

Grassroots:

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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CCM's Featured Business Profiles



NEShooters consists of four active shooters, with a goal of bringing top quality, nationally known, firearm trainers to New England. We are not trying to make any money from the classes, and as such, the profits from our classes have been donated to the host clubs.

My name is Jim Conway. I am 68 years old and a very active shooter. I have been shooting since high school and I thought that I was a good shot and knowledgeable about firearms. All of that changed six years ago, when I attended a 2-day Defensive Handgun class at Front Sight, in Nevada. While this course gave me the basics of the legal and technical aspects of shooting, the most important thing that I learned was how little I knew and how much of what I thought that I knew was wrong.

This realization was the beginning of my desire to get better. As I trained at Front Sight and Gunsite, it soon became clear to me that I could not afford the travel and course costs and the time away from my business.

I had heard that Jim Crews of Marksman's Enterprise traveled to his students and that he was an exceptional handgun trainer who specialized in marksmanship. After scheduling a training date, locating a suitable range, recruiting the students and dealing with all of the items that can make a class a success, I knew that I had found part of the solution to my problem.

The remaining part of the problem was that setting up and arranging a class still took a lot of time. After talking with two long-time shooting friends, Mike Nastek

and Andy Langlois, we decided to spread the workload between the three of us and to set up a website (www.Neshooters.com) to advertise our classes. The second decision that we made was that we would focus only on nationally known trainers, to minimize the amount of time spent on recruiting students.

The biggest, single problem that we faced was the negotiation with the clubs that will host our training classes. We have had one club that did not want a defensive handgun class because we "teach people to shoot people." Other clubs embraced the class content, but wanted range fees and/or free seats.

In our second year (2004), we hosted only one course with Jim Crews. In our third year (2005), we hosted Randy Cain, Gabe Suarez and Jeff Gonzales, and brought in Roy Ward as our fourth member. For next year (2006), we will be hosting Tom Givens, Gabe Suarez, Louis Awerbuck and Jeff Gonzales.

A little basic information on the NEShooters members:

Andy Langlois is a New Hampshire resident and has served as a police officer and a firearms instructor in three states, for over seven years. His other claim to fame is his custom rifle slings and holsters, which he markets through his web site at (www.shottist.com). Andy carries a Springfield Gunsite Service Pistol or a Kimber Pro-Carry, for Duty, CCW and Training.

Mike Nastek is a Massachusetts resident and a heating and air conditioning

contractor. He started his firearms training in the Army and as a member of the Military Police. Until Mike took his first class at Front Sight, most of his shooting was in the recreational category. Since then, he has trained at Front Sight (numerous times) and with Jim Crews, Randy Cain, Gabe Suarez, and Jeff Gonzales. Mike is certified by the NRA as a Handgun Instructor and a Range Safety Officer, and by the Massachusetts State Police as a Basic Firearms Safety Instructor. Mike normally carries a S&W, 1911 Commander, built on a scandium frame and occasionally a S&W Lightweight, J-frame revolver in .38 Special.

Roy Ward is a Vermont resident and the principal of a six person architectural firm. Roy began his active shooting career when he moved to Vermont in 1995. Since then, he has trained with local trainers, as well as Gabe Suarez and Jeff Gonzalez. In addition to being a husband and father of 4 children, Roy also co-pastors a local church. His preferred carry is a Glock 22, .40 S&W. He also carries a Kel-Tec P3AT or a Sig 232, both in .380 ACP.

Jim Conway is a Massachusetts resident and a professional engineer who operates an engineering consulting business. Jim began his shooting in High School, as a member of the rifle team and has dealt with a variety of rifles, shotguns, and handguns until he started to carry a concealed weapon about 15 years ago. After trying to learn as much as possible about how to carry a weapon properly, it

became obvious that some level of professional training was needed. This need led Jim to take multiple courses at Front Sight, a class taught by Jeff Cooper at Gunsite and courses given by Jim Crews, Randy Cain, Gabe Suarez and Jeff Gonzales. Jim is certified by the NRA as both a Handgun Instructor and a Range Safety Officer and also by the Massachusetts State Police as a Basic Firearms Safety Instructor. Jim normally carries a lightly customized, full-sized S&W 1911 in .45 ACP and occasionally a SIG P239 in 9mm.



From Left to Right: Jim Conway, Andy Langlois, Mike Nastek and Roy Ward.