

# GARY SHADE

CCM PROFILE

Gary Shade / Timothy J. Schmidt / Maria M. D'Amato

Growing up in a Chicago suburb, I received my first firearm for my 12th birthday. A single shot, Stevens .22 bolt action rifle, my father and I would go to the range almost weekly for the next two years. There were not many opportunities to go hunting when I was growing up, but there was always an indoor and outdoor range nearby. Unfortunately, Illinois is still one of only four states along with the District of Columbia, where the right to carry a firearm in public is denied.

Time passed, and after a stint in the military, I got married and settled into a quiet life in a northwest suburb of Chicago. In 1981, Morton Grove's City Council passed an ordinance banning handguns within city limits. An awakening occurred, and I've been tireless in my defense of the 2nd Amendment ever since.

My view on the second amendment is this: The 2nd Amendment is not about hunting or target shooting. It's about being politically active and vigilant of our liberties. It's about the people controlling their government, not government controlling the people. It's about being able to defend yourself and your loved ones from internal or external threats to our country, and if need be, the 2nd Amendment exists to protect the American people from a despotic government that would treat its citizens as subjects rather than free men and women. Common law ensures we have the right to self-defense from individuals.

When Morton Grove passed their handgun ban, I did what many citizens did and others should have done. I exercised my civil rights by purchasing a handgun, in fact a couple. I still have my stainless Smith and Wesson Model 65 that I fondly call my Morton Grove Special. It's the best carry revolver I've ever owned. When I first got it, I wanted to be sure my wife knew how to load it from a speed loader. I found that she was faster than I was and a slightly better shot! I always called her before I came home if I had worked late. We've been into firearms, hunting, and target shooting ever since.

In 1988 we moved to Minnesota. In 1989 I testified at the State Legislature against Minnesota's version of the so called "assault weapons ban". There I met Attorneys David Gross and Joe Olson. And last year, the Minnesota legislature passed the Minnesota Citizen Personal Protection Act (MCPA) of 2003 making Minnesota

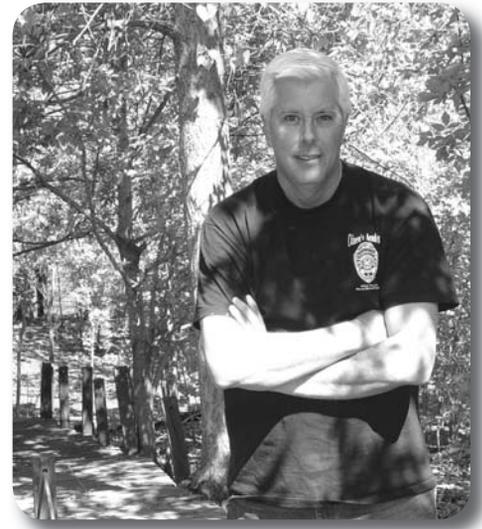
the 35th state to pass shall issue carry permit legislation. They and others continue to work hard in protecting our firearm rights in Minnesota, and were instrumental in assisting legislators draft our new carry law.

My wife and I own and operate Shade's Landing Inc., a web site design and hosting company. The company was formed in 1995 just in time for us to catch the Internet wave. Susan is Vice-President and I am the President and CEO. Our son Jason is now in college, studying to become a gunsmith, and our daughter will be entering high school this fall. She will begin her shooting education this summer.

One of our company-owned web sites is the popular Firearms And Liberty web site [www.FirearmsAndLiberty.com](http://www.FirearmsAndLiberty.com). It has over 15 megabytes of archived documents, laws, court decisions and articles for 2nd Amendment research.

The company also has a corporate policy mandating that all employees be armed with a weapon of their choice. You'll only find "Permit Holders Welcome" signs at our Minnesota business. In September of 2003, we began to offer firearms safety courses including personal protection courses.

I also believe strongly in life-long-learning, and I just completed my Master's degree in business last December. I am an amateur radio operator (KC0LFP) and I



volunteer as a severe weather spotter for the National Weather Service. I am also lucky enough to be a published author with five books on computers and technology.

I collect historical firearms and have a Curio and Relic FFL, and am also an NRA certified instructor and Range Safety Officer. Our carry courses are approved by the State of Minnesota, Florida and Utah as meeting the requirements for carry permits. I am also a certified Test Administrator for North Dakota concealed carry permits. I personally have carry permits from Minnesota, Utah, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania. I'll get around to obtaining my Florida non-resident permit when time permits.

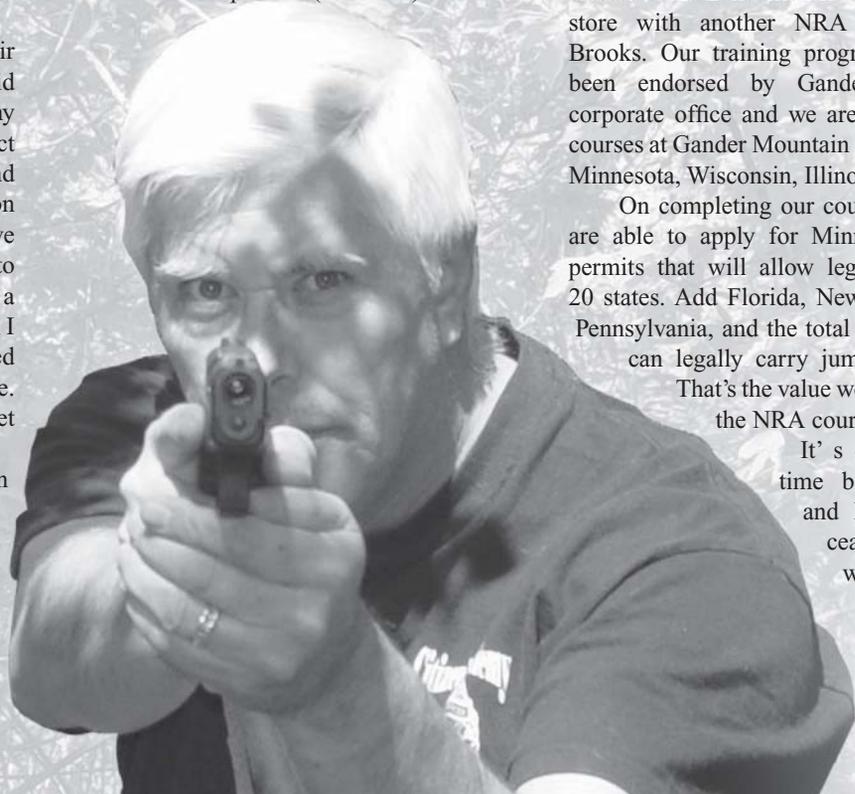
I usually carry a Taurus Millennium .45 or for dress occasions, my Bersa .380. They are like my Master Card: I don't leave home without them. I go shooting on my land or at the range at least twice a week.

We teach our NRA Personal Protection classes at the Lakeville MN Gander Mountain store with another NRA instructor, Rod Brooks. Our training program has recently been endorsed by Gander Mountain's corporate office and we are now scheduling courses at Gander Mountain stores throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

On completing our course, our students are able to apply for Minnesota and Utah permits that will allow legal carry in over 20 states. Add Florida, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, and the total states where you can legally carry jumps to 29 states!

That's the value we provide through the NRA courses we offer.

It's only a matter of time before Wisconsin and Illinois get concealed carry and we want to be there for them.



# The CCM Interview:

**CCM:** Was there a specific incident that caused you to carry a gun?

**Gary:** Actually several. But they were all acts of Congress, or state gun laws. For me it is a civil right, like voting. Exercise your right or lose it. It's as much a political statement as it is about self-defense with me. Through the 1980's I became more and more active as a gun collector, hunter, and in 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment issues.

**CCM:** Have you ever had to use your firearm in a defensive situation?

**Gary:** Thankfully no, I've never had to use my firearm in defense of my life or others.

I have however, been involved in violent situations before and only one involved a weapon being used against me and that was a knife. In certain situations, a person can deploy non-lethal means to end or escape from a violent encounter (i.e. martial arts, pepper spray, or stun guns where legally allowed). I'd still recommend retreat or escape as the first way to avoid taking a life or losing yours.

**CCM:** What training methods do you employ? Do you have any recommendations?

**Gary:** I train myself and others in close quarter handgun defense using aimed, and aimed point shooting. Aimed Point Shooting is an easily taught close-quarter technique, and one that can be remembered in times of stress. I can't take credit for it, and readers can find out more about it at: <http://www.pointshooting.com>

I'd recommend dry firing as a great, inexpensive way to improve trigger pull and sight alignment. We use the BeamHit laser training system in our classroom and I use it myself for practice. It costs less than most quality handguns and in my opinion is a must if you are serious about improving your marksmanship and self-defense skills using a firearm. And no... I don't get paid to say that.

**CCM:** How long have you carried a concealed weapon?

**Gary:** I've *legally* carried a firearm since the Minnesota Personal Protection Act of 2003 passed on April 28<sup>th</sup> of last year. Prior to that, I've always had a firearm legally stored in my vehicle just in case it was needed. Here in Minnesota prior to 2003, legally carrying

concealed was next to impossible since the Twin Cities, metro-area Police Chiefs rarely if ever issued a permit. In Illinois where I am originally from still does not have a concealed carry law on the books nor did they when I lived there.

**CCM:** What weapons do you carry?

**Gary:** I'll carry a Taurus PT 145 (.45 ACP) or a Bersa .380 for dress occasions. If I am up North, I may carry a S&W Model 65 in .357 as we have many black bears that wander through property we own.

**CCM:** What type of ammunition do you carry?

**Gary:** For the .45 I carry 230 grain Remington JHPs.

**CCM:** What concealment holsters do you use?

**Gary:** I use most every type of holster depending on what I activity I am engaged in. In the summer: For yard work up north, it's a shoulder holster, for out and about town, it's an IWB (in-waist-band) or a fanny pack if I am wearing shorts. I just ordered two CTAC holsters from Comp-Tac that are IWB Kydex holsters. The CTAC holster will allow me to wear a sports shirt that is tucked into my pants and around the gun. Total concealment without the need for a light jacket.

The one holster I don't like and would not recommend (though others like them) is an ankle holster. I want my firearms to be at the ready, within arms reach, should the crap hit the fan. As I get older, I'm not very fast at bending over or raising my leg to retrieve my weapon.

**CCM:** What do you do for a living?

**Gary:** The main business of the company I co-own with my beautiful wife Susan is that of a web site design and hosting company. It has been around since 1995. We added firearms training to the services we offer back in Sept. of 2003. We now offer CCW courses for Minnesota, Utah, Florida and other states through the Gander Mountain stores in Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Training now accounts for a large percentage of our overall sales. I see us continuing to add more CCW courses as well as other courses like shotgun and rifle in the near future.



**CCM:** Do you have any advice for our readers?

**Gary:** Yes! Carry your firearm 24/7. You never know when it will be needed. Get your spouse and legal aged children to acquire training and permits. Don't stop with just one permit, get out-of-state permits like Florida and Utah non-resident permits so you are able to carry when you are in other states that recognize those permits. And: PRACTICE, PRACTICE, and then PRACTICE some more. It is only through practice (live-fire and dry-fire) that you will develop skills that will be remembered in a time of crisis.

Remember that a firearm is a tool of last resort and it is NOT to be used to settle disputes. Walk away from confrontations and swallow your pride if you have to. Only use the firearm if you have no retreat, no lesser force will do and you are in fear of great bodily harm or death. Most important: Have the proper attitude and mindset to survive a deadly encounter.

Lastly, don't be afraid to use your firearm to defend your life. This is particularly true for women. We've had some high profile abductions and murders in Minnesota by Level III sex offenders. If those women had been armed and trained to use deadly force to stop their abductors, I am sure there would have been a different outcome.

Contact Gary at:  
[Training@FirearmsAndLiberty.com](mailto:Training@FirearmsAndLiberty.com)