

TOM

(The Westlake Boat Guy)

Yes! Great course Robert. Haven't stopped thinking about it. So much work to do! But getting better is never boring. You're a fabulous instructor, here are some reasons why:

- To start with, your credibility and authority are unimpeachable. That's a great place to start.
- If that wasn't enough, your performance when demonstrating every single drill or exercise speaks for itself.
- You speak well, and that makes for great, clear communication. That's vital for an instructor or teacher of any kind. I found you very articulate, and with an encyclopedic knowledge of your subject. That's very reassuring in an instructor.
- You're relatively ego-less. Which makes your instruction accessible, and your style approachable. "This is how I do it." "This is what works for ME. Others may show you different things – that's okay, you have to do what works best for you." That's powerful stuff.
- As a function of your encyclopedic knowledge of shooting, you can answer every question (that we had anyway) in a very satisfying way. I don't remember you once answering with something like, "I don't know" or "I'm not sure". You had answers, and they made sense.
- You have a hugely valuable combination of practical experience in competition AND in law enforcement. As such, we can rely on what you teach to be applicable in one or the other, or both, situations.
- You're nice. You're teaching style is nice. You're a nice, midwestern farm boy, and it really comes out. You are very encouraging, I don't think you were ever critical, only always looking at the positives or the bright sides of whatever any of us did over 2 days of training. I love that, personally. I don't know why any instructor would ever need to be critical, and you demonstrated to us that one doesn't.
- You have so much to teach and to show. I've had hundreds of hours of professional handgun instruction from something like 15 different instructors of all types, and I've never done any of the specific drills or exercises we did over our 2 days in class together. That was amazing.

- You set a great example. You showed us how to do a drill, and how to react when you perform at a lesser rate than you'd like or expect. In spite of your inhuman skills, that made you very human, and therefore easier to listen to and take instruction from.

- You like bourbon and cigars. I don't know that that makes you a fabulous instructor, but it doesn't NOT make you one!

Anyway, I know you were just doing your job, but thanks so much for an awesome 2 days of training. The 5 of us spent 2 hours together last night, going over our notes and making sure we didn't miss anything. The recurring theme the entire time was how great you are, both as instructor and as a man.

Looking forward to improving through regular dry fire practice, and then training with you again, and one day becoming someone, you'd consider a decent shooter.

Westlake Boat Guy Tom

P.S. I looked it up. That bottle of Old Rip VanWinkle is barely worth \$1,000. Meh.