughout the class below 1 second. My overall average has been 1.30 seconds prior to this course. By the end of Scott's class, I was constantly performing it at 1.20 seconds. With Scott's instruction and some practice, I'm confident I can obtain a 1 second draw in the near future.

Additional fundamentals like stance and grip were explained. Scott went into depth about how certain techniques can improve your shooting, along with managing recoil. Since I was there to learn I tried each technique demonstrated by Scott. This helped in tracking the dot during recoil, making it predictable where it would be on the threat. After watching some videos of myself from the course I did noticed a considerable amount of less recoil.

During one of the next drills is when I had what Scott calls the "Oh face." We performed draws focusing on the threat. For months I have been looking or "fishing" for my red dot while presenting the gun to the target. Instead Scott instructed me to focus on the target and present the gun to the target within my eyeline. Once I did this the dot magically appeared at my eye level, on target. Right then and there I told Scott the class was worth the price of tuition.

My next “Oh face” moment was when Scott discussed body mechanics and binding. Scott explains how the body is like an “X” and how we create tension in certain positions. In the past I have had an issue with shots impacting slightly left in the A zone, but it was not a grip or trigger control issue. Scott had us point our support side foot slightly inward towards the target. This kept your body facing the center of the target. Immediately I noticed a favorable change in my impacts.

We also went over shooting with a gross sight picture from about four (4) yards away. Scott provides three (3) different techniques using your red dot to obtain a gross sight picture. You are encouraged to try each technique, identifying which techniques works for you. We also did some strong hand and weak hand only shooting, learning different stances, grips, and recoil management.

Additional drills consisted of shooting at a distance, target transitions, and using only the necessary information provided from your dot to make fast accurate shots. Scott also broke down modes of practice, including speed and accuracy. One drill that I rarely practice is shooting on the move. Two simple techniques were demonstrated. To my surprise just a normal walk worked best for me. No need to walk heel to toe using some cadence to shoot. Another “Oh face” moment.

One of the last drills Scott set up was a mock shooting stage. We shot the stage three (3) times. Scott instructed us to shoot the stage our way the first time, his way the second time, and a third time for our average time. During my first run I completed the stage in a little over twelve (12) seconds. After Scott’s instruction I had a three (3) second improvement.

To close out the course Scott allowed any student to shoot his black belt standards course. Based on my overall performance I knew I had some work to do but wanted to get a baseline score. About 6 other students also shot the standards, but unfortunately nobody achieved black belt standards. These drills and standards can be found on Modern Samurai Project’s website.

Throughout the two (2) days of training it seemed like there was more than one instructor on the range. Scott provided one on one instruction to each student during each drill. Scott did not just sit back and yell out commands as we sent rounds down range. He is truly a hands-on instructor. Scott gets excited when he notices improvement in his students. This was displayed by the high fives and hugs he gave out during the course. Based on his attention to detail with his students I’m sure he’s exhausted after every course; I know I was. The time he spent with us made us better by the end of the course. I don’t think there was a student in the class that left and didn’t notice a considerable amount of improvement. I know I certainly improved.

Would I recommend taking Scott's class? Yes, without a doubt. Even if you are currently running an RDS, Scott will make you better. The techniques Scott teaches helps you master a platform that's not very forgiving of mistakes. Taking Scott's course will allow you to operate an RDS to its fullest capabilities, making it true force multiplier. His approach to instruction and how much energy he invest in his students is why I'm already scheduled to attend future classes with him.

On a side note. Since this was a two-day course, after day one Scott invited every student to dinner. About half of the class accepted Scott's offer. Many of us took this opportunity to pick Scott's brain about various topics. As much as Scott most likely wanted to relax, he was more than willing to indulge in conversation with us, answering all of our questions. For me this was bonus material not offered in class.