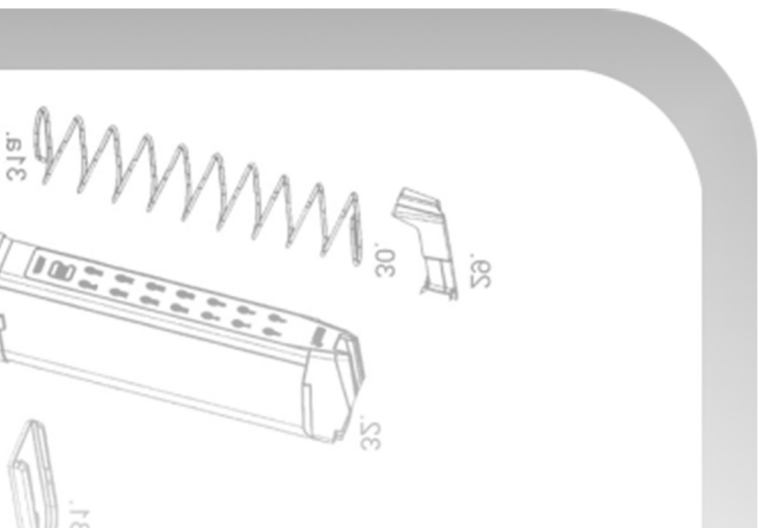


Agency / Program Visit – Range USA Inc. (Memphis, TN)

By

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RANGE USA INC - OVERVIEW



Range USA Inc. (<http://rangeusa.com>) is a family owned shooting, dining, and retail facility located North-East of Memphis, Tennessee with the mission statement:

“To provide our community with a safe, friendly, and clean place to shoot, enjoy, and learn about firearms and firearm safety. And to educate the community about firearms, firearm safety, and personal defense.” (Range USA, Inc., 2014)

They opened in 2002 (taking over the location from a previous firearms dealer/range-owner ‘Whitten Arms’) and have “included training courses from day one”, stated Chip Holland – Training Director (whom is also part of the Madison County Sherriff’s Department). The training team includes members from SWAT teams, civilians, and military snipers. The facility has two fully equipped indoor shooting ranges (the smaller side has 9 positions with a 50 foot distance and the large side has 14 positions with an 82 foot distance) with the capability to shoot most pistol calibers and special times for shotgun and limited rifle rounds. One of the unique capabilities of this facility is the ability to rent automatic weapons (which includes a variety of fully-automatic handgun and rifles) that includes range-time instruction on proper firing/handling techniques from one of their specialized Range Master personnel. The classes being offered range from their most popular “Tennessee Permit Classes” (in which they have a specialized class just for women seeking to obtain their Tennessee Permit), Introduction to Handguns, a variety of certification & upgrade classes for Security Guards, ‘Street Survival School’ courses, entry level classes for a variety of weapon types, youth instruction, plus a variety of others rounding out their approximately 50 different course schedule. Due to the ‘privately/family-owned’ nature of the business, they do not currently receive any ‘outside’ funding for their training/courses. Each course is either free to the public or includes a cost to cover expenses & instructor fees. They also offer onsite electronic fingerprinting services, consignment sales of personal firearms, and firearm cleaning services ranging from ‘basic’ cleaning to ‘complete’ cleaning (recommended after a few thousand rounds have been fired in which they disassemble to the frame, cleaning, lubricating, and inspecting for wear).

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY (A&P) FOR GLOCK & SPRINGFIELD



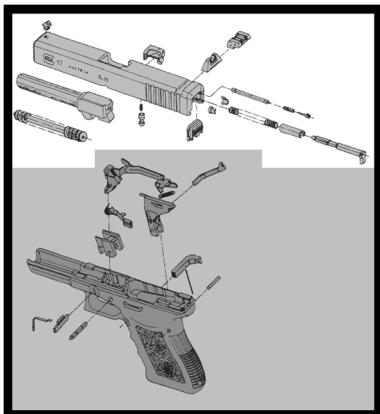
Having reviewed the wide ranging opportunities for adult learning at this location, I chose an “Anatomy & Physiology (A&P) for Glock & Springfield” class which is an “advanced classes that will teach you everything about the anatomy and physiology (A&P) of your firearm. In each class, you will learn how to completely strip your firearm down to the frame and all its individual parts for cleaning purposes, inspection of parts,

installation of aftermarket parts, and more.” (Range USA, Inc., 2014). This class had

specific interest to me as I own handguns from both manufacturers and was interested in learning more about the ‘inner workings’ & proper care of the weapons. The class size is limited to only four students which offers a great deal of necessary ‘one-on-one’ instruction time to learn the techniques needed to complete the class. During our class, there were only three students in attendance and was led by three individuals with many years of practical hands-on experience. A few had completed the ‘official’ disassembly classes from the

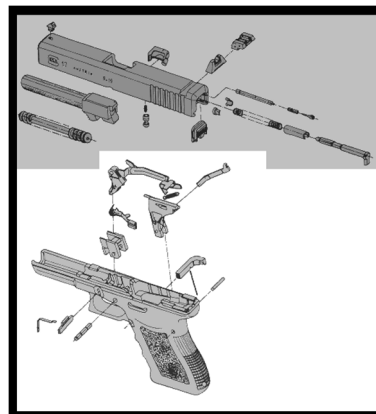


individual manufacturers (in which you need to re-certify every three years to be an instructor). The lead instructor, Wayne Leggett, has been teaching this specific course for 6+ years and really enjoys conveying the importance of safety in and after each course taught (as an example, there was no ammo allowed to be anywhere in or near the classroom during instruction to ensure no accidental discharges could occur). He also wants the students to feel competent & obtain knowledge that is useful to them. The method of instruction is very kinesthetic in nature (as the demonstration needs to be) in



Upper Assembly dissection

which the weapon is disassembled into its two major sections and further dis-assembled from there. They would do the disassembly & reassembly for each section individually—explaining each part’s use, function, and care – twice; then it would be the student’s turn to move from the demonstration portion to live application.



Lower Assembly dissection

There were a few concepts from the class that I learned and really stood out as a high value for me:

- Breaking a pistol down to its 'bare metal' is possible and even better than it can be re-assembled relatively easy (once shown/instructed)
- This 'deep' cleaning is needed after a few thousand rounds have been shot through the pistol (with 'basic' cleanings in between)
- The 'upper' assembly will need cleaning at a frequency of twice the number of times the bottom assembly is cleaned
- I was using too much lubricant when performing a basic cleaning (this issue showed up once the individual assemblies were further disassembled)
- A better lubricant to use is a CLP style (an all-in-one that Cleans, Lubricates, and Protects)



Upper Assembly disassembled

CRITICAL REFLECTION

I was very excited that I could combine personal hobbies and actual educational/school work into one project. To the instructor's credit, all of the attendees did feel 'empowered and competent' to perform deep cleaning and parts inspection/replacement at the conclusion of the class. One of the benefits of holding the class at the indoor range was that immediately at the conclusion, we could 'test' our re-assembly work by spending time on the shooting range operating the newly reassembled pistols. The agency is well known for top-quality classes and instructors; this class was a shining example of that excellence in teaching. Given the 'hands-on' nature of the class, it would have been beneficial to have some 'example' breakdowns (as included within this report) to help students obtain an overall view of the pieces/parts involved and their placement/use/function. While I felt the instructors had many years of experience, I don't believe they were open to exploring other methodologies of teaching/instruction and would probably have a better success rate (they did mention that some students were so fearful, even after the class, of damaging their weapons that they would never employ the skills learned) if they were open to the various ways that adult learners learn. While they did make the offer, "If you get stuck at home – bring all of the parts in a plastic bag to the store and we will help to reassemble" this should have been presented as a 'last resort' and the instructors could have included other avenues of information (i.e. manufacture's website, online assembly/disassembly videos on YouTube – a quick search found 7,100 results on my model pistol alone, basic schematic drawings, magazine articles, etc.) for the information (and account for other learning styles).

SUMMARY OF DATA GATHERING PROCESS

The information needed to complete this evaluation was gathered by:

- Physical attendance at the class and actively performing the steps demonstrated by the instructors
- Onsite discussions with:
 - The class instructors
 - Other class students
 - Other's whom have attended other classes at the same facility
- Speaking with employee's about the facility/history of the location & classwork
- Reviewing the facility's website



REFERENCES

Range USA, Inc. (2014). *Range USA - Indoor Shooting & Training Facility*. Retrieved from <http://www.rangeusa.com/>