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The Flourishing Snub Revolver Get the most out of yours

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RALPH MROZ
Courtesy of the Police Officers Safety Association
POSA / Officer.com

In this age of digital voice recorders, cell-phones that hold voice dictation, text messaging, email-enabled smart phones, and PDAs, do any of you not still use a notepad and pen? Of course not. Does it bother you that paper and pen is not just decades old, nor just centuries old, but a thousand or more years old? You probably never thought about it.

Sometimes *old skool* is *good skool*.

And so it is with the snub-nose revolver. It's simple, reliable, effective, and size-efficient. Revolvers are simple to load and operate. Their reliability is well-documented. They fire .38, .38+P, and/or .357 cartridges, providing effective (handgun) stopping power (while the snubby comes in many sizes, I'm here focusing on Smith & Wesson j-frames, their direct competitors, and similar small snubbys). And they do all of this in a package that fits easily (and is often carried) in a pocket, ankle holster or (if you are law enforcement) a ballistic vest strap holster.

More over, snubs are classic. They've been carried by cops and good guys for a long, long time, both in real life and on the screen. They have a fanatical following, and once you carry one for a while, you just sort of get attached to it. Frankly, it's hard to say that about any of the sub-compact semis, which are their chief competitors.

Literally millions of words have been written about the snub, so what do I have to say that's new? Well, how about telling you about a few of the things that make the snubby better, more practical, and help you to achieve the potential that these small guns inherently have?

Barami Hip-Grips:

The Barami hip-grip consists of replacement panels for a snub's stock grip panels, but the right panel has a little lip protruding from the outside upper end to hook or catch on a belt as the little revolver is carried inside the pants. They make holsterless and/or *Mexican* carry practical and safe: the gun can't slide down your pants because of the lip; the gun can't ride up over your belt and fall out because the cylinder catches on the belt from underneath, and the gun won't accidentally fire because of the revolver's long/stiff trigger



[CLICK HERE to visit the Police Officers Safety Association web page and to download a program on the snub revolver.](#)



Ralph Mroz
Bobby Mac's deBethencourt OWB holster

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pull. These are just the thing for *sticking a gun in your waistband* to go to the store, and they make carrying a snub as a primary or Back Up Gun (BUG) appendix style very practical. I carry my Colt Agent as a primary gun this way very often off-duty and have even on some low-risk surveillances while on-duty. The hip-grip is in fact so old-skool now that it's become a retro-cool item for many very high-speed gun people that I know.

Snubtraining.com and the related blog

<http://snubtraining.com/blog/>

Would you buy, say, an H&K MP5 for protection and then figure, *what the heck, I know how to shoot, I don't need any special training with it?* (The correct answer is no.) Well, why would you assume that you know how to shoot, reload, outfit, and generally handle a snub-nose revolver without special training to accompany *this* different and special-purpose weapon? (The correct answer is that you shouldn't). Michael deBethencourt was known for his unusual but brutally effective approach to the folding knife. For the last several years, though, he's devoted himself to teaching the skills for his gun of choice: the snub-nose revolver.

Michael's a good friend, so I can call him compulsive in a nice way, and as such he's become the go-to source for all things snub-related: techniques, training courses, information on the snub, advice on same, web links to snub information, information about and sources of arcane snub equipment, and so on. His YouTube videos will give you an idea of his unique approach to several aspects of the snub manual of arms, and his courses are scheduled almost a year in advance.

Bobby Macs

I don't believe there was ever a holster maker who devoted himself purely to holsters for the snubby... until Boby McEachern went public with his holster company. Bobby's holsters are absolutely top-notch and he shares Michael deBethencourt's beliefs about what a revolver holster - and a snub holster in particular - should be and do. Most of his holsters carry the revolver lower than usual, with the cylinder's top and bottom aligned with the belt's top and bottom. He makes OWB, IWB and appendix-specific holsters, each designed specifically around the physical characteristics of a revolver and the special purpose for which the snub is intended. If you carry a snub, you owe it to yourself to try one of Bobby's holsters; they will literally change the way you think about how a snub should be carried.

Crimson Trace LaserGrips

CTI LaserGrips have been around for a few years now for most snubbies, and I consider them a hugely helpful piece of kit. (By the way, CTI LaserGrips are the only laser units that I can recommend for handguns - see the Armed Response DVD on laser-equipped handguns for all the reasons.) Here's why: snubbies are inherently very mechanically accurate; fire them from a Ransom Rest and you'll be shooting tiny groups at 30 yards. However, off-hand they suffer from their small sights and short sight radius. Plus, they are mostly meant for the very close-in, spontaneous attacks that constitute most of the attacks on us, during which you are most likely to focus on your attacker rather than your sights. The LaserGrips solve all of these problems, and allow you to realize much more of the snubby's inherent mechanical accuracy. You will definitely shoot your snub revolver much better with LaserGrips (but realize that there is a slight learning curve to using a laser-equipped handgun; again, see the Armed Response DVD on laser-equipped handguns for an explanation.)

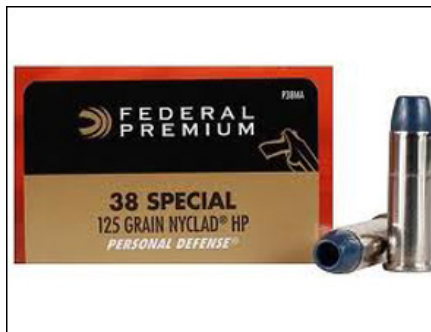
Snub-specific ammunition

In the last several years several manufacturers have come out with ammunition (usually .38 caliber) that is designed to expand reliably when fired from the short-barreled snub. Included here are the Speer 135 grain +P Gold Dot, the recently re-introduced classic 125 grain Federal Nyclad (in both standard and +P loads), the Remington +P 125 grain Ultimate Home Defense round, the 130 grain Winchester PDX1 +P round, and the Hornady Critical Defense FTK 110 grain round. Also, the devastating Glaser Safety Slug is still available from CorBon. You are no longer forced to load your snubby with a round designed around a 4-inch revolver barrel.

The POSA Defensive Snub Revolver program

The Police Officers Safety Association has produced a free program on the snubby, and it's available for download from Officer.com. It consists of interviews with experts like Massad Ayoob, Walt Rauch, Southnarc, Yelena Pawela, Andy Stanford, Michael deBethencourt, the late Jim Cirillo, Wes Doss, Clyde Caceres, Ed Lovette, Claude Werner and Paul Gomez, each describing why they find the snub revolver to be relevant today and how they integrate it into their armed lives. The *token* dissenter is Tom Givens, who makes the case for a small semi over the snub. Several hours of golden advice from 13 of the country's top firearms experts, for free!

Is the snubby still relevant today? Well, if you own one, you've answered the question in the affirmative since you haven't sold it. If you don't, pick one up. In 20 years, after you've bought and sold several other guns, I'll bet that the little snubby is still in your collection, and still carried often. In either case, the products and services above will help you to maximize your defensive potential with the classic snub-nose revolver.



Ralph Mroz

Federal Nyclad ammo

Web Links:

- [Police Officers Safety Association](#)
- [POSA Home Page on Officer.com](#)
- [Barami Hip Grip](#)
- [DeBethencourt's Snub Training online](#)
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- [Bobby Mac Holsters](#)

- [Crimson Trace Laser Grips](#)
- [Armed Response DVDs & Books](#)
- [POSA Defensive Snub Revolver Program on Officer.com](#)

About POSAI

The Police Officers Safety Association (POSA) is the training arm of the American Police and Sheriffs Association (APSA), a registered 501(c)(3), tax exempt organization. POSA is registered as a "dba" of APSA. Donations to POSA/APSA are tax deductible. POSA's training programs and publications are available free to every law enforcement officer, nationwide. When appropriate, free hands-on classes are conducted in our local area to develop and refine our training programs before they are produced on video. Classes are held in New England but law enforcement officers throughout the country are invited to participate. Funding is accomplished by private donations from citizens and businesses. Solicitations are accomplished with the aid of registered, professional organizations with reputable experience in funds solicitation. POSA/APSA solicits funds in our name only and does not refer to any specific law enforcement organization or agency as the recipient or benefactor in any solicitation.

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Comments

Posted by **PABLO**

(01/05/11 - 08:44 PM)

SNUBS RULE!

Look, it's easy.

1. Get you a snub. In my opinion the best will always be the Smith and Wesson J frame.
2. Carry it the same place on duty AND off duty. I carry mine in my strong side front pocket.
3. Train and practise with it. On duty AND off duty.
4. Live long and prosper!

I can't tell you how many times I've had a potentially violent situation present itself when I least expected it. How many cops run to their bedroom and gun up when someone knocks on their door after dark?

But believe me, a snub in the pocket is worth a semi auto in the bedroom.

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