



The Bulwarks Bugle

March, 2019

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Upcoming Events:

**Self-Defense Carbine, April 6-7,
Glasgow, KY**

**Surviving the Fight, April 27,
Lancaster, KY**

**Taco’s N’ Tactics, May 4,
Murray, KY**

**Castle Defense I, May 18-19,
Mt. Sterling, KY**

**Low Light/No Light Course, May 25th,
Glasgow, KY**

Business of the Month / Advertising:

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A Word from the Owner

As a quote I heard once, forget the source, and certainly there are many samples/versions of the original, but it goes something like this; “to make a small fortune in the self-defense training business, one needs to start with a large fortune.”

Obviously, there are many agencies that have jumped this hurdle with various reasons, but over the last three years that The Bulwarks has been on the scene I’ve noticed a trend in how the companies reach has grown.

I think the reason for this is God’s hand, and that our concept is that we (and no one else really can no matter what they may say) cannot teach anyone to shoot/defend themselves, but we can teach someone to teach themselves. That’s okay. Come join us, be apart of our Alum and understand a bit better what our slogan of “confidence is our product and our profession” really means.

#bulwarksstrong

- Eric Dean, Bulwarks Head Honcho



The Sisk Tactical Adaptive Rifle **(STAR®)**

Sisk Rifles

The Mission

To fundamentally change the way a gun stock interacts with a shooter...and we already have.

The Purpose

You are about to read about a “disruptor” business and product line. Read on.

For 400 years, gun stocks have been designed with the weapon in mind— not the shooter’s ability to interact with it. In the early days of Glock, it was not originally viewed as the game changer it has become. Now their brand is so well-known, that even people unfamiliar with firearms know what a Glock is. The Sisk Rifles product line is, without a doubt, another industry game changer— not only in the field of riflery, but also shooting sports, combat shotguns, archery and more.

The STAR® has been refused by Top Tier manufacturers of our industry— not because of its faults— but because it would out-sell their existing product lines. A threat. That’s right— a threat.

The STAR® is without peer. Nothing on the market can adjust or adapt like it. It will require training, as you can do things previously impossible. →

→For these reasons Sisk Rifles is seeking an investor and business partner of a particular type to bring the STAR and other Sisk product lines fully to market.

The Objective

This “disruptor” business requires enough funding for the proper manufacturing, distribution, sales and marketing of its product lines. In order to accomplish this goal, Sisk Rifles is seeking an investor(s) and business partner(s) in the management, marketing and financials to continue to make the STAR® a household name.

For the correct partners, the options are open:

- Complete buy-out of patents & company**
- Lease of Patent Rights**
- Direct Buy-In, Equity Share or Licensing Arrangements**
- Form a new company**

The ideal partner would manage the large scale day-to-day operations of manufacturing, distribution and marketing. They would be already established with in manufacturing, distribution and marketing, and would like to enter into the firearms industry, or if already in the industry, add a “rock-the-boat” product line to their offerings.

Charlie Sisk, owner and founder of Sisk Rifles, would stay involved in the training, design & development, product improvement, techniques and manufacturing process efficiency & improvement.

What is it?

The STAR® is a revolutionary modular firearm system. For a bolt action rifle, this means the buttstock and forestock are all interchangeable— only the receiver section of the stock is different. For example, if you owned a Remington and Savage rifles, and equipped them with a STAR® stock— the buttstock and forestock will fit both receivers.

The STAR® empowers the shooter for adjustments other platforms cannot afford. For example, LE and Military can even wear a gas mask and operate the system. There is nothing in the U.S. (or global) arsenal that allows this

The claim of “revolutionary” can become trite, however when you experience the groundbreaking design of the STAR® you’ll say, “It’s revolutionary!” as it truly does revolutionize the way a shooter becomes one with his weapon of choice, and motivates the shooter to use all of their ability.

The STAR® Stock lets a shooter adjust the buttstock radially, for length of pull, and for comb height— all without the use of tools. Even the butt pad can be spun for the best fit. The STAR® adapts to the shooter like never before.

The STAR® embraces the different needs of every shooter: Men, Women, Youth, Law Enforcement, Military, hunters, competition, self-defense, etc. No other single firearms innovation can embrace all of these markets in a single platform.

The Business Opportunity

Industry experts have agreed this venture in its entirety could easily become a 60-100M per year business...however it would put their own product lines at risk. This opportunity covers the bolt-action, semi-auto, and shotgun markets. This includes all shoulder-fired weapons.

In the shotgun category, 900,000 shotguns were manufactured in the U.S in 2016 alone...and this is just the stock’s possibility in the market. Complete STAR® rifles can and have been sold. Over 4,000,000 rifles were manufactured in 2016. To acquire even a low percentage of the market, as low as 1%— you can do the math.

The STAR® covers all markets including men, women, youth, hunters, LE, military, tall, short, big, small, yellow or green. →

→The opportunity with Sisk Rifles includes 4 patents with more patents pending. There is zero competition in the Sisk Rifles patented features. It provides an entire product line with the sale of complete rifles, stocks, accessories and parts. The main product lines are done, being manufactured and ready to produce in large scale, with over 30 future products lined up and 30 future product improvements and upgrades.

Production costs properly done could be an estimated for less than \$300 per unit with an MSRP as high as \$950-1000. (Based on a conservative number of 20,000 units per year at current MSRP of \$1395.00)

Current MSRP is 1395, when manufacturing this in volume, the production cost could likely be cut in half and the MSRP could be adjusted accordingly.

Inventory is another area that is a manufacturer and distributor’s dream. One of the innovations of the STAR®, is the simplicity and lessening of the total parts of manufacturing and inventory.

The STAR® system takes adaptability to a new level, also in manufacturing and inventory levels. For example, using 7 STAR® parts would allow for the same amount of variations that would require any competitor to manufacture and inventory 32 parts. If you add another brand of rifle, the STAR® parts list increases by 2, and yet the competition increases again by another 32...and on and on. This takes “lean manufacturing” to a level that the competition can’t even dream of. The STAR® platform really does “more with less”.

There are more examples, but the point is clear.

The market demographics listed above include each category of those demographics. For example:

- The STAR® stock can be made for virtually every bolt action rifle in production.
- A STAR® buttstock for shotguns will be made for virtually every pump, semi-auto, many over/under, side-by-side and single-shot models.
- A STAR® buttstock will be designed to use on virtually every semi and full auto rifle that uses a two-piece stock.

Several new products will be added to the STAR® line of products.

A few of the main products are the patented Sisk Tactical Adaptive Rifle (STAR®) stock, the patented Handguard Extended Picatinny Rail (HEPR), the patented Rifle Bolt Knob with Tool Socket, a patented STAR® integral suppressor design and more. Each of these patented and patent-pending products has huge potential in the market.

The STAR® Shotgun Stock opportunity alone is worth the entire business. It has massive potential, no real competition and with great profit margins.

Training is an additional business opportunity afforded as an adjunct to the STAR® system. A training facility already exists and is in-use in Kentucky, with possibilities for other venues, and to include mobile training.

The STAR® system is an answer to circumvent current or future unconstitutional firearms regulations.

The STAR® is currently in use by various LE agencies as their Precision Rifle or has gone through the STAR® training program including:

- Sheriff Departments
- SWAT
- Texas Rangers
- Police Departments
- State Police
- US Army
- US Marines

The patented Handguard Extended Picatinny Rail (HEPR) could be another entire section of this business opportunity. The HEPR allows all disciplines to shoot from angles and positions previously off limits. Think of the benefit when you inform both Military and LE markets that they can now use cover in previously unusable ways due to the adaptability of the HEPR. And not to leave out the hunter when he also will have a newfound ability to use cover.

About

Sisk Rifles was founded in 1988 in Crosby, TX, by Charlie Sisk.

Having built his first rifle at age 14, Charlie has spent a lifetime understanding and designing gunstocks that not only fit the shooter, but also fit shooting from unconventional positions and adapt to all aspects and challenges of shooting, no matter what the application. He has made some of the best high-end rifles for hunting and dangerous game, but has shifted his focus to LE markets.

Charlie Sisk is an authority in the Custom Rifle Industry, and is the author of "Selecting and Ordering a Custom Hunting Rifle". As an inventor, author, pilot and life-long hunter, he has 7 patented inventions with more pending.

Sisk Rifles has been featured in over 75 major articles in various shooting/hunting magazines, in virtually every shooting magazine in circulation.

Charlie Sisk has over 7 figures and an uncountable amount of time invested in order to design, patent and bring to market the future of the way a gunstock interfaces with a shooter.

- **Charlie Sisk, Eric Dean**

Featured Drill!

The Grinder createdby: Jesse Ordunez

What's Needed:

Three 3X5 note cards

Two mags with three rounds each

EDC Holster

Concealment garment

Set up:

Place the 3X5 cards in a an H formation

5" apart on your target backer. Tape works better than staples on this one.

Test:

From concealment draw and fire two rounds in the first 3X5 and then move on to the next one. You should fire one round before slide lock. Reload and then deliver one more round on the center 3X5 and two rounds on the last 3X5.

Par Time

7.5 seconds

Add one second for each miss.

The Grinder. She's ain't easy and your gunfight won't be either. Make a single mistake with this test and you will not pass it. It's a good test to run anytime, but I recommend running it cold so you know exactly we're you stand at the beginning of your practice round or what kind of performance you will put out when the worst day of your life happens. Good luck!



Figure 1: Another beautiful image of a Sisk Rifle!

“The Knobs”

A technical rambling by Charlie Sisk

The knobs.....what are they for ?.....what do they do ?....why should I be concerned ?

The knobs (turrets) on a rifle scope are a mystery to many users. The old adage of “don’t get ahead of yourself” applies here, so we will discuss in the above order.

What are they for ?

First things first. YOU DO NOT SIGHT IN A RIFLE, you adjust the scope to the point of impact.

Hmmm....Sighting in the rifle to the optic would involve some means of moving/adjusting the barrel to the optic. Certainly can be done, but using the “knobs” is a much better approach. Faster too. When we turn the knobs, the turret moves the erector assembly inside the scope body tube, which houses the reticle, and moves the reticle to the point of impact. Top turret usually moves elevation, right side usually moves windage. We always need to think in terms of moving the reticle to the point of impact, not the other way. In future articles this will be covered more in depth, particularly on how to sight in with a max of five shots.

As mentioned earlier, the turrets move the erector assembly. Notice all those little numbers(as you get older those numbers do get smaller) on the turrets ? Everybody’s scope have them, but which type is best ? Inches, MOA, Mils ? Well that depends. Well which is more accurate ? Mathematically speaking, none. What ? Yes, mathematically speaking, none. What determines the accuracy and repeatability of the turrets is not the increments, but how well and precise and repeatable the “knobs” are. Think of them as small micrometers, a

device that depends on precise threaded parts that move an exact distance for an exact amount of revolutions.

Over the years I’ve enjoyed listening to arguments about moa or mils being more accurate. I hate to break the news, but as long as a circle has 360 degrees, no matter how you slice that pie, there is still the same amount of pie. Hmmm.....does one have advantage over the other ? Certainly. When ? Well....that depends. On what ? That list is too long for this article. But taking a broad stroke, inside 1000 yards, another old saying “ makes about as much difference as a hill of beans” is accurate.

Why should I be concerned...

Knowing what is going on inside your optic is important, particularly when making precise shots. And what is the main reason for point of impact shifts ? Well assuming nothing loose on the mounts or the rifle, you can bet something has gone haywire with the turrets and erector tube. When that happens, first shot goes here, second shot goes there, etc. Run the turret up 10 increments, down 10, then back to zero, and if she aint back exactly to zero, be concerned. Better yet, save up your lunch money and buy a good optic !

Things to file away....

Sight in the optic to the point of impact. Always think in those terms. When moving the “knobs”, if they are not 100% repeatable, its time to toss that optic and get a good one.

The Combat Speed Reload

Paper or steel targets don't shoot back, so you can get away with all sorts of behavior in a match and not get shot. However, soldiers, cops and regular armed citizens don't have that luxury if they find they need to reload in a dangerous situation.

I will admit that if a person is a decent shot he probably won't have to worry about reloading under fire unless he has a military mission. In that case it will not be unusual for him to have comrades around to cover him for the brief time it takes to top off his weapon. Let's set that situation aside for the moment as it is not the normal condition for non-military, nor is it the norm for normal civilian law enforcement...unless of course they have worked themselves into a bad situation by shooting poorly or having either chosen or forced to carry a weapon of inadequate caliber (yes Virginia even decent hits with some calibers on some people are not effective in our lifetime – but those are fairly uncommon situations)

The problem here is little understood, quite reasonably so I suppose. You see at first glance the speed of the reload seems easy to measure; just do it like they do in competition. Wrong! What people do not seem to recognize is that the "clock" (stopwatch, timer, etc) represents a period you are in danger. That means bullets are flying in your direction or some other weapons is being deployed.

Now the fastest reloads, measured by the competition method, is around 1 second, give or take but you must realize that the folks who can do that are not your regular gun toter. Besides, 1 second is not fast enough with an attacker who is skilled trying to kill you! Lethal encounters in the civilian world (that includes police since they operate under the same laws as the rest of us, as opposed to the UCMJ) happen at "bad breath" range.

We are advised repeatedly by the folks who study this that the typical lethal encounter is over in 3 shots, 3 seconds and occurs at about 3 yards. Does that mean we only need to practice at 3 yards or carry only 3 shots? No, but it does mean that most of the time we need to be prepared for that.

If the fight is already in progress you have used up all your spare time! If your fight last long enough that you need to reload you are then operating on borrowed time – be sure the loan does not expire before you do!

I have certainly heard of people reloading a handgun and then finishing a fight. I take it to mean that the attacker was undetermined, inept, poorly equipped, unlucky, or a combination of all four.

Actually, in a normal situation you will be reloading after the fight. And yet, how do you know the fight is over? I peaked at the test answers; you don't! There are several reasons that the fight may not be over, varying from the fact that the attacker you just decked might have friends in the area, or might himself be only stunned and get back up or back into the fight (he does not have to get back up to get back in the fight).

Obviously, if your fight went well, and you expeditiously dealt with the immediate threat it is not time to "take a picture", to use a boxing term for pausing to admire your handiwork. It is time to assess your situation – look around for other threats – hint, this not being a military mission or a match you cannot cover people who are no threat to you with your muzzle as you look around! You can cover the threat but do it briefly to make sure he is truly out of the fight...no, you cannot not shoot him again unless he becomes a threat again!

The sequence goes: "Is he down, is he out of the fight, did he bring any friends that I might have to deal with?"

So, what's wrong with the "Competition Speed Reload"? I'm glad you asked. When you train on a timer – and a timer is a useful tool for training in general but you have to know how to use it – you start slipping in your technique. Because the skill is measured (in competition) from shot to shot you start punching your magazine release as you reach for your spare magazine. This basically takes the gun out of the fight, even though it has one round in the chamber but you have taken the muzzle away from the general area of danger...many will even point the muzzle some degree of upward.

Bear in mind, we are on the street, in a real life situation. Unless you are abnormal your spare ammunition is concealed, probably behind your support side hip. Guess what, you ain't likely to get a sub-two second reload, even if you can do close to one second in competition gear and then only if you are a master class competitor. Same if you are a Peace Officer in uniform, most magazine pouches have flaps that cover the magazine – which slow one down a little.

Besides, depending on your fight, and your equipment, who says you even have a spare magazine to grab. Meaning it fell out, I cannot contemplate carrying a firearms and not having two reloads for it – but that may be just me.

Consider the alternative, or topic of discussion, in the same situation. You have expended 2-3 rounds of .45 (or 6-8 9mm) and prevailed. Go through the drill: "Is he down, is he out of the fight, did he bring any friends?" Say, for the sake of argument he did bring friends who were not present when shots were fired but are on the way – do you want to get caught with a single shot pistol

with the muzzle stuck up in the air when that friend arrives. My answer would be a resounding “no!”.

The steps to the “Combat Speed Reload” go like this, once you have determined he is out of the fight and there are no visible threats: Keep your head up and scanning, keep your weapon at the scan (unless there are innocents about that you cannot muzzle), the safety is off, acquire a spare magazine from wherever you store it, bring it up to the gun and then reload. Even a duffer, after about 10 minutes of dry practice can get the gun loaded in under a second and yet his gun was ready to stop this process at any time up to the last millisecond and engage a new threat.

There is an option here for a new method as well! Most of us have to shift the weapon in your hand to hit the magazine release (on most firearms designs) and then get another grip on the gun before we can fire it accurately, why not keep your firing grip and press the magazine release with your index finger or thumb on the support hand. The first time I tried this on a stopwatch I hit $\frac{3}{4}$ of a second for the gun being “down” to one round. After some few tries it became just over $\frac{1}{2}$ second – mind you fractions of a second are a bit down in the weeds when talking about any skill related to the real world – it takes a pistol bullet that misses the CNS whole seconds to “work” if we are lucky.

Now I realize that teaching an old dog new tricks can be counterproductive. I have spent decades pressing the magazine release with the firing thumb and I’m fairly good at getting it done quickly and re-establishing my firing grip. But I wish I had learned this alternate method early on!

Is this topic important? Well most fight end, you top off and holster (since we don’t want to be wandering around with a gun in our hand when the authorities arrive) without further hostilities. Reloading is not even a secondary skill (unless you have a mission in life that involves shooting a LOT) but it has mattered to several students. All have a similar story and told me that if they had run their gun dry they would be dead, if they had punched their magazine release first they would be dead or even if they had had their muzzle in the air they would bead! It works!

- **Jim Higginbotham**

Visual Man-Tracking

Visual man-tracking skills have been employed since the beginning of time to offer valuable insight into the who, what, when and where something has happened in front of a pursuer. In the modern world, the skill is an invaluable tool in the “tactical toolbox” that rarely comes out of the box. That is unfortunate.

Tactically minded individuals should find themselves in a regular state of heightened situational awareness. Visual man tracking can do exactly that. When used properly it can offer the following:

- Increased intelligence gathering.
- More preparation and insight before making contact with a quarry.
- Opportunities for reconnaissance assets to gather strategic intel without being seen.
- Finding dropped or hidden evidence during a follow-up

In the modern era, there is an increased reliance upon the two tools of technology and canines in situations that visual tracking could also be employed. Not instead of those two tools but to be used in conjunction with them to gather intelligence.

Increased intelligence gathering

On any given track line a human quarry may link up with another individual or team. A canine cannot recognize nor communicate that a track line contains multiple individuals rather than the one that is known. A trained man tracker can do this. Border Patrol agents have been known to recognize a well-trained drug “mule” by their track line and how they cross a fence. As an example, by recognizing a trackline goes straight up and over a fence, border patrol agents have recognized that the mule is using a compass set on a known azimuth. Tracks that go to the fence and then travel along it until they find a hole are mules often found to be untrained or new to drug running.

More preparation and insight

The average human step distance from one foot to another is 31”. A visual tracker can ascertain that the quarry they are following has increased that distance. Increased step distance is one of many indicators of acceleration by the quarry. Acceleration could be an indicator that the follow-up team made contact unknowingly. The quarry could then be in the process of setting up an ambush site. A tracking team could then push out their security flanks, or utilize other small unit tactics dependent upon the terrain. This would ensure increased safety for those that are following up.

Opportunities for recon

Determining a direction of travel can lead to understanding infil and exfil points of marijuana patch for example. Recon assets could then ascertain better observation spots for maximum intelligence gathering. On the modern battlefield, trained trackers are being utilized to determine “dwell time” at locations of possible IED placement. By recognizing dwell time, a tracker can call in EOD teams to utilize specialized skill and equipment to diffuse a device, gather intelligence from it before detonation, or both.

Finding dropped evidence

Wouldn't it be nice to be able to locate the keys or cell phone you laid down in the woods while you were hiking or hunting? Tracking offers the user the ability to backtrack where they have been, to do this. The same is true for a tactical tracker. Once a quarry has been caught, they have often cached evidence such as drugs, money, weapons, etc. A quarry backtrack is one in which the tracker backtracks along a track line. If the ground is suitable, a well-trained tracker will recognize where the quarry stopped and went back and forth searching for a good hide. This allows the tracking team and other assets to focus attention in a more likely area to find the needed items.

I hope that has provided you enough information to see how tracking can be employed, but the question remains how do you do it? The practice of visual tracking is no different than any other skill; it takes practice. And just like shooting a weapon, a good tracking instructor can assist you in leaping forward in your skill. The following are some simple ways that you can begin to expand your situational awareness by tracking.

- Baseline vs. Disturbance
- Why we see a track
- Types of sign

Baseline vs. Disturbance

Baseline is how an area appears with outside influences to it. A wooded area, a Speedway parking lot, or even people at a concert venue, all have a baseline in how they look or behave. Disturbance is anything that changes the normal appearance or rhythm of that environment. Trackers constantly monitor baseline. Constantly. When something appears outside of that baseline, it warrants attention from the tracker. By a more dedicated look at the disturbance, a tracker will often, but not always, discern more information from it.

Why we see a track

There are several indicators of why we see a track. Outline, shape, color, value, shine, texture, and rhythm are the standard words we use to communicate this to new trackers. It is rare in any terrain that a full

undisturbed track can be found. Usually, it is a partial track, a creased leaf, or grease carried from a parking spot to the sidewalk. All of these indicators are recognized at various times. A trained tracker will see these small items amid a lot of information.

Types of Sign

We have focused nearly entirely on tracks on the ground (aka ground sign) in this discussion thus far. Ground sign is a sign of anything found below ankle level. We can also search for aerial sign, which is anything above ankle level. Examples are broken branches, grass pointers, clothing left behind on a fence and more. Another type of sign is what I refer to as other, sometimes intangible sign. Human waste including spit, trash, bird language, or other animal behaviors are all types of this 'other' sign. In one training event, I was able to find some US Marines that were practicing camouflaging techniques regularly. Birds will alarm in an area if they are not comfortable. They must not have liked those Marines, because they kept alarming that they were there. You can be sure that a redneck hillbilly from our “neck of the woods” knows those sounds. A recon unit could easily be compromised and alarm a dope grower in this manner. If they recognize birds compromised them in an area, they can change up their hide.

As I stated earlier, tracking is a tool that is often overlooked instead of other means for gathering information. I hope you can see how adding it to your skillset will serve to heighten your situational awareness. Much like all skills, I have covered the tip of the iceberg when it comes to tracking. I hope it serves to get you into a tracking class or to begin your study of it on your own earnestly. It is time well spent.

- Craig Caudill

A brief word about Craig:

Craig Caudill is the director of Nature Reliance School and author of three books on backcountry skills. He leads programs of instruction for the military, law enforcement and interested civilians on survival, bushcraft, tracking, and navigation. For his biography and more information on classes, you can find links to his YouTube channel, social media, books and his podcast at www.naturereliance.org.

Thank you for reading. If you have ideas or articles, please send them to

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