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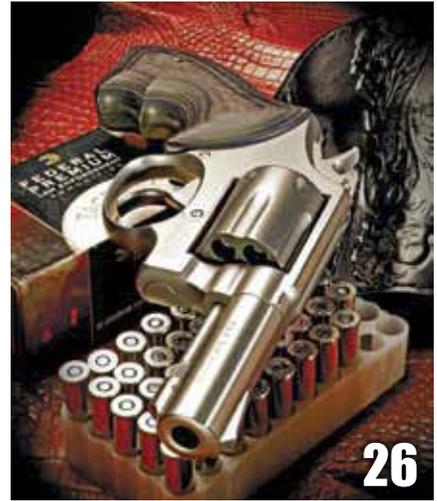
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SHRAP AND FRAGS

I read Connor's column (*Guncrank*, Sept/Oct 2011) with mounting amazement. I understand he's an old time "Grunt" as am I, but for an editor and a national publication to print such politically incorrect opinions these days that, I believe, the majority of American citizens agree with, is heart-warming! I know some of us will have our confidence returned after reading it.

Don Trager
Mt. Clemens, Mich.



Assault Rifle Moniker

I read with interest the article by Alan Korwin (*Gun Rights*, "Are your words killing your gun rights?" Sept/Oct 2011) and I think he both hits and misses the target. For instance, telling someone you are pro-rights rather than pro-gun rights will not reframe the argument. One could counter with the statement: "Oh great, then I'm sure

we can count on you to attend our pro-gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights meeting next week." Now I have no idea what Mr. Korwin's views on the LGBT topic may be, but you get my point. It wouldn't take too much probing until you could get one to say, "No, I don't support that right," and then we're back to "Oh, so you support gun rights?"

I also think he misses the mark by pretending the word "assault" is meaningless when describing a certain kind of rifle. Hunting is a behavior as well but we have no problem using the term hunting rifle. Lay a typical hunting rifle and an M-4 next to each other and just about everyone over eight years old will be able to tell you which is a hunting rifle and which is an "assault rifle."

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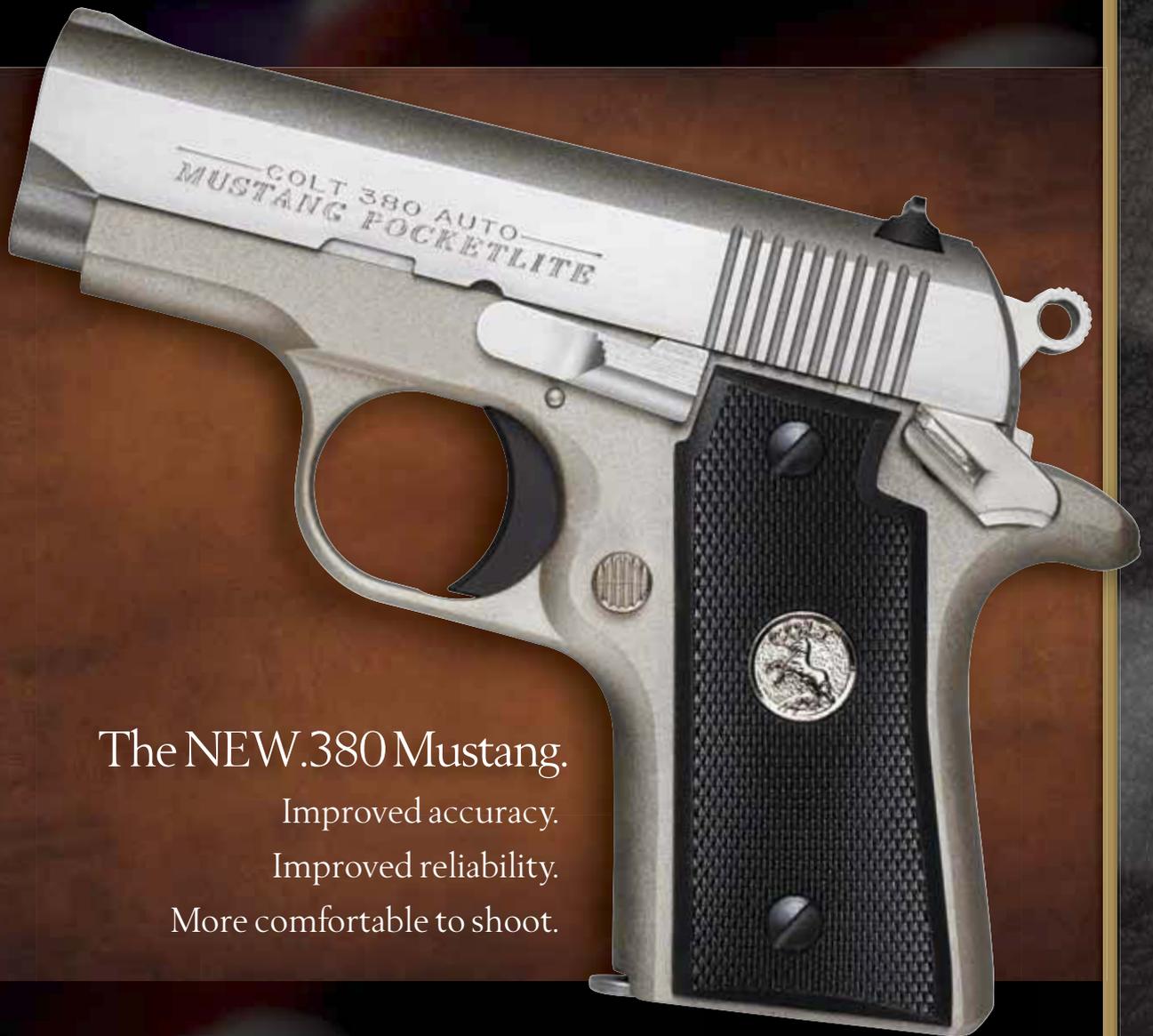
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SPEAK OUT

Assault rifles have legal definitions and to pretend those definitions are meaningless will win no arguments. I have no problem explaining I own an AR-15 because I wanted to own and shoot the rifle (or one very similar) I learned to fire and carry as an 18-year old soldier. It's part of my personal history; it's a nostalgia thing for me. People understand that. And it's true, because I'd grab the 12 gauge before the AR in a home-defense situation every time.

But he is correct in that words (and images) matter. There is often too much name-calling and too little civility on both sides of the argument. Virtually everyone I know is a gun owner and most of them are good, average, normal people (but then, so are most of the non-gun owning people I know). Most of the people I have met at gun shops and gun shows seem to be the same. That's the message needing to be sent to the anti-gun people. We are not knuckle-dragging Neanderthals. We are your neighbors, your teachers, your doctors — regular people, just like they are. We can reasonably explain why we think gun rights are important in a well-articulated normal-tone-of-voice manner.

Over-the-top demonstrations of gun rights, like carrying an AR outside a presidential debate does nothing but harm the pro-gun argument because it makes us look like the characters the anti-gun groups imagine us to be. So overall, I think the message in his article is an important one. Choose your words carefully, and most important, be polite and respectful. If anyone has to resort to name-calling or raising their voice, let it be the other person, and then just walk away while saying, "I'll talk to you again when you can be civil." That will be an argument you have definitely won.

Bob DeWeese
Via e-mail

Bob, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) is a sort of political action group representing the outdoor industry. They were the driving force behind teaching media that yes, AR-type rifles can and are used for hunting, and they coined the term "Modern Sporting Rifle" to represent the breed. Frankly, I agree with you and your opinion one shouldn't be afraid to simply call something by its name, but once the actual use of something (like an AR) is changed, perhaps a name change (or an additional name) might better help those not familiar with it to understand how it's used. We here at FMG have coined the term "Modern Defensive Rifle" to stand for any modern semi-auto rifle commonly used by police or

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citizens as a defensive rifle. An AR, FN-FAL, M1A, H&K, SCAR, etc. all qualify. And frankly, it's what they do and is what they are often bought to be used for. So now, if I say, "The officer deployed his Defensive Rifle" at least to me, it paints a more appropriate picture of why/how it was used; rather than saying he "deployed his assault rifle." It might be easier to explain in court some day you used your "defensive rifle" to protect your family. Something to think about. RH

More On Rights

I agree with what Alan Korwin says. Your choice of words can be used against you. For that same reason I recommend caution when saying you're pro-rights if you are not actually pro-rights for anything besides firearms. You risk setting yourself up to look like a hypocrite if someone calls you out on your stance on other rights (abortion, gay marriage, marijuana legalization, prostitution, etc). If you are truly a libertarian and a lover of freedom in all aspects, then by all means label yourself pro-rights. Otherwise, you might want to stick with saying you are simply pro gun rights.

Love your magazine and keep up the great work!

Patrick Carlin
 Via e-mail

Oehler Rocks

Roy, hope this finds you and all the good people of Joplin doing well after that terrible tornado! Every now and then something really good happens you have to tell other folks about. After by-pass surgery and a few other problems I had, my Oehler 35P Chronograph had been in storage much longer than I thought and when I broke it out, I couldn't get it to work. I made a call to Oehler Research and a real person answered the phone. Very helpful and knowledgeable, they gave me some tips and said I could return it and they would be happy to check it out. I mailed it August 10th and got it back August 23rd, working good as new. There was no charge, and they even paid return shipping. Many thanks to the courteous people at Oehler. They make a top of the line chronograph.

Richard Zeller
 Via e-mail

Richard, I'm not at all surprised to hear that of our old friends at Oehler. And as for Joplin, the community and national response has been simply astounding. We're well along the road

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SPEAK OUT

to the beginnings of rebuilding, with the vast majority of the clean-up finished. I was impressed to see the praise continuing to be heaped upon the community by leading disaster experts around the country. They all say the same thing: Joplin virtually re-wrote the book on how to respond to a disaster of this magnitude, and did it through self-motivation and smart use of offered resources from all over. I couldn't agree more. Also, I wrote a feature entitled: "The Joplin Tornado: Anatomy of a Disaster," in "Reality Check: Survive!" our latest American Handgunner Special Edition, available on the newsstands as you read this. You can also order one on-line at:

www.americanhandgunner.com and click on the store link, or call (888) 732-2299 if you'd like to give it a read. That issue is chock full of hard-core tips and articles for surviving in the real world. RH

Gun Question

My 20-year-old daughter has recently moved out of state and begun working for an armed security transport company. She must provide her own weapon (not a problem) but because she has children in the house, she has shown the good sense of wanting to buy a locking case/safe for it. At present, she is carrying an XD, but that may change in the near future. At the very least, I am encouraging her to add the S&W Governor loaded with .410 as a backup, since any action she is likely

to see will be close-up (among other things, she services ATMs). Could you recommend a couple of good but not-too-expensive locking cases that would be suitable for her?

Leslie D. Martin
Via e-mail

First off, that .410 revolver as a backup is a big gun. I doubt she'd manage it even remotely comfortably. I'd get her a lightweight S&W, Ruger or Taurus .38 Special (or even .327 Federal) revolver and a good ankle holster and make sure she wears it all the time. I've found the Renegade ankle rig to be very comfortable and have worn them for almost 30 years.

On the locking case issue, she needs to make a couple of decisions. Does she want to keep her home pro-



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tection gun locked up and only take it out if she thinks she needs it (at night, days off, etc.), or will the lock box simply be something to keep the guns secure from the kids and she will remove her home defense gun and keep it handy if she's home?

If it's just a security box, about any hard plastic or metal box with a lock (padlock even) would work fine. If she needs one that opens quickly, that narrows the choice. I have a good deal of experience with GunVault products and find them to be of high quality and very reliable. They have many models, and you can find one that fits her needs. But there are other ways to secure guns at home so ask other gun friends to see how they manage the situation. RH

Colt Coverage

Just wanted to take a moment and let you know this reader heartily appreciates your coverage of Colt products, from 1st generation SAAs to the New Agent. I have been taken to task over the years for my loyalty to the Colt brand, accused of fawning reverence, and even of poor judgment. I can, and do, appreciate other handguns, and the efforts of other manufacturers, yet it gives me a unique pleasure to once again read Colt adverts, and especially to read Colt reviews.

This reader is hoping you will print, and soon, a full review of the long awaited New Frontier SAA, in the way only your publication can, with handloads, factory fodder, and of course, in the ubiquitous .45 Colt!

MK
Via e-mail

We've got one of those New Frontiers in our hands and you'll see something down the road for sure. RH

Handgun Safeties

First I would like to say how much I enjoy your magazine. It has great articles, and the photography is amazing. Other gun magazines just don't measure up.

Perhaps this question has been covered and I just didn't see the issue, but have you done a story on the rationale behind the different types of safeties found on handguns?

David Preston
Amarillo, Texas

David, thanks for your kind words. We always like to hear 'em, and I always share them with all the staff. It's a real team effort here, trust me! Your idea on safeties is a good one, and I made an assignment. The really funny thing is I honestly think that sometimes, there isn't any rationale behind some of the safety widgets on many handguns out

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there! It remains that the best safety is that one we all have between our ears. We'll see what come out after the dust settles though. RH

Tussey Custom CZ Work

Awhile back I asked for advice on some CZ 75 work and you recommended Tussey Custom. I went to their web site and read every word on it, and looked at every picture. After I finished the website I thought "He works on 1911s, builds 1911s and he might be offended with a non-1911!" Thinking I can take a refusal, I emailed them and immediately got a reply saying, "Terry said send it on in." So I did, along with a check.

Today the UPS man arrived with my CZ while I was on the tractor mowing. I couldn't wait and opened the box, dropped the mag, checked the chamber, loaded a mag and headed to my woods. Originally, the single-action trigger was rough and also moved the hammer back as it was pressed. Now it's like silk-on-silk. I have to thank you for recommending me Tussey's shop. You guys are the best out there.

Dave Woods
Via e-mail

Gun Streets

I'm a multi-year subscriber to *Handgunner*, and I greatly enjoy the many articles and reviews of guns. Earlier this month, I was doing a Google Map search for something related to Ruger, and I came across the most interesting town of Bel Air, Md. — an entire neighborhood filled with streets named after guns!

Streets include Ruger Drive, Mauser Drive, Flintlock Drive, Magnum Court, Redfield Road, Stephens Place, Berdan Court, Beretta Way, Derringer Drive, Weatherby Road, Weatherby Court, Jennings Drive, Harrington Road and Sako Court, among others. Maybe an enterprising Maryland shooter can pipe up and tell us what the heck is the story behind this fascinating neighborhood in Bel Air, Maryland. By the way, the neighborhood is not too far from the famous Aberdeen Proving Grounds. You guys keep up the great job!

Lee Foullon
Falls Church, Va.

Revolver Vs. Auto

Just another reason revolvers are nice, which I discovered after shoulder surgery a couple of years ago. I could fairly easily load, unload, reload and shoot a revolver with my "weak" hand,

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but couldn't do much with the big autos. Yeah, I could shoot them, but once they were dry I couldn't even throw them very well! Your mag is the tops.

Bob Mathews
Parker, Colo.

Connor's Turkey Day

Well once again I am moved to write to you. Just finished reading the latest issue and Conner has hit the nail on the head once more (*Guncrank*, "On Bein' Thankful," Nov/Dec 2011). His reasons — and his take — on Thanksgiving, leave no room for argument. Being a combat vet also, there have been times I've thought of the folks I've known over the years. Some made it home, but not in one piece, some with not a scratch, and there were those who paid the ultimate price. Time heals the hurt, but you never forget. For a small group of us there were no medals. The scars I carry were the only awards I received, and the only accolades spoken afterward were "job well done" when coming back through the wire. Never asked for more, and never wanted more.

There is not a day I don't give thanks for what I've gotten out of life. I've got two daughters who are my two best friends, a couple of folks who are true friends (not just acquaintances), and I can look the fellow staring back at me in the mirror right in the eye with no regrets. On special days I go somewhere quiet and reflect on those I knew, but are now gone, and give thanks for having known them, served alongside them, and honor their memory. Come Thanksgiving day, I give thanks for these things, and I don't look at it as just another holiday.

Please tell Conner thanks for the write-up. Dam it, I guess you'll have to give him an extra MRE for writing this one up. You guys take care, and have an even better tomorrow. By the way, as it's the 1911 centennial, I just had to go and pick up another Gov't model the other day.

Rick Holbert
Baton Rouge, La.

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THE LESSONS OF THE OKLAHOMA PHARMACY INCIDENT

SITUATION: An armed pharmacist engages two young holdup men, dropping one ... and then shoots that one five more times, on the floor.

LESSON: Obviously, we're reminded a coup de grace to a now-helpless foe can be seen at law to turn self-defense to premeditated murder ... but there is more to learn in this sad case.

May 19, 2009. Two young men enter the Reliable Pharmacy in Oklahoma City, Okla. One announces a robbery as he waves a gun, the other moves next to him pulling something out of his waistband.

They suffered what I've come to call, "a sudden and acute failure of the victim selection process."

A few steps away from them is a 57-year-old pharmacist who collects guns and knows how to use them. He grabs his Taurus Judge. The hammer rests on an empty chamber in a 5-round cylinder stagger-loaded with a 3-pellet, 00-buckshot .410 shotshell, a .45 Colt cartridge and a different .410 and .45. He fires and one falls. The other, still holding a pistol, runs. Hampered by a body brace, the pharmacist totters after the fleeing gunman, opens fire as the robber and two accomplices take off in a getaway car.

The pharmacist then reenters the store, walking past the first, downed suspect, and goes behind the counter to replace his empty Judge revolver with a fully loaded Kel-Tec P3AT sub-compact auto pistol. He approaches the supine man. Suddenly, the pharmacist raises the little .380 and fires five rapid shots into the man on the floor. Only then does he turn, walk toward the back of the store and call 9-1-1.

He will tell police and reporters, of being an Iraq War veteran who suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder because he killed many enemies in defense of his country, and wears a body brace because his back was broken by enemy fire in Iraq. His name is Jerome Ersland, and will now become one of the most controversial armed citizens of our time.

Aftermath

Jerome Ersland said he fired those last five shots because the downed man was getting up to shoot at him again. Bloodstain evidence showed that Antwun "Speedy" Parker, age 16, never lifted his head from where he fell and died. Ersland said the robbers both had guns, opened fire and wounded him. Only Ersland, evidence showed, never fired a shot and Parker had no gun. It was determined Ersland had never gone to Iraq or been in combat anywhere else, and apparently attempted to fake a gunshot wound on his arm.

The two adult Fagins who drove the getaway car and put two teenagers up to the armed robbery, along with the 14-year-old perpetrator who *did* have a gun, fell afoul of the felony murder principle: when you commit a felony in which someone dies, it is murder. The two adult males are now serving long prison sentences, the 14 year old — treated at law as a juvenile — will be free in a few years.

Oklahoma County District Attorney David Prater charged Ersland with murder in the first degree, on the theory pre-meditation took place in the 46 seconds between when the security camera showed him firing the first shot Prater publicly stated was justifiable, to when he triggered five more shots into the prostrate Parker. Prater made a point of calling

Continued on page 89

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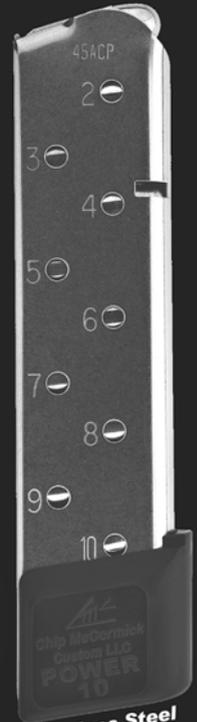
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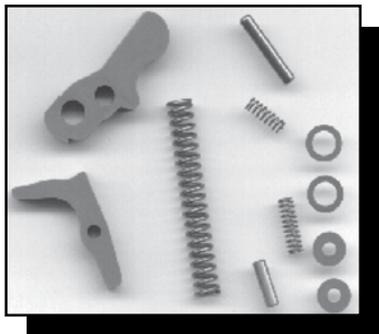
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LESSONS FROM ILEETA

For the last several years ILEETA, the International Law Enforcement Educators' and Trainers' Association, has been a blue-chip provider of cutting edge training for police instructors. The 2011 conclave was no different.

More than a decade ago, after the Columbine atrocity, American law enforcement realized it needed to respond to mass murder situations with a faster strategy than the containment tactics of the past. Top trainers, such as Police Chief Jeff Chudwin, emphasize we could expect to face Mumbai-type situations in this country, and the model for Mumbai may well have been the Howard Johnson's sniper incident decades ago in New Orleans. Colonel Bob Lindsay, now retired, was one of the cops who stormed onto the roof of that hotel to end the incident, and was there at ILEETA to contribute his wisdom. We've progressed today to faster gathering, often *ad hoc* groups of cops deploying to seek and neutralize a mass murderer who may be killing innocent victims at a rate of two victims per minute (Columbine) or even eight victims per minute (Dunblane).

Play The Percentages



Above: ILEETA presenter Jeff Chudwin endorsed the importance of "always armed, always ready." Below: Mas finally won the ILEETA Cup match! Jimmy McCoy of Meggitt (left) and Jimmy Smith of ILEETA (center) present the ILEETA Cup to Mas (right).



Those time/murder ratios come from ILEETA presenter Ron Borsch, of the Southeast Area Law Enforcement Academy in Bedford, Ohio. Ron's study of these massacres shows that 68 percent were stopped by civilians and 32 percent by the police. Moreover, fully 82 percent of the private citizens who stopped massacres did it single-handed. Among police who terminated such incidents, 73 percent were acting alone. The importance of being prepared at all times was stressed by each of the many master instructors who touched on this and related topics. Of the mass murder incidents Borsch's research uncovered that were terminated by citizens, only 28 percent were stopped by *armed* citizens, simply because most ordinary people don't carry guns.

Plainclothes and off-duty officers can't afford to become lackadaisical about carrying their guns and spare ammunition. In the Killeen, Texas

cafeteria massacre, the first three officers who showed up and engaged the murderer were two plainclothes investigators and an off duty cop.

The off-duty Utah cop who stopped a mass shooting in the Trolley Square Mall incident was armed only with a sub-compact .45 auto and no spare ammo, a choice he had cause to soon regret as his ammo depleted. That officer had to fire across a significant distance with his short/barrel pistol to pin down the gunman. In a North Carolina incident, the first responder turned out to be the *only* responder who got there in time to stop the murders. Using his Glock .40, the cop neutralized the killer, despite having been wounded by shotgun pellets from his antagonist. Borsch says the officer managed that from a distance of 114'.

DISTANCE AND TRAINING

Officer survival authority, Brian McKenna, noted in the Panel of Experts on Deadly Force discussion cops are still getting killed, for the most part, by people within 10' of them. Another panelist was Dorcia Meador, several times the top woman at the national police shooting championships sponsored by the NRA. Retired not long ago after many years as rangemaster for the Fort Worth, Texas Police Department, she related her agency's emphasis on use of the sights and trigger control has resulted in a hit potential on the street reaching the mid-18th percentile. She mentioned in her department's eight to a dozen shooting incidents a year, distance averages some 15 yards. Her comment and Brian's do not contradict each other: cops tend to get killed in close, but tend to dominate gunfights occurring at greater distances.

One Ft. Worth officer used his front sight and trigger control skills to drop two gunmen at 25 yards. He was firing 1-handed in the dark, Meador explained, manipulating his flashlight with his free hand. And the heroic officers who ended mass shootings in Utah and North Carolina both had to

make long shots with their pistols.

In the live fire outdoor range work, Bob Stasch gave an outstanding class on reactive pistol shooting. The survivor of more than a dozen shootouts, Bob makes the point that with pistol bullets, brain shots stop lethal action faster than anything else — another reason for accurate shot placement. Fortunately, the widespread adoption of the patrol rifle has greatly improved the ability of the rank and file street cops to respond to incidents requiring precision accuracy.

Accuracy and speed alike were tested at the ILEETA Cup shooting match, sponsored by Meggitt Training Systems. After several years of competing in the darn thing, I finally won it. Which reminds us all that luck is a factor in these things, too.

In a year of devastating budget cuts and layoffs, the conference drew an attendance of 725 police trainers, a huge percentage of whom paid partly or wholly out of their own pockets to attend. For information on joining ILEETA and attending next year's conference, go to www.ileeta.org.





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Rear sight on the LS is the fully adjustable Para-Ordnance sight.

PARA-ORDNANCE PXT SA LIMITED LONG SLIDE

In the 1950s, the US military disposed of several thousand surplus 1911 slides by cutting them in two and selling them as scrap metal. Jim Clark, pistolsmith and bull's-eye competitor bought them for 10 cents apiece. He used the slide parts to make long slide pistols for bull's-eye competitors. In the 1970s and 1980s, as practical pistol competition grew in popularity, pistolsmith Jim Hoag made custom longslides in various lengths.

Perceived advantages are longer sight radius, muzzle-forward balance, and reduced recoil/muzzle rise resulting from increased pistol weight. Longslides had a mild vogue

in both bull's-eye and practical pistol competition. Developments such as optical sights and expansion chamber compensators proved more popular solutions. While longslides never became dominant in either sport, they maintain a following.

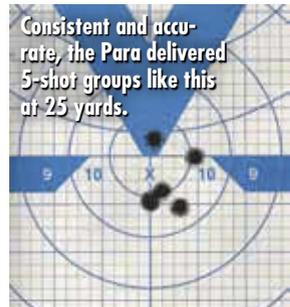
It wasn't just competitors who liked the concept. Higher velocity from longer barrels isn't a big factor in shooting targets. Shooters who carry 1911s in the field for hunting or for defense against predators do appreciate higher velocities. Not everyone wants an optical sight; some like the longer sight radius, along with the balance, feel, and appearance.

Para-Ordnance currently offers the Model 14.45 LS Limited in its PXT Single Action Limited series. It's built on the high-cap, double-stack stainless steel frame in .45 ACP. Magazine capacity is 14 cartridges (10-round magazines also offered). The pistol is well equipped with features of the modern 1911: beavertail grip safety, long trigger and an extended ambi-safety. The ramped barrel fully supports the case head. The rear sight is fully adjustable and nicely buried in the slide, while the dovetail mounted front sight is a fiber-optic model.

There's a full-length guide rod and forward cocking serrations, features some love and others love to hate. The frontstrap is checkered for a secure grip. It's a handsome pistol, and compared to standard and shorter barrel/slide lengths it feels a bit muzzle-heavy, obviously. Whether you like the feel will depend on the individual.



The Para-Ordnance LS Limited longslide is built on a high-cap frame. The LS has all the features of the modern 1911 such as long trigger, extended ambi-safety, beavertail grip safety, frame checkering and excellent sights — plus the 6" barrel and long slide.



Consistent and accurate, the Para delivered 5-shot groups like this at 25 yards.

Velocity Questions

Overall workmanship appears to be very good. Machining is crisp and straight, slide flats are flat and there's a refreshing lack of tool marks. There is little perceptible play in slide/frame and barrel fit. Safety operation is positive, magazines drop freely when the release is depressed, rear sight adjustments proved reliable. My one criticism is as usual for many production 1911s, concerning the trigger. While consistent and with minimal creep and over-travel, at 5 pounds, 10 ounces it is unnecessarily heavy.

I compared velocities of the 6" barrel with those from

another Para-Ordnance Limited with 5" barrel, and with a Nighthawk GRP with 4" barrel, using cartridges with bullet weights of 185, 200 and 230 grains. Generally, the 6" barrel gave about 70 to 80 fps more velocity than the 4" barrel and about 30 fps more than the 5" barrel.

As with every Para I've shot, the Long Slide was accurate. Groups from a rest (five shots at 25 yards) averaged right at 2", with a worst of 2.5" and best of 1.5". I went through approximately 350 rounds through the pistol and encountered no malfunctions. Ammunition varied from fairly light 200-grain lead SWCs to 230-grain +P JHPs. Highest velocities came from Speer 185 Gold Dot loads at around 1,080 fps.

WHERE'S IT FIT?

I can't say I noticed any difference in recoil or muzzle jump compared to a 5" 1911. It seems logical there would be some reduction, and the LS surely would crank out the hits in rapid fire. Something I did notice and liked was the sight picture. Most factory front sights are wider than I like, a rather "tight fit" in the rear sight notch. Because of the increased sight radius there was lighter

around the sight making it faster to use with no loss of precision.

I'm not sure where the LS would fit in the competition world, as different sports have different rules (and the rules change occasionally). It should fit into USPSA Limited Division. Most competitors in this division use .40 S&W which scores major and gives a higher-magazine capacity, a desirable feature in high-round count stages. The .45 does have a small scoring advantage, as occasionally it will clip a scoring line a

smaller diameter cartridge might miss.

Of course, it isn't only competitors who appreciate a quality 1911. Shooters who want a bit more velocity, a bit less recoil, and don't mind a bit bigger gun will appreciate the LS. Some 1911 fans just want something a little different. If the idea of a longslide intrigues you, the Para LS Limited will fill the bill. It's about \$1,399 at full retail.



For more info: www.americanhandgunner.com/para-ord

A portrait of Brian "Gunny" Zins, a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, wearing a dark blue button-down shirt. He is holding a black handgun in his left hand, which is resting on his right arm. He has several metal bracelets on his right wrist. The background is a dark, textured wall.

Brian "Gunny" Zins

American Shooting Legend
10 time National Pistol Champion
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RE-BORN RE-VOLVER

The revolver had been gathering dust on the display shelf, unwanted and unappreciated. It was one of a group of police trade-ins purchased by my local gun shop, the Sportsman's Loft. It was a S&W Model 13 .357 with 3" barrel and round butt. The 13 and its stainless steel version, Model 65, appeared some 40 years ago. They served a generation of plainclothes law enforcement officers, and were the choice of agencies such as the FBI.

They were replaced not by better revolvers, but by auto pistols. The 13/65 revolvers were the last of their type, and arguably the best — elegantly simple, reliable, an ideal balance of size, weight, accuracy, controllable recoil and power.

So, why was this example languishing on the shelf? It looked terrible, with worn finish, surface rust, even some pitting. Most potential buyers took one look, shuddered and moved on to something prettier. I was about to do the same when I noticed the side plate screws were in perfect condition. Whatever else it had suffered, at least no one had attacked it with an ill-fitting screwdriver.

When Chris handed it to me, inspection showed the chambers and bore were immaculate, with not a trace of rust or pitting. The holes in the frame for the firing pin and cylinder-locking bolt were unworn and perfectly round. The cylinder stop notches showed no indication of peening. There was no indication of flame cutting. With the cylinder closed there was barely detectable rotational play and no perceptible fore-and-aft play. Both single and double action, the cylinder carried up properly. I was holding a practically new revolver; it was just uglier than a flat tire in a mud hole. I told Chris to start the paperwork.

ROBARIZING

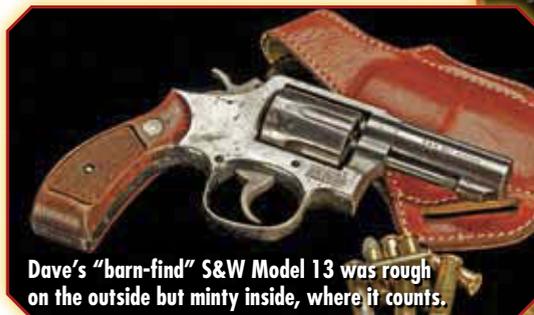
Initially, the plan was to ship it to S&W for refinishing. A trip to the range altered my plans. It shot .357 Magnum Black Hills 125-gr. JHPs (at a chronographed 1,350 fps) into 2" groups almost exactly to point of aim at 25 yards. It balanced and handled beautifully. For a bit over \$300 with tax, it was close to an ideal carry gun. All it needed was a tough, rust-resistant finish. I rethought about it all.

Robar Industries specializes in metal finishes. Many Robar customers make medical, automotive and aeronautical products and Robar uses their space-age finishing ability to coat their products with a variety of finishes. Robar owner Robbie Barkmann mentioned recently that firearms work is about 11 percent of the business. It's an important 11 percent, though, because Robbie is one of a shooter, an enthusiast and us. When he emigrated here from South Africa long

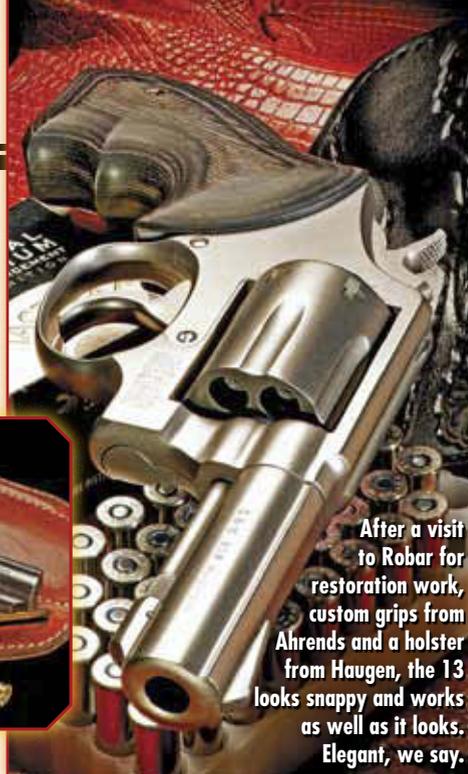
ago, it was as one of the first instructors working with Jeff Cooper at the new Gunsite facility. Robbie knows guns and he can really shoot.

Robar offers several finishes, of which my favorite is NP3. This ingenious finish combines electroless nickel with a slippery compound called PTFE, commercially known by the trademark Teflon. It is tough, rust-resistant, provides natural lubricity, cleans up easily and looks good. I requested a recent variation called NP3 Plus, providing increased rust resistance.

Robar also provides a wide range of firearm services, such as sight installation, frame stippling, fitting match barrels and full-house handgun, rifle and shotgun packages. For a modest additional charge (\$85/hour, and they do a lot in an hour) Robar can polish a worn-looking gun. They can't accomplish miracles, and a really neglected gun may have rust pits too deep to polish out. On my gun the transformation was absolutely astounding. I could hardly believe it was the same revolver.



Dave's "barn-find" S&W Model 13 was rough on the outside but minty inside, where it counts.



After a visit to Robar for restoration work, custom grips from Ahrends and a holster from Haugen, the 13 looks snappy and works as well as it looks. Elegant, we say.

A TIDY PACKAGE

The revolver really needed high quality accessories to match the Robar workmanship. I ordered a set of his frame-length Boot Grips from Kim Ahrends. From the wood page I selected the silver-black "Dymondwood" laminate to go with the new finish. The grips proved to be exactly what I wanted. They fit the frame perfectly, provide a secure and comfortable hold, conceal well under a light jacket and look terrific. Ahrends is well known for his superb line of 1911-style grips. S&W fans should know of his excellent revolver grips, both the Tactical and Retro lines. Ahrends provides many wood choices and truly exceptional workmanship.

The work of Jerry Evans of Haugen Handgun Leather is no stranger to *Handgunner's* pages. Jerry supplied a pancake-style concealment holster in black leather, with lining, adding a thumb break and an embossed floral pattern. It's beautifully made and very comfortable.

Robbie's before and after photos show the transformation better than any words. The slick NP3 Plus finish on internal parts makes an already good action even smoother. The smooth finish makes cleaning a breeze too.

Our own Clint Smith is fond of saying: "Wheelguns are real guns." He's right, you know.



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The Advantage sight system is one of the rare after-market sights a user can generally, actually install on their own.

SIGHT SENSE

Of the thousands of questions gunsmiths answer, questions about sights top the list. The most common is, "I'm getting old and am having a hard time seeing the sights. Is there anything that will help me see the sights better?" I have been through that time myself starting at 40 years of age until I had to give up competitive shooting around 55. I tried everything from trifocals, progressive lenses, Merit discs and electrical tape with a pinhole cut in it, aperture sights and other weird ideas.

The best solution in those "old days" was the battery operated red-dot sight. However, the red dots back in the 1970s and 1980s were fraught with problems. They worked well on 22s, but would not hold up to the punishment of the .44s and .45s, so aging shooters in the bull's-eye precision shooting game dropped out like flies.

Today, we have a cornucopia of sights to enjoy, including fiber-optic, Tritium, white dot, combination Tritium and fiber-optic and sights for the partially blind made by Advantage. For shooters who are legally blind, or close to it, the Advantage sights can be real saviors, plus they look cool. A complete kit comes with red, orange, yellow, green and white snap-in inserts for the front and rear sight. The Advantage is the closest sight you will ever find to a "do-it-yourself" drop-in set. The front dovetail might require a little fitting, but the rear sight glides into the factory dovetail and is tightened with a screw locking a gib tightly into place. Other than the Advantage, there are no other sights of which I am aware that a shooter can install his self.



A Dose Of Knowledge

Before ordering sights please be absolutely sure you know what you are ordering. If you're ordering sights to fit into an existing American factory dovetail, such as a Kimber Custom II, you can order sights for that particular gun as supplied by Heinie, Novak, Dawson Precision and others. If you are dealing with an obsolete pistol you should know exactly the size and dimension of the dovetails cut into the slide, especially if they were custom cut by some old gunsmith who has long since assumed room temperature.

Dovetail sights are measured across the points of the sight and the degree of slope from the bottom of the sight up to the top of the angle. The most common dovetail on factory .45s dates back to the early 1900s and is expressed as 60° X .359", with .359" being the distance across the points of the base, and 60° being the angle up from the points. There are bucket full of sights made for this common 60° X .359" dovetail, such as the now defunct BoMar. But every manufacturer out there like Trijicon, XS and Tripp make a rear sight for that size dovetail.

Other common dovetails are 65° X .330" for a Novak front, 65° X .495" for a Novak low mount rear, and 65° X .370" used for the beautiful Heinie rear low mount fixed sight. Then there are the 60° & 65° X .300" for guns not having much metal to make a deep or wide cut. There are other sizes, such as the puny little 60° X .245" and the odd-ball 74° X .250" I believe were invented by some joker who wanted to screw with us.

The Tripp K-1, invented by Virgil Tripp, is a modern, beautifully engineered, adjustable sight a competent pistol-smith can install on your gun.

Measure Twice

What all those sizes and combinations of sights boils down to is you are going to be much better off telling the gunsmith what you want, then allow *him* to order the sights. Many times customers send their guns in for custom sights, along with the sights. Inevitably, I have to break the news to them that the sights they ordered are incorrect, or they can't be installed on their slide for one reason or another. When ordering sights for your pistol or revolver be absolutely sure you know what you are doing. The minor savings you might have made could go up in smoke if you have to return the sights and pay the gunsmith for the correct set.

There are not a lot of adjustable choices these days due to the popularity of combat and carry guns. However, one adjustable sight stands out above all others, the Tripp Research Model K-1. The K-1 is a beautiful, modern design emitted from the fertile brain of Virgil Tripp, inventor of the STI 2011 pistol. It is different in both appearance and mechanical function, plus — when low mounted — sets your pistol apart from all others. The K-1 can only be purchased directly from Tripp Research in Bas-trop, Texas, (432) 837-9445.



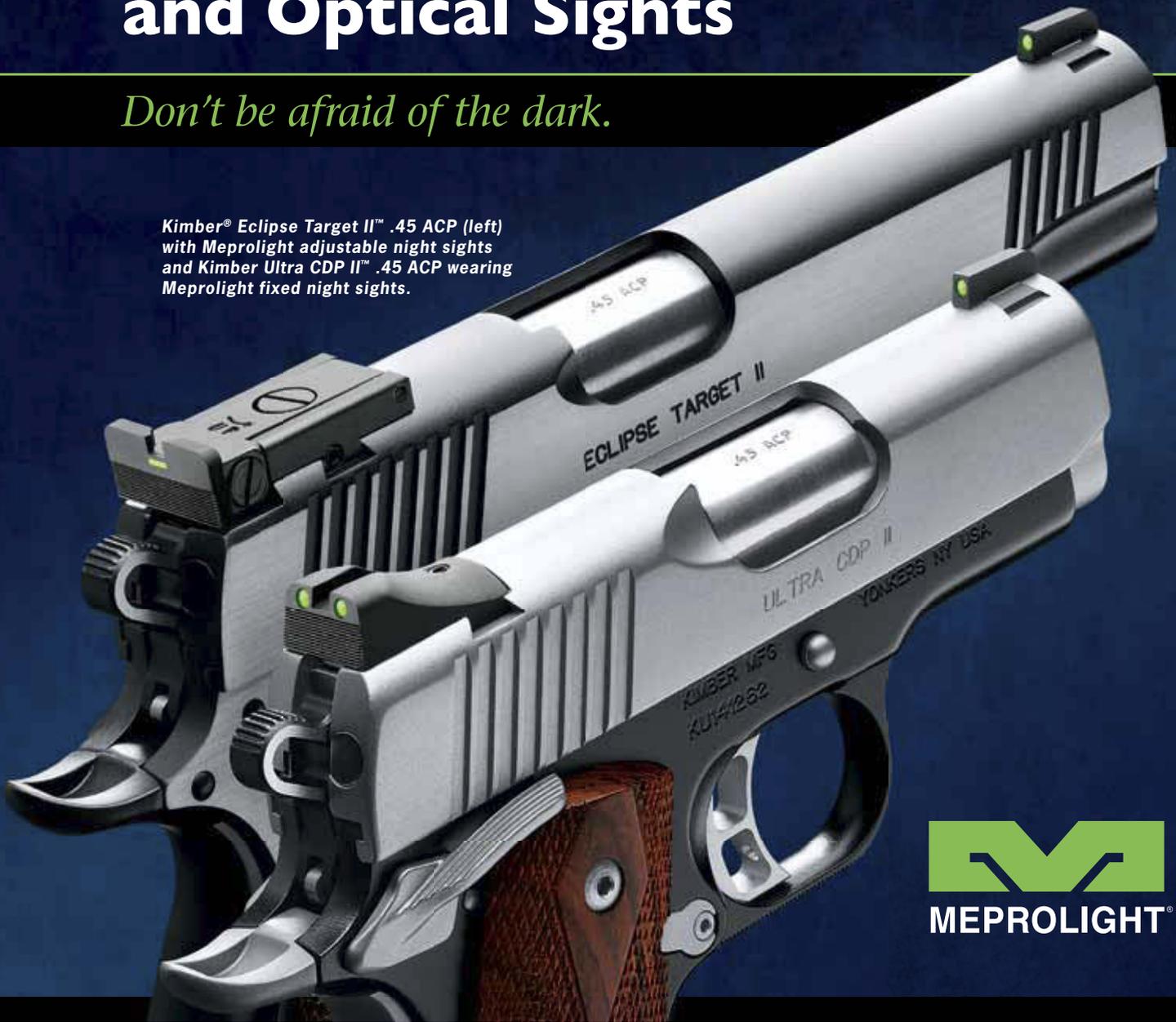
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CREDENTIALS, SCIENCE AND SAFETY BULL

Once was told by a grumpy reader not to use this column as a podium for my personal opinions. This seems odd because if I write about tactics or review a gun, I think it would be my considered opinion, correct? Every once and awhile an opinion is a good thing. We all know opinions are like butts and brains — everybody has one, although the latter is sometimes not used well. Here are some opinions about subjects I have dealt with for 40 years. You'll need to decide if this works for you.

If you're going to a local gun school because of limited funds for travel distances, everyone can under-

stand those issues. It would be a good thing to know the person next to you on the firing line wasn't a prior felon, so the school you attend should at least require documented credentials for students. You should be able to stand next to someone and train without having to consider the strong probability of having to shoot him next week while attempting to rob you on the street. It would also be nice if the instructor had credentials or exposure. It matters not if they wore an eagle globe and anchor, a beret of any color, a set of flippers or a badge, and none of these items means they can teach. Today there are bunches of people who pushed up berms from Washington State to South Texas, who really get bent

when you ask for credentials.

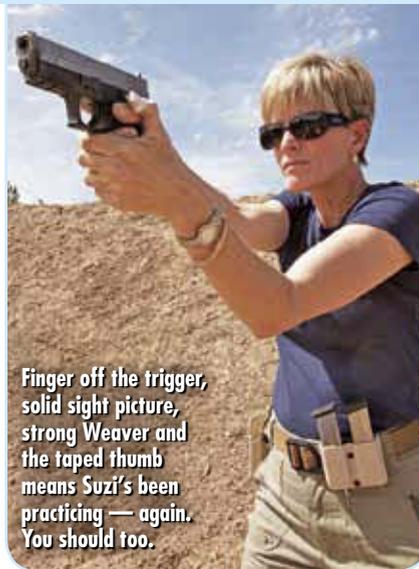
Credentials are like a birth certificate — if you got one, show it. Oddly, sometimes simply credentials just don't do it. Just because somebody belonged to spec-ops something — remember parachute packers, cooks and plane loaders belong to the same organization — are they trigger pullers or cooks? And anyone of them can instruct shooting because of why? When you go to a school it isn't actually all about what the instructor did in the past or even knows; it's about what the instructor can *teach* you. Ask for credentials, and be willing to give some right back.

Science And Safety

I just glanced at a magazine about concealed carry guns where the editor talked about how they attended a school and the instructor was teaching all kinds of cool moves, as well a dose of magic focus stuff, "... cause you ain't gonna' look at the sights in a fight." The instructor confirmed this information to the class as being correct because it was based on his or other people's scientific studies. So is this like global warming? Show me the study done by whom, over what period of decades. For every one of these studies, I will give you someone who *did* look at the sights. The difference mostly being my non-scientific study group hit the target. Often "science" is like figures, and sometime figures lie, and liars figure.

The safety part comes to this: The four rules Jeff Cooper wrote down. Like him or not, he was the consummate documenter of practical pistol craft. No one worth any salt teaching today *cannot* trace some lineage back to Cooper. We all stole something from him, if you were smart. Often, instructors of today who can't go there lineage-wise, tend to want to make up "new" safety rules trying to be "innovative" or "evolve" ... Evolve to what? Keeping your finger off the trigger? Was keeping your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target so hard to remember it had to evolve?

You can outsmart yourself too. I was teaching in Texas and a student, who is now a self-declared instructor, decided to reload by tactical load even though it wasn't needed. With a finger on the trigger she reloaded and blew a hole through the simulator wall, spraying Heidi and I with wood and projectile fragmentation. So the "instructor" treated the rifle like it was loaded, the muzzle was pointed somewhere, the finger-trigger thing was supposed to be in effect and the backstop was ...? Looks like the instructor whacked all four of those old archaic rules. Here's a revelation and evolution for you. Keep your finger *off* the trigger unless you are going to shoot, and *don't* load weapons when they don't need it.



Finger off the trigger, solid sight picture, strong Weaver and the taped thumb means Suzi's been practicing — again. You should too.

A COUPLE MORE THINGS

New gun people often remember one thing — they *saw* it on TV. Because they saw it on TV, a DVD or read it in a book doesn't make it true. There are ex-cons, non-incarcerated frauds and undocumented expert "instructors" out there in the firearms industry teaching, and on TV. This is like Charlie Sheen and Demi Moore playing the part of Navy SEALs. Because you saw in on a screen or TV doesn't make it true. Skill and proficiency does not buy television time slots — money does.

As I wander closer toward retirement of some kind, I'm truly amazed after 40 years; instructors and students are still looking for short cuts to shooting well. Here's a tip: Line up the sights, *look* at the sights while you press the trigger without moving the sights on the target, then repeat as required. If a bad person is choking you, you're too close and won't be able to look at your sights. Shoot them at the end of the muzzle until they let go of you, then back up and *look* at the sights and shoot them some more until they leave you alone or go away. The sights are always going to suffer under duress in a fight, and that's exactly why trigger control and proper *application* of the trigger is critical.

You want magic? Go to the county fair. You want firearms skill? Practice, and practice some more. You've all heard the adage, "Life is hard. Even harder if you're stupid." The problem of shooting well is hard; and you can make it even harder if you want to.





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HANDLOADING

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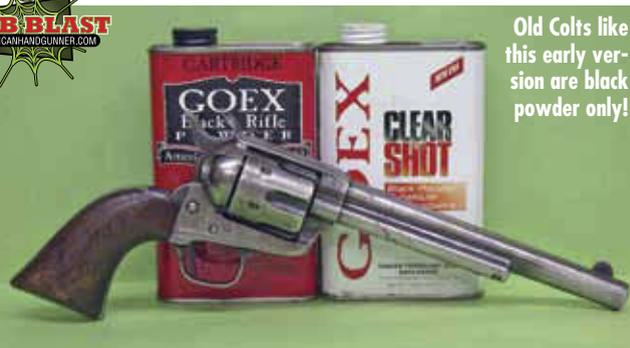
JOHN TAFFIN



Old Colts like this early version are black powder only!



The best bullets for successfully loading black powder cartridges are pure lead and carry maximum lube capacity.



BLACK POWDER BASICS

Elmer Keith in 1936 writing in his book *Sixgun Cartridges and Loads*, recommended the novice reloader start out with black powder; he basically said just fill the case, crunch the bullet down and shoot. Yes, loads can be assembled the way he says, however if you're looking for accuracy with black powder it's necessary to add several steps and follow some basic guidelines. In fact, loading black powder successfully requires more time and knowledge than using smokeless powder.

When loading smokeless powder I can get excellent results with commercial machine cast bullets of hard alloy matched up with a very hard lube, loaded over a proper charge, crimped and then fired. Quite often, loads thus assembled will shoot as good if not better than loads carefully assembled with home-cast bullets of the "proper" alloy and matching soft lube. But black powder needs more attention.

Reloaders have long argued whether standard powder measures should be used

with black powder. Lyman offers the #55 Black Powder Measure, and this powder dispenser is designed to prevent the possibility of a spark igniting the black powder in the hopper. Powder measures designed for smokeless use should *never* be used with black powder, due to the danger of electric sparking. This has not been proven under laboratory conditions — nor has it been disproved. Some manufacturers of BP substitutes now approve the use of a standard powder measure, so check with them individually.

Primer Power

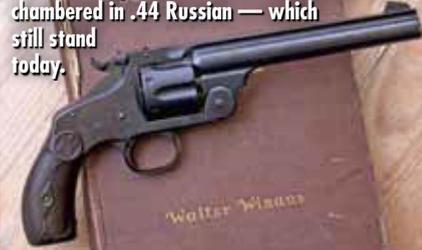
One thing I find essential for loading black powder is magnum pistol primers, and I normally use CCI's #350 Large Pistol. Black powder should be slightly compressed to aid ignition, and in no case should there ever be an airspace allowed in black powder cartridges. The base of the bullet should slightly compress the powder charge. Refer to the manufacture as to whether or not black powder substitutes should be compressed. Hodgdon's recommends their Triple 7 be located right up against the base of the bullet without compression. I prefer to place a vegetable wad between bullet base and powder both to protect the base and to also help to reduce barrel fouling. Walters Wads offers a complete line of quality vegetable wads for any diameter desired.

For the best possible results with black powder or black powder substitutes, bullets need to be of the proper alloy, proper size and properly lubricated. This means the use of

relatively soft bullets, anywhere from pure lead to 1:30 tin, to lead alloy. Size the bullet to match the cylinder chamber mouths and lubricate with a special black powder lube such as SPG, Lyman Black Powder Gold or Thompson's Black Powder Lubricant. The softer lubes help to keep the barrel fouling relatively soft. Old timers would cut wads from an old felt hat soaked in tallow. Today there is an easier way by simply using the Walters Wads, which are available in several calibers and pre-cut from vegetable paper.

Grease cookies can be made and cut from a cooled sheet of lube using the cartridge case as a cookie cutter, but is a lot of work and probably does not give any better results than using Walters Wads. The Colt Single Action Army was originally designed for black powder, and during the Army tests in the 1870s it was found they could shoot a Colt for 200 rounds, swab out the barrel and keep going with no other cleaning necessary. Bullets were soft, probably pure lead.

Walter Winans shot record groups in the 1880s with the Target Model S&W New Model #3 chambered in .44 Russian — which still stand today.



Volume Not Weight!

All black or substitute powders are loaded by volume, *not* by weight. The correct volume is enough powder to fill the case slightly above the base of the bullet thus allowing some compression. This is true for all black powders regardless of brand or granulation. However, some black powder substitute manufacturers will advise the powder should not be compressed, but simply loaded evenly with the base of the bullet. Follow the manufacturer's directions.

Today's replica cartridge firing sixguns are safe to use with smokeless powder, although the originals, such as Colt SAAs

manufactured before 1900 and all top-break, big-bore Smith & Wessons are for *black powder only*. Loading cartridges with black powder or black powder substitutes requires more time and more steps than with smokeless powder.

Cleaning firearms shot with black powder or black powder substitutes not only requires cleaning after each use, but also a more thorough cleaning than those firearms used with smokeless powder — it's a messy, dirty job and has a unique smell. Firearms, hands and clothes will all be affected by the black powder with foul and residue to some

extent; so will the mind, heart, soul and spirit. It is addictive and can cause brain damage, sixgunnig'-style, to the point the user feels smokeless powder is a passing fad. You have been warned.



Go to www.americanhandgunner.com and click on the Web Blast link at the top to see John's favorite black powder loads!

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At the time of this writing, Duke actively reloads for all these handgun cartridges.

A LIFE SPENT RELOADING

List making is an exercise in mental relaxation for me. Recently, I set about listing the handgun cartridges for which I currently handload, and that ballooned into how many different ones I've reloaded in my lifetime. It's a list with some odd twists and turns.

The total was 32, with handguns and die sets for 21 still on the active list. For semi-auto pistols they have ranged from .30 Luger to .45 ACP. For revolvers, on the small side they were .32 S&W Long, to .454 Casull on the big end. At this writing the smallest handgun cartridge for which I'm actively reloading is .32 Auto. The largest in volume is .45 Colt, but the largest in regards to bullet diameter is .455 Webley.

Like so many other reloaders of handgun ammunition, my career started with the .38 Special. That was in December 1966. Being a list keeper even at that age I jotted down the quantity assembled after each session at the bench. I quit doing that in 1980, by which time the total of .38 Specials had passed 60,000. Remember that was before the advent of commonly available progressive presses. On the other end of the spectrum are .357 SIG and .454 Casull; both calibers for which I have loaded only a few hundred rounds. They were fired in borrowed guns solely for the purpose of writing articles and I wasn't impressed with either round.

By the fall of 1968, I was reloading

for .44 Special, .44 Magnum and .45 Colt. At that time I also began assembling my first autoloading pistol cartridges. Naturally that was .45 ACP. Here's one of those odd twists. Over the decades, I have handloaded tens of thousands of three revolver cartridges, but perhaps only a couple thousand .45 ACPs. I seldom take those .44- or .45-caliber revolvers off the shelf now, but have fired many thousand .45 ACPs (and 9mm Luger) these past few years. That's because in building my World War II firearms collection, a couple each of .45 ACP and 9mm sub-machine guns have landed in my vault, along with handguns for same. I have one progressive press dedicated each to .45 ACP and 9mm Luger.

Duke's most recently reloaded oddballs are the 7.65 French Long for their Model 1935A and the Japanese 8mm Nambu for their Type 14 pistol.



Over the years, things change and so has the handgun cartridge for which Duke does the most reloading. Now .45 ACP and 9mm Luger are at the top of the list.



Duke Cussing?



Here's an odd turn. The most cussing I did at a handloading bench was the first time I tried loading .44 WCFs (.44-40s) for a Colt SAA revolver. None of my rounds would chamber in a friend's 1890 vintage revolver. Reloading manuals said to use .427" bullets, but cartridges carrying them were too fat for the chambers. With research I discovered that early .44 WCFs used .425" bullets and sure enough, when my cast ones were sized that they fit perfectly.

With such a start it's probably odd that now .44 WCF (.44-40) is my favorite for revolvers. Reloading them requires a little bit of finesse and an eye for mating bullet specs to barrel and chamber mouth dimensions. When that is done my Colt and U.S. Firearms "Frontier Six-Shooters" are tackdrivers.

Speaking of tack drivers, there are four handgun cartridges I think are the inherently most accurate of the 32 which I've handloaded. Those are the .38 Special, .41 Magnum and .44 Magnum for revolvers and .40 S&W for pistols. In my experience, it's difficult to reload an inaccurate combination for them.

ODDBALLS

In 45 years of handloading, I've seldom shied away from tackling oddball cartridges. In earlier years, some such were .38 Colt, .41 Colt, .44 American and .44 Colt. All of those were introduced with the so-called "heel-type" bullets fitting inside a cartridge case, as do .22 LR bullets, and carried their lubrication on the outside. Later .38 and .41 Colt evolved into "Long Colt" versions using hollowbase, inside-lubed bullets. I've handloaded them both ways and prefer the latter method.

I'm still not scared of tackling oddball cartridges. The most recent ones added to my list have been the French 7.65mm Long and the Japanese 8mm Nambu. The semi-auto handguns both are part of my World War II collection. I also handload for a 7.62x25mm Tokarov, although there has never been a handgun for that cartridge in my collection. Those cartridges have been fed to a PPsh41 submachine gun. Still I count it among my life's list of handgun cartridges reloaded.

From my vantage point, I can't see adding to my list in the future. In fact, just yesterday I made arrangements to sell my only .38 Super pistol, so I'm actually down to 20 handgun cartridges actively being loaded. That's still enough to keep me busy — especially since I cast bullets for all.



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COMP-TAC



The Comp-Tac paddle holster goes on easy, but stays on. It has a matching single mag pouch.

If you take a look around the gun industry you will find a bunch of very successful companies who started out in a garage or basement shop, with nothing more than an idea combined with passion and a can-do attitude. One of those companies is Comp-Tac.

Comp-Tac's GM, Gordon Carrell, told me his boss, Greg Garrett, President and founder of Comp-Tac started making holsters for daily carry and competition back in 2001, in his garage. Fast-forward 10 years and the 1-man show is now in a real building and dozens of employees producing over 30 products, creating 92,000 possible variations to suit users.

After talking with Gordon, we decided he would send me two completely different systems. One was a standard kydex paddle holster and single-mag pouch; the other the leather/kydex IWB Minotaur MTAC holster and Minotaur IWB mag pouch.

Kydex Paddle

I've always been a little bit leery of paddle holsters since I rolled code-three to an officer needs assistance call. A detective was attempting to stop a parolee at large and during the fight; the bad guy ended up with the paddle holster *and* gun. Bad guy got KO'd before he could figure out how to get the gun out of the holster. I know the tactics were bad and the old paddle design was a piece of metal covered in leather, but I'm still a bit apprehensive with paddles and I told Gordon my fear — and he talked me off the ledge. CCW is much different than on-duty, and the

paddle is an open top holster with only fit and tension screws for retention. If you plan on getting into a full-on fist fight ... use a level three holster.

The Comp-Tac Paddle is a very easy "on" and not so easy "off" once you get your belt snugged-up, and the dual-tension screws make it effortless to adjust the holster. I was able to draw my Glock 19 from various positions and never had an issue with the holster not being where I parked it. One cool feature with this paddle is you don't have to have the perfect belt loop setup to situate the holster where you want it.

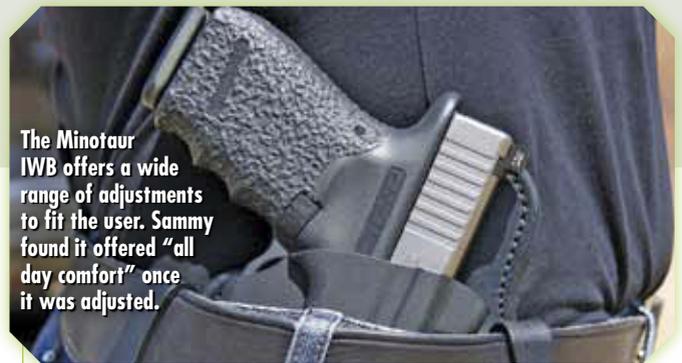
The single-mag pouch includes a single-tension screw, which allowed me to set the perfect amount of tension. The pouch's belt mounting clip is extremely tough and kept it perfectly positioned on my belt. The compact size of the single-mag pouch is my choice when I carry two mags — this alleviates the belt loop rodeo as well.

IWB HYBRID

At first glance, the Minotaur MTAC holster looks like a science project gone wrong. The combination of leather backer with kydex holster and adjustable mounting clips was a bit confusing to look at; but once I got my hands on it, I found it was a well thought out orchestra of parts making for a hot IWB carry system.

The base backer is leather, which is a material I prefer to have ride against my skin for long periods of time. The holster body is kydex and is completely interchangeable with other holster bodies, so all you need is an easily mounted holster for all your carry guns and you'll be good to go. The mounting clips are adjustable for depth of ride and cant. The special design allows you to tuck in your shirt, only leaving the belt clips showing. The tuck-in design is to keep your roscoe concealed while continuing to look professional in the process. Comp-Tac makes several different styles of mounting clips if the ones supplied don't do it for you.

After some minor adjusting, I was able to achieve what I would call "all day comfort." The Minotaur design allowed me — bad back and all — to carry IWB all day and not need a trip to the chiropractor to straighten me out.



The Minotaur IWB offers a wide range of adjustments to fit the user. Sammy found it offered "all day comfort" once it was adjusted.

Minotaur Mag Pouch

One problem often associated with IWB carry is concealing your spare magazines. The Minotaur pouch is designed to wear IWB and take up as little room as possible. The leather magazine pouch is fitted with the same adjustable clip used on the Minotaur MTAC. You choose how deep it rides. Having a holster *and* mag pouch inside my waistband took some getting use to. The pouch works as advertised, but I will say it works best with pants much larger in the waist than what you walk around in normally.

As Clint Smith says, "The being armed part is supposed to be comforting, not comfortable." The Minotaur holster and pouch help achieve both.



For more info: www.americanhandgunner.com/comp-tac

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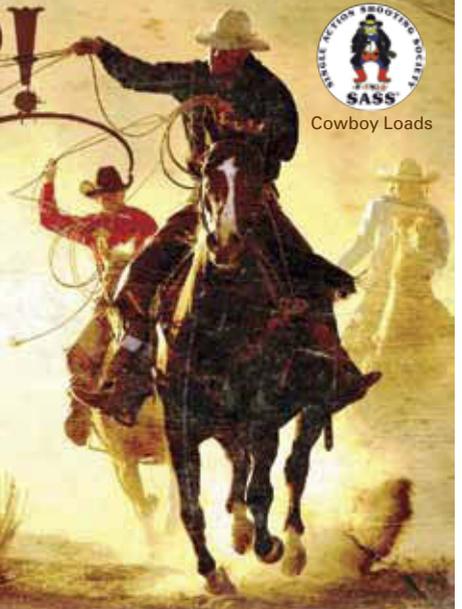
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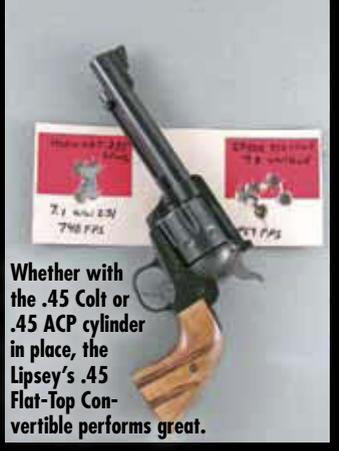
LIVING LEGENDS

When Bob Stutler was production manager at Ruger, he once told me, "No matter what we make, someone will want something else." How true that is; I have been guilty of this many times, and not just with Rugers. However, all hope is not lost. Some remarkable models and calibers are available today. Not from Ruger, but from one of their distributors, Lipsey's, who not only distributes standard Ruger production items but also always looks for items they think should sell well, even if not considered "mainstream." People who have a deep understanding of shooters manage Lipsey's, and this extends beyond rifle shooters right to the heart of sixgunners. Thanks to Lipsey's, sixgunners have a source for what are essentially Living Legends.

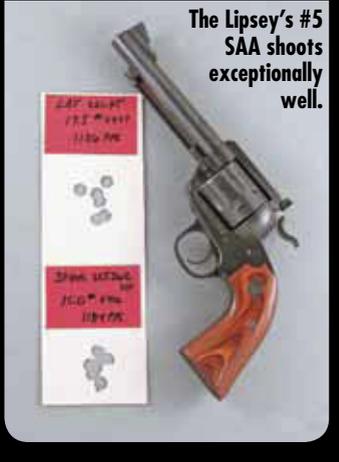
In 1955, Ruger took great step forward after their .22 offerings, opening new doors with a centerfire single action. Bill Ruger maintained the grip frame and coil spring operation of his by then-popular Single-Six, increased the size of the mainframe and cylinder to that of the Colt Single Action Army, flat-topped the frame, added excellent adjustable sights, and chambered it in the most powerful cartridge then available, the .357 Magnum. This first Blackhawk had a 4 5/8" barrel and blue finish. I was still in high school and too young to purchase one, but I had a life-sized picture hanging on my wall; it was the last thing I saw every night before going to sleep and the first thing I saw each morning. By late 1956, I purchased my own.



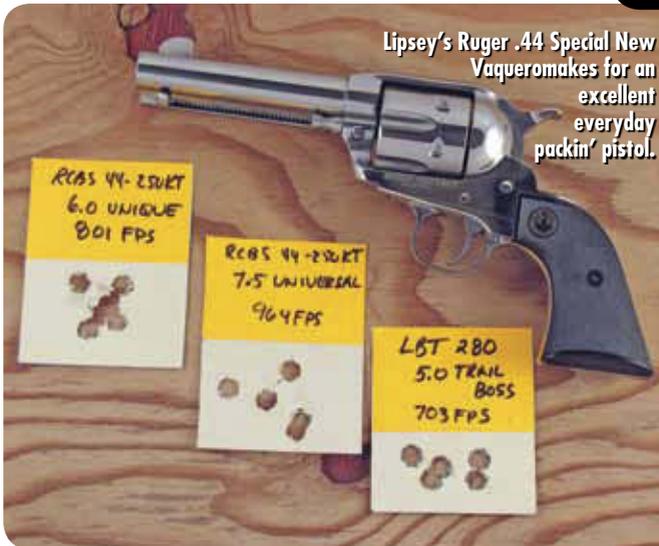
Michael Gouse engraved, Ivory-stocked Lipsey's .44 Special.



Whether with the .45 Colt or .45 ACP cylinder in place, the Lipsey's .45 Flat-Top Convertible performs great.

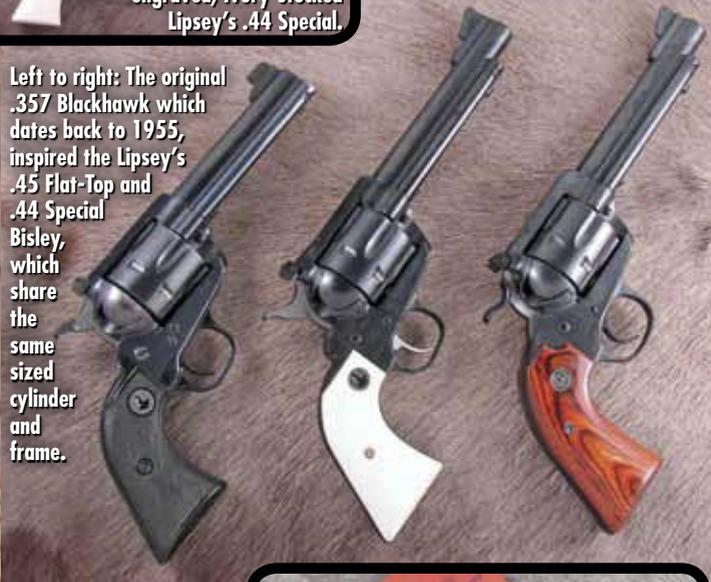


The Lipsey's #5 SAA shoots exceptionally well.



Lipsey's Ruger .44 Special New Vaqueromakes for an excellent everyday packin' pistol.

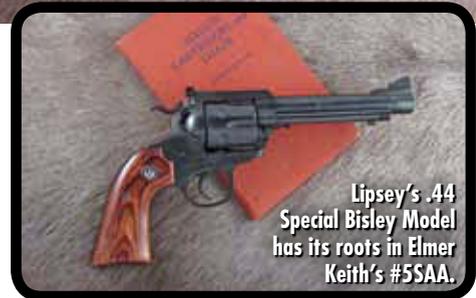
Left to right: The original .357 Blackhawk which dates back to 1955, inspired the Lipsey's .45 Flat-Top and .44 Special Bisley, which share the same sized cylinder and frame.



More Models

With the coming of the Ruger Blackhawk in .357 Magnum, shooters now had an exceptionally rugged, virtually indestructible, Perfect Packin' Pistol. Elmer Keith said we should expect to see one very soon in .44 Special and .45 Colt. Alas, it was not to be. In late 1955, Smith & Wesson teamed up with Remington

to introduce the first sixgun firing the new .44 Magnum. At that time just about everyone forgot about the .44 Special, including Ruger. Three .357 Blackhawks were re-barreled and the cylinders re-chambered to .44 Magnum. Keith warned them the frame was too small for the new Magnum, but thought they would make great .44 Specials. With further testing, one of the guns blew and Ruger increased the size of the frame and cylinder to what was to become the .44 Magnum Blackhawk. That was early 1956, and the .45 Colt would not surface in a Ruger until the



Lipsey's .44 Special Bisley Model has its roots in Elmer Keith's #5SAA.

early 1970s, when it too was built on the larger frame and cylinder.

It was pretty obvious we would never see a .44 Special or .45 Colt in a standard-sized single action from Ruger.

Continued on page 77

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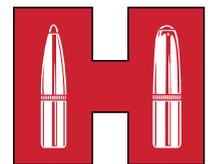


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Nigel's Take

Chalk & Cheese

God bless my ol' buddy Nigel. Now retired from long service with a Guards Regiment and then SAS, each time he calls I learn, laugh, wonder and ponder. He's one of those guys who just *knows*, 24/7/365, what time it is in Karachi, Kent or Kabul; the phase of the moon and when it will rise in Kinshasa, Krasnoyarsk, or Kansas City; what spots on the globe are *not* covered by surveillance satellites at that moment, and a thousand other esoteric points. Long ago when his now-white moustache was ginger-brown, he first taught me the difference between a *haboob* and a *shamal*, and thankfully, he's still teachin' me stuff.

He was explaining the linkage between the growth of Britain's overarching, individual-oppressing "Nanny State" and the decline of Britons' rights to self-defense, to keep and bear arms, to self-determination; how one could not rise without the fall of the other, and why we — "you Yanks" — are fighting the right battle with the wrong weapons — and using the wrong tactics on the wrong opponents.

"For example," he said, "You tend to place all anti-gun people in one category, failing to differentiate between the irredeemable *soldats* and the comparatively mild and malleable masses that they sway. They are completely and utterly different, and must be dealt with differently." "How different?" I asked.

"Oh, chalk and cheese, Johnny-melad, *chalk and cheese!*"*

There was a pause. I heard a low *Hmm ... hmm ... yas, quite so, yasss ...* and I knew Nigel was pokin' something with his pipe and cogitating.

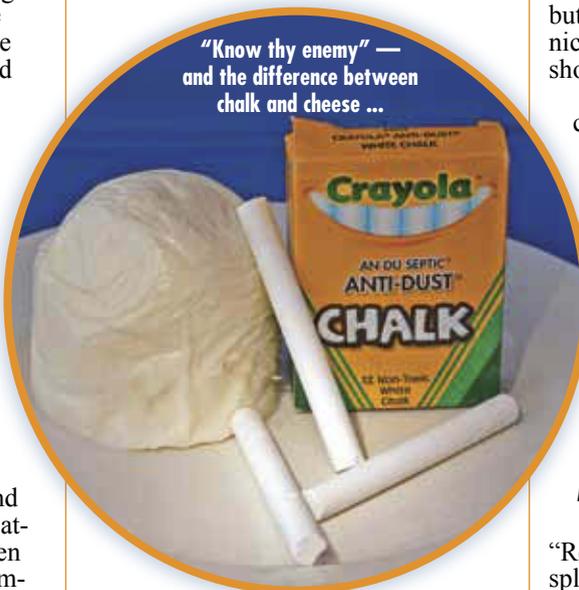
"Johnny-o," he intoned, "They *are* chalk and cheese, lad!" Over the next hour and a coupla' pints, here's what we worked out.

Chalk & Cheese Primer

The anti-gun *soldats*, the *chalk*, are the hardcore activists, organizers, propagandists and solicitors of the movement. Motivated by either statist political ideology or craven hoplophobia and a fervent desire for

a utopian gunless society, they are intense, dedicated and contemptuously dismissive of any opposing view. Omnipresent in political venues, they are rarely the ones who speak. Instead, they recruit, prime, prompt and urge various *cheeses* to speak.

Chalk is smooth and clean in appearance. It comes in boxes, in tightly regimented formidable little ranks, and though deployed as individuals, their actions are almost identical. They are



essentially compressed dust, but they have been through a process, which polishes and hardens their surface. They have pretensions to high education, but in fact, all they can do is scrawl the rote material of their manipulators, often the same thing thousands of times; simple statements for simple minds, empowered by sheer repetition. They also have pretensions to art, but it is really merely ideologically infused graffiti; bumper-sticker visuals.

Their exterior is lily-white, as is, they claim, their motives. They show "diversity" by association with rainbow-hued chalks and soft pastels, which they claim to honor as "fraternal brothers and sisters," but secretly, they hold the colors in contempt; just "silly but useful tools."

Chalk can sound very businesslike

— or screeching; a matter of how it is wielded. The message is the same.

The cheese — the people — is like a big, moist ball of mozzarella. Soft and resilient, the density and texture varies, but good mozzarella has no intrinsic hard lumps. It's easily influenced by minimal changes in temperature and pressure; it can be gouged and pounded and chunks cut out, but with time and firm, gentle shaping, it tends to resume its natural form. If rolled in filth and debris, it can become mottled and ugly, but with thorough rinsing it cleans up nicely. For good or ill, cheese has a short memory.

Under prolonged harsh conditions cheese can harden on the surface, go moldy, sour and unpalatable; but with reasonable care the only way a good cheese becomes bitter and poisonous is through injection by outside influences; it is not in the nature of cheese to be so.

A good cheese is, in brief, naturally wholesome and flexible. It may not be to your taste, and at times may be unappealing. Cheese simply is what it is, not what you might wish it to be.

Protect The Cheese

"First, Johnny-o," quoth Nigel, "Realize the anti-gun campaign is a splinter in a stouter bludgeon. The real war is waged by *statists* against individual liberties; disarming individuals is but an aspect of it. We Britons would not have lost our arms had we not first lost our individual *rights*, most notably the right to self-defense. Of what avail are your arms without it?"

"One cannot reason with chalk, Johnny-o," Nigel said, "Nor change its nature. To attempt it is wasted effort. One can only try to keep it in its box, and erase the boards as you can."

"Among pro-gun people, yes, talk about guns. But you will never win over the cheese by talking about guns, but rather, by talking about the cheese's *right to be cheese*; protecting the cheese's rights."

It's an election year, folks. Know your chalk from your cheese. Box the chalk, and gently, gently, massage and protect the cheese. Connor *OUT*



✱ In America, we say "as different as apples and oranges." For Brits, it's "chalk and cheese."



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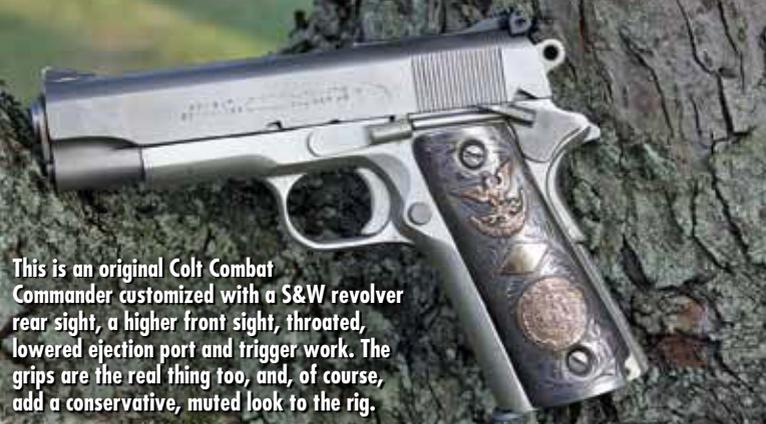


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Hunting With A .45 ACP

In this 100th year anniversary of the 1911 and the .45 ACP cartridge, its history is filled with thousands of factual and also highly exaggerated tales of the effectiveness of both the weapon and cartridge. When one hears "45" the 1911 Colt is foremost in the mind for most of us. First and foremost, the .45 is recognized as a combat tool, and also as a competition and defensive tool. Way down the list is its recognition as a handgun-hunting tool. Back in the dark ages, any NRA member

could buy a new surplus 1911A1 from the Director of Civilian Marksmanship for \$7.50. Then it could be sent to the Advanced Marksmanship Unit at Ft. Benning where for the sum of \$65 those gunsmiths would turn it into a good softball or hardball bull's-eye gun as ever made.

That's sort of a shame too as an accurized 1911 in .45 ACP — with the right ammunition and user — is quite effective as a small- to medium-game gun. Rabbits and squirrels are usually taken at short ranges, and that's fine

for the 1911. Those 230-grain FMJ bullets do not cause excessive damage unless a shoulder shot occurs. Target "wadcutter" low-velocity loads seem to hit small game harder, but I can't see any difference in damage done by them and the 230 FMJ, and even some of the hollowpoints. Running jackrabbits and the .45 seem meant for each other. Good, adjustable sights combined with a fine trigger, low-recoil impulse and semi-auto action are very effective for the guy who knows how to use them.

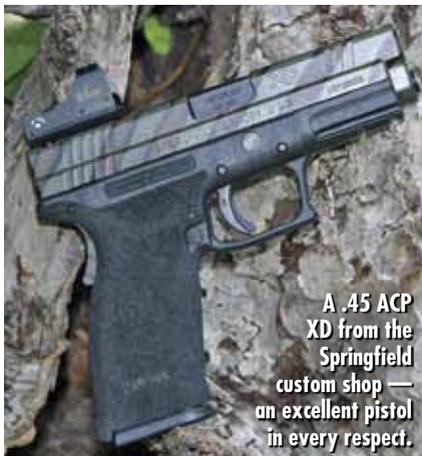
Conservative Thinking

Exceptional things happen with any gun cartridge combination on both the positive and negative side. Let's put aside the exceptions and take a look at the median of what to expect. I figure, for most .45 ammunition 50 yards is about the maximum I want to stretch it on a living animal. That is close enough for good shot placement due to a decent trajectory at that distance, and the bullet will still give good performance. I'm a heavy bullet guy when velocities are low and ranges short. I particularly like the 230-grain Ranger LE load. The 230-Hydra shock and many others have done well too. In a silenced Contender carbine with an optical sight and suppressor, add another 25 yards to the effectiveness, which has some popularity as a game control tool. Generally, the ballistic difference between a 4.25", 5" and 6" barrel isn't worth considering.

Obviously, the .45 isn't a "mash 'em flat" magnum, and with a rela-

tively low-powered gun the importance of shot placement is paramount. For a double lung or heart shot on any medium game, expect the animal to run. That happens with any caliber, but few will drop in their tracks from a .45 unless the brain or spine is hit. Hunting with .45 puts more "hunting" into hunting, with added emphasis on shooting skill. Hit 'em where they live — repeatedly — for best results.

I'm not in favor of the 230 ball bullets on deer, but on pigs, especially big ones, they seem to work as well as anything usable in the .45. Nor am I in favor of using it on any animal much over a couple hundred pounds, as learned from the School Of Hard Knocks. Not well known ammunition to consider and run a web search on is the Extreme Shock ammo. My experience is limited, but in some calibers it almost seems magic.



A .45 ACP XD from the Springfield custom shop — an excellent pistol in every respect.

J.D.'S XD

I've been a 1911 guy for more years than I like to think, but a couple years ago I fell for a Springfield XD customized by their custom shop, equipped with a tiny dot sight. It doesn't "point" like a 1911, for me, but does point well and is at least as accurate as most custom 1911s. It's definitely a .45 worth consideration. Oh, and never forget that bullet-hose Thompson .45 ACP SMG — a wonderful tool and great fun.





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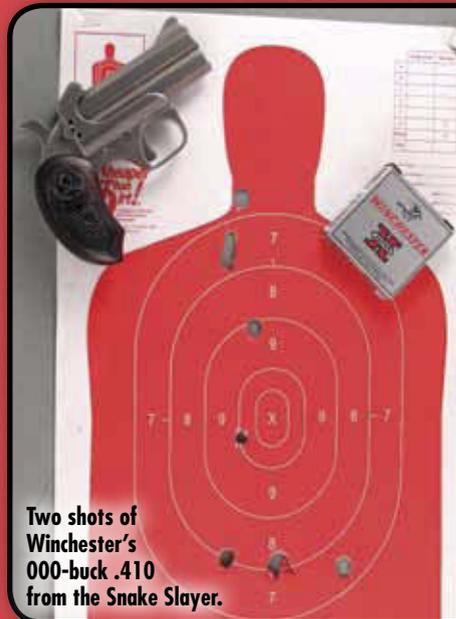
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Both barrels of the Bond Arms Ranger with Federal's 000-buck .410 Personal Protection ammo.

BUCKSHOT BAD BOYS

In western movies both the good guys and bad guys manage to use some tiny, little, 2-shot handguns to great advantage. Bret Maverick usually had one tucked up his sleeve or in his hat, and it saved his bacon in many a card game. Yancy Derringer was named for the little gun he carried. How many times did Paladin, who always had one tucked beneath its cartridge belt buckle, save the day with that tiny, little gun? Sometimes he even made absolutely impossible shots stopping the bad guy in its tracks with a 1-shot version. Of course, what should we expect from a gunfighter carrying a Colt Single Action, which was described as a "Custom-made Hamilton with a 2-ounce trigger pull."

What Jock Mahoney, James Garner and Richard Boone had in common in their respective Western roles was a pocket pistol of the period, a derringer, named after Henry Deringer, with only one "r." Henry is most remembered as the designer of the single-shot percussion Deringer/derringer that would become the infamous pocket pistol used by John Wilkes Booth to assassinate Abraham Lincoln. Good guys, bad guys, gamblers, ladies of the night, lawmen and anyone who wanted an easy way to conceal defensive weapon, favored derringers.

The most famous of the frontier time was a Remington double-barreled .41 Rim-fire. It was very low powered, however if one happened to be shot with a .41, infection could easily become a greater problem than the wound itself. With these little derringers carried in pockets, they gathered up all kinds of dirt and crud, which the bullet then transferred to the wound. If most men had a choice, they would rather get shot by a "clean" .45 than a dirty .41. The .45 would probably go clean through, while the little .41 would stay in the body with its payload of crud-producing disease.

Not only was the Remington .41 Double Derringer very low powered, the design itself produced a pistol that was structurally weak. It was not all that unusual for the hinge holding the barrel and frame together to come apart. Sometime in the 1950s, Great Western produced an upgrade of the Remington Double Derringer in .38 Special. I have a good friend who still carries one as his number one pocket pistol. Derringers are still being produced and still being used as effective pocket pistols. Quite a few companies have produced derringers since the time of the Great Western .38 Special. They range the gamut from poor quality to exceptionally high quality. Among the latter are the derringers of Bond Arms.

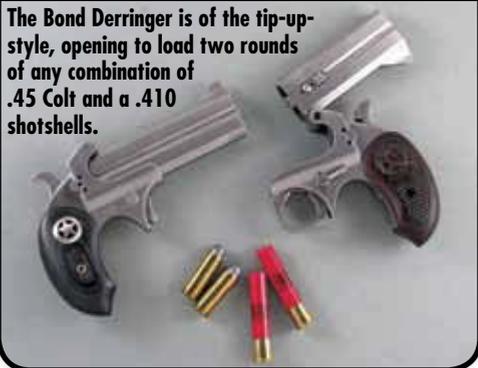


Bond offers quality leather for both the Snake Slayer and the Ranger .45/.410s.



Above: If one can get close enough, the Bond .410 will handle more than snakes.

The Bond Derringer is of the tip-up-style, opening to load two rounds of any combination of .45 Colt and a .410 shotshells.



Brawny Bond

My experience with the derringers of Bond Arms goes back to the closing years of the last century. From the very beginning I found the Bond Arms Derringer to be basically a well made, exceptionally strong 2-shooter with the capability of accepting interchangeable barrels, and therein was a problem. To change barrels it was necessary to place shims on both sides of the barrel pivot. When I tried, I found I was short a couple of hands to be able to get everything together at the same time. That's all in the past and now Bond Derringers are exceptionally easy when it comes to barrel switching.

It takes about one minute to remove the installed barrel and replace it with another, which can be done with nothing more as a tool than an Allen wrench of the proper size, and thanks to precise CNC machining, shims are no longer needed. The barrel is attached at the top of the frame and is easily removable. On the left side of the frame is a camming, spring-activated lever

Continued on page 74

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.22 TCM AUTO

Armscor's new .22 TCM offers sizzling performance, delivering a 40-grain, .22-caliber bullet at around 2,050 fps!



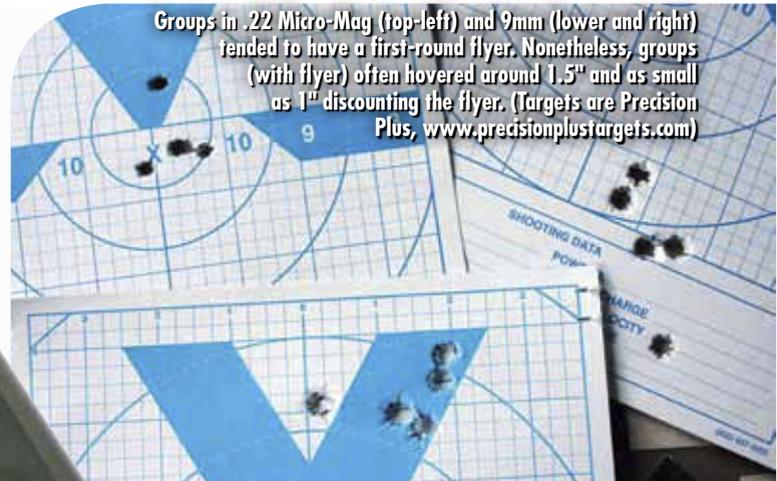
HI-VELOCITY MICRO-MAGNUM!

ROY HUNTINGTON



The .22 TCM has the added advantage of converting to 9mm by simply swapping the barrel and recoil spring.

Groups in .22 Micro-Mag (top-left) and 9mm (lower and right) tended to have a first-round flyer. Nonetheless, groups (with flyer) often hovered around 1.5" and as small as 1" discounting the flyer. (Targets are Precision Plus, www.precisionplustargets.com)



Looks can be deceiving, and the .22 TCM from the fertile mind of custom gunsmith Fred Craig and his collaboration with Armscor, is not what it appears — at all. While looking like a hi-cap 1911 (and it is in basic design), it's in actuality a bottle-rocket shooting auto launching 40-grain, .22 bullets



Left: Roy used a Hyskore pistol rest and Caldwell portable shooting bench to target the .22 TCM. Groups hovered around 1.5" at 25 yards.

at upwards of 2,050 fps! Huh? What? No fooling, and perhaps best of all, it's actually accurate, runs like a top, and if you drop in a fitted 9mm barrel and recoil spring, you have a fully functional hi-cap 9mm 1911. Damndest thing I ever saw.

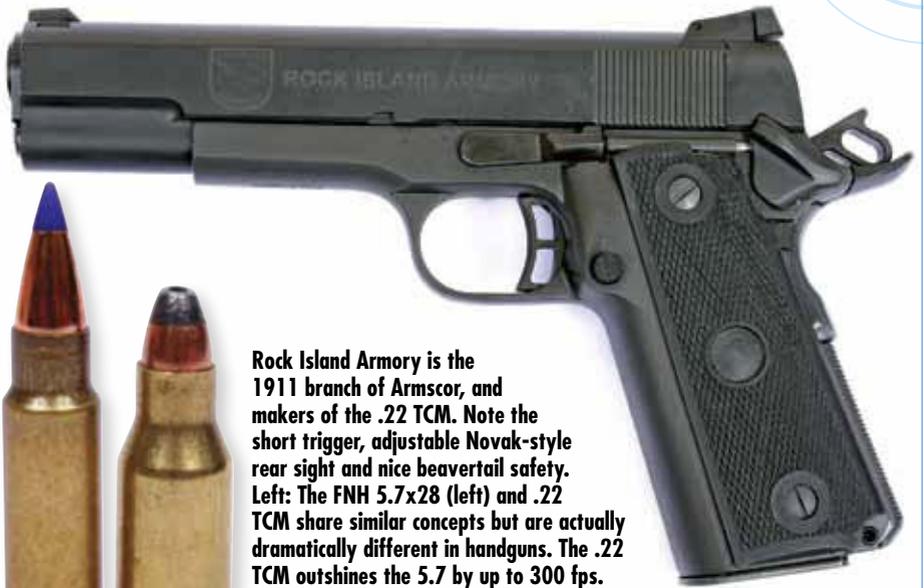
Originally conceived by Fred as something unusual and fun, he initially marketed the design as a full, custom pistol from his shop, developing the cartridge and load data himself as he built market interest. You might have noticed the ads in *Handgunner*. Fred said, "I really sold a lot through those ads, and had been working with Armscor to make a production version for sale here in the states. The President of Armscor, Martin Tuason, was excited about the project, and together we launched the .22 TCM. That TCM stands for Tuason Craig Micromagnum, by the way."

Fred had spent the last several years working with Armscor in the Philippines, honing their production of 1911-based pistols, and designing a few interesting proprietary models of rifles and other handgun designs for Armscor. You'll be seeing some of those in the marketplace a bit later, and trust me when I say you'll like 'em!

The custom version of the TCM, as sold by Fred in his shop, differed a bit from the production gun. It had an external extractor, a different slide cut and a few custom touches. However, the production TCM is exactly the same, mechanically, as the custom version, and even comes with an adjustable Novak style rear sight, and proprietary custom forged slide and barrel. The slide and barrel are hand-fitted at the factory and more than likely accounts for the fact it shoots well. Also, the adjustable sight allows a shooter to adjust the point of impact when changing calibers. The 9mm shoots about 8" higher than the .22 Micro-Mag load at 25 yards.

Familiar Platform

The operation of the .22 TCM is vintage 1911 and anyone who knows 1911s would be right at home. Take down, external safety, grip safety, everything as a matter of fact, is exactly the same.



Rock Island Armory is the 1911 branch of Armscor, and makers of the .22 TCM. Note the short trigger, adjustable Novak-style rear sight and nice beavertail safety. Left: The FNH 5.7x28 (left) and .22 TCM share similar concepts but are actually dramatically different in handguns. The .22 TCM outshines the 5.7 by up to 300 fps.



"THE OPERATION OF THE .22 TCM IS VINTAGE 1911."



The .22 TCM puts 2,050 fps in a 1911-based hi-cap platform!



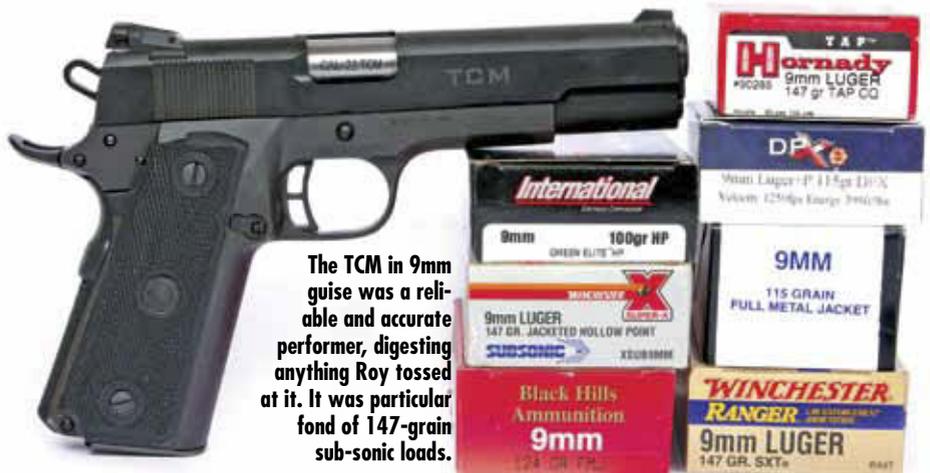
Interestingly, the .22 TCM (based on the .223 case) and 9mm both use the same magazine (18 rounds for the .22 and 17 for the 9mm).

The frame is reminiscent of an early Para hi-cap, and everything shows solid construction. The finish is a basic Parkerizing but is neatly done. There are a few nice touches, like the bevel on the bottom edge of the slide, and the flat-top treatment on top of the slide, between the front and rear sights, that spiff things up some.

The short trigger is a smart move due to the hi-cap frame size and it fitted

my smallish hands just fine. This did not appear to be a simple conglomeration of parts, but a gun that had been fitted and carefully attended to, making sure all the parts ran correctly. The barrel lock-up was stout, with no movement when pushing down on it in the ejection port. If you move the slide back slowly, you can distinctly feel the barrel come out of a snug lock-up.

Continued on page 87



The TCM in 9mm guise was a reliable and accurate performer, digesting anything Roy tossed at it. It was particular fond of 147-grain sub-sonic loads.



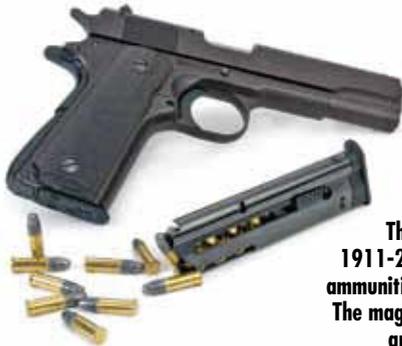
A BABY 1911 BROWNING'S TINY .22

MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO • PHOTOS: YVONNE VENTURINO

Baby was a word often associated with firearms in the late 1800s. Baby carbines were simply saddle ring carbines with extra light or short barrels primarily meant for horseback carry. There was even an S&W Baby Russian .38 revolver, so nicknamed because it was essentially a scaled down version of one of their large-frame, top break .44 Russian models.

Now we have a "Baby 1911" if

TINY



The new Browning Model 1911-22 and the two types of ammunition Duke put through it. The magazine holds nine rounds and the gun ran just fine.

not in name, then most certainly in reality. It is doubtful if anyone has been surprised by the plethora of 1911 pistols introduced in 2011 to celebrate (and capitalize upon) the landmark design's 100th anniversary. What did surprise me was the 85 percent scaled down 1911-22 a Browning official handed me during a visit to Utah last spring.

My exclamation upon seeing it was, "That's cute!" Nearly everyone I've handed this sample to has said the exact same words. At 85 percent scale, this little rimfire has a 4¼" barrel, 7¼" overall length and



The Browning 1911-22 tips the scales at a bare pound. At the top of the page you can see some size perspective of the new "Baby 1911" by comparing the muzzle end of one alongside a full-size Colt 1911A1.

weighs about a pound. By comparison, a full-size 1911A1 has a 5" barrel, is 8½" long and weighs nigh on three times as much. At its widest, across the checkered plastic grips, this Baby 1911 is barely over an inch thick. The above dimensions are for the version based on the military U.S. Model 1911A1. I was told Browning would also introduce an even shorter version copying the famous Colt Commander 1911. Now that would be fun!

Almost Pure 1911

Sticking with the one I've actually got in hand, it's almost pure 1911A1. It loads and unloads like a "real" one, and its safeties operate exactly the same. There's a functioning grip safety, the usual safety lever at the left rear of the slide that locks the hammer in full-cock, and the fairly useless half-cock notch.

Its mode of function is blowback, as with most .22 rimfires. Where it differs is with minor points, which we'll get to shortly. The Browning 1911-22's frame and slide are of non-

Shown for size comparison is the new Browning 1911-22 with a full-size Colt Model 1911A1. The .22 is about 85 percent the size of the .45.



Below left: When Duke let a friend's 17-year-old daughter, Morgan, shoot the Browning 1911-22, she turned to her father and said, "Dad, we need one of these!"



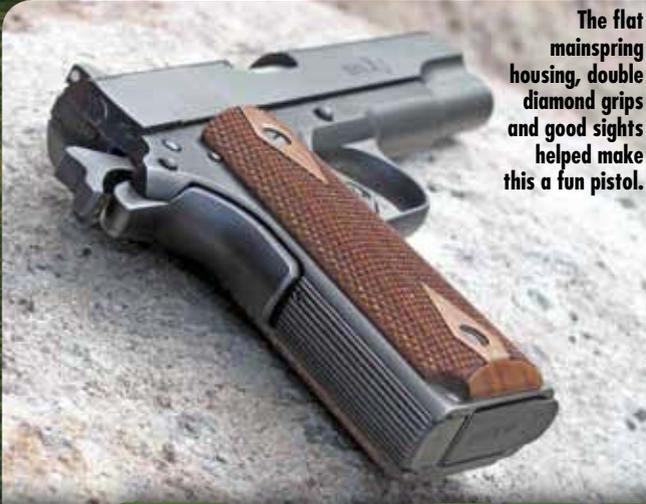
Above right: After a break-in period, Duke's sample 1911-22 stopped throwing the first shot high. This group of nine shots was fired from a 2-handed standing position from about 50'. Note it's centered on the steel.

ferrous alloy, but its barrel is steel, as are some reinforcing pins and inserts in areas receiving the most stress. Since this version is intended to resemble the U.S. Model 1911A1 it has a matte finish that could be mistaken for military Parkerizing. Also its sights are the simple tiny blade front staked into the slide and a notched rear in a dovetail. Magazine capacity is nine rounds.

Now get this: Browning's 1911-22 is made in America. In fact it's being manufactured right there in Utah. That's appropriate, because John M. Browning, the inventor of the 1911, also hailed from northern Utah. And unless someone mistakes my cute comment to mean this .22 is a toy or
Continued on page 83



The Browning 1911-22 breaks down for cleaning just as its full-size predecessor does.



The flat mainspring housing, double diamond grips and good sights helped make this a fun pistol.



The 1911 RI would make a good base gun for any custom build. It showed good attention to detail.

REMINGTON'S

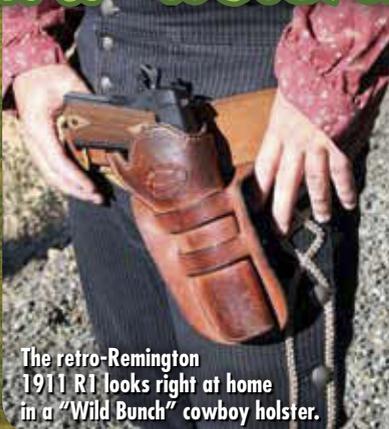
RANDY DEHAY



Looks like a 1911, acts like a 1911 but Remington calls theirs the 1911 RI.

1911 RI

A RETRO FUN-GUN!



The retro-Remington 1911 RI looks right at home in a "Wild Bunch" cowboy holster.

Passing the 100th anniversary of the 1911, we've been seeing all kinds of improvements to the 1911. In the last 40 years, custom gunsmiths have made wonderful advancements to the pistol, making it one of the most proven pistol platforms known to man. And now Remington, a company known not for pistols, but more for making outstanding rifles and shotguns, has thrown their hat into the ring. Their version of John Browning's gun is not full of the latest bells and whistles, but a handsome looking retro throw back

from the first half of the 20th century.

When I took the pistol out of the box, I immediately had a flash back from the Special Forces Weapons Course. The memory was not a good one; the G.I. 1911 was one of the guns we learned to employ, maintain and fix. They rattled, their sharp edges would cut you, they did not function all too well, you couldn't hit jack squat ... also they smelled old. So, I gave the pistol a shake — cliché I know — but the slide and frame were fitted quite well and no rattle greeted me.

After checking the gun for clear, I



No recoil spring guide rod there!



Fit and finish were good for a \$700 MSRP gun.

worked the slide a few times and did not get lacerations on my hands from overly sharp edges. How well this gun functions would come in time, so I looked at the sights. Part of the problem with the old 1911s, as far as accuracy, was the sights on the gun were simply too small, making it difficult to get a clear sight picture. Not the case with the Remington at all. They have fitted the gun with very nice front and rear dovetailed 3-dot sights, allowing a great sight picture. Now you just need to have the proper alignment and a good trigger press to make the magic happen.

Function Testing

Running out to the range and loading up the 7-round magazines that came with the pistol, I put it through its paces. The 3-dot sights were great, and trigger broke crisp and clean at about 4.5 pounds. Using 230-grain Remington ball, I was able to ring the 6" plate at 25 yards like a dinner bell, all afternoon. A good zero was on the pistol from the factory, preventing me from having to use a Russian combo tool (hammer) to make the thing shoot straight. A good factory zero is very cool.

The factory mags worked well with just a few rounds failing to feed, which was more than likely shooter-induced by me limp-wristing the gun like a Sally. I was trying to make it *not* work, but once it settled in, it ran fine. All the mags caused the pistol to go to slide lock after the last shot, and fell free when hitting the mag release. For a factory gun of the "basic" style, it's a very accurate, smooth shooter.

Wild Bunch Test

With the rising popularity of the Wild Bunch stages in cowboy action shooting, and the guns retro look, it seemed like it would be a perfect fit. However, after talking to the guys a



Randy liked the fact he could field strip the Remington 1911 sans tools.

Remington about it, they did not recommend shooting cast lead bullets in the gun, which is a requirement for the Cowboy Action game. Instead the Remington boys suggested I only shoot 230-grain ball, so okay, I got it. But I know damn well what's going to happen with the modest price of the gun and great throw back look, cowboy shooters are going to be all over this. So trying to be a "glass is half-full buckaroo," I was bound and determined to test it out with lead bullets, and hope for the best.

For this I had a great test bed, the Texican Rangers cowboy action club just out side of Fredericksburg, Texas, located on the beautiful Stealer Ranch. With the help of two of the saltiest outlaws I know, my Dad, Handlebar Bob and friend Gus Miller, willing to put the Remington through the lead challenge,

we were set to go. The week before the Wild Bunch shoot Handlebar Bob tried two common rounds used in Cowboy Action with 1911s, 230-grain, lead roundnose and 200-grain semi-wad cutters.

Both bullets did just fine, feeding great and shooting well with no trouble. The day of the Wild Bunch shoot Handlebar Bob shot the 200-grain semi-wad cutters, and Gus Miller used the 230-grain, lead roundnose. Each man shot a good match, with no issues with the pistol; it handled the lead bullets just fine. Handlebar loved the retro-looking and improved sights on the gun, and Gus liked the look and feel of the double diamond checkered wood grips. If you're looking for a reasonably priced, historic-looking 1911 for Wild Bunch fun, the Remington R1 is definitely worth a good look.

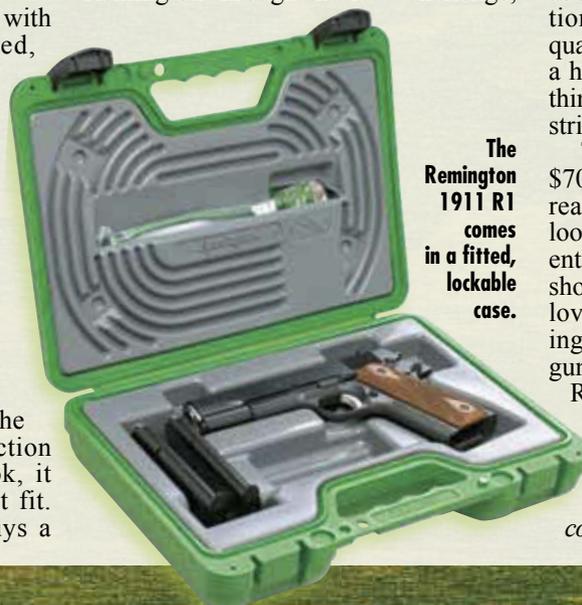
More To Come?

Being the pain in the rear-end I sometimes am, I would like to have seen a more traditional looking roll stamp on the gun, and a lanyard loop to add a bit more authenticity. However, there are a lot of positive things about Remington's new pistol. It functions well with lead and ball, is adequately accurate, well put together, has a handsome old school look, and something close to my heart — can be field stripped with just your bare hands.

Throw in the reasonable price of \$700 and it's not a bad deal for the recreational shooter wanting a WWII-era looking shooter, or the Cowboy Action enthusiast looking to start Wild Bunch shootin'. If you're a more modern 1911 lover, word on the street is this Remington pistol maybe just the base line gun of what is to come in the future of Remington 1911s. We will see what Remington comes up with in 2012.



For info: www.americanhandgunner.com/remington



The Remington 1911 R1 comes in a fitted, lockable case.



SIG SAUER'S STUNNING SCORPIONS!

A .45 ACP AND .40 S&W PAIR

JOHN TAFFIN

PHOTOS: CHUCK PITTMAN, INC.

Having attained the age when new experiences appear fast and furiously almost on a daily basis, it's nice once in a great while to actually encounter one that is pleasant. When His Esteemed Editorship contacted me about testing and evaluating a pair of SIG SAUER semi-automatics my immediate thought was, at last a new experience, which should actually be a pleasant experience. I was not disappointed.

I fired my first handgun, a .22 H&R double-action revolver, 64 years ago; that puts it at 1948 if you don't want to do the math. Over the ensuing years, I have been totally blessed to be able to experience almost every type of handgun, as well as versions from just about every manufacturer. One has always escaped me, and that has been the SIG. It seems like I've been close but never



SIG SAUER

45 ACP SCORPION
.40 S&W







quite got there; it is one of those some-days that never arrived.

My first “encounter” with a SIG goes back to 1958. By then I had a driver’s license and one of the duties which went along with that privilege was it was now my responsibility to drive my mother on all her errands. This particular Saturday morning found me waiting in the car as she shopped for groceries. I finally tired of waiting — actually, it was cold out there — and went inside the store hoping to find something about guns on the newsstand.

In 1958 gun magazines were few and far between, however there were several companies putting out 75-cent 6x9" paperbacks quite regularly. As my eyes roamed over the magazine rack I was stunned to find a book with a yellow cover entitled *Fighting Handguns*, written by a fellow I had never heard of named Jeff Cooper. I had struck gold! It may have cost 75-cents then, then again original copies in pristine shape will cost a hundred times as much now. I know this because I have bought them for my grandsons.

This was a marvelous little book and though nowhere near as large as Elmer Keith’s *Sixguns* of 1955, it was packed with great information. I was definitely still in my early learning stages, so any information I could find was cherished. In the chapter on the “Autoloading Pistol” there was a picture of a gun I had never seen before. It was a Neuhausen SIG from Switzerland, and even though I was mostly

captivated by single-action sixguns at the time, I knew someday I would have a SIG. Someday never came.

Close, But No Cigar

Over the next 10 years I would get married, have three kids, earn a college degree, move the family to Idaho, and wind up teaching classes at the State penitentiary three afternoons a week. It was there I became acquainted with a fascinating fellow, a guard not an inmate, who had been in Hitler Youth, served in the German Army, joined the Foreign Legion, and eventually wound up in America. All this time, and for many years to come, I had never even seen a SIG.

Fast-forward 20 more years; I became a gunwriter and was privileged to test nearly every manner of firearm, except a SIG, and now I finally had my second encounter with a SIG. I was invited to shoot the qualification course with the 200 county deputies, and by that time my German friend was with the Sheriff's Department. I shot against him and he was shooting a SIG. I'll leave it up to the readers to decide who won.

Another 20-plus years passed and still no opportunity presented itself to work with any SIG semi-autos. By now it had become SIG SAUER and I had tested and reported on an excellent SIG SAUER rifle for our sister publication, *GUNS*. But still no opportunity for handguns until finally, at last, *someday* arrived with the call from His Esteemed Editorship. Another *someday* was about to be crossed off the Bucket List.

A SIG 1911

Sixty years ago if you wanted a 1911 it was not all that difficult to find a military surplus .45 in serviceable condition for around \$15. If one was well heeled he could go for a commercial-grade, new production .45 from Colt. There were no other choices. Now it would not be hard to make a list of at least 40 manufacturers providing 1911s, so it makes sense for a pistol manufacturer such as SIG to come on board with their version, which they did some years ago.

My test SIG 1911 is the 1911R Scorpion. Anyone familiar with the breed would be comfortable with the 1911R. It has no guide rod, but does have an exterior extractor. Capacity is eight rounds, and it does not have a magazine disconnect safety. Controls consist of a slide lock in the traditional spot above the trigger along with an easy to reach, easy to operate, and very positive magazine release on the left side behind the trigger, and an ambidextrous safety. The Scorpion is also fitted with a beavertail safety with a palm pad, and a stainless steel Commander-style hammer.

Continued on page 78



Typical groups with the .40 SIG Elite and the .45 Scorpion 1911.



SELF-DEFENSE



SMITH & WESSON'S SD40

JEREMY D. CLOUGH • PHOTOS: ROY HUNTINGTON

S&W's new SD40 is ready to go right out of the box, tailor-made for home defense.

DYNAMICO

Our photo gun, shot and photographed by Editor Roy, liked any good quality ammo, exactly as Jeremy's test gun did. This meant two guns were actually tested, and both ran 100 percent.

One of the most definitive trends in modern handgun design has been the development of the service pistol. Usually a polymer framed high-capacity gun, and generally chambered for the potent .40 S&W cartridge, the modern service pistol has few external controls, and is equipped with a double-action trigger pull adding a measure of

safety over the traditional, crisp single-action trigger. Rarely equipped with an external safety mechanism, the service pistol is intended to fit the broadest spectrum of possible users, and to be safe and functional in the hands of those with limited training.

The firearms market has been flooded in the past couple of years with first-time buyers looking for a simple, effective tool for home and self defense, and it should be obvious the simplicity of the service pistol provides them with an attractive option. There's no complicated safety lever or de-cocking mechanism, no transition to master between the first and second shot: the only controls are the mag catch, slidelock and the trigger.

Smith & Wesson is no stranger to the platform. Their polymer-framed Sigma pistol has been around since 1994, and their more recent — and more refined — M&P line of service pistols has been very well received. Available in full-sized and compact versions, in calibers from 9mm to .45 ACP, the polymer-framed, striker-fired Military & Police is an excellent pistol, and Smith has chosen to build on that success by offering a

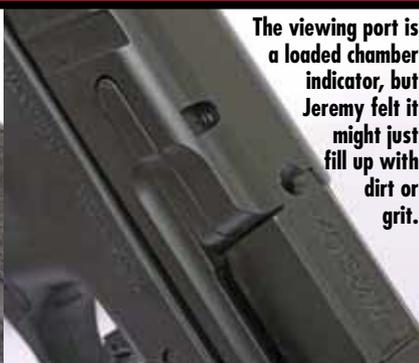


40 S & W + P			
12mm 230/20	150 gr.	JHP (1300 FPS)	
12mm 230/20	180 gr.	JHP (1100 FPS)	
12mm 230/20	180 gr.	FMJ/FN (1100 FPS)	

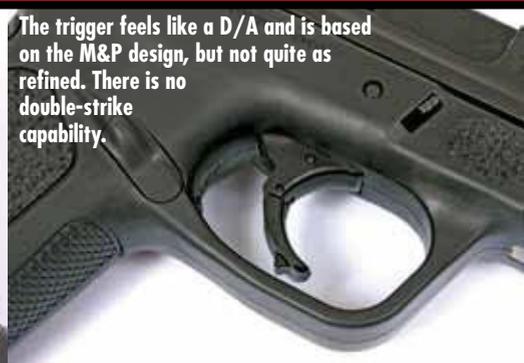
STRICTLY BIG BORE. STRICTLY BUSINESS.



External controls are minimal, with a mag release and slide stop.



The viewing port is a loaded chamber indicator, but Jeremy felt it might just fill up with dirt or grit.



The trigger feels like a D/A and is based on the M&P design, but not quite as refined. There is no double-strike capability.

simplified pistol intended specifically for budget-minded self defense.

The SD

Available either as an individual pistol or as part of a home defense package, the SD (which we assume stands for "Self Defense") comes in either 9mm or .40 S&W. Smaller than the full-sized M&P pistol, the SD40 is nearly a half-inch shorter in length, weighs about two ounces less, holds one less round in the magazine (full capacity is 15 in .40, 17 in 9mm), and costs about \$100 less. While the profile of the two pistols is very similar, gone are the interchangeable backstraps of the M&P and the lever-style takedown; and the wavy cocking serrations have been replaced on the flat black SD with broad, shallow grooves.

It may be a simpler version of the M&P, but the SD doesn't give up anything in the performance area. When I'm testing a pistol, I want to know what it will do under the worst circumstances, so I don't clean or oil it, and I load the mags to full capacity. To this point, I've fed my .40-cal test gun over 500 rounds, and have yet to see the first malfunction. Ammo was provided by Black Hills, including both full metal jacket (FMJ) ammo and jacketed hollowpoints (JHP) in 140- and 180-grain weights, and by Winchester, who sent 165 and 180 JHP and 165-grain FMJ. I also used 155-grain Hornady TAP, as well as some cast lead handloads I assembled on my Dillon 550, using Winchester primers and Bullseye powder. The SD40 has fed without a hiccup, cycling, ejecting, and locking the slide back each time. It simply works.

Accuracy was more than acceptable. At 25 yards, shooting from prone, I was able to shoot groups as small as the 3" range, which is far more than adequate for defensive use. Frankly, I think the pistol could do better than I did, but the trigger pull made it difficult to wring the full measure of performance out of the gun.

If you're a serious shooter who has



Any home owner armed with an SD40, a good knife like this CRKT, combat light like this one from Malkoff Devices, and a defensive bullet resistant vest from U.S. Palm could give his family a fighting chance if the chips drop the wrong way.

developed a discerning feel for a trigger, you'd be better suited with an M&P than the SD. While my M&P .45 has a wonderful, crisp trigger pull with good take up and very little creep, the SD has a longer, rolling pull tending to stack as you stroke the trigger through, and lacks smoothness. While that's not the end of the world, and you can certainly do excellent work with it, I found my follow-up shots were slower than usual.

Although split times between aimed shots with an M1911 .45 usually range around .15-.18 seconds, the Competition Electronics timer I got from Brownells showed my split times with the SD as more along the lines of .25-.28. While I did manage

to get a few down in the .18 range, at that speed I was no longer picking up the front sight between shots.

The advantage, of course, to the longer, heavier trigger pull is it's better suited for new shooters (the pistol's intended market) than a crisp, light pull — especially considering the gun has no external safety. And it's consistent between shots, which traditional double-action autos — such as Smith's Third Generation guns — are not.

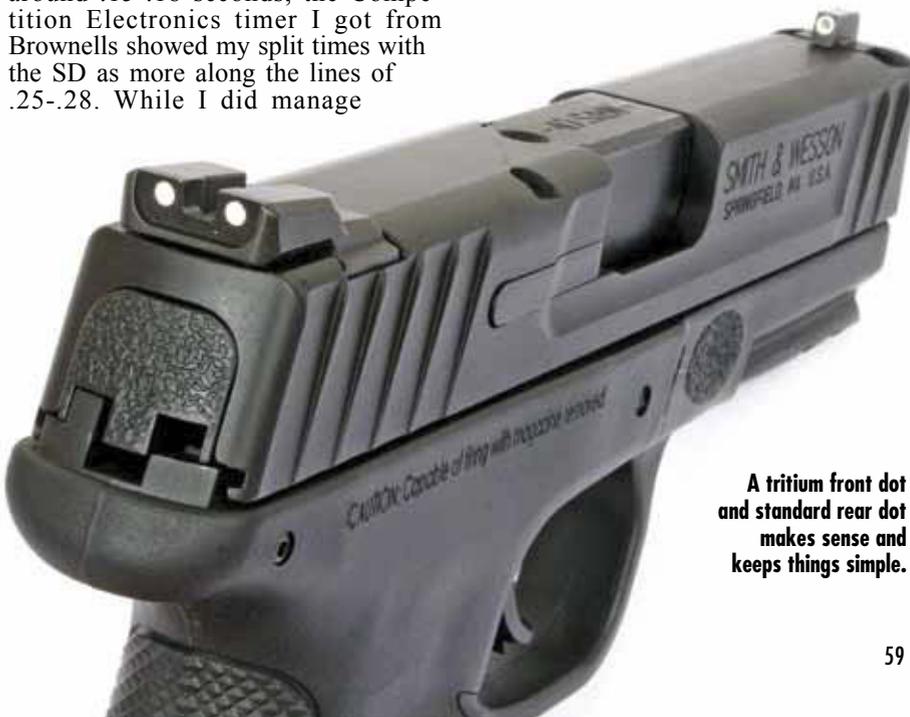
Another safety element of the SD is the molded-in, textured divot on either side of the frame. While many formal

training programs teach you to lay your trigger finger down the frame of the pistol until you're on target and ready to fire, for those who may not have the benefit of such extensive training, the divot not only gives you a place to do it, it also serves as a reminder for those who may not do it instinctively.

Good — & Questionable

The sighting arrangement of the SD is similarly well-thought out: while

Continued on page 85



A tritium front dot and standard rear dot makes sense and keeps things simple.

20 YEARS OF HIGH STANDARDS!



ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE **WINNERS**



ROY HUNTINGTON

Over 20 years ago, FMG decided to create an award program unlike anything our industry had ever seen before. Rather than having our editorial staff judge which new products were most innovative in each category, FMG reached out to the industry. We asked a broad cross-section of manufacturers, dealers, distributors, independent writers and other industry professionals to judge their peers on their own merits. It had nothing to do with how much advertising applicants had bought, or how much FMG staffers may have liked the products or people involved — it was, simply, all about just how good the top entry in a category actually was in the real world.

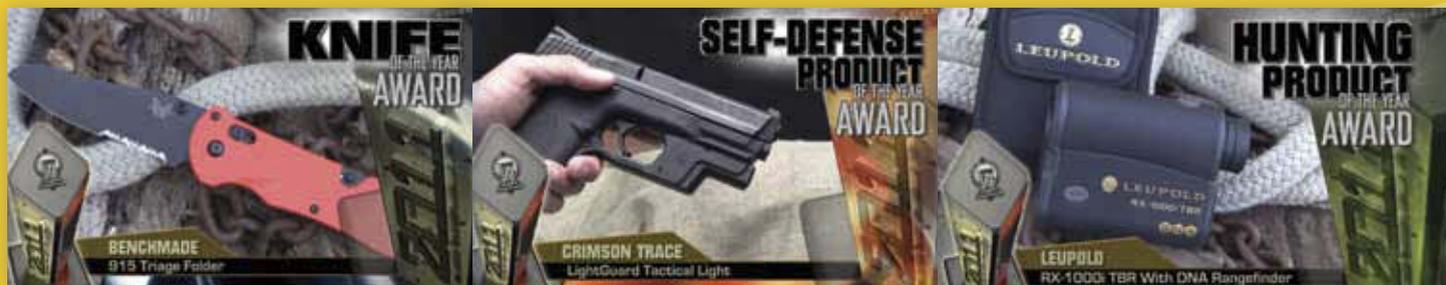
Over the following 20 years, the Academy has garnered a reputation for honest objectivity, and a spotless record for simply being the vehicle that people involved in the outdoor and shooting industry use to make their votes known. We're proud to showcase the winners of the 2011 Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence winners, many of which you've either seen in our pages, or will appear down the road.

ACCESSORY OF THE YEAR

BUTLER CREEK BABY UPLULA LOADER: Offering the speed and convenience of the original LULA Speed Loader/Unloader for magazines, the new Baby brings the technology to handguns. One size fits virtually all 9mm, 10mm, .357-, .40- and .45-caliber magazines, both single and double stack from all manufacturers.

AMMUNITION OF THE YEAR

HORNADY SUPERFORMANCE VARMINT AMMO: Using Hornady's polymer-tipped V-MAX bullet, their new line of high performance varmint ammo offers 100 to 200 fps increased





velocity from any offered caliber, without increased pressure or wear. In .222, .223, .22-250 and .243, Superformance is safe in any properly chambered firearm.

HANDGUN OF THE YEAR

RUGER LC9 SEMI-AUTO: Riding crest of the hot wave of pocket-sized 9mm semi-autos is Ruger's LC9. At only 17 ounces and 6" overall length, it's slim, trim and fits neatly into a pocket. The full-caliber 9mm assures adequate stopping power for self-defense, and the 3-dot sights, 7+1 capacity and glass-filled nylon frame just add to this award winning package.

HUNTING PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

LEUPOLD RX-1000I TBR WITH DNA RANGEFINDER: Light, loaded with features and accurate out to 1,000 yards, Leupold's RX-1000i is filled with the kind of engineering touches hunters and shooters want. The True Ballistic Ranging (TBR) technology accounts for incline, range to target and even your own ballistics information. Coupled with three reticle choices, machined aluminum body, weather-proof construction and a host of other features, it's obvious why Leupold won!

KNIFE OF THE YEAR

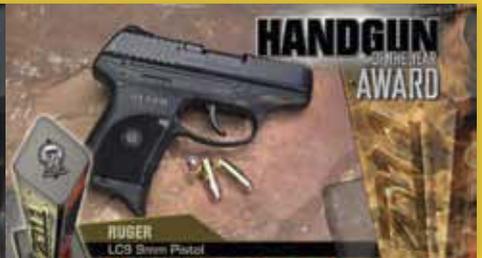
BENCHMADE 915 TRIAGE FOLDER: The Benchmade Triage triple utility tool includes a knife, safety hook and glass breaker all in one tactical folder. The 3.5" blade is made out of highly corrosion resistant N680 stainless steel. The Triage features a hook made from 440C, G10 handles and a carbide glass breaker.

OPTIC OF THE YEAR

LEUPOLD VX-R 3-9X40MM RIFLESCOPE: A state of the art illumination system, exclusive "FireDot Reticle" and other features launched Leupold's VX-R to the top of the category. Leupold's "Motion Sensor Technology" activates the FireDot reticle whenever the rifle is moved, the 30mm scope body offers more range of adjustment and the Extended Focus Range eyepiece makes keeping the field of view sharp, fast and easy.

RIFLE OF THE YEAR

RUGER GUNSITE SCOUT RIFLE: At only \$995, Ruger's hot new Gunsite Scout



Rifle delivers .308 performance in a compact, heavy-duty rifle, loyal to Jeff Cooper's original thoughts on the Scout concept. The removable box magazine, 16.5" barrel, stout laminated stock, aperture sight, Picatinny rail and integral scope mounts help to round out this complete package. Great for the field, protection or police use.

SAFETY PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

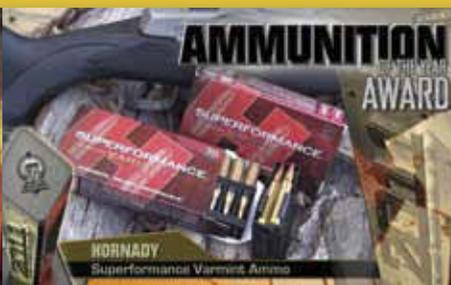
SUREFIRE EP3 SONIC DEFENDERS EARPLUG: Made of a soft, durable hypoallergenic polymer, SureFire's EP3 Sonic Defenders fit most ears comfortably, and offer the ability to hear ambient noise (non-electronically) yet shut off the sound of a gun report (up to 24 dB). Their construction allows for long-term wear, they come with a convenient carry case and the three sizes assure a fit for virtually anyone.

SHOTGUN OF THE YEAR AWARD

BENELLI USA SUPER VINCI 12 GAUGE: Able to handle 3.5" Magnum loads, the Benelli Super Vinci 12 Gauge offers a range of features sure to please any hunter. The In-Line Inertia-Driven action, superior balance, light weight, reduced recoil and minimal muzzle climb puts the Super Vinci at the top of the "must-have" list for hunters everywhere. It can also chamber light 2¾" rounds up to those big 3.5" ones! Call it a "Super-sized" Vinci!

SELF-DEFENSE PRODUCT OF THE YEAR

CRIMSON TRACE LIGHTGUARD TACTICAL LIGHT: Made to fit S&W's popular M&P semi-auto pistols, the LightGuard offers a slim, trim fit and 100 lumens of white light, designed specifically to be compatible with Crimson Trace's LG-660 laser sight. The LightGuard removes the need for a flashlight and the shooter can operate the laser, the light or both with one hand.



When you can't be there to protect her ...

At the shopping center, in the parking lot, at work, in her car or at home – there is a solution.

Make sure she can protect herself

The Concealed Carry for Ladies training course from Thunder Ranch offers a comprehensive look at concealed carry from a woman's perspective.

Instructor Heidi Smith presents her concepts on gun selection and carry options in an easy-to-follow, relaxed format.

What's the best way to carry a gun in a purse? How do you draw a gun from an ankle holster? What happens when a gun is fired at point blank range?

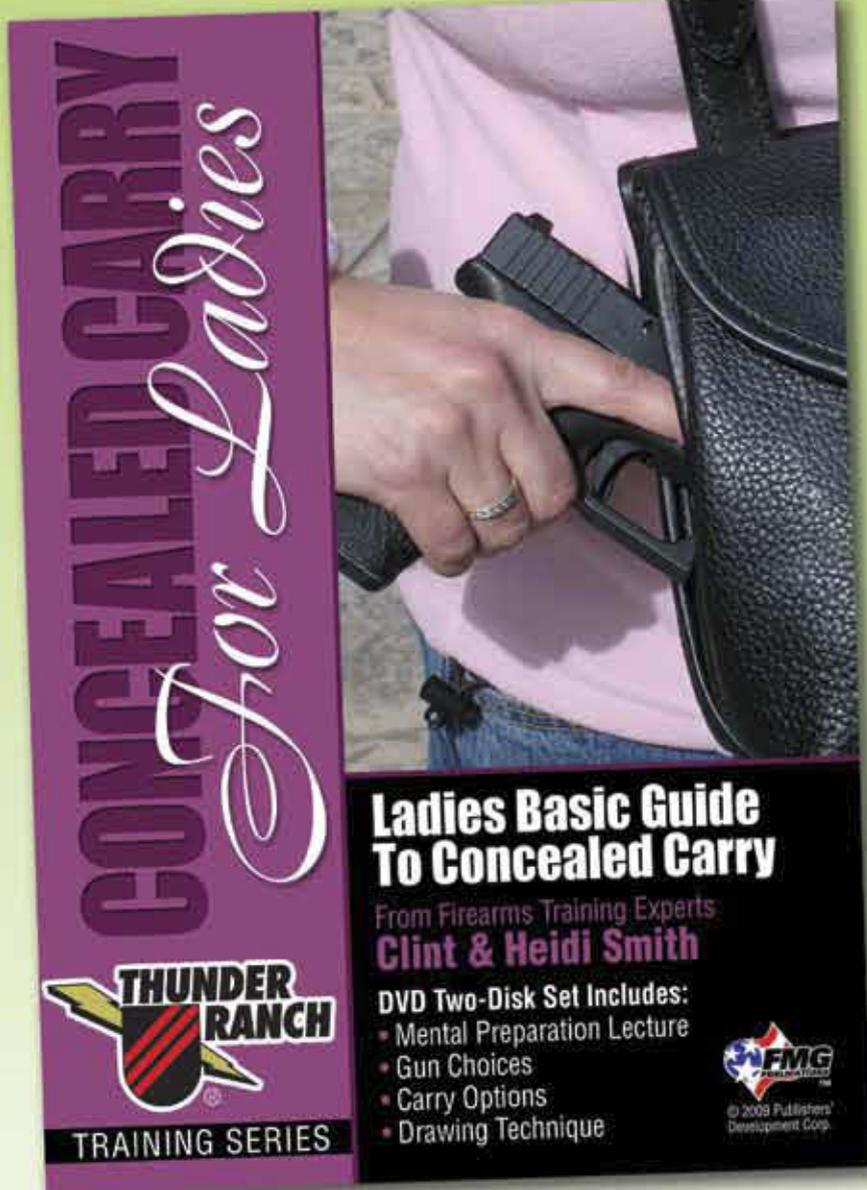
Heidi's range demonstrations, guided by husband Clint Smith, provide a complete picture on how to safely carry a concealed handgun, and draw and fire from several effective platforms.

Give that "special lady" in your life the tools she needs to protect herself when you're not around.

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"Although this may seem like a good concept, it isn't logical. I'll show you concealed carry options that make sense and will fit your lifestyle."

~ Heidi Smith

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GIFT GUIDE



JOHN CONNOR

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BE A SUPER SANTA!

Hey, congratulations! You're poised and ready to do some serious Christmas shoppery, and it's not even Christmas Eve yet! Bravo, mates! And even though you haven't got a single clue what to get anybody on your list, you *knew* you could count on us to do the sniffin' and snooping for you, right?

Hang on, Santa; board the sleigh and we'll take the reins while you stuff the bags! On, Dasher! On, Dancer! On Rudolph and on ... Roy? Oh, well. We've got seven reindeer, and an elf in harness with a funny hat on. Looks an awful lot like our Publishing Potentate Hissself in loden tights and pointy shoes, but that couldn't be — could it?

1 I'm not a jewelry kinda-guy, but I gotta tell you, Hot Caliber Jewelry is, well ... Hot! Jeweler-handgunner Manos Phoundoulakis fires lead slugs until he gets perfectly flattened specimens. Then using the lost wax process, casts them in solid sterling silver and 14K gold to make a unique and stunning collection of pendants, keychains and cufflinks. Any choice you make is gonna be a good one, so get on it and make it now!

2 Yeah, buckets o'-goop can be great gifts, especially if they're Bill Laughridge's Dunk-Kit Gun Cleaning System. I couldn't quite believe in it until The Famous Moustache of Cylinder & Slide himself and I were chattin'. He asked with a smile, "How many guns do you think I've cleaned in my time, youngster?" Then I tried it! Dunk-Kit is not only easy to use, it cleans beautifully, and it's now formulated for use on both metal and polymer-framed handguns.

3 Zippo lighters are already iconic, but mad metalsmith and handgunner Mike Porter takes extra-thick ARMOR series solid brass Zippos, then flame-treats, acid-etches and silver-solders 'em into functional artwork at his Wicked Zippo Studios. My intro to his work was a gift: an acid-etched Marine Corps eagle, globe and anchor, beautifully done. When we asked Mike about a nice Colt 1911 with a .45 ACP cartridge head; maybe a handy lanyard with an inert 230-grain FMJ "bead," he just grinned, fired up his torch, and you see the result. Ain't it pretty?

4 Master knife designer Bob Lum passed away in 2007, but his graceful, minimalist designs keep his legacy alive. Spyderco's rendition of his Asian tool-inspired C65CF Chinese Folder is a potential classic, designed to be both lively in the hand and pleasing to the eye. The glass fiber handle scales form distinctive swirls called "Nishijin" by the Japanese makers, and the fully flat-ground VG10 blade cuts clean and holds a sweet edge.

5 For your handgunning pal who schleps his guns and gear to the range in a cardboard box, two paper shopping bags and a greasy fire-chain sack, the ultimate answer to that "so many guns, so little room!" dilemma: The

2nd Amendment Rangeback by 1776 Tactical. It offers space for several handguns, 36 magazines and up to 60 pounds of range gear! Thirty-three unique storage compartments are built into a comfortable backpack with a raincover, removable waist belt and more.

6 Lots of tactical pens change only their colors from year to year, but SureFire's series of pens suitable for both writing and self-defense just keep evolving, getting better and better. Their latest iteration, the Pen IV, has the clicky-top control users asked for, extending and retracting the ink tip so there's no cap to lose; a Schmidt easyFLOW9000 cartridge for smooth, effortless writing, and the mil-spec hard anodized, aerospace aluminum body that made the original a favorite.

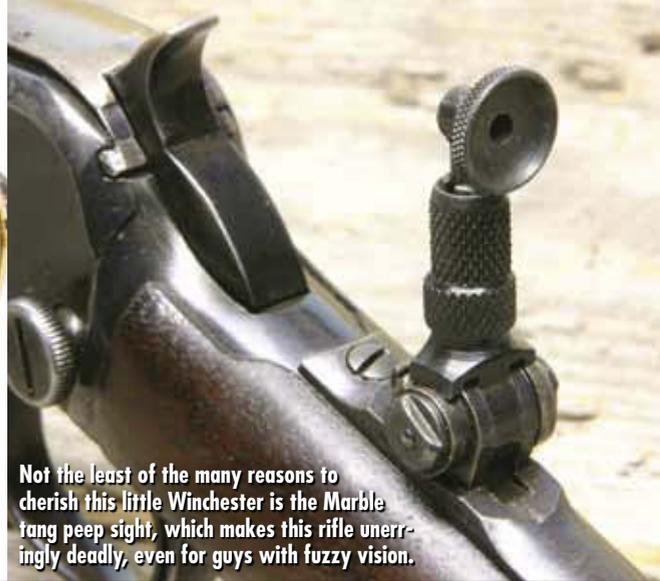
7 Your giftee can record what they see with these ImageView Binoculars from Bushnell. An on-board digital video camera syncs with the multi-coated 8x30 lenses to snap 5.0 MP still photos or up to 32 GB of video! A 1.5" flip-up viewing screen lets you check out instant replays of your video, and simple controls make it easy to master.

8 Most modern Americans lack finger, hand and wrist strength, and it's more important for us handgunners than for others. Even those of us who are conscious of it hardly know the science to it. Why, for example, training our flexors without training our extensors can lead to serious grip problems. But that's okay; what we don't know, Ronald Strassen, PhD., President of IronMind does, and he puts it into products like his Captains of Crush whole-hand grip trainers, and the IMTUG grippers which allow targeting one or two fingers at a time. They're not toys, they're serious tools.

For more goodies go to www.americanhandgunner.com and click on Web Blast! For more info, www.americanhandgunner.com/product-index and click on the company name.

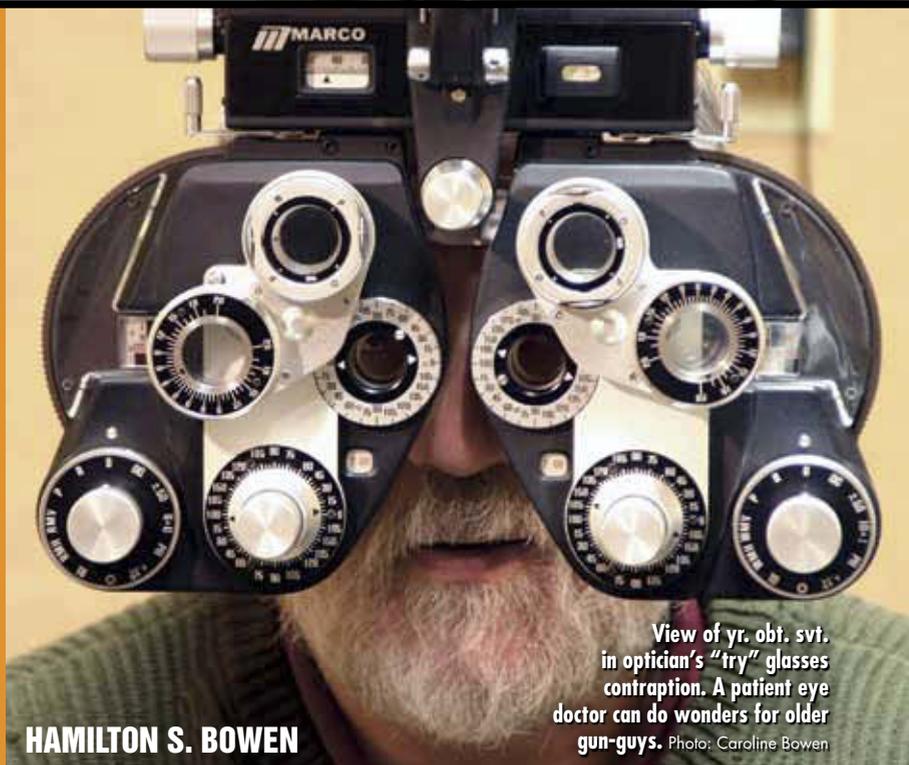


This pair of shooting glasses sports a Merit Eye Disc and a stick-on Clear To Target paper aperture. Both act like a "small aperture" for your eye.



Not the least of the many reasons to cherish this little Winchester is the Marble tang peep sight, which makes this rifle unerringly deadly, even for guys with fuzzy vision.

BETTER EYES FOR THE COOTER CROWD



View of yr. obt. svt. in optician's "try" glasses contraption. A patient eye doctor can do wonders for older gun-guys. Photo: Caroline Bowen

HAMILTON S. BOWEN

STAYING IN THE GAME

When I was a 30 something, pretty full of it and a fairly able marksman, I heard mutterings from my senior shooting friends about "the change" that would come in my life in a few short years and then I wouldn't be so cocky. There were cryptic references to eye troubles that gave to me to believe I, like them, would soon be unable to hit the broad side of a barn. This didn't make a much sense to me; I was born blind as a bat and for a while was perceived to be a fairly simple-minded child given that I couldn't see the blackboard in school, let alone figure out why my teachers

spent a lot of time up in front of the class waving their arms about, bleating about imaginary letters, numbers and such. Somebody finally figured out I needed glasses.

Glasses opened up a whole new world. Blackboards had discernable hieroglyphics on them. Trees were not really green blobs but had individual leaves. You could identify people by sight rather than smell. End of problem — at least for a while. Well, now the old guy's secret is out. In my 40s, I noticed sights growing increasingly furry. Now I'm in my 50s; the express sights on my single-shot, double-barreled black powder rifles have largely

disappeared. Revolver sights were following close behind. Shooting ability was going to hell fast.

Simple?

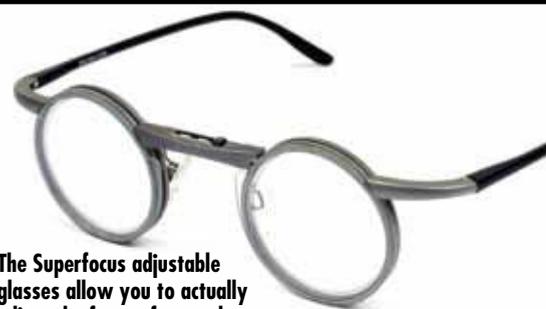
The problem is simple. Your eyes can focus clearly on only one thing or distance at a time, no matter your age. In younger eyes, lenses can flit so quickly back and forth among a number of focal planes that your brain is tricked into thinking all are in focus simultaneously. This is why at 30 you can clearly see both front and rear sights and the target, even if you are plagued with the usual vision maladies such as myopia (near sightedness) or hyperopia (far-

Objects photo'd with large ap./short exposure show a blurred background but a crisp subject.

Object photo'd with small ap./long exposure shows by reducing the aperture size and lengthening the exposure time, the entire view is in apparent focus. Like we used to be able to do with our young eyes!



While scopes and other optical devices encumber revolvers, vintage shooters may have to suck it up and use them anyway.



The Superfocus adjustable glasses allow you to actually adjust the focus of your glasses using the slider on the bridge between the lenses. It's instant and allows immediate control over sight picture focus.

“NOT ALL EYE DOCS ARE SHOOTERS, SO YOU MAY HAVE TO BRING YOURS UP TO SPEED ON THE PROBLEM.”

sightedness), assuming you wear corrective lenses for these conditions.

However as one ages, the lenses in your eye become increasingly inelastic and slow (or even unable) to focus. When presbyopia sets in earnest around 40, the rear sight will get furry. By the time you are 50, chances are the rear sight will disappear, the front sight will get fuzzy and then game is over. So, what to do? While the various corrective eye surgeries give many a new lease on life, they do not cure the basic problem for shooters: inelastic lenses ... at least not yet. We have to wage war on this problem on other fronts. I haven't found the perfect solution yet but have kept in the game thanks to a couple of approaches. We'll start with one of the essentials in the form of glasses.

If you don't have glasses already and are having trouble shooting, man-up and get the peepers checked out, some-

thing you should do every year anyway lest you fall prey to some gawd-awful eye disease leaving you really blind and outfitted with a cane or seeing-eye dog. Not all eye docs are shooters, so you may have to bring yours up to speed on the problem. He will laugh when you tell him you need to be able to see three things at once, perfectly well. At best, you are probably going to get only one place in the rear sight/front sight/target hierarchy of a shooter's focal planes into proper focus.

In my opinion, the front sight is the most critical. You can align a Q-tip with a cotton ball but not the reverse. I went for the "visible rear sight/crisp front sight/visible-but-slightly-furry-target" combo prescription and have never looked back. The real trick here is to find an optometrist or ophthalmologist who is sympathetic enough to let you lug your rifle or handgun into his office.

I am singularly blessed to have one who did. The hour or so spent experimenting with various lens combinations checked against the sights secretly aligned through the window on the "O" in a stop sign down the street, resulted in a pair of dedicated shooting glasses that gave me a new lease on life. Not a perfect solution, but it put me back in the hunt.

Mysterious Things

The other angle of attack on vision problems is found in the laws of optical physics. If you are any sort of photographer, the Cliff Notes version here will make perfect sense. Depth of field is generally defined as the portion of a scene that appears to be in focus, bearing in mind only one plane at a time can be in perfect focus. The objects immediately before and beyond that plane will typically be acceptably focused to

Continued on page 81

EDGES OF

ENDURANCE!

We live in a world where advances in technology are happening so fast, what used to be taking a breather has been reduced to a blink. Very few companies have the luxury of sitting on their laurels because there are always fresh jaws nipping at their heels. Spyderco is a company that has mastered the art of moving forward, and they've done it by taking a simple blade-changing concept, navigating it through the winds of change, and never looking back.

Who would have thought a simple hole in a blade could launch one of the most successful cutlery companies in history? Spyderco founder and president Sal Glesser, who designed and introduced the original *hole-in-the-blade* Worker model 30 years ago, must get up and pinch himself every day. The Worker's acceptance allowed Glesser to expand his vision to highly successful folding knives like the Military, Police, Delica and Endura models, which are still bulwarks in the Spyderco line a decade and a half later.

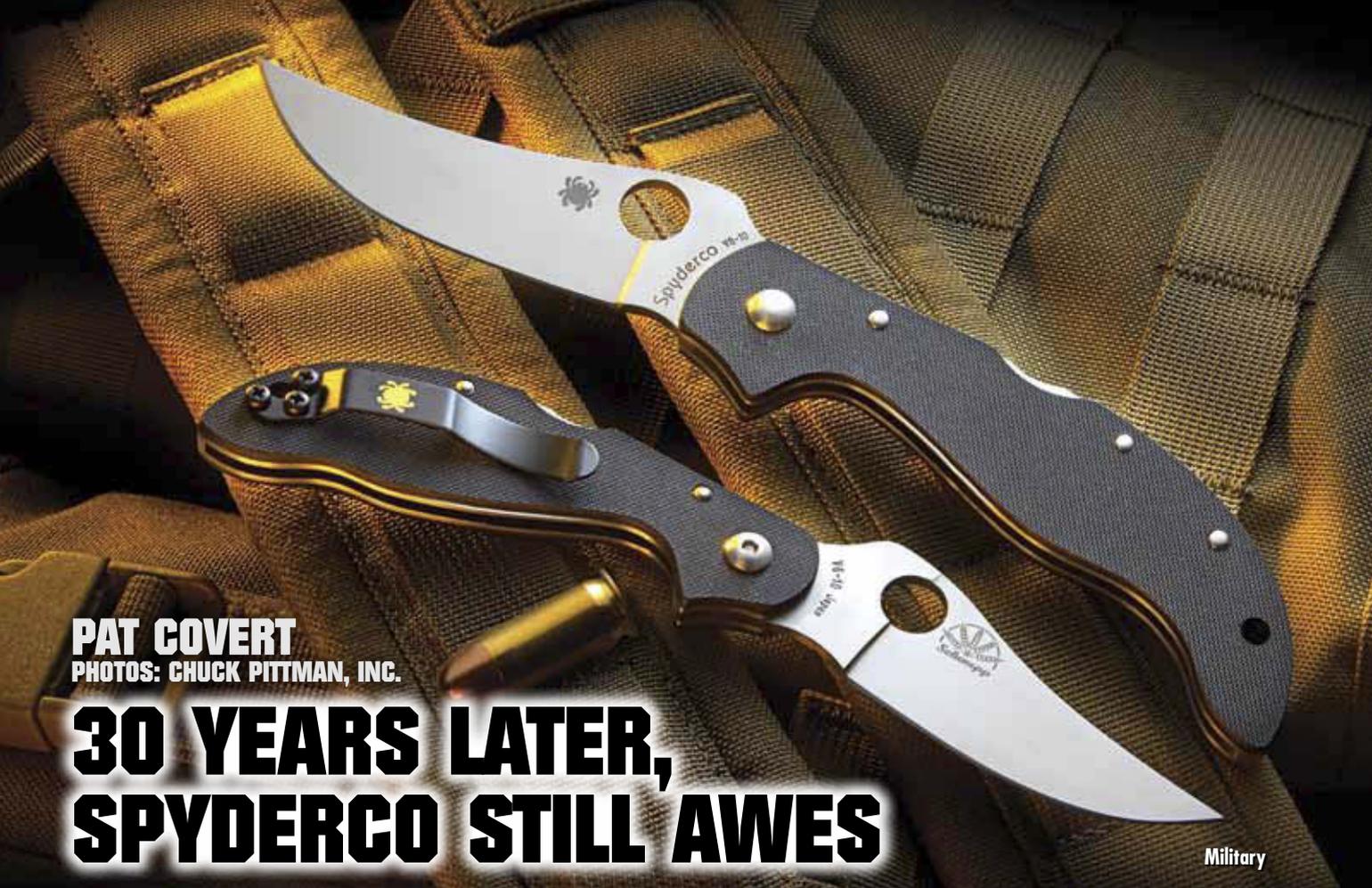
The "hole" idea took off when law enforcement and military personnel latched onto the concept. The knives are easy to employ, even in gloved

hands, and consumers followed on their heels. Other knife features popularized by the company were serrated blades and pocket clips, now very common on folding knives throughout the industry.

Zulu

Tenacious & Ambitious

Resilience



PAT COVERT
PHOTOS: CHUCK PITTMAN, INC.

30 YEARS LATER, SPYDERCO STILL AWES

Military

Three decades later Spyderco still stands out as an innovator.

Cutting Edge Collabs

In the early 1990s when modern tactical folders were in their infancy, Spyderco was the first manufacturer to team up with a custom knifemaker in what are now commonly known as collaborations, or “collabs” for short. The company recruited tactical folder groundbreaker Bob Terzuola in 1990, and on his heels, Michael Walker, the godfather of the modern day liner-lock. Many have followed, and both of these knifemakers are still actively involved in design ventures with Spyderco.

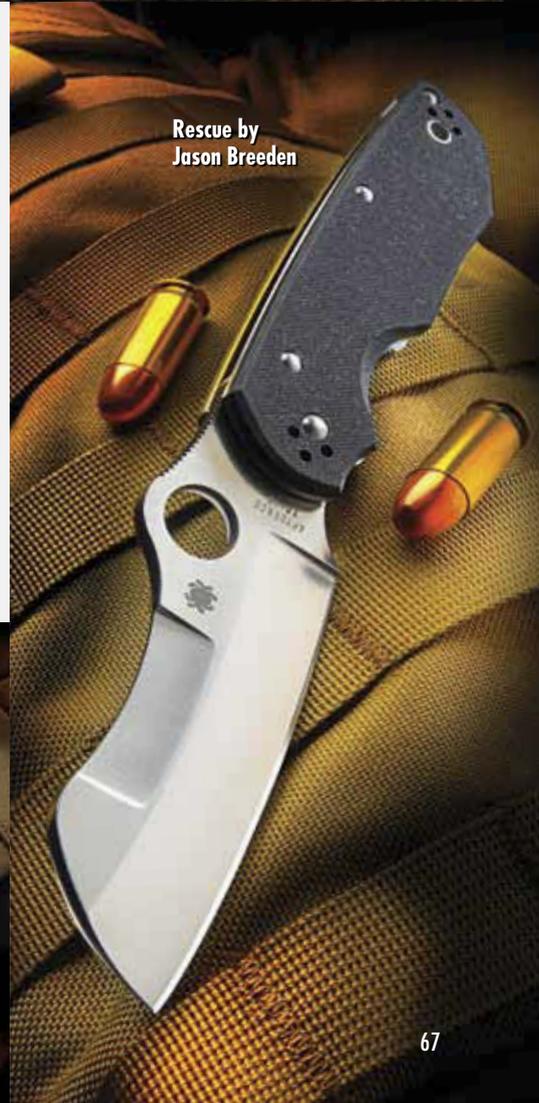
Recent collaborations by veteran Ed Schempp — who has quite a few design projects with the company under his belt — along with younger knifemakers Jason Breeden and Jens Anso, show the excellent diversity Spyderco seeks in their collaborations. According to Spyderco Marketing Director Joyce Laituri, “I absolutely love working with the younger guys like Jason and Jens. They’re in their 30s and to me represent the future of custom and custom-collaboration knives. There

are 20-somethings behind them we look forward to working with as well.”

Joyce continues, “Ed is an icon, a seasoned artisan, and working with him has without question elevated Spyderco in a higher level. We’re thankful for his exceptional talent and his friendship. All the makers breathe innovation and motivation into our industry. I can’t imagine the knife world without their influence!”

Ed Schempp’s Persian model is part of the company’s globally influenced Ethnic series. Spyderco fans are familiar with this design as Ed has done previous iterations of the knife prior to the release of the two current models. Michael Janich, Spyderco’s Special Projects Director (and noted author and combat instructor) sums up the current models thusly: “The large and small Persian knives are both a

Continued on page 72



Rescue by
Jason Breeden



Left to right: Ambitious,
Zulu, Military

WIN!



AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

HANDGUN OF THE MONTH

AR-24 9MM PACKAGE



ARMALITE

BONUS



1

1 The GS-3PL pistol glove from GripSwell tames handgun recoil and provides mechanical protection, while offering a firmer, more confident grip. It's ideal for shooters who choose larger caliber guns requiring more than just a firm grip. GripSwell has incorporated strategically placed memory foam pads that mold around the pistol grip and provide a full-contact custom fit. The design and materials work to significantly reduce recoil energy transferred to the hand, allowing the shooter to more precisely control the gun.



2 THE WORLD'S FIRST FIREPROOF GUN CASE



3

2 Introducing Fire.pod, the world's first fireproof gun case. Fire.pod is the most lightweight, fire-resistant gun case to be unveiled in today's market. Fire.pod easily withstands temperatures in excess of 3,000

degrees, and is an affordable, compact way to protect your firearms from fire. **3** In *Building World Class Pistol Skills*, from Panteao Productions, you will get tips and advice from Robert Vogel, world class shooter and National Champion in both IDPA and USPSA. Robert helps you improve your handgun shooting ability in an easy to follow step by step approach. Covering topics like accuracy, proper grip, hand strength, trigger finger isolation, stance, strong-hand/weak-hand stance and much more, you're sure to benefit from Robert's experience. **4** All Escala Industries' knives were designed by a former US Marine and current police officer. All of the designs are made with 3/16" thick AR400 steel and coated with Cerakote. The PDT is designed with tools a police officer might use in the course of their daily duties. The glass breaker, seat belt cutter and two cutouts for the main gas/water shut off valve and custom designed friction lock sheath, all made in the USA, means the PDT is duty-ready.



4

Main photo courtesy of Armalite

Accessory photos: Joe Novelozzo

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The AR-24 Tactical Custom full-size pistol features checkering on the fore and backstrap, dovetail front and adjustable rear, 3-dot sights. Safeties include external thumb safety and internal firing pin and half cock. Made by Sarsilmaz (who has been in the gun business for 100 years), the AR-24 is rock solid, brawny (over two pounds of steel!) and blends the best of the SIG P210 and other designs like the CZ 75 series into one package. A bruiser of a home-defense gun, and sure to live through an atomic bomb blast! We're talking tough stuff here.

Included with the pistol are two 15-round magazines, pistol case, pistol lock, manual and cleaning brushes. Ten-round magazines are available if you're stuck in one of those states.

CUSTOM FEATURES:

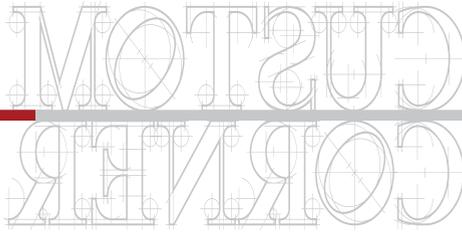
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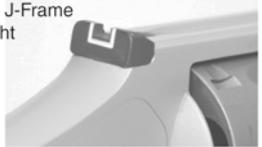


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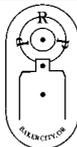


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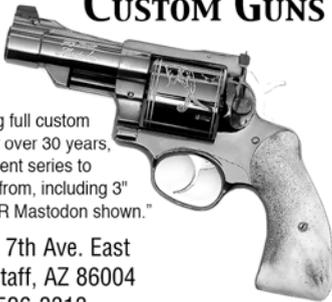
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GUN RIGHTS

Alan Korwin



DO WE NEED NEW GUN LAWS?

Ask the average gun buff if we need new gun laws and the knee-jerk reaction is, "Not just no, but hell no!" That's followed up with, "What part of 'Shall not be infringed' don't you understand? All those gun laws on the books are illegal and should be repealed!" Let's just think about that.

You know rights come with limits and responsibilities. Your right to swing your arms ends at the tip of my nose, right? Who would argue a law disarming convicted murderers in prison violates the Second Amendment? You get the point. Some gun laws are just fine. A five year old can't walk into a gun shop and buy a gun.

Yes, on cool reflection, some gun laws work and are a part of the American concept of *ordered liberty*. We control bad elements in society and mete out punishment for bad actors and their bad acts. The worse the act is, the harsher the penalty. You want *those* laws.

"Let's look at our legitimate need for gun laws. Because laws protect the innocent as well as punish the guilty."

But let's change the rules of engagement. *You* help undermine anti-gun-rights bigots, and co-opt their work, by demanding reasonable, common sense gun laws of your own — a superb paradigm shift.

Let's look at our legitimate need for gun laws. Because laws protect the innocent as well as punish the guilty. That's especially important now the Constitution no longer constrains Congress. Officials do whatever they please, trashing our rights, ignoring their limits, acting like tyrants unrestricted by "a government of limited delegated powers." You can fight this using new laws, with teeth, to stop those defilers of our magnificent system.

Here's how you grow teeth. Instead of a law stating (in simple terms), "It's illegal to take a gun away from an innocent person" (a toothless statement, but oh so typical), you say instead, "Anyone who takes a gun from an innocent person shall go to jail." Now the authorities have to watch their butts because there's a penalty for violating your rights, not just some feckless statement they shouldn't do it. We win.

"Kosher" Gun Laws

Of all the groups defending the RKBA, the most aggressive is *Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership*, and even those people support

Continued on page 101

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ENDURANCE

Continued from page 67

tribute to the traditional knives of ancient Persia and an expression of modern function. Although the first Persian model featured a stainless steel bolster and heavy-duty construction, the new models are much thinner and have textured G10 handles. Together with the dramatic lines and curves of Schempp's interpretation of Persian design, the G10 scales offer a very secure grip that seems almost molded to the user's hand. These are some of the most stylish, yet practical, EDC (Every Day Carry) knives you'll ever see."

Young Lions

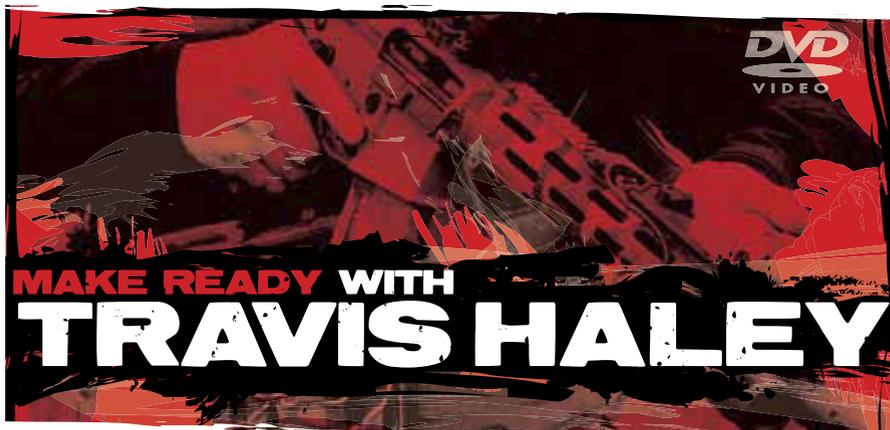
Danish knifemaker Jens Anso is wildly popular on the Internet, which has allowed him to build a US fan base and keep fans across the globe abreast of his latest offerings. Anso's unorthodox, free-wheeling designs represent the cutting edge of current knife-think, and the Zulu model is his second collab with Spyderco. "For those who like lots of "belly" to their blades for chores like skinning and game preparation," says Janich, "the Zulu is as good as it gets. Its compact handle features a pistol-grip-style handle with 'corrugated' G10 scales and offers an extremely secure grip and edge orientation. Together with the long, curved belly of the blade, it allows for precise slicing actions with exceptional control."

Custom knifemaker Jason Breeden's Rescue is his second collaboration with Spyderco also. Like Anso, this Appalachian artisan also has a knack for surprising designs offering sound function. Janich tells *Handgunner*, "Although a 'rescue' model by name, this is actually a very versatile all-purpose knife. It's unique sheepfoot blade profile features a slight curve over the length of the edge. This allows it to be used as a rescue tool for cutting seat belts and similar tasks, but it also gives it a very usable cutting tip allowing precise, almost scalpel-like control. The near-flush liner lock also protects against unintentional release of the lock during use."

Janich Too

Janich, who conducts edged weapons training seminars all over the world, had previous experience as a collaborator with Spyderco several years prior to his employment by the company. The Yojimbo 2 is an update of the original Yojimbo (Japanese for "bodyguard") released by Spyderco in 2003. Michael gives us his insight into the new version of the combat folder:

"The Yojimbo 2 is a much more evolved version of my original Spyderco folder design. Like the original, it



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features a Wharncliffe blade to ensure maximum cutting power all the way to the point. However, the blade is now partially hollow ground to provide a better balance of blade strength and cutting performance and is extended to 3.2". The concave thumb ramp on the back of the blade provides the perfect purchase for a 'Filipino-style' grip and is devoid of jimping or texturing to prevent abrading the thumb during hard impact."

"The handle has been shortened," Janich adds further, "to allow easy carry in the pocket (for situations where clip carry is inappropriate) and features enhanced ergonomics to better complement the natural shape of the hand. A 4-position clip supports all possible carry configurations, and Spyderco's patented Compression Lock was chosen for its extreme strength."

Spyderco Affordecos

Before our country's economy tanked a few years back, Spyderco had already produced an affordable line of offshore produced knives under the "Byrd" moniker. The Byrd experience has allowed them to expand the company's main line with a group of folders more budget conscious to reflect the times. Joyce states, "Our Value Folders present anyone interested in owning a true Spyderco a perfect opportunity. It's everyone's priority to stretch our paychecks further, and the Tenacious, Persistence, Resilience and Ambitious offer the opportunity to own a folder at a price still allowing most people to fill the tank and hit the grocery store. I've seen the Value Folders used as a stepping stone of sorts, leading to the purchase of higher-end Spyderco products later in time."

"Knife enthusiasts who are pro-USA made and anti-China made are slower to accept them and have been rather vocal in their criticism. I've seen most of them convert due to the lagging economy, or once they experience the knives they realize what great features and quality they are getting for the dollar. Sal had the same reaction to his Japan-made knives in the 1980s." For the record, those early Japanese models are highly collectible and today many knives produced in Seki City — Japan's knife manufacturing capitol — are considered world class.

In addition to their collaborations and economically priced knives, Spyderco is on the leading edge of the industry in producing modern slip joint (non-locking) folders for consumers who live in countries overseas — and more recently New York State — that have restrictive policies on cutlery. This is just another example of how Spyderco has been able to adapt to market conditions and stay ahead of the game!



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SIXGUNNER

Continued from page 44

which when pushed down, unlatches the barrel assembly allowing it to move upward to be unloaded and reloaded. Each barrel assembly has its own built-in spring-loaded ejector. Care needs to be used in loading to make sure the barrel is pointed in the proper direction. Once the barrel is unlatched, and pivoted upwards it is very easy to point it backwards. As with any firearm it is simply the number one rule of always keep the barrel pointed in a safe direction.

**If most men had a choice,
they would rather get
shot by a "clean" .45
than a dirty .41.**

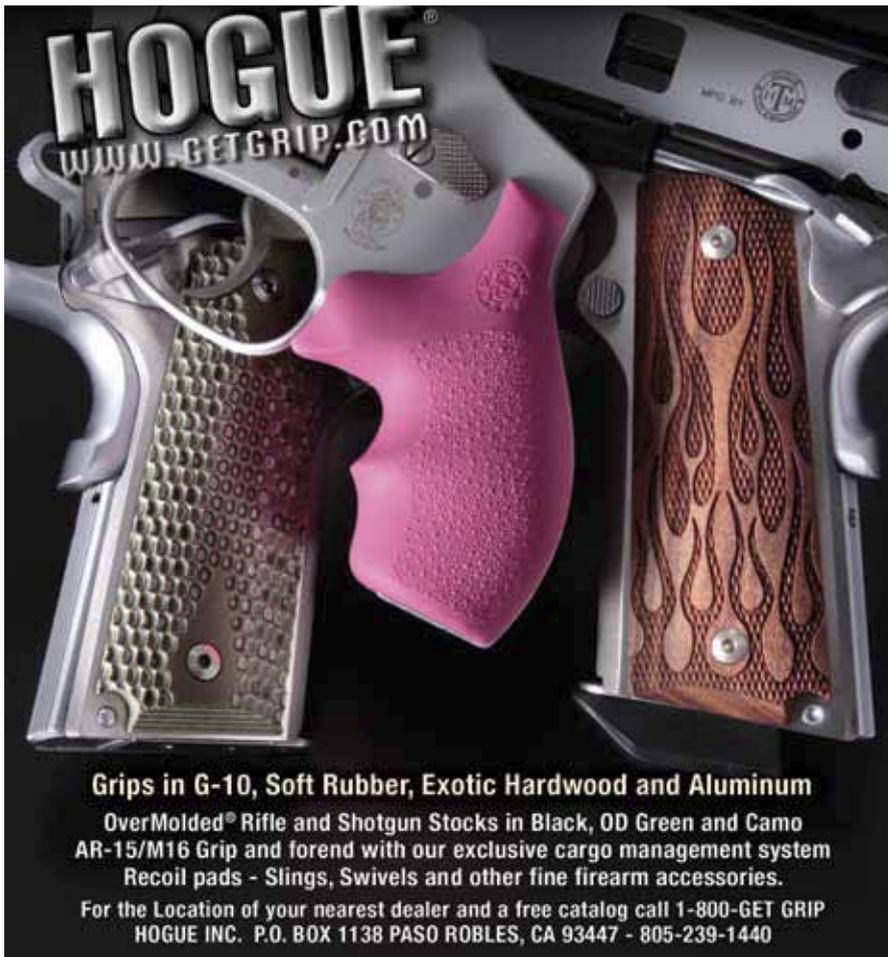
Currently Bond Arms offers six versions of their basic stack-barreled derringer. All of these come as .45 Colt/.410 Doubled Barrel Protection pistols and all have the capability of accepting other barrels in 14 different chamberings. Other chamberings include .45 ACP, .44-40, .44 Special, .40 S&W, .357 Magnum, .327 Magnum, 10mm, 9mm and .22. The Cowboy Defender and the Ranger both have spur triggers, while the Texas Defender, Century 2000, Snake Slayer and Snake Slayer IV all have triggerguards. The Defender models accept 2.5" .410 shotshells in addition to .45 Colt, while the others will all take 2.5" or 3" shotshells.

Details

Bond Derringers are of all high-grade stainless steel construction. The sights are a blade front matched up with a large rear sight adequate for up-close shooting, a spring-loaded extractor aids in removing spent shells, and the hammer is the rebounding type and is matched up with a thumb operated cross bolt safety. Grips are either Rosewood or black ash and extend below the frame with a finger groove on the Ranger and Snake Slayers.

The patented spring-loaded rapid reload lever on the left side allows for a tight barrel/frame fit and also works very smoothly for unlatching the barrels for loading and unloading. Bond also offers several options as far as holsters for carrying any of the derringer models, and these are extremely high quality. The Custom Shop can also provide nearly a dozen different grip materials including stag, giraffe bone, and exotic woods.

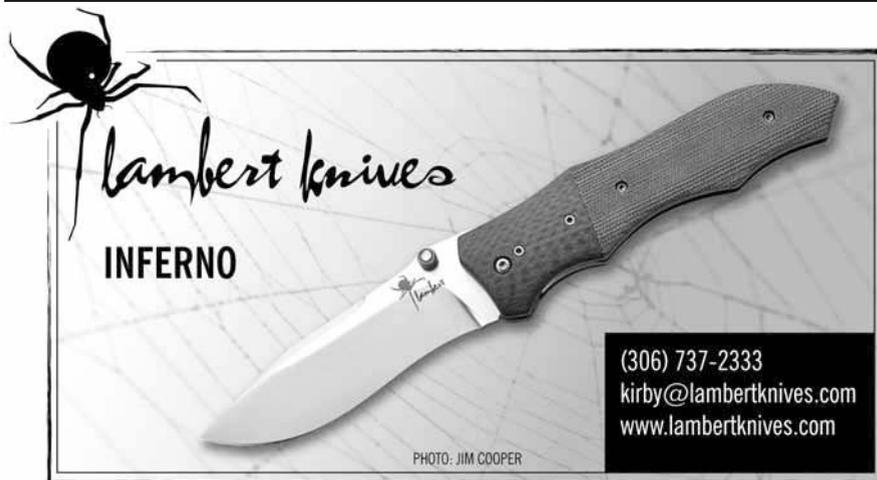
This time around my two test guns have been the Ranger and the Snake Slayer. The Ranger has a 4¼" barrel,



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weighs 23 ounces, and comes with black extended grips with a Texas emblem and it was also supplied with a thumb-break, black leather holster that also has the same Texas emblem. The Snake Slayer has a 3½" barrel, weighs 22 ounces with rosewood extended grips, and unlike the Ranger has a triggerguard. Both versions handle 3" .410 shells.

Breaking Ground

Bond was offering .410 Derringers before .410 was cool! When they first arrived, shooters only had a choice of standard .410 shotshells designed for standard shotgun use. Now the Bond Derringer has been made even more effective by the addition of several offerings of .410 shotshells designed specifically for handgun use. Some companies, such as Winchester, are even offering a combination box of ammunition, which contains both .45 Colt loads and .410 shotshells. This, of course, has been precipitated by the manufacturer of .410 revolvers, however they are just as well suited for the Bond Derringers. There are, of course, several .45 Colt offerings suitable for use in the Bond, including such JHP designs as the Federal 225 LSWC, Speer 250 Gold Dot, and Winchester 225 Silver-Tip. These clock out around 700-750 fps from the Ranger and Snake Slayer.

In test-firing the Ranger and Snake Slayer, .45 Colt loads were no problem when it came to placing them in the center of mass on a silhouette target. I also used both #4 and #6 shot in .410 shells, and at close range they are devastating. They will certainly handle any varmint or snake. I used a few Idaho Bakers as targets and they don't just penetrate — they destroy.

Buckshot

Switching to standard shotgun 000-buck from Winchester resulted in all pellets on target, however the special 000-buck Personal Protection loads from Federal specifically designed for short-barrel handguns placed their payload in a much smaller cluster. As a self-defense option they too would be devastating.

Weighing less than 1½ pounds makes the Ranger and Snake Slayer particularly attractive to those who stray off the beaten path and head into sagebrush, foothills, forests and mountains. By selective loading you could be prepared for snakes that crawl, or snakes that walk on two feet. The former are usually easily avoided; the latter may have to be confronted. Having a Bond Derringer loaded with 000-buck could be very comforting, and in fact is a very low cost insurance policy. The Snake Slayer retails for \$475; the Ranger for \$620.



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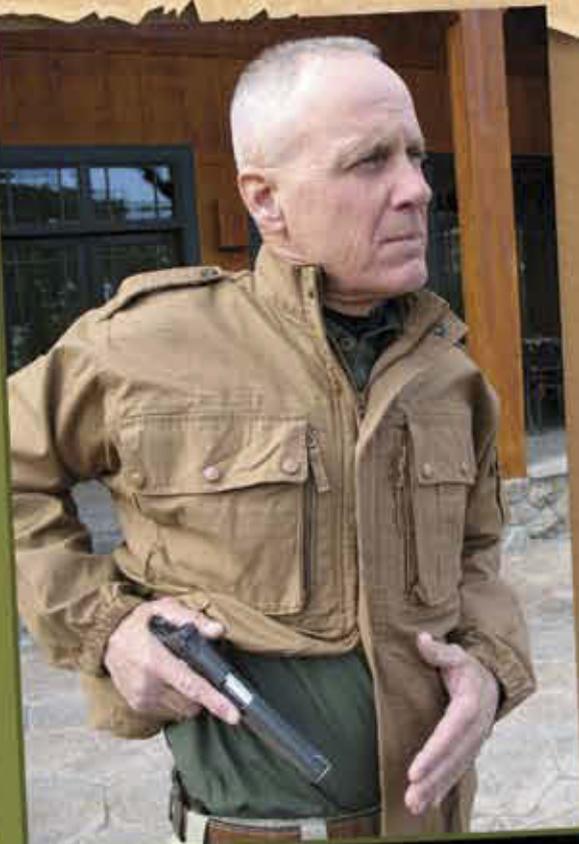
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TAFFIN TESTS

Continued from page 38

It was all quite frustrating, and in the 1970s, beginning with Skeeter Skelton, many of us owned Ruger .357 Blackhawks converted to .44 Special. In fact over the years — the next 30 years to be precise — a good-sized list of sixgunsmiths converted many original Flat-Top .357 Blackhawks and the later Old Model of 1962 into beautiful .44 Special Perfect Packin' Pistols. At the last count, I've had such conversions completed by a long list of sixgunsmiths, including Hamilton Bowen, Bob Baer, David Clements, Ben Forkin, Alan Harton, Andy Horvath, Jack Huntington and Gary Reeder. They are the .44 Specials Ruger could have (and should have) built.

By 1972, the original-sized .357 Blackhawk was gone and all New Model .357s were built on the larger .44 Magnum frame. Of course, this resulted in a larger and heavier sixgun. This .357 certainly reduces recoil; nevertheless it is just not the same to an old sixgunning heart as the original .357 Blackhawk. In 2005, Ruger celebrated their 50th anniversary of the .357 Blackhawk by in essence resurrecting it 21st century-style. Ruger did not go back to the old Three-Screw action, but what they did do is build the same size sixgun as the original on the New Model action, complete with an all-steel grip frame of the original size and shape. At the time, I asked the president of Ruger if we could have a .44 Special on the same frame. He didn't say no, but he didn't say yes.

Enter Lipsey's

What Ruger didn't do, Lipsey's did, ordering several thousand Ruger .357 Blackhawk Flat-Top New Models chambered in .44 Special with both 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ " and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel lengths. Ruger liked the idea so much the .44 Special Flat-Top showed up in the Ruger standard production catalog the following year. However, this was only the beginning for Lipsey's!

Staying with the same .44 Special Flat-Top New Model Blackhawk theme, they ordered another batch in stainless steel. I was so smitten with the 4 $\frac{5}{8}$ " version, I sent it off to be engraved before I even fired its first shot. Michael Gouse, who just a few months before engraved a 4" stainless steel Smith & Wesson .44 Special Model 624 for me, was given the honor and did an exceptional job, covering the stainless steel of the Ruger, including the sides of the hammer. The first time I fired this sixgun, my faith in it was rewarded with a 1-hole group. I have since added ivory stocks, and it is now one of my

favorite Perfect Packin' Pistols.

Since they had the .44 Special and were using the standard-sized frame, and since they were using the old original XR3 grip frame size, and since every sixgunner worthy of the name was thoroughly taken with this whole concept and since ... well I could keep going ... but as a result, Lipsey's currently also offers the same basic sixgun in the New Vaquero. There are those who insist on fixed sights in a Perfect Packin' Pistol, and they now have that choice in .44 Special in the New Vaquero. With the fixed sights, mine is right on the money for windage; it needs only a small amount of filing to raise the groups less than 1". This is a rugged, little, easy-to-pack, powerful sixgun, which is a significantly less bulky than the larger New Model Blackhawks.

A No.5 — Sorta'

Lipsey's is offering another version of the .44 Special Flat-Top definitely inspired by Keith's famous No. 5 .44 Special. Lipsey's had Ruger fit the standard .44 Special Flat-Top with a Bisley Model grip frame, hammer and trigger; the result is a Bisley Model .44 Special. It is a superbly shooting sixgun and anyone who can shoot it without thinking of Keith and his No. 5 is either totally ignorant or is a sixgun soul in need of counseling.

The year 2010 was the 25th anniversary of The Shootists, and Lipsey's worked with us in coming up with a specially marked Shootists Anniversary Bisley Model Flat-Top .44 Special featuring a 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " barrel. Five of these came my way so my son and each of the grandsons could have their own.

Lipsey's keeps the Living Legends going, with their latest being a Flat-Top not only chambered in .45 Colt, but also fitted with an auxiliary .45 ACP cylinder. Mine is a 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " blued version — stainless steel is also offered — and is an excellent shooter with either cylinder in place. It never ceases to amaze me how well the relatively stubby, little .45 ACP shoots in a revolver cylinder. In fact, it shoots slightly better than my .45 Colt loads. Groups of 1" and even less are not that unusual. Of course, the problem with this is I will have to own one of the stainless steel versions as well.

There is certainly room under the firearms tent for every type of rifle, shotgun and handgun. However, in this age, which seemingly is dominated by black plastic, it's wonderfully refreshing to see Lipsey's offering  Living Legends.

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SIG SAUER

Continued from page 57

The trigger is straight and measures 4 pounds on my test gun. Sights are night sights of the 3-dot variety, with both set in dovetails for ease of windage adjustment. All the controls, sights, the beaver-tail grip safety, and magazine are a matte black, contrasting nicely with the desert tan Cerakote finish over a stainless steel frame and slide. The slide has grooves on both sides above the grip and also behind the front sight for ease of operation.

The front of the grip frame is nicely checkered for a secure hold and is matched up with a Hogue Magwell Grip Set. This magazine well is quite unobtrusive and "the advanced design combines grip plates and mainspring housing in an integrated magazine well extension that promotes rapid magazine changes," as SIG says. It manages to do this without any bulkiness. The grips themselves are Hogue's Piranha pattern, providing a very deep and secure texture using a multi-layer green and black pattern. They match up very nicely with the desert tan finish and black matte finish on the controls. In fact, everything works together to give a very eye-pleasing look to a serious-shooting semi-auto. There is a Picatinny rail in front of the triggerguard for the attachment of a tactical light. Weight of the 1911 SIG is just less than 42 ounces with an empty magazine in place.

The 1911 SIG, which has a 4# trigger pull, was test fired at 20 yards using my normal practice of allowing myself one mulligan. I have no use for golf, but I do like the idea of allowing myself one throwaway round as it certainly helps remove the tension. So for the best five of six shots at 20 yards, the 1911 SIG averaged just a hair, a very thin hair, over 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ ". Performance was flawless: no bobbles, no failures to feed. MSRP is \$1,128 and if you ask me, that's not a lot of money for a 1911 loaded with what are normally custom features.

A D/A SIG

Next let's look at the more traditional SIG and the one that changed a couple of my ideas. New experiences, positive new experiences that is, are not only welcome at my age, it's also refreshing to come up with new ideas. This particular SIG is a P229R Elite, actually a customized version of the model, and the box is marked ".40 SPECIAL CONFIGURATION SCPN." The last four letters stand for Scorpion and this is the double-action companion to the single-action 1911.

One look at the desert tan Cerakote finish on the slide and receiver calls up visions of deserts and snakes and

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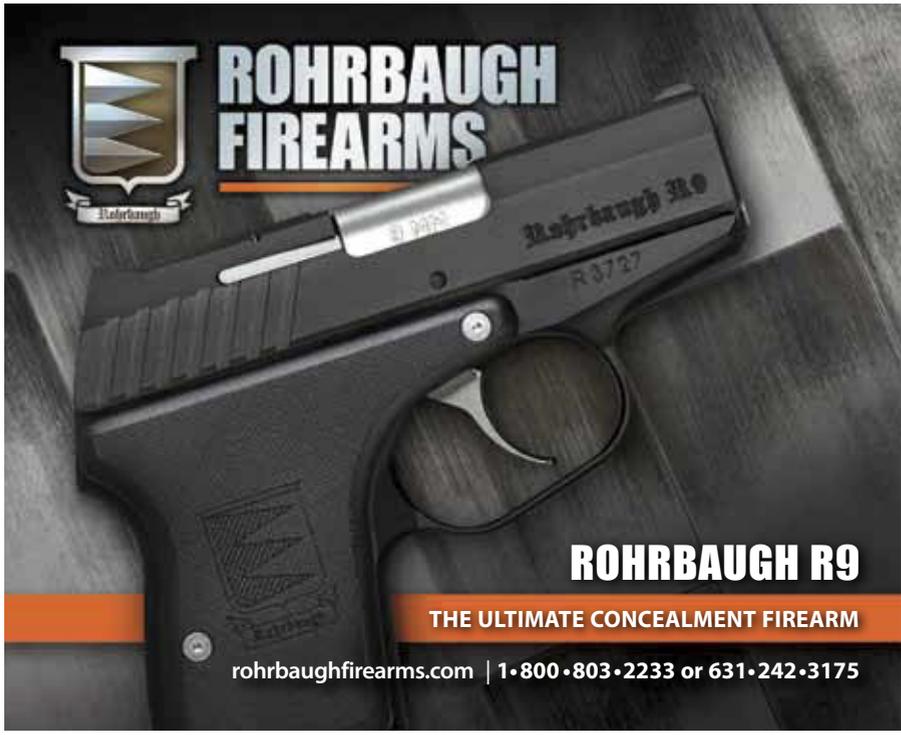
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most assuredly, scorpions. This Model 229 has a 4" barrel and is chambered in .40 Smith & Wesson. It's double action on the first shot, and single action thereafter. There is a de-cocking lever on the left side with no provision for carrying cocked and locked. From the holster, the first shot must be fired double action, or if one is so inclined and has the time, the hammer can be cocked for single-action fire. The .40 also has a custom beavertail fitted to the standard 229 frame, which is much larger than that found on standard production SIG 229s. It really aids in comfortable shooting.

There are four controls found on the left side of this .40 SIG. Above the trigger on the frame is the takedown lever; moving backwards toward the grip, we find the de-cocking lever, and moving backwards from this above the grip is the slide lock. Immediately in front of the grip and behind the trigger is the magazine release. The latter works positively, that is, when it is pushed in there is no hesitation, the magazine, which has a capacity of 12 rounds, comes out.

The trigger sets in a triggerguard that is square and slightly hooked at the front, for those who prefer such a configuration when shooting 2-handed. The front of the triggerguard is also checkered. The single-action trigger pull on this .40

Smith & Wesson SIG also measures out at 4 pounds. As with the .45, there is no magazine disconnect safety, allowing the .40 to also be fired without the magazine in place — as all semi-autos should be set up. Unlike the .45 Scorpion, the frame of the .40 SIG is an alloy, resulting in 10 ounces less overall weight.

Sixty years ago if you wanted a 1911 it was not all that difficult to find a military surplus .45 in serviceable condition for around \$15.

Sights are again of the night-sight style and excellent, with both the front and rear set up in dovetails. The front is a forward sloping post with the white dot and it matches up with a 2-white-dot rear sight with a sharp square sight picture. The four controls plus the sights, trigger, hammer, grip screws and magazine are all a dull black finish contrasting very nicely with the main Cerakote military tan finish.

The Hogue Piranha grips are an olive drab/black color combination with quite an unusual and intriguing configuration. Both the grip panels and the backstrap are heavily embossed with the Piranha pattern, which looks much like a snake-skin pattern, while the front of the grip strap is checkered. Altogether, this provides for a very secure hold. The slide has grooves on both sides above the grip, and also behind the front sight, allowing the slide to be worked from the front or the back. Below the frame in front of the triggerguard we have a Picatinny rail for attaching a tactical light.

I tested the .40 the same way as the .45. With seven different factory loads, the average for five of six shots at 20 yards was right at 1½". At 7 yards on a reduced silhouette target the SIG puts all its shots in one hole.

John's Surprised

So what new ideas has this P229 SIG .40 given this old dinosaur? First — and this is hard to admit for one who has always believed handguns should be blue steel and ivory — this is a very attractive pistol. When the new wave of double-action pistols began to appear mostly in the early 90s, they were usually all black, sometimes consisting of much plastic; and while their function was superb, their form left much to be desired. Perhaps I have simply changed

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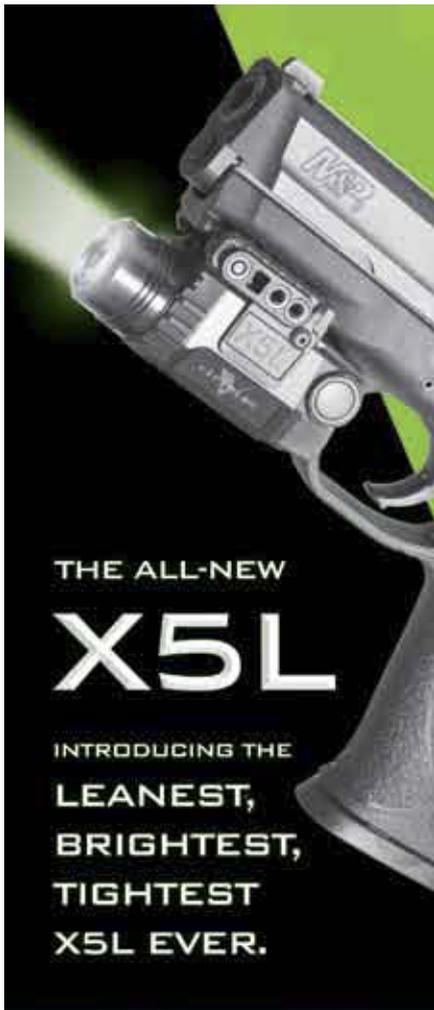
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in my latter years, but I have found space, at least a little space, in my six-gunning soul for other handguns besides blue steel single actions with exotic grips. This little pistol is not just function; it's also quite attractive in form.

Secondly, I have found new appreciation for the .40 S&W cartridge. I've never disdained it, however I never took it totally to heart either. Shooting it in this SIG gives me a whole new perspective. The gun itself is quite easy to operate, performs flawlessly, and shoots more accurately than .40s are supposed to, at least by their reputation. I've never been enamored all that much of high-capacity pistols, much less carrying extra high-capacity magazines. I always felt somewhat like Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, who was once questioned about carrying a .45 Colt Single Action loaded with five rounds and no extra rounds carried in his pocket. He was queried about what if he couldn't get it done with five rounds, and his answer was he guessed he would be guilty of sloppy peace officering.

I've never been enamored all that much of high-capacity pistols, much less carrying extra high-capacity magazines.

I've kind of felt the same way, at least from the non-LEO civilian side, when it comes to carrying. Statistics show the average gunfight takes less than two shots so why would I need extra ammo or even high capacity? As this is written two things have happened in the past week to change my mind; and those two things are mob violence in London and at the Wisconsin State Fair. I'm not the least surprised about London as their society has been primed for this for a long time, but in Milwaukee? If it can happen there, it can happen anywhere in the country, and if we have to defend our family against a mob, even a high-capacity pistol with extra magazines is not going to look like it is enough. One can only hope and pray it does not happen again, but that does not preclude being prepared. I'd feel prepared with the SIGs.

Both SIGs shot well, performed flawlessly and looked great while doing so. What more could we ask for?



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BETTER EYES

Continued from page 65

a degree. This degree of focus can be controlled. A photograph of an object that shows the whole view in effective focus is made with a small aperture and long exposure time. Conversely, an arty photo with the subject in clear focus but distracting fore and backgrounds in blurred focus is attained with a large lens opening and short exposure times.

There are other factors governing focus and depth of field, but for our purposes, let's concentrate on the critical one: aperture diameter. Setting aside exposure time, light ray behavior and other realities of the physical world, you achieve relatively good focus over the whole depth of view by reducing the aperture through which you view it to as small a diameter as possible that admits light enough to maintain the view. For a simple and practical lesson in this phenomena, pick some familiar object — this magazine article is perfect — and position it where it is blurred and out of focus to you. Make a tiny hole with your thumbs and forefingers, getting this aperture close to your eye as possible, and look through it. You will be stunned at the amount of clarity it adds to your view.

Without my glasses, I simply cannot read the text before me on the computer screen. I can with my hand aperture. Armed with this useful intelligence, you can also take an extra measure of control over your sight picture. I need both hands to shoot so resort to a variety of apertures to aid in accurate shooting with iron sights. We'll touch on a few of them here.

If your vision is still relatively good and you use uncorrected shooting glasses, one of the simplest and most effective ways to bring your front sight and target into usable focus is with aperture sights. Before telescopic sights came into vogue, precision shooting got done with peep sights. Not every gun is amenable to peep sight installations, but the vast majority of American sporting arms are. While I have tinkered some with aperture sights on handguns, the jury is still out on this notion but I have at least a couple of customers who swear by them. Peep sights are my favorite approach where practicable, since they eliminate the need for auxiliary aids to vision which all have some drawbacks in the field.

The Vision Infirm

One of my long-time customers had over the years sent along numerous custom revolver projects, mostly vintage-style guns with fixed sights that had to be regulated for a specific load. Luckily, we had been very successful

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since we evidently had similar holds and similar interpretations of the sights. He was always very pleased with the results. Alas, as time wore on, his results with my handiwork became increasingly problematic. Eventually, Mark Dye, a 30-something pistolsmith in the shop took over shooting duties. His first effort at regulating our old customer's sights was disastrous through no fault of his own. His results were just different.irate phone call followed and I did my best to explain the situation. Not long thereafter a small miracle in the form of a Merit Eye disc arrived in the mail with a directive for *me* to use this next time we regulated *his* sights.

I was stunned at how well I could shoot with revolvers again, though I did not threaten Mark's rank as head sighter-inner at Bowen Classic Arms. This little gadget has a small, adjustable leaf shutter in it ranging in size from about .040" to .140". By varying the diameter, you can usually settle on a diameter that is a good compromise of clarity and illumination. It's affixed to glasses with a small sticky cup and swings on an arm, which lets you move it out of view when not engaging a target. Effective as it is, the major drawback for me is now I have a fifth component of my sight picture to align after both sights, target and eyeball. If you are working on a shooting range in a particular shooting position, this isn't troublesome. In the field or in changing positions, it becomes a major nuisance. Still, it is a wondrous shooting aid for the vision infirm.

More Goodies

Similar to the Merit Eye disc in principle are the stick-on apertures from Clear2Target. These little stick-on plastic peep sights apply directly to your spectacles. Thanks to the little tab, they are easy to use. I do not find the fixed diameter any particular handicap though they are not quite as versatile as the Merit device with respect to local shooting conditions. As with the Merit Disc, they do require some getting used to since you have much to align simultaneously.

Scopes and dot sights are often the last resort for handgun shooters suffering from presbyopia since the optical lens packages do the work of a set of good eyes. A practicing Luddite, I have a hard time warming up to scopes and optical gadgets on handguns since these contraptions destroy the quick handling and general handiness of belt guns by adding weight and bulk. Still, if you can't see to shoot anymore, they are a small price to pay. In my experience, the head's up display contraptions are typically smaller and lighter and do the least amount of harm to the gun. I suppose if I were a serious handgun varmint hunter, a conventional scope would get the nod by virtue of precision. By using very low-power scopes,

such as the Leupold 2X EER, you don't add a great deal more weight and size by comparison to the red dot cans.

Rifle shooters have the better time of it since scopes detract relatively less from portability and handiness. Further, scopes have been on rifles now for more than 150 years now and do not offend delicate sensibilities as much. However, as with handguns, there are some rifles that simply cannot gracefully accommodate optics or even aperture sights so options to improve shooter performance may be limited to visual aids.

Super Focus

Here, I'll hand off to Editor Roy since he's the one who discovered these dandy glasses.

"Okay, these are cool," he told me. "Basically you have a pair of glasses ground to your distance prescription. The catch is there are two lenses on each side and the inner one (closest to your eye) is flexible. The space between the outside and inside lenses is filled with clear liquid. When you move the slider on the bride above your nose, it changes the focus of the lenses, allowing you to go from close, to medium to distance, or anywhere in between, fast. The Superfocus glasses mimic what your eyes used to be able to do when they were young and flexible. The first time I used them I could suddenly see the sharp sight picture I remember from the old days — not that I'm as old as you, mind you."

Roy said with the Superfocus glasses he can actually get sharp sight pictures simply by sliding the focus bar and can favor the rear, front, target or get a nice blend of all three. Damndest thing if you ask me. Maybe there's hope for all of us. I have to be polite to him though, or I'd address the crack about our ages.

Short of spinning back the physical clock 20 or 30 years, there's no way you will ever recover the level of visual acuity you once had. Still, there are several ways to keep shooting effectively that are neither complicated nor overly expensive. You will have to do a little experimenting to find the course of action best for your optical circumstances, but don't give up. If my experience is any indicator, there is hope for most of us. They say growing old is not for sissies, but quitters finish last no matter what.



Author's note: A particular thanks to Dr. Allyn Hildebrand of Campbell, Cunningham and Taylor, P. C. who let a gun-toting patient into his office, provided a life-changing prescription for my shooting glasses and who kindly read this article for technical accuracy.

For more info: www.americanhandgunner.com/product-index and click on the company name.

BABY 1911

Continued from page 49

novelty, let me stress it's not. The one sent up to me has functioned 100 percent with the two types of .22 Long Rifle ammunition I had on-hand, to the tune of just fewer than 500 rounds. Those ammo brands were Winchester and Aguila (Mexican made). It has proven to be easy to hit with despite an 8-pound trigger pull! However, at this point I'll detail a factor that had me concerned early on.

Missing Mag

Here's what happened. Out on my home range I was packing it unloaded in one pocket and the magazine in another while painting steel targets and stapling up paper ones. When I was ready to shoot — the magazine was missing. After hunting all over for it I gave up and just fired the 1911-22 as a single shot. To my surprise, its point of impact was several inches high of point of aim when shooting 2-handed from about 50'. I even called friends at Browning to see if perhaps they had made a mistake in calculating a height for this little pistol's front sight. They said in shooting at their Utah facility, they hadn't run into the problem I was having.

Then my precious and observant wife

found the missing magazine on the floor of our pickup. I proceeded to shoot the Baby 1911 on paper so I could photograph targets with the errant point of impact and e-mail them to my Browning contacts. What I discovered was that indeed the first round out of the magazine was often going high, but then the other eight rounds settled at or close to point of aim. Of course, point of impact is liable to change due to ammunition differences. This isn't an unknown factor with semi-auto pistols because the first round is chambered with the slide released by hand. Thereafter the slide reciprocates mechanically.

Then I got another surprise. After about 300 rounds were fired in the 1911-22, the high first shot occurrence began to become more rare. This pistol was brand new as sent to me, so my guess is its parts began to "settle in." By the time it was time to send this manuscript into his all-seeing and all-knowing editorship Roy, the problem disappeared altogether.

Shooting Fun

So how does the Baby 1911 shoot? I didn't waste ammo or time on paper and will let the photo of the magazine full I fired at steel for photography tell the story. The little pistol was hitting center, and clustering bullets better than I was holding.

Now, let's detail some of the minor differences between a full-size 1911 and this little-bitty one. First, the recoil spring guide in a military 1911A1 is steel. With this one it is a synthetic poly-something or the other. With a full-size 1911A1 the barrel link is pinned on and pivots. With the Baby 1911 it's fixed as part of the barrel. And for practical purposes that's about it. When telling a friend about this new little "cute" .22 on the phone, he asked me to give him a comparison, size wise, to some other handgun. What popped into my mind was another Colt, those little Model 1903 .32s also designed by J.M. Browning. Except this rimfire version is much lighter, due to modern metallurgy.

Squirrel Medicine

Not long after this little .22 appeared at my door a friend asked me to go gopher shooting (actually ground squirrels) with him. While he popped away at the little demons at longer range with his centerfire .22s, I satisfied myself with shooting them out the pickup window at ranges of from 5 to 15 yards. It was a lot of fun, and that's how I judge the market for Browning's 1911-22 — which I will insist on calling a "Baby 1911." It will be a fun plinker, small varmint shooter and also perfect for teaching newcomers to pistol shooting.



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SELF-DEFENSE

Continued from page 59

the rear sight has two white dots on it, the dovetail-mounted front sight comes with a single tritium dot. Although price point may have had something to do with the decision not to use 3-dot tritium sights, that choice also represents a significant school of thought in modern combat shooting. Since the primary focus should be on picking up the “front sight — press,” having a rear sight with twice as much tritium as the front serves to distract the shooter’s attention from the front sight, where it should really be. That’s why a lot of rear night sights are made with a horizontal bar, which casts a much softer light than the customary dots, or with smaller tritium dots than are on the front sight. By using white dots on the rear, the SD completely eliminates that possibility.

The rear sight also comes with a flat shelf on the front to be used with the “sight cocking” technique. Intended to be used should you need to cycle the slide of your pistol 1-handed, you snag the rear sight on something like a pants pocket or holster and drive the pistol forward, cycling the slide. Virtually impossible to perform with any degree of safety, it presents an excellent opportunity to shoot yourself, especially when performed under stress — and doubly so when used by a beginner, the intended end-user of this pistol. Perhaps no one will tell them what it’s for.

Another design element I often question is the loaded chamber indicator. A notch machined into the top of the hood area of the barrel, the idea is you’ll be able to look down into it and see the brass cartridge in the chamber if the gun’s loaded. Neat idea, but as easy as it is for lint, dirt, and unburned powder to crawl into the crevices of a carry pistol, it’s not something on which the wise man will rely. If in doubt, crack the slide and look. If it’s dark, insert a finger. But don’t leave any room for doubt if the gun is loaded or not. Besides, all you know is there’s a bit of brass there. Is it an empty for some reason, stuck after your last barrage?

A much more useful feature is the pistol’s light rail. Following the Picatinny-style rail found on the M&P (and unlike the earlier Sigma, which used a much less universal mounting system), it has two transverse locking slots. I shot the SD40 with a SureFire X400 in place, and, while other polymer pistols have suffered reliability problems with lights installed, the SD ran flawlessly. Also consider that while the X400 is an exceptional package, combining a 170-lumen LED white light with a red laser, it’s not the lightest one on the market.

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If a light was going to affect the pistol's functioning, you'd think it'd be that one. Fortunately, it didn't.

Light Package

Bringing up the X400 also brings us to another challenge to the newly-minted gun owner. Choosing a pistol is hard enough, but choosing such accessories as flashlights is far more confusing — candlepower, lumens, LEDs, tactical this, strobing that — particularly when you consider many excellent lights cost as much as some handguns. To overcome this, the Home Defense Kit variant of the SD comes with a 90-lumen light that has two hours of run time, both momentary and constant on, and a no-tools latching system. Perhaps only those who have struggled through changing a light mount from Picatinny to Universal or back can truly appreciate that last item, but again, gun ownership is daunting enough without having to gunsmith your flashlight so it doesn't come zinging off the rail when you're at the range.

The Home Defense Kit also includes a locking Nano Vault steel case for storage that comes with a 1,500-pound test security cable so the gun can be safely locked away from children and other unauthorized persons. Suggested retail for the package is just under \$500. Both the Kit and the pistol by itself come with two high-capacity magazines; lower-cap mags are available for those whose states prohibit the ones for which the gun was designed.

Good Recommendation

A friend of mine, who just became a father, recently asked me about buying a pistol for home defense. Considering that parenthood is expensive, leaving little money available for something like a firearm, and keeping it secured from the child is also a major concern, I had to think about what gun on the market really would be a good choice. Although I'm particularly fond of the M1911, I'm also a realist, and I recognize it's not for everyone. While there are experienced shooters who may prefer it, or the added features of the M&P series — such as the interchangeable backstraps, better trigger, ambidextrous slidestop, etc. — the SD really is everyman's gun. Simple, reliable, and consistent; when purchased in Smith's home defense guise, it has everything the new gun owner needs to protect their family, including the hard case, at a price they can reasonably afford.

I think I just found the answer to his question.



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.22 TCM AUTO

Continued from page 47

I like the standard safety, beaver-tail and crisp trigger, which breaks cleanly at around 4.75 pounds. The all-steel construction and 38-ounce unloaded weight means the .22 TCM rests comfortably in your hands and offers a solid platform when shooting. Frankly, at around \$720 as a "combo kit" with two barrels (.22 TCM Micro-Mag and 9mm) and two hi-cap magazines (holding 18 rounds in .22 and 17 rounds in 9mm), this gun is a steal. If it had a higher-grade finish, say, blued or some kind of 2-tone, maybe a bit of checkering on the front-strap, with the 2-caliber capability and two mags, it could easily sell for \$1,200 or even \$1,500. I think it would make a great base gun for doing a bit of custom finish work, checkering or what-have-you.

Fun Shooting

Okay, let's just say it: the caliber reminds me of the FNH 5.7x28, and you were probably thinking the same thing. Except actually — out of a pistol — the .22 Micro-Mag performs considerably better. With the FNH Five-sevenN pistol (I recently tested one) I averaged around 1,650 fps with their 40-grain sporting load. In the .22 TCM, their 40-grain truncated load chronographed anywhere from a low of 1,985 to a high of 2,056. The bottle-necked .22 TCM round (based on a .223 case, by the way) fed beautifully.

The accuracy difference was considerable. My testing of the 5.7x28 sporting load at 25 yards from the Five-sevenN gave, as I recall, 3.5" to 5" groups. Granted, the trigger was not exactly a target trigger and definitely had something to do with it. From the .22 TCM, the .22 Micro-Mag gave an *average* of 1.5" at 25 yards, even though Fred says they guarantee them for 2" to 3". Interestingly enough, like many autos, I experienced first-round "flyers" in each five shot group loaded from an open slide on a loaded magazine. Generally, that first round would be 1" or so out, then the other four would nestle into a tight group. Some of those tight groups in the .22 hovered right around .75" and 1" pretty regularly. The good trigger and tight lock-up were an important part of that equation, I'm sure.

Changing to the 9mm was a simple as taking the slide off, slipping the .22 barrel and recoil spring out and replacing it with the fitted 9mm barrel and spring. Total time was about one minute and everything ran fine. The same magazines are used for the .22 Micro-Mag as well as the 9mm. Groups

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at 25 yards hovered in the 1.5" to 2" range, and I still experienced that first round "flyer" most of the time. Even counting the flyer, groups were averaging 2.25" to 2.5", still within the accuracy guarantee from Armscor.

As Fred warned me, the 9mm shot about 6" to 8" high at 25 yards, depending upon the load. Going through some 9mm I had, I found the TCM liked the heavier 147-grain subsonic loads a great deal, delivering the best groups with them. However, it also shot the 124-grain FMJ 9mm, manufactured by Armscor Precision, that came with the gun. The ammo was very clean and consistent, and looked like classic 9mm ball ammo.

The .22 TCM Micro-Mag ammo is available for \$20 per box of 50, or \$350 per case of 1,000, which is very affordable. He also said it can be reloaded many times, and offers custom loading for \$12.50 per box of 50 using the customer's brass. He said they will be offering reloading dies and components in the future as well.

What For?

A good question. I can say right off the bat I really enjoyed shooting the .22 TCM. Recoil is very mild in both the .22 and 9mm versions due to the all-steel construction of the gun, and the accuracy is more than adequate for small game hunting out to say, 25 or 35 yards for rabbits and squirrel-sized game, or out to probably 50 yards for coyotes, ground hogs and similar. Once reloading components are available, it would be fun to see what you could really get out of this unique caliber/combo-gun setup.

TCM pistols and factory ammo are available through Rock Island Armory dealers and through Armscor Precision, Intl. in Pahrump, Nevada. Custom grade TCM pistols and other custom work, along with custom ammo — including loads with Hornady 35-grain ballistic tips and 40-grain self-defense loads — are available from Fred Craig, Atomitronx, also in Pahrump.

Mostly, I think this is simply a fun gun and would appeal to the small game handgunner and someone who would like to do a bit of experimenting with self-defense possibilities. The fact the 9mm change-out is so easy and works so well is a big dose of icing on that cake. I'm keeping this one since it's already leveled the playing field between me and the herd of grey squirrels constantly trying to take over our place here.



For more info: TCM pistols are available from Armscor Precision Intl., 150 N. Smart Way, Pahrump, NV 89060, (775) 537-1444; Ammo and technical assistance: Fred Craig, Atomitronx, Pahrump, NV 89060, (775) 513-3962

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AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 18

a press conference to state he didn't want to "chill" people's rights to shoot in self-defense, and even took the extraordinary step of requesting the judge to allow firearms in the drugstore while Erslund, on bail, awaited trial. The judge ruled the pharmacy could have guns present, or Erslund, but not both.

In the early summer of 2011, Jerome Erslund was found guilty of murder in the first degree, and was sentenced to prison. It will be 38 years before he is eligible for parole.

Alternate Outcome?

Just as many gun owners judged Jerome Erslund from afar and thought him guilty, there were many of us Monday morning quarterbacks in the criminal justice world who were shocked his attorney presented such a brief defense. The state rested its case after several days of testimony and exhibits, and court adjourned for the day. The following morning, a single witness — a store employee who didn't see the shooting — testified for the defense, which then rested. Erslund never took the stand.

Erslund's lawyer, Irven Box, has for many years been considered one of the best criminal defense lawyers in the state of Oklahoma. He was the helmsman who steered the defense, and knew his client better than any of the pundits who criticized him. Therefore, none of us can gainsay the strategy Box used. At the same time, it's irresistible to explore alternative strategies, which might have been tried.

Self-defense is an affirmative defense, in which the defendant stipulates he did indeed shoot the deceased, but maintains he was correct in doing so. In most jurisdictions, this shifts the burden of proof and requires the defense to show, more likely than not, any reasonable and prudent person would have done exactly what the defendant did. This defense works best when the defendant takes the witness stand and explains what he perceived, what he feared at the time, and why he did what he did. After all, who else can fully explain it better?

It is not hard to understand Box's decision to keep his client off the stand. Erslund's wild tales of having killed many in a place where he'd never been didn't just brand him as a liar and compromise his credibility as to his account of the shooting; it also gave the impression he associated killing people with heroism. And then there were other things obviously proven untrue: Erslund's statements he'd been shot at and even hit, and his assertion at one

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point he'd wielded a gun in each hand, and more. All those claims would be demonstrated false to the jury by the prosecution, Box must have known, and would be shown to the jury by juxtaposing his client's videotaped story to the police, with the security cam videos showing the actual shooting.

Box's task would be to convince the jury even though his client had falsely described this, that, and the other thing, he was telling the truth about *one* thing: that Speedy Parker was moving in a threatening manner at the time his client fired that last, fatal volley. If Box felt it would be too great a balancing act with a defendant whose credibility was already profoundly compromised, none of us can really blame him.

Consider, Though ...

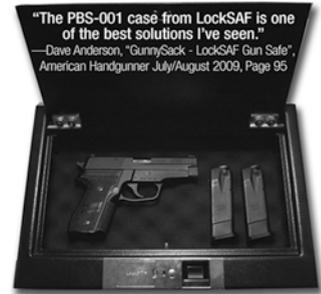
Suppose a defense psychiatrist or psychologist had examined Erslund, determined he had something like Munchausen's Syndrome, and made up heroic exploits for himself because he had a personality disorder, and not in any way to cover up his actions on May 19, 2009? As to the altered sequence of events Erslund described to the police, it wouldn't have taken a prostitute expert witness spewing psychobabble to give a plausible explanation for that. Disordered memory of the sequence of violent events in a near-death experience, such as having an armed robber point a gun at you or anything as traumatic as having to kill another person, is very common and well documented.

Dr. Alexis Artwohl, one of the world's most respected authorities in such matters, found confused memory to be an issue for some 21 percent of the many police gunfight survivors she studied. While attorney Box retained two experts to testify as to the stress Erslund would have experienced, apparently neither examined Erslund or submitted reports within the time limits established by Oklahoma's evidentiary discovery code. Therefore, neither was allowed to testify.

A cornerstone issue in the case was whether or not young Mr. Parker's head wound caused just enough brain damage that his body couldn't move in a way a reasonable person might perceive as going for a weapon, but left him still alive with a reasonable prognosis of survival at the time the last flurry of shots was discharged. Neurologists and neurosurgeons tell me people with serious brain damage can still experience spastic, involuntary movements that could mimic someone trying to reach for a weapon.

While the bloodstains near the young man's head don't indicate he raised his upper body, that wouldn't be necessary to present the appearance of a wounded criminal trying to shoot

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back and get his revenge upon the intended victim who shot him. In the biography of Carlos Hathcock, *Marine Sniper* by Charles Henderson, there are accounts of enemy soldiers performing such convulsive dances of death even after sustaining lethal brain wounds from high-powered rifles.

District Attorney Prater told me he didn't think that was likely, since while the Medical Examiner testified Parker's hands could have twitched or moved, boxes that fell across his right arm were unmoved when the body was photographed by police.

One thing did strike me in watching the tape of Ersland firing those .380 FMJ rounds, which sent him to prison. So we can be on the same page in terms of frame count and time frame, go to YouTube and check out the video. As Ersland approaches Parker, looking down at him, *Ersland appears to experience a startle response*. His body makes a tiny jump and he appears to suddenly jerk to his left. But there is nowhere to go: a shelf of products blocks him from moving away any farther, and there is no cover.

It is at that point (part of the timeline of the security film is obscured) but you're looking for the xx.30.xxx area, at about xx.30.737 seconds — the startle response occurs, and it is immediately after that when Ersland is seen to instantly unleash the five rapid .380 rounds.

This is consistent with Ersland's statement to the police where as he approached to assess the status of the armed robbery suspect he shot down, he perceived the man attempting to rise and shoot him.

A huge number of people have seen this video. Most don't see that subtle body movement of the startle response because they don't look for it, and it is human nature to not see what we're not looking for, nor to look for what we don't know to look for.

This phenomenon was seen classically when over a period of many years tens of millions of people believed President John F. Kennedy could not have been shot through the neck and Governor John Connally wounded in the chest and wrist areas by the same bullet in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. It took decades before researchers discovered that on the Zapruder film, the Governor's lapel can be seen to blow outward exactly where the exit wound was found in his right pectoral area, and his wounded arm flips the hat he was holding violently upward, in the same roughly 1/18th second Kennedy is seen reacting to the neck wound.

Ersland's jury was apparently convinced he lied about being shot at first. As you review the archived security film of the Ersland/Parker shooting, don't just watch the one where Parker is seen

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falling, then shot again subsequently. Look also at the one from the camera at the back of the pharmacy, where Ersland is seen accessing the Taurus Judge, raises it, and fires the first shooting. At about that time, one of the female employees running to hide in the back room is said to have knocked over some bottles from a shelf. Could those bottles crashing to the floor have sounded like gunfire to Ersland, as he looked away from the threat to the gun he was grabbing, the tool of salvation he hoped would save him and the other employees from two criminals threatening their lives with guns?

Ersland was seen as a liar for claiming that both men he shot at had guns, and for believing Parker had one when Ersland shot him with that last fatal volley. But review the tapes again — both the one from the back of the store and the one from the front. You will see suspect Ingram, waving his pistol, is on your right as you watch it, and Parker, pulling his mask out from the front of his waistband area, is on your left. This would put Ingram with the obvious gun on Ersland's left, and Parker making a movement consistent with reaching for a gun, on Ersland's right.

At about the time Ersland is retrieving the Taurus Judge, presumably looking down so he can see it to grab it, *Parker passes behind Ingram and winds up on our right, with Ingram now on our left. This means that when Ersland saw them again as he came up with the gun, Parker would now be on his left, where he last saw the man pointing the gun in his direction.* I submit under these hectic circumstances, this *could* create the reasonable belief in his mind the man he shot down *was* a man with a gun, and would give him prudent reason to believe the pistol was still accessible as Parker lay where he fell, after Ersland returned from chasing suspect Ingram to the getaway car.

Analysis of the evidence later indicated no one fired at Ersland, and Antwon Parker didn't have a gun. But the standard of the law is, "what would a reasonable and prudent person have done, in the exact same situation, knowing what the shooter knew at that time?" Or, as police instructors have been known to say succinctly, "You don't have to be right; you have to be *reasonable*."

The Lessons

Lesson One: *Never lie!* In my opinion, being caught in a web of lies totally destroyed Jerome Ersland's credibility and profoundly crippled his defense. There's a saying to the effect that if you lie once, you're seen as a liar forever. The truth of that saying was emphatically illustrated in *Oklahoma v. Ersland*.

Lesson Two: Do not attempt to reconstruct in the immediate aftermath.

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Ersland discussed the events extensively with police, without counsel present, shortly after the shooting. He reportedly said later he got the sequence of events wrong because of stress and adrenaline. After four decades of intensively debriefing gunfight survivors and more than three of speaking for some of them in court, I'm convinced that's entirely possible.

We recall that Dr. Artwohl's research shows memory distortion in some 21 percent of shooting incident participants she studied. Suppose Ersland had simply said, "They came in armed and announced a robbery. I defended my co-workers and myself. I will sign the complaint against this man and his accomplices. Here are the witnesses, there's the evidence, you'll have my full cooperation after I've spoken with counsel." Had he left his statements at that, I honestly doubt Ersland would have ended up in prison for life.

Lesson Three: The "*coup de grace*" is never defensible! This is the most obvious take-away lesson from the incident. It's presented third down on this particular list only because I'm *absolutely* sure Ersland lied to investigators about some things ... and *almost* absolutely sure he confused some things. But I'm *not* absolutely sure from what the public has seen of the evidence that it was an execution instead of a reasonable but mistaken belief that he was facing lethal threat a second time when he fired the last shots from the P3AT.

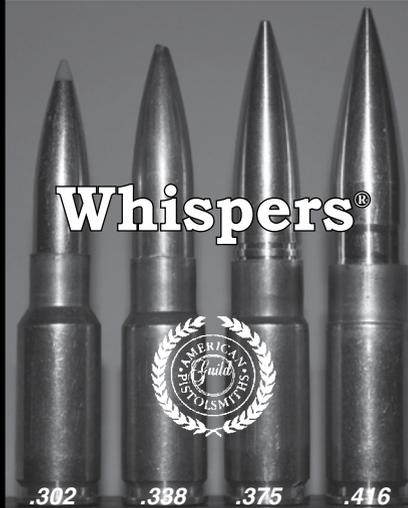
Lesson Four: Shooting at fleeing felons puts you on thin ice. The citizen's arrest principle allows armed citizens to pursue violent criminal suspects in many jurisdictions, but that doesn't make it a smart thing to do. Ersland said he fired at the three surviving suspects because a gun was pointed at him outside the pharmacy, which could certainly justify his use of deadly force.

There was testimony, however, that bystanders were ducking from the buckshot that spun wildly from the rifled barrel of his .410 revolver — not exactly an image of responsibility. The chasing and shooting gave the impression Ersland didn't think the downed Parker was dangerous enough for him to stay and protect his coworkers, and may have also given the jurors the impression he was particularly eager to shoot someone.

A Google search for Jerome Ersland/Oklahoma City will turn up a substantial amount of discussion and, of course, the three key videotapes from Reliable Pharmacy's security cameras. It will also bring up at least one website with directions for donating to Jerome Ersland's legal fund; the appeal of his conviction is underway. It's safe to say it's a case that will be discussed in concealed carry classes for many years to come.



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When I received the *Timberwolf* Glock replacement frame that’s the drill I performed. I tried to be cool, but upon the very first “blind point,” a *Wow!* just sorta burst outta me. I suppressed the *Wow!* on several repetitions, but it never went away. Helena’s responses were *Gee!* and *Gosh!* times 10 or so. Handing it off to a buncha Glock-fans and Glock-haters both, the unanimous finding was: *This is the frame Glock should have given us.*

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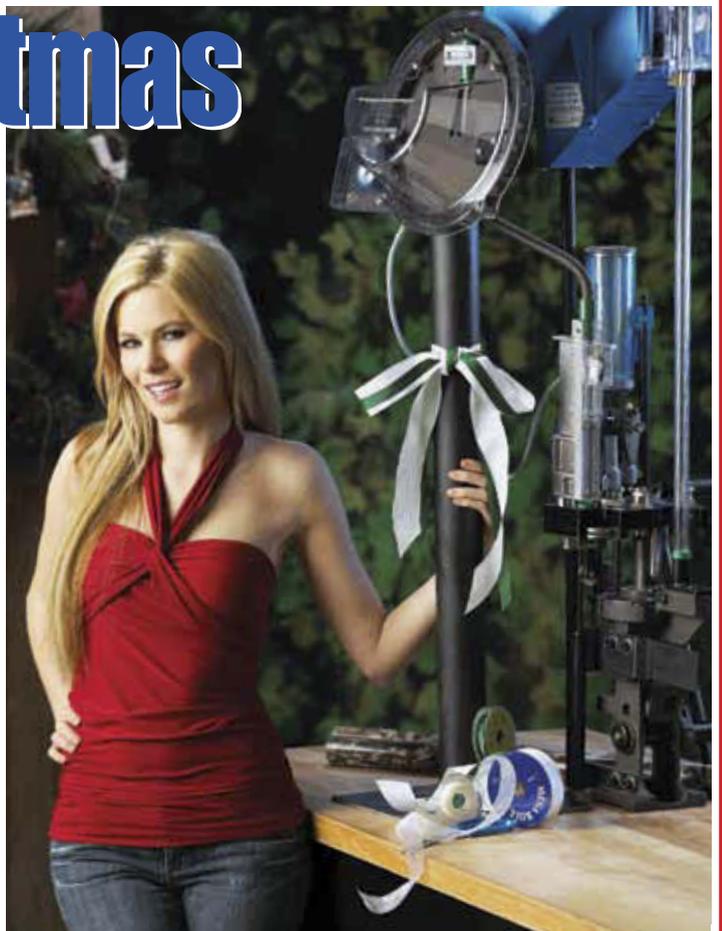


spec rail system which accommodates both Picatinny and Weaver accessories, a roomier rounded triggerguard that fits all standard Glock holsters, an extended beavertail to eliminate slide bite, very grippy yet comfortable checkering, and two interchangeable backstraps. With the flat grip seen here, which gives the feel of a 1911, it’s the smallest Glock frame in the industry. With the humped grip insert, it feels like an XD grip. But the game changer is the sheer feel and pointability of it! The *Timberwolf* is compatible with eight different Gen-3 Glock models, and is available as a bare frame at \$199.95, and “built-out” with all parts, set up for 9mm slides and barrels, or .40 S&W or .357 SIG slides and barrels, for \$336.53. For more info: www.americanhandgunner.com/lone-wolf-distributors

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SOUND GEAR

Huh? What'd you say?" Famous last words around our household as I hit my 57th year, with around 50 of those years shooting guns. I know, I know, I always wear hearing protection, and usually double-up with plugs and muffs, but in those early years none of us our age were that careful. I vividly remember shooting a .357 Magnum revolver under the eaves of a semi-enclosed shooting bay and wondering if that ringing would ever go away.

Nowadays, I use electronic muffs, and they make a day on the range much more enjoyable. You can hear your friends, hear range commands and actually hear your wife too. But in the field hunting, or even in some more "tactical" applications like a cop searching a building, or playing "sneaky-crawly by the drug dealers" — muffs might not be handy. Sound Gear is a useful invention, and it has officially just raised the bar for electronic hearing protection. Think: Hearing aids that also *protect* your hearing, not just amplify the sound.

Sound Gear has tiny electronic modules you put into the plastic ear pieces (two sizes by the way), then nestle them into your ears. Now you have a hands-off, always-on sound amplification system working for you; but at the first crack of a shot, presto, shut-down — and about 25 dB of noise reduction.



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box with tweezers to handle battery changing, a cleaning tool and those two sets (small and bigger) inserts. They use common #10 hearing aid batteries, which are cheap, and it comes with two packs of 'em. They give off a pleasant, quiet tone when the batteries are low, and mine went off after about six hours or so. They cost about as much as a good set of hearing aides (around \$800), but what price is your hearing? "Hey Grandpa, can you hear me? *Can you hear me!?*" Get it? For more info: www.americanhandgunner.com/sound-gear

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If you have done any target shooting with .38s, you've probably shot .38 Special 148-gr. wadcutter target loads. During my days as a PPC shooter, I used to enjoy going jack rabbit hunting with my 6" S&W Model 19. Since we hit a tiny bull's-eye at 50 yards during the matches, a sitting jack at 50 yards was usually mine. The thing that struck me was the hard "thwack" when that bullet hit — and it dumped 'em where they sat. I tried more conventional .38 loads, but none seemed to have that instant effect. In fact, many people carry .38 wadcutters for self-defense, and I can't argue with 'em too much.

Called Anti-Personnel loads, this latest offering from Buffalo Bore builds on the wadcutter concept, and is designed to "... permanently and quickly disable human threats." Tim Sundles, of Buffalo Bore, rates the 200-gr. full wadcutter .44 Magnum at around 1,215 fps from a 4" barrel S&W. That mirrored my own results here in my backyard, and I noticed recoil is easily manageable. I can see how *this* bullet, in *this* caliber at *these* velocities could be devastating to just about



anything. Tim said it will give 24" of straight line penetration in animal tissue. No doubt.

The .44 Special version using the same bullet shows 970 fps from the same S&W. I have a Charter Bulldog .44 Special I cut down to about 17/8" a long time ago. I chronographed the .44 Special in it just for fun, and averaged 870 fps! Regular 246-gr. factory loads deliver 540 fps from the same gun, giving you a reference. Recoil is stout, but I doubt I'd notice it if I was distracted by events, as it were. If you have .44s you like, this may be the *single* most useful load you could carry, regardless of the situation. *For more info:* www.americanhandgunner.com/buffalo-bore

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TACTICAL RANGE BOX

Okay, so I'm not entirely sure why a range box is tactical, but I do know it is useful, and that makes plain sense to me. MTM's big idea here was to simply include an insert that will fit into the mag well of an AR-style rifle. Presto, you have an instant and convenient way to fuss with your rifle at the range or at home. You can break the action open to clean or mess with stuff on it, and by changing out the insert to one with a cut-out, you can use the box as a cradle to hold both ends of the rifle like a conventional cleaning station.

The box itself has a goodie tray that can hold cleaning gear or assorted widgets you need to support the rifle or your day at the range. It also has a neat built-in screwdriver bit holder (you supply the tools), and enough compartments to keep you busy for an hour trying to decide where to put all your treasures. The bigger bottom portion of the box holds the inserts and other stuff as you see fit.

Speaking of the bottom, depending on how much weight you have in the box, will determine how much the rifle insert (or "fork" as MTM calls them) can hold. If you have a heavy AR, with lots of gad-

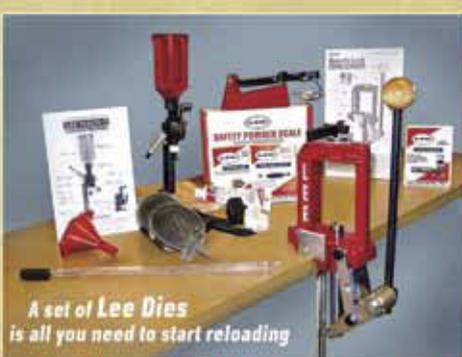
gets and doo-dads hung on it, you may need to weight the box down to hold the rifle high and dry. Otherwise, simply use the 2-fork system to hold either end. The Tactical Range Box is around \$45 most places, and a real steal, if you ask me. For more info: www.americanhandgunner.com/mtm-case-gard





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Crossbreed Holsters

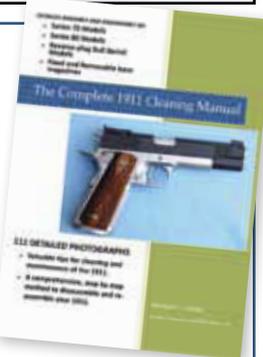
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The Complete 1911 Cleaning Manual covers complete disassembly, cleaning and reassembly of series 70, 80 and bull barrel 1911 pistol models and magazines. The book is illustrated with 111 close-up detail photographs and step-by-step instructions with many helpful hints. Included are descriptions for cleaning fixed and removable base magazines. Retail: \$19.95. For more info: (800) 522-1530 or www.americanhandgunner.com/herb-hazen



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Boker USA

The new Boker Plus S2 represents the design of Lance Abernathy, and the handwork of Jody Muller, knifemaker for the past 20 years. This team designs tactical folders of a slightly different variety. The S2 has a blade length of 4" with an overall length of 8¾". Weighing in at just 5 ounces, the S2 has a suggested retail of \$79.95. For more info: (303) 462-0662 or www.americanhandgunner.com/boker-usa



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Mil-Comm Products

Mil-Comm has added the MC50 Bore Cleaner to its extensive family of products. Mil-Comm was authorized by the NRA to market a line of NRA licensed firearms lubricants and cleaners and the MC50 in a 4-ounce bottle is the initial offering. Mil-Comm is a manufacturer of specialty lubricant and cleaner products, supplying the defense industry, various sporting goods and industrial markets. For more info: (877) 672-4861 or www.americanhandgunner.com/mil-comm



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A direct descendant of the Soviet PPSH-41, which was made famous in the battle of Berlin in 1945, the new PPS50/22 is styled like the PPSH-41. It is semi-auto, drum or clip fed, caliber LR .22, solid wood stock and the barrel has a full-length, perforated heat shield, just like the Soviet PPSH-41. The PPS50/22 has a secure, semi-auto action, a smooth trigger, and a high-quality, nicely fitted stock, making shooting all day long very comfortable and a lot of fun! The PPS50/22 is equipped with studs to accept swivels and a sling. For more info: (800) 274-4124 or www.americanhandgunner.com/mitchells-mausers



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The Maxpedition Sitka S-type Gearslinger is a left-side-carry version of the famous Sitka Gearslinger. It is a single-shoulder backpack designed to maximize utility when rotated towards the front of the body. The main compartment is 15" high by 8" wide by 3" thick with internal organization. The main compartment and hydration compartment can accept CCW accessories while the shoulder strap is designed to go over the right side for better weapon shouldering. The bag can be worn in front and contents comfortably accessed while sitting down.

For more info: (310) 768-0098 or www.americanhandgunner.com/maxpedition



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Constitution Arms

Constitution Arms is selling a standard load .38 Special multi-projectile cartridge designed for close-range self-defense applications.

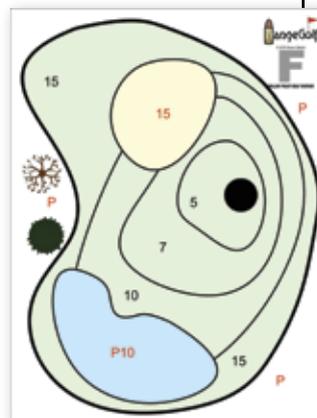
Independent ballistic testing concluded it produces a 49 percent larger wound channel and 200 percent greater hit probability at 10', compared to a hollowpoint cartridge. The cost is \$29 per pack of six. For more info: (973) 378-8011 or www.americanhandgunner.com/palm-pistol



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KJ Gallick Designs

KJ Gallick Designs presents a new development in paper targets for handgun training and competition. The 20" by 26" targets simulate aerial views of golf course holes. The shooter's distance from the target changes, based on the strike of the round on the target, until a round is placed in the hole. The numbers indicate the yard line. RangeGolf tournaments can be organized by using any type of golf tournament format with RangeGolf Targets. Targets of varying degrees of difficulty and strategy are available. For more info: (717) 460-1112 or www.americanhandgunner.com/kj-gallick



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Alamo Four Star

Alamo Four Star had become synonymous with innovation and quality. Their latest is the DLOC-H mount for the popular Leupold HAMR. This unique "QD" mount grabs a M1913 Picatinny rail without marring

or damaging the rail. It also allows for single-hand mounting and dismounting day or night and has a high probability of returning to zero. For more info: (806) 771-4470 or www.americanhandgunner.com/alamo-four-star

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DSP introduces their line of custom grips. Select from their wide selection of stock grips or have them create a unique set for you. Choose from five checkering patterns and an endless selection of images and styles. Made on an American machine, using American grown and saw milled wood. For more info: (478) 225-6056 or www.americanhandgunner.com/dsp



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Safariland



Safariland introduces the KleenBore CableKleen gun cleaning kit. This innovative pull-through-style system was developed in response to demand from law enforcement, military, hunters, and competition shooters for a more effective, compact cleaning kit that is also quick and easy to use. The CableKleen line of cleaning kits range from \$59.98 to \$89.98. For more info: or www.americanhandgunner.com/safariland

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Bond Arms has been chosen to design a special edition handgun for the prestigious Texas Rangers for their historical 200th anniversary. This is like no other Bond Arms handgun ever made. It is a very limited edition, serial number firearm, and when they're gone, they're gone. The gun and knife grips are made from real Texas Mesquite wood, the Texas Ranger Stars are handmade by Texas inmates in the Texas Department of Corrections and the barrel is inlaid with "Texas Rangers 200th Anniversary" in gold. It comes in a custom glass-top display case so you can show this beauty off to your family and friends. Currently not available in stores, but for a limited time you will be able to order this masterpiece directly from Bond Arms. For more info: (817) 573-4445 or www.americanhandgunner.com/bond-arms

GRAYMAN DUA

Grayman Knives

After six years of making hard-use fixed-blade knives, Grayman Knives has released their second folder. Following on the heels of the larger SATU folder, the DUA is built tank-tough in the Grayman tradition, with a solid titanium handle. Made in the USA. It features a 3" CPM S30V steel blade heat-treated to 59RC, 8.25" OAL, and wire EDM cut locks. Laser Engraved: GRAYMAN, USA, S30V. Retail for: \$255.00 for Beadblast finish, \$285.00 for DLC coated. For more info: info@graymanknives.com or www.americanhandgunner.com/grayman-knives



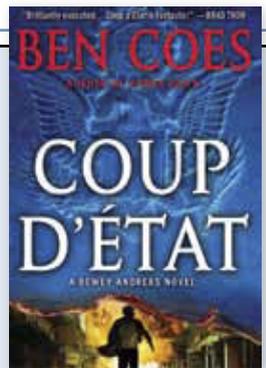
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WeatherHawk, a division of Campbell Scientific, Inc., a world leader in meteorological and environmental instrumentation, acquired Speedtech Instruments range of hand-held wind and weather meters. Within this broad product line of WindMates, SkyMates, and SkyMasters is the WindMate 350 hand-held wind and weather meter. The WindMate 350 reports wind direction in degrees and compass points using an onboard fluxgate compass, it calculates head, tail and cross wind, displays a 48-hour history, is water resistant and floats. It is a valuable tool for precision long-range shooting, hunting or any application that requires instantaneous weather measurements in the palm of your hand. For more info: (866) 670-5982 or www.americanhandgunner.com/weatherhawk



COUP D'ÉTAT Ben Coes

The wait is finally over; Ben Coes, whose debut *Power Down* was described as "the must-read thriller of the year," is back and at the top of his game with a mesmerizing new novel featuring former Delta Dewey Andreas. *Coup d'Etat* is an extraordinarily competent and well-written work, displaying very wide knowledge of the ways in which coups, both successful and unsuccessful, have actually been organized. For more info: www.americanhandgunner.com/ben-coes

PANCAKE AND IWB HOLSTERS Missouri Gunleather, LLC

Missouri Gunleather has developed a new line of refined pancake holsters and IWB hybrid holsters. The pancake holsters are lined with the same top-grain leather on the inside as they use on the outside; thus reducing holster wear on the firearm, and practically doubling the useful life of the holster. The IWB hybrid holster is in a league of its own. Unlike most of their competitors, Missouri leather covers the entire barrel of the firearm. They also use some of the finest American-made leather money can buy and put the smooth "grain" side of the leather against the gun and your body. All holsters are made firearm specific and are cut to provide a full grip on the firearm. For more info: (636) 524-9757 or www.americanhandgunner.com/missouri-gunleather



GUN RIGHTS

Continued from page 71

“reasonable” gun control, the type I’m talking about. They’ve identified five Kosher Gun Laws (“Kosher” means proper). JPFO suggests all the rest should be tossed in the ocean:

1) *If you criminally misuse a gun, your gun rights can be severed.*

2) *People who are mentally unfit to handle their own affairs may not bear arms.*

3) *Until the age of 18, your gun rights come from your parents.*

4) *You are responsible for the outcome of every shot you fire.*

5) *Because the God-given right of self-defense is inviolate, anyone who, under color of law, denies or attempts to deny your civil right to bear arms, pays a stiff fine and goes to prison.*

See the footnotes and more that expand on these basic rules, at www.jpfo.org.

Other Ideas

No one who reads *Handgunner* should be a spectator in the struggle to preserve freedom. Find out who your local legislators are and start enacting reasonable common sense gun laws with them. That’s how things get done.

What laws? You can read the details of these and more “Model Gun Laws” at www.gunlaws.com/ModelLegislation.htm. Here are some ideas.

No one who reads *Handgunner* should be a spectator in the struggle to preserve freedom.

Constitutional Carry: The right to discreetly or openly bear arms should not require a government-issued permission slip, taxes, paperwork and an expiration date. **Gun-Free-Zone Liability Act:** If you create a dangerous, make believe, so-called “gun-free” zone by simply hanging a sign, you are liable for any harm it causes. **High School Marksmanship Act:** An elective class worth one credit is offered toward your high school diploma, earned after you safely discharge a firearm at a target. “Educate kids on the constitutional roots and proper exercise of the right to keep and bear arms.” **Protection of Private Property Act:** Any legally owned private property may

be kept in or on a private means of transportation at any place the means of transportation may legally be. This removes bans on guns in vehicles (without mentioning guns).

And there’s more. **Defensive Display:** Warning an attacker you’re armed is protected by law in Montana and Arizona. Get your state onboard. The warning can be verbal, a motion or reach, or presenting a firearm in a way a person would understand is meant to forestall an assault. **BIDS vs. NICS:** If we must have gun-buyer background checks to stop criminals, at least do it without compiling massive records on the innocent. A simple system called BIDS can do this, and at far less cost than NICS. **Limited Immunity for 911 Emergency Reporting:** If you have the right to remain silent, and the right to have an attorney present during questioning, why are you encouraged to call 911 after self defense and speak into a police voice recorder, to the people trying to convict you? Yes, America needs more common sense gun laws.



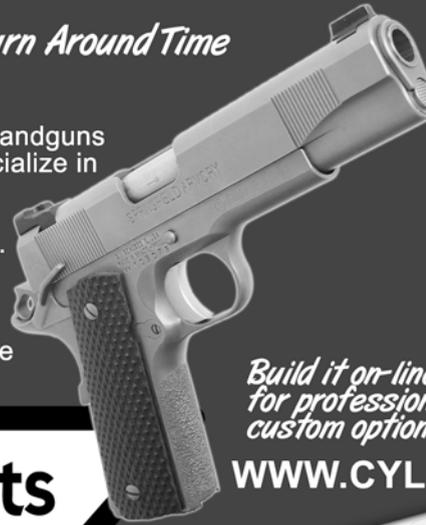
Alan Korwin is the author of nine books on gun law. He runs the GunLaws.com website, and is the manager of the TrainMeAZ.com campaign, which you should check out.



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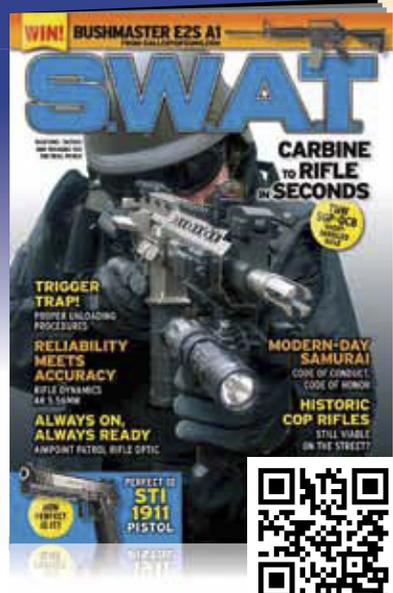
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Steel Slinger

Between cracking the books at Academic Magnet High School (the 12th rated High School in the country) and competing in Irish Dance competitions internationally, Savannah McHale busts some caps with The Steel Stingers — a Scholastic Steel Challenge team shooting out of Palmetto Gun Club in the Charleston, S.C. area. The Steel Stingers are a group of approximately 15 kids aged 12-16 who are learning to shoot — and compete — under the time and accuracy pressures of the Steel Challenge. Of particular interest is the teams chromosome makeup — about 70 percent girls!



Personally, I think the guys on the team are brilliant, getting involved with a team like that! Way to go Steel Stinger dudes! Savannah is shooting the Beretta 92 now, but hopes

to get an original Springfield XD soon, as she prefers the fit to the newer XDM, and that Beretta 92 is just a tad large. In her spare time, she co-edits *MyGunCulture.com* which covers all the news not fit to print about the shooting industry. Family business you know. Too bad it doesn't make 'em any money. Neatly done, Savannah, and way to go Steel Stingers. And they say kids and guns don't mix? Says who?

ADD IT UP

193

New Product entries in the Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence's 14 divisions.

\$94,000

Raised by the Shooting Industry Masters shooting event over the past three years, donated to NSSF's "First Shots" program.

10

Number of side matches at the 2011 Masters shoot.

22

Number of key sponsors for the 2011 Masters shoot.

500

Number of people participating each day of the 2011 Masters (shooters and volunteers).

500,000

Number of detectable earthquakes each year.

13 SECONDS

Longest recorded flight of a chicken.

15 BILLION

Cigarettes smoked daily in the world.

264 HOURS

World record for longest time without sleep.



Helton Hits It

We like to think of knife maker Billy Helton as family, since it was our feature story on him by Pat Covert in *Handgunner* (Nov/Dec 2010) that put Billy's talent on the national map. Since then, Billy has been working hard to get caught up on knife orders ("Roy, you were right — I got swamped!" he said, laughing.), and recently attained *Journeyman Smith* status as a knife-maker. Billy's work and talent continues to evolve and he's not resting on any laurels. He keeps his knives amazingly affordable, and his Damascus work is beautiful. Tell him we sent you! www.heltonknives.com

DAWSON STEALTH CHARGER SIGHTS

Made for the popular Novak low-mount sight cut in slides, Dawson's new line of sights, the Stealth Charger, builds on the success of their original Charger series. According to Dave Dawson, head honcho: "We developed the Stealth Charger line to have variables that a the customer can choose from. They're offered in black, optic-inserted and Tritium models, with three notch widths and also non-serrated rear blades in heights from .315" to .375", allowing zeroing with both the front and rear sights." The sights are built for extremely hard use and would be just the ticket for concealed carry or police duty use. www.dawsonprecision.com



GUN PART GOODIE GO-TO

Okay, if you've never heard of Numrich Arms (or the Gun Parts Company) then you ain't a gun-guy. But it's not too late to change the direction your life is heading. Order-up these three catalogs and be prepared to spend about two weeks going over *every*, single page. Bring plenty of those tiny Post-it notes so you can mark all the pages with "Gotta' get this" and "Two of these" and "One of these for Frank's old Mauser" and "Hell, I didn't even know this existed!" If you need gun parts for about any commercial gun made, gobs of military surplus goodies or more accessories than you ever thought were ever thought-up, this is the place. Need a firing pin for a Dryse? Magazine for your Lahti anti-tank rifle? I think you get the drift. www.gunpartscorp.com



DMT Limited Edition Stones

Diamond Machining Technology (DMT) products have long been my favorite sharpening tools, and their diamond “stones” rest on my workbench as we speak. This little celebration of their 35th year in business caught my eye because it’s a slick way to get a trio of useful stones in one box. Plus, it’s the *only* time DMT has done a “medium grit” (blue) stone, and between the three of them, you could manage any sharpening job you might have. The stones are 6” long and come in a cool wooden box. Don’t dally though, because they will only be offered until the near the end of 2011. Tools for a lifetime. Honest. www.dmtsharp.com

GLOCK VOLUNTEER SPRING EXCHANGE



Glock announced it’s “volunteering” to replace Gen4 recoil spring assemblies (RSA) on its new Gen4 pistols shipped since August 2009 “... to ensure each pistol’s performance meets the company’s demanding standards.” Glock said consumers with Gen4 Model G26 and G27 models are not affected by this change. It’s simply a matter of contacting Glock for a replacement and swapping the new one for the one in your pistol. No need to send the gun back. Contact Glock at (877) 745-8523 to order the new spring. www.teamglock.com

CRIMSON TRACE CONTRACT

CTC Defense, a division of Crimson Trace, is going to supply their LGD-645 Laserguard infrared laser sighting system to for the H&K HK45C handguns carried by members of Naval Special Warfare. The LGD-645 is a rugged, water-proof, compact laser sighting device attaching to the trigger guard of the HK handgun. It allows the use of an IR laser aimer when the user is equipped with night vision equipment. The contract represents a significant number of Laserguards to be delivered over the span of three years and is the result of a co-development program between the Crane Division of Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC Crane) and CTC Defense. www.ctcdefense.com



TR Had It Right

I stumbled onto this the other day and thought you’d enjoy hearing what old Theodore had to say about immigration:

“In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace or

origin. But this is predicated upon the person’s becoming in every facet an American ... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn’t an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag ... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language ... And we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people.”

Theodore Roosevelt, 1907

LARRY POTTERFIELD WINS



Following a long line of recipients of the prestigious Shooting Industry Academy of Excellence Award (presented by FMG sister magazine *Shooting Industry*), Larry Potterfield, founder of MidwayUSA, won the 2011 award. It was also the 20th anniversary of the much anticipated event. Check out the rest of the winners in *this* issue showcasing them. Congratulations, Larry! www.shootingindustry.com



Handgunner Faces Facebook

Well, we did it and created a Facebook page for *American Handgunner*. Thanks to Stephanie, Liz and the team, it’s up and running and in need of some friends! Take a minute and get caught up on some newsy stuff about your favorite handgunning magazine (...and become more of a Gunist at the same time?). Go to: www.facebook.com/americanhandgunner and get an eye-full.

AJ’s First Hunt

Aaron Cummins of Kimber, and an old friend, sent me this photo of his young son, AJ. Seems the “first” hunt for his kids is, by tradition, in the “big field across from their home” in Montana. AJ followed in the steps of his older sister, who learned how to stalk and be quiet in that same field. Here, his dad gives AJ some last minute instructions before heading out. The result? A first trophy squirrel (on the dirt pile at AJ’s feet), a proud dad, a big rifle — and a grin a mile wide. Well done Aaron, and well done AJ!





GUNIST

Wife Suzi and I were chatting the other day about someone in the industry who got a new job. She said, “Nah, he won’t make it, he’s not a Gunist.” I paused, thinking, “I don’t think I’ve ever heard that word, but it’s a good one.”

“So,” I said, “what’s a Gunist?” Suzi is editor of our *American COP* magazine and has been around our industry for quite some time. I was curious to know what insight she had on the matter.

“Oh, you know, someone like you. Somebody who’s lived it, breathed it, grew up with it, reads those boring books you read about old English guns, proof marks, all that reloading stuff, works on guns in the garage for hours at a time, you know — gun stuff. If I need to know something about guns, I ask you and you just about always know at least something about it. He’s not like that and doesn’t understand who we are, or how we think. Just because he can sell refrigerators, doesn’t mean he can work in our industry selling gun stuff.”

And it dawned on me, she was right.

In the “old” days, say, 20 or 30 years ago, the vast majority of executive level types in the biz were gun guys, or as Suzi says, “Gunists.” They had grown up shooting, hunting, collecting and more than likely, working in our industry. They understood their customers — because they were their customers. Fast-forward 20 or 30 years and in today’s “corporatized” companies, there is a tendency to think, “Well, if they can sell widgets, or tractors or used cars, they can sell guns.” But almost always it ends up not to be the case at all. There are exceptions, but not many.

The really bad thing is some of those who get brought into our industry have tended to bounce from company to company, wrecking havoc, getting fired, getting golden handshakes, only to turn up again in some executive position. It’s like, once you get a union card, you can get a job no matter what. “Hey, he was the VP of marketing there, so he could be the VP of marketing here,” sort of thinking. Not.

If you’re a “Gunist” and reading this now, you are

probably aware of some pretty silly new products that have been introduced over the past 10 years or so. After a jaunt to SHOT Show, I have often come away thinking, “Did anyone who was an actual shooter even look at that product before they introduced it?” And the scary thing, is sometimes I find out that actually, no ... nobody who was an actual shooter had looked at it before the VP of Sales (formerly a VP of sales at Enron or something and a definite non-shooter) simply ordered it launched and their Madison Ave. marketing firm did it. Then we usually witness what we call “the big silence” as people don’t buy whatever “it” is.

Of course, then that VP ends up at some other unsuspecting company and does the same thing. Repeat ad-nauseam. All of which is fine if all I’m going to do is complain about it. So let’s not just complain and wring our hands and repeat woe-is-me chants. What can we do about it?

Actually, it’s easy. Make yourself known. If (fill in the

“NAH, he won’t make it, he’s not a GUNIST.”

blank here) company announces, introduces or tries to sell you on a product that’s stupid — tell them. Pick up the

phone, drop them an e-mail, fill out the survey, whatever it takes. Just say, “Hey, I don’t mean to be ugly, but that new digital/hi-tech/battery-powered/operator-based/polymer/CR123/lavender-laser/Kydex-wrapped widget, is ... um ... stupid. Don’t waste your money on it, because I won’t waste my money on it either. And besides, you shoulda’ asked a Gunist before you did it in the first place.”

Of course, some of those marketing disasters have served to make our industry interesting at times. I’ve still never actually seen a magazine for a Bren Ten 10mm auto. Can you say “Rogak P-18” auto pistol? Even the term “Short Magnum” may go the way of the Do-Do bird. And just because you can make it out of polymer, doesn’t mean you actually should. Well, at least then it could be recycled into those little booze bottles you get on airplanes.

So let’s cross our Gunist fingers and hope the industry looks harder for executives who know the difference between a .22 Hornet and a .22 LR, have some 1950s *Gun Digests* laying around that are well-thumbed, and are really sorry they can’t make the meeting on Wednesday because it’s dove season opener. Please?



Elegant Rides

Some ideas defy words, and this might be one. It seems on one Texas hunting ranch when the need arose for another hunting vehicle for clients and guides, they took matters into their own hands. You can see “Toyota” marked on the hubcaps but I doubt this is any

off-road design they’d ever thought-up. Nonetheless, according to Travis Noteboom, who actually rode in the car (truck? custom off-roader? limited edition safari car?), it worked just fine and offered all natural air conditioning and unlimited aiming possibilities without even getting out. We also think Jake The Wonder Dog approves. Where’s my cutting torch ...?

Continued on page 104

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